

*Jonathan Stutzman*

is an award-winning picture-book author and filmmaker. He has written numerous books for children, including *Bear Is a Bear*, *The Mouse Who Carried a House on His Back*, the *Llama Destroys the World* trilogy, and the bestselling *Tiny T. Rex* series. He lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and their cuddly French bulldog, Hugo.

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*Elizabeth Lilly*

is an author-illustrator, animated filmmaker, and art educator. She wrote and illustrated *Let Me Fix You a Plate*, which, the *New York Times* raved, has a “refreshingly droll realism.” Elizabeth is also the creator of *Geraldine*, which received three starred reviews. She grew up in a bicultural Colombian and American family in the Washington, D.C., area. Her work often draws upon her experience as a queer Latina. Elizabeth now lives with her partner in Baltimore.

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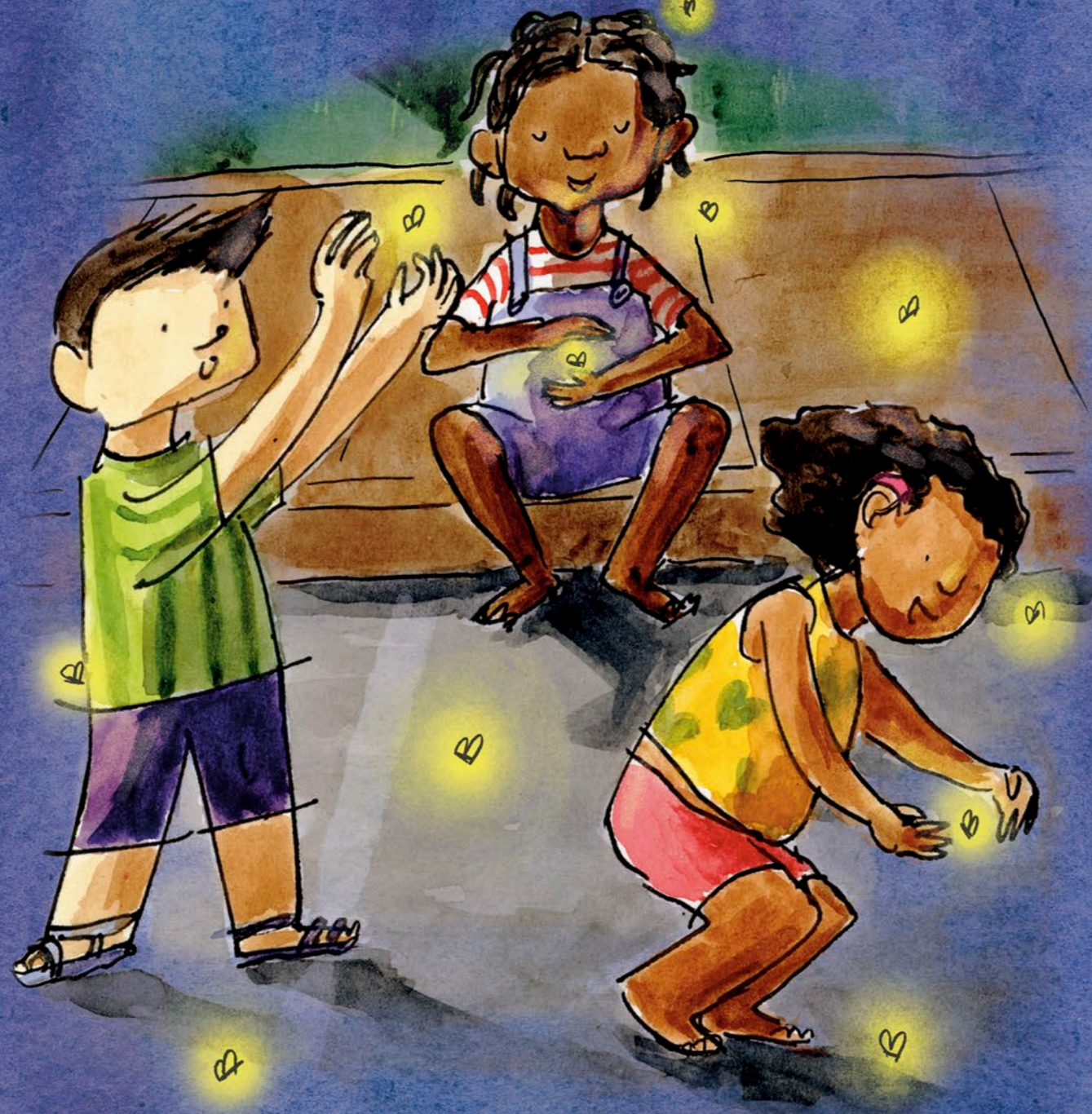
Also available as an ebook

