



The Big Book & The Missing Page

A story about
the knowledge
of nature

For my relatives in this shared experience of momentary everything...thank you for your wisdom, bravery, and solidarity with your Self, and the Community ecosystem of All.

“I honor and acknowledge that what is currently called Boulder County sits on the unceded, traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Hinóno’ei (Arapaho), Cheyenne, Očeti Šakówiŋ (Sioux), and Núu-agma-tuvu-pu (Ute) Nations. Colorado’s Front Range is a contemporary and traditional site of trade and gathering for many Aboriginal peoples.”

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This story is about what could happen to the environment and its special species in Boulder County.

It is an allegory for the Annexation of CU South, 308 acres of undeveloped land in the South Boulder Creek Floodplain. It is owned by the University of Colorado, also known as “The Big Book.”

“South Lakes” is CU South.

“Developing South Lakes” refers to the annexation agreement, a law passed to incorporate CU South into the city limits of Boulder so that the University of Colorado could build a brand new campus on it.

“Preble and Ute” are the heroes in all of us.

While Preble and Ute may have been able to convince The Big Book to save South Lakes, the non-fictional people of Boulder still must act.

They CAN save “South Lakes” from being annexed and becoming a “Big Campus” for “The Big Book.”

They can vote for the referendum and repeal the annexation on November 8th, 2022.

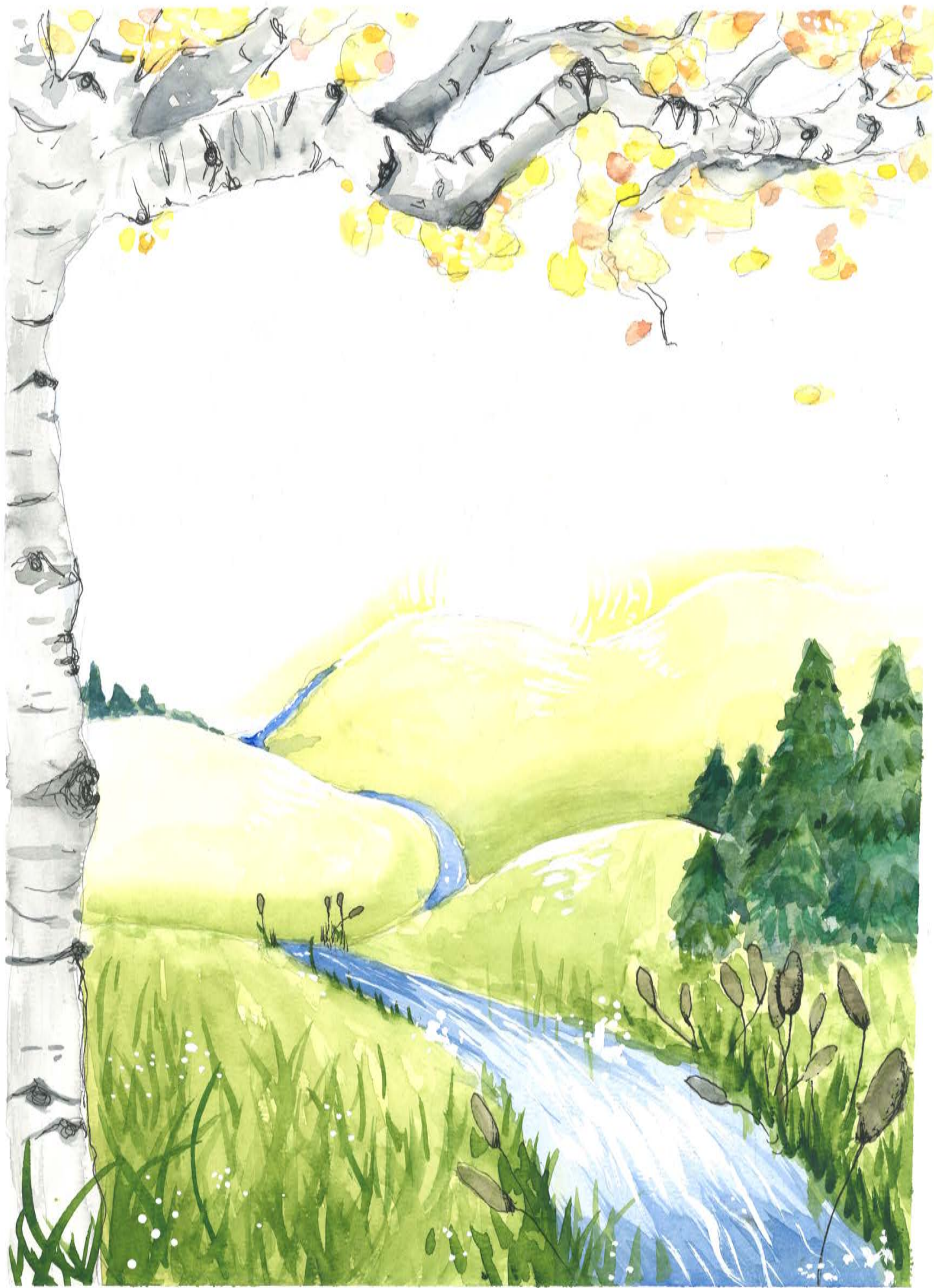
VOTE YES to REPEAL CU SOUTH ANNEXATION
on November 8th, 2022.
www.repealcusouth.org

