



# KORIA THE CROW



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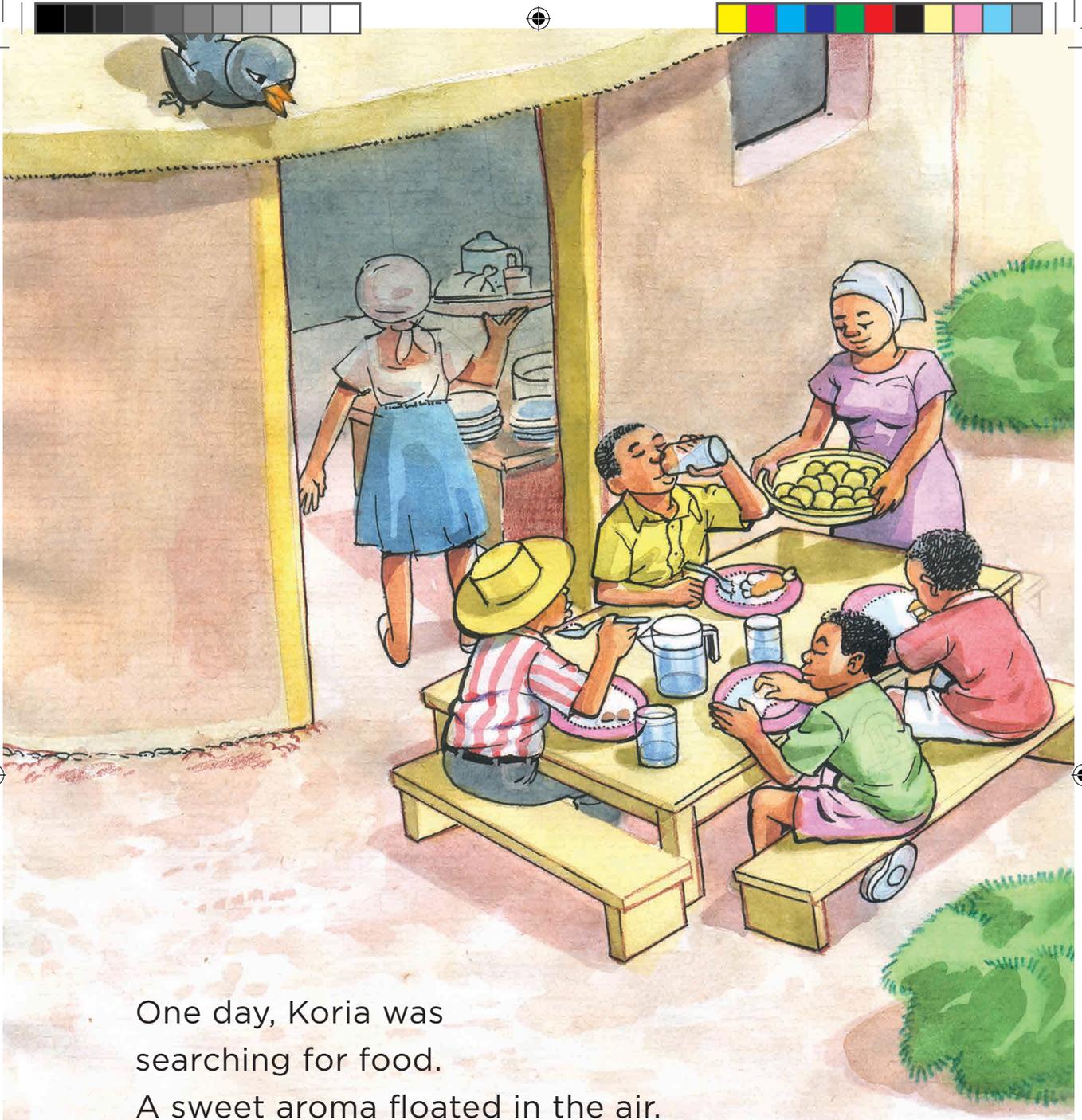




Koria the crow wanted to be beautiful. She was jealous of the parrot's and the peacock's colorful feathers.

