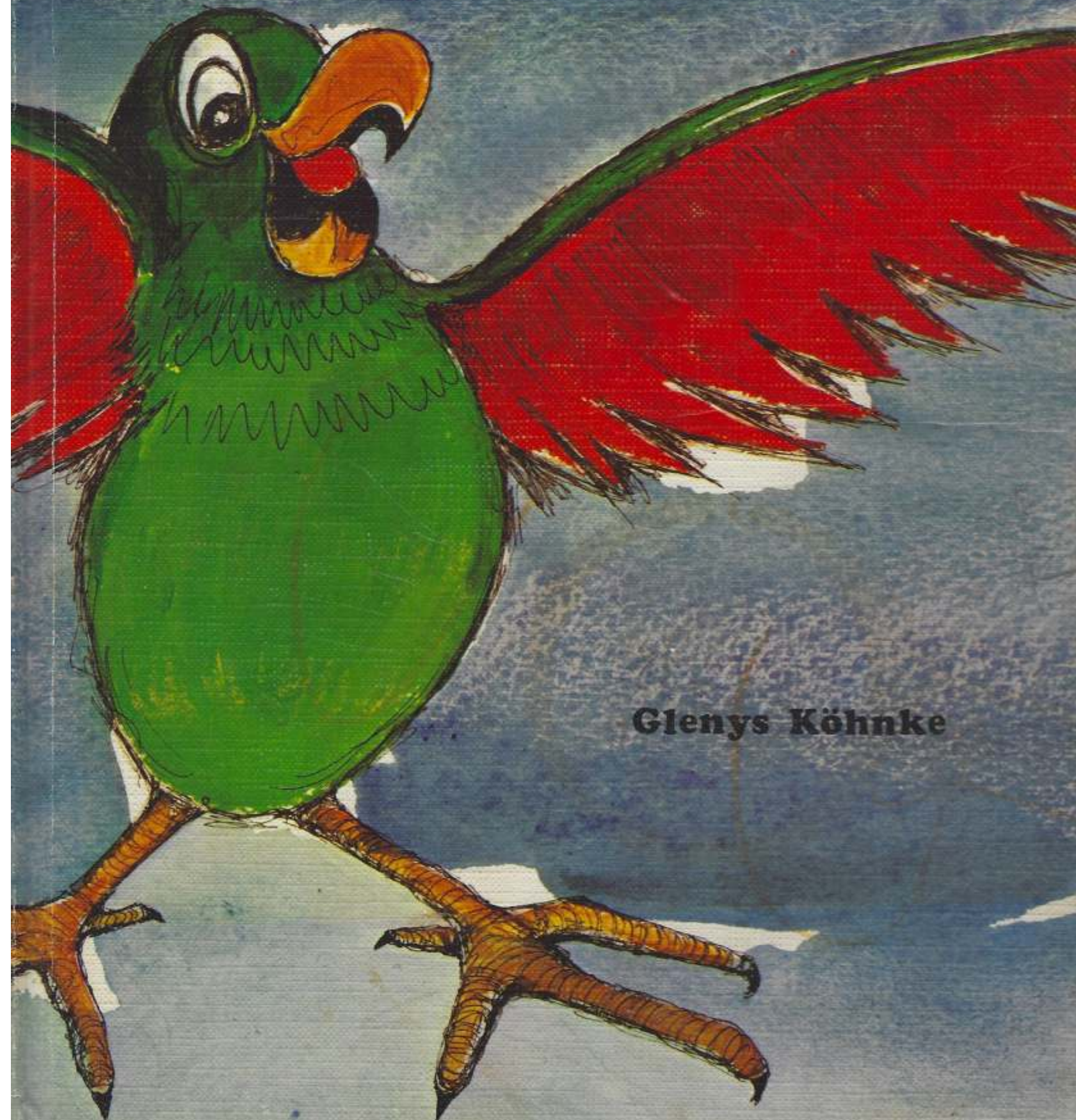


The Green Parrot



Glenys Köhnke



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for cameron logan

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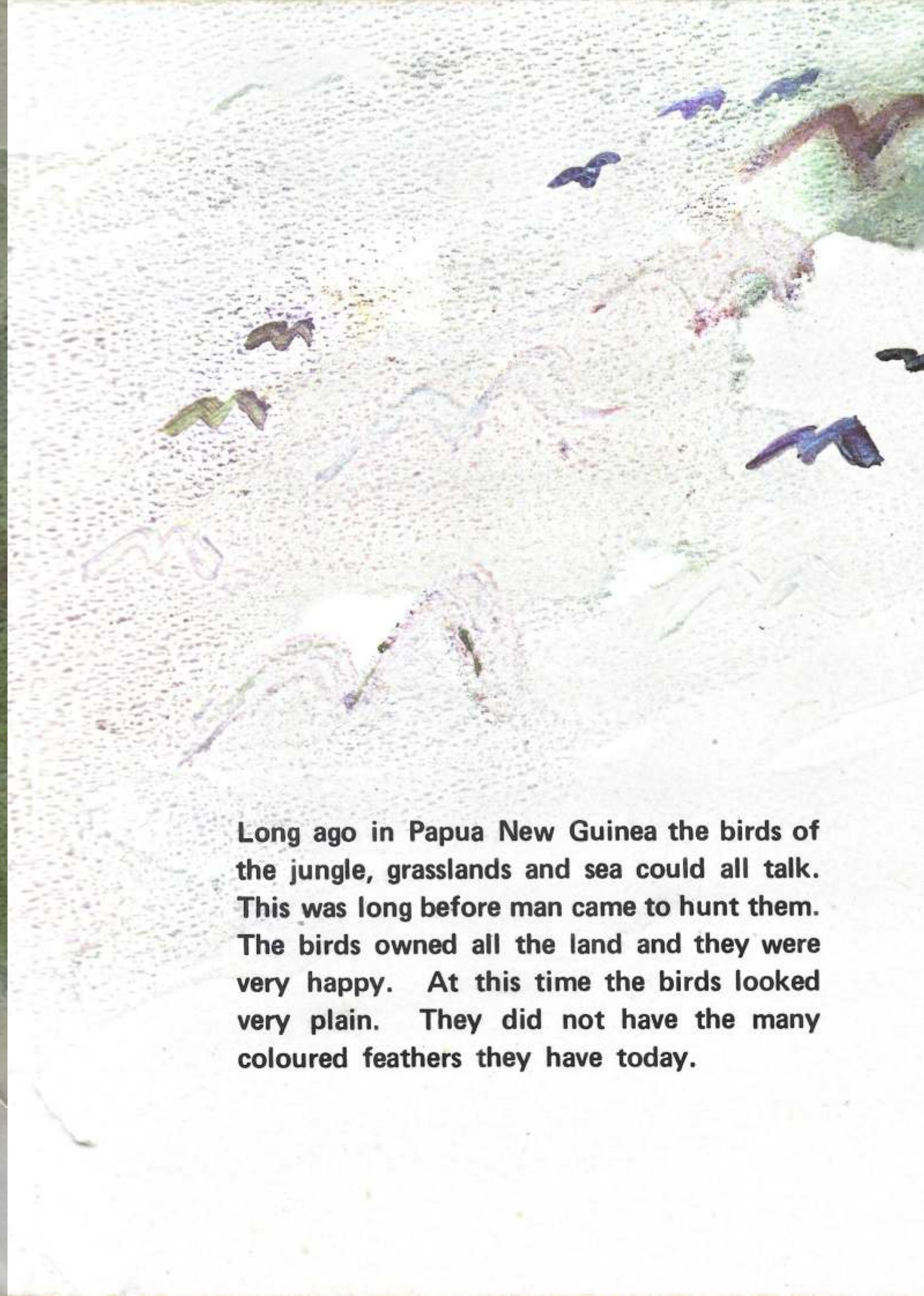
