



The Crazy Crocodile

Plover Problems



Written by Richard Moyer & Nelson R. Elliott

Illustrated by Nelson R. Elliott

DEDICATIONS

RM - Dedicated to the disobedient kids who turned out great anyway.

NRE - To my children. Be careful who you listen to.

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The plover used to help the crocodile keep his mouth clean, eating the bits of meat stuck between his teeth.





But the jungle animals had grown wise to the crocodile and avoided the river. The crocodile was growing lean and the plover were growing hungry.

“We must get the animals back to the river,”
Duchess Plover said one day, “what can we do?”

The Littlest Plover whispered an idea into her ear.





That night, the plover ran into the jungle yelling, "A Tiger! A Tiger! A tiger has come down from the mountains! Run for your lives!"



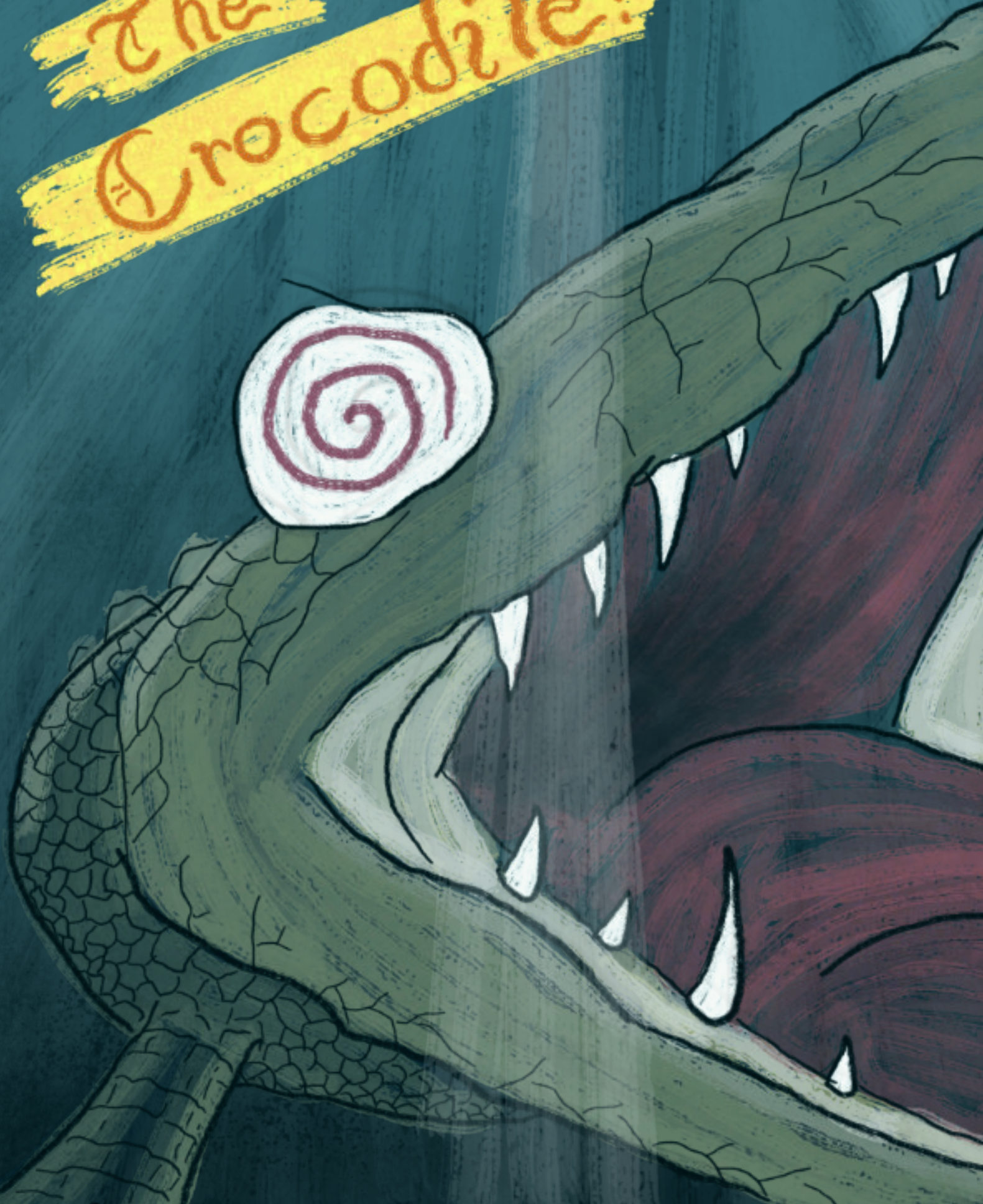


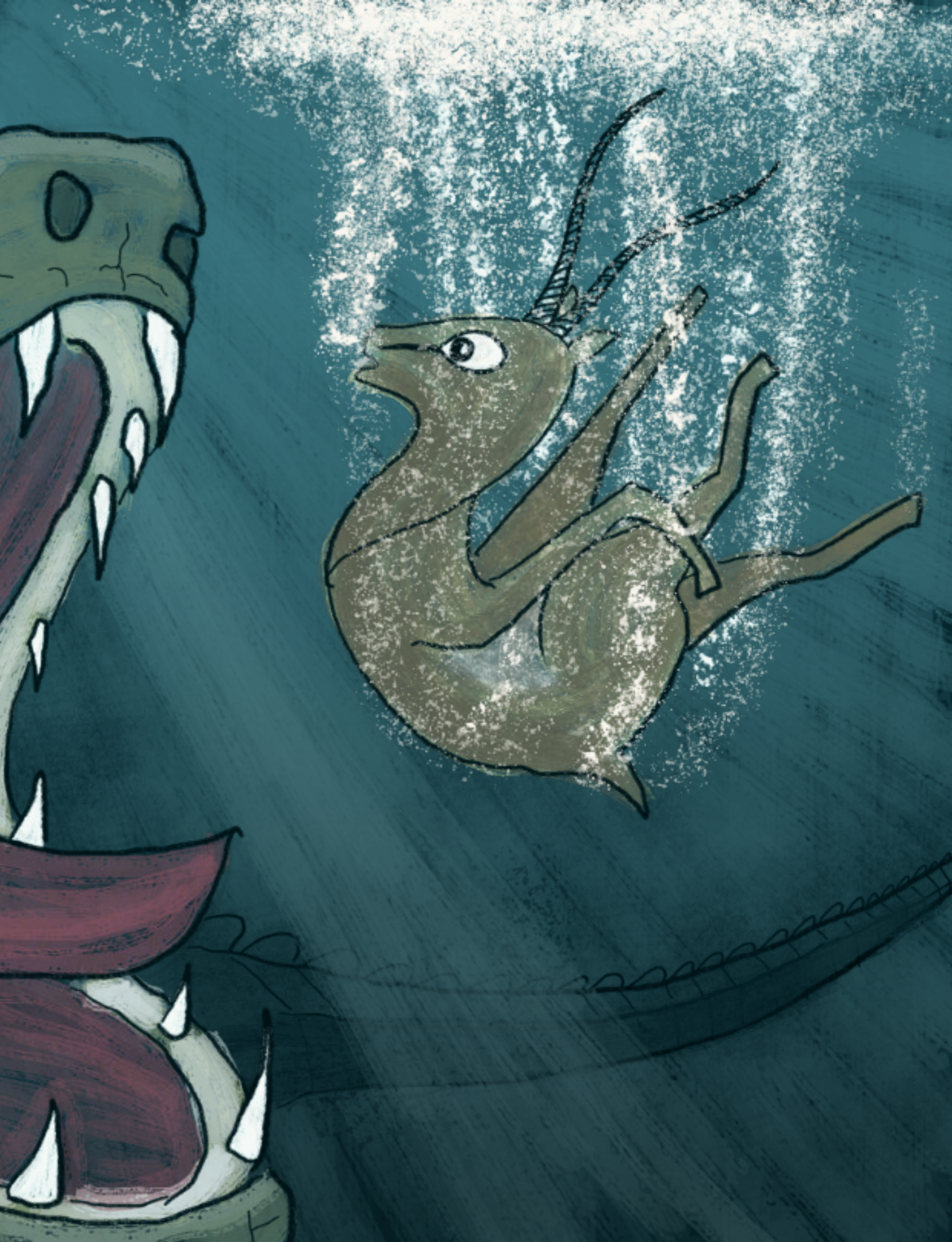
There was no tiger, but the animals
ran to the beach just the same.

