



This is Jack.
He is sort of cheeky...
and likes to ask
unusual questions.



This is Mama.
She answers all
the questions—
no matter how
odd they are.

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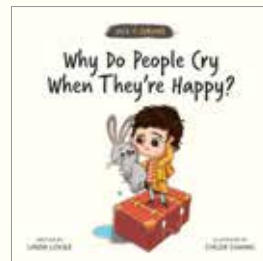
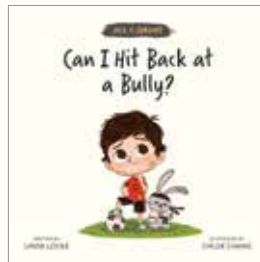
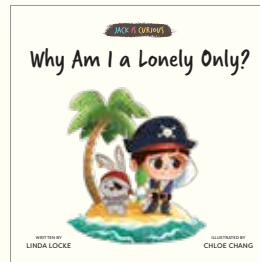
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“Very fresh and very personal.”

—James Lee, author of the bestselling children’s series
Mr Midnight and Mr Mystery

In this book, Jack wants to try
a lot of different things, but
Mama keeps telling him no.
What will Jack do?

Also in the series



Jack Is Curious is inspired by the inquisitive son of Linda
Locke, co-author of *Agnes and Her Amazing Orchid*.

JACK IS CURIOUS

Why Do You Always Say No?



WRITTEN BY
LINDA LOCKE

ILLUSTRATED BY
CHLOE CHANG

Why Do You Always Say No?



JACK IS CURIOUS

Why Do You Always Say No?

WRITTEN BY
LINDA LOCKE

ILLUSTRATED BY
CHLOE CHANG

For my much-loved son, Jackson.

—Linda Locke

For Mom and Dad—I've finally come to terms with the fact that we're never getting a dog.

—Chloe Chang

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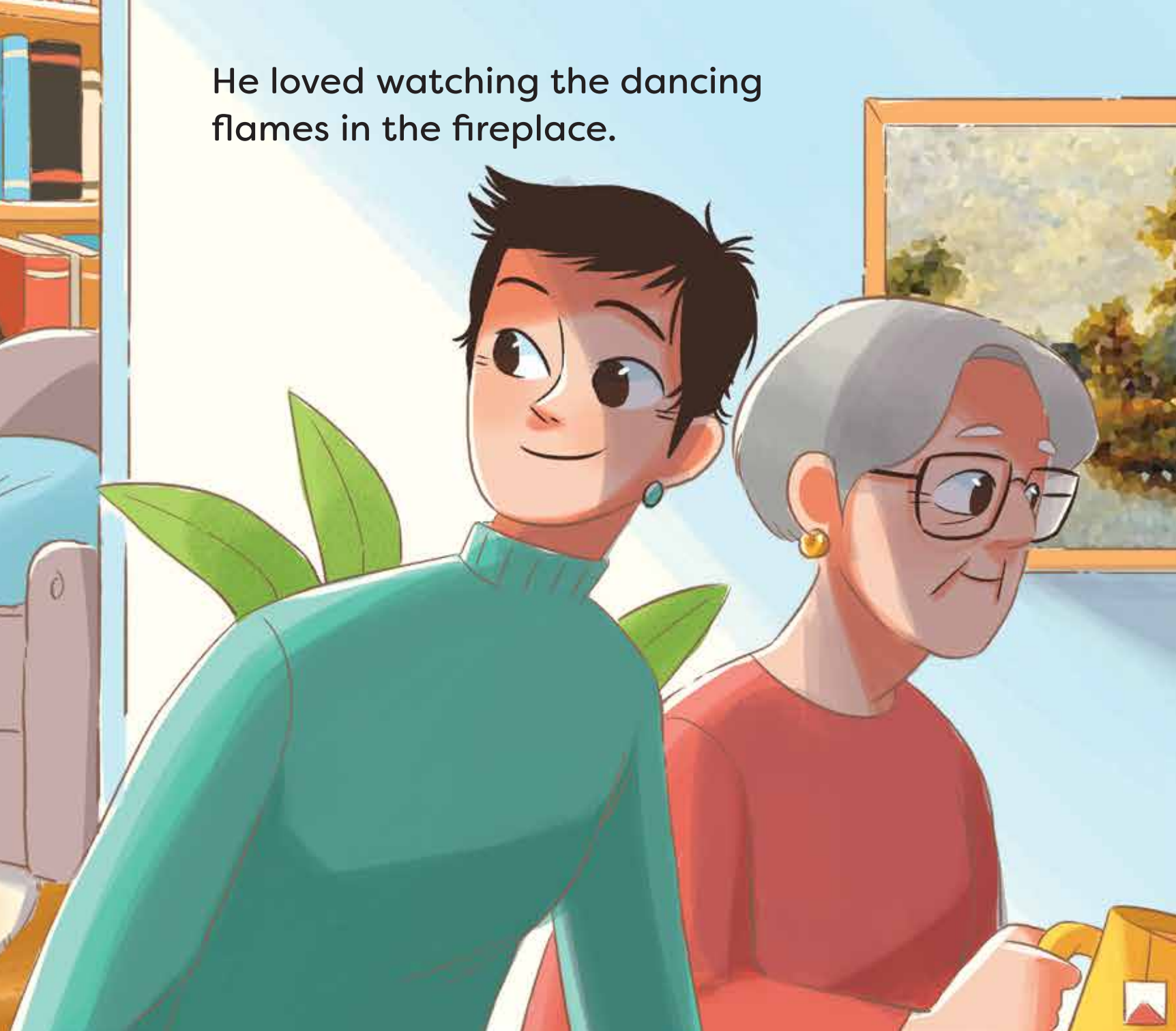


