

A stylized illustration of a lioness with a weary expression, her eyes half-closed and a small frown on her face. She is depicted in a warm, golden-brown setting with soft, white clouds. The lioness has a reddish-brown coat and a blue nose. Her right paw is raised near her head, and her left paw is visible at the bottom. The overall style is soft and textured, reminiscent of watercolor or pastel.

THE VERY TIRED **LIONESS**

Imile Wepener • Maren Bodenstein • Nathan McKay

The Very Tired Lioness

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The Very Tired Lioness

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with the help of the Book Dash participants in Johannesburg on 27 October 2018.

ISBN: 978-1-928442-81-3

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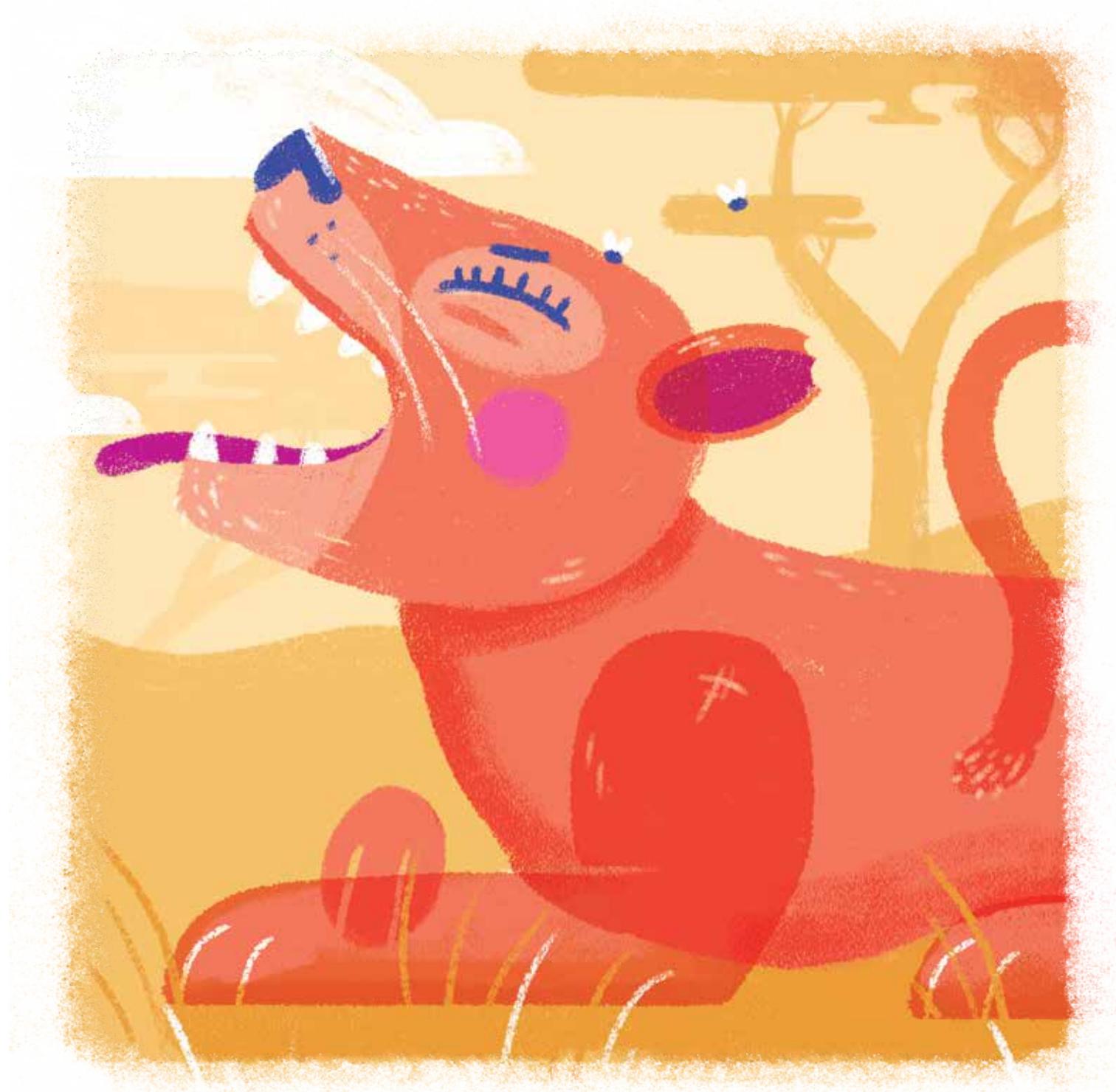
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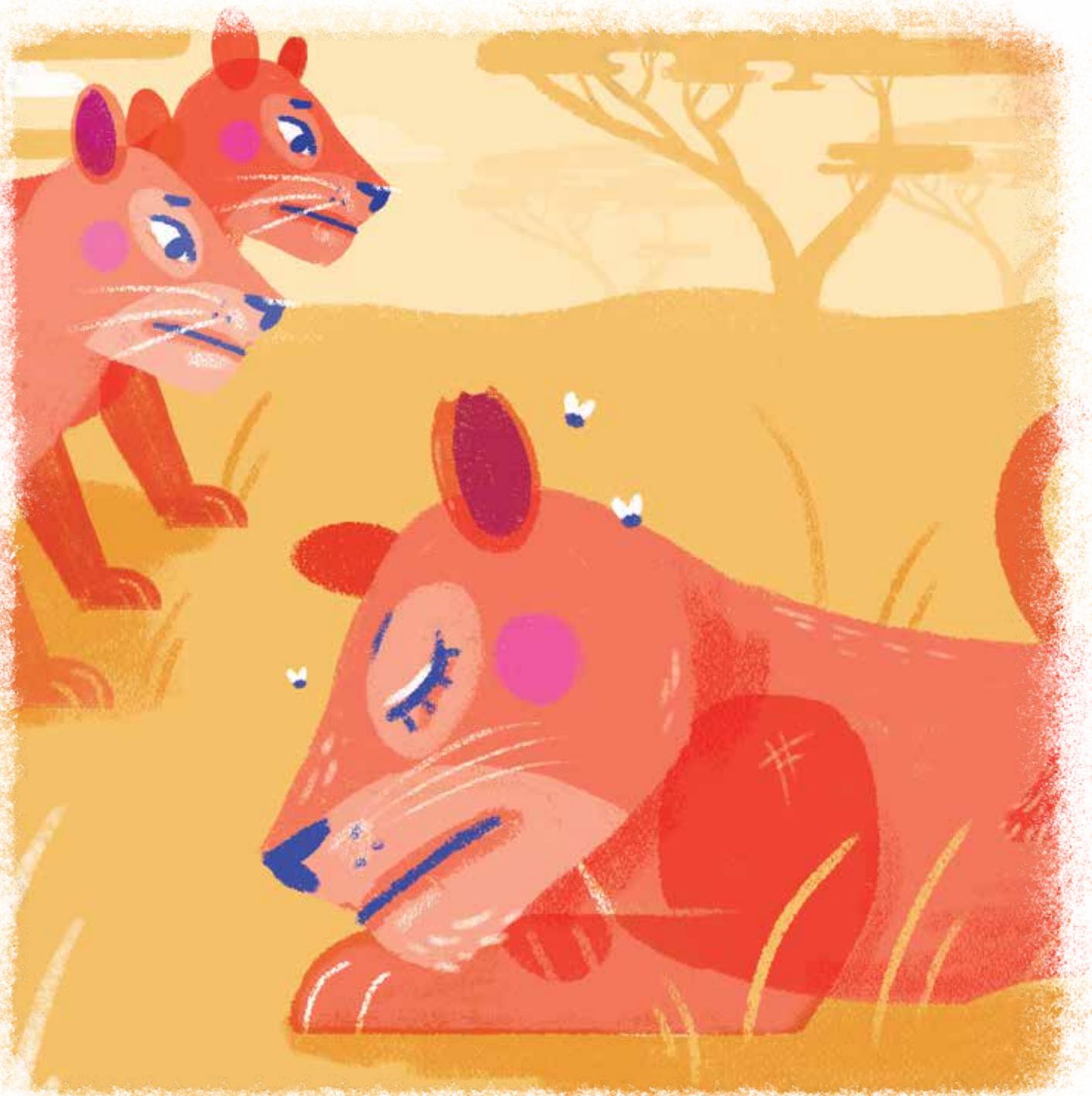
The book cover features a vibrant, textured illustration of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of warm orange, yellow, and red tones, with a large, bright sun partially obscured by white, fluffy clouds. The overall style is soft and painterly.

