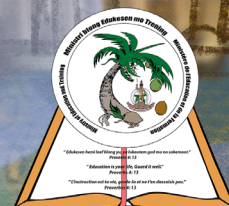
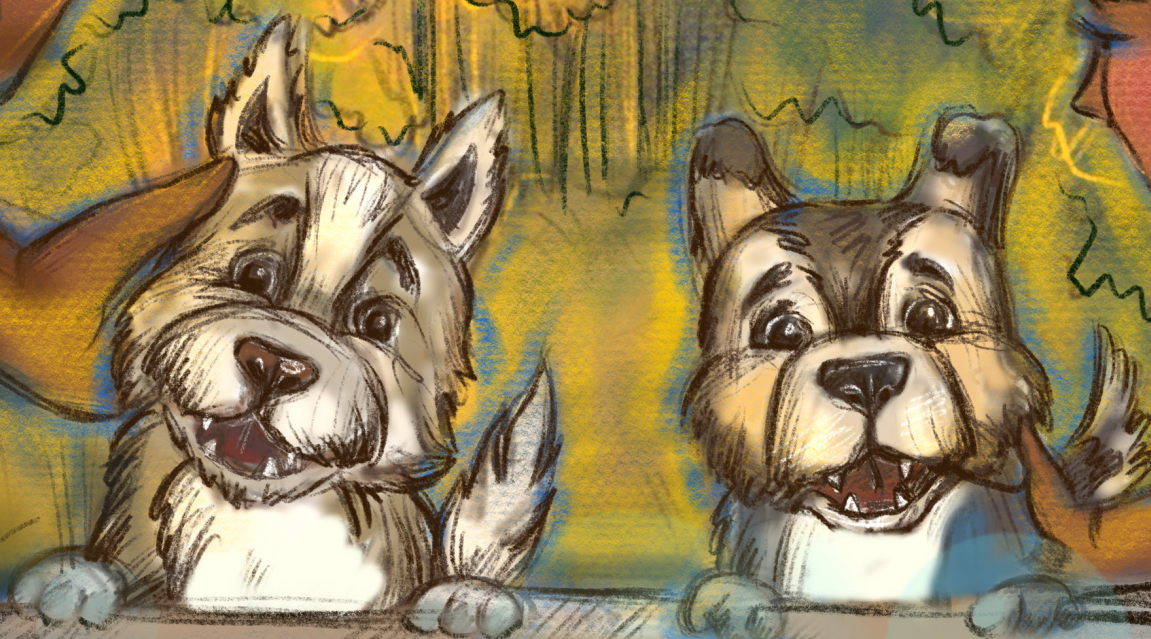


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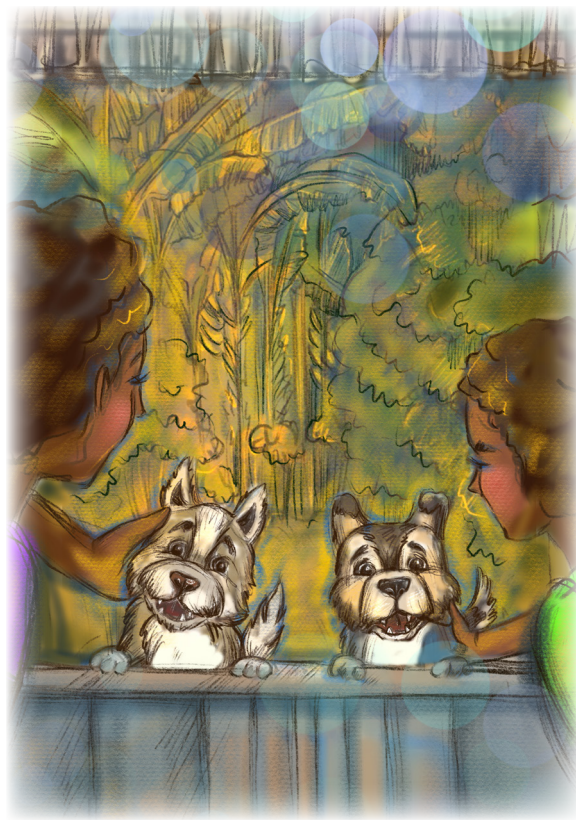


A Thief in the Night



By Vanessa David Nimbwen
Illustrated by Viktoria Khmelnickaya

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Jade and his mother had just finished their night worship and were preparing for bed when suddenly they heard a loud *bang!*

The dogs were barking louder than usual. It was a cold and windy night in the mountains.

