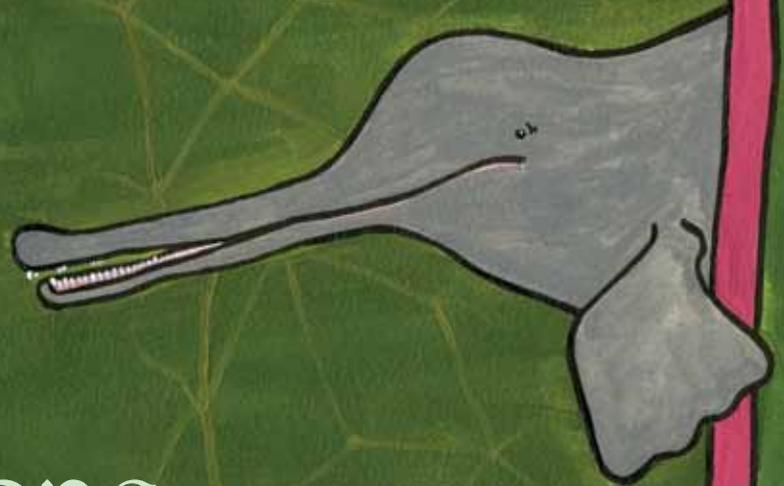


Shuba and the Cyclone



WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION WITH
CHANDPAI - DHAMRAI BANGLADESHI STUDENTS

ILLUSTRATED BY
ELISABETH FAHRNI MANSUR

Shuba and the Cyclone

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About this Book

Hello Friends!

The young women and children pictured to the left helped write **Shuba and the Cyclone**. They are from Bangladesh, a country in South Asia.

Many children in Bangladesh do not have access to important resources like school supplies or basic health services. Fortunately, the nonprofit organization BRAC is creating a brighter future for millions of children around the world by improving their living conditions. In Bangladesh, BRAC is working with some of the co-authors of this book to help them overcome poverty, illiteracy, disease, and social injustice.

To write this book, our authors worked with a specialist from the Wildlife Conservation Society to learn about endangered Ganges River dolphins. Then they used these lessons to write their own stories using river dolphins as the main characters. We combined our favorite parts of their writing into one story, adding some of our own ideas to help unify all of the different pieces.

At the end of this book you can explore the world of Ganges River dolphins, discover the culture of Bangladesh, and learn more about the authors of this story. You can also read about two women who are working to make positive changes in the world. Farzana Kashfi, a Sector Specialist at BRAC, is helping young people in Bangladesh become leaders and Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur, a Wildlife Conservation Society representative, is working to save Ganges River dolphins from extinction.

The team at Dot-to-Dot Children's Books hopes you enjoy **Shuba and the Cyclone**. After reading the book, we invite you to write your own story about Ganges River dolphins and share it with us on our website at www.dot-to-dot-books.org.



Co-authors from Chandpai, Bangladesh.

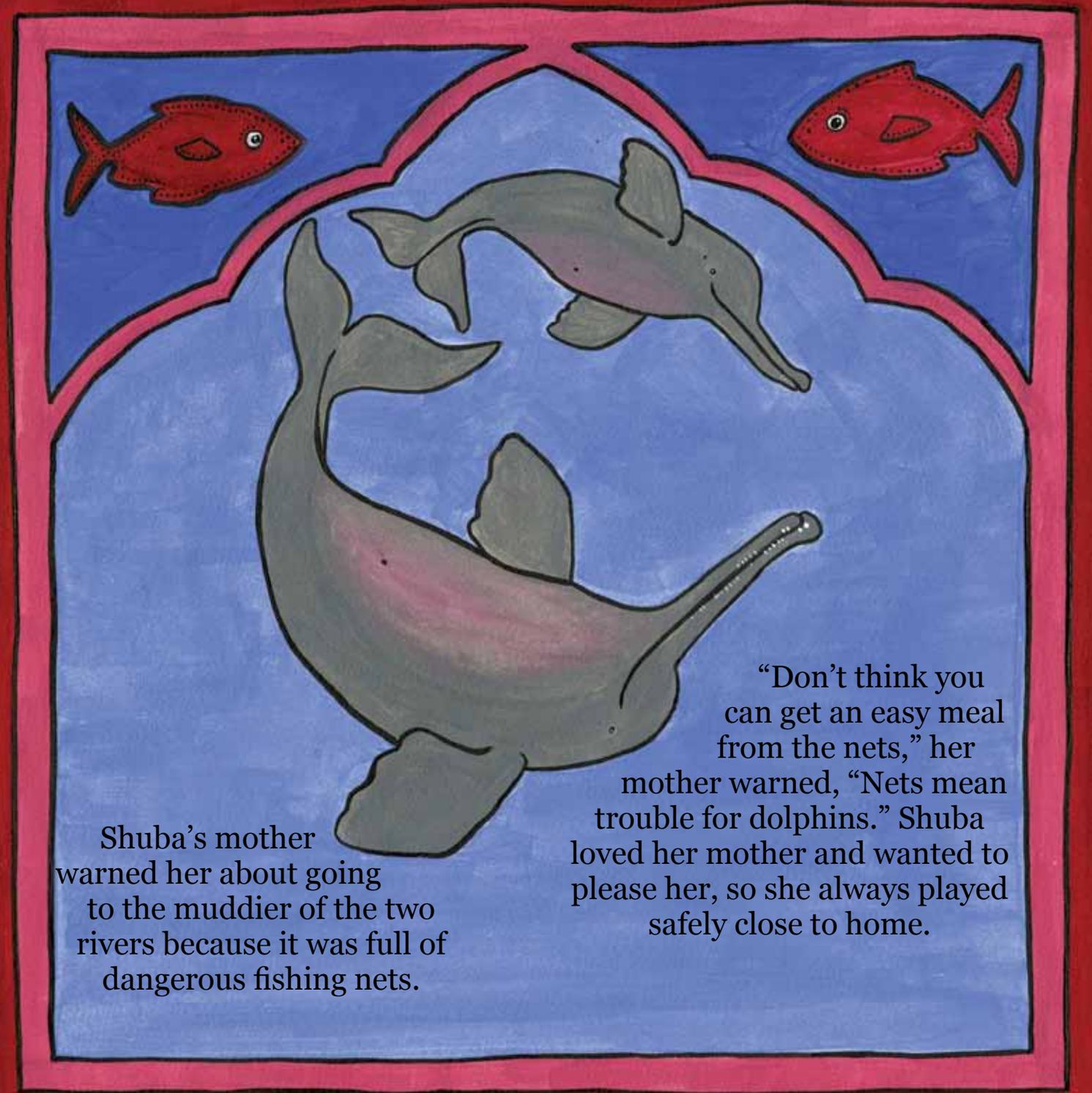


Co-authors from Dhamrai, Bangladesh.



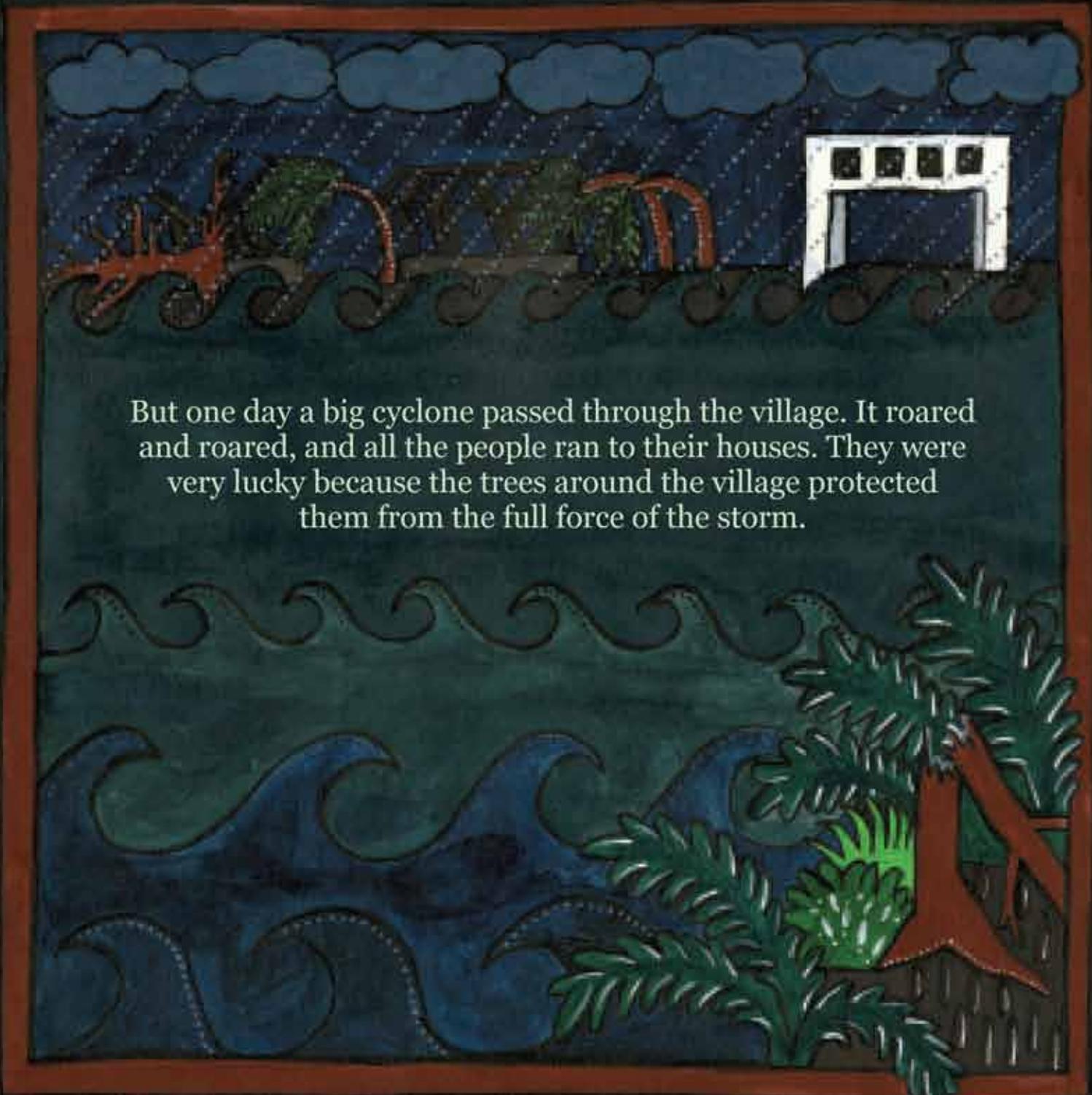
There was once a river dolphin named Shuba who lived where two rivers met, beside a village.

