



# The Noble Wilds

The Supreme Master Ching Hai



# The Noble Wilds

*The Supreme Master Ching Hai*



*"We do not have to use verbal language.  
We communicate in silence.  
We need not talk about love, harmony and peace.  
We live in them."*

*~Pitu*







## "The Noble Wilds" Readers Comments

**Peter Weidhaas, President of the Conference of International Book Fairs and Director of the Frankfurt Book Fair from 1975-2000:** Personally, I think that we don't just live alone on the Earth, but that all creatures, even the plants, are our brothers and sisters that we have to accept. The Earth is our mother, our basis; we come from her and we must return to her again. And that's why we need a lot of reverence for life and for Earth, and these kinds of books help. The book has a nice emotional element, in the illustrations. I wish for the book to find a wide audience and many happy readers.

**So Yeon Park, chairperson of CARE, largest animal protection group in Korea:** This book tells us how these little animals have emotions toward each other, and even have names. We think only humans can have names, but this book says animals can have names as well and communicate with one another. I'm mostly happy and grateful to the author for that point.

**Ms. Iva Belichka, Editor-in-Chief of "Zornitsa" newspaper in Montreal, Canada:** The first book, I read to my daughter Yana, who is 11 years old and she was very delighted by the photos themselves, because she likes drawing very much; and also by the words which are written there.

I do not know the time span in which Master Ching Hai managed to do all this because it is a very great wealth indeed - such photos, such pictures, I really do not know who could make it so professionally, on one hand, and on the other hand - it truly reveals profound things from nature which we have not thought of, we do not think of them.

She is a gifted person and we need to receive more information through her, so I leave this idea to you to share this information with children from a young age.

**Son Ji-Young, Librarian, Pogok Library, Seoul, Korea:** I'm a librarian and I've read countless books, but with this book, from the first page to the last, I could really feel the author put an incredible degree of effort and affection into creating this book. Seeing the pictures and reading the stories, I felt that they are so beautiful and artistic.

Also the contents of the book have informed me of the nobleness of the wilds and of the incredible secrets never known before.

**Kim Young-Kyu, Korean regional military administration:** I read "The Noble Wilds" not long ago. I was greatly happy to hear that the book became #1 bestseller at Amazon.com recently, and I sincerely send my congratulations for this achievement as the top bestseller. Before reading this book, I thought that humans are the lords of all creation and reign over all animals, but through the book, I realized that the animal world also has a realm of sensitivity, which is even more noble than that of humans. So, I came to think a lot that we should not rule or reign over animals from now on. I wholeheartedly thank Supreme Master Ching Hai, the author of this book, and, I hope it can be translated into Korean quickly so that this book can be read by many people.

**Jenny Tamas, Director of Grey Haven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, Vancouver, Canada:** I think it is absolutely fantastic. It is a very calming book. The pictures are wonderful. It gives you a warm feeling when you look through this book. And you know that each and every one of these, these little God's creatures are so very delicate and we have to go with respect, when we are visiting them, and this book has been wonderful and it shows you that.

**Director Xu, East Regions, Department of European Affairs:** Her book describes clearly that it's in a very pure, natural, genuine and pristine environment that She interacted with the wild animals. Together with this experience, there's a sentence in her book. It is her quote here. She mentioned that in the animal kingdom. Just like us size doesn't matter and virtues count like everywhere else. Even I personally have the same feeling and conclusion. That is, for every living being, if you use your love to live together and interact together, it will give back to you and make you feel that it is exactly the same like us, a living individual. To love those so-called other living beings is actually to love ourselves.

**Iranian book publisher:** It's a very nice book, it's well done, the design is perfect and if you read the sentences, they are talking to you. As a publisher I think it's a good example to learn from, especially the design and how they have prepared the book.

**Reader in Israel:** The pictures create a direct contact with God, maybe even the Supreme Master. It's pure enjoyment to flip through and see. It's like a type of meditation. Look at these amazing pictures. There is nothing like nature, you can't duplicate it. Doesn't it really make you want to connect the second you see this?

**Korean reader:** Upon opening the book, I felt the author's warm and meticulous love toward living creatures, and it touched me a lot.



**Reader in Israel:** They are professional photographs because it looks like a lot of work to follow the animals, until you find the right time and the correct perspective. When you read the book, you see the Master really communicates with the animals. She understands and brings to light things that people don't know about animals. It's something really amazing! I don't think anyone could have really done it, to really connect with the animals and to listen to what they have to say, to really connect with the animals in a way which we humans communicate with each other. Basically, I think it helps us connect ourselves to nature and also see the unity and direction of God, life in general, from the smallest of beings to human beings and to other animals beyond these.

**Po-Ya Chou, Councilor of Taipei City Council:** "The Noble Wilds" shows us that humans and all other beings can be co-inhabitants in harmony on this planet. What impresses me the most is Master has always been devoted in vegetarianism. In the past my perception on the vegetarian diet was basically for the health reasons. But now I have more understanding; a vegetarian diet is very important and closely related to our environment. We also deeply feel we need to go vegetarian in order to be peaceful with all beings on the Earth. It avoids killing livestock and animals, which is a way to promote peace, not to harm each other, a kind of peaceful culture for co-inhabitation. I admire her very much and would like to follow her example to practice the idea. We all can feel the love and care Master has for all beings.

**Korean reader:** In the book, there is a story about a swan couple, Pitu and Sai Sai, and I felt the way they love each other and raise their children is exactly like that of humans. It's so touching when Pitu plucks all her feathers and lays them on the floor in order to warm their nest, and she even takes care of the babies at the cost of her food and sleep until they become grown-up. I was really touched by the silent communication between a human and animals and also touched to realize that animals also lead a noble life. This book is truly a road map full of love.

**Mr. Bernard Bordenave, Photographer:** I think these kinds of pictures are very much speaking for themselves already, so it shows one thing very necessary, very useful to tell people and to show people how it is very important to take care of nature because people living especially in the city, even people living in the countryside, are not always conscious about the problem of the nature and the animals and everything. So, I think this book is very, very useful.

**Kathleen Hogan, reader from Ireland:** "The Noble Wilds" book by spiritual leader Master Ching Hai is so naturally and elegantly designed that it feels like the scenery, the lakes, the trees, the swans, the ducks are truly alive and real. This book reminds us that all life is precious, so we should do the utmost to protect and preserve all living beings, small and large, tame and untamed because they are each unique and of God's creation.

**Melissa Catalin, reader from Ireland:** This book makes me think a lot about my life; sometimes we only look for material things and we don't see around us that we have all these beautiful things, trees, animals and that we are so rich that we don't need to look for any more.

# The Noble Wilds



*The Supreme Master Ching Hai*





# Foreword

*I*n the animal kingdom, size doesn't matter and virtues count like everywhere else.

Thus, I have discovered for example that the tiny squirrels have individual names but the ducks don't.

That may be due to the fact that squirrels have higher NQ (Noble Quality) than the ducks.

I have also discovered that if a race of animal possesses an NQ of 9% or higher, it will be entitled by nature to have an individual name! (The human is more privileged.)

Here are some for general reference:

Cows = 40%	Some birds = 30%
Elephants = 30%	Coots = 10%
Pigs = 30%	Beavers = 10%
Deer = 20%	Swans = 20 %
Dogs = 30%	Geese = 20 %
Eagles = 3%	Orangutans = 20%
Squirrels = 10%	Tigers = 4%
Duck = 8%	Lions = 3%

Humans:

High = 90% (small number)

Low = 3% (lots)

Average = 10% (lots)



I've also learnt that animal parents don't give names to their offspring, but it will be transmitted to them in time by the council of their species. For example, swans will "pick up" their names before maturity, around two years of age; the same with geese, and in the case of beaver or squirrel, around one year.



Some animals of the same species have more NQ on average than others,  
For example:

Pitu = 30%, Female Swan  
Gina = 25%, Female Swan

Only among humans, the NQ varies greatly because we are more equipped to develop compassion; also we are more exposed to different situations, which require our love and help for other fellow humans and other beings.

Yes! I was also surprised by the finding! There are so many marvels even in this physical universe. One really must take time to discover.

And another thing: Female animals in general have 1 or 2% higher NQ than their male counterpart, and in the human world it's the same. I guess motherhood does help to develop more unconditional love, and the more one exercises "NQ," the more extra one will have.



It is a privilege for me to be revealed this information. I did not seek to know. It just came by itself as the bond of friendship deepened between the wilds and I. Once I knew some of them, other species' data became also available. Once we know even as little as what I know, we will never look at the animals the same way as we did before.

I am very happy to share a little knowledge about some of our co-inhabitants in this book. Some of those whom, as language barriers prevent us to understand each other, have been mistreated, misused or forgotten.

If I were to write much more of what has been transmitted from them, it will take many books; besides, it only concerns myself and others I need to be in contact with as part of my "job's" necessity. So I do not include herein.

Anyway, I was thrilled to know much about our animal friends; hope you too will be.

May all beings be loved and blessed - with Peace & Happiness.



P.S. I love all the photos in this book, leaving some for your own comments. Please enjoy them as much as the story here. They are real actions and sceneries. Some of the photos are rare moments. Some took many hours or days to capture, and for some I had to wade into deep water or thick forest to film... (Video & photos)





## Appreciation

This book is about the wilds, but I also feel like a “wild” myself. Though is not about me, but you see my photo sometimes. I think you like it, no? Thanks to several assistants who caught my image for you:

Thomas Larning  
T. June  
Jus-se

T. Hao  
Steve Andreas  
T. Khai



For the rest of the pictures and sceneries, you'll have to bear it without the old woman. But I am always there with you, behind the camera.

There are more residents and tourists who are not in the book: The big fishes, frogs, tortoises, rabbits, owls, pigeons, different birds, crickets, snails, deer, etc... But I thank them all for their love and support, so that this book can reach you.

I can take photos and write forever; maybe I will, because they all are fascinating. For example: As I camp near by, the frogs chorused all night, singing, responding back and forth till dawn, sometimes longer. It's like a perfectly orchestrated musical performance, free and nonstop; who gives them such magnificent voice and robust energy? And in such a size so tiny!

On the other hand, maybe I let you polish your imagination a little or go click the camera yourself.

*I love writing this special book.*

*I love all beings in this book and all others.*

*I love all the sceneries that I photographed.*

*I love the feeling that you will read and enjoy.*



Specially  
Dedicated lovingly to :

Gina      Moruway

Pitu      Sai Sai



And thank you for your love and help  
Thank you for your permission to photograph and write this book about  
you, even in your intimate residence.

*You have come from far away,  
To be my friends  
And my willing assistants!  
Your loving comfort,  
Your precious wisdom...*

*I just wish the world can understand  
I just wish the world can feel the love that  
radiates from your being  
I will always cherish  
The gift of your presence  
Whether you choose to leave  
Or (of course it is better ) to stay.*

And loving dedication to all others in, around and outside the villages:

*The deer who jumped fences to get bread for his kids  
The neighbor horse who always runs to greet me  
with welcoming song whether I bring any snack or not  
The single mother duck who would fight with the whole world  
to protect her children  
The rabbit who is too shy for the camera  
The brave coots who overcome fear to get bread (near me)  
for their babies*

*To the gulls who always want to share food with anyone in the vicinity  
To the frogs who keep notes with each other in such a rhythmic way,  
like a beautiful orchestra  
To the beavers who show me their trust  
To the brave geese that risk their lives to protect their young  
To all the birds that bring joy and music into my place  
To the tortoise who strolls around my garden  
To the trees, weeds, rocks, Earth and flowers.  
To all other beings here, there and everywhere,  
with all my love and admiration*

Because of the love that is housed within each of you, in your presence,  
all I can feel is love.





And a final dedication to the little swan baby who left me while I was conducting a retreat overseas:

I would have loved to say “I missed you” when I came back. I would have loved to see you grow big like your brothers & sisters. I felt a frustrating sadness not having been there to protect you.

Though I know you are better in Heaven, still I can’t say that I am so detached and cold.

This book is partly for you: the cute, lovely chick that was too fragile for the harsh wildness of this world.

*I would have loved to feed you  
till you are old enough to fly away free.  
I would have loved to hug you  
Though you know I would never do it.  
I would have loved to feel your silky feathers  
Though I know I would never try.  
'Cause I respect your free wild nature  
And the unconditional bond between you and I.*

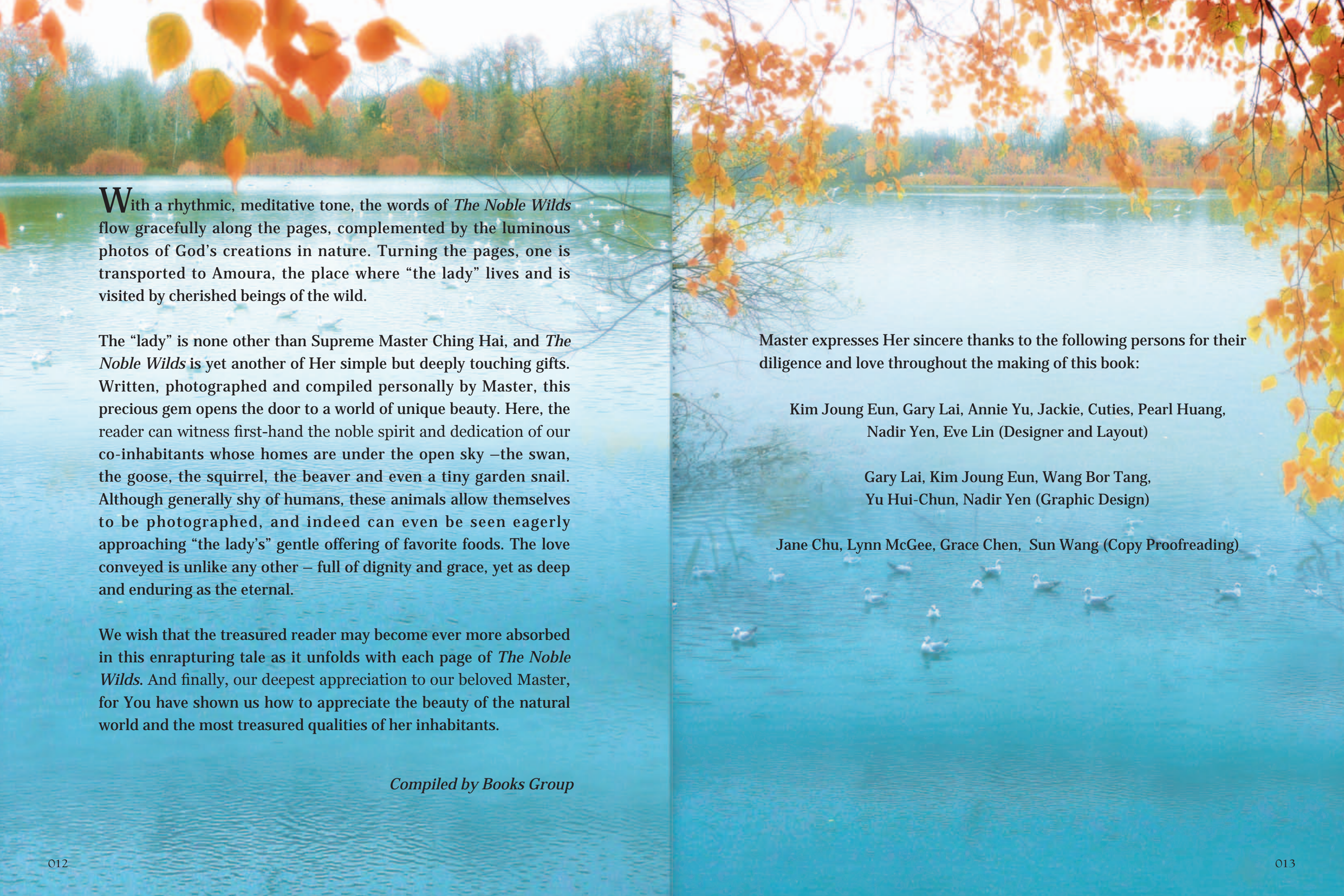
I want to love you just as your parents love you:  
Just take care of you, then let you go. But oh not so soon like that,  
in your tender days of a baby. I do know Heaven has plans, and I do know  
Heaven welcomed you as “The way it is.” But I still miss you, as if my  
child has been lost. You were so little, so helpless; you hadn’t even got a  
name...

Farewell baby, I love you dearly, and you know it from above. As I am  
writing about you now, do you see my tears flow?

*Maybe I will remember you as “Princess Love.”  
Because that’s what you are.  
Because that’s what the rest of YOU animals are: Love.  
And I love you all deeply.  
How deep, only I alone know!*

*Supreme Master Ching Hai*





With a rhythmic, meditative tone, the words of *The Noble Wilds* flow gracefully along the pages, complemented by the luminous photos of God’s creations in nature. Turning the pages, one is transported to Amoura, the place where “the lady” lives and is visited by cherished beings of the wild.

The “lady” is none other than Supreme Master Ching Hai, and *The Noble Wilds* is yet another of Her simple but deeply touching gifts. Written, photographed and compiled personally by Master, this precious gem opens the door to a world of unique beauty. Here, the reader can witness first-hand the noble spirit and dedication of our co-inhabitants whose homes are under the open sky –the swan, the goose, the squirrel, the beaver and even a tiny garden snail. Although generally shy of humans, these animals allow themselves to be photographed, and indeed can even be seen eagerly approaching “the lady’s” gentle offering of favorite foods. The love conveyed is unlike any other – full of dignity and grace, yet as deep and enduring as the eternal.

We wish that the treasured reader may become ever more absorbed in this enrapturing tale as it unfolds with each page of *The Noble Wilds*. And finally, our deepest appreciation to our beloved Master, for You have shown us how to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and the most treasured qualities of her inhabitants.

*Compiled by Books Group*

Master expresses Her sincere thanks to the following persons for their diligence and love throughout the making of this book:

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# Biography of The Supreme Master Ching Hai

The Supreme Master Ching Hai was born in Central Au Lac (Vietnam). At the age of eighteen, Master Ching Hai moved to England to study, and then later to France and then Germany, where She worked for the Red Cross and married a German physician. After two years of happy marriage, with Her husband's blessings, She left Her marriage in pursuit of enlightenment, thus fulfilling an ideal that had been with Her since Her childhood. This began a time of arduous pilgrimages to many different countries that ended only when She met a perfect living Master in the Himalayas. Master Ching Hai received the divine transmission of the inner Light and Sound, which She later called the Quan Yin Method. After a period of diligent practice, She attained Perfect Enlightenment.

To satisfy the longing of sincere Truth seekers, the Supreme Master Ching Hai offers the Quan Yin Method of meditation to people of all nationalities, religions and cultural backgrounds. Her message of love and peace brings spiritual liberation and hope to people throughout the world, reminding all to uphold Truth, Virtue, and Beauty in life.

## Contents

01	<i>The Village of Love : Amoura</i>
23	<i>The Adventurous Team : Lady of the Village</i>
26	<i>The Ducks : Simple and Friendly Ones</i>
88	<i>Squirrels : Planters of the Field</i>
104	<i>The Horse : Good Neighbor, and Preventer of the Unfavorables</i>
106	<i>The Royal Canadian Geese</i>
151	<i>Coots : The Shy Hermits</i>
189	<i>Great Crested Grebe : The Reclusive Diver</i>
206	<i>Mute Swans : The Main "Residents" (Of the Lake)</i>



367 *Little Marvel : Precious Gardener*

375 *Beavers : The Constructors*

386 *Fish : The Mysterious*

393 *Gulls :  
The Sociable Tourists  
Sharing and Caring...*

399 *Garden Birds :  
The Joy Bringers  
Some Say Even Luck!*

411 *Some Other Kinds of Residents*

445 *The Universal Connection*

In speaking of God or the Supreme Spirit, Master instructs us to use original non-sexist terms to avoid the argument about whether God is a She or a He.

She + He = Hes (as in Bless)

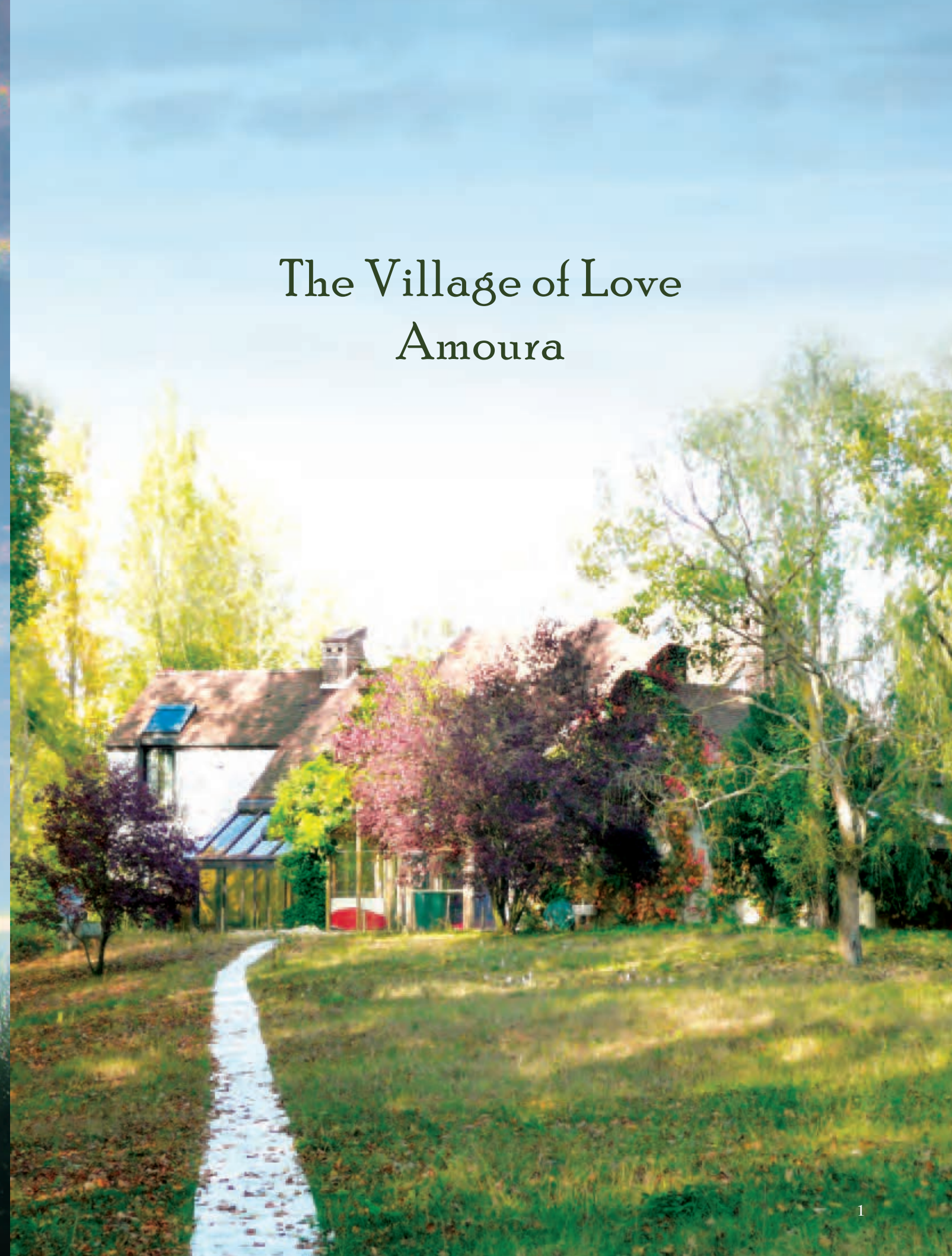
Her + Him = Hirm (as in Firm)

Hers + His = Hiers (as in Dear)

Example: When God wishes, Hes makes things happen according to Hiers will to suit Hirmself.

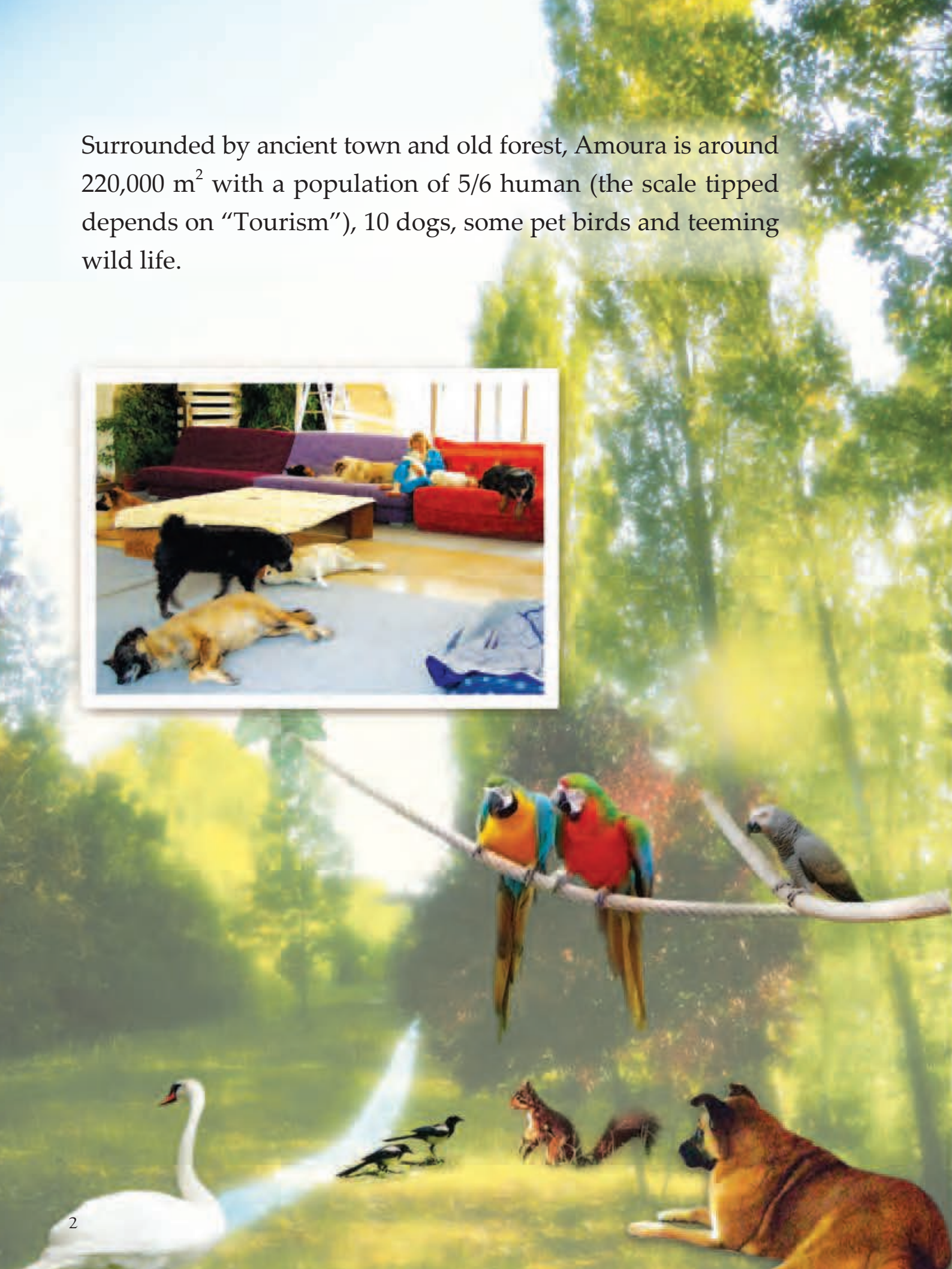
As a creator of artistic designs as well as a spiritual teacher, Supreme Master Ching Hai loves all expressions of inner beauty. It is for this reason that She refers to Vietnam as “Au Lac” and Taiwan as “Formosa.” Au Lac is the ancient name of Vietnam and means “happiness.” And the name Formosa, meaning “beautiful,” reflects more completely the beauty of the island and its people. Master feels that using these names brings spiritual elevation and luck to the land and its inhabitants.

## The Village of Love Amoura





Surrounded by ancient town and old forest, Amoura is around 220,000 m<sup>2</sup> with a population of 5/6 human (the scale tipped depends on "Tourism"), 10 dogs, some pet birds and teeming wild life.

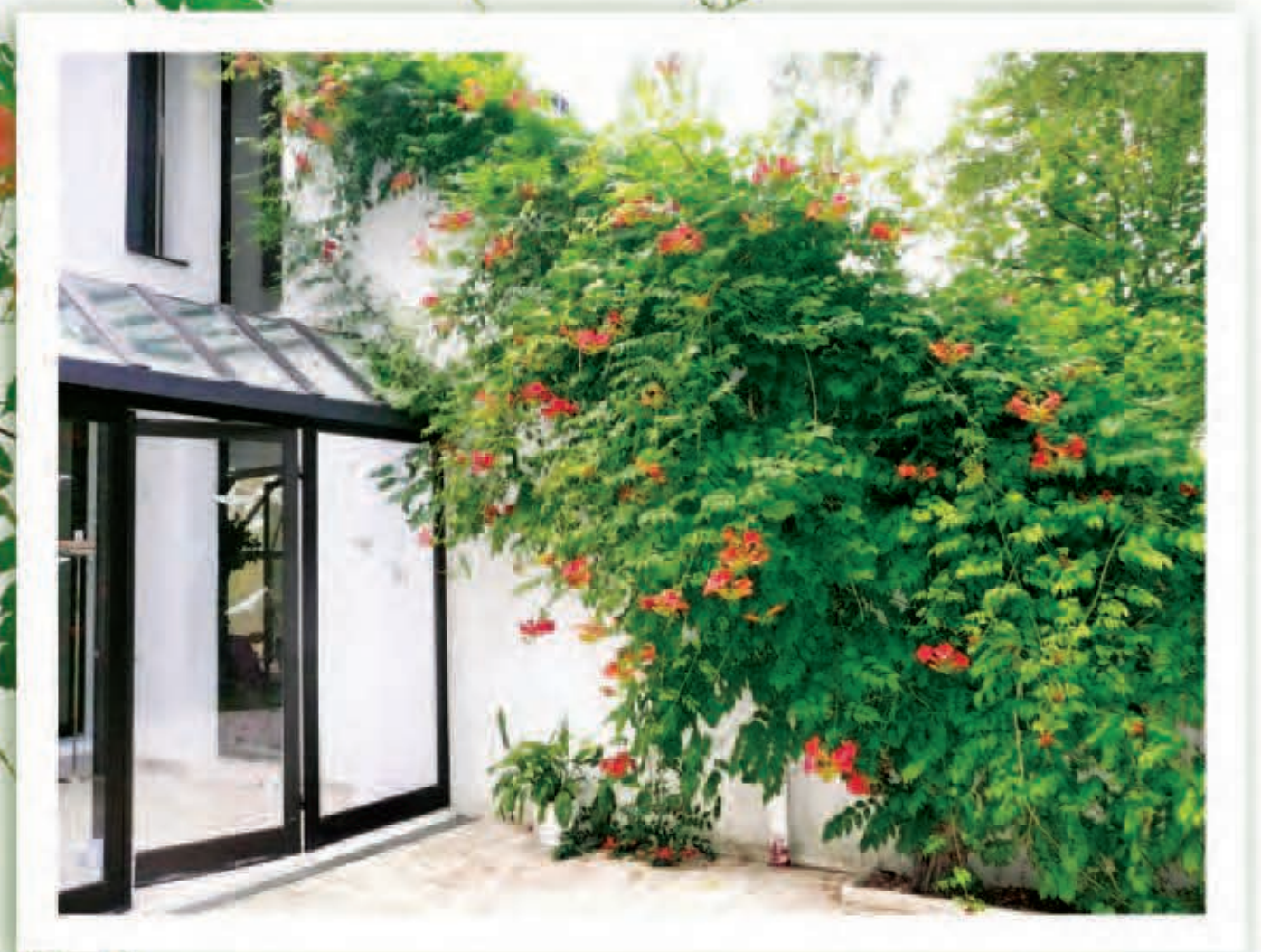






Village's Park

It has a lake, half the size of the village. And most of the wild here depend on it for survival. The swans, the geese, ducks, coots, squirrels, beavers, rabbits, tortoises, rats, frogs and of course fishes, are those who take up residence around or in the lake.



A Villager's Residence





Fauna and Flora  
of the Village

The deer and others like herons, owls, seagulls are non-residents, but come often and are always welcomed.



Stairway to a Residence

Others like squirrels, rabbits, birds of all kinds, and even a pair of young pigs prefer the woods surrounding the village. This village again is surrounded by an abundance of woods, extending miles all around, a favorite place for horse riding.





A Villager's Residence



Wild Beauty of Amoura

Most of the weekends, you can see riders and their horses stamping the ground with their footprints. And visitors also come here to take a fresh breath of air and bathe in nature's kindness.



The village is also belted with a long, deep and wide canal on one side and the beautiful river on the other. The scenery here is perfect. It's only befitting that beautiful and noble beings reside in this restful abode.

Red Garage  
"Green" Parking



Camping in Amoura







When Autumn begins its visit in Amoura

We are going to meet them here, one group at a time.

Have fun!

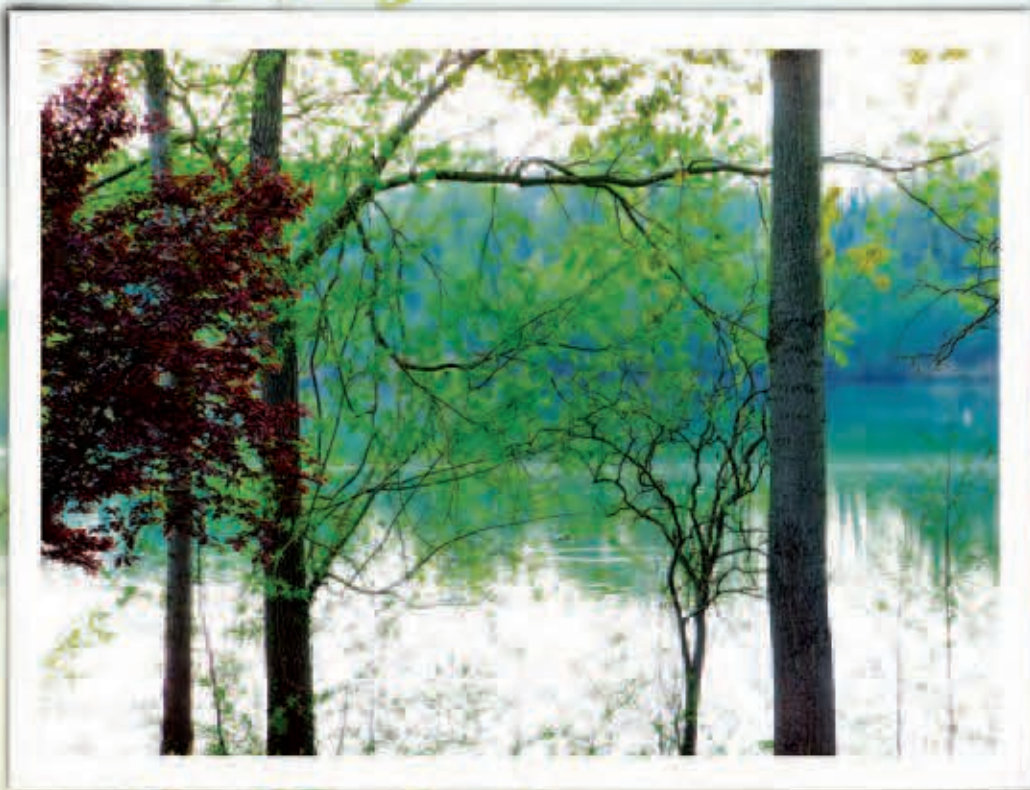


Swanie Island in the famous Lake of Amoura!  
(All residents know it!)

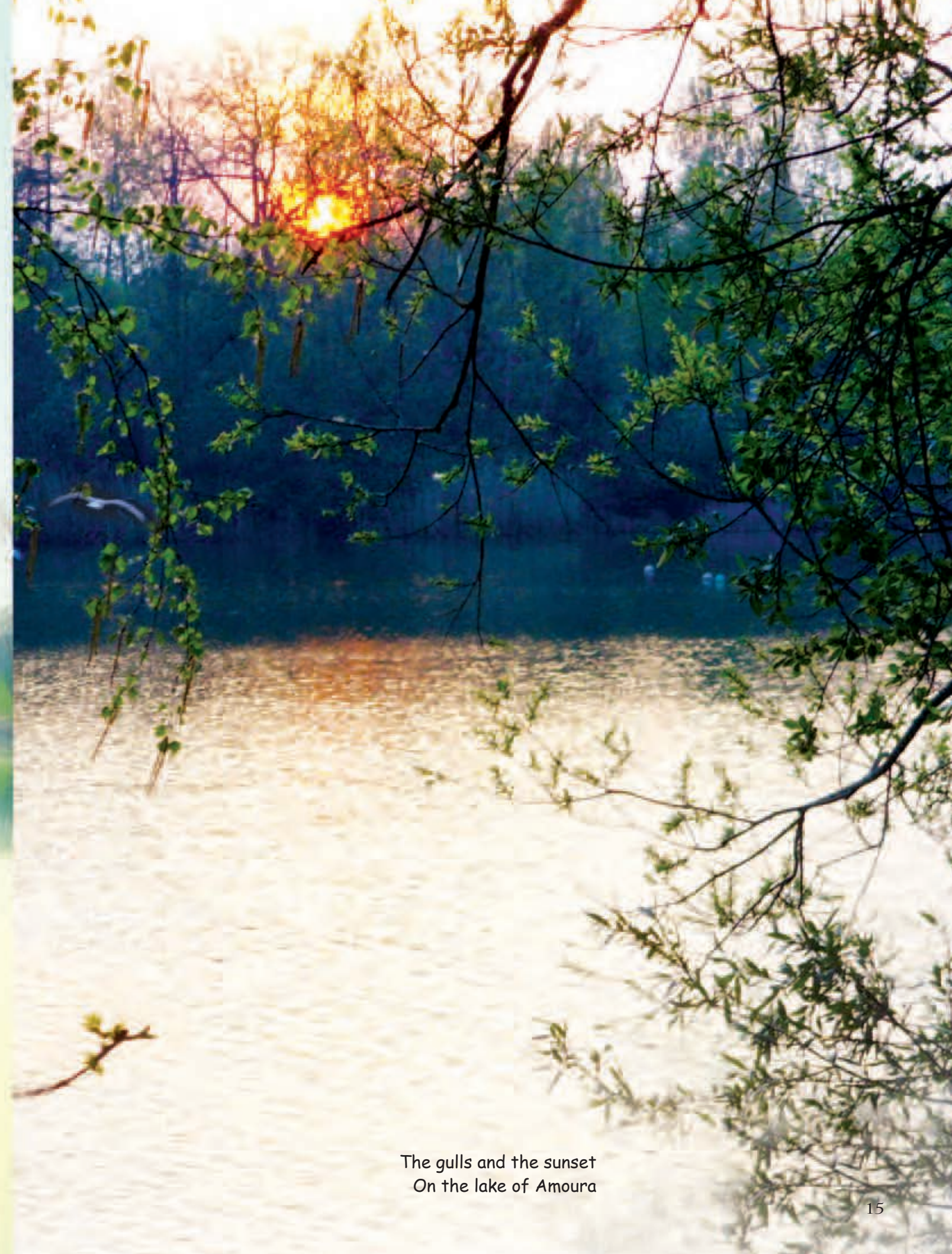


After a long winter (winter is always long!) Spring is suddenly here. Buddings seem to appear overnight. Surprise.

The lake also seems greener; the reflection of a tree-lined shore dyes its water emerald fresh and cool like a soothing dream, but one we can touch and feel with real mortal senses.



Spring at the lake



The gulls and the sunset  
On the lake of Amoura





*Some species of animals  
have individual names;  
Some don't.*

Flowers and bushes promise a new natural harvest very soon to come. The birds do not frequent the feeder from the lady any more.

They have more abundance from Lady Nature and lots of exciting activities, tasting new berries, meeting friends and mates...



Life is lonely here?





It seems this way to the “blue” heron, too.



Looking for love?





Bees are also busy visiting the sudden array of blossoms, all colors, all nectars. Amoura awakes after reluctant hibernation, wide-eyed, full of expectation.



And a lonesome Goose!



And to this single blue one! Life seems lonely also.





Not really  
(Already)  
We see!

Life in the village is anything but lonely. Four times a day, one can see an army of dogs rushing out from the main village residence, running around, barking at anything that moves (or not moves, depends on mood).

And one can hear a chorus of birds from inside their play pen, echoing the dogs. It can be quite deafening; lucky the place is big and the woods absorb somewhat the noise!



## The Adventurous Team Lady of the Village



This lady is one of the residents in Amoura.  
She's quite busy exploring the surroundings and doing "Great"  
works such as feeding the Ducks and Co.  
She seems serious about the job and loves doing it...



Question: Can a one-member group be called a team?  
Answer: Yes! She & her boat.

Village's exploration "Team"





# The Ducks Simple and Friendly Ones







... And most of the time she is “invisible” to outsiders, except if one happens to be a duck or a swan etc... Then one can expect a regular visit from her.



Meet the “Duck of Reedlington...”

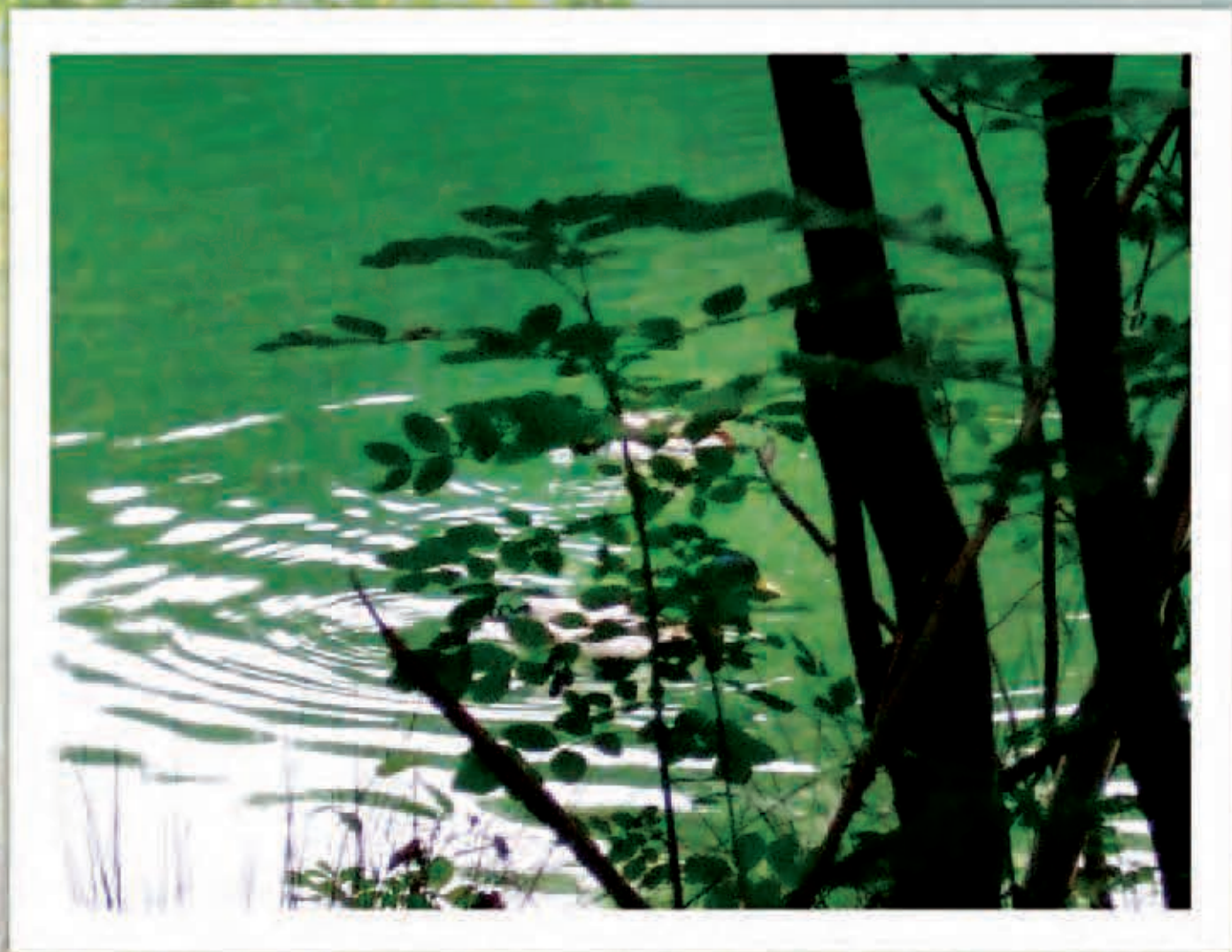
... She often frequents lovely corners of Amoura such as Duck District, Swan Town, Frog Colony, Coot Settlement, etc...

She owns a “restaurant” at the far end of the village where customers flock in queue for the delicious menu. It opens for lunch and dinner, and anytime in between!...



... And the Duckess of Lilidale.









Lonely who?  
Together we are cool



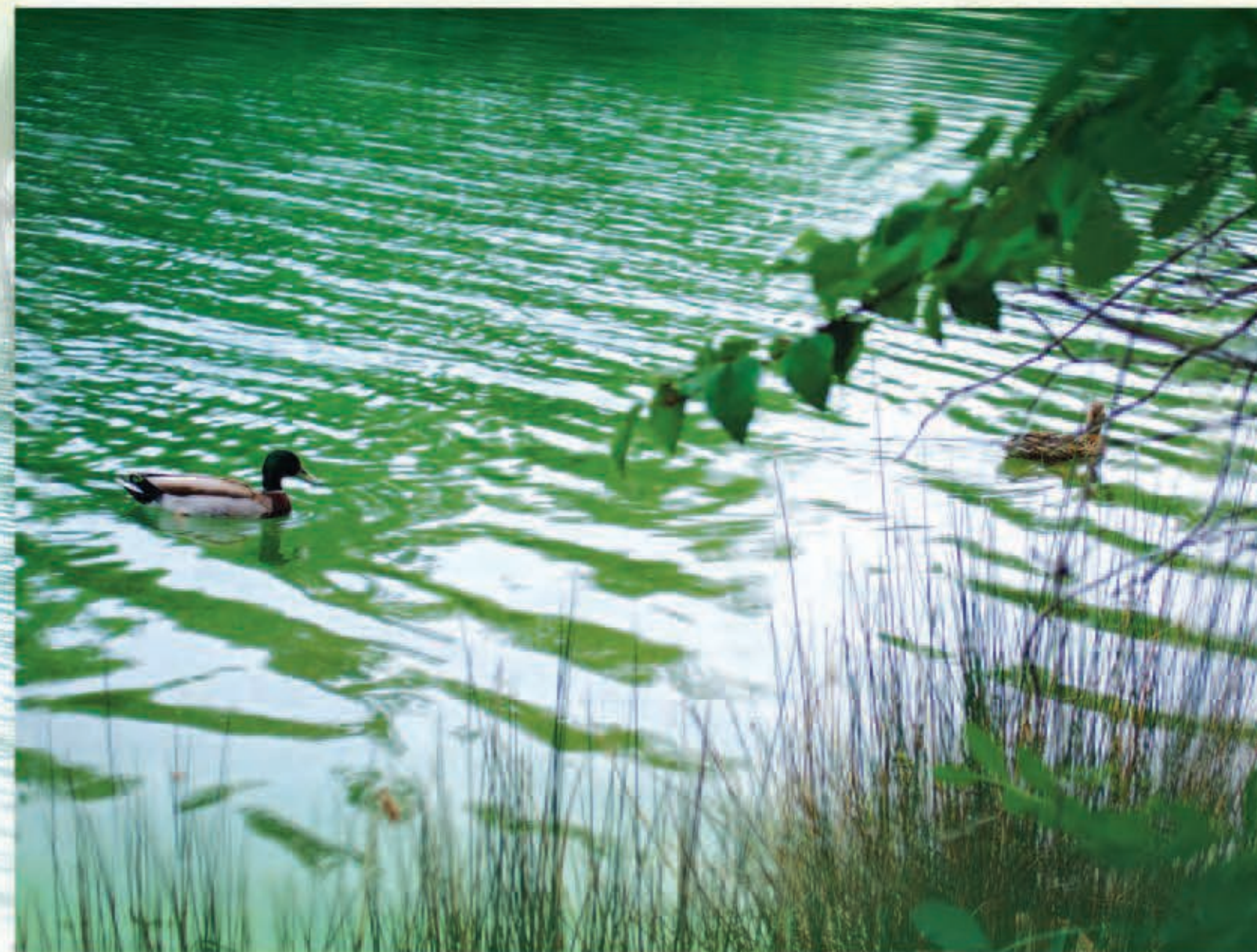
Duck's Resort in Amoura



And we have neighbors.  
Guess who?