MANUFACTURED IN CHINA

Alfred A. Knopf



New York



Jonathan Stutzman • Elizabeth Lilly



SOON, YOUR HANDS

# SOON, YOUR HANDS



Knopf

By *Jonathan Stutzman*

Art by *Elizabeth Lilly*



Tonight, your hand fits inside my own.



But soon, your hand will grow . . .



Meet three neighboring families, each with a young child learning about themselves in this wondrous world.



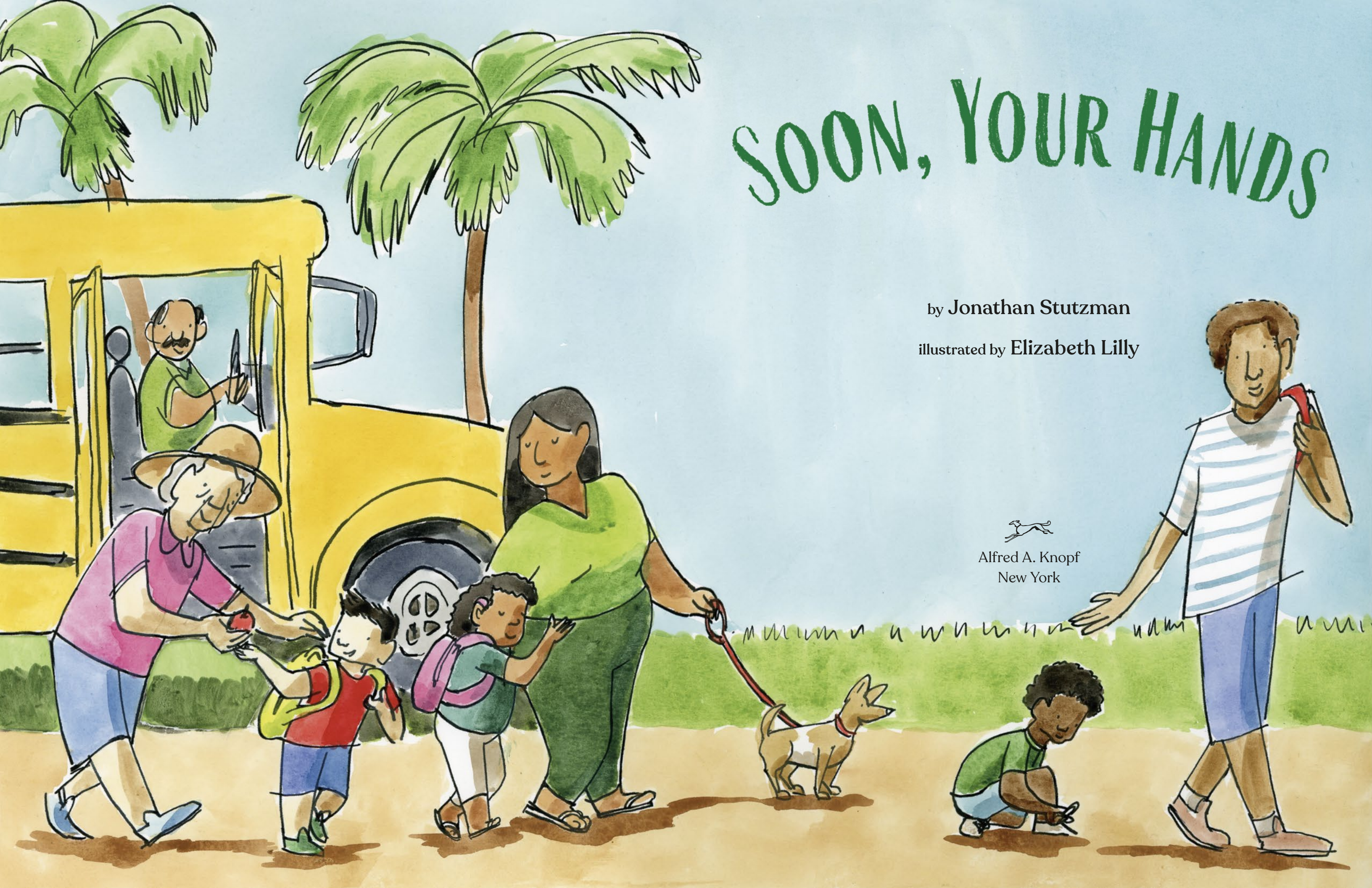
# SOON, YOUR HANDS

by Jonathan Stutzman

illustrated by Elizabeth Lilly



Alfred A. Knopf  
New York



Tonight



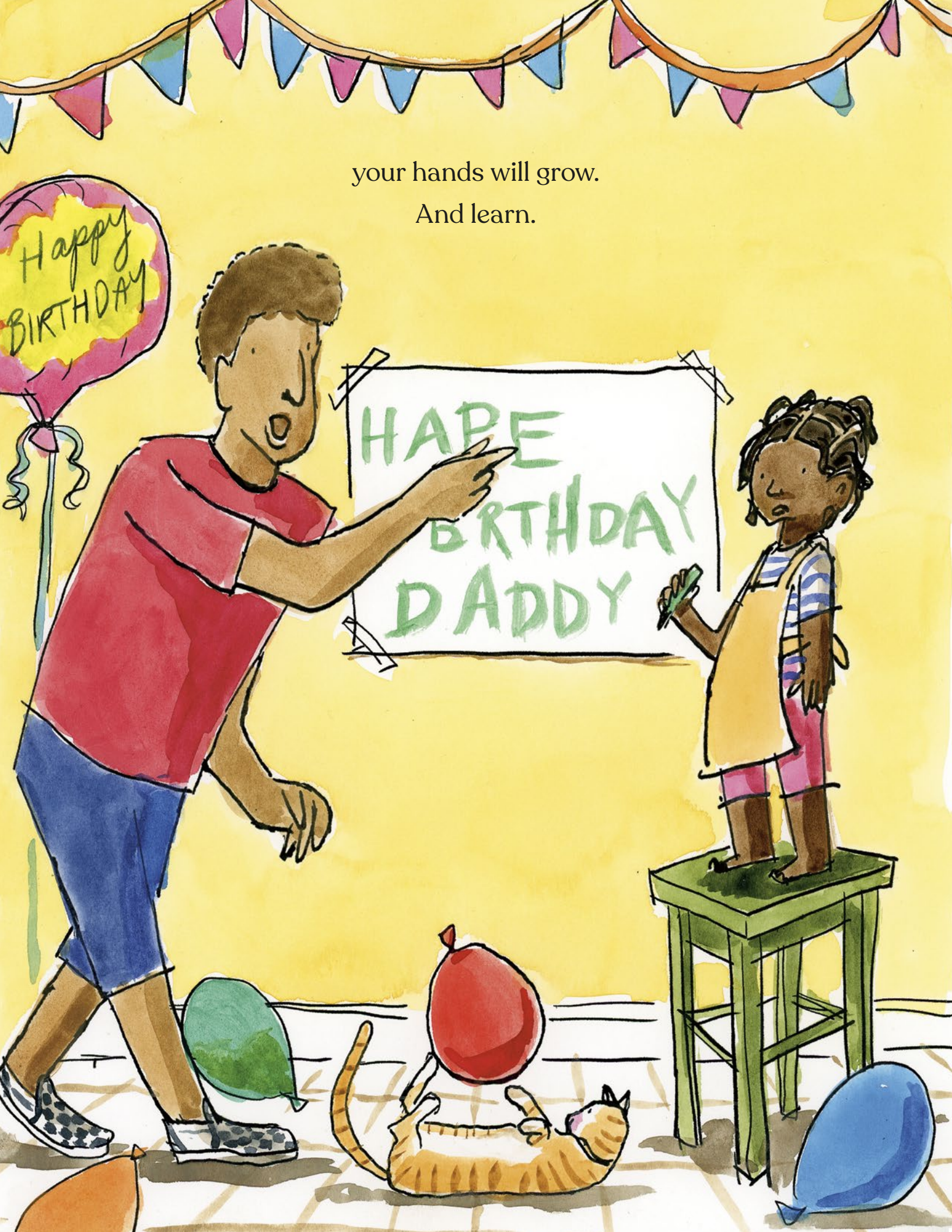


I hold your hands,  
so small  
they fit inside my own.



