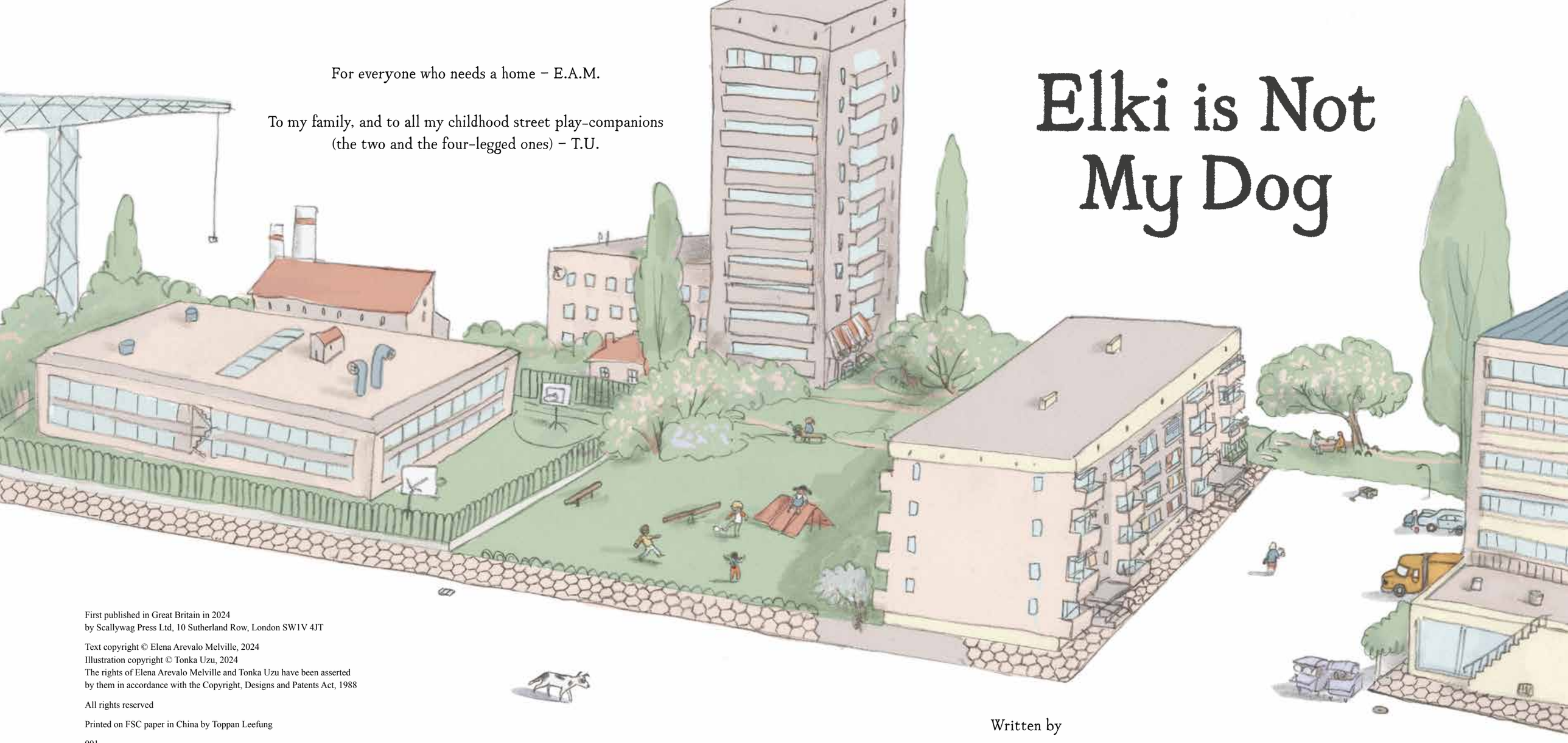
For everyone who needs a home – E.A.M.

To my family, and to all my childhood street play-companions
(the two and the four-legged ones) – T.U.

