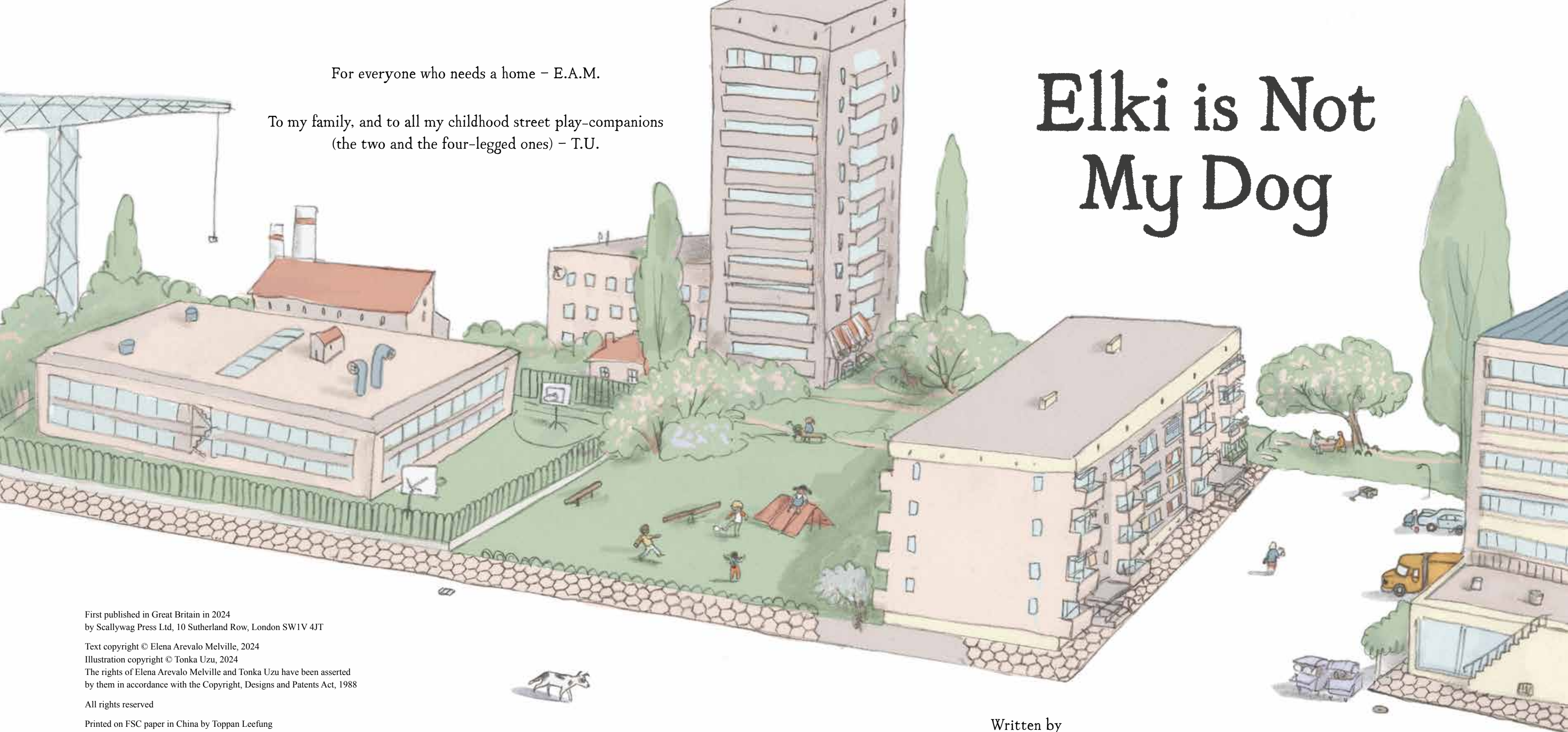




For everyone who needs a home – E.A.M.

