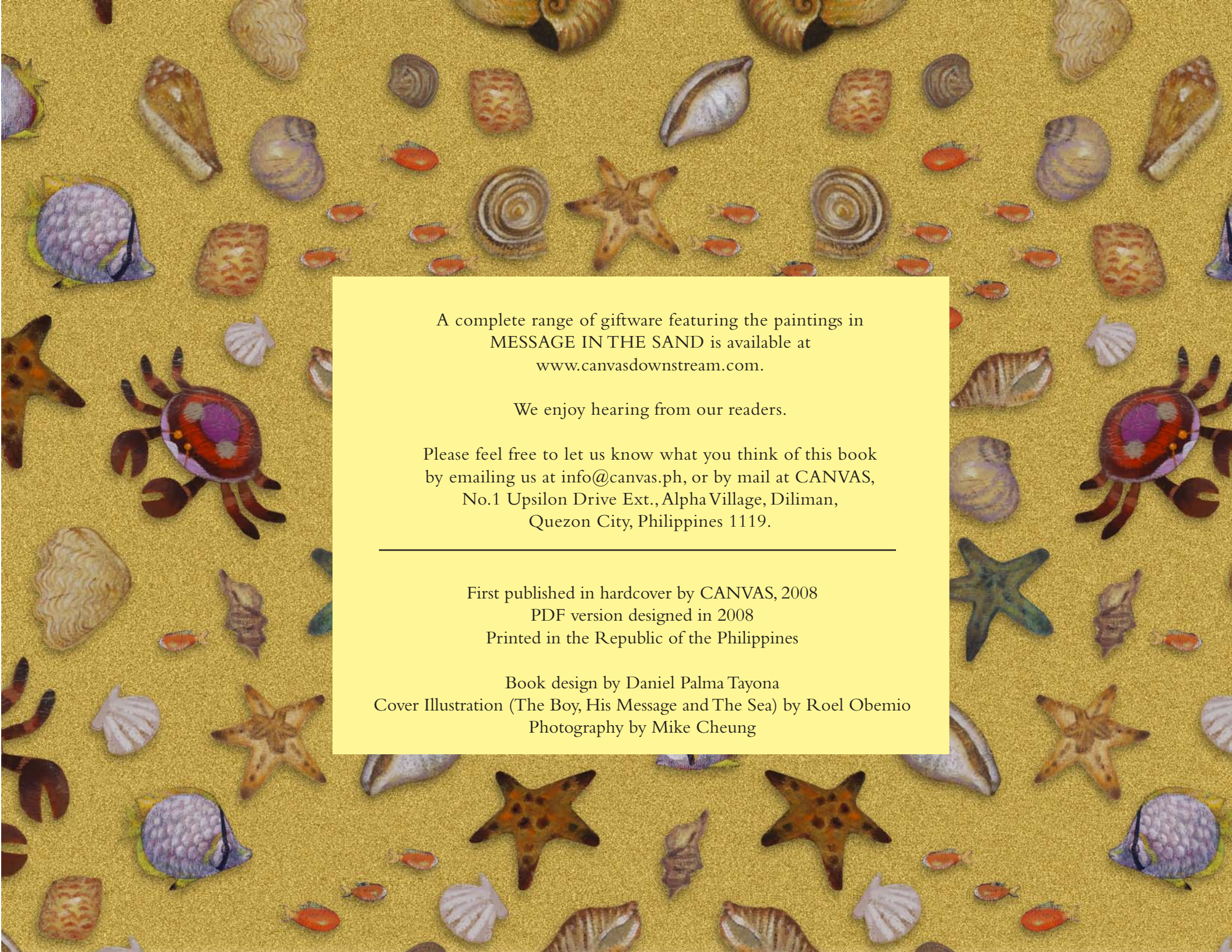




MESSAGE IN THE SAND



A complete range of giftware featuring the paintings in
MESSAGE IN THE SAND is available at
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No.1 Upsilon Drive Ext., Alpha Village, Diliman,
Quezon City, Philippines 1119.

First published in hardcover by CANVAS, 2008
PDF version designed in 2008
Printed in the Republic of the Philippines

Book design by Daniel Palma Tayona
Cover Illustration (The Boy, His Message and The Sea) by Roel Obemio
Photography by Mike Cheung

This is a message written
in the sands of time.

The sands of time
are running out.




Miguel lived near
the beach and loved
the sea.



But he was sad that the beautiful fish were dying.

His mother told him how a local mining company was dumping waste into a river which led out to the sea.






“Who can stop them?”
Miguel asked.

“You,” she replied.

“Me?”

“It’s always up to us,” said
his mother. “Send them a
message.”

