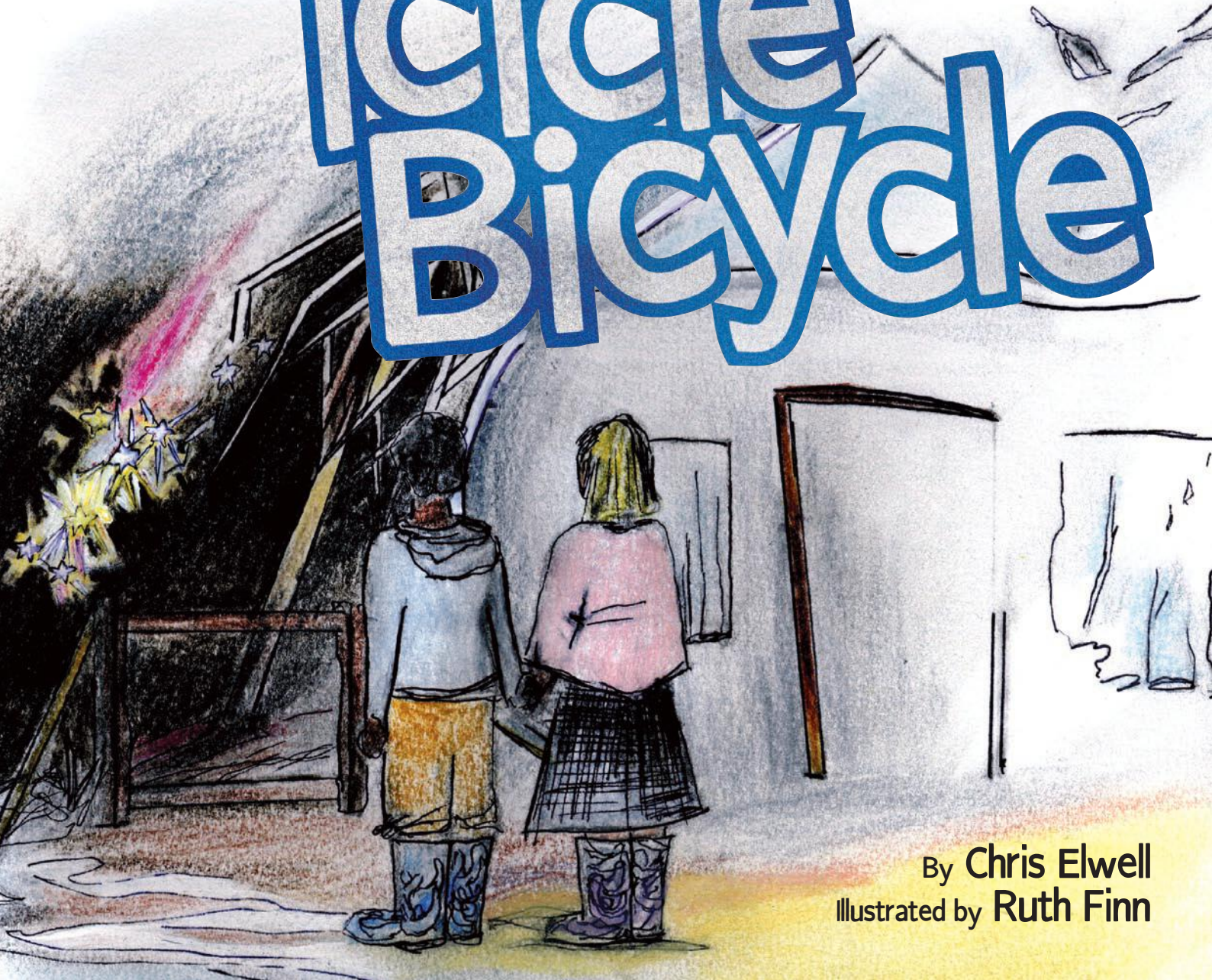


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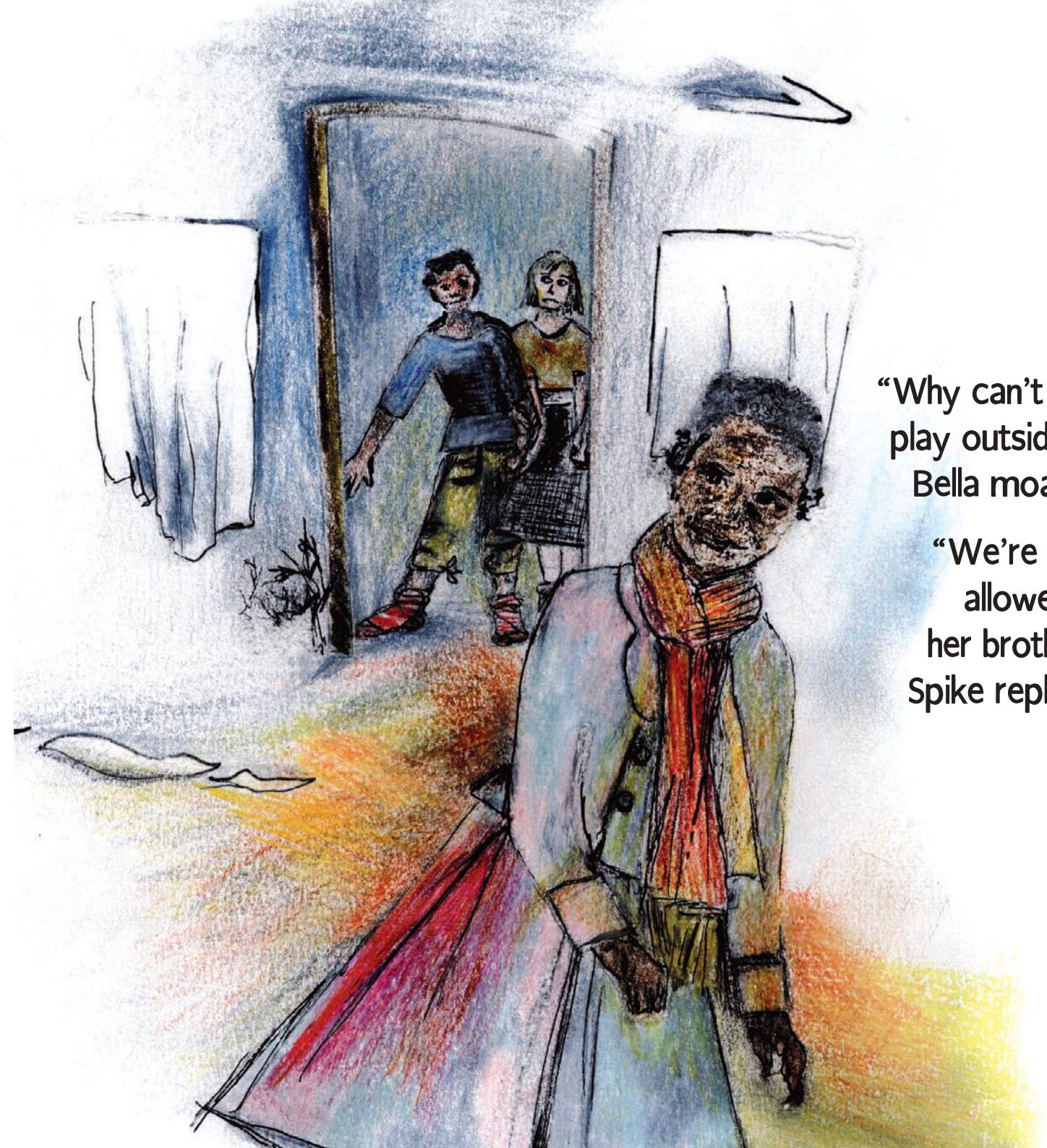
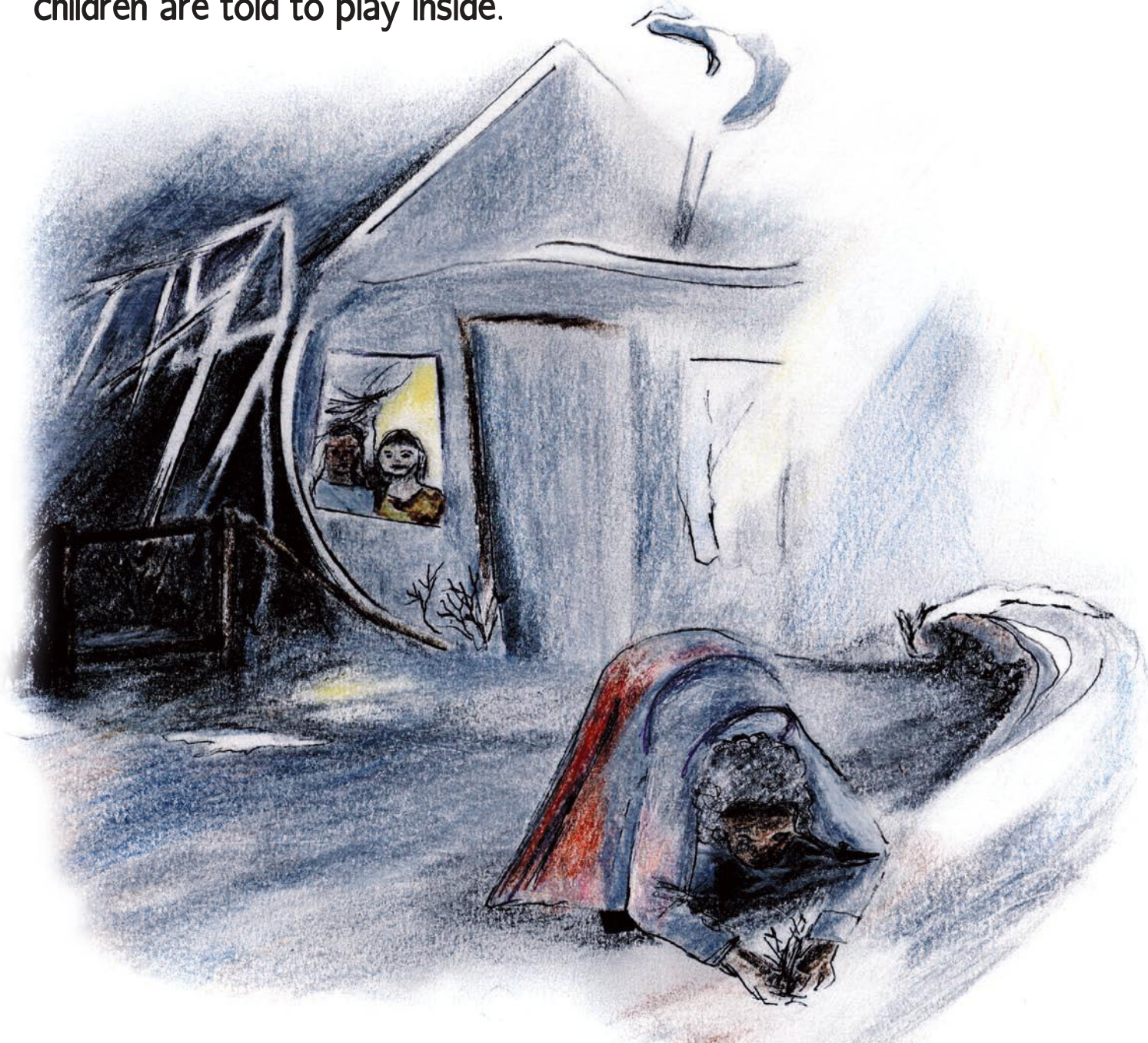
# Icicle Bicycle



By Chris Elwell  
Illustrated by Ruth Finn



Nanna Baaba and her twin grandchildren – Bella and Spike – love being in their garden. But on cold wintry days, the children are told to play inside.



“Why can’t we play outside?”  
Bella moans.

