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# THE LITTLE MAGPIE AND THE ROCKY HILL

## 小喜鵲與岩石山

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Ali, the Little Magpie, was the first to ever land on Rocky Hill. Every day Rocky Hill waited for Ali to come and when Ali came he brought not only an exciting story, but also a very special gift. And because of Ali's gift, the empty and barren Rocky Hill was able to drape itself with a beautiful set of new clothes...

Through the technique of personification, we see how a small measure of kindness can bring about big changes. And by showing kindness to others, readers young and old can help make our world a better place.

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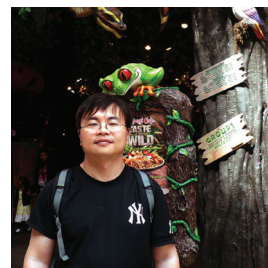


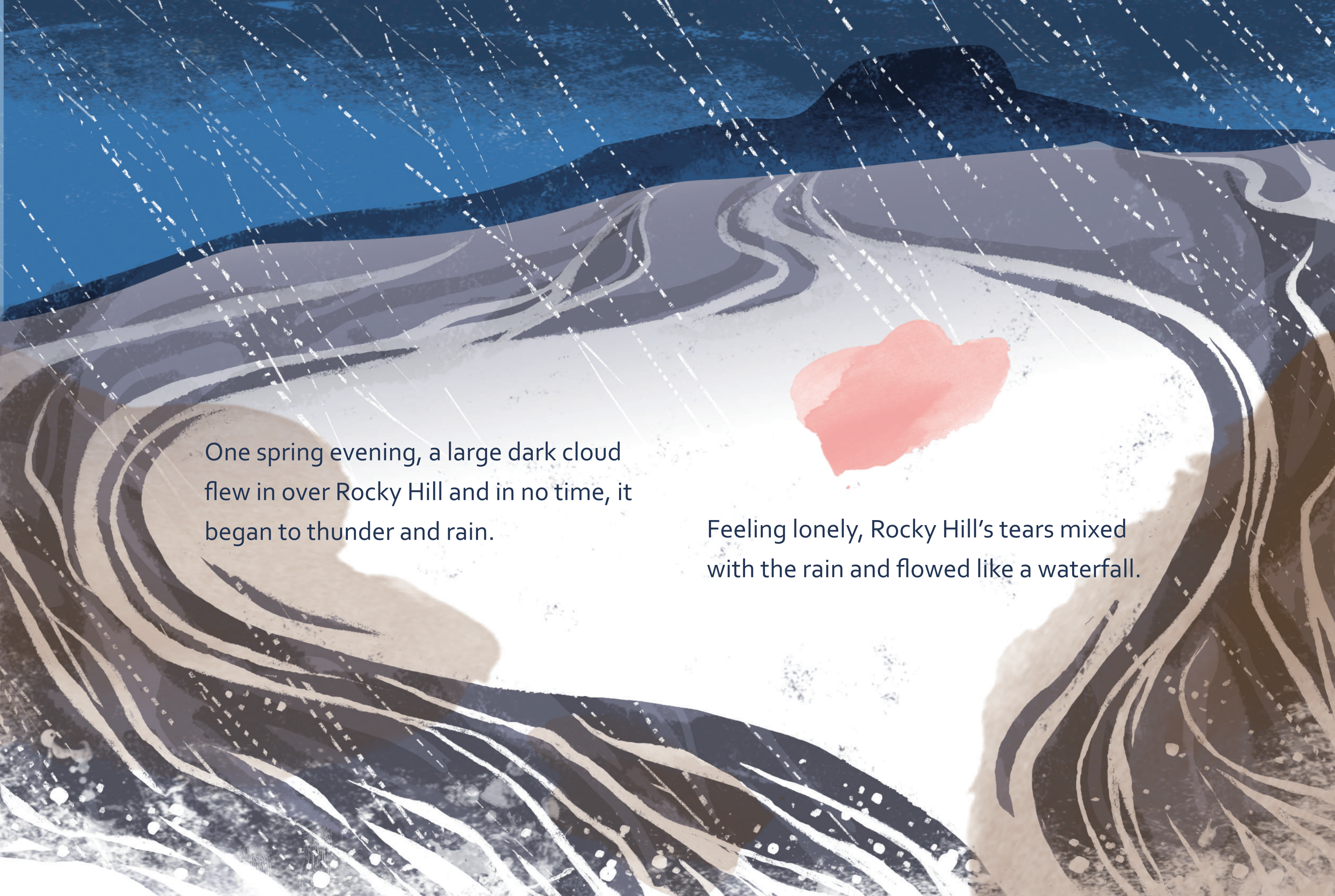
### LIU CHING-YEN 劉清彥 / Author

A journalist by training, Liu Ching-Yen has always maintained a love for children's literature. He spends most of his time translating and writing children's books. Ching-Yen travels frequently both in Taiwan and abroad to speak to grownups who also love story books. He has also hosted a children's