

ASHLEY SPIRES



The Most MAGNiFICENT Thing





For all the little perfectionists of the world



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Text and illustrations © 2014 Ashley Spires

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# THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING

Written and illustrated by

Ashley Spires



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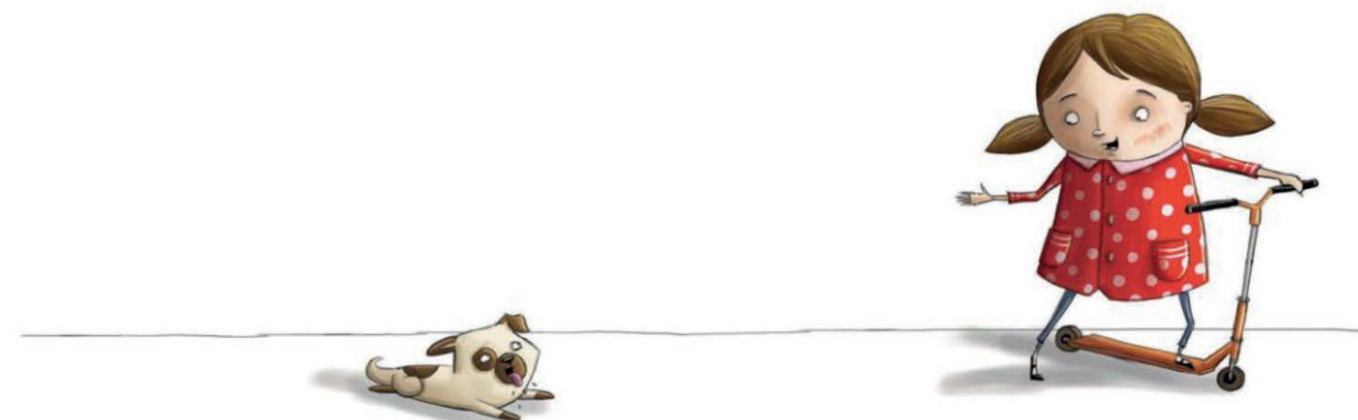
This is a regular girl and her best friend in the whole wide world.  
They do all kinds of things together. They race. They eat. They explore. They relax.



She makes things.



He unmakes things.



One day, the girl has a wonderful idea. She is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing!





She knows just how it will look.



She knows just how it will work.



All she has to do is make it, and she makes things all the time. Easy-peasy!



First, she hires an assistant.







Next, they gather their supplies.  
They set up somewhere out of the way and get to work.







The girl tinkers and hammers and measures ...



... while her assistant pounces  
and growls and chews.

When she is finished, she steps back to admire her work.  
She walks around one side. Her assistant examines the other side ...  
It doesn't look right. Her assistant picks it up and gives it a shake. It doesn't feel right, either.



They are shocked to discover that the thing isn't magnificent.  
Or good. It isn't even kind-of-sort-of okay. It is all **WRONG**.  
The girl tosses it aside and gives it another go.



She smooths and wrenches and fiddles.



Her assistant circles and tugs and wags.



When she is finished, she stands up and takes a long look at it.  
Her assistant gives it a nudge with his paw.



The thing is still wrong. She decides to try again.





The girl saws and glues and adjusts.



She twists and tweaks and fastens.

