



Beato is a curious little cat with a heart for adventure.
On his fifth birthday, Beato sets off to explore the world.
Join Beato on his first adventure to Greenland.

After Greenland, where might Beato go next?

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Beato Goes to Israel and *Beato Goes to Indonesia*.

MASCOT
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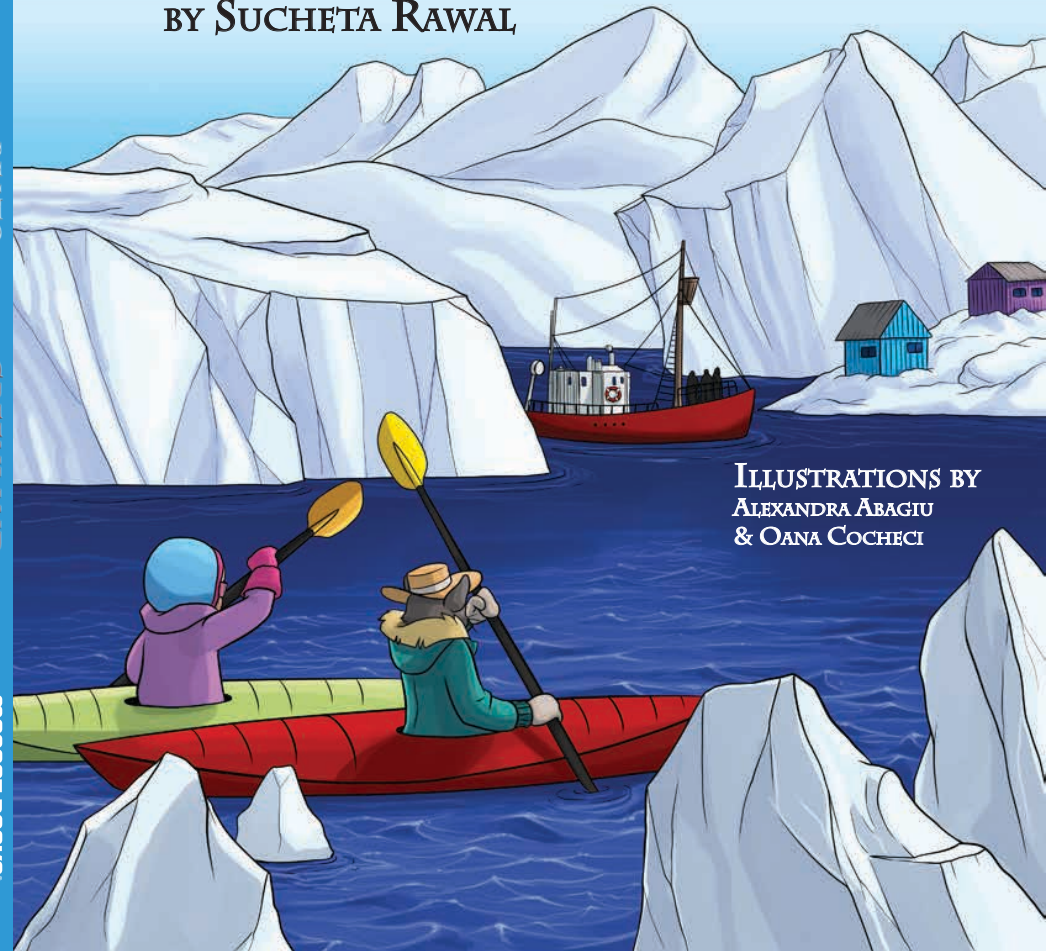
SUCHETA RAWAL

BEATO GOES TO GREENLAND

MASCOT BOOKS

BEATO GOES TO GREENLAND

BY SUCHETA RAWAL



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
ALEXANDRA ABAGIU
& OANA COCHECI

Dedicated to Ina, Agathe, and Kalista
at Ipiutaq Guest Farm in Greenland,
for welcoming me into their home
and giving me a true flavor of
the Greenlandic lifestyle.



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Beato Goes to Greenland

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On a sunny afternoon in the suburbs of Atlanta, a little grey kitten was born. The kitten's mommy, Olga, lived with a Russian family she liked very much. His daddy, KiA, was the handsome next-door neighbor Olga had fallen in love with.

"He's beautiful," said Olga, lovingly admiring their newborn kitten. "He even has seven toes like me."

"He looks like he's wearing oven mitts!" said KiA. Good thing he has my majestic Persian face!"



Unfortunately, the Russian family decided they did not want to keep the kitten, so they put an advertisement in the newspaper to give him up for adoption.

A few days later, an Indian couple came to see him. They instantly liked him and decided to adopt him.

"What should we call him?" asked the Indian man.

