

KAMIE CAT'S TERRIBLE NIGHT



Sheila Hamanaka

Scratching Post Road

F

Scratch

Feline Bou

Pur

Feline Boulevard

To my ever-cool dad Conrad
Hamanaka, my forever
friend Kalluk (aka "Mr. K"),
Sachiko's grandfather DoDo,
and Ava's beloved Kamie.
You all joined the ancestors
much too soon.

Furball Lane

Shelter Avenue

Purring Lane

Furball



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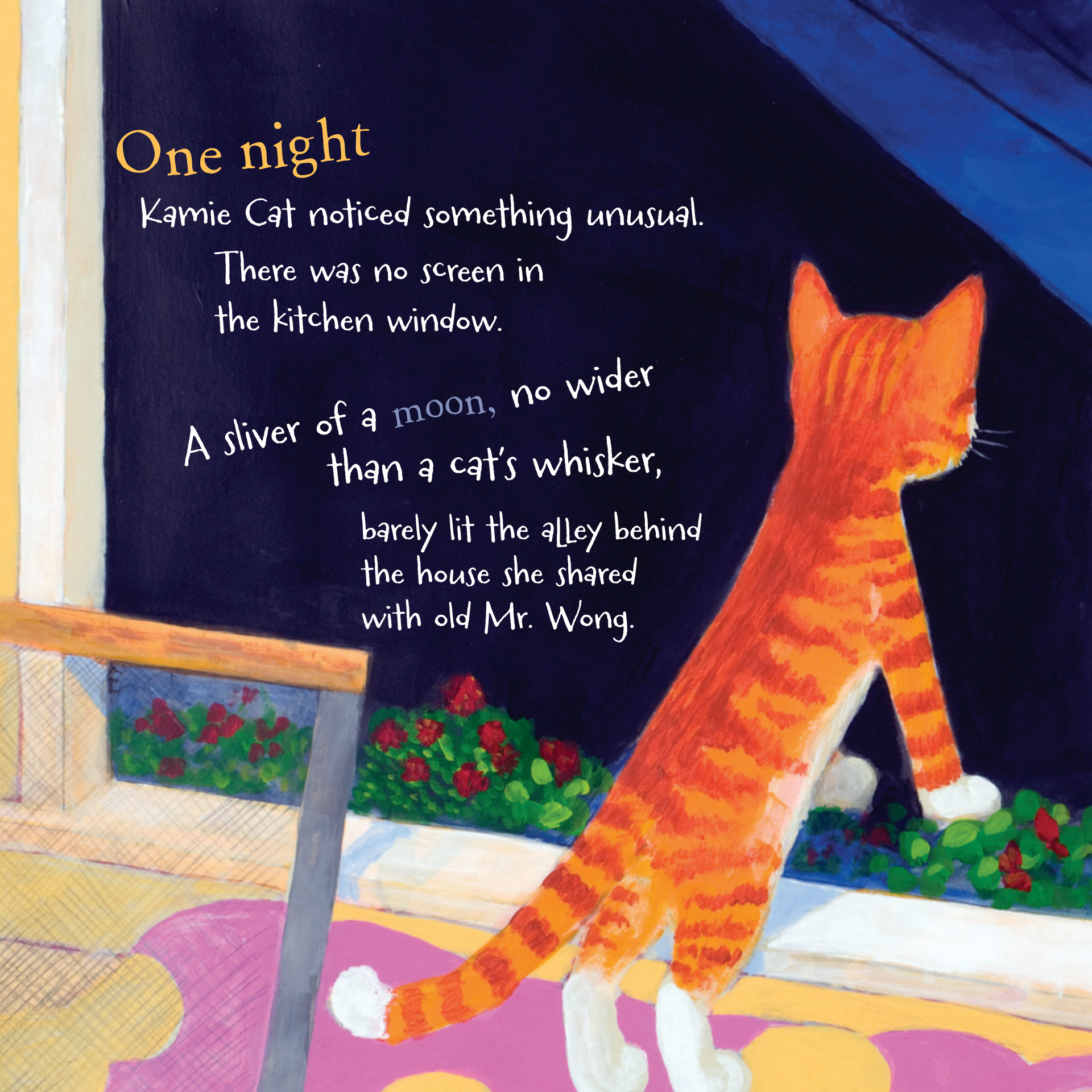
One night

Kamie Cat noticed something unusual.

