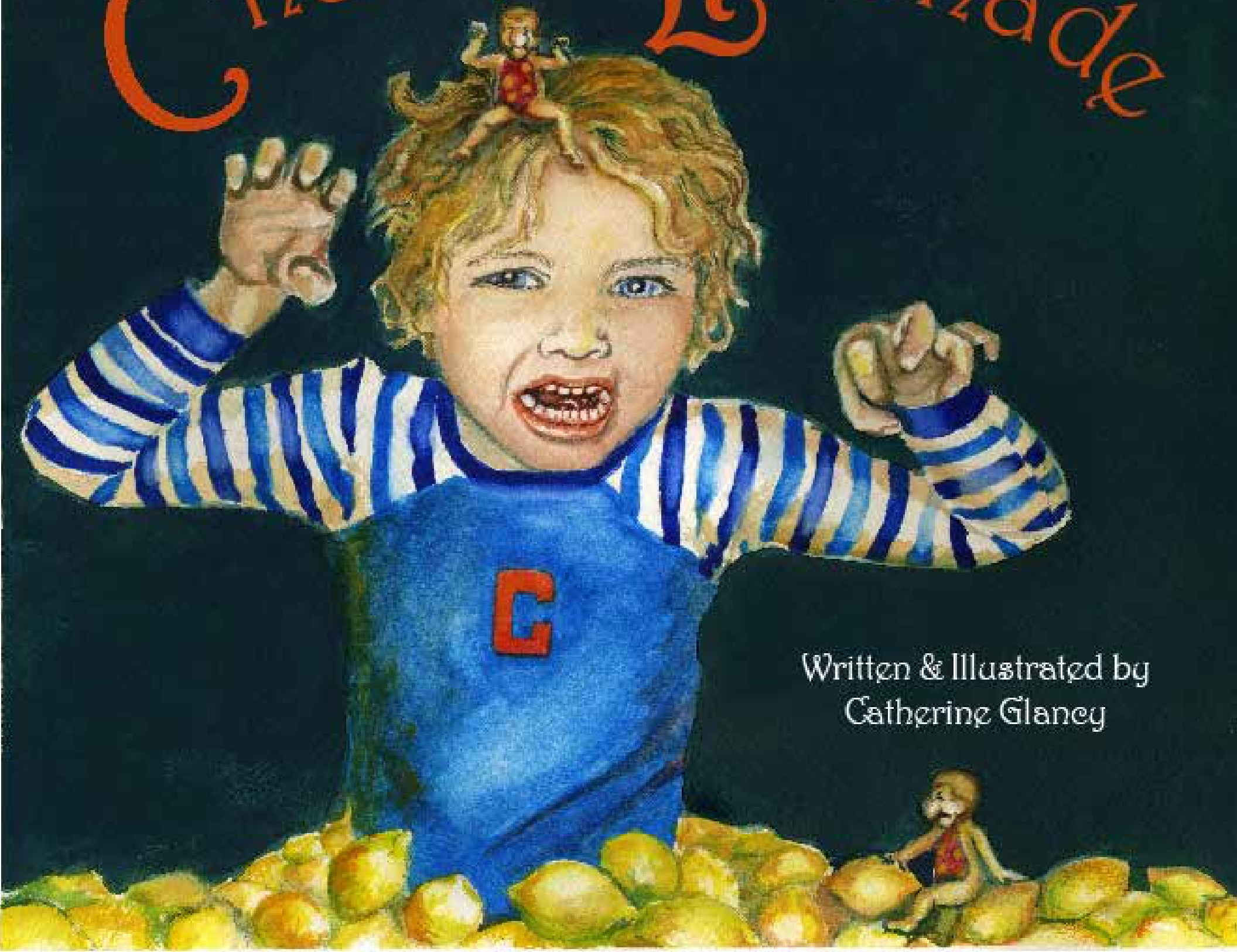


Charlie's Lemonade



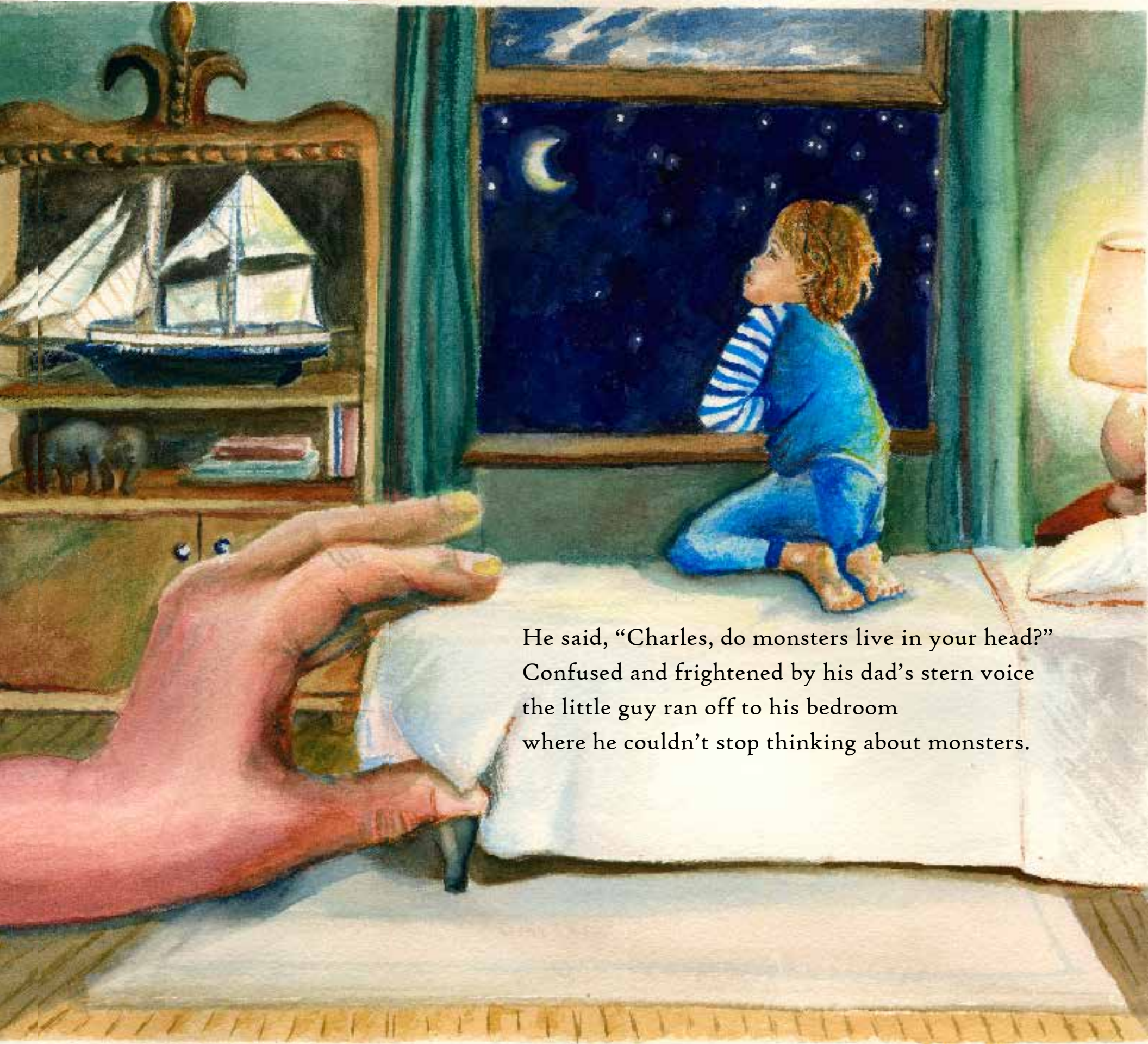
Written & Illustrated by
Catherine Glancy

One evening, as Charlie and his sister
sat up at the counter to have a snack
the boy's crunchy, crumbly cookies began to wrestle
and things got messy – as they had before.

Finally, Charlie's dad stopped the wrestling match,
which was all over the counter by now.







He said, "Charles, do monsters live in your head?"
Confused and frightened by his dad's stern voice
the little guy ran off to his bedroom
where he couldn't stop thinking about monsters.

