

A stylized illustration of a lioness with a weary expression, her eyes half-closed and her mouth slightly open. She is rendered in shades of red and orange, with white whiskers and a tuft of hair on her head. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with soft, white clouds. The overall style is soft and painterly.

# THE VERY TIRED **LIONESS**

Imile Wepener • Maren Bodenstein • Nathan McKay

# The Very Tired Lioness

This book belongs to

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*The Very Tired Lioness*

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with the help of the Book Dash participants in Johannesburg on 27 October 2018.

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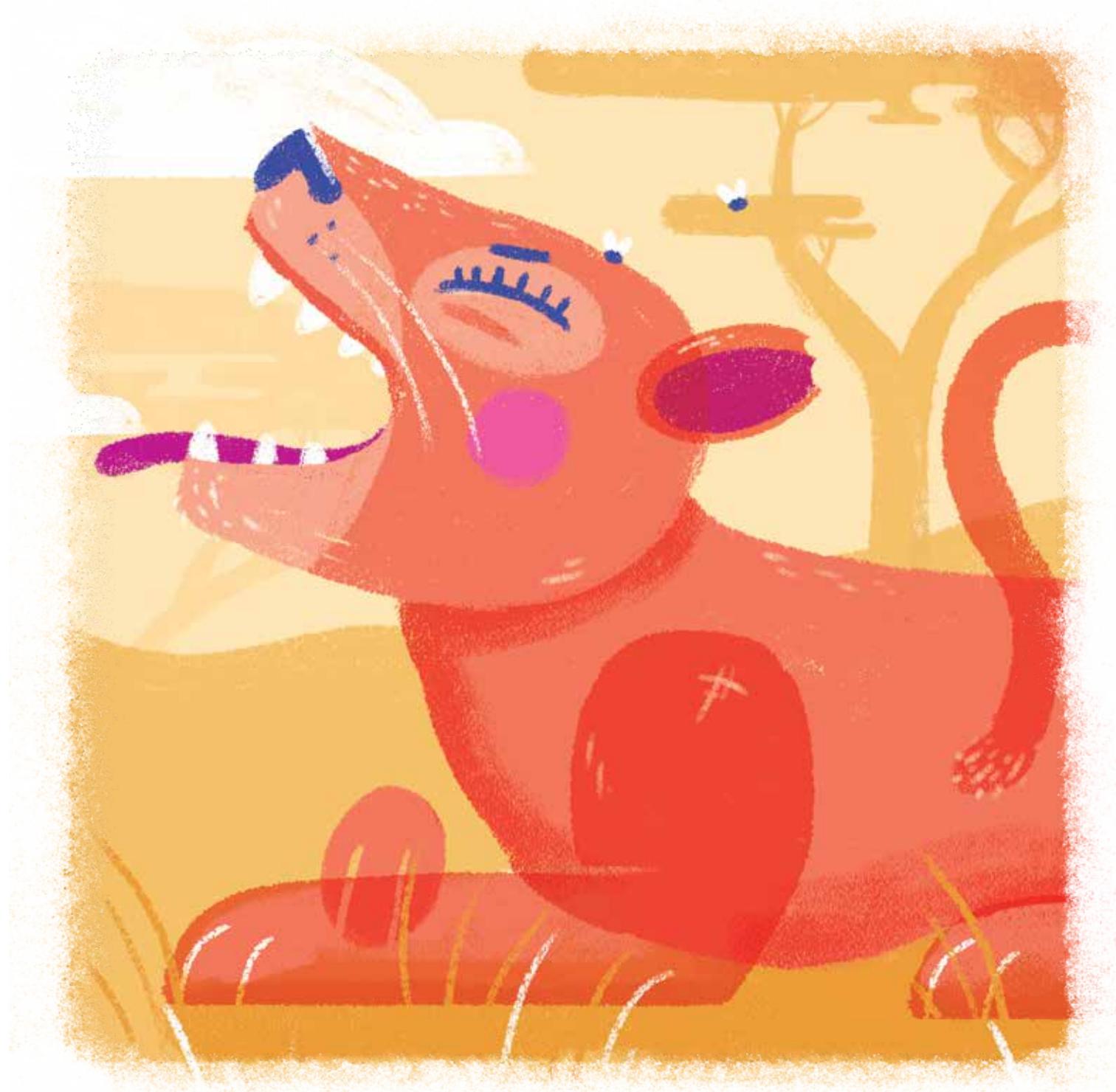
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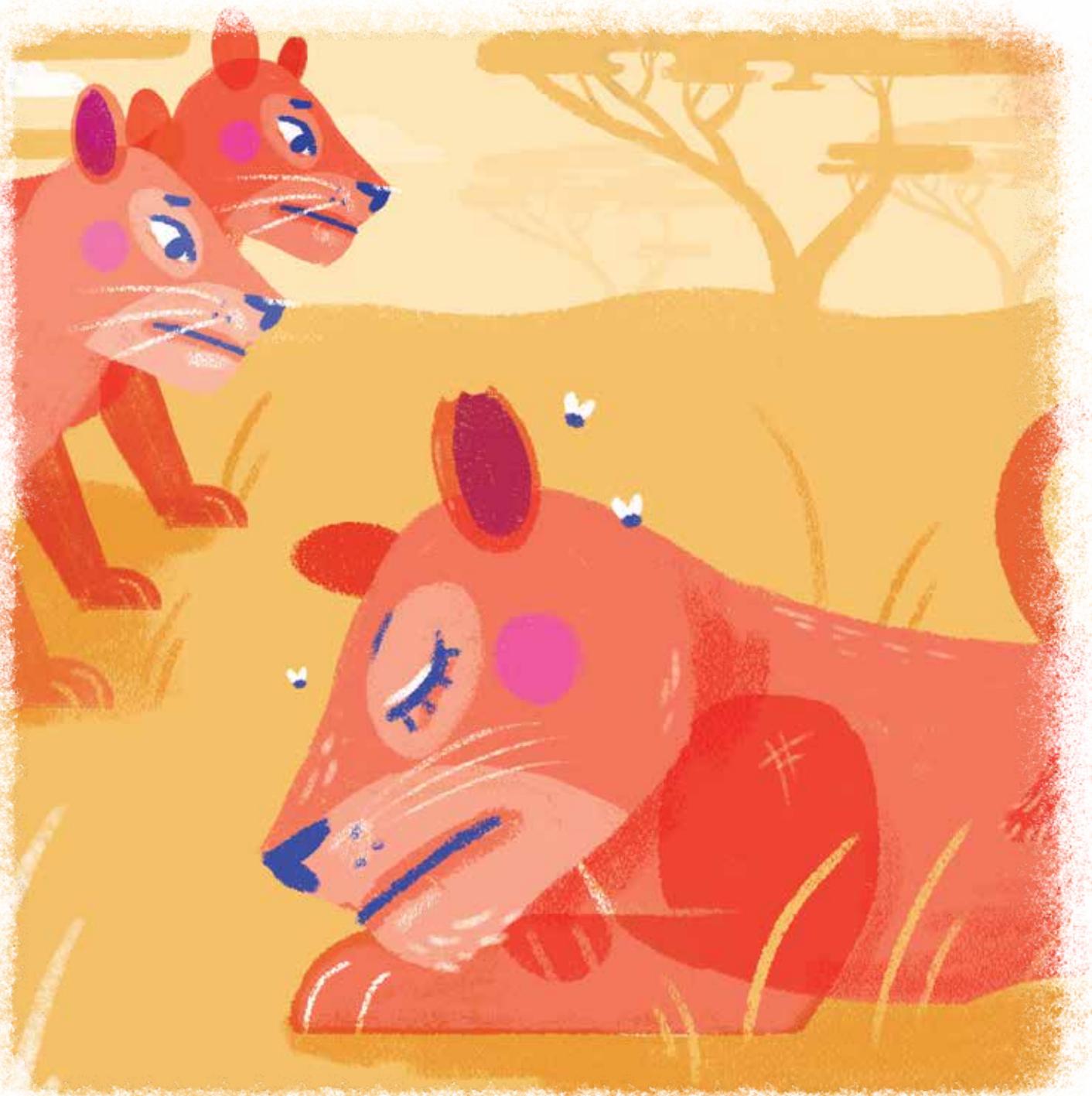
The book cover features a vibrant, textured illustration of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a gradient of warm colors, from deep red at the bottom to bright yellow at the top. A large, glowing sun is partially obscured by a white, fluffy cloud on the right side. The overall style is soft and painterly.