There was no screen in
the kitchen window.

A sliver of a moon, no wider
than a cat's whisker,

barely lit the alley behind
the house she shared
with old Mr. Wong.



A night scene with a dark blue sky and a crescent moon. In the background, a house is visible with a string of colorful lights (red, yellow, green, blue, orange) hanging from its roof. A green car is parked in front of the house. In the foreground, a large, light blue watering can is visible, with its handle and spout extending towards the left. The watering can is positioned in front of a planter box containing green plants and red flowers. The overall scene is illuminated by the lights from the house and the ambient night light.

Music and the delicious smell of fried fish floated
in on the night air.

Someone was
having a party!

Kamie had never been to a party,
and fish was her favorite food.

Quicker than a wink,

Kamie Cat went out through
the open window.



It was a **big mistake.**

From the other end of the alley,
Kamie saw a big, black shape
charging toward her.

A dog!

He, or she, was
barking like crazy.



Kamie ran.

She ran through one
backyard, and then another.

She ran up a tree, but
unfortunately it was a small tree.



The dog jumped up and knocked her to the ground.
Kamie Cat landed on her feet and ran...
right into the **street!**



Something even **bigger**
and faster than the dog
was headed right toward her!

It had **two big eyes**, each one
brighter than the full moon!



Kamie ran and
climbed over fences,
garbage cans,



and
gazebos.



Fortunately, the dog
and the thing with big yellow
eyes were gone.

Unfortunately,
Kamie was **lost.**
And lonely.

How she missed her best
friend, Mr. Wong!

In Kamie's
neighborhood all the little
houses looked the same.

Was this her house?
Kamie peeked inside.

Yum!



A woman was serving her cat
fresh food and water in clean bowls.

"MEOW!" Kamie yowled.
"I'm hungry, too!"

The woman looked up.
But instead of inviting Kamie
to dinner, she yelled,

"SHOO!
GO AWAY!"



On the next block
she peeked
into another
window.



Inside,
a little boy was brushing
a cat with a
soft brush.

Kamie sighed.

Mr. Wong brushed
her every day!

Kamie almost meowed
but she remembered
how the lady had
yelled at her.

She kept going.



At the next house
Kamie watched a man
clean a cat box.

He filled it with fresh litter.

"There you are, Princess,"
the man said to
his cat friend.

"I know cats are
clean and like a nice,
clean litter box."

Mr. Wong cleaned
Kamie's litter box every day.

He loved Kamie,
and Kamie loved him.





It was very
late now.

At the next house
Kamie saw two cats
curling up in a nice,
round cat bed.

Mr. Wong had made Kamie
a bed from an old basket.
How she missed her
soft, warm bed!



Sadly, *Kamie* moved on to the next house.



But it wasn't
their house.

Inside, a cat was scratching
the arm of a sofa.

A man who was sitting across the room began to yell.
Then he threw a slipper at the cat!

Kamie frowned.

