

# Christmas

\* For Greta and Gracie \*



Yasmeen Ismail









# For Ayeishah

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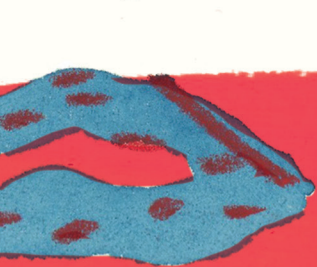
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# Christmas

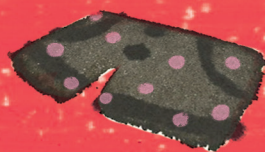
For Greta and Gracie

Did you know  
that Father Christmas  
eats marshmallows  
for breakfast?



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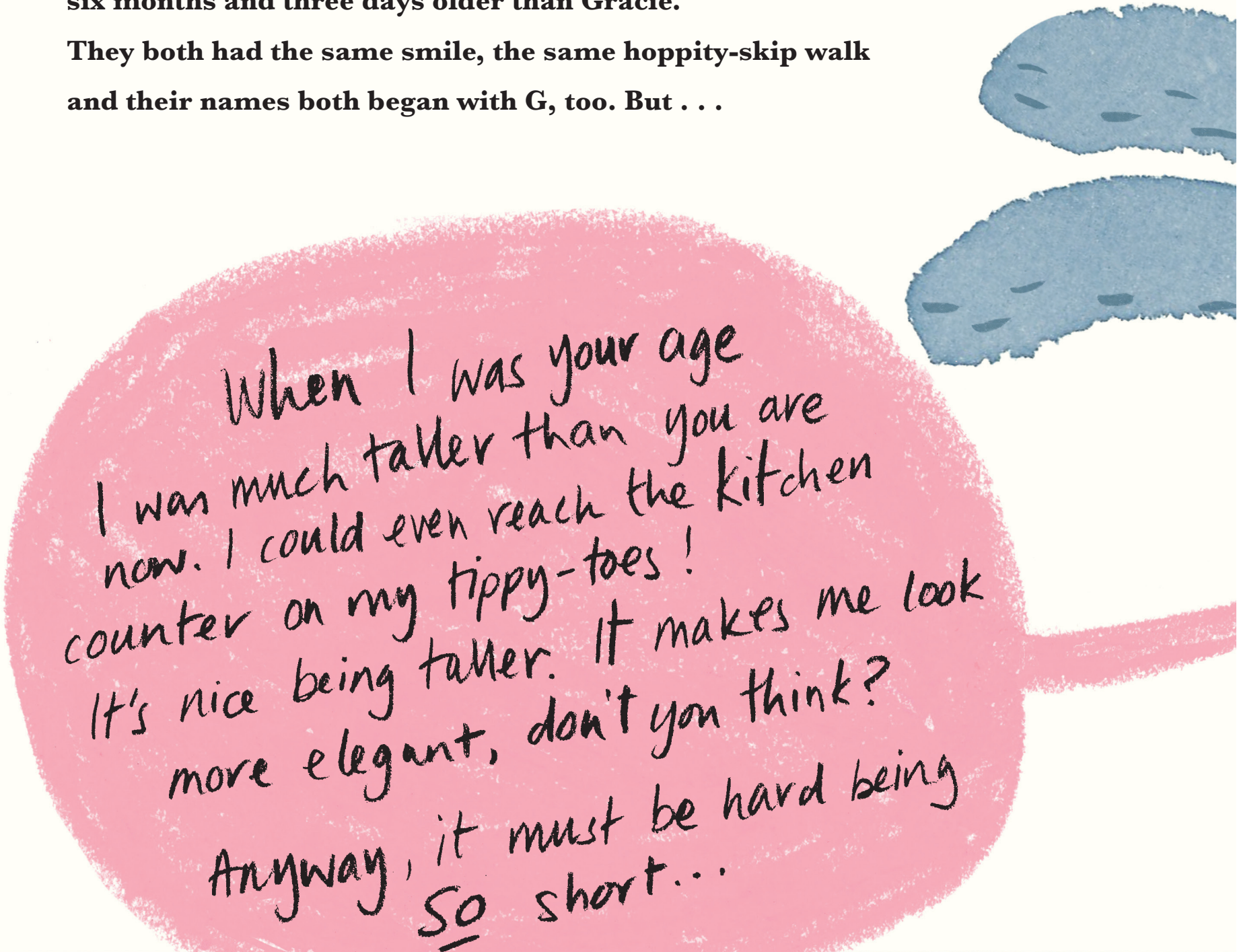




**Greta and Gracie** were sisters.

Greta was bigger because she was one year,  
six months and three days older than Gracie.

They both had the same smile, the same hoppity-skip walk  
and their names both began with G, too. But . . .



When I was your age  
I was much taller than you are  
now. I could even reach the kitchen  
counter on my tippy-toes!  
It's nice being taller. It makes me look  
more elegant, don't you think?  
Anyway, it must be hard being  
so short...



