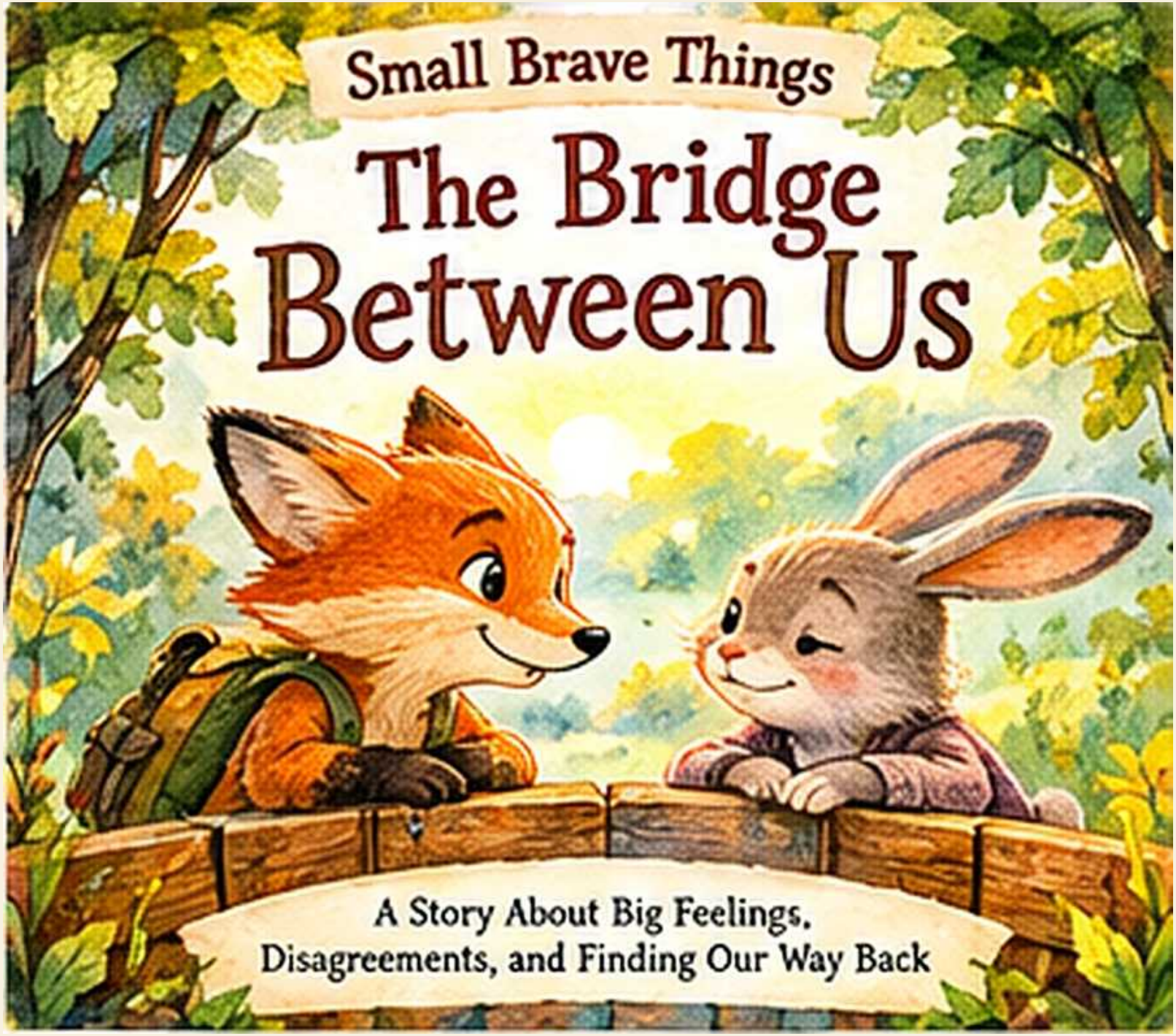

Small Brave Things
The Bridge Between Us
A Story About Big Feelings, Disagreements, and Finding Our Way Back

