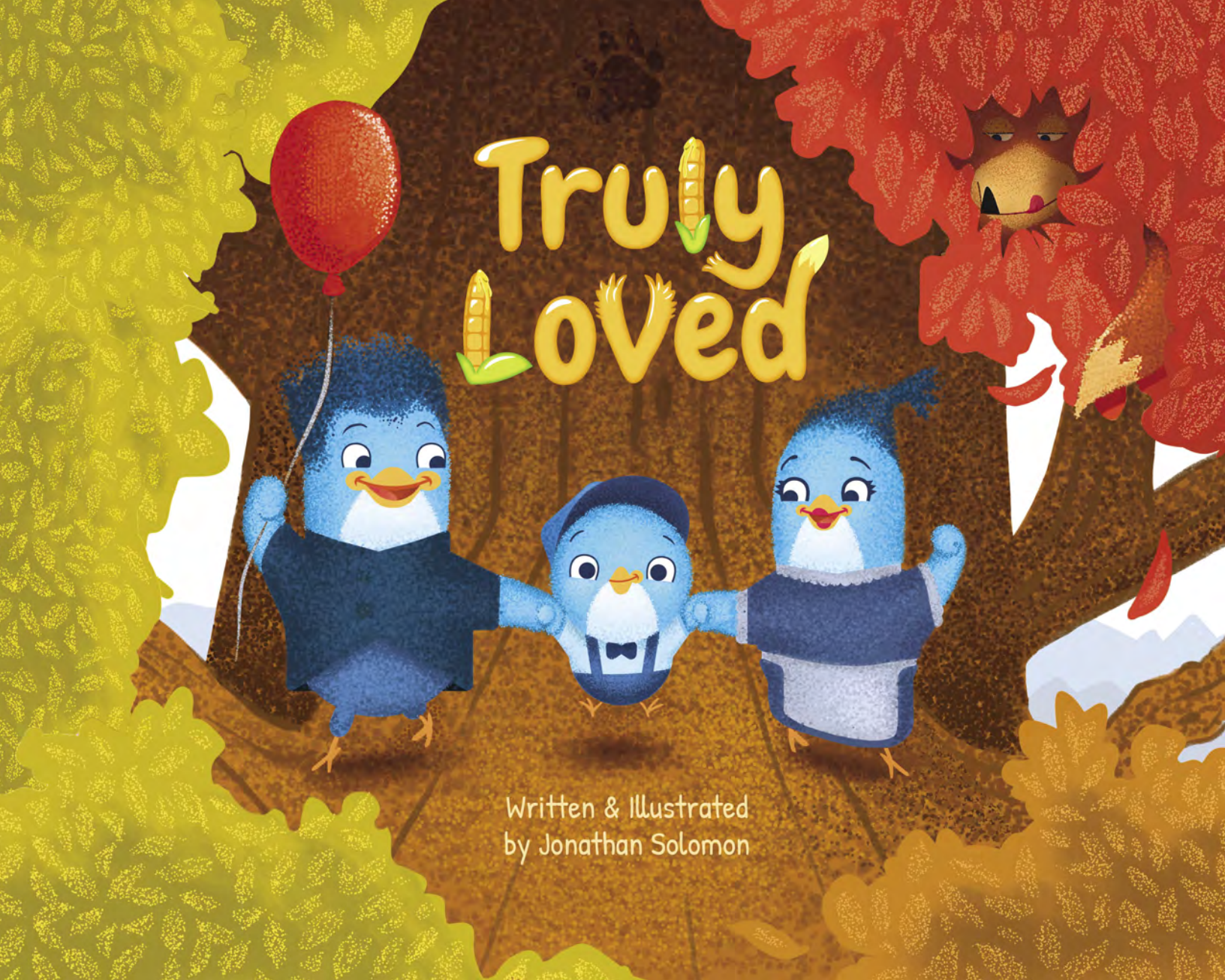




Truly Loved

Written & Illustrated
by Jonathan Solomon

The background of the entire page is a soft, light blue sky. Scattered throughout are numerous autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, some appearing to be falling. At the bottom of the page, there are stylized, textured bushes or trees in similar autumnal colors, with some leaves also falling from them.

