

BRIANNA ^{THE} BRAVE



Written and illustrated
by Desire Grover

Brianna had many fears.

She worried about her new life,
in a new neighborhood at a new school.

"I'm afraid no one will like me,"
she told her father.

"There is nothing to fear," he said.
"You are the bravest little girl I know."



"I'm not brave," replied Brianna.
"I'm afraid of everything!"

Her father smiled.

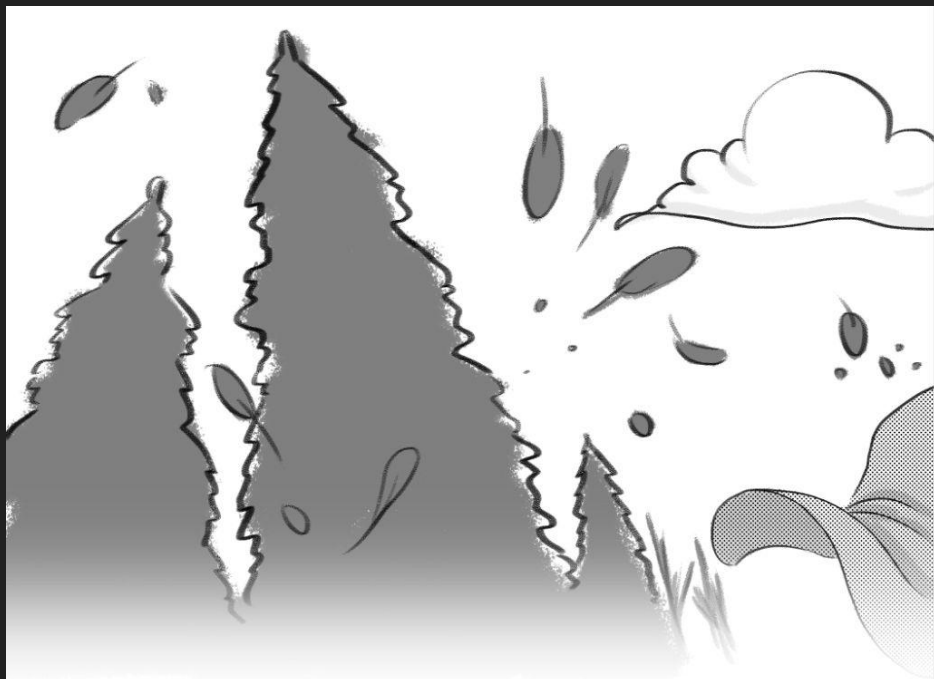
"Being brave doesn't mean you
have no fear," he explained.

"It just means that you've chosen to
keep your wits about you so you can
overcome what you're afraid of."

"I promise, you are
my brave Brianna."

Then he kissed her goodnight.





That night as Brianna slept, she dreamed a dream so real.

"Get up, Brianna," yelled a tiny voice. The girl opened her eyes to the feel of wind hitting her face.



Her bed was flying through the sky over a place she had never seen before!



Finally, the bed landed on a stretch of sand littered with umbrellas.

"Grab one," shouted the tiny voice.

Brianna was unsure where the voice was coming from but she grabbed an umbrella as directed.