Preble the Meadow Mouse, and Ute the Lady Orchid live in South Lakes.

This rare mouse and special flower live in the wetlands of the South Lakes floodplain. A large creek provides life to old cottonwood trees, small ponds, prairie grasses, flowers, animals, even humans downstream. It is a magical place!

For generations, Prebles' and Ute's ancestors had lived in South Lakes, thriving in harmony with nature, just as Preble and Ute now thrive.

Just next to South Lakes is the small town of Mountain Village. It is full of smart, kind and caring humans.



The Mountain Village people didn't know it, but they were under the control of The Big Book, which lived on the highest hill in the village.

On this day, Preble and Ute were playing their favorite game - hide 'n seek 'round the creek - climbing and jumping all around their beloved home. The Big Book was spending HIS day drawing plans to put new buildings all over the village. He was looking for his big pen and paper, because even though half the village was already built by The Big Book, he wanted more: a more organized Village and less wild Land.

Now, The Big Book looked over at South Lakes with wide, scheming eyes. Aha! There was more land!! In a mad fury, he began drawing new buildings and homes on the paper. Soon, his drawing of South Lakes was filled with more buildings, with less and less untouched nature.

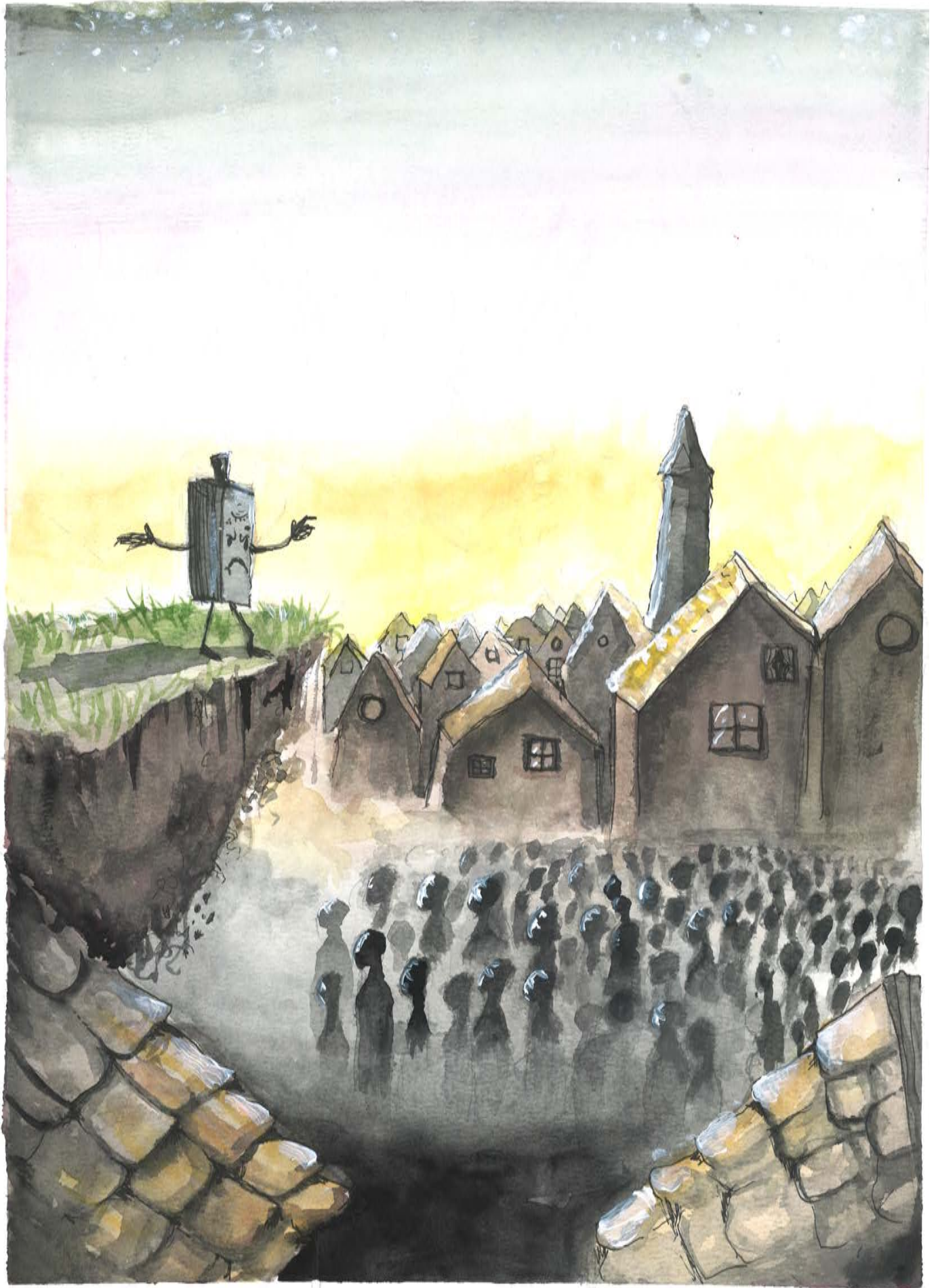


The Big Book laughed out loud and held his drawing up to the horizon. The piece of paper was so big that it covered the view of South Lakes in the distance. The Big Book smiled and spoke to the Villagers.

“You need more homes, my friends. You need more buildings, my friends. I have found the perfect place to build them for you. Just trust in me. Believe what I say, and all will be well.”

The Villagers listened, and responded.

“We trust you!” they said. “You have all the knowledge, and you know what is best! We want to develop South Lakes and we will let you do it.”



Prebles' and Ute's magical friends heard these words from Mountain Village. They couldn't believe it! Quickly, they spread the news across the land.

Sister Wind sent the message on a gust of air;