# THE VERY TIRED LIONESSES

**There was once a very old**  
and very tired lioness.

She was so tired that  
she slept all day.  
**And all night.**





**“Come and hunt with us,”**  
said her sisters and daughters.

But the lioness was  
**too tired.**

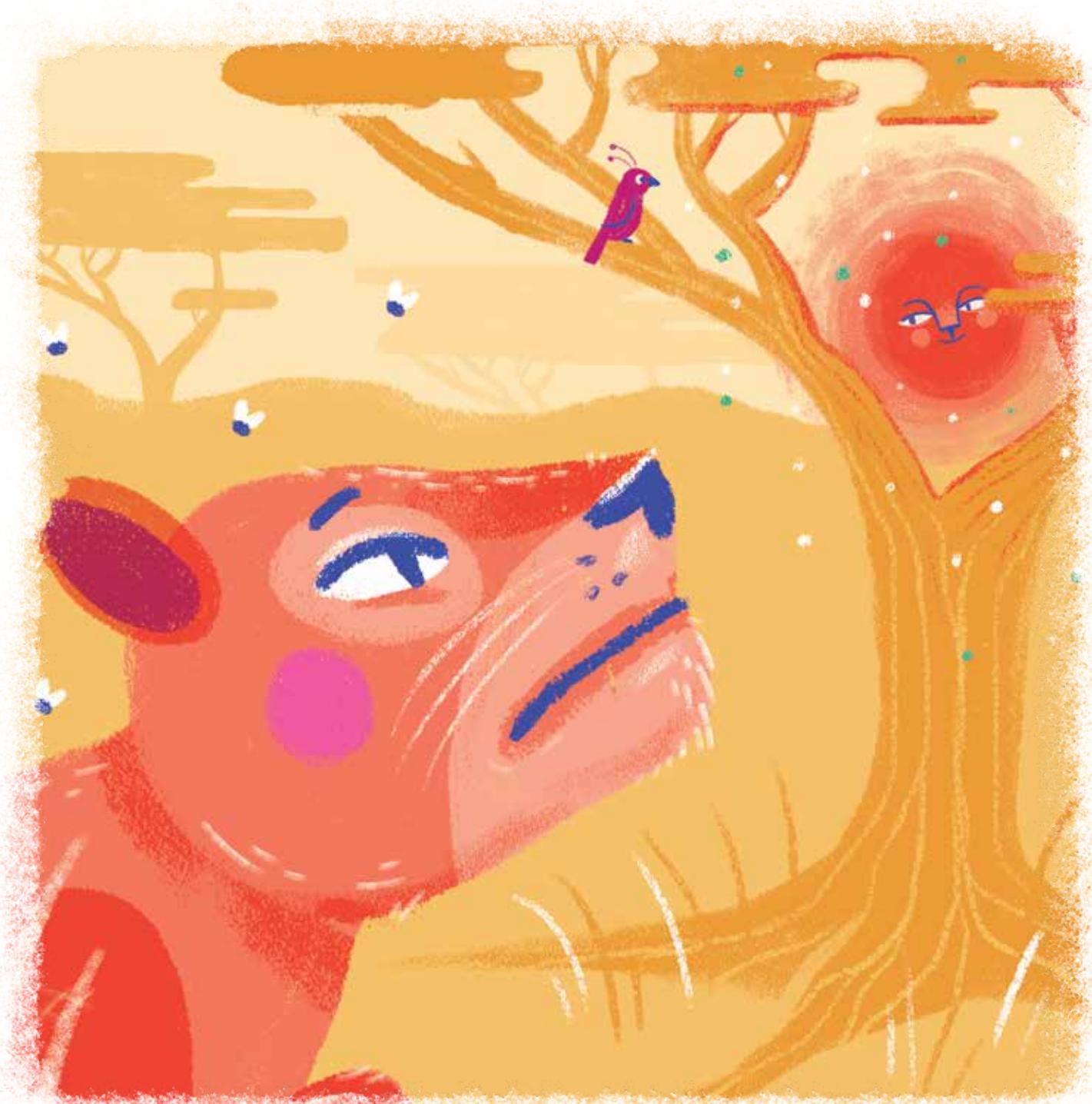
**“What’s wrong with her?”**

asked the young impalas.

