Alex and Dusky

Let's collaborate!

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By Laura DeVito

This book belongs to:

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Alex went on a field trip with her classmates. Before the field trip, she was told she was going to take a field notebook.

    "What's a field notebook?" asked Alex. She was told that it was a special book, a bit like a journal but also a little different. A field notebook is used to observe things like the weather, the time and using senses like smell, sight and touch to understand her surroundings.

Alex went with the group and began to laugh and scream at a bird flying by, and didn't notice that the group had left.

Alex became scared and wondered how to
find her way back.

Then, became quiet, then aware
and then began to see the world emerge.

Alex noticed a Scrub Jay burying something in the ground and decided to ask what the Scrub Jay was up to. Scrub Jay told Alex that it hid acorns in the ground, and when Scrub Jay forgot, it would grow into a tree.

Scrub Jay pecked at the ground while Alex followed and immediately stopped.

Alex asked, "What's wrong?"

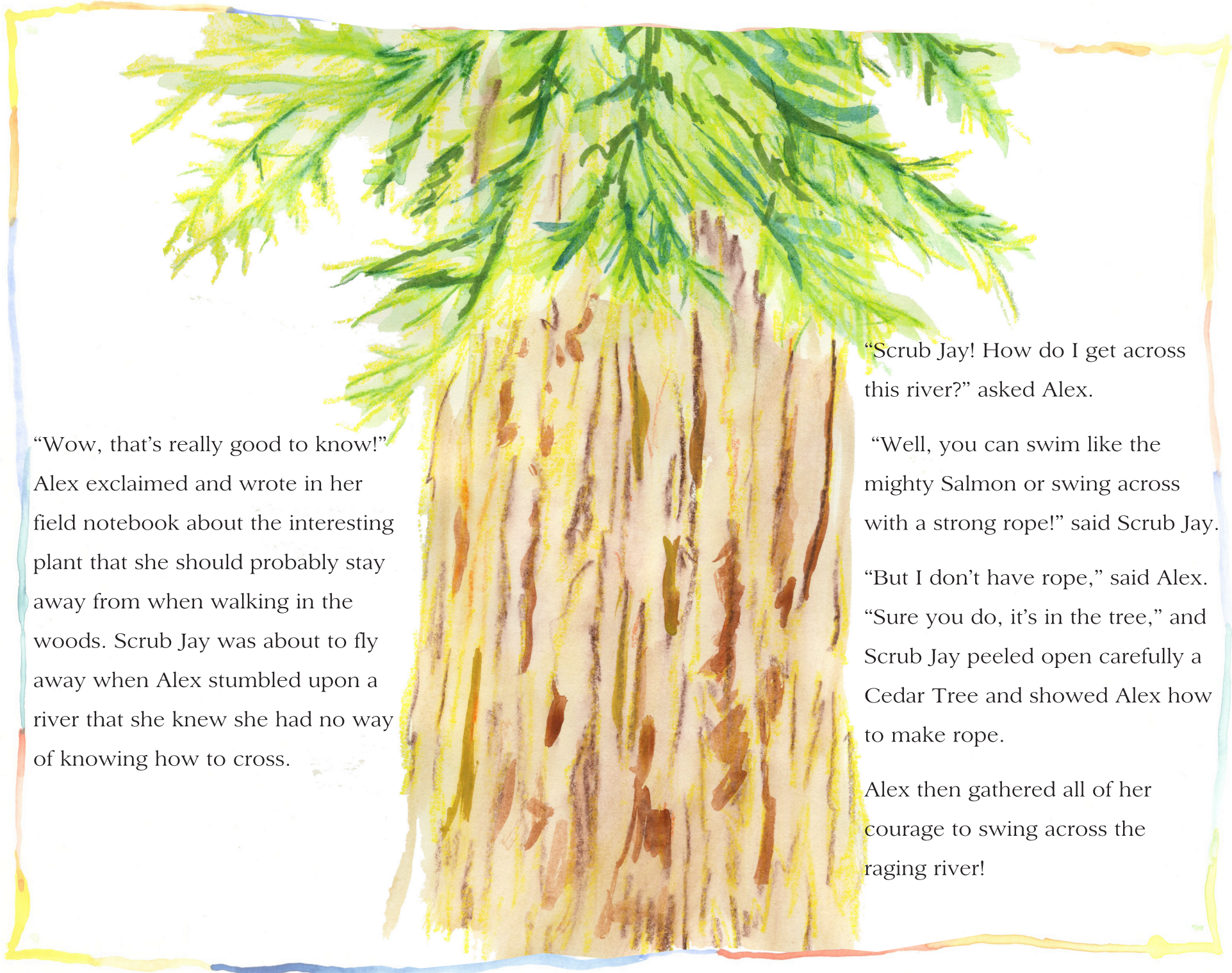Scrub Jay paused and pointed with its beak to a strange plant with three leaves.

