

# The Ribbon



## UTEPE

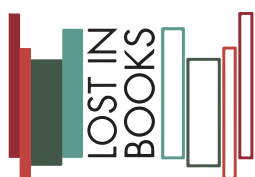
The Ribbon

Written by Monikka Eliah  
Illustrated by Hussein Nabeel

Na Monikka Eliah  
Iliyoonyeshwa na Hussein Nabeel

## **The Ribbon**

A story by Monikka Eliah;  
illustrated and designed by Hussein Nabeel.  
Produced for Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales  
by LOST IN BOOKS, Think+DO Tank Foundation.



© Legal Aid Commission of NSW 2021.

You may copy, print, distribute, download and otherwise freely deal with this work for a non-profit purpose provided that you attribute Legal Aid NSW as the owners. To reproduce or modify the work for any other purpose you need to ask for and be given permission by Legal Aid NSW.

© Monikka Ellah © Hussein Nabeel

Legal Aid NSW  
323 Castlereagh Street  
Haymarket 2000 NSW AUSTRALIA  
[www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

A Cataloguing-in-Publication entry is available from the National Library of Australia  
[www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)

ISBN (AUS) 978-0-6485746-2-0

Cover and text design by Hussein Nabeel  
This book was printed in September 2020 in Sydney

## **UTEPE**

Hadithi ya Monikka Eliah;  
Iliyoonyeshwa na kuandaliwa na  
Hussein Nabeel.  
Imetolewa kwa Legal Aid Commission  
of New South Wales by LOST IN BOOKS,  
Think+DO Tank Foundation.

Hatimiliki © Legal Aid NSW 2021  
Leseni ya ubunifu

© Legal Aid Commission of NSW 2021.

Unaweza kunakili, kuchapisha, kusambaza, kupakua na vinginevyo bure kwa ajili ya madhumuni yasiyo na faida ilimradi unahusisha Legal Aid NSW kama wamiliki. Kutunga tena au kugeuza kitabu hiki kwasa babu ya kusudi mengine yoyote lazima kuuliza na kupewa ruhusa kutoka kwa Legal Aid NSW.

© Monikka Ellah © Hussein Nabeel

Legal Aid NSW  
323 Castlereagh Street  
Haymarket 2000 NSW AUSTRALIA  
[www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

Kuorodhesha katika ingizo la uchapishaji inapatikana National Library of Australia  
[www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)

ISBN (AUS) 978-0-6485746-2-0

Muundo wa jalada na maandishi na Hussein Nabeel  
Kitabu hiki kilichapishwa mnamo September 2020 huko Sydney

My belly has a ribbon wiggling  
inside. It stretches, dances,  
curls and ties.



Tumbo langu lina utepe unaozunguka ndani.  
Inajinyoosha, inacheza, inajikunja na kujifunga.

It can make a loop as small as a  
pea. It can make a knot as big  
as the moon.





Inaweza kutengeneza kitanzi  
kidogo kama mbaazi. Unaweza  
kutengeneza fundo kubwa  
kama mwezi.



When I'm hungry my ribbon pulls  
to make a tiny knot.

Nikiwa na njaa utepe wangu huvuta  
kutengeneza fundo dogo.

