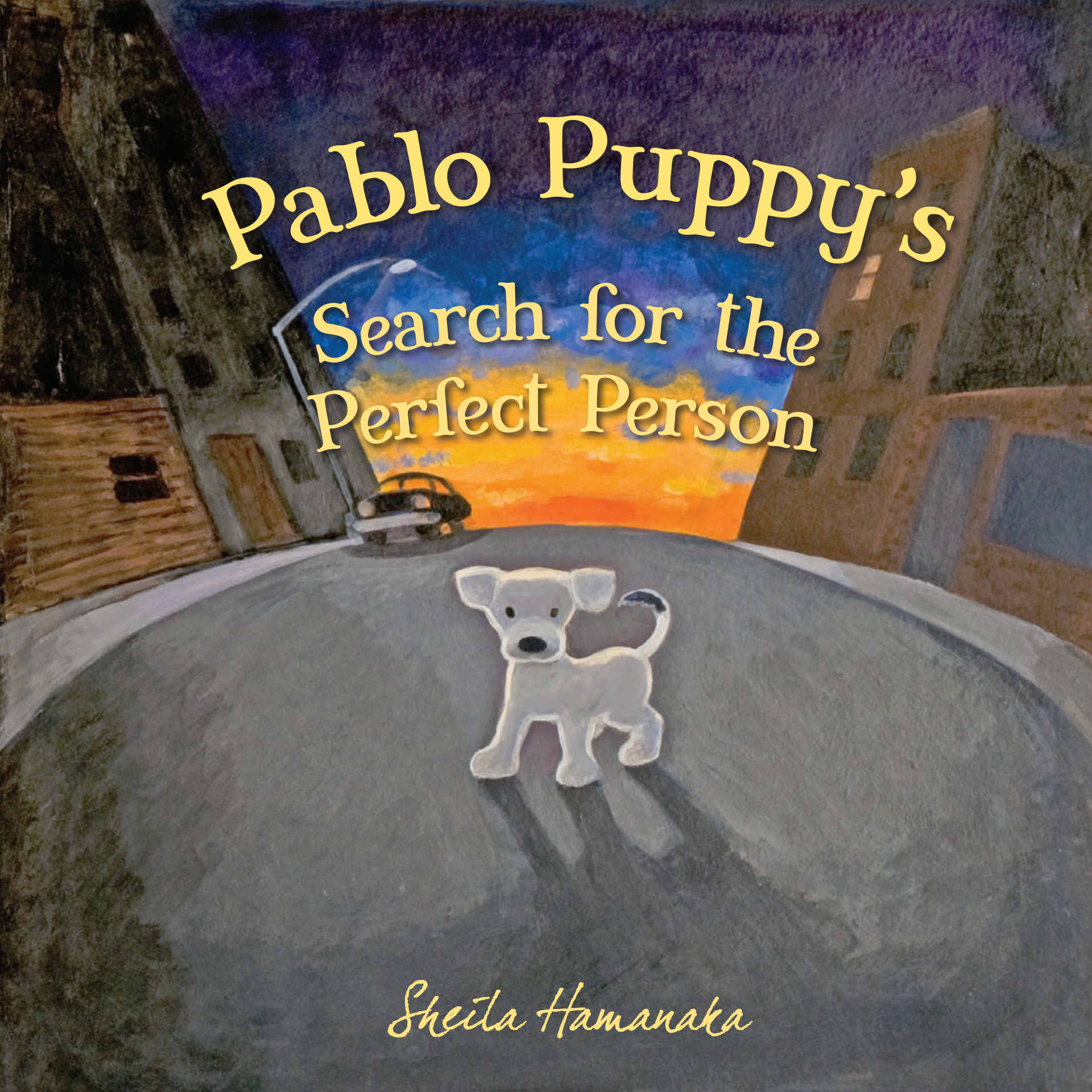
