



ADVENTURE MICE

MICE, CAMERA, ACTION!



MILLIE



JUNIPER



PEDRO



IVY



FLEDERMAUS



BOSUN



SKIPPER

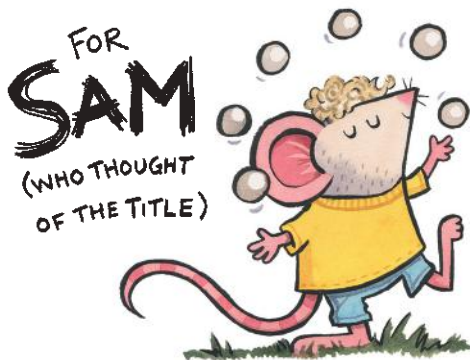


There is a lot of tiny text on this page and the Adventuremice were wondering if you would read it.

If you have read it: congratulations!

You have keen eyes and would make an excellent member of the Adventuremice team.

You can find out more about what we get up to on our website: Adventuremice.com



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ADVENTURE MICE

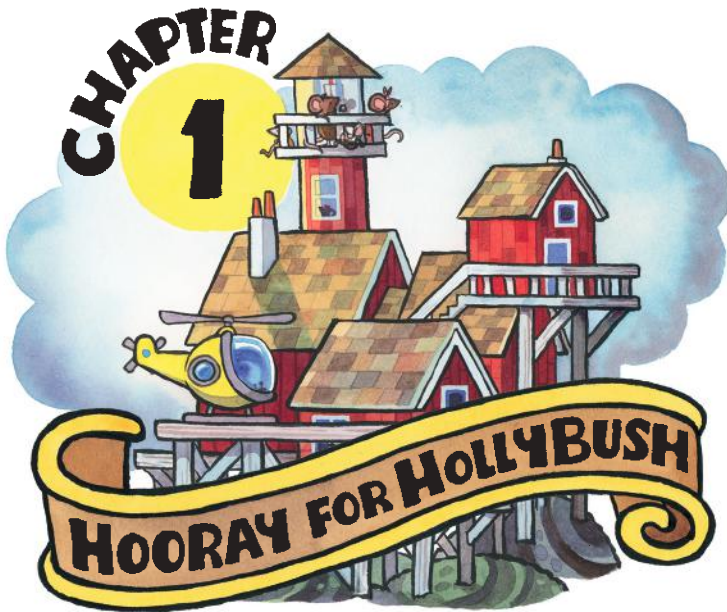
MICE, CAMERA, ACTION!



BY
**PHILIP
REEVE**

FICKLING
d b
David Fickling Books

AND
**SARAH
MCINTYRE**



‘Good news!’ shouted Millie, bursting into the Mousebase one morning while the other Adventuremice were busy having breakfast. She had been down to the dock to pick up the post, and she was waving a letter in her paw. ‘We’re going to Hollybush!’ she said.

‘Hollybush?’ said Fledermaus,
excitedly.

‘Hollybush?’ said Skipper, disapprovingly.

‘Hollybush?’ asked Pedro, the newest
and littlest of the Adventuremice. ‘What’s
Hollybush?’



‘Oh, Pedro, haven’t you heard of Hollybush?’ gasped Millie. ‘Hollybush is the most glamorous place in all of the Mouse Islands! It’s where dreams come true!’



Pedro did not like the sound of that.

The night before he had dreamed that his ears turned into peanuts. He didn't

fancy going anywhere where a dream like that might come true.

'Not really, Pedro,' said Juniper.

'Hollybush is a famous film

studio where all the biggest mouse

movies are made!'

'I've never seen a movie,' said Pedro.

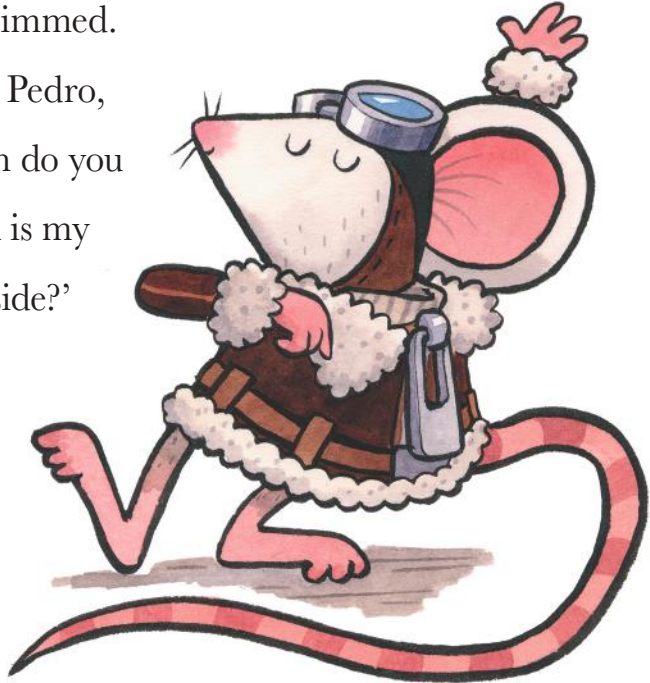
'Well, now you're going to be IN one!'

said Millie, and she



waved the letter again. ‘The famous film director Darryl Z. Cheezeburger is making an epic film based on our adventures!’

