



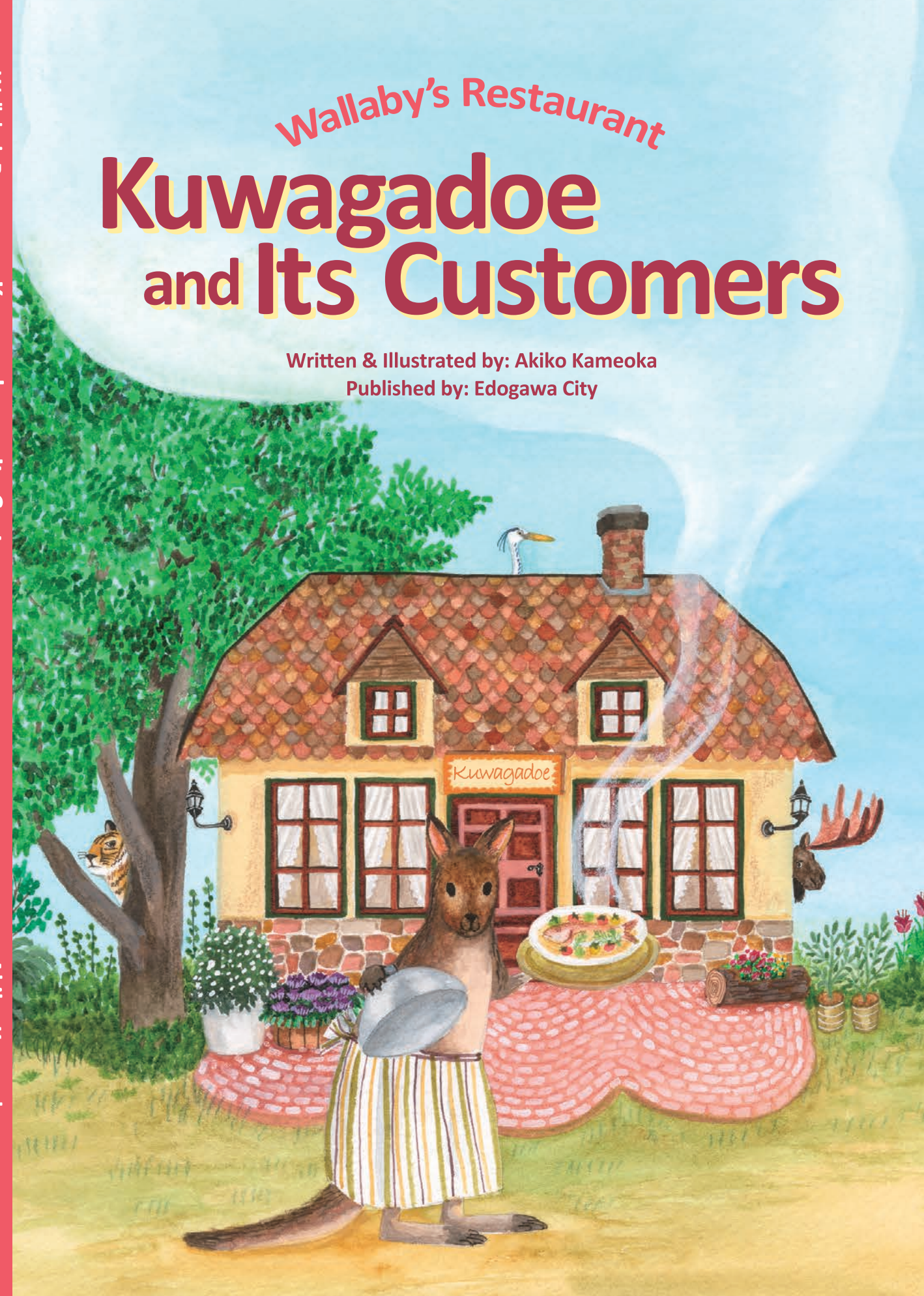
Wallaby's Restaurant Kuwagadoe and Its Customers

Akiko Kameoka

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Written & Illustrated by: Akiko Kameoka

Published by: Edogawa City





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It was the opening day of Wallaby's new restaurant, Kuwagadoe.

Wallaby has been nervous all morning.

"I wonder who my first customer will be!"







The first animal to come along was a gray heron.

"Hmm, a new restaurant...what do you recommend?"

"How about fish soup?"

"Sounds delicious, one of those, please."

"Coming right up!"

Wallaby brought the bowl of soup to the table with a smile.