Yeah!  
A goose





The soft ground is also our house.



Simple life is ours





This is another “lonesome” blue heron (Yes! Oh maybe he is blue.)

He (or she?) often rests on this exclusive spot reserved for bachelor herons – No one saw any other that landed there, ever.

Well, she (or he?) enjoys being in the sunshine nook. The sun rays stay there till late in the evening.

Very elusive – for a bachelor, you should be more sociable to chance a partner, methinks!



Bachelor nook

Like these two, for example, one can take as many close-ups as one likes. They come knocking at the main residence for food - sometimes 3-4 times a day.

They eat from your hands almost.



“Love is looking in the same direction”



The male is very attentive and protective of his mate.  
If she's eating, he always stands guard – and if she runs to drink water, he'd run after her.  
Don't worry, he eats sometimes – (witnessed).



Feeling fine  
-- Anytime. --







Ducky's hang-out "Pub"



"Coming up!"





When she's resting next to the food after eating, or sleeping near-by, he'd come grab a few quick bites!

There's another guy chasing after her, and she's not keen on befriending that other one, so they are both very vigilant. Especially he, always on guard to protect his beloved.

So touching to observe such gentlemanism.

"Ah! This is much better !  
Even if you just sleep  
by my side, we're together."







As these pages unfold before your eyes, autumn is already making its way through the village, weaving a golden blanket to keep the earth warm for coming winter.

- Foliage saying good-bye -

Flowers are donning their mature colors.

Something is going,

Something is coming.



The last flowers from summer still trying to array their  
glory, ignoring the call of time!

Even humans do the same here.

All sojourn contentedly

As if life in the physical...

... Is eternity.



Message from the sunset:

It is nice even to part

So there is joy of reunion.

Something is withering,

Something is growing.





Surprise!  
Autumn bloomer.



The tranquil lake  
Offers only solace,  
A silent charm.  
Always beautiful  
Always calm.



Within this calmness  
Life thrives in abundance  
The trees will be full and lush  
The littles will grow strong.



Something is blooming...  
Something is thriving...








"This way my loves:  
The bridge is way a-tall  
To 'restaurant' we'll go."

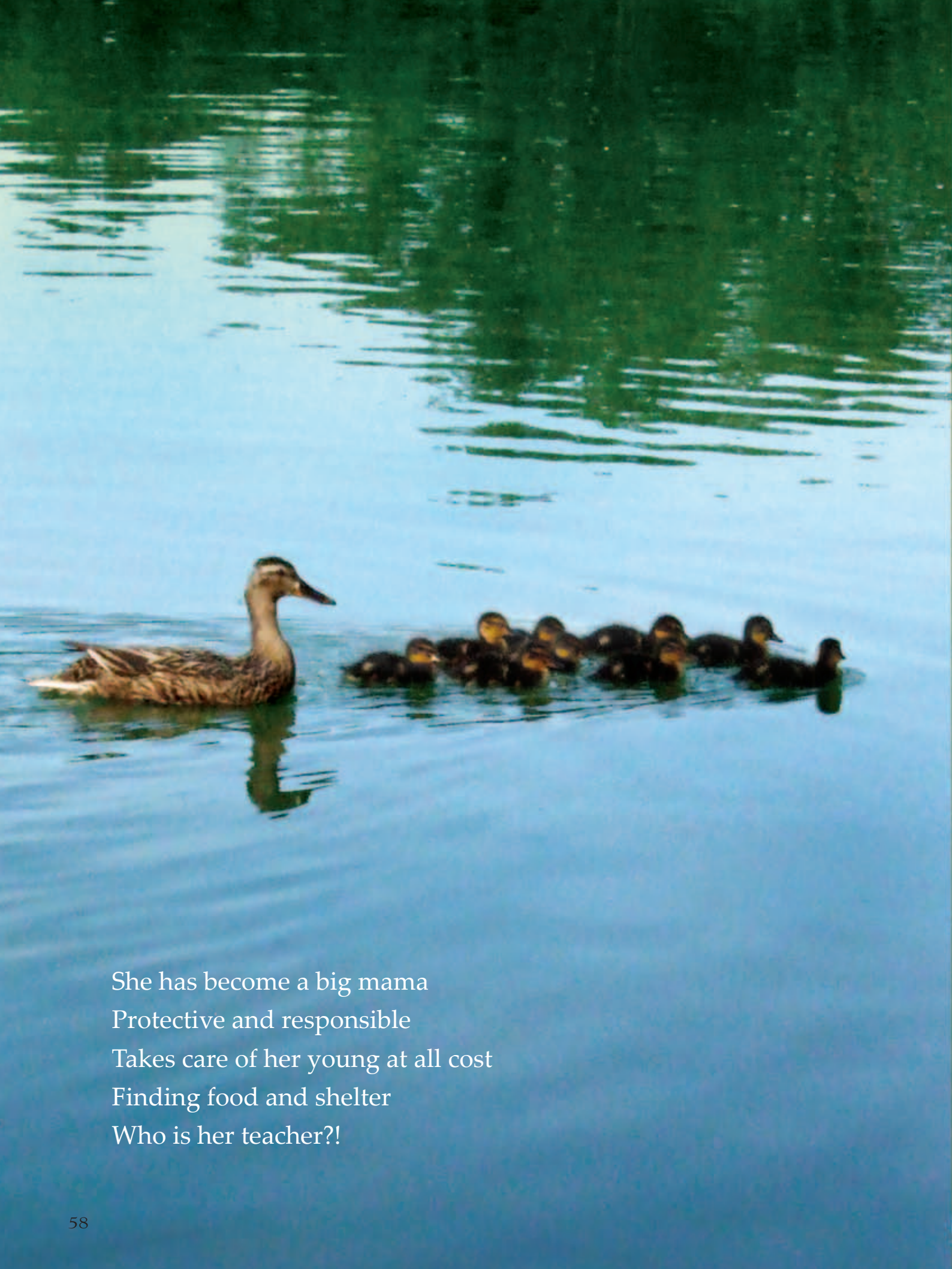




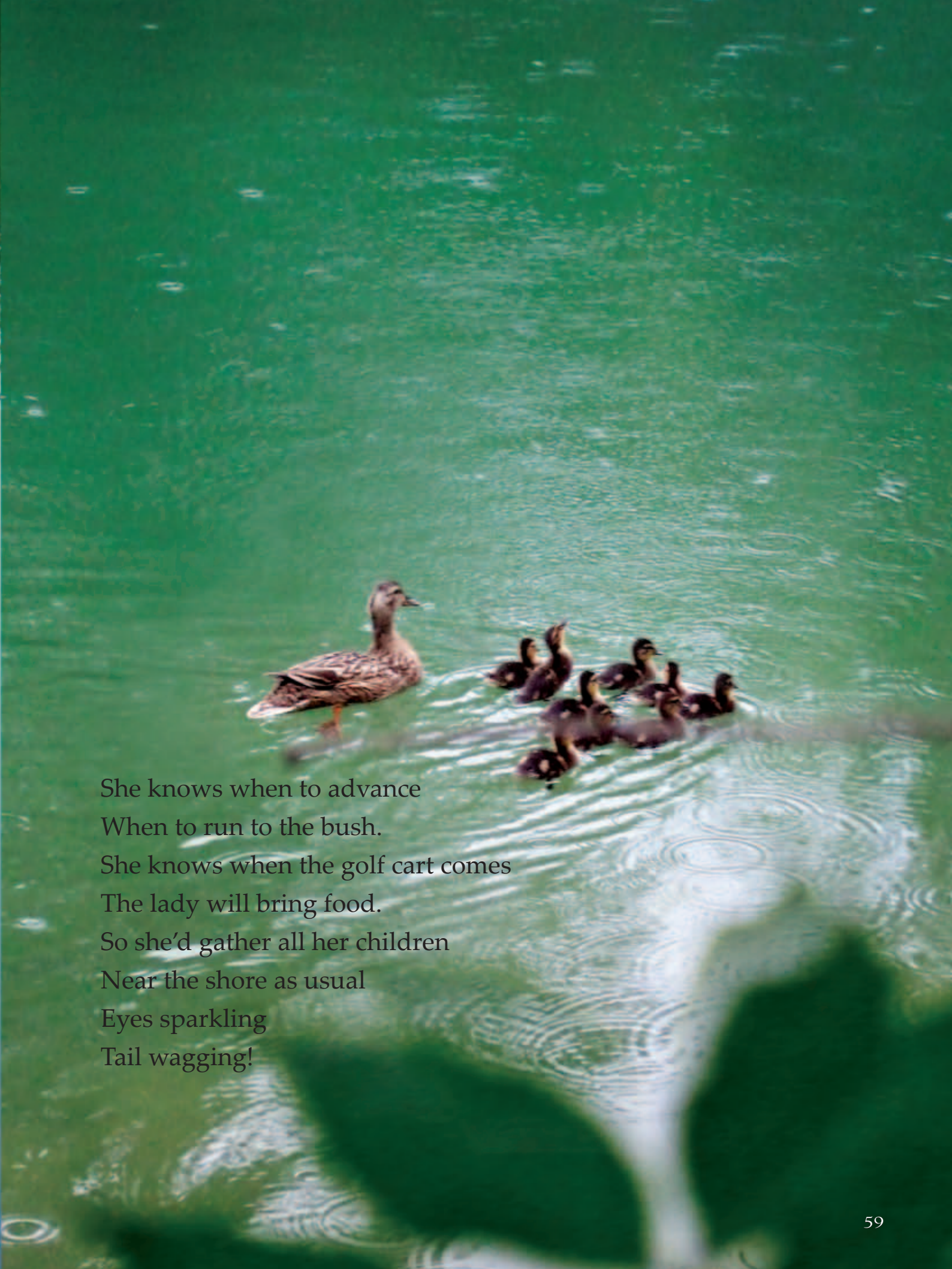
 "In God's Grace you will grow."







She has become a big mama  
Protective and responsible  
Takes care of her young at all cost  
Finding food and shelter  
Who is her teacher?!



She knows when to advance  
When to run to the bush.  
She knows when the golf cart comes  
The lady will bring food.  
So she'd gather all her children  
Near the shore as usual  
Eyes sparkling  
Tail wagging!





But Mommy duck also taught little ones to be self-reliant –  
hence they nib on green mosses that grow around the shores or  
at shallow bottom lake sides. Seeing them happily munching  
water weeds on dock poles or reeds, the lady was so moved:

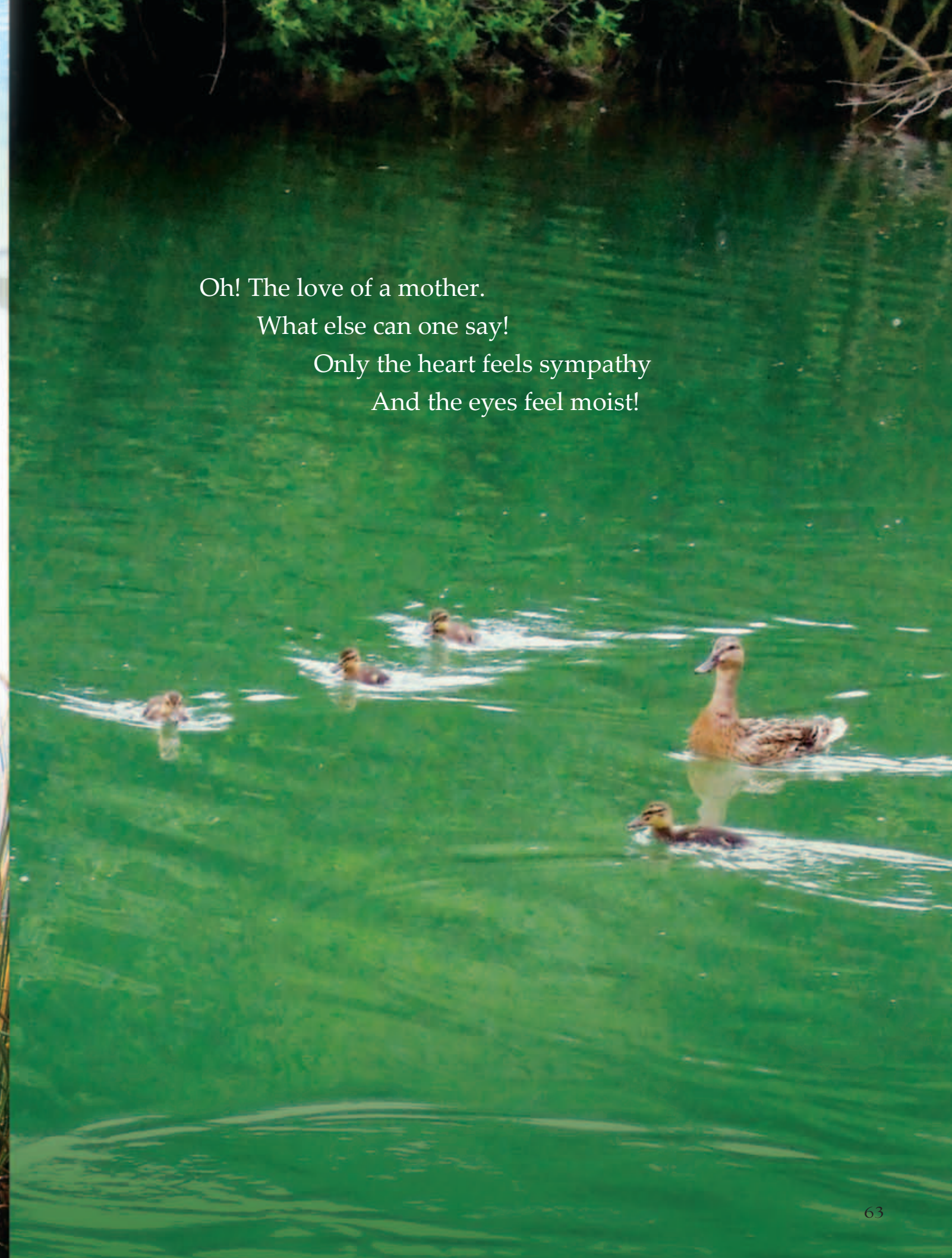
Oh, how undemanding  
the life they choose!





She doesn't take a morsel  
All saved for her youngsters!  
Guarding while they feed  
Lest may be danger!

Oh! The love of a mother.  
What else can one say!  
Only the heart feels sympathy  
And the eyes feel moist!







Watchful Guard







And so, day by day,  
The siblings grow big and bigger.  
Same devotion and love  
From mother.



It is safer behind tall reeds  
Near the shore.  
Any little threat  
Mother hurries them here.





Still, the brave mom  
Teaches them to swim across  
When the time has come  
To learn about courage.

For her young  
She fears no one!  
To witness such love  
One's heart has to be of stone  
Not to melt.

Sometimes the lady  
Feels overwhelmed with love  
For these wild creatures  
She just wished she could  
Them in her bosom to gather  
To hug and to caress them  
To show them the love in her.





Do you feel the strength of love,  
Do you see the awesome courage  
The true beauty in this mother's eyes?







Some eat on land

Some do on water  
Food tastes the same



Still all enjoy  
From the "provider."

A guardian angel  
in the form of this humble mom







Don't worry my dears  
You can well take rest  
Ma is always here  
Watching over my precious.

- Tired?  
- No..o!



Really growing... fast!





Sharing with the gull.  
It's OK, too!



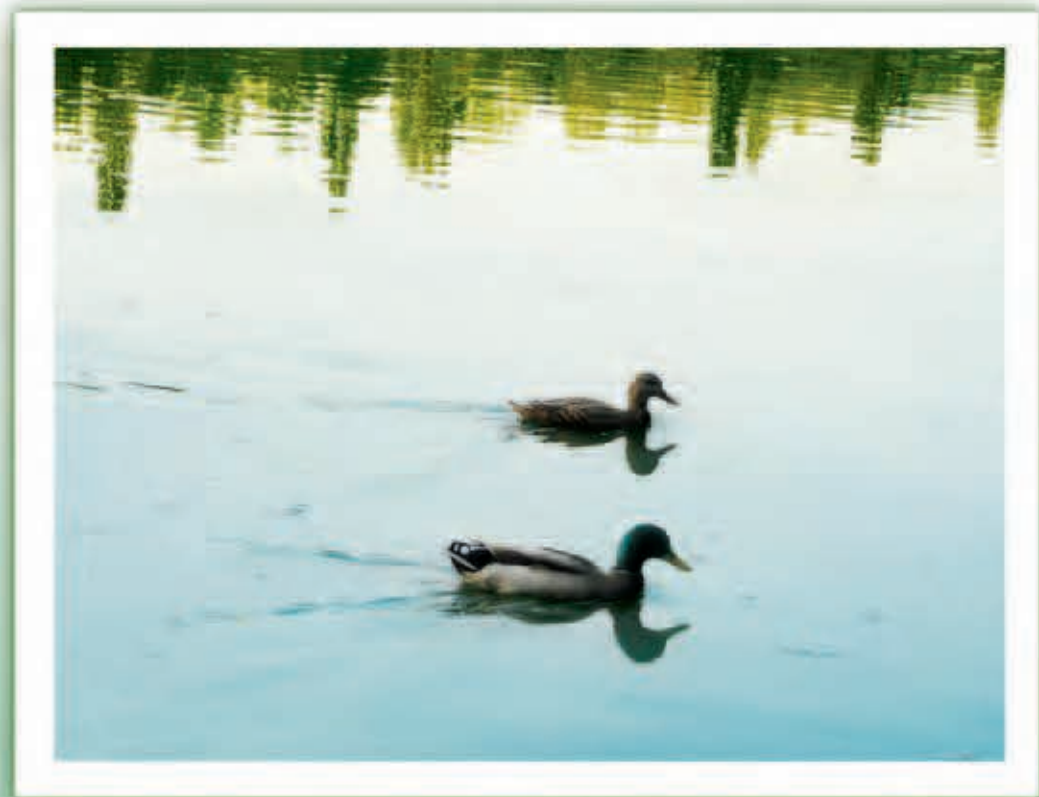
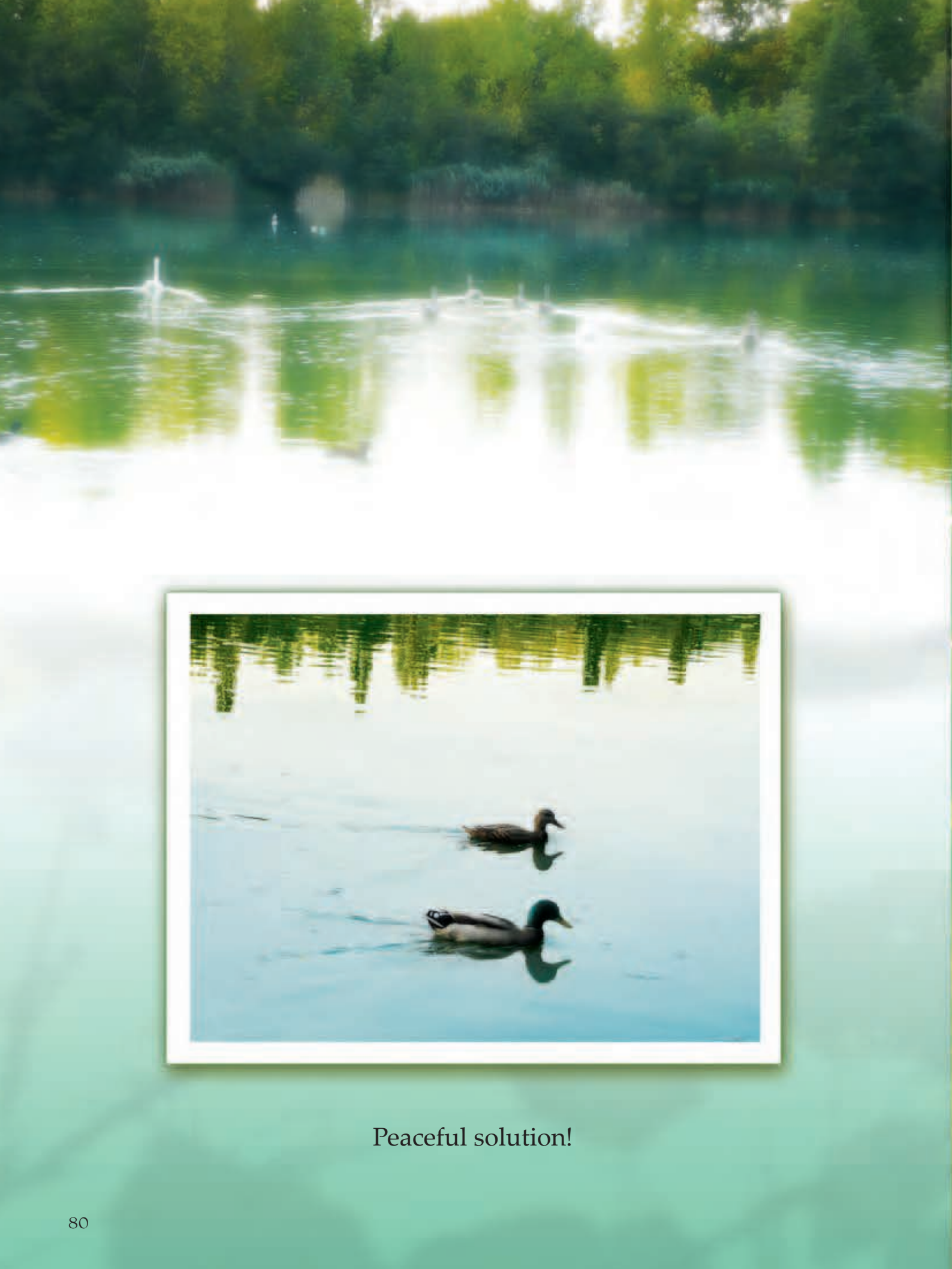


Living together

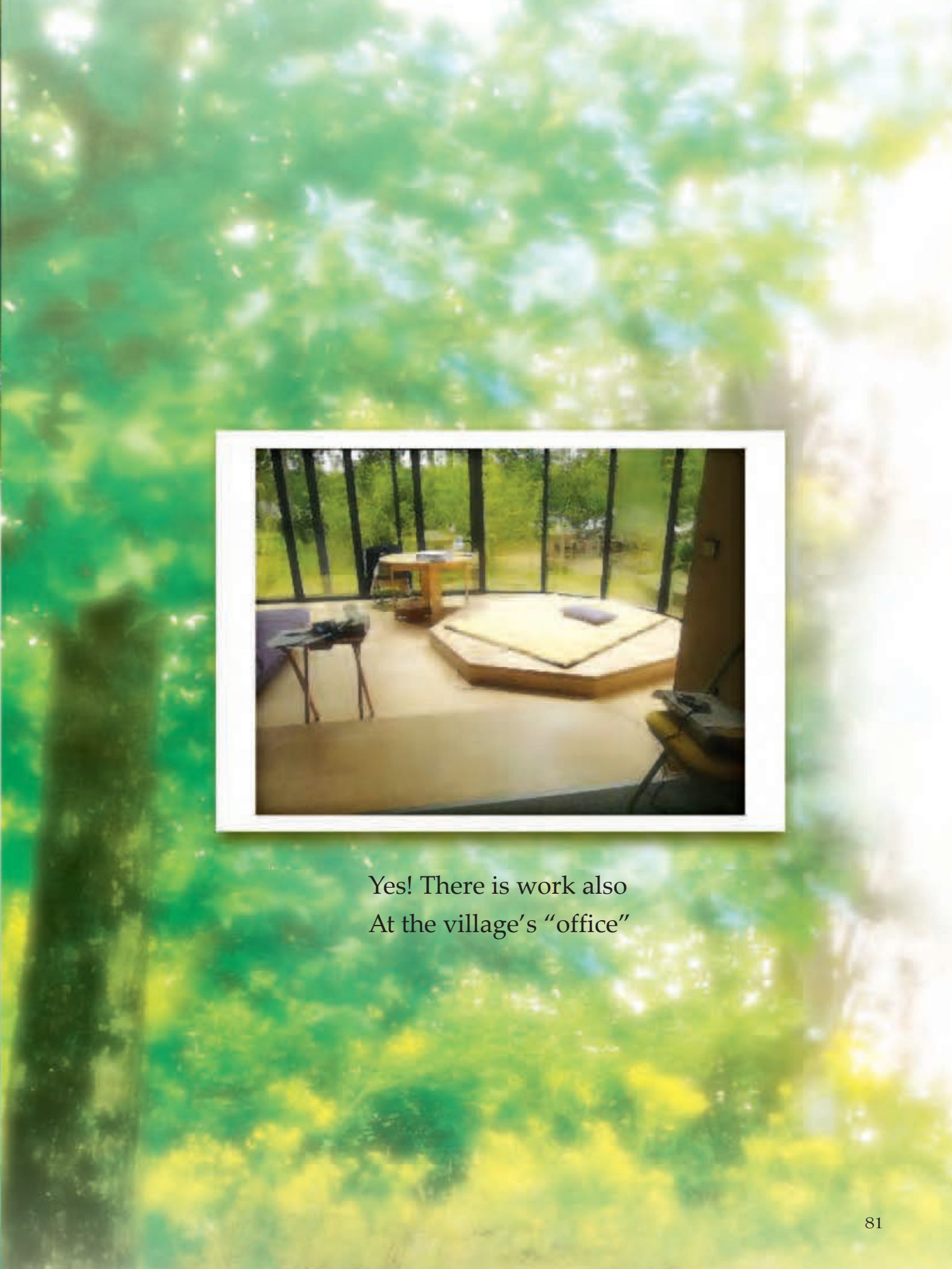


Guess who's here for dinner





Peaceful solution!



Yes! There is work also  
At the village's "office"



A real proud mother  
A hero.  
Wrestling with Nature  
Against all odds  
Against all dangers



"I am always here  
For you."

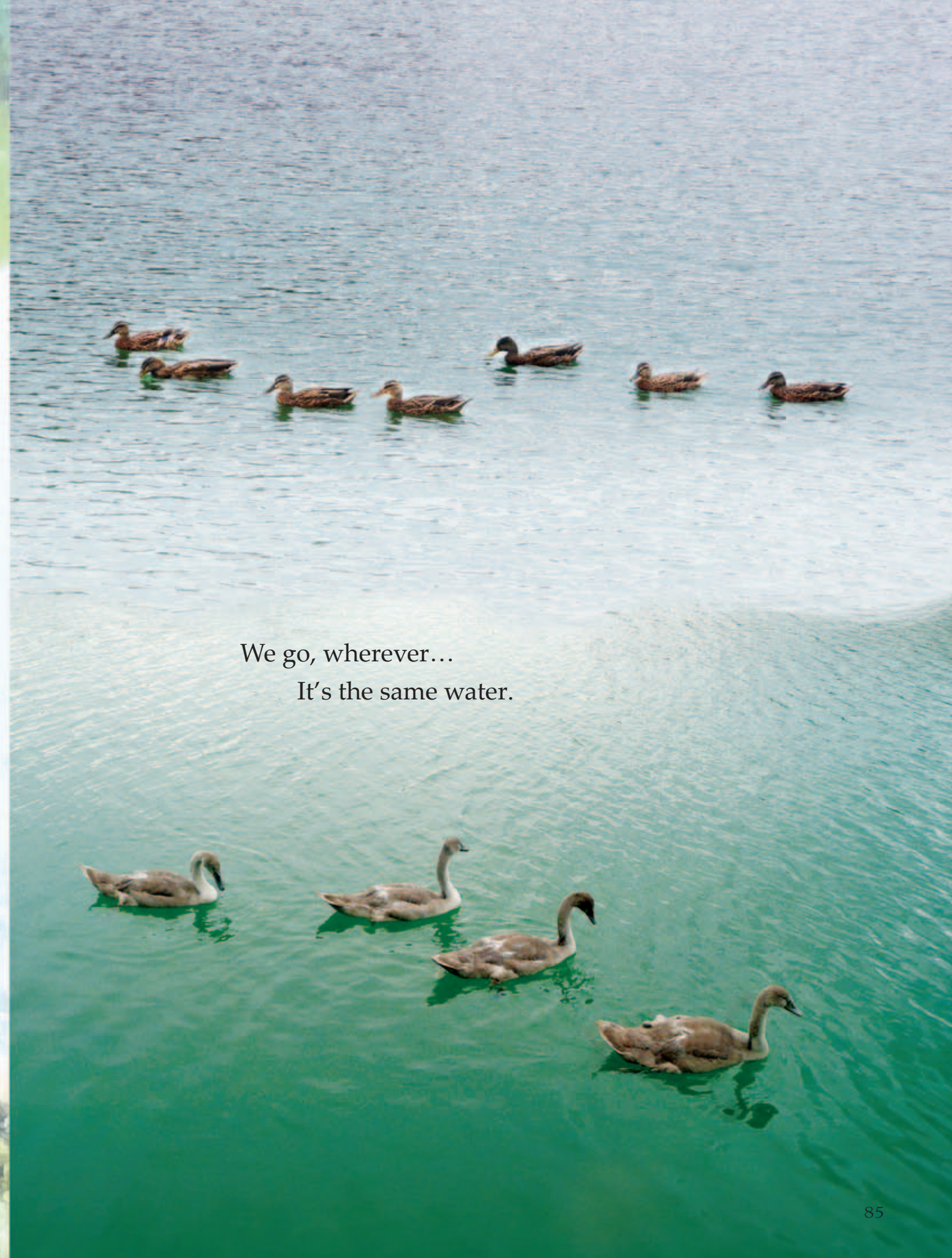


Single-handedly  
Raising her babies!





Now we have others  
Joining the party.  
The Canadian geese!



We go, wherever...  
It's the same water.






How come this guy  
Still... so lonely?

Told you!  
(Should be more sociable)  
Seriously!







## Squirrels Planters of the Field

Do squirrels have names?  
Yes, for sure.  
Surprised?  
Me too!



This auburn squirrel is a regular customer of “Chez elle.”  
He has grown too comfy and confident  
That he even ventured into the house  
If couldn’t find food outside  
His name is Fy (Fi).



Has an NQ of 10%!  
Big Goodness  
For such a tiny princess.



Some nut!  
What kind?



Or curls up under his portable blanket  
And sleeps right there  
In front of the kitchen  
After filling himself with bread.  
(It's on the house!)



Bona Siesta!

... For the drink,  
He must go to the lake,  
Few yards away (poor thing!)



Sy is a young and beautiful red-head. When the first slice of bread was offered on the grass, she took it up close, turned it around and around to examine it attentively, so cute.

Then she tilted her head, looking again and again as if she has never seen this sort of nut before.

"What kind! So big, so square, so soft, yet so fragrant.  
Appetizing like Heaven!"



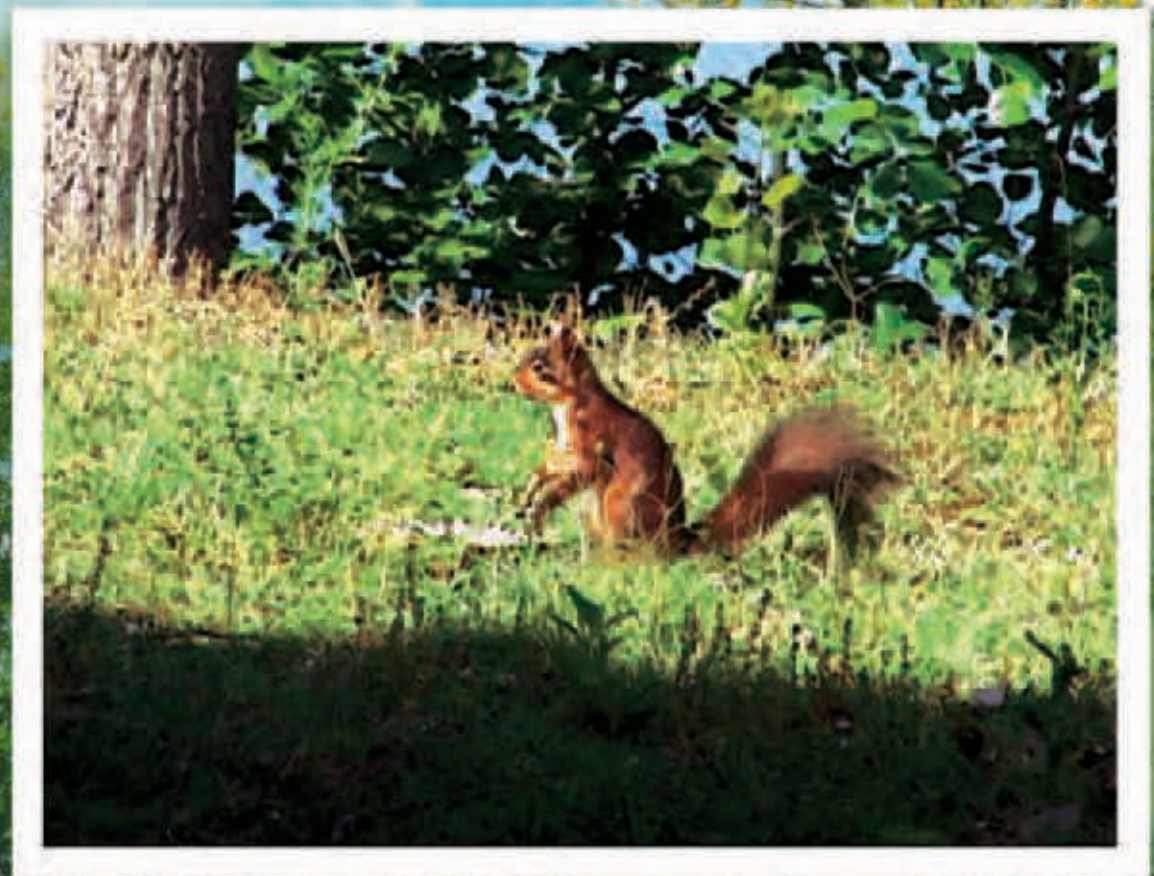


This is another one, male  
More mature, more “deep” in color and knowledge.

This guy knows what’s nut and what’s not  
No thing surprises him.  
Done that.  
Been there.

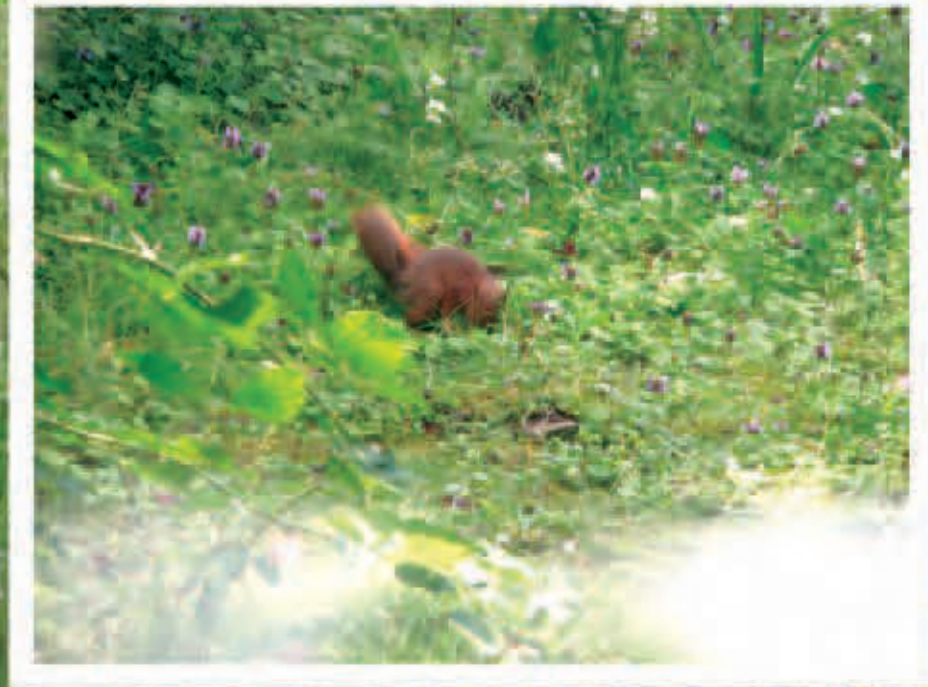
He explains to the younger ones  
About life, how, why, what and where.  
Quite a good elder!

He is Zy (Zee).



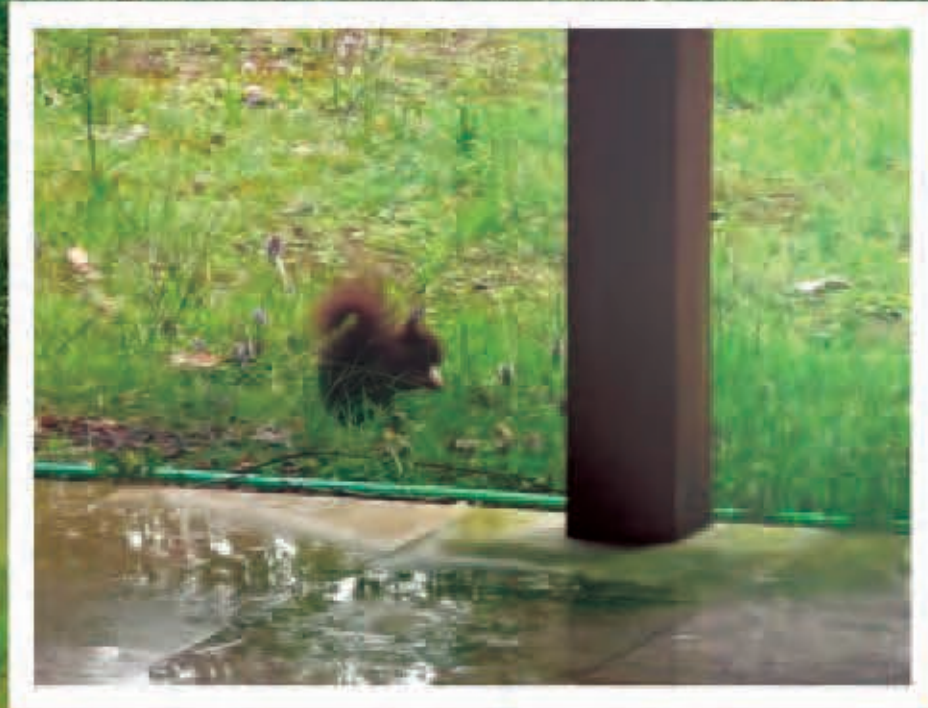
Another frequent “Customer”!





Humans are my friends  
And friend means **FOOD**  
A Hem!...

*My humble translation.  
Accuracy?  
Guaranteed!*





Just check it out!

Anyway I am free.

The planters of Amoura  
Many nut trees are from them.

Your house is my house  
(No doubt!)

Come and go  
As I please!  
(I see!)





"We have something in common  
We both like the bread from this home."

He loves nuts so much.  
He looks like a nut!  
Hut... Hut...



She eats fast  
Like the way she runs.  
Now you see it.  
Now it's gone!





The proof of good cooking

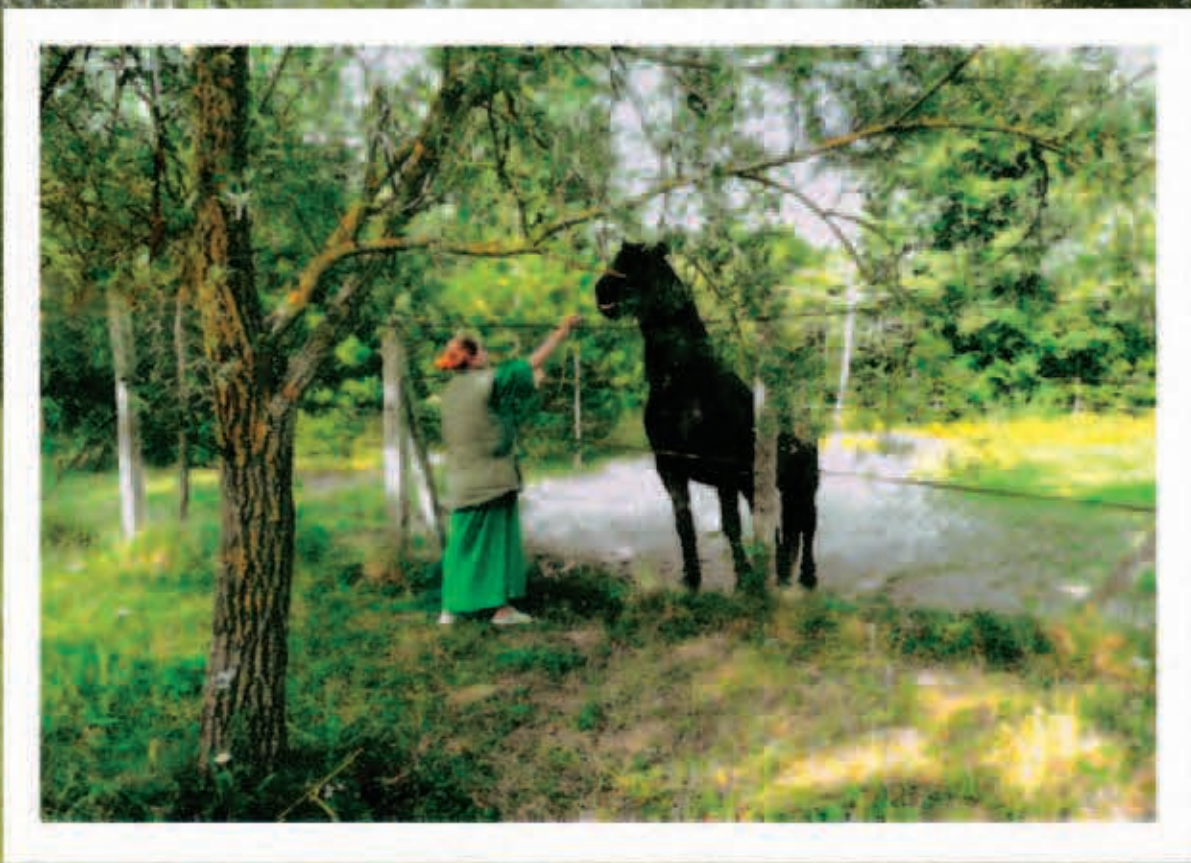


Have a break  
Stroll around the lake  
Or visit the flowers...

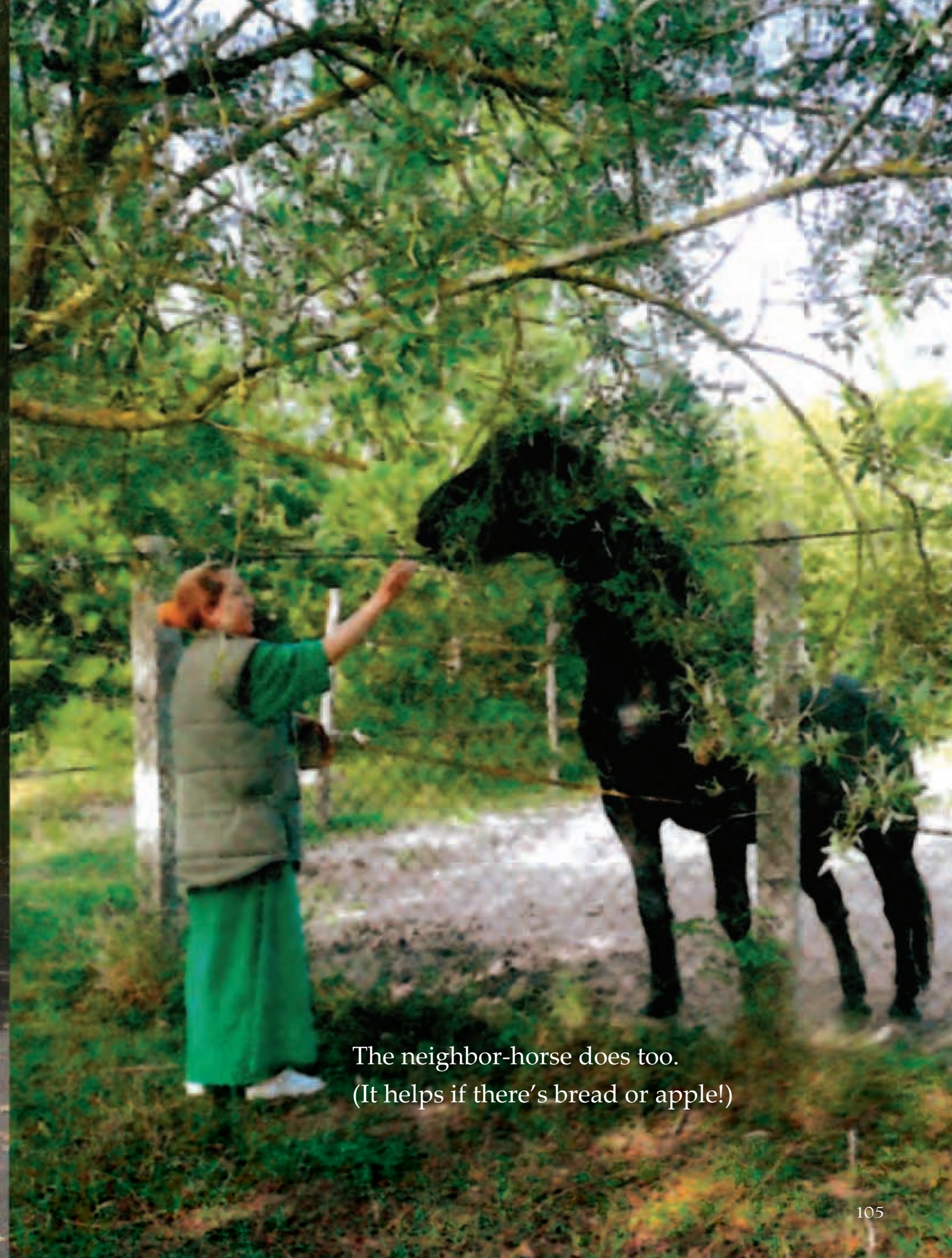
Or talk to the bamboos  
Amoura loves you!



# The Horse Good Neighbor



And preventer of the unfavorites.



The neighbor-horse does too.  
(It helps if there's bread or apple!)



A photograph of a natural landscape. On the left, a large tree with dark bark and dense green leaves stands prominently. The foreground is filled with tall green grass and numerous yellow wildflowers. In the background, more trees and foliage are visible under a bright sky. The text 'The Royal Canadian Geese' is overlaid in white serif font on the left side of the image.

# The Royal Canadian Geese





This is Fou  
Affectionately called Foo-foo princess  
(By the lady)  
Such a love  
And beauty!

