



THE LONELY PRICKLY PEAR

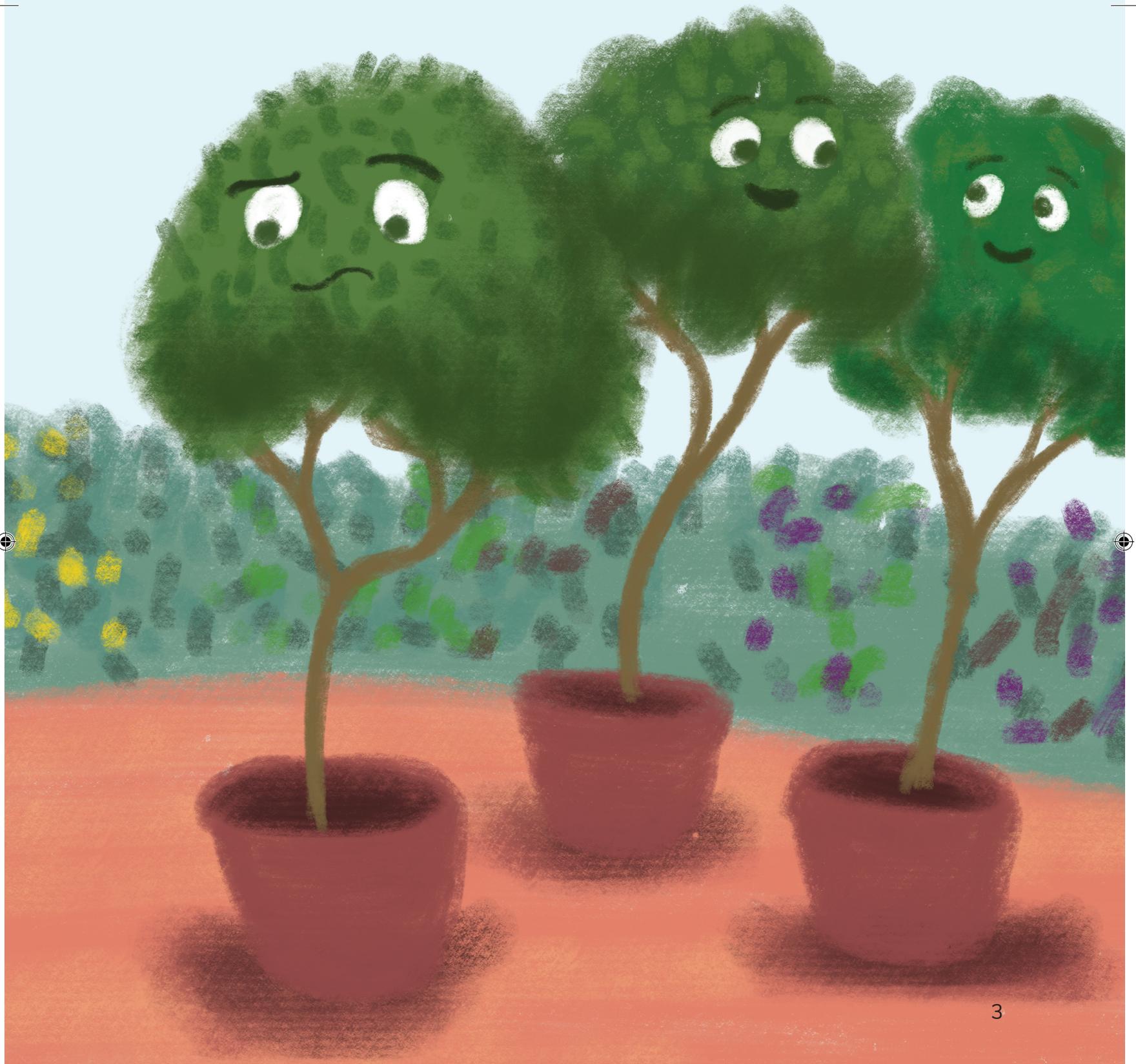
This book was originally written in Xitsonga by Nghamula Justice Maluleke
Illustrated by Subi Bosa Designed by Aimee Ayres