television program, winning him a prize for best children's presenter in 2013. His greatest wish is to be a little Magpie himself and spread the seed of reading around the globe.

### TSAI CHAO-LUN 蔡兆倫 / Illustrator

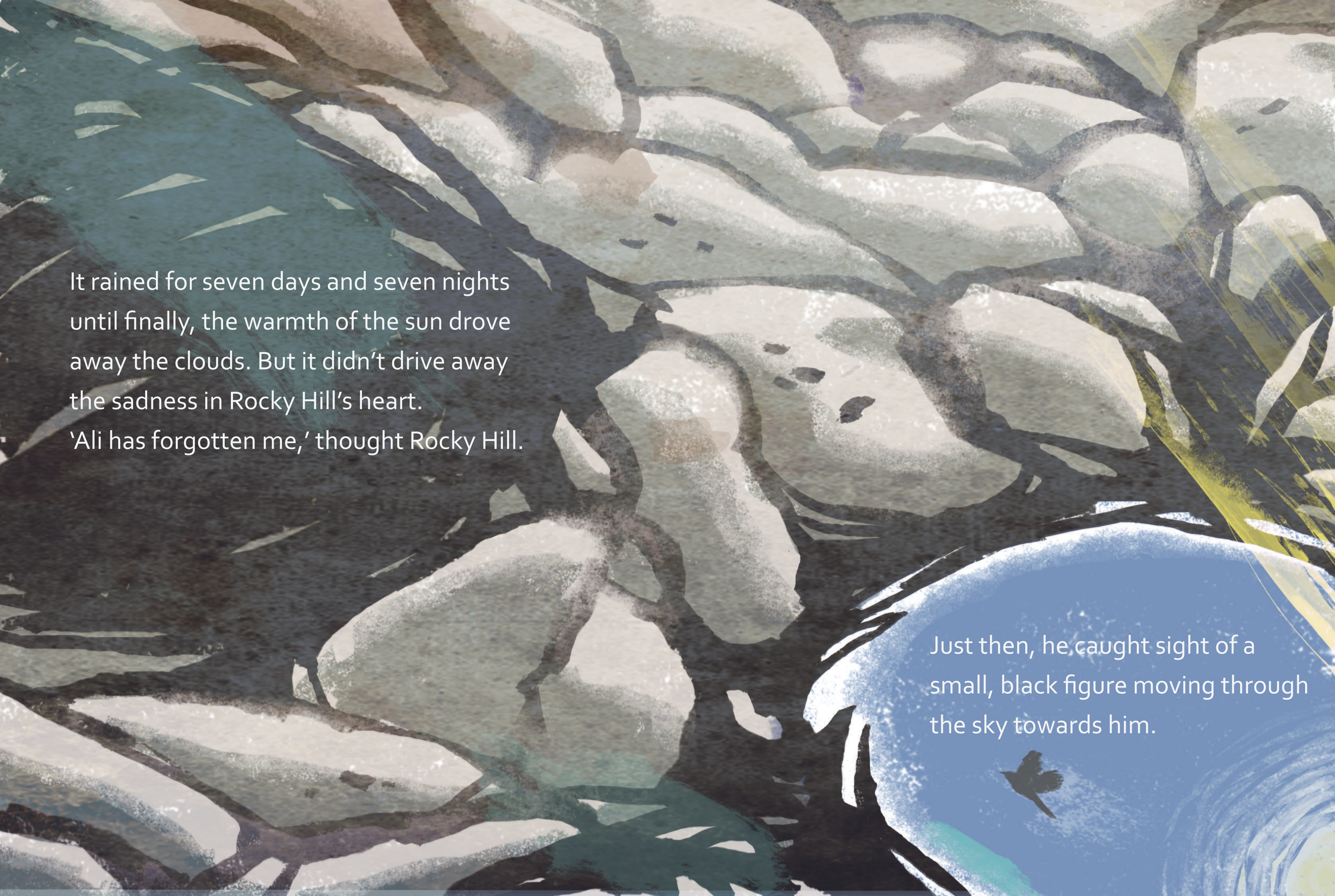
Tsai Chao-Lun is an experienced Taiwanese-born comic artist and illustrator of children's books. He has had his work published in *Mandarin Daily News* and *Mandarin Weekly*. Tsai has also published a number of illustrated books, including *I Can't Sleep, I Can't See, I See the Weather in the Smallest Things*.



