



BABOON

Kate Banks • Pictures by Georg Hallensleben

Baboon

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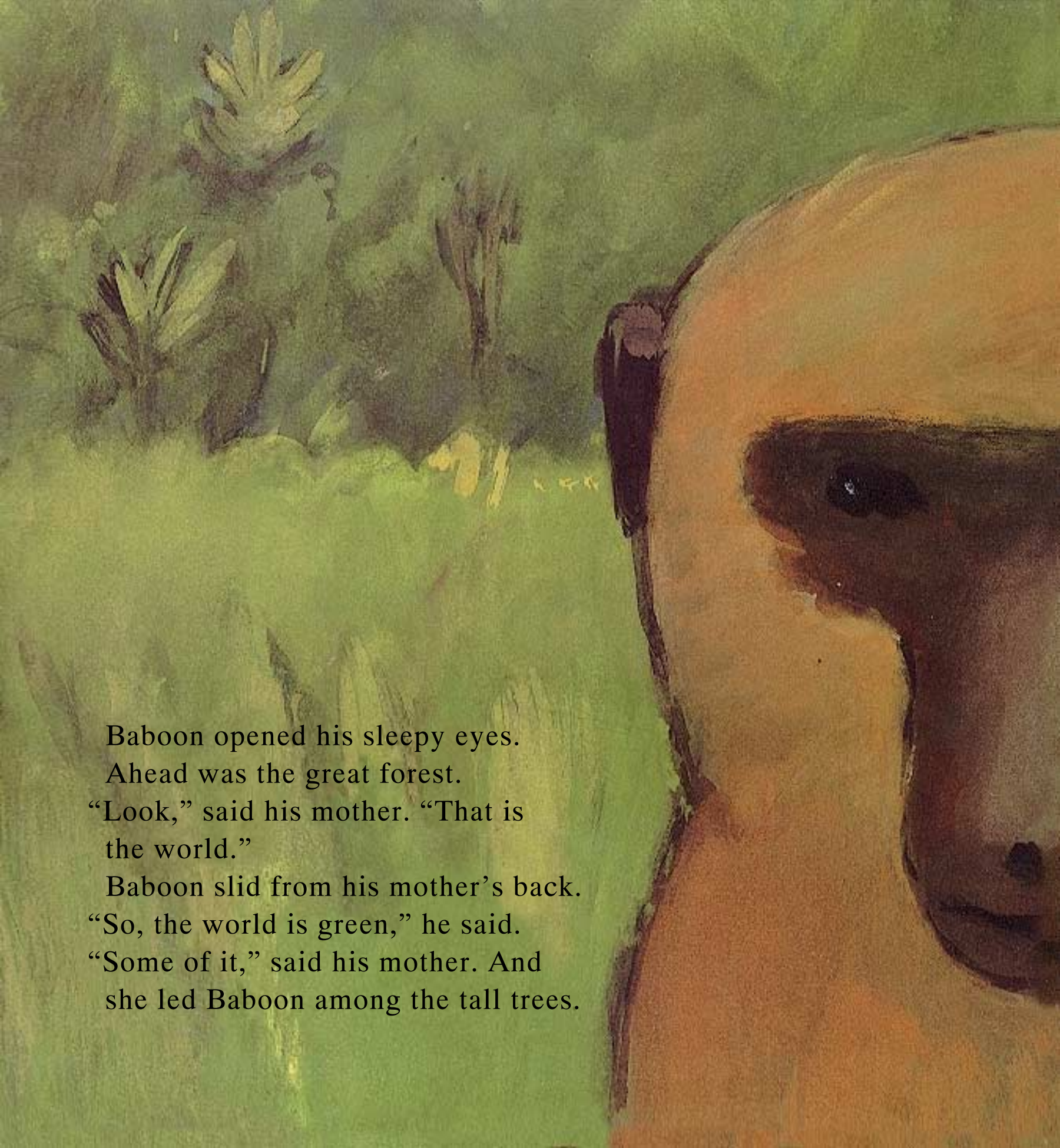
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The background is a painting of a savanna landscape. In the middle ground, two elephants are visible, one on the left and one on the right, both facing right. The landscape is filled with green grass and trees. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured shape, possibly the back of a baboon, is visible on the left side. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

