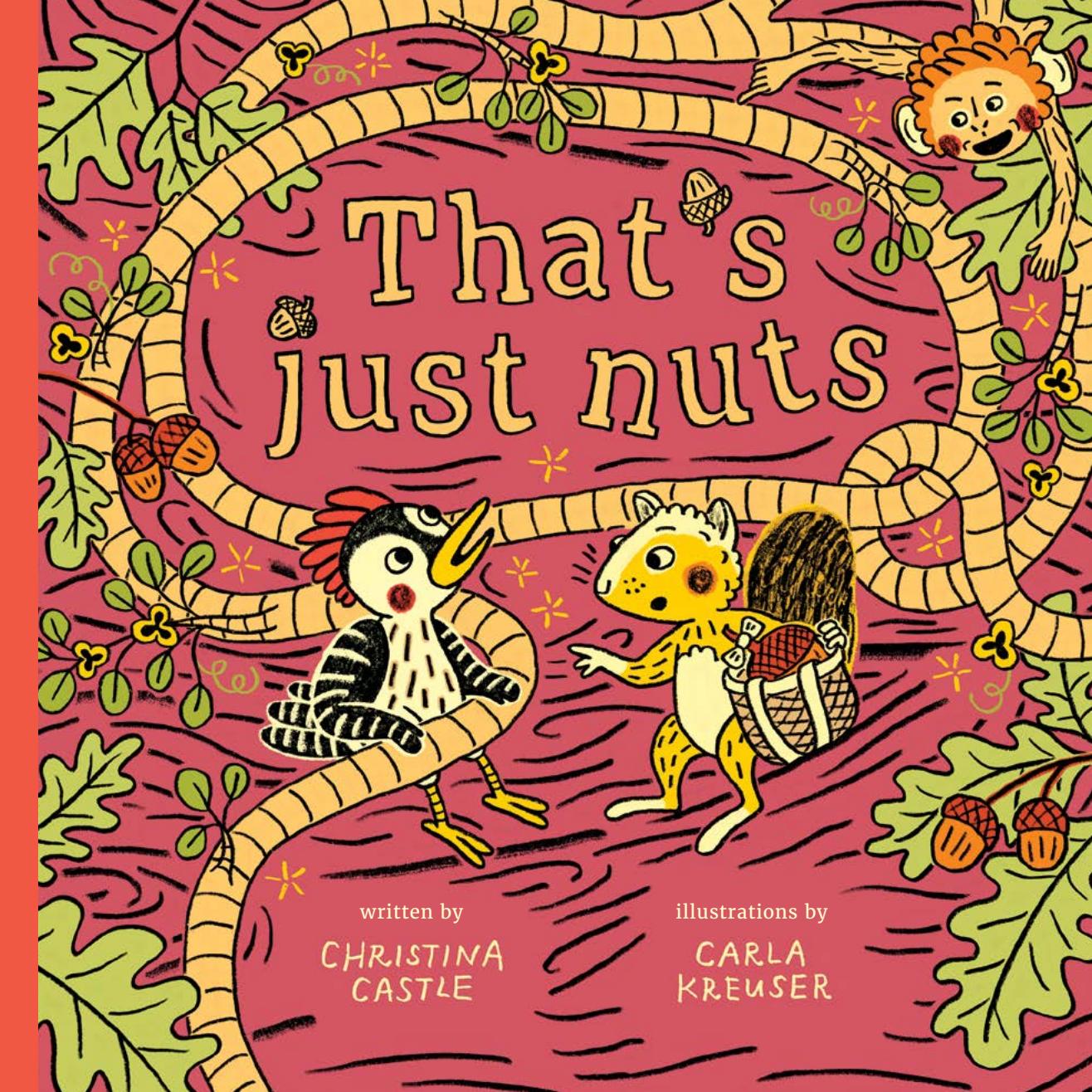


That's just nuts



written by

CHRISTINA
CASTLE

illustrations by

CARLA
KREUSER

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



At Foord Asset Management, we believe in investing for the long term. It's a simple philosophy that has stood the test of time. And it's one we will continue to share with young and old investors for years to come.

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That's just nuts

A colorful illustration on a yellow background. On the left, a squirrel with a bushy tail stands on a patch of green grass with small white flowers. On the right, a chicken with a red comb holds an orange watering can and waters a small tree with green leaves. The background is a solid yellow color.

