

RODNEY

THE ROUTEMASTER

Comes to Town!



Clydeside
SCOTTISH



RODNEY

THE ROUTEMASTER

Comes to Town!

*Text George Watson
Illustrations Tony van Breugel
Designed by the Campaign Factory
Printed in Scotland by Morland Print Ltd.*

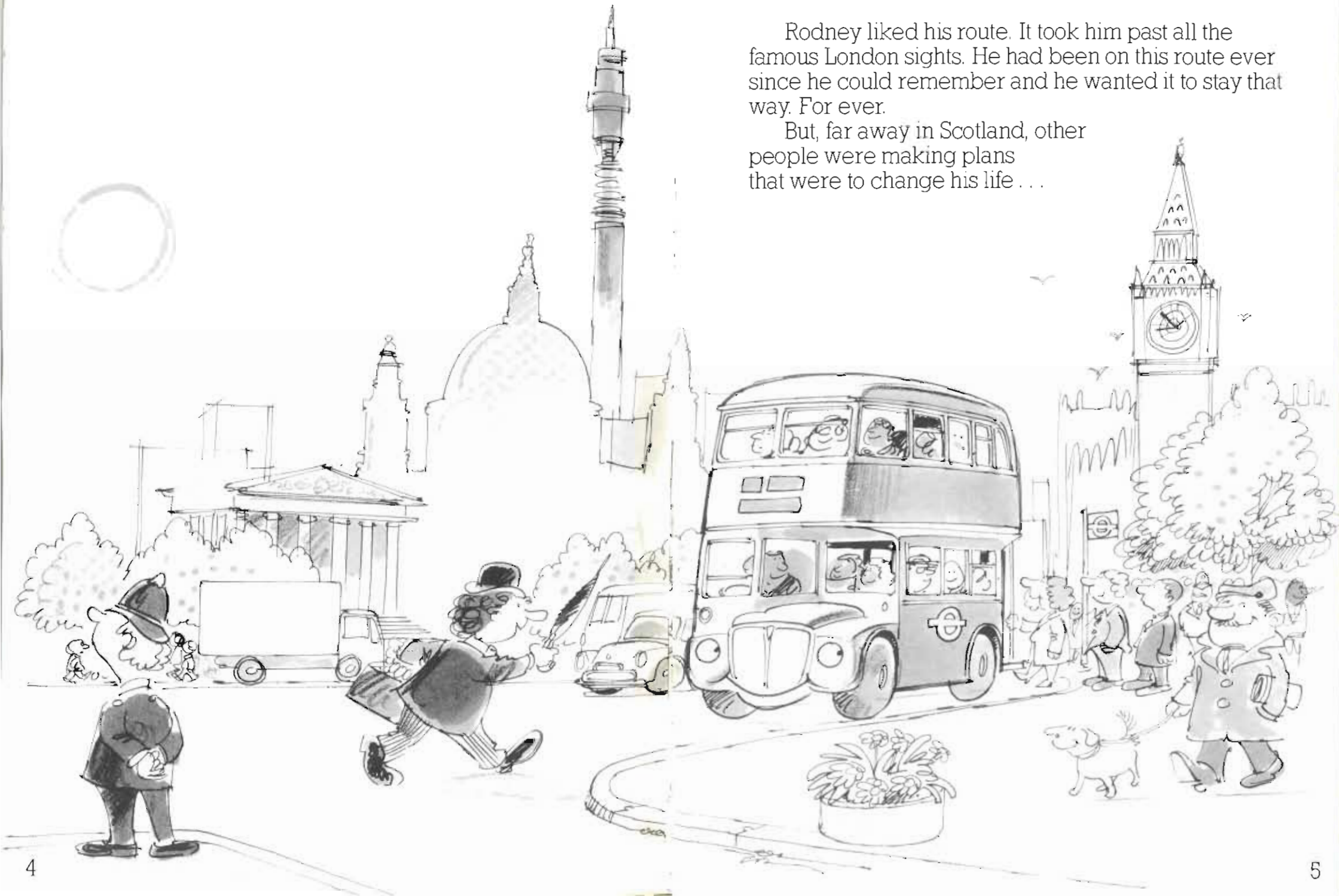
*A Clydeside Publication.
All rights reserved.*



It all began on a nice sunny day in London.
Rodney the Routemaster left his garage, and set off for his daily run.
On this day, like every day, he carried people off to work, or the shops, or wherever they wanted to go.

