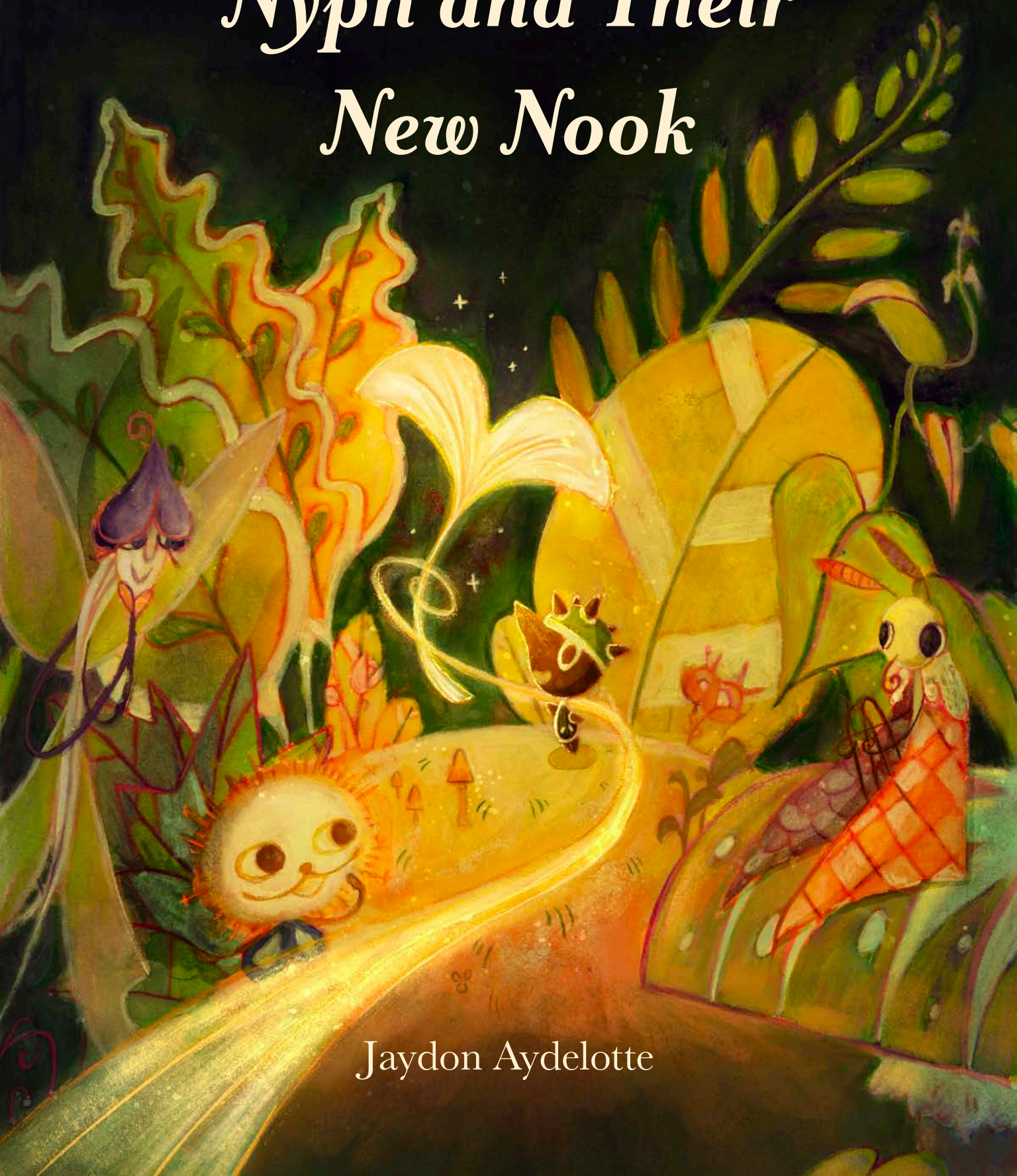
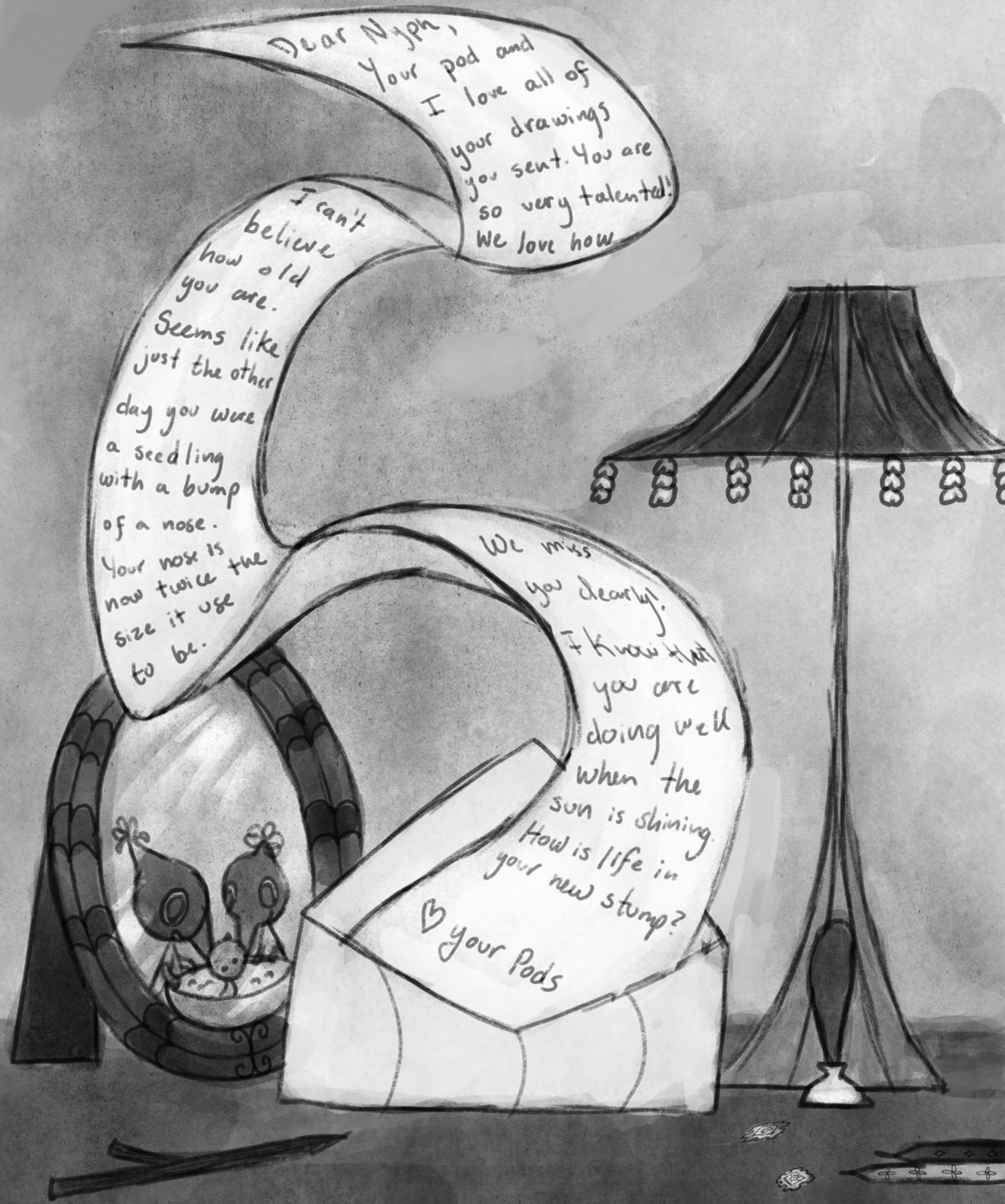