Shuba's mother chose this place to raise her because there was always plenty of their favorite food—shrimp!

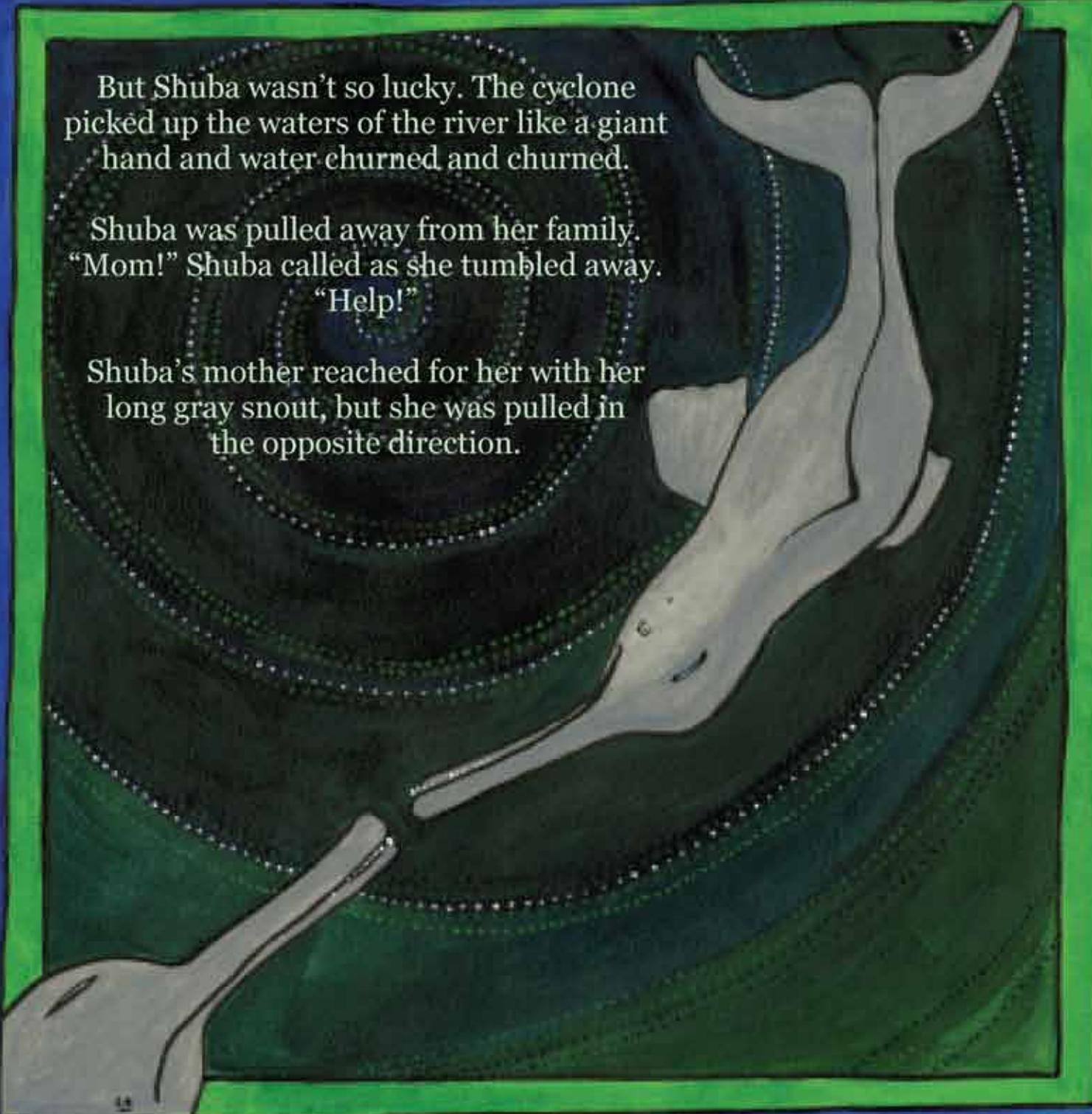


Shuba's mother warned her about going to the muddier of the two rivers because it was full of dangerous fishing nets.

"Don't think you can get an easy meal from the nets," her mother warned, "Nets mean trouble for dolphins." Shuba loved her mother and wanted to please her, so she always played safely close to home.

An illustration of a village at night during a storm. The sky is dark blue with white rain falling. In the background, there are palm trees and a white building with four windows. The foreground shows a river with dark blue, swirling waves. On the right bank, there are green trees and a large tree trunk.

But one day a big cyclone passed through the village. It roared and roared, and all the people ran to their houses. They were very lucky because the trees around the village protected them from the full force of the storm.

An illustration of a cyclone swirling over the water. The water is dark green with white, dotted lines representing the swirling motion. A large, white, long-nosed dolphin is shown in the center, looking towards the viewer. The dolphin's snout is long and pointed. The background is a dark blue sky with white rain falling.

But Shuba wasn't so lucky. The cyclone picked up the waters of the river like a giant hand and water churned and churned.

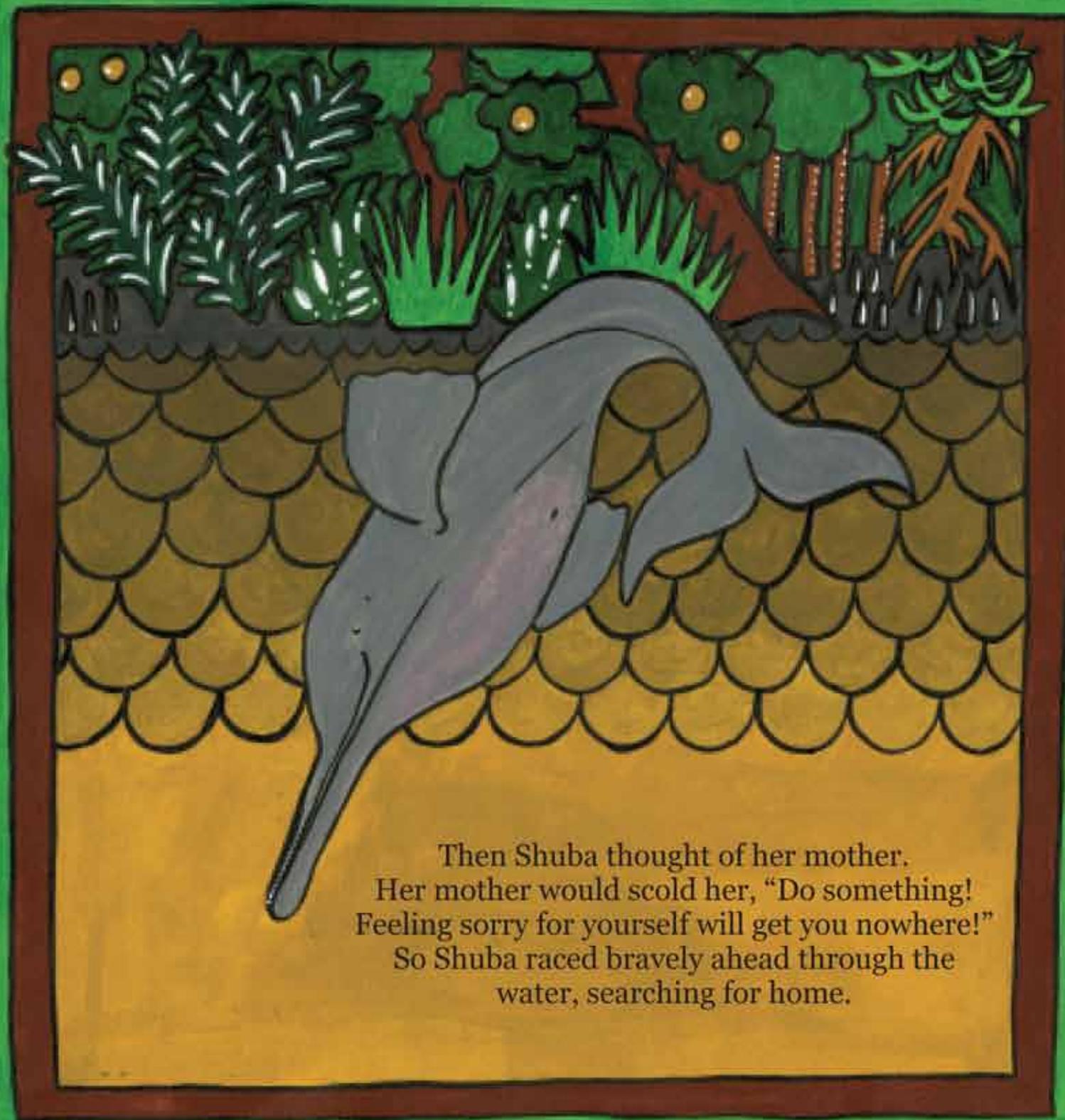
Shuba was pulled away from her family.
"Mom!" Shuba called as she tumbled away.
"Help!"

