



Diony and his snowman

A story written by Sylvain Zorzin and illustrated by Marie Caudry.





Diony is a polar bear cub. On the icecap, he watches the other bear cubs having snowball fights. He wants to play with them, but he doesn't dare to join in. Actually, he doesn't really like snowball fights. Suddenly, Diony has an idea. "I know! I'm going to make a snowman. The greatest snowman in the world!"

Diony goes to gather some snow. Little by little, he pats it together into a snowman. First, the tummy. Then, a round head. And also two feet, so that the snowman doesn't fall over. Finally, Diony carves out tiny pieces of ice with his little bear claws to make two round eyes and a nose. They were shiny like jewels. The snowman is finished! Diony looks at it and smiles. "Yes," he exclaims. "It really is the greatest snowman in the world!"

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Suddenly, Diony yawns. "I'm going to have a small nap," he murmurs. He snuggles up under a big block of ice away from the wind, and he falls asleep.

A little later, Diony feels someone tapping him on the shoulder.

"Hmm," the bear cub groans, still half asleep. "What's happening?"

"Well... what shall we play?" a voice says.

Standing in front of Diony is a snowman. HIS snowman! And it is speaking to him while looking at him with sparkling eyes!

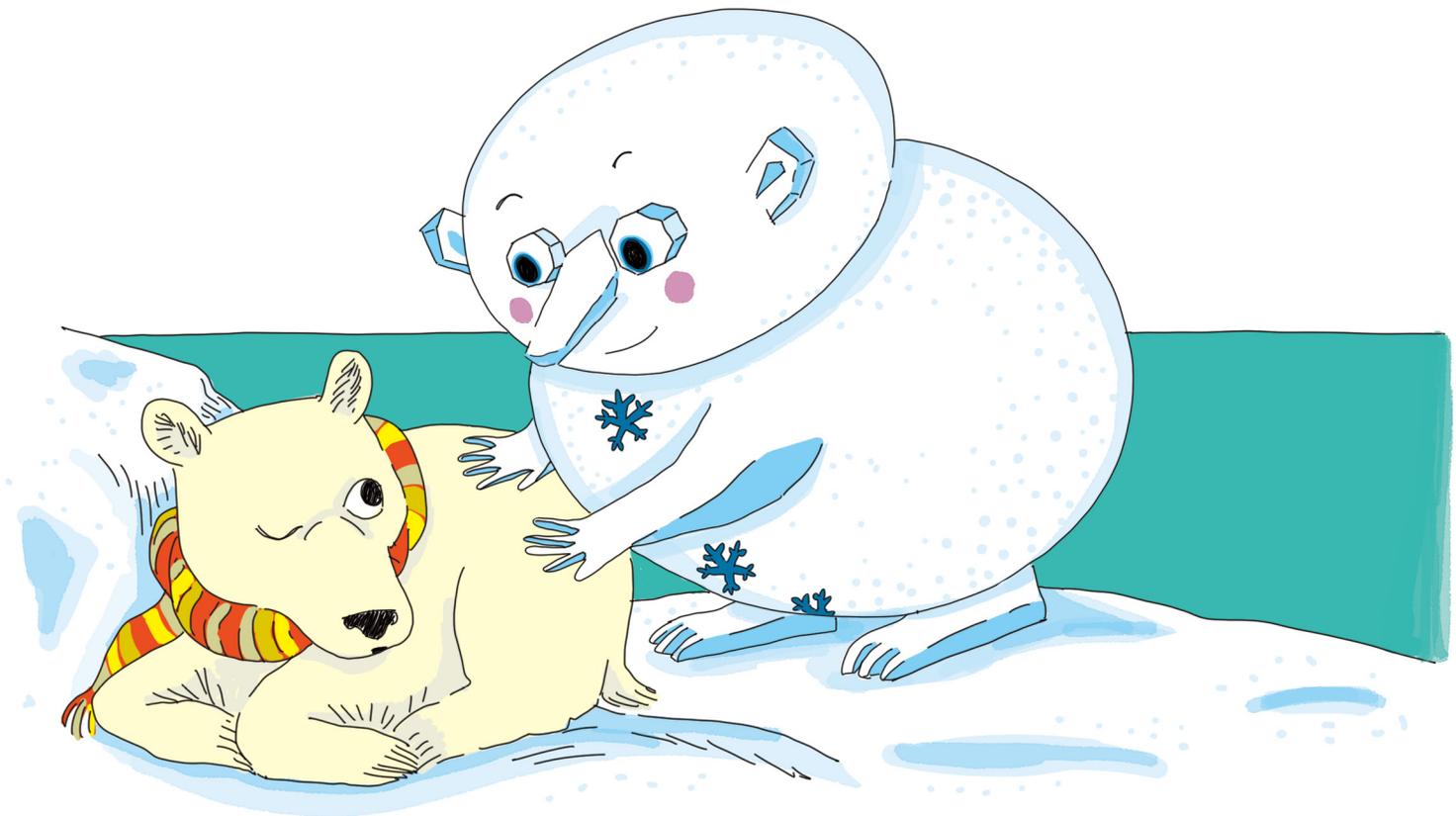
"You... You're alive?" Diony stutters. "How did that happen?"