Nymph and Their New Nook

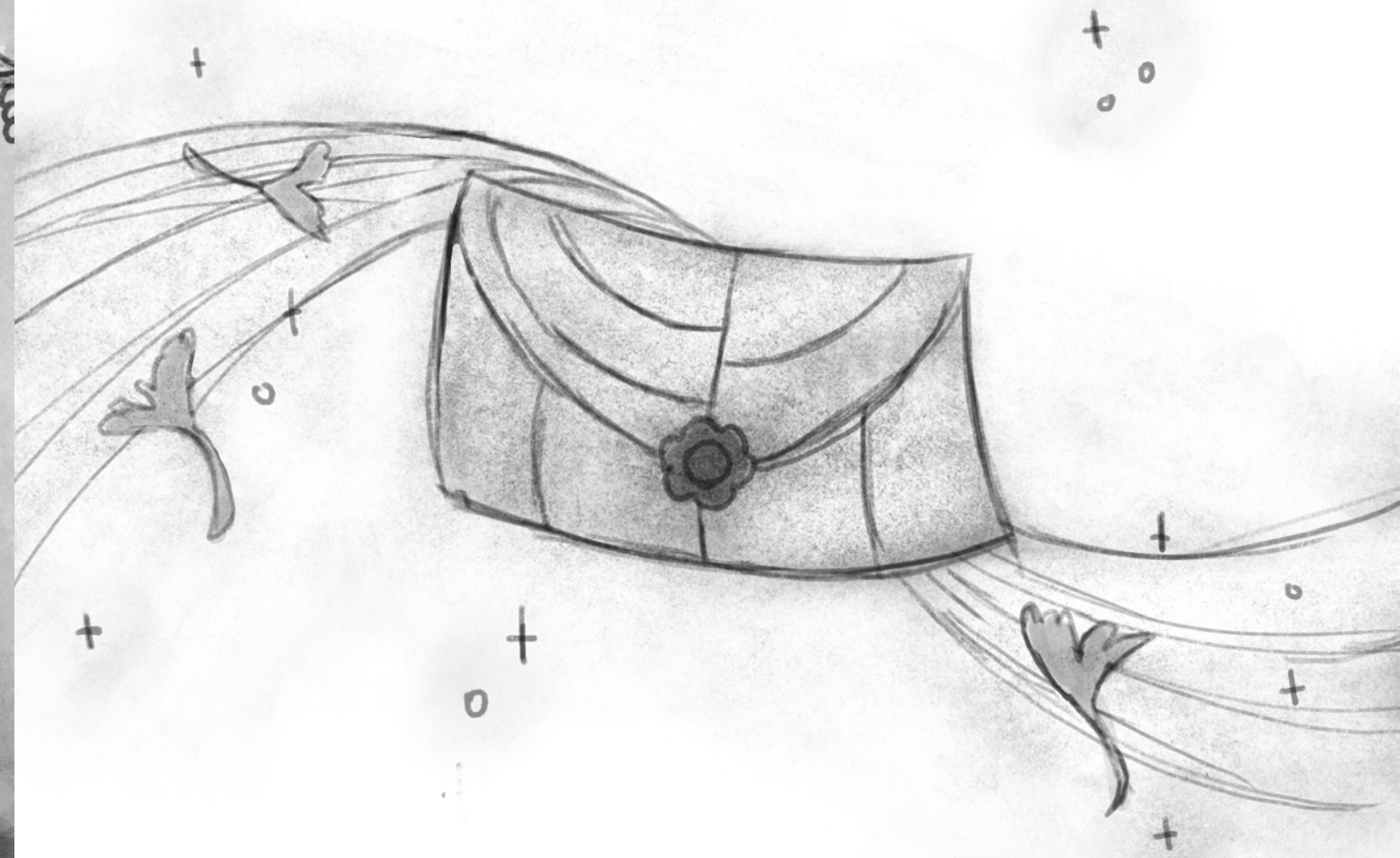


Jaydon Aydelotte





Nyph and Their New Nook



Jaydon Aydelotte

Copyright



In a quiet corner of the woods, a seedling named Nyph
lived in an oak stump.

A cozy, warm, and humble stump. Nyph, like most young seedlings, had caught the wind and drifted