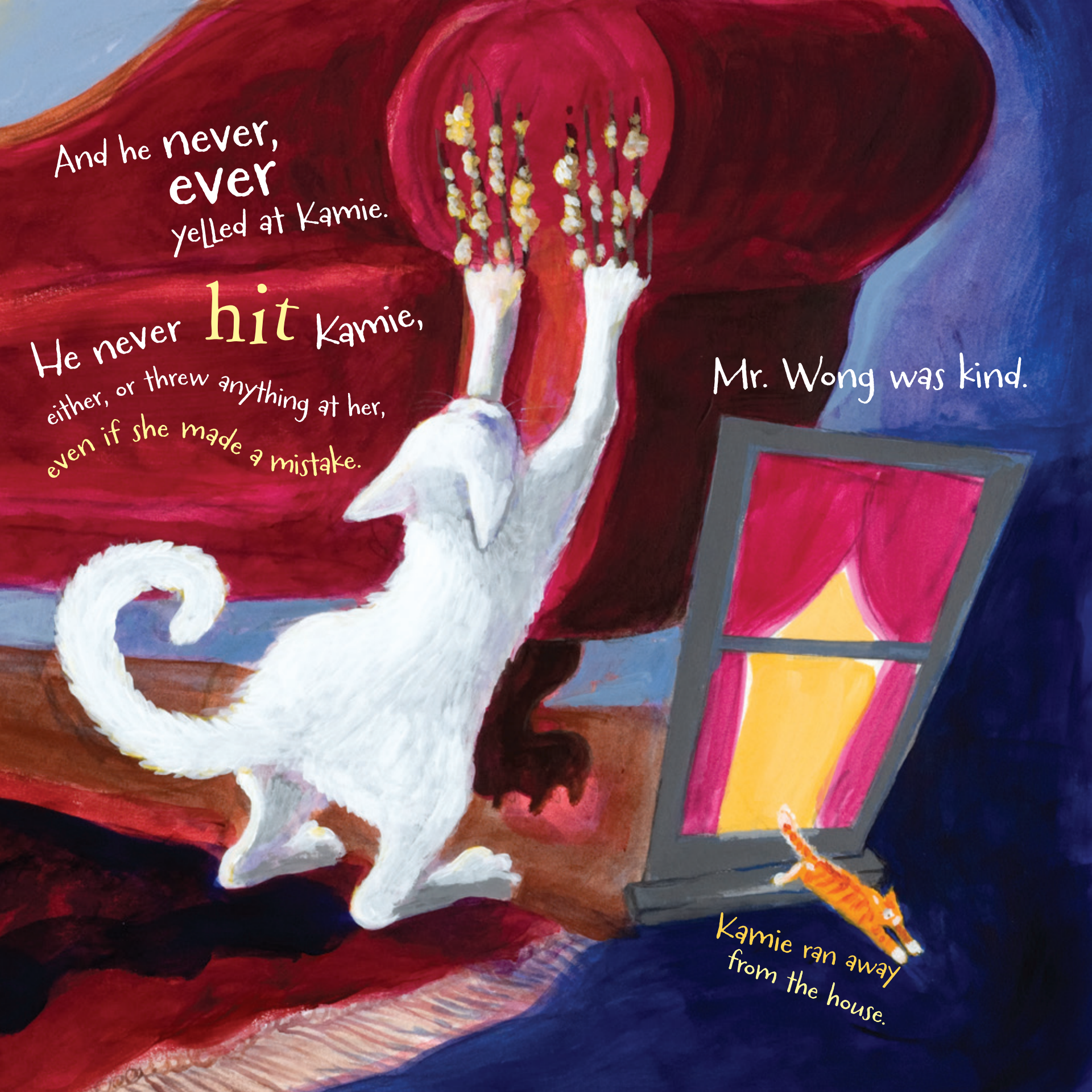
Mr. Wong always made sure that Kamie had a
scratching post. He knew that cats need to scratch.

And he never,
ever
yelled at Kamie.

He never **hit** Kamie,
either, or threw anything at her,
even if she made a mistake.

Mr. Wong was kind.

Kamie ran away
from the house.





