The ARRIVAL

SHAUN TAN

ALBUM

SHERYN TEN

For my parents

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INSPECTION

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p. cm. Summary: In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family. ISBN 13: 978-0-439-89529-3
ISBN 10: 0-439-89529-4 — [1. Emigration and immigration — Fiction. 2. Immigrants — Fiction. 3. Stories without words. 4. Cartoons and comics.] I. Title. PZ7.T16123Ar 2007 [Fic]—dc22 2006021706
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THE ARRIVAL

Shaun Tan

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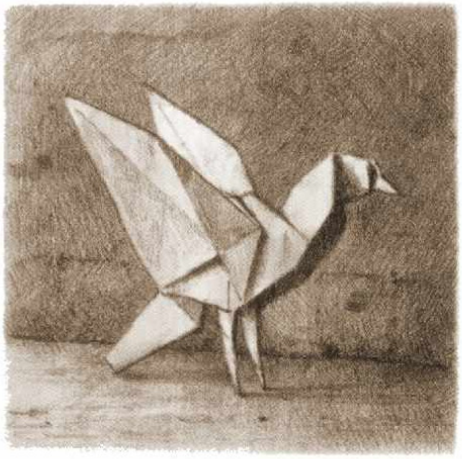
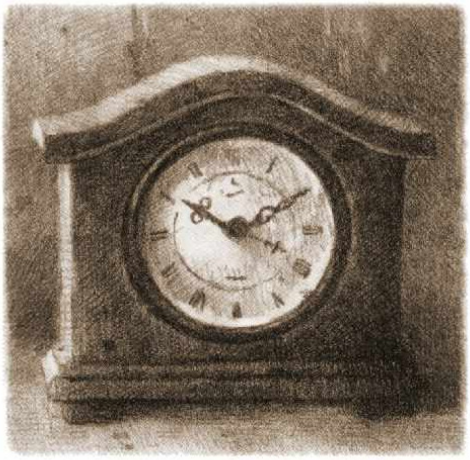
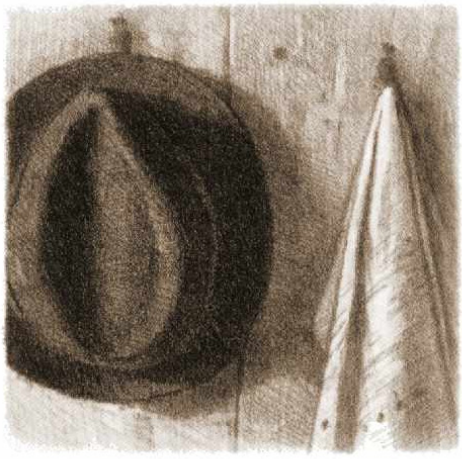
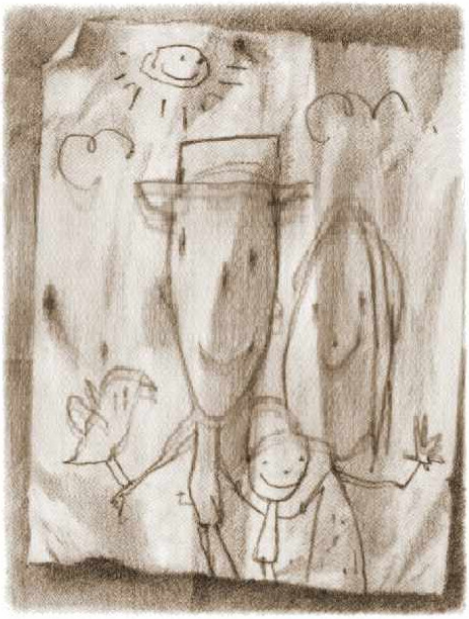
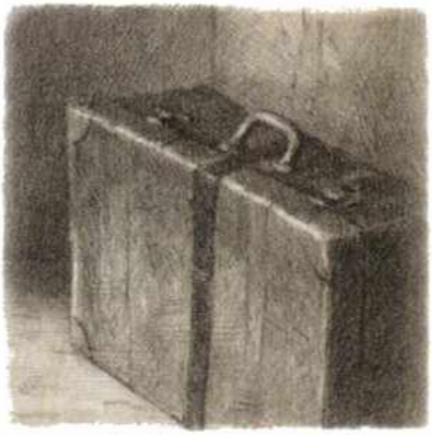
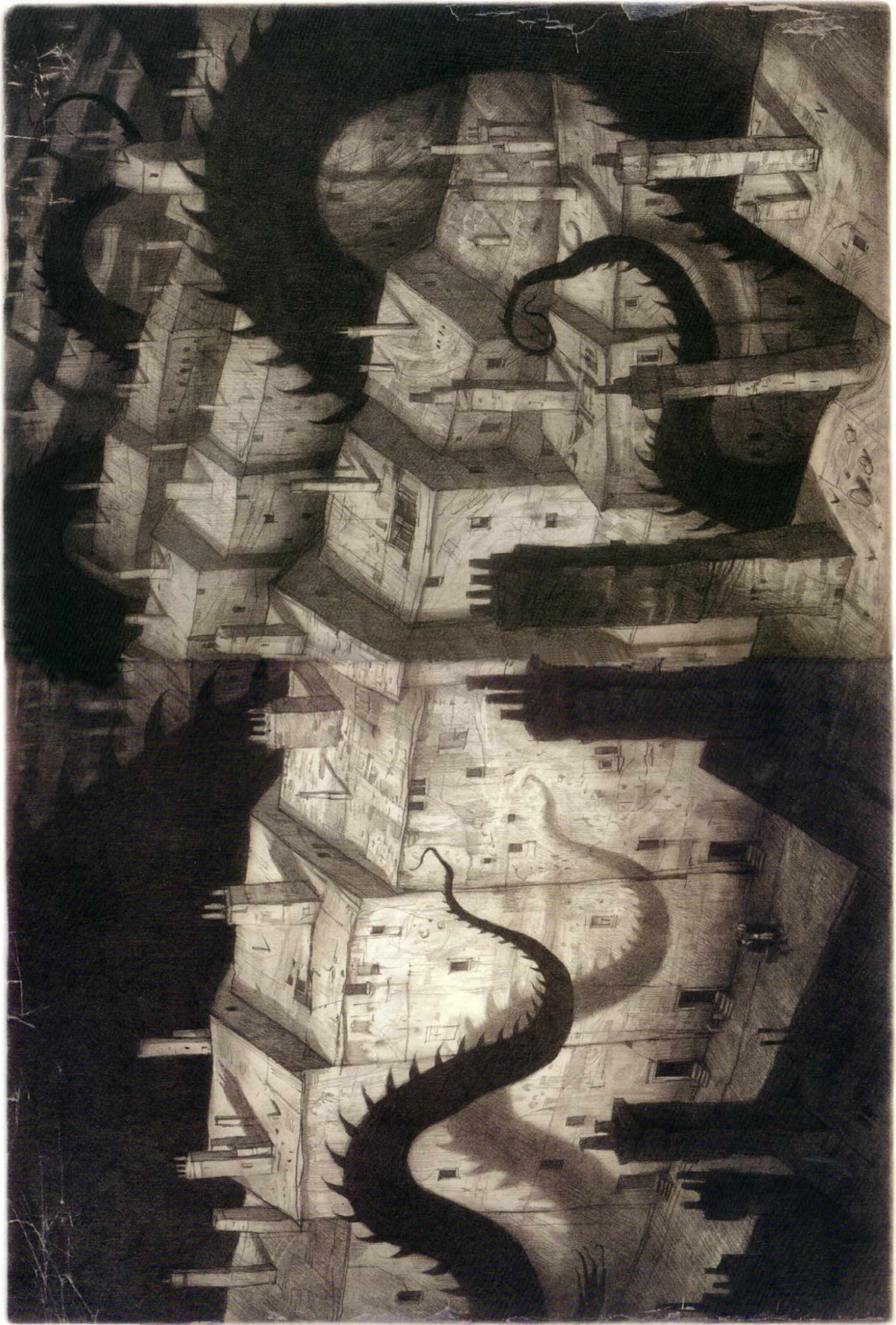
I







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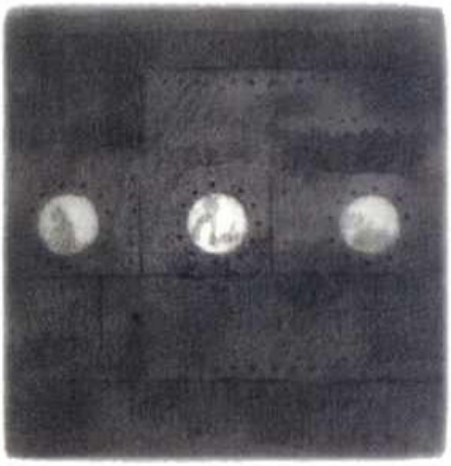
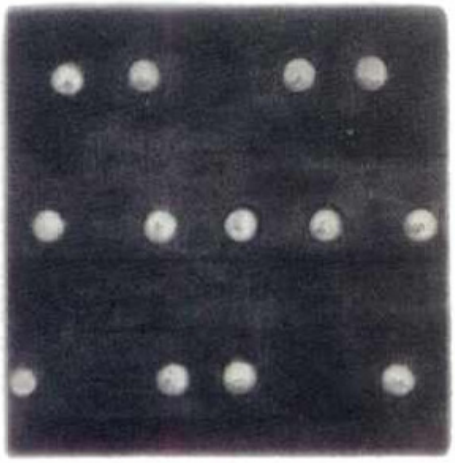
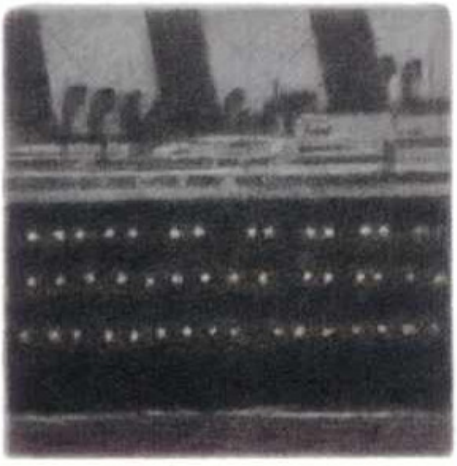

