



I sincerely hope that, through this story, I will be able to touch even one soul to get to know God and give glory to Him. The sole message I wanted to convey through this story comes from Romans 8:39. "Nothing will ever be able to separate those of us who are in Christ from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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Dreamy School 4nd generation

I Am A Shabby Grape Vine

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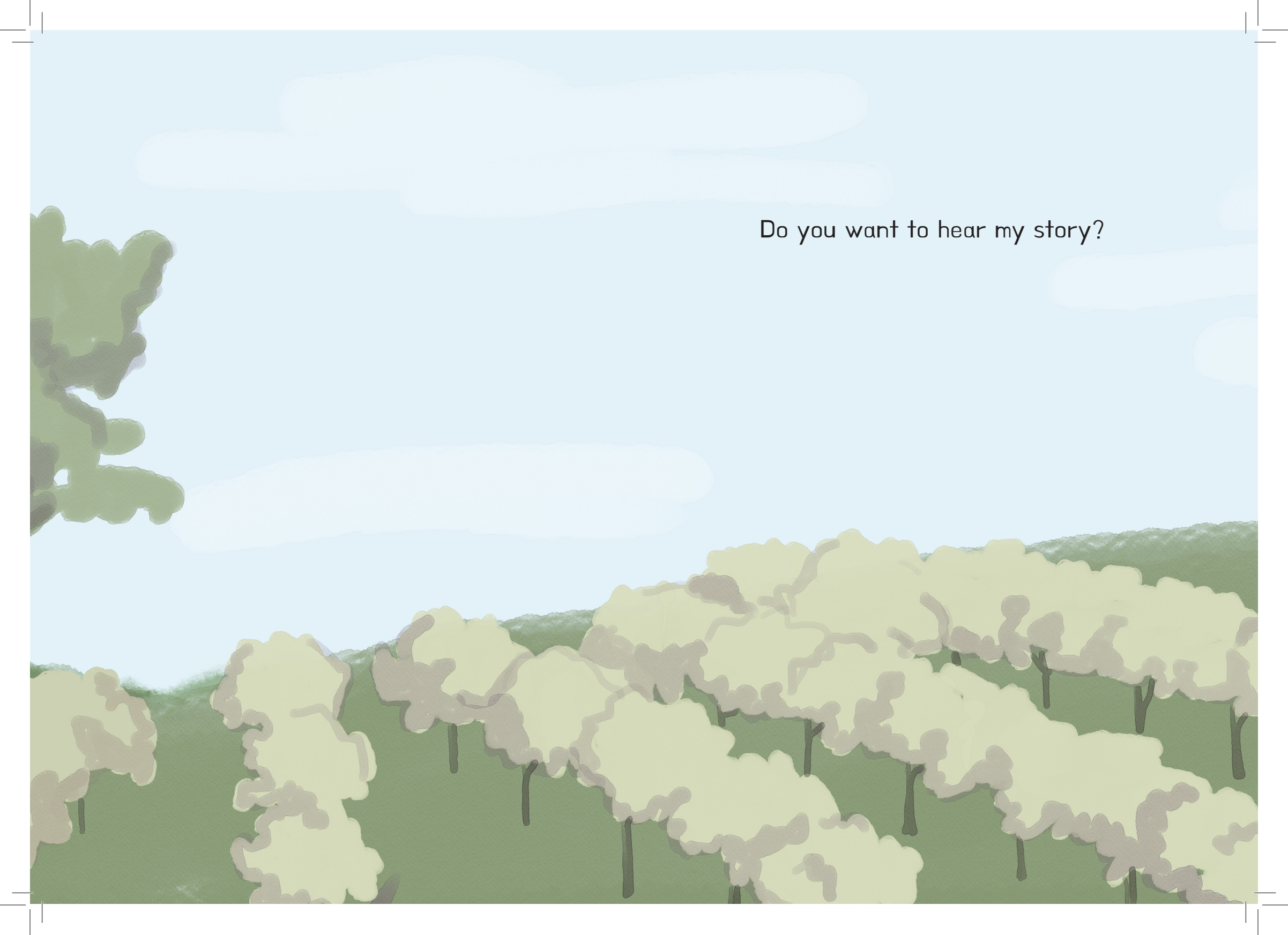
I Am A Shabby Grape Vine

Written by Hye Ryeong Moon
Illustrated by Yun Jin Heo

I am a grape vine living in Mr. Jack's orchard.
Look at this picture. Can you find me?