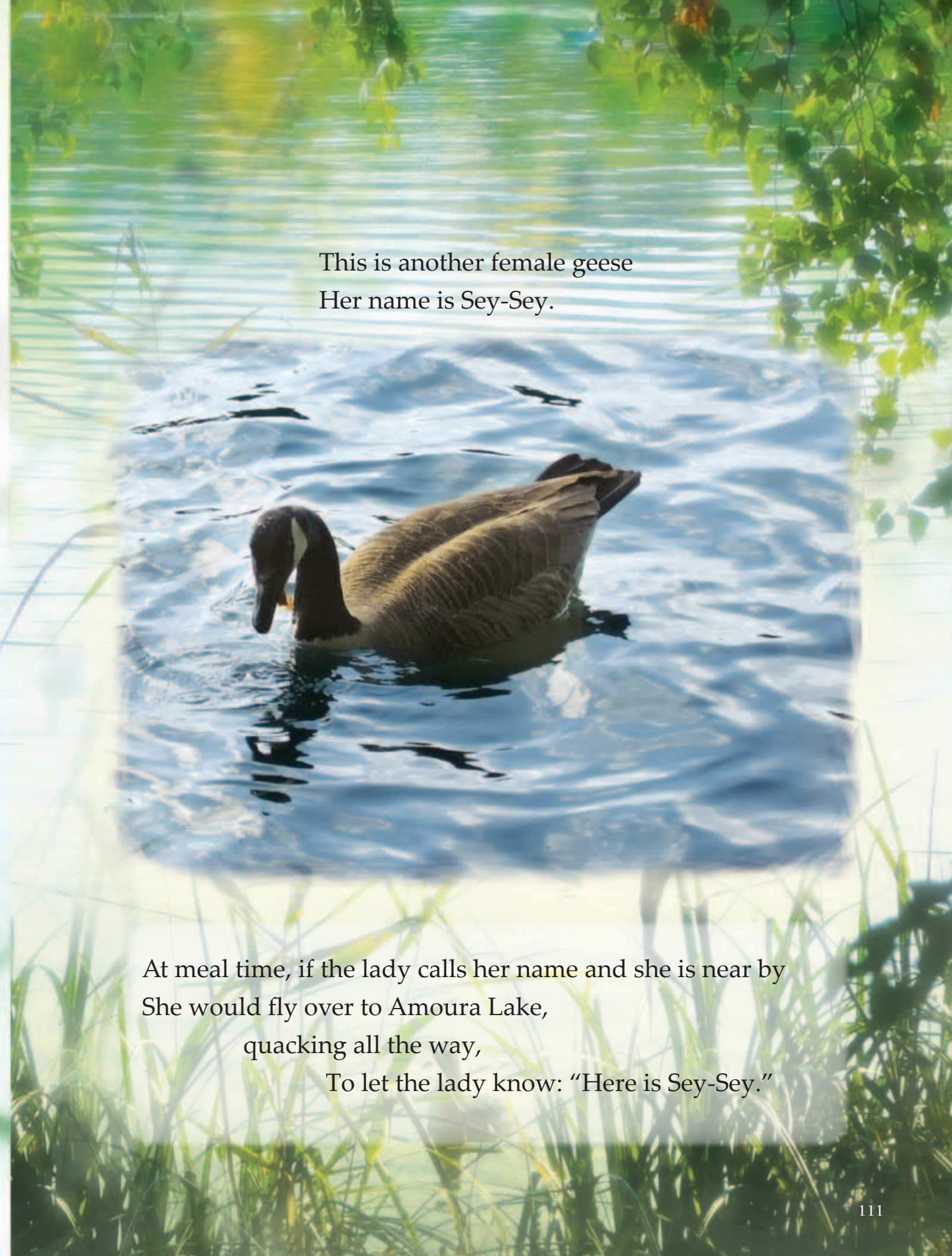


She originally came from neighboring lakes, but  
somehow decided to stay in Amoura for a while.  
In winter, she does not move out.  
She must have felt OK here  
For she makes regular "appear."





Foo-Foo knows a good bakery when she tastes one!



This is another female geese  
Her name is Sey-Sey.

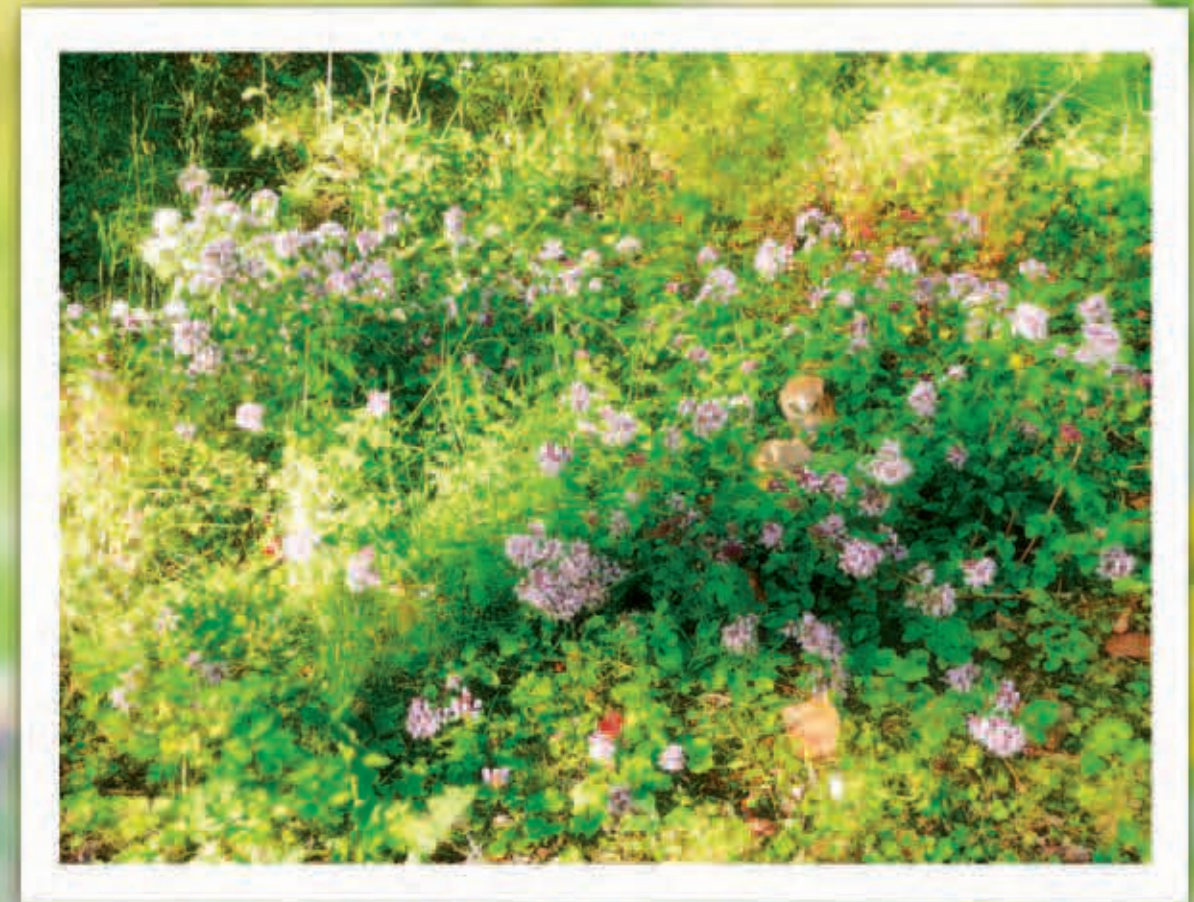
At meal time, if the lady calls her name and she is near by  
She would fly over to Amoura Lake,  
quacking all the way,  
To let the lady know: "Here is Sey-Sey."



She was all alone and young.  
Maybe looking for a handsome,  
The one that reflects her own,  
Virtuous and gallant.



"I feel kinda lonely  
Just I myself and me!"





This a male new-comer  
 Not so beloved by Sai Sai  
 He chases him whenever near by.  
     He is called Konay  
     A nice guy.



The old woman and the goose

There were two actually:  
 A young goose  
 And a past middle-age lady!  
     They understand each other  
     perfectly.

He often comes to the lady's house  
 For some food and a little love.  
     Sometime being chased by Sai Sai  
     (He chases anyone when he feels like  
     Just his sport to pass the time  
     Not hurting though.)



"It's not easy  
 Being dark  
 And different!  
 Is it the same  
 In the world of humans?"





She needs someone to share this  
Beautiful "home" with.  
Meanwhile, to be alone in quietude  
Is also a blessing;  
Though at times  
It can feel lonesome!



Well!... Not any more!





Foo-Foo “introduced” Yeou, her beau, to the lady,  
 Who welcomed him heartily,  
 (the lady calls him Prince Yeou-Yeou)  
 He is so gorgeous and polite.  
 Whenever Foo takes a bath in the lake  
 He stands guard near by  
 On the small island or on the lake  
 At which their home they made.







Guarding Princess

And most of the time

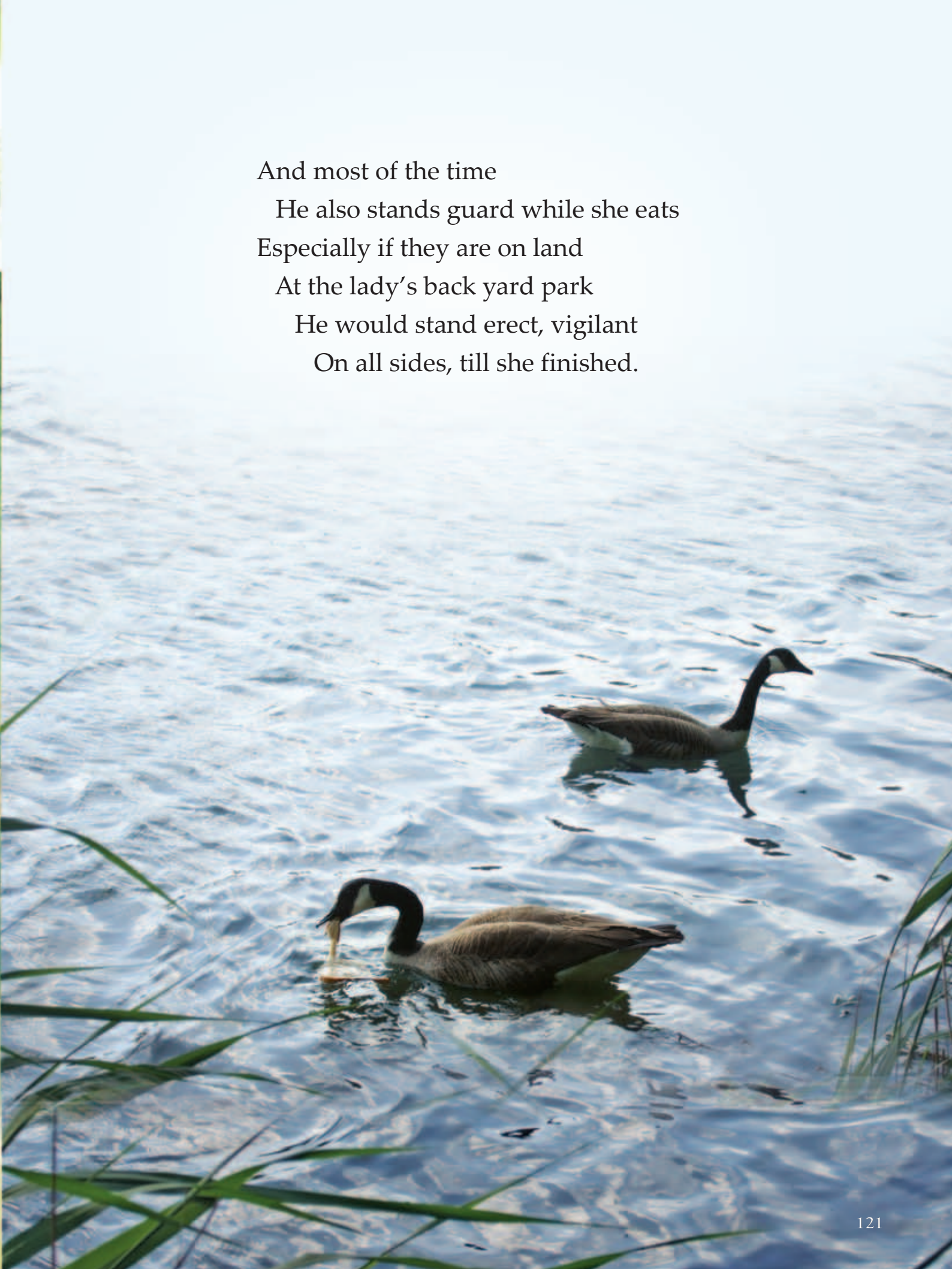
He also stands guard while she eats

Especially if they are on land

At the lady's back yard park

He would stand erect, vigilant

On all sides, till she finished.







Then he might eat  
 If the situation is  
 Calm and favorable  
 No intruder, no threat  
 Or if food is still available,  
 Of course the lady makes sure  
     To give ample portion for him  
 Then Foo-Foo would take turn now to guard.  
 While he eats, they don't "talk,"  
     Just perfect telepathy.



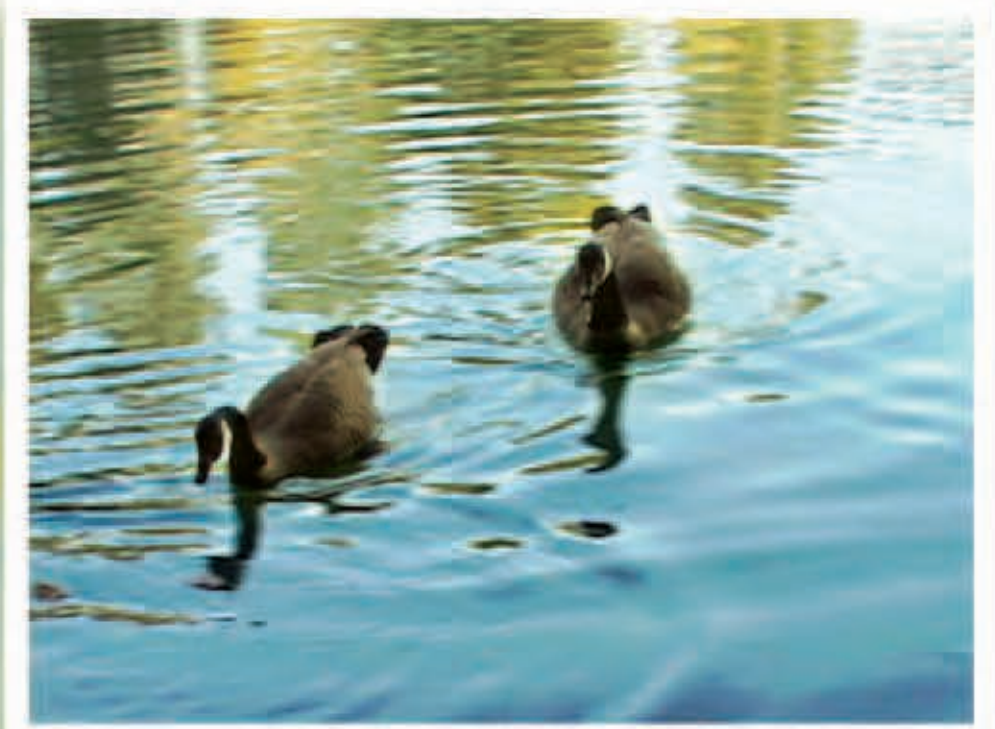
They often come to the lady's house  
 Heads high and proud  
 Expecting a meal and love  
     They always get it!







Before



After



Since the arrival of the little ones,  
Foo-Foo has to constantly be on watch  
Hardly has time to eat and rest.

She became thinner but never  
Let down her guard over  
Her precious babies.

Both of them actually:

Yeou-Yeou also was doing  
His noble part of a parent  
Searching for food.  
And protecting the young.



Teaching them to forage  
Teaching them all the "hows."  
There're dangers in the wild  
So, they always stay close.





Group with each other  
Staying out of trouble...  
– One never knows! –





Sometimes the father goes ahead  
To check the path's OKness  
For the safety of his family  
He would lay down his life readily...

... Once a bigger "bully"  
Swooped down upon them  
The father did his best  
To scare away the "baddy"  
Though much smaller in size  
He stood tall and tough  
Stretching out his wings  
In front of his kids  
Covering his family  
Till all little ones hurriedly  
Followed Mum to safety.  
Such a touching scene to see!

The lady was in tears...  
So much worried!  
They're in the water  
She... on land!  
Nothing she could do to prevent...  
But she was so touched  
Witnessing such courage and noble love!





The babies always stay close  
And follow their mother  
Never disobey or stray from her  
Who is their teacher?...

They do not use any language  
That the human knows of.  
However, they understand each other  
Perhaps more than humans do!  
Strange! Don't you think so?



They are not talking  
Yet there's perfect... "Sync!"







Harvest in Amoura



They are growing... and growing...  
Now you can hardly tell  
Who is the mother  
Who is the sibling!





And the “colony” grows larger  
Since it began summer.



Ah! Look at that, eh!  
How lovely they are  
God made them perfect!  
Woa!





The meeting "club"  
Of young goslings



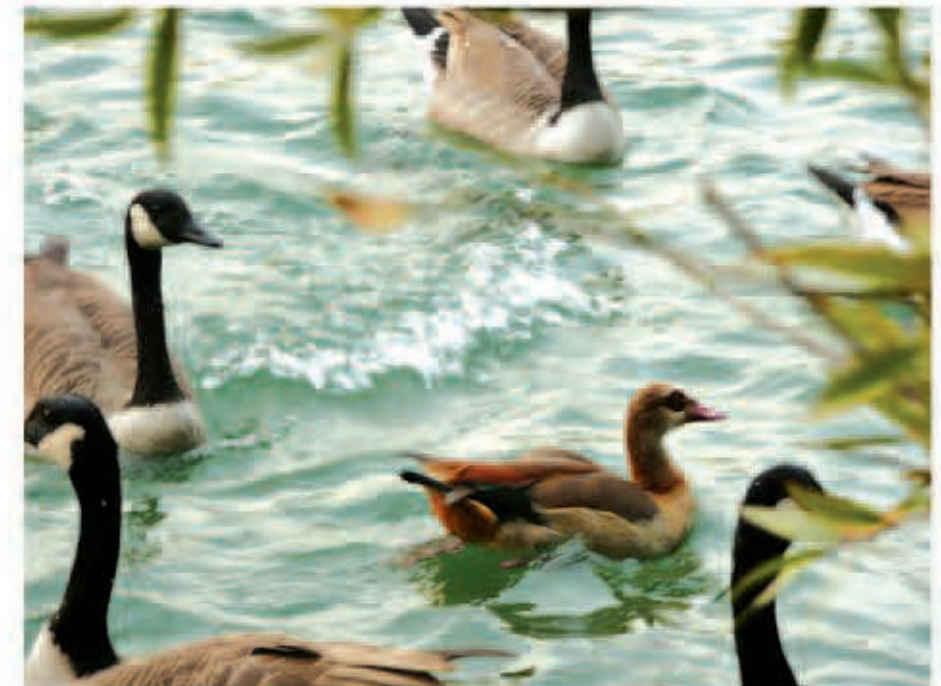




And the lady is very happy  
To see them big, well and plenty  
Very very happy is she.  
She welcomes them all  
With food and love, tenderly.







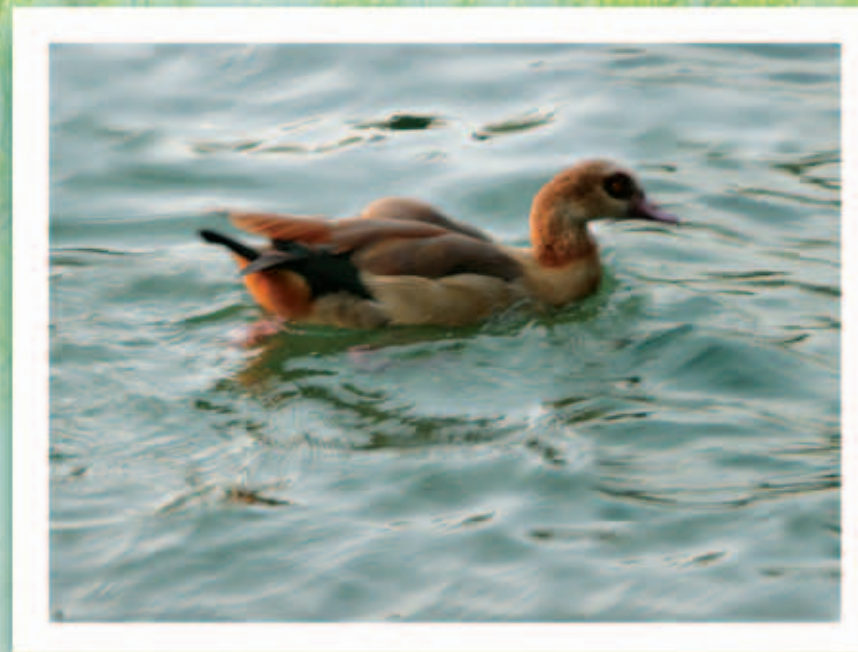
So beautiful is he!  
Never seen one like this before  
Has a name though:  
“Or” !







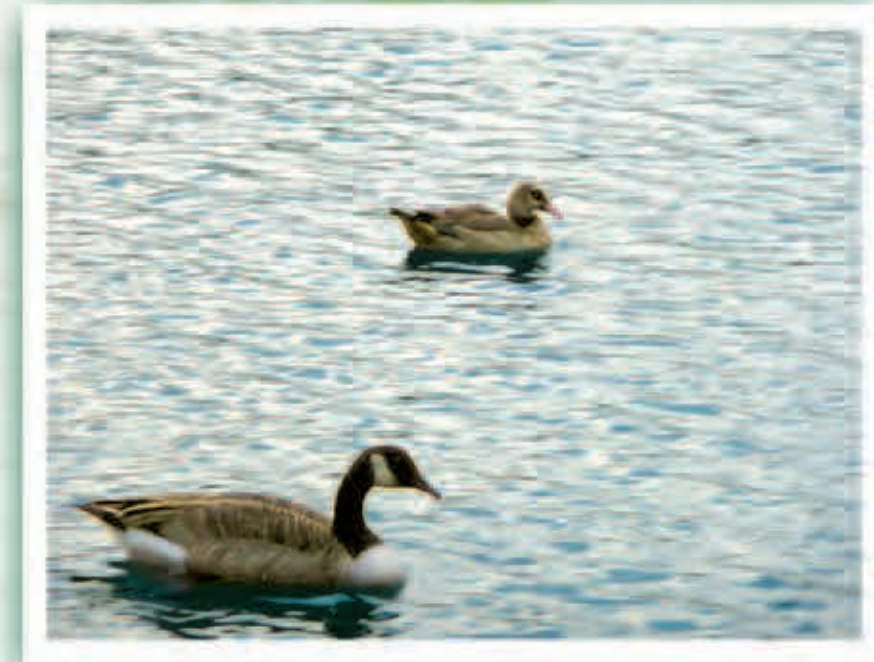
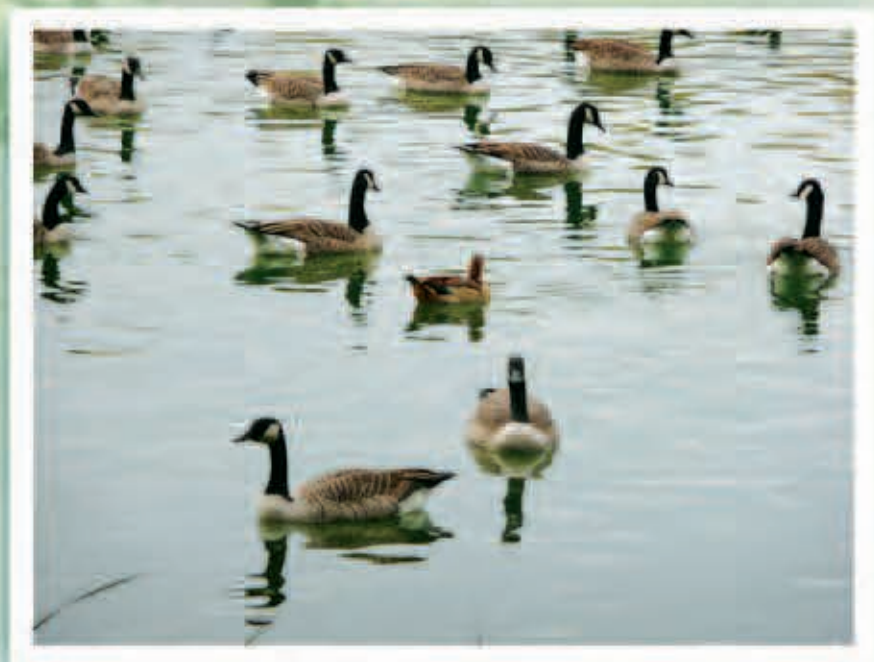
He is so colorful! And so friendly



And not afraid of the lady  
Comes quite near for bread!







He's adopted and loved,  
this "little Egyptian"

By these protective geese "parents"!

They always surround him  
as if he's their most precious.





Yesterday - Life

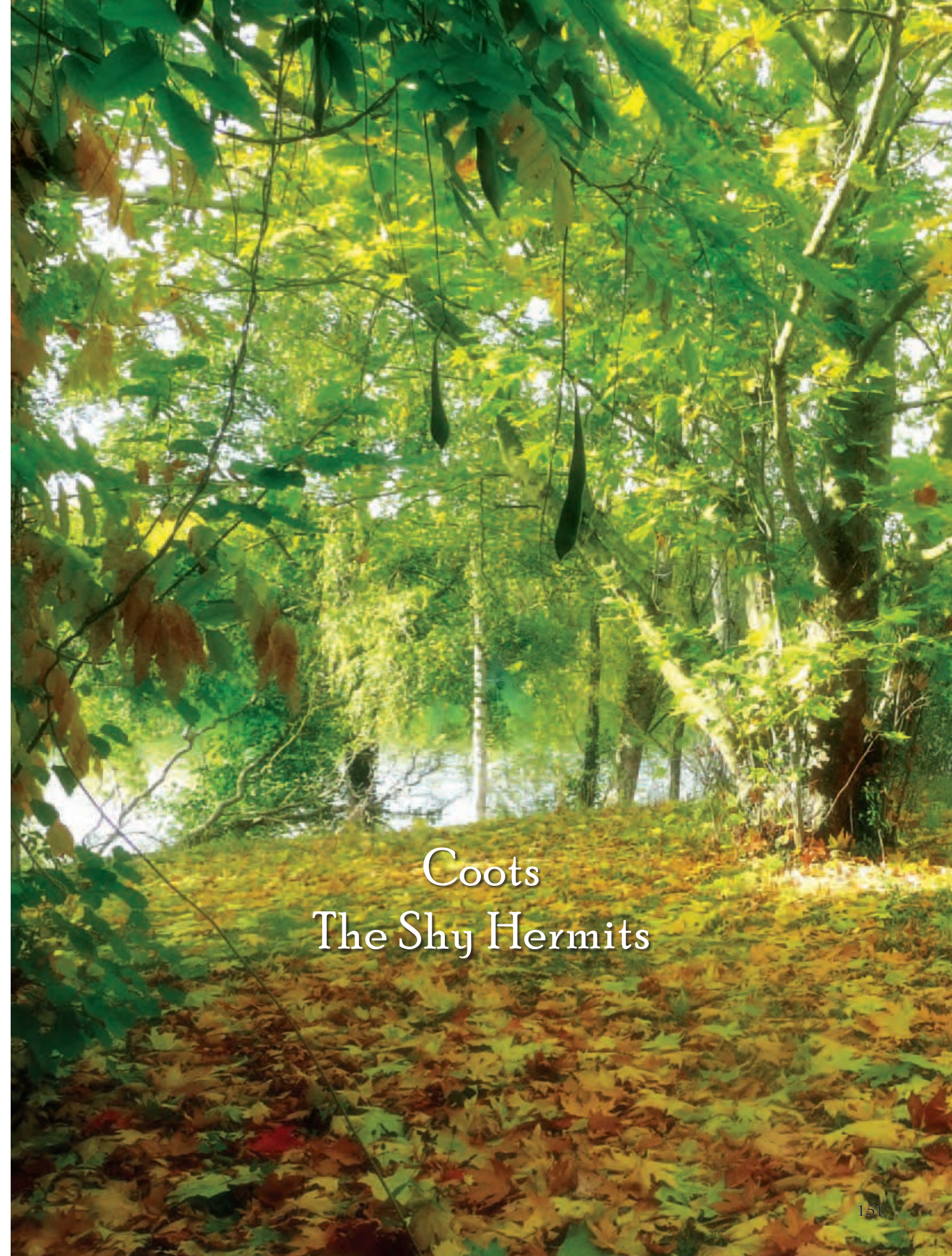


Today - Demise



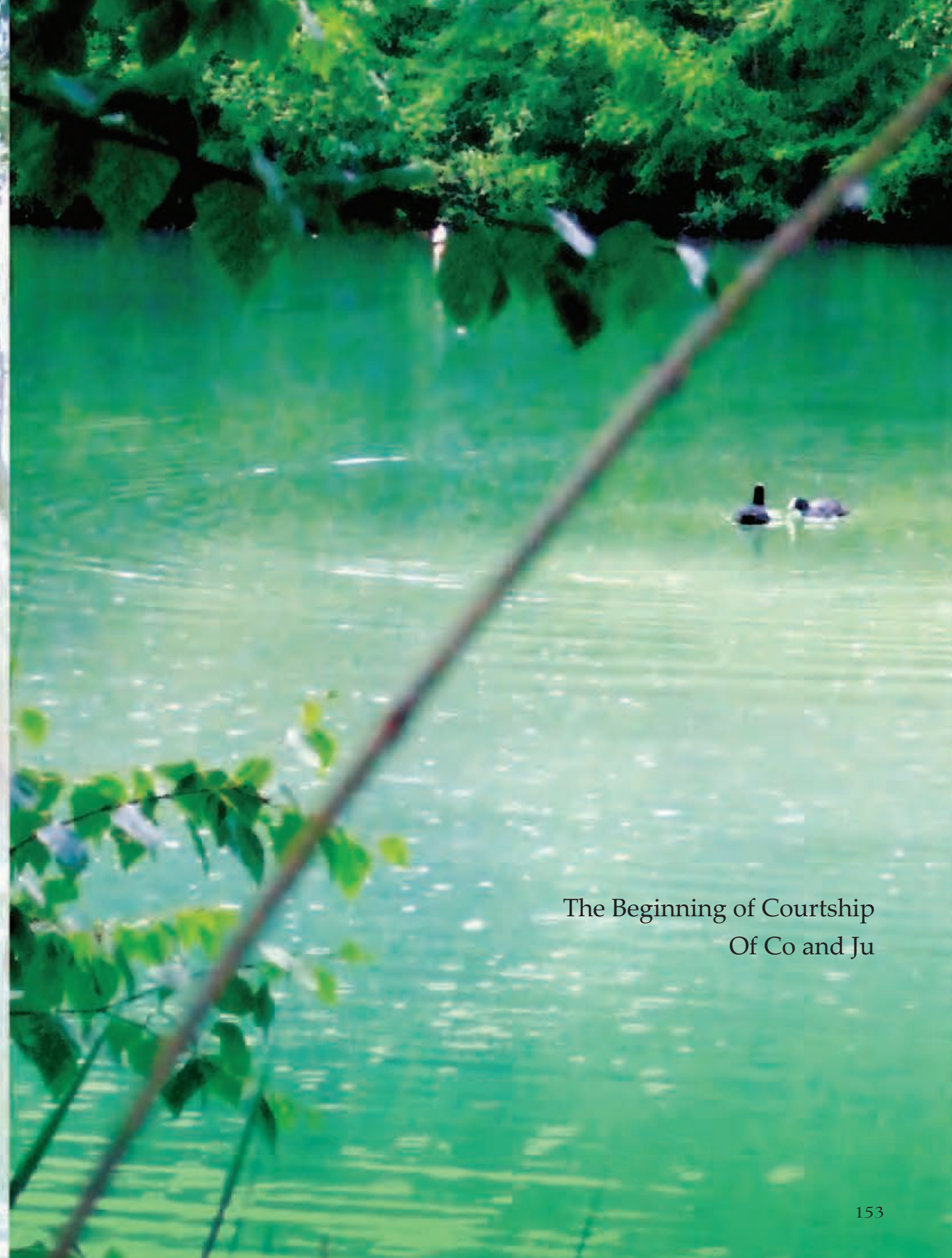


Simple charm in Amoura



Coots  
The Shy Hermits





The Beginning of Courtship  
Of Co and Ju



## The Bridge Restaurant

A Beaver and a Coot  
Racing for food  
Odd combination  
Same destination

Now u see me



A Master diver  
Coots can stay long under  
A similar size as pigeon  
They're in the family of moor-hen.

Now u don't







On a tour of food supply  
The lady discovered this nest.  
Mom and Dad out for lunch  
While this photo was taken.  
She had to climb the tree and be quick  
Before the parents are back.

Spring comes not only with flowers  
But also lots of gifts to offer  
Life blossoms anew...  
After the long winter.



\* A coot on her nest





The coots are much more of a hermit  
 Than the swans, geese or ducks.  
 They are also much smaller  
 Mostly they only come near  
 If other water-fowls are there.  
     They would wait otherwise  
     Till the human is out of sight  
     Any slightest movement from the feeder  
     They would take flight!

But there's one couple  
 Who come running when the lady is near  
 And partake of the food  
 That she daily thrice offers.

Even if one or both are hatching  
 On their nest at that moment  
 Mind you, only for food  
 Not to get too close, Eh!







The sign reads:  
"Will be back after lunch"







The youngest sits and waits  
The rest went with Mom & Dad away

The lady placed a little bread here  
In case Mom couldn't find  
Any food near.





There is still one more to come.  
The mother is patient  
The lady is "in waiting."



The parents keep coming and going  
They never abandon the nest  
But there are other offspring  
That they must take care of.





See the famous large feet  
for swimming great is?



This little one kept going in the wrong direction  
So the lady has to go on a "rescue mission."  
She swooped it on to her boat  
Carried it back to the parent's abode.



"It's comfortable here  
I don't want to stir."





"I am not your mother"



But the guy jumped back in the water  
And ran chirping after her!!!  
She explained to this precious  
That she is not its mother.

*Wanting to follow "Her."*





“Hey, I do appreciate your love  
But please go back to your flock  
Mom and Dad will be worrying  
If you go a-missing!”







Then, another nest here  
My dear!  
What a “Wonder-full” world!



*Oblivious to the world*



*Song of the spring*



And another nest after  
Are they hatching forever!







They are here already  
Only this latest one is not  
in a hurry.

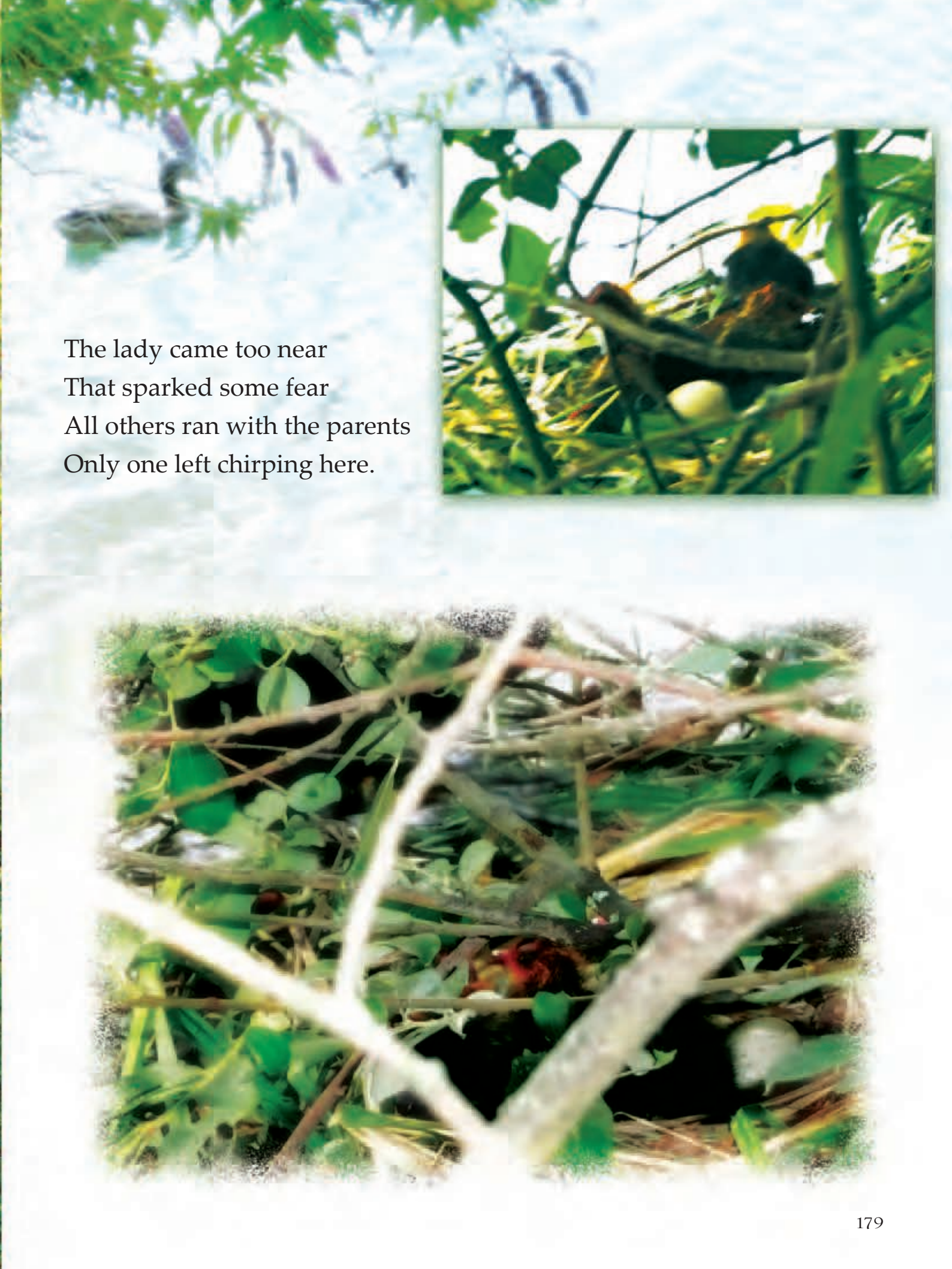
In any case  
Such a work of love  
And artistic design  
Who is their guide?



"I like you  
But do not come close"







The lady came too near  
That sparked some fear  
All others ran with the parents  
Only one left chirping here.



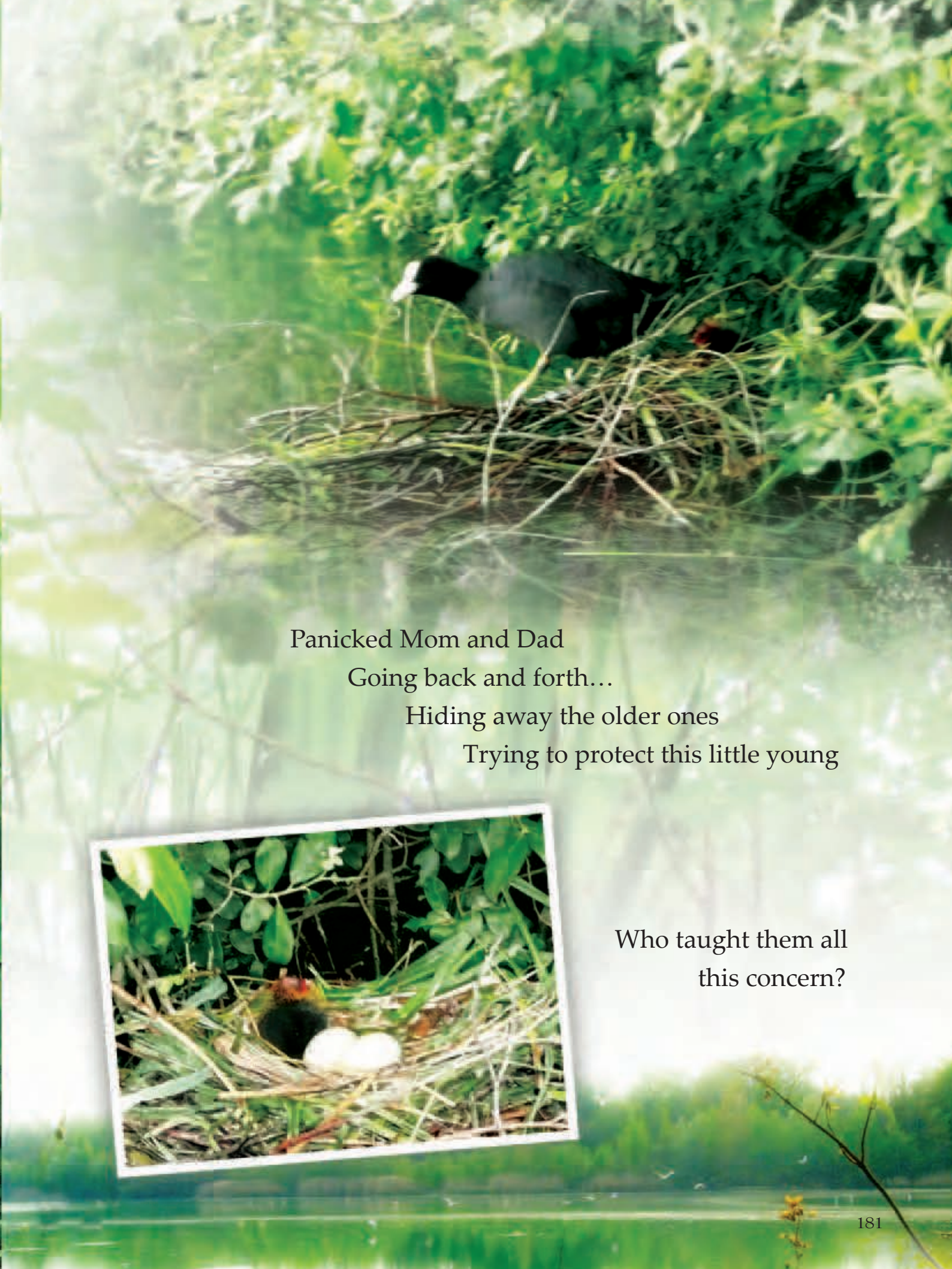


Though reclusive and maybe afraid  
of human - who wouldn't, eh? –  
The Mom and Dad kept coming near  
To protect the little: Love is greater than fear!



The lady was in tears.  
"I am so... sorry  
I'd never hurt you  
I'll leave right now!"

"...Just wanna feed you  
Next time...  
I won't come so close."



Panicked Mom and Dad  
Going back and forth...  
Hiding away the older ones  
Trying to protect this little young



Who taught them all  
this concern?





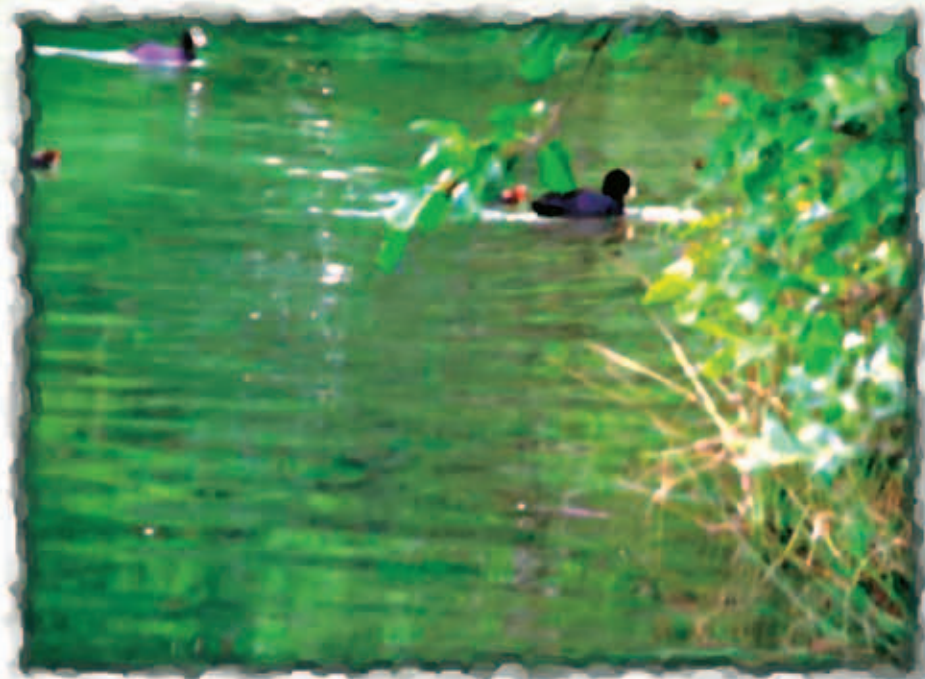


This is long after they're hatched  
 The lady has regained their trust  
 Otherwise they'd hide near the shore  
 And parents take turns to carry food there.  
 And the "journey" could be long  
 Like from this shore to the other!



Raising a family

Dad, Mom and the cooties  
 Enjoying bread from the lady



The lady wishes she could just fly  
 Here, there, to bring them the supplies!  
 Seeing coot Mama swam such a long distance  
 Carrying each morsel to her children  
 The lady's heart feels such tender love  
 Such an indescribable sentiment!





They would nip a piece in their beak  
And swim away to feed their kids  
It is a heartwarming scene to behold  
In love they're nourished  
And in love they grow!

- Who instructed them so?