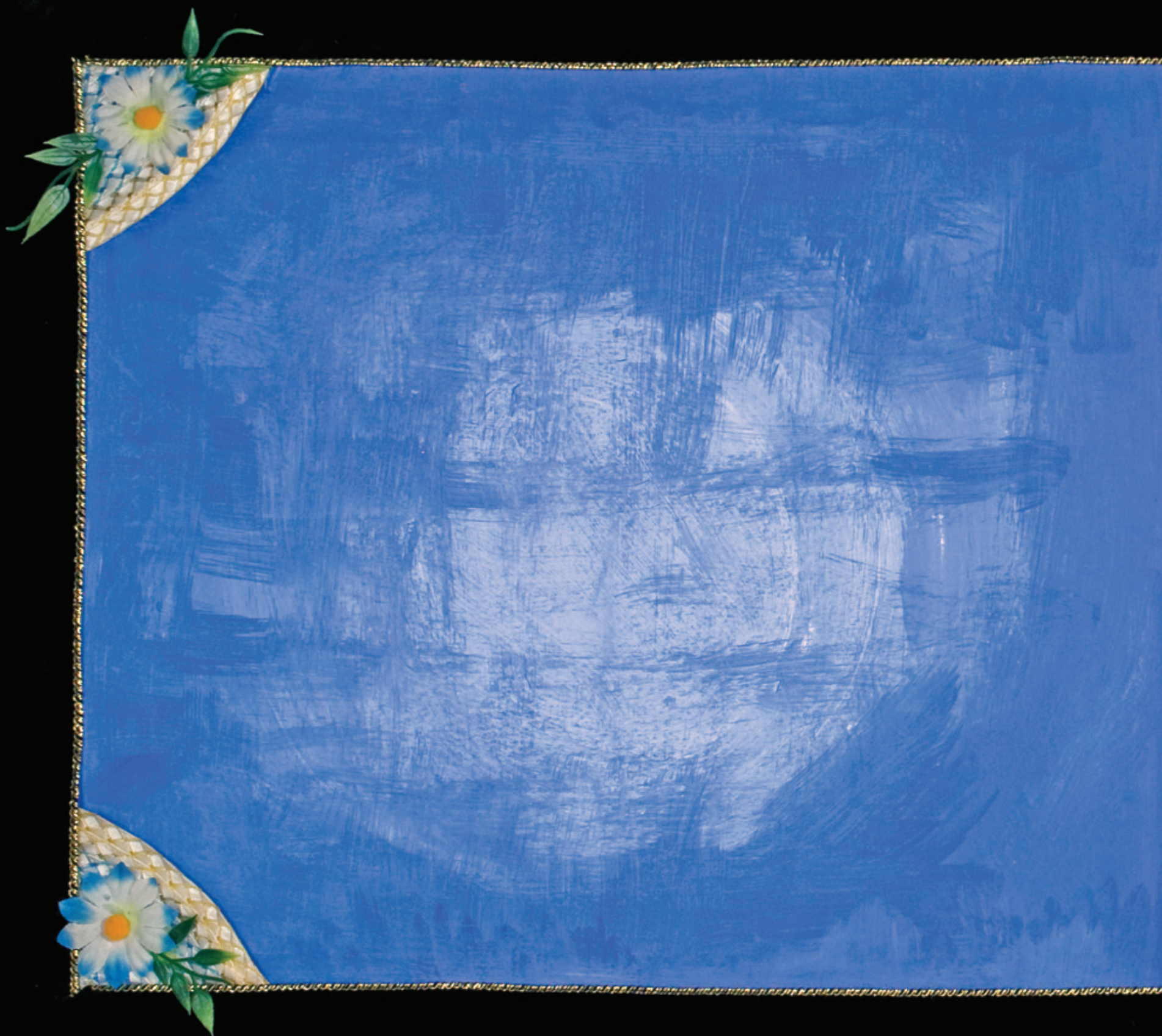




Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person

Sheila Hamanaka





To **Kalluk**, my beloved bossy boots Alaskan
Malamute packmate, and his pals **Toshi**, **Kai** and **Piff**.
And in memory of **Herman**, who was the best.





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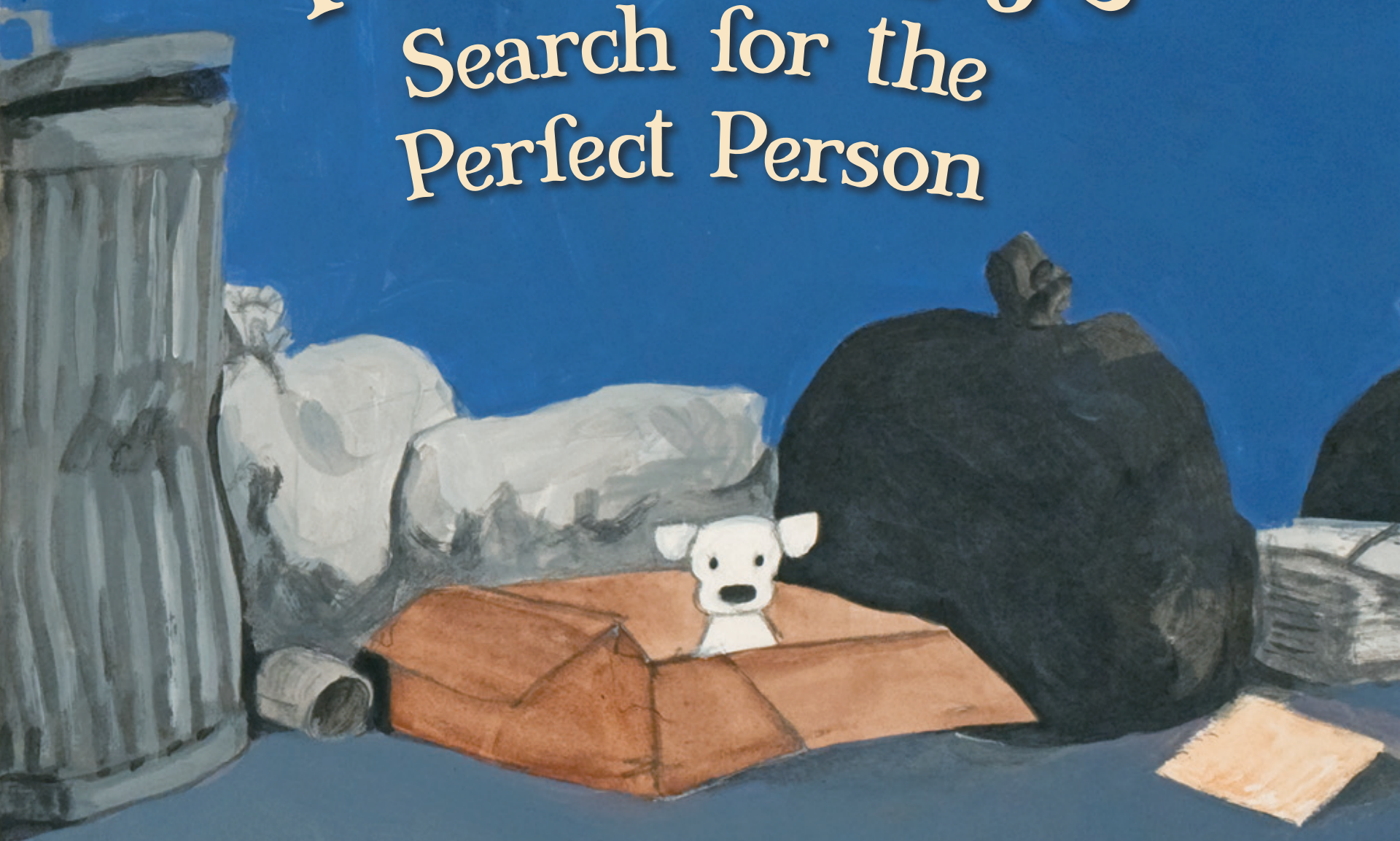
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Animal Welfare Institute



ANIMAL SHELTER



Pablo
was lucky.



He was a homeless puppy,
but a kind person took him to
an animal shelter.

It was full of cats and dogs
who had no home.