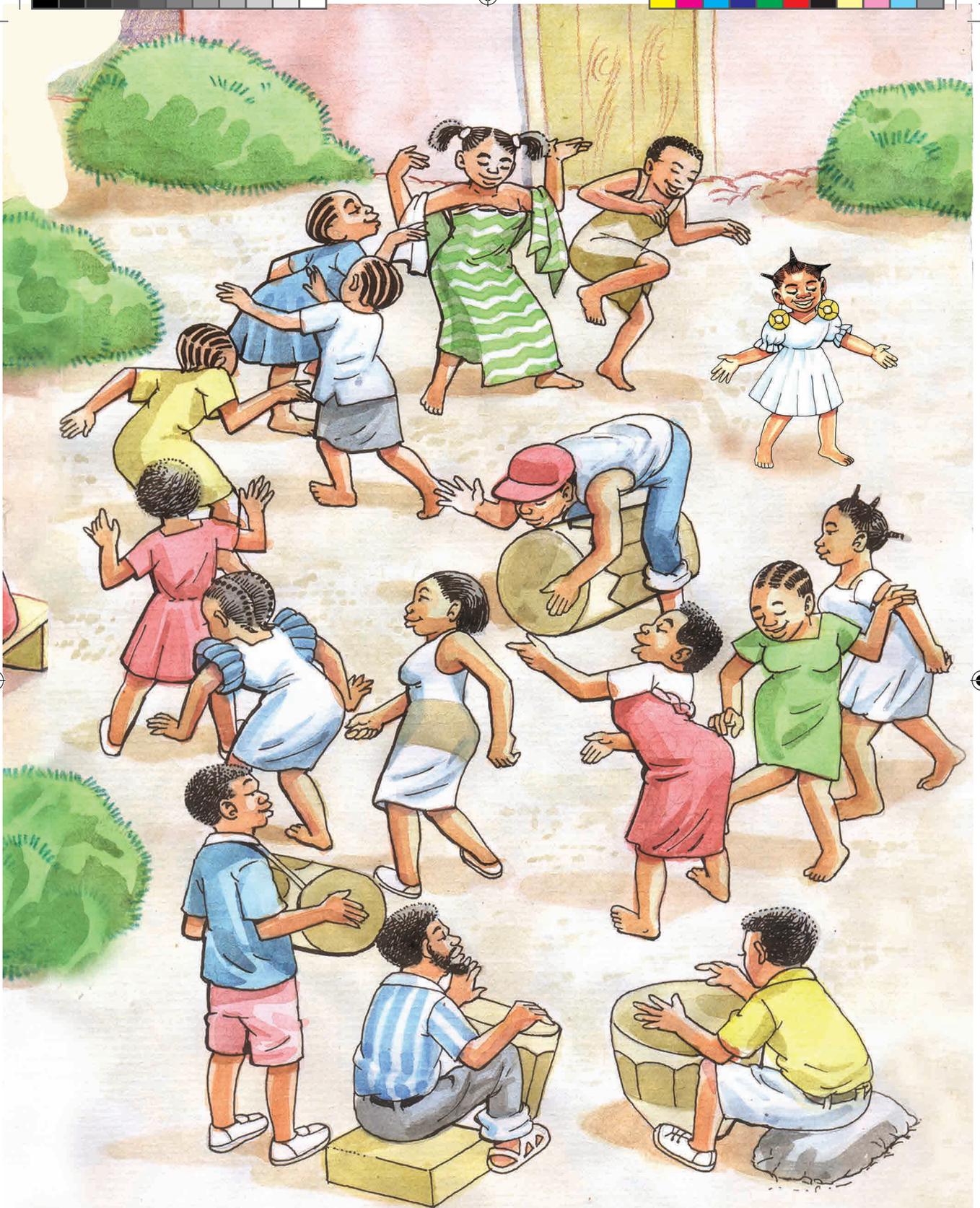
Koria loved the peacock's tail. Every time she spotted it, she couldn't pull her eyes away.





One day, Korina was searching for food. A sweet aroma floated in the air. She tracked down the delicious smell.

People of all ages were in the middle of a celebration. Some were eating curry goat and ugali\*. Others were dancing.