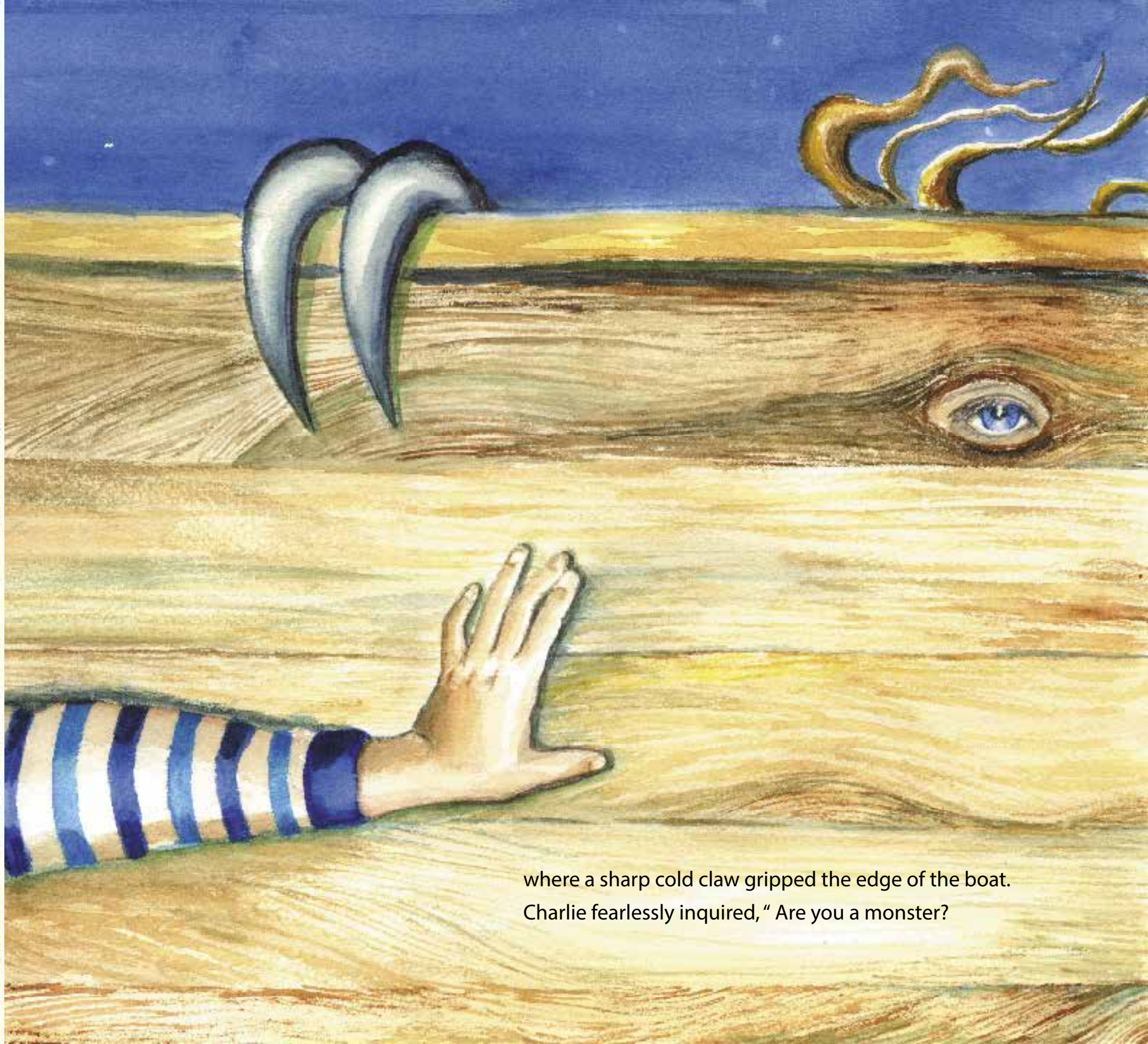
Then a ship from the great vast sky docked at Charlie's window sill.
And a growling creature from inside the vessel bellowed "Land Ho!".
The young boy shouted back, "Are you a monster?."



And the captain, in a calm but rugged voice, said, "No.
So Charlie climbed aboard the ship and sailed through the stars
to the highest peak of a snow-covered mountain.







where a sharp cold claw gripped the edge of the boat.
Charlie fearlessly inquired, "Are you a monster?"



