



Nono Finds a Friend

This book was originally written in isiZulu by Busi Maphumulo
Illustrated and designed by Jess Jardim-Wedepohl





Nono was a clever, hard-working girl who lived with her aunt. Aunt was not very kind to Nono. She made Nono do a lot of housework.





Each day, Nono would sing:

“When will it change?
Living alone,
Fetching water, ploughing the fields,
When will it change?”

When she had finished singing, she would go
to the river to fetch water.
When she came back, her aunt would hand her
a hoe. Nono hated tilling the fields.





One day, Nono arrived in the field to discover
that it was already tilled!

On one of the maize plants sat a tiny girl.
“I have come to help you,” the girl said.

Nono smiled a huge smile. “I’ll call you Thuphazana
because you are the size of my thumb. Come into my
pocket so my aunt won’t see you.”





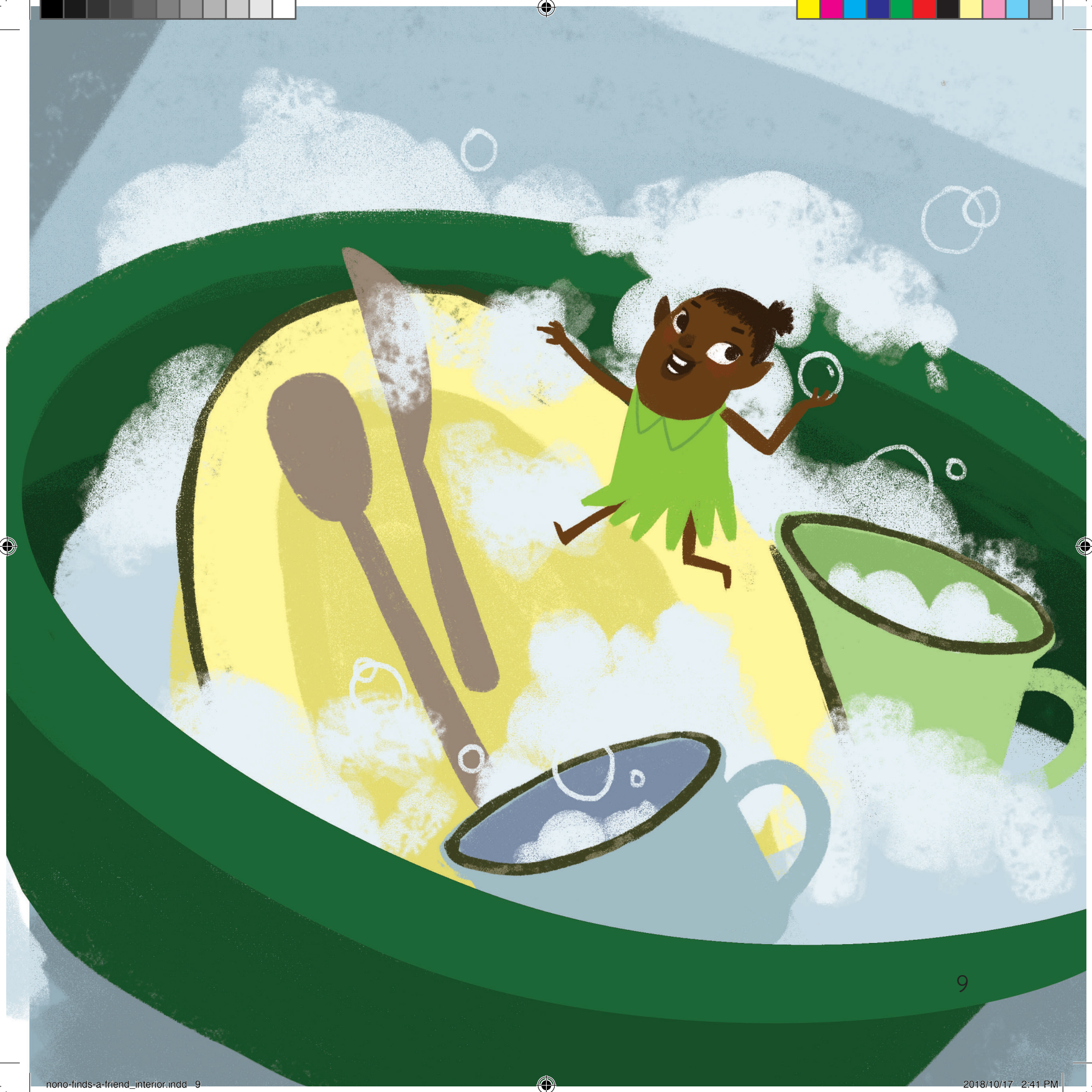


“Today I’ll wash the dishes for you, Nono,”
said Thuphazana. “You can rest.”

When Aunt saw the clean kitchen, she was
surprised. “You worked so hard today, Nono.
You are becoming a very responsible girl.”

Nono was pleased by the praise.
“Aunt, can I go to bed earlier today?
I feel so tired.”







But instead of sleeping, Nono started playing with Thuphazana.

Aunt knocked.
“Nono! What’s all that noise?”

Nono was petrified. “Nothing, Aunt.
I was just dreaming.”

“Come and sleep with me if you’re
having bad dreams,” Aunt said.

“I am fine, Aunt,” Nono replied.

Thuphazana giggled.