Shuba's mother reached for her with her long gray snout, but she was pulled in the opposite direction.

When the storm passed, Shuba didn't know where she was. She raced frantically through the water, trying to find something she recognized, but it was no use. Shuba was lost.

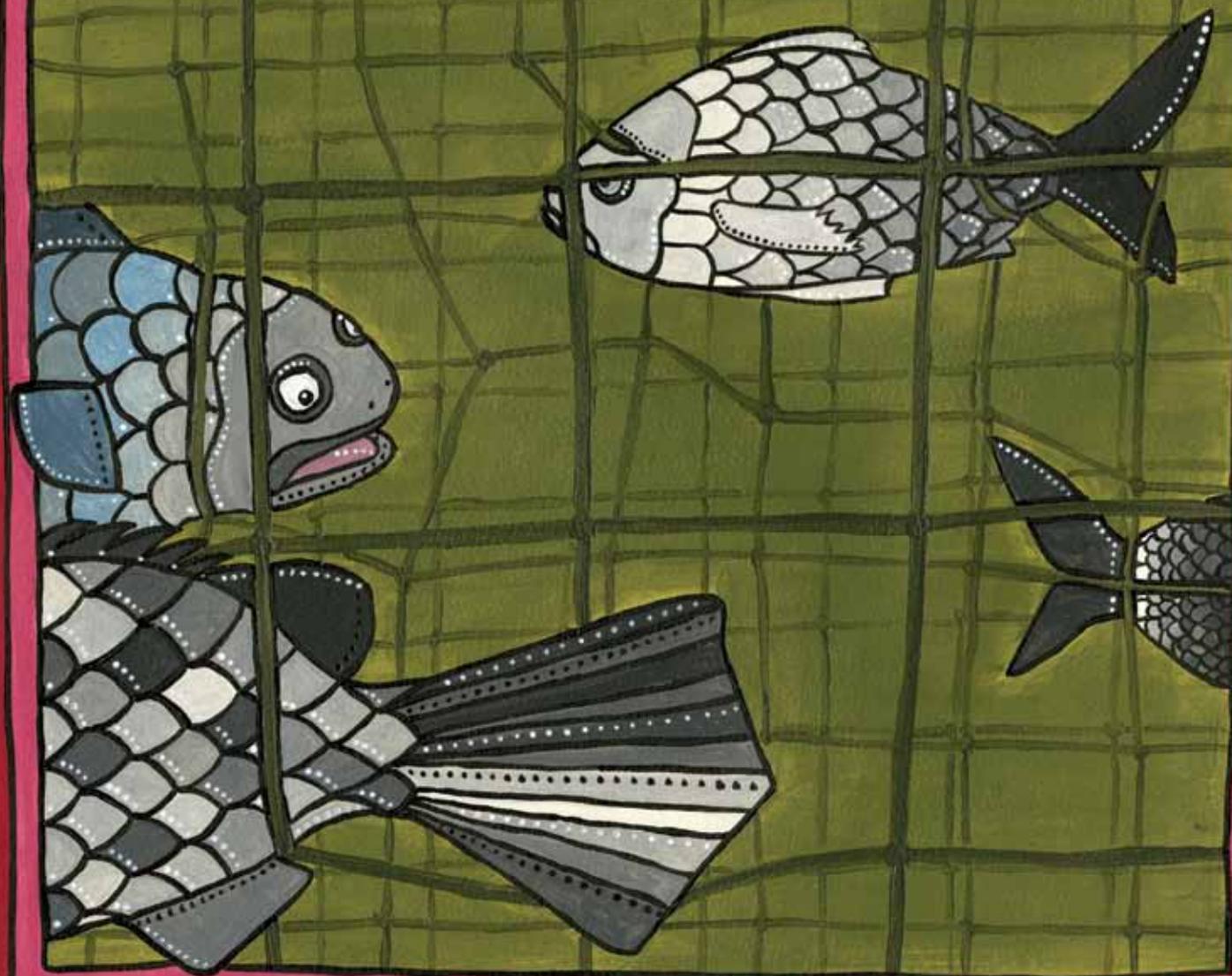


Shuba was tired, hungry, and alone. It was the first time she had ever been separated from her mother. Everywhere she turned she hoped to hear her mother's high-pitched call, but instead there was only dark, empty water. Shuba started to cry.