far from home hoping to find their place in the world.

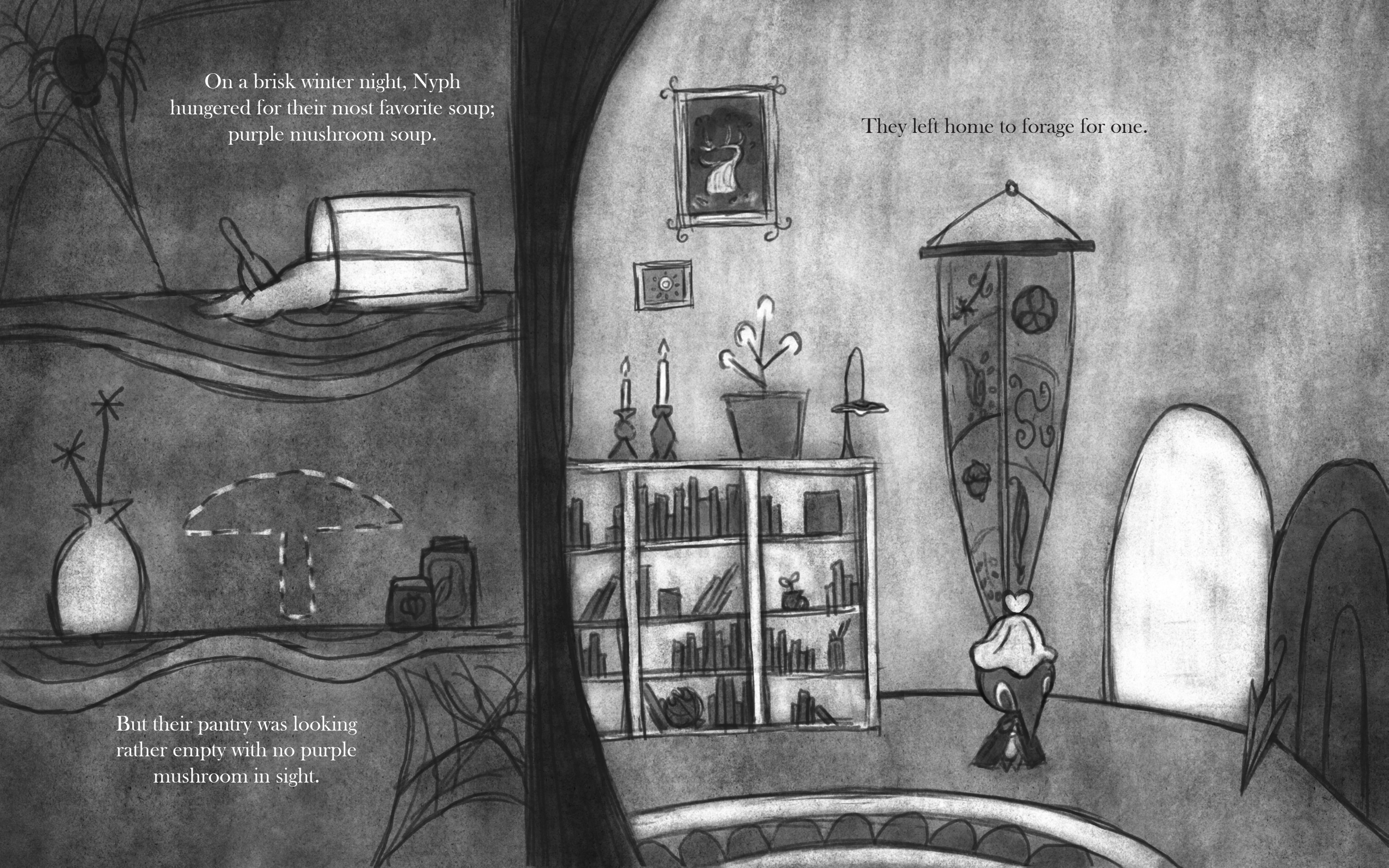
Even though it was lonely to be the only seedling in their stump, Nyph made an effort to keep in touch with their family. Their stump was filled with pictures, trinkets, and letters they'd shared over the years with them.



