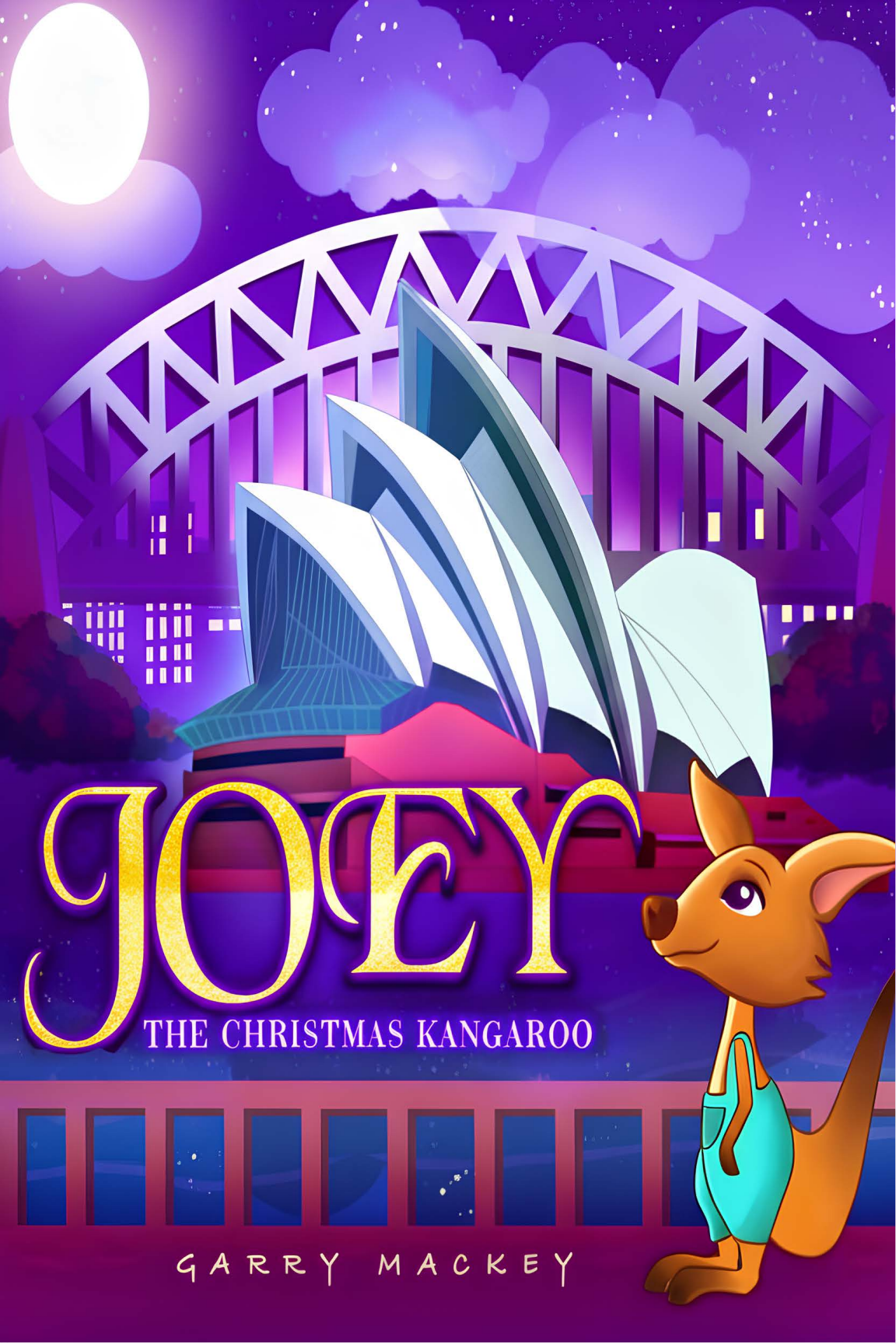
JOEY
THE CHRISTMAS KANGAROO
GARRY MACKEY

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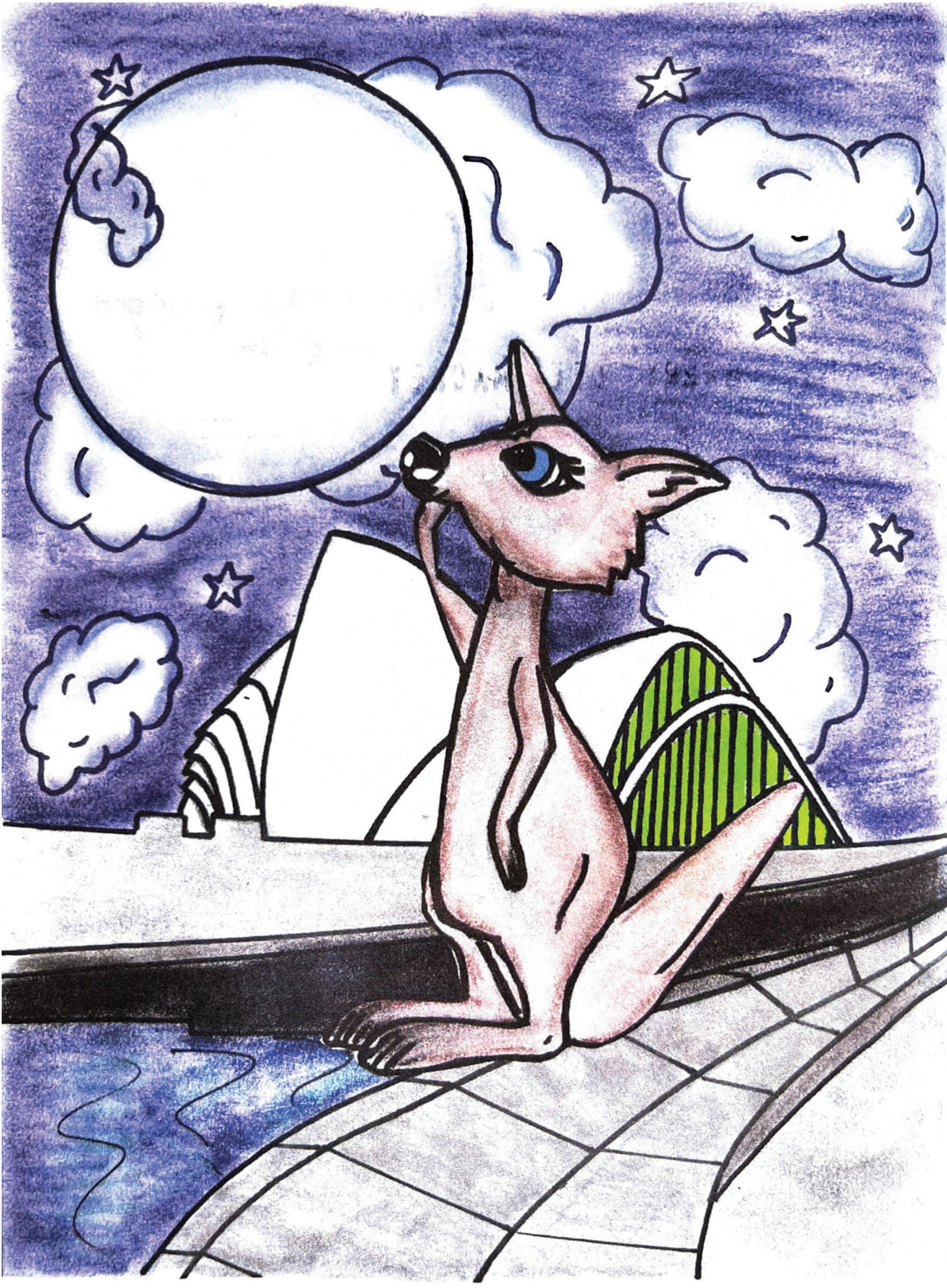
This book is dedicated to Darion, Tyler, Landon, Adalyn, and Anika, my grandchildren, my inspiration.



Christmas comes when it's winter in the North, and that means it's summer at the bottom of the world. One year, as Christmas Day was making its way around the world and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer was leading Santa's sleigh across Australia, something went terribly wrong.

Rudolph stopped, circled and scrambled for direction. He knew there was much to do and a long way to go, as he lingered high above the Land Down Under. South seemed like north and east seemed like west. The world seemed upside down.

