



The Sunshower Song

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Level 3



"Tell me again about your wedding," the young jackal said to his mother.
"Tell me about the music of the forest, about the sun-rain and the songbirds."



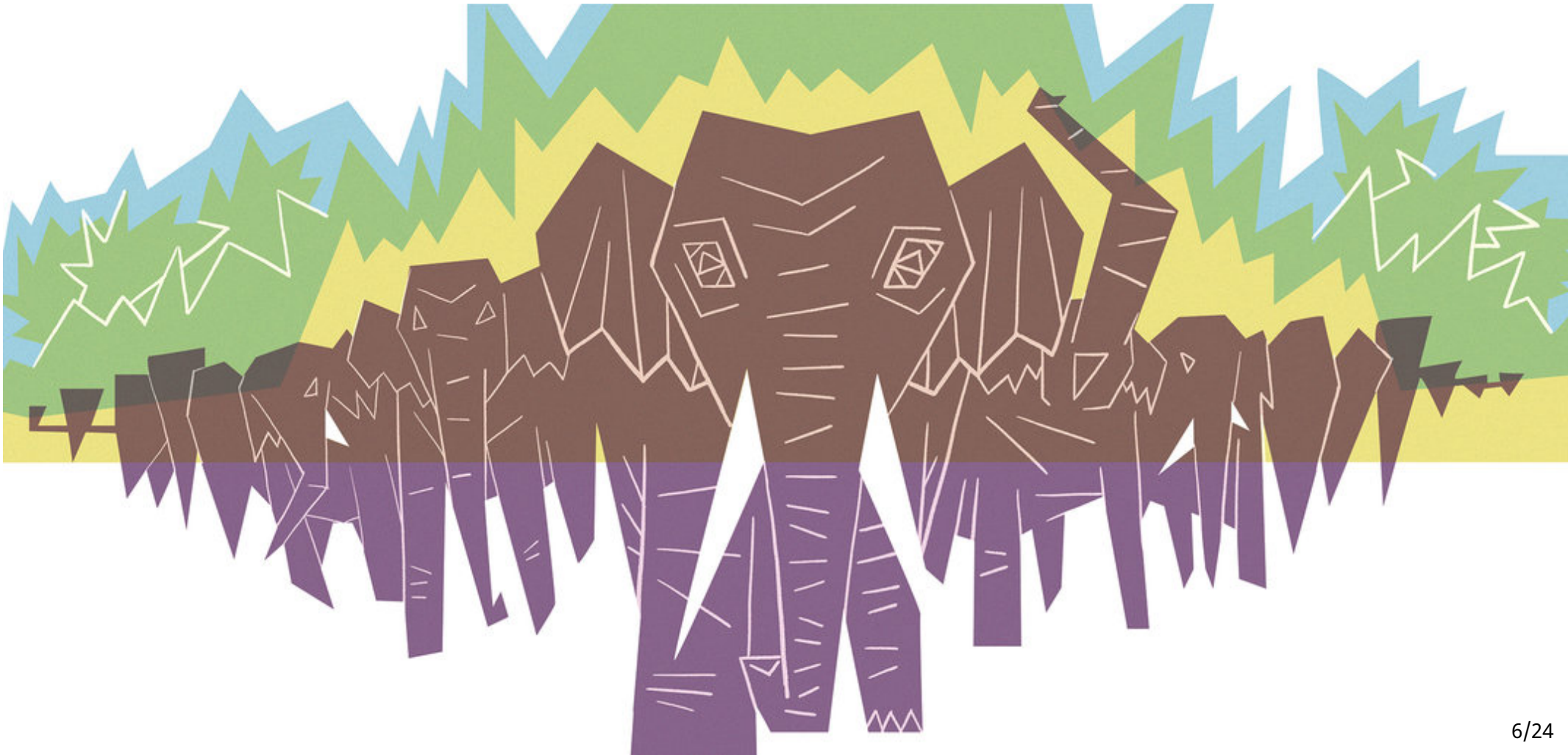
"I remember that morning well, my cub.
Your father and I stood in the clearing at the forest's heart,
praying for the weather to turn. The sky was striped in gold,
black and silver-blue. The air was cool and wet.
Our guests were on their way, bearing many gifts of *sound*."



"The elephants, with their big ears, were the first to hear of our wedding. They shook the whole forest as they *thundered* their way to the clearing."

"They *thumped* the earth with their giant feet, and *honked* and *wailed* with their trunks:

**BOOOM-BOOOM-BOOOM-HWAAAAARRNN!
BOOOM-BOOOM-BOOOM-HWAAAAAAAARRNNN!"**





"All that noise awoke the monkeys, who started jumping up and down, making the tree branches *creak* and the leaves *rustle*: **SHICKI-SHICKI-SHICKI-KRAKK! SHICKI-SHACKI-SHICKI-HYYYYEEHHH!**"



"This, in turn, startled the woodpeckers and squirrels out of their nests. They began *tapping* and *chewing* nervously on the tree trunks: **TATTARA-TATTARA-TATTARA-TATTA-TA! CHHH-CHHH-CHRRRRR-CHHHRRRRR! CHHH-CHHH-CHRRRRR-CHHHRRRRR!**"



"And the other birds?"

