

A STORY FROM SWEDEN

# Engine People



**Marianne Lindroos**

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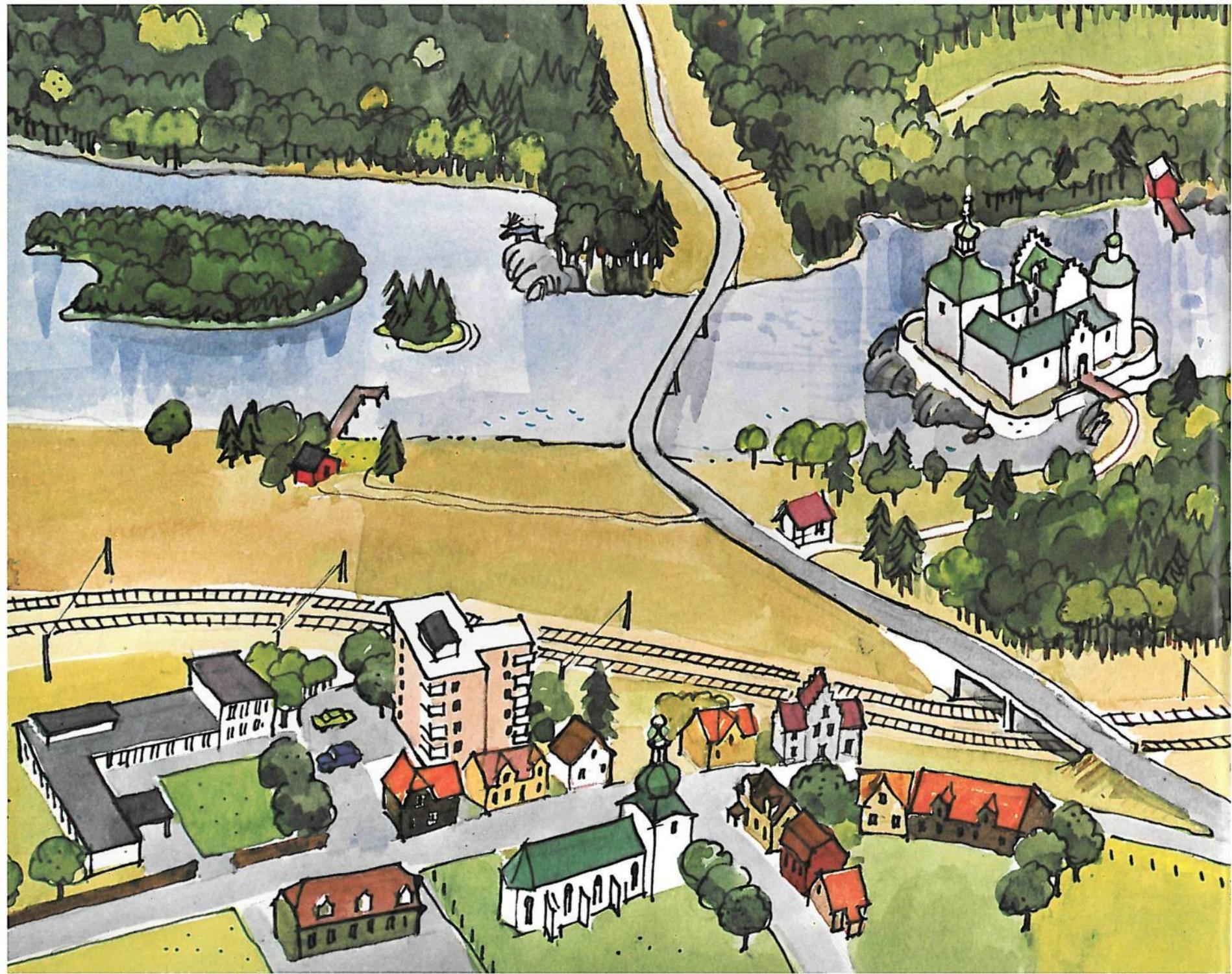
by **Marianne Lindroos**

