

Who's Behind That Wall?

BY Kim Eun-Hee

HealthServe is a non-profit organisation that seeks to promote and protect migrant workers in Singapore through healthcare, counselling and social assistance.

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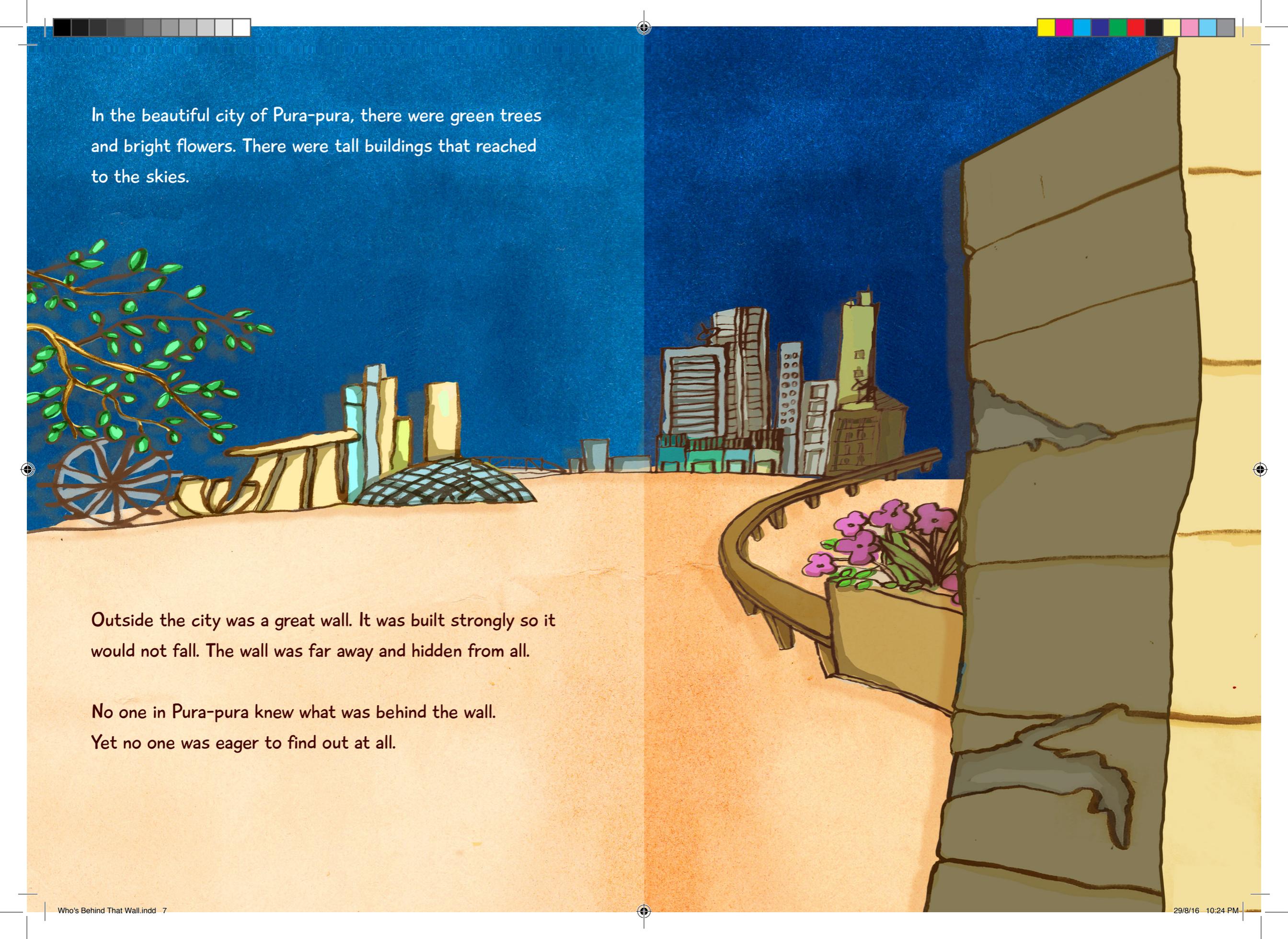
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In the beautiful city of Pura-pura, there were green trees and bright flowers. There were tall buildings that reached to the skies.