THE VERY TIRED LIONESSE

There was once a very old
and very tired lioness.

She was so tired that
she slept all day.
And all night.





“Come and hunt with us,”
said her sisters and daughters.

But the lioness was
too tired.

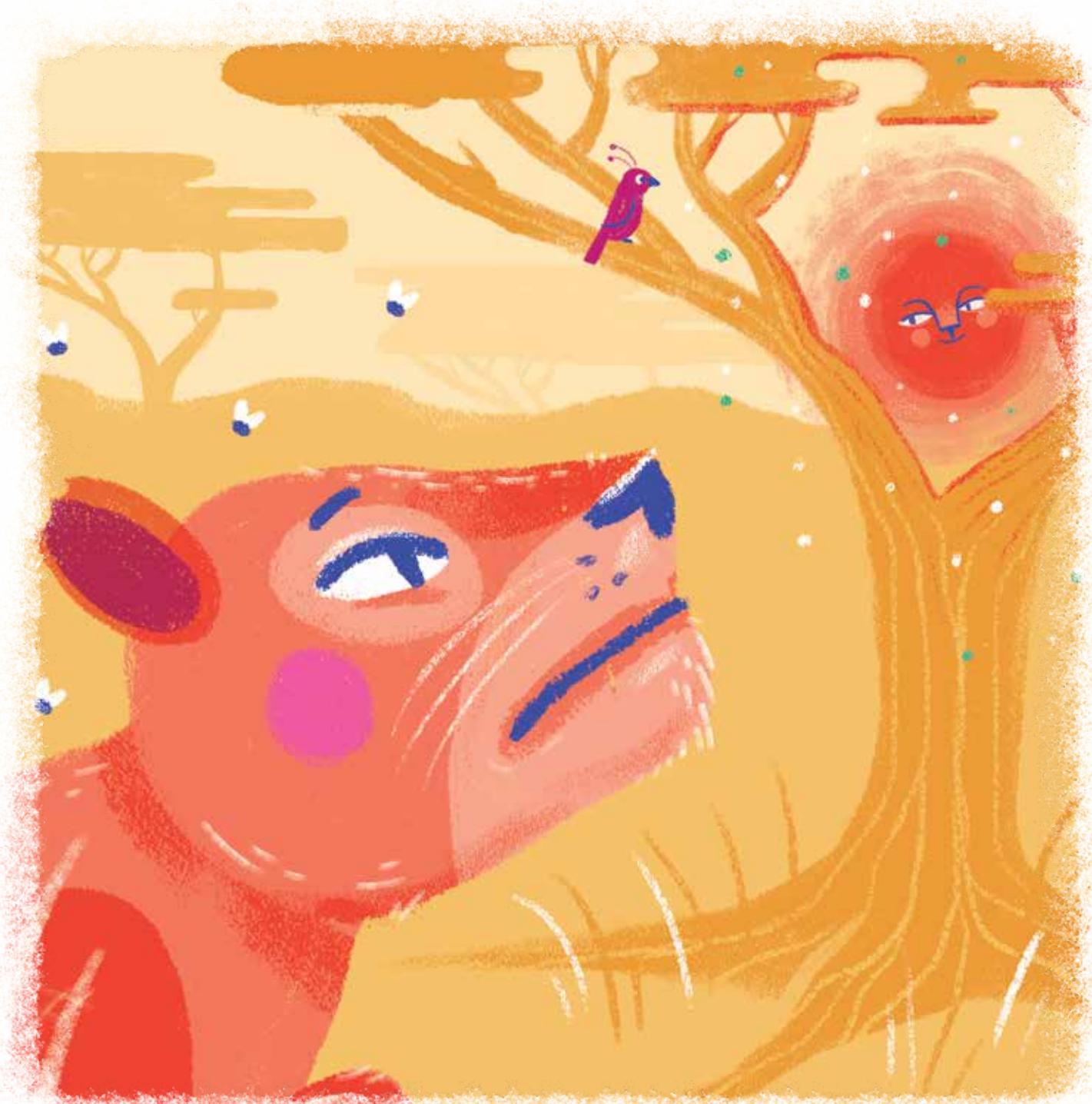
“What’s wrong with her?”

asked the young impalas.