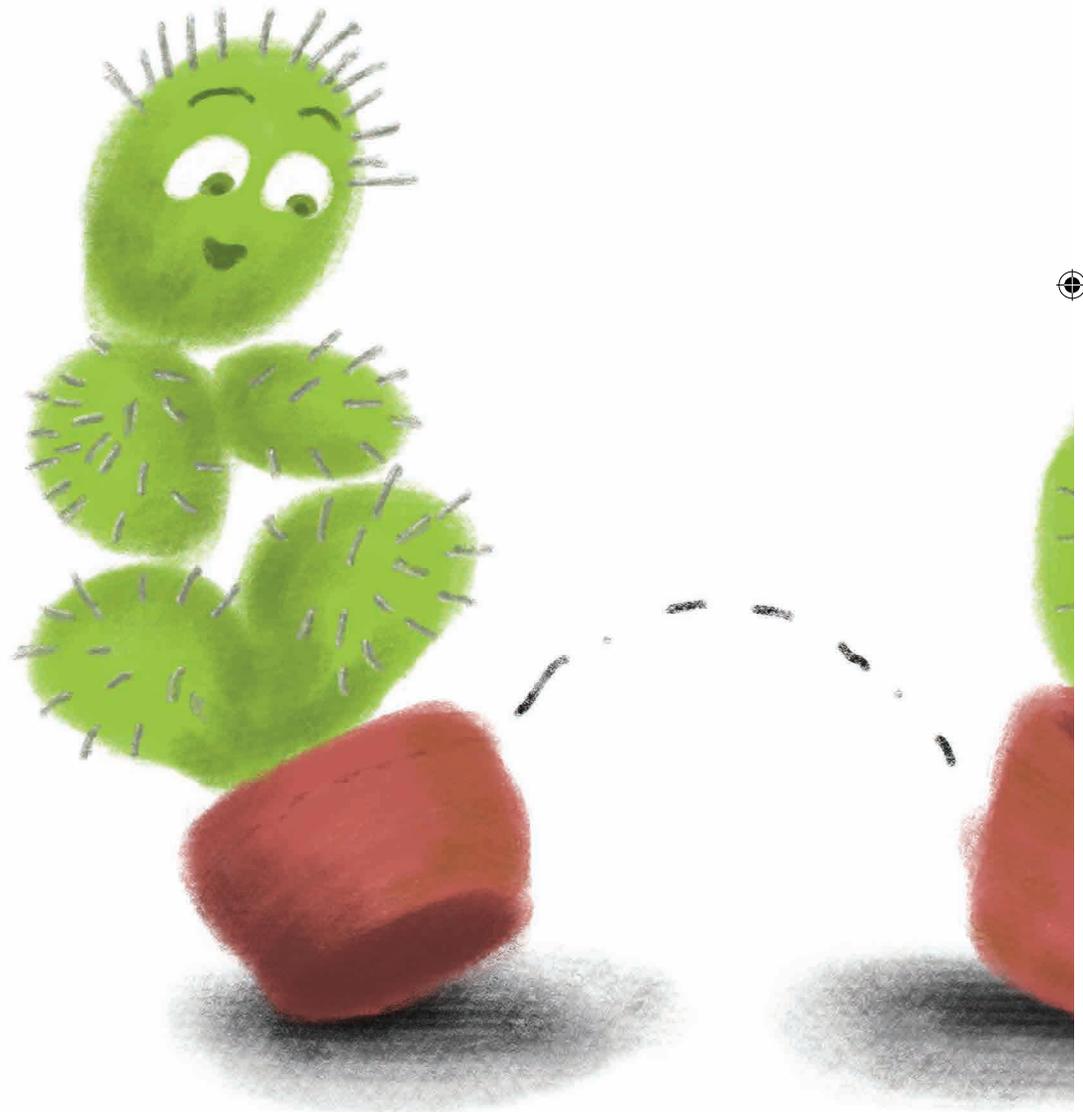
Prickly Pear had no friends.
He was very lonely.

