

Spring awakening

IN THE

WINTER WORLD

Dawn has arrived in the ice world. Only Finya, the daughter of the Ice Queen, is already awake, feeding the snow bunnies and deer.

Good morning, my sweethearts. Have you missed me?

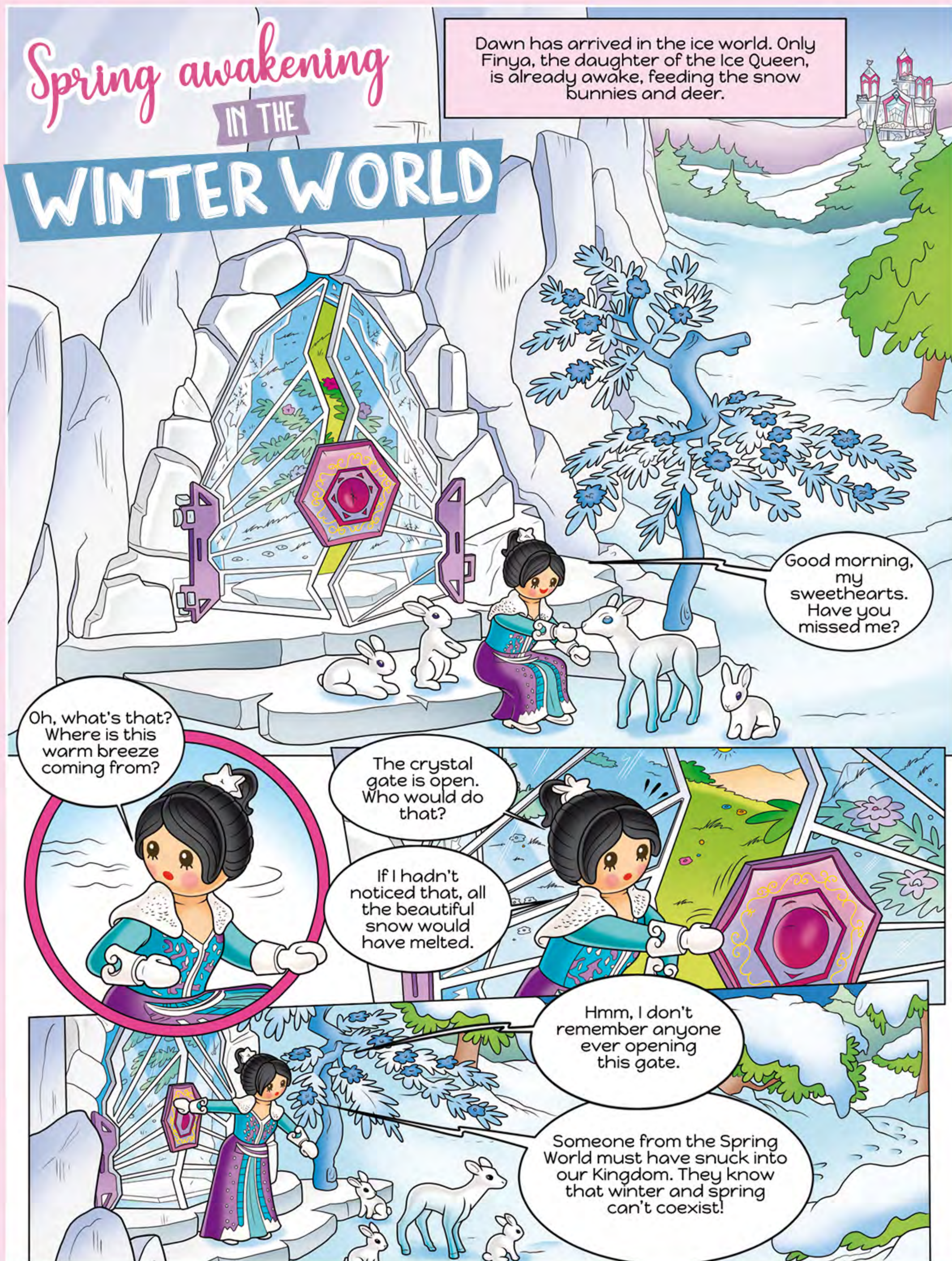
Oh, what's that? Where is this warm breeze coming from?