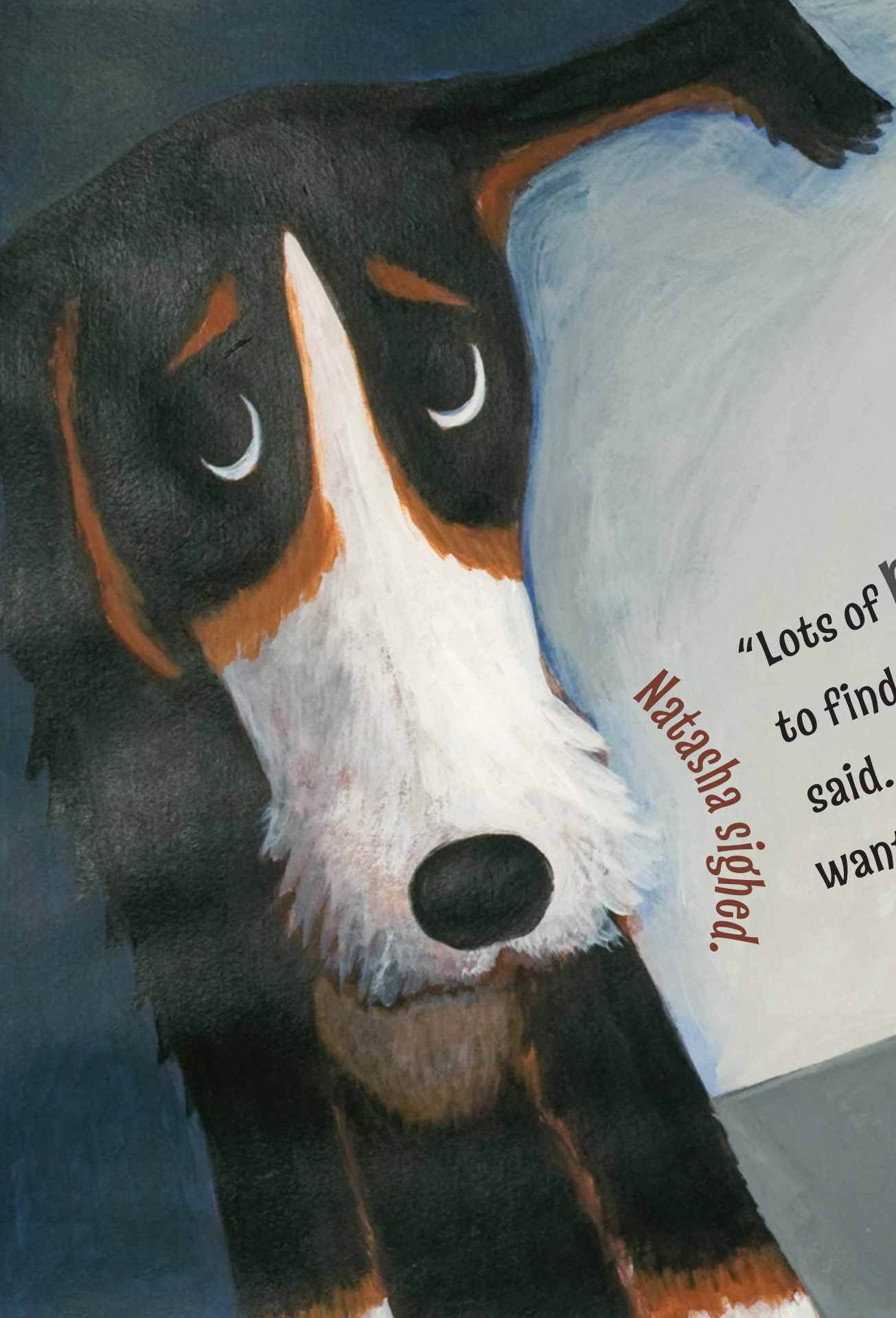
 Pablo was nervous.
A man dressed in green
put him in a kennel.

There, Pablo met Natasha.
She was big and old.
And very sad.



“Why are you sad?” asked Pablo,
who was happy to find a friend.

Finding a friend is like finding
a pot of gold.



Natasha sighed.

"Lots of **people** ^{come here}
to find a dog friend," she
said. "But many of them
want a cute little puppy."

**Nobody
wants an
old dog
like me.**

And if you make one mistake,
some people will throw you away."

"That's not very nice," said Pablo.

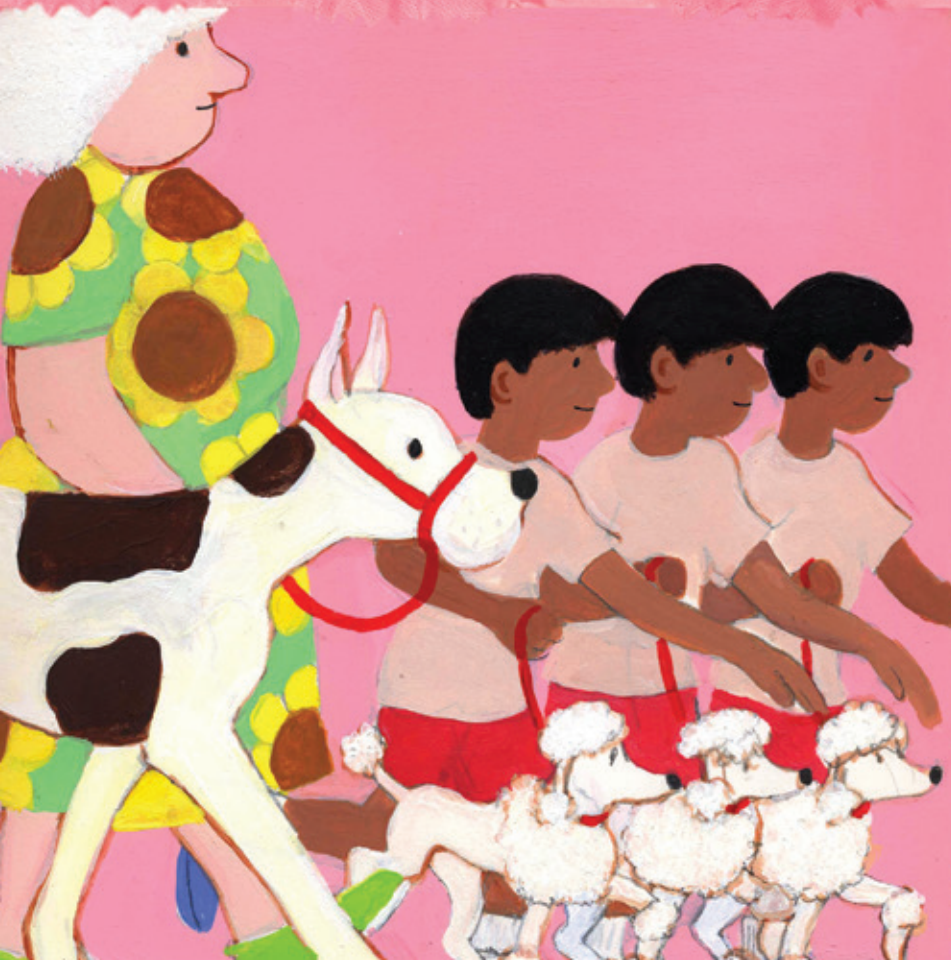
"Well, I hope you find a perfect person,"
said Natasha. I will, thought Pablo...