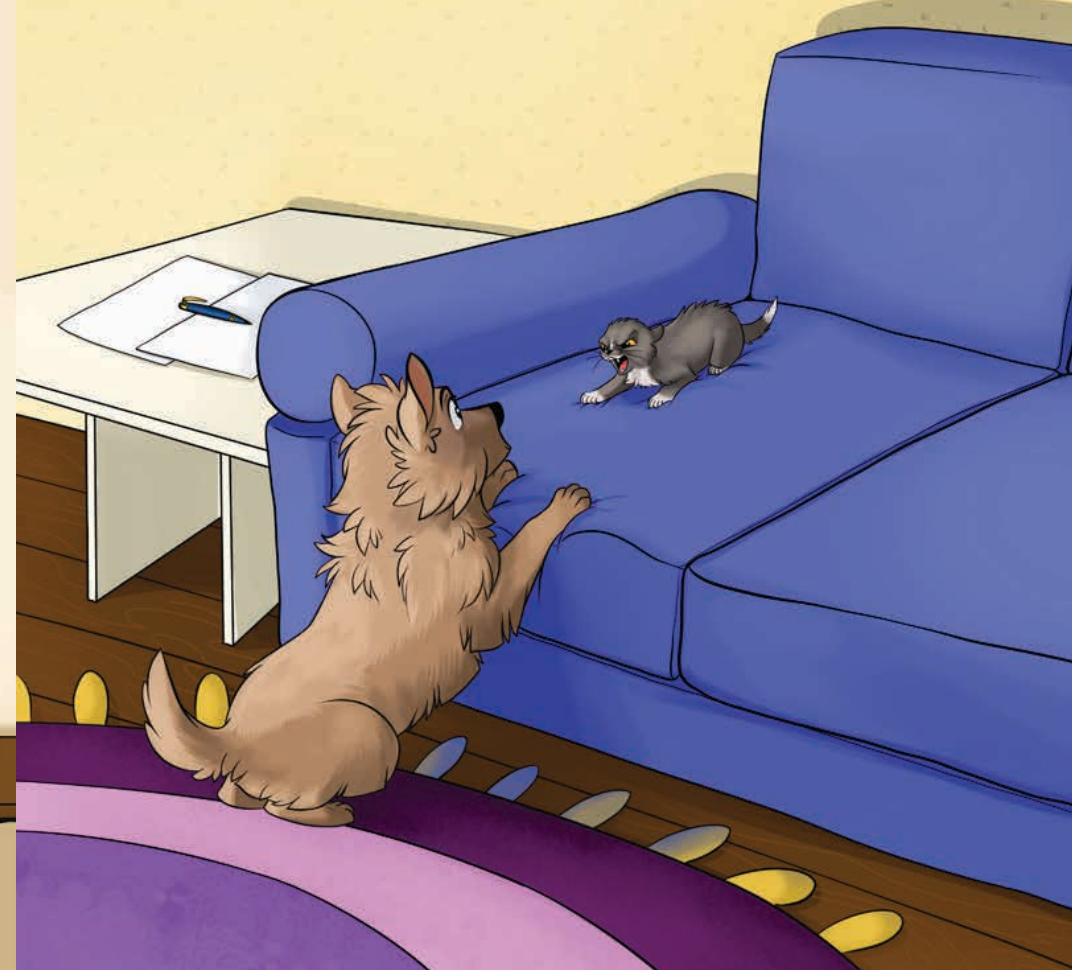
"How about Beato?" the lady quickly replied. "It means happy in Latin, and he looks like a happy fella." So they decided to name him Beato (Bee-aa-to), The Happy Gato.



As soon as Beato entered his new home, he was bombarded by the smell of curry and a very excited dog with a wet tongue. *I don't like this drool*, thought Beato at once. *I must learn to protect myself from this stinky saliva!*

"Russo, this is your new baby brother, Beato," said Beato's new mommy. "He's only six weeks old. Be nice to him."

Russo stared at Beato to get a good look at this new creature on his territory. Beato wanted to make sure they started off on the right track, so he stood his ground, gathered all his spit, and hissed. *Now he knows who's boss*, Beato thought bravely.




Beato and Russo soon became fast friends. Beato greeted Russo each morning with a head bump and followed him around the house all day.

When Russo went on his evening walk, Beato wailed and cried, and sat at the window, waiting for Russo to return.



Their favorite thing to do together was to listen to their mommy and daddy talk about their travels around the world. Beato often thought about his lineage. His biological father was Persian, he was born in a Russian home, his adopted parents were Indian, his brother was Scottish, and he himself had an Italian name. He looked at the world map in his living room and thought, *How are all these countries different? What are the people who live there like? What do they do? What do they eat?*