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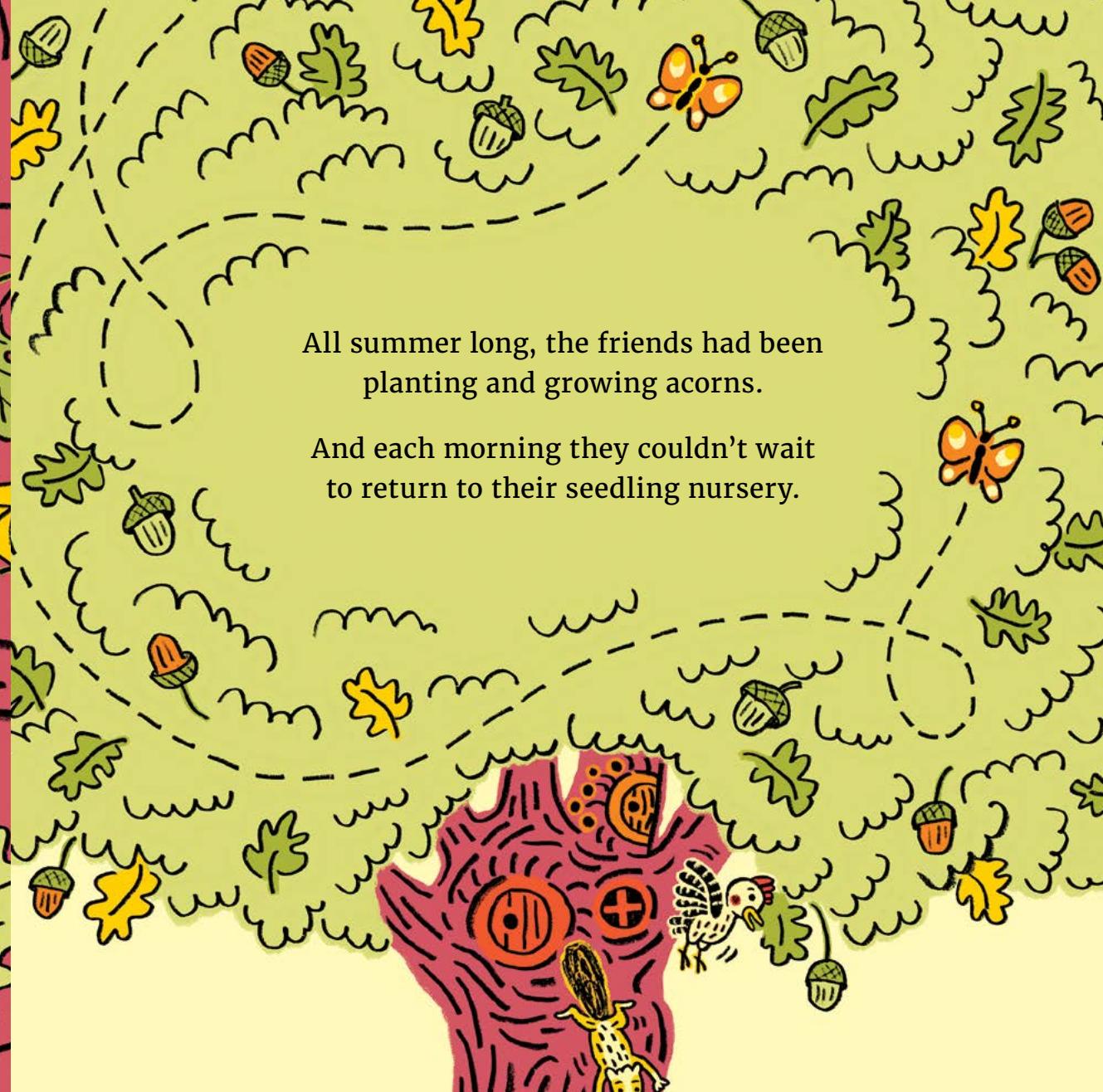
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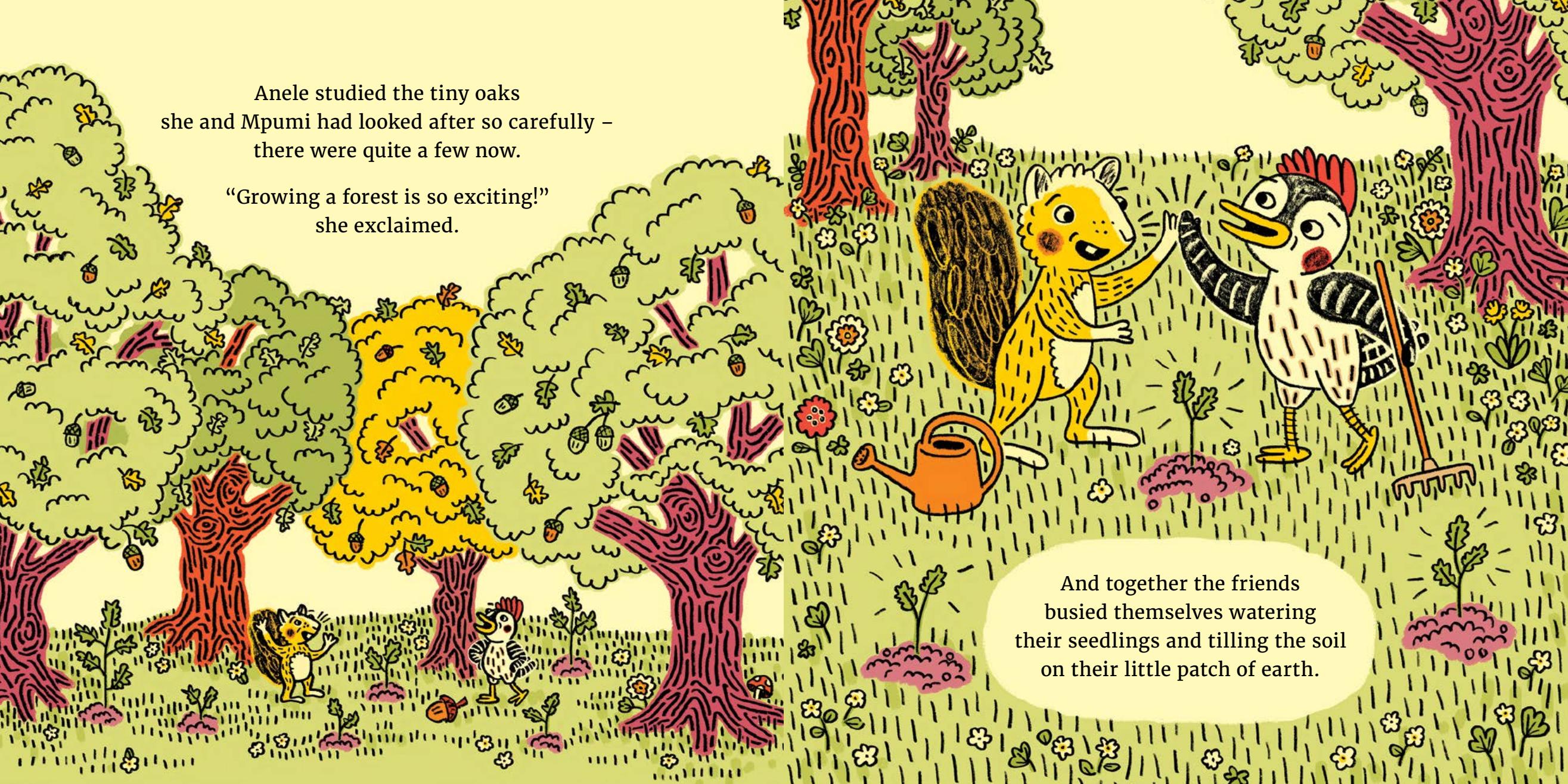
It was pretty much
a perfect day in the forest.