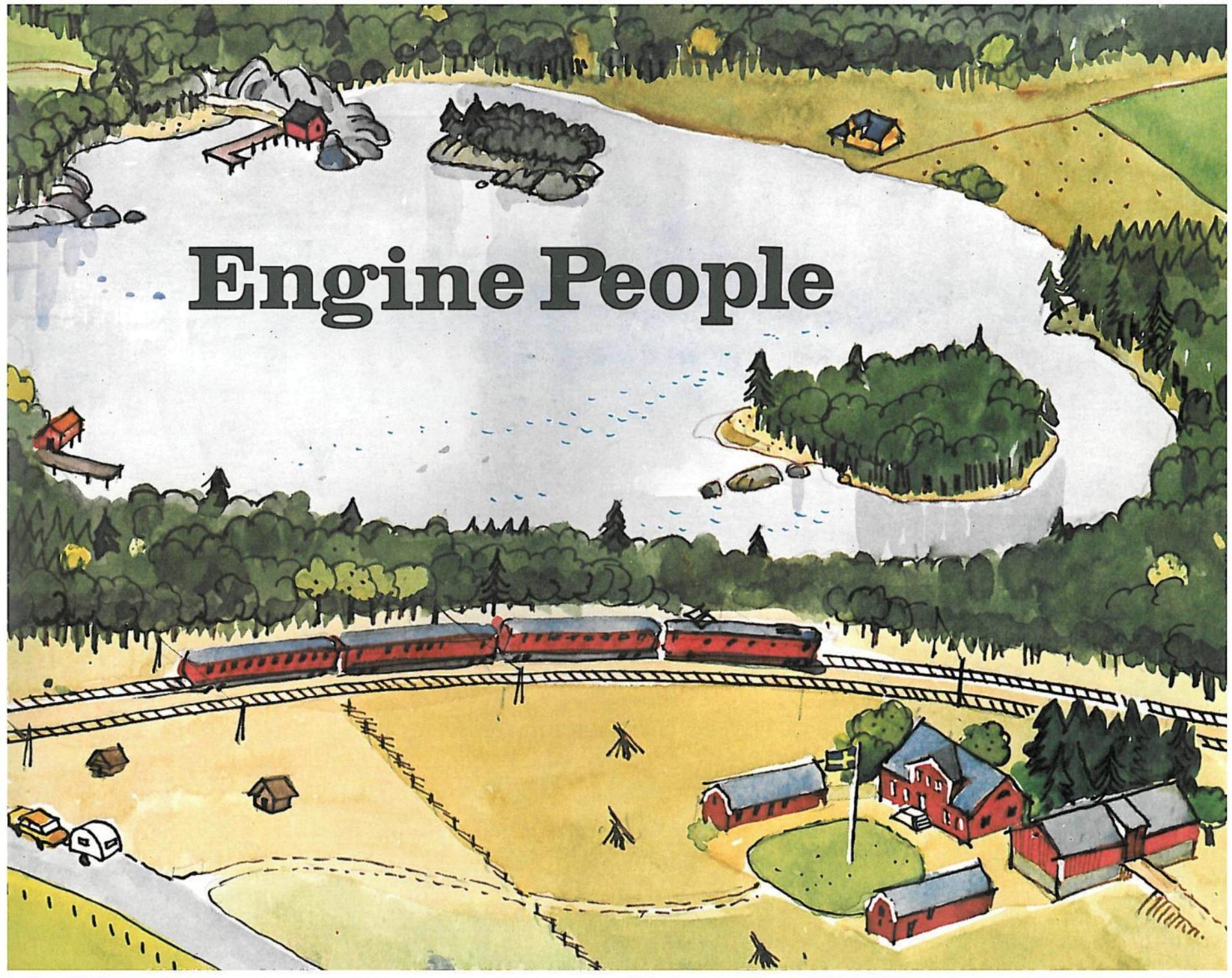
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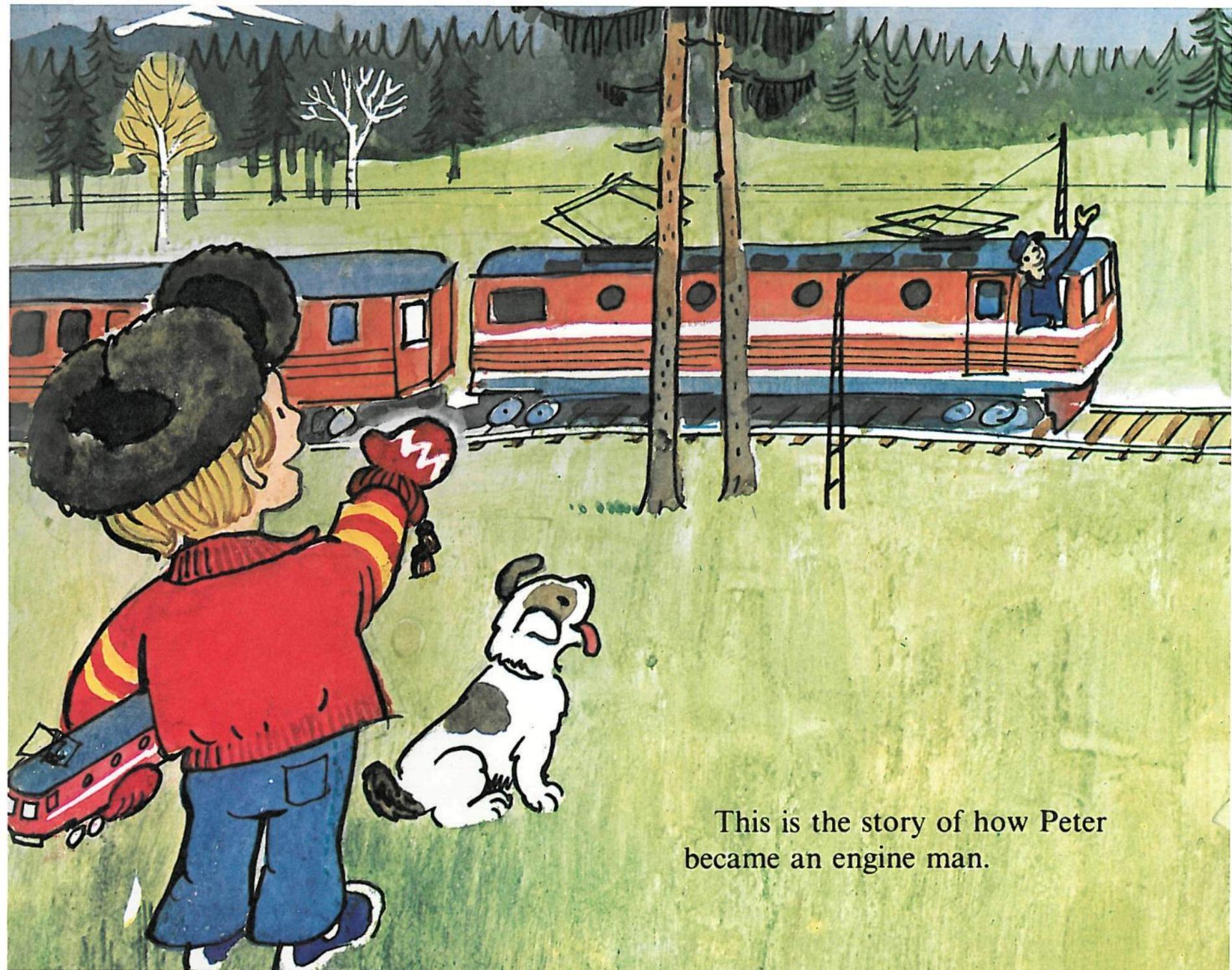


A vibrant, hand-drawn illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a red train with four cars travels across a bridge over a yellow field. To the right, a farm with several red buildings and a green field is visible. In the background, a large white lake is surrounded by green trees and hills. The title "Engine People" is written in a large, bold, black serif font across the middle of the lake.