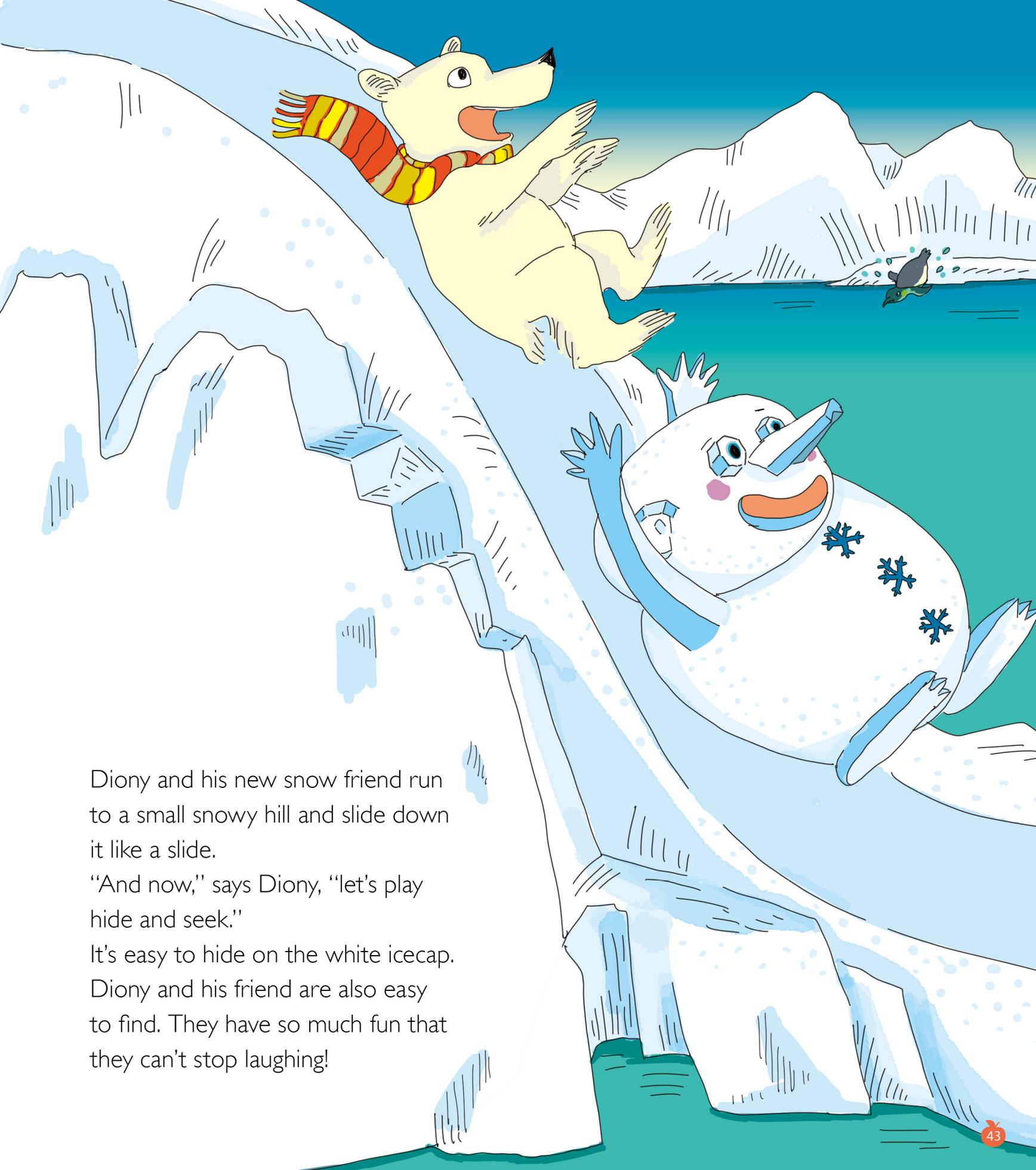
"I don't know," the snowman replies. "Come on, I feel like playing!"

"Umm... Okay..." says Diony. "But you know, I don't like throwing snowballs much."

"Throwing snowballs? What a strange idea!" the snowman answers.

"Come with me!" Diony suggests. "I know a great spot we can go!"





Diony and his new snow friend run to a small snowy hill and slide down it like a slide.

“And now,” says Diony, “let’s play hide and seek.”

It’s easy to hide on the white icecap. Diony and his friend are also easy to find. They have so much fun that they can’t stop laughing!

Suddenly, they hear, “Hi, Diony! Hey... your snowman is alive! How did you manage that?”

It’s the other bear cubs. Diony feels shy. He’s never spoken to them before. “Well...” he replies, “I... I made a snowman. That’s all.”

The other bear cubs start making snowmen too. They each take some snow and pat it hard to make snowmen, but nothing happens...

