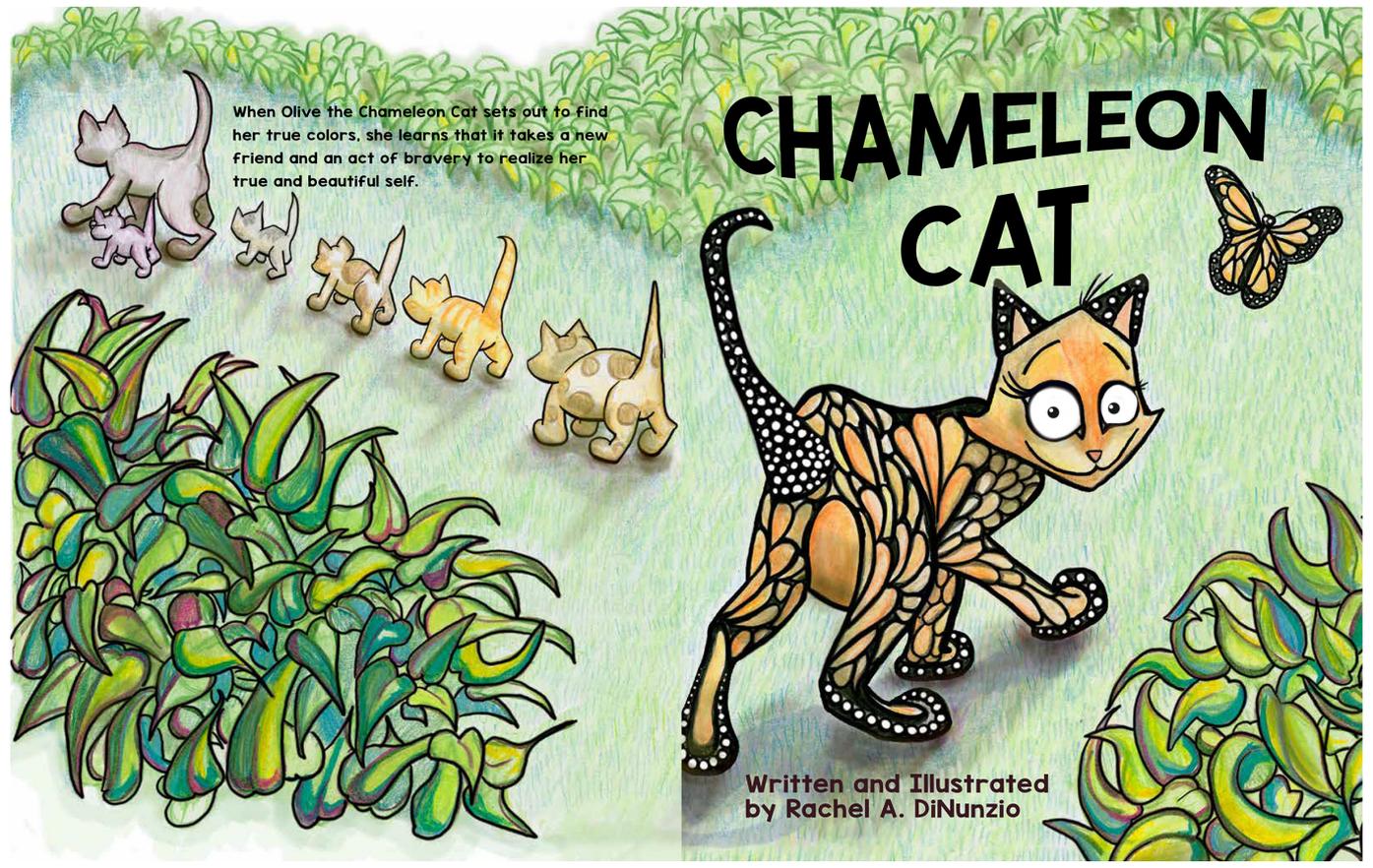


CHAMELEON CAT

When Olive the Chameleon Cat sets out to find her true colors, she learns that it takes a new friend and an act of bravery to realize her true and beautiful self.