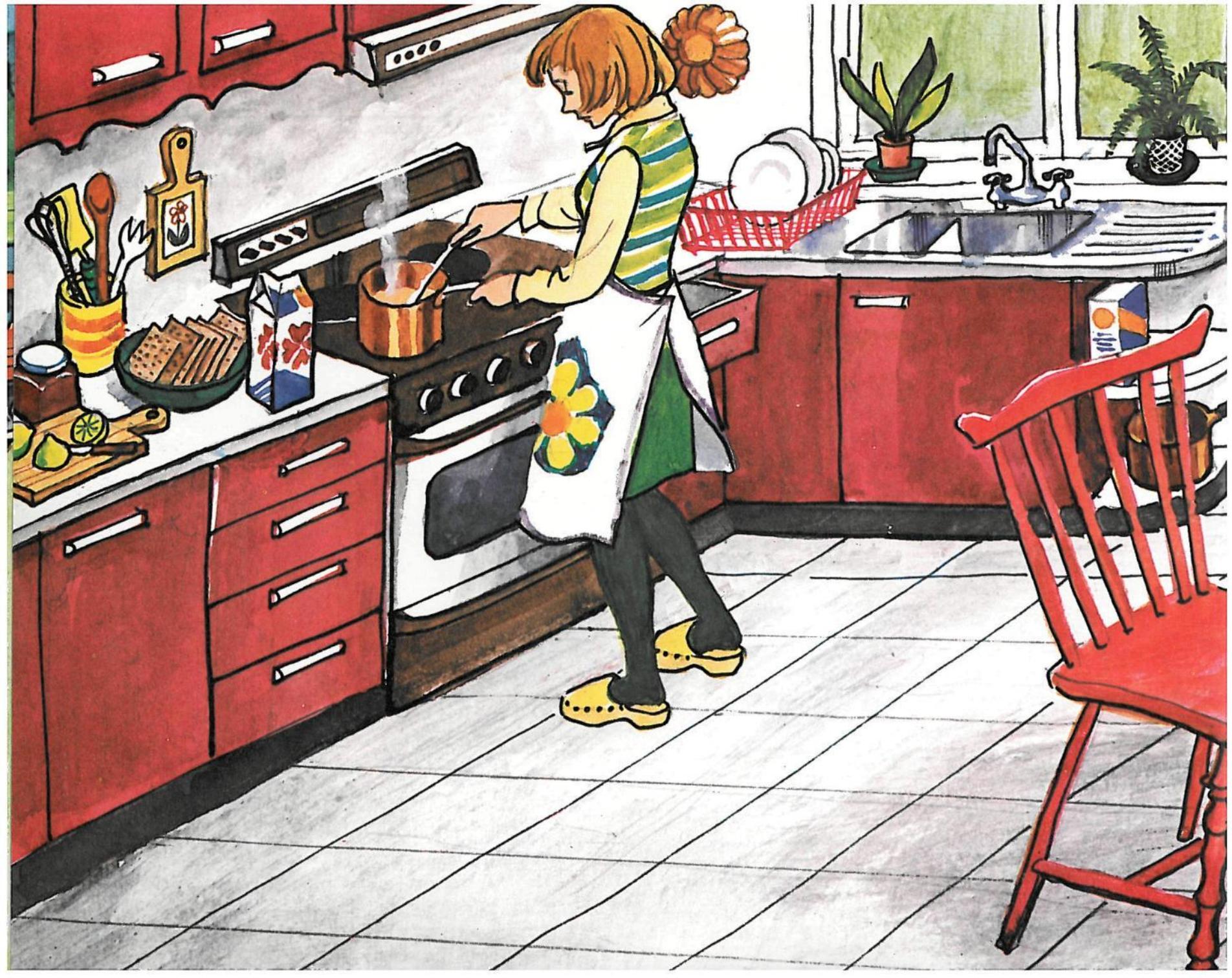
# Engine People



**A** railway engine can pull a long train of heavy carriages behind it.  
People can be engines too.  
Engine people can pull other people along with them  
on the right tracks. And it's fun!



This is the story of how Peter became an engine man.



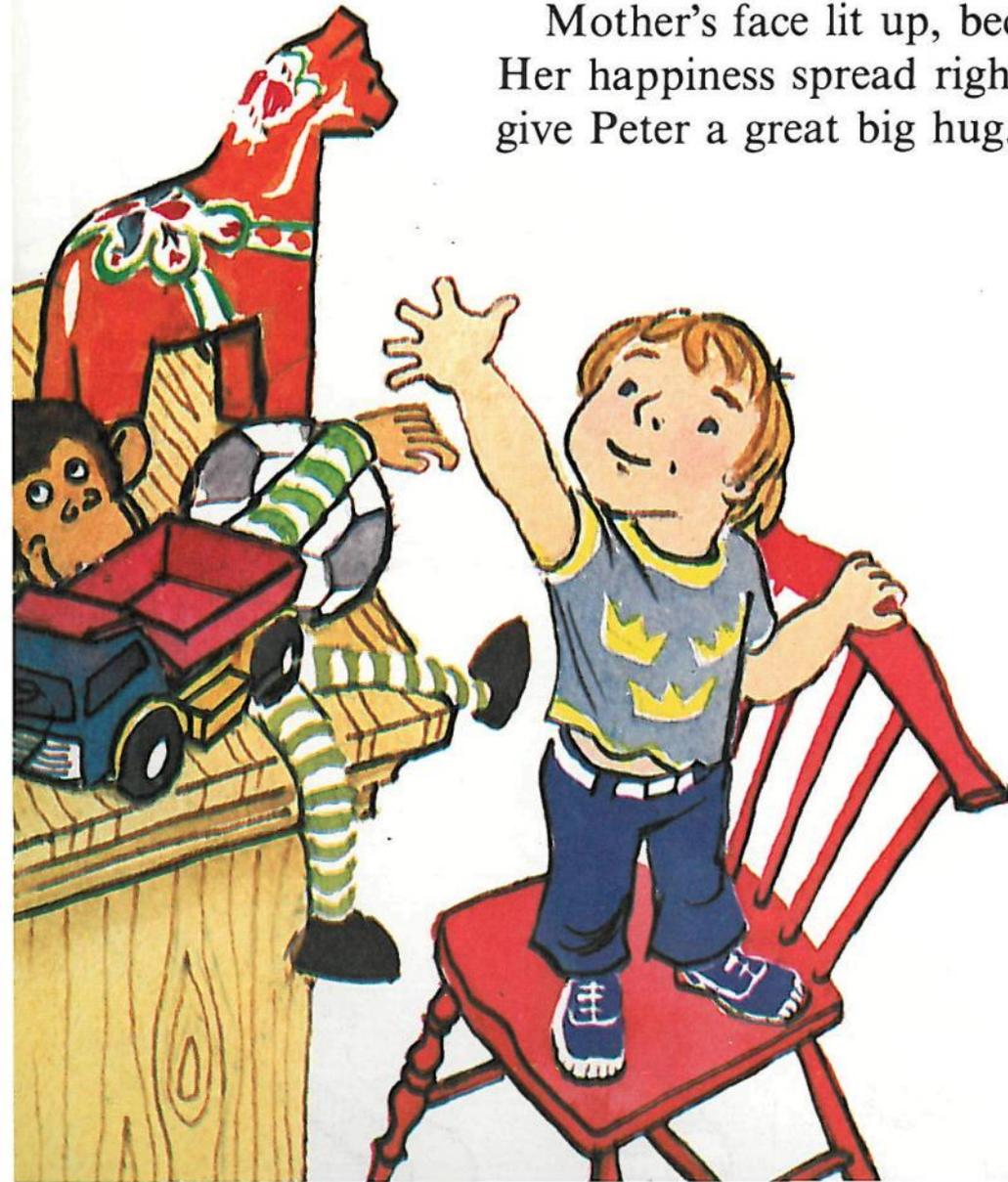
One morning he noticed that his mother seemed quiet and sad.