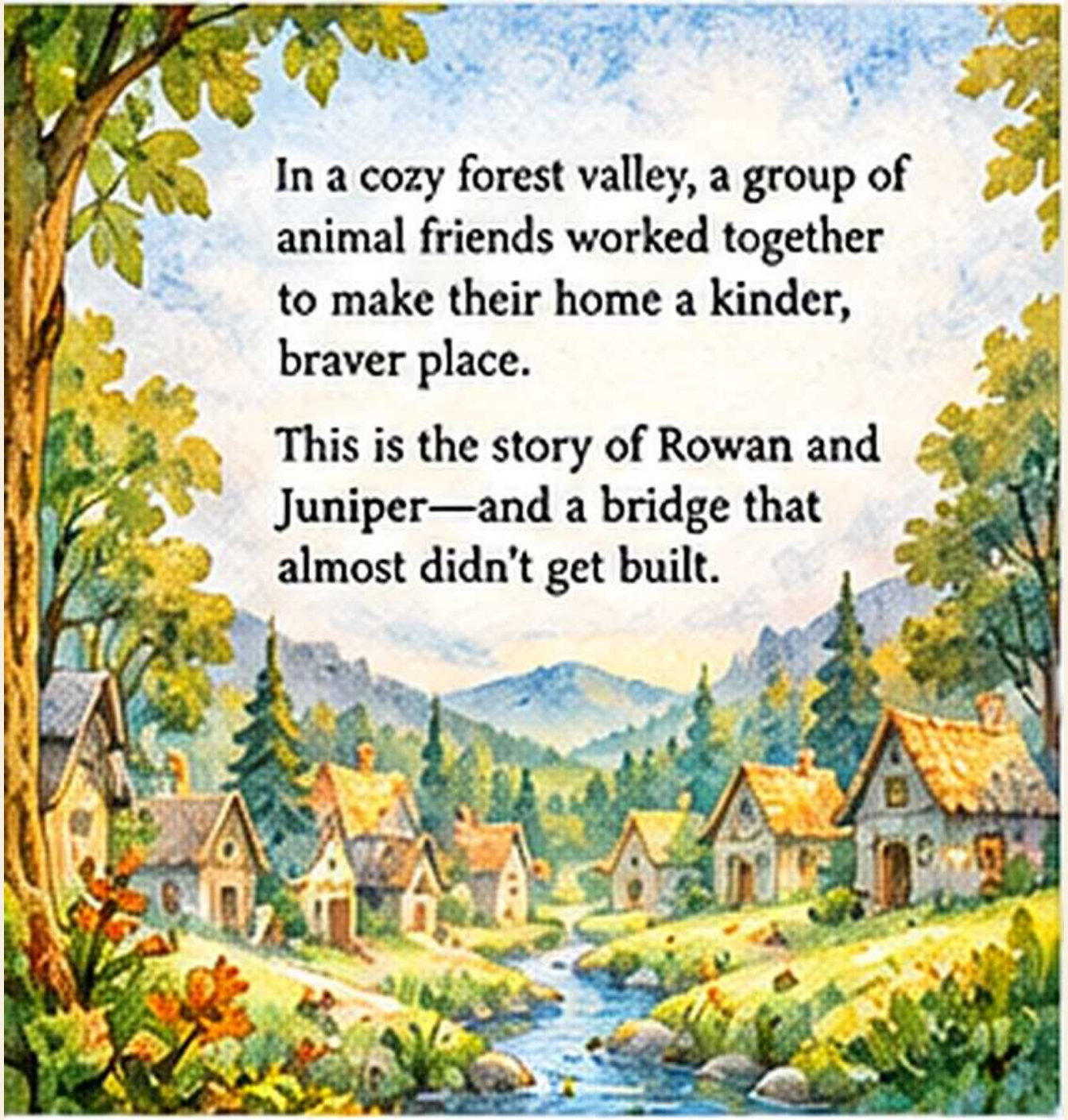
Small Brave Things

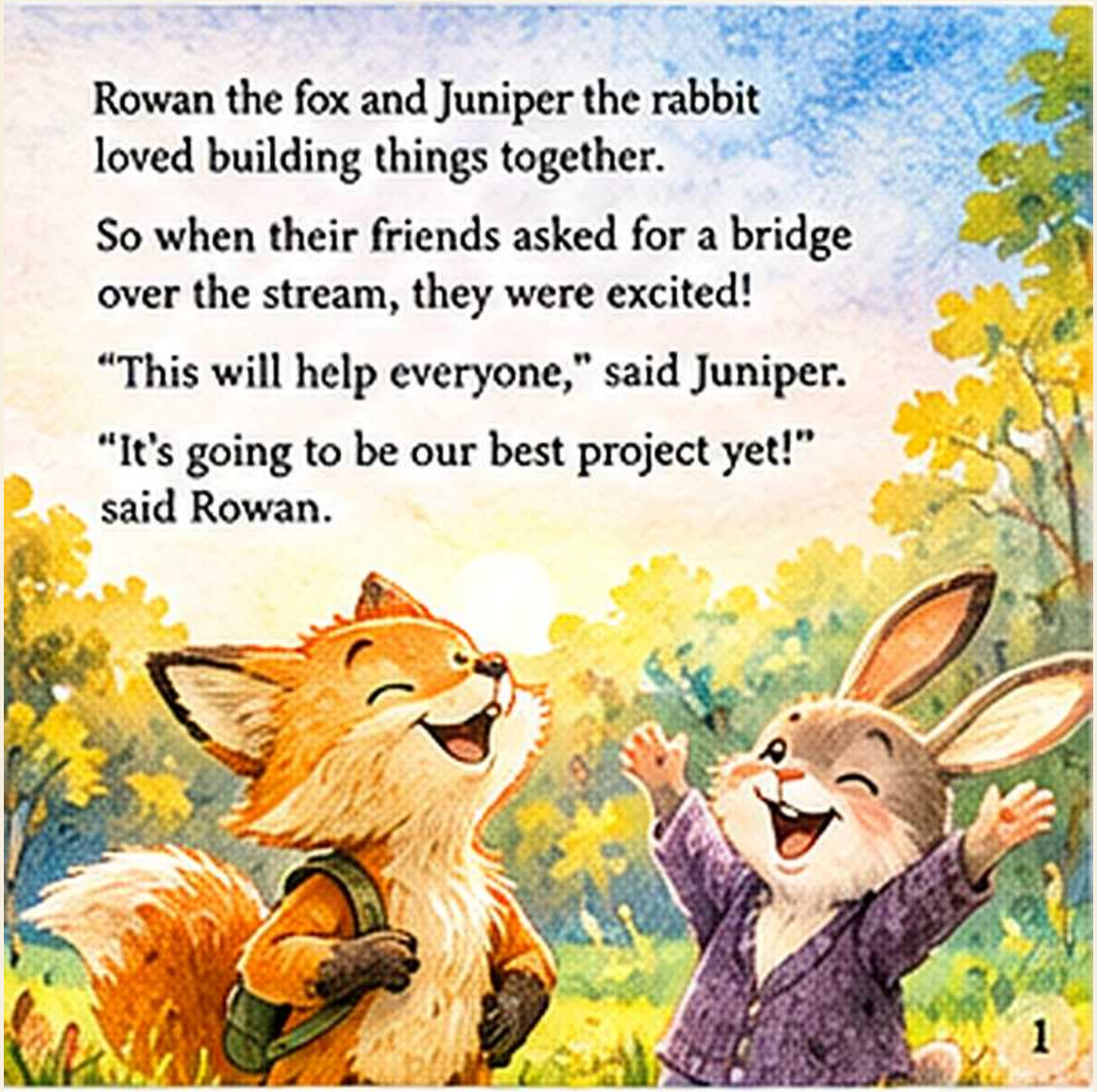
The Bridge Between Us



A story by

with illustrations by


In a cozy forest valley, a group of animal friends worked together to make their home a kinder, braver place.
This is the story of Rowan and Juniper—and a bridge that almost didn't get built.


Rowan the fox and Juniper the rabbit loved building things together.
So when their friends asked for a bridge over the stream, they were excited!
"This will help everyone," said Juniper.
"It's going to be our best project yet!" said Rowan.
1


They planned, measured, and gathered wood. They worked side by side, laughing and imagining their friends crossing the bridge.
It felt good to be a team.
2

But one morning, things didn't go as planned.