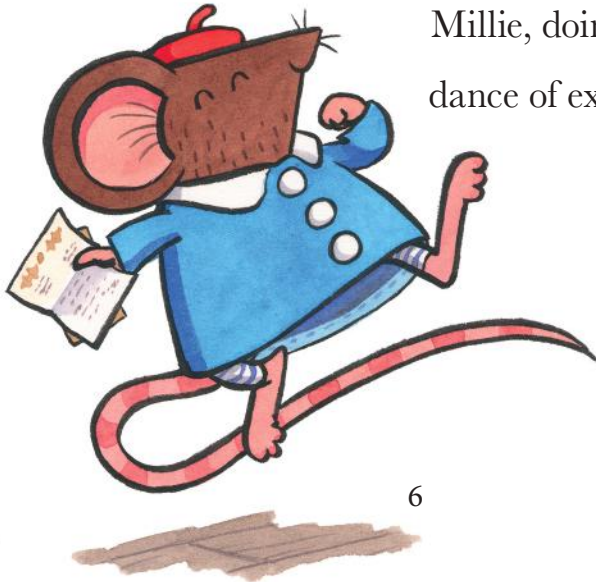
‘Us? In an actual movie?’ said Fledermaus. ‘Golly, I shall have to get my fur trimmed. I say, Pedro, which do you think is my best side?’



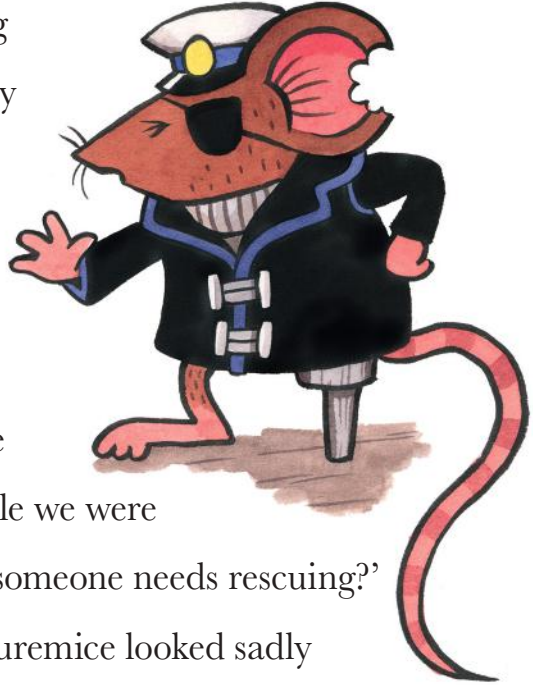
‘No, silly,’ said Ivy, who had been reading the letter over Millie’s shoulder. ‘We won’t actually be in the movie. Proper actors will play all the parts. But we will get to go to Hollybush! Mr Cheezeburger is inviting us to visit the studio and watch the Adventuremice movie being created.’

‘We’re going to Hollybush!’ shouted

Millie, doing a little dance of excitement.



‘No, we are not!’ said Skipper firmly. ‘It all sounds extremely silly to me. A lot of actors fooling about when they could be doing something useful instead. And who would mind the Mousebase while we were away? What if someone needs rescuing?’



The Adventuremice looked sadly at each other. They had been looking forward to visiting Hollybush and meeting

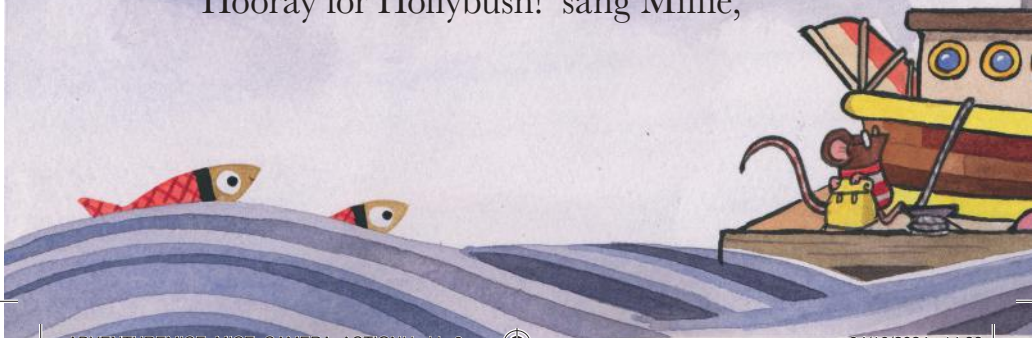
the famous actors who would portray them on the silver screen.

‘Good point, Skipper,’ said Bosun. ‘But the weather is set fair for the next few days, and people can easily get a message to us in Hollybush if they need us.’

‘I don’t think it would do any harm to go and take a look,’ said Ivy.

‘Humph,’ grumbled Skipper. But he could see how much they all wanted to go. ‘Well,’ he said, ‘I suppose you’re right.’