*We are also a united flock.*



The building  
Of a "Bridge Restaurant"  
It took one woman, two men  
Some cables, some fence  
Three days, no cement  
The lady was the "engineer"  
The two men were good helping hands



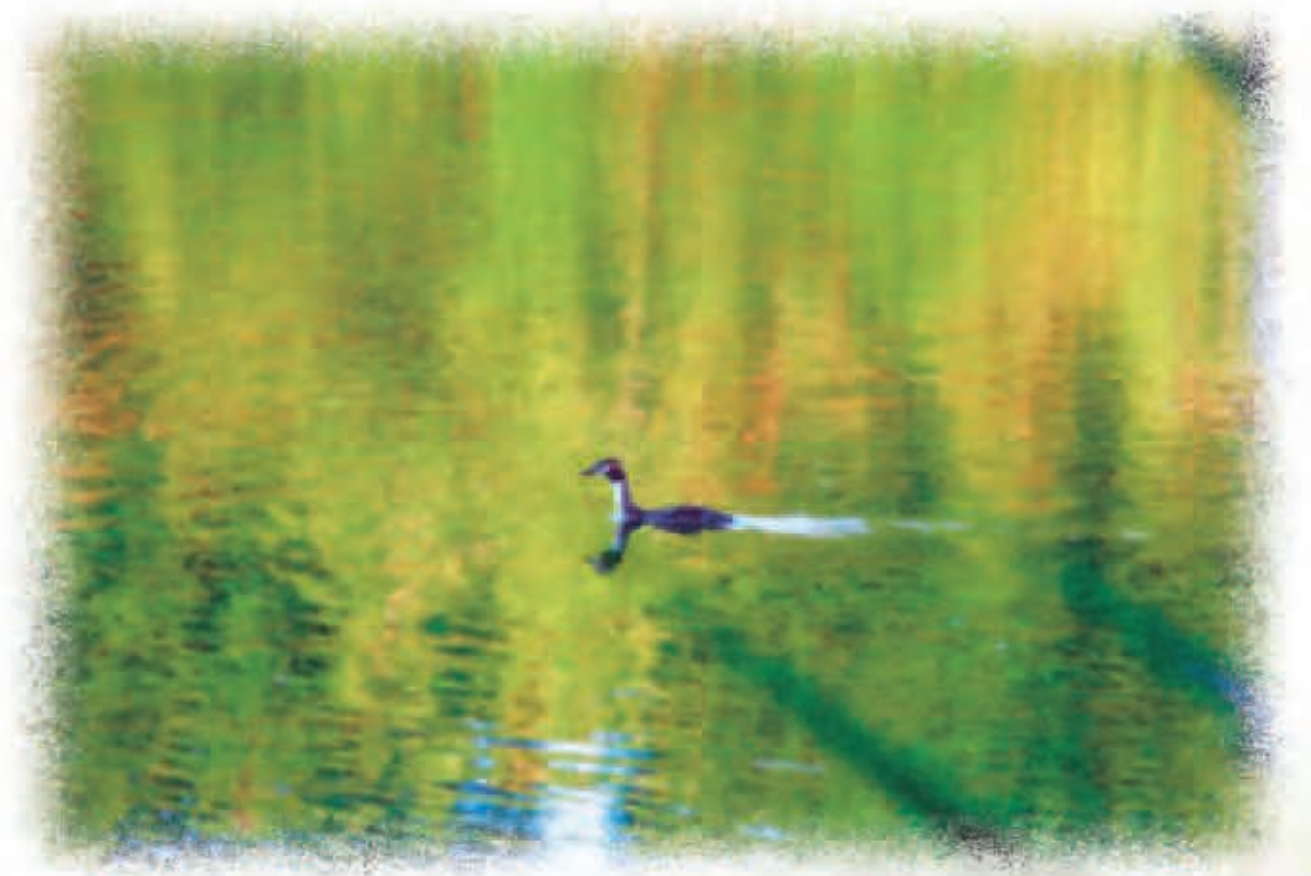
The access to Swanie Island  
The white "dot" above is  
a hatching swan

## Great Crested Grebe The Reclusive Diver





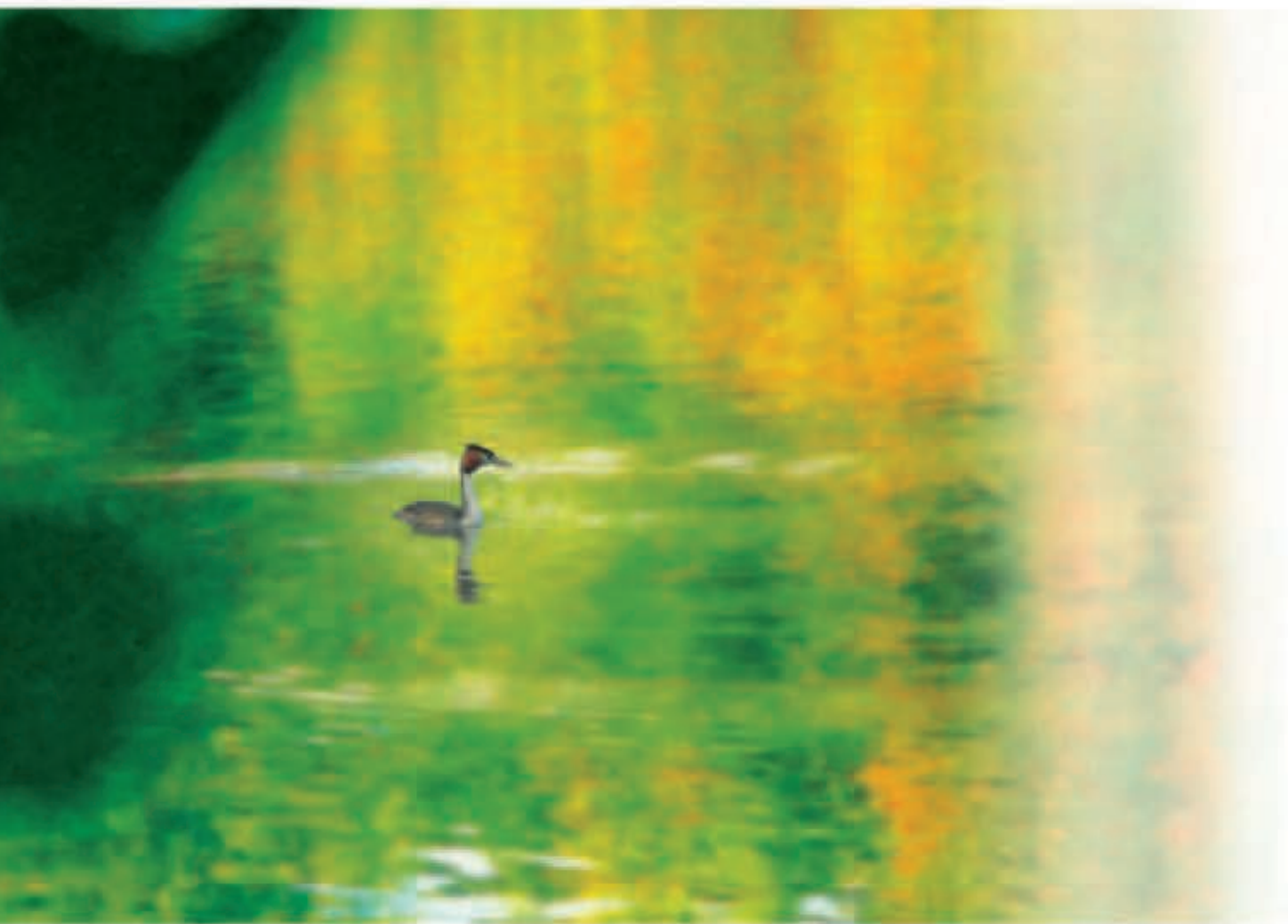
◆ *The shade of time*



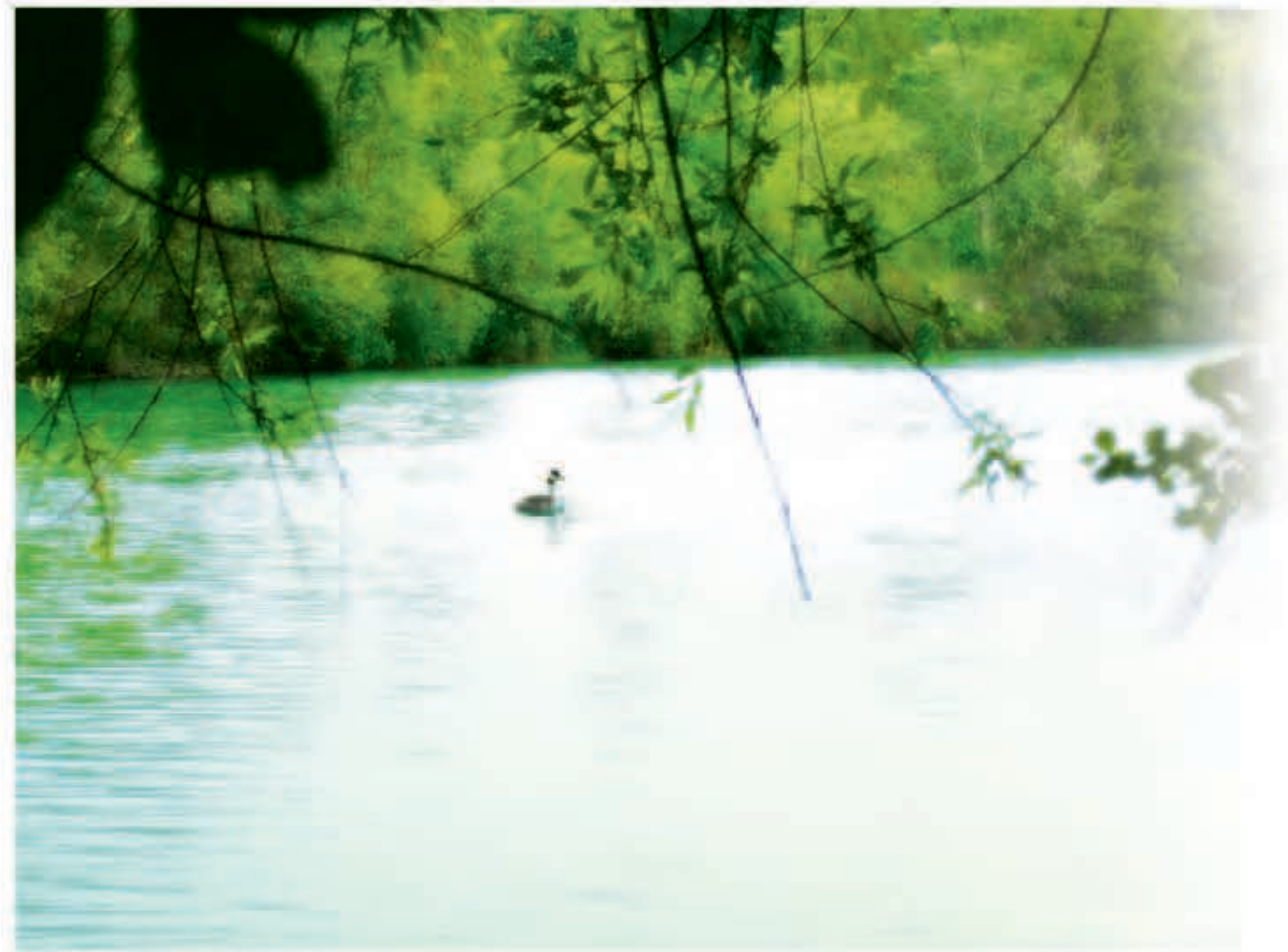
This is as good as it gets  
The photo is already the best  
Anyway they are  
Similar size as ducks,  
A little more slender.  
(Just enjoy the Autumn lake color!)







This water beauty never came  
 Close enough for a better vision.  
 Bread or stuffs never tempted him  
 They just love to dive and swim.



If you feel it's disappointing  
 Please stop further looking.  
 The worse photos are coming!





Well, it's better than nothing  
At least, to show their existence.  
With binoculars, they are fascinating!



Deer Road

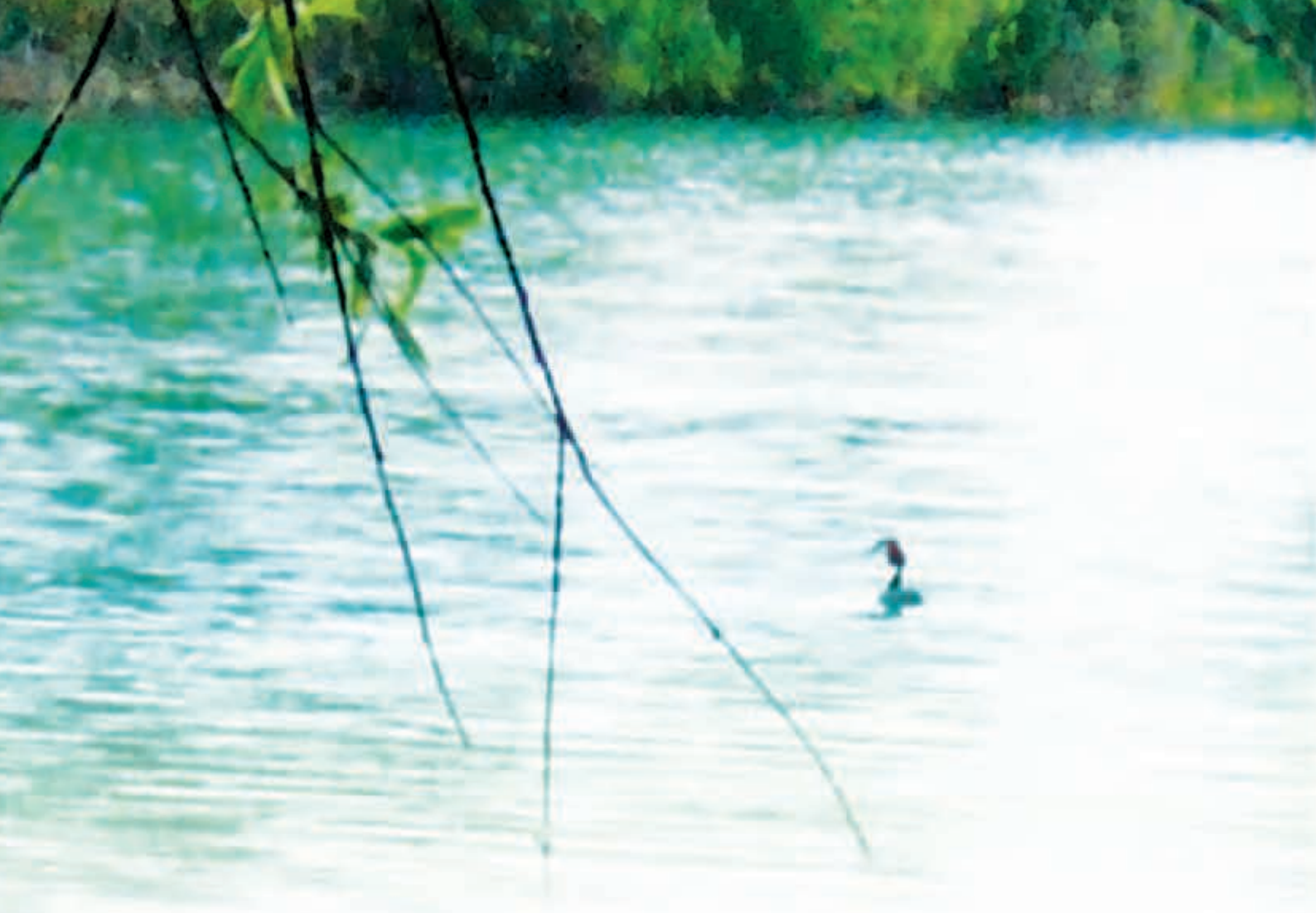




*The signature of Autumn*







Yeah! I am asking for the same answer:  
No no no! It's not a hammer,  
It's a great crested grebe



It's a bird!  
If you don't believe,  
Go nearer and see  
Ha... Ha!



Oh! He ran away even further.  
Will try to get a better picture.  
(Serious!) - OK?





*Great Crested Grebe (à la Ching Hai!)*  
*Through binoculars.*

Thanks to the computer – he has “grown” bigger.



*Great Grebe*





Greater Grebe?

(Ha ha! No, it's the same guy.)



*Great Crested Grebe (à la Ching Hai!)*

*Looked through binoculars*

*(In case) you don't like the picture of the other guy!  
Maybe this is his buddy!*

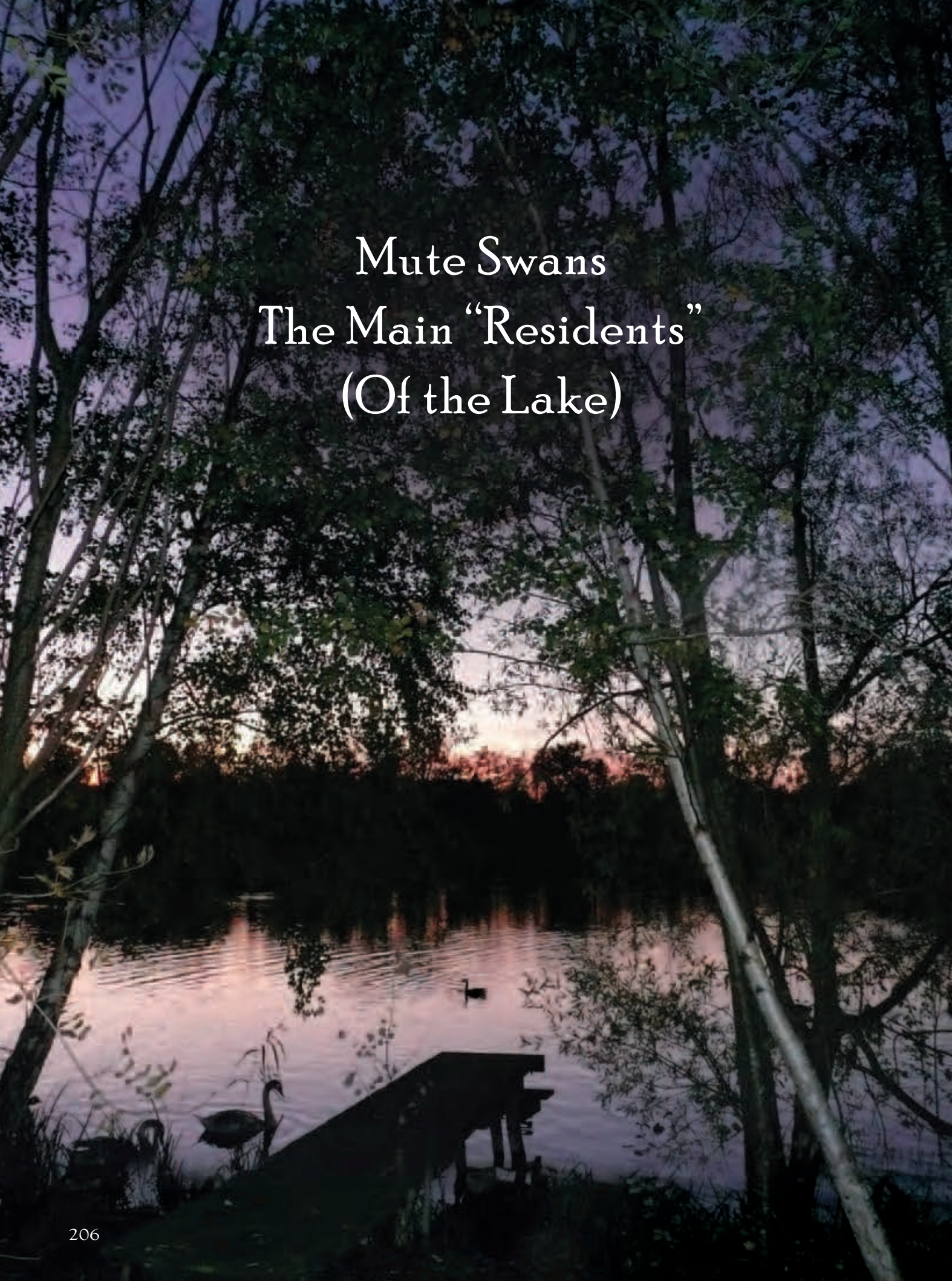


Glorious summer  
Saying it with flowers

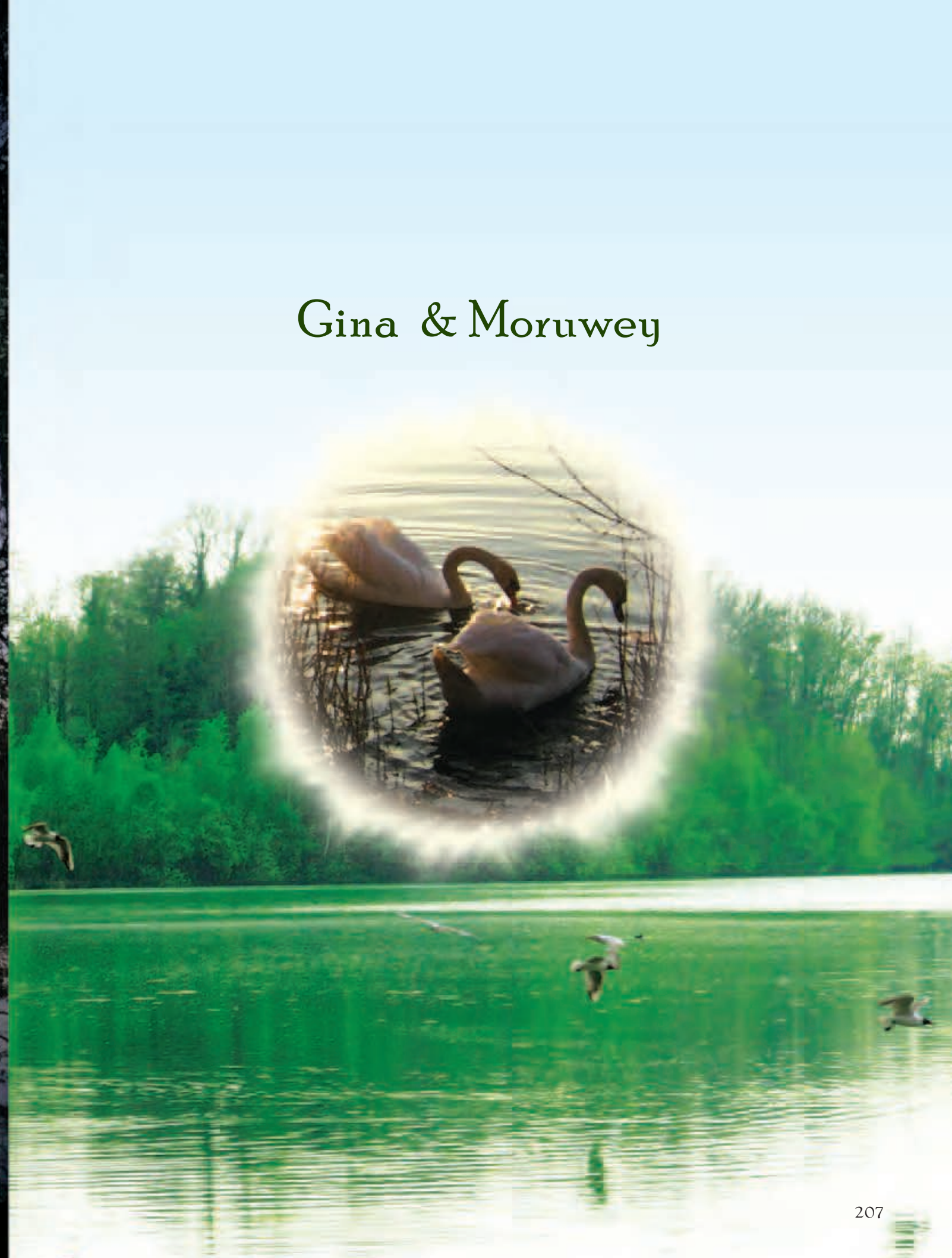




Mute Swans  
The Main “Residents”  
(Of the Lake)



Gina & Moruwey





In the beginning was the (S)... wan  
Beautiful, young and lonesome  
Visiting an old lady's home.  
Gina is her name.



We are friends

Gina and the lady





Gina has a daughter swanie  
Said her name is Moruwey  
(Don't ask me!)  
Who loves to be among gulls.  
They get on so well!



Who can blame you  
Peace and quiet, huh!





Look at the two of them  
Lovely beyond description!  
– Born friendly and tame –



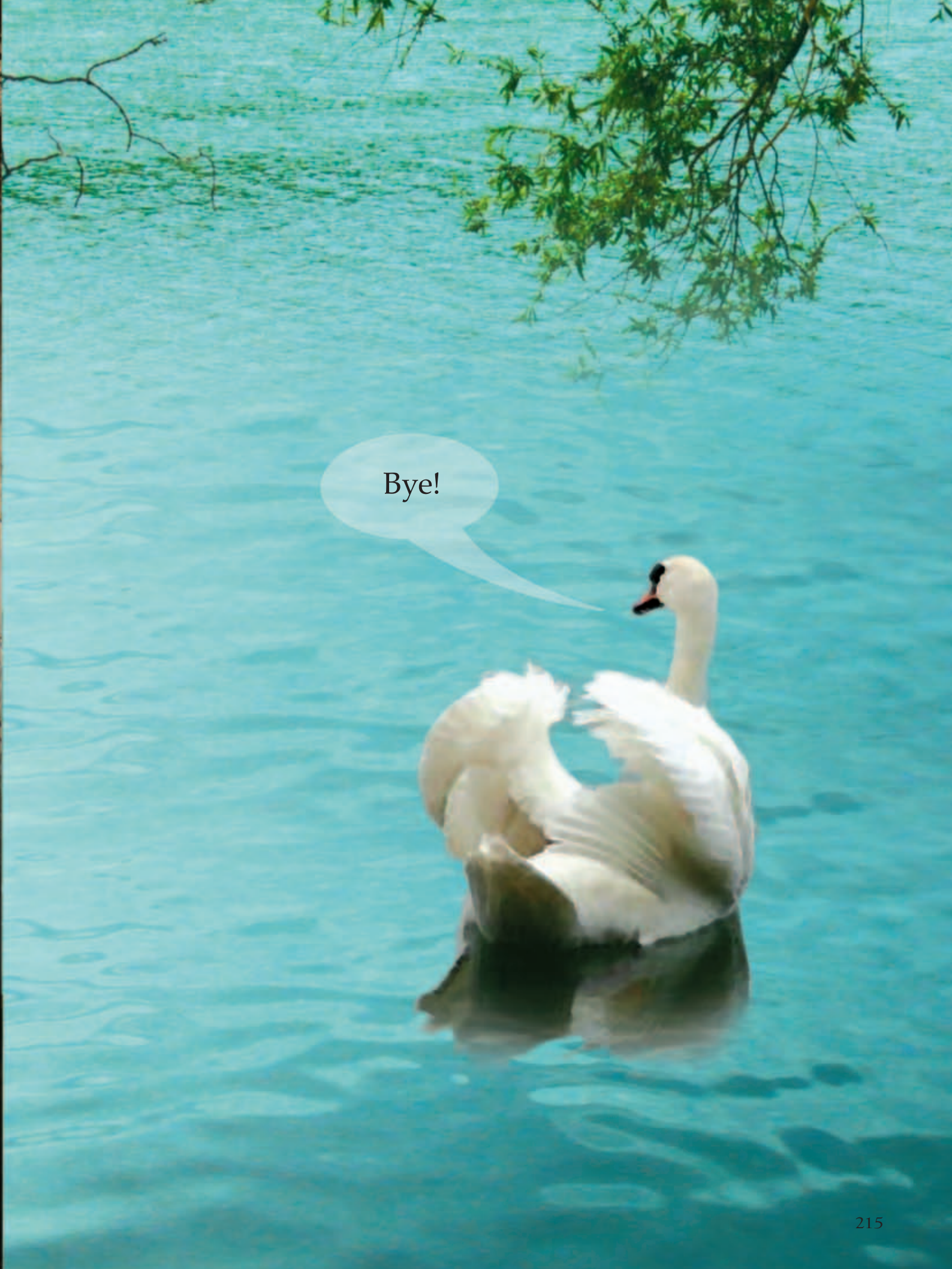
The threesome friends  
Sharing simple lunch.  
Having nice “Conversation.”





But they moved away  
When the spring arrived  
Ah, reunion and depart  
So, it's life.

By the way,  
"How old is old?"



Bye!



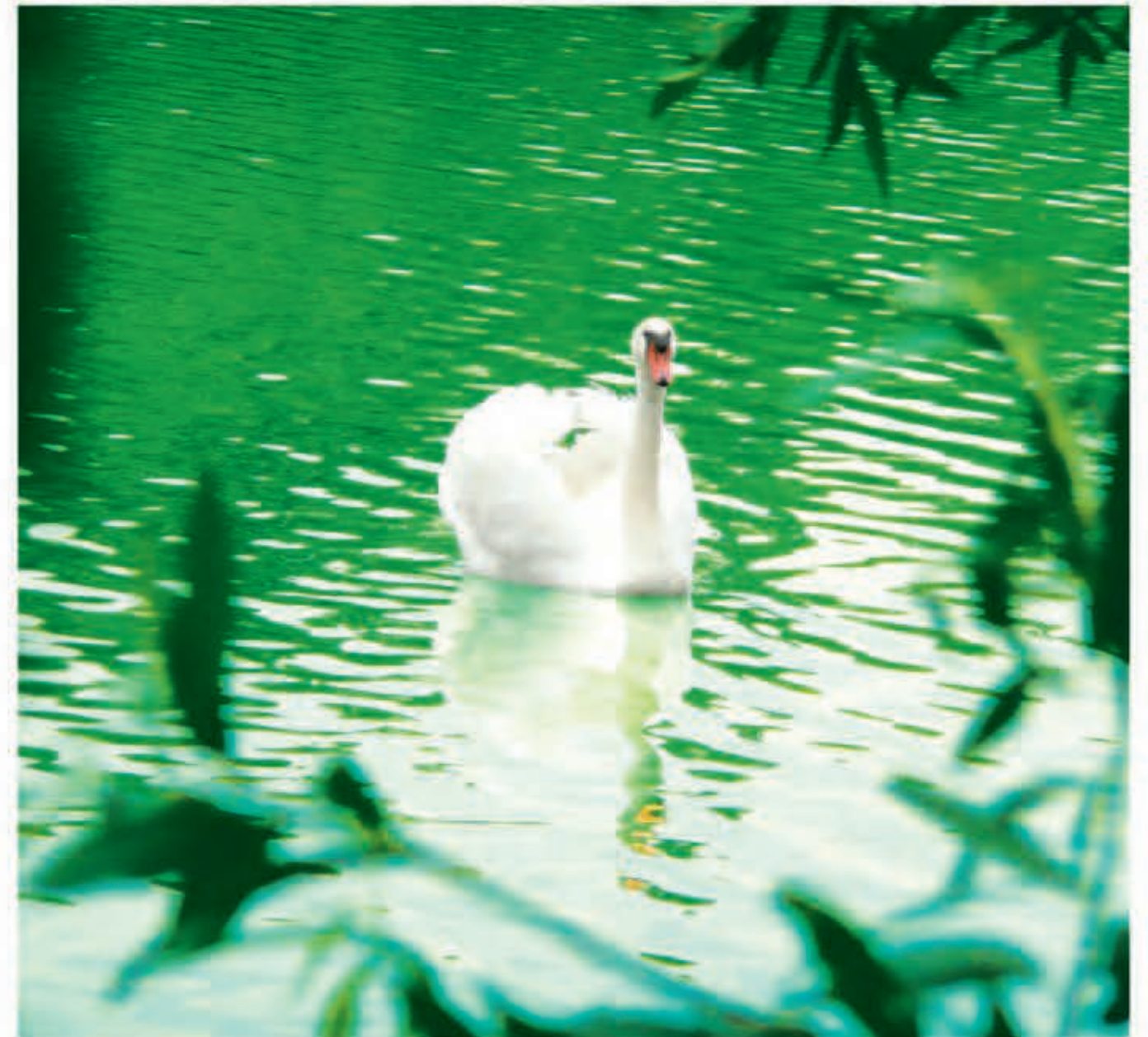
“We do not have to use verbal language. We communicate in silence. We need not talk about love, harmony and peace. We live in them.”

Pitu





Pitu & Sai



After a short while  
There came this beauty.  
She is tender young and lovely  
Loves to befriend the lady.

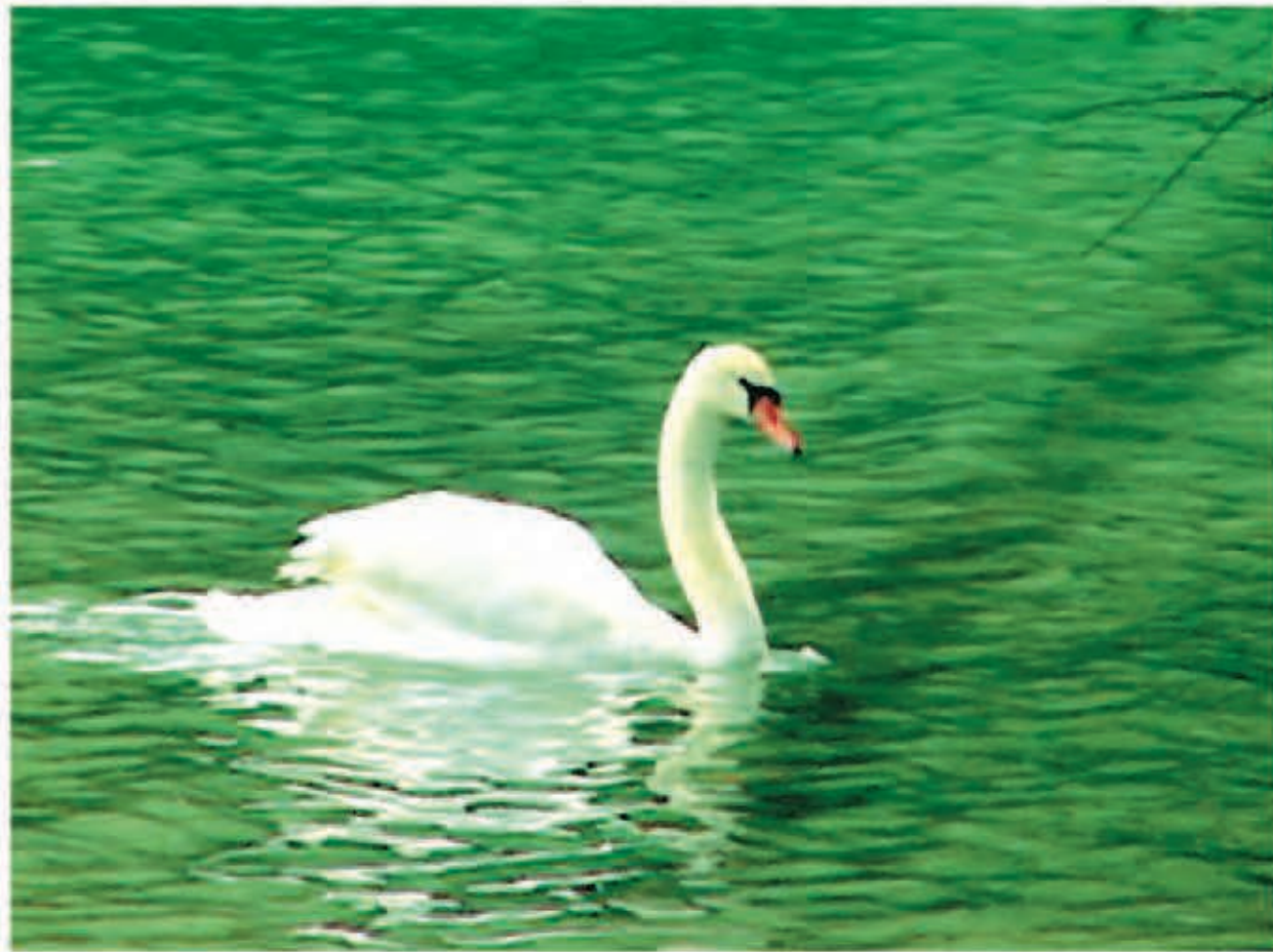


"This is "PeeToo"

(Written Pitu)

She came from far away

Finland is home – she says –



Vis à vis?

Lonesome Beauty







She enjoys herself greatly  
On the Amoura water  
Feeling so... care free.



Pitu in her natural habitat  
Gloriously beautiful  
And smart





Pitu enjoys her home  
Seems to love being alone.





Not for long

Here comes "The one."

His name is Sai:

Saying from India



Handsome, tough and strong  
Macho 100%.



Crowded Restaurant  
- Famous food!-  
(Whole-meal bread and lettuce are good)



The Future  
More Somes







And the two-some of them  
Produce some more “somes.”  
Here’s Pitu hatching...  
Concerned about her  
The lady brought food and care!



She rows for daily visit



Petit – Princess Island





For a diligent, among the best Moms  
The distance is never too long.

"I'll take care of your family  
Like I did a long time ago.  
Nice to see you again good friend  
How many there under your wings?"







So...o...Many.  
I'm proud of you  
Dear loved Pitu!

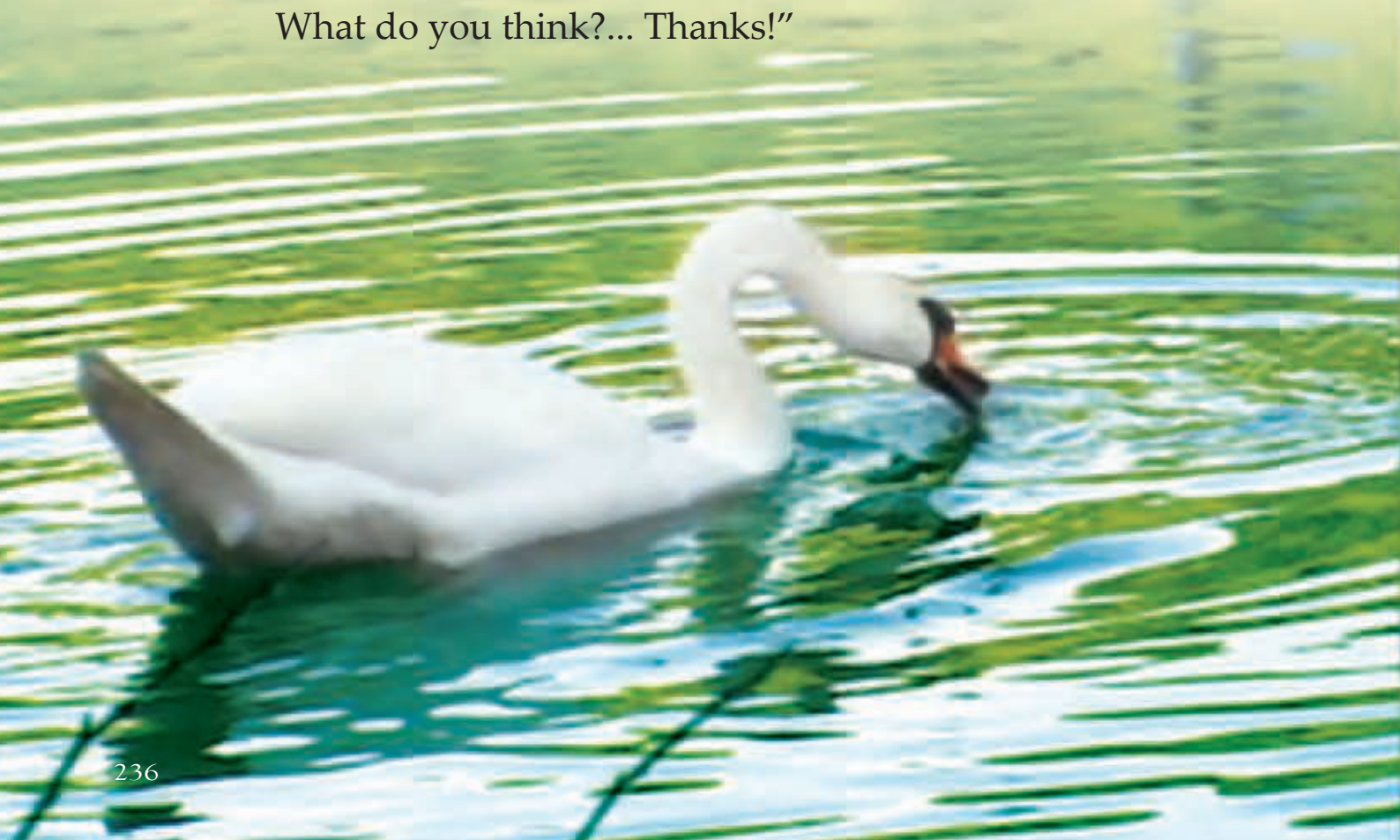


One on one.  
(One in a nest  
One in the tent)






“It’s thoughtful to bring me some drink  
But I’ll get water from the abundance,  
What do you think?... Thanks!”



Sai Sai comes up to the nest  
On the Swanie Island for a little rest  
And to keep Pitu companied...  
(Though the Gal never feels lonely!)







Pitu is turning the hatchlings  
Sai Sai is nearby guarding.



... And to check on mother and dears  
Most of the time he stands guard on water.  
(... Do not venture near here,  
Sai can really teach you fear!)





The proud owner of Bridge Restaurant



The “communication” begins  
Between Ma and future siblings





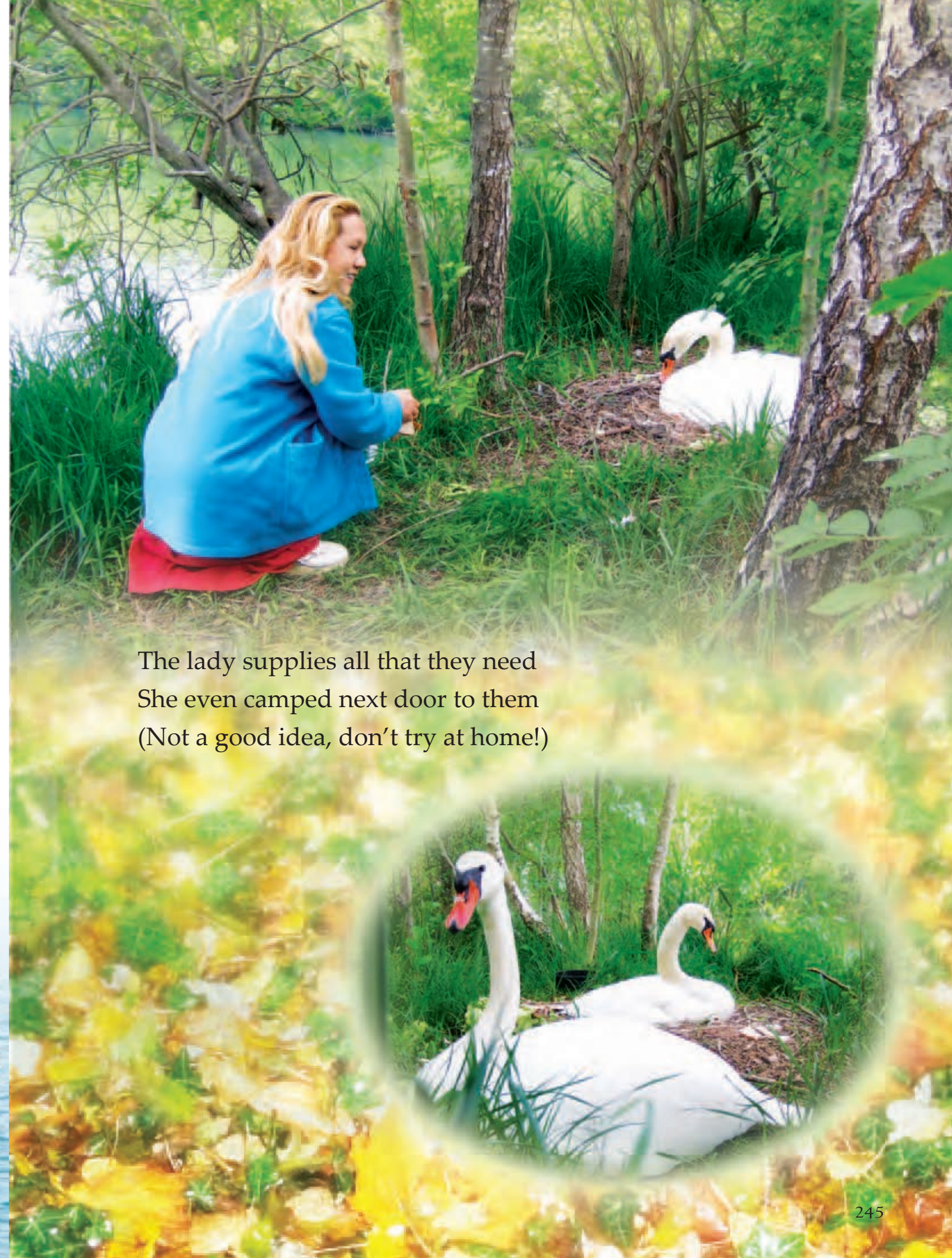
Pitu would pluck her silky feathers  
To inlay the nest softer  
Day and night, rain or shine  
She protects her nestlings as her life.

The lady brings daily supply  
Of Pitu's favorite and for Sai.  
They love soft bread, lettuce and spinach.



Pitu in her nest and dining room.





The lady supplies all that they need  
She even camped next door to them  
(Not a good idea, don't try at home!)



The Swans didn't mind she came and went  
They were used to her by then.  
Still, it's best to stay away  
They are fiercely protective of their family!

One day the lady used a stick of wood  
Tried to remove something from their nest  
Because it seemed to pierce the body of Pitu  
But she went berserk, called Sai to Shoo  
He flew to her immediately.  
Advancing with pumped up giant body  
With deliberate threatening gesture and Hissing



This is the "Fence connection"  
That she uses to get to the island  
It's quicker and also much safer  
(Sometimes Sai doesn't allow the boat to enter!)



Cornering and almost pushed the lady down.  
But she said "I am good, I am good.  
I only wanted to help Pitu  
The stick from her neck to remove  
I am good to you!"  
He calmed down instantly  
And went back down to the water! Whewph...!



Later, the lady moved her tent  
Near to the bridge, on higher elevation.  
Just to watch over the swans  
And wait for the blossoming of the little ones!



The lady's quarters  
On Swanie Island.





A photograph of a person in a blue kayak on a calm lake, framed by tree branches. The person is wearing a blue jacket and has blonde hair. The water is still, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The scene is viewed through the branches of a tree in the foreground, creating a natural frame.

## The Moresomes

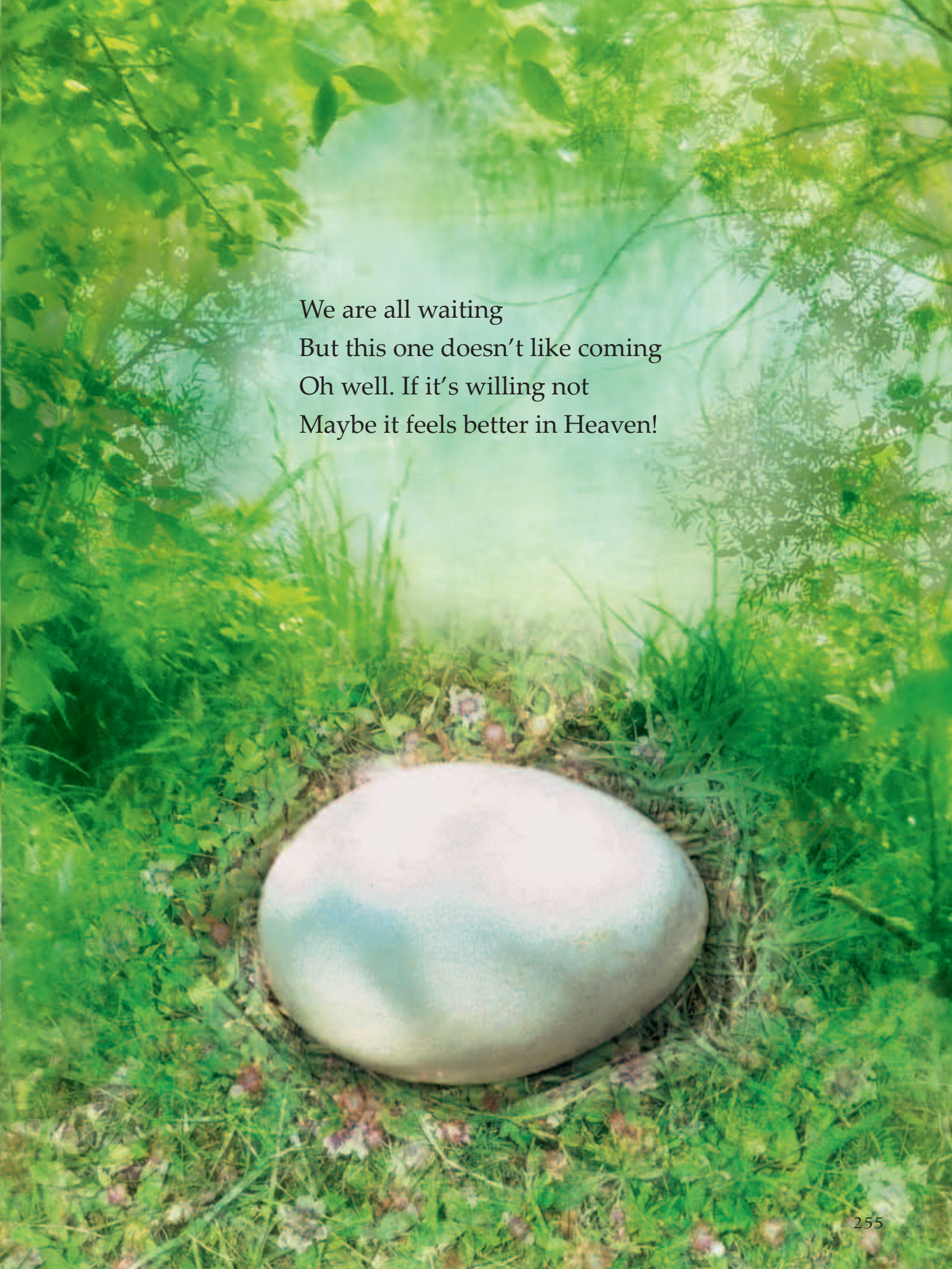
Again: "Can one person be called a team?"  
— Who cares!