Outside the city was a great wall. It was built strongly so it would not fall. The wall was far away and hidden from all.

No one in Pura-pura knew what was behind the wall. Yet no one was eager to find out at all.

In Pura-pura, there lived a little mouse named Tommy.
Tommy was a curious little mouse.

He wanted to know everything.
He read about anything.
He liked to ask questions.



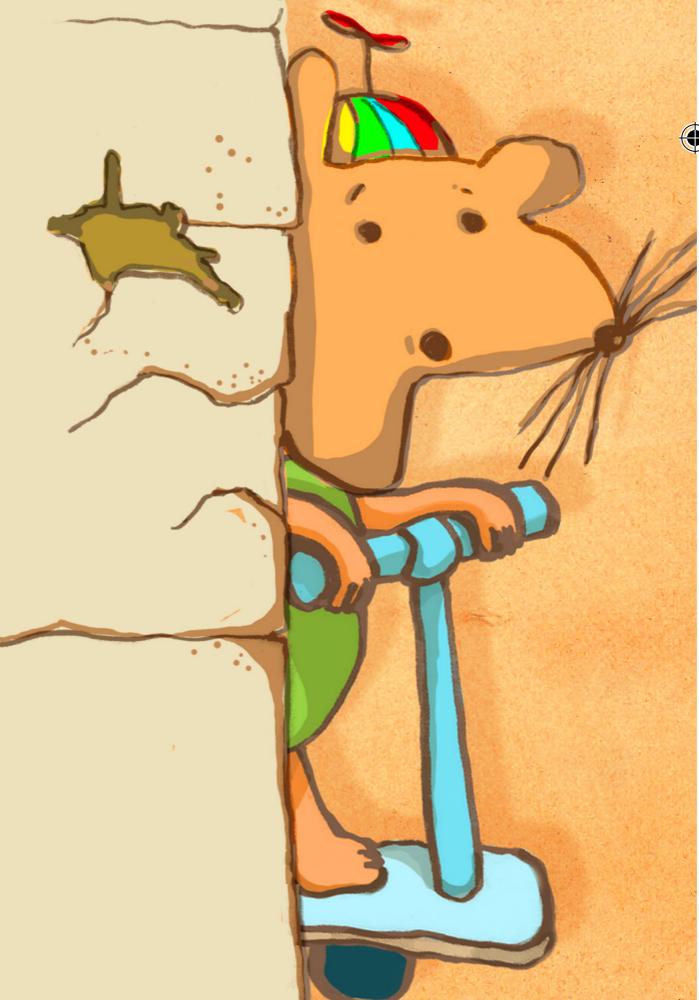
One fine day, Tommy went exploring.
He went so far that he chanced upon the wall.

"Hmm ... what's this wall doing here?"

There were *strange* and
LOUD noises from the other
side of the wall!

CLANK!
CLANK!
BOOOOM
RRRR ...

Who's
behind
this wall?



Tommy raced back home. He had to find out who was behind that wall!

"Papa! Who's behind that wall?"

"That wall? There's nothing behind there, son!"



"Mama, who's behind that wall?"

"You went where?! Promise me you'll never go there again! It must be dangerous!"



Then Tommy asked everyone else he knew.

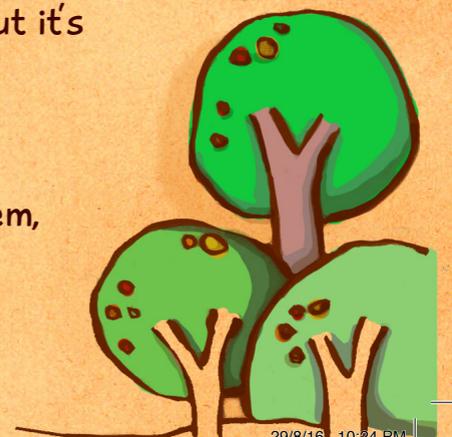
"Do you know who's behind that wall?"



"I've seen big shadows! There's something big and bad!"

"I don't know what's behind that wall. But it's something different from us all!"

"Why do you want to know? We don't see them, so it doesn't matter who's behind the wall!"