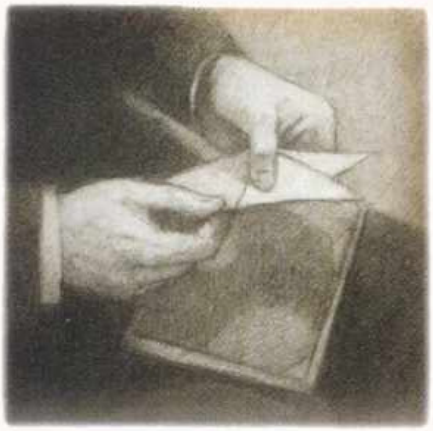

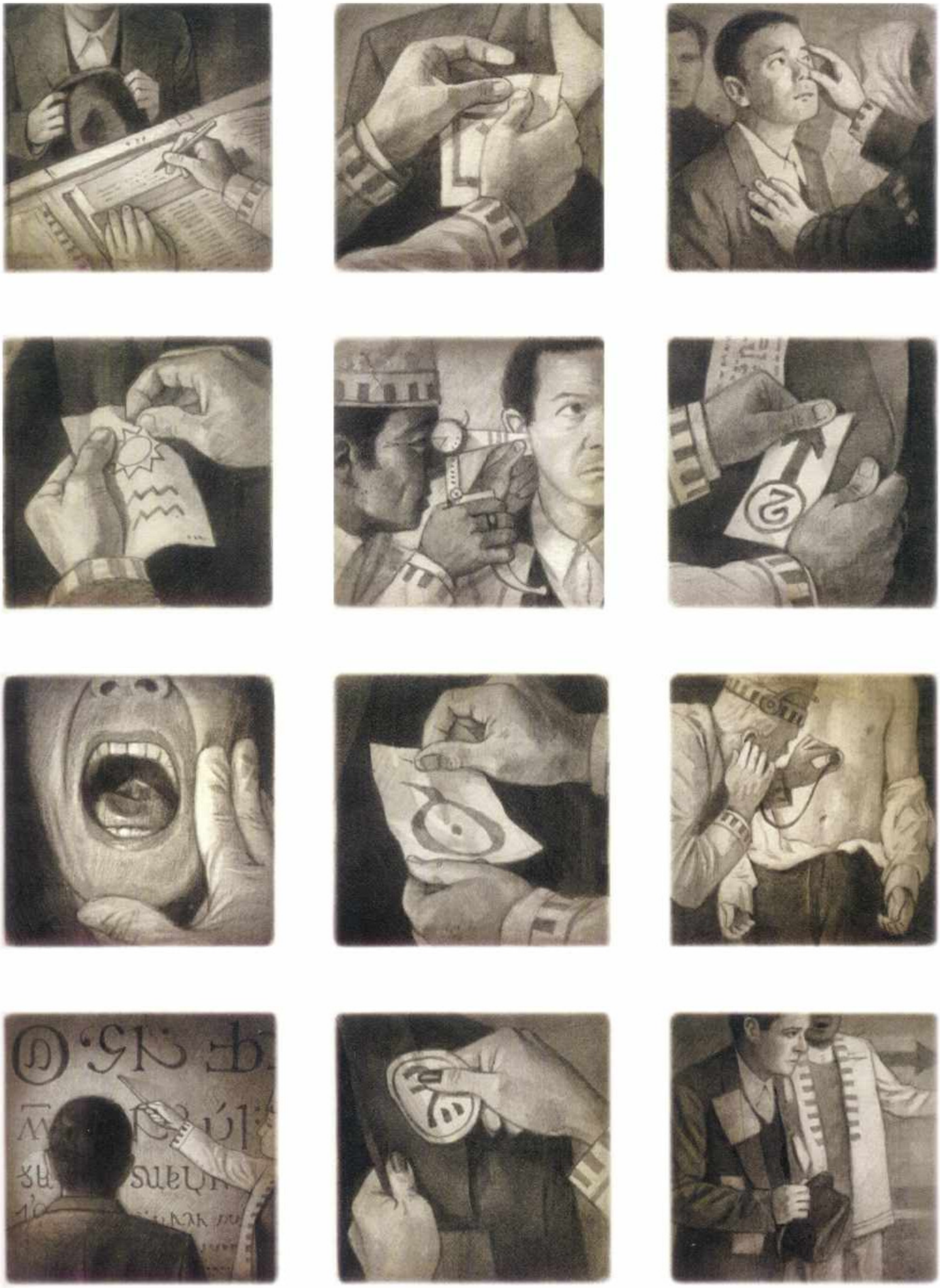

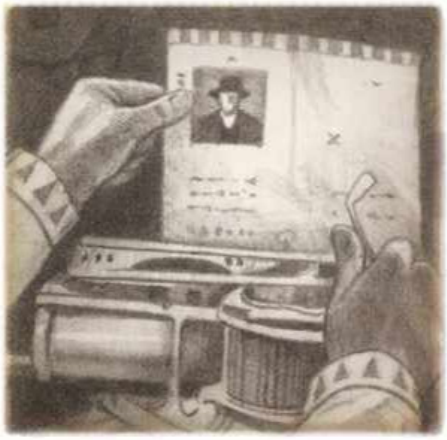

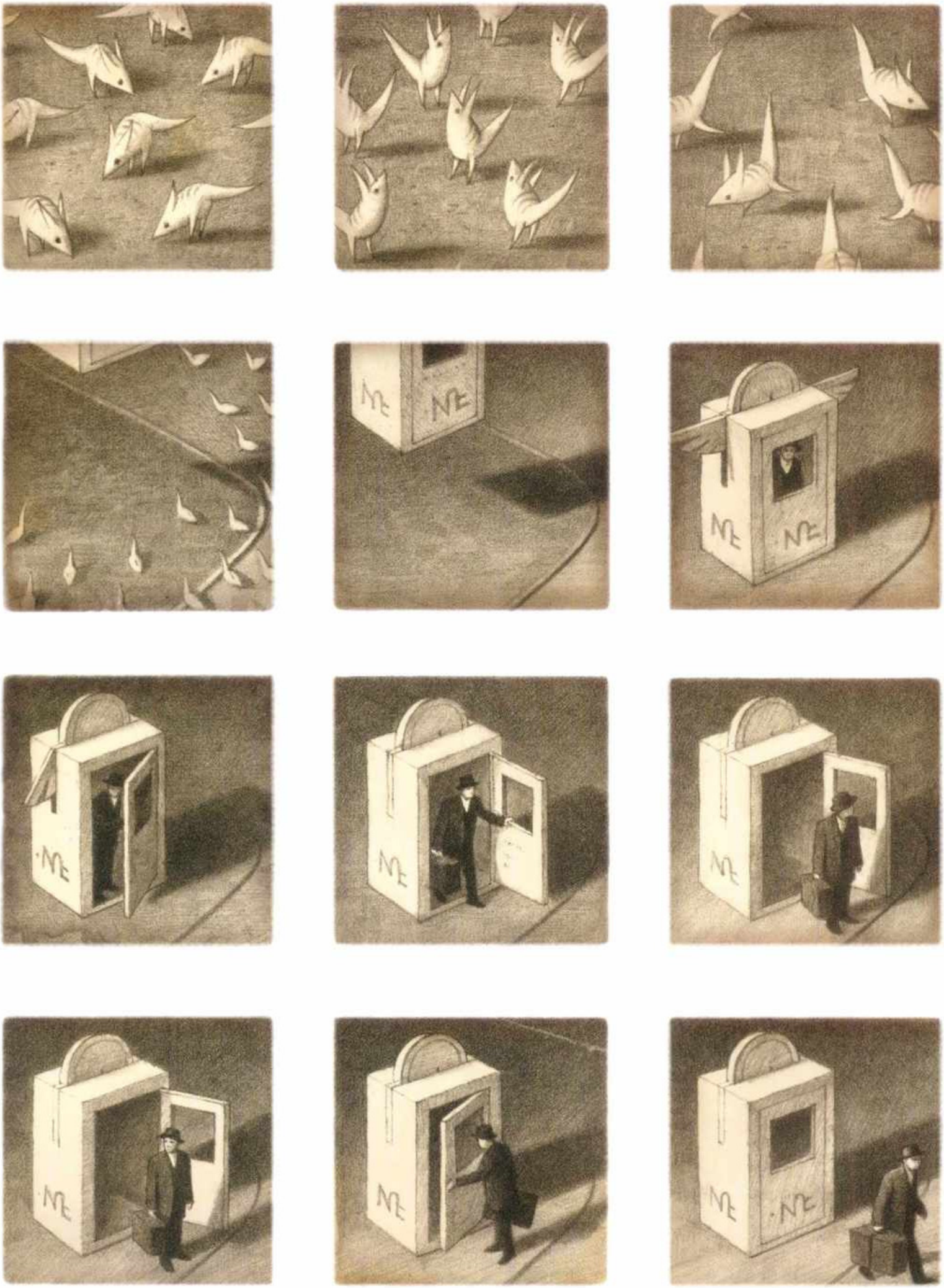

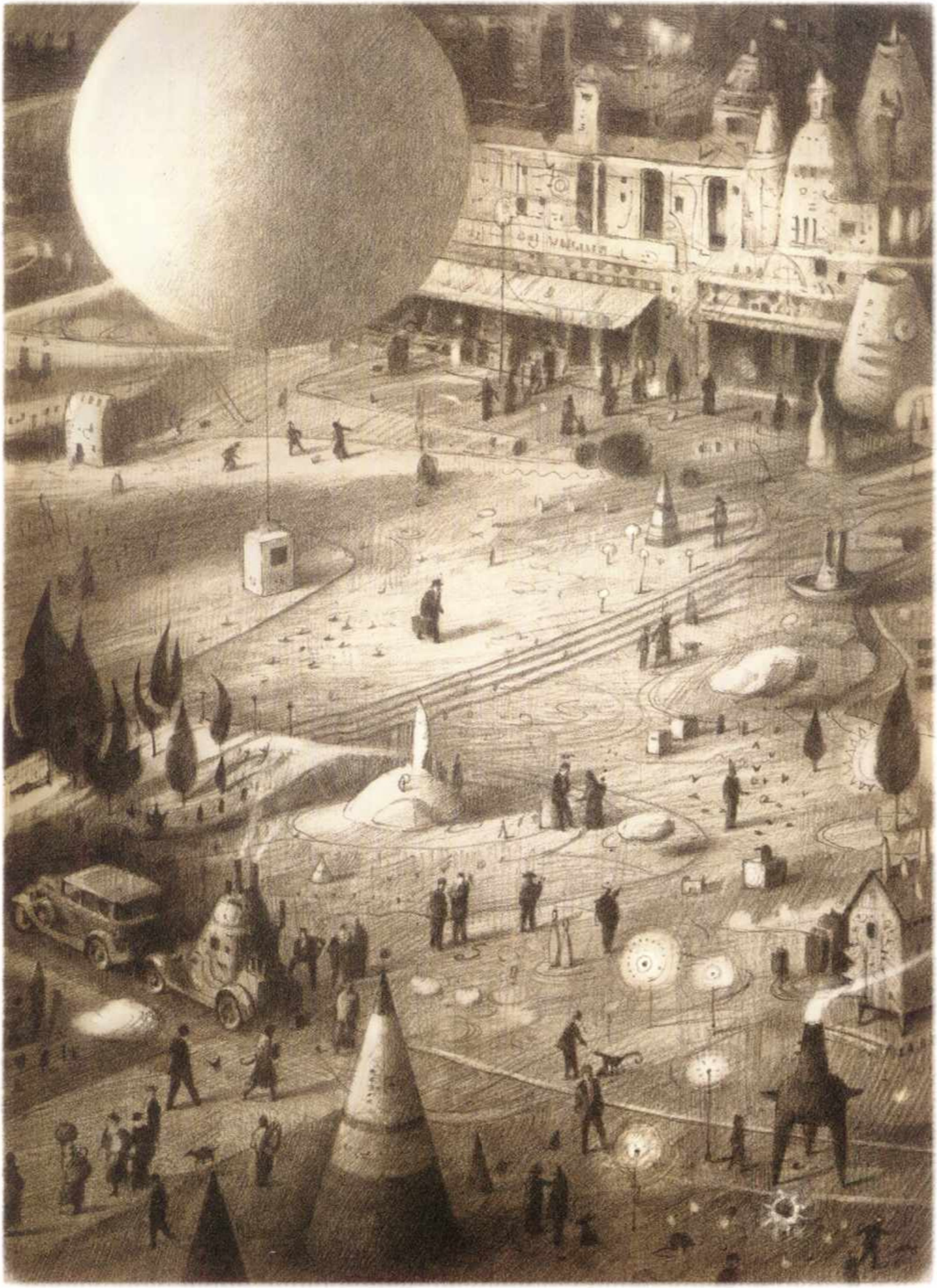

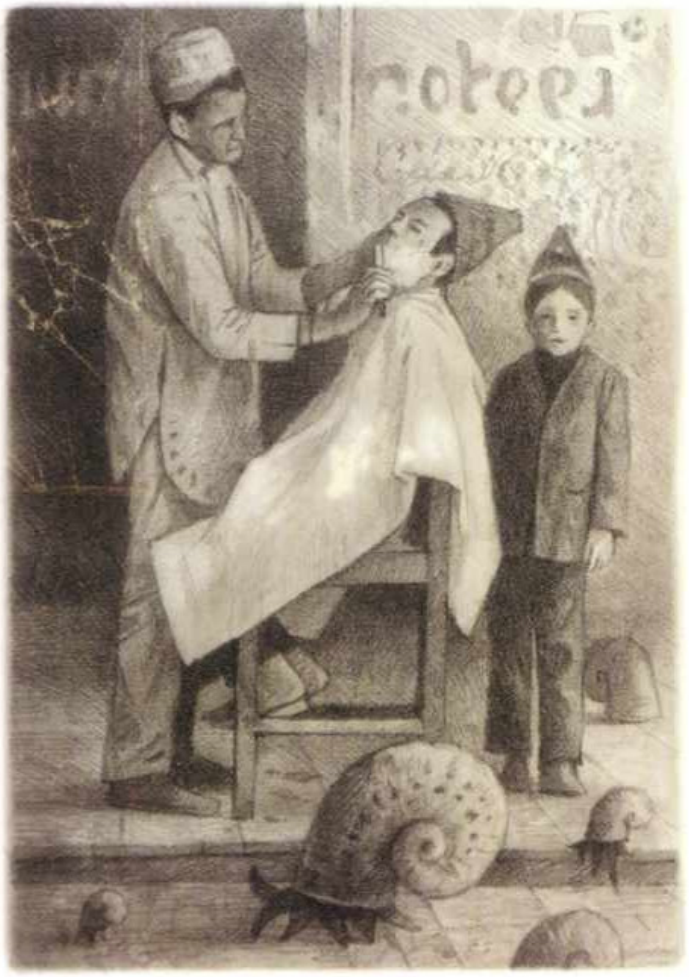

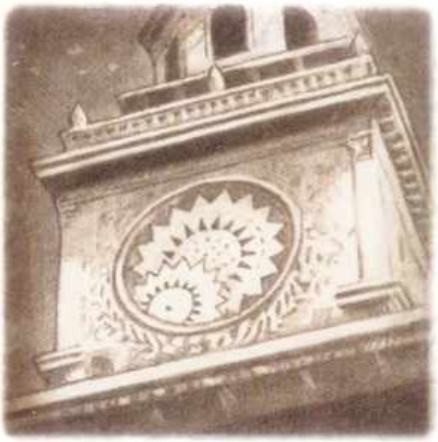

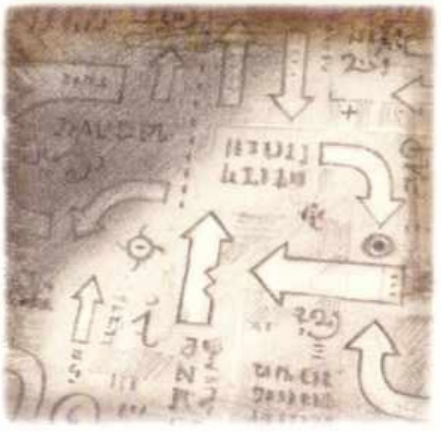

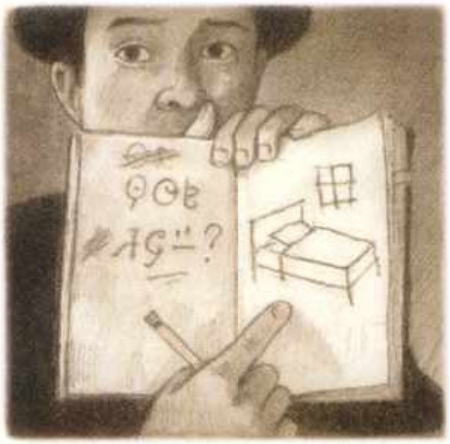

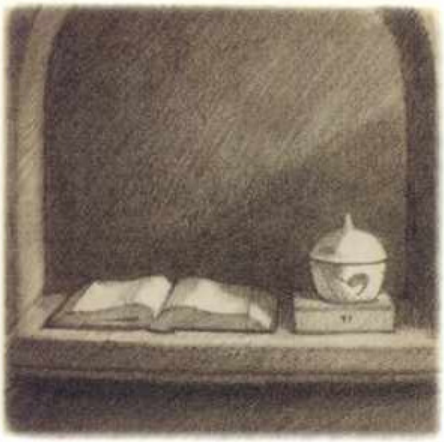

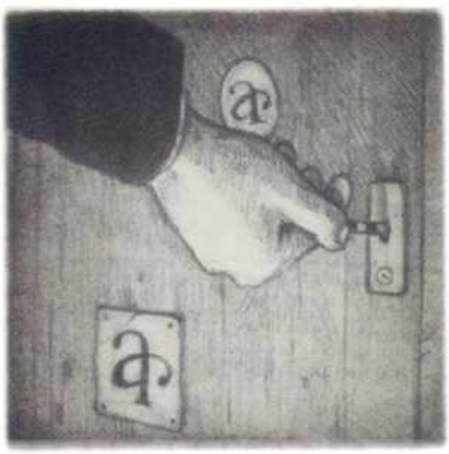

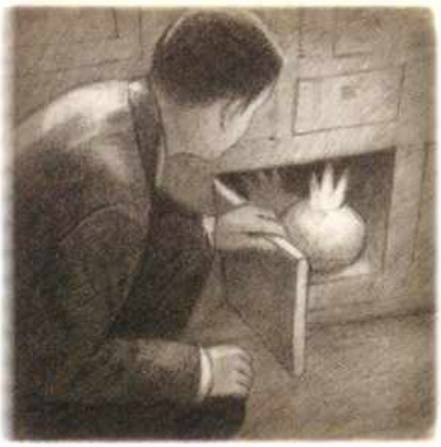

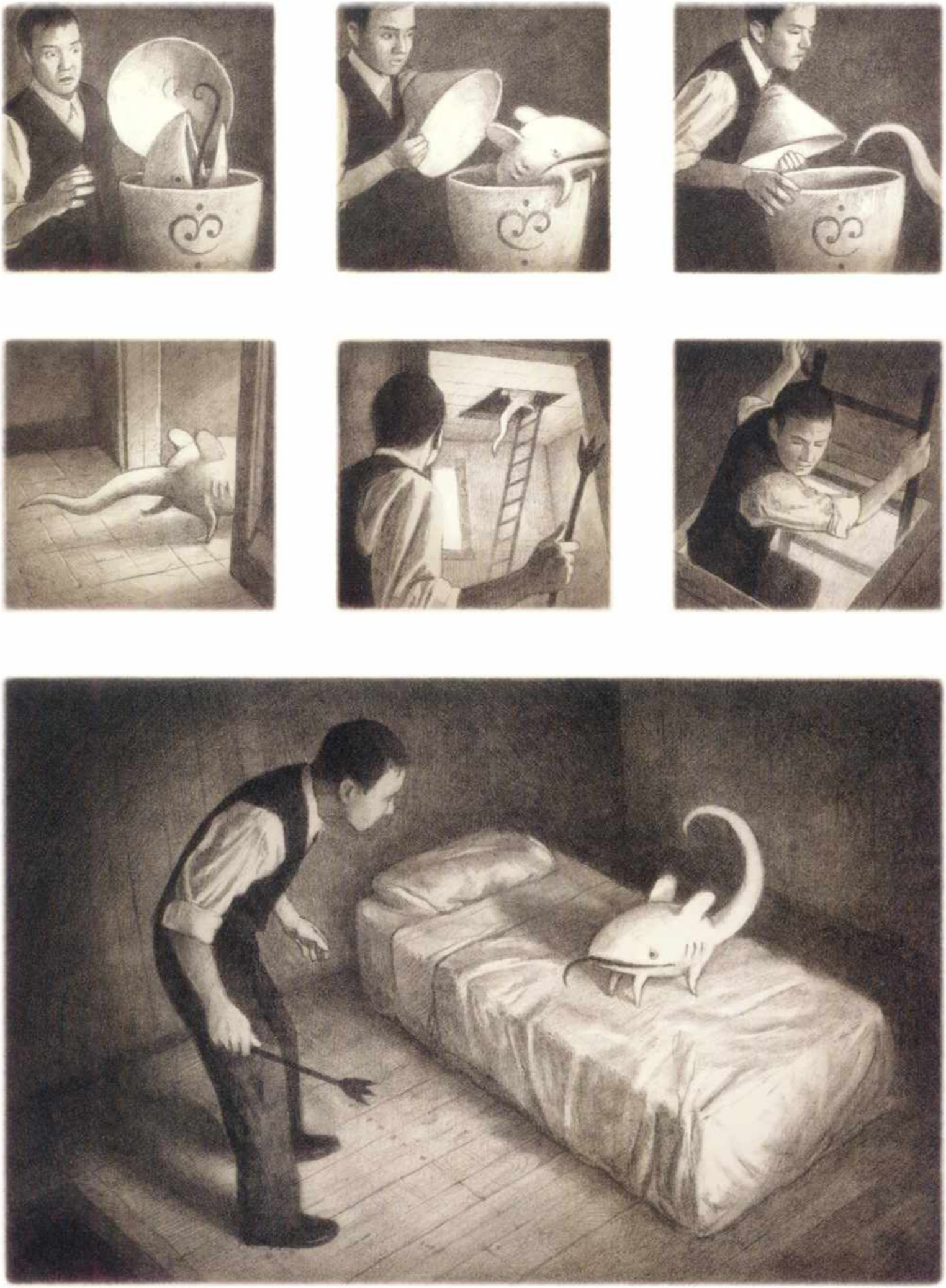

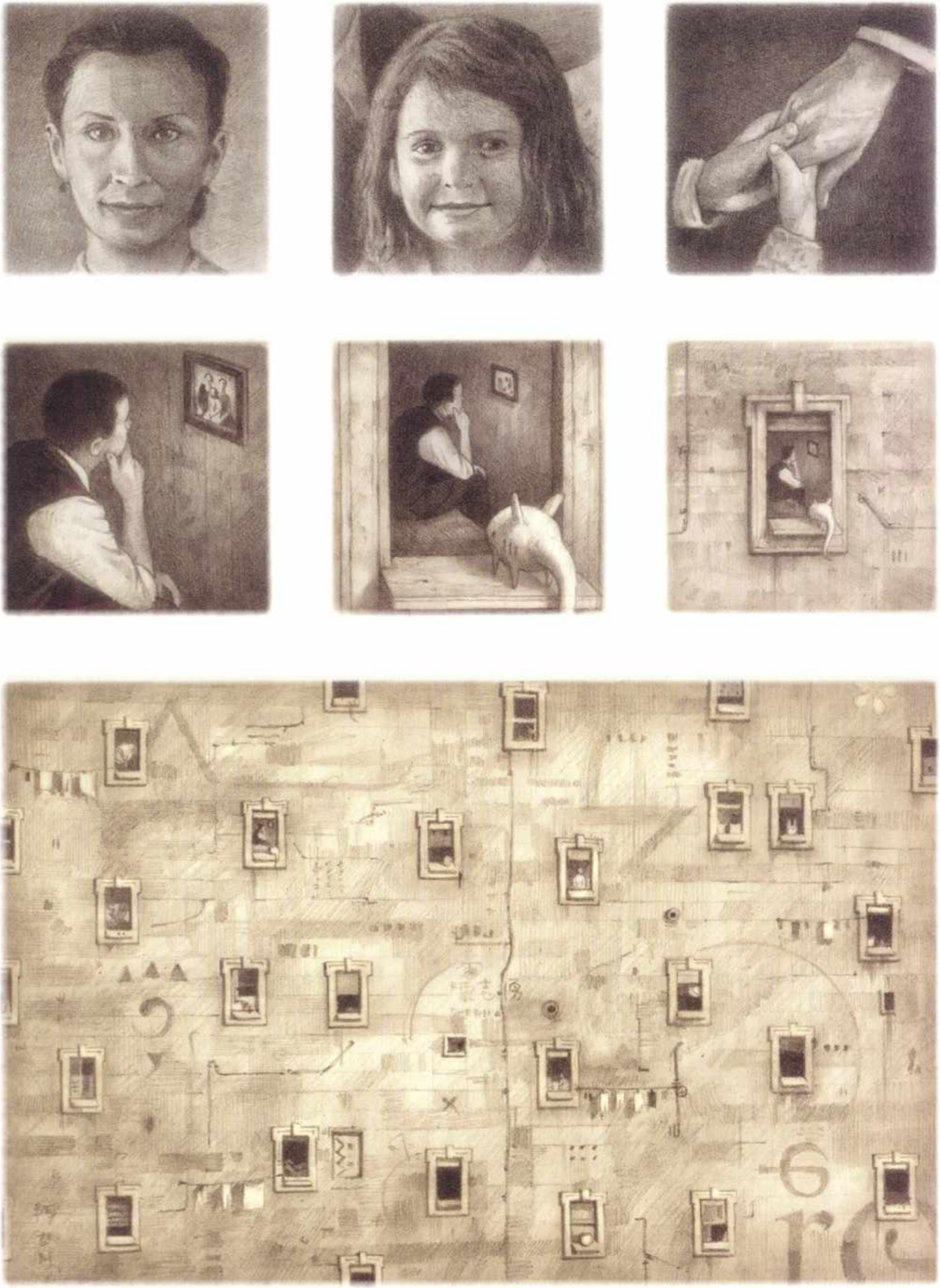

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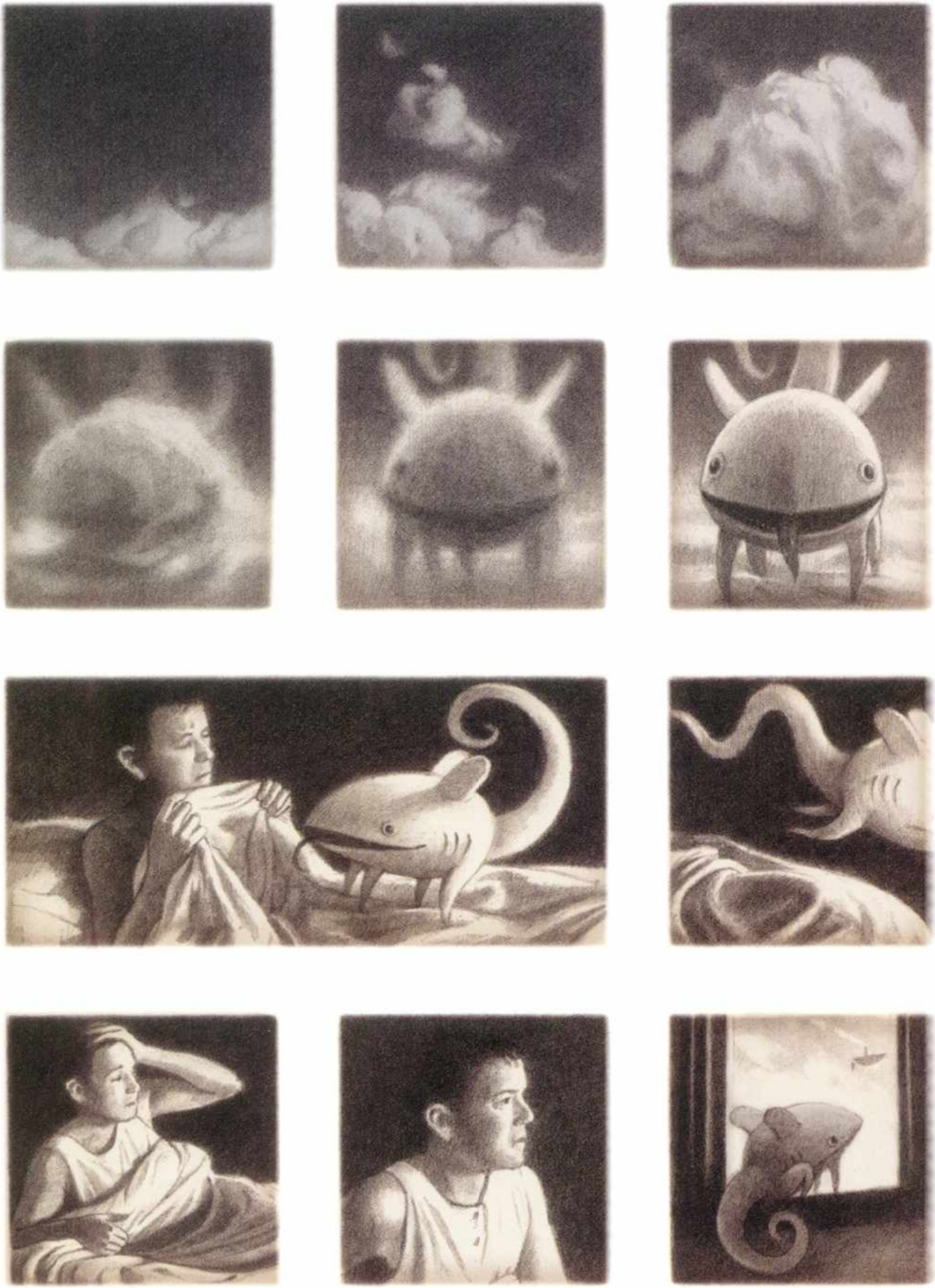