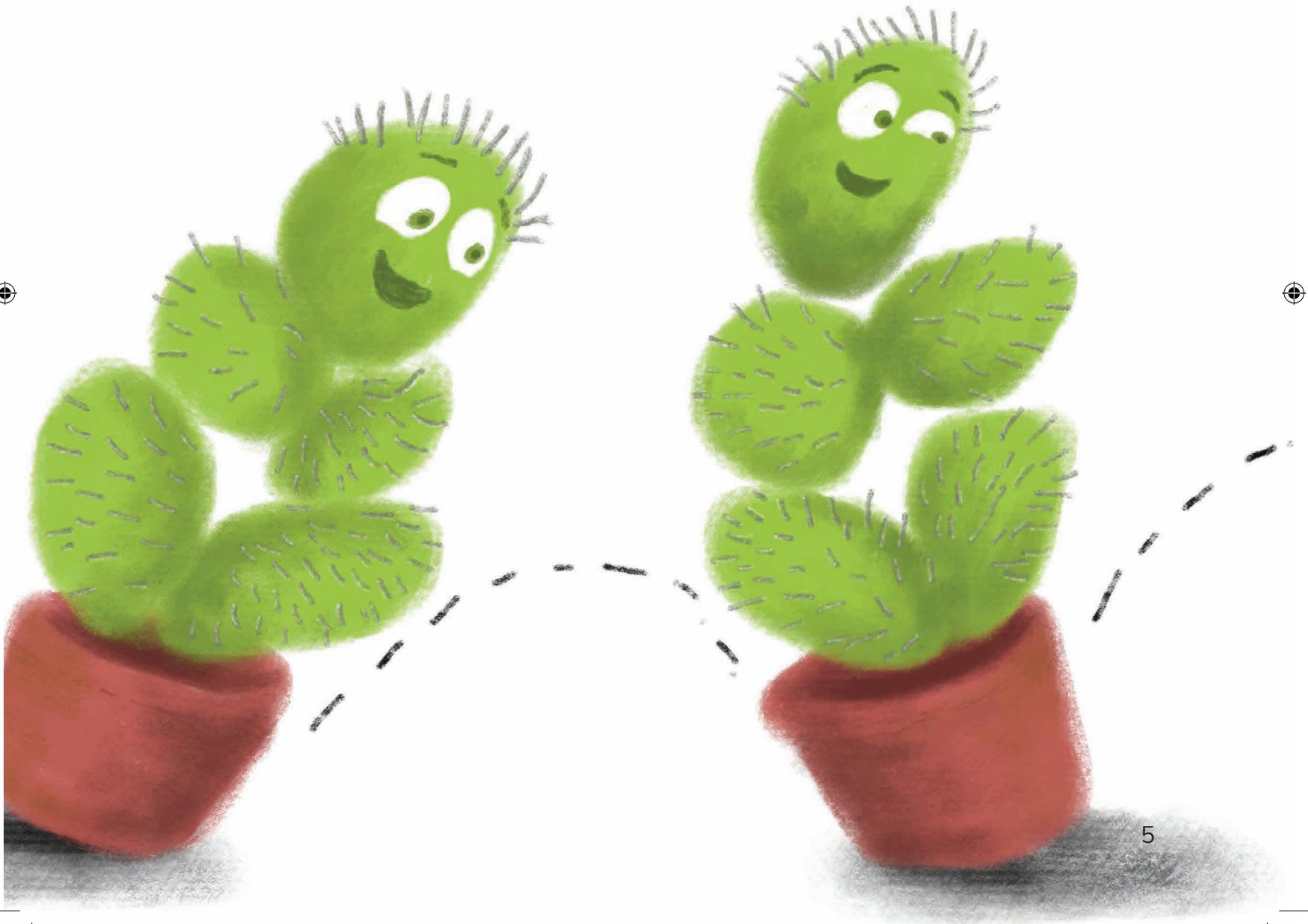






He decided to make friends with other trees.







First he approached Orange Tree.

“I will never be your friend,”
answered Orange Tree.

