

Life's most wonderful stories
Are love stories.

This book is for my baby,

(name)

With love from your birth mother,

(name)

And to your mommy and daddy,

(name)

(date)

Adopting a Family for You
A Love Story



BRENDA BUCHANAN SALTZER

illustrations by LC Juniper



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DEDICATION

For all the brave women who have loved and dreamed for their children. And for all the birthmothers who looked across the years of sunsets and dawns—and had the courage to choose the best possible future.

And for my family, without whose encouragement and support this book would never have happened. Always and forever you are loved.

Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,

Like the smallest seed
Hidden in a safe and secret place
in the earth,

You were there—
Your own little person inside of me,
Just waiting to grow up
and show the world your stuff.





Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
My life was a promise of possibilities in front of me.

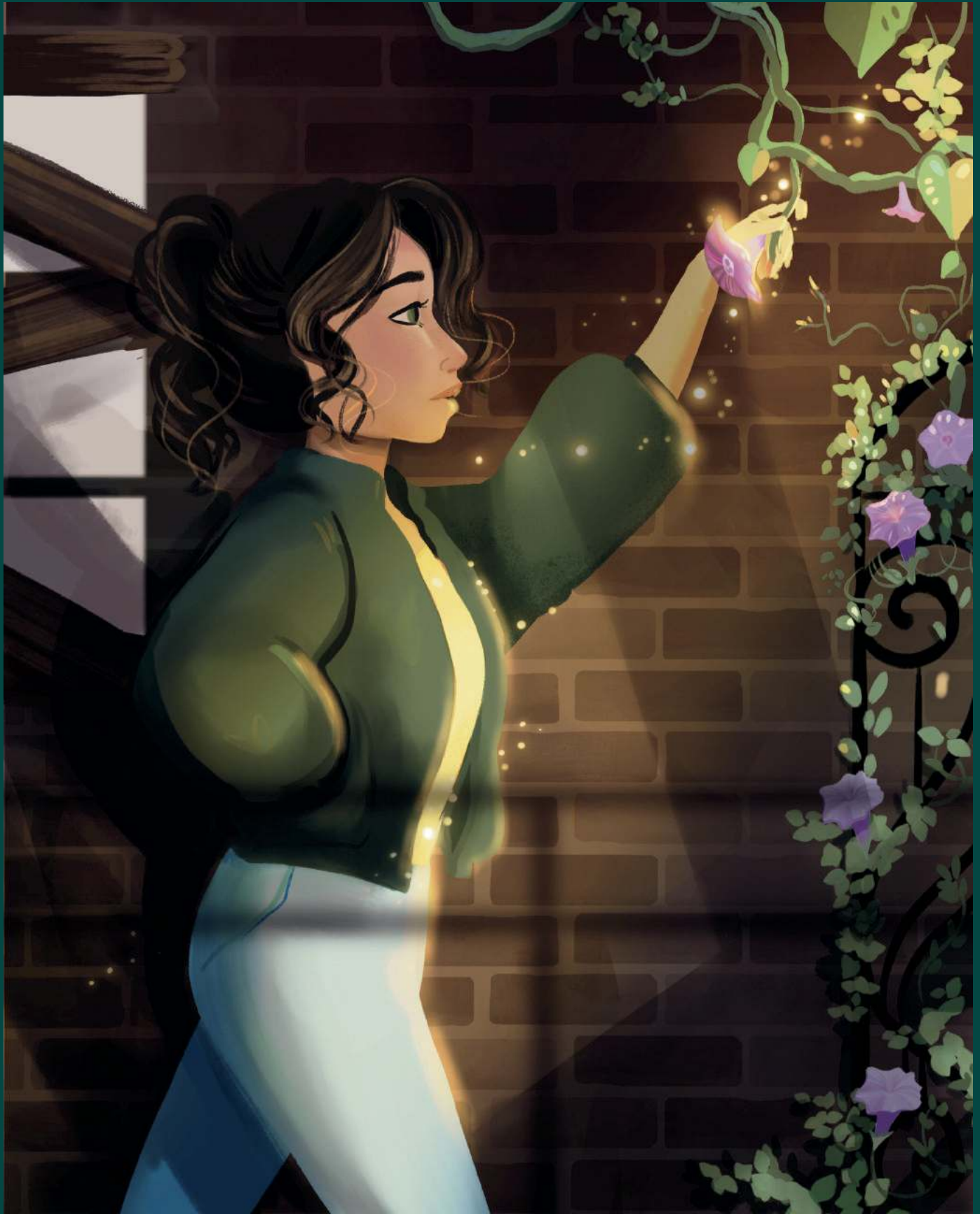
The pathway behind me was already traveled
And paved with yesterday's decisions.
The journey ahead was one
That I still had to choose.