However—

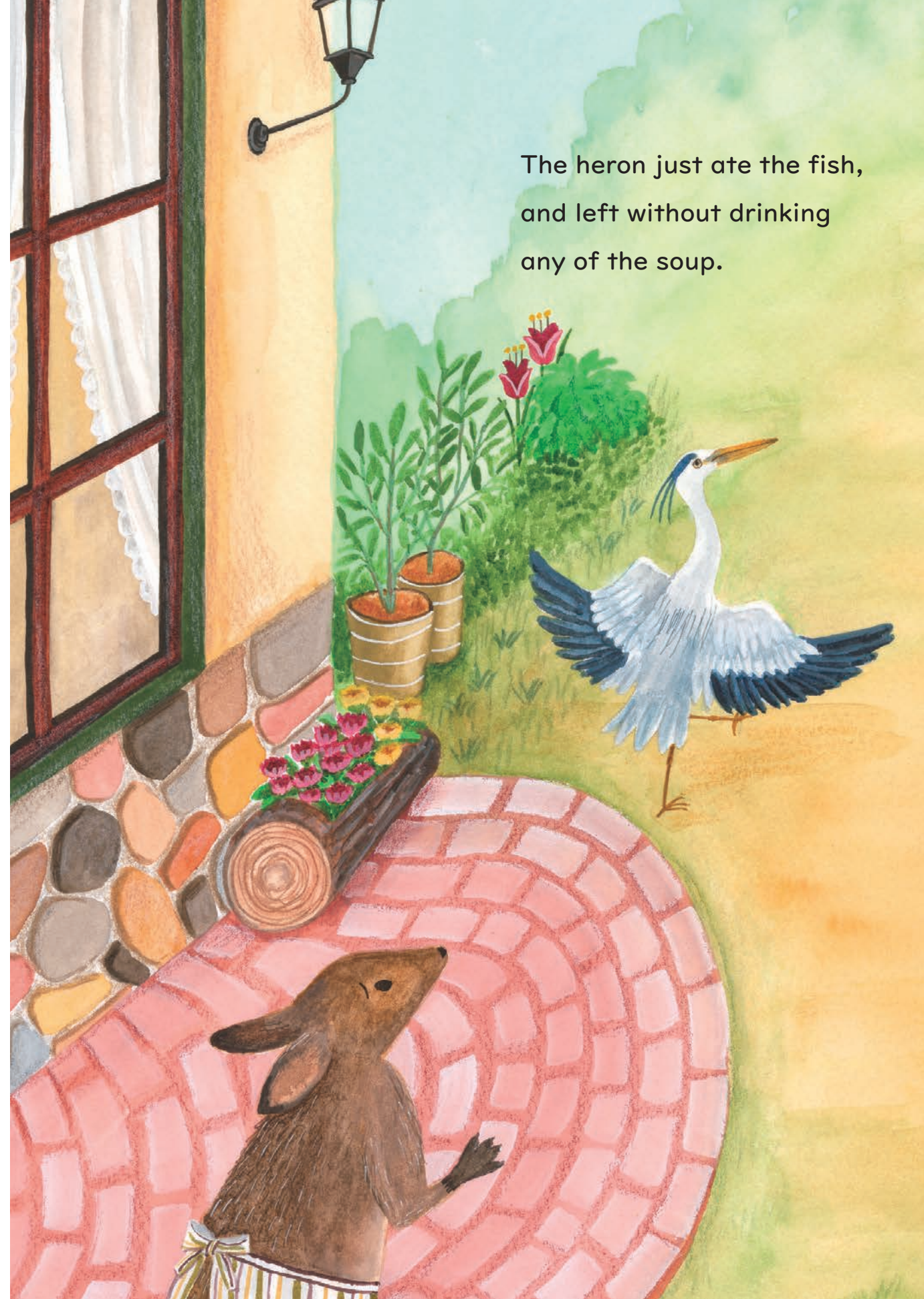
“Excuse me, Wallaby, but how do you expect a bird with a beak as long as mine to drink soup from such a shallow bowl, or to use a spoon?”

The heron pecked at the bowl of soup to make its point.

*Clunk! Clunk!*

“But, this bowl is all I’ve got...”

replied Wallaby, afraid that all the pecking would break it.







The next customer to come by was a moose.

“Oh, what a lovely restaurant.”

But when the moose tried to enter...