The Adventuremice all cheered. ‘Hooray for Hollybush!’ sang Millie,



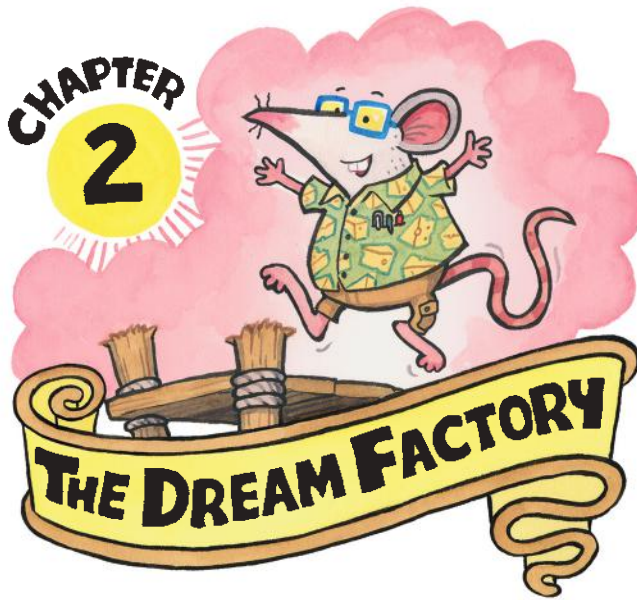
Juniper and Fledermaus as they all hurried
down to the dock to get their ship, the
Daring Dormouse, ready for the journey.



‘They’re going to put us in the movies!’
they sang as the *Dormouse* motored out
onto the calm, sunlit sea.



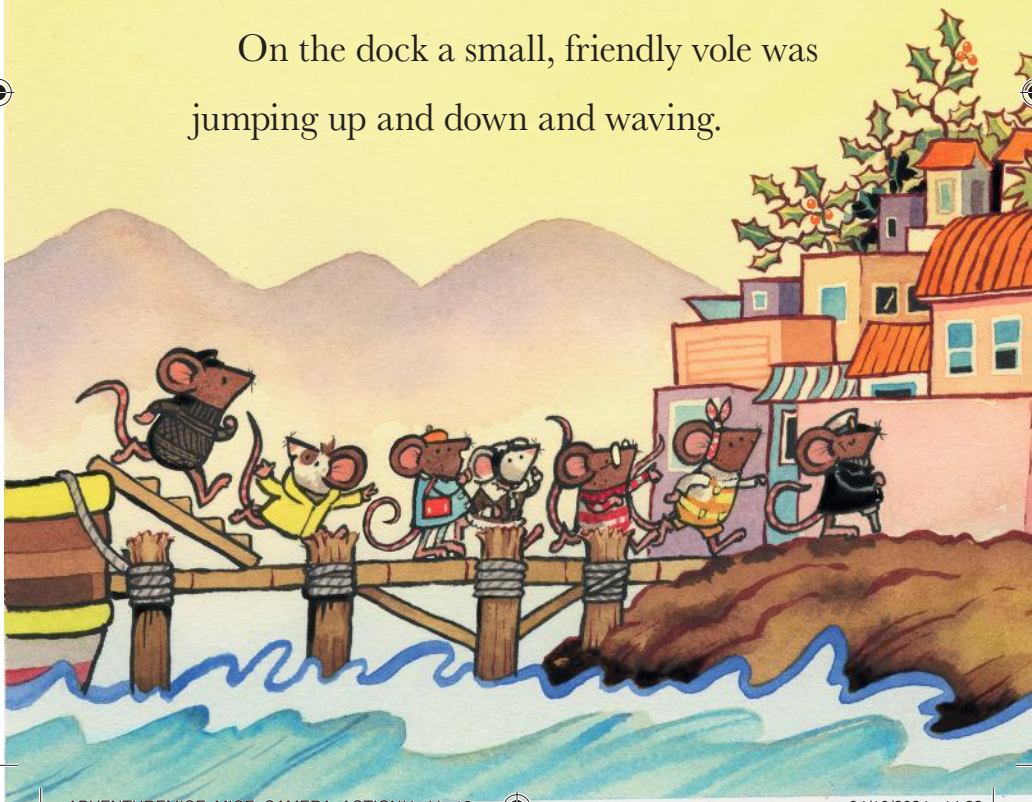
And Pedro sang with them, even
though he still wasn’t *completely* sure what a
movie actually was.



