

The Most Colourful Creature in the



Hannah Roots

Jungle



In memory of Gill Conquest
Thank you for all the colour





In the jungle, a group of animals
loved to laugh and play.
Each a different shape and size,
each special in his own way.





Chameleon could turn any colour
if she thought about it hard.
She looked great in any shade,
but in orange she really starred.

Chameleon was a creature who
loved to dance and jig;
in fact her friends first met her
at a moonlight jungle gig.





The animals were admiring their dance
moves in the mirrors on the wall-



**When Chameleon first appeared
- under the disco ball!**

Chameleon made her way to the middle of the floor
and began to dance a dance no one had ever seen before.



Slowly each animal turned around to stare
at the crazy colourful lizard leaping through the air!

One day, Chameleon got
really sick.



No matter how
hard she tried
to change them,
her colours would
only stick.

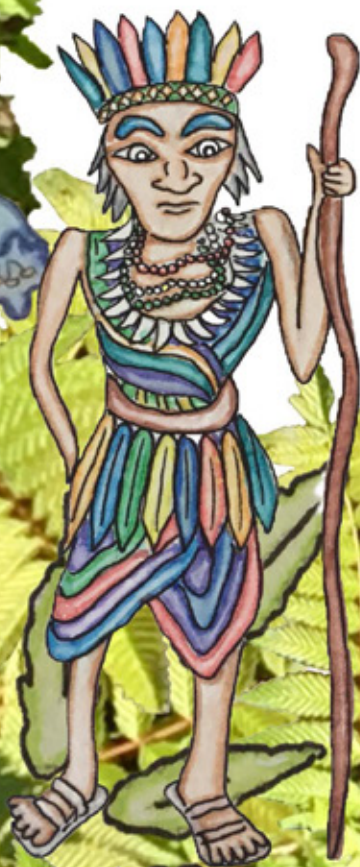
Everyone rallied round
helping as they could,



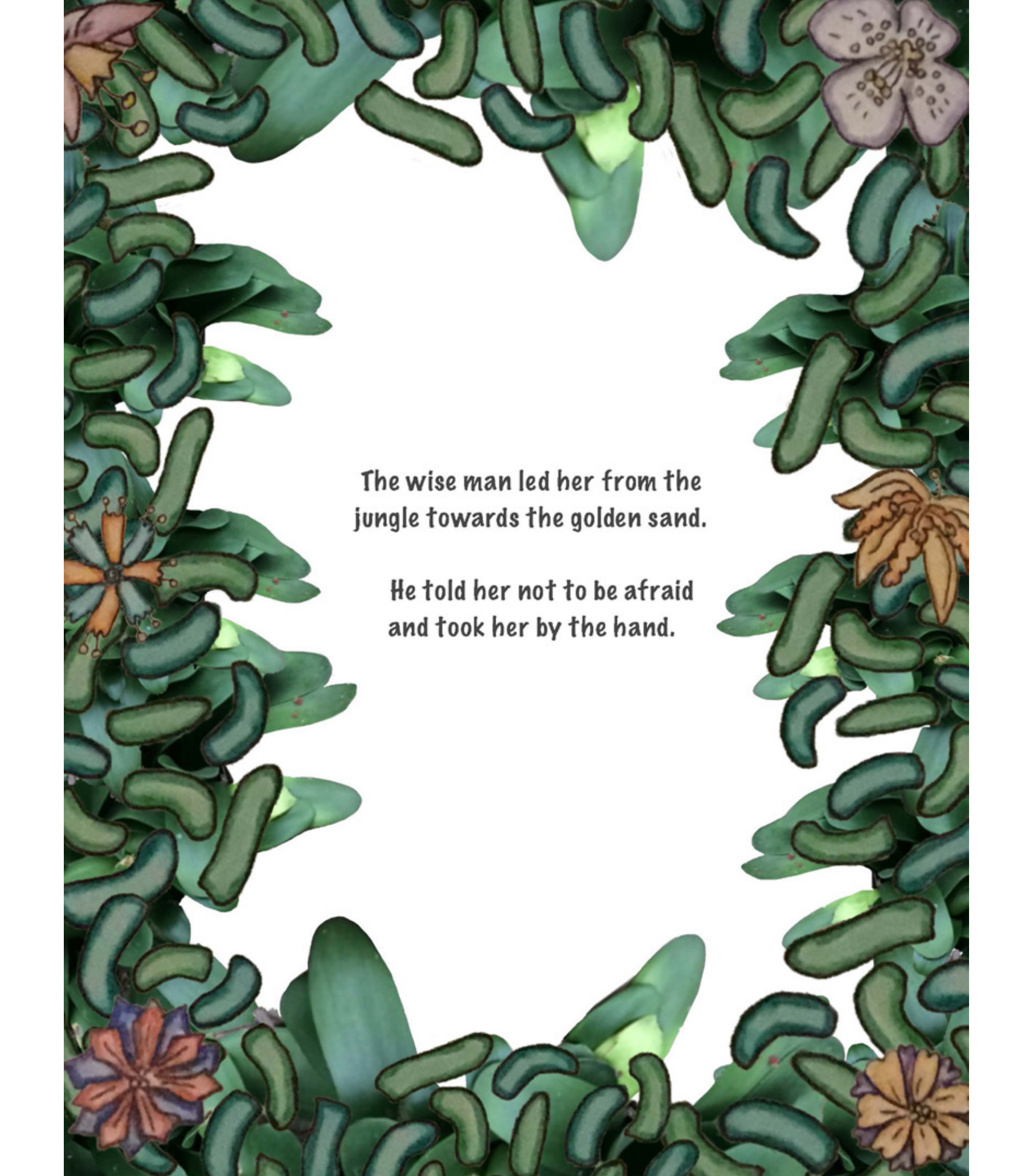
but Chameleon just grew paler;
nothing would do any good.