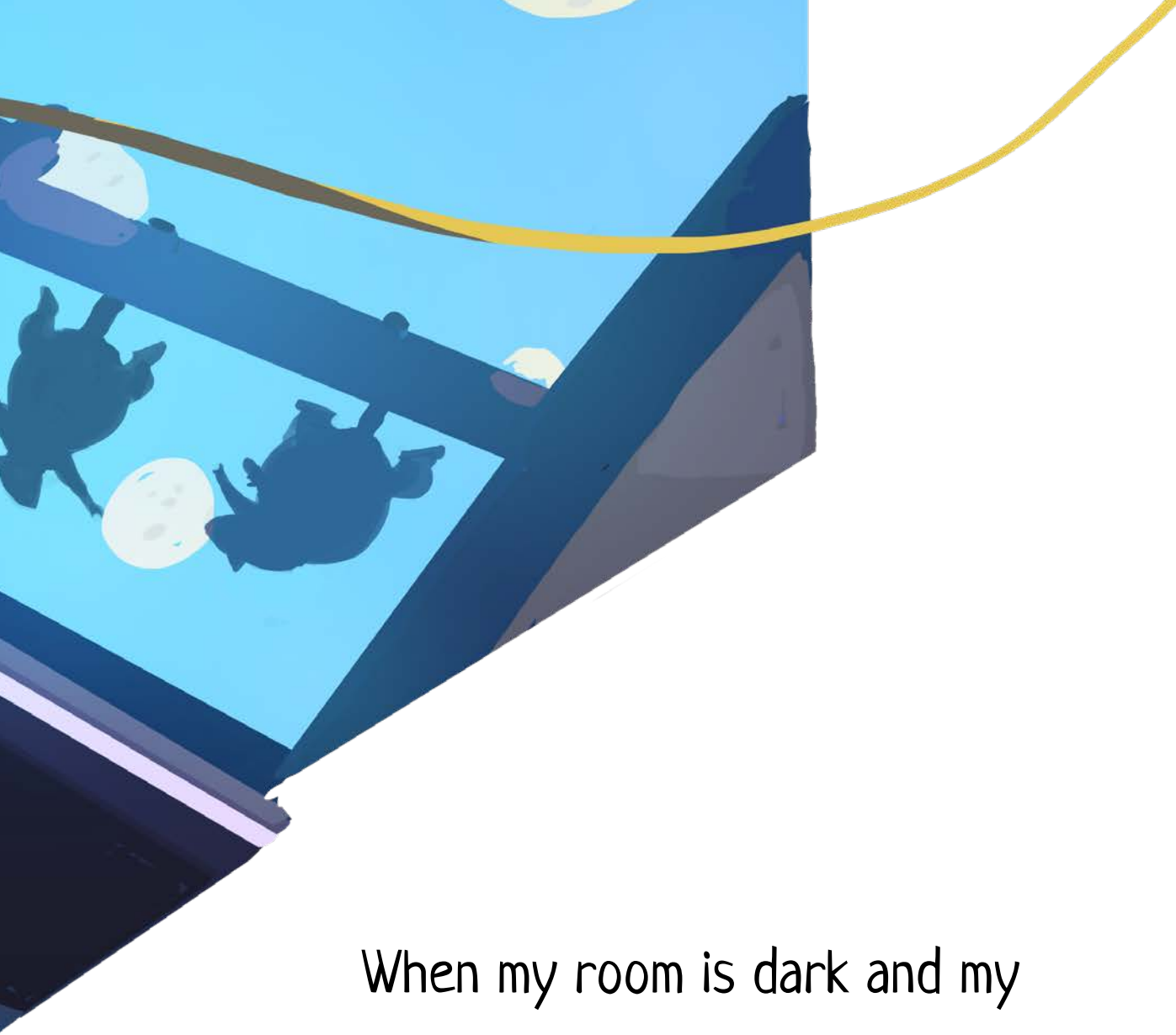
As the smell of meat and rice  
swirls into my nose, I feel my tiny  
knot start to come undone.

Kama nanusa harufu ya nyama na wali  
unazingira na kuingia kwenye pua langu,  
nahisi fundo langu dogo linaanza kutenduliwa.