You were a tiny but determined flower,
Pushing your way into my world.

A shocking sunburst of color.
Unexpected. Terrifying. Beautiful.





And while I hadn't planned for you
to be there,
You were there just the same.

Silently asking me to nurture you,
Transforming me from a girl into a mother
In a moment's time.



It was while you were growing inside of me
That I began to grow up too.
I thought of your future.
I thought of my dreams.

I considered all you could grow up to be,
Of what I could give you—
Everything I wanted for myself
And all that I wanted for you.

It was then I started loving you
And to dream of you loving me back.

Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,

I dreamed of your ten perfect little toes

And your ten perfect little fingers.

I dreamed of how, on the day of your birth,

Everyone would take their first look at you

And exclaim,

“What an absolutely perfect baby!”



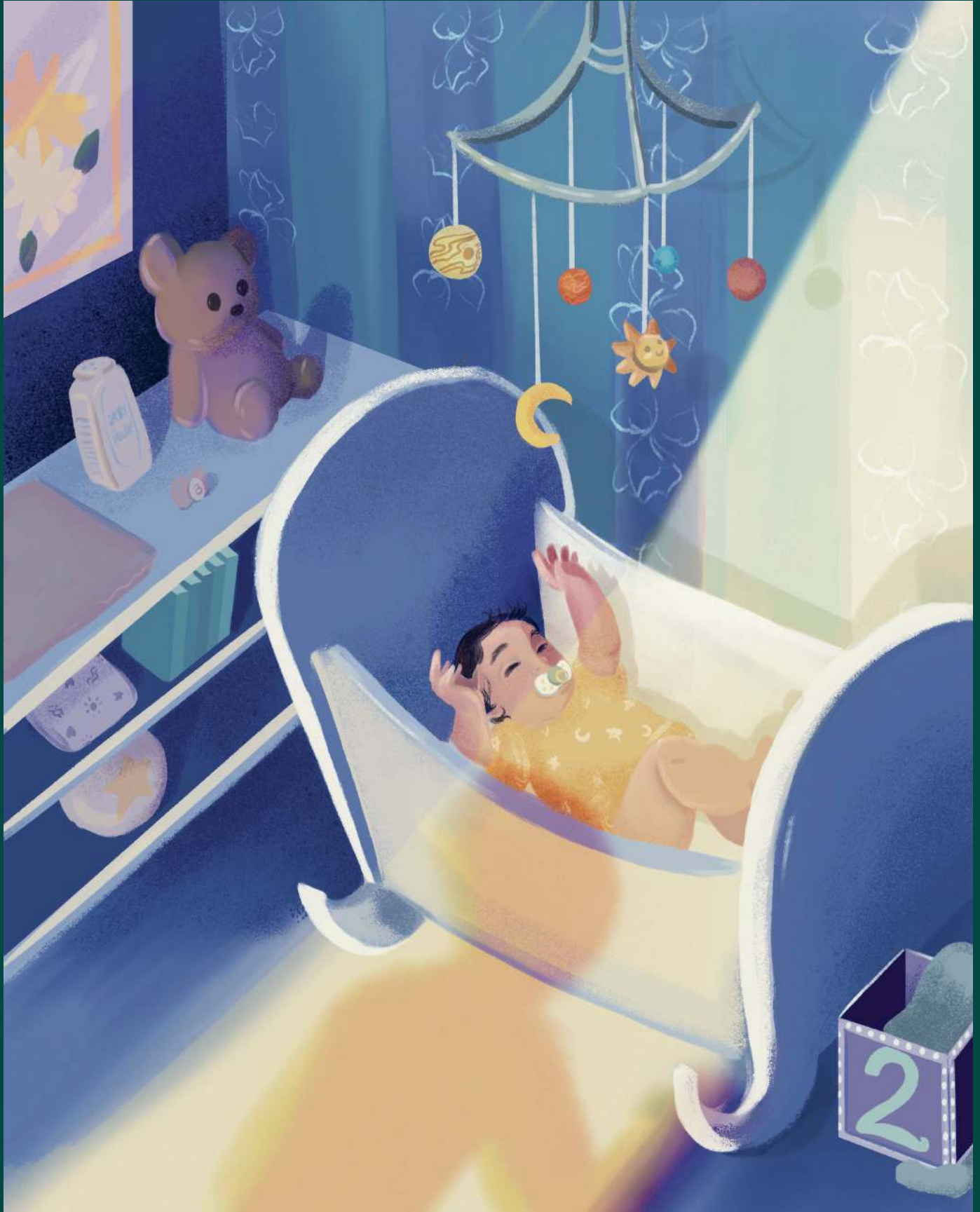
I dreamed of the soft, cuddly sleepers
I would dress you in
And the soft, cuddly blankets
I would wrap you in
And the sweet smell of your soft baby skin
Snuggled closely against me.



Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
I dreamed of the perfect childhood
I would give you.

A time filled with gooing and cooing
and stories and songs.
I dreamed of you, baby,
Nestled safely each night
on the wings of prayer,
In a room filled with books and toys
And colored with love.





I dreamed of a father to catch you
and lift you high overhead,
way, way up in the air.
He will say, "I love you, baby!"

And in the safety of his strong arms,
You will know what it feels like
to fly to the moon.





Your mother will lie with you in the grass,
Looking up at the huge blue sky,
And together you'll discover all the wonders
hidden in the fluffy white clouds.
“Look!” she will say. “There are the castles!
There are the sea monsters!
There are the angels!”

And you will understand
That if you search long enough
and hard enough
In the right places,
You can usually find
what you're looking for.

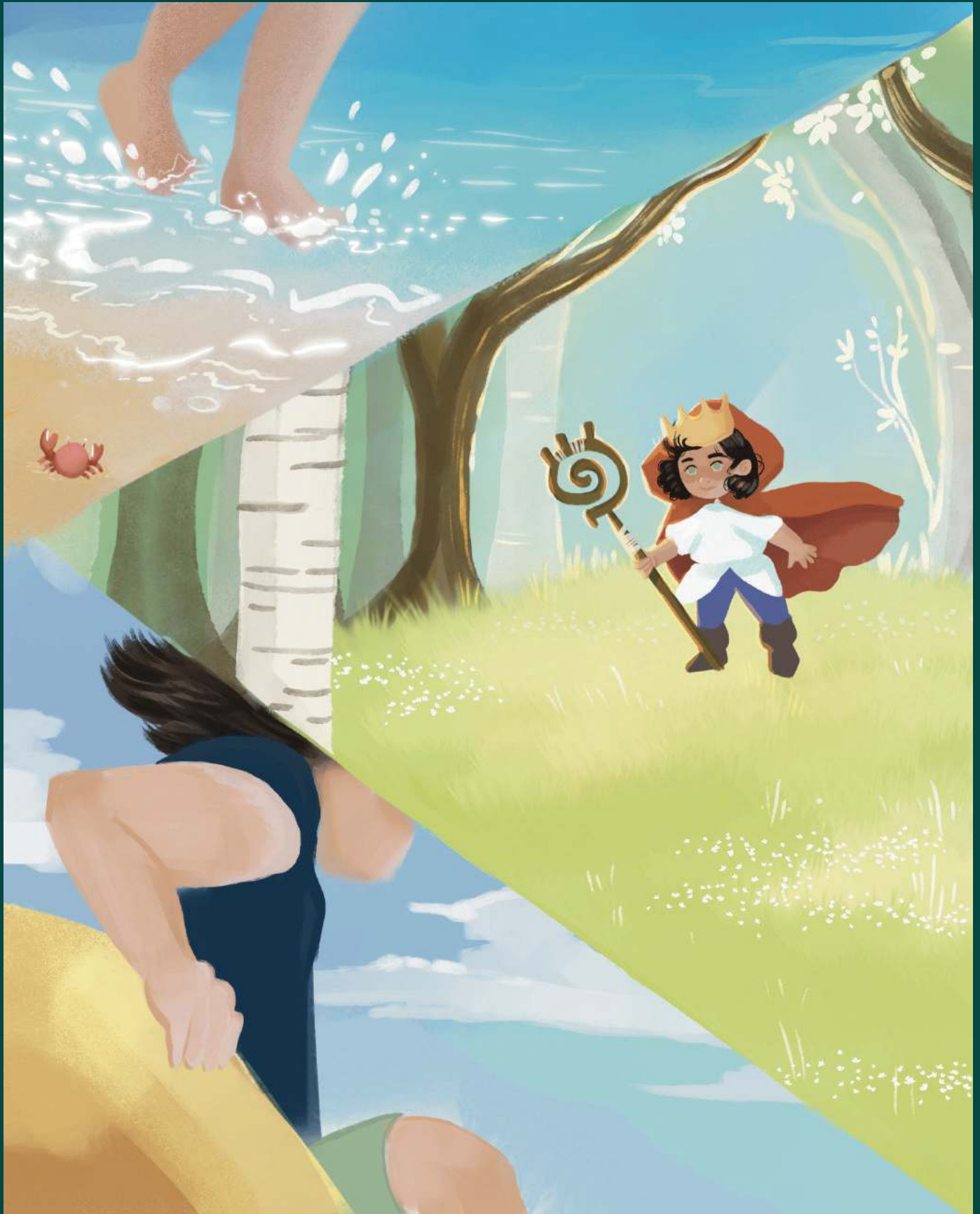


I dreamed of you walking
On a sandy shore at the ocean's edge.

I watched you skip along winding paths
In an overgrown, magical forest—
Your parents guiding you
And keeping you from harm.

It seemed I even heard
your delighted squeals
As you swooshed down a slide
For the very first time.

In the dreams that I dreamed for you
Before you were born.



You will play T-ball and fly kites
And go to street fairs
to have your face painted.

You will hear beautiful music
And see beautiful buildings.

And you will paint your own paintings
And make your own beautiful music
And build your own beautiful buildings.





You will learn to be kind and generous
And to care for those with less than you.

Because you will grow to understand
that the world

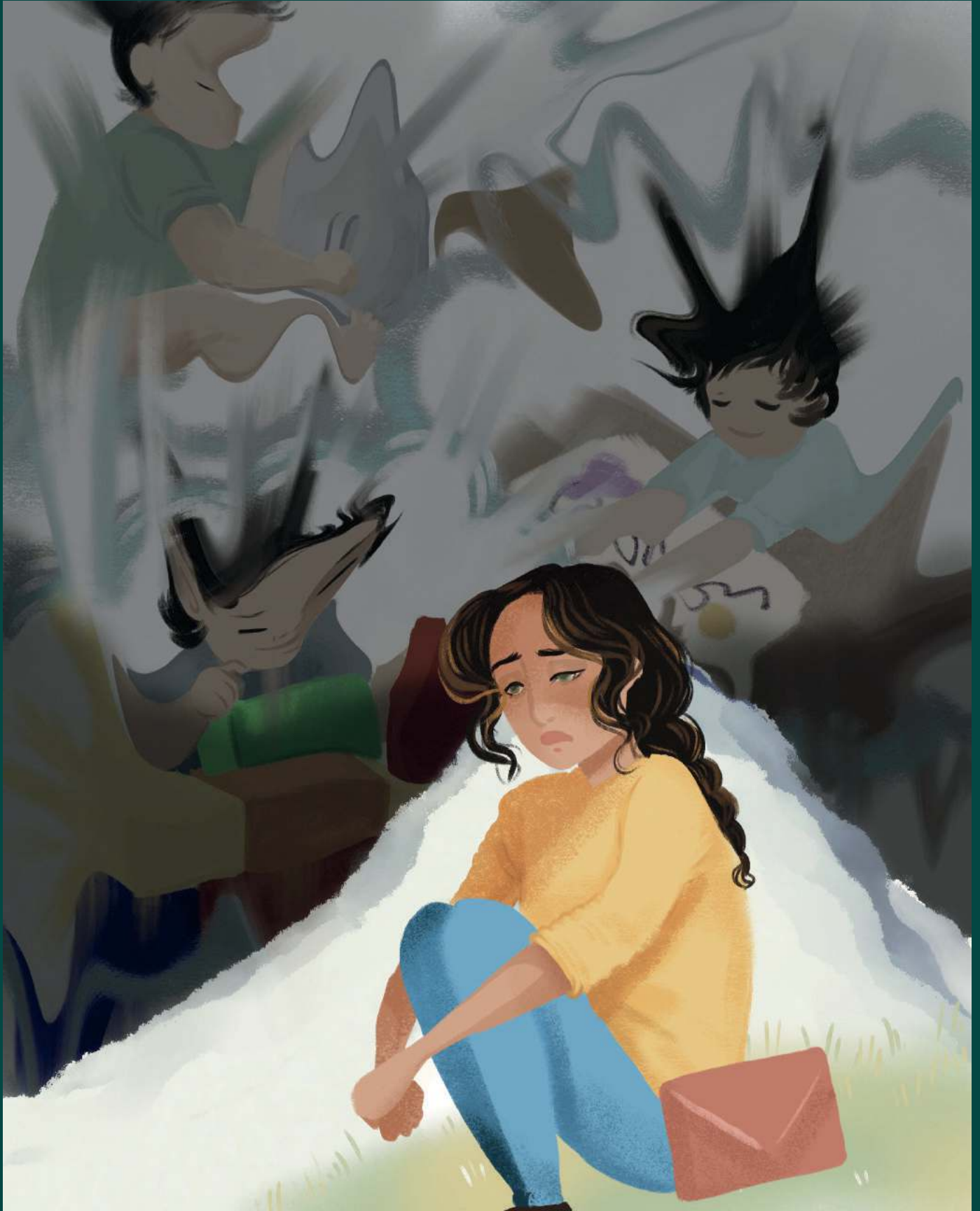
Is filled to overflowing with people
Who were never loved as well as you.



Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
I began to dream for you.

And those dreams grew and grew and grew,
Just as you grew and grew inside of me—
Until all my hopes and dreams for you became so big,
They simply exploded.





Because ...
I could not give you
the things of my dreams,
Even though I could give you life.



Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
I made up my mind to give you
All that true love could give.

To make only the very best decisions
When it came to making decisions for you.
To place the rest of your story
in safekeeping
In the very best place I could find.



Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
I chose for your future—
A future built on more
than my illusive dreams.



My love for you demanded action.
My dreams turned into plans.
My plans became a search—a sacred quest.

I spoke it out loud
To you and to me:
“I will adopt a family for you.”
Then I found the number,
and I made the call.
“Hello,” I said.
“Can you help me
adopt a family for my baby?”

Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
I searched through pictures and stories
Of all kinds of families.

There were parents who would
instantly give you
Brothers and sisters to play with
And others for whom you would
be their firstborn.





I saw parents of all skin tones
and hair colors.

There were rich parents
and not so rich parents;
Studious, academic-type parents;
Sporty types; artsy types;
Farmer types; and city types.

I looked and looked.
I searched and searched.
Then one day,
At last, I found *your* parents!



Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
Your mommy and daddy
were waiting and hoping,
Wishing and praying
For you to come into their lives.

They were dreaming
And planning and searching.
I had been looking for them.
And they had been looking for you!

When you were born,
you had ten perfect little toes.
And ten perfect little fingers,
just as I had dreamed.

You were dressed in a soft, cuddly sleeper
And wrapped in a soft, cuddly blanket.
You had the sweet smell of baby skin
As I snuggled you closely against me.





Then, oh so very carefully,
I placed you forever
Into the arms of your mommy and daddy.
They took one look at you
and exclaimed together,
“What an absolutely perfect baby!”

It was a match made in heaven.



And when your parents gaze at each other
With a love that is
Committed, strong, and deep,
You, baby, will be a part
Of their ever-after kind of love.





Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,

You and I grew together.

We shared hiccups and laughter,
Countless trips to the bathroom,
And weird midnight snacks.

Until it was time for you
to become part of something
Much bigger and better,
Much stronger and safer
Than what I could give you alone.



When people ask about how
I adopted a family for you ...
When they tell me
they could never do such a thing—
(Sometimes they say it
with frowns of disapproval)
I just smile and reply,

“You never know what you can do
Until you love someone
more than you love yourself.
When you have that kind of love,
Then only what’s best is good enough.”

And so, sweet baby,
You can always know that
I have loved you well.
I made the best choice for the two of us
That love could ever make.





