

Chasing the Clever Lizard's Tail

an adventure and activity book

Storyline and illustrations by Theresa Stacy-Ryan.

Written by Mary Stacy Orr.

The Chase Series

There are ten books in the Chase Series
based on the characters found in the fun adventure,
“Chasing the Moon and the Morning Star.”

Chasing the Clever Lizard's Tail is based on Location Eight.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Mary, my Big Sister and the lifelong friendship she has forged with me. Her hand in this writing is one of many Forever Bonds.

Beyond that, it is dedicated to Friends – having them
and keeping them through Life's Journey.

Acknowledgments

This book was another collaborative effort with many in my Circle beyond Mary:

Ava, Neymar, Finn, Donovan, Jovie, Emmett,
Antoinette, Elizabeth, Tess, Renée, Leslie, and Kathy.

This book belongs to

Be ready as we adventure with Rudy and Dánte in the Costa Rican jungles!

Supplemental Materials

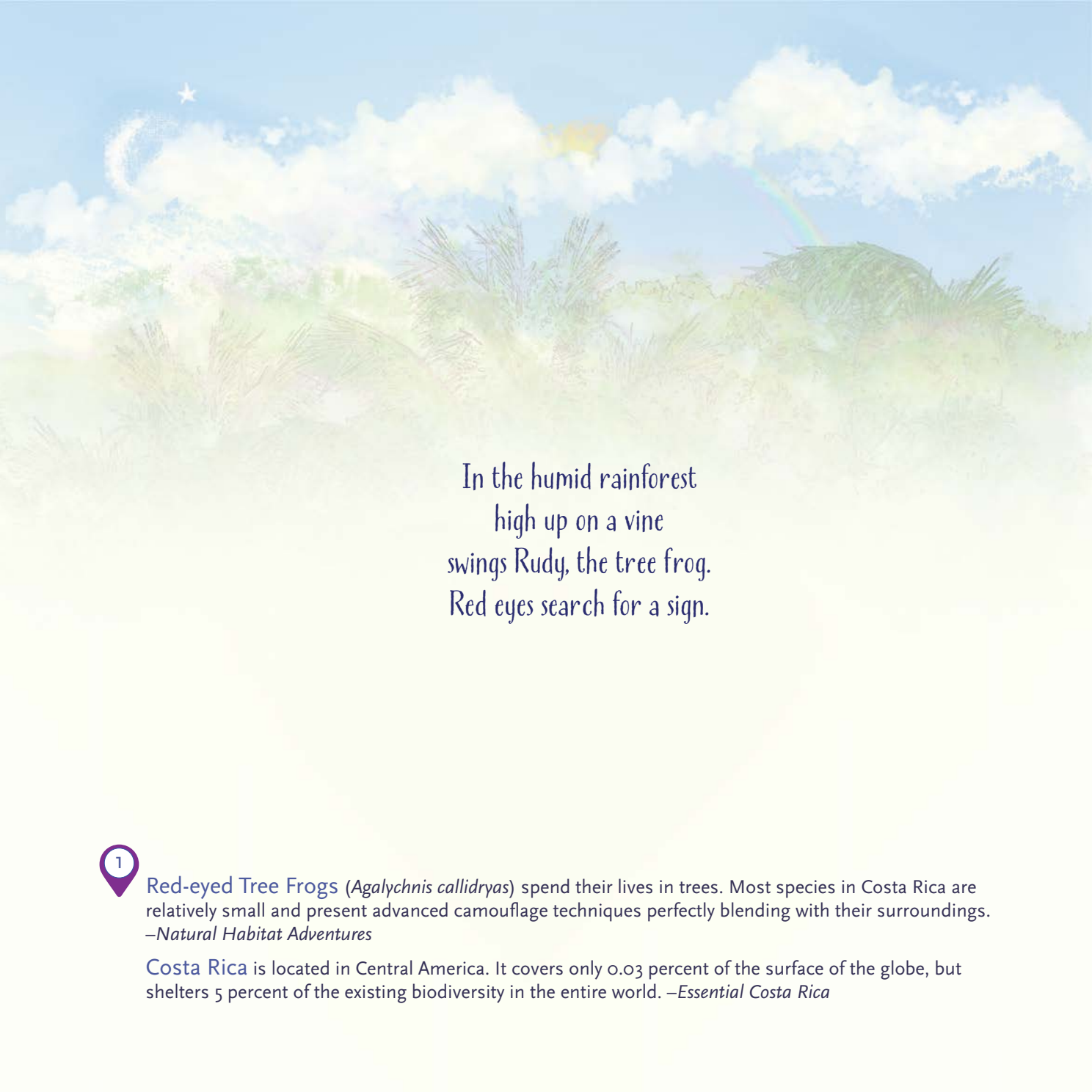
Watch videos, play games, and print your own activities
for Chasing the Clever Lizard's Tail at

littlelionlighthouse.com/cclt

[term] are terms and explanations that might be of interest to you, the reader,
that you can share about the scene with your listener.

NOTE: References are included online at littlelionlighthouse.com/cclt.