I know I will...

"Um, what does a
perfect person
look like?"
asked Pablo.

"Perfect people
come in all colors,"
said Natasha.



"Some are young and some are old.
Some walk fast and some walk slowly.

Some carry canes and some
roll around in chairs with big wheels.

Perfect people
make sure their
dog friends
get exercise."

"What's exercise?"
asked Pablo.

"Is it something to eat?"



"Oh, no," said Natasha.
"It's long walks
and toys that
are tossed."

Perfect people
love to play.
That's why
perfect people
are often
children."





*"And what does the **perfect** person sound like?" asked Pablo.*
"A perfect person knows a dog has excellent hearing, so perfect people never shout. And they will never, ever hit you," said Natasha.



"Some speak to you in English. Some speak to you in Spanish, or Chinese, or Swahili, or hundreds of other languages."

"Do people speak dog?" asked Pablo.

"Perfect people know that dogs speak with their whole bodies," said Natasha.



Pablo's stomach started to growl.
"I think your tummy is talking to us,"
said Natasha.

"I'm hungry," said Pablo.

"Ah, food," said Natasha.

"A perfect person will feed a puppy
like you four times a day."

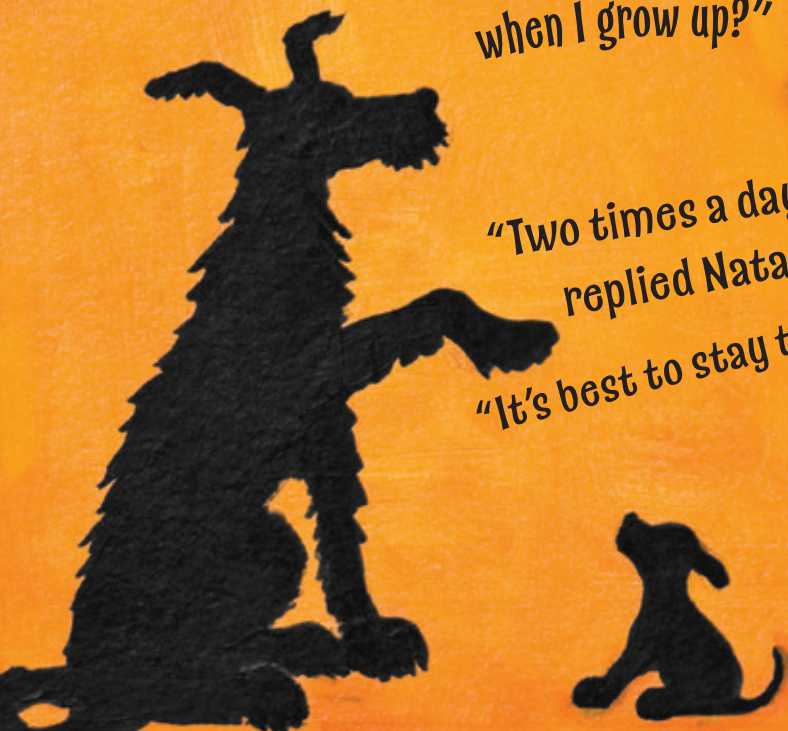
"Four times?" asked Pablo.

"That's Perfect!

And what about
when I grow up?"

"Two times a day,"
replied Natasha.

"It's best to stay trim."



A large red plate is the central focus, featuring a variety of food items. At the top left is a yellow bell pepper. Below it is a green bell pepper. To the right of the green pepper is a green bowl filled with blue liquid. Below the green bowl is another green bowl filled with brown food. To the left of the green bowls is a grey bowl containing a can of 'DOG FOOD'. Below the grey bowl is a yellow bowl filled with blue liquid. At the bottom left of the plate is a yellow bowl filled with brown food. To the left of the yellow bowls is a yellow bowl containing a slice of Swiss cheese and three white eggs. The background is a solid orange color.