“Don’t go too close,” warned their mothers. **“She might eat you.”**

But the lioness just flicked her ears to **chase away the flies.**





One day the lioness woke up with a strange feeling that **something was watching her.**

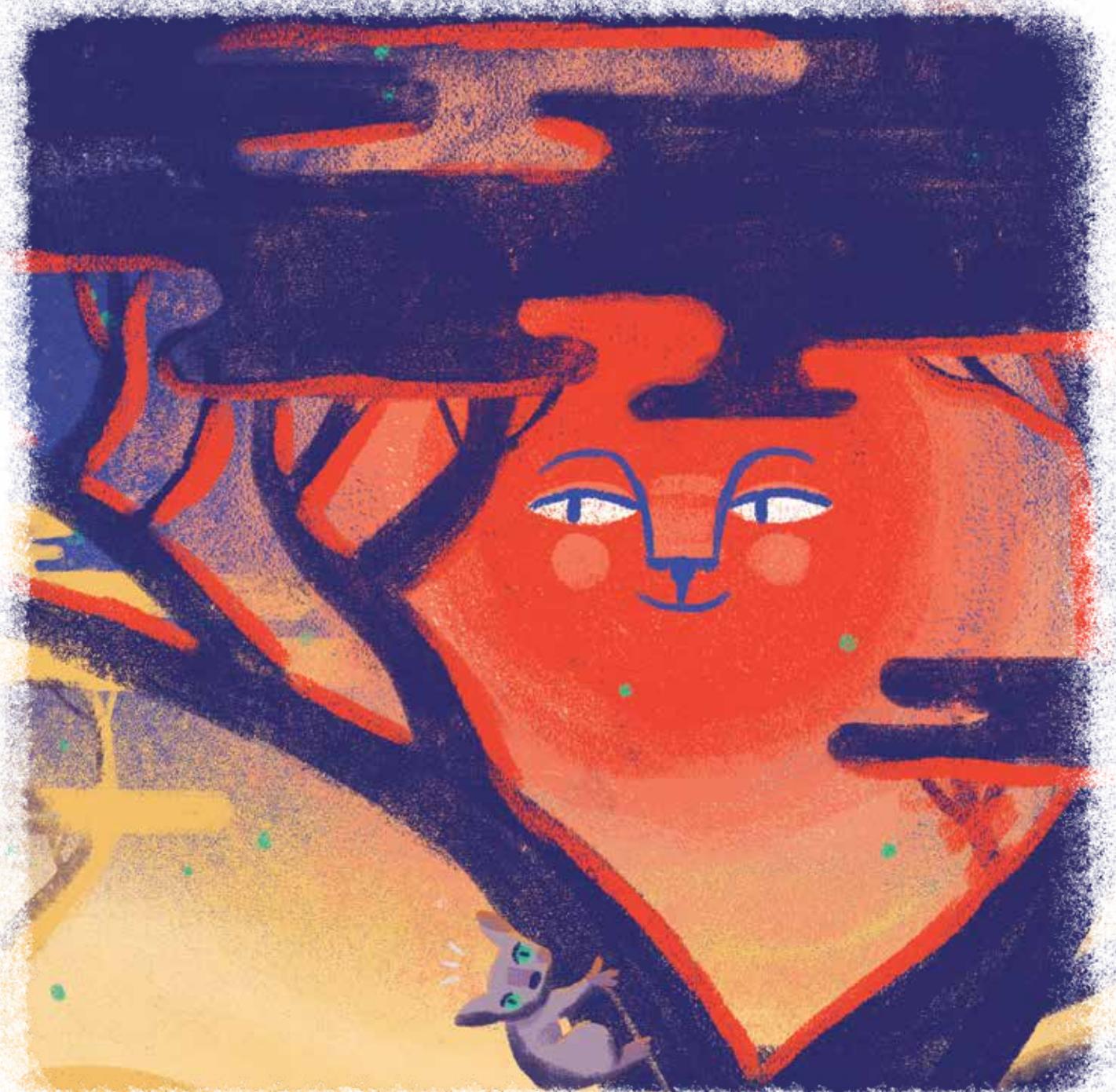
When she looked up she saw a boiling roiling creature in the tree.