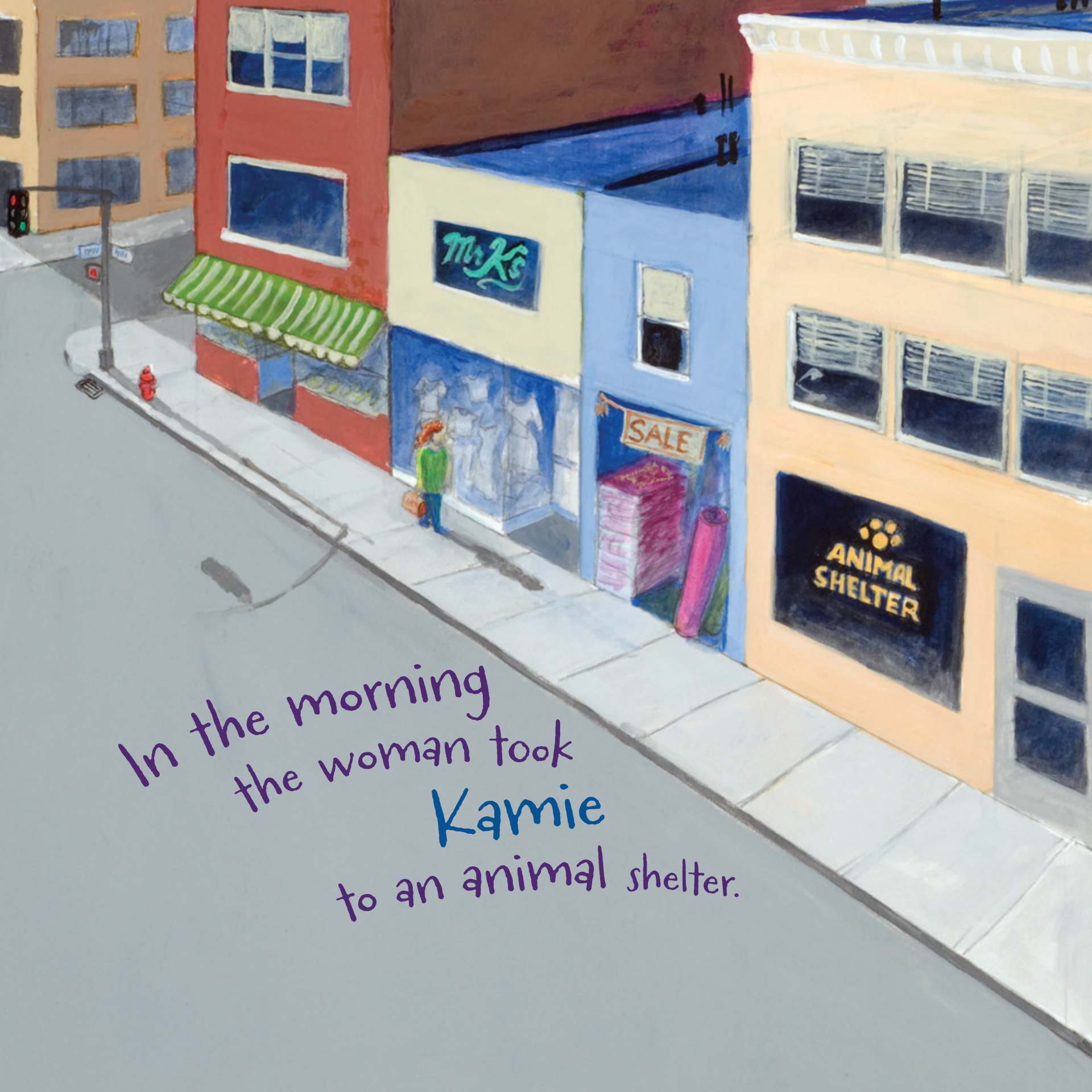
Kamie hid under some bushes.
She began to cry.

"Here, Kitty!"

someone said
in a soft voice.

A young woman bent over
and picked Kamie up.

"I think you are lost!"
she said.



In the morning
the woman took
Karmie
to an animal shelter.



"We're a bit crowded,
but come on in,"
the veterinarian at the shelter said.

"No tag?"
he said to Kamie.

"How are we supposed
to know where you live?"

"I think she's old,"
said the young woman.

"Yes," said the veterinarian.



"And most people
want to adopt
cute little kittens,"
he added.

"Hmmm... she looks
kind of scruffy,
wouldn't you say?"

"No!
I would say she looks beautiful!"
a voice called out.

"And old is good.

An old friend is the
best friend of all!"

It was Mr. Wong!
He had come to the
shelter to look for her!

Kamie meowed
for joy.





"I'm sorry," said Mr. Wong.
"I'm sorry I forgot to put the screen in the window!"

I'm sorry I didn't
give you a collar with a
tag on it so people would
know where you live.

It will never
happen again."



