



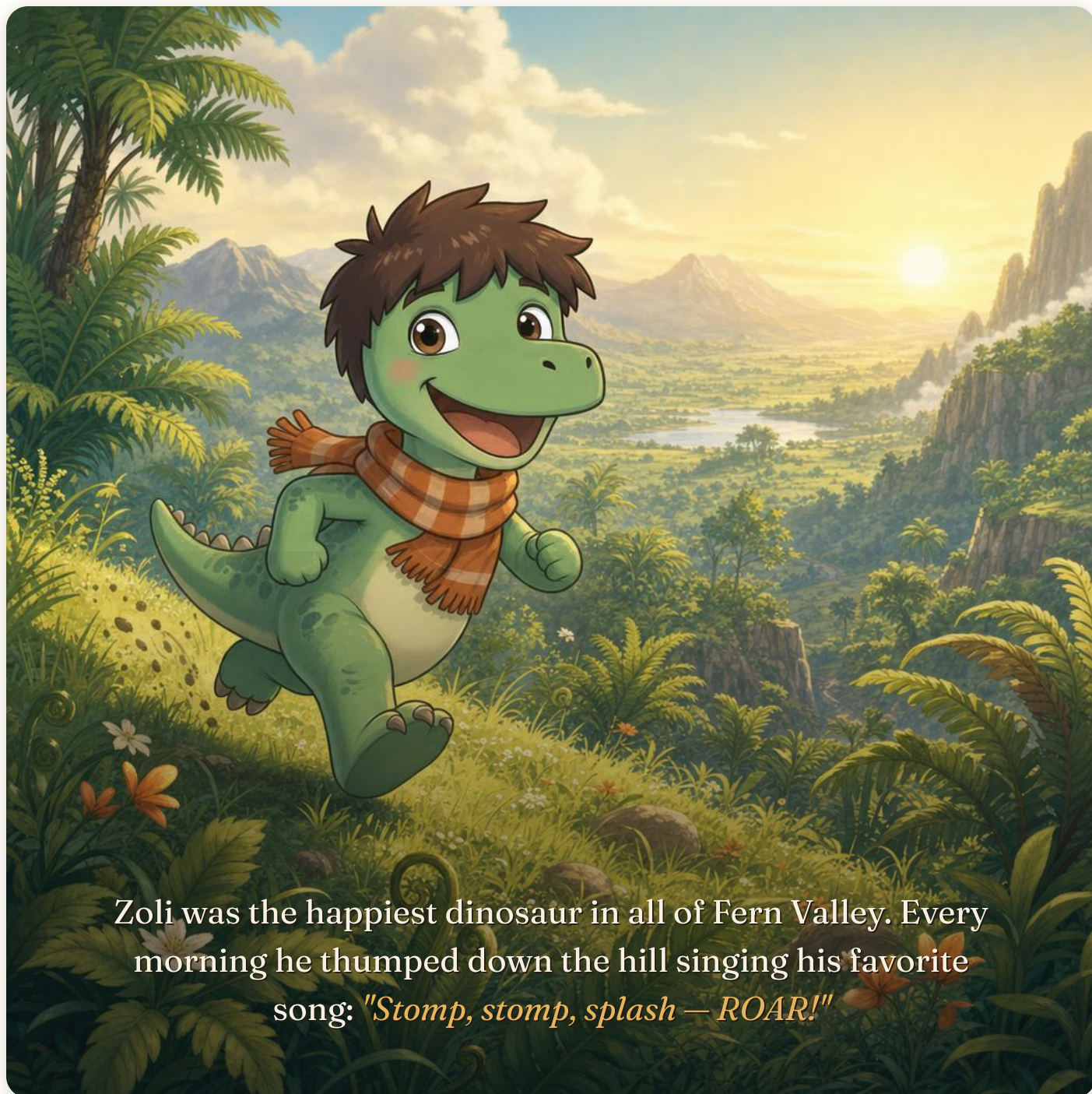


Zoli and the Mighty Roar

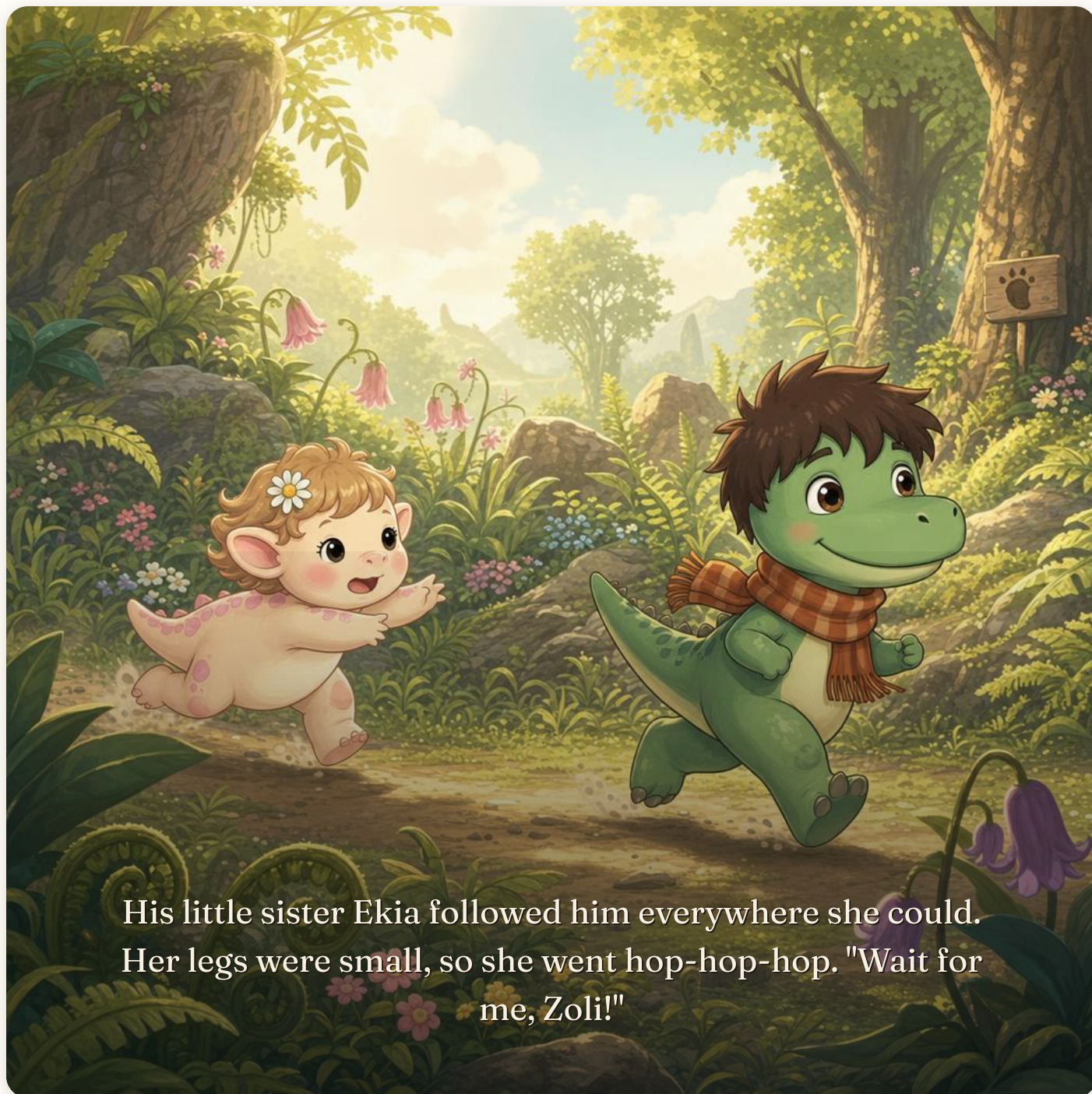
FABLE DESIGNER



For a big brother and a little sister



Zoli was the happiest dinosaur in all of Fern Valley. Every morning he thumped down the hill singing his favorite song: "*Stomp, stomp, splash — ROAR!*"