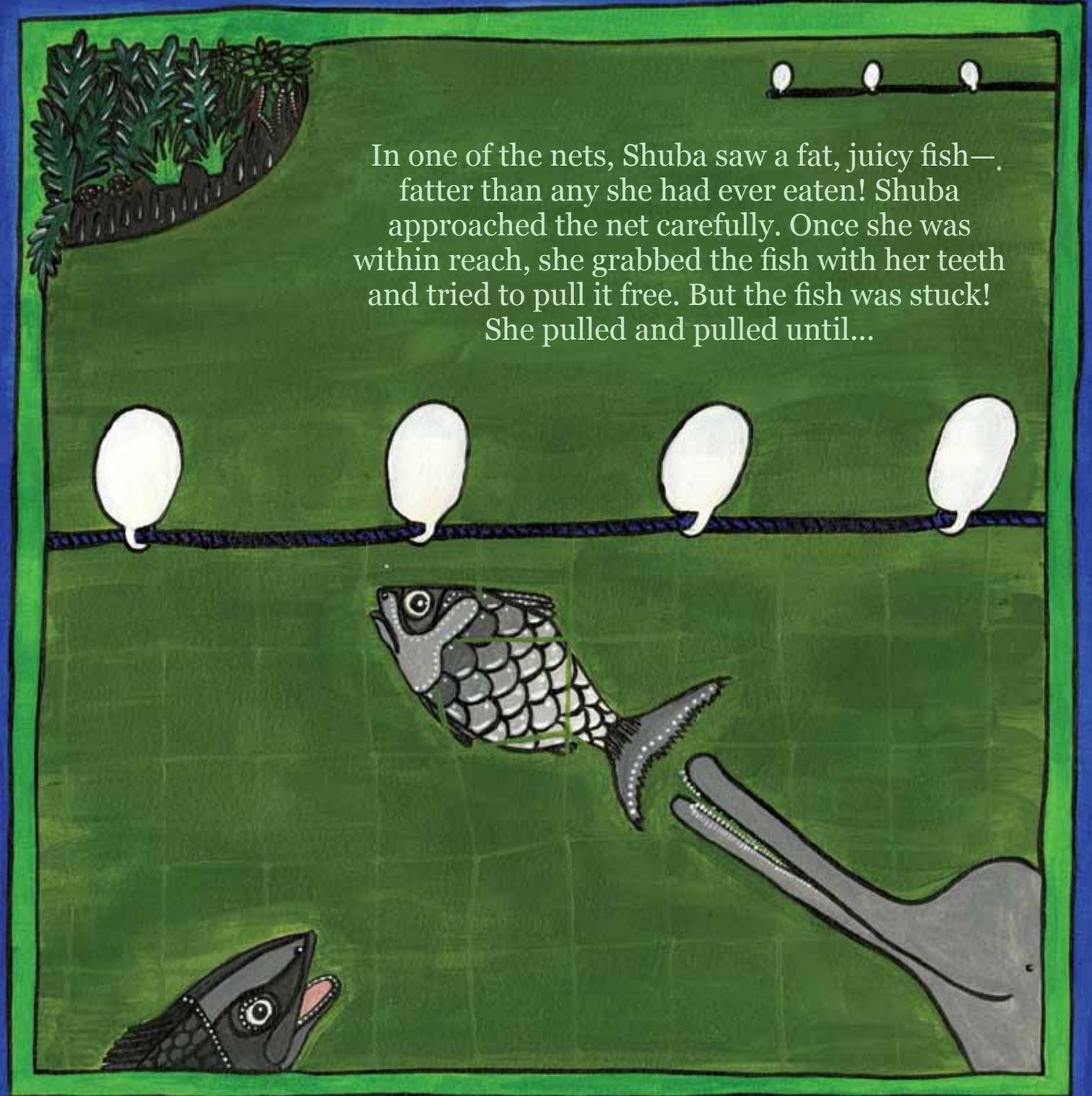


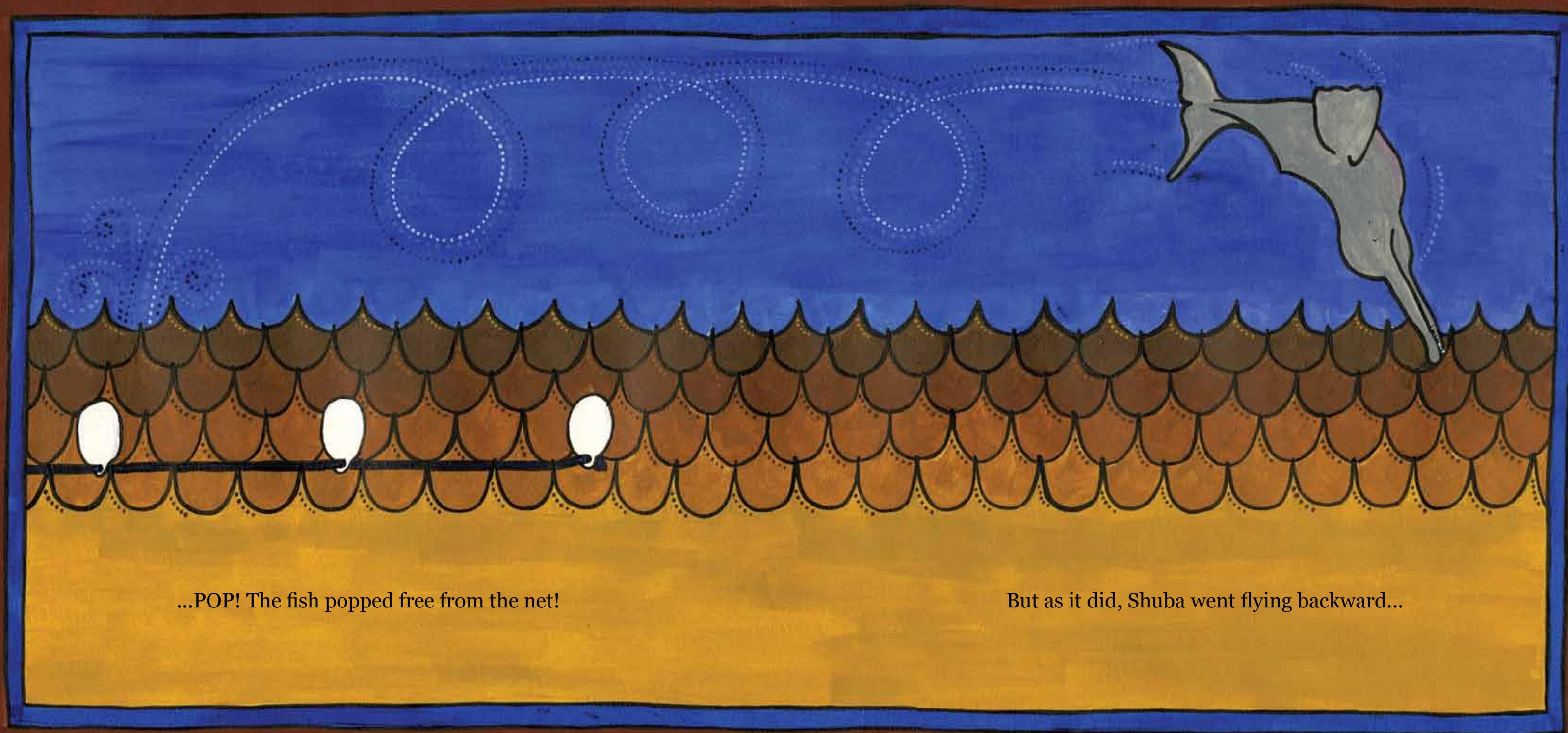
Then Shuba thought of her mother. Her mother would scold her, "Do something! Feeling sorry for yourself will get you nowhere!" So Shuba raced bravely ahead through the water, searching for home.

Suddenly, Shuba encountered a jungle of fishing nets. She remembered her mother's warning about fishing nets. But the nets were full of big, delicious fish, and Shuba was so hungry.



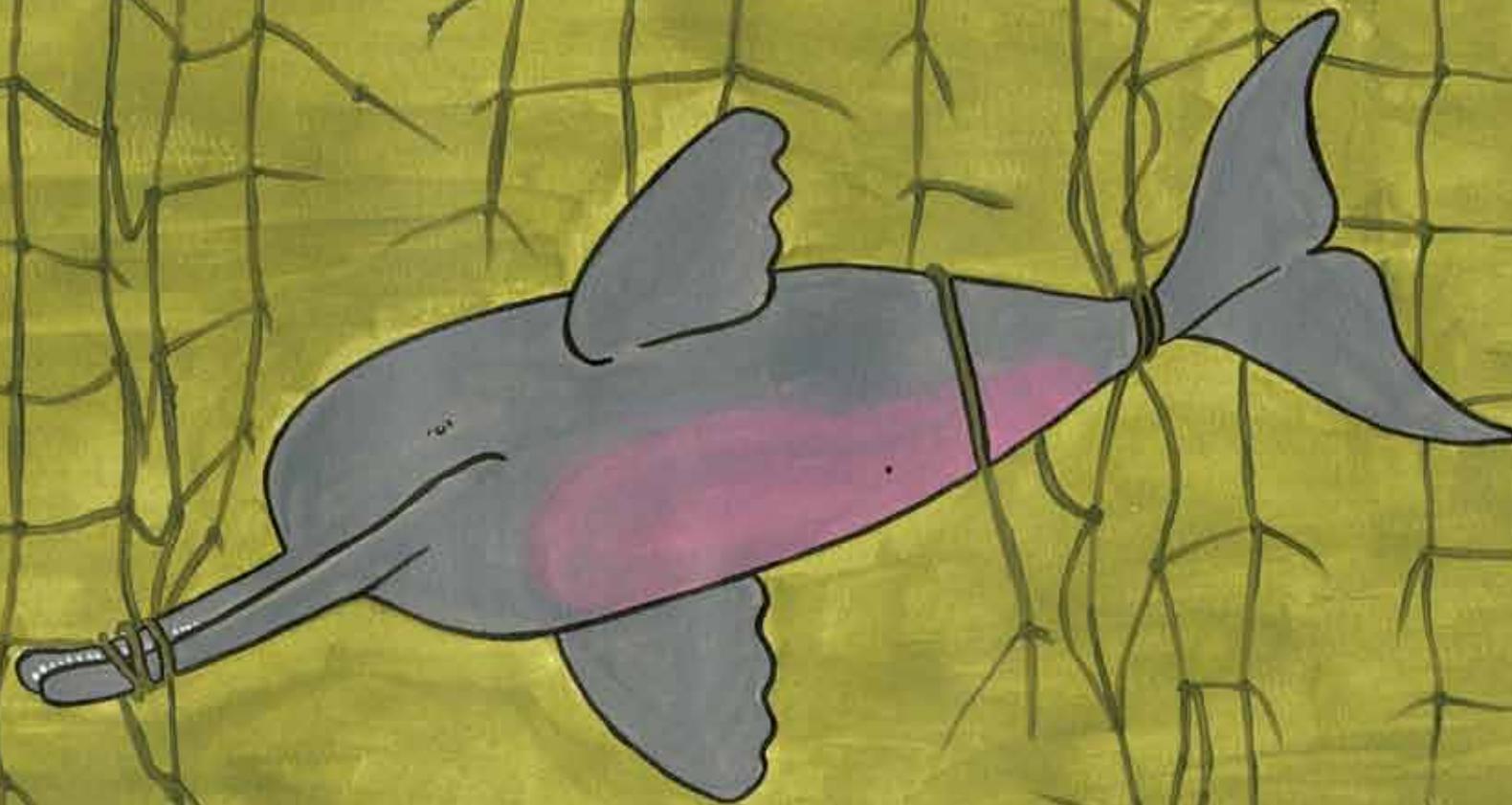
In one of the nets, Shuba saw a fat, juicy fish—fatter than any she had ever eaten! Shuba approached the net carefully. Once she was within reach, she grabbed the fish with her teeth and tried to pull it free. But the fish was stuck! She pulled and pulled until...





...POP! The fish popped free from the net!

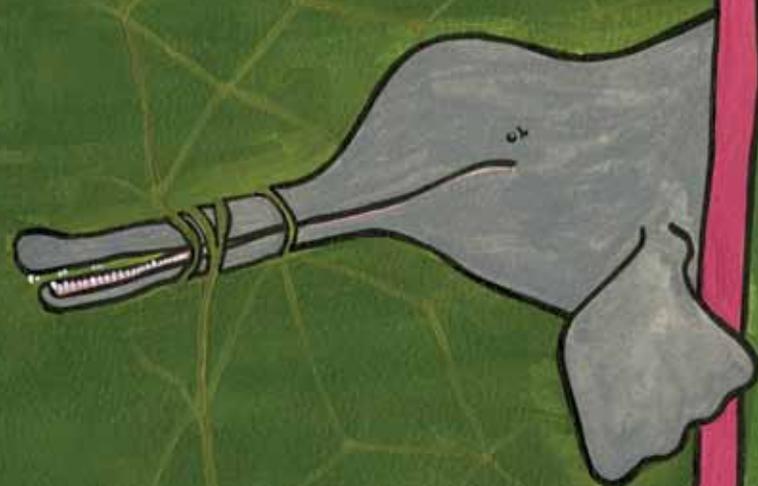
But as it did, Shuba went flying backward...



...straight into another net! Shuba panicked. She tried to chew through the nets with her sharp teeth, but the nets were too strong. She knew she couldn't hold her breath much longer. She had to get to the surface for air somehow!