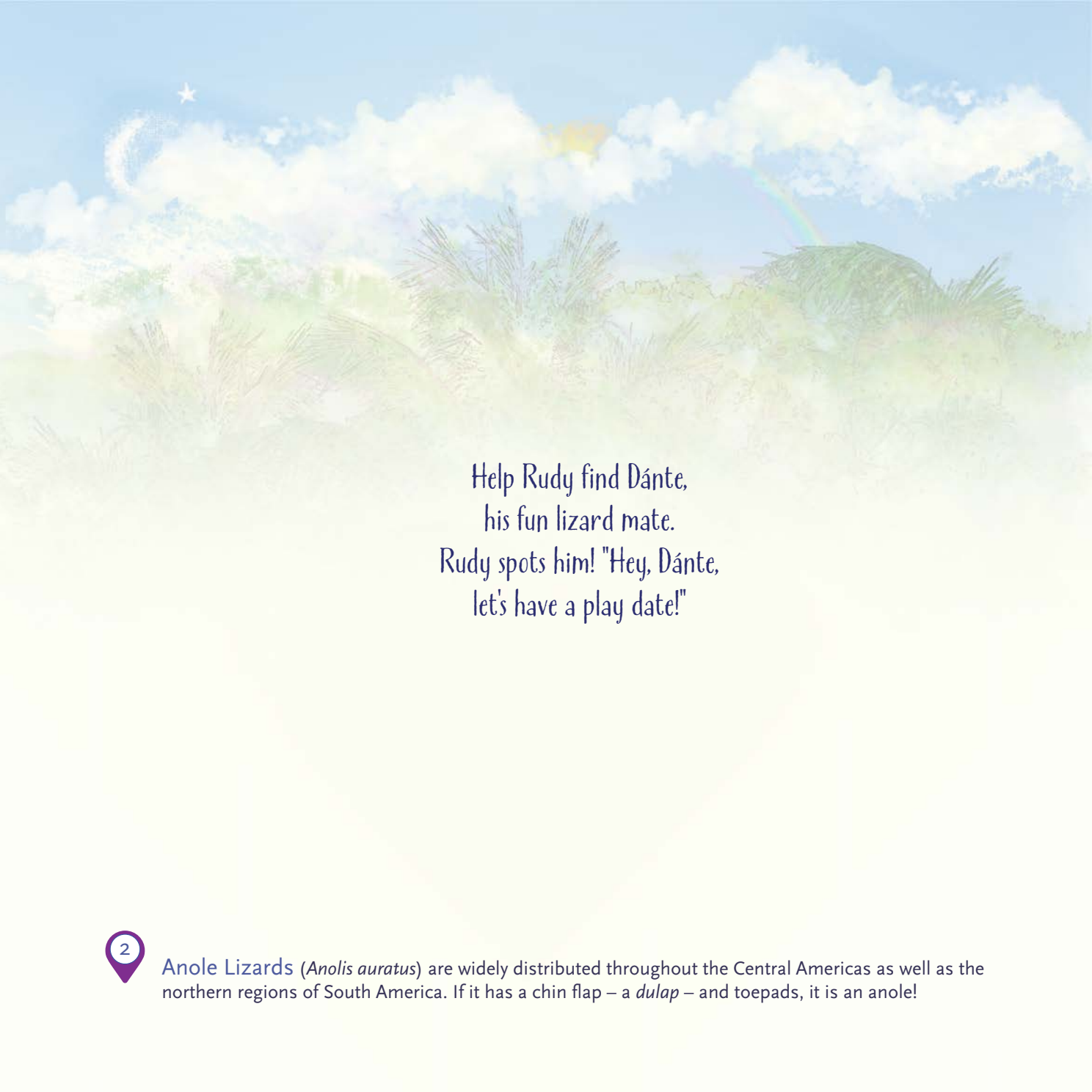
In the humid rainforest
high up on a vine
swings Rudy, the tree frog.
Red eyes search for a sign.



Red-eyed Tree Frogs (*Agalychnis callidryas*) spend their lives in trees. Most species in Costa Rica are relatively small and present advanced camouflage techniques perfectly blending with their surroundings. –*Natural Habitat Adventures*

Costa Rica is located in Central America. It covers only 0.03 percent of the surface of the globe, but shelters 5 percent of the existing biodiversity in the entire world. –*Essential Costa Rica*