Hollybush was on the island of West Wainscotting. The Adventuremice found it very easily because the word **HOLLYBUSH** had been cut out in big white letters and stuck on the hillside above it. (Also there was a large holly bush, which was how it

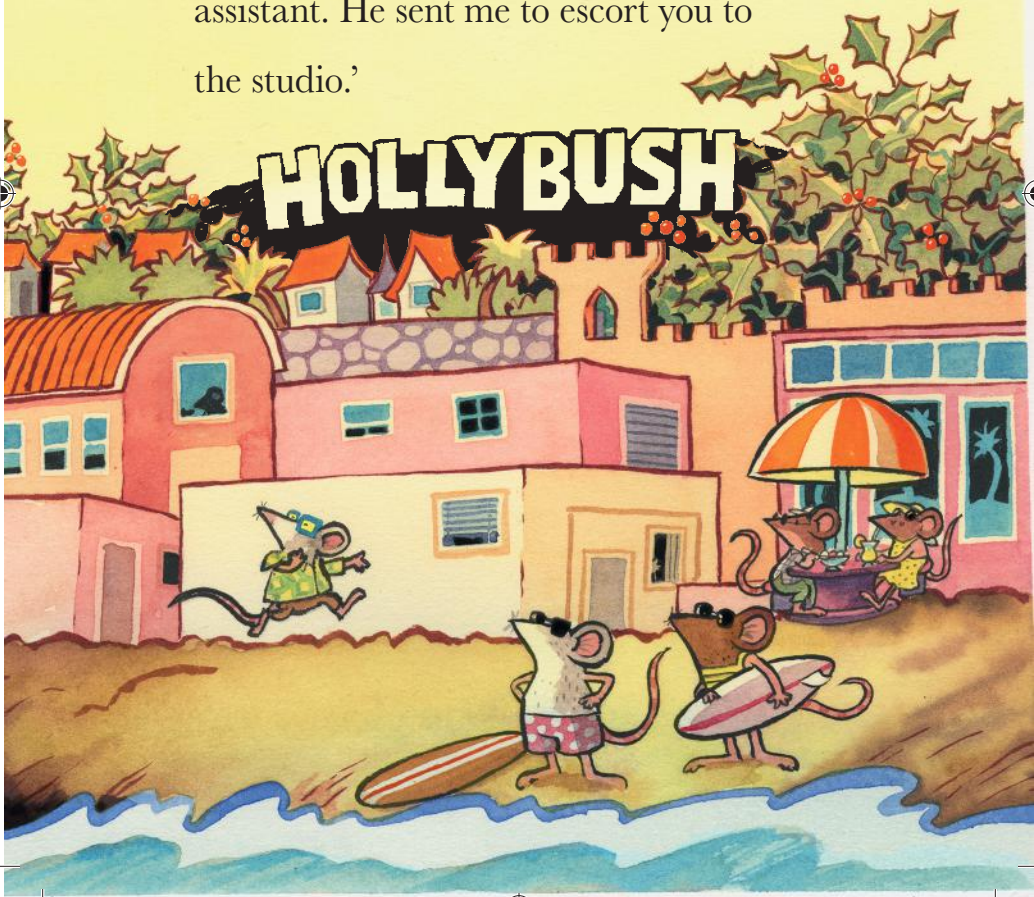
had got its name.) On the flat strip of ground behind the beach stood a line of enormous sheds where the movies were made. Pretty mouse houses where the actors lived were dotted all over the hills behind them.

On the dock a small, friendly vole was jumping up and down and waving.



‘Welcome to Hollybush!’ he cheeped,
as the Adventuremice moored the
Dormouse and stepped ashore. ‘My name is
Scoot McHairy. I’m Mr Cheezeburger’s
assistant. He sent me to escort you to
the studio.’