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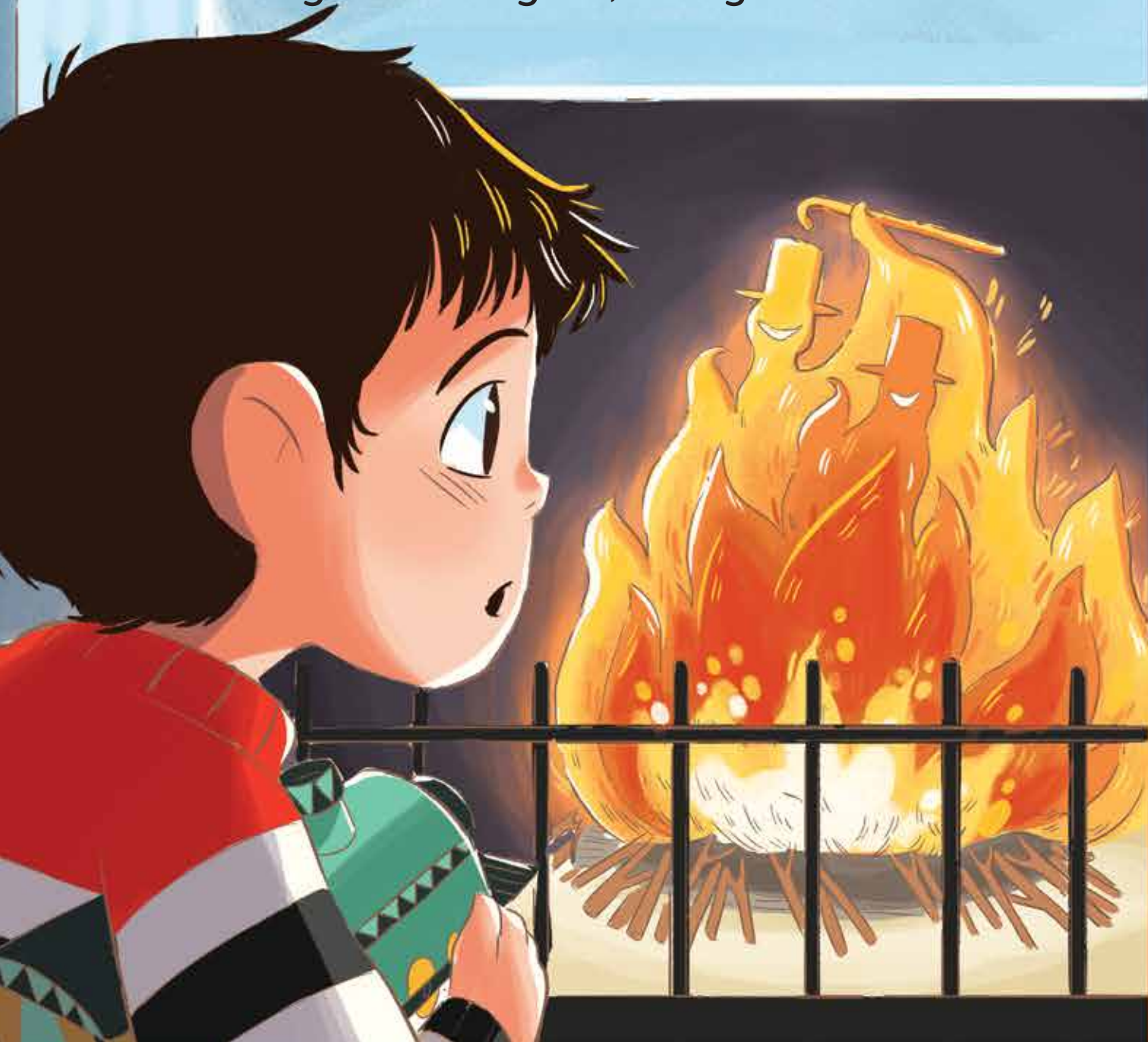
In an old, cold house in cold, damp
England, a boy named Jack was
visiting his grandmother.



