

# The Journey

by Francesca Sanna

3 0067 00116 3354

MOJLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY



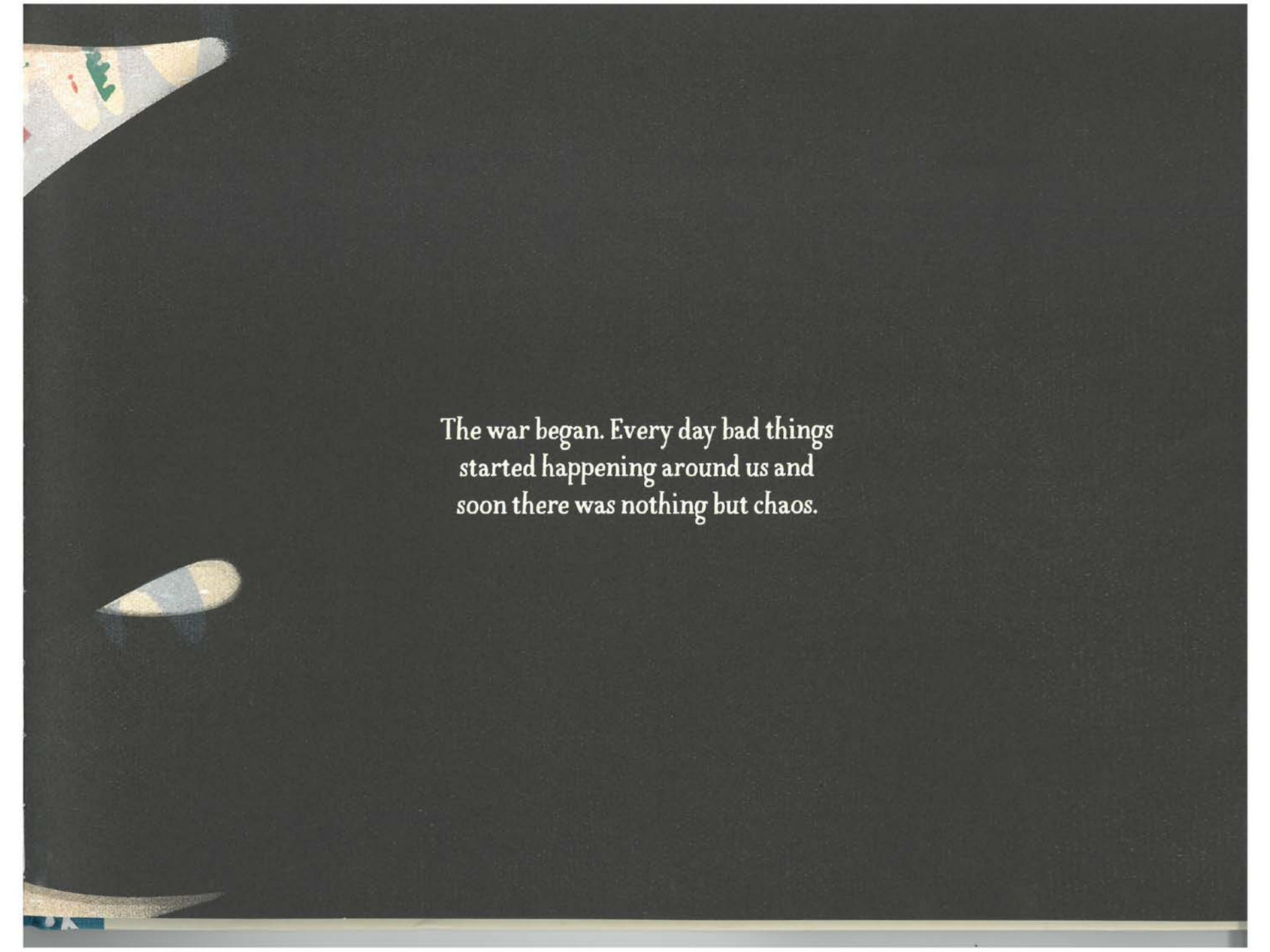
Flying Eye Books

I live with my family in a city close to the sea. Every summer we used to spend many weekends at the beach. But we never go there anymore, because last year, our lives changed forever...