Mother Earth sent the message through all the roots of the plants;

Grandmother Water sent the message down the many streams.

At the creek, Preble and Ute were relaxing on the sunny, warm rocks when the bad news arrived...

"The Big Book cannot build on this land!" said Ute.

"This is our home! Where else could we live?"

Preble sprang up and ran through the lush grass to a small young thornapple shrub.

"The Village is full of buildings already, and many of them are empty," he exclaimed. "Why would they build more here when they already have so many in town they can use?"



Just then, Teku, the Time-Traveling Tree, appeared on the banks of the creek.

“Teku! It’s so good to see you.” said Preble. “What time period did you come from this time?” he asked.

“Just now, I was visiting South Lakes in the future. It was the year 2048. The future is a wonderful time, with happy trees and healthy soil.”

Both Ute and Preble said at the same time,
“Cool!”

Normally, Teku told stories through songs and enchanting rhymes, but today she spoke clearly and openly to her friends. “I have come here to tell you what I just saw. I was in South Lakes, listening to the Leopard Frogs, when suddenly everything went silent and dark. All the birds flew away and the wind blew stronger as GrandUncle Flood thundered down from the mountains.”

At the same time, Preble and Ute both exclaimed
“GrandUncle Flood!”



“Yes,” said Teku. “But don’t be afraid, my friends. His flood waters moved easily and safely through South Lakes. All of your friends and families are safe, and the Mountain Village people are not harmed.”

“But Teku! Teku!” yelled the little flower in a frenzy. “We heard a message today, Teku. The Big Book wants to build all kinds of houses and buildings in South Lakes!”

Teku nodded slowly, lowering her branches down so Preble and Ute could climb up and listen better. “The Villagers think The Big Book knows everything and is never wrong. But The Big Book is missing a page. On that page is the Knowledge of Nature. Without this page, The Big Book doesn’t understand that GrandUncle Flood needs open, wild spaces in order to flow safely through the creekbed and downstream.”



