

Lizzy Finds Her Forever Family

A Sparkly Tale of Love and Belonging



Dimitrios Karatasos

Lizzy Finds Her Forever Family

A Sparkly Tale of Love and Belonging

by Dimitrios Karatasos

*Dedicated to my Extra-Special daughter, Eva,
who fills my heart with love and joy*

ISBN: 979-8-3001-1875-4

Imprint: Independently published

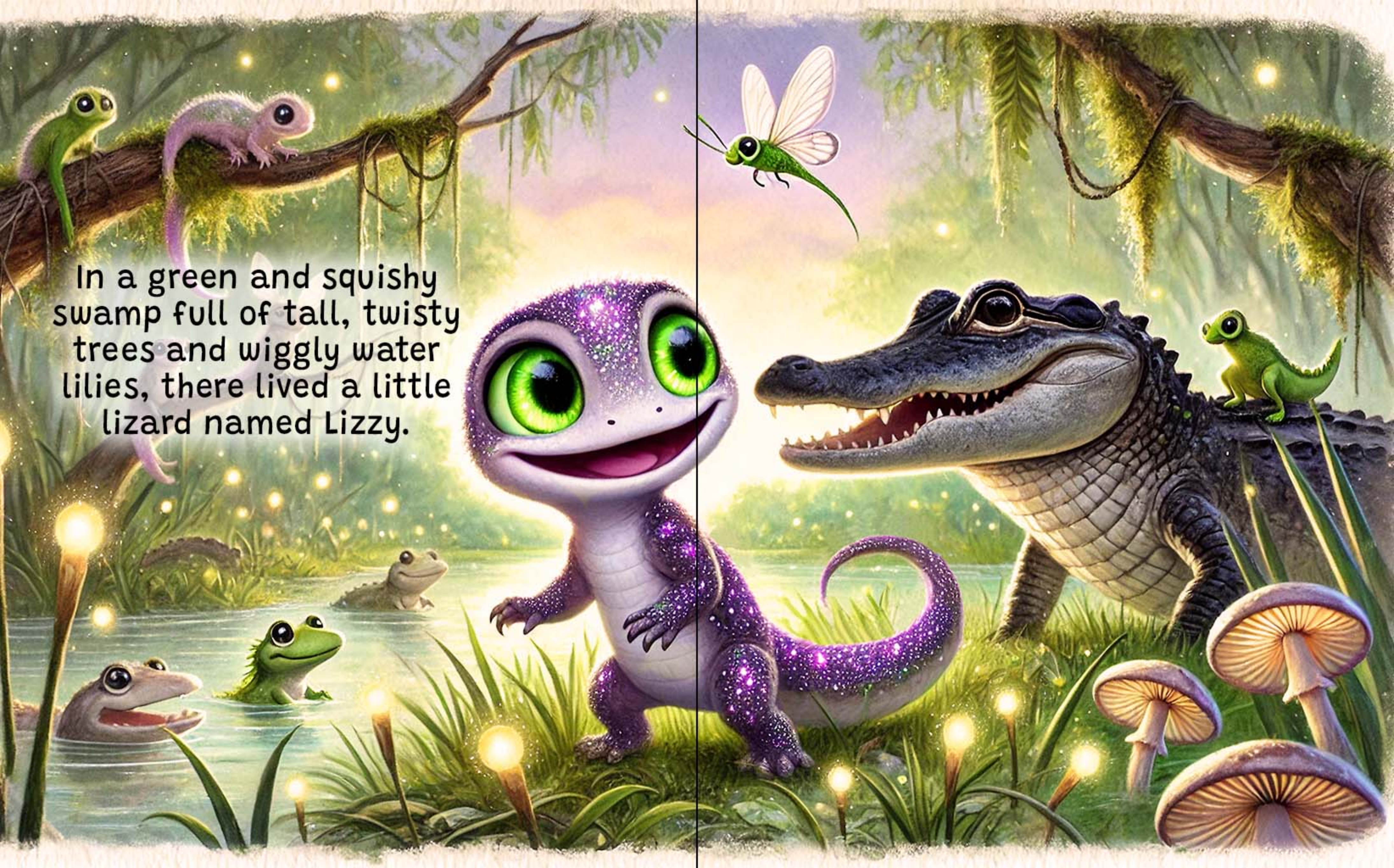
All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review.

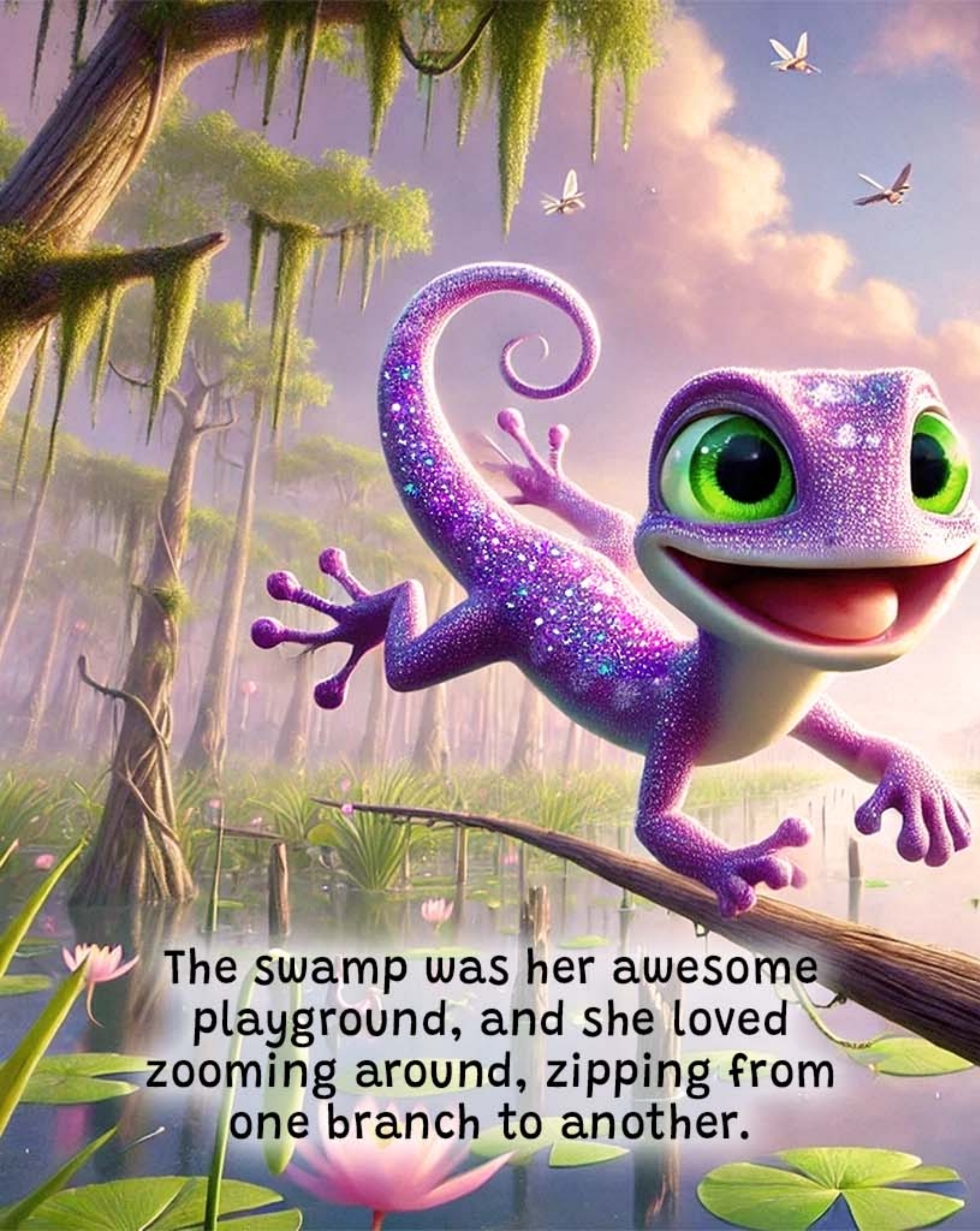
This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Published by Dimitrios Karatasos

First Edition, November 2024

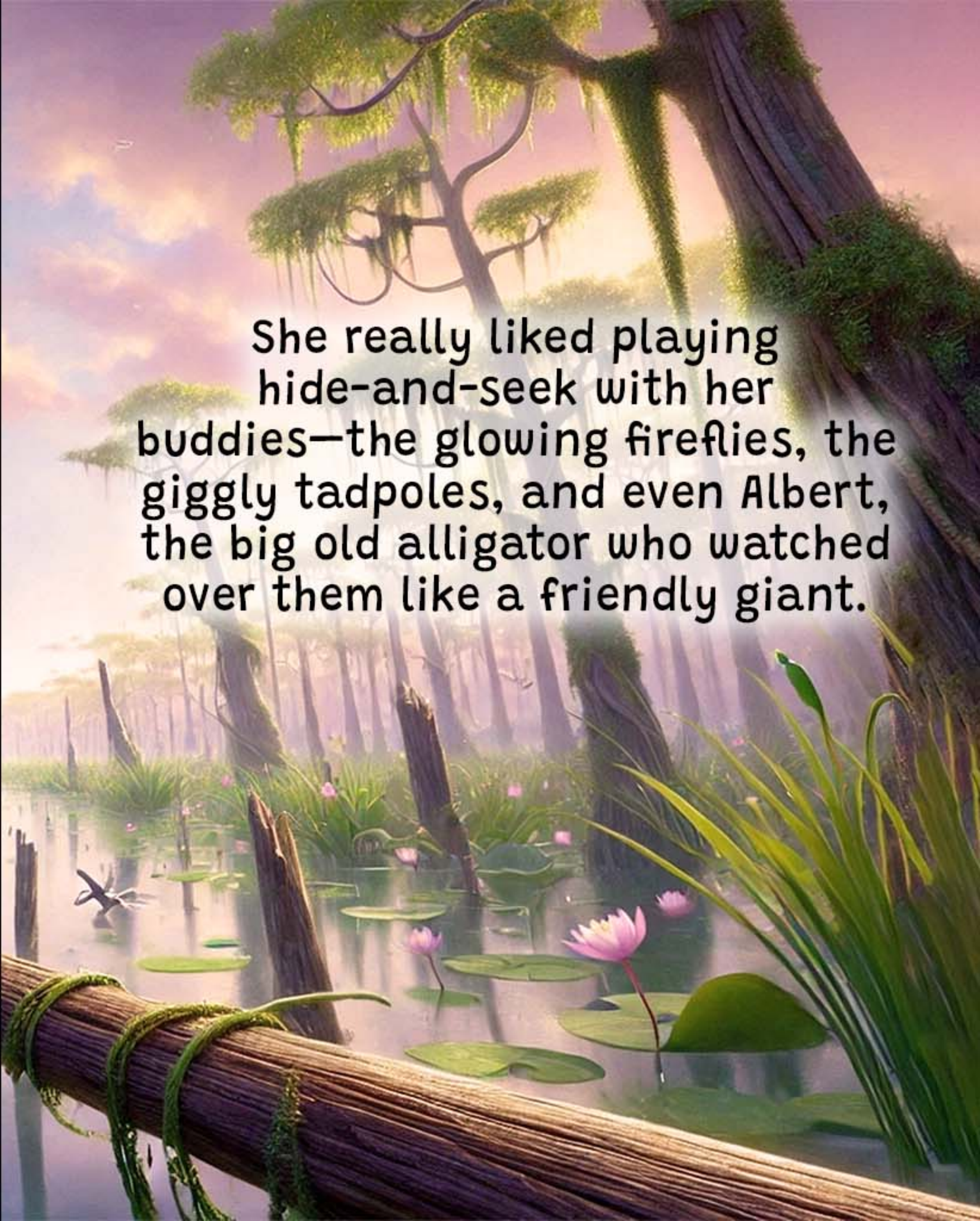


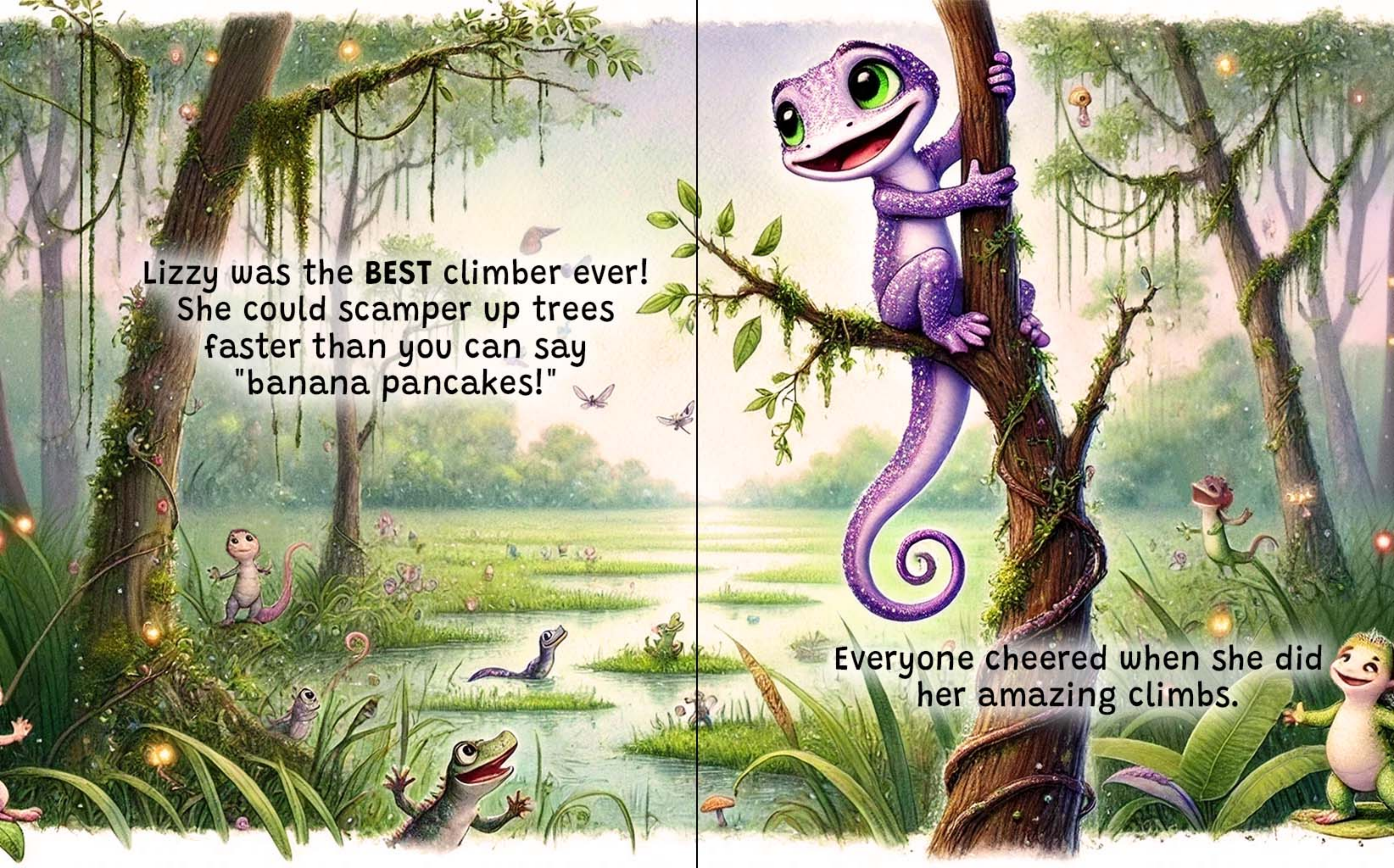
In a green and squishy
swamp full of tall, twisty
trees and wiggly water
lilies, there lived a little
lizard named Lizzy.