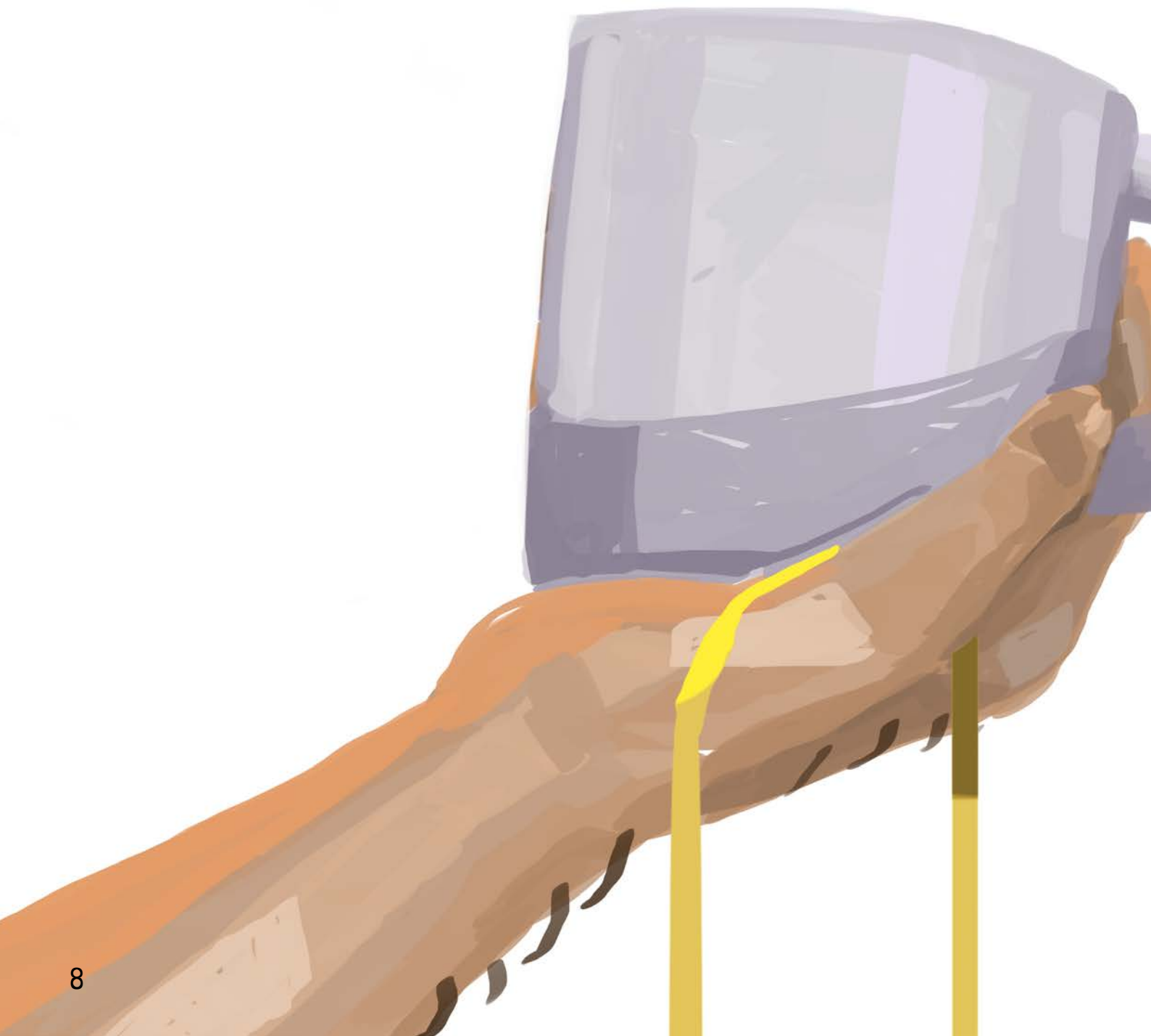


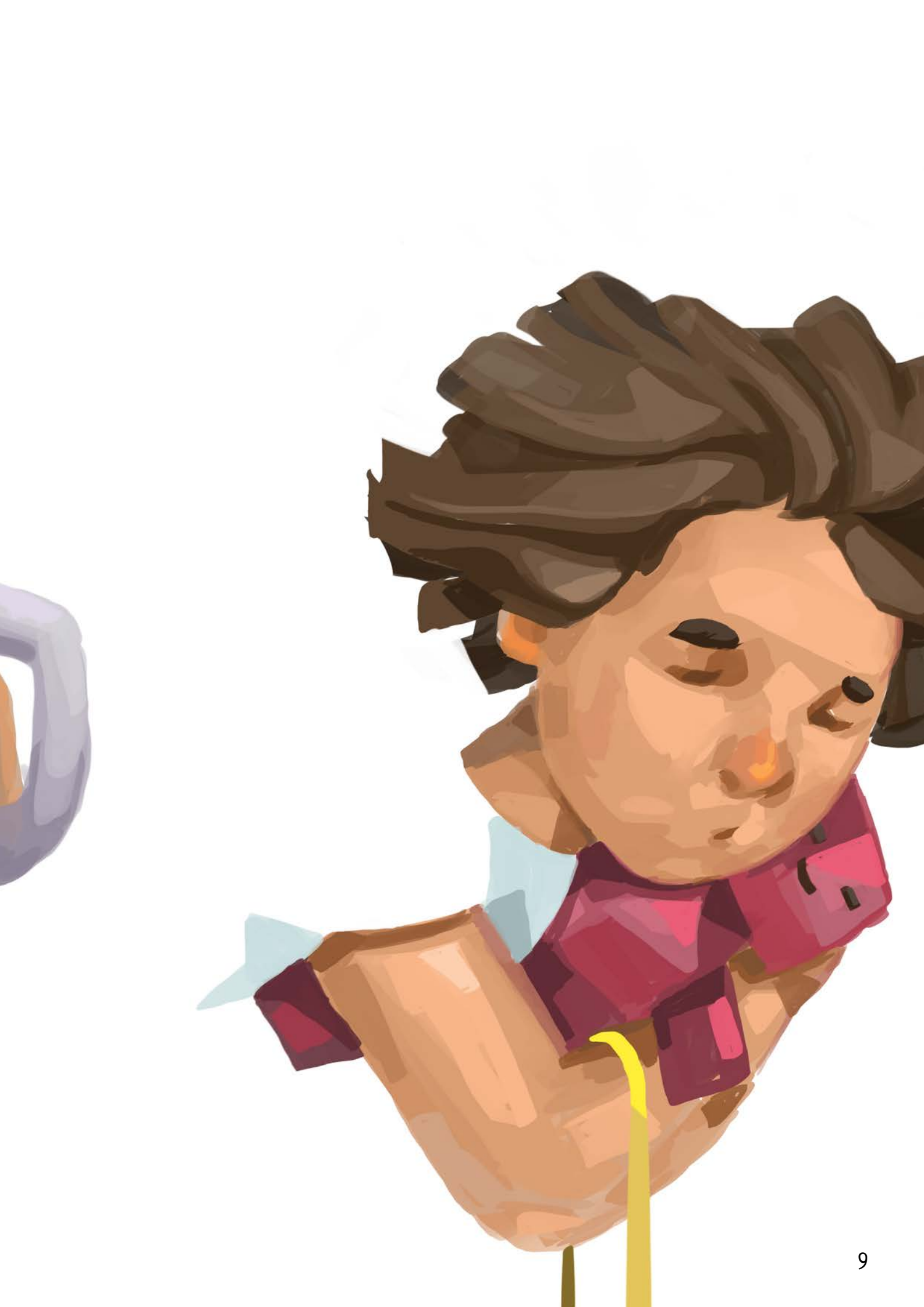
When my room is dark and my  
busy brain won't let me sleep, my  
ribbon folds into an itchy knot.

Wakati chumba changu lina giza na ubongo  
wangu la shughuli nyingi hauniruhusu nilale,  
utepe wangu unajikunja kuwa fundo dogo zaidi.

Then big hands bring me warm milk and I  
sip until my ribbon droops like a noodle.

Kisha mikono mikubwa inaniletea maziwa  
vuguvugu nahunywa pole pole hadi utepe wangu  
unajishusha na kuwa legelege kama tambu dogo.





When grown ups speak in funny  
growls and grunts, my ribbon  
ties into a teeny knot.

Wakati watu wazima huongea  
kwa mingurumo na miguno ya  
kuchekesha, utepe wangu hujifunga  
kwa fundo udogo dogo.





As I learn new words, their ruff-  
ruffs turn to tweet-tweets

Vile naendeleya kujujifunza maneno mapya,  
kubweko wao



and my ribbon starts to fly.

hugeuka kua mlio mwembamba na utepe wangu  
unaanza kuruka.



Not all the knots are tiny, some of them are huge and even mums and dads don't know what to do.

Sio mafundo yote ni ndogo dogo, zengine ni makubwa mpka hata akina mama na baba wana changanikiwa.









I see their ribbons tangle, when white  
letters make mountains in our home.

Ninaona vitepe zao timtimu msokotano, saa  
ambapo mabarua nyeupe kusanyika kama milima  
nyumbani kwetu.



I feel their ribbons tighten,  
when the people we love are  
kept far away.

Ninahisi utepe zao zimekazwa,  
wakati watu wanaowapenda  
wanawekwa mbali.