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High in the treetops,
loud as could be,
out came a voice,
"MORE CORN FOR ME!"

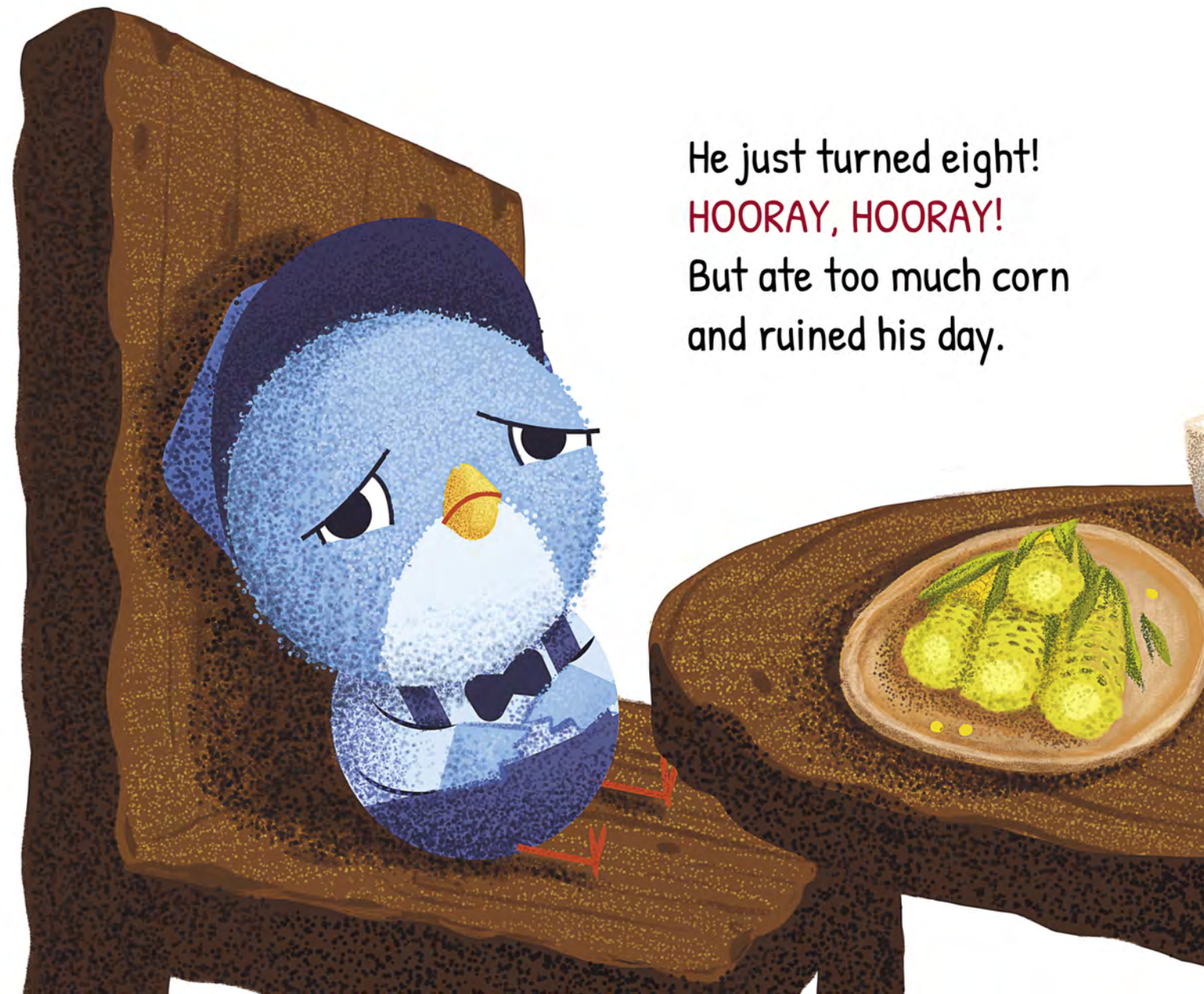


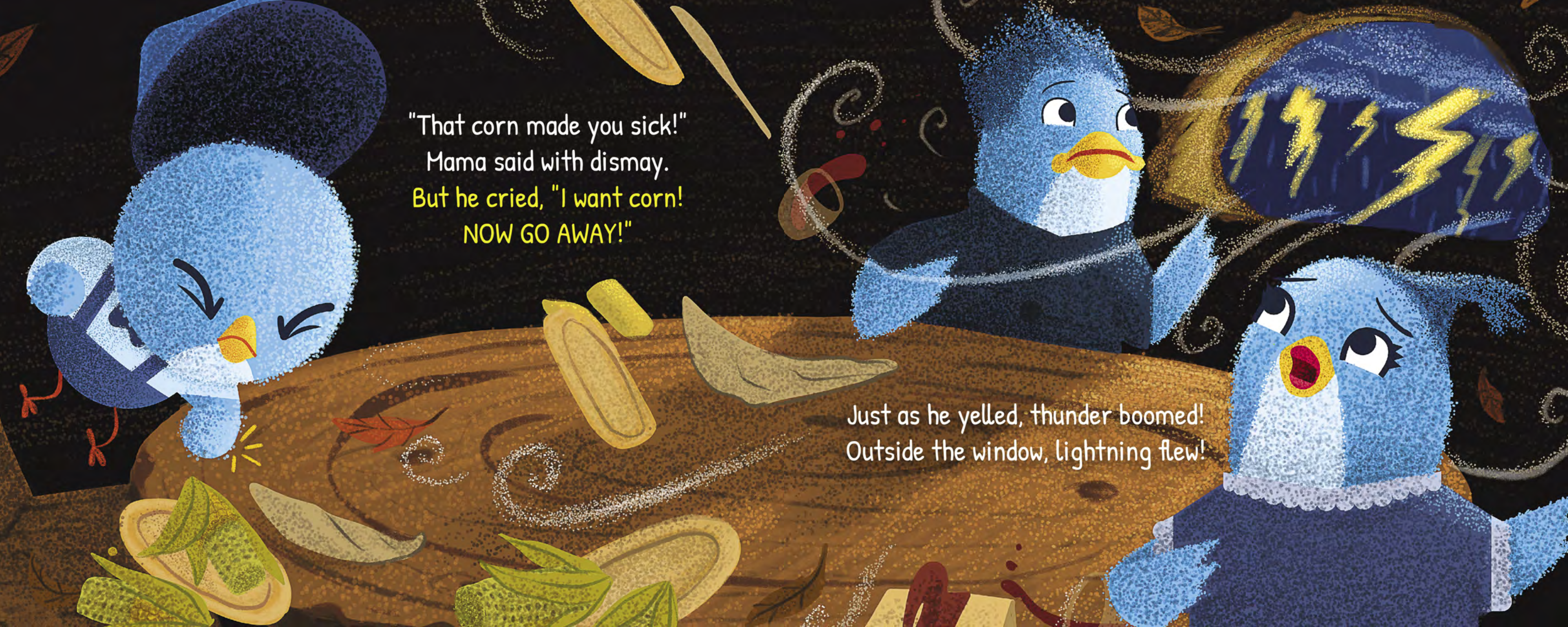
Inside the nest, with frowns so deep,
loving parents sighed,
too upset to speak.

The yelling came from a bird,
on his special day.
The little bird wanted CORN,
instead of birthday cake.



He just turned eight!
HOORAY, HOORAY!
But ate too much corn
and ruined his day.





"That corn made you sick!"
Mama said with dismay.
But he cried, "I want corn!
NOW GO AWAY!"

Just as he yelled, thunder boomed!
Outside the window, lightning flew!

Rain poured in and everything got wet.

And still the birthday bird was terribly upset.





Just when the storm seemed to be through,
A **TORNADO** came **RUMBLING**, right out of the blue!
With a whoosh and a whirl and a roaring sound,
The young bird shot up, then flew straight down!



Into a hole he flew,
and this hole was a home,
Inside sat a fox,
at peace, home alone.