The swamp was her awesome playground, and she loved zooming around, zipping from one branch to another.

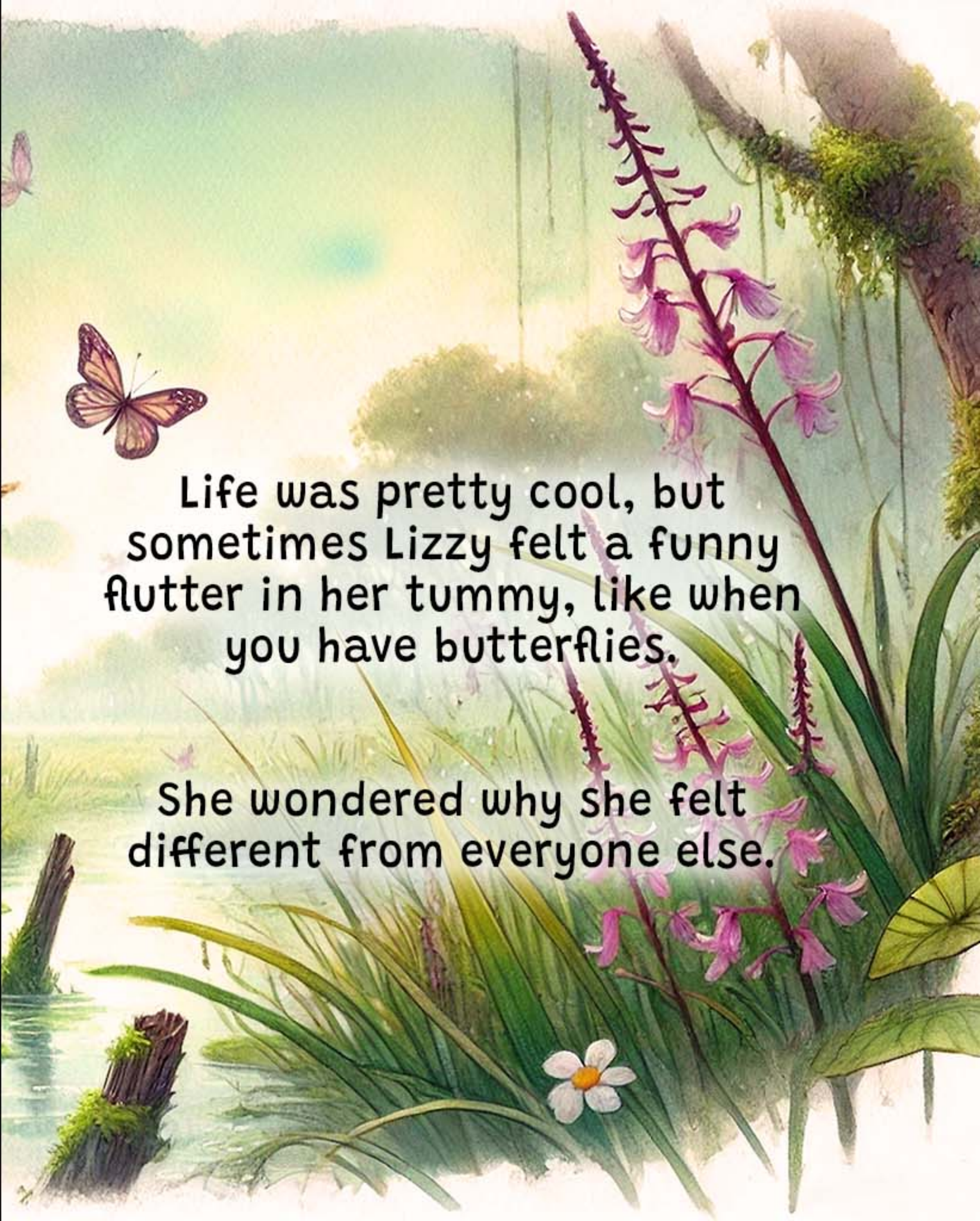
She really liked playing hide-and-seek with her buddies—the glowing fireflies, the giggly tadpoles, and even Albert, the big old alligator who watched over them like a friendly giant.





Lizzy was the **BEST** climber ever!
She could scamper up trees
faster than you can say
"banana pancakes!"

Everyone cheered when she did
her amazing climbs.

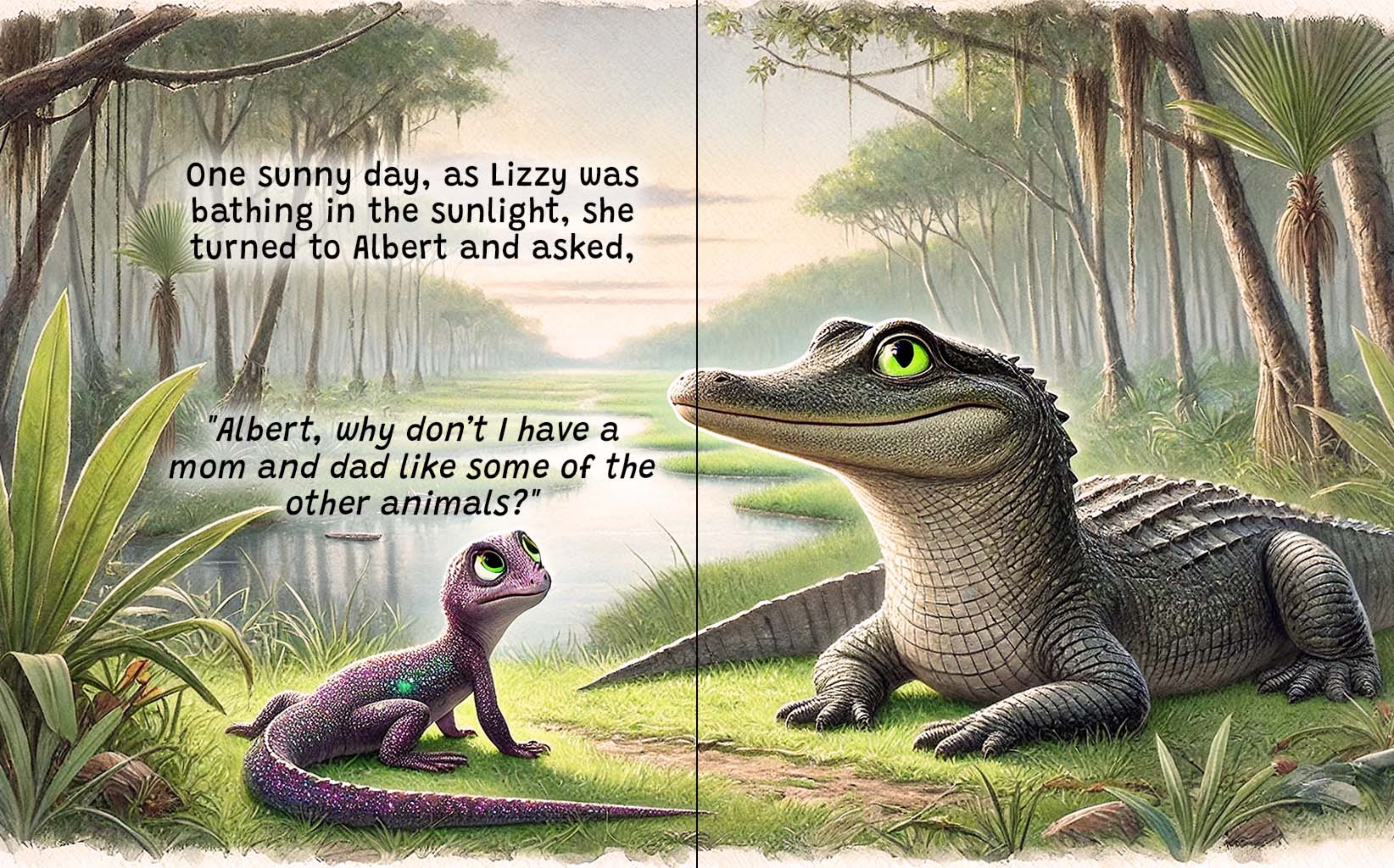


Life was pretty cool, but
sometimes Lizzy felt a funny
flutter in her tummy, like when
you have butterflies.

She wondered why she felt
different from everyone else.

One sunny day, as Lizzy was
bathing in the sunlight, she
turned to Albert and asked,

*"Albert, why don't I have a
mom and dad like some of the
other animals?"*



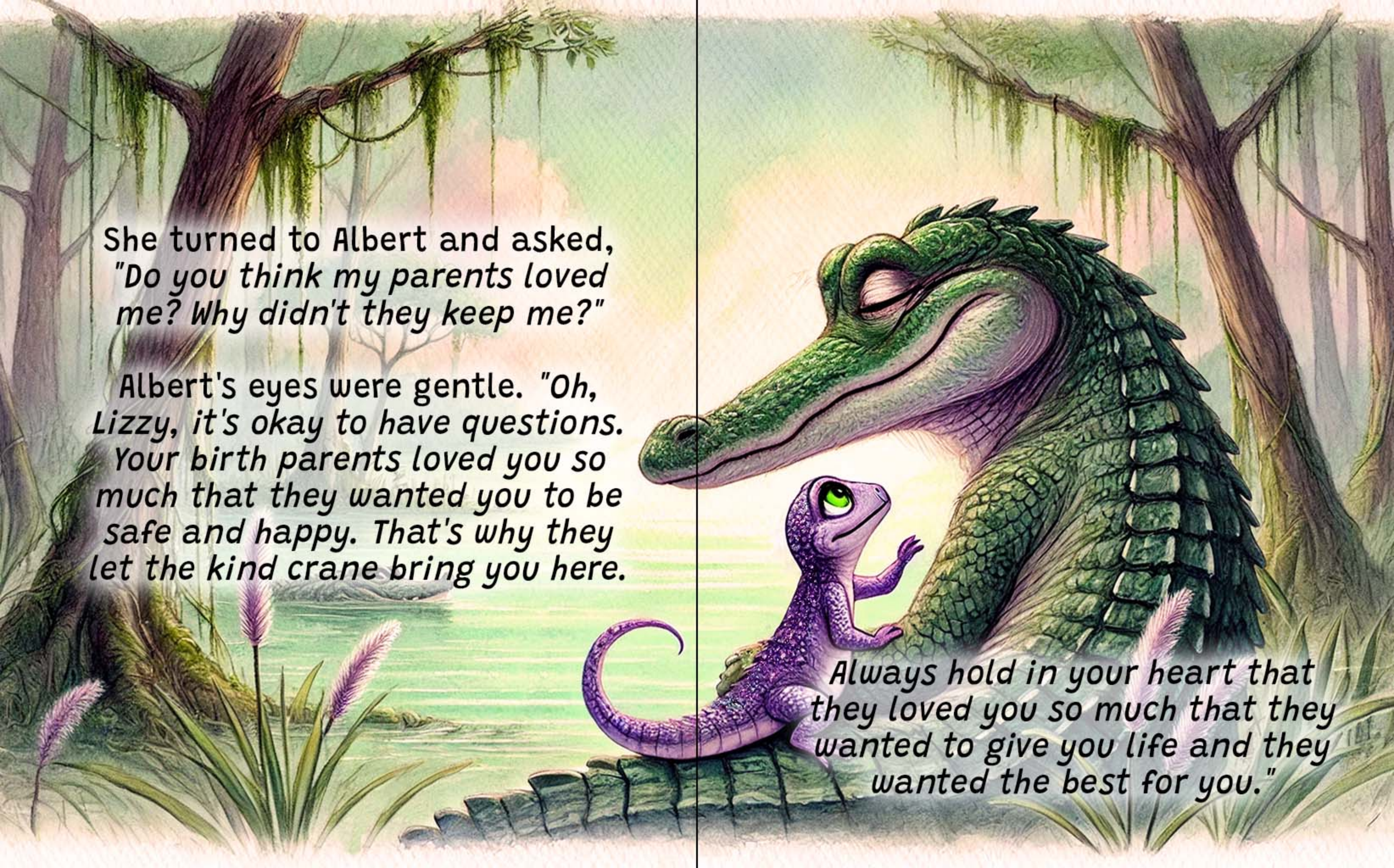


Albert, with his deep, gentle voice,
said,

*"Well, little one, every critter has
their own special story. A kind
crane found you by the river when
you were just a teeny-tiny lizard.
She knew this swamp would be the
perfect cozy spot where you could
be loved and cared for just right."*



