

冬冬的第一次飛行

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Albert's First Flight

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Author: Yihfen Chou **Illustrator:** Chinlung Huang **Publisher:** Heryin Books

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BFT2.0 Translator: Kirsten Han

Created over a meticulous span of six years, this book invites readers into the world of Albert, a young albatross on the brink of learning to fly. Unlike other birds, albatross fledglings must master the skies entirely on their own after their parents leave the nest.

Left alone, Albert struggles to find his wings, accompanied only by Dingding, a friendly red gull who offers support amidst the teasing of other gulls. While albatrosses are celebrated as the “Kings of the Skies,” capable of soaring for days and navigating storms, these incredible abilities remain a distant dream for Albert.

This heartwarming tale of growth, resilience, and self-discovery takes readers on an inspiring journey as Albert works to unlock his true potential and take his place in the sky.



Author **Yihfen Chou**

Yihfen Chou, a mother of two, is a children's book editor with over 20 years of experience. She holds Master's degrees in Japanese Literature and Educational Psychology, as well as a Montessori teaching license. Chou has edited several award-winning books, including the *Mimi Series* and *Grandma Xueying's Story*, which has received multiple prestigious awards. Her works also include *Albert's First Flight* and *Mimi Listens to Chinese Music*, the latter winning the Golden Melody Award. She is a recipient of the Golden Tripod Award for Best Editor.



Illustrator **Chinlung Huang**

Chinlung Huang, born in Donggang, Pingtung, developed a passion for painting early, focusing on themes like fishing boats and harbors. He served as Chair of the Fine Arts Department at National Taiwan Normal University and has won multiple awards, including First Prize at the National Fine Arts Exhibition and the “Golden Goblet Award.” His recent works emphasize Eastern aesthetics. Huang is a full-time professor and has published over ten creative albums, two essay collections, and four teaching books. *Albert's First Flight* is his first picture book.

Albert's Tale of Growth: Every Life Has Its Own Sky

by Wen-Chien Hsu

Albert's First Flight tells the story of a young albatross, centered on growth and exploration. The albatross, known for having the longest wingspan of any bird, has an especially long and unique rearing period. Before the young birds learn to fly, their parents leave them, beginning a solitary journey of learning to take to the skies. Unlike swallows and other birds that guide their young through the process of flying, albatross fledglings must rely solely on their own efforts to master the art of soaring through the air.

The protagonist, Albert, is at this very stage. His parents have left the nest, but he has yet to learn how to fly. In his solitude, he is fortunate to have the companionship of Dingding, a red gull, who keeps him from being completely alone. However, he also faces the taunts of other red gulls. To them, Albert, who

cannot fly, seems like an oddity.

In truth, the albatross is hailed as the "King of the Skies." With their strong and enormous wings, they can fly for days without landing, even enduring storms without pause. When faced with strong winds that cause them to lose speed, albatrosses are capable of diving toward the ocean surface to regain the lift and momentum needed to soar again. However, such extraordinary abilities remain an unattainable mystery to the young Albert.

In contrast, the effortless and nimble flight of the red gulls fills Albert with envy. He tries to imitate them, but his efforts are met with repeated failures. Whenever the gulls, including his friend Dingding, gather in flocks to explore the other side of the island, Albert can only follow on foot, stumbling and falling along

the way, his spirits sinking lower with each step.

One day, a strong gust of wind blows Albert off a cliff. In the midst of the storm, he unexpectedly learns how to stabilize his flight. Unlike the red gulls, Albert doesn't need to flap his wings, the air currents carry him to heights and distances far beyond his imagination. In that moment, he witnesses for the first time the vast and vibrant beauty of the world. Upon returning to the island, Albert finds his perspective forever changed. The world is no longer confined to one side of the island but has expanded to encompass everything under the sky. He can hardly wait to share this newfound joy with Dingding.

