For all of us ~ BM
For Alice Corrie and her family and friends ~ MPS

First published in the United Kingdom by Kumusha Books, an imprint of HarperCollins *Children's Books*, in 2024

HarperCollins *Children's Books* is a division of HarperCollins*Publishers* Ltd
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

HarperCollins*Publishers*
Macken House, 39/40 Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1, D01 C9W8, Ireland

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

ISBN: 978-0-00-865872-4

Text © Blessing Musariri 2024. Illustrations © Maisie Paradise Shearring 2024. All rights reserved.

Blessing Musariri asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of the work.
Maisie Paradise Shearring asserts the moral right to be identified as the illustrator of the work.

With thanks from MPS to the publishing team – Kate Warren, Annabel Walwyn and Ken Wilson-Max.

Conditions of Sale

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form, binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of HarperCollins*Publishers* Ltd.

Printed in India

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC™ C007454
www.fsc.org

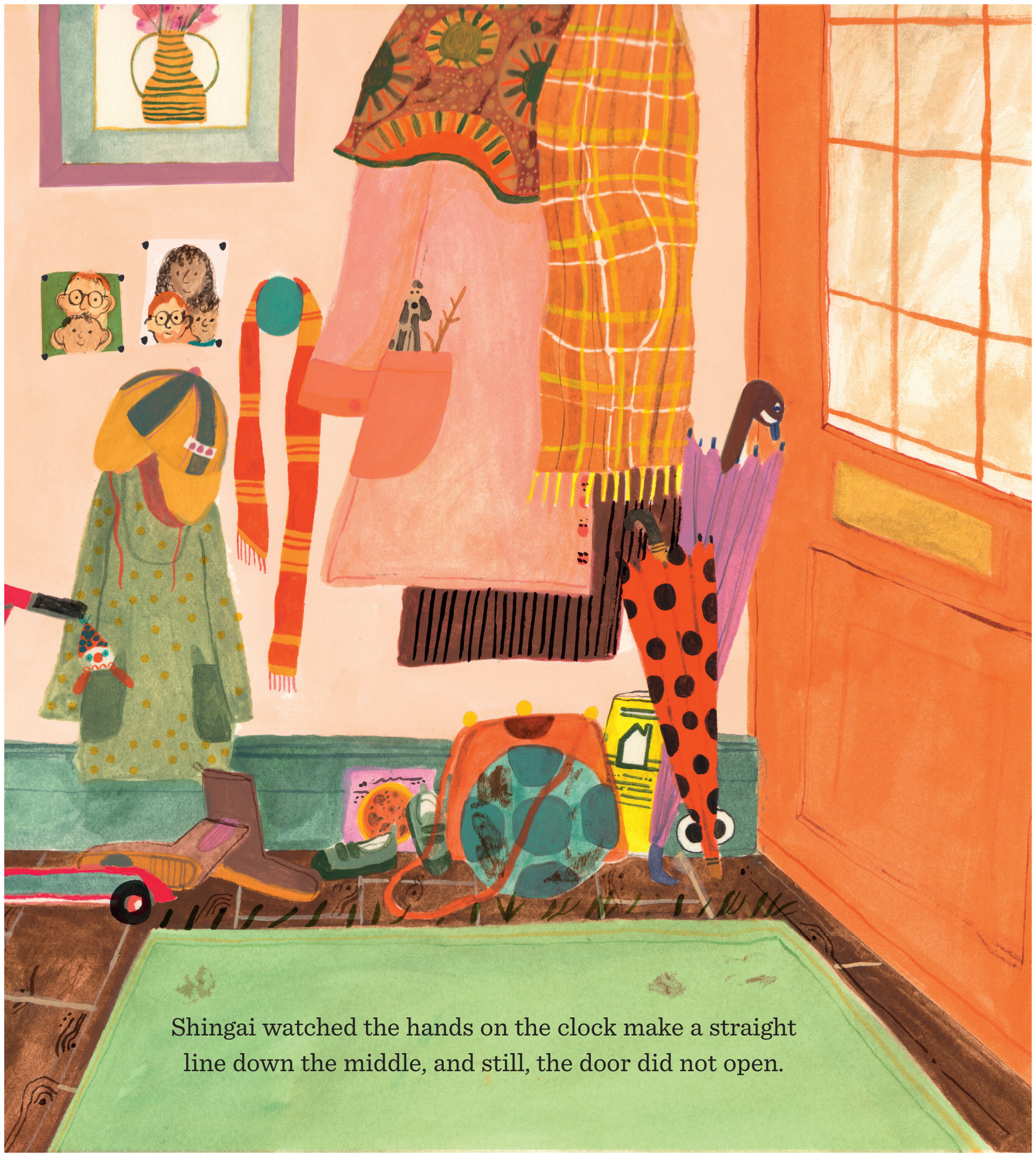
This book contains FSC™ certified paper and other controlled sources to ensure responsible forest management.

For more information visit: www.harpercollins.co.uk/green




TWO
PEOPLE
CAN
Blessing Musariri
Maisie Paradise Shearring
KUMUSHA BOOKS





Shingai watched the hands on the clock make a straight line down the middle, and still, the door did not open.


Too many days had gone by.
Too many days,
with no
flying like a rocket
into the air
from safe,
strong hands.



No big shoes
in the hall to try on
and clomp
around
the house.

No car keys to jangle
before a ride to the
ice-cream shop
or the barber.





"Come away from the door,
Shingai," called Mum
from the kitchen.

All the air inside his body
started to rush,
making Shingai jump up
from the hallway stairs
like a whirlwind.


"I miss Dad!"
he shouted
and ran into the living room.