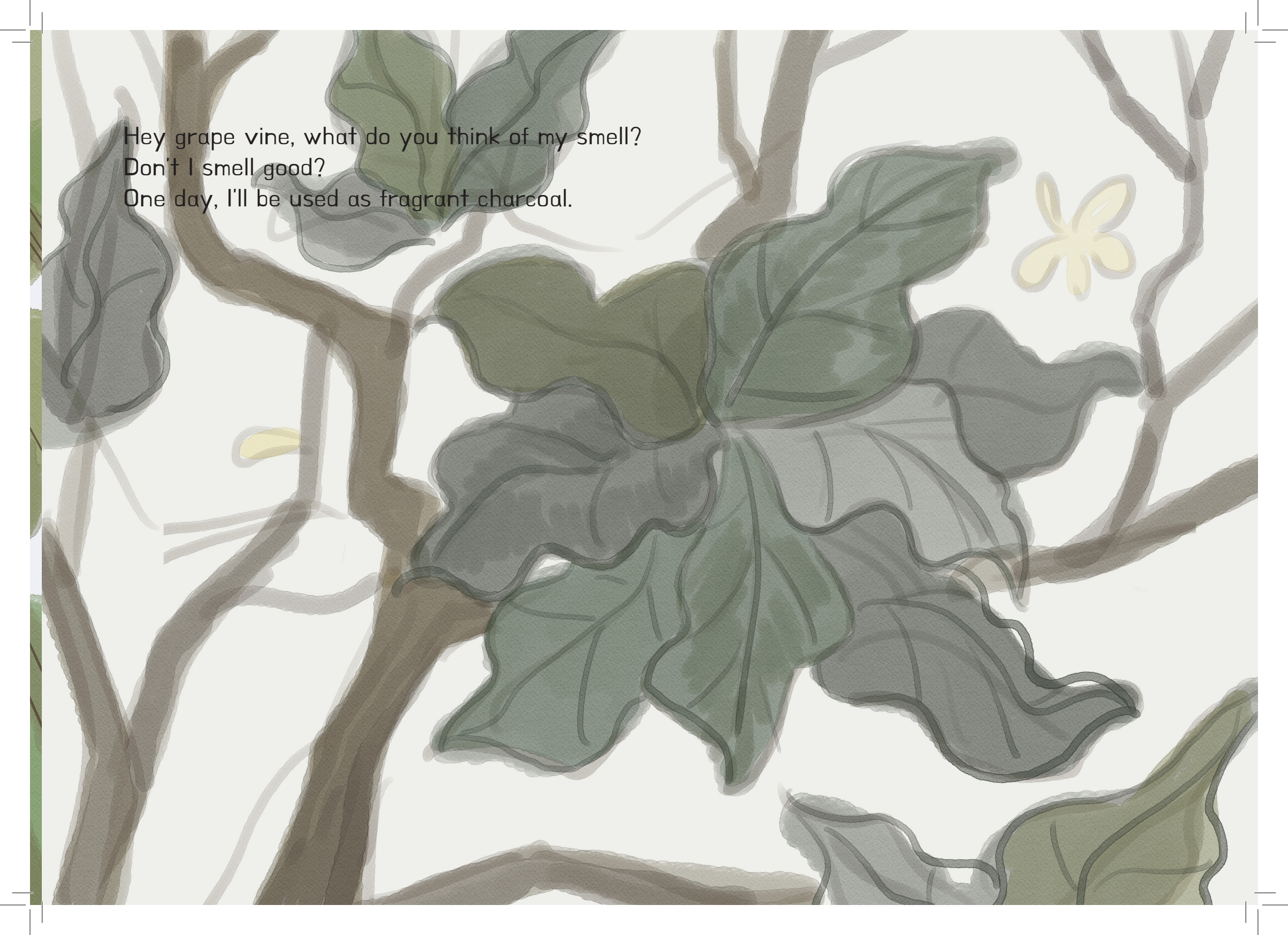
At first glance, I am the shortest and ugliest vine.
I have had something sad happen to me.