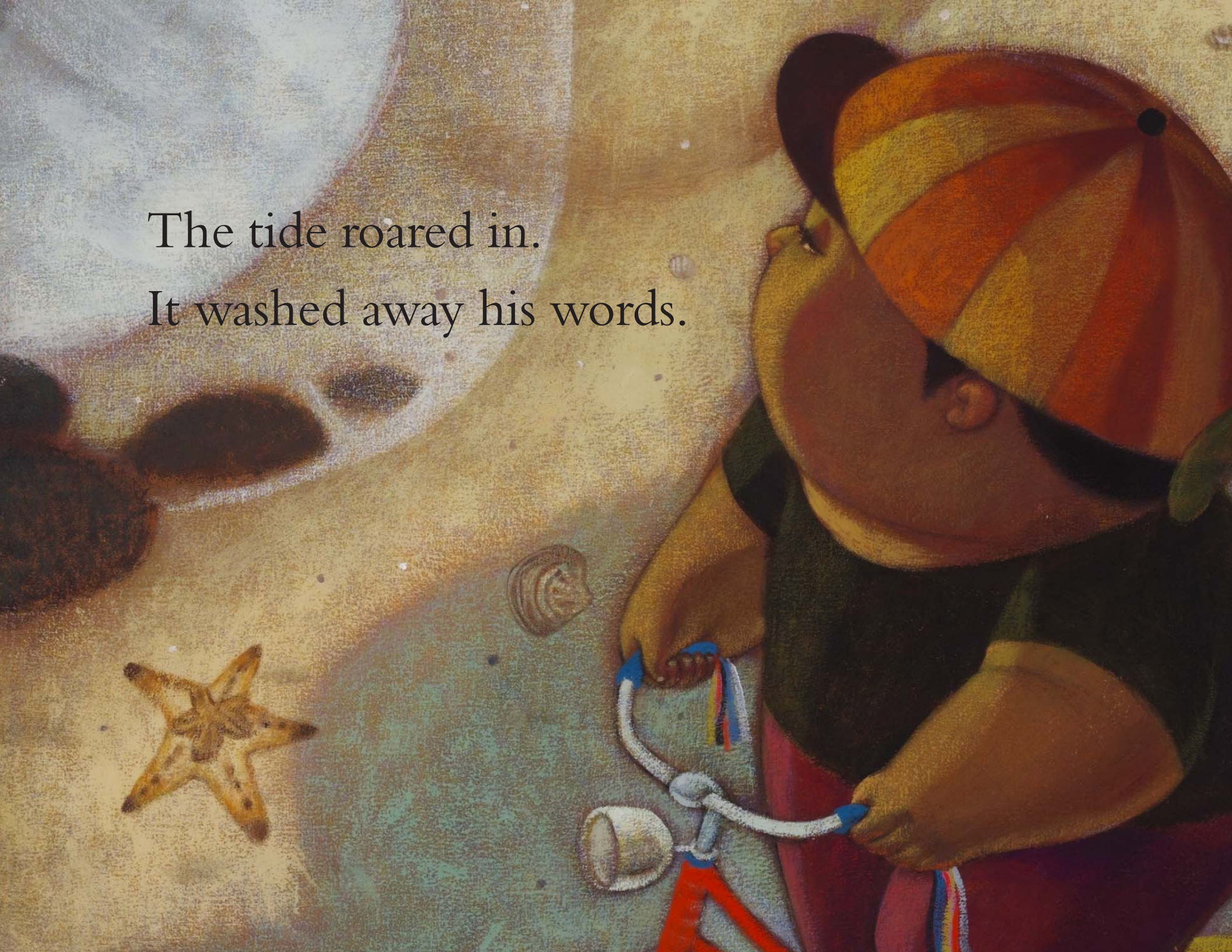



Miguel found a stick and
wrote a message in the sand.

S.O.S.

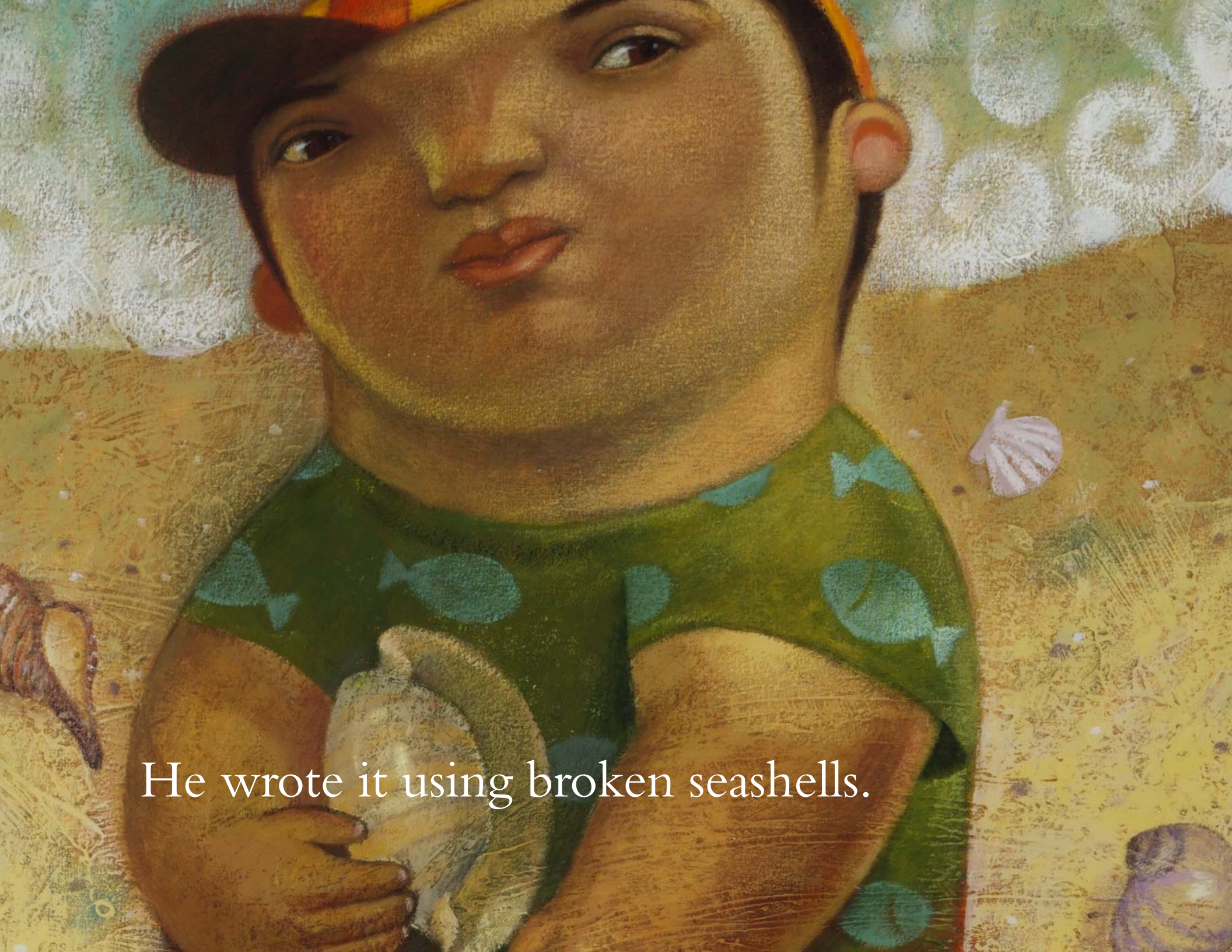
“Save Our Seas,” Miguel
explained.