Written and Illustrated
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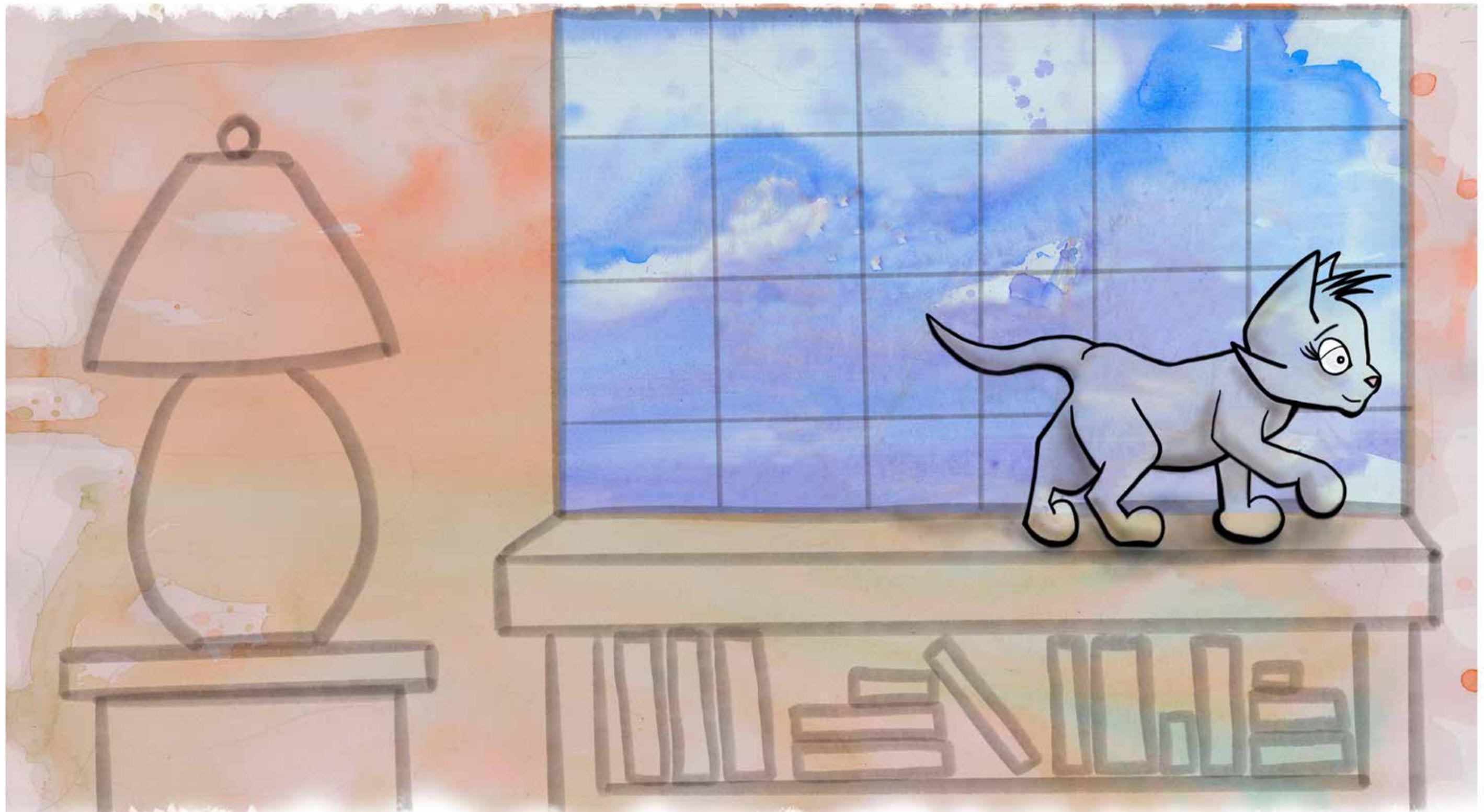
For Chris.