The crystal gate is open. Who would do that?

If I hadn't noticed that, all the beautiful snow would have melted.

Hmm, I don't remember anyone ever opening this gate.

Someone from the Spring World must have snuck into our Kingdom. They know that winter and spring can't coexist!

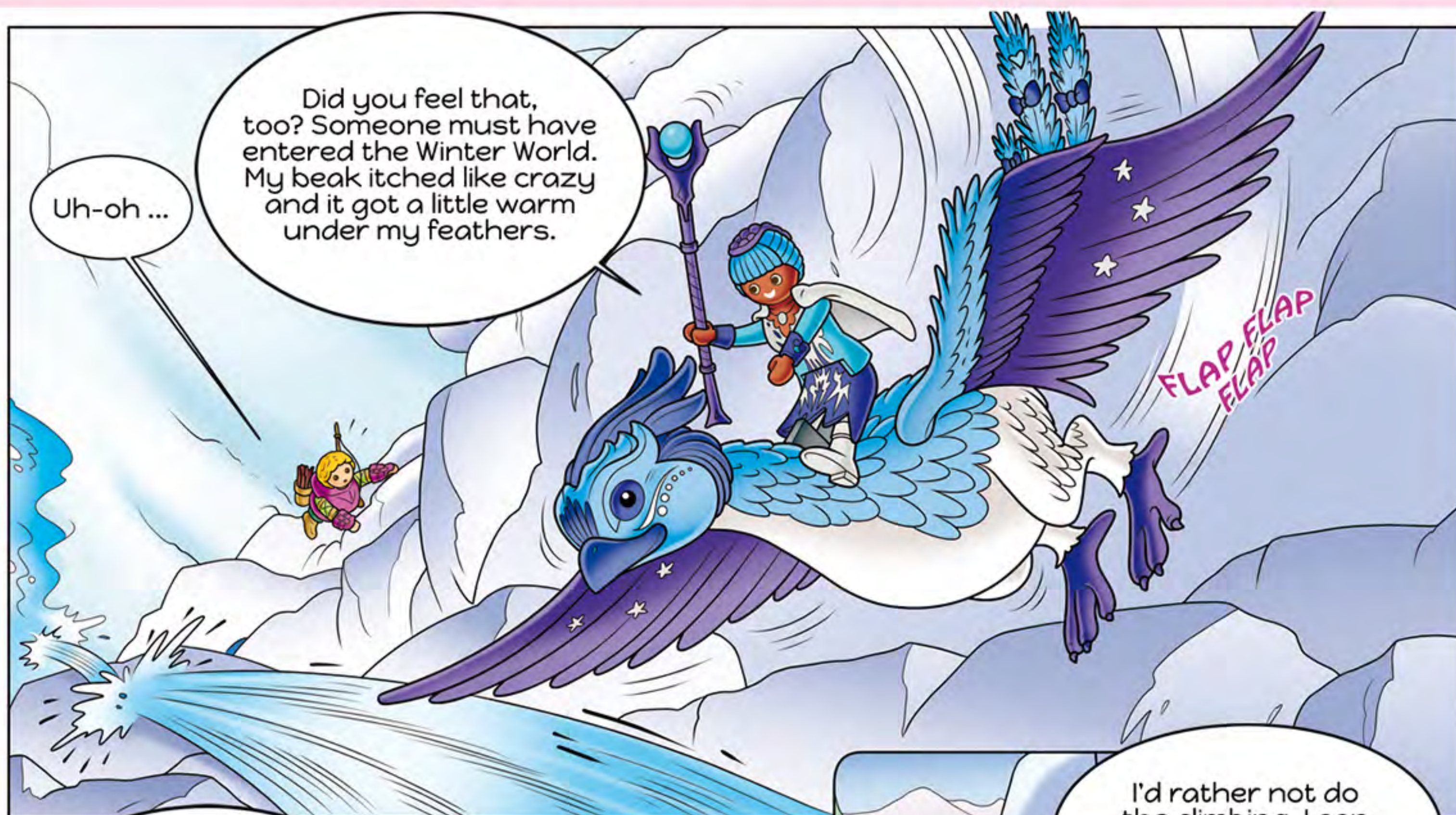






Florin's heart is beating like crazy. Is it from the shock? Or does it have something to do with the beautiful winter girl?





