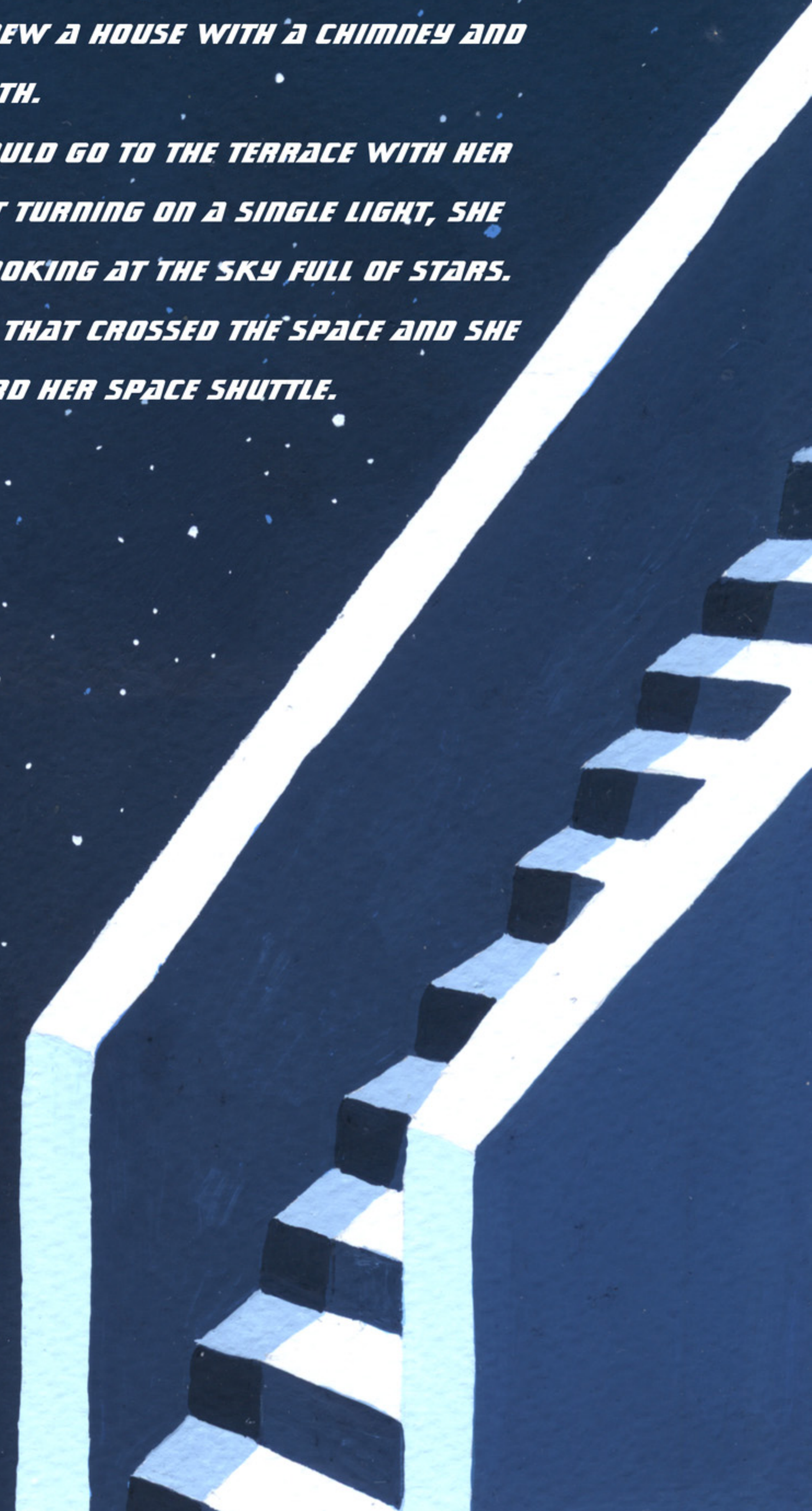




*WHEN ASKED FOR A DRAWING RITA WOULD DRAW A
ROCKET. SHE NEVER DREW A HOUSE WITH A CHIMNEY AND
TREES AND A LITTLE PATH.*

*IN SUMMER SHE WOULD GO TO THE TERRACE WITH HER
LITTLE CHAIR. WITHOUT TURNING ON A SINGLE LIGHT, SHE
WOULD STAND STILL LOOKING AT THE SKY FULL OF STARS.
SHE IMAGINED ROUTES THAT CROSSED THE SPACE AND SHE
WOULD FOLLOW ABOARD HER SPACE SHUTTLE.*





*ONE NIGHT SHE SHOWED THE ROUTES TO HER FATHER. HE
TAUGHT HER THE NAMES OF SOME STARS AND TOGETHER
THEY MADE UP NAMES FOR THE REST.*

*THAT SAME NIGHT, HER FATHER PROMISED HER A SPACE
SHUTTLE AS A BIRTHDAY GIFT.*



*ON HER BIRTHDAY, RITA AND HER FATHER GOT UP BEFORE
DAWN. HER MOTHER GAVE THEM FOOD FOR THE TRIP AND
ASKED THEM TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES WHEN BOAR-
DING THE SHUTTLE.*

*THEY FIRST TOOK A TRAIN AND TRAVELED FOR THREE
HOURS. THE TRAIN STOPPED AT THE LAST STATION. IT WAS
HUGE. THEY GOT OFF THE TRAIN AND GOT INTO A CITY RITA
HADN'T VISITED BEFORE.*