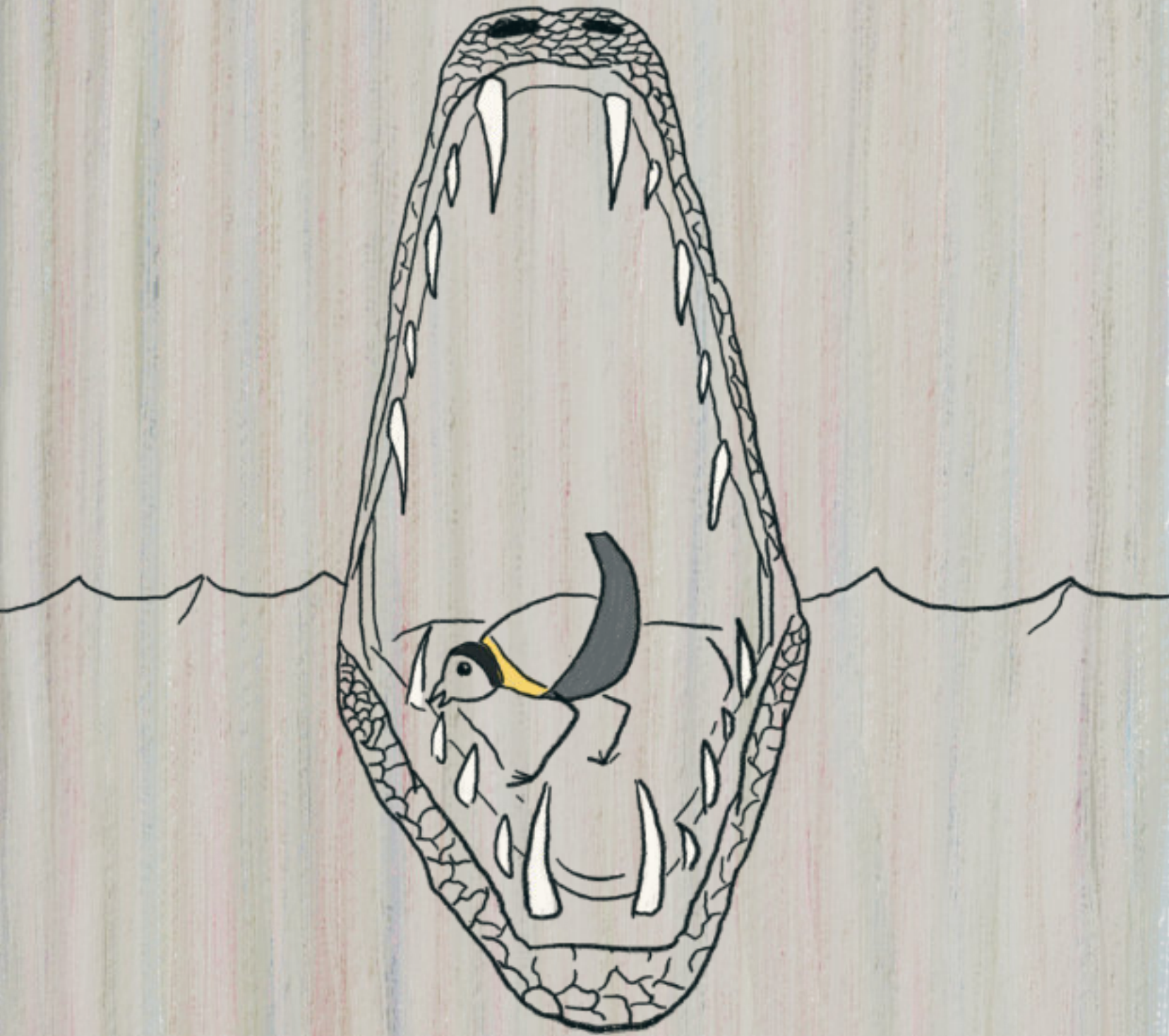


The gazelle ran so fast that she overshot the beach and plunged into the river with...