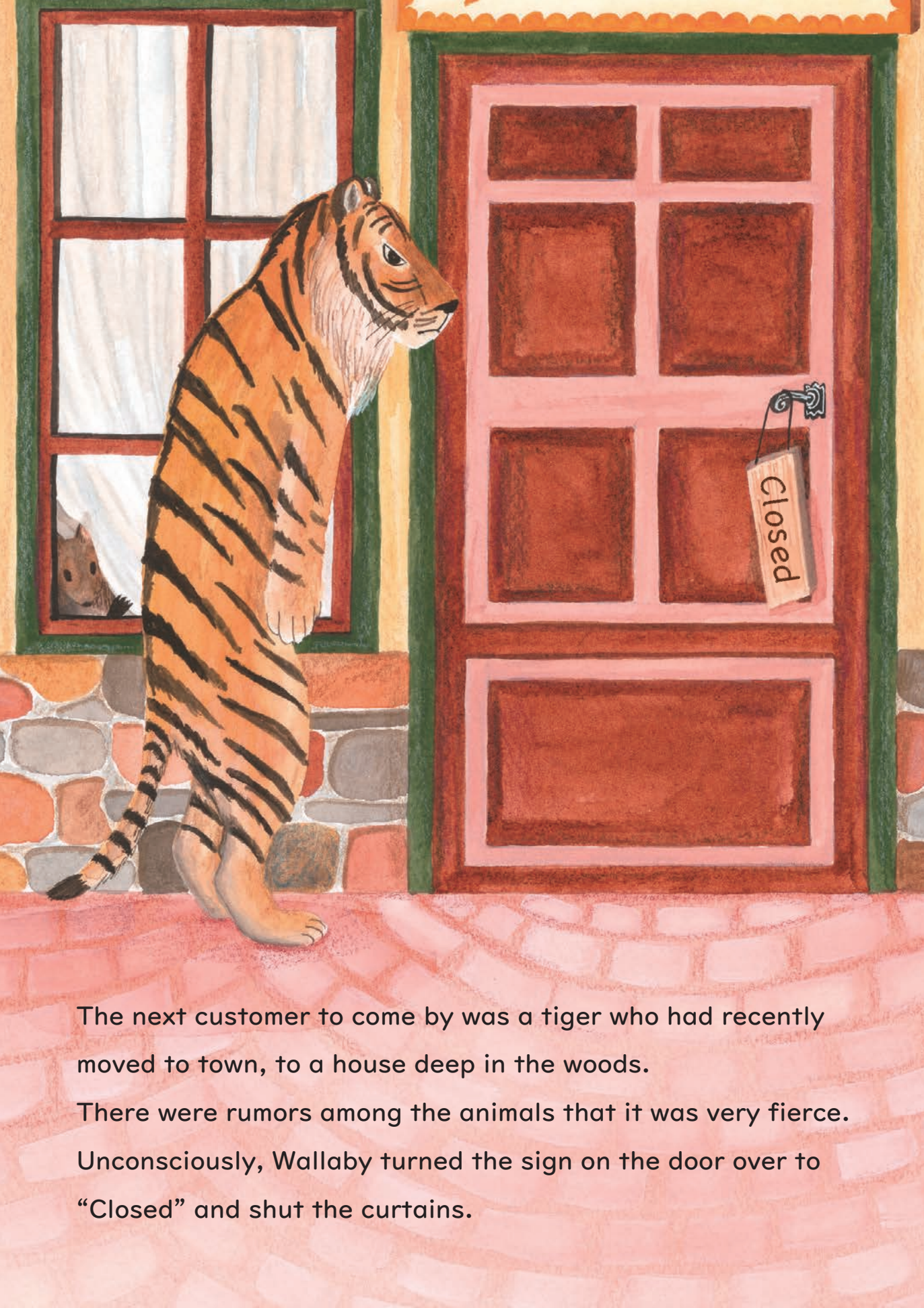
*Crash! Bang!*

“Hey, you’re going to break the door.”

“Look, how do you expect an animal as big as me to fit through such a tiny entrance?”

The moose ended up leaving as well.





The next customer to come by was a tiger who had recently moved to town, to a house deep in the woods. There were rumors among the animals that it was very fierce. Unconsciously, Wallaby turned the sign on the door over to “Closed” and shut the curtains.

The tiger continued to pass by the restaurant. But every time it did, Wallaby pretended not to be there. “If I let that tiger in, it's sure to eat me!”

As the days passed by, only the odd customer came to eat at Wallaby's restaurant.