Scrub Jay explained that Alex should be aware of Poison Oak for that reason, but also that Poison Oak can also have health benefits if used carefully.

"Leaves of three, let them be," said Scrub Jay. "What does that mean?" asked Alex. Scrub Jay explained that these types of plants would give you a rash and is called Poison Oak. Not all plants that have three leaves are poisonous, but it's a saying that people use to begin to identify plants.

"Wow, that's really good to know!" Alex exclaimed and wrote in her field notebook about the interesting plant that she should probably stay away from when walking in the woods. Scrub Jay was about to fly away when Alex stumbled upon a river that she knew she had no way of knowing how to cross.

"Scrub Jay! How do I get across this river?" asked Alex.

"Well, you can swim like the mighty Salmon or swing across with a strong rope!" said Scrub Jay.
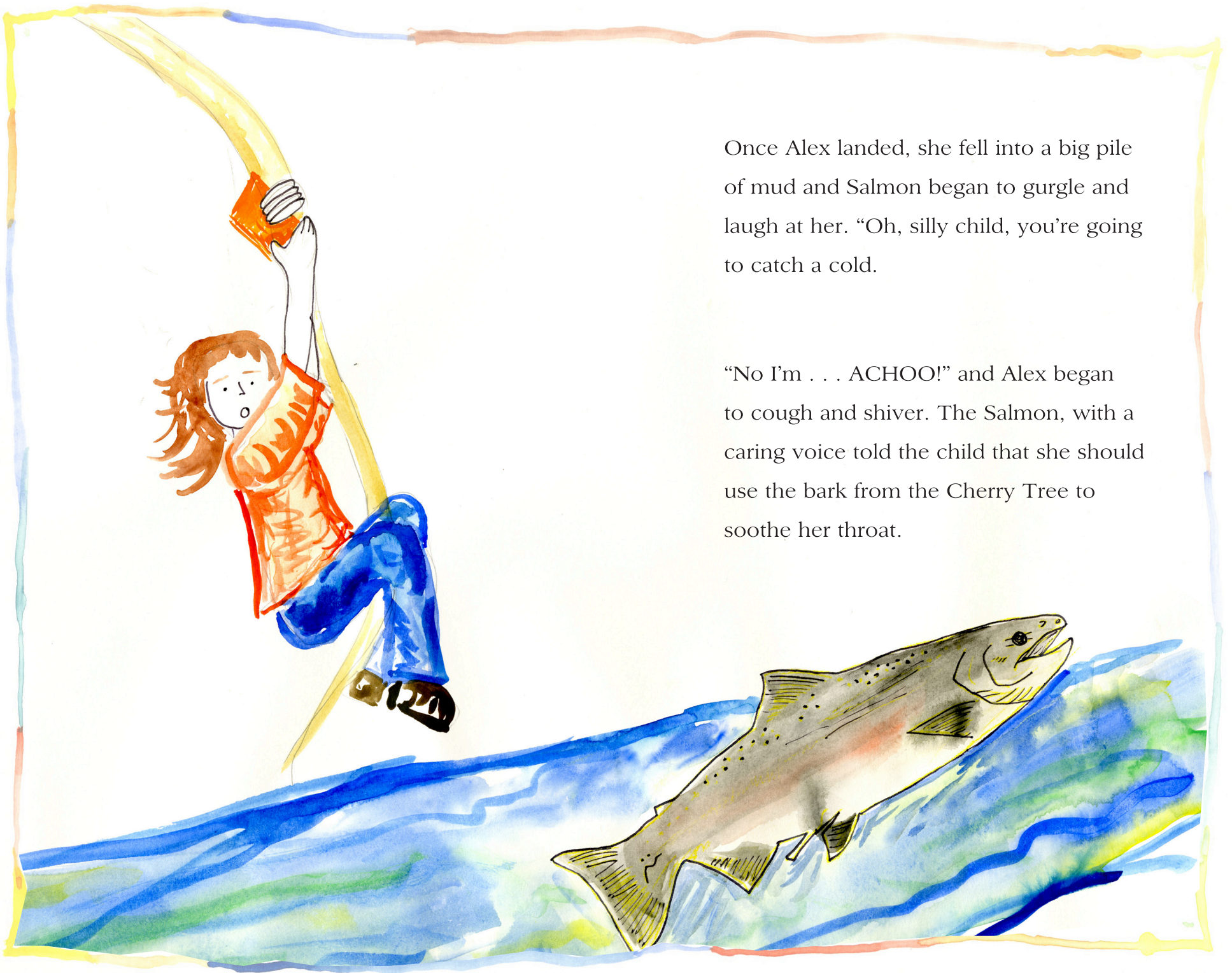
"But I don't have rope," said Alex. "Sure you do, it's in the tree," and Scrub Jay peeled open carefully a Cedar Tree and showed Alex how to make rope.

