

A whimsical illustration of a house at night. The house is dark blue with a shingled roof. A large, fluffy, light blue creature with a small black hat is perched on the roof. A small child in a red shirt is sitting on the roof next to the creature. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with stars and a shooting star. There are pink balloons and a potted plant on the house. The title 'THE THING AT 52' is written in gold, textured letters on the roof.

THE
THING
AT 52

Ross Montgomery · Richard Johnson

To Honey – R.M.

For Ivy and Rosie – R.J.



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THE THING AT 52



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A vibrant, stylized illustration of a residential street. The houses are in various colors like yellow, red, and orange, with brown tiled roofs and chimneys. A central house has a red door and a path leading to it. A person is walking on a crosswalk on the right. There are trees, a fence, and laundry hanging on a line. The scene is set in a hazy, overcast atmosphere.

There's a Thing on my street.
He lives at number 52.

I see him sitting in his garden
when I walk to school.



Sometimes, I see the Thing in his front room.



Sometimes, I see him at the shops.
I don't think he has any friends.



So I asked my mum if we could buy the Thing a flower. He liked it very much.

“Come inside,” he said.

“I was just about to have a cup of gravy.”



The Thing's house was very strange.
The rugs were made of newspaper.
He only had one chair to sit on.

There was nothing in his fridge
but fifty jars of mustard.

"Don't you get lonely living by yourself?" I asked him.
"All things are lonely sometimes," said the Thing.