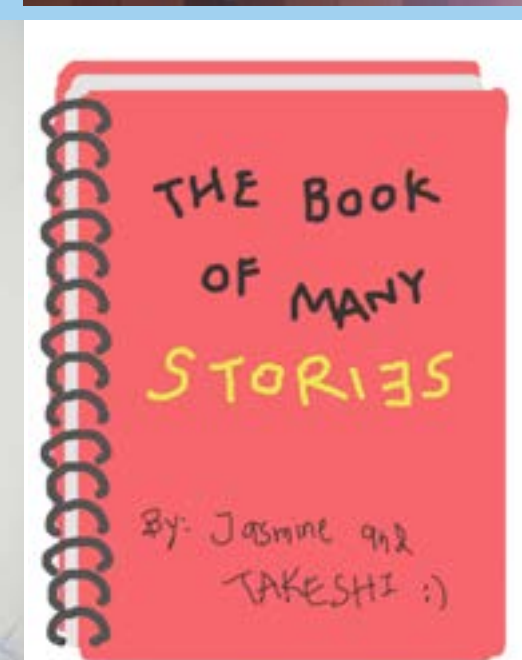


TO JAPAN, WITH LOVE

A collection of short stories inspired by a visit to Japan
愛を込めて日本へ: 日本を訪れた時の感動の短編集です



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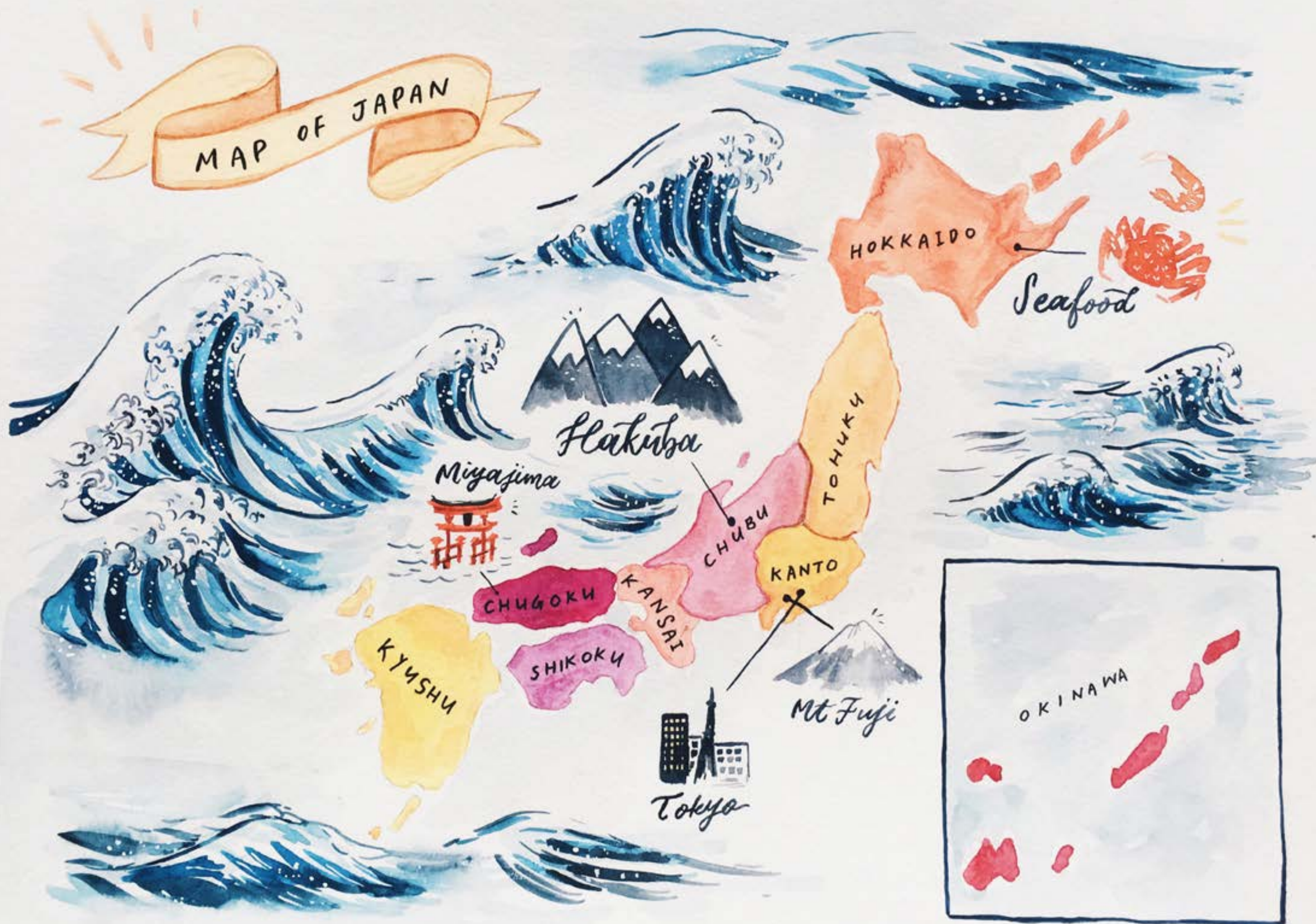
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LET'S GO TO JAPAN!





JAPAN IS *Rich*
in Culture



THERE ARE

BOTH Old

AND New

Buildings





AND
yummy
FOOD



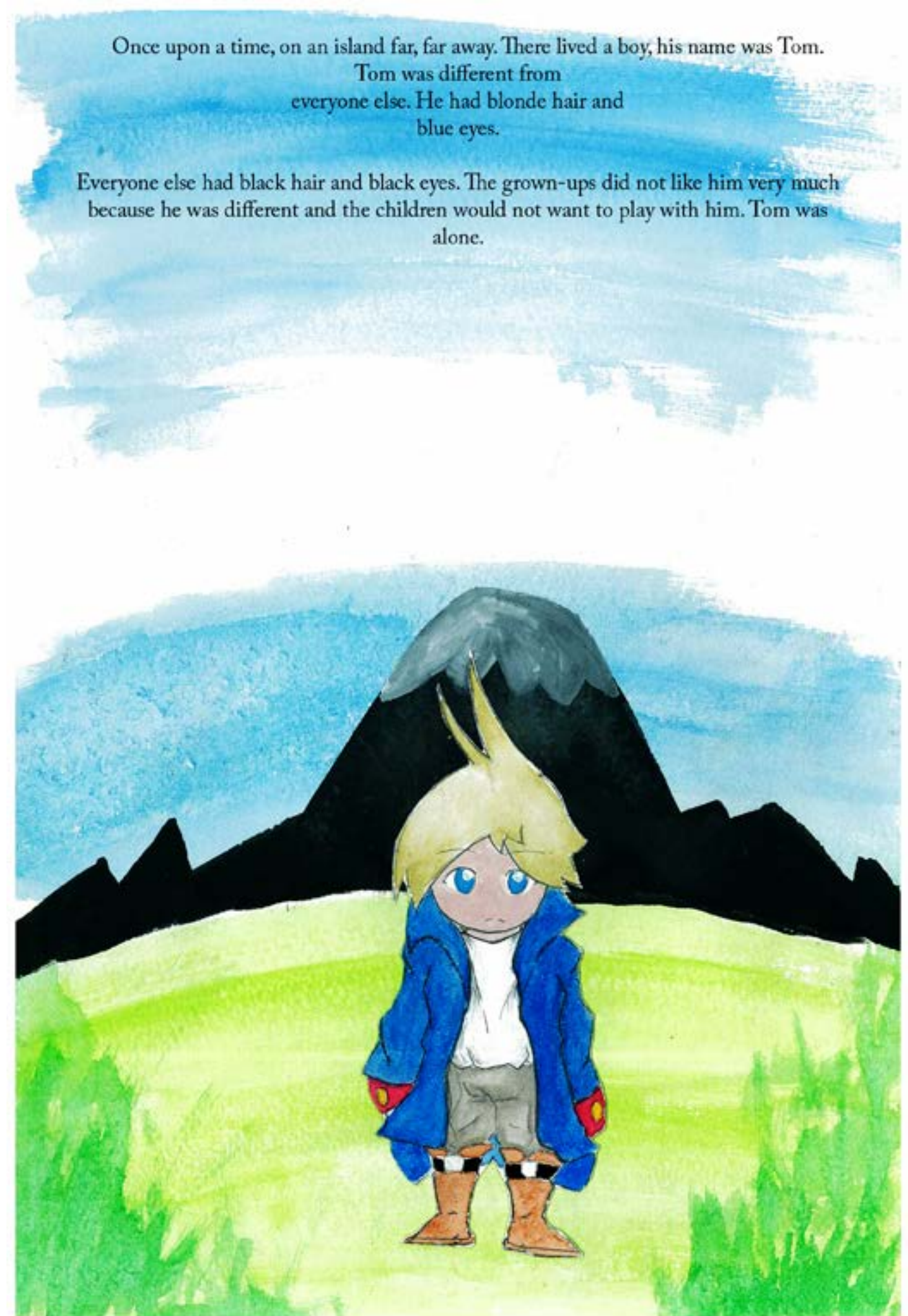


with
**GRACEFUL
GEISHAS**



外人 (Gai Jin)

Written by: Bryan Yap
Illustrated by: Syazuan Sab'ari



Once upon a time, on an island far, far away. There lived a boy, his name was Tom.

Tom was different from
everyone else. He had blonde hair and
blue eyes.

Everyone else had black hair and black eyes. The grown-ups did not like him very much
because he was different and the children would not want to play with him. Tom was
alone.

One day Tom climbed a very tall tree next to the Palace. He was picking peaches. He looked to his left and saw a girl. The girl looked over and saw Tom. She was the most beautiful girl Tom had ever seen.

Tom greeted shyly, "Hello."

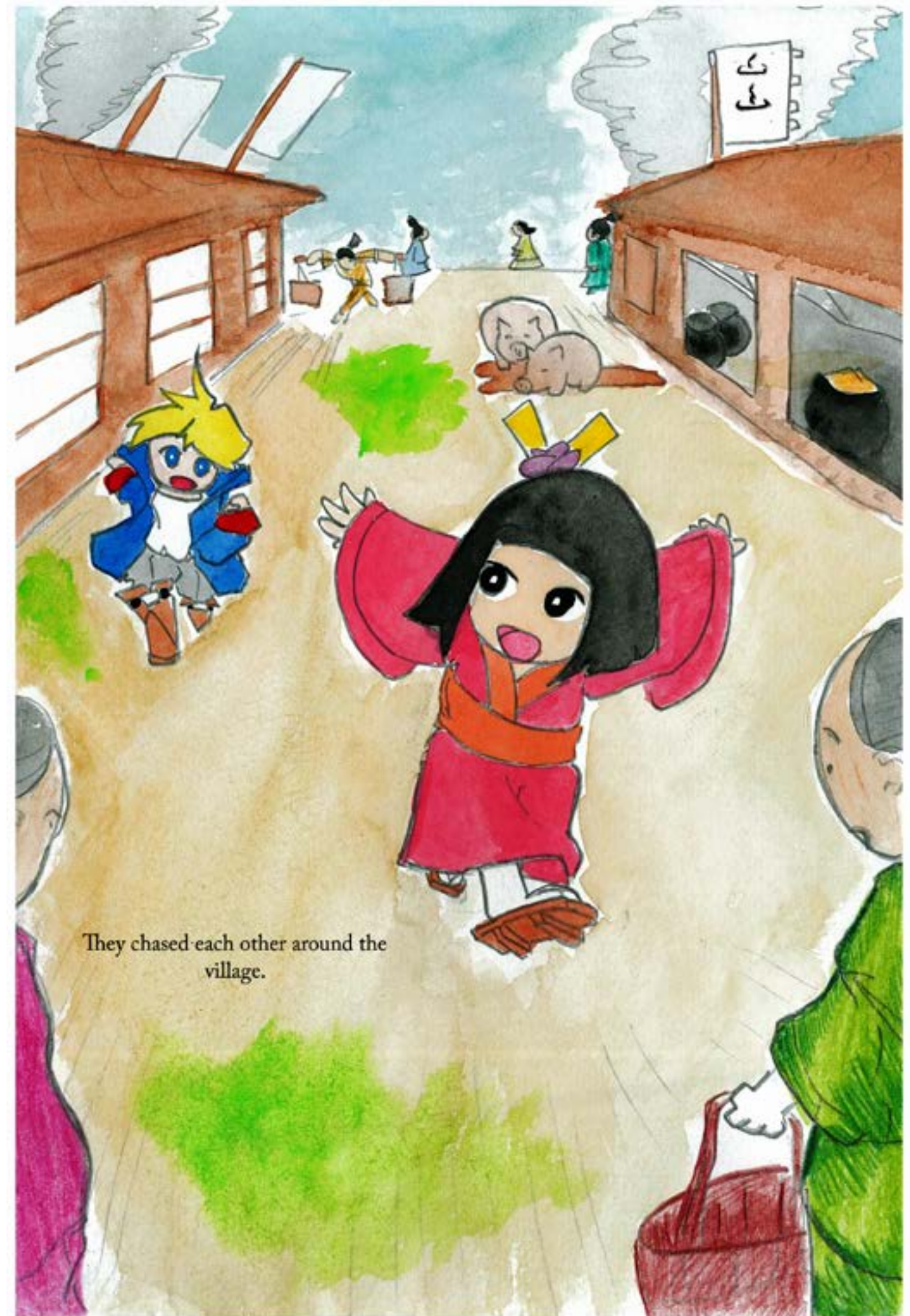
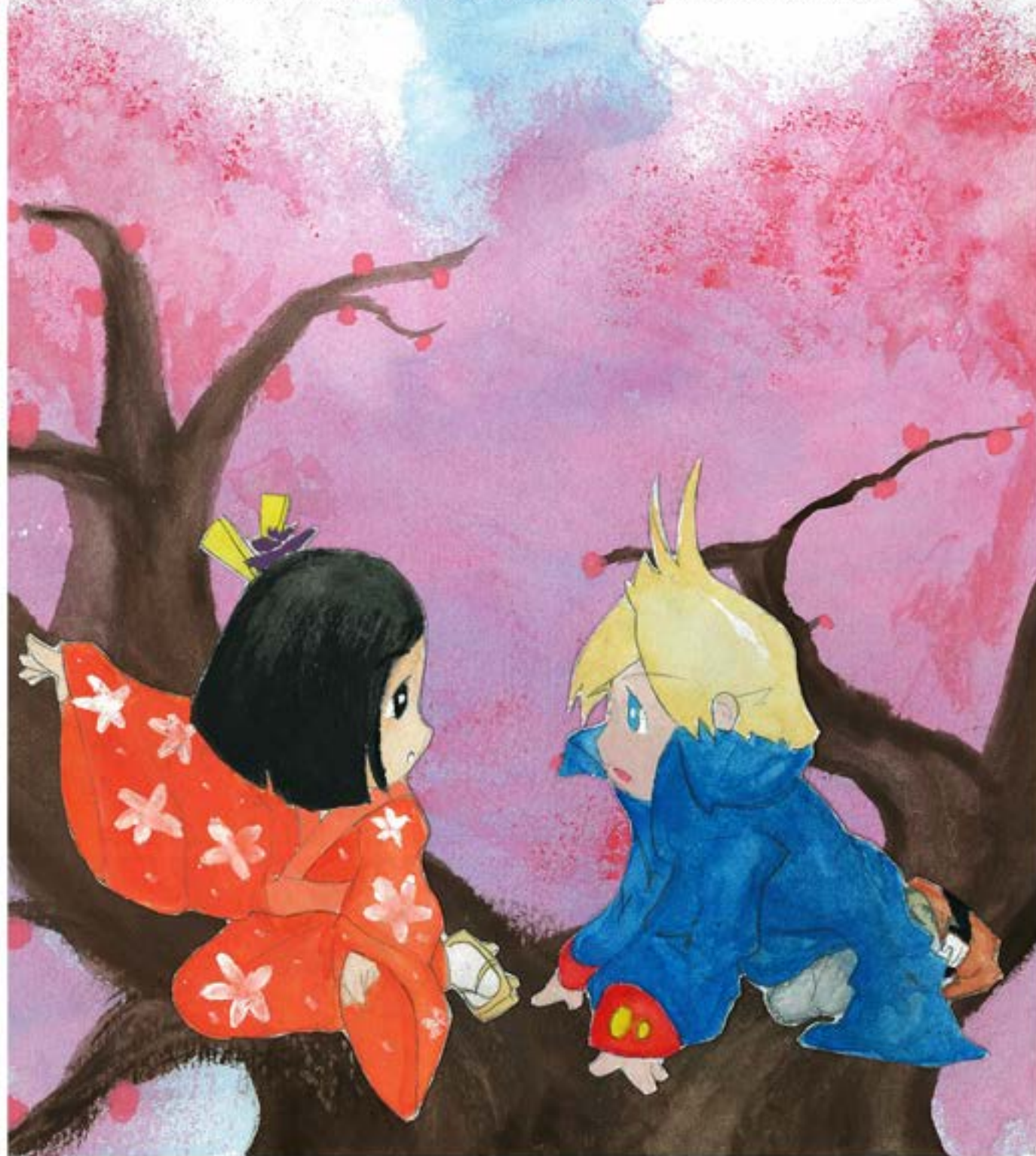
"Hello," the girl replied with a bow.

"What's your name?"