Teku lowered her branches further so her friends could step down. She kept her largest branch on the ground.

“You see,” she said, “The Knowledge of Nature explains how to protect all of Nature. Come, take some of my bark. Use this to make a new page, and ask your Elders to tell you about this knowledge. Write it down, and then you must return this page back to The Big Book.”

Ute and Preble could barely lift the thick bark from the branch.



“One, Two, Three!” and together, they gently pulled off some bark.

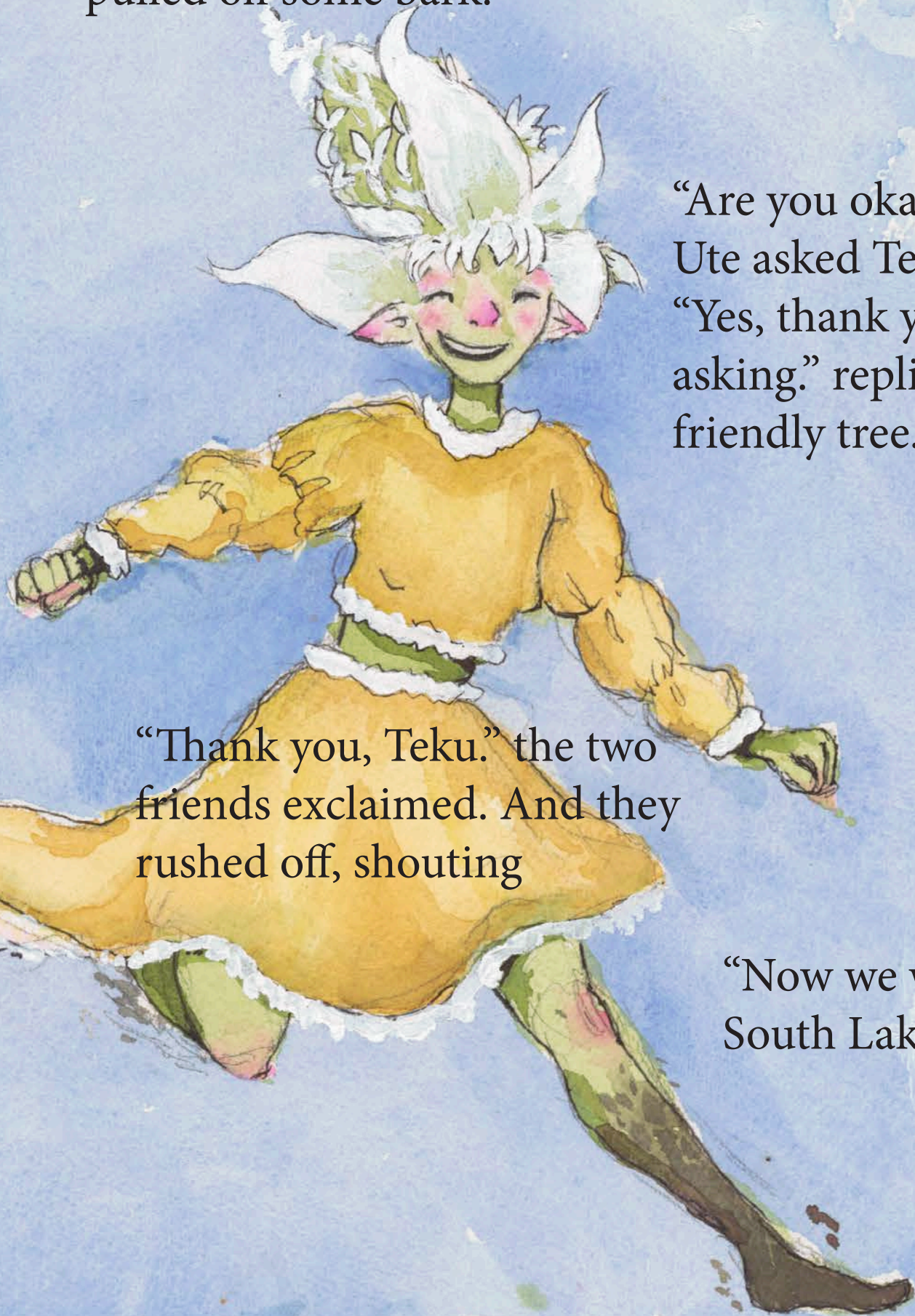
“Are you okay?”