Rodney liked his route. It took him past all the famous London sights. He had been on this route ever since he could remember and he wanted it to stay that way. For ever.

But, far away in Scotland, other people were making plans that were to change his life . . .



Up in Scotland the manager of another bus garage was planning a party.

"Let's invite all our friends who ride on our buses to come and visit our garage to see how we look after the buses" he said to the inspector.



"Why don't we invite other buses, too" said the inspector "I know lots of different buses all over Scotland who would love to come and see us".

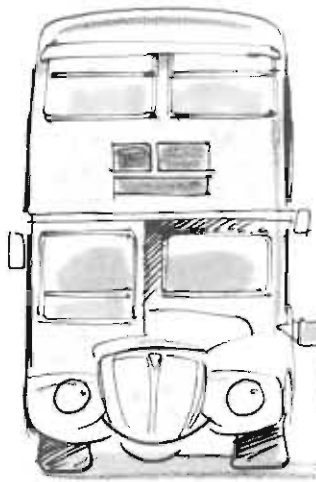
The manager thought this was a splendid idea. "We could even invite a bus from London" he said and
the telephone

When Rodney returned to his garage after a hard day's work on the streets of London, his foreman rushed over.

"Have I got a surprise for you, Rodney" he said. "You've been invited to a party in Scotland so that people can meet a real London bus".

But Rodney wasn't excited. He'd never left London before and Scotland was a long way from his friends. He thought he might get lost.





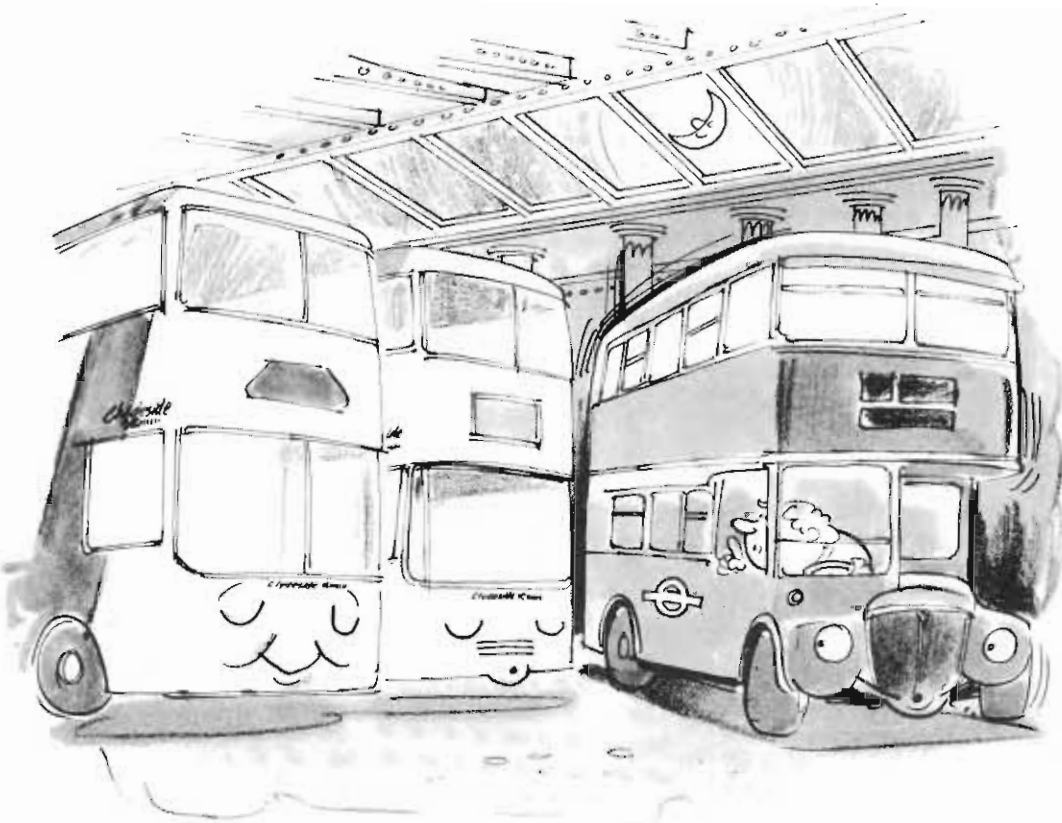
A few days later, McTavish, his new driver, arrived from Scotland.

"What a bonny bus" he said
"I can see we're going to be friends".