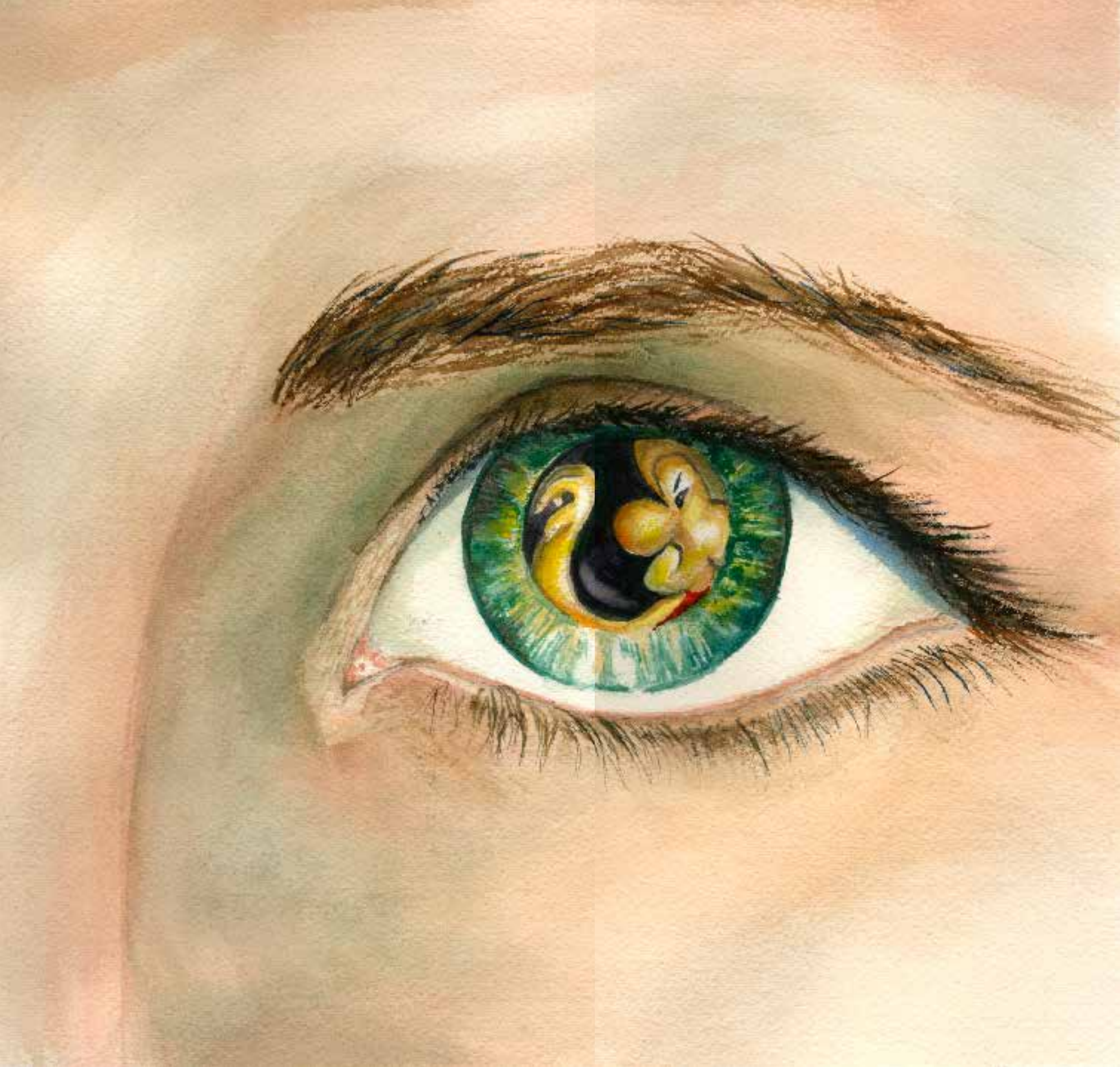


And a girl with a prosthetic for her left hand
jumped aboard the ship saying
“I’m not a monster, you silly.”

“Monsters are like thoughts in your head
that crush, squeeze and wreck good ideas.”

Now Charlie really wanted to see a mind-squishing monster.
So the crew set out to see what they could see.
And they saw, down by the sea, a lady in a red dress
plucking and squashing lemons from a tree.





And the captain pulled Charlie to his side.