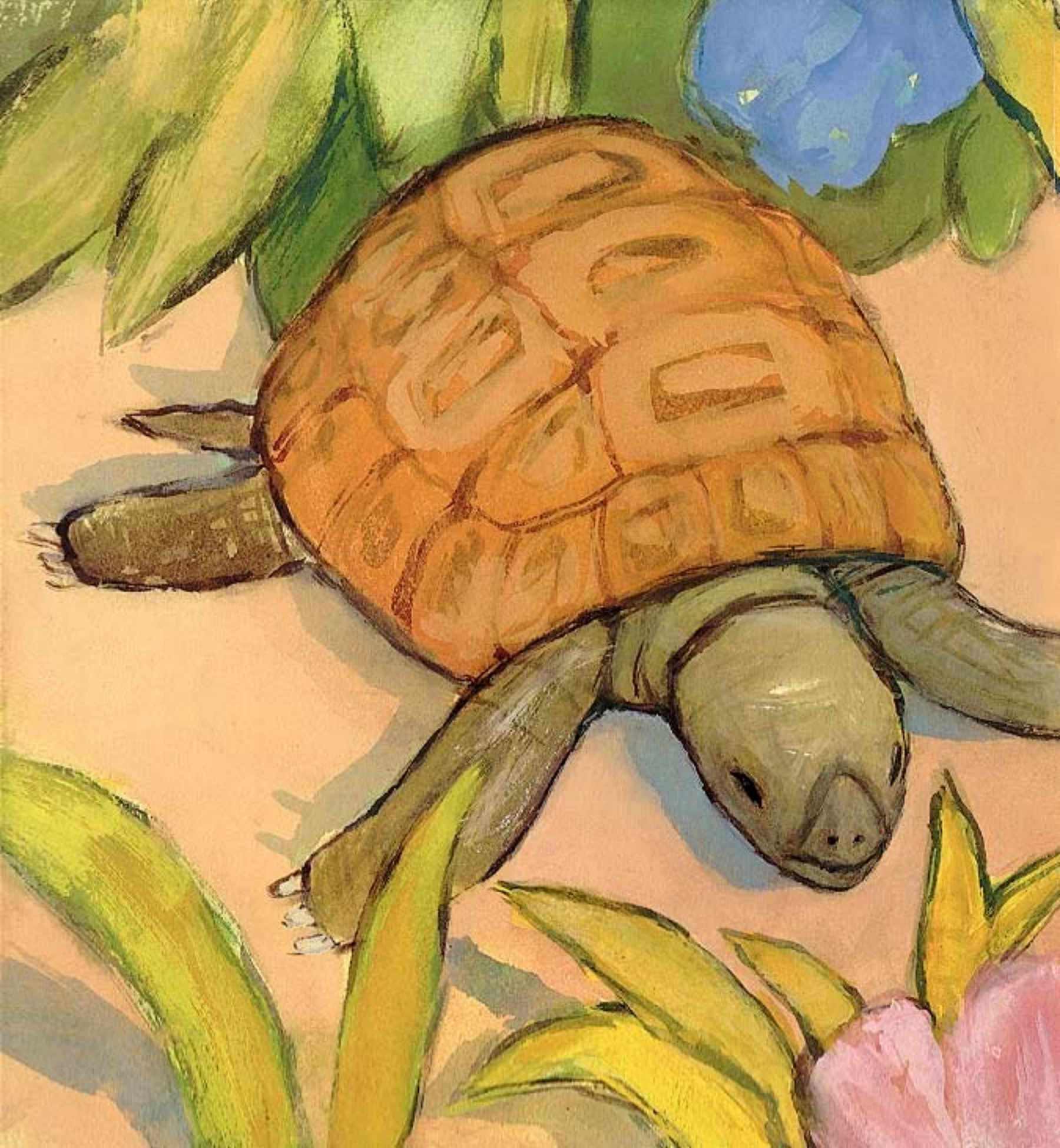
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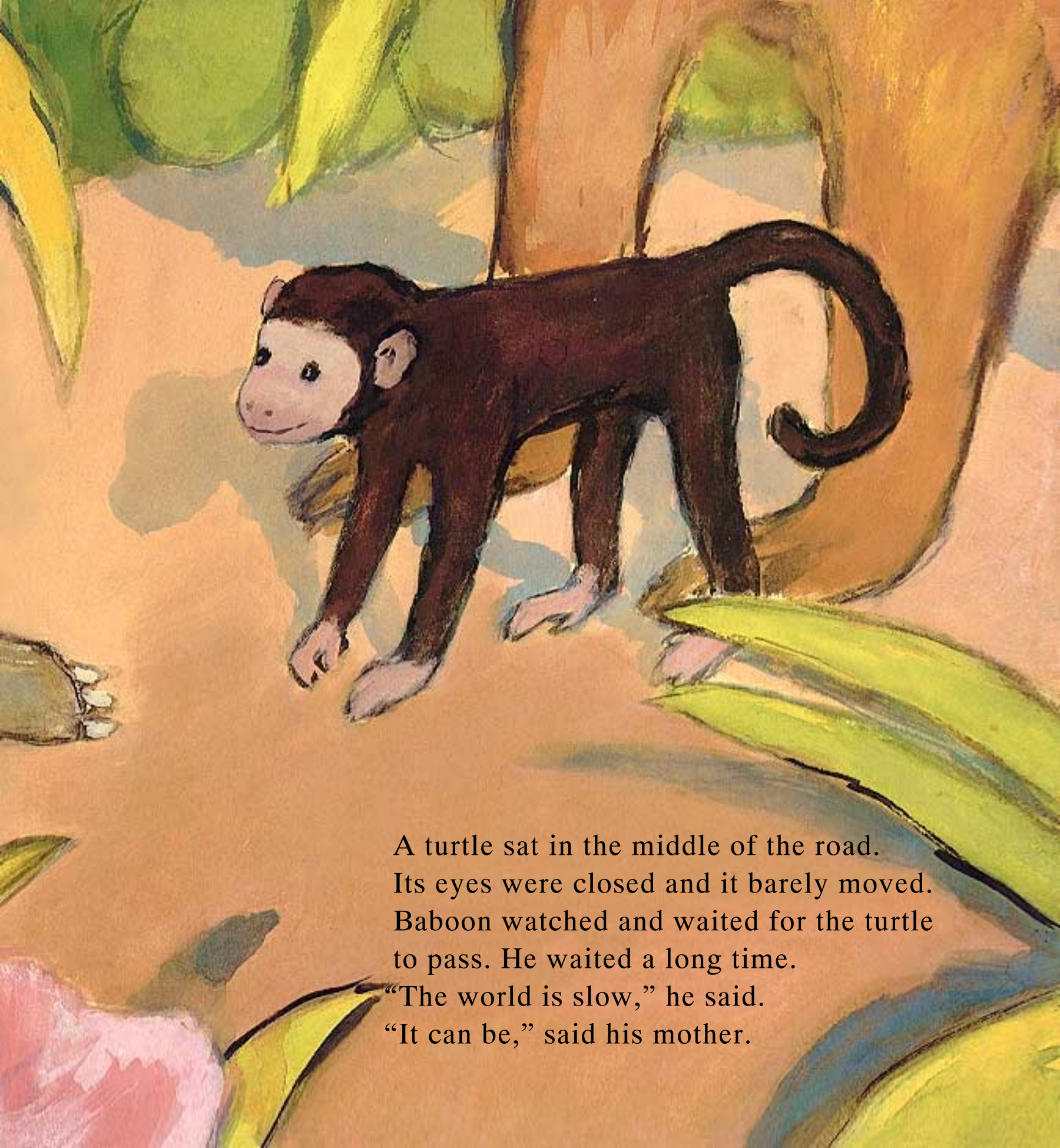
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A painting of a baboon's face in profile, looking towards a green forest. The baboon's face is rendered in warm, earthy tones of orange and brown, with a dark eye and a small, dark nose. The background is a lush, green landscape with various trees and foliage, suggesting a forest or savanna environment. The style is painterly and textured, with visible brushstrokes and a soft, atmospheric quality.

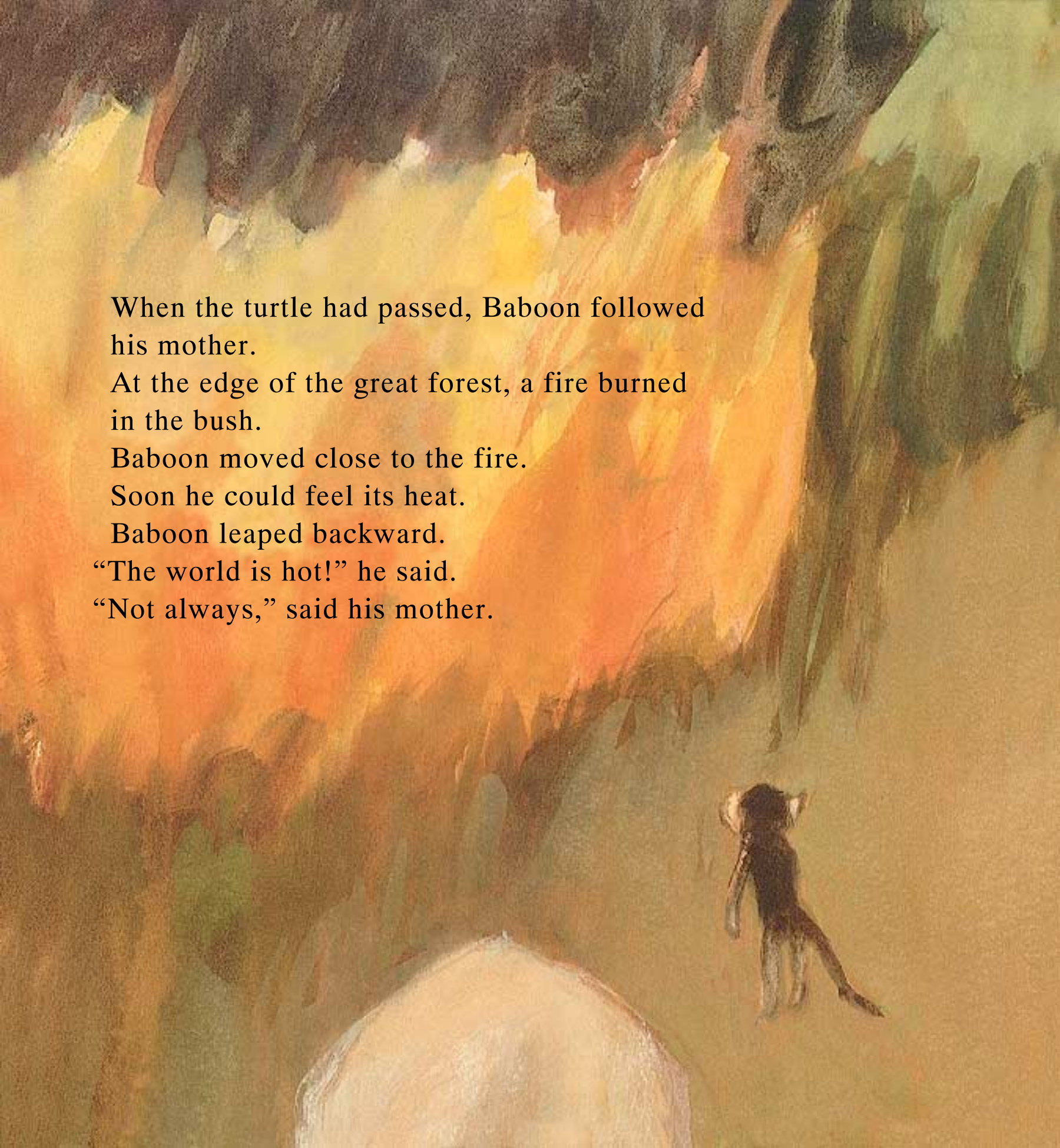
Baboon opened his sleepy eyes.
Ahead was the great forest.
“Look,” said his mother. “That is
the world.”
Baboon slid from his mother’s back.
“So, the world is green,” he said.
“Some of it,” said his mother. And
she led Baboon among the tall trees.