That night
Kamie and Mr. Wong

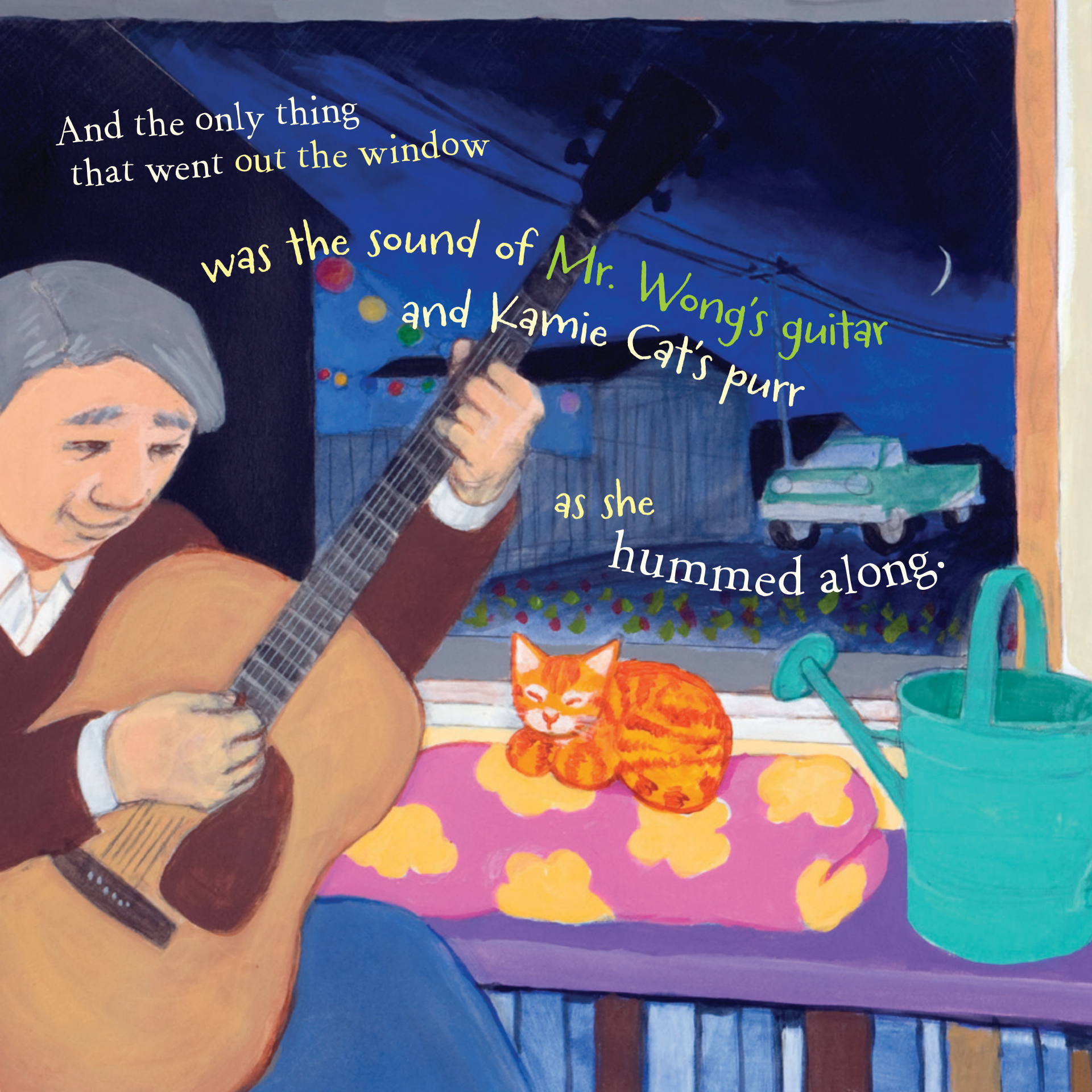
sat in the kitchen
after a fine dinner of fried fish.



And the only thing
that went out the window

was the sound of Mr. Wong's guitar
and Kamie Cat's purr

as she
hummed along.





About the Animal Welfare Institute

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) was founded in 1951 and is dedicated to alleviating suffering inflicted on animals by humans. AWI helps a wide range of animals in need, including those used in experimental laboratories, confined to factory farms, caught in steel traps in the woods, and threatened with extinction across the globe—from the smallest mice to the great whales of the sea. We believe that each person can make a difference for the animals by stepping up to help those who are suffering or are in need of a little assistance. Please consider becoming a member of AWI and helping us make the world a better place for all living creatures. For more information, including educational materials for children, visit AWI at: www.awionline.org.