“There, Charles, look deep inside the lady’s eye
past the lashes, through the shiny black pupil,
deep into the shadows of her slimy gray brain.”



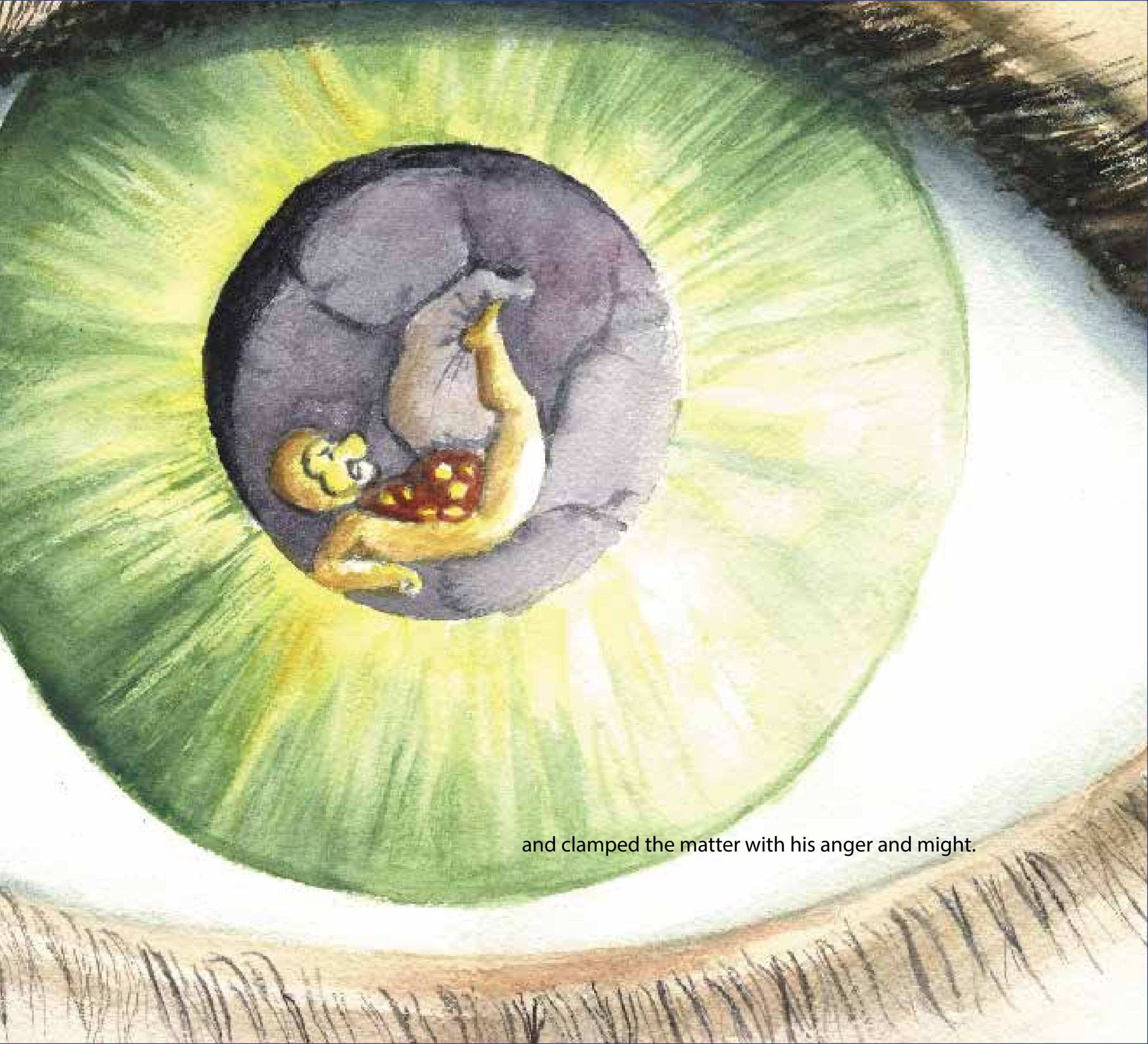
And there, Charlie saw a horrible and determined, little monster with its arms wrapped tightly around a portion of the lady's mind.



And the wretched little beasts squeezed...



and crushed...



