



A New Pair of Wings

Written by Nancy Wang & Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo
Illustrated by Brian Lei



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This book is dedicated to mother,
Delores Yngojo Kikuchi



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MARION, MICHIGAN





“Tell me my favorite story, Mama! Pleeese!!” begged little Delores.

But Mama Tacion warned, “It is past your bedtime. Remember, tomorrow is a big day! We leave our little village and go all the way to America to be with Papa!”

“All the more reason, Mama. Tell me one more time. It’s our last night in the Philippines. Pleeese?”

Mama Tacion smiled. “All right little Delores. Now close your eyes.”

“*No’ong u’nang panahon*, once upon a time, a long time ago, there were Seven Star Maidens up in the Heavenly Skyworld..”

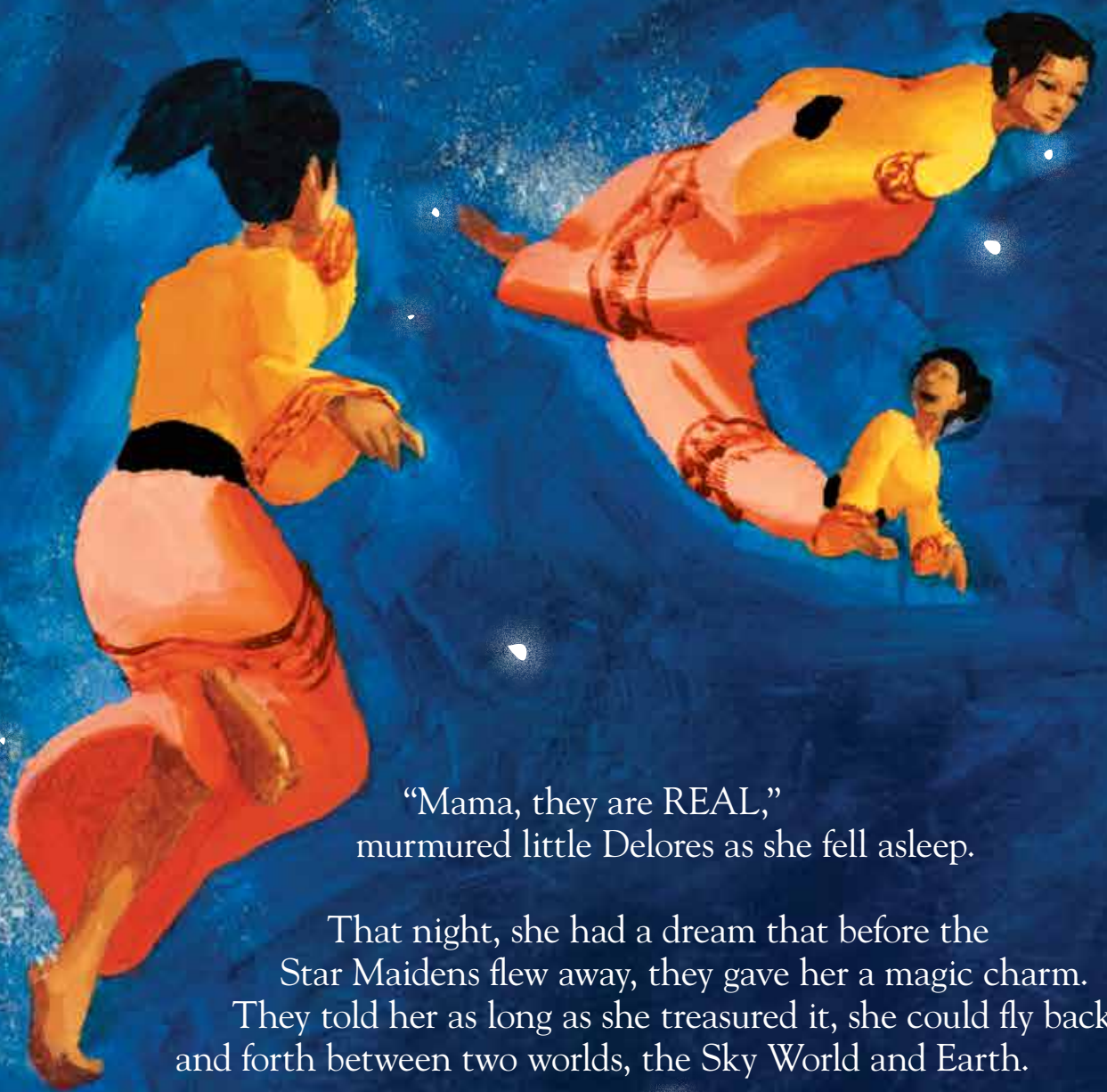
“Swoosh! Seven Maidens flying from the Sky World down to Earth to swim in their favorite secret mountain pool.”