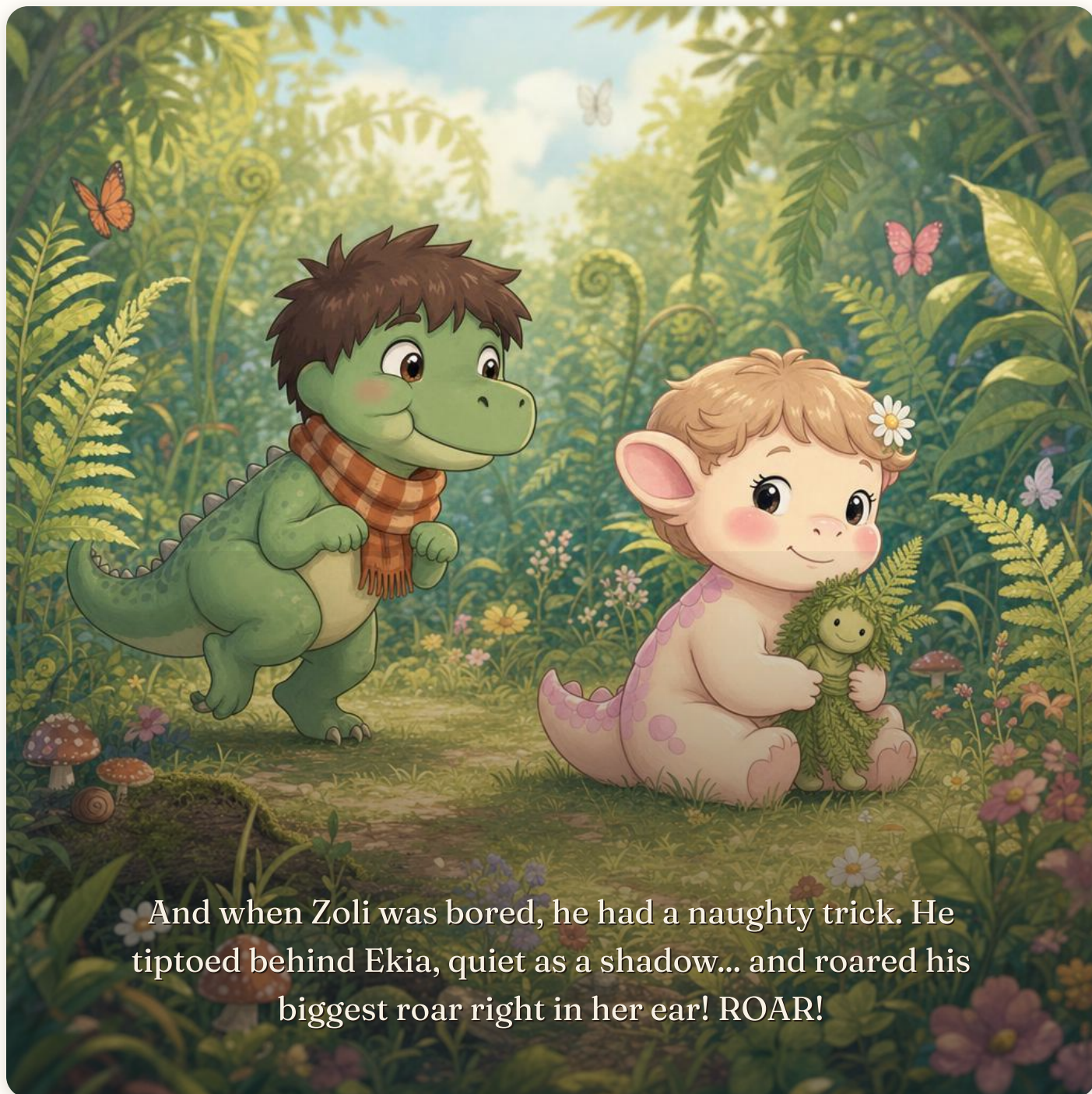
His little sister Ekia followed him everywhere she could. Her legs were small, so she went hop-hop-hop. "Wait for me, Zoli!"



Most days, they played together all day long. They made mud pies. They sailed leaf boats. And they sang their song together: *"Stomp, stomp, splash — ROAR!"*



But some days, the games felt old, and the sky felt slow.