On a brisk winter night, Nyph
hungered for their most favorite soup;
purple mushroom soup.

They left home to forage for one.

But their pantry was looking
rather empty with no purple
mushroom in sight.



As Nyph walked through the woods the air grew colder and colder. Howling winds swept through causing Nyph to fall down, followed by heavy hailstones the size of pinecones.

Scared for their life, Nyph ran home only to find...

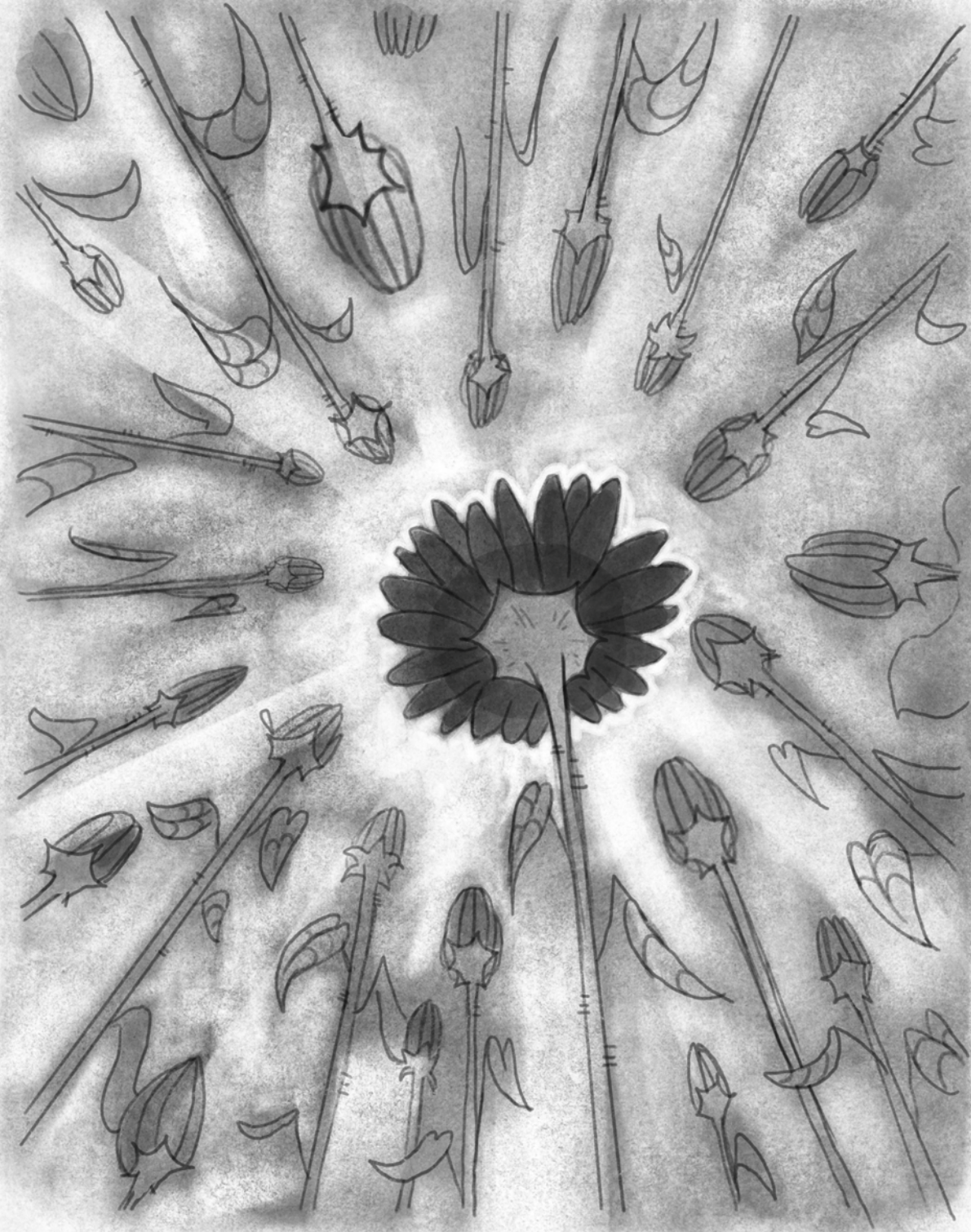


Their house was in pieces!

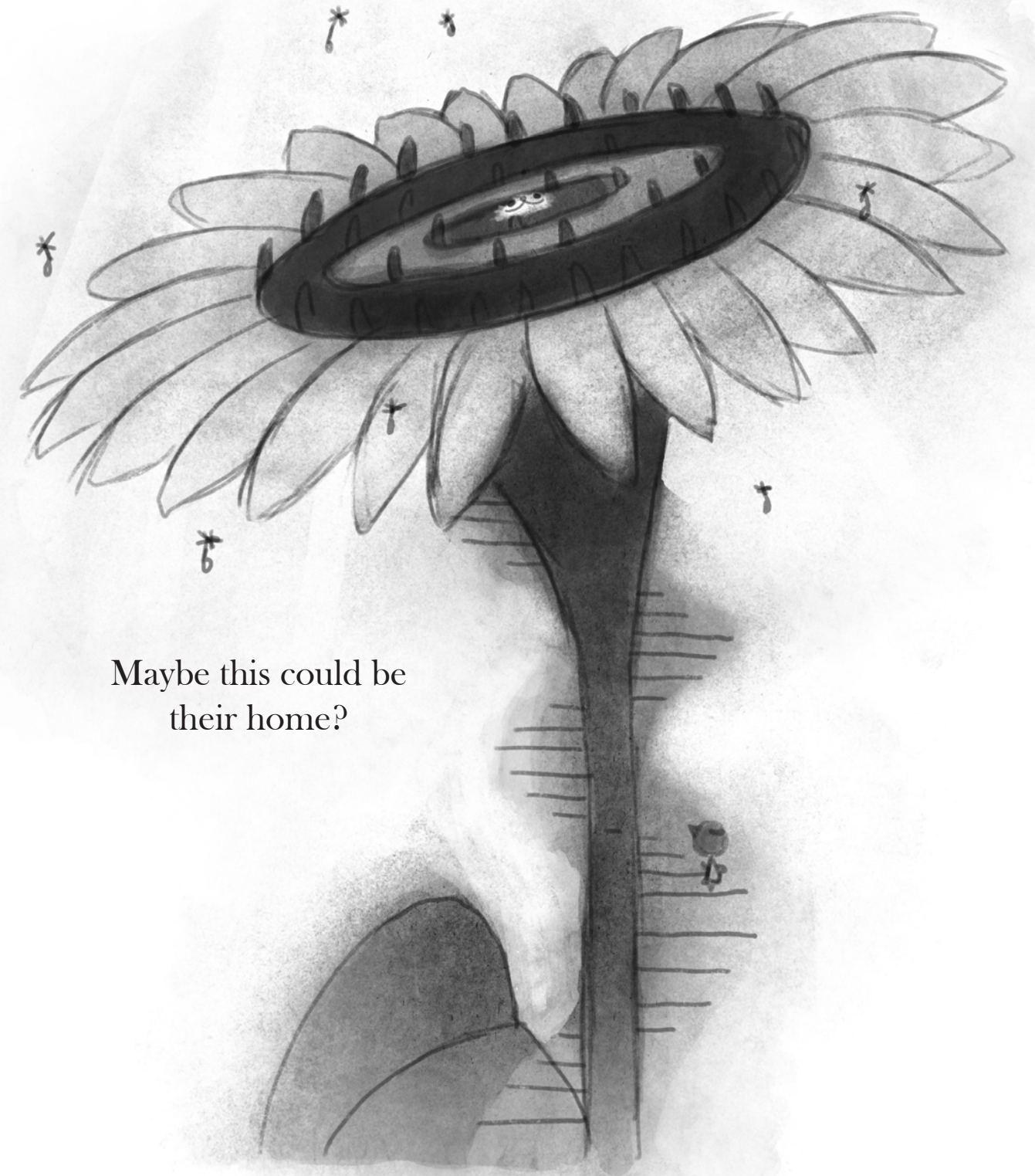
The walls of their stump were smashed by the hail and their belongings scattered by the wind. Not even a single letter could be saved. With a heavy heart, Nyph set out to find a new home.