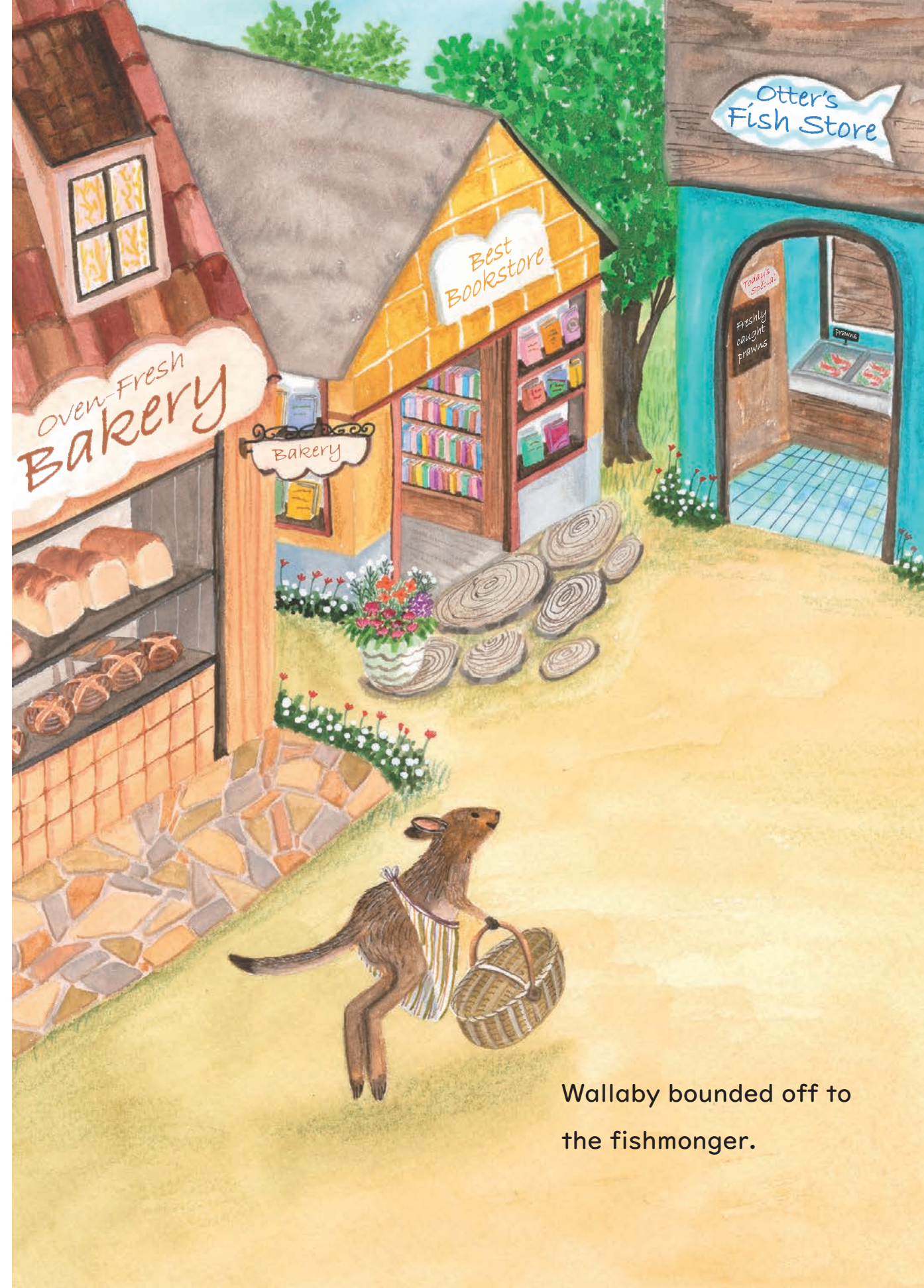
Then one day, a cat came along.

“Can I make a dinner booking for a party of ten cats?  
It’s my Grandpa’s birthday.”

“That sounds lovely! Why of course you can.  
What would you like me to serve?”

“A fish dinner please, it’s my Grandpa’s favorite!”

“Leave it to me! I’ll look forward to seeing you later.”



Wallaby bounded off to  
the fishmonger.



“What?! There’s no fish!”

“So sorry, Chef, we’re all sold out today.”

“What? No way! What am I going to do...”

Wallaby stood for a moment, head in hands.