On those days Zoli got bored. Bored, bored, BORED.



And when Zoli was bored, he had a naughty trick. He tiptoed behind Ekia, quiet as a shadow... and roared his biggest roar right in her ear! ROAR!



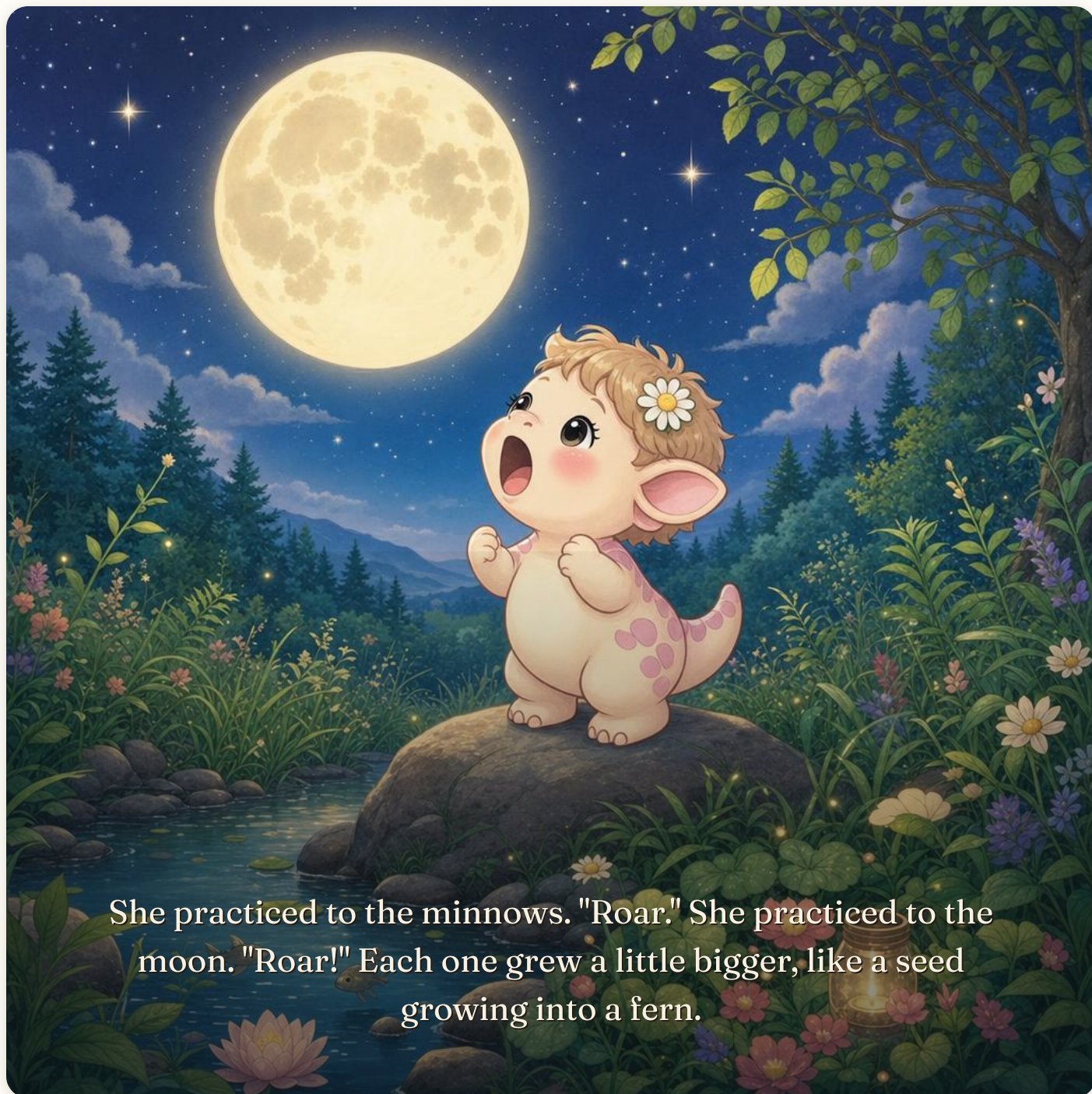
Ekia dropped her fern doll in the mud. Her eyes went blinky. Her lip went wobbly. And then she cried and cried.



