

THE  
MISSING  
BOOKSHOP

For all my fellow indie booksellers – Katie



To Linda and Dave Drayton, my  
mamma and pops, for instilling a love  
of reading and books in me – Kirsti



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# THE MISSING BOOKSHOP



Katie  
Clapham

Kirsti  
Beautyman

# “The End,”

Mrs Minty said as she closed the book and smiled at the children on the rainbow carpet.





“Thank you for coming to story time  
and I hope to see you all next week.”



Milly never missed story time at Minty's Bookshop. Mrs Minty knew about every book in the whole world. Milly liked to set her challenges.

“One with a bear in!”



“One with pirates!”



“Ponies?”

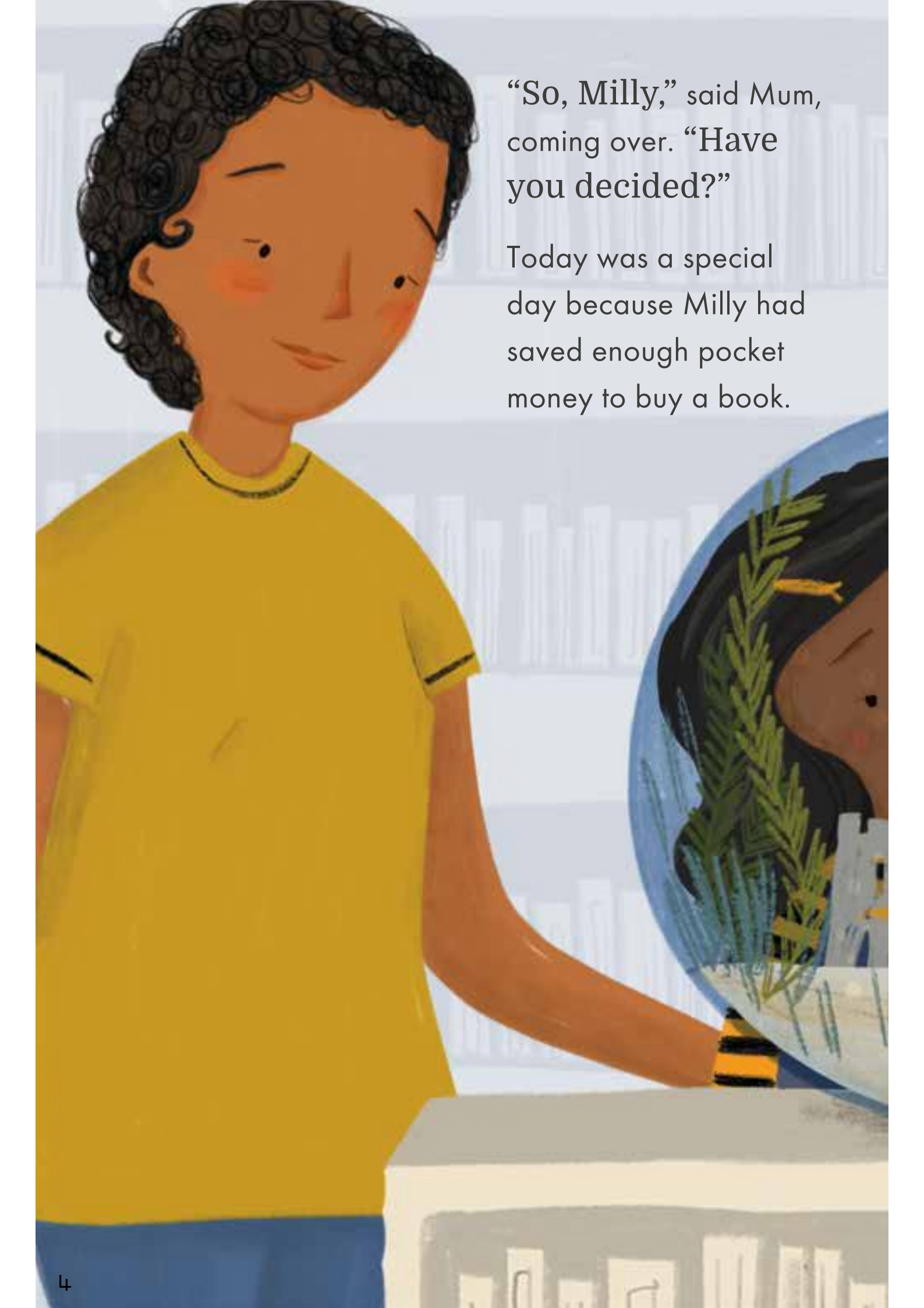


“Aliens!”



Mrs Minty always  
had just the thing.



