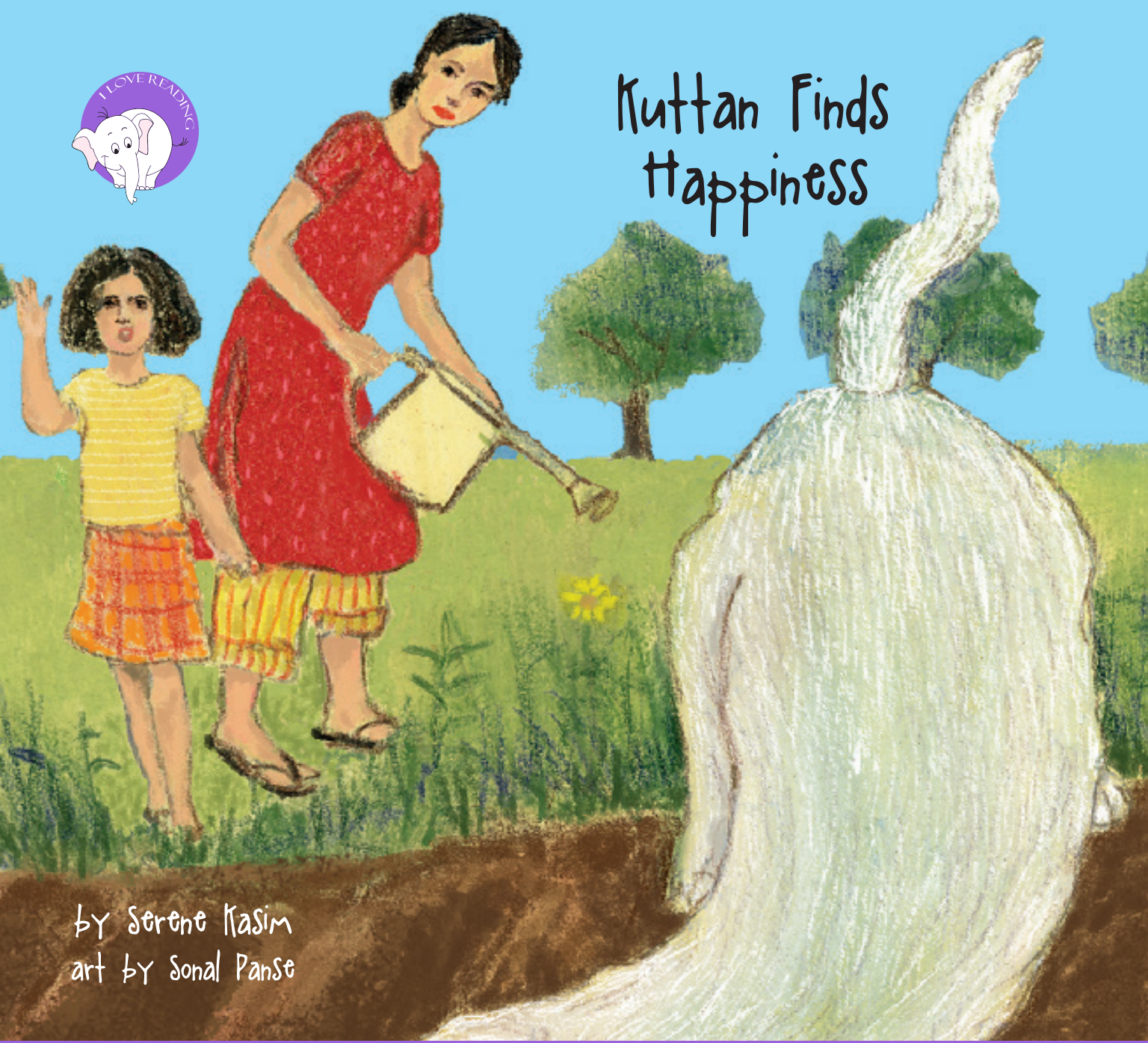




Kuttan Finds Happiness



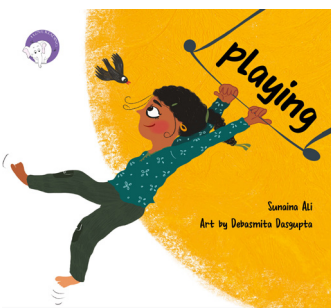
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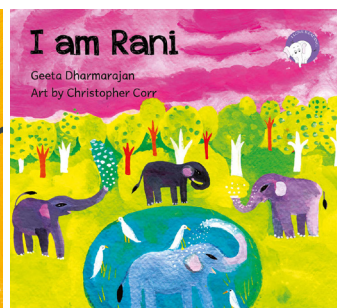
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