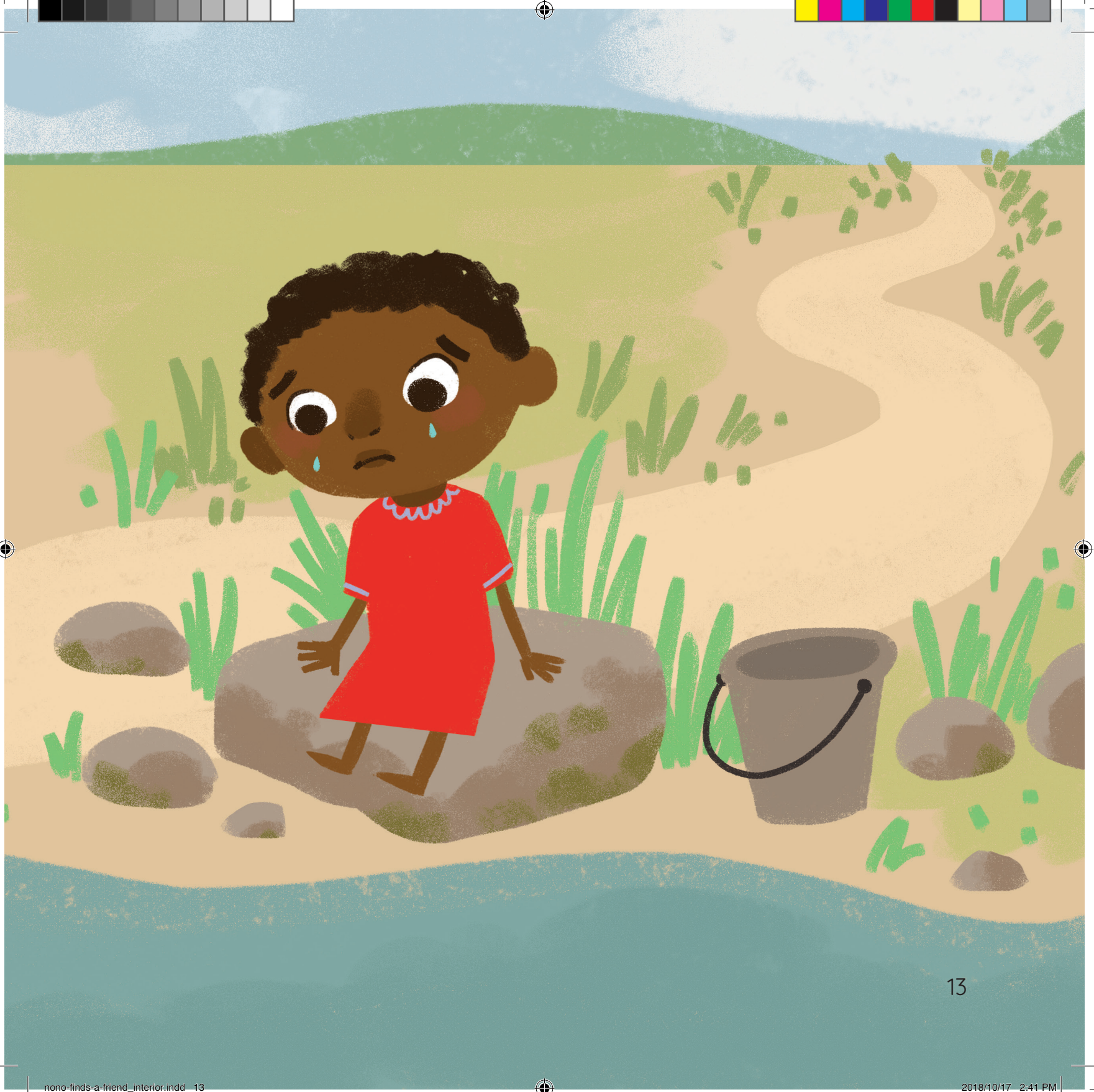


The next morning, Nono jumped out of bed.
But Thuphazana was nowhere to be seen.

Nono went to fetch water from the river. She
sat on a stone and cried. “Come back, come
back, my little fairy!”

But Thuphazana did not come back.







Aunt was waiting when Nono returned.
“Go reap mealies. Do not idle! Look how long
it took you to fetch water!”

