

August 2025

KIDS' TITLES

Sarah Zambello

Susy Zanella

WIND ATLAS



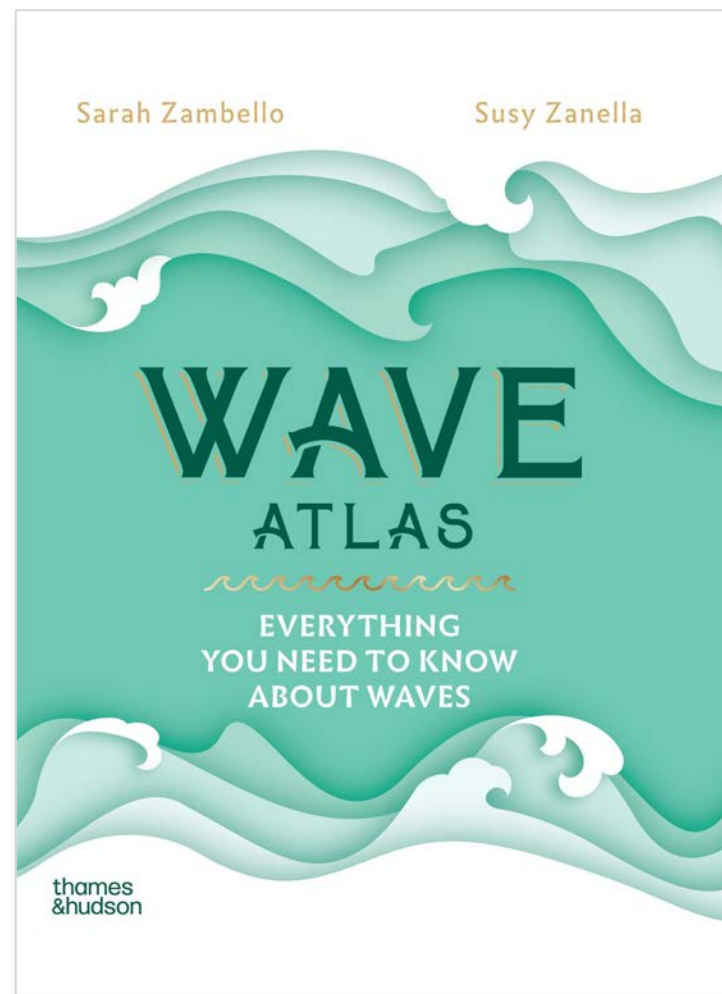
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE WIND

thames
&hudson

ALSO AVAILABLE



9781760764500



9781760764524



Wind Atlas

Everything You Need to Know About the Wind

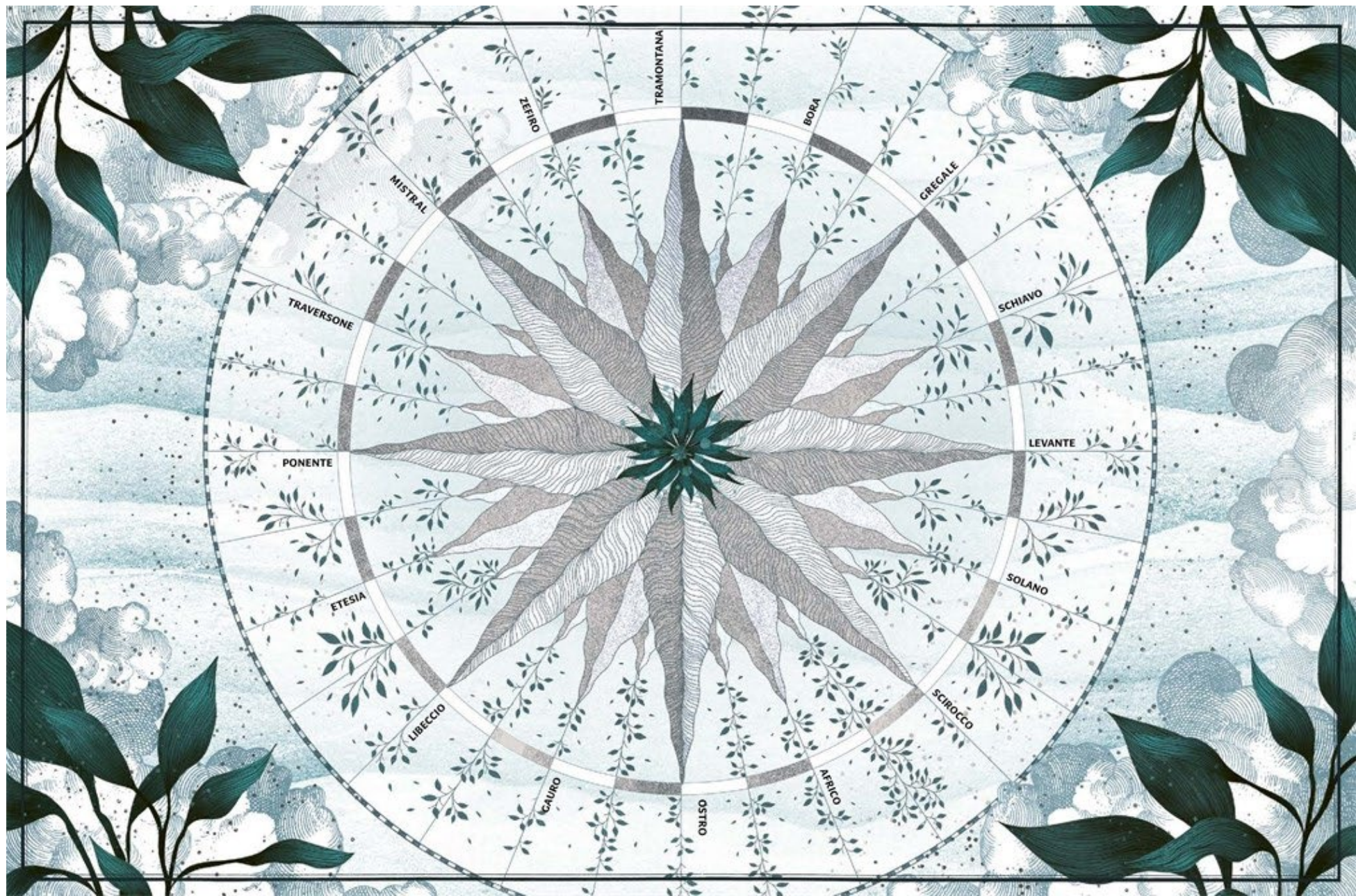
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A first introduction for children to the natural phenomena of winds, weaving scientific fact with literary, historical and artistic notes along the way.

- Third book in the Weather Atlas series, the beautifully illustrated series following *Cloud Atlas* (2024) and *Wave Atlas* (2025).
- As Australia (and the world) experience more extreme weather conditions, children (and adults-alike) can increase their knowledge of weather patterns with *Wind Atlas*.
- Literary references from across the globe interwoven with scientific facts, the Weather Atlas series allows children to appreciate the power of art in conveying empirical information.

AGES 8+

AU \$34.99 | NZ \$39.99
9781760764517
80 Pages
Hardcover
296 mm x 227 mm
Thames & Hudson Aust



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THE WIND

Since ancient times, the wind has made its presence felt in myths and omens. Because it moved so swiftly, people compared it to an invisible messenger, and because it kept changing, they gave it many different names to match every shade of its mood.

The wind can be both constructive and destructive. It can lift a kite playfully or split a cargo ship apart, carry a seed for hundreds of kilometres or become a poetic metaphor. A breath of air that flows with life and energy.

In Greek mythology, the god Aeolus ruled the winds of the Mediterranean Sea. He kept them in a leather bag, which he gave to the hero Ulysses to help him steer his ship safely back to Ithaca. But while Ulysses was sleeping, his companions opened the bag and all the winds escaped: they blew out into the air and over the sea, taking the sailors' hopes of return with them ...

In those days long ago, there was nothing more mysterious than the wind. It couldn't be seen, although its impact was obvious. It was difficult to measure, unpredictable and dangerous.

But in modern times, advances in meteorology (the science of the weather) began to reveal the wind's secrets: more and more sophisticated technical instruments have helped us to measure and classify winds, so now we can understand what makes the air above our heads move in so many different ways.

The Tower of the Winds in Athens, Greece was built in about 50 BCE by the astronomer Andronicus of Cyrrhus. The eight-sided building is made of marble and covered with carvings. It combines everything people knew at that time about weather, mechanics and astronomy with ancient myths associated with the wind. The complex mechanism inside the tower could calculate the time of day and the turning of the seasons ... and even produce horoscopes!

The kite was invented about 2,800 years ago. To begin with, it was not just a toy that could be flown for fun: it could be used to send coded messages or to calculate the distance between two places, as well as to measure the wind's strength.





STORM ▲

GRADE: 10
AVERAGE SPEED: 48–55 KNOTS / 88–102 KM PER HOUR

It's said that the thunderbird builds its nest above the highest clouds and that its feathers conceal a god.

The legend of the thunderbird is passed down from generation to generation among the Indigenous peoples of North America. Different tribes add their own details and stories. But there's one thing that remains constant: the beating of its wings sounds like thunder and lightning bolts shoot from its eyes as it flies over Earth, darkening the sky.

The thunderbird represents the storm and the fear it can create, the power of mysterious and unpredictable nature. A spirit which nourishes the Earth but can also cause devastating destruction.



F3

WIND SPEED: 219–266 KM PER HOUR

*Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil
set off a tornado in Texas?*

This extraordinary question was the title of a talk by the meteorologist Edward Lorenz, a question that challenged his audience at the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The answer is that a butterfly's flight can't trigger a tornado, but a tiny error can radically change calculations and outcomes in the complex process of weather forecasting.

It's called the butterfly effect: Lorenz's new theory struck the academic world like a tornado, uprooting the mathematical models of the time, raising doubts and overturning traditional scientific assumptions, showing how uncertain and irregular the weather can be.

TORNADO OR TROPICAL CYCLONE?

Tornadoes and cyclones are two devastating events that have a terrifying reputation all over the world. They can appear to be similar but in fact they are quite different.

Tropical cyclones

Tropical cyclones (also called hurricanes) form between 5° and 30° latitude, north and south of the Equator, over warm tropical waters where the air in contact with the water heats and rises. The surrounding surface air replaces the air that has risen: this too becomes warm and rises, full of moisture. This process keeps repeating, creating an updraft that reaches high levels. As it cools, it condenses, forming clouds.

Because of the Coriolis force, the rising air starts to spiral. Its centre is an almost calm zone: that's the eye of the cyclone forming. When a cyclone moves towards colder water or touches land, its strength reduces and eventually it dies down.

Tornadoes

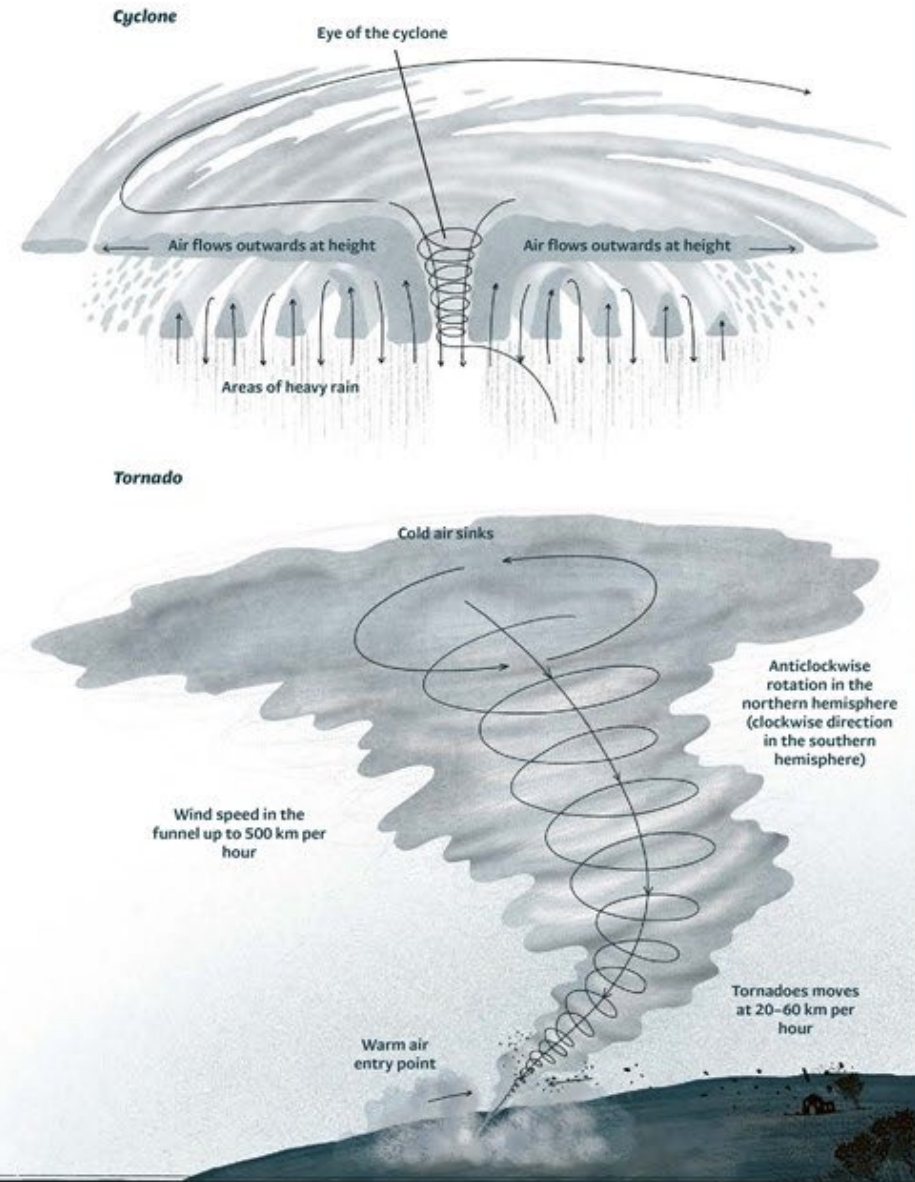
Tornadoes (or twisters) form within very violent thunderstorms (called supercells) when spiralling movements develop. These may be caused by the contrast between the storm's rising and sinking air or they could form at the same time as the storm itself.

Cold currents of air at a high altitude also help tornadoes to form: these winds make the thundercloud (cumulonimbus) spin, encouraging the development of a tornado.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale measures how strong a hurricane is by looking at its wind speeds. It helps predict how much damage and flooding the hurricane might cause when it hits land.

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

	Speed in knots	Speed in km per hour	Effects
1. MINIMAL	64–82	119–153	Slight damage to roofs, powerlines and trees
2. MODERATE	83–95	154–177	Significant damage to roofs, cladding and trees
3. MAJOR – EXTENSIVE	96–112	178–208	Severe damage to buildings, trees and roads
4. MAJOR – EXTREME	113–136	209–251	Very severe damage to buildings and roads
5. MAJOR – CATASTROPHIC	More than 137	More than 252	The area affected will be uninhabitable for months





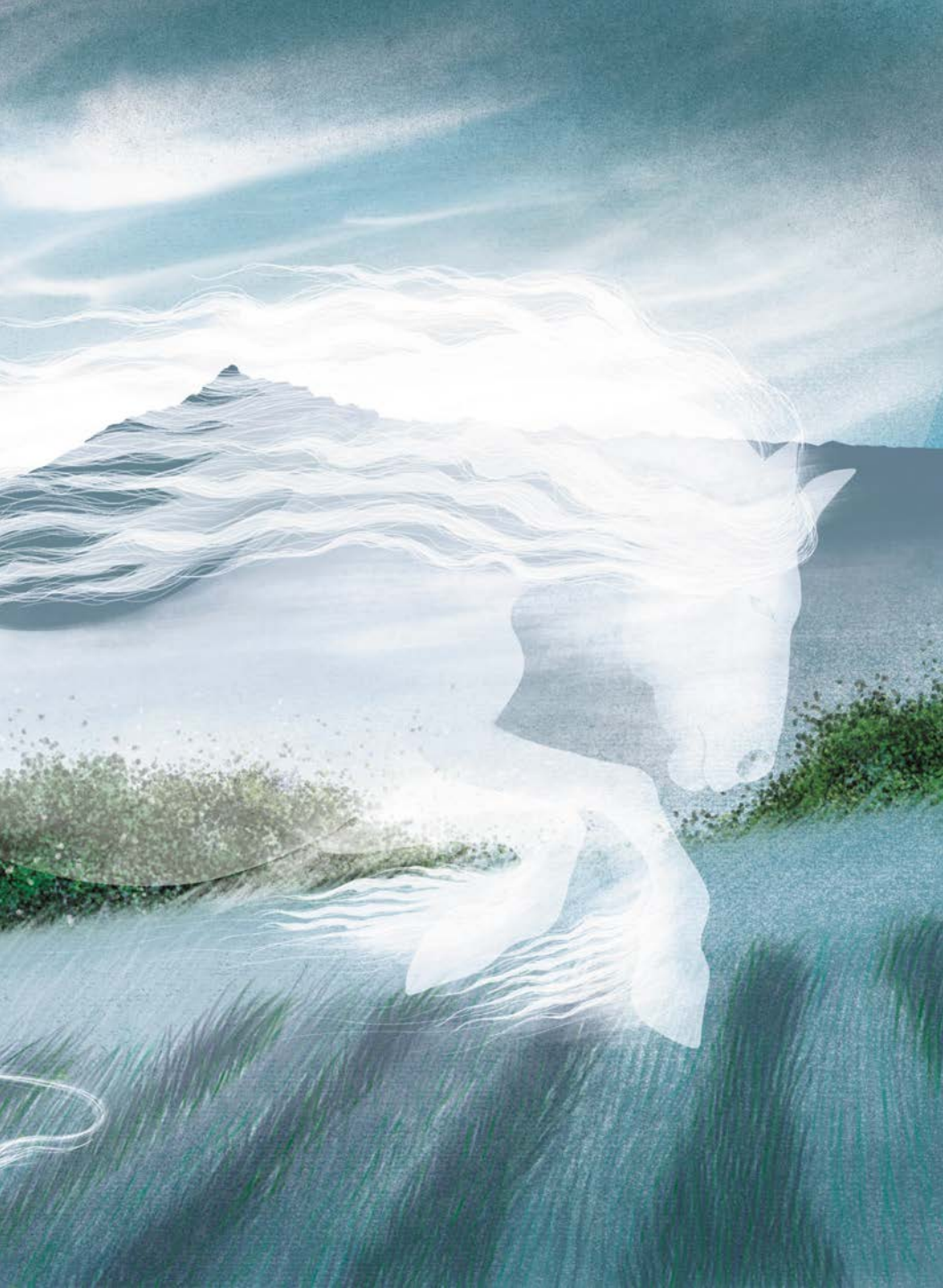
Wind Atlas

Everything you need to know about the wind

By Sarah Zambello, illustrated by Susy Zanella

KEY INFORMATION

- *Wind Atlas* is the third title in the Weather Atlas series, following *Cloud Atlas* and *Wave Atlas*.
- *Wind Atlas* is written in collaboration with scientific researchers, ensuring accurate information alongside poetic writing.
- **Sarah Zambello** is a pedagogist who manages reading, education and storytelling workshops in schools, libraries and bookstores.
- **Susy Zanella** is a recognized author and illustrator who has won many competitions, including the Lucca Junior XI Award for Comics Artists and Illustrators and the Librifattiamano of Pieve Santo Stefano award.
- The first book in the series, *Cloud Atlas*, was shortlisted for the Andersen Prize in 2021 for its original Italian edition.



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PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

- Pitching for **collaboration with children's media**, including *Peninsula Kids*, *Kids on the Coast*, and *Out and About with Kids*.
- Pitching to **popular children's book media**, including *Good Reading*, *Magpies*, *Reading Time (CBCA)* and *Children's Books Daily*.
- Pitching to **science media**, including *New Scientist*, *Double Helix*, *Cosmos* and *Australian Geographic*.
- Pitching to **broad media**, including *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Guardian*, *Good Weekend* and *The Saturday Paper*.



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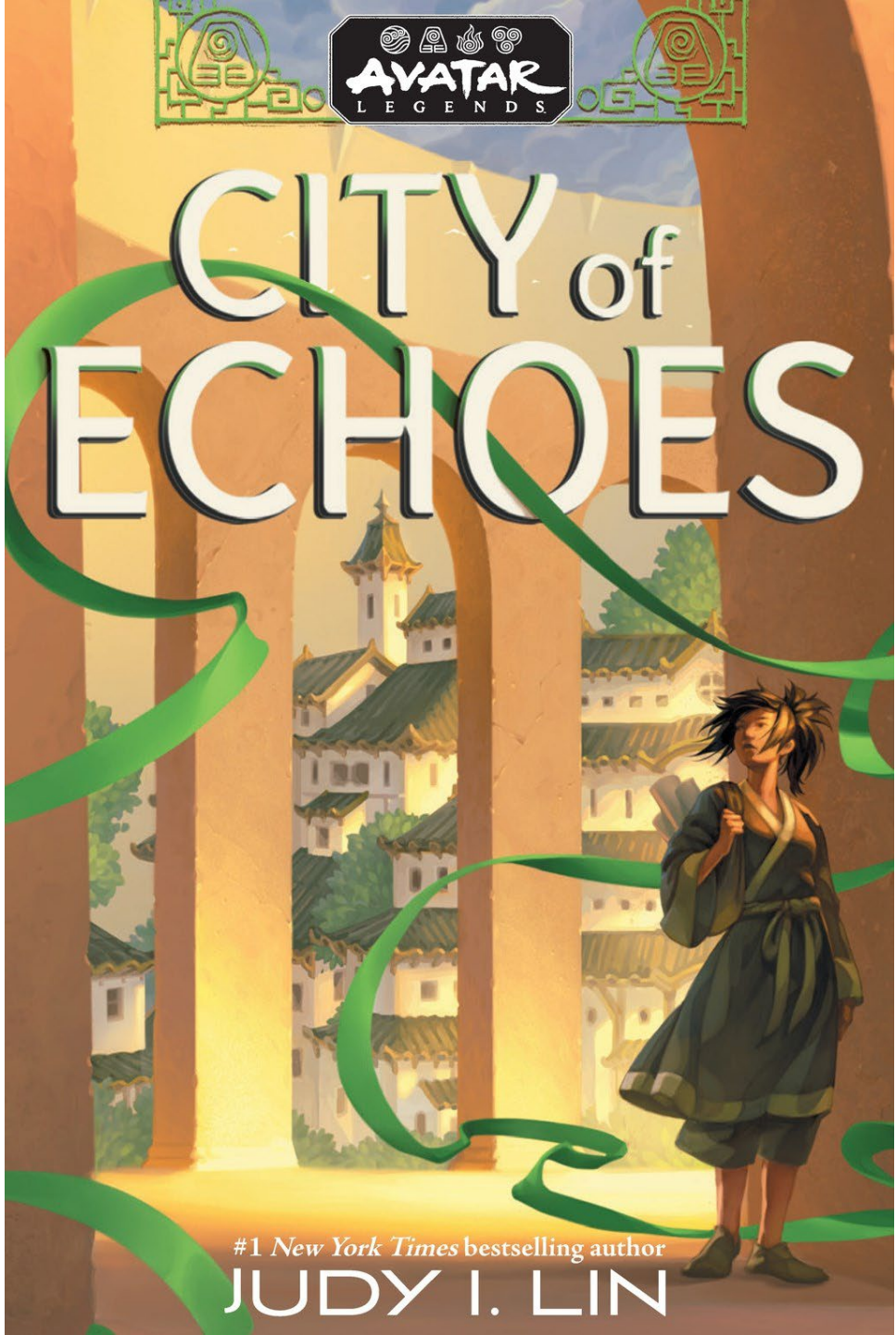
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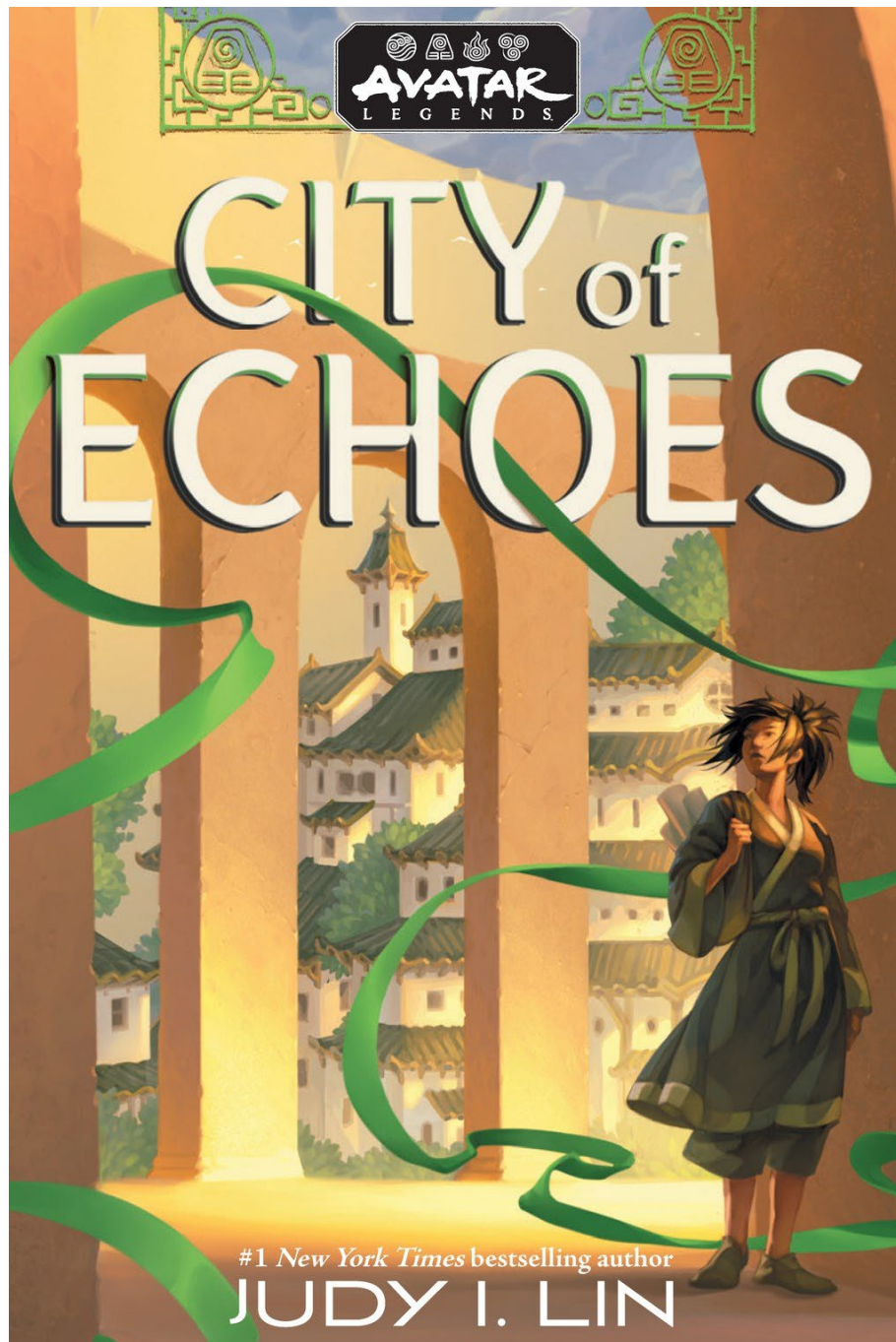


CITY of ECHOES



#1 *New York Times* bestselling author

JUDY I. LIN



Avatar Legends: City of Echoes (Avatar Legends Book 1)

Judy I. Lin

SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP: Every book in our Chronicles of the Avatar series has hit the *New York Times* bestseller list on publication. So far, The Chronicles of the Avatar series has sold more than one million copies across formats. With the introduction of the Avatar Legends series, we plan to publish two new *Avatar* titles per year.

BESTSELLING AUTHOR: #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author Judy I. Lin is the author of CITY OF ECHOES, the first book in this brand-new spin-off series for fans of our popular Chronicles of the Avatar series.

FRESH ANGLE: Avatar Legends is a series of standalone novels highlighting the unsung heroes within the Avatar universe, including the ways they have shaped legendary events in Avatar history. The novels will also feature encounters with familiar, fan-favorite characters along each protagonist's journey. This new angle sets Avatar Legends apart from Chronicles of the Avatar, which uses a duology format to tell the Avatars' origin stories.

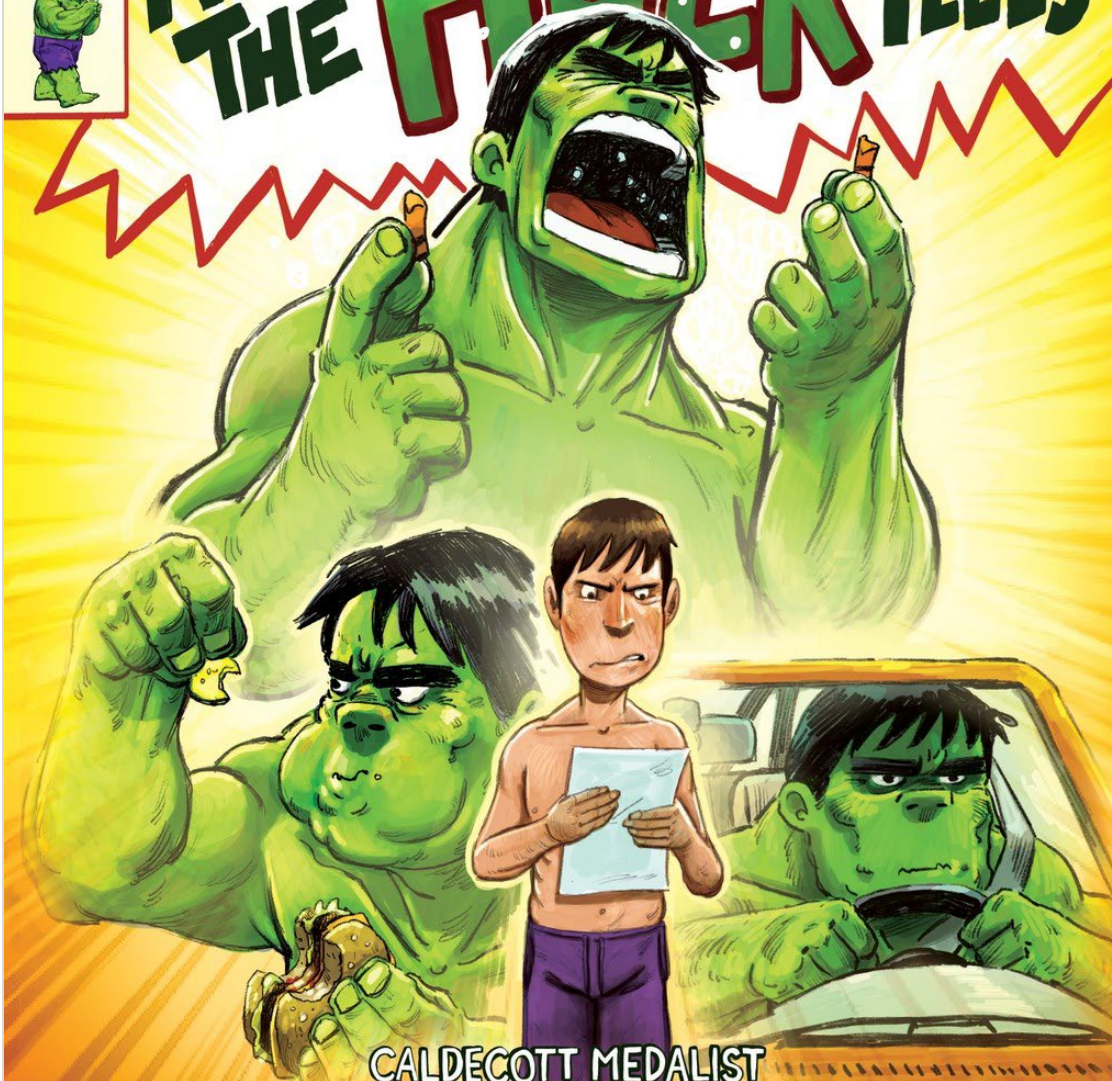
AGES 13+

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Amulet Books

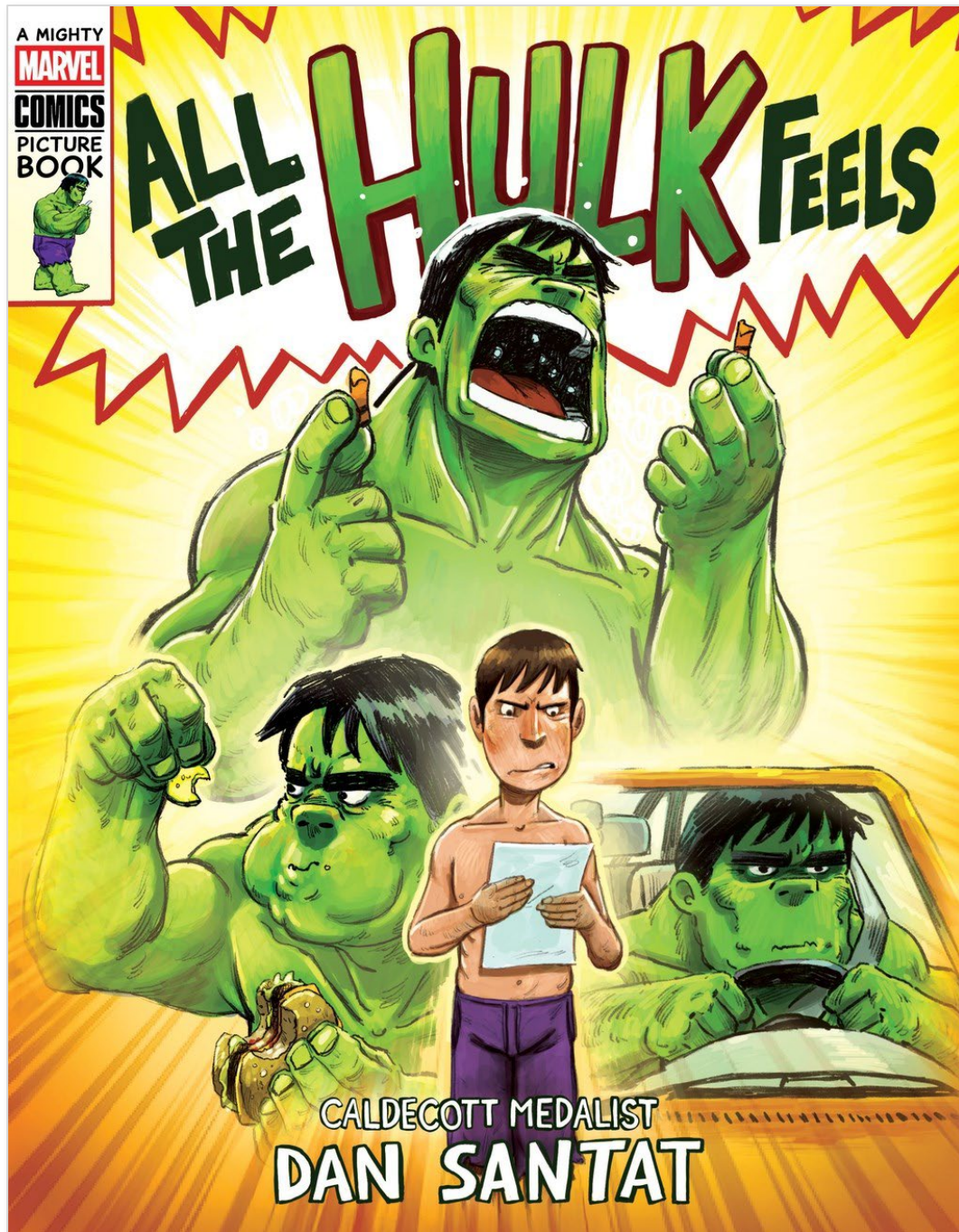
A MIGHTY
MARVEL
COMICS
PICTURE
BOOK



ALL THE **HULK** FEELS



CALDECOTT MEDALIST
DAN SANTAT



All the Hulk Feels (A Mighty Marvel Comics Picture Book)

Dan Santat

ONE-OF-A-KIND SERIES IN AN ALL-NEW FORMAT: This is the first graphic novel picture book ever licensed by Marvel Entertainment. This new format will be a hybrid format, introducing young readers to not only the incredible world of Marvel super heroes, but also the exciting medium of graphic novels and sequential storytelling in a picture-book format.

ALL-STAR CONTRIBUTORS: This series will spotlight prestigious picture-book creators as they dip their pen in the exciting world of Marvel. With award-winning creators like Dan Santat helping to launch the series, the bar is set for more exciting and acclaimed storytellers to contribute to this series.

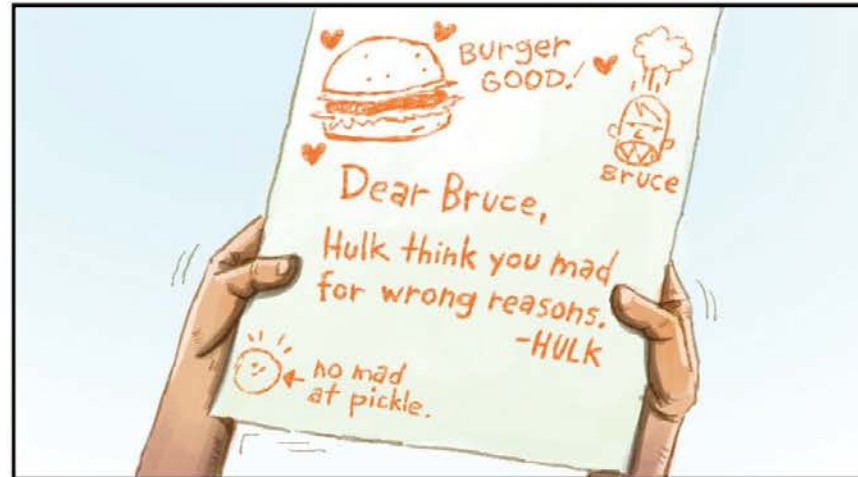
MIGHTY BRAND: Marvel Comics is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year and remains one of the most recognizable brands worldwide, with Hulk being one of the most popular characters among younger fans.

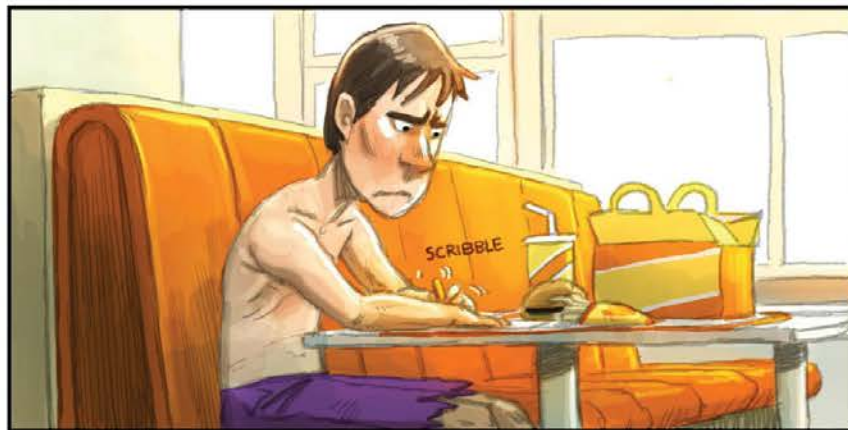
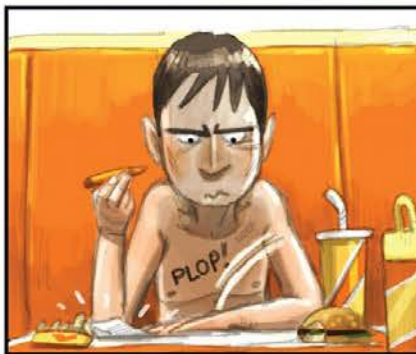
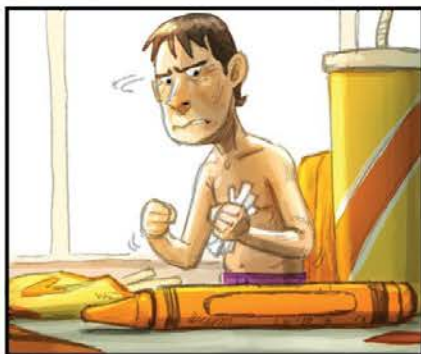
AGES 4 - 8

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Abrams Fanfare



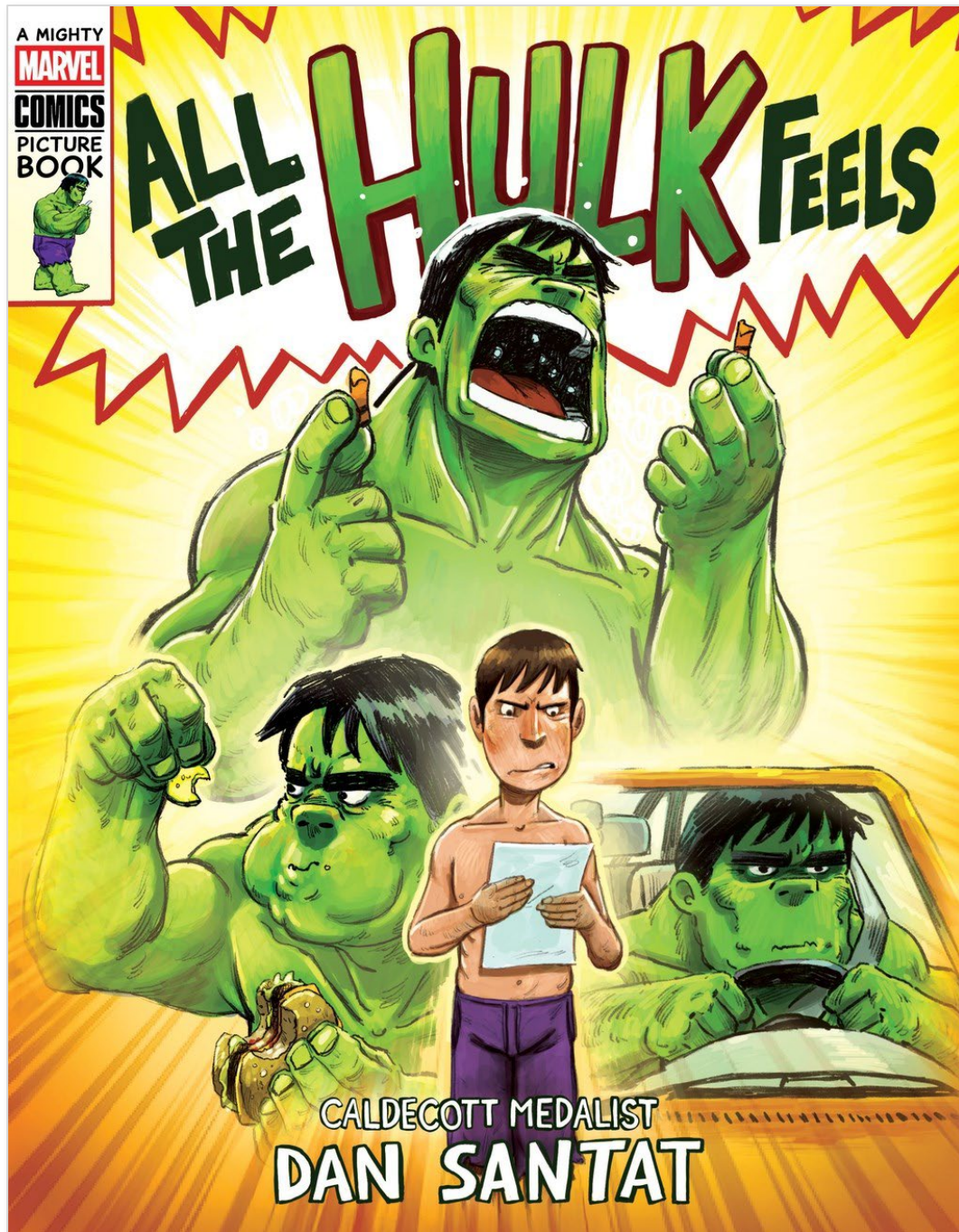












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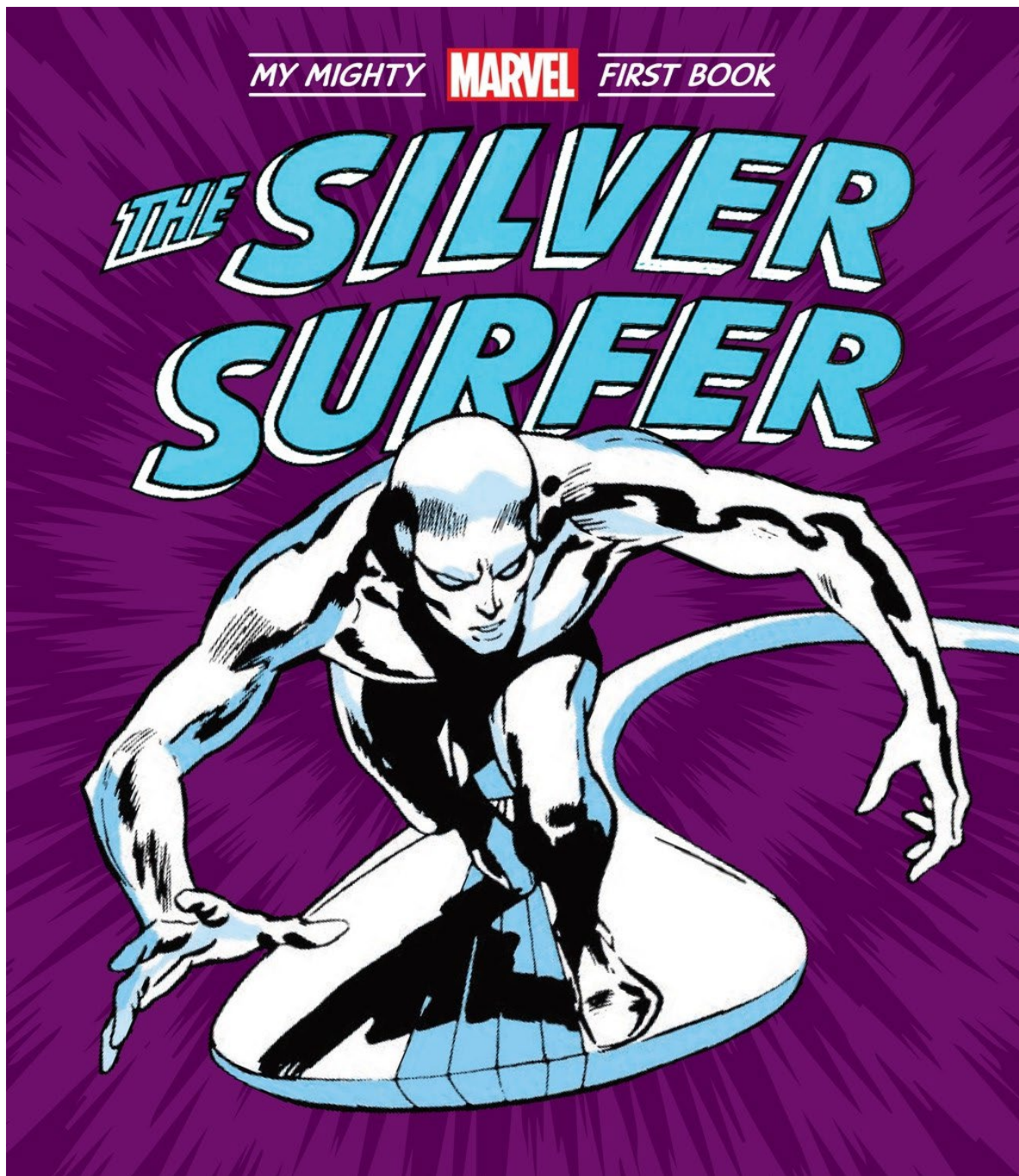
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MY MIGHTY **MARVEL** FIRST BOOK

THE SILVER SURFER





The Silver Surfer: My Mighty Marvel First Book

Marvel Entertainment

MIGHTY BRAND: Marvel Comics is one of the most recognizable brands worldwide and has been beloved by fans for more than 85 years.

ANNIVERSARY MOMENT: 2026 marks the 60th anniversary of the Silver Surfer's first comic book appearance, and we're excited to take part in celebrating this cosmic Super Hero!

RETRO HOOK: Classic art by Marvel legend John Buscema makes this series a must-have for die-hard fans and collectors.

GIFT APPEAL: With over 200,000 copies sold in the series, the three gatefolds and bold design make this board book perfect for comic book fans to share with their little ones!

AGES 0+

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$21.99

9781419784545

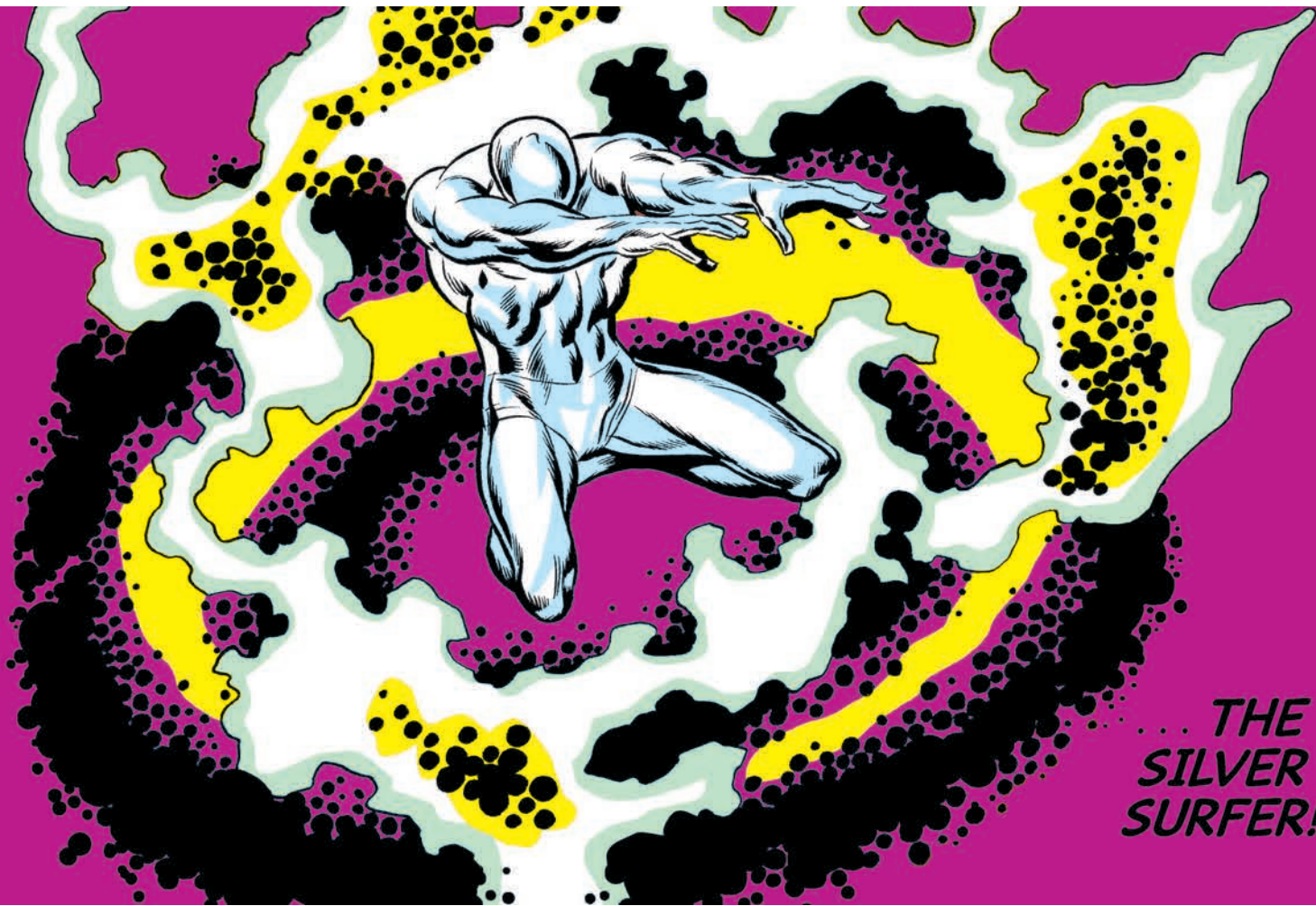
24 Pages

Board Book

191 mm x 165 mm

Abrams Appleseed

NORRIN WAS GIVEN
THE POWER COSMIC
BY GALACTUS.

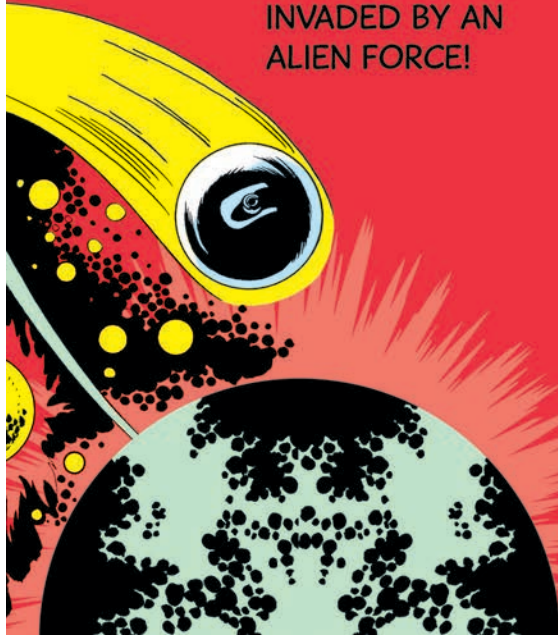


... ***THE
SILVER
SURFER!***

GALACTUS!



BUT ZENN-LA WAS
INVADED BY AN
ALIEN FORCE!





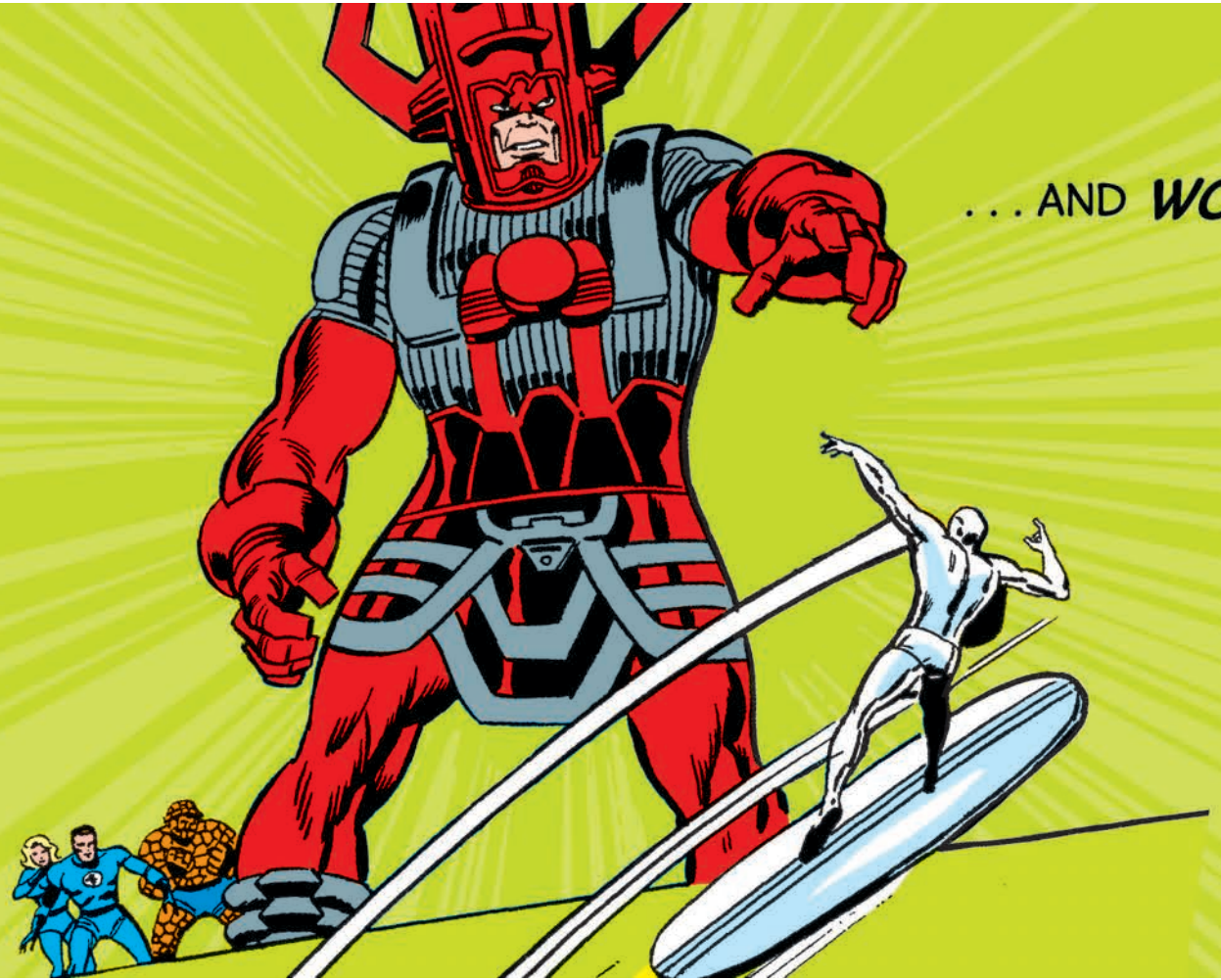
THIS SPACESHIP WAS LED
BY AN OPPONENT LARGER
THAN THE COSMOS...