But soon,





your hands will grow.  
And learn.



Soon, your hands will make mistakes



and messes

and, also, masterpieces.



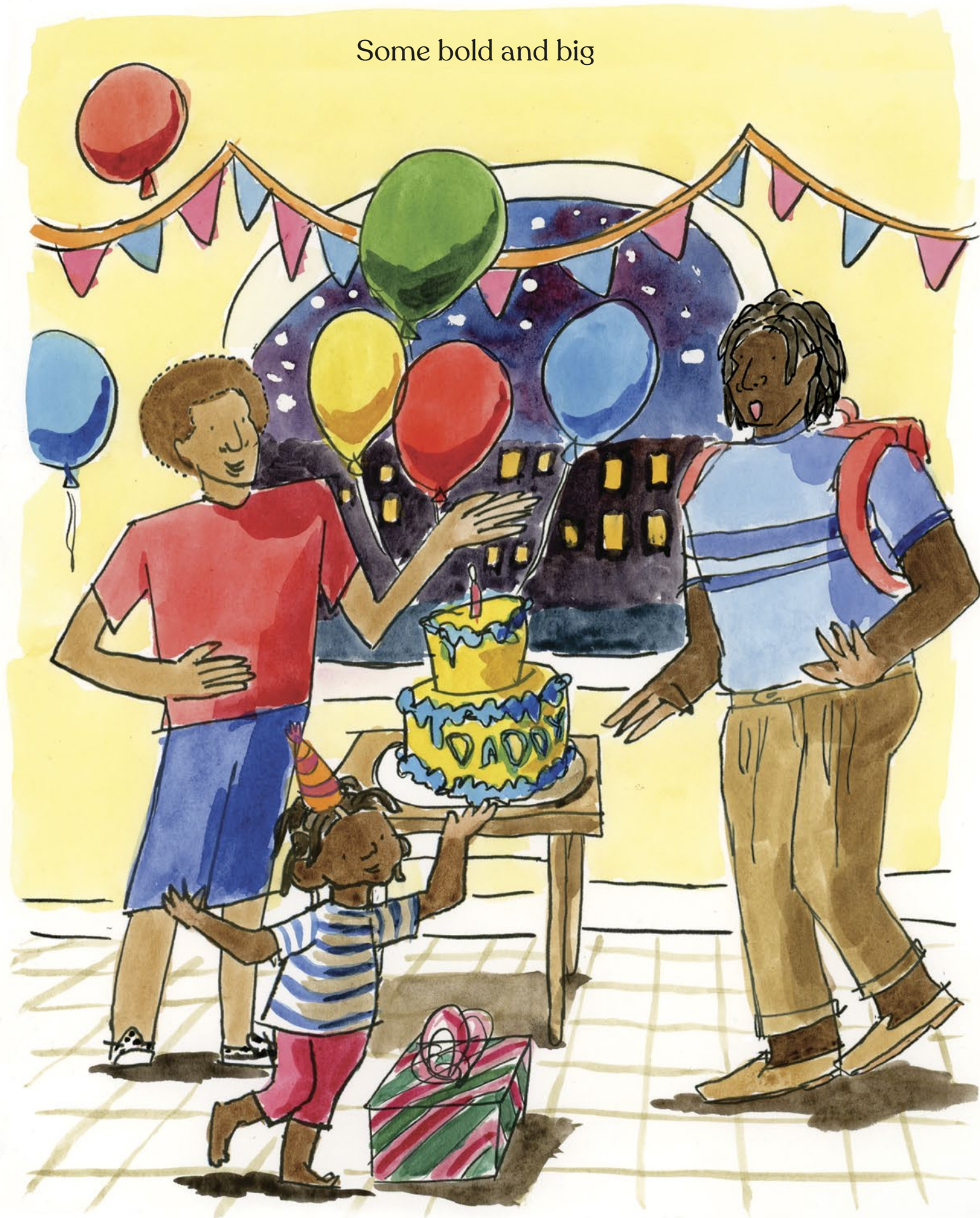
Some tiny.



Some average.



Some bold and big



and wondrous.

