

April's Garden



IsLa McGuckin

CatAlina Echeverri

For my daughters, Tallulah and Violet. I adore you.
Far more than words could ever express. I.McG.

For my three little flowers, Sofi, Abi and Violeta. C.E.

April's Garden

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Graffeg, 24 Stradey Park Business Centre,
Mwrwg Road, Llangennech, Llanelli,
Carmarthenshire, SA14 8YP, Wales, UK.
Tel: 01554 824000. www.graffeg.com.

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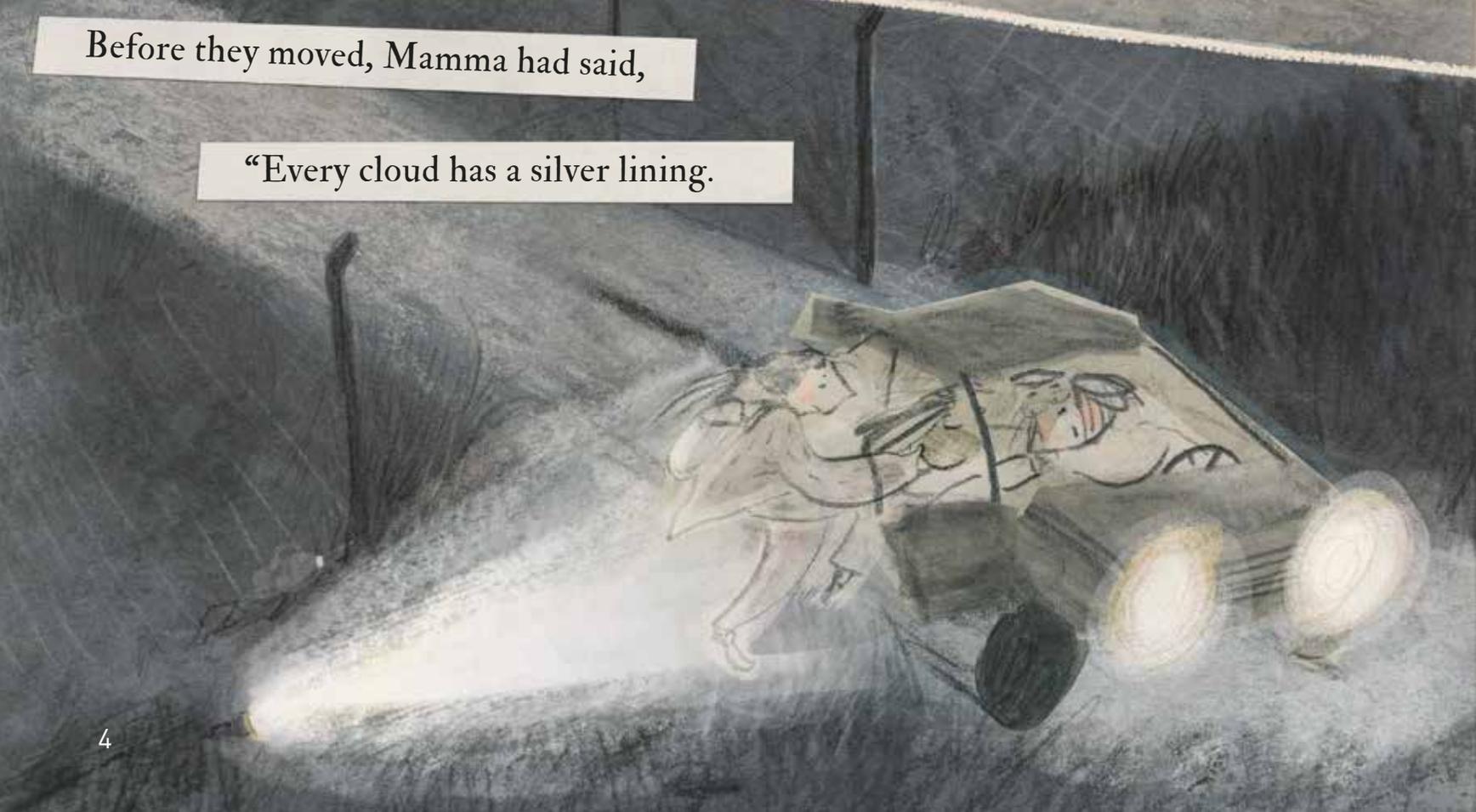
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An illustration showing a woman and a child walking at night. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a light-colored jacket and a long skirt, holding a flashlight that illuminates the path ahead. The child is walking slightly behind her, also wearing a light-colored jacket. The background is dark with some faint outlines of trees and a fence.

April was not happy.