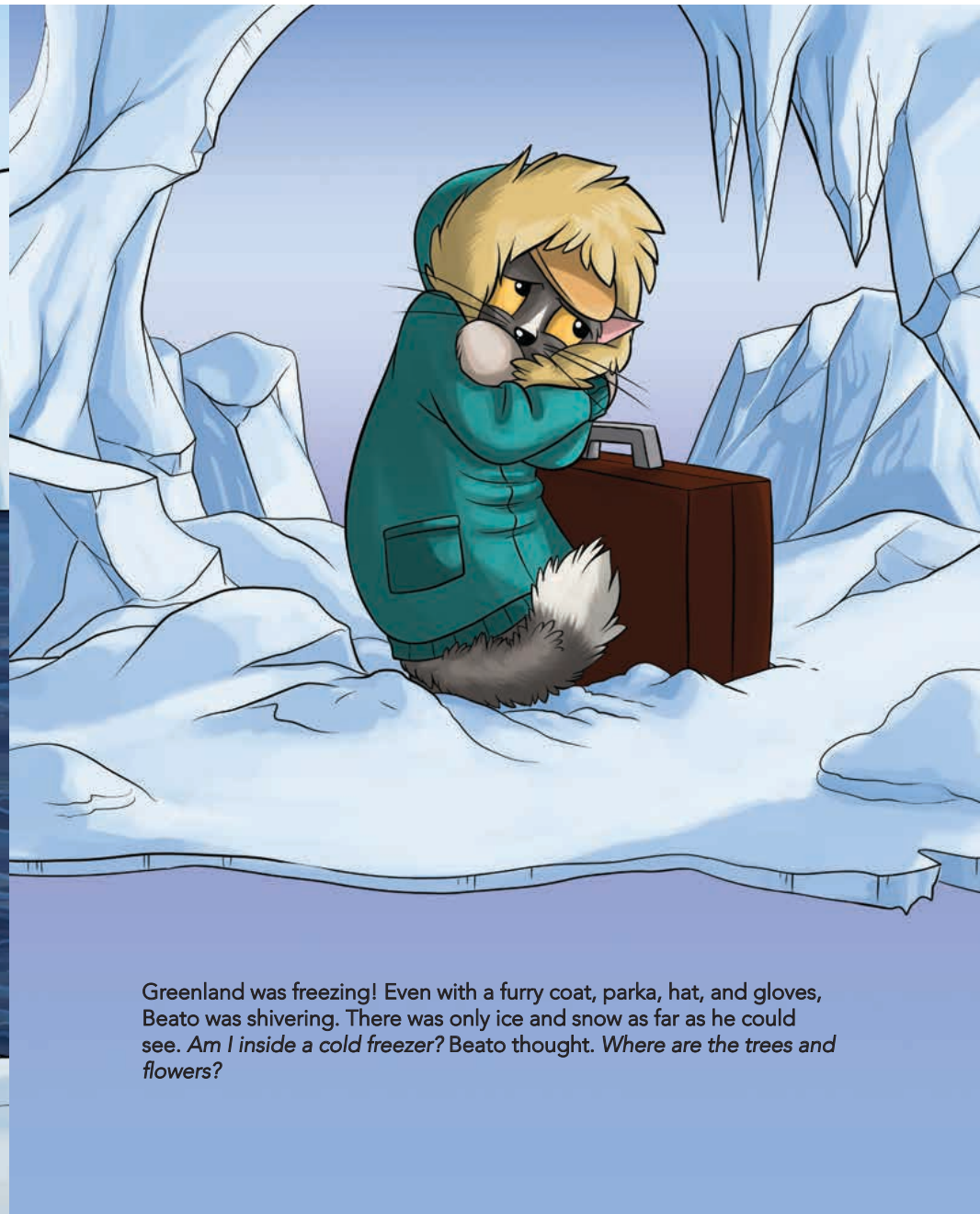


On his fifth birthday, Beato decided he was going to go explore the world. He asked Russo to join him, but Russo was getting too old for such travels.

The next morning, Beato packed his bags with catnip flavored treats, a water bottle, his favorite squeaky mouse, and an old iPhone. Then his mommy and daddy saw him off.

Beato decided to go to Greenland. *It'll be nice and green, he thought, with lots of flowers and trees.*

But he was so wrong!



Greenland was freezing! Even with a furry coat, parka, hat, and gloves, Beato was shivering. There was only ice and snow as far as he could see. *Am I inside a cold freezer? Beato thought. Where are the trees and flowers?*

Just then, two big, black dogs came charging towards Beato. His heart skipped a beat. He wanted to escape but there wasn't a tree to climb. They were right on him!

"Naa Ilan! Naa Ali!" cried a voice. It was a little girl.

The dogs heard the command and obeyed.

"That was close!" exclaimed Beato as he came face to face with the ferocious animals.



"Thanks a lot!" exclaimed Beato to the girl. "Where am I?"

"You're in Ipiutaq (Eee-pee-tok), Greenland," she replied. "My name's Ina and this is my sheep farm."

"Greenland?" Beato cried. "But there's nothing green here!"

"That's because almost eighty percent of it is covered in ice!" Ina explained. "We call it Kalaallit Nunaat (kaa-la-lit-nuu-naa-t) in Greenlandic. Do you want to have a look around?"

"Yes, please," said Beato.



"In Greenland, we have to travel on a sleigh with our husky dogs," Ina explained as they journeyed together. "They're not pets. They live outside the city in a dog park. Every home in the village has their own herd of dogs and they keep their sleds in their garages just like a car."

"Wow, I'm glad I'm a cat!" exclaimed Beato.



"This is Greenland's Ilulissat (il-loo-lee-sat) Icefjord," said Ina, continuing the tour. "We're 250 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle!"

"And what's that?" asked Beato pointing to a far off body of water.

"It's Disko Bay. It's where the people from the North, called the Norsemen, used to live during the summer months."



When they reached Kangerlussuaq (ganger-loo-slu-slak), Beato and Ina stopped and tied the dogs in a shed. "Are you ready for a hike?" asked Ina. "We're going to see the Greenland Ice Sheet," she added, handing Beato a pair of trekking poles.