"Not just yet."



"The next to arrive was Grand-Uncle Bear, with his hollow *whistling* stick. When he swung it in the air, it went: **TEE-DEE-DOO-DEE-DEE! TOO-DAH-DEE-DAH-DEE-DEE!**"

"Hahaha. I love Grand-Uncle Bear! And who came now? The singing birds?"



"No, the birds were still flying in from the mountains. Now came the deer, with reeds tangled around their antlers. When they stuck their antlers into the flower bushes, thorns *plucked* at the reeds and made a strange sound: **TWANG-TWANG-TOIING! TOIING-TWANG-TONNNG!**"

"And that," she said, "was when the birds arrived."

"At last!"



"Black birds, blue birds, red birds and yellow. Big birds and small.
They swooped, flitted and fluttered around us, showering us with feathers.
And they *sang!* Oh, how they sang!"



"They sang the song of the rushing wind, the song of sunlight at dawn, and the song of rain. Then they sang all their songs at once, weaving and pressing them, one into the other, until it was a single cold-hot melody."

"THE SUNSHOWER SONG!"

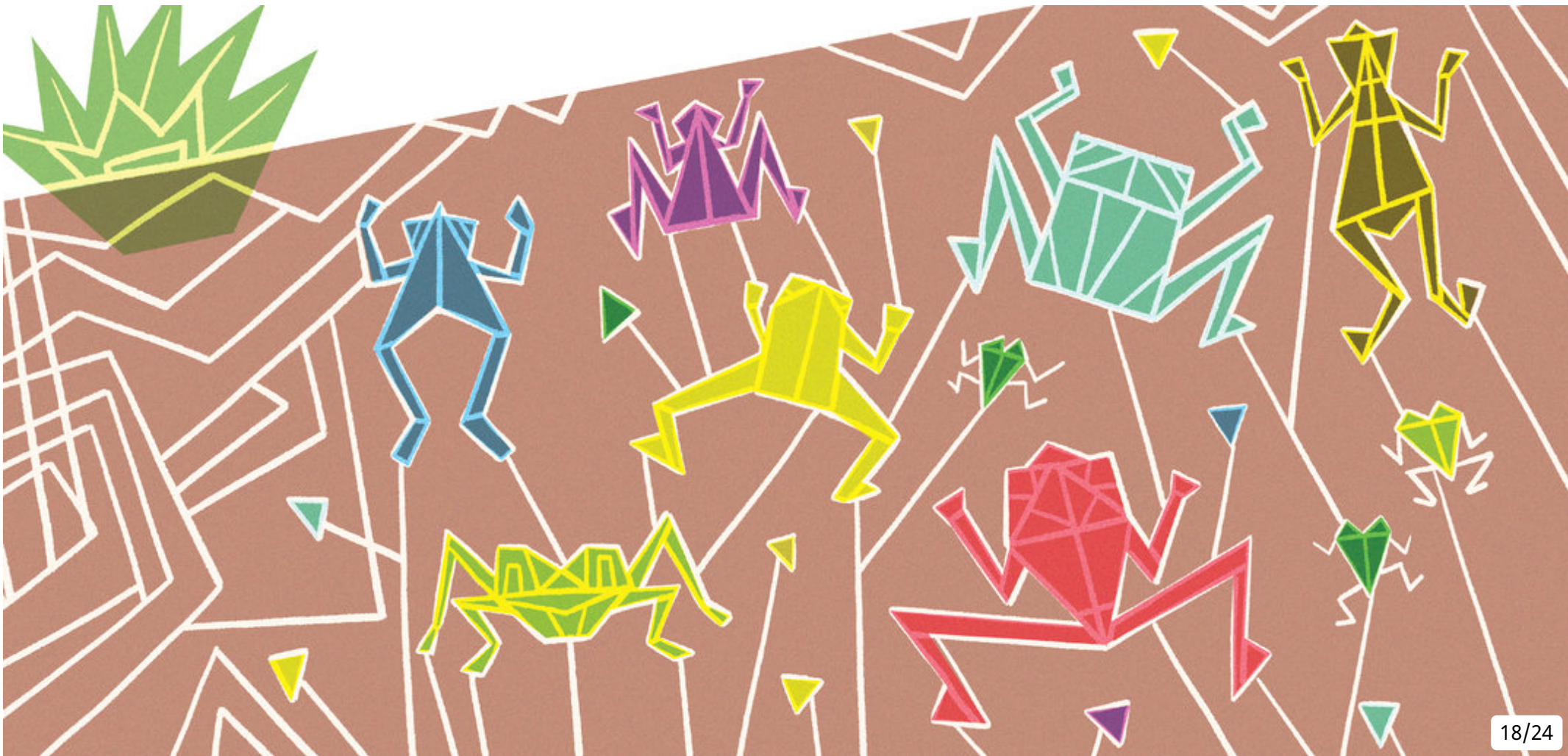
"Yes, my youngling."