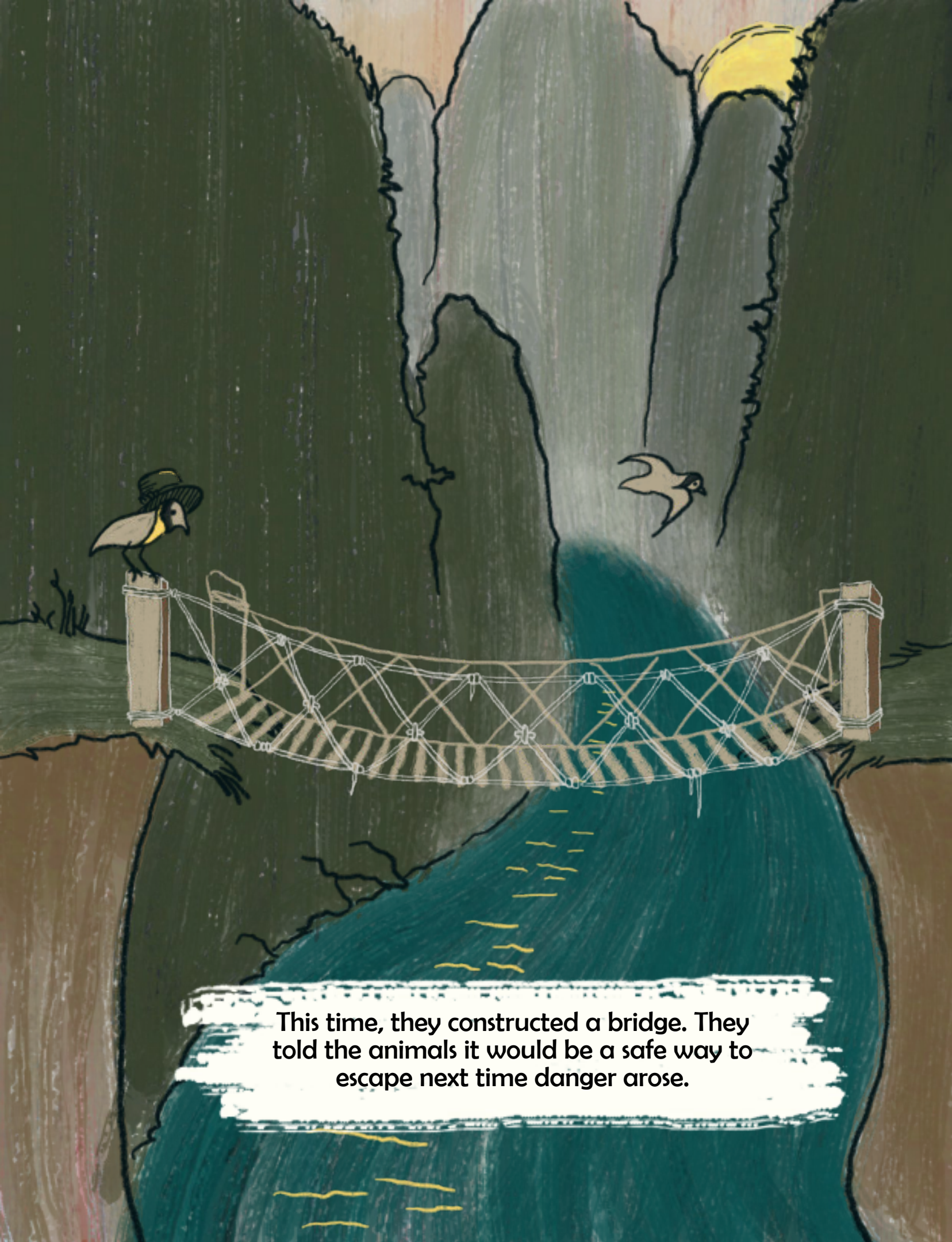
The Crocodile!