As soon as the sun was up, Anele the squirrel
and her best friend Mpumi the woodpecker bounded
down their tree to the forest floor below.



All summer long, the friends had been
planting and growing acorns.

And each morning they couldn't wait
to return to their seedling nursery.



Anele studied the tiny oaks
she and Mpumi had looked after so carefully –
there were quite a few now.

“Growing a forest is so exciting!”
she exclaimed.

And together the friends
busied themselves watering
their seedlings and tilling the soil
on their little patch of earth.



"They're not weeds!" Anele said crossly.

"They are little oak trees
grown from our very own acorns."

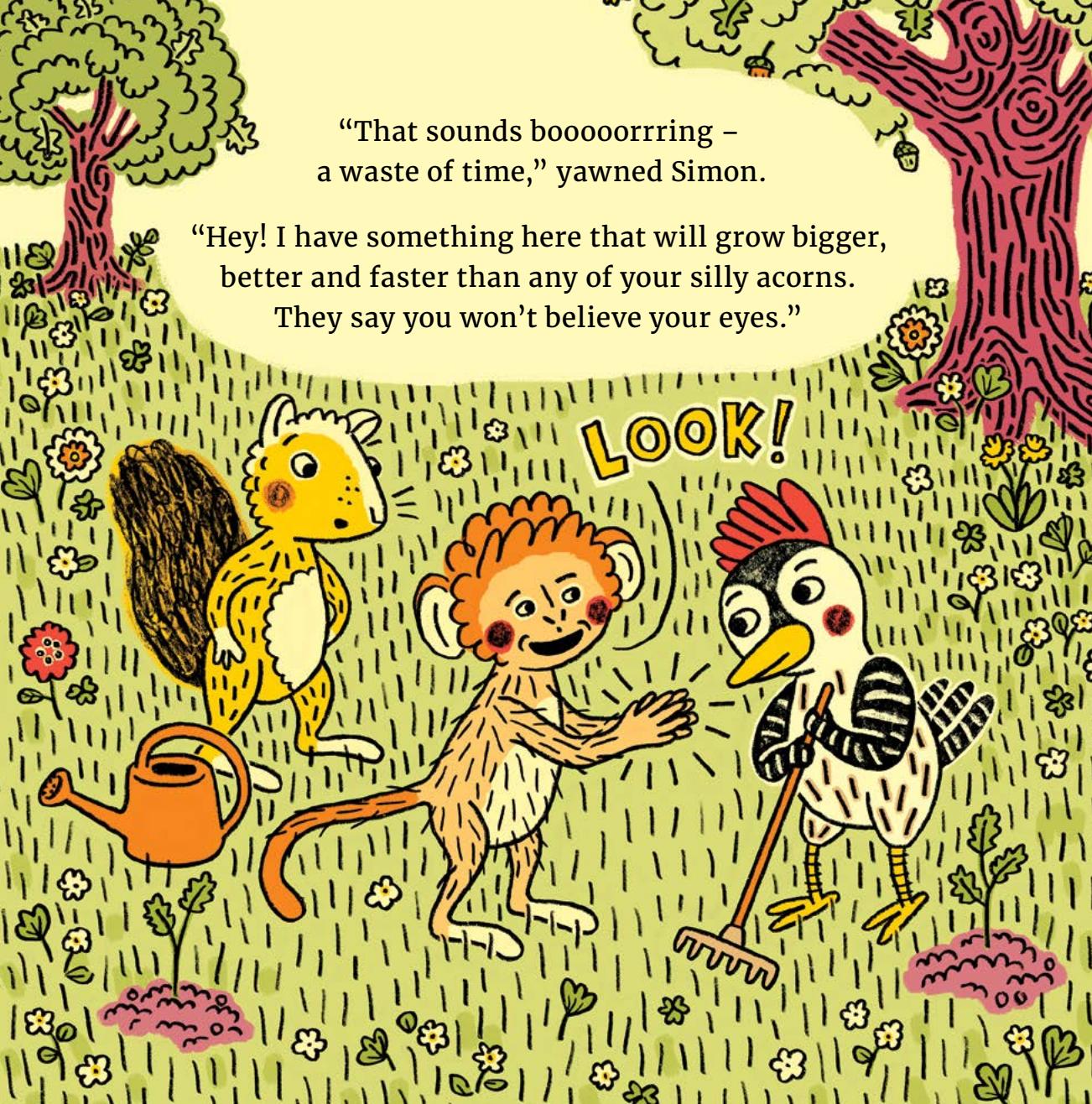
"And how long has it taken
to grow them to this sad size?"
teased Simon.

"Only a week . . ." said Anele.

" . . . or six," whispered Mpumi.

came a voice from
a branch above.

It was their monkey
friend, Simon.