It made him hurt a little inside; so he crawled under the table into his 'thinking place'. There, he whispered to God, 'Please show me how I can make Mummy happy again.'



Presently, Peter had an idea. He slipped out and fetched his little wooden horse that he loved more than anything else. 'This is for you, Mummy—to cheer you up!' he said.

Mother's face lit up, because someone had cared for her. Her happiness spread right through her, and she just had to give Peter a great big hug.



As she cheered up, Mother became the first carriage in Peter's train.





She suddenly remembered that it was time to do the day's shopping. 'Come along,' she said to Peter. 'Auntie Ulla will be wondering where we are today.'

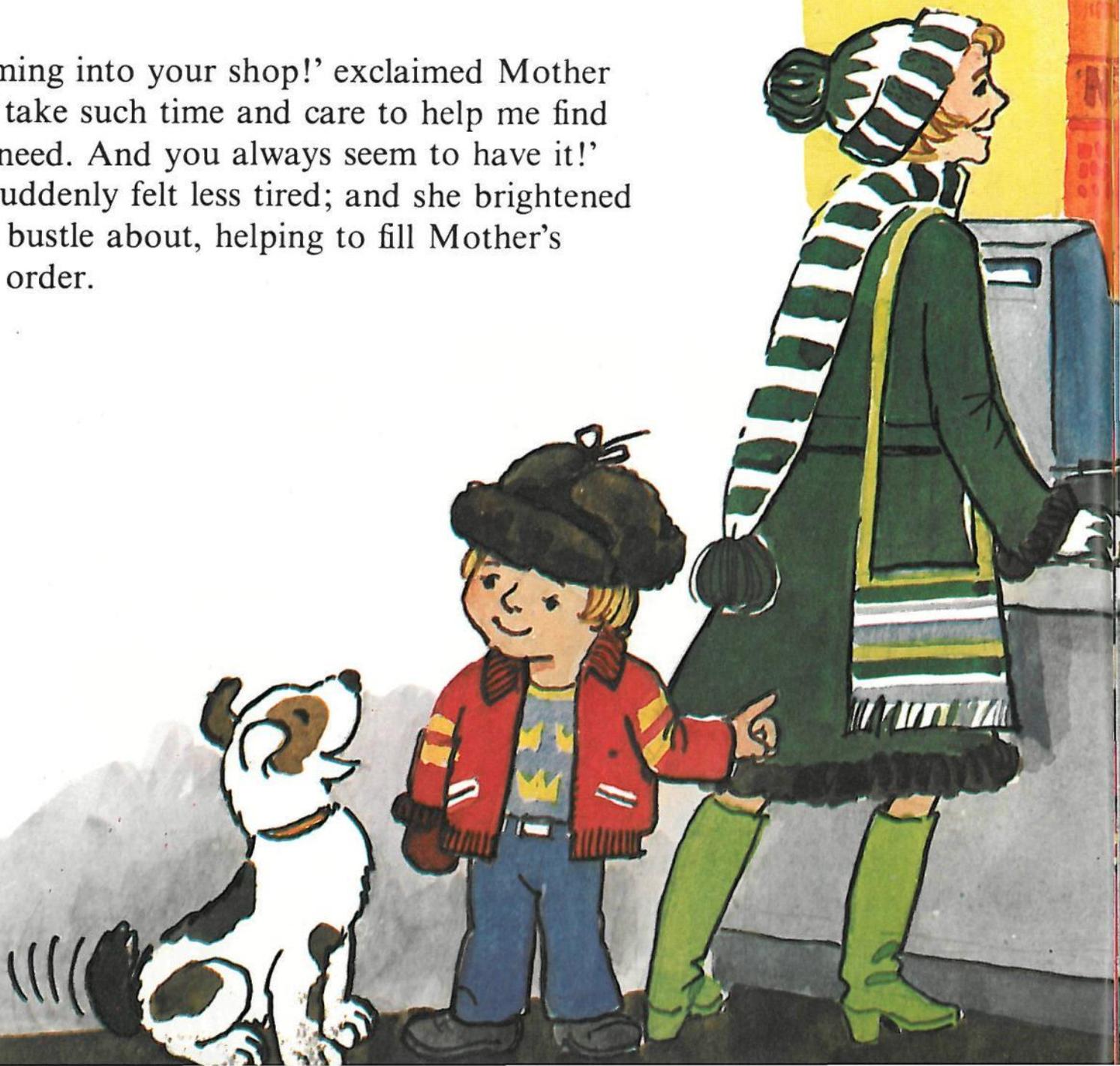


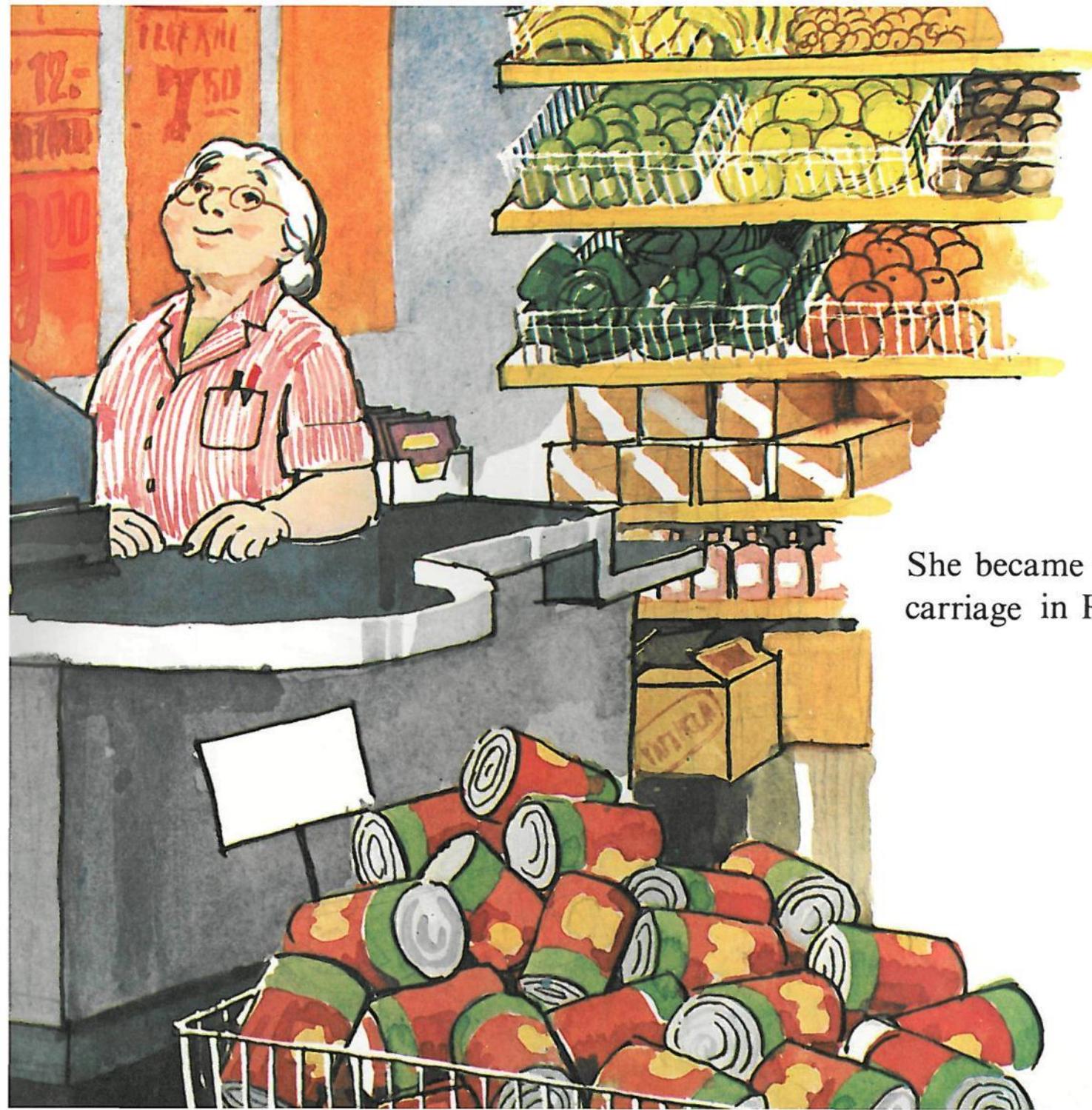