Here they are, oh dear!  
Who makes them so adorable?  
The lady was beyond happy  
Tending to them like her babies.





We are all waiting  
But this one doesn't like coming  
Oh well. If it's willing not  
Maybe it feels better in Heaven!





The lady abandoned her tent  
Not wanting to disturb them  
Respecting their privacy  
She camped in another place nearby.



Now you see them

Now you don't







Before going on exploration  
Listen well to the good guidance.



First-time outing on water  
With Papa.



It's not difficult to know  
Who's Sai and who is Pitu  
Sai has a bigger body and black feet.  
Pitu's more slender, light "paws," and chic.



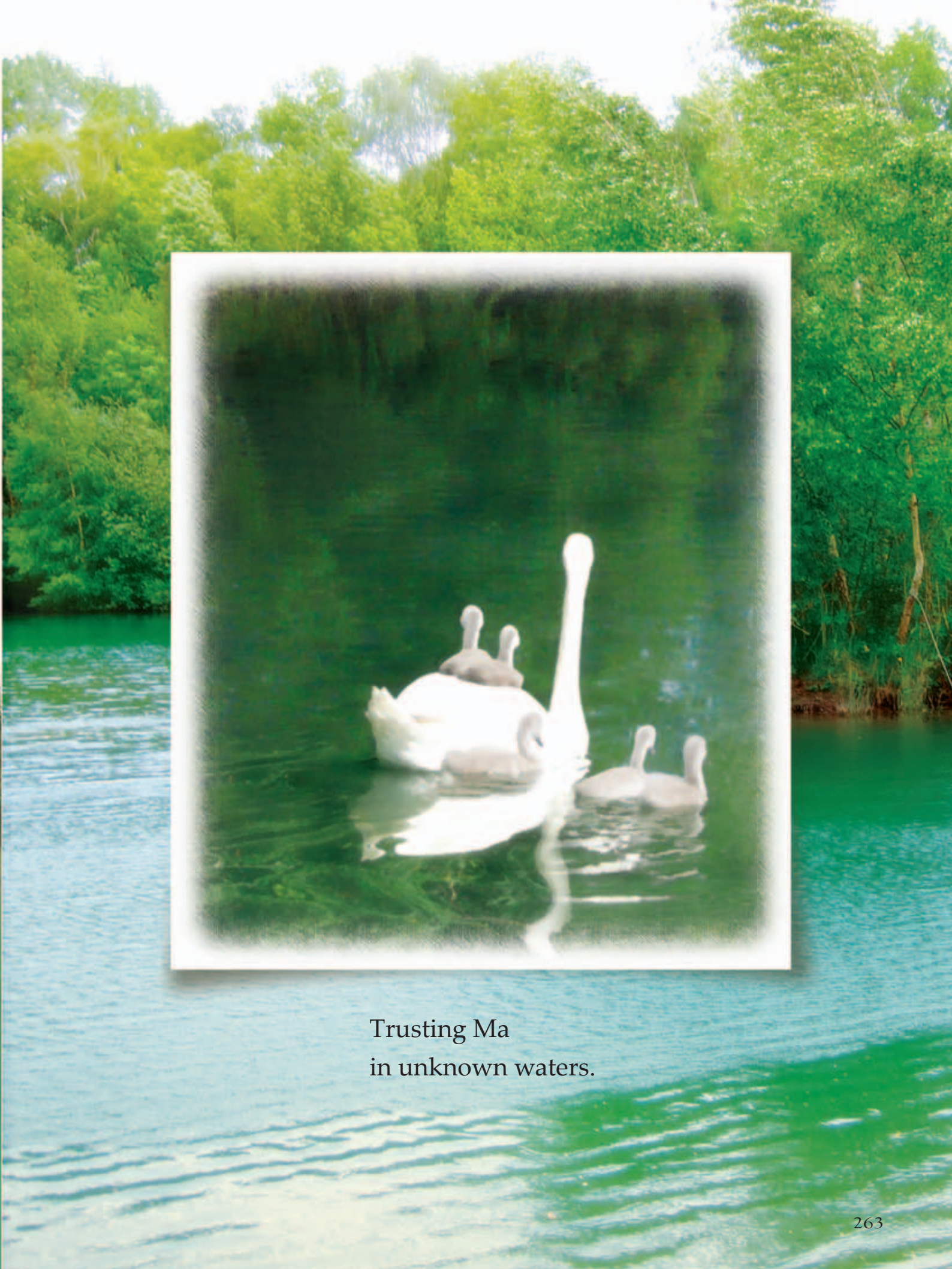




Pitu is also the more noble of the two  
Elegant, gentle and beautiful.  
There is something about her, inborn  
That commands respect and admiration.



Trusting Ma  
in unknown waters.







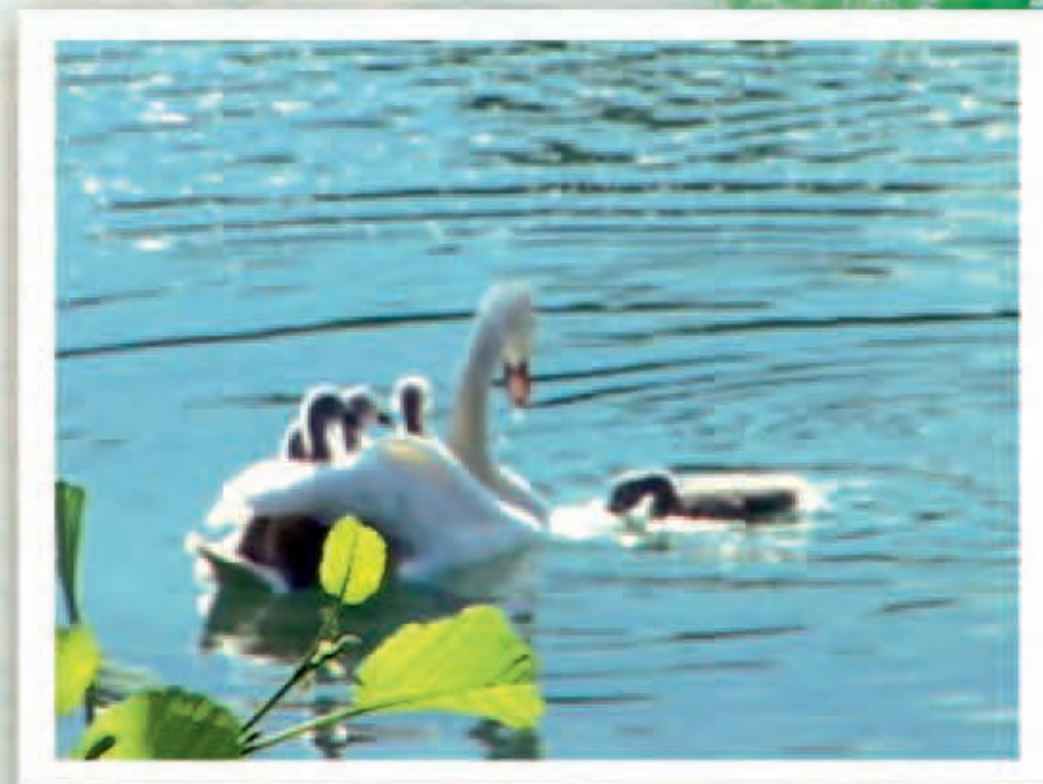
*Home sweet home.*







Only fifteen or so days old  
They already can travel  
Paying the old lady a grateful visit  
She's waiting happily  
For her extended family.



When the training get tough  
When the wind is too rough  
There's good transportation  
Quick, comfy and convenient.







Sai is chewing the food to bits:  
Easier for the kids to eat.



The siblings can eat at all times  
Taking very short naps  
During hatching time and after even  
One hardly sees the parents resting!

It was still very cold in mid-spring  
At night temp drops to plus 5-6  
Pitu sat on duty and rarely moved.  
Sai never slept all night through  
He was constantly vigilant – deep in the icy water.  
The lady camped near and fed Sai-Sai  
He came often for a quick bite.  
How did Pitu survive so long  
Who helps her stay healthy and strong?  
Who keeps Sai Sai through the night warm?



Even after the babies are hatched  
Pitu hardly eats nor sleeps much!  
Her weight came low  
Her feathers thinning  
She plucked them to quilt their nest  
Now she has only half her wings!  
Seeing thus the lady kept crying



Carpeted the ground  
That your tender feet walk!  
Know that you are  
Loved!



She cannot fly nor does want to  
Her life is bound with the littles

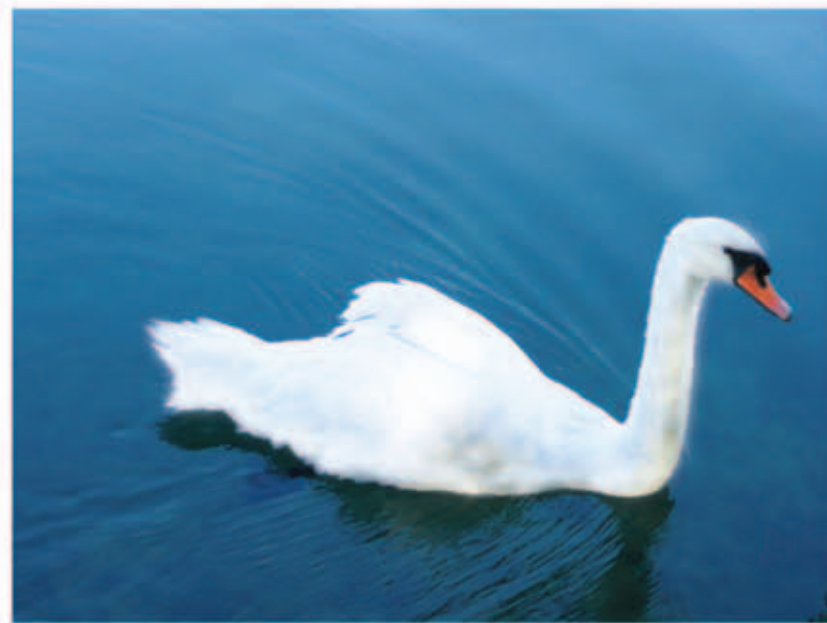


The lady's heart feeling some pain  
Seeing Pitu's body thus waned  
The lady keeps singing her name, coaxes her to eat  
Sometimes succeeds, most often nicht!



1/2 winged

Waiting for the wings to return.



Has only 1/2 wings





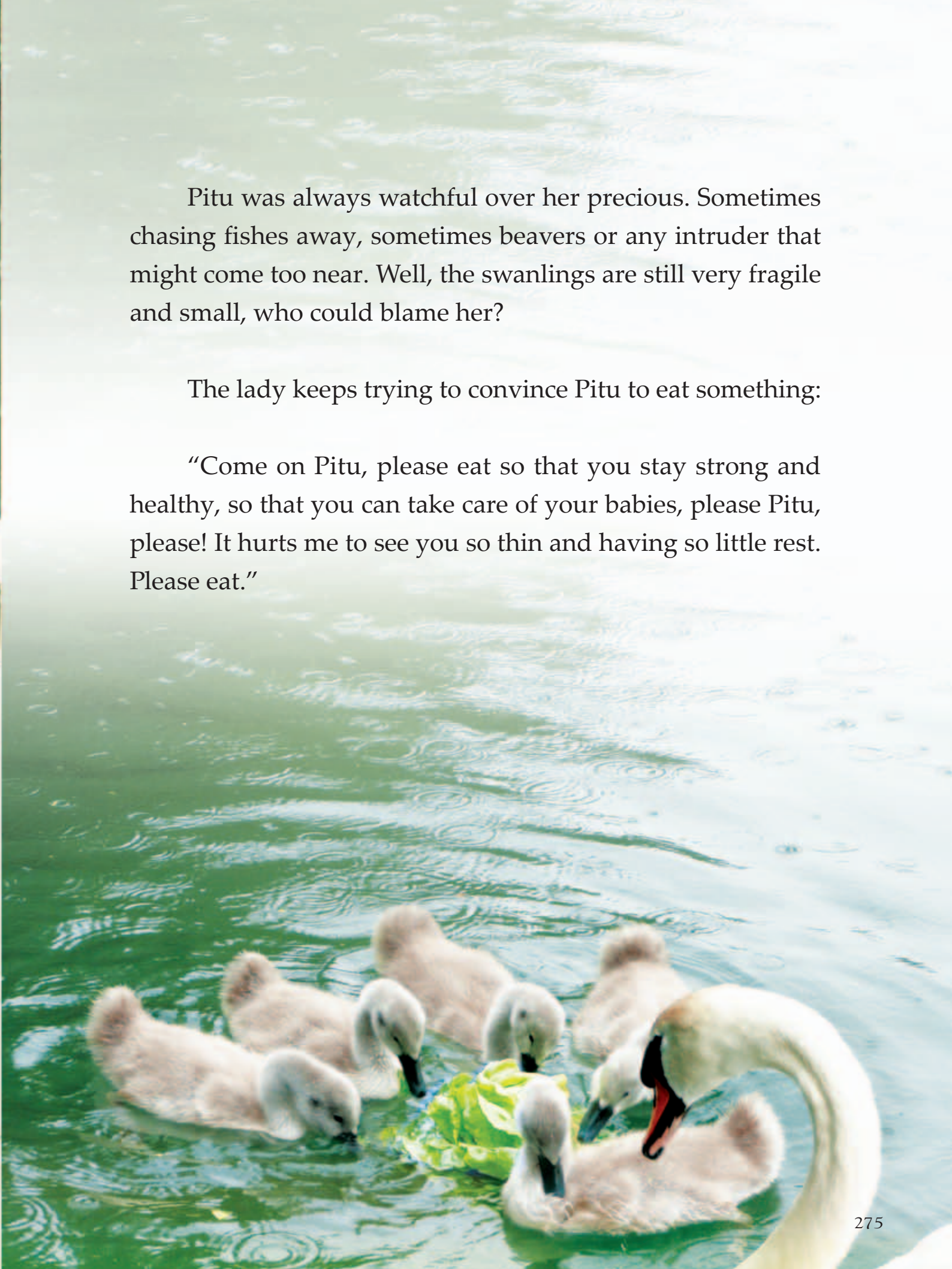
Thus day by day the littlings grow  
 So does the lady's love for them and Pitu  
 She loves Sai also, but it's different.  
 She feels more sympathy for mother swan.



Pitu was always watchful over her precious. Sometimes chasing fishes away, sometimes beavers or any intruder that might come too near. Well, the swanlings are still very fragile and small, who could blame her?

The lady keeps trying to convince Pitu to eat something:

"Come on Pitu, please eat so that you stay strong and healthy, so that you can take care of your babies, please Pitu, please! It hurts me to see you so thin and having so little rest. Please eat."



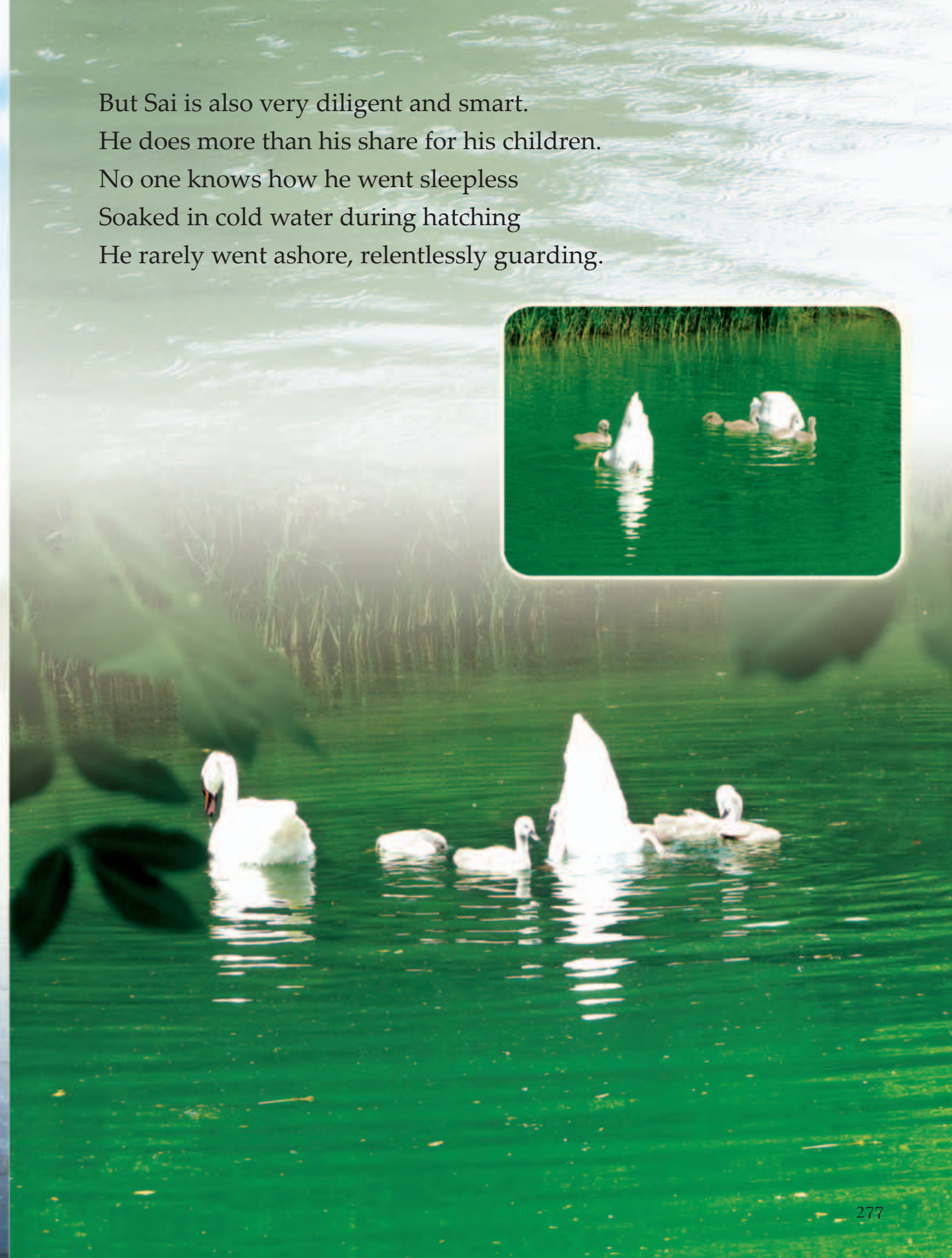




Then she broke the whole meal bread into chew sizes, threw them next to Pitu; Pitu would eat a little, but then too distracted by other “intruder” – or just busy watching in all directions, making sure her babies are safe.

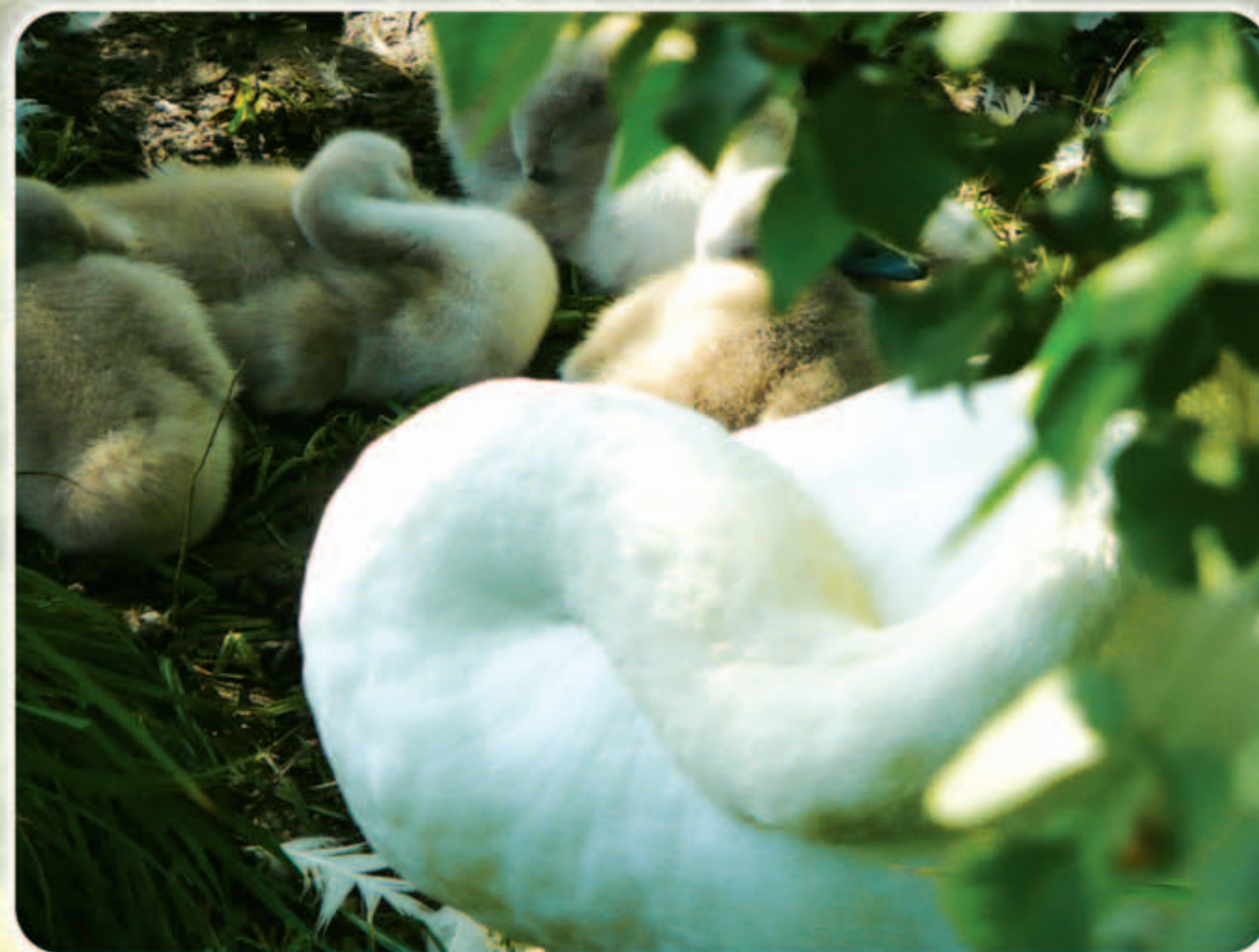
One just has to witness it to feel what the lady feels for Pitu. Words fail to express when it comes to sympathy and love!

But Sai is also very diligent and smart.  
He does more than his share for his children.  
No one knows how he went sleepless  
Soaked in cold water during hatching  
He rarely went ashore, relentlessly guarding.





His eyes penetrate the whole lake  
He left no chance, he missed nothing.  
One time the lady's boat was too near  
He circled around to tell us "Disappear!"  
He was polite at first  
But when we persisted, he went berserk  
Becoming war-like  
Till we got it and "fly."



Sai must have been very tired  
He snores!





Only after the kids grow bigger  
Seem less prone to predators and danger  
That they take turns to cool their heads  
Life in the wild (must be lots of stress)!



The secret hide-out





On this island  
Lots of residents  
Swans, ducks, coots, rats, beavers...  
All sizes, all shapes and all colors



Growing together as community  
Here is ducks' and swans' colony.

*The "Swan connection"*



Guarding treasures  
On the lady's back yard  
On their island or on water  
On familiar ground  
On strange land...



Or wherever...  
One never knows!  
They are too fragile and little.  
If the kids like it here  
The parents would stand guard forever!

You can tell who's Papa?  
Right, the black feeter  
And he's always in alert poised  
Big and scarier!  
– To ward off any intruder –  
Think twice before you go near  
(Don't ever)



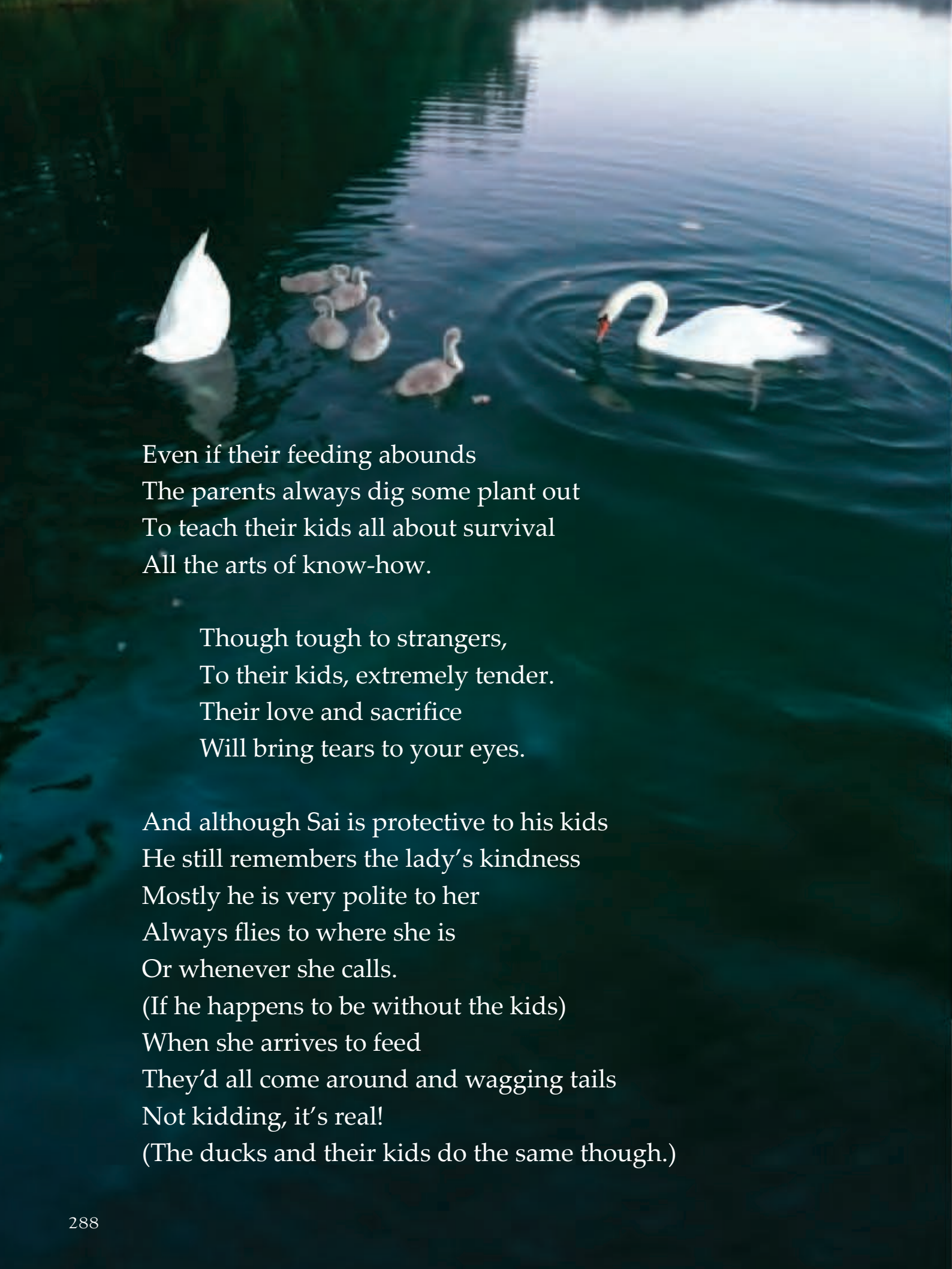


Leave the rest...  
... for the geese?



If they don't know you  
Better stay far.  
Even if they do  
Caution is always healthier!  
For their babies, they'd act in frenzy!  
*Don't even try.*



A photograph of a swan and its cygnets on a body of water. The swan is in the foreground, facing right, with its head down. Several cygnets are swimming around it. The water is dark and reflects the sky.

Even if their feeding abounds  
The parents always dig some plant out  
To teach their kids all about survival  
All the arts of know-how.

Though tough to strangers,  
To their kids, extremely tender.  
Their love and sacrifice  
Will bring tears to your eyes.

And although Sai is protective to his kids  
He still remembers the lady's kindness  
Mostly he is very polite to her  
Always flies to where she is  
Or whenever she calls.  
(If he happens to be without the kids)  
When she arrives to feed  
They'd all come around and wagging tails  
Not kidding, it's real!  
(The ducks and their kids do the same though.)



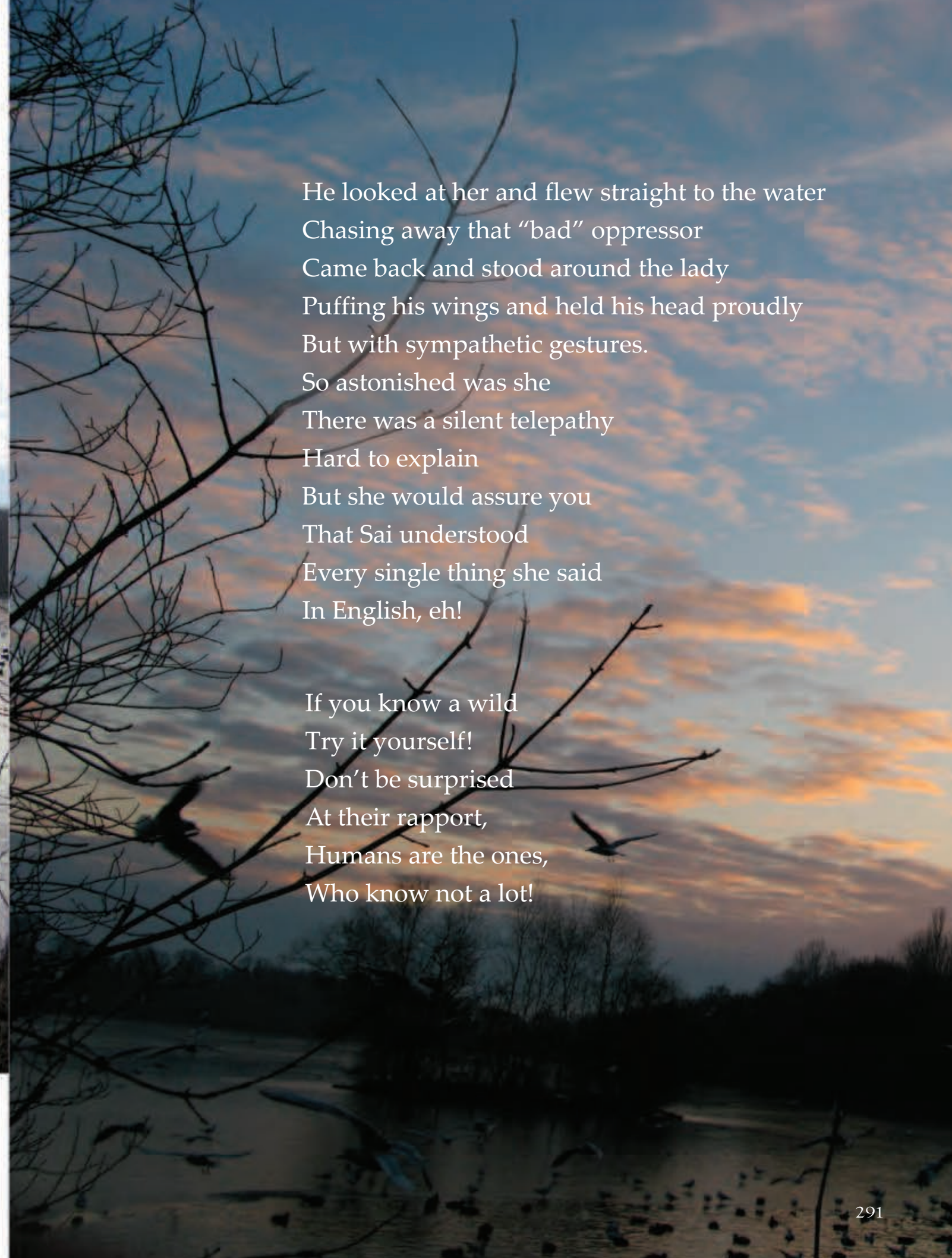


One time the lady was so upset  
Seeing little coots being harassed  
She talked to Sai of how she felt  
Tears in her eyes as sadness welled



He looked at her and flew straight to the water  
Chasing away that “bad” oppressor  
Came back and stood around the lady  
Puffing his wings and held his head proudly  
But with sympathetic gestures.  
So astonished was she  
There was a silent telepathy  
Hard to explain  
But she would assure you  
That Sai understood  
Every single thing she said  
In English, eh!

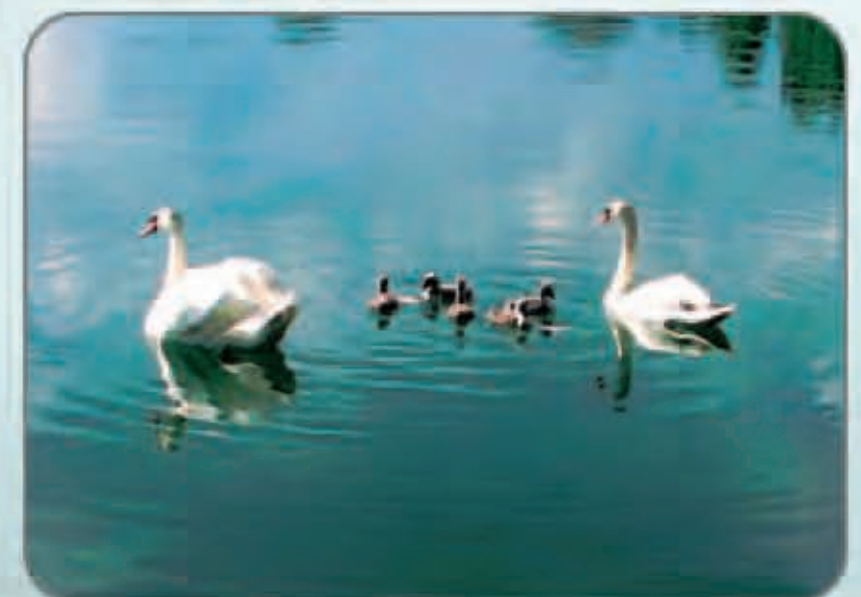
If you know a wild  
Try it yourself!  
Don’t be surprised  
At their rapport,  
Humans are the ones,  
Who know not a lot!







For now, they are the most devoted  
Loving parents and loyal guardians  
Touching the hearts of any-one!







See how the parents stand by  
Watching them eat?  
Their most favorite!  
They hardly ever touch any.  
But just feed themselves lake weeds!





The children are on the grow  
 It seems they can always eat!  
 The lady keeps giving,  
 The kids keep munching.  
 They feed every two, three hours  
 All day and all night.  
 They don't just feed on lettuce & bread,  
 Sai and Pitu teach them the wild diet.  
 It's good for them to learn independence.  
 The lady knows when to give what and when none.





When the kids were still small  
Sai always chewed their food to little  
Or gestured to them, "Here, take it"  
One can observe all their "speech."

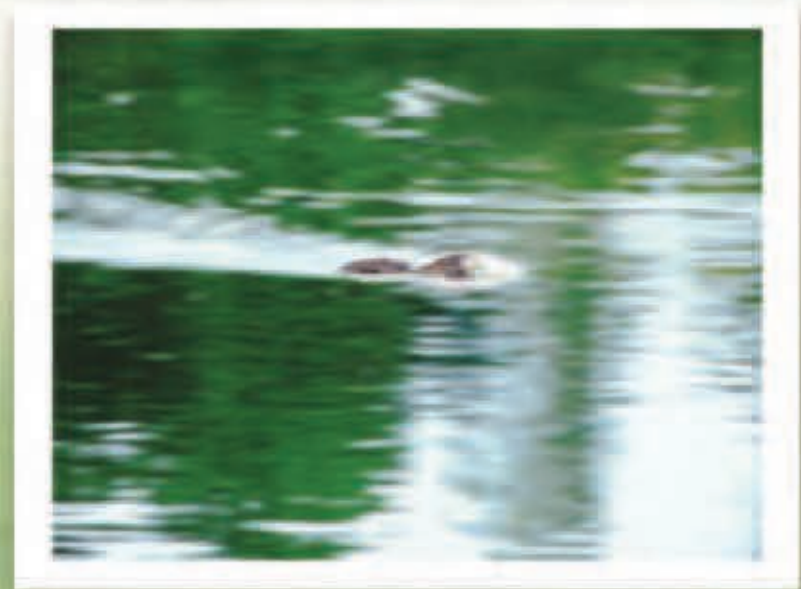




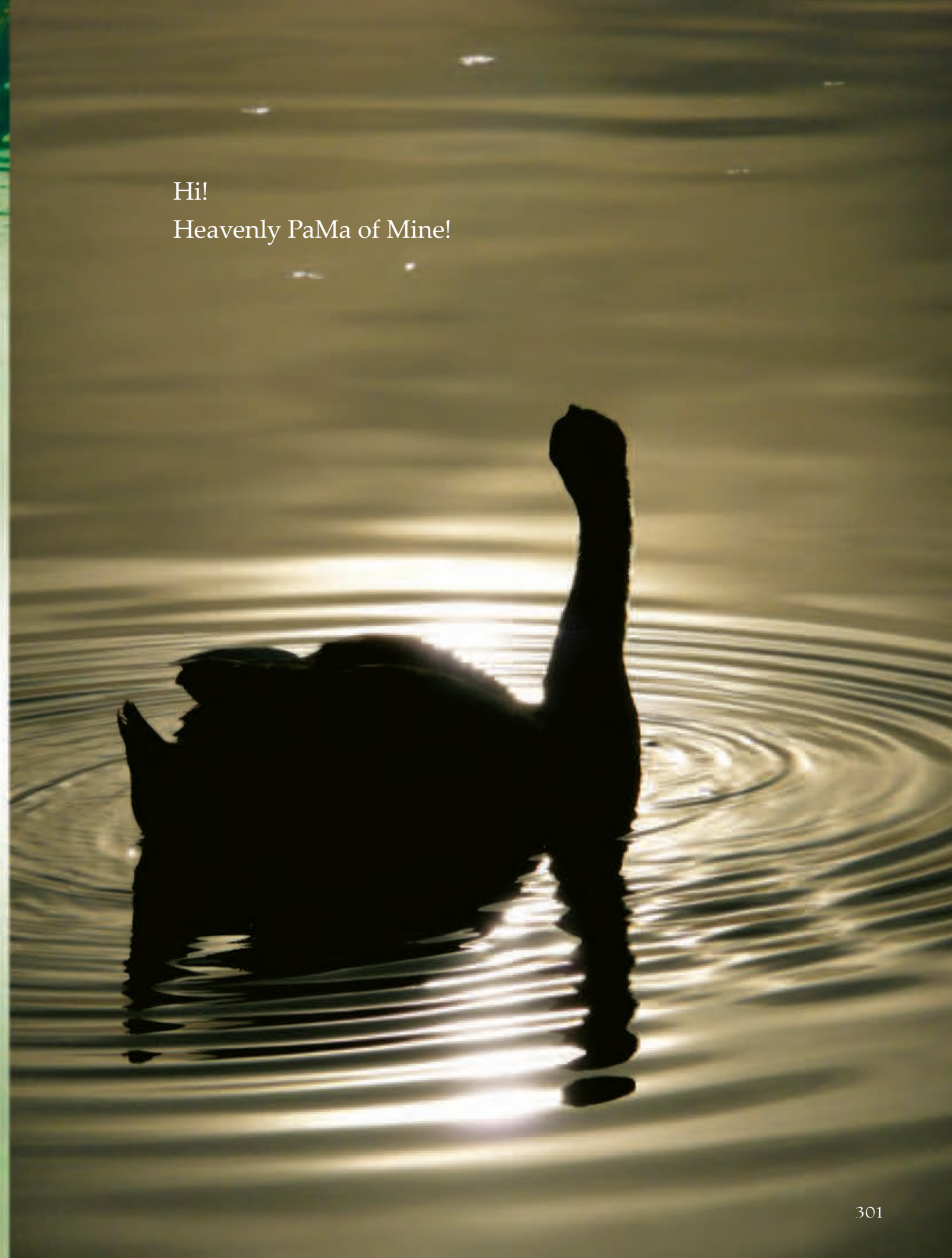
Rush hour



Near the royal Bridge Restaurant



Hi!  
Heavenly PaMa of Mine!







We are near  
Come on dears.  
The lady is waiting  
With food and luvving.



Swan Boulevard.



They always lie down  
On her yard to eat  
Not shy, not ashamed, not afraid.  
They love fresh lettuce  
She loves to feed!



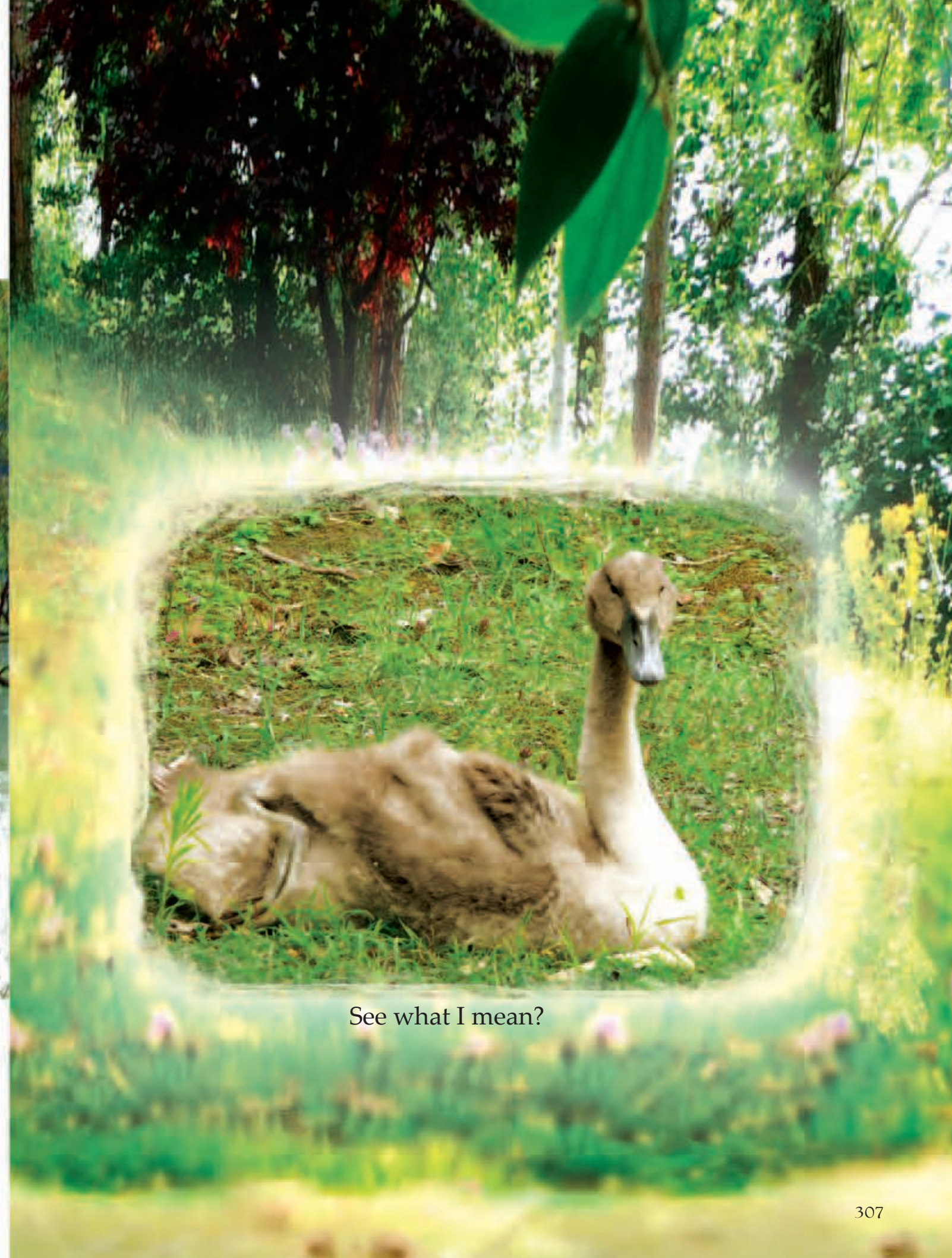
Lunch chez lady's palace  
Crispy lettuce and wholesome bread  
After such long and tired swimming  
It's so good to relax and enjoying.



## Really Growing







See what I mean?





In the water  
They all look smaller  
But when on land  
They're almost big as mother!  
But still  
They stick close to her  
And always show obedience  
"Mother knows best" – they think.







Last piece of lettuce  
Still tastes delicious!



They share every thing  
Never trifle or competing  
Such peace and harmony!  
Wishing it on all beings.



At such tender age  
Already knows sailing  
He uses only one paddle here  
To balance stable "standing."

