

Daniela Macaya



# THROW IT "AWAY"

Illustrated by:  
Daniela Macaya

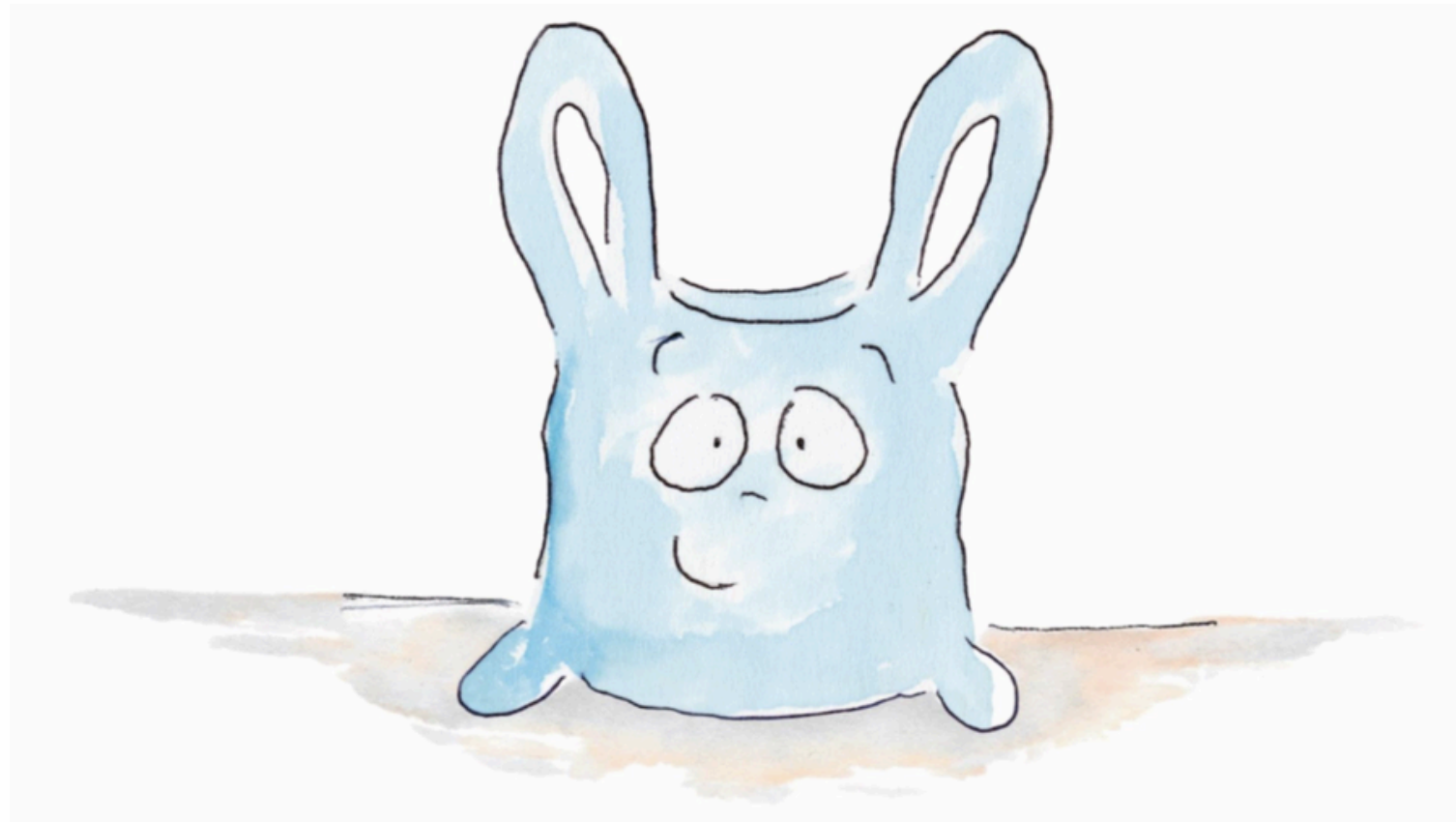


Daniela Macaya González

# THROW IT "AWAY"



For the generations of the present  
and the future.



This is my journey as a plastic bag in  
Costa Rica . . .



My story was written by a kid who is caring.  
She saw a problem she knew was worth  
sharing.





At the local supermarket is where I begin:  
A mom and her daughter are taking me in.



They fill me with groceries, bottom to top.  
We get in a car and travel 'til we stop.





My use only serves them for less than a day,  
as the mother tells her kid to  
throw me "away".



Into the trash can is  
where I then go,


a garbage truck  
takes me,  
to where?  
I don't know . . .



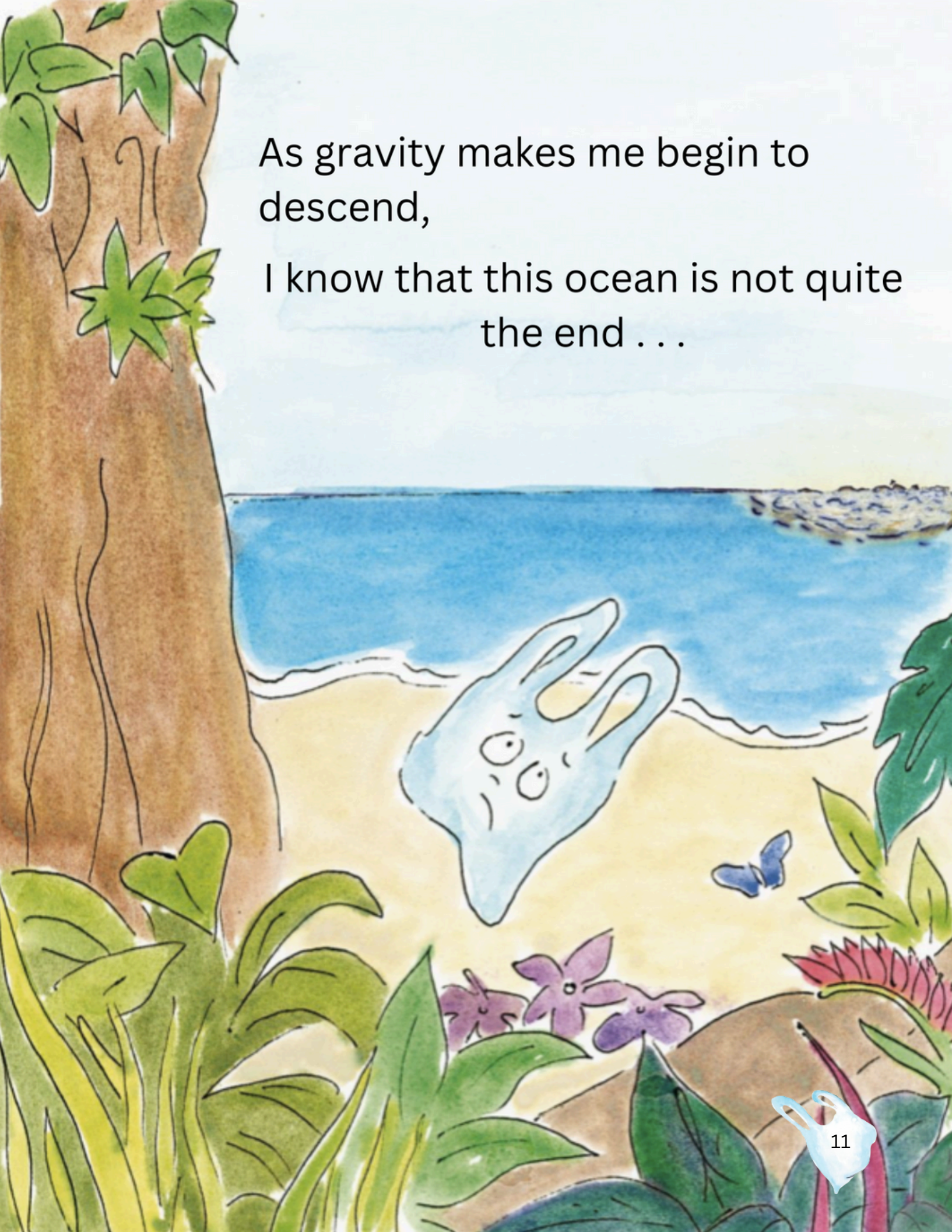
A landfill piled with  
trash everywhere,