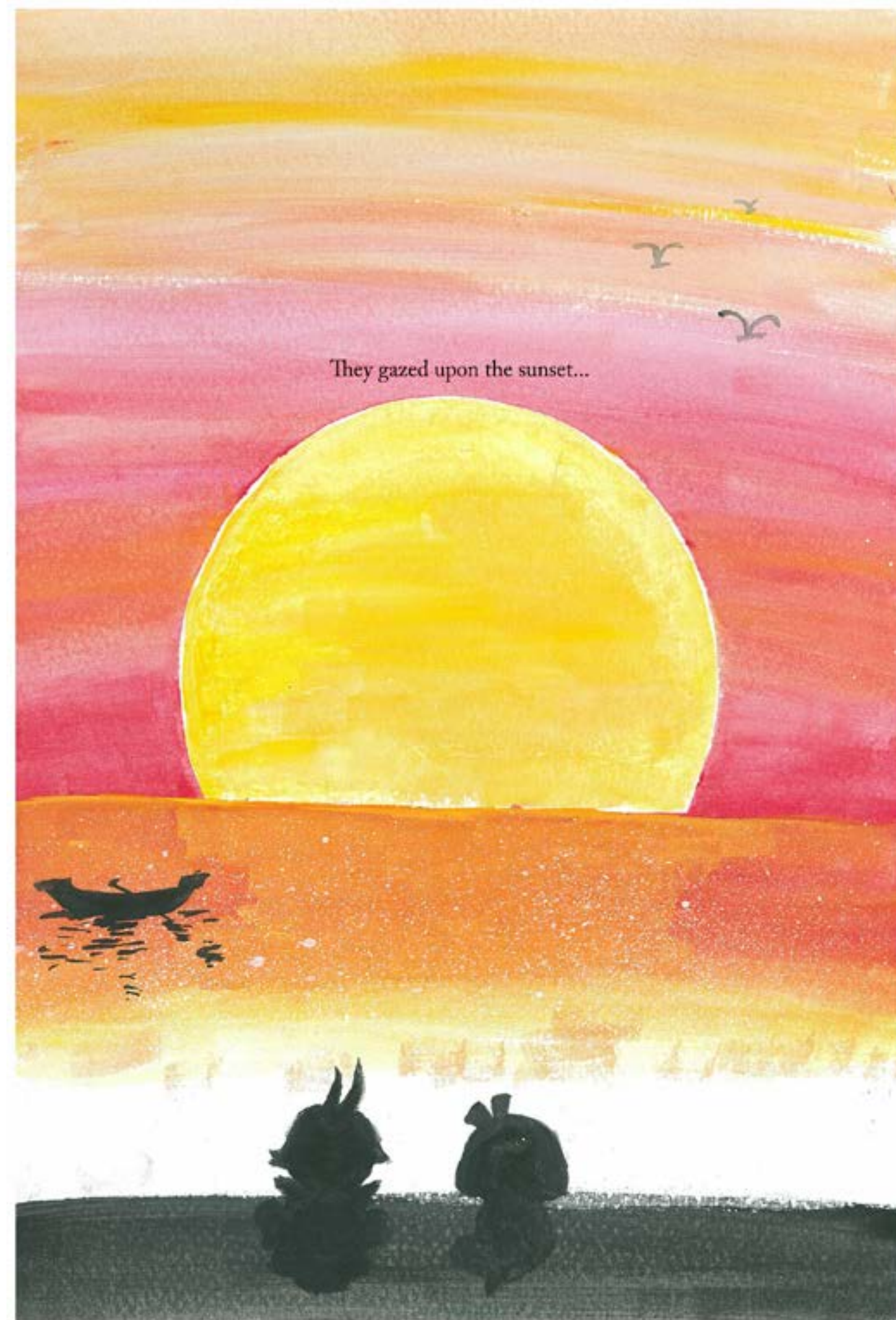
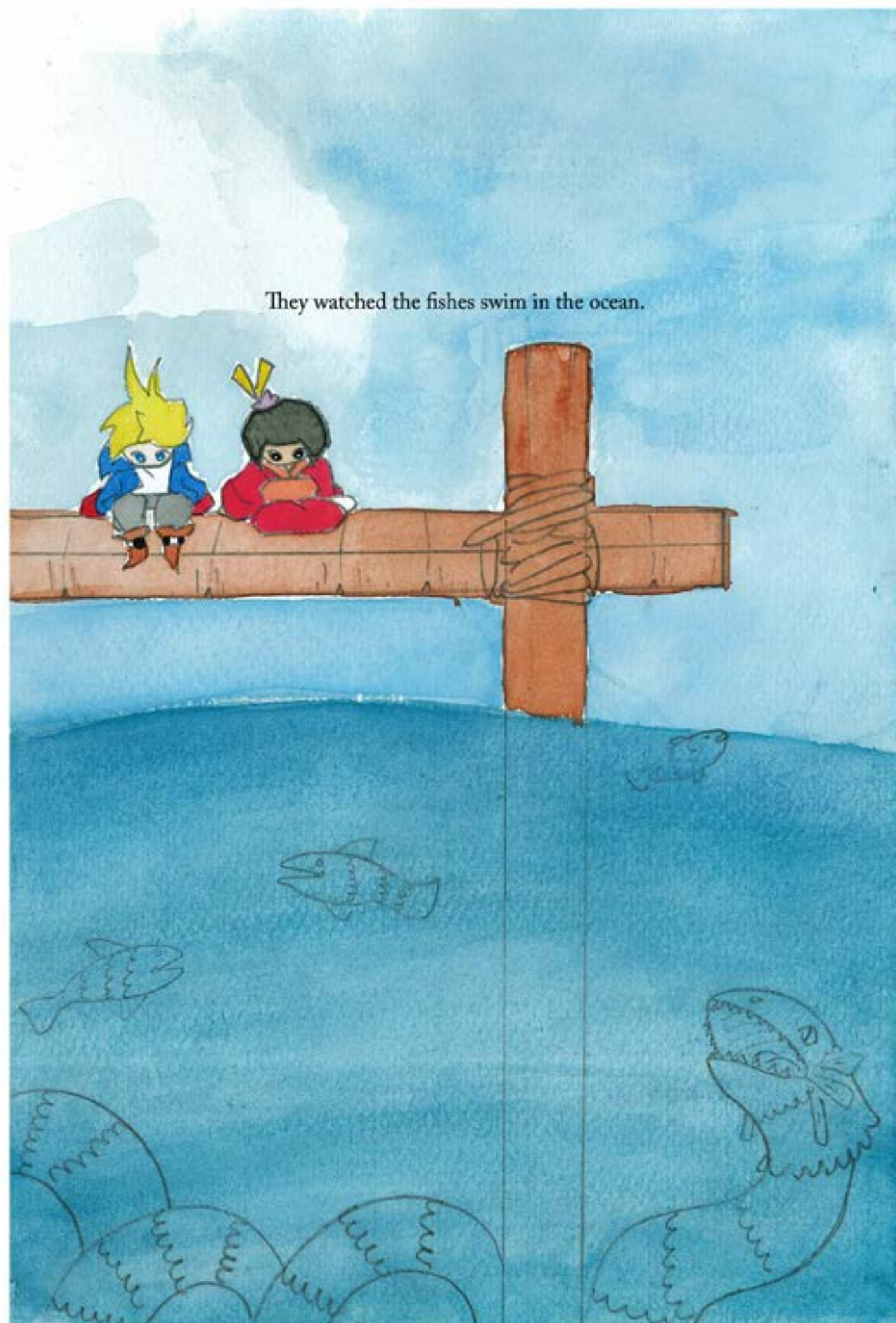
"Suki" replied the girl.

"Suki, would you like to play with me?" asked Tom nervously.

Suki nodded her head excitedly as she climbed down the tree with Tom.

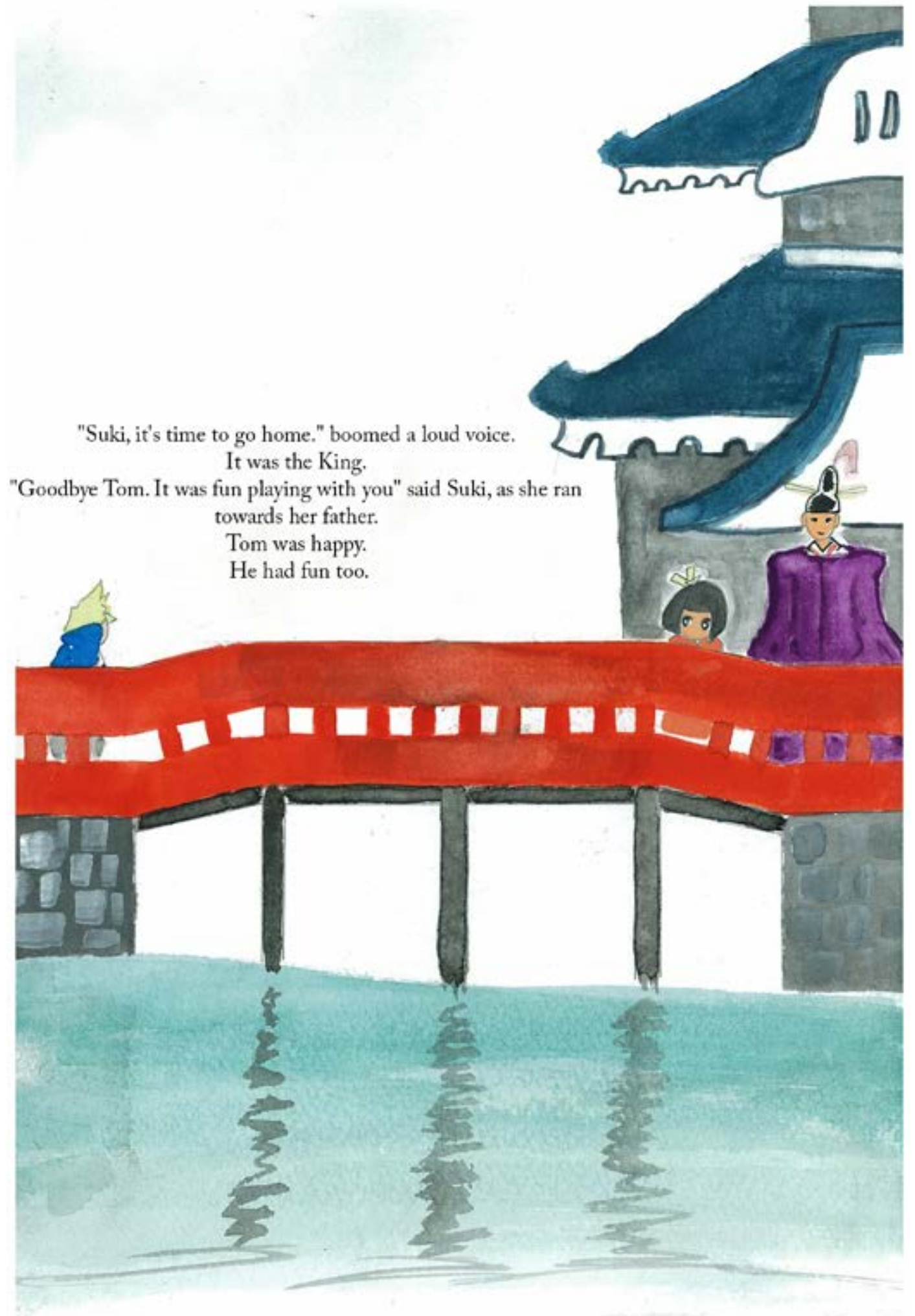


They chased each other around the village.





...and the thousand stars.



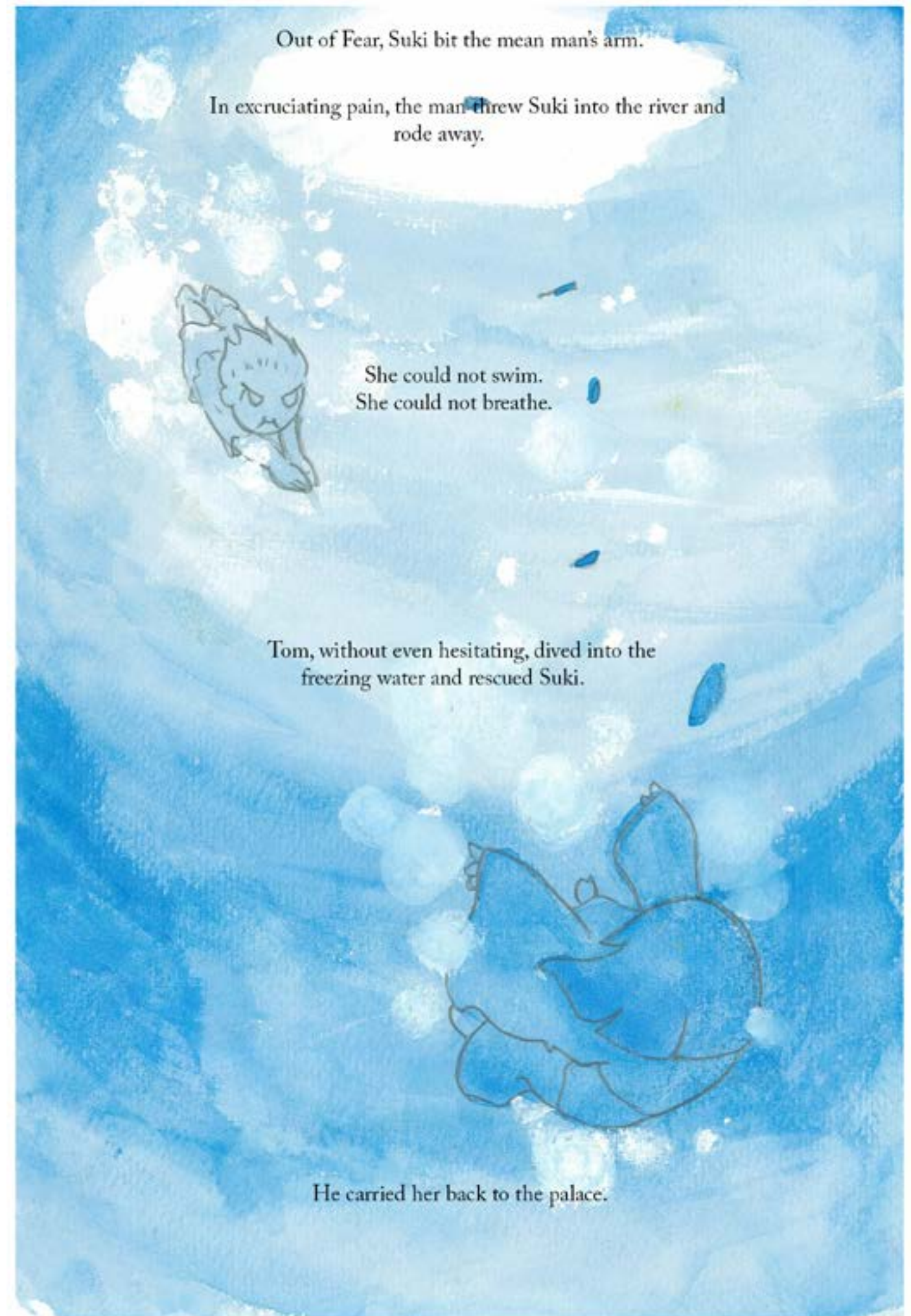
"Suki, it's time to go home." boomed a loud voice.
It was the King.
"Goodbye Tom. It was fun playing with you" said Suki, as she ran
towards her father.
Tom was happy.
He had fun too.



One day, after Tom and Suki finished playing,
Tom saw a bunch of mean-looking men on horses.

He saw them TAKE Suki away as he was leaving the palace.

...Tom chased after them.



Out of Fear, Suki bit the mean man's arm.

In excruciating pain, the man threw Suki into the river and
rode away.

She could not swim.
She could not breathe.

Tom, without even hesitating, dived into the
freezing water and rescued Suki.

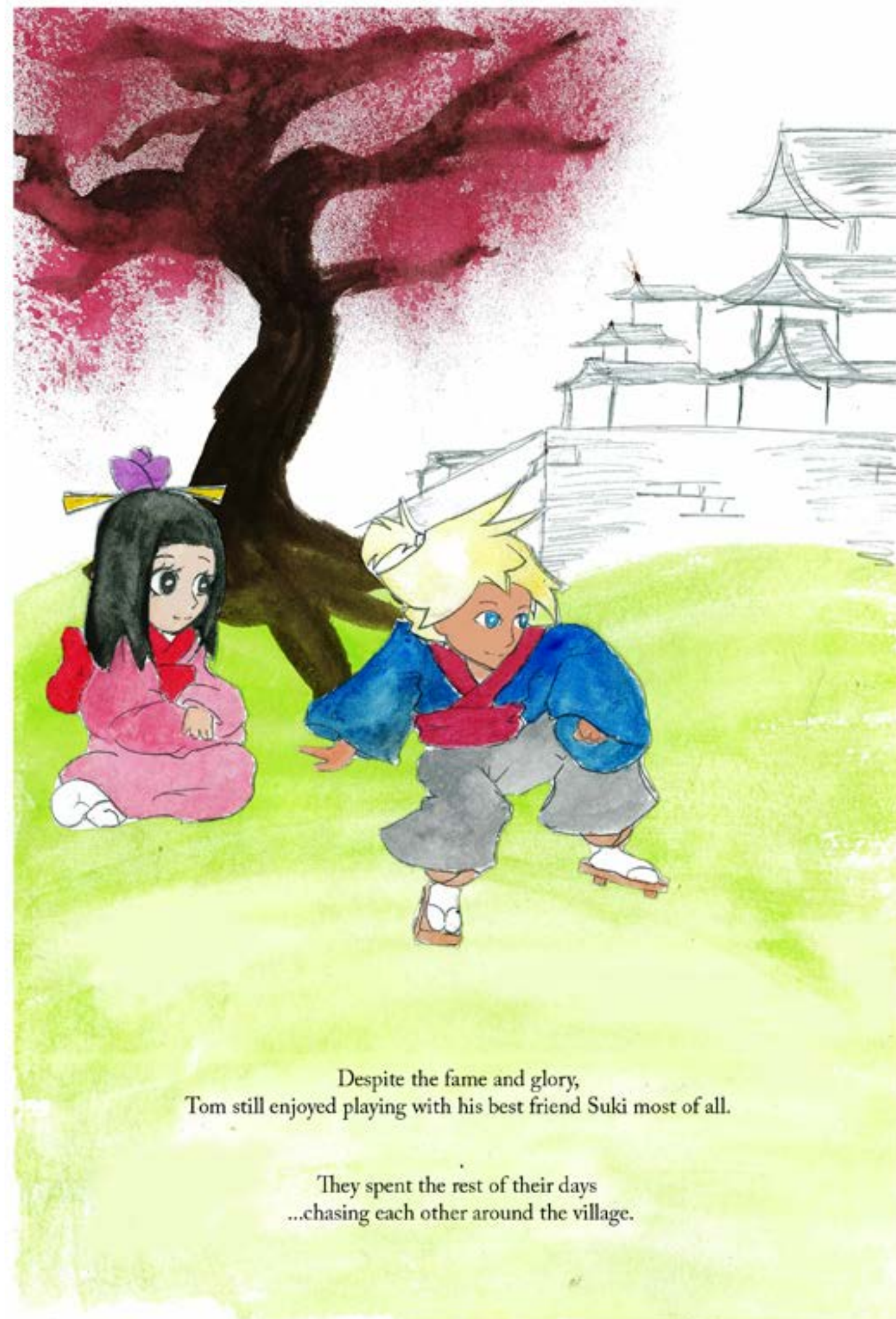
He carried her back to the palace.

The king was so grateful to Tom that he made Tom the hero of the village.