"What about water?" Pablo asked.

*"A perfect person will give you a
separate bowl of perfectly clean
water, fresh every day!"
Natasha told him.*

*"And puppies get lots
of safe toys to chew on,
and lots of **treats**."*

*Perfect people use treats to
reward you for good manners."*



Pablo was getting sleepy,
and he snuggled next to Natasha.
"Tell me more," he said yawning.

"A perfect person gives you a bed."



An old, folded
blanket will do...



...but sometimes beds are fancy!"

Something tiny
jumped off of Pablo.

A flea!



"That reminds me,"
said Natasha.

"A perfect person will brush you everyday.

And sometimes they will give you a bath."



Pablo was amazed.

"A perfect person has a lot to do,"
he said.

"Why would they do it?"

"Because they are kind," said Natasha,

"and full of love."



“Love?” asked Pablo.

He wasn't sure what it was,
but he thought he loved Natasha.

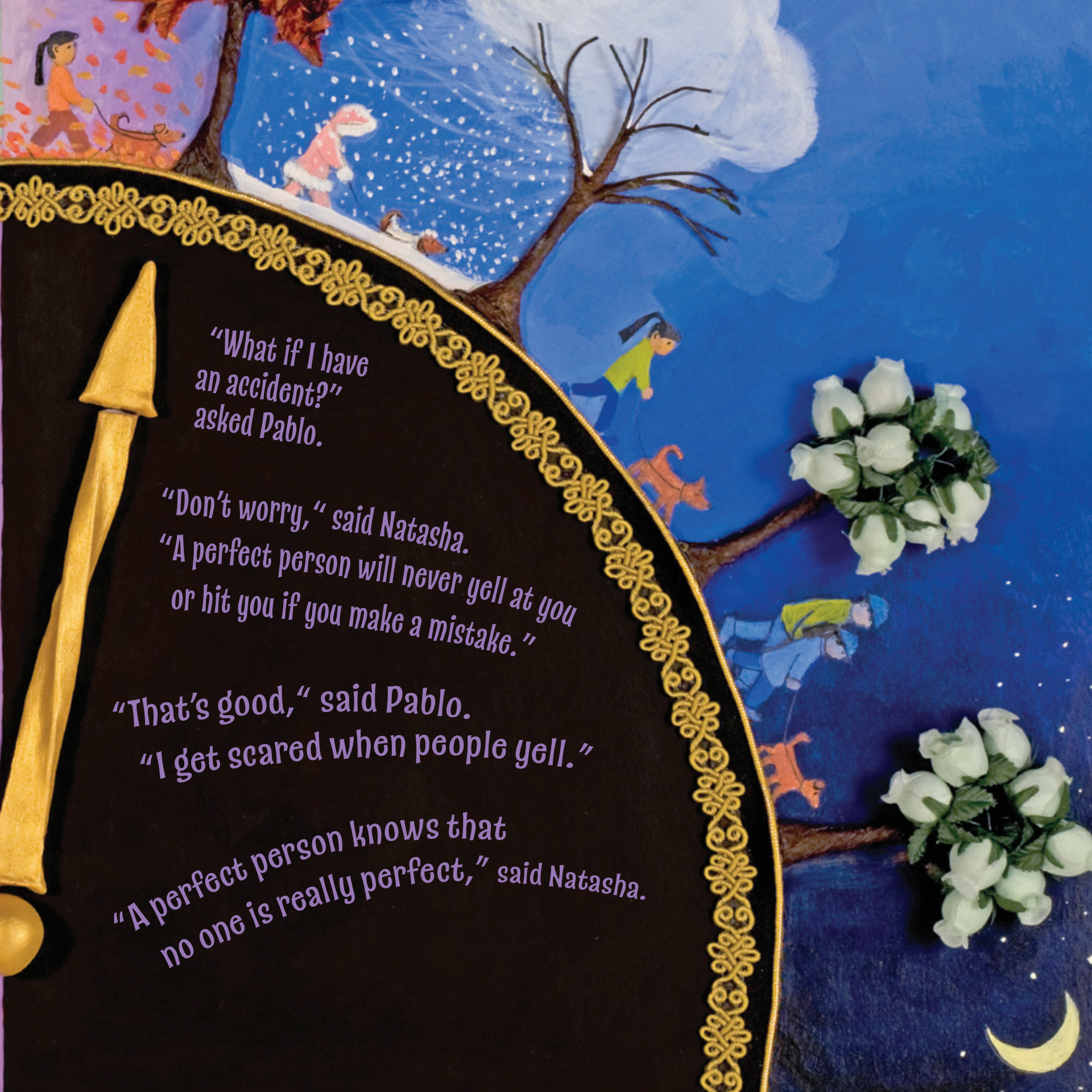
She was so kind to him.