**“Don’t go too close,”** warned their mothers. **“She might eat you.”**

But the lioness just flicked her ears to **chase away the flies.**





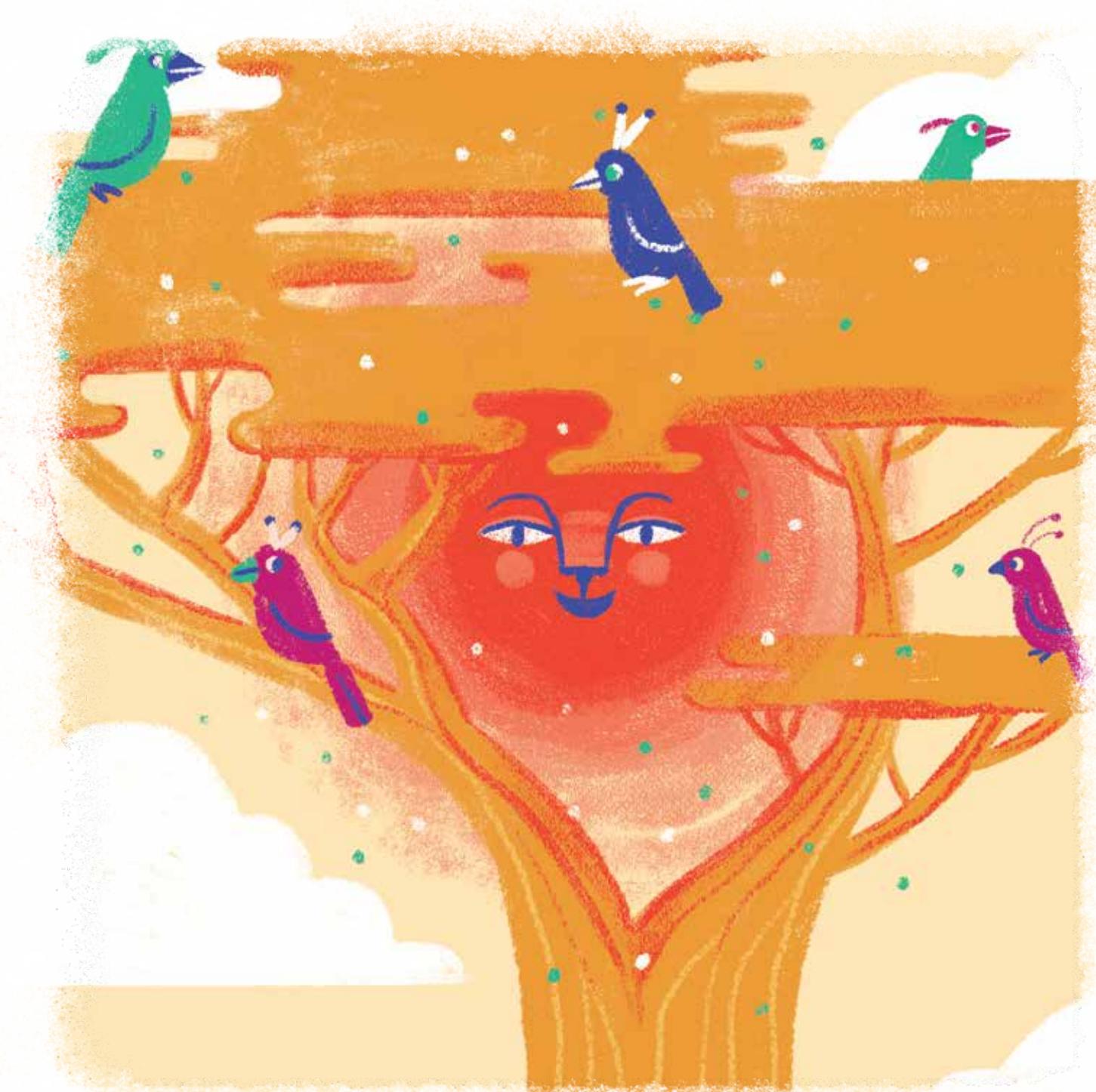
One day the lioness woke up with a strange feeling that **something was watching her.**