Soon they were on their way. Rodney saw things he'd only heard of – fields, lakes, mountains and so many different cars and lorries. McTavish told him all their names as they chugged along.



By the time Rodney drove into the garage in Scotland it was dark and all the other buses were asleep.



McTavish found him a quiet spot, and soon Rodney was sleeping too.

Next morning when he woke, Rodney found himself next to two other buses.

"Hello - I'm Dennis" said a bright red and yellow bus.

"And I'm Parny" said a blue and yellow coach.



Then the manager came to greet him.

"Come on" he said "We'll check you over and then go for a run".

So McTavish took Rodney to the workshops.



After his check, Rodney went to meet Belinda, his conductress.

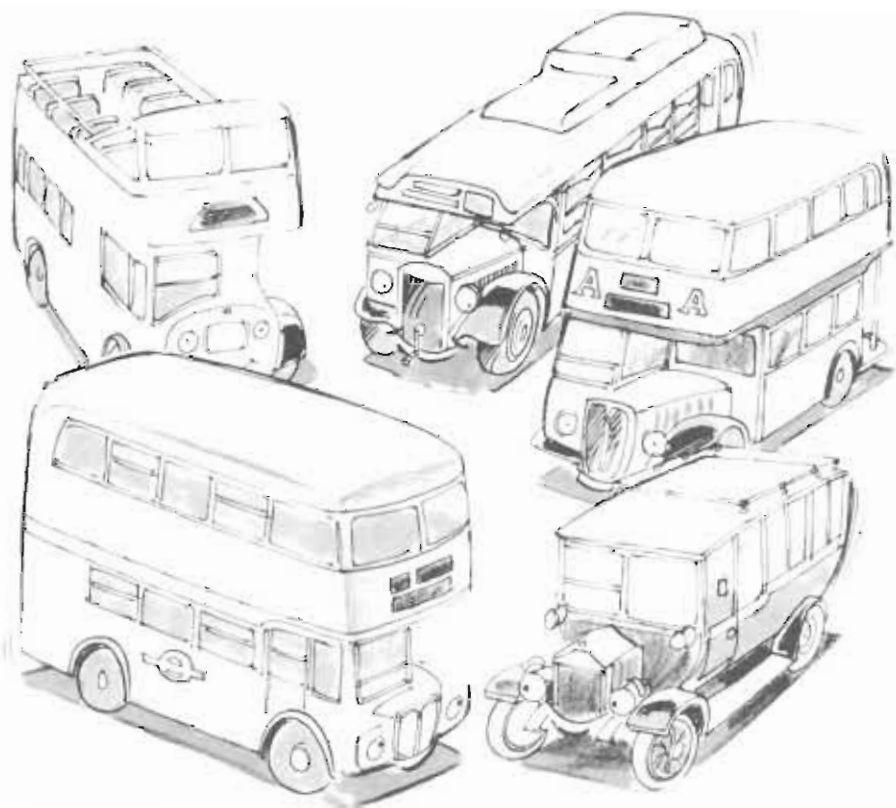
"Och! You are a good looking bus" she said "I wish you could stay".

"Let's go and show Rodney around the town", suggested McTavish.

So off they went into the town. Soon Rodney learned his way round all the streets - "You're almost a local already" said Belinda.



Rodney spent the rest of the week getting to know the other buses at the garage. And as the weekend approached, more and more buses arrived in readiness for the party on Saturday.



Rodney met McBeep from Edinburgh, Fergus from Falkirk, Alex from Ayr and Old Finlay from Tannochbrae.

"What an interesting crowd they are" thought Rodney.

On the night before the party, the manager came out carrying a big cake.

"Come on everyone" he said "Gather round in a circle".

So all the new arrivals, together with Dennis and Parny made a circle around the manager.

"Welcome to you all. Here's to a great day tomorrow". And he gave everyone a big slice of cake.