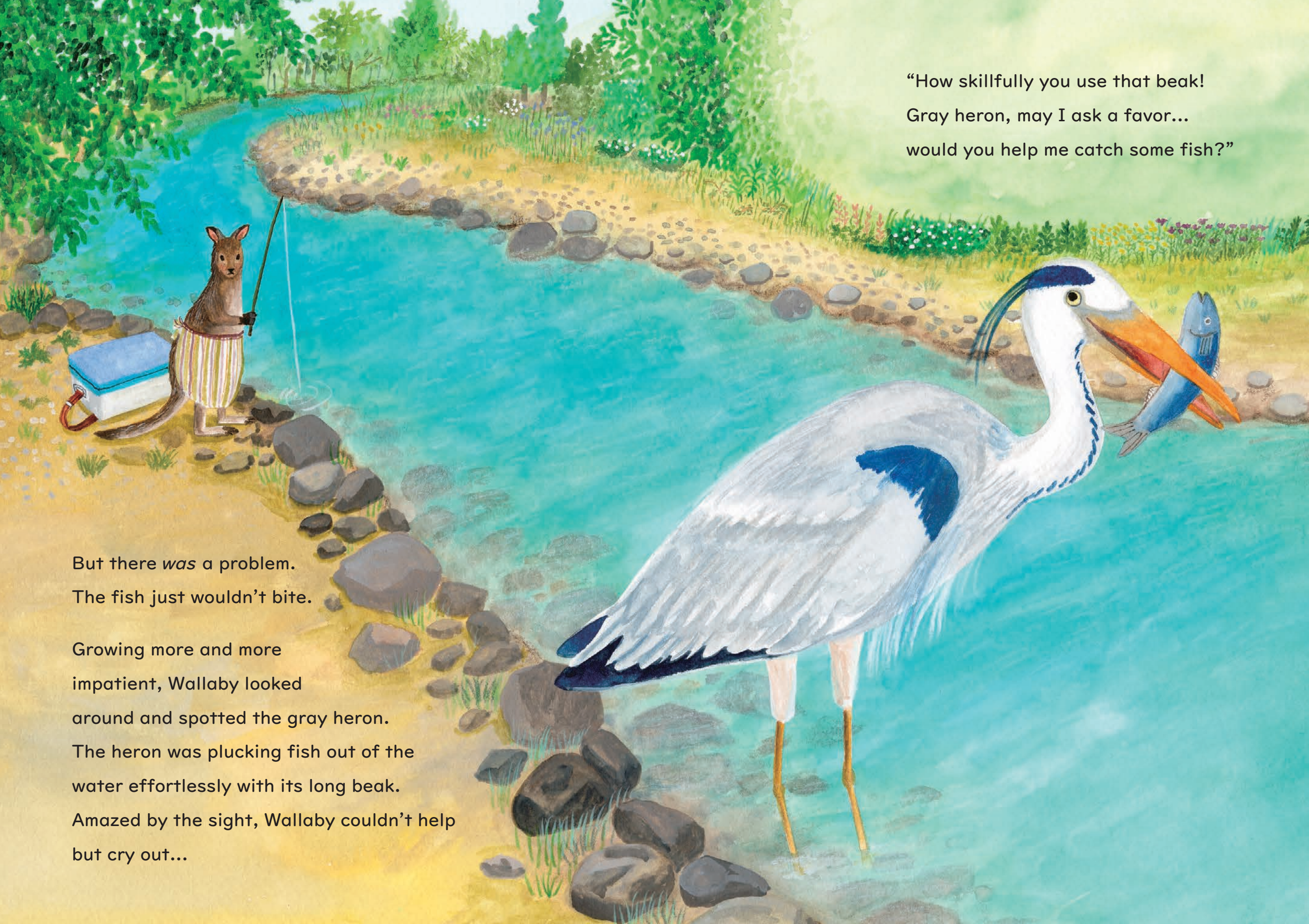
There had to be another way.

“Okay then, I’ll catch them myself!

Ten fish should be no problem.”





A vibrant illustration of a pond scene. On the left, a brown wallaby wearing a striped apron stands on a rocky bank, holding a fishing rod with a blue lure. A blue and white cooler sits next to it. In the foreground on the right, a large gray heron with a blue crest and wing patch stands in the water, holding a blue fish in its long orange beak. The pond is surrounded by lush green trees and grass. The sky is a soft, hazy blue.

“How skillfully you use that beak!  
Gray heron, may I ask a favor...  
would you help me catch some fish?”