They searched and searched for the right flower to be their home, but all the flowers hadn't bloomed yet. All except for one.



Wandering about, Nyph stumbled into a sunflower patch. There were many big and beautiful flowers that climbed to the sky.



Maybe this could be their home?

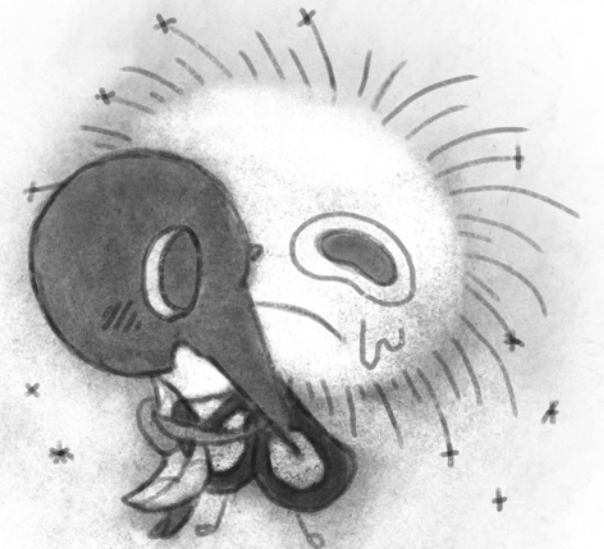
“Hello!” Exclaimed a fluffy seedling.

“I am Flooff. It is so nice to have company! Not many seedlings come here.”



Nyph explained to Flooff what had happened to their stump and how they were searching for a new place to call home.

Flooff’s eyes teared up, “Oh friend, I am so sorry! That is terrible. Sadly, this flower here is my home.”



But please take this ginkgo leaf to help you on your travels. It will give you good luck as you find a new home.”



Thanking Flooff for their generosity, Nyph made way toward a nearby lilac tree in hopes of finding a lead there.

As Nyph soared through the air, they could not help but to recall Flooff's warm hug, and how they wished that they were here with them.