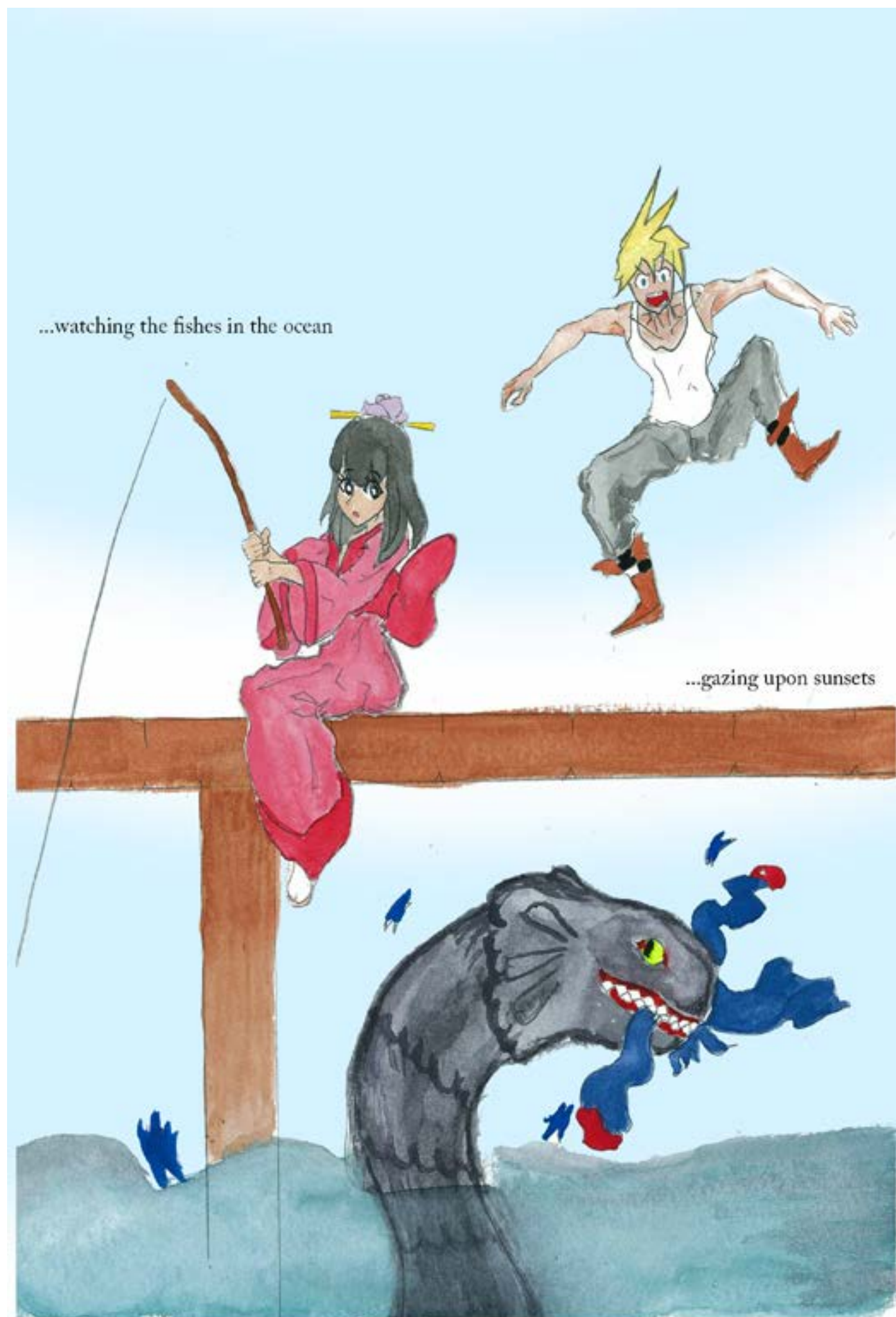
The villagers trusted him and the other children played with him after that day.

Tom was no longer left out.



Despite the fame and glory,
Tom still enjoyed playing with his best friend Suki most of all.

They spent the rest of their days
...chasing each other around the village.



And the thousand stars.

終劇
(The End)



The Boy and the Ghost: Yuki

Written and illustrated by:
Chan Yin Yan and Chong Yi Lei

This book was made in collaboration
with Erica Tan and Ng Ser Ting.

A stylized illustration of a boy with dark hair, seen from behind, looking out a window. The window frame is a large, dark wooden wheel. Outside, a snowy landscape is visible with a red-roofed house and a large, glowing blue tree. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

I'm Yuki.


Yesterday, a new family moved
into my neighborhood. They
have a little kid with them.

I wonder if I can make friends with
him.



I hope he likes winter.

I would love a new friend
to play with!

An illustration of a boy with dark hair and rosy cheeks looking up at a girl with voluminous blue hair. The girl is wearing a blue dress and has her eyes closed in a serene expression. The background is a dark wood-paneled wall with soft, glowing light spots. The boy is on the left, and the girl is on the right, partially obscured by a lamp.

'Hello, my name is Yuki!
What's yours?'

'W-whaa?' The kid stuttered.

'Boop!'



'Haha I got you!'





'I'm Yuki. You didn't tell me
your name yet.'

It's been a long time since
I've seen a kid around here. I
hope we can be friends!'

The little kid didn't respond.
He seemed really scared of
me...



'Uhm... did I do something
wrong? I'm sorry if I did.'

'Ah...no, no its okay. M-my
name's Isamu. What was that
blue glowy thing you did just
now? It felt cold.' Isamu
asked.



'Ah, that was snow! Do you
wanna see it again?'

'Yea.' Isamu said.
haha.'



I made a bunch of pretty
snow flakes in my hand.
Isamu smiled.

'Would you like to play
with me, Isamu?'

'Yeah, I'd like that.'
Isamu agreed.

Mei's Yummy Treat

Written by: Jesslyn Lau Jie Lin
Illustrated by: Wong Peiqi, Jaclyn



Mei came home from school one day and is excited.

"Mummy, my friend gave me a treat today and it was so yummy," Mei exclaimed.

"Will you buy some for me?"

"What's the name of the yummy treat?" asked Mummy.

"I don't know," Mei replied.



"What does it look like?
What does it taste like?"
asked Mummy.

"It's round and chewy.
Some are white, some
are red and some are
green. Some have red
bean inside, some have
peanuts inside, some
have nothing inside
but it's still yummy!"
described Mei.





That night, Mummy went to the night market and returned with plastic bags full of local treats.

She unwrapped the first bag.

"This is called muah chee," Mummy said. "Is this the yummy treat that you ate today?"

Mei ate the muah chee.



"The muah chee is soft and chewy but the peanuts are on the outside. The yummy treat has peanuts on the inside." Mei shook her head.

"It's not the same."

Mummy unwrapped the next bag.

"This is ang ku kueh," Mummy said.

"Is this the yummy treat that you ate today?"

Mei took a bite of the ang ku kueh.



"The ang ku kueh is soft and chewy but it's flat. The yummy treat is round like a ball." Mei shook her head.

"It's not the same."

Mummy unwrapped the last bag.

"This is ondeh ondeh," Mummy said.

"Is this the yummy treat that you ate today?"

Mei popped an ondeh ondeh into her mouth.



"The ondeh ondeh is soft and chewy. It's also round like a ball but it has coconut. The yummy treat does not have coconut."

Mei shook her head.

"It's not the same."

"Muah chee, ang ku kueh and
ondeh ondeh are delicious
too but it's not the yummy
treat that I ate today,"
sighed Mei.



"Why don't you invite your
friend to our house to play?
I'm curious about this yummy
treat," suggested Mummy.

"Yay, that would be fun!"
Mei cheered.



The next day, Kiyoko and her mother came to visit.

Mei introduced her new friend to Mummy, "This is Kiyoko. She's from Japan."

Kiyoko's mother handed Mummy a box filled with soft, round, colourful treats.



"Mummy! It's the
yummy treat!" Mei
exclaimed excitedly.

"It's called mochi,"
said Kiyoko.

"It's my favourite."

"Mine too!" replied Mei.

"Would you like to learn how
to make mochi?" asked
Kiyoko's mummy.

"Yes please! Then I can eat
the yummy treat every day!"
squealed Mei.

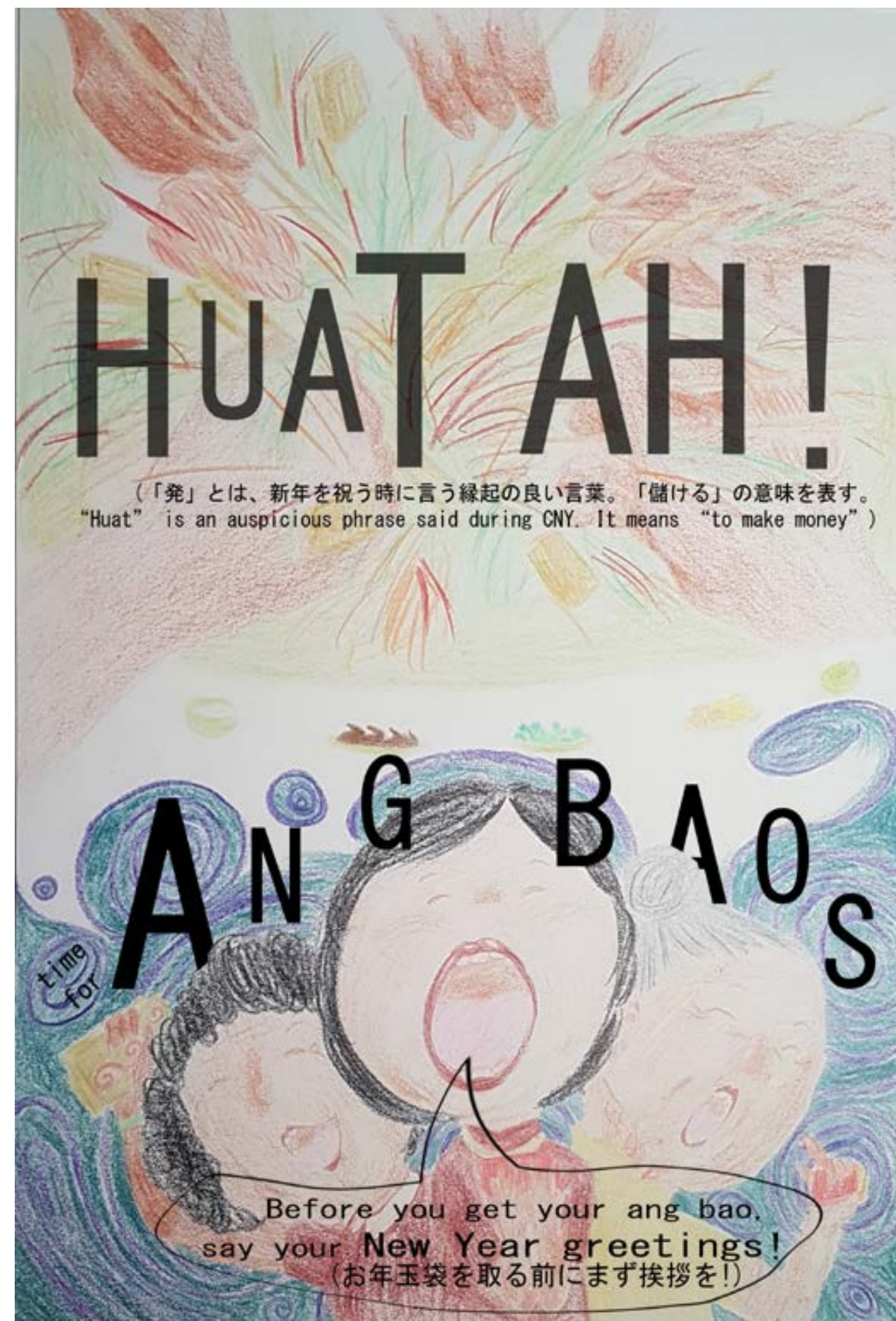
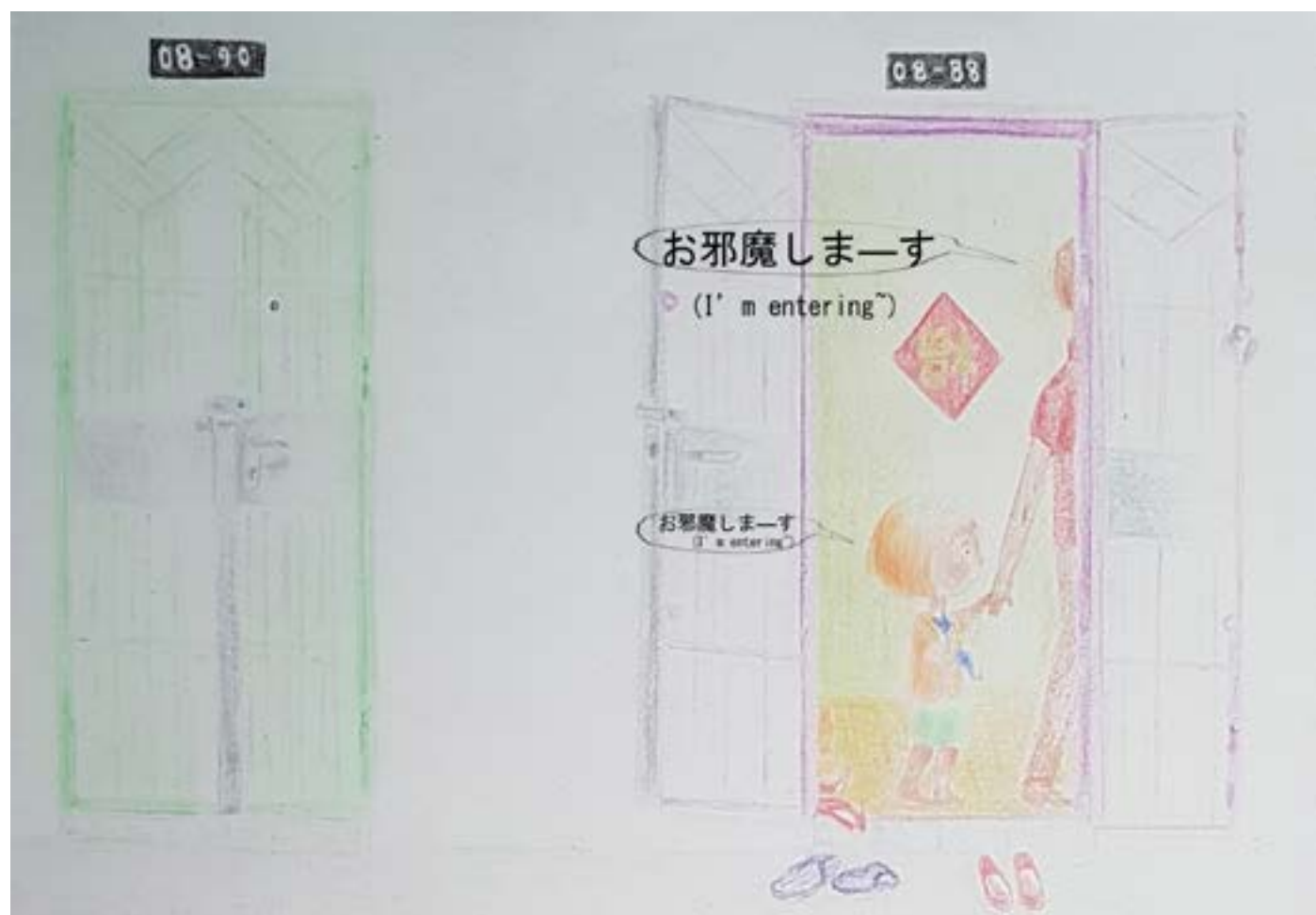


Mei and Kiyoko went off to
play while their mummies
ate mochi, muah chee,
ang ku kueh and ondeh
ondeh for tea.











心想事成

(may what your heart
desires come true)

万事如意

(may ten thousand things go
according to your wishes!)

恭喜发财,
红包拿来

(cheeky saying meaning "congratulations on
earning a lot of money, now please
give me an ang bao!")

身体健康

(may you have a
healthy body)

步步高升

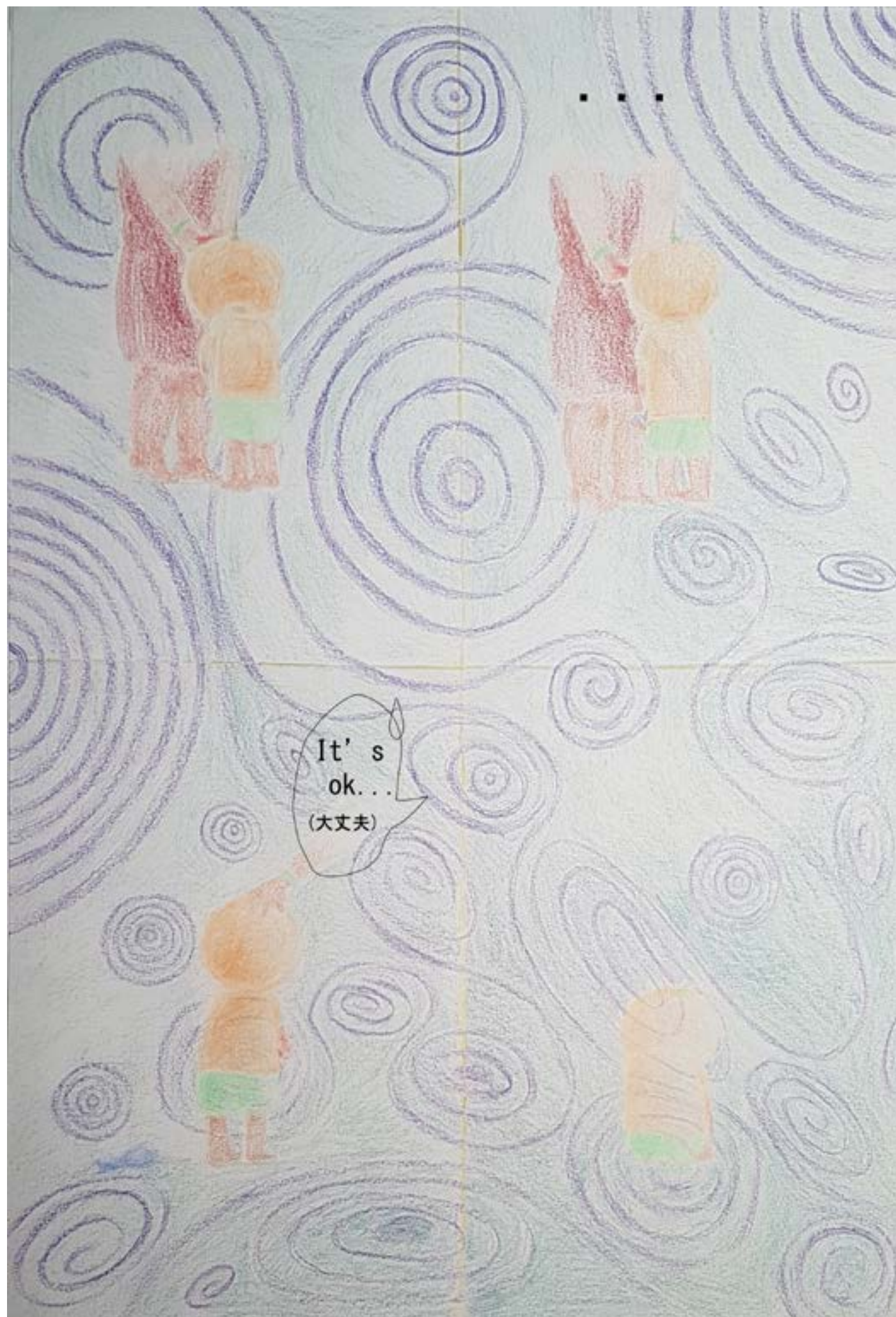
(may you become more
successful with each step
- usually about careers)
(步步高昇)

