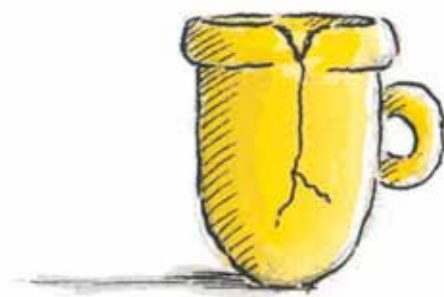


THE  
IMPORTANT THINGS



Peter Carnavas



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# To my family

PC





Christopher's mother did everything.



She painted houses in the day



She cooked breakfast in the mornings



and read novels at night.



and built small cities in the afternoons.



Christopher's mother had to do everything,  
for his father had faded from their lives.

One day, Christopher's mother began filling a box with some of his father's old things.

Small things.

Unimportant things.



A cracked coffee cup.



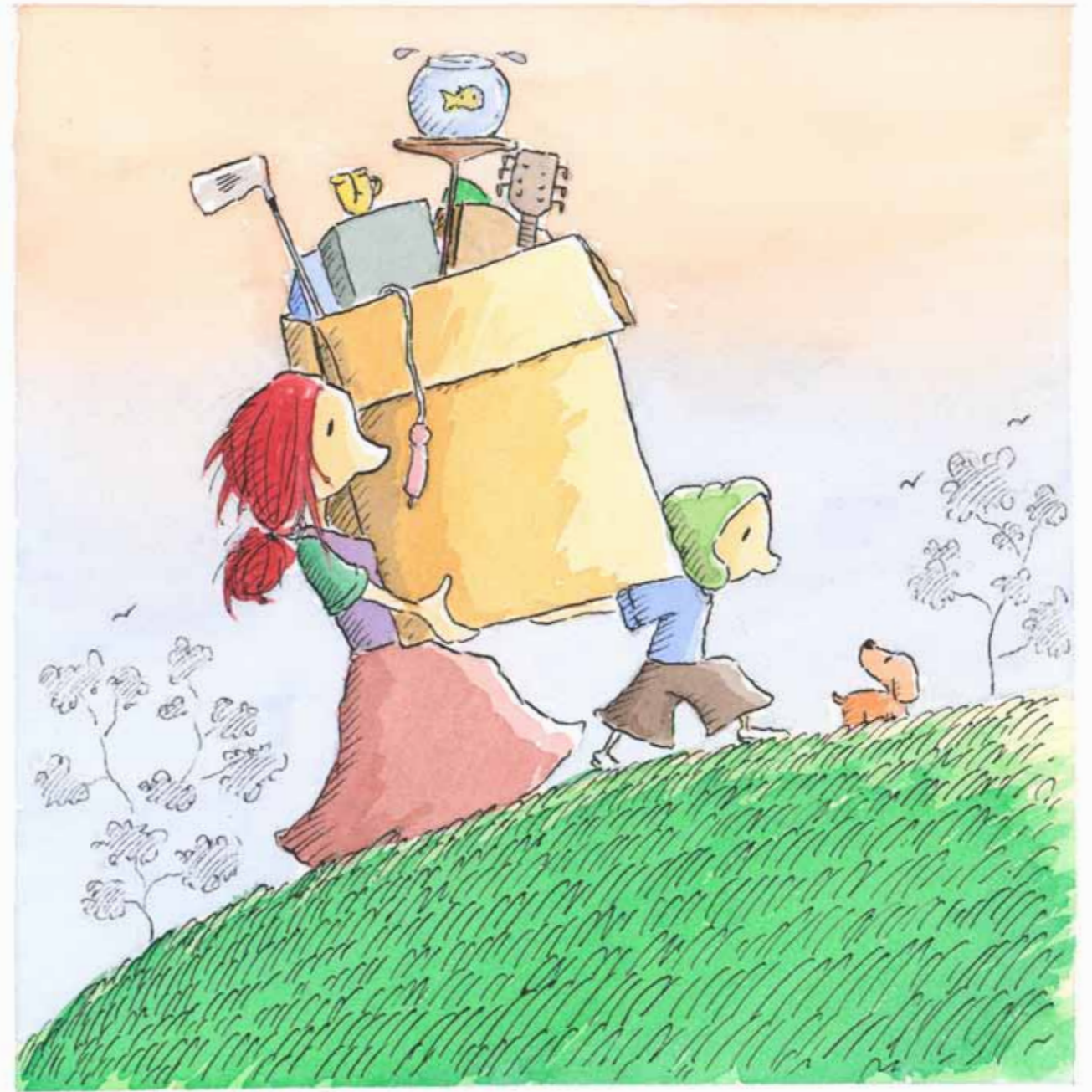
A pair of old slippers.