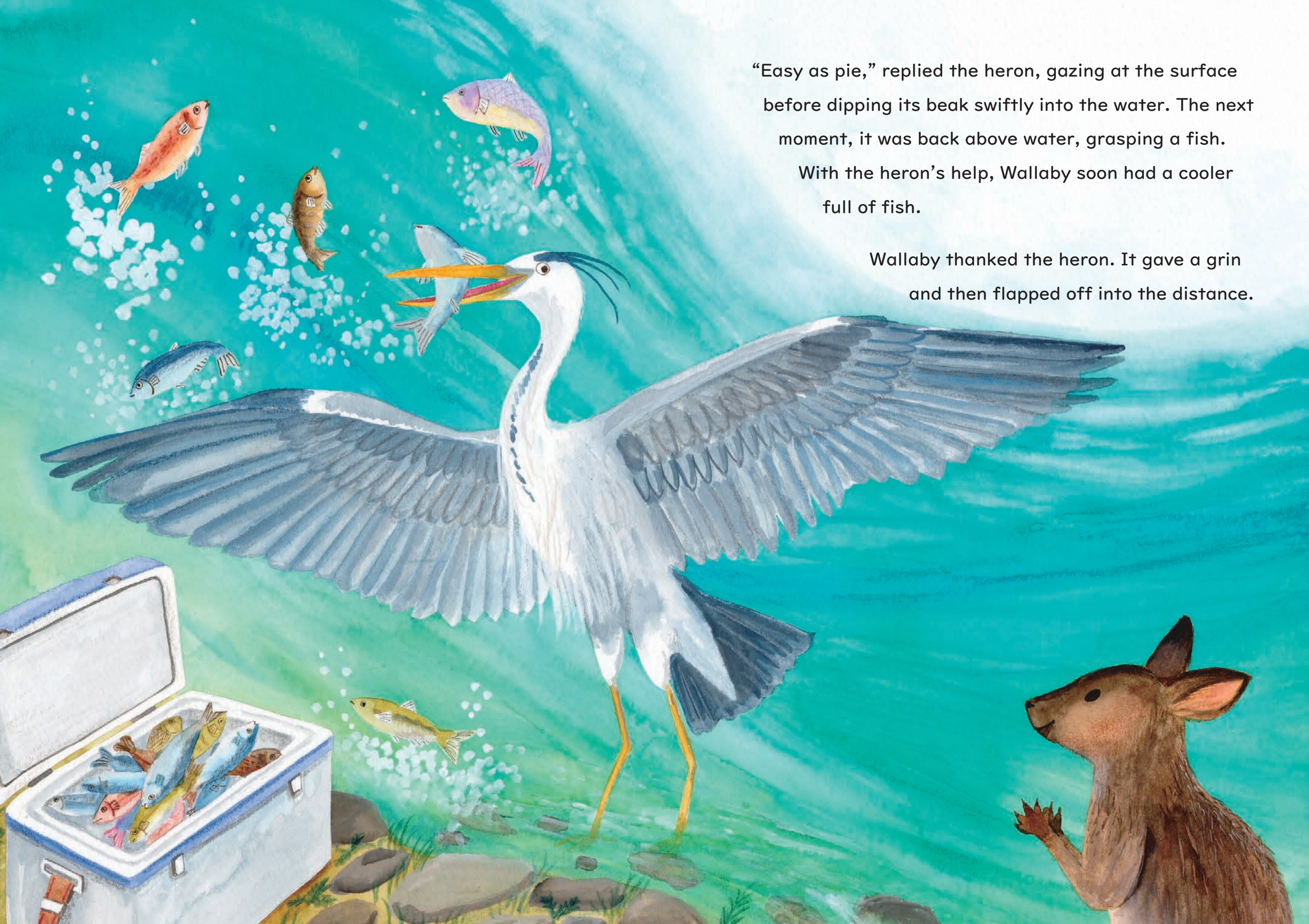
But there *was* a problem.  
The fish just wouldn’t bite.

Growing more and more  
impatient, Wallaby looked  
around and spotted the gray heron.  
The heron was plucking fish out of the  
water effortlessly with its long beak.  
Amazed by the sight, Wallaby couldn’t help  
but cry out...



“Easy as pie,” replied the heron, gazing at the surface before dipping its beak swiftly into the water. The next moment, it was back above water, grasping a fish. With the heron’s help, Wallaby soon had a cooler full of fish.

Wallaby thanked the heron. It gave a grin and then flapped off into the distance.