An illustration of a young boy with dark, curly hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, looking towards a girl on the right. The girl has dark hair and is wearing a blue dress with a green leafy branch in her hair. They are in a library, with bookshelves filled with books in the background. The boy's expression is thoughtful or listening.

“So, Milly,” said Mum, coming over. “Have you decided?”

Today was a special day because Milly had saved enough pocket money to buy a book.



“I think I’d like some sort of

**sea adventure,”**

Milly replied excitedly.

“Aha!” said Mrs Minty. “I have  
just the thing!”





Mrs Minty got up from her creaky wooden story chair.

“Goodness! I’m getting a bit creaky, too!”

she said. She smiled but Milly couldn’t help noticing how slowly she walked.

Mrs Minty trailed her fingers along one of the shelves and pulled out a book with a turquoise cover and gold writing.

“I think you’ll like this,” she said, her eyes twinkling. “It’s full of mermaids and sea monsters.”

Milly took the book and opened it at the first page.



“Hang on, Milly,”

Mum called.

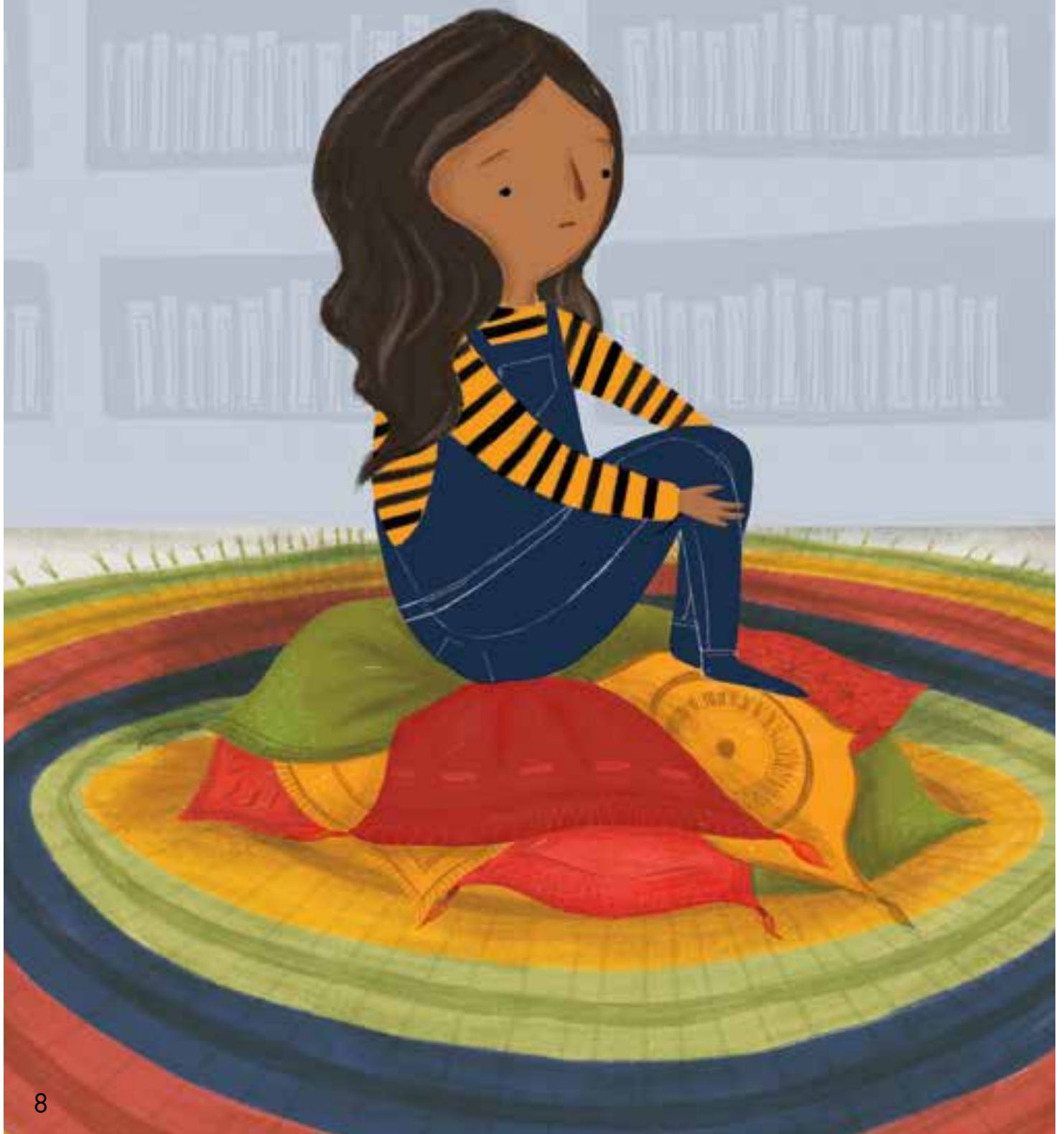
“We need to pay for it first! Why don’t you tidy up the story area while I find your pocket money for Mrs Minty?”