A stylized illustration of a landscape. In the center, a large, bright red heart sits on a light-colored, rounded hill. The hill is surrounded by dark, swirling lines that suggest a waterfall or flowing water. The background is a deep blue sky with white, dashed lines representing rain falling diagonally across the scene. A dark, silhouetted mountain range is visible in the distance. The overall mood is somber and emotional.

One spring evening, a large dark cloud  
flew in over Rocky Hill and in no time, it  
began to thunder and rain.

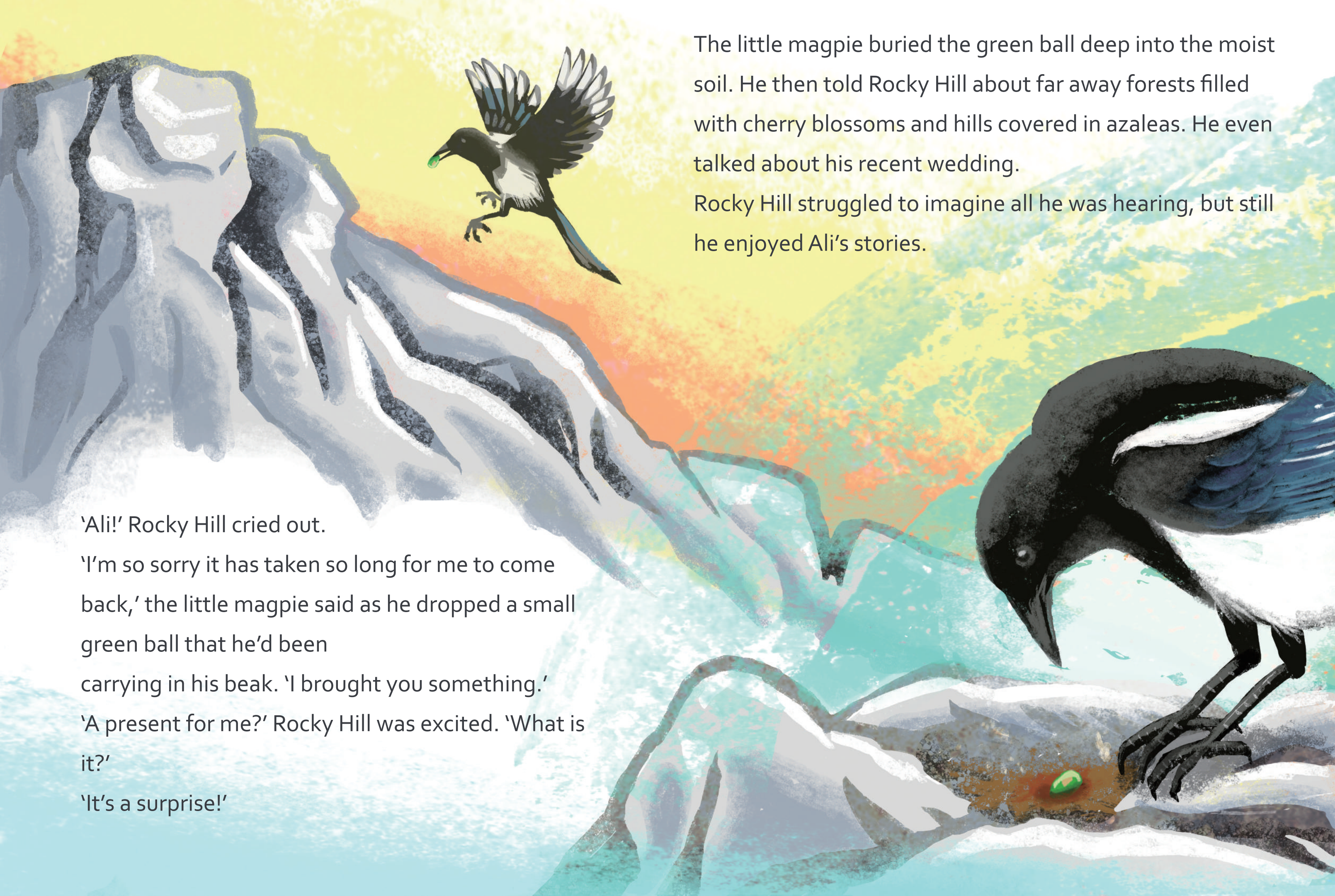
Feeling lonely, Rocky Hill's tears mixed  
with the rain and flowed like a waterfall.