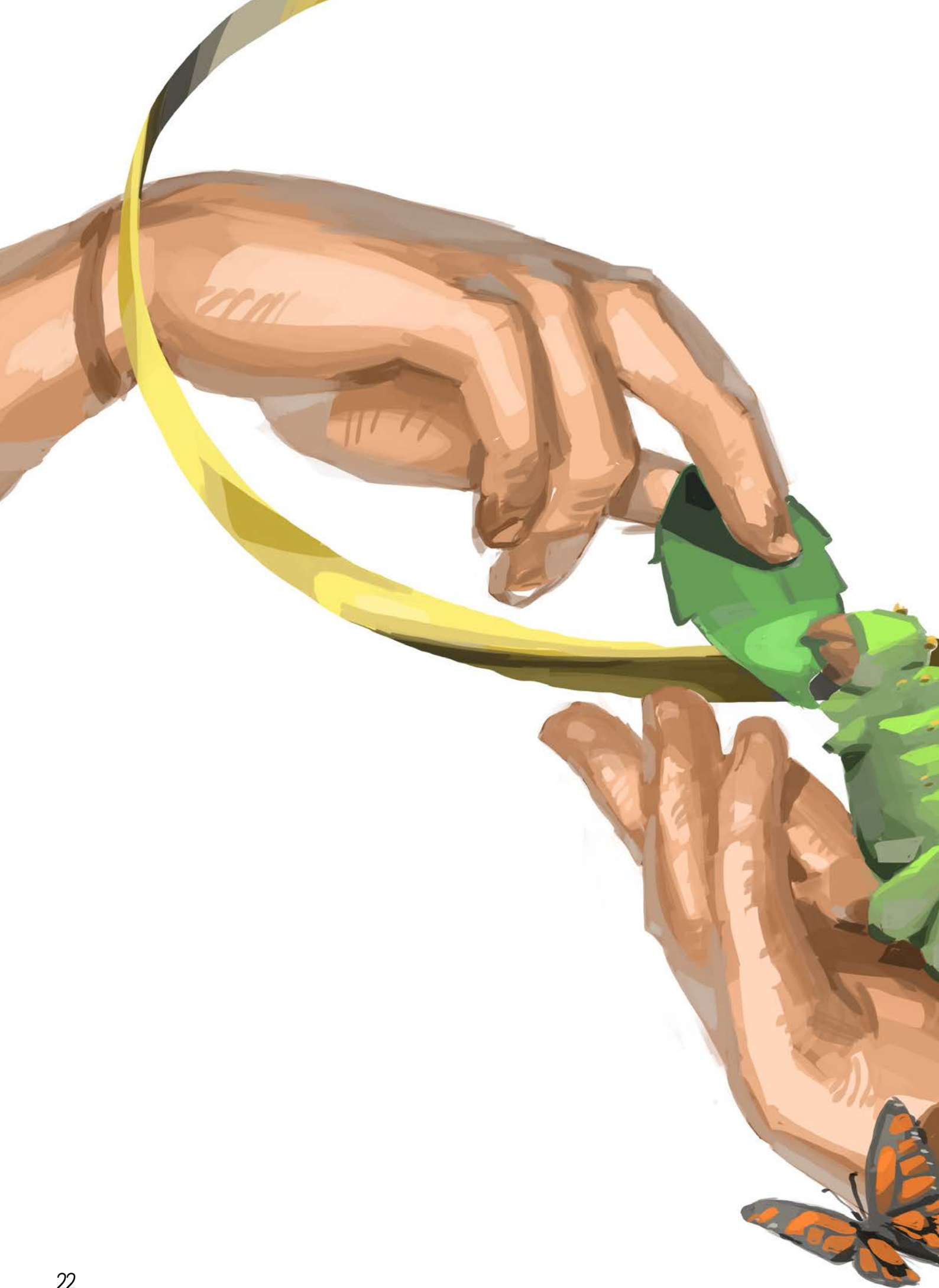






I hear their ribbons  
tremble, when they  
move to touch with  
hands that hurt.