Do you want to hear my story?



Hey grape vine, look at me.
I'm long and pretty, right?
One day, I'll be used as a fancy wood.

A watercolor illustration of a grapevine. The scene is filled with various shades of green leaves, some dark and some light, with visible veins. Brown, woody branches crisscross the frame. A single, bright yellow five-petaled flower is positioned in the upper right quadrant. The background is a soft, light greyish-white, creating a gentle, natural atmosphere.

Hey grape vine, what do you think of my smell?
Don't I smell good?
One day, I'll be used as fragrant charcoal.



Hey grape vine, I am really strong and good-looking.
So people will use me to make the prettiest decorations.





All of my friends were used to become fancy wood, good charcoal and pretty decorations.

However... I am not tall, fragrant nor good-looking.
And here I am... left all alone.





But today, something amazing happened to me!

So many fruits started to grow on me!
At first, they were just heavy and plain green,
but as time went on, they became big and plumpy.
And soon they became a vibrant purple color.



What do you think of fruits? Aren't they beautiful?



"The grapes look so lovely!"

"Hey grape vine! your fruits are so delicious~"

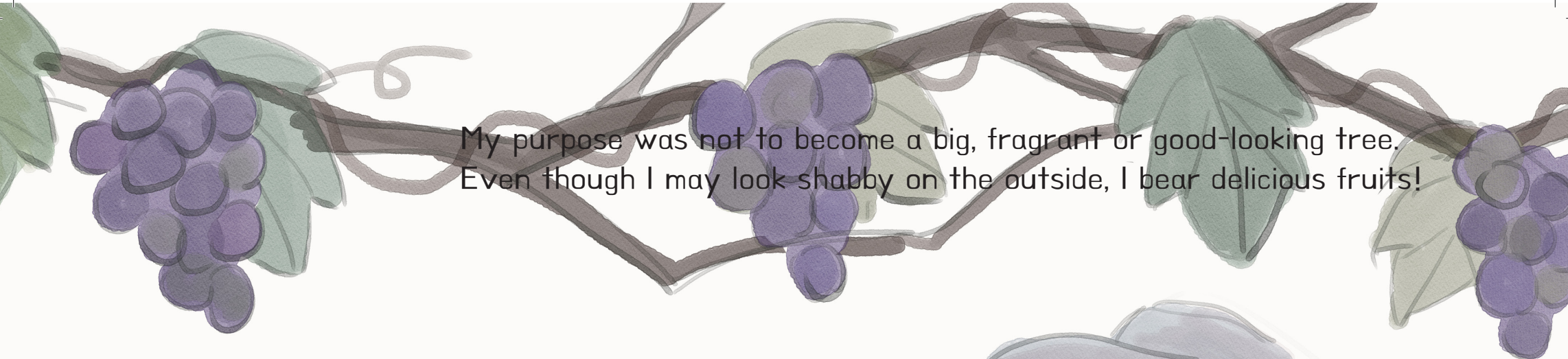
"Mr. Jack! Please give me three bunches of grapes!"

People began to wait in line just to eat the grapes that grew on me.