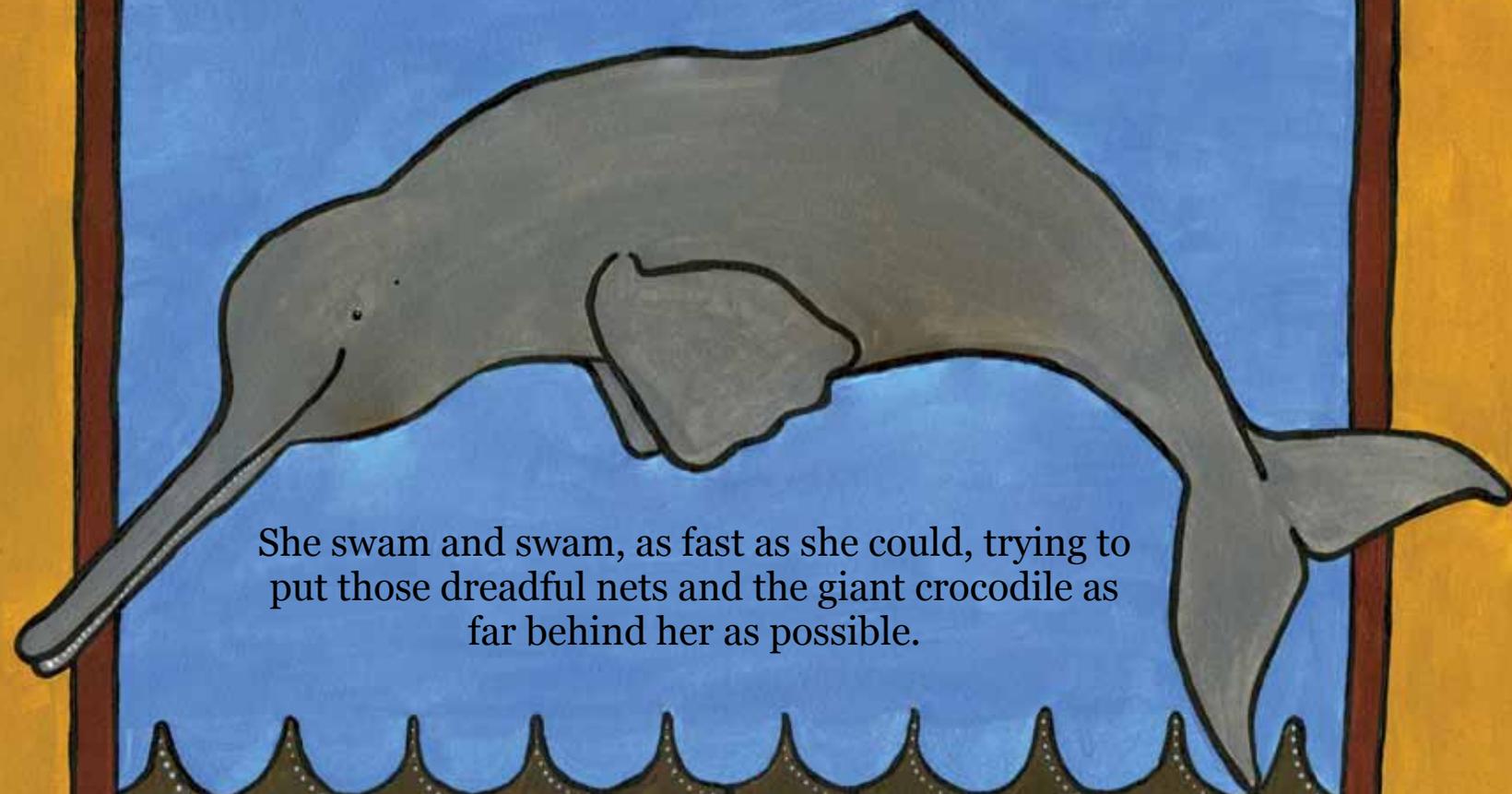
All of a sudden, Shuba felt a giant crash in the net. Surprised, she turned—only to find herself face to face with a giant crocodile! The crocodile had crashed into the net while chasing a big fish, and he too was now caught in the net!

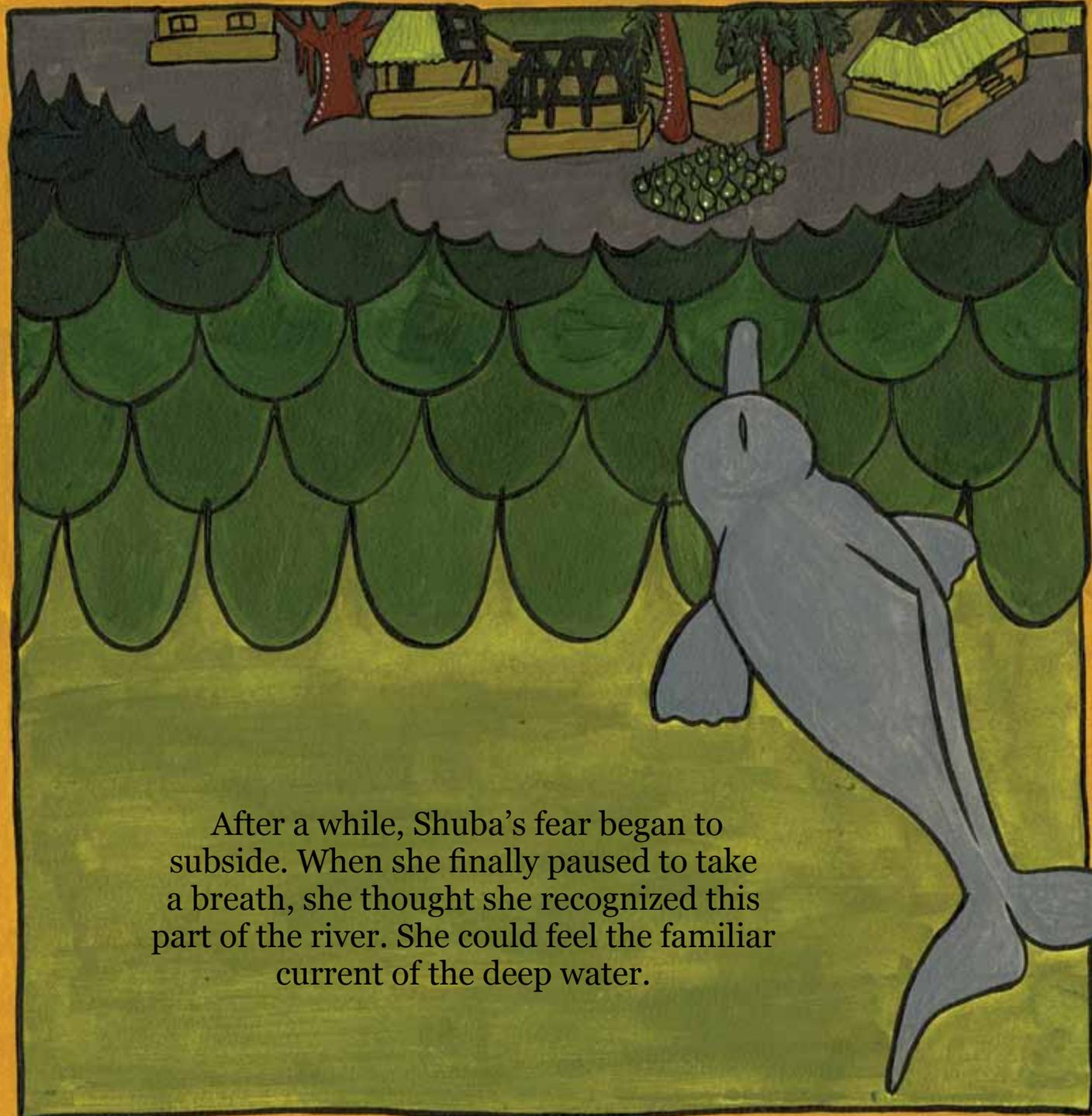
The massive crocodile thrashed about with his powerful tail. He gnashed and gnashed with his sharp teeth, finally ripping the net to shreds and freeing Shuba!



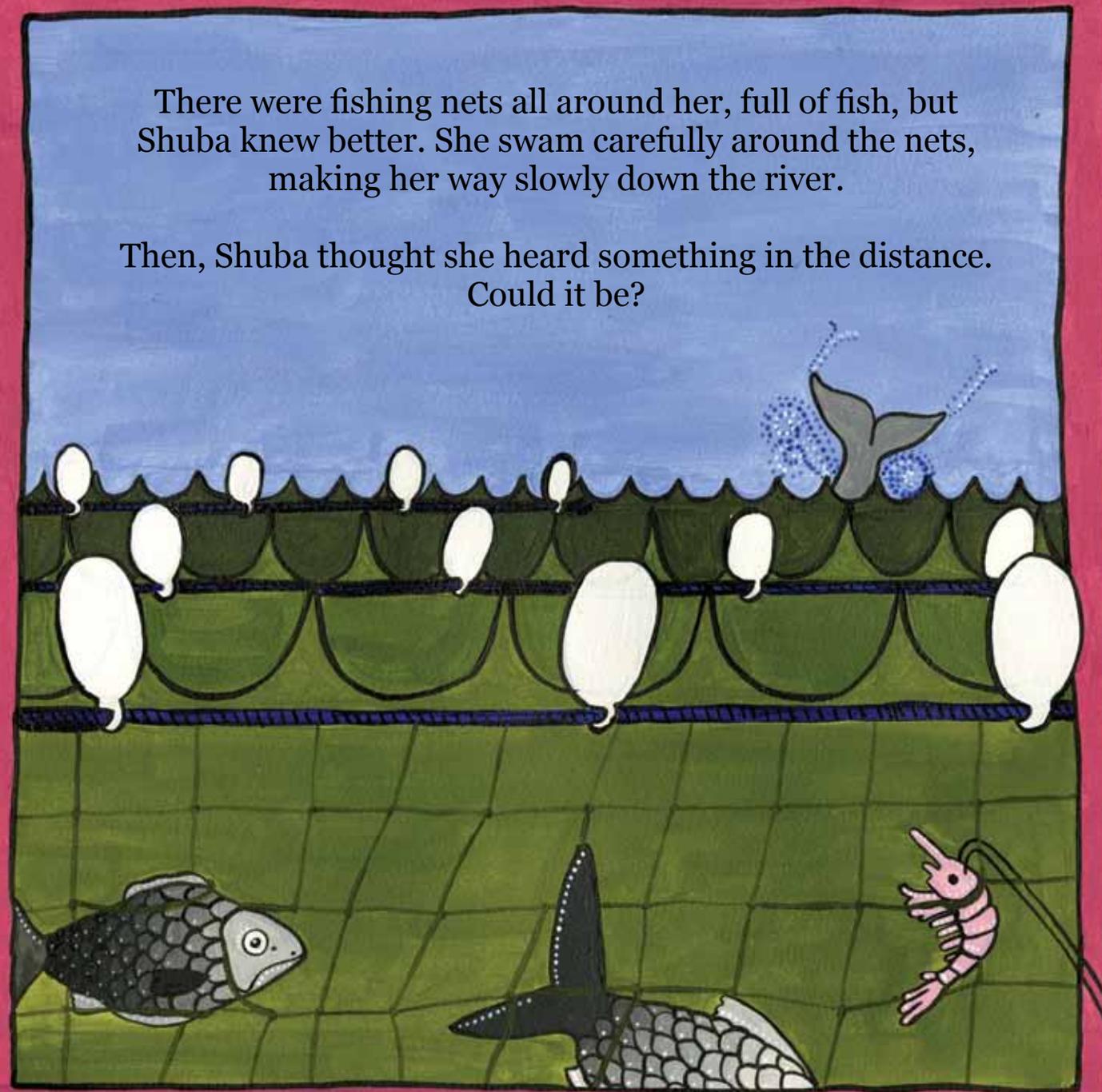
Without thinking twice, Shuba swam straight to the surface for air.

