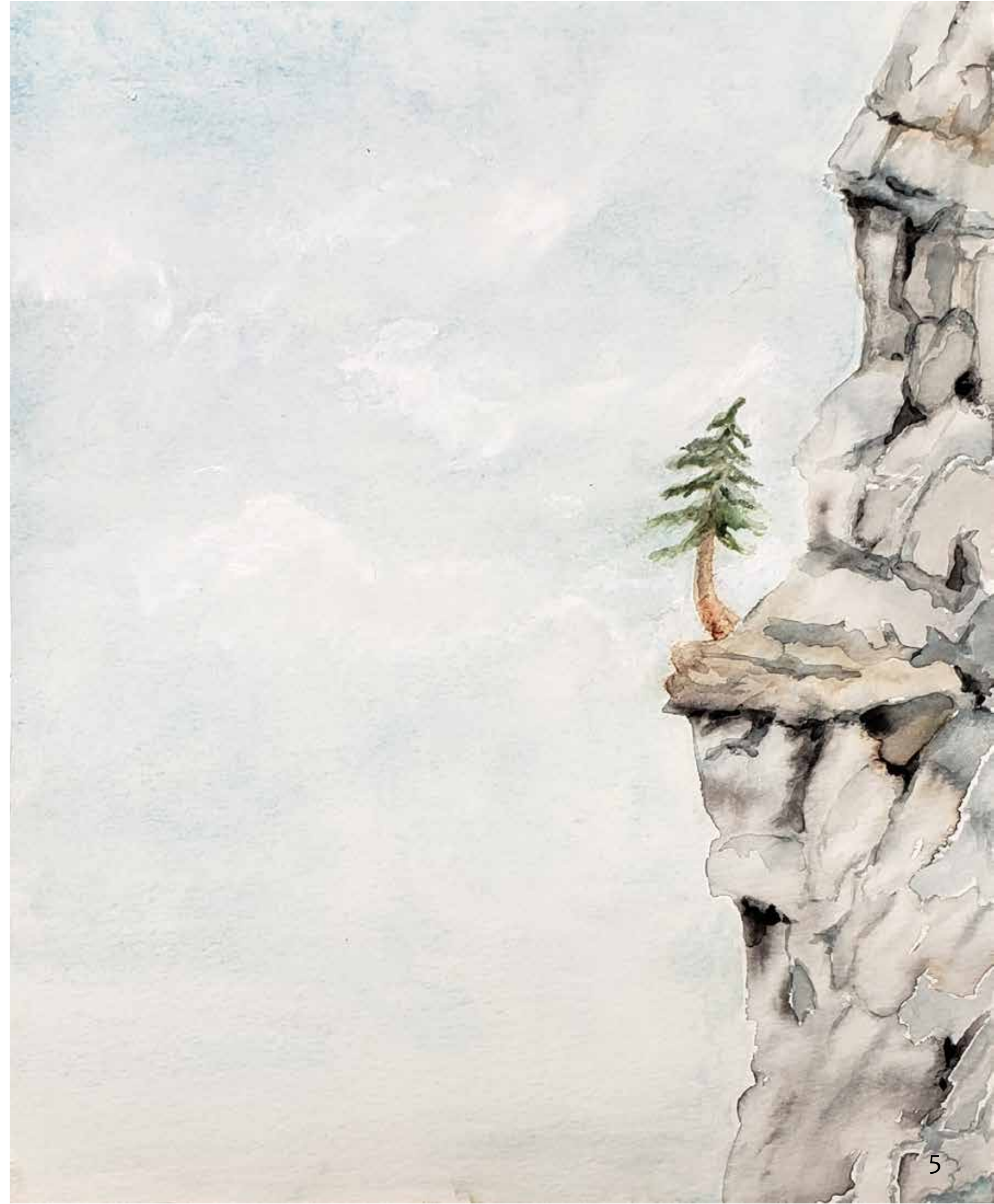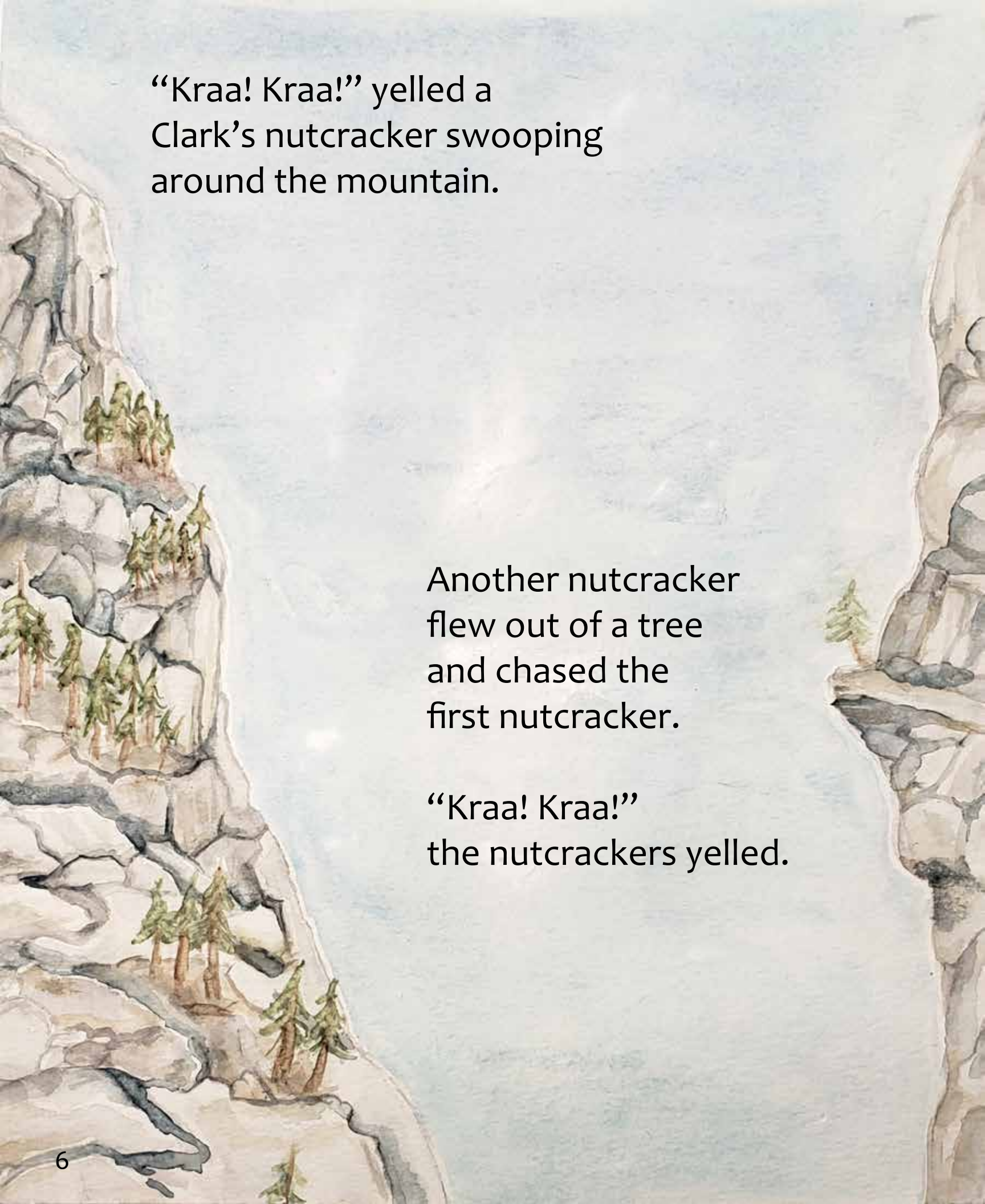The very lonely tree lives
on the side of a mountain.
The very lonely tree can't
rub its branches, "eeh, eeh,
eeh, eeh, squeak, squeak,"
against other trees when
the wind blows.