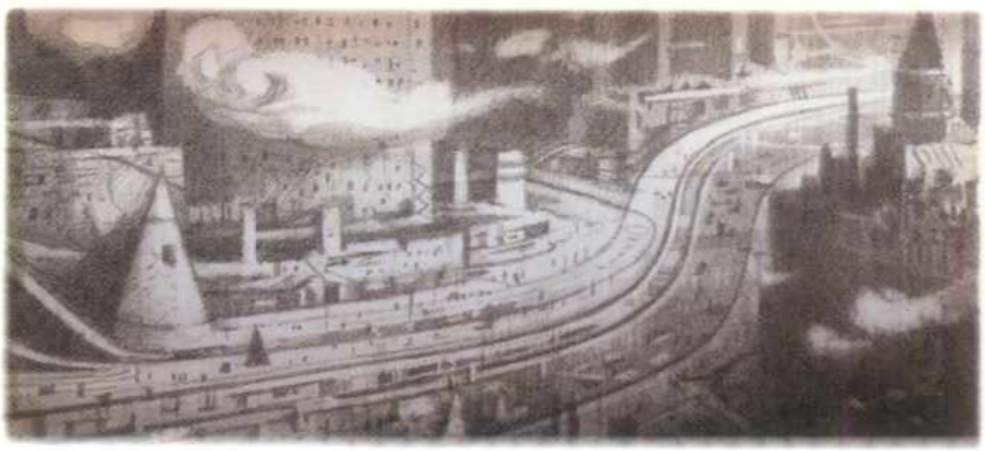

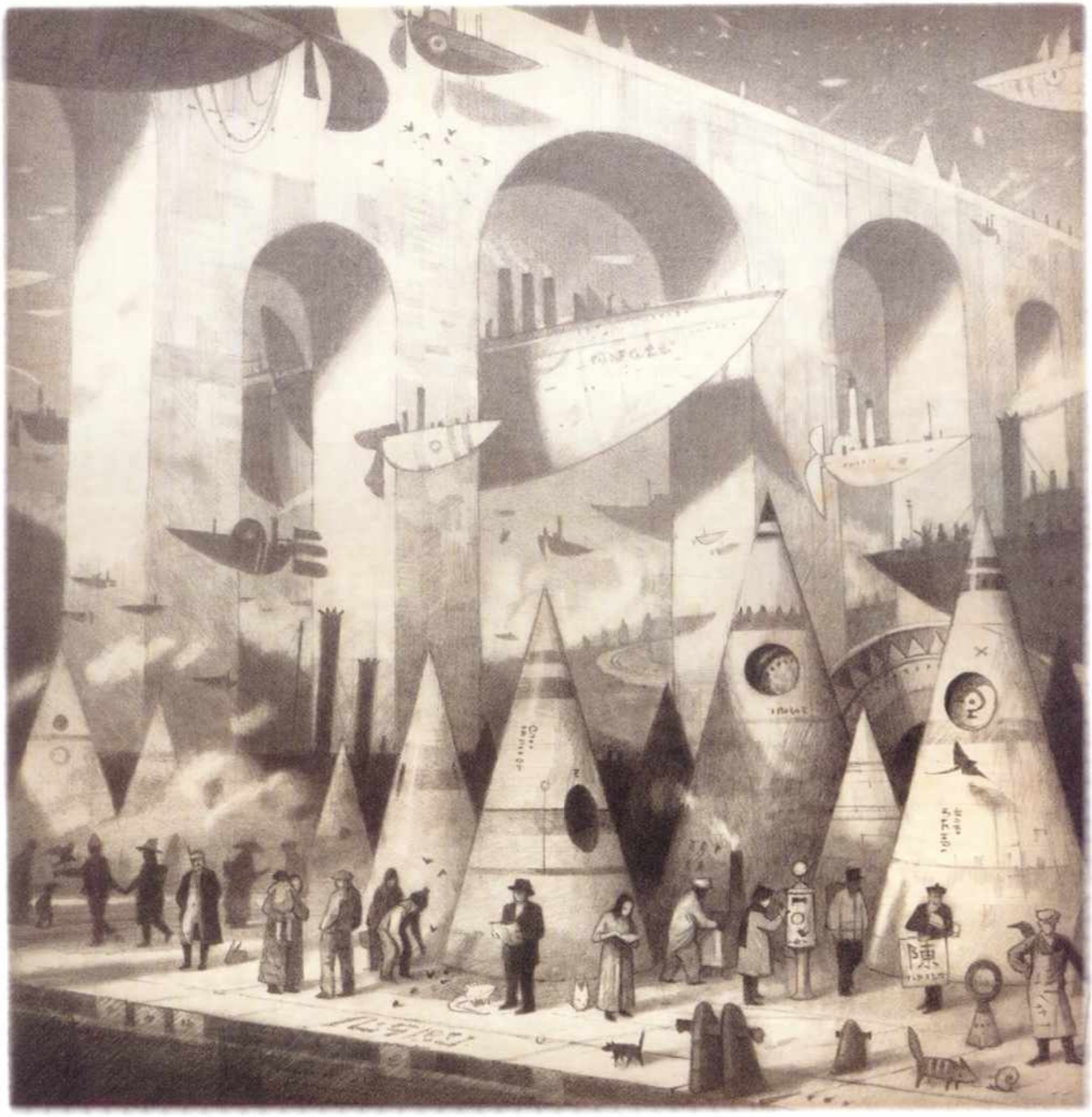

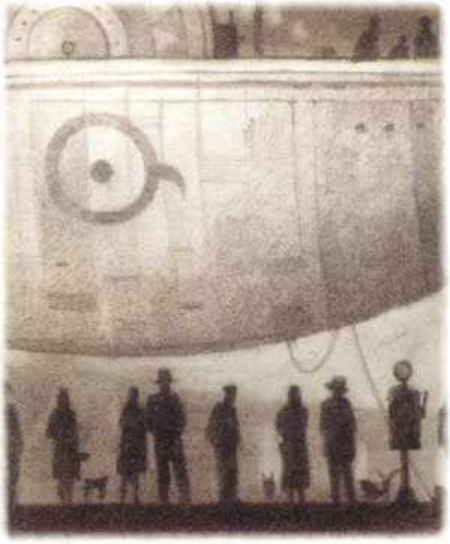

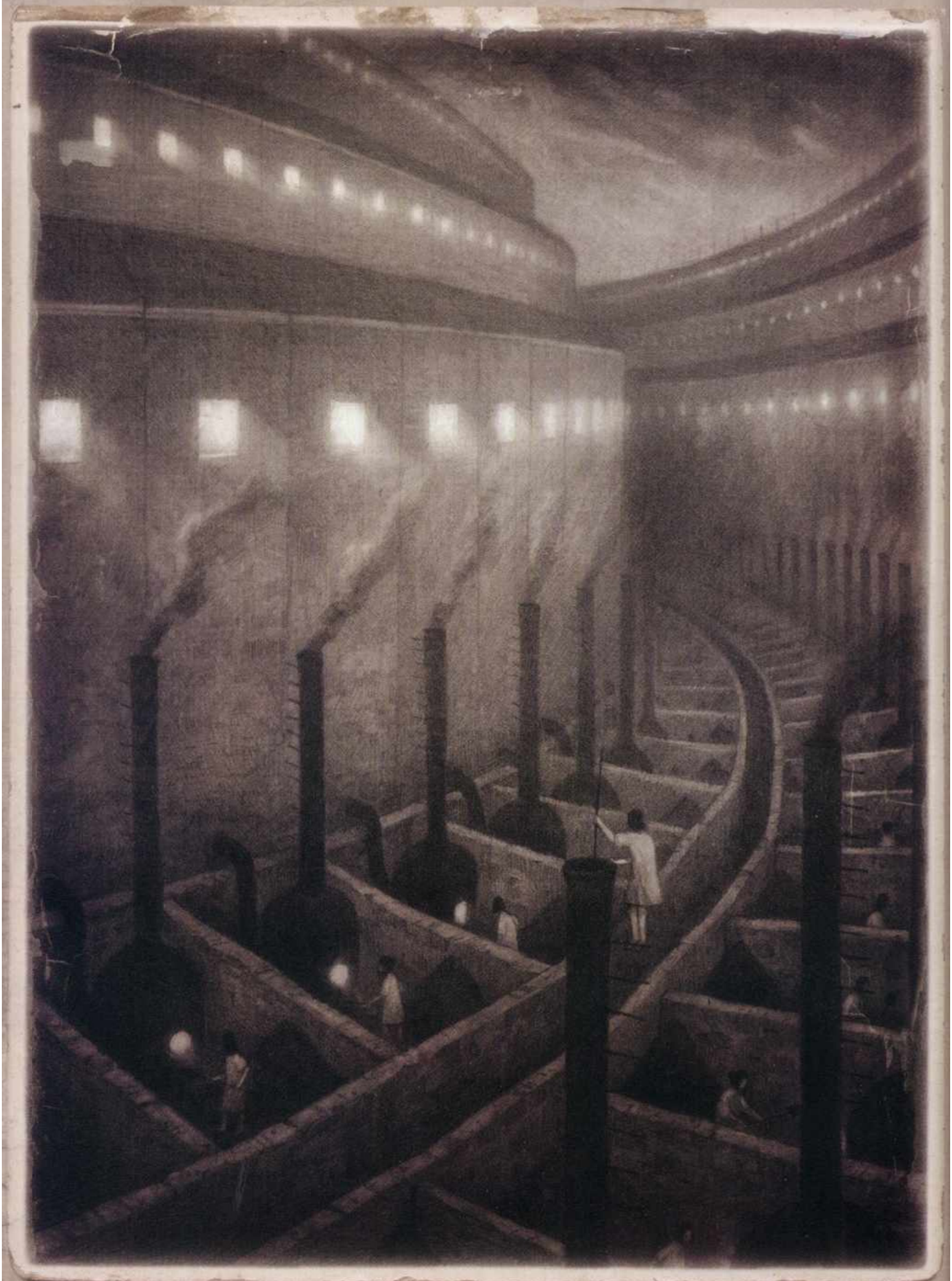

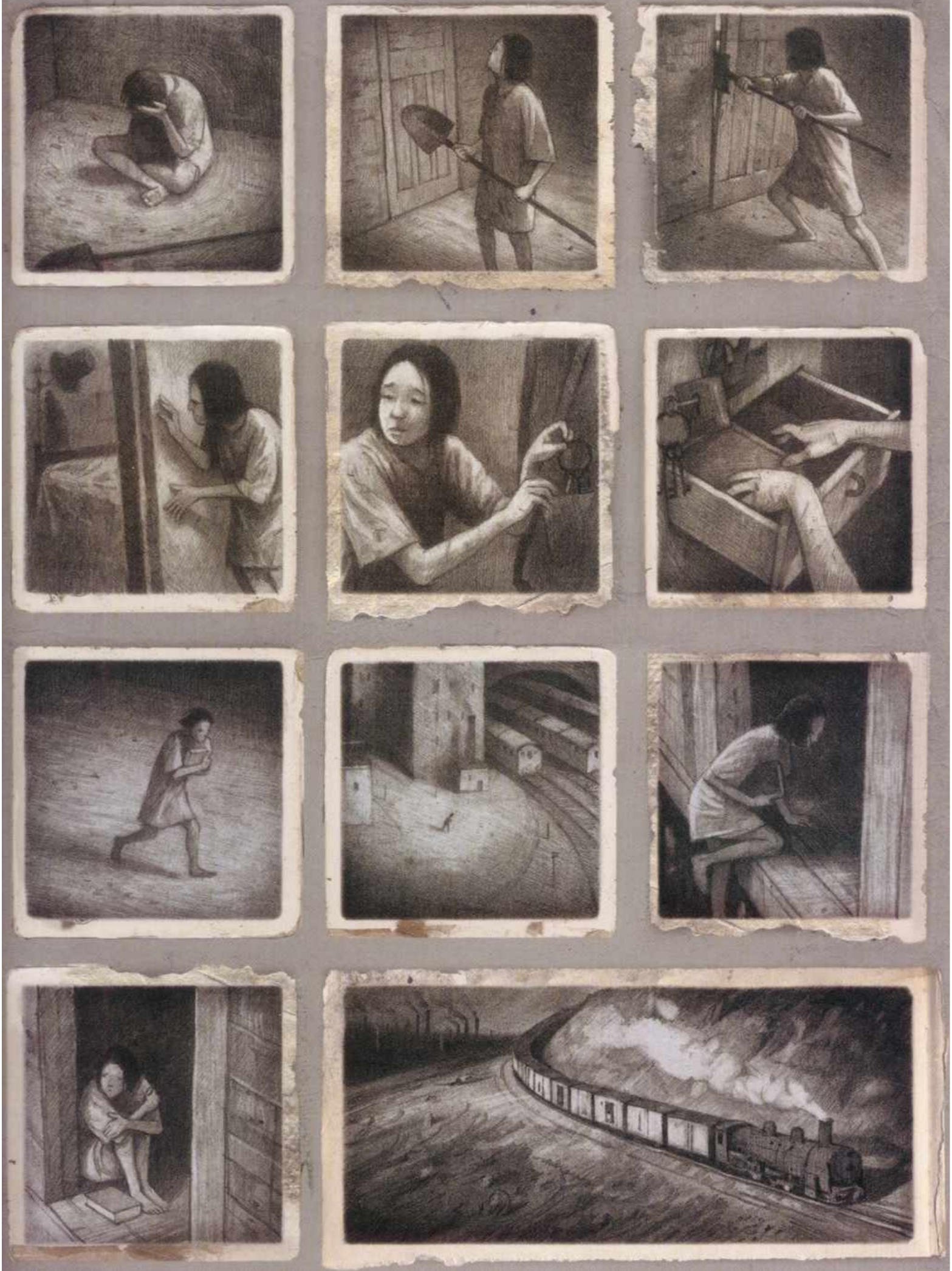

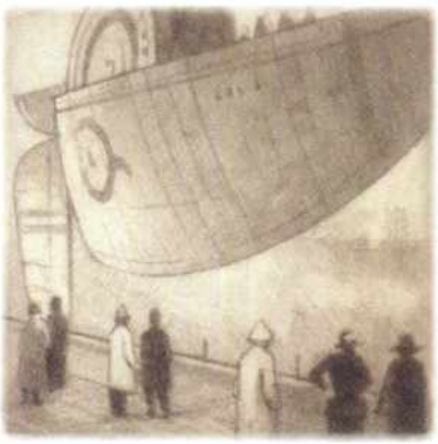

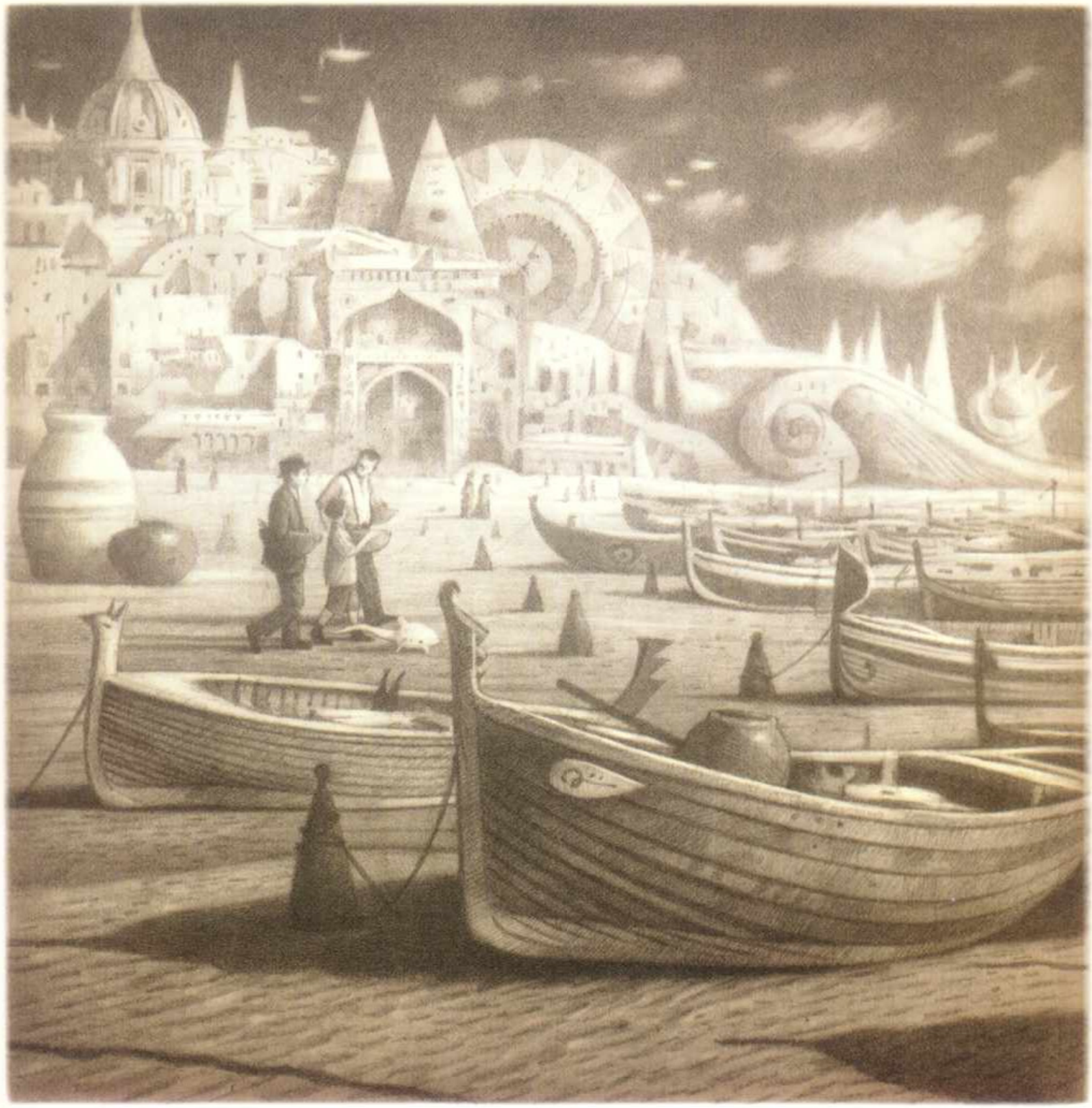