In a basket under the stairs,
Mama Cat and her cozy kittens awoke to the sunshine of a new day.
Some kittens were striped, some were spotted
and some looked just like Mama Cat.

But the hero of this story is a kitten who was just a
little different from the rest. Her name was Olive.



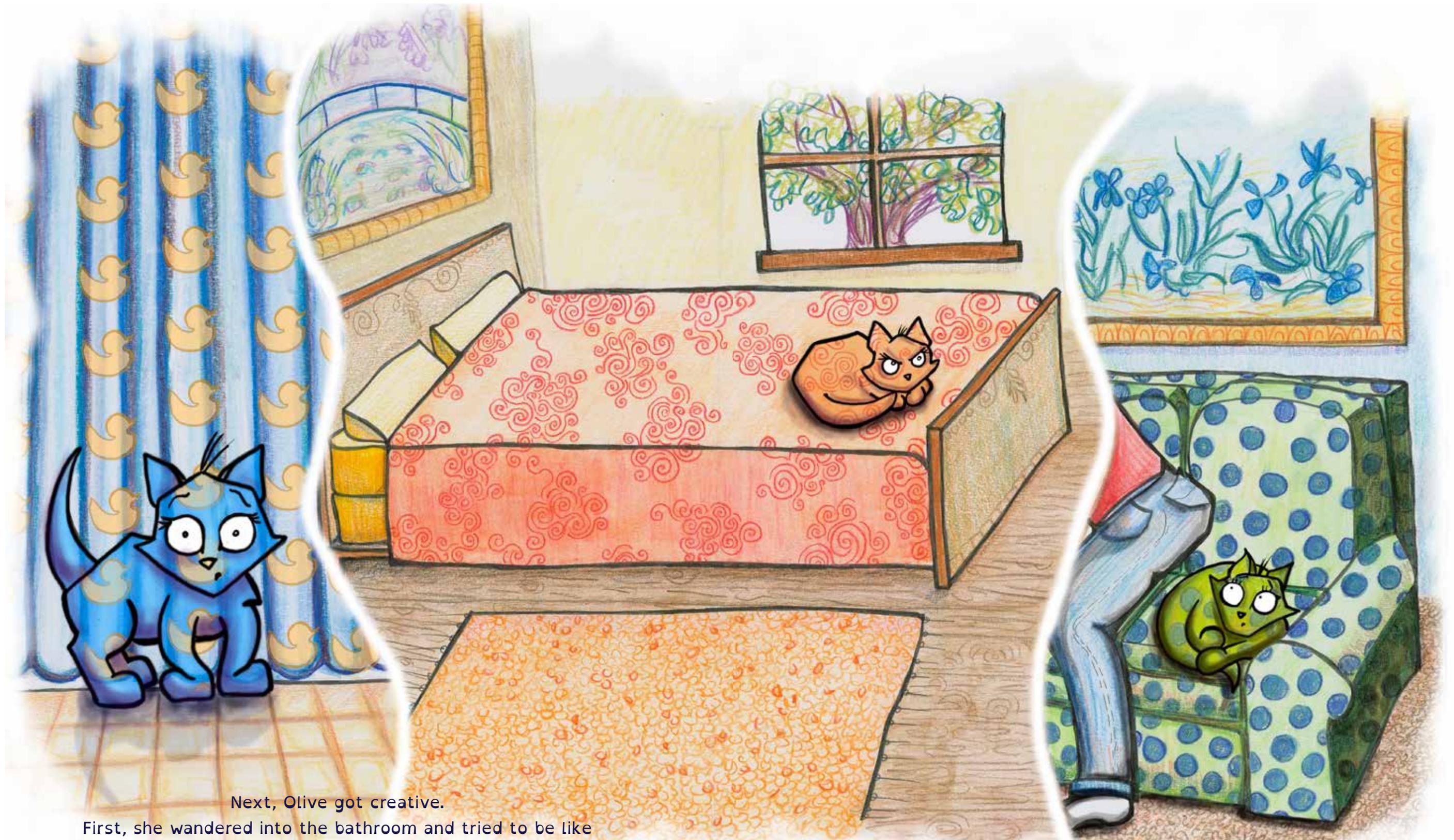
You see, Olive could make her fur change colors!
She could become anything that she set her mind to.
The trouble was, Olive didn't know what color
she wanted to be.