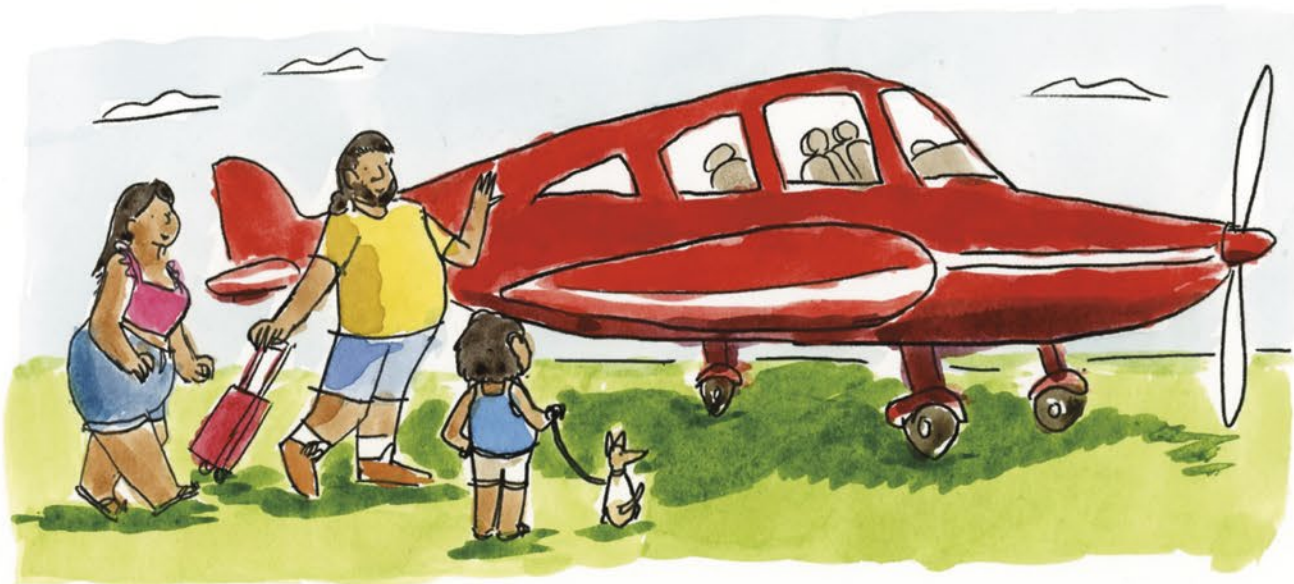


And they will grow.

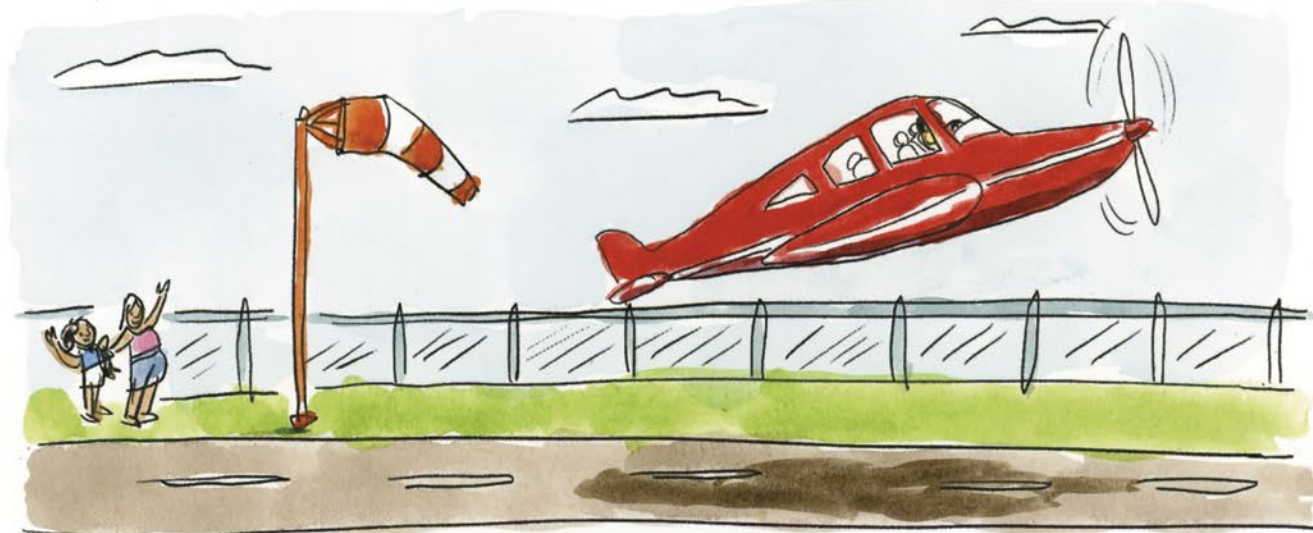




Soon, your hands will discover the world



and the shapes of living things.