An illustration showing a woman and a child walking at night. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a light-colored jacket and a long skirt, holding a flashlight that illuminates the path ahead. The child is walking slightly behind her, also wearing a light-colored jacket. The background is dark with some faint outlines of trees and a fence.

Before they moved, Mamma had said,

“Every cloud has a silver lining.



We'll have our own room, in the new place.



It's big.



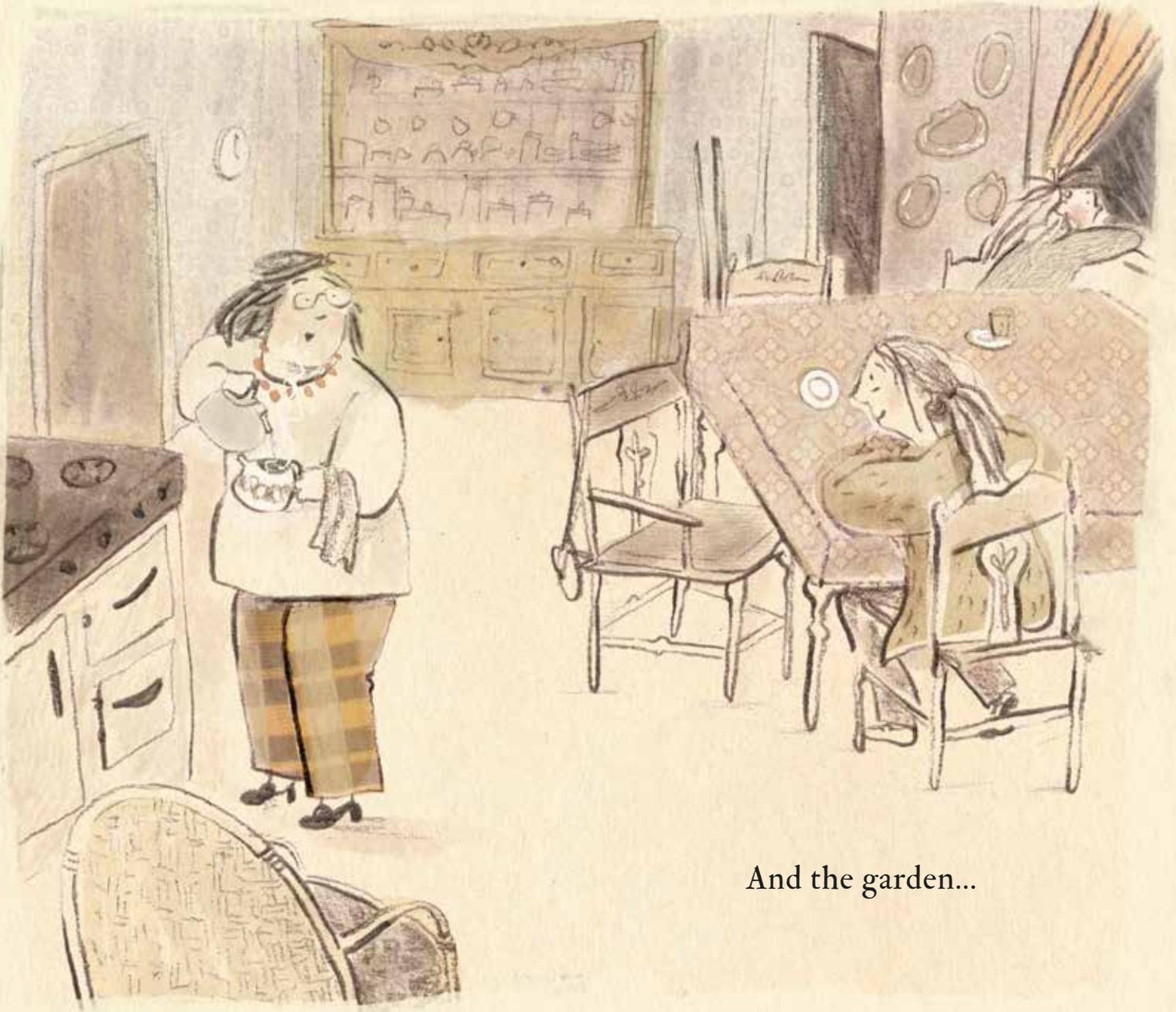
There's a garden."



Mamma was right
about the new place being big.

There were lots and lots of closed doors
with silent people behind them.