Uh-oh ...

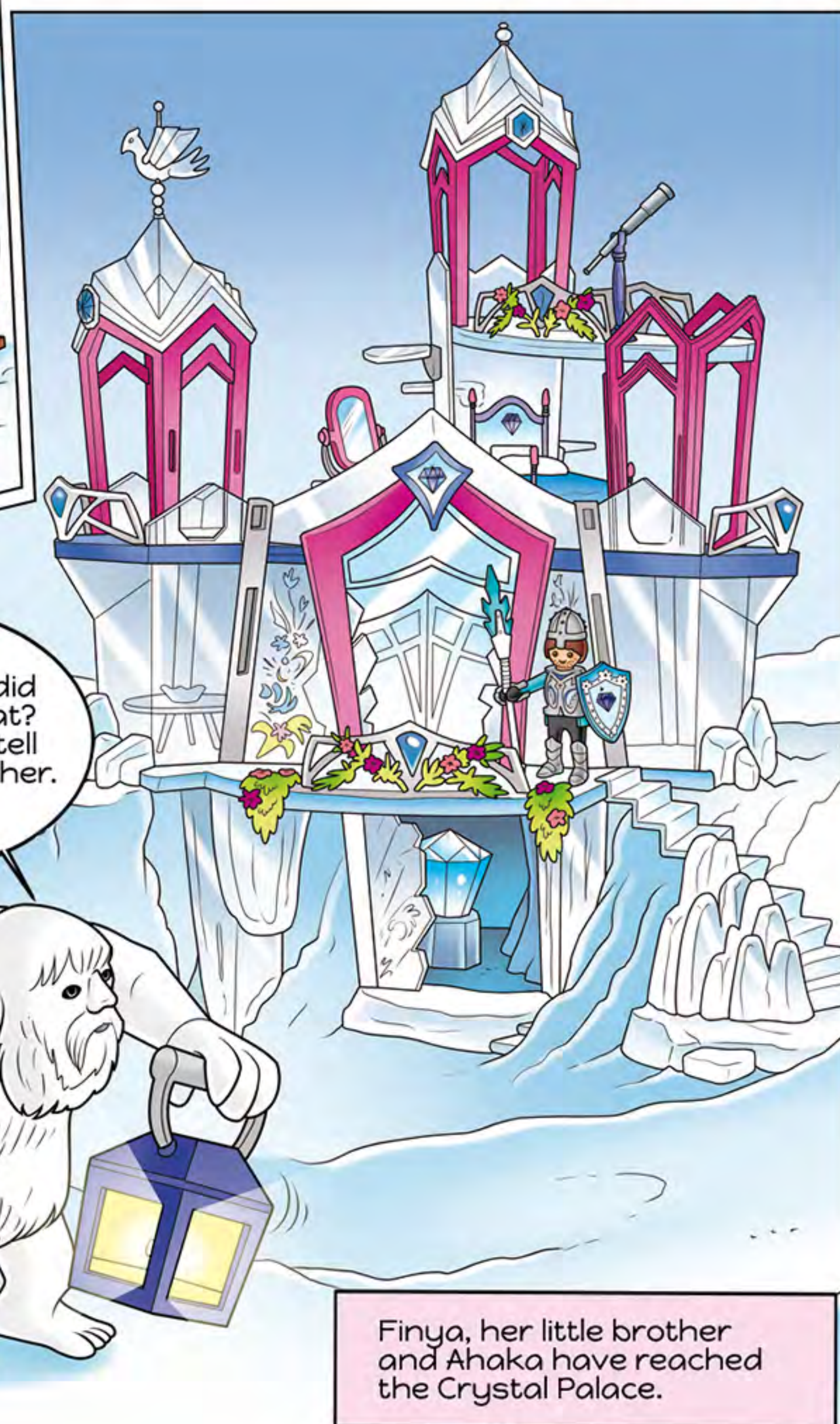
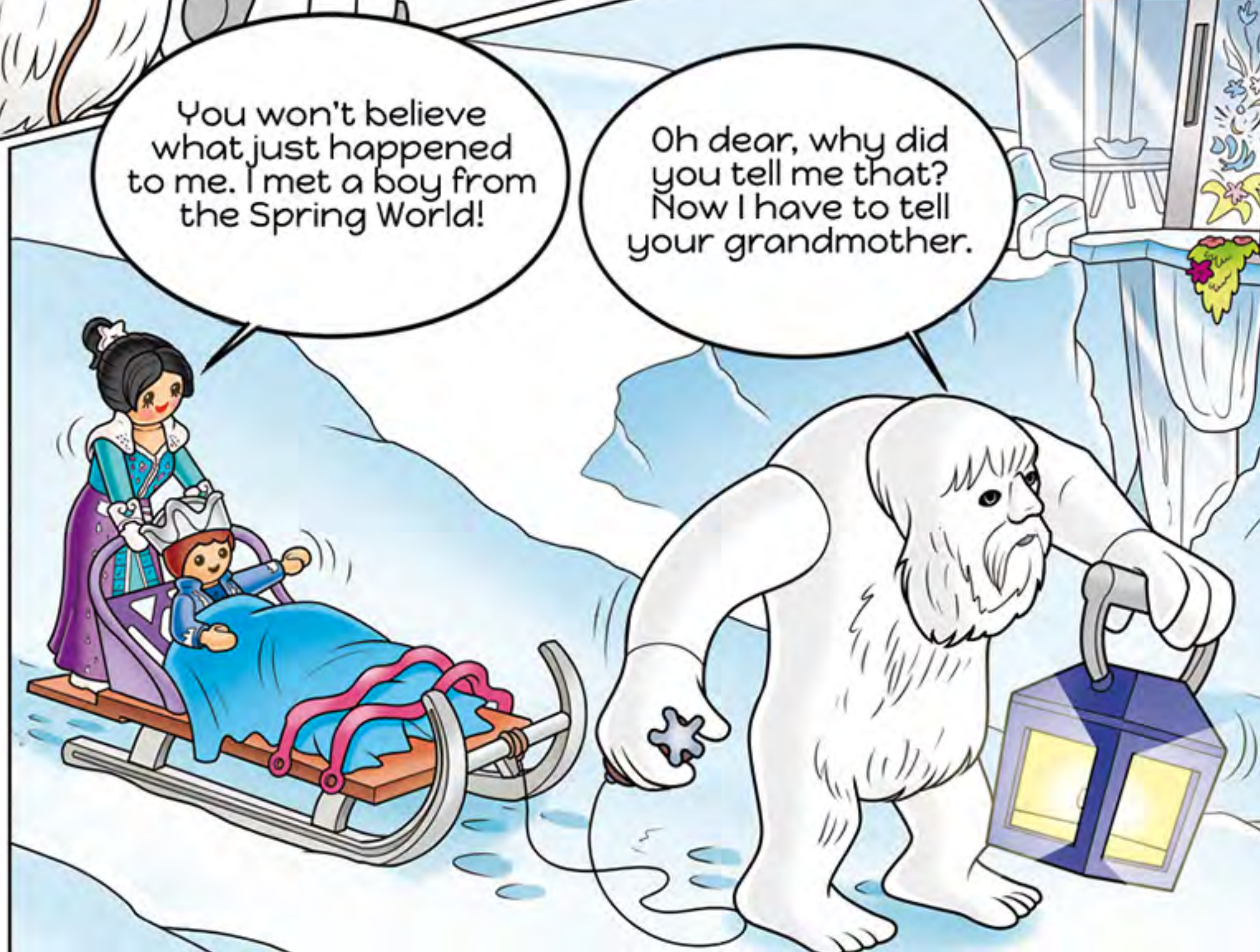