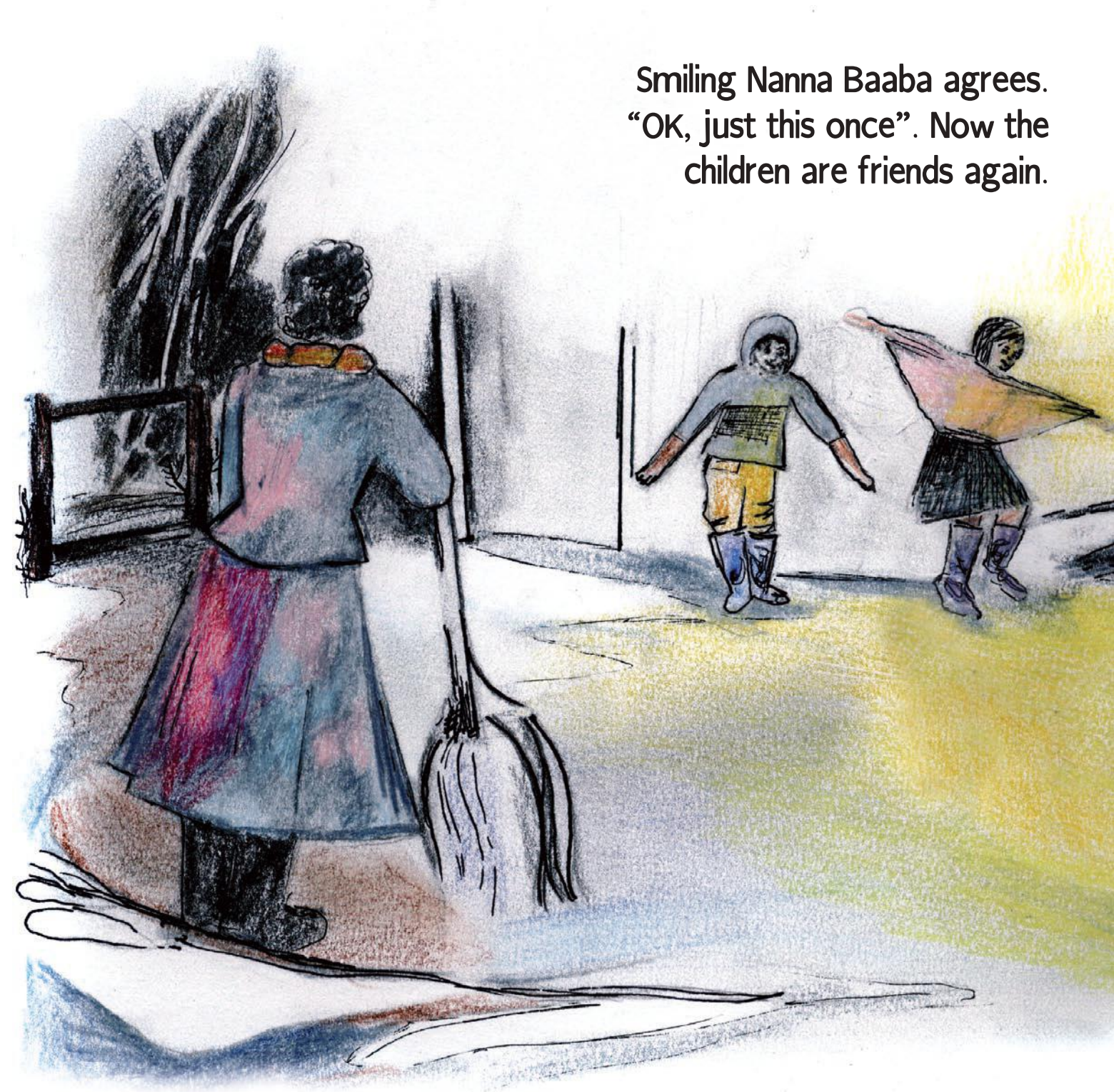
“We’re not allowed”,  
her brother,  
Spike replies.





Bella won't listen. She wants to play outside. Nothing will change her mind. "You always spoil things!" grumbles Spike.

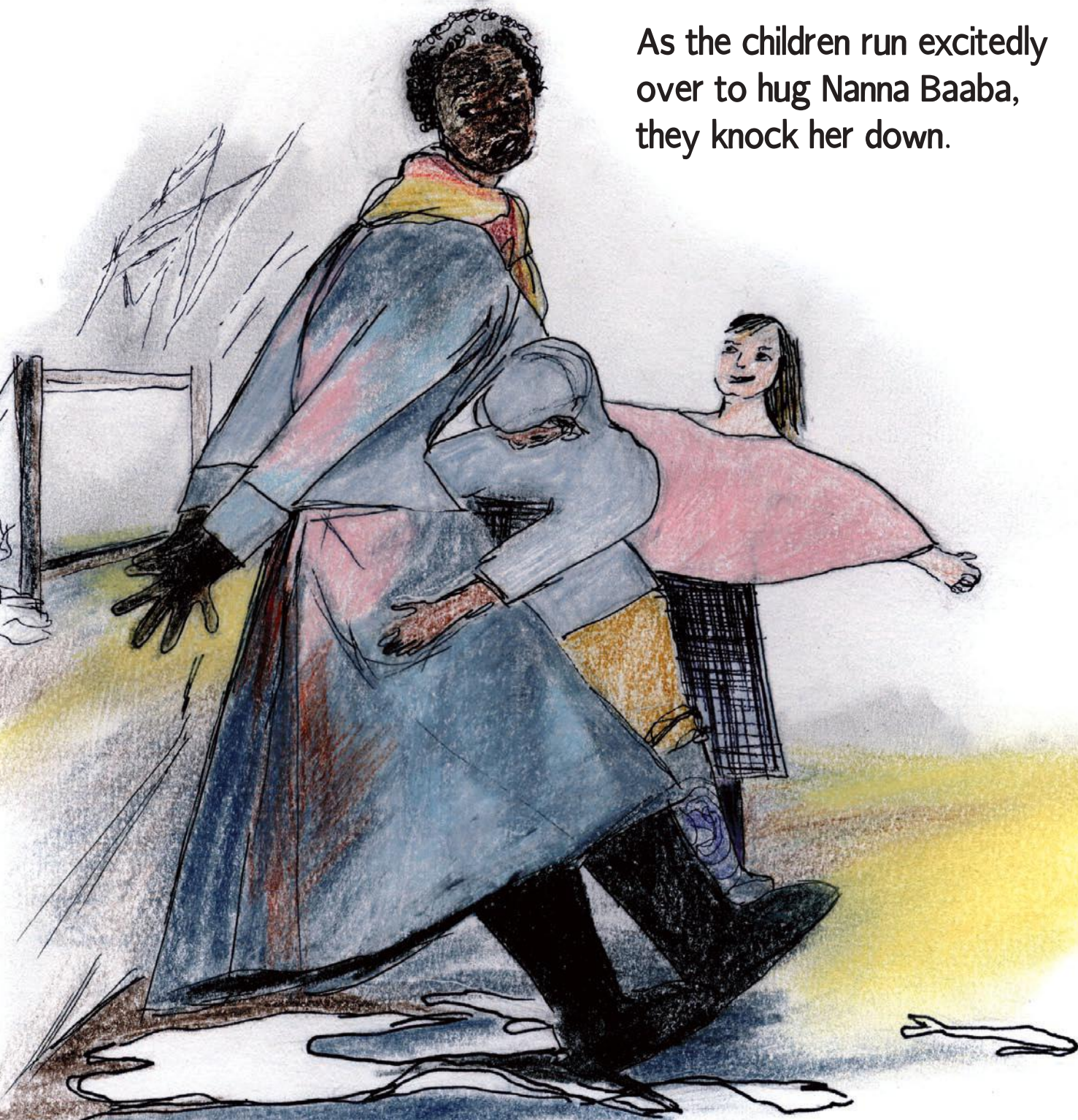
Bella knows she has upset Spike, so she asks their grandmother if they can.



Smiling Nanna Baaba agrees. "OK, just this once". Now the children are friends again.