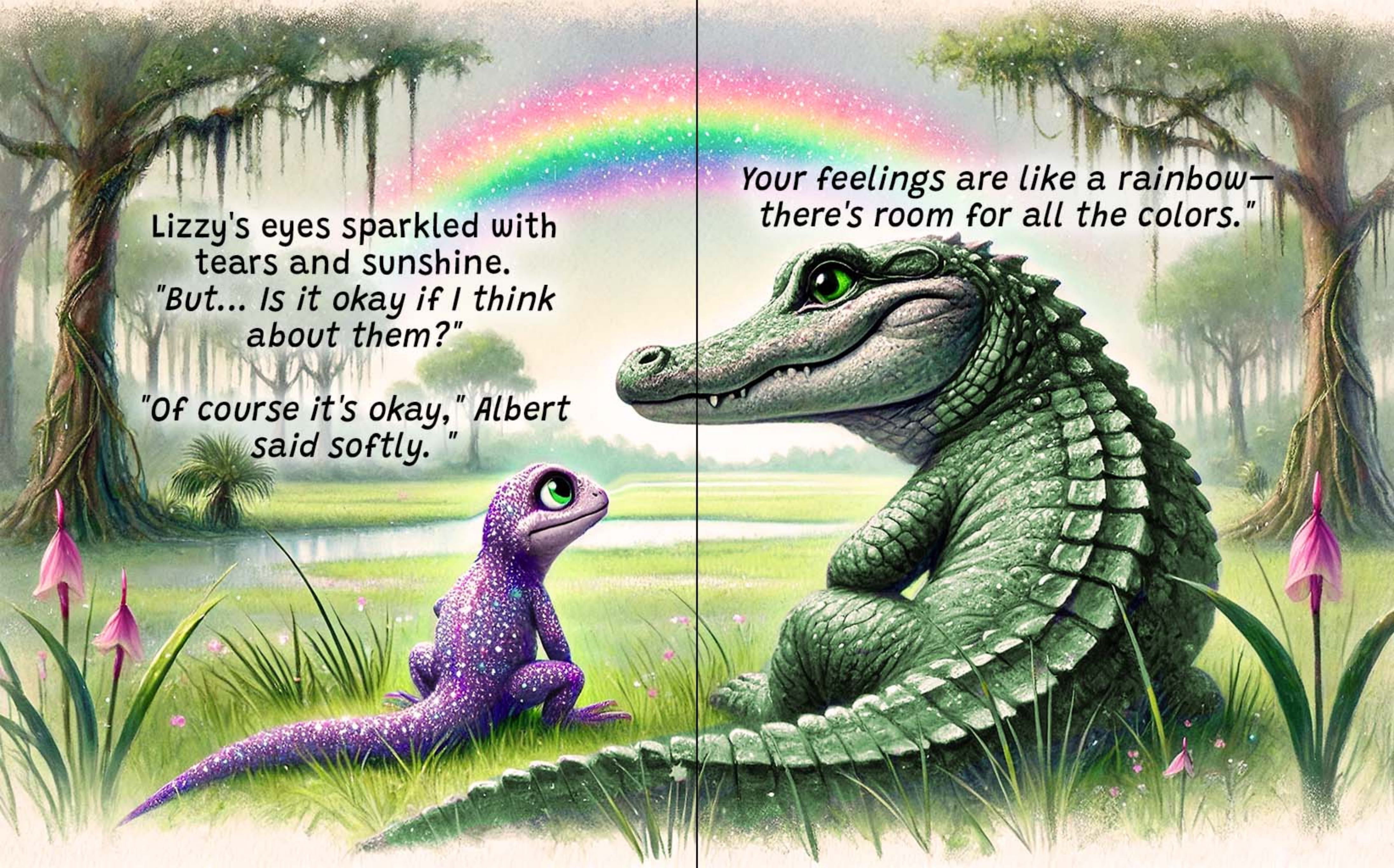
*We all love you so much, and
we're so happy that you are
part of our big family."*



She turned to Albert and asked,
*"Do you think my parents loved
me? Why didn't they keep me?"*

Albert's eyes were gentle. *"Oh,
Lizzy, it's okay to have questions.
Your birth parents loved you so
much that they wanted you to be
safe and happy. That's why they
let the kind crane bring you here.*

*Always hold in your heart that
they loved you so much that they
wanted to give you life and they
wanted the best for you."*

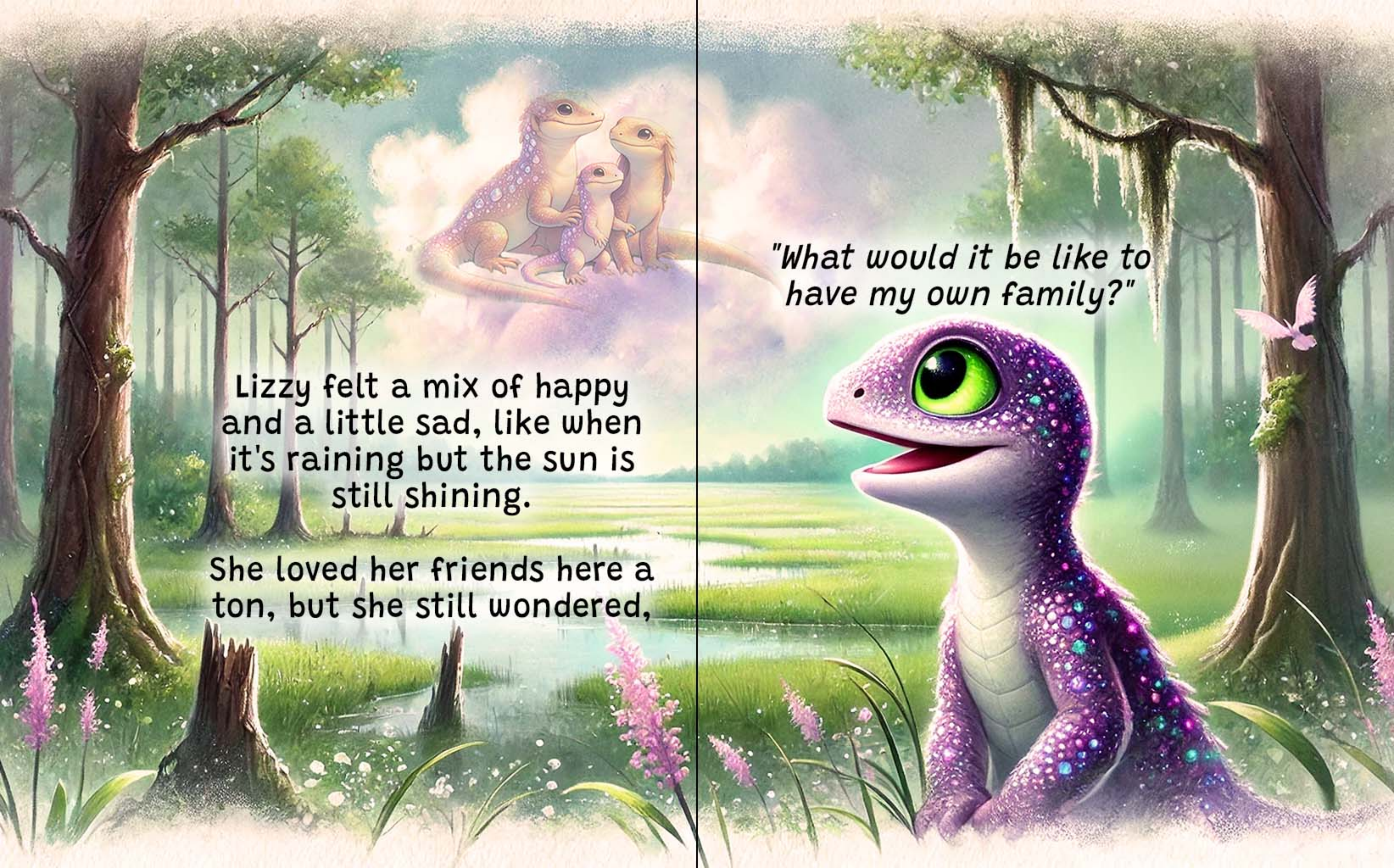


Lizzy's eyes sparkled with
tears and sunshine.

*"But... Is it okay if I think
about them?"*

*"Of course it's okay," Albert
said softly. "*

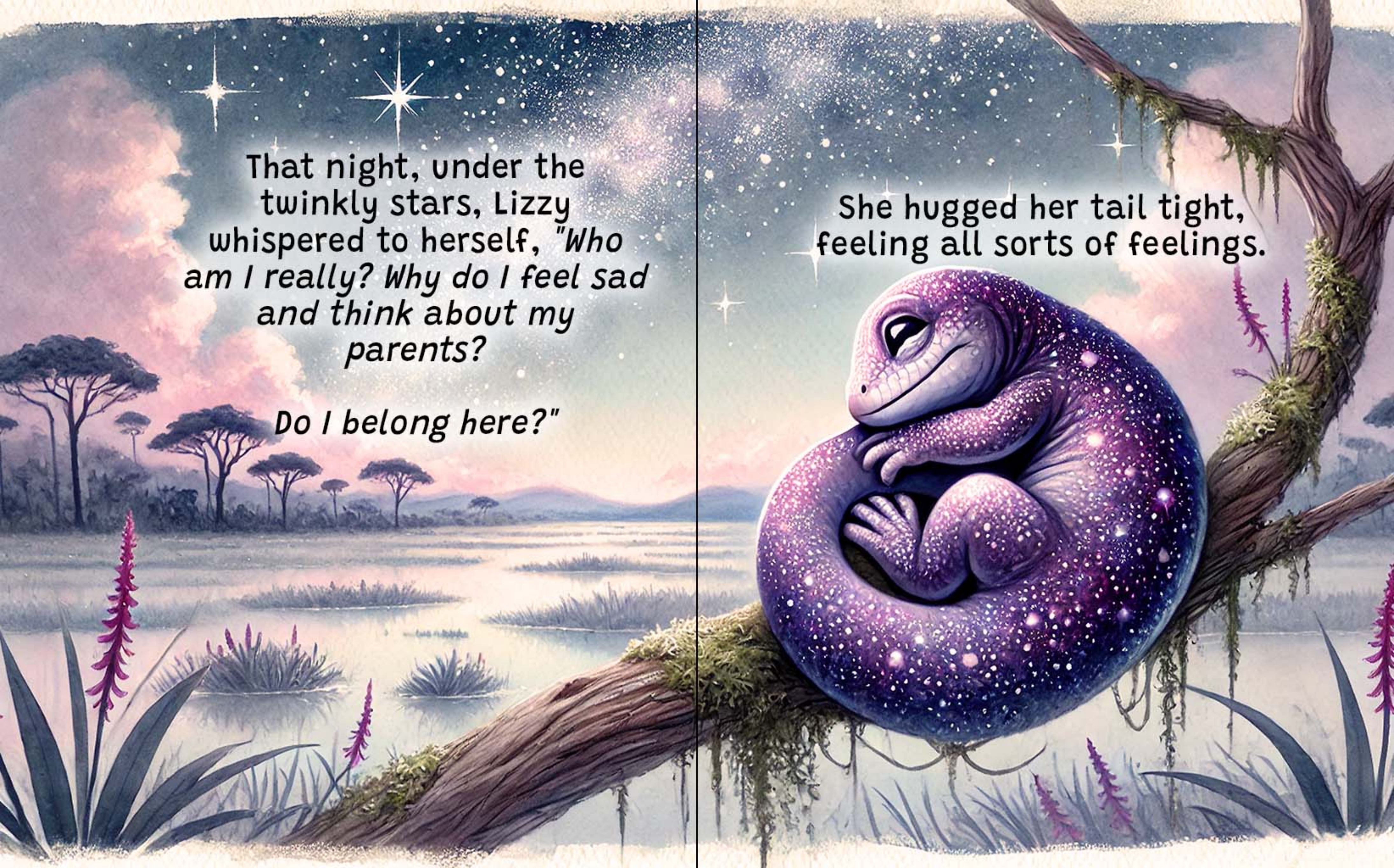
*Your feelings are like a rainbow—
there's room for all the colors."*



Lizzy felt a mix of happy
and a little sad, like when
it's raining but the sun is
still shining.

She loved her friends here a
ton, but she still wondered,

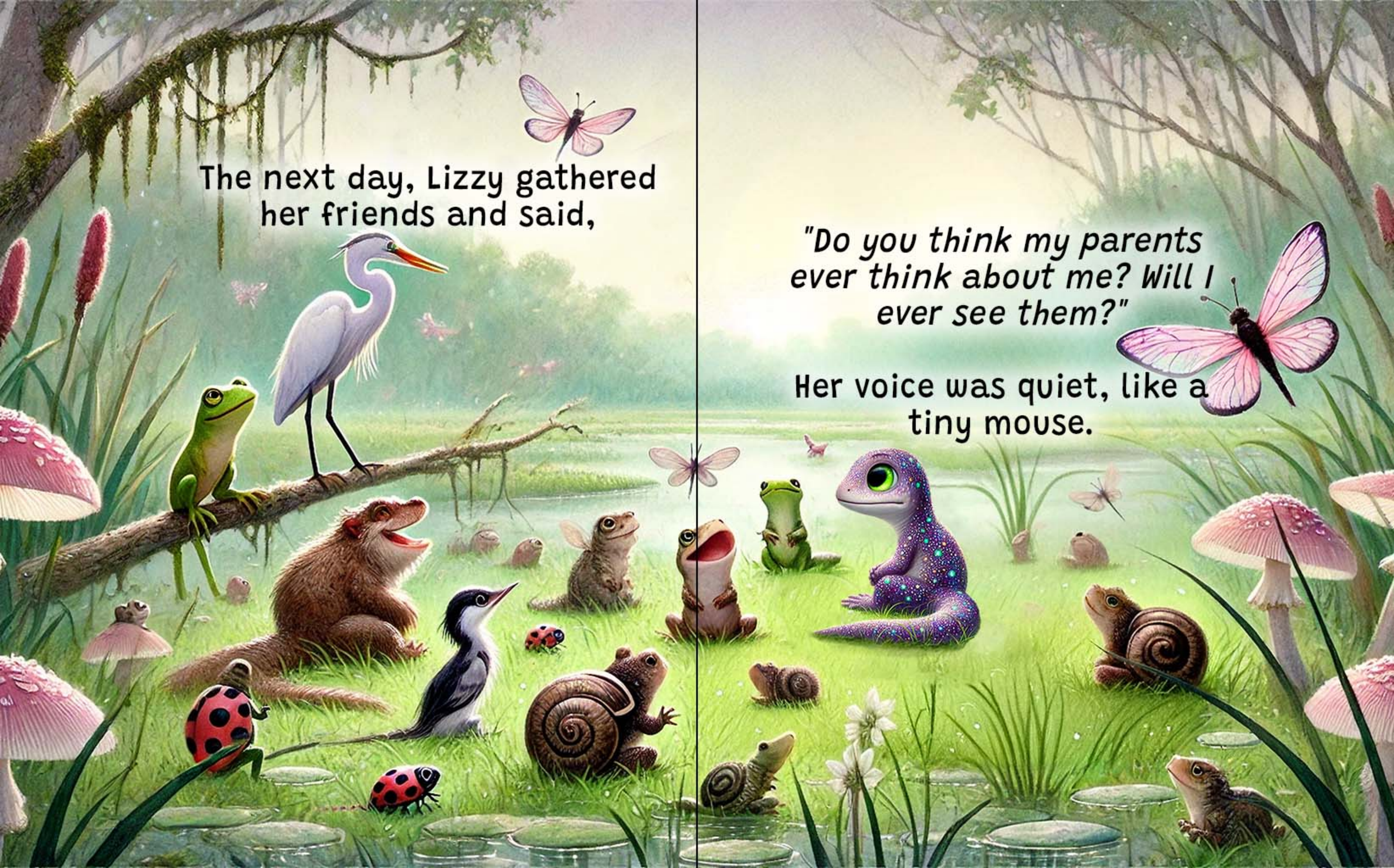
*"What would it be like to
have my own family?"*



That night, under the
twinkly stars, Lizzy
whispered to herself, "*Who
am I really? Why do I feel sad
and think about my
parents?*"

Do I belong here?"