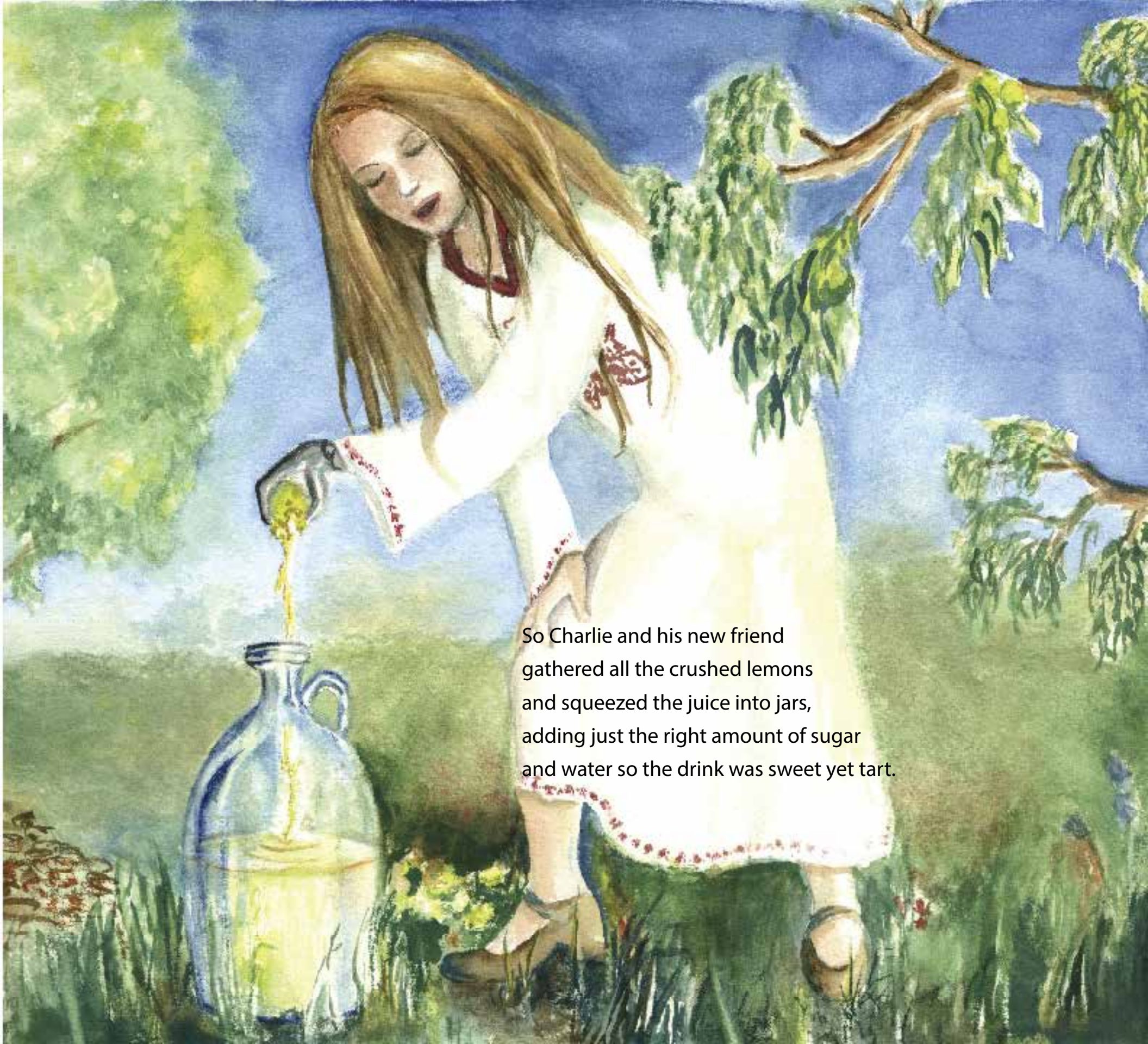
and clamped the matter with his anger and might.

But a very brave boy said, "This must be stopped!"
And he asked the crew what could be done.

The captain, being familiar with the creatures, having hosted them before, said
"Quite plainly, they tend to leave when they see people being nice."