The tide roared in.
It washed away his words.

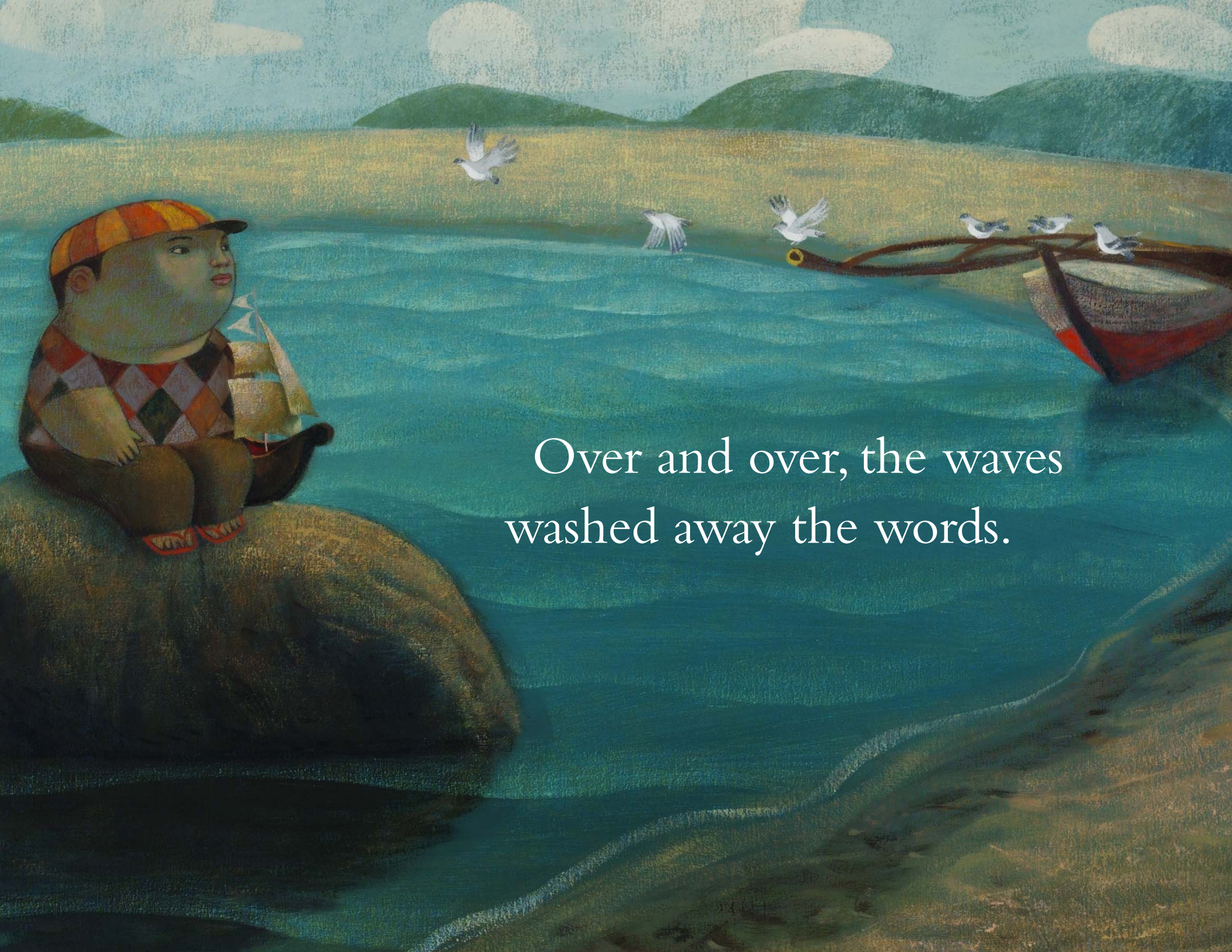




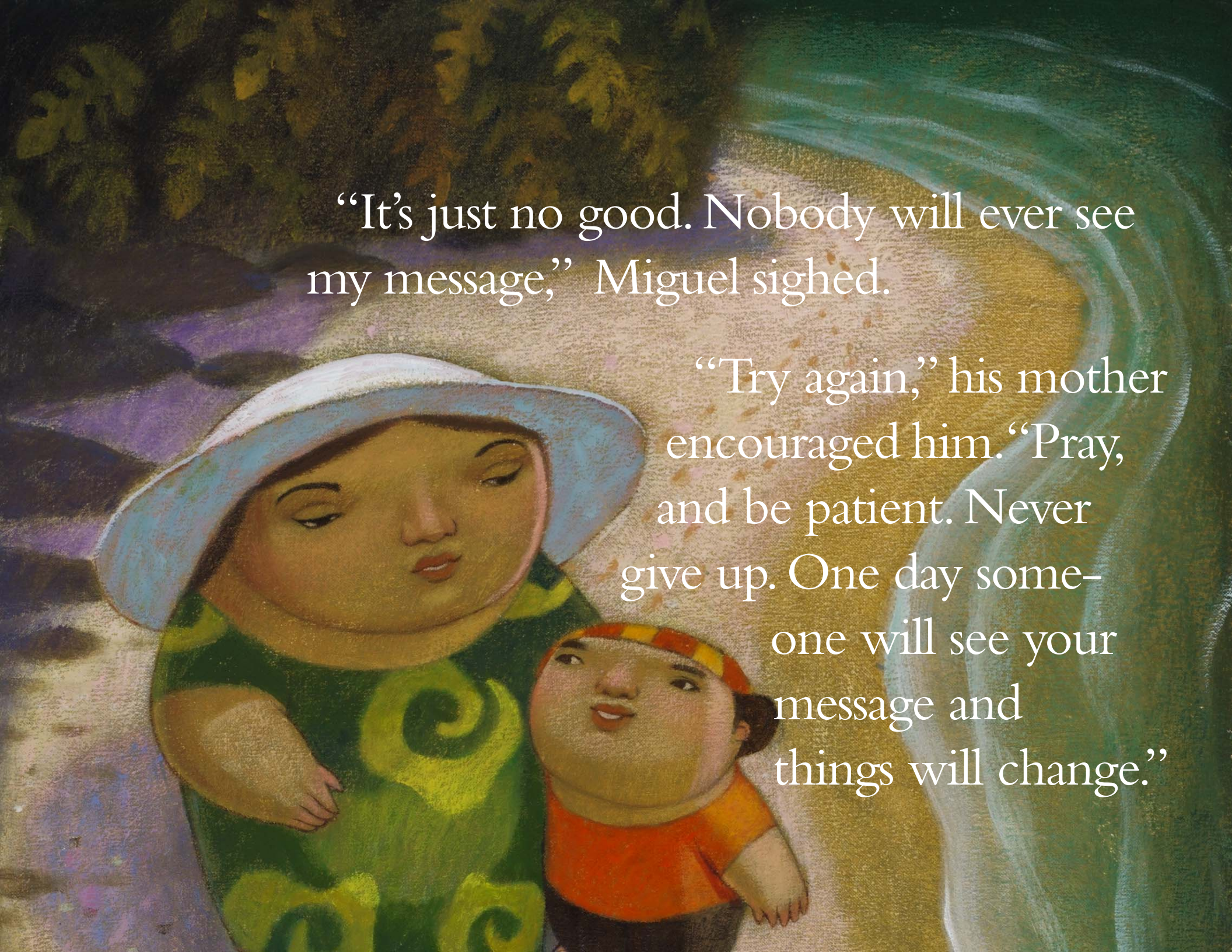
Over and over, Miguel wrote the message.
He wrote it in fronds of seaweed.



He wrote it using broken seashells.