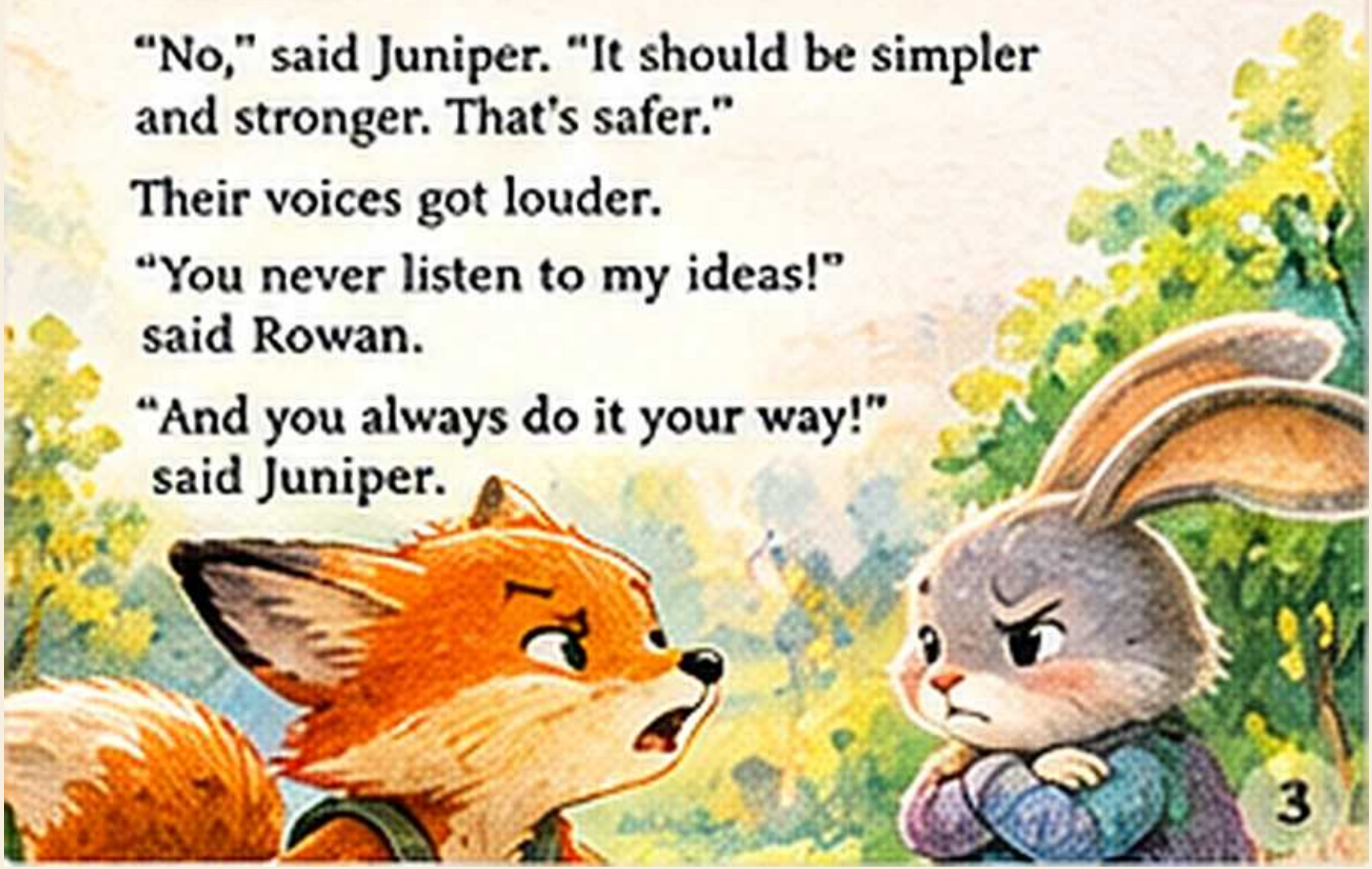
Rowan wanted the bridge to be taller and fancier.

"No," said Juniper. "It should be simpler and stronger. That's safer."

