



# HOPEE'S CHRISTMAS

illustrated by Ninka Joachimowska



part one

# THE TARSIERS



At the edge of a forest, high up in their tree,  
The Tarzier family are parents to be,  
Momma and Poppa get everything ready,  
For the joyful arrival of their little baby.



It's a boy! The happy moment is here.  
Now they just need a name for their little dear.



They think and they think,  
“what should his name be?”  
But as they are thinking,  
who should they see?

Bella the Bird,  
flits into their tree  
“Hello Tarziers!  
Please listen to me.



“A nasty disease is spreading around,  
The forest’s not safe, not the trees nor the ground.  
Leon of Greatwood has made a decree  
We must all stay at home, so don’t leave your tree!”





Poppa and Momma do as they're warned,  
They stay safe at home, with their precious newborn.  
But their food stocks grow low, there's not much to eat.  
And Baby Tarzier is getting so weak.

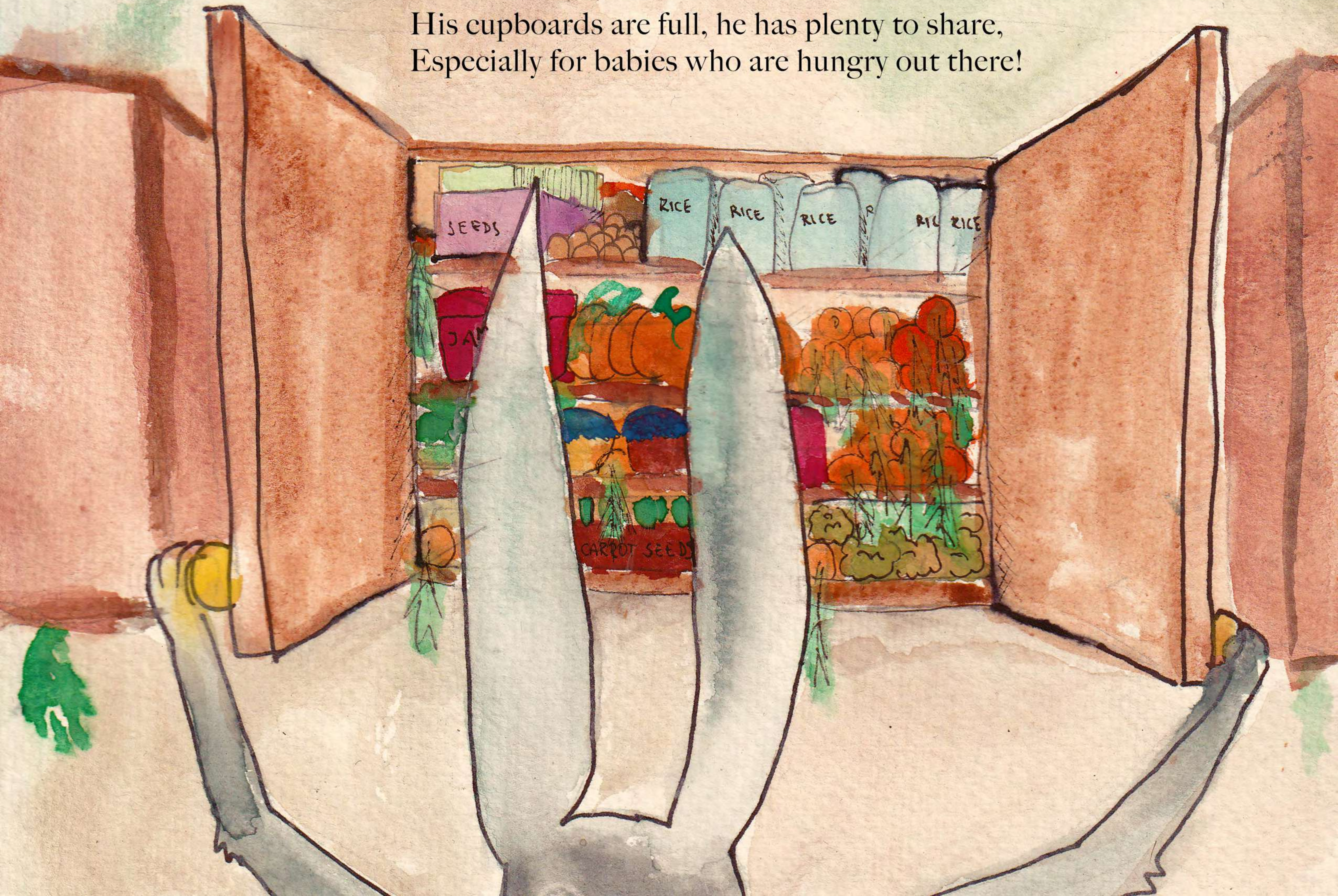


Meanwhile, faraway in the thick of the forest,  
Hopee the Rabbit is also quite worried.  
All over the bushes creatures need food  
And he wants to help, like he knows that he should.



