



# There's a Fire on the Mountain

Julie Smith-Belton   Kirsty Paxton   Nadene Reignier

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There's a Fire on the Mountain

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with the help of the Book Dash participants in the Virtual Book Dash on 15 May 2021.

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# There's a Fire on the Mountain

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My friends and I  
have a game we  
like to play.


"There's a fire on the mountain.  
Run, run! Kukh'umlilo kwezontaba.  
Baleka, baleka!"





Then one day there was a real fire on the mountain. It was a terrible fire that burned and burned.



A stylized illustration of a yellow helicopter with a blue roof and black windows, flying over a large fire. The helicopter is dropping a red bucket of water onto the flames. The fire is depicted with large, flowing shapes in shades of orange, yellow, and purple. Thick, dark grey smoke billows from the fire, filling the upper portion of the scene. The background is a light, textured grey.

Big, old buildings burned, books  
burned, trees and grasses  
burned. Helicopters tipped  
water onto the fire and brave  
firefighters  
blasted their hoses.



And people did run. They grabbed their books  
and bags and ran away from the smoke and  
the flames.



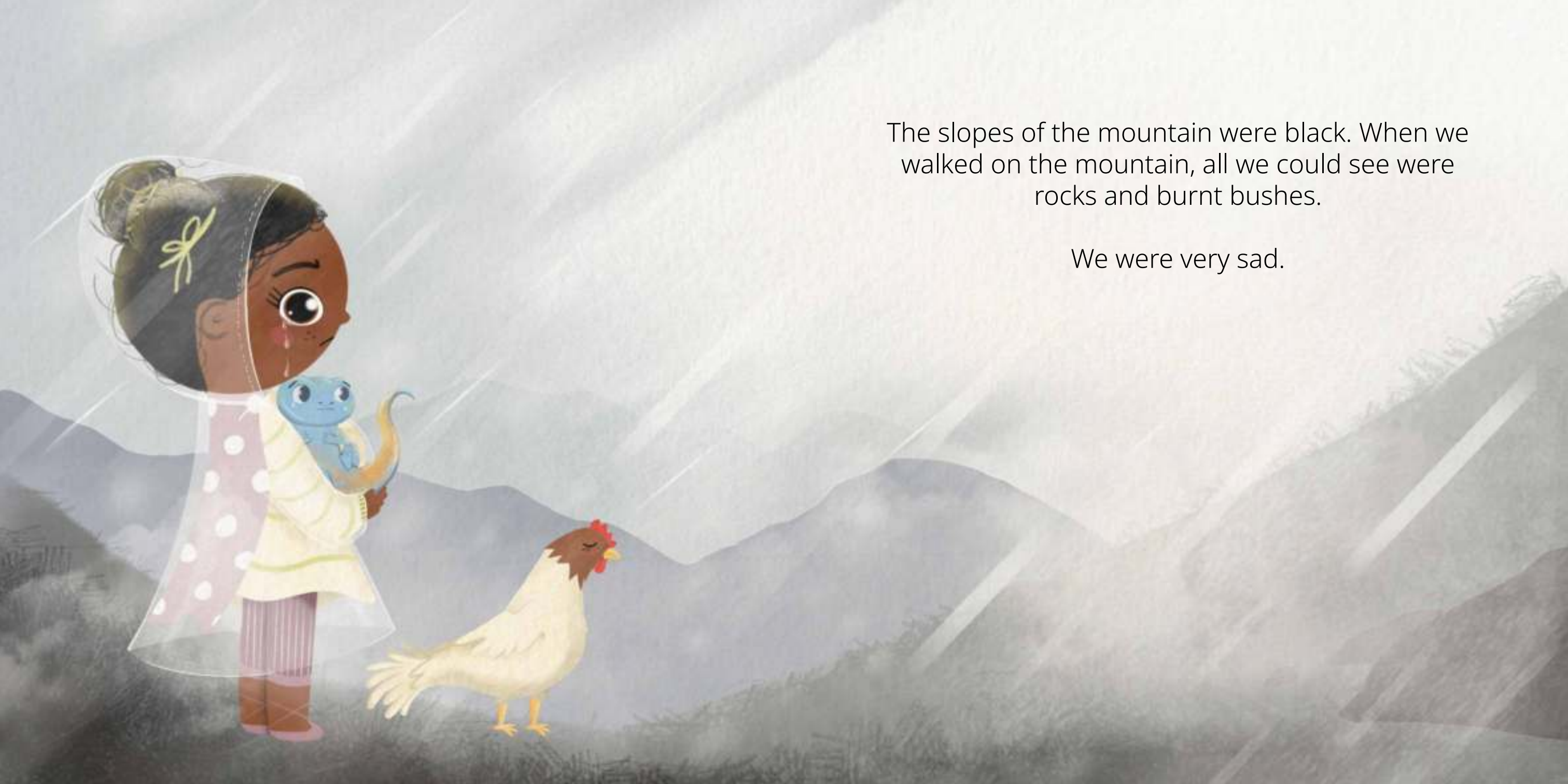




After three long days, the  
last flames were out.

The firefighters could finally rest.





The slopes of the mountain were black. When we  
walked on the mountain, all we could see were  
rocks and burnt bushes.

We were very sad.





Until one day ... tiny bits of red  
popped up through the black.

“Look, look. What is that?”





The little bits of  
red grew  
and grew  
until they became  
beautiful fire lilies, tall  
and elegant with  
drooping red  
bells for flowers.



Then came the big, red flowers bursting through the green like volcanoes. They looked like thick red tubes with yellow-topped spikes and big, red petals.

Dots of green grew up all over the mountainside, turning the black into green grasses and restios.



Then there were asparagus ferns unfolding in wet patches after the rain.



And the tall  
watsonia  
in orange  
and pink.



Soon the mountainside was  
covered with plants we hadn't  
seen for years.





The mountain is full of new life!