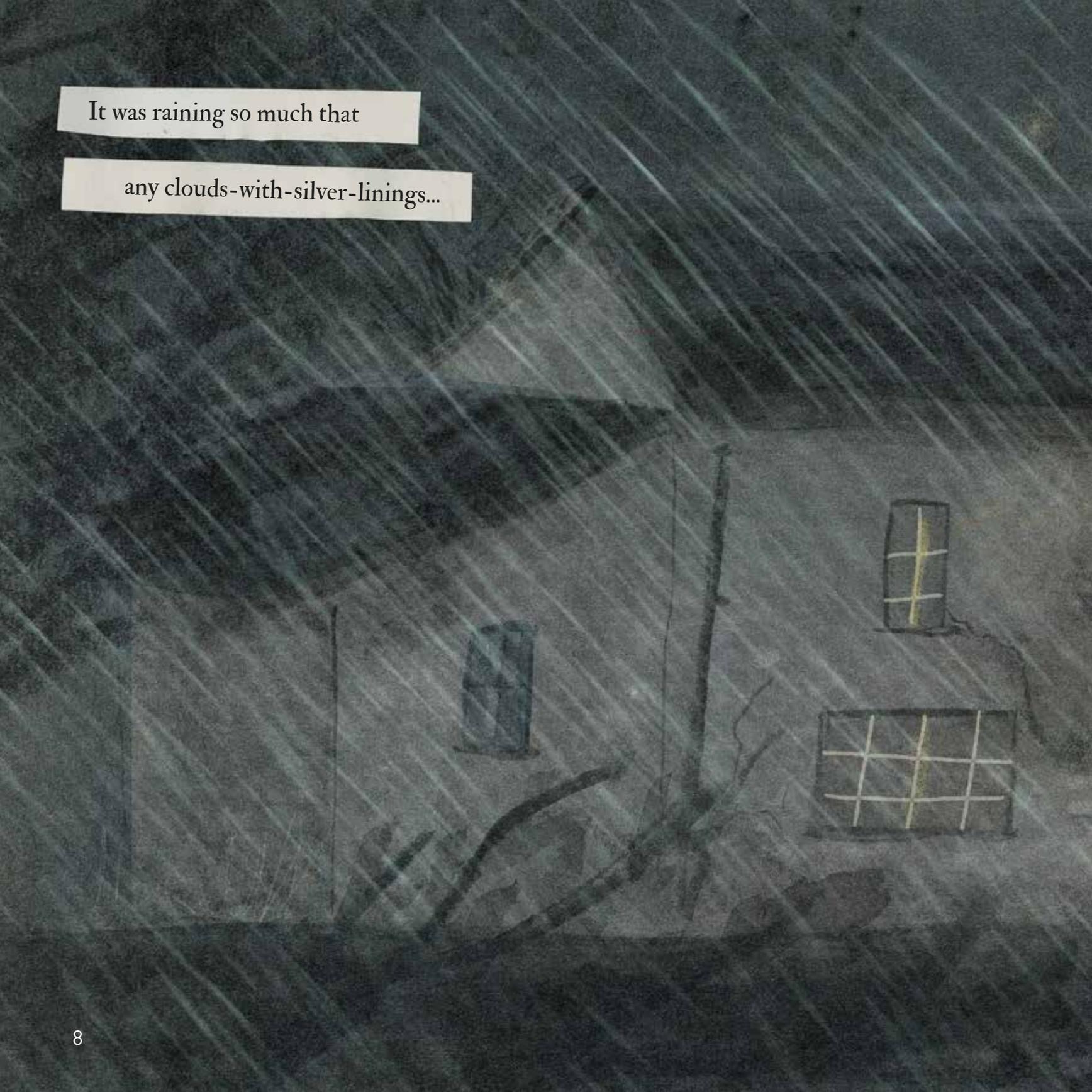
But there weren't any children, apart from April.