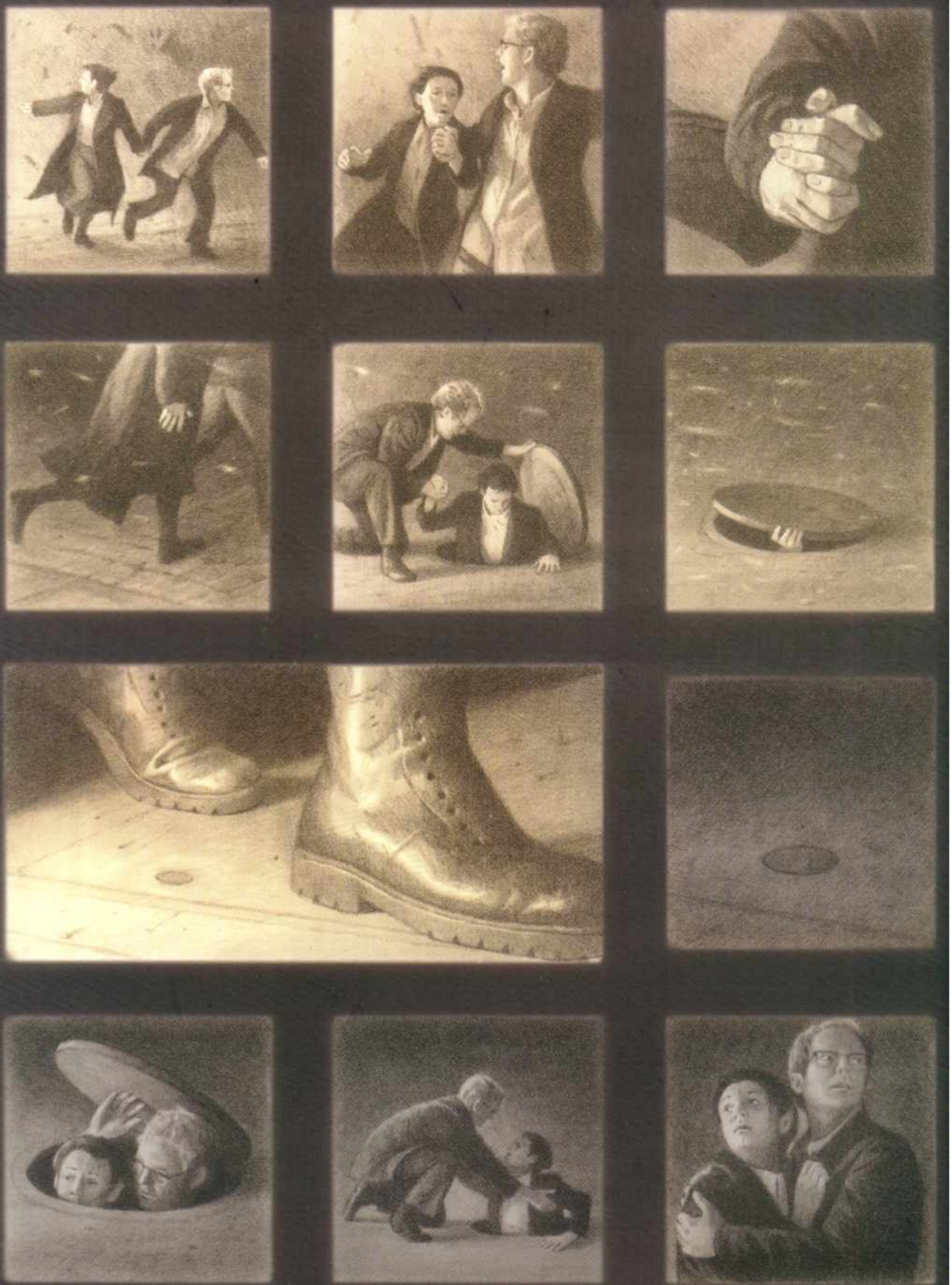

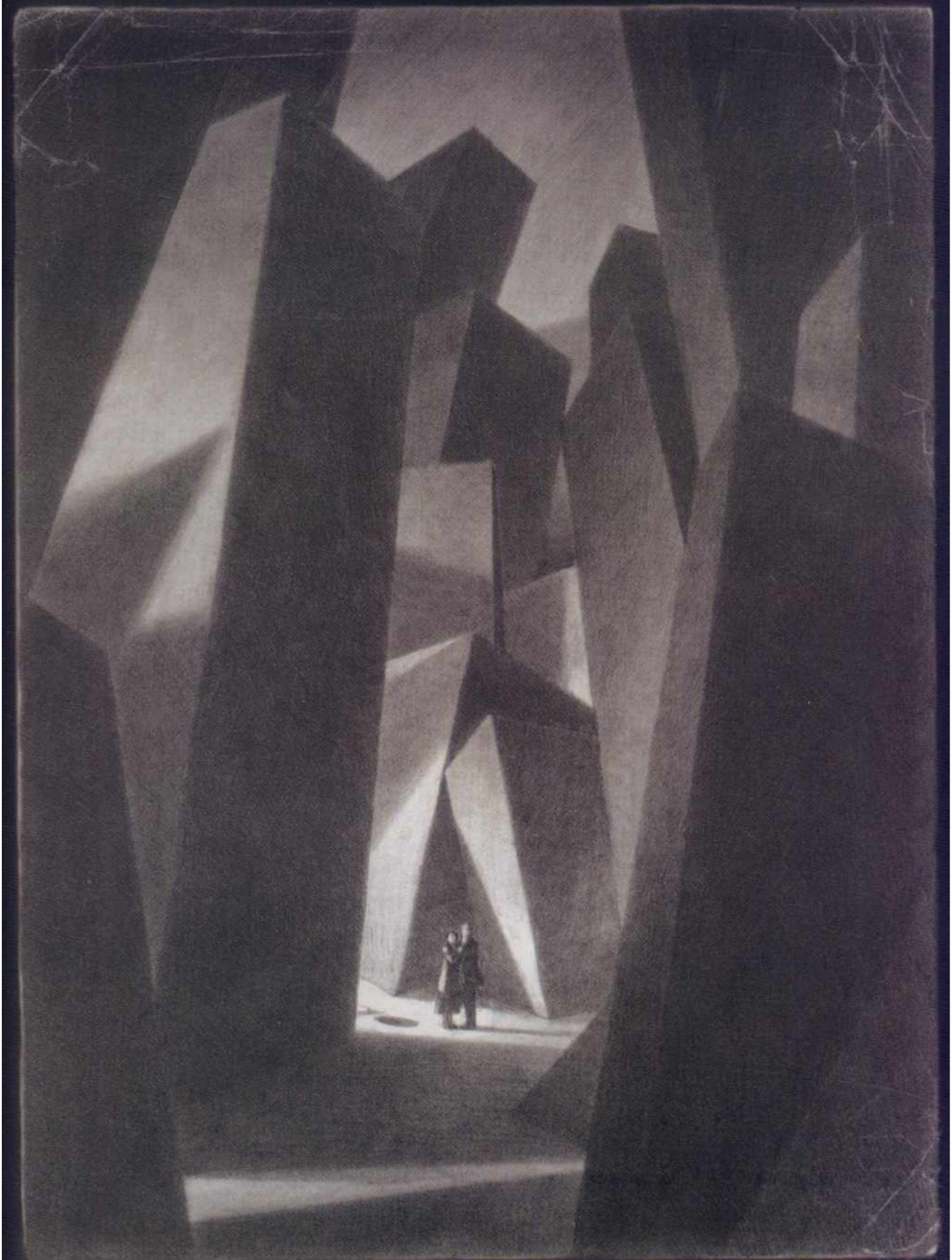

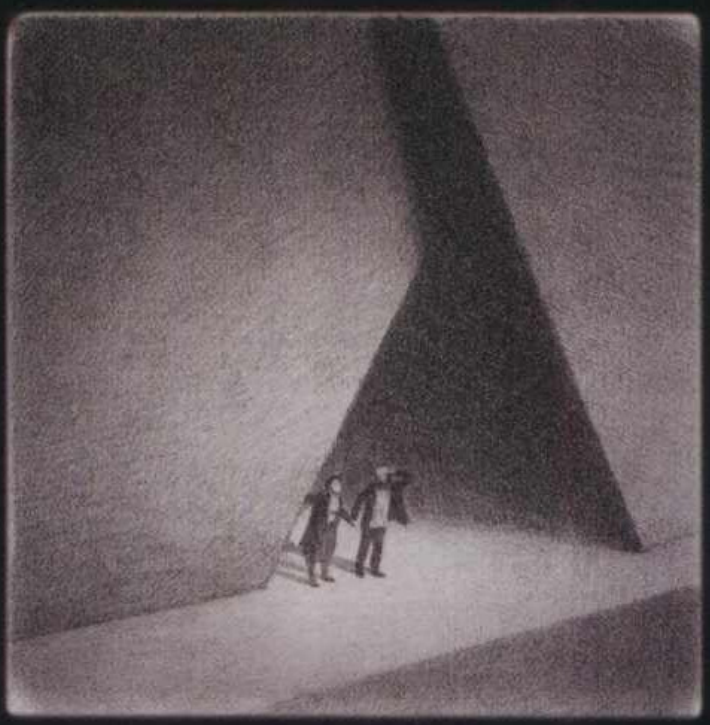

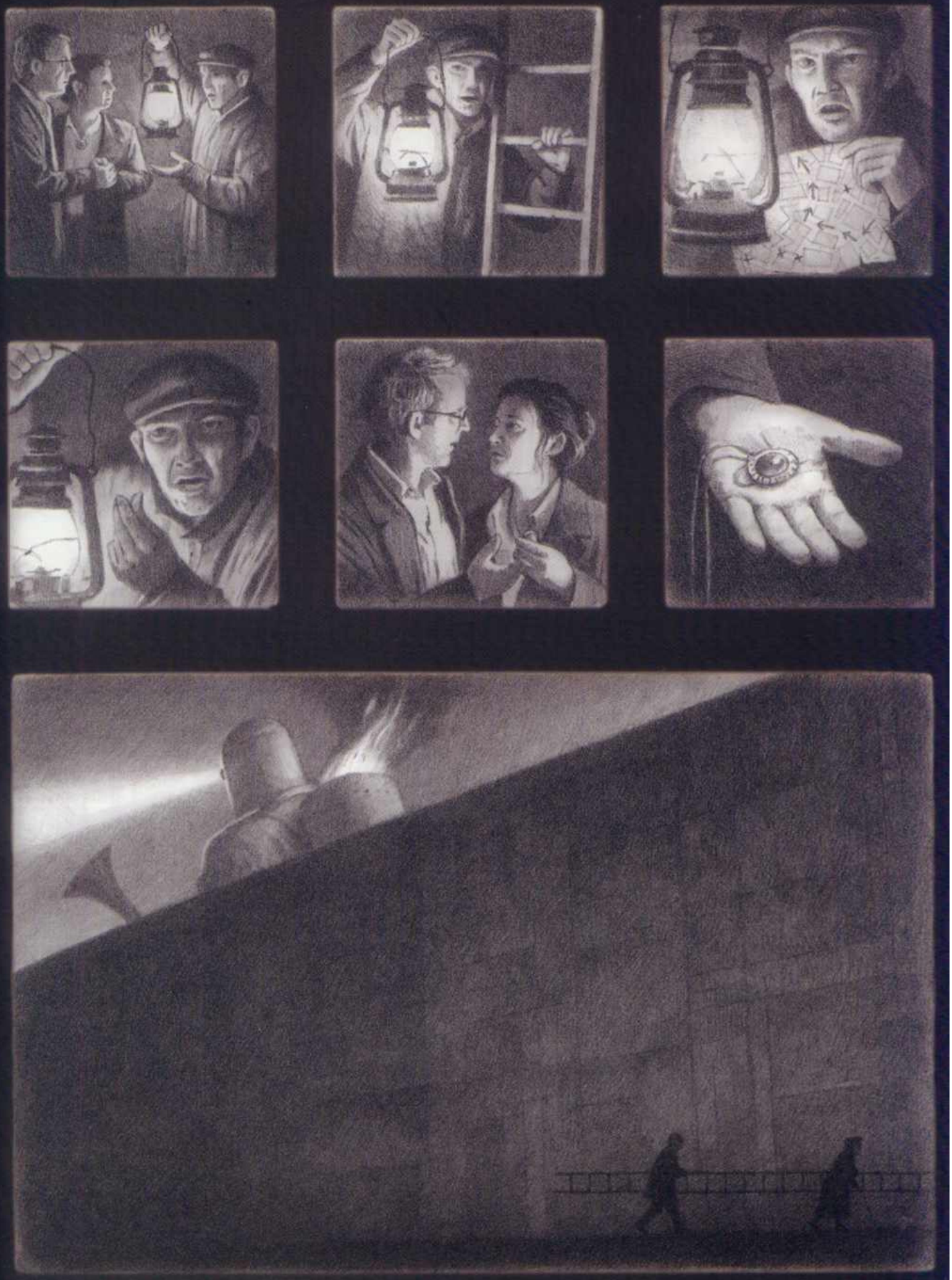

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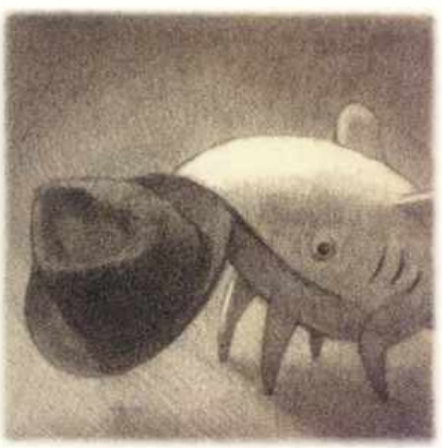