Ute asked Teku.

“Yes, thank you for asking.” replied the friendly tree.

“Thank you, Teku.” the two friends exclaimed. And they rushed off, shouting

“Now we will save South Lakes!”



The two heroes travelled upstream to visit the wise Coyote Elder, who lived there.

They listened all day and all night to a fantastic and grand story about Nature and how all living things are interconnected and linked together to the land. The next morning, the piece of Teku's bark transformed itself into a green page full of this important Knowledge. It was complete with information, wisdom, and emotion.

“Your page is now ready for The Big Book,” said the wise Coyote Elder.

“With this, The Big Book will be whole again. It will see the land of South Lakes in a new way and be ready to help you protect it.”

The wise Coyote Elder walked upstream, but then turned back for a moment. “Remember, you two: No matter how intimidating The Big Book may be, Nature is on your side.”



Preble and Ute returned to Teku, who was pleased her trusted companions were able to do this task so quickly. “Now, I must turn you two into one human so you may approach The Big Book easily and deliver the page back to its place.”

Teku swirled both Preble and Ute together and transformed them into a human named Xarol. Each of them became one half of this new body.

“Wow!” exclaimed Ute. “My legs are so long!”

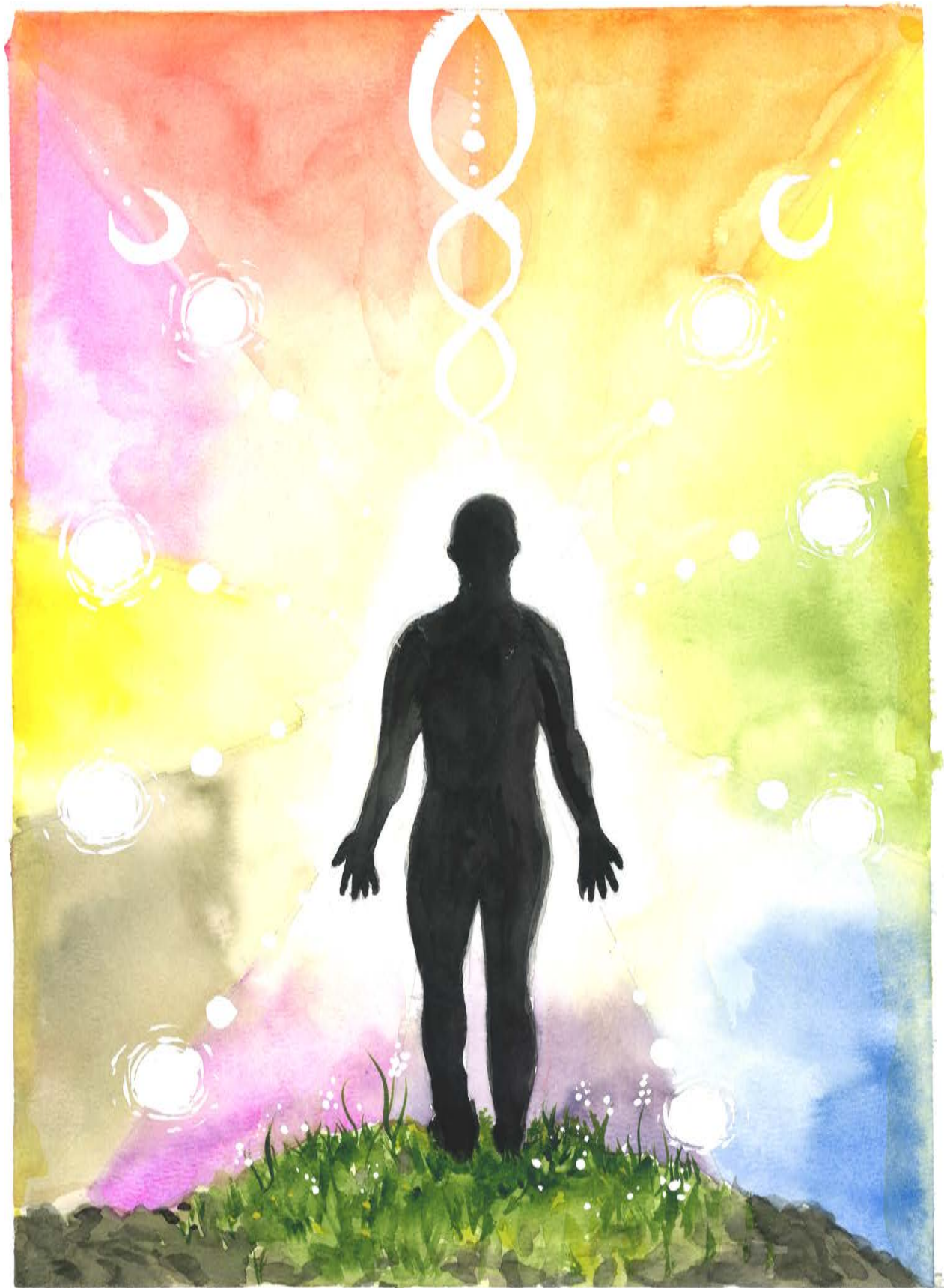
“I could jump even higher now!” laughed Preble.