Albert's story may remind us of those schoolmates who learn at a slower pace. Some children, like the red gulls, quickly grasp new skills, others, like Dingding, provide warmth and companionship. Many, however, are like

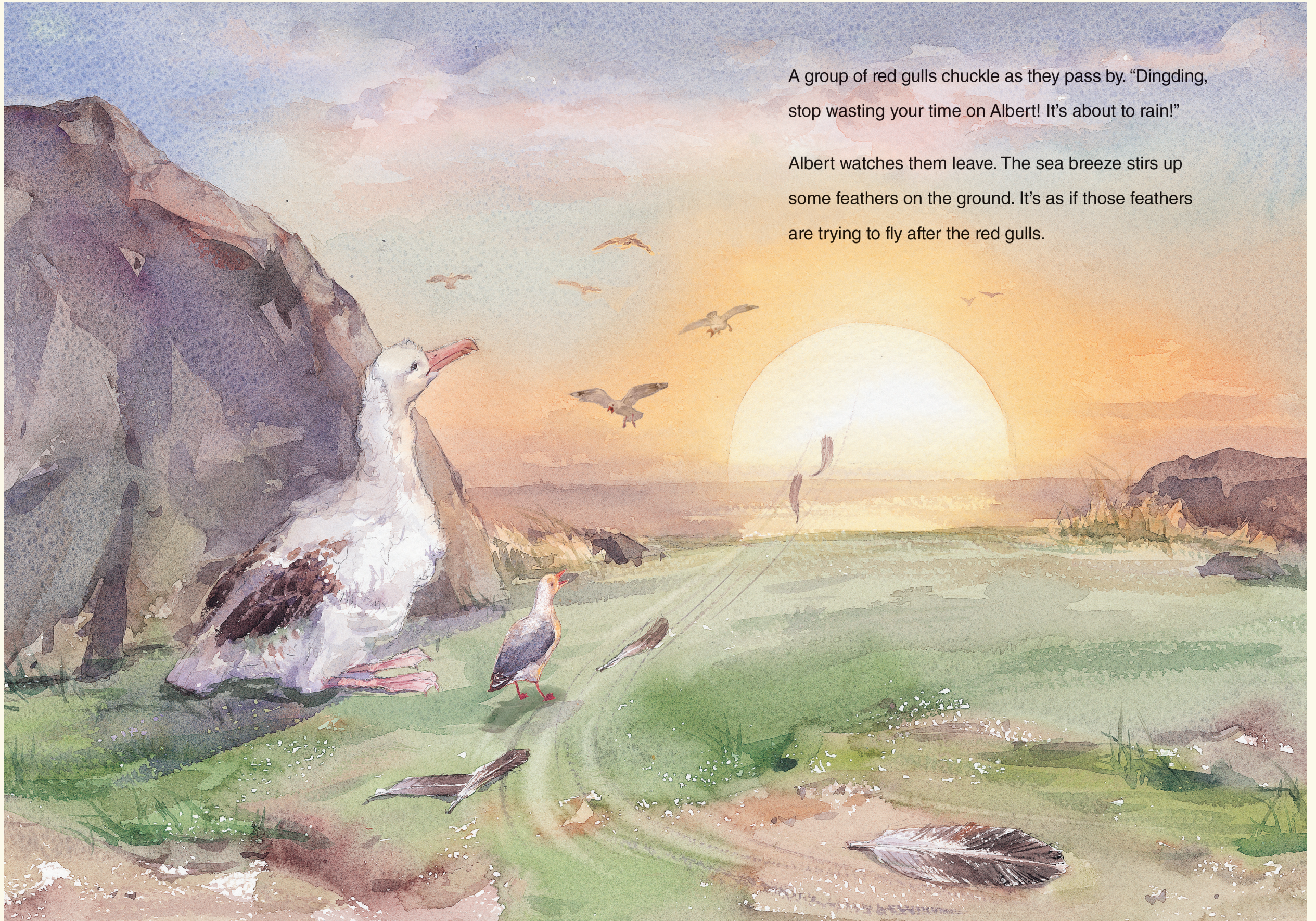
Albert, struggling through countless attempts without success. Yet this book does more than teach readers about the albatross's ecological traits—it inspires us to reflect on how we view ourselves and those around us.

Everyone starts at a different pace, but that doesn't define their potential or essence. Through Albert's journey, this book conveys an important message: every life has its own sky to soar in, and sooner or later, we all find the strength and direction to take flight.

Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0. She is dedicated to bringing Taiwanese comics and picture books to a global audience.