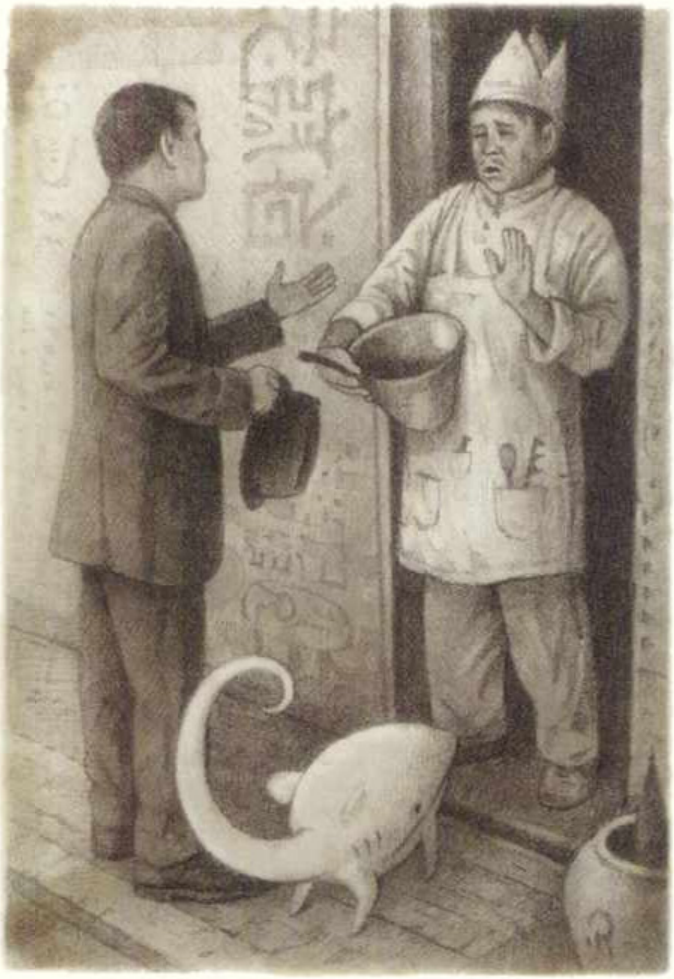

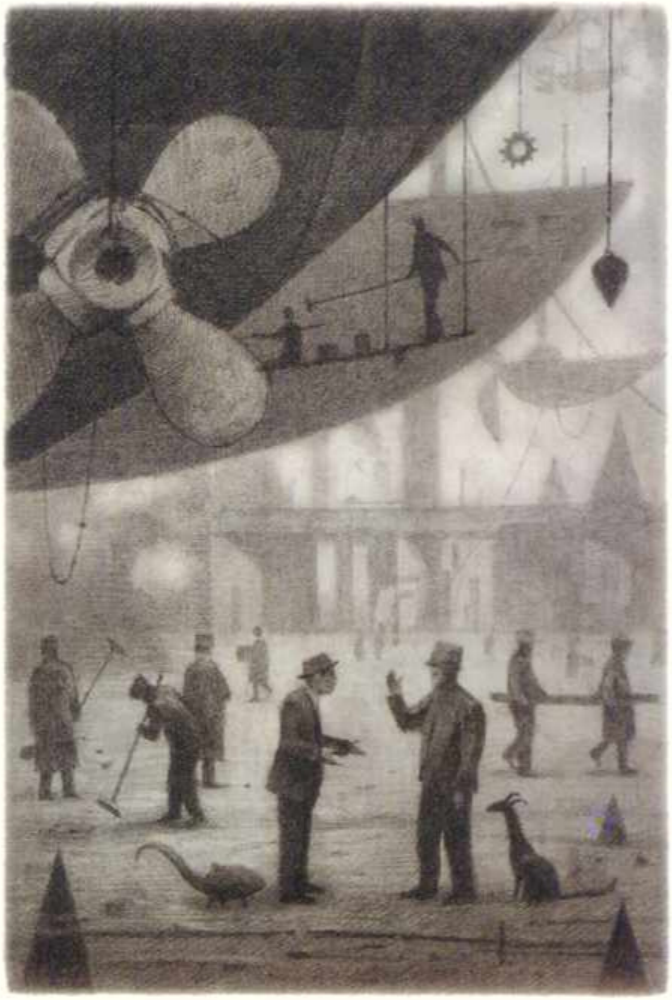

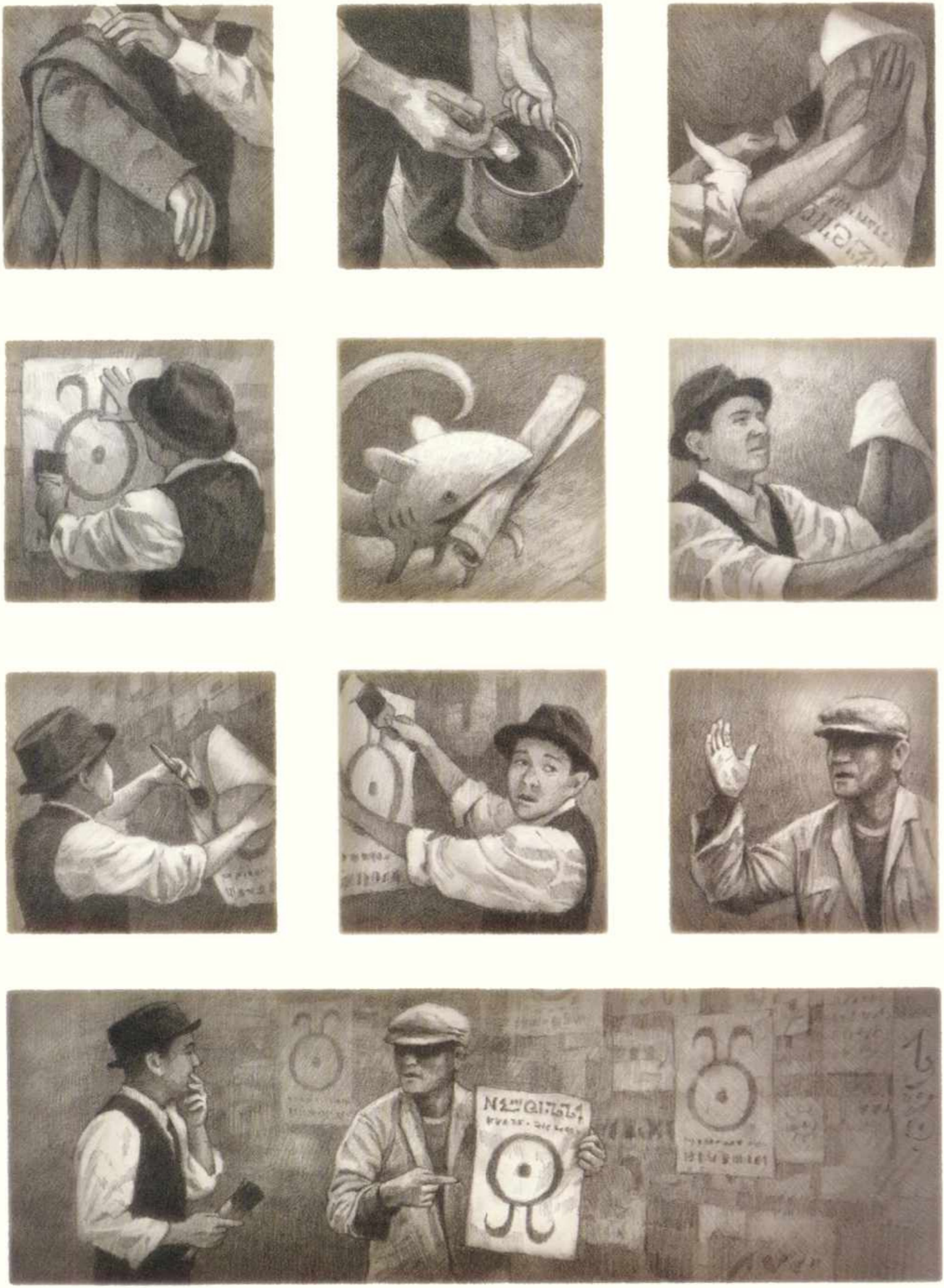

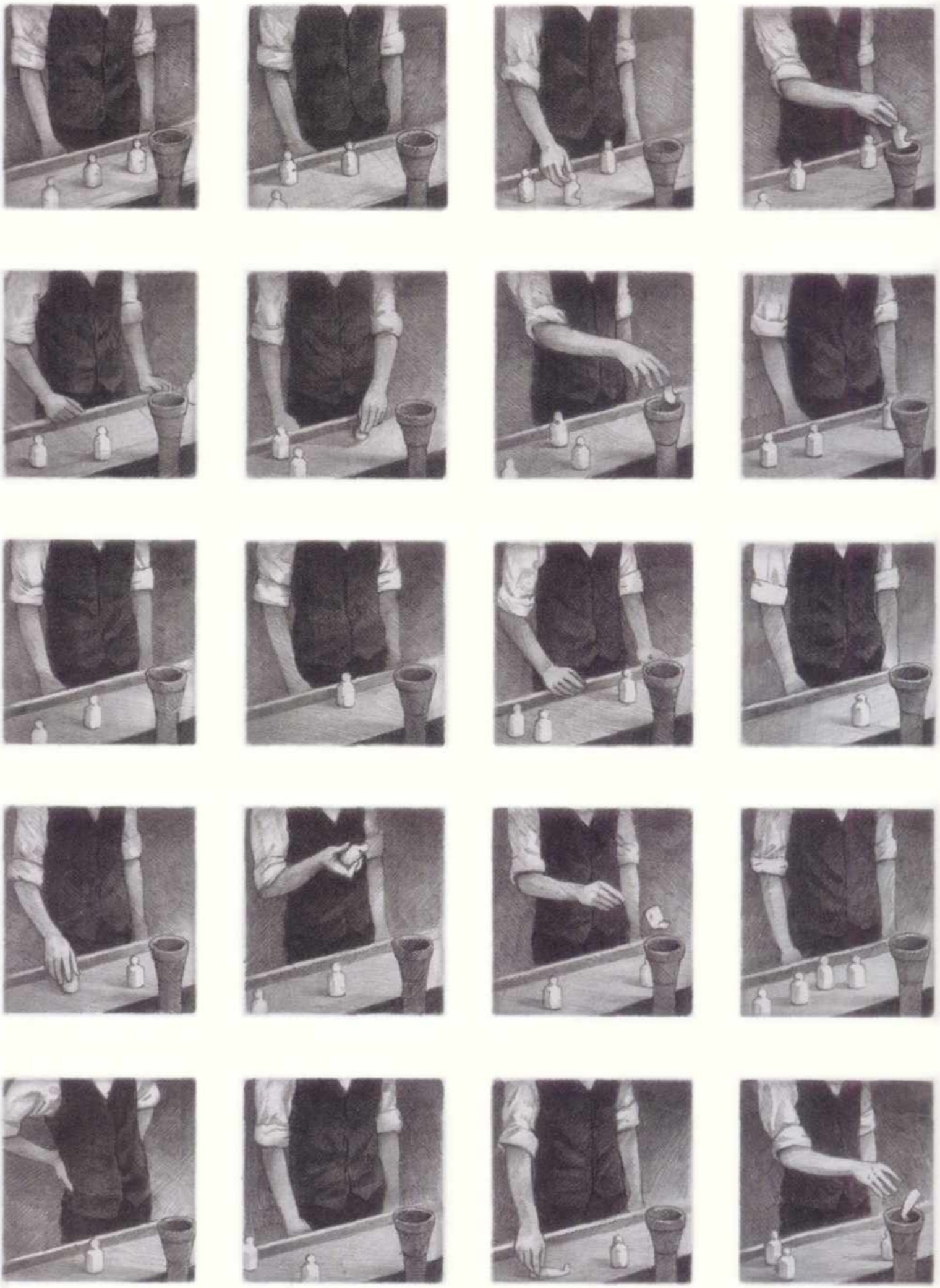

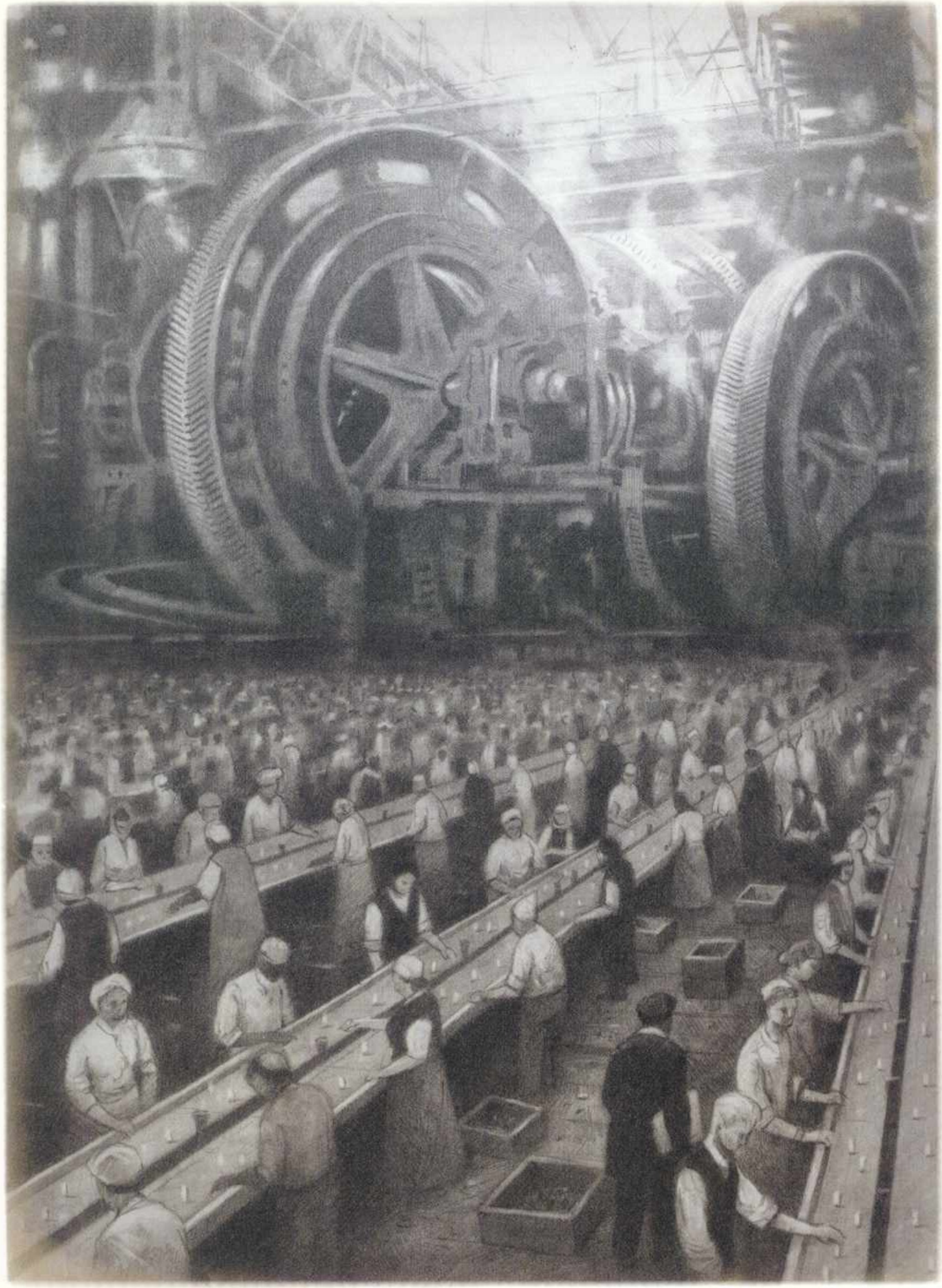

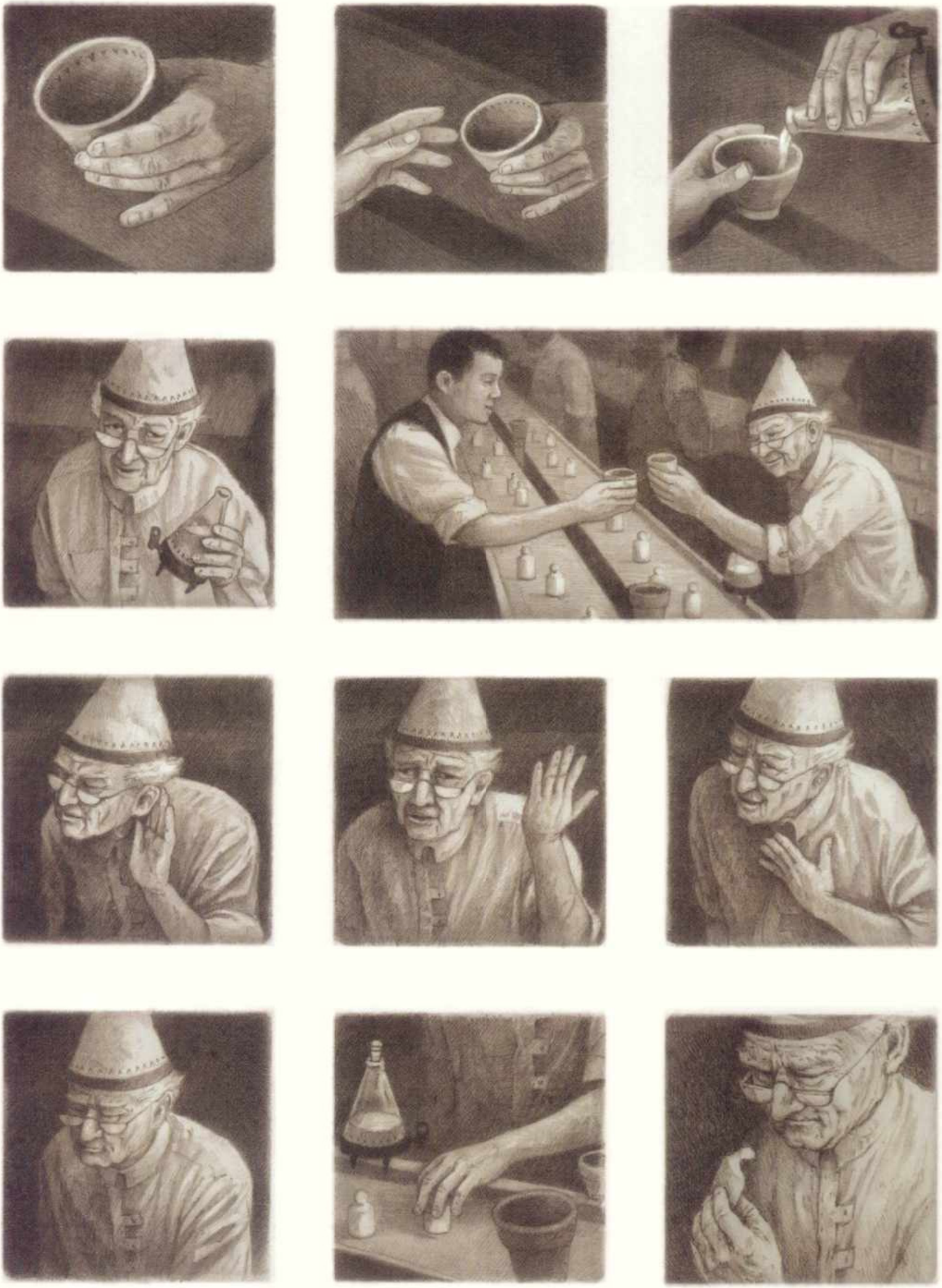