Your hands will feel the warmth of the earth,



the chill of the moving sky.

The roaring thunder



Soon, your hands will make music.



of the deep, deep ocean.



They will throw colors like magic.





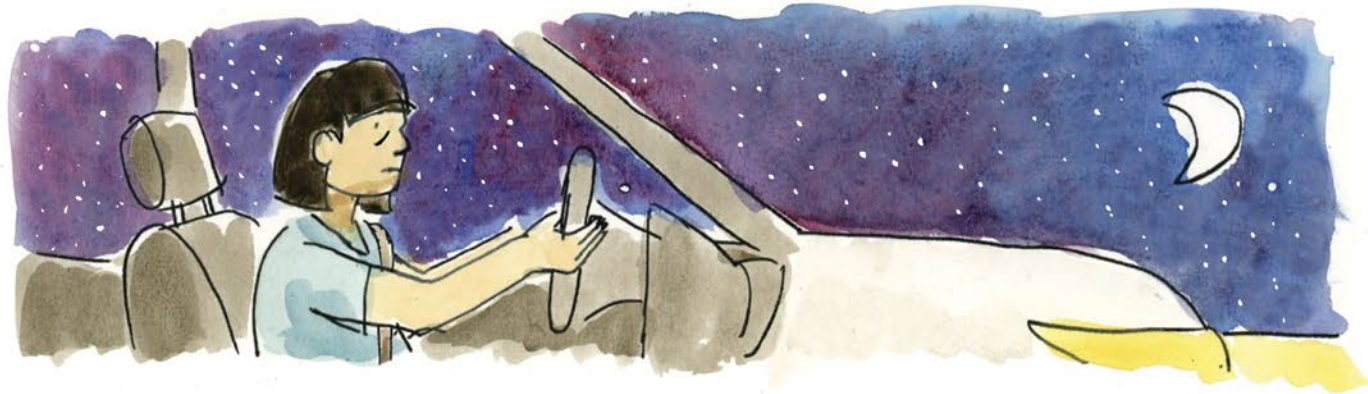
They will tell stories only you know how to tell.



And they will grow.



Soon, your hands will pull you up closer to the stars,



Soon.



so that you will know endings.







They will dig down into the dirt  
so that you will know beginnings.