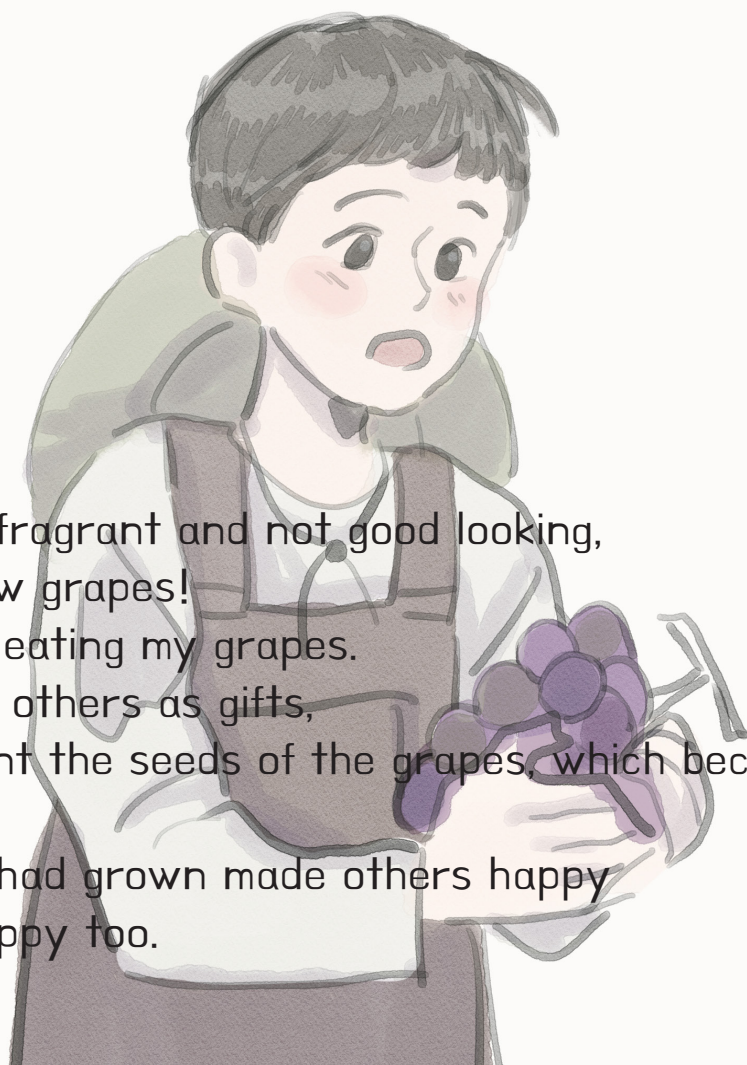
Everybody loved my grapes.

It made me feel so proud and happy. And I just now realized something!

While my friends had gone to other good places, I was preparing to grow fruits!



My purpose was not to become a big, fragrant or good-looking tree.
Even though I may look shabby on the outside, I bear delicious fruits!



I may be short, unfragrant and not good looking,
But only I can grow grapes!
People smile while eating my grapes.
They give them to others as gifts,
and they even plant the seeds of the grapes, which become new vines.

The grapes that I had grown made others happy
which made me happy too.

However, as one week went by, people were no longer looking for me because I didn't have any fruits left. They told me that I was useless and then left me.



I became alone again.
I went back to being just a shabby vine.




But then, Mr. Jack came to me and said.

"Hey vine, why are you so sad?"


"I am sad because I am not growing fruits anymore.

Because I don't have fruits, I'll become alone again."