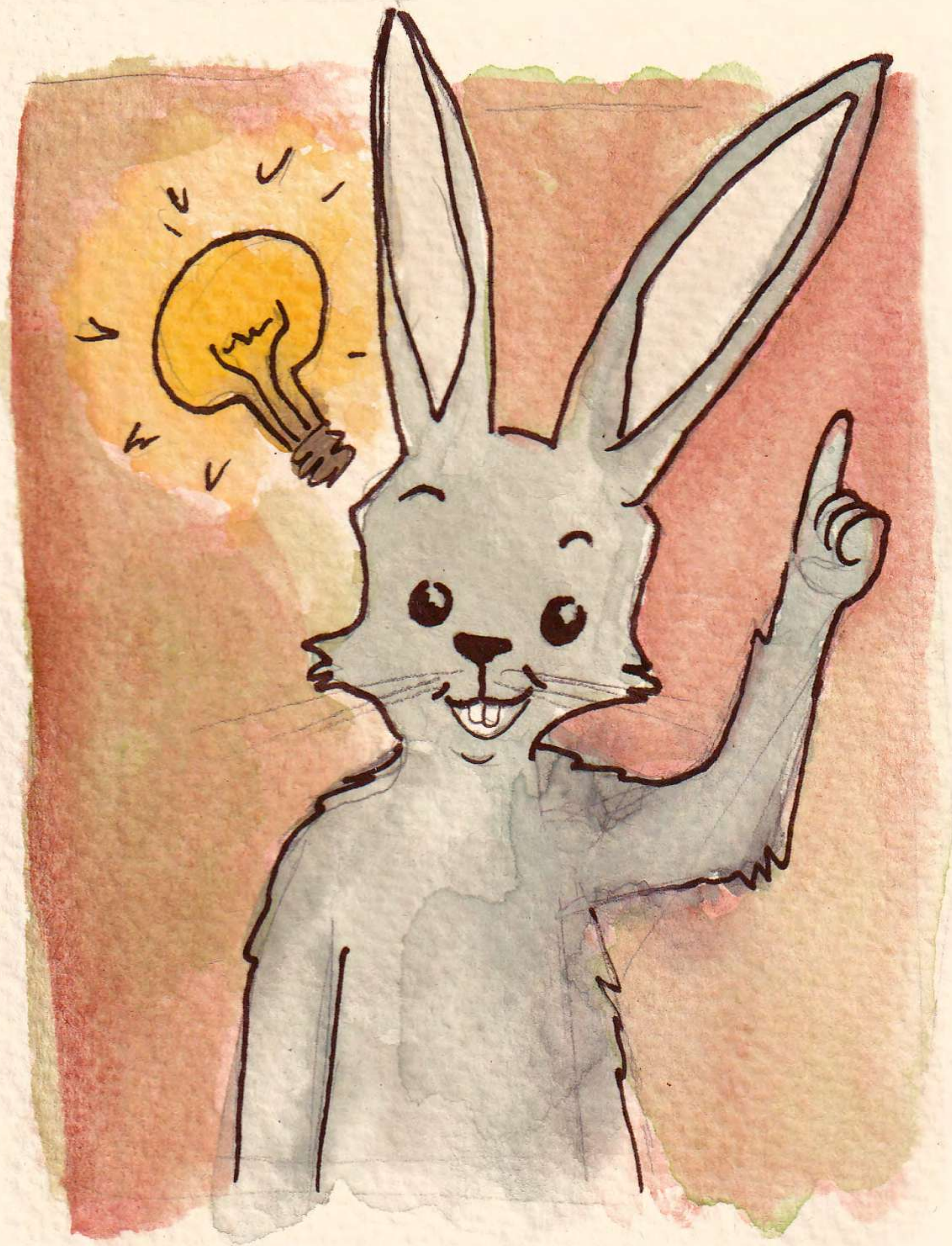


His cupboards are full, he has plenty to share,  
Especially for babies who are hungry out there!





He thinks and he plans, he needs some ideas,



Can he possibly help his friends the Tarziers?



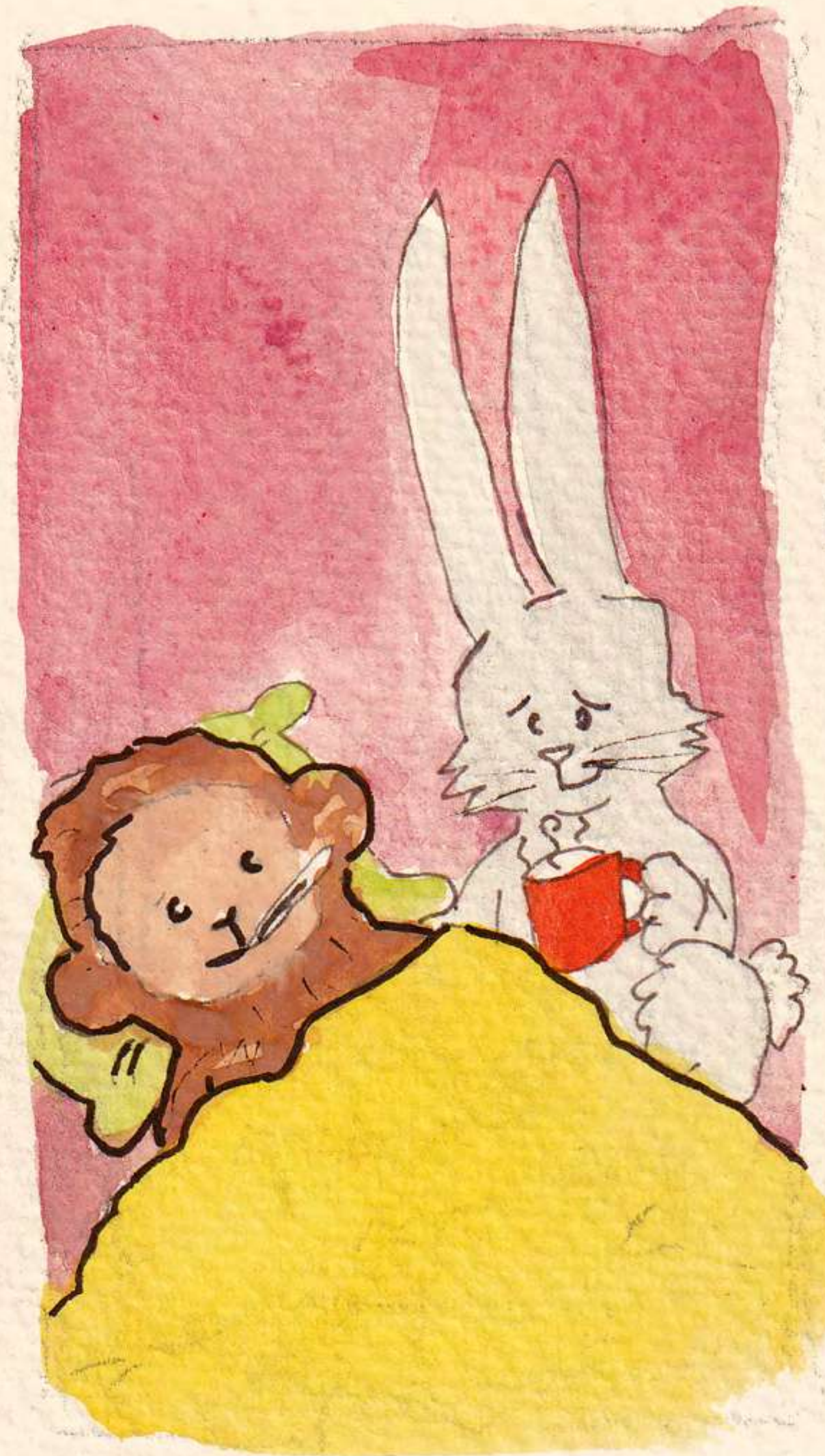
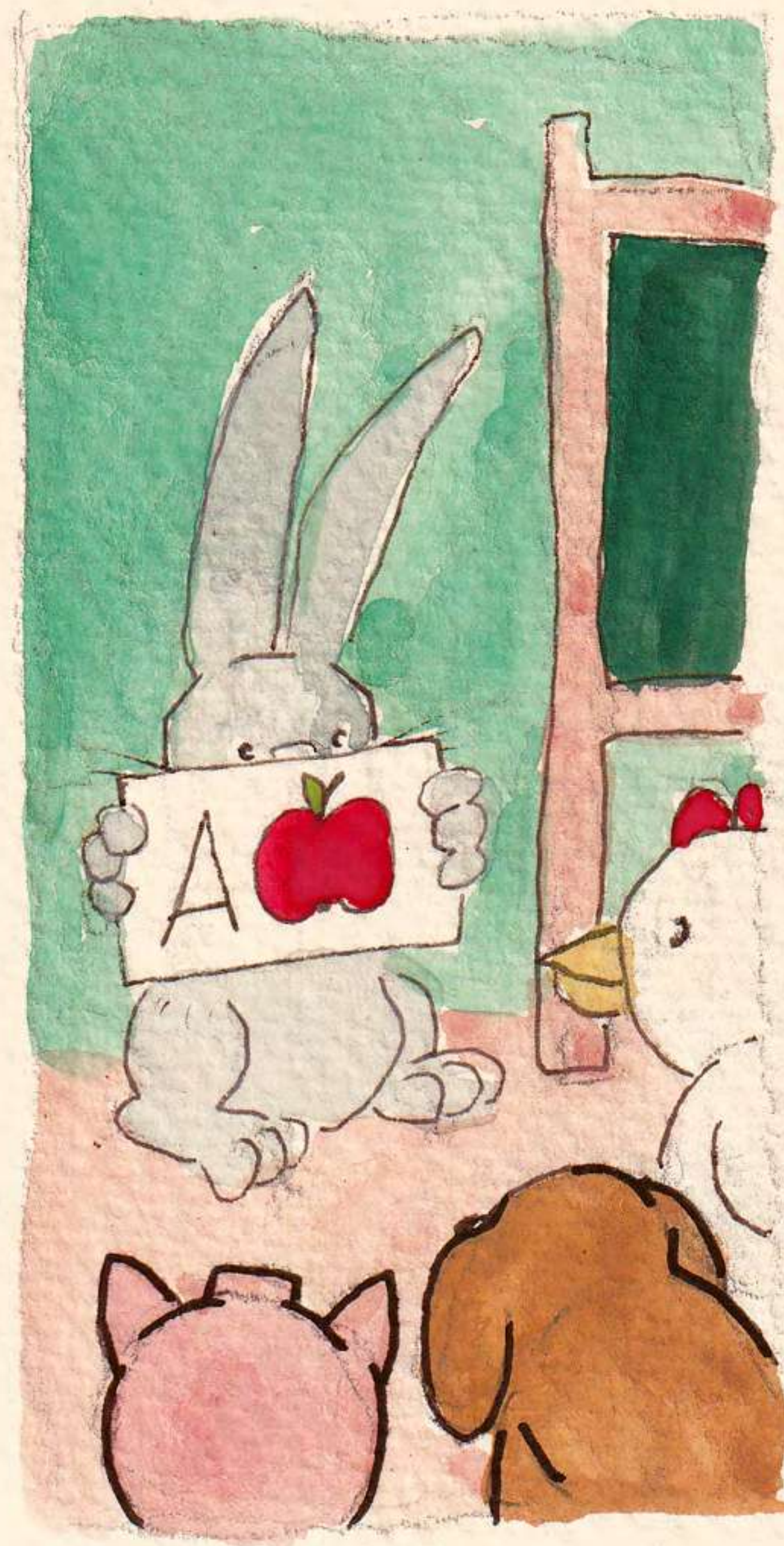
part two