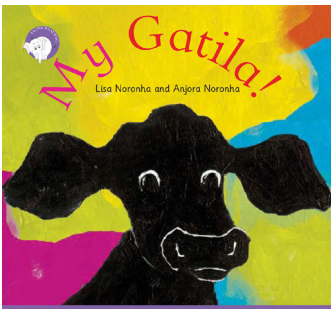
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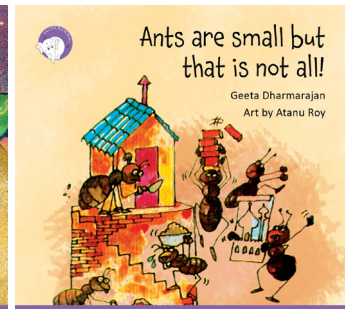
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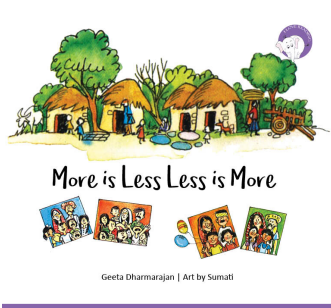
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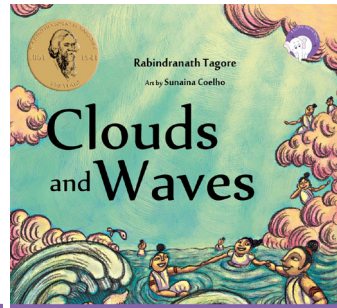
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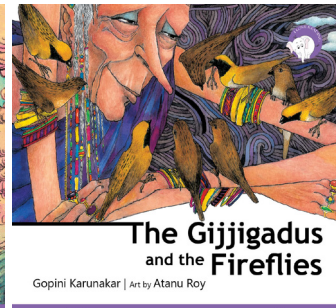
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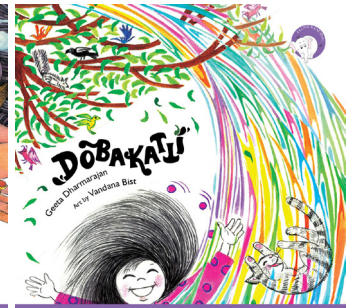
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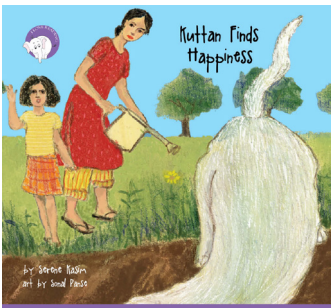
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IN THE INDIGO SERIES



Kuttan woke up from his long afternoon nap. His three little cousins were scampering about, all excited.

Surely something very interesting was up. At least, interesting for these little ones. They were so small. And Kuttan had grown up quite a bit. He almost felt

GROWN UPPPPPPP!



He stretched lazily, shook himself all over and assuming a very grown up air, majestically sauntered over to his little cousins.

Just then his eye fell on something bright and yellow amidst the green leaves. It wasn't there this morning when he had gone off to sleep.

One of his little cousins asked him in a scared voice, “What is it? We have never seen anything like it!”

Kuttan smiled wisely and cleared his throat, “Mrrowurr.

Of course, I know! What a question!”



Last year he had seen the same thing
and Ma Cat had explained it to him. But
he had forgotten everything.

How stupid of him!

Now what will I tell them – I don't
know? No way! I am not going to let
these little ones know that!



Last time, the lady had dug up the earth, poured water into it and fixed a net over it. Kuttan was really naughty, you see, and the lady knew that.

Then, the leaves appeared. And something red came out of the earth. Kuttan was terrified!

But the lady and her daughter had been very happy.



Kuttan thought, It was red then and is yellow now. But it is the same thing! Why can't I remember its name?

Kuttan felt he must say something, "Okay. Listen up you three. The lady loves this soil. Every year she digs it up. Then she pours lots of water on it. Then when we try to dig it up, she chases us away.



Then she puts little beads into the soil.

Sometimes white.

Sometimes black.