The wise old man
from the village
came to the friends one day,

and said she
could not get better
and had to go away.







The wise man led her from the
jungle towards the golden sand.

He told her not to be afraid
and took her by the hand.



The animals searched for their friend, feeling cross that she'd gone and left them, alone with their loss.



Bowing his head, the wise man sighed.
When the animals were sitting down
he explained Chameleon had died.



The animals could not believe-
they needed time to start to grieve.

The friends offered things for Chameleon's return.
But it just couldn't happen; it was a hard thing to learn.
Chameleon loved them and didn't choose to go,
the man told the sad little animals they could let their feelings show.



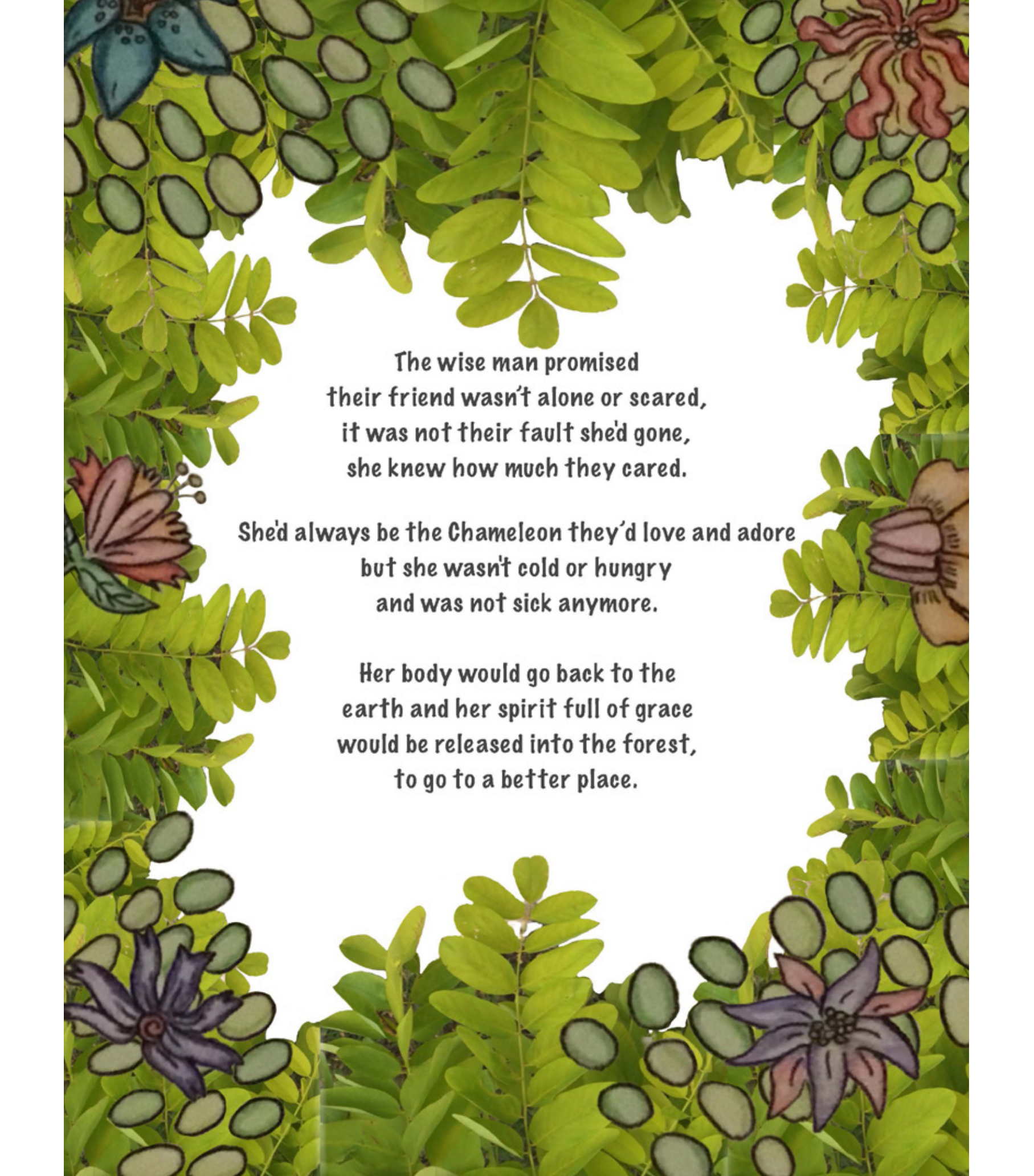
It seemed the whole jungle was crying as it began to rain.
Even the sky felt sad and could understand their pain.

A storm brewed, the wind howled and the friends missed
Chameleon's spark.



Everything
seemed
drab and dull-

the sky had now gone dark.