# HOPEE THE HOPEFUL





A long time ago, when Hopee was small,  
He knew that his life had a special call,  
To bring hope and bring help to all those in need,  
Whether teaching, or medicine, or vegetable seeds!





The older he grew, the more that he gave,  
He started a school, he taught families to save,  
The mothers were learning, their children got healthy,  
And even the poorest began to be wealthy.



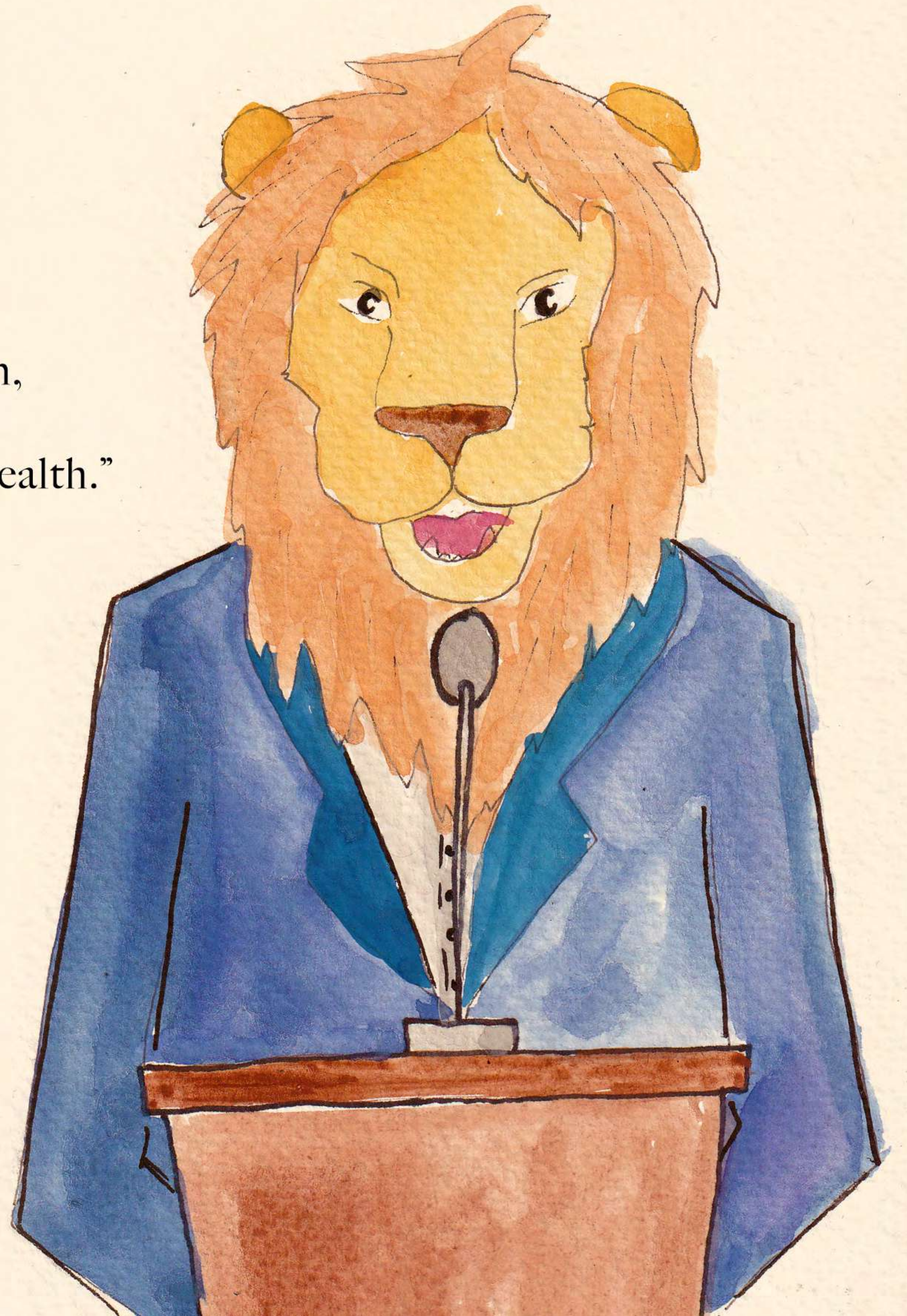


From the oaks to the lakes, from the hills to the stream,  
All creatures were helped by Hopee's great team.