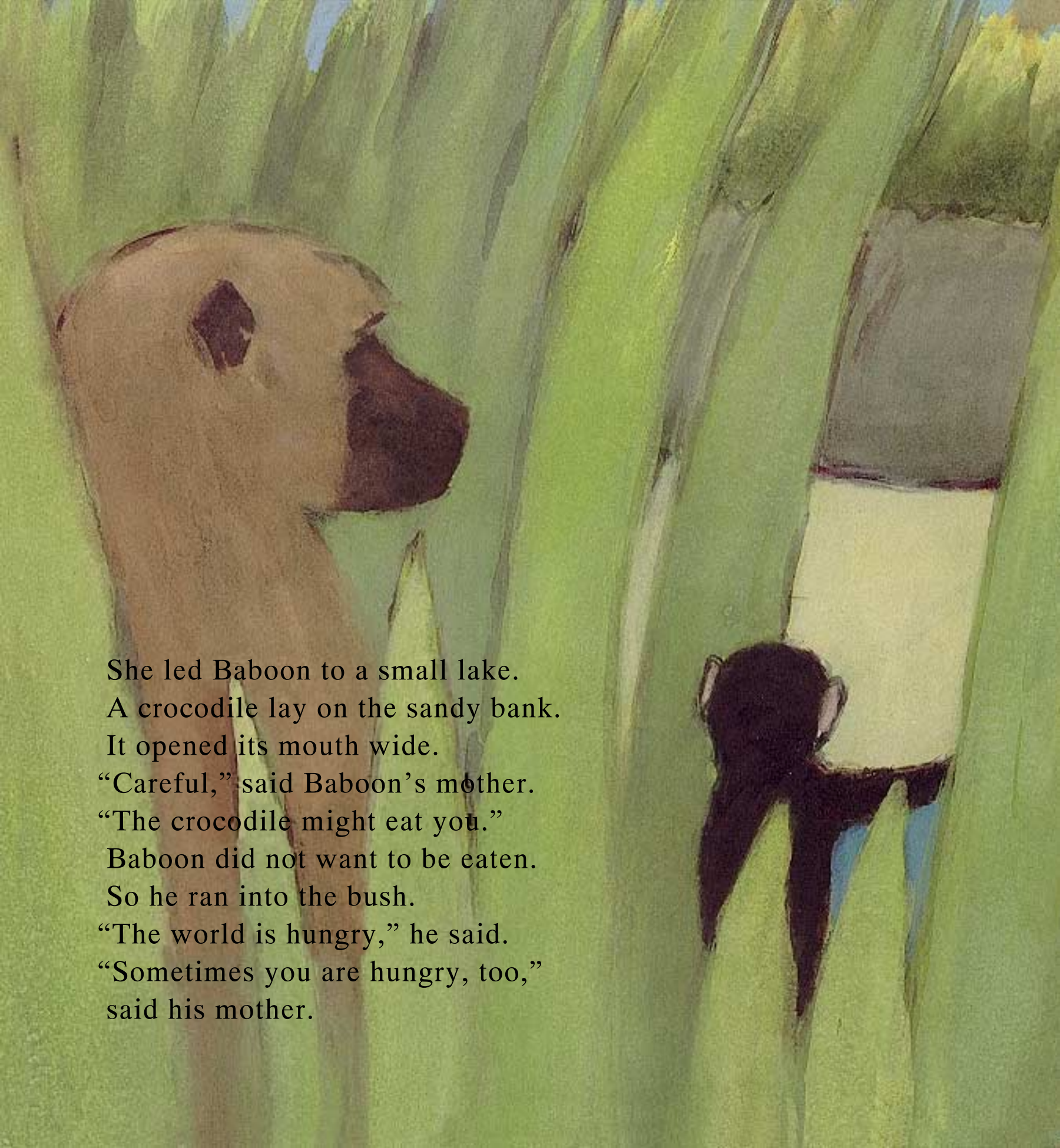


A turtle sat in the middle of the road.
Its eyes were closed and it barely moved.
Baboon watched and waited for the turtle
to pass. He waited a long time.
“The world is slow,” he said.
“It can be,” said his mother.

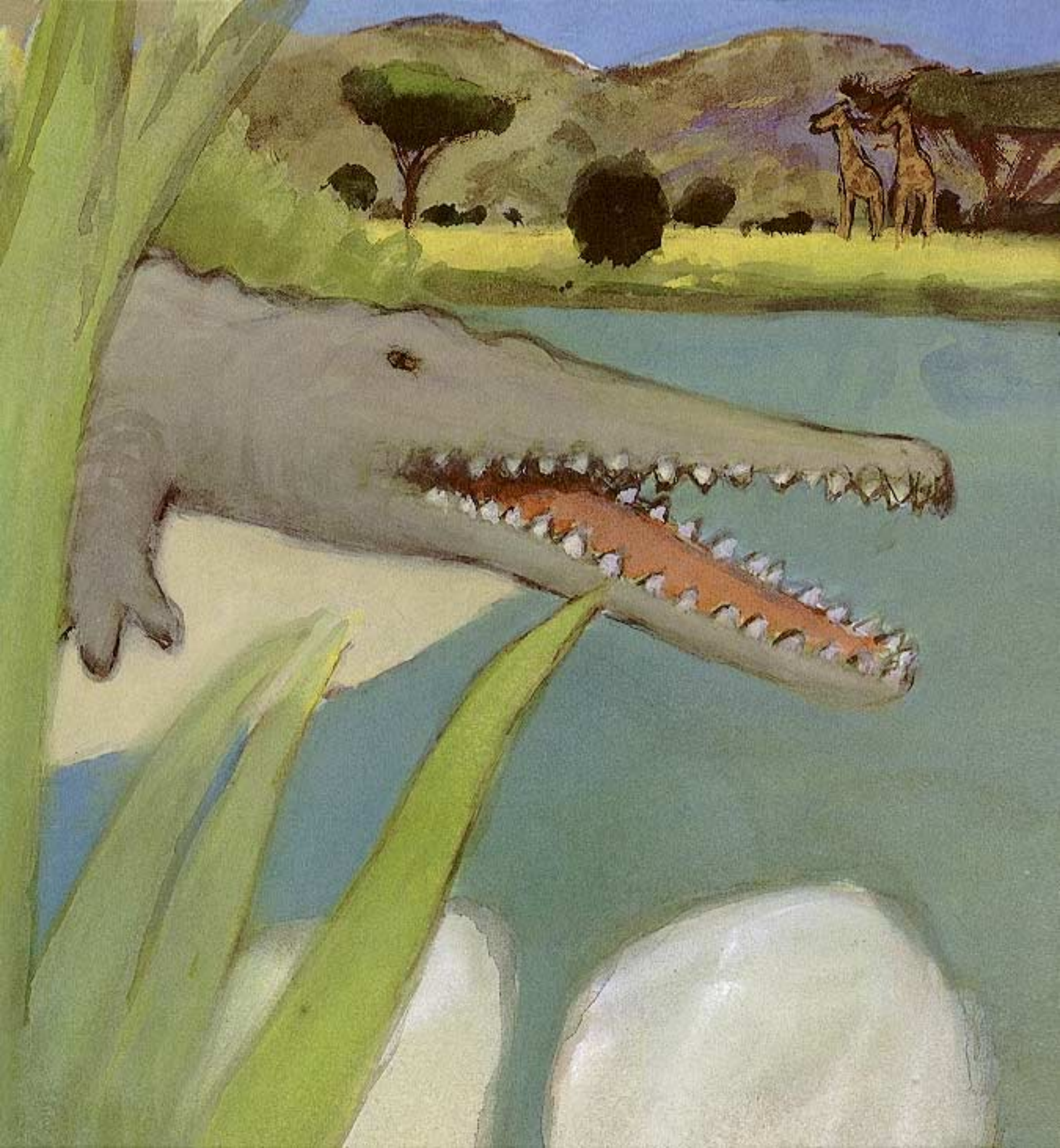
A painting depicting a scene in a forest. In the foreground, a large, bright fire burns, casting a warm glow. A baboon is visible in the lower right, looking towards the fire. The background shows dark, dense foliage. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette of oranges, yellows, and greens.