I take off and fly  
through the Costa  
Rican air.





Soaring over rainforests with  
Tamarindo's fauna,  
I see a tree branch holding a  
bright green iguana.



As gravity makes me begin to  
descend,

I know that this ocean is not quite  
the end . . .

I travel the currents 'til I finally feel a snatch,  
I am now stuck in

"The Great Pacific Garbage Patch".



Swirling endlessly in this spiral of debris,  
I begin to notice thousands just like ME!



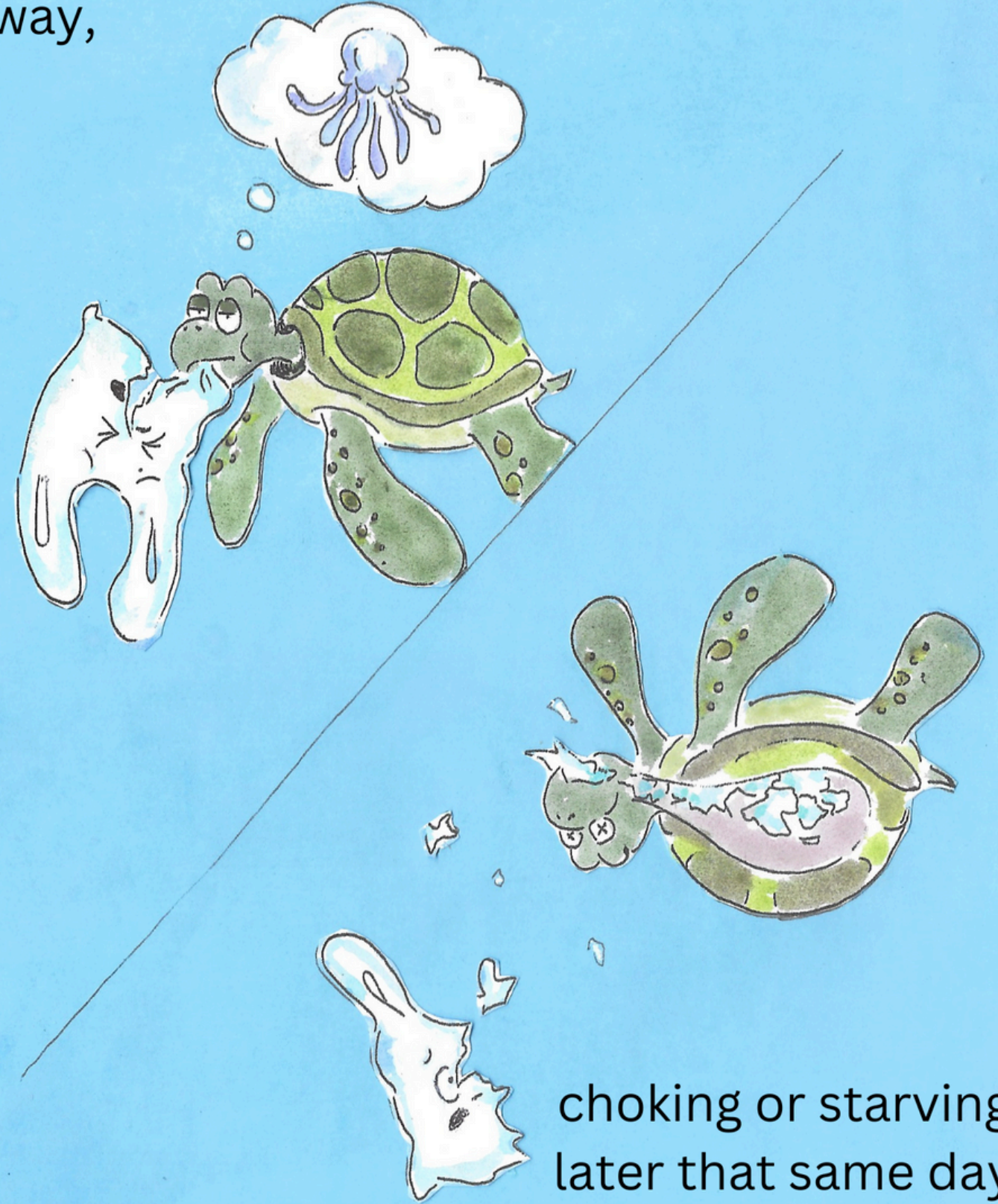


Finally escaping and floating away,