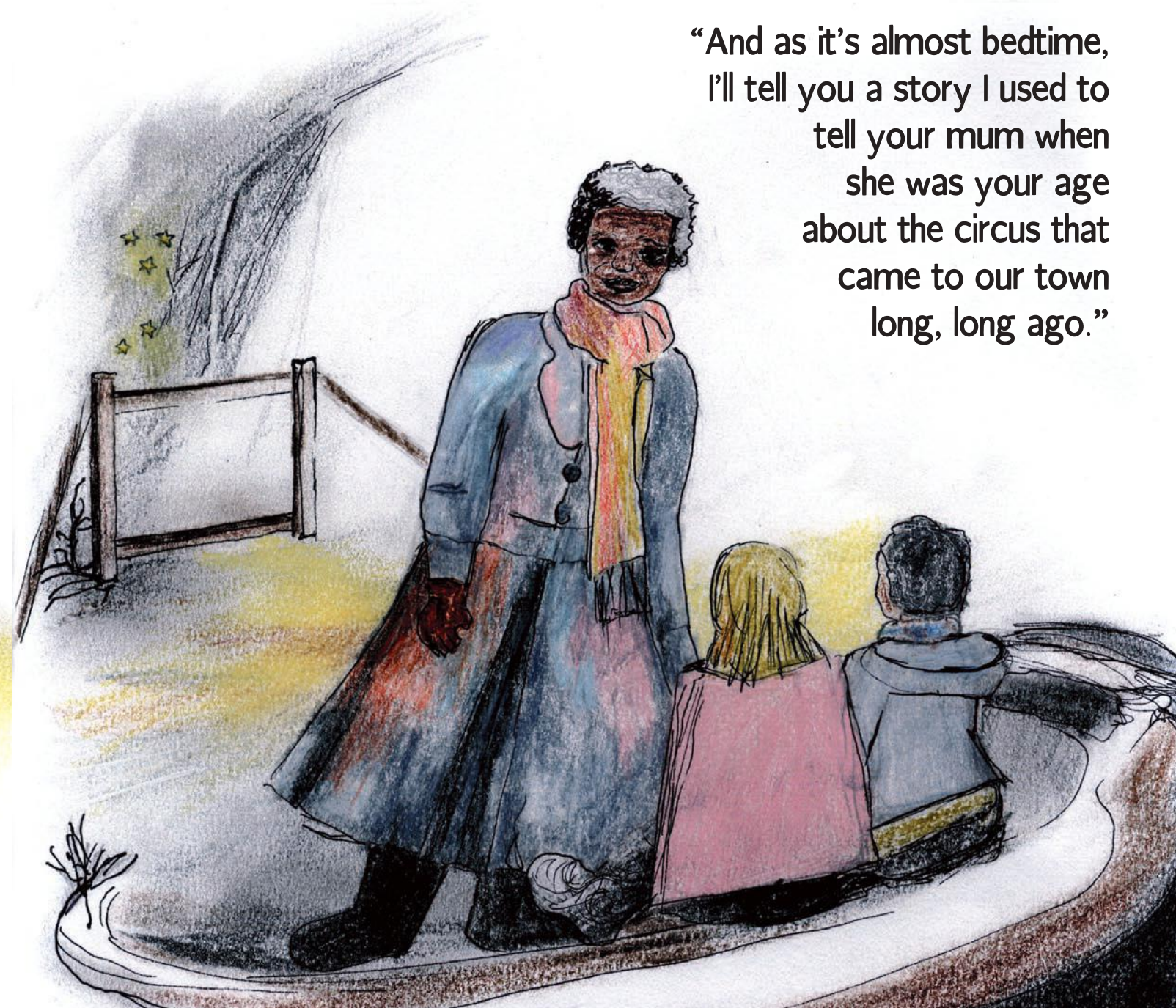


As the children run excitedly  
over to hug Nanna Baaba,  
they knock her down.




“I’m fine”, she splutters, brushing  
twigs and dirt from her coat.

“And as it’s almost bedtime,  
I’ll tell you a story I used to  
tell your mum when  
she was your age  
about the circus that  
came to our town  
long, long ago.”








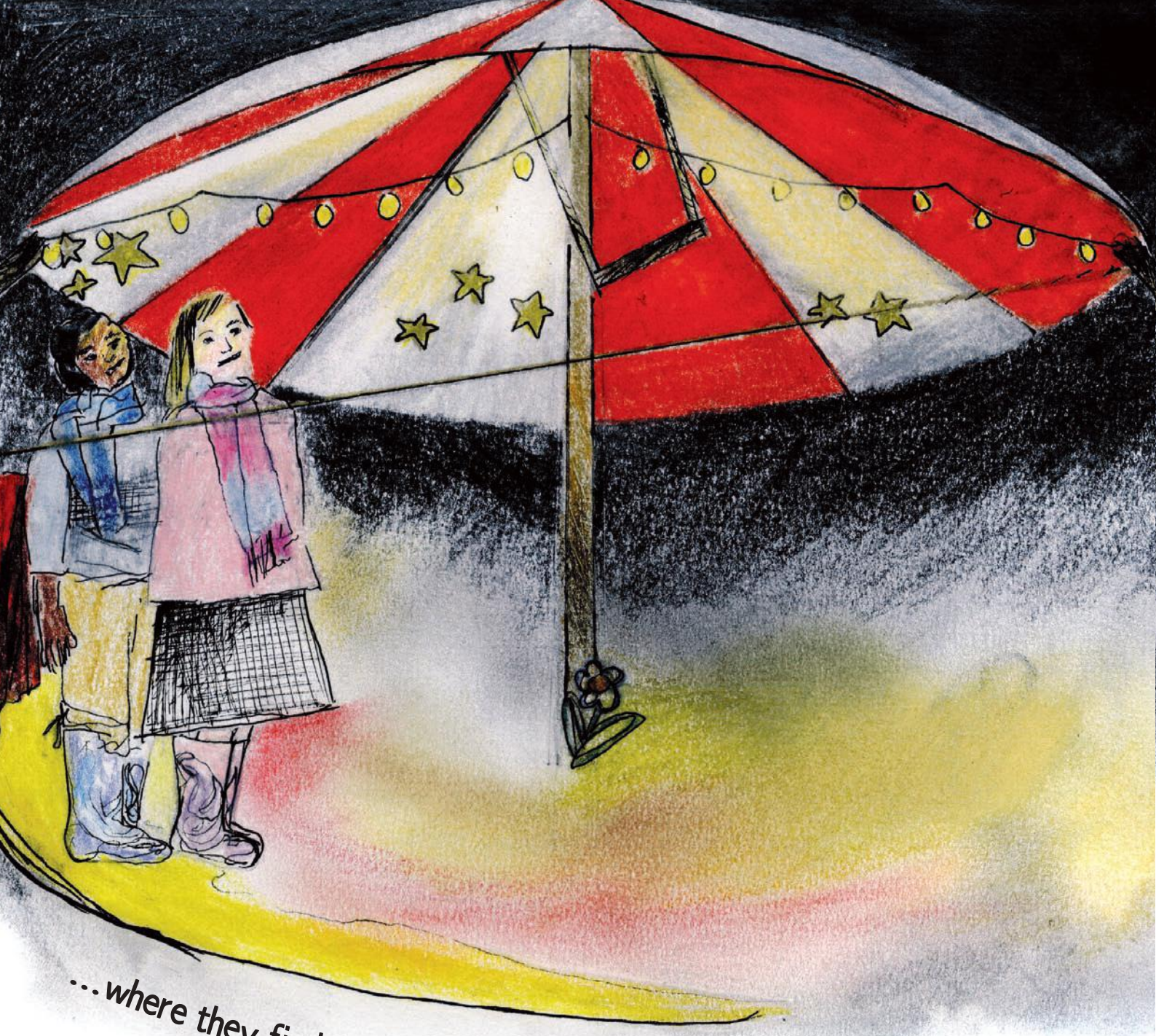
With their sleepy heads full of magical circus stories, Bella and Spike see Nanna Baaba quietly disappear through the garden gate.