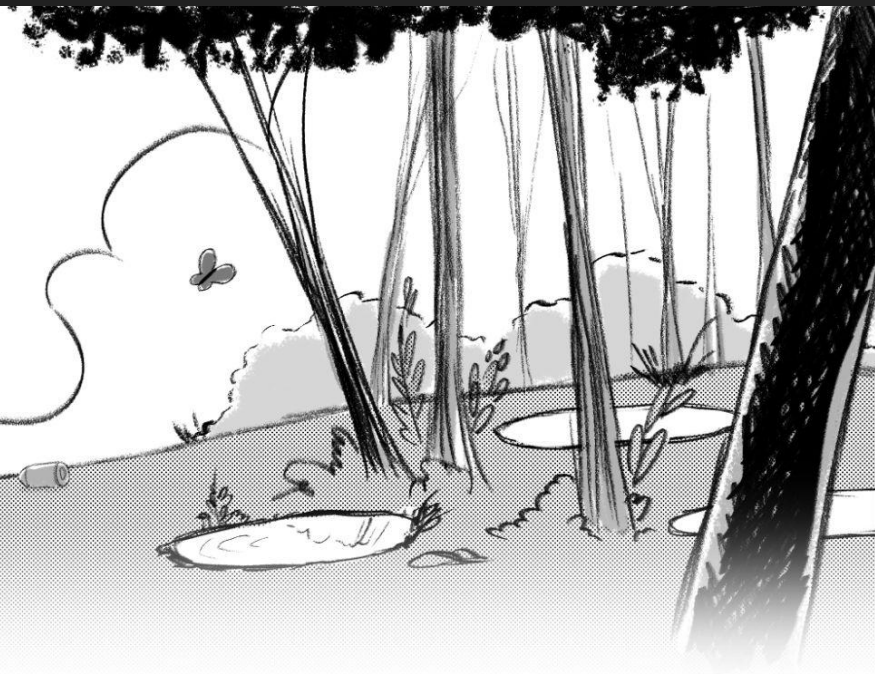


As she lifted the umbrella above her head
a butterfly appeared.

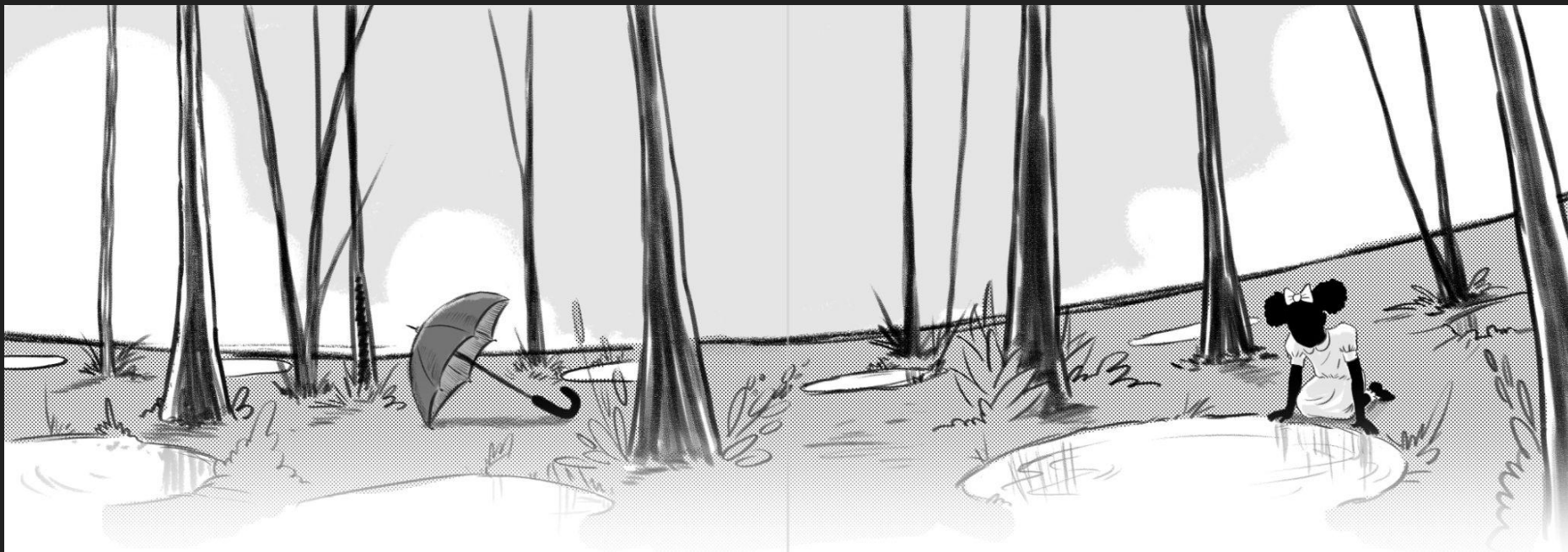
"You're going to need this for the barrage of
insults about to rain on your head," said the
tiny creature.