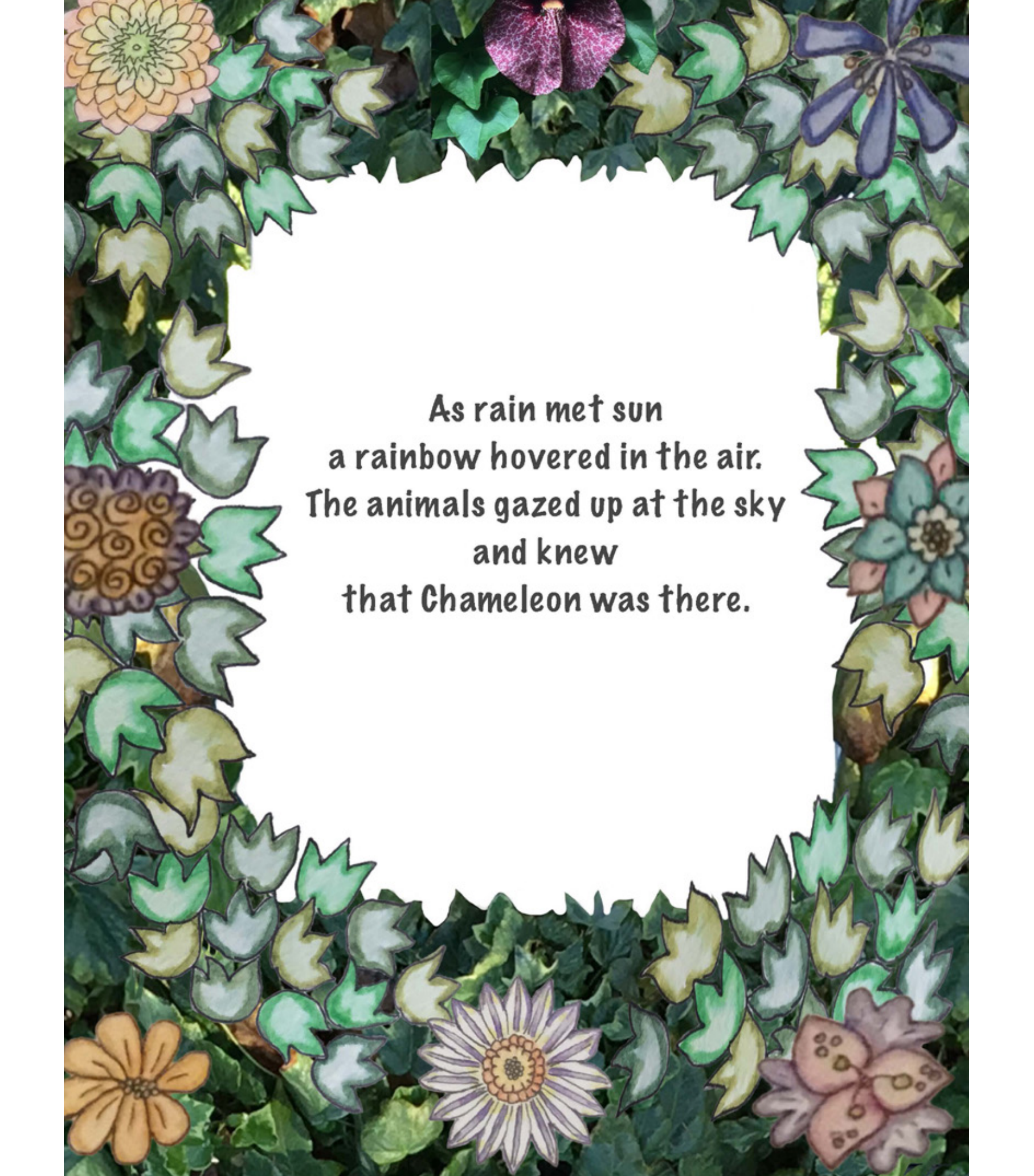


The wise man promised
their friend wasn't alone or scared,
it was not their fault she'd gone,
she knew how much they cared.

She'd always be the Chameleon they'd love and adore
but she wasn't cold or hungry
and was not sick anymore.

Her body would go back to the
earth and her spirit full of grace
would be released into the forest,
to go to a better place.





As rain met sun
a rainbow hovered in the air.
The animals gazed up at the sky
and knew
that Chameleon was there.



The animals felt everything was at an end
but slowly began to see things reminding them of their friend.



They remembered how Chameleon
turned the colour of the flowers



spotting the beauty in everything, passing many happy hours.

**They started to look closer at each petal, fruit and leaf.
Noticing everything Chameleon loved helped them with their grief.**



**The jungle wasn't dark, empty, dull or bare -
it was full of rainbow colours, all the brighter because she'd been there.**

The friends told tales around the camp fire
of all the good times that they'd had -



because they'd known Chameleon they felt happy, they felt glad.