TO SAVE HIS HOME, NORRIN
JOINED GALACTUS'S ARMY.

WITH THE HELP OF THE
FANTASTIC FOUR, THE
SILVER SURFER BATTLED
AGAINST GALACTUS TO
PROTECT EARTH . . .

. . . AND ***WON!***



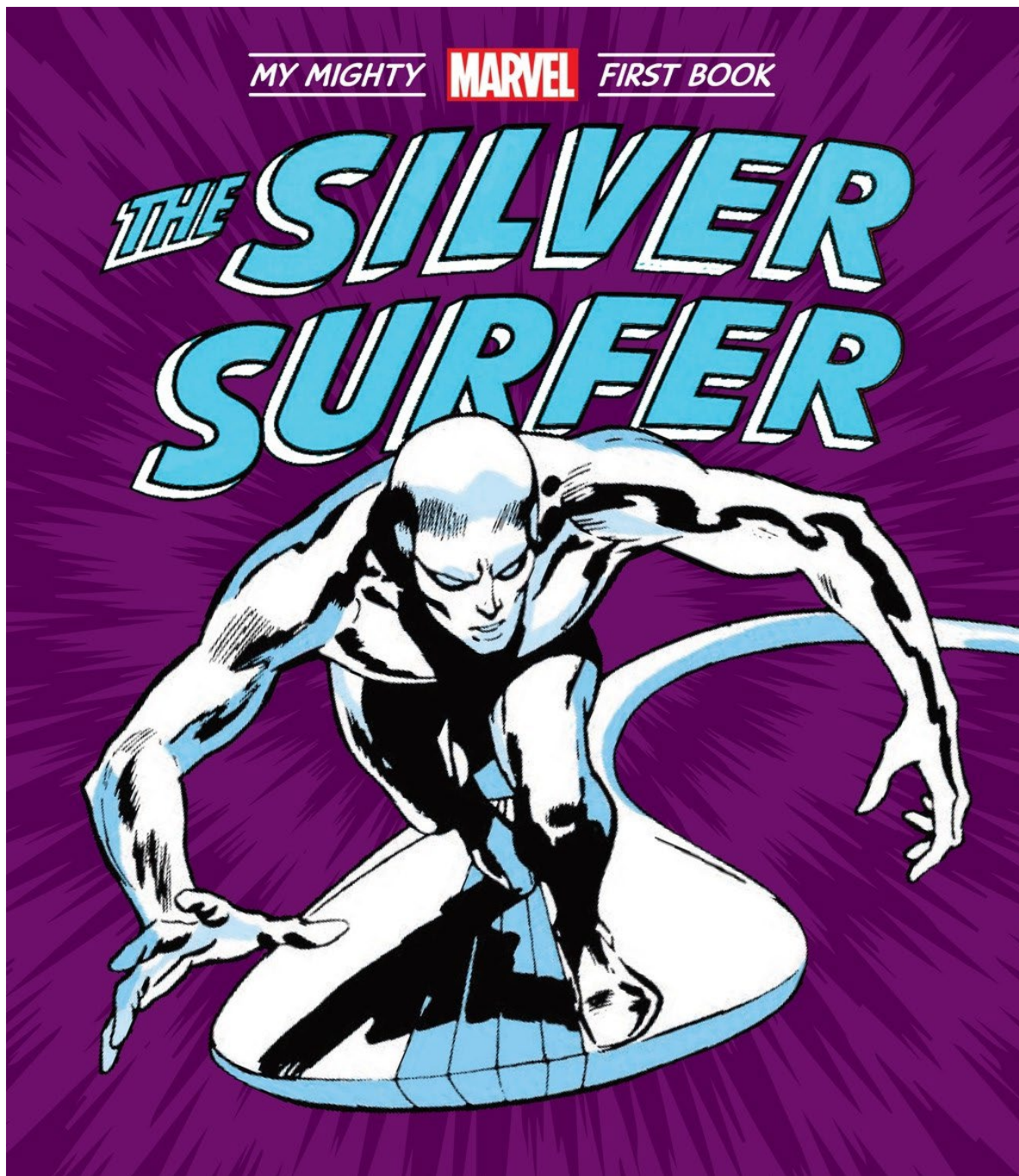


HE DEFENDS THE EARTH
FROM THREATS SUCH AS
LOKI, MEPHISTO,



AND MANY OTHER
OTHERWORLDLY VILLAINS!





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ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH

BALLET

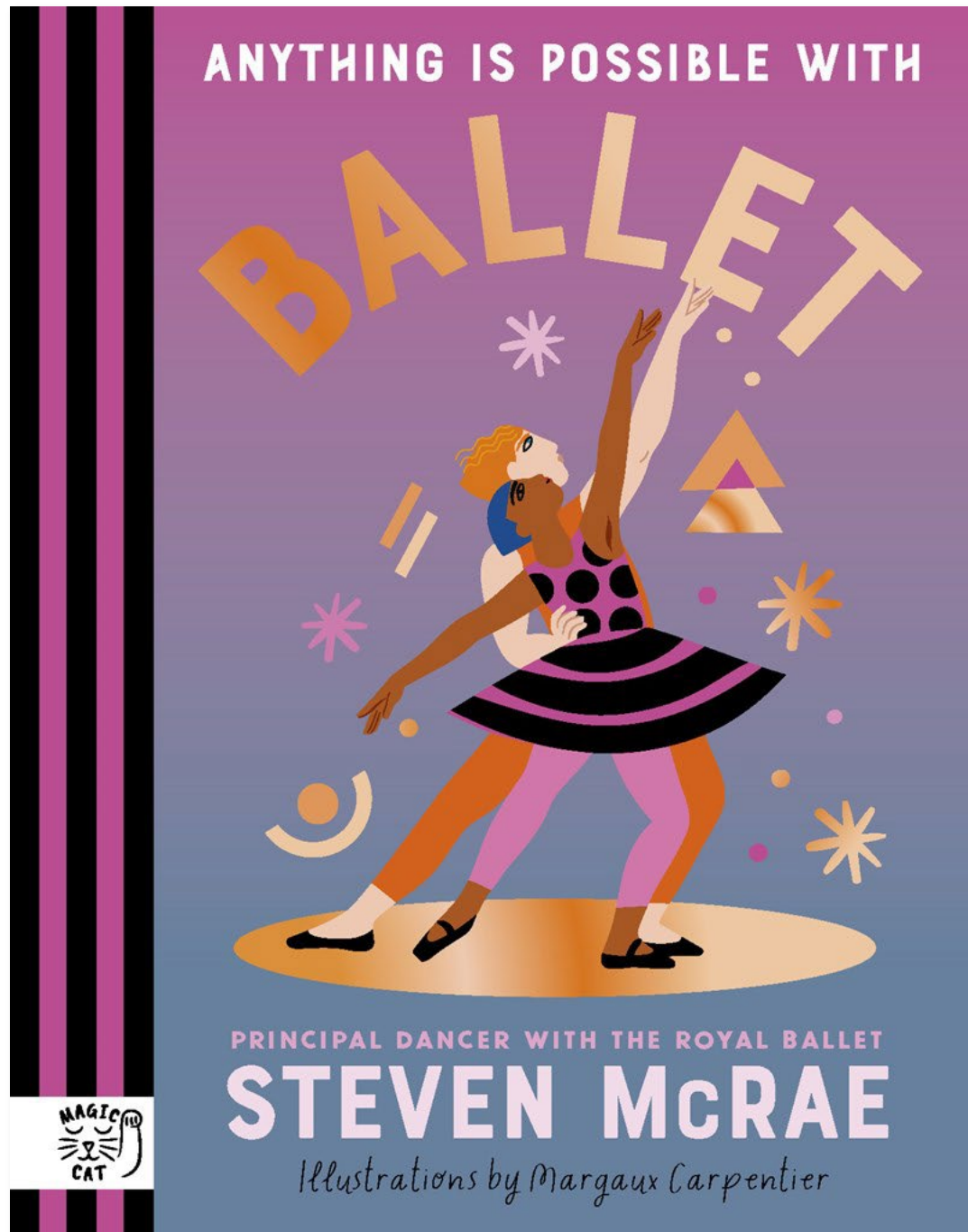


PRINCIPAL DANCER WITH THE ROYAL BALLET

STEVEN MCRAE

Illustrations by Margaux Carpentier





Anything is Possible with Ballet

Steven McRae and illustrated by Margaux Carpentier

This is ballet: but bigger, braver and bolder than you've ever experienced.

- Enter the studio with Steven McRae, principal dancer with the Royal Ballet, and master everything from the basic positions to performing the most expressive jumps with step-by-step instructions and glorious illustrations throughout.
- Steven's journey through the world of ballet has been anything but ordinary, and this is a companion book with a difference.
- Woven through the personal anecdotes on self-care, resilience and self-belief, is the book's central message: ballet is for absolutely everyone, including you!

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Magic Cat Publishing

PREPARATION

Dancers need to respect their bodies, just like athletes. Warming up is a very personal activity and dancers are becoming more and more guided by sports science to understand how they can best prepare their bodies for the daily demands of dancing.



WARMING UP



To genuinely express yourself as a dancer you need your body to have total freedom, and so it is essential to warm up first.

You can warm up in lots of ways, such as doing floor and gym exercises, Pilates or even cycling.

Developing core strength is essential

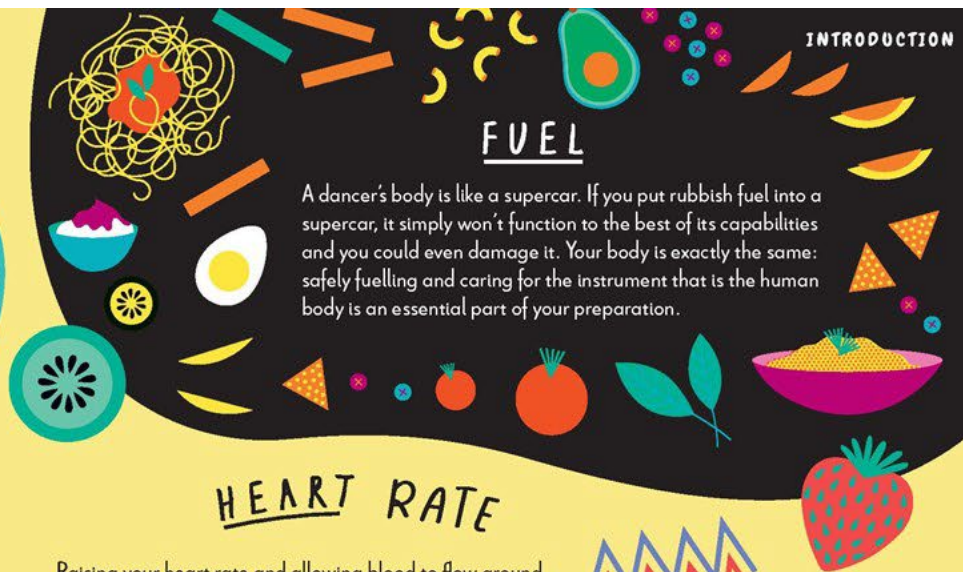


8

INTRODUCTION

FUEL

A dancer's body is like a supercar. If you put rubbish fuel into a supercar, it simply won't function to the best of its capabilities and you could even damage it. Your body is exactly the same: safely fuelling and caring for the instrument that is the human body is an essential part of your preparation.



HEART RATE

Raising your heart rate and allowing blood to flow around your body through active movement, rather than traditional static stretching, will safely prepare you for class.



MUSIC

Music can have a powerful effect on us, so it is no surprise that many dancers include music in their warm-up routines.



Strengthen your feet and ankles

9

BASIC POSITIONS

Ballet helps you build a strong foundation and technique, whatever your style of dance. These five basic positions are the core shapes of ballet, and all ballet dancers – from beginners to professionals – use them at the beginning and end of a movement.

FIRST POSITION

Arms in an oval shape

Fingers curved, index (pointer) finger extended

Fingers soft

Elbows up

Turnout movements come from the hip

Toes pointing outwards

SECOND POSITION

Arms wide like wings

Feet apart, toes facing outwards

THIRD POSITION

One arm out to the side

Weight evenly balanced

One foot crossed halfway in front of the other

FOURTH POSITION

One arm curved above your head

Other arm curved in front

One foot directly in front of the other

FIFTH POSITION

Small gap between the feet

Both arms in an oval shape over your head

Feet touching

The five positions can be mixed and matched: your feet might be in first position while your arms are in second position, for instance. They are like an alphabet: just as an alphabet is the starting point for language, the positions are the starting point from which you can launch into an infinite world of movement and freedom.

NOW FLY

Use these foundations to tell your own story in your own unique way... no matter what terminology you use!

PORT DE BRAS

In classical ballet, port de bras refers to the way in which you hold and move your arms. As you become more advanced, you will be taught an exercise taking you through the five basic positions. These positions will enable you to create a language with your upper body. Try to move your arms gracefully and fluidly through the different positions.

BASIC HAND POSITION

Your hands are very expressive, so try not to forget about them. Shake them out and let your hands relax, then extend your middle finger and your little finger, allowing air between your fingers. Then, pull your thumb towards your index finger. Try to relieve your hands and fingers of any tension – unless you want to express something that requires sharper, spikier shapes.



As you move
your arms...



...breathe deeply
to emphasize your
movements.



Your hands should look like seamless extensions of your arms.



EYES

Dance is all about human interaction and communication. Your eyes are one of the most powerful tools you have to convey emotion. You can use them to draw an imaginary line, creating the illusion of reaching further and helping you to connect with your partner. They also help you to focus when turning, balancing and jumping.



LASER VISION

To help you extend your gaze in relation to the movement of your limbs, imagine that you have lasers shooting out of your eyes that complement the line of your arms or legs. Sounds strange, but it works!

28

SPOTTING

Turning quickly can make you dizzy, so ballet dancers use a technique called 'spotting' to help them keep their balance as they spin.

Spotting is the number one skill to master when performing any pirouette or turn.

TELL A STORY



Your eyes help you to tell a story and convey emotion. Through them you can show sadness, excitement, surprise – just about every feeling! – adding depth to your performance.

Choose a spot at eye level to focus on and start to turn your body.

Twist your shoulders but keep your eyes focussed on the spot as your body turns.

Whip your head around and find your spot as you complete your turn.



29

EXTENSIONS

In ballet, extensions are when a dancer raises their legs in the air, either to the front, side or back. Bigger, more expansive extensions can help tell a story, provoke a reaction from the audience or paint beautiful shapes. Depending on what we are trying to say with our bodies, we might need to make ourselves as small as possible or as big as possible.

It might be tempting to push yourself into extreme positions - especially when using your legs. Don't!

When you're starting to work on your extensions, it's important to have a skilled teacher or coach to guide you. They can help you safely navigate a combination of strengthening and stretching exercises to achieve both mobility and stability. Remember, overstretching is not only dangerous but can also limit your ability to express yourself.

STORY-TELL

Never place your leg without purpose. Make it part of your narrative, whatever that may be.

BRING CONTRAST

Work within your capabilities to produce highs and lows, increased intensity and calmer moods.

JUMPS

Jumps are the closest thing we humans can do to give the illusion of flying. Dancers who are able to combine coordination with strength can appear as though they are suspended in the air.

TEMPS LEVÉ

A graceful hop, starting on one foot and landing on that same foot.

PETIT ALLEGRO

Petit means little, while allegro means quick. In ballet we use this term to refer to a series of small, quick jumps, linking the five main families of jumps together.

SISSONNE

A jump starting on two feet and landing on a single foot.

ASSEMBLE

A jump starting on one leg and joining both together in the air.

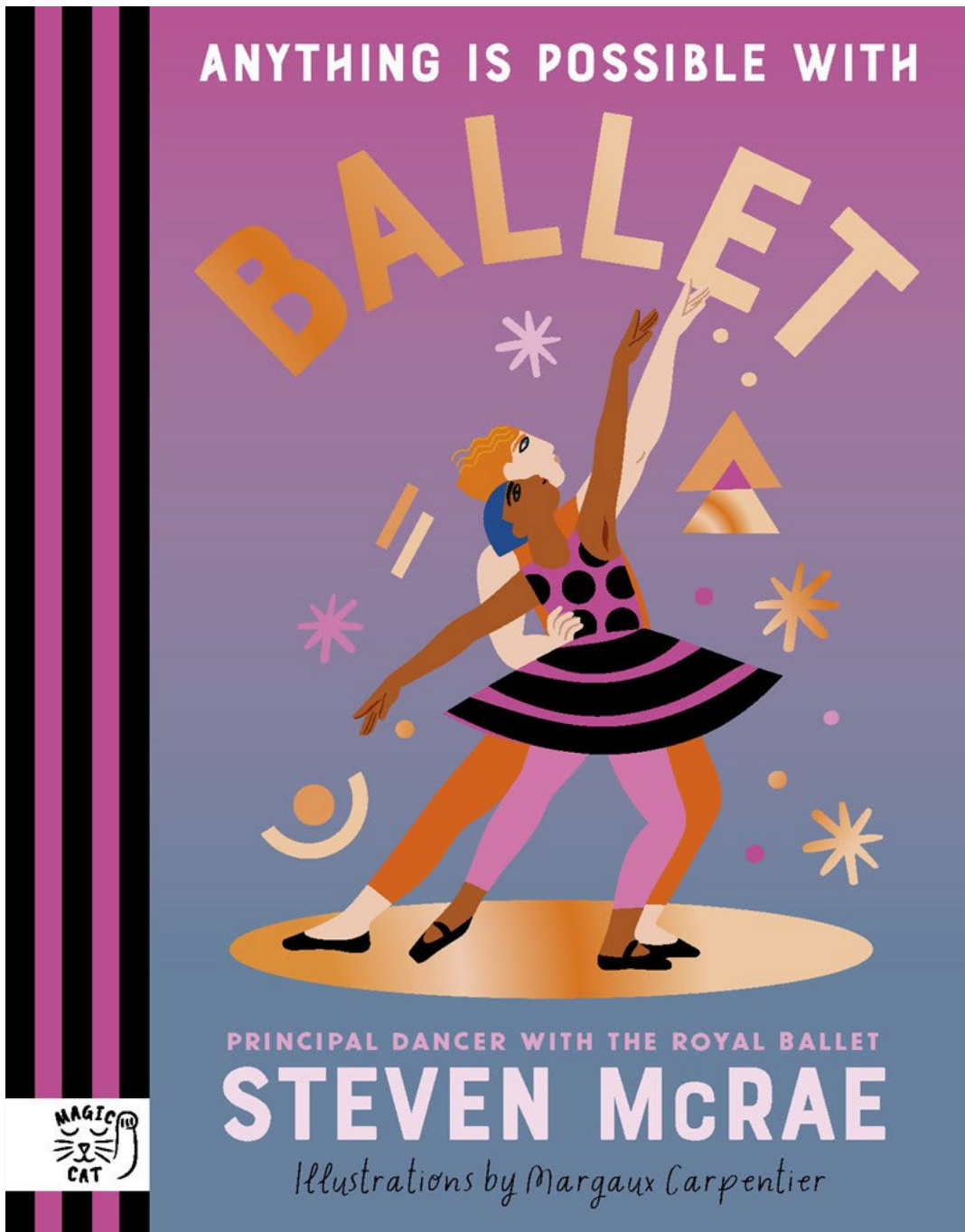
Absorb each landing to protect your body, but also to give the illusion of complete ease, like a cat!

JETÉ

Any jump or giant leap from one foot to the other.

SAUTÉ

This usually means a jump in which you start and land on two feet.



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Steven McRae and illustrated by Margaux Carpentier

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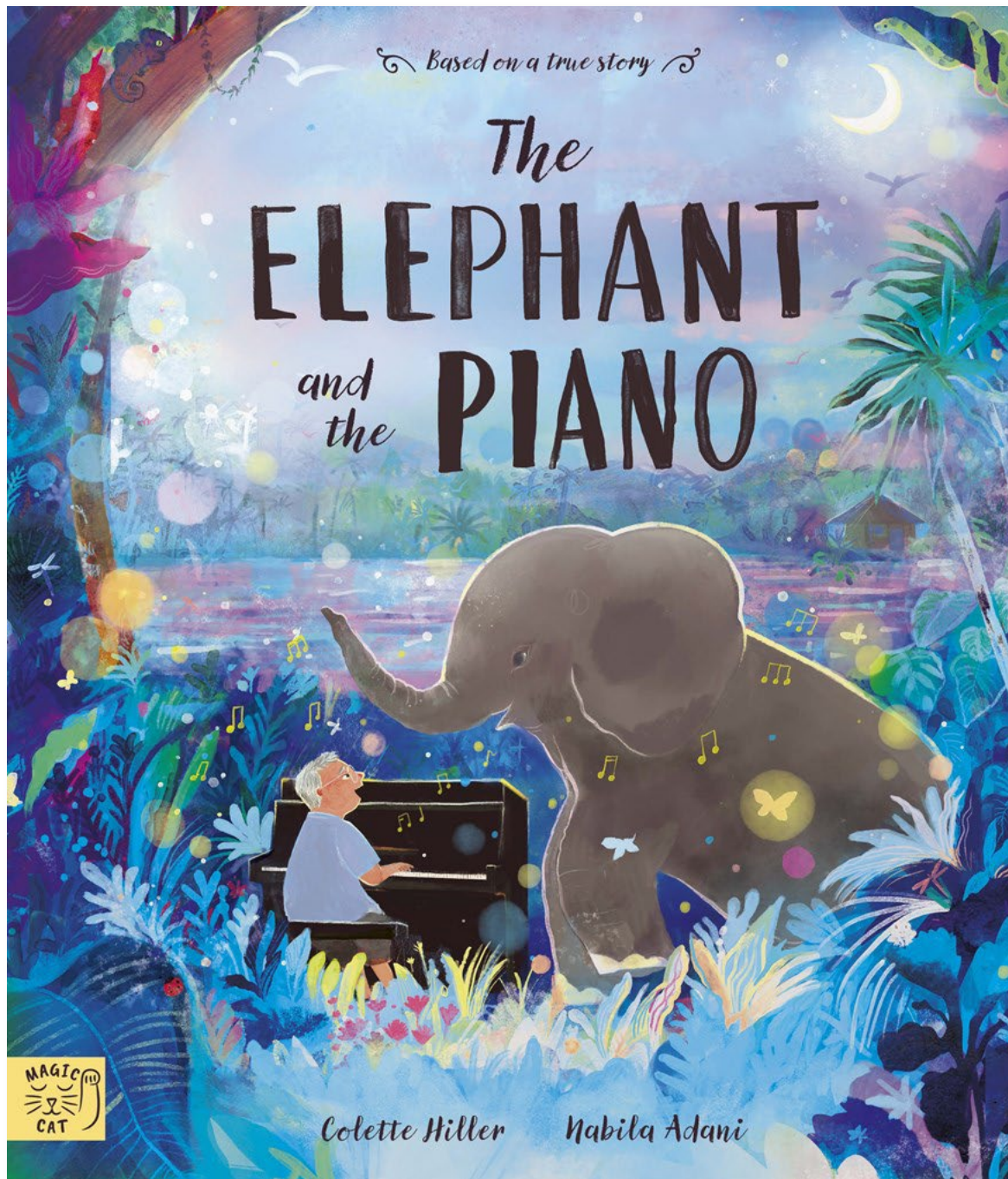
Based on a true story

The ELEPHANT and the PIANO



Colette Hiller

Nabila Adani



The Elephant and the Piano

Colette Hiller and Nabila Adani

An incredible and uplifting true story about how music has healed troubled elephants in a sanctuary in Thailand.

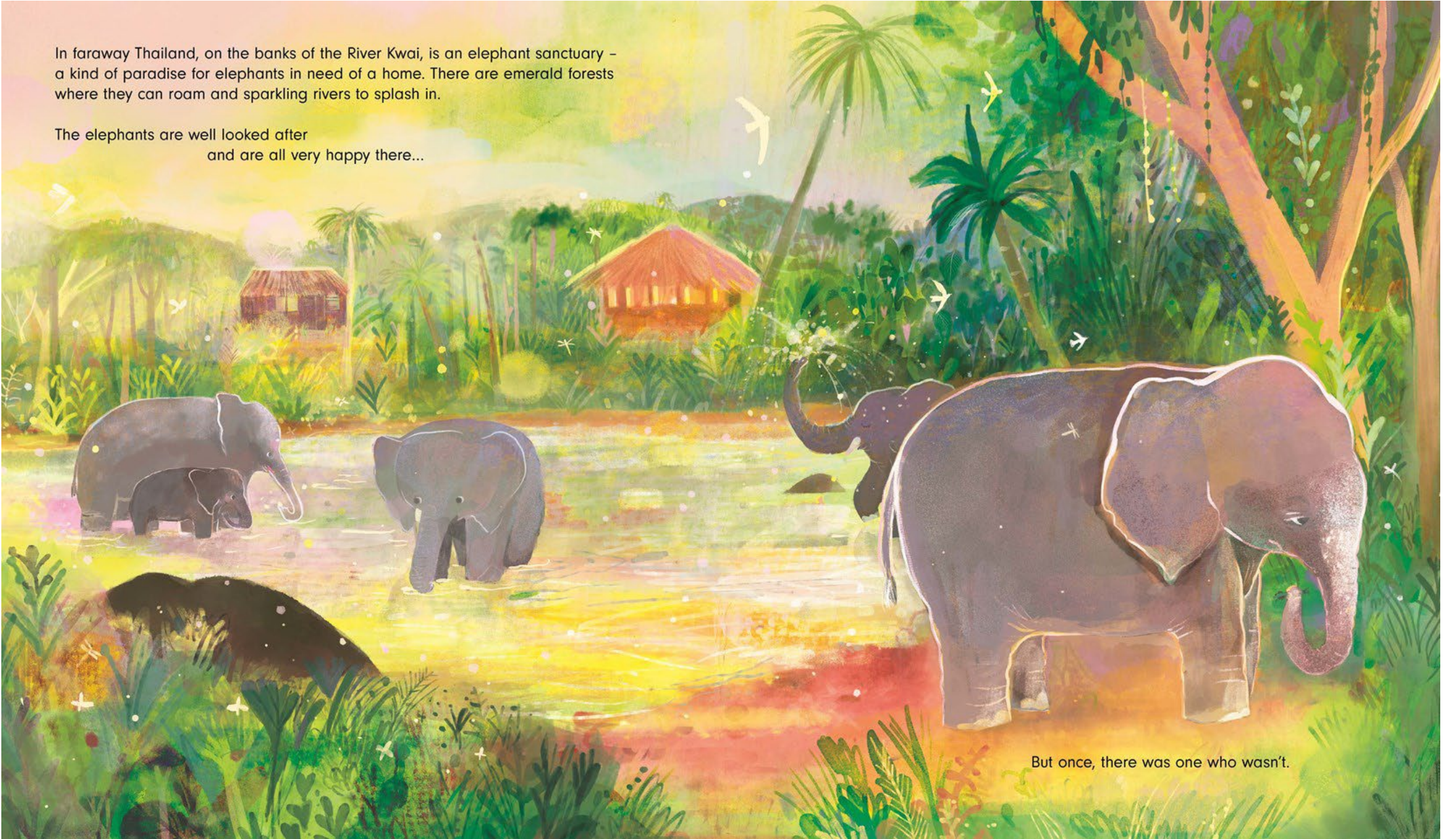
- In a sanctuary in Thailand lived an elephant called Bonti. Short-tempered and destructive, Bonti was alone - the other elephants (and humans) knew to keep their distance.
- But when a musician came to play the piano for Bonti, something incredible happened...
- *The Elephant and the Piano* tells the spectacular true story of Paul Barton and the elephants who loved to hear him play.

AGES 3 - 6

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280 mm x 240 mm
Magic Cat Publishing

In faraway Thailand, on the banks of the River Kwai, is an elephant sanctuary – a kind of paradise for elephants in need of a home. There are emerald forests where they can roam and sparkling rivers to splash in.

The elephants are well looked after
and are all very happy there...



But once, there was one who wasn't.

Now, Bonti was different to the other elephants.
He didn't like playing with them,



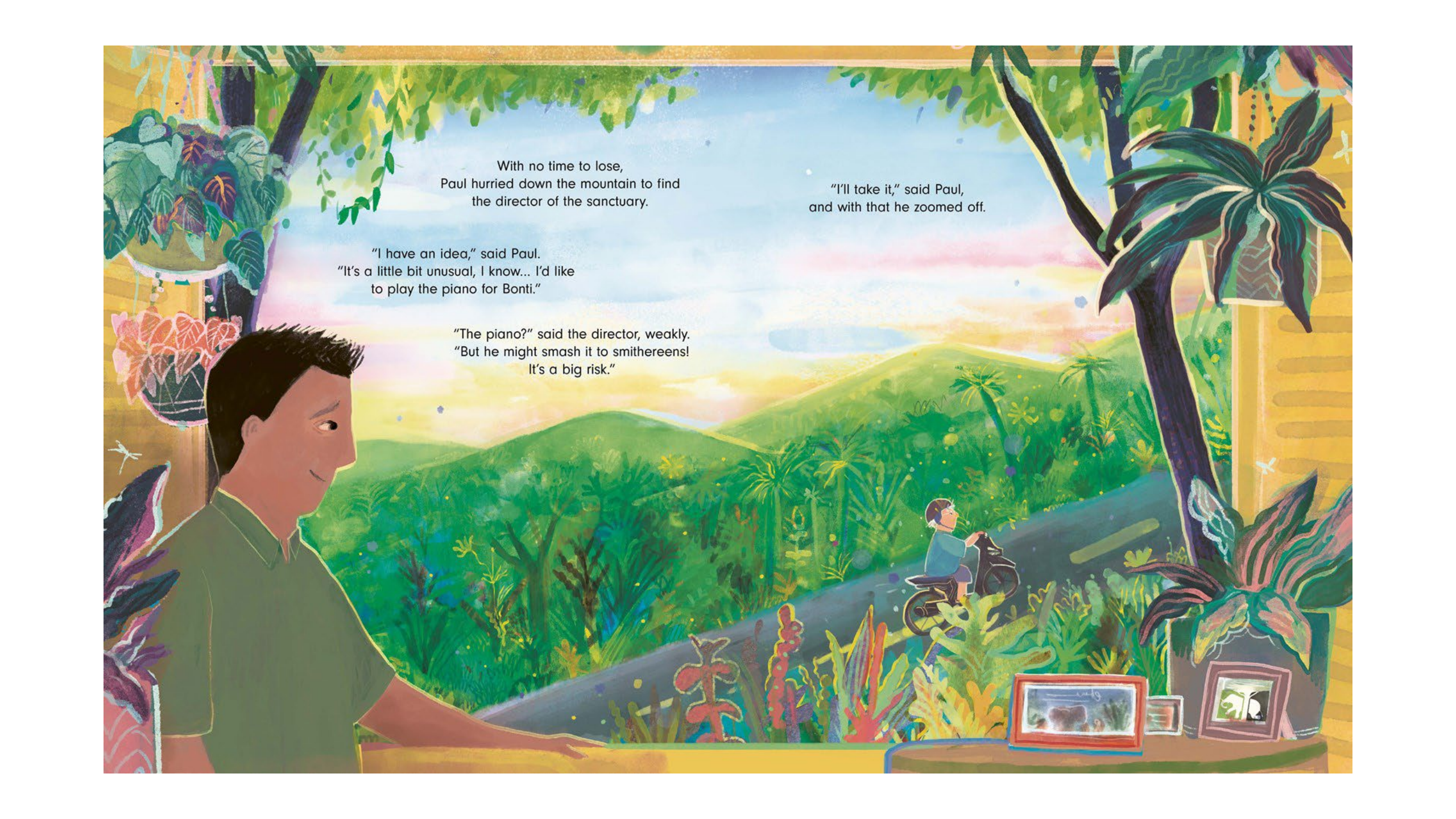
or joining for mountain walks.



He was unpredictable and quick to get angry. He was also very big.



Everyone learned to keep their distance.



With no time to lose,
Paul hurried down the mountain to find
the director of the sanctuary.

"I have an idea," said Paul.
"It's a little bit unusual, I know... I'd like
to play the piano for Bonti."

"The piano?" said the director, weakly.
"But he might smash it to smithereens!
It's a big risk."

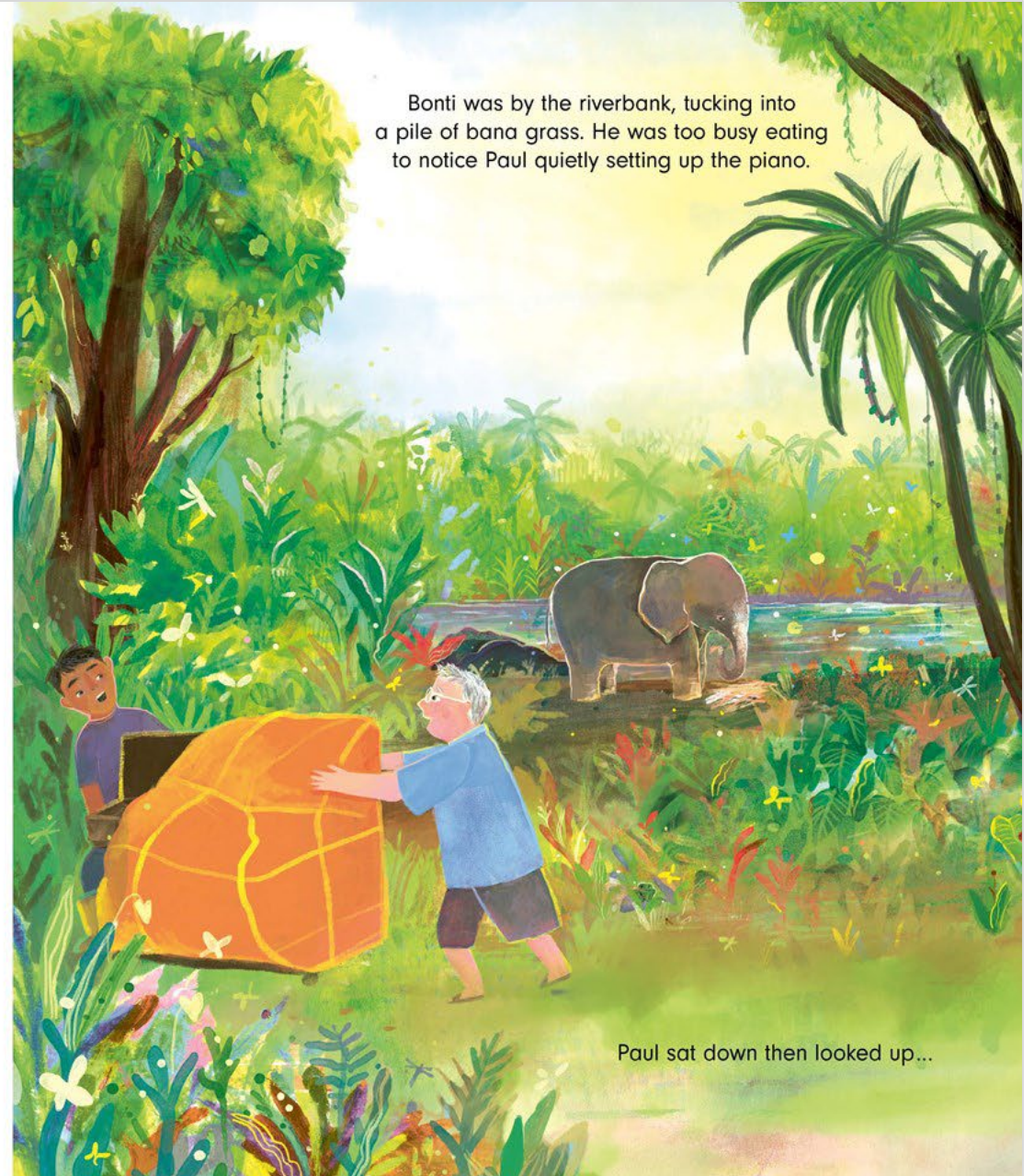
"I'll take it," said Paul,
and with that he zoomed off.

The next morning, Paul's neighbours
helped load the piano into an old van,



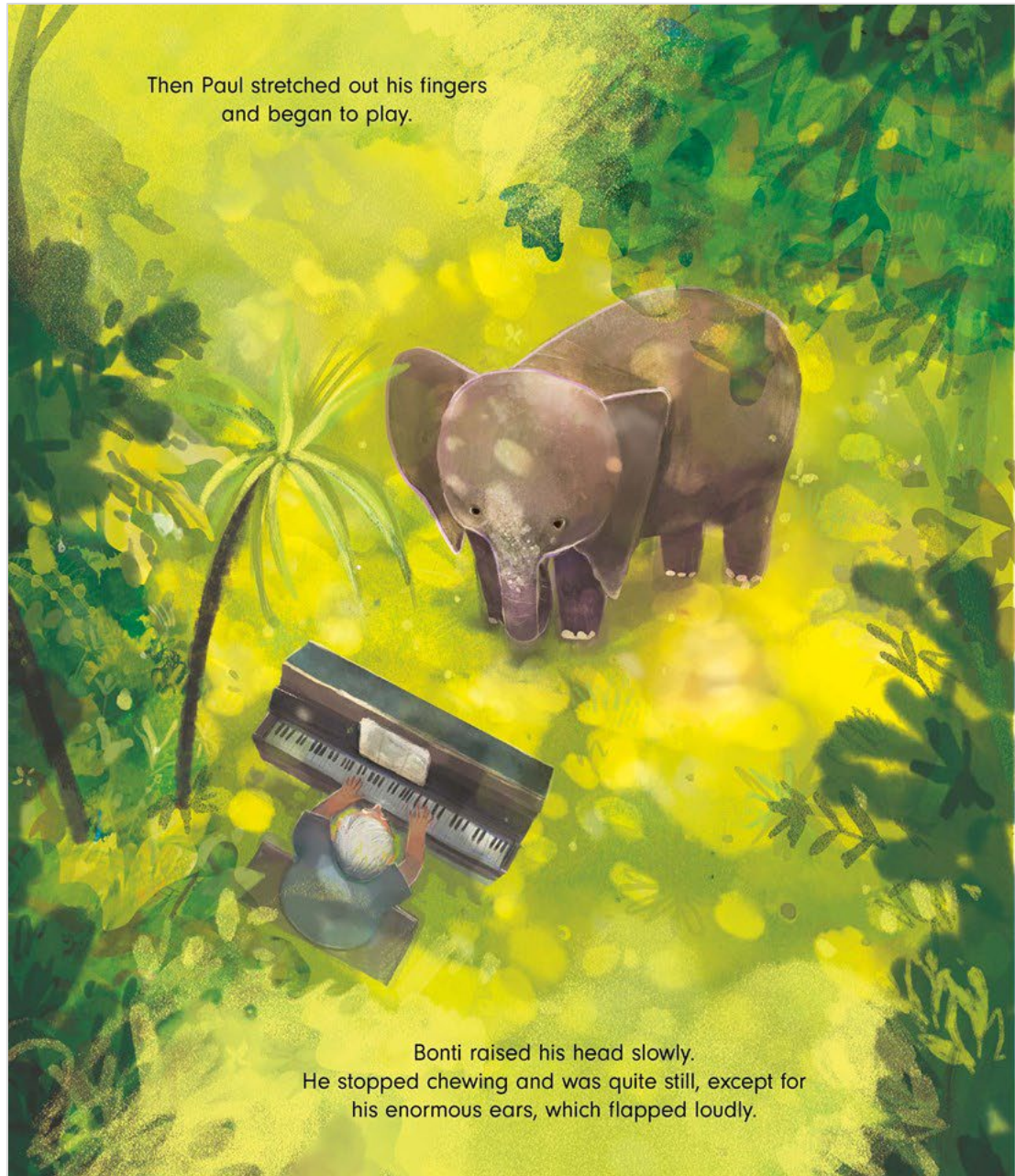
and off he set.

Bonti was by the riverbank, tucking into
a pile of bana grass. He was too busy eating
to notice Paul quietly setting up the piano.



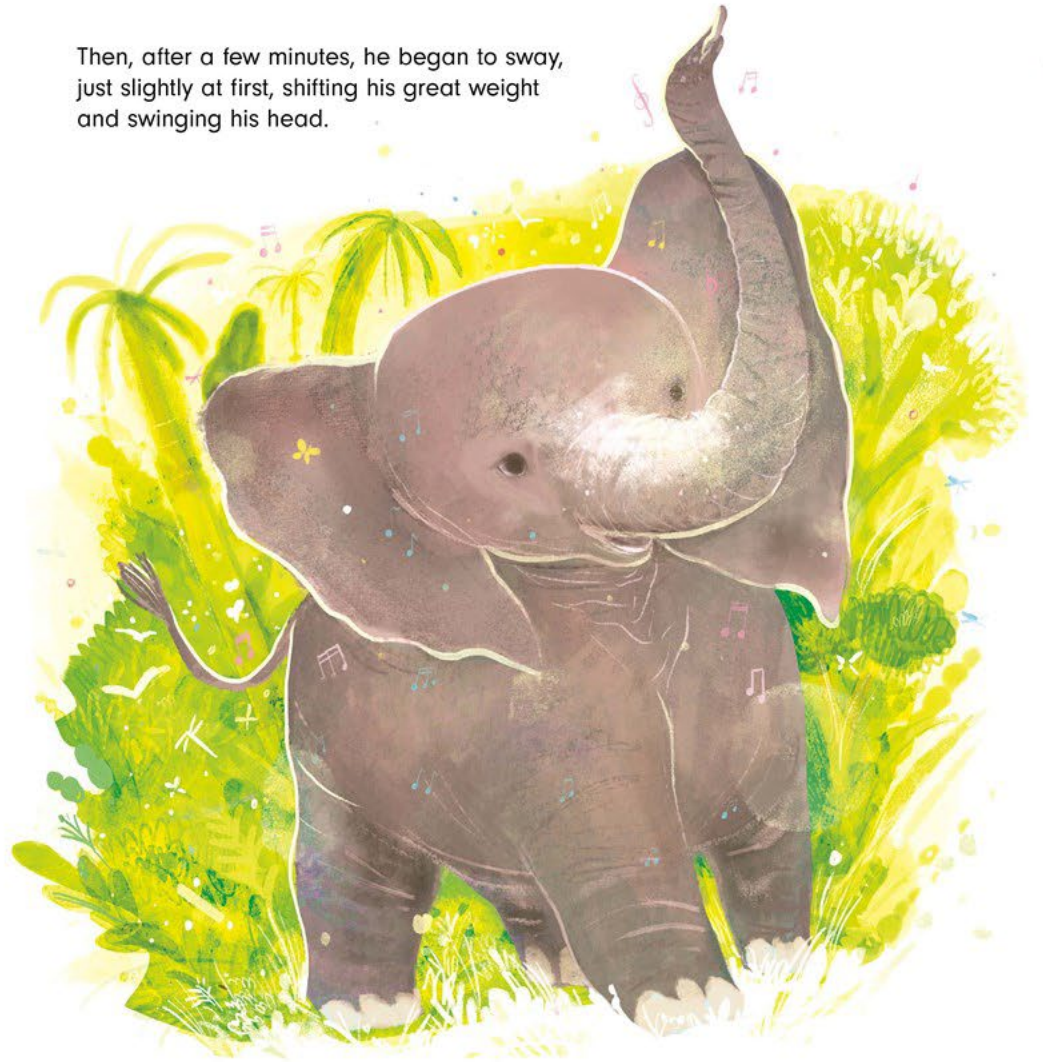
Paul sat down then looked up...

Then Paul stretched out his fingers
and began to play.



Bonti raised his head slowly.
He stopped chewing and was quite still, except for
his enormous ears, which flapped loudly.

Then, after a few minutes, he began to sway,
just slightly at first, shifting his great weight
and swinging his head.



When the melody soared,
Bonti stretched his trunk high in the air.

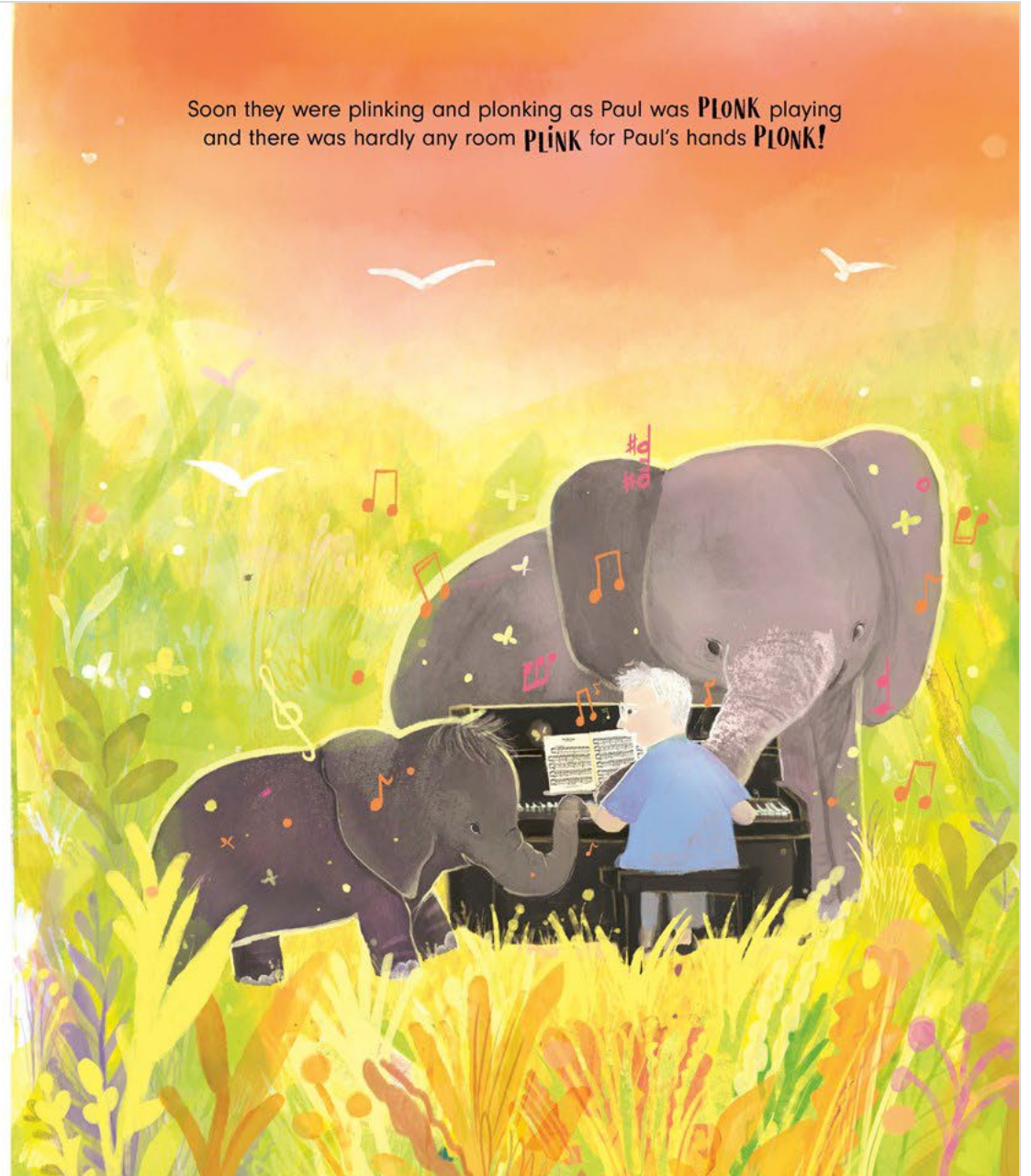
But Bonti didn't lash out.

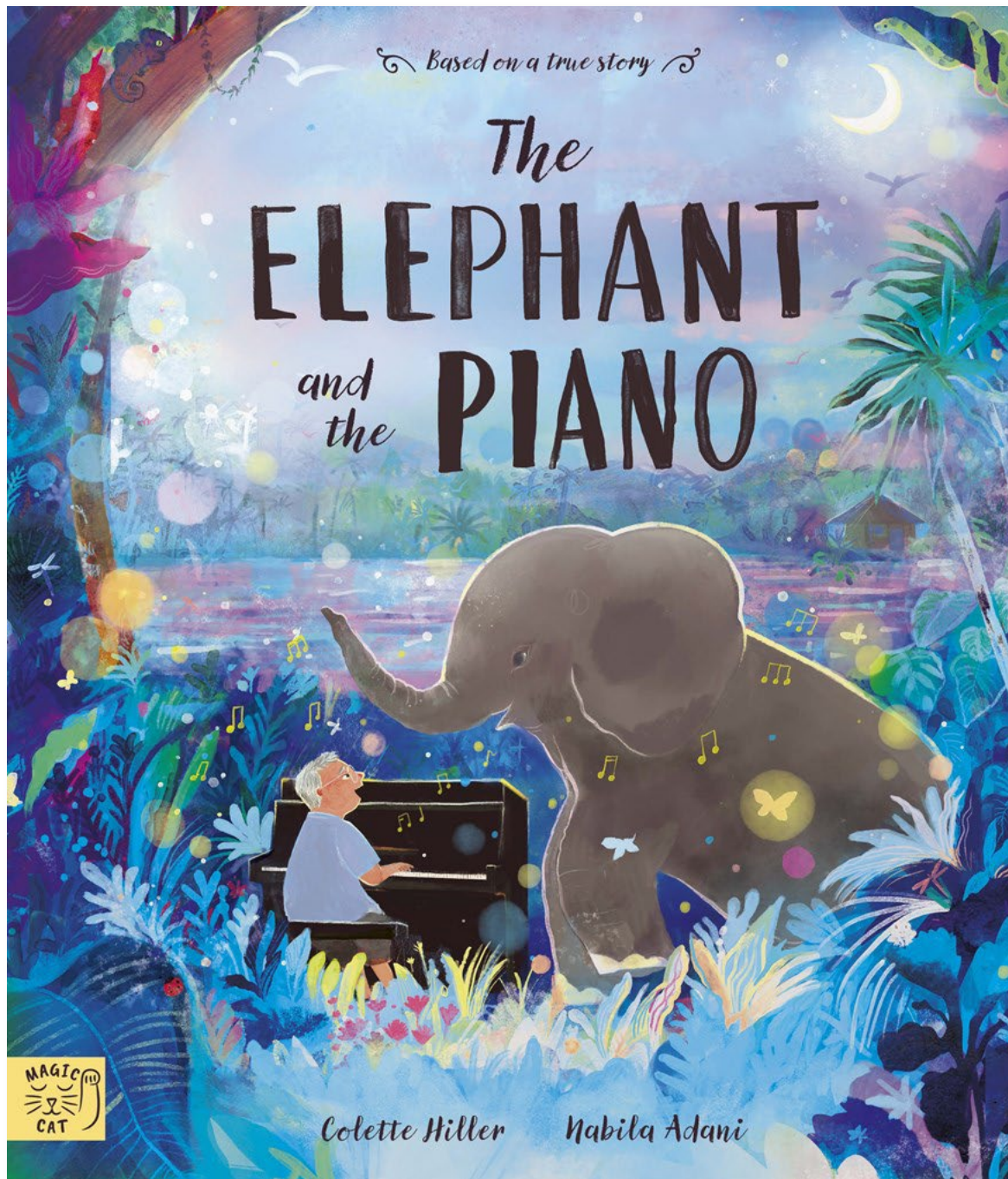


And when the smaller one stepped up to the piano and dropped his trunk onto the keys with a **Plink**, Bonti was curious and did the same on the other side. **Plonk!**



Soon they were plinking and plonking as Paul was **Plonk** playing and there was hardly any room **Plink** for Paul's hands **Plonk!**





The Elephant and the Piano

Colette Hiller and Nabila Adani

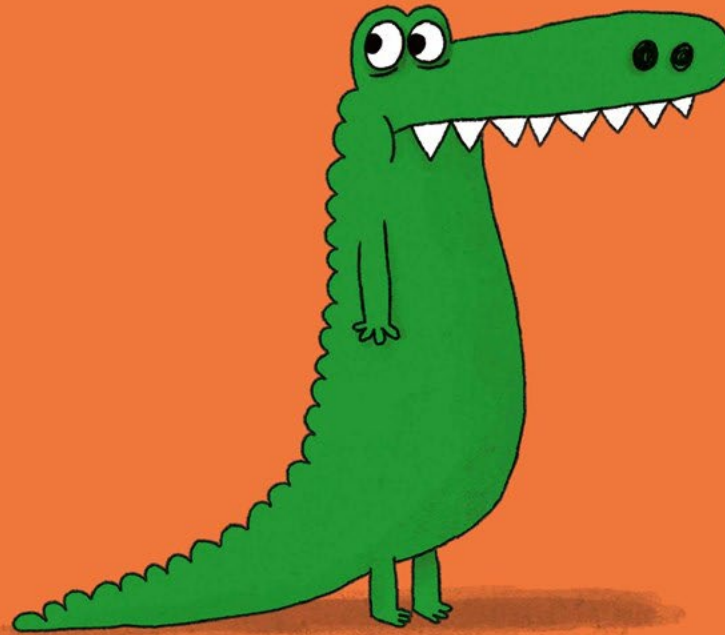
An incredible and uplifting true story about how music has healed troubled elephants in a sanctuary in Thailand.

- In a sanctuary in Thailand lived an elephant called Bonti. Short-tempered and destructive, Bonti was alone - the other elephants (and humans) knew to keep their distance.
- But when a musician came to play the piano for Bonti, something incredible happened...
- *The Elephant and the Piano* tells the spectacular true story of Paul Barton and the elephants who loved to hear him play.

AGES 3 - 6

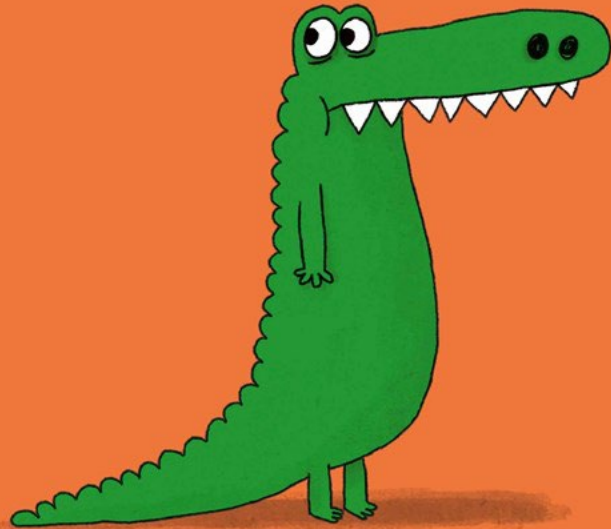
AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99
9781917044066
40 Pages
Paperback
280 mm x 240 mm
Magic Cat Publishing

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?



MICHAËL ESCOFFIER • DELPHINE DURAND

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?



MICHAËL ESCOFFIER • DELPHINE DURAND

Are You Looking for Trouble?