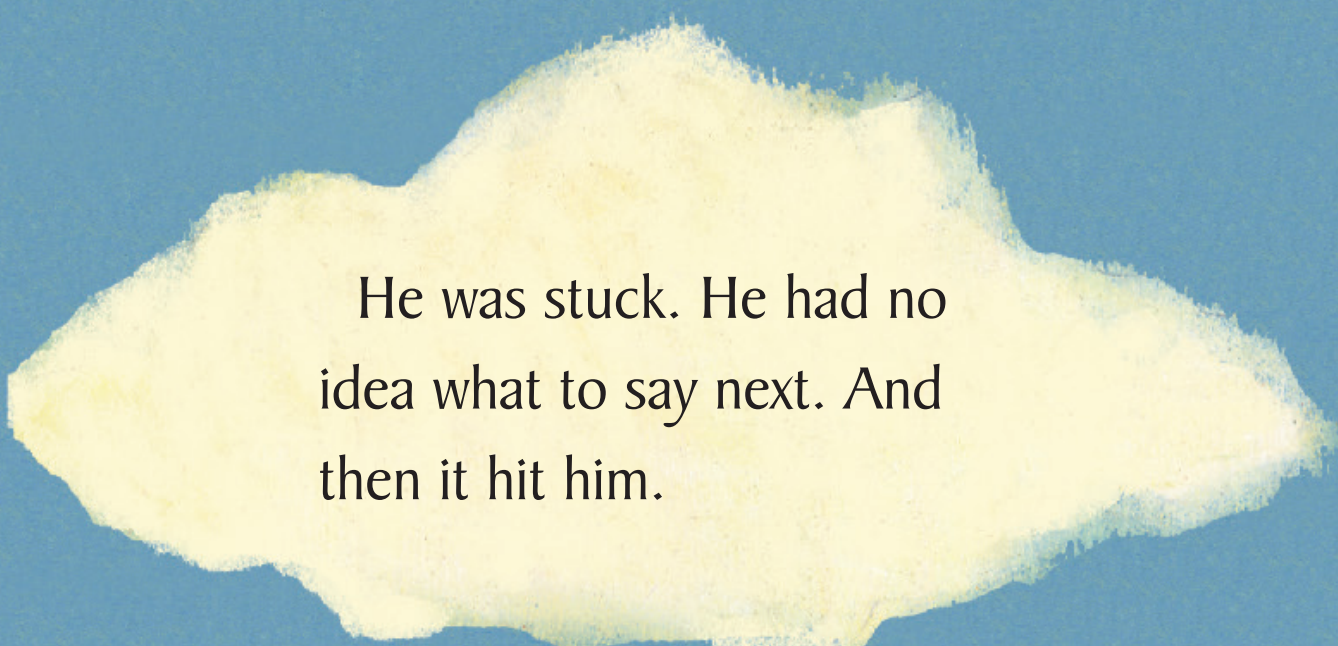
And what happens next?"

"What?" cried the little kittens.

"These little green people pop up through the soil. They are called Leaves.

Like I am called Kuttan," he explained.

"Oh! But we know that," said the little ones. "What is THIS YELLOW THING? Tell us puhleeez!"



He was stuck. He had no idea what to say next. And then it hit him.



“Happiness!” he exclaimed.

“Happiness?” the kittens asked doubtfully.

“Yes. Don't you understand? They look so pretty waving in the breeze. All that green stuff makes us happy. Right?”

The people are also happy when they see the leaves come up.

So all the happy people without the tails and all the happy cat people make the leaves happy too.

And then they give us these little Happinesses.