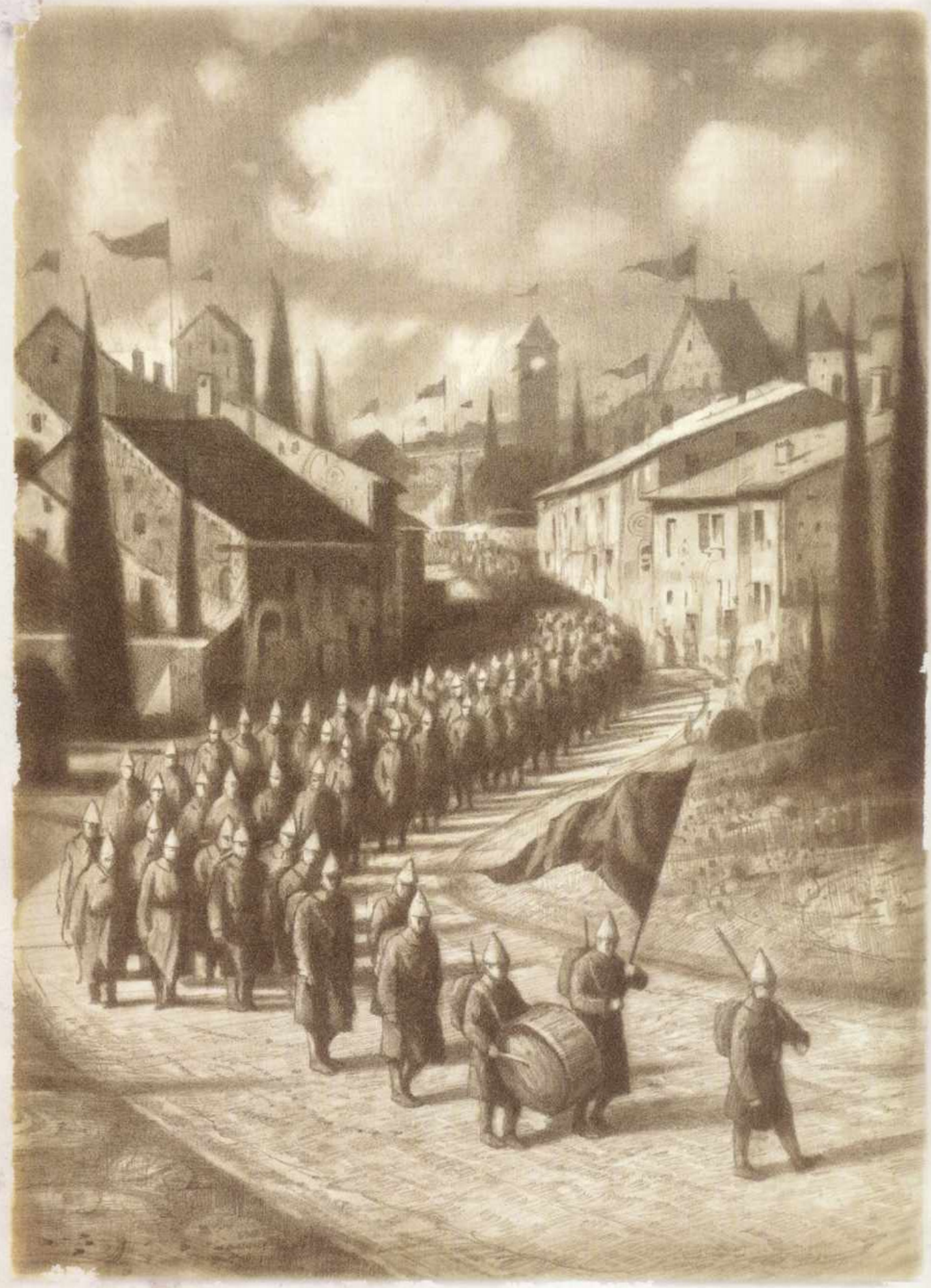

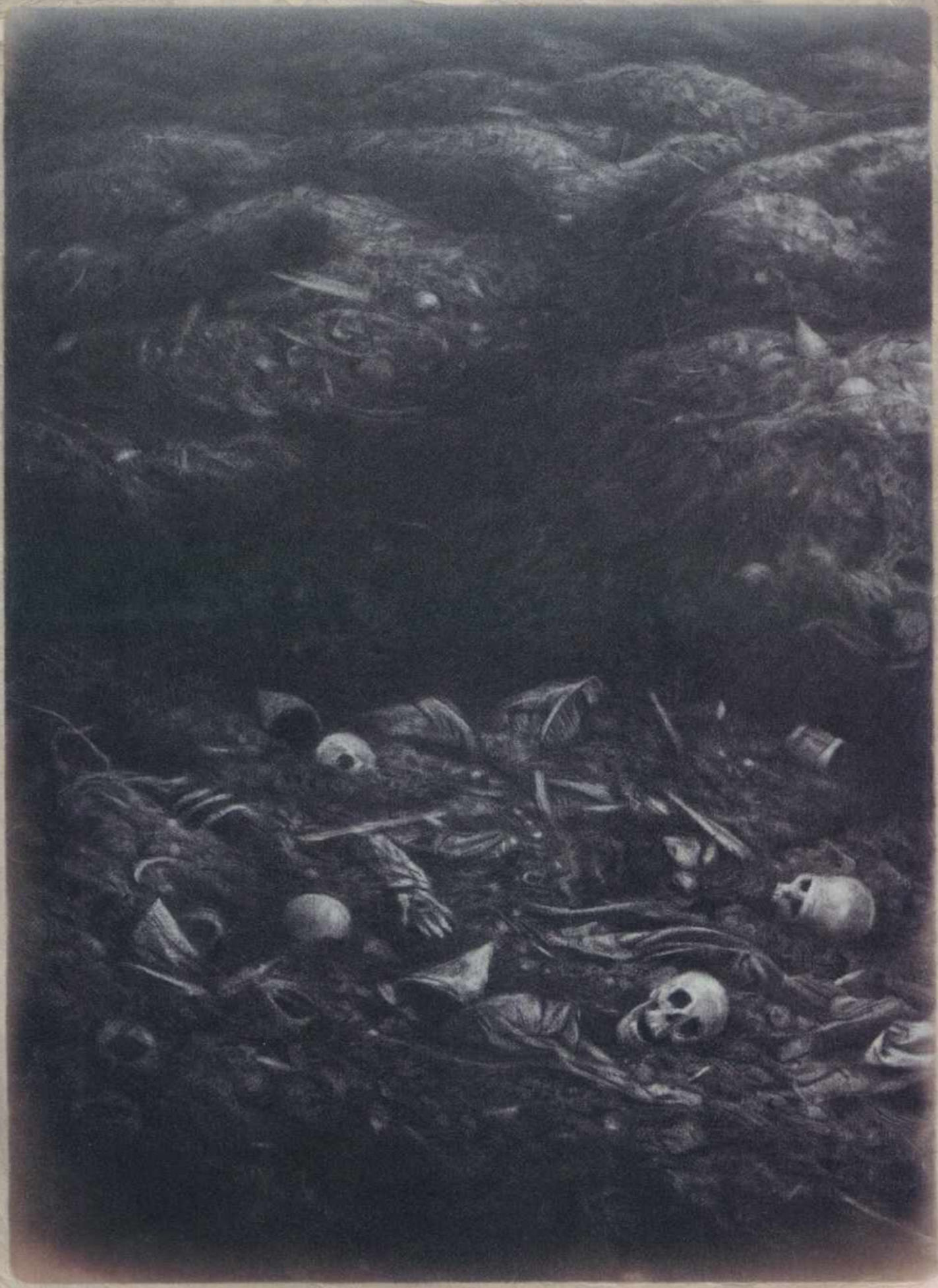

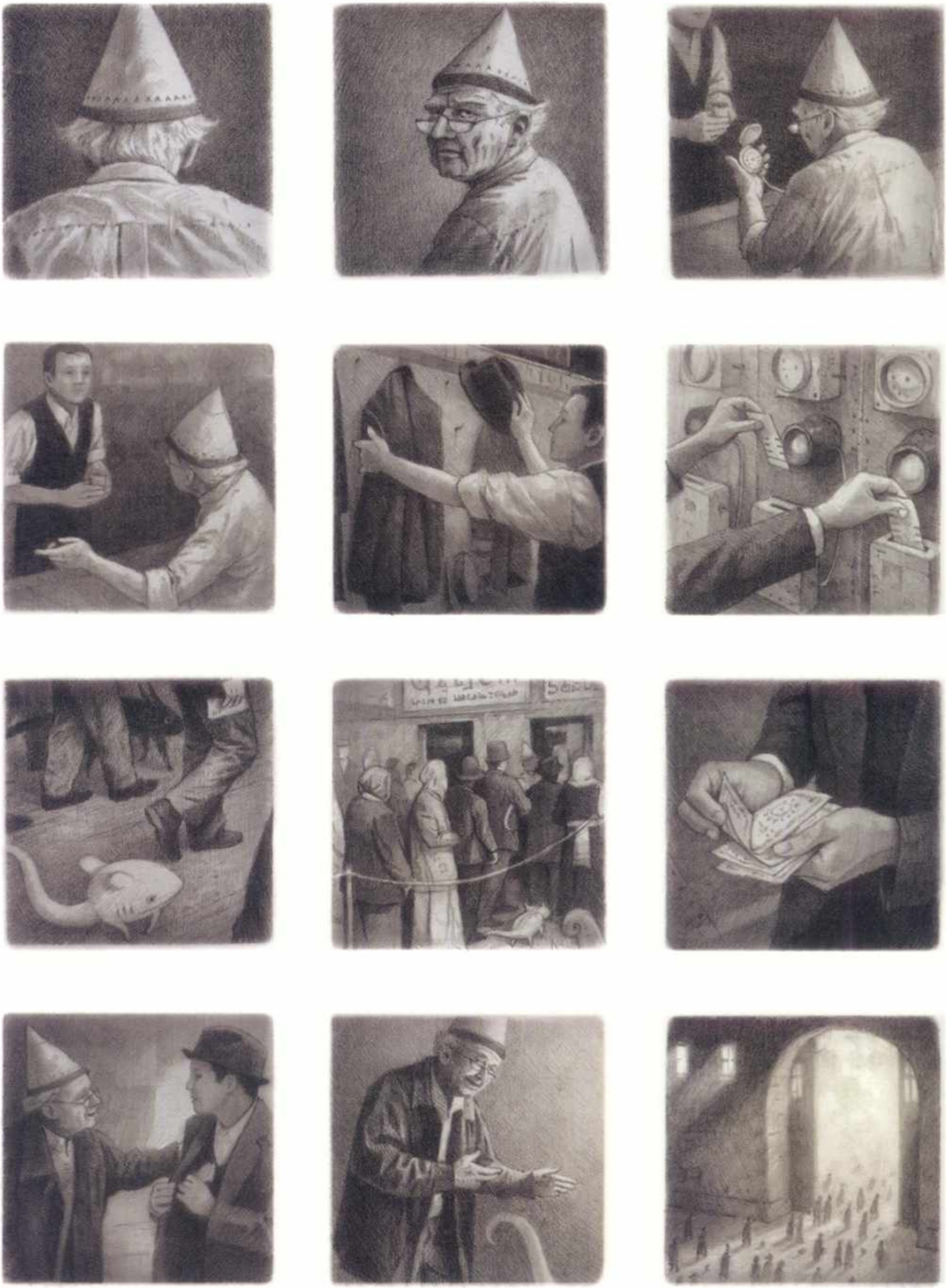

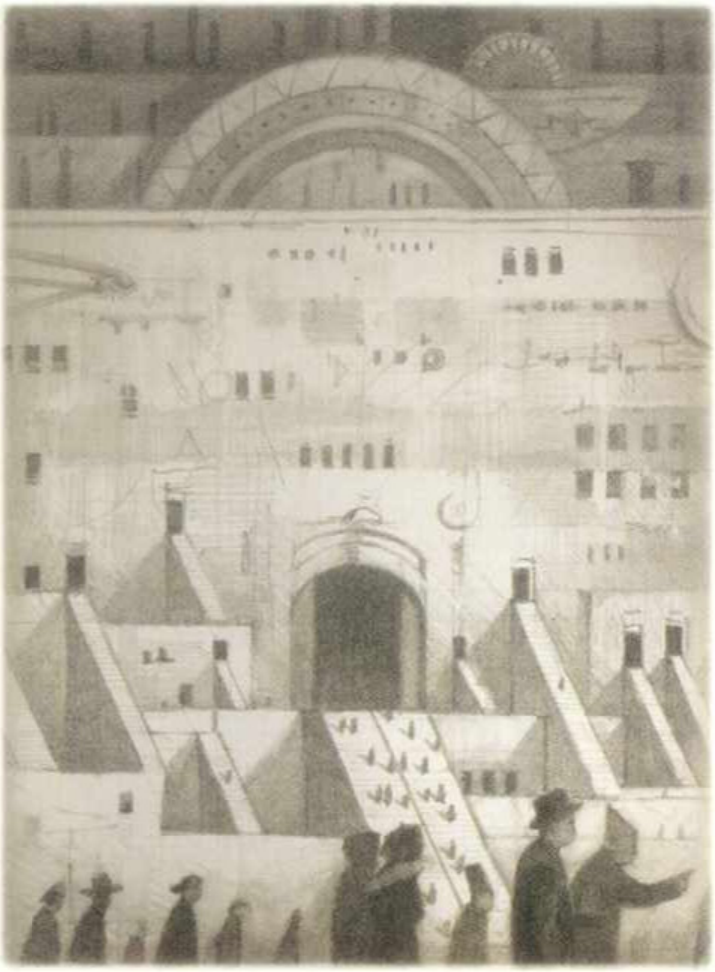

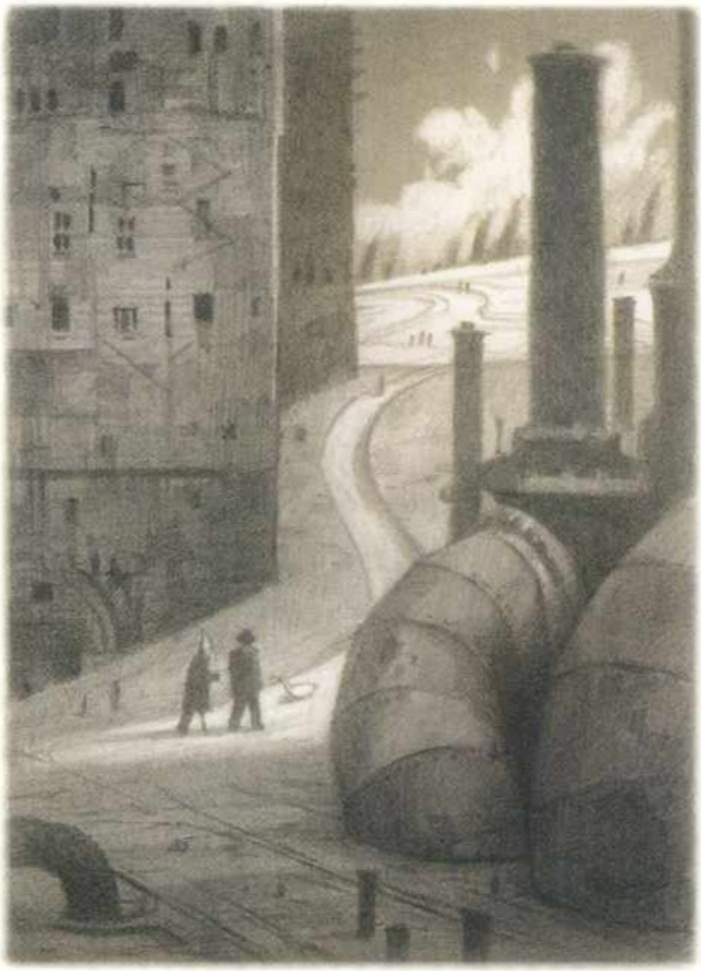

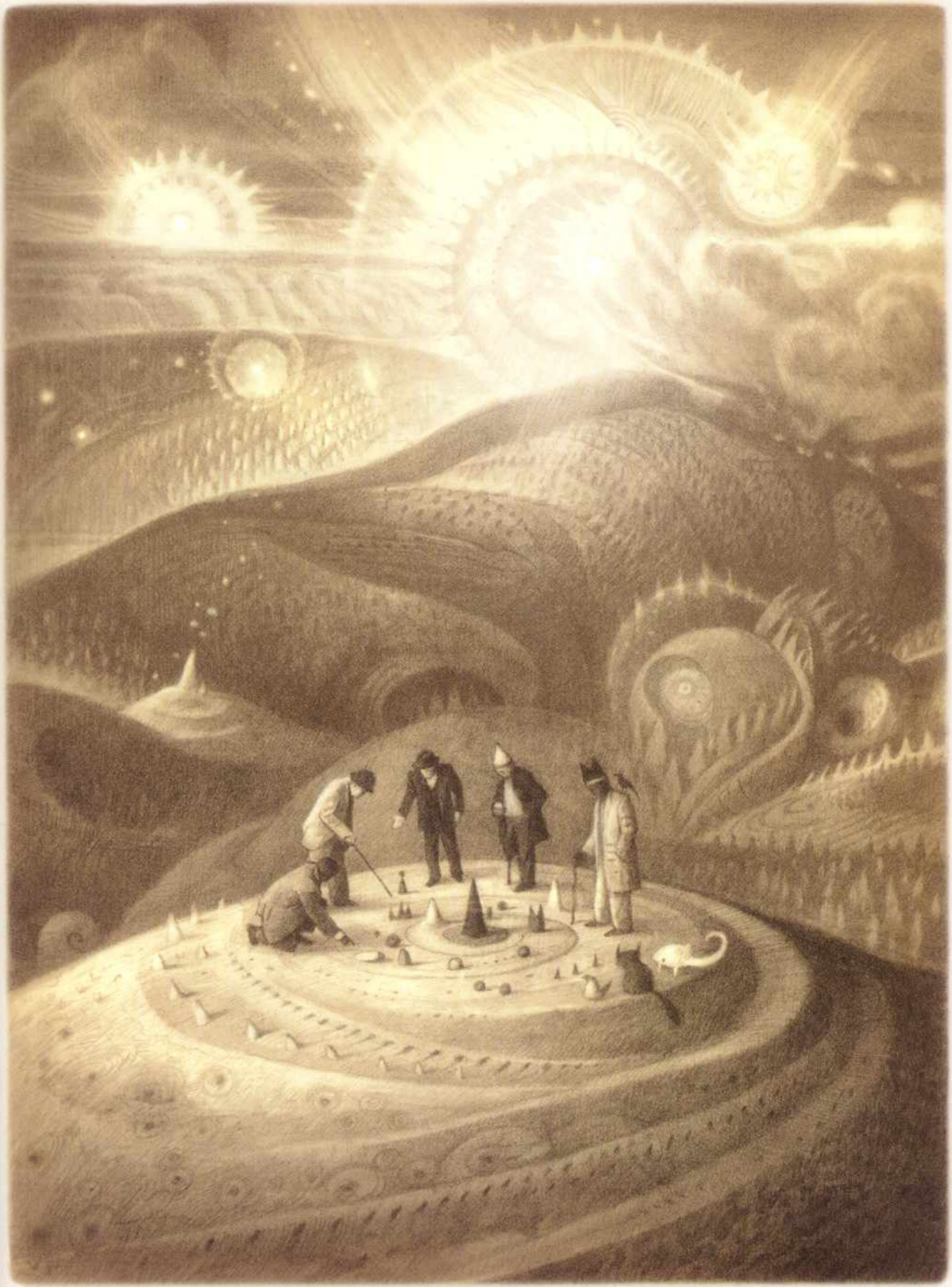