It rained for seven days and seven nights until finally, the warmth of the sun drove away the clouds. But it didn't drive away the sadness in Rocky Hill's heart.

'Ali has forgotten me,' thought Rocky Hill.

Just then, he caught sight of a small, black figure moving through the sky towards him.

The illustration depicts a rocky, mountainous landscape under a vibrant, colorful sky. In the upper left, a magpie is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, carrying a small green ball in its beak. The sky transitions from a warm orange and yellow near the horizon to a cooler blue and green at the top. In the foreground, another magpie is perched on a rock, looking down at a small green ball on the ground. The rocks are rendered in shades of grey and white, with some green patches suggesting moss or small plants.

The little magpie buried the green ball deep into the moist soil. He then told Rocky Hill about far away forests filled with cherry blossoms and hills covered in azaleas. He even talked about his recent wedding.

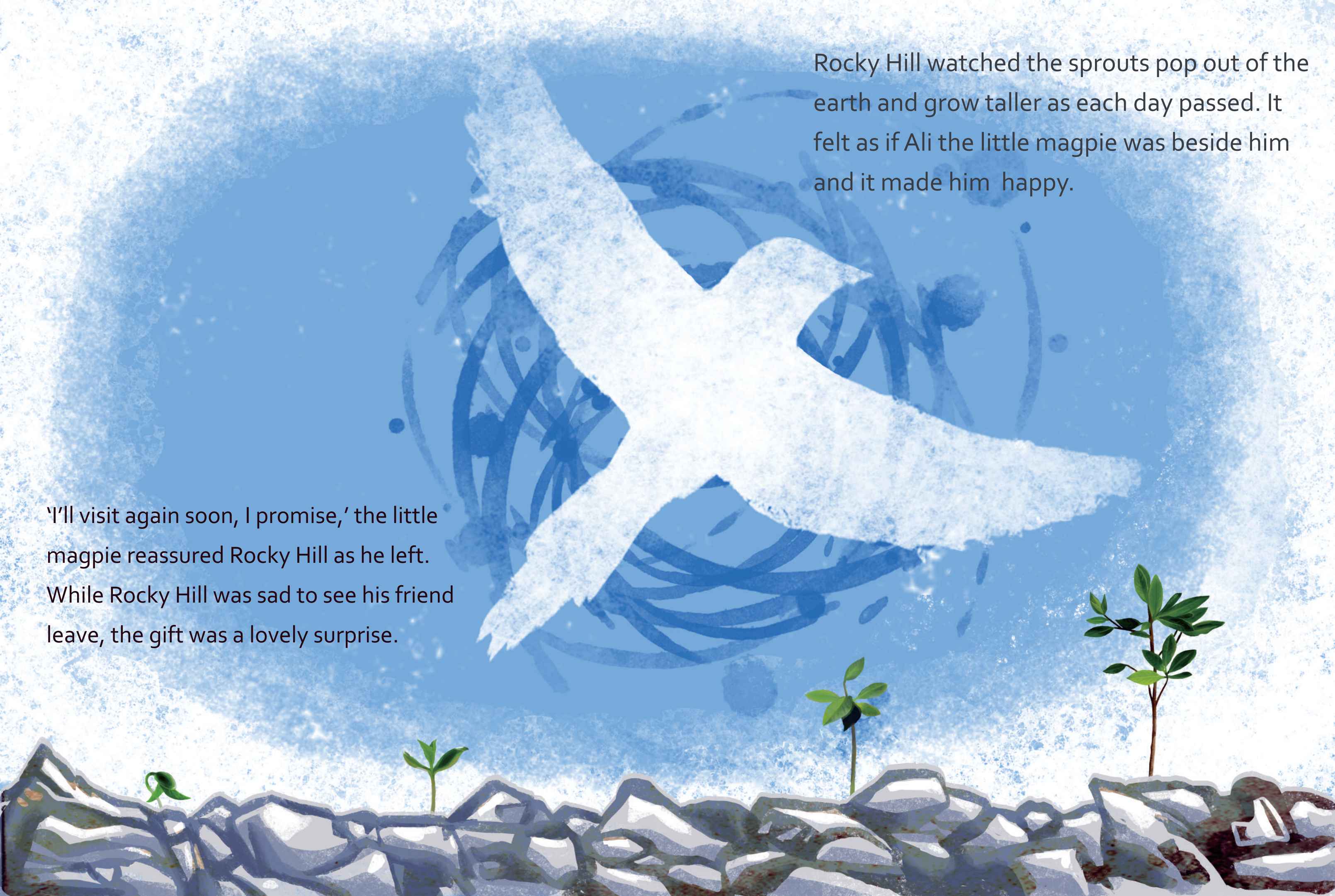
Rocky Hill struggled to imagine all he was hearing, but still he enjoyed Ali's stories.

'Ali!' Rocky Hill cried out.

'I'm so sorry it has taken so long for me to come back,' the little magpie said as he dropped a small green ball that he'd been carrying in his beak. 'I brought you something.'

'A present for me?' Rocky Hill was excited. 'What is it?'

'It's a surprise!'