The determined kitten decided to try on all kinds of patterns
to figure out which colors fit her best.



"I know what I will do!" Olive thought. "I will match Gibson's coat!"
Olive tried on her brother's yellow stripes,
but Mama Cat couldn't tell them apart
and ended up giving Olive the same bath twice!

"Yuck! These are most definitely not my colors!"
Olive said.



Next, Olive got creative.

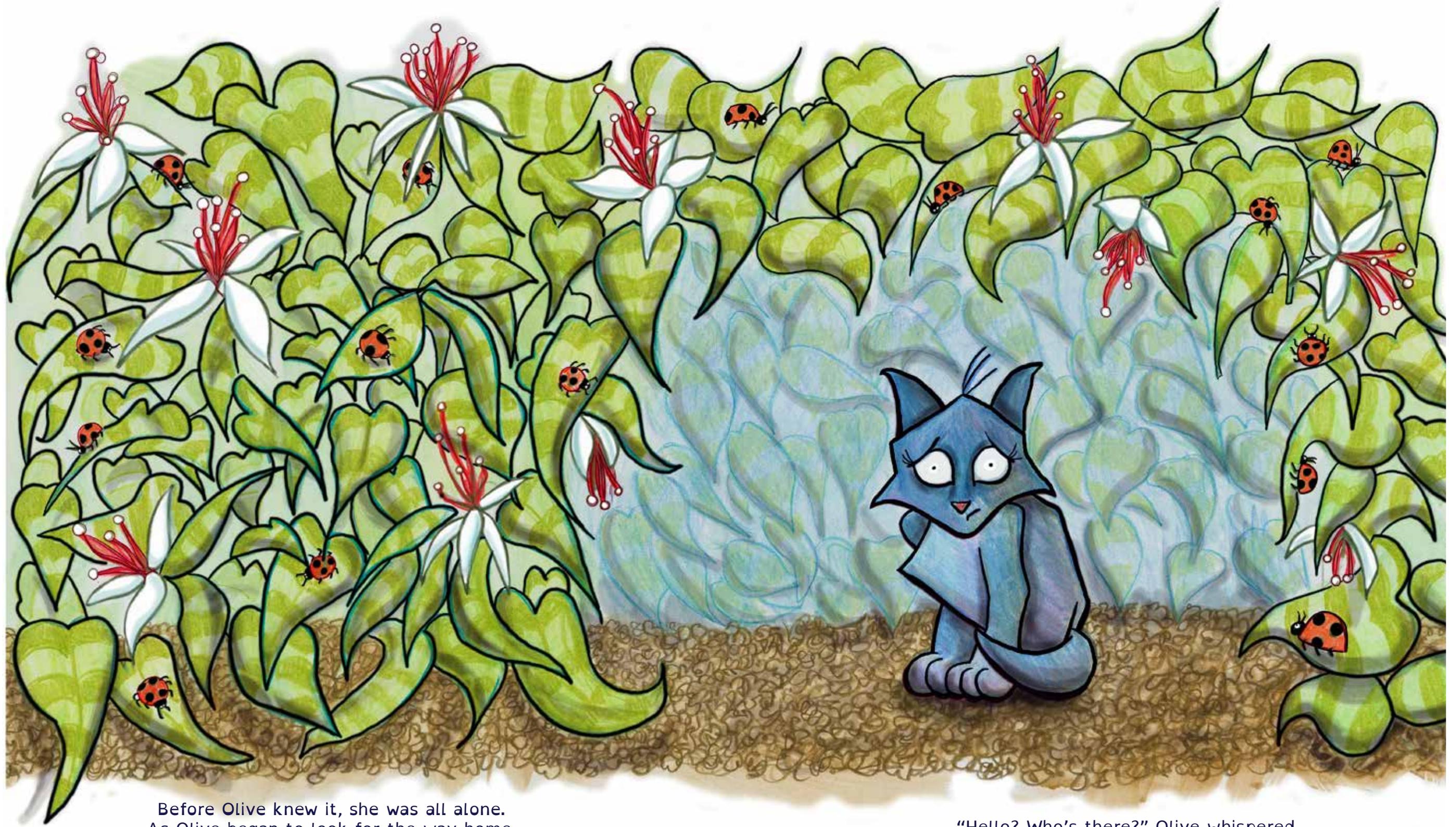
First, she wandered into the bathroom and tried to be like the shower curtain, but that just looked silly. Then, Olive jumped onto the bed and tried to be like the bedspread, but that didn't work either!