When they reached the village shop, with its unending store of good things, they found Auntie Ulla looking depressed and a little weary.



'I do love coming into your shop!' exclaimed Mother gratefully. 'You take such time and care to help me find exactly what I need. And you always seem to have it!'

Auntie Ulla suddenly felt less tired; and she brightened as she began to bustle about, helping to fill Mother's basket with her order.





She became the second carriage in Peter's train!

Just then, a big van stopped outside; and the driver came banging into the shop loaded down with baskets of bread. He was muttering and looking very bad-tempered.



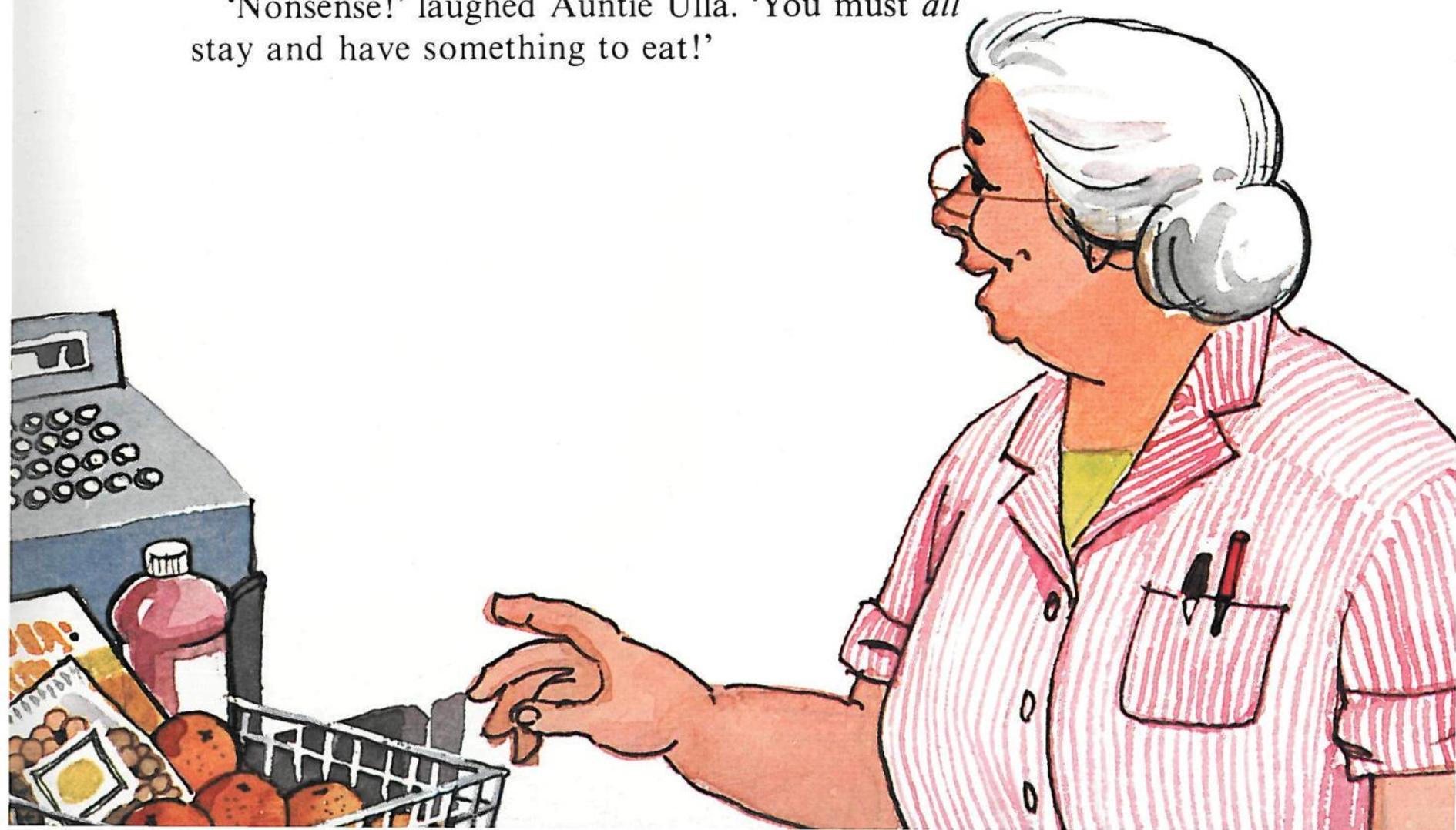
Auntie Ulla glanced at her watch, and then looked thoughtfully at the surly driver. 'When did you last eat, Gunnar?' she enquired kindly.