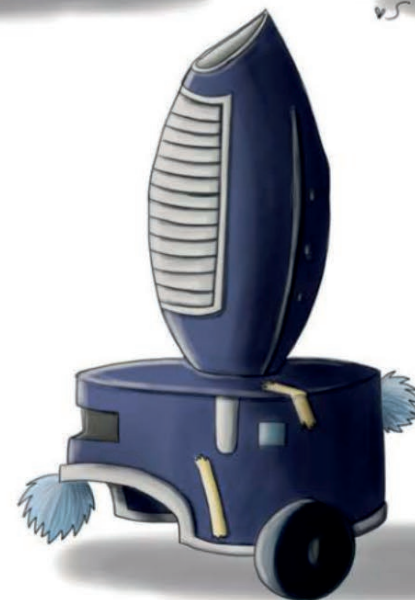
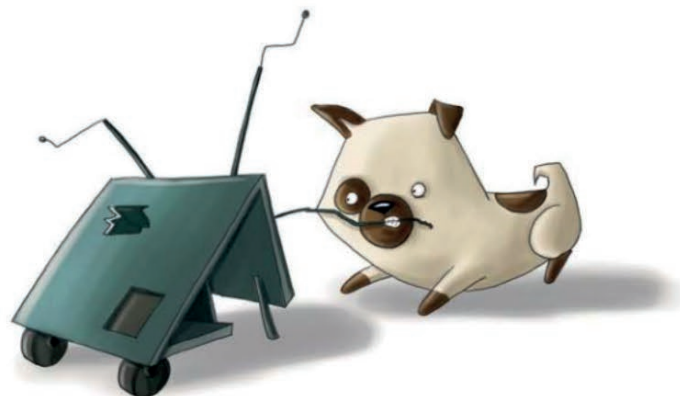
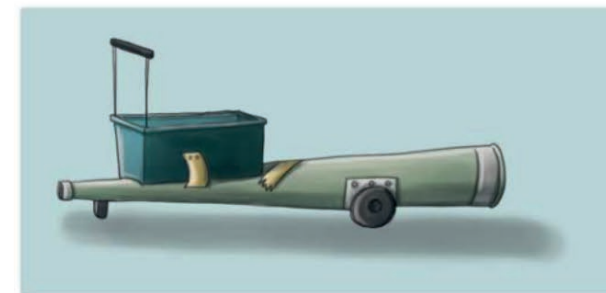


She stands and examines and stares.



She fixes and straightens and studies.

She tries all different ways to make it better.  
She makes it square. She makes it round. She gives it legs. She adds antennae.



She makes it fuzzy. She makes it long, short, rough, smooth, big, small –  
one even smells of stinky cheese! But none of them are **MAGNIFICENT**.



Her hard work attracts a few admirers, but they don't understand.  
They can't see the **MAGNIFICENT** thing that she has in her mind.



She gets **MAD**.





The angrier she gets, the faster she works. She SMASHES pieces into shapes.  
She JAMS parts together. She PUMMELS the little bits in.



Her hands feel too BIG to work, and her brain is too full of all the not-right things.



If only the thing ... WOULD ... JUST ... WORK!!!





The PAIN starts in her finger.



It rushes up to her BRAIN ...



... and she  
**EXPLODES!**

It is not her finest moment.



Her assistant suggests a walk.





It's not much help, at first.



But before long, she starts to feel different.