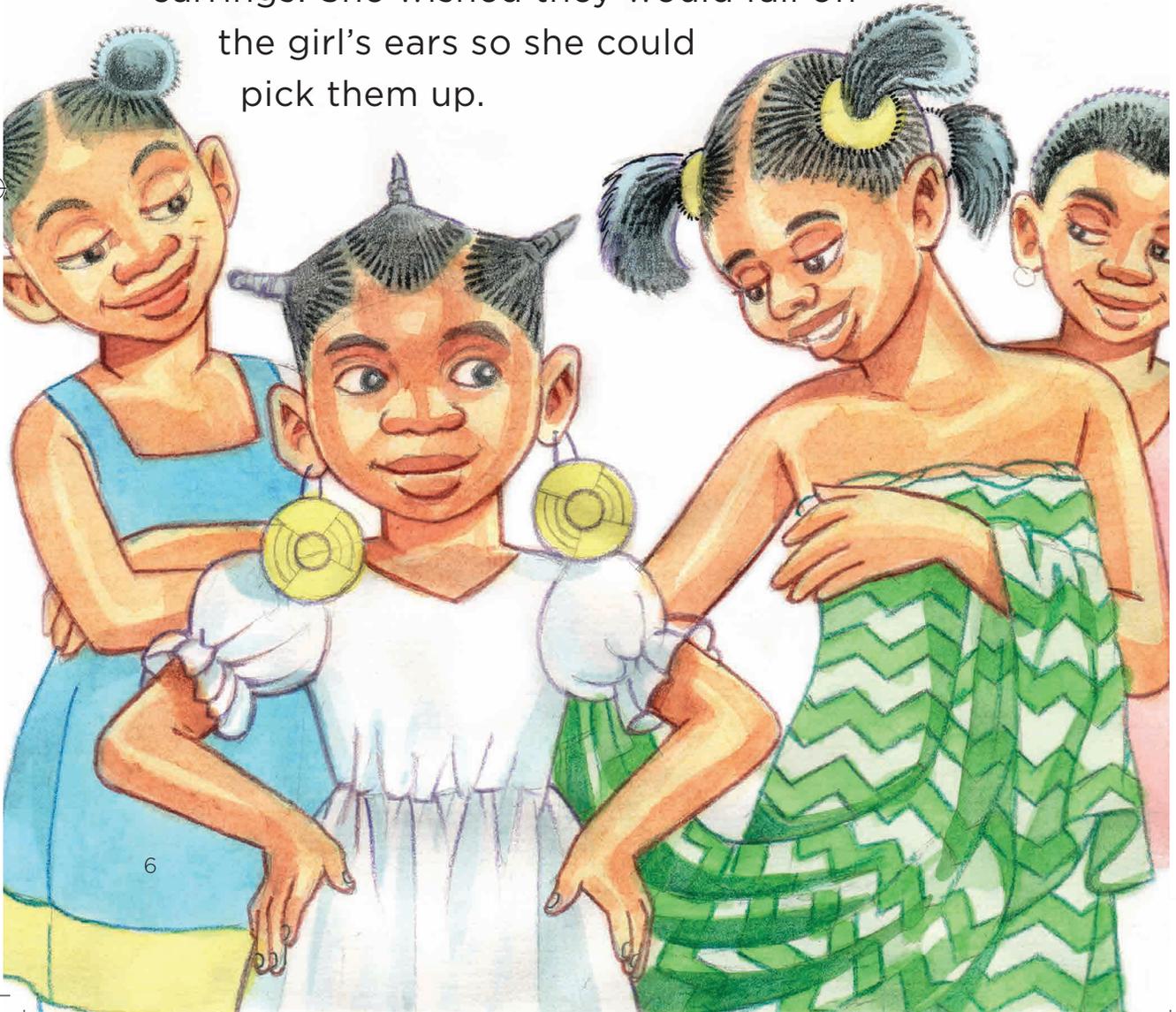
\*Ugali : Porridge eaten in several 5  
African countries



Koria watched with fascination. She was especially interested in two girls. One was wearing a kitenge wrap, and another wore a pair of shining earrings.

*Ooh! Look at those earrings, Koria thought to herself. They make that girl look even more beautiful than she already is!*

When the girl danced, her earrings jangled, giving out a sweet tinkle. Koria wanted those earrings! She wished they would fall off the girl's ears so she could pick them up.