“Who are you?” asked the lioness.

“I am the sun.
I have come to fetch you.”

“**Go away,**
grumbled the lioness.
“I want to sleep.””





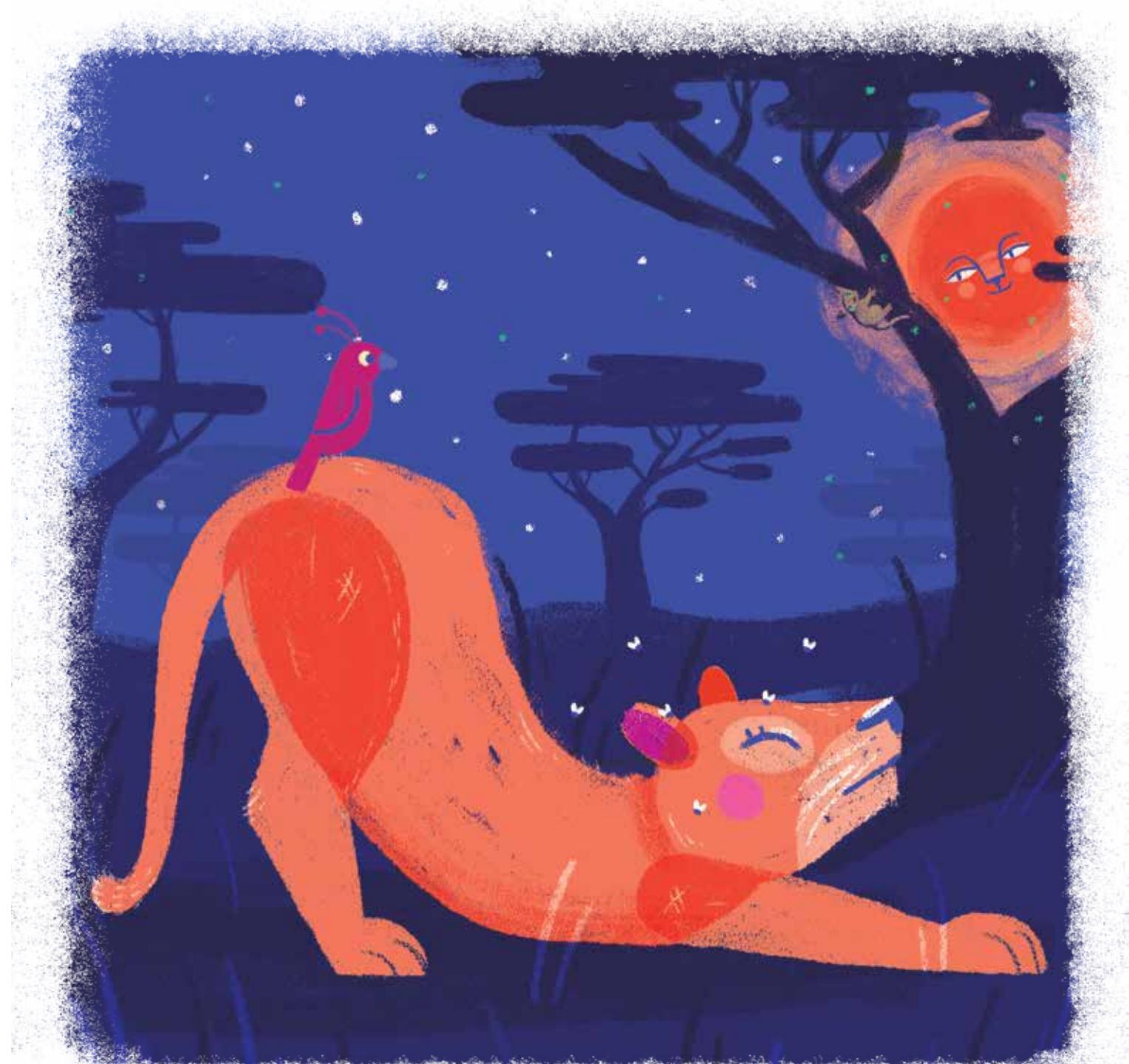
When the lioness opened her eyes again, the sun was still in the tree.
“Can’t you see, you are making us all hot and thirsty?”