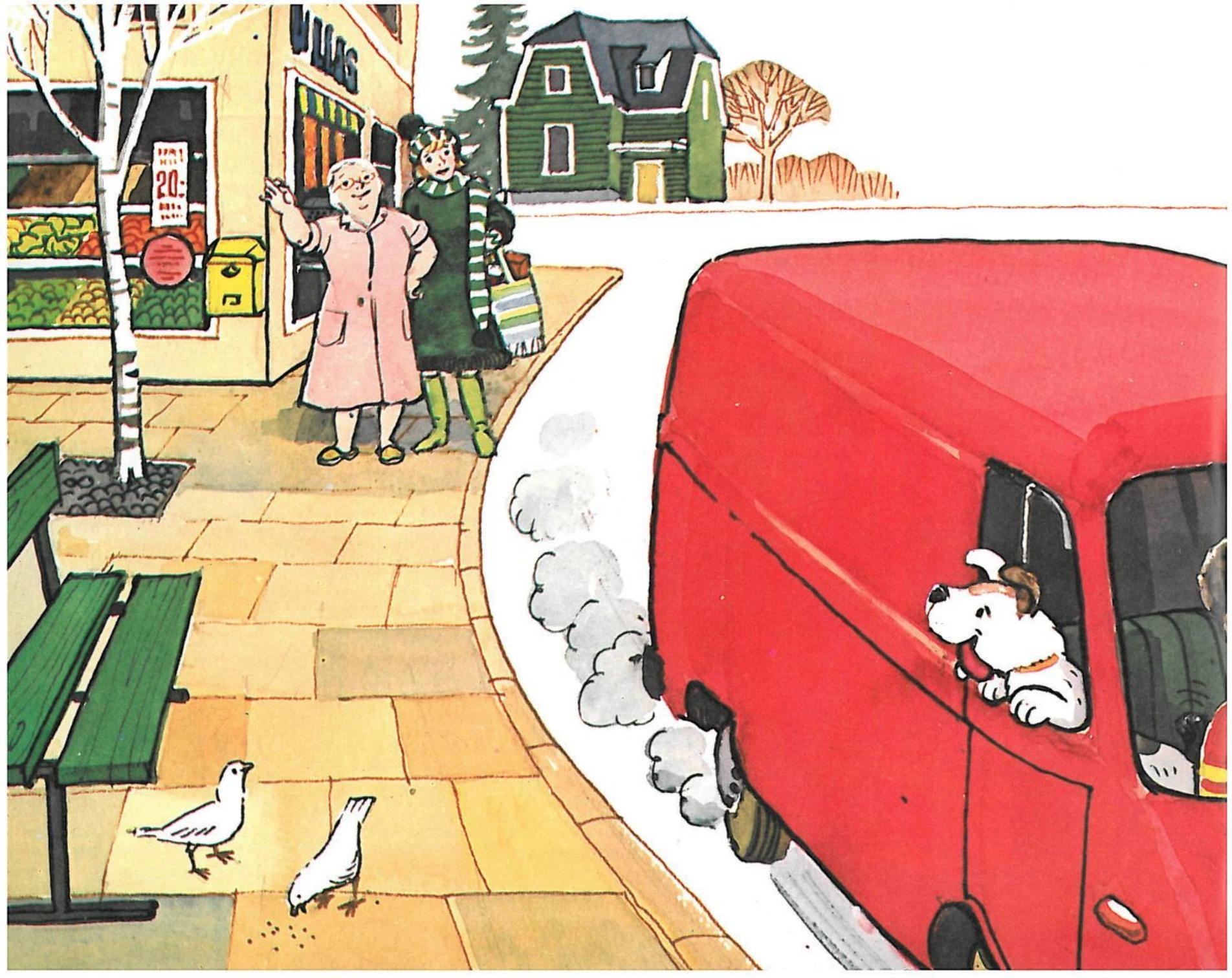
'A cup of coffee at five this morning,' he grunted, as he unloaded the bread.

'Then why don't you stay a while and have a bite to eat with us? It's just time to close for lunch, and our meal is in the oven.'

'Thanks,' said Gunnar, 'but I don't have the time.'

'Nonsense!' laughed Auntie Ulla. 'You must *all* stay and have something to eat!'