"You're too little for big games anyway," Zoli said. But when Ekia cried, something in his tummy felt twisty. He stomped away and pretended not to notice.



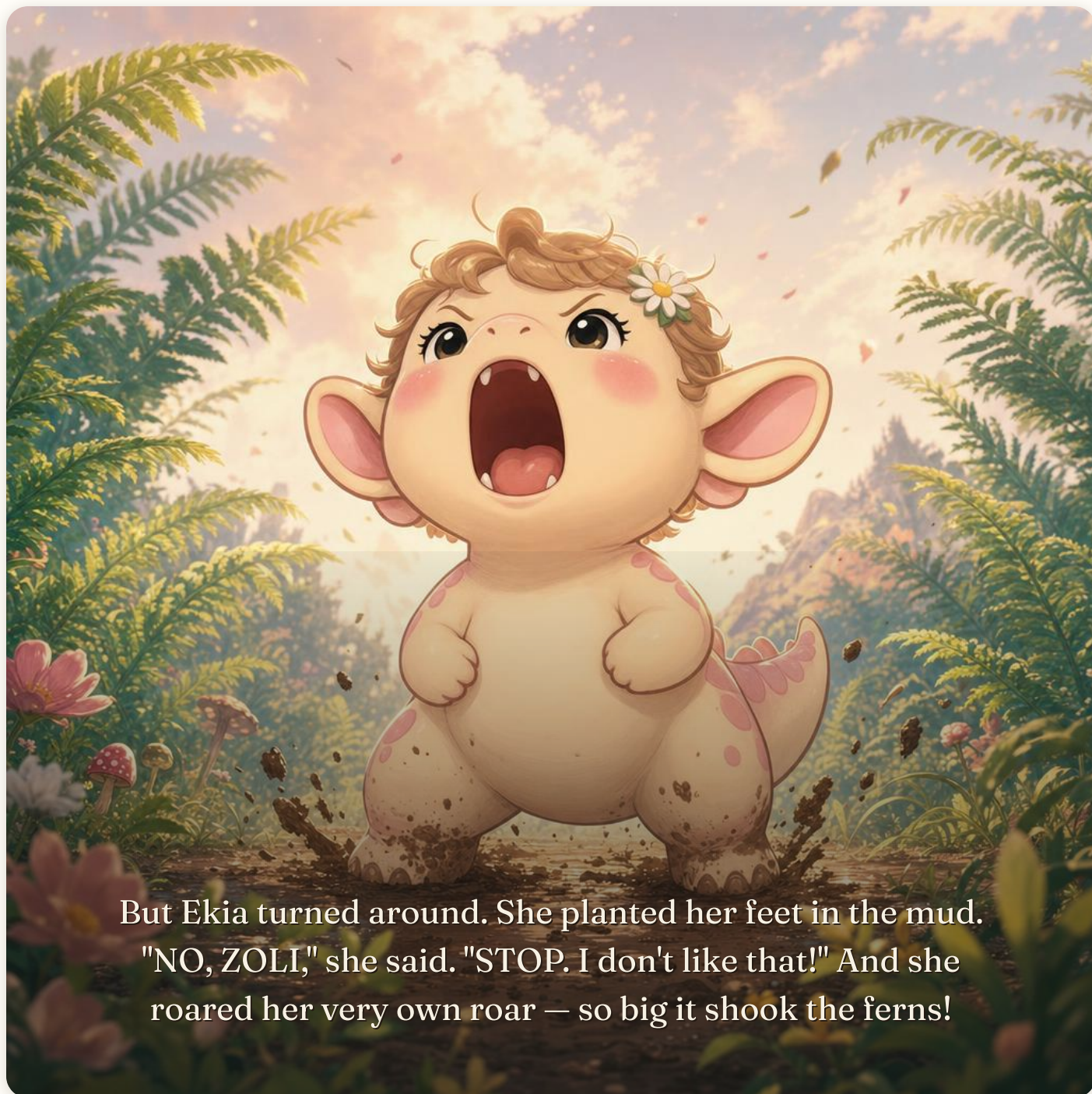
That night, Ekia sat by the still pond. A small dinosaur looked back at her from the water. "I am not too little," she told the pond. And she practiced a very small roar. "roar."