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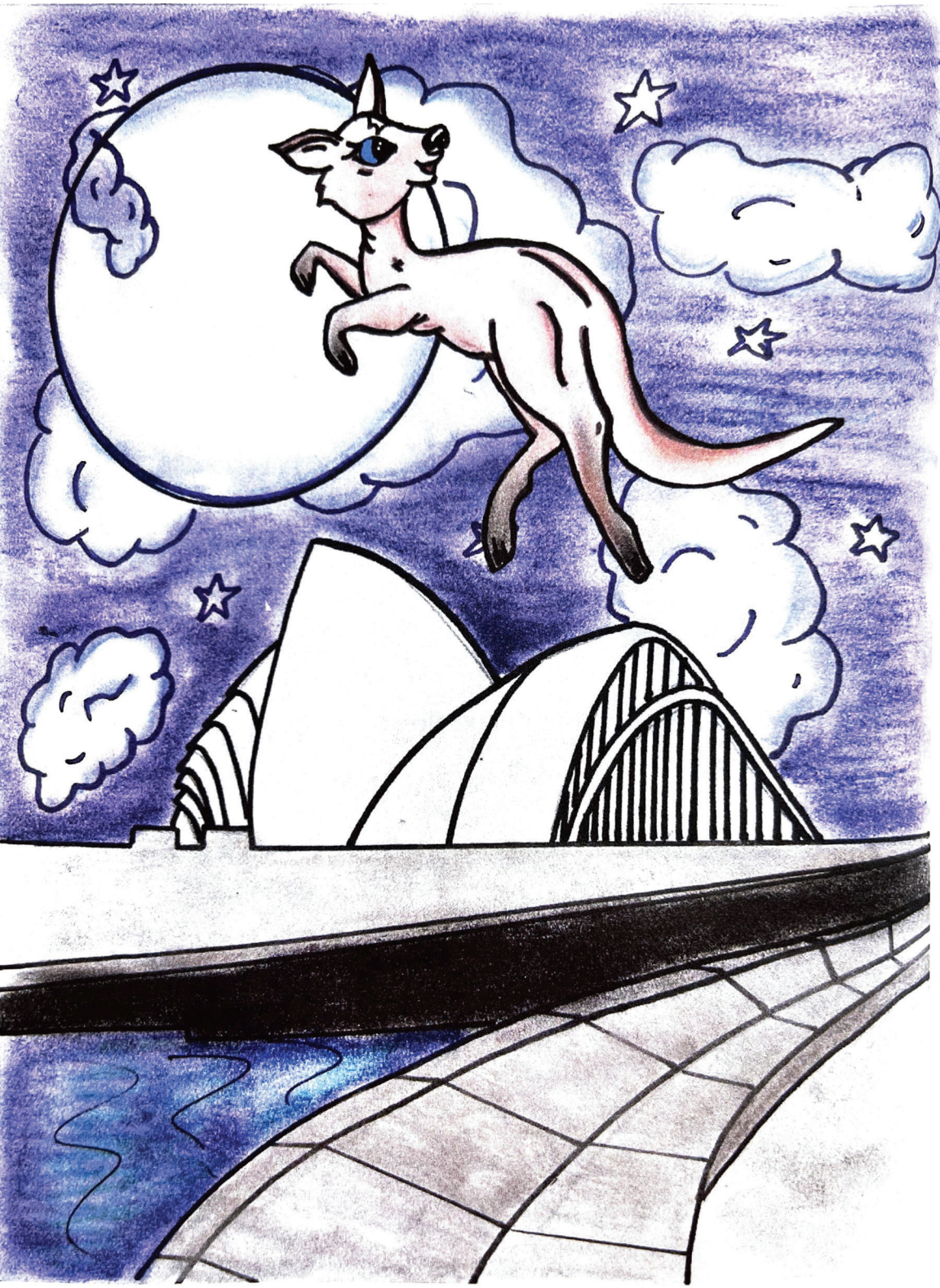
"Time is of the essence. If we don't find our way soon, there will be no Christmas for the boys and girls around the world, "Santa kindly reminded. Rudolph had no explanation for Santa. There had been many a foggy Christmas Eve and many a white Christmas, but not even the weather had ever stopped Rudolph for a moment. Rudolph assured Santa that he would soon regain his command of the sky and Christmas would again be on its way.