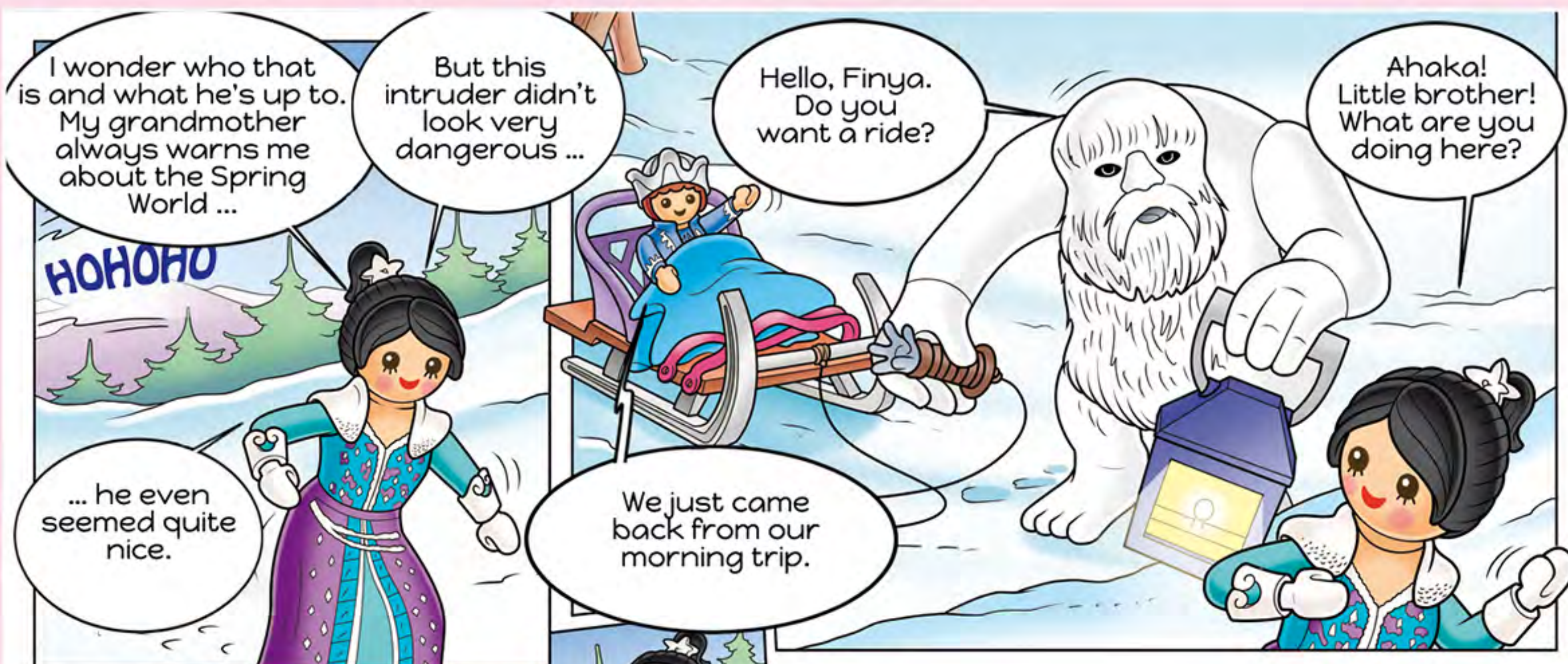
Did you feel that, too? Someone must have entered the Winter World. My beak itched like crazy and it got a little warm under my feathers.