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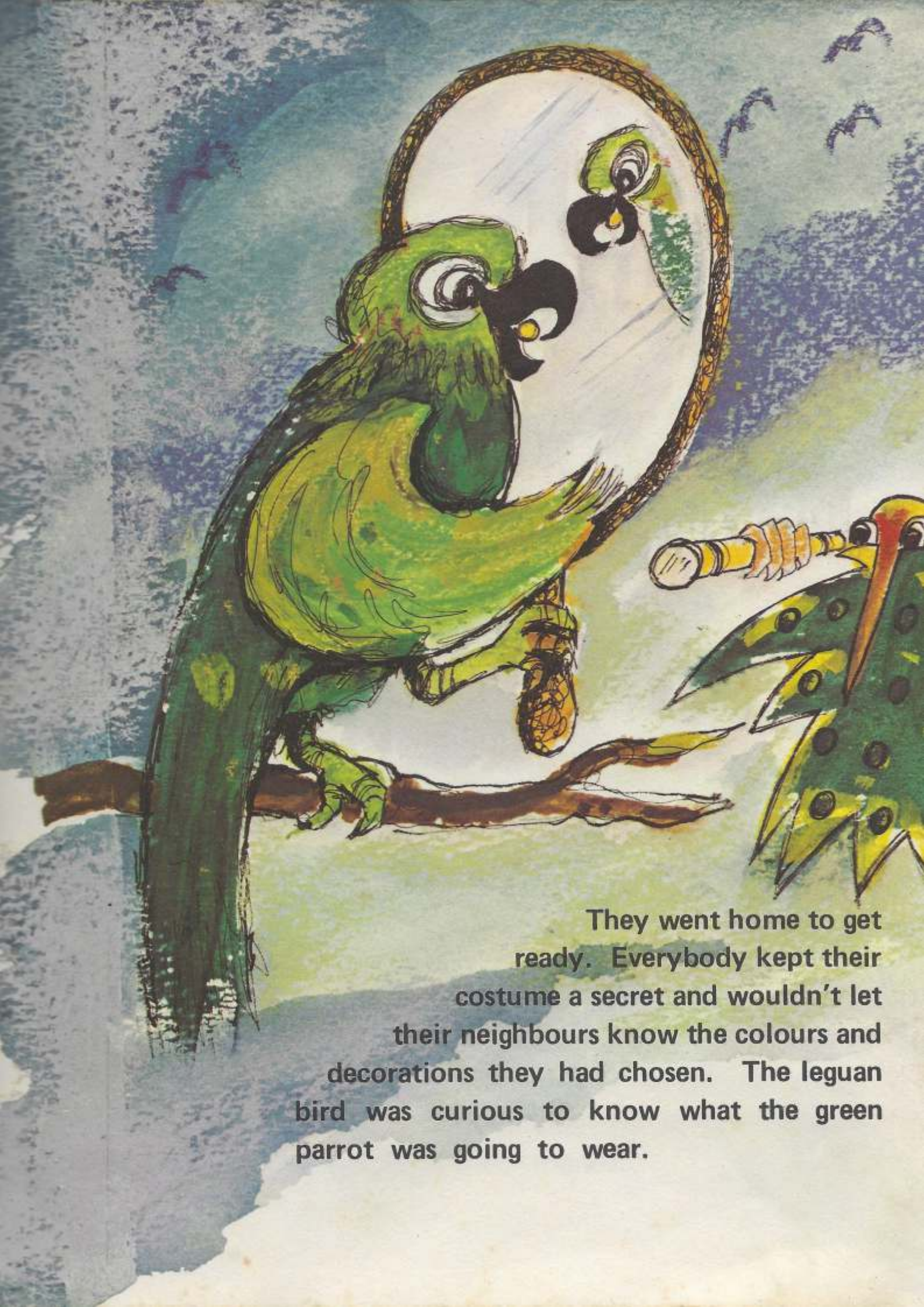
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Long ago in Papua New Guinea the birds of the jungle, grasslands and sea could all talk. This was long before man came to hunt them. The birds owned all the land and they were very happy. At this time the birds looked very plain. They did not have the many coloured feathers they have today.