He loved watching the dancing
flames in the fireplace.



Fire is strange and magical, thought Jack.



He wondered what it felt like and reached out...

His hand felt warm. Jack liked the feeling.



“Jack, *NOOOO!*” cried Mama.



She quickly snatched his hand back.
“Can’t I touch the fire, Mama?” asked Jack.
“No, Jack. Fire is not your friend.
It will hurt you.”



Jack didn't believe Mama, so she moved his hand towards the flames.

"Hot?" she asked.
Jack stubbornly shook his head.



Mama moved his hand a little closer.
AAAH! Jack snatched his hand back.
“Hot!” he said.



“So, are you going to play with fire again?” she asked.
“No, Mama,” said Jack. “It’s scary.”



Jack was sad his holiday was over but happy to be returning to warm, sunny Singapore.

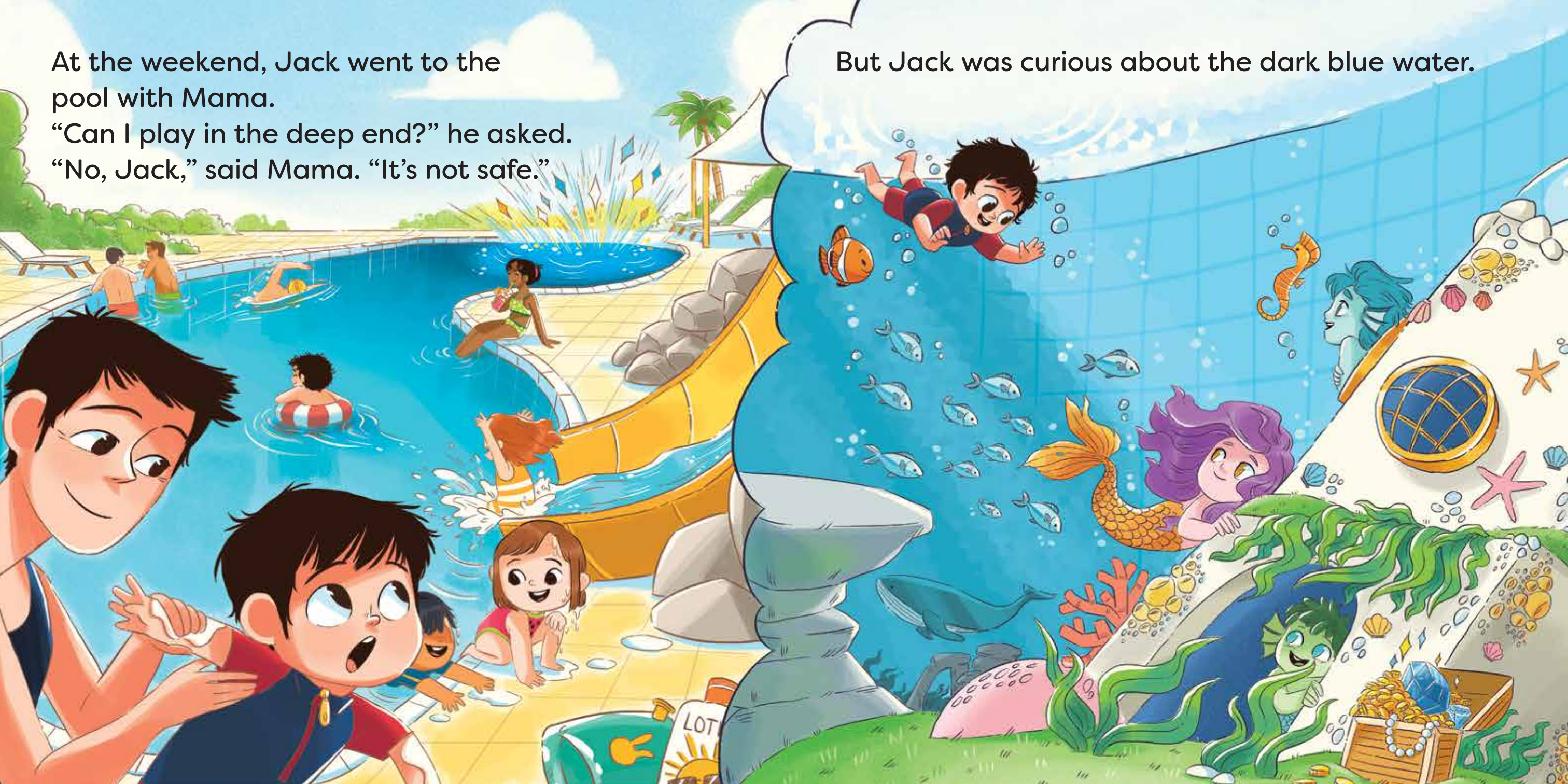


At the weekend, Jack went to the pool with Mama.

“Can I play in the deep end?” he asked.

“No, Jack,” said Mama. “It’s not safe.”

But Jack was curious about the dark blue water.



Seeing Mama wasn't looking, Jack paddled towards the deep end.



"Jack, *NOOOO!*" she called out, powering after him.



“No means no, Jack. We’re going home,”
said Mama firmly.

“Why do you *always* say no, Mama?”
asked Jack grumpily.