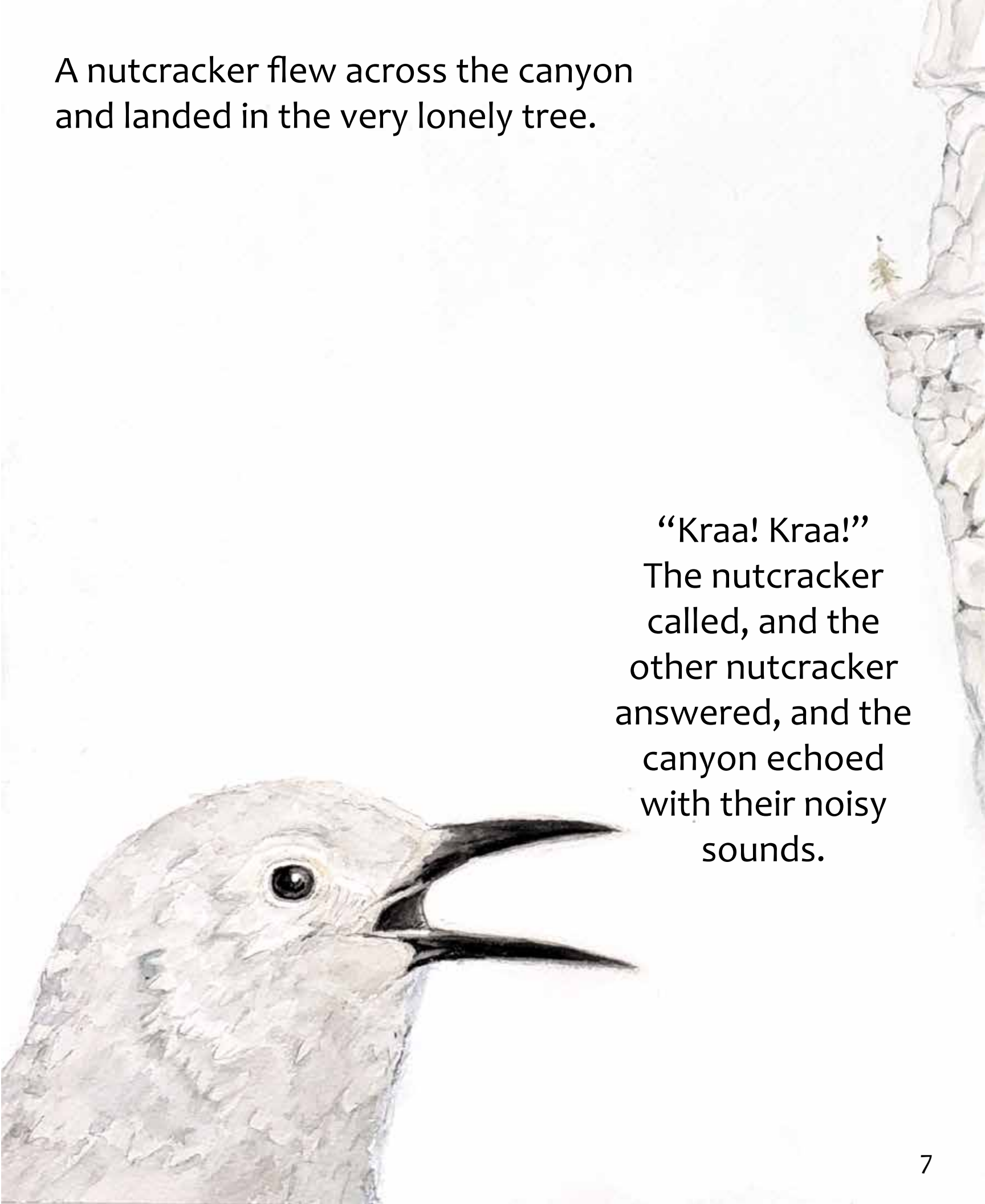The very lonely tree
is all alone.