“Where is Nanna Baaba going?”

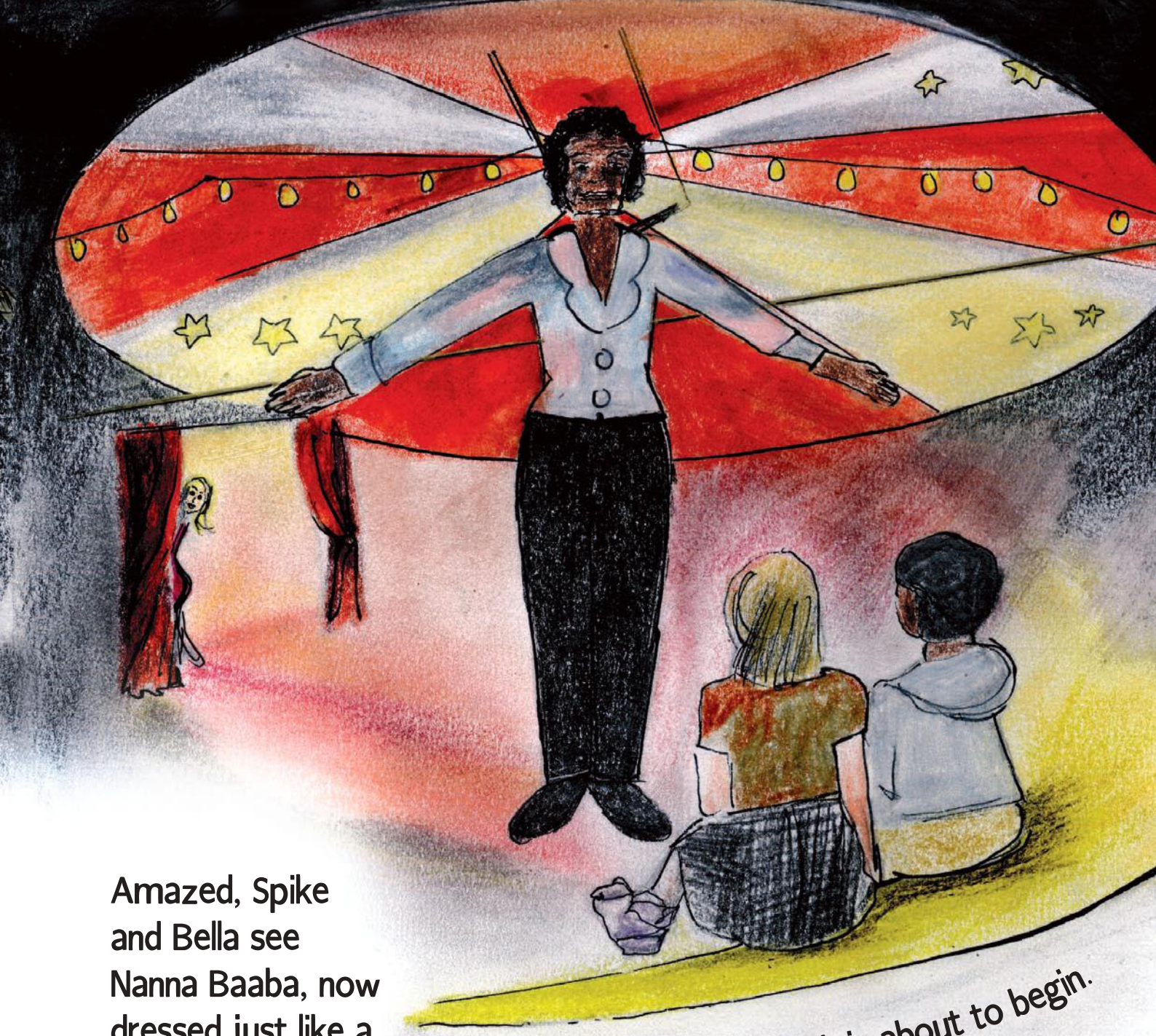


Just a little bit scared,  
they follow her  
footsteps along the  
path into the wood...