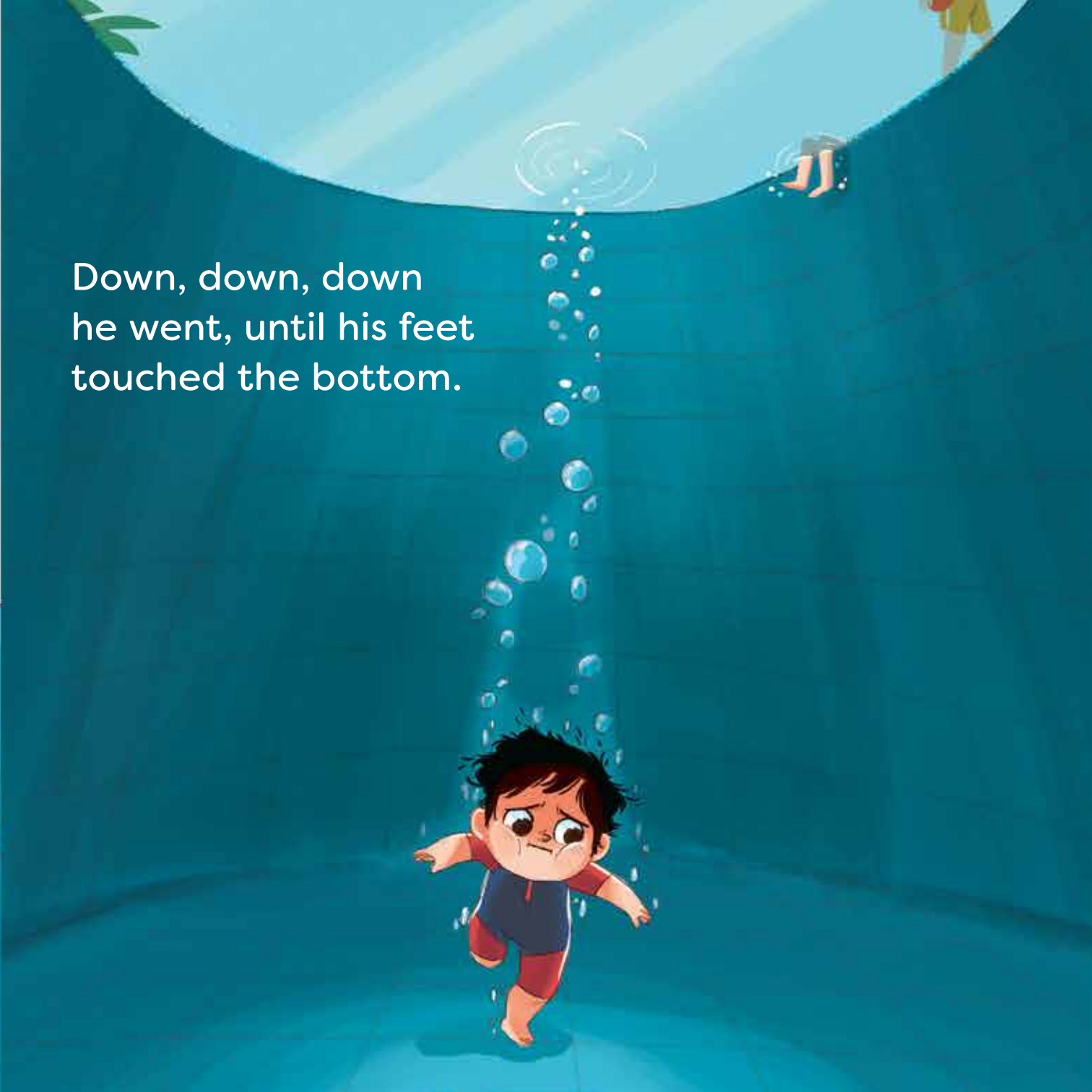


While Mama was busy packing up, cheeky Jack
tried again, speeding off to the deep end.