The war began. Every day bad things  
started happening around us and  
soon there was nothing but chaos.

And one day the war took my father.



Since that day everything has become darker  
and my mother has become more and more worried.









The other day, one of my mother's friends told her that many people are leaving. They are trying to escape to another country. A country far away with high mountains.





“What is this place?” we ask our mother.

“It is a safe place,” she tells us.

“And where is this place?” we ask again.



She shows us pictures of strange cities, strange forests and strange animals until she finally sighs, "We will go there and not be frightened anymore."





We don't want to leave but our mother tells us it  
will be a great adventure. We put everything we have  
in suitcases and say goodbye to everyone we know.



We leave at night to avoid being seen...





and keep moving for many days.



The further we go...



the more we lea





We finally arrive at the border.



It is an enormous wall  
and we must climb over it!

But, oh NO!

“You are not allowed to  
cross the border. Go back!”  
shouts an angry guard.

We have nowhere to go  
and we are very tired.





In the darkness the noises  
of the forest scare me.






But mother is with us  
and she is never scared.  
We close our eyes and  
finally fall asleep.

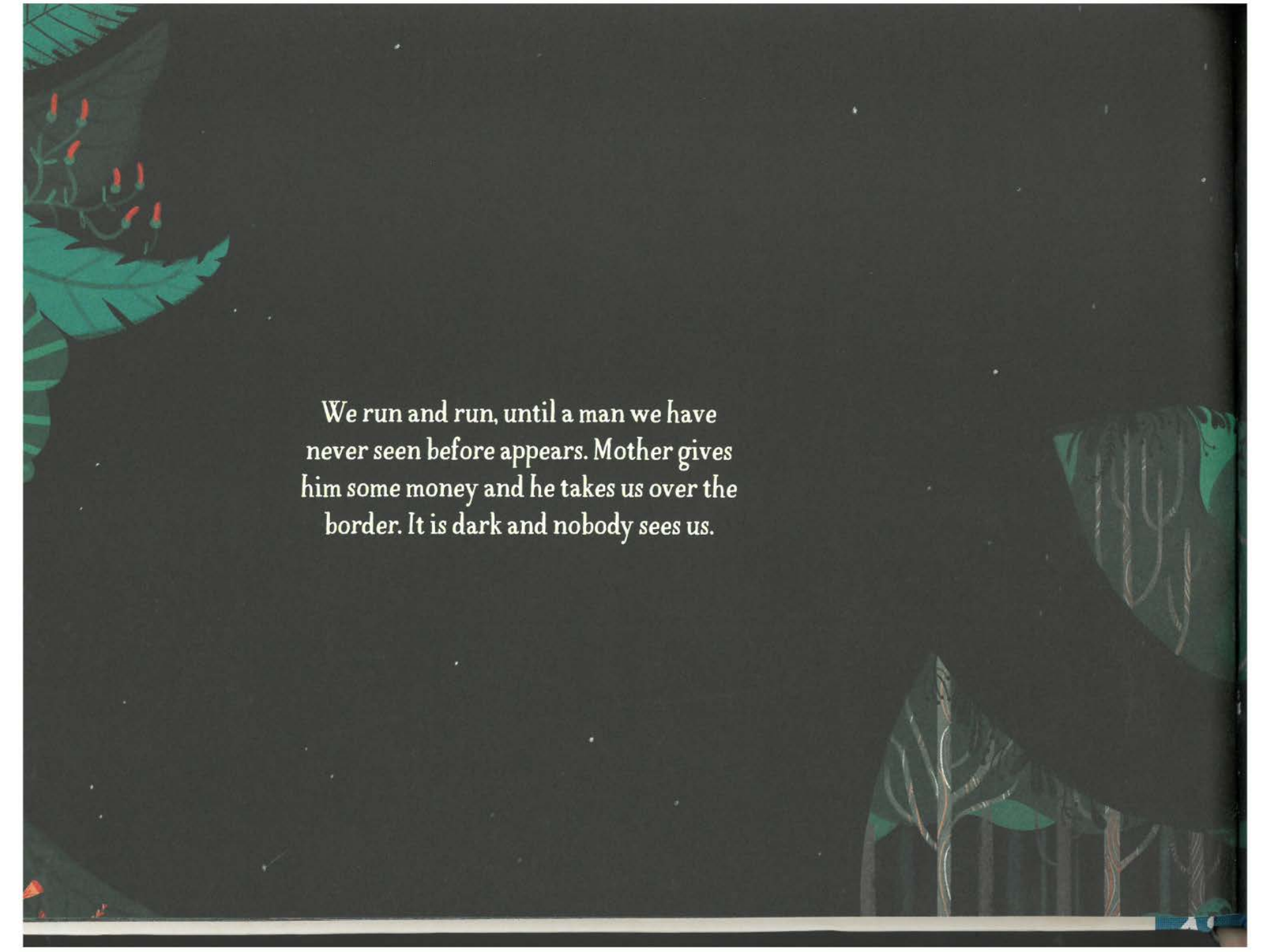




Shouting wakes us up. It's the guards!  
They are looking for us and we must hide.

A dark, dense forest scene with large green leaves and a mushroom. The scene is dimly lit, with a small mushroom on a tree trunk in the upper left. In the center, a character with white skin and black hair is visible, looking towards the left. Below them, another character with white skin and black hair is visible, looking towards the right. The forest floor is covered in large, dark green leaves and ferns. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and slightly ominous.

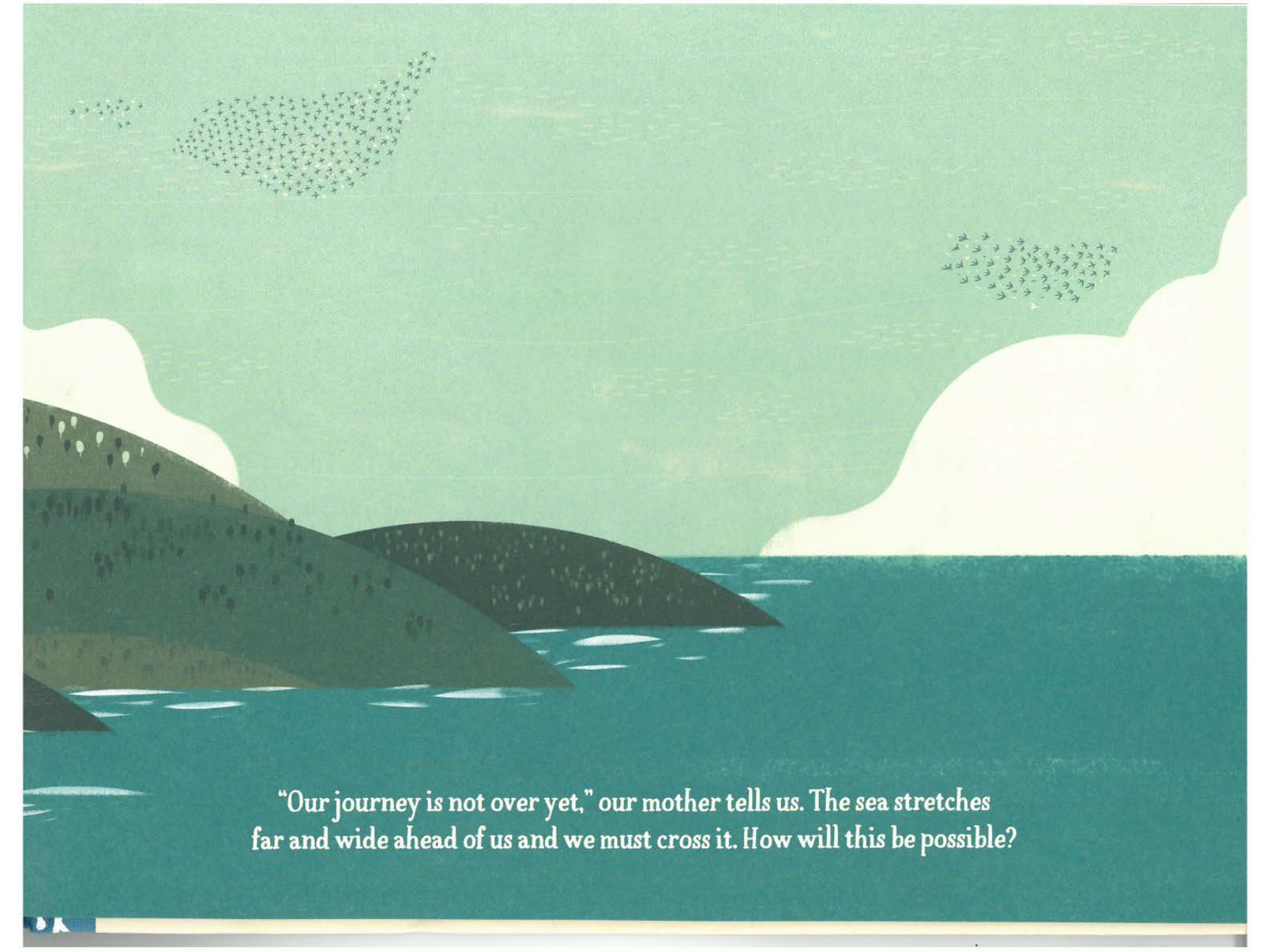
“Quick! This way,”  
whispers our mother.