"Kraa! Kraa!" yelled a
Clark's nutcracker swooping
around the mountain.

Another nutcracker
flew out of a tree
and chased the
first nutcracker.

"Kraa! Kraa!"
the nutcrackers yelled.

A nutcracker flew across the canyon
and landed in the very lonely tree.

"Kraa! Kraa!"
The nutcracker
called, and the
other nutcracker
answered, and the
canyon echoed
with their noisy
sounds.

One nutcracker grabbed a beetle. "Crunch!" the nutcracker swallowed the beetle.
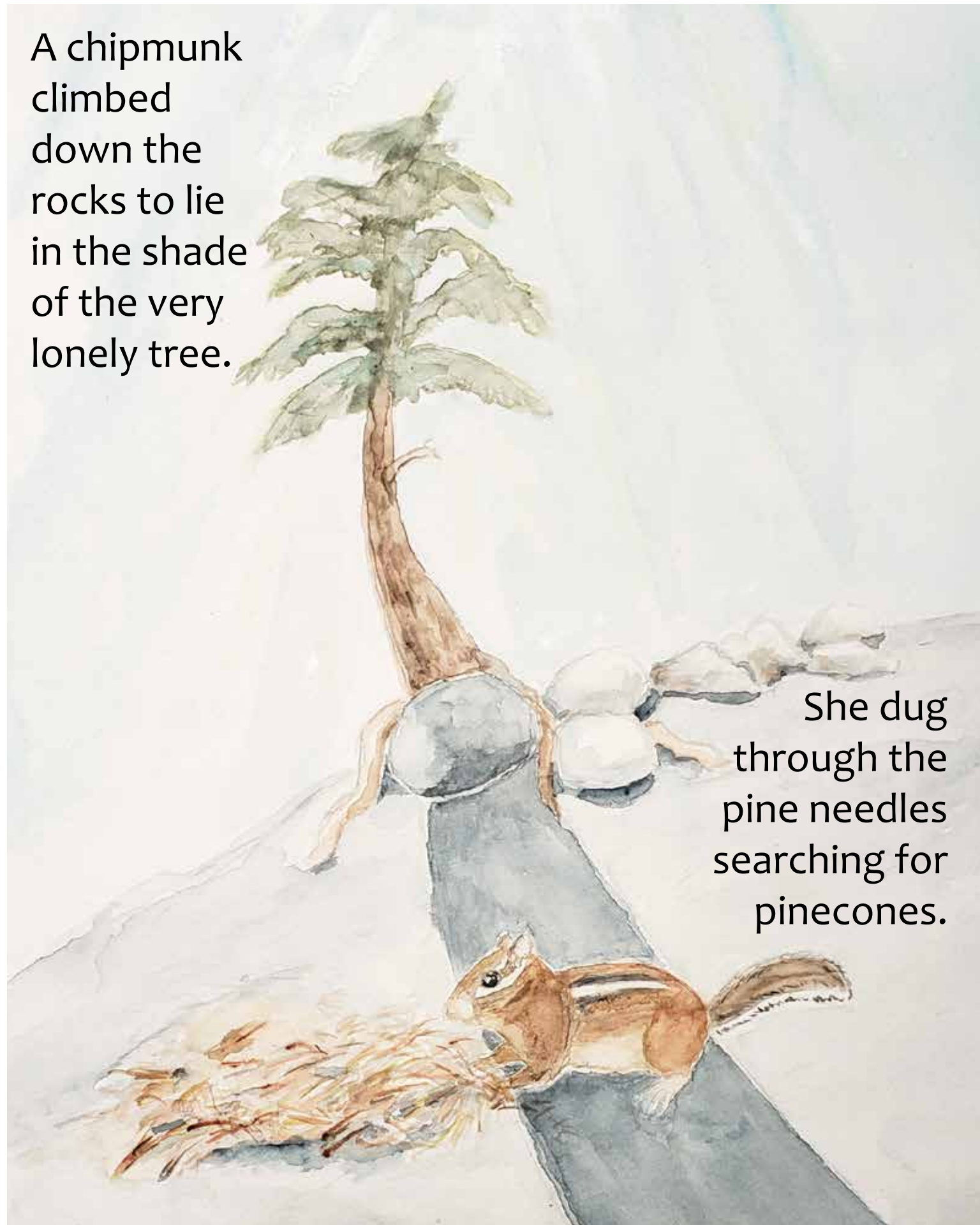
The nutcracker stretched out his wing and groomed his feathers.

A loose feather swirled down and got stuck in the very lonely tree.