One day at a meeting of the birds in the jungle it was decided to hold a big dance and feast.



They went home to get ready. Everybody kept their costume a secret and wouldn't let their neighbours know the colours and decorations they had chosen. The leguan bird was curious to know what the green parrot was going to wear.



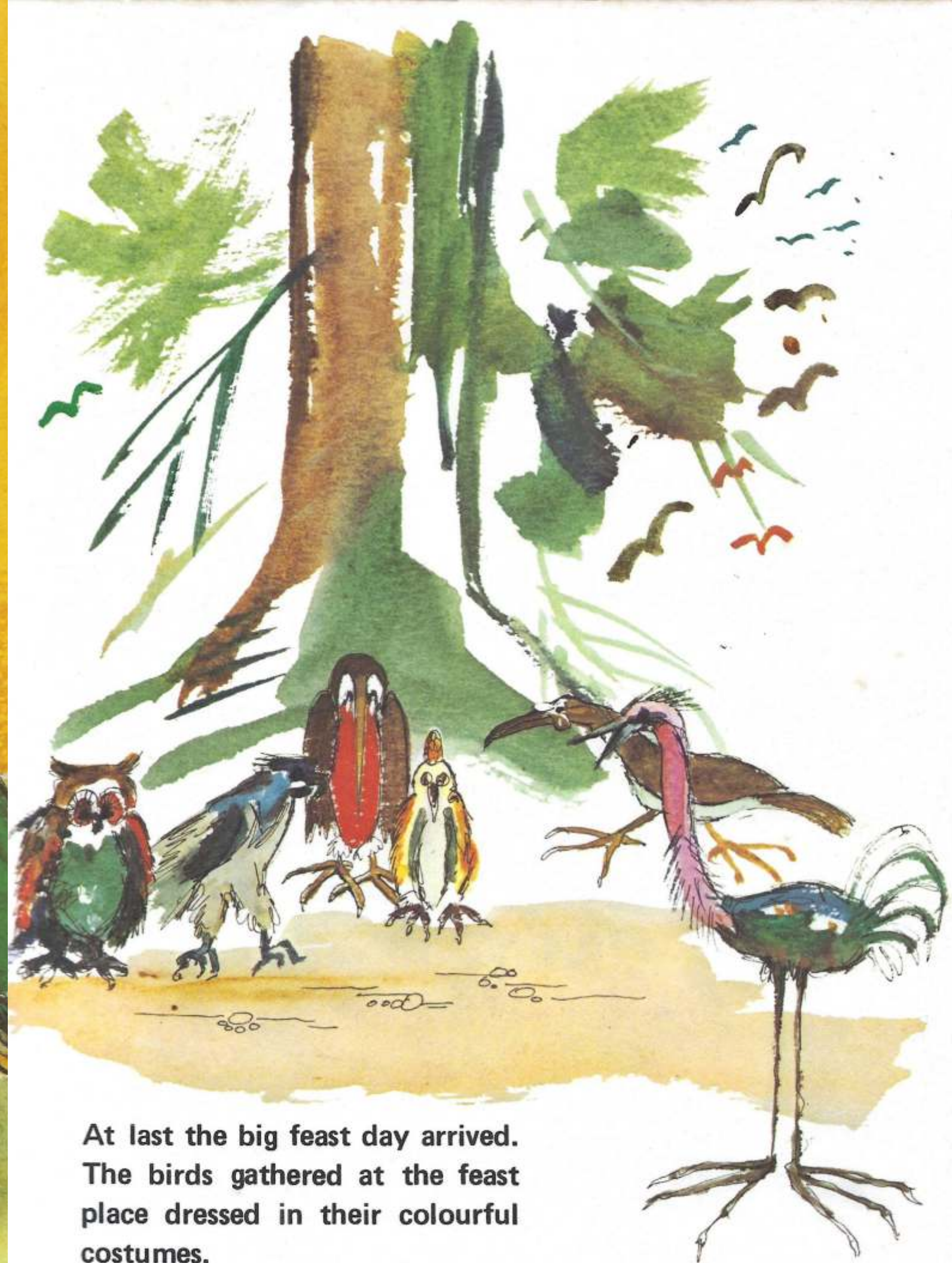
The parrot



and the leguan were not very good friends.



The days went by and the birds counted them on the knots upon a piece of string.