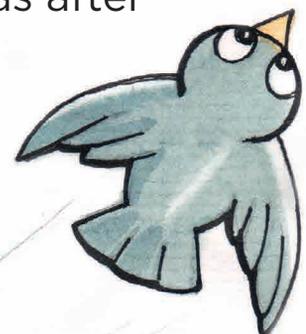


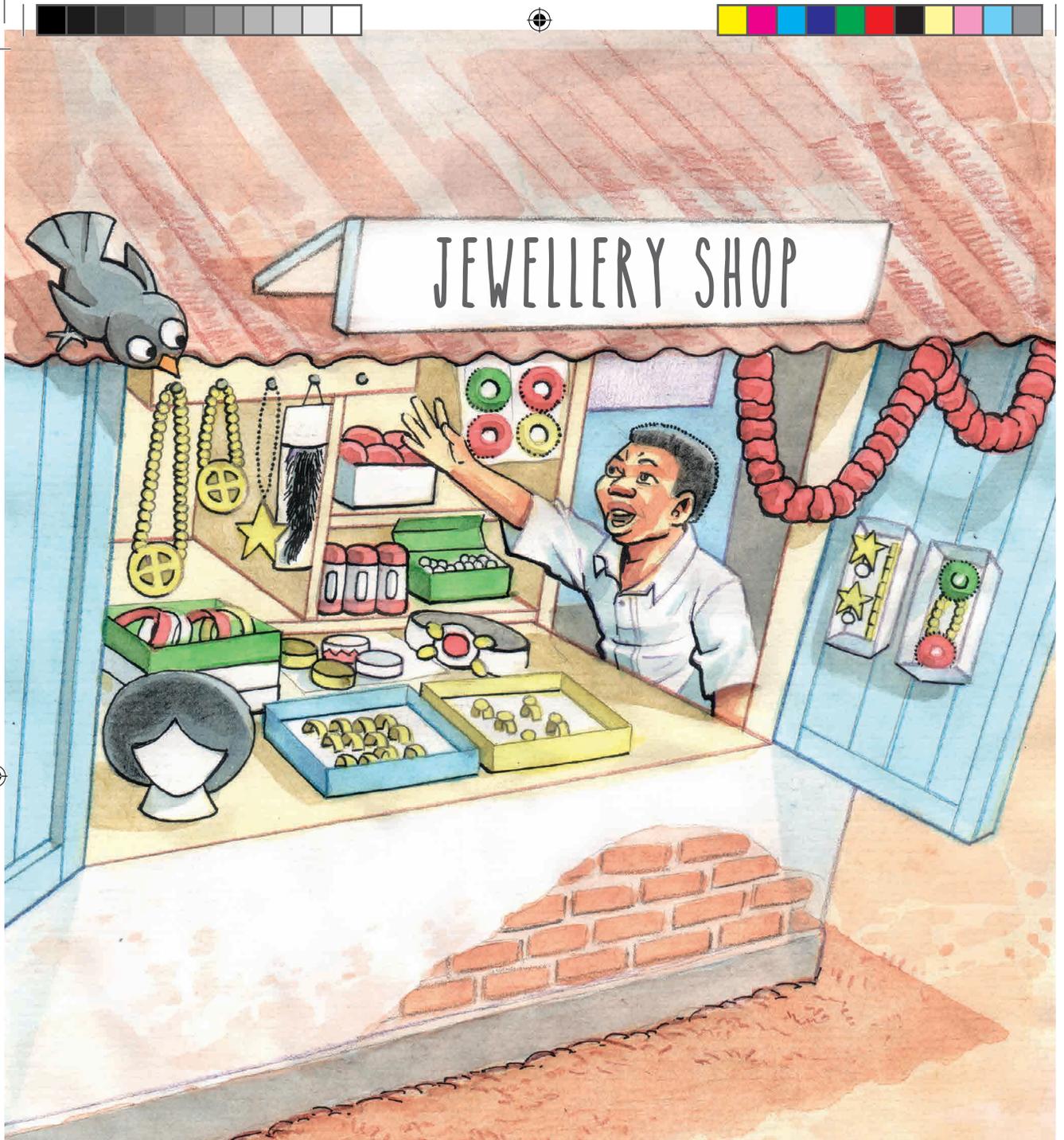


Koria waited on a tree branch. All she wanted was to be more beautiful than the parrot and the peacock. All she needed were those earrings!

Some people spotted Koria and tried to chase her away. They thought she was after their food. Koria flew away in fear. She felt so sad.

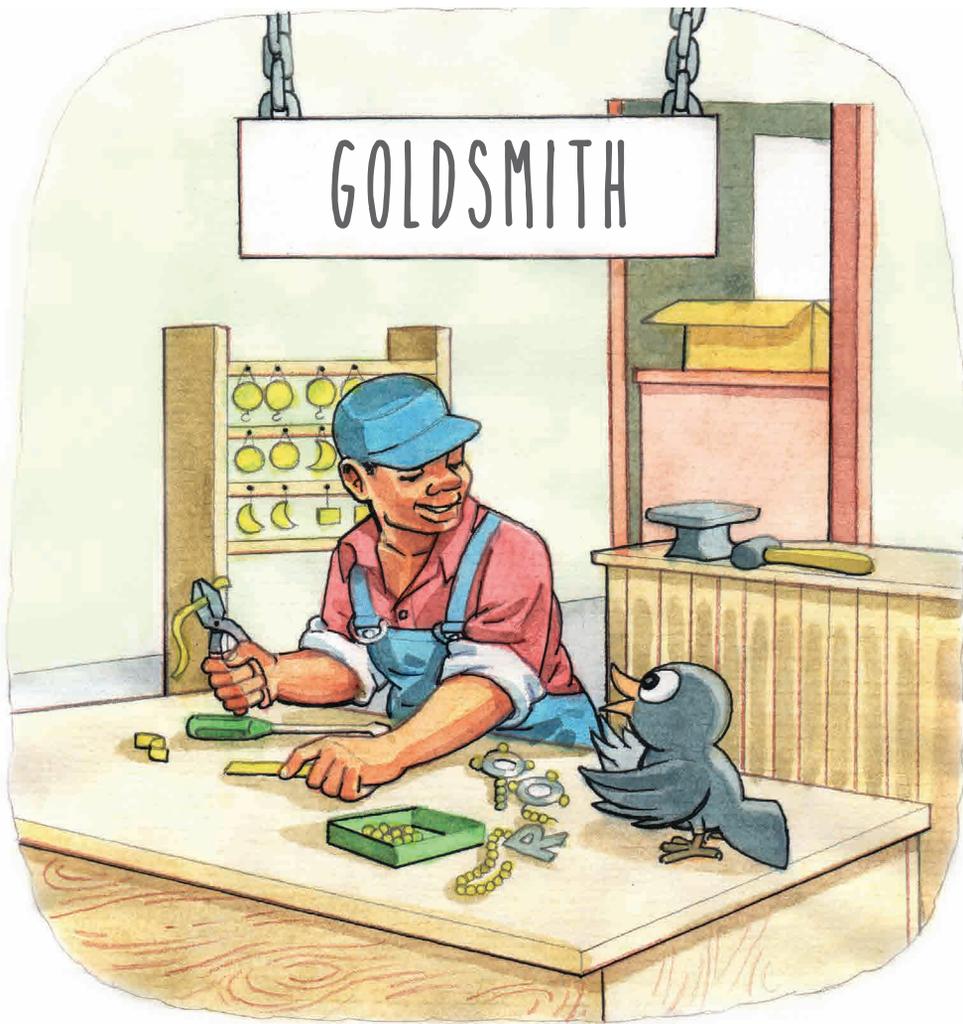
But she would not give up!