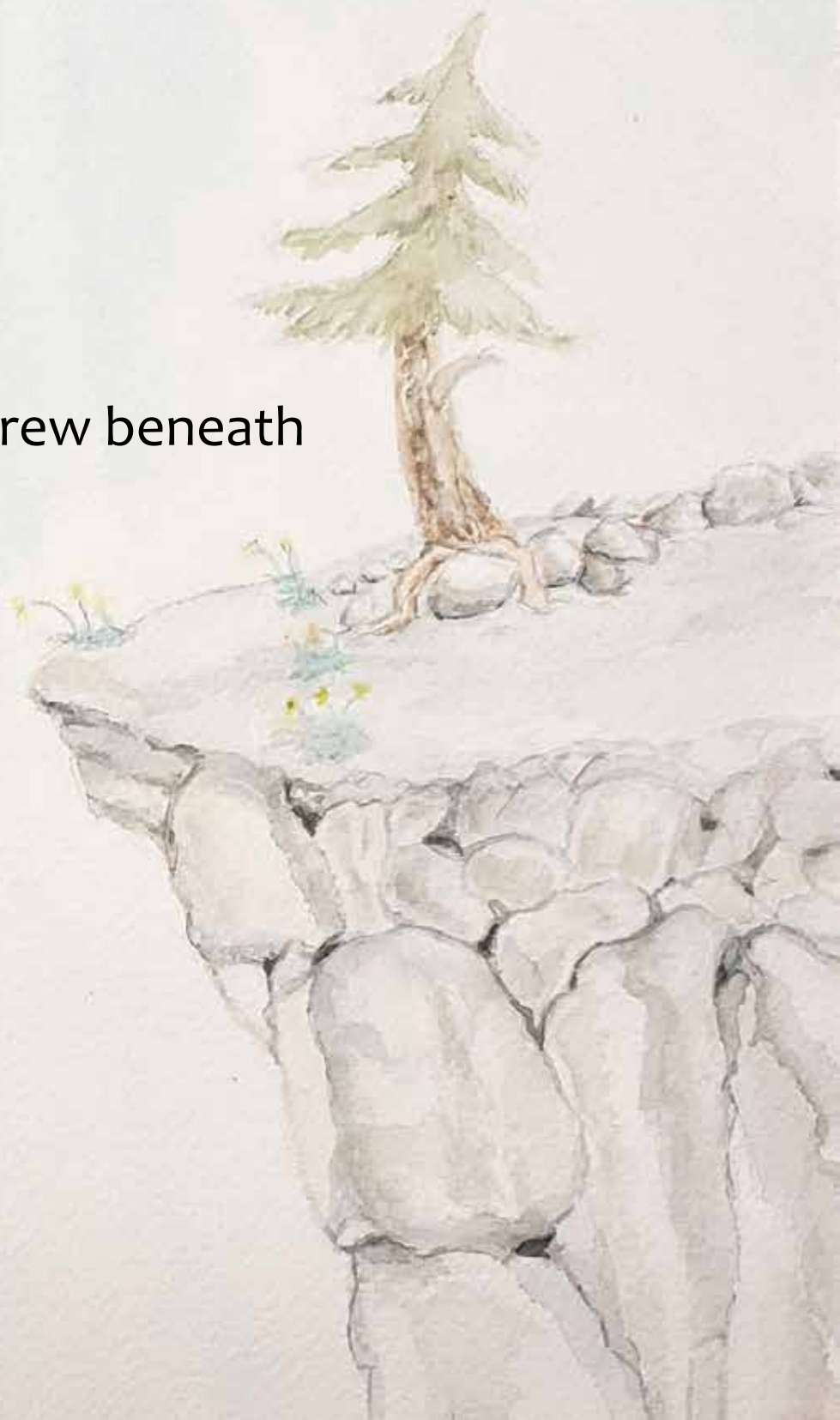A chipmunk climbed down the rocks to lie in the shade of the very lonely tree.

She dug through the pine needles searching for pinecones.

"Peeree! Peeree!" whistled the chipmunk when a hungry hawk soared overhead. Flicking her tail, the chipmunk quickly ran up the very lonely tree and hid.
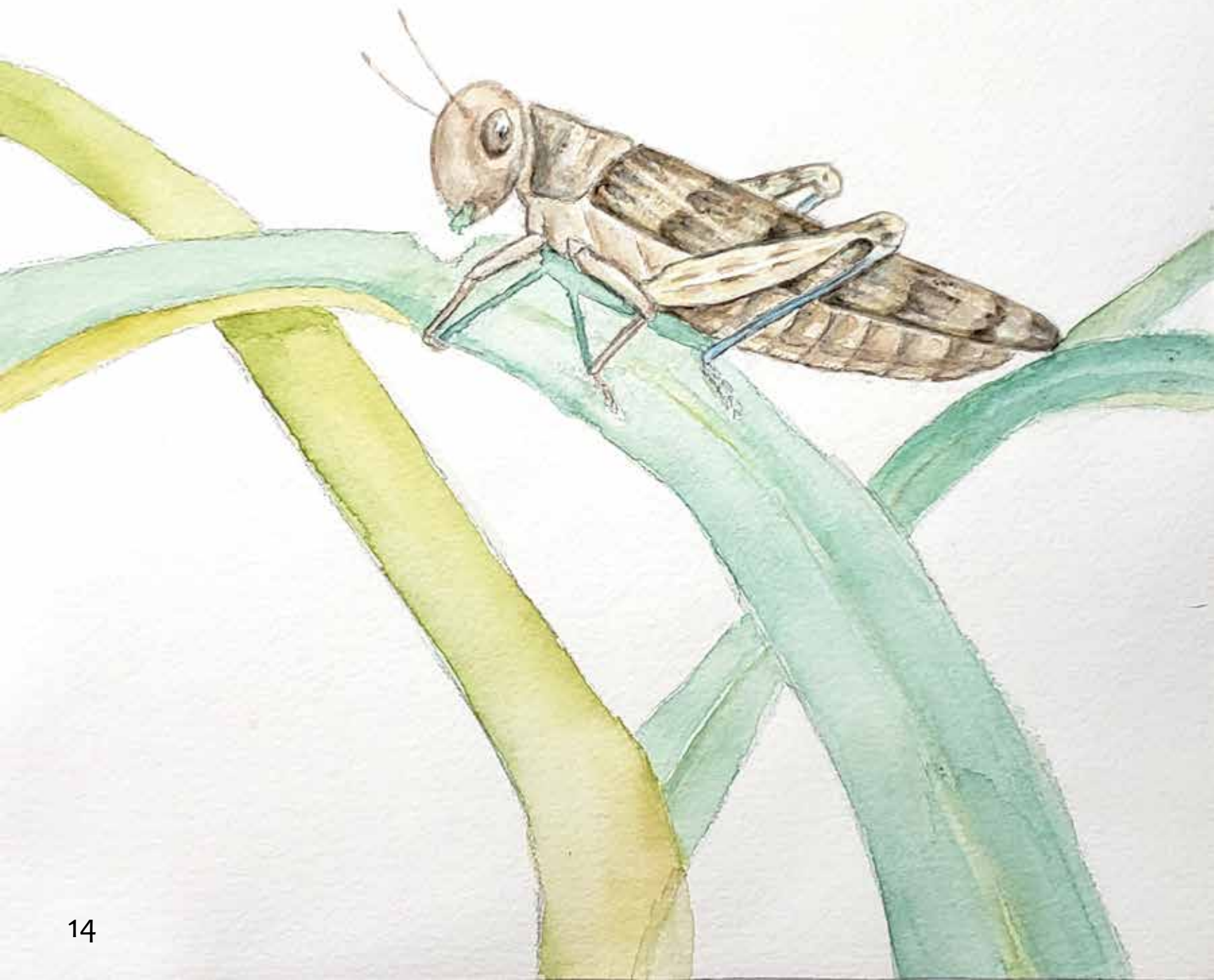
Flowers and grass grew beneath
the very lonely tree.