Michaël Escoffier and illustrated by Delphine Durand

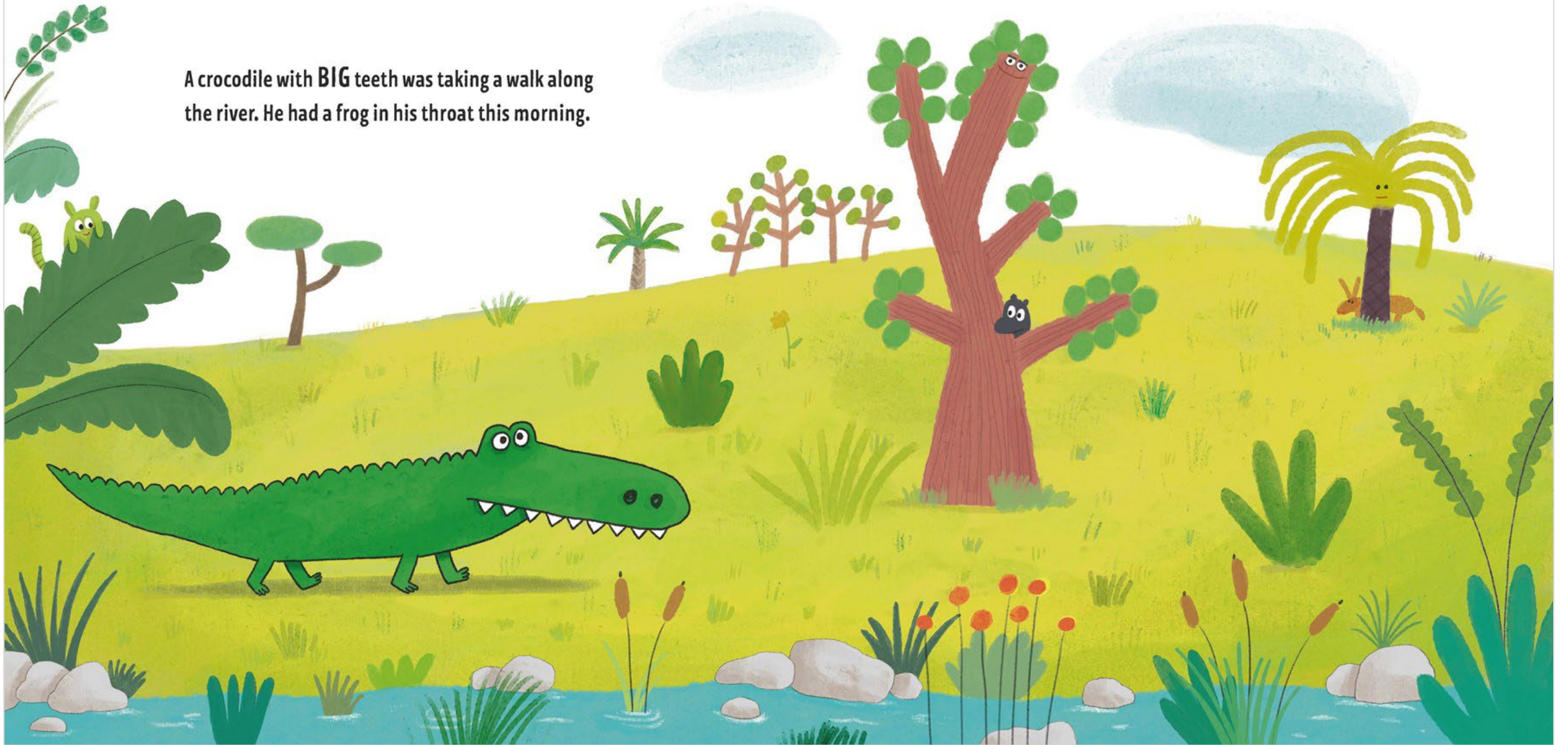
On the banks of the river walks a crocodile... and he's looking for trouble!

- Crocodile has woken up with a frog in his throat. He heads out on a walk and asks the same question to every animal he meets: "Are you looking for trouble?" No one is up for the challenge - that is, until he comes across an enormous elephant.
- A fantastically funny picture book, *Are You Looking for Trouble?* is the perfect read aloud story to share with your little one.
- With bold illustrations by Delphine Durand, and a hilarious twist to look forward to, this is a book to come back to again and again.

AGES 3+

AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99
9781917366595
32 Pages
Paperback
254 mm x 254 mm
Magic Cat Publishing

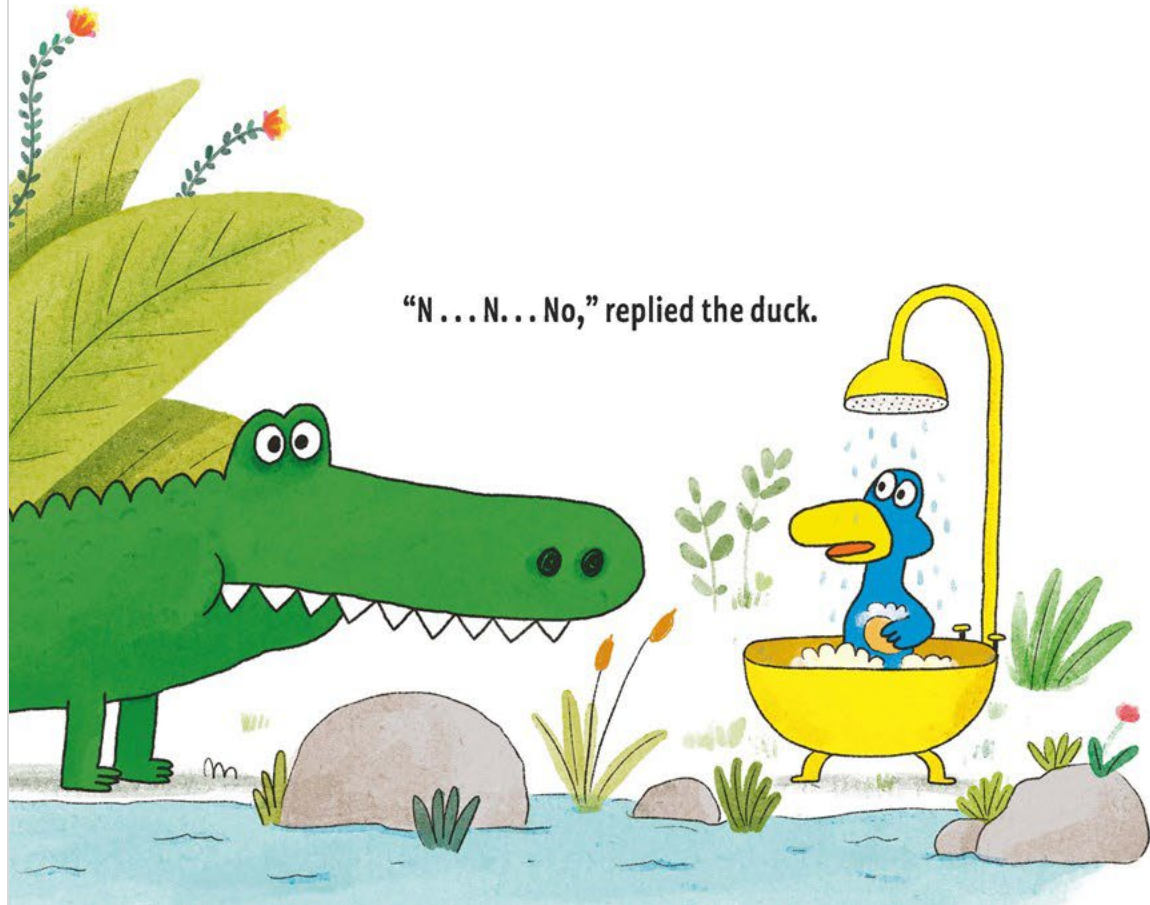
A crocodile with **BIG** teeth was taking a walk along the river. He had a frog in his throat this morning.



He came across a **DUCK** having a shower.

"CROAK!" croaked the crocodile.

"Are you looking for trouble?"



"N... N... No," replied the duck.

"N... N... Not at all,"
and he flew off, terrified.



A little later, the crocodile came
across a **WARTHOG** having a nap.

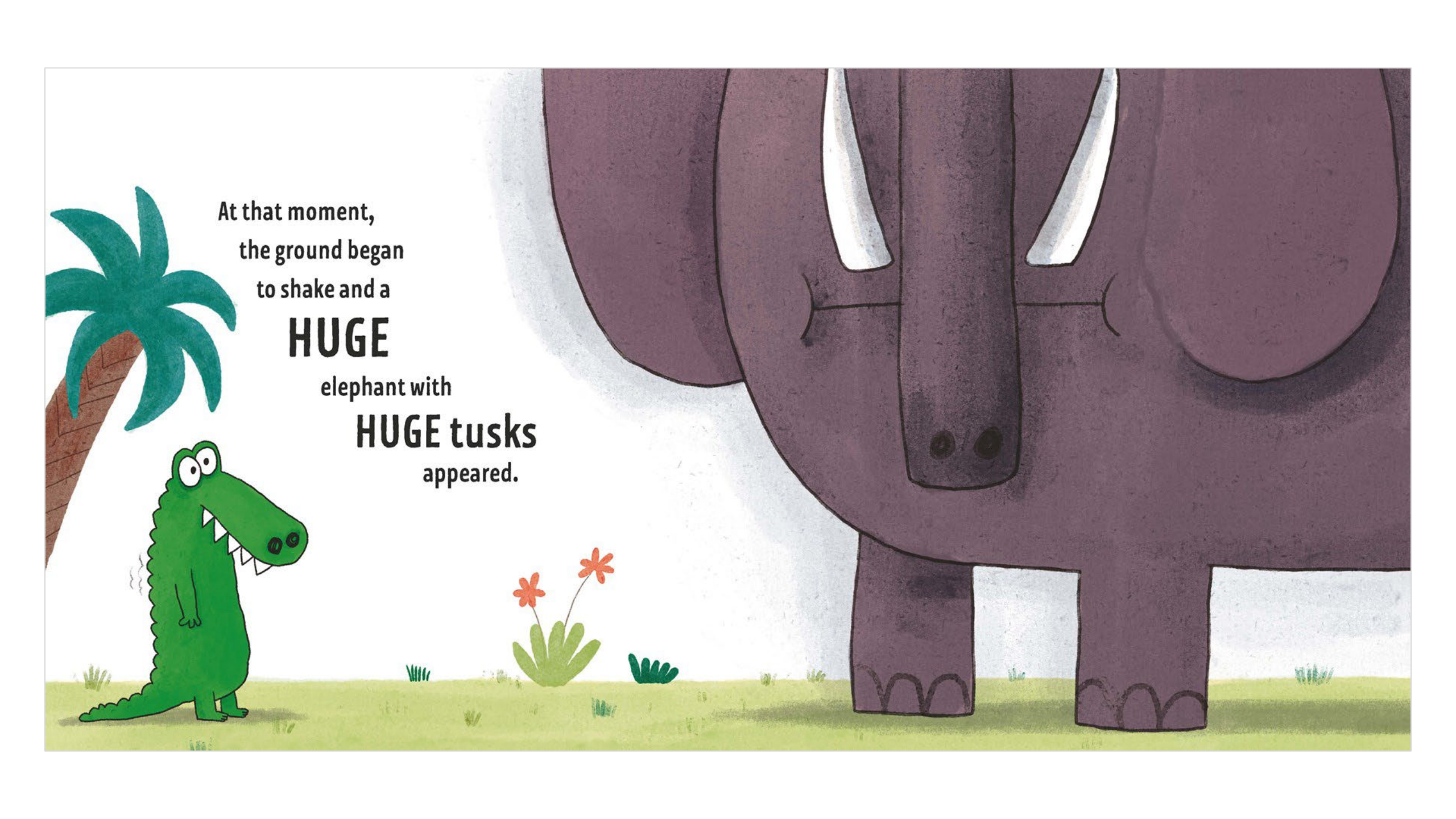




The crocodile with a frog in his throat
set off again on his walk. Not long after,
he came across a **GRAZING ZEBRA**.

At the top of the bank, the crocodile
found himself nose to nose with
a **LEOPARD** on the lookout.





At that moment,
the ground began
to shake and a

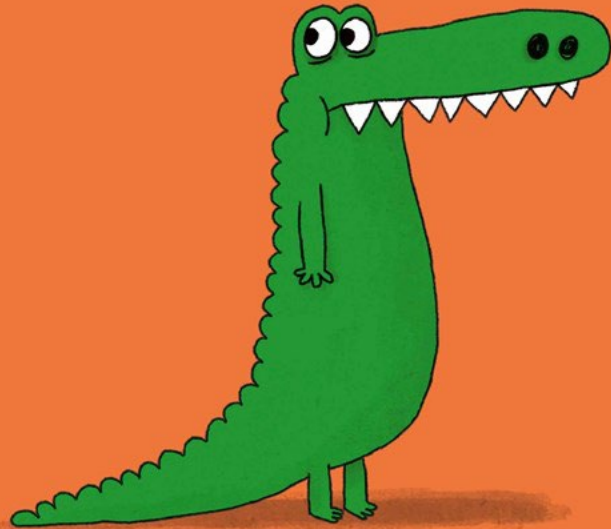
HUGE

elephant with

HUGE tusks

appeared.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?



MICHAËL ESCOFFIER • DELPHINE DURAND

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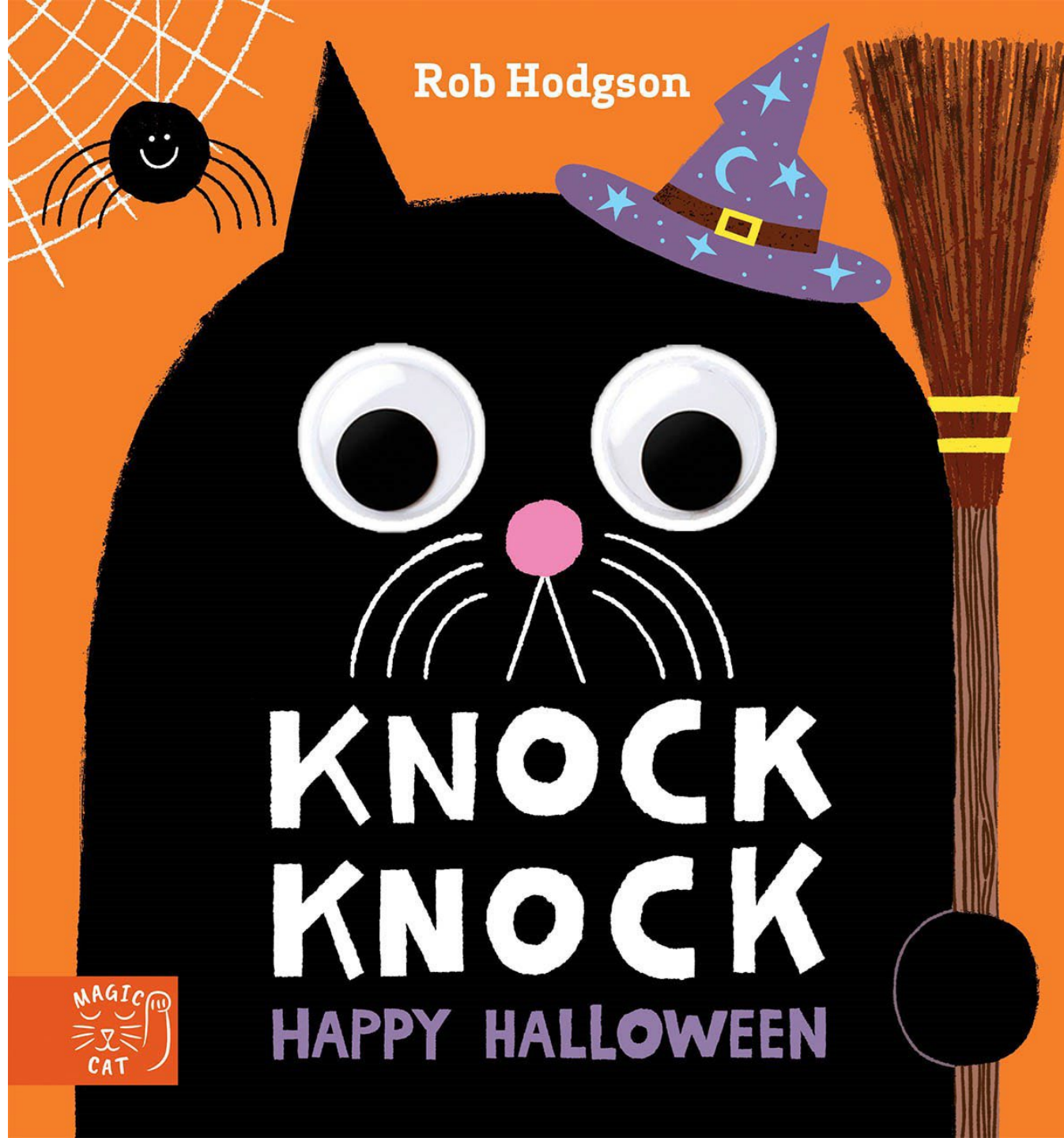
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Rob Hodgson

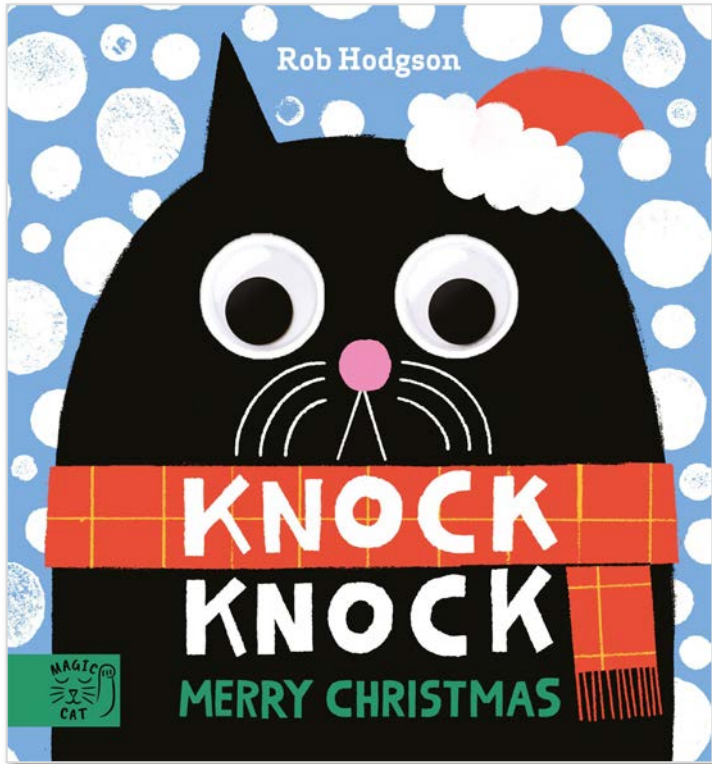


**KNOCK
KNOCK**

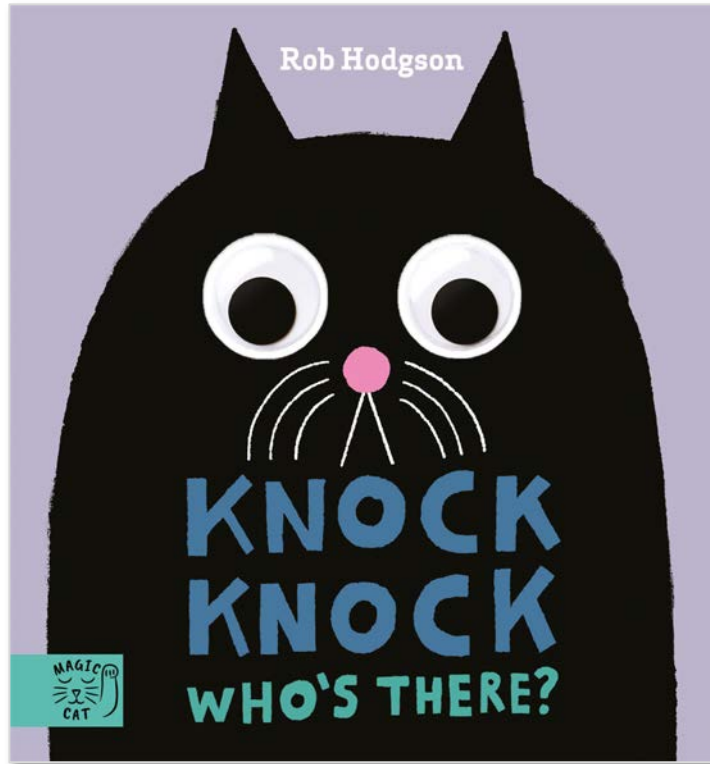
HAPPY HALLOWEEN



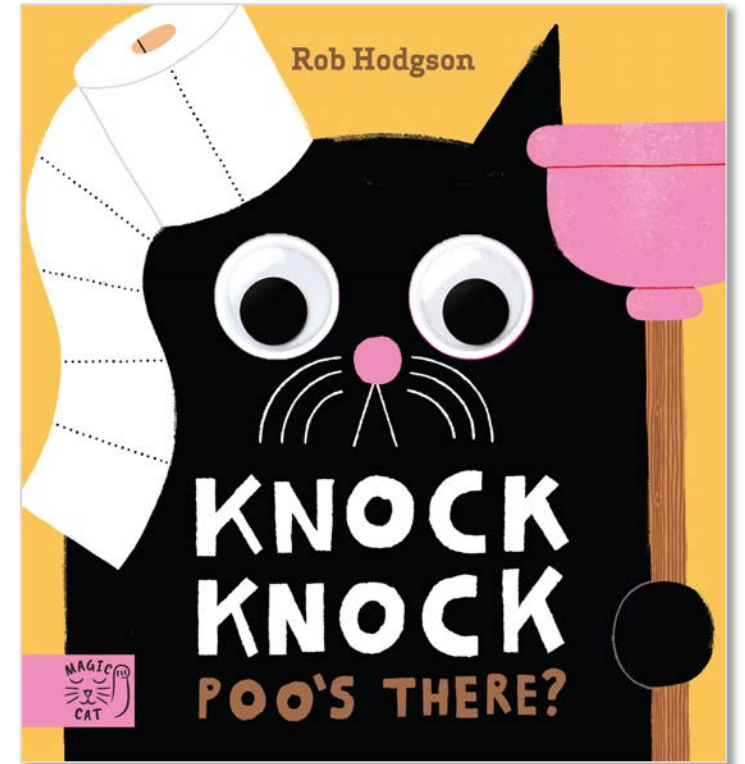
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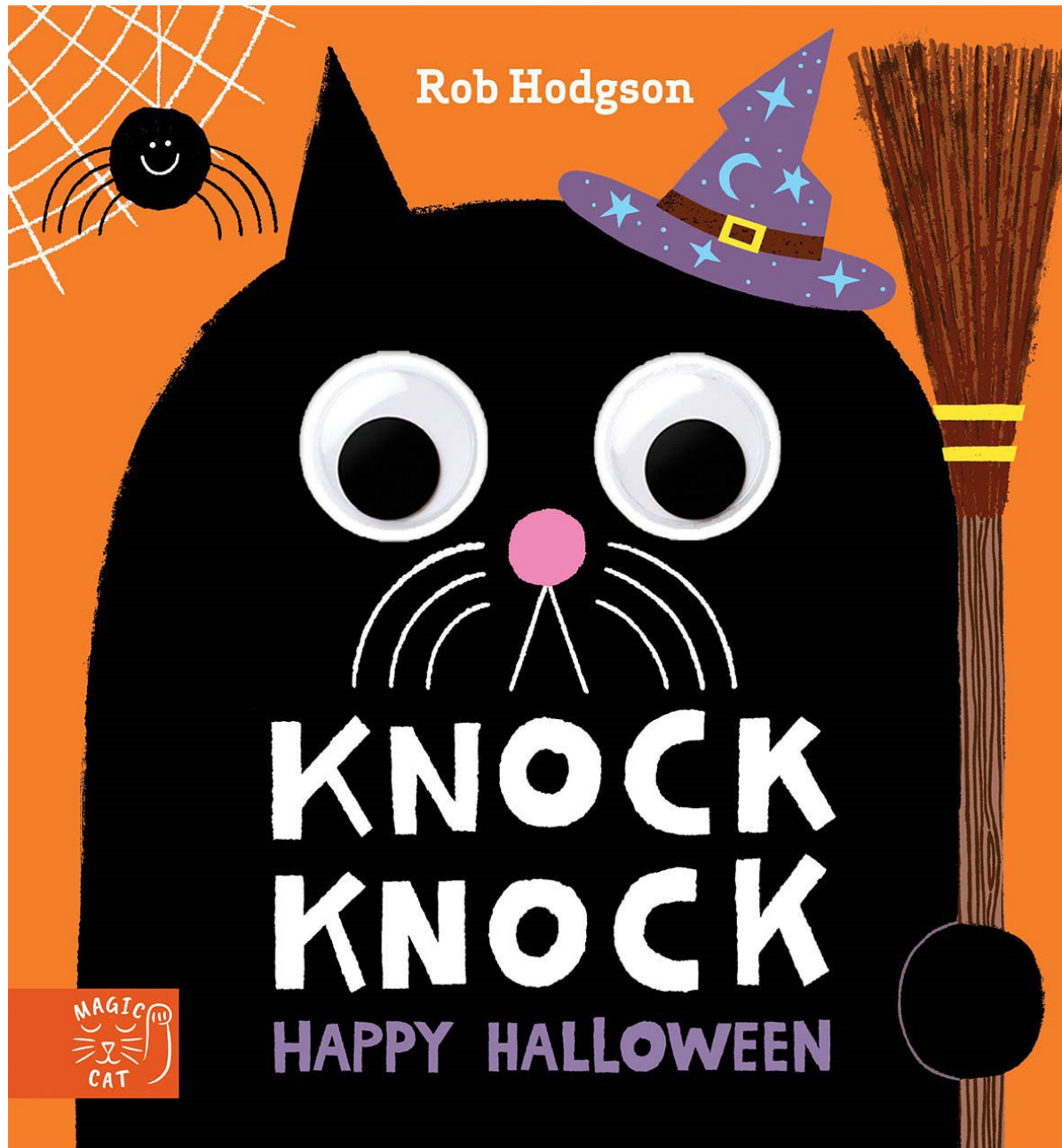
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Knock Knock Happy Halloween

Jennifer Eckford

A spooky googly-eyed joke book for Halloween.

Knock-knock on the door and reveal a new trick-or-treat visitor with every turn of the page - each with their own joke to tell and wearing a silly costume!

This easy-to-follow format is a lovely introduction to the world of comedy for little jokers, and you're sure to be laughing along with them. On the final page, there's one last spooky surprise that's sure to get young readers in the mood for Halloween!

This book is the perfect way to celebrate Halloween!

- Children will love telling their first jokes and making their friends and family laugh!
- Fun, novelty format with googly eyes that jiggle when you wiggle the book
- Classic "Knock, knock" joke format is easy for little ones to understand
- Funky, fun artwork is sure to keep young audiences captivated
- AGES 2+

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9781915569622

16 Pages

Board Book

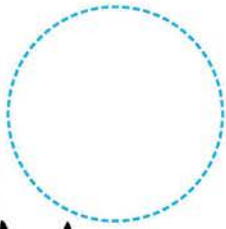
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Knock, knock!

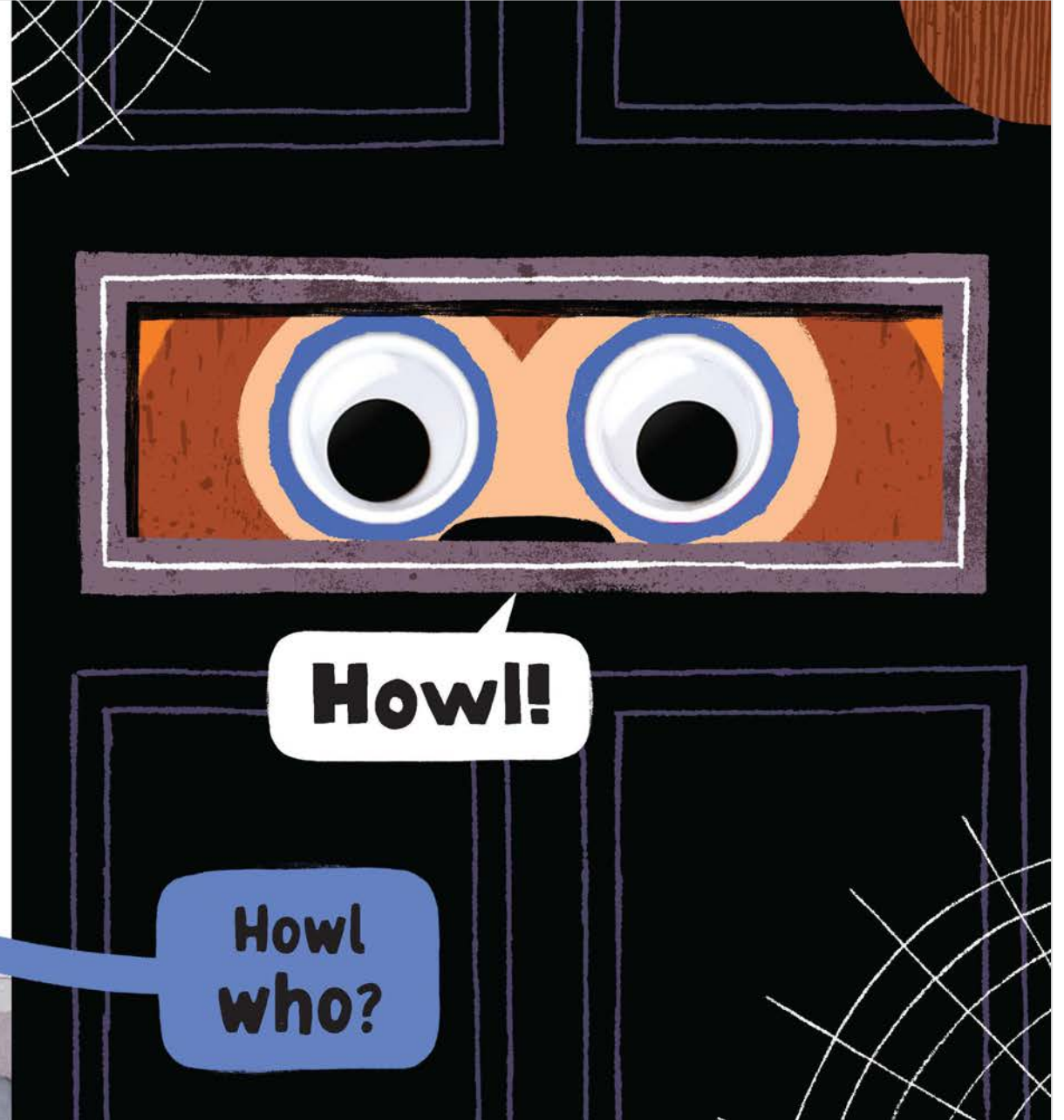


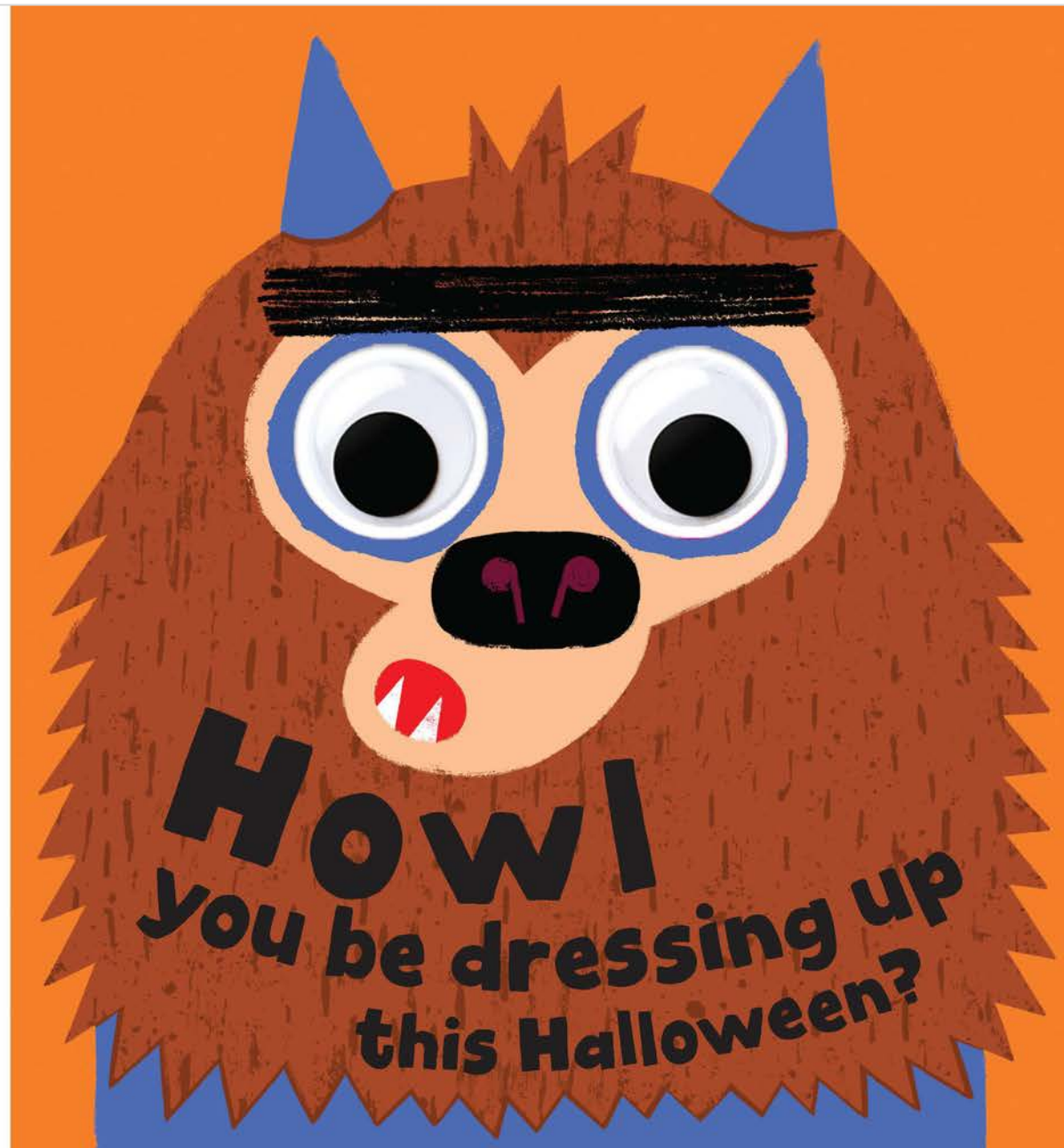
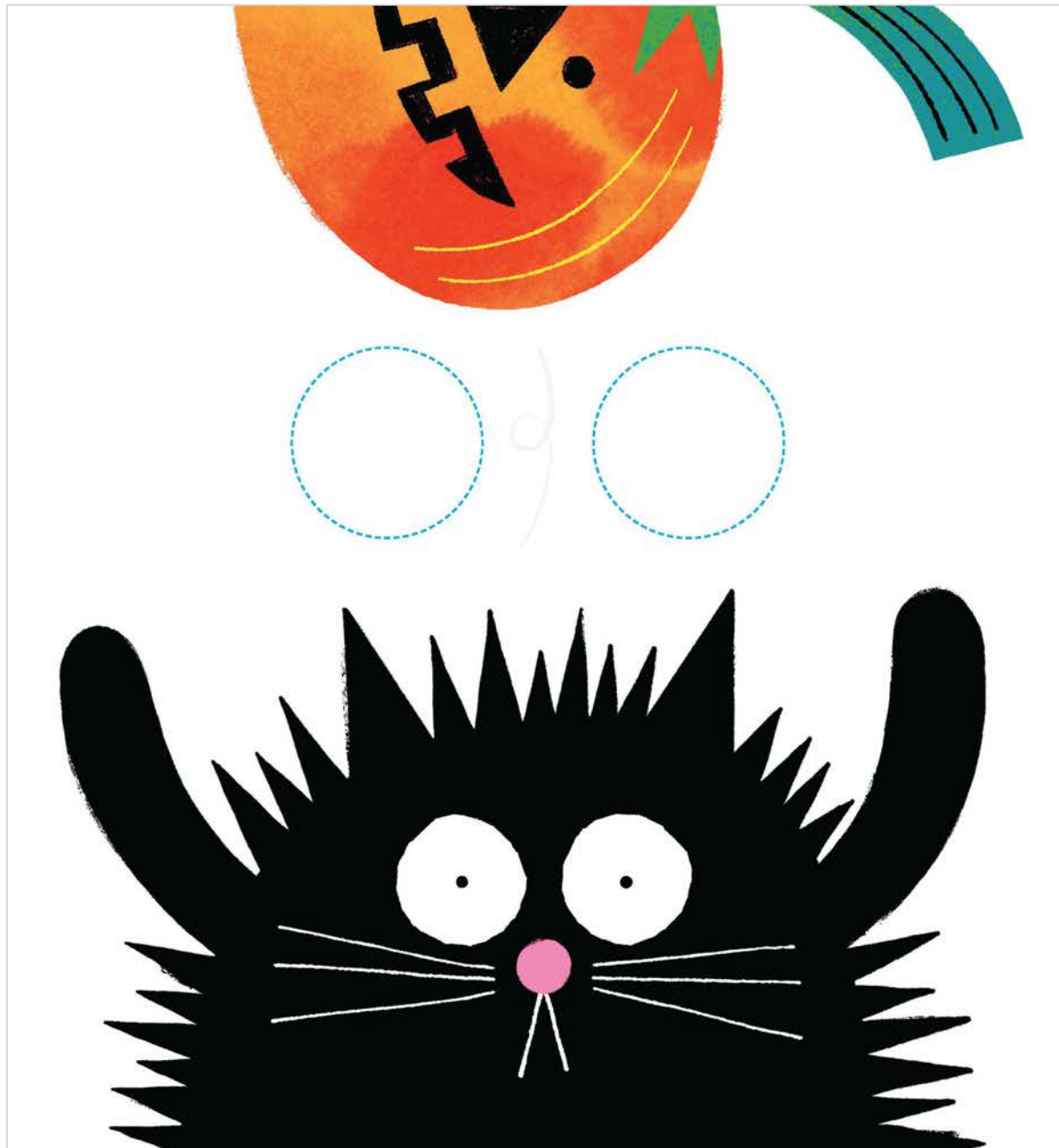
Who's there?



Howl!!

**Howl
who?**





Knock, knock!

Who's there?



Witch.

Witch
who?





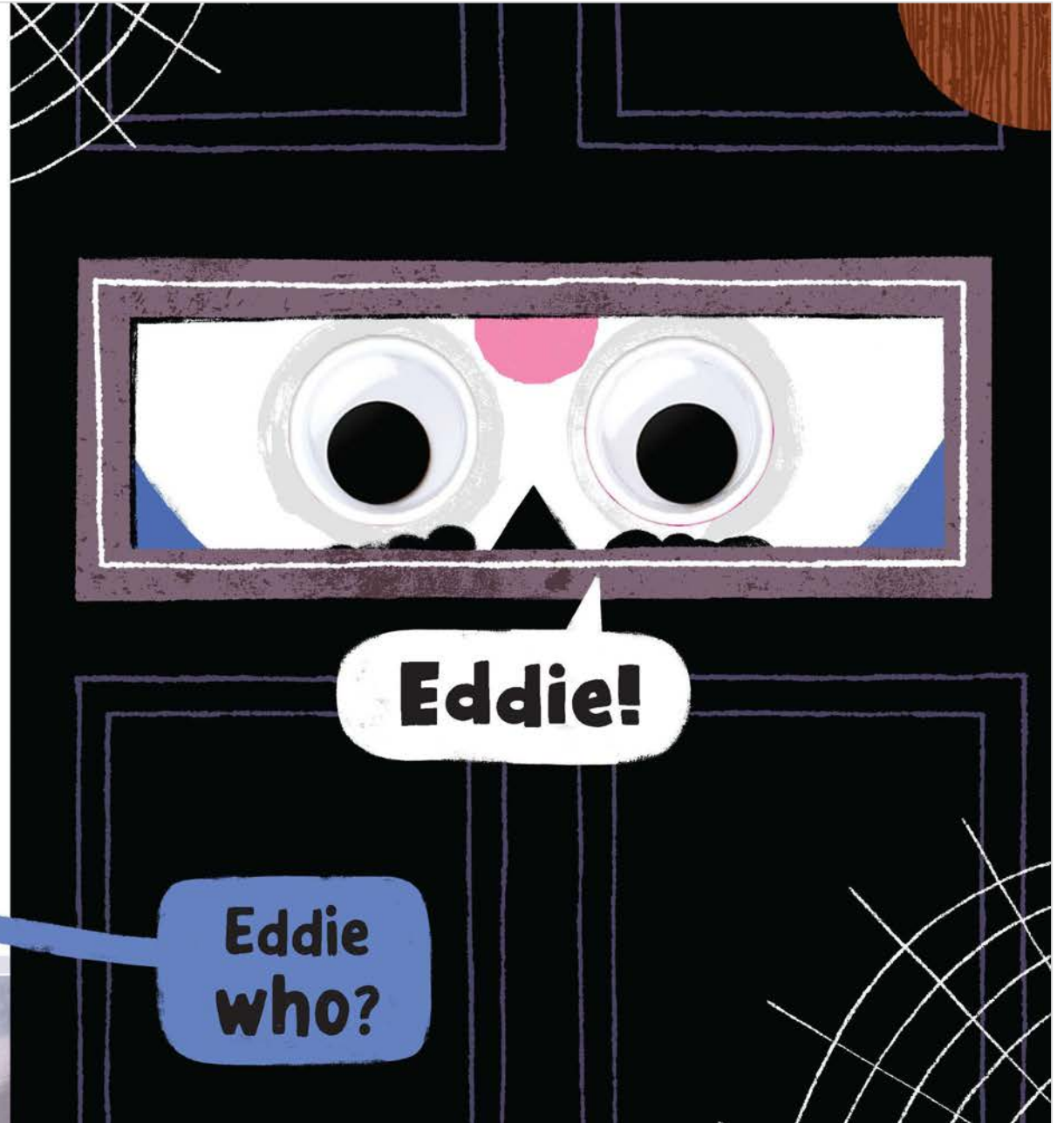
Knock, knock!

Who's there?



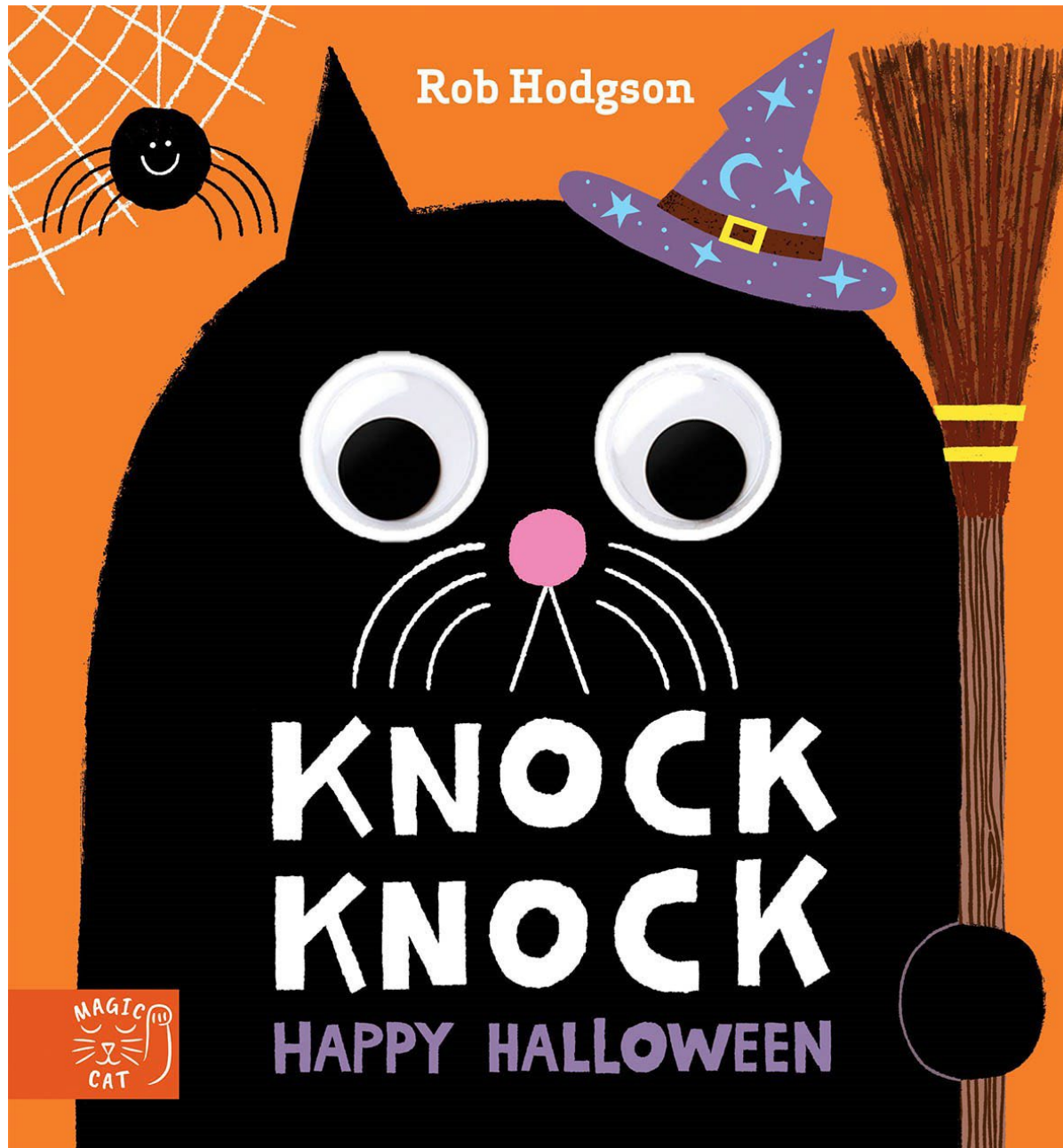
Eddie!

**Eddie
who?**





Eddie-body's here!
Happy Halloween!



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MAYA GABEIRA

BEYOND THE BOARD



THE UNTOLD STORY
OF THE WORLD'S MOST
DARING BIG WAVE SURFER



Beyond the Board

The Untold Story of the World's Most Daring Big Wave Surfer

Maya Gabeira

From surfing legend Maya Gabeira comes this awe-inspiring memoir for teens about chartering your own course and making waves.

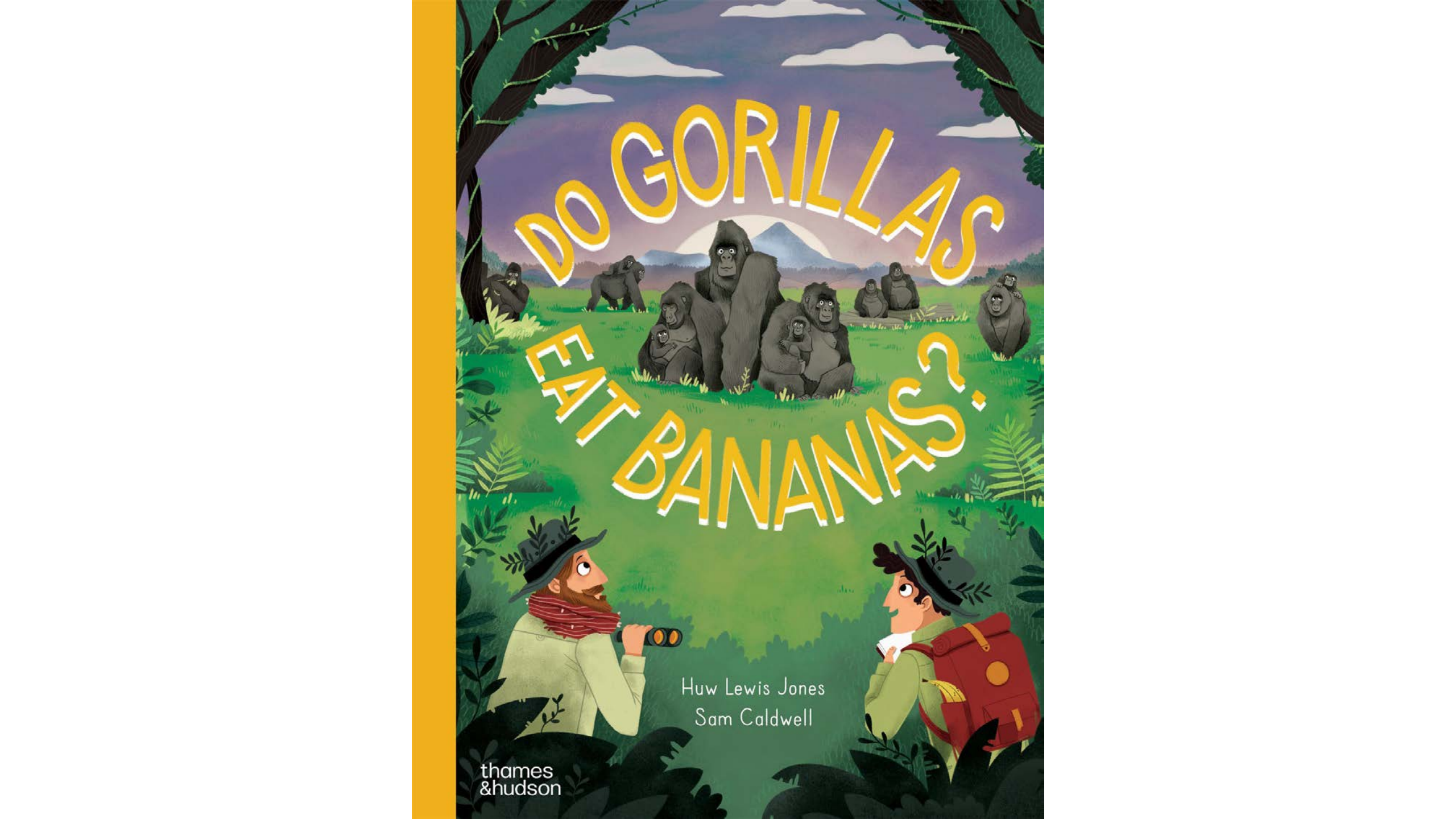
TEEN FAVORITE: As a recipient of a Teen Choice Award for Best Female Action Sports Star, Maya has a proven record of appealing to young athletes and sports fanatics.

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT: Maya faced harassment, misogyny, and a near-fatal accident, and emerged a two-time Guinness World Record holder. Her achievements have changed the conversation surrounding female versus male dominance in big-wave surfing.

IN THE MEDIA: Maya's documentary, *Maya and the Wave*, premiered at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival and was first runner-up for the People's Choice Award for Documentaries. The film also debuted in the United States at the SVA Film Festival to a standing ovation.

AGES 13+

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264 Pages
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Amulet Books

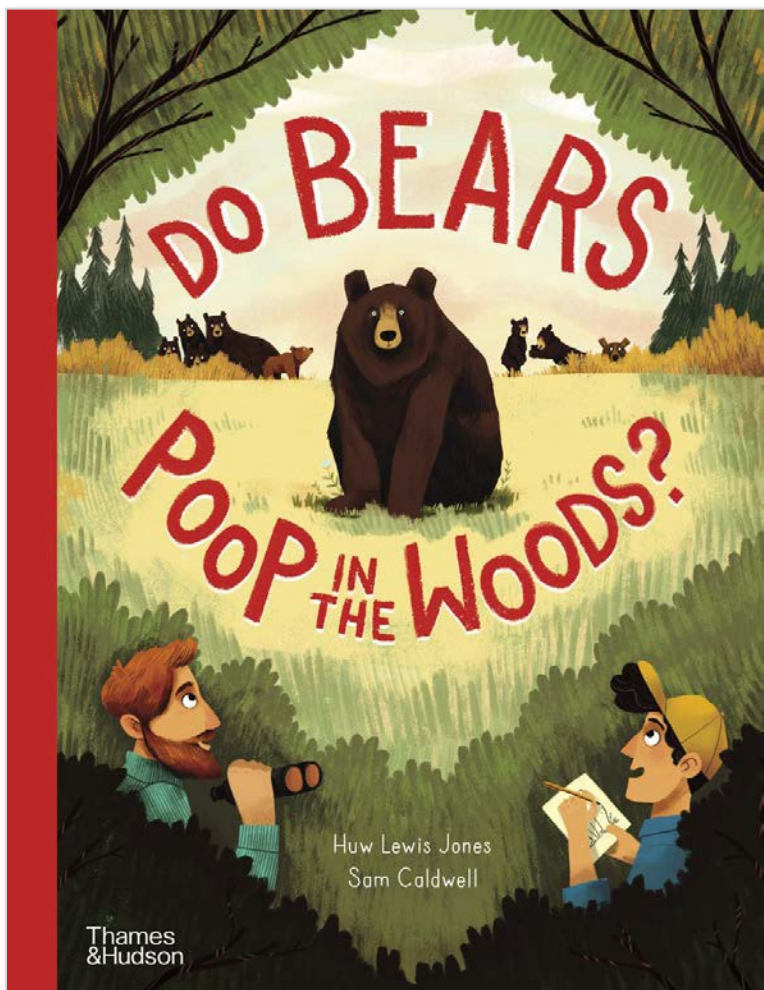


DO GORILLAS EAT BANANAS?

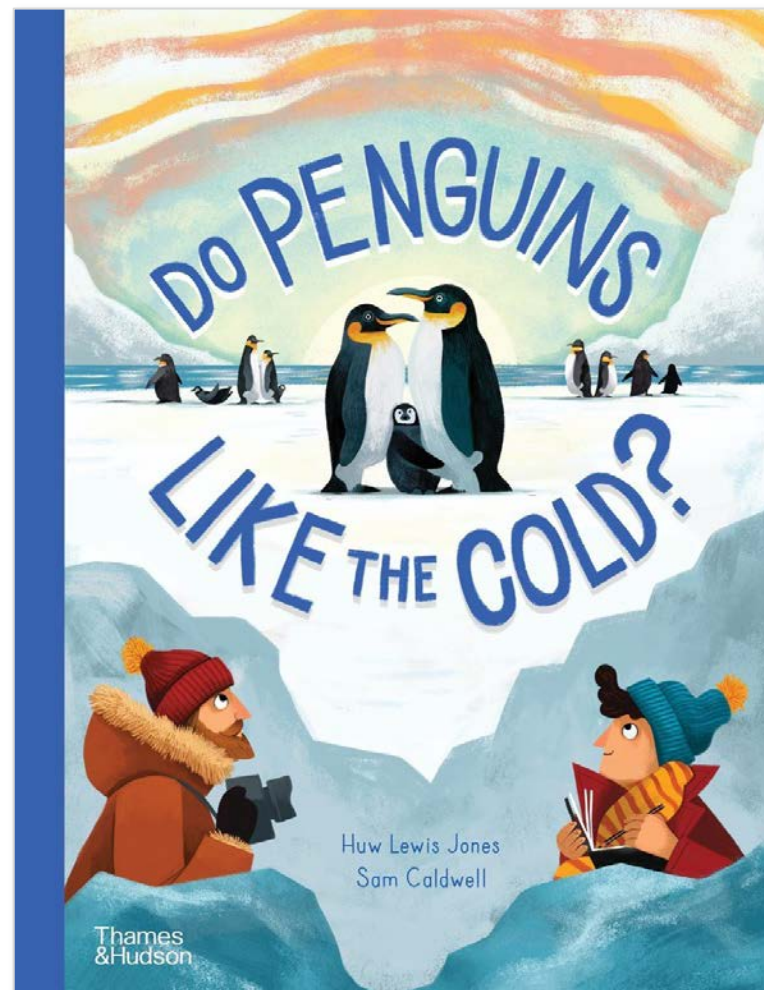
Huw Lewis Jones
Sam Caldwell

thames
& hudson

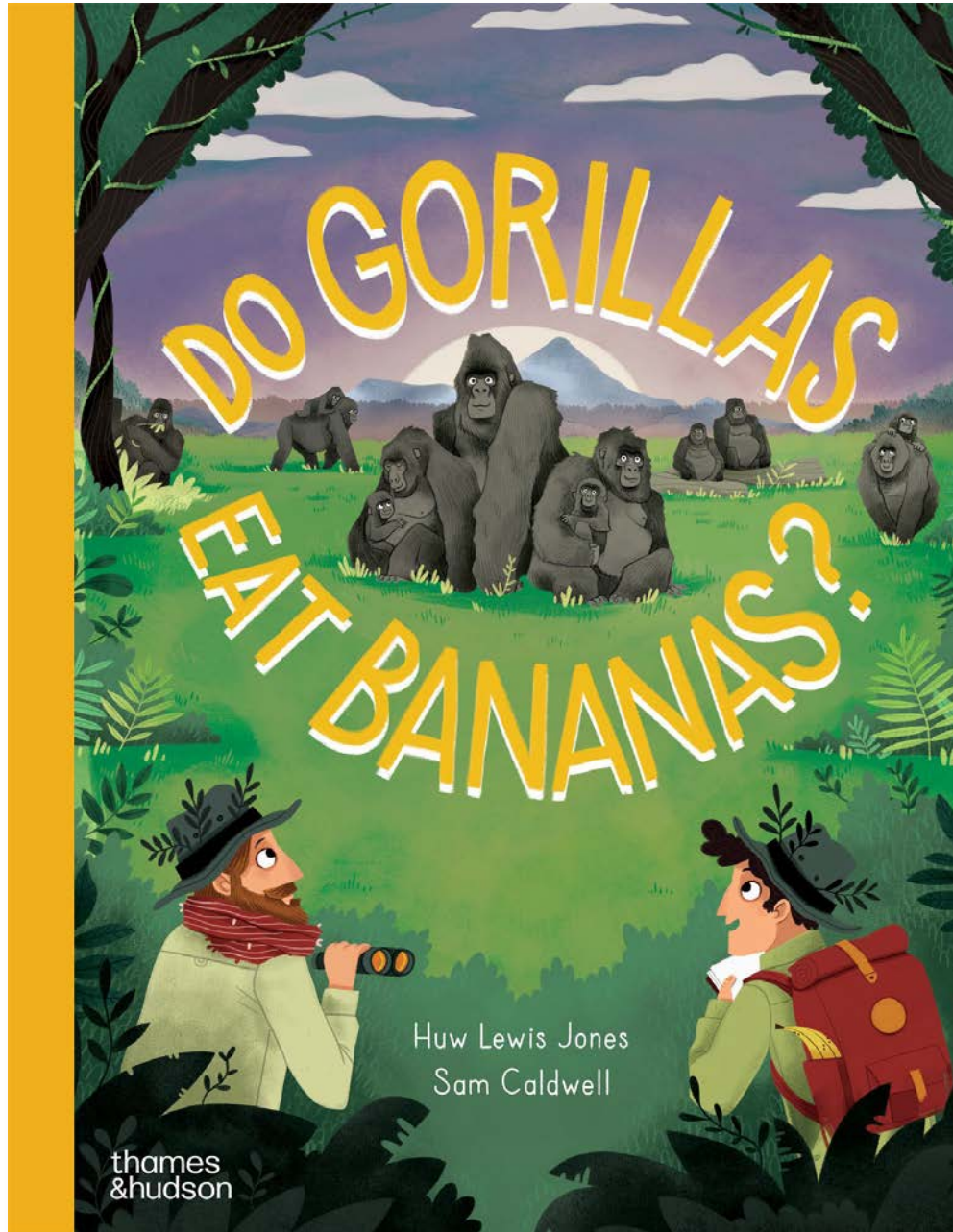
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Do Gorillas Eat Bananas?

