

BLACK & WHITE



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“Who is that beautiful panda I see!”, Pho, the Panda exclaimed while looking at his reflection on the pond. Pho is an arrogant panda who is colorblind and can only see in black and white. He thinks he’s the best-looking animal because in his opinion, he has the most unique black and white pattern. He always brags to other animals about how beautiful he looks.

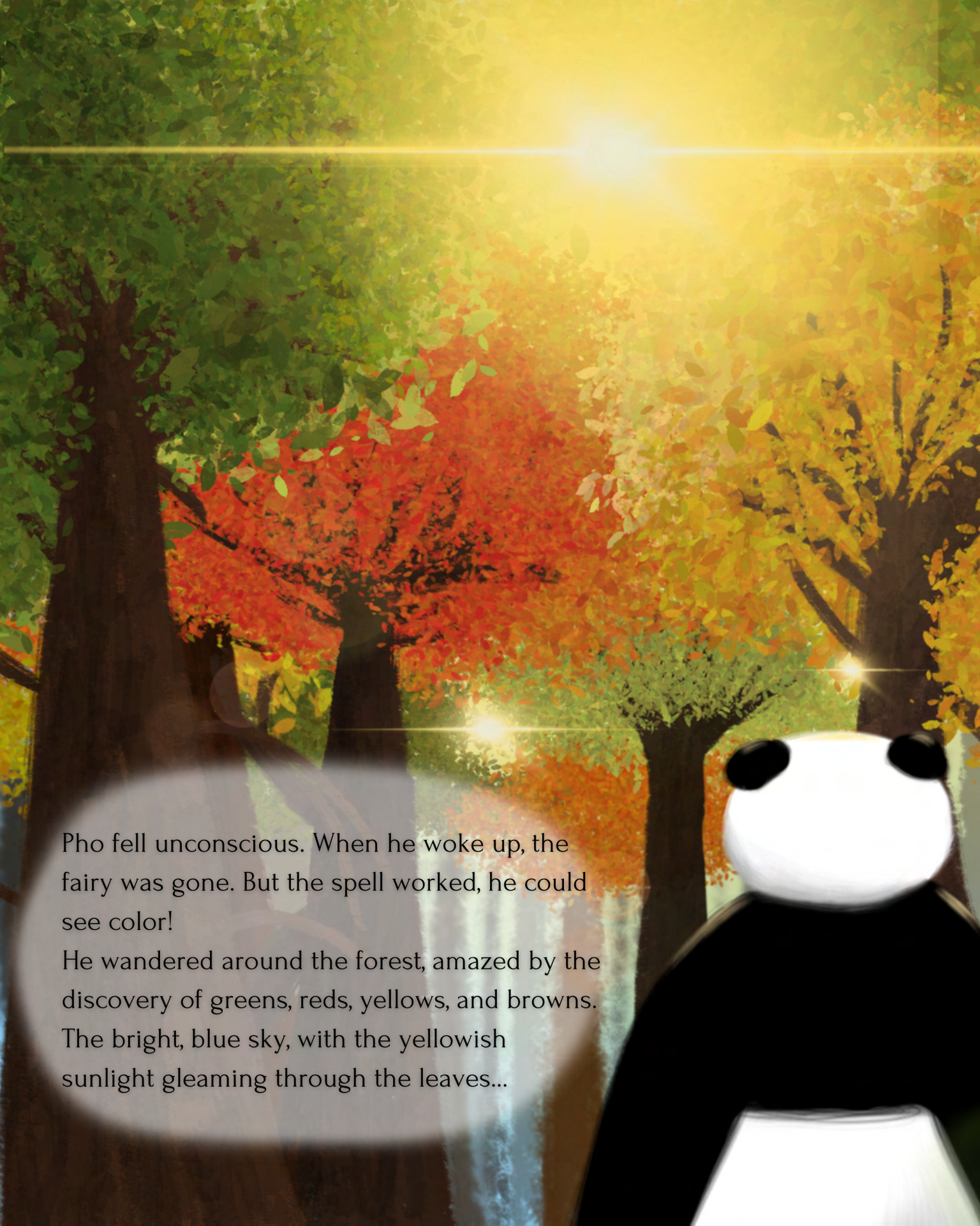


But one day, while he was admiring his reflection on the pond, as usual, he saw a sparkly glow inside the water. “What in the-” He was shocked. A light suddenly came out of the water with a magical and mysterious echo.



“Who-” “Hello, I’m the fairy” The mysterious light interrupted.
“I thought fairies aren’t real...” Pho was so puzzled. “Sure they are!” The fairy replied. “I thought everyone knows me...
Anyways, I heard that you can only see black, white, and grey” Pho got even more puzzled. “I shall let you see!” The fairy exclaimed. “May your eyes open, may your eyes see, the true colors of the world, and everyone’s vitality.” The fairy chanted.



A vibrant, painterly illustration of a forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with leaves in shades of green, red, orange, and yellow. A bright sun is shining from the top right, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. In the foreground, the back of a panda's head and shoulders is visible, looking towards the forest. The panda is wearing a black robe with a white collar.

Pho fell unconscious. When he woke up, the fairy was gone. But the spell worked, he could see color!