"Bzzz, bzzz, buzz, buzz."
Bees landed on the flowers
to collect pollen
and drink nectar.

"Click, click, click." A noisy grasshopper
hopped beneath the very lonely tree.
He stopped and nibbled a blade
of grass in the bright sun.

An ant tapped the grasshopper
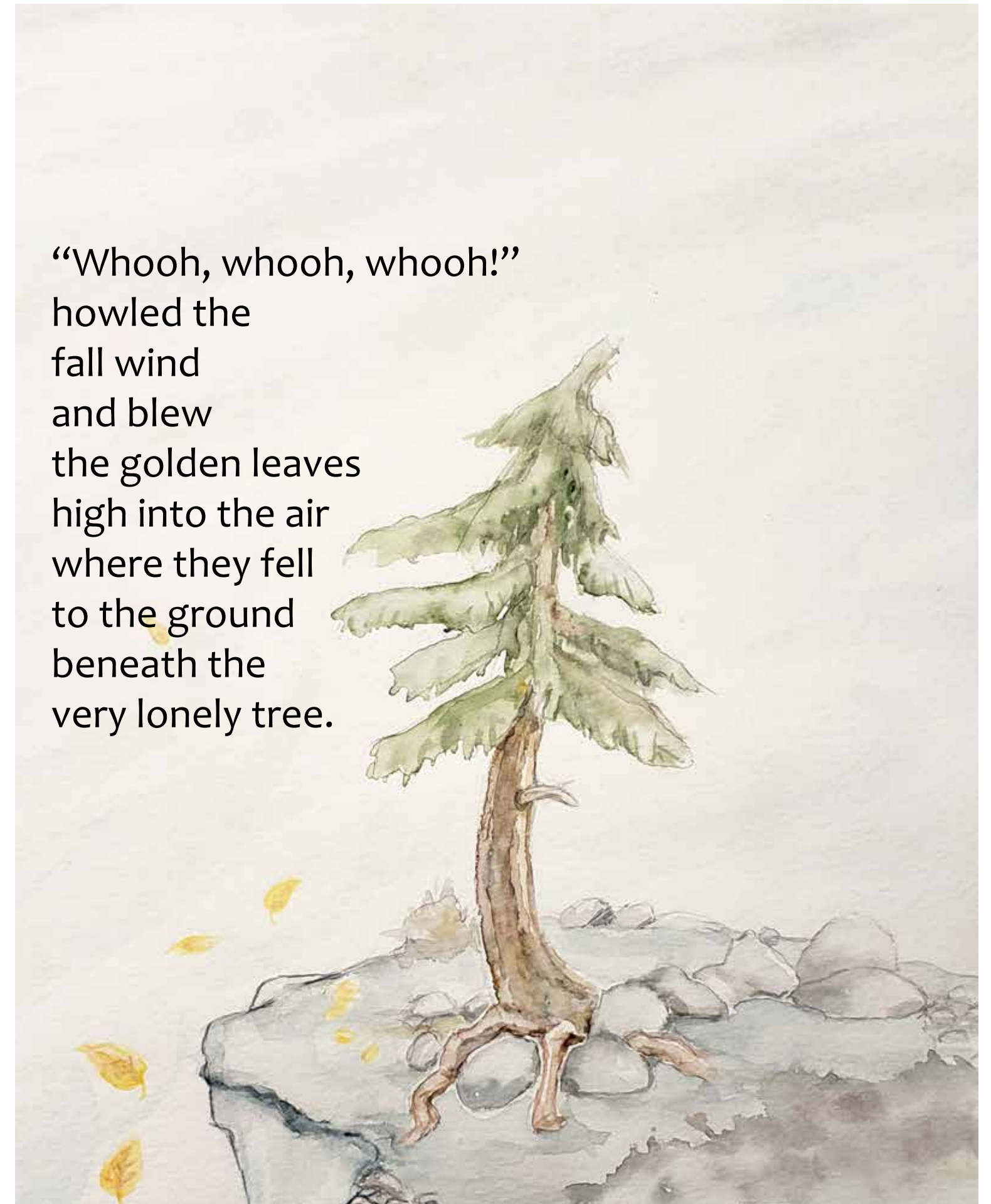with an antenna.

The grasshopper
leaped away.