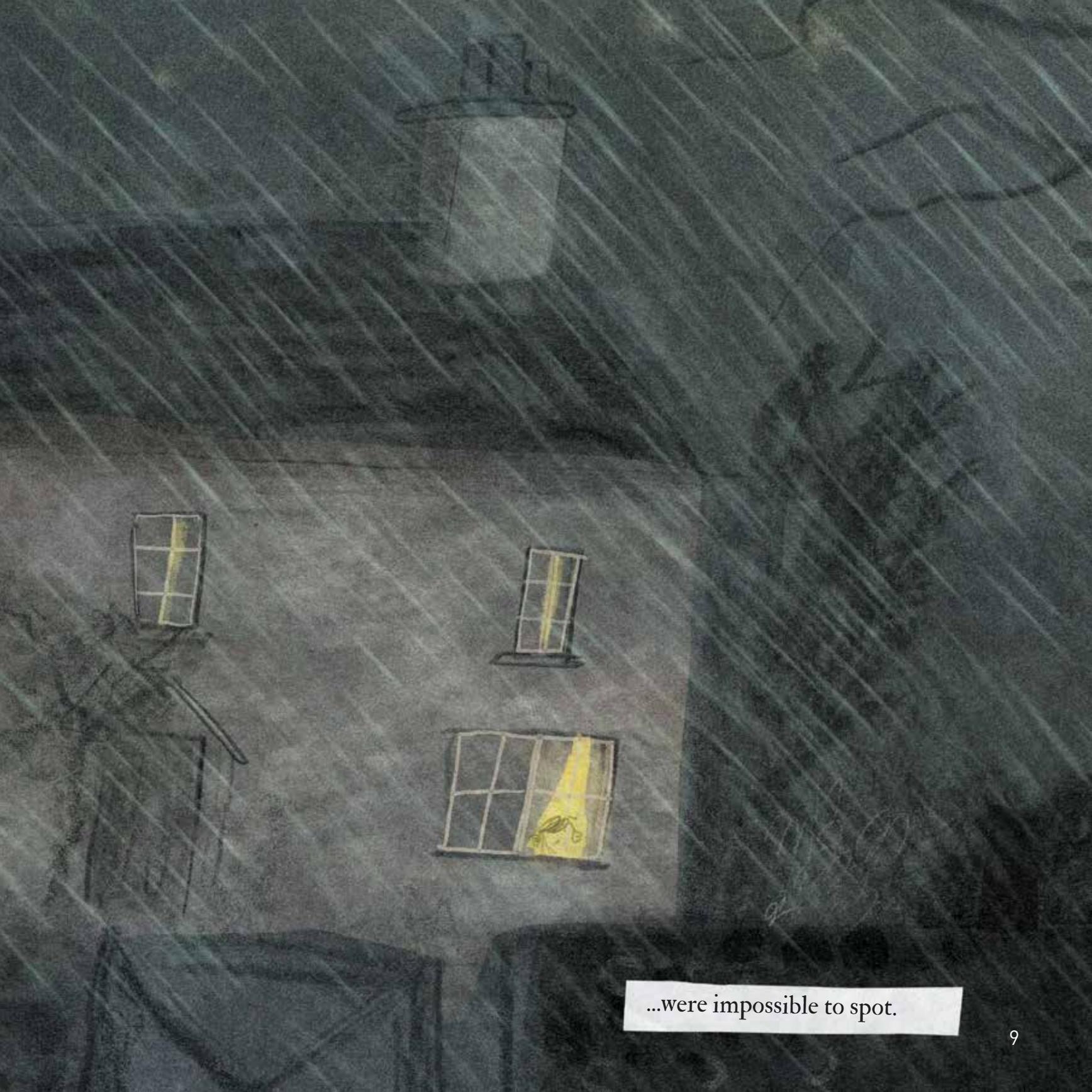


And the garden...

