



# KOMPHEAK

The Medicine Boy with No Legs

Retold by  
Catherine Khoo

Illustrated by  
Jeannette Yap



# KOMPHEAK



Dedicated to my three  
angels Patricia, Pamela  
and Paulina. May you  
continue to inspire  
your own little angels!  
—Catherine

For Hong Yi. Be the  
role model you need.  
—Jeanette

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Many years ago, in a village in Cambodia, there lived a rich man who was blessed with four healthy sons.

One day, his wife gave birth to another boy. But to the man's horror, the baby was born with no legs. And very soon after, his wife died.



Ashamed of his son and heartbroken at the loss of his wife, the father placed the baby in a basin and sent it floating down the river.

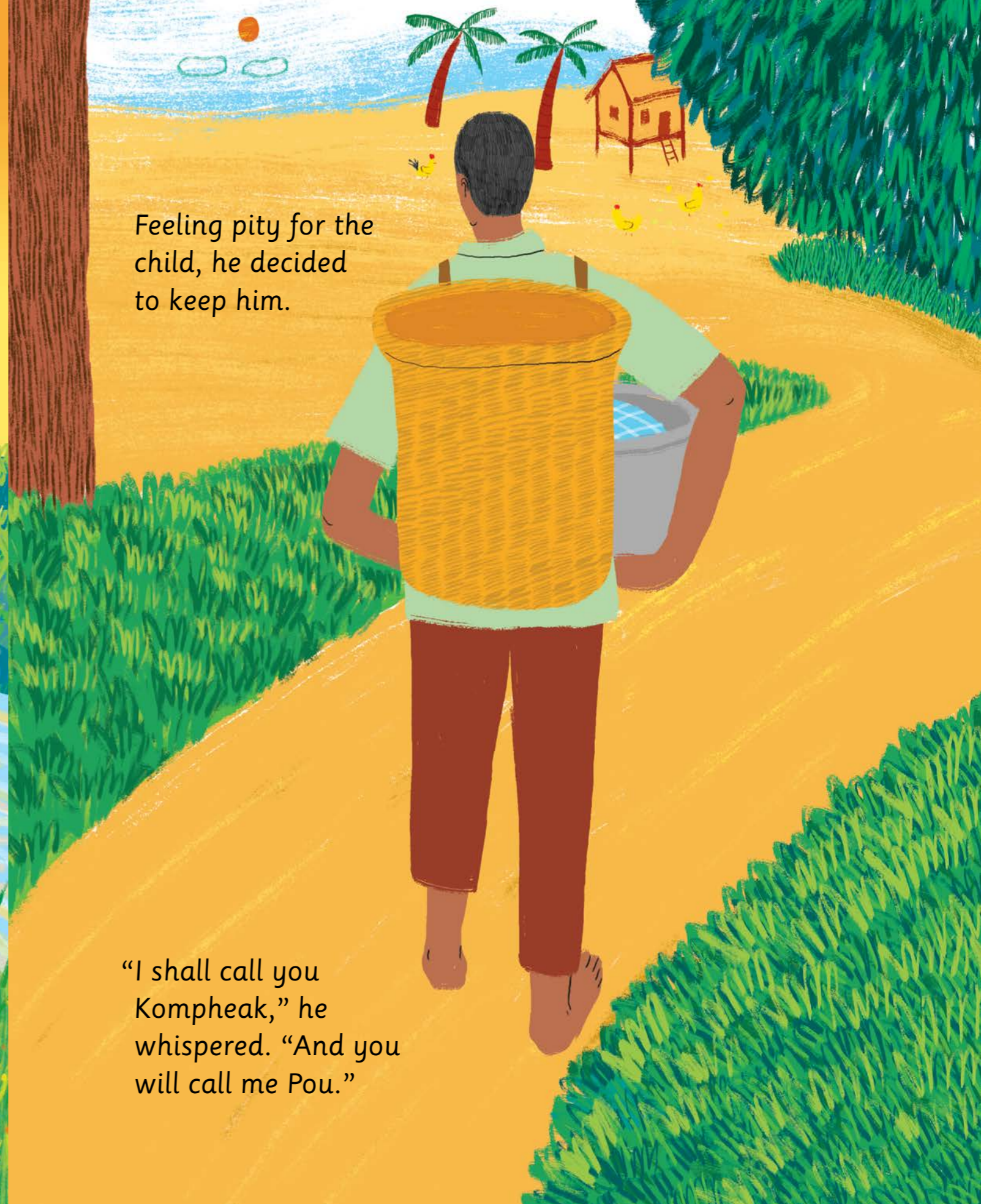


The baby soon came to rest on a bank,  
where a wise man was searching for herbs.

“What is this?” the wise man cried out.  
“A baby with no legs!”



Feeling pity for the  
child, he decided  
to keep him.



“I shall call you  
Kompheak,” he  
whispered. “And you  
will call me Pou.”

Kompheak is born with no legs, but he grows up to become the most famous medicine boy in Cambodia.

One day, he comes face to face with a sick old man, and his life changes forever.



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