Huw Lewis Jones

Can you imagine what it's like to be an orangutan? What do chimpanzees have for breakfast? And most importantly . . . are gorillas really like your grandma? Explorer, nature guide, and naturalist Huw Lewis Jones takes young readers on a field trip out into the wild to learn about apes in this fact-packed and humour-filled book.

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- Humorous text combined with comical illustrations makes for an engaging read.
- AGES 7+

AU \$28.99 | NZ \$31.99
9780500653234
48 Pages
Hardcover
302 mm x 232 mm
Thames & Hudson



Hello folks, I'm Huw! Are you ready to join my expedition? I'm your guide as we explore really wild places to learn more about amazing apes. I've got my camera and journal too because there are always new things to discover.

I'm Sam, and my job is to draw the animals we meet on our adventure. We hope to show you how clever, funny and fascinating they are, and what they love to eat!

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GREAT APE ADVENTURE!

Are you ready for an expedition?

Welcome fellow apes! Are you ready to join us as we trek high into mountain forests and through hot, steamy jungles to meet different types of apes in their natural environment?

Can you imagine being an orangutan or a chimpanzee? Swinging through the trees all day may sound like fun, but these wonderful animals face lots of threats too. Together we'll discover what life is really like for apes and what we can do to protect them.

What do I need?

We're heading somewhere hot and wet, so a raincoat and hat are essential. Remember to bring a journal to draw and make notes about the interesting things you see. Binoculars are handy, too. Don't forget a snack or two, but please don't feed the animals!



We are family!

In this book we will concentrate on the 'great apes' – a family of primates known as 'hominids' that today includes eight surviving species: two types of gorilla, chimpanzees, bonobos, three types of orangutan and us ... modern humans.

Legendary apes

Apes of all kinds have captured our imaginations for hundreds of years. They continue to attract strong feelings – from fear to fascination and even love. Many people around the world are now doing their best to help these remarkable animals. And you can too.

INTO THE RAINFOREST

Would you like to meet a chimpanzee?

If you've been lucky enough to see a chimpanzee in real life it was probably in a zoo, right? But wouldn't it be amazing to see one in its natural habitat? Most great apes live in tropical rainforests. Whether up in their branches, relaxing in the shade or eating their fruit, among the trees is an ape's favourite place to be.

Hanging about

Though they have a lot in common, not all apes share the same habitat. Adult gorillas very rarely climb trees, preferring to hang out in the bushes and undergrowth, whereas orangutans spend most of their time high up in the branches.

Jungle sounds

Rainforests can be noisy places. The loud screams of apes around dawn and dusk can sound particularly alarming. Don't worry though, it's just their way of communicating with each other. Chimpanzees like to chatter and hoot but gorillas are generally very quiet animals. Male orangutans make loud, booming calls, which can be heard over 1 km away.

Stolen lives

For hundreds of years, apes and monkeys of all kinds have been hunted, captured and sold as pets. Sadly, even though this is now illegal, thousands of apes are still being taken from the wild every year.

New knowledge

Researchers are learning new things about apes. We now know they are incredibly clever communicators and many live closely together and create strong bonds. Some apes will die to protect each other.



KNOW YOUR APES

Who's in the family?

Apes, monkeys and humans all belong to the same big group – or 'order' – of animals known as primates. Primate means 'top animal' and was the name given to the group by scientist Carl Linnaeus over 200 years ago. He created a naming system for animals, which is still used today.

Primates are a huge group that includes lots of other mammals too, such as lemurs from Madagascar and tiny tarsiers, which can be found hiding in forests in Asia. All primates have big brains, pretty good eyesight and the ability to grasp things with their hands.

Monkey business

Apes are not monkeys. Almost all monkeys have tails but apes do not. Apes are also bigger and more intelligent than monkeys. Somewhere in between the apes and monkeys are animals called gibbons.

Double good

The western gorilla's scientific name is easy to remember. He's so good they named him twice: *Gorilla gorilla*!

IUCN Red List



Scientists are keeping a careful watch over all the different types of apes to make sure they're safe. Look for this symbol to see which species are most in need of our help.

Go fast gibbon

Gibbons are known as 'small apes' as they are smaller than the great apes. They can walk on two legs on the ground and have very long arms – twice the length of their bodies. They are incredible acrobats and can swing through the trees faster than any other mammal.



LAR GIBBON
(HYLOBATES LAR)

Scientific names

Every living thing on Earth that humans discover is given a unique scientific name consisting of two words in Latin, which are italicised. This naming system is the same all around the world, which helps people who speak different languages talk about animals without getting too mixed up.

The first word in a scientific name is the animal's genus and the second is its species. Animals that share the same genus are closely related. For example, the bonobo and the chimpanzee share the genus *Pan*. They look very similar but are now recognised as separate species.

WESTERN GORILLA
(GORILLA GORILLA)

CHIMPANZEE
(PAN TROGLODYTES)

HUMAN
(HOMO SAPIENS)

BONOBO
(PAN PANISCUS)

BORNEAN ORANGUTAN
(PONGO PYGMAEUS)

THE GREAT APES



WESTERN GORILLA

Gorilla gorilla

Western gorillas are smaller than eastern gorillas and have reddish-brown foreheads.

WHERE? Central Africa

HOW MANY? 360,000*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Critically endangered



CHIMPANZEE

Pan troglodytes

Chimpanzees are very adaptable and can be found in both forest and mixed savannah.

WHERE? West and Central Africa

HOW MANY? 170,000–300,000*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Endangered

12



EASTERN GORILLA

Gorilla beringei

These rare gorillas live in mountain forests. Their hair is longer and thicker than western gorillas' hair.

WHERE? Central and East Africa

HOW MANY? Fewer than 3,000*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Critically endangered



BONOBO

Pan paniscus

Easily confused with chimpanzees, bonobos weren't recognised as a separate species until 1929.

WHERE? Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa

HOW MANY? 10,000–20,000*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Endangered



SUMATRAN ORANGUTAN

Pongo abelii

These apes seem to form closer social bonds than Bornean orangutans.

WHERE? Sumatra

HOW MANY? Fewer than 14,000*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Critically endangered



TAPANULI ORANGUTAN

Pongo tapanuliensis

These orangutans were only recognised as a separate species in 2017. They live in a small area of South Tapanuli in North Sumatra, over 100 km away from other orangutans.

WHERE? North Sumatra

HOW MANY? Fewer than 800*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Critically endangered



BORNEAN ORANGUTAN

Pongo pygmaeus

Orangutan species can be hard to tell apart, but Bornean orangutans tend to have slightly shorter and darker hair than their cousins in Sumatra.

WHERE? Borneo

HOW MANY? Fewer than 100,000*

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Critically endangered



HUMAN

Homo sapiens

Highly adaptable and less hairy than other apes (well ... most of us!).

WHERE? Every country in the world

HOW MANY? 8 billion and rising!

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not on the list

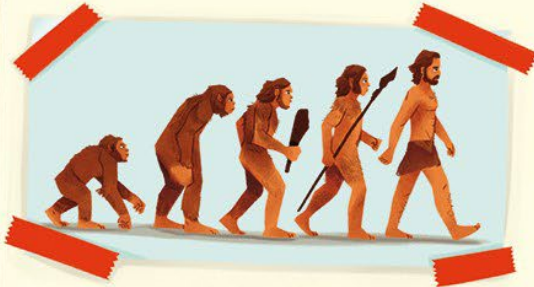
*ESTIMATED

13

CHIMP COUSINS

Are humans related to apes?

'Are we monkeys?' 'Was my great-grandma a gorilla?' I'm often asked these questions in schools. In a way, the answer is ... yes! If we go back a very long way, then we are all related. All great apes share a common ancestor, a primate, from over 20 million years ago.

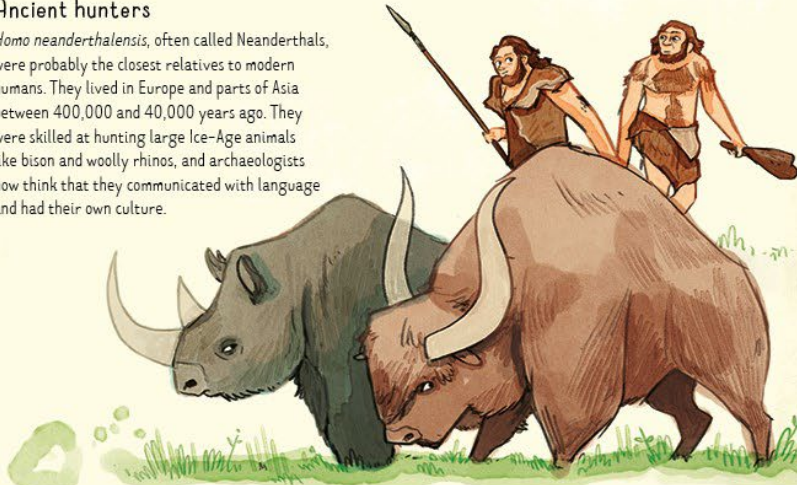


Human evolution

Researchers still don't know exactly when the first humans evolved. One of the earliest known is *Homo habilis*, or 'handy man', who lived about 2 million years ago in eastern and southern Africa. Others include *Homo erectus*, or 'upright man', who roamed in Africa all the way to China and Indonesia about 1.9 million to 100,000 years ago, before going extinct.

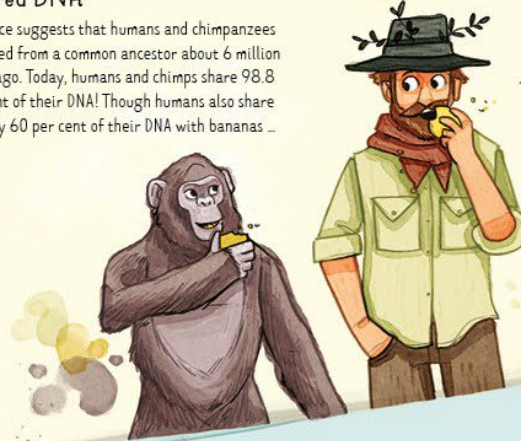
Ancient hunters

Homo neanderthalensis, often called Neanderthals, were probably the closest relatives to modern humans. They lived in Europe and parts of Asia between 400,000 and 40,000 years ago. They were skilled at hunting large Ice-Age animals like bison and woolly rhinos, and archaeologists now think that they communicated with language and had their own culture.



Shared DNA

Evidence suggests that humans and chimpanzees diverged from a common ancestor about 6 million years ago. Today, humans and chimps share 98.8 per cent of their DNA! Though humans also share roughly 60 per cent of their DNA with bananas ...



GORILLA

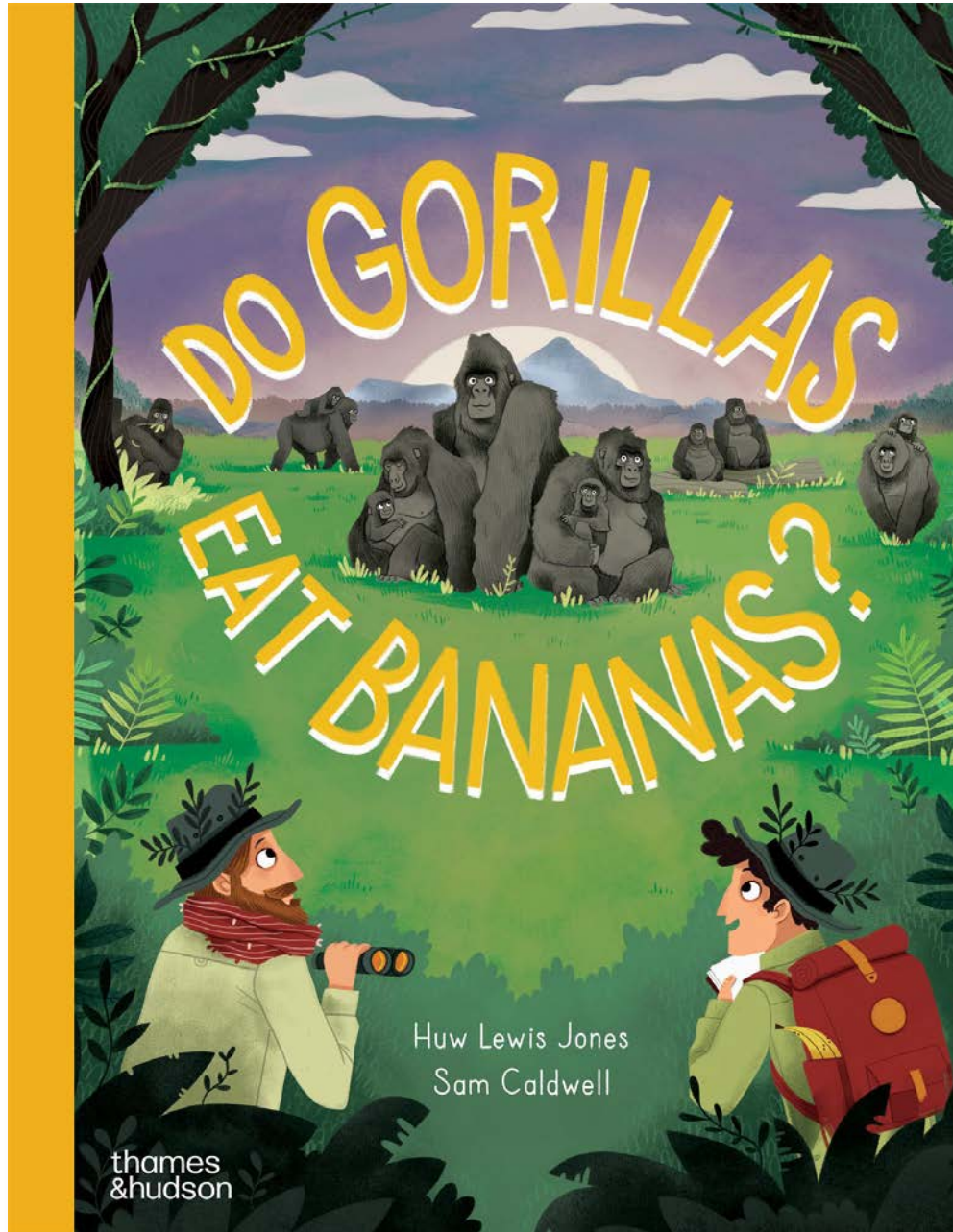


Chin scratcher

If you compare a human skull and a gorilla skull, you might notice that the area under the gorilla's mouth slopes back towards the neck. Humans are the only animals that we know of that have chins. Scientists are still trying to work out why this is!

HUMAN





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THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE, FROM AMOEBAS TO ALIENS

IS THERE — ANYBODY — OUT THERE?



By the Author of *The Search for Sasquatch*

LAURA KRANTZ

ALSO AVAILABLE



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9781419758225



Is There Anybody Out There? (A Wild Thing Book)

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229 mm x 178 mm

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INTRODUCTION

OUT OF THIS WORLD

"What is THAT?"

In October 2017, Dr. Robert Weryk stood at his desk, flipping through the stack of photos in his hand. They were of the night sky, taken by a giant telescope, and in one of them, he could see something he'd never noticed before. He looked at it more closely. Was it an asteroid? Asteroids are rocky objects that travel around the sun and are smaller than planets—they can be anywhere between hundreds of miles and tens of feet across. At first, this just looked like all the other asteroids Dr. Weryk had seen—a bright streak of light in the sky. But something about it wasn't quite right. So he grabbed a few

more photos taken by the telescope on an earlier night, and he saw this thing again, in a different spot. By looking at the object's position in each photograph, from the first time it showed up until the most recent one, he was able to calculate how quickly it was moving—and, boy, was it moving FAST. A rip-roaring 196,000 miles per hour! Much faster than the average asteroid in our solar system, which travels at only about 56,000 miles per hour. That was his first clue that this object might be different from those he'd seen before.

He got his second clue when he realized that the path it had taken through our solar system wasn't normal. Most of what's in our tiny part of the galaxy is influenced by our sun's gravity, which keeps things like the planets and asteroids moving both at a predictable speed and in a predictable circle or ellipse, known as an orbit. But Dr. Weryk could tell that gravity wasn't the only thing affecting how fast this object was going. It must have already been moving at an incredible speed before it got anywhere near our sun, and because it was moving so fast, it wouldn't be trapped by our sun's gravity and forced into orbit around it.

Adding those two things together, Dr. Weryk realized that whatever it was, it had probably come from **outside our solar system**. That meant it was the very first time scientists had actually seen an interstellar object—an object that came from beyond our own star, the sun, and our solar system. And you better believe that this discovery made scientists, including Dr. Weryk, super excited! They had so many questions, like where had it come from? Where was it headed? And those scientists wouldn't have very much time to get all their questions answered, either. The object had already taken a sort of wide turn around the sun and was headed back out of the

solar system. So they would have just a few weeks to get as much information as they could before the object disappeared from view. In fact, Dr. Weryk said, scientists almost didn't see this object at all. I'm very glad he was paying such close attention!

At this point, you might be wondering how Dr. Weryk happened to have a bunch of telescope photos on his desk. Well, you see, he has a very cool job as a planetary defense researcher. And while that might make you think he's preparing for an alien invasion, he and others like him are actually looking for asteroids that might pose a danger to Earth. To do that, they use a giant telescope known as the Pan-STARRS telescope, which sits at the tippy top of a dormant volcano known as Haleakalā Crater on the island of Maui, in Hawai'i.



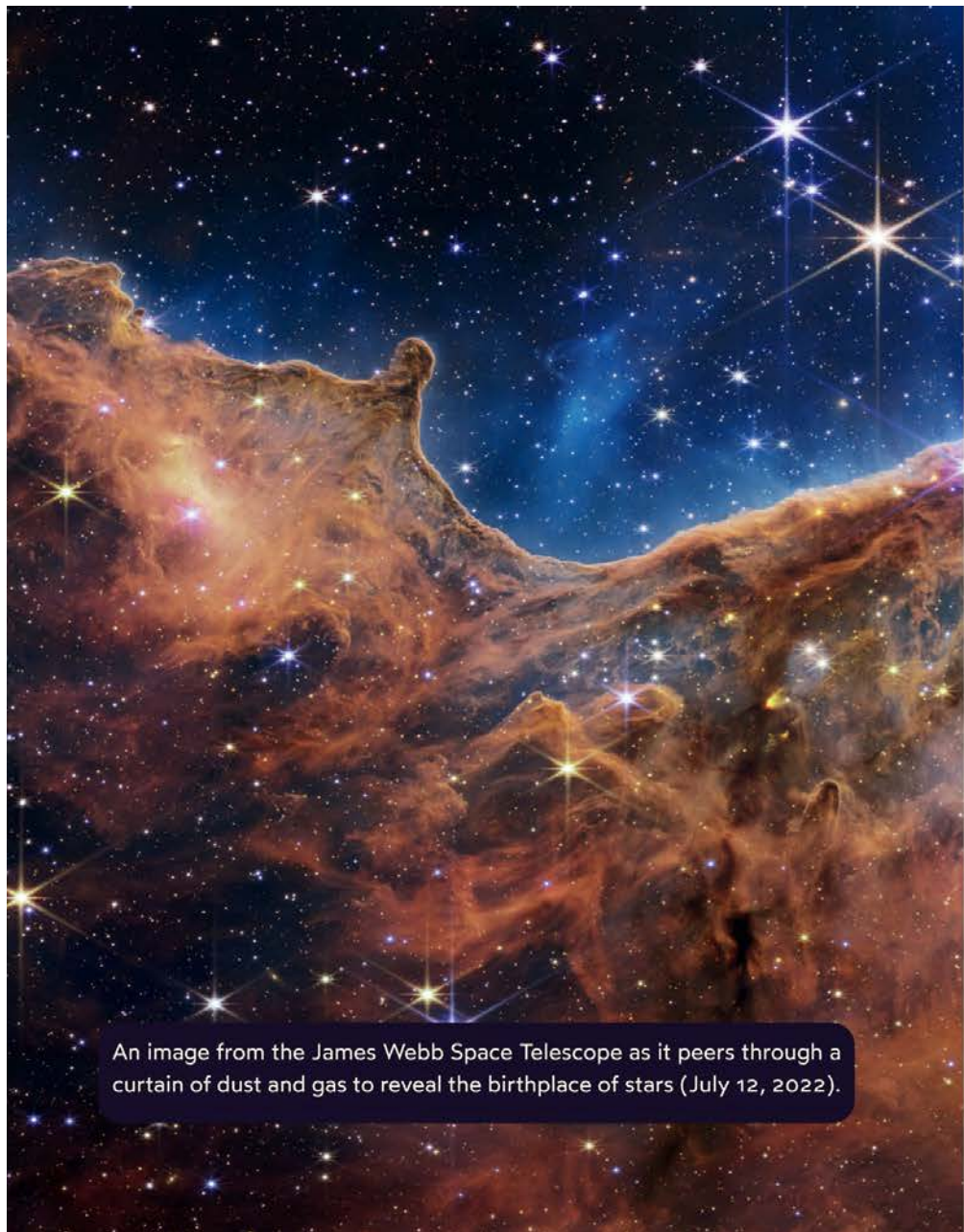
atomic bombs, using high-altitude balloons that could pick up the sound waves from the explosions, even if they were thousands of miles away. Of course, the American military didn't want the Soviets to know that we were listening, so it would have kept its program top secret, even after the device crashed. This explanation of what took place at Roswell makes a lot more sense to me than a bunch of unlucky aliens getting hit by lightning in the last leg of their long journey!

Despite all this, the name "Roswell" is practically a synonym for UFOs. The town itself is very proud of the story—the first thing you see on its main street is a giant green "Welcome to Roswell" sign with a cow being abducted by a UFO. (Why do aliens always seem to be abducting cows?) There are also alien-themed restaurants and hotels, and every July, the annual UFO festival I mentioned earlier brings in visitors from all over the country. There's even an International UFO

Museum, which is chock-full of exhibits that re-create the story of the alien crash, and right next door to that is the largest UFO research library in North America. It's packed with books, old (and no longer secret) military reports, papers from scientists, pictures, and anything else you can possibly imagine about aliens on Earth. There are even a few books on Bigfoot—for people who think Bigfoot might have been brought to this planet by aliens!

I'll admit, I was a little disappointed to realize that the Roswell crash probably didn't have anything to do with aliens—not unless someone comes up with some real proof. But there are still lots of other UFO stories out there. And here's something else that's interesting—even though the military said that what happened in Roswell had nothing to do with UFOs or aliens, it has investigated *other* possible UFO sightings. And it wasn't just doing that back in 1947. It was doing that just a few years ago. The military might even be doing that RIGHT NOW.





An image from the James Webb Space Telescope as it peers through a curtain of dust and gas to reveal the birthplace of stars (July 12, 2022).

and, very recently, the James Webb Space Telescope), scientists think there are around two TRILLION galaxies out there, in what's called the observable universe—the part of space that we Earthlings can see using whatever telescopes and probes we have.

See what I mean about really big numbers?

So if we're going to go looking for alien life—whether it's itsy-bitsy microbes or more like us—we have to narrow down where we're going to look. We talked about this a little bit in the last chapter—about how you'd look for your lost keys under a streetlamp. And since we know there's life on Earth, we'd probably want to start looking for planets that are similar to Earth, because that seems like a likely spot to find life. But if there are two trillion galaxies out there, and each one of those galaxies has as many planets as ours—at least 100 billion . . . I mean, that number is so big, I don't even know where you'd start!

But back in 1961, Dr. Frank Drake came up with an idea about how to narrow down the search, especially the search for advanced aliens. Dr. Drake was an astronomer and astrophysicist—a scientist who uses physics to study how stars and planets work. I went to visit him at his house in California, and he told me about his big eureka moment.

"I realized that you would need to know how many Earths are out there, how often those Earths produced life, how often it was intelligent, and how often it made the kind of technology that we could detect with the devices we have here," Dr. Drake explained.

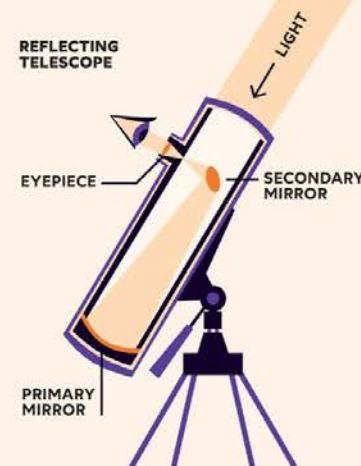
And that was the start of one of the most famous equations in space history—the Drake Equation. It's a formula that probably every

had lots of mountains and craters. We saw that Jupiter had four large moons orbiting it (and later, we would discover more—scientists now think there could be as many as seventy-nine moons!). And we could see spots on the sun (creatively called “sunspots”), which ended up proving that the sun rotates (and was the first step in proving that Earth orbited the sun, rather than the other way around).

HOW DO TELESCOPES WORK?

When you hear the word *telescope*, you might think about standing in the backyard, looking through a long tube at the sky. I’ve done this with my dad on a clear, dark night, and we saw the rings of Saturn! His telescope is a reflecting telescope, which is a type of optical telescope, meaning it lets us see things using visible light. While it’s smaller and less powerful than the reflecting telescopes that scientists use, it works the same way:

1. Light comes in the top end—the part pointed at the sky—and travels down the length of the telescope.
2. That light then bounces off a mirror that’s at the back end of the telescope. This is called the primary mirror, and it’s usually curved (like a shallow dish), which helps focus the light. The size of the telescope has to do with the size of



this mirror, so if someone says they have a twenty-four-inch telescope, it means the mirror at the back of the telescope is twenty-four inches in diameter (which is really big).

3. The light bounces off the primary mirror and travels back up the length of the telescope, almost to the very end, to another mirror, called the secondary mirror. It’s a much smaller mirror, because the primary mirror has focused the light into a smaller path.
4. Then the light gets either reflected up into the eyepiece (for the backyard telescope) or reflected back down the telescope again, where it comes out through a small hole drilled in the primary mirror and into a camera (for scientific telescopes).



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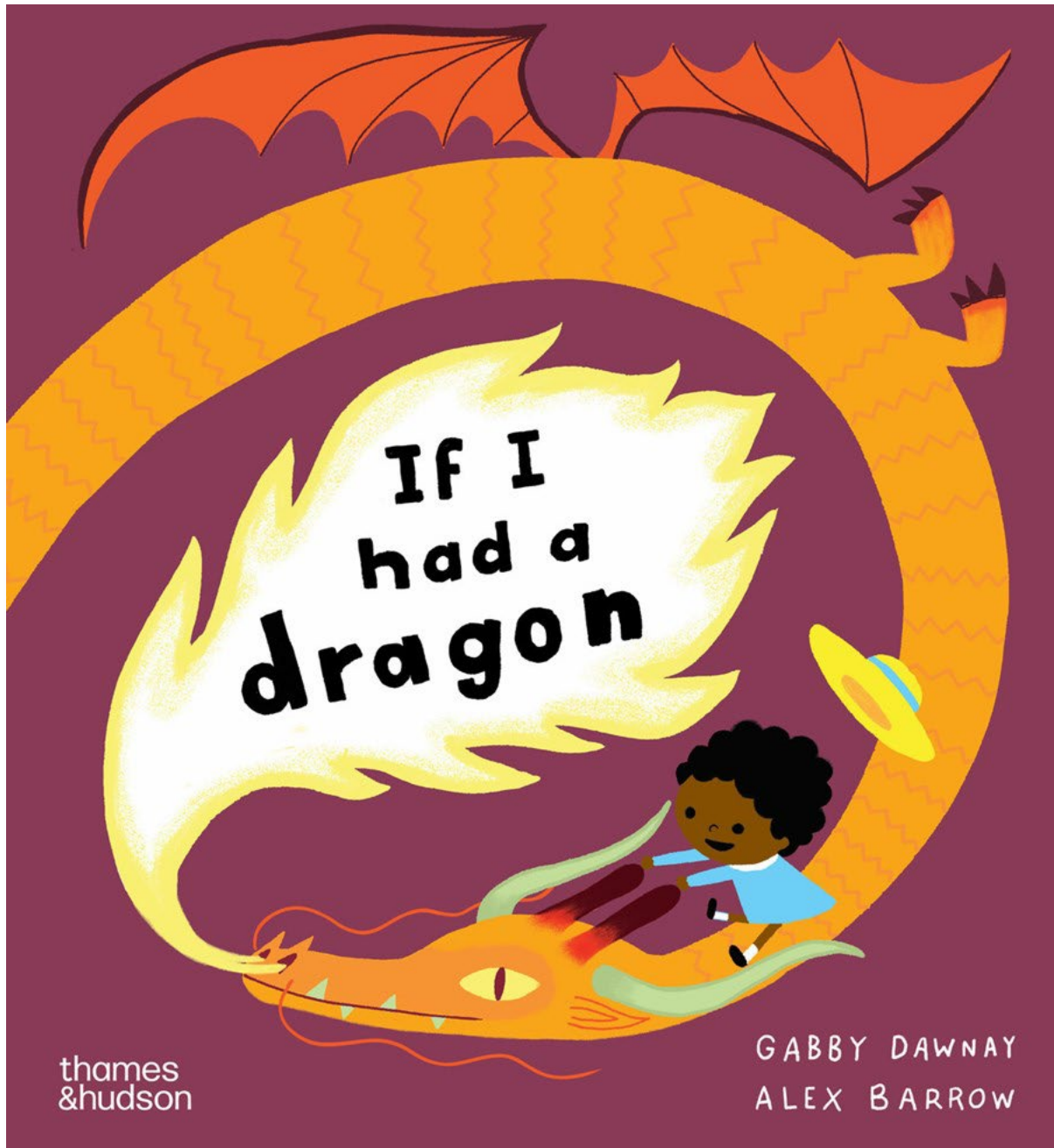
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**If I
had a
dragon**

thames
& hudson

GABBY DAWNAY
ALEX BARROW



If I had a dragon

Gabby Dawnay and Alex Barrow

The fiery new title in the best-selling *If I had a...* series imagines life with a dragon as a pet.

- Imagine what it would be like to have a dragon as a pet. Join our funny female protagonist on her latest flight of fancy, but watch out for that burning bad breath!
- Dragons are mighty mythical beasts... and perfect pets. Getting to school is a breeze when you can fly, and you would never have to worry about lighting the barbecue. But what exactly do dragons eat? Perhaps a trip to the museum will help, just beware of knights in shining armour!
- Gabby and Alex's *If I had a...* series goes from strength to strength. The latest in the fantastically funny series is full of fantasy fun, wrapping up an exciting day of dragon adventures with a warm and cosy night-time scene, the perfect book for bedtime.

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AU \$17.99 | NZ \$21.99

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32 Pages

Paperback

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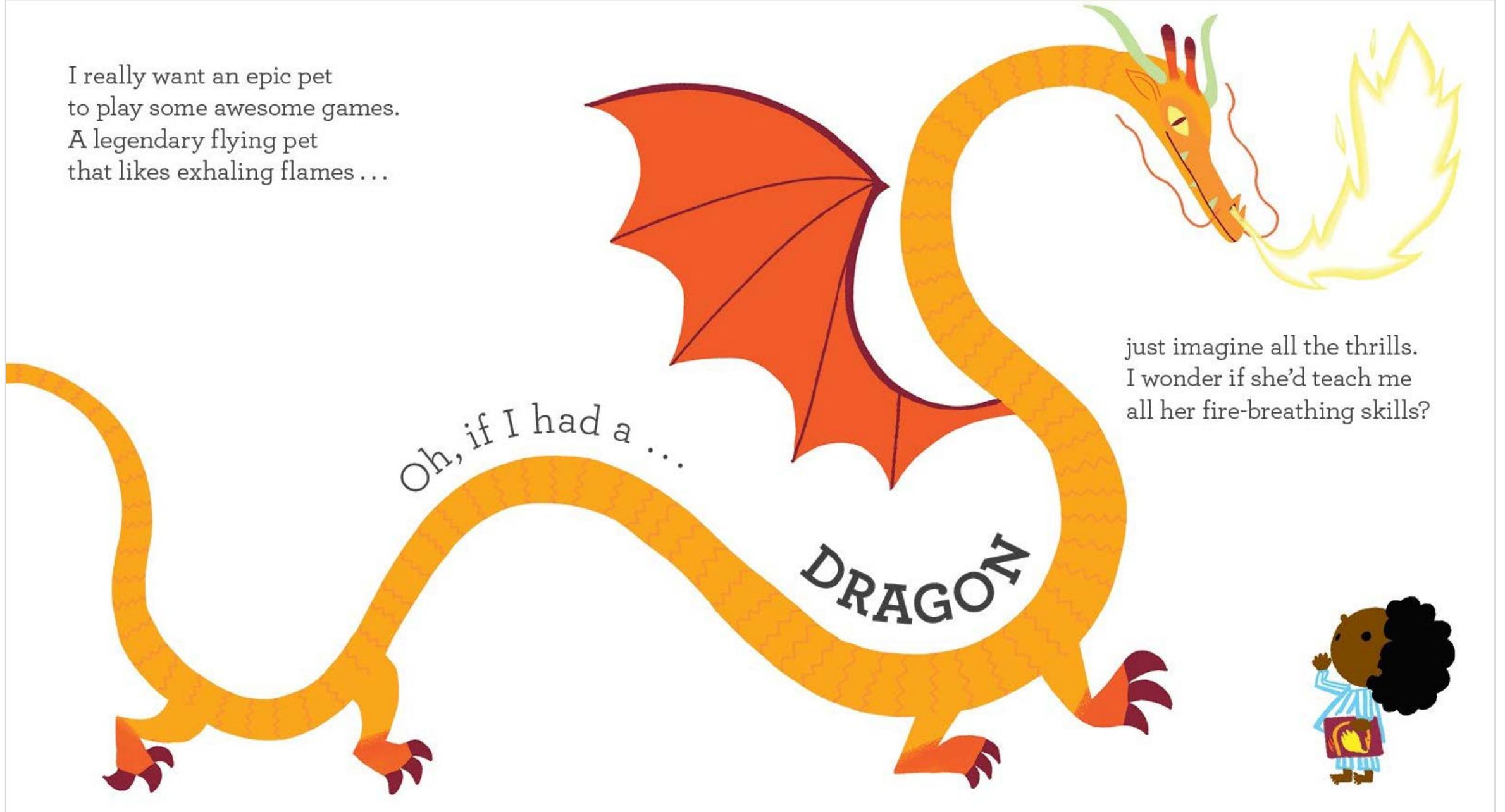
Thames and Hudson Ltd

I really want an epic pet
to play some awesome games.
A legendary flying pet
that likes exhaling flames ...

Oh, if I had a ...

DRAGON

just imagine all the thrills.
I wonder if she'd teach me
all her fire-breathing skills?

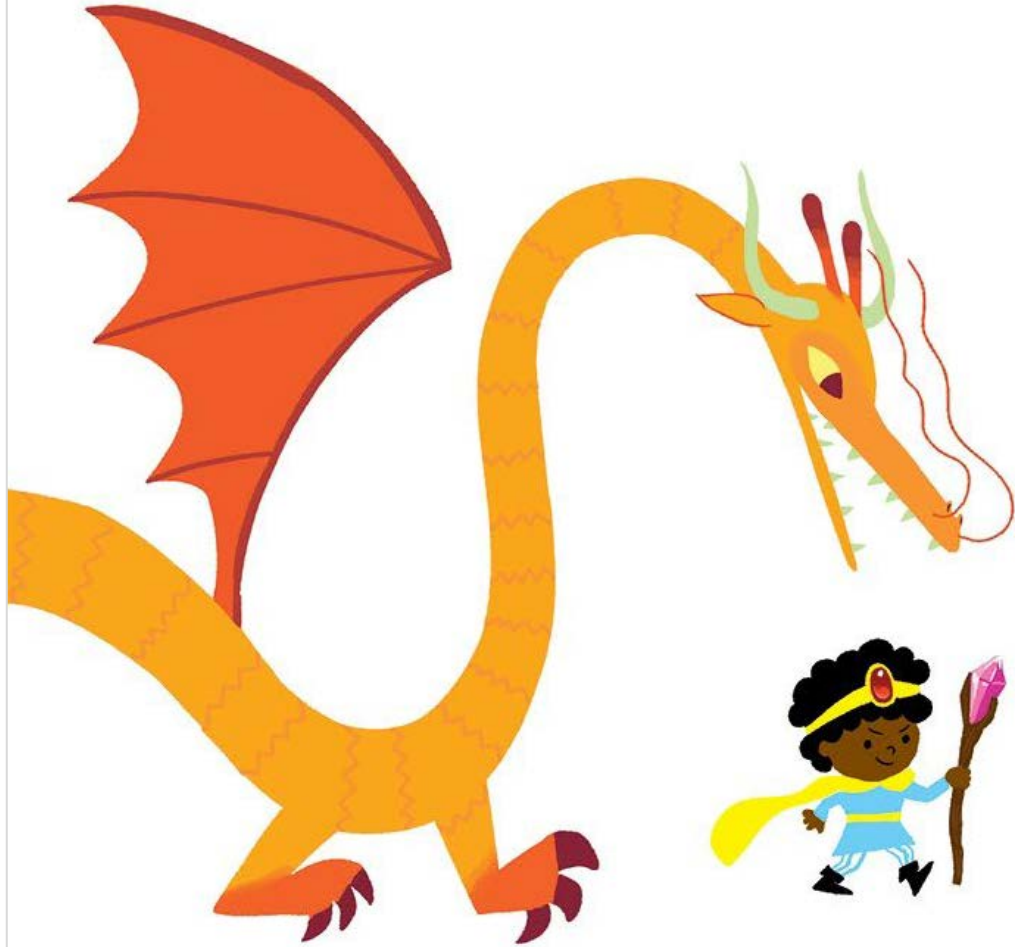


In case my dragon told me
she would like to learn to read,
the library has lots of books
on everything we need ...

There we'd find a cozy nook
to learn the alphabet,
then look for every kind of book
on every sort of pet!



Dragons do need feeding
just to keep their breath “alight,”
so every week we’d have to seek
and find a tasty knight . . .



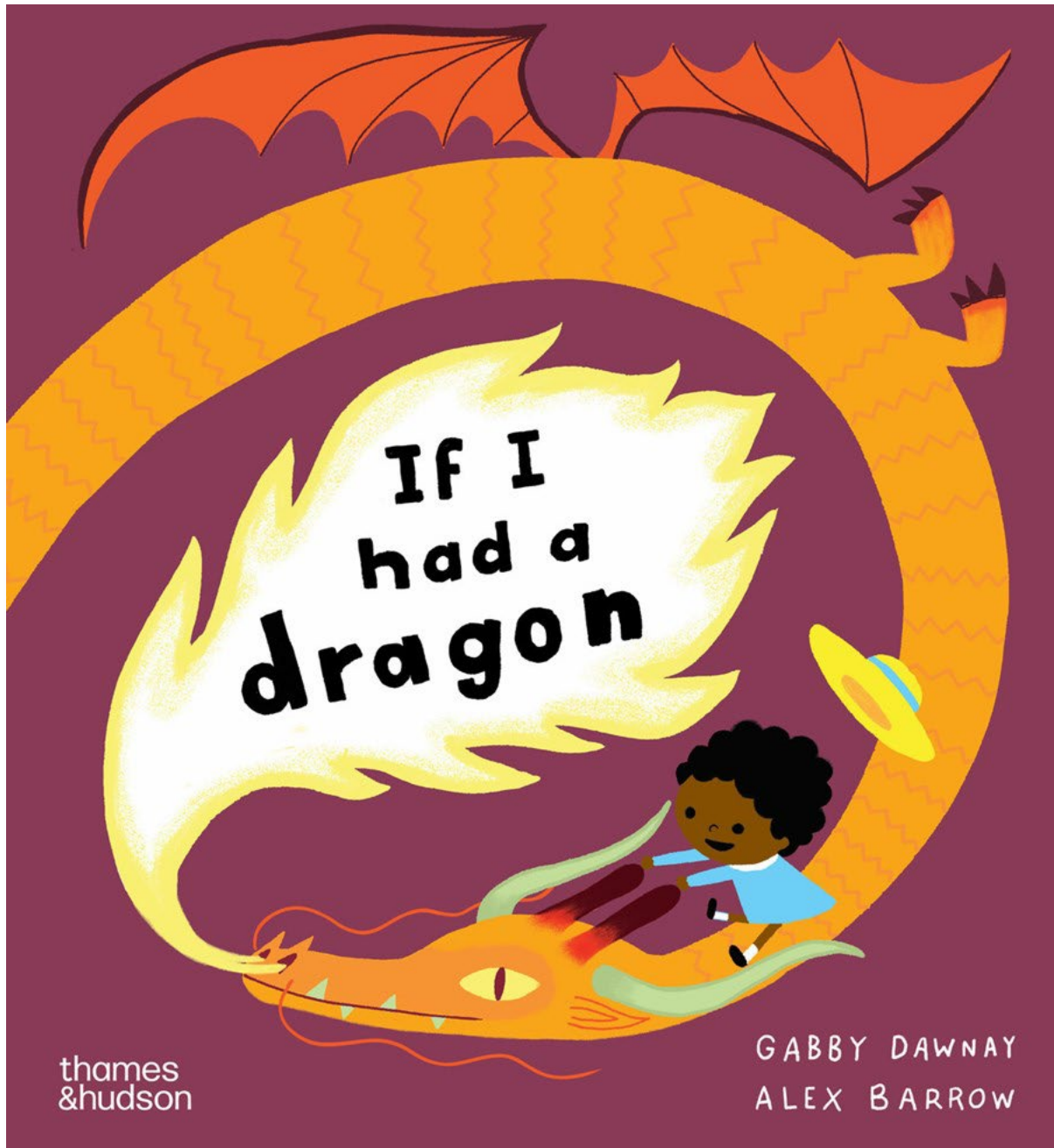
My dragon would amaze us
with her fire-blazing games,
by lighting up the sky at night
in multi-colored flames!



Afterward we'd have a drink
of fiery ginger ale . . .

And while she kept the castle warm
we'd read a dragon's tale.





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Gabby Dawnay and Alex Barrow

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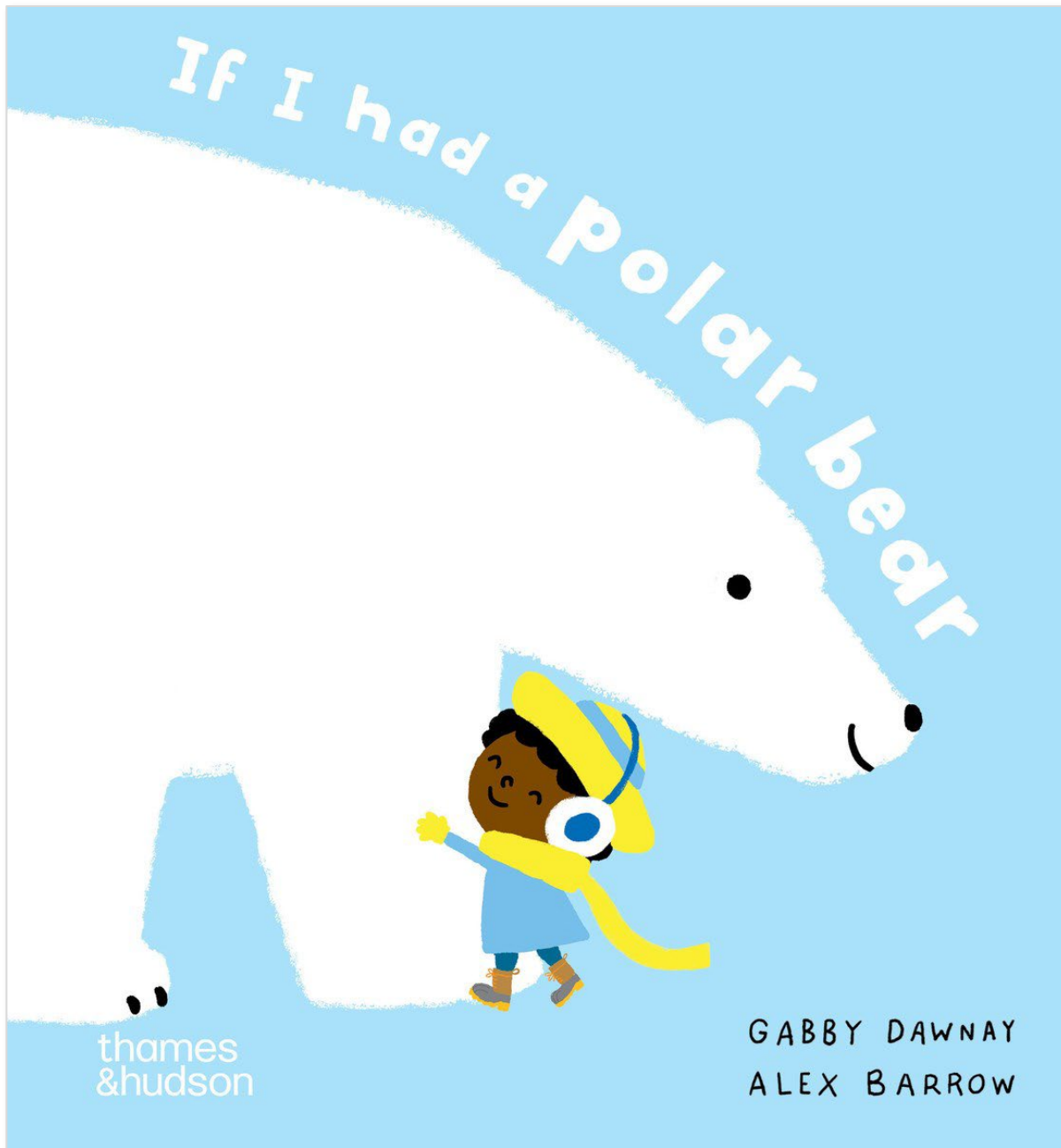
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If I had a polar bear



thames
&hudson

GABBY DAWNAY
ALEX BARROW



If I had a polar bear

Gabby Dawnay

A boldly illustrated bedtime story that imagines what it would be like to have a strong and snuggly polar bear for a pet.

Gabby Dawnay and Alex Barrow's 'If I had a...' series goes from strength to strength. It's packed with humour and rollicking rhymes that young children readily catch on to. The bold, graphic illustrations are stylish and filled with quirky details for children to spot.

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AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99

9780500653609

28 Pages

Board Book

185 mm x 171 mm

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I really want a solid pet –
reliable and calm.
The sort of pet that wouldn't let
me come to any harm.

Oh, if I had a
polar bear...

we'd really get along.
Not only are they hairy
but they're also very **STRONG!**





If I had a polar bear
I'd make the garden freeze.

For polar bears prefer the ice
and I could wear my skis!

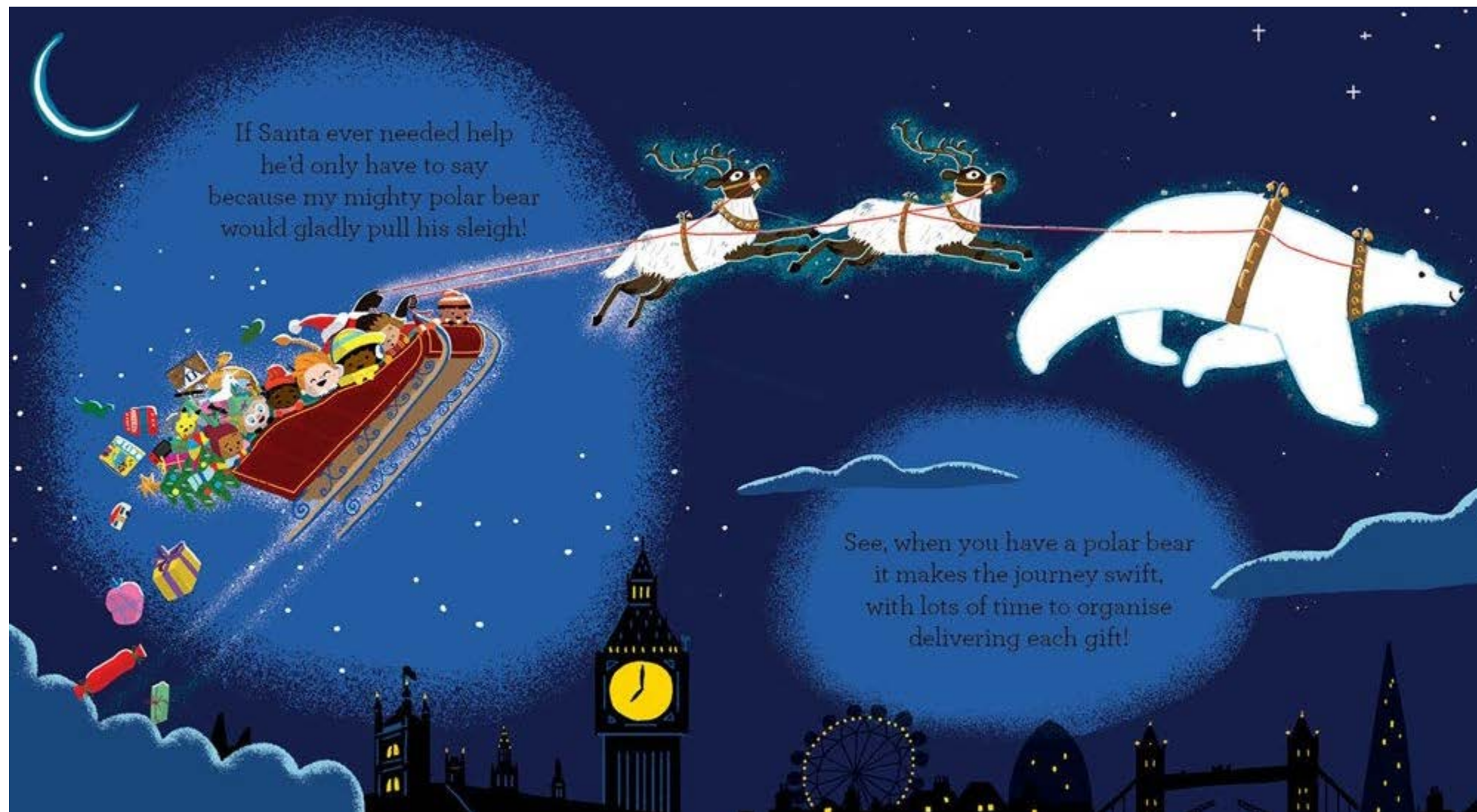




Polar bears are hunters
but it's hard to grab a seal...

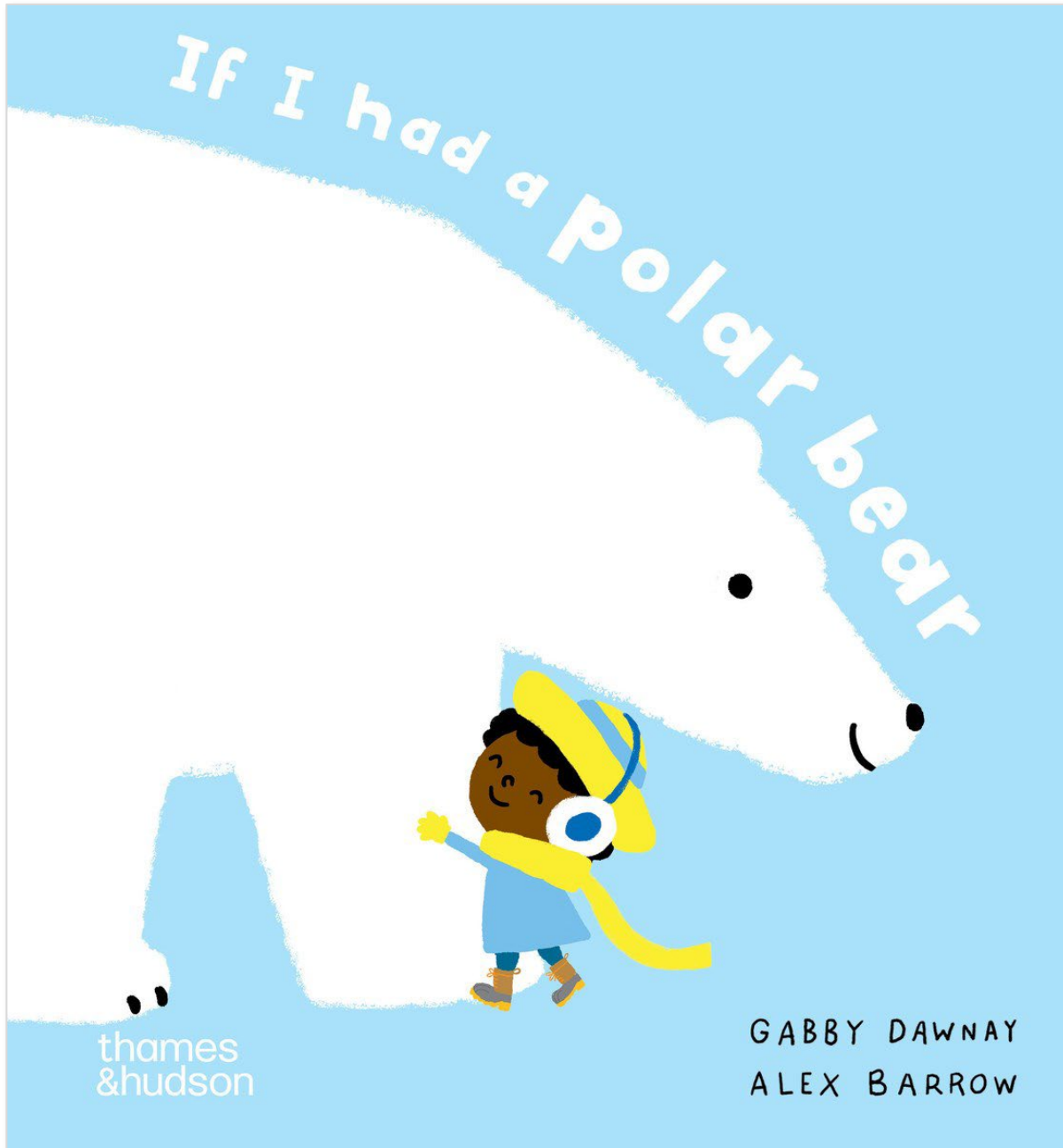


So I would help her catch a fish
to make a tasty meal!



If Santa ever needed help
he'd only have to say
because my mighty polar bear
would gladly pull his sleigh!

See, when you have a polar bear
it makes the journey swift,
with lots of time to organise
delivering each gift!



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Gabby Dawnay

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Baby Sees Things That Go

A High-Contrast Board Book for Babies

Janna Steagall

TUMMY TIME FUN: Keep baby engaged and stimulated during tummy time with these bold and beautiful images, aiding their development in rolling and crawling.

AESTHETIC APPEAL: Perfect for millennial mums and dads who want to curate stylish nurseries with Instagram-worthy bookshelves.

EARLY VISUAL DEVELOPMENT: Created specifically for babies' developing eyes, these high-contrast images help babies learn to see and discern shapes and patterns.

BONDING: The Baby Sees books foster a special connection between parents and babies, providing both with an experience that is as visually delightful as it is beneficial.