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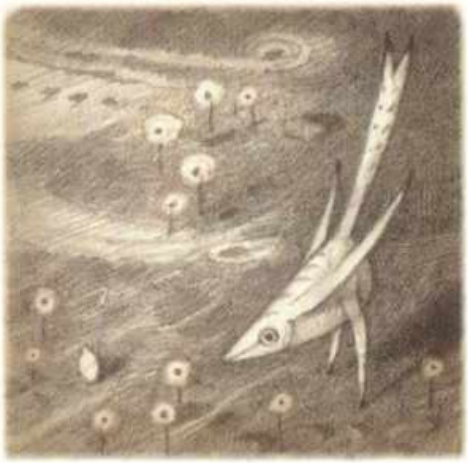
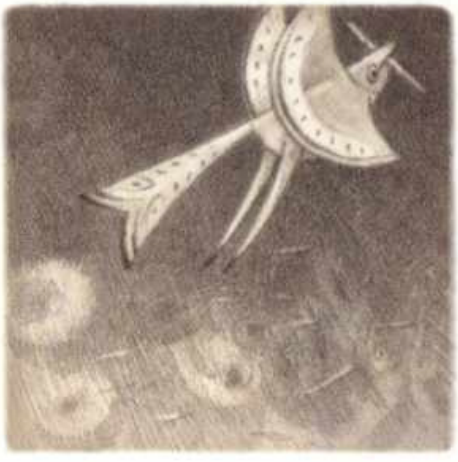
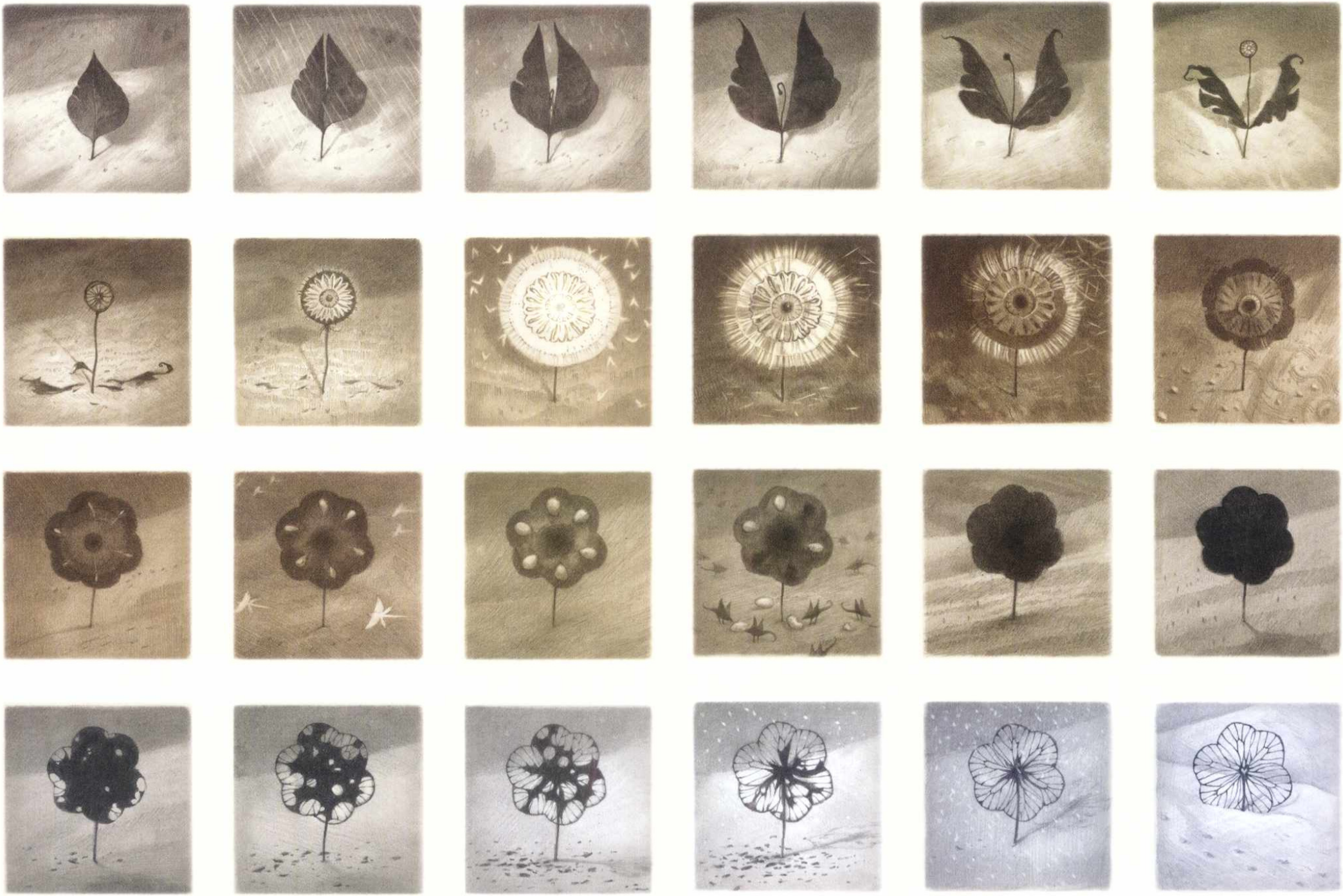
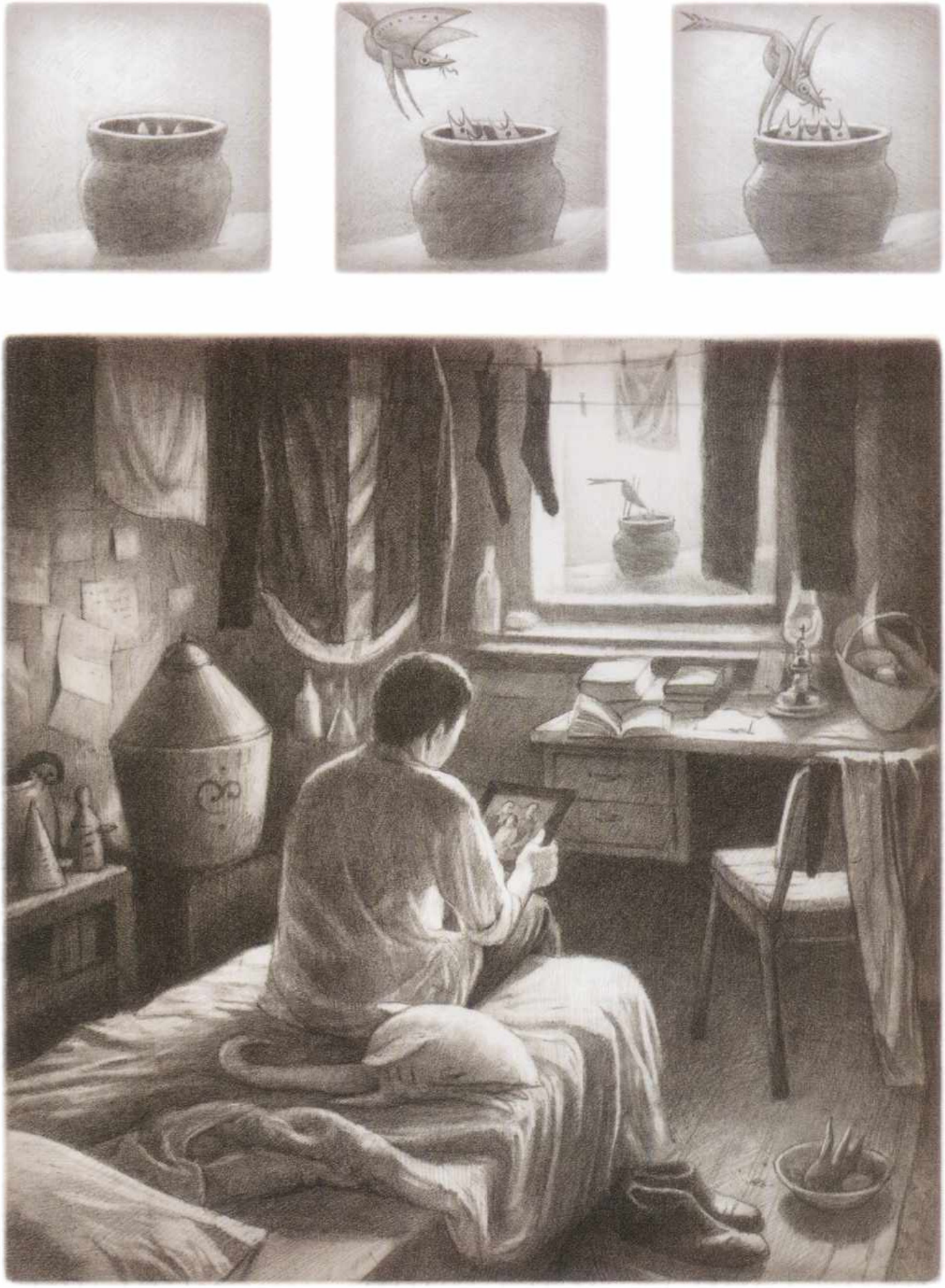
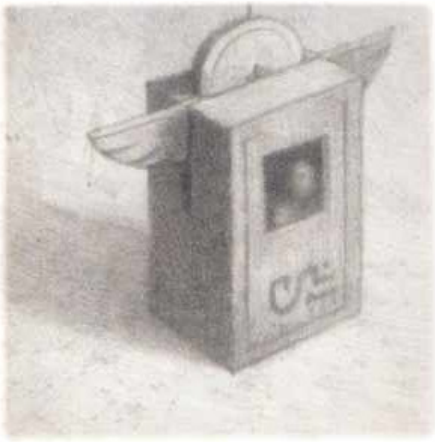
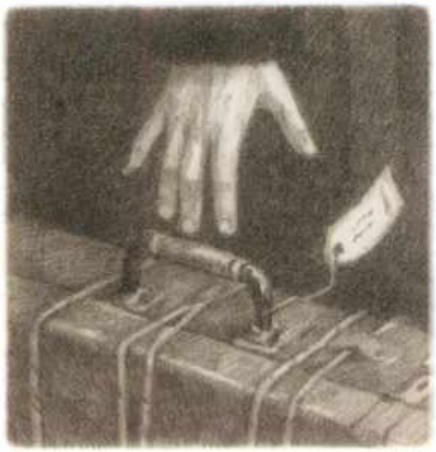