She swam and swam, as fast as she could, trying to put those dreadful nets and the giant crocodile as far behind her as possible.



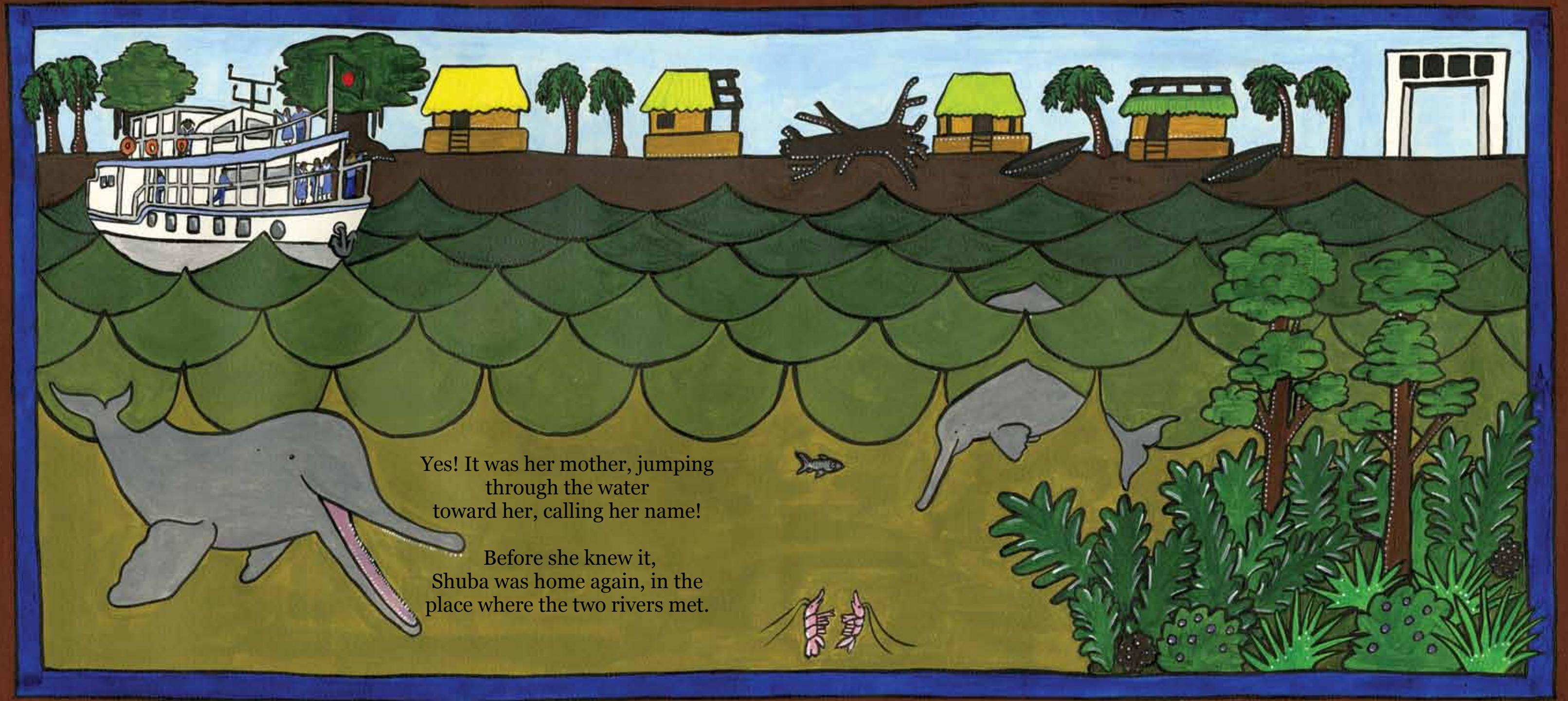


After a while, Shuba's fear began to subside. When she finally paused to take a breath, she thought she recognized this part of the river. She could feel the familiar current of the deep water.



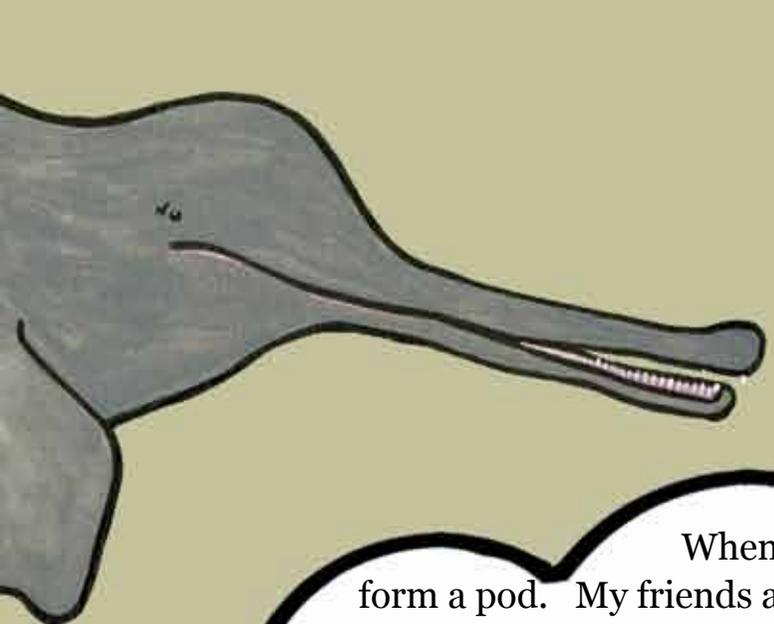
There were fishing nets all around her, full of fish, but Shuba knew better. She swam carefully around the nets, making her way slowly down the river.

Then, Shuba thought she heard something in the distance. Could it be?



Yes! It was her mother, jumping through the water toward her, calling her name!

Before she knew it, Shuba was home again, in the place where the two rivers met.



Hi Friends!

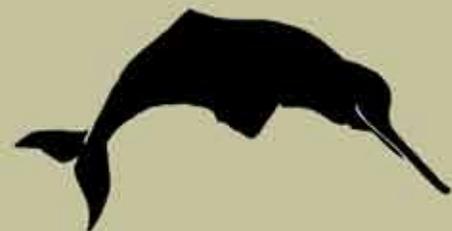
I hope you enjoyed this story. People from all over the world helped to bring it to life. But the story isn't over yet. You are now a part of it and we need your help.

When my friends and I swim around together, we form a pod. My friends at Dot-to-Dot Children's Books, BRAC, Facing the Future and the Wildlife Conservation Society have joined my pod and I hope that you will do the same.

You can join my pod by sharing the message of the Endangered Species, Empowered Communities (ESEC) stories with your friends and teachers. Whatever you do, taking action based on what you have learned about endangered species like me makes you a part of my team.

In the pages that follow this invitation, you can learn more about me and my friends. Just like the children who helped to write this book, you can use what you learn to write your own story about river dolphins and then share it with us at www.dot-to-dot-books.org.

I hope to hear from you soon!
Shuba the Ganges River Dolphin



Thank You

My friends at Dot-to-Dot Children's Books and I want to express our sincere gratitude to the many people who helped us produce this book. First and foremost, we want to recognize the creative contributions of the young people who inspired and co-authored it.

My friends from Chandpai who helped tell my story are: Ariful Islam, Tanjidul Islam, Debobroto Gain, Shajol Shekh, Jesmin Akhtar, Mousumi Akhtar, Shiuli Choukidar, Airin Jahan, Shirajul Islam, Majed Shekh, Imran Khan, Habiba Sultana Kana, Shima Akhtar, Rejbi, Munni Akhtar, Liza Akhtar, Shirajum Munira, Liton Morol, Joti Gain, Rahim Akon, Goutom Haldar, Azim Bapari, Nazmul Khan, Hira Akhtar, Lima Akhtar, Mahafuza Akhtar, Amena Akhtar, Nipu Akhtar, Shathi Akhtar, Mahmuda Akhtar, Imam Howlader, Mahfuz Gazi, Tania Sultana, Salma Akhtar, Popi Akhtar, Jhorna Akhtar, Mahira Akhtar, Sonia Gazi, Riasmin Akhtar, and Sonia Howladar.

My friends from Dhamrai who helped tell my story are: Bokul, Ratna, Bobita, Rekha, Anna, Salma, Sultana, Tania, Selina, Shumi, Anjuman, Moli, Seema, Suraiya, Parul, Nurbhanu, Binda, Bipasha, Farzana, Rina, Hajera, Akhi.

I also want to thank my other friends from around the world who contributed to this book: Farah Mehreen Ahmad, Will Banham, Michelle Chaplin, Wendy Church, Sahin Iqbal, Victoria Kelly, Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli, Matthew Shea, Laura Skelton, Carrie Ward, and Jan Bachman of Devenish Press.

Special thanks to Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur for bringing **Shuba and the Cyclone** to life with such distinctive illustrations.

Many thanks to everyone! I appreciate everything that everyone has done for me!

Your Friend,
Shuba the Ganges River Dolphin

Ganges River Dolphins



Ganges River Dolphin Facts

Life Span: unknown, possibly up to 28 years

Weight & Size: up to 200 lbs & up to 8.2 feet long

Diet: carnivores - fish, shrimp

Habitat: freshwater rivers in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal

Ganges River dolphins live in the silt-laden, murky rivers of South Asia. They are nearly blind. Like other dolphins, they hunt using echolocation, which means they use sound to locate their prey. Ganges River dolphins often swim on their sides, touching the bottom of the river with the edge of their flippers. These dolphins also have very sensitive skin. Some people say the dolphins enjoy surfacing during storms because they like feeling the rain on their bodies.