Then Xarol started to walk - Preble tried to jump up and Ute tried to move forward - but they fell down immediately.

Teku chuckled, “You must learn how to move together! Try again.”

They did, and one step led to another. Soon they were walking forward normally.

“Now you are ready,” Teku said. She nudged Xarol towards the hilltop over Mountain Village with her long branch.



There, The Big Book was looking over the village. He could see everything from his hilltop.

An odd-looking and odd-walking human whom he'd never seen before was approaching his hill. The Big Book yelled down, "WHO GOES THERE?!"

"Excuse me," said Xarol, "I have something for you. You are missing a page, and I've found it."

"MISSING A PAGE? Impossible!" bellowed The Big Book with an expression of a sour lemon. "I know everything. I have all the pages in the world, and my wisdom knows no boundaries. This just can't be!! Show me that page!"

"If you let me find where it belongs, I will give it back to you." said Xarol.

Xarol showed The Big Book the green page. It was larger than any of the other pages inside the Book.

"That's odd" pondered Xarol.



The very next instant, lightning CRACKED and SHOOK the sky as The Big Book reached out and touched

The Knowledge of Nature.

“Oh!! That feels funny!” shouted the Big Book.

Immediately, the new green page was absorbed into the book.

Suddenly The Big Book screamed, raising his arms to the sky. He changed colors rapidly through all the shades of the rainbow. Then, he closed his eyes and stood motionless.

Things were still. And quiet.

Xarol watched, confused and worried.

“Are you okay?” asked Xarol.



The Big Book had turned an emerald green, and a third eye opened up in the middle of his forehead.

With a big smile and ‘I just jumped into an ice cold lake’ kind of energy, the book shouted, “Yahoooooo! I feel AMAZING! This is incredible! I’ve never seen the land this way before. For years, I was captive to greed and power. I thought the Village people only wanted more buildings. And I was blinded by my desire for profit, so I didn’t realize how valuable South Lakes actually is, just as it is!”

Looking around the hill, he walked over to the vista, laughing out loud to Mountain Village.

“What if trees were more important than money!?!” he cried.

The Big Book took a deep breath, and turned back towards Xarol.