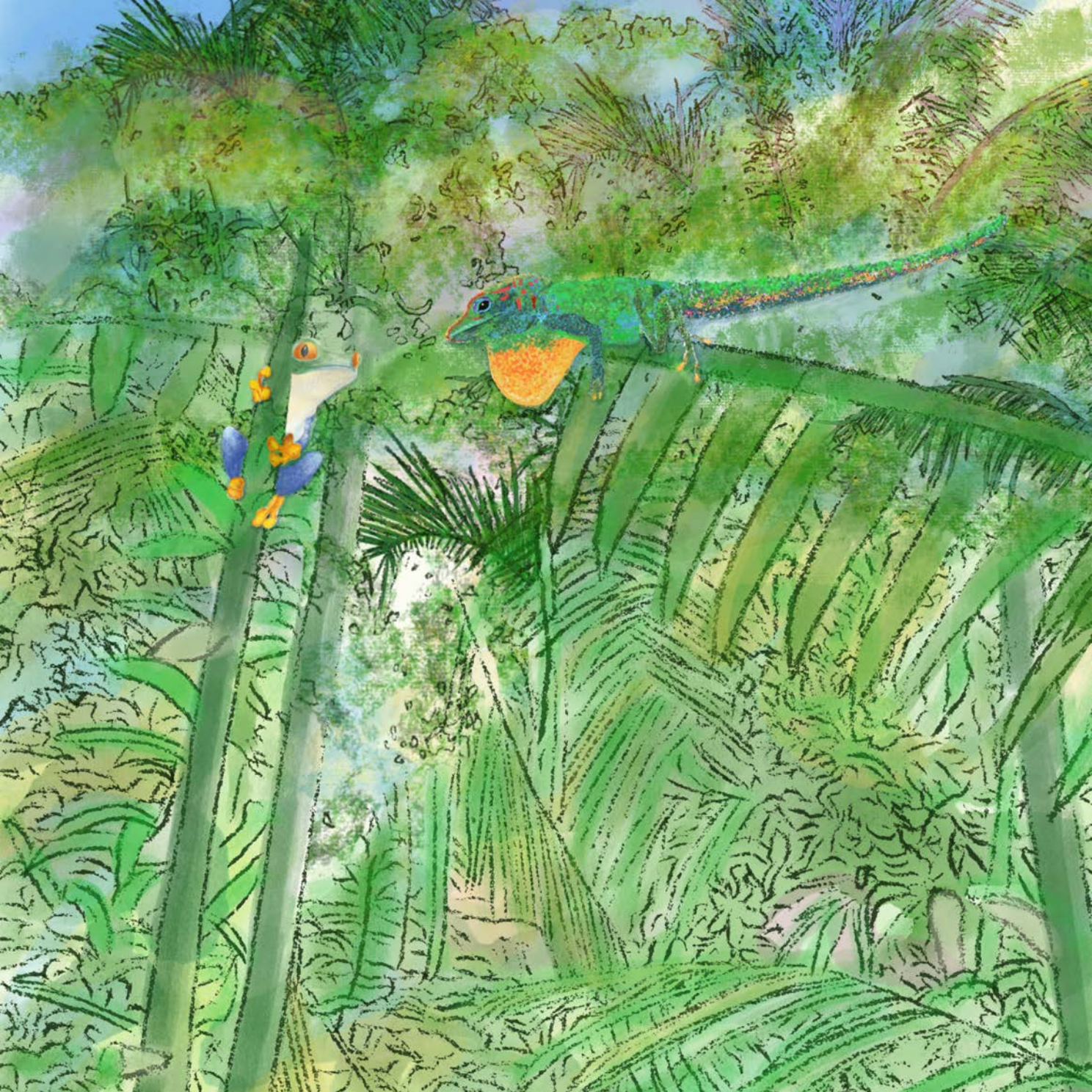





Help Rudy find Dánte,
his fun lizard mate.
Rudy spots him! "Hey, Dánte,
let's have a play date!"

2

Anole Lizards (*Anolis auratus*) are widely distributed throughout the Central Americas as well as the northern regions of South America. If it has a chin flap – a *dulap* – and toepads, it is an anole!






Dante yells to Rudy,
"Chase me if you can!"
They run through the jungle.
Dante's fast with a plan.

Dante slips down on
the fronds of a fern.
Rudy spies him too late.
Dante makes a quick turn.






Rudy sees Kathryn.
"Did Dante run past?"
That quick-darting lizard
Just took off so fast!

Kathryn gently looks down,
slowly raising her finger.
Rudy flashes a smile.
There's no time to linger!

3

Two-toed sloths have a metabolic rate that is only 40 to 45 percent of what would be expected for their body weight resulting in their slow-moving behavior. They stay high in the canopy of the tropical rain forests and maintain a range of about 10 acres. —*Smithsonian's National Zoo*
Kathryn's baby is named Juliana!






With a splash of bright colors,
DeeDee darts from the sky.
She's back from the north!
"I'm so glad you've come by!"

4

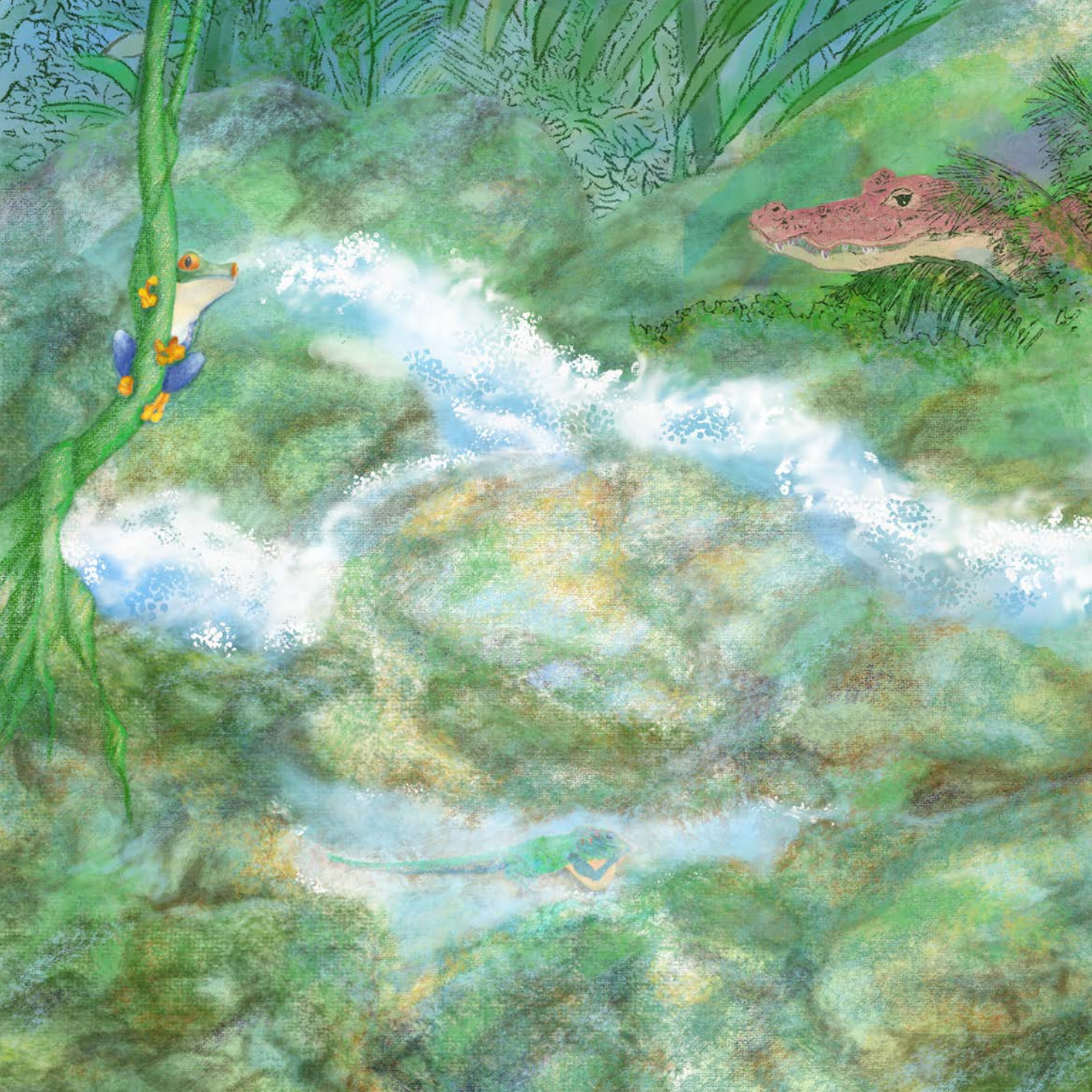
Hummingbird Migration There are approximately 343 hummingbird species. The smallest birds in the world, they migrate across long distances. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fly 500 miles nonstop for a period of 18 to 24 hours when crossing the Gulf of Mexico. Our DeeDee is in her home in the Chiricahuas in *Chasing Dusty Across the Divide*.