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)

Written by  
**ELENA AREVALO MELVILLE**

**Scallywag Press Ltd**  
**LONDON**

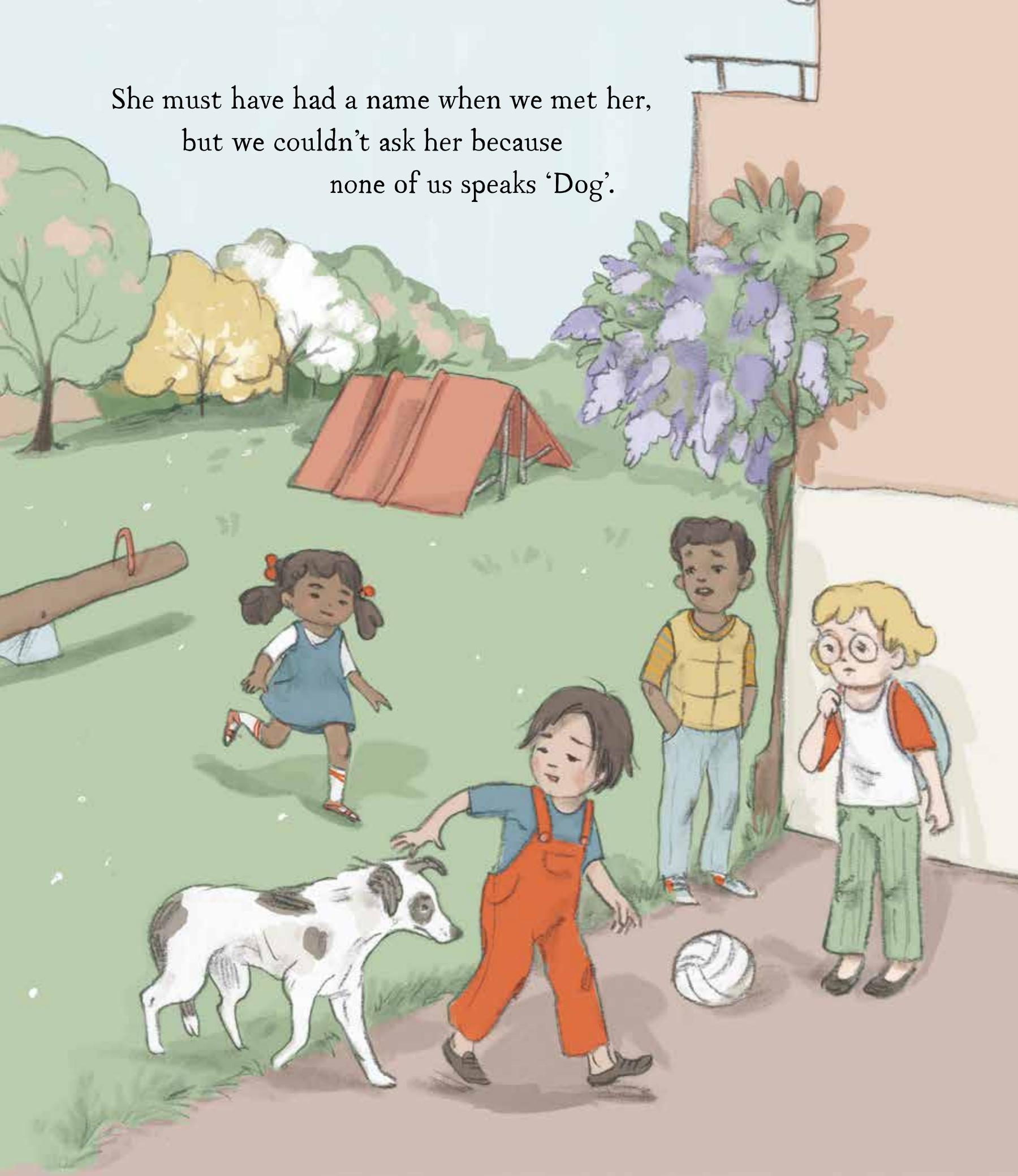
Illustrated by  
**TONKA UZU**

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!