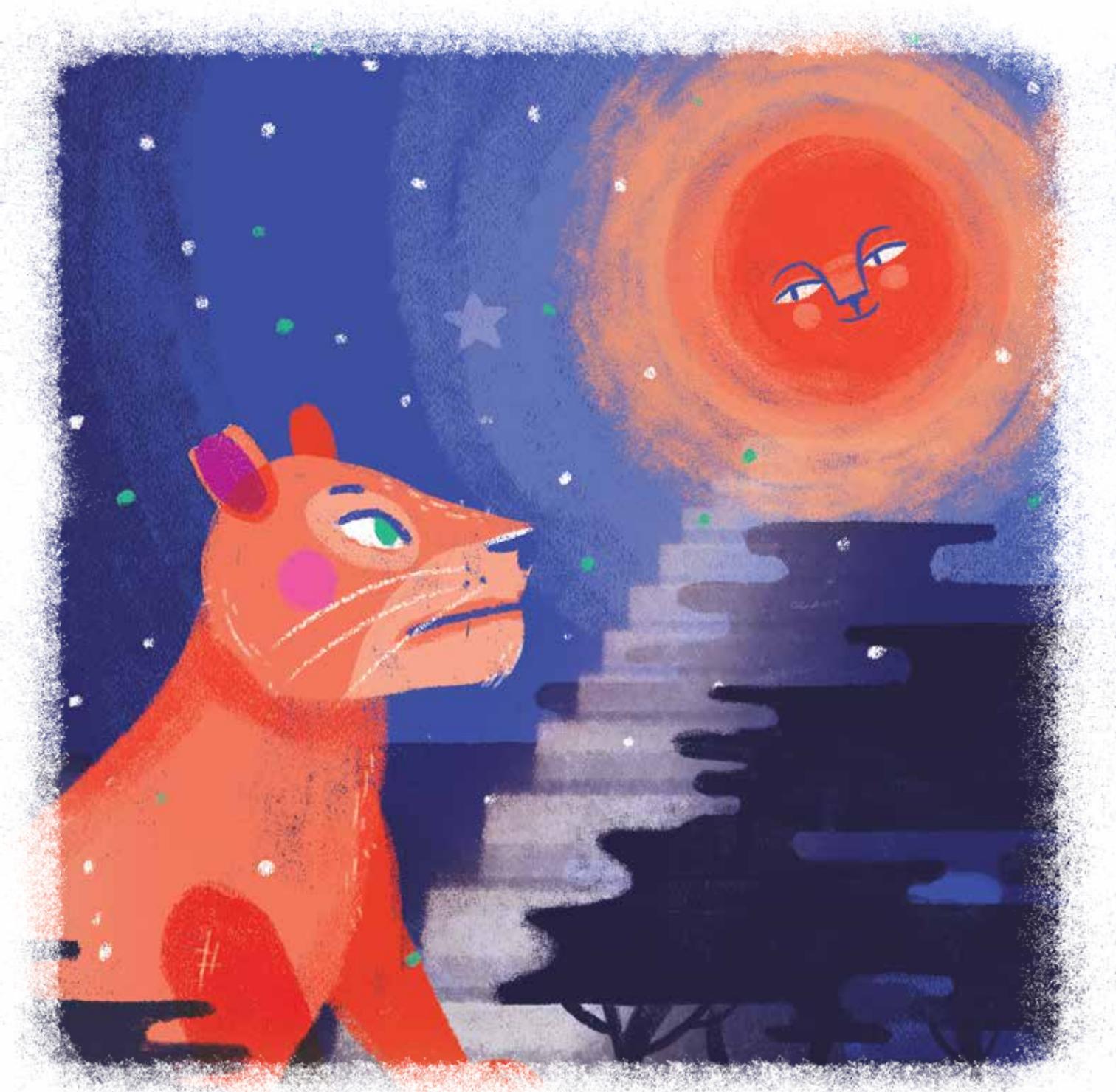
“It’s getting late,”
said the sun.
“Follow me.”