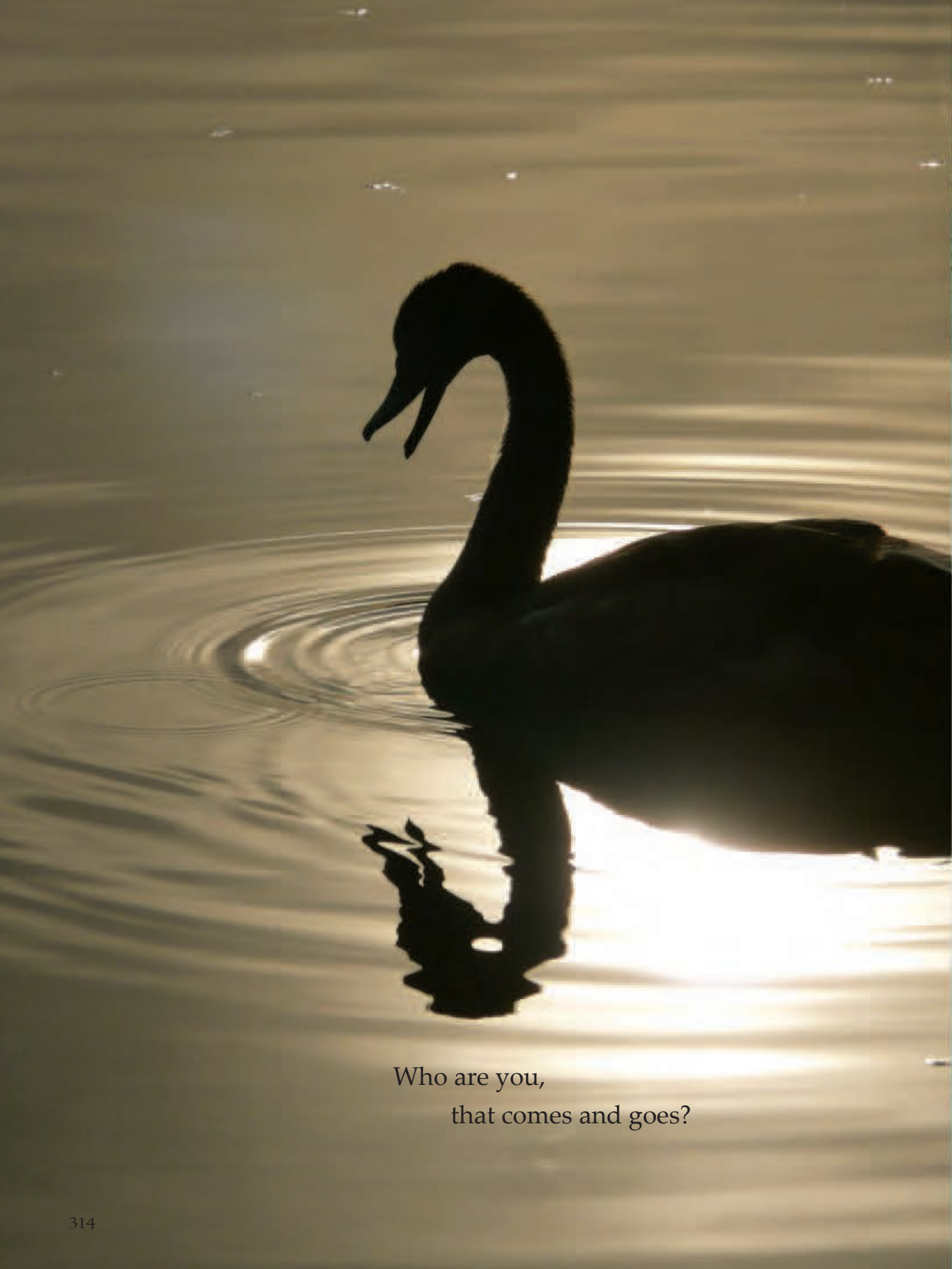


Enjoying their childhood

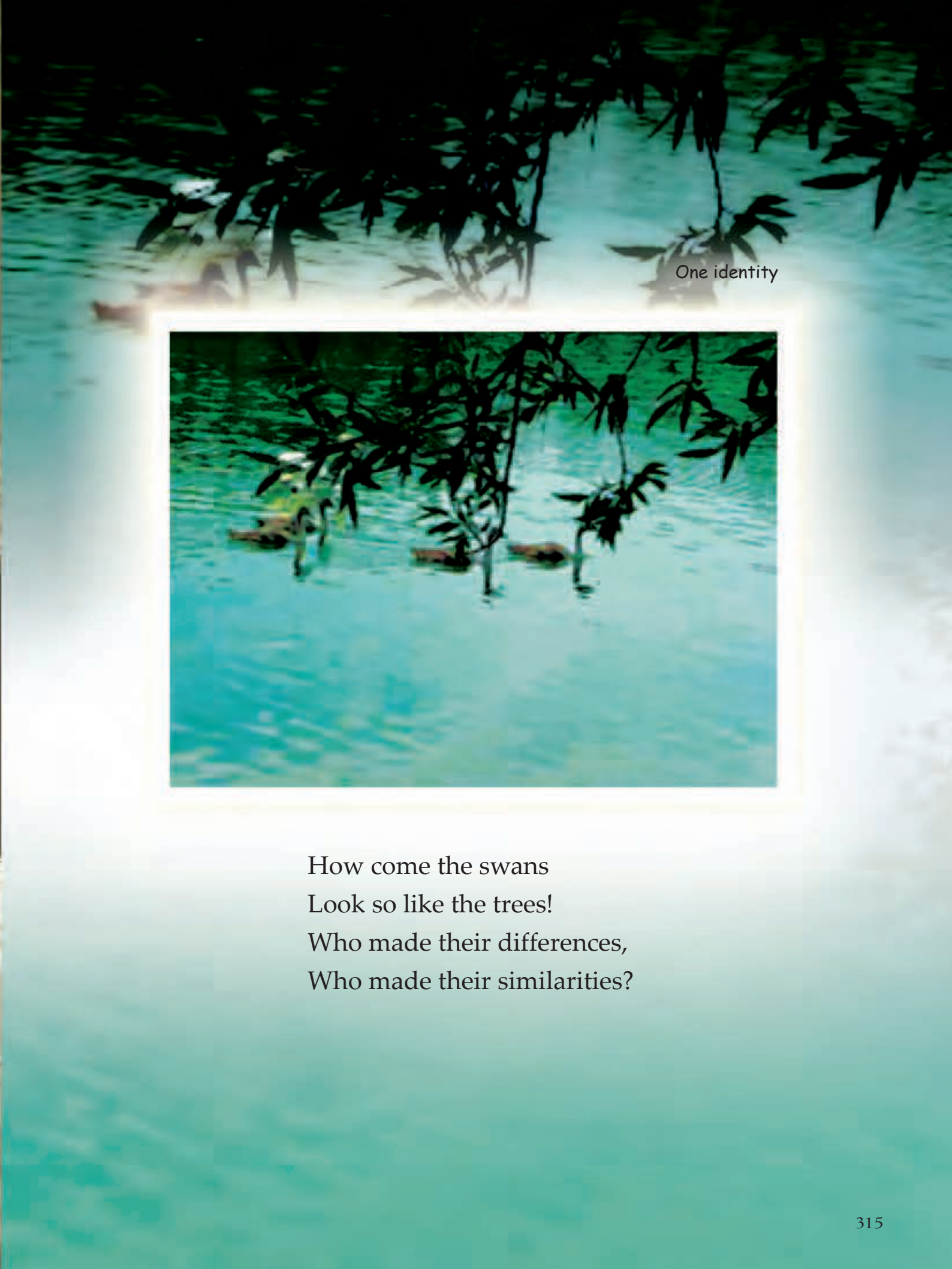


Sometime they frolic  
In the lake water  
Like standing erect on it  
Or diving deep down under  
Taking a dip and another dip  
Or grooming their silky pluffy feathers.





Who are you,  
that comes and goes?



One identity



How come the swans  
Look so like the trees!  
Who made their differences,  
Who made their similarities?





The lady hears  
The lady sees:  
The swans do snore  
Like "every" body!



It must be taxing  
Watching every noise  
Hearing every shade  
Twenty four vingt-quatre.  
But Sai and Pitu  
Carry out with gladness  
Like all parents do.  
We salute you  
We salute the great love in all.







Wild Serenity



Under the “great protection”  
Every place seems like Heaven.



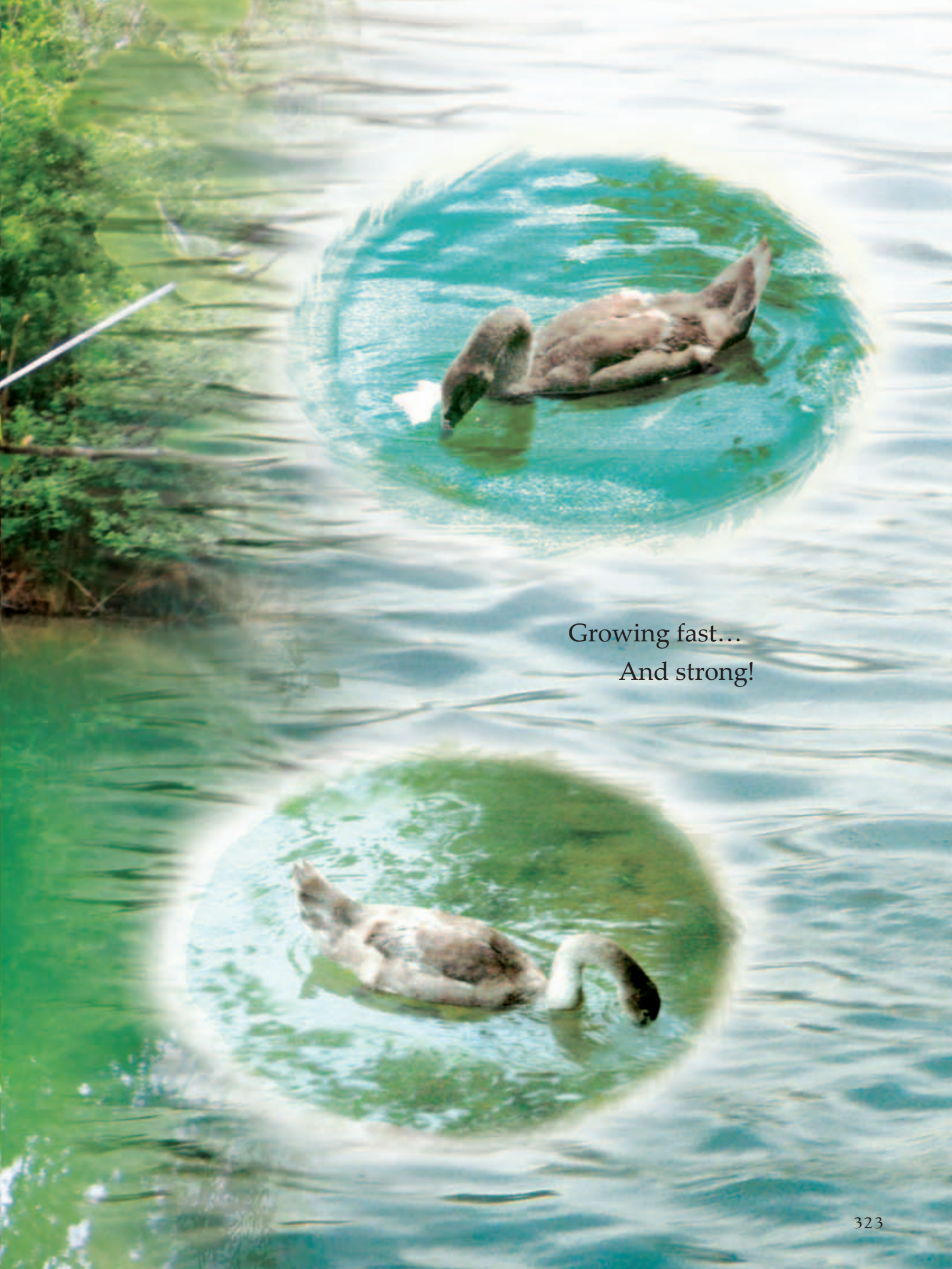
Feels like “Chez moi” \*

\* at home

Feeling safe  
Even the parents  
Can afford to sleep!  
Letting off guard.  
(Only at their place  
And the lady’s yard)







Growing fast...  
And strong!





Getting a little whiter





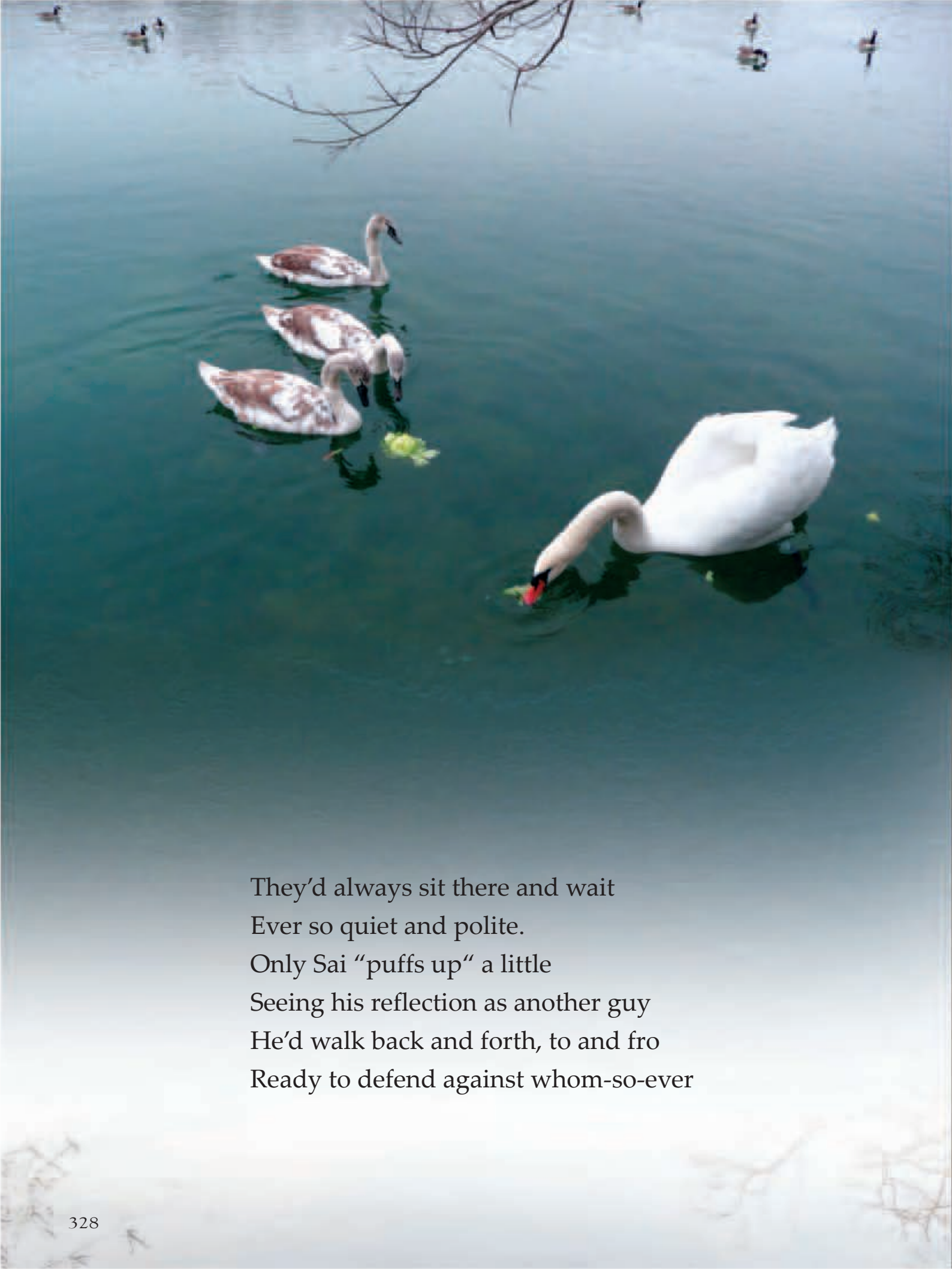


... Wandering all over the land

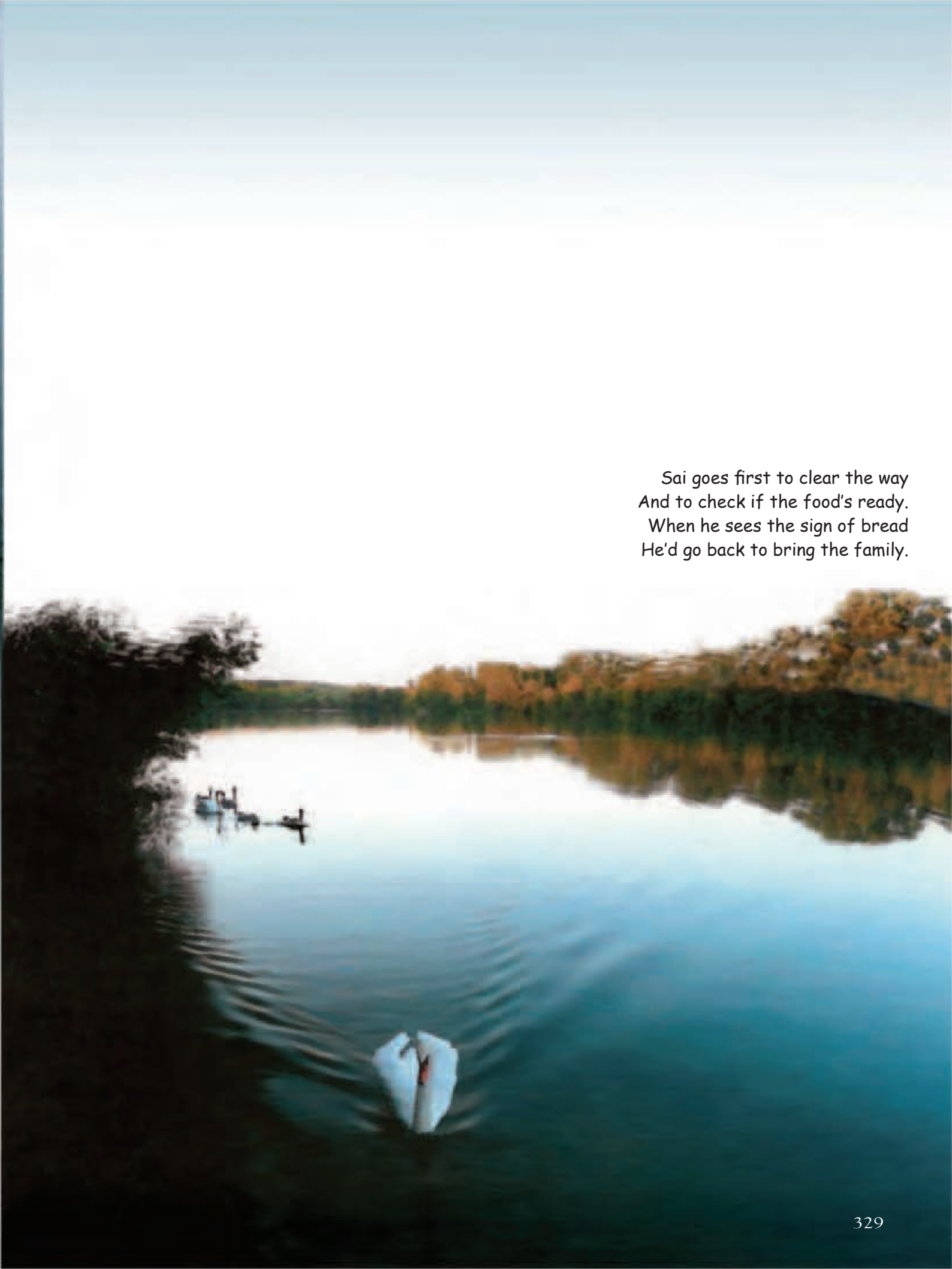
Mostly the length and breadth of the lake  
 Or the “restaurant” at the bridge  
 Or to the lady’s house.  
 She leaves food at various places  
 For them to find out (like natural)  
 If not, they would come knocking  
 First only Sai or both go checking  
 If the lady is there, they’d hiss  
 To signal them to come, the kids.







They'd always sit there and wait  
Ever so quiet and polite.  
Only Sai "puffs up" a little  
Seeing his reflection as another guy  
He'd walk back and forth, to and fro  
Ready to defend against whom-so-ever



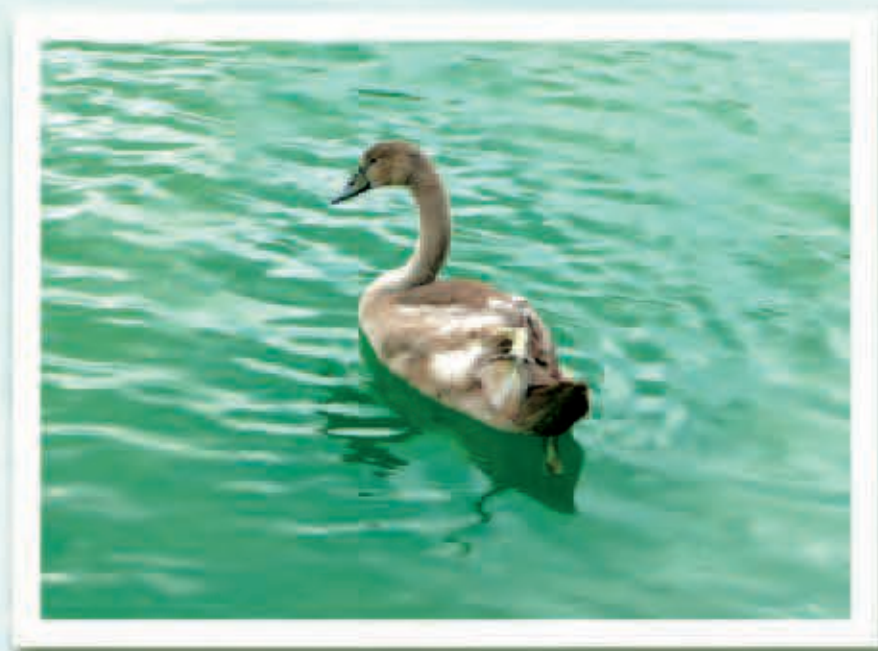
Sai goes first to clear the way  
And to check if the food's ready.  
When he sees the sign of bread  
He'd go back to bring the family.





The thing is that they all will part  
When the time comes as the kids grow up  
Like nothing has ever happened.  
Such unconditional love and detachment!

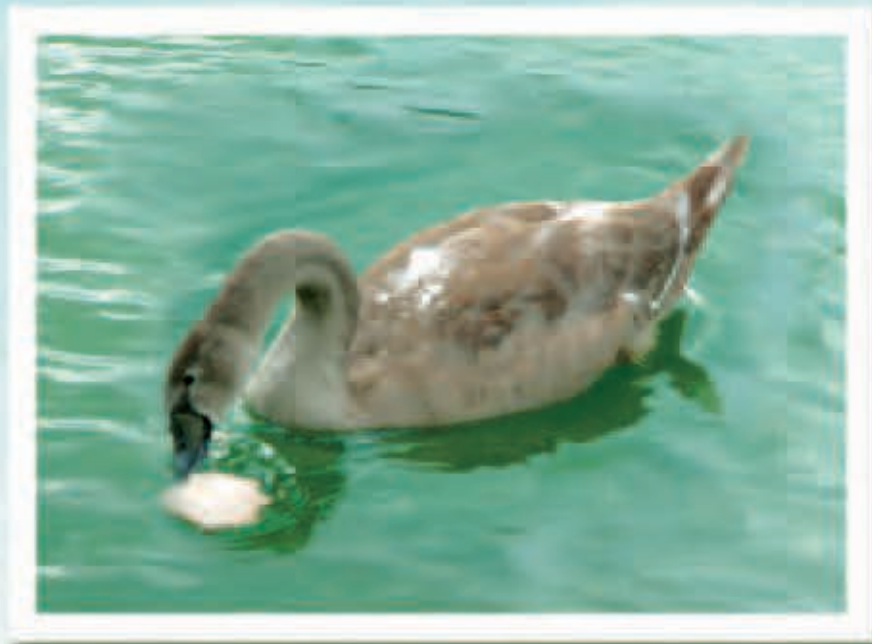




The beauty  
Is already  
Evident...







White feathers  
Hidden under wings!



Getting whiter!



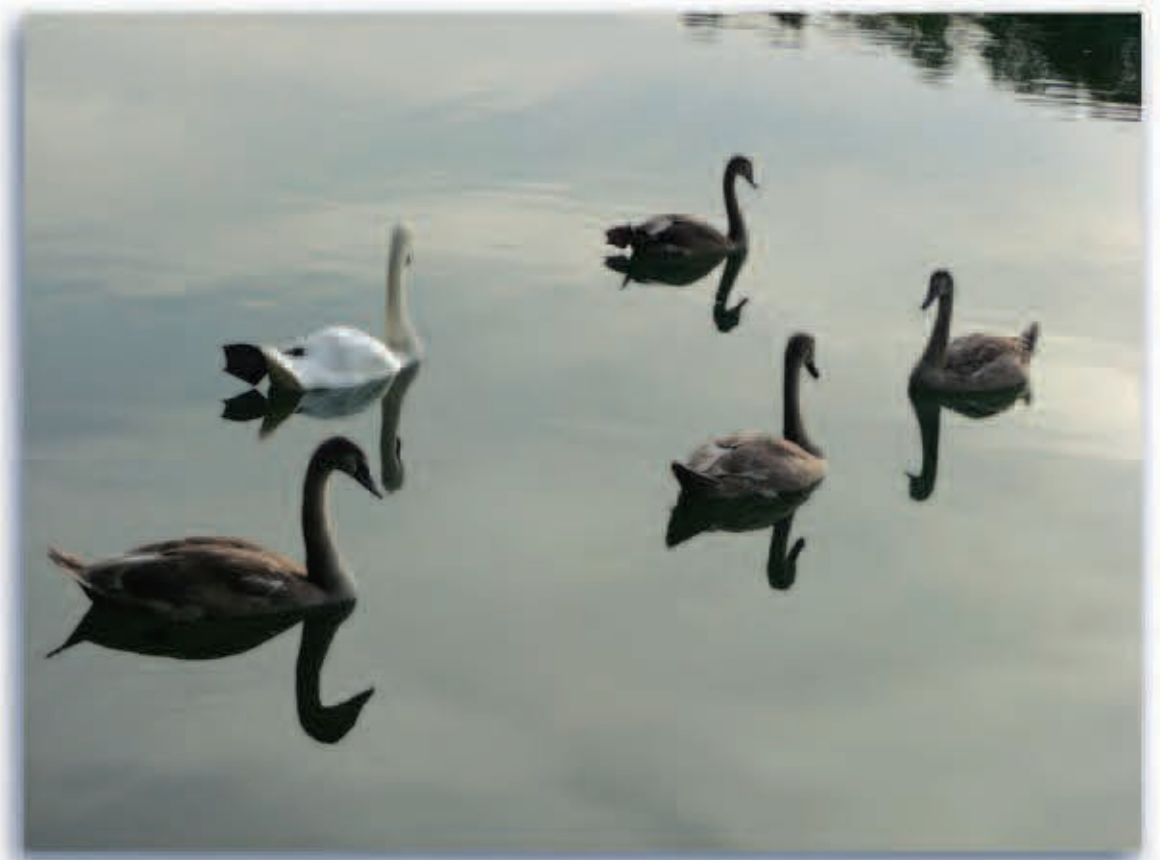
Getting flowery





Learning to be independent  
And obedient is the beginning  
Of good leadership

“Do what I tell you  
And do what I do”







The "unsocial" heron  
Still blue and still alone!  
He is just a tourist and unknown.



Teeming with friendly society







I'll be like Mummy



But I am already pretty!



See the white feathers  
Round my wings and under?

And I can fly  
Far and wide!



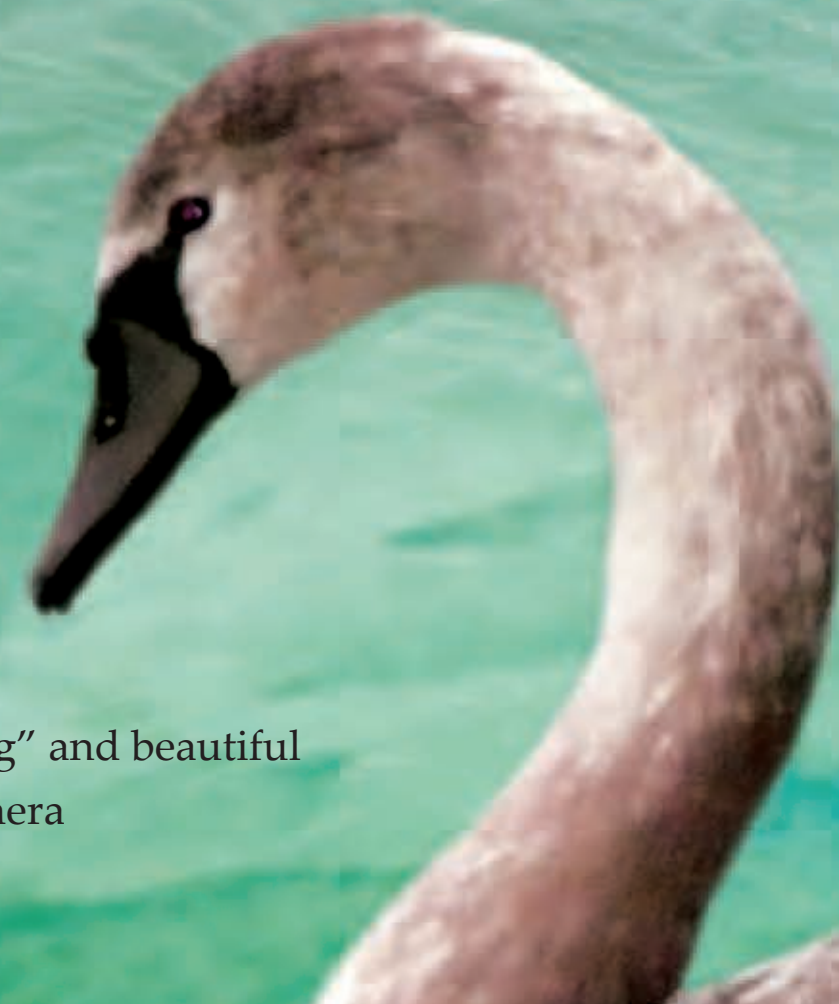




Already as big as Mama!



We are big things!  
 We are already flying  
 Though it's still short distance  
 We can feel our powerful wings!  
 We are three and half months old.  
 And we still grow!  
 Over the trees and in mid-air  
 Our vision expands, everywhere.



Growing "too big" and beautiful  
 For the poor camera





Like Father

Like child.





Morning Calm





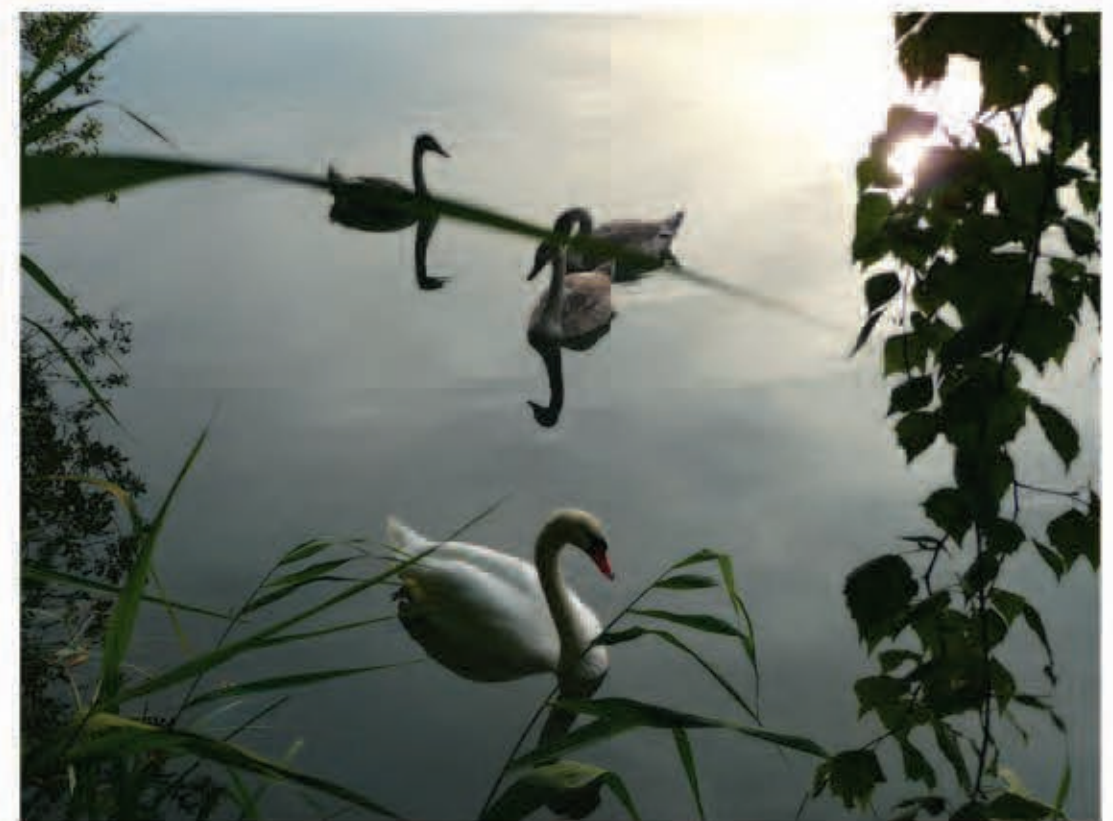
Very early morning, even the sun did not want to wake up yet; a veil of fog is spread over the whole lake and most of its surroundings, but the winged residents and “not” are already on their way for breakfast.

It must have been very cold in the night, and they’d have felt the need to replenish their energy, especially the young ones who need to be fed often.

In their early days, their parents took the swanlings out to feed every few hours, day & night.

Doesn’t that sound familiar?

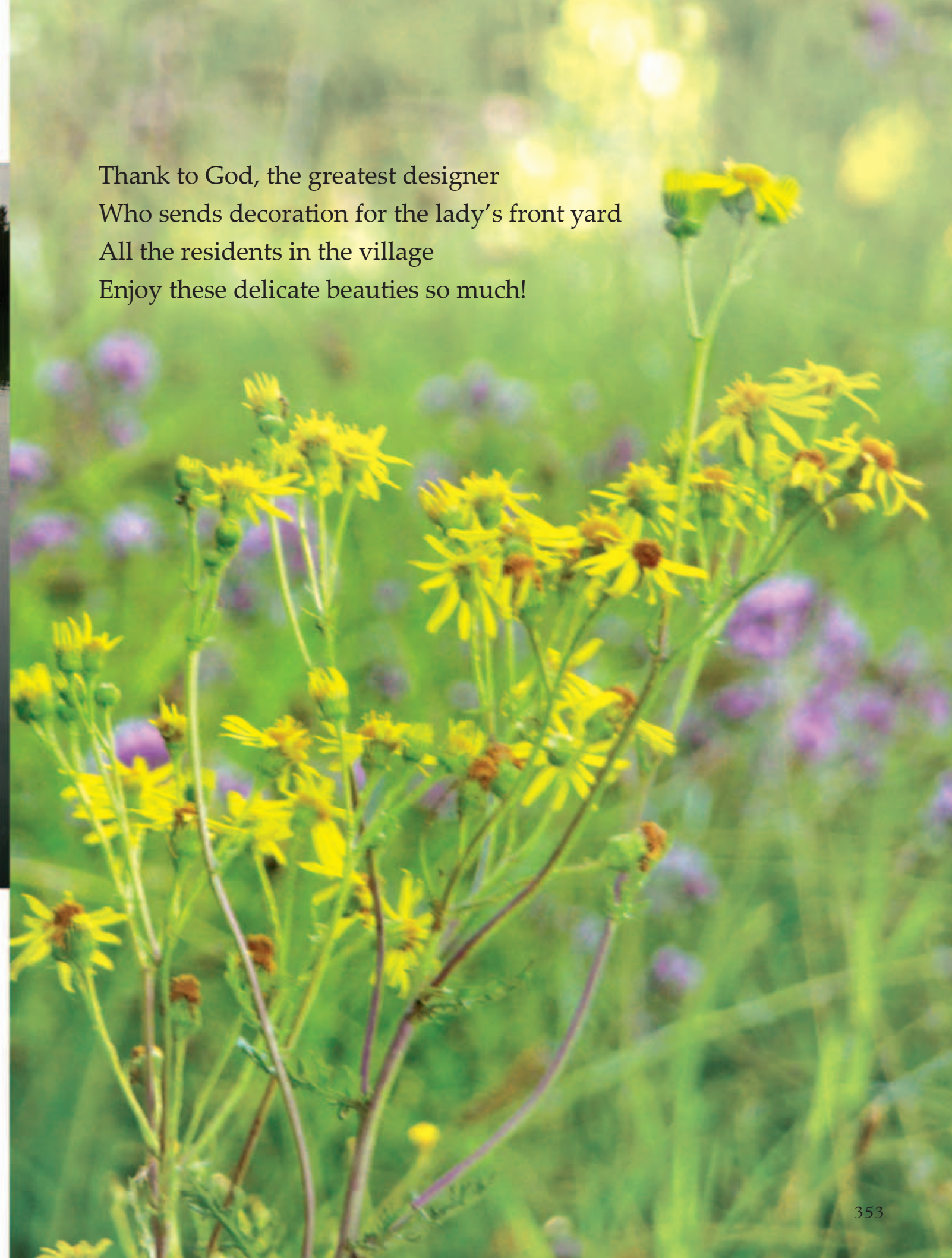
Yeah! To the human counterparts.





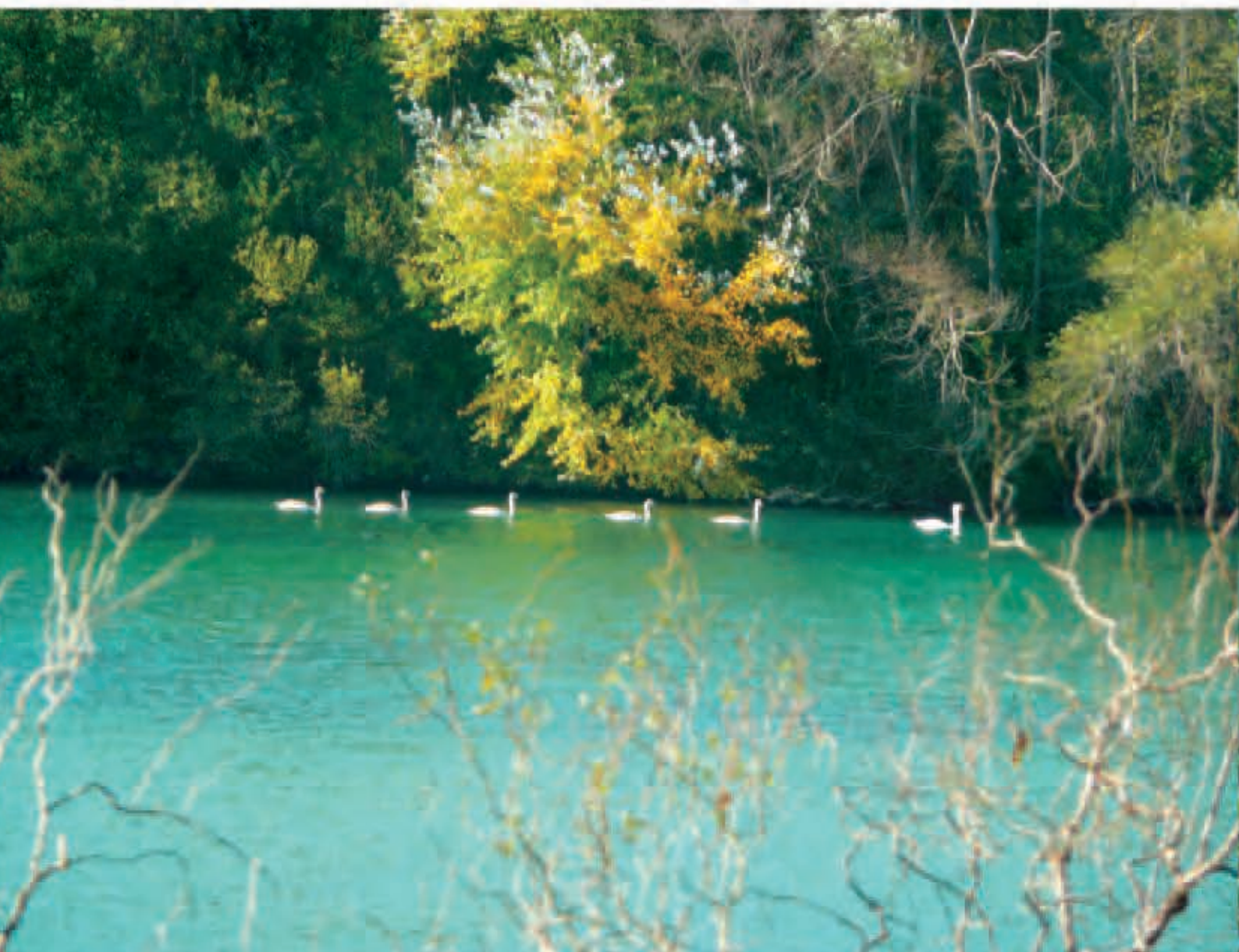


Doing fine, kid!  
You are the eldest  
It's OK to take the lead  
Take care of yourself  
And each other  
When soon you'll grow much older.



Thank to God, the greatest designer  
Who sends decoration for the lady's front yard  
All the residents in the village  
Enjoy these delicate beauties so much!







It's Pitu who teaches  
The art of flying to the kids  
First a short distance only  
Then the lake's entirety.



Sai has in turn lost half  
The feathers of his wings  
Perhaps he's molting  
Perhaps he plucked them off  
To soften the cold ground of their nest.

Or perhaps he was tired  
Taking care of family and on guard  
Day and night for many months  
It's taxing, even if he's strong.  
But that doesn't make him weak  
He still scares off the geese  
If they ever dare to venture  
Somewhere near his dear treasures.



Though he doesn't mind  
For his kids to sacrifice.  
It must be frustrating now  
Always lagging behind!



Sai, the great!  
Now, only half-winged  
Still fast sailing  
Still beautiful  
Still magnificent.  
Still can scare away  
Any intruding.



Sai only half winged  
Still diligent  
Still an excellent guardian



There are hundreds of geese together, but they never  
compete for food - Never fight back with "big" swans,  
always well behaved, gentle and peaceful

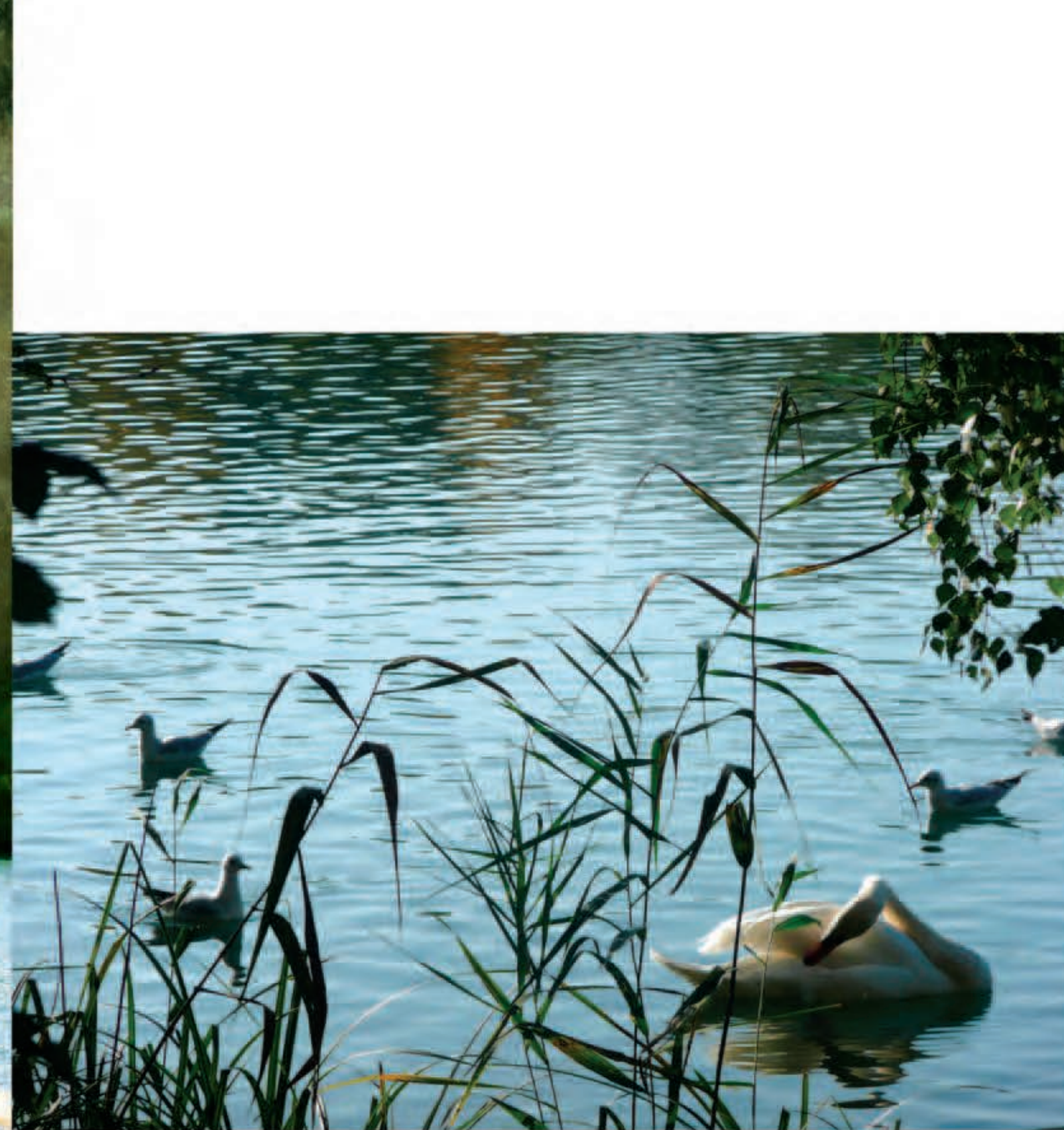






Although Sai sometimes shoos away the biggies,  
he is very gentle with 'smallings' like sea gulls,  
calling them to share food.

And whenever the lady is near, he digs up  
plants from the lake bottom to offer to her!



Share with Seagull







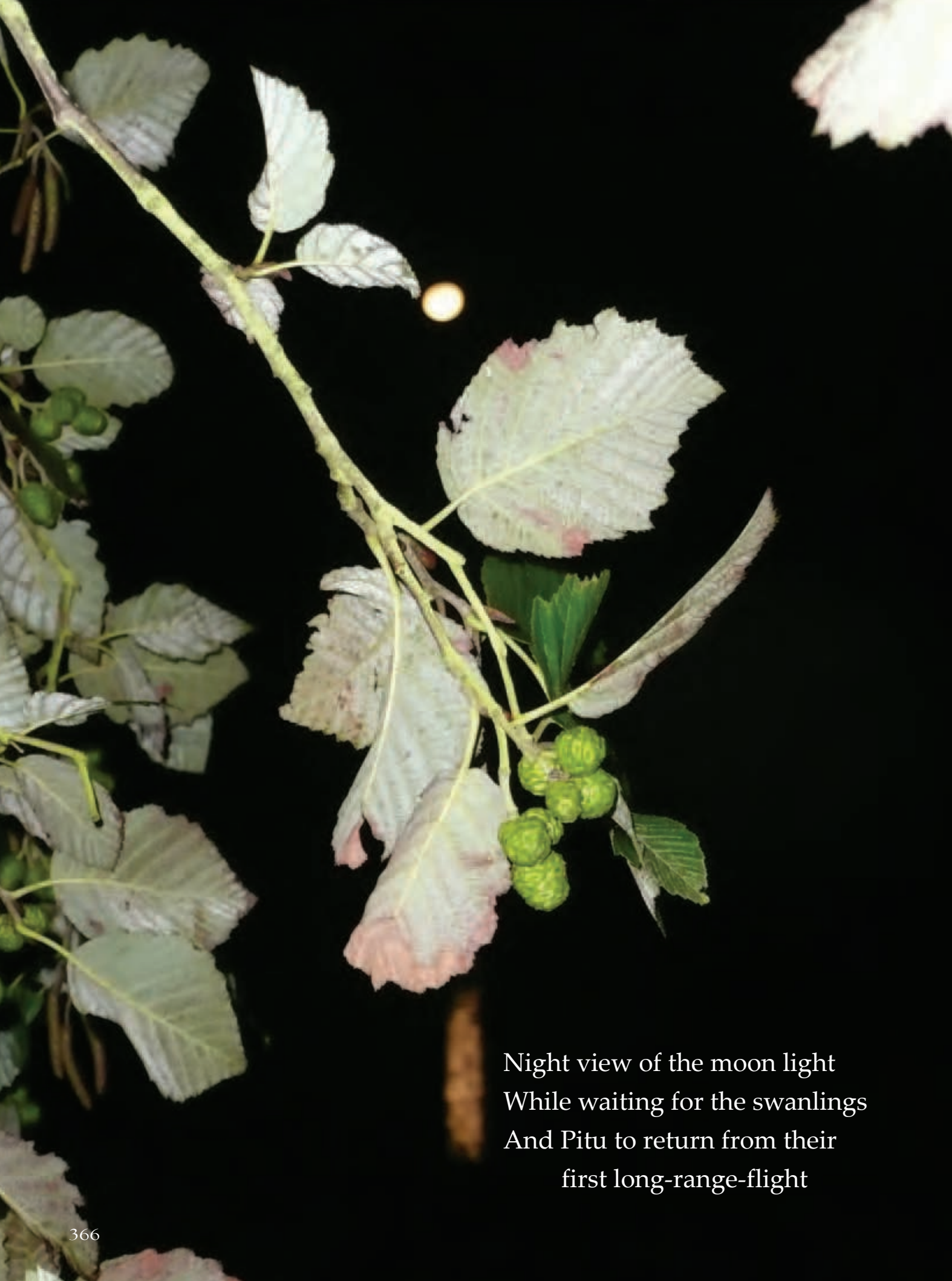


Tough Sai Sai, Oh!  
Eating without much of the usual gusto.  
When you're lonely,  
No!