Finally, she went into the living room to try to be like the polka dot couch, but then she just got sat on! Olive began to worry that she would never find her true colors.



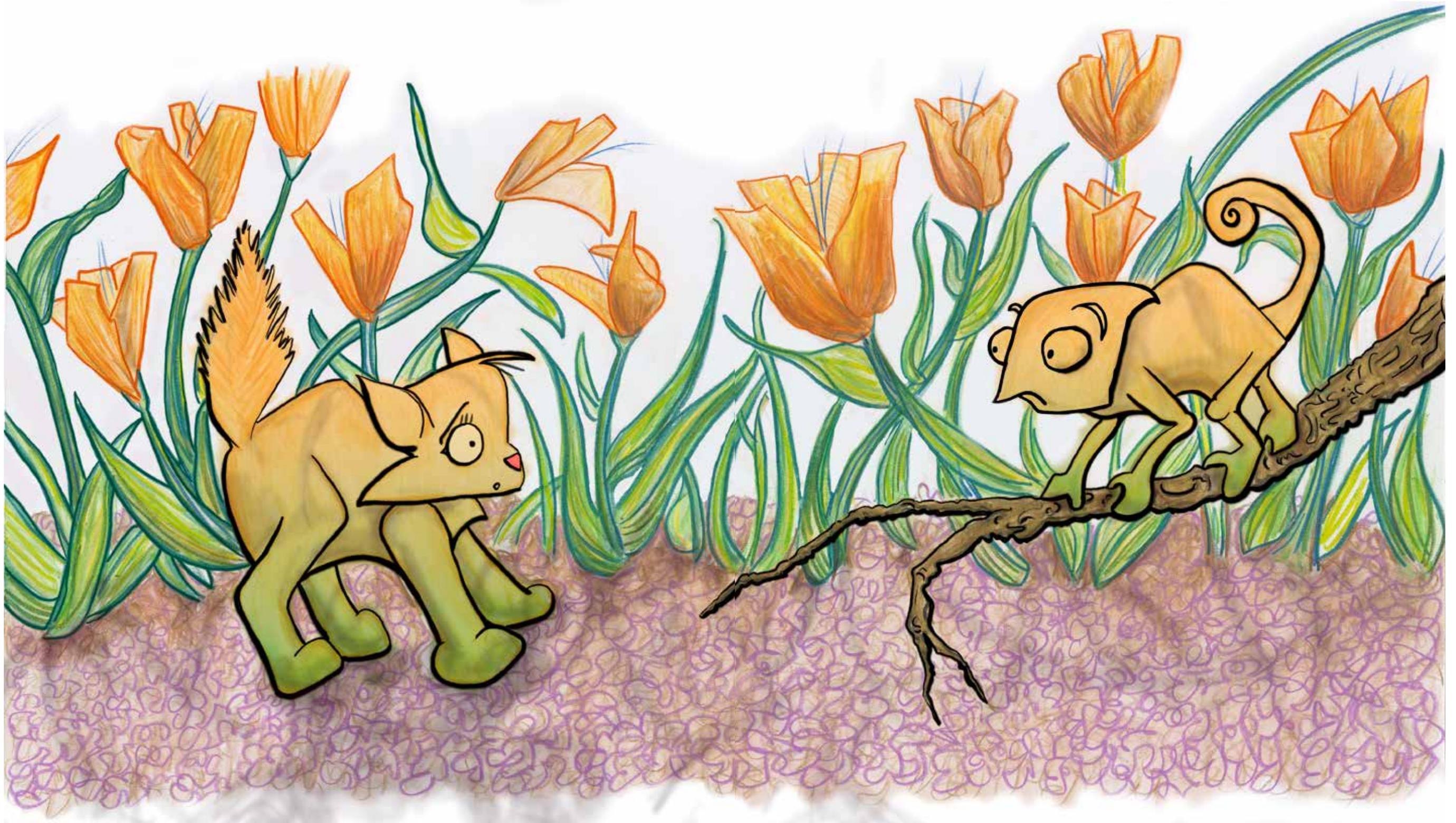
That afternoon, Mama Cat took her kittens out for a walk.
They followed her nose to tail with Olive at the rear.
"Stay together, everyone!" Mama Cat said.