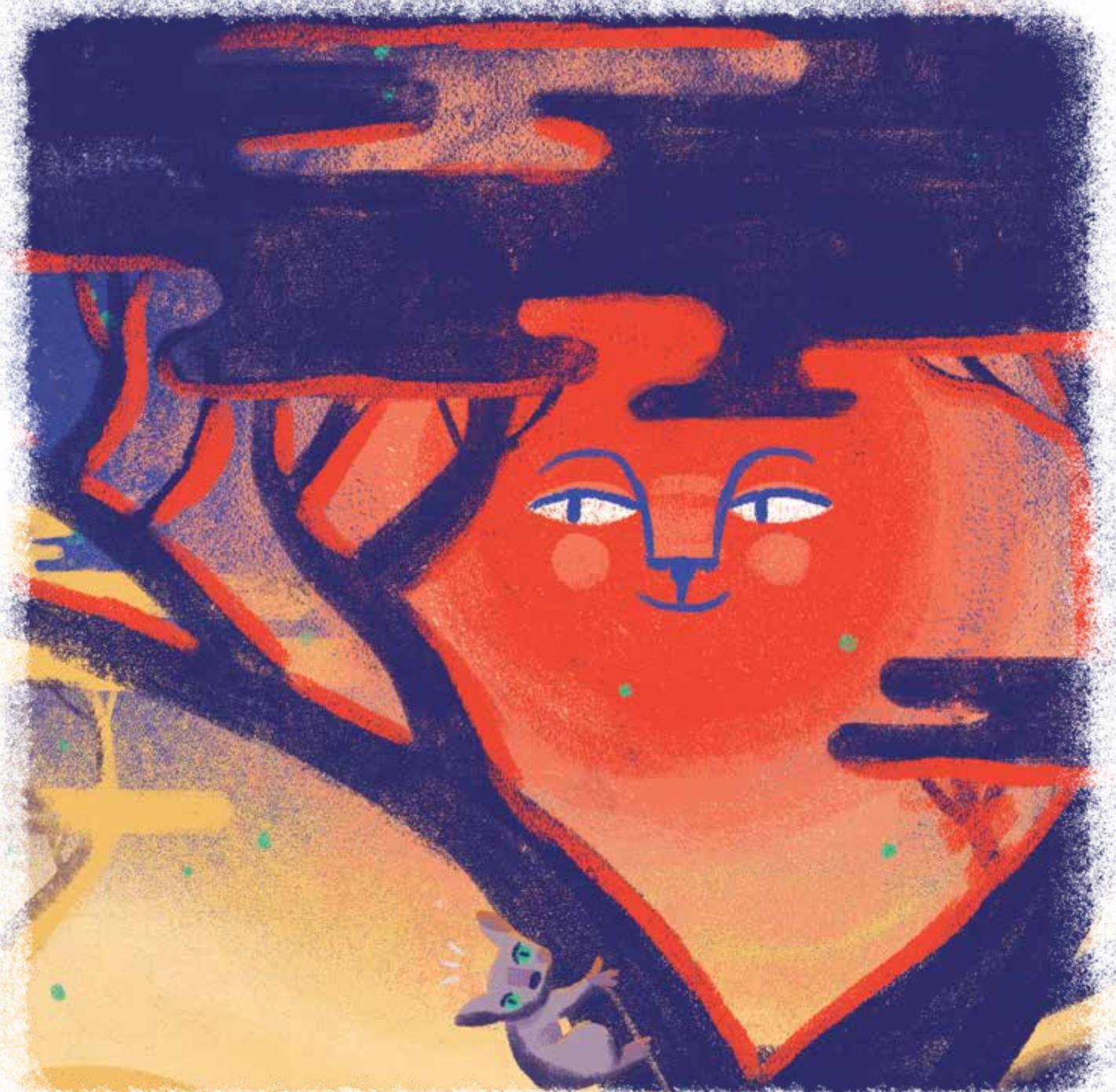
When she looked up she saw a boiling roiling creature in the tree.

**“Who are you?”** asked the lioness.

“I am the sun.  
**I have come to fetch you.”**

“**Go away,**  
grumbled the lioness.  
**“I want to sleep.”**”





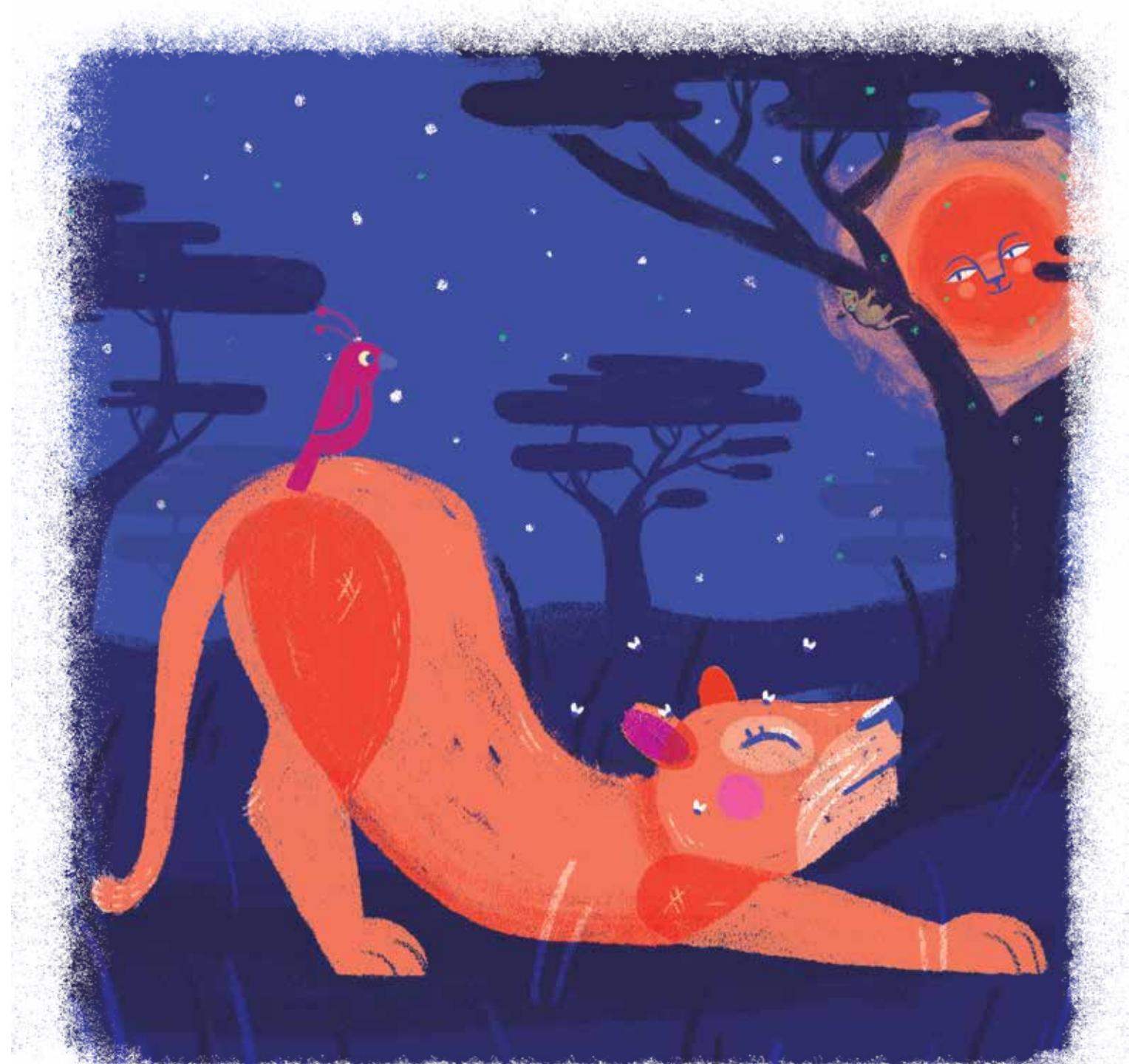
When the lioness opened her eyes again, the sun was still in the tree.  
**“Can’t you see, you are making us all hot and thirsty?”**