The sun glowed orange in the fading of the light
and it seemed like Chameleon was saying goodnight



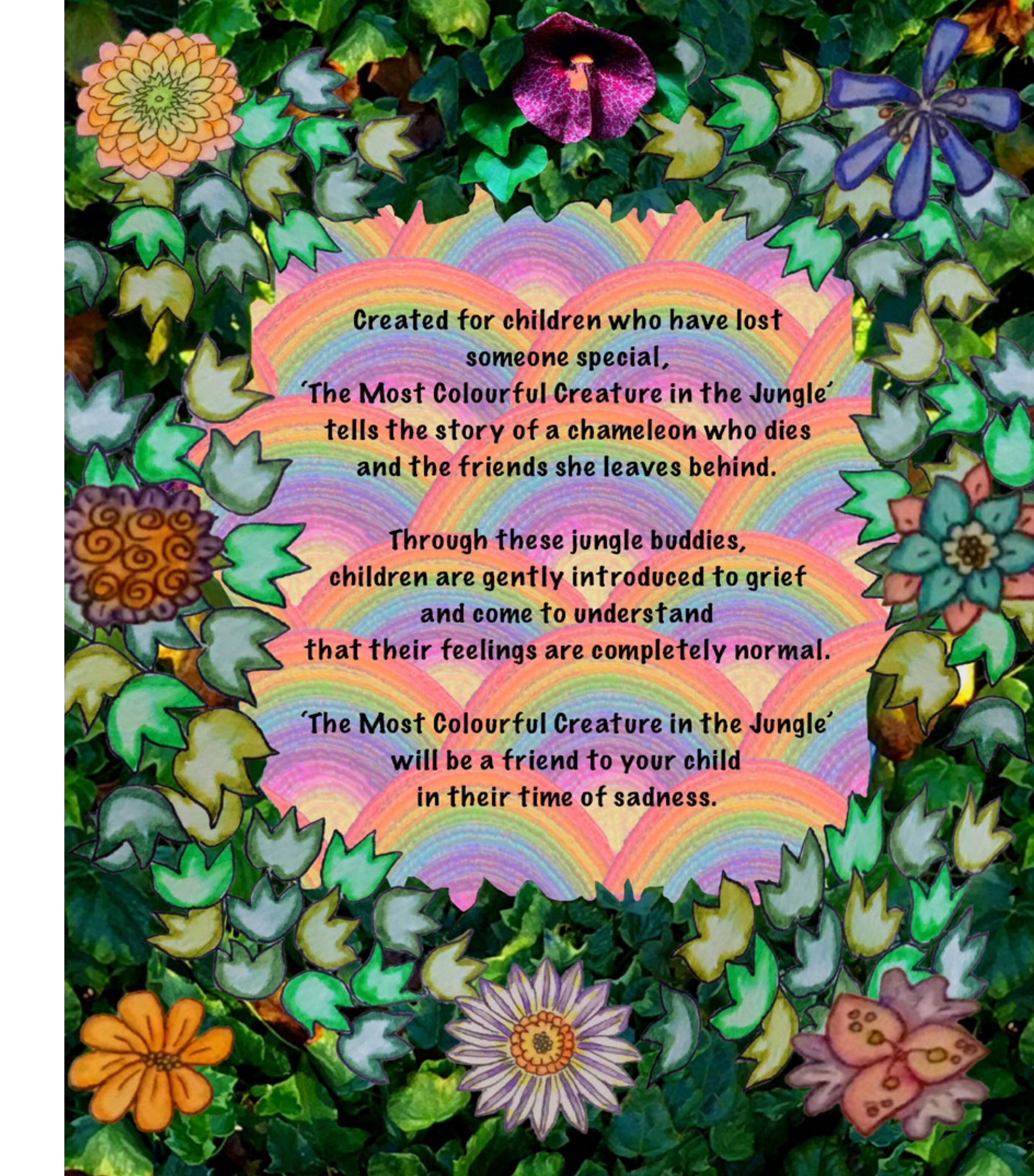
As the animals fell asleep, they dreamed about their friend
and they dreamed in rainbow colours about a game that had no end.

When the orange sun woke them to a day that was fresh and new,



they felt that Chameleon would somehow be with them,
because love always gets through.





Created for children who have lost
someone special,
'The Most Colourful Creature in the Jungle'
tells the story of a chameleon who dies
and the friends she leaves behind.

Through these jungle buddies,
children are gently introduced to grief
and come to understand
that their feelings are completely normal.

'The Most Colourful Creature in the Jungle'
will be a friend to your child
in their time of sadness.