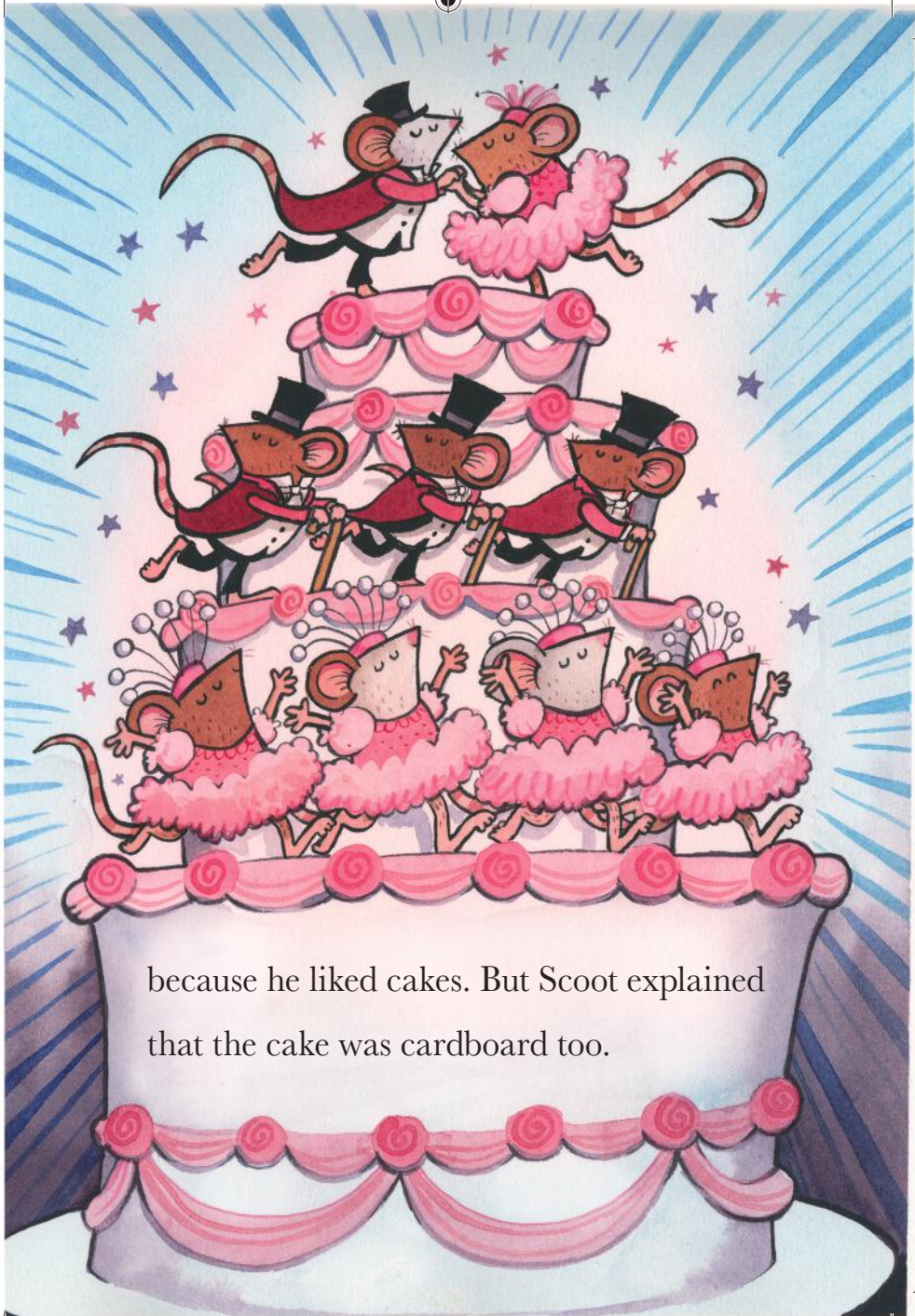
HOLLYBUSH



They followed Scoot McHairy to the big sheds where the mouse moviemakers worked. It turned out the Adventuremice movie wasn't the only one being filmed there. They passed through a cardboard city where mice in Roman costumes were acting out the story of Julius Cheeser, then a dusty cardboard desert where Wild West bandit mice were attacking a stagecoach. In the next shed, mice in frilly frocks were dancing on a giant cake.

'Ooooh a giant cake!' said Fledermaus,





because he liked cakes. But Scoot explained that the cake was cardboard too.

At last they reached Studio One, where the Adventuremice movie was being filmed. Scoot told them all to be as quiet as possible before he opened the door.

‘Mr Cheezeburger has spent all day getting this scene ready,’ he whispered. ‘So it’s **VERY IMPORTANT** that nothing goes wrong. Mr Cheezeburger wants the movie finished by the end of today, so he can show it tomorrow at the film festival on Big Island.’

Skipper made a harrumphing sound, because he was used to being in charge of things and didn’t like being told what

to do. He harrumphed even more when Scoot made him stick a fluffy pad to the bottom of his wooden leg so that it



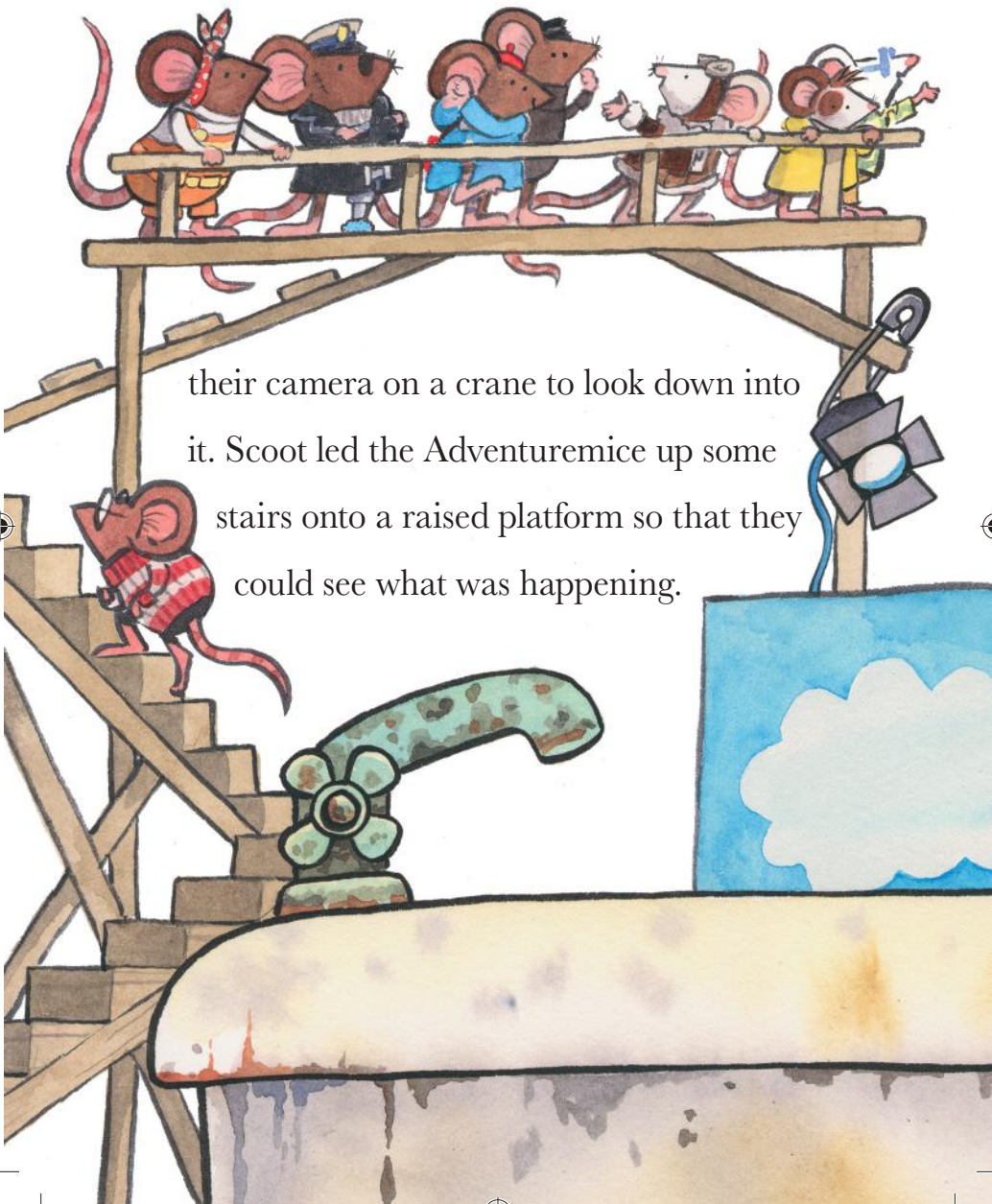
wouldn't make a *clonk clonk* noise when he walked. But he could see how excited all the other Adventuremice were, and he