He wandered around the forest, amazed by the discovery of greens, reds, yellows, and browns. The bright, blue sky, with the yellowish sunlight gleaming through the leaves...

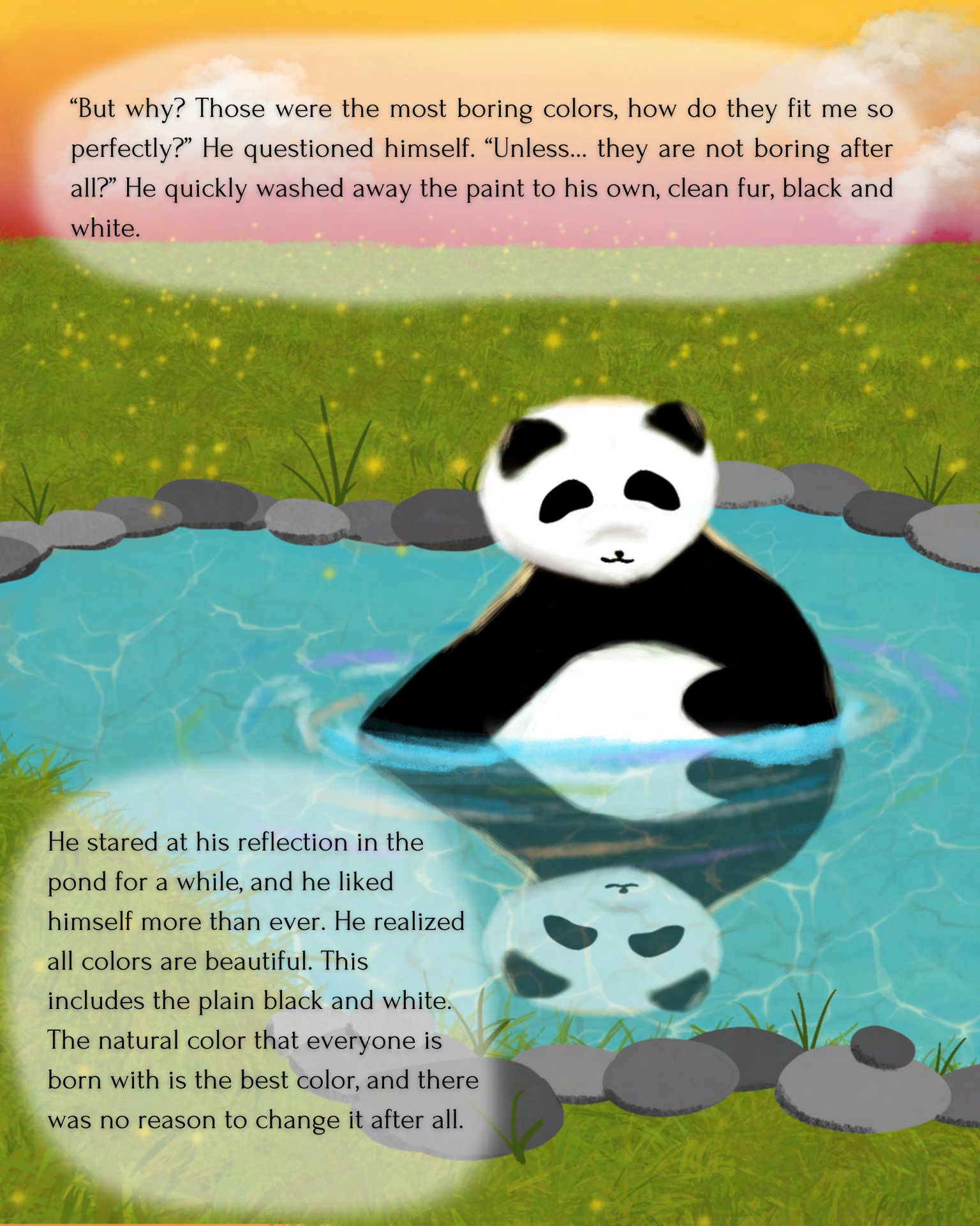
Then he realized, everything has color—a special, unique, color. He quickly ran to the birds. The beautiful colors sweeping across the sky made him dizzy. Then he realized, black and white stayed the same so he still has the boring colors. He could no longer brag to the monkeys, the squirrels, the red pandas, as they all look more colorful than him.



He was ashamed for not being able to see how beautiful the other animals were and for laughing at them. He was also ashamed of having black and white fur, as he now thinks they are boring. His guilt and his low self-esteem made him paint his fur. He tried a few different color combinations but none worked; none of them suits him better than black and white.



“But why? Those were the most boring colors, how do they fit me so perfectly?” He questioned himself. “Unless... they are not boring after all?” He quickly washed away the paint to his own, clean fur, black and white.

A cartoon illustration of a panda sitting in a pond. The panda is black and white, with its reflection clearly visible in the water. The pond is surrounded by green grass and grey rocks. The background is a bright, colorful sky with a sun or moon and clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

He stared at his reflection in the pond for a while, and he liked himself more than ever. He realized all colors are beautiful. This includes the plain black and white. The natural color that everyone is born with is the best color, and there was no reason to change it after all.