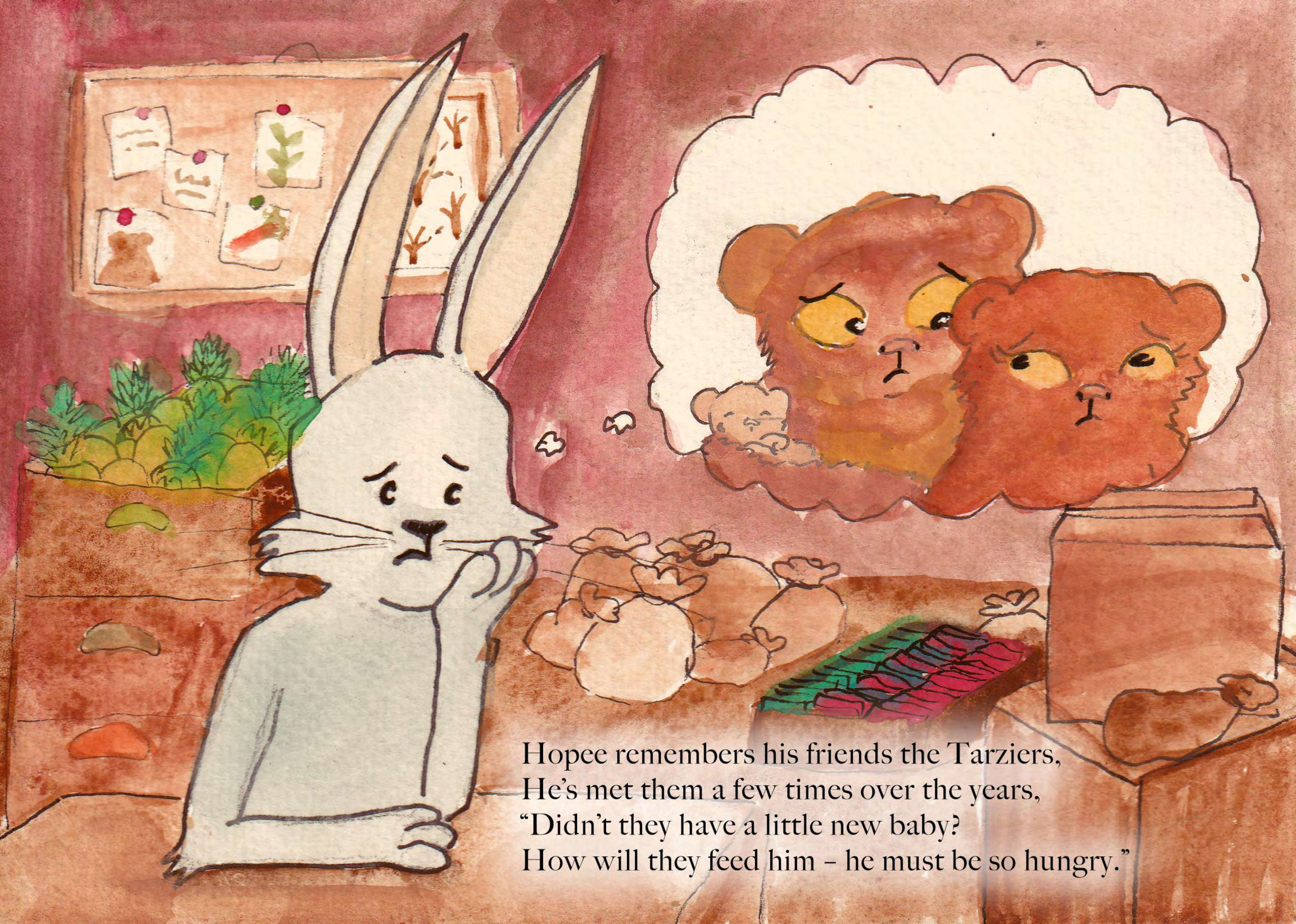




But now a disease has invaded their home,  
And Leon of Greatwood has made it known,  
That every creature must protect themselves,  
“Stay home and be careful, look after your health.”








Hopee remembers his friends the Tarziers,  
He's met them a few times over the years,  
"Didn't they have a little new baby?  
How will they feed him – he must be so hungry."





He writes down a message to Leon of Greatwood,  
“Will you give me a permit to deliver some food?”  
The Lion agrees, and Hopee’s so pleased!  
He loads up his bike, full of carrots and seeds.

It’s a long way to go, Hopee’s anxious to see,  
If he’ll make it from home all the way to their tree...



part three

# A LONG JOURNEY





Up and down hills, across deep blue rivers  
Past scuttling spiders and strange looking lizards,





Hopee's bike trip to help the Tarziers  
Is the hardest one that he's made for years.





Hopee on his bike full of carrots and seeds,  
Finally makes it to the Tarziers' tree.  
Momma and Poppa and Baby are there,  
They're so pleased to see him, and for Hopee's care!

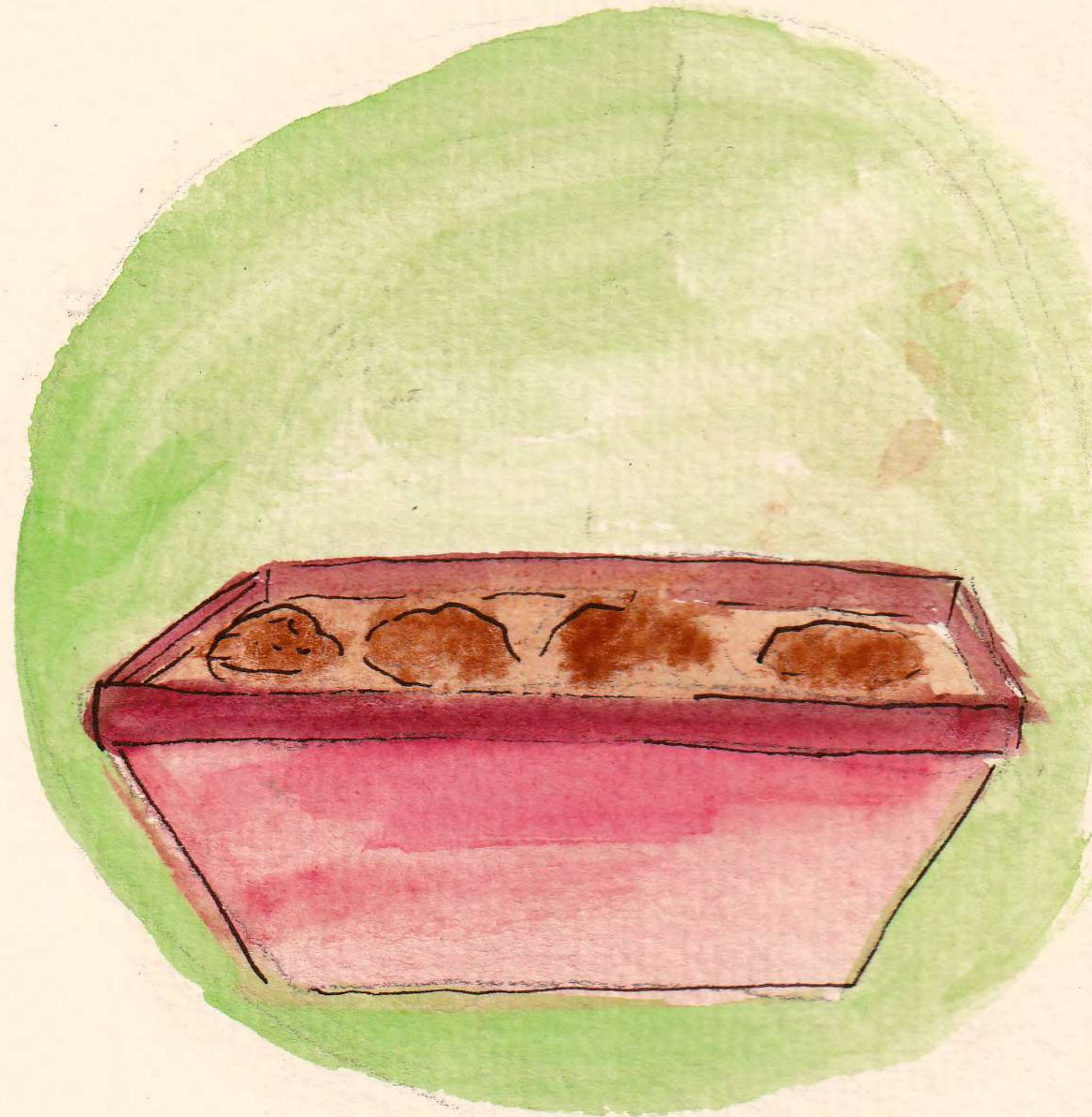




He's just in time, the baby's so weak,  
And hasn't had enough good food to eat.  
They cook up the carrots, and other yummy treats,  
And Baby Tarzier eats and eats and eats!