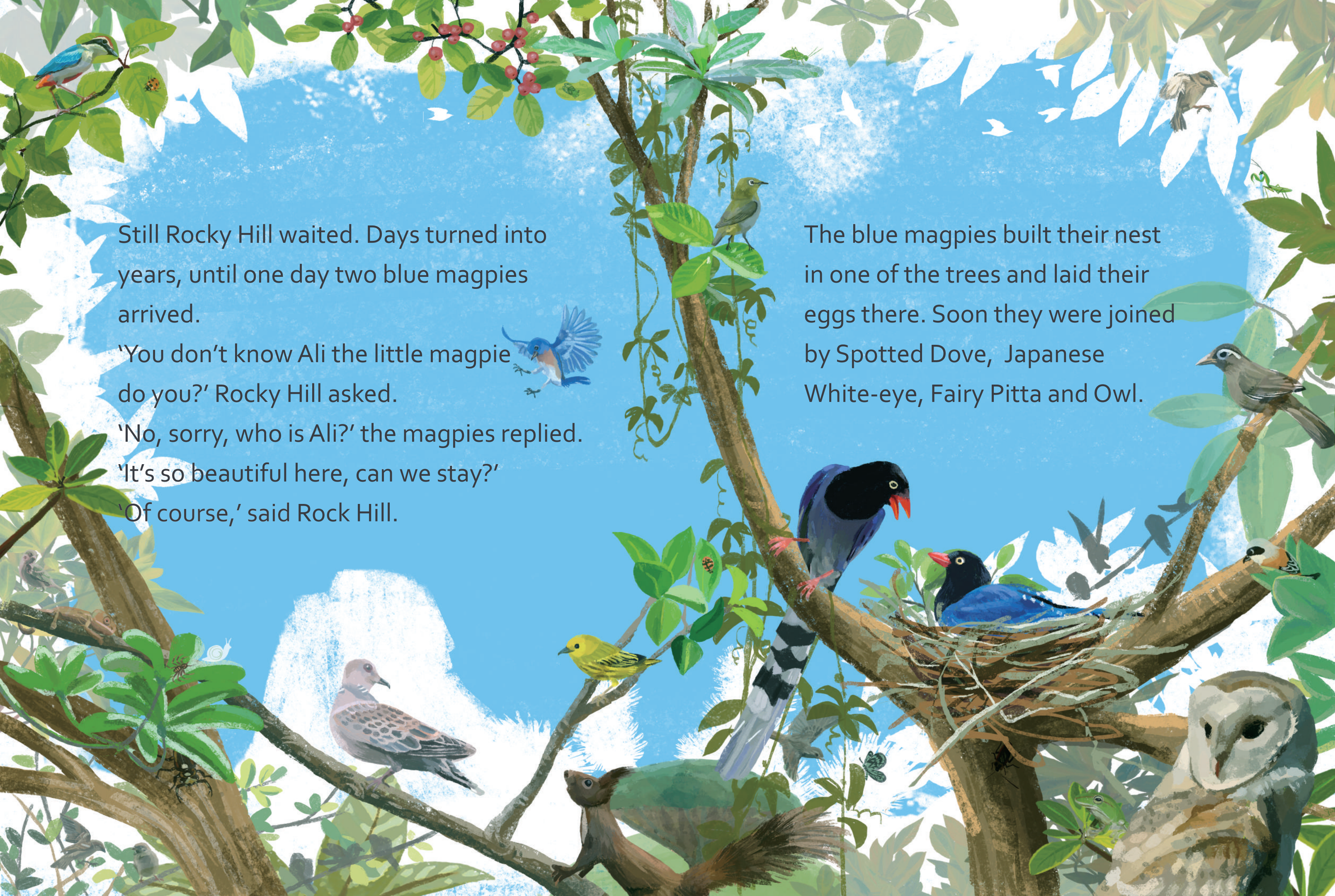
Rocky Hill watched the sprouts pop out of the earth and grow taller as each day passed. It felt as if Ali the little magpie was beside him and it made him happy.

‘I’ll visit again soon, I promise,’ the little magpie reassured Rocky Hill as he left. While Rocky Hill was sad to see his friend leave, the gift was a lovely surprise.

Their gifts came every day. Sprouts grew into trees, tall and strong. Grass sprung up between the rocks, along with white flowers. Ladybugs and butterflies came to rest on leaves and petals, even grasshoppers stopped by.

But as time passed, Ali the little magpie visited less and less. By the seventh summer, he disappeared forever.





Still Rocky Hill waited. Days turned into years, until one day two blue magpies arrived.

'You don't know Ali the little magpie do you?' Rocky Hill asked.

'No, sorry, who is Ali?' the magpies replied.

'It's so beautiful here, can we stay?'

'Of course,' said Rocky Hill.

The blue magpies built their nest in one of the trees and laid their eggs there. Soon they were joined by Spotted Dove, Japanese White-eye, Fairy Pitta and Owl.