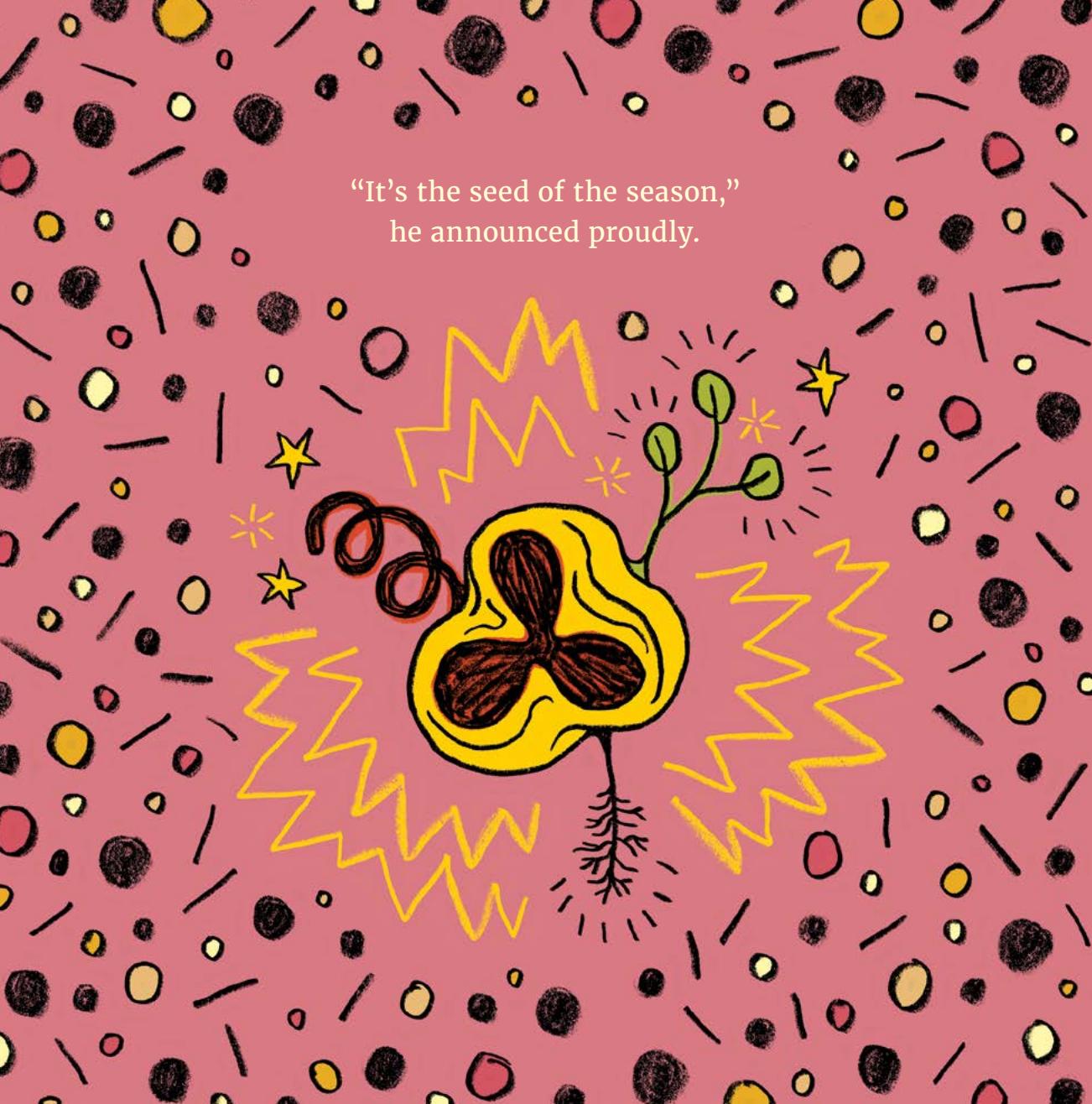
"That sounds boooooring –
a waste of time," yawned Simon.

"Hey! I have something here that will grow bigger,
better and faster than any of your silly acorns.
They say you won't believe your eyes."

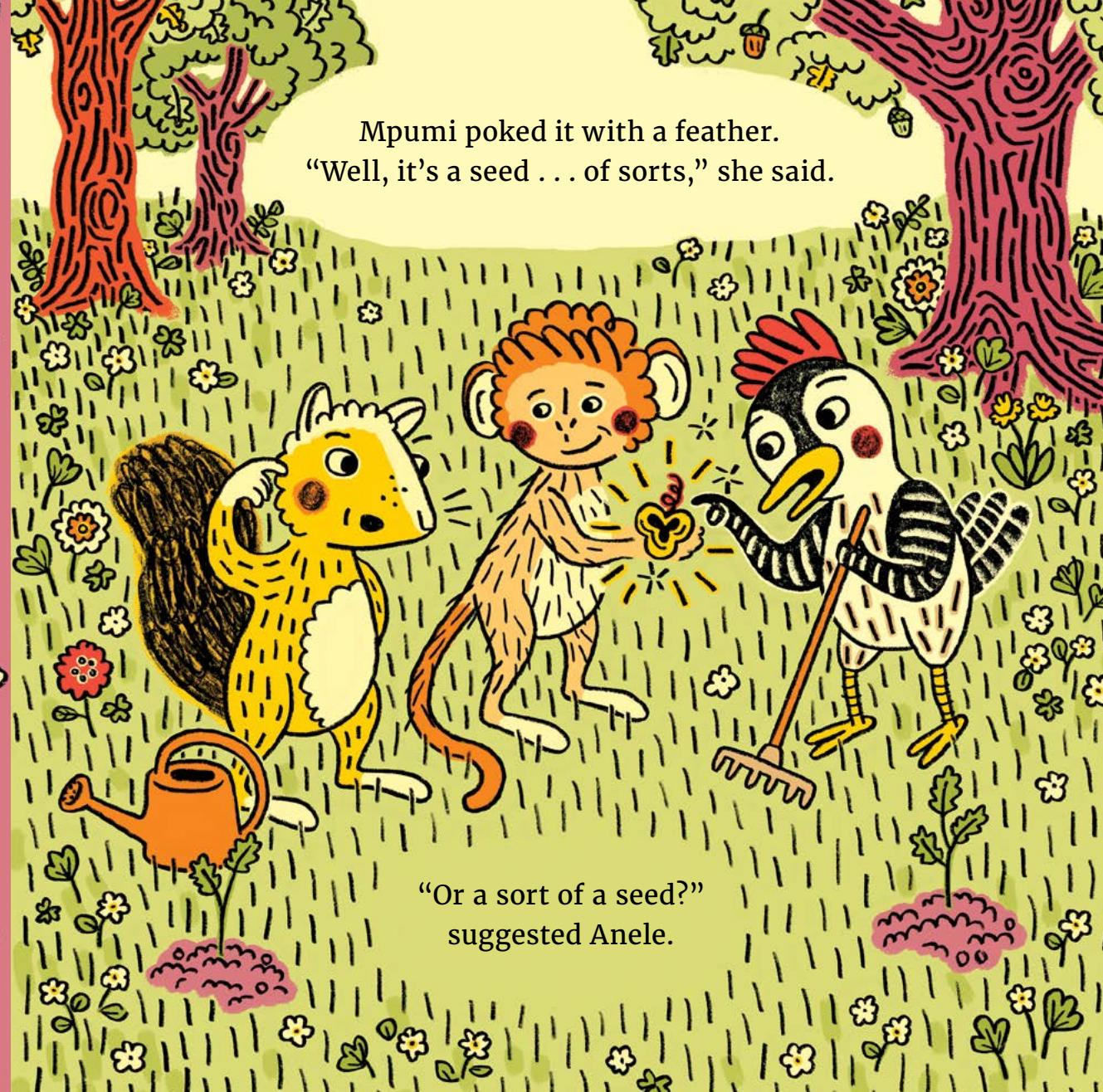
LOOK!