Like all mammals, Ganges River dolphins are born alive, drink their mother's milk, and breathe air. Although they can hold their breath for up to thirty minutes, they need to come to the water's surface for air—that's when you have a chance to catch a glimpse of these rare dolphins!

Endangered: Ganges River Dolphins

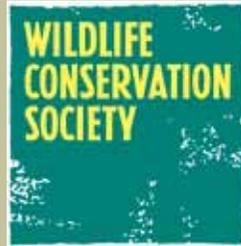


Most threats to the survival of Ganges River dolphins are man-made. Dolphins often get trapped in gillnets and drown because they are unable to return to the surface to breathe. Sometimes fishermen kill dolphins that are caught in their nets to avoid damaging their nets. Fishermen also use dolphin oil to attract fish.

Indirect threats are also leading to the decline in Ganges River dolphin populations. The construction of dams and the use of water for crop irrigation has reduced water levels in the rivers where the dolphins live. At the same time, global warming is causing rising sea levels, which push salt water from the ocean further up the rivers. Ganges River dolphins cannot live in water with high salt content. In addition to this, overfishing has caused a decline in the supply of the dolphins' main food source—fish and shrimp.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is actively working to protect the places where Ganges River dolphins live and their food sources. Together with the government of Bangladesh and local fishermen they are in the process of creating protected areas to save these rare dolphins from extinction. WCS is also training local fishermen to help conserve the dolphins by assisting in efforts to track populations, safely remove dolphins from fishing nets, and manage the impact of fishing.

To learn more about the Wildlife Conservation Society and to support its efforts to protect wildlife and wild places worldwide, please visit www.wcs.org.



Meet One of My Friends

As you now know, Ganges River dolphins face many threats. Fortunately, there are dedicated people and organizations that are working to protect Ganges River dolphins from extinction. One such person is Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur.

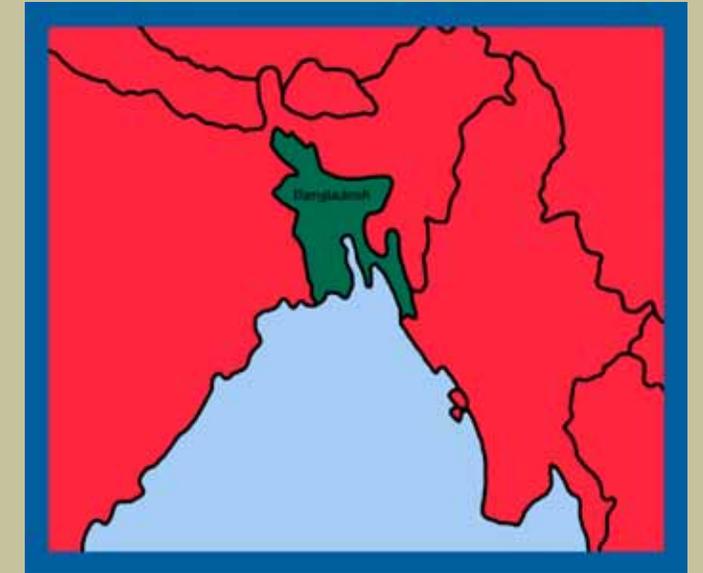
Elisabeth was born in the land-locked country of Switzerland—hundreds of miles from any dolphins or whales. On her first visit to Bangladesh she fell in love with the beautiful country and its friendly people. Today, Elisabeth and her husband Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli study the dolphins and whales of Bangladesh with support from the Wildlife Conservation Society. By sharing their findings, they help local communities play an active role in protecting the country’s wildlife.



Describing her enthusiasm for her work, Elisabeth says, “I love being in the wild and learning about the things around me. I also love working with many different people such as scientists, fishermen, and students to find ways in which we can protect Bangladesh’s wildlife and wild places.”

Elisabeth believes that “anybody can be a conservationist. Everybody should make an effort to protect the diverse life on this planet.” She encourages you to never lose your curiosity. “Keep discovering and asking questions. Stay aware of what you do, and how your actions affect the things around you. By using less and reusing more you help save the world’s resources for future generations.”

Where is Bangladesh?



Bangladesh Facts

Continent: Asia

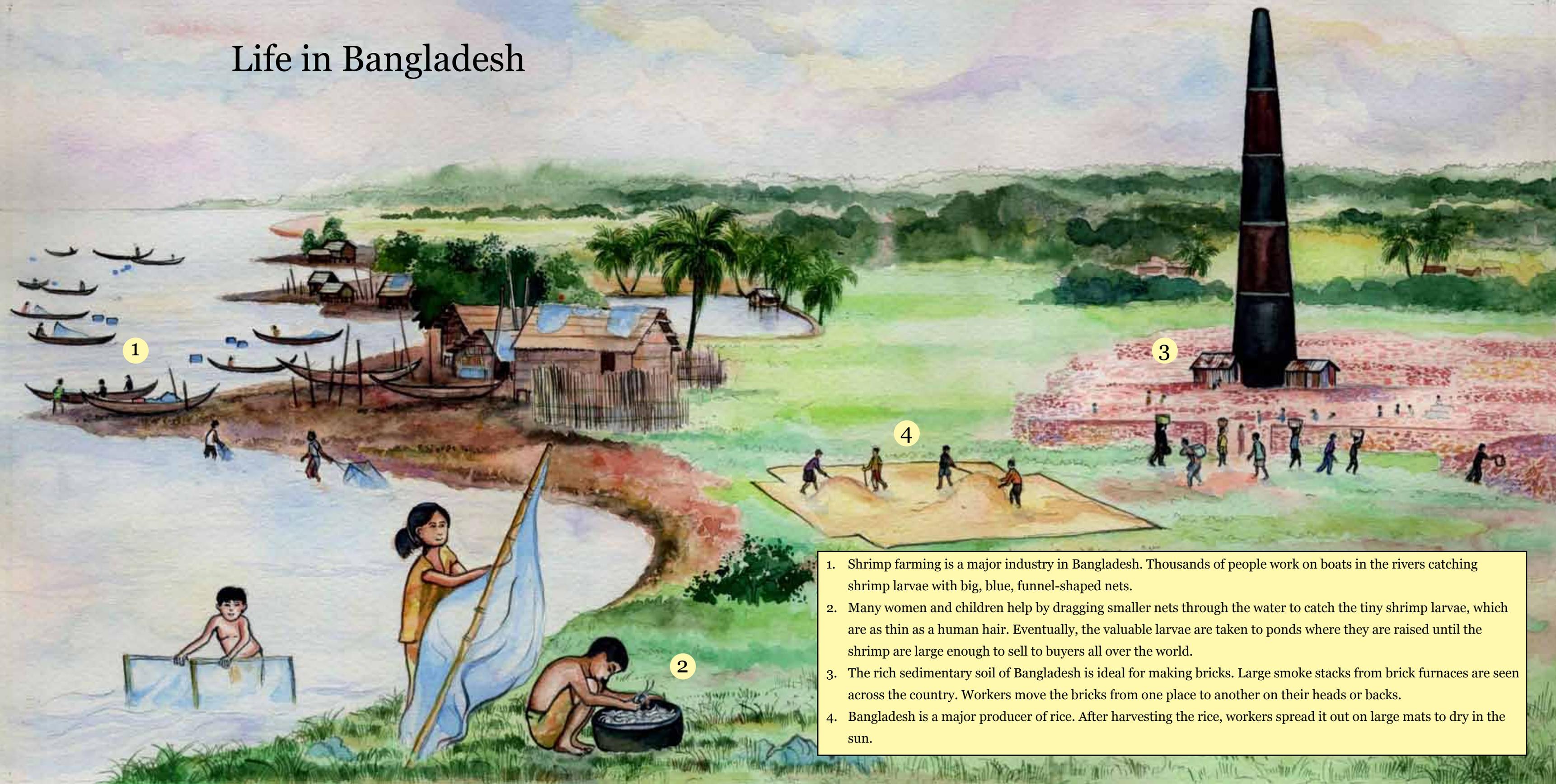
Capital City: Dhaka

Official Language: Bangla (Bengali)

Neighboring Countries: Myanmar (Burma), India

- Bangladesh is the most densely populated country in the world and many of its people struggle with poverty.
- The country is flat and has a large farming community. The main crops are rice, tea, sugar, and jute, which is a plant fiber used to make rope and thread.
- The Sundarbans Mangrove Forest is the largest block of mangrove forest in the world. It is an important ecosystem for several rare and endangered animals, provides protection from tropical storms, and serves as a source of fish and wood.

Life in Bangladesh



1

3

4

2

1. Shrimp farming is a major industry in Bangladesh. Thousands of people work on boats in the rivers catching shrimp larvae with big, blue, funnel-shaped nets.
2. Many women and children help by dragging smaller nets through the water to catch the tiny shrimp larvae, which are as thin as a human hair. Eventually, the valuable larvae are taken to ponds where they are raised until the shrimp are large enough to sell to buyers all over the world.
3. The rich sedimentary soil of Bangladesh is ideal for making bricks. Large smoke stacks from brick furnaces are seen across the country. Workers move the bricks from one place to another on their heads or backs.
4. Bangladesh is a major producer of rice. After harvesting the rice, workers spread it out on large mats to dry in the sun.