The next day, Hopee teaches the family,  
To stay safe from disease, and wash their paws carefully.  
He gives them the seeds so they can grow food,  
And other yummy treats, so healthy and good.

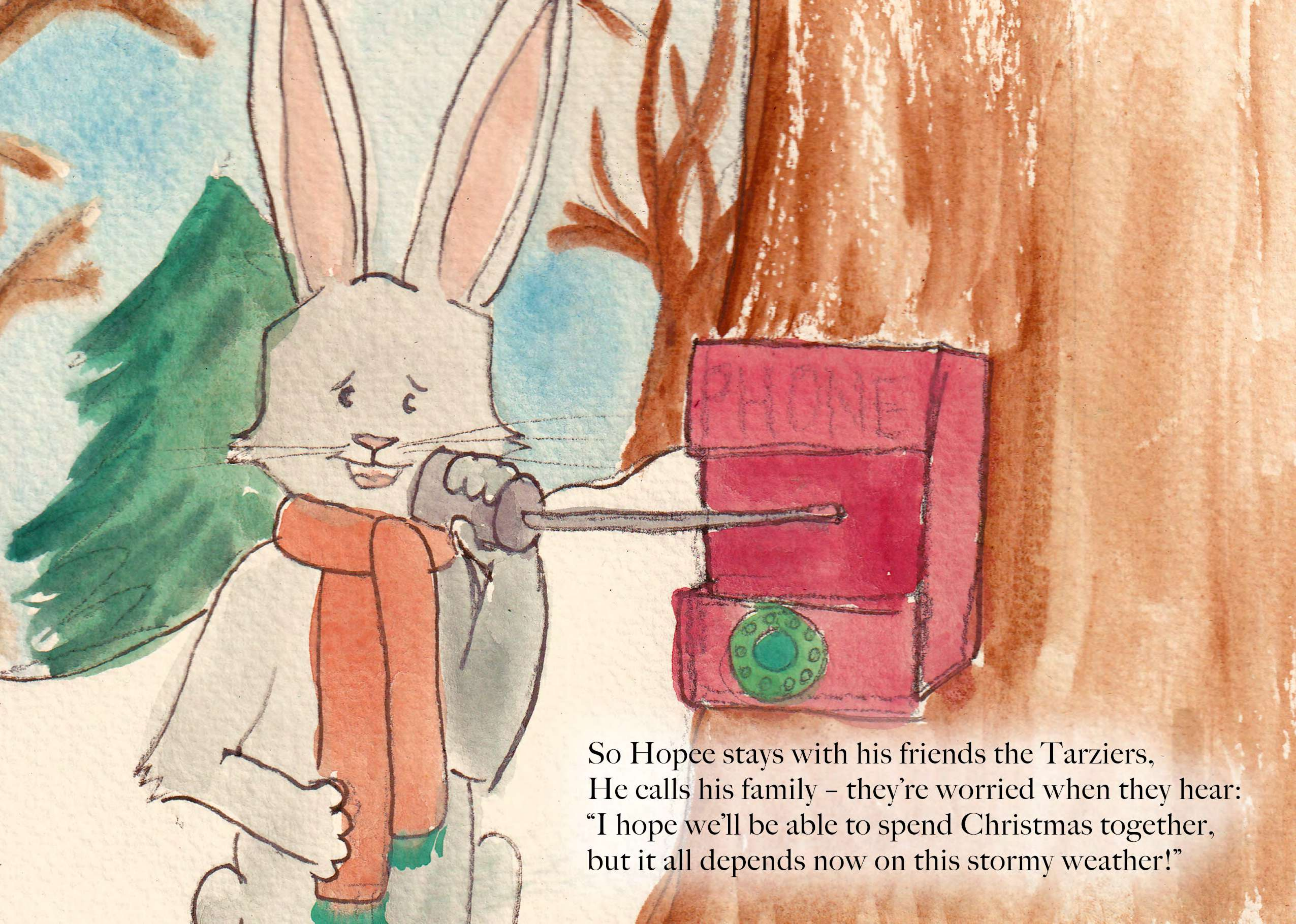




Hopee the Rabbit climbs on his bike,  
But Bella the Bird flies down by his side,  
“Be careful, watch out, a big storm’s arriving!  
You’d better stay here, there’ll be thunder and lightning!”







So Hopee stays with his friends the Tarziers,  
He calls his family – they’re worried when they hear:  
“I hope we’ll be able to spend Christmas together,  
but it all depends now on this stormy weather!”



part four

# CHRISTMAS TIME






The rain fell strong,  
and the lightning crashed,  
The Tarziers' tree  
was shaken and bashed.





But morning comes, and they all look around,  
They're a little bit wet, but all safe and sound.