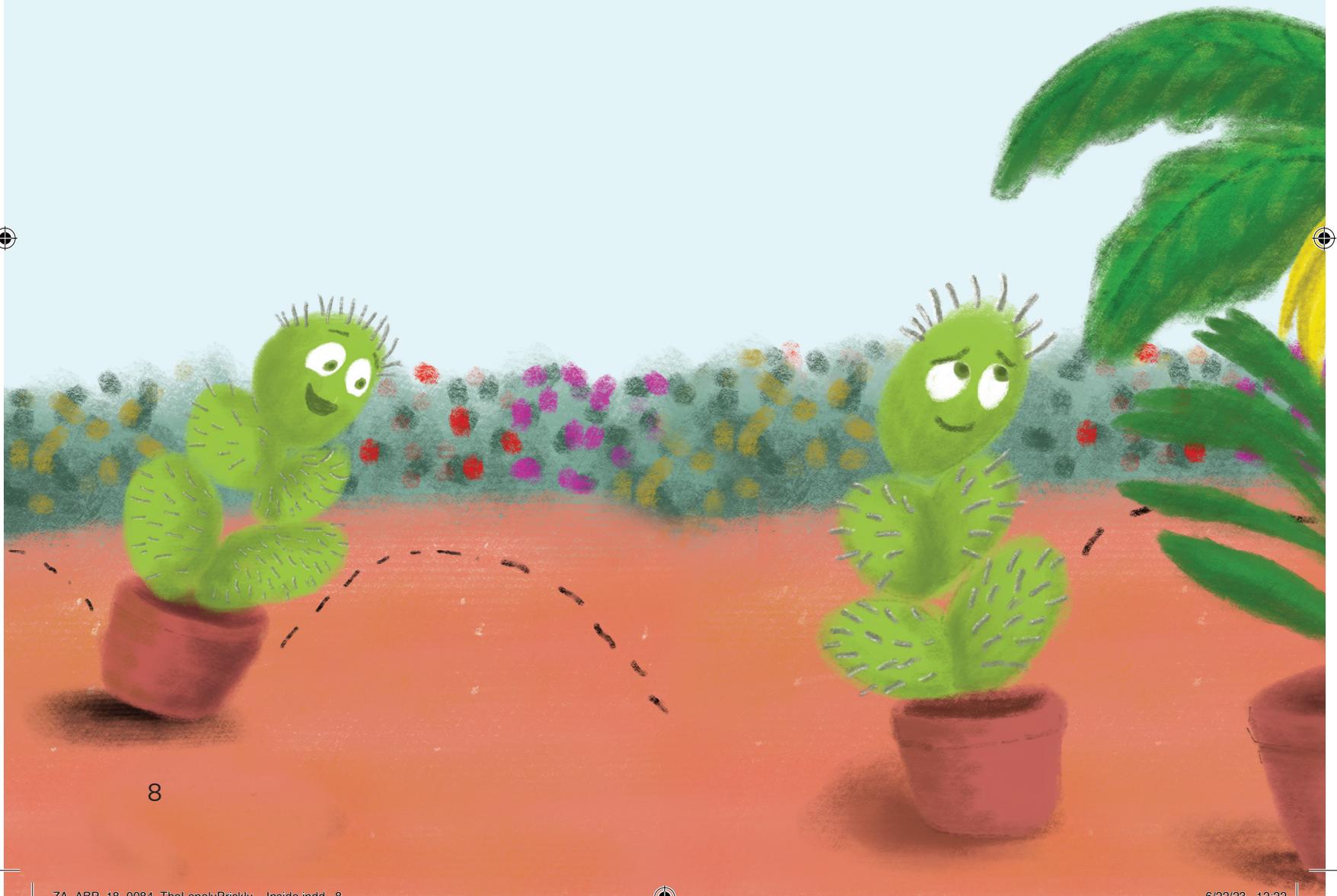






Then Prickly Pear went to Banana Tree.

“Not friends, no way,” said Banana Tree.







Prickly Pear asked Mango Tree, then
Guava Tree.

They all turned him down.