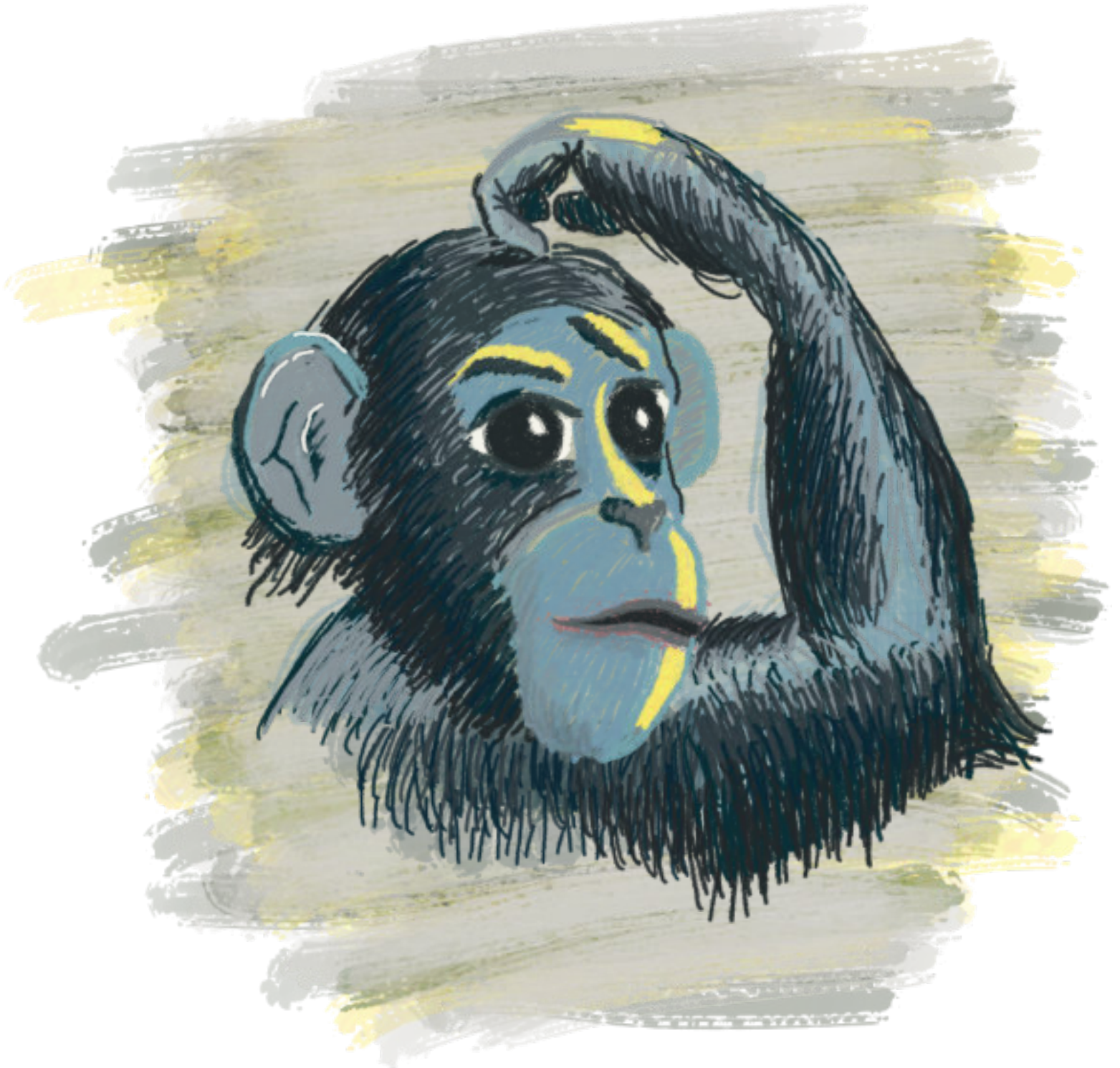


The plover happily cleaned up the leftovers, but were soon hungry again.



This time, they constructed a bridge. They told the animals it would be a safe way to escape next time danger arose.

The chimp, always skeptical, wondered if this was another trick. The plover jeered him.



“Why are you so backward? Haven’t you ever seen a bridge? Which good animal is brave enough to try a bridge?”



The animals jostled to show their support, but the giraffe won on size alone. She confidently trotted across the bridge until, halfway, the vines snapped and she fell to...



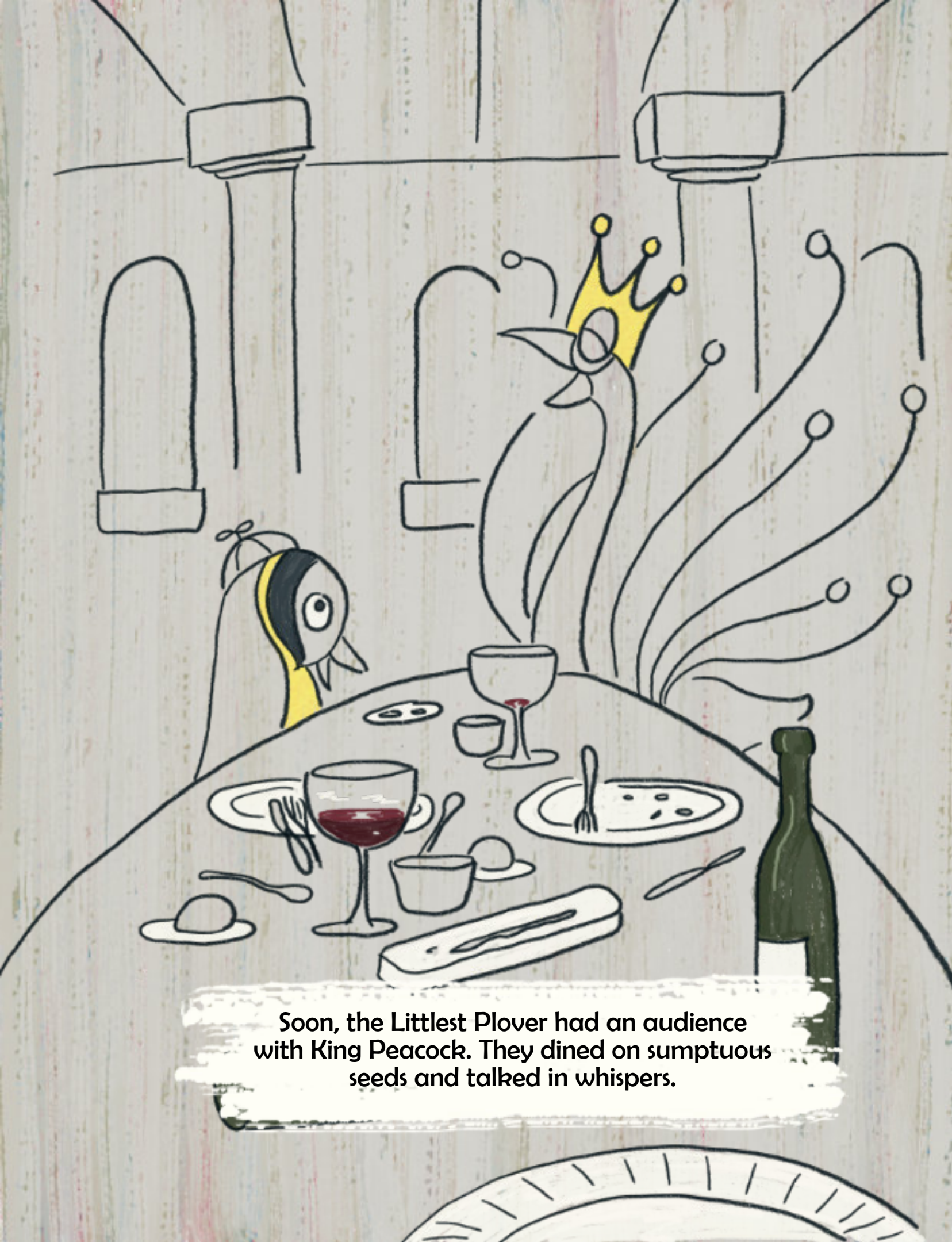
The
Crocodile!