Diony explains, “That’s not the way to do it! You have to spread the snow out slowly to make a gentle face and a nice round tummy. And feet! So that the snowman doesn’t fall down. Wait, I’ll help you.” And together, all the bear cubs try to make snowmen again, following how Diony does it.

Finally, using their claws, Diony and all the other bear cubs carve out pieces of ice to make shiny eyes and pretty noses, just like sparkling jewels.





“Wow!” the bear cubs exclaim. “These are the most greatest snowmen in the world!”

“But why don't they move?” asks one bear cub.

“That's strange...” Diony answers, turning to his own snowman.

But... Where is he? He's gone!

“My snowman has disappeared...” Diony murmurs.

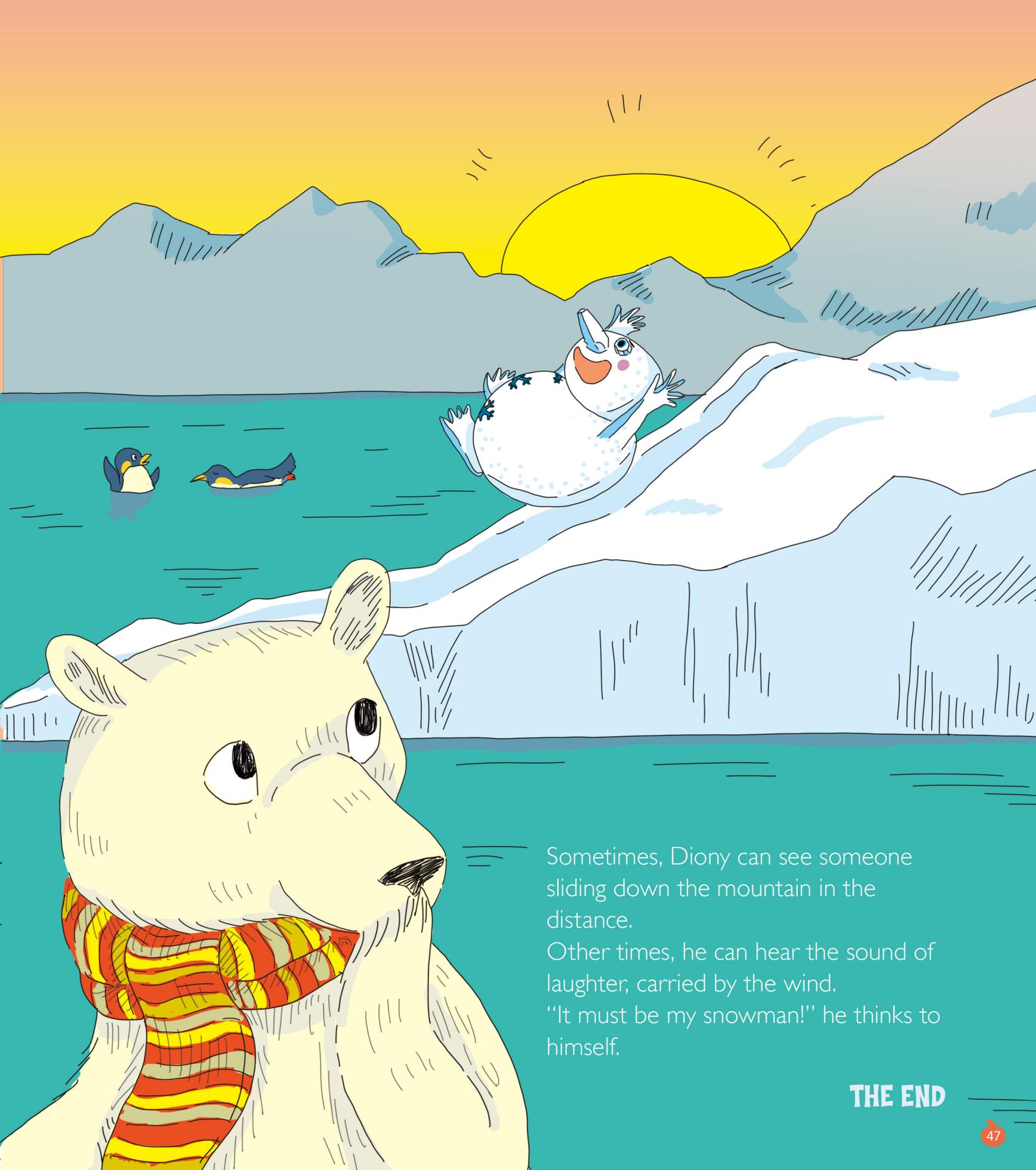
“Don't worry, he can't be far away,” one bear cub replies. And then he says, “Do you want to play with us?”

Diony says, “I don't really like snowball fights... How would you like to play a giant game of leap-bear?”

The bear cubs shout out joyfully, “Hurray!”

And that's how the world's biggest game of leap-bear started the icecap.





Sometimes, Diony can see someone sliding down the mountain in the distance.

Other times, he can hear the sound of laughter, carried by the wind. "It must be my snowman!" he thinks to himself.

THE END