“Yes, love,” said Natasha. “Love means taking a puppy out many times a day, even in the rain.”

“Or the snow?” He asked.

“Yes,” said Natasha. “A perfect person will take a puppy outside right after the puppy wakes up, or eats, or finishes playing. And every time a puppy goes potty outside, a perfect person gives the puppy a treat!”



*"What if I have
an accident?"
asked Pablo.*

*"Don't worry," said Natasha.
"A perfect person will never yell at you
or hit you if you make a mistake."*

*"That's good," said Pablo.
"I get scared when people yell."*

*"A perfect person knows that
no one is really perfect," said Natasha.*



The dogs in the shelter began to bark.

People were coming!

Pablo hid between Natasha's legs and peeked out.

Would he find the **perfect** person?

"Look at that cute puppy!" said a woman.

"He's too small!" replied the man
in a **loud** voice.

They kept walking.



Next came a boy and his mother.

“Look at that cute puppy!”

exclaimed the boy.

“Oh, no!” said the mother.

“If a puppy had an accident on
my new rug, I would scream.”

Natasha was glad when
they walked away.

She liked Pablo and
didn’t want him to leave.

Next came a little girl and her grandmother.



"Look at that cute puppy!"
the little girl said.

"Puppies are a lot of work,"
said the grandmother.

"Will you feed him four times a day?"

"Yes!" said the girl.

"And will you brush him every day?"

"Yes!" said the girl.

"And will you take him outside to go potty
many times a day, even in the rain?"
asked the grandmother.



"Yes!" said the girl.
"And in the snow, too!"

The grandmother looked
deep into the girl's eyes.



"And most important of all," she said,
"do you promise *never* to yell at the puppy or
to hit him, even if he makes a mistake?"

"Yes!" said the girl,
who was very wise.

She knew that all puppies make mistakes—
just like children do.





"Of course,

The illustration shows a young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a blue shirt with large red and white flowers, standing at a grey counter. A veterinarian with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat and a stethoscope, is holding a small white puppy. The background is a pink wall with a red cabinet. The entire scene is set against a colorful geometric background with blue, green, and purple sections.

**it will cost money to take
the puppy to the veterinarian**

**for checkups,"
said the grandmother.**

**"I will make cookies and sell them
at a bake sale to help out,"
said the girl.**

**"Perfect!"
said the grandmother.**



The bottom of the page features a large, detailed illustration of several pink flowers with yellow centers, set against a blue background with a floral pattern.

Pablo was excited!

He had found the perfect person!

**The man in green took Pablo
out of the kennel so he could
meet the girl.**



**He wagged his tail and
licked her hand.**



An illustration of two characters, Pablo and Natasha, standing against a light blue and yellow background. Pablo, on the left, is a man with a mustache wearing a tan hat with a dark blue band, a tan jacket over a white shirt, and pink pants. He holds a wooden cane in his right hand. Natasha, on the right, is a young girl with dark skin and braided hair, wearing an orange t-shirt. She is holding a small white dog with brown spots. A black silhouette of a person is positioned in front of her. The bottom of the page features a decorative border with purple and pink swirling patterns.

Pablo looked back at Natasha.
She looked very, very sad.

Suddenly Pablo
understood why.

He was going
to have to
leave Natasha!

A heart-shaped basket filled with yellow, red, and purple flowers, with a black fringe around the edges. It has two large white wings with blue outlines, giving it the appearance of a flying heart. It is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page.

Then the girl said, "The puppy's friend looks very sad."
"Yes," said the grandmother. "Dogs have feelings too. She is going to miss her friend."

A single yellow flower with a brown center and green leaves, growing on a blue hillside. A winding white path leads through the landscape below.

"Grandma,"
said the little girl,
"can we..."

"Well," said the
grandmother,
thinking it over.

She knew that adopting a dog
was a big decision,
because a dog friend is a
friend forever.



**"Yes! I need a friend who will
take long, slow walks with me.**

I think I have found the perfect dog!"