Rudy beckons to DeeDee.
"No time to delay!
My friend Dánte's hiding.
Let's team up to play!"

Rudy climbs on her back
and they soar through the air.
DeeDee spreads her wings wide.
What a colorful pair!





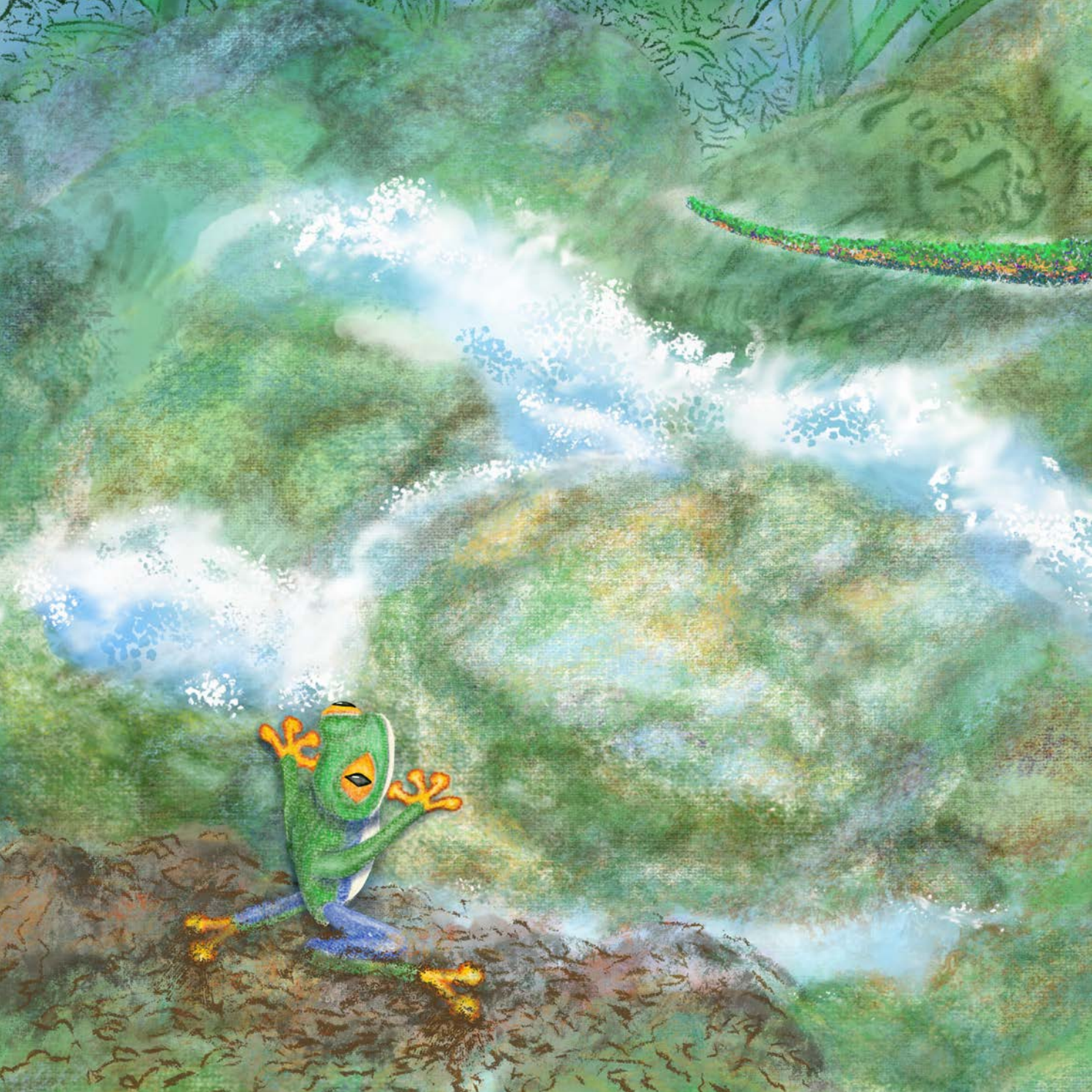
"Thank you, DeeDee," says Rudy
as he jumps from her back
to a vine near the stream.
"Am I on the right track?"

