



Eno lives happily with her father, until one day he disappears in an accident. Her uncle says that she is a “witch” who has caused her father’s death. She goes through many struggles before moving in with other children who have also been called “witches” and have been sent away from home.

This moving story, with moments of humour and sadness, shows how Eno uses courage and her imagination to make the best of a difficult situation. Young readers will be gripped while also learning about how an organisation such as Stepping Stones Nigeria can help children in Eno’s situation.



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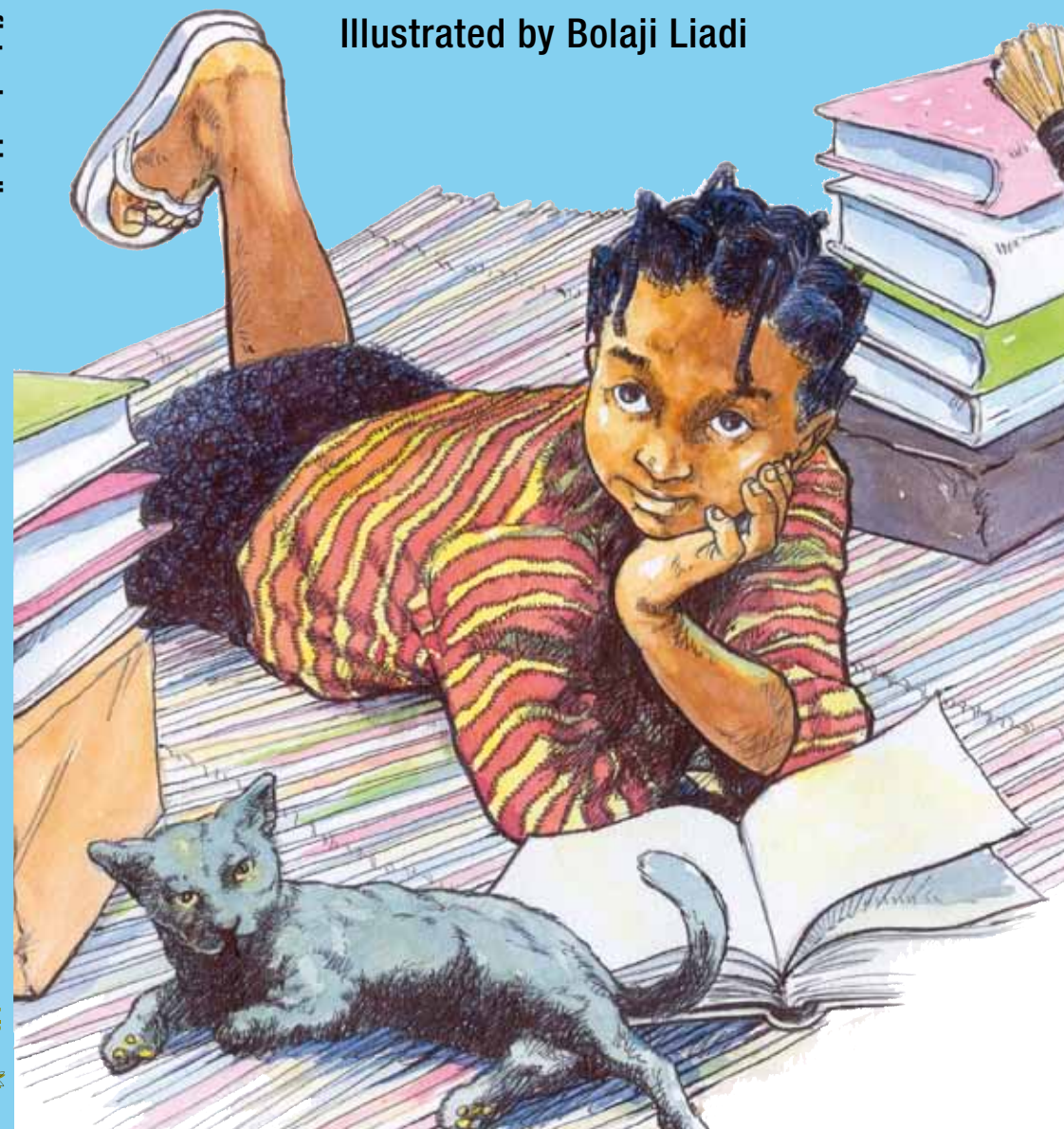
ENO'S STORY