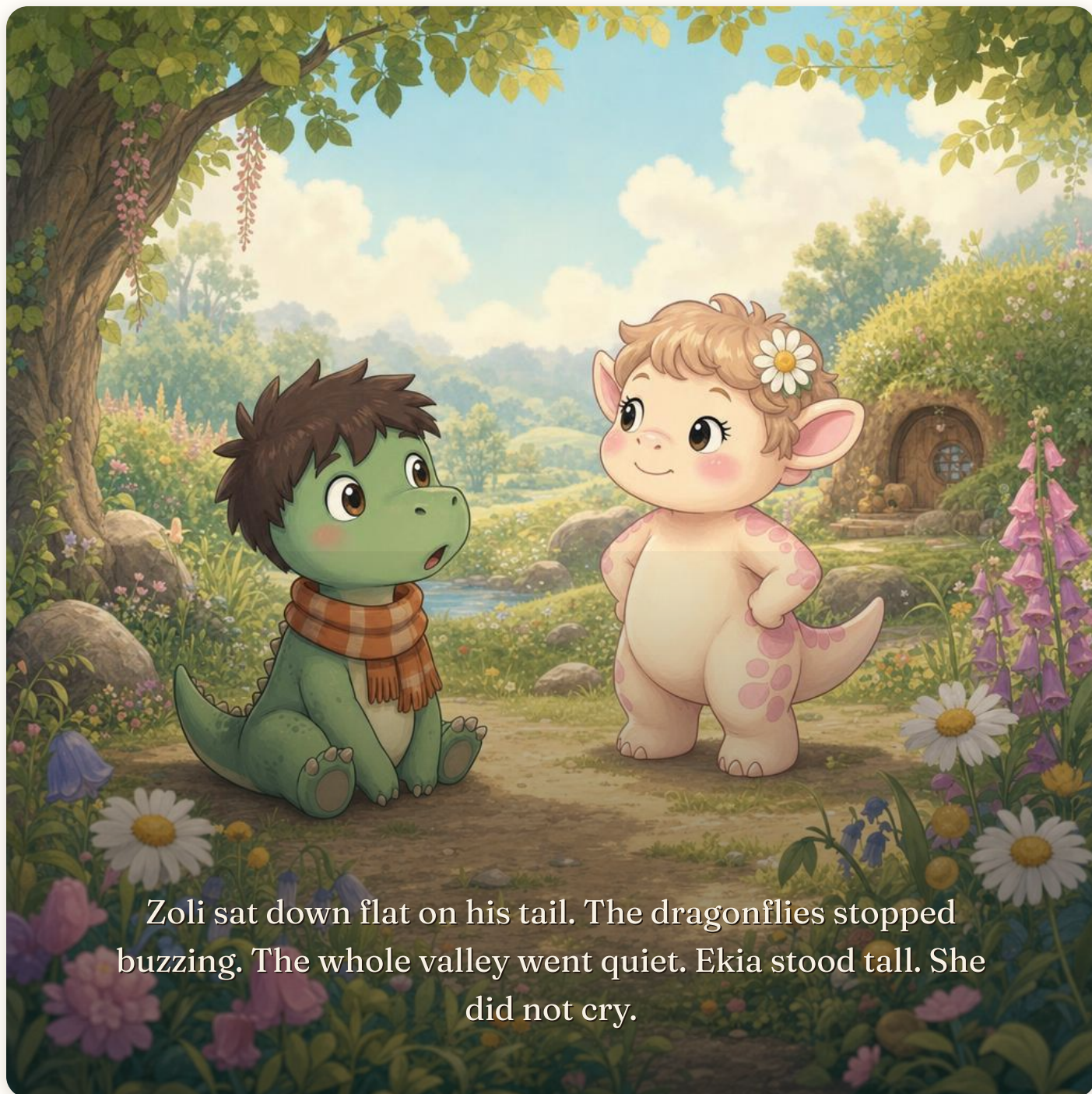
She practiced to the minnows. "Roar." She practiced to the moon. "Roar!" Each one grew a little bigger, like a seed growing into a fern.