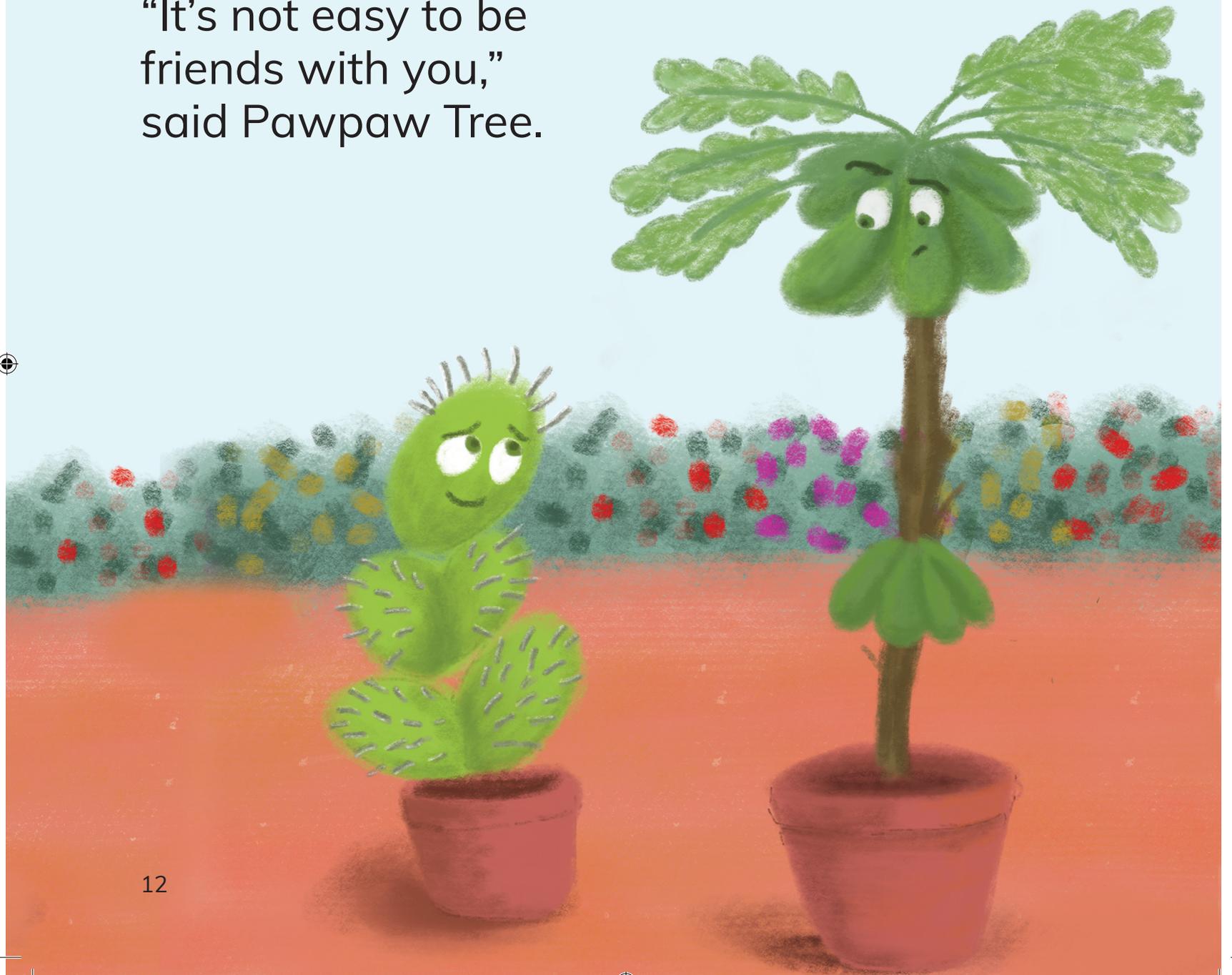






Prickly Pear then visited Pawpaw Tree.

“It’s not easy to be friends with you,”
said Pawpaw Tree.





“Fruit trees are beloved by people.
They nurture us and let us live in their yards.
But you, you are a wild tree.

You are different.”





“We are always watered, while you are used to thirst and dust,”
Pawpaw Tree continued.





“But I feel sorry for you as you are so lonely. So I will be friends with you. But don’t prick me!”





Prickly Pear began to play
with Pawpaw Tree.