And he opened his fist.



“It’s the seed of the season,”
he announced proudly.



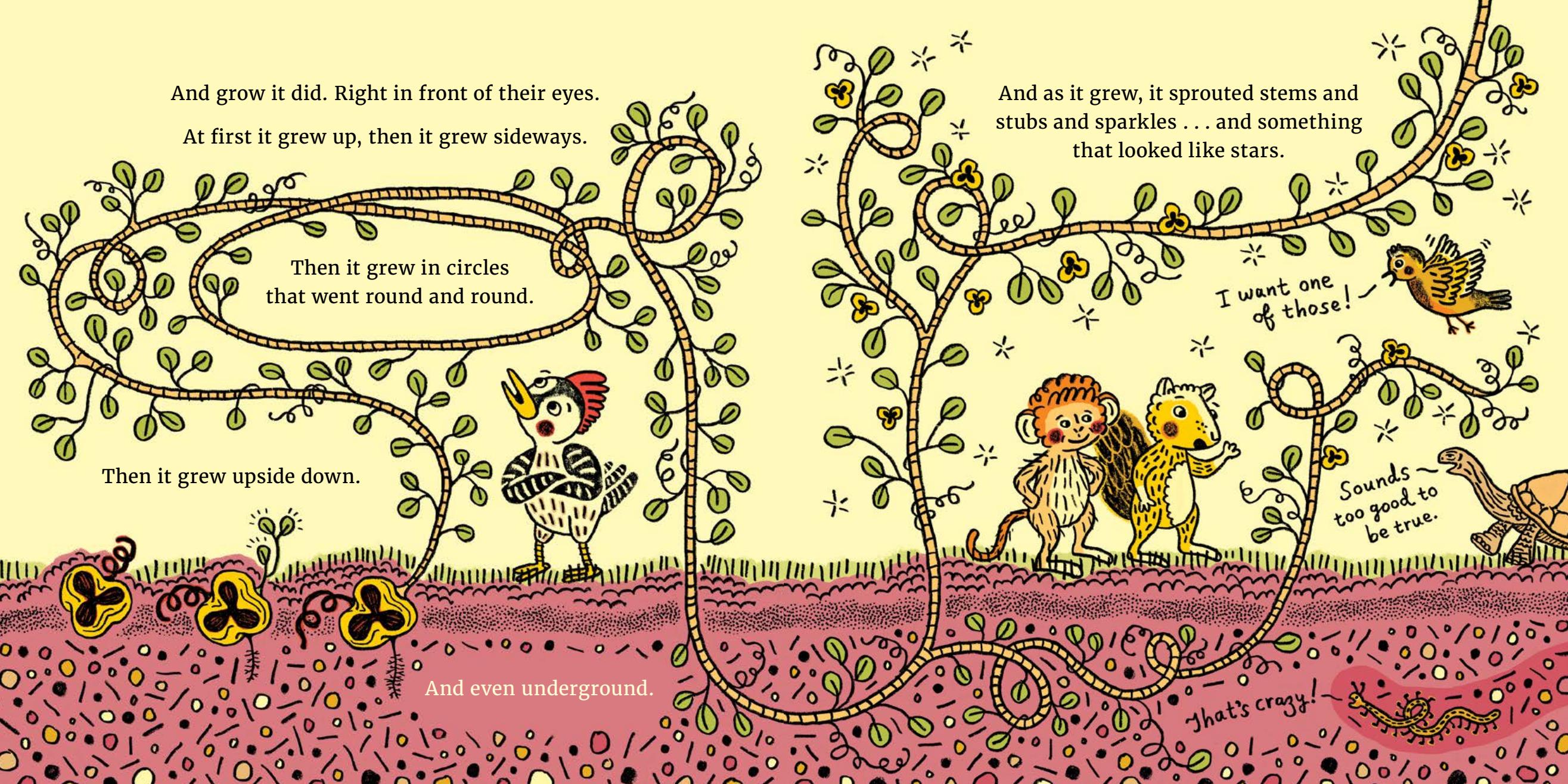
Mpumi poked it with a feather.
“Well, it’s a seed . . . of sorts,” she said.