Nono took the basket and began
to sing sadly:

“When will it change?
Living alone,
Fetching water, ploughing the fields,
When will it change?”

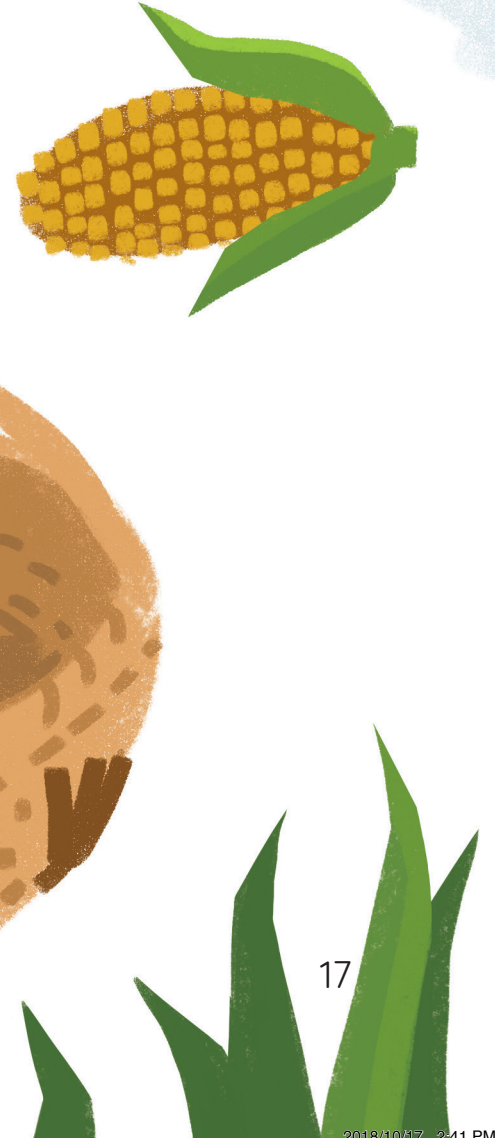




Nono sang all the way to the mealie field.
There, all the maize plants seemed to be
dancing! Mealies harvested themselves and
jumped into her basket.

“My Thuphazana, is that you?”
Nono called out.