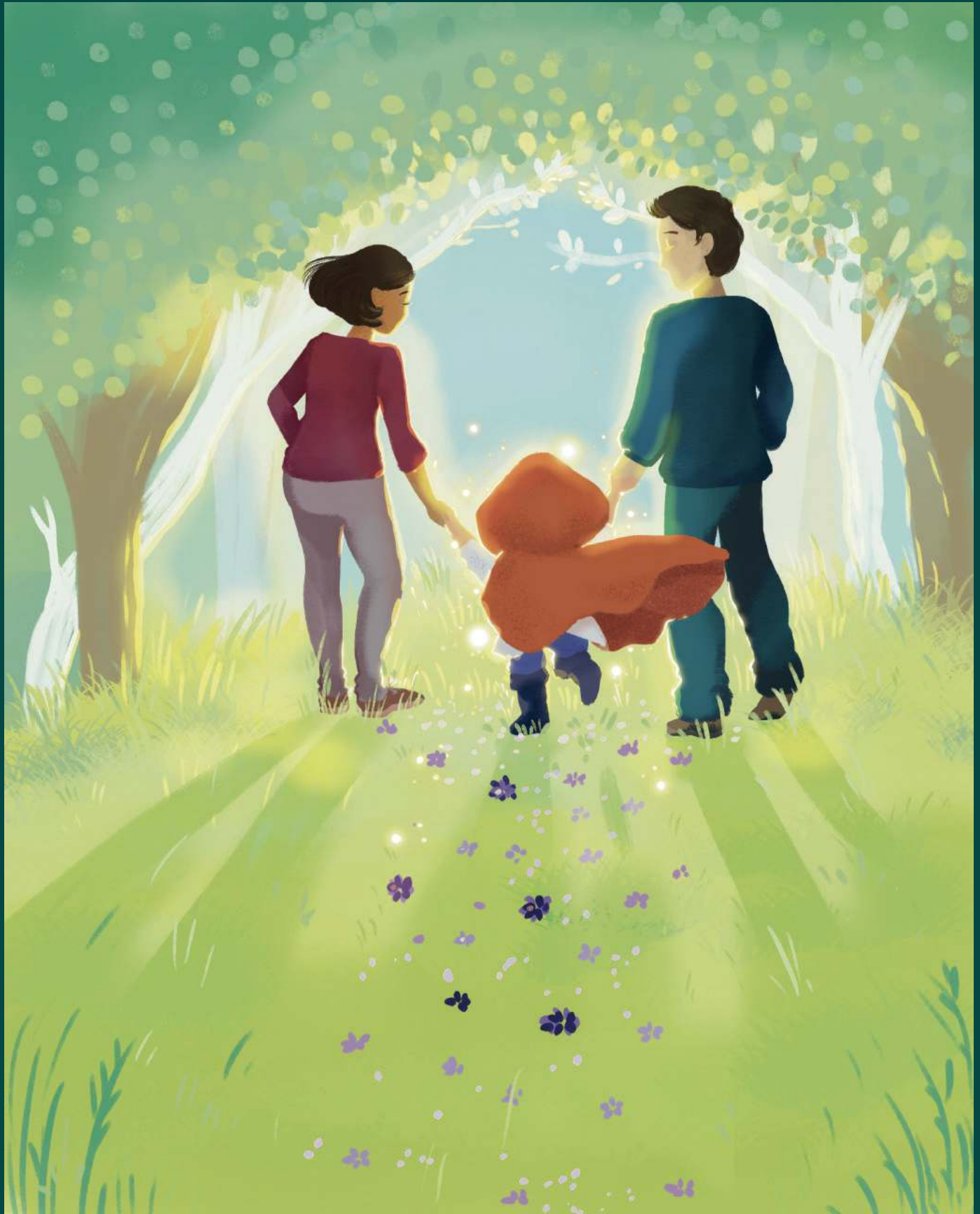
On the day of your birth,
With you snuggled close to my heart,
I did not betray the trust between us.

I looked across the years
of sunsets and dawns,
And I chose for your future.

Because no one's life is about one short day.

Life is about today, and tomorrow,
And ten thousand more tomorrows.





Long before your first wiggle or giggle,
Before you were born,
Like the smallest seed
Hidden in a safe and secret place
in the earth,
You were there—
Your own little person inside of me,
Just waiting to grow up
and show the world your stuff.



So when I think of you, baby, I smile!
Because I don't know
What the ending of your story will be,
But I do know the beginning.
And so do you.

We both know your story
Is the best kind of love story.