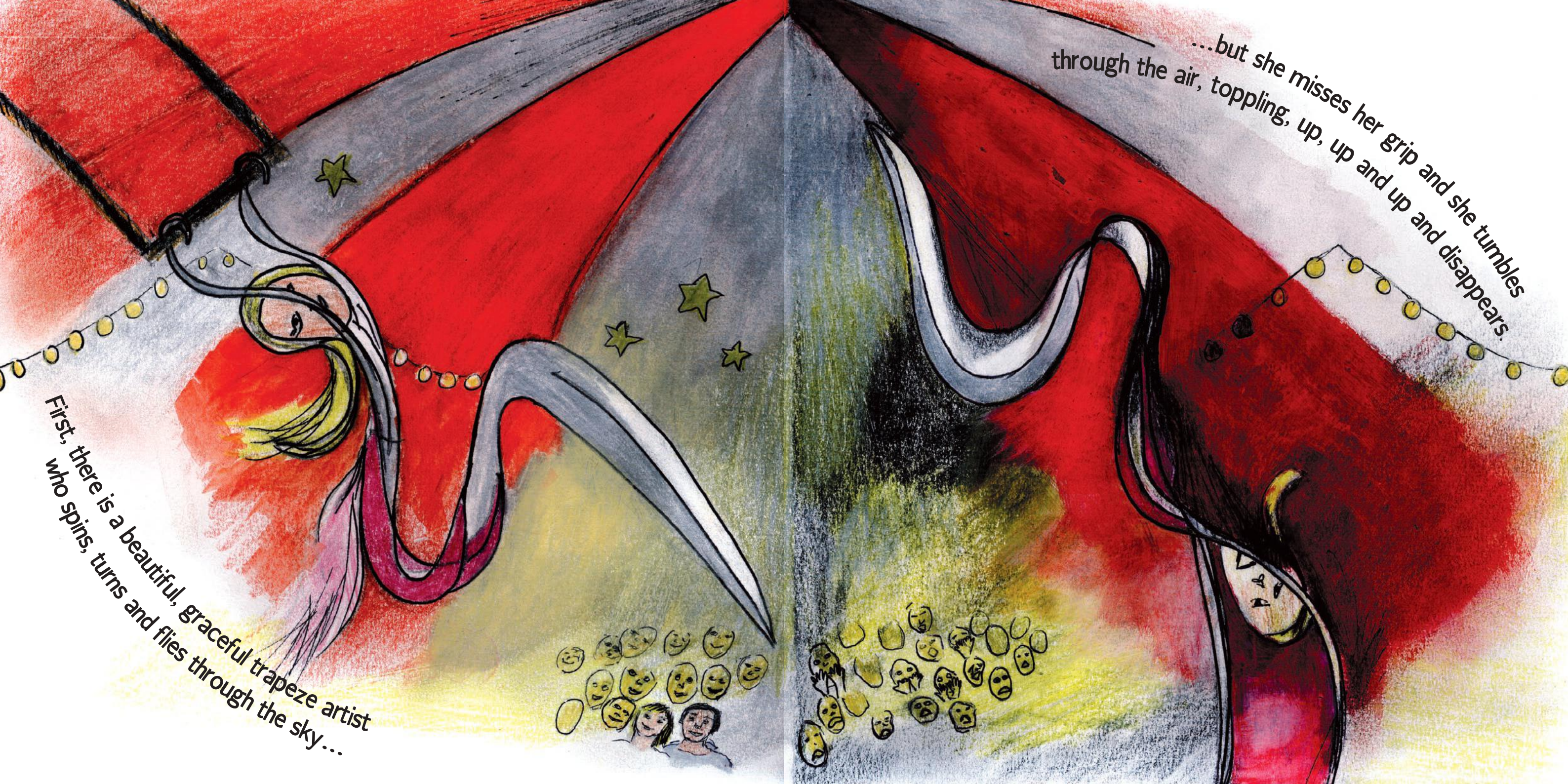


...where they find a huge, red and silver tent.



Amazed, Spike and Bella see Nanna Baaba, now dressed just like a ringmaster, conjuring a circus performance which is about to begin.

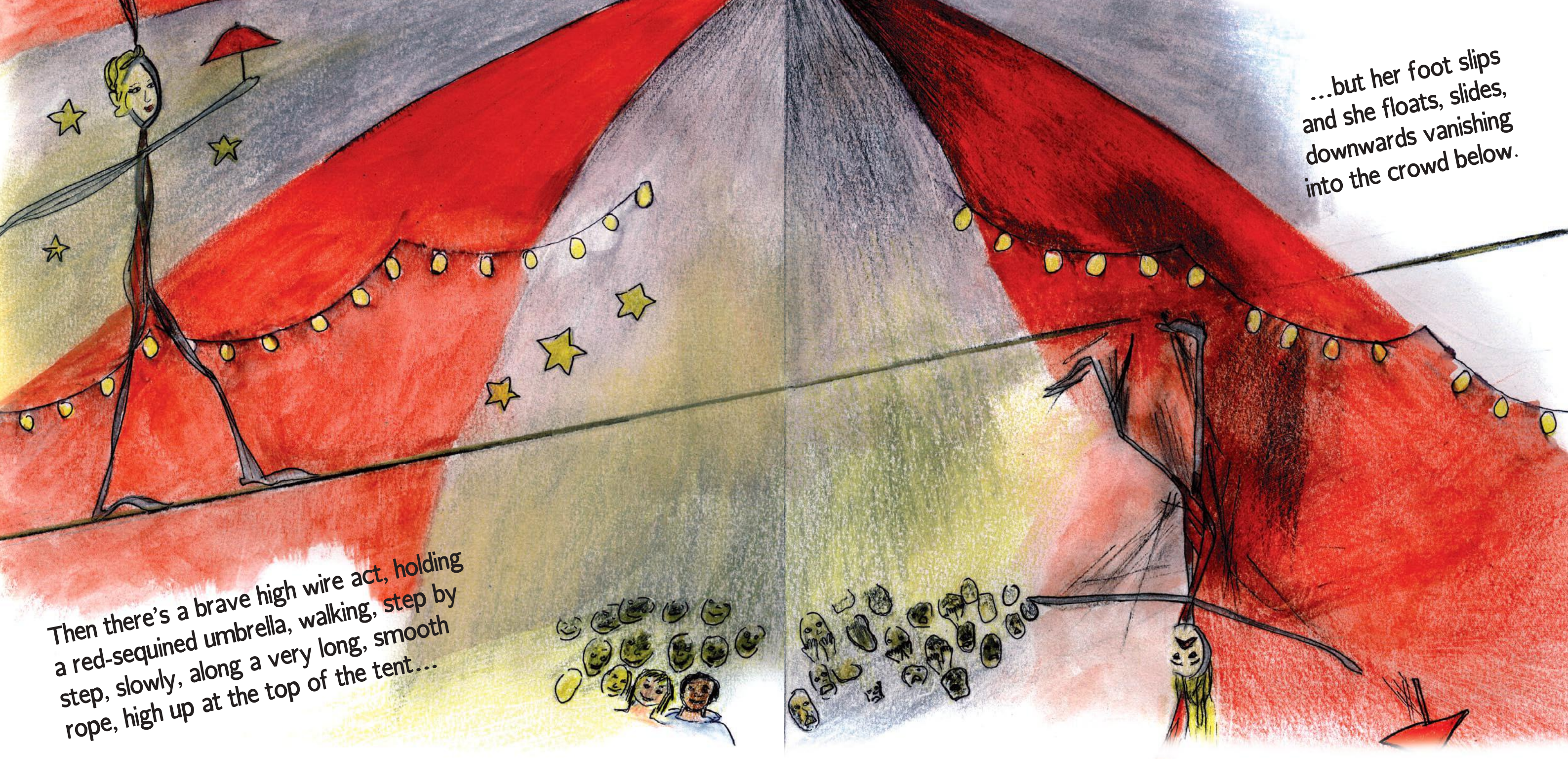




First, there is a beautiful, graceful trapeze artist who spins, turns and flies through the sky...

...but she misses her grip and she tumbles through the air, toppling, up, up and up and disappears.