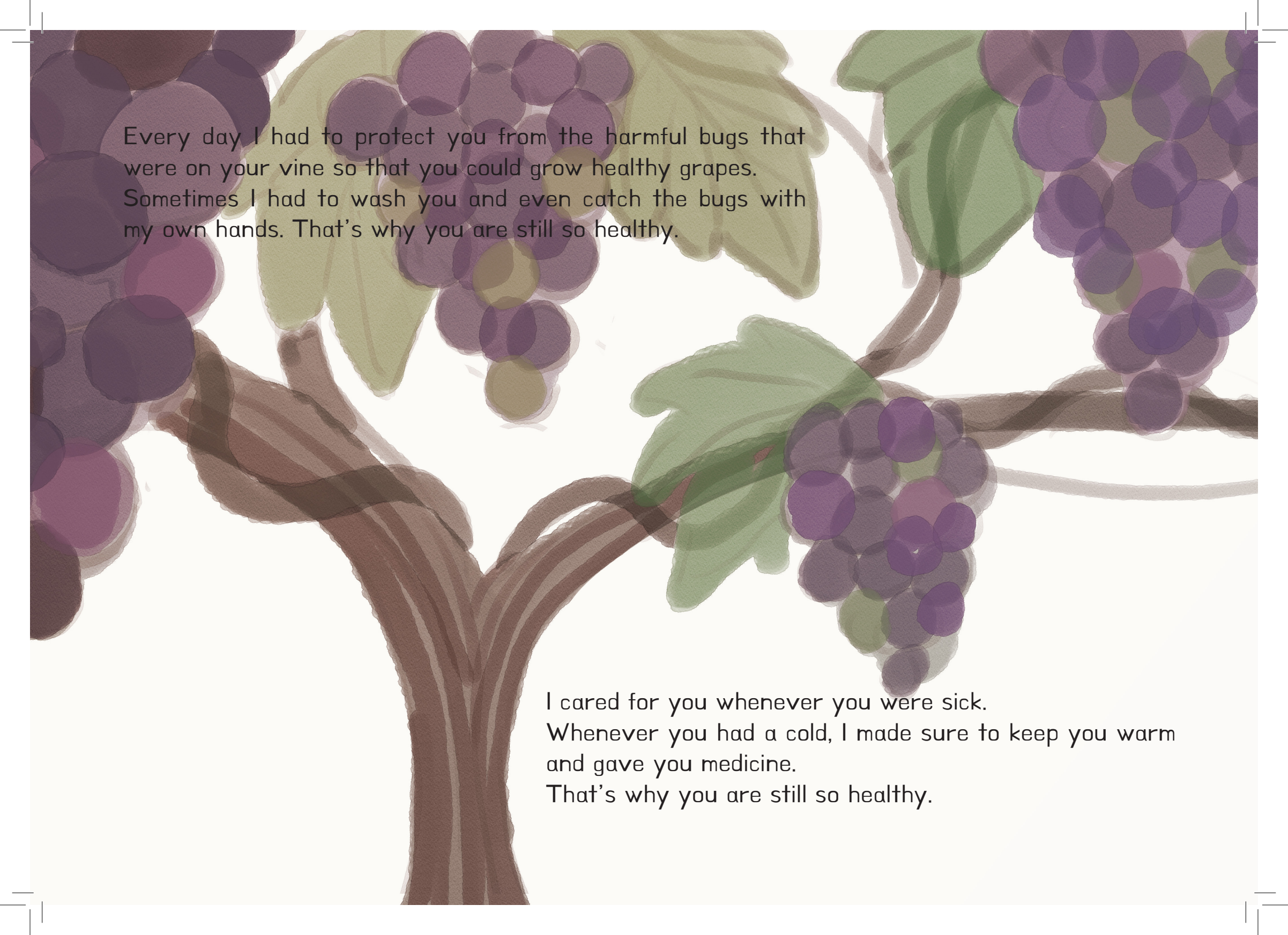


"Are you really alone?"

"Of course. All my friends went to other good places,
I am left in this empty orchard all alone. Except when I
had the grapes, then I wasn't alone."

