

THE RAINBOW LAKE

by. Lekey Leidecker



Illustrated by. Tenzin Lhamo

Tibetan Women Authors Series

The Rainbow Lake

Lekey Leidecker

Translated by Drukthar Gyal

Illustrated by Tenzin Lhamo

Book design by Tenzin Tsepel

Text ©2024 by Lekey Leidecker

Illustrations ©2024 by Tenzin Lhamo

All rights reserved.



©TALI 2024

www.talitibet.org



One summer, two women were traveling.
As they traveled, they carried with them a tent,
some chura, some tsampa, some clothes, a kettle,
and many other things.

They stopped beside a beautiful lake in the
valley between two mountains.



One of the women, Tsomo, began to make tea. She walked toward the lake to fill the kettle with water. The water was a beautiful shade of blue. She admired it for a while, then walked back, made a small fire, and waited for the tea to boil.

The other woman, Drakyi, laid out a blanket on the grass. They had done this many times before. Sometimes Tsomo made the tea, and sometimes Drakyi did.



Tsomo walked to the blanket, sat down, and poured two cups of tea from the kettle. She handed one to Drakyi and took a drink from the other after making an offering.



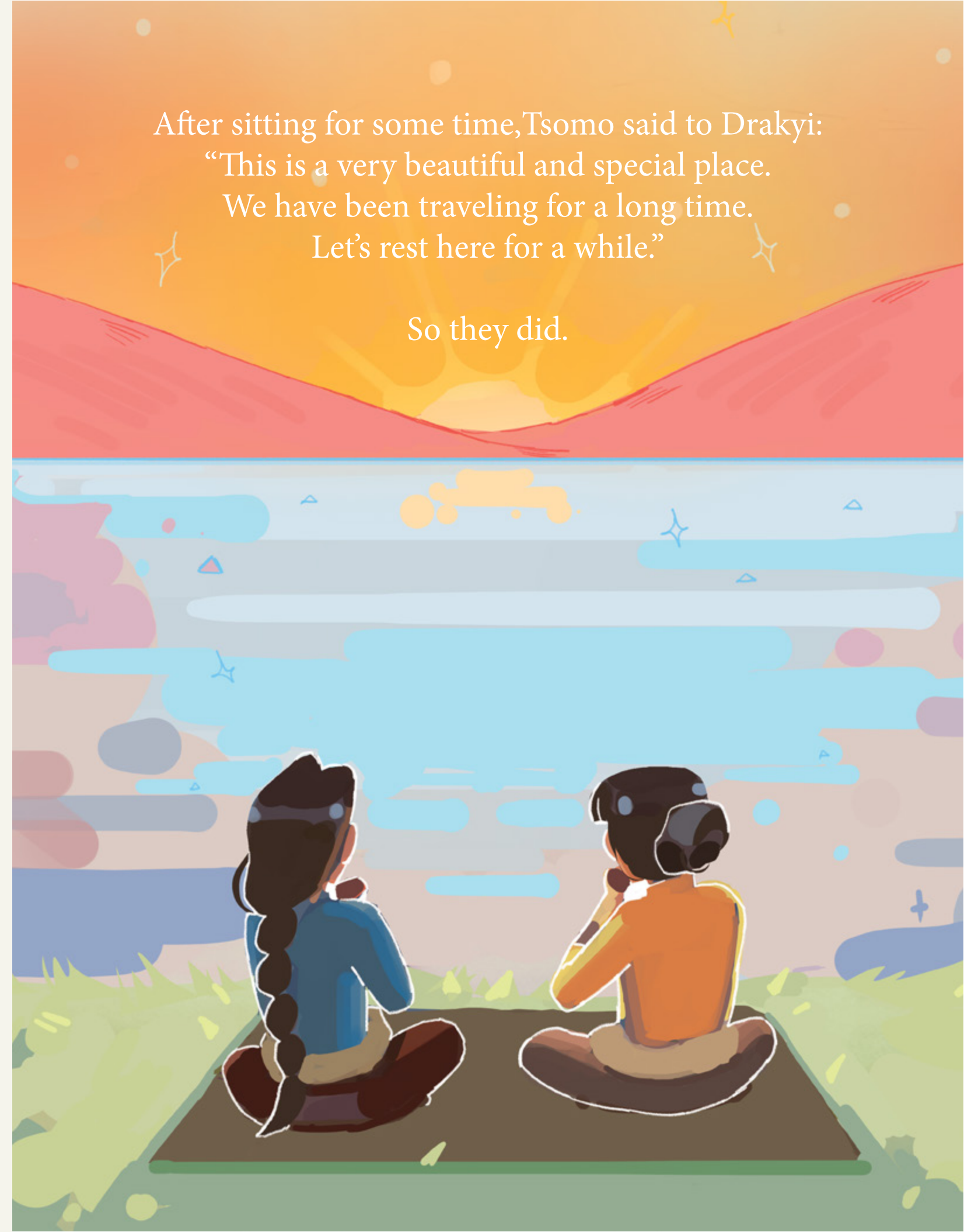
Drakyi smiled at Tsomo and said “Thank you” as she took the tea and made her offering too.