Elki is Not My Dog



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With love and treats for the real Elki, a Romanian rescue dog and the model for this book, and with thanks to *her* person, Tamsin – J.T. (editor)

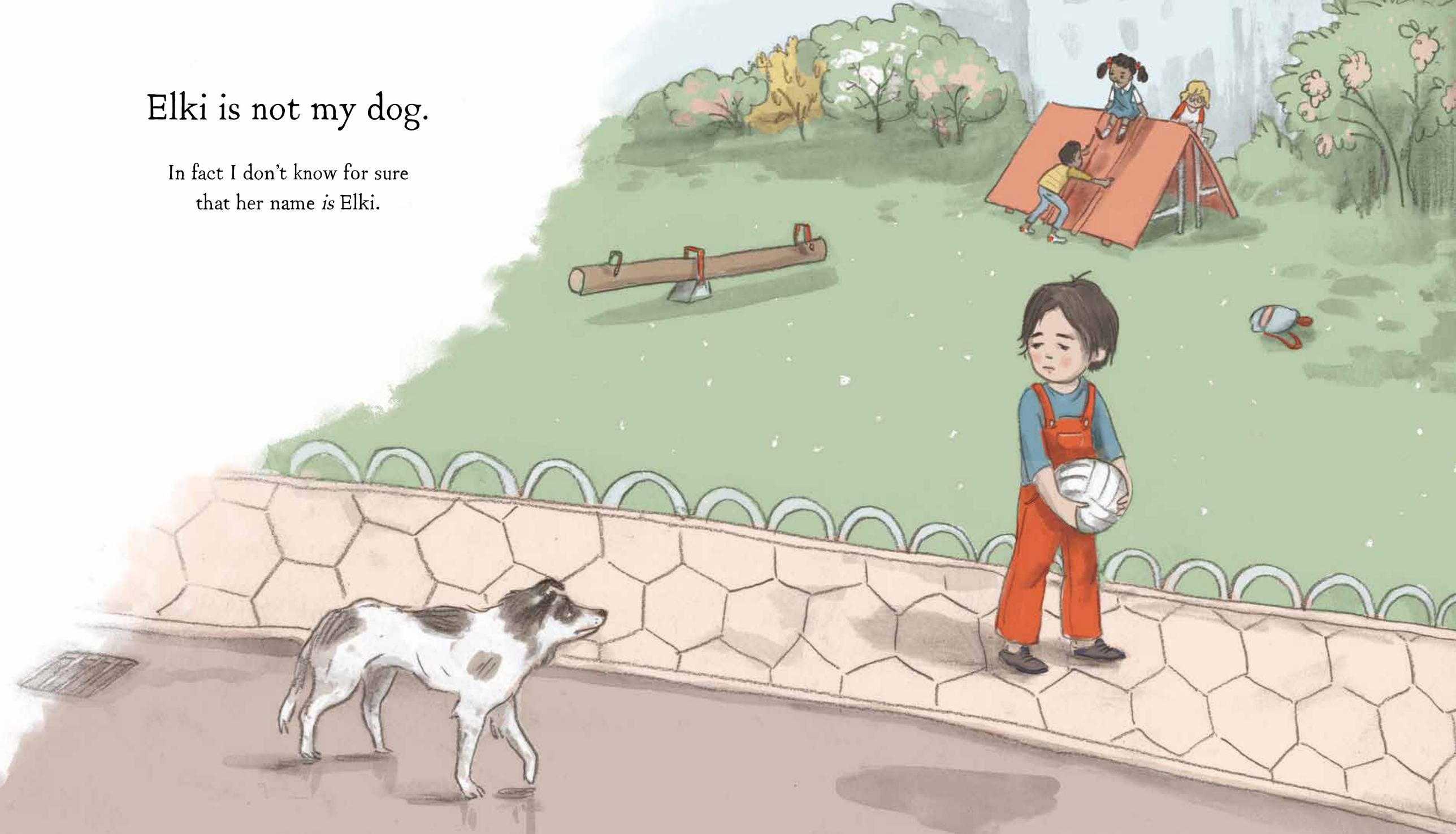
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LONDON

Elki is not my dog.

In fact I don't know for sure
that her name *is* Elki.



She must have had a name when we met her,
but we couldn't ask her because
none of us speaks 'Dog'.

Poor Elki. She must have been walking
for a long, long time.



Her paws were worn, her coat was dull,
her eyes were sad.



But we knew we were going to be friends . . .

On really hot days, Elki would sit down with
the rest of us eating ice-cream in the shade.



She would talk to us with a smile,
and a wag of her tail.

Then, when it was time to go home,
Katya would go home,
Rosin would go home,
Abdullah would go home,
I would go home . . .



but Elki did not have a home to go to.
So she could stay out in the warm evenings.
Oh, how we wished we could *all*
stay out in the night with Elki!