“Or a sort of a seed?”
suggested Anele.



Simon dropped his strange seed
onto the ground and kicked up
a bit of soil to cover it.

“They say it doesn’t even need water.
Now stand back, friends,
and watch it **GROW**.”



And grow it did. Right in front of their eyes.

At first it grew up, then it grew sideways.

Then it grew in circles
that went round and round.

Then it grew upside down.

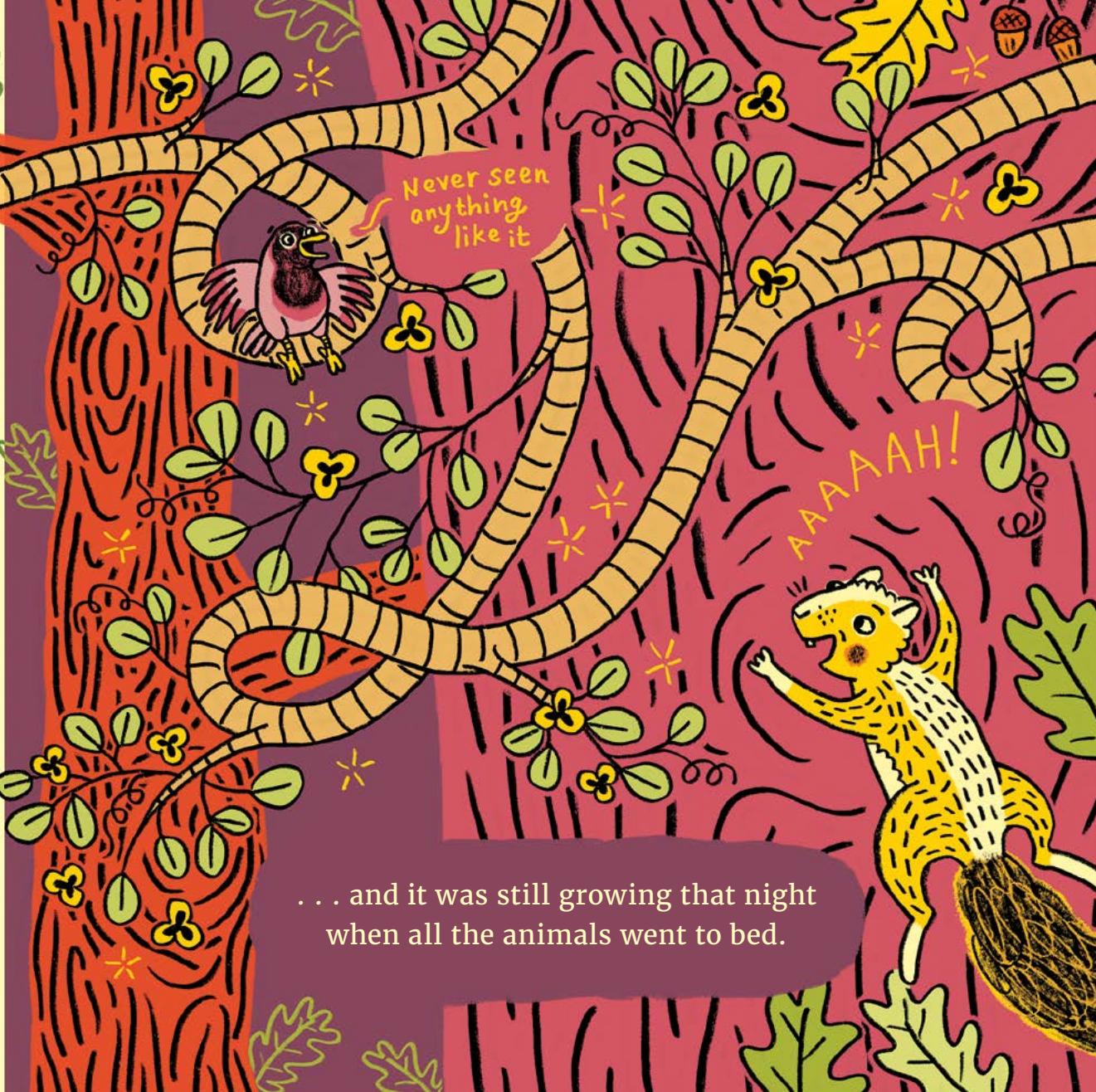
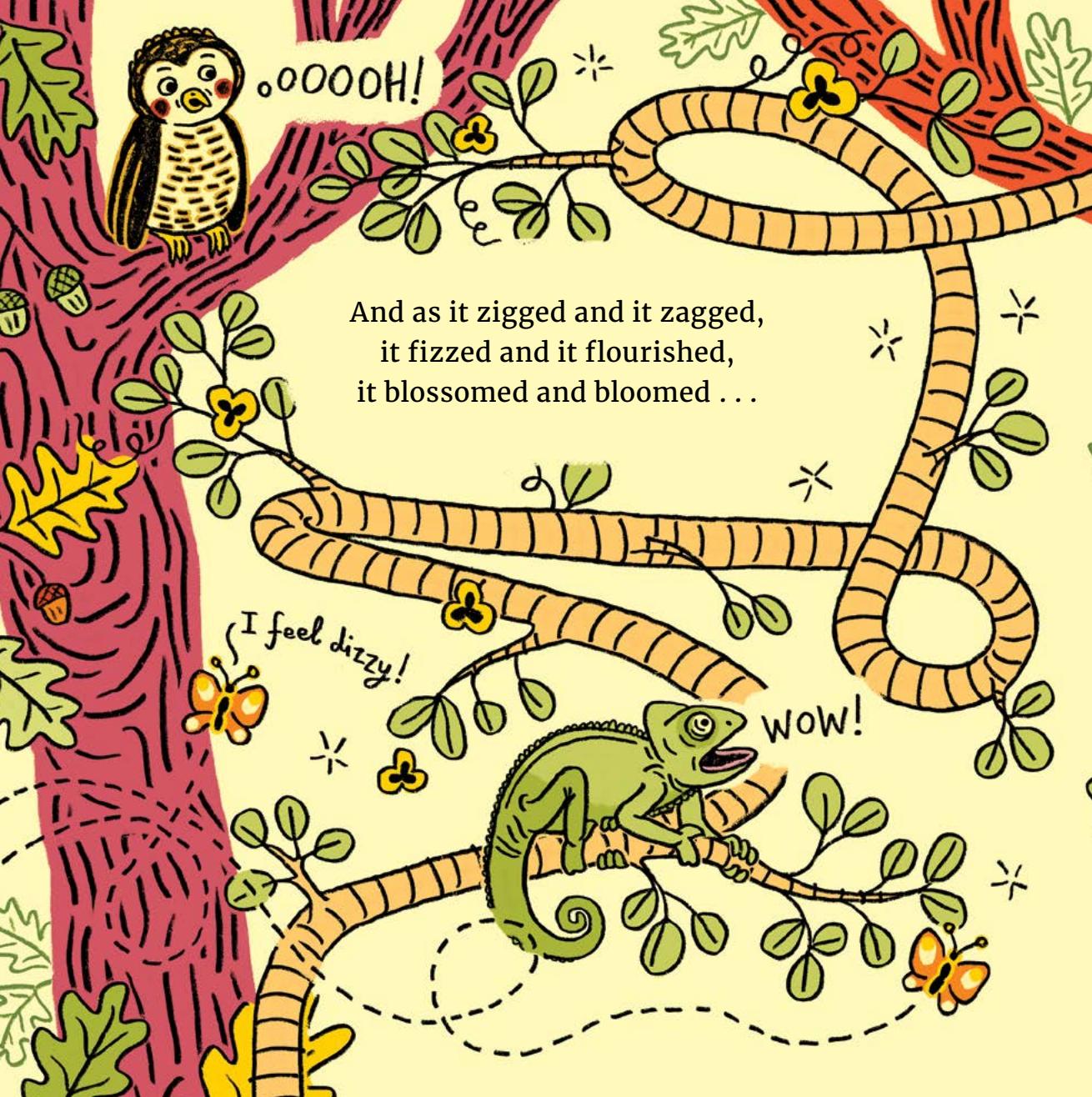
And even underground.