“Mum?” said Jade’s little voice. He was scared by the sudden noise.

Jade’s father had gone to work in Australia for a few months, leaving Jade and his mum at home with two dogs.

“It’s okay,” said Mum. “It’s just the wind.” She pulled Jade into bed with her to sleep.





The next day, Jade was still thinking about the noise.

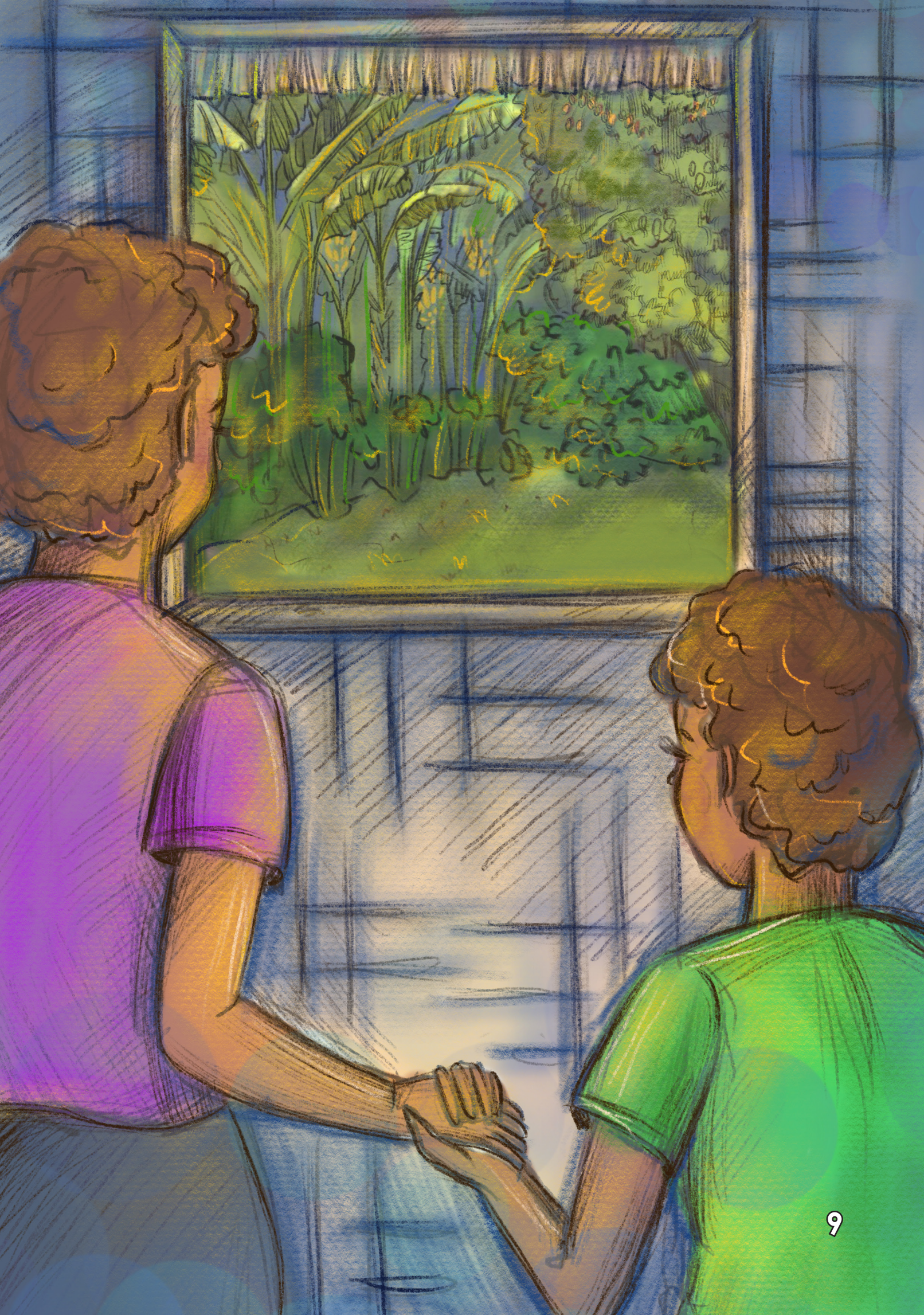
He returned from the garden that evening, feeling tired and ready for a sleep. But just as night fell, he heard the dogs barking even louder than before!