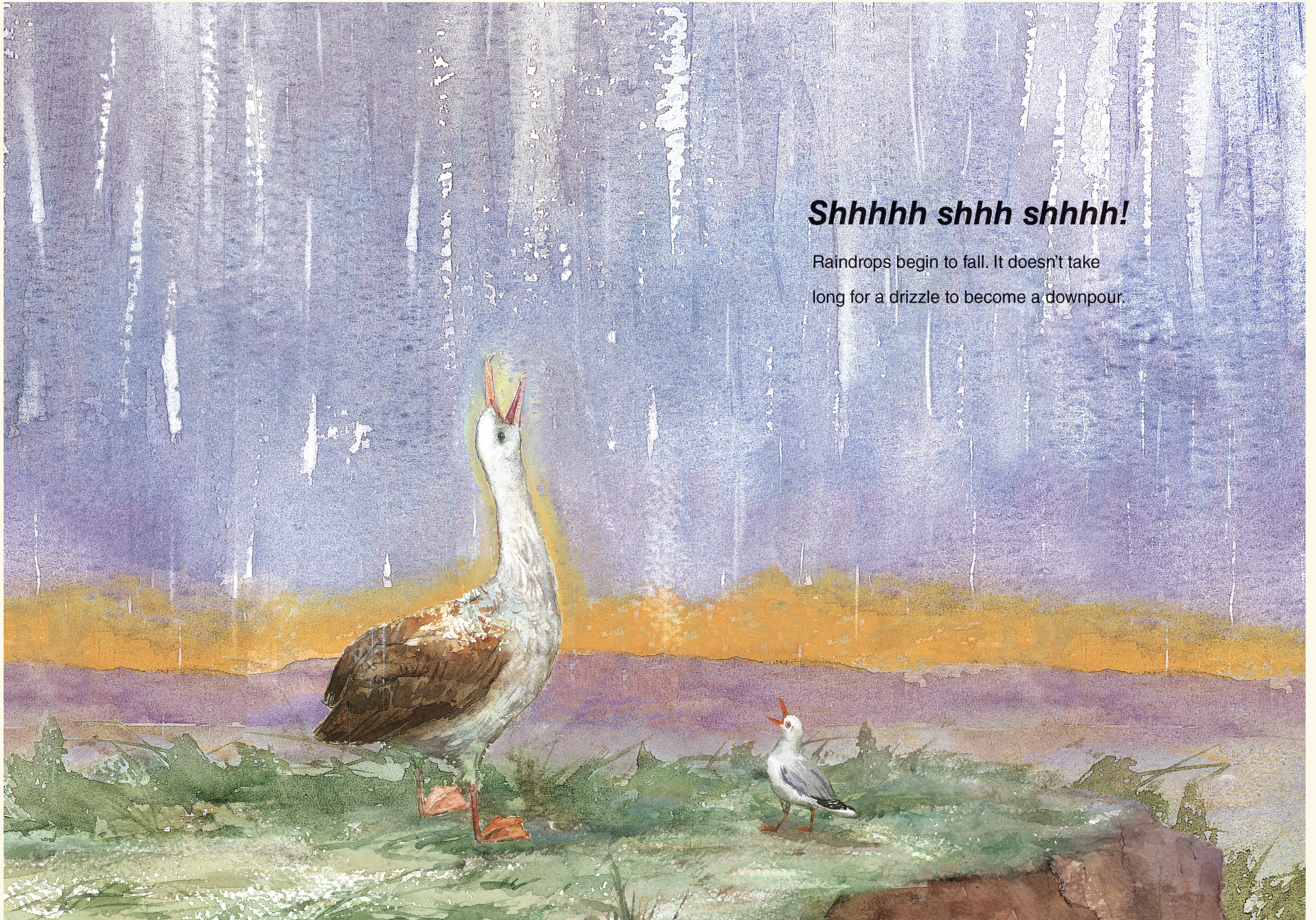
A group of red gulls chuckle as they pass by. "Dingding, stop wasting your time on Albert! It's about to rain!"