The busy ant crawled
over and under pine
needles and collected
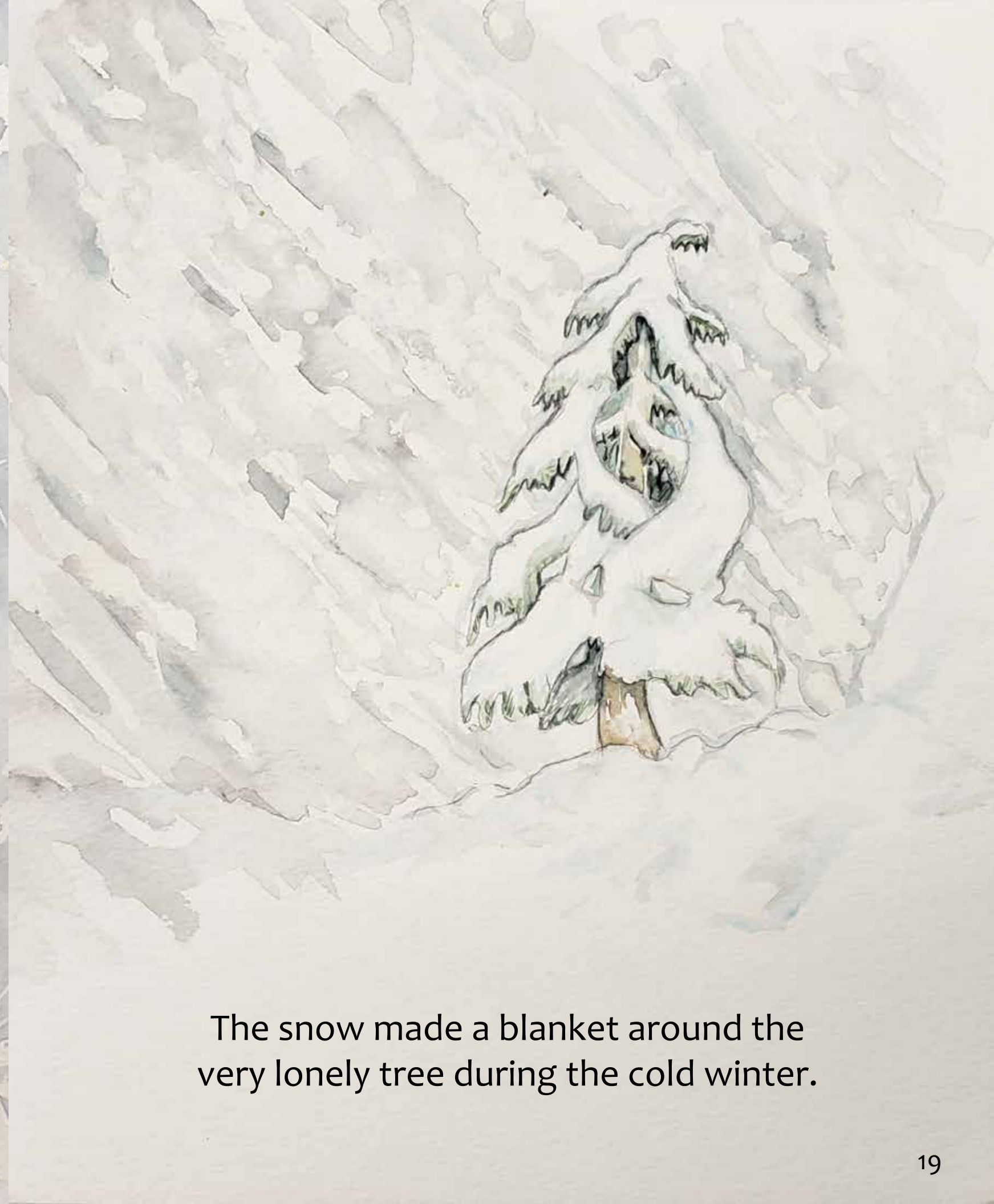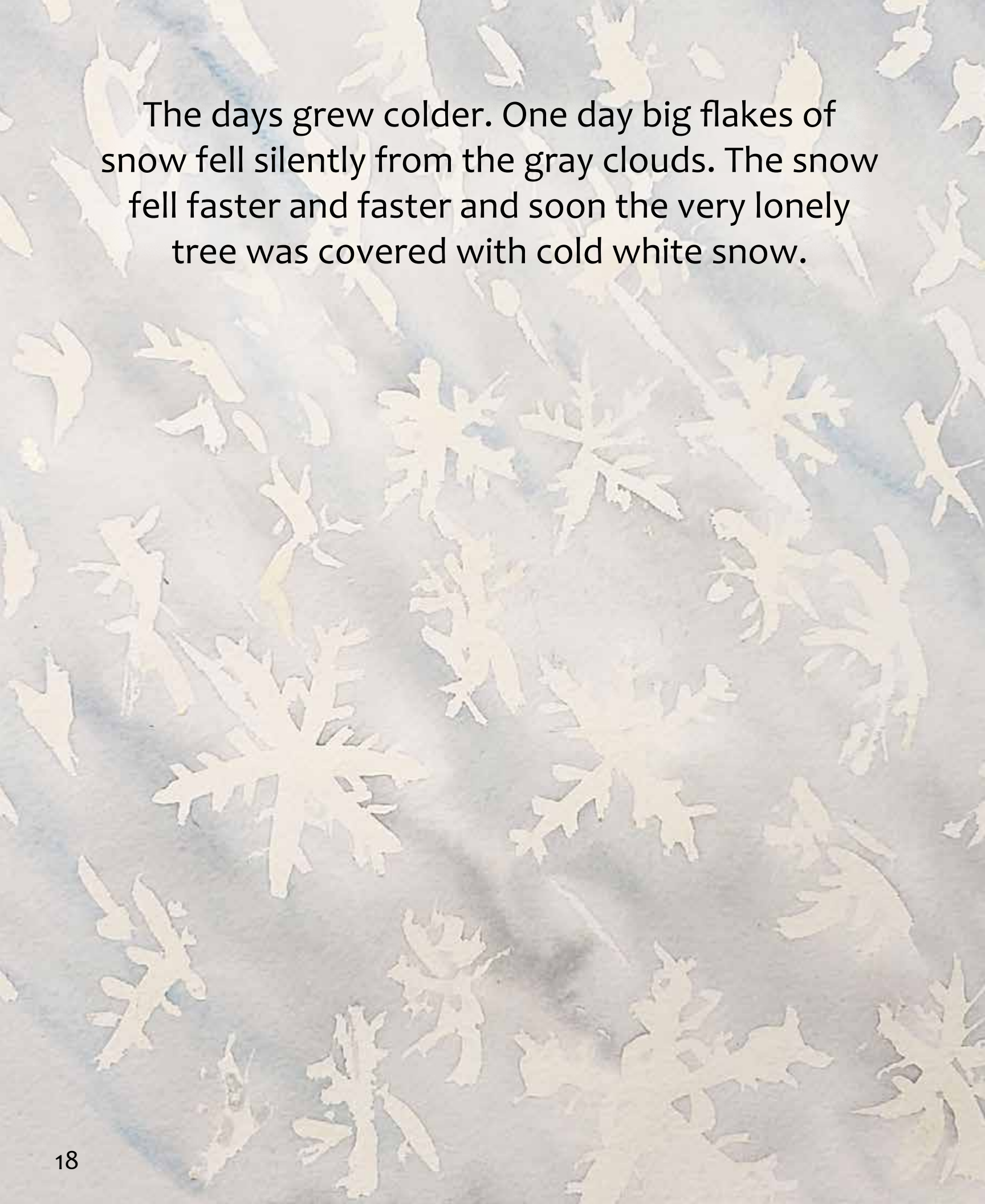seeds to bring to her
nest before fall.