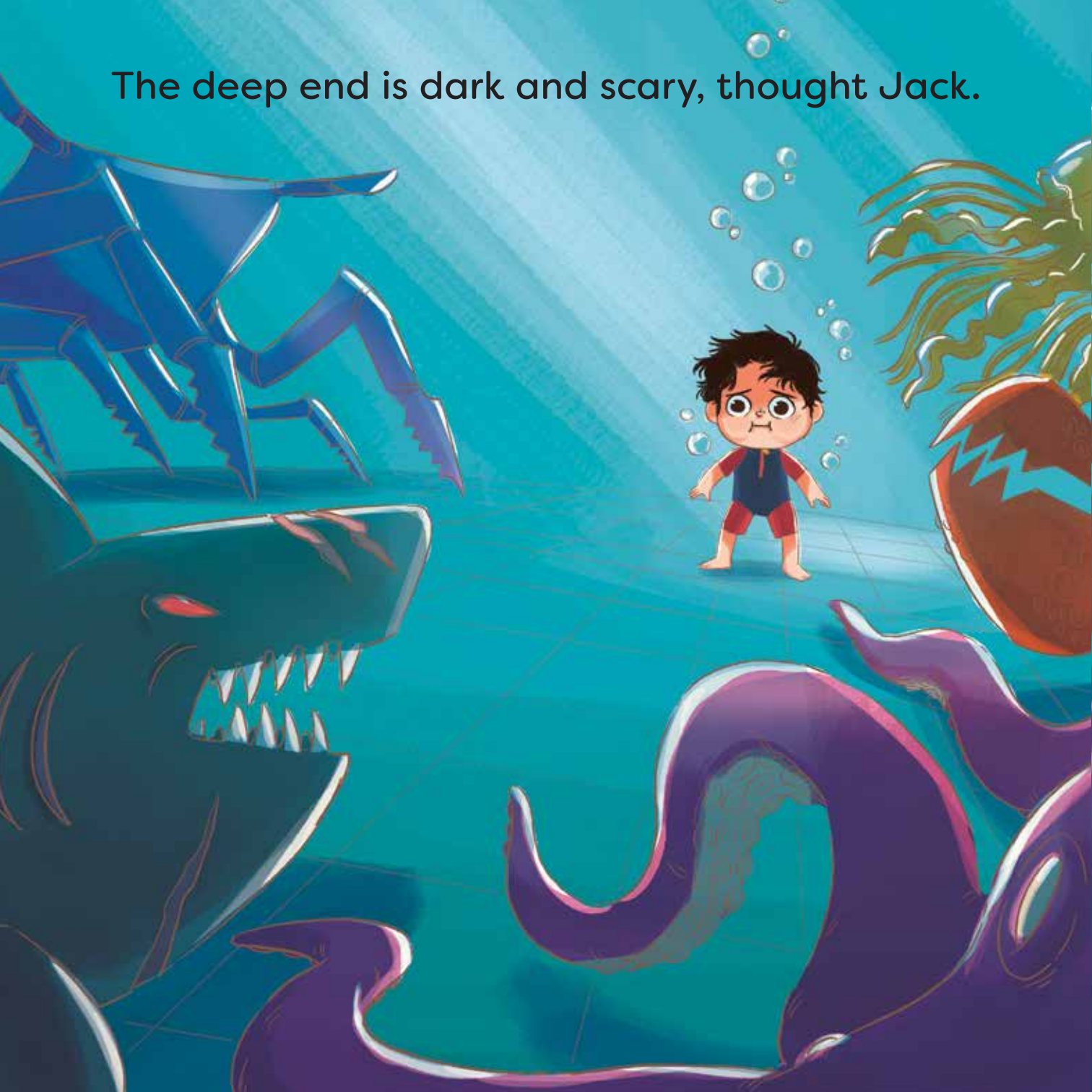


Without stopping,
he jumped!