As her family walked in line,
Olive became distracted by a beautiful butterfly.



Before Olive knew it, she was all alone.
As Olive began to look for the way home,
she heard a rustling in the plants nearby.

“Hello? Who’s there?” Olive whispered.
But no answer came.



Olive put on her bravest kitty face and crept slowly toward the sound.
Who could be over there? Olive wondered.

She tiptoed into a clearing and froze when she saw a creature
with big round eyes staring back at her.



The creature jumped off of his branch.
“Wait, wait, wait! Don’t be afraid!
My name is Clyde,” he said.

“I blend too. I’m just like you,
although I have never seen a chameleon
quite so big before.”

“I’m not a chameleon,” said Olive. “I’m Olive, a cat!
I just happen to change colors like you do!”

“Well hello, Olive-a-cat!
I don’t mean to be rude, but I have to get home for dinner.
Would you like to come with me?”

“Sure!” Olive said.
The two walked through the garden to the chameleon house.

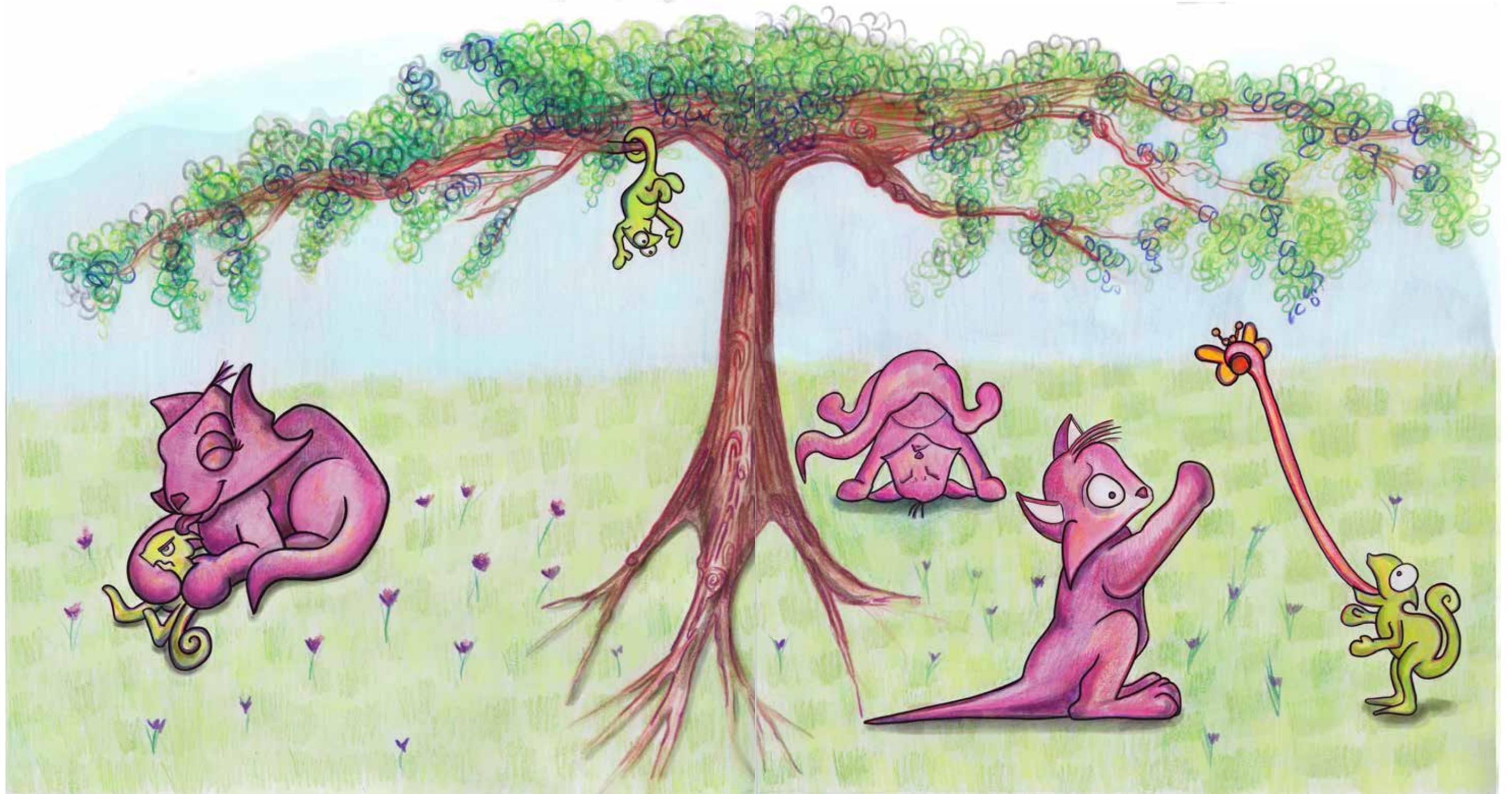


When they arrived, Clyde opened the front door and said,
"Mom and dad this is Olive, my new friend!"

Olive stuck her head through the door and with her best manners said,
"Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Chameleon! What a lovely home you have!"

Shocked to see a giant cat in their doorway, the family was speechless.
Not sure what else to do, Olive gave the family her biggest smile.

At the sight of the cat's big teeth,
Mrs. Chameleon fainted, sending her bowl of bug-biscuits flying!