Could it be the warm summer breezes blowing across Australia? Could it be the position of the stars? Could it be that Rudolph had forgotten something that caused him to question his instincts? For the first time since that first foggy Christmas Eve when Santa asked Rudolph to guide his sleigh, Rudolph was lost and in need of a miracle.

During all of the times when Rudolph had guided Santa's sleigh and had helped to bring Christmas to the world, he didn't know he had always had a special friend in Australia. Joey the Christmas Kangaroo was always there to see Rudolph lead Santa's sleigh into view, to hear the jingle of the bells on his reigns and to see him soar away like a shooting star in the night sky. This time Rudolph needed the help of a friend. This could be Joey's big chance to meet his hero.

Just when Rudolph was convinced that all was lost, he could see something coming his way. Could it be that this tiny speck in the warm summer Australian sky would save Christmas this year for the boys and girls? It was traveling fast and seemed to move with a purpose, as it circled and came alongside Rudolph above the clouds.

Never had Rudolph heard the call of his name sound so pleasant and inviting: "Hello Rudolph, I'm Joey the Christmas Kangaroo." Rudolph was pleased that someone so far from his home at the North Pole knew his name. "Hello Joey. After bringing Christmas to your country, I seemed to have lost my way. If I don't find my way, Christmas will be lost for the rest of the world this year," Rudolph said, in a voice that was shaking. "Don't feel so alone, Rudolph. This sort of thing happens all the time, and it's because we do things a little different down here from the way you do things in the North," Joey cheerfully explained.

"Follow me," said Joey the Christmas Kangaroo, as he led Rudolph and Santa's sleigh on a wide and slow turn to the west. It would seem that a gentle nudge from his newfound friend was the miracle Rudolph needed. All seemed well with Christmas Day, as the western sky seemed to open ahead, Rudolph gained his direction and thought of the many boys and girls awaiting a visit from Santa.

Rudolph brought Santa's sleigh slowly and gently to rest on a huge fluffy white cloud, as Santa welcomed Joey aboard his sleigh. "We should be across the Indian Ocean by now, but I need one more moment," Santa told Rudolph. Santa smiled and the reindeer cheered, to think of Joey as the newest Santa's Helper and forever a part of Christmas.

"Because you have saved Christmas for the world, you will always be Santa's Helper and may take your seat next to me on my sleigh," Santa told Joey. Santa placed a red collar with a small bell around Joey's neck, as Joey and Santa took their seats. "Christmas belongs to the world," said Joey. With that, Rudolph lifted off the cloud and began gaining speed over the Indian Ocean.

It would be a Merry Christmas for all, as Santa Claus, Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Joey went out of sight and the glow from Rudolph's nose faded into the western sky.

JOEY The Christmas Kangaroo

This book reathes a number of goals. Austrulin bas the unique distinction of being in the Boutisern Hemminpours and the Eastern Hemisphere. Hydrey. Australia Austeulla is jul tuo Timy Zones from thw International Dateline. Joey the Chulbilmas Kangaroo not only beings these two hemlapheres into play. but also beings the samer season and a new animal character ants the Chilstmas scent. Just as Jncy says in this book, "Christmas belongs to the world" It has always seemed to me there was an erpïnese is the went nest in Nantis. My feelings are that Jeev the Christmas Kangaroo Fluthlu emptintus, given a little more warmth and hringa miny more smiles to Sant'a deigh.

Born along the banks of the Ohio River in the heart of rural Kentucky, Garry Mackey is a proud member of the baby boom generation whose life has been anything but ordinary. From harvesting tobacco fields to singing Classic Country, serving as a U.8. Army soldier in Vietnam, driving buses, and assisting travelers as an airline reservationist-he's worn many hats across the years.

It was during his time in Vietnam, after surviving an ambush and waking up in a military hospital in Saigon, that a profound realization took root: a deep and abiding love for people. That love eventually found its voice in writing-particularly in the joyful, imaginative world of children's stories.

Inspired by the laughter and wonder of his own grandchildren, he began crafting tales that reflect not only his rich life experience but also his heartfelt desire to spark imagination, kindness, and connection in young readers.