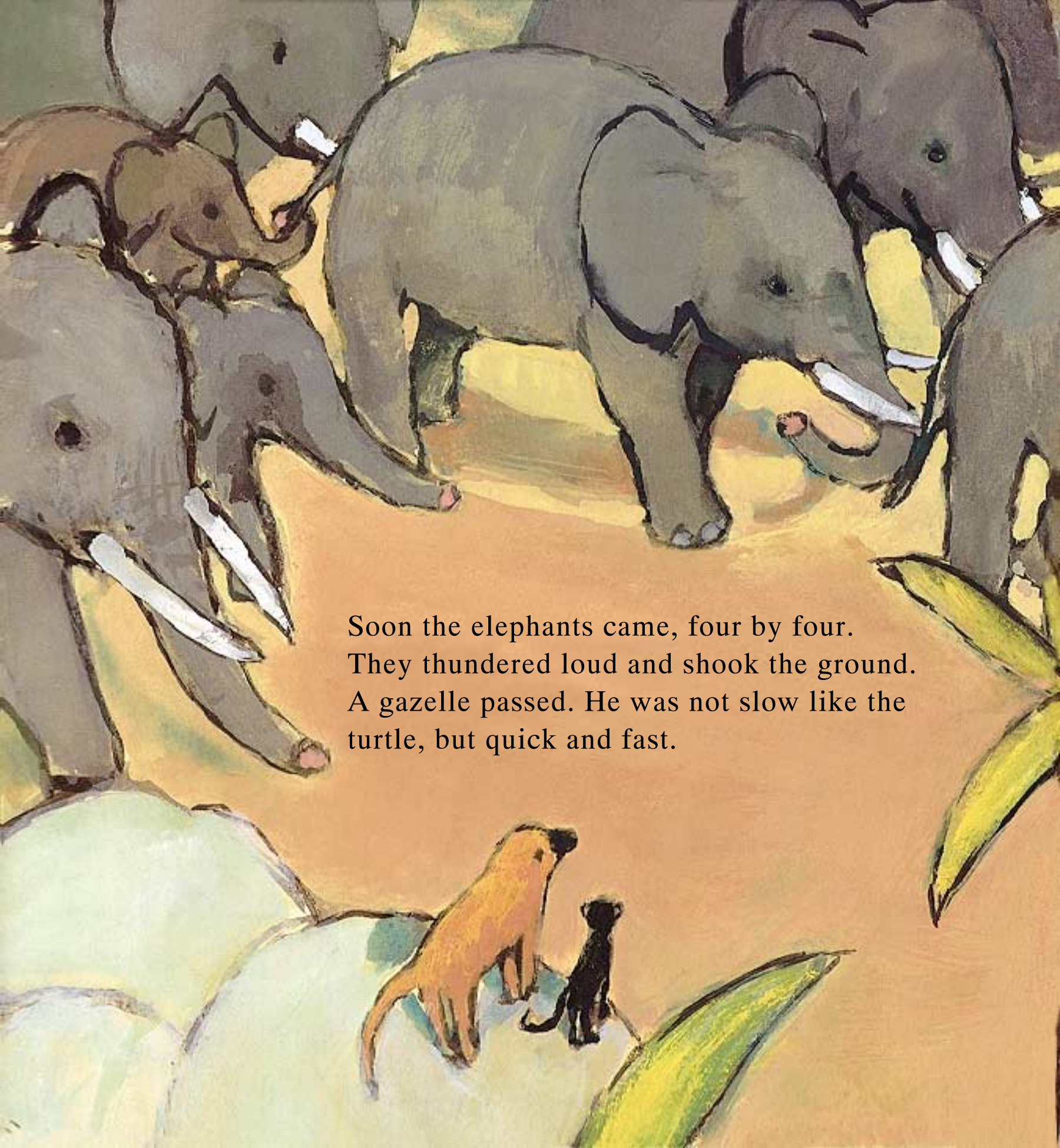
When the turtle had passed, Baboon followed
his mother.
At the edge of the great forest, a fire burned
in the bush.
Baboon moved close to the fire.
Soon he could feel its heat.
Baboon leaped backward.
“The world is hot!” he said.
“Not always,” said his mother.



A painting of a baboon and a monkey in a forest. The baboon is on the left, looking towards the right. The monkey is on the right, looking towards the left. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green foliage. The style is expressive and somewhat abstract, with visible brushstrokes and a muted color palette.

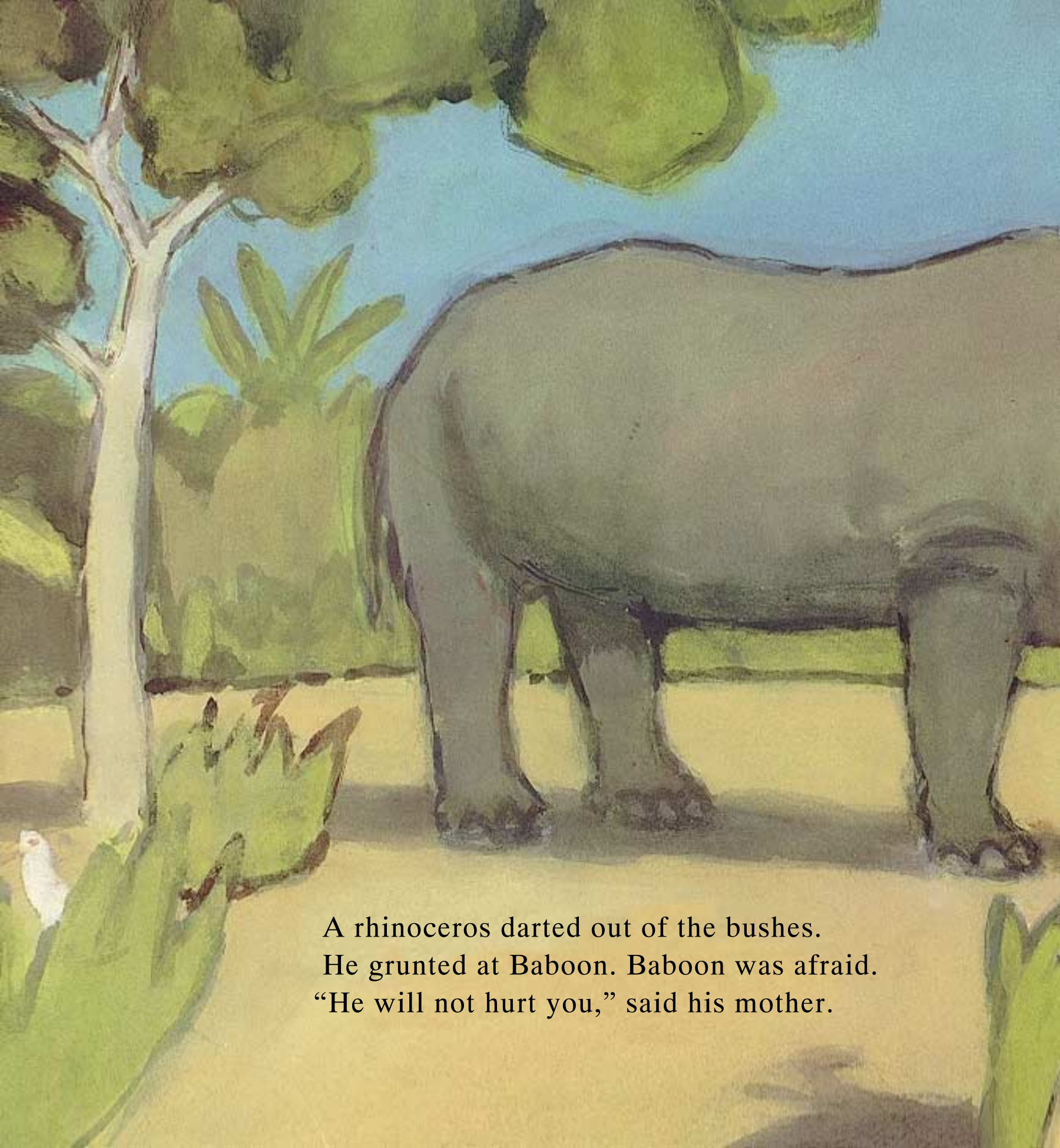
She led Baboon to a small lake.
A crocodile lay on the sandy bank.
It opened its mouth wide.
“Careful,” said Baboon’s mother.
“The crocodile might eat you.”
Baboon did not want to be eaten.
So he ran into the bush.
“The world is hungry,” he said.
“Sometimes you are hungry, too,”
said his mother.