No one knew and no one wanted to know who's behind that wall.
But Tommy was determined and did not lose hope.

"Then I shall find out for myself!"



Once again, Tommy went out of
the city towards the wall.



CLANK!

CLANK!

**BOOOOM
RRRR ...**

So Tommy took a deep breath and
boldly looked behind the wall.

He was not only curious. He was
courageous!

Guess what he saw?

Tommy could hear the same *strange, LOUD* noises from behind
the wall. He called out as loudly as he could.

"Helloooooo! Is anyone there ...?"

There was no answer.





It was an enormous elephant!

He was working behind the wall, huffing and puffing as he used all his strength.

CLANK!
CLANK!
BOOOOOM
RRRR ...

Then Tommy noticed the giant elephant was shaking. He must be so tired or even in pain!



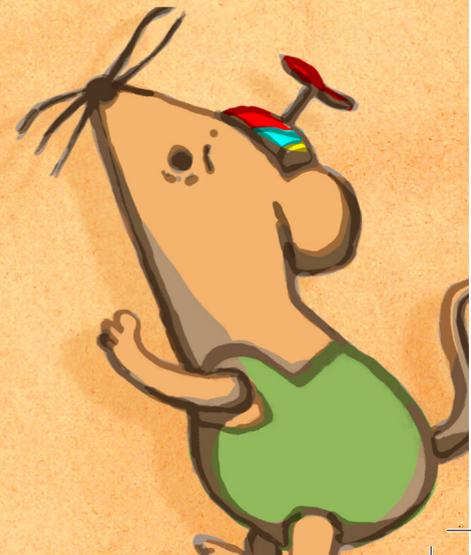
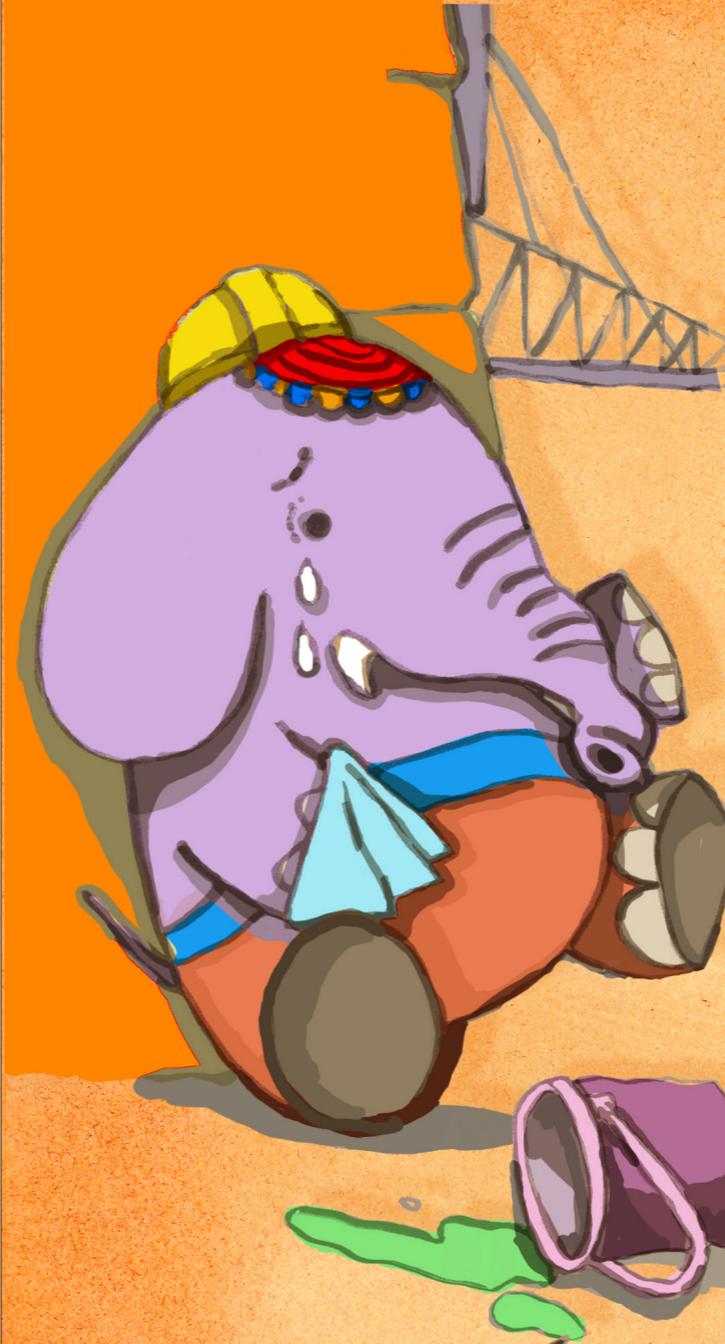
THUD!