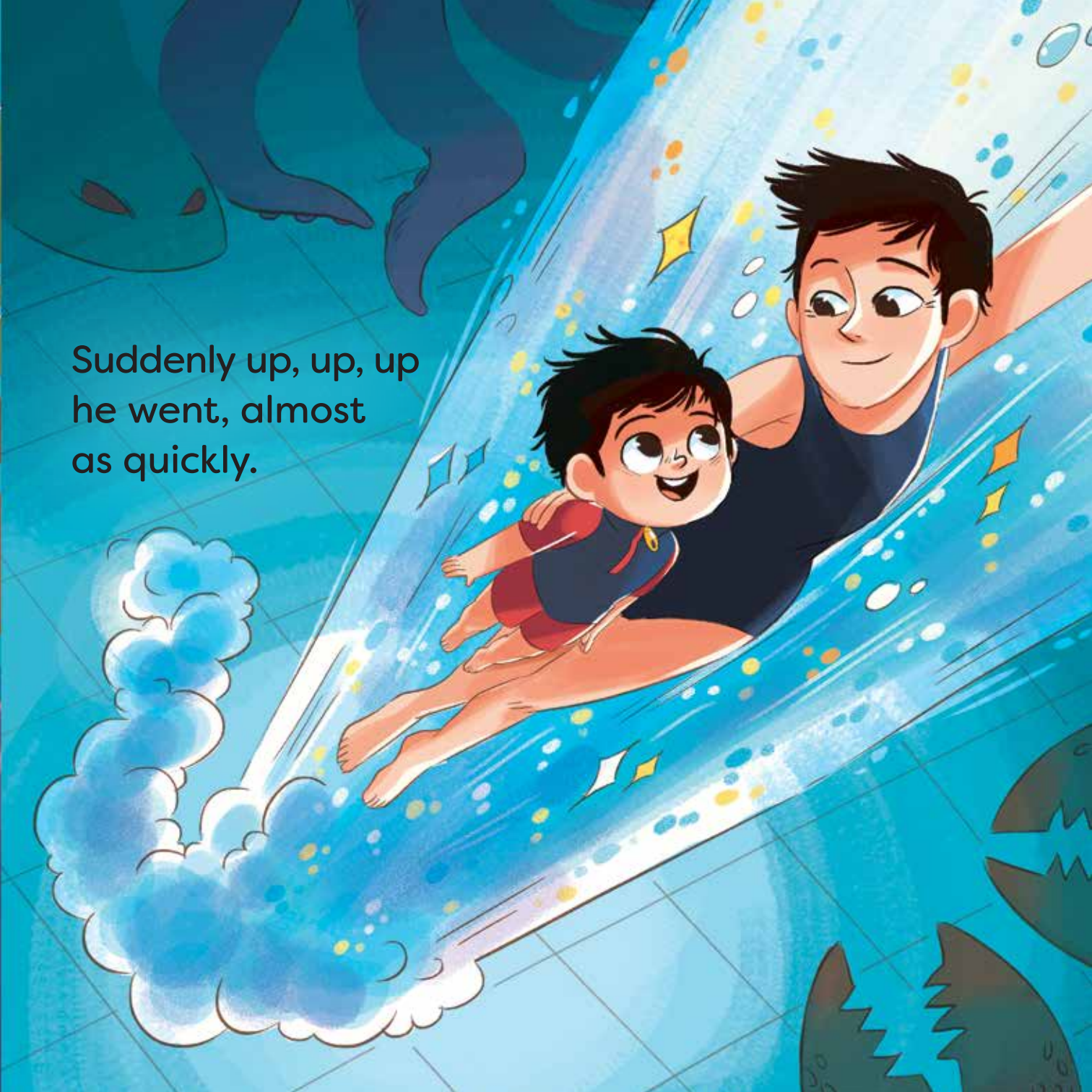


Down, down, down
he went, until his feet
touched the bottom.