Alex then gathered all of her courage to swing across the raging river!

Once Alex landed, she fell into a big pile of mud and Salmon began to gurgle and laugh at her. "Oh, silly child, you're going to catch a cold.

"No I'm . . . ACHOO!" and Alex began to cough and shiver. The Salmon, with a caring voice told the child that she should use the bark from the Cherry Tree to soothe her throat.

Alex was perplexed, but saw that Salmon's intention was from the heart, so decided to try it – and it worked!
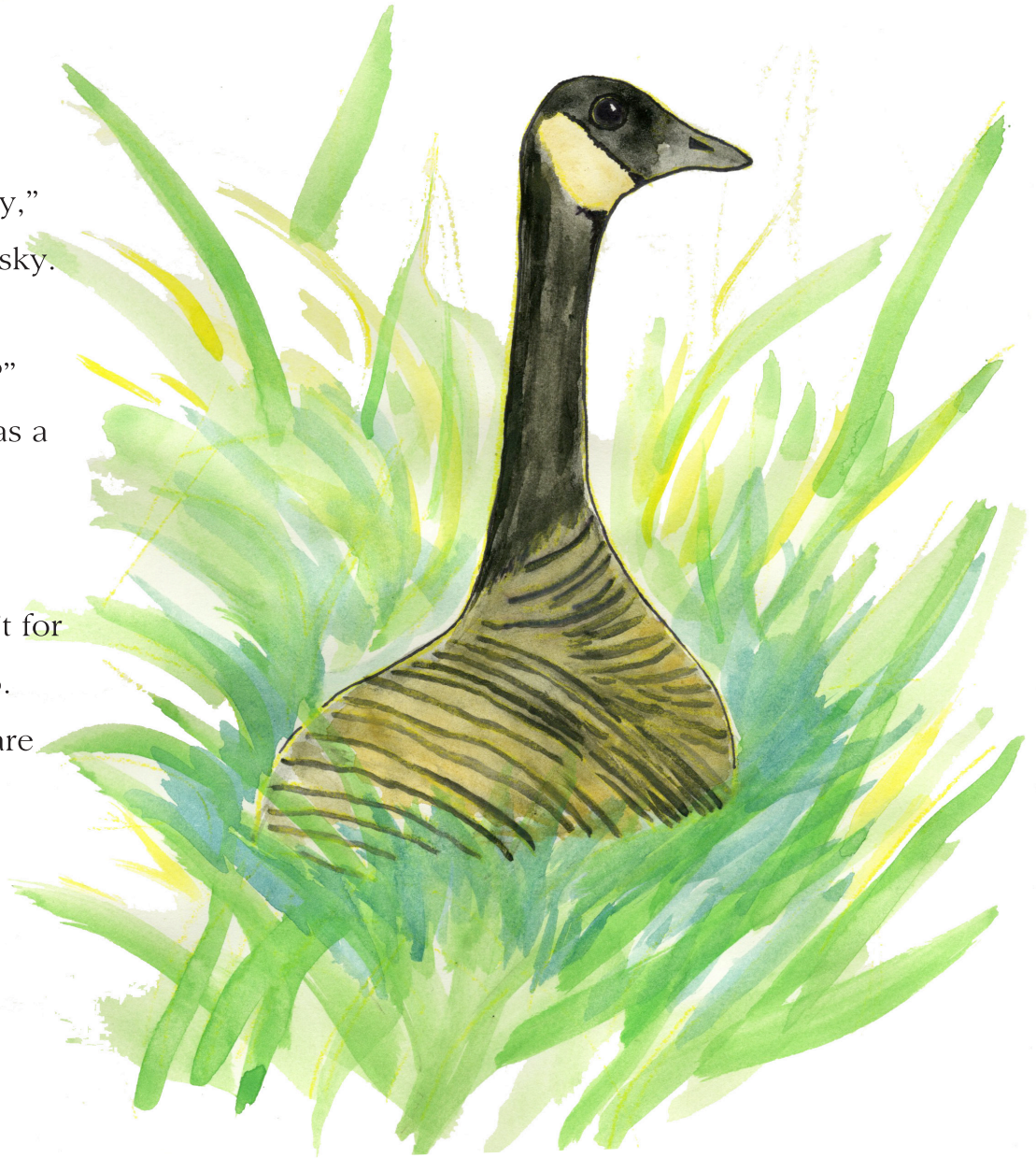
After thanking Salmon, Alex went on her way. She began to hear some noise, something flapping in the wind.

Lo'and behold, there was a huge goose perched at the edge where the water and land met.

"What's your name?" asked Alex. "I'm Dusky,"
said the Goose. "Well, nice to meet you Dusky.
What are you doing?" "I'm eating some tall
grass for lunch, would you like to try some?"
asked Dusky."Why sure, I'm pretty hungry as a
matter of fact," said Alex.