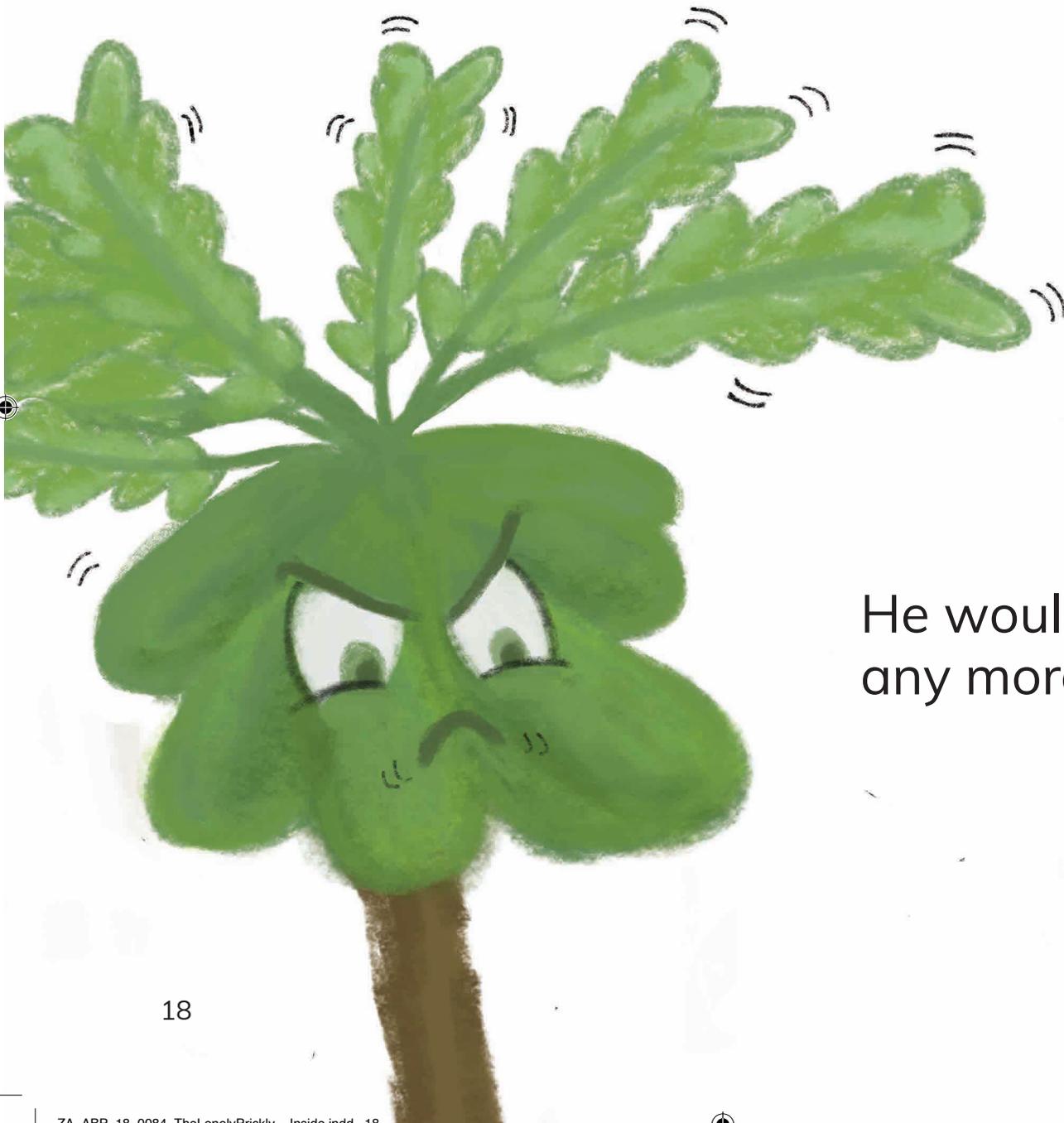


But his thorn pricked
a pawpaw fruit.





Pawpaw Tree was hurt and offended.