Milly handed her mum the book and went to collect up the colourful cushions.

The colours didn't look that bright any more.

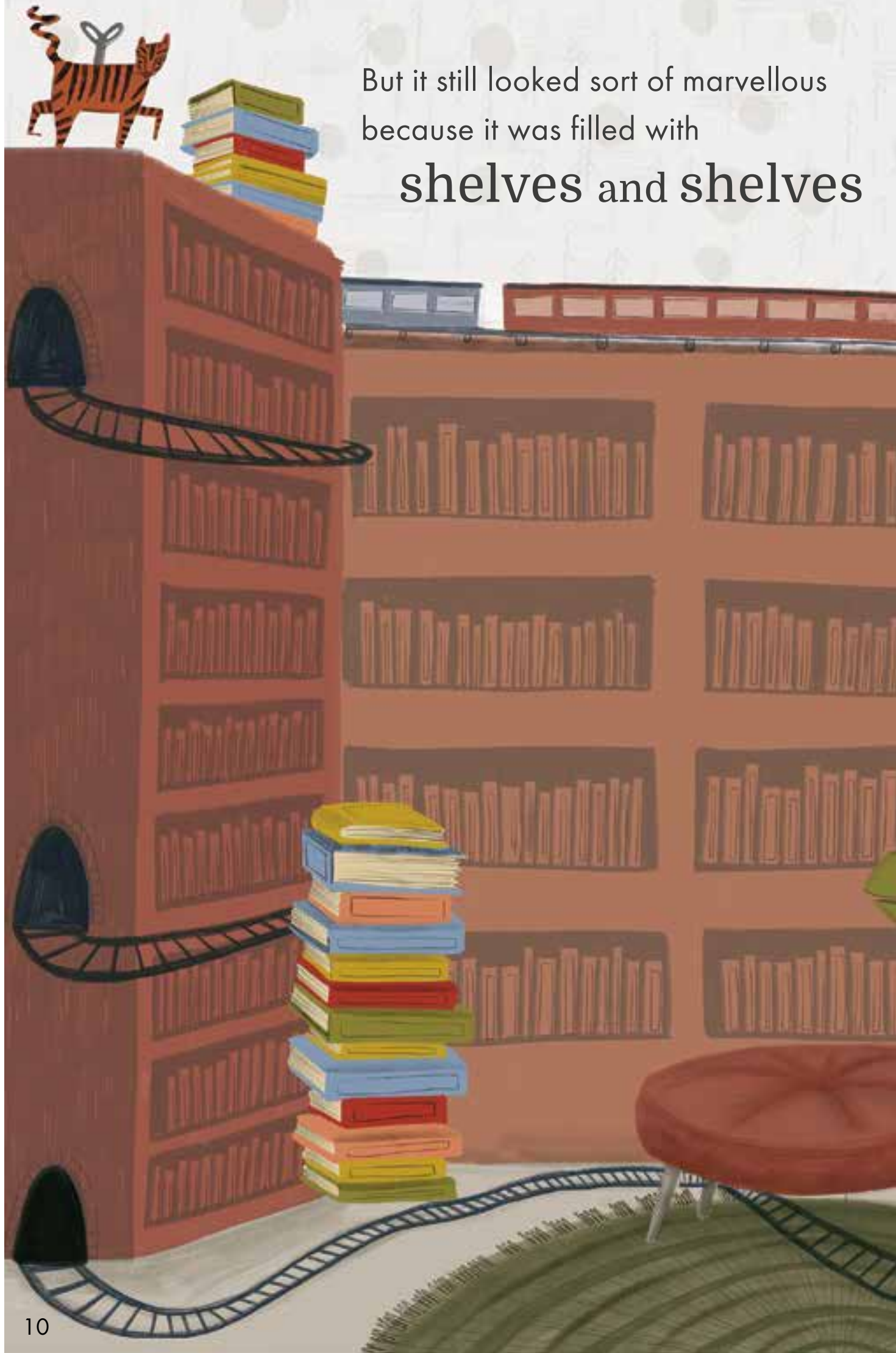
She turned one over to see if the other side looked better but that was all worn, too.