In the morning, Korla went to the market. She went to the jewellery seller and asked, "How much are your shiny earrings?"

"How will you pay me? You're a crow!" said the seller, swatting Korla away.



Koria thought of another solution. *I'll visit the jewellery maker. He will help me become beautiful.*

Koria said, "Mr. Jeweller, I have an offer to make. I'll go out and collect silver and copper items, then bring them to you. You'll get new material to make jewellery. In exchange, you'll give me just one pair of earrings. What do you say, is it a deal?"

The jeweller agreed.





Koria worked hard and collected silver and copper scraps from every place she could think of. She was tired and hungry.

“Mmmmm . . . I smell something! It might be canned meat.”





Koria found the meat and ate her fill. Energized, she flew back to the jeweller's, carrying her items.

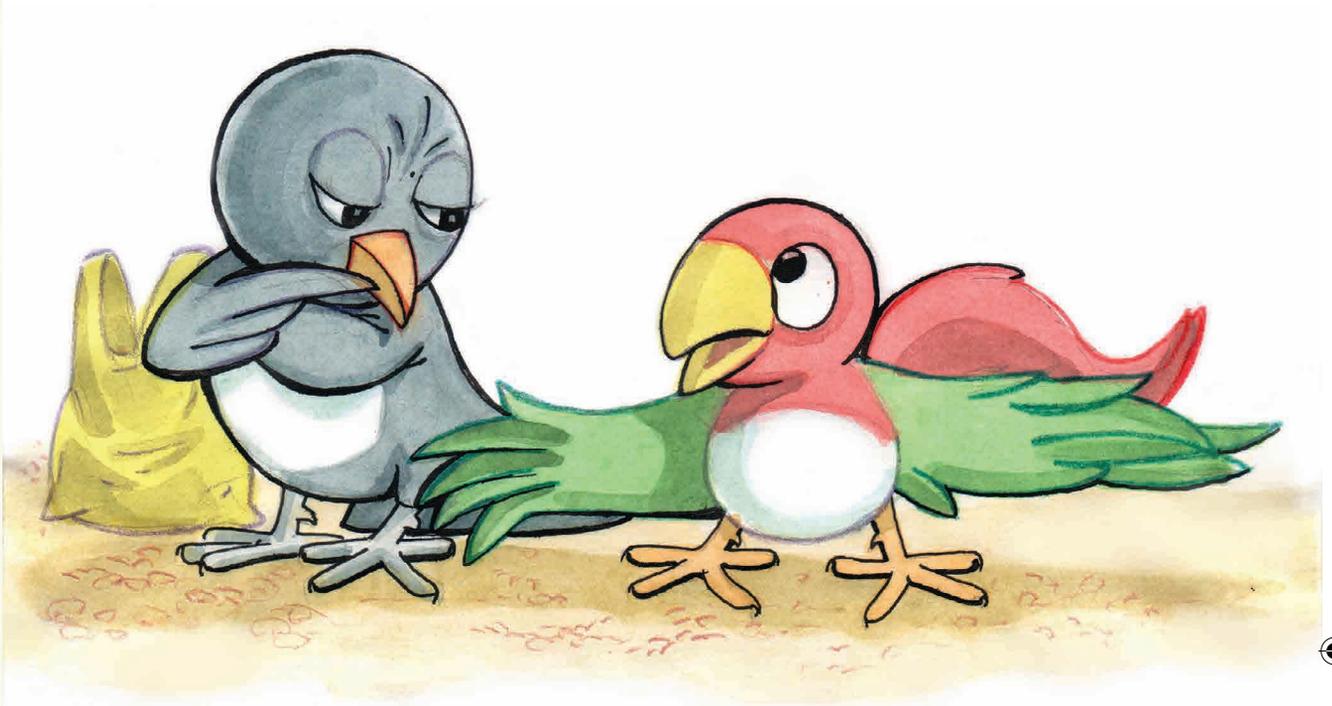
But his office was locked! *Aagh! Has the jeweller left?* She panicked.





She stared at the padlock for a long time. Her hope of being beautiful evaporated. She was close to tears.

The parrot sitting on a nearby tree branch saw Koria and came down to meet her.