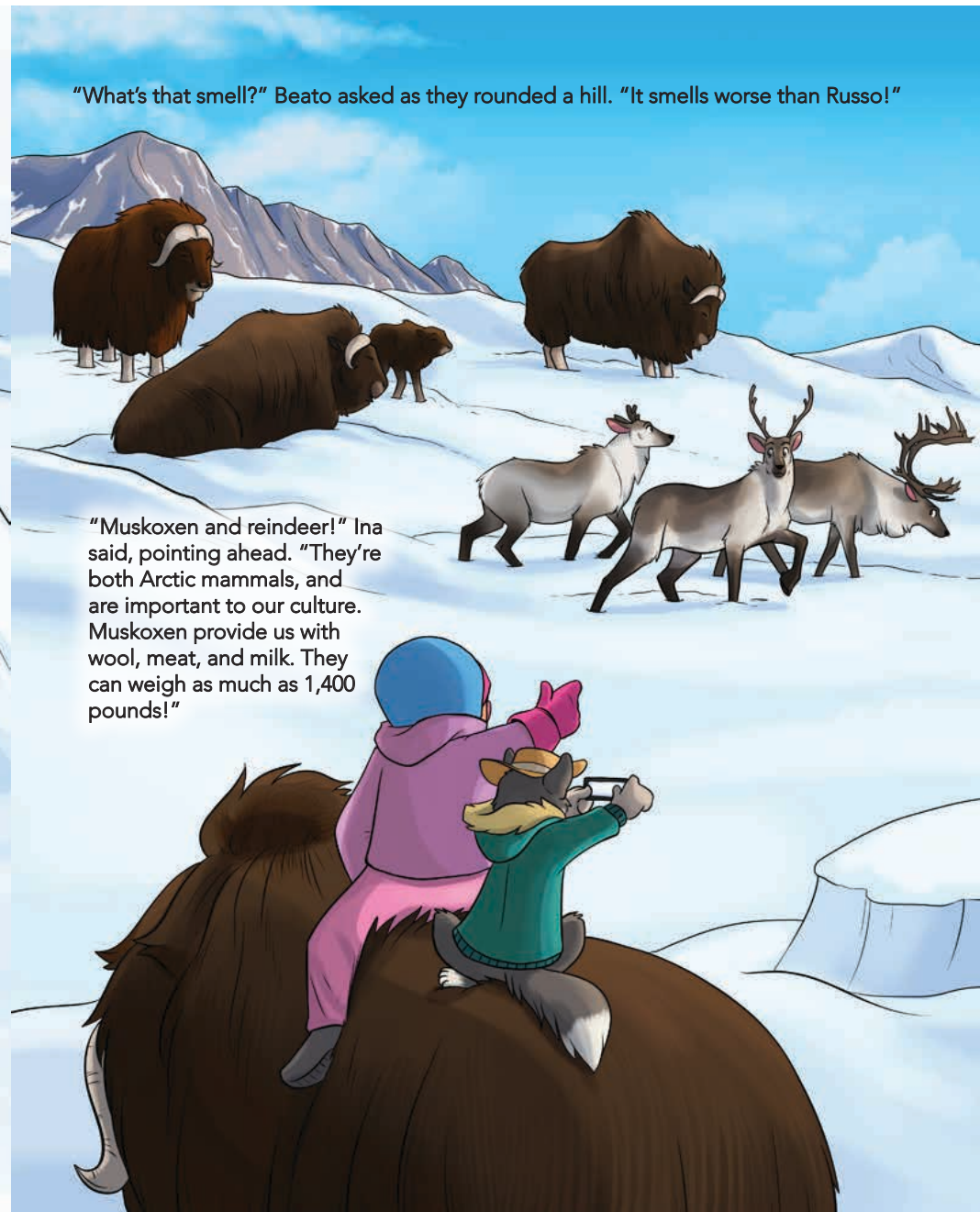
"Now I feel like a real explorer!" said Beato. "Let's go!"



"Slow down!" Ina screamed. "Watch out for the polar bears!"