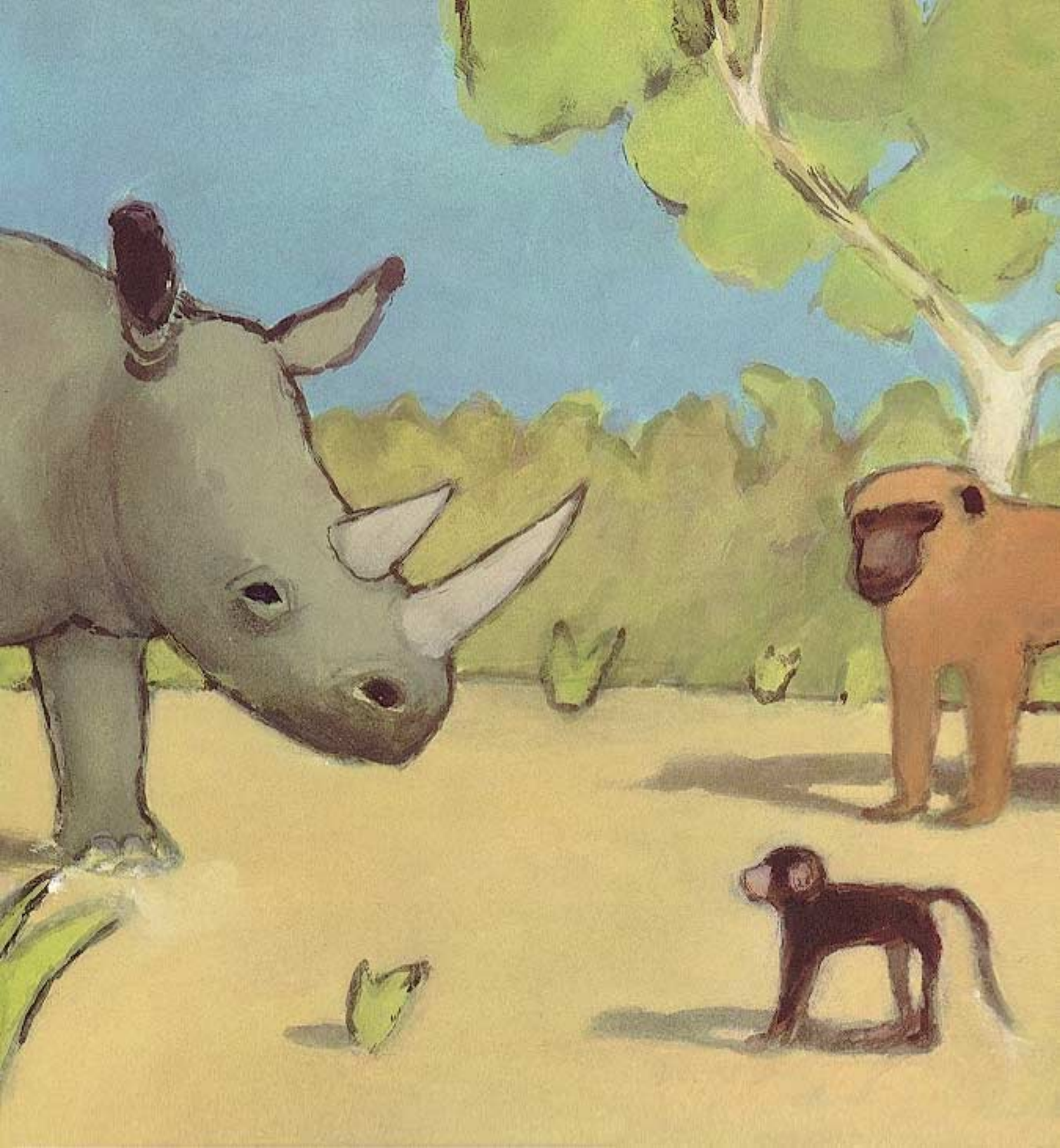


Soon the elephants came, four by four.
They thundered loud and shook the ground.
A gazelle passed. He was not slow like the
turtle, but quick and fast.





A rhinoceros darted out of the bushes.
He grunted at Baboon. Baboon was afraid.
“He will not hurt you,” said his mother.