They sat together in contented silence, looking at the lake, the mountains, and the sky. They did not need to talk to understand each other's thoughts and feelings. Both felt happy in the beautiful place.



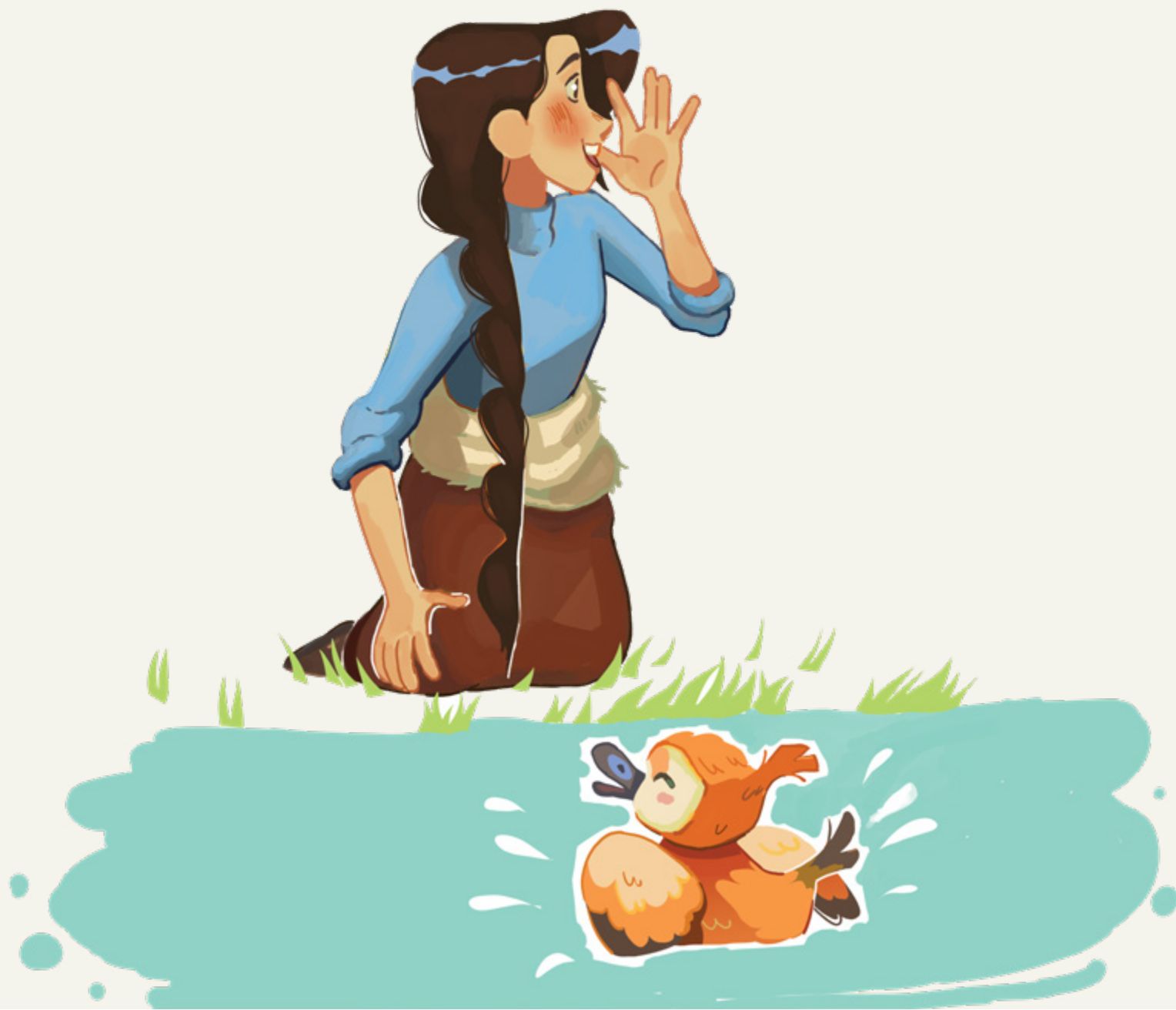
After sitting for some time, Tsomo said to Drakyi:
“This is a very beautiful and special place.
We have been traveling for a long time.
Let’s rest here for a while.”