Meet the Authors

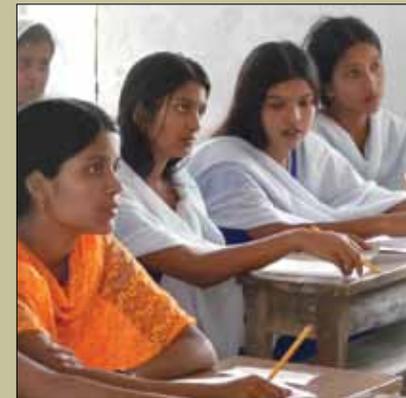
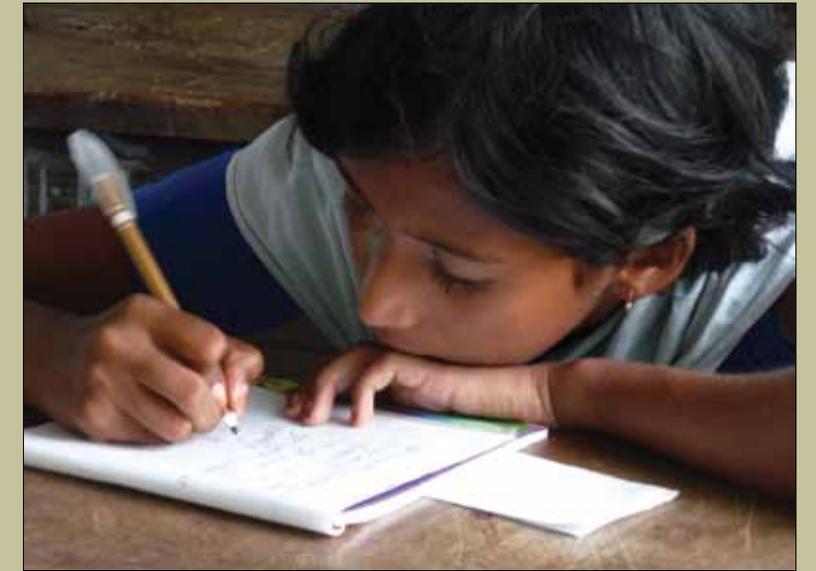
The nation of Bangladesh is located where the Ganges River, the Brahmaputra River, and the Meghna River flow together into the Bay of Bengal. The meeting of fresh water and salt water make the landscape of Bangladesh perfect for mangrove trees which are able to grow in salty conditions.

Chandpai is a small village on the edge of the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest in Bangladesh. Forty girls and boys who live in Chandpai helped write **Shuba and the Cyclone**. For inspiration, the students took a boat trip to see the endangered Ganges River dolphins up close in their natural habitat.

Although these students live close to these endangered dolphins, they did not think of them as special. But after they saw these strange looking dolphins through binoculars, they got excited about writing stories about them.

Twenty young women who live in a town called Dhamrai also contributed stories for **Shuba and the Cyclone**. These young women participate in programs sponsored by BRAC and this has helped these young women develop a sense of common purpose—sometimes seen in the circular arrangement of shoes outside of classrooms as pictured to the right. The collective energy that these young women generate together has inspired them to make plans to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, and social workers.

To learn how to help young people in Bangladesh like the authors of this story, turn the page. There you can read more about what BRAC is doing to help people all over the world as they work to overcome poverty.



About BRAC

In 1972, BRAC began its work in Bangladesh by providing relief after a war for independence. Over the years, the organization has evolved and grown, being guided by the principles of innovation, integrity, inclusiveness, and effectiveness along the way. Today, BRAC works in developing communities around the world, touching the lives of more than 138 million people.

BRAC is dedicated to empowering the poor to bring about positive change in their own lives. Because there are many underlying causes of poverty, BRAC's approach is comprehensive and includes an array of support services: microfinance, livelihood development, healthcare, education, human rights, environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness.

With the intent of organizing the poor and harnessing their potential, BRAC helps people lift themselves out of poverty by recruiting and training local staff. BRAC builds community by working with women and girls who represent 98% of their membership and 95% of their volunteers.

What started as a small-scale relief project in Bangladesh has grown into the largest development organization in the world. Today, in Bangladesh alone, BRAC has reached 75% of the entire population. Their programs, consisting of services for both rural and urban communities, are combating poverty in 70,000 villages and 2,000 slums.

BRAC's vision is a world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realize their potential. Because of this organization, countless numbers of people have been able to change the courses of their lives.

To learn more about the BRAC's work and impact, please visit www.brac.net. Continue reading to meet one of BRAC's specialists.

A Heroine and Leader

Meet Farzana Kashfi, Senior Manager of BRAC

While growing up in Bangladesh, Farzana Kashfi saw poverty and discrimination all around her. She left to attend the University of Toronto in Canada. Her experiences during that time helped her realize her passion for helping those in need.

Farzana returned to Bangladesh and has since dedicated her life to helping others. At BRAC, Farzana started a program that focuses on girls who often find themselves alone fighting social and cultural discrimination. In Bangladesh, many girls are pressured by their families to stay home from school to get jobs or get married because they cannot afford the costs of education.

Farzana works with girls like these, bringing them together to support each other, get an education, and complete training related to issues that affect them on a daily basis. The program works to empower these girls and show their communities their true value and potential. After just a few years, the program has reached out to over 12,000 girls who are model leaders for today and generations to come.

Speaking of the inspiration she finds for her work, Farzana says, "The girls I work with never stop inspiring me! With some support, they can overcome the most daunting barriers shrouding their lives and emerge as strong, independent individuals, ready to take on every challenge that will come their way." Although it has been a challenge for her to come to terms with the suffering of the girls in her country, she is hopeful that someday, we will see girls standing up for themselves to bring an end to centuries-old suffering.

To learn how you can get involved and to help make a difference, please visit www.dot-to-dot-books.org.



We Need Your Help

In 2007, Kevin McCaffrey read an article about violence against women in Eastern DR Congo. Outraged and tired of inaction, Kevin soon found himself traveling to Eastern Congo to meet with survivors of the region's violence. In witnessing a performance of skits, Kevin was pleasantly surprised to learn that the survivors were truly gifted storytellers. Their wonderful creativity sparked an idea that would become Dot-to-Dot Children's Books.

Transformed by his experience, Kevin asked a few friends and one of his former teachers to help him found Dot-to-Dot. "You want your students to become good citizens who address serious real-world problems," says co-founder Paul Kim. "To be able to work with them as they do so has been an amazing learning experience for me as a teacher." Through the efforts of an initially small group of friends, Dot-to-Dot Children's Books became a nonprofit organization that helps people around the world use their creativity to strengthen their communities while raising awareness about important global issues.

However, the team at Dot-to-Dot was not to remain small for long. Through the Endangered Species, Empowered Communities (ESEC) project nearly 225 young women and children from eight countries joined the cause by writing stories about endangered animals in their countries. Their writing became the inspiration for the dozens of volunteers who helped transform their stories into the children's books that are at the core of the ESEC project. The end result is an expression of global creativity and an example of what can happen when individuals from around the world come together to support a common cause.

Yet the ESEC project does not end with the publication of these books. The books themselves are simply a place to start. The true value of the ESEC project is only unlocked when readers are inspired to action by what they have read and learned. This is where we need your help. We hope you have been inspired to become a part of the ESEC story by taking action. Only through your actions can the ESEC project fulfill its potential.

What You Can Do

Spread the Word

Recommend the ESEC books to your friends and family, to local libraries, and to elementary school teachers. Each book sale will generate funding to help empower girls and protect endangered species in the featured countries while also raising awareness about the important issues featured in each book.

Dot-to-Dot Children's Books is especially committed to helping teachers and students explore global issues through the ESEC project. Toward this end, we have partnered with Facing the Future, a not-for-profit organization that develops curriculum materials to ignite interest in complex international issues. Facing the Future has designed curriculum materials for the ESEC Project that allow elementary school teachers to introduce a new country, culture, and ecosystem in their classrooms each month of the school year. Visit www.facingthefuture.org to download the ESEC curriculum for use in school, or at home.

Share Your Creativity

Use your creativity to write stories and develop ideas that further the message of the ESEC project and share them with others at www.dot-to-dot-books.org. Teachers can submit classroom materials, parents can recommend activities they have done at home, and kids can upload stories and illustrations they have created to share with others. All of these creative contributions will be available to you for free via our website along with some of our own suggestions about what you can do to help change the world.

Take Action

We hope that everyone who reads this book will commit to doing something - big or small - to help protect endangered species and empower communities in the world. Go to our website to find ideas for action. Many of these ideas are simple and free but will lead to positive change.

Featured Organizations

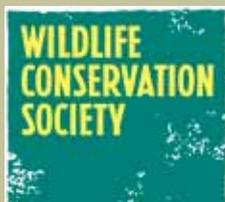
Dot-to-Dot Children's Books is a not-for-profit organization that develops and publishes stories to further global education and to help community development around the world. As part of our Mission to raise awareness for organizations that are driving meaningful change in the world, we are extremely proud to be able to feature the following organizations in this book. Please join us in supporting their work.



Facing the Future develops classroom curricula that highlight global issues and environmental sustainability in a manner that is compatible with educators' current curriculum standards. Facing the Future reaches over 1.5 million students each year in every U.S. state and over 100 countries with its materials, and is growing to reach 12.5 million students by 2020. Facing the Future is developing curriculum materials around our set of books so that an elementary teacher will be able to teach about a new region, culture, and ecosystem of the world each month of the school year. The curriculum can be downloaded at www.facingthefuture.org.

BRAC LOGO

BRAC is a development organisation dedicated to alleviating poverty by empowering the poor to bring about change in their own lives. BRAC was founded in Bangladesh in 1972, and over the course of its evolution, established itself as a pioneer in recognising and tackling the many different realities of poverty. BRAC's priorities include focusing on women, organising the poor, unleashing human potential, and employing a comprehensive approach to address poverty. Visit www.brac.net to learn more.



The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. WCS does this through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. In addition, WCS runs the New York Aquarium, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and Queens Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes toward nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth. To learn more about the Wildlife Conservation Society, visit www.wcs.org. Teachers can find resources at www.bronxzoo.com/educators.aspx.