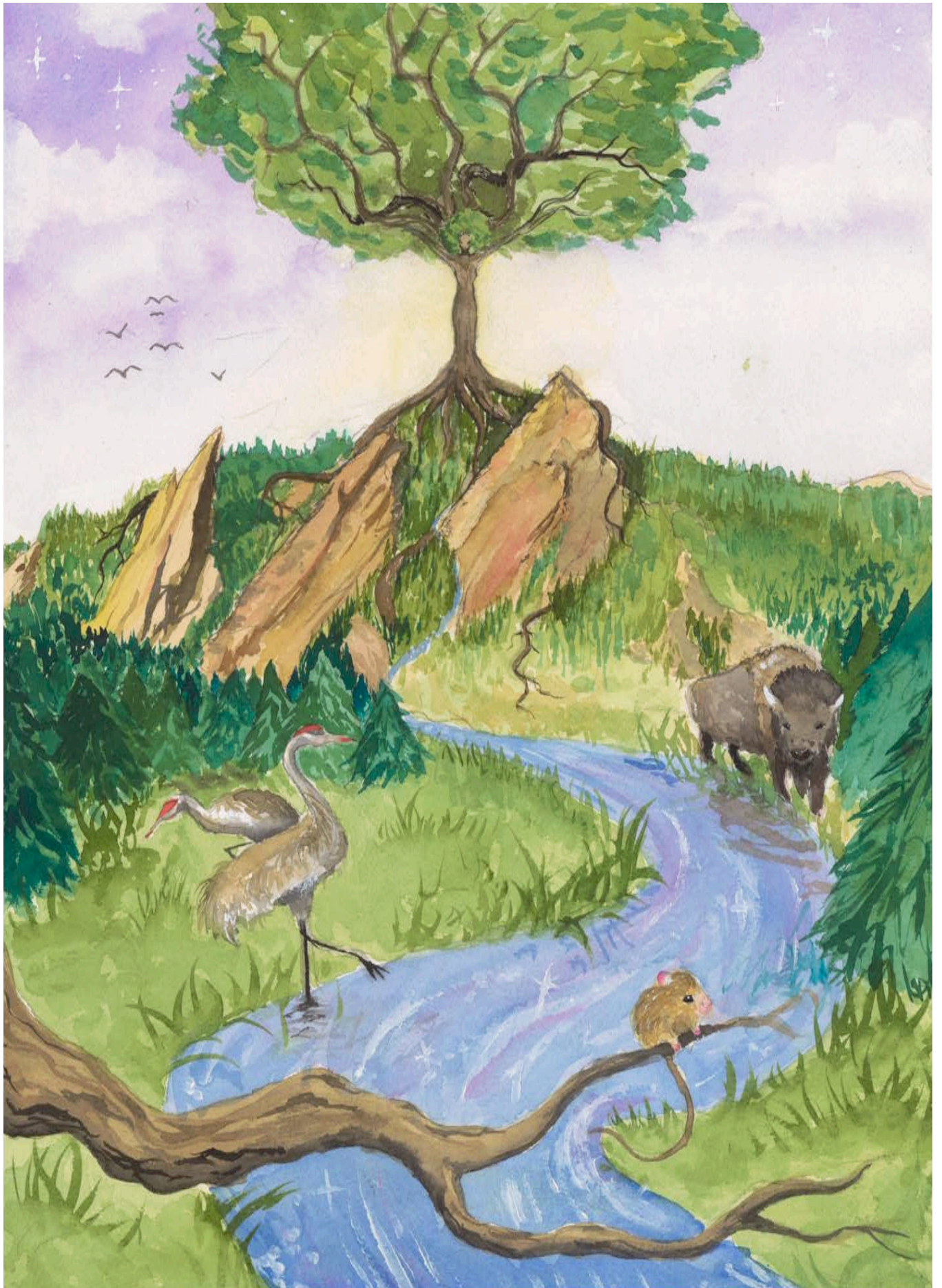
“Everyone will learn of your bravery today.” he said. “This is our chance to protect the Wild in Nature. Now is the time to see we also are part of the same Wild, and we can respect each other with radical empathy, understanding, and imagination. We will surprise you and all our future relatives.”



Ute and Preble knew this Knowledge would plant the seeds of change needed in this world, and they knew the future would not repeat the past.

This time, Sister Wind, Mother Earth and Grandmother Water sent the good news all over the land.

South Lakes will be saved!



..Many moons and seasons went by...

...The pintail ducks shared the ponds as the waters thawed and froze over time...

...Abundant egrets and herons watched over the wetlands like snowy guardian statues...

...Fluttering in the stately cottonwoods, the wrens and finches made countless nests and raised babies, and the meadowlarks sang sweet songs from the tall grass...

...The Buffalo returned to the land as stewards of the natural cycle of life...

...Prebles' and Ute's great-great-great grandchildren still played their favorite game, hide 'n seek 'round the creek...

...Their home was thriving. The Natural and Human worlds were finally one again, the way it always should have been, the way it always will be...

...Sometimes the biggest changes come from the smallest actions...

The End.

This story is an allegory about the City of Boulder,
the University of Colorado, the annexation of the CU South property,
and its future.

The people of Boulder CAN STILL save “South Lakes” - also known as
CU South - from development as outlined in the current
annexation agreement.

Support the Referendum and Repeal a Bad Deal.

VOTE YES to REPEAL CU SOUTH ANNEXATION
on November 8th, 2022.

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