So they did.



They woke in the morning to sunlight reflecting off the lake, which now appeared to be green. Drakyi walked to the lake, where she met a small duck playing in the water. She called to Tsomo:

“Tsomo! Can you bring some of the bread?”

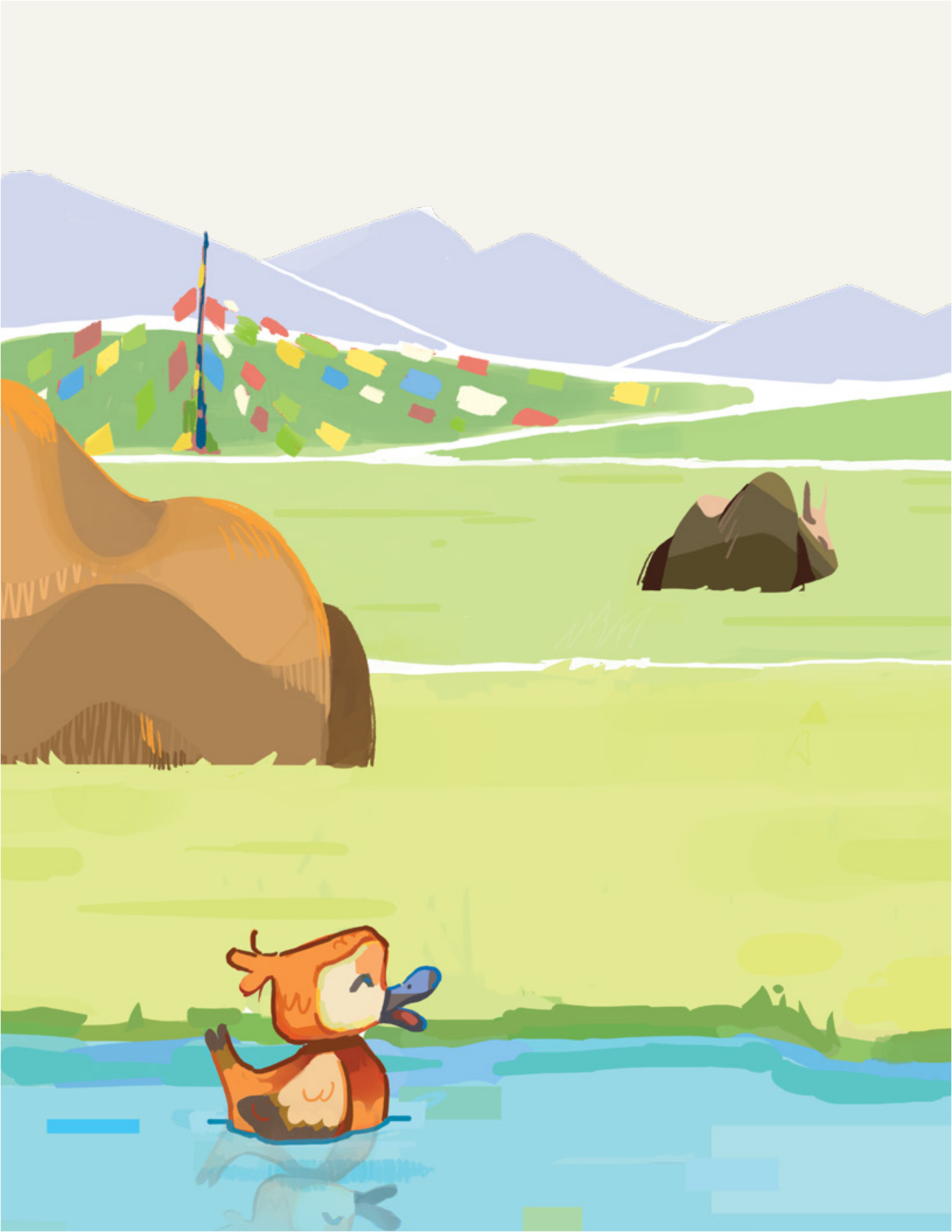


Together, they threw bread to the duck. The duck would try to catch the bread, but often missed, splashing through the water to reach it. This made all of them laugh. To say thank you, the duck swam in small circles in the water, dancing and quacking. They all played and splashed in the water together.





The women stayed for more days next to the lake. Some days, when Tsomo or Drakyi prepared breakfast, the duck would swim to the edge of the water and wait for their new friends. It never left the water, but it would wait every day until the women arrived.



One day, the duck swam to the edge of the water and called to their new friends. But the women did not come with their bread to visit the duck, and the duck began to feel worried and sad.

Later that day, a yak who was grazing nearby came to drink from the lake and saw the duck waiting there.

“What’s wrong, duck?” the yak asked.

“My friends who live next to this lake have been coming to visit me every day, but they didn’t come today. I am worried something has happened to them!”
the duck cried.





The yak began to laugh. “Poor duck! You didn’t need to worry. Humans are not like us. They don’t eat from the grass like me or from the lake like you.

They eat things like bread and drink things like tea. They have gone to the town to get more of these things. I am sure they will be back soon to visit you and make more of the bread that you love so much. They will be glad to see you waiting here.”



The duck was so happy they began swimming in small circles in the water, splashing and quacking.