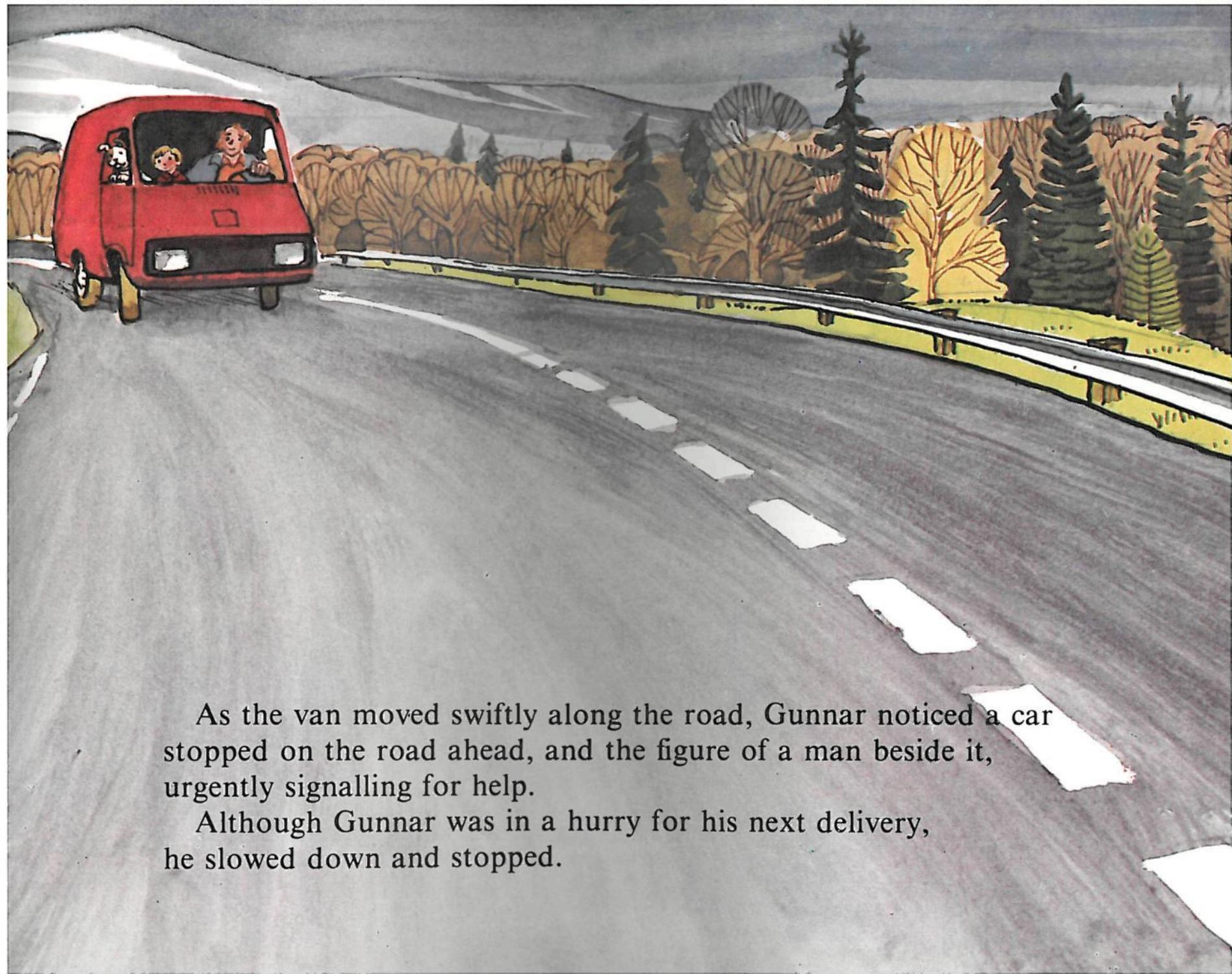
When Gunnar drove away half an hour later, it was clear that he had eaten a good meal! Peter had agreed to go with him and help him on his rounds.

Gunnar was whistling merrily as he waved goodbye.

He became the third carriage!







As the van moved swiftly along the road, Gunnar noticed a car stopped on the road ahead, and the figure of a man beside it, urgently signalling for help.

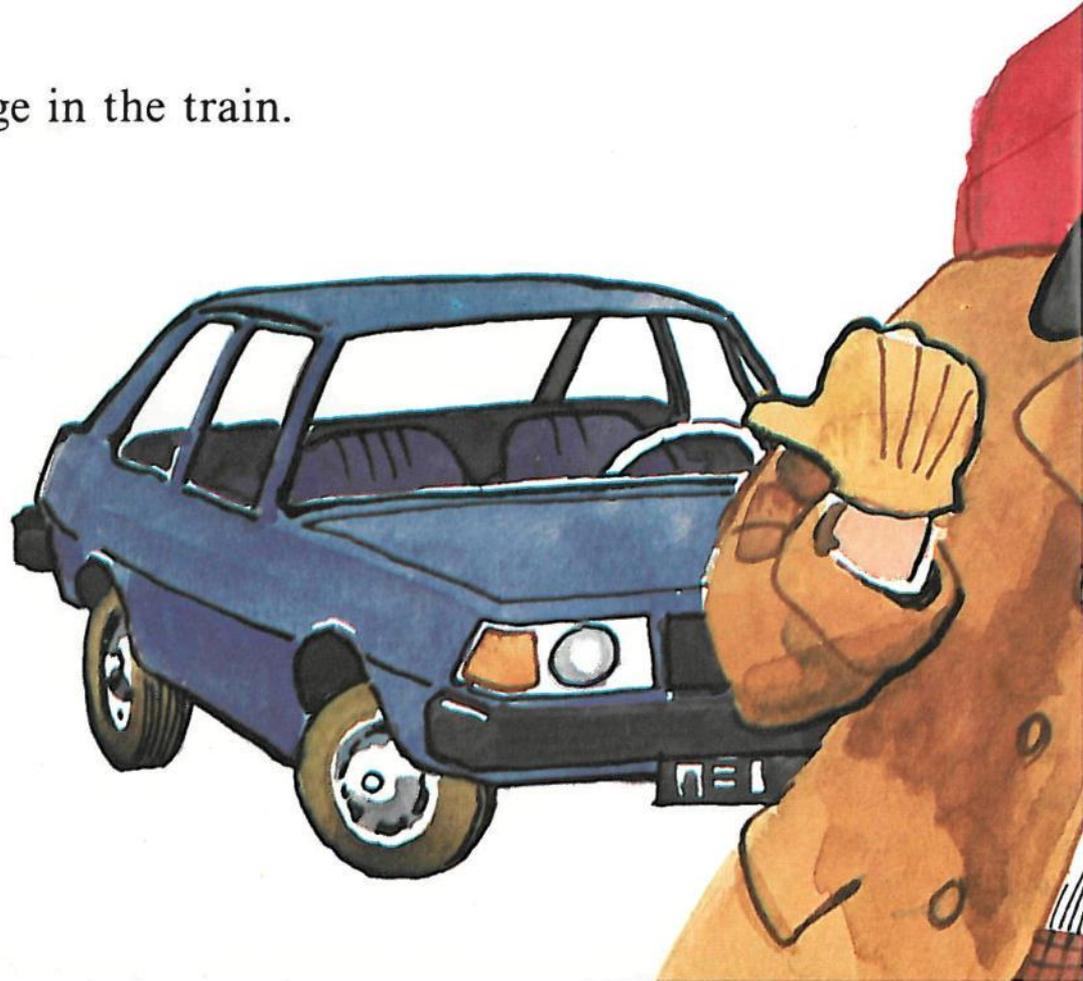
Although Gunnar was in a hurry for his next delivery, he slowed down and stopped.

‘Can you help me? My car has broken down,’ cried the agitated man.  
‘I’m a surgeon on my way to an emergency operation at the hospital!’

Without hesitation, Gunnar flung open his cab door and called,  
‘Climb in, doctor. I’ll take you straight there!’

With great relief, the surgeon breathed a grateful ‘thank you’  
as he climbed into the van.

He became the next carriage in the train.