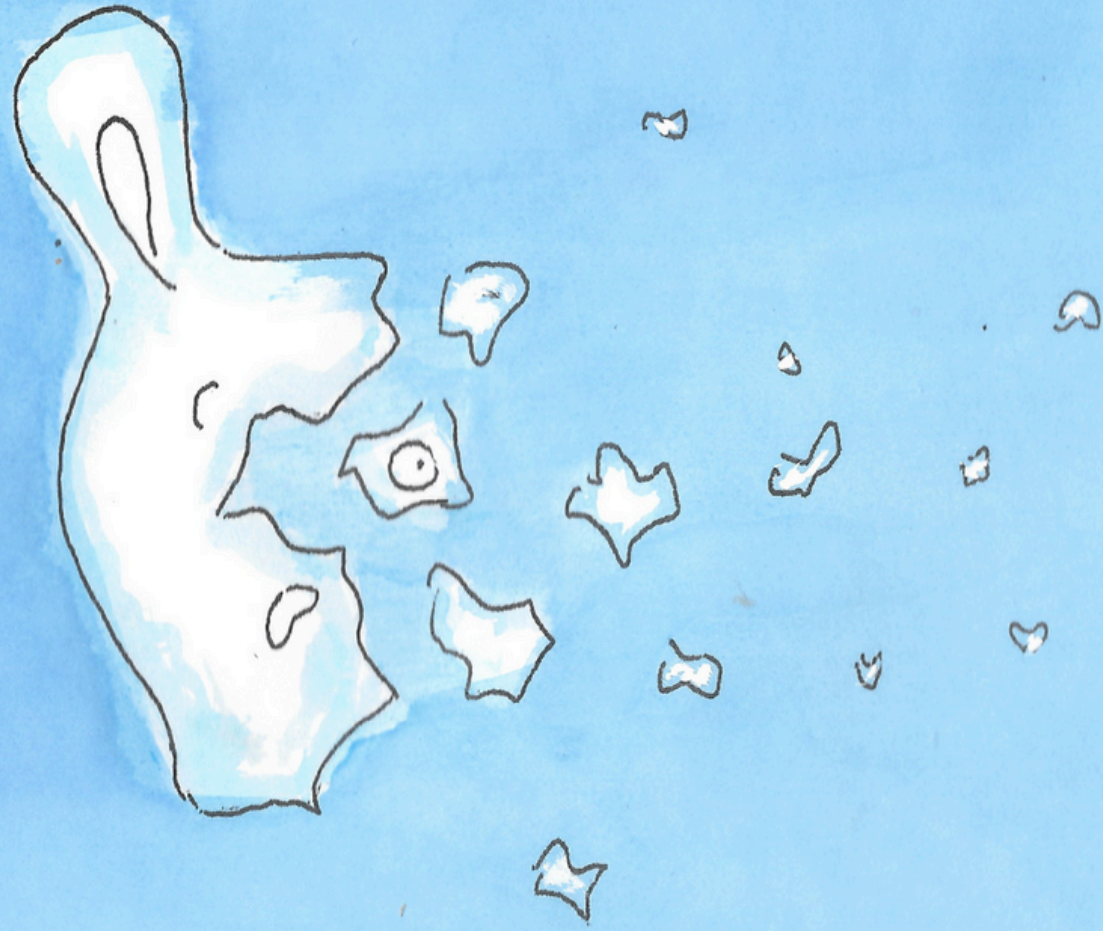
I see a  
**Green Sea Turtle**  
heading my way.

He mistakes me for a jellyfish, as he chomps away,



choking or starving  
later that same day.

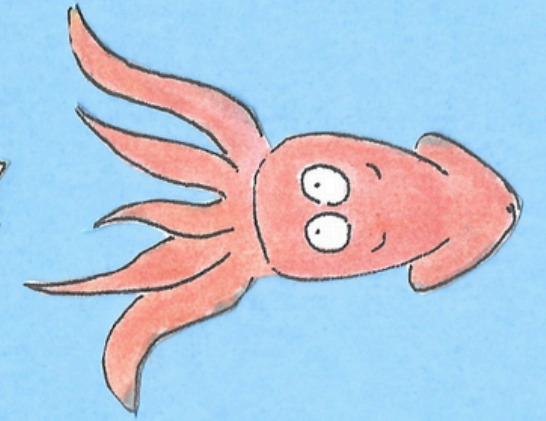
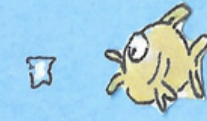
But this isn't over, my pieces still remain,



microplastics

travel up the food chain.

Eaten by a fish

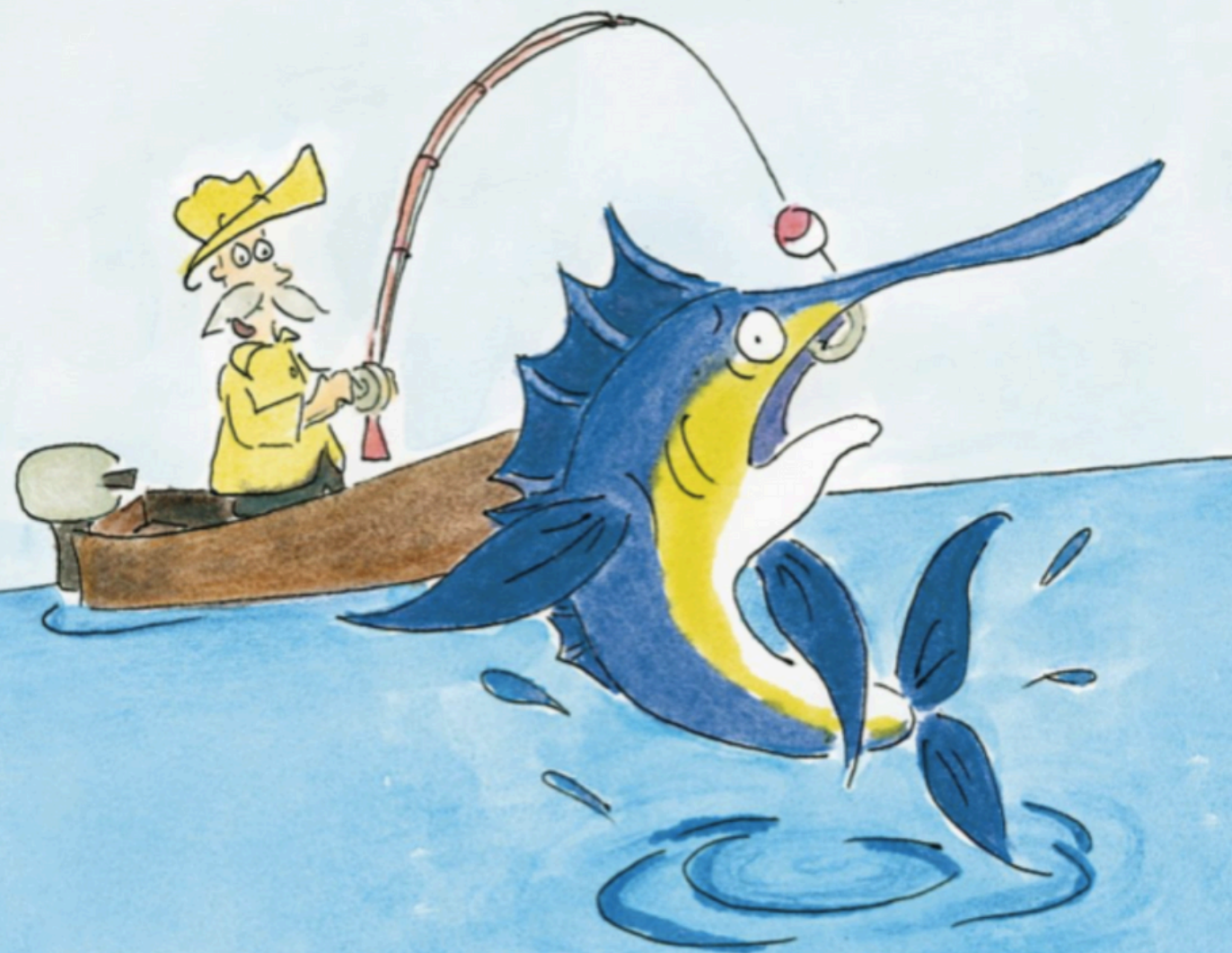


and a squid later on,



a swordfish  
swallows it,  
not knowing something's  
wrong . . .