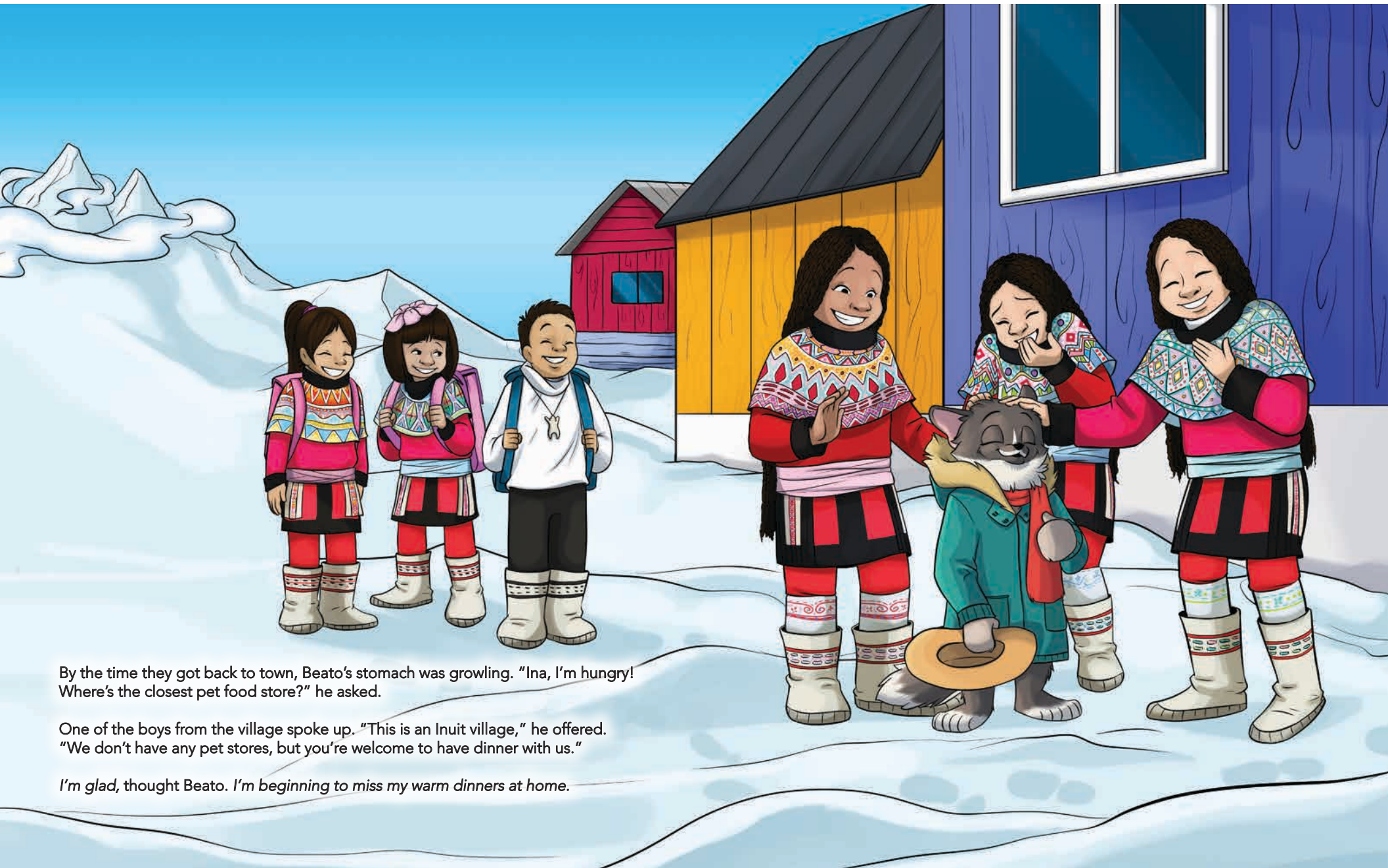
Beato's eyes widened as he stopped suddenly. "I've never seen a polar bear before. They're huge!"

"The biggest bear in the world!" added Ina. "Let's keep going."



"What's that smell?" Beato asked as they rounded a hill. "It smells worse than Russo!"

"Muskoxen and reindeer!" Ina said, pointing ahead. "They're both Arctic mammals, and are important to our culture. Muskoxen provide us with wool, meat, and milk. They can weigh as much as 1,400 pounds!"