didn't want to spoil things for them, so he tiptoed after them as quietly as he could.



Inside the studio, big lights shone down from the ceiling, and lots of mice milled around a huge tub. It was an actual human bathtub which must have floated all the way from the mainland, and it was so tall that the moviemaking mice had put



their camera on a crane to look down into it. Scoot led the Adventuremice up some stairs onto a raised platform so that they could see what was happening.

It was amazing! In the middle of the bath floated a ship that looked almost exactly like the *Daring Dormouse*. And on the ship's deck stood a group of mice who looked almost exactly like the Adventuremice. Almost, but not quite: because Skipper looked even more brave and commanding than usual, and Millie and Juniper looked even more stylish, and Bosun was even bigger and stronger-looking, and Fledermaus was the most handsome young mouse Pedro had ever seen.



And who was that young mouse in the yellow coat, standing beside them? Could that be Pedro himself?

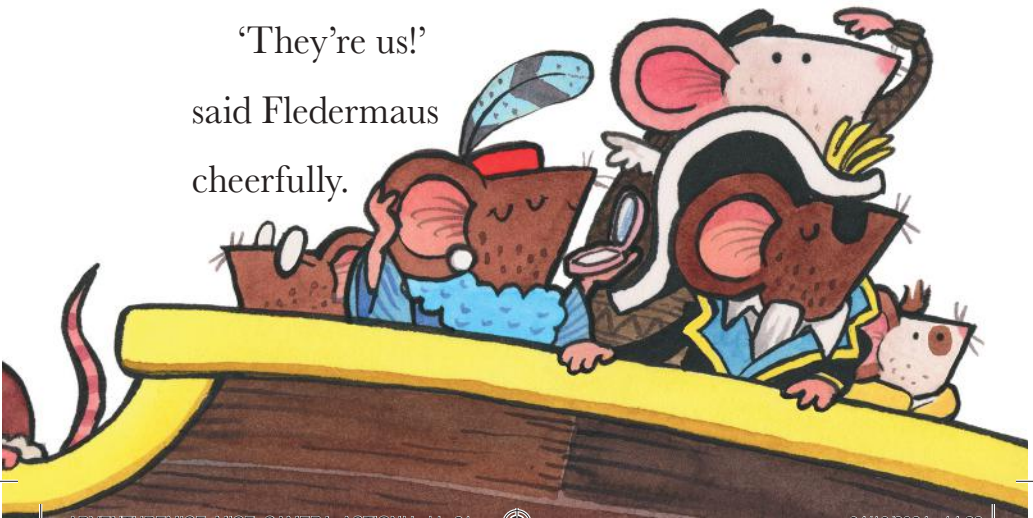
He nudged Fledermaus. ‘How did the *Daring Dormouse* get in here?’