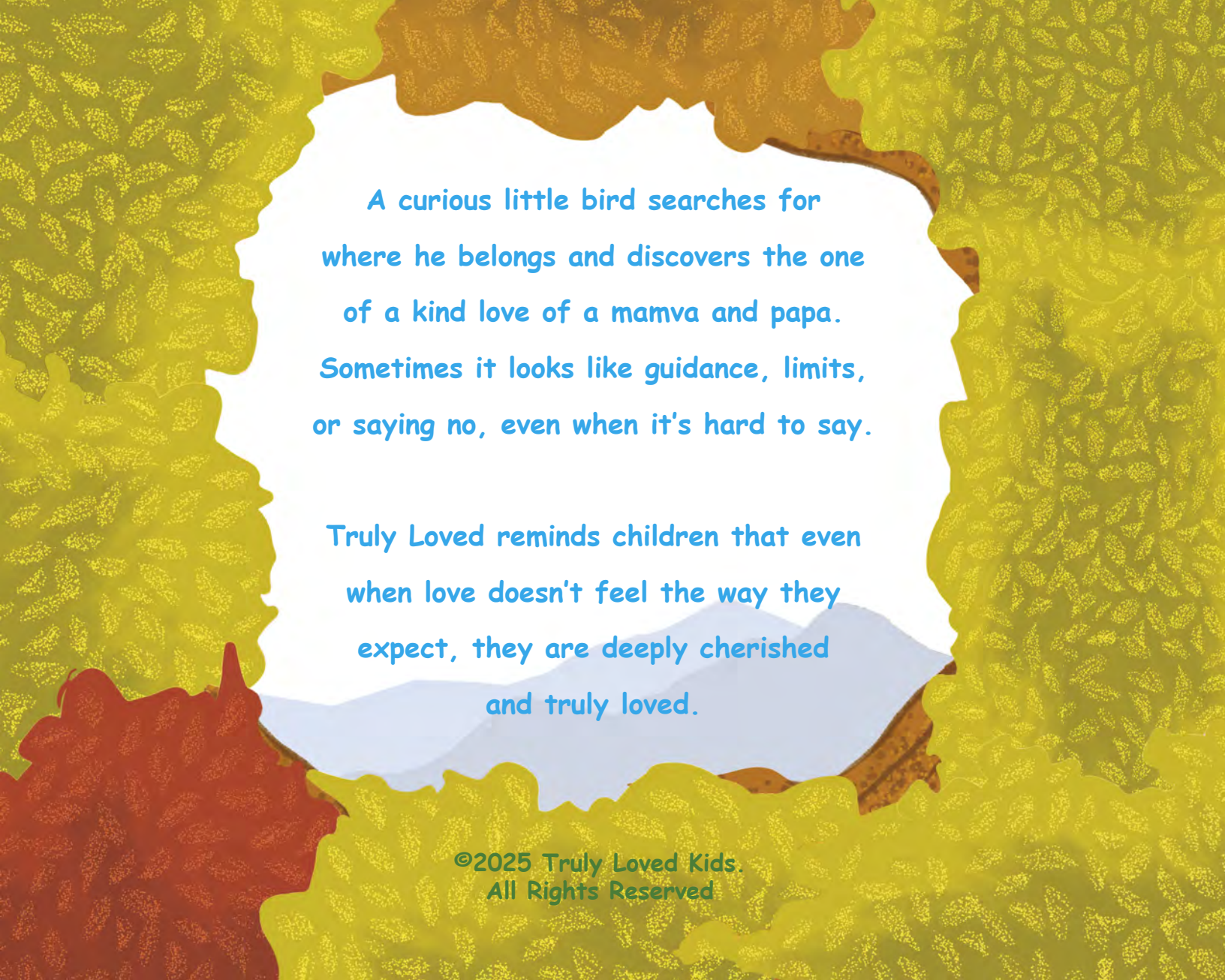


"It's you, said the fox, "from high up in the tree.
Your Papa snores so loud, I never get good sleep."



"I've seen your scaredy Mama,
trying to teach you to fly,
You barely even stumbled
and she let out a cry."





A curious little bird searches for
where he belongs and discovers the one
of a kind love of a mamva and papa.
Sometimes it looks like guidance, limits,
or saying no, even when it's hard to say.

Truly Loved reminds children that even
when love doesn't feel the way they
expect, they are deeply cherished
and truly loved.