A

Mr. Wong's House

B

Animal Shelter

Get Directions



About the Author-Illustrator

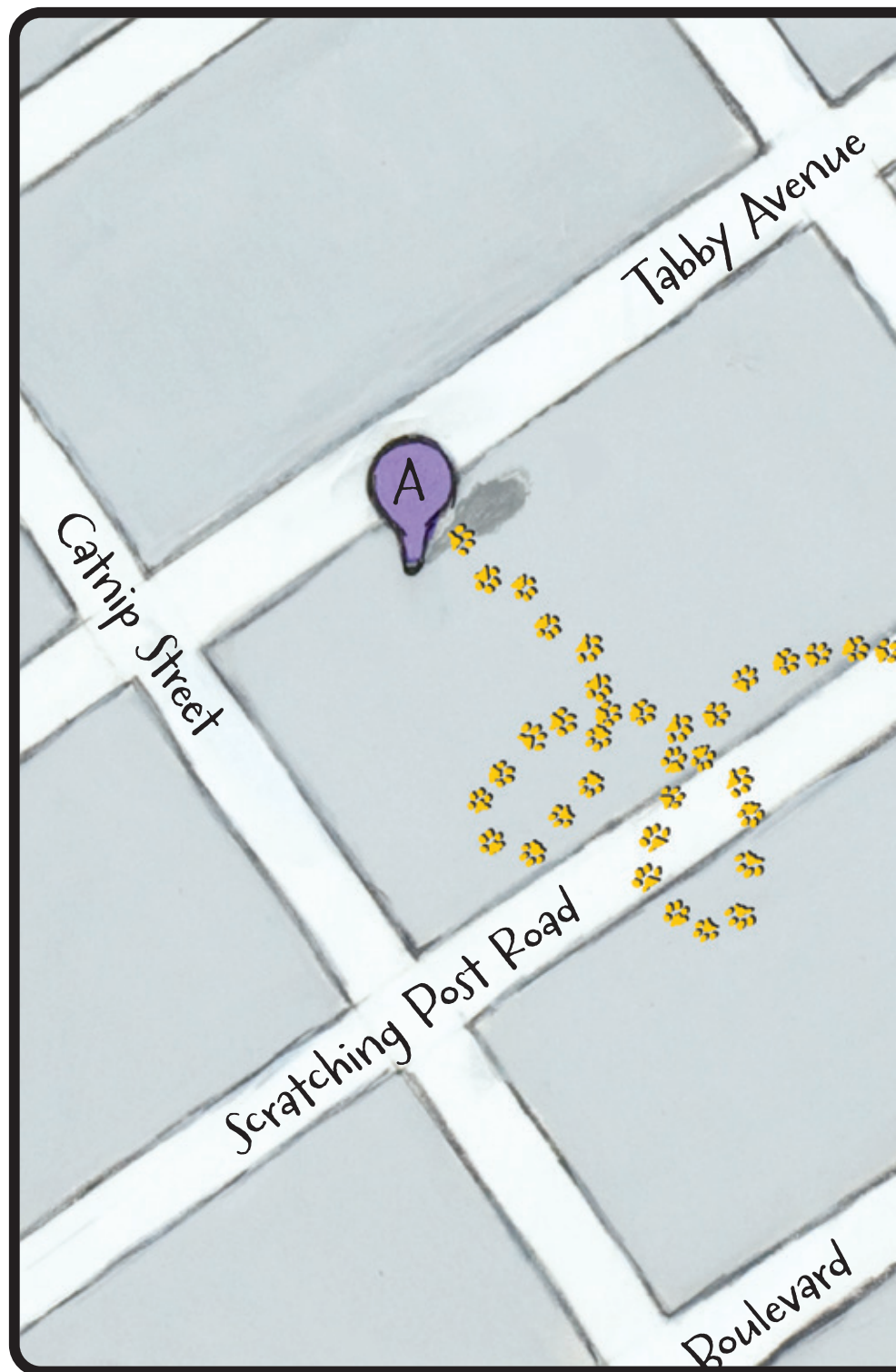
1. Sheila Hamanaka is an award-winning children's book author-illustrator whose work focuses on **multiculturalism** and **peace**.
2. Her books include the popular *All the Colors of the Earth*; *The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal*; *Grandparents Song*; and *Bebop-A-Do-Walk*.
3. Deeply concerned about our **fellow animals** and the future of our planet, Hamanaka wrote and illustrated three other books for the Animal Welfare Institute: *The Boy Who Loved All Living Things: The Imaginary Childhood Journal of Albert Schweitzer* (2006); *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person* (2008); and, *A Dangerous Life* (2014), a graphic novel about saving elephants.
4. She currently lives in New York City with her dog Phil. For more information visit:
www.sheilahamanaka.com