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16 Pages

Board Book

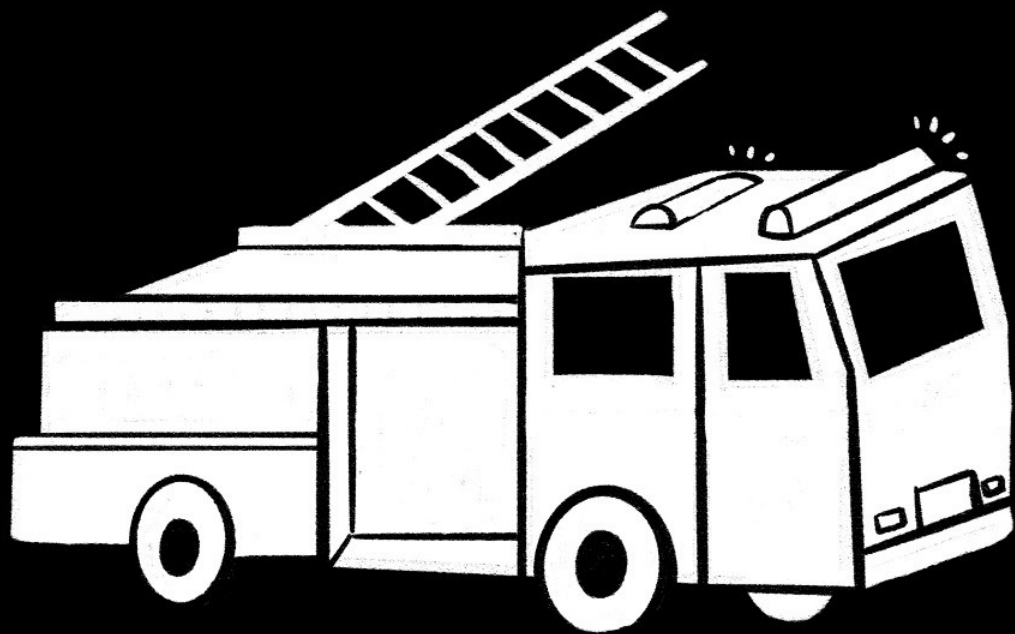
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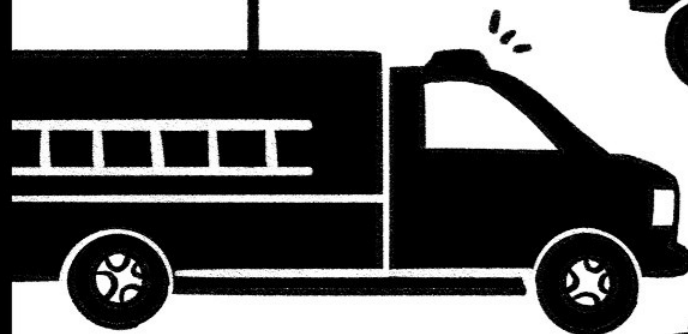
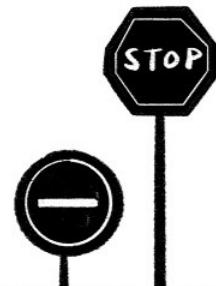
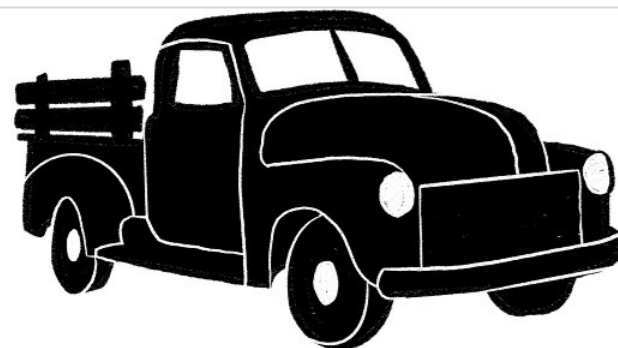


Baby sees cars.





Baby sees trucks.





Baby sees boats.



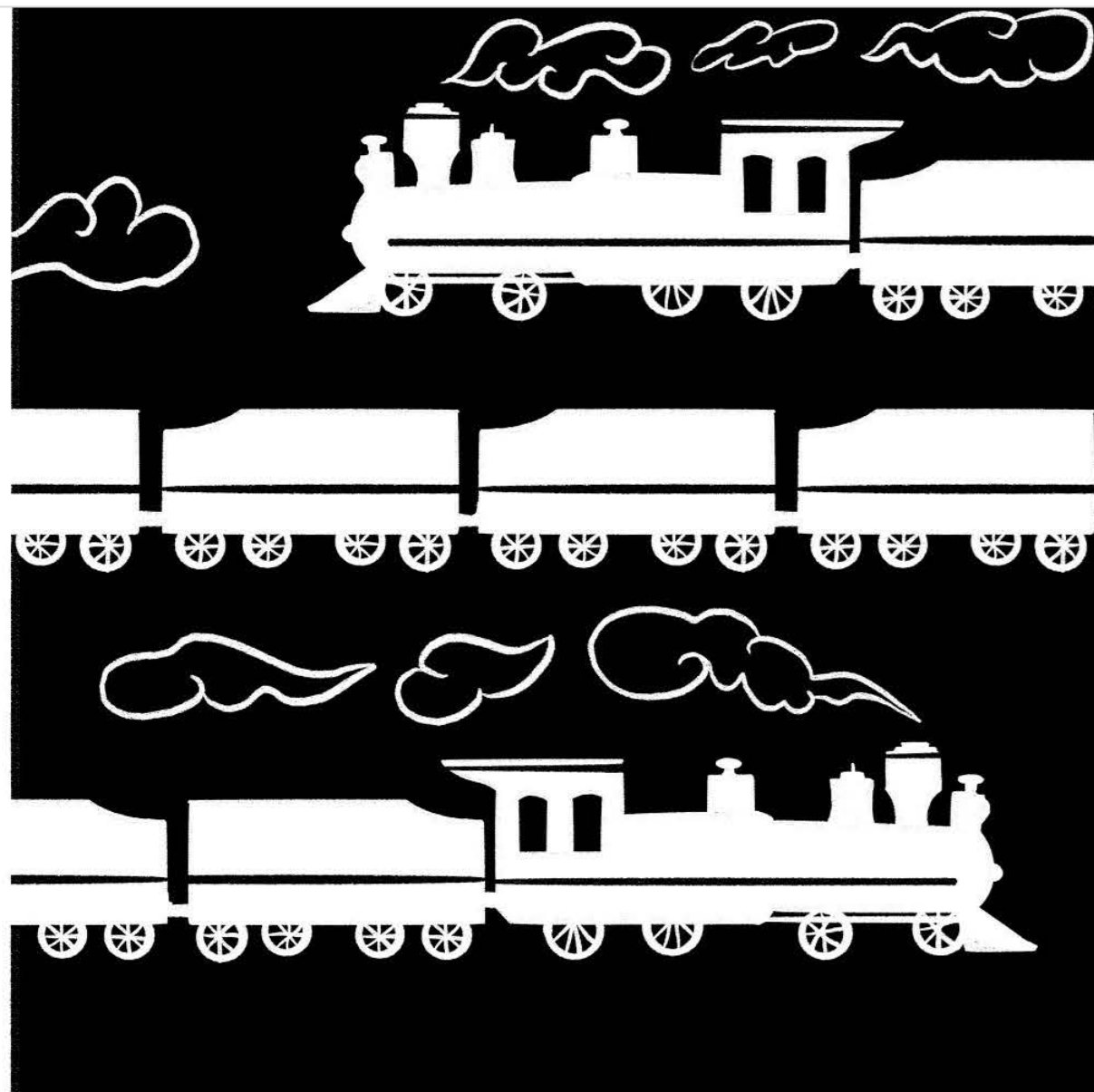


Baby sees helicopters.





Baby sees trains.





Baby sees planes.





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BABY Sees

FAIRY TALE CREATURES

BY JANNA STEAGALL



Baby Sees Fairy Tale Creatures

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MAGICAL CREATURES GALORE: Introduces little ones to magical creatures. Perfect for gifting to anyone who is a fan of sci-fi and fantasy works.

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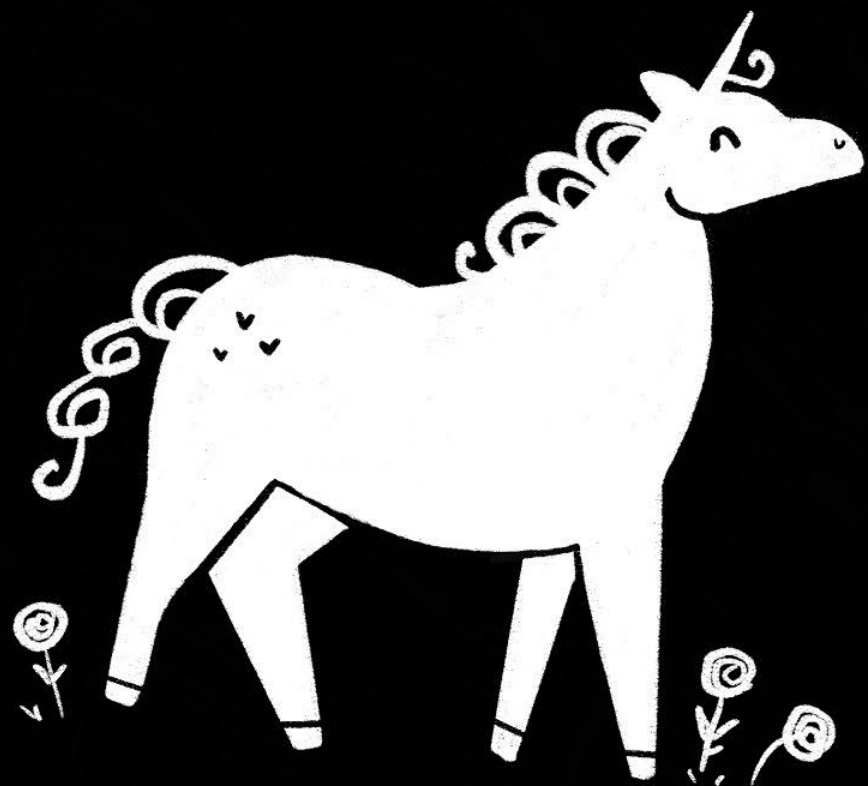
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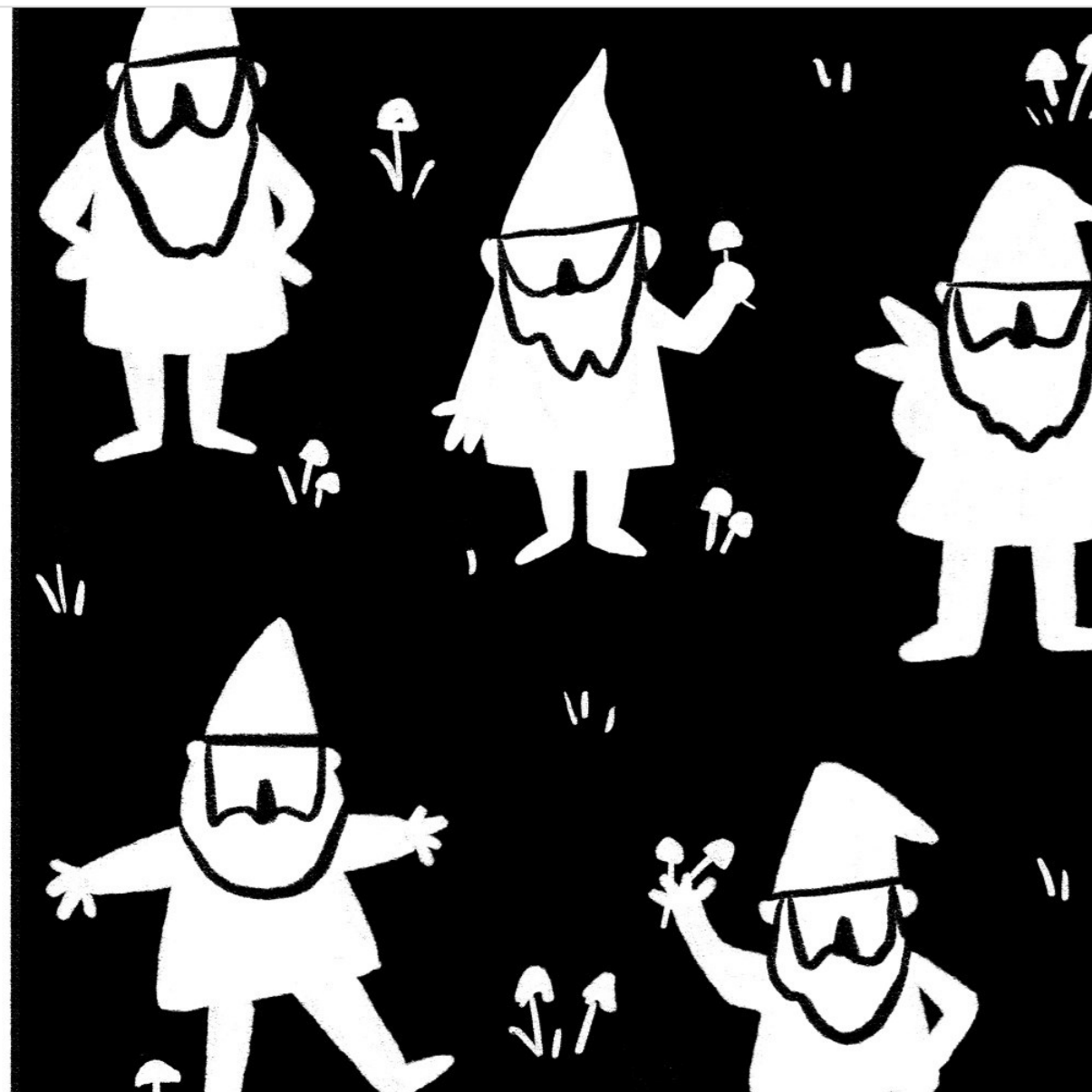


Baby sees unicorns.





Baby sees gnomes.



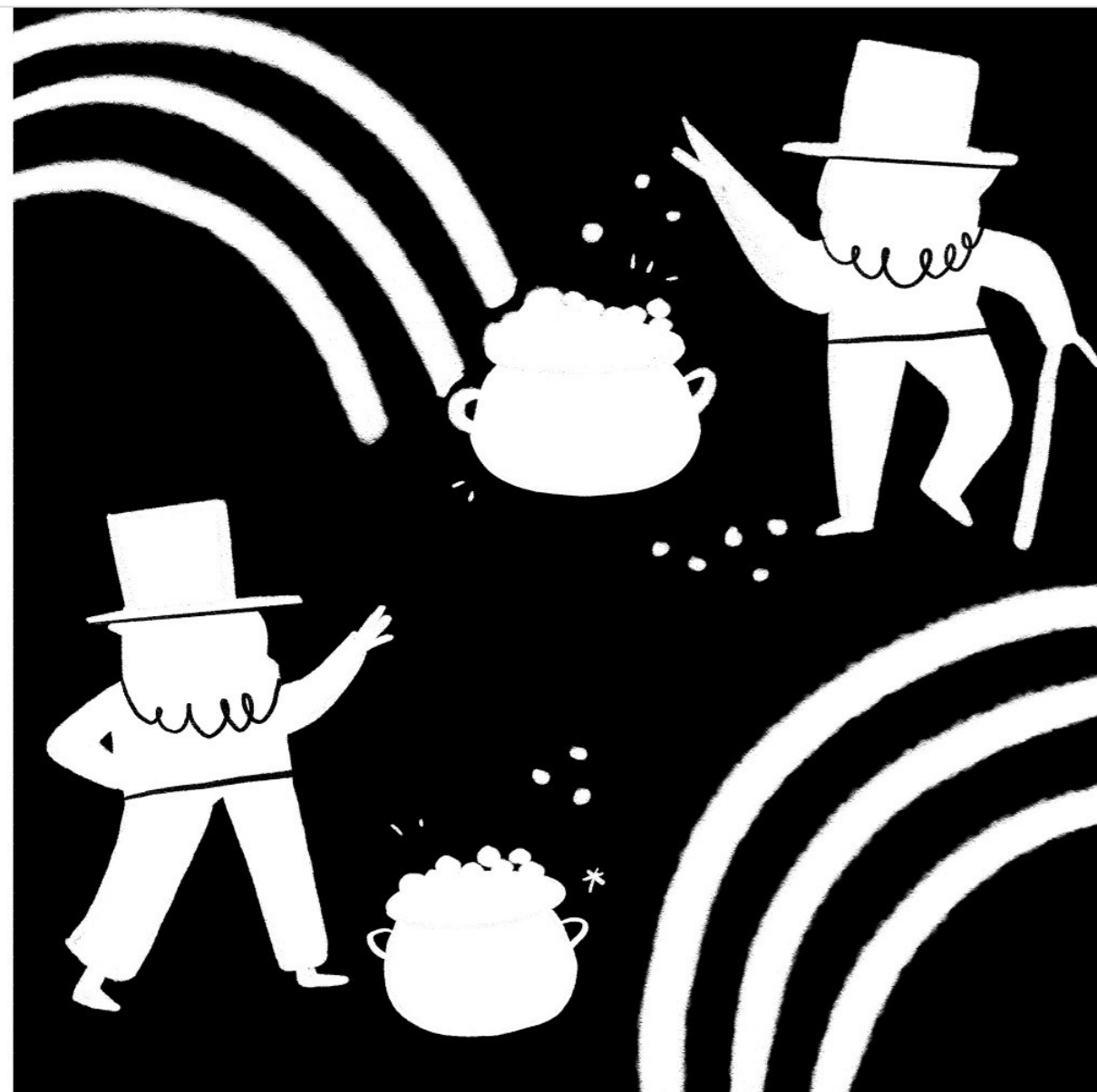


Baby sees mermaids.





Baby sees leprechauns.



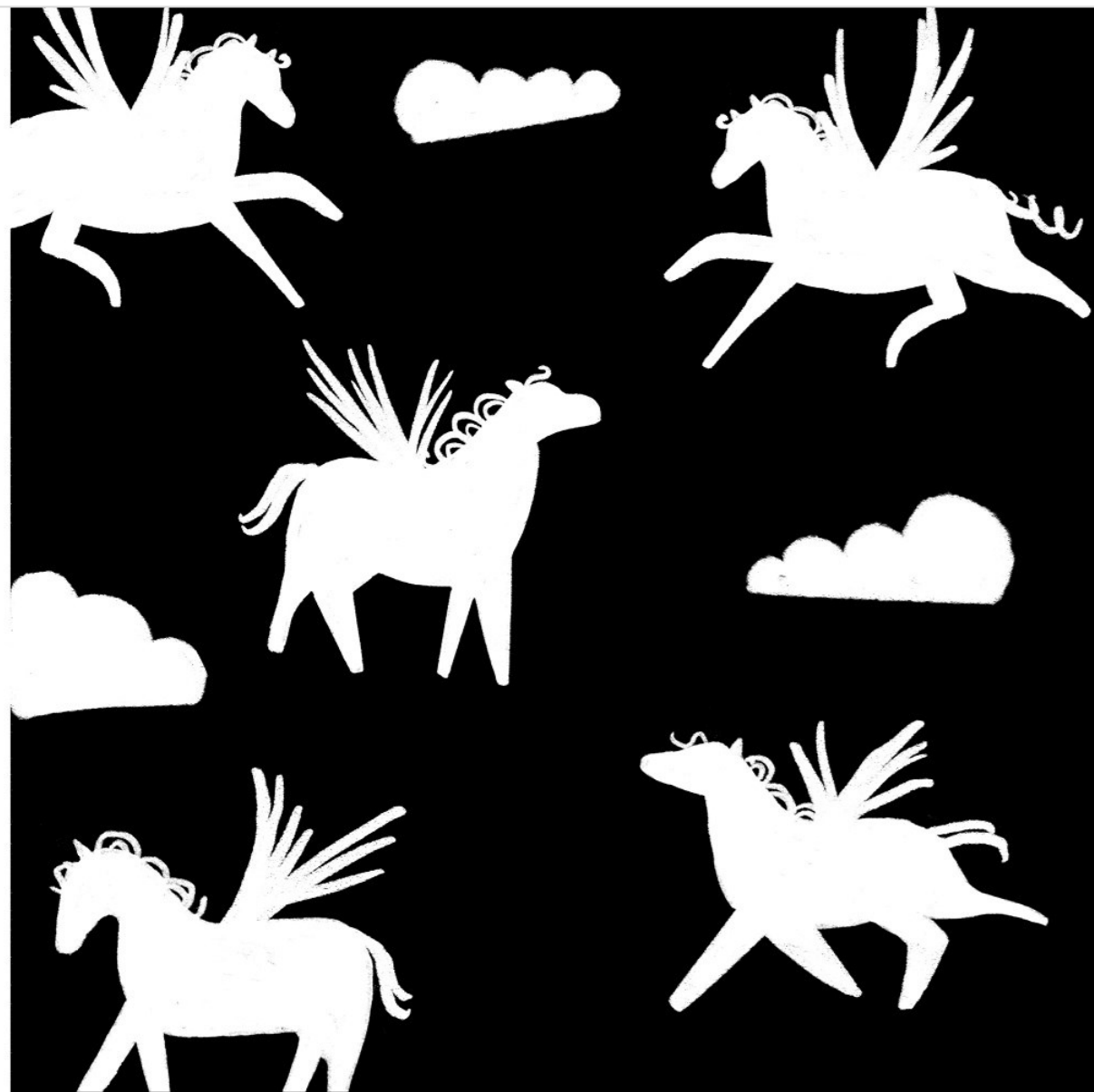


Baby sees fairies.





Baby sees pegasuses.





Baby Sees Fairy Tale Creatures

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BIG JOBS FOR LITTLE BABIES

WHO'S DIGGING?



WORDS BY KATRINA MOORE

PICTURES BY BENSON SHUM

BIG JOBS FOR LITTLE BABIES WHO'S DIGGING?



WORDS BY KATRINA MOORE

PICTURES BY BENSON SHUM

Who's Digging? (Big Jobs for Little Babies)

A Board Book

Katrina Moore

What do a farmer, a construction worker, a paleontologist, an arborist, and a baby have in common? They're all amazing diggers, of course!

BIG SERIES POTENTIAL: We look forward to growing the Big Jobs for Little Babies series on our Appleseed list with a focus on other careers, such as *Who's Building?*, *Who's Swimming?*, and *Who's Counting?*

NOVELTY FORMAT: This sturdy board book has five gatefolds, perfect for curious, little hands, revealing what Baby is digging for, and a sturdy, high-quality mirror on the final page so readers can see themselves in the various roles explored in the book.

AGES 0+

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$21.99

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22 Pages

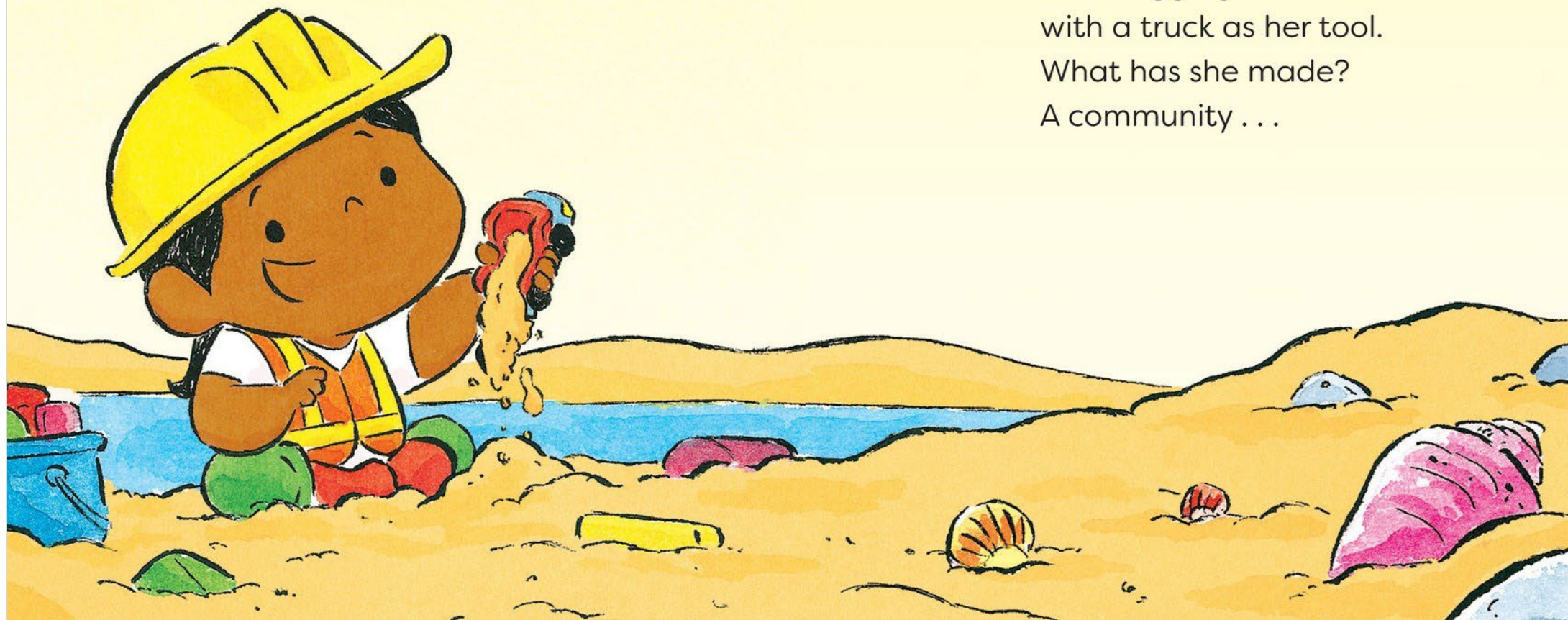
Board Book

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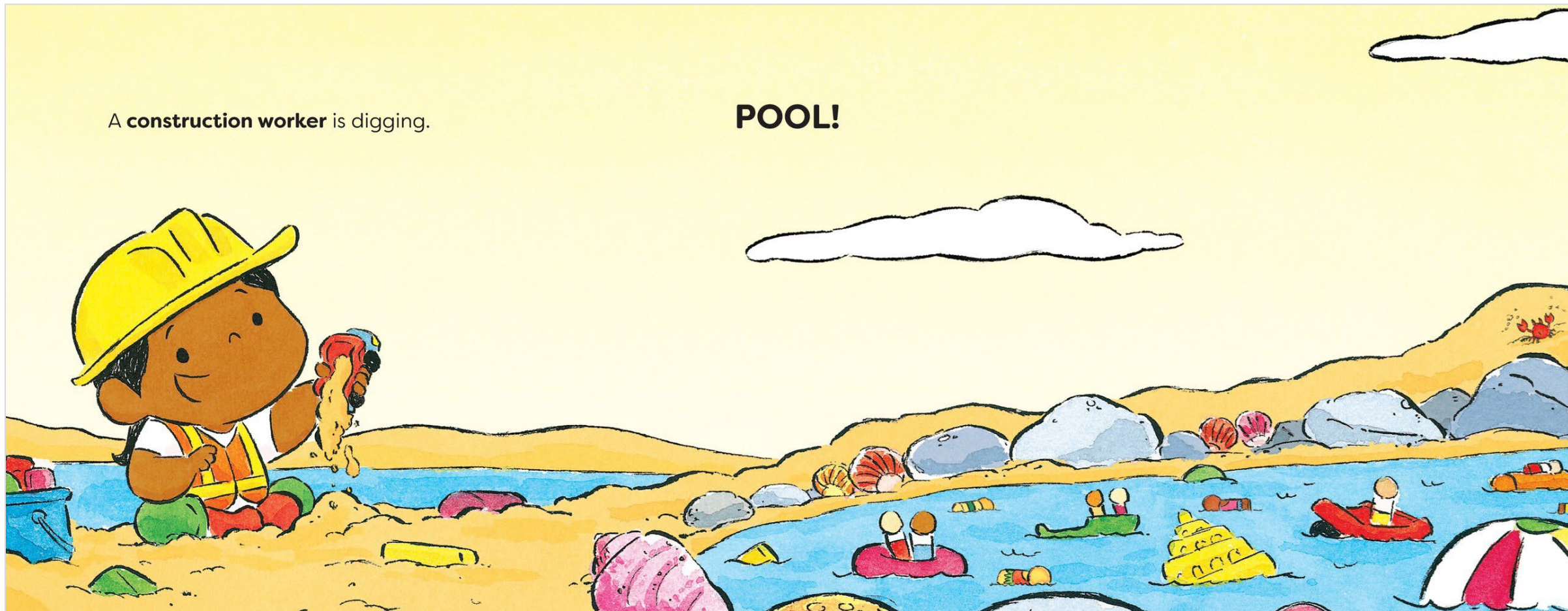
A **construction worker** is digging.

She's digging a hole
with a truck as her tool.
What has she made?
A community . . .



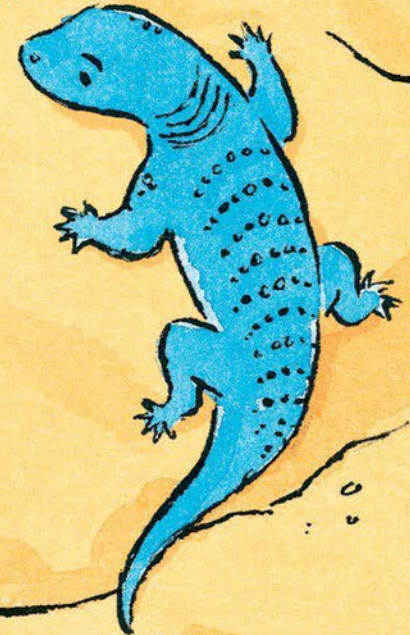
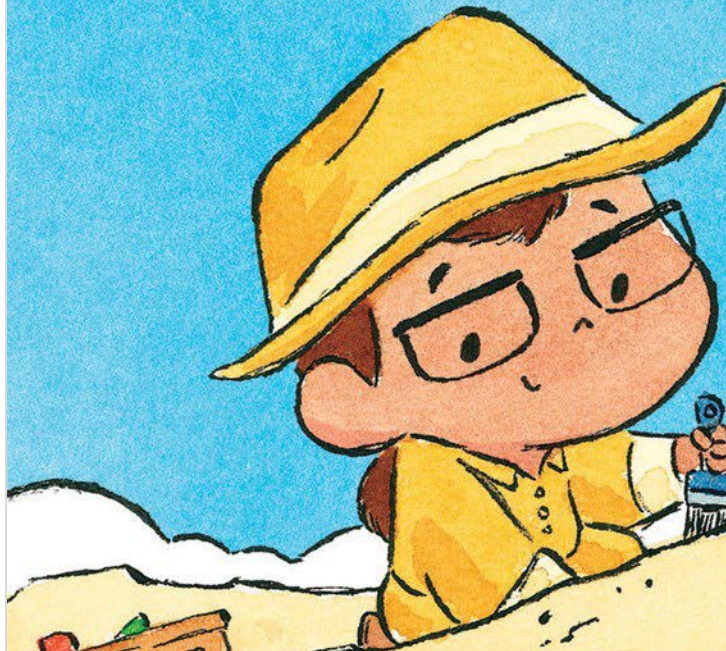
A **construction worker** is digging.

POOL!



A **paleontologist** is digging.

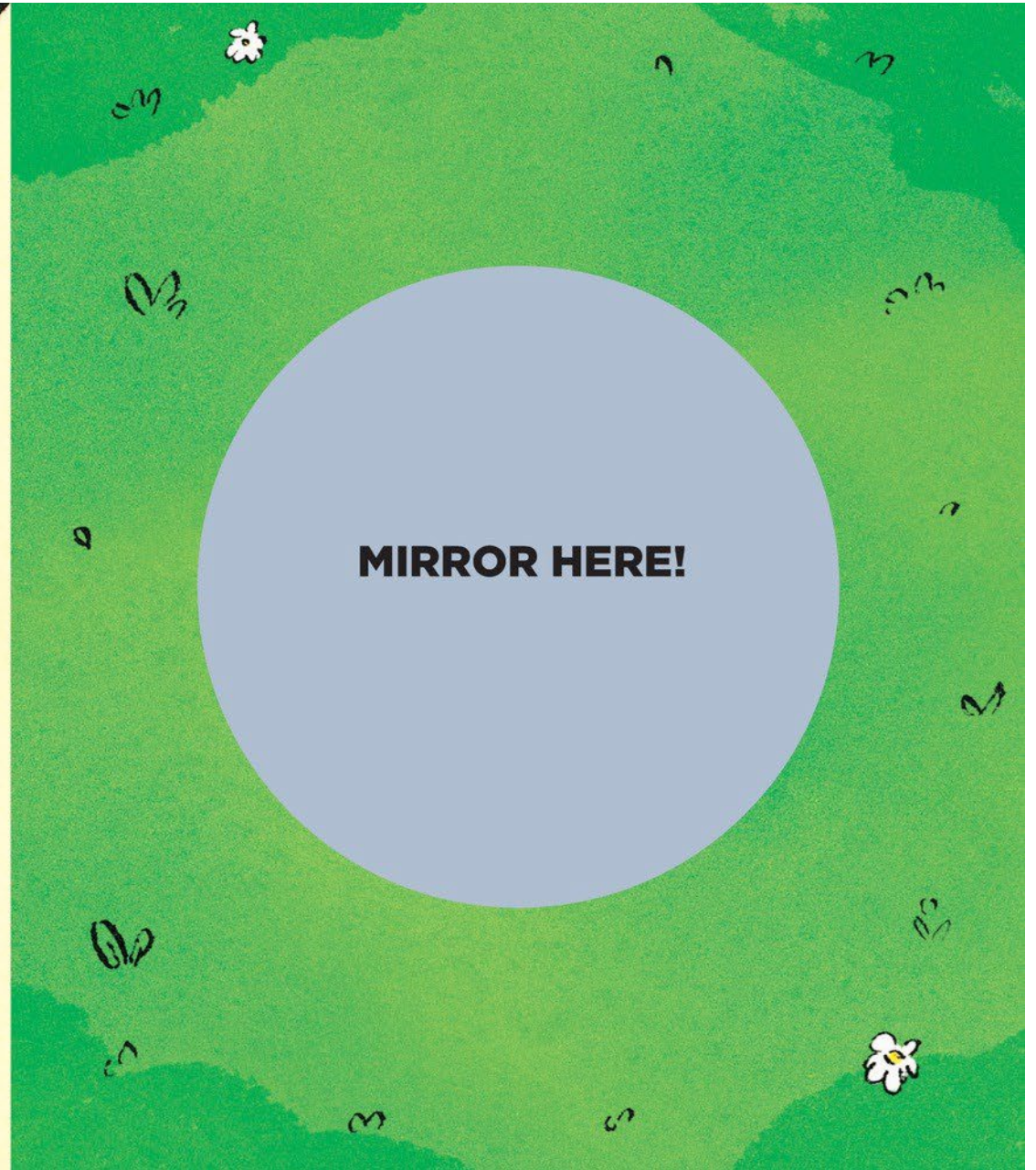
He's digging for dinosaurs,
fossils, old plants.
What has he found?
Some fossilized . . .





Who is that digging?
Who's ready for more?
It's **YOU**, little digger,
go out and explore!

MIRROR HERE!



BIG JOBS FOR LITTLE BABIES WHO'S DIGGING?



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PICTURES BY BENSON SHUM

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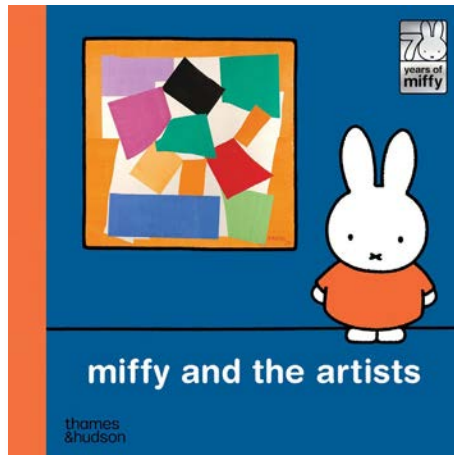
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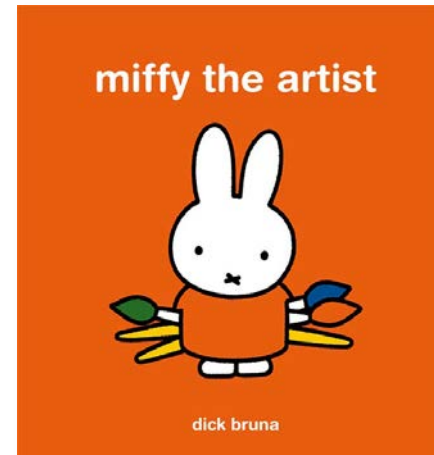
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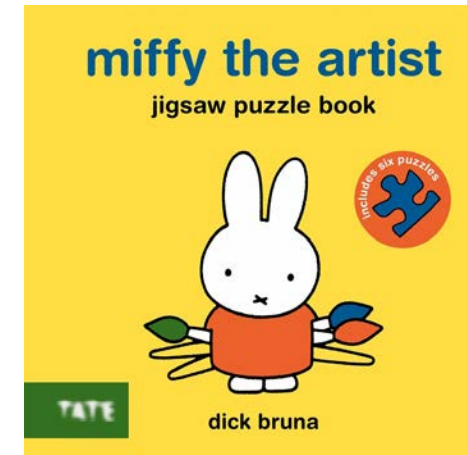
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9780500653784



9781854378231



9781849769440

miffy x rijksmuseum



miffy x rijksmuseum

Dick Bruna

Miffy x Rijksmuseum is a delightful book introducing young children to the world of art. The third in a series that began with the award-winning *Miffy x Rembrandt* (2019) and *Miffy x Vermeer* (2023).

In *miffy x rijksmuseum* highlights of the Rijksmuseum's permanent collection have been paired with Dick Bruna's work. Popular works from various periods are showcased alongside Dick Bruna's simple and endearing illustrations.

AGES 3+

AU \$21.99 | NZ \$24.99
9789056471552
40 Pages
Hardcover
185 mm x 185 mm
Mercis Publishing bv

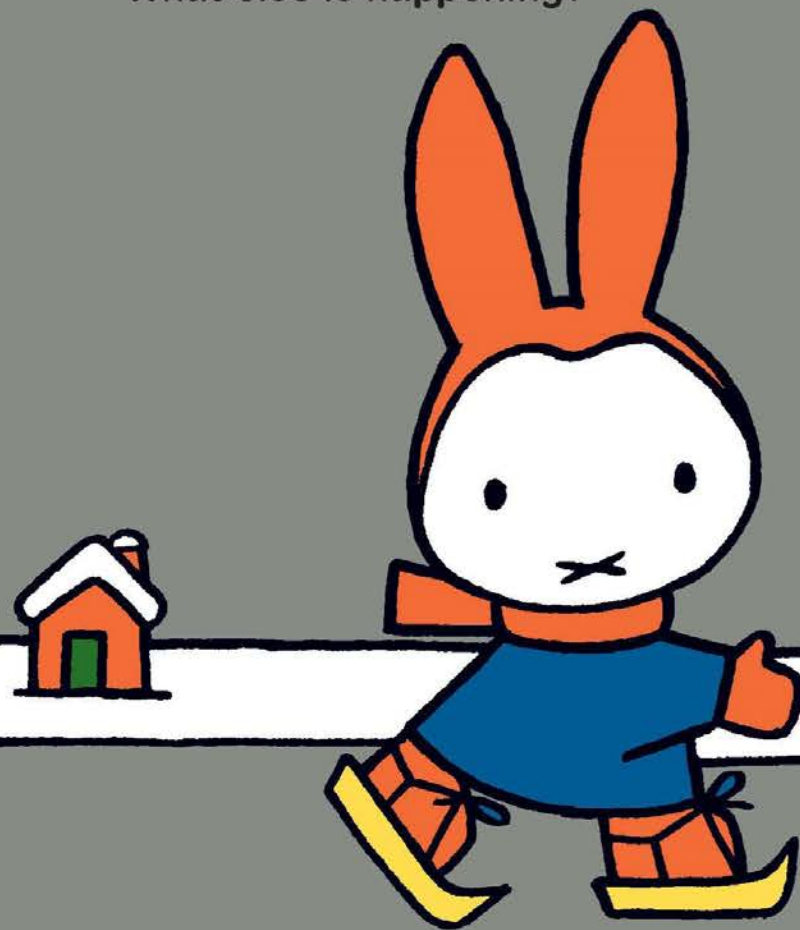


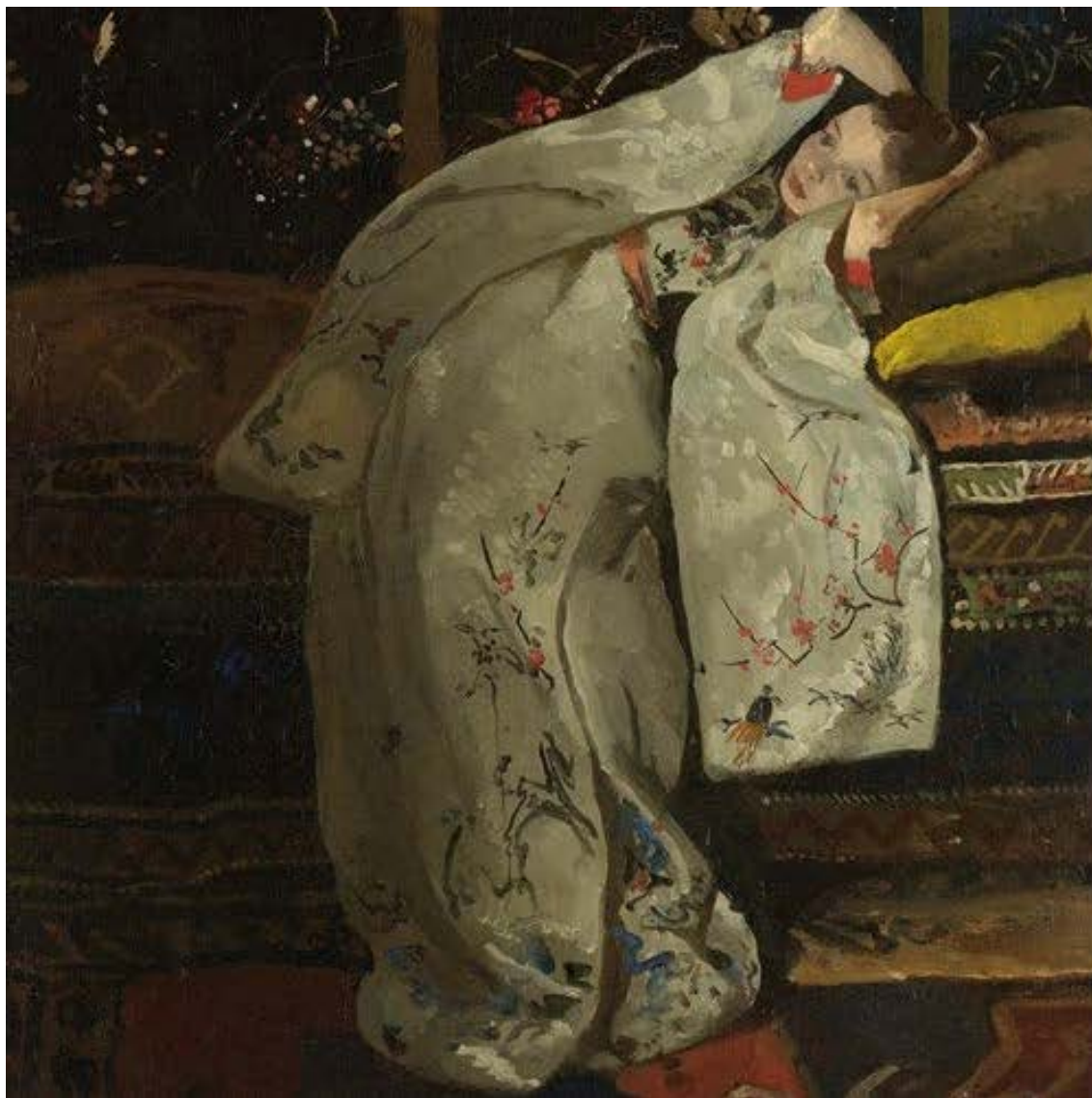
Uncle Pilot takes Miffy on
an adventure in his plane.
Where would you like to go?





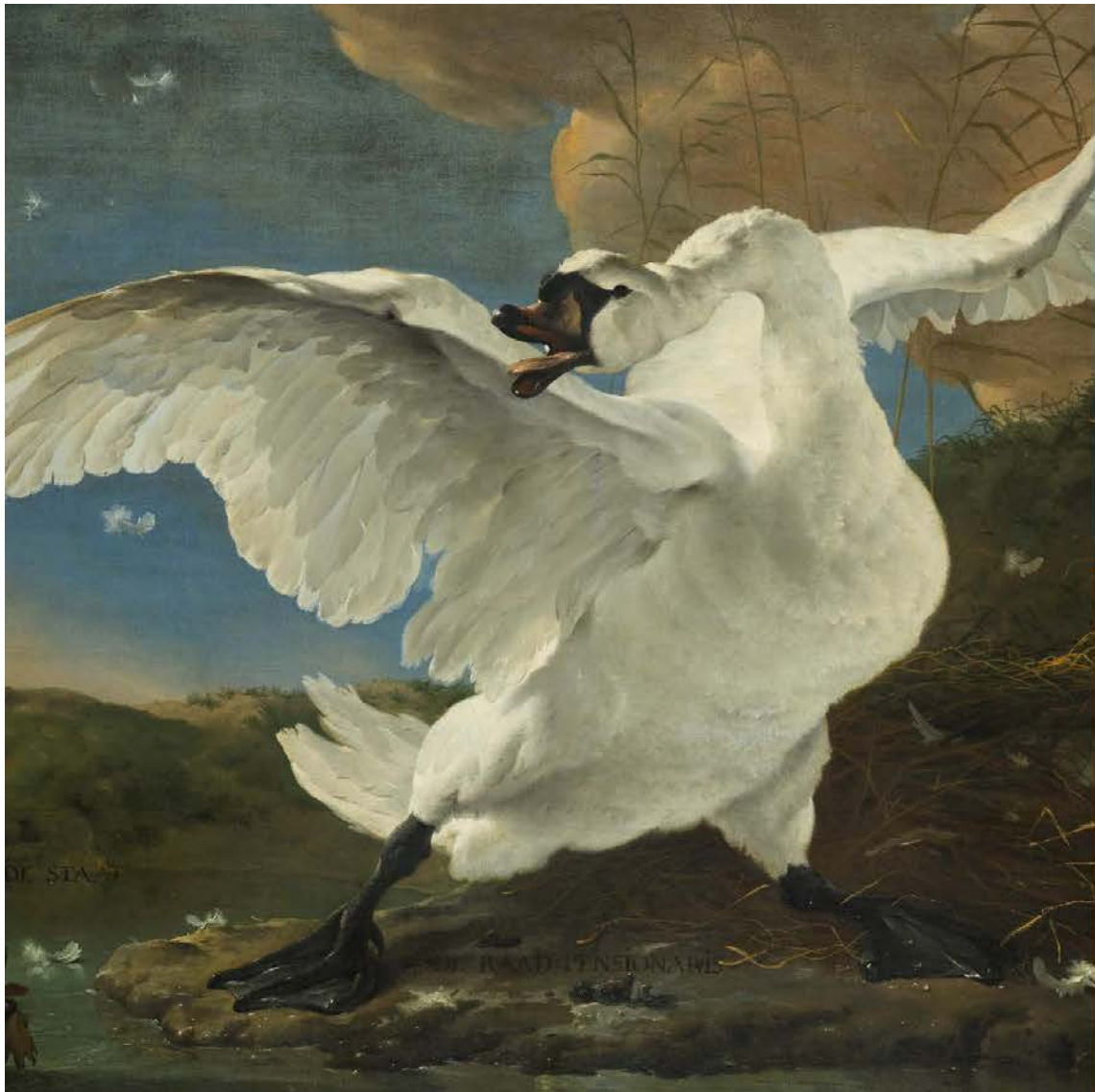
In winter time, Miffy enjoys skating.
Do you see the people skating in the painting?
What else is happening?



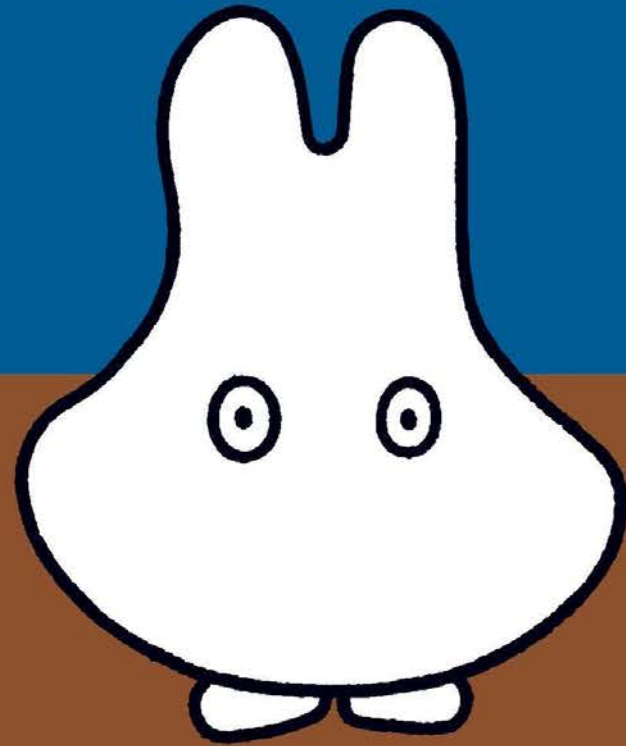


The girl on the painting and Miffy
have both dressed up beautifully.
Can you see the pretty flowers on their kimonos?





Boo! Miffy dressed up as a ghost.
The swan makes herself as big as possible.
Isn't that scary!



miffy x rijksmuseum



miffy x rijksmuseum

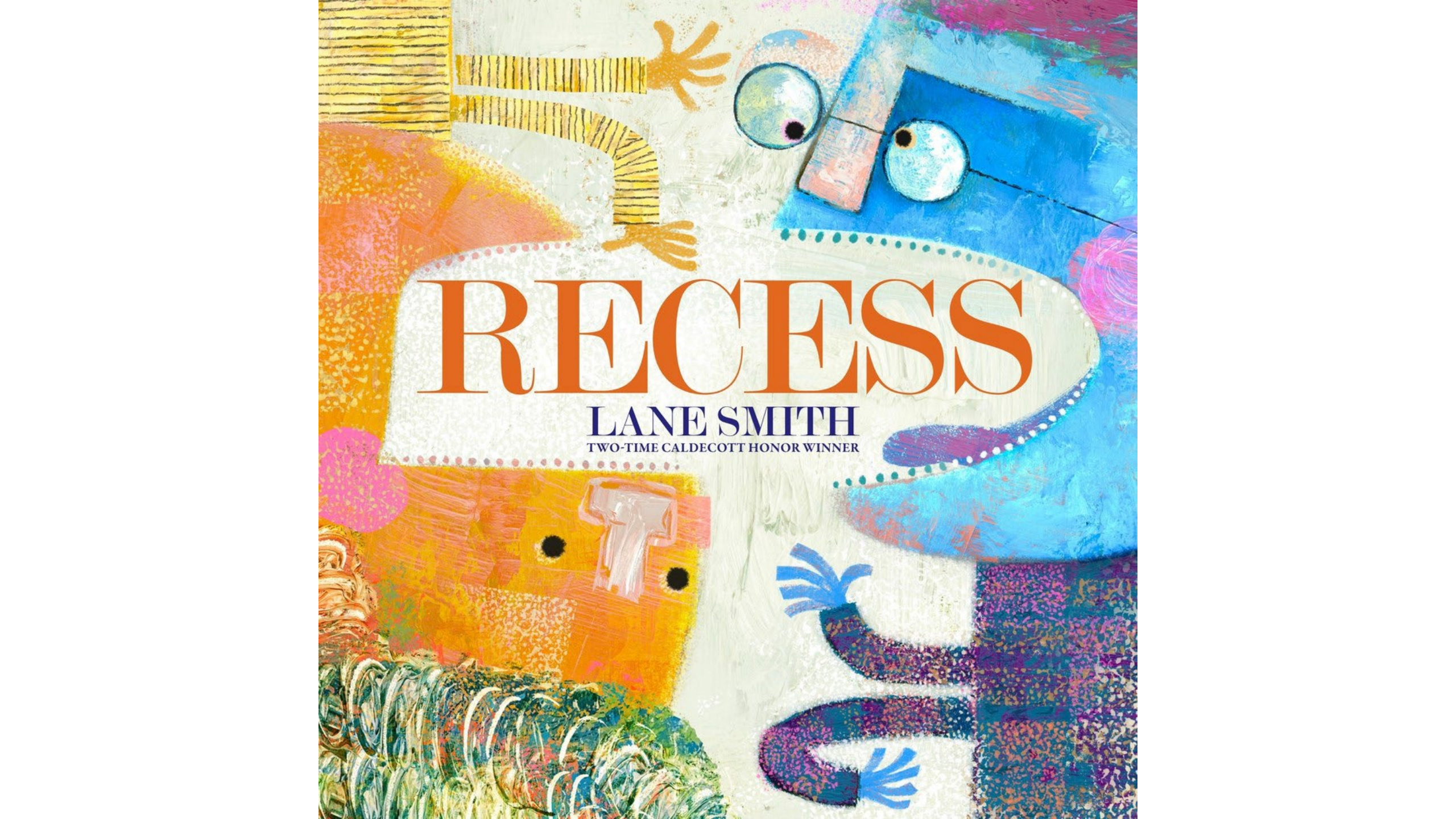
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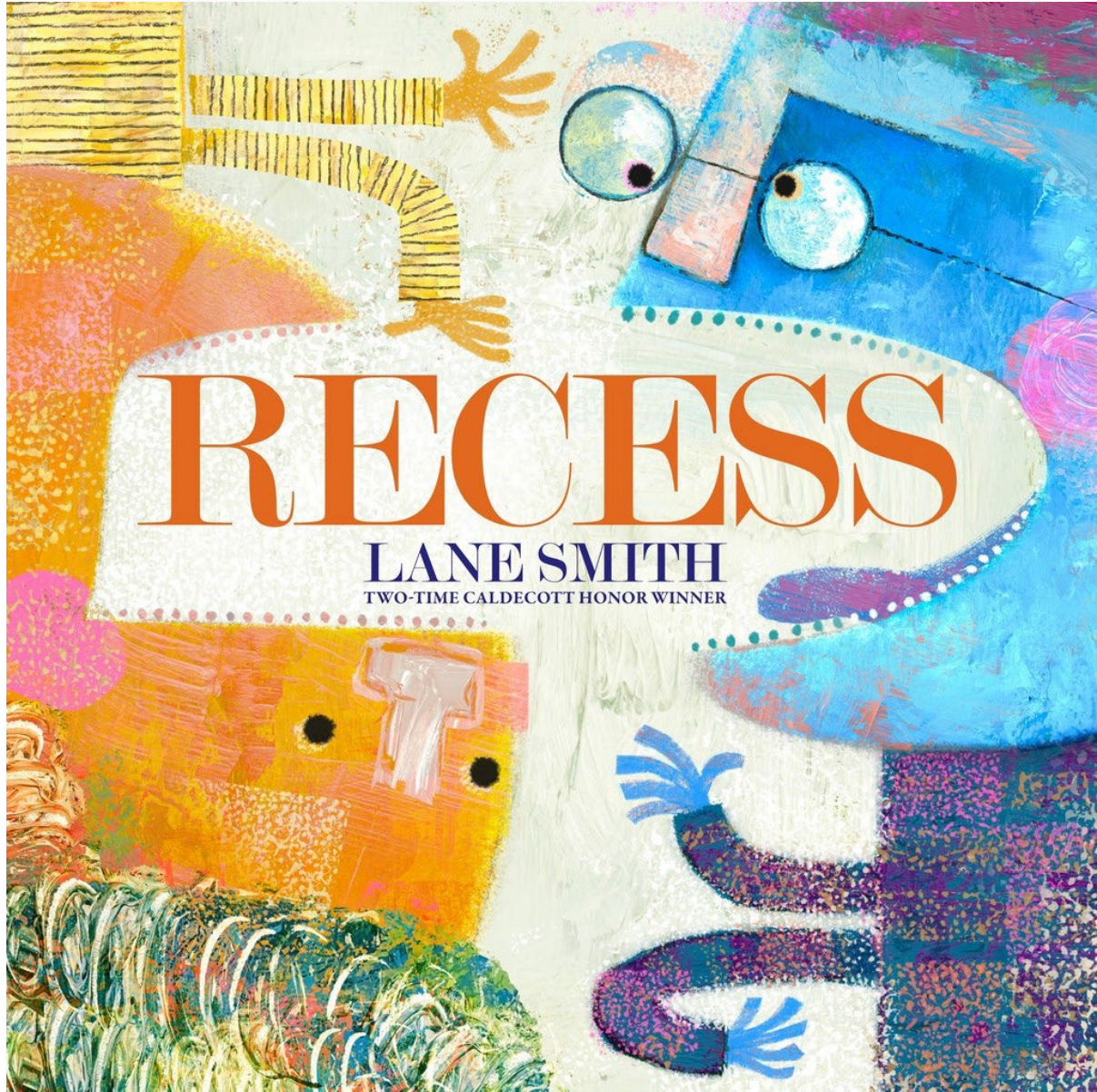
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RECESS

LANE SMITH

TWO-TIME CALDECOTT HONOR WINNER



Recess

A Picture Book

Lane Smith

BIG BESTSELLER: Smith is the illustrator behind several longtime backlist bestsellers including *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* (more than 800,000 copies sold across formats), *James and the Giant Peach* (more than 525,000 copies sold across formats), and *The Stinky Cheese Man: And Other Fairly Stupid Tales* (more than 425,000 copies sold across formats).