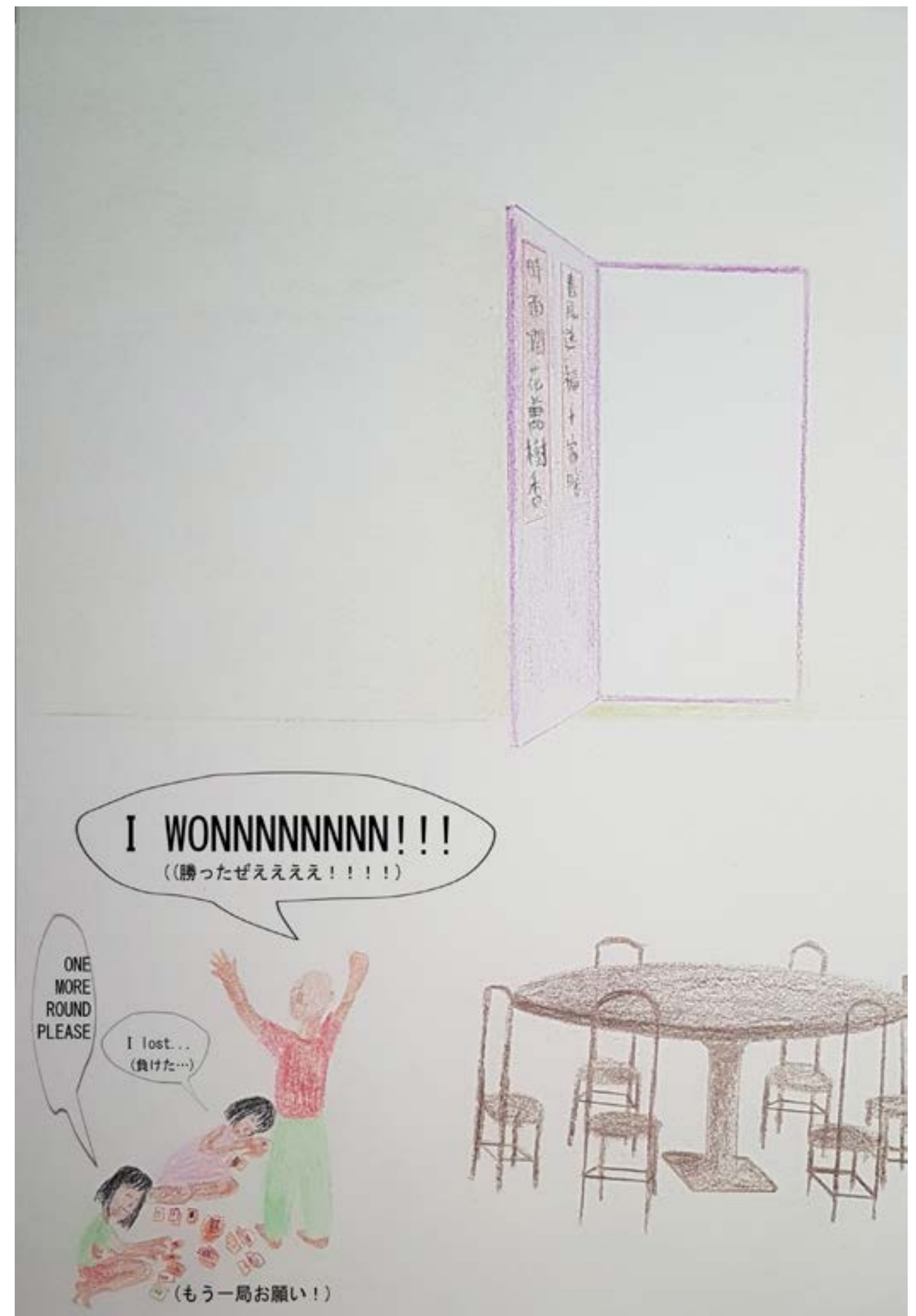
Don't open
your ang bao in
front of uncle
and auntie!

(おじさんとおばさんの前に袋を開けるな!)

Awesome!
10 dollars!

(すげえー 10ドルある!)



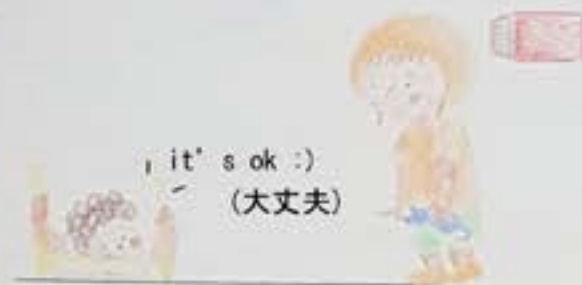
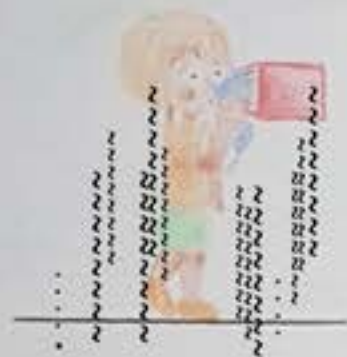


お——！
(Oh——!)



(らあああ!!!)

Rahhhhhh!!!!



Look! Cat!

(見て！猫！)



see you again,
kitty

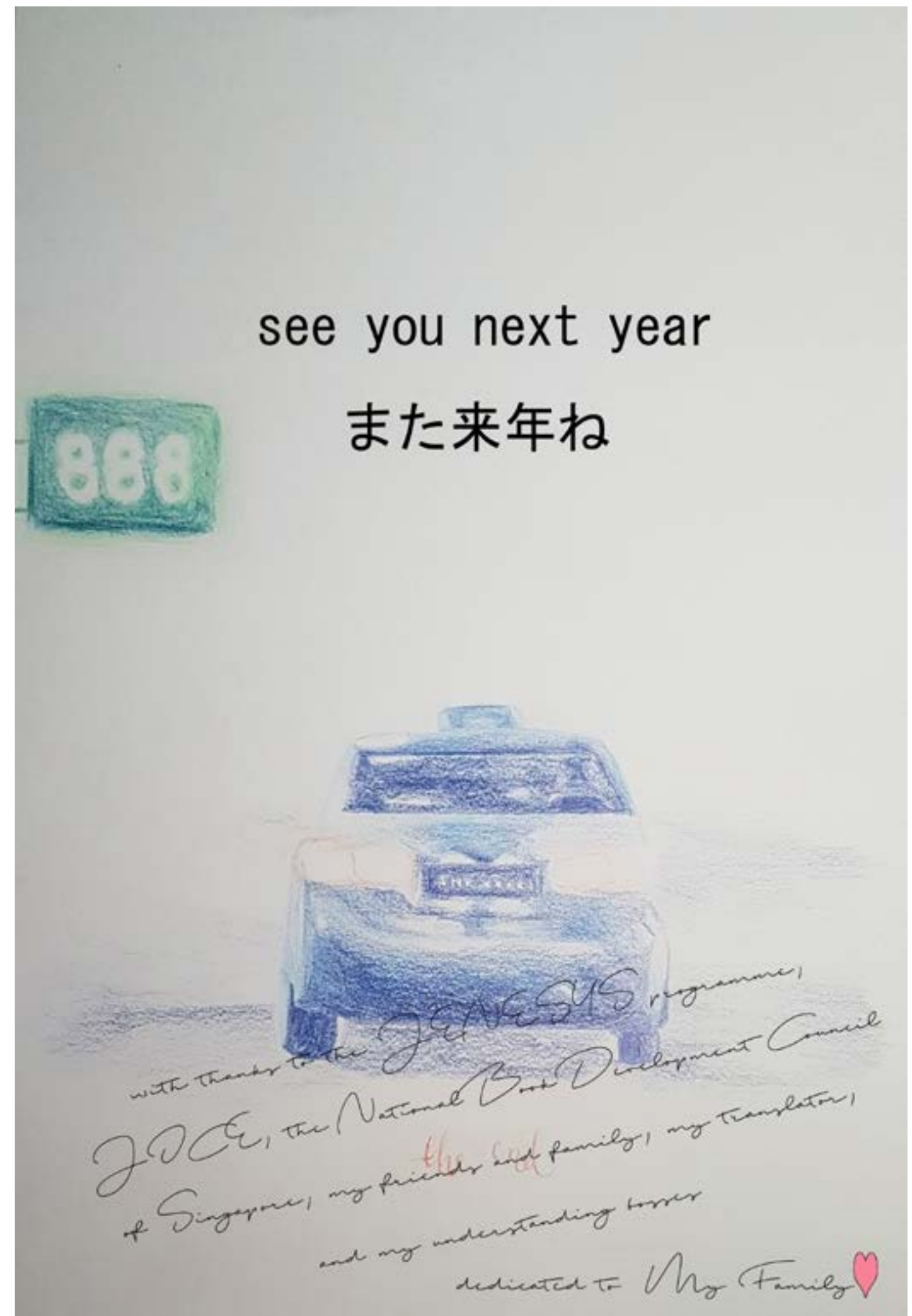
(またね、
猫ちゃん)



WOW~
So warm~

(うわー あったかいー)





Baker Ben's Bread



Baker Ben was the best baker in Singapore.
Baker Ben's breads were something you could not ignore.
Baker Ben baked the best buns, toasts & curry puffs.
O, Baker Ben's Breads were never enough.

Baker Ben wanted more people to try his bread.
Baker Ben hoped his business to spread.



So Baker Ben packed his bags and left to Japan.
Baker Ben went, with a Kaya Bun in his hand.

Baker Ben thought, "I guess Pork Floss is not Japan's thing"
"Maybe Kaya Toast! Ah yes, the customers it would bring"



Baker Ben set up his bakery on a little street
Maybe these people would like a treat!
"Would you like a Pork Floss Bun?" Baker Ben asked.
They ate a bit and turned away in disgust.



Baker Ben brought out a tray of Kaya Toast.
But no one even came close.





Baker Ben was upset.
Baker Ben hugged his baguette.
"No one likes my bread!" Baker Ben sighed.
But what could he do? Baker Ben cried.

Baker Ben was left in disappointment.
Baker Ben knew he needed some inspiration.



Baker Ben saw that Red bean food was a trend.
"That's it! I got it!" Baker Ben exclaimed with content.

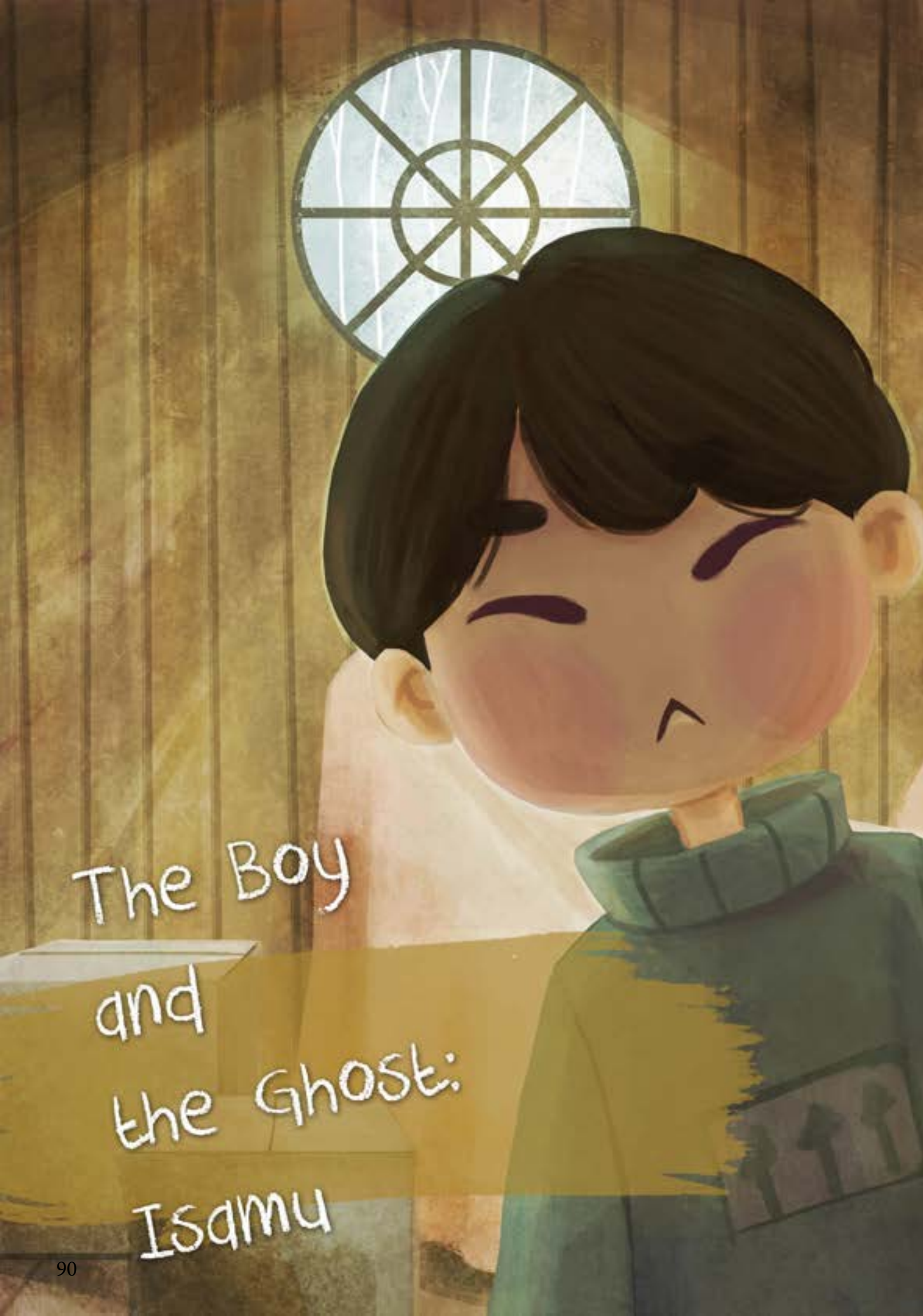
The very next day, Baker Ben set out his creation.
Baker Ben's Bread, it was the talk of the nation.



Baker Ben baked all day and all night
Everyone was curious and could not wait for a bite.



Baker Ben sold his bread till they were no more.
Baker Ben's breads were something you could not ignore.
Baker Ben baked the best buns, toasts & red bean puffs.
O, Baker Ben's Breads were never enough.



Written and illustrated by:
Ng Ser Ting and Erica Tan

This book was made in collaboration
with Chan Yin Yan and Chong Yi Lei

Hello. I'm Isamu.

I've just moved to Hakuba today.


Theres so much snow here.

I think its really cool.

I turned and saw a pale, floating girl.

She said something that I couldn't catch.



An illustration of a young boy with dark hair and a green turtleneck looking up at a girl with long, flowing, iridescent hair. The girl's hair has a rainbow-like sheen and is surrounded by small white sparkles. The background is a warm, wooden floor.

Who is she?

What is she doing here?


Oh no is she going to hurt me?!
What's she going to do?!



"Boop !"

Oh. That.



An illustration of two young boys with dark hair and rosy cheeks standing in a snowy environment. The boy on the left is laughing with his mouth wide open, while the boy on the right has a surprised expression with his mouth slightly open. They are both wearing green winter coats. The background is a soft-focus view of snow-covered evergreen trees under a pale sky. Snowflakes are depicted as small white stars falling around them.

Woah...

There's so much snow..

This is amazing!

Her name is Yuki.

and she is really cool.

She can make snow.

And I think we will become great friends.



Sammy's new friend



Story and illustrated by:
Renee Koh

It was Sammy's first time in Tokyo Japan. she was very excited. She made a list of the things that she wants to try out or see like food stalls and vending machines!

During here adventures in Japan, she came across a cute little dog and since then her life has changed

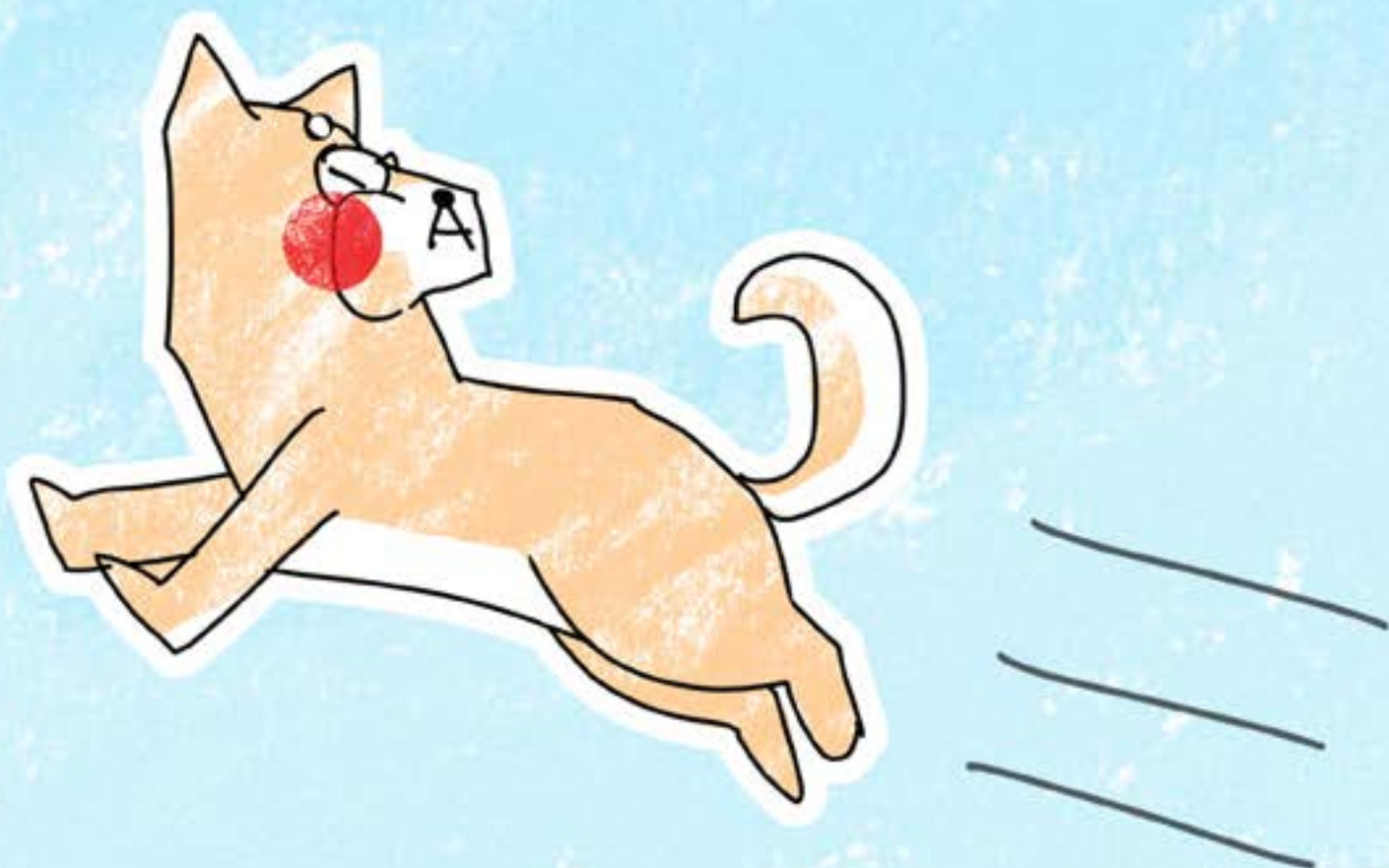
It was Sammy's first time in Tokyo Japan.
she was very excited. She made a list of
the things that she wants to try out or see
like food stalls and vending machines!