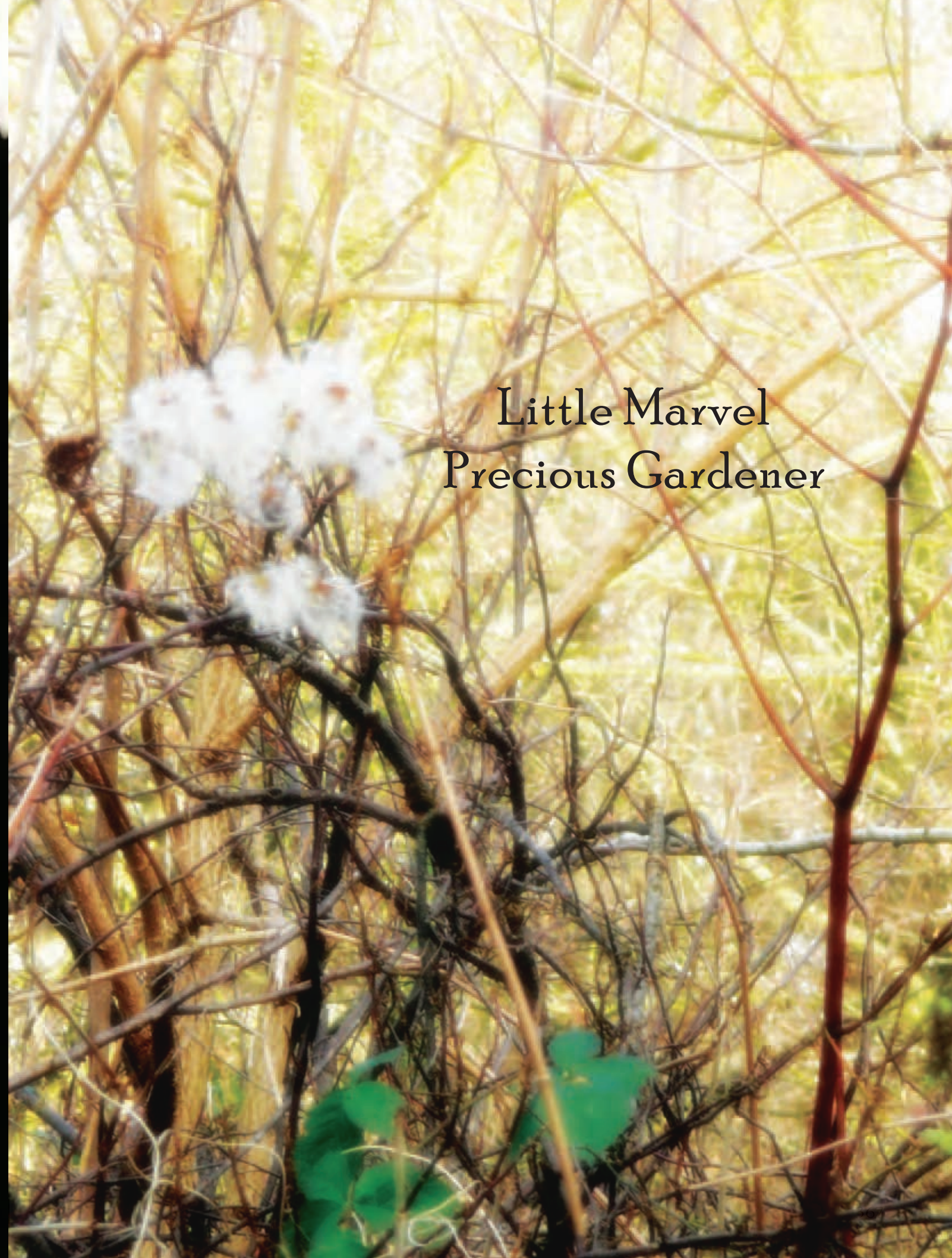


Lonely for a day  
Sai without Pitu and kids  
They have flown far away  
And his wings have not grown back yet!



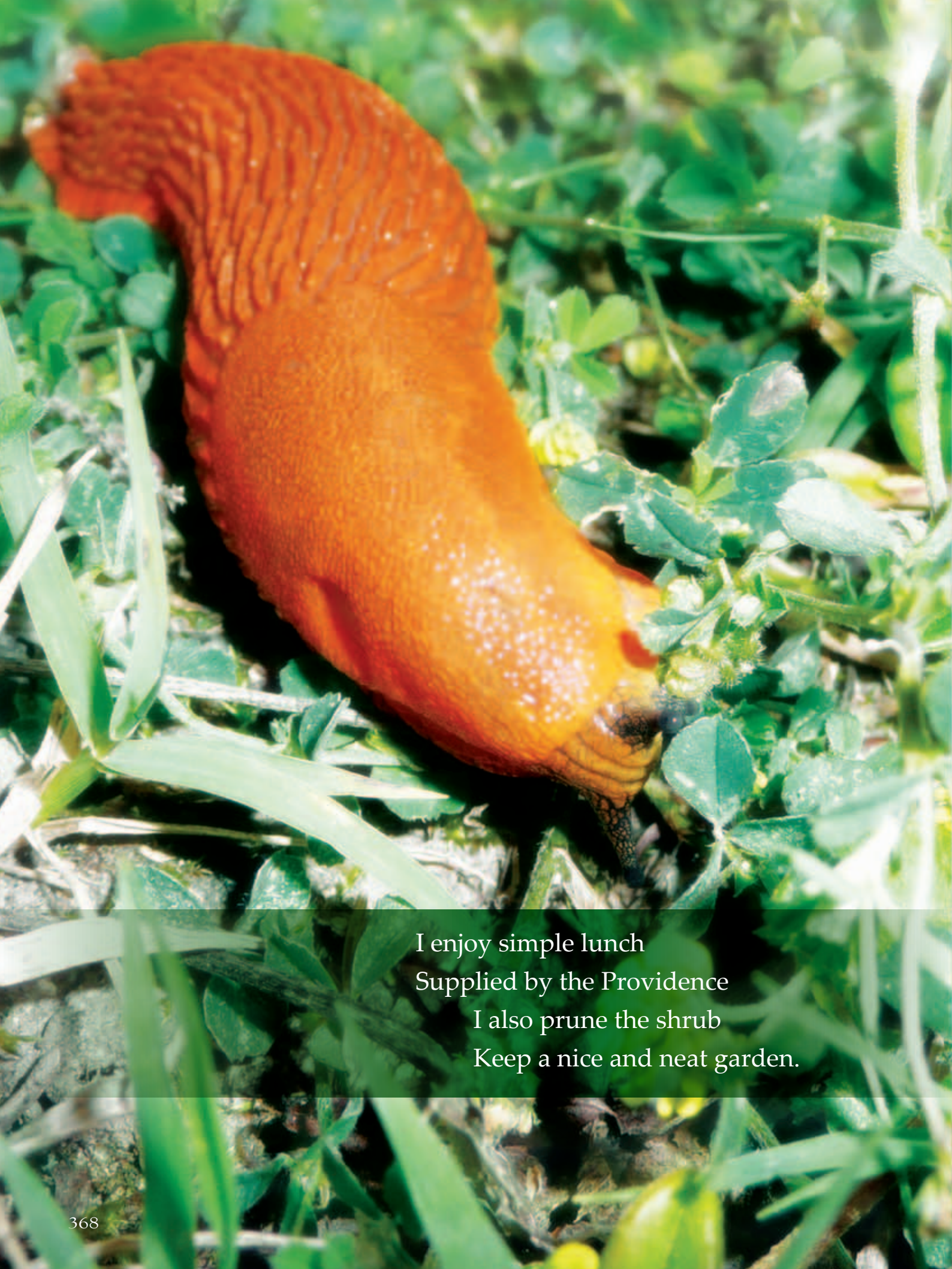


Night view of the moon light  
While waiting for the swanlings  
And Pitu to return from their  
first long-range-flight

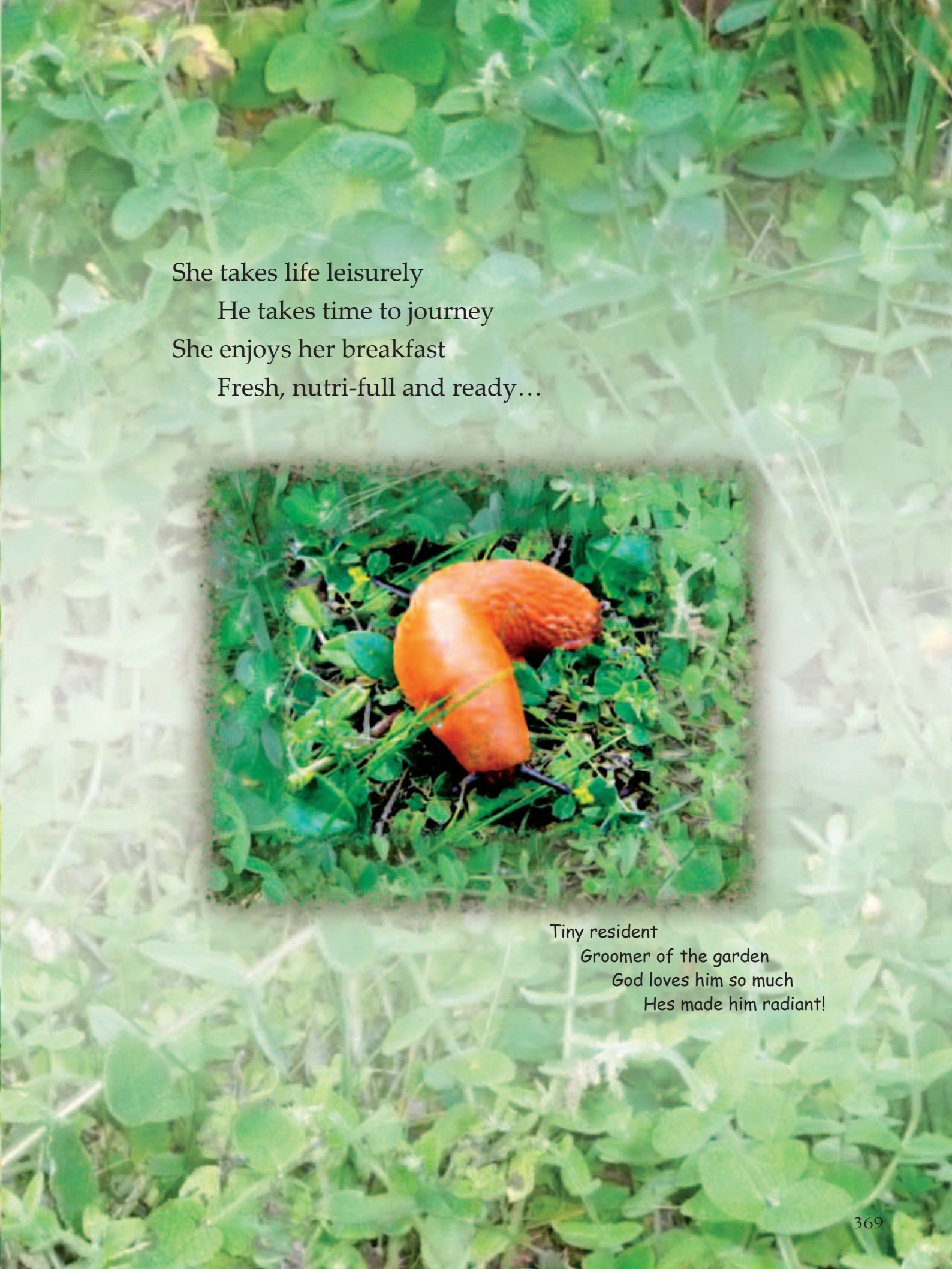


Little Marvel  
Precious Gardener





I enjoy simple lunch  
Supplied by the Providence  
I also prune the shrub  
Keep a nice and neat garden.



She takes life leisurely  
He takes time to journey  
She enjoys her breakfast  
Fresh, nutri-full and ready...

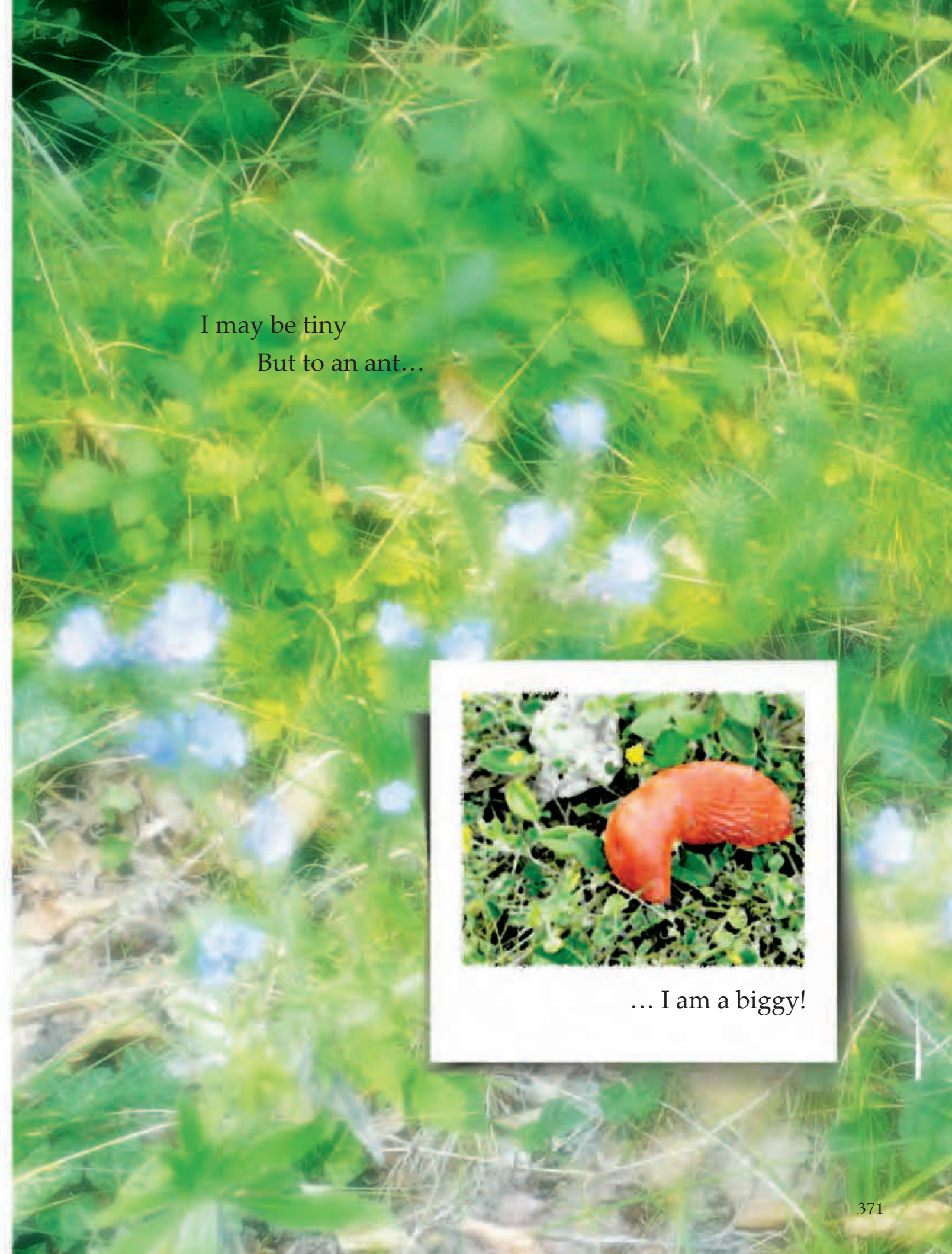


Tiny resident  
Groomer of the garden  
God loves him so much  
Hes made him radiant!





\* Precious life  
Beautiful color  
Who creates her design  
So precise and bright!



I may be tiny  
But to an ant...



... I am a biggy!



Ain't I beautiful!



God always gives flowers  
To the lady in spring and summer.

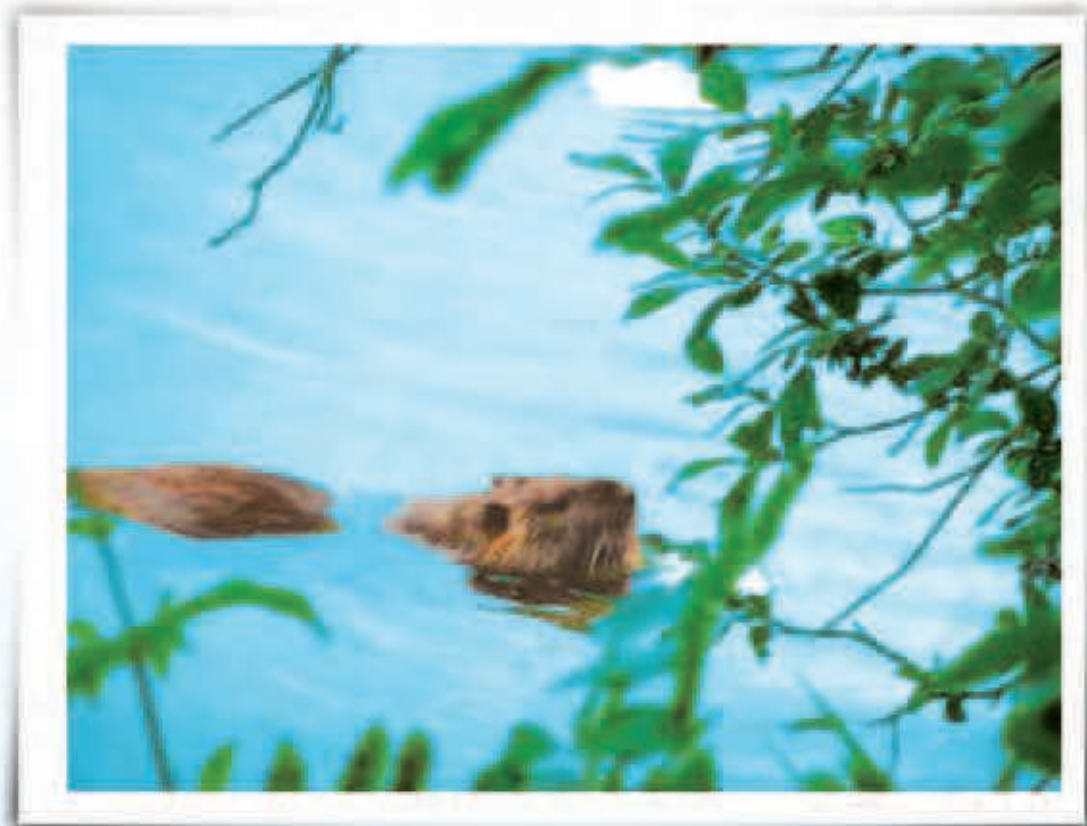




Beavers  
The Constructors



Meet Nu the beaver  
The dam builder  
Proud and loving Dad  
Bridge Restaurant's regular customer.



Undercover guest  
Enjoying the bread

Small creature  
Big character  
A 10 NQ-er



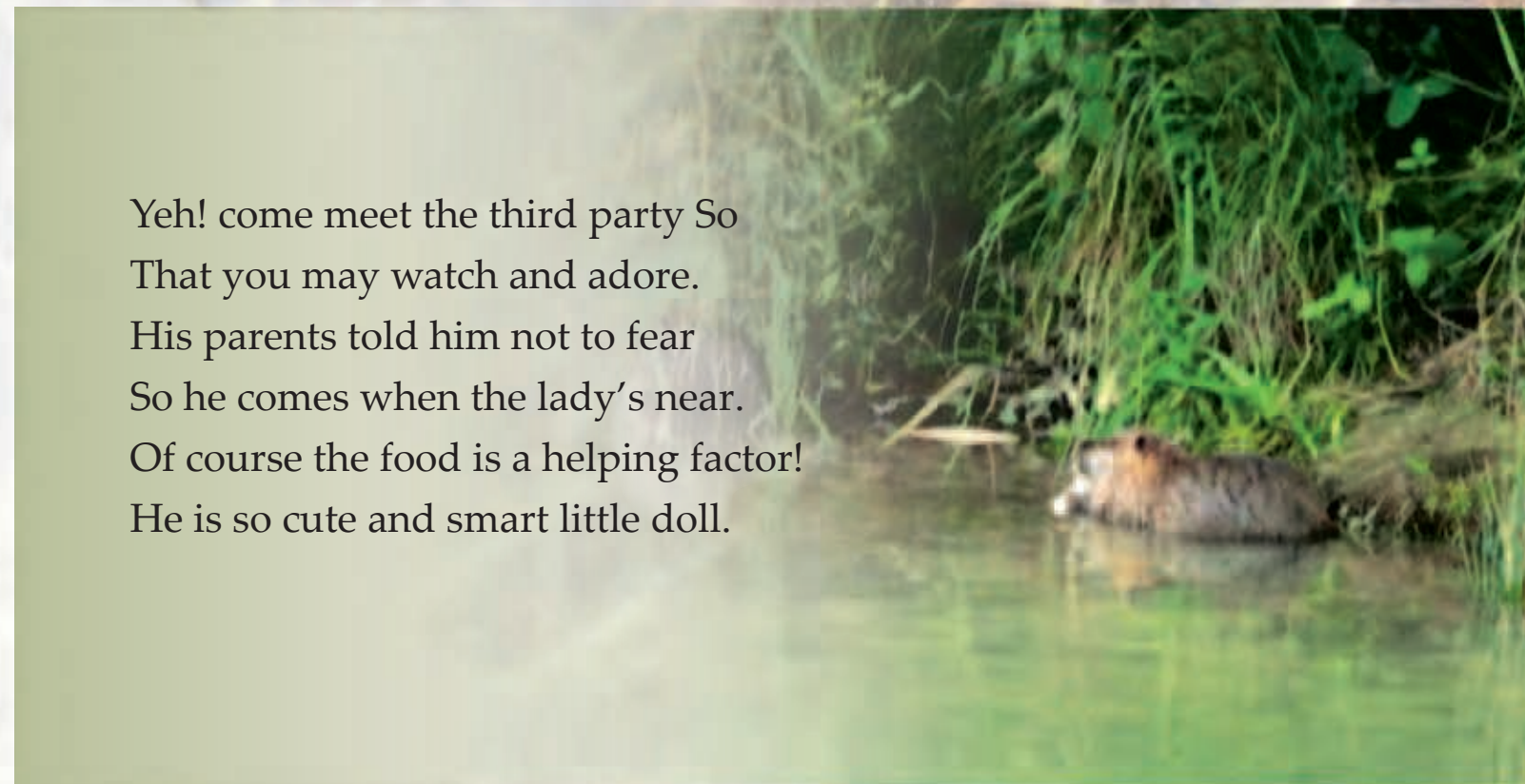


And meet lady beaver  
Quiet and timid Zu  
She would eventually come near  
After a while knowing you.  
Of course not rushing like Nu  
She is a graceful lady though.

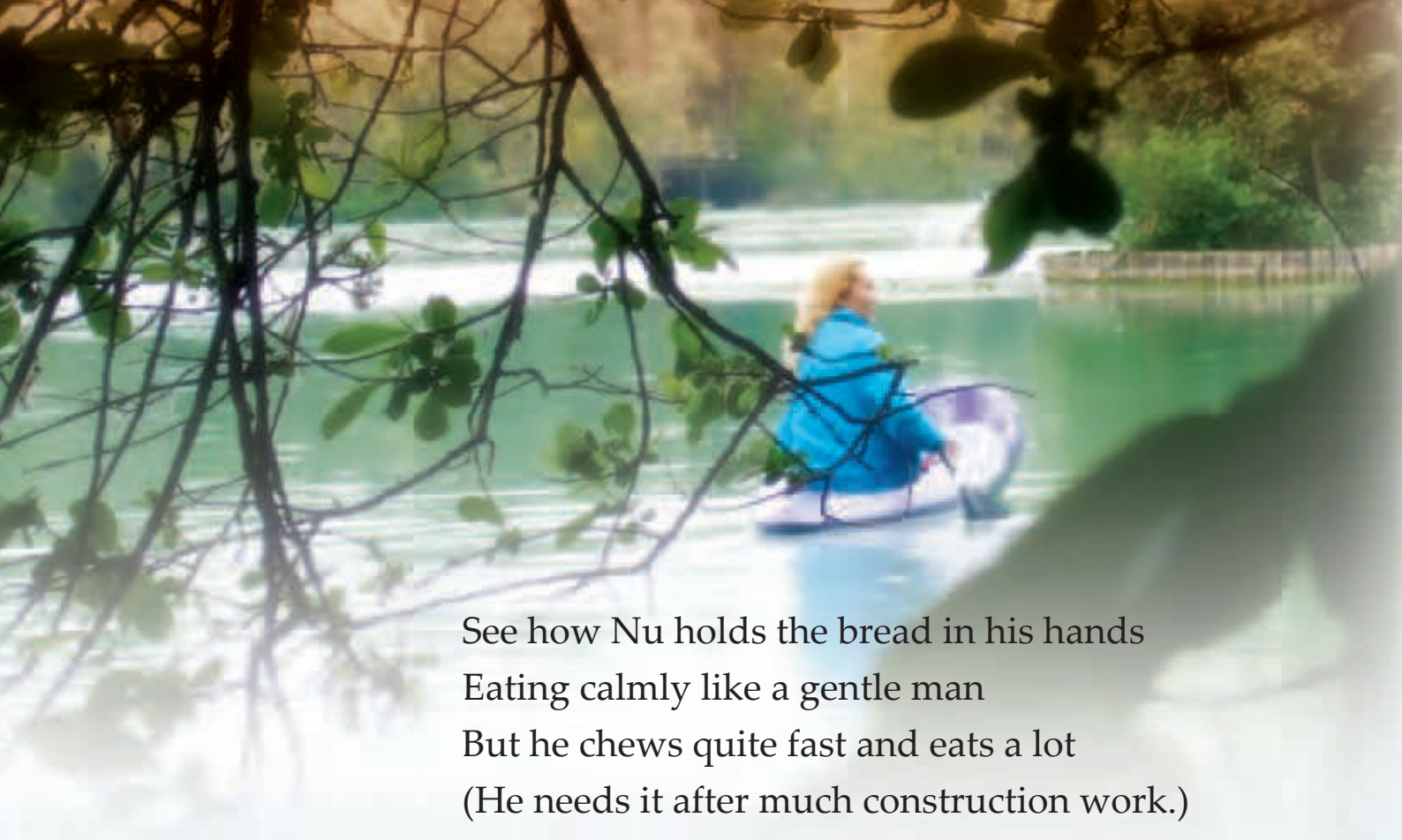
The only son: So  
From the beaver couple



Yeh! come meet the third party So  
That you may watch and adore.  
His parents told him not to fear  
So he comes when the lady's near.  
Of course the food is a helping factor!  
He is so cute and smart little doll.



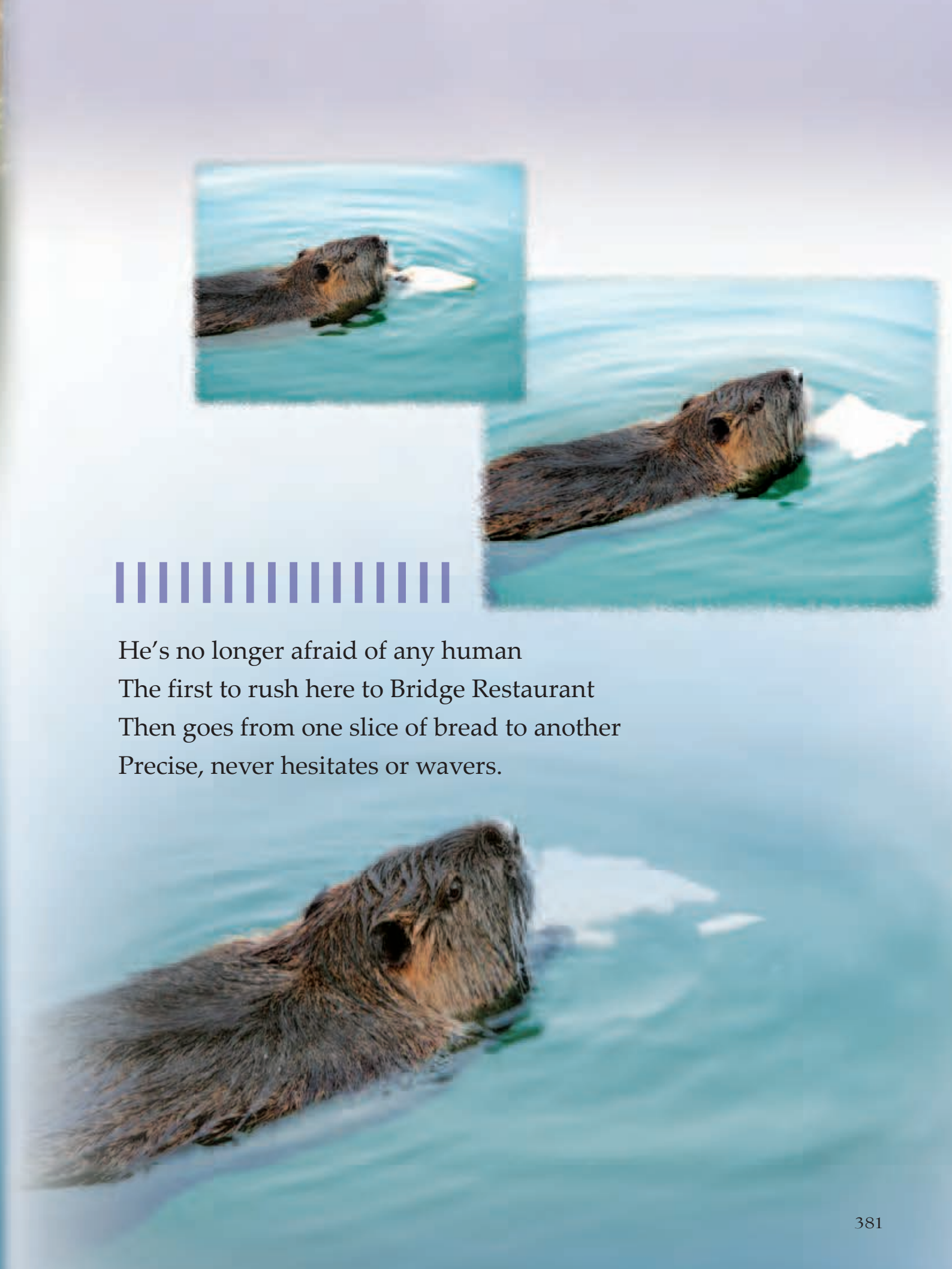




See how Nu holds the bread in his hands  
Eating calmly like a gentle man  
But he chews quite fast and eats a lot  
(He needs it after much construction work.)

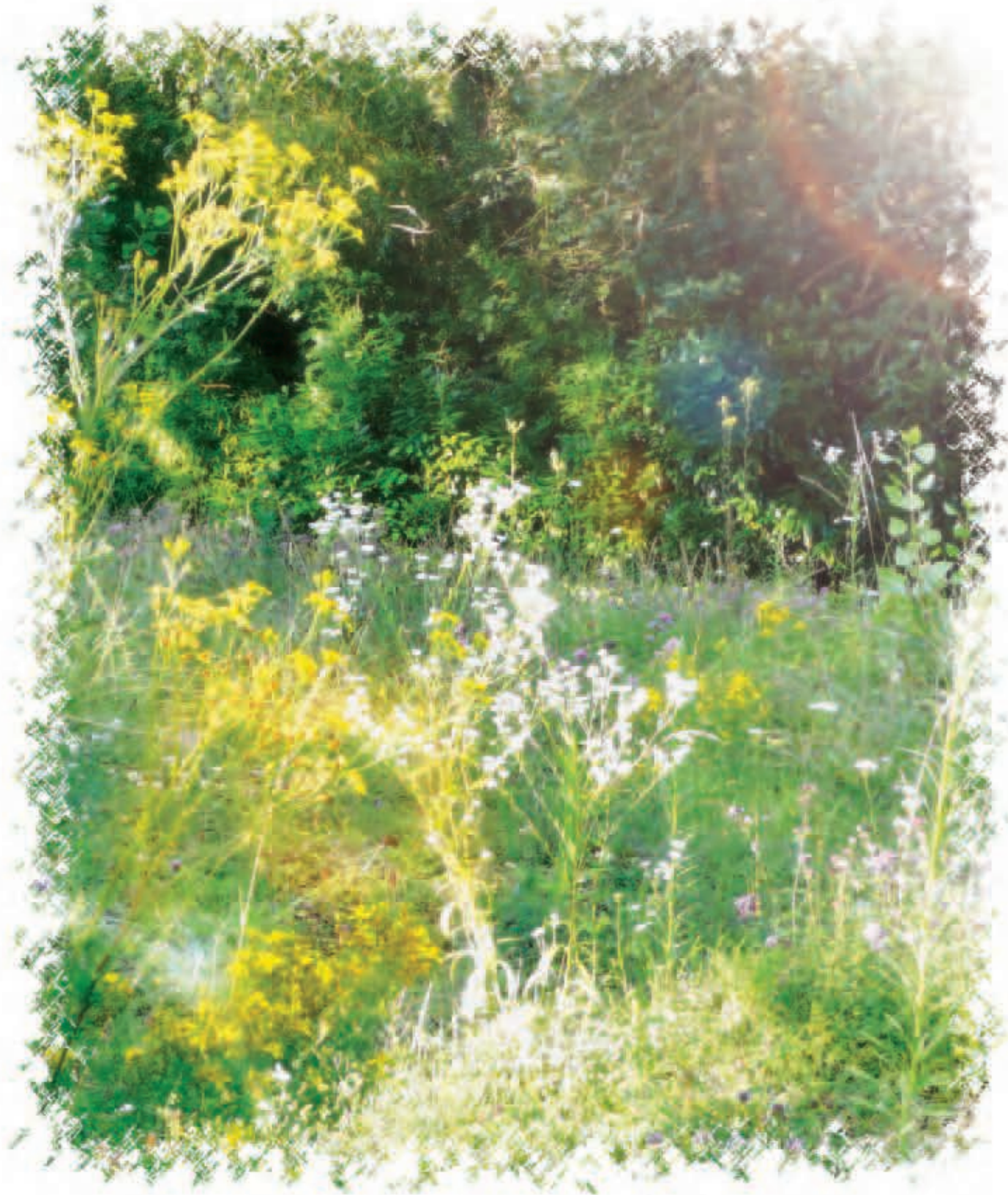


Isn't he beautiful?



He's no longer afraid of any human  
The first to rush here to Bridge Restaurant  
Then goes from one slice of bread to another  
Precise, never hesitates or wavers.





Zu is still shy and reserved  
Stays a little distance and not eating that much!  
Zu is a bit smaller.  
And her face is round and pinkier.

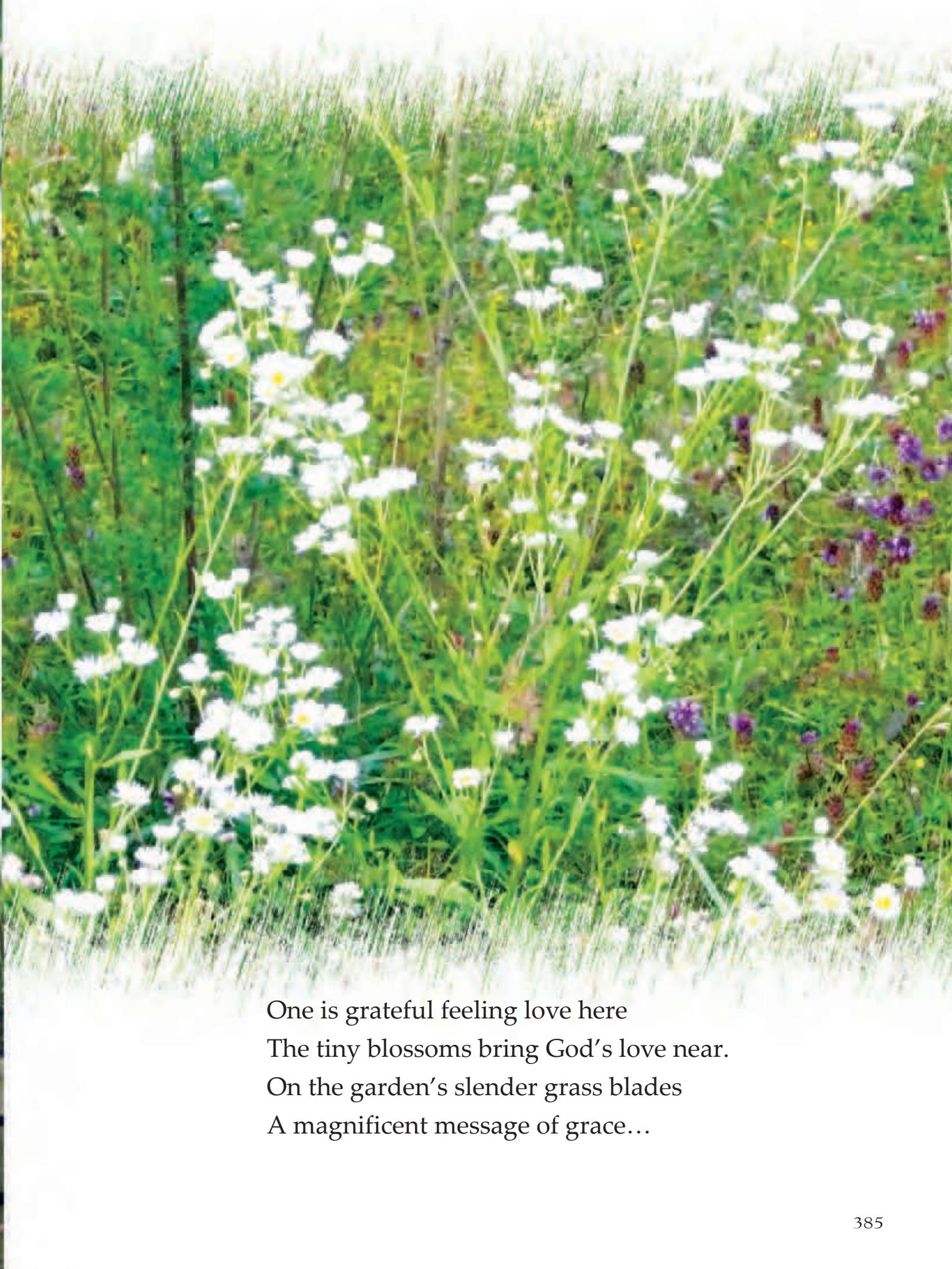


See the difference between the two  
Zu stays little far way, and so close is Nu  
But they are both so... cool!



Beaver  
The ten percenter  
10% NQ!

Miss Beaver “Do”  
Pronounced “Du”



One is grateful feeling love here  
The tiny blossoms bring God’s love near.  
On the garden’s slender grass blades  
A magnificent message of grace...



# Fish The Mysterious



Camping with spider's family!



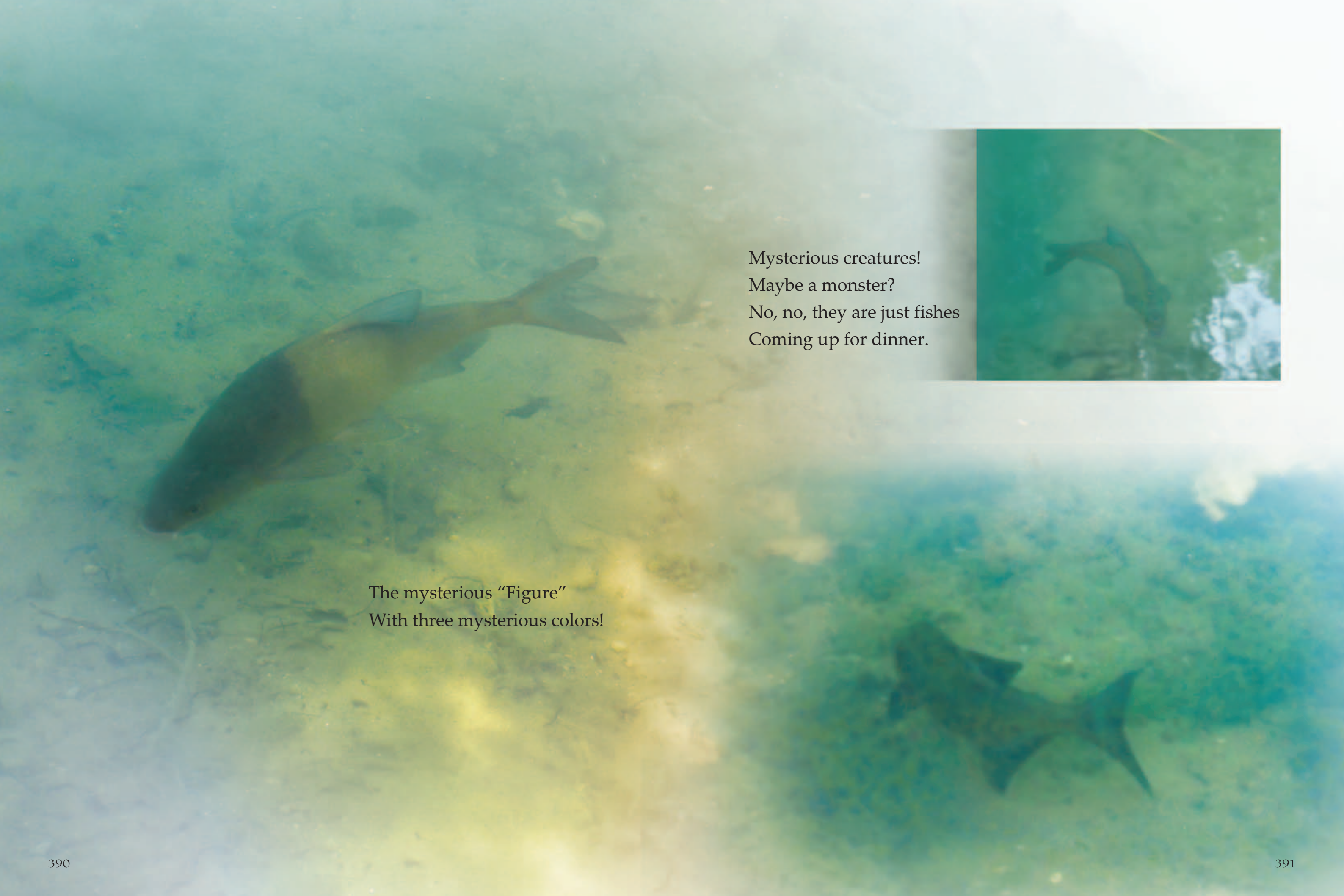
Fish & bread



The fishes also love bread  
They always join in at the fest  
Here they come to enjoy their dinner  
Glad not to be on a lunch table!

Here is another fish who came to the party  
We celebrate abundance and life every day  
The residents on and off the lake love it  
All joyfully partake of the treats  
God's love is upon all who know Hiers name  
Glorious praise to The ONE in the entire creation!





Mysterious creatures!  
Maybe a monster?  
No, no, they are just fishes  
Coming up for dinner.

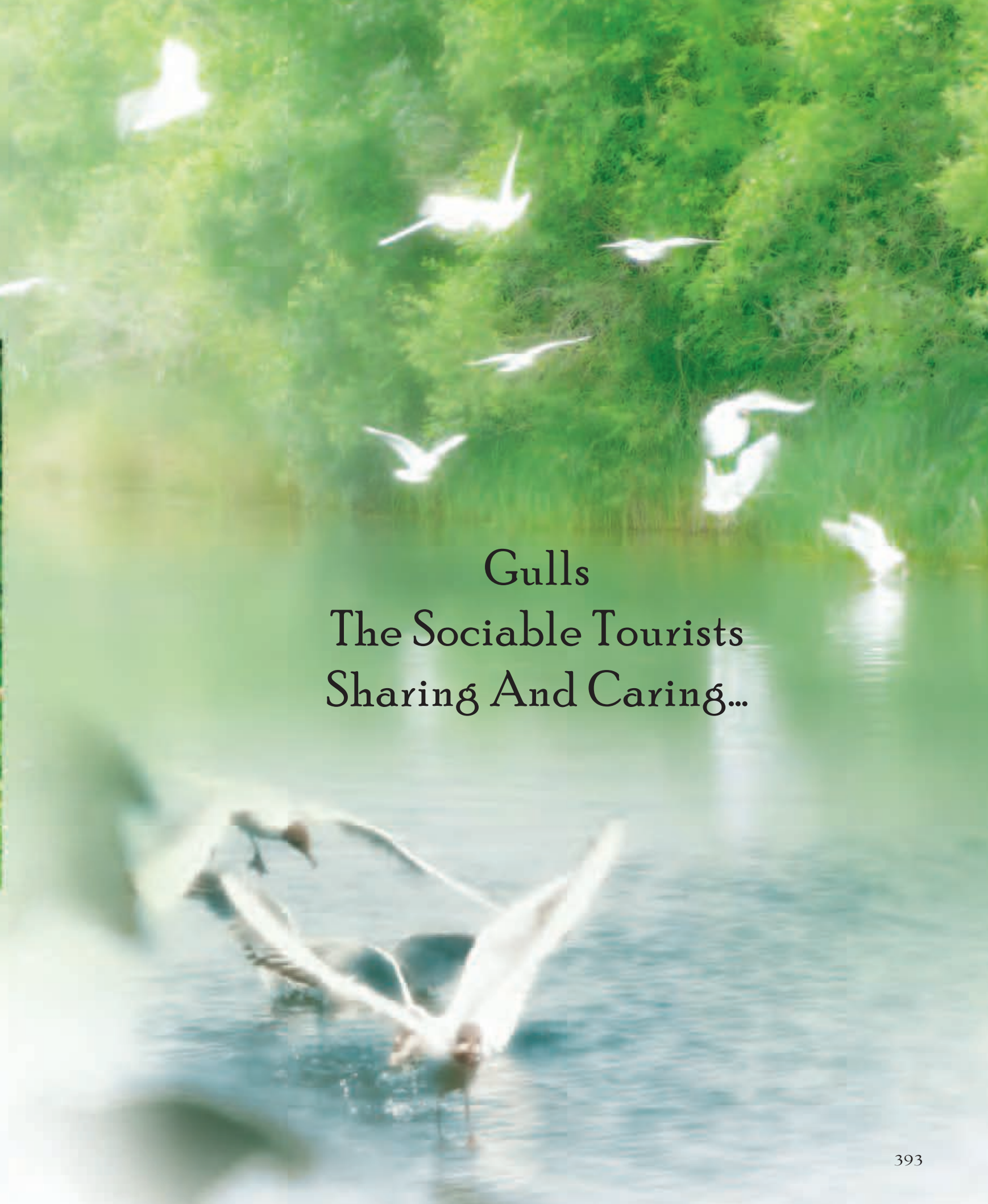


The mysterious “Figure”  
With three mysterious colors!





