



*Mouse's*  
**FIRST**  
*Valentine*

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**E**arly one morning,  
big sister Minka  
sneaked into the house...



A purple mouse with closed eyes and a small grey mouse in a doorway. The purple mouse is in the foreground, looking towards the right. The grey mouse is in the background, standing in a doorway. The background is a mix of red and purple colors.

*and so did little Mouse!*

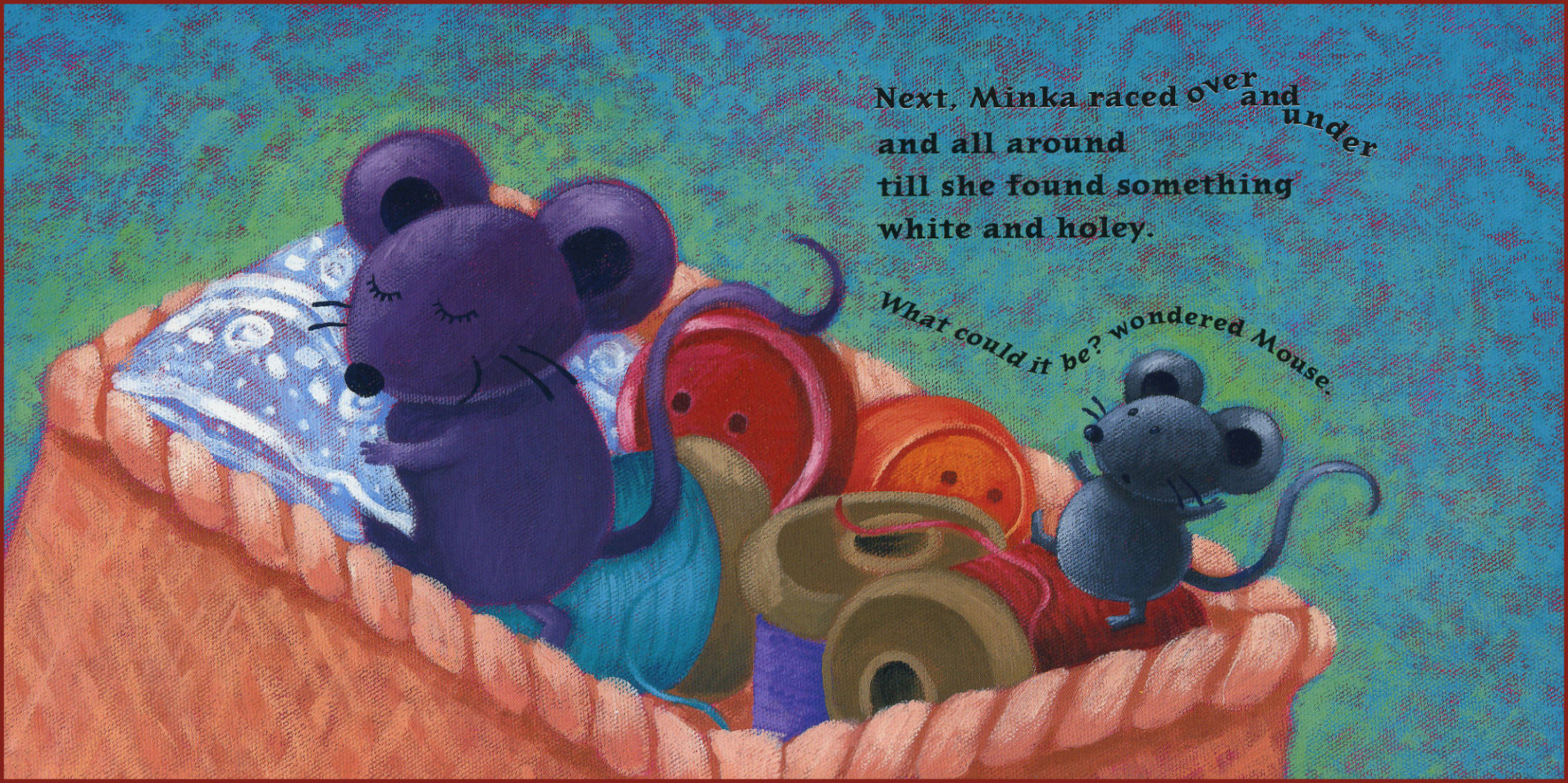
First, Minka creeped high and low  
and all around  
till she found something  
smooth and rosy.



What could it be?  
wondered Mouse.

**"Red paper!" said Minka.  
"Just what I need."**





Next, Minka raced *over and under*  
and all around  
till she found something  
white and holey.

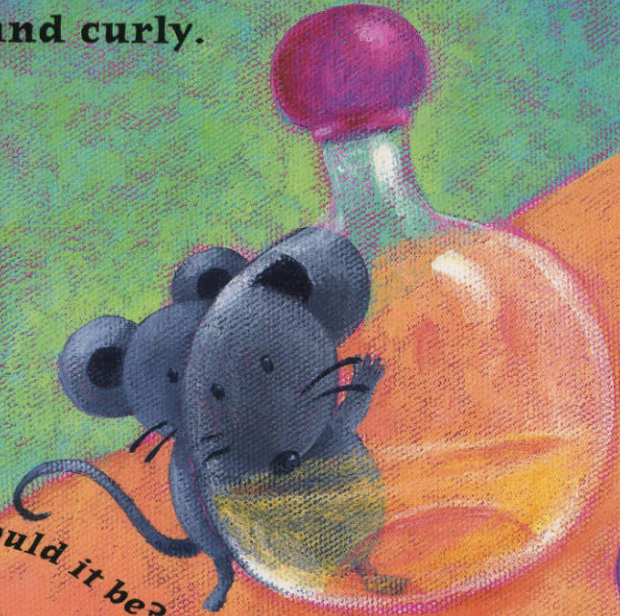
*What could it be?* wondered Mouse.