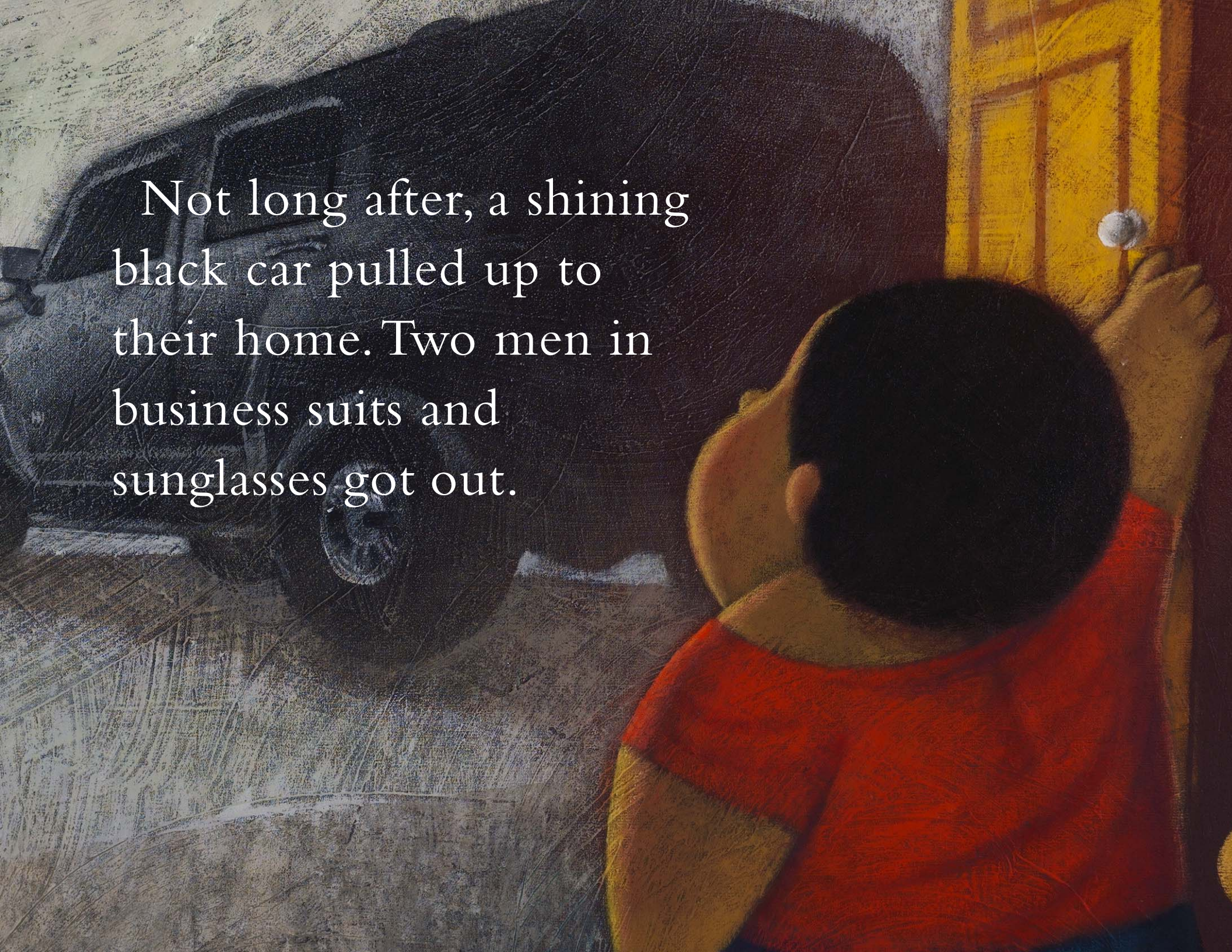


Over and over, the waves
washed away the words.

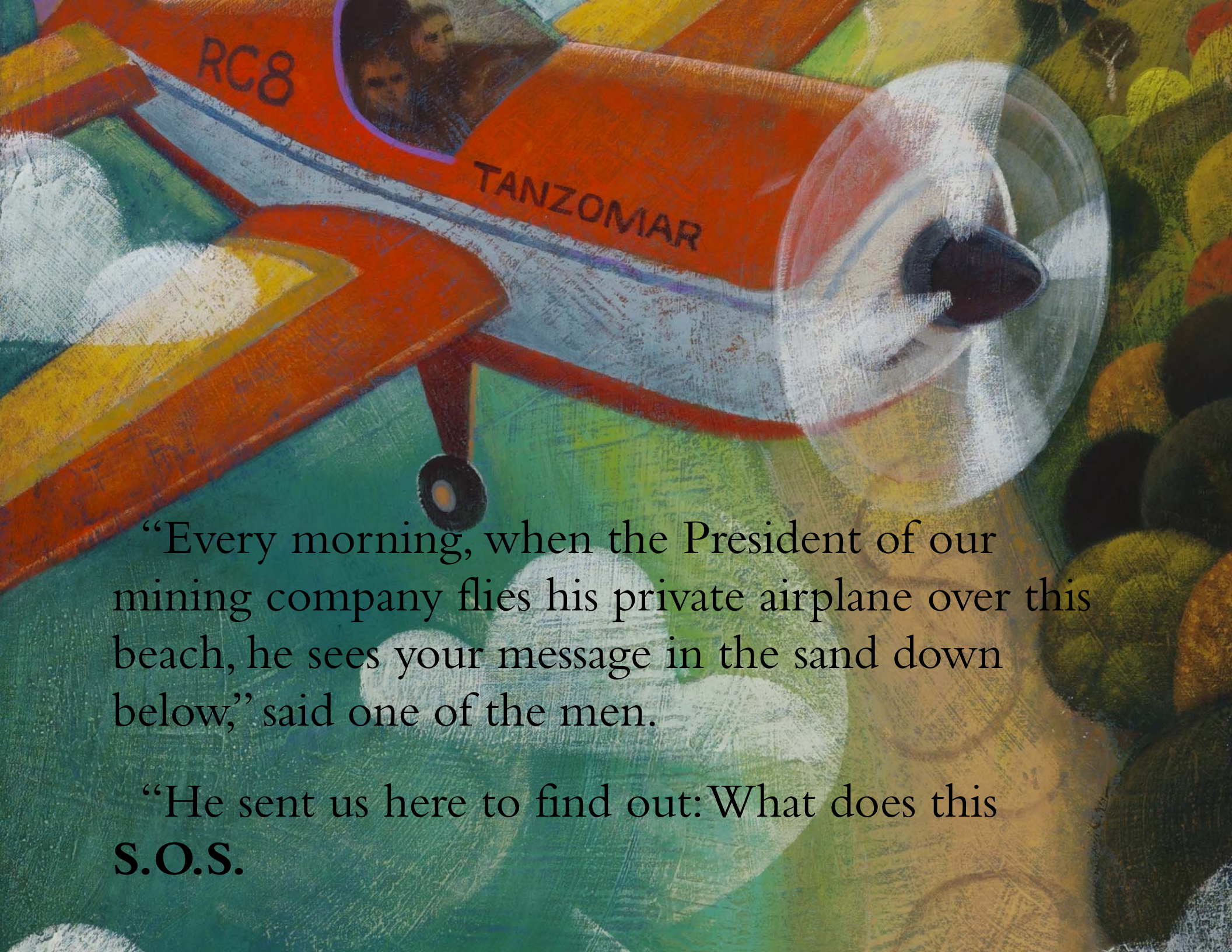


“It’s just no good. Nobody will ever see my message,” Miguel sighed.

“Try again,” his mother encouraged him. “Pray, and be patient. Never give up. One day someone will see your message and things will change.”

A painting of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a bright red t-shirt, looking out a window. He is holding onto the yellow window frame with his right hand. Outside the window, a dark, shiny black car is parked on a street. The scene is rendered in a textured, painterly style with visible brushstrokes. The lighting is dramatic, with the interior being dark and the exterior scene being brightly lit.

Not long after, a shining
black car pulled up to
their home. Two men in
business suits and
sunglasses got out.



“Every morning, when the President of our mining company flies his private airplane over this beach, he sees your message in the sand down below,” said one of the men.

“He sent us here to find out: What does this **S.O.S.**



“Tell your President, S.O.S. means Save Our Seas,” said Miguel.

“Tell him to stop dumping his waste in the river.”