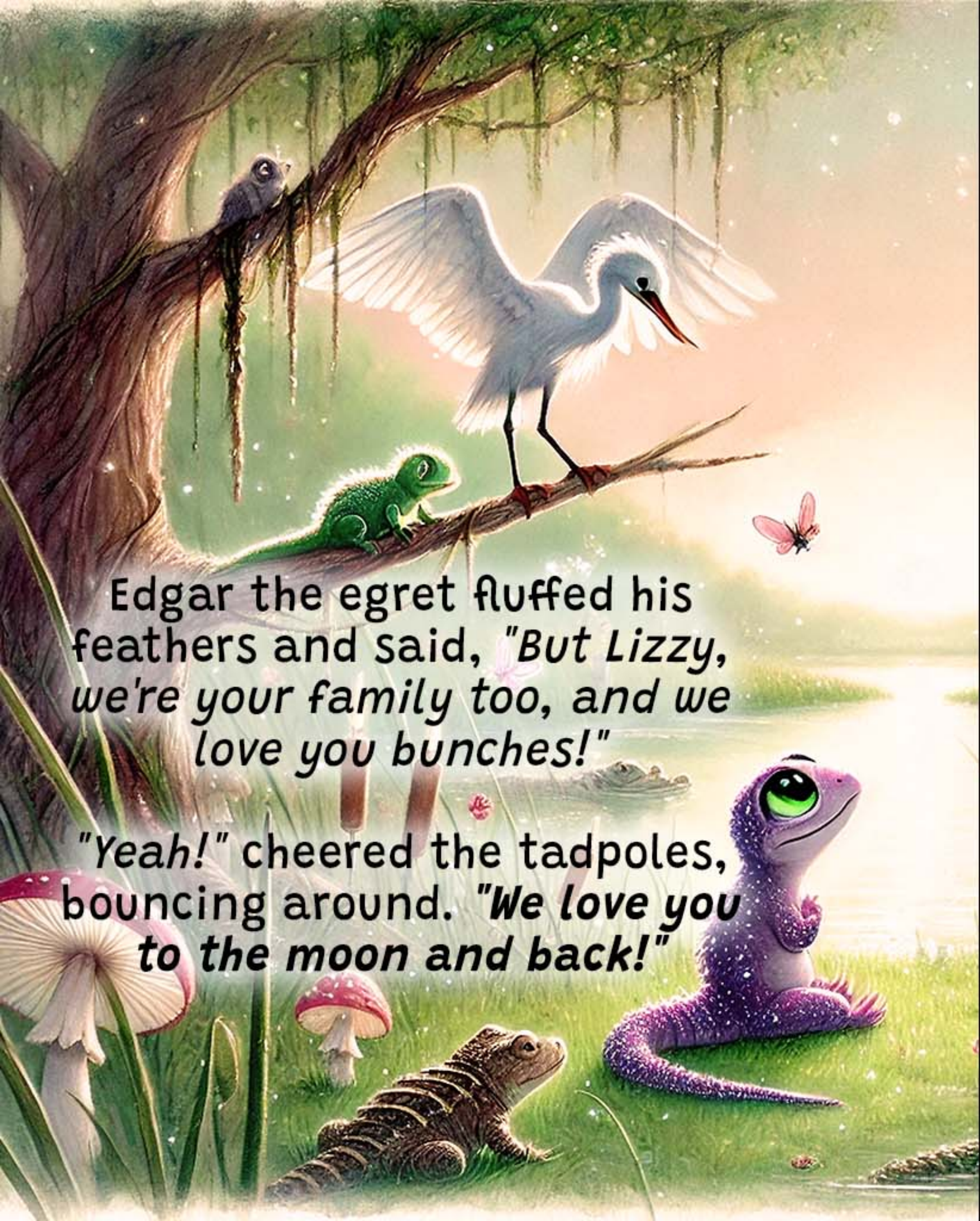
She hugged her tail tight,
feeling all sorts of feelings.



The next day, Lizzy gathered
her friends and said,

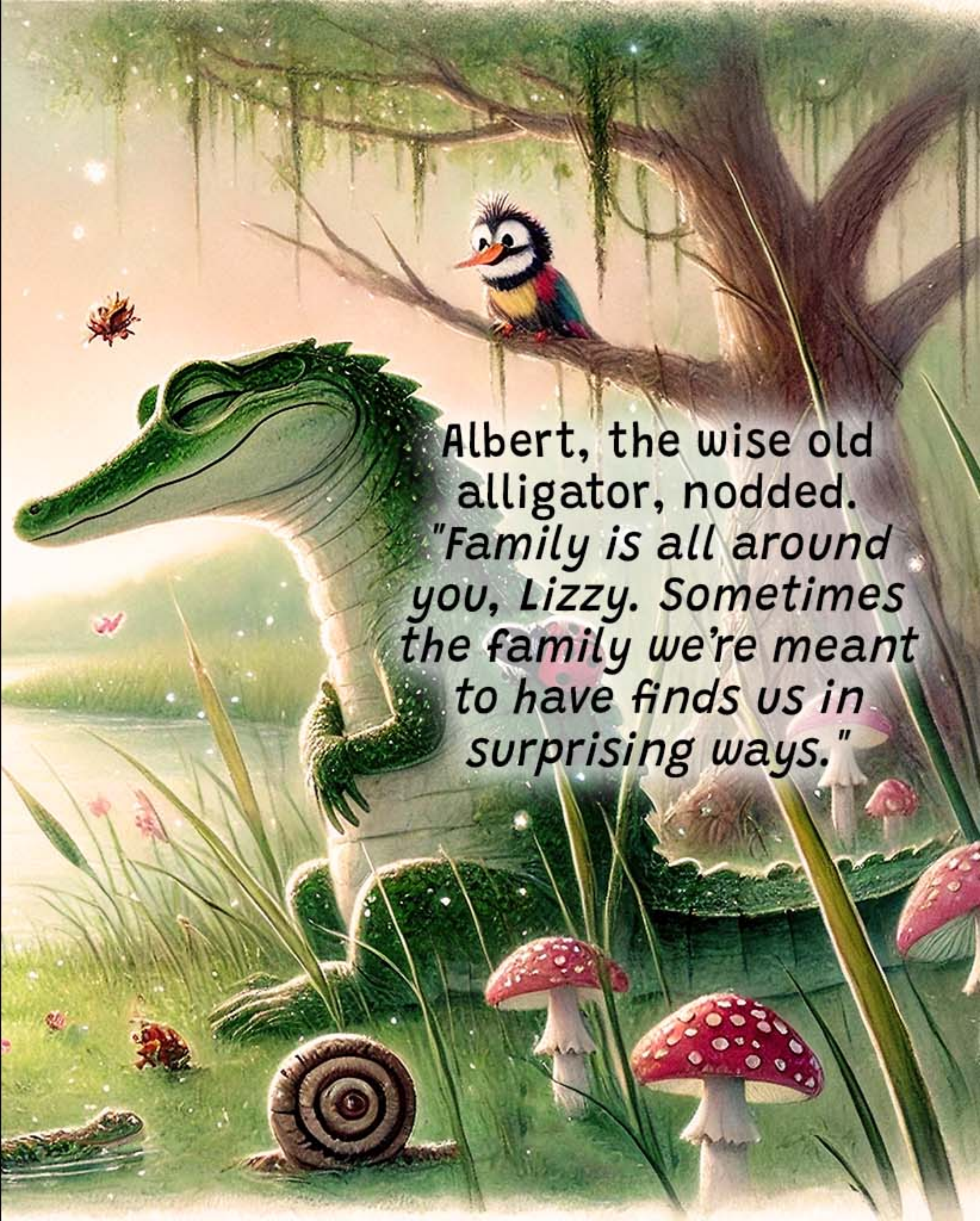
*"Do you think my parents
ever think about me? Will I
ever see them?"*

Her voice was quiet, like a
tiny mouse.

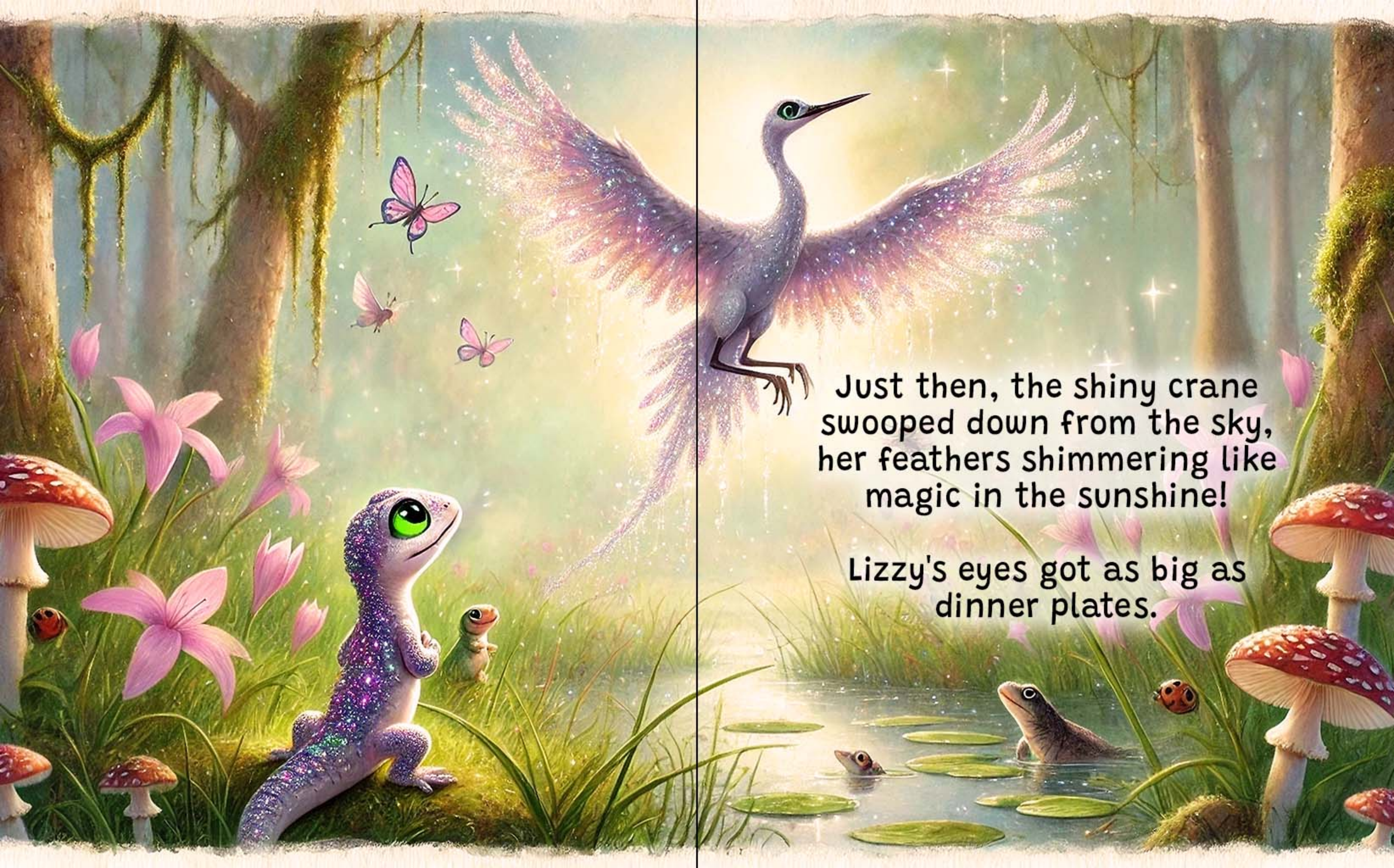


Edgar the egret fluffed his feathers and said, *"But Lizzy, we're your family too, and we love you bunches!"*

"Yeah!" cheered the tadpoles, bouncing around. *"We love you to the moon and back!"*