Just as the butterfly fluttered off, the insults began to rain down as promised! Running for cover Brianna found a forest.

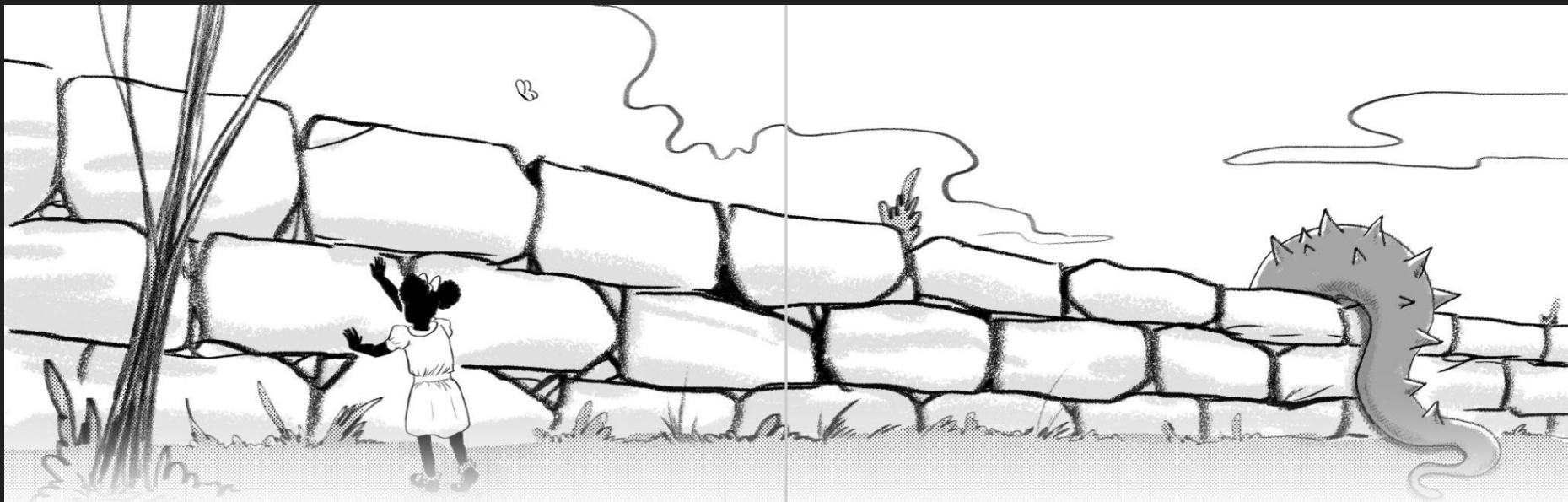


She began to approach the forest when the storm of insults stopped. The forest wasn't long but it wasn't short. It wasn't large but it wasn't small.



At the foot of every tree, there was a pool of water. Brianna was so intrigued by what she saw that she hadn't even noticed that she had walked to the other side of it.

As she looked around she heard a rumbling noise coming from behind a wall she hadn't seen until then. "What's on the other side," she wondered.



"Maybe a way home is on the other side of this wall," she thought.

"Maybe it is," said the butterfly.

"How are you reading my thoughts," Brianna demanded.

The butterfly ignored her question.

"You could try climbing the wall but you'd have to face the monster on the other side," explained the butterfly.
"Or you can go back through the forest and retrace a path home."