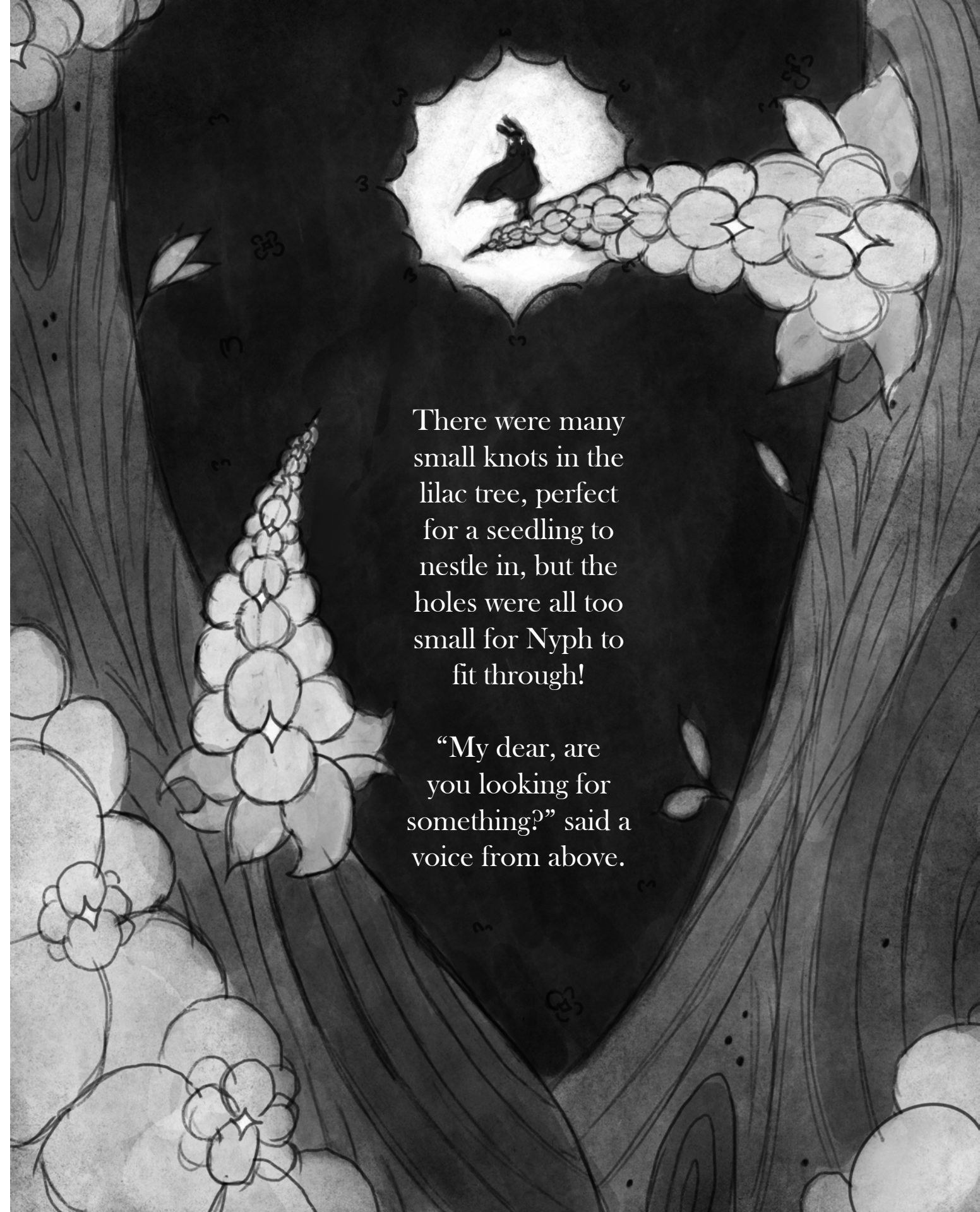


Little did Nyph know that Flooff was closer than they thought.





The sweet smells of the lilac flowers charmed Nyph, making them confident that this could be the spot.

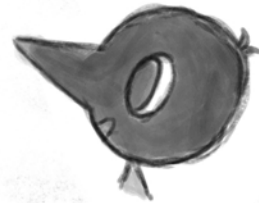


There were many small knots in the lilac tree, perfect for a seedling to nestle in, but the holes were all too small for Nyph to fit through!

“My dear, are you looking for something?” said a voice from above.

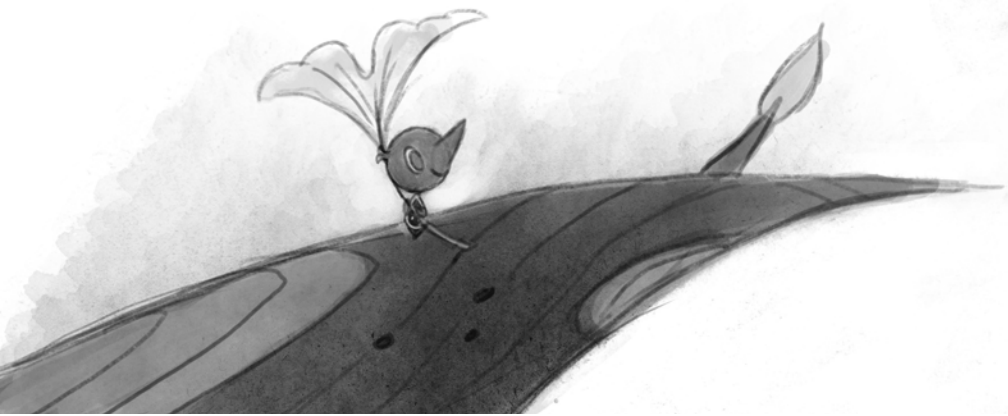


“I am Rumi, and I visit this tree quite often. I have not seen you before, and, by the looks of it, it seems like you are looking for a new home.”



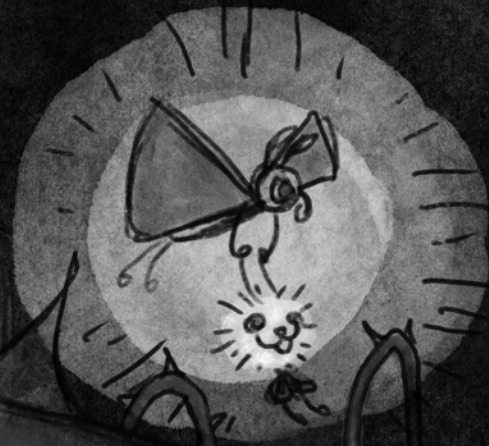
“I recommend heading to the blackberry bramble, but the journey over there will surely get cold. Take this sunflower seed I found over in the patch. It will keep you warm.”

As Rumi took to the air, the tips of their wings grazed Nyph’s forehead like a soft kiss. Nyph smiled and thanked them.



Thinking back on Rumi’s gentle kiss, Nyph longed for their comforting support. However, Nyph’s friends were not as far away as they thought.

Into the bramble Nyph went. The space was cramped and hard to move through. It was much more dangerous than Nyph had thought, with very little room for anyone to be living in.



“Are you in need of help?” Asked a tuneful voice.