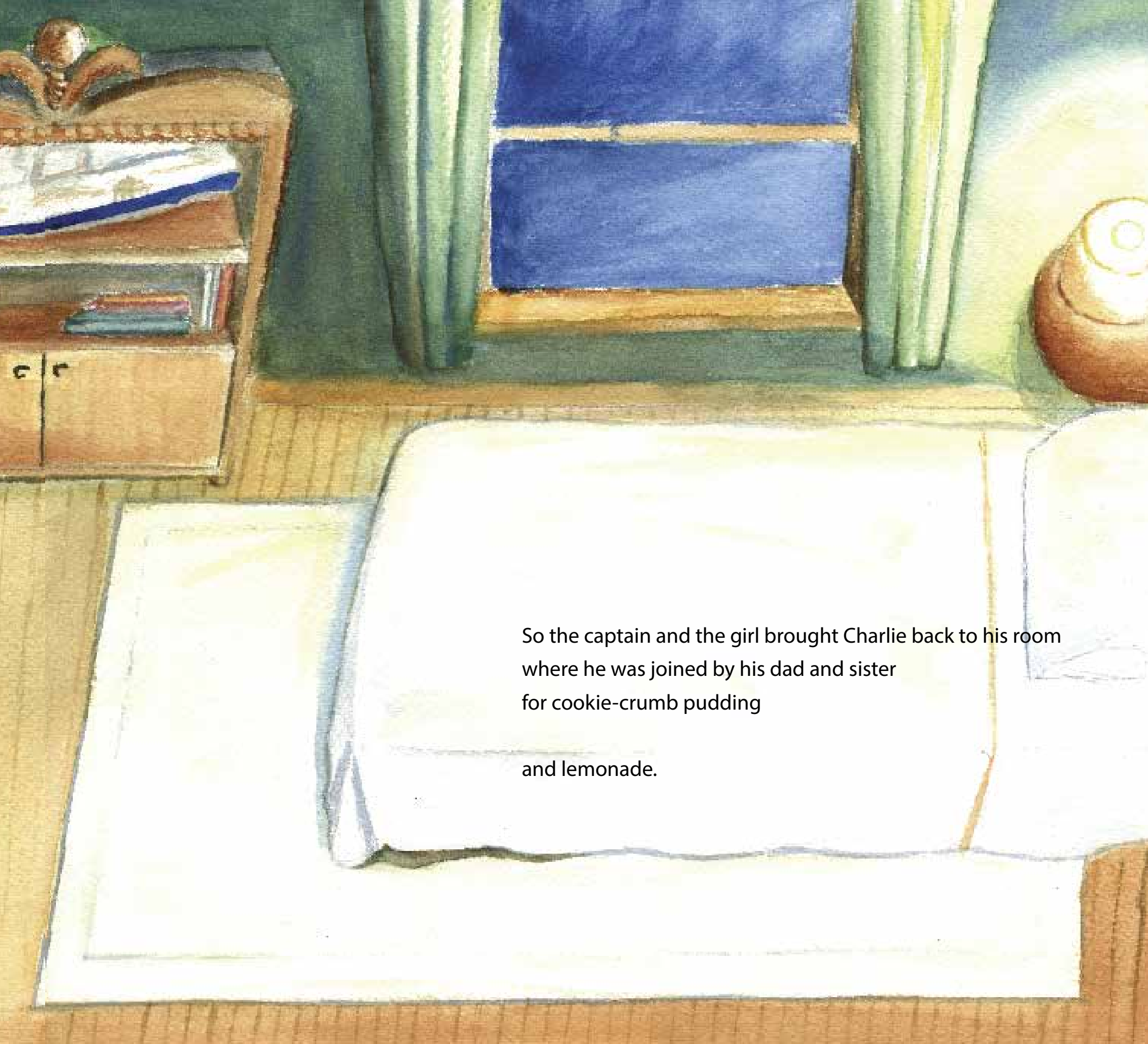


So Charlie and his new friend gathered all the crushed lemons and squeezed the juice into jars, adding just the right amount of sugar and water so the drink was sweet yet tart.

And the puny, but ferocious monster climbed out of the lady's ear,
fell, landing on his feet, and burrowed down into the ground.







So the captain and the girl brought Charlie back to his room
where he was joined by his dad and sister
for cookie-crumb pudding
and lemonade.