MAJOR AWARD-WINNER: Among many other awards, Smith is a two-time Caldecott honoree (for *The Stinky Cheese Man* and *Grandpa Green*) and a Kate Greenaway Medal winner. His most recent author-illustrated book, *Stickler Loves the World* (2023), received three starred reviews and was named to best lists by *People*, *Kirkus Reviews*, the *Boston Globe*, and Evanston Public Library.

FRESH SCHOOL STORY: While school-themed books are always popular, there are few picture books about many kids' favorite "subject" recess! And this book can be read not *just* during recess, but any time that kids might have a little extra energy to wiggle out.

INTERACTIVE READ-ALoud: This hilarious, high-energy, playful text asks readers to make trombone sounds, air-type on an imaginary keyboard, and quack like a duck, among other goofy activities—before finally calming themselves down to go back to class. This interactive approach is a new direction for Smith's work and one he's very excited about!

AGES 4 - 8

AU \$30.99 | NZ \$34.99

9781419776892

40 Pages

Hardcover with dust jacket

254 mm x 254 mm

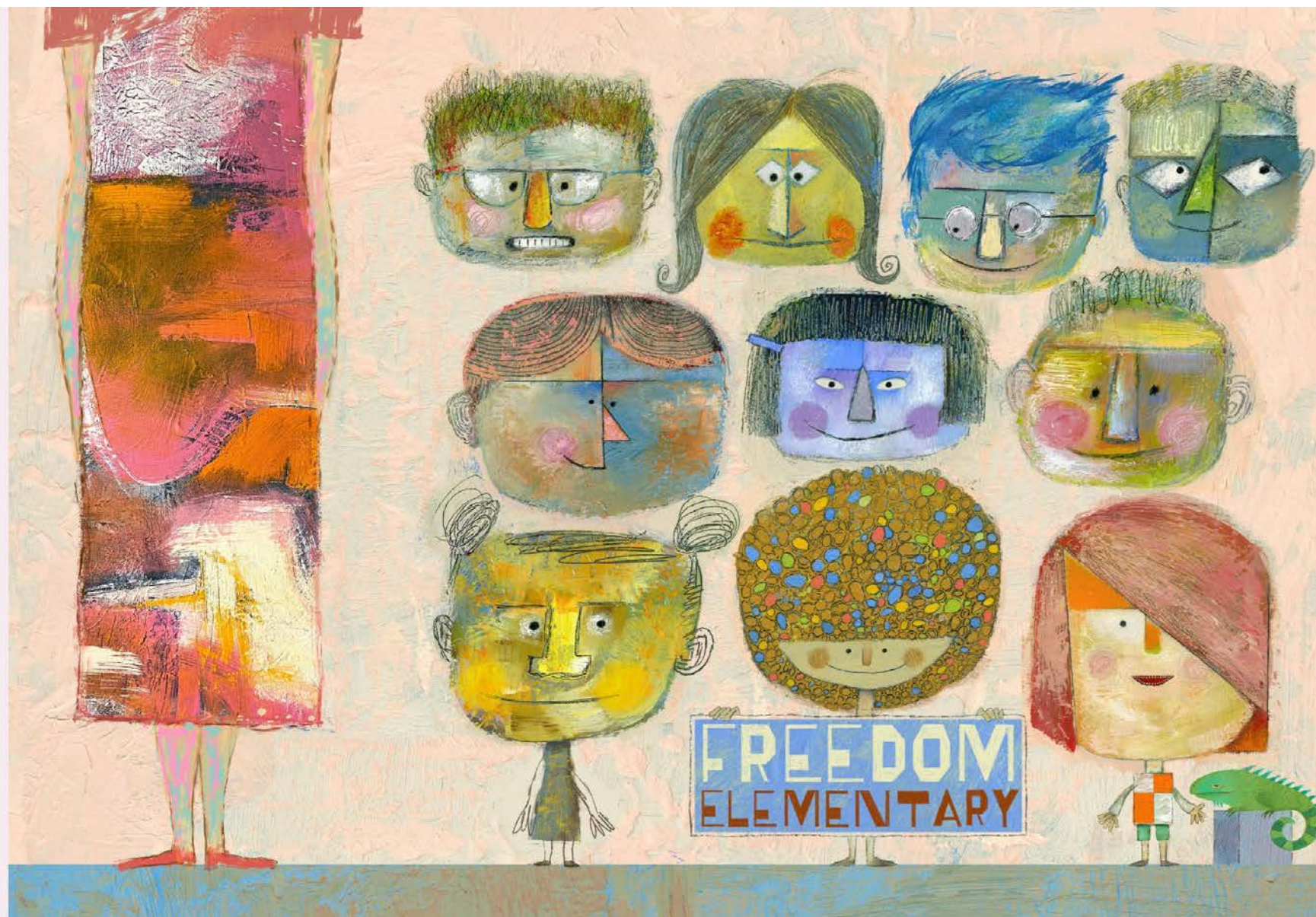
Abrams Books for Young Readers

At
school,
we read,
we write,
we learn,
we study.

It's pretty fun!

But sometimes we need a
break from all that fun, right?

That's why there's recess.





But what if recess is still a long time from now?
I mean, you all look like you could use a recess *this* minute.

What do you say?

Here?

Now?

Okay!

Excited to play tic-tac-toe?

Just kidding.

Ready . . . set . . .

RECESS!

Everyone, shake your hands!

Everyone, shake your legs!

Everyone, shake your booty!

SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!
SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!
SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!
SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!SHAKE!

Stop!

End of RECESS.

I did *not* think there would be that much booty shaking.





Let's talk media.

In the media center, we type on computers.
Sometimes it's a big computer.
Sometimes a little laptop.

But what if we're not near a computer?

RESTART . . .

RECESS!

Everyone, type in the air!

Type faster.

Faster!

*FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!
TER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FAS
FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!
ASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!FASTER!F*

Too silly! Stop typing!

End of RECESS.

You looked like you were trying to tickle a ghost.



RECESS!

Everyone, make trombone sounds with your mouths!

Everyone, slap your lap like a drum!

Everyone, stomp your feet like a marching band!

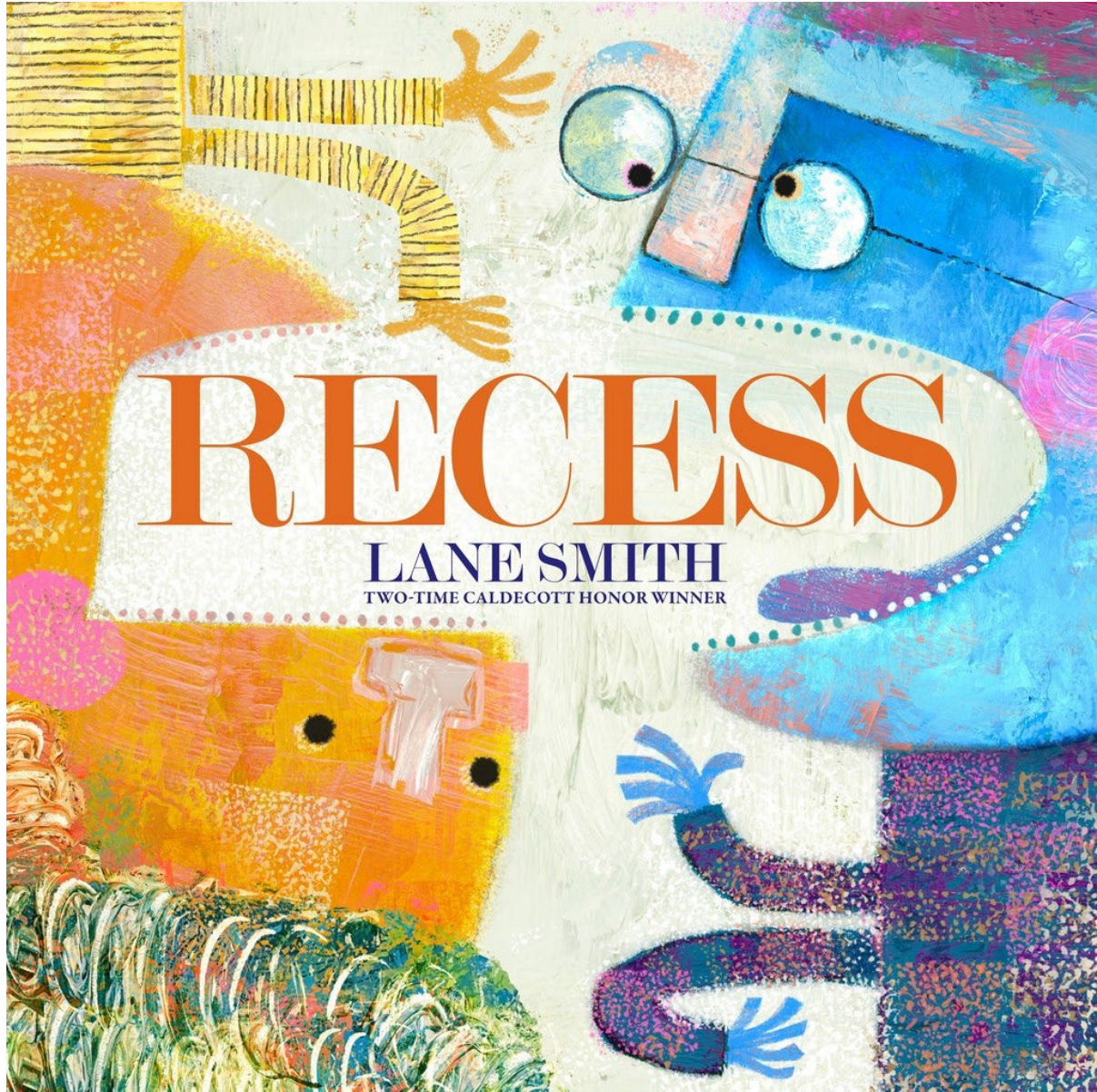
STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!
STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!
STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!
STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!

Can the music! Stop marching!

End of RECESS.

OH MY, I just remembered something . . .





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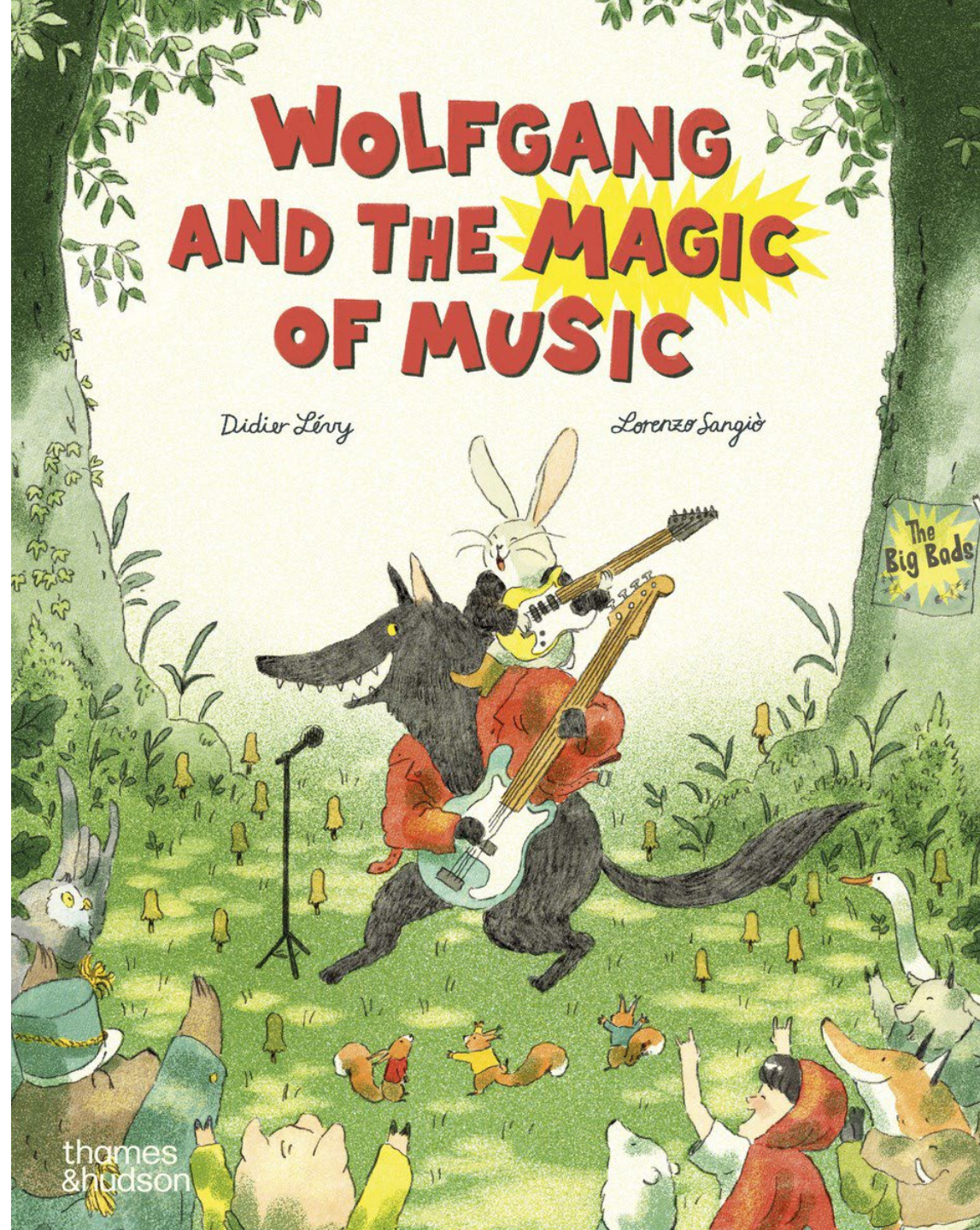
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Abrams Books for Young Readers

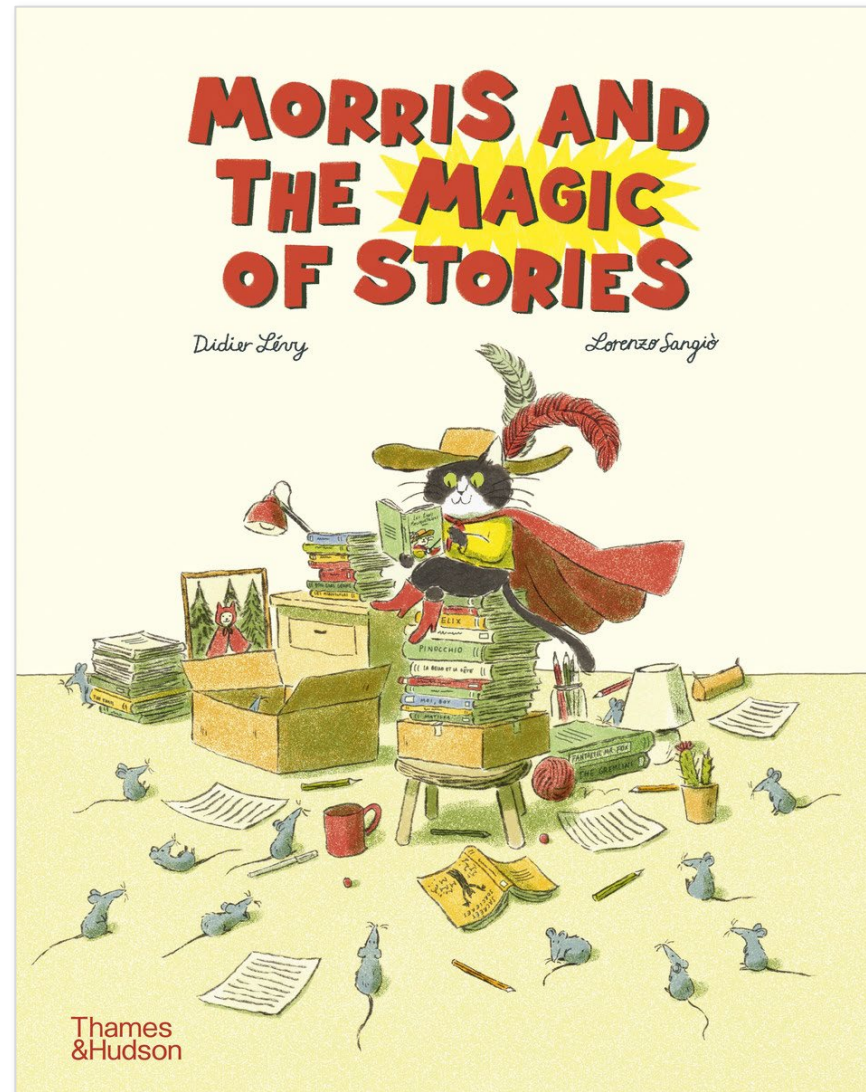
WOLFGANG AND THE MAGIC OF MUSIC

Didier Lévy

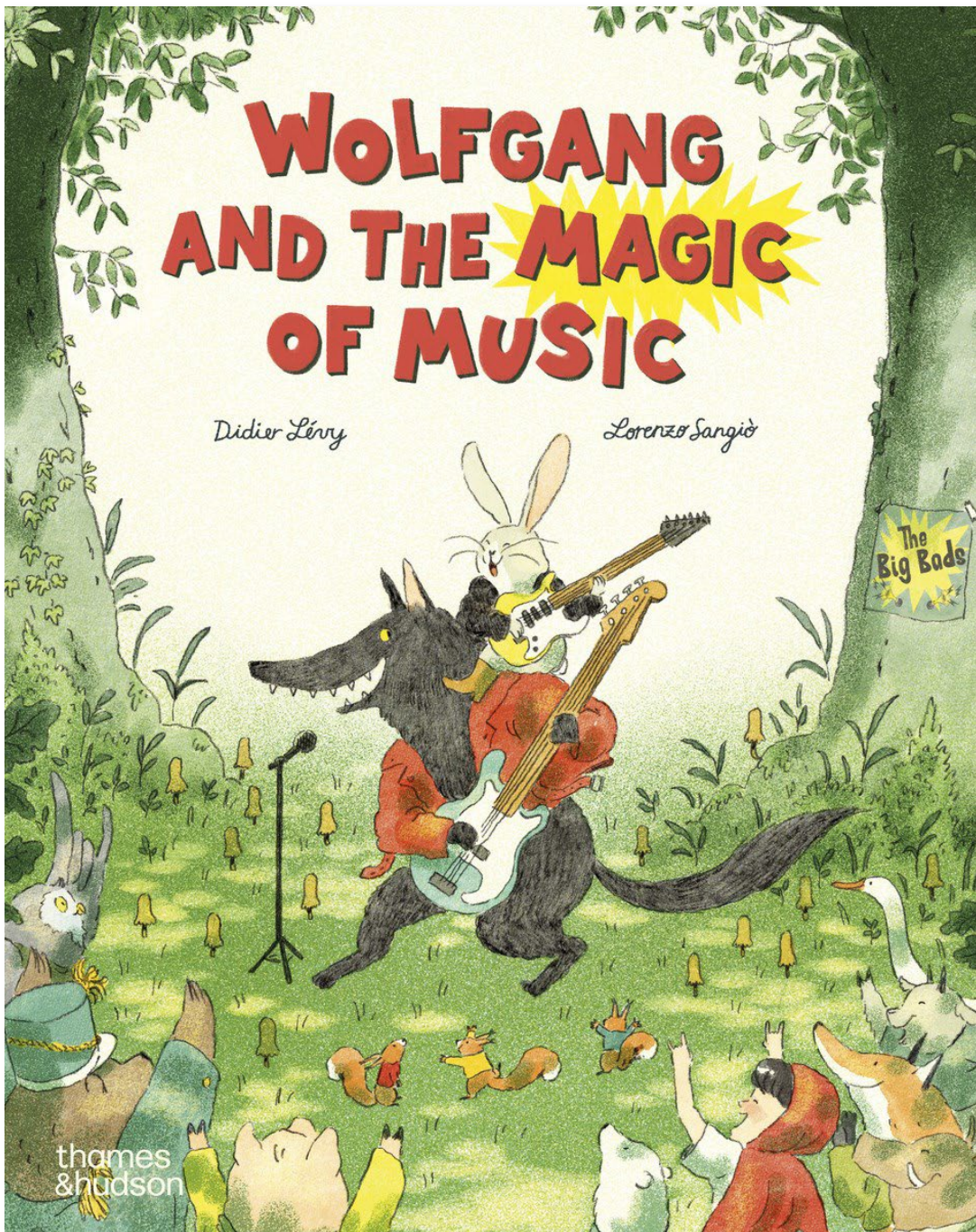
Lorenzo Sangiò



ALSO AVAILABLE



9780500653258



Wolfgang and the Magic of Music

Didier Lévy

A beautifully illustrated ode to the power of music.

Wolfgang the Wolf dreams of starting a band. Without a second thought he places an advert, and to his great surprise Rex the Rabbit appears, a rocker with a fabulous voice. The Big Bads group was born. They are an immediate hit, and their fans come to listen from all over the forest. But Wolfgang's wolfish taste for rabbits is never far away...

Wolfgang and the Magic of Music is a sweet tale of an unlikely friendship, and the power of singing to bring everyone together.

NOW IN PAPERBACK | EARLY RELEASE - JULY | AGES 4+

AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99

9780500660430

40 Pages

Paperback

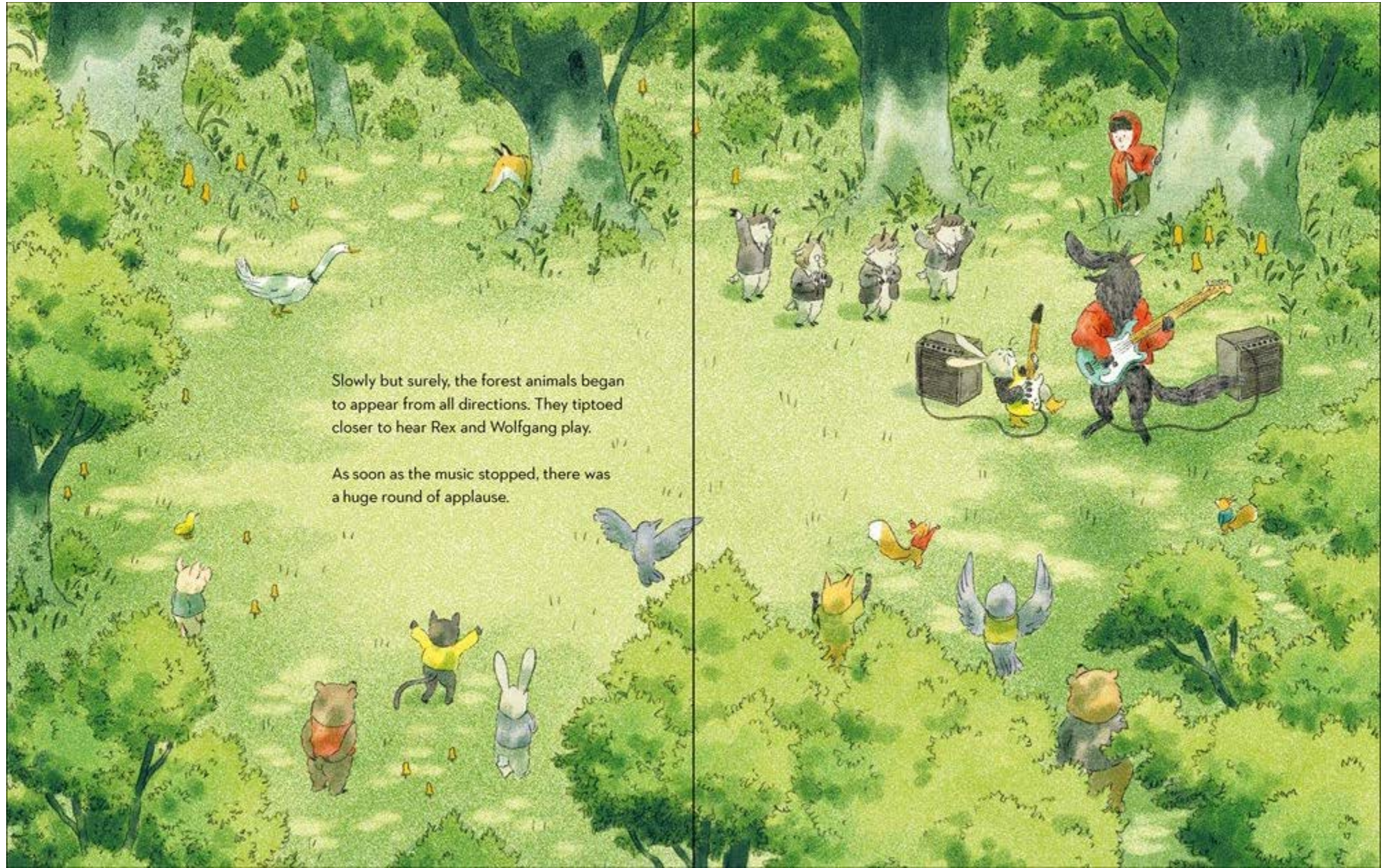
290 mm x 230 mm

Thames and Hudson Ltd

Disappointed, Wolfgang was taking down his poster when suddenly, somebody appeared. Wolfgang rubbed his eyes. No, he wasn't imagining it.

"I'm here about the band," the new arrival said. "My name's Rex. Do you want to hear me play something?"





Slowly but surely, the forest animals began to appear from all directions. They tiptoed closer to hear Rex and Wolfgang play.

As soon as the music stopped, there was a huge round of applause.

So that's how the greatest band in the forest, The Big Bads, were formed.

Soon they started to play their first official gigs. They were a huge hit. The crowd got bigger every time they played.





Oh no! The Big Bads ran away as fast as they could.



Pretty soon, everyone in the forest wanted to make their own music.
The bears started a marching band.



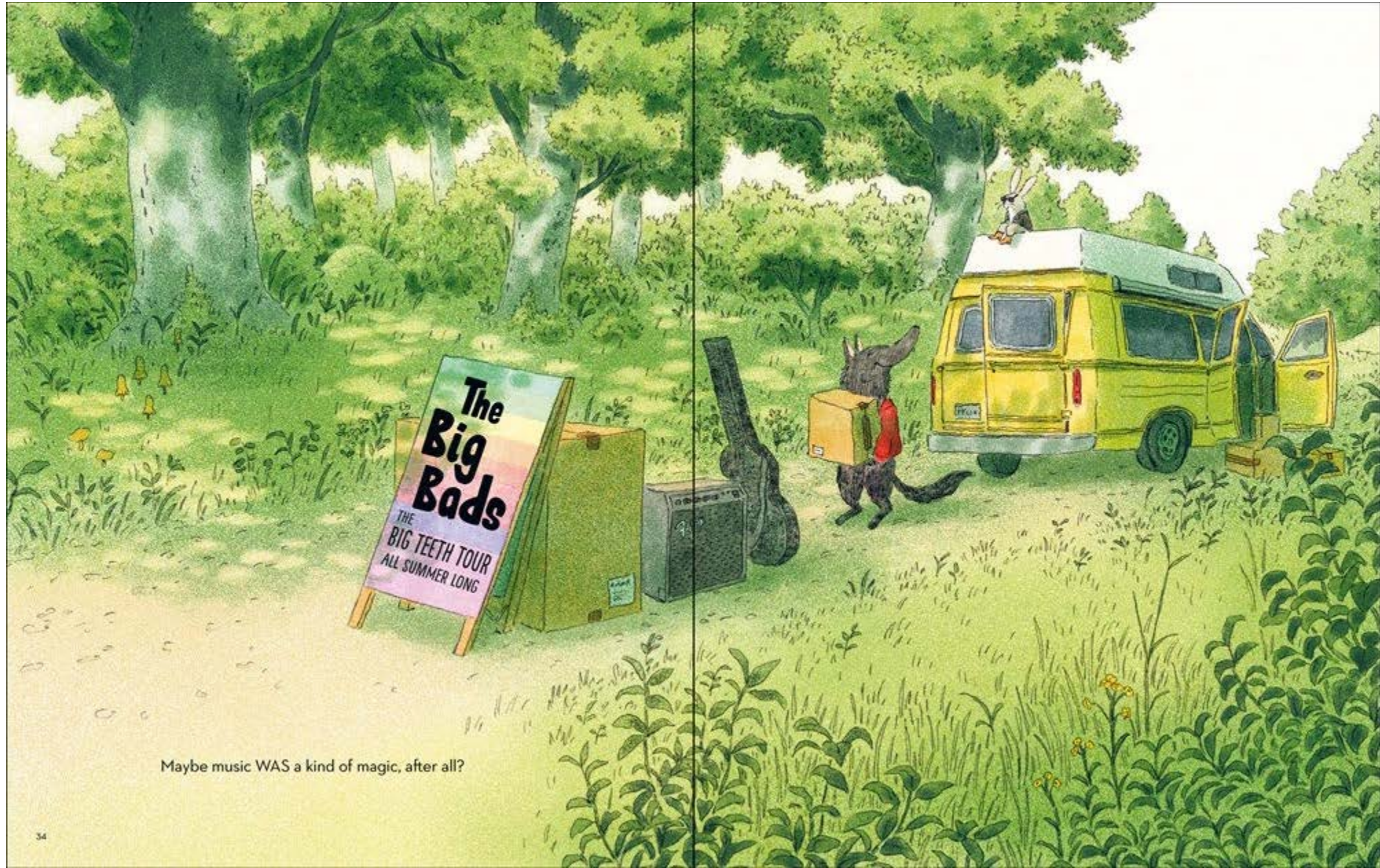
The frogs formed an orchestra.



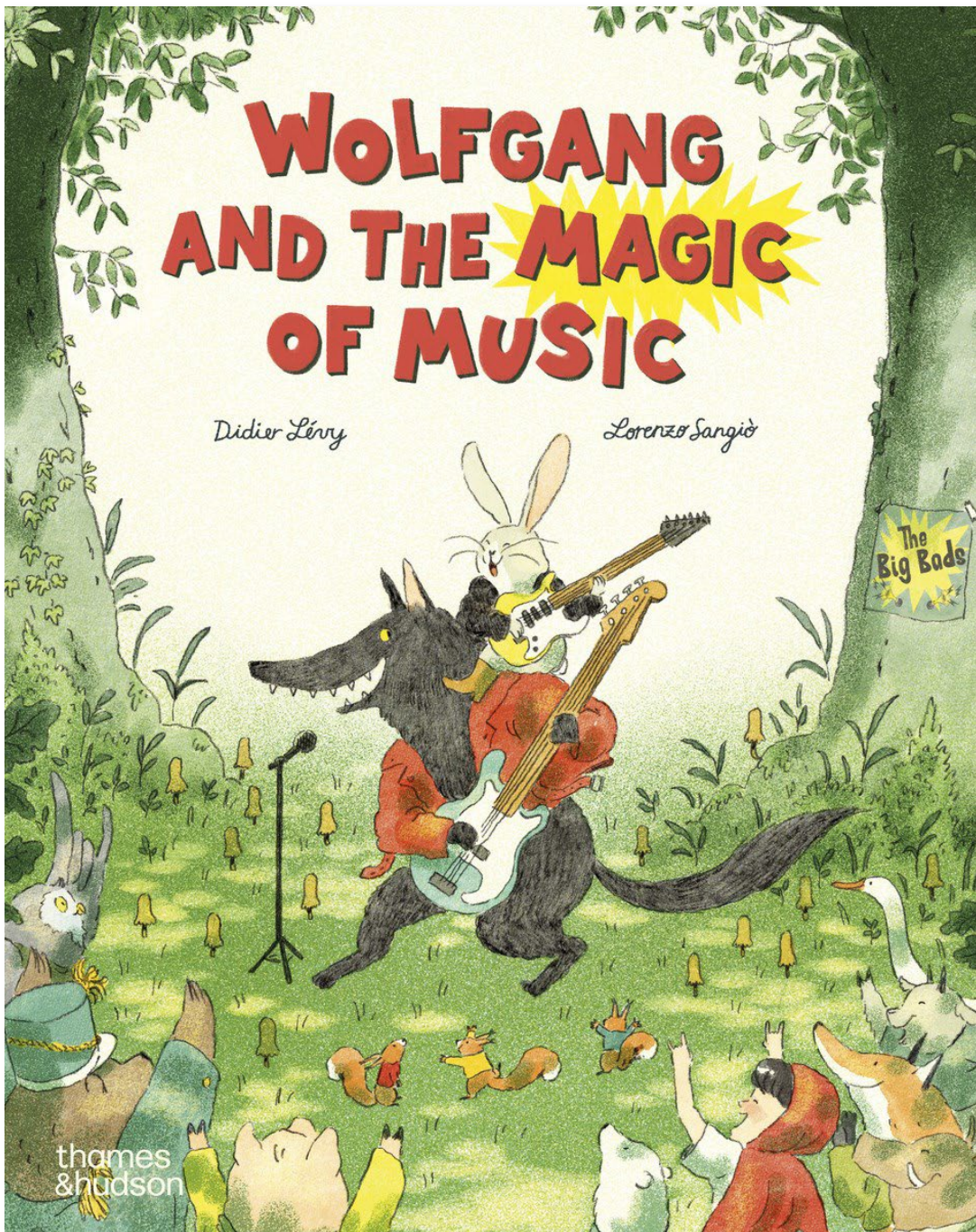
The wild boars became a string quartet.



Even the hunters formed a choir. They put down their
rifles and started singing in the turnip field instead.



Maybe music WAS a kind of magic, after all?



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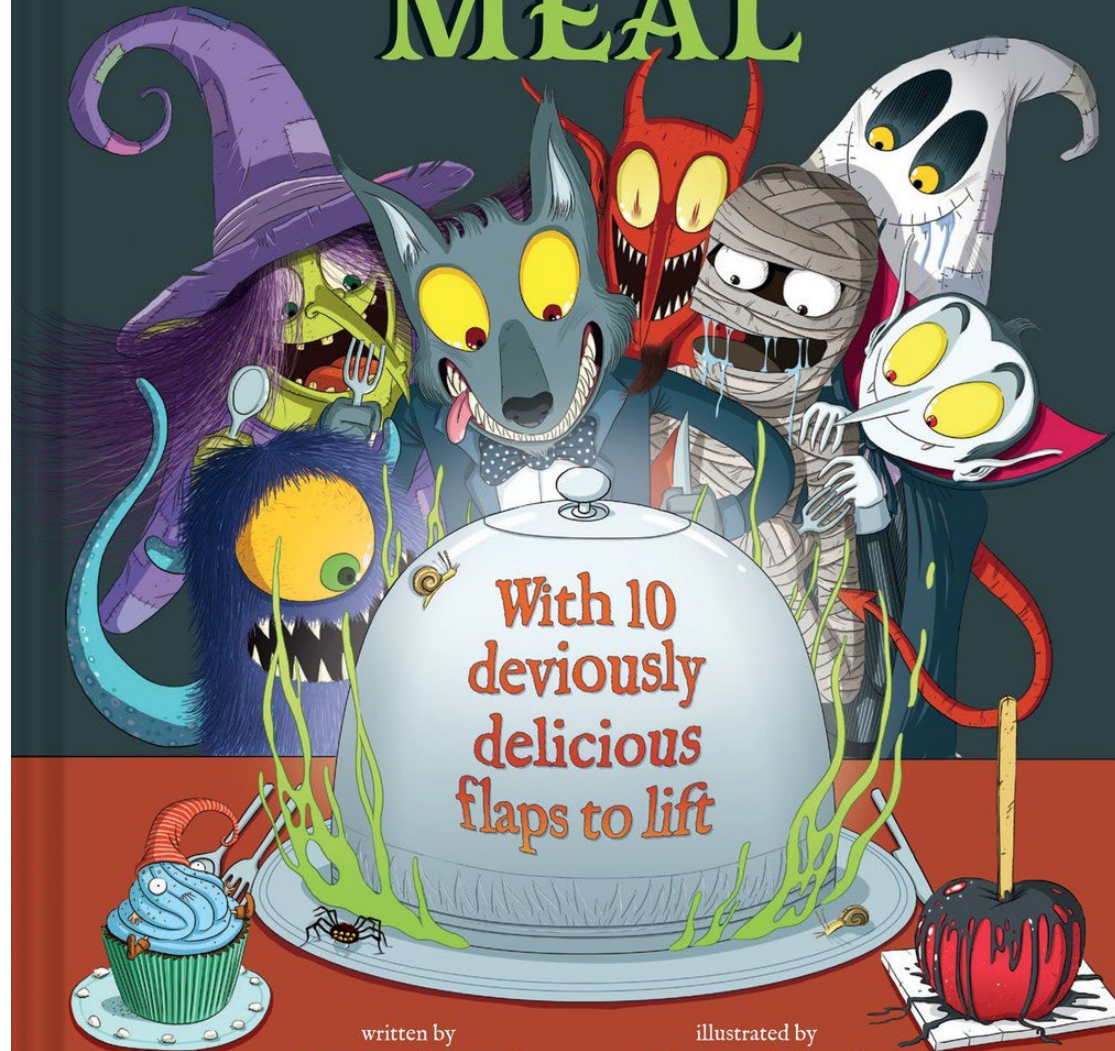
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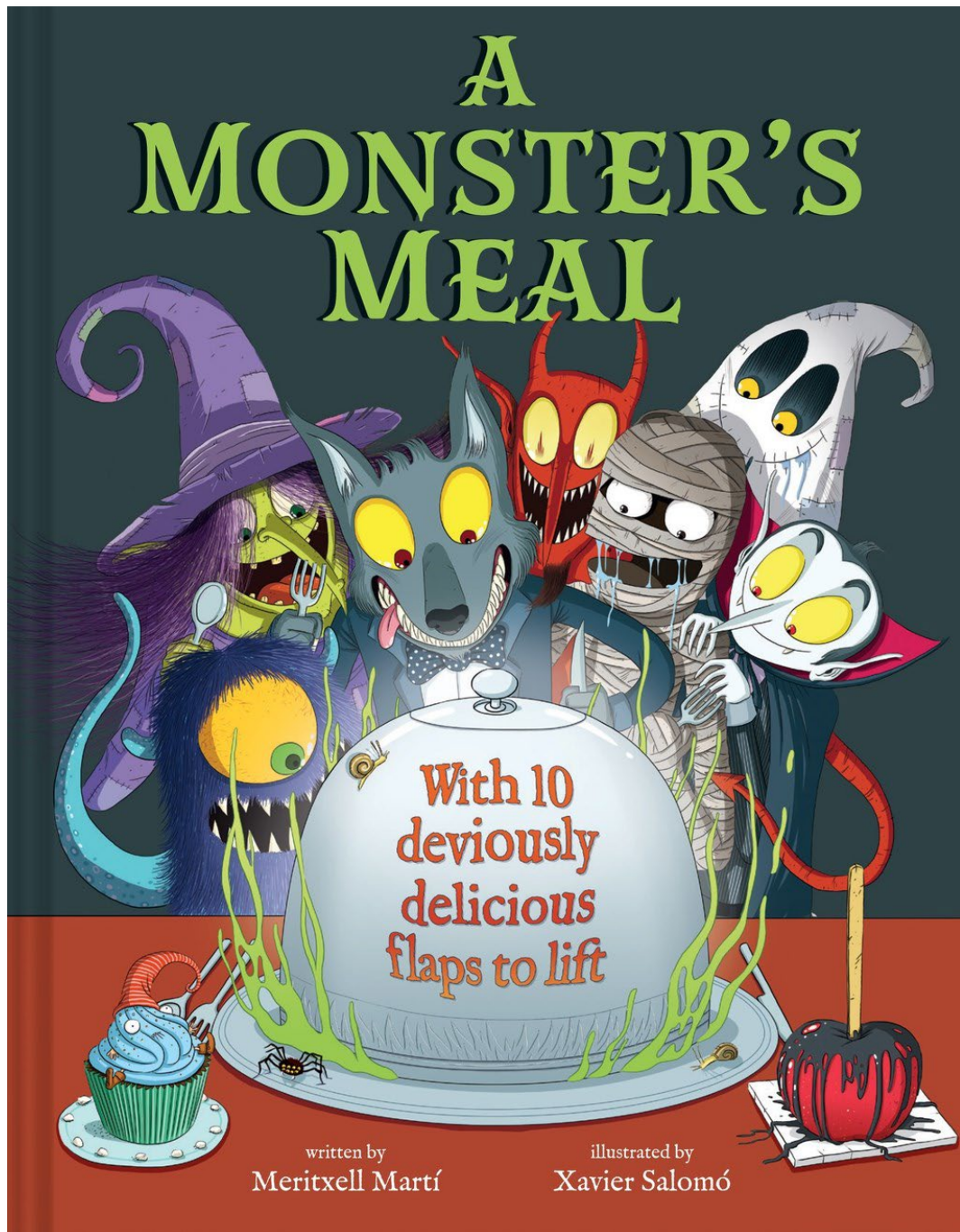
Thames and Hudson Ltd

A MONSTER'S MEAL



written by
Meritxell Martí

illustrated by
Xavier Salomó



A Monster's Meal

A Lift-the-Flap Picture Book

Meritxell Martí

It's dinnertime at the annual feast for fiends—lift the flap covering each monster's plate to reveal the deliciously gruesome meal underneath in this grossly funny picture book. Bone Appétit!

HALLOWEEN AND BEYOND: Featuring a different, hungry monster on each spread, this is the perfect Halloween time—and dinnertime—pick for any guardians' little monster!

NOVELTY ELEMENT: Each meal's plate cover is a large, sturdy flap, which—when lifted—reveals each monster's frightfully funny meal underneath.

INTERNATIONAL HIT: Since its release in 2017, *Festin de Affreux* has sold more than 83,000 copies in France, Spain, and Italy, and we're sure to see the same success in the English language market!

AGES 4 - 8

AU \$26.99 | NZ \$29.99

9781419783371

40 Pages

Hardcover Paper over boards

279 mm x 216 mm

Abrams Books for Young Readers



Tonight is the annual feast for fiends, where the world's scariest monsters gather to share a deviously dreadful dinner. The Rotten Core, a three-skull restaurant that sits high atop Shark Tooth Cliff, is slowly filling up with guests.

The chef, Victor Frankenfurter, known for his sickening cuisine, is busy preparing the menu. What has he cooked for his ghoulish guests? Maybe it's their favorite meal . . .

One by one they all take their seats at the table.
As the smell of delicious food wafts in, their
stomachs howl in anticipation. They begin to
impatiently bang their cutlery on the table.
The waiter comes in—it's finally time!

Here comes dinner!



THE MUMMY

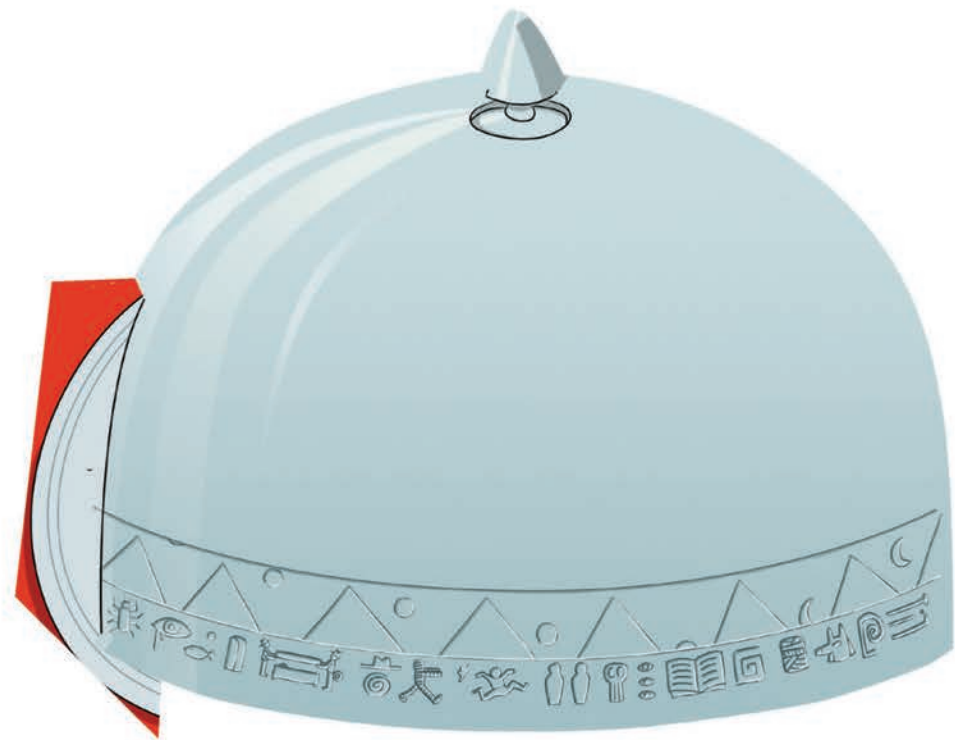
Next is our oldest guest, wrapped in mystery!



It's her first time at the Rotten Core. She's heard nothing but ravenous reviews! But she still has one question: Will the appetizers include savory scarab scones?



❖
Pharaohs' eyeballs pyramid
Beetle cheesecake topped with fly brains
Pickled parasites served on papyrus
Scorpion-tail trail mix

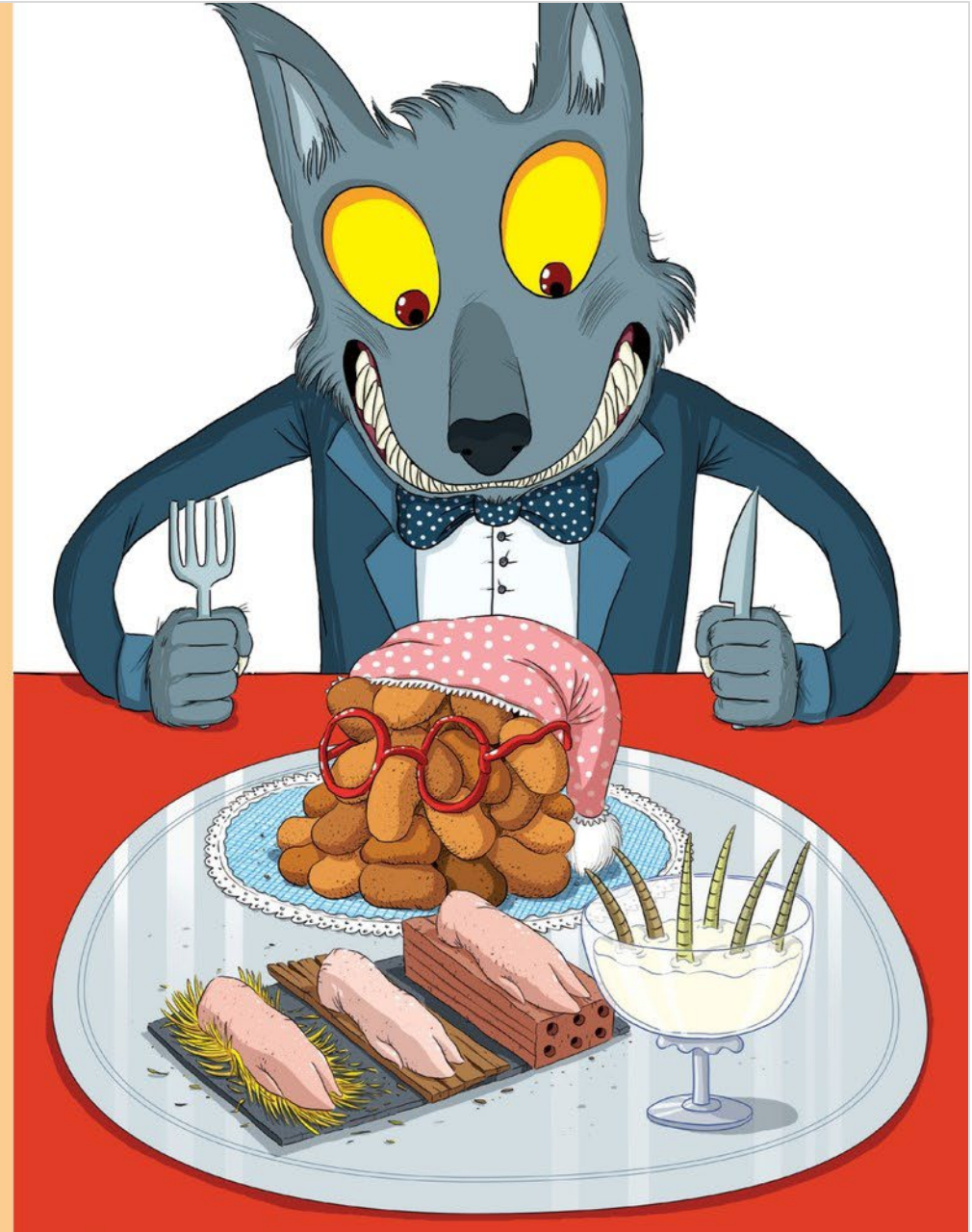


THE BIG BAD WOLF

Awoooooo! At the head of the table—and the first to be served—sits the restaurant's hairiest guest!



Residing in the forest, he enjoys foraging for fungi and mushrooms for his meals. But he's not a vegetarian—he prefers his mushrooms served on top of pork chops. Three juicy, *tender* pork chops. What has Chef prepared for him this evening?



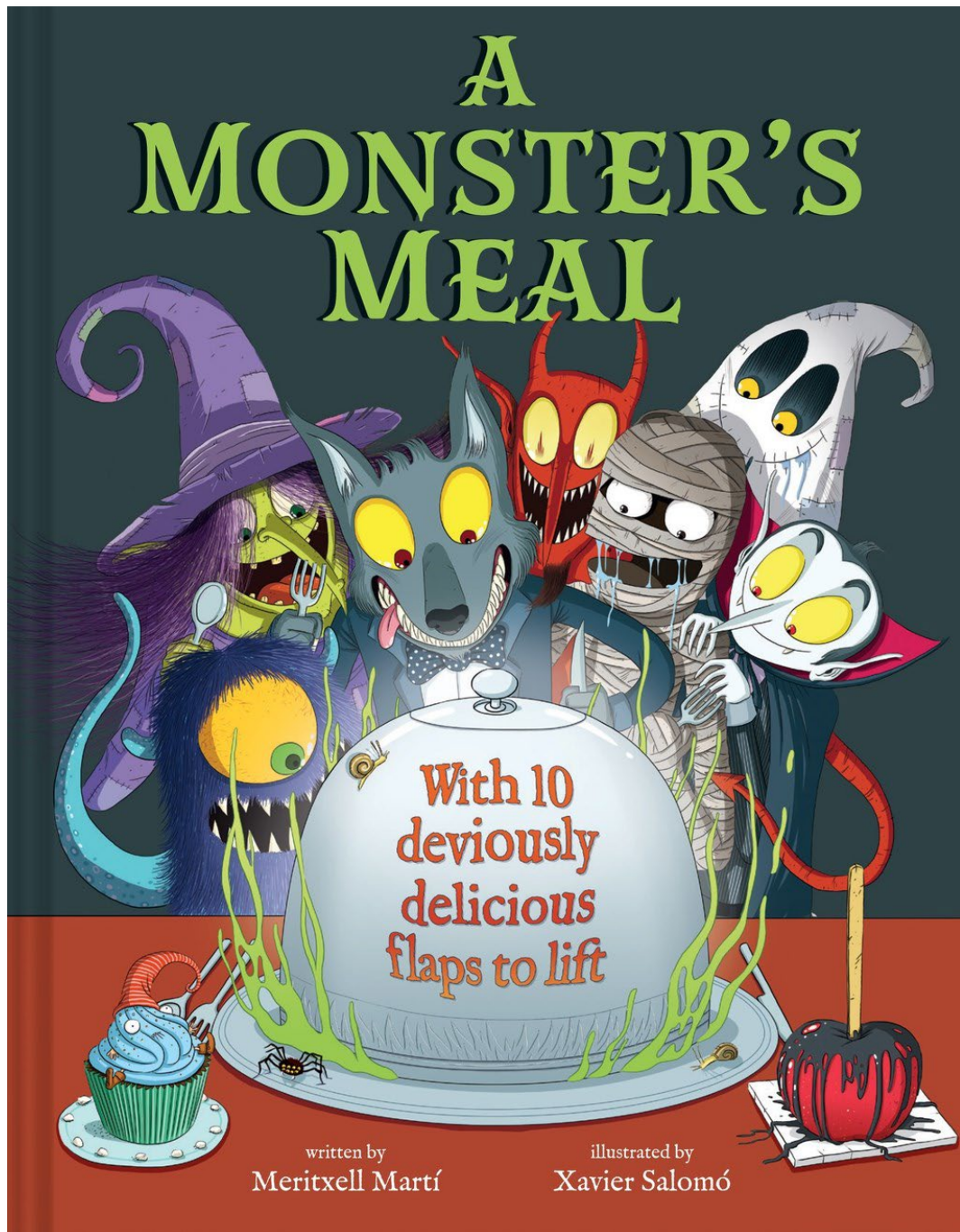
THE WICKED WITCH

To the right of the big bad wolf is a very magical guest . . .



During her broom ride over to Shark Tooth Cliff, the Witch got so hungry she snacked on the spiders living in her hair. But that won't ruin her appetite. Especially her favorite part of the meal—dessert! Has Chef Frankenfurter made his black cat claw cake that's to die for? Or will it be a slice of poison apple pie?