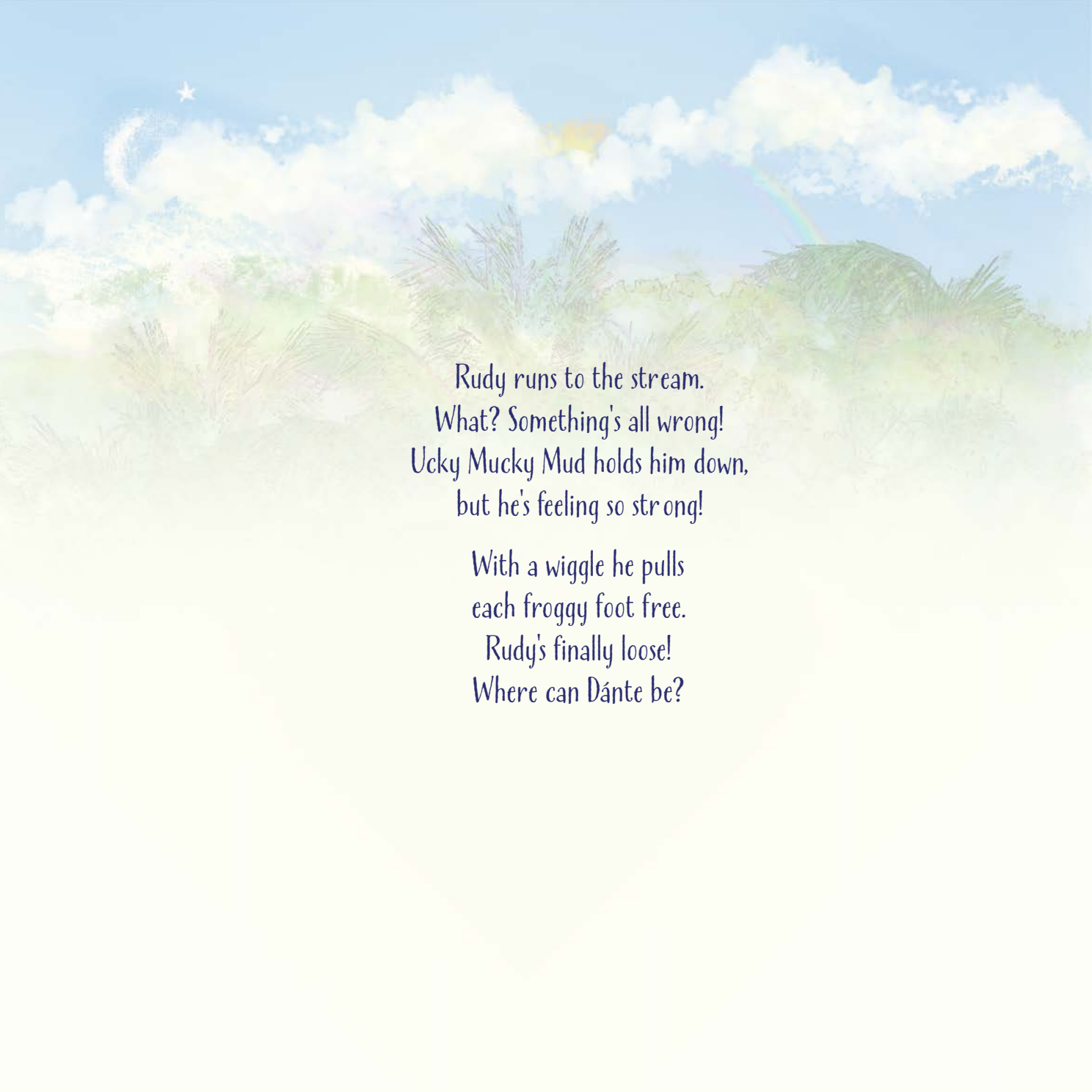
Kalyn the caiman
knows Dante is lurking.
Dante breathes underwater!
His hideout is working!

5

Scuba-Diving Anoles? The Costa Rican river anole can stay under the water for 10 minutes. "We thought she was holding her breath. But a little air bubble was growing and shrinking. She is rebreathing her air, like a deep sea diver." <https://youtu.be/ggPDcqVTa5I> –*Smithsonian Channel*

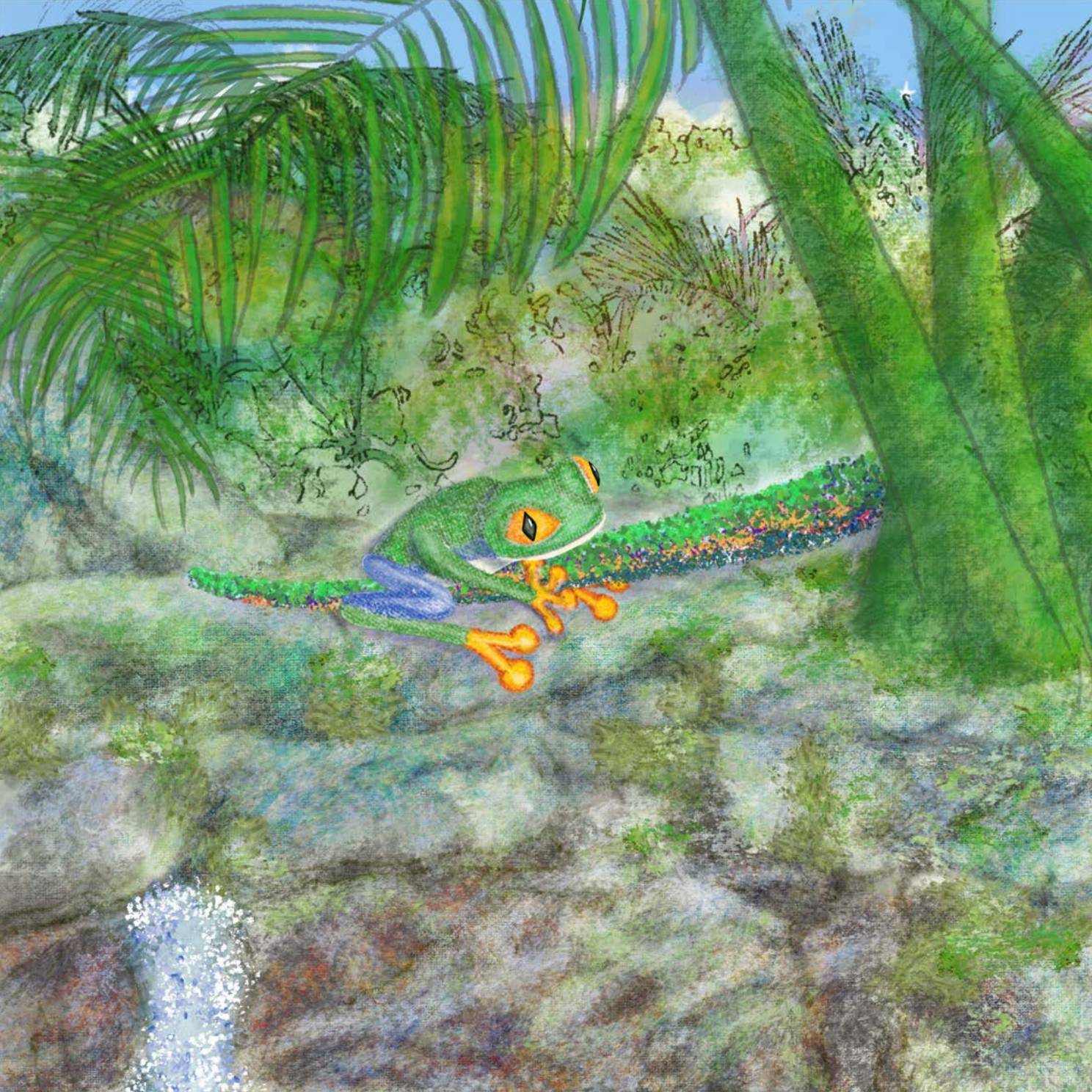
Caiman or Crocodile? Caimans have a U-shaped snout, are found only in Central and South America, and are smaller than crocodiles who have a V-shaped snout and are found around the world. –*A-Z Animals* Our Kalyn is a Spectacled Caiman.