Caught by a fisherman,

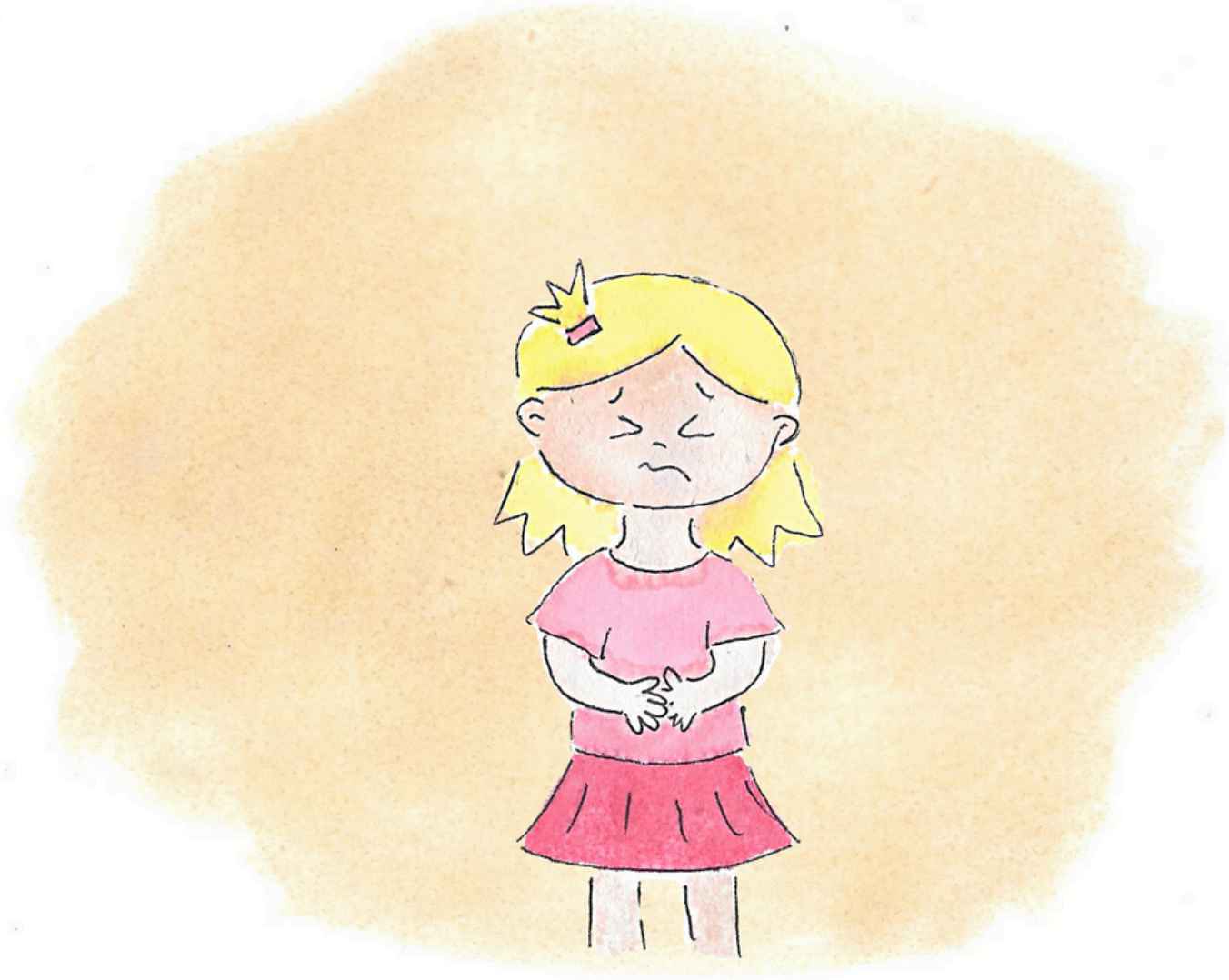


and served on a plate . . .



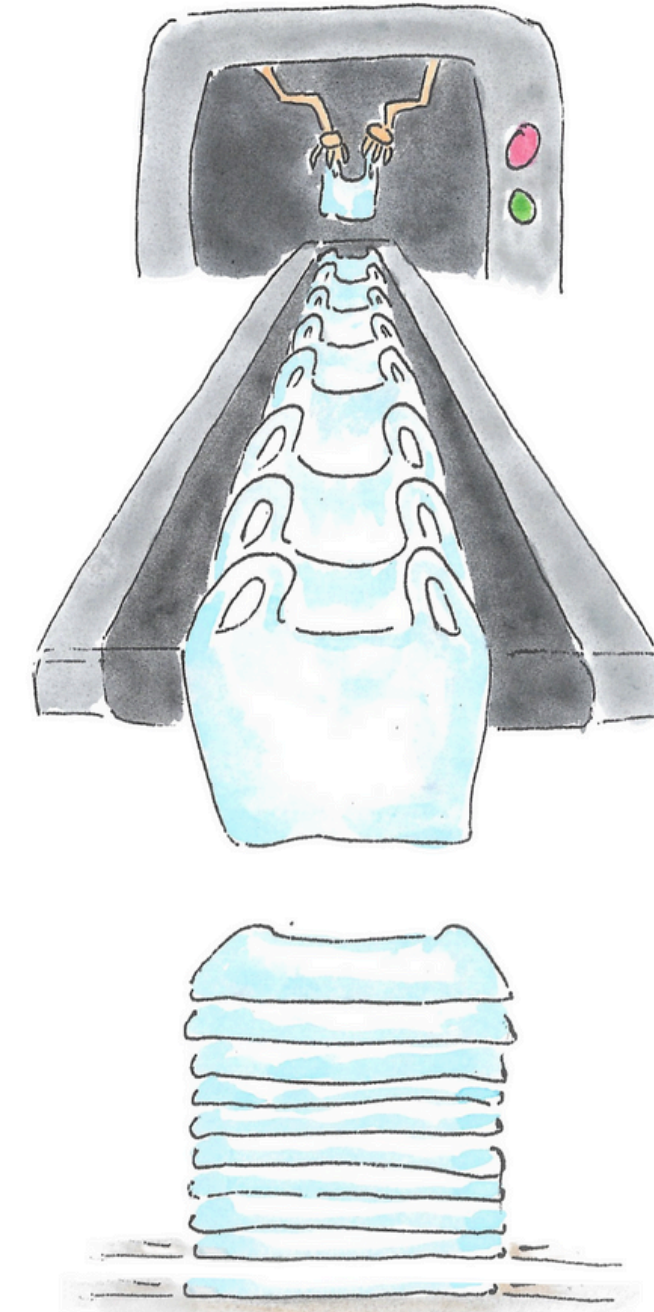
it's eaten by **YOU** not aware of its state.