First up was the food stalls.. she enjoyed
the taste of freshly made takoyaki and
taiyaki..

As she was eating she realized a dirty
looking dog was following her.. he was
really hungry and was hoping to get some
food from her..

Sammy decided to give the dog
one takoyaki..





and so he ate it, gave a loud bark and ran off..

"Wait!" Sammy shouted but the dog was nowhere to be seen...

The next day, just as Sammy was stepping out the door, she saw the same dog waiting for her!

He barked as a sign for her to follow him.. and so she did !

The dog had brought her to an aisle of vending machines selling all different types of things..



From drinks with colorful packaging to freshly made Japanese lunches! Sammy and the dog have fun exploring..

Day by day, the dog would bring
Sammy to
Different places giving Sammy the
full experience of Tokyo!



Until.. it was eventually time
for Sammy to go..

Before Sammy left, She said the five magic words



"Will you be my friend?"

Suddenly...

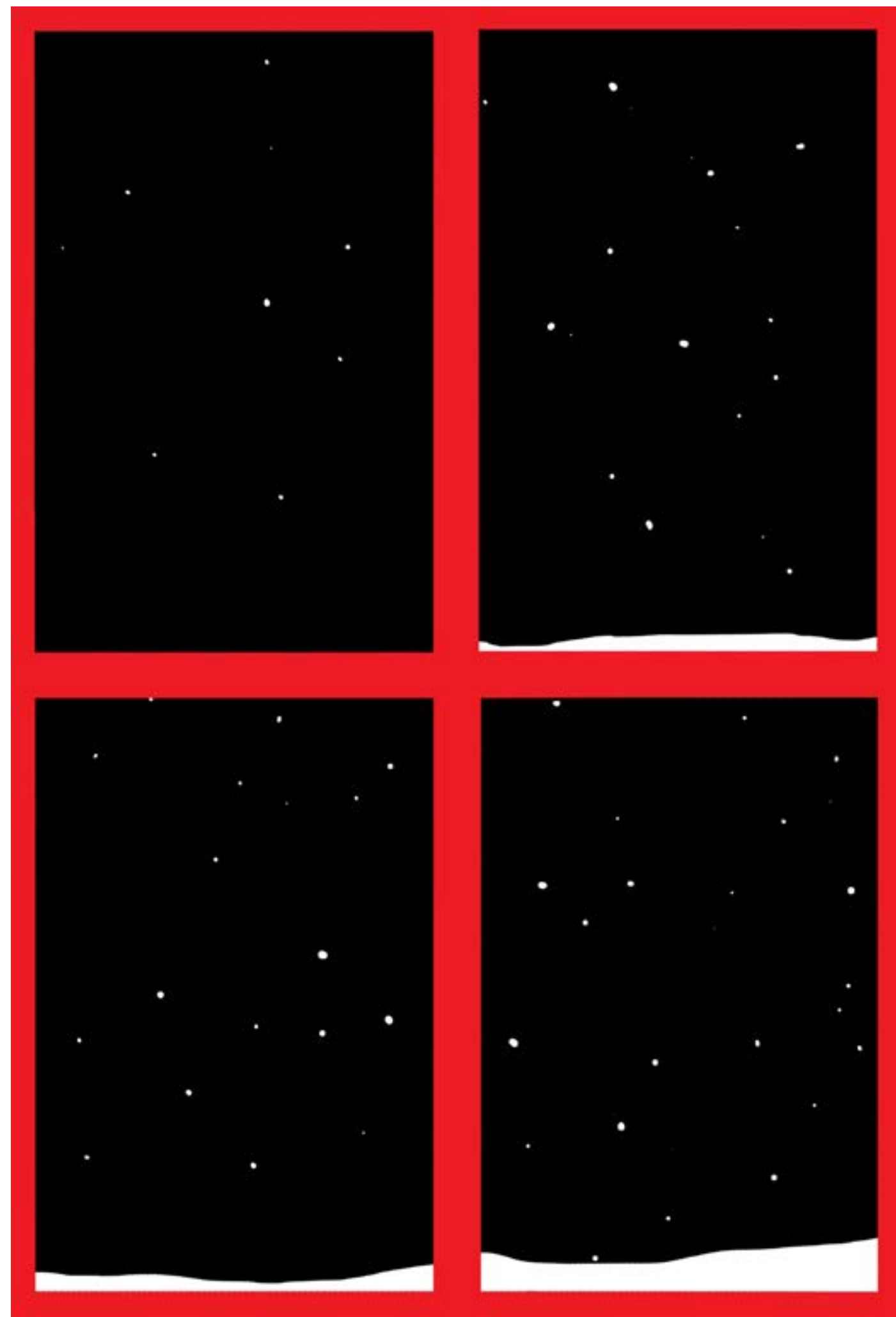
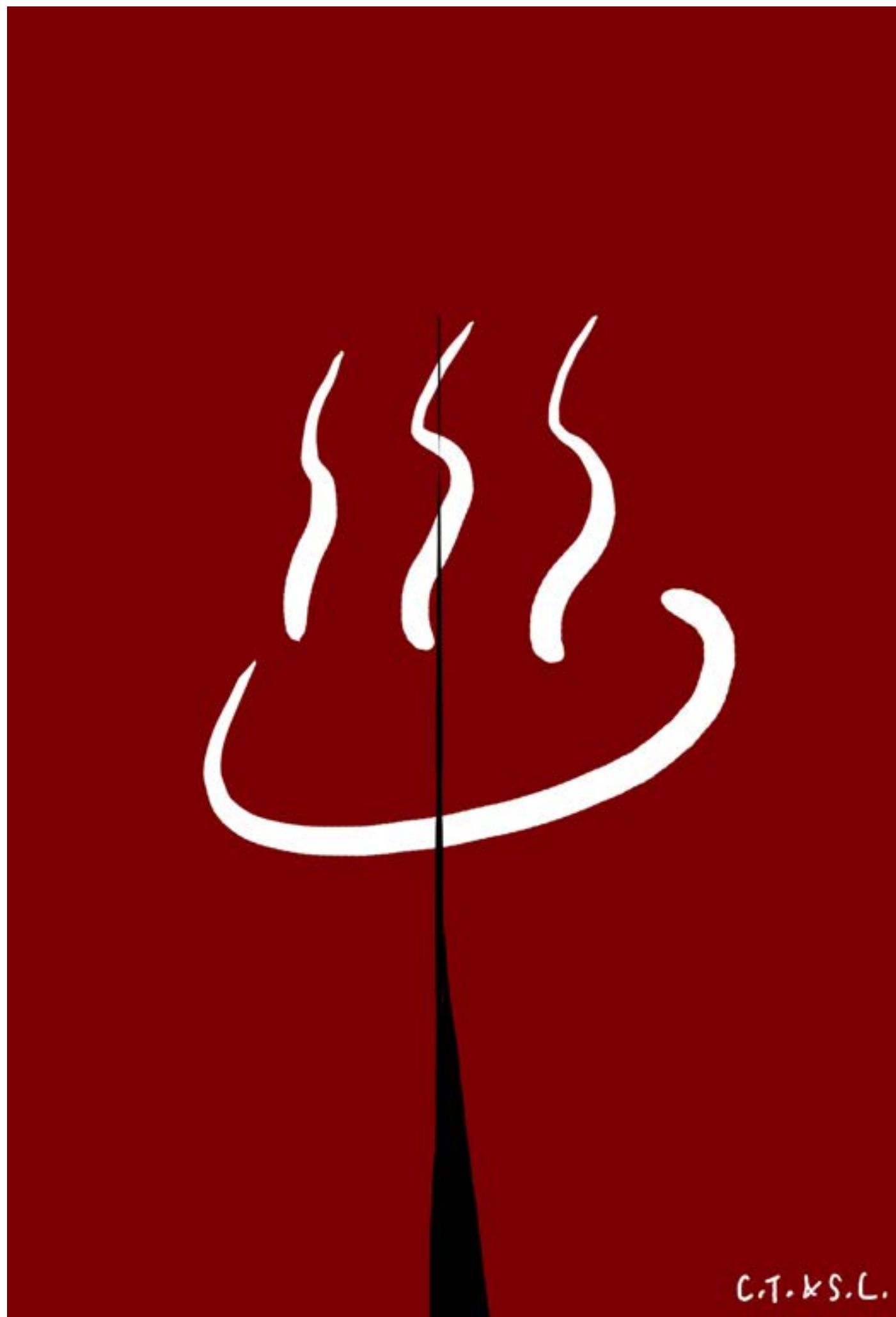
The dog started glowing and seconds later, he turned into a human boy!!
"Thank you for breaking the spell!!" The boy said as he gave Sammy a huge hug!

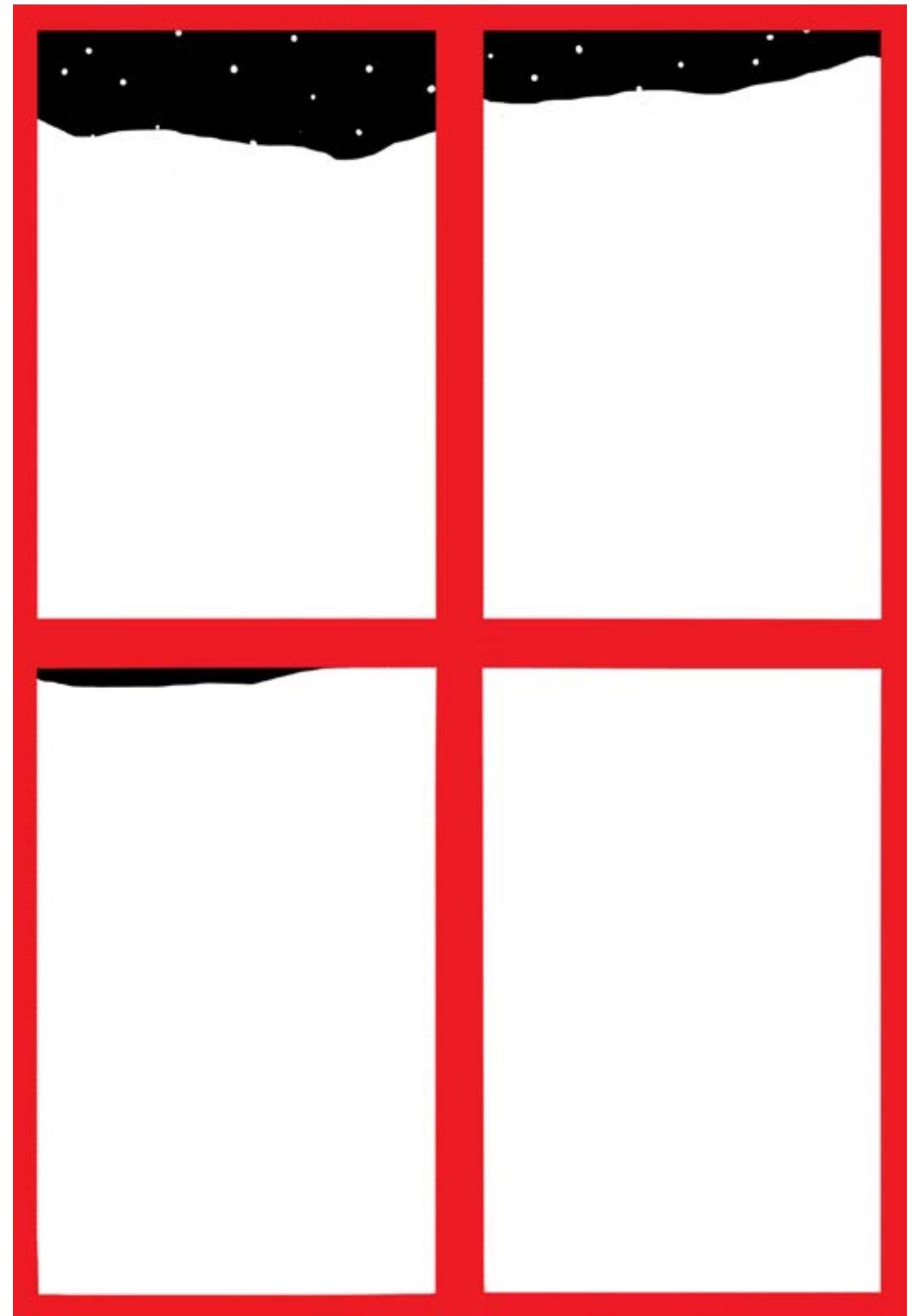
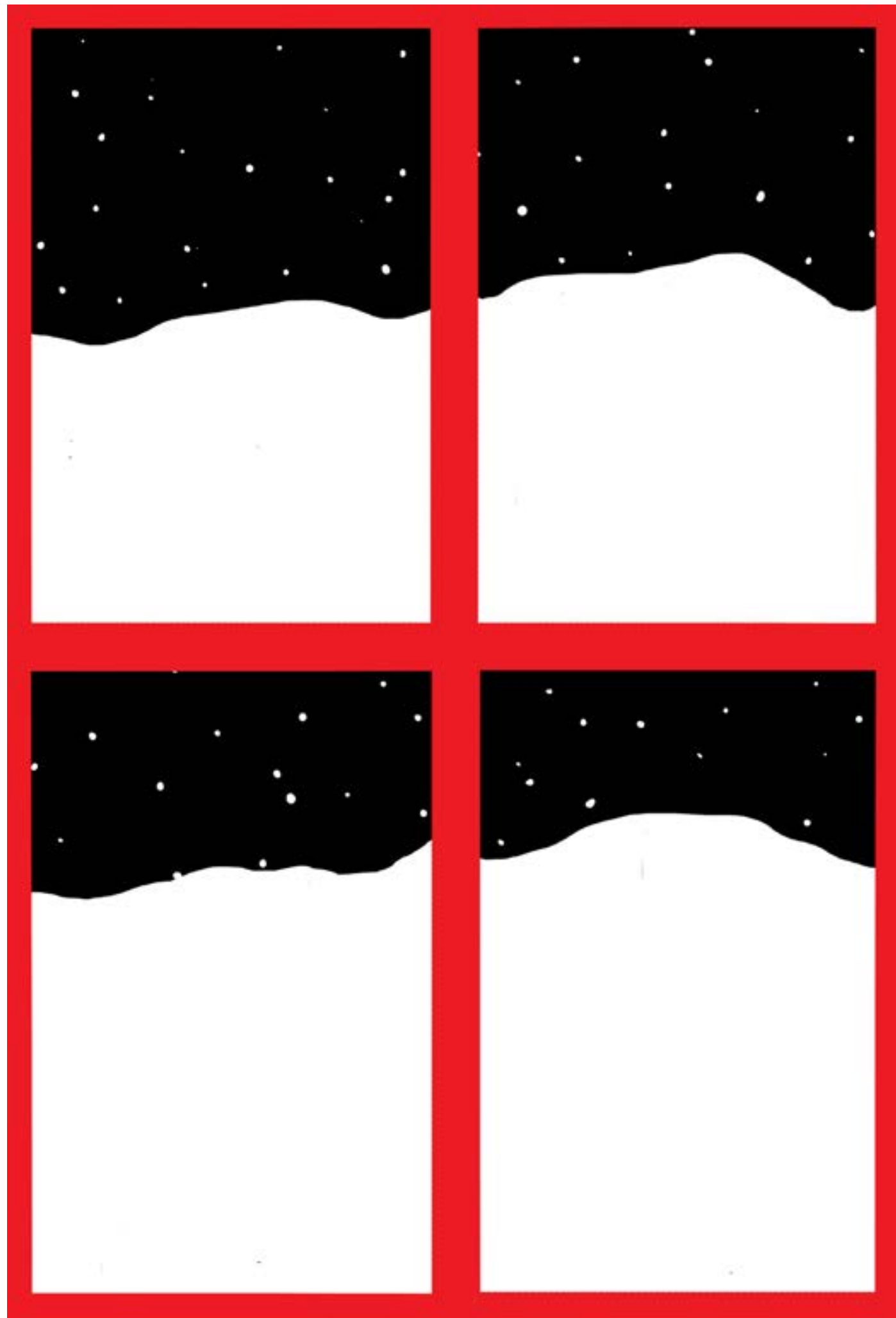
Shocked, Sammy asked him what caused the spell...