Some piano sheet music.





And a tattered green hat.  
Nobody would ever wear that again.



They carried the box to town

and left all of the unimportant things in a secondhand store.

'Somebody else can use these things,' said Christopher's mother.

'We don't need them anymore.'





But a few days later, something strange occurred.  
'That's odd,' said Christopher's mother.  
'I thought we gave that coffee cup away.'



Later in the week, the slippers were back in the hall.  
'Hmmm,' said Christopher's mother.  
'Didn't we put those in the box?'

When the piano sheet music reappeared,  
she was baffled.





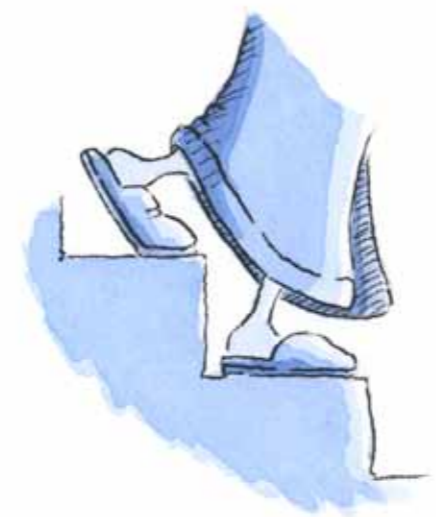
They returned to the secondhand store and told the owner all about the coffee cup, the pair of slippers and the piano sheet music. The owner said nothing.



That night, Christopher's mother couldn't sleep.



So she tiptoed downstairs,



opened a book  
and reached for the lamp.



Christopher froze.  
His mother gasped.  
Neither of them knew what to say.

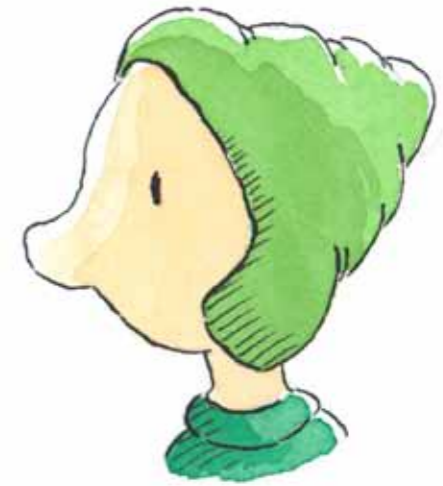


Christopher's mother finally spoke.  
'Did you bring the hat home from the shop?' she asked.  
Christopher nodded.