As you finish your dinner on your supper plate,



Who would imagine it was **ME** that you ate?

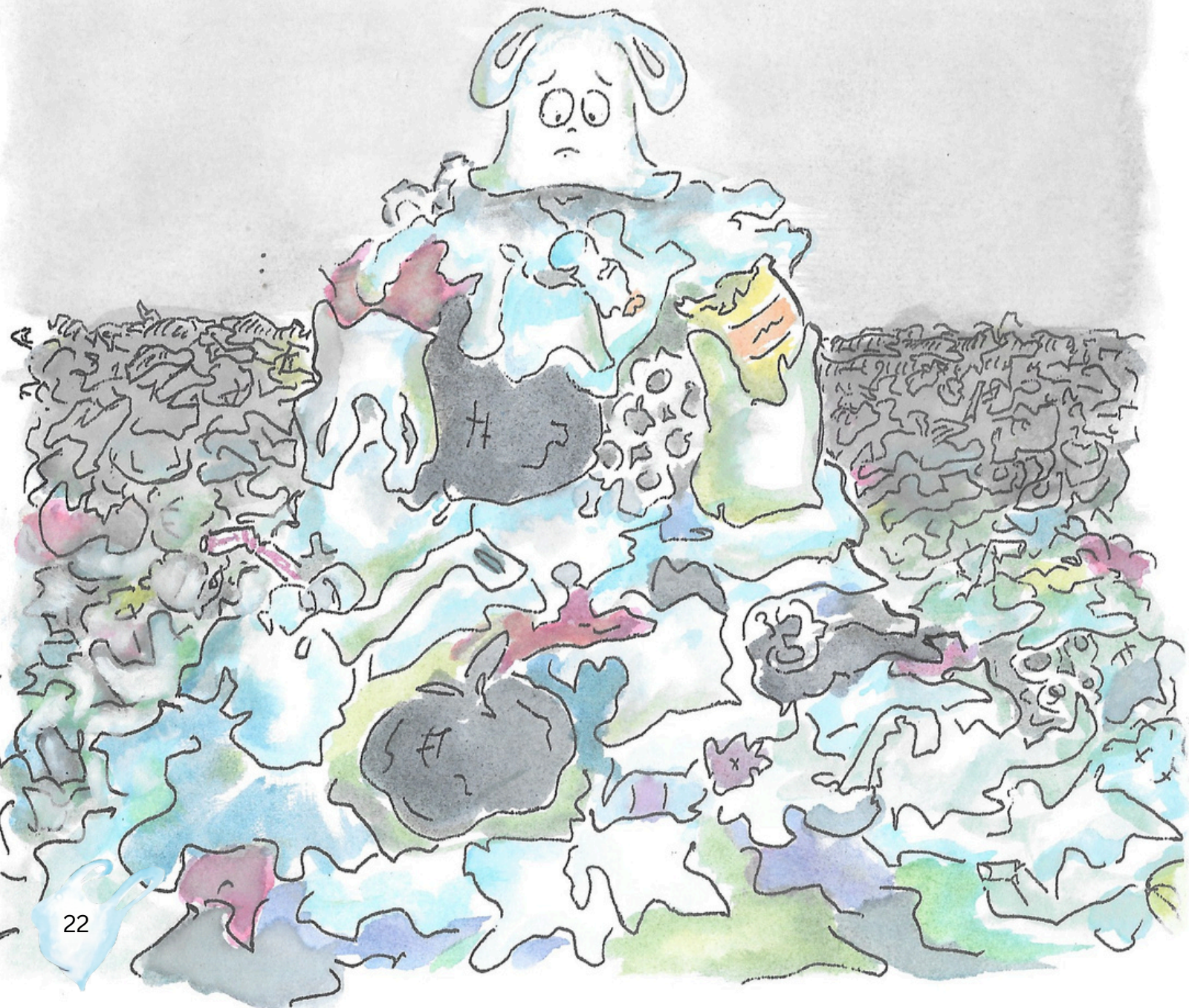
I will always be here for centuries to come.



As long as you keep producing me,  
I will never be gone.

So while in this cycle I endlessly sway,  
I wish people realized . . .

there is no "away".