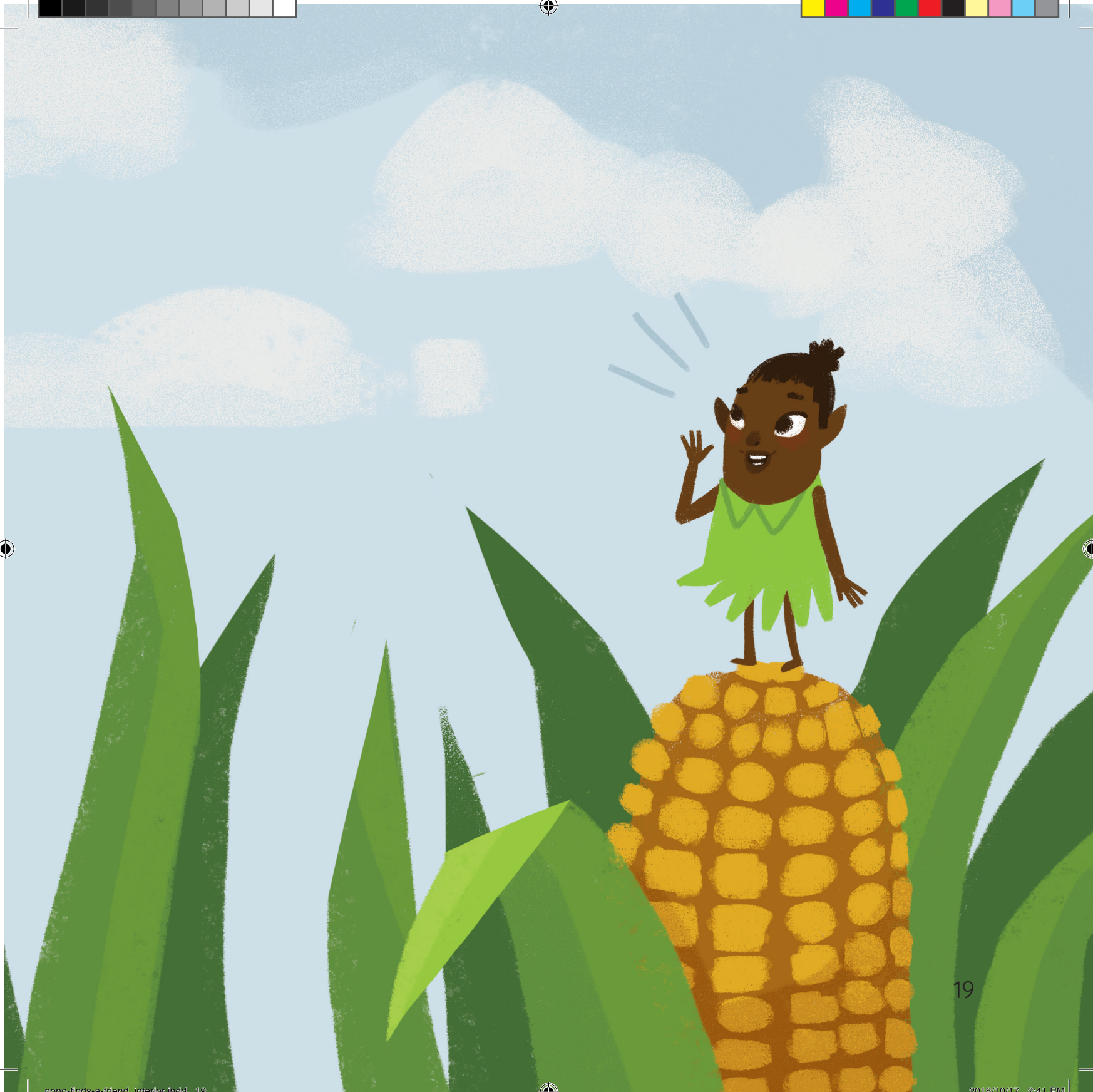


“Yes, Nono!” a voice answered.

“Thuphazana! Why did you leave me?
I miss you,” Nono called.

“Oh, Nono, I cannot live with you –
I must live here with my fairy family.
But whenever you feel lonely or need
help, sing and I will come.”