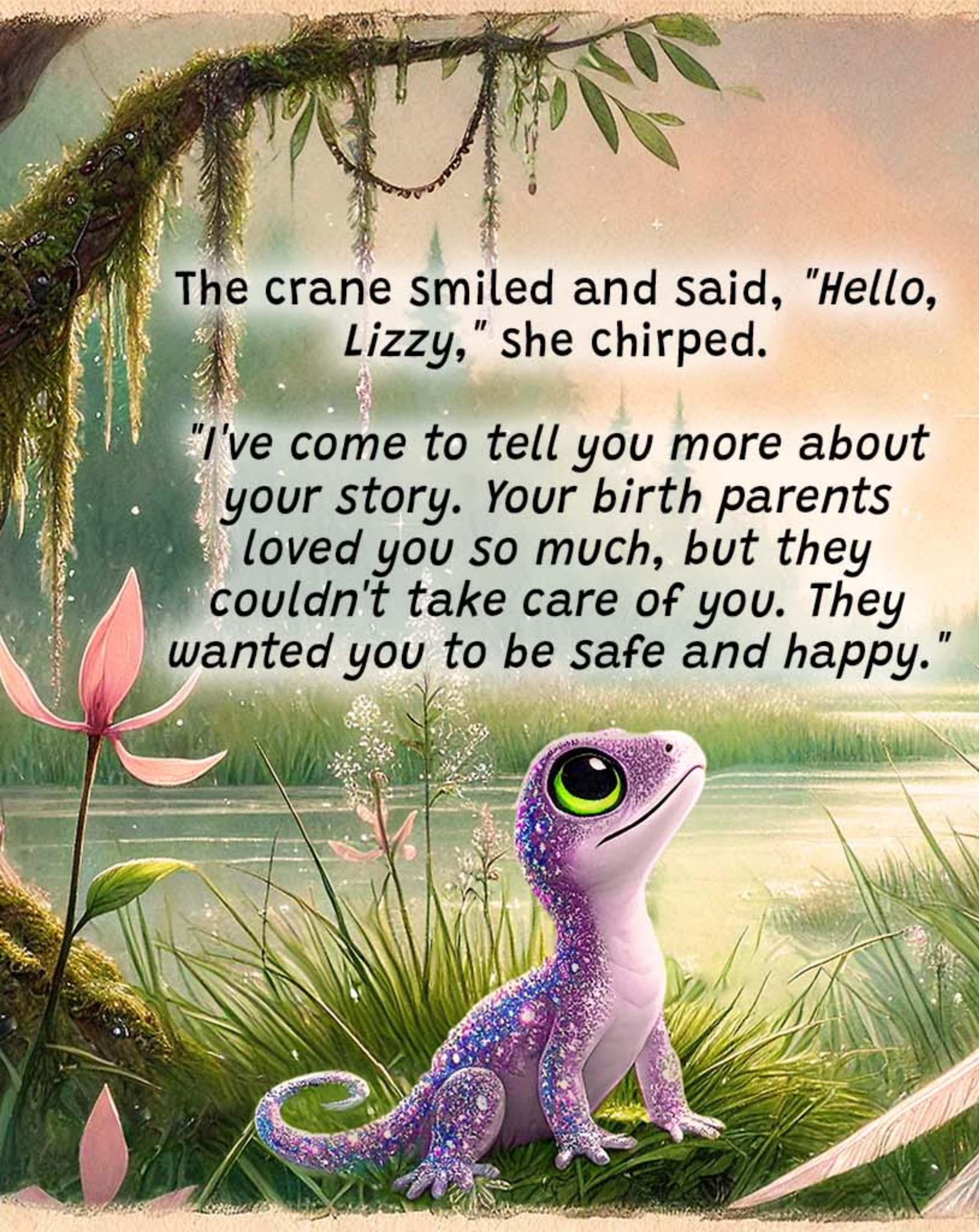


Albert, the wise old alligator, nodded. *"Family is all around you, Lizzy. Sometimes the family we're meant to have finds us in surprising ways."*



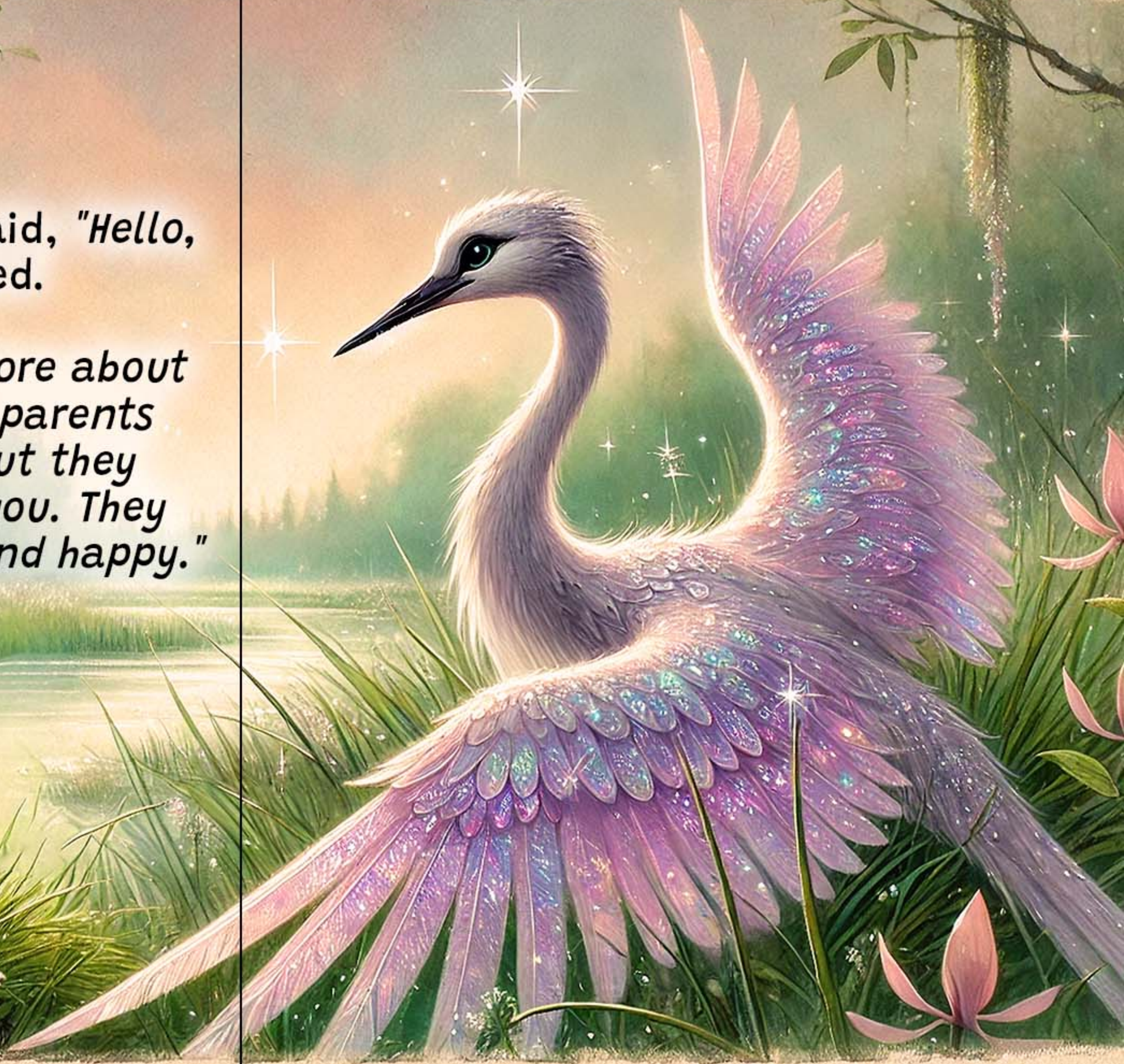
Just then, the shiny crane
swooped down from the sky,
her feathers shimmering like
magic in the sunshine!

Lizzy's eyes got as big as
dinner plates.



The crane smiled and said, *"Hello, Lizzy,"* she chirped.


"I've come to tell you more about your story. Your birth parents loved you so much, but they couldn't take care of you. They wanted you to be safe and happy."



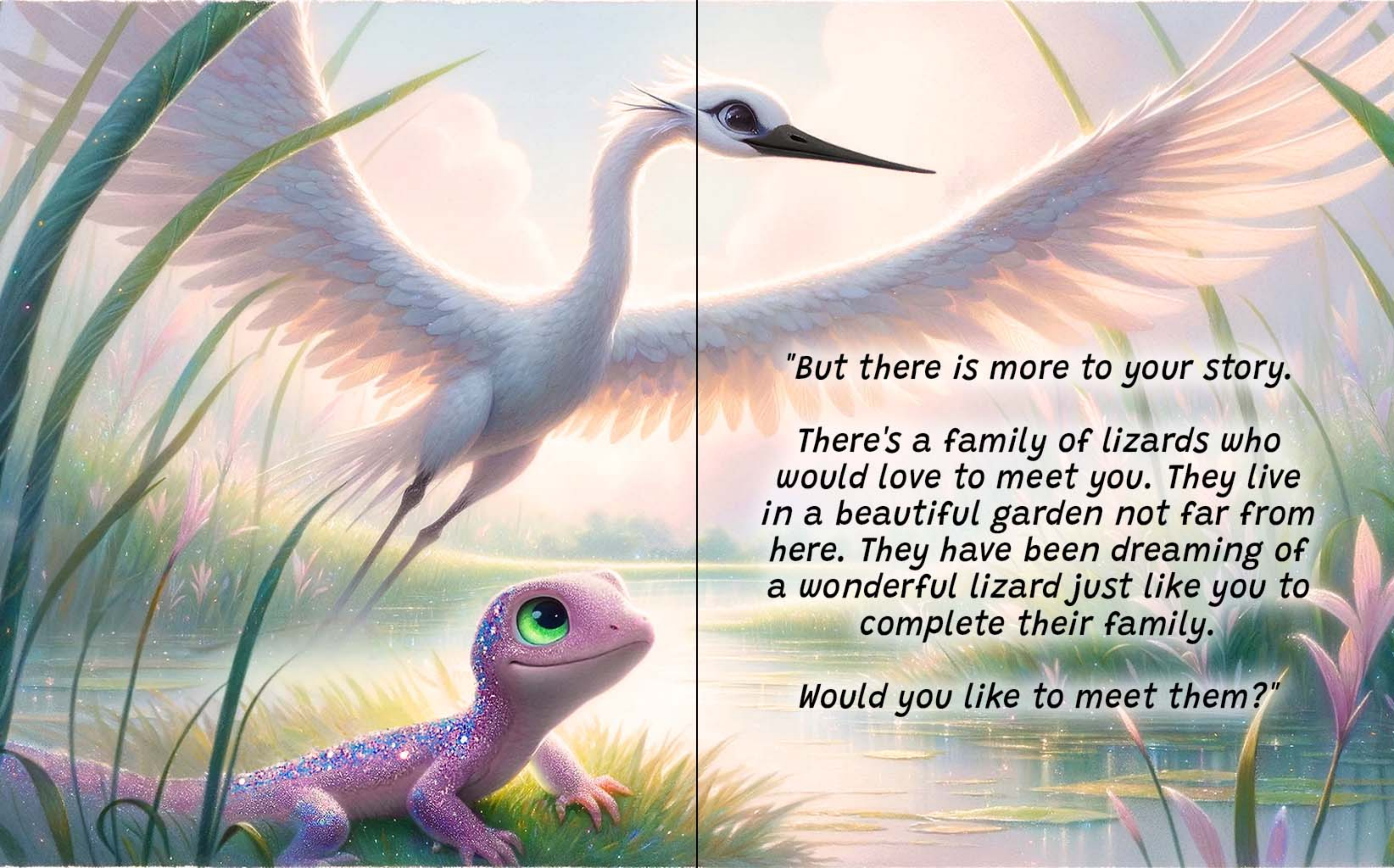


Lizzy's heart felt like a warm
cookie fresh out of the oven.

"Did they really love me?" she
asked.



"Absolutely, sweet pea,"
the crane said gently.



"But there is more to your story.

*There's a family of lizards who
would love to meet you. They live
in a beautiful garden not far from
here. They have been dreaming of
a wonderful lizard just like you to
complete their family.*

Would you like to meet them?"