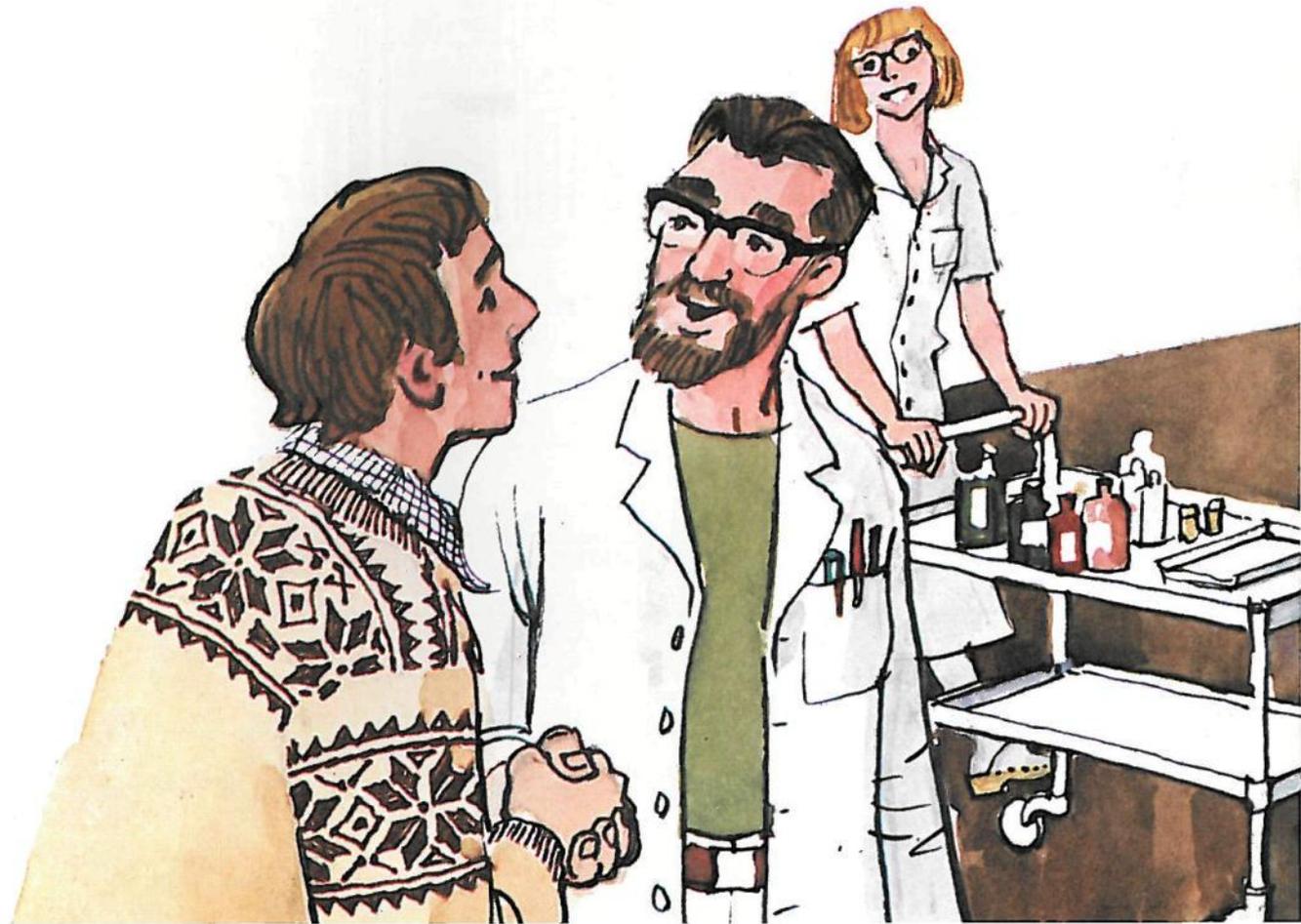
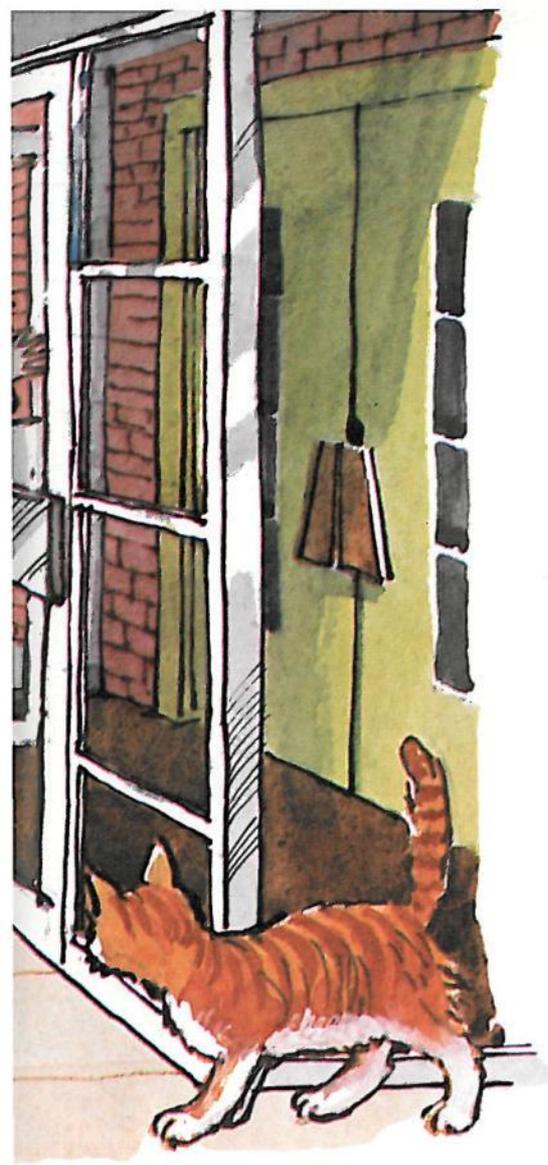






They drove at breakneck speed to the hospital. There, a very anxious nurse was waiting for them. 'Oh, doctor! Thank goodness you've made it! Mrs. Nilsson is so ill.'

The surgeon went right to work. He was careful and swift. Several hours later he was able to say to Mr. Nilsson, 'Your wife is going to be all right.'





In two weeks' time, a happy husband and three grateful children welcomed her back home, with many hugs. She was well again. Five new carriages were added to Peter's train!



The Nilsson family felt so grateful their mother was home, that they just *had* to celebrate. They asked Peter to bring along all his friends.





Peter really *was* an engine man!







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