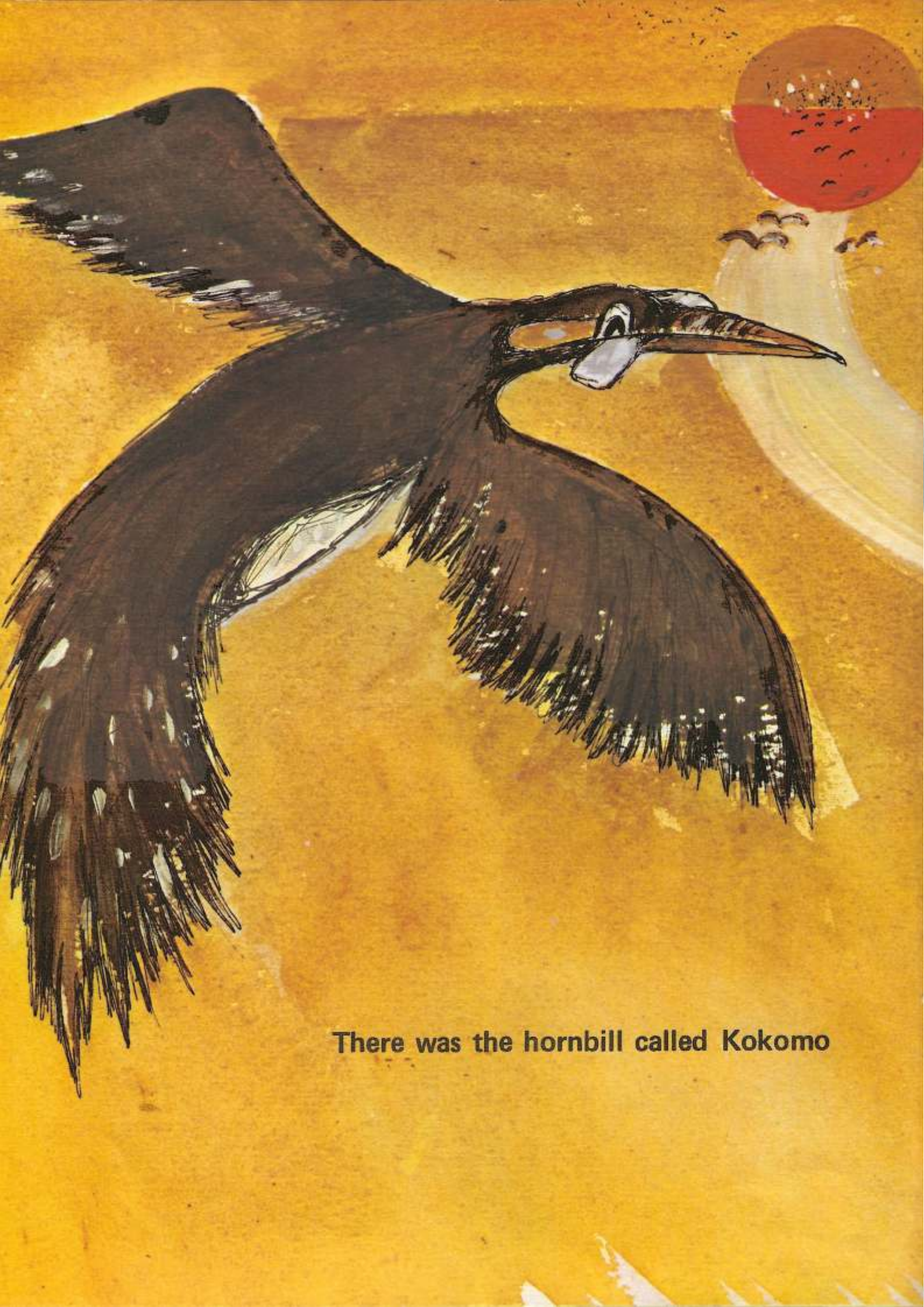
At last the big feast day arrived. The birds gathered at the feast place dressed in their colourful costumes.