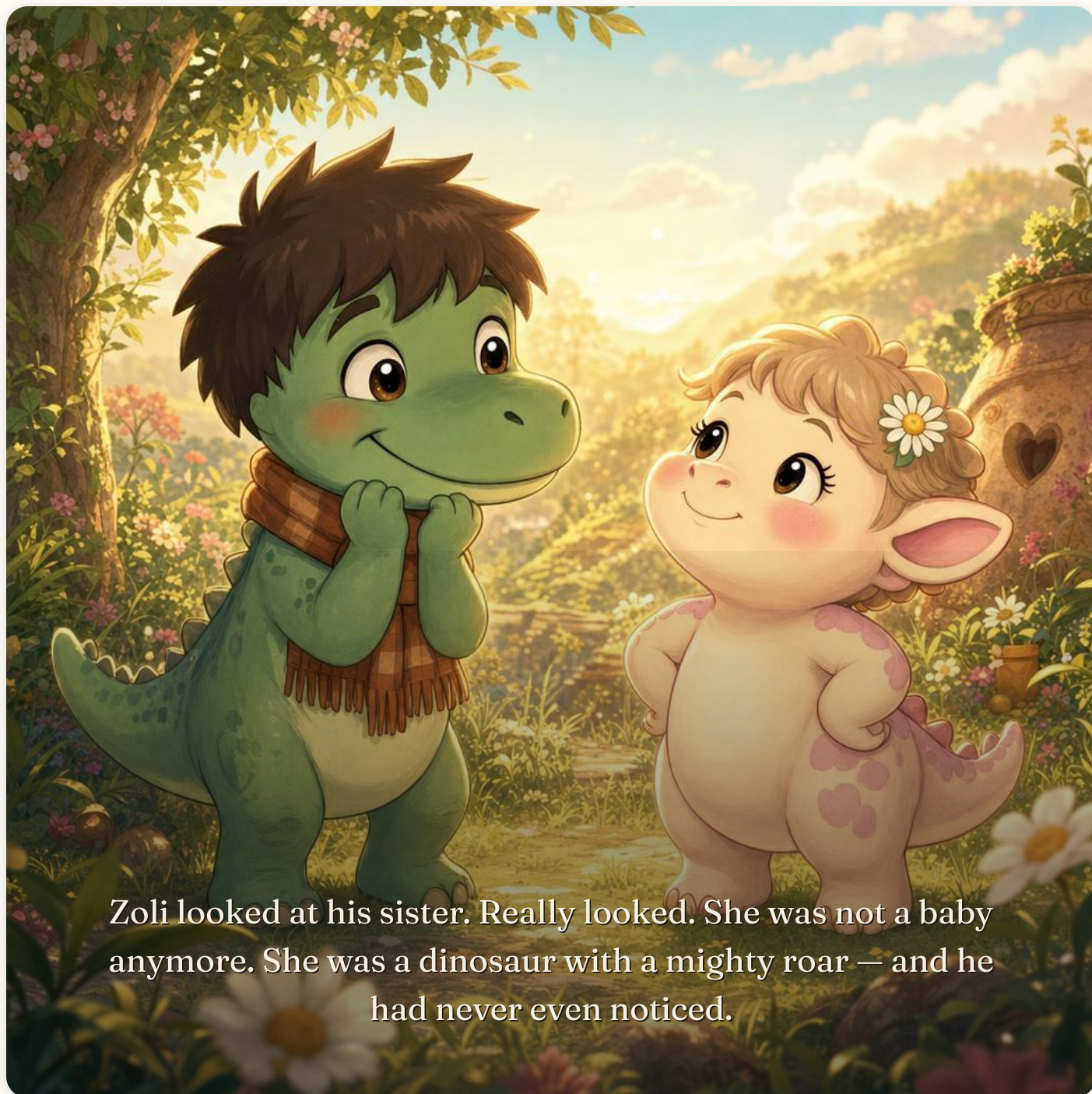
A few days later, the sky felt slow again. Zoli felt the bored feeling coming. He tiptoed behind Ekia, quiet as a shadow, ready for his biggest roar ever...