We run and run, until a man we have never seen before appears. Mother gives him some money and he takes us over the border. It is dark and nobody sees us.







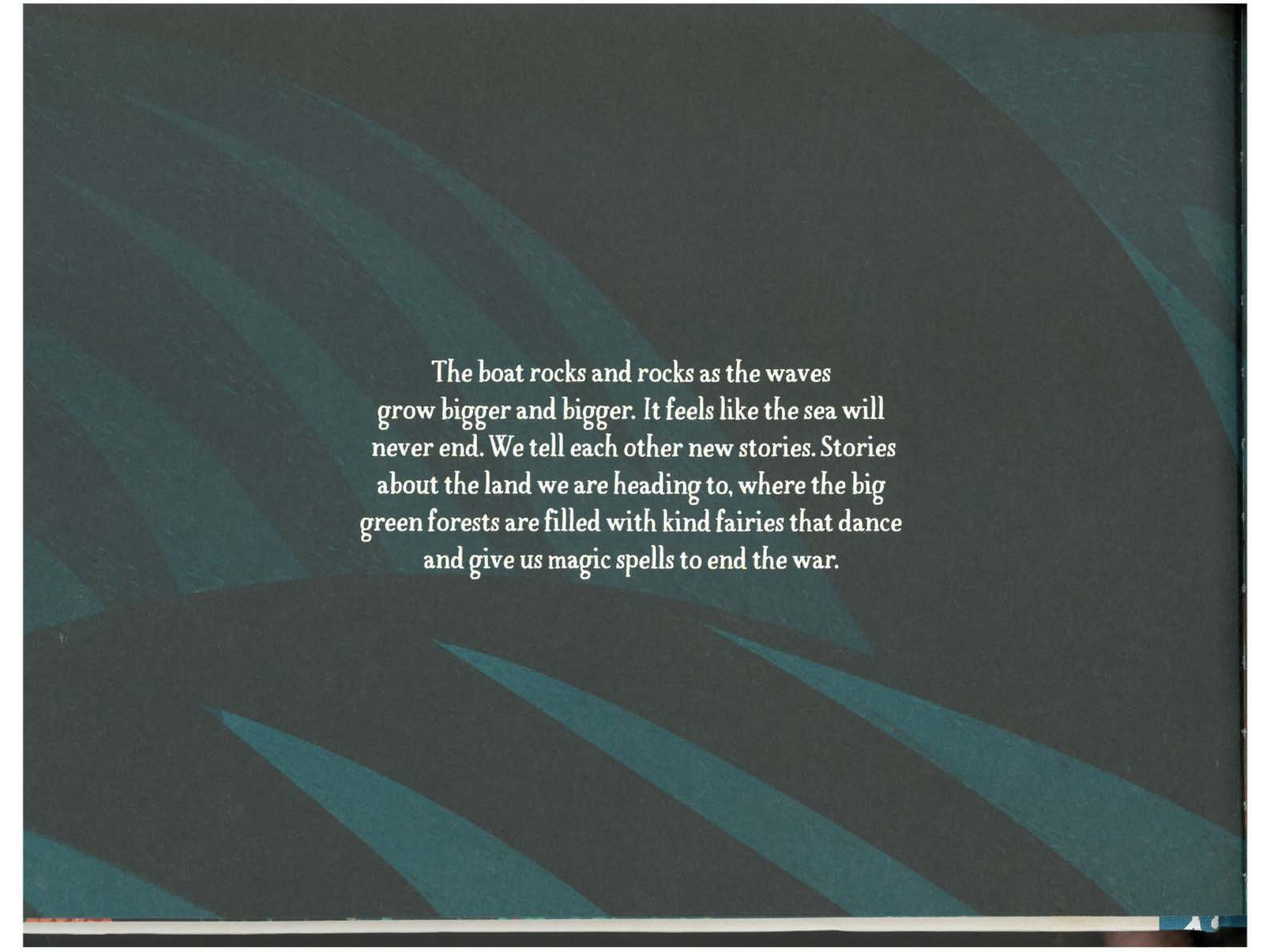
“Our journey is not over yet,” our mother tells us. The sea stretches far and wide ahead of us and we must cross it. How will this be possible?





We have boarded a ferry with so many people!  
There is not much space and it rains every day,  
but we tell each other stories. Tales of terrible and  
dangerous monsters that hide beneath our boat,  
ready to gobble us up if the boat capsizes!





The boat rocks and rocks as the waves  
grow bigger and bigger. It feels like the sea will  
never end. We tell each other new stories. Stories  
about the land we are heading to, where the big  
green forests are filled with kind fairies that dance  
and give us magic spells to end the war.






As the sun rises, we see land for the first time in days. The boat rocks  
silently to shore. Our mother tells us we are very lucky to still be together.

“Is this the place where we will be safe?” we ask.

“It is close,” she says with a tired smile.





We travel for more days and more nights, crossing many borders.



2



From the train I look up to the birds that seem to be following us...



They are migrating just like us. And their journey  
is very long too, but they don't have to cross any borders.

I hope, one day, like these birds, we will find a new home.  
A home where we can be safe and begin our story again.









## Author's note

"The Journey" is actually a story about many journeys, and it began with the story of two girls I met in a refugee centre in Italy. After meeting them I realized that behind their journey lay something very powerful. So I began collecting more stories of migration and interviewing many people from many different countries. A few months later, in September 2014, when I started studying a Master of Arts in illustration at the Academy of Lucerne, I knew I wanted to create a book about these true stories. Almost every day on the news we hear the terms 'migrants' and 'refugees' but we rarely ever speak to or hear the personal journeys that they have had to take. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them.

Amnesty International UK endorses *The Journey* because it reminds us that we all have the right to a safe place to live. For free teaching resources about refugees, including classroom notes on *The Journey*, go to:

[www.amnesty.org.uk/education](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/education)