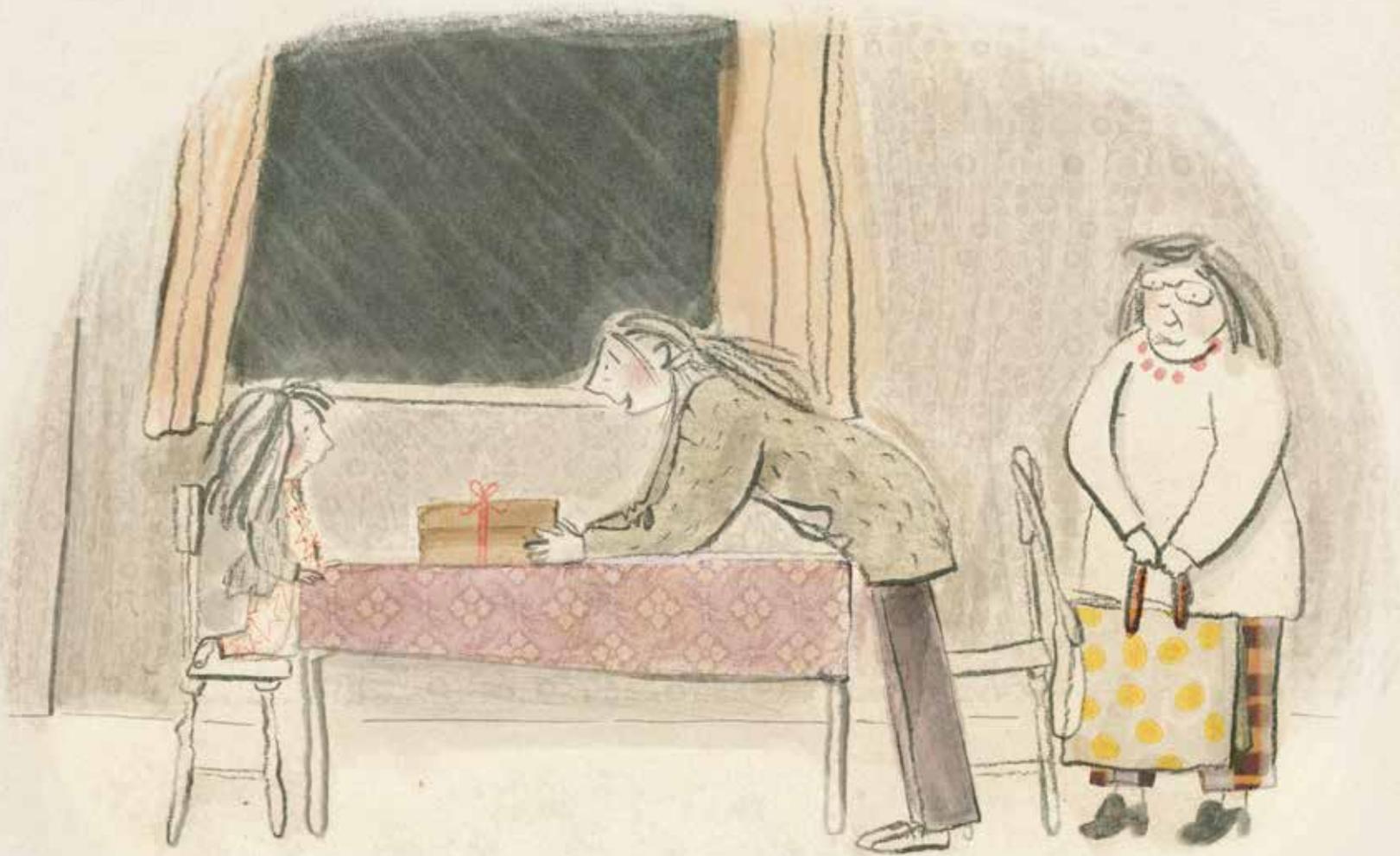
It was raining so much that

any clouds-with-silver-linings...





...were impossible to spot.



Mamma said,
“Draw the garden of your dreams.
The neighbourhood ladies brought paper and pens.”

A collage-style illustration featuring a child's drawing on a piece of paper. The drawing depicts a house with a colorful interior, two figures in the foreground, and various plants. The scene is surrounded by scattered art supplies including crayons, markers, and paper scraps. The background is a patterned surface.

So, April drew.

Mamma said, smiling, "We'll save our pennies

for when we have a place of our own."

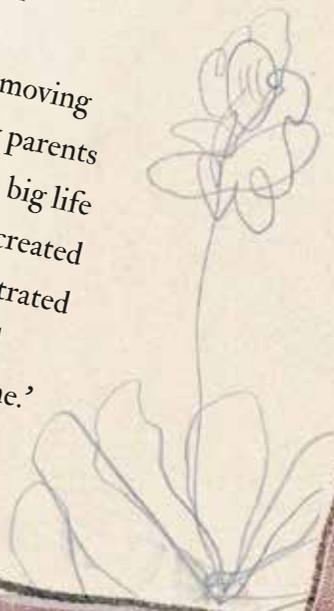
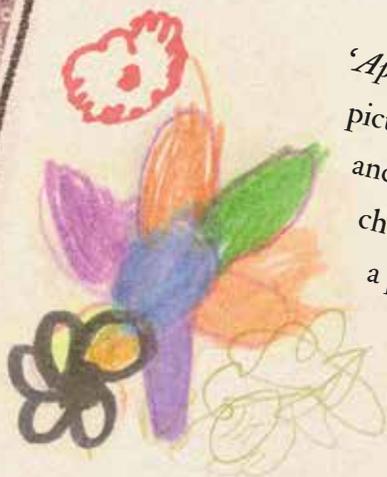


Living in a grey and dreary room in a house that couldn't
feel less like home, April dreams about how life could be
with happy, peaceful spaces and somewhere to play.
But every seed that April plants refuses to take root and
her dreams start to feel hopelessly out of reach.

April's Garden is a story for anybody who, for whatever reason,
fears that home is an impossible dream, reminding
readers that even when things feel impossibly bleak,
there's always something to hold on to: hope.

'April's Garden is a beautiful and moving
picture book that will be loved by parents
and help children going through big life
changes. Isla and Catalina have created
a powerful and gorgeously illustrated
story full of hope, renewal
and the healing power of time.'

LUCY BRANDT, AUTHOR



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Children

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