The next morning, the duck swam back to the lake's shore, feeling nervous and excited. Soon after, Tsomo walked to the water, smiling and carrying a small parcel wrapped in cloth. She greeted the duck happily and the duck splashed in the water.



“Hello friend! Drakyi is making breakfast and she will be here soon. Did you miss us? Sorry we didn't come to see you yesterday. We went to the town so we can make more bread to share with you.”



Drakyi approached, carrying bread, and said “We also brought a gift for you!” Tsomo opened the parcel and gently placed a small pair of glasses onto the duck's face, securing them with a small string.

“You live in a very special and beautiful place, friend. We noticed that you never walk to visit our tent, and that you don't catch the bread when we throw it to you. We thought these would help, and now you will be able to see the beautiful place that is your home.”



The duck looked at their surroundings as if seeing them for the first time. They saw Tsono and Drakyi, smiling at them. They saw the lake, sparkling with sunshine on the gentle waves. They saw the mountains, reaching to the sky. They saw the sky. One day, they might fly into that sky. But for now, this was their beautiful home.

Tsono and Drakyi looked at the lake, shimmering in its many beautiful colors. They looked at the mountains, reaching to the sky. They smiled at their friend, at each other. They looked at the point where the mountains made a valley, and the small path they had taken to the town the day before.



One day, they might follow that path again.
But for now, this would be their beautiful home.
The water from the lake would rise into clouds to give
them shade and fall back down as rain to
make the grass soft and the lake full.