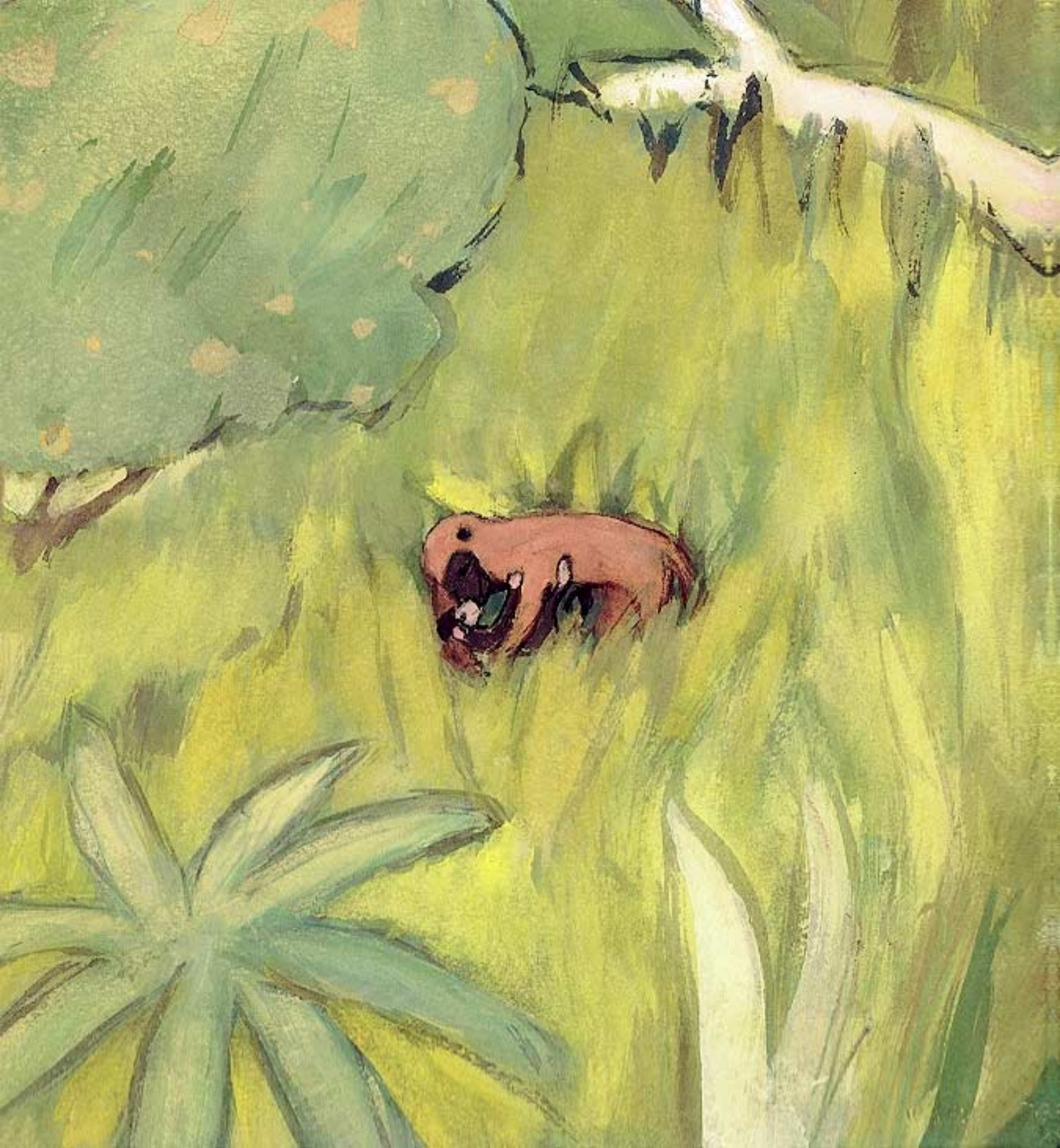


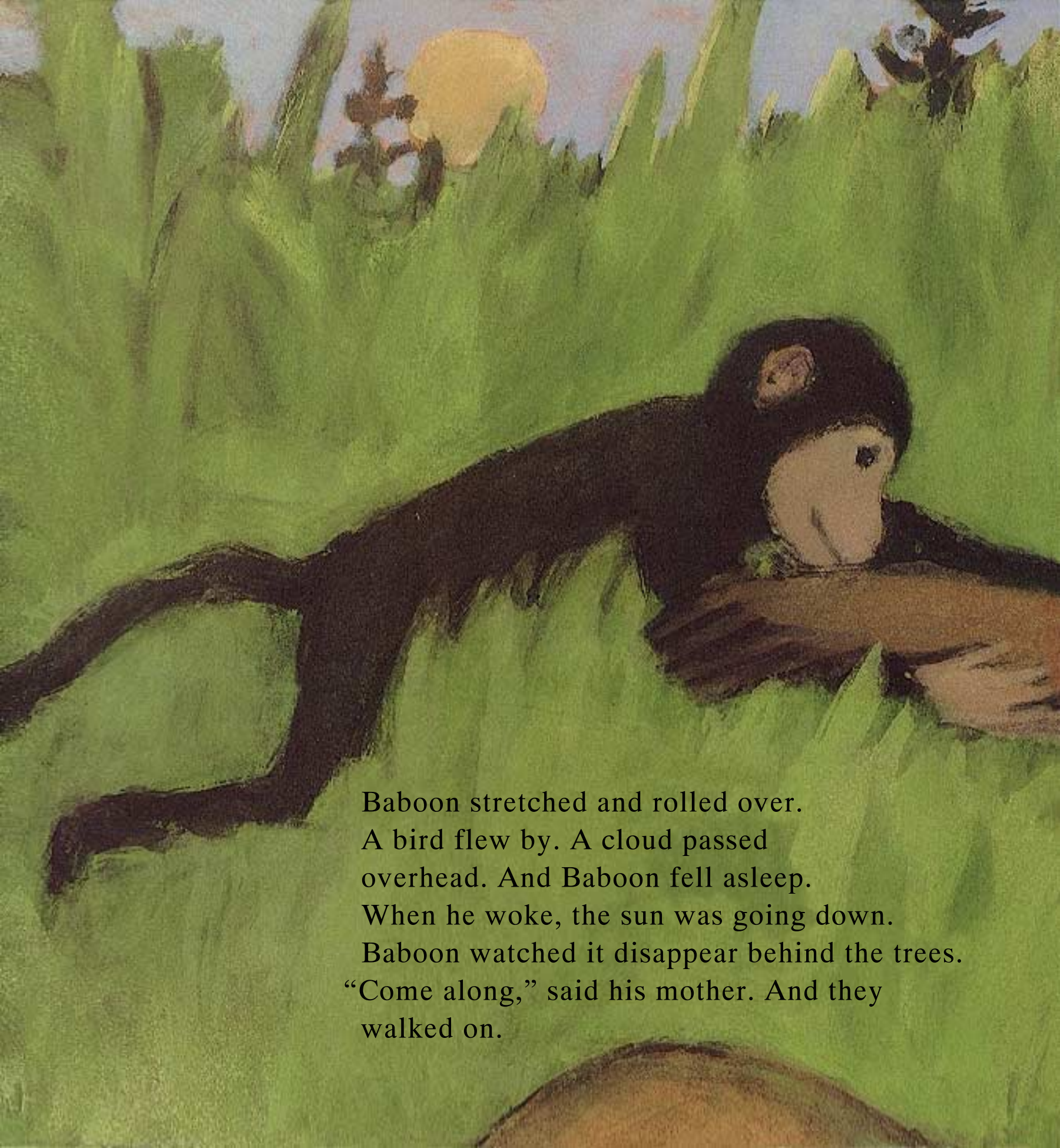
Baboon took his mother's hand, and they started across a field.

Baboon hid in the tall grass.

His mother hid, too. When they found each other, they lay down, side by side.

"The world is soft," said Baboon. And he was happy.





Baboon stretched and rolled over.
A bird flew by. A cloud passed
overhead. And Baboon fell asleep.
When he woke, the sun was going down.
Baboon watched it disappear behind the trees.
“Come along,” said his mother. And they
walked on.



A painting with a textured, painterly style. On the left, a large, light-brown tree trunk extends vertically. In the center, a small, dark brown monkey stands on a horizontal branch, looking towards the right. In the bottom right corner, the head and neck of a larger, light-brown baboon are visible, looking towards the monkey. The background consists of rolling green hills under a pale, hazy sky. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

Baboon followed his mother up
a tree.