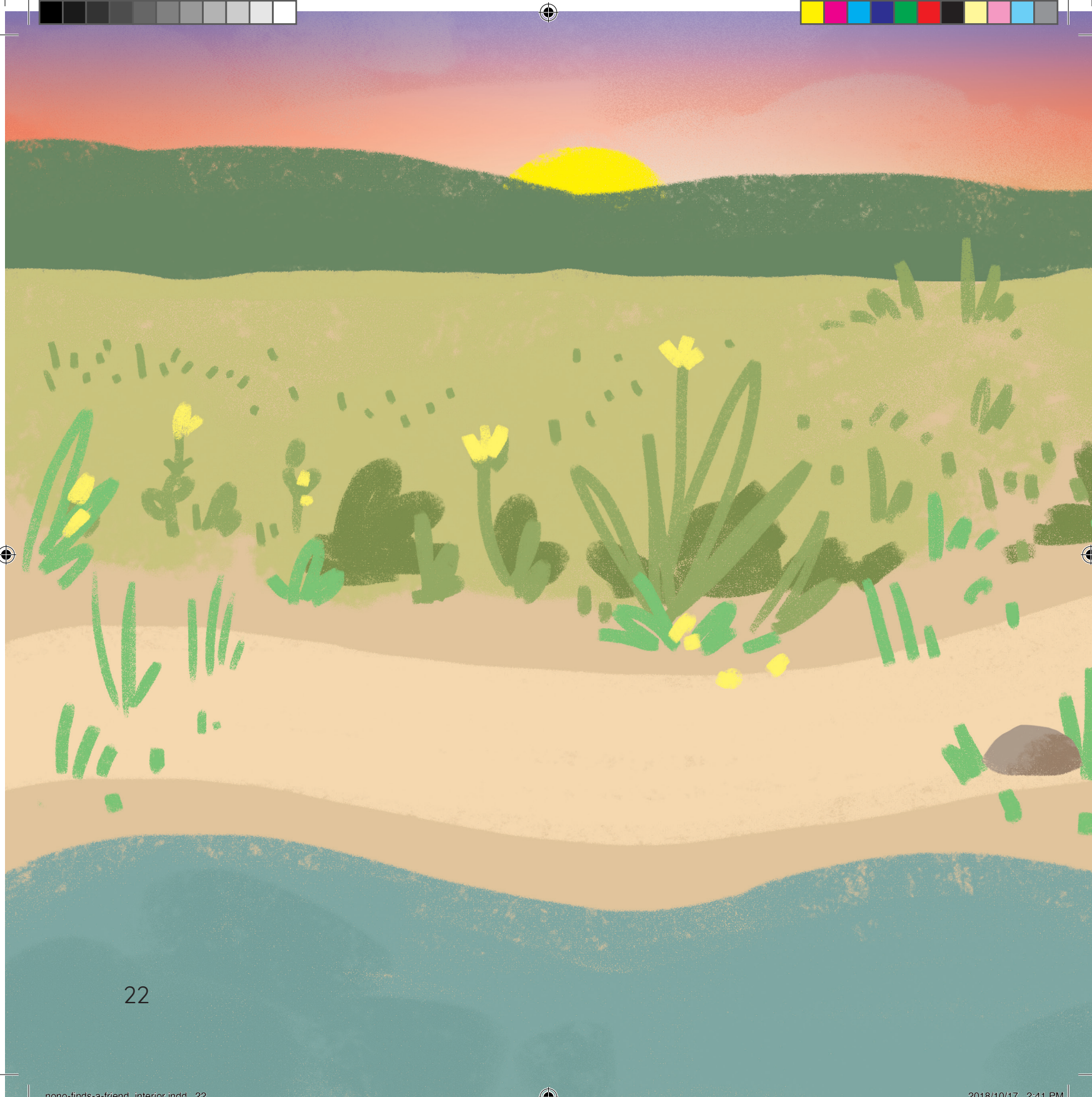


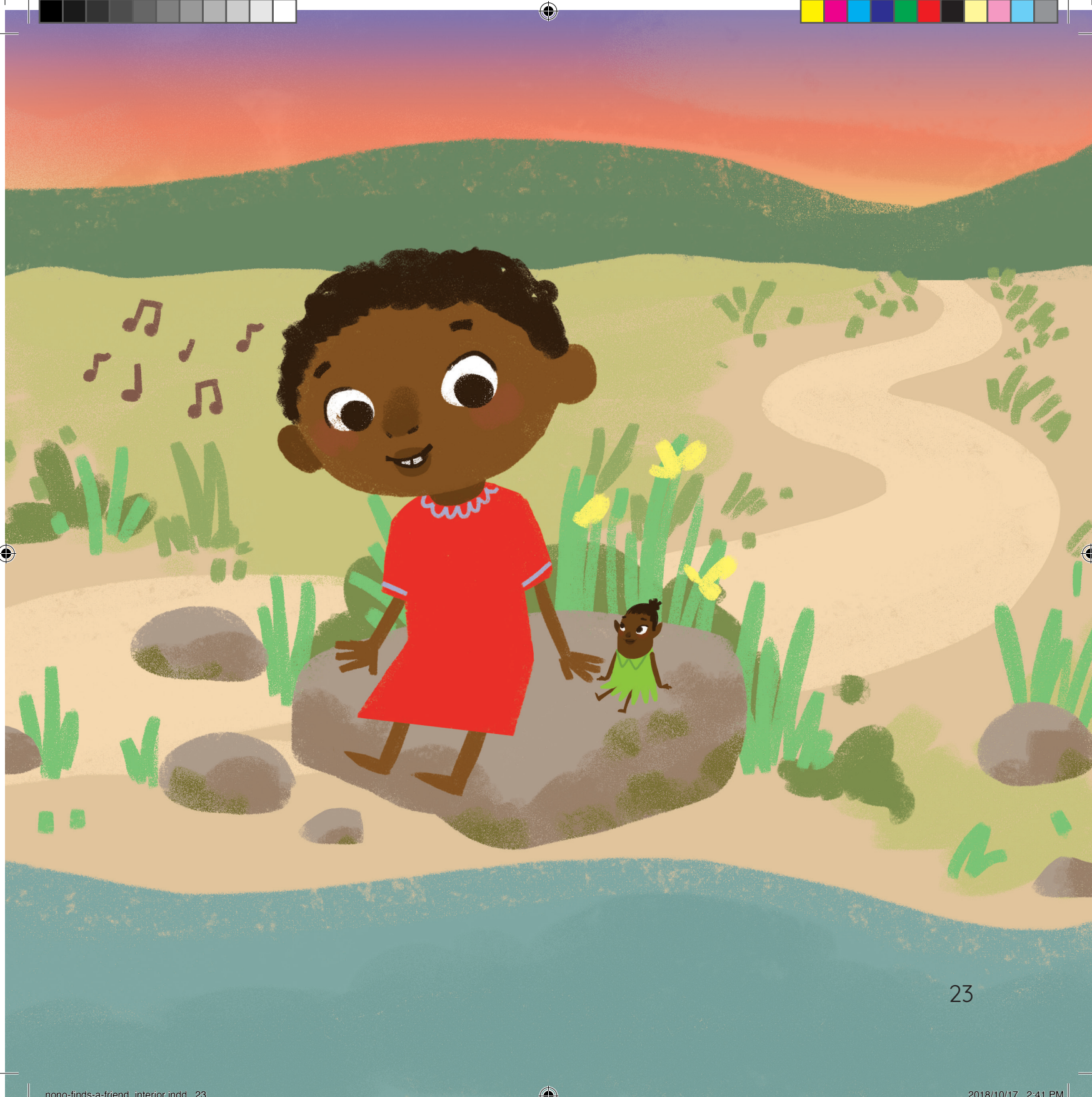


Nono and Thuphazana hugged each other.
Together they sang a new song:

“Now is the time,
Having a friend,
Together we fetch, together we plough,
Times have changed!”









Room to Read South Africa

1209 Francis Baard Street, The Gables, 1 Floor, Hatfield, Pretoria 0028, South Africa
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