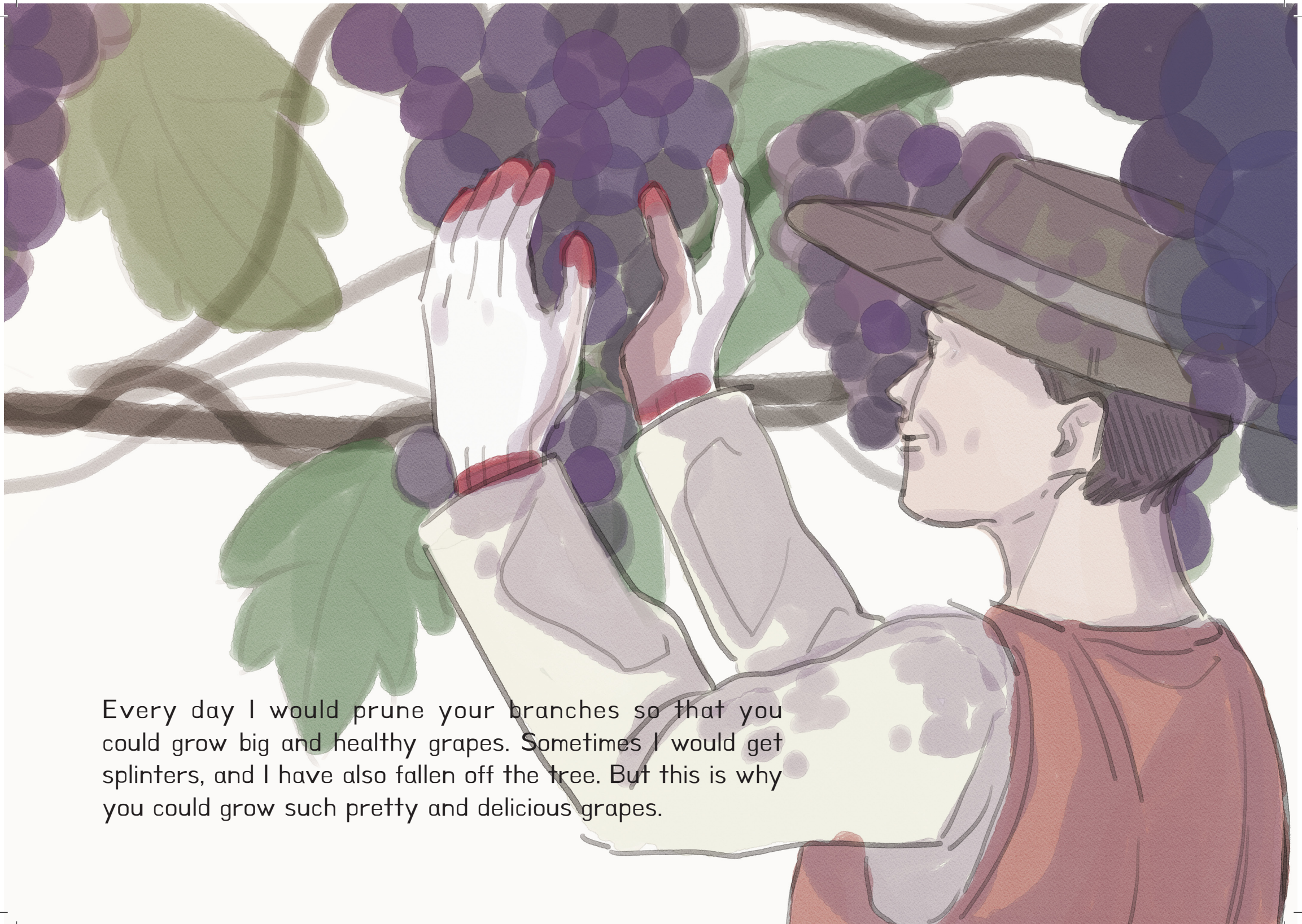


So that's why you are sad.
Do you even know how the grapes grew on
you, my dear vine?