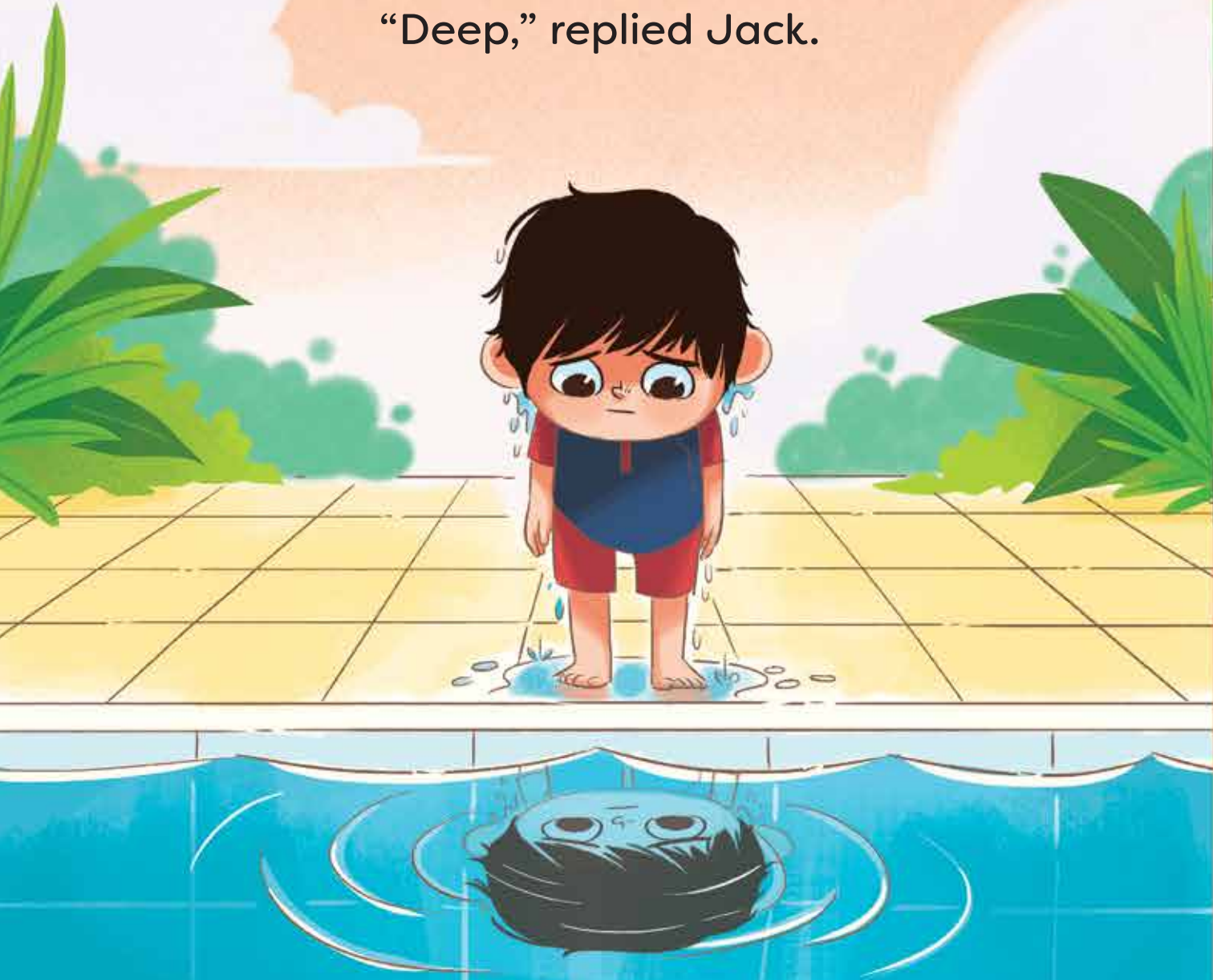
The deep end is dark and scary, thought Jack.