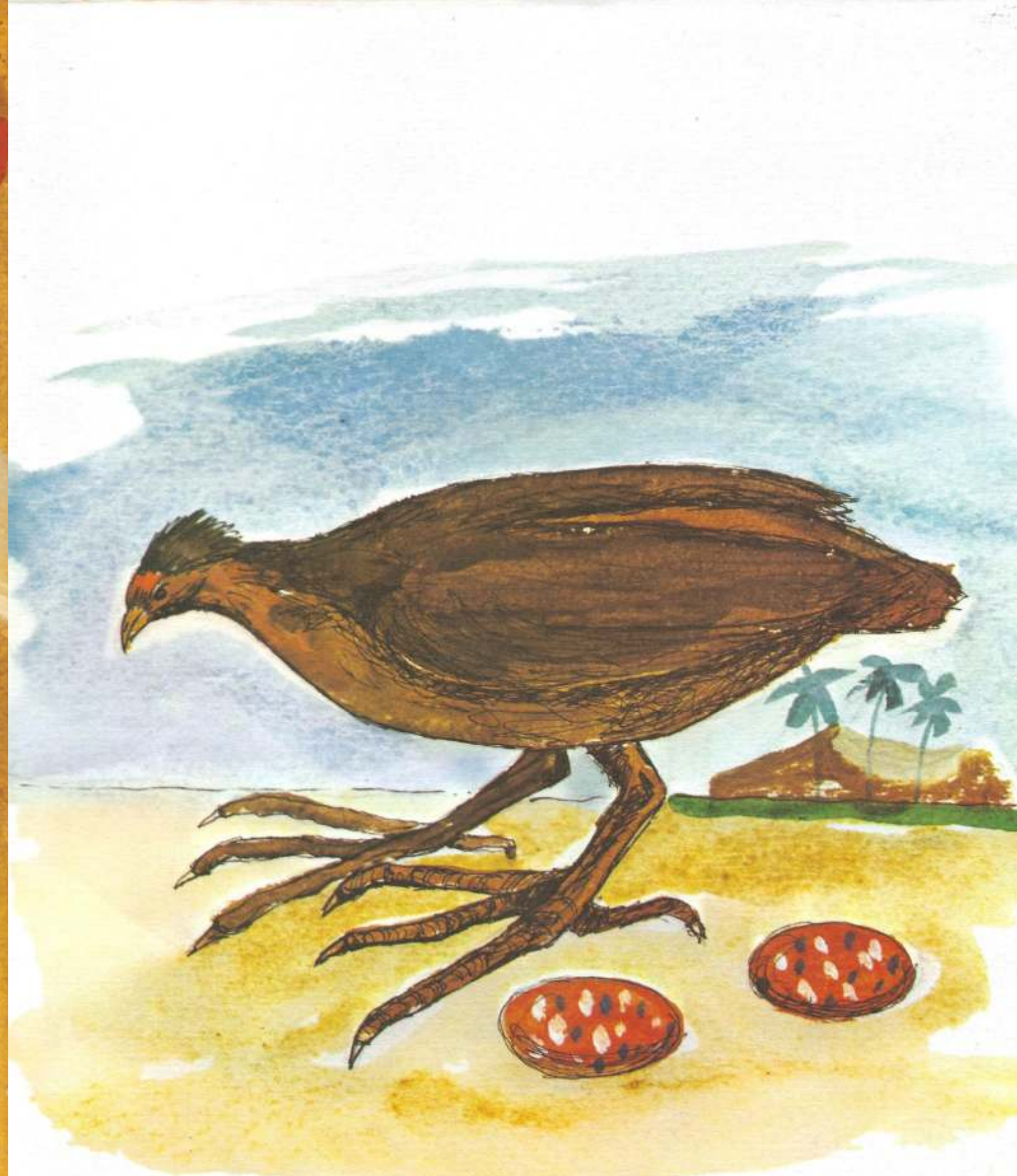
There was the white cockatoo who had pinned a big yellow leaf to the top of his head,

and there was the cassowary with a fine topknot and a streak of red paint along his neck.





There was the hornbill called Kokomo



and Megapode the big digging bird.