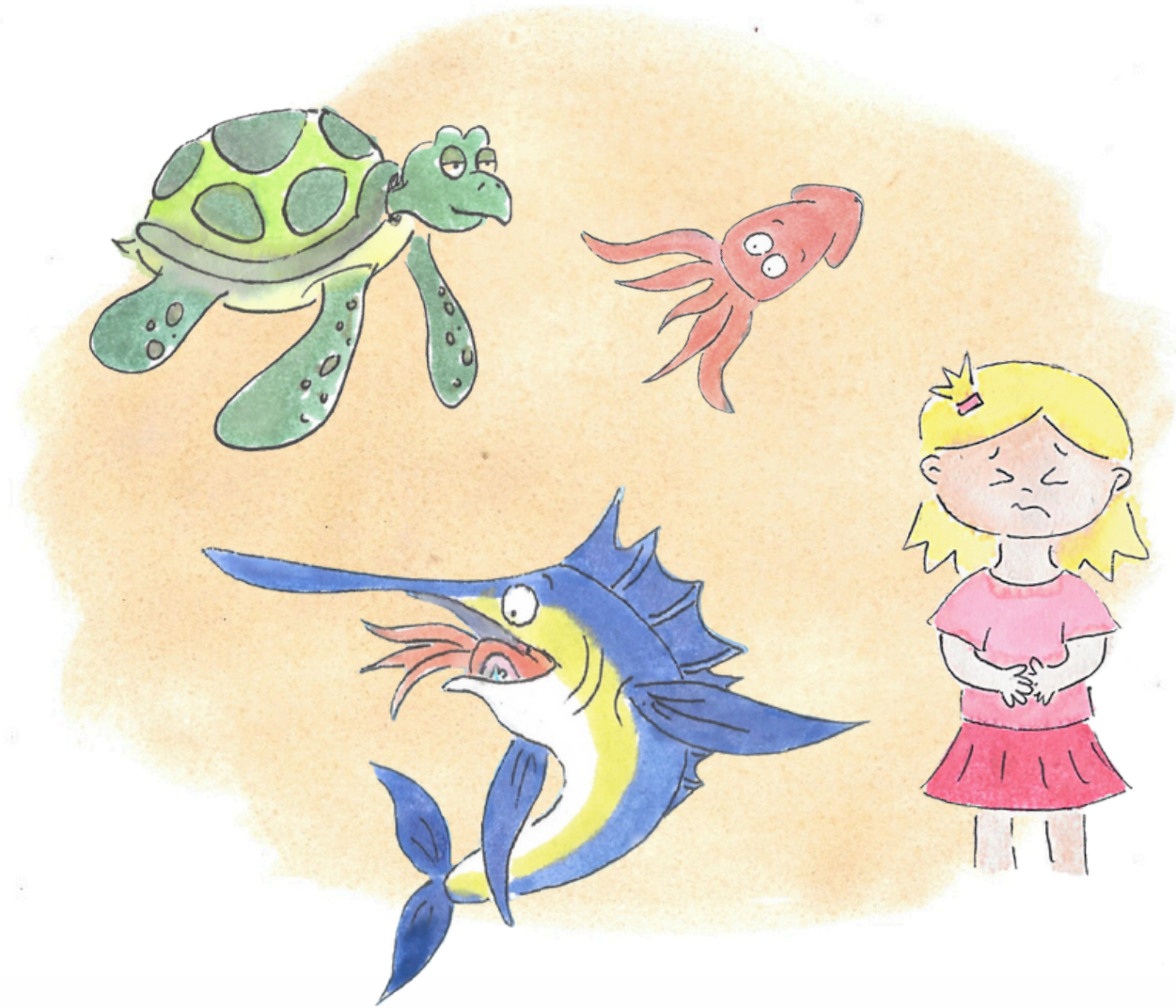
Think of the minutes you used me that day.  
You now know what happened when you  
threw me away.



Is it really worth the damage I cause?  
Next time remember this, take a second, and  
pause.



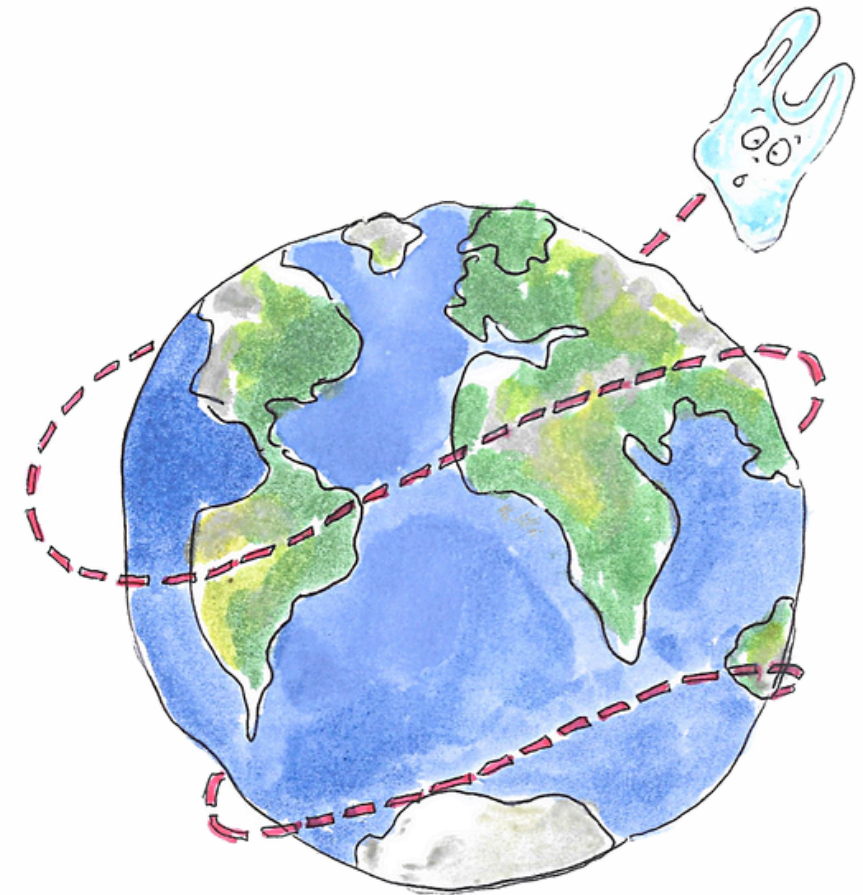
From turtles, squids, swordfish, and then you,  
there is a good chance  
I am in what you chew.



Let's use reusable plastic, pick up trash,  
and all do our part!  
If we don't learn from this,  
we'll be back at the start . . .



In an endless cycle,  
I travel around the globe,  
but if you stop buying me,  
you will help save the world.