**. . . Greta was chitty-chatty and Gracie was quiet.**

**That was just fine because  
Greta loved talking to Gracie,  
and Gracie loved listening.**

**Most of the time.**





**It was Christmas Eve and Greta and Gracie were busy colouring in.**

**Greta had the red, green, yellow, blue AND black crayons.**

**Gracie had the brown crayon.**



I love Christmas, Gracie.

I can't wait for Father Christmas to bring my present. I've already written my Letter, have you? I've asked for an orange tricycle with gold streamers and a basket for Freddy the Teddy. It wouldn't be very good if I have to cycle with Freddy the Teddy under my arm.

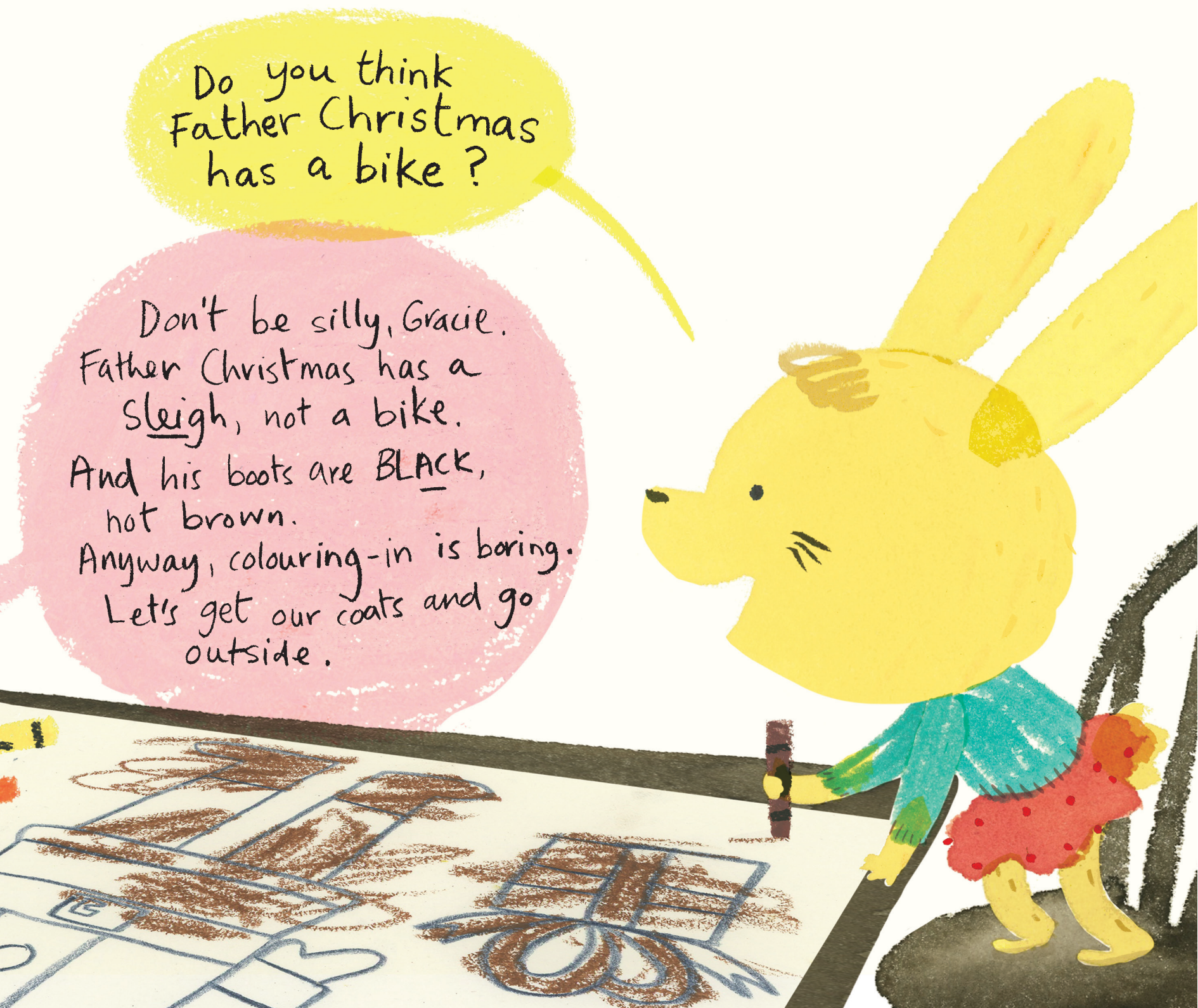
I hope Father Christmas remembers that I need a new coat and matching gloves too...



Gracie was still colouring in.  
She wanted her picture of Father Christmas  
to be just right.

Do you think  
Father Christmas  
has a bike?

Don't be silly, Gracie.  
Father Christmas has a  
Sleigh, not a bike.  
And his boots are Black,  
not brown.  
Anyway, colouring-in is boring.  
Let's get our coats and go  
outside.





So Greta and Gracie pulled on their jackets and went to help decorate the big tree in the village.

Do you think  
Father Christmas  
decorates his  
Christmas tree?

I don't think so.  
He has elves to do things like that.  
Did you know that there are  
597 elves in the North Pole?  
Or maybe it's 598?