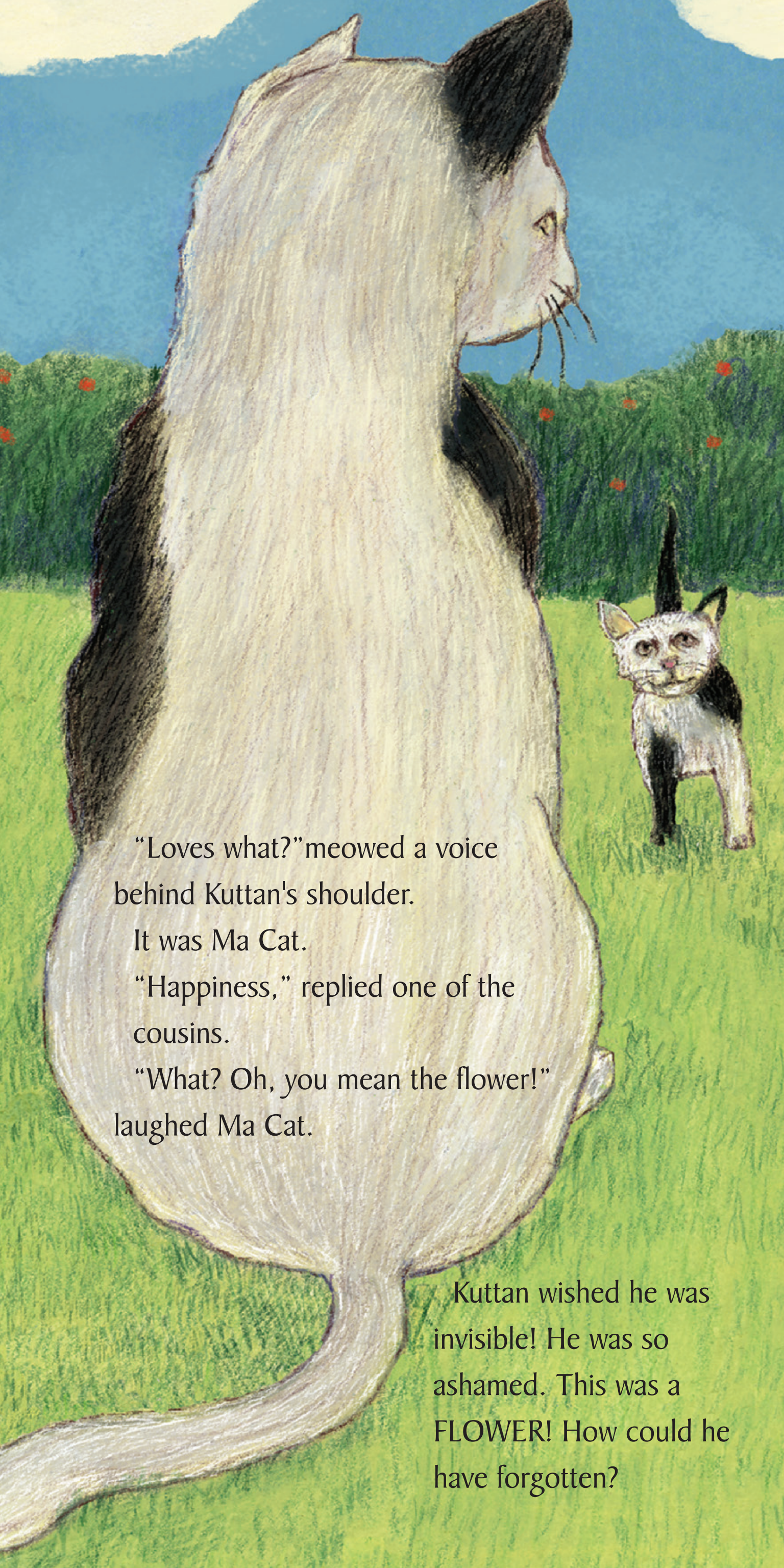


This is a yellow Happiness.
Last year I saw a red Happiness.
Aren't they pretty?"

Now the kittens understood. "Oh look!"
they exclaimed, "Even the bees and the
butterflies like them."

"Of course," said Kuttan,
"Everybody loves them!"



A large, fluffy white cat with a black collar and a small black and white cat in a green field. The large cat is on the left, looking towards the right. The small cat is on the right, looking towards the large cat. The background is a green field with some red flowers and blue mountains in the distance.

“Loves what?” meowed a voice behind Kuttan's shoulder.

It was Ma Cat.

“Happiness,” replied one of the cousins.

“What? Oh, you mean the flower!” laughed Ma Cat.

Kuttan wished he was invisible! He was so ashamed. This was a FLOWER! How could he have forgotten?

Two little cousins made faces at Kuttan and walked off. But the third stayed and, “Don't feel bad. I really liked what you said. I think Happiness is a good name. Perhaps you are right.”

Kuttan instantly felt better.

Maybe everyone was right sometimes. And maybe everyone was wrong sometimes. As far as he knew, the flowers were Happiness.



And so, very happy with himself and his little cousin and the Happiness flowers, he skipped along. He was very happy now. So happy that he felt like a little kitten again.



Serene Kasim has been flitting from one breathtaking place to another and is currently in London with the School of Oriental and African Studies pursuing an MA in South Asian Studies. She tends to scribble whilst dreaming of saving the world.

Sonal Pansa is a freelance artist and writer based in Nashik in Maharashtra. She does realistic, imaginative and abstract artwork in a variety of media. Her work has been featured in publications in India, Australia and the United States. She has also exhibited her paintings in London and Mumbai, and is currently working on a novel.

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