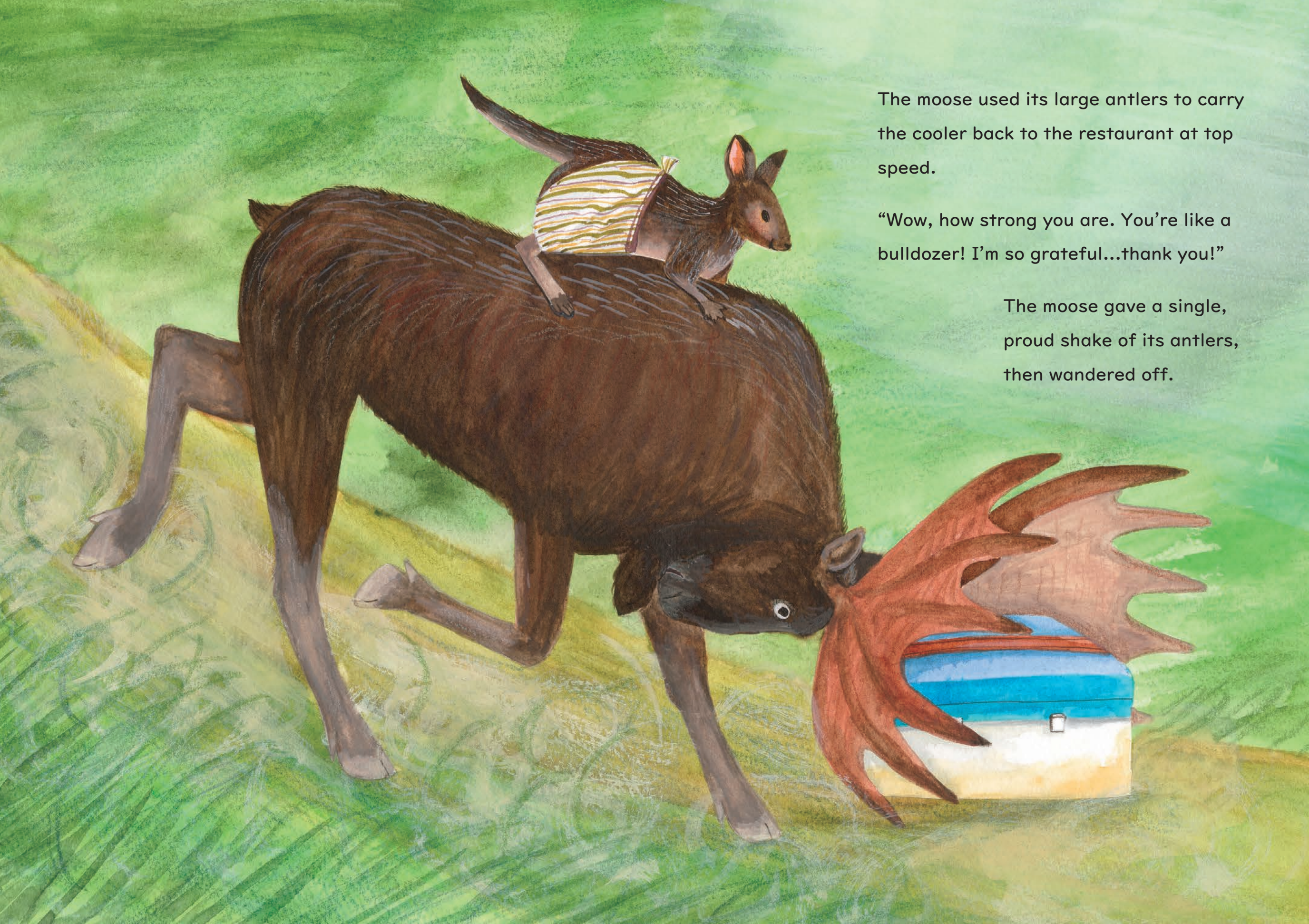
“All right, I’ll hurry back and start preparing!  
Phew, this box is so heavy!”

The cooler was weighed down by all the fish inside.  
As Wallaby struggled along, dragging the cooler,  
the moose passed by, and called out.

“Looks like you’re having a hard time.  
Shall I carry that for you? You can ride on my back.”







The moose used its large antlers to carry the cooler back to the restaurant at top speed.

“Wow, how strong you are. You’re like a bulldozer! I’m so grateful...thank you!”

The moose gave a single, proud shake of its antlers, then wandered off.



“Ahh...I don’t have a beak *or* antlers.

I thought we couldn’t understand each other because we’re different, but that’s not it.

It’s *because* we’re different that we can help each other!

I’ve got to invite the heron and the moose to my restaurant sometime and serve them something delicious.”





It was time to hurry up and prepare for dinner. Wallaby promptly set about cooking a delicious fish dinner for the party of cats. Since cats have sensitive tongues, Wallaby made sure it was just warm, not too hot.

All that was needed now was to wait for the guests to arrive.