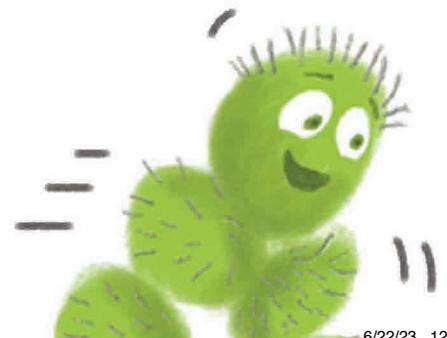


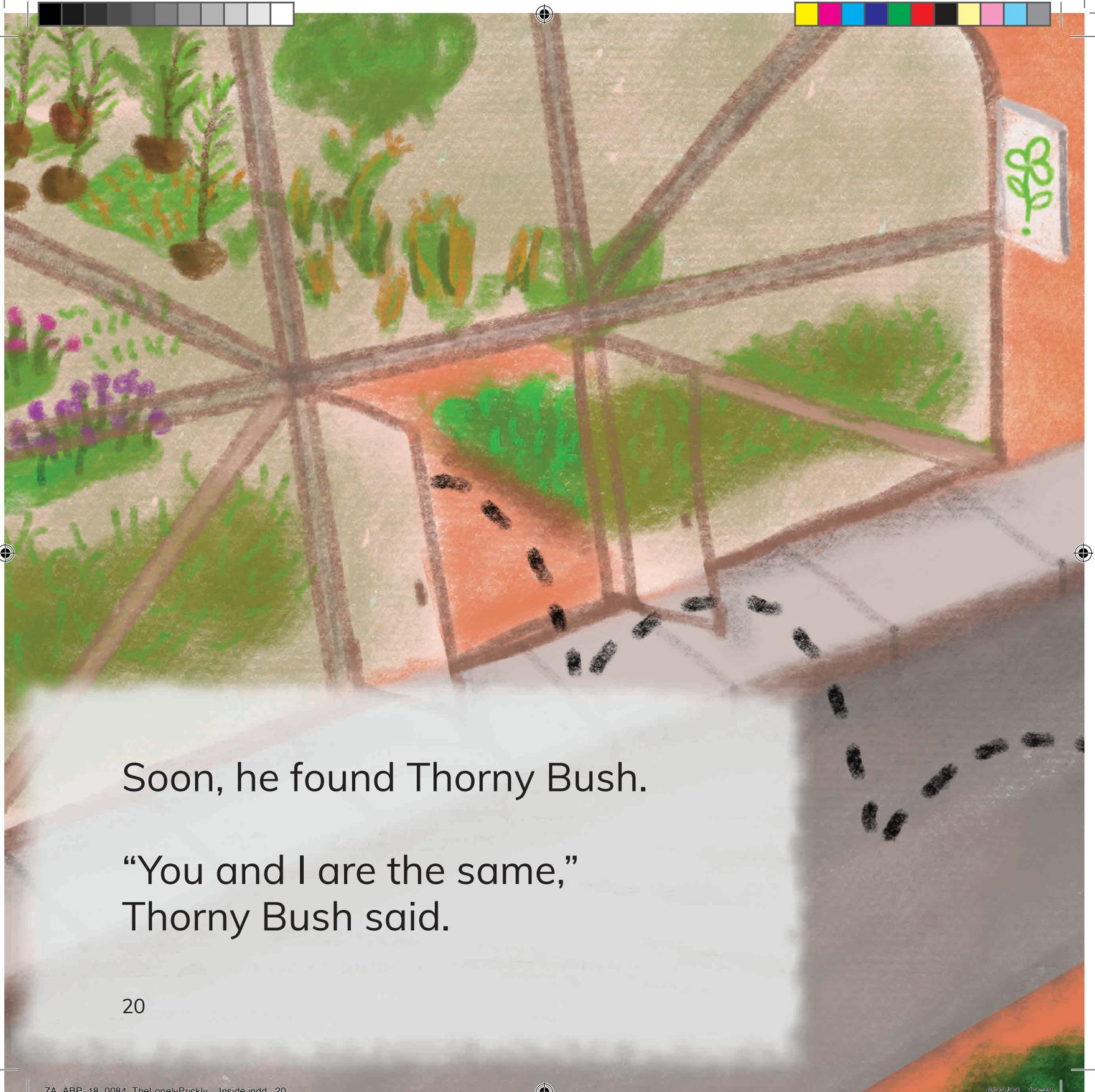
He wouldn't play any more.





Prickly Pear was terribly sad. But he would not give up! He decided to look somewhere else.





Soon, he found Thorny Bush.