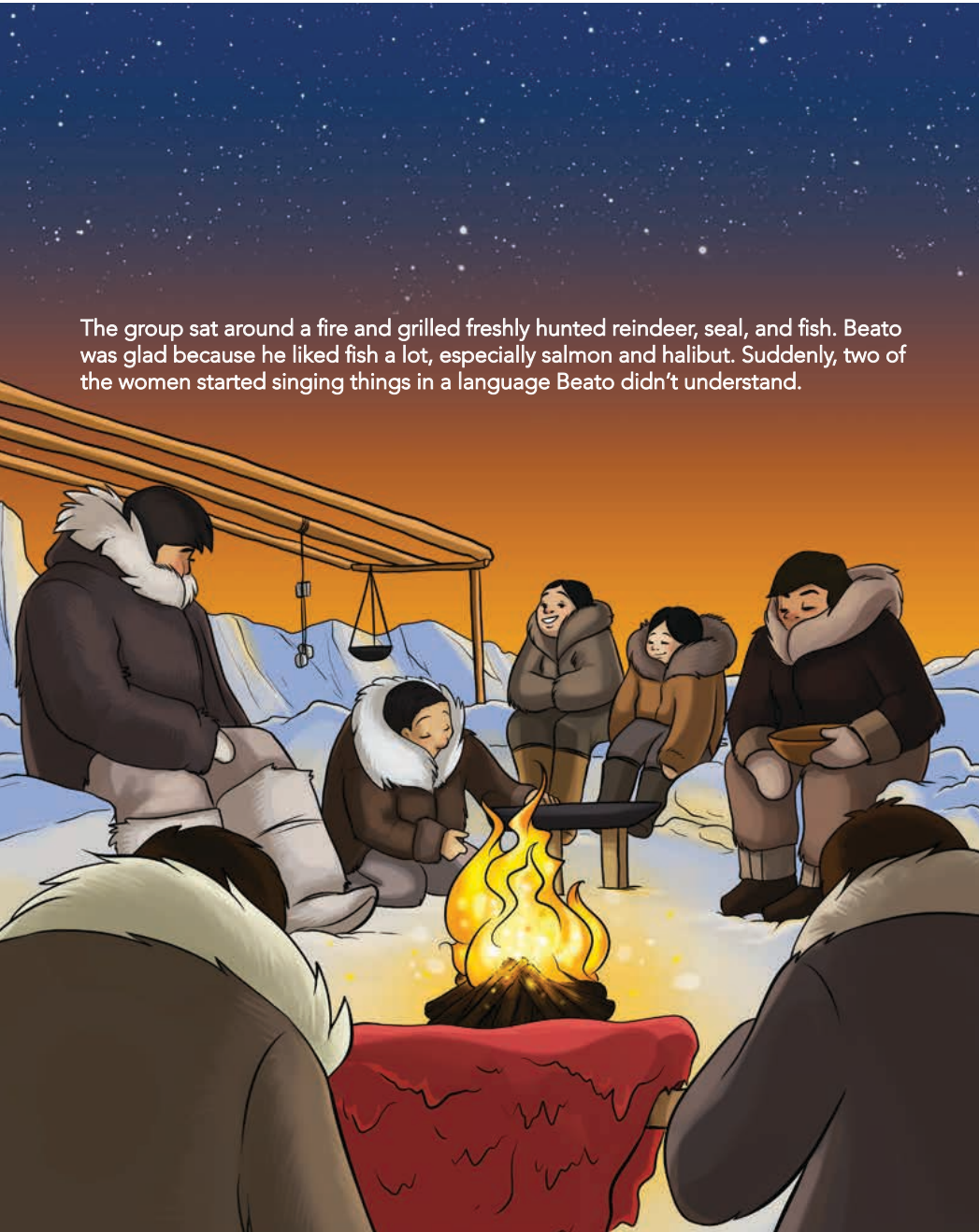


By the time they got back to town, Beato's stomach was growling. "Ina, I'm hungry! Where's the closest pet food store?" he asked.

One of the boys from the village spoke up. "This is an Inuit village," he offered. "We don't have any pet stores, but you're welcome to have dinner with us."

I'm glad, thought Beato. I'm beginning to miss my warm dinners at home.

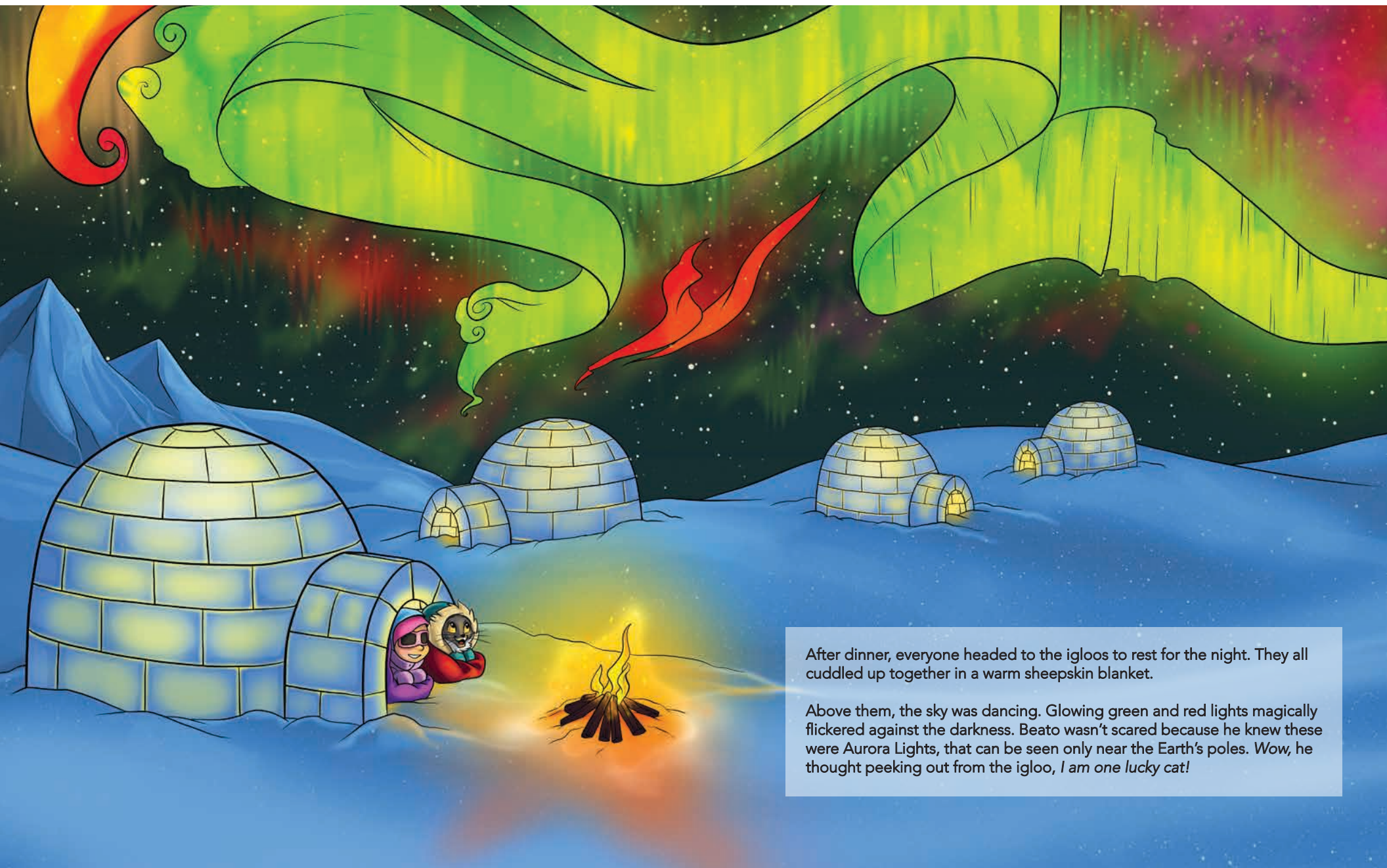
The group sat around a fire and grilled freshly hunted reindeer, seal, and fish. Beato was glad because he liked fish a lot, especially salmon and halibut. Suddenly, two of the women started singing things in a language Beato didn't understand.