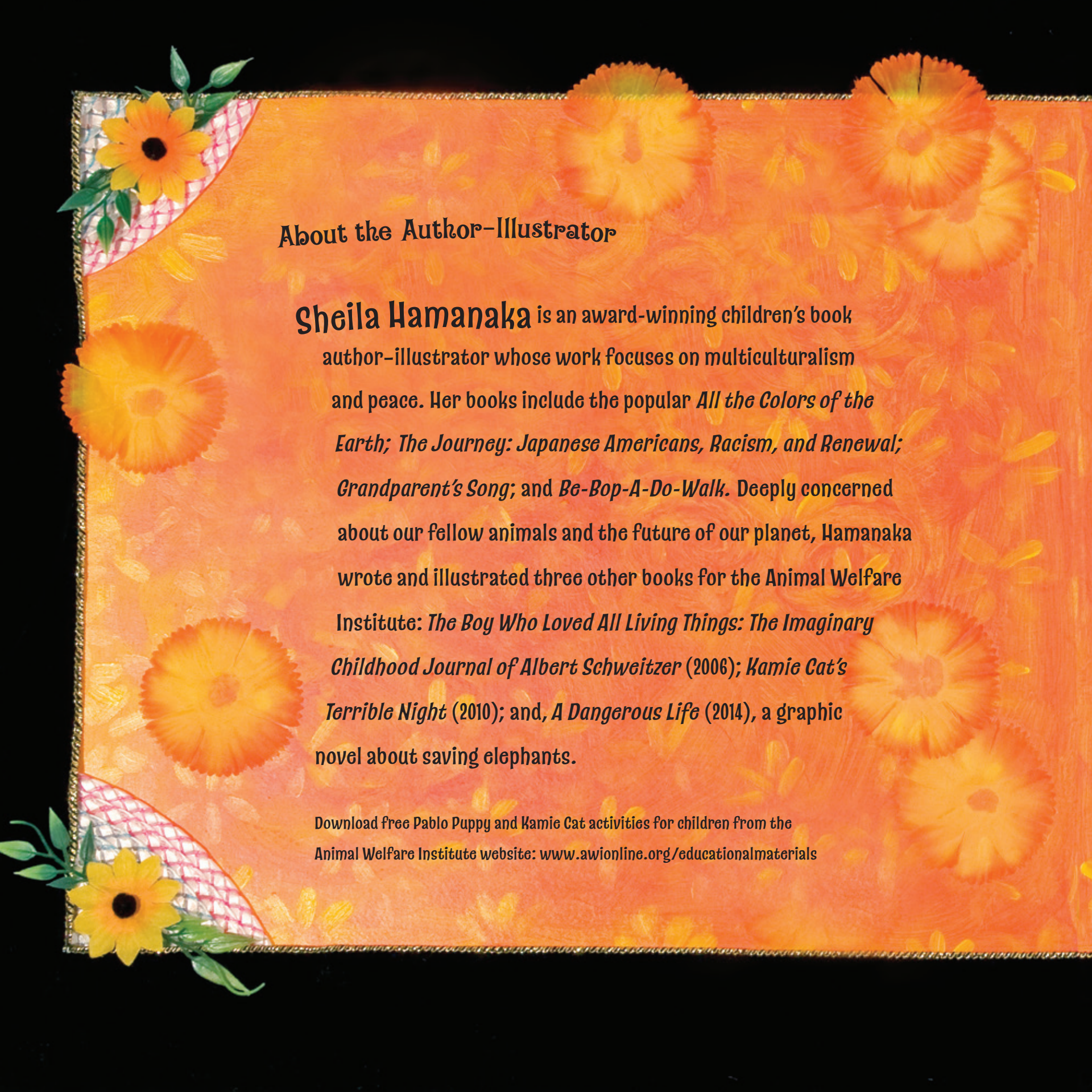


About the Animal Welfare Institute

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) was founded in 1951 to reduce the pain and fear people cause animals. AWI helps a wide range of animals in need, including those used in experimental laboratories, confined on 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. Why don't you join us in making the world a better place for all? For more information, please visit AWI at:

www.awionline.org





About the Author-Illustrator

Sheila Hamanaka is an award-winning children's book author-illustrator whose work focuses on multiculturalism and peace. Her books include the popular *All the Colors of the Earth*; *The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal*; *Grandparent's Song*; and *Be-Bop-A-Do-Walk*. 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); *Kamie Cat's Terrible Night* (2010); and, *A Dangerous Life* (2014), a graphic novel about saving elephants.

Download free Pablo Puppy and Kamie Cat activities for children from the Animal Welfare Institute website: www.awionline.org/educationalmaterials



*Everyone wants to find the perfect dog
for their family. Now, meet Pablo Puppy
who is searching for the perfect person!*



*He turns to Natasha, a wise old shelter dog
who gives Pablo a few pointers. This heartwarming
story is both a child's introduction to dog care
and a tribute to the special relationship
between young and old.*

published by the
Animal Welfare Institute