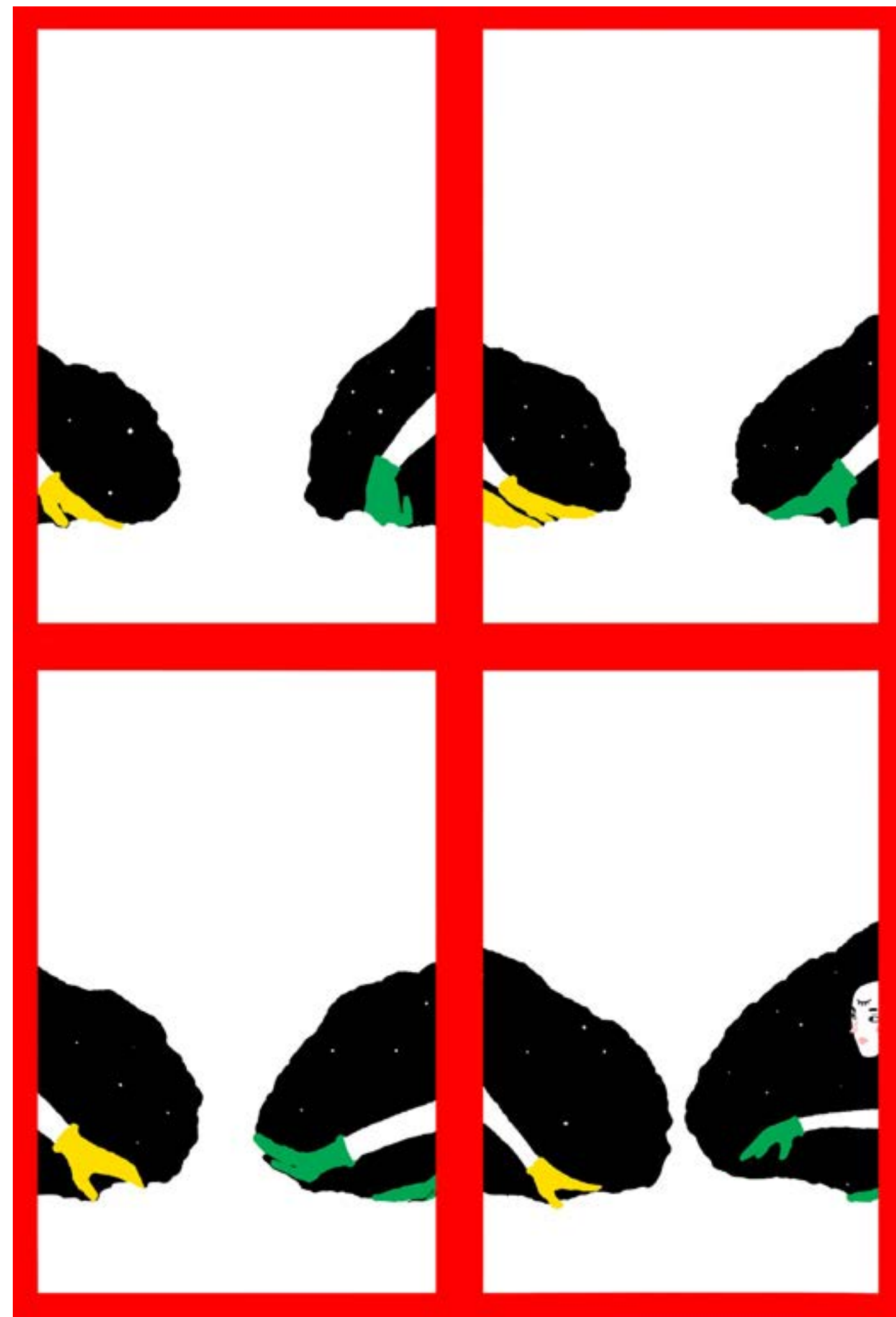
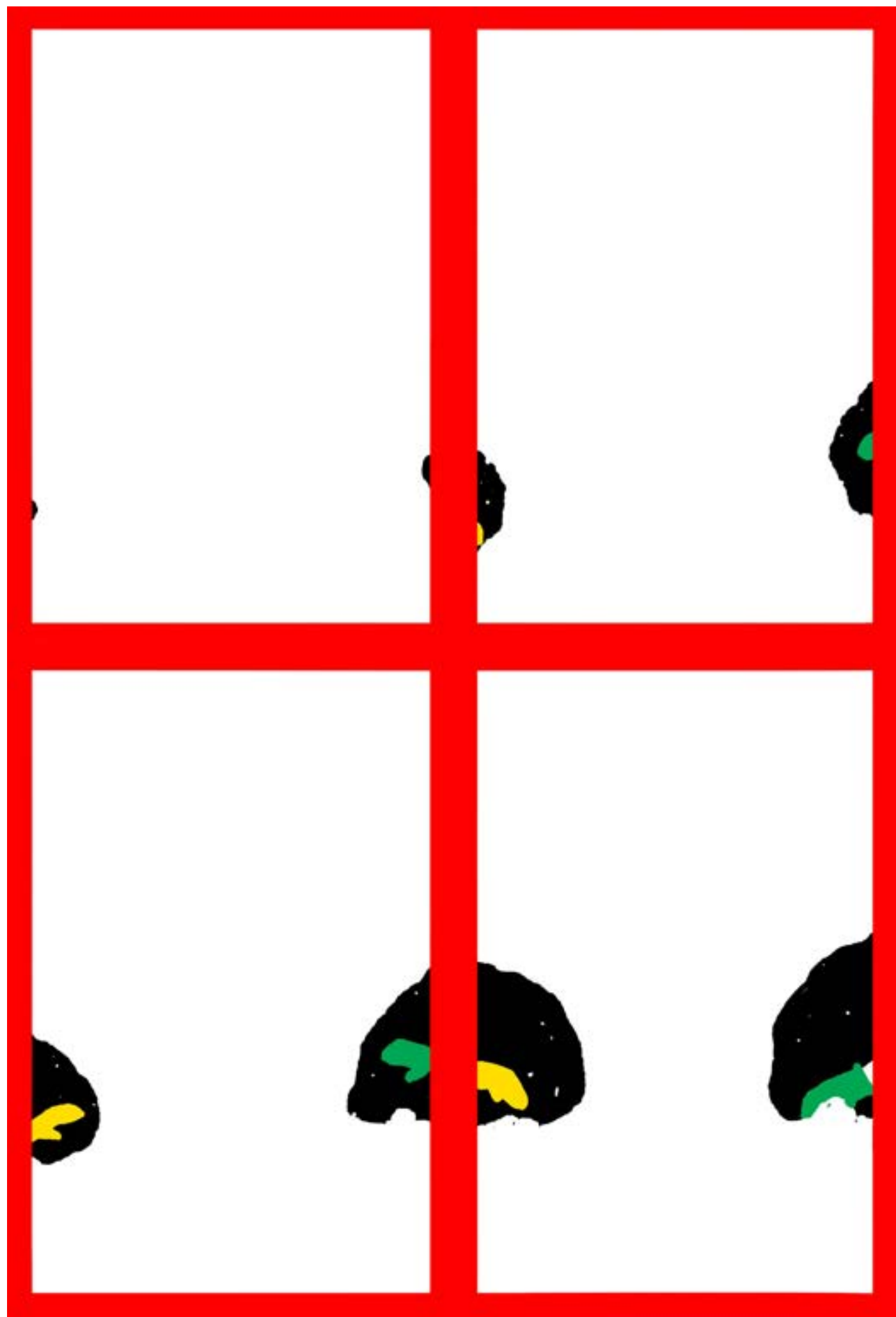
The boy was cursed by accident when he fell into a magical well and was turned into a dirty stray dog... and the only cure was to find true friendship!

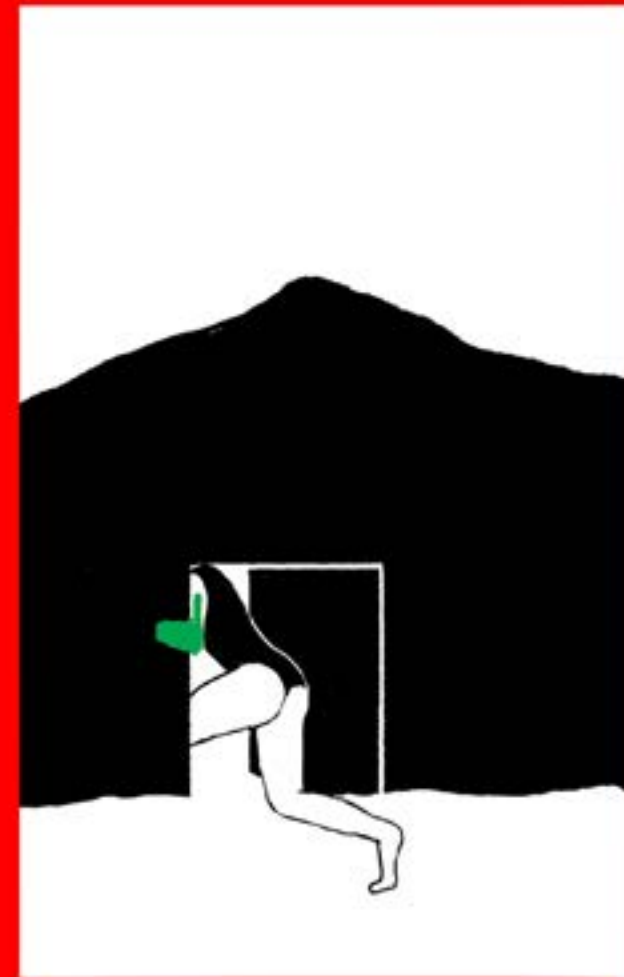
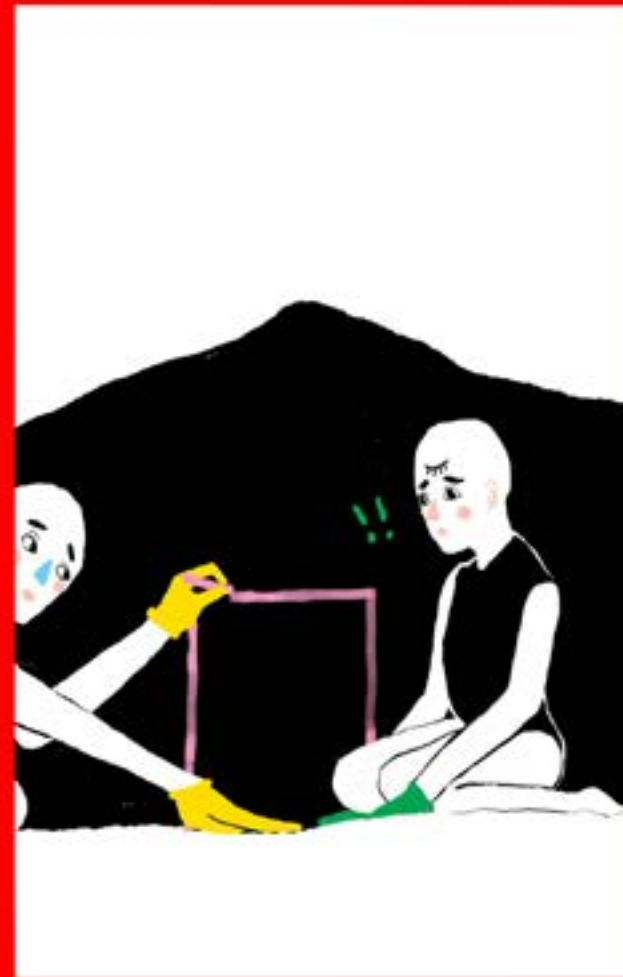
From then on, Sammy and the boy stayed in contact and stayed friends forever!

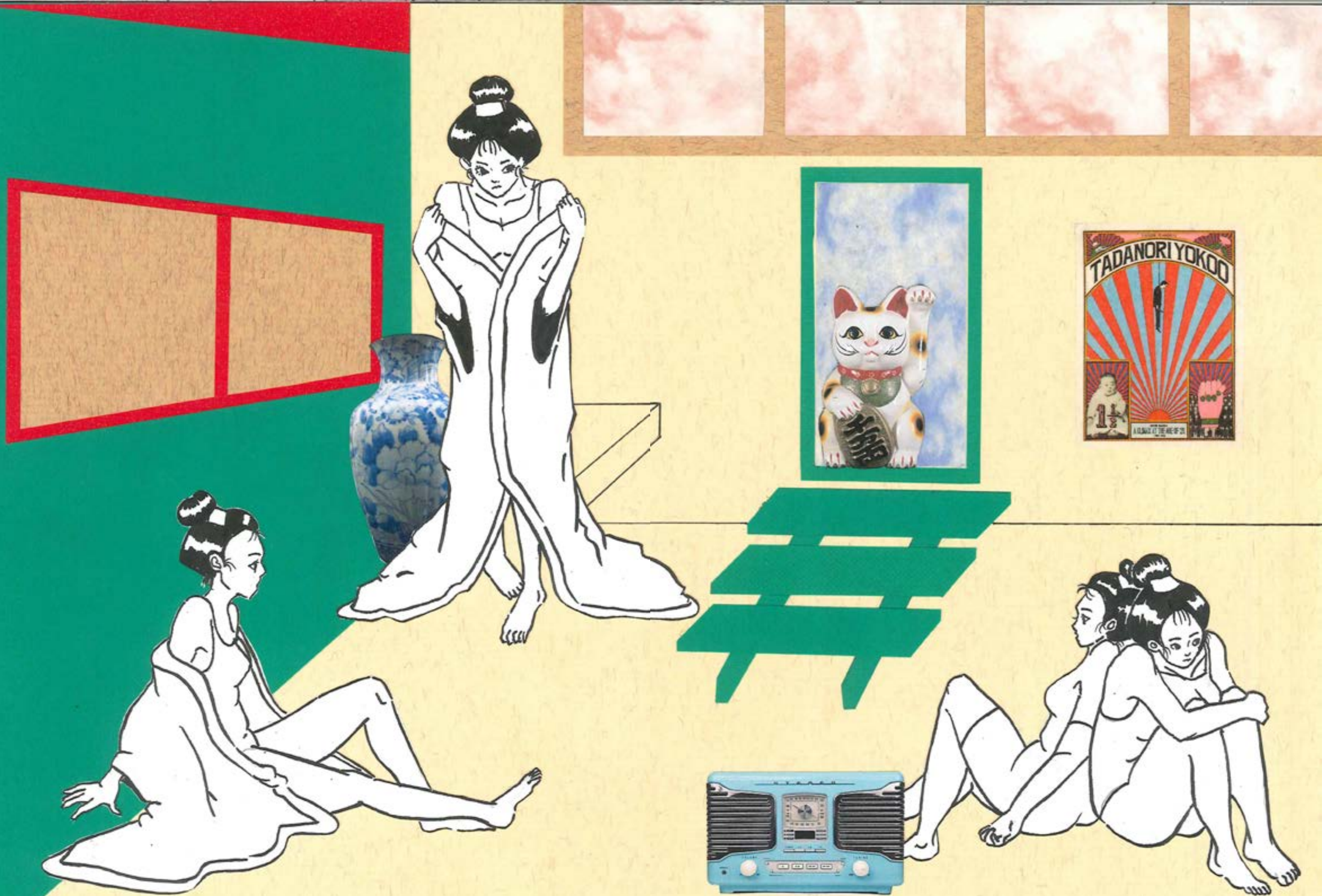
The End.