Alex gave it a taste and it was quite bitter.
Dusky chuckled and said, perhaps grass isn't for
children. Maybe you should try this Wapato.
The Swans eat it around here, but I don't care
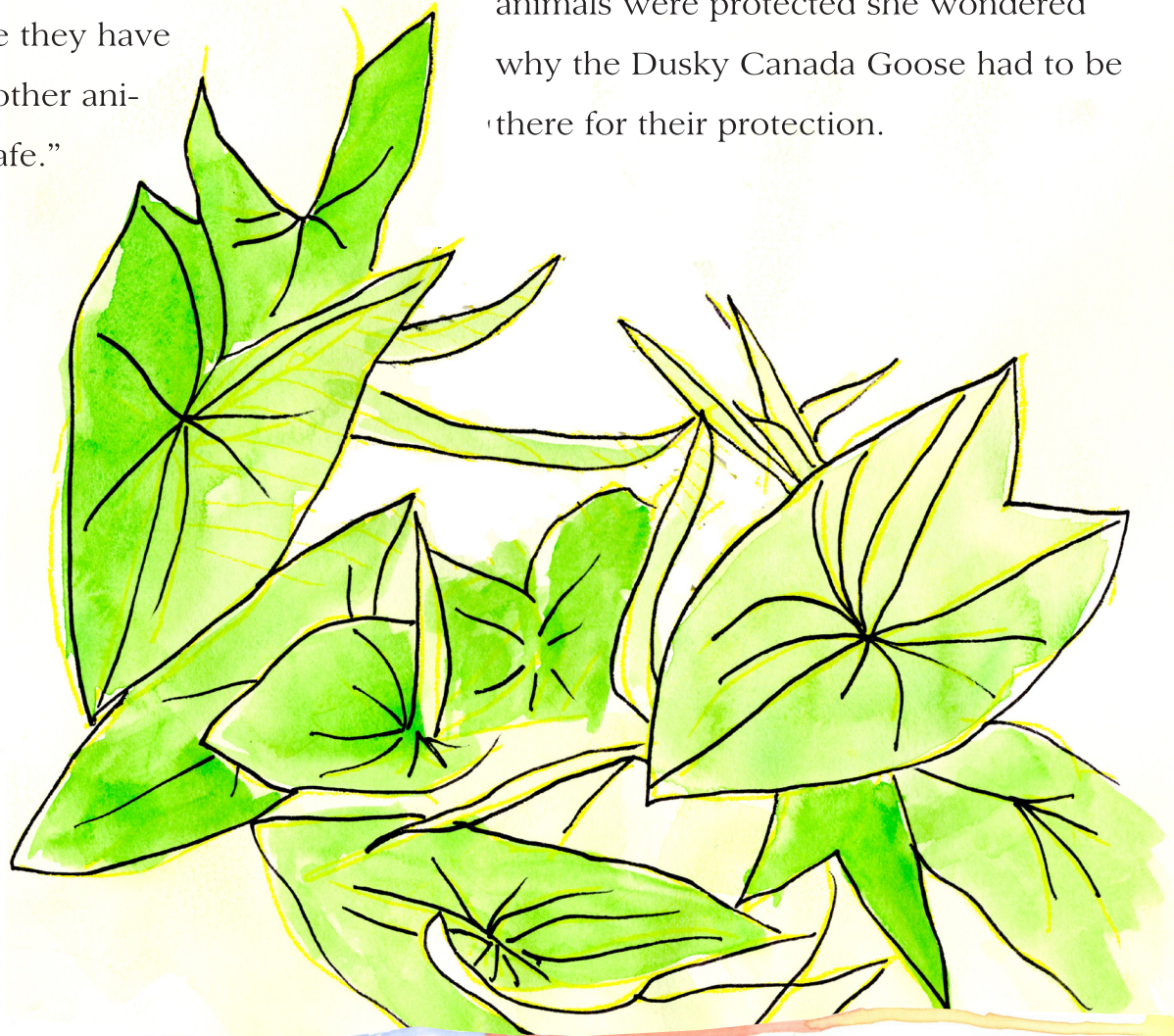for it that much.

While munching on grass and Wapato, Dusky asked, "Do you know who I am?" Alex said, "A Dusky that's a Goose!" With a smile, Dusky agreed and went on, "Yes, I'm a Dusky Canada Goose. The humans here have made me important. Because they have made me important, some of the other animals and plants around here are safe."

"Safe from what?" asked Alex.

"Safe from having their habitat being take away." Dusky replied.

Alex grew sad, even though she knew these animals were protected she wondered why the Dusky Canada Goose had to be there for their protection.

"You know, child," said Dusky, "You can also be a Dusky Canada Goose."

"Well, I've always wanted to fly high in the clouds!" said Alex.

"There's a little more than flying when being a Goose like the Dusky, you've got to look out for the other animals and plants beneath you when you're soaring in the sky."

"I can do that!" said Alex.

Then, Dusky decided to take off into the sky Alex watched as its wings flapped in the wind until the goose was just a speck in the blue sky.

Alex's eyes drew back down toward the earth and fell upon some figures moving in the distance. With astonishment, Alex realized that was her group! Her class was yelling something loudly!

"Alex! Aaaaaaaaaaalex! Aaaaaaaaaaalex!"

"I'm over here!" screamed Alex.

Alex then noticed how the whole wetland became quiet again and hurried to her class with soft footsteps. Alex realized she was never really lost once she began to listen to the animals and plants around her. And like the Dusky Canada Goose, Alex was going to help protect the land that taught her so much.

Alex went back home and remembered her day and adventures she had made all by herself.

Appreciation

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