I'd rather not do the climbing. I can be seen easily on the steep wall.

Yes, and I've got the feeling that this someone is very close. Let's tell the Ice Queen about our suspicion!

Fortunately, they didn't see me! I've heard a lot about the ice magician, Sunniva, and her phoenix, but they're even more impressive up close.

I have to hurry back home before I actually get caught. But first, I want to see the fabulous Crystal Palace with my own eyes.







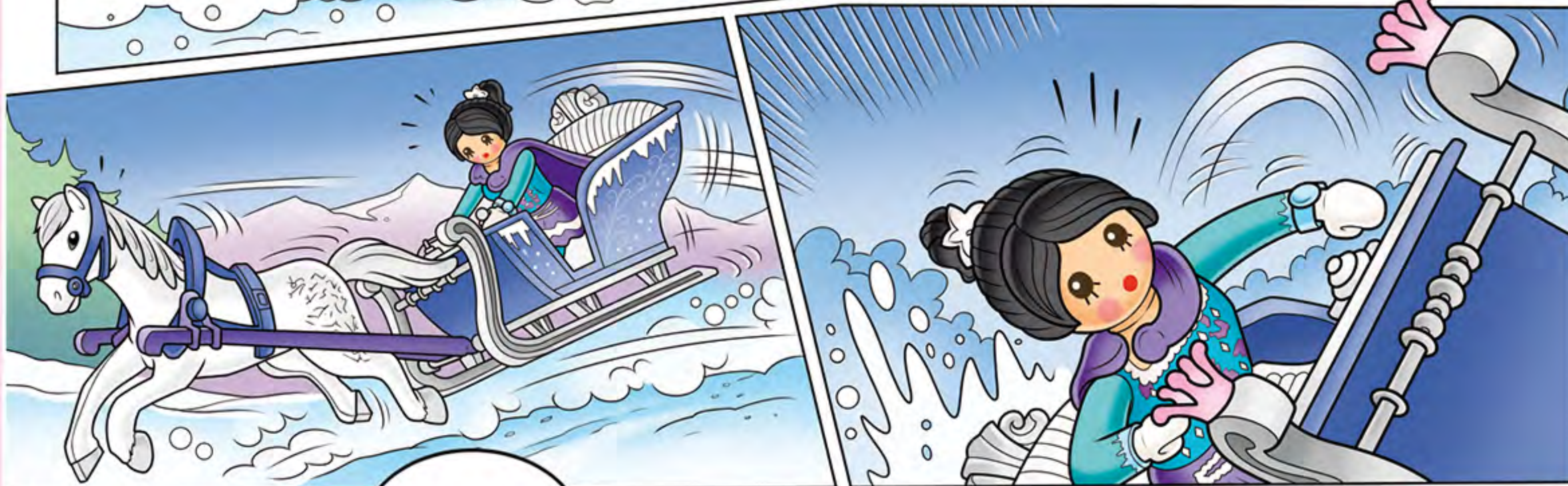
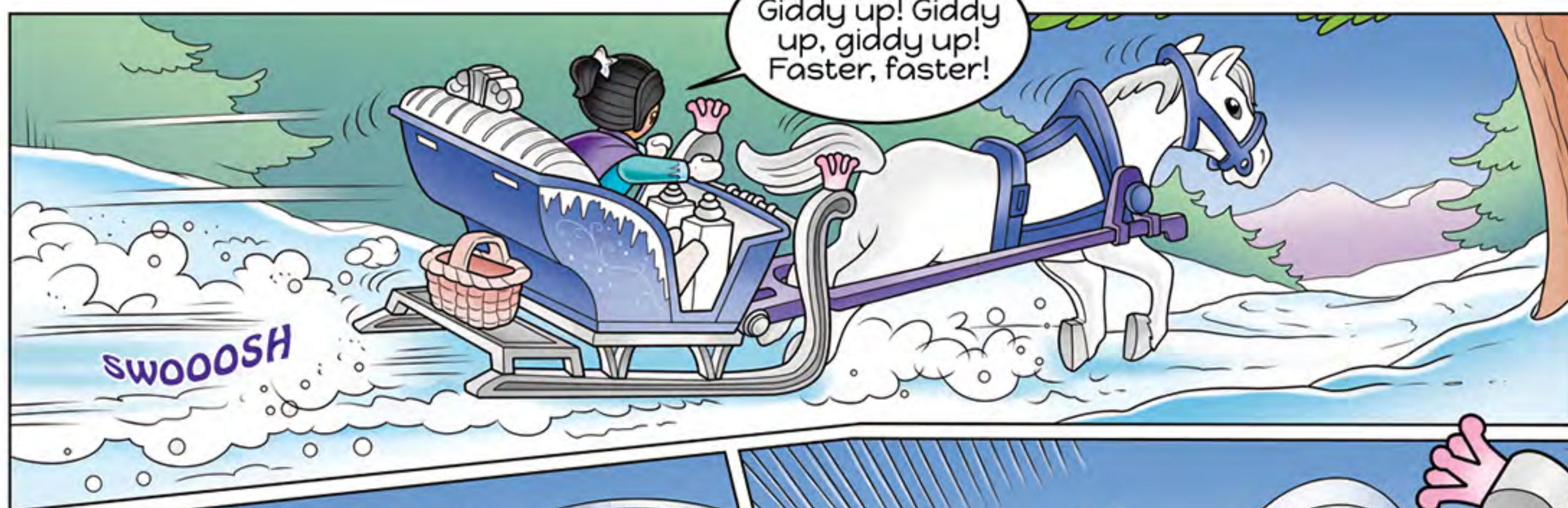
But Finya can't hear Ahaka anymore. She storms out of the room and runs as fast as she can to her parents' carriage.