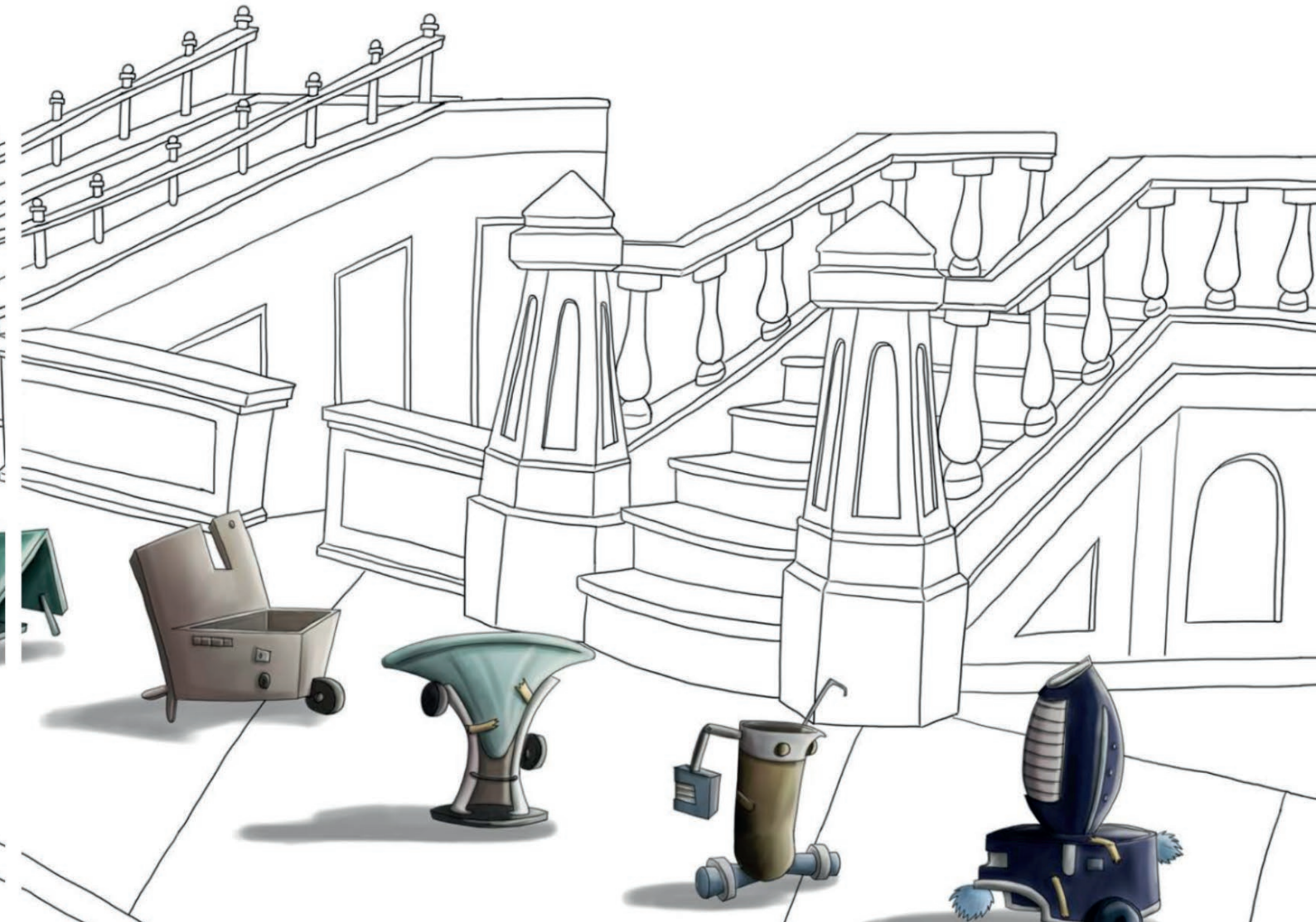
Bit by bit, the mad gets pushed out of her head.



As they stroll along, she comes across  
the first wrong thing she made. The bad  
feelings are about to start all over again.  
Then she notices something surprising.



There are some parts of the WRONG things that are  
really quite RIGHT. The bolts on one, the shape of  
another, the wheel-to-seat ratio of the next.  
There are all sorts of parts that she likes!





By the time she reaches the end of the trail, she finally knows how to make the thing **MAGNIFICENT**. She gets to work. She works carefully and slowly, tinkering, hammering, twisting, fiddling, gluing, painting ...

Her assistant makes sure there are no distractions.



The afternoon fades into evening. Finally, she finishes.  
She alerts her assistant.



The pair take a good, long look.  
It leans a little to the left, and it's a bit heavier  
than expected. The color could use a bit of work, too.  
But it's just what she wanted!



They climb aboard and take it for a spin.  
They are not disappointed.  
It really is THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING.

**ASHLEY SPIRES** is the award-winning author and illustrator of a number of books for children, including *SMALL SAUL*, *LARF* and the adventures of Binky the Space Cat, an early graphic novel series. Ashley has always loved to make things, and she knows the it-turned-out-wrong frustration well! All of her books have at one point or another made her cry, scream and tear her hair out as she tried to get them **JUST RIGHT**. Ashley lives in Ladner, British Columbia, where she and her dog, Gordon, are able to walk one of the many lovely trails near their house when a project doesn't go as planned.

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