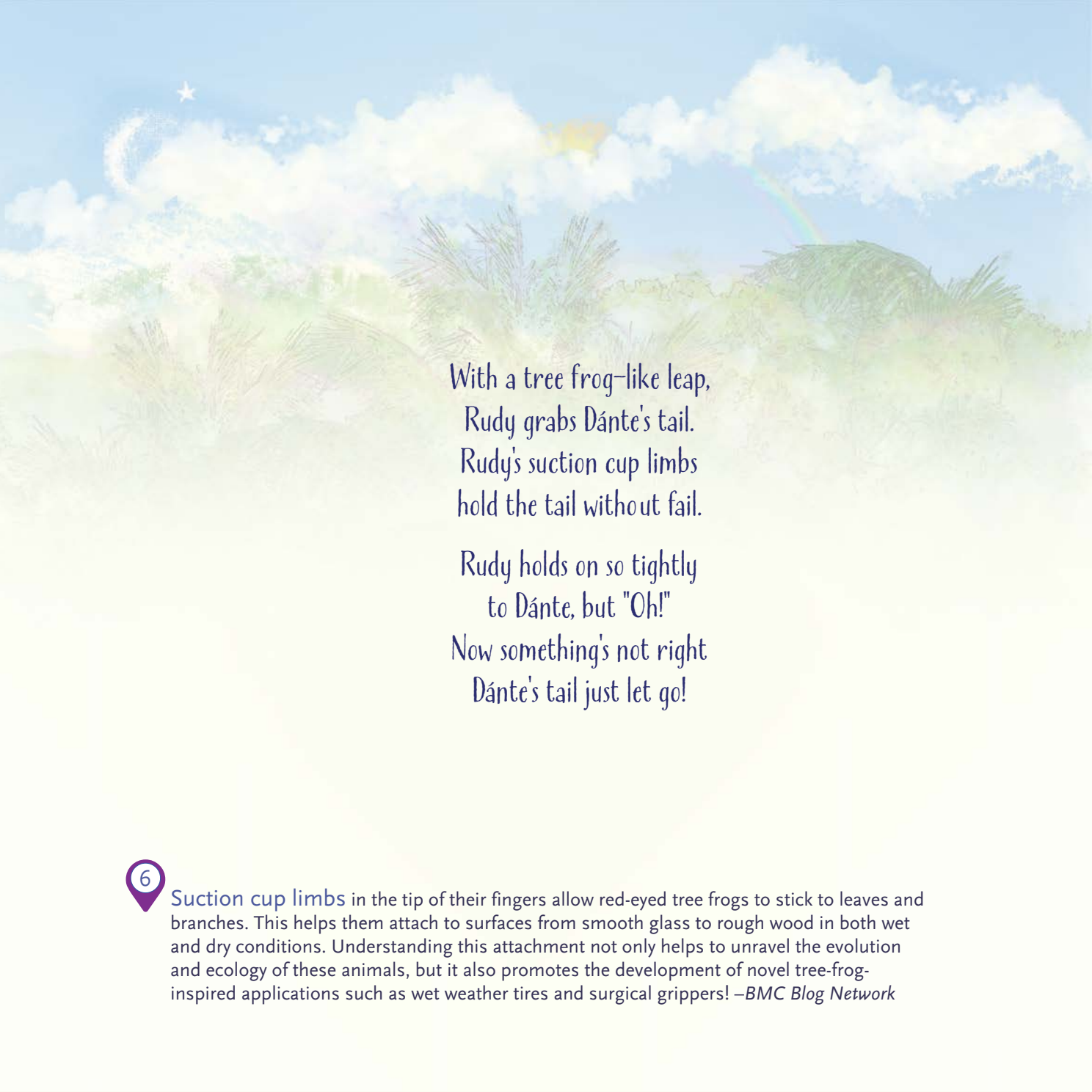




Rudy runs to the stream.
What? Something's all wrong!
Ucky Mucky Mud holds him down,
but he's feeling so strong!

With a wiggle he pulls
each froggy foot free.
Rudy's finally loose!
Where can Dante be?