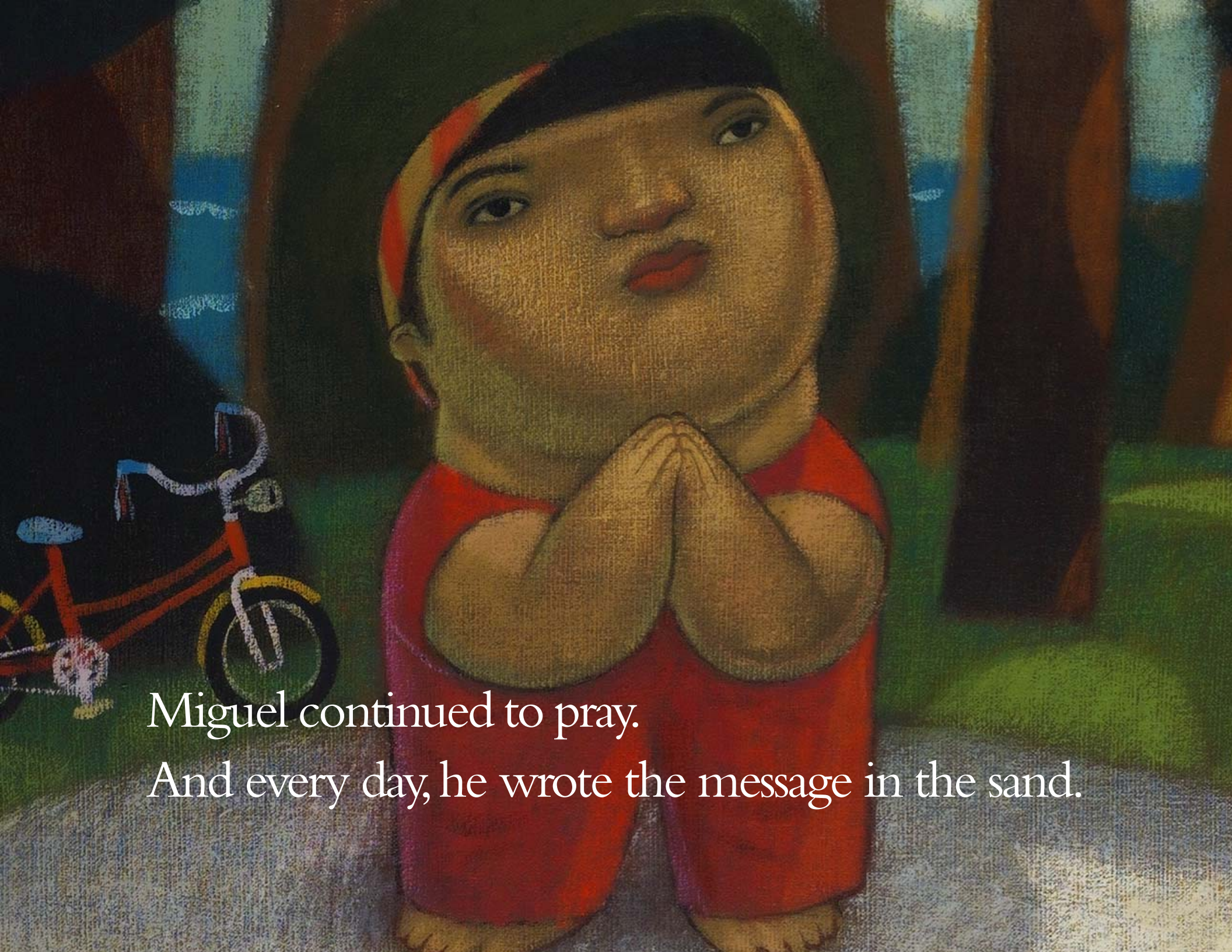
“The river leads to the ocean.

Waste poisons the fish and plants.

It makes the water and beach dirty.

It makes the birds sick.