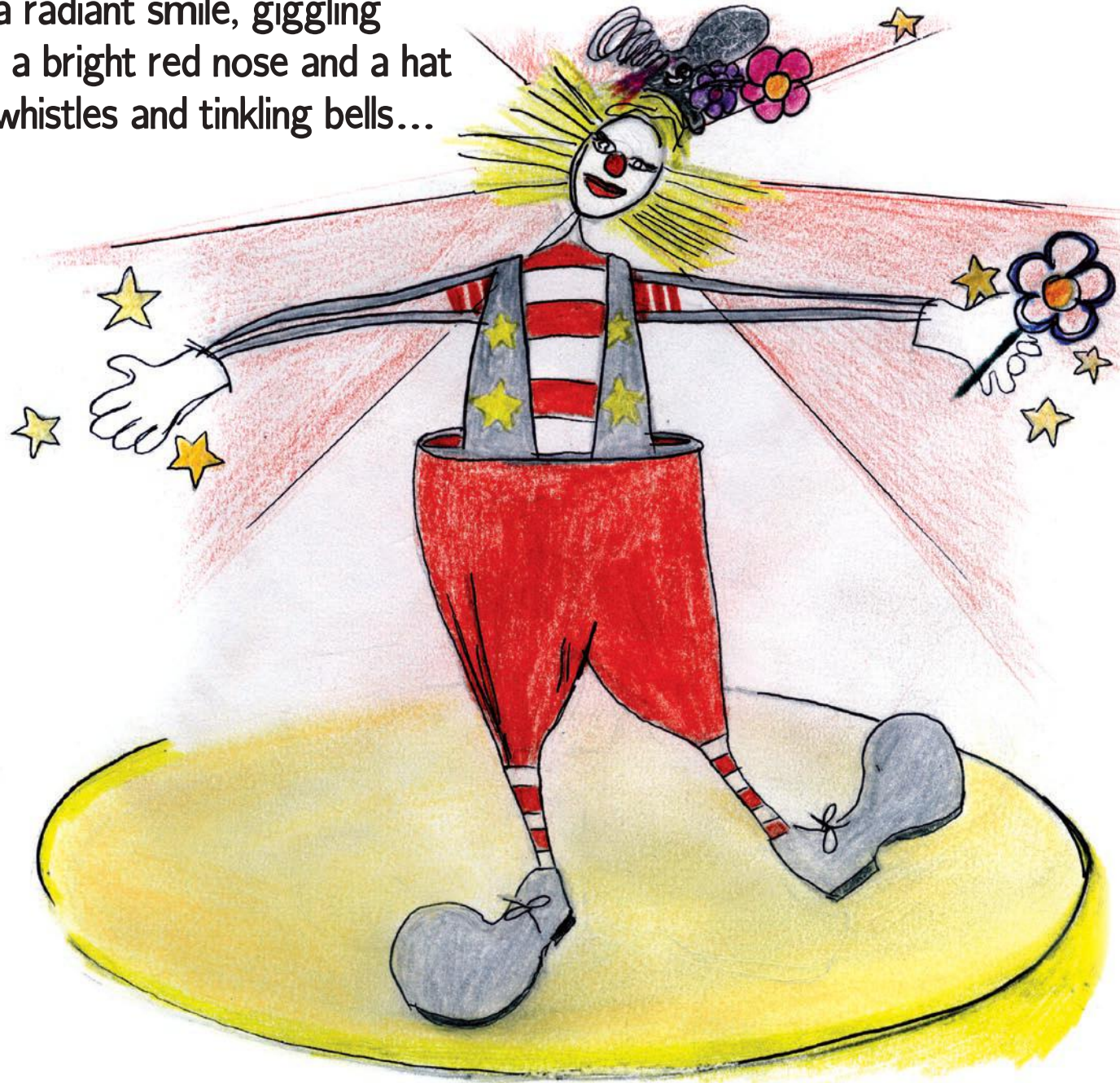


Then there's a brave high wire act, holding a red-sequined umbrella, walking, step by step, slowly, along a very long, smooth rope, high up at the top of the tent...

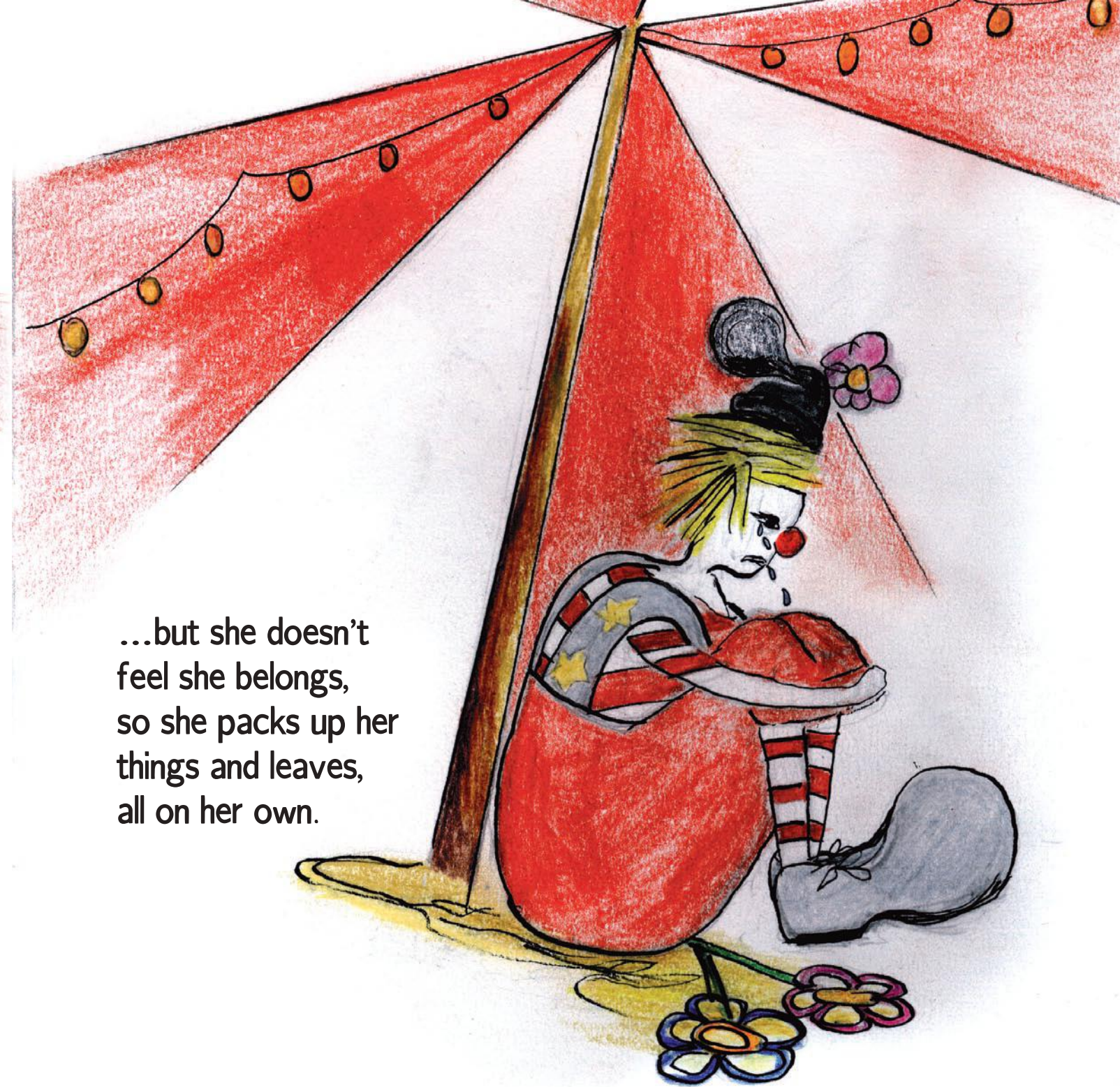
...but her foot slips and she floats, slides, downwards vanishing into the crowd below.