Splash! Seven lovely maidens in their beautiful fairy gowns of orange and black.

“Mama, I can see them!! They are real!”

“Ah, but soon, little Delores, it was time for them to go to the sky world. So they turned three times round and round, and up up they flew back to the stars.”





“Mama, they are REAL,”
murmured little Delores as she fell asleep.

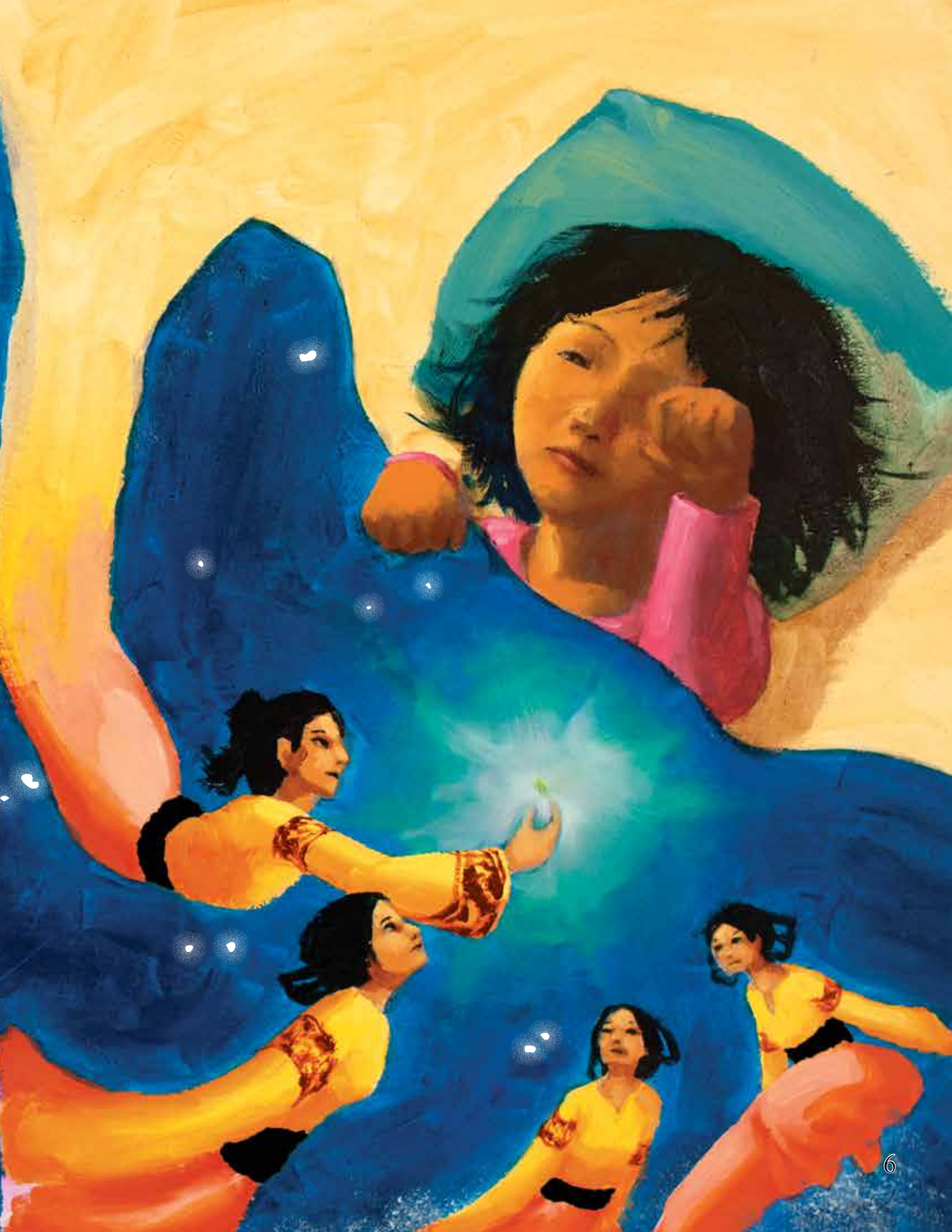
That night, she had a dream that before the
Star Maidens flew away, they gave her a magic charm.
They told her as long as she treasured it, she could fly back
and forth between two worlds, the Sky World and Earth.

“Like us,” whispered the maidens. “We will place it in the banana trees so
no one else but you can find it! Use it whenever you want to flyyyyy....!!”