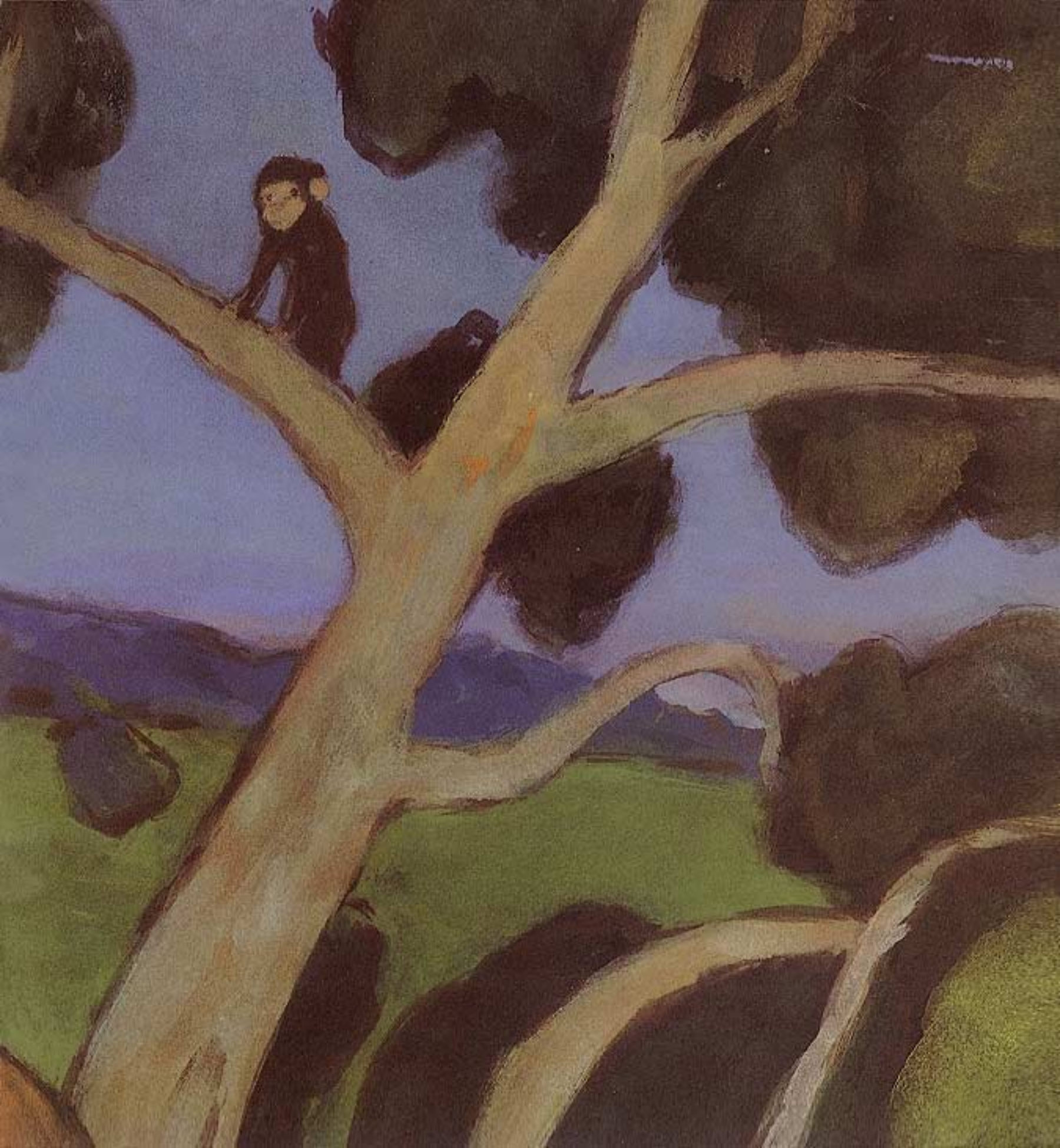
Across from him sat a monkey.
He was like Baboon.

“Is he the world, too?” asked Baboon.

“He is,” said his mother. “Just as
you are.”

Baboon watched quietly.

Then he followed his mother down
the tree.



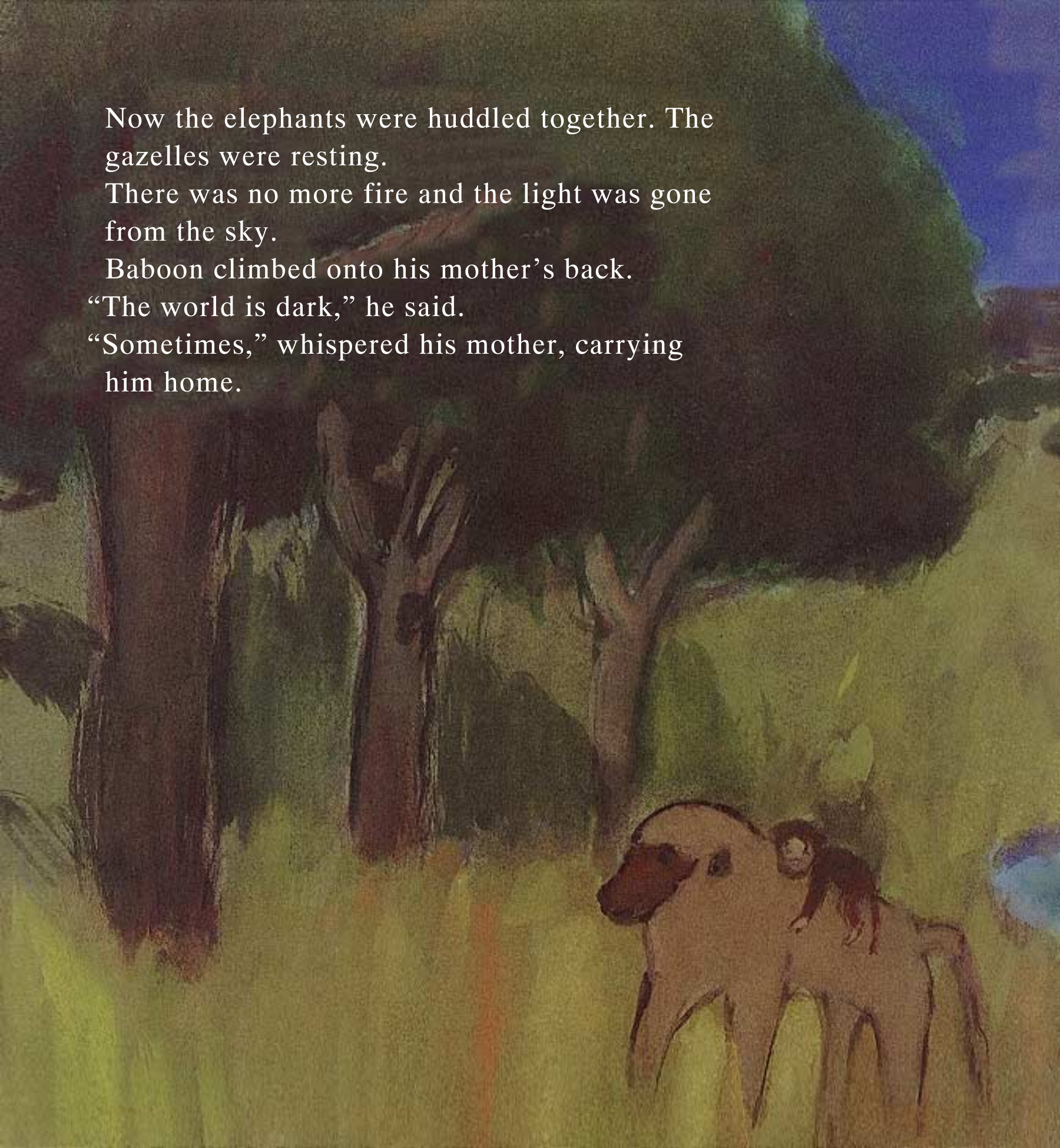
Now the elephants were huddled together. The gazelles were resting.