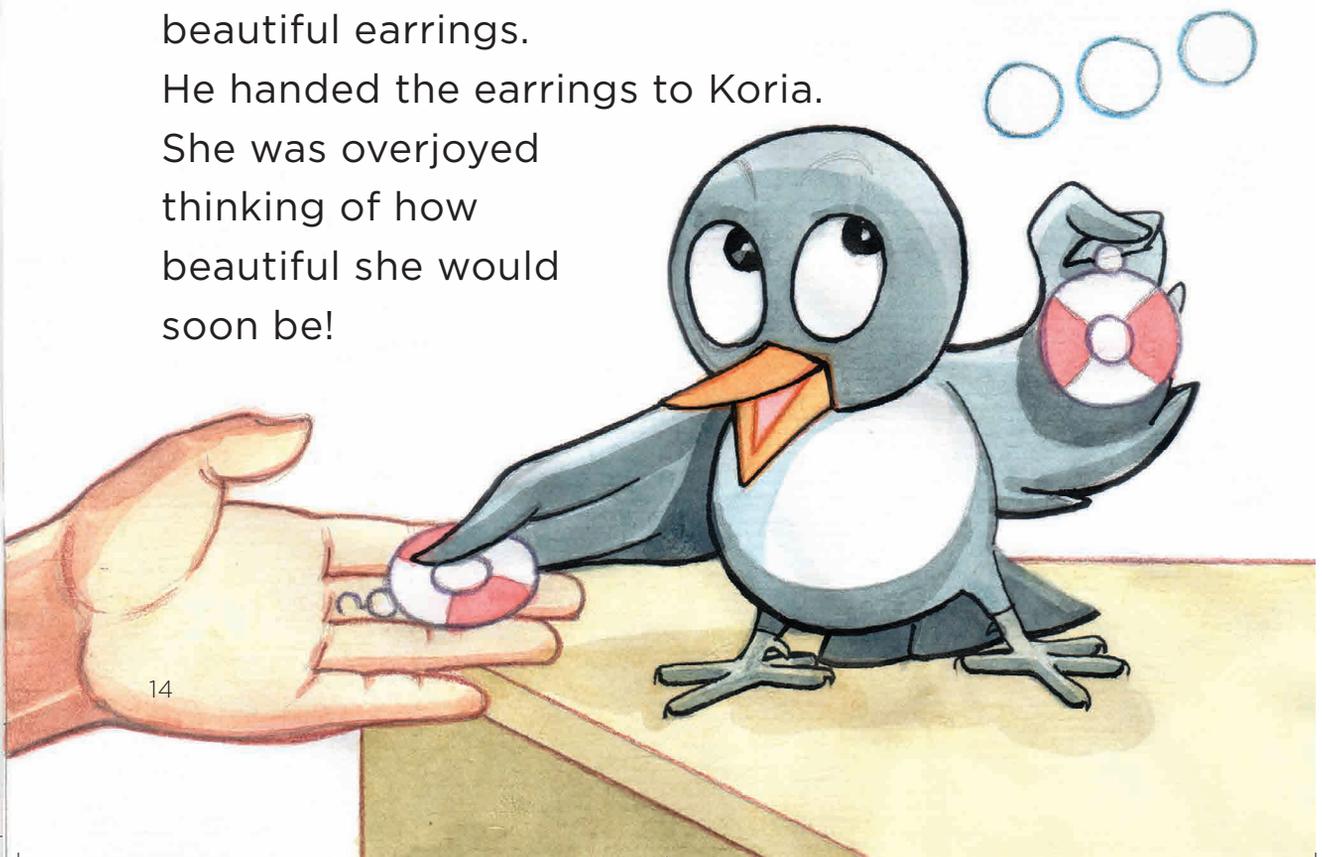
“What’s wrong, Korina?”

“I had the chance to be beautiful. But I stopped to eat instead of coming back here quickly. Now it’s too late!”





The next day, Korla went to the jeweller's early in the morning. When he finally arrived, he took the bag of copper and silver from Korla. He said nothing as he started working with the scraps. Soon, he had made a new pair of beautiful earrings. He handed the earrings to Korla. She was overjoyed thinking of how beautiful she would soon be!





She asked the jeweller to help her put them on. “You need to get your ears pierced,” he answered.

Koria could not imagine who to ask. Finally, she decided to go to the parrot and the peacock for help. *Beautiful birds might know where to find a beauty shop*, she thought to herself.



“No, we do not know where you can pierce your ears. They’re too small,” said the peacock and the parrot.

Koria didn’t believe them. She flew away angrily to seek someone else’s help. “I must get my ears pierced. If only I could do it on my own!”