"Sea lion, walrus, penguin, polar bear, seal, caribou," they recited. Then they made animal noises, "Hubb-bubba-hhuua-meeh."

"It's a vocal game," Ina whispered to Beato. "We love them here."

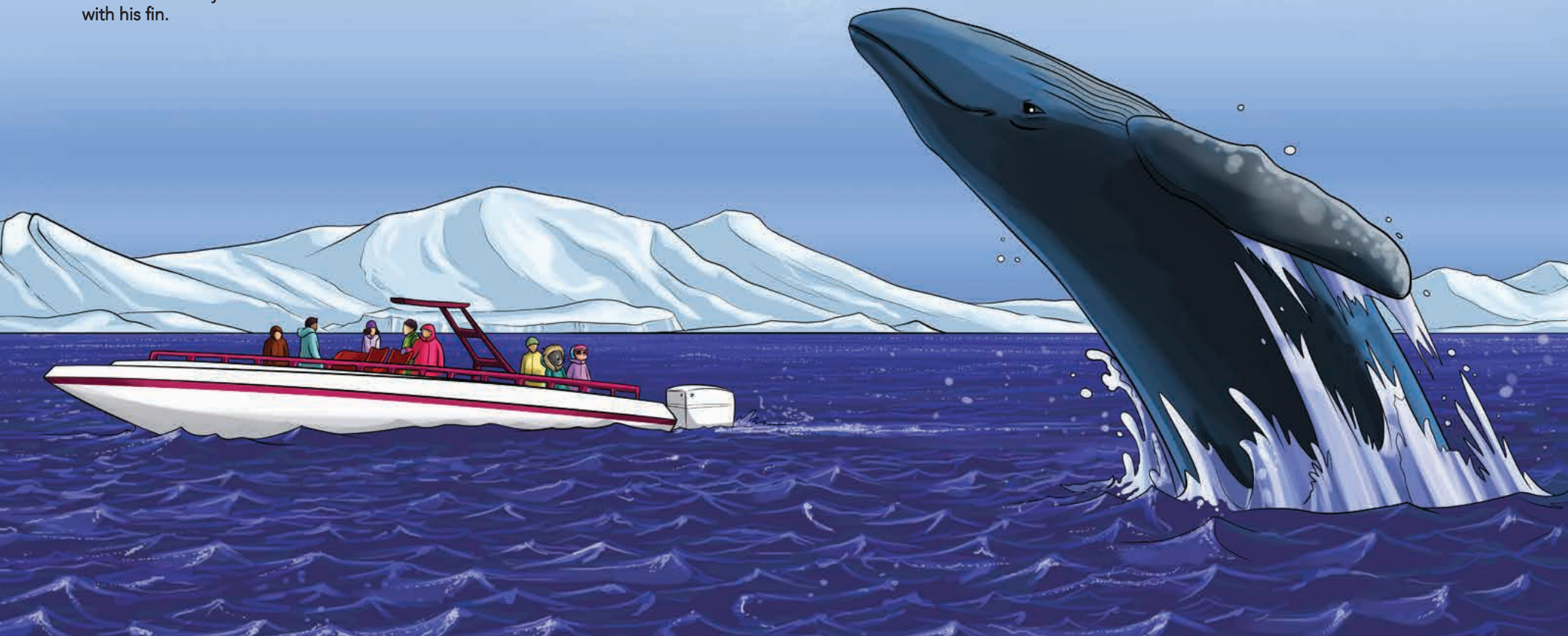


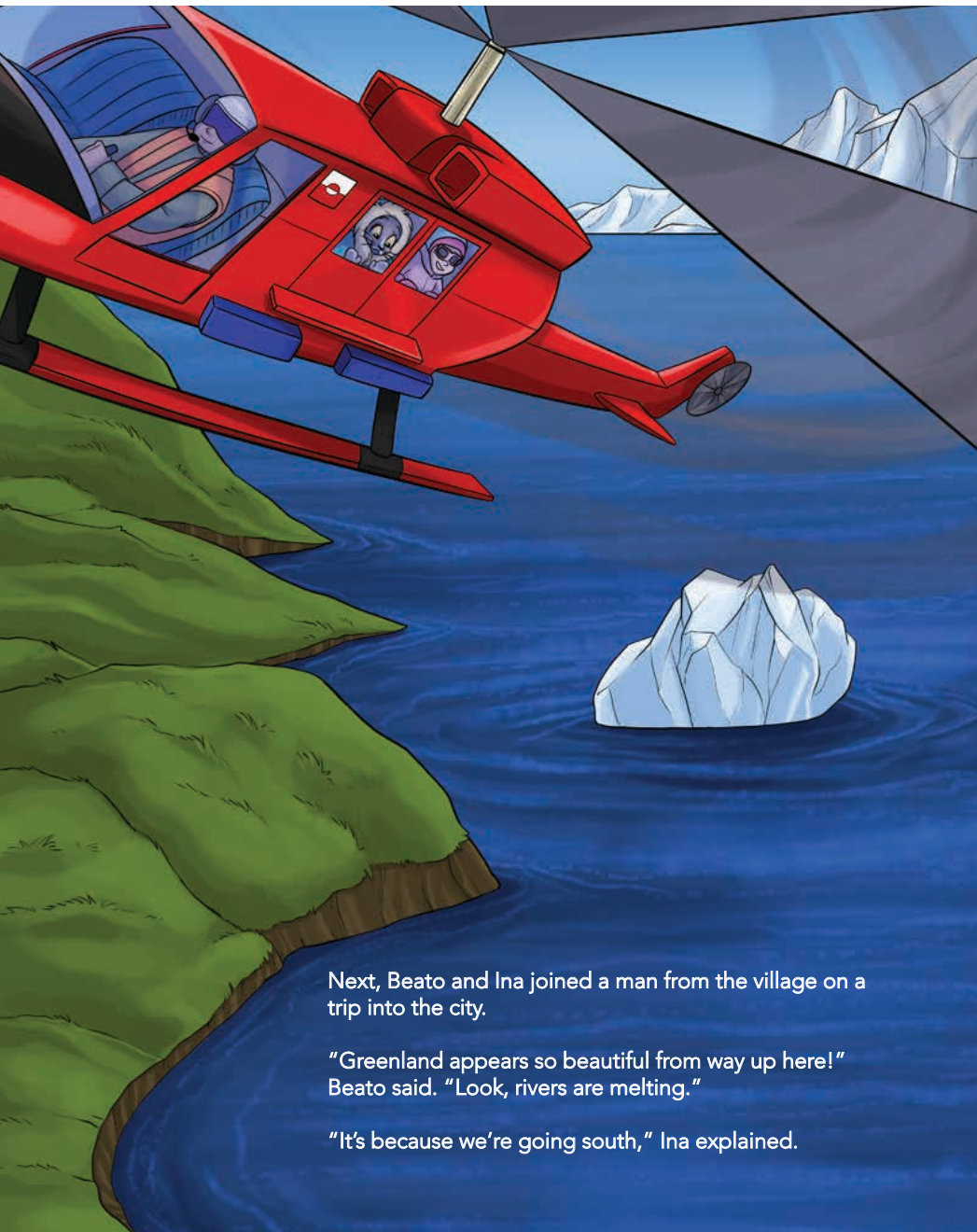


After dinner, everyone headed to the igloos to rest for the night. They all cuddled up together in a warm sheepskin blanket.

Above them, the sky was dancing. Glowing green and red lights magically flickered against the darkness. Beato wasn't scared because he knew these were Aurora Lights, that can be seen only near the Earth's poles. Wow, he thought peeking out from the igloo, *I am one lucky cat!*

The next day, Beato and Ina took a boat into the bay. Beato heard a loud splash and suddenly a humungous humpback whale jumped out of the water into the sky. Beato and Ina waved at the whale and he fluttered back with his fin.





Next, Beato and Ina joined a man from the village on a trip into the city.

"Greenland appears so beautiful from way up here!" Beato said. "Look, rivers are melting."

"It's because we're going south," Ina explained.

They landed in the middle of farmlands where lots of vegetables and fruits were growing. "It's finally green in Greenland!" said Beato.

Ina picked a ripe carrot from the ground and took a bite. "This is so juicy and sweet!" She was delighted.

One of the farmers offered Beato a basket of fresh catnip herbs. Beato was so excited, he licked the farmer! Then he spent the entire afternoon playing with his catnip.



Next, they visited a hot spring. Ina slid into the warm water and even Beato couldn't resist the naturally warm mineral tub.

"I have to show you one last place in Greenland, Beato," Ina said as they soaked.



"This is Nuuk, the capital of Greenland. It's the biggest city in the country and you can find anything here," said Ina as they walked around the busy streets.

"Can you find cat treats here?" asked Beato.



"Of course! Follow me, I know just the place." Ina led Beato to a supermarket and they bought Beato's favorite treats with their Danish Krone.