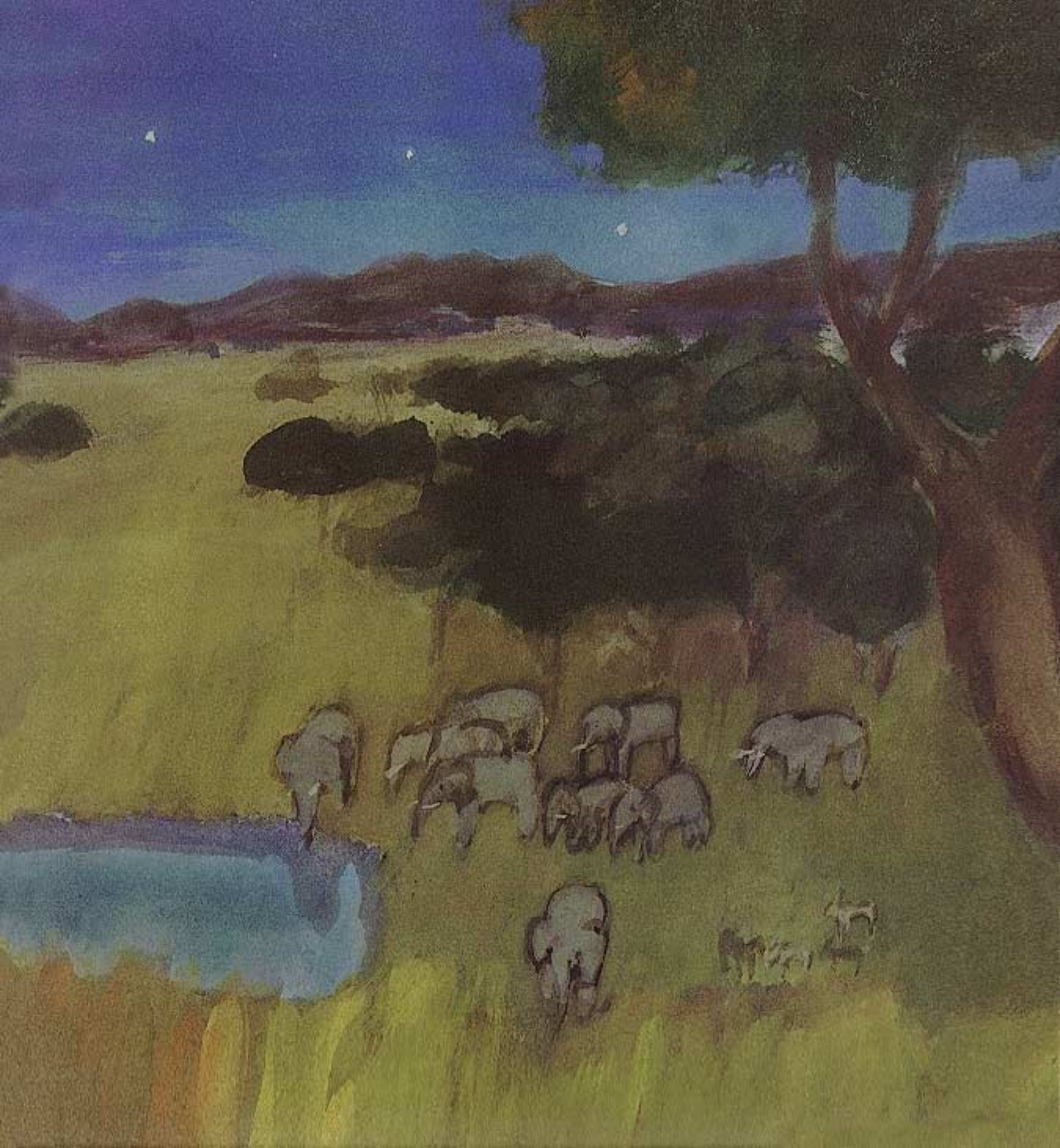
There was no more fire and the light was gone from the sky.

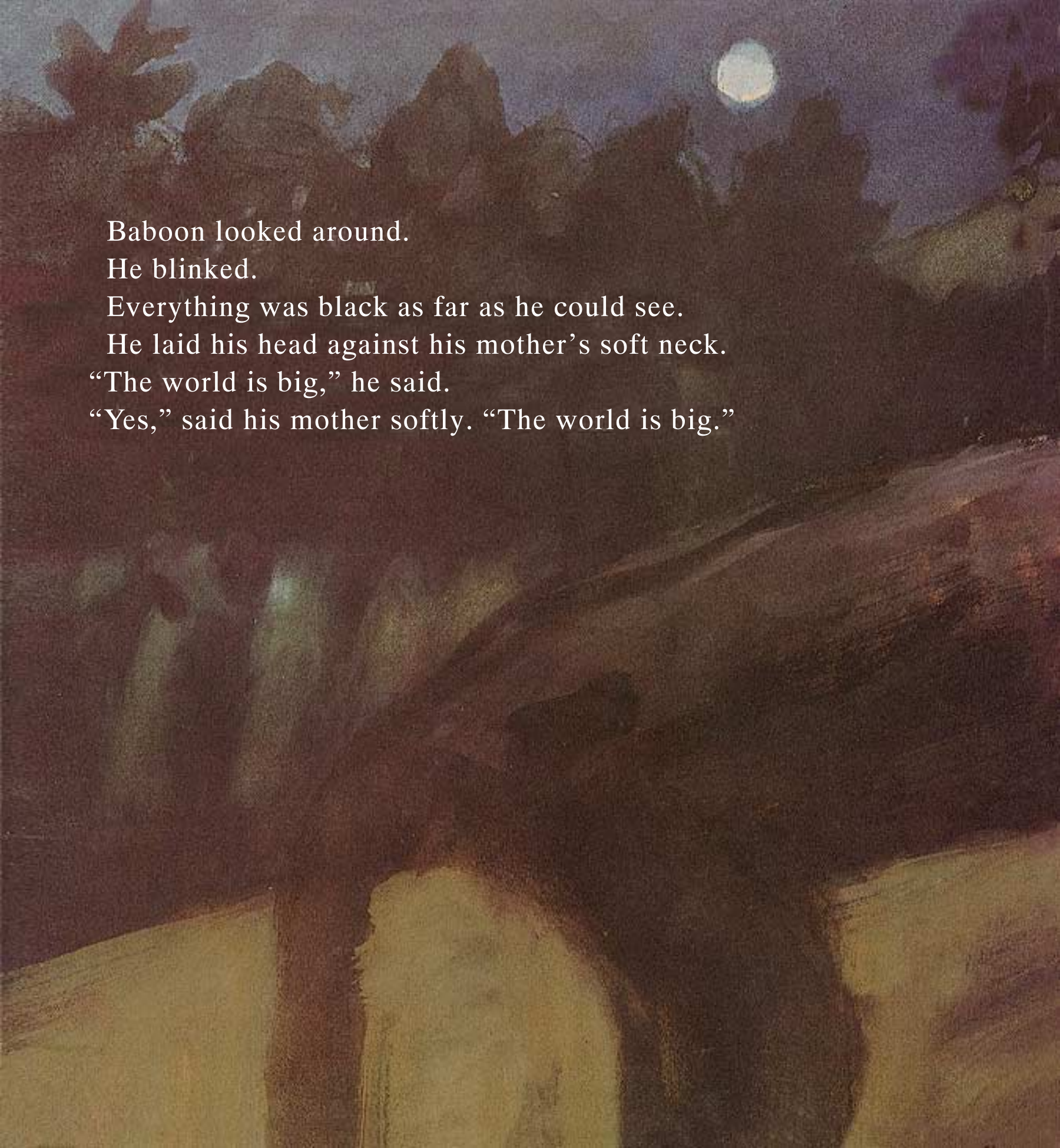
Baboon climbed onto his mother's back.

"The world is dark," he said.

"Sometimes," whispered his mother, carrying him home.





A dark, atmospheric illustration of a night landscape. The sky is a deep, dark blue-purple, with a bright, glowing full moon in the upper right. Silhouetted trees and foliage are visible against the dark sky. The foreground is dominated by dark, shadowy shapes, possibly representing a baboon and its mother, with some lighter, textured areas suggesting a ground surface or a path. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

Baboon looked around.
He blinked.
Everything was black as far as he could see.
He laid his head against his mother's soft neck.
"The world is big," he said.
"Yes," said his mother softly. "The world is big."