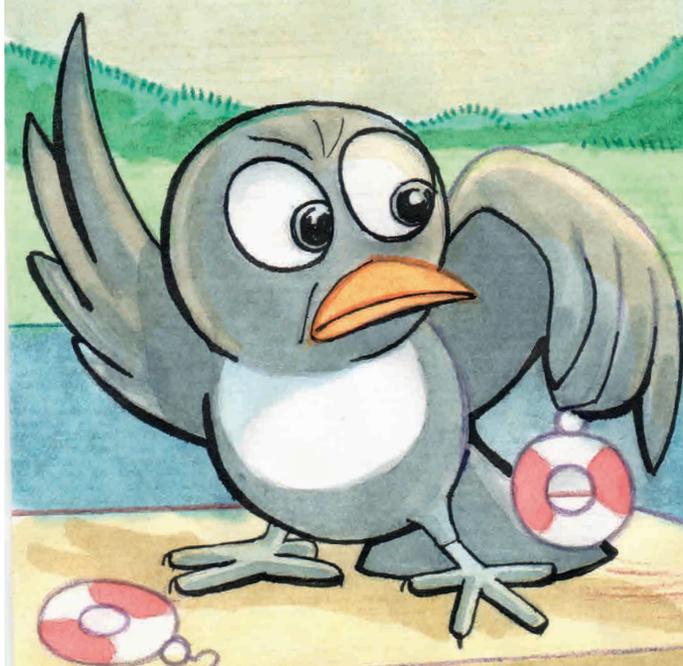
Koria flapped her wings and flew to the village.

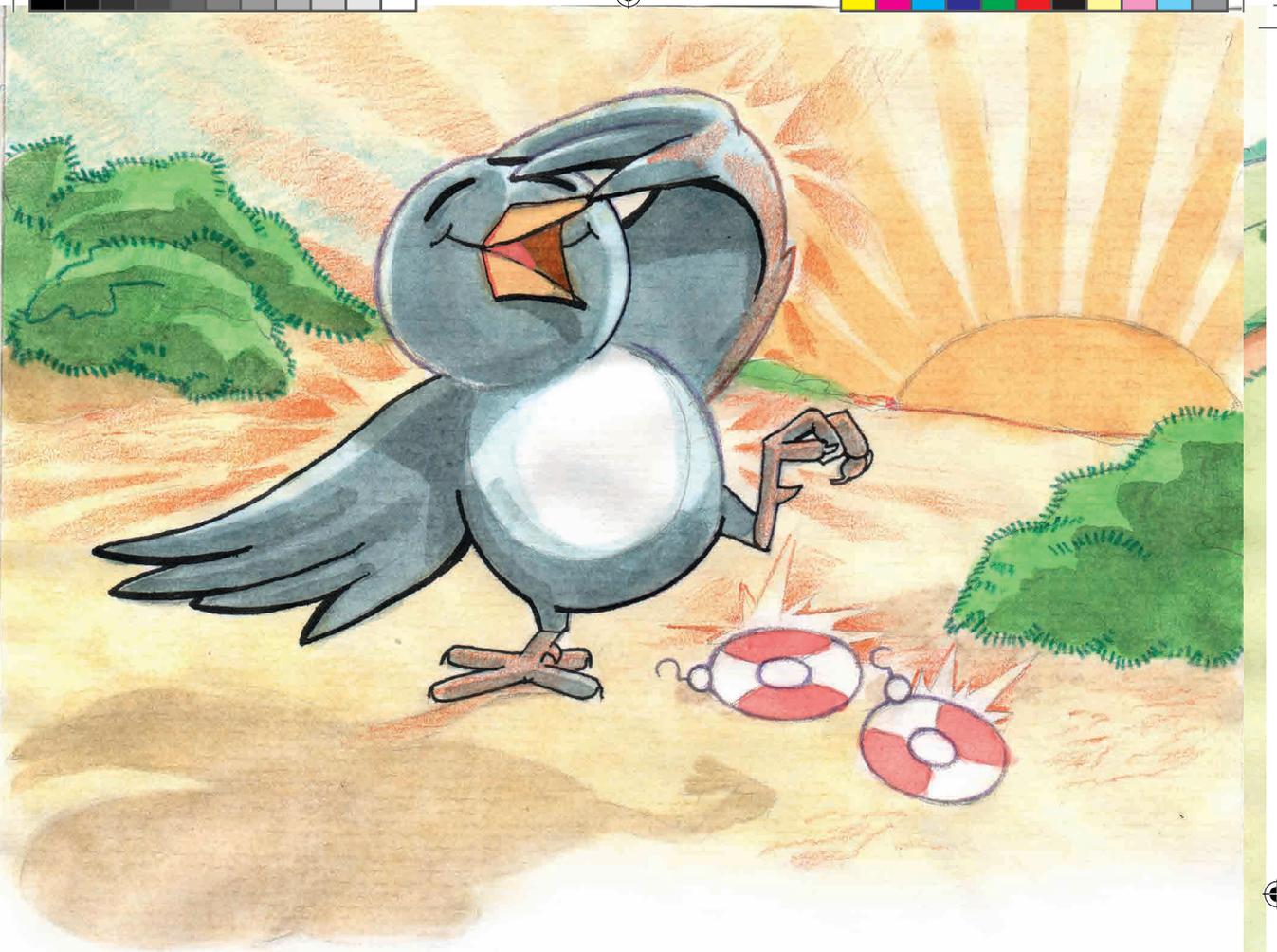


There, she went looking for one of the girls she saw at the celebration. She spotted one and called out to her.