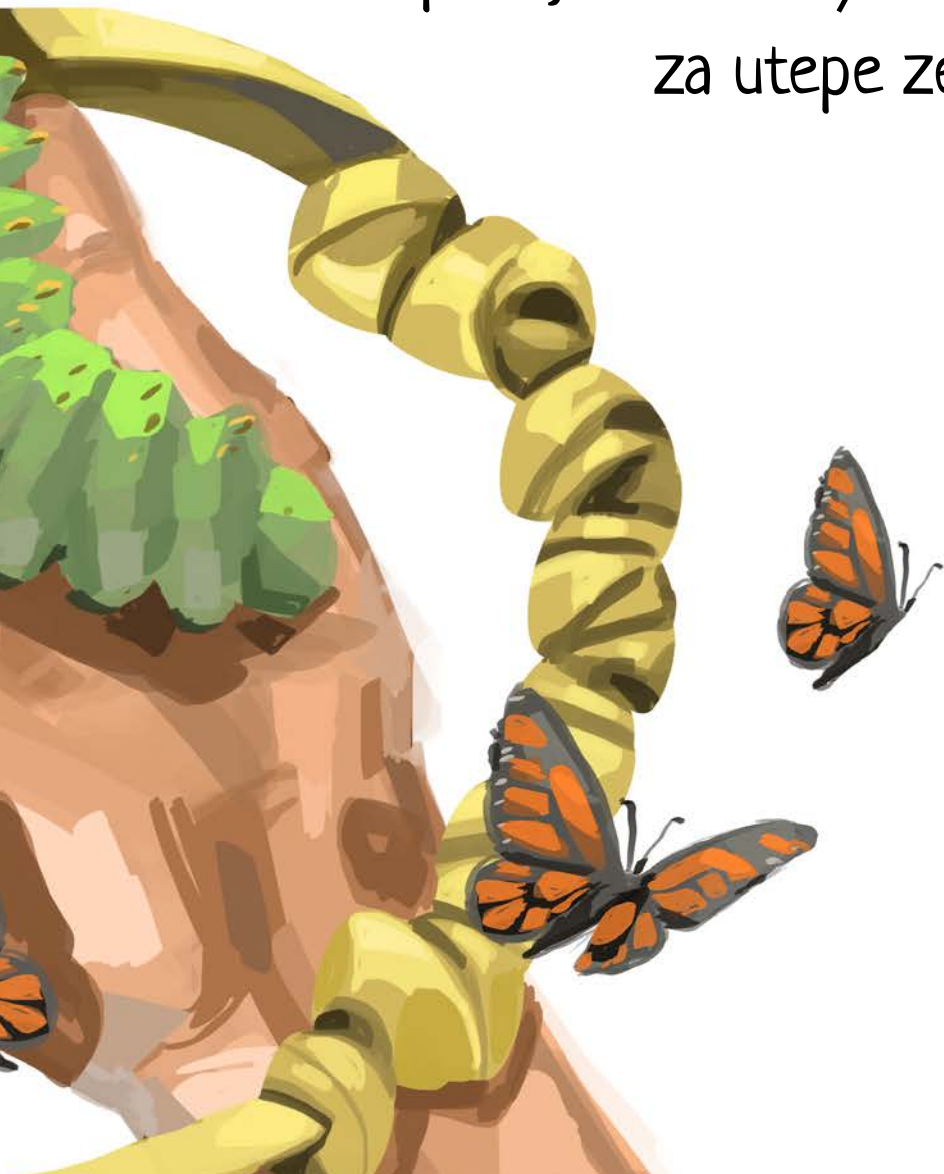
Nasikia utepe zao  
zinatetemeka, wakati  
wanasogea kugusa kwa  
mikono inayoumiza.





Sometimes the knots come  
all together and make bumps  
along our ribbons.

Mara nyingine mafundo hujikusanya  
pamoja na kufanya matuta kando  
za utepe zetu.



These bumpy knots are the  
hardest to untie.

Mafundo haya yenye matuta  
ni ngumu zaidi kufungua.