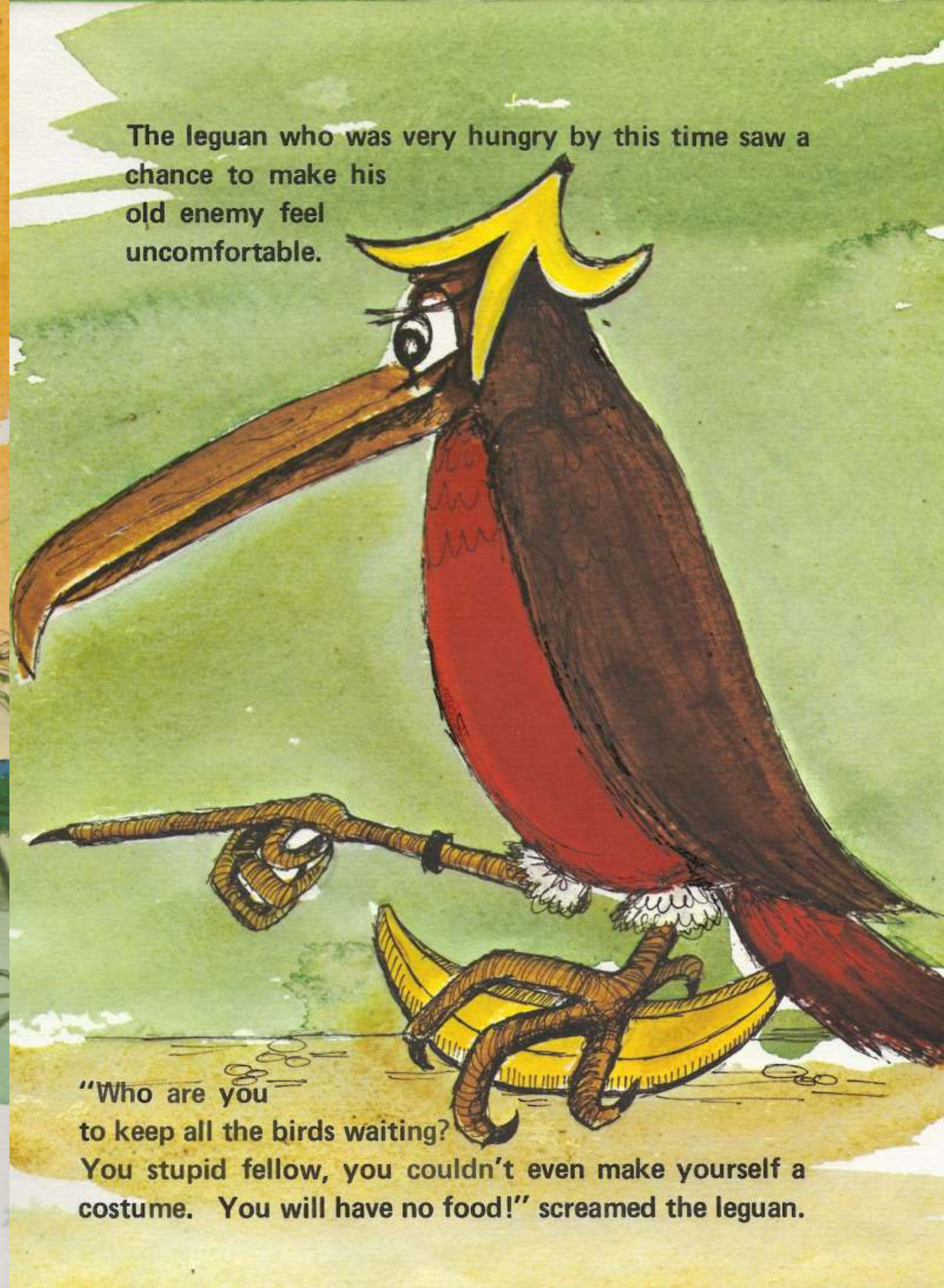
There was the eagle called Maningulai



Everyone moved around chatting to each other and admiring the others dress. Only the green parrot was missing. It wasn't polite to start eating before all the guests had arrived, so everybody waited patiently for the green parrot.



After what seemed to the birds to be a long time he finally came walking into the gathering. He wasn't even decorated. He still wore his old green coat.



The leguan who was very hungry by this time saw a chance to make his old enemy feel uncomfortable.