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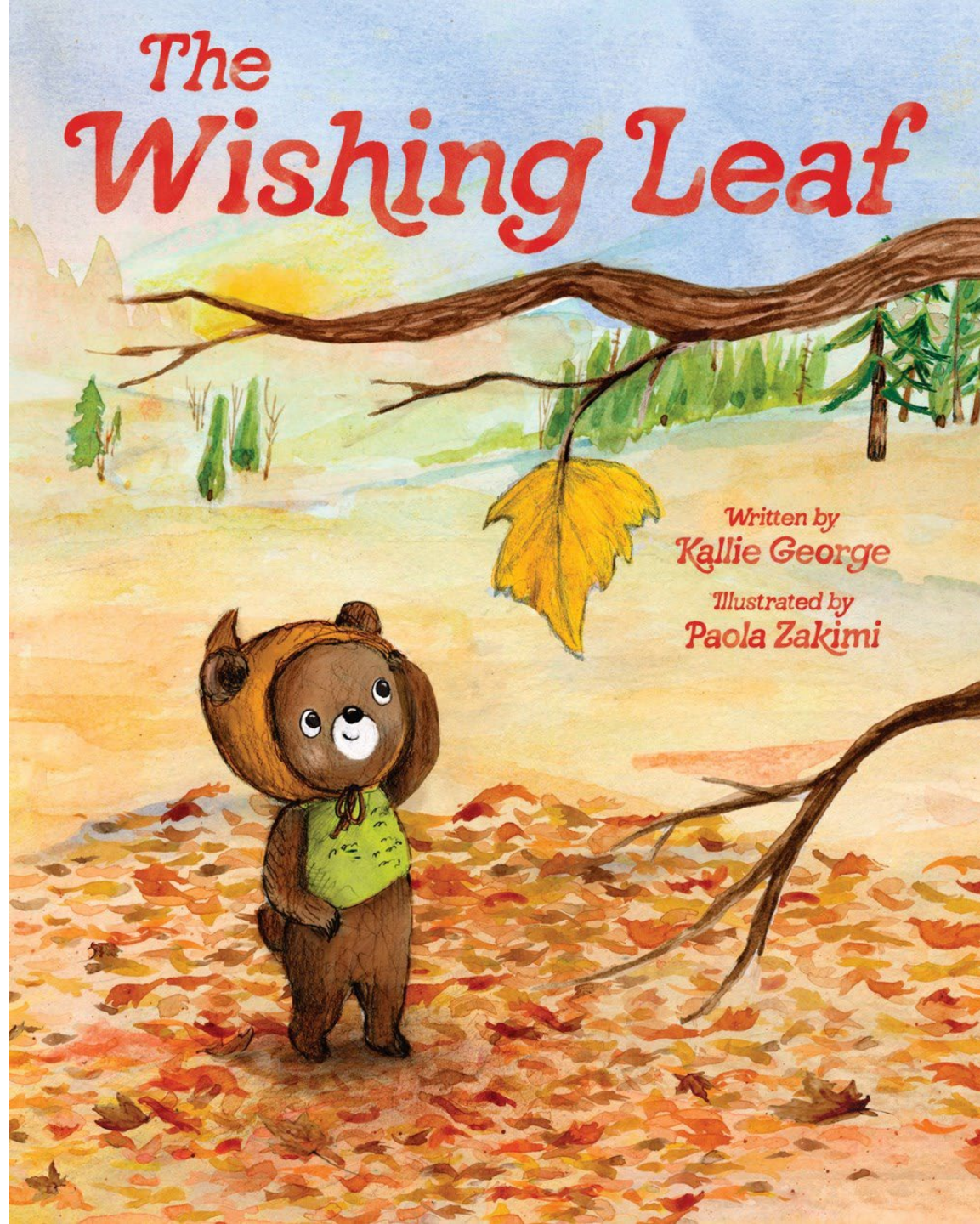
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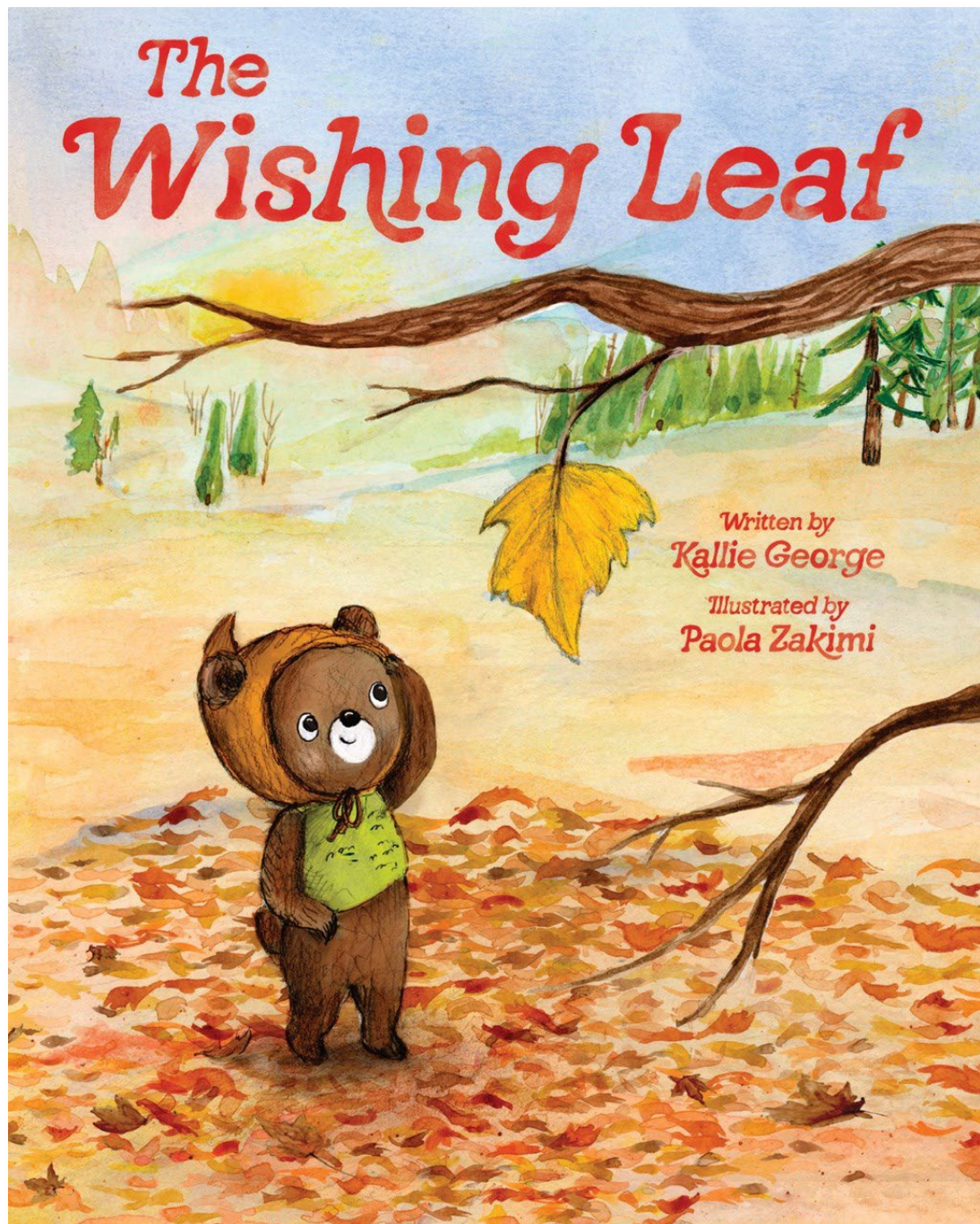
Abrams Books for Young Readers

The Wishing Leaf

Written by
Kallie George

Illustrated by
Paola Zakimi





The Wishing Leaf

The Perfect Picture Book Read-Aloud for Fall and Winter

Kallie George

STRONG AUTHOR TRACK: George's chapter book series with a similarly heartwarming feel and animal focus, the Heartwood Hotel books, have sold more than 140,000 copies combined.

NEW SEASONAL FAVORITE: We can see this warm-and-cozy picture book landing on seasonal round-ups and gift tables throughout the autumn and winter and enjoying a long backlist life.

GENTLE BEDTIME STORY: After the last leaf falls, a sleepy little Bear snuggles up to Mama who brings him home and tucks him into bed.

CLASSIC ART: With sweet, gentle illustrations full of adorable animal characters, Zakimi's art, which has received several starred reviews, is reminiscent of Renata Liwska's *The Quiet Book*.

TIMELESS THEMES: Encourages kids to pay close attention to the natural world, appreciate the smallest wonders, enjoy experiences with friends, and practice patience.

AGES 4 - 8

AU \$30.00 | NZ \$34.99

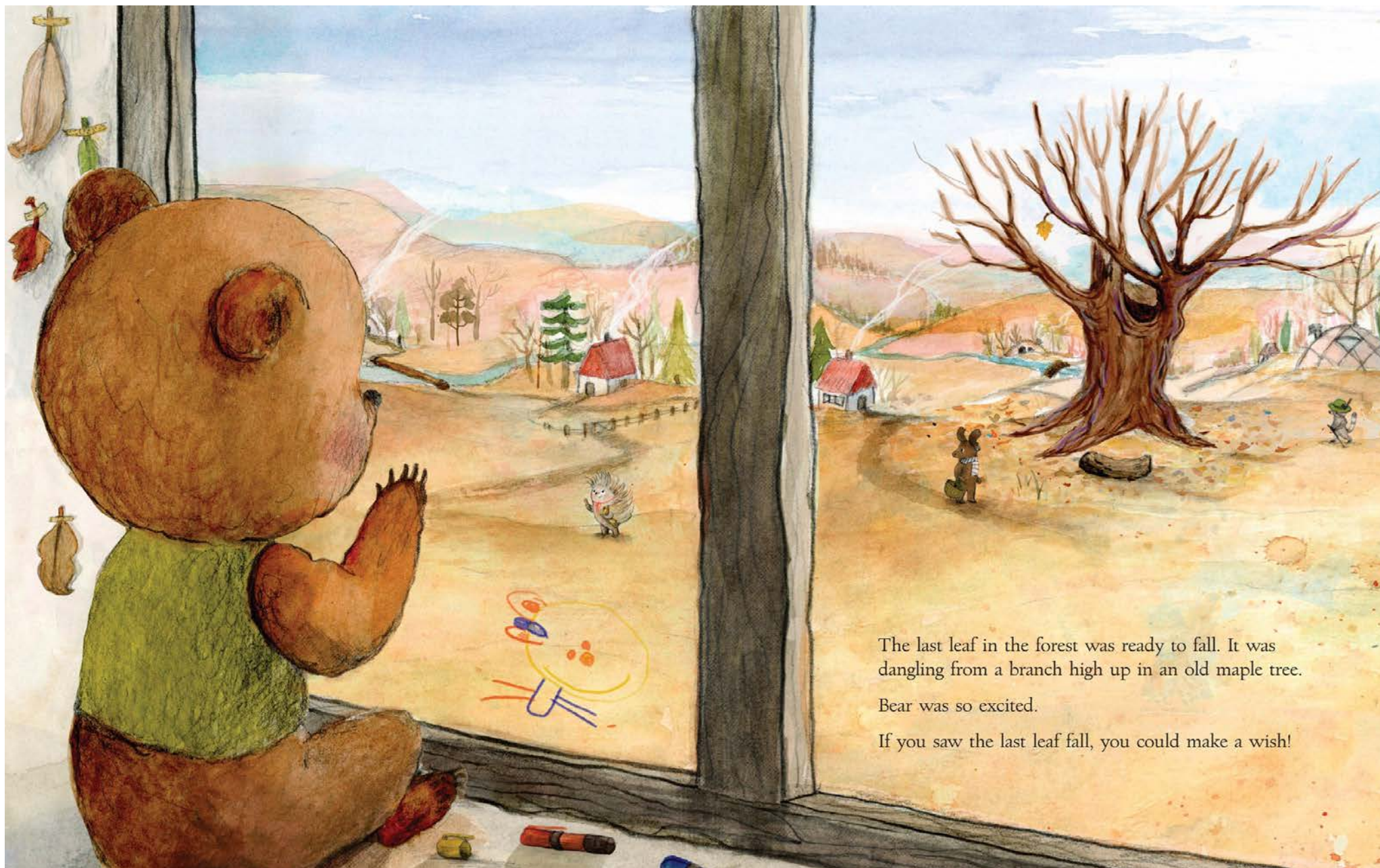
9781419772467

40 Pages

Hardcover with dust jacket

254 mm x 203 mm

Abrams Books for Young Readers



The last leaf in the forest was ready to fall. It was
dangling from a branch high up in an old maple tree.

Bear was so excited.

If you saw the last leaf fall, you could make a wish!



"When will it fall?" Bear asked.

"I don't know," said Chipmunk. "We just have to *wait*."



Bear knew that waiting could be hard. But he had a lot to think about. Like what he should wish for.

He wasn't sure, but maybe by the time the leaf fell, he would know.



A breeze blew through the branches.
The leaf shivered, and the animals
gasped. But the leaf did not fall.

"My paws are c-c-cold," said Fox.

"Mine, too," chattered Raccoon.

The two of them left. But not Bear.



... and tumbled, falling
down, down, down,
like a shooting star.

Bear watched.

And he knew just
what to wish for.

He wished all his friends could see the leaf,
so they could make their own wishes.

The leaf kissed the snow, just for a moment,
and then flew off . . .

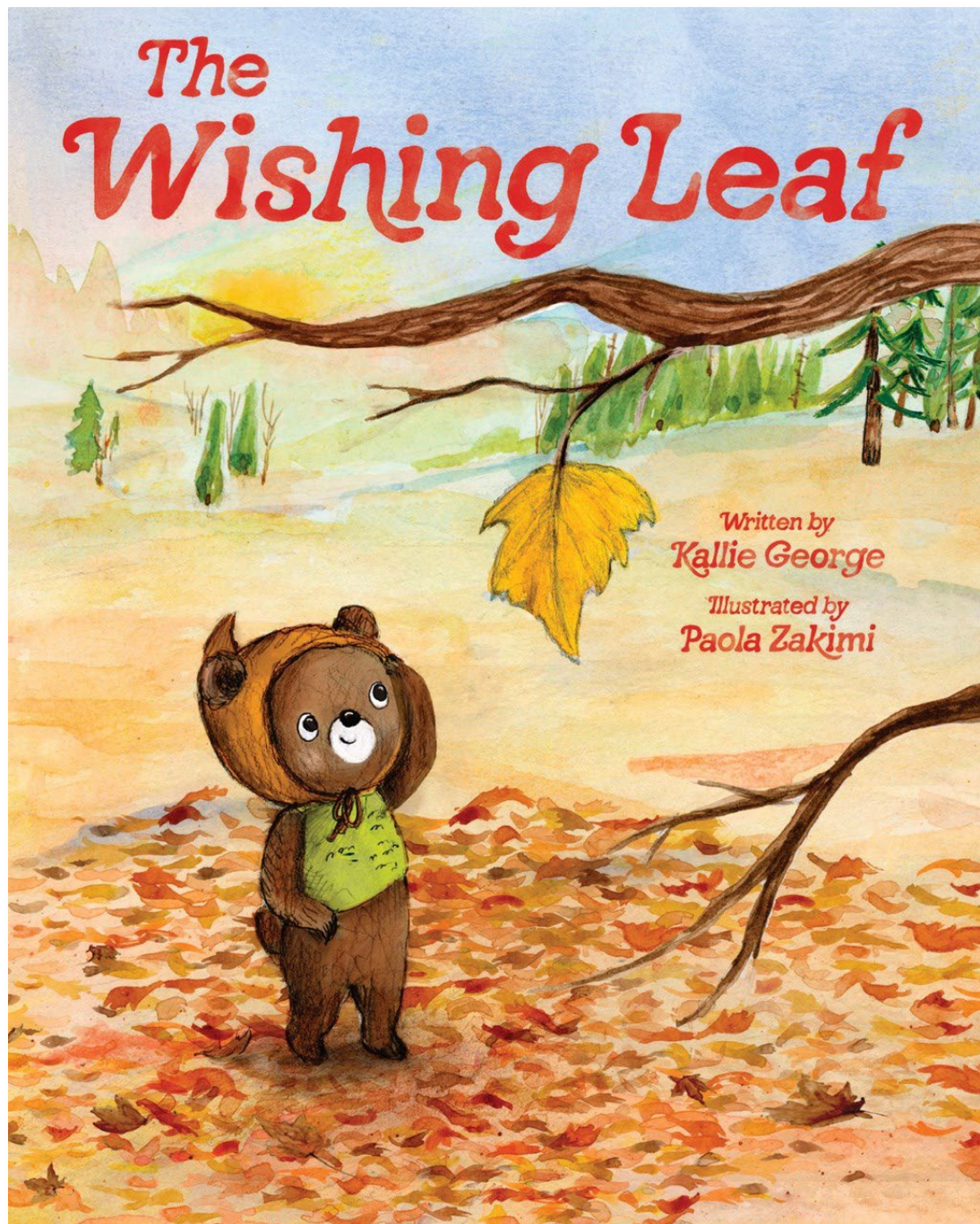


up across the forest.

The wind sang as it flew . . .

. . . twirling and swirling,

Whishishish . . .



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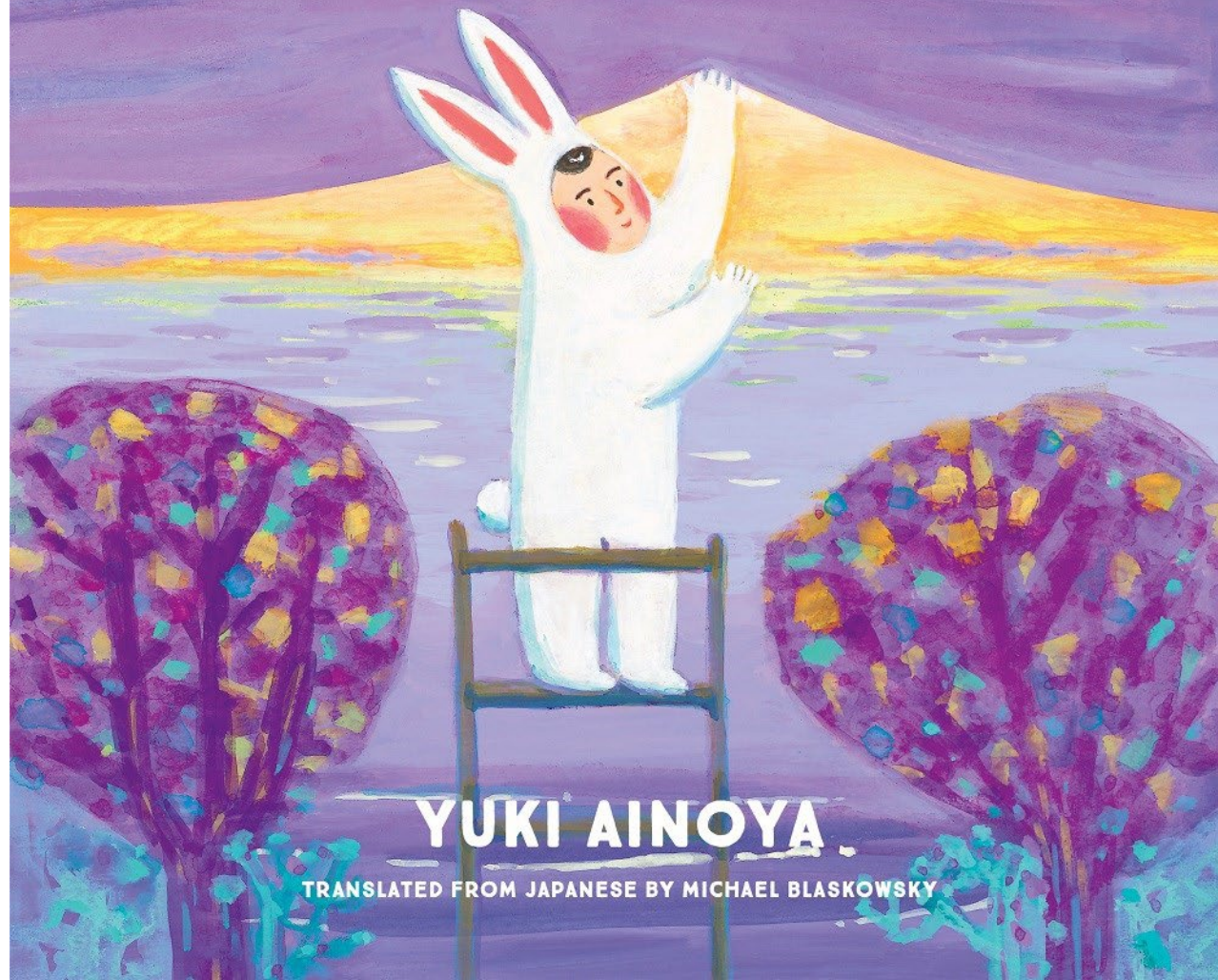
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Abrams Books for Young Readers

SATO

THE RABBIT

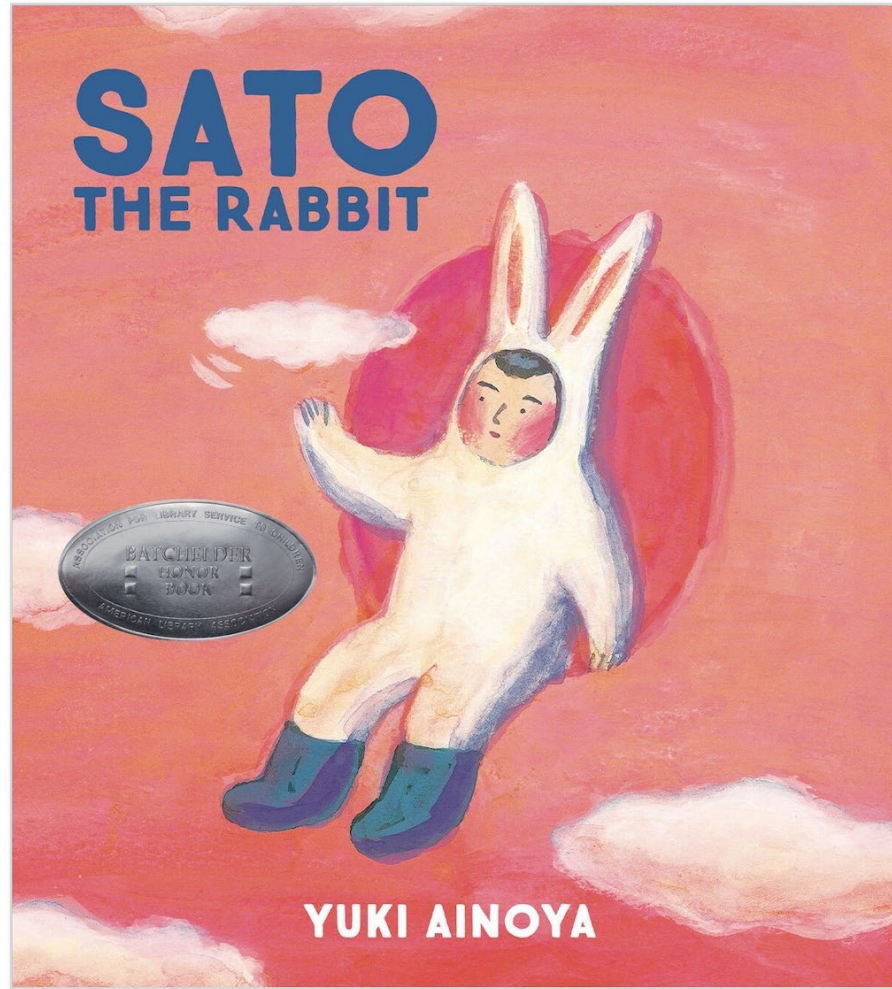
MORNING LIGHT



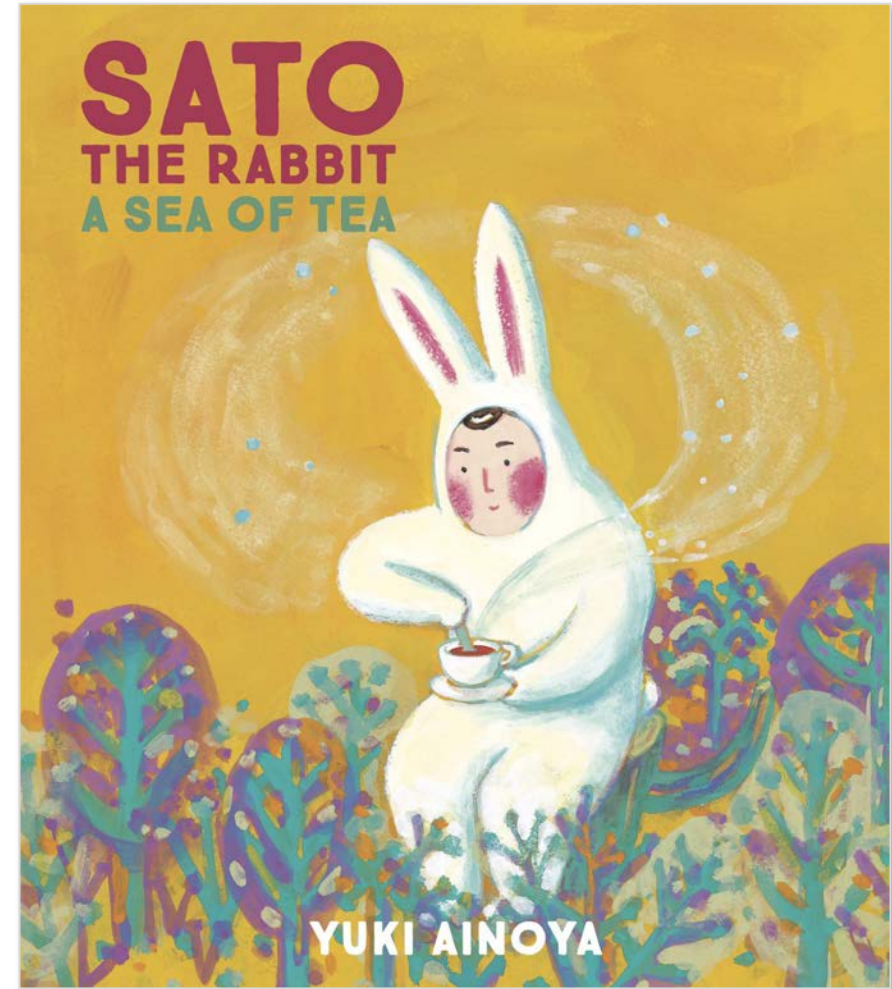
YUKI AINOYA

TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE BY MICHAEL BLASKOWSKY

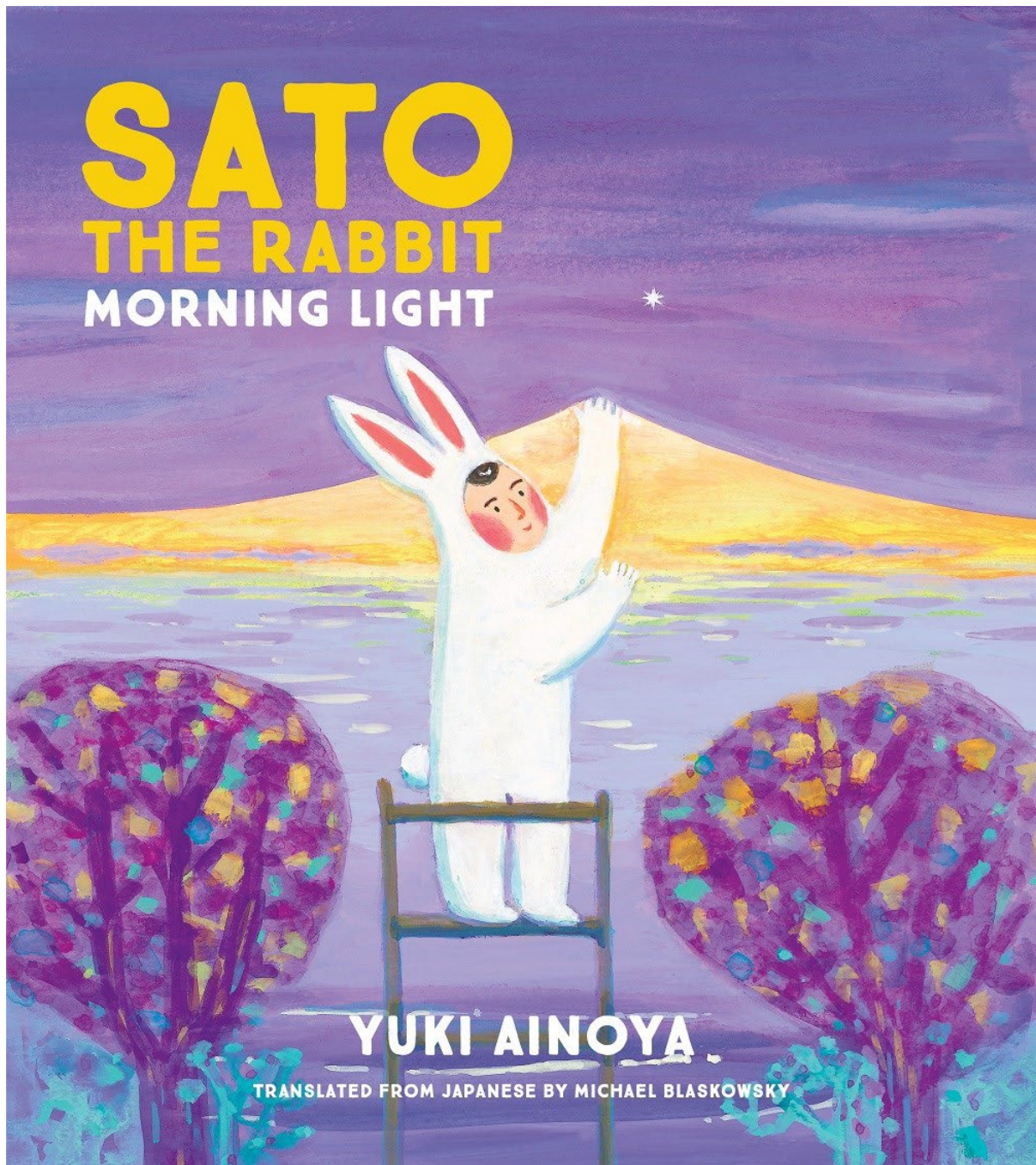
ALSO AVAILABLE



9781592703180



9781592703555



Sato the Rabbit, Morning Light

Yuki Aino

The fourth in the Sato the Rabbit series, this is a charming picture book for all those who imagine and play and dream, who find magic in the everyday, and who open themselves up to wonder.

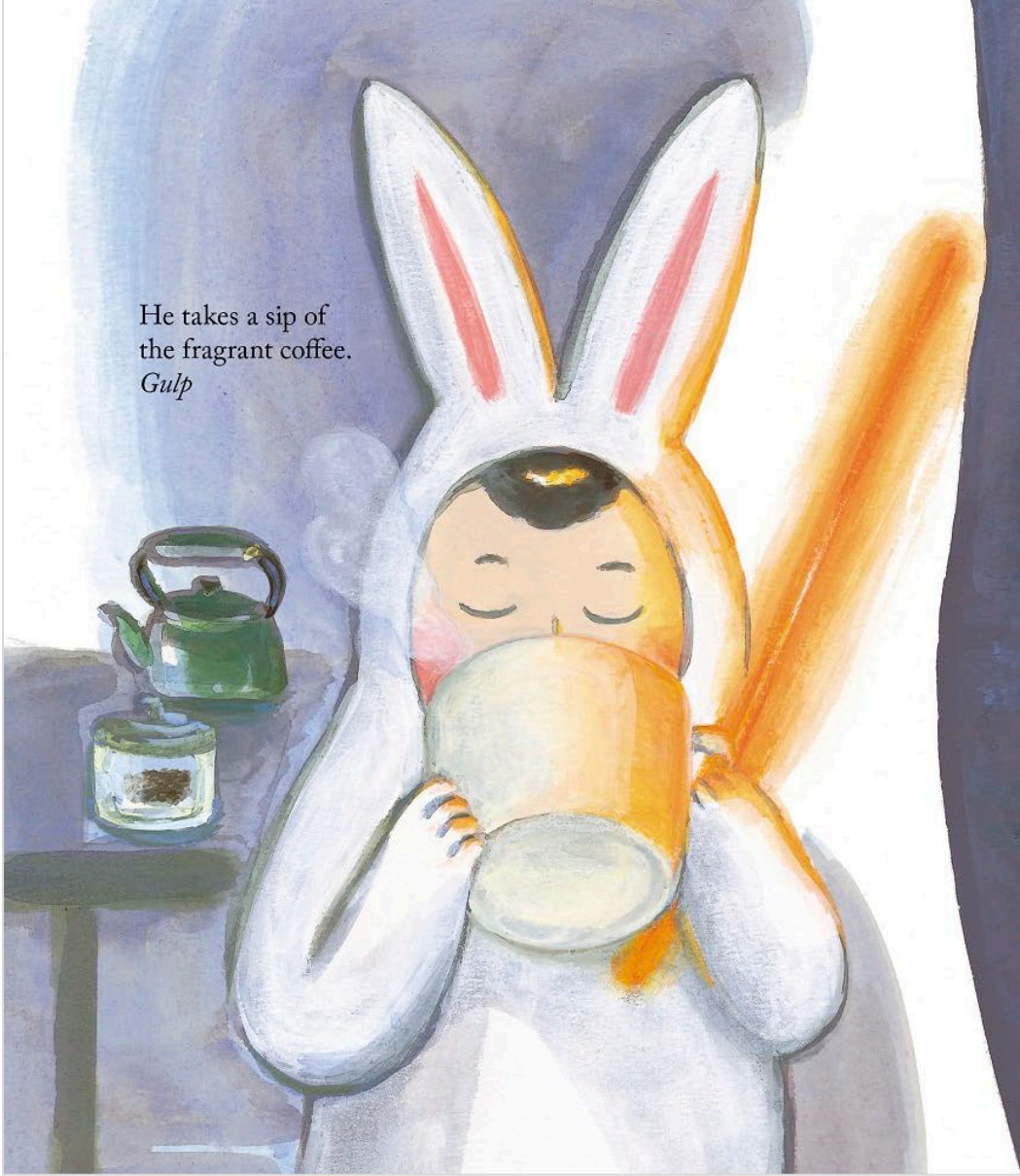
BETWEEN PICTURE BOOK AND CHAPTER BOOK: This is both a great read-aloud and a great choice for independent readers, as it features two 20-page stories with engaging art and minimal text on each page.

PERFECT FOR CHIRRI AND CHIRRA FANS: In the calm and wondrous world of Sato, everyone and everything lives in perfect harmony.

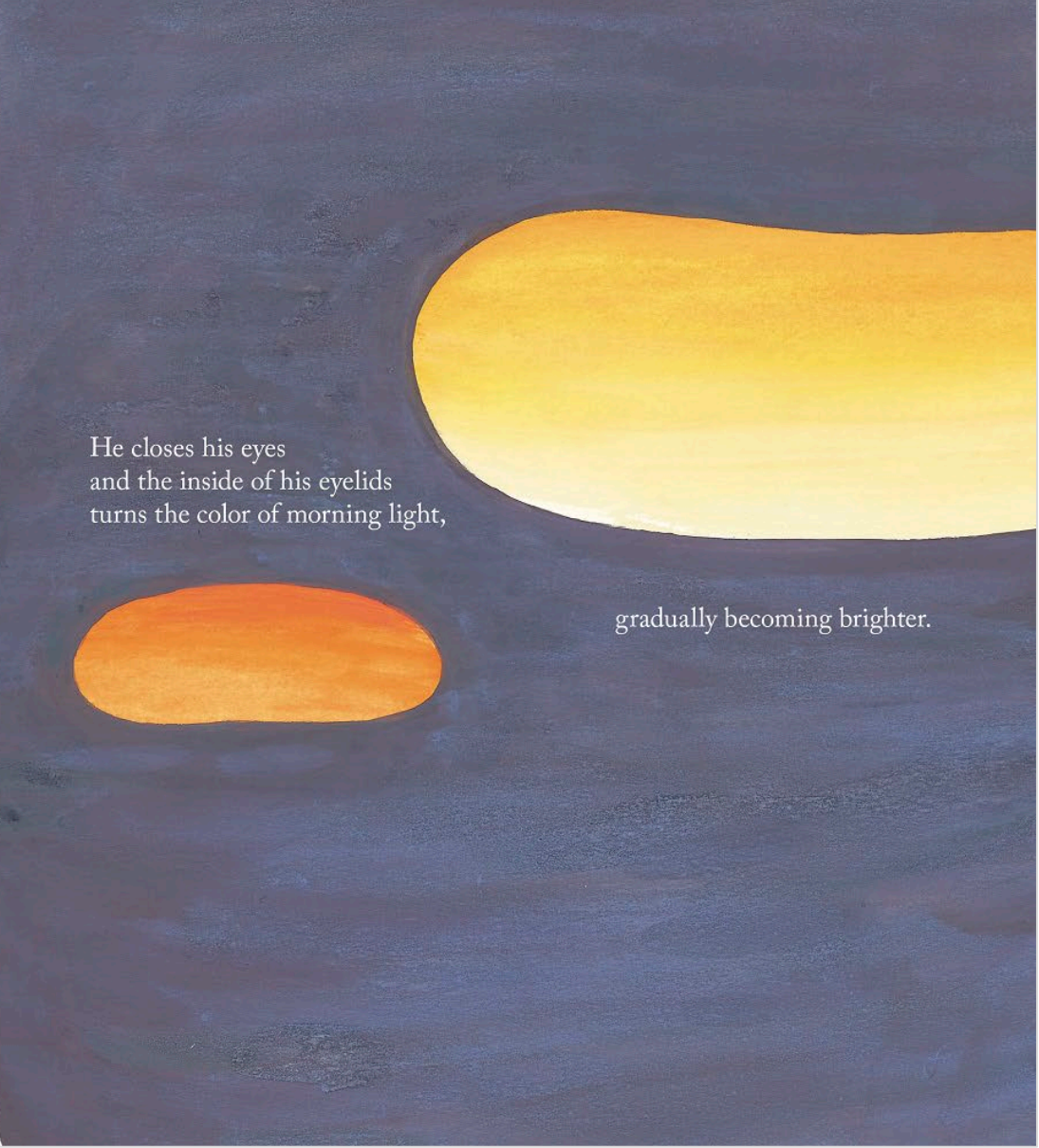
THE SATO THE RABBIT STORIES SING THE SONG OF CHILDHOOD: Here, days are endless, discoveries abound, and time itself is off the clock.

AGES 4 - 7

AU \$28.99 | NZ \$31.99
9781592704392
40 Pages
Hardcover with dust jacket
206 mm x 181 mm
Enchanted Lion



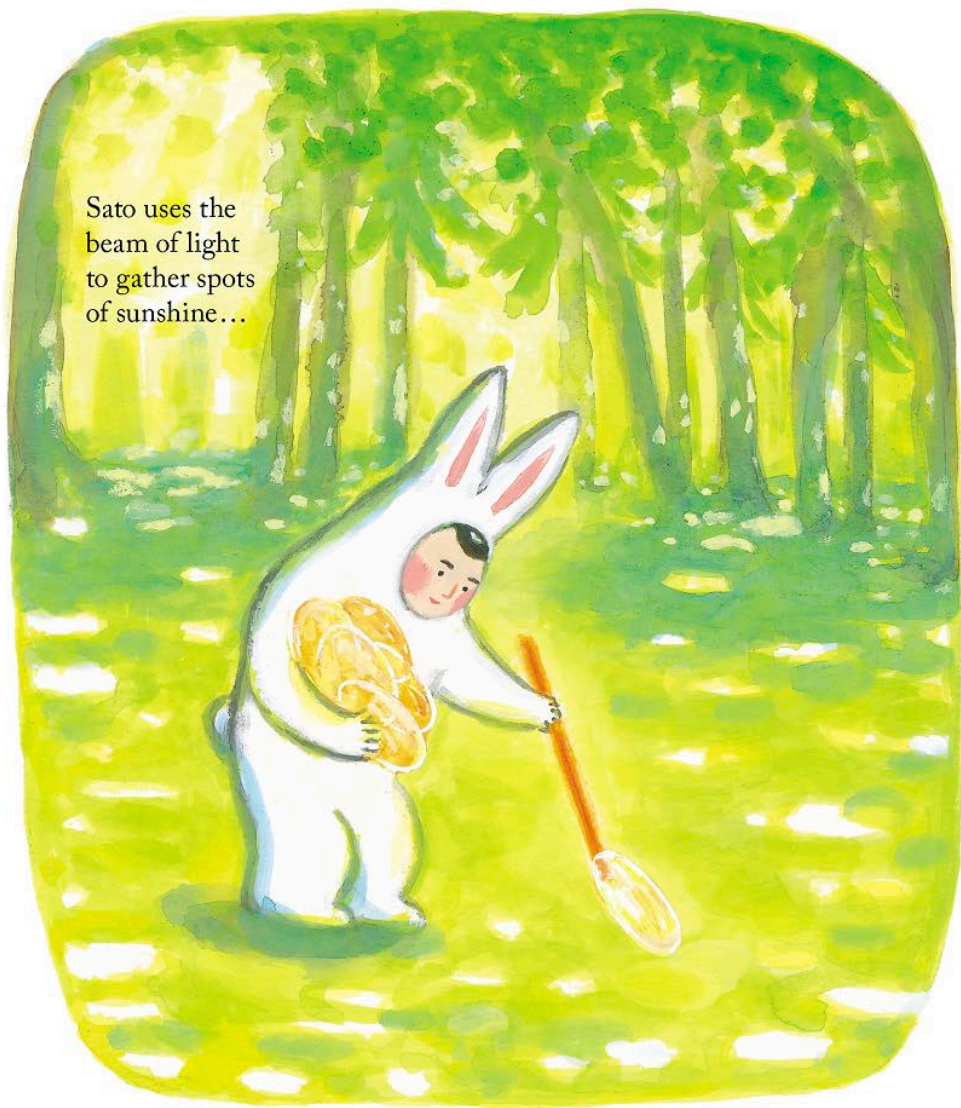
He takes a sip of
the fragrant coffee.
Gulp



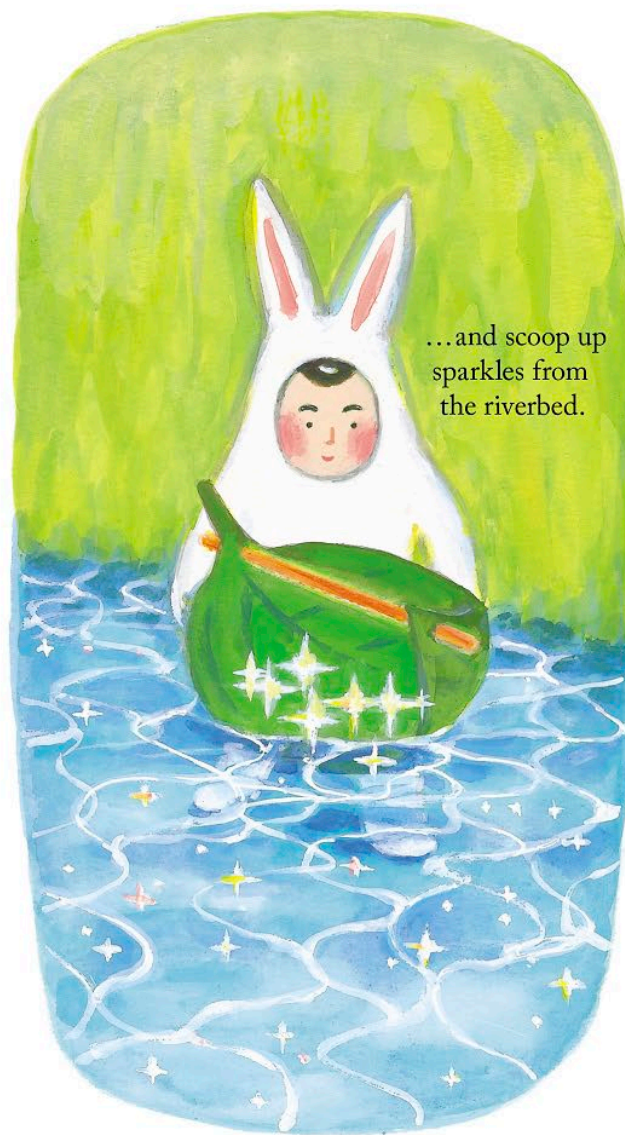
He closes his eyes
and the inside of his eyelids
turns the color of morning light,

gradually becoming brighter.

Sato uses the
beam of light
to gather spots
of sunshine...



...and scoop up
sparkles from
the riverbed.



The sun sets.

Sato spreads the
rest of the sparkles
on the forest floor.



He taps the beam
on the ground and...
Pop pop pop!
Glowing mushrooms sprout.

The beam of light is much smaller
than it was in the morning.

He touches the beam
of light to the evening
dewdrops and they
begin to glow.



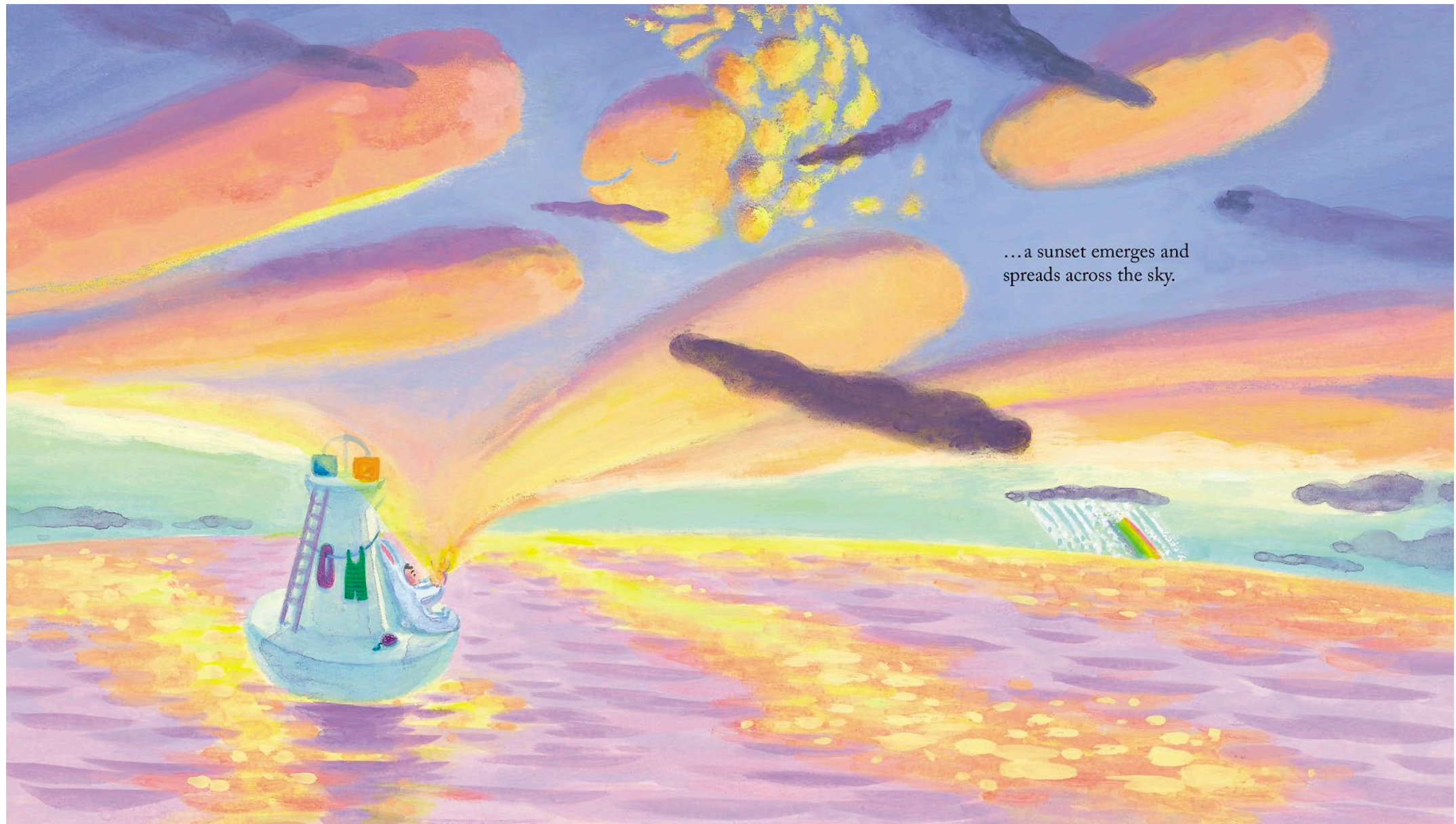
The room is different
from Sato's usual room.

It rocks gently, slowly turning.

As the room rotates,
the light from the colorful
windows bounces around
the room.

Sato goes outside and...





...a sunset emerges and
spreads across the sky.



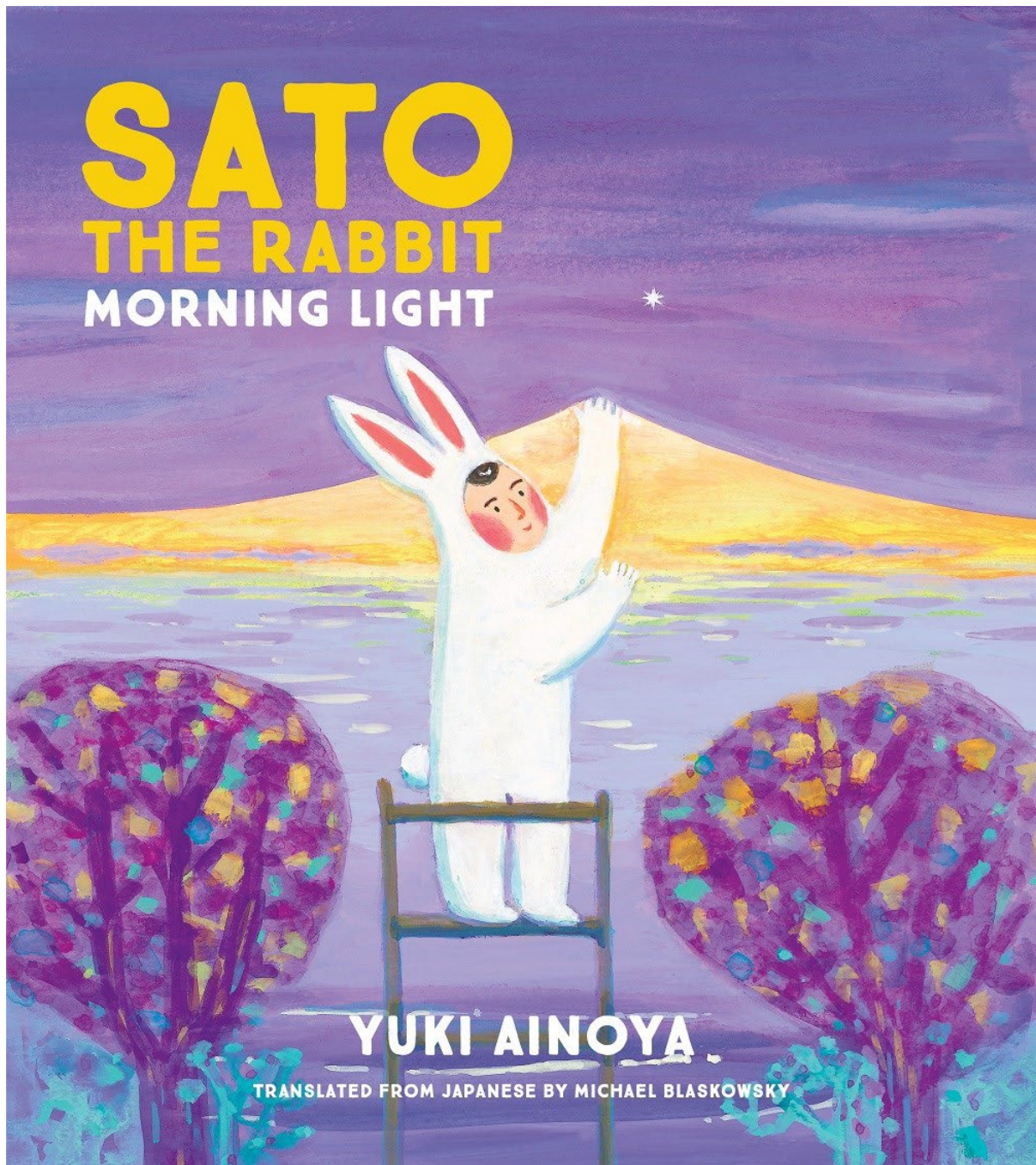
The submerged
clouds swim with
Sato's lighthouse
on their back.

From time to time,
storm clouds flash
in the distance.

From time to time,
the light of a faraway
ship shines.

Toooooooooooooot
When the ship's horn sounds...

Click clack click clack
Sato answers with the
blue and orange lights. ♪



Sato the Rabbit, Morning Light

Yuki Ainoya

The fourth in the Sato the Rabbit series, this is a charming picture book for all those who imagine and play and dream, who find magic in the everyday, and who open themselves up to wonder.

BETWEEN PICTURE BOOK AND CHAPTER BOOK: This is both a great read-aloud and a great choice for independent readers, as it features two 20-page stories with engaging art and minimal text on each page.

PERFECT FOR CHIRRI AND CHIRRA FANS: In the calm and wondrous world of Sato, everyone and everything lives in perfect harmony.

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AGES 4 - 7

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Enchanted Lion

A MIGHTY **MARVEL** TEAM-UP

SPIDER-MAN QUANTUM QUEST!

AN ORIGINAL
GRAPHIC NOVEL



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
MIKE MAIHACK

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Spider-Man: Quantum Quest! (A Mighty Marvel Team-Up)

An Original Graphic Novel

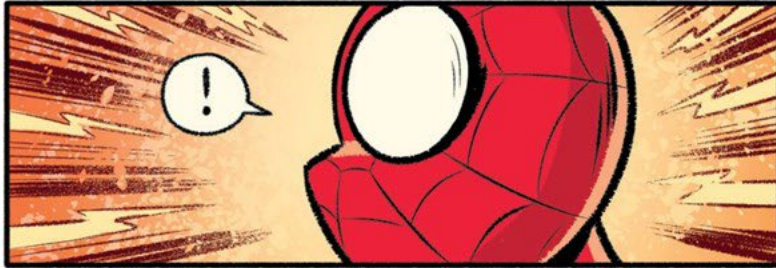
Mike Maihack

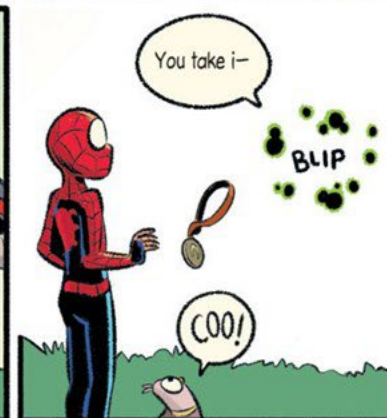
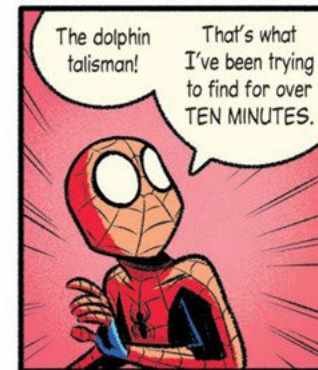
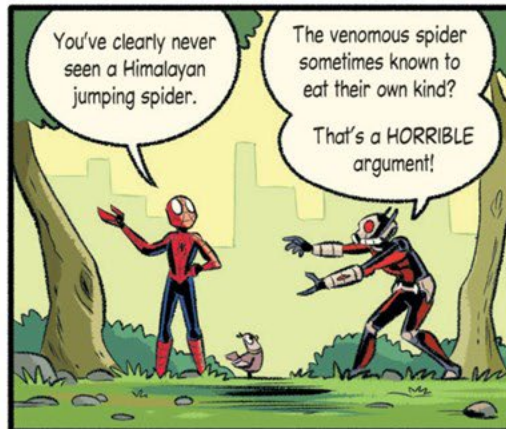
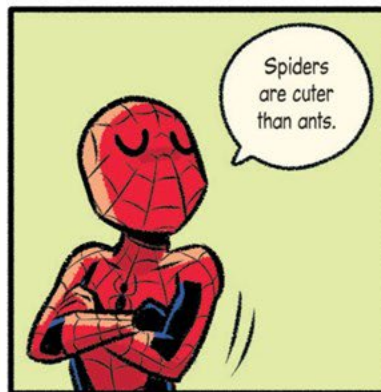
In the action-packed and hilarious second graphic novel in the Mighty Marvel Team-Up series, everyone's friendly neighborhood superhero is sent to the Quantum Realm with the Fantastic Four!

- Author-artist Mike Maihack returns and will continue to bring his exciting, adorable, and joyful illustrations.
- The great underwater city of Atlantis has disappeared, and the heroes need Spider-Man's help to find it! But when this mission takes him into the Quantum Realm, Spider-Man realizes that more than just a city has gone missing and that he might need more than just super powers to save the day!
- Attention, readers! Traveling through the Quantum Realm may require you to spin your book on its side, upside-down, and back upright! Follow She-Hulk's directions to stick with Spidey through the Quantum Realm!