The huge elephant sat down for a rest.

Then big tears welled up in his eyes.

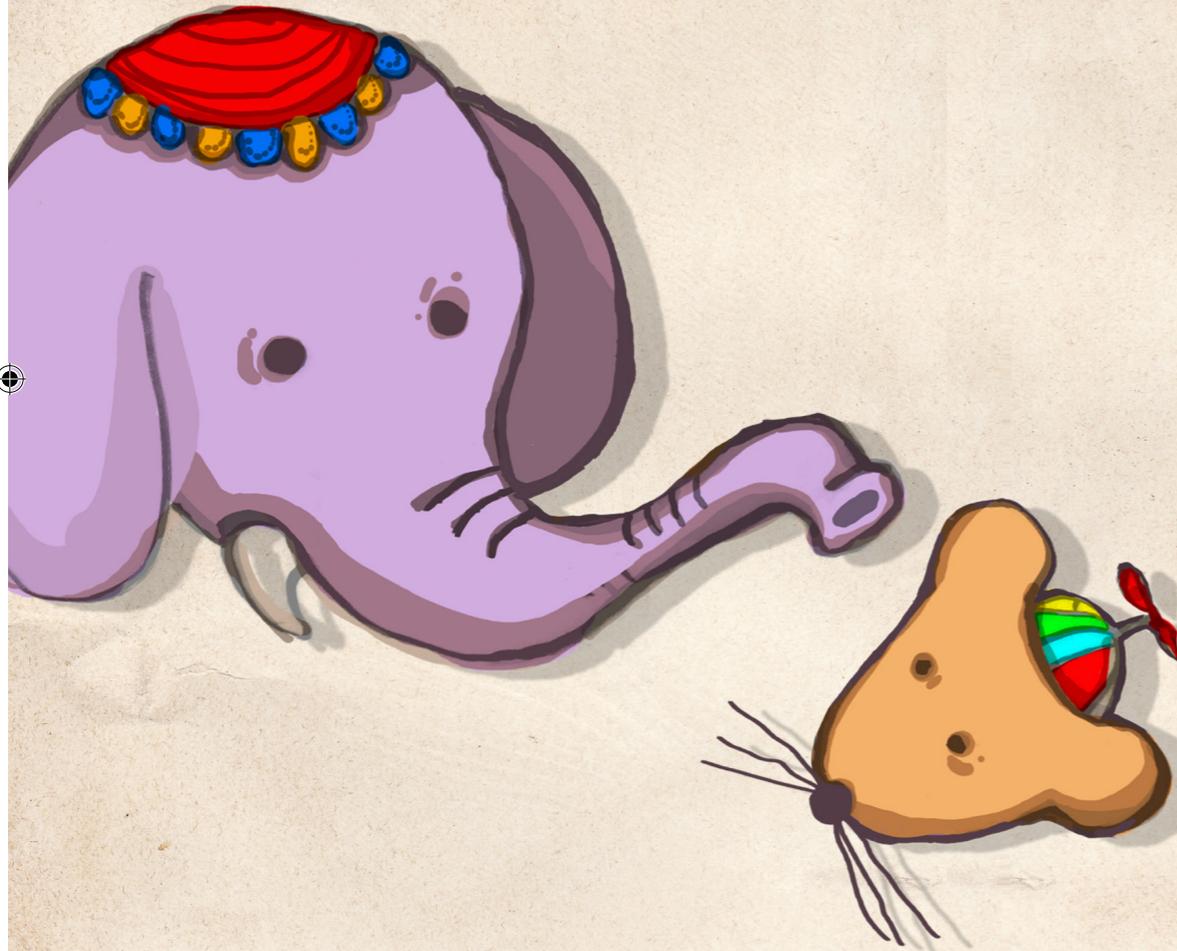
One, two, three drops rolled down his cheeks ...