The days grew shorter
and colder. The very
lonely tree slept
in the gray clouds.

Lower down on the mountain,
aspen trees turned from green to yellow.

"Whooh, whooh, whooh!"
howled the
fall wind
and blew
the golden leaves
high into the air
where they fell
to the ground
beneath the
very lonely tree.

The days grew colder. One day big flakes of snow fell silently from the gray clouds. The snow fell faster and faster and soon the very lonely tree was covered with cold white snow.

The snow made a blanket around the very lonely tree during the cold winter.

It was very quiet in winter except for the far away sounds of avalanches roaring "rumble, rumble, rumble, brrr, whump!"

Great slabs of snow slid down the mountain.

Sometimes the winter
sun warmed up the
snow and melted
the snow into water.

"Drip, drip, drip, drip"
the water fell
from the branches
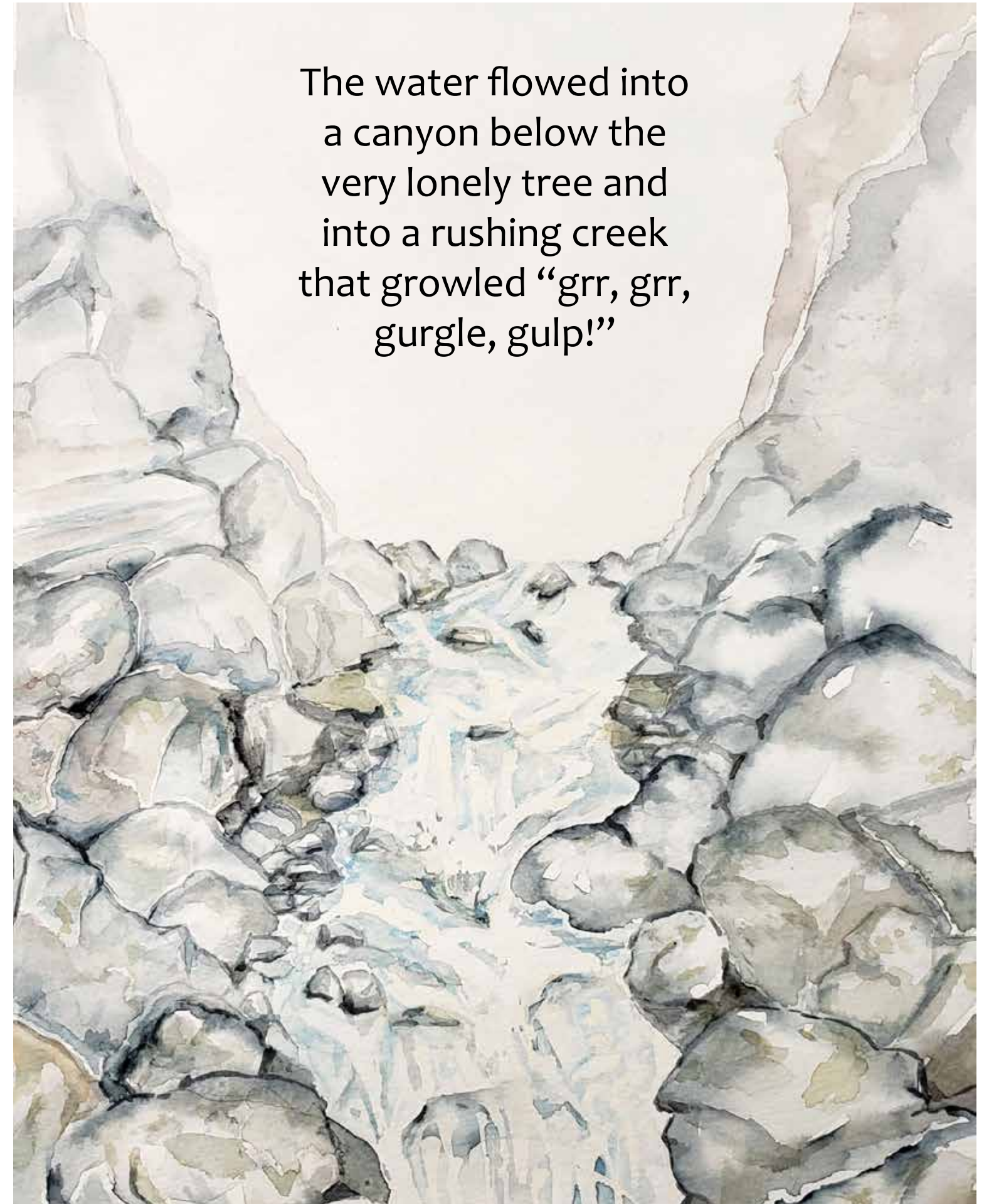of the very lonely tree.