The plover happily cleaned up the leftovers, but were soon hungry again.



The other animals were growing suspicious, so the plover came up with a plan.

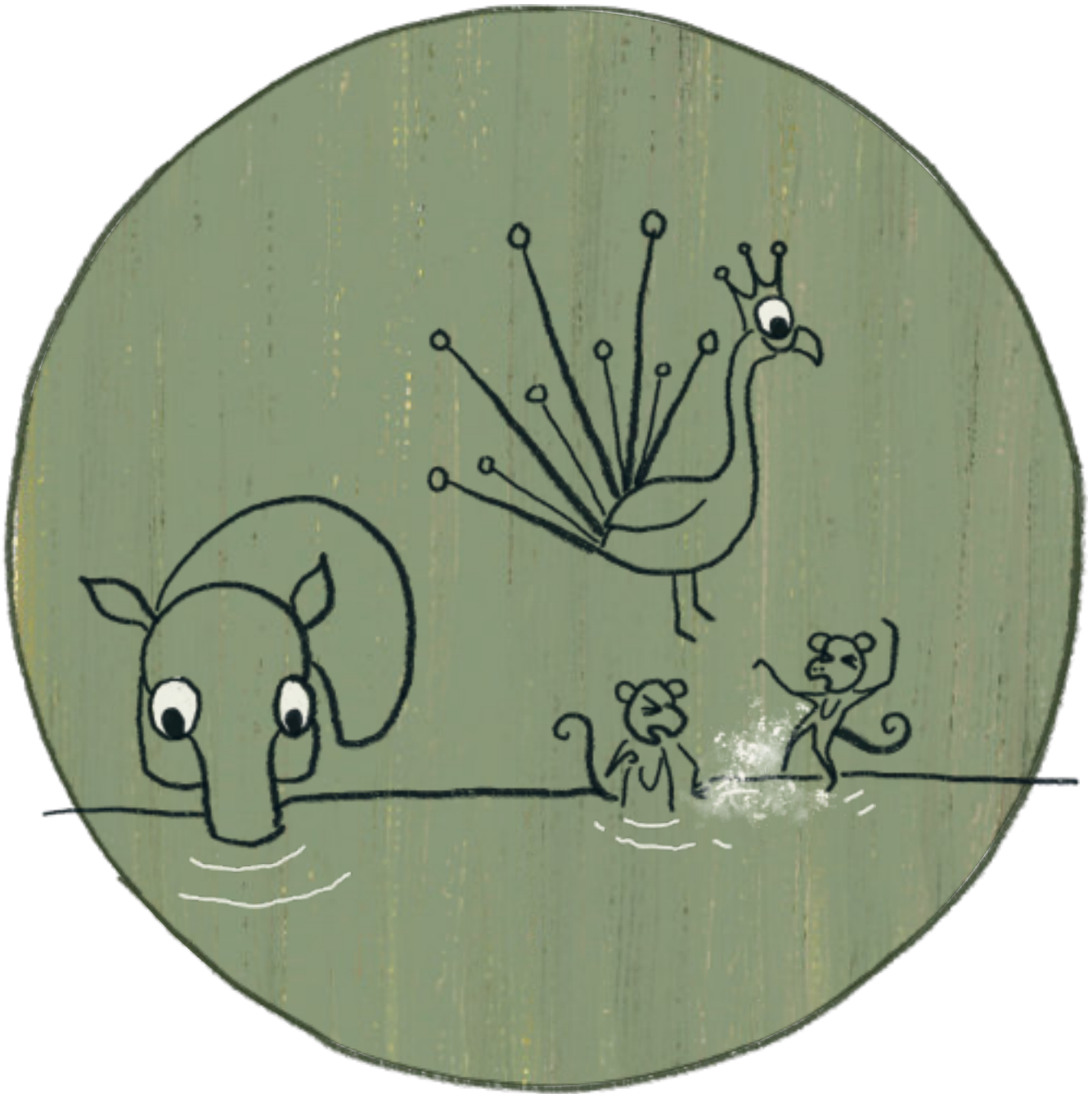


Soon, the Littlest Plover had an audience with King Peacock. They dined on sumptuous seeds and talked in whispers.