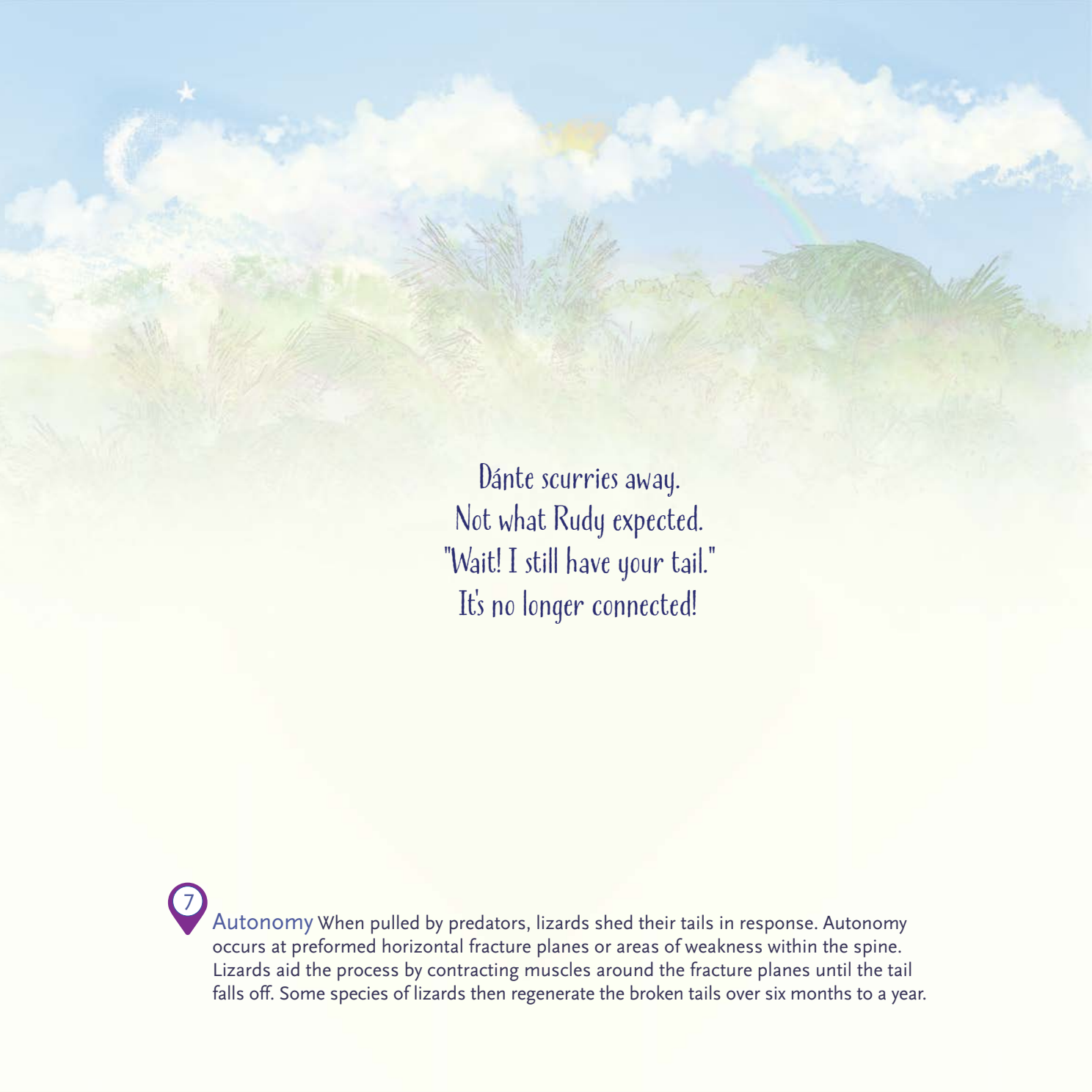
With a tree frog-like leap,
Rudy grabs Dánte's tail.
Rudy's suction cup limbs
hold the tail without fail.

Rudy holds on so tightly
to Dánte, but "Oh!"
Now something's not right
Dánte's tail just let go!

6

Suction cup limbs in the tip of their fingers allow red-eyed tree frogs to stick to leaves and branches. This helps them attach to surfaces from smooth glass to rough wood in both wet and dry conditions. Understanding this attachment not only helps to unravel the evolution and ecology of these animals, but it also promotes the development of novel tree-frog-inspired applications such as wet weather tires and surgical grippers! –*BMC Blog Network*



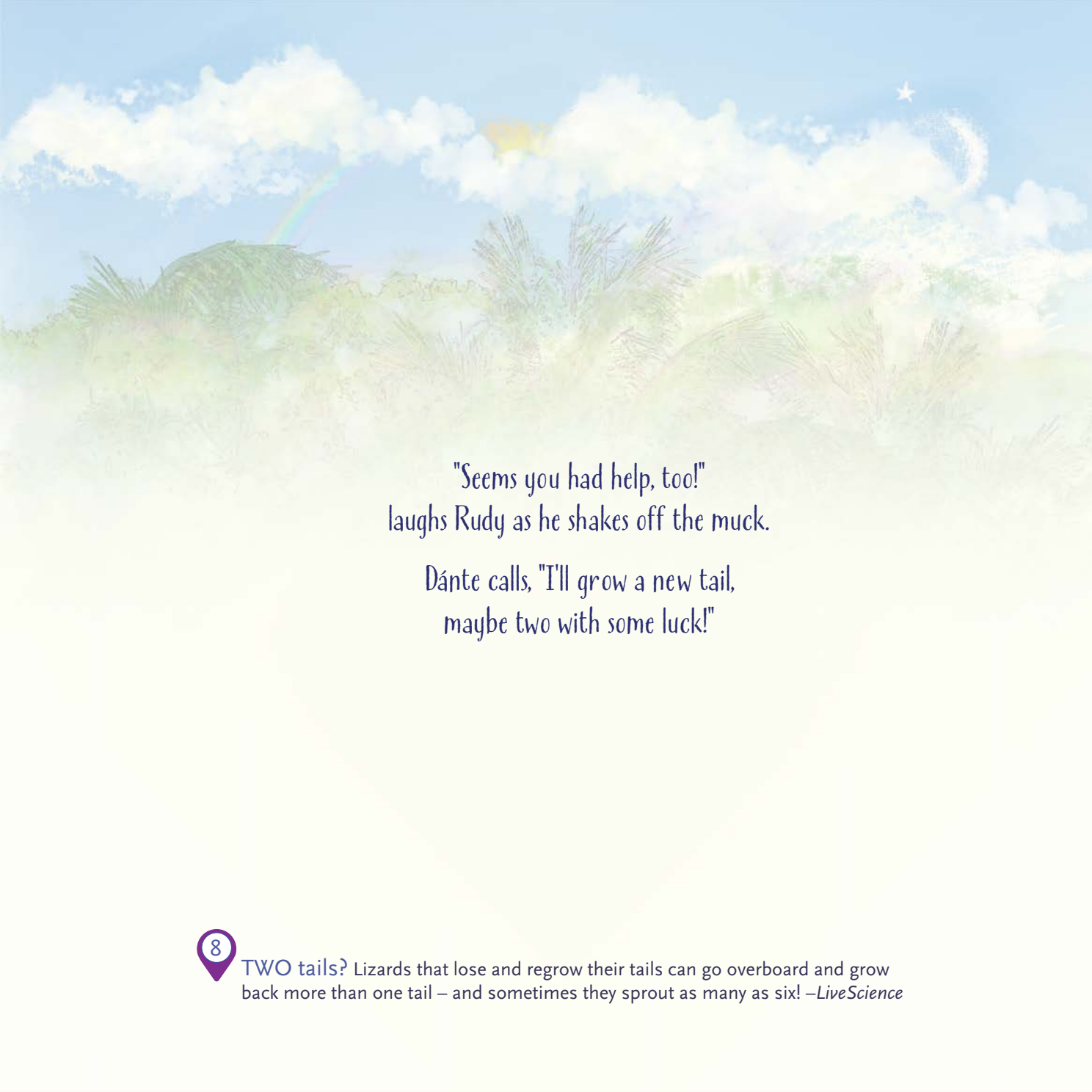


Dante scurries away.
Not what Rudy expected.
"Wait! I still have your tail."
It's no longer connected!