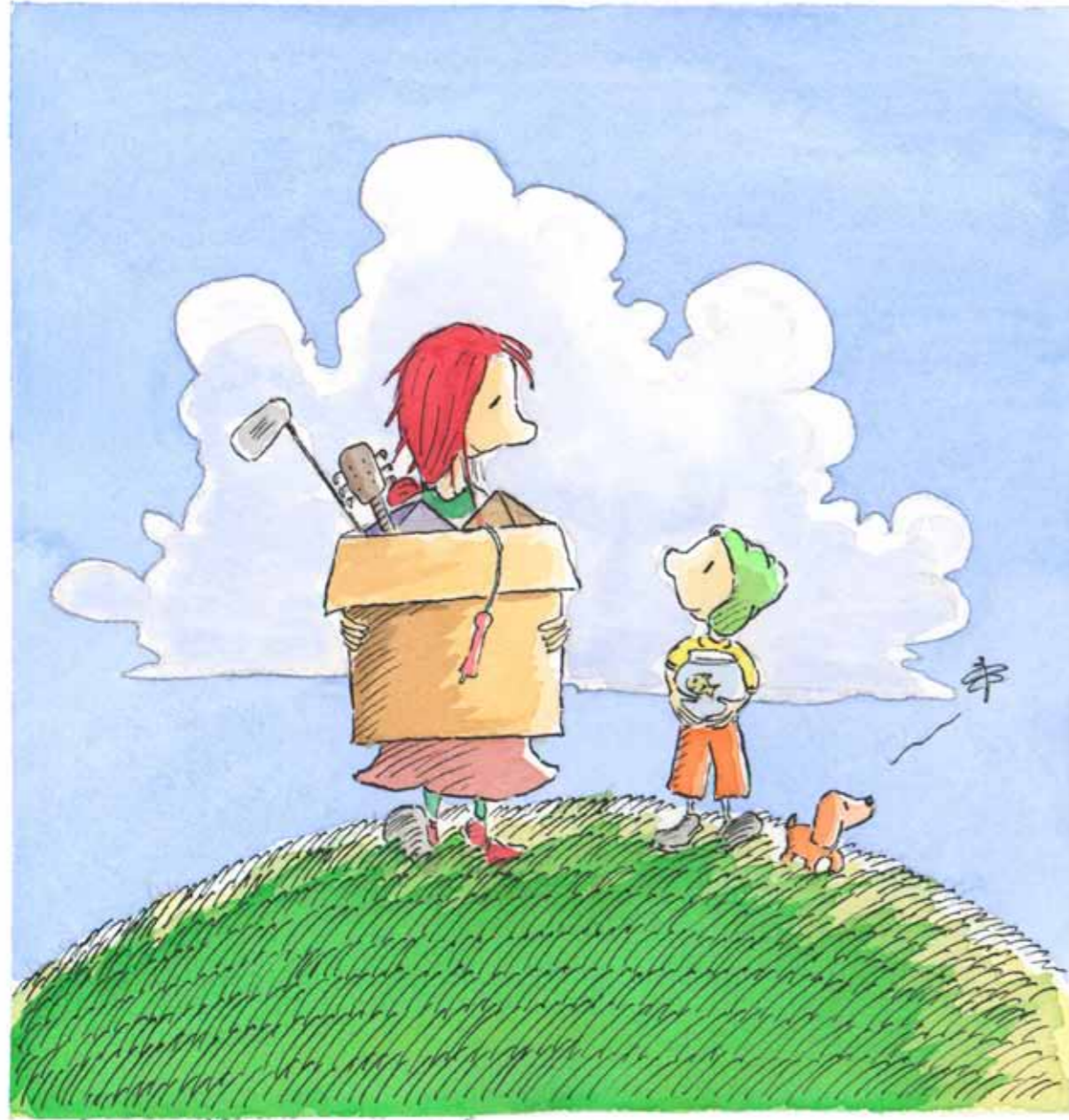
'And the cup? The slippers? The music?'  
'The owner let me have them,' Christopher said.  
'But why?' asked his mother.



'I was trying to remember,'  
said Christopher.  
His mother lowered her head.



'And I was trying to forget,'  
she sighed.



The next morning, they collected the rest of the things  
that once belonged to Christopher's father

and they found places for them all.

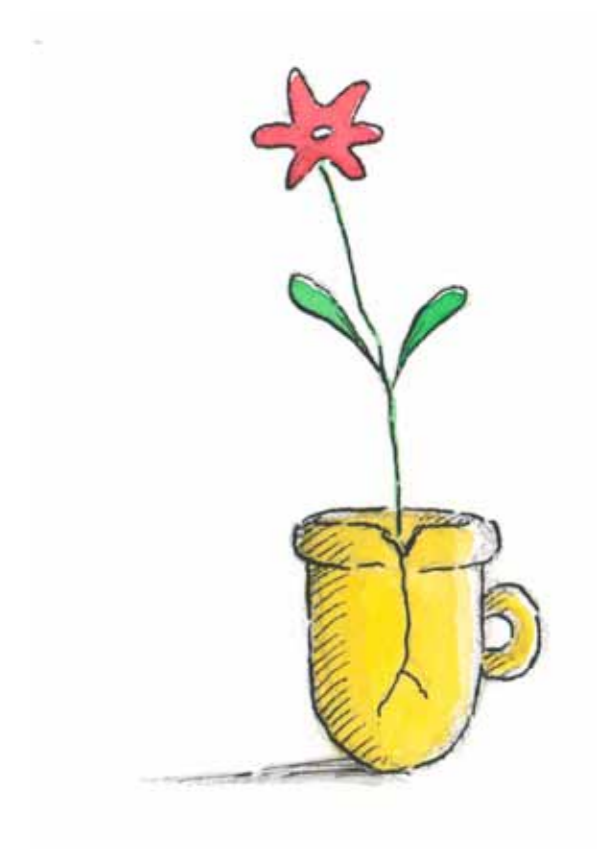


Small things.



Important things.







Christopher comes to terms with an absent father  
and celebrates the Important Things in his life.  
An insightful and perceptive story about  
remembering a father.



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