And as it grew, it sprouted stems and
stubs and sparkles . . . and something
that looked like stars.

I want one
of those!

Sounds ~
too good to
be true.

that's crazy!





The next morning, Anele and Mpumi rushed down to see what had happened to Simon's crazy tree ...



... but all that was left was a sad stalk slumped on the ground.



Simon was confused.

“What happened to my seed?
It was doing so well.”

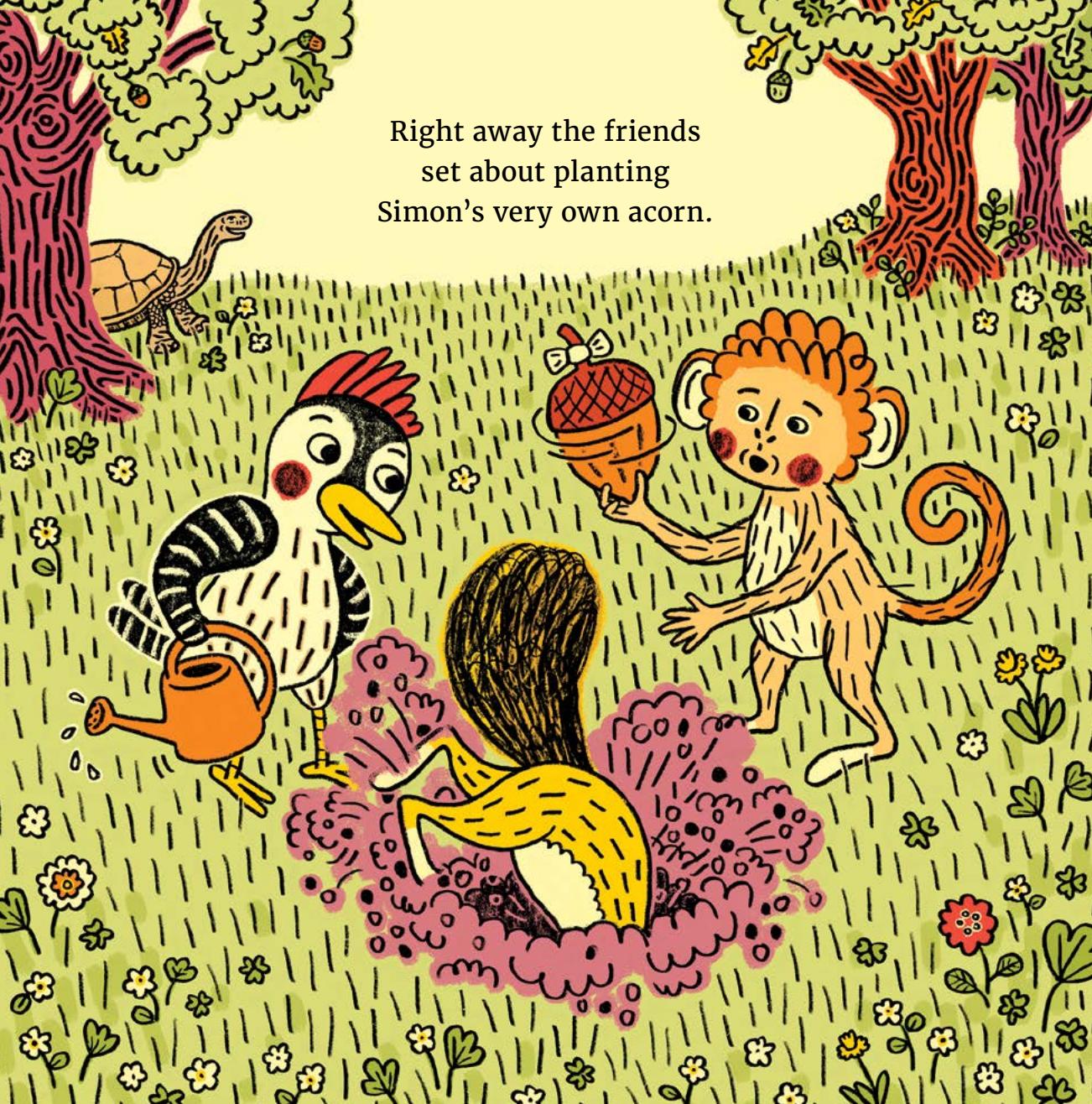
“It’s okay, Simon,” consoled Mpumi.
“Your seed of the season was
just a nutty idea.”