Let's go, my little horse. Take me as fast and as far away as possible.

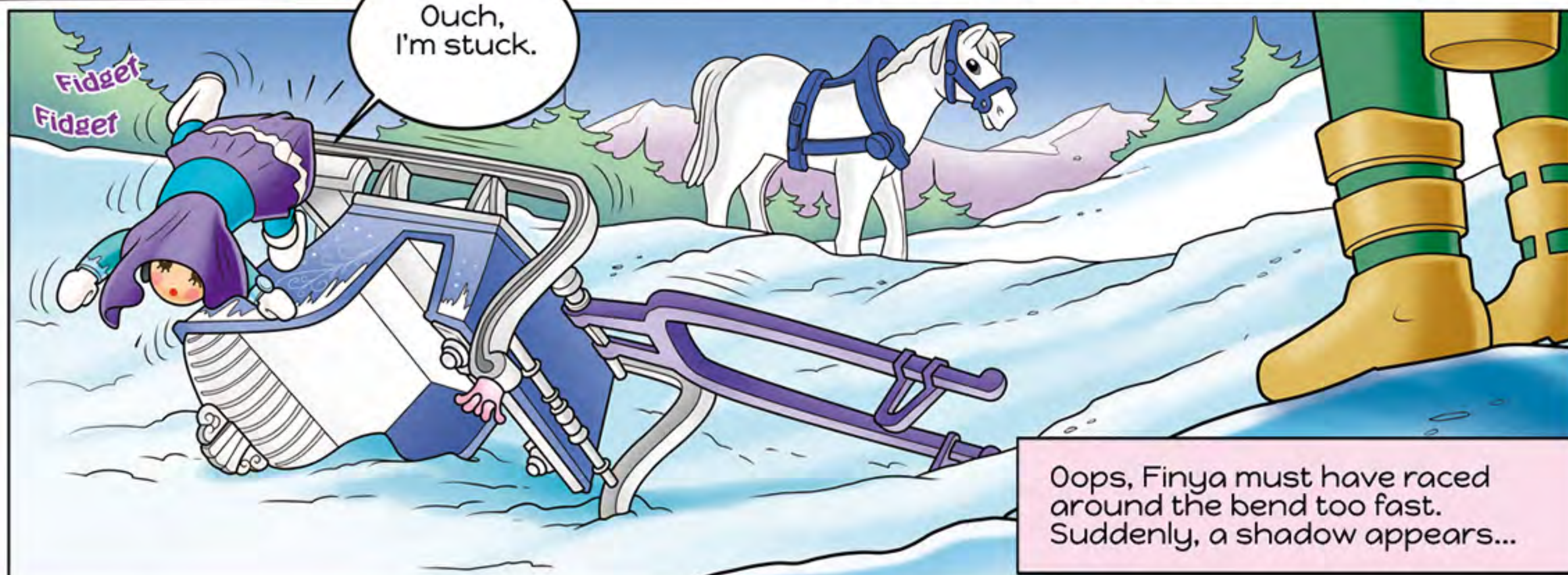
But Finya is not allowed to drive the carriage, and she is not very experienced in it either.