“You and I are the same,”
Thorny Bush said.



“We are prickly.
Let’s go find our new home.”





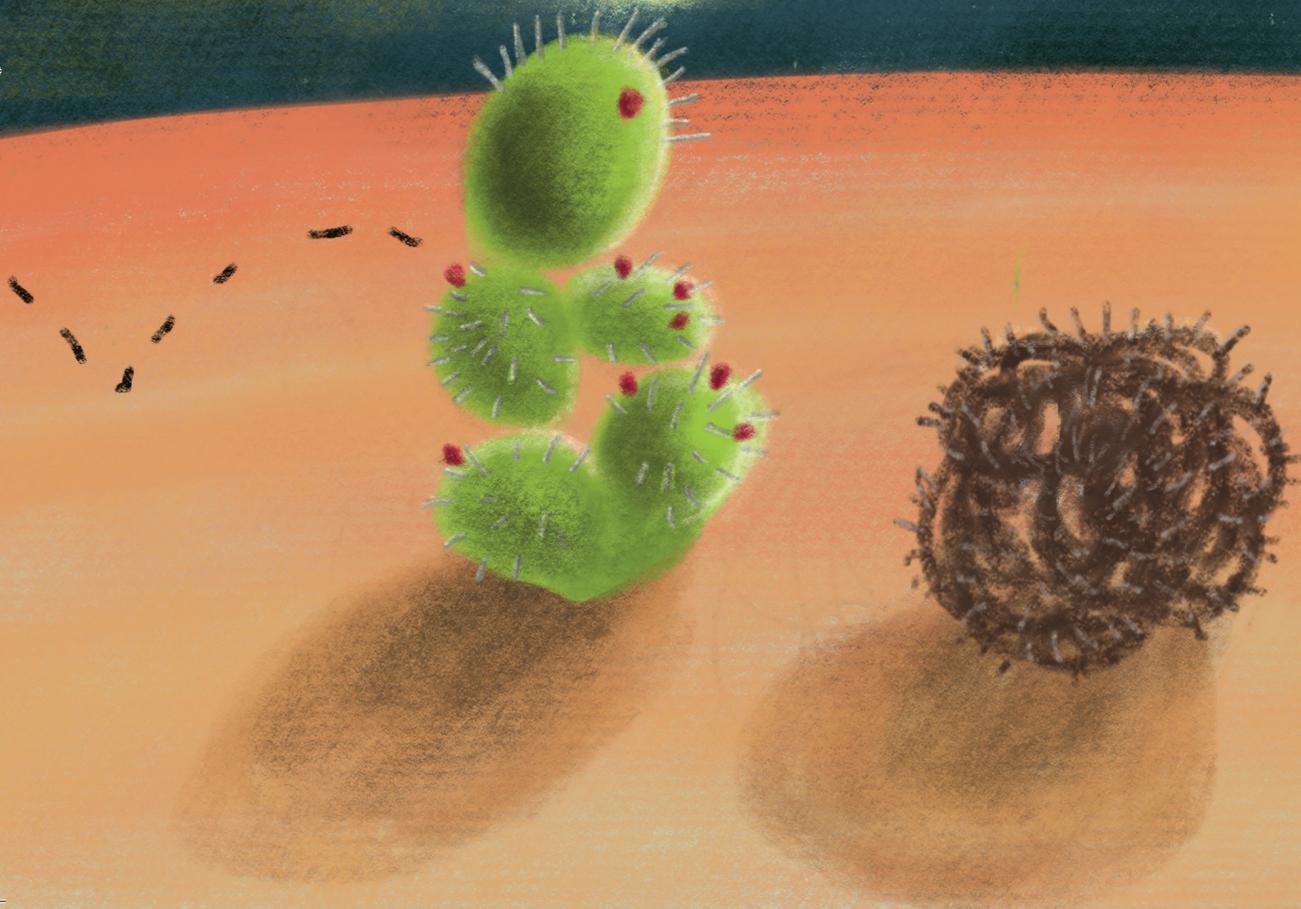
They went in search of that place.
Soon, they came to a dry veld.

“This is the perfect home for prickly friends,”
they shouted.





“We will stay here forever!”





Room to Read South Africa

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