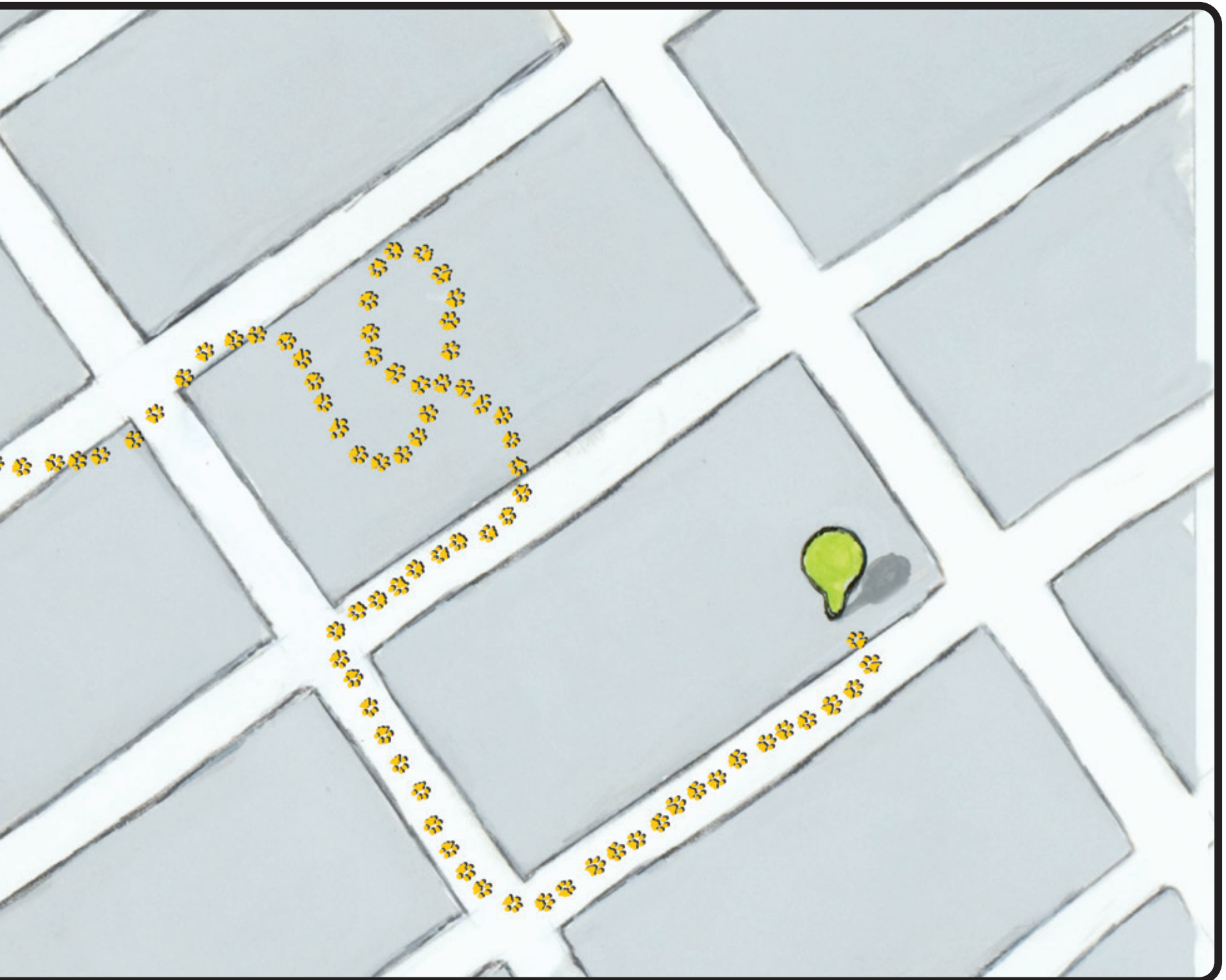
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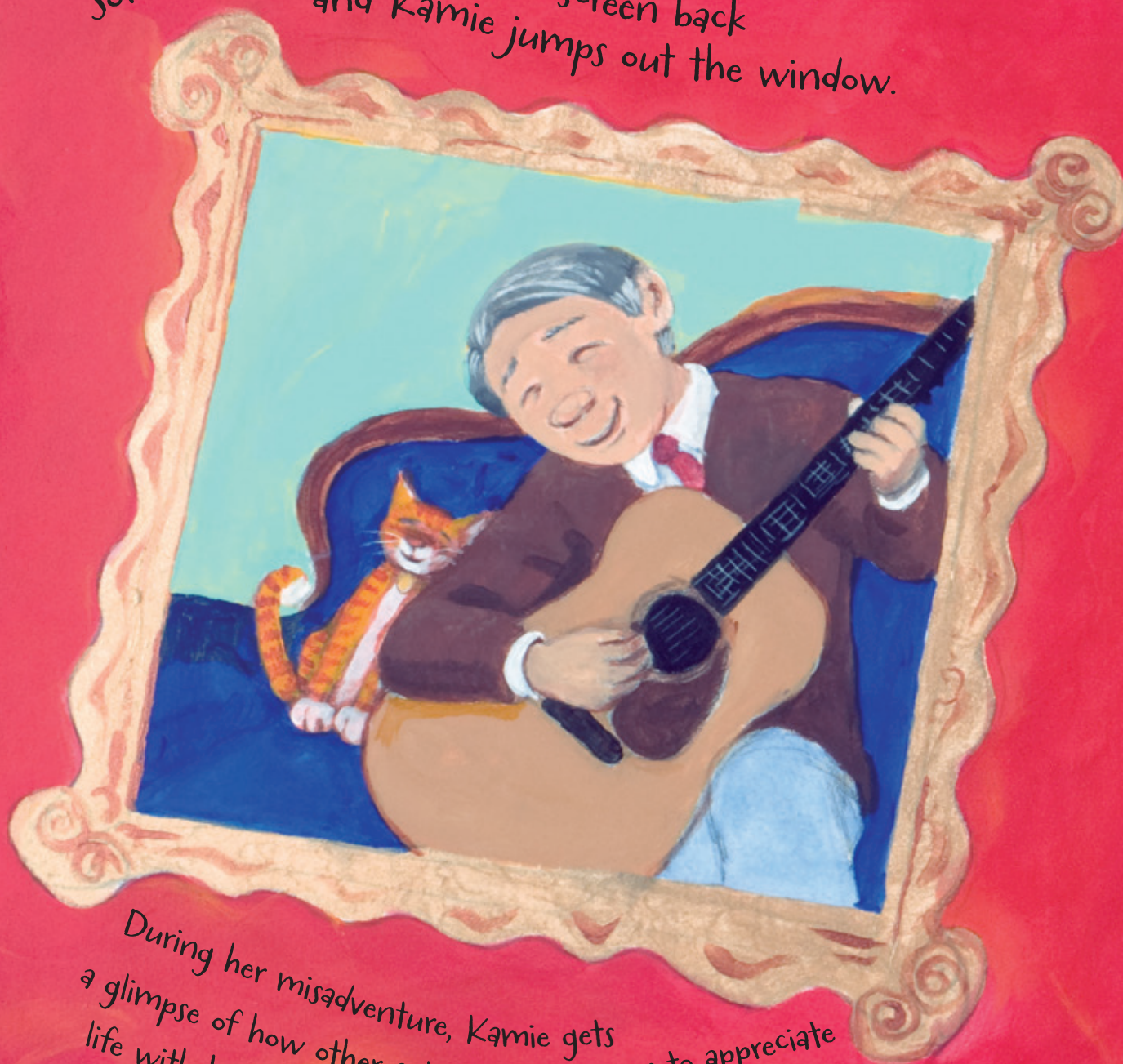
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Oh no!
Someone forgets to put the screen back
and Kamie jumps out the window.



During her misadventure, Kamie gets
a glimpse of how other cats live, and comes to appreciate
life with kind Mr. Wong. In this colorful story, kids learn
the basic dos and don'ts of caring for our feline friends.

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