The next morning, King Peacock gathered the animals and announced, "My River Expert has studied the river and found it to be 99.9% crocodile-free!"

And with that, King Peacock marched the animals back to the river to drink.



The animals drank happily until the monkeys started to splash, which got the attention of...





The Crocodile!

Which didn't bother King Peacock, who'd snuck away to look at himself in the new mirror the plover had given him.



The River Expert was fired and happily flew off to enjoy the leftovers on the crocodile's teeth.



Of course, this meal also did not last forever
and the plover were soon hungry AGAIN.



Out of ideas, Duchess Plover herself returned to the forest promising that this time the beach was really, truly, actually safe.



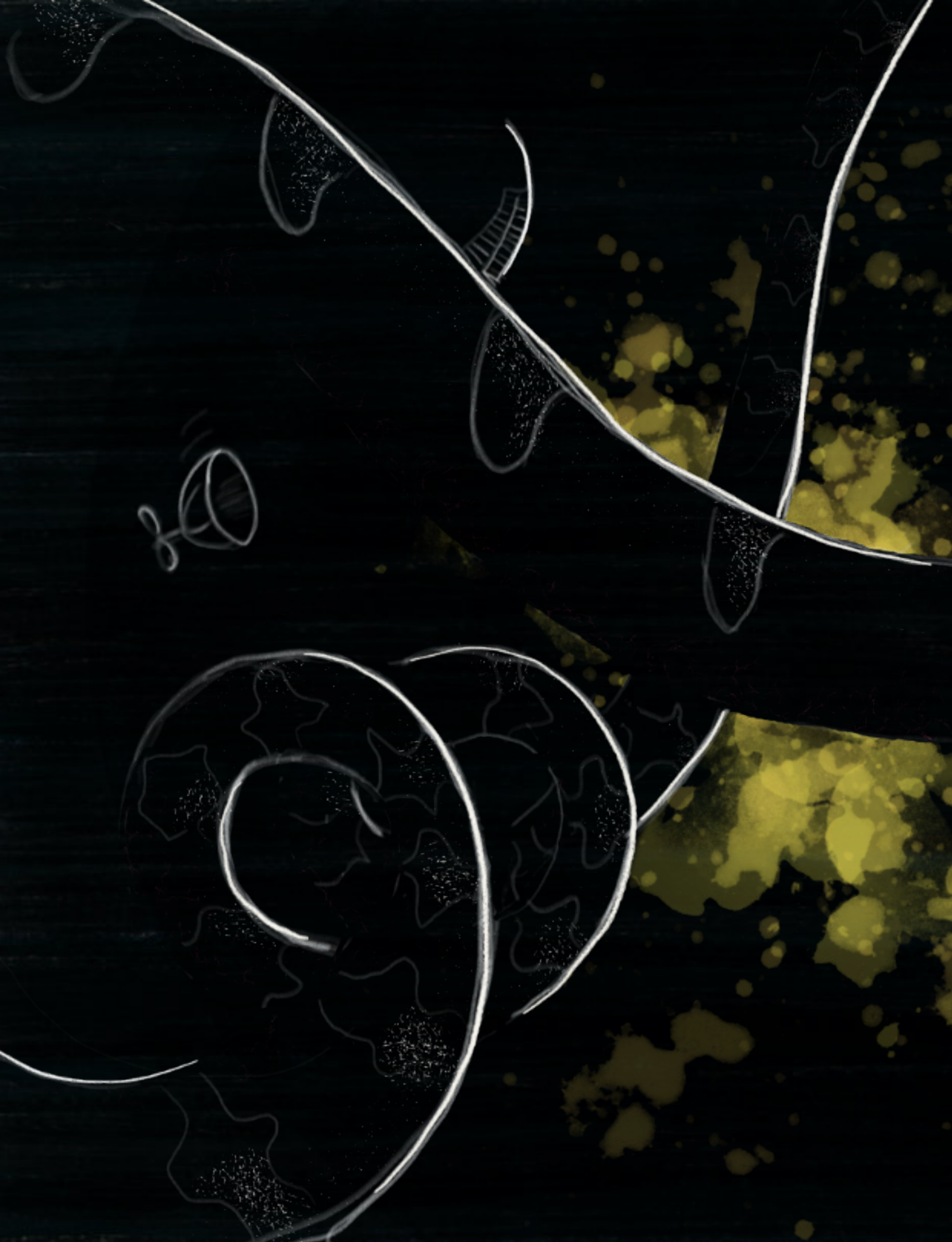
“Why don’t you move to the beach yourself?”
retorted the wombat.