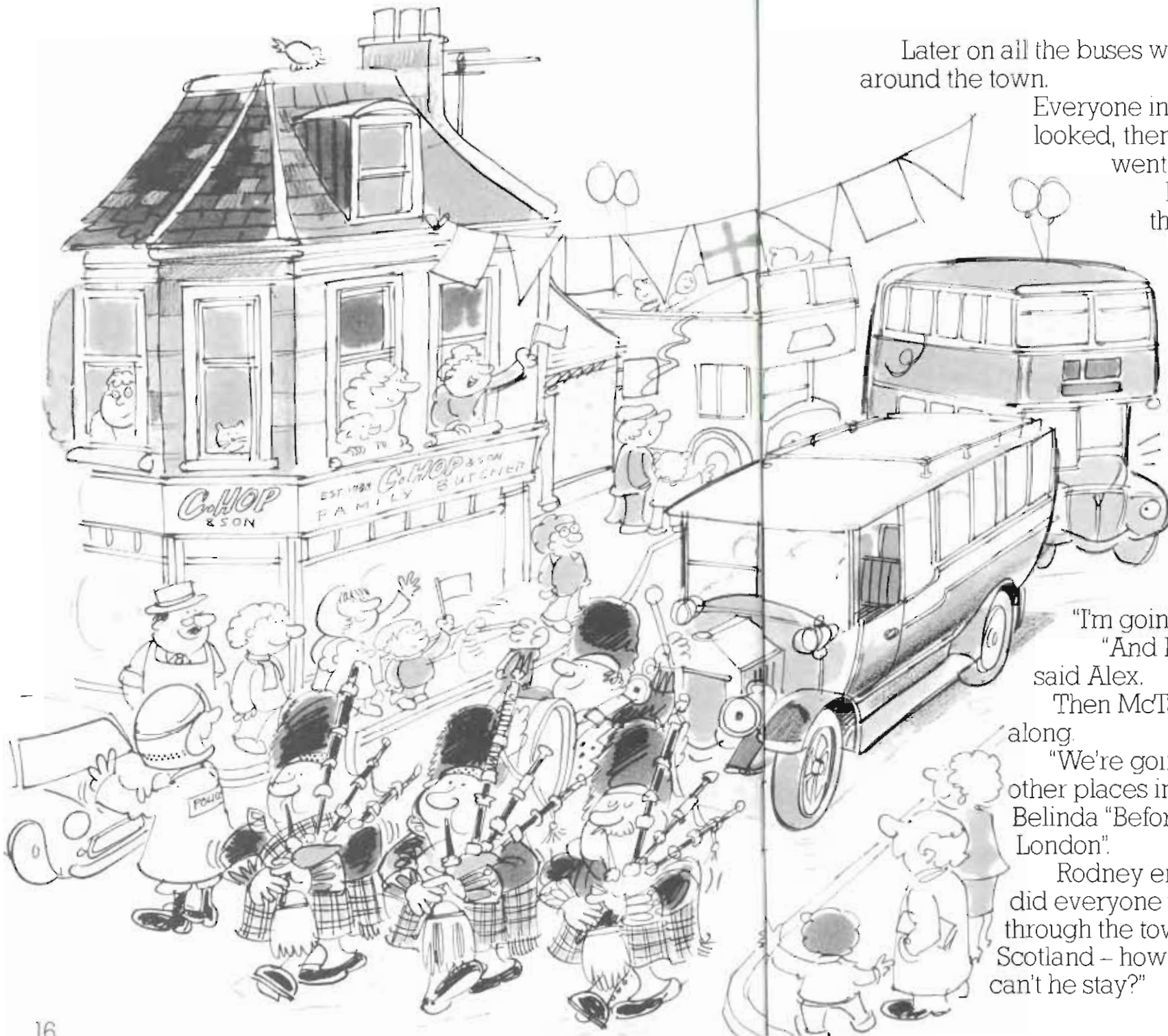


Next day Rodney and his friends were up early to welcome the first visitors.

It was raining, but no-one seemed to notice.

After lunch McTavish and Belinda went for a ride with Rodney. He was very popular with passengers. People rushed to get on at every stop, but there were plenty of seats. So Rodney took his time.





Later on all the buses went out in a parade around the town.

Everyone in the streets stopped and looked, then clapped as all the buses went by, led by Old Finlay.

By the end of the day all the buses were very tired but very happy.

Except Rodney – he wasn't so happy. He'd had such a good time with his new friends in Scotland that now he didn't really want to go back to London.

Next day all the other bus visitors left for their home garages. "Goodbye" said McBeep "I'm going fishing".

"And I'm going to the seaside" said Alex.

Then McTavish and Belinda came along.

"We're going to show you some other places in Scotland, Rodney" said Belinda "Before you go back to London".

Rodney enjoyed his trip and so did everyone who saw him as he ran through the towns. "A London bus in Scotland – how nice" they said " – why can't he stay?"

When he finally returned to the garage, Rodney had tears in his eyes. Even Dennis and Parny couldn't cheer him up. They didn't want him to go either.