Tsomo spread the blanket next to the lake. Drakyi carried
over tea and bread, extra for their friend the duck.
The yak wandered over to drink from the lake.

The rainbow lake sparkled behind them. They splashed
and played until the sun went down.



Tsomo



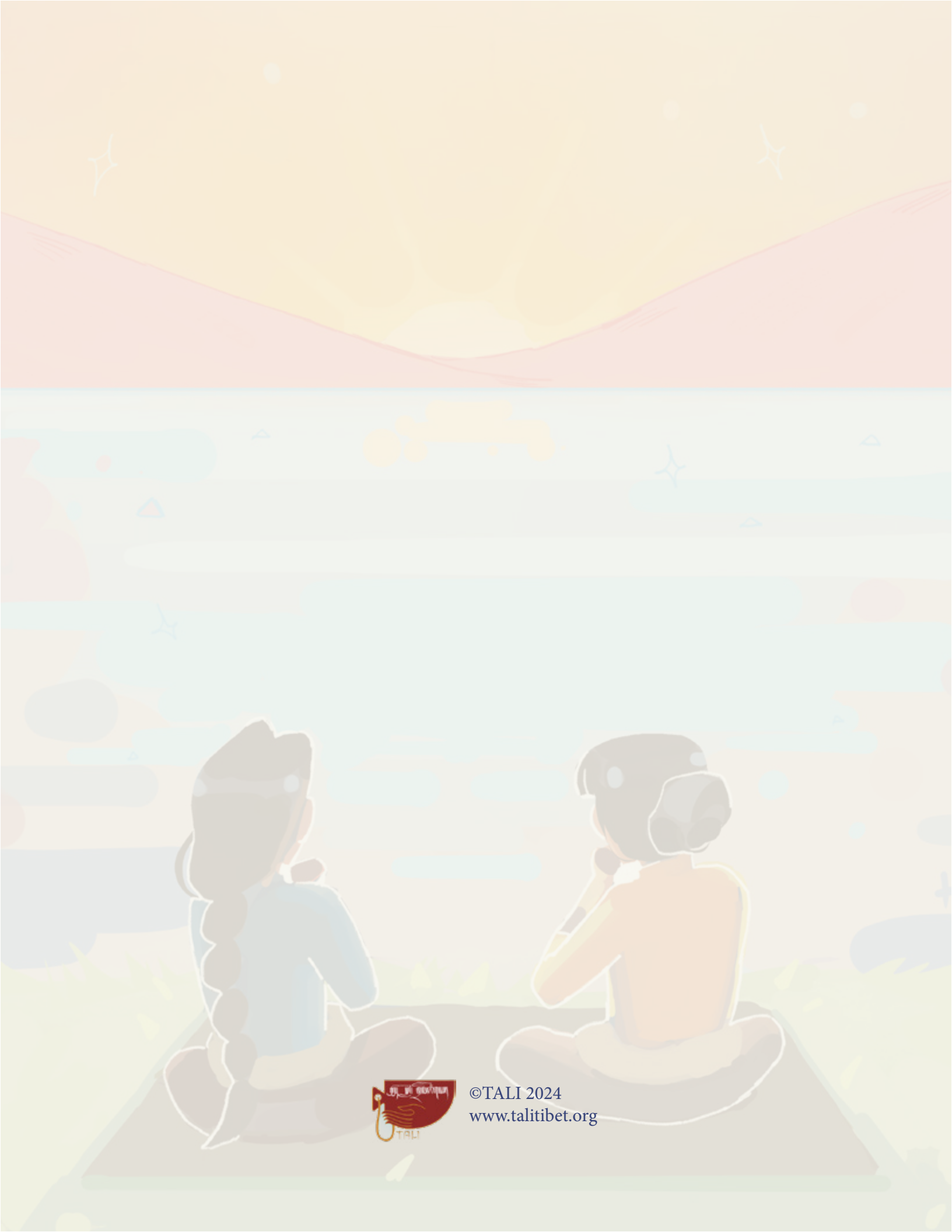
Drakyi



Duck



Yak



©TALI 2024
www.talitbet.org