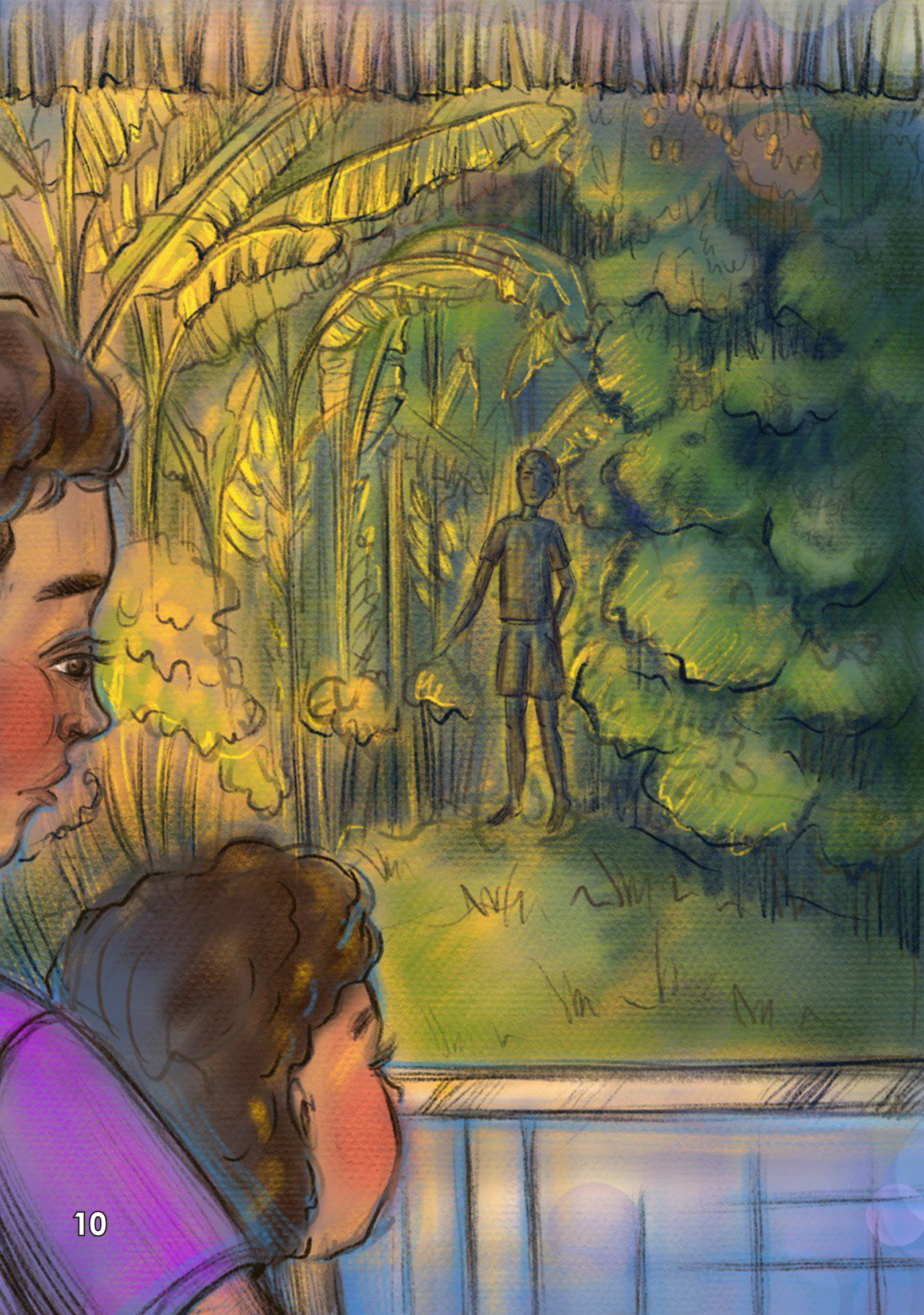
And then, *bang!* There was that noise again. Now it was right outside the bedroom window.