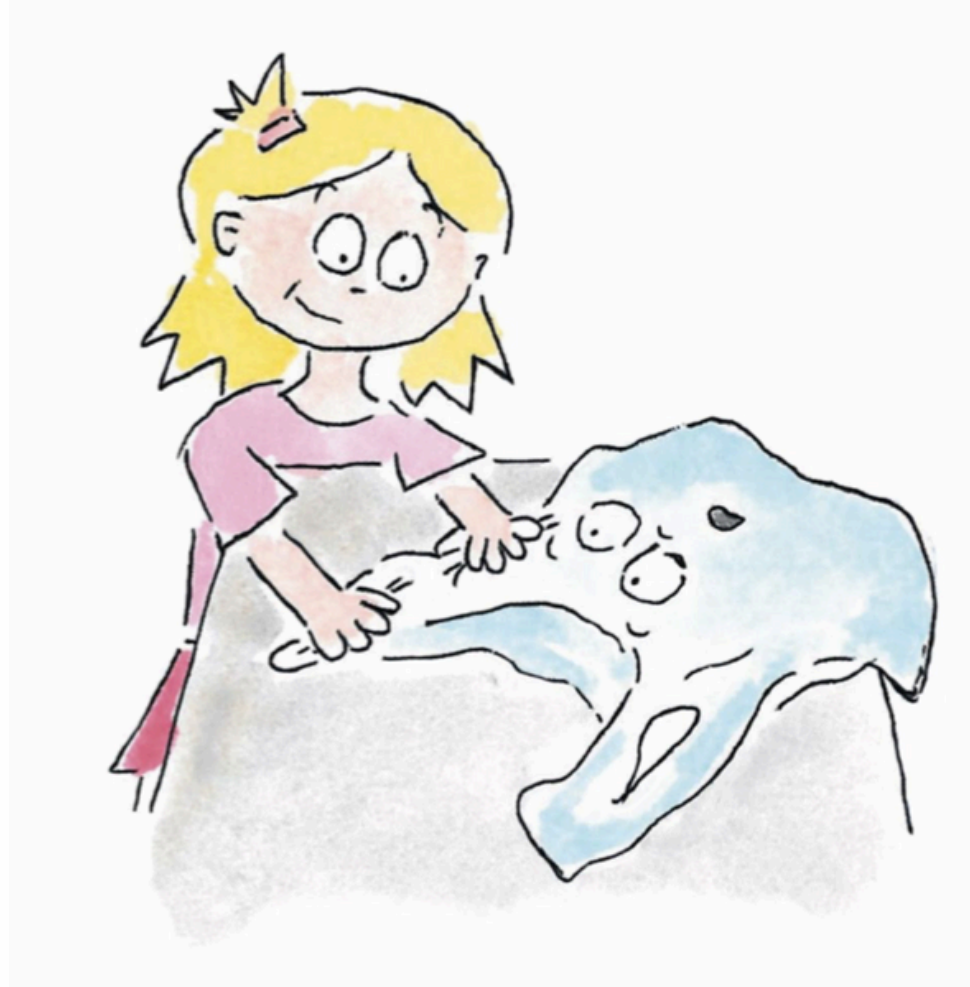


Earth is our only home,  
let's make it more green:

We are the future,  
let's just keep it **clean!**



My story was told by a kid just like you,  
No one is too young, you can do it too!



If you are the only one who's aware of this tale,  
it will be of no help and my mission will fail.

By sharing this story to those with no clue,  
Earth and its nature will surely thank you!



I encourage you to speak up about what is  
wrong.

Write about this issue and tell everyone.

Writing your story will not just be fun,  
People will be aware about the harm being done!



The new generations will now understand.

Thanks to you,  
single-use plastic would finally be banned!





Thanks for listening to my story! Now it's your turn. Write your story here and add drawings to show everyone the damage being done!

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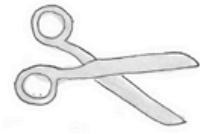
# MAKE YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAG!



Materials:

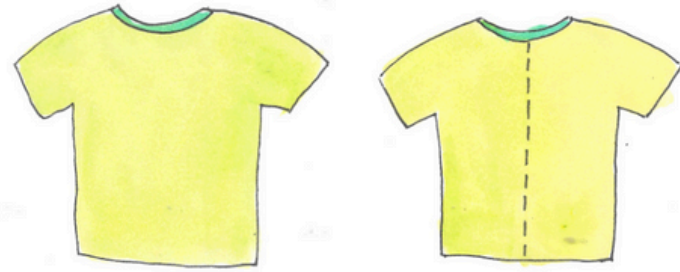


T-shirt



Scissors

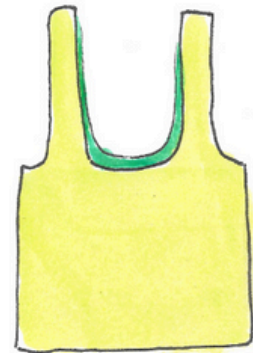
① Fold the shirt in half.



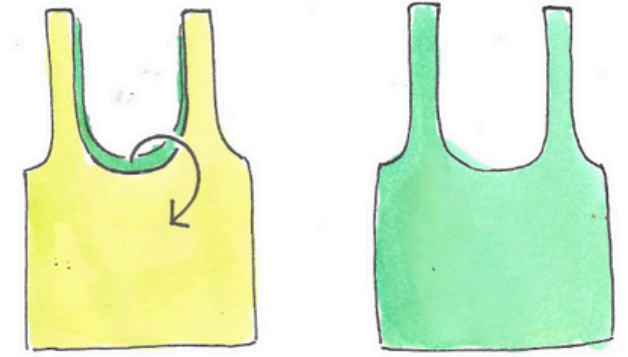
② With the scissors, cut along the dotted lines.



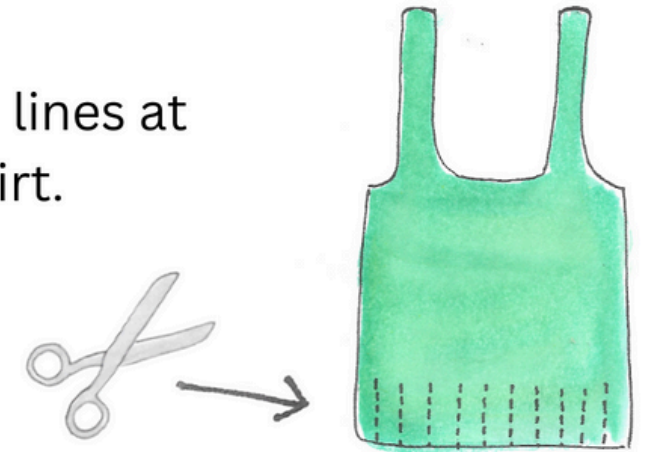
It should look like this when you unfold it:



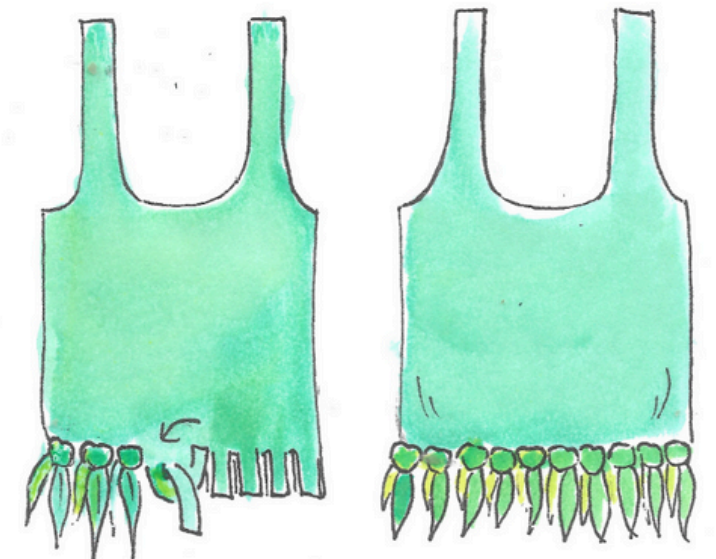
③ Turn the shirt inside out.