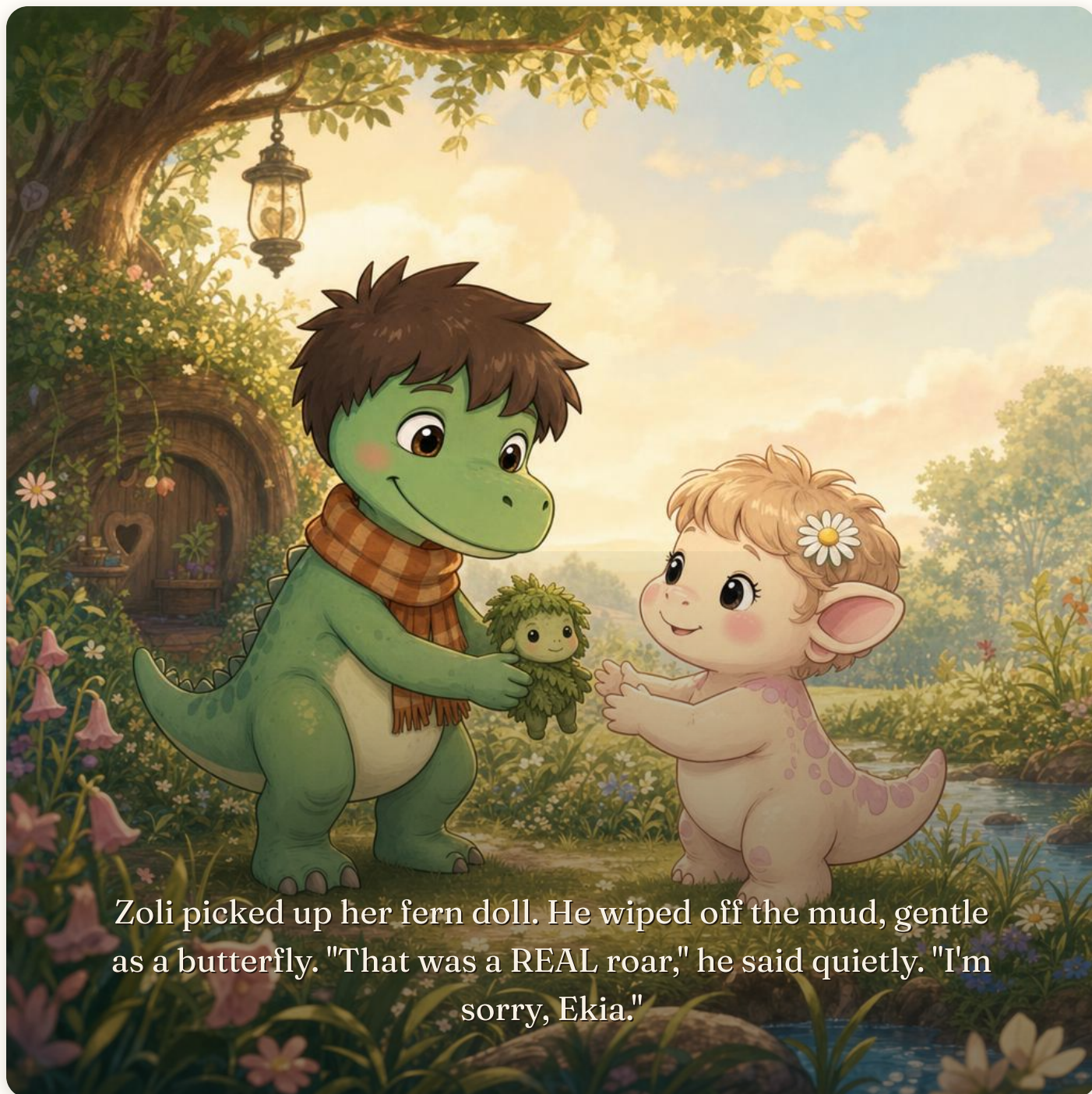
But Ekia turned around. She planted her feet in the mud.
"NO, ZOLI," she said. "STOP. I don't like that!" And she
roared her very own roar — so big it shook the ferns!



Zoli sat down flat on his tail. The dragonflies stopped buzzing. The whole valley went quiet. Ekia stood tall. She did not cry.



Zoli looked at his sister. Really looked. She was not a baby anymore. She was a dinosaur with a mighty roar — and he had never even noticed.



Zoli picked up her fern doll. He wiped off the mud, gentle as a butterfly. "That was a REAL roar," he said quietly. "I'm sorry, Ekia."



"Want to play the volcano game?" Zoli asked. "Not as the baby. As the Volcano Keeper." Ekia's eyes went big and shiny. "YES!" And they sang: "*Stomp, stomp, splash — ROAR!*"



Ekia made new volcano rules. Mud bubbles were lava pops! Fern leaves were fire flags! The game was better than ever, and Zoli laughed until he got hiccups.