So the lioness slowly
got up and followed the sun.

“Happy hunting,” called her sisters
and daughters after her.

“See you! See you!” chirped the bird.

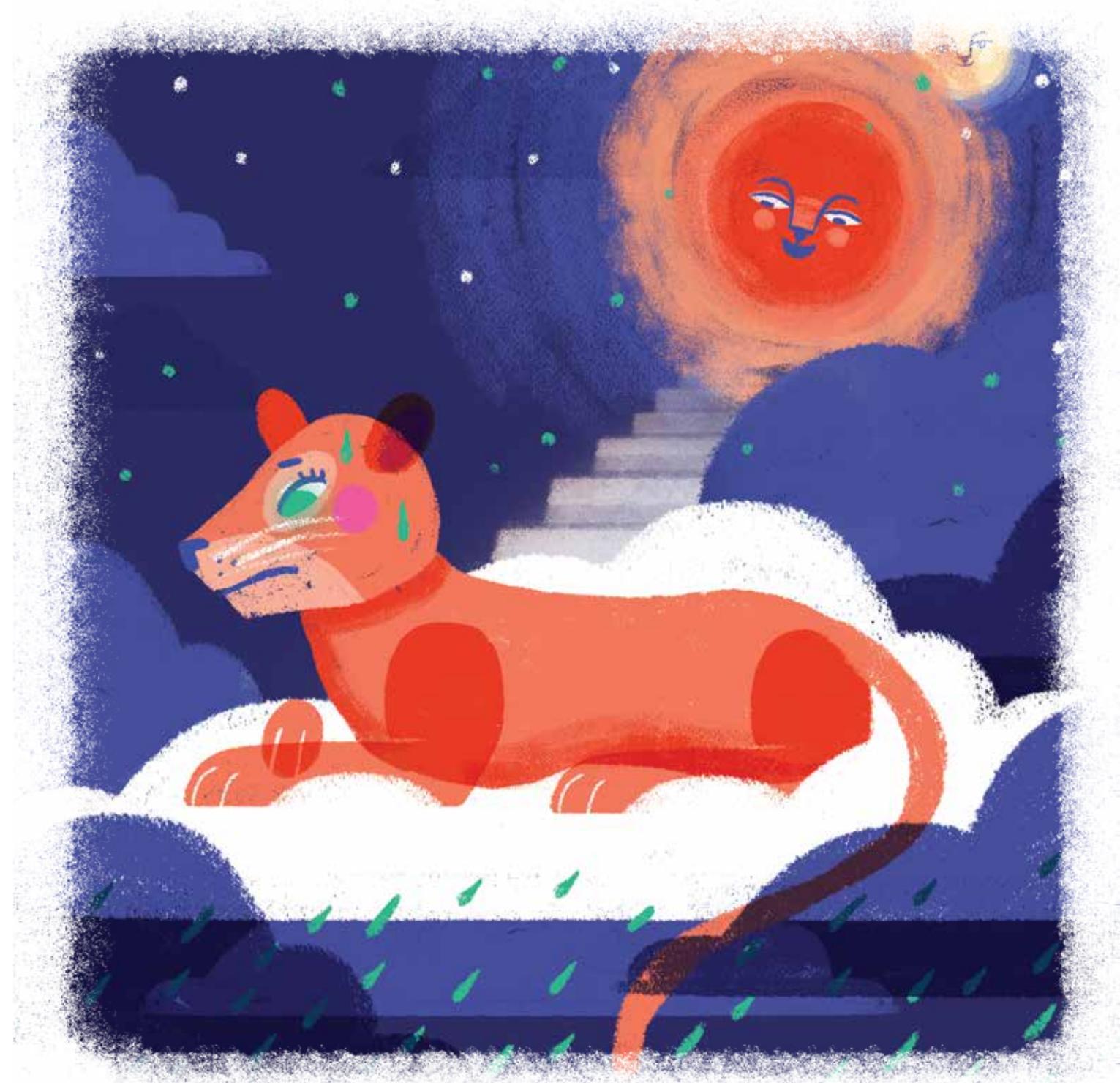


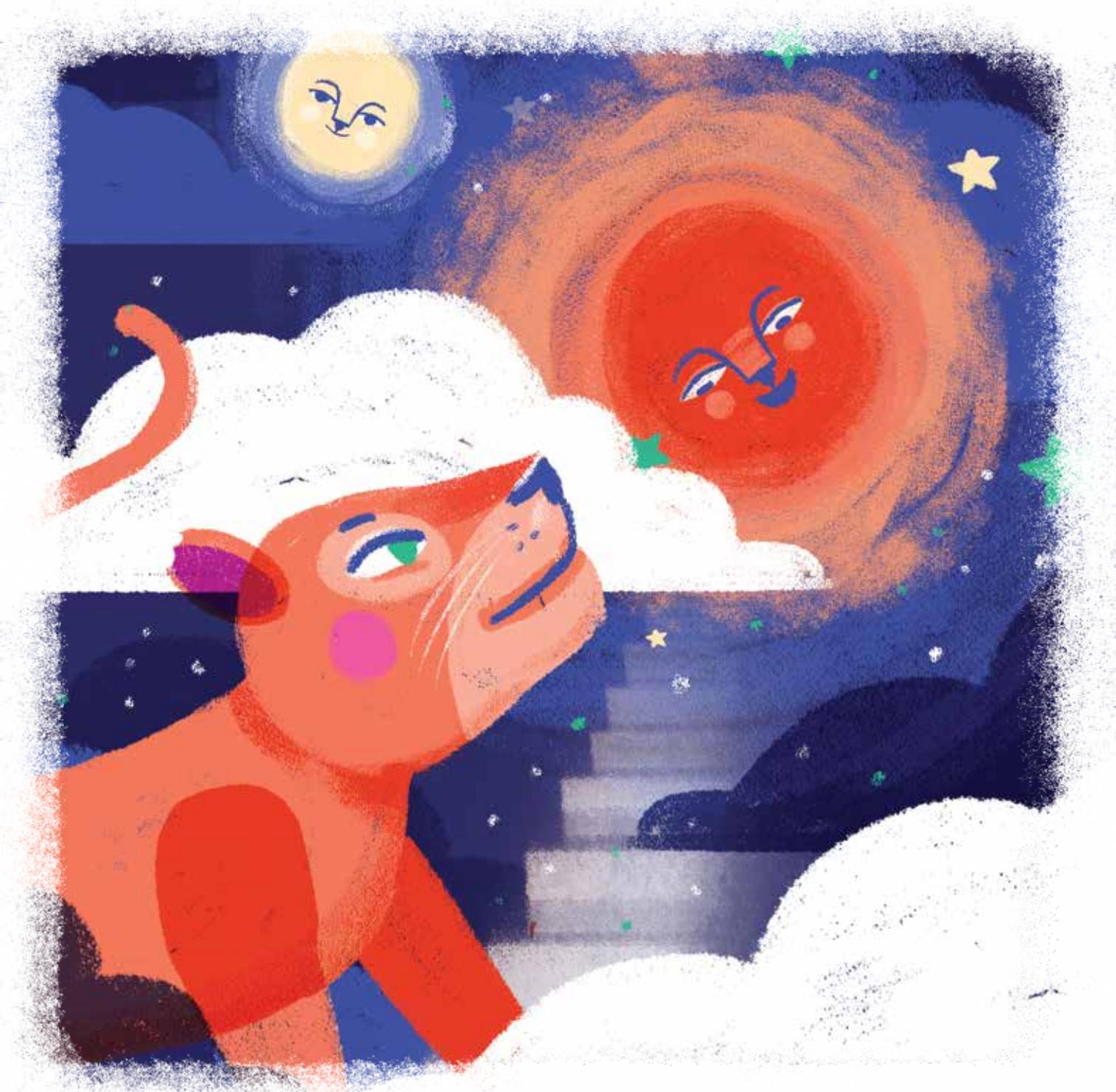


But the lioness didn't
hear anything.

She just climbed higher
and higher and higher
into the sky.

“Phew, it is far,”
said the lioness.





**“Not too far to go anymore,”
said the sun.
“You can rest when we get there.”**

And so the lioness came
to stay with the sun.
All day she lay lazily
in its warmth.





But at night, when the sun was asleep, **she looked down** at the beautiful world **she had left behind.**



