



# There's a Fire on the Mountain

Julie Smith-Belton   Kirsty Paxton   Nadene Reignier

# There's a Fire on the Mountain

This book belongs to

---







*Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. To that end, Book Dash gathers creative professionals who volunteer to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute. To find out more, and to download beautiful, print-ready books, visit [bookdash.org](http://bookdash.org).*

There's a Fire on the Mountain  
Illustrated by Julie Smith-Belton  
Written by Kirsty Paxton  
Designed by Nadene Reignier  
Edited by Margot Bertelsmann  
with the help of the Book Dash participants in the Virtual Book Dash on 15 May 2021.

ISBN: 978-1-77623-156-0

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

**Attribution:** You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

**No additional restrictions:** You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

**Notices:** You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation.

**No warranties are given.** The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.



# There's a Fire on the Mountain

Julie Smith-Belton   Kirsty Paxton   Nadene Reignier





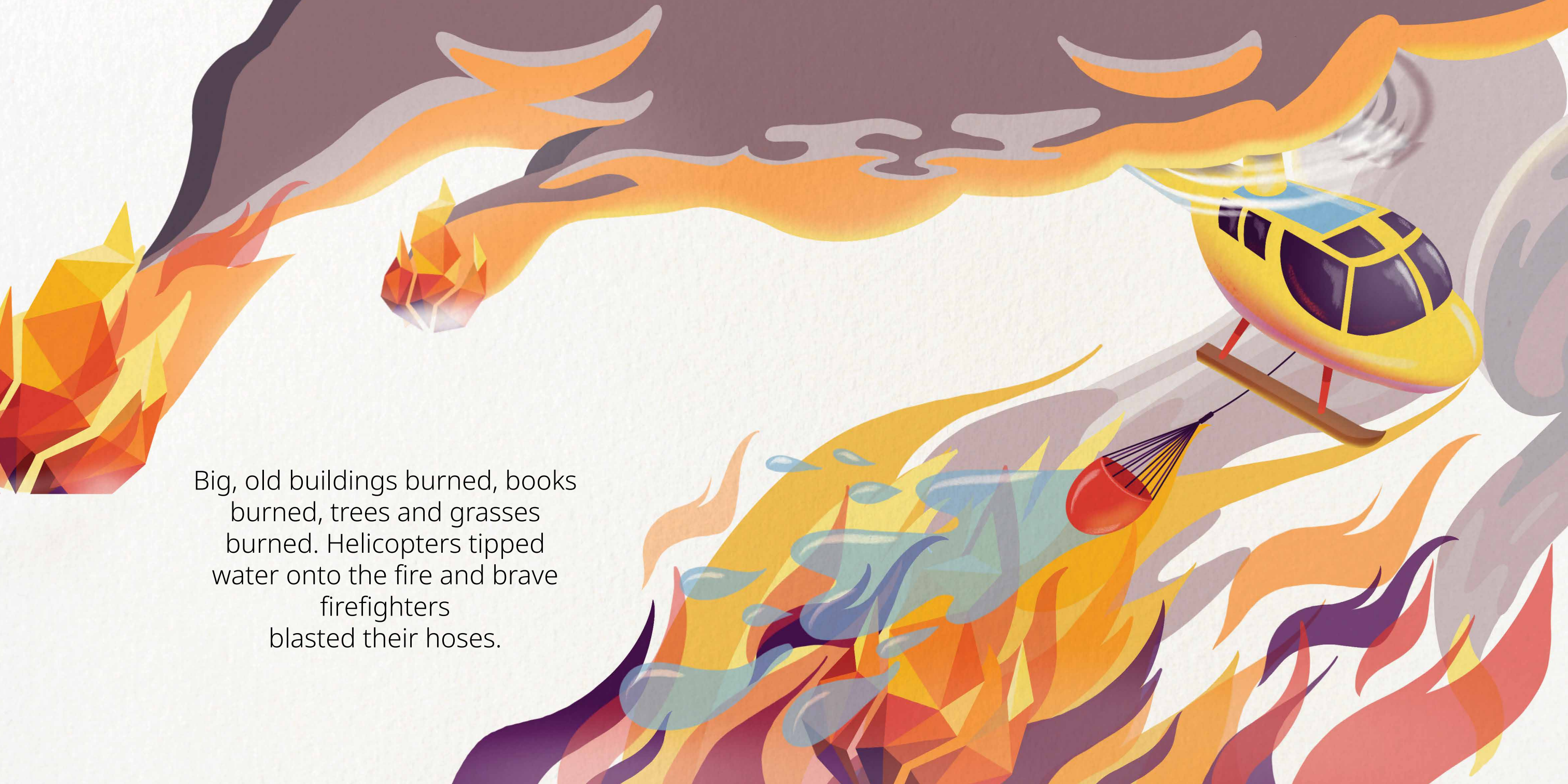
My friends and I  
have a game we  
like to play.

“There’s a fire on the mountain.  
Run, run! Kukh’umlilo kwezontaba.  
Baleka, baleka!”