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Spider-Man: Quantum Quest! (A Mighty Marvel Team-Up)

An Original Graphic Novel

Mike Maihack

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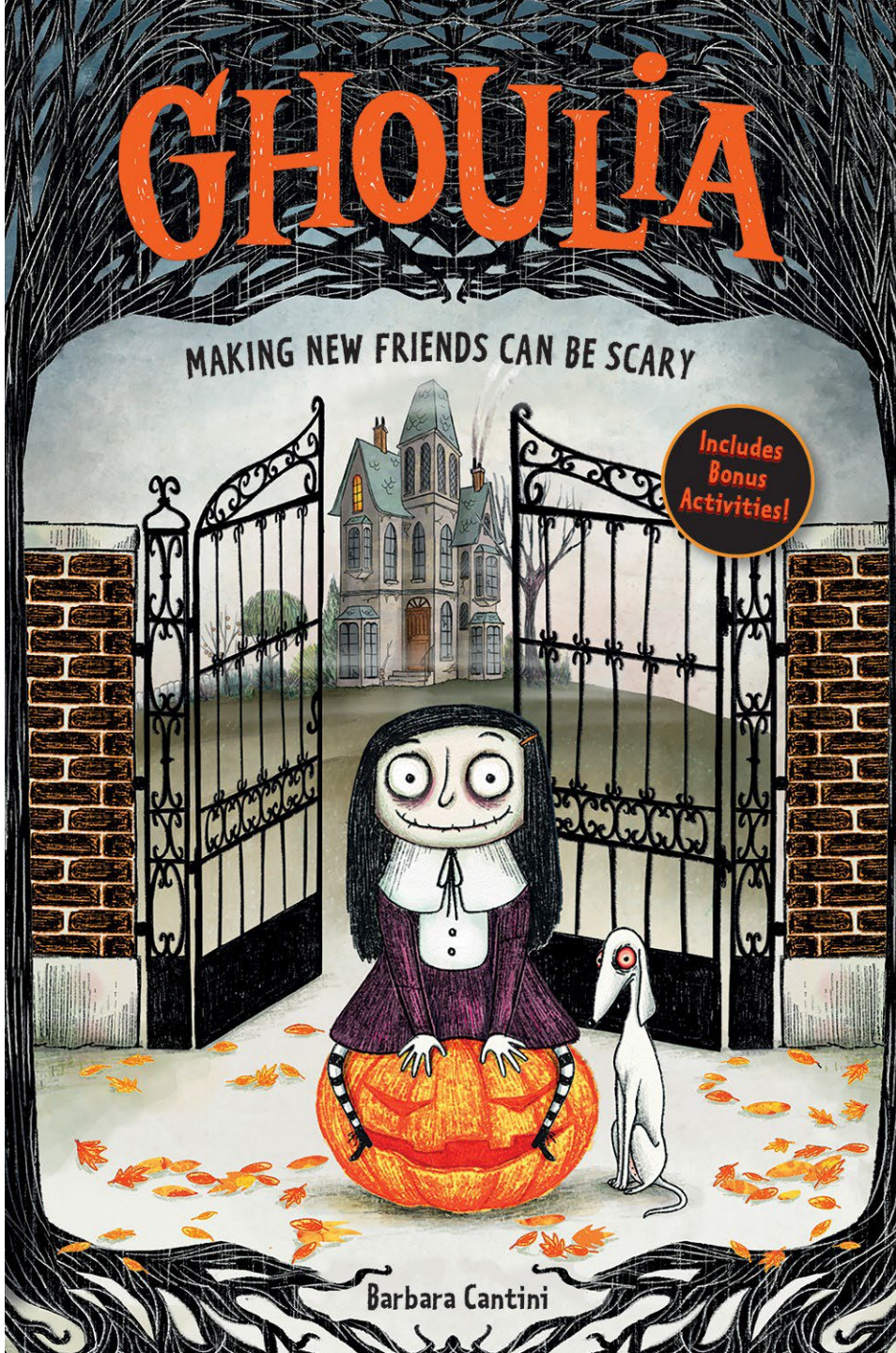
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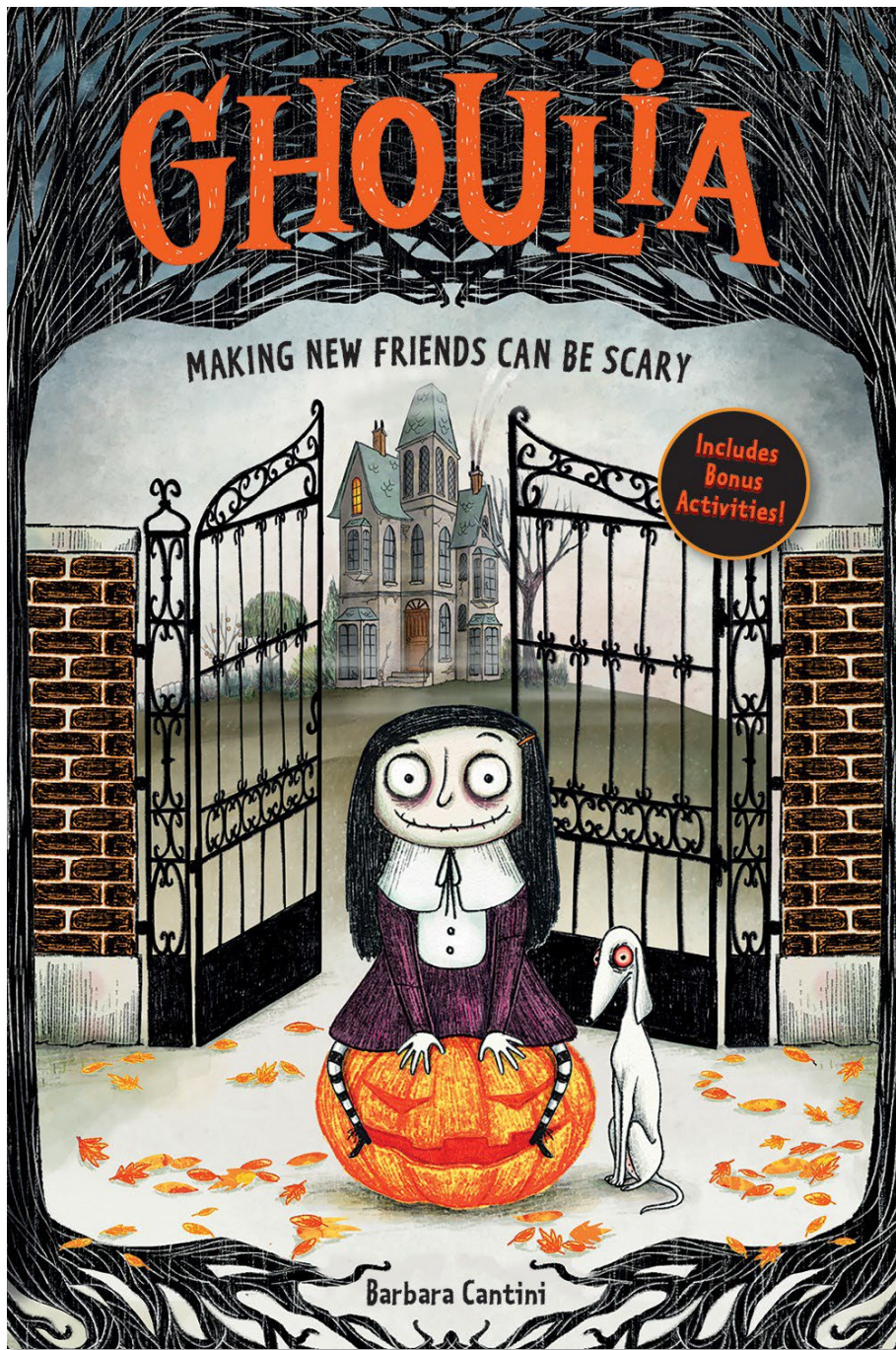
GHOULIA

MAKING NEW FRIENDS CAN BE SCARY

Includes
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Barbara Cantini



Ghoulia: Making New Friends Can Be Scary (Book #1)

Barbara Cantini

A new full-color chapter-book series starring one little zombie on a quest to make friends

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FUN ADDITION: With more than 53,000 copies sold across formats, we're excited to add a new mystery to the Ghoulia series! And although it features many of the same characters from earlier outings, this can be read as a standalone book.

EXCITING ART: This early reader is accompanied by full-colour art on every single page.

EXTRA FUN: Each book in this series features bonus activities to keep readers coming back for more.

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Ghoulia was no ordinary child. She didn't feel particularly different, but compared to other children, the color of her skin was a little odd.

She was pale, deathly pale: a greenish-gray color. Her eyes were as big and round as Ping-Pong balls, with bright purple shadows underneath. Purple was Ghoulia's favorite color.



Oh, and one last thing: Ghoulia could pull off parts of her body whenever she wanted, as if they were jigsaw puzzle pieces. Ghoulia was a zombie—a perfectly normal zombie girl.



So to Ghoulia, her life seemed perfectly normal.

Ghoulia's best friend was an albino greyhound named Tragedy, who played with her all day. Nobody was quite sure whether he was dead or alive. At night, he slept at the foot of Ghoulia's bed.

Ghoulia loved her dog and her house and her family. But . . . there was a "BUT."

My great-grandparents

Me

One of my Auntie's hats (she has a million)

My favorite bow

I don't know who this is, but it's been here forever

Me, when I was little

Self-portrait (Tragedy doesn't like it)

Doctor Grim (Auntie has a crush on him)

Auntie, when she was young

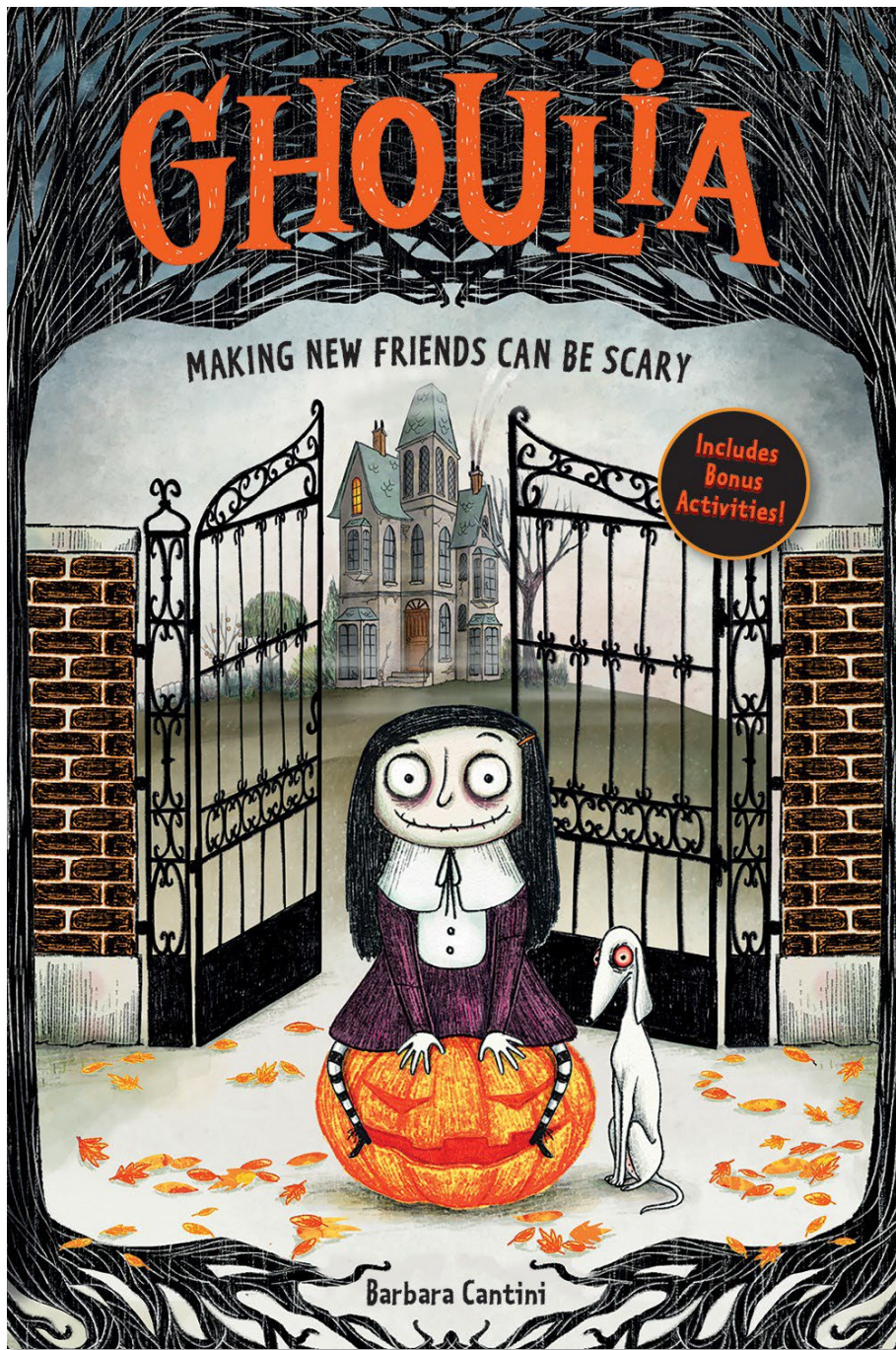
The thing that Ghoulia wanted more than anything else in the world was to make friends with the other children in the village, but this was absolutely not allowed.

The thing that Ghoulia wanted more than anything else in the world was to make friends with the other children in the village, but this was absolutely not allowed.



Before long, Ghoulia came across a group of children dressed up in monster costumes. They were going from door to door asking "Trick or treat?"

Ghoulia was feeling a little shy, but she was willing to do anything to make new friends. So she said hello and asked if she could join their group.



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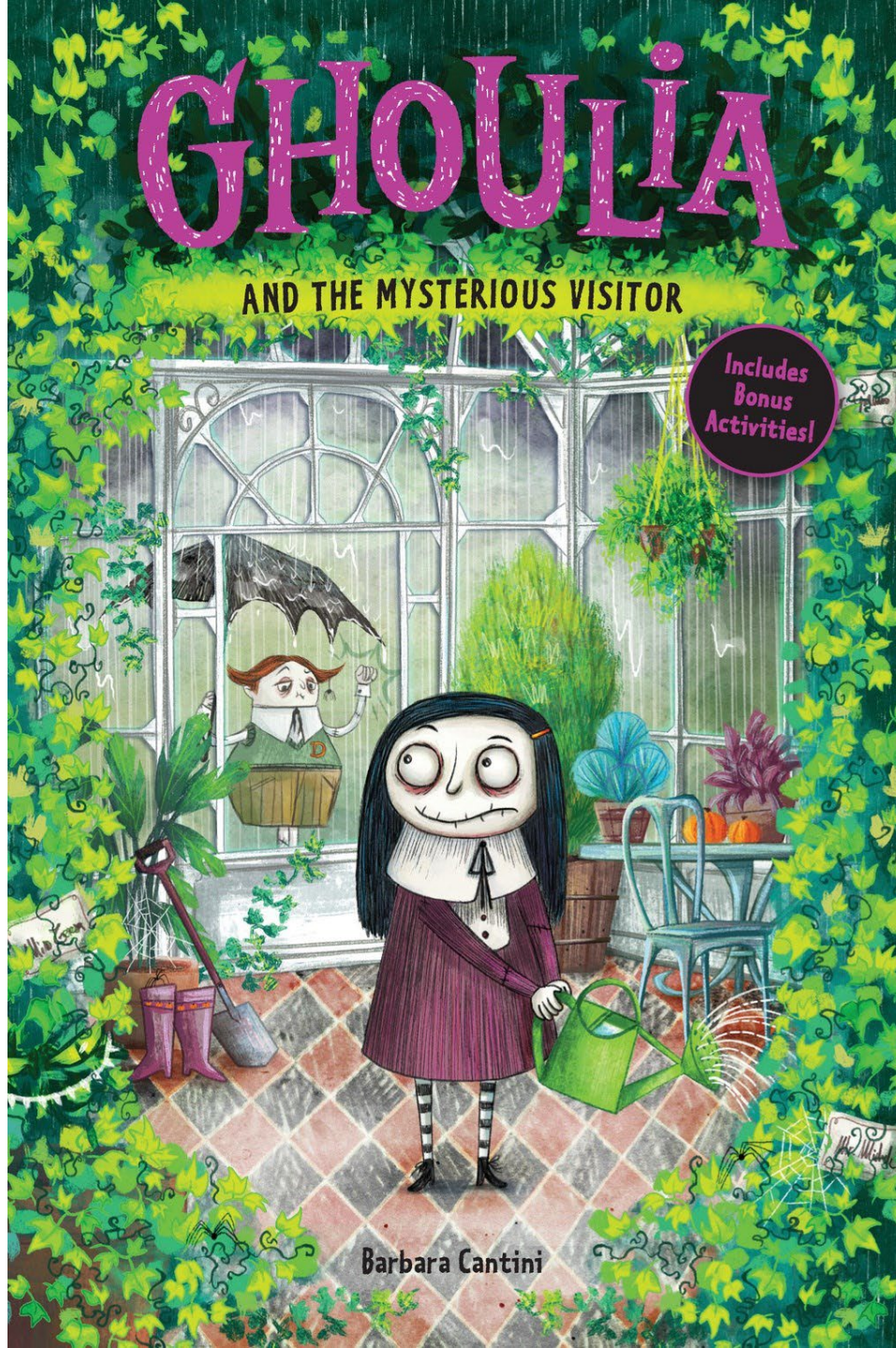
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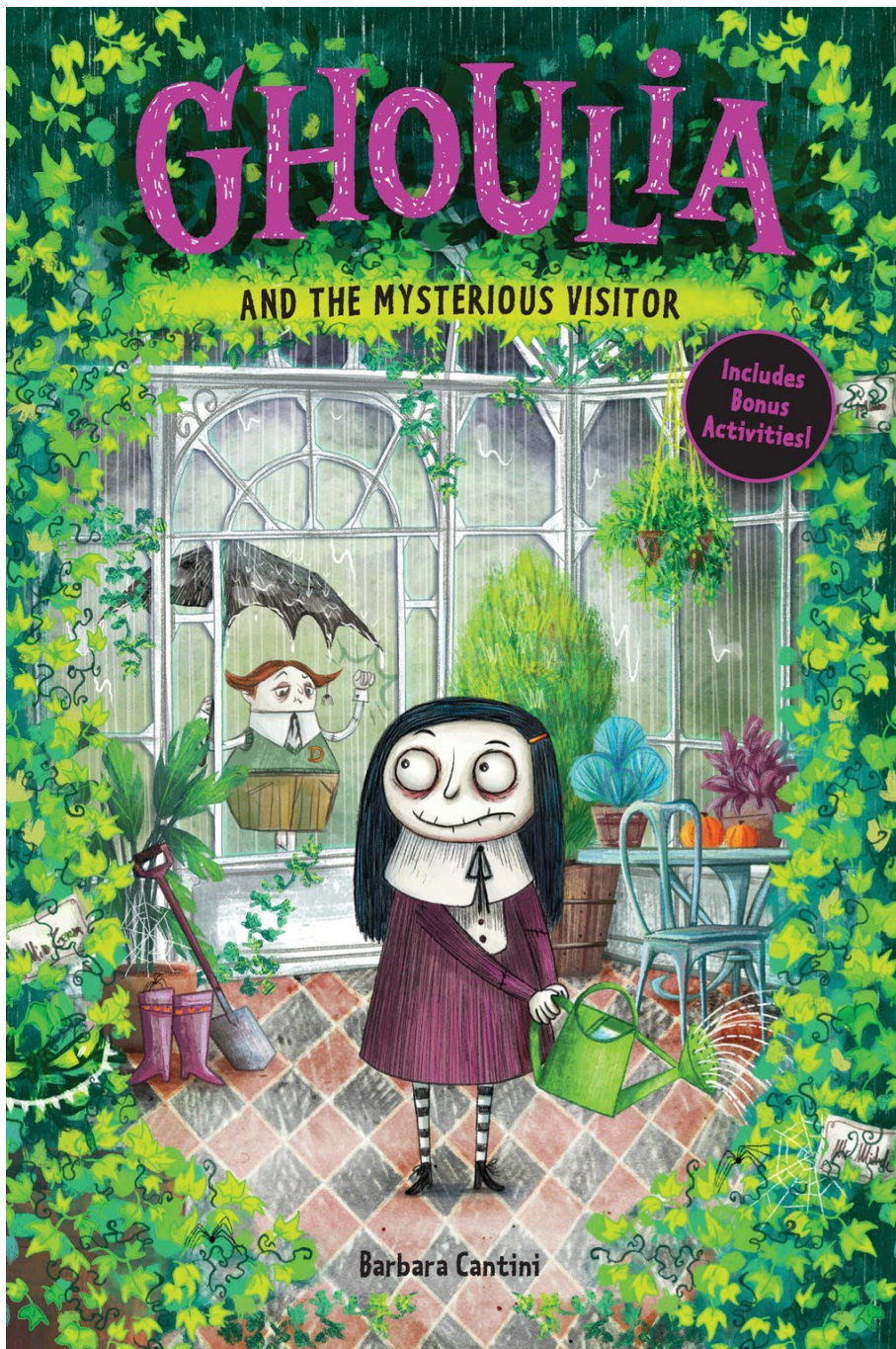
GHOULIA

AND THE MYSTERIOUS VISITOR

Includes
Bonus
Activities!



Barbara Cantini



Ghoulia and the Mysterious Visitor (Book #2)

Barbara Cantini

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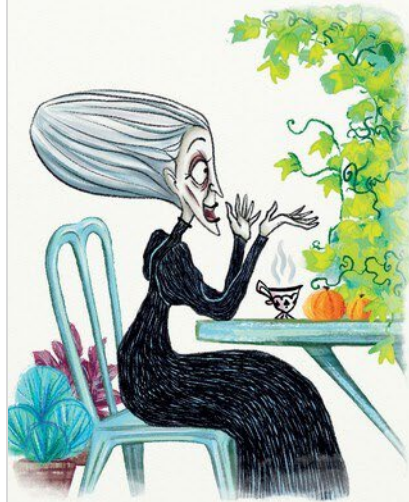
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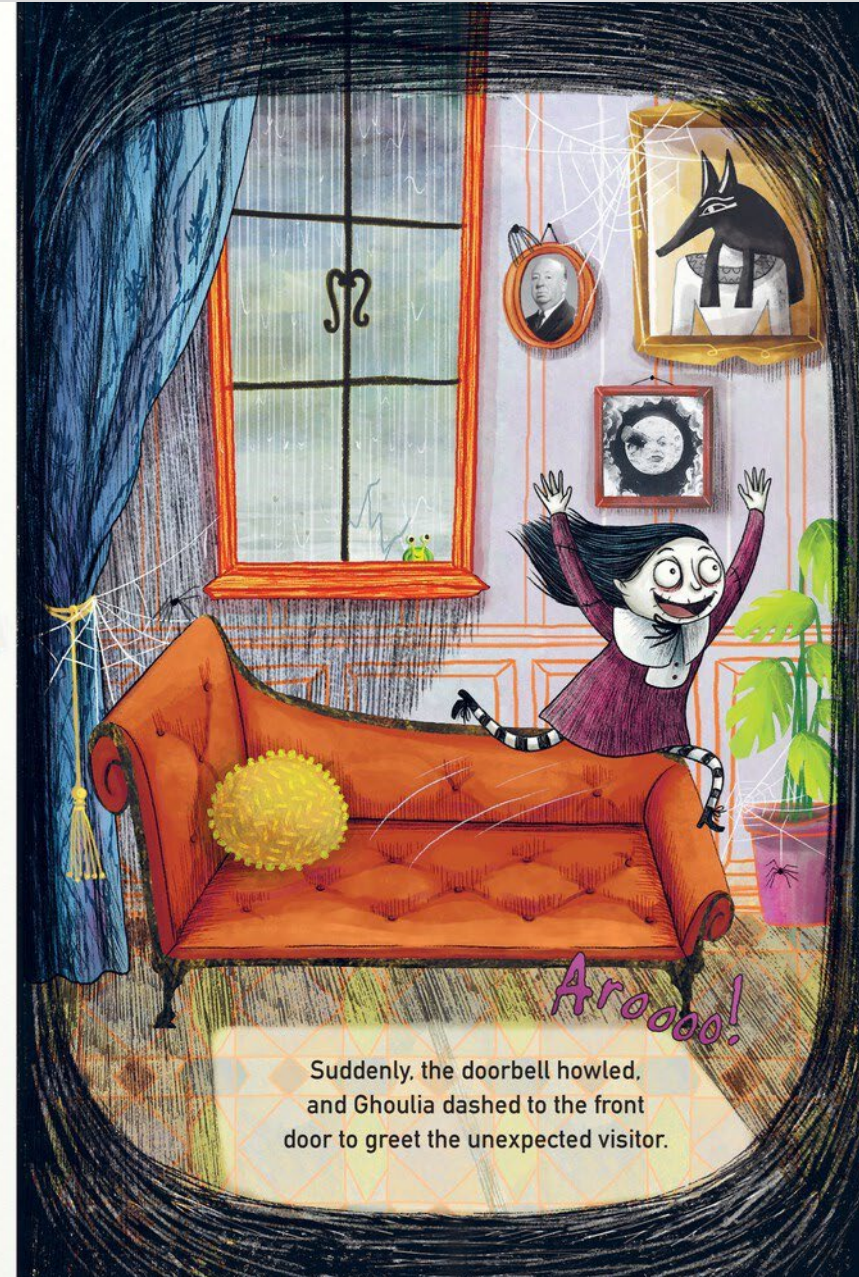


It was a dark and rainy night. Ghoulia was bored because her friends had not come to play at Crumbling Manor that day . . . or the day before . . . or the day before.

Tragedy had been gone since dawn. When it rained, he always left Ghoulia behind to go hunting for frogs.



Even Auntie Departed didn't want to spend time with Ghoulia. She was obsessed with gardening and only wanted to care for her Chatterbox Ivy. According to her copy of *Misunderstood Plants*, the more you talk to a Chatterbox Ivy, the more it grows. Thanks to Auntie Departed's nonstop chitchat, the greenhouse had become a forest of ivy.



Suddenly, the doorbell howled, and Ghoulia dashed to the front door to greet the unexpected visitor.



Tragedy's favorite painting

Tragedy returned from catching frogs. When he saw Theresa, he dashed upstairs to spruce himself up. He had a big crush on her. Whenever she was around, he tried to be the perfect gentleman.

Part of Auntie's insect collection

... and again! One by one, all of Ghoulia's friends arrived at Crumbling Manor, each holding the same invitation.

Ghoulia introduced her friends to Dilbert. He rolled his eyes, then looked down his nose at them with disinterest.

Ghoulia teamed up with Tragedy—who was far more concerned about Theresa than Auntie Departed—and climbed the creaky staircase toward the attic.

Johnny and Bruno wandered the second-floor hallway.

Jane, one of Uncle Misfortune's old girlfriends

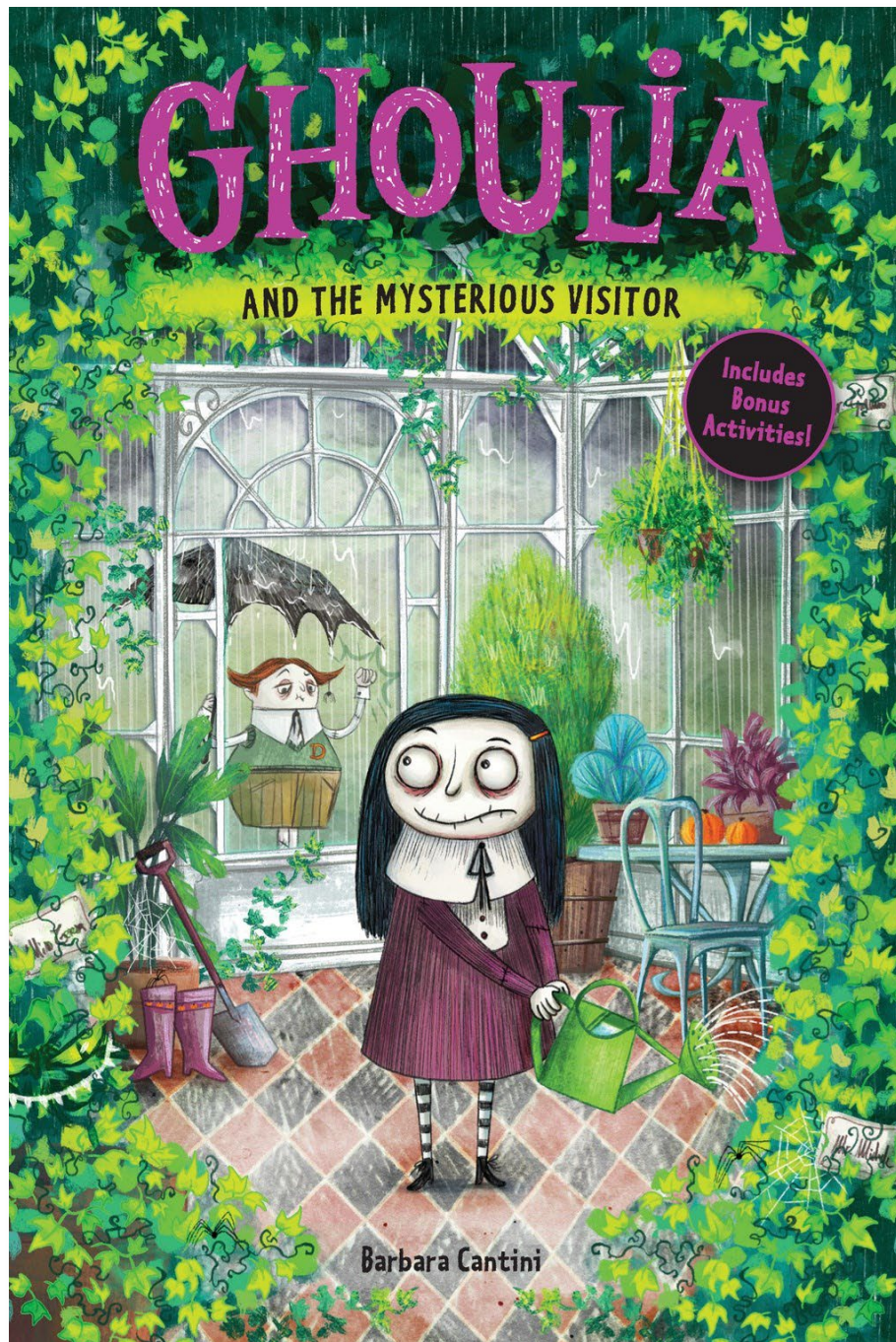
Placid is sleeping

Dilbert thought Ghoulia's search was ridiculous and totally boring, so he left the group. He returned to the dining room for another helping of pumpkin juice.

Mysterious box

Sarah and Michael set off to explore the first floor. They walked past the greenhouse, where the ivy grew out of control.





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Barbara Cantini

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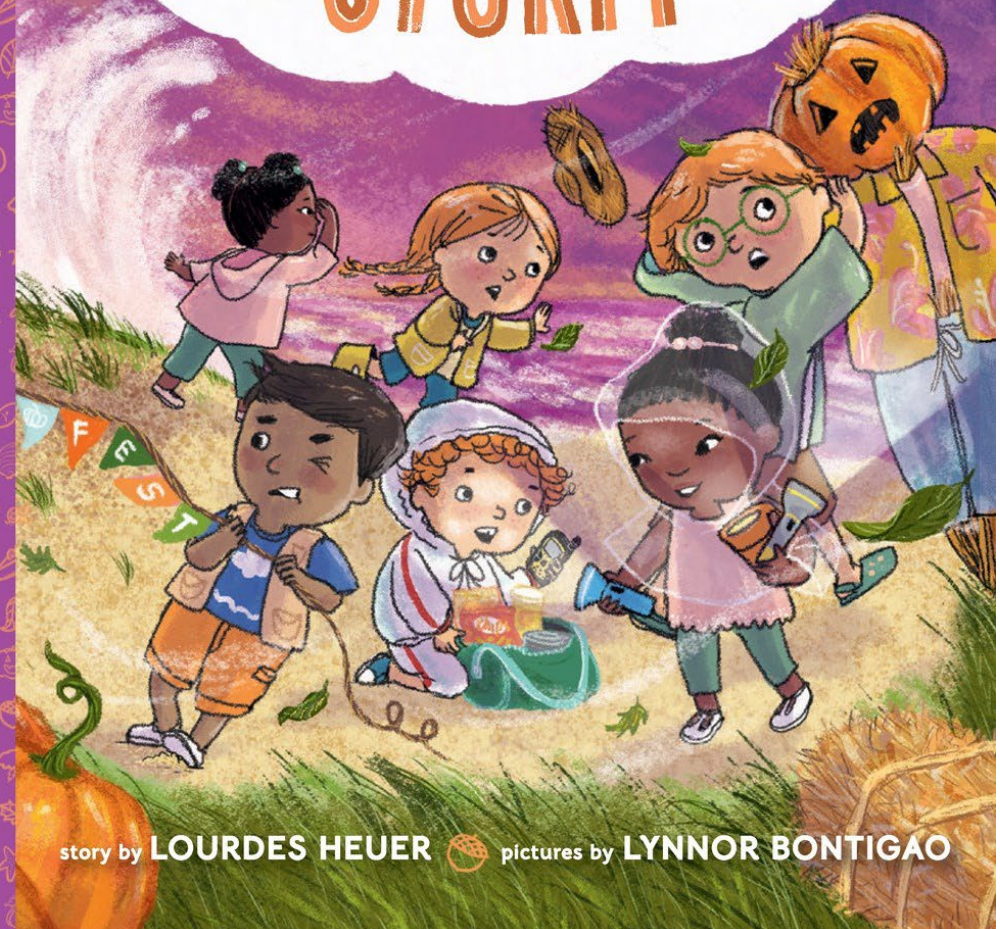
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SEASHELL KEY
The MONSTER
STORM



story by **LOURDES HEUER**  pictures by **LYNNOR BONTIGAO**



The Monster Storm (Seashell Key #2)

A Chapter Book

Lourdes Heuer

POPULAR CATEGORY: Full-colour chapter books are popular with emerging readers, and this is a masterfully written and charming new addition to the category.

ADORABLE ILLUSTRATIONS: Beautiful full-colour illustrations throughout bring the world of Seashell Key to life.

LITERACY BUILDER: Short sentences, repetition, reader questions, and more make this series “ideal for sensitive beginning readers” (*Kirkus*).

DIVERSE CAST: A wide range of readers will see themselves in the playful inhabitants of this seaside town.

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ACT I

THE FALL FESTIVAL



Mrs. Cerise judges the competition.

First, she tastes Mateo's pie:

"Banana, cheese, and sour cream. Interesting!"

Then she tastes the second pie:

"Cookies, marshmallow, and mint cream. Delicious!"

She tastes the third pie:

"Vanilla, lime, and coconut cream. Scrumptious!"

"This pie is the winner!"

Mateo can see why.

Who doesn't love lime coconut cream pie?

Still, Mateo thinks: Winning would be nice.

He enters a second contest.

The second contest is for best costume on Seashell

Key.

Mateo has never made a costume.

But how hard can it be?

He does not know how to sew.

But he can make a no-sew costume.

He looks at the supplies.

What costume will Mateo make?



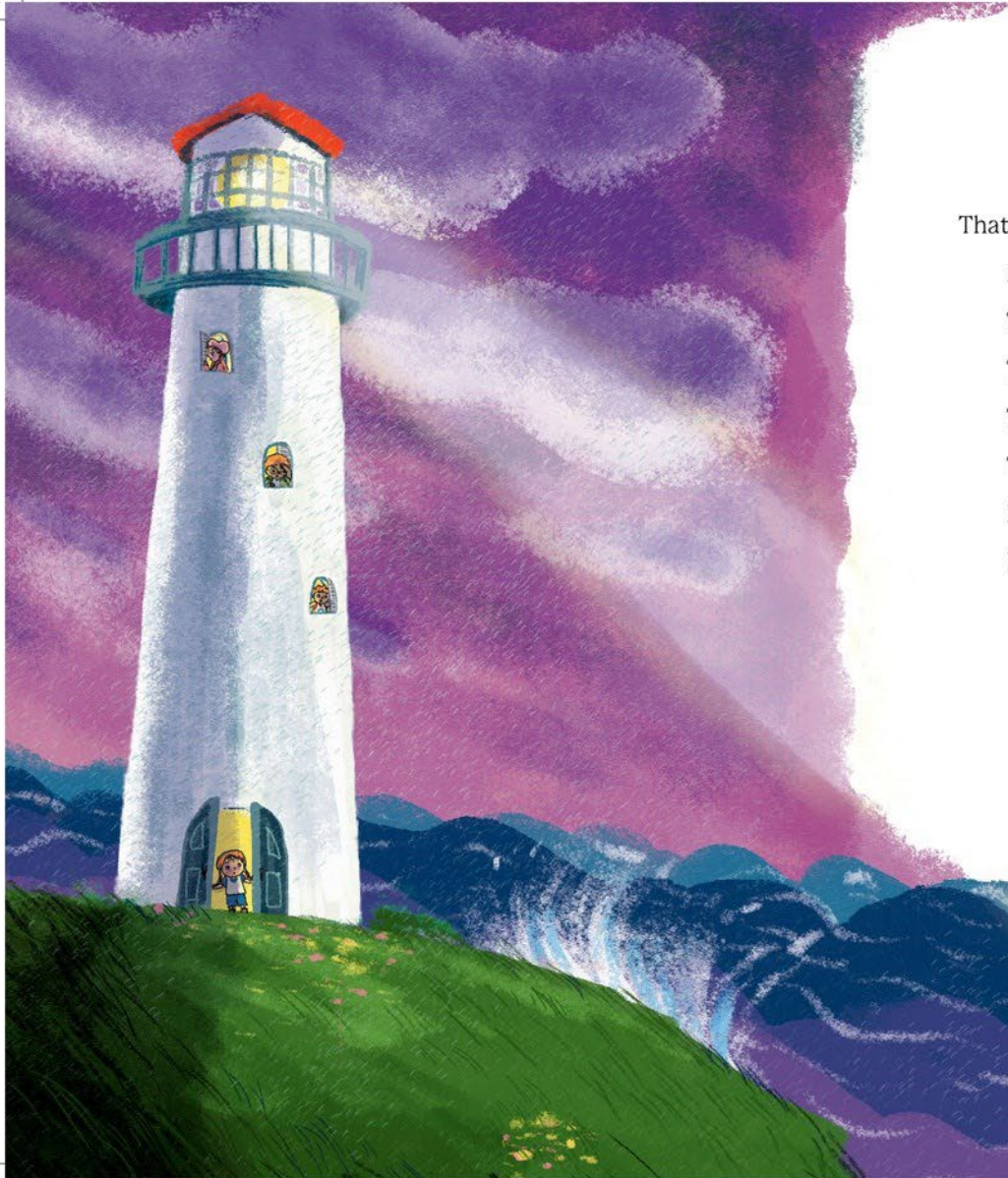
Maybe the tarpon or the pompano.
Sophia puts her face underwater.
She talks to the fish.
She tells them to watch out for sea monsters, to be
safe in the storm.



She pops her face out of the water.
She tells Sasha what she told the fish.
“No, that’s not what Lifeguard Luca means,”
Sasha says.

“Talk to Fish is about learning to blow bubbles
underwater,” she says. “I don’t believe fish hear.”
She puts her own face under the water.
She only blows bubbles.
What would Sasha even tell a fish?





CHAPTER 1

That night, the monster storm arrives on Seashell Key.

Eli, Ezra, and Elana take shelter in their lighthouse.

They shut all the windows.

They close the front door.

Their parents keep the light shining out at the sea.

The lighthouse is a beacon in the storm.

Eli, Ezra, and Elana keep themselves busy.

How do they keep busy?



CHAPTER 3

"No, no, that's not how the story goes either," Elana says.

"The story of the monster of Seashell Key goes like this . . ."

This is the story Elana tells:

Once upon a time, explorers came to Seashell Key.

They came here on a mission.

It was a top-top-top-secret mission.

The explorers were looking for a monster.

"Right, the sand serpent!" Eli says.

"No, the ball of goo," Ezra says.

"No," Elana says.

The monster was a kraken.

It was big.

It was scary.

It was soggy.

It jumped out of the water.

Mateo walks out.

"That's no monster!" Mateo says.

And up close, they see it is not.

It is Mateo's no-scare scarecrow.

Birds perch on floral arms.

They drink and eat from pie-pan feet.

A mama bird nests on a hat of straw.

What a relief.

But Pixie is still missing.

If Pixie is not with Mateo . . .

. . . where could she be?





The Monster Storm (Seashell Key #2)

A Chapter Book

Lourdes Heuer

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THE ELECTRIFYING COMPANION TO *THE LAST HUMAN*

FALL OF THE ROBOTS



LEE BACON



Fall of the Robots (The Last Human #2)

Lee Bacon

LASTING SUCCESS: Lee Bacon is great at creating high-concept middle-grade novels with unique characters and voices. *Imaginary* received two starred reviews, and *The Last Human* has sold over 35,000 copies and was optioned for film by Lord and Miller (creators of *The Lego Movie* and producers of *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*), who plan to direct the live-action film adaptation.

ROBOT REVOLUTION: With the rise of AI and other technology like it, robots are in the news and on the minds of many readers.

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320 Pages
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The unsteady clacking of Emma typing.
 This was the soundtrack of our morning, playing in the background while we worked.
 Until I heard a new sound.
 An unfamiliar sound.
CLOP-CLOP-CLOP.
 I performed an audio analysis.
Result: Horses. Several of them, their hooves rapidly colliding with the ground again/again/again.
 I spun around, searching for the source of the sound.
 That is when I saw them.
 Four horses.
 Galloping in our direction.
 I had only ever seen horses in my data archive. Never in real life. There was something about their movements. They were muscular. And graceful. Fast. And efficient.
 Almost like a machine.
 And yet, also *alive*.
 Alive in a way a machine can never be. I could see it in their flowing manes. In their large/black eyes. In their muscular legs.
 The horses were not alone. Riding on each one was a human. Seated in saddles, their feet strapped into stirrups.
 All these observations streamed through my mind in 0.01 seconds. Followed by one more:
 The humans were carrying weapons.

00001011

I searched my operating system for answers, but all I found were more questions.
 Why were these humans riding horses?
 And what was the purpose of their weapons?
 Were they here to protect us?
 Or to attack?
 I turned to my coworkers. And to Emma. They looked just as surprised/confused/uncertain.



00011101

We found Ceeron and SkD exactly where we had left them. Frozen at the edge of the human settlement, pretending to be offline.

As soon as SkD saw us, its screen blinked on.



I nodded. “Yes, Emma and I are okay. But—”

“The Machine Breakers took my parents.” The sadness in Emma’s eyes had turned to fury. “And we’re the only ones who can get them back.”

Ceeron’s attention shifted to the other human. The boy from Outdoor World. He had insisted on coming with us.

“Who is this?” Ceeron asked.

The human waved to SkD and Ceeron. “Um, hi. My name’s Keller.”

I updated my data drive with the human’s name.

Keller

We explained to Ceeron and SkD how we had met Keller.

“Thank you for your concern,” I said to him. “We can handle it from here if you would like to go back to—”

“No way am I going back,” Keller said. “I’m staying here with you.”

Emma shook her head. “Bad idea. The Machine Breakers aren’t messing around.”

SkD beeped in agreement.



“They don’t know who you are,” Emma went on. “But as soon as they find out you’ve been hanging out with us . . .”

Emma pointed to the emojis.

Skulls and crossbones.

But Keller did not back down. “I saw what they did to your parents. And all of *them*.” He swept a hand, gesturing to the lifeless robots all around us. “I’m not gonna just stand aside and let the Machine Breakers take over. If you’re trying to stop them, then I’m coming with you.”

Emma tried again to talk him out of it, but Keller was a typical human. He refused to listen to logic. He folded his arms and set his jaw.

“If you’re going up against those monsters,” he said, “you’re gonna need all the help you can get.”

He was correct about *that*, at least. We had already seen a glimpse of the Machine Breakers’ treachery. Their hatred for robots. Their desire for revenge and their willingness to go after any human they considered an enemy. We had witnessed their skill in a fight. And their ability to use our own technology against us. The Machine Breakers



"Because the thermostat's broken," her mom said. "I can't get the heat to shut off."

"Come on," her dad said. "We've gotta get out of here!"

Talin trailed her family. On the way across the kitchen, she noticed something out of the corner of her eye.

The oven.

It was set to nine hundred degrees.

The inside was a bright, dangerous orange.

On the stove, fires flickered from every single burner.

They couldn't just leave it like that. Talin started in the direction of the stove, but her mom caught her wrist.

"Don't go near it," she warned. "I already tried to turn it off. It didn't work."

Her dad was already at the door. He twisted the handle, but the door wouldn't budge. He tried to turn the dead bolt. Nothing happened.

"What's wrong?" Gavin asked.

"The smartlock," said her dad. "It won't unlock."

"Try another door."

Her mom was already moving toward the front door, pulling Talin with her. But when they got there . . .

The same thing happened.

The door would not budge.

The house had locked them inside.

Talin shook her head, stunned by all of this. Everything was moving too quickly. Five minutes ago, she had been lying on her bed, watching some stupid, pointless video on her phone. And now—

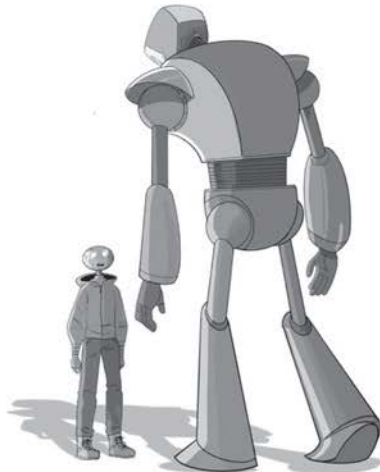
00101100

The last time we saw PRESIDENT, the robot had ordered our execution. I remembered the fierce authority in its voice. The rage flaming in its golden eyes. The light gleaming against its platinum armor. Screens all around it beaming with a LiveStream of its own face, making it seem that PRESIDENT was everywhere, all around us.

That vision hung in my memory drive for a moment longer.

It faded as soon as I saw what PRESIDENT had become.

The robot stepped out of the shadows. Its platinum armor was scuffed/scratched/smudged. Its golden eyes had dimmed. It had once



towered over me, standing tall/proud. Now it walked with a hunch, its shoulders tilted at a slight angle.

It limped toward us.

Click-CLACK.

Click-CLACK.

PRESIDENT's eyes flickered with recognition. "XR_935. I see you have not lost your taste for human clothing."

I looked down at my outfit. Hiking boots, cargo pants, sweatshirt. My memory drive flashed back to the last time I was here, when I showed up wearing the red flower-print shirt.

A strange coincidence.

I tugged at the sweatshirt. "This is a disguise."

"Oh, so you are trying to *hide* the fact that you are a robot." Scorn hissed through its tone. "How unsurprising."

"That was not my purpose."

PRESIDENT's golden gaze hung on me for a long moment. "Are you sure about that?"

This was not going the way I had hoped. I decided to change the subject.

"What happened here?" I gestured around me. Dark screens, smashed glass.

"I used to love looking at myself," PRESIDENT replied. "There was a time when I could sit and stare at my own LiveStream for hours. But after they imprisoned me here, I was the only thing available. Me/Me/Me. On every surface. Everywhere I looked. Eventually, I grew sick of myself. So I started breaking the screens."

An electronic ripple came from somewhere deep inside its vocal port. Almost like PRESIDENT was chuckling to itself.

01010100

It all happened so quickly. The surging conveyor belt. The crashing compactor. My processor was still catching up.

The sudden jolt of motion wreaked havoc on my balance settings. I staggered, arms swaying, collapsing to my hands/knees.



The belt was accelerating.

Faster/Faster/Faster.

The massive cylinder slammed the belt in front of me. The explosion of sound vibrated through my audio ports. Everything shook.

As the cylinder rose, the racing belt moved forward.

Measuring the speed of the conveyor belt, factoring in the rise/fall of the enormous cylinder, I reached an undeniable conclusion:

The next time the cylinder fell, I would be crushed.

The giant mass of solid metal hurtled downward. I was speeding toward it, on a path to my own destruction. I had to get off before I was obliterated. I rolled sideways, tumbling off one moving belt . . .

And onto another.

Suddenly, the momentum switched. I was moving in an entirely different direction. It took a half second for my orientation to adjust. Then I saw it: Another wall of metal, churning up/down/up/down. **BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!** I was headed straight for it.

Quick! I scrambled on my hands/knees, throwing myself off the belt just in time to avoid impact.

The rapid movement came to a halt. I had made it to a metal platform. For 2.4 seconds, all I could do was cling to the steady floor as my balance settings readjusted.

For now, at least, I was safe. But what about the others? I whirled around, searching the huge/hectic room.

Something caught my eye. A flash of motion. I followed it and saw SkD rumbling past on a belt. The little robot had fallen onto its side, rattling and jostling, unable to right itself, sweeping forward like a leaf in a surging river. Ahead of it, another compactor crunched up/down/up/down. But just as SkD was nearing the point of impact, I reached out and grabbed one of its long/metal arms.

Five.

The fierce wind swirled all around me. The roar of the helicopter filled my audio ports.

Inside the cockpit, Talin and Keller struggled for control of the craft, pulling furiously at the stick. The helicopter was still hovering close to the surface of the roof, whirling and rocking in the air.

Talin twisted sideways, bending one leg, taking aim. I could see what she was preparing to do.

"KELLER! WATCH OUT!" I hollered as loudly as I could, but the spinning rotors were too loud. Keller could not hear my warning. And in the next instant—

Talin kicked Keller in the chest.

The impact knocked the boy backward. He lost his grip on the control stick and fell from the cockpit. It was not a long fall. Barely two meters. But now that he had been expelled from the helicopter, Talin had full control.

Nothing could stop her from escaping.

Her lips curled into a victorious grin as she tightened her grip on the control stick. She pulled back and the helicopter began to rise.

In the storm of wind and sound, I continued running, closing the distance to the helicopter. And as the craft rose from the rooftop— I jumped.

And reached.

Up/Up/Up.

For a fraction of a second, I was suspended in midair, between the roof and the helicopter.

Then my open hands came into contact with the landing skids.

I grabbed on tight.

And the helicopter lifted into the air, carrying me with it.

01100001

Precarious. *Adjective.* 1. Likely to fall or collapse.

The definition flashed brightly in my mind. All of a sudden, this seemed to be the perfect word for my situation. **Precarious.** I was barely holding on to the helicopter. Any second, I might fall. And if that happened, our hopes of stopping Talin would collapse.

But at least I was not alone.

When I looked toward the other landing skid, I was surprised to see Emma straddling the metal bar.

Beside her, SkD clung to the bar. Its extendable arm was stretched farther than I had ever seen it. Its claw was clamped hard onto the





Fall of the Robots (The Last Human #2)

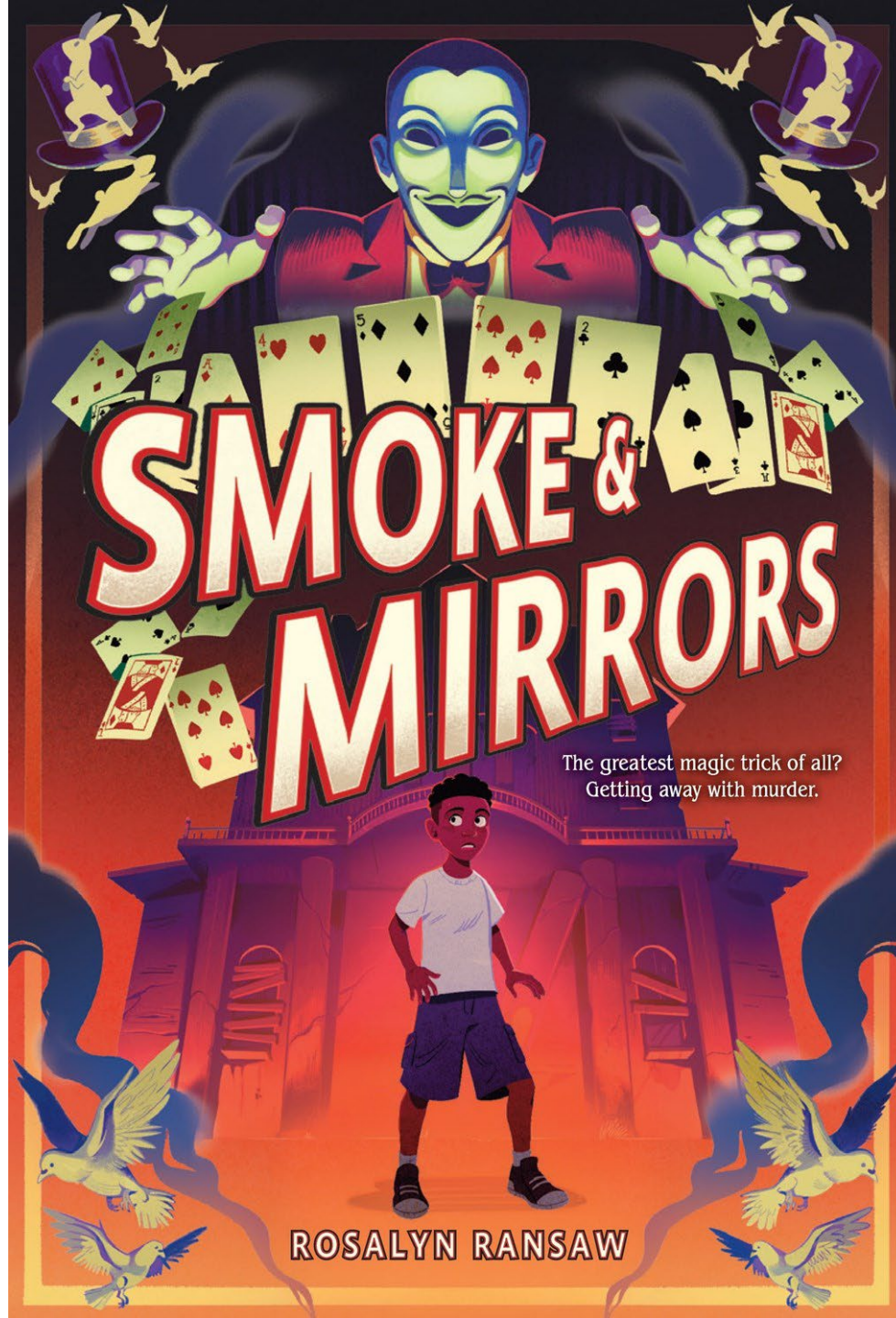
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LASTING SUCCESS: Lee Bacon is great at creating high-concept middle-grade novels with unique characters and voices. *Imaginary* received two starred reviews, and *The Last Human* has sold over 35,000 copies and was optioned for film by Lord and Miller (creators of *The Lego Movie* and producers of *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*), who plan to direct the live-action film adaptation.

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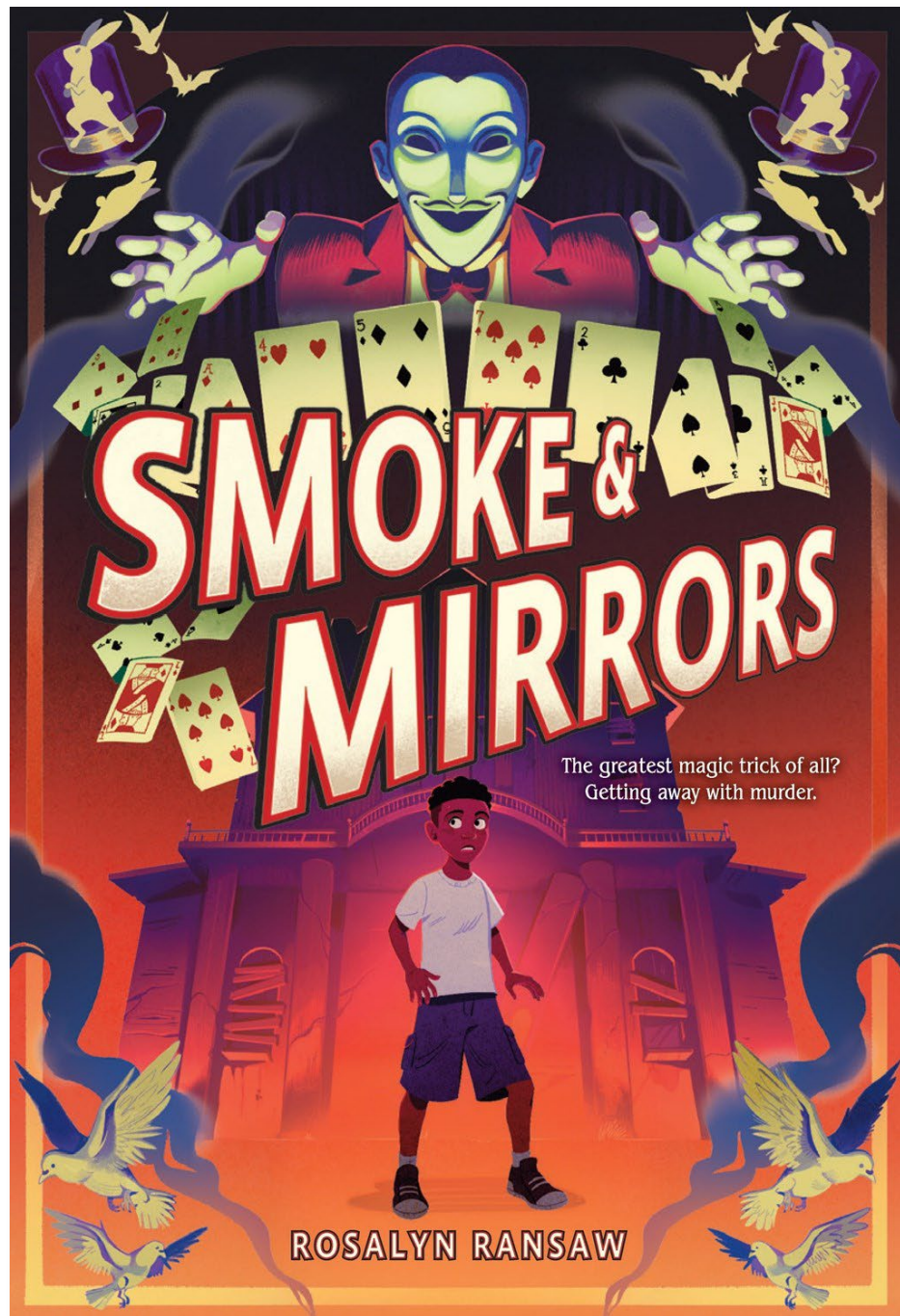
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