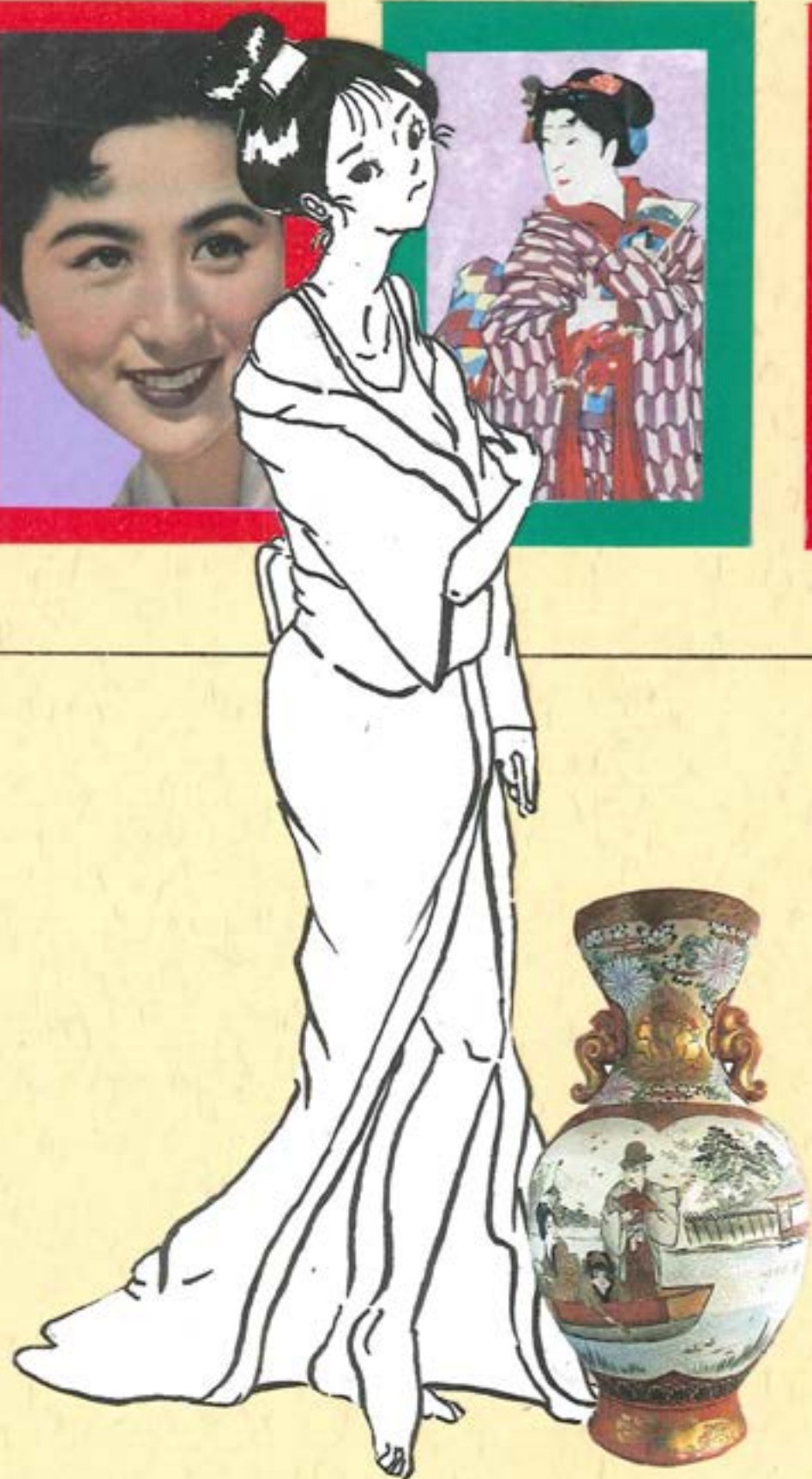


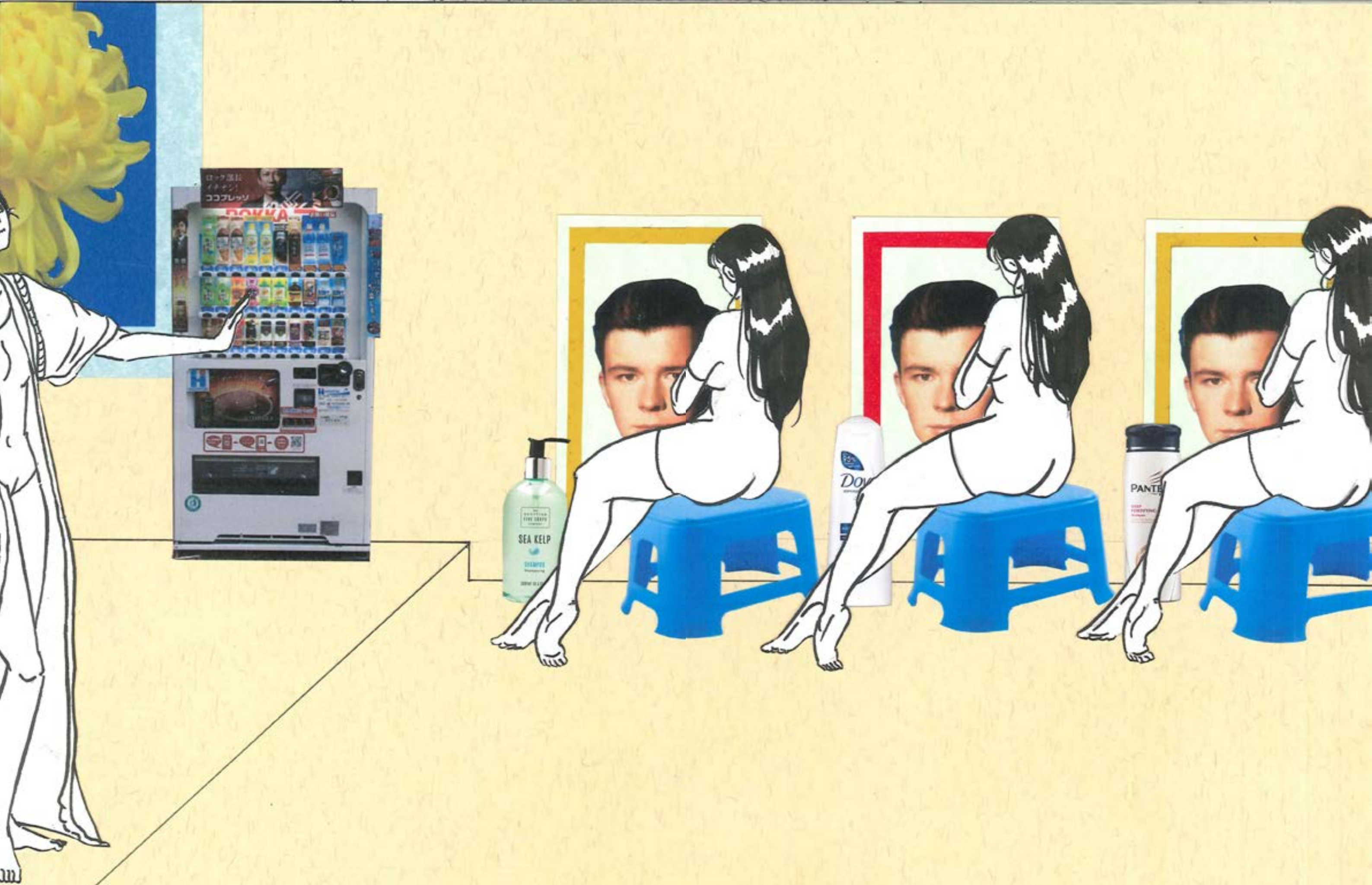




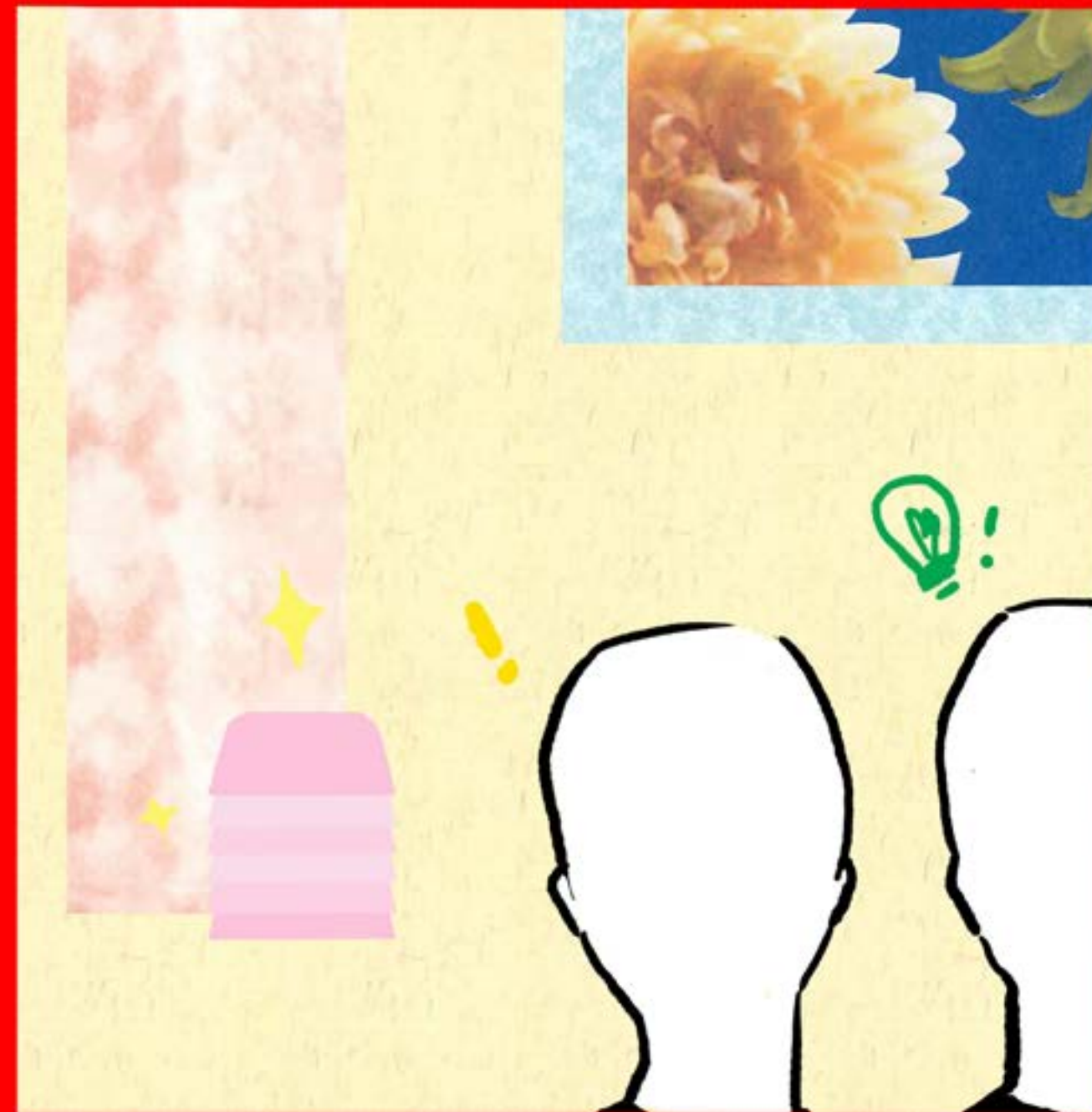
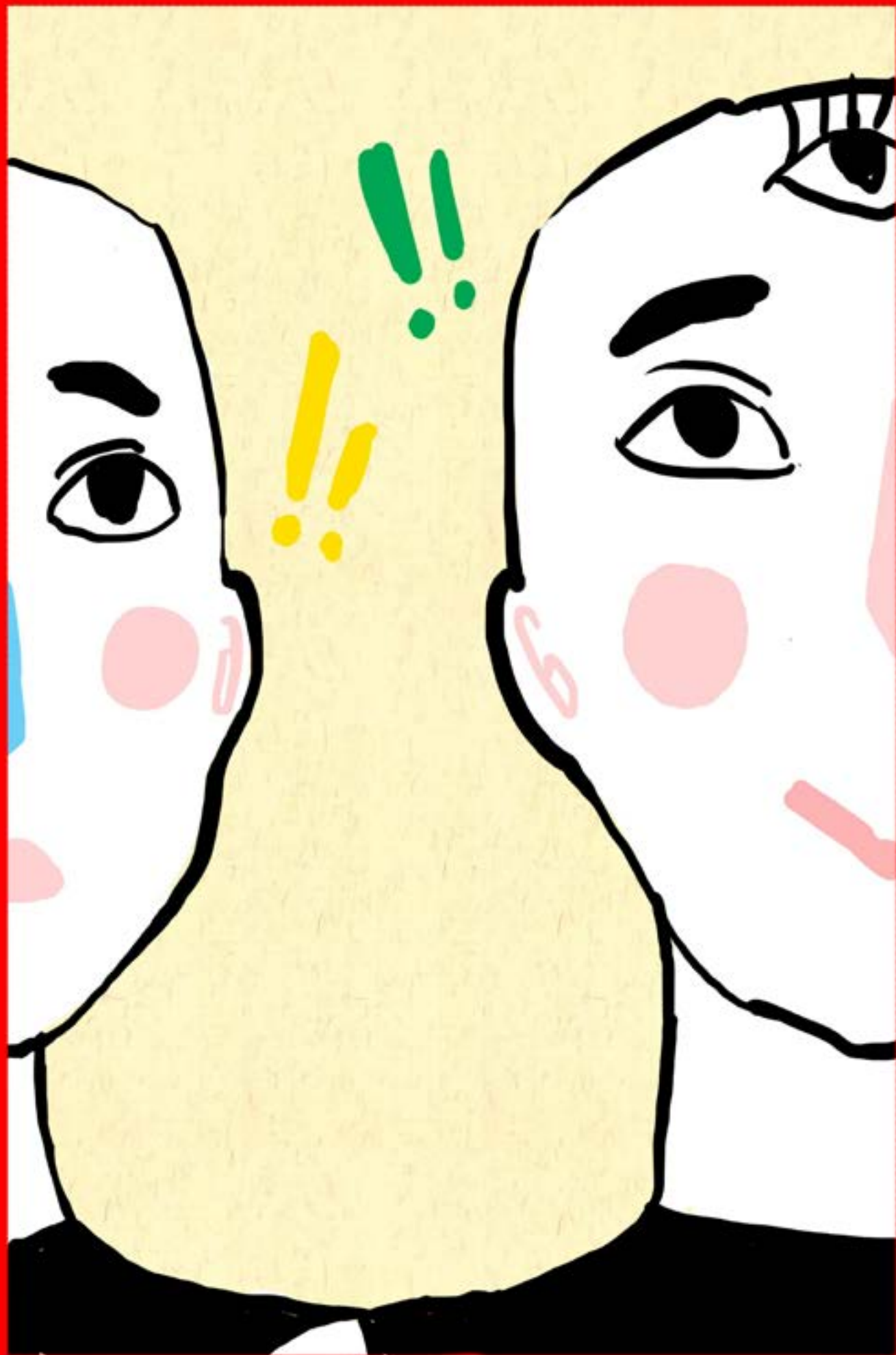














The Book of Many Stories

Written by:
Amira Rahman, Kirstin Yip,
Lee Si Yun and Raffaella Nathan

Illustrated by:
Kirstin Yip and Lee Si Yun



This is Jasmine. She really loves to read.

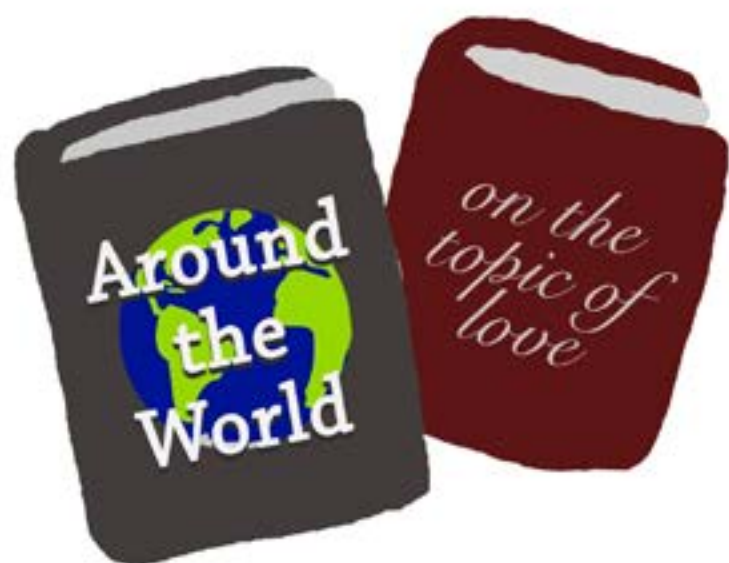
Jasmine has a big, tall bookshelf in her house.

There are all kinds of books in the bookshelf.



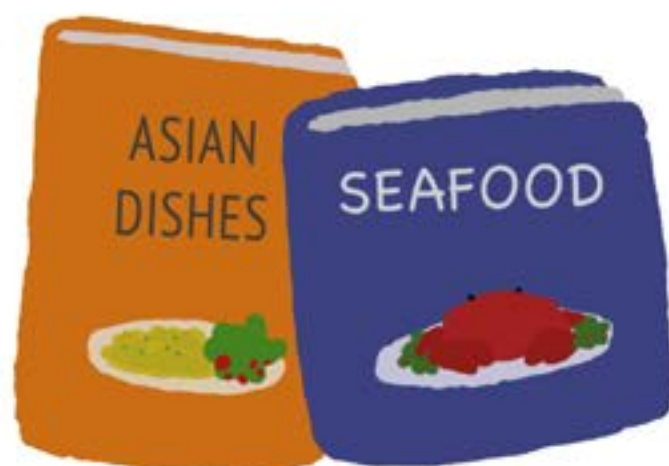
THE BOOK OF MANY STORIES

By: Jasmine and
TAKESHI :)



On the top shelf
are her mother's
books.

On the second shelf
are her grandma's
recipe books.



On the third and
bottom shelf are
her storybooks.

One day, Jasmine finds
a picture book.

On the cover is
a giant peach.



Inside the pages of the book are pictures of...

an old man and lady picking up the peach,



a happy, little boy *inside* the peach,



monsters and ogres and the boy with
a dog, a monkey and a bird.



"What's this, mama?"
Jasmine exclaims.

"I cannot read the words.
Is this Chinese?"

"It's Japanese," Mama says.

"We can't read it at all.
We should throw it away."



"No!" Jasmine cries.

"I want to keep it.
I can tell the story by the pictures."



Jasmine
opens the book
and tells a story.

"This is Peter. Peter loves to eat peaches. He plays Hide and Seek with his Ah Ma and Ah Gong and they find him hiding inside a peach!"



"Peter grows up and meets a dog, a monkey and a bird. They go on a picnic but cannot find anywhere to sit down because all the monsters are having picnics too!" Jasmine says.

Mama laughs. "What a great story! You're a creative little girl."

Jasmine brings the book to school for Show-and-Tell.

She tells everyone the story about Peter, the boy who loves to eat peaches and goes on a picnic with a dog, a monkey and a bird.



"That's not right," says someone from the back of the class.



It's her classmate, Takeshi.

"That's not how the story goes."

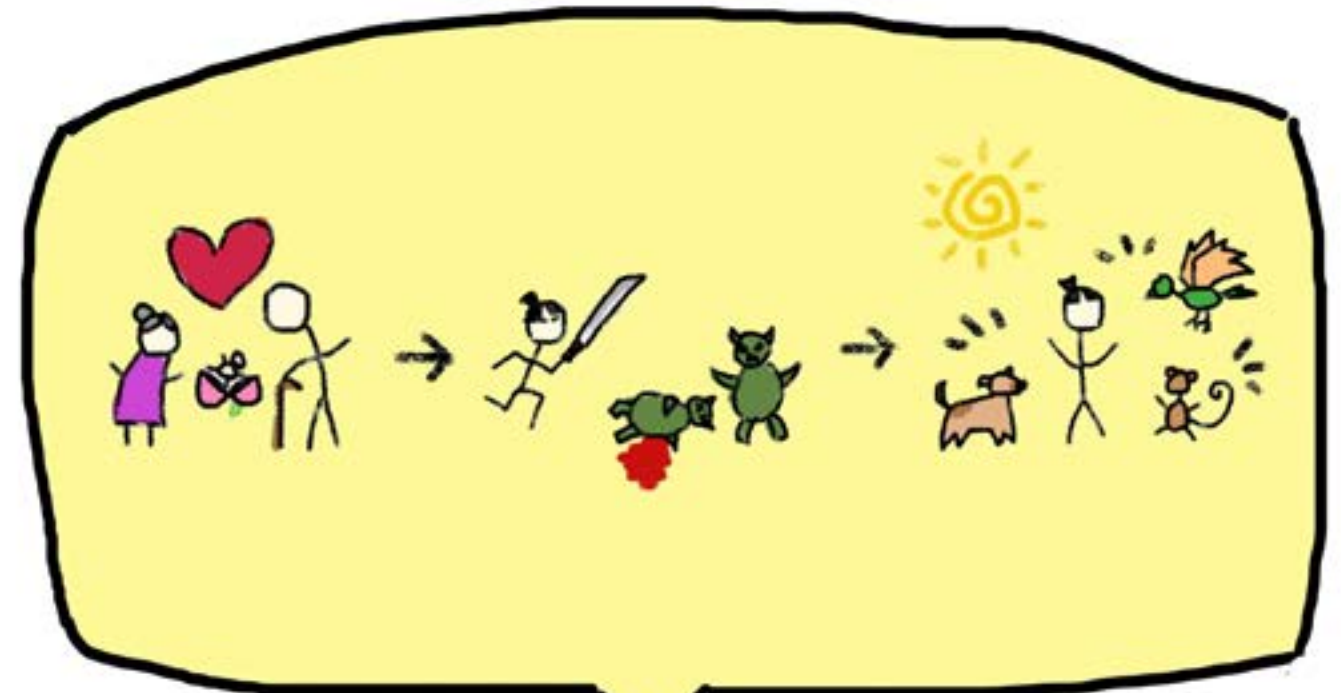
During recess, Jasmine asks Takeshi,
"How do you know it's not right?"

"I'm from Japan," Takeshi says. "My mother
read that story to me when I was little. The
boy's name is Momotarō."



"Momotarō? Oh, that's a much nicer name
than Peter," Jasmine says. "So what's the
story really about?"

Takeshi tells her about Momotarō, the boy who
was born from a peach. The old couple were
his parents. To please them, Momotarō went
on a journey to defeat ogres that lived far
away. Along the way, he made friends with
a dog, a monkey and a pheasant.



"Wow," says Jasmine.
"I like this story so much!"

"I like your version of the
story too." Takeshi says.

Jasmine thinks for a moment and has a great idea.



"Would you like to write a book with me?"
Jasmine asks.



Takeshi nods his head excitedly. "Yes, that sounds fun!"

Jasmine and Takeshi
write their own book,
one with only pictures.



Jasmine shows the
book to her mother.

"It's wonderful,"
Mama tells her.

"What's it about?"



"It's about anything you want it to be!"
Jasmine tells her proudly.

"You get a different story every time
if you use your imagination!"