The trace of time



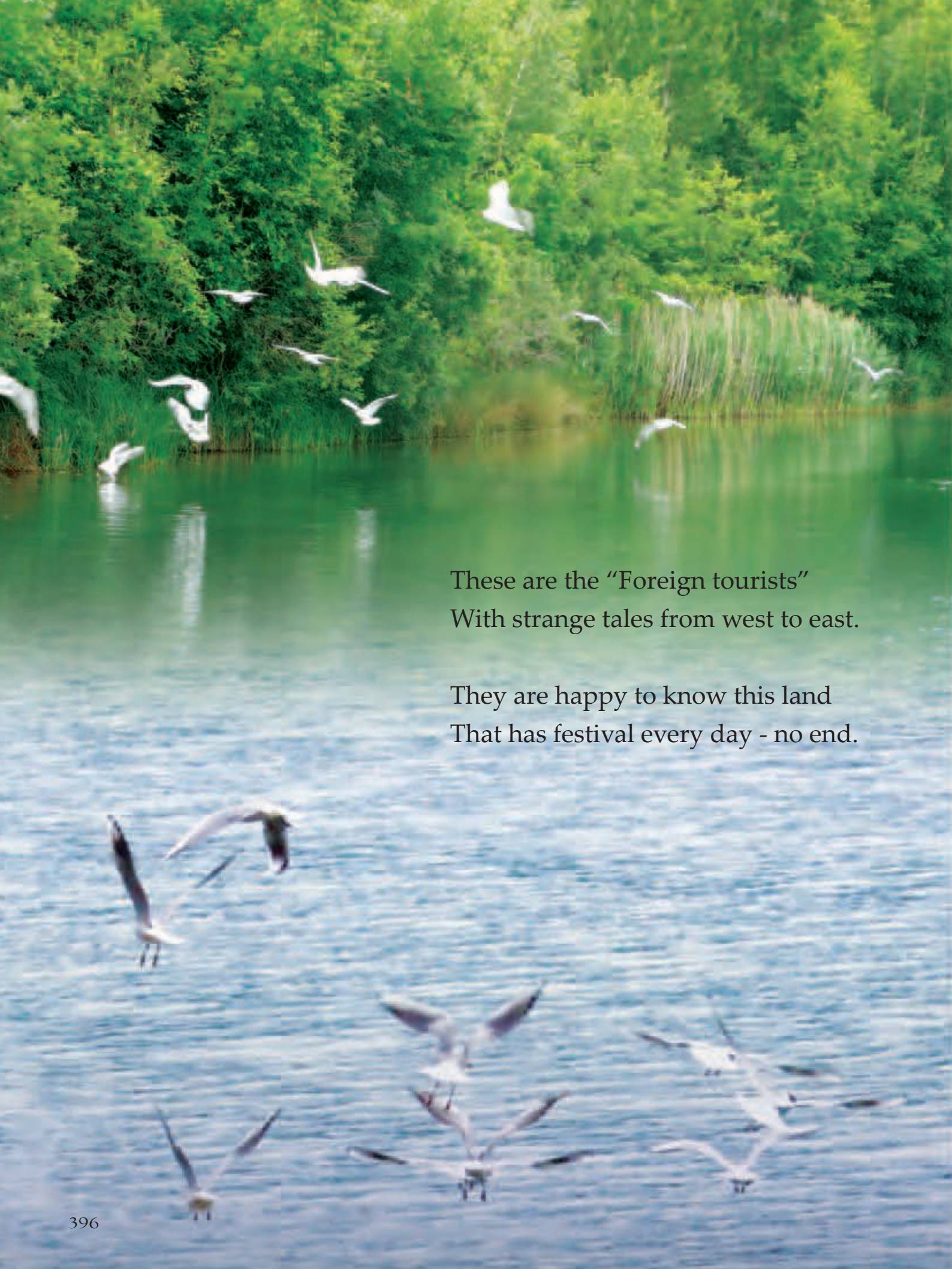
Gulls  
The Sociable Tourists  
Sharing And Caring...





The gull tourists  
 Carrying food in their beaks.  
 Whenever the Bridge Restaurant opens  
 They call each other to come at once  
 All share together with ducks and swans...  
 They never eat alone.





These are the "Foreign tourists"  
With strange tales from west to east.

They are happy to know this land  
That has festival every day - no end.



"Where we came from, there's 'no free lunch'  
But over here they give you food and drink  
We love it much, we stay longer  
Here we have every thing that we wish for."







The glory of wild grass!  
Who makes them thus?



Garden Birds  
The Joy Bringers  
Some Say Even Luck!





Yoo hoo!

These are beautiful birds  
That became the regulars  
If there's no food on the grass  
They would come knocking on the glass!...



Where go?

Let me go and see  
If I can talk to the lady  
The food she gave is much nicer than this  
I'll be back – real quick

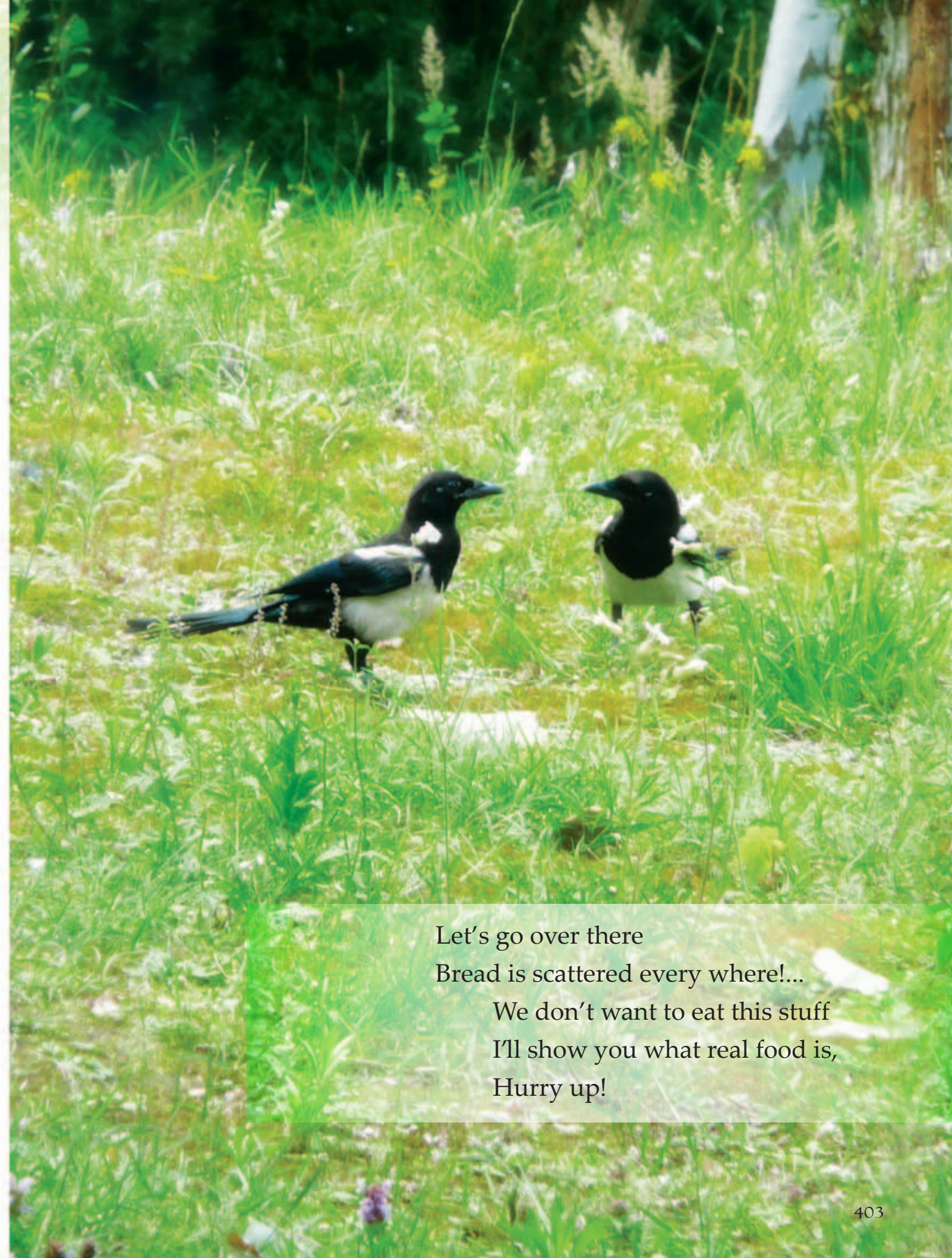




The lady always comes to feed them.  
They became almost like friends  
There's not a word spoken between them  
Just a love that's simple and untamed.



Meanwhile I eat what's here!



Let's go over there  
Bread is scattered every where!...  
We don't want to eat this stuff  
I'll show you what real food is,  
Hurry up!



You better be right!  
I'd also like to try.



Wild nutrients!





Oh this guy is really fast  
There's no one when I was here last.



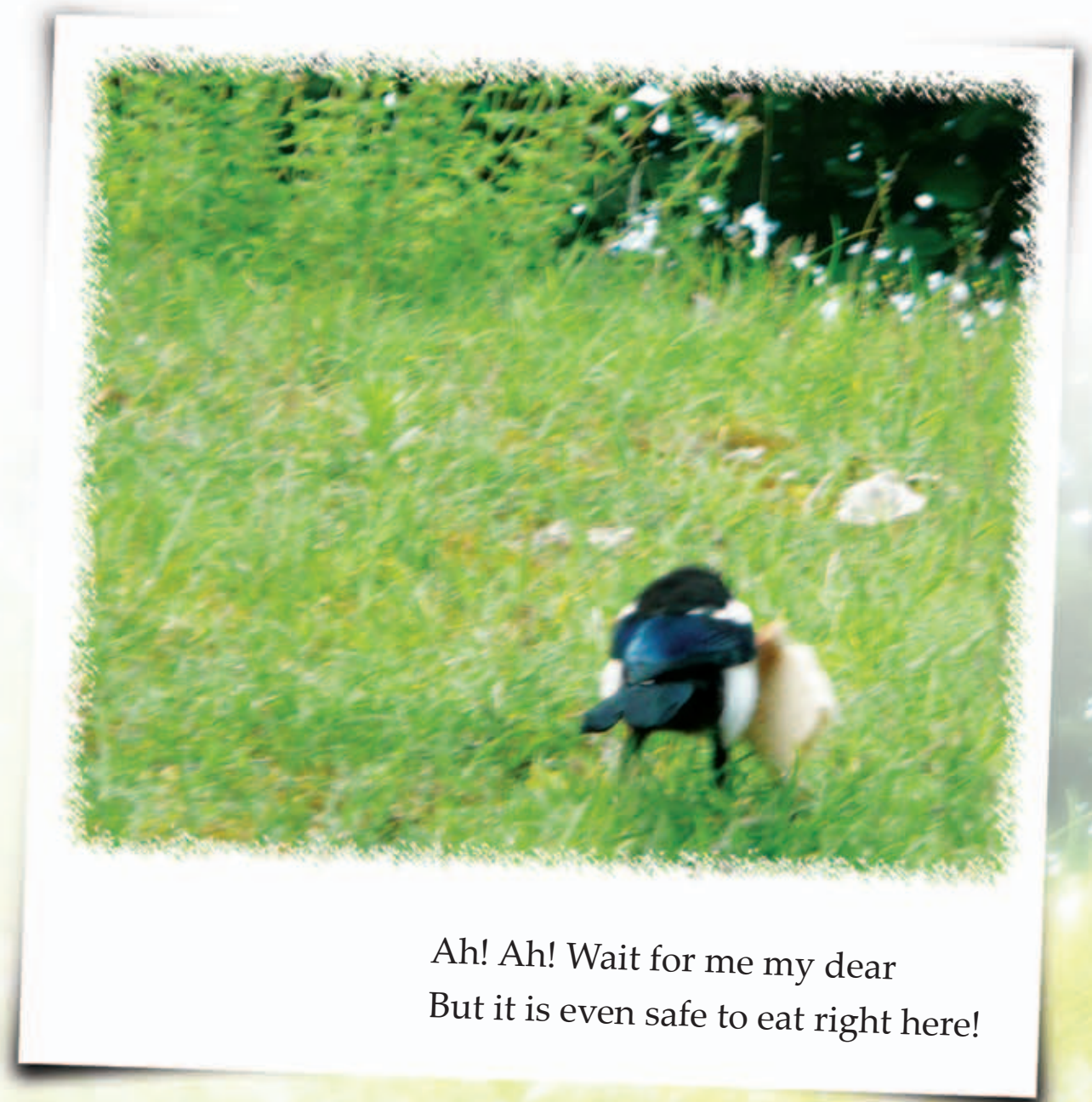
Anyway, we all can share  
There's enough under the lady's care.







There, there!  
Pick it up  
And try the stuff.  
Don't worry  
It's good  
Guaranteed!



Ah! Ah! Wait for me my dear  
But it is even safe to eat right here!



The Magnolia  
On the lady's back yard



Some Other Kinds  
of Residents





There's always some activities with some residents in the village. Chasing your own shadows or chasing your tails are some. Or just hanging around, hanging onto the wall, barking at random... are favorite pass-times of quite a few co-inhabitants.

Others prefer hanging on the ceiling, quacking at themselves or talking to his/her own tail, or toys in some cases.

Oh they do watch TV, video too, like every one else heh!





Birds' play pen



Some dog's home!!!





Guess whose home!









Like... hanging on the wall.



There's always  
some special program  
in the village  
with the residents.

(The guy is in love  
Can you see?)



Or... hanging around





Some kind of “body” guard?

No! A guarded body.



When you have clumsy  
2-legged and big 4 leggy  
as residents in a house  
What will be the result?



(Answer:  
Broken glass!!!)







The village road  
And some “invisible” residents



Sweet home of the lady





Some of the residents  
Are "ascetic"! = sleeping on the bare floor!  
(only in...summer)



Pillow fight, anyone?



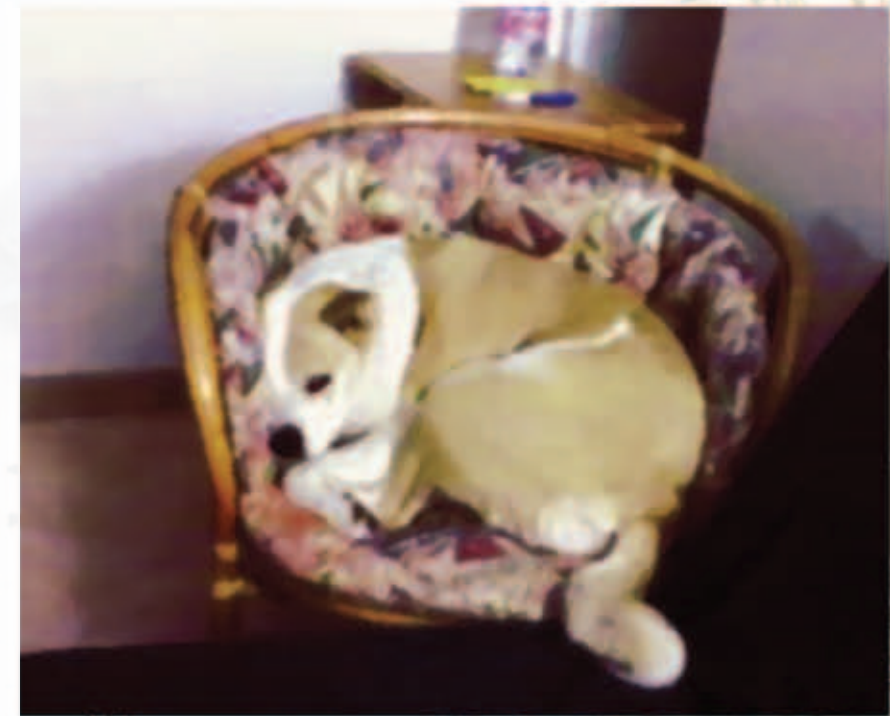
Oh well!  
I'll just use it for myself



Waiting for the swans  
Or ducks, or squirrels  
Or birds...  
Or whatever



The leisured "activities"



Other kinds of residents  
(Actually, they're similar)







Me like you  
Me love the cool floor, too.



Training  
for action???



A relaxy resi



In Amoura Villy.





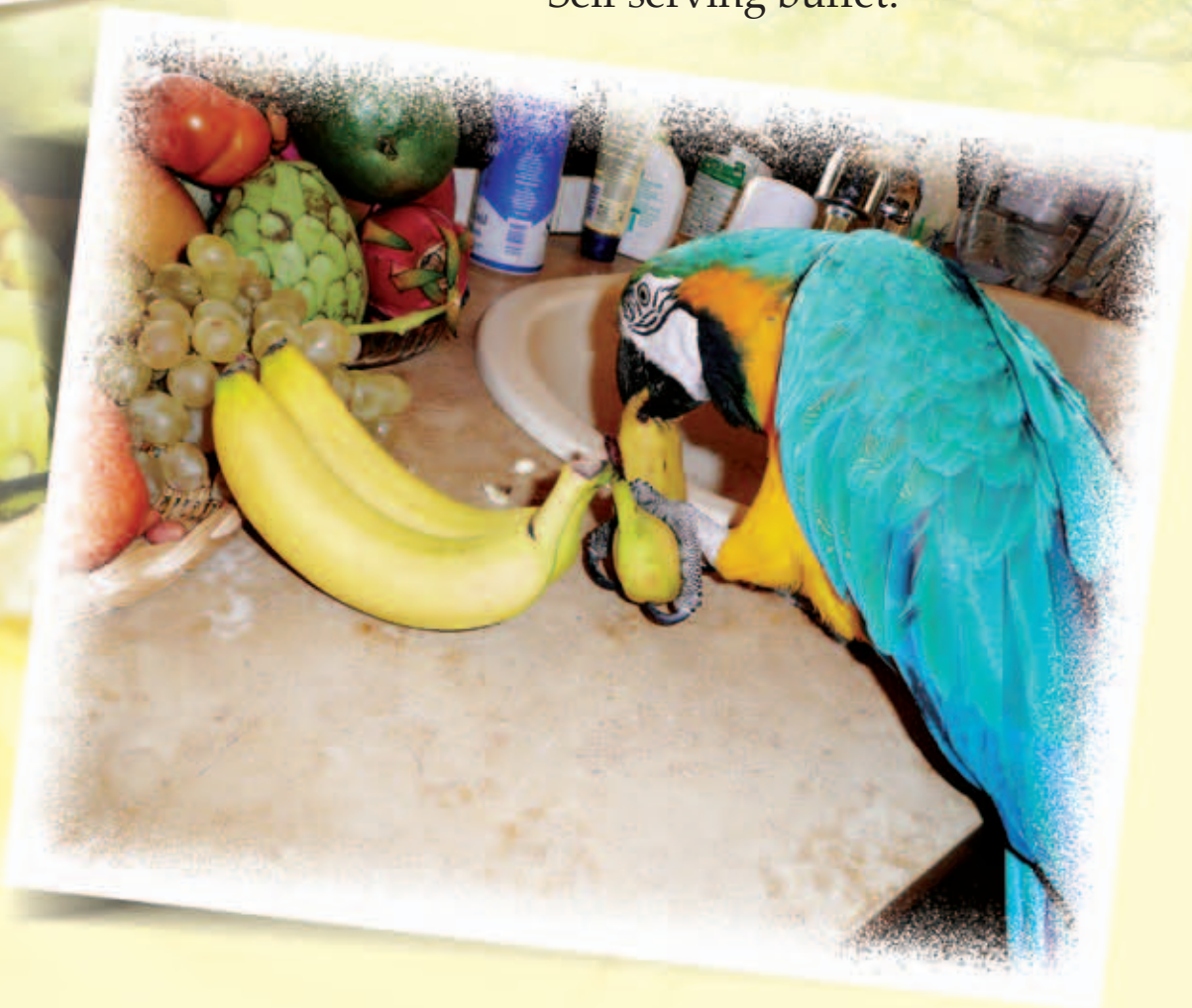
Golden girls of Amoura.







Self serving buffet.



The lady's "home bakes"  
(She's behind the cakes!)



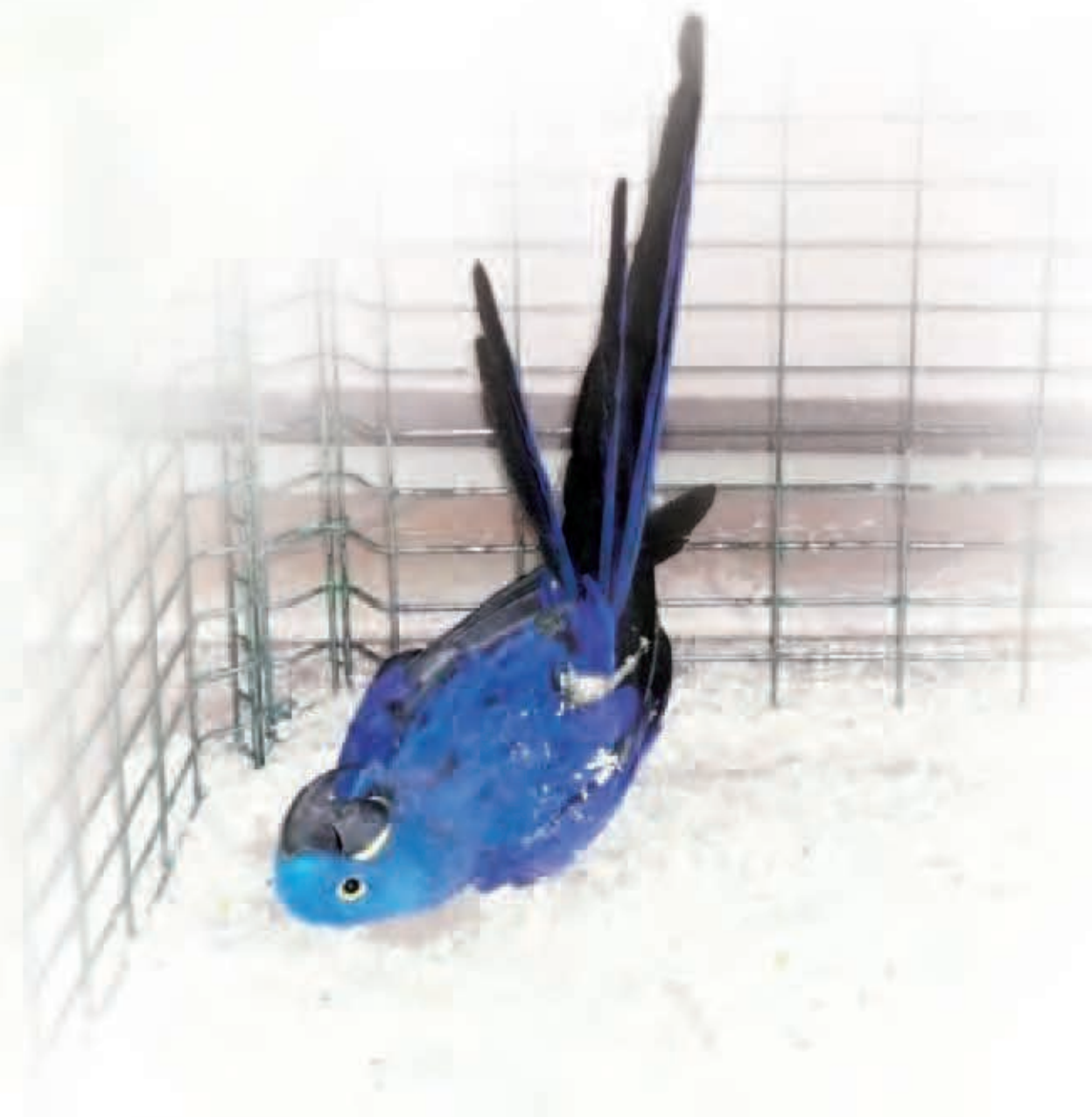


Pretend to be sleeping

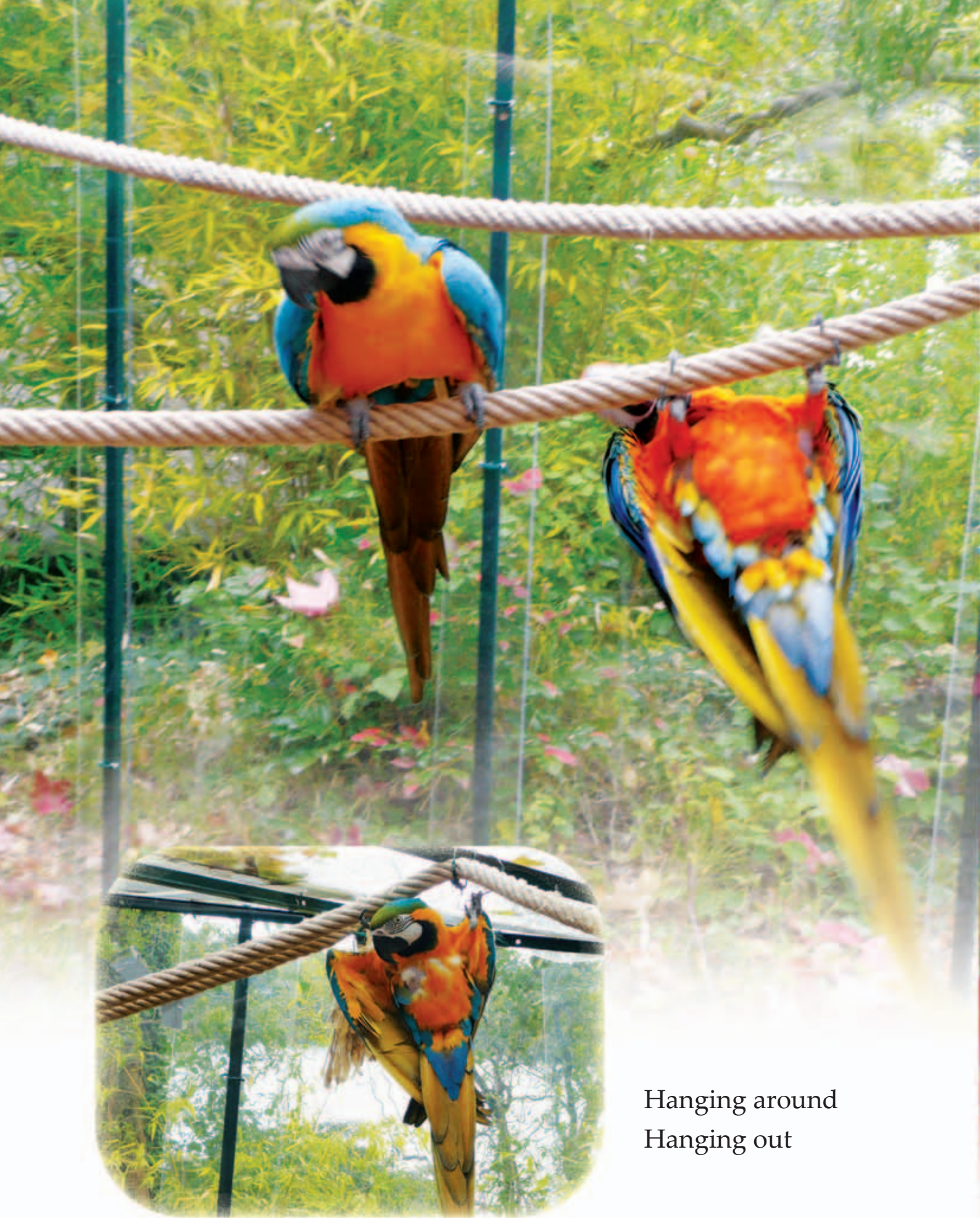


Meditating?

Chatting to your own tail is  
a pass-time hobby







Hanging around  
Hanging out



Hanging about  
Hanging anyhow!





Chatting about things



Sweet home of the same lady







A visit by the fog, at the lady's home

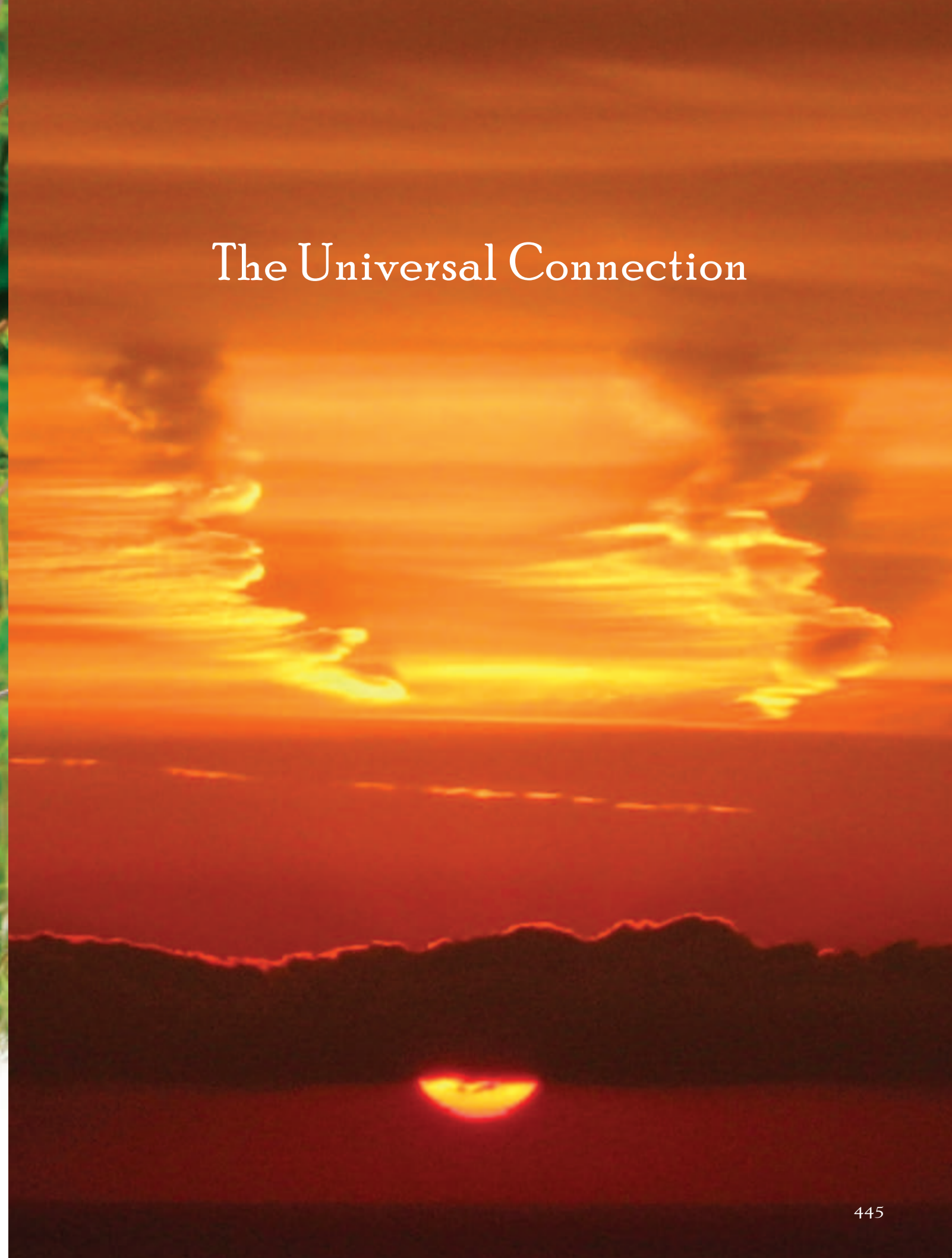


The sovereignty of the fog





And the untamed garden







This pregnant goat (named "Bu") stumbled from the mountain slope into a ditch behind a fence. (She had not eaten anything for several days and became very weak.) The lady freed her, fed her and searched for the right caretaker to return her to her flock, as per Bu's request. She was so excited, trembling when she

overheard the lady's phone conversation reading her tag number to the prospective "carer."

All the four-legged (dog) residents did not bark at her. (Well, only once at the first surprise encounter) They were so gentle around her as not to frighten the desperate goat all the while that she was in their "land." The lady was so proud of their good behavior! Praised them hugely!

After numerous phone calls to different places, her caretaker was found! She did not want to leave the lady's yard when her "carer" arrived. So the lady's assistants had to carry her to his van. She kept looking at the lady with loving eyes. It was not easy for her to part with Bu, though they had only short acquaintance. But Bu wanted to reunite with her love "Ro" - and she will be happier there!



Carer of Bu the Goat came to pick her up!

Good luck Bu!

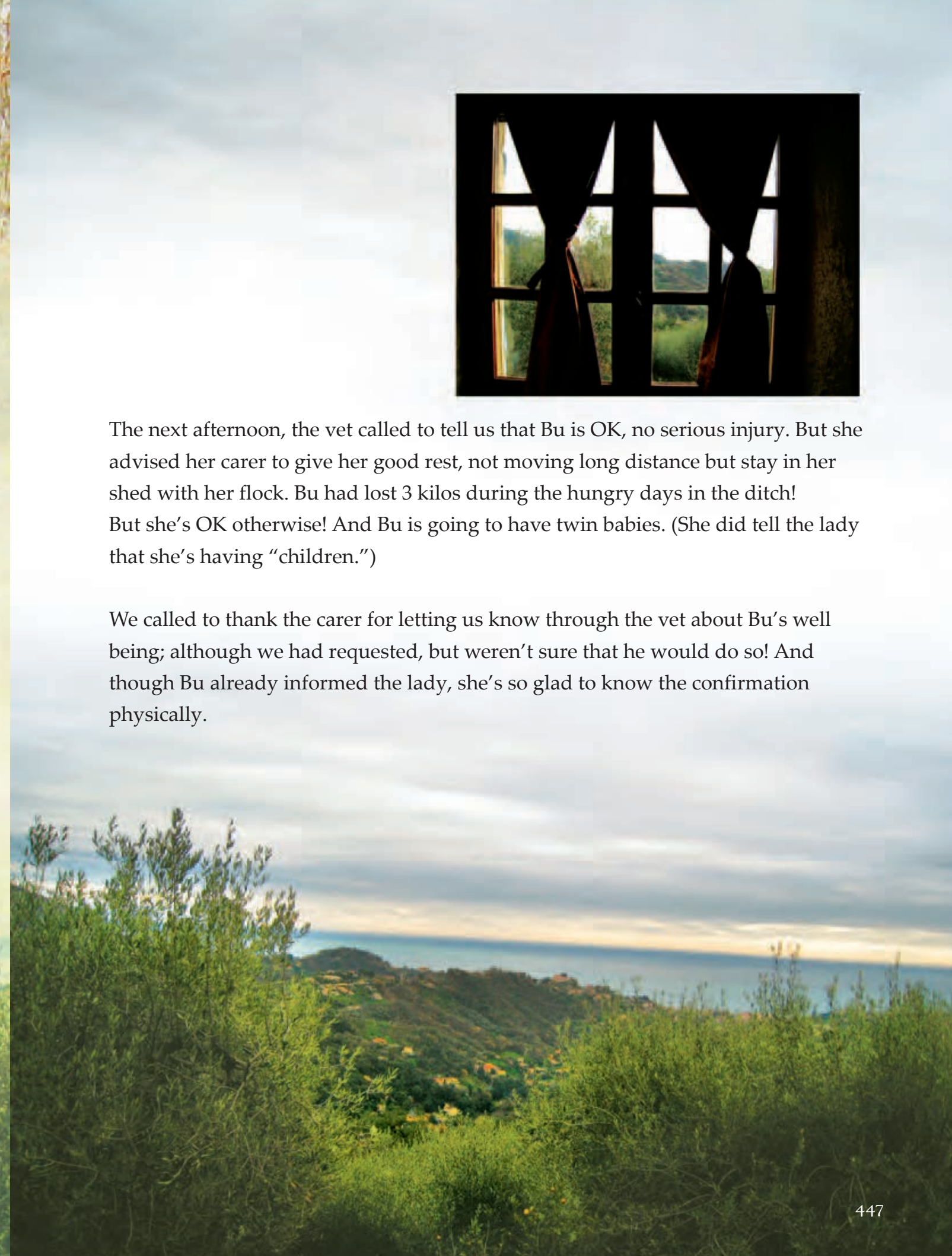
The lady gave Bu's carer some money, making him promise to call a vet, take good care of Bu and her child. He did promise!

Bu out of the ditch waiting for her "carer"



The next afternoon, the vet called to tell us that Bu is OK, no serious injury. But she advised her carer to give her good rest, not moving long distance but stay in her shed with her flock. Bu had lost 3 kilos during the hungry days in the ditch! But she's OK otherwise! And Bu is going to have twin babies. (She did tell the lady that she's having "children.")

We called to thank the carer for letting us know through the vet about Bu's well being; although we had requested, but weren't sure that he would do so! And though Bu already informed the lady, she's so glad to know the confirmation physically.





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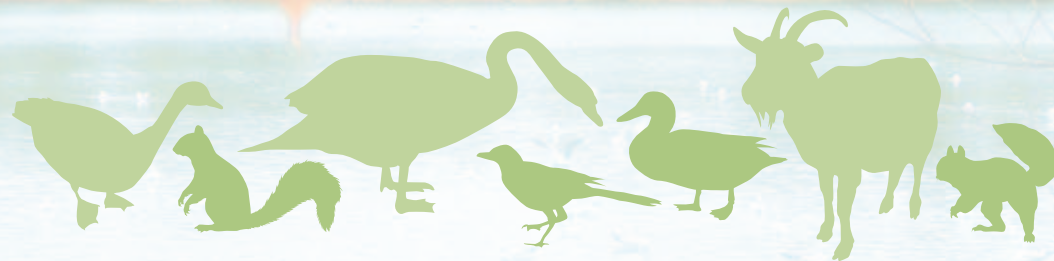
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# Alternative Living



Change Your Life  
Change Your Heart  
Change Your Diet

No more killing  
Be healthy and loving

Save our Lives!  
We Love You



Examples of nutritious, life saving food:

Foods	Protein Concentration (Percentage by Weight)
Tofu (from soya)	16 %
Gluten (from flour)	70 %
Corn	13 %
Rice	8.6 %
Soy beans, kidney beans, chick peas, lentils, etc.	10 - 35 %
Almonds, walnuts, cashews, hazel nuts, pine nuts, etc.	14 - 30 %
Pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, etc.	18 - 24 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concentrated multi-vitamin tablets/capsules are also a good source of vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants.</li> <li>Fruits and vegetables are full of vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants and contain high-quality fiber for maintaining good health and a long life.</li> <li>The recommended daily allowance: 50 grams of protein (Average adult).</li> <li>Calcium from vegetables is more absorbable than from cow's milk.</li> </ul>	

- To diminish the real threat of a worldwide pandemic from bird flu,
- To avoid the danger of mad cow disease (BSE) and pig disease (PMWS), etc.
- To stop the continuing gruesome sacrifice of billions of our sweet domestic animals, marine life and feathered friends daily,

It's wise to change to a vegetarian diet for good.

It's Health  
It's Economy  
It's Ecology  
It's Compassion  
It's Peace  
It's Noble



Thank You  
for Your Compassion



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## The Birds in My Life

Written personally by Supreme Master Ching Hai

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<http://www.amazon.com/dp/9866895149/>



Have it delivered to your door and begin experiencing the love flowing on the pages.

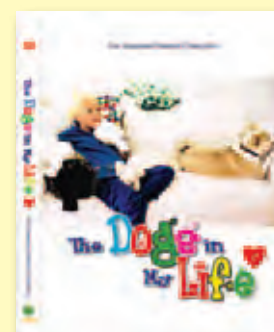
Throughout this beautifully illustrated book *The Birds in My Life*, Supreme Master Ching Hai invites us to enter the inner world of animals. That is, when we love them unconditionally, they will in return open their hearts to us without reservation.

It is really a wonderful book, flowing with love and harmony on every page, Supreme Master Ching Hai helps us to understand that animals have very noble and beautiful souls. What an amazing book! Animals are humans' good friends. Hope everyone comes to read this marvelous book.

## #1 Amazon Bestselling Author of "THE BIRDS IN MY LIFE"

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## The Dogs in My Life



In the newly released *The Dogs in My Life* (Volumes 1 & 2), the first publication lovingly written and personally designed by Supreme Master Ching Hai, readers will re-discover the simplicity of love and rejoice in the sincerity of friendship, as exhibited by the 10 canine friends, with names like Benny, Lucky, Happy, Goody, and Hermit. Learn about the Scholar, Fruity, Princissa, Chip Ahoy, the Shadow Hunter, and others; listen to their engaging tales. They all have diverse life stories and distinctive personalities, yet their devotion for their "human pet" is unequivocal, and their humor, intelligence and many other noble qualities are truly from the same source.

Read *The Dogs in My Life*, and fall in love with some the most special beings on Earth.

Other language versions  
will be published soon

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The Dogs in My Life(2) <http://www.amazon.com/dp/9866895084/>

"I hope to let the readers enjoy some glimpse of the beautiful ways that dogs walk the Earth with us, and through them, understand more about other beings."

~ Supreme Master Ching Hai



# The Noble Wilds

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## "The Noble Wilds" Readers Comments

**Malik Nasir, reader from Pakistan:** Halo! I'm from Pakistan. My name is Malik Nasir. I read this book, "The Noble Wilds." It's a very good book. I like especially its pictures. I think Supreme Master Ching Hai is the best writer.

**Uranchimeg, reader from Mongolia:** This wonderful book shows us animals' inside thoughts and emotions we humans have not known.

**Uuganbayar, reader from Mongolia:** When reading this book, I get inner peace and comfort, as well as love for all living beings and Mother Nature of this planet, and it helps me to understand our co-inhabitants.

**Mirian Takahashi, reader from Brazil:** Hi I am Mirian from Brazil, I've read this book that my son has, I like it very much. There are many good pictures. I like the direct language; it leads us to reflection on the beautiful images.

**Mr. Hsiao-Yu Tang, Director of Endemic Species Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan:** Let's turn to the warnings raised by the United Nations in the last few years regarding the impact to wild animals caused by the global warming. It's huge. I think the extinction of wild animals has sped up rather than slowed down. These wild animal species have lived on this planet since time began. It's a complementary relationship between human beings, animals, and plant life. We are closely related to each other. Whether it's one ecosystem disappearing or one ecosystem thriving, it certainly impacts other animals species' survival. So I think global warming is a very big alert, and that the whole world should face it seriously. I think this book is quite good. It appeals to humankind to protect the wild animals. I also hope Supreme Master Ching Hai can guide us in treasuring the Earth and protecting our environment.

\*\*\*\*\*

## "The Noble Wilds" Readers' Comments from Amazon.com

**A reader named C. R. Tumminaro:** "The book is truly heart-melting. The photos are romantic, which conveys the deep love that the wilds have. The actions are something that we do not get to witness often, and when paired with the beautiful poetry, it definitely shows true tenderness. A healing and redemptive book that's full of love!"

**Iemmanuel in Paris, France:** "I could feel such a very surprising and delicate and unknown joy... Like a deep truth being shared with others, absolute heartwarming; not just about animals but about ourselves, humans, too."

**Jim from California, USA:** "A marvelous and refreshing book that brings comfort and peace to me every time I open it - from Page one till the end, I enjoyed the theme as if I am right next to the swan, the lake, the forest, and the wilds. Gorgeous pictures save me from the jungle of the city!"



**A university professor in the US:** "The Noble Wilds," written and photographed by Supreme Master Ching Hai exemplifies an alternative, compassionate way of living during an age of the ever increasingly growing environmental crises. One cannot help asking: Why have humans not been able to live in peace, love, harmony with these wonderful beings?"

**Shuton in Formosa (Taiwan):** "It is so interesting to record the life of the swan family, especially when we learn that the swans have their own names just like we do. So animals are just like us."

**Reader in South Africa:** "After reading The Noble Wilds, I can truly see how incredible God is in his purpose of sending us such wonderful animals to inspire us to treat one another with love and dignity."

**Su Mei Ting, Chinese reader:** "We are so blessed to have these noble wilds as company. Highly recommended!"

**Reader in Canada:** "There is some deep connection here. Nature in my world now seems a bit more vibrant."

**Anonymous reader:** "If you open your mind and let the author take you on her journey, you'll be able to see animals as she does - with love, respect, and admiration. We can learn so much from them, and we need to."

**Reader in UK:** "I felt an overwhelming love and respect for the animal kingdom, all animals alike. Thank you Supreme Master for another gem brought to the world!"

**Reader named Margaret:** "Five stars! I am so touched by the love between the lady and these noble wilds. This wonderful book opens a window to the inner world of animals and is highly recommended for everyone."

**Su Love in Formosa (Taiwan):** This book for me is like God's gift."

**Reader named "Happy Birdie":** "'The Noble Wilds' is an eye opener. Animals are entitled to sincere consideration as co-inhabitants on the Earth planet. Recognizing the sentience, inherent value, feelings and equal consideration of nonhuman beings, we should conserve and manage wildlife and animals with loving care and compassion."

**Wang, an animal caretaker:** "People may know IQ (intelligence quotient) and EQ (emotion quotient), but have you heard about NQ (Noble Quality)? In this book "The Noble Wilds," the author tells readers what NQ is and why some animals have higher NQ due to their love inborn."

**Reader from Atlanta, USA:** "It's a very interesting book for both adults and children alike...After I read this book, I felt the Love of God through these wild creatures."

**Julie in Florida, USA:** "After reading this wonderful book, I begin to realize I have a lot of beautiful neighbor animals as well, no matter if they are from a neighbor's household, or from the park and lake near me. The beauty of this book is beyond anything words could ever describe; you have to read it yourself."

**Dennys Flores in Brazil:** "How beautiful is the world as seen by Supreme Master Ching Hai. Every message from the author, every comment is so clear and at the same time so wise and loving, reflecting a quality that I believe we all are able to develop. I feel very happy for having chosen this wonderful book."

**Vivian in Germany:** "We humans proclaim to be the crown of the creation, the most civilized being. But look at these noble souls in animal forms. We should learn from them, love them, respect them, with our honour. Thanks God that they are here."

**Reader in San Diego, California, USA:** "High quality paperback book with a satin finish cover. The author did a great job. It's written in a simple way that conveys a lot of caring and love...a great picker-upper if you're having a not so perfect day."

**Reader in Malaysia:** "I saw this book from a friend, and it's really a charming book, like an art gallery, with hundreds of splendid pictures of nature and heartfelt words. It just brings you back to nature and comforts your soul! A real gift for yourself and your loved ones."

**John Phillips, in Ontario, Canada:** Like many other people, I've watched hundreds of nature shows on TV, but I've never come across some of the things presented in this book called "The Noble Wilds." Inside, Supreme Master Ching Hai gives us some wonderful experiences she had with certain animals as they gradually begin to trust her and eventually let her in on some of their "secrets." This was quite fascinating to me because we often think of animals as a "sub-species." She also gives us examples of their love and devotion. On page 271 for example, the swan parents plucked out their own feathers to make a big "carpet" for their children so they wouldn't injure their tender feet. The daddy plucked out so many feathers that he couldn't even fly for a period of time! What a huge sacrifice! I think the author of this book is trying to show us that not only our pets should be cherished and loved but all of nature. Most of us, including myself, think too much about money and materials, but forget the relationships with ourselves, families and surroundings as being the most important. After reading this book, I realized that animals can teach me many things, and I respect nature more than ever before. Thanks Supreme Master Ching Hai for taking the time and patience to make this "nature journal."







*... I can't say everything about my interactions with the wild ones,  
just a little bit here and there. When a situation arises that I have to tell,  
then I tell a little bit.*

*In your care, the animals are grateful and they are very happy to help you  
in any way they can, depending on their capacity. They do the best they  
can to help better your life.*

*After a while, if you really love an animal, you will make contact;  
and then through that contact, you can contact other animals as well.*

*~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai*

