Colours of Home



Miriam Latimer

GRAFFEG

‘A poignant and heart-warming exploration of the refugee experience through the eyes of a compassionate child.’ **Professor Uzo Iwobi, Founder & CEO Race Council Cymru**



Colours of Home
Published in Great Britain in 2024 by Graffeg Limited.

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

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A CIP Catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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The publisher acknowledges the financial support of the Books Council of Wales. www.gwales.com.

ISBN 9781802586473

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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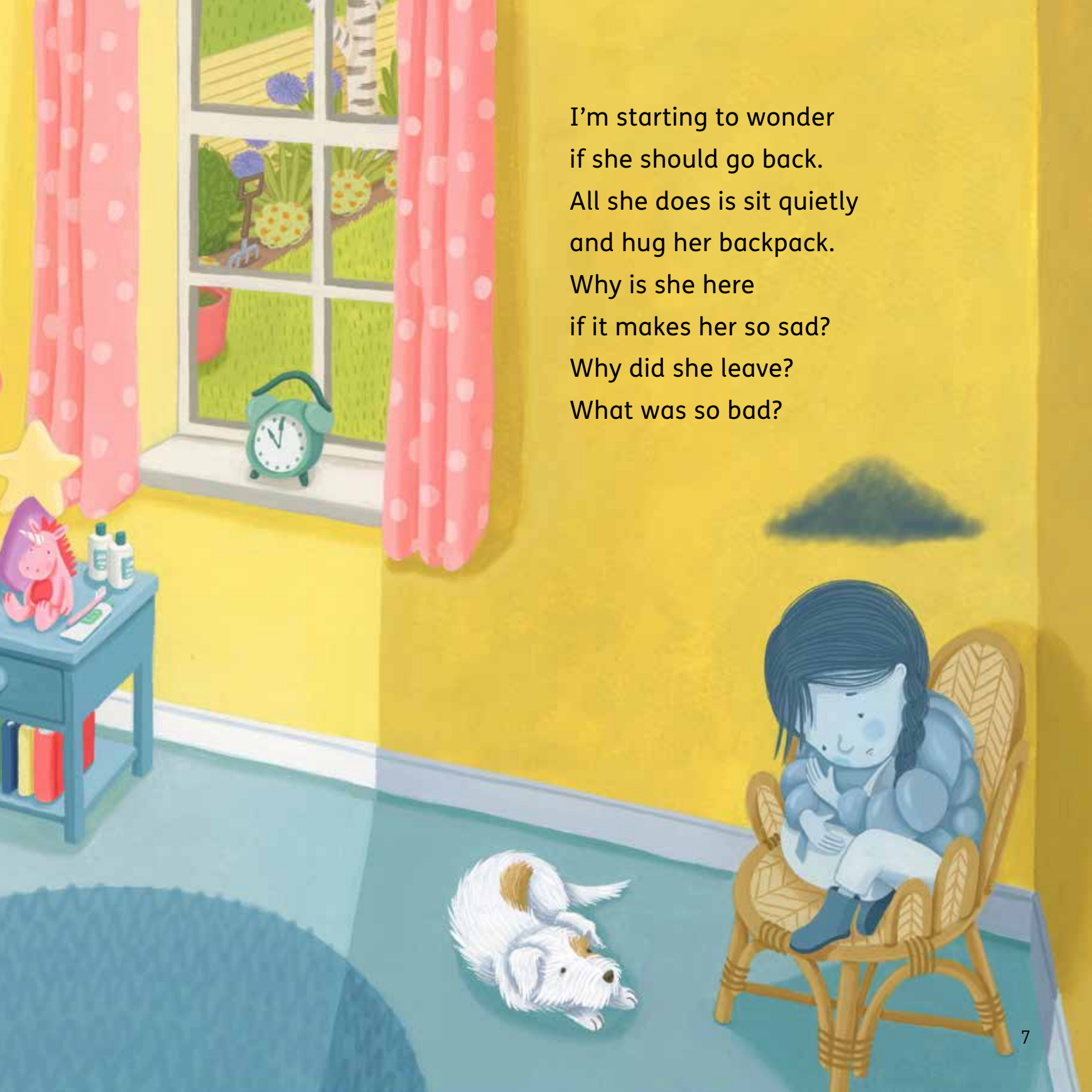
A refugee's coming,
my mum said today.
I'm not sure how to treat her
or what I should say!
My mum says she comes
from a faraway land.
If we try and speak to her,
she won't understand.



I smile and I wave, but she stands with a frown.
I don't understand why she's looking so down.
She looks a bit different, she looks a bit blue,
And she hasn't brought very much stuff with her too.



I take her upstairs
and I show her her bed,
But a big cloud of sadness
hangs over her head.
I try to be funny,
and I put on a show.
But all that I do
seems to make her
more low.



I'm starting to wonder
if she should go back.
All she does is sit quietly
and hug her backpack.
Why is she here
if it makes her so sad?
Why did she leave?
What was so bad?

Slowly she opens her bag and pulls out
All her belongings and lays them about.
She clings to my hand like she wants to be friends,
And shows me her clothes and her paper and pens.





I have an idea and I run to the drawer,
I grab my art box and I sit on the floor.
I draw her a picture – it's not very neat!
I draw her my house and my car and my street.



I draw her my friends and
me learning at school.
I draw my last holiday
and me in the pool,
My favourite food,
my dog and my bike.
My family, my toys,
all the things that I like.



I pass them to her and
tears come to her eyes.
I feel really sad as she
stands there and cries.
She picks up her paper
and draws pictures for me,
And the reason she's sad
is as clear as can be.

She draws me her home
and it looks just like mine,
But there's soldiers and missiles
and tanks in a line.
She draws me her cousins,
her gran and grandad,
Her aunt and her uncle,
it makes her quite sad.







When Ana leaves everything she knows and loves behind to escape the turmoil of war, she struggles to settle into her new home with Olive and her family.

Olive has some adjustment struggles of her own, but when the girls draw together, Ana's pictures show Olive what she has left behind. Olive realises what Ana has had to sacrifice for the simple right to be safe, and she wants to help.

Little by little, her kindness and love help bring colour back into Ana's world.

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