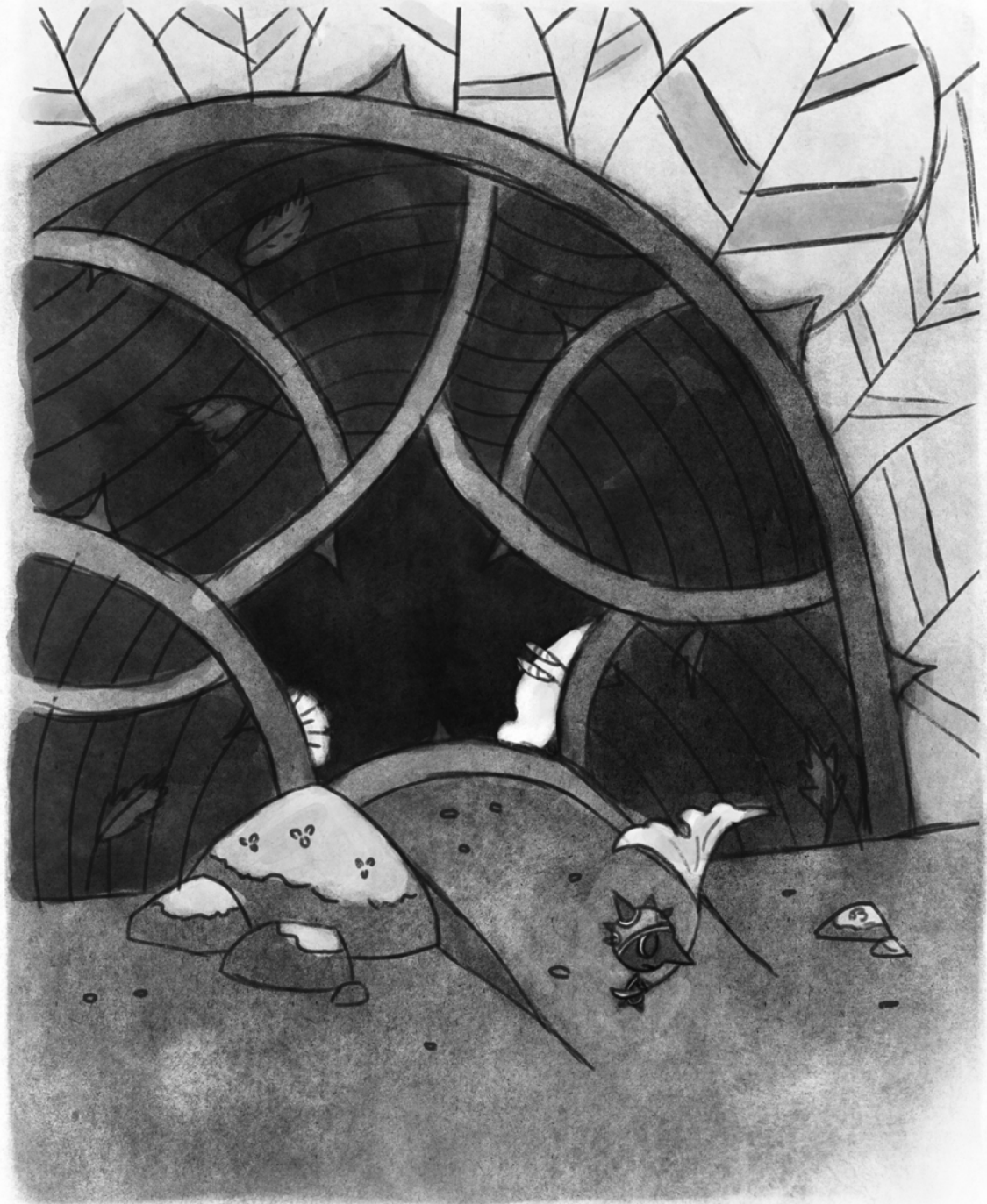
“I am Huckle, your local berry fairy.”

“These brambles are much too dangerous
for a seedling like yourself.”



“There might be space outside the bramble
for your new home, but you’ll need some extra
protection to get through all these prickles.”

Nyph and Huckle waved goodbye. As Huckle left, Nyph could not help but to fondly whistle to the upbeat hum of Huckle's voice in the distance.



At last, Nyph ventured out of the bramble. Drained from their journey, they collapsed in a mushy patch of dirt. Yet again, they were alone with home no where in sight.

Nyph sank deeper into the mud.

“There is no home for me,” they cried out.
“There is no home for me anywhere!”



When all was lost, Nyph felt the warm hug of Flooff, the winged kiss from Rumi, and the gentle hum from Huckle.

“Don’t worry Nyph, we would never let you live here in this gloop,” said Flooff. “We were always a flutter away, ready to catch you if you fell,” assured Rumi. “And you are almost at your new home, friend. We know that you will find your new nook in no time.” said Huckle.

Nyph’s tears soon dried from the comfort of their friends. Even in this mess, they felt cheery and at peace.



Suddenly, the ginkgo leaf
began to glow -





- and transformed into
a new home of love
and light.