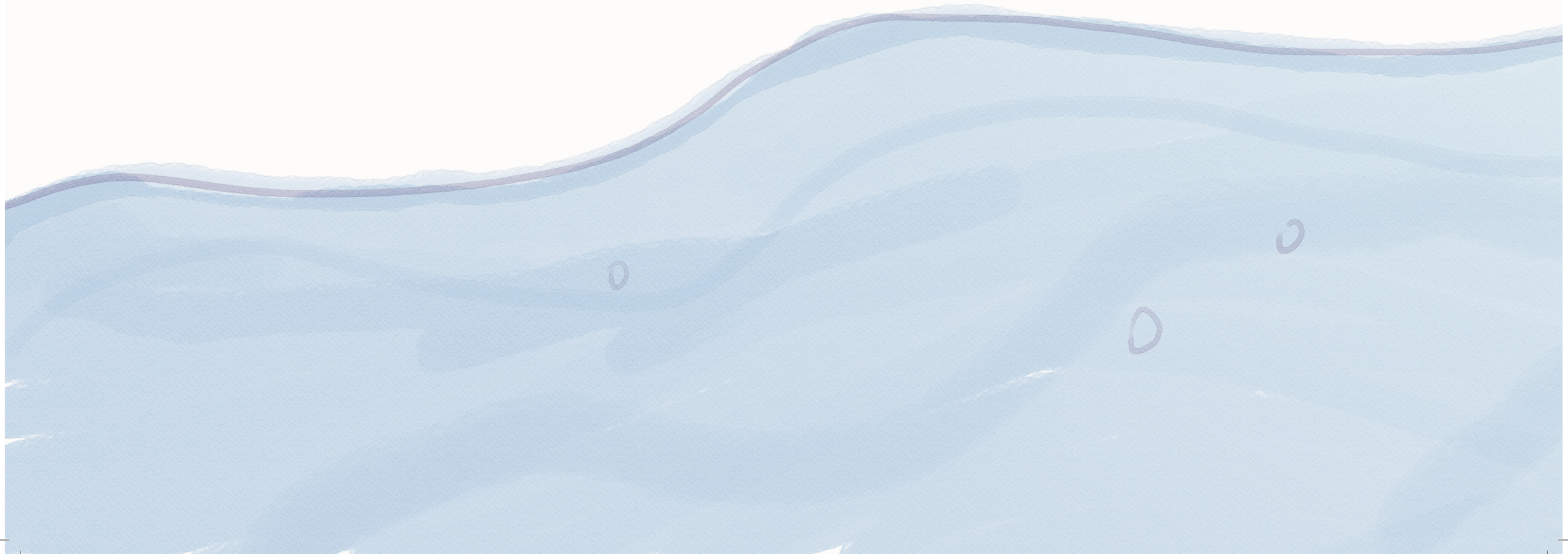
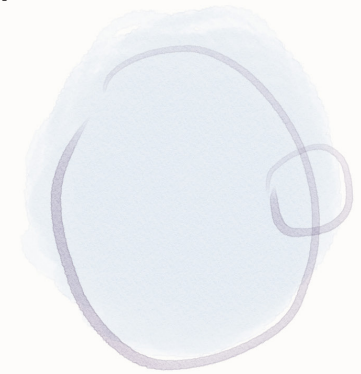
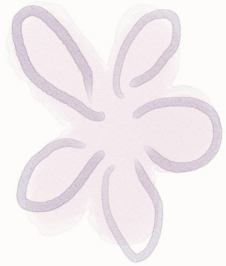
Every day I had to protect you from the harmful bugs that were on your vine so that you could grow healthy grapes. Sometimes I had to wash you and even catch the bugs with my own hands. That's why you are still so healthy.

I cared for you whenever you were sick. Whenever you had a cold, I made sure to keep you warm and gave you medicine. That's why you are still so healthy.



Every day I would prune your branches so that you could grow big and healthy grapes. Sometimes I would get splinters, and I have also fallen off the tree. But this is why you could grow such pretty and delicious grapes.

I gave you water every day so you could live.
Because I remembered to give you water everyday, I thought of you everyday.
This is why you are still able to breathe and survive.