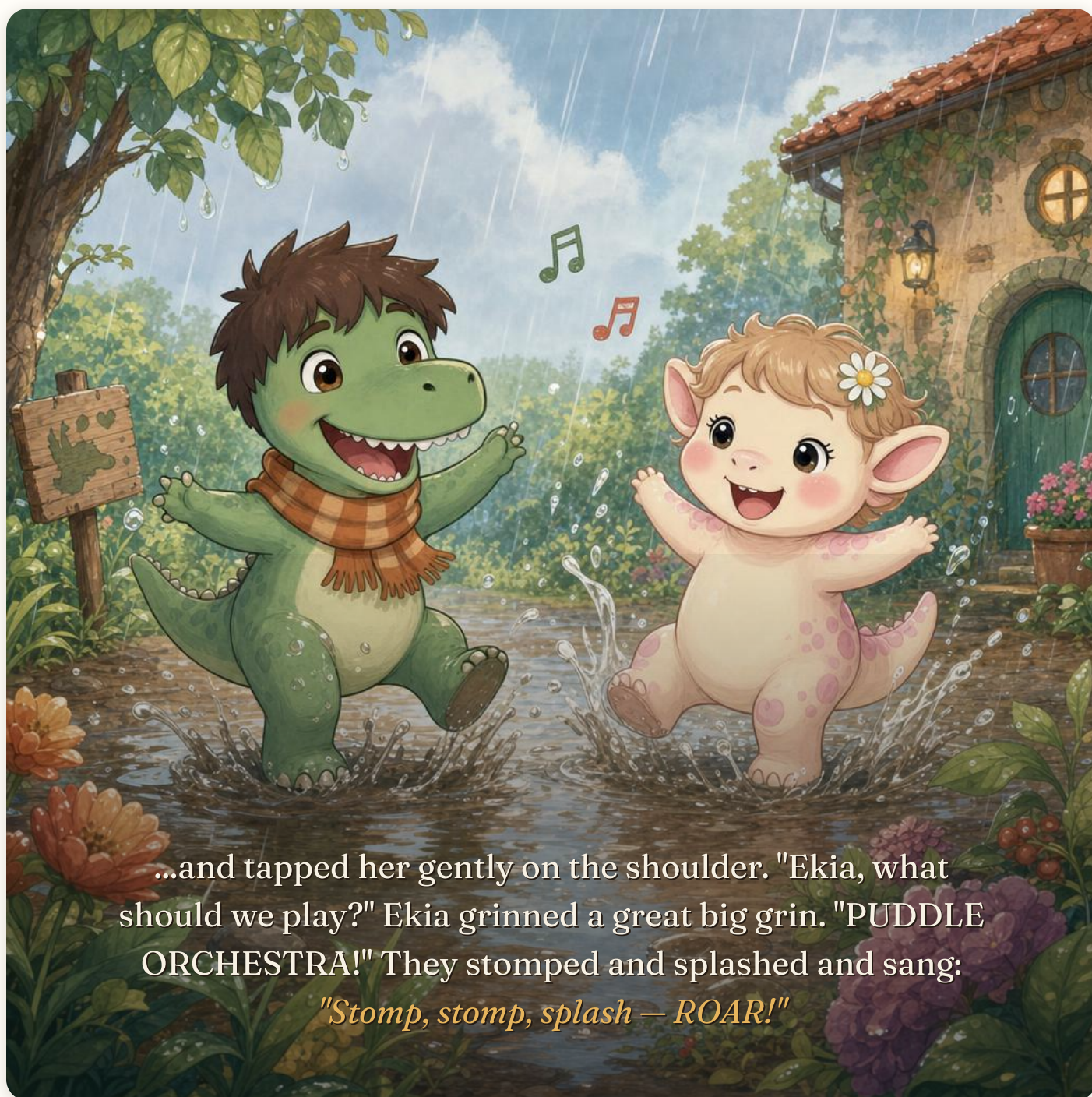
Next they built the Great Fern Fort. Zoli's big claws fumbled the small knots. But Ekia's little paws wove the fern roof just right. "Look what WE built!" said Zoli.



Soon, all the dinosaur kids in Fern Valley wanted to play with Zoli and Ekia. Their games were the biggest, muddiest, happiest games of all — and every game began the same way: "*Stomp, stomp, splash — ROAR!*"



One drizzly day, the sky felt slow. The bored feeling crept
into Zoli's toes. He looked at Ekia. He tiptoed toward her,
quiet as a shadow...



...and tapped her gently on the shoulder. "Ekia, what should we play?" Ekia grinned a great big grin. "PUDDLE ORCHESTRA!" They stomped and splashed and sang:

"Stomp, stomp, splash — ROAR!"



When the sun came back out and went down again, two muddy dinosaurs walked home up the hill, tail in tail, tired and warm and happy.



In the cozy nest, Ekia fell asleep against Zoli's side. Zoli sang their song one more time, soft as a feather: "Stomp, stomp, splash... roar." Goodnight, Fern Valley.

The End

Sweet dreams.

Stomp, stomp, splash — ROAR!

FABLE DESIGNER

fabledesigner.com