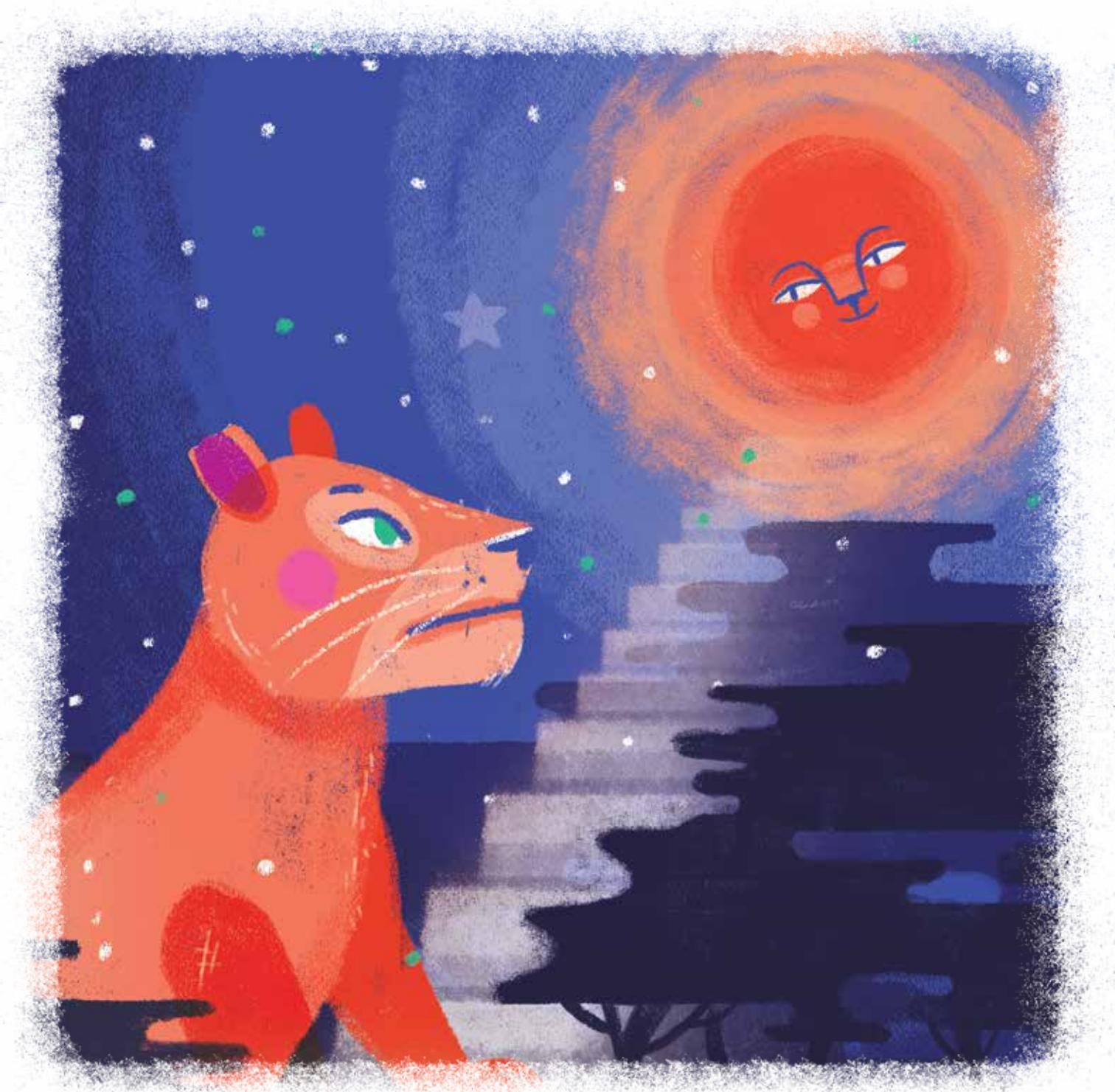
**“It’s getting late,”**  
said the sun.  
**“Follow me.”**