An illustration of a bookshop. A woman in a yellow shirt and dark pants stands in a doorway on the left, looking towards a woman with long blonde hair and glasses sitting at a desk. The woman at the desk is looking at a computer monitor. On the desk are a stack of colorful books, a pen holder, and a small blue book. Behind the desk is a bookshelf filled with books. To the right of the desk is a potted plant. On the wall behind the woman at the desk is a framed picture of a woman sitting on a chair. In the foreground, there is a large, colorful, circular rug with concentric bands of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. A stack of colorful books is on the floor in the bottom right corner.

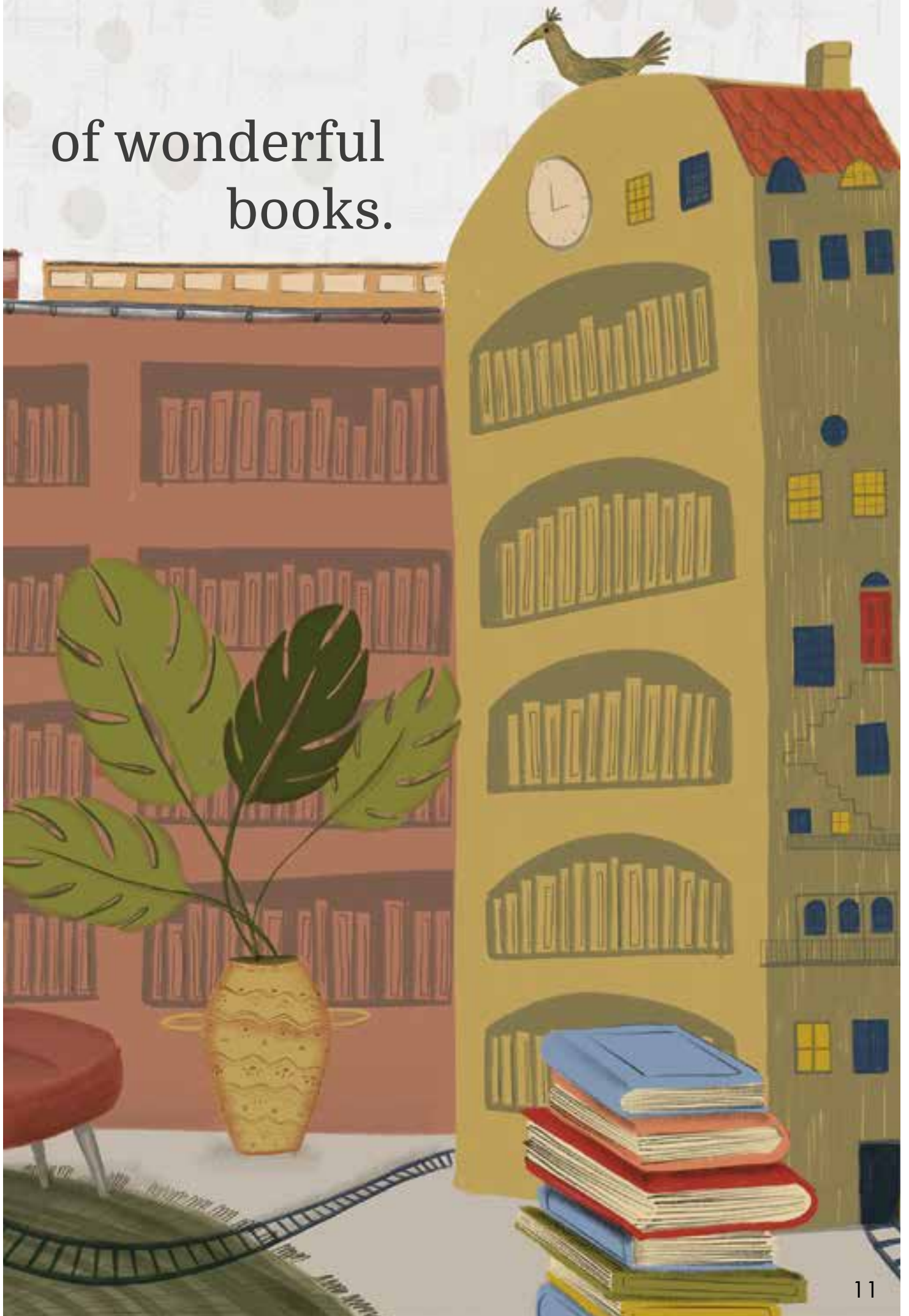
Looking round the bookshop she could see the paint was starting to peel off round the window frames and the curtains were faded.



But it still looked sort of marvellous  
because it was filled with  
**shelves and shelves**



of wonderful  
books.





Milly glanced over at the picture of Mrs Minty and her daughter sitting on the wooden story chair when it was brand new.

**Mrs Minty looked quite different now.**

In the picture, Mrs Minty didn't have her little reading glasses and her long silver hair was as red as an apple.

“Time to go, Milly,”  
her mum called.