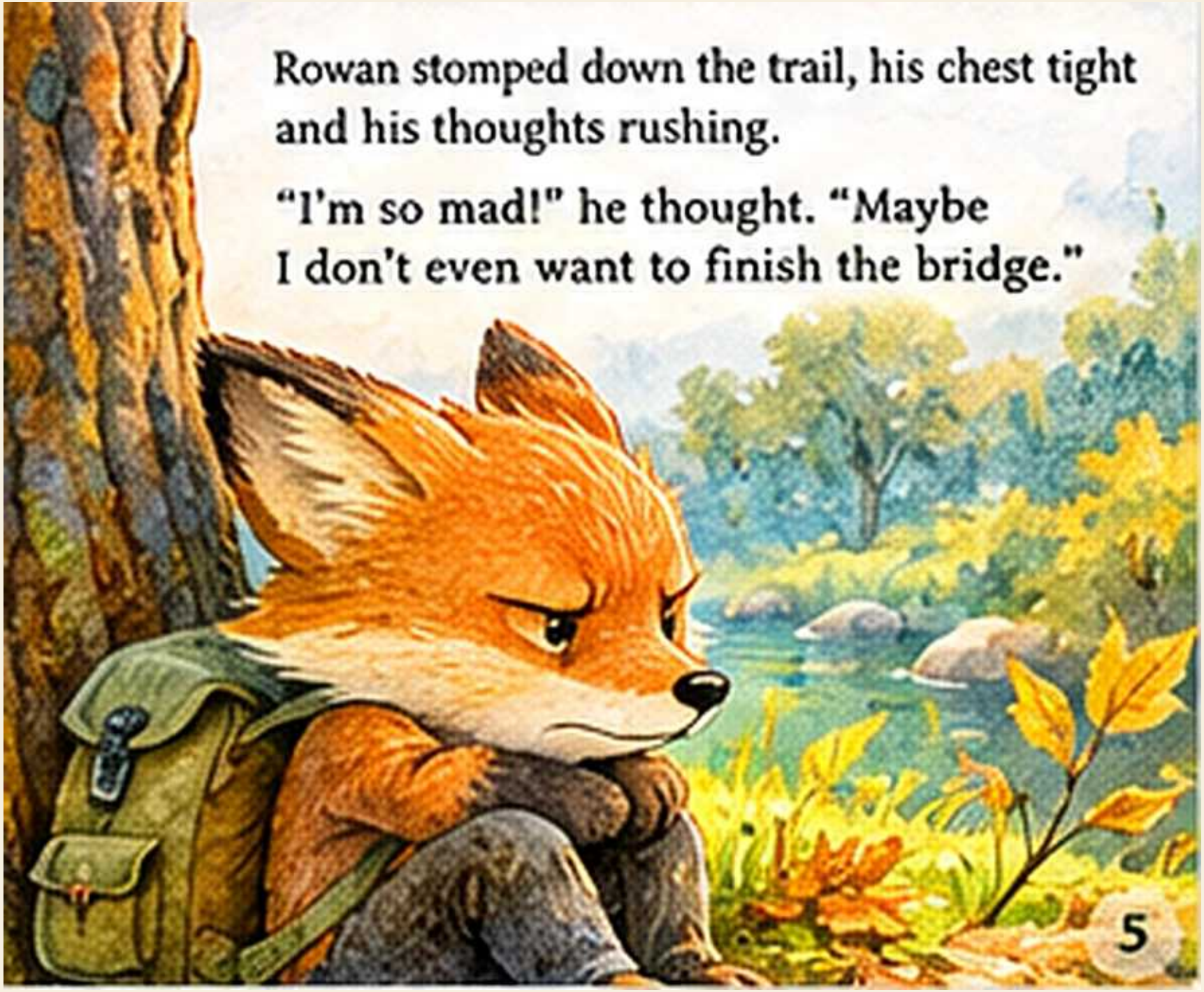
Their voices got louder.

"You never listen to my ideas!" said Rowan.

"And you always do it your way!" said Juniper.




Hurt and frustrated, they both walked away.
The unfinished bridge sat in the middle of the stream, just like their friendship—not broken, but not connected either.
4