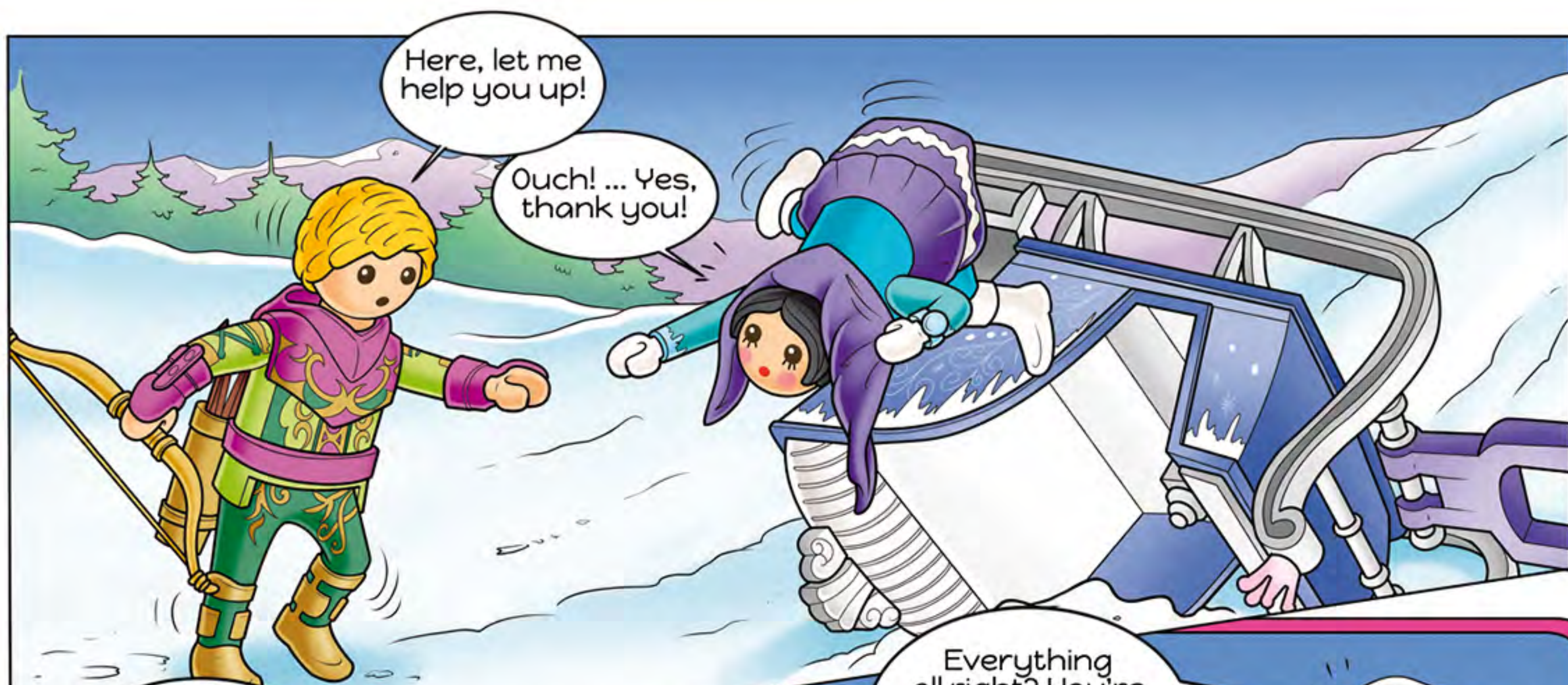
Giddy up! Giddy up! Giddy up, giddy up! Faster, faster!



Ouch, I'm stuck.



Oops, Finya must have raced around the bend too fast. Suddenly, a shadow appears...







STOOOOP!



No, please don't hurt me! I meant no harm. I just wanted to see what it was like in the Winter World. And then I ...

... saw you.

My name is Finya and ... I am the princess of the Winter World.

Finya ... what a wonderful name. It feels like we've known each other forever.

Florin ... will I ever see you again?

I will wait here for you every other morning when everyone is still asleep. But, for now, I have to go back to my world. They certainly miss me there already.

I can't wait ... Farewell!



And the two saw each other again every other morning for months, and Finya was excited every time.

Do you think he will soon confess his love to me, Ahaka?

How am I supposed to tell her? What will she say?

And then ...

Florin, how I have longed for this moment!

Oh, how wonderful!

Finya ... I love you!

FINISH