Olofintuade • Liadi

Eno's Story

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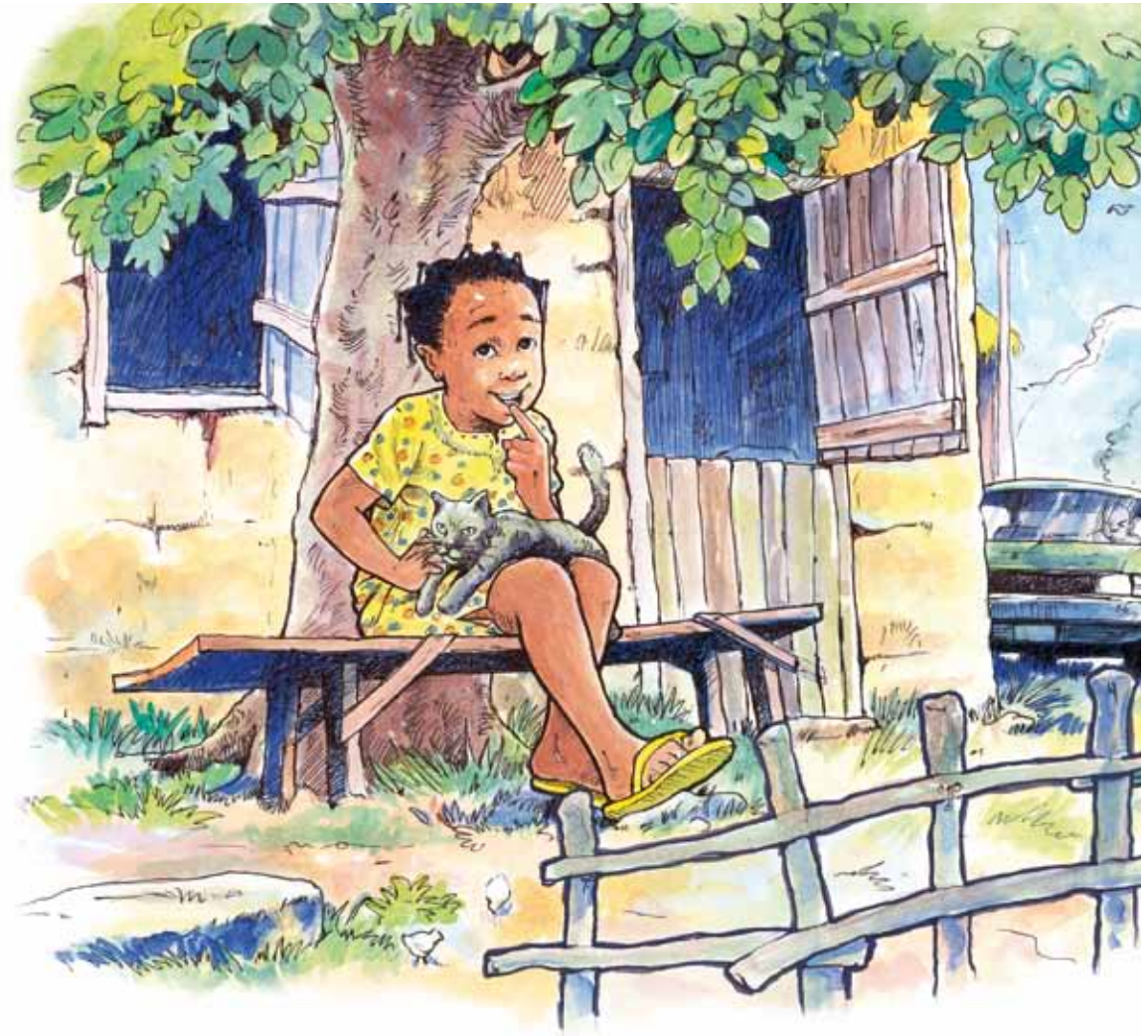


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One

As Eno ran out of the house, the sound of Uncle Etim's car faded into the distance. She sat down under the tree in their compound and stroked her cat Nana. "So I'm a witch!" she said to herself. "That means I can fly and turn into a cat or even a fierce lion!" She let out a loud roar. Her cat leapt to the ground giving her an angry look.

"I can curse all the people I don't like! I'll make Uncle Etim grow a long tail



and two donkey ears." She laughed at this picture of her fat uncle and then ran inside to help her Papa make dinner.

TWO

“Papa, if a witch can put a spell on people and turn into different animals, why haven’t I been able to do those things?”

“Why are you asking, love?” her father said.

“When I was passing by your workshop, I heard Uncle Etim telling you that I’m a witch because I like cats, and I always come first in class, even when I missed school for a month because Mama and the baby died.”

“Etim! That brother of mine needs to control his tongue!” Papa said in his angry voice.

“Are you mad at me Papa?” Eno asked.

“No. Not you, my little princess. It’s Uncle Etim I feel like...” He then took her hands in his.

“Listen Princess, your mother died because there was no health centre nearby. You always come first in school because you are a very smart girl. If anyone calls you a witch again, tell that person that he or she is an ignoramus.”

“What is an ignoramus, Papa?”

“Ignoramuses are people who believe in silly ideas and say nasty words about things they don’t understand.” Her father hugged her. “You must never forget that I love you very much. And you are not a witch. Witches only live in people’s minds and do not exist in real life.”