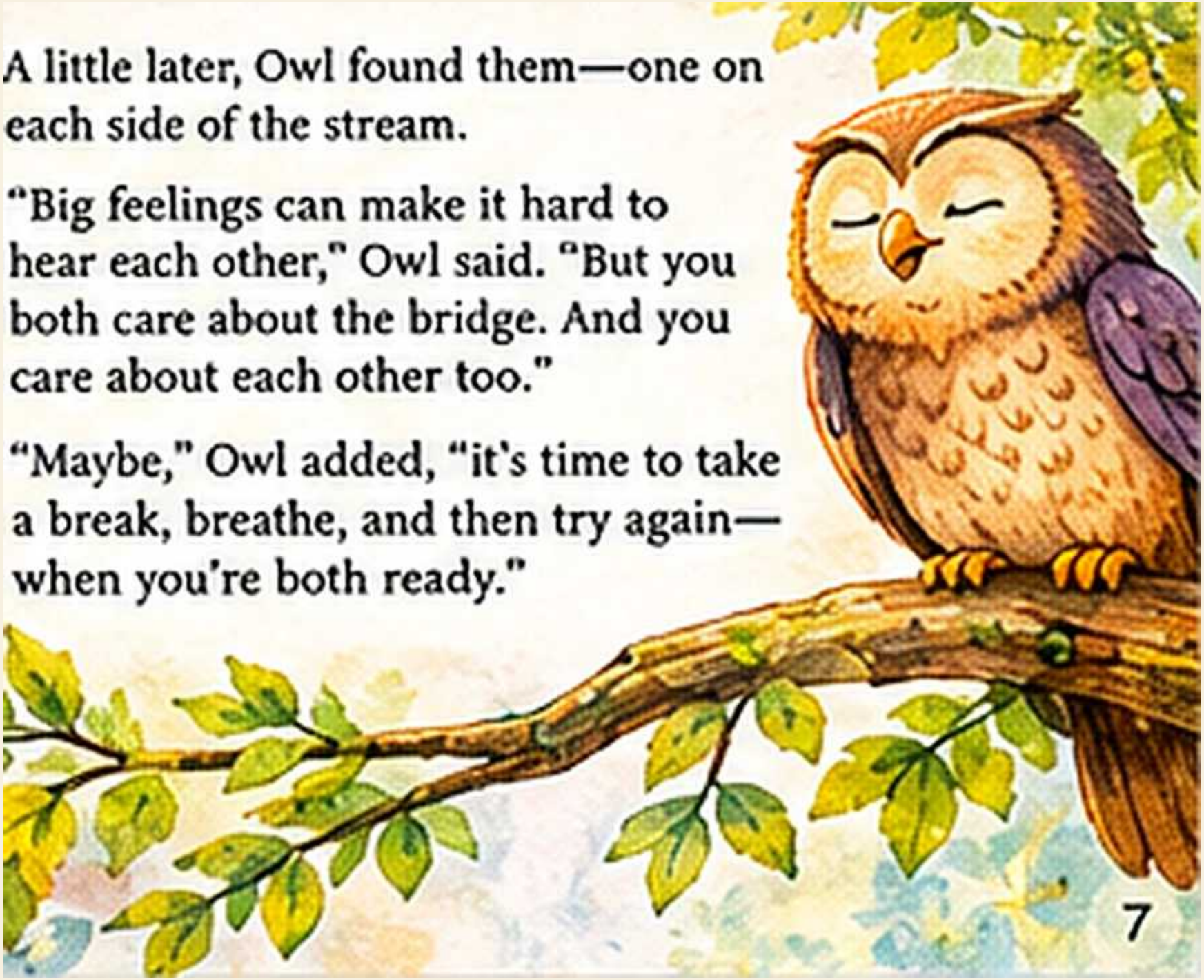

Rowan stomped down the trail, his chest tight and his thoughts rushing.
"I'm so mad!" he thought. "Maybe I don't even want to finish the bridge."
5


Juniper sat by the stream, feeling hurt and teary.
"I really wanted us to do this together," she thought. "I'm sad, and I feel alone."
6

A little later, Owl found them—one on each side of the stream.

"Big feelings can make it hard to hear each other," Owl said. "But you both care about the bridge. And you care about each other too."

"Maybe," Owl added, "it's time to take a break, breathe, and then try again—when you're both ready."




Rowan and Juniper each took time to cool down. Rowan took deep breaths and noticed that his anger was starting to soften. Juniper told herself, "It's okay to feel hurt. I can still talk about it later."
8

When they felt calmer, they met again by the stream.

Juniper went first. "I'm sorry I got so frustrated," she said. "I felt like my ideas didn't matter."

Rowan nodded. "I'm sorry too. I was so focused on my idea that I wasn't really listening."



This time, they took turns listening.

Rowan shared what was important to him.
Juniper shared what felt safe and strong.

They discovered something surprising—
they could combine their ideas!



Together, they got back to work. They measured, sawed, and hammered—this time with more patience, more listening, and more teamwork.



At last, the bridge was finished!

Their friends gathered to cross it, cheering and thanking them.

Rowan and Juniper looked at each other and grinned.

"It's more than just a bridge," said Juniper.

"It helped us find our way back to each other," said Rowan.




Rowan thought about everything they had learned. Disagreements still happened—but now he knew they didn't have to end a friendship.
With a little space, some honest talking, and a willingnens to listen, they could work through big feelings and come back together—stronger than before.
13

Remember...

- It's okay to have big feelings.
- Taking a break can help us calm down.
- We can listen to each other, even when we disagree.
- Apologizing and trying again can make our friendships stronger.

Family

Our Way Back Together

A simple practice for big feelings and disagreements.

1. **Notice** — Are my feelings getting too big to talk kindly?
2. **Pause** — Can I take a break somewhere safe?
3. **Return** — When we're both ready, can we listen to each other?
4. **Repair** — Is there something I need to apologize for or do differently?



Talk Together

- What helps you feel safe and heard when you're upset?
- How do you know when you're ready to talk again?
- What's one thing you can do this week to be a good friend?