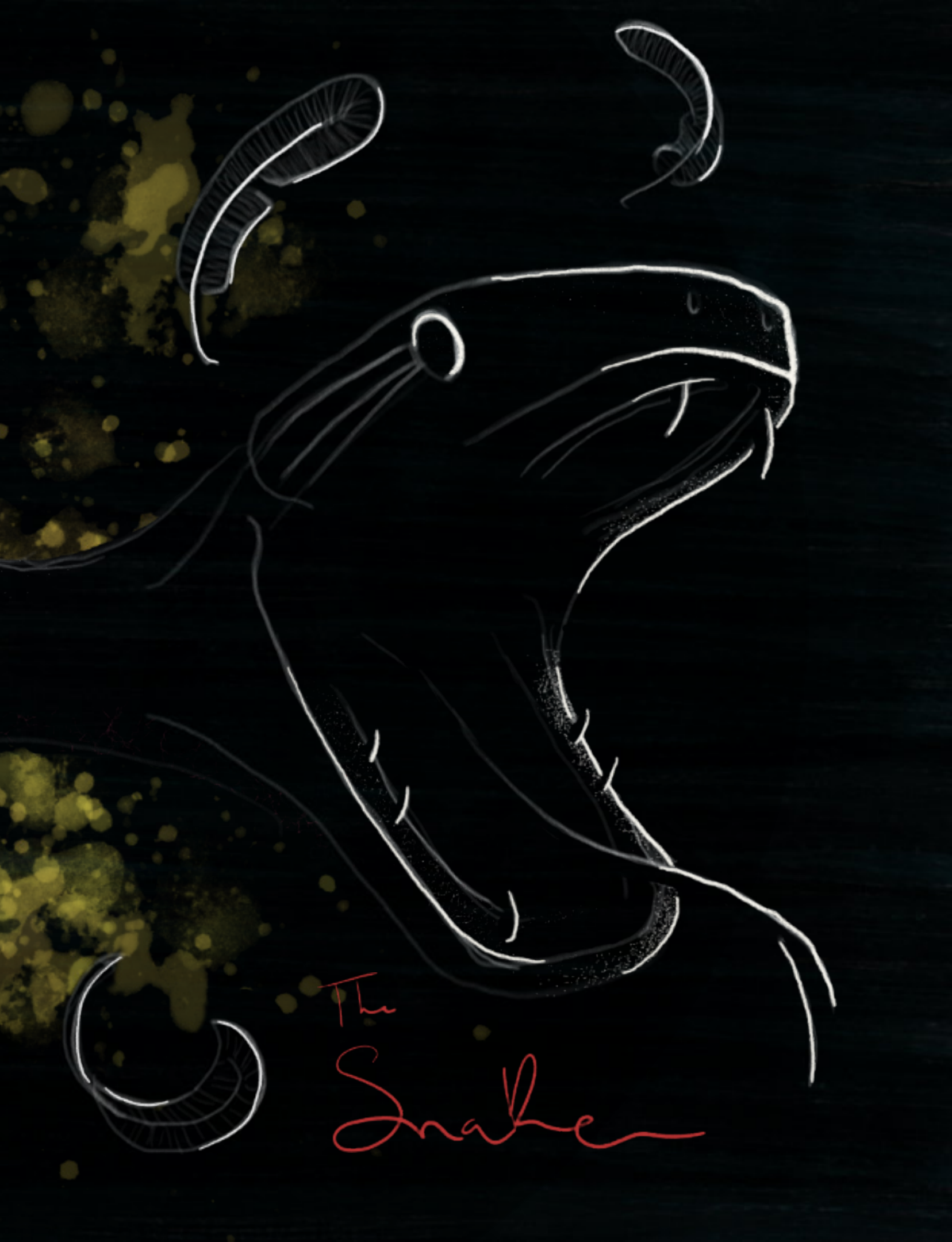


In desperation, Duchess Plover agreed. By evening, all of the plover had moved their nests out of their hiding spots in the grass



and on to the beach. That night, as they
slept out in the open, all of the plover were
gobbled up by...





The
Snake



In the morning, the animals came to see the plover. They found a happy snake asleep on the sand



and the crocodile still floating in
the river.



Once again cautious of the river - and free of the plover - the animals returned to their jungle streams and lived happily ever after.



THE END

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Moyer is an author and illustrator of many books, nearly all of which he completed before fifth grade and lost track of. His first published children's book was "Down on Jingy's Farm," a book for toddlers featuring an intrepid baby chick. "The Crazy Crocodile" (the prequel to this book) was his first book for older children.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nelson works in advertising during the day. At night, he writes little fairy tales for his kids. He founded Copper Jungle and is the author of "The Chef and The Dragon," "Garden Gruesome," and the creator of Bopbot & Bowbot. He lives in Texas with his growing family.

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