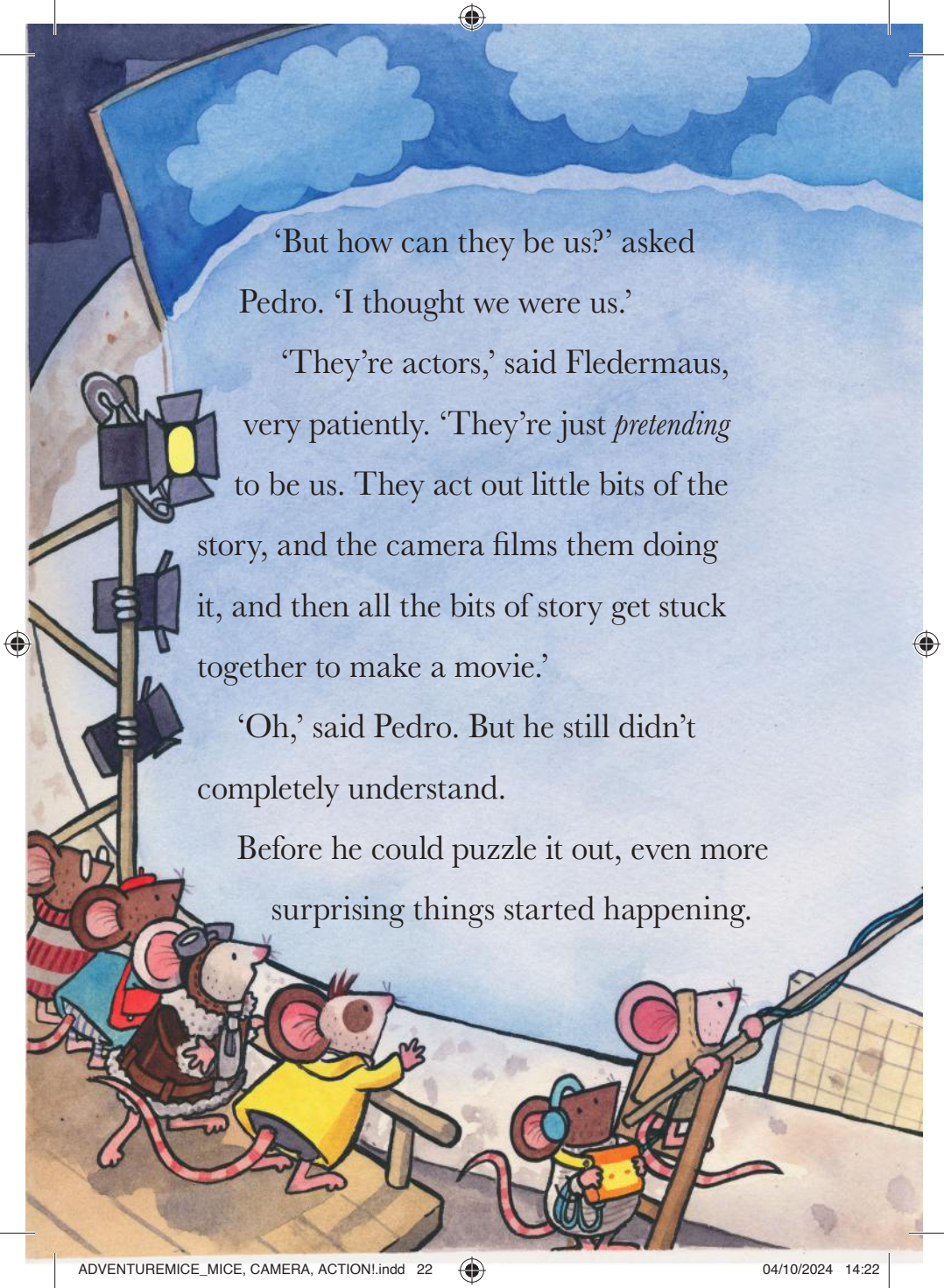
‘It’s a fake,’ said Fledermaus. ‘Built specially for the film, I expect.’

‘Shhhh!’ said Scoot.

Pedro nudged Fledermaus again. ‘But who are those mice?’ he whispered.

‘They’re us!’
said Fledermaus
cheerfully.