"Are you okay, Mr. Elephant?
Why do you cry?"

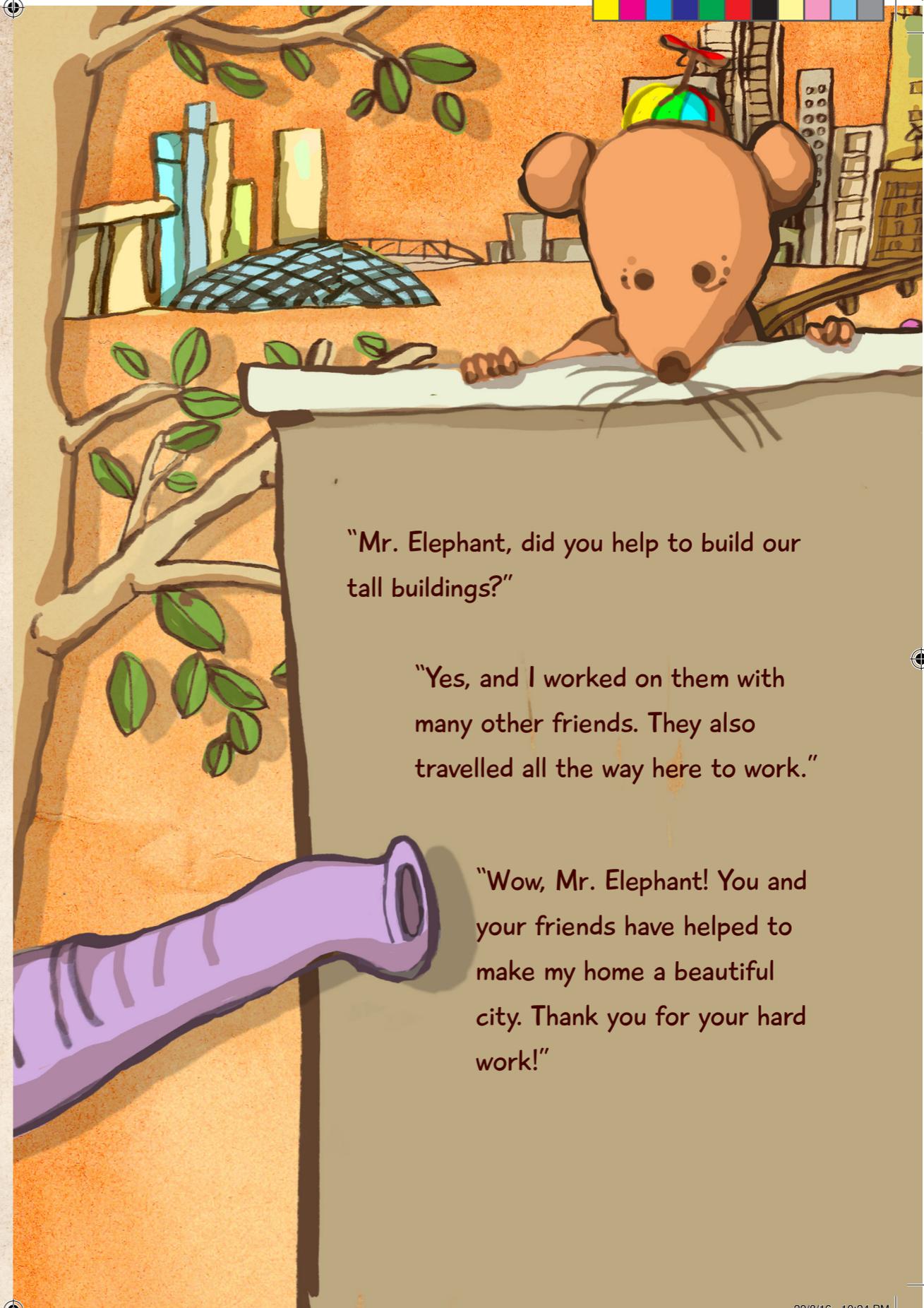


"Little Mouse, I left my family in faraway Diadesh to work in Pura-pura. Now I can provide for their needs. But I feel so lonely and tired. I can't return home whenever I want."

"Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that, Mr. Elephant. I'm Tommy. May I be your friend?"



"Thank you, little Tommy. You're very kind. I've been working behind this wall for a long time. But no one from Pura-pura has ever come to be my friend."

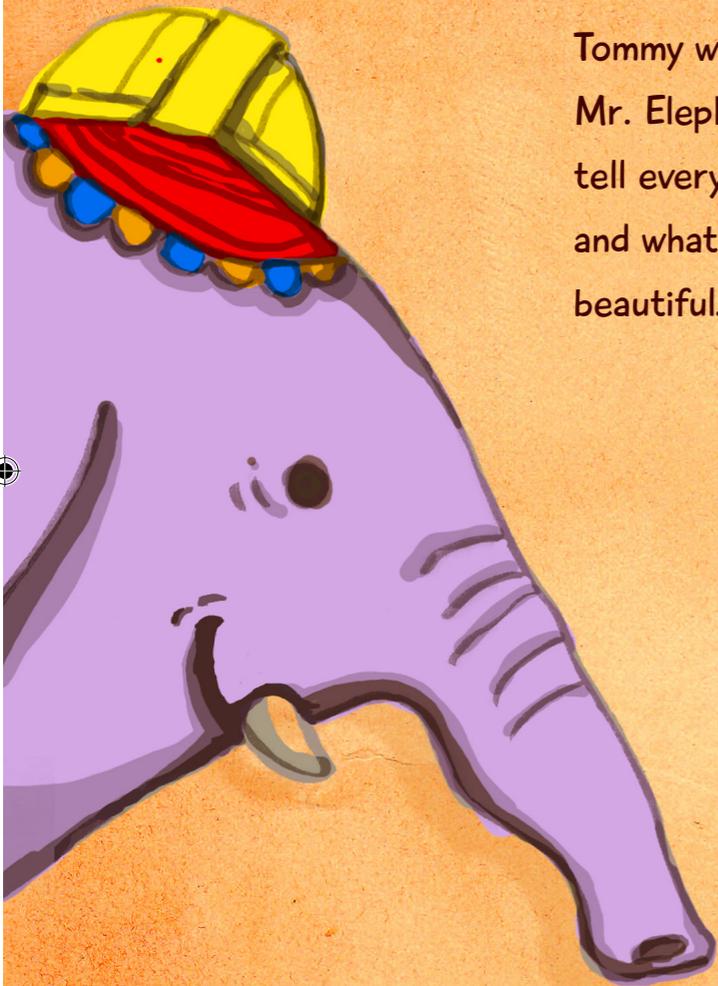


"Mr. Elephant, did you help to build our tall buildings?"

"Yes, and I worked on them with many other friends. They also travelled all the way here to work."

"Wow, Mr. Elephant! You and your friends have helped to make my home a beautiful city. Thank you for your hard work!"

Tommy was very happy to have met Mr. Elephant. He couldn't wait to tell everyone about his new friend and what he did to make Pura-pura beautiful.



Dear friends,

Did you enjoy the story? I hope you had fun reading about Tommy's adventure to find out who is behind that wall!

There are many people who come from different countries to work here in Singapore. Sometimes we refer to them as migrant workers — I am sure you have seen them around!

They left their homes and travelled far to work here, so that they can provide for their families back home. Working in another country can be difficult and lonely for many of our migrant workers. Can you imagine being away from your family for a long time?

Many of our migrant workers work long hours all week to help build our beautiful nation. They may be construction workers like Mr. Elephant. But they may also be landscape workers, cleaners, caregivers or domestic helpers. You and I can live comfortably because of their hard work and effort. Let us never forget this and always be thankful for their help!

The next time you meet a migrant worker, what would you do? You could start with a big smile and say, "Thank you for your hard work!" :)

Sincerely,
Eun-Hee



This book is dedicated to our foreign
brothers and sisters who travelled far
to toil on foreign soil.

We are so grateful. Thank you.