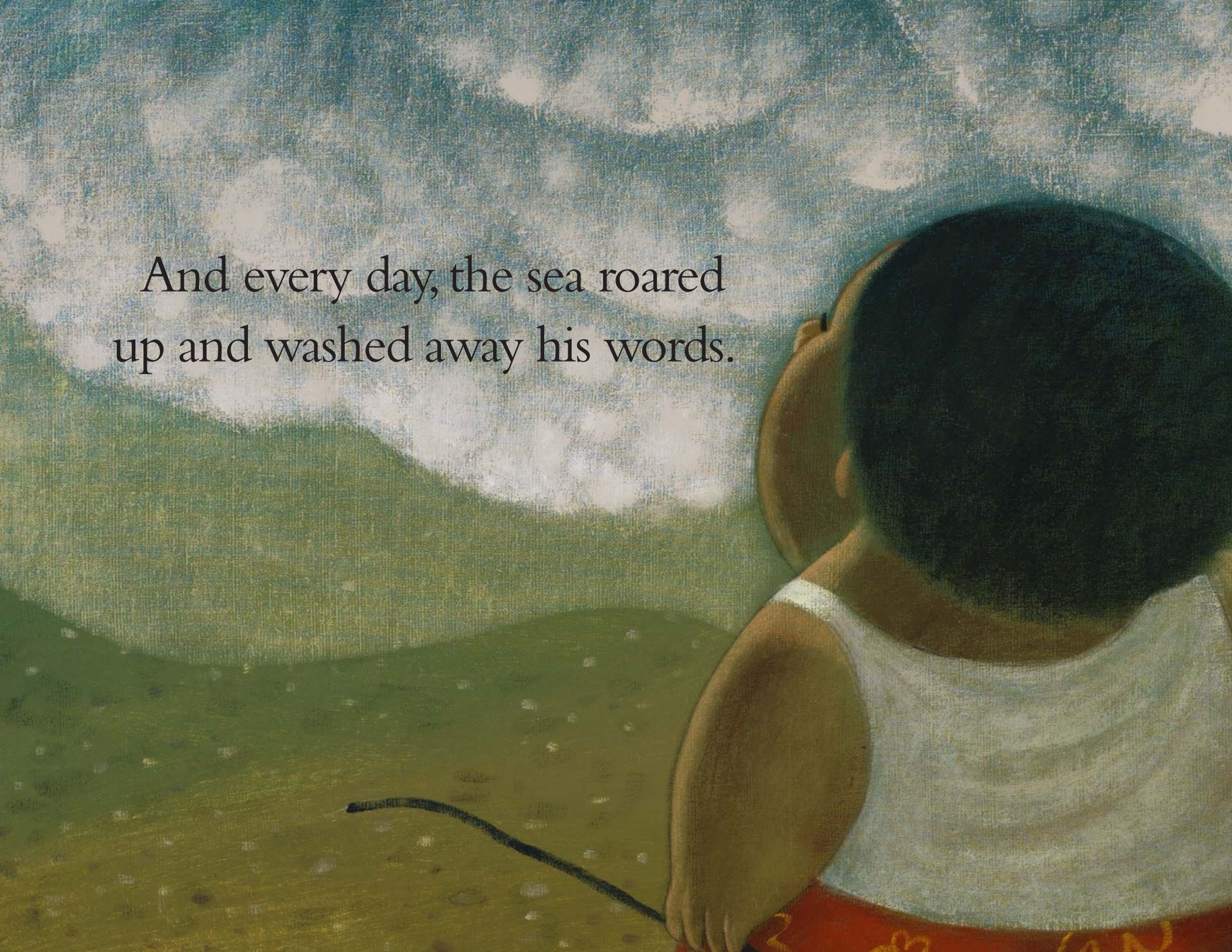
And that makes *me*




Miguel continued to pray.

And every day, he wrote the message in the sand.

And every day, the sea roared
up and washed away his words.



A painting depicting a woman with dark hair and a child looking at a newspaper. The woman is on the left, and the child is on the right. The newspaper is held in the center, and the child's hand is visible on the right side of the paper. The background is dark and textured, with some green and yellow areas on the right side. The overall style is expressive and somewhat somber.

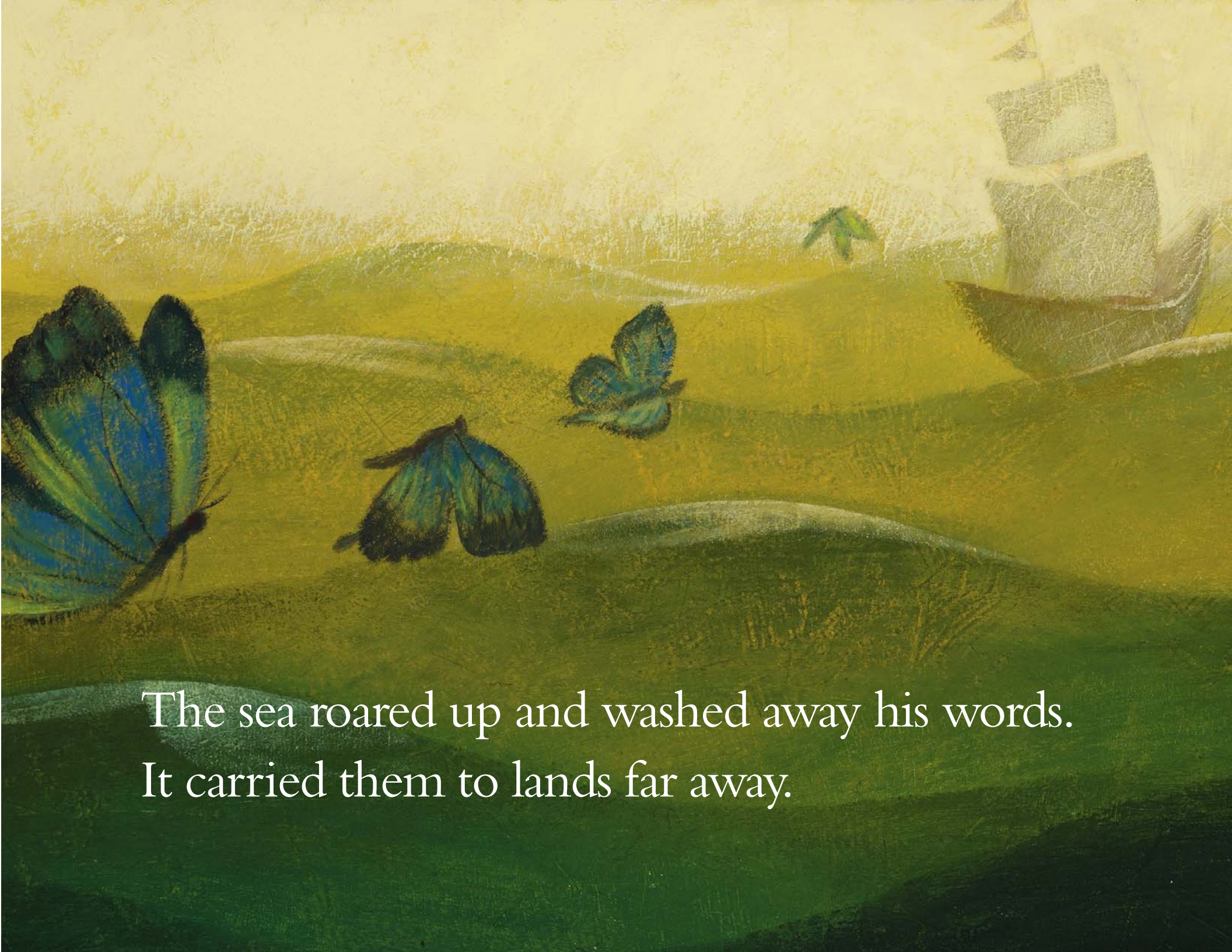
Then one day, Miguel's
mother showed him the
newspaper headline:

**MINING COMPANY GETS THE MESSAGE
WASTE DUMPING TO STOP**

Miguel smiled, ran out to the beach and found a stick. He wrote a message in the sand.