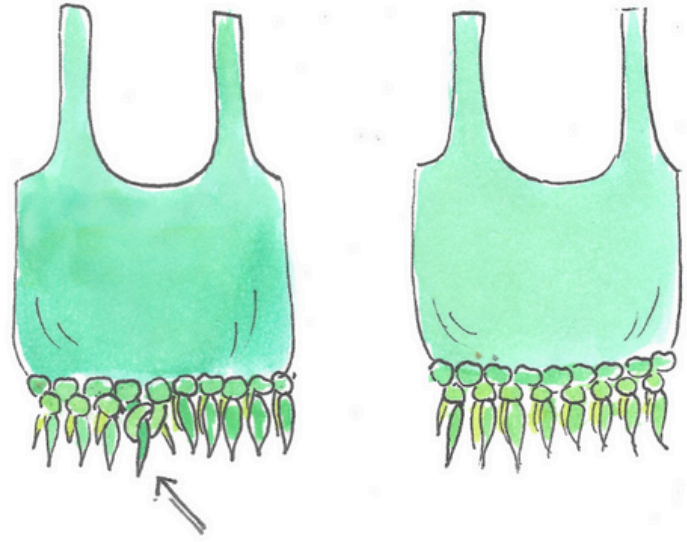
④ Cut along the dotted lines at the bottom of the shirt.



⑤ Take a strand at the front of the shirt and one at the back and make a knot. Repeat throughout the end of the shirt until no loose strands remain.

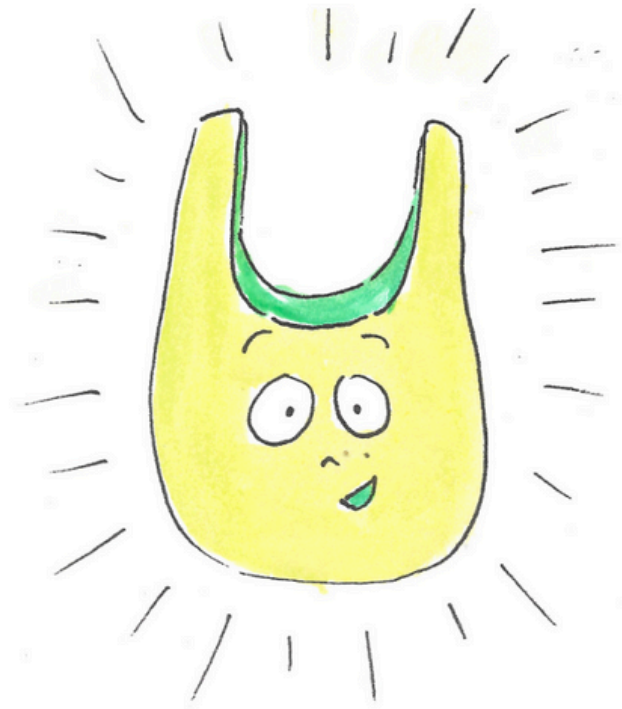
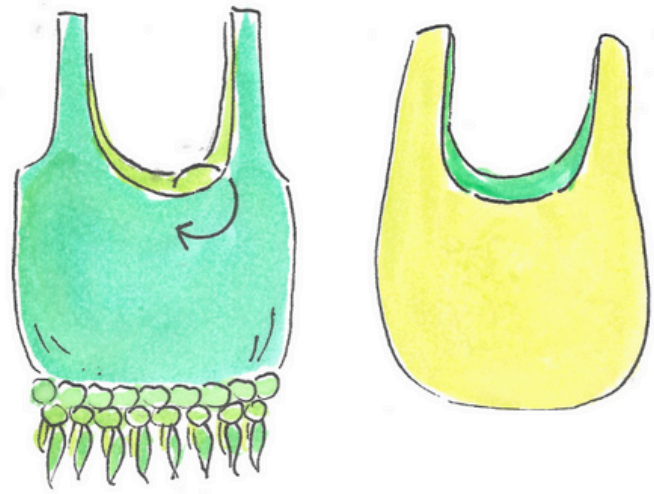


6 Repeat this knotting process with the hanging strips from previous knots.



Make sure there are no holes between the knots.

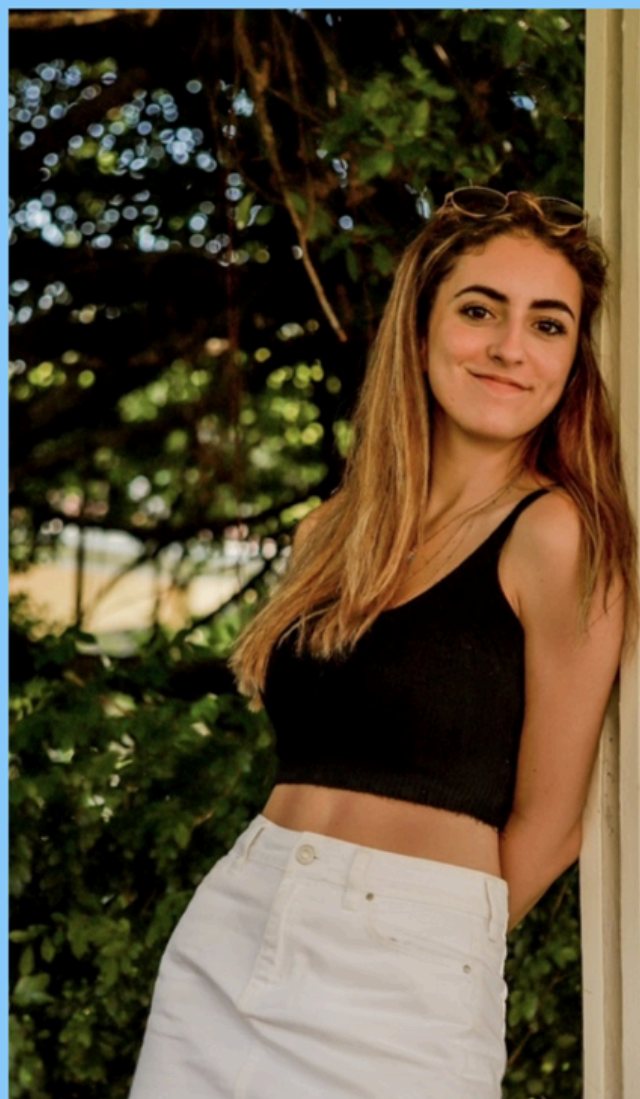
7 Turn the shirt inside out again.



**DONE!**

Use this reusable bag instead of plastic ones and help save our planet!

# MEET THE AUTHOR!



Daniela Macaya was born in 2002 in San José, Costa Rica. From a young age, she worried about our planet and today fights for a better future for the generations to come. By combining her artistic and writing skills with her passion for the environment, at 17 years old, she created her first book: "Throw It 'Away". Written during the COVID-19 quarantine, she wanted to continue raising awareness and helping the environment from inside the four

walls of her bedroom. During these unprecedented times, she wanted to inspire others that, even at home, everyone can do something to help in our society. Dedicated to the children, she hopes they will understand the harm plastic and other issues bring to nature and can be leaders in the future who care for and defend planet Earth.