So the lioness slowly  
**got up and followed the sun.**

**“Happy hunting,”** called her sisters  
and daughters after her.

**“See you! See you!”** chirped the bird.

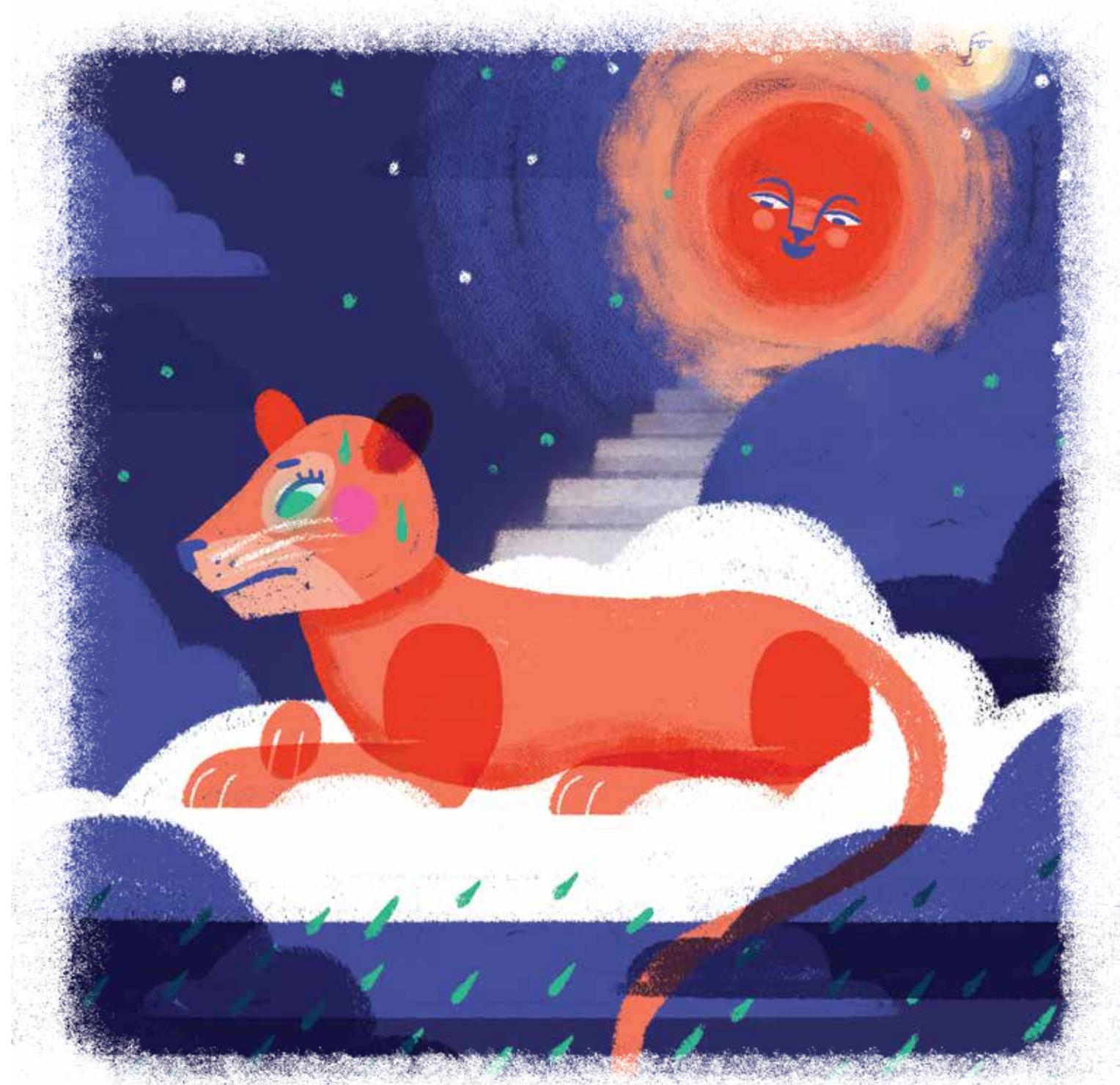


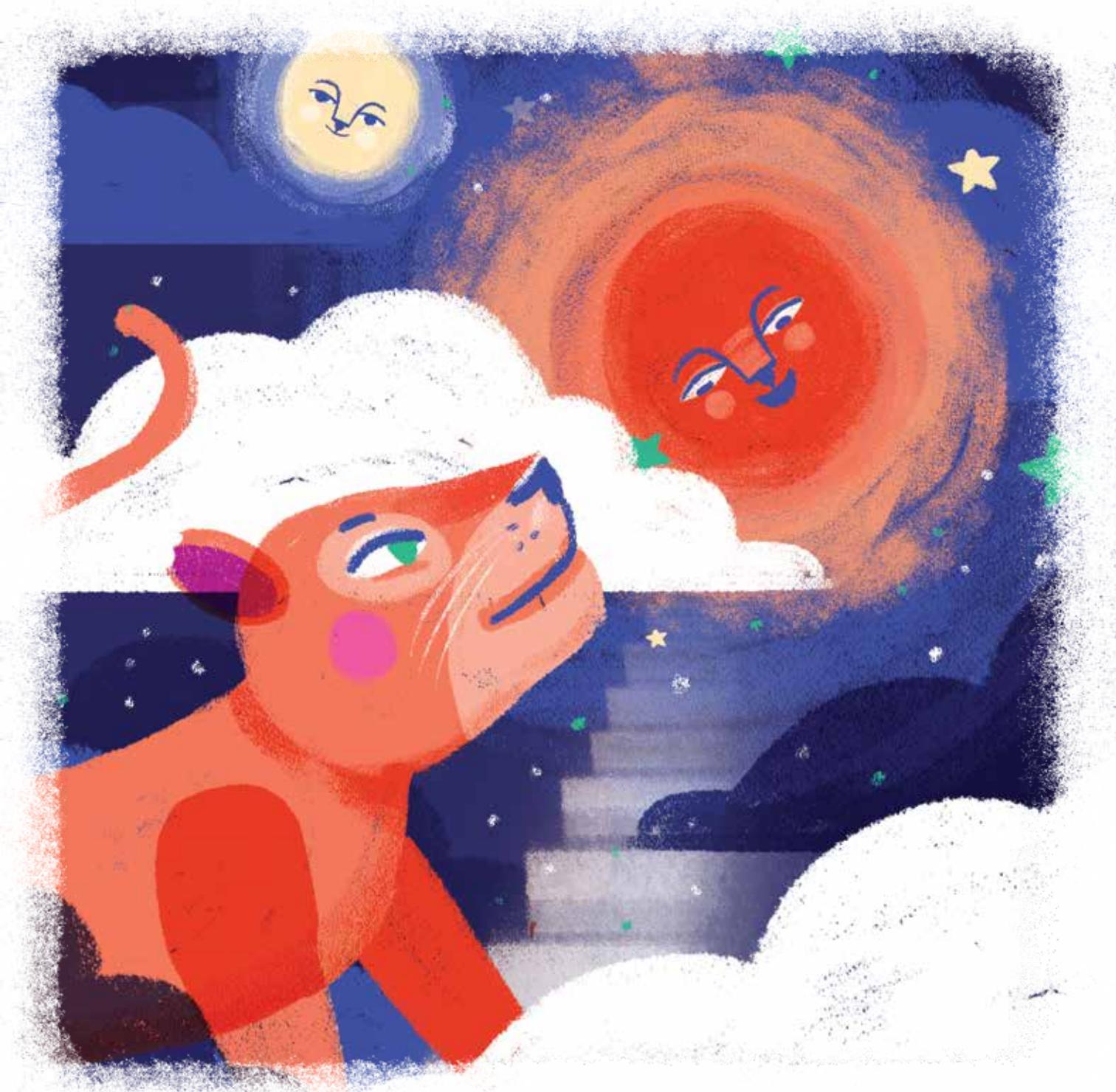


But the lioness didn't  
**hear anything.**

She just climbed higher  
and higher and higher  
**into the sky.**

**“Phew, it is far,”**  
said the lioness.





**“Not too far to go anymore,”  
said the sun.  
“You can rest when we get there.”**

And so the lioness came  
**to stay with the sun.**  
All day she lay lazily  
**in its warmth.**





But at night, when the sun was asleep, **she looked down** at the beautiful world **she had left behind.**