"Maybe we should come back later," Clyde suggested.



Clyde and Olive headed out. "You know, Olive, if we both blend, we must be pretty similar!" Clyde said.

The two friends took turns sharing their favorite things to do.

First, Olive showed Clyde how to take a cat bath, but Clyde didn't like it one bit.

Next, Clyde showed Olive how to hang from branches with her tail, but Olive fell down.

Then, Olive tried to play with a bug, but Clyde ate it.

"Maybe we aren't so similar after all," Clyde said.



Finally, the two friends found one thing that they both loved:
laying in the warm sunshine!

While Olive and Clyde relaxed in the sun,
Olive noticed a strange shadow pass by.
She looked up to find a hungry falcon ready to strike.

Olive tried to warn Clyde, but It was too late!

The bird had already started to dive.



Suddenly, Olive leapt into action!

Determined to defend her friend,
Olive let out a low kitty growl.

It was at that moment that Olive found her true colors.



At the sight of the cat's bright and colorful coat,
the flustered falcon let out a terrified shriek.

He fluttered off as fast as he could,
losing some feathers in the flurry.

"You saved me, Olive!" Clyde said.
"And look at your beautiful colors!"

Clyde hopped up onto Olive's back
and the two friends walked home to show Mama Cat.



When Olive and Clyde arrived home, they were welcomed by Mama Cat and Olive's brothers and sisters.

Mama Cat looked at Olive and smiled.
"I always knew you'd find your colors, Olive. I am so proud of you!"
Mama Cat said.

The End.