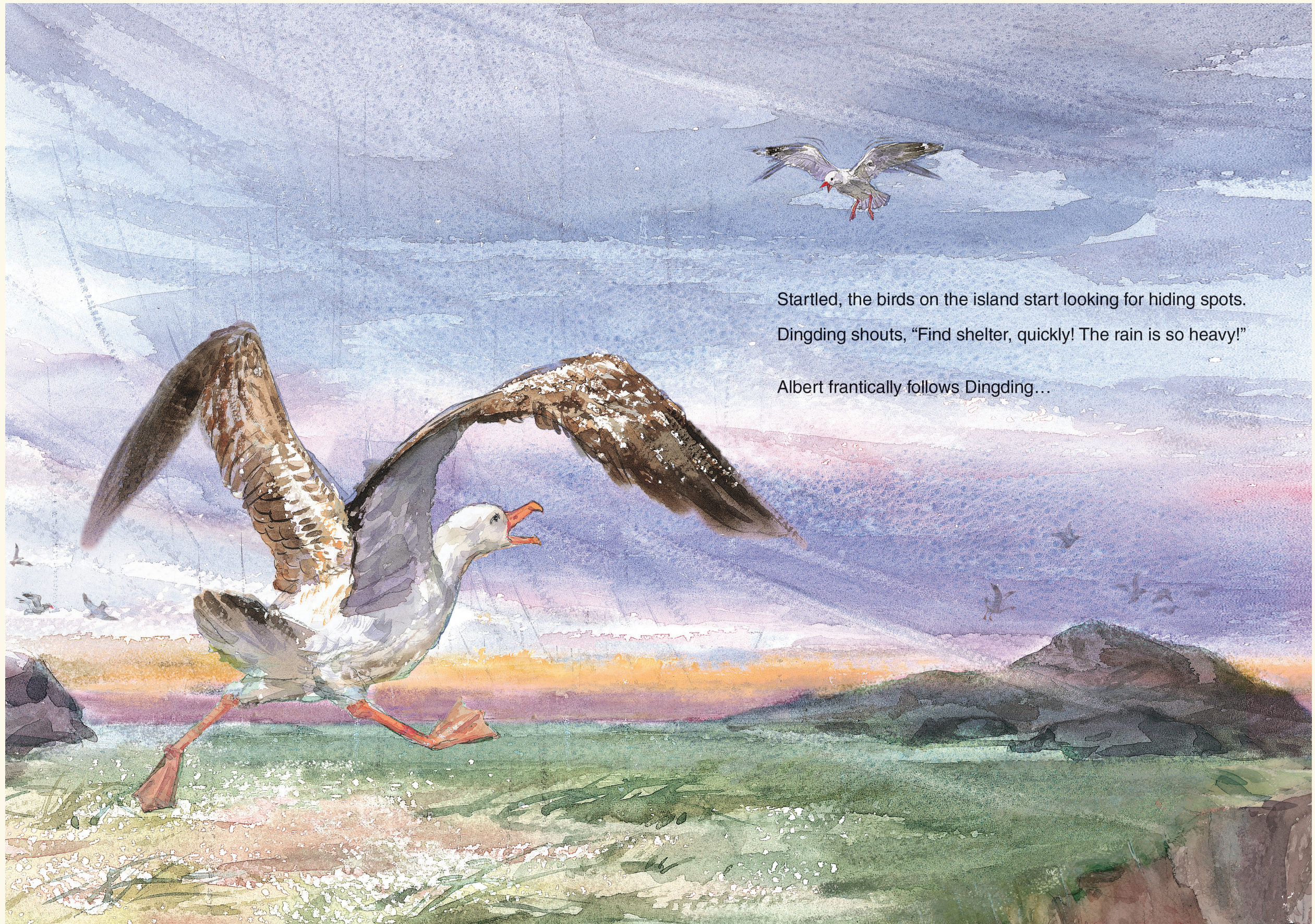
Albert watches them leave. The sea breeze stirs up some feathers on the ground. It's as if those feathers are trying to fly after the red gulls.



Shhhhhh shhh shhhhh!

Raindrops begin to fall. It doesn't take
long for a drizzle to become a downpour.





Startled, the birds on the island start looking for hiding spots.

Dingding shouts, "Find shelter, quickly! The rain is so heavy!"

Albert frantically follows Dingding...