THANK YOU





The sea roared up and washed away his words.
It carried them to lands far away.



My thanks...

to God, for the glory and bounty of the oceans.

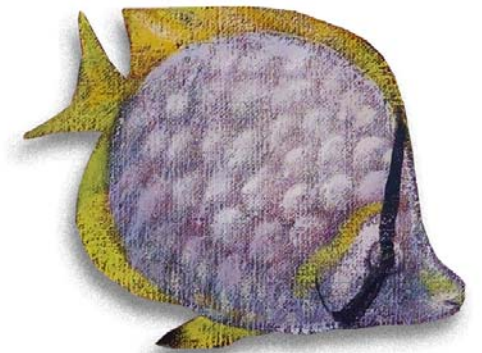
to Gigo Alampay and CANVAS for the opportunity
to write this book.

to Roel Obemio for his illustrations.

to my mother, Gladys May Aserappa, for her kind support.

to my son, Nicolas Bernard Re, whose art inspires me.

Charmaine Aserappa

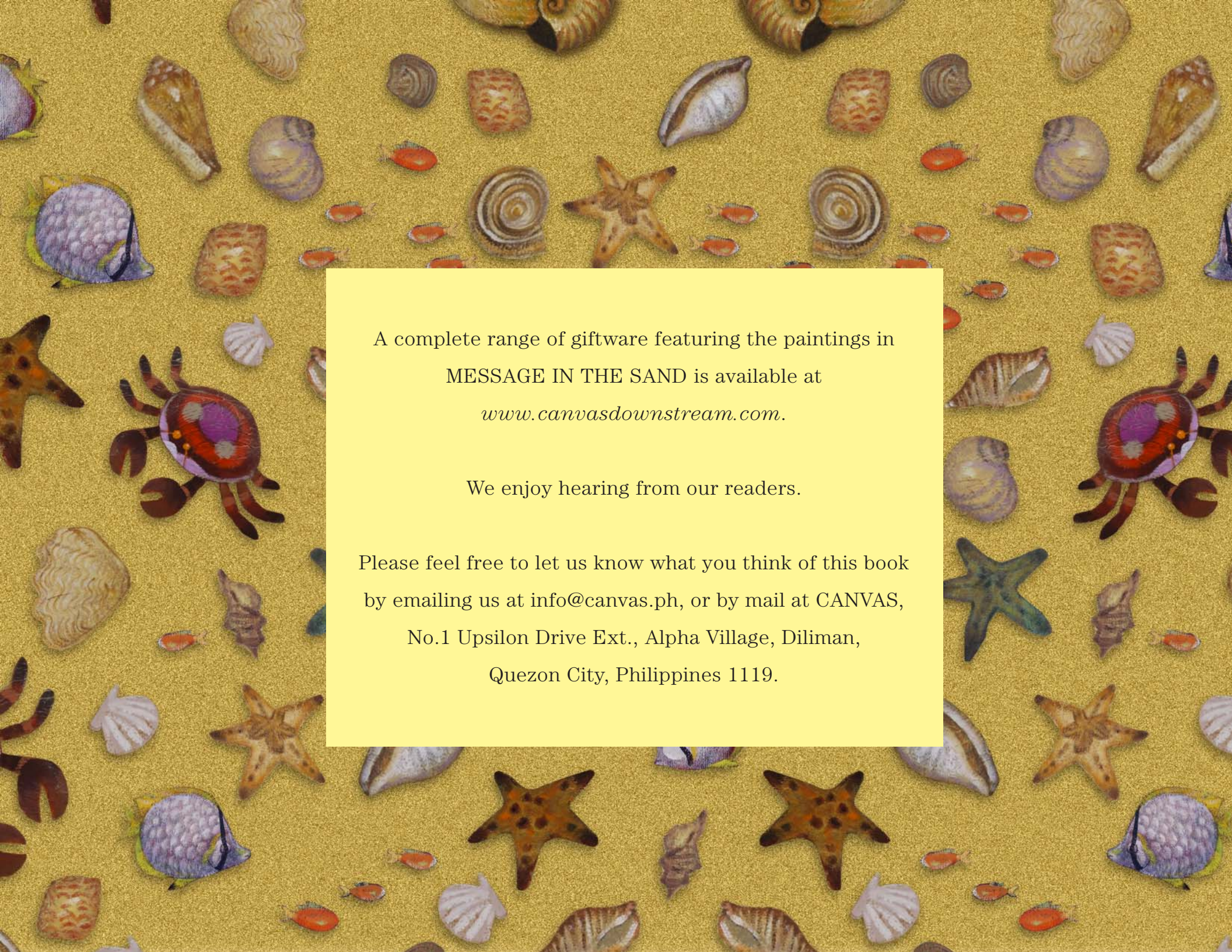


THE AUTHOR

Charmaine Aserappa is Communications Officer of a church named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of living creatures and the environment. She has lived in Asia, North America and Europe, and is the author of the international bestseller, *IN A JAPANESE GARDEN* (Council Oak Books, 1999).

THE ARTIST

Roel Obemio completed Fine Arts studies at the University of the East, in the Philippines, where he majored in Painting. Widely admired for his works in watercolor and acrylic, his art is influenced by his admiration for the art of two great painters: Fernando Botero (Colombia) and Mauro Malang Santos (Philippines).



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