“Kroo! Kroo! Kroo!”

The girl did not understand her and chased her away.

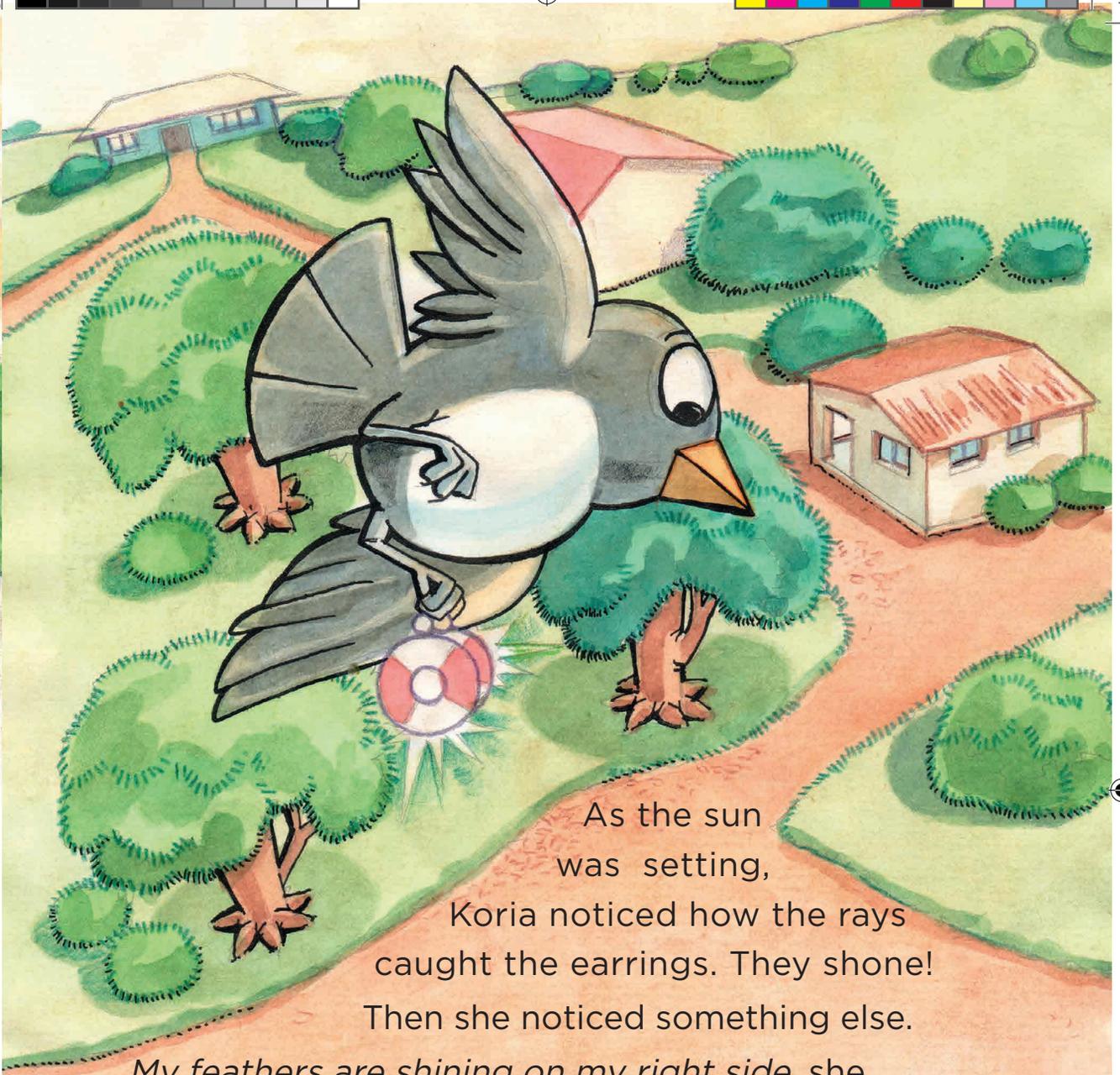




Koria was chased away wherever she went. Soon, she was tired and starving.

*It's afternoon. I need to find some food. I need to be strong to find someone to help me. I WILL be beautiful. No one can stop me.*

She flew and flew until it was dusk.



As the sun  
was setting,  
Koria noticed how the rays  
caught the earrings. They shone!  
Then she noticed something else.

*My feathers are shining on my right side, she  
thought.*

Then she flew in another direction.

*My feathers are shining on my left side! I can shine  
without my earrings! Koria realized. My feathers are  
BEAUTIFUL!*





Koria smiled and decided to go find a delicious dinner.

“Koria!” a voice called out. It was the peacock. “Your earrings are beautiful.”

“Thank you, peacock,” Koria answered. “But look at my shiny feathers. Aren’t they even lovelier?”