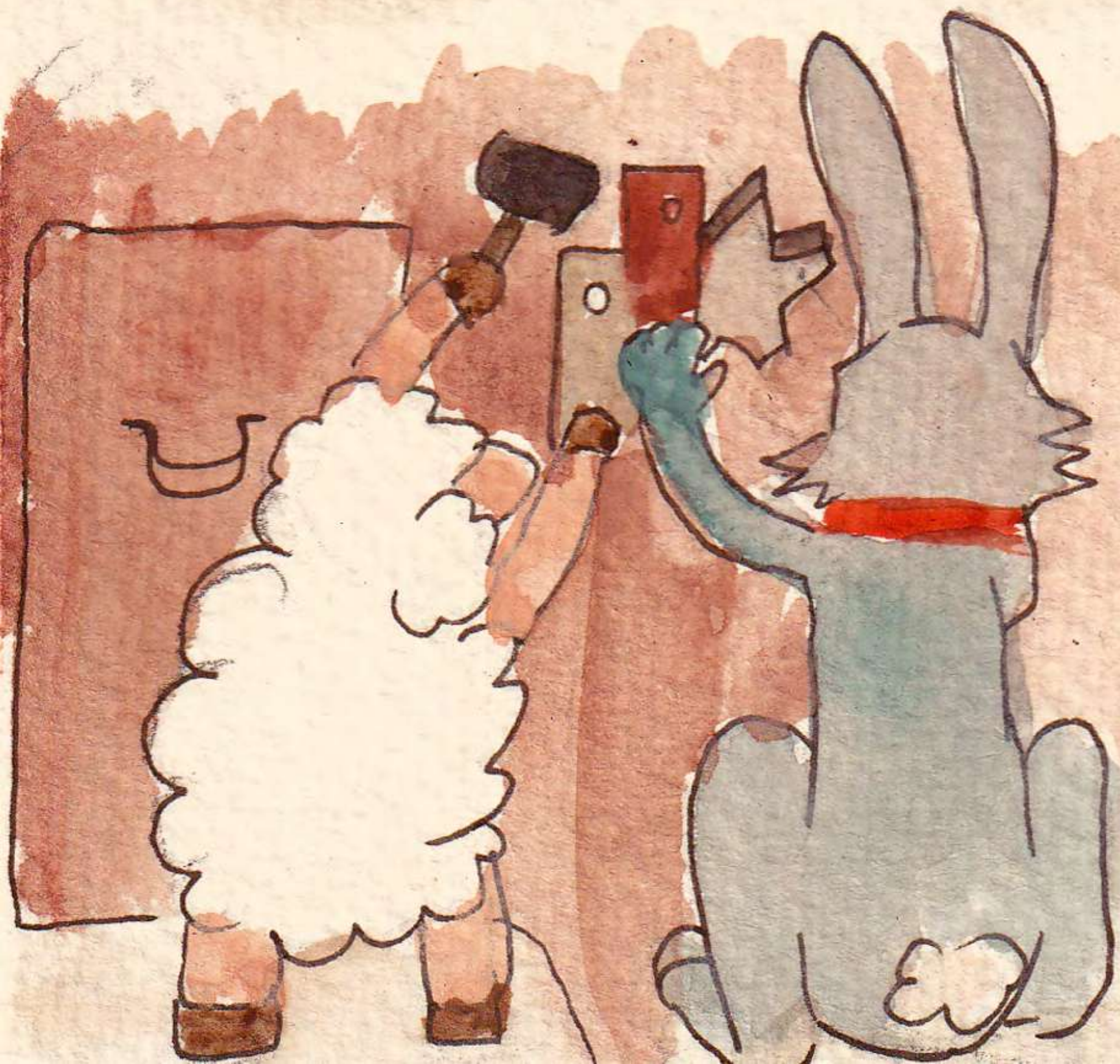
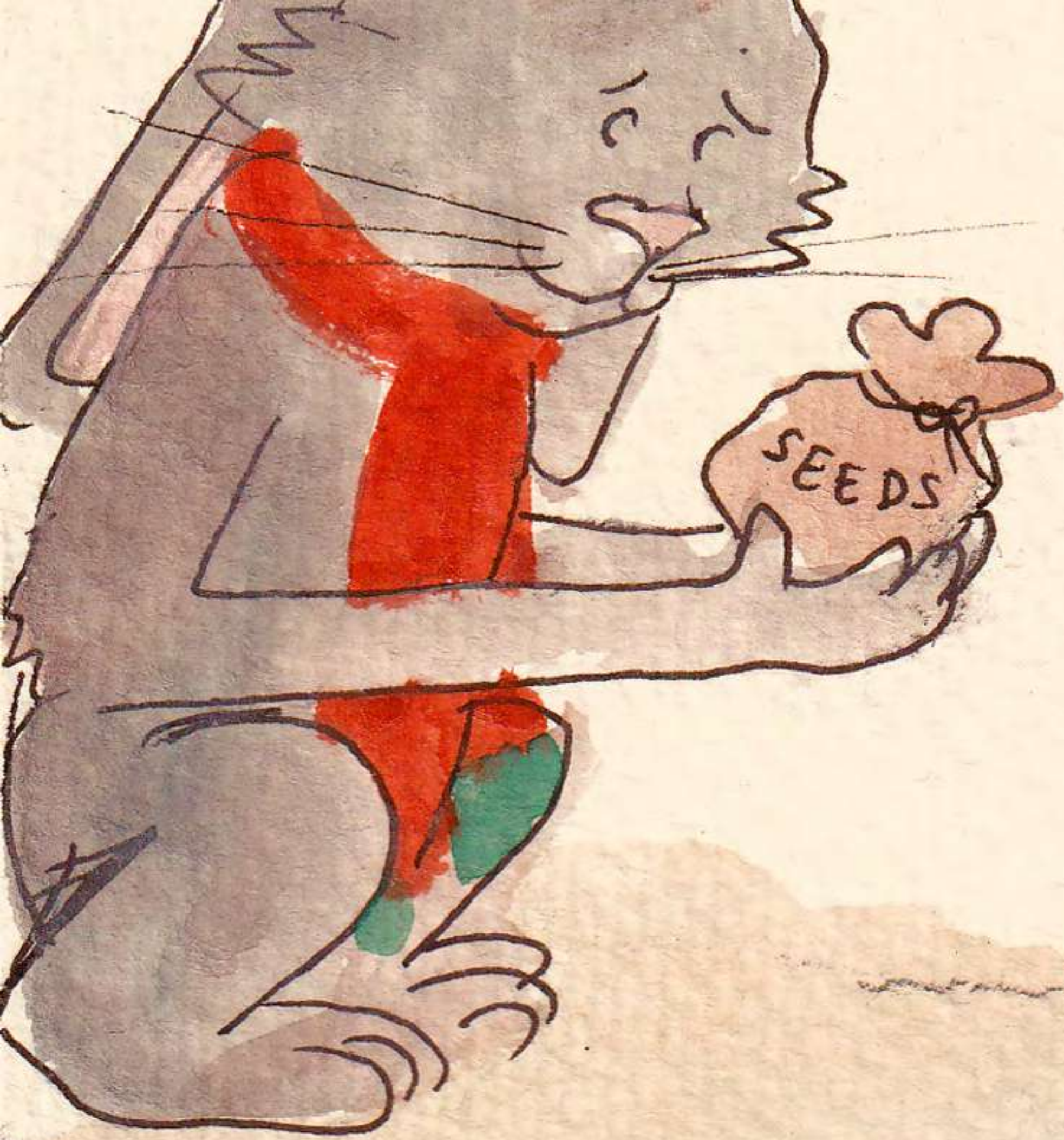




But the bridge on the river has been blown away,  
So to get home, Hopee must ride the long way.  
He waves them goodbye. How long will it take,  
To get through the forest, the hills, and the lake?



Along the route, all across the land,  
Hopee meets families that could do with a hand,  
They haven't had work, and don't have much to eat,  
So he gives them the rest of the carrots and seeds.