Then one day there was a real fire on the mountain. It was a terrible fire that burned and burned.



Big, old buildings burned, books  
burned, trees and grasses  
burned. Helicopters tipped  
water onto the fire and brave  
firefighters  
blasted their hoses.



And people did run. They grabbed their books and bags and ran away from the smoke and the flames.





After three long days, the  
last flames were out.

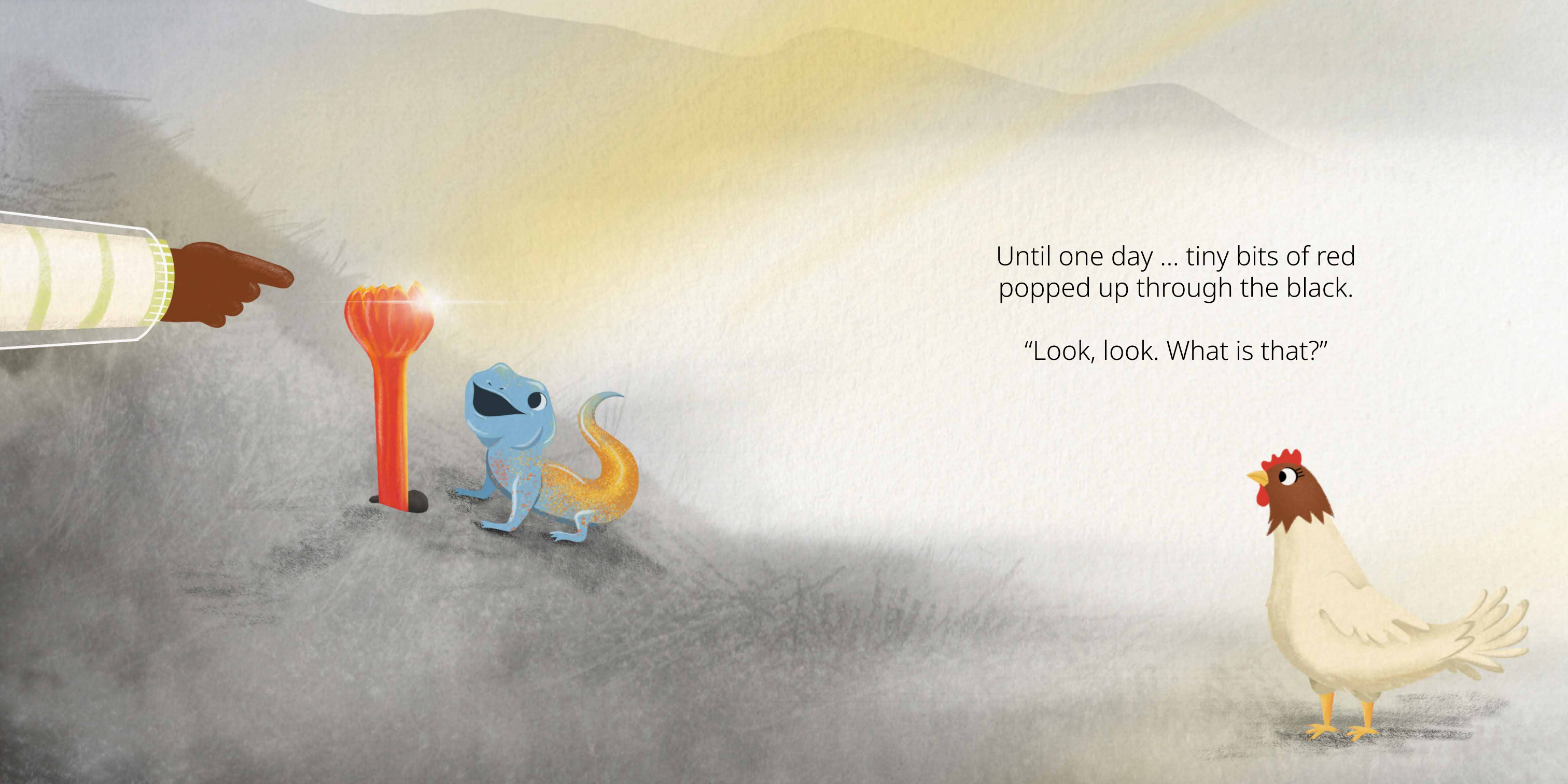
The firefighters could finally rest.





The slopes of the mountain were black. When we walked on the mountain, all we could see were rocks and burnt bushes.

We were very sad.



Until one day ... tiny bits of red  
popped up through the black.

“Look, look. What is that?”



The little bits of  
red grew  
and grew  
until they became  
beautiful fire lilies, tall  
and elegant with  
drooping red  
bells for flowers.





Then came the big, red flowers bursting through the green like volcanoes. They looked like thick red tubes with yellow-topped spikes and big, red petals.

Dots of green grew up all over the mountainside, turning the black into green grasses and restios.

Then there were asparagus ferns unfolding in wet patches after the rain.



And the tall  
watsonia  
in orange  
and pink.



Soon the mountainside was covered with plants we hadn't seen for years.

The mountain is full of new life!