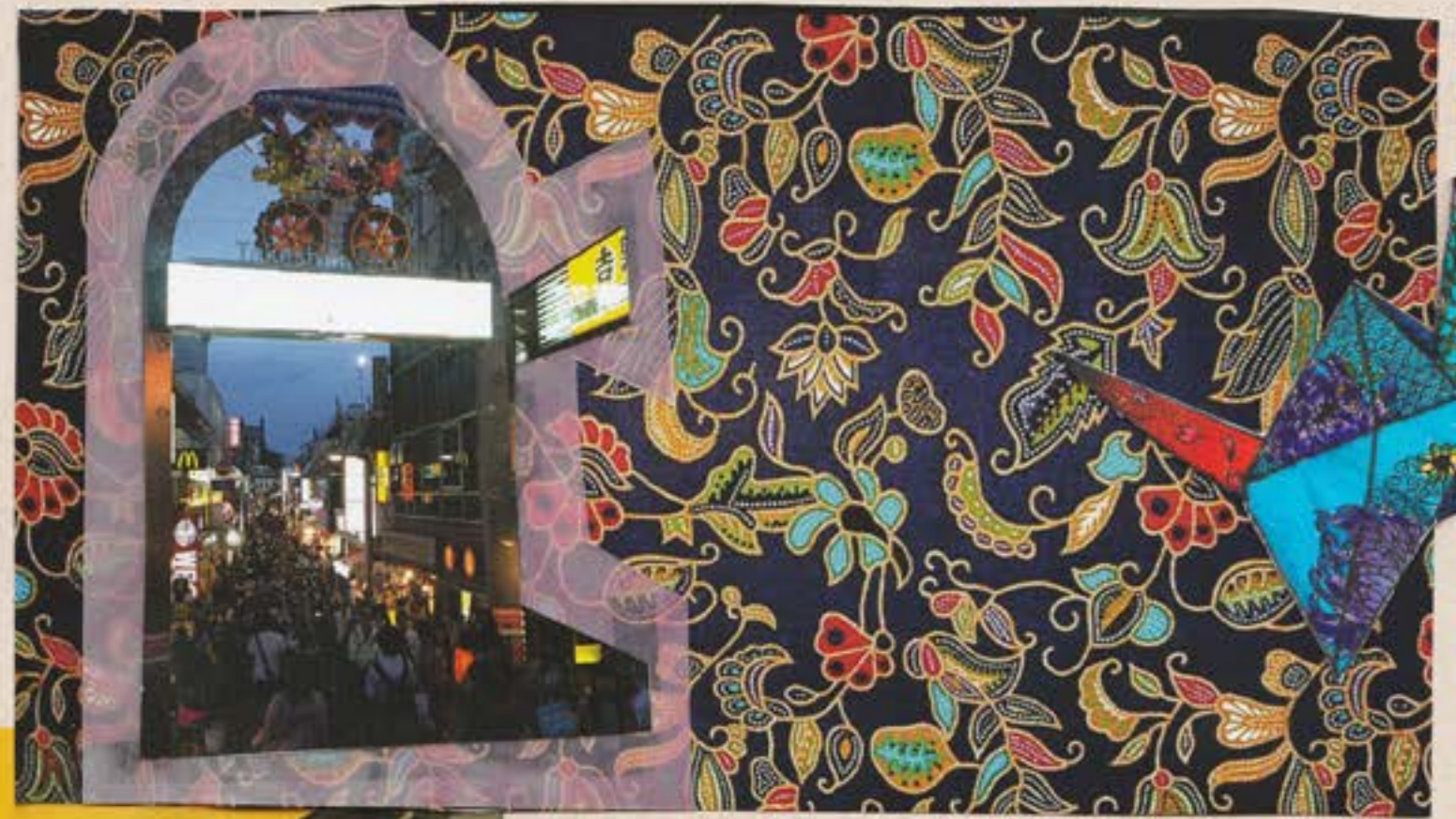




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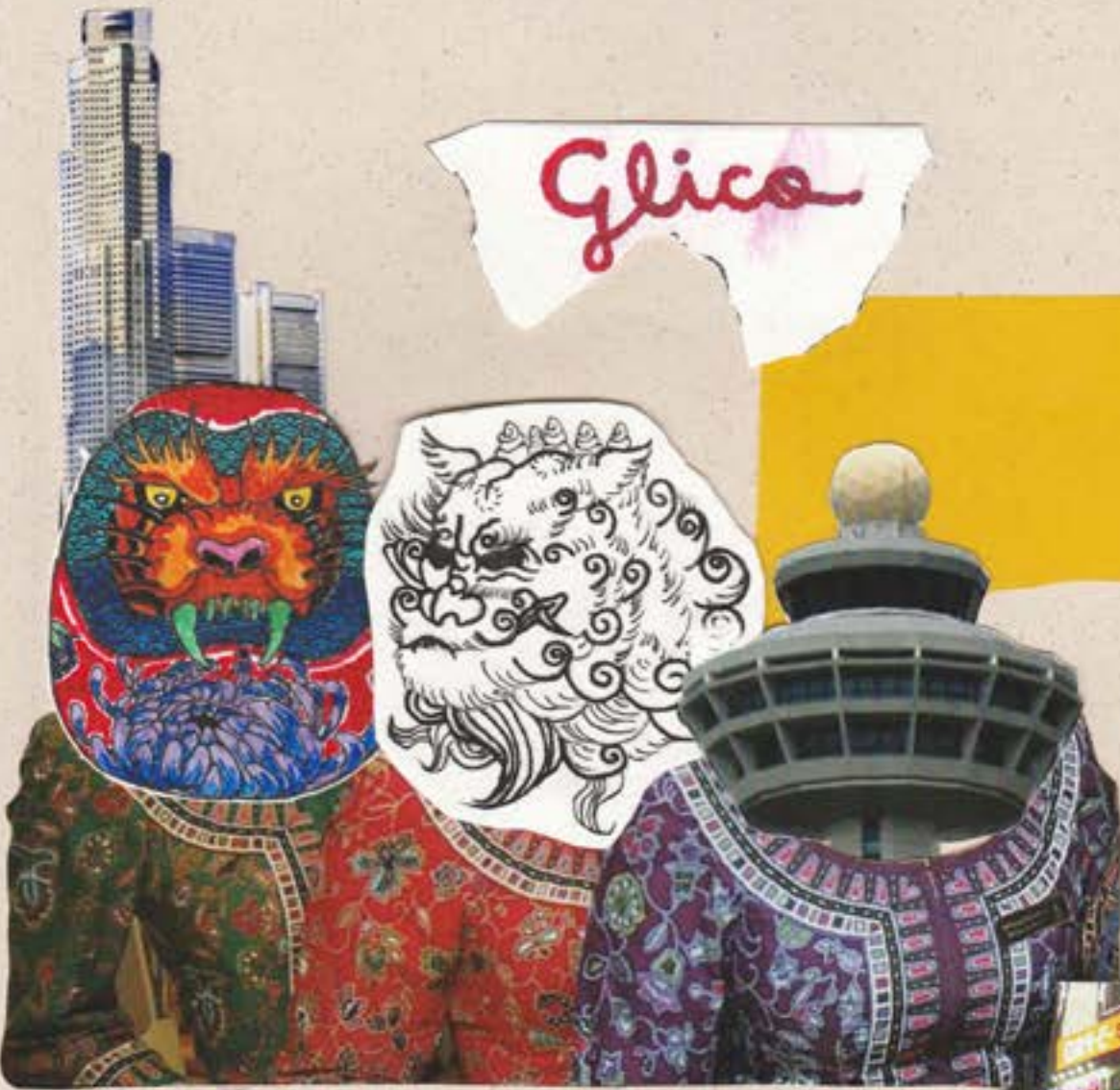
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Glico

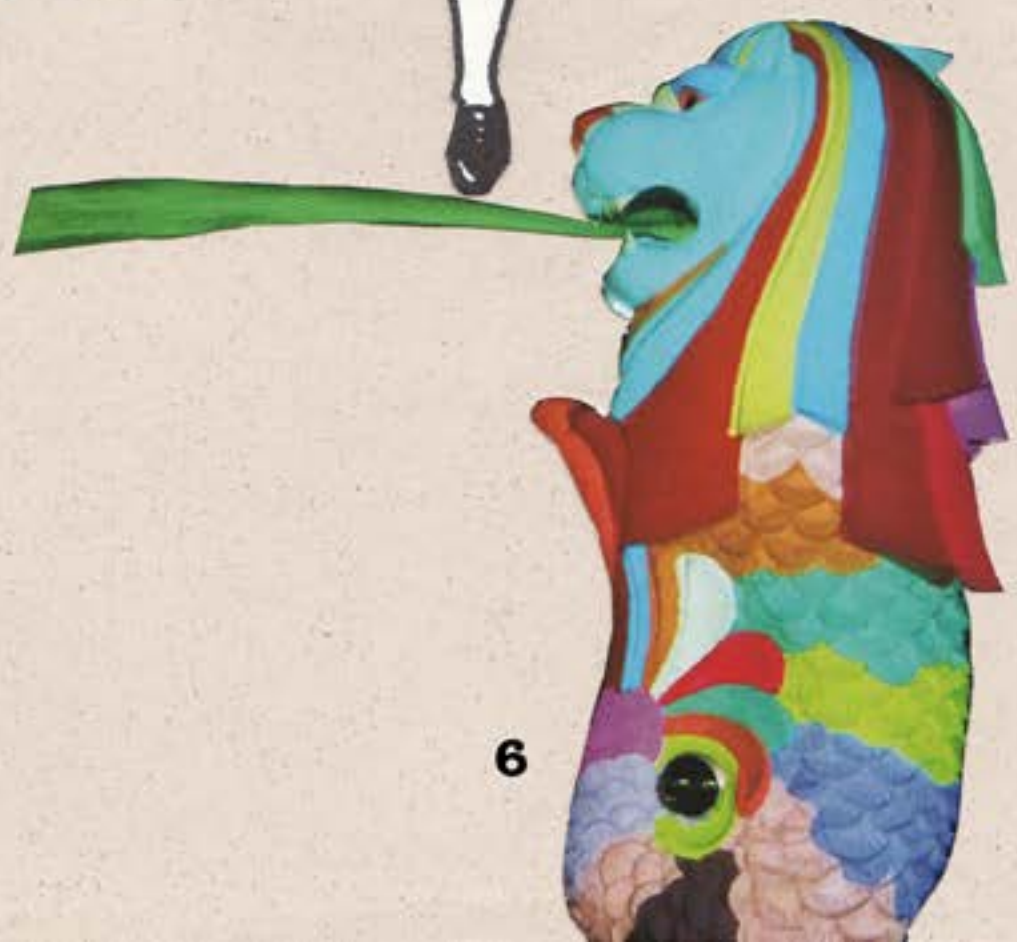


廣州茶樓
CANTONESE FOOD



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seasonal ties

illustrated by Tan Yuping

written by Alice Tsai



This is Winter.

When he visits the world freezes over
And gains a white, powdery makeover.
Kids slide down hills, going faster, faster.



This is Summer.

When she comes you can hear the bees' murmur,
And Nature awakens from her slumber.
Suddenly, the world is filled with flowers.



Now Winter and Summer are bosom friends
 With an unfortunate wedge between them.
 When she arrives, his snowman melts and bends.
 When he comes, he freezes her floral gems.



Her sun warms and dissolves his snow mountains.
 Now he cannot go skiing or sledging.
 His ice freezes her rivers and fountains.
 Now she cannot go swimming or fishing.





Winter doesn't want to make Summer cry,
Summer doesn't like to see Winter's gloom.
So with great reluctance they say goodbye
Waiting till it's their turn to leave their rooms.

It is Summer's turn to come out and play,
But Winter longs to be part of the fun.
He runs out of his room carrying his sleigh,
And ends up weakening Summer's bright sun.



His wintry cold stunts the growth of her plants,
Making her holler, and weep angry tears.
Her fury turns into long, wrathful chants
And she shoots Winter many livid glares.



Her warmth defrosts his giant snow castles.
Their tall towers melt and pool into puddles.
Winter throws a tantrum as his world unravels.
His tears flow despite his valiant struggles.





The water from Winter's thawed ice and frost
Satisfies the thirst of small plants and seeds.
"Look at the lovely flowers! Don't be cross!"
Says Spring, who holds a band of blooms and reeds.

As they fight the leaves lose their lush greenness
And turn crisp before slowly drifting down.
They form hills of red and golden softness.
"Hello I'm Autumn. Do you like my crown?"



Spring puts her floral band on Summer's head.
Autumn tosses Winter his leafy crown.
"Now now, do not be angry. Don't see red!"
"Come on, smile, and turn that frown upside down!"

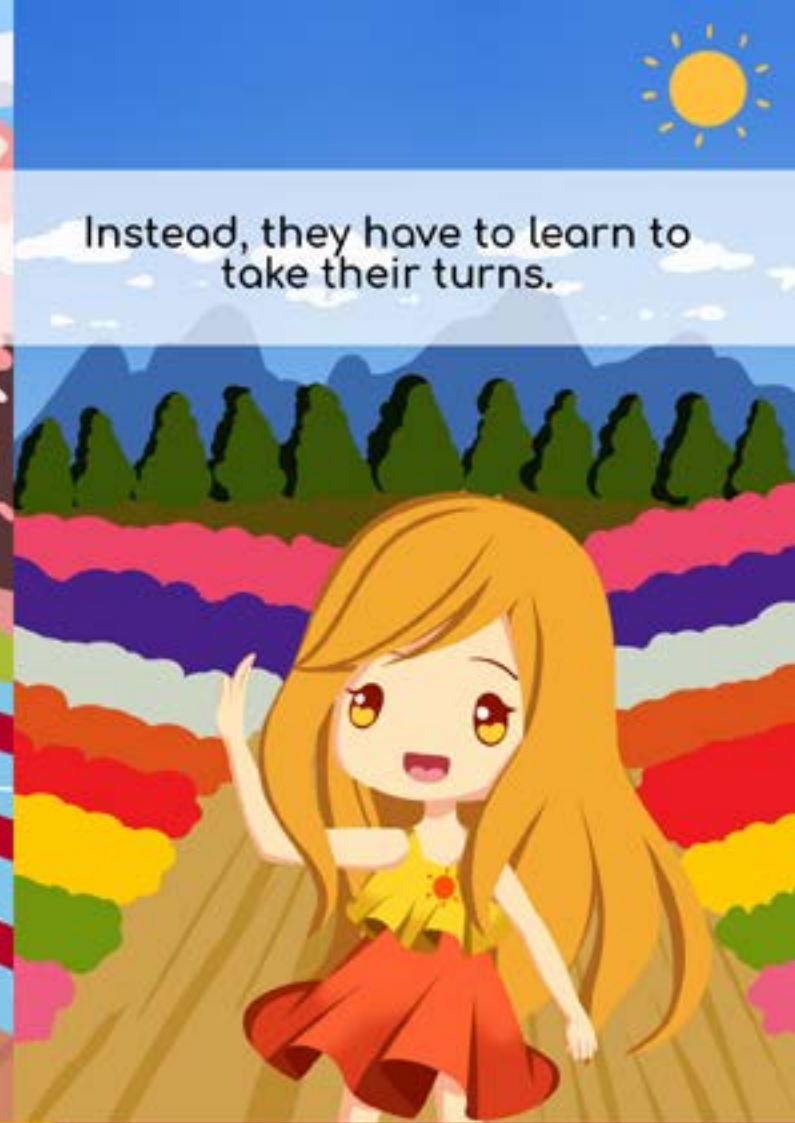


Summer and Winter quickly reconcile.
With Spring's help and Autumn's encouragement,
Their playtime is now full of happy smiles
And overflows with mutual amazement.





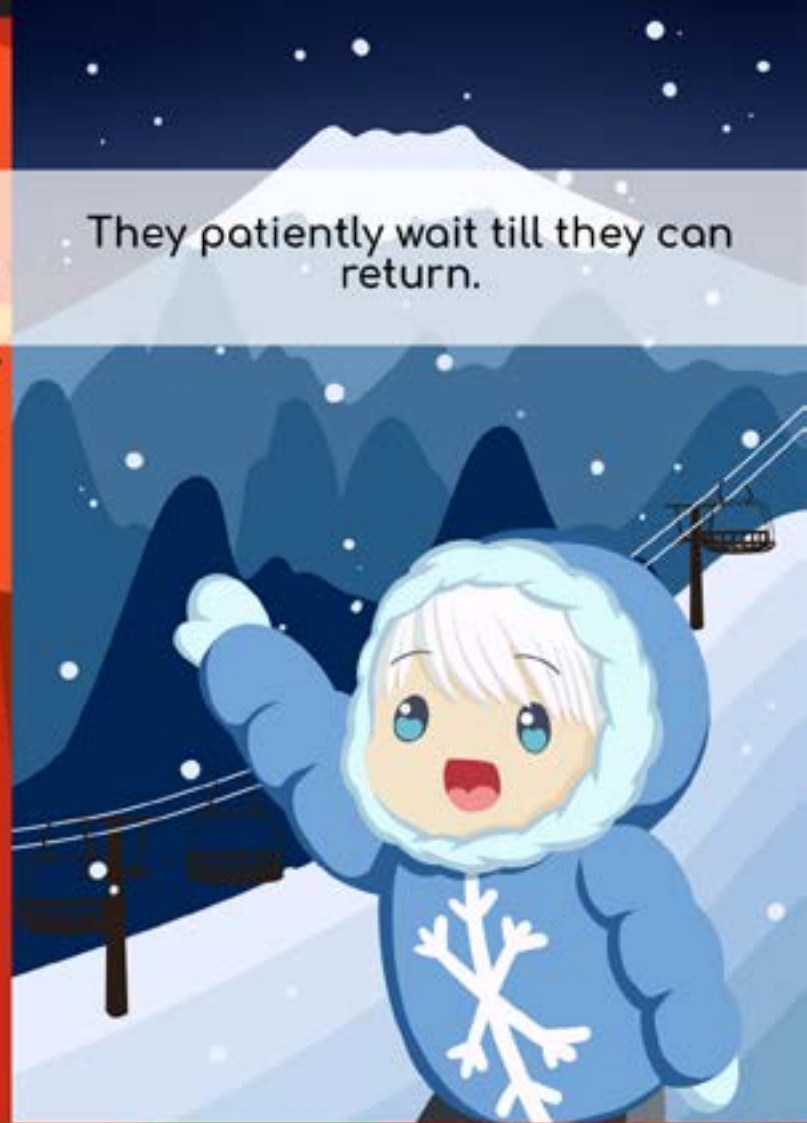
They cannot play together all the time.



Instead, they have to learn to take their turns.



Cheerfully singing their sweet goodbye rhymes,



They patiently wait till they can return.



This separation isn't forever.
The day they can play again is so near.
And the next reunion will soon occur.
Patiently they wait, not shedding a tear.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

NBDCS staff and 23 writing/illustration students from Hwa Chong Institute, LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore Polytechnic, School of the Arts, Singapore, and Temasek Polytechnic visited Tokyo and Hakuba Village, Nagano Prefecture in Japan from 13 – 20 December 2016.

The JENESYS2016 programme was organised by the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and fully sponsored by the Japanese government. The Singaporean students learnt about the culture of Japan, interacted with Japanese students and people and developed picture book story ideas on the theme of 'Best friends and culture'. The students also visited the Chihiro Art Museum, Hakuba Village Office, Hakuba High School, National Diet Library and spent two nights at homestays in Hakuba Village.

NBDCS Director Kenneth Quek and a JICE coordinator facilitated a three-hour workshop for the Japanese and Singaporean students. The students shared children's stories which were popular in their respective countries and created new story ideas. The Singaporean students wrote and illustrated storyboards and began work on their picture books which they would complete in Singapore.

This book is the culmination of their work, and it is available for free download at:

www.afcc.com.sg/2017/page/publications

We would like to thank the following organisations for making this trip possible:

- Asian Festival of Children's Content
- Chihiro Art Museum (Tokyo)
- Embassy of Japan in Singapore
- Hwa Chong Institute
- Japan Creative Centre
- Japan International Cooperation Centre
- LASALLE College of the Arts
- Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
- National Diet Library, Japan
- School of the Arts, Singapore
- Singapore Polytechnic
- Temasek Polytechnic



The Singaporean students with the Japanese students at Hakuba High School, Hakuba Village near Nagano.



The Singaporean student delegation with Premadevi, Kenneth, Ms Naomi Kojima, and Ms Nakahira at the Chihiro Art Museum (Tokyo)



The Singaporean students in front of historic Matsumoto Castle, Nagano Prefecture.