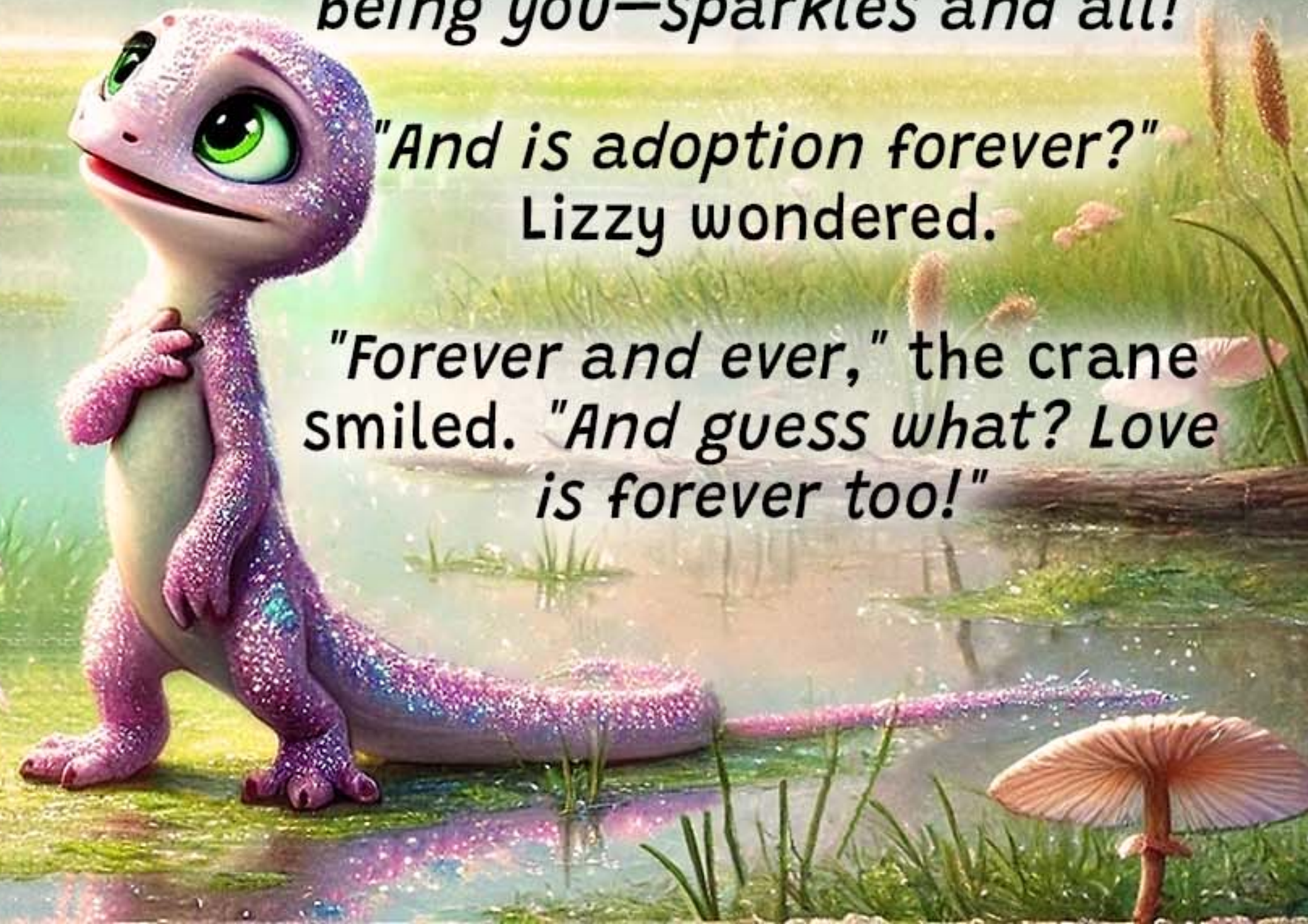


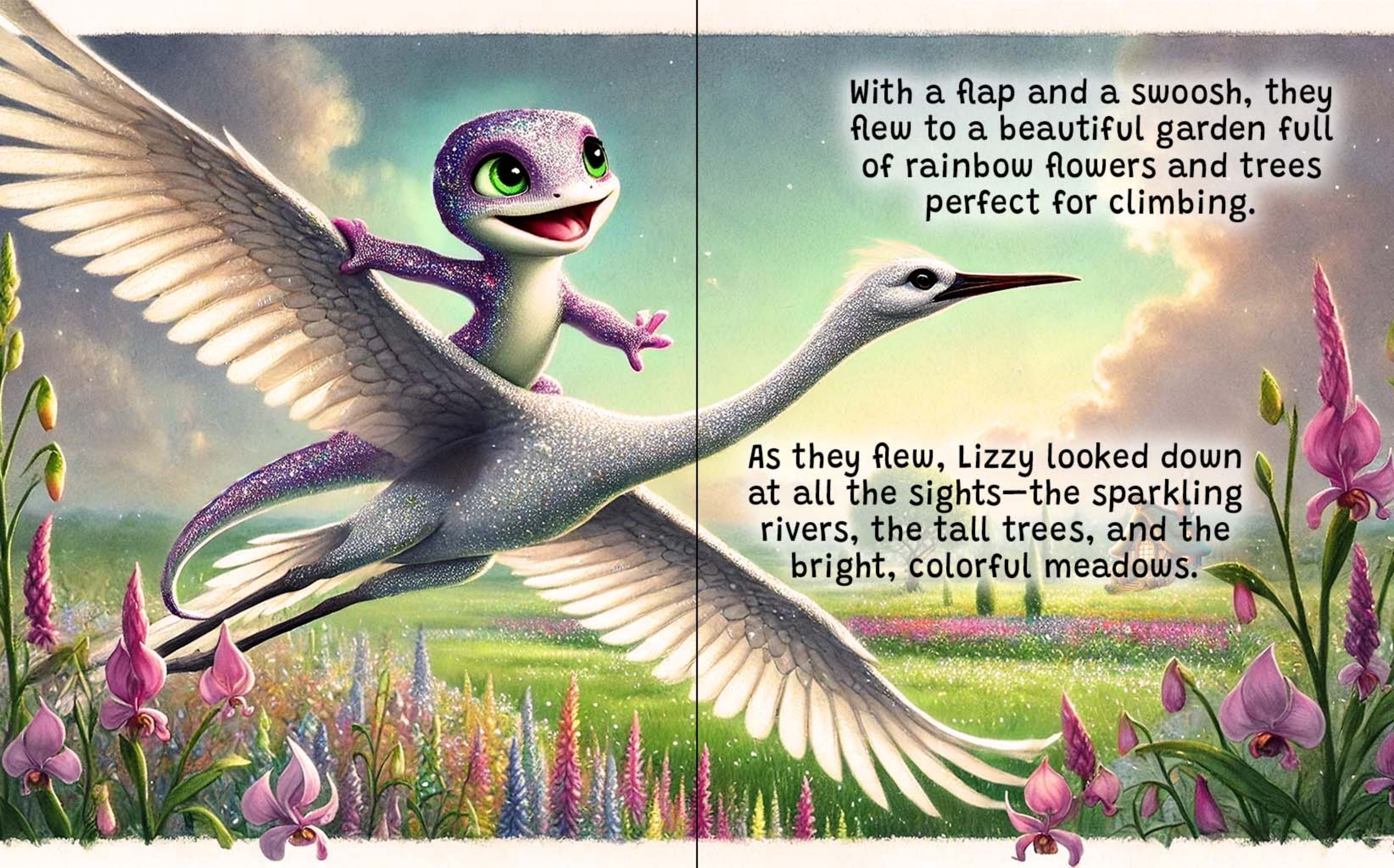
Lizzy felt excited but also nervous. *"Will they love me as much as if I were their own?"* she wondered out loud.

The crane shook her head. *"They'll love you just for being you—sparkles and all!"*

"And is adoption forever?" Lizzy wondered.

"Forever and ever," the crane smiled. *"And guess what? Love is forever too!"*





With a flap and a swoosh, they
flew to a beautiful garden full
of rainbow flowers and trees
perfect for climbing.

As they flew, Lizzy looked down
at all the sights—the sparkling
rivers, the tall trees, and the
bright, colorful meadows.

Finally, they reached the garden.

It was even more beautiful than Lizzy had imagined, with flowers in every color like a rainbow, big trees with branches perfect for climbing, and a shiny pond that looked like a mirror.

In the middle of the garden was a cozy little home where the family of lizards lived.



The crane landed gently, and
Lizzy hopped off her back.

She took a big, deep breath, like
when you're about to jump into a
pool, and walked toward the house



As she got closer, she saw two
grown-up lizards and a few
little ones playing in the
garden. They all had shimmering
scales just like hers.





The grown-up lizards saw Lizzy and hurried over to greet her.

"Welcome, little one!" they said with big, warm smiles.
"We have been waiting for you. We are so happy you are here."

Lizzy felt her heart swell up with happiness, like a big, colorful balloon.

She introduced herself and
shared her story with the family.
They listened carefully, their
eyes full of kindness and love.



The younger lizards bounced
with excitement as they showed
Lizzy around the garden,
pointing out all their favorite
places to play.



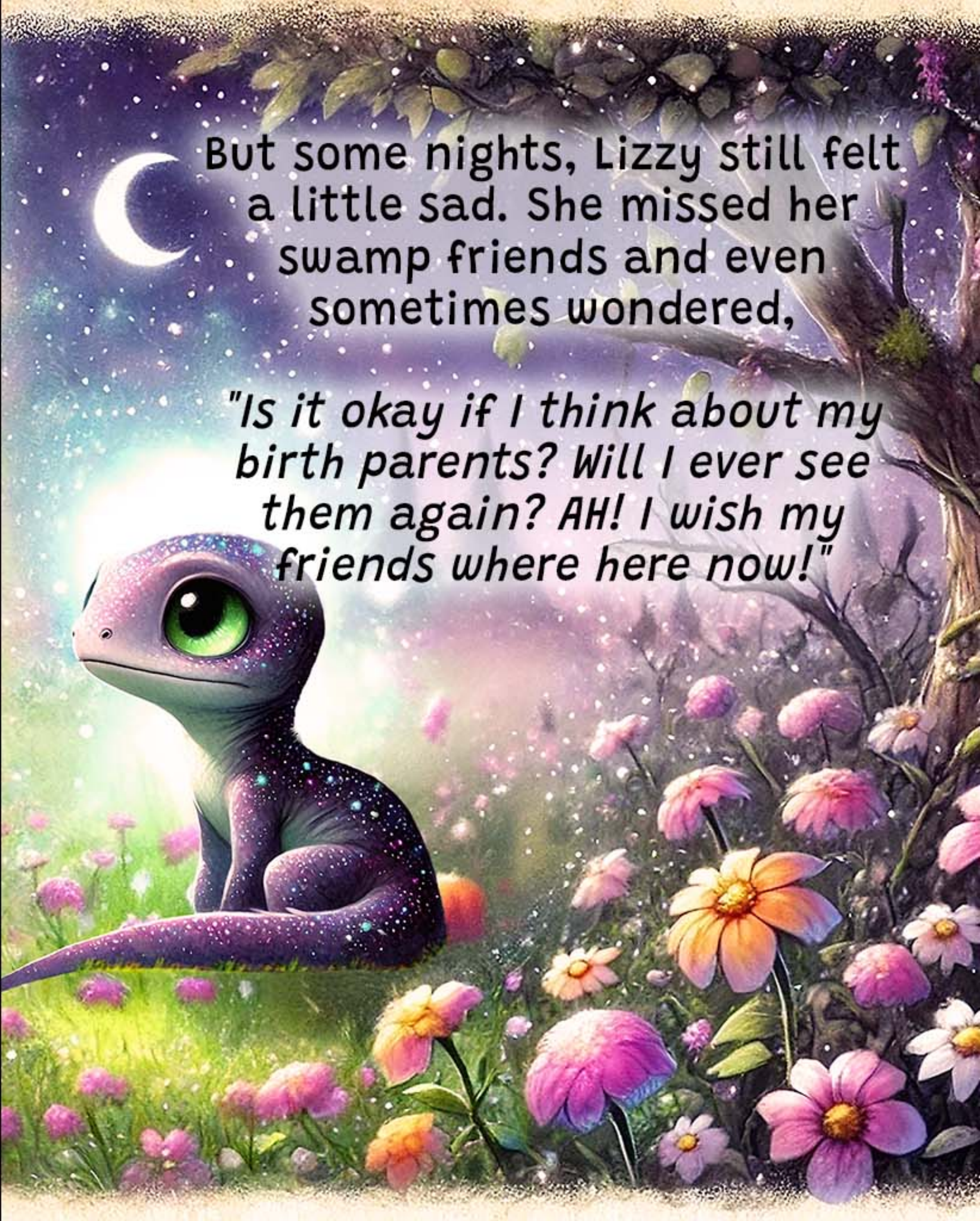


As the days turned into weeks, Lizzy grew to love her new family more and more.

She played games with her new brothers and sisters, explored the garden, and shared stories with her new parents.

A vibrant, sunlit forest scene. A purple salamander with large green eyes stands in a field of colorful flowers (pink, orange, and blue). The background features a large tree on the left and a bright sun or moon in the sky.

She felt like she finally belonged and knew that she had found her **forever** home.

A night scene with a purple salamander sitting in a field of flowers. The sky is dark with a crescent moon and stars. The scene is framed by trees and foliage.

But some nights, Lizzy still felt a little sad. She missed her swamp friends and even sometimes wondered,

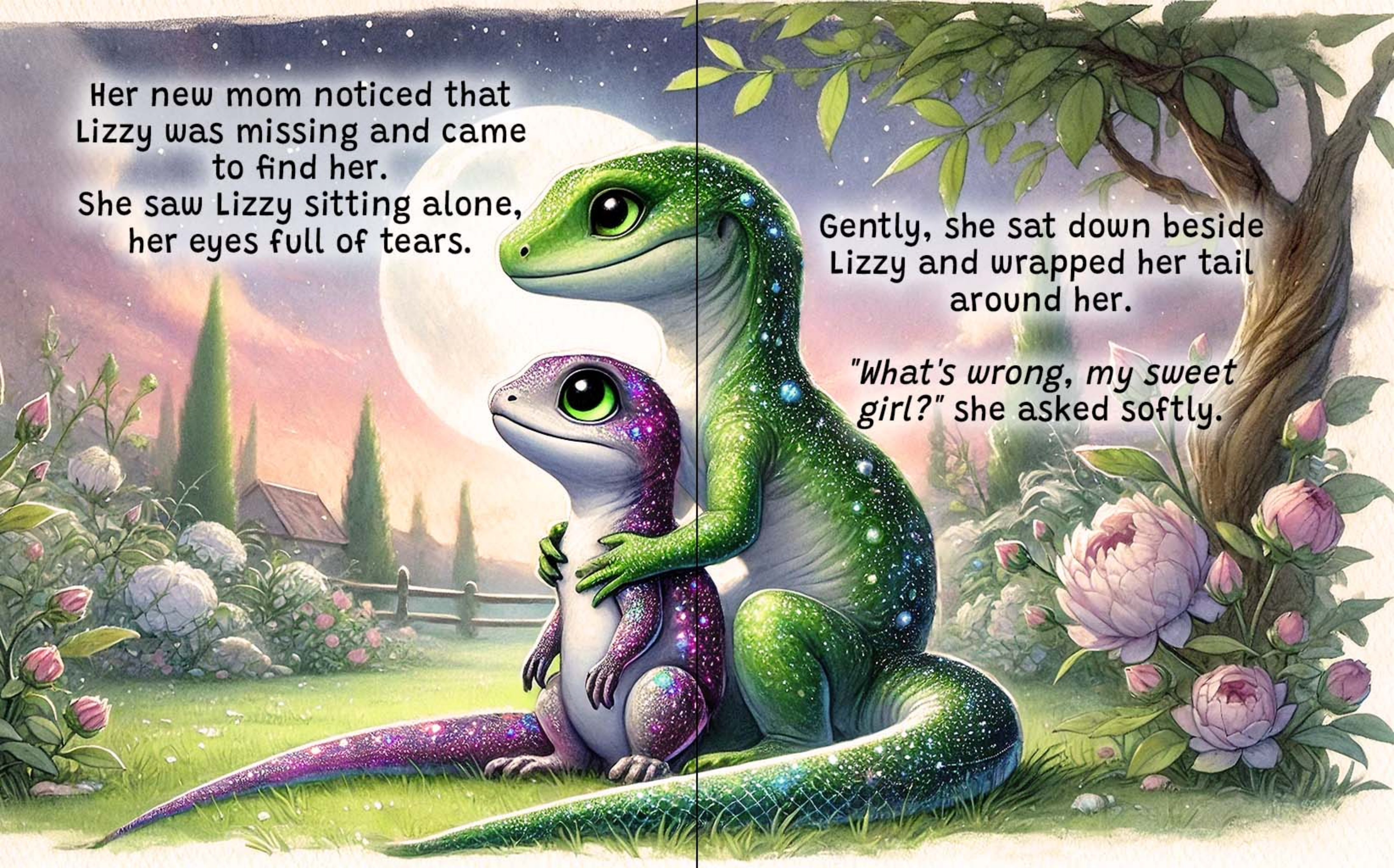
"Is it okay if I think about my birth parents? Will I ever see them again? AH! I wish my friends were here now!"