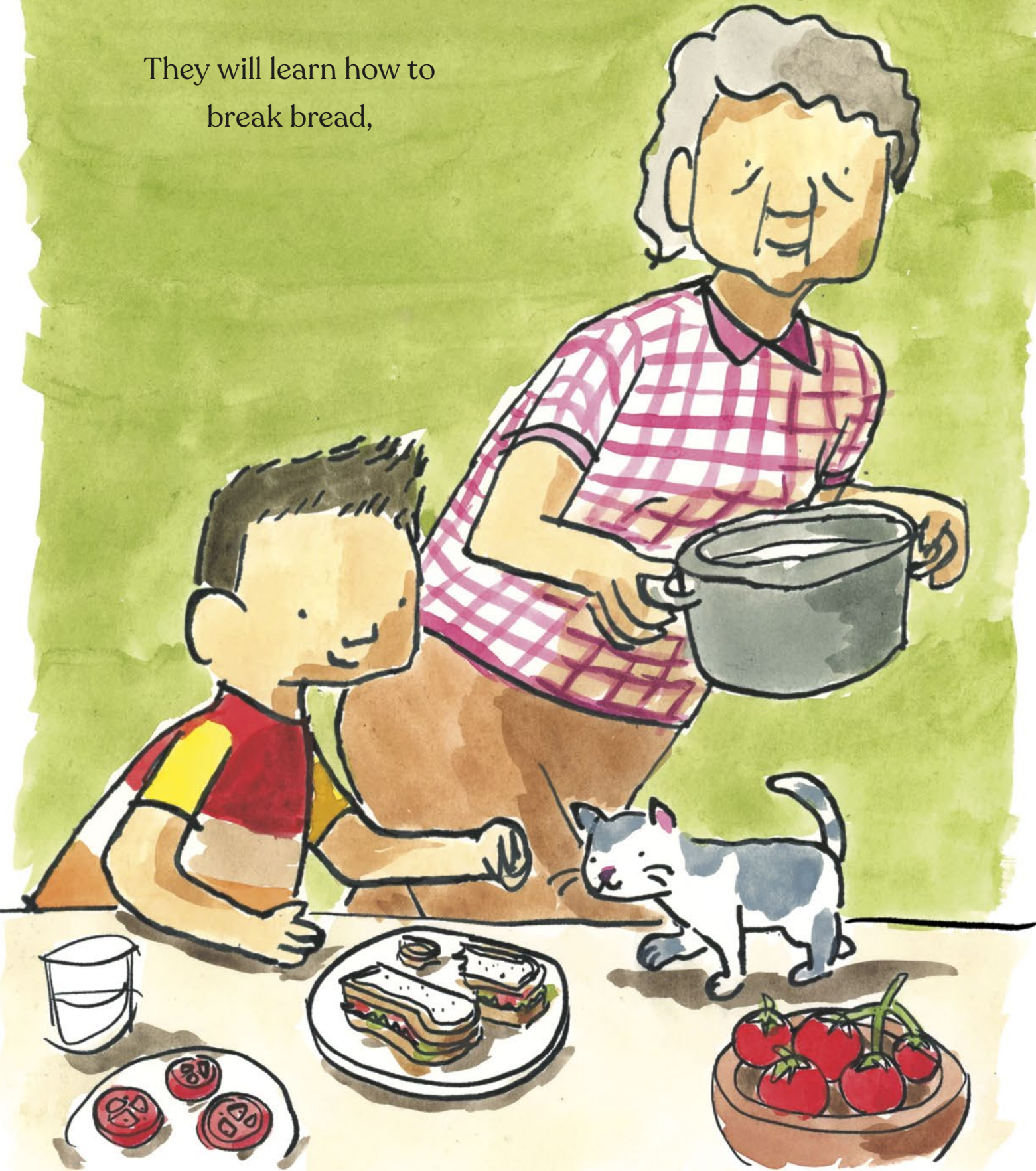


Soon, your hands will learn the importance of a heartbeat,



of kindness and love.

They will learn how to  
break bread,



give water,



and warm the tiniest of trembles.

They will help and heal



and hold life gently.



And they will grow.



Soon.

Soon, my hands will let go of yours,  
and you will do all these things



and more.



But tonight,  
tonight I hold your hands, so small





they fit inside my own.

To Elizabeth Lilly: Keep using your hands to create beautiful things, and throwing colors like magic.

—J.S.

To Steph, for holding my hand during the making of this book.

Love,  
Lizard Beth  
—E.L.

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# American Sign Language Glossary

Reyna is deaf and speaks American Sign Language (ASL) with her family. Different combinations of arm and hand movements indicate different words.

Here are some words Reyna and her parents say in the book and how to sign them:

## Mami says “cat.”

1. Put your hand near your nose, palm facing outward.
2. Pinch your thumb and index finger together, leaving your other three fingers up.
3. Move your hand outward from your face.



## Mami says “Take off your hearing aid.”

1. Close your hand in a fist.
2. Put up your index finger.
3. Bend down the tip of your index finger in a hook shape.
4. Hook your index finger behind your ear in the shape of a hearing aid.
5. Move your arm away from your body.



## Papi says “Let’s go.”

1. Open your hand in front of your face, palm facing inward.
2. Tilt your hand so your thumb is near your nose and your four fingers are near your forehead.
3. Pinch your four fingers and your thumb together while moving your hand away from your body and toward the place that you’re going.

## Reyna and Mami say “I love you.”

1. Open your hand.
2. Put your middle and ring fingers down into your palm.



## Reyna says “beach.”

1. Put your left hand out flat, palm down.
2. Put your right hand out flat, palm down.
3. Move your right hand up and over your left hand.
4. Move your right hand back and forth over your left hand twice.