Just then the manager came over.

"Good news, Rodney" he said "You can stay after all. All our passengers are saying that you are just the bus we need. So we're going to paint you red and yellow just like Dennis, and McTavish and Belinda can work with you just like last week".

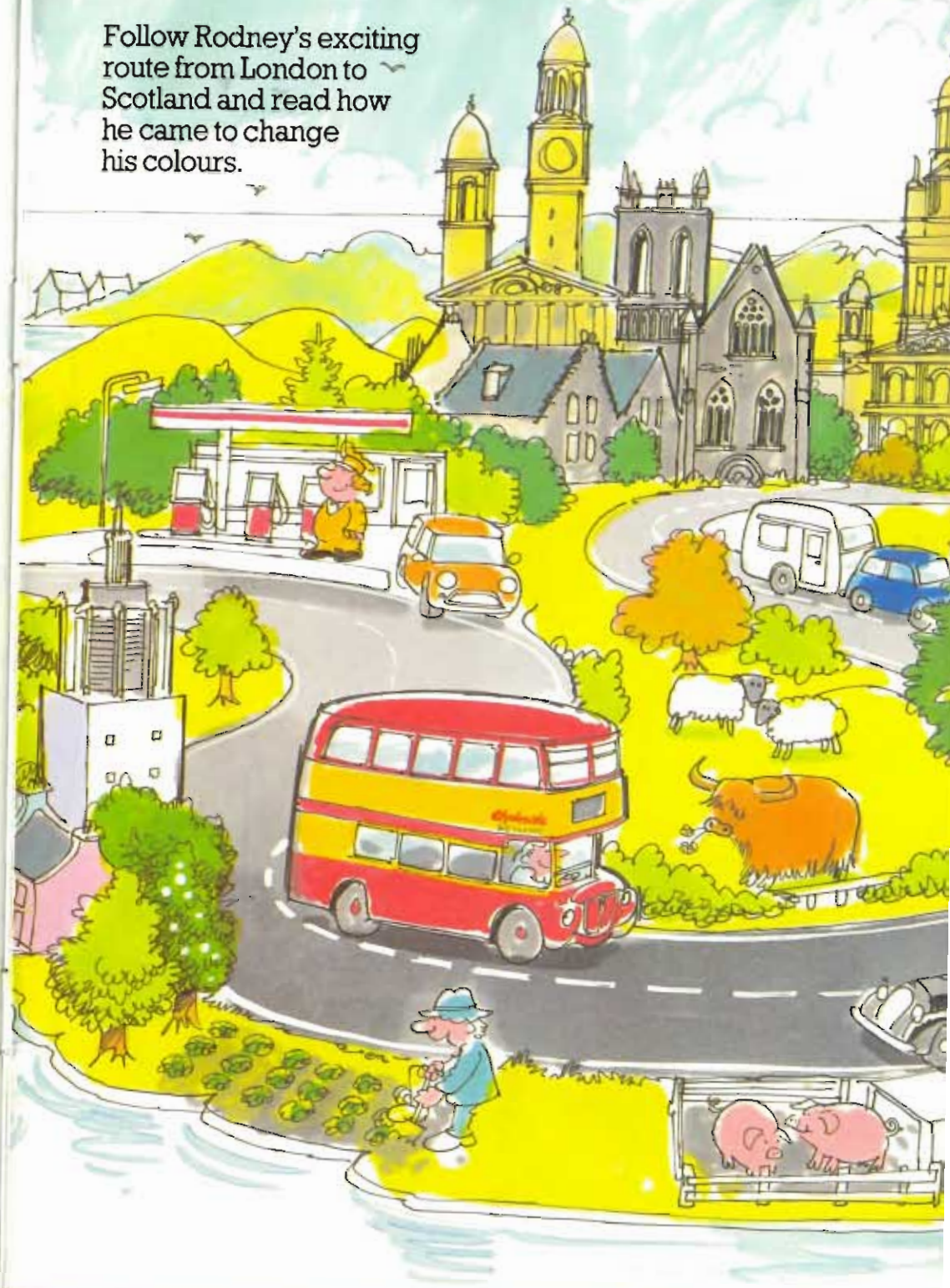
Everybody was so happy.

That night, when they should have all been asleep, all the buses had another party because Rodney was staying after all.



∞ THE END ∞

Follow Rodney's exciting route from London to Scotland and read how he came to change his colours.





Clydeside SCOTTISH