"And here's a better one."

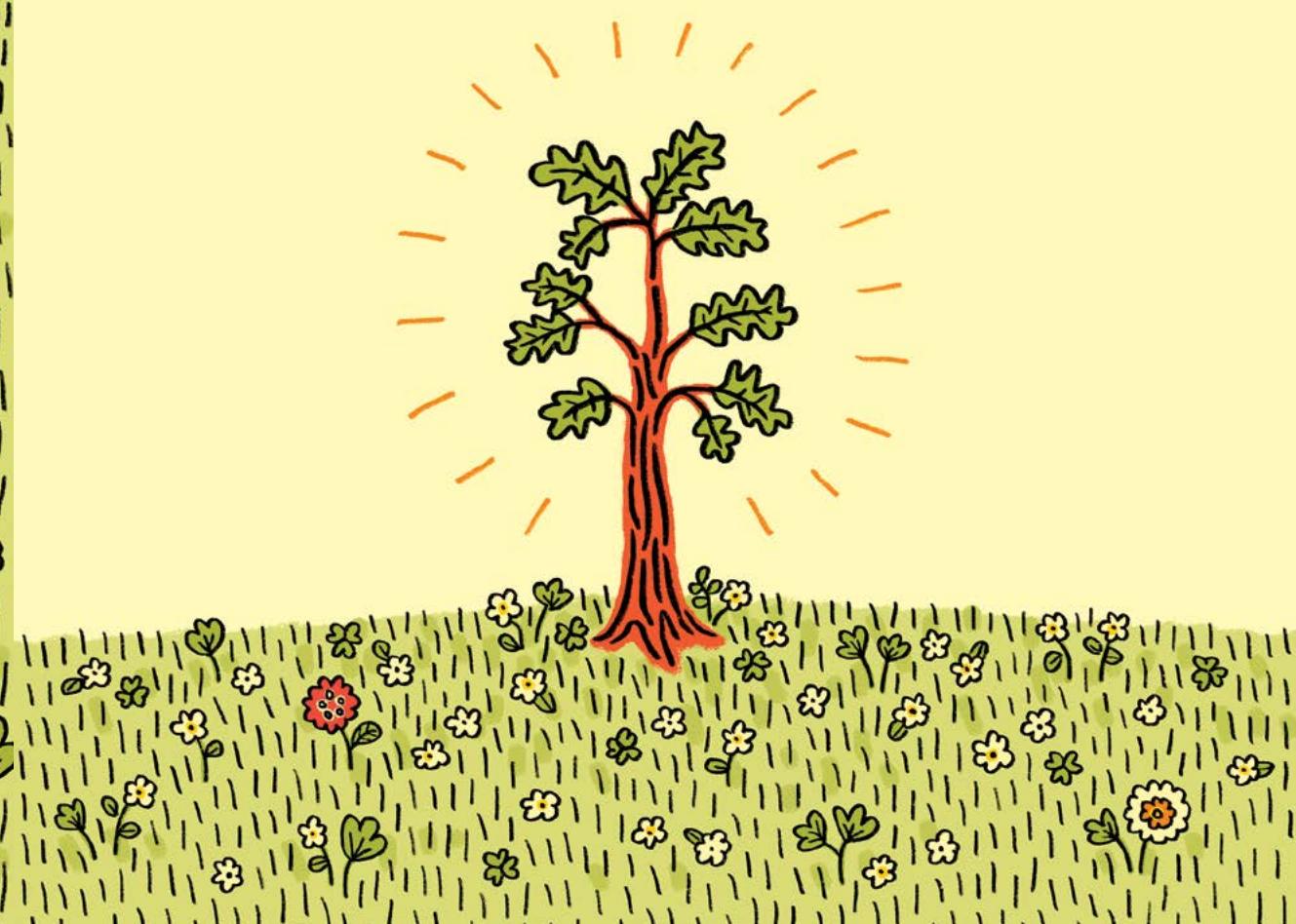
Anele handed Simon
something from her basket.

"An acorn that won't go
completely nuts!"



Right away the friends
set about planting
Simon's very own acorn.

And it is still
growing today.





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Cheeky Simon has a crazy seed.
Some animals say it will grow fast and deliver a bounty,
but Anele and Mpumi aren't so sure –
they know how long it takes acorns
to grow into oak trees.

Simon's seed just sounds a bit nuts.



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