Next there is a funny, kind clown  
with a radiant smile, giggling  
eyes, a bright red nose and a hat  
with whistles and tinkling bells...



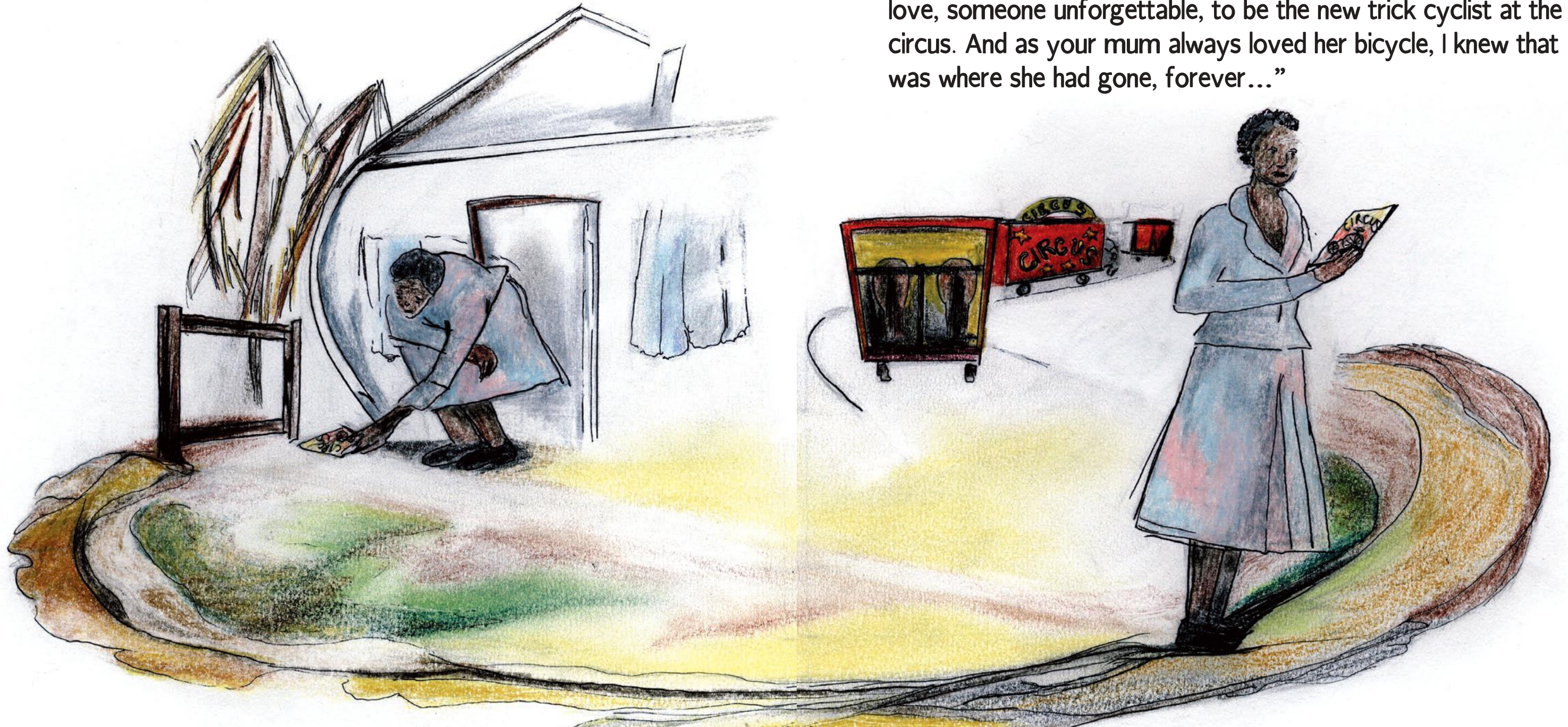
...but she doesn't  
feel she belongs,  
so she packs up her  
things and leaves,  
all on her own.





Seeing Spike and Bella looking quite sad, Nanna Baaba explains:

“On the day you were born, a circus arrived in town just for one night. They were looking for someone with spirit, a heart full of love, someone unforgettable, to be the new trick cyclist at the circus. And as your mum always loved her bicycle, I knew that was where she had gone, forever...”







“...and if you look up into the night sky, between the moon and the stars...



...you will see your mum riding her bicycle of icicles, laughing and waving, before melting away.”



The next day, Bella, Spike and Nanna Baaba play happily in the bright morning sunshine. They dance and sing together.



Magically, tiny buds appear on the trees and their garden is filled with beautiful, colourful flowers. Now it is Spring.





This storybook accompanies Half Moon's professional theatre production of the same title, *Icicle Bicycle*, performed in English and BSL touring theatres and venues nationally from November 2007 to March 2008. The book is produced as part of an extensive outreach programme for schools, nurseries, Children's Centres and other community groups. The outreach programme includes a series of creative workshops for 2 to 6 year olds and their leaders, carers and parents inspired by the production.

Half Moon's Early Years work is seen as a tool for learning and development within a multi-sensory context, with particular emphasis upon: encouraging self-awareness and self-expression; celebrating differences and diversity; encouraging inclusion; developing language usage in different forms; and self-respect as a basis for respecting others and the world around them.

## Original Theatre Production Credits

Nanna Baaba Anna-Maria Nabirye  
Bella Charlotte Arrowsmith  
Spike Jai Vethamony

Writer/Director Chris Elwell

Designer Ruth Finn

Composer Bruce Nockles

Production Manager/Lighting Designer Fred Beaufort

Stage Manager Ian Wooldridge

Associate Artist Jeni Draper

BSL Consultant Steven Webb

Rehearsal Interpreters Alison Pottinger, Kathy Yeoman

Tour Interpreter Becky Barry

Recording Credits Lisa Abbott vocals

Bruce Nockles trumpet, Paul Golding engineer

Associate Director (Outreach Programme) Paula Manning

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## About the Company

Half Moon Young People's Theatre is one of London's leading professional theatre companies offering two inter-locking strands of activity:

- producing and presenting theatre at its base, in other venues and in youth, schools and community settings;
- providing an extensive participatory programme, including youth theatres, school and community projects.

Half Moon works exclusively with young people from birth to age 17 – and through them, with their teachers, carers and parents – placing a particular emphasis upon engaging those often excluded in terms of culture (ethnicity) and ability (disability). This unique resource provides a place to watch and participate for over 32,000 individuals each year. Half Moon is a regularly funded client of Arts Council England, London Councils and London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Half Moon is grateful to the Lehman Brothers Foundation Europe, the Sir Winston Churchill Trust for the Deaf and Help A London Child for their support of the project.

£4.00