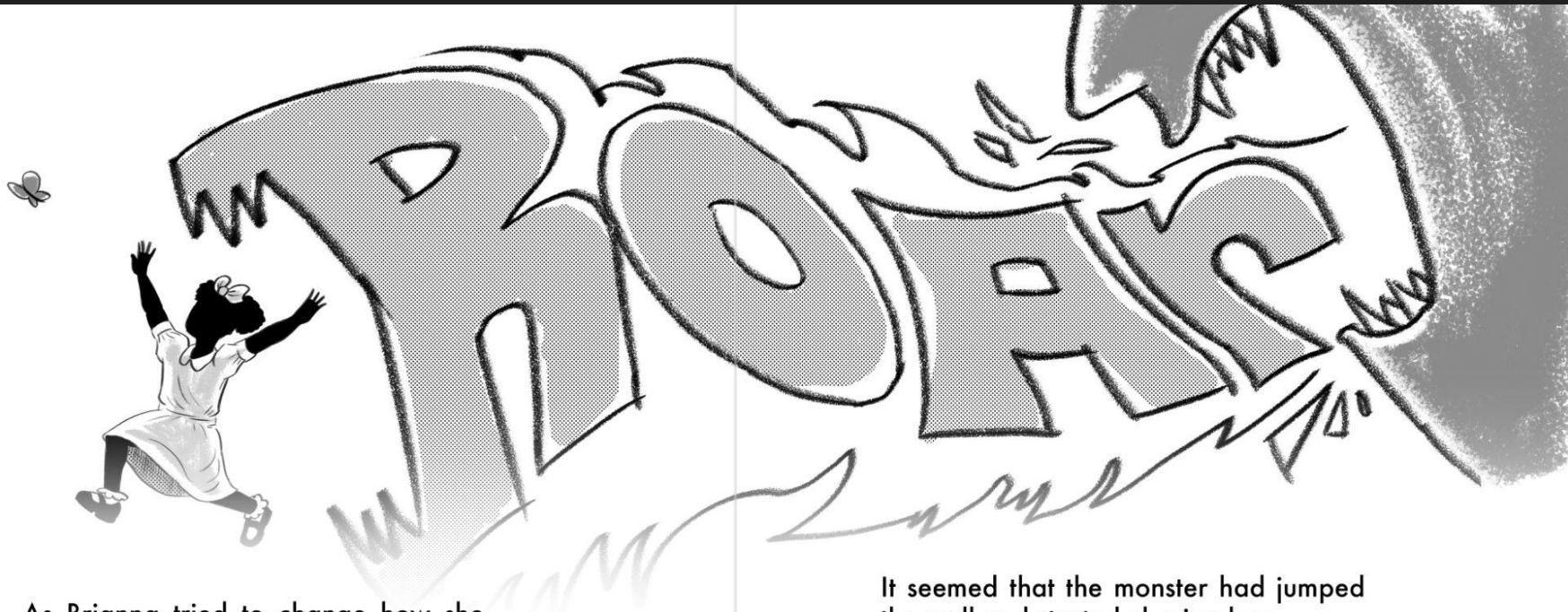
But when Brianna looked at the forest again it seemed to change. The forest was now very big, very long and very dark.

"The forest has changed! It looks scary now," cried Brianna.

"Nothing about the forest has changed," argued the butterfly. "You just see it differently this time. Before you were curious but now you're afraid."

"How am I supposed to change the way I see things," Brianna protested, more to herself than to the butterfly.





As Brianna tried to change how she saw things, she heard a loud terrifying roar behind her! Wasting no time she ran through the forest.

It seemed that the monster had jumped the wall and started chasing her.

"Jump in a pool," yelled the butterfly.
"It might take you home!"



"Why didn't you say so at the start," responded Brianna. Understandably, she was now both afraid and very angry which helped her run faster.

"I didn't say so because you weren't afraid enough to be brave enough to just jump in!"

Brianna realized arguing with the butterfly was pointless. She had to keep her wits about herself just like her father said.

So she jumped into the nearest pool of water and as she felt her entire body engulfed she opened her eyes to find that she... the brave Brianna had fallen out of her bed.



Realizing that it was just a dream
she began to giggle.

"I wonder if I can return to that place
one day," she thought.

"I might try facing that monster because
I am brave Brianna."

The end.