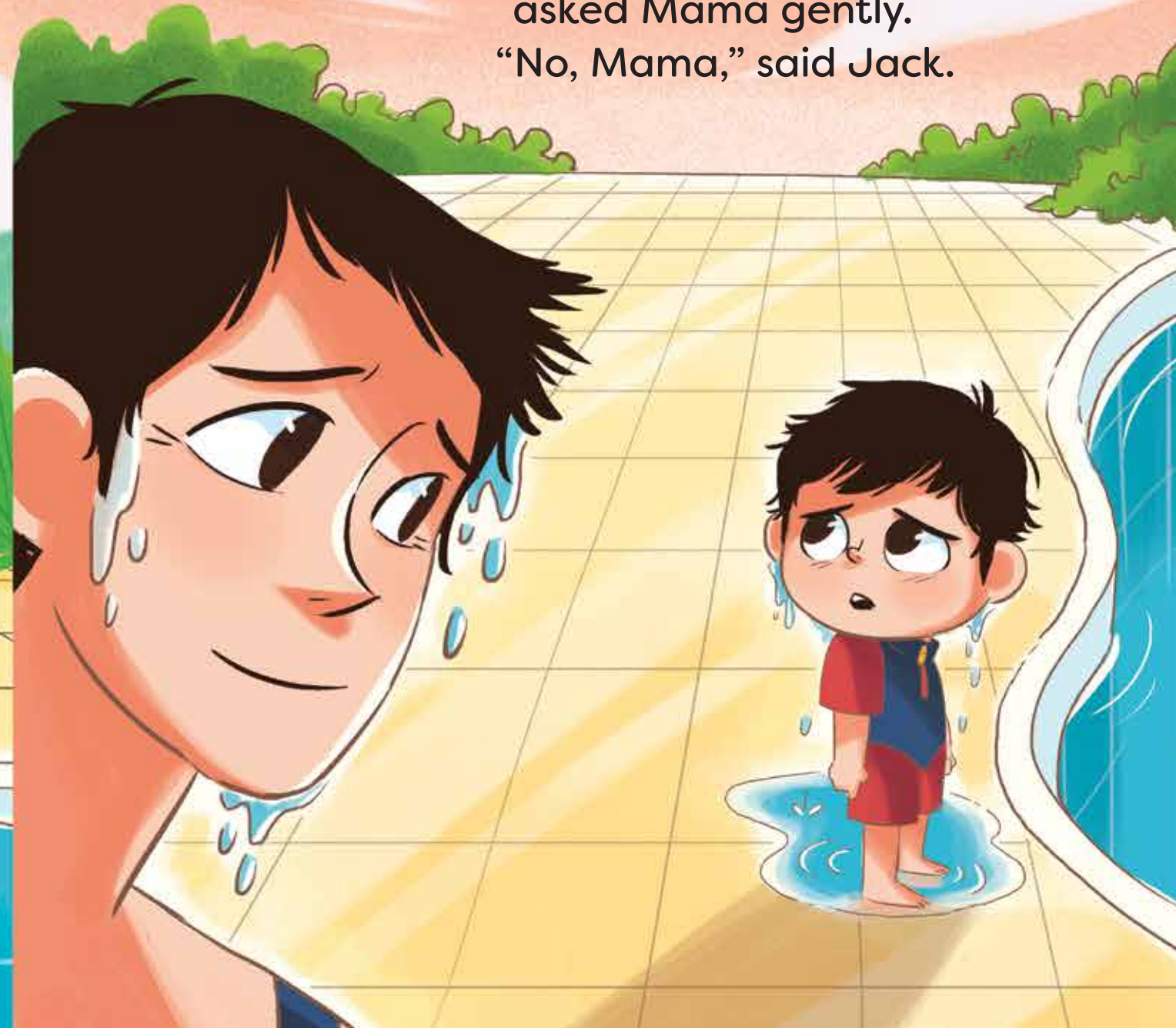
Suddenly up, up, up
he went, almost
as quickly.



In the blink of an eye, he was standing by the edge of the pool.
“Well?” asked Mama.
“Deep,” replied Jack.



“Are you going to do it again?”
asked Mama gently.
“No, Mama,” said Jack.



“Mama, will you *always* say no to me?” asked Jack.
“Yes,” said Mama, “when I need to keep you safe.”