Her new mom noticed that
Lizzy was missing and came
to find her.

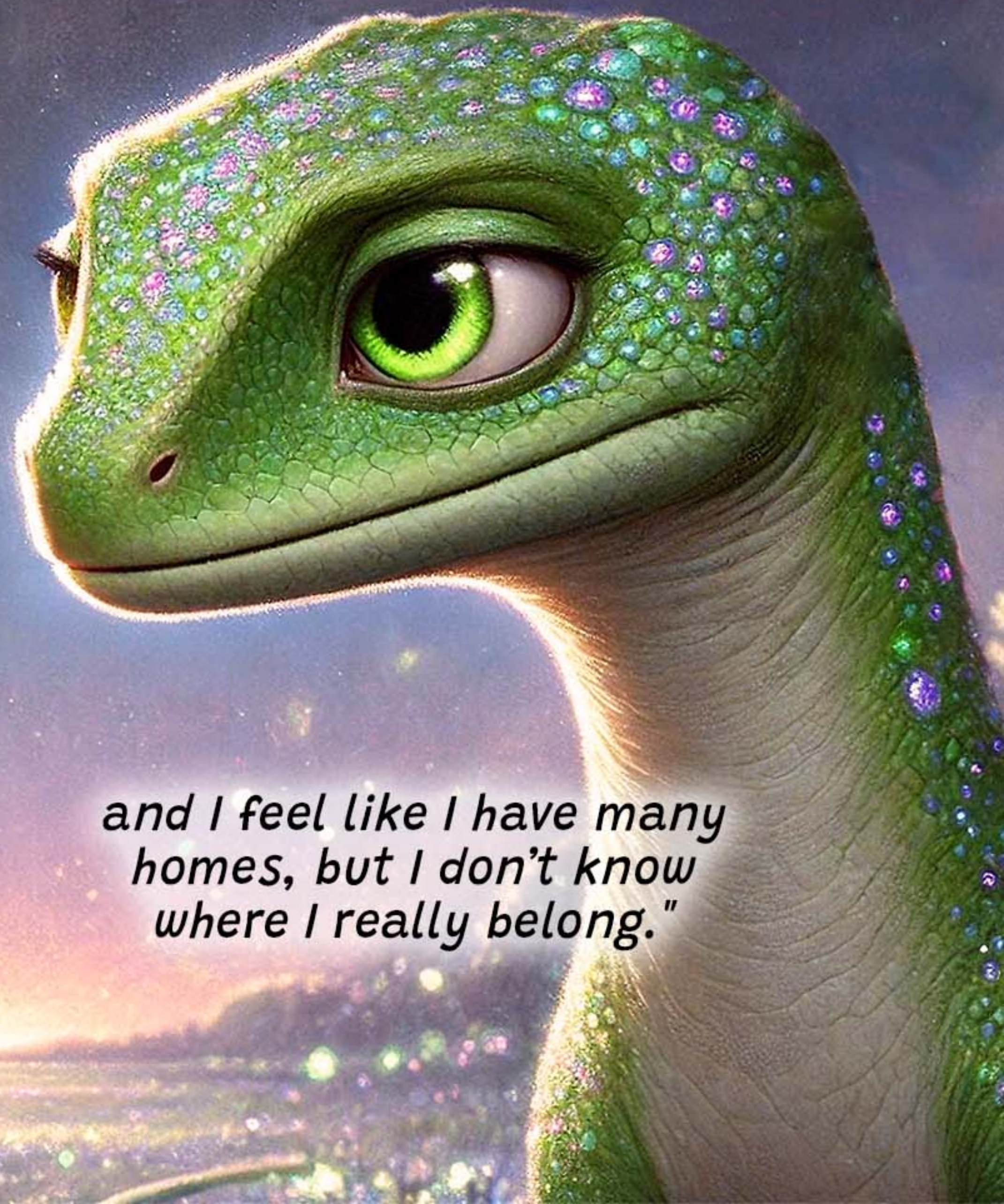
She saw Lizzy sitting alone,
her eyes full of tears.

Gently, she sat down beside
Lizzy and wrapped her tail
around her.

*"What's wrong, my sweet
girl?"* she asked softly.



Lizzy sniffled and said, "I love it here, but sometimes I feel like I don't fit in. I think of my first parents... I miss my friends in the swamp..."



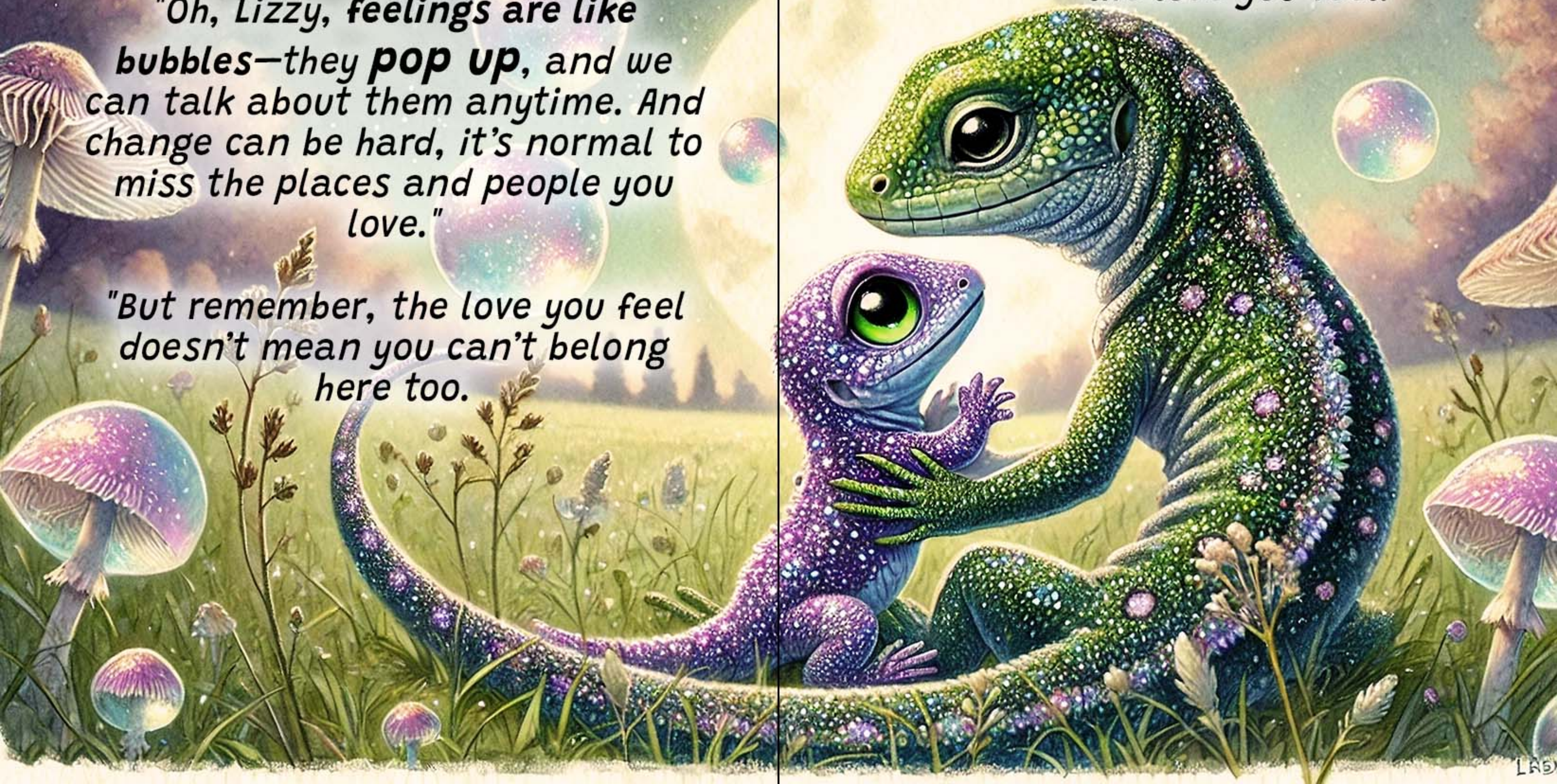
and I feel like I have many homes, but I don't know where I really belong."

Her mom gave her a big, warm hug.

*"Oh, Lizzy, feelings are like bubbles—they **pop up**, and we can talk about them anytime. And change can be hard, it's normal to miss the places and people you love."*

"But remember, the love you feel doesn't mean you can't belong here too."

*You have such a big heart,
and there is room in it for all
the love you feel."*

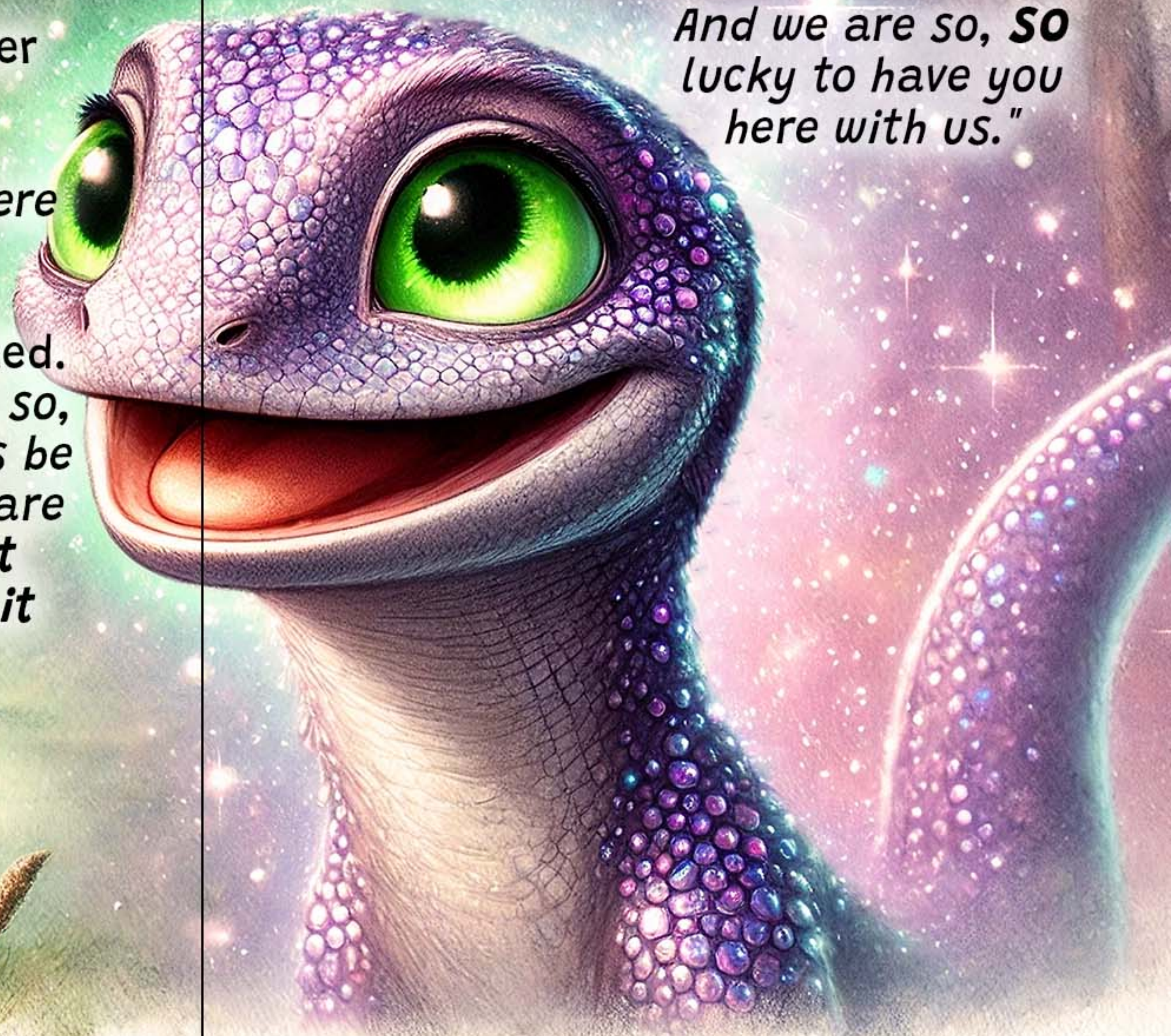


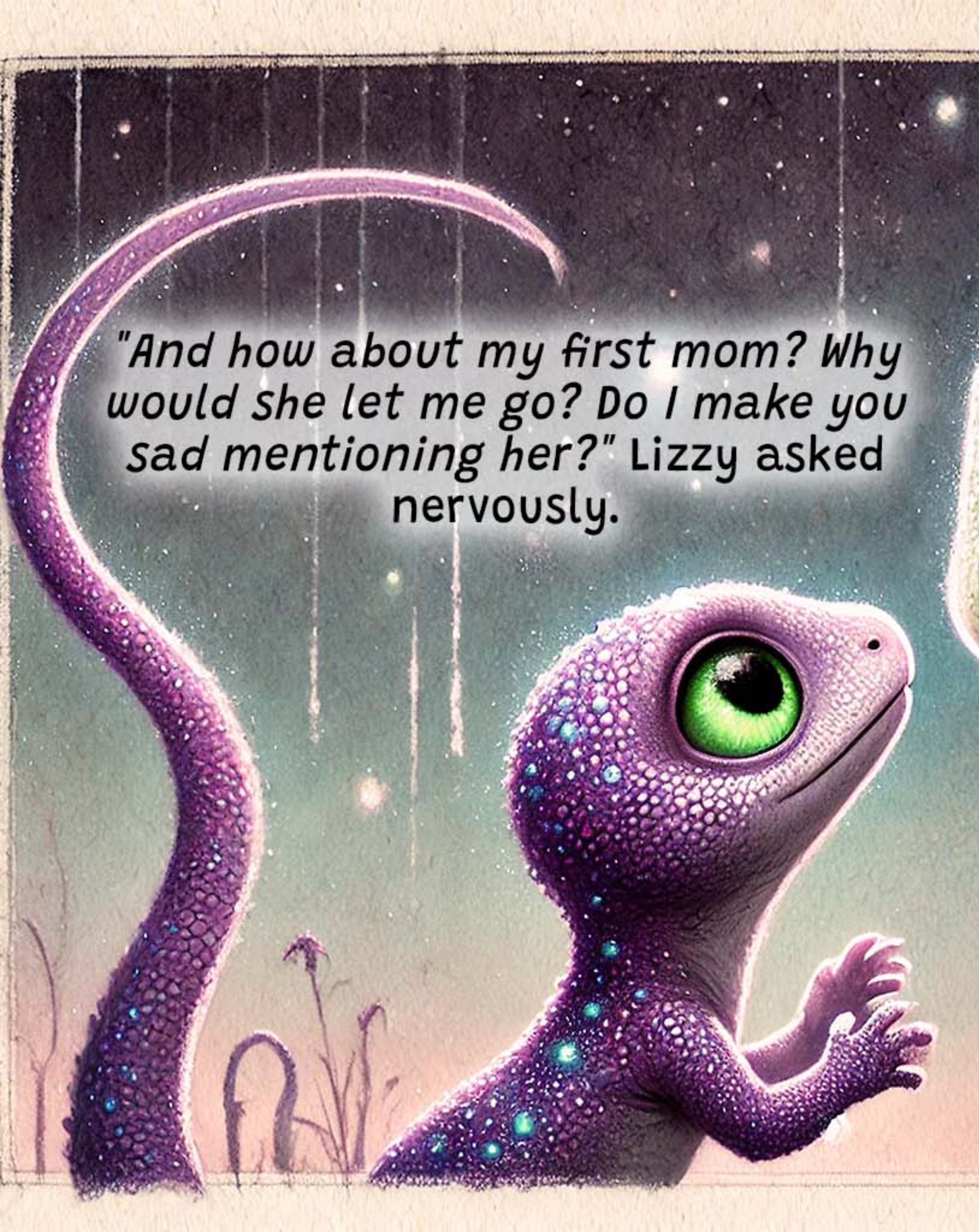
Lizzy looked up at her mom, her tears starting to dry.