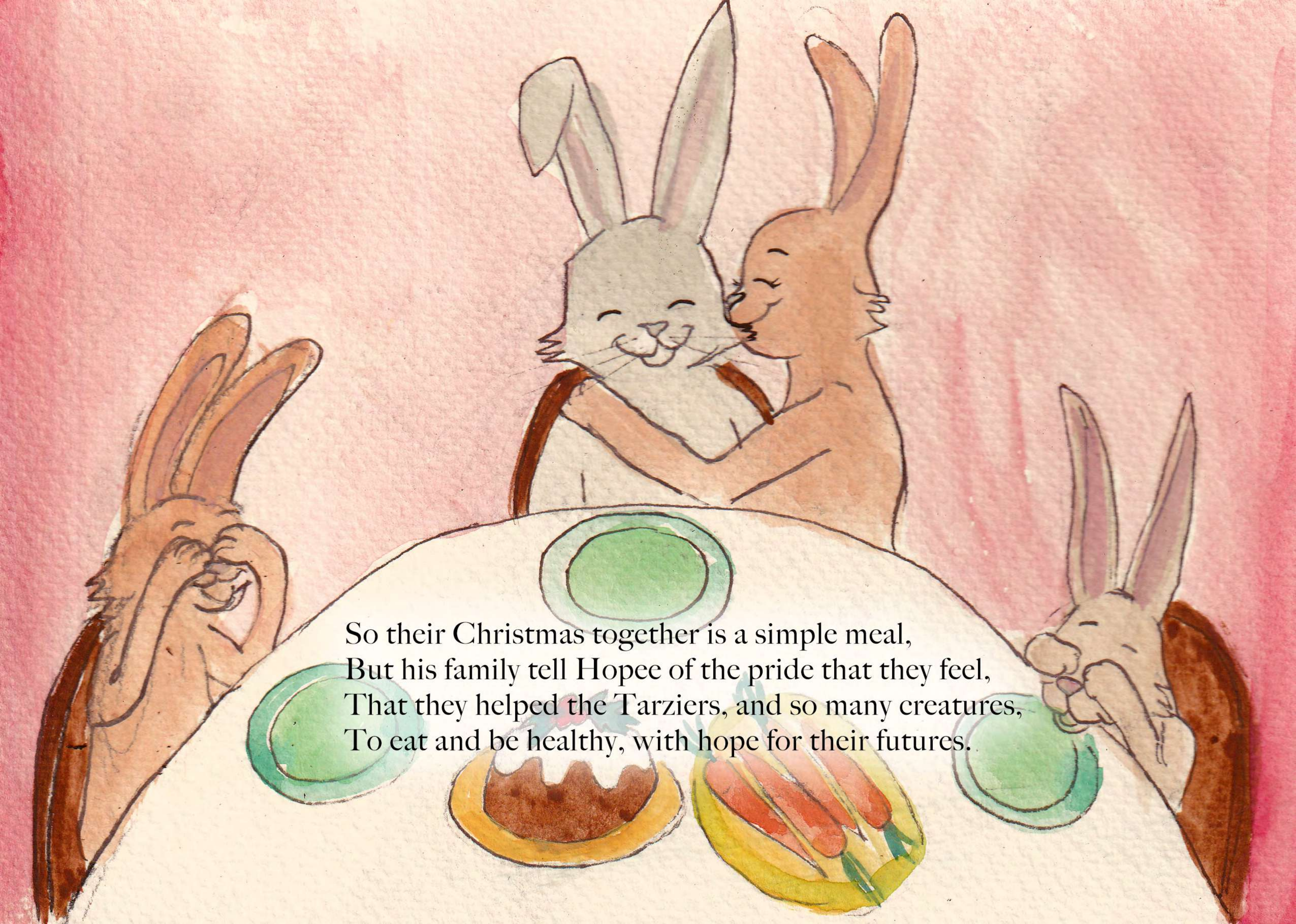
Finally Hopee arrives at his home,  
He's in time for Christmas, he won't be alone,





He checks in the cupboards, but they're almost empty,  
Hopee has given out all his inventory!





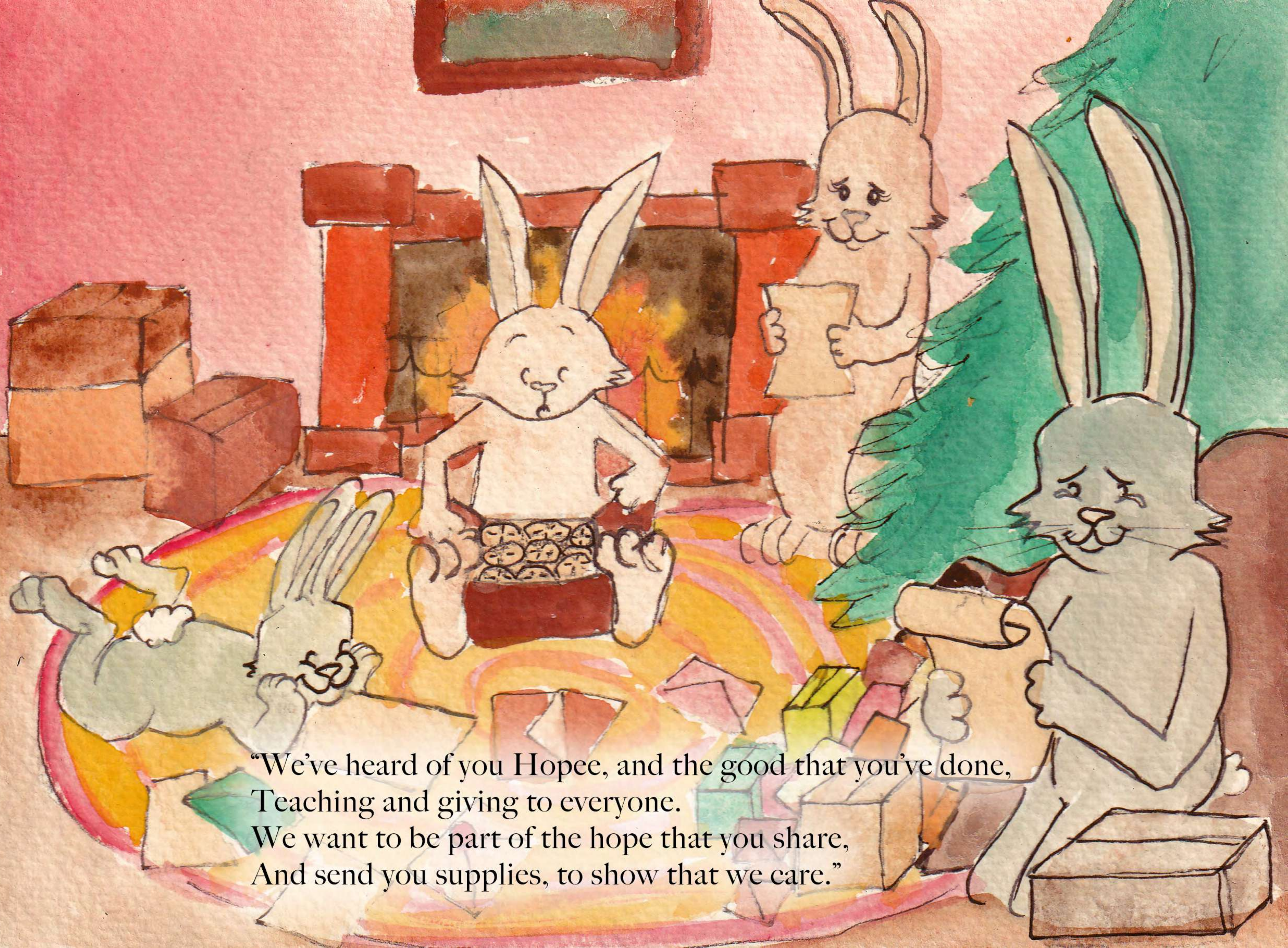
So their Christmas together is a simple meal,  
But his family tell Hopee of the pride that they feel,  
That they helped the Tarziers, and so many creatures,  
To eat and be healthy, with hope for their futures.