"Lace!" said Minka.  
"Just what I need."



Now Minka leaped **here... there**  
and all around  
till she found something  
shiny and curly.

*What could it be? wondered Mouse.*





**"Ribbon!" said Minka.  
"Just what I need."**



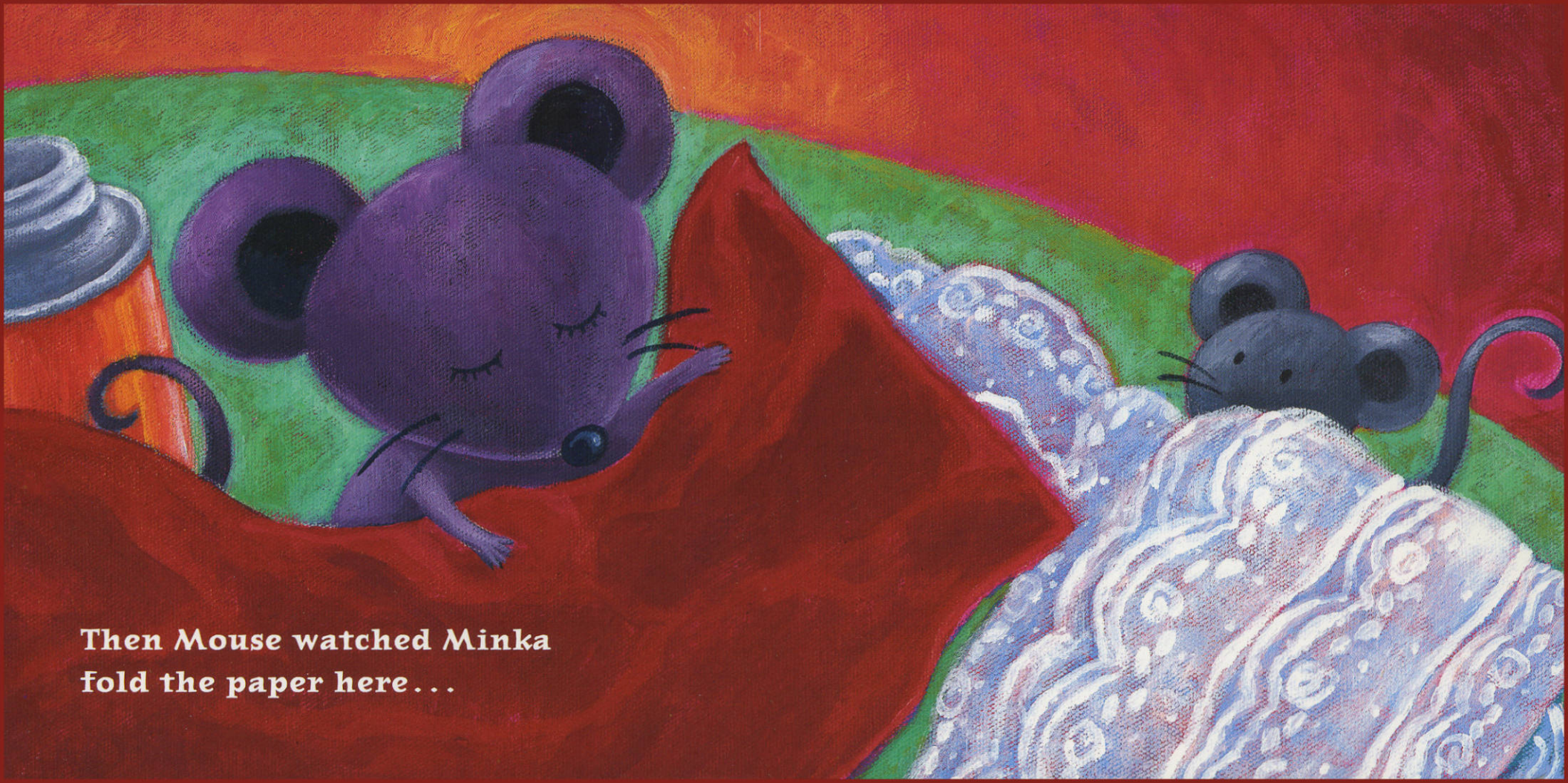
Then Minka peeked inside  
and outside  
and all around  
till she found something  
sticky and goopy.

*What could it be?* wondered Mouse.



**"Paste!" said Minka.  
"Just what I need."**





**Then Mouse watched Minka  
fold the paper here . . .**



and brush  
the paste there...



and smooth  
the lace here...



and tie the ribbon there.

"It's ready!" said Minka.

What is it? wondered Mouse.

**"Little Mouse!" called Minka.  
"This valentine  
is just for YOU  
on Valentine's Day..."**





"because..."