Suddenly, “*Inday*, dear one, time to get up!”

“Mama, the Star Maidens gave me a magic charm!”

“Magic charm?”





Delores ran out of the house and into the banana grove.

“Ano? What is that?”

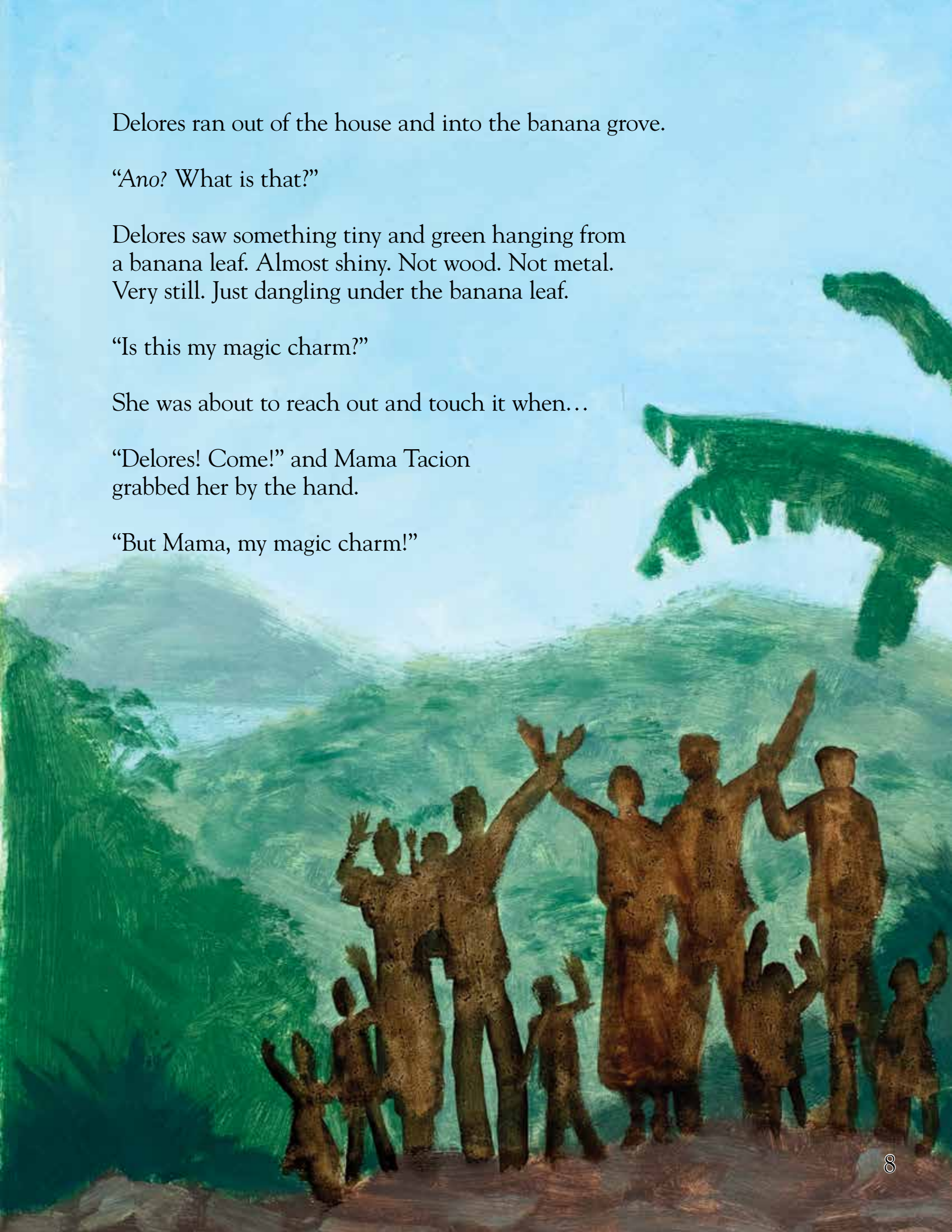
Delores saw something tiny and green hanging from a banana leaf. Almost shiny. Not wood. Not metal. Very still. Just dangling under the banana leaf.

“Is this my magic charm?”

She was about to reach out and touch it when...

“Delores! Come!” and Mama Tacion grabbed her by the hand.

“But Mama, my magic charm!”



After two boats to two islands, finally they were standing upon the deck of a very large ship steaming across the gigantic Pacific Ocean.

“CLANG CLANG! BOOOO-AAAAH!
BOOOO-AAAAH! CLANG CLANG!”

“Look at all the stars, Mama! I’m looking for the Star Maidens.
They have to give me my magic charm in America now.”