Legal Aid  
NEW SOUTH WALES

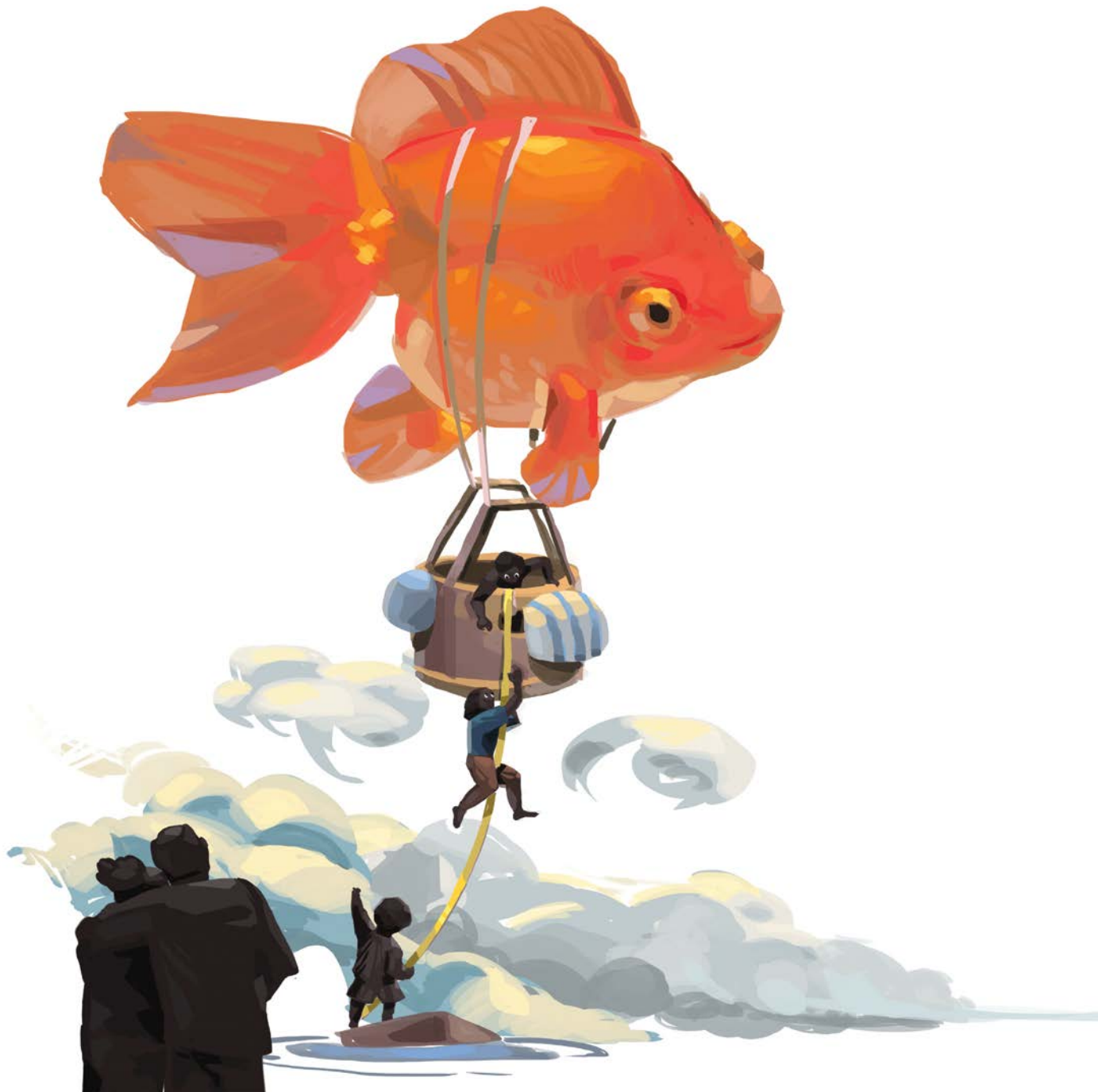


We are not alone. For the heavy knots we feel, there are special hands that can try to untie them.

Hatuko peke yetu. Kwa mafundo mazito tunayohisi, kuna mikono maalum ambayo inaweza kujaribu kuyafungua.

My belly has a ribbon wiggling inside.  
It can dance. It can fly. When I feel it  
knot, I know I can ask for help.

Tumbo langu lina utepe unaozunguka ndani.  
Unaweza kucheza. Unaweza kupaa. Ninapohisi fundo,  
najua naweza kuomba msaada.



How many can you find in this book?

Je, unaweza kuona ngapi?



The Refugee Service helps refugees with many kinds of legal problems. Our service is free and confidential and we can provide free interpreters.

To make an appointment call **02 8713 6725**

or email

**refugeeservice@legalaid.nsw.gov.au**

If you need language help to make an appointment, the Translating and Interpreting Service is a free service that can help you talk to us in your language. Call TIS on **131 450**.

Refugee Service husaidia wakimbizi wenye matatizo mbalimbali ya kisheria. Huduma yetu ni ya bure na tunaweka matatizo yako kwa siri na tunaweza kukupa wakalimani bila malipo.

Kuweka miadi piga **02 8713 6725**

au barua pepe

**refugeeservice@legalaid.nsw.gov.au**

Ikiwa unahitaji usaidizi wa lugha ili kupata miadi, Huduma ya Kutafsiri na Ukalimani ni huduma isiyolipishwa ambayo inaweza kukusaidia kuzungumza nasi kwa lugha yako. Piga TIS kwa **131 450**.