At night, when the sun was gone,
and the air was very cold,
the dripping water froze into icicles.

In spring, the sun was very warm. All around the very lonely tree, the snow began to melt.

The snow melted into trickles of water that grew bigger and louder as the days grew warmer.

The water flowed into a canyon below the very lonely tree and into a rushing creek that growled "grr, grr, gurgle, gulp!"
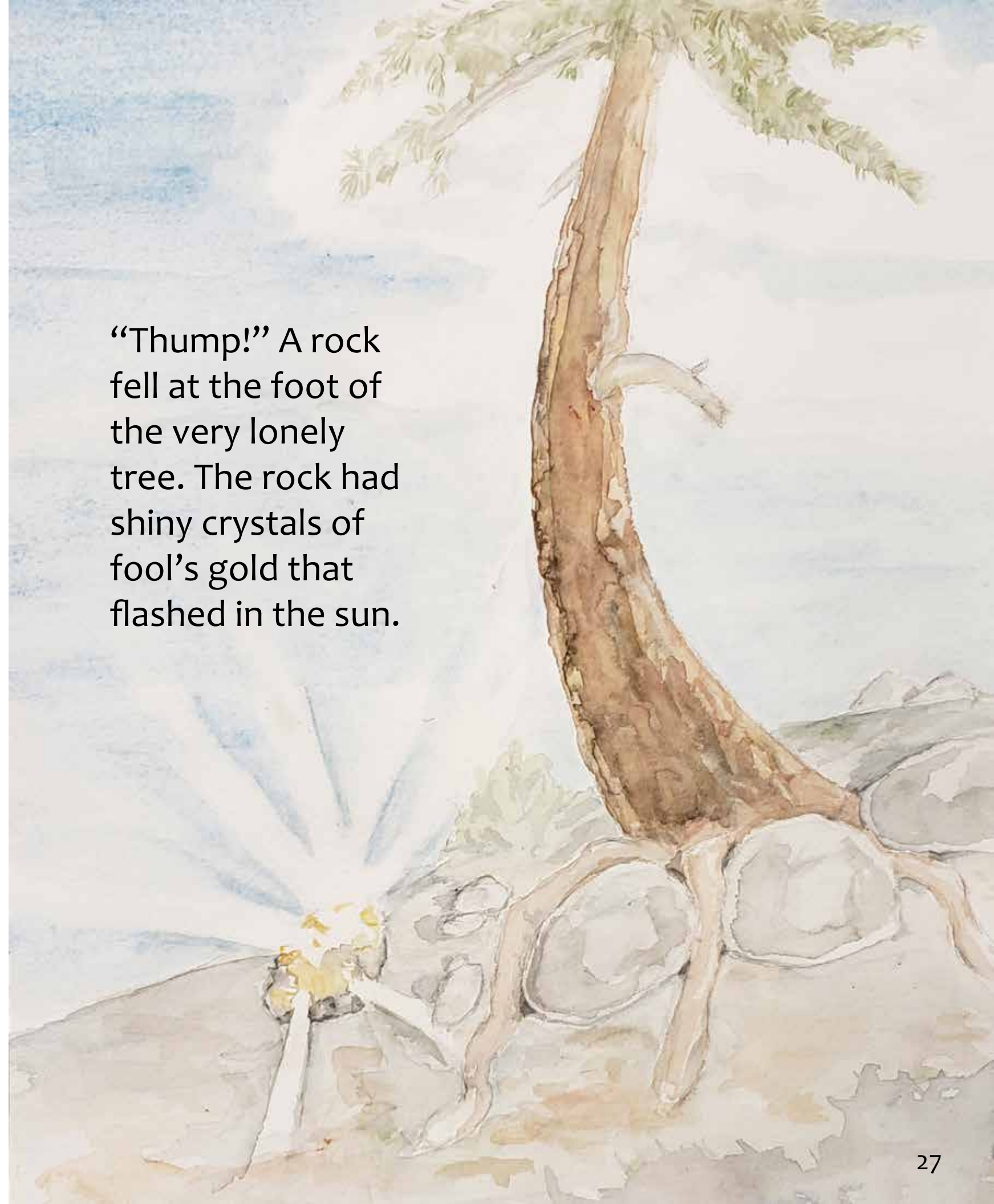
The melting snow and flowing water loosened rocks above the very lonely tree.

"Clatter, clump, clack, whump!" The rocks tumbled down the mountain.

"Thump!" A rock fell at the foot of the very lonely tree. The rock had shiny crystals of fool's gold that flashed in the sun.

One summer day, two mountain climbers rested beneath the very lonely tree.

One climber tied a rope around the tree and yelled "Rappelling!" and disappeared over the ledge below the very lonely tree.

From far below the climber yelled "Off!" Then the second climber attached herself to the rope, yelled "Rappelling!" and descended. "Phissshh!" The long rope uncoiled from around the very lonely tree and fell far to the ground below.

The wind blew the branches
of the very lonely tree.
A nutcracker bounced on the blowing
branch and yelled, "kraa, kraa!"
A chipmunk grabbed a pinecone that fell
to the ground. A grasshopper hopped
"click click," the bees "buzz buzz," and
the ants hurried quietly about.

The very lonely tree lives
on the side of a mountain.

The very lonely tree
is not very lonely after all.