7 **Autonomy** When pulled by predators, lizards shed their tails in response. Autonomy occurs at preformed horizontal fracture planes or areas of weakness within the spine. Lizards aid the process by contracting muscles around the fracture planes until the tail falls off. Some species of lizards then regenerate the broken tails over six months to a year.





"Seems you had help, too!"
laughs Rudy as he shakes off the muck.

Dante calls, "I'll grow a new tail,
maybe two with some luck!"



TWO tails? Lizards that lose and regrow their tails can go overboard and grow back more than one tail – and sometimes they sprout as many as six! –*LiveScience*

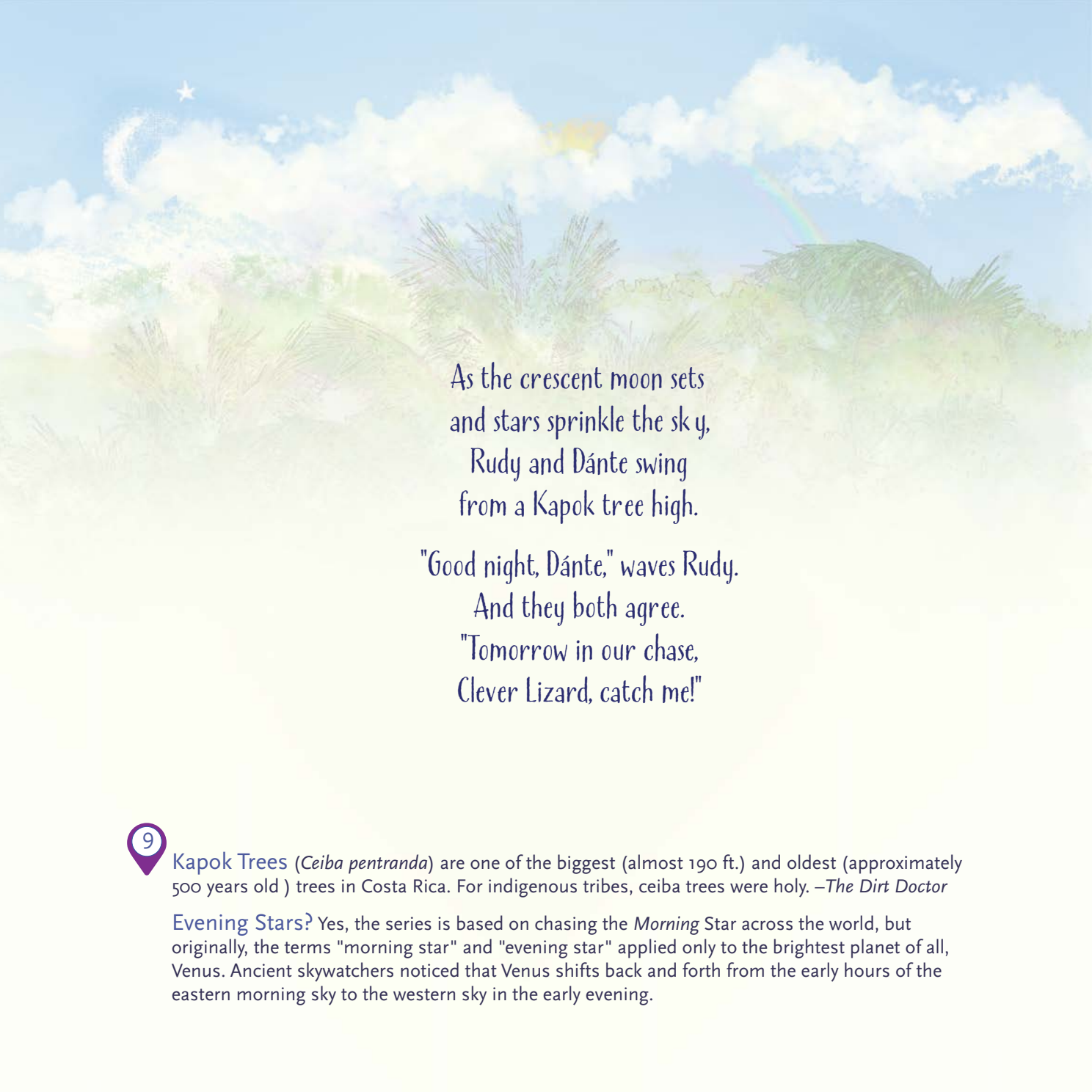




Rudy looks up at Kathryn
as she winks back in jest.

"You knew Dánte's talent!"
My friends are the best!





As the crescent moon sets
and stars sprinkle the sky,
Rudy and Dante swing
from a Kapok tree high.

"Good night, Dante," waves Rudy.
And they both agree.
"Tomorrow in our chase,
Clever Lizard, catch me!"

9

Kapok Trees (*Ceiba pentrandia*) are one of the biggest (almost 190 ft.) and oldest (approximately 500 years old) trees in Costa Rica. For indigenous tribes, ceiba trees were holy. –*The Dirt Doctor*

Evening Stars? Yes, the series is based on chasing the *Morning Star* across the world, but originally, the terms "morning star" and "evening star" applied only to the brightest planet of all, Venus. Ancient skywatchers noticed that Venus shifts back and forth from the early hours of the eastern morning sky to the western sky in the early evening.



Can you find Rudy?
Find Danté, too ~
he's a little harder to find
just like in the Chase!

Can you draw Rudy and Dante in the Jungle?



Join us on our next Chase

Come with Charlie, Tonya & Scratch on their wave-filled adventures in
“Chasing the Ebb & Flow of the Tide.”

The Chase Series

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More Chases-in-the-Making:

Chasing Long Necks across the Savanna
Chasing the Magic of Andean Skies

The Chase Series is a
publication of the
Little Lion Lighthouse.



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