A watercolor illustration of a branch with several large, overlapping purple leaves on the left and one large green leaf on the right. The background is a light, pale greenish-blue. The text is positioned on the left side of the page, overlaid on the purple leaves.

Do you think this is all?

The amount of time I have spent with you is beyond words.

Even when you felt like you were all alone, I was still with you.
You just didn't realize it.



You didn't grow the grapes all by yourself.

It's just that you didn't notice me.
That's why you were able to grow grapes.

Even when you can't grow grapes anymore,
even when your leaves shrivel and fall,
it does not matter to me.

Do you know why?

The reason why I love you is not just because of the
way you look or just because of your fruits.



They might make you a little bit prettier,
but that doesn't determine who you completely are.

Even when you feel ashamed of being jealous of your other friends,
even when you don't feel pretty,

these parts of you are all still YOU.



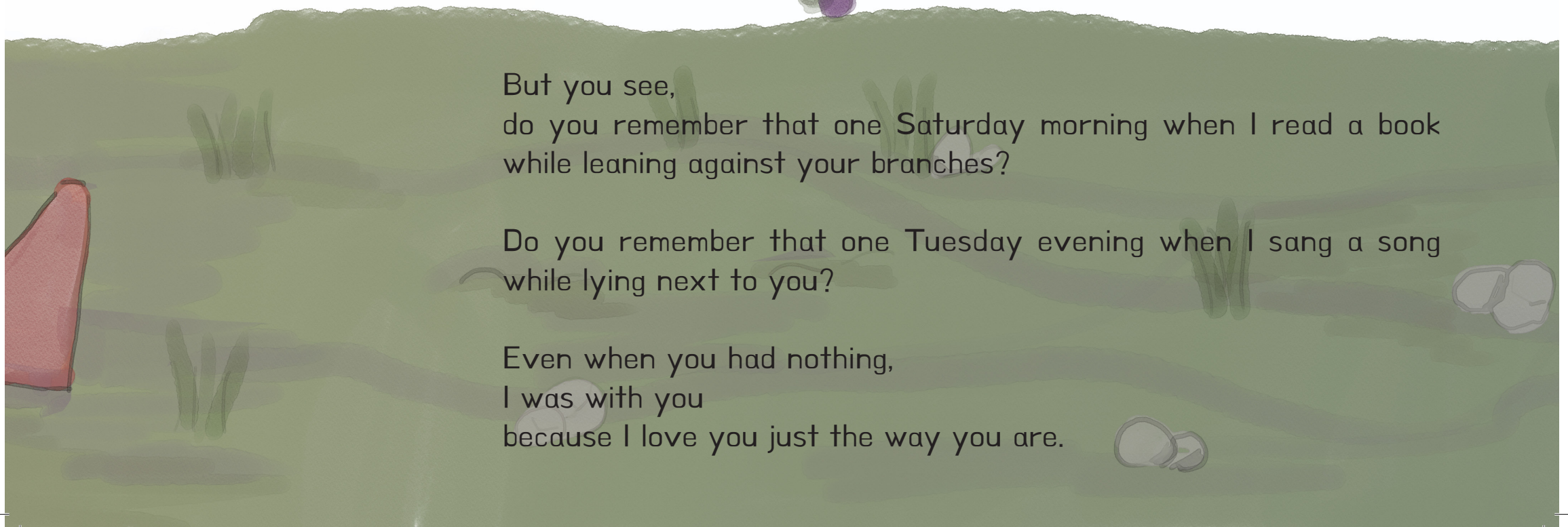




But you see,
do you remember that one Saturday morning when I read a book
while leaning against your branches?

Do you remember that one Tuesday evening when I sang a song
while lying next to you?

Even when you had nothing,
I was with you
because I love you just the way you are.





Your existence itself is precious and priceless.
Even when you feel like you are not enough, you are still loved
because they are all about yourself.

No matter what, I'll love you unconditionally.
I will be with you forever.



"neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"
(Romans 8:39)