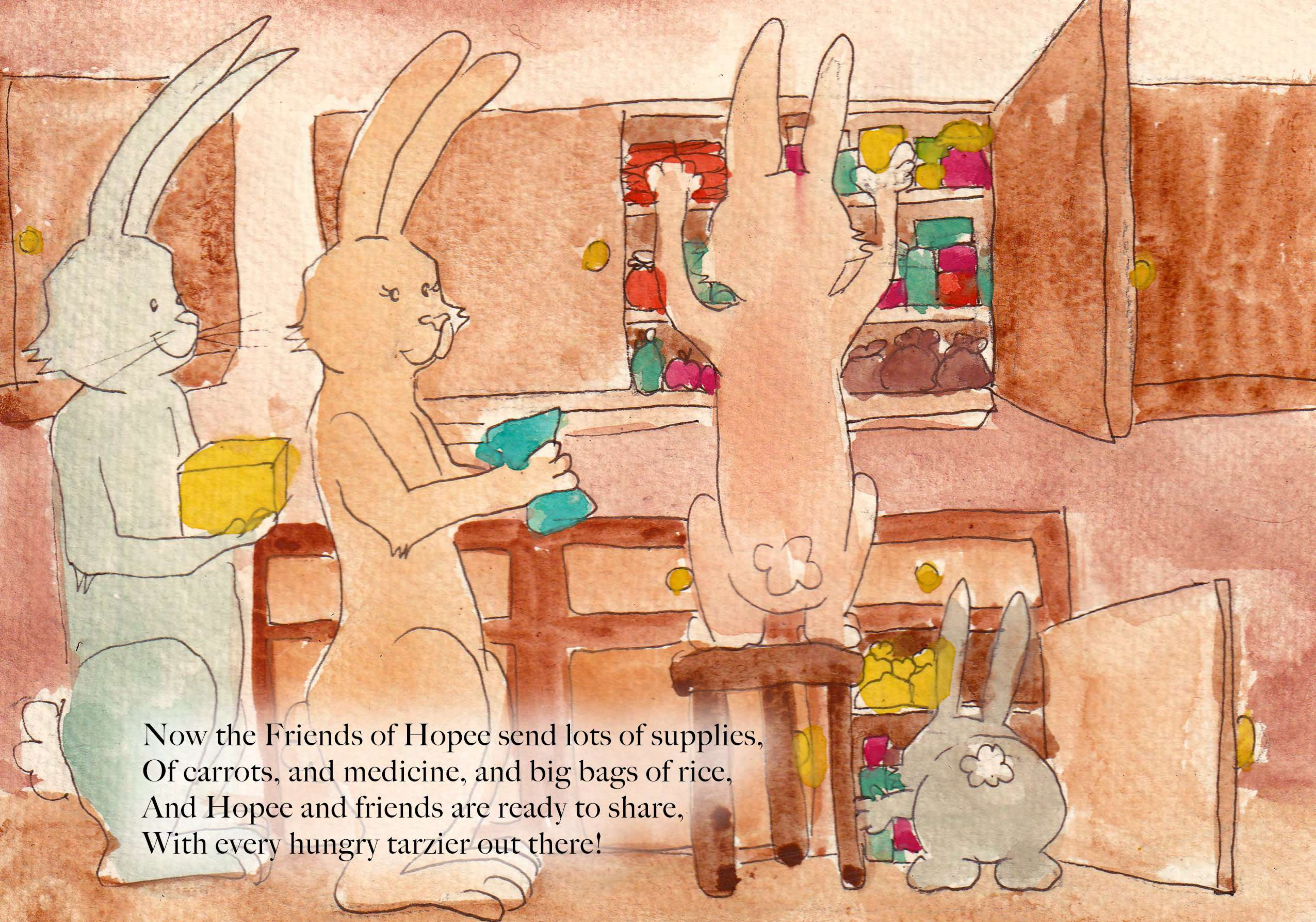
The story of Hopee travelled far and wide,  
Even to people like you and like I,  
He began to receive letters from afar,  
Saying, "Hopee, wow what a hero you are!"





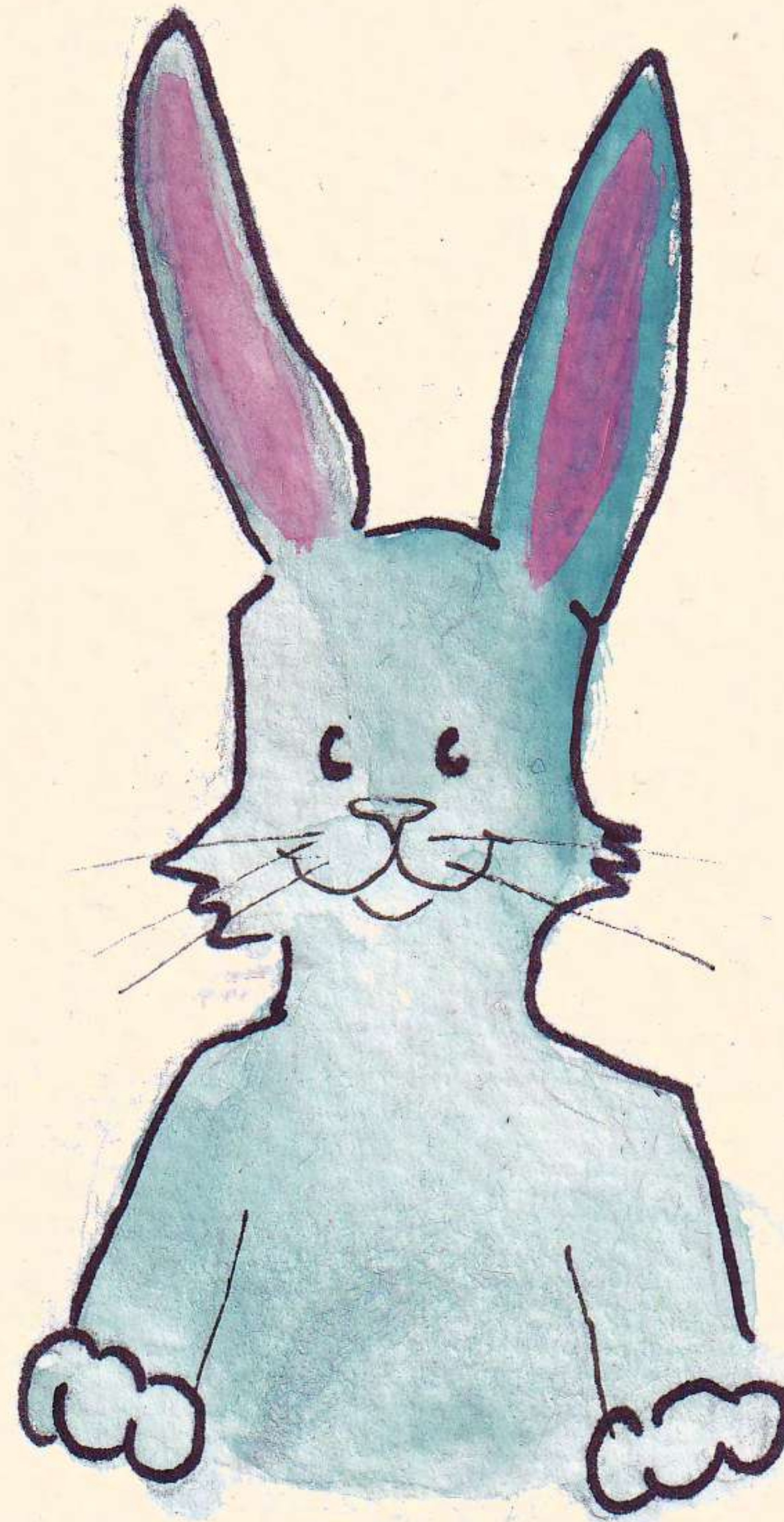
"We've heard of you Hopee, and the good that you've done,  
Teaching and giving to everyone.  
We want to be part of the hope that you share,  
And send you supplies, to show that we care."





Now the Friends of Hopee send lots of supplies,  
Of carrots, and medicine, and big bags of rice,  
And Hopee and friends are ready to share,  
With every hungry tarzier out there!





[caremin.com/friendsofhopee](http://caremin.com/friendsofhopee)



story by Michal and Louise Joachimowski

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