"When the birds stopped singing, the crickets, grasshoppers and cicadas sprang up from the mud, *clapping* and *sighing* and *screaming*:
RRRRRRRRRR-KEEEEE-TRRRRRRRRRRR-FFFFRRRRRRR-KEEEEE-RRRRRRR!"



“The frogs and toads hopped about and tumbled over one another, *roaring* in approval:
KAI-KAI-GWA-GWA-GWA! KAI-KAI-KAI-GWA-GWA!”

They all knew what the song meant — the first summer rain was coming.”



"Not a few breaths had passed since the song's last note,
and the sky *rumbled, groaned*, and the showers began.
When the sunlight streamed through the raindrops,
they turned into rays of striking colour
that arced across and above us."

"Oof!"

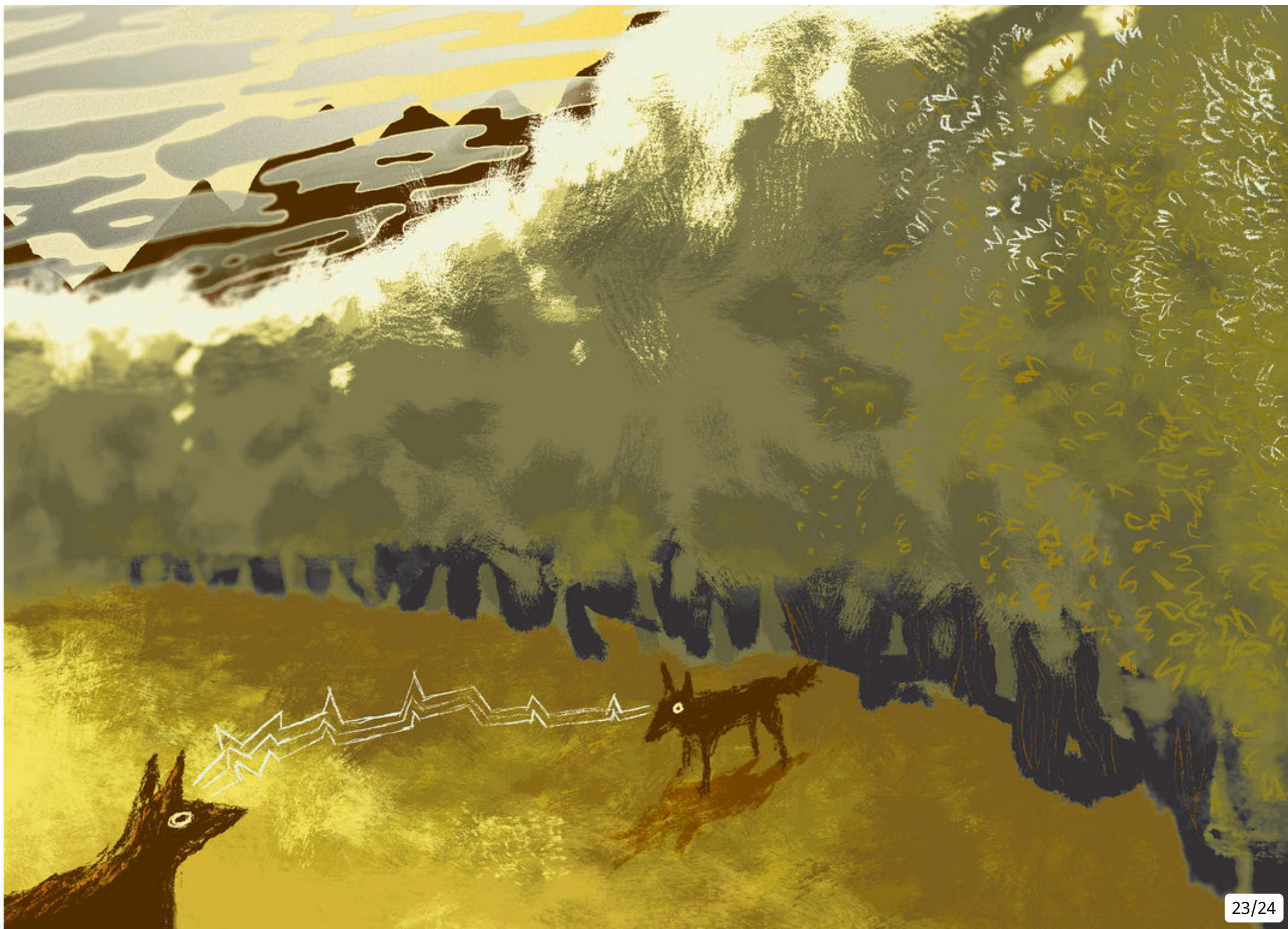


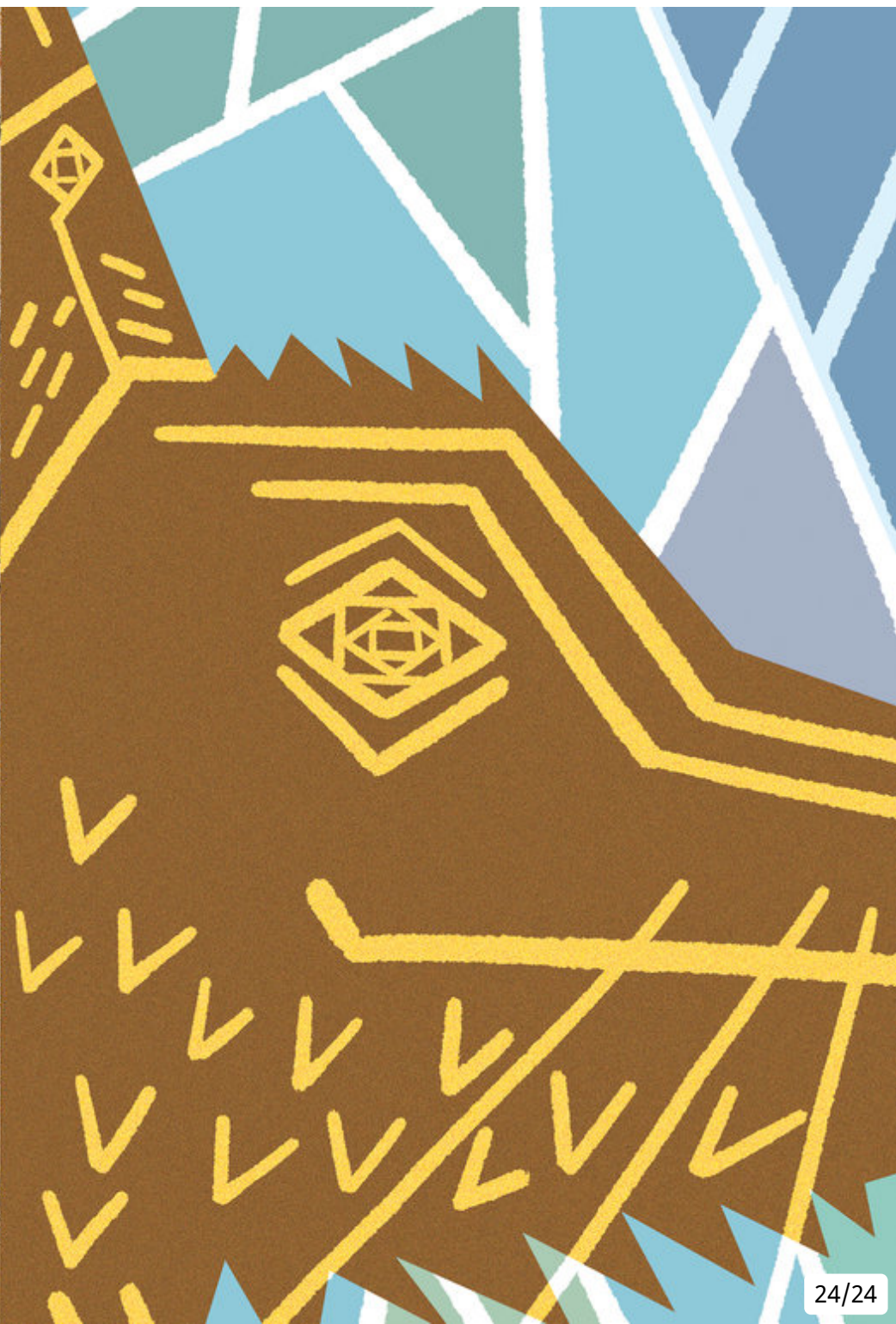
"And that was how your father and I were married."



"Will the birds come for me too, mother?
Will it sun-rain at my wedding?
Will colours fill the sky?"

"We will soon find out, my cub," said the old jackal.
"Come, let's go outside. Your first guests must be arriving."





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The Sunshower Song

(English)

When the sun shines on a rainy day, all the animals of the forest know what's about to happen: music and magic at the jackals' wedding! The wedding guests each bring a scrap of sound. Some bring rhythm, and some bring tune, in this lyrical ode to the popular sunshower legend.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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