“Mum, I’m scared!” Jade shouted and ran to his mother.

Mum took Jade’s hand. “Shh, listen,” she said.

They heard footsteps hurrying across the backyard.





Jade held his mother's hand tightly as they shone a torch into the garden. There was a dark shadow in the bushes.

"Go away!" shouted Mum, in a frightened but strong voice. "We don't want trouble. Take whatever you need and go away."

In the torchlight, they saw the dark figure of a man snatching a bunch of bananas hanging from the banana tree.

But their dogs, Lucky and Scotty, could see him too!

Woof! Woof! Woof!

The barking got louder and louder.





The man began throwing sticks and stones in all directions, trying to hit Lucky and Scotty.

But the dogs were too quick. They barked and growled until the thief dropped the bananas and ran off into the dark, cold night.

“Yeah! Naes wan!” shouted Jade with relief. Mum sighed and put down her torch.

Lucky and Scotty came running back, their tails wagging happily. Jade patted them.

“Good job. Naes wan.”





Now Jade and his mum were really tired. Together, they said a prayer of thankfulness, then Mum hugged Jade and put him into bed.

Lucky and Scotty fell asleep too, dreaming of bananas.

**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



What were the dogs' names?



What did the thief try to steal?

Where was Jade's father?



**What would you do if you heard a loud
bang in the night?**



**Draw a picture of Lucky and Scotty, the
brave dogs.**

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About the author

Vanessa David Nimbwen was born in Port Vila and still lives there. She wanted to write a children's story to share happy moments and the culture of the islands.

As a child, her favourite story was a cultural story about the coconut. Her favourite thing to do with her family is share stories about each other's day and crack a few jokes.



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Save the Children



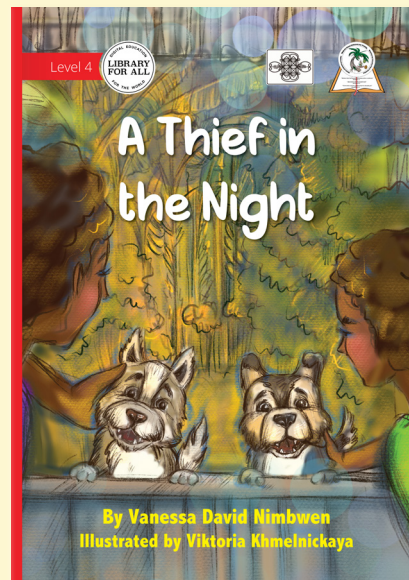
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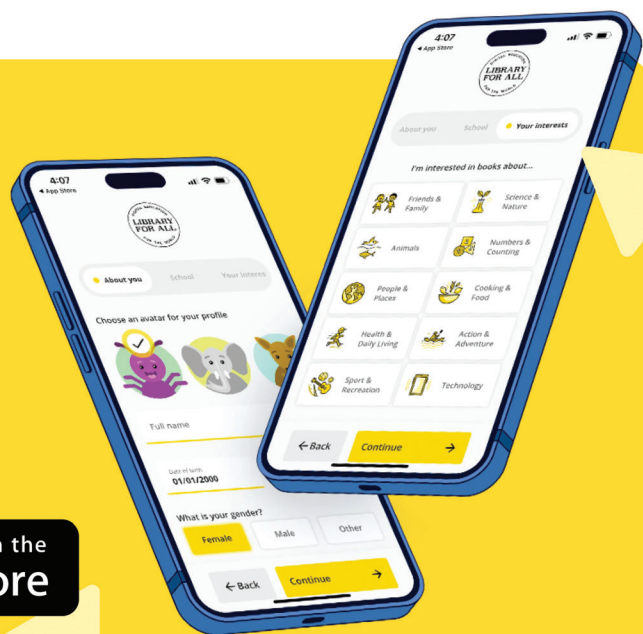


A Thief in the Night

Jade and his mother hear a strange noise in the night! A thief has come to steal their bananas, but their dogs know just how to help.



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