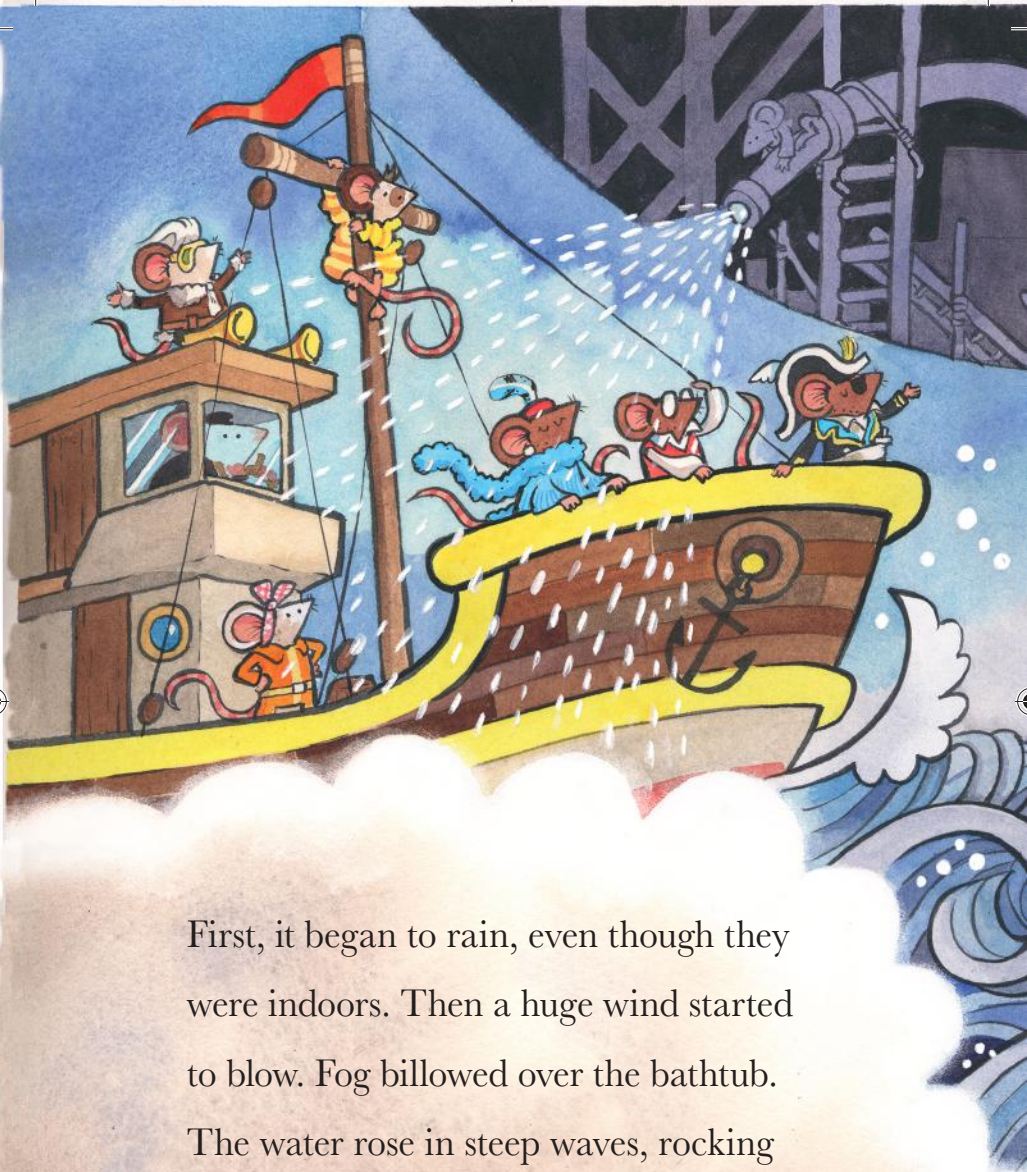
‘But how can they be us?’ asked Pedro. ‘I thought we were us.’

‘They’re actors,’ said Fledermaus, very patiently. ‘They’re just *pretending* to be us. They act out little bits of the story, and the camera films them doing it, and then all the bits of story get stuck together to make a movie.’

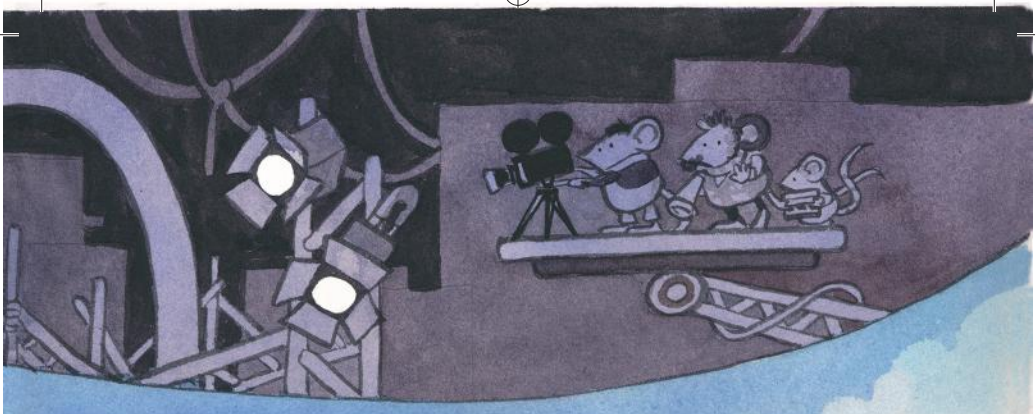
‘Oh,’ said Pedro. But he still didn’t completely understand.

Before he could puzzle it out, even more surprising things started happening.





First, it began to rain, even though they were indoors. Then a huge wind started to blow. Fog billowed over the bathtub. The water rose in steep waves, rocking

An illustration at the top of the page shows a film set. On the left, a crane is constructed from wooden planks and has two glowing lights. On the right, three mice are on a platform. One mouse is operating a camera on a tripod, another is holding a black-and-white striped board, and a third is sitting on a stack of books. The background is a dark, stylized sky with circular patterns.

the fake *Daring*
Dormouse up and
down. The crane swung
low over the water. One
of the mice standing on it
pointed his camera at the fake
Adventuremice while another
held up a black-and-white striped
board and shouted, ‘Scene 22, Take 1!’

The third person on the crane was a large, important-looking mouse holding an enormous brass loudhailer, nearly as big as himself. He raised it to his mouth and shouted, 'ACTION!'