Soon the cats showed up.

“Wow, something smells good.”

“I can’t wait to try it.”

“All right, let’s go and get Grandpa.”

—All of a sudden—



Who should appear but the tiger  
—who was rumored to be very fierce—  
walking hand in hand with Grandpa cat!

“Oh no, Grandpa’s going to be eaten!”





"I got lost along the way and was wandering about, when this kind soul called out to me. I've been escorted all the way here."

"B-but that's a tiger !"

"Oh, is that so? My eyesight isn't what it used to be, you know. I thought I was talking to a big cat. But..."

"Tiger or cat, it doesn't make a difference. We're friends now."

Everyone looked at the tiger in surprise. The tiger smiled bashfully.

"That was a kind thing to do, wasn't it?"

"What was all this talk about being fierce?"

"Come to think of it, I've heard people say things, but no one's ever mentioned anything scary actually happening to them..."







“It’s always like this. Everyone runs away from me.”

The tiger gave a lonely smile.

“But even then, I set out on a journey, hoping to find someone who would be friends with me. And I reached this little town, and found this restaurant...”

Wallaby and all the cats were filled with regret.

“We’re so sorry that we decided you must be fierce, just because of the way you look...”





“It’s because you can’t see someone else’s heart or character that it’s so important to get to know each other. Just like food—you don’t know how something tastes unless you eat it. Isn’t that right, Wallaby!”

“Yes, that’s so true! All right everyone, I’ll show you to your seats. You too, Tiger!”

The tiger’s eyes welled with tears.

“I’ll never forget this wonderful evening.”

And neither did Wallaby.





From that day on, as the days and months passed,  
Wallaby's restaurant became the meeting place  
for everyone in the town. Every day, all kinds of  
animals show up. That's right, anyone's welcome.

And of course, you're welcome too.





# Code for a City to Live Together

Living together:

Edogawa City aims to be a place where we respect one another, and everyone can live with peace of mind.

## Living with others

People living in this city range in age from 0 to over 100. They include those with disabilities and foreign nationals. We believe that respect for individual differences is a source of impetus for community development.

## Living with society

Individuals with different roles and circumstances gather in Edogawa City to study, work, play, and be active. We believe that it is important for us to pool our strengths.

## Living with business

Business operators active in Edogawa City are among the key citizens of our city. We believe that they are a driving force in the community.

## Living with the future

People around the world are starting to build a better future. We want to learn from their efforts and take a lead in carrying this momentum forward.

## Living with the environment

Accepting disaster risks caused by being situated at sea level, we believe that it is crucial to leave no one behind in the event of emergencies such as widespread floods and massive earthquakes.

Children born today will be living in Edogawa City in 2100, and we want to make this city a place brimming with hopes and dreams. We have established this code in 2021 as our pledge to do all we can to realize this vision.





Edogawa City is home to many people of all ages, from children to the elderly, so how do we ensure that all these residents can lead happy lives?

What kind of future do you hope for?

We face various challenges, but I am sure that this book will give everyone who reads it clues for creating a better future.

I look forward to working with our residents to make Edogawa City into the “city to live together” that we aim to be.

Takeshi Saito

Mayor of Edogawa City

August 2022

## Akiko Kameoka

Born in Yonezawa City, Yamagata Prefecture; graduated from the Department of Arts and Crafts, Tohoku Seikatsu Bunka University. Other books written by the author include the following (publishers follow book titles in square brackets): *Nen ni ichido no okyakusama* (The annual guest), *Haru o sagashi-ni* (Searching for spring), *Natsu no yakusoku* (A summer promise), *Aki ni deatta o-tomodachi* (A new friend in fall) [Bunkeido Co., Ltd.]; *Donguri no ki* (The acorn tree), *Neru to Mari no takaramono* (Nel and Mari's treasure) [PHP Institute, Inc.]; *Wasuremono o todoke-ni* (Delivering what was left behind) [Word of Life Press Ministries]; *Komorebiyori* (One fine, dappled day) [Smile Books]; *Tomin Hoteru Gussuri Dozo* (The Sleep Tight Hibernation Hotel) [Iwasaki Shoten]. Children's stories illustrated by the author include: *Hoteru Yamanonaka Shogakko* (Yamanonaka Elementary School Hotel) and *Hoteru Yamanonaka Shogakko no jikanwari* (The Yamanonaka Elementary School Hotel timetable) [PHP Institute, Inc.]. The author's comic books include *Kissa Hori* (Holy Café) [Word of Life Press Ministries].

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