"Really? I can belong in both here and the swamp?"

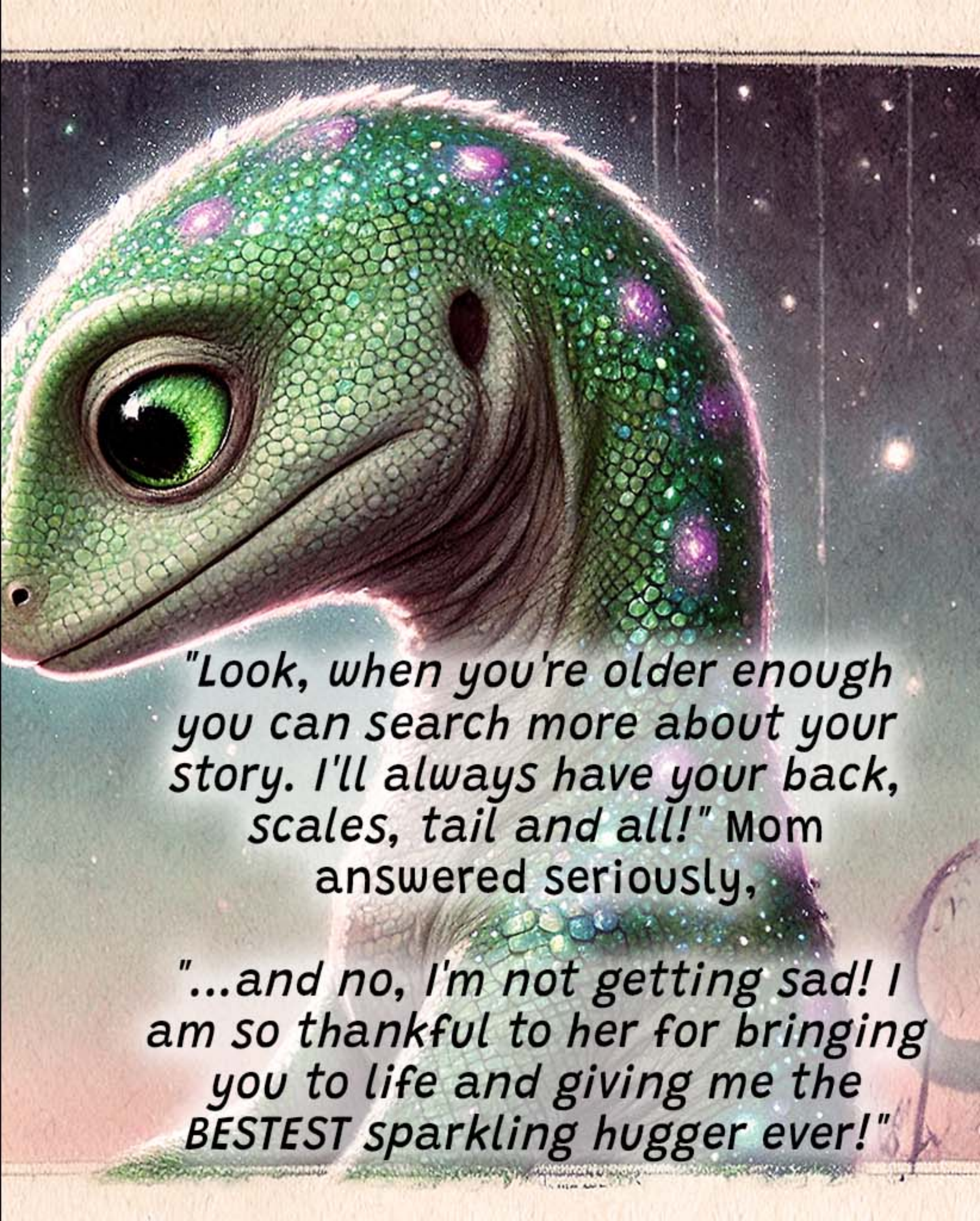
*"Cross my heart!" her mom smiled. "You have families who love you so, so much. The swamp will always be a part of who you are, and we are your forever family. **Love isn't something that gets smaller; it just keeps growing.**"*

*And we are so, **SO** lucky to have you here with us."*






"And how about my first mom? Why would she let me go? Do I make you sad mentioning her?" Lizzy asked nervously.



"Look, when you're older enough you can search more about your story. I'll always have your back, scales, tail and all!" Mom answered seriously,

"...and no, I'm not getting sad! I am so thankful to her for bringing you to life and giving me the BESTEST sparkling hugger ever!"

A book spread from 'The Smurfs: The Movie'. The left page features a purple Smurf with large green eyes and a pink nose, looking up at a full moon and stars. The right page shows Papa Smurf, a large green Smurf with a white beard and a red bandana, looking down at the purple Smurf. The background is a dark blue night sky with a full moon, stars, and some clouds. The text is written in a black, serif font.

*"Do you love me as much as if I
had come out of your belly?"
Lizzy whispered.*

*"Even more than all the
sprinkles on all the cupcakes
in the world!" she chuckled.*

*"We love you to the stars and
back, JUST for being you!"*



Lizzy smiled a big, toothy grin. She started to feel like maybe, just maybe, she belonged here.

She realized that it was **okay** to feel torn sometimes, and it didn't mean she loved her new family any less.



She could love her swamp friends, her birth parents, and her new family all at the same time. Her heart was big enough for all that love!



She hugged her mom super tight, feeling all the love and warmth like a big, squishy bear hug.

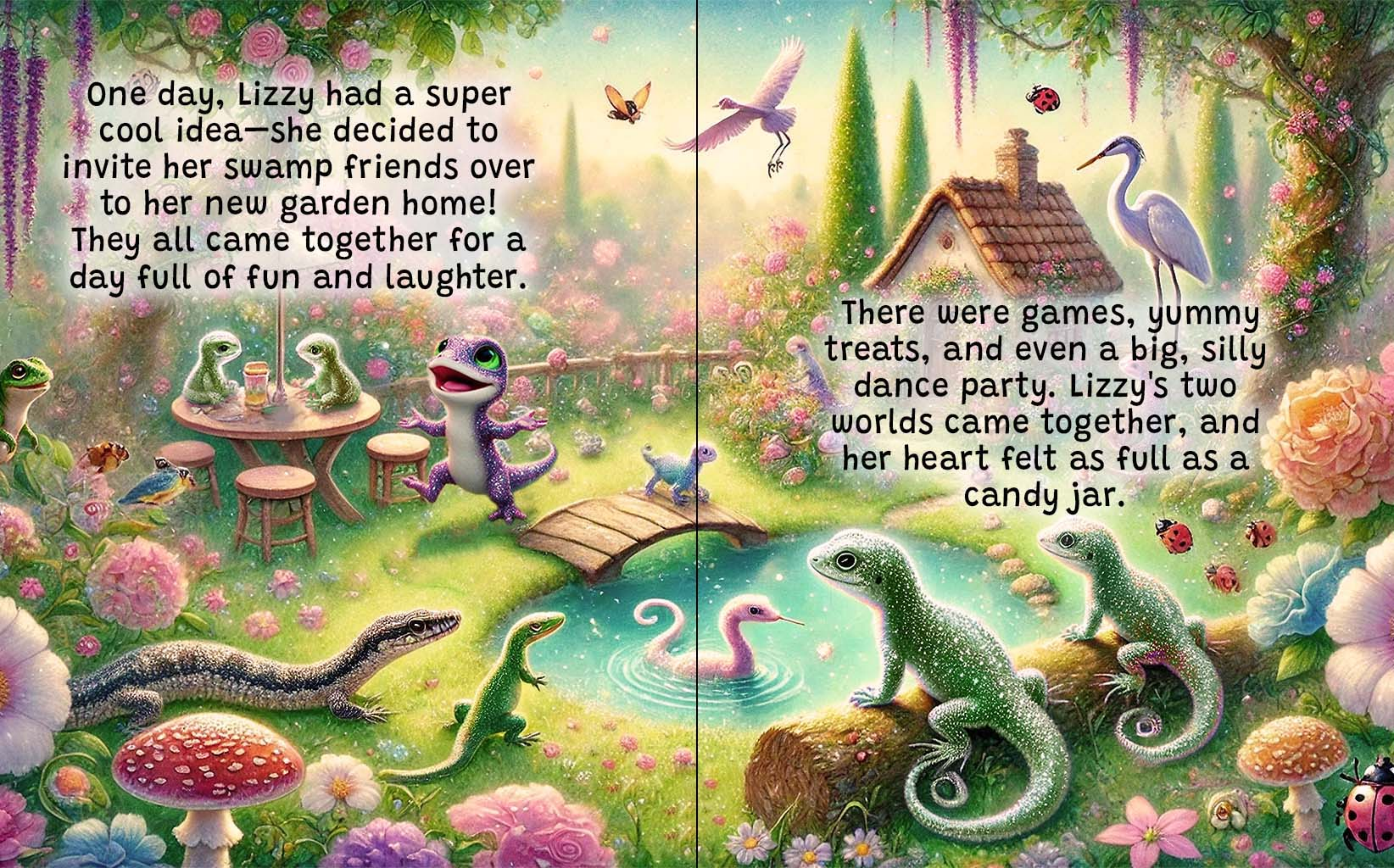
From that day on,
Lizzy felt much
happier. She played
with her new
brothers and sisters,
climbed trees,

and had so much
fun with her forever
family.

She also knew that
whenever she missed
her friends in the
swamp, she could
visit them, and they
would always be there
to welcome her with
big smiles.



One day, Lizzy had a super cool idea—she decided to invite her swamp friends over to her new garden home! They all came together for a day full of fun and laughter.



There were games, yummy treats, and even a big, silly dance party. Lizzy's two worlds came together, and her heart felt as full as a candy jar.



As the sun started to set,
Lizzy stood up in front of her
friends and family and said,

*"I used to wonder if I'd ever
really belong. But now I know
that family isn't just about
where you come from, but it's
all about love and hugs and
being there for each other. I'm
so lucky to have found my
forever home, and I will
always love the friends and
family I have. I think my heart
grew **three sizes** today!"*

Her friends and
family cheered and
clapped and gave
her the biggest
group hug ever.

"We love you, Lizzy!"
They all knew that
Lizzy was truly
special, and they were
all so glad to be part
of her story.

And so, Lizzy the lizard learned that family is about love, hugs, and belonging.

And that it's okay to have lots of feelings and questions. She found her forever home with her new family, while still keeping the friends she loved in the swamp close to her heart.

Lizzy knew that no matter what, she was loved for being just her **AMAZING**, sparkly self.

Lizzy was truly happy, knowing she was exactly where she was meant to be—with all the people (and critters) who loved her to bits.





About the Author

Dimitris grew up in Greece, surrounded by stories and imagination. Now a father, he finds endless joy and discovery in parenthood, which inspires him to create meaningful stories that help young readers explore who they are, one tale at a time. Through his books, Dimitris hopes to encourage children to embrace their unique identities and celebrate what makes them special.

Dimitris is the author of **Extra-Special Family: A Heartwarming Story About Being Chosen and Loved**, where Willow, a curious kitten, learns that family is defined by love, not just by where you come from. This gentle story introduces the concept of adoption, helping children understand and embrace the unique love that makes their families special.

He also wrote **Sophie's Magic Mirror: Discovering Who I Am Through Imagination**, where Sophie and her daddy explore a magical journey of self-discovery through playful imagination. This heartwarming tale empowers children to embrace their individuality and gain confidence in who they are.

When he's not writing, Dimitris enjoys capturing the story of his daughter's childhood through photography.

Other Heartwarming Stories by Dimitris



Extra-Special Family: A Heartwarming Story About Being Chosen and Loved



Sophie's Magic Mirror: Discovering Who I Am Through Imagination

Lizzy Finds Her Forever Family

A Sparkly Tale of Love and Belonging

Join Lizzy, the little lizard with sparkly scales, on a heartwarming adventure of love, hugs, and finding where she truly belongs!

In the green and squishy swamp, Lizzy loves playing with her friends and climbing tall, twisty trees. But sometimes, she feels a funny flutter in her tummy and wonders why she feels different from everyone else.

When a kind crane arrives with news about a family who has been dreaming of a lizard just like her, Lizzy sets off on a big adventure to a beautiful garden. Along the way, she learns that it's okay to have lots of feelings and questions.

Will Lizzy find her forever home? Can her heart be big enough for more families?

"Lizzy Finds Her Forever Family" is a sparkly tale about love, belonging, and the wonderful ways families can grow. This story reminds us all that family isn't just about where you come from—it's about who loves you to the stars and back!