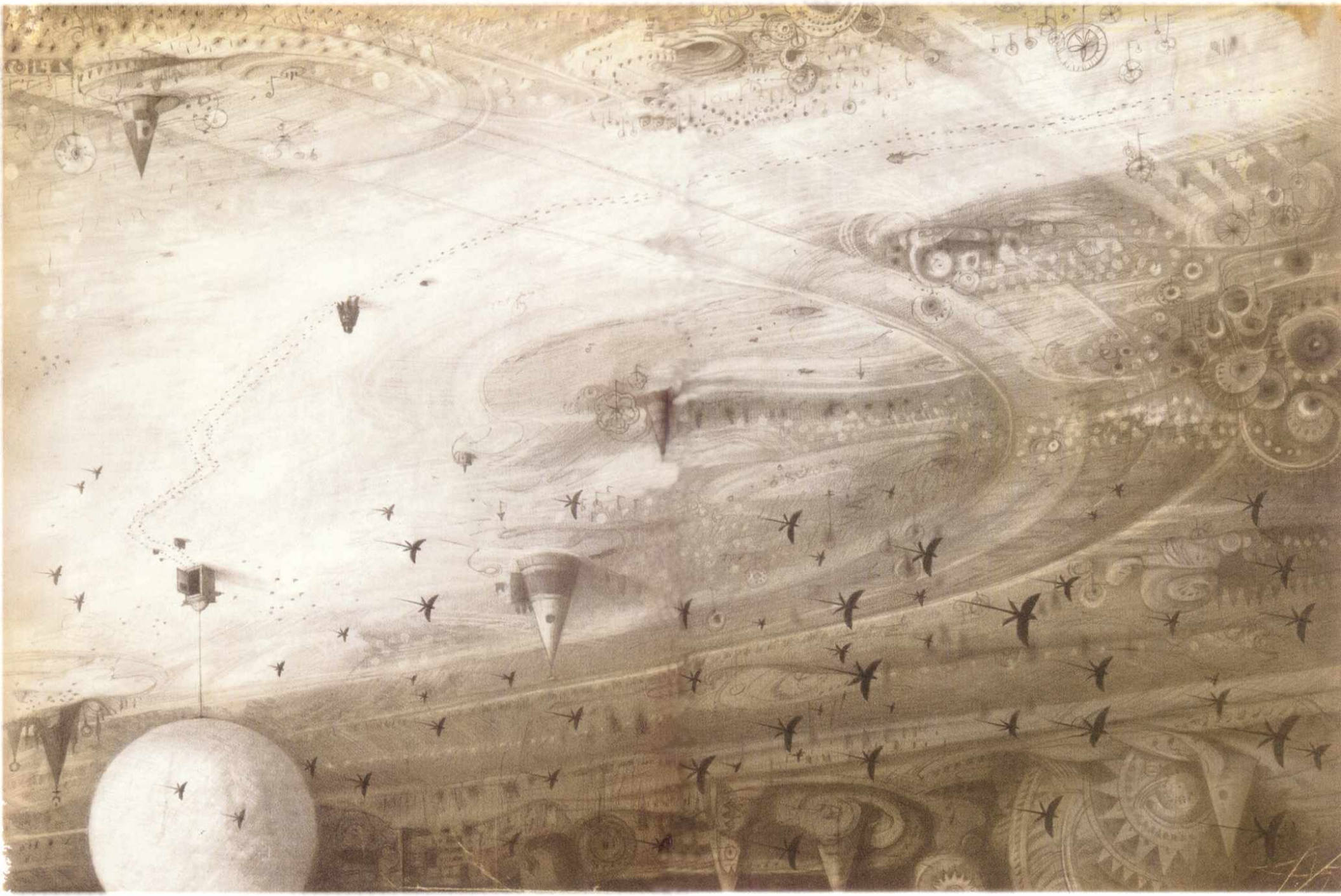




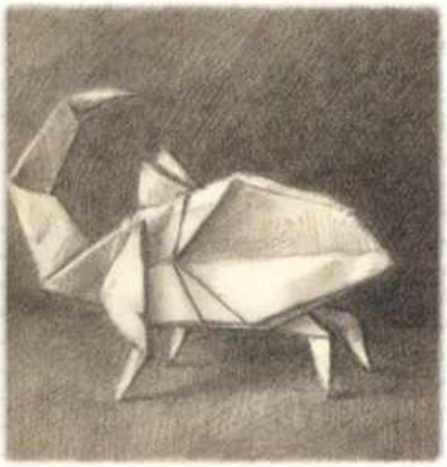


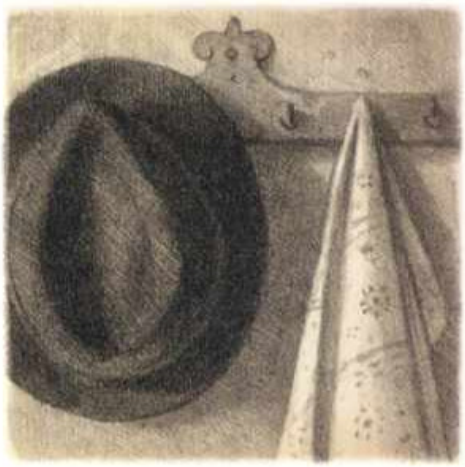


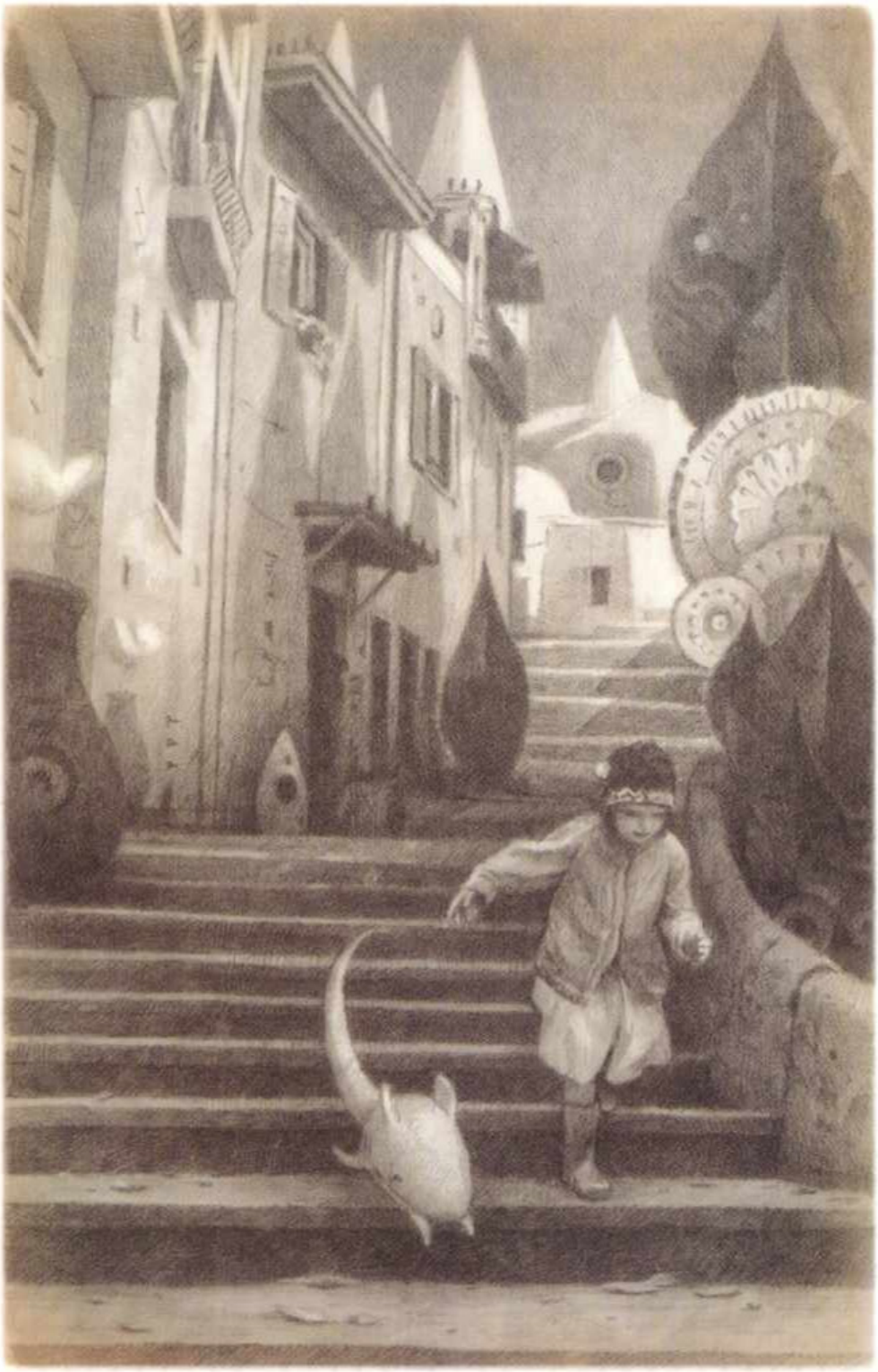




VI







ARTIST'S NOTE

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Thanks also to the Australia Council, The State Library of Western Australia, Inglewood Public Library, the Town of Vincent Public Library, and the National Maritime Museum in Sydney. Much of this book was inspired by anecdotal stories told by migrants of many different countries and historical periods, including my father who came to Western Australia from Malaysia in 1960. Two important references were *The Immigrants* by Wendy Lowenstein and Morag Loh (Hyland House 1977), and *Tales from a Suitcase* by Will Davies and Andrea Dal Bosco (Lothian Books 2001) — many thanks to all those who described their journeys and impressions in these books. The drawing of migrants on a ship pays homage to a painting by Tom Roberts, *Going South*, 1886, at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Other visual references and inspirations include a 1912 photograph of a newsboy announcing the *Titanic* sinking, picture postcards of New York from the turn of the century, photographs of street scenes from post-war Europe, Vittorio De Sica's 1948 film *The Bicycle Thief*, and Gustave Doré's engraving *Over London by Rail* circa 1870. Several drawings of immigrant processing, passport pictures, and the "arrival hall" are based on photographs taken at Ellis Island, New York, from 1892 to 1954, many of which can be found in the collection of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. For further comment, please visit www.shauntan.net

"Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* arrives just in time to take advantage of the current waves of interest in the 'graphic novel' and brings something new and exceptionally worthy to the form: a novel told in graphics (not cartoons), a wordless story that uses the language of silent cinema and the picture-story traditions that predate comic books. For adults, Tan's New World offers a childlike sense of discovery; for children it offers an adult theme made eminently accessible. Tan's lovingly laid out and masterfully rendered tale about the immigrant experience is a documentary magically told by way of Surrealism."

— **Art Spiegelman**, author of *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*

"*The Arrival* is an absolute wonder. It's not often you see art of this quality, or a book that's so brave." — **Marjane Satrapi**, author of *Persepolis*

"Shaun Tan delivers a shockingly imaginative graphic novel that captures the sense of adventure and wonder that surrounds a new arrival on the shores of a shining new city. Wordless, but with perfect narrative flow, Tan gives us a story filled with cityscapes worthy of Winsor McCay. *The Arrival* is one of the best graphic novels of the year!" — **Jeff Smith**, author of *Bone*

"Shaun Tan's artwork creates a fantastical, hauntingly familiar atmosphere. A strange, moving, and beautiful story."

— **Jon J Muth**, author of *Zen Shorts* and illustrator of *Sandman*

"*The Arrival* is beautiful. I loved how it slowly dawned on me that this bizarre world was how any immigrant might see the new place they go… everything is different and scary and magical. The drawings are just so lovely, endlessly detailed and wonderfully strange. Bravo."

— **Brian Selznick**, author of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

"*The Arrival* is perfectly infused with fantastical/surrealistic imagery to capture the wonder and confusion of the immigrant experience. A magical river of strangers and their stories!" — **Craig Thompson**, author of *Blankets*

"Anyone who thinks that the graphic novel is no more than a flash-in-the-pan phenomenon, ought to take a look at *The Arrival*. This magnificent work not only establishes itself in a major new literary genre but raises the stakes for anyone seriously considering working in it. Born of dreams and history, it is a story that seems to have been living in the depths of our unconscious; Shaun Tan reached deep down and brought it into the light."

— **David Small**, Caldecott Medalist for *So You Want to Be President?*