Although he didn't want to leave Greenland, Beato had to board his airplane from the airport in Nuuk.

"Thanks for showing me around and saving me from those dogs," Beato said. "Now I know that Greenland is not just green. It is white, snowy, and so beautiful!"

"We are a unique country, far away from the rest of the world," Ina whispered, waving a sad goodbye.

"I know I have a lot to see and more kind people like you to meet, but I'll come back and visit soon," promised Beato.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sucheta Rawal is an award-winning food and travel writer, cooking instructor, and philanthropist. As the founder of Go Eat Give, a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit, Sucheta's personal mission is to raise cultural and diversity awareness through meaningful travel, ethnic food, and community interaction. The organization educates people through international tours, cooking classes, speaker events, and a blog.

Originally from India, Sucheta moved to United States at the age of seventeen, and received her Bachelors and Masters in Finance from Georgia State University. After working as an investment banker and a corporate consultant, she decided to pursue her passion for food and travel. Sucheta has been a freelance writer for various print and digital publications, including *CNN*, *Creative Loafing*, and *The Huffington Post*. She also motivates kids and adults to follow their own passion and travel with a purpose, by speaking at corporations, schools, universities, women's organizations, travel shows, and conferences.

Sucheta was named one of the five most influential bloggers on culture in the world by the Foundation of Florence, Italy in 2012. She was a finalist for the Atlanta Press Club 2012 Award of Excellence, and nominated for Caribbean Journalism Award 2015. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and furry babies. Inspired by a true story, *Beato Goes to Greenland* is her first children's book.

Visit her website: www.suchetarawal.com