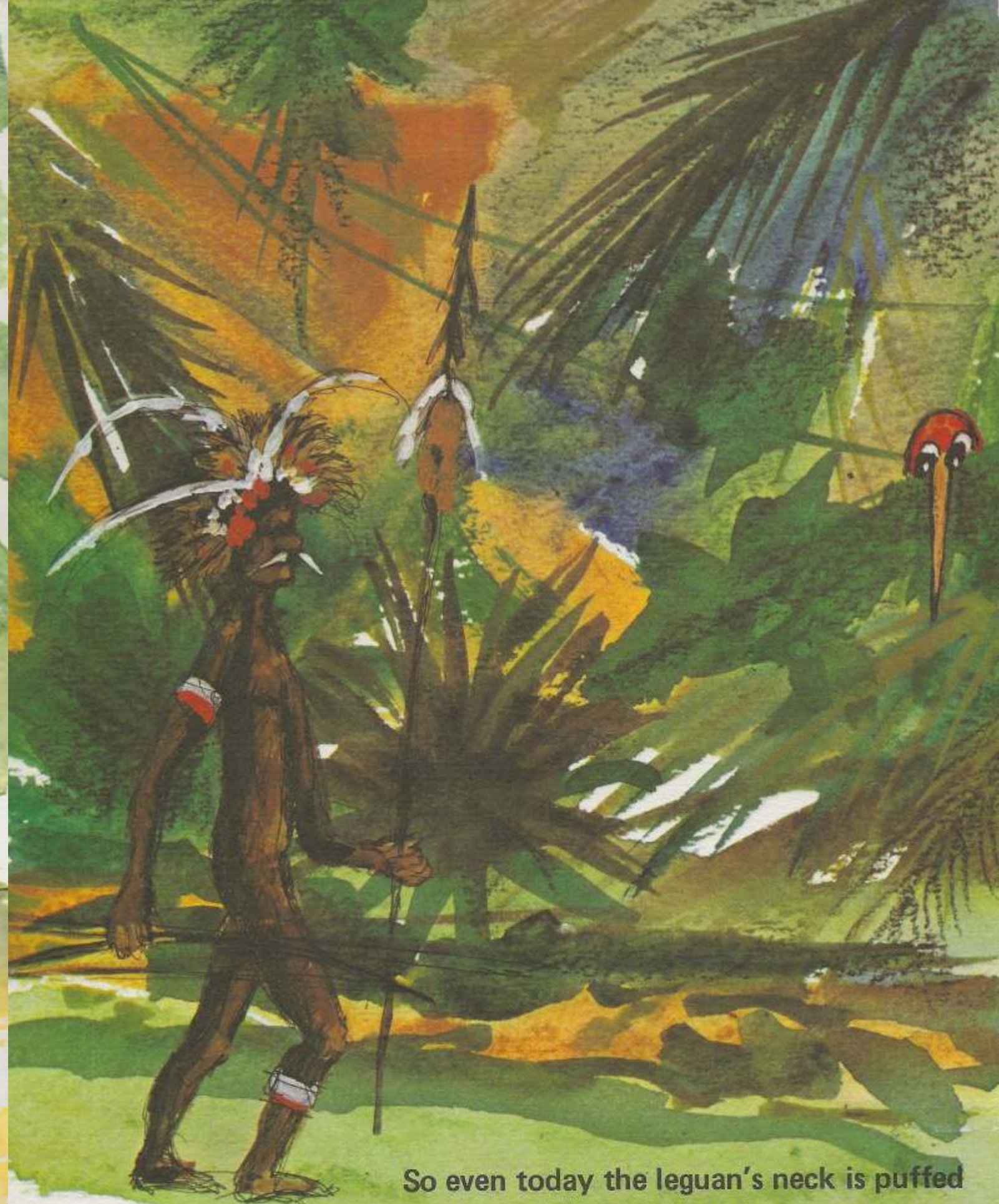
"Who are you to keep all the birds waiting? You stupid fellow, you couldn't even make yourself a costume. You will have no food!" screamed the leguan.

The parrot listened angrily and pulling himself to his full height he replied "Who has seen my costume?" With a piercing scream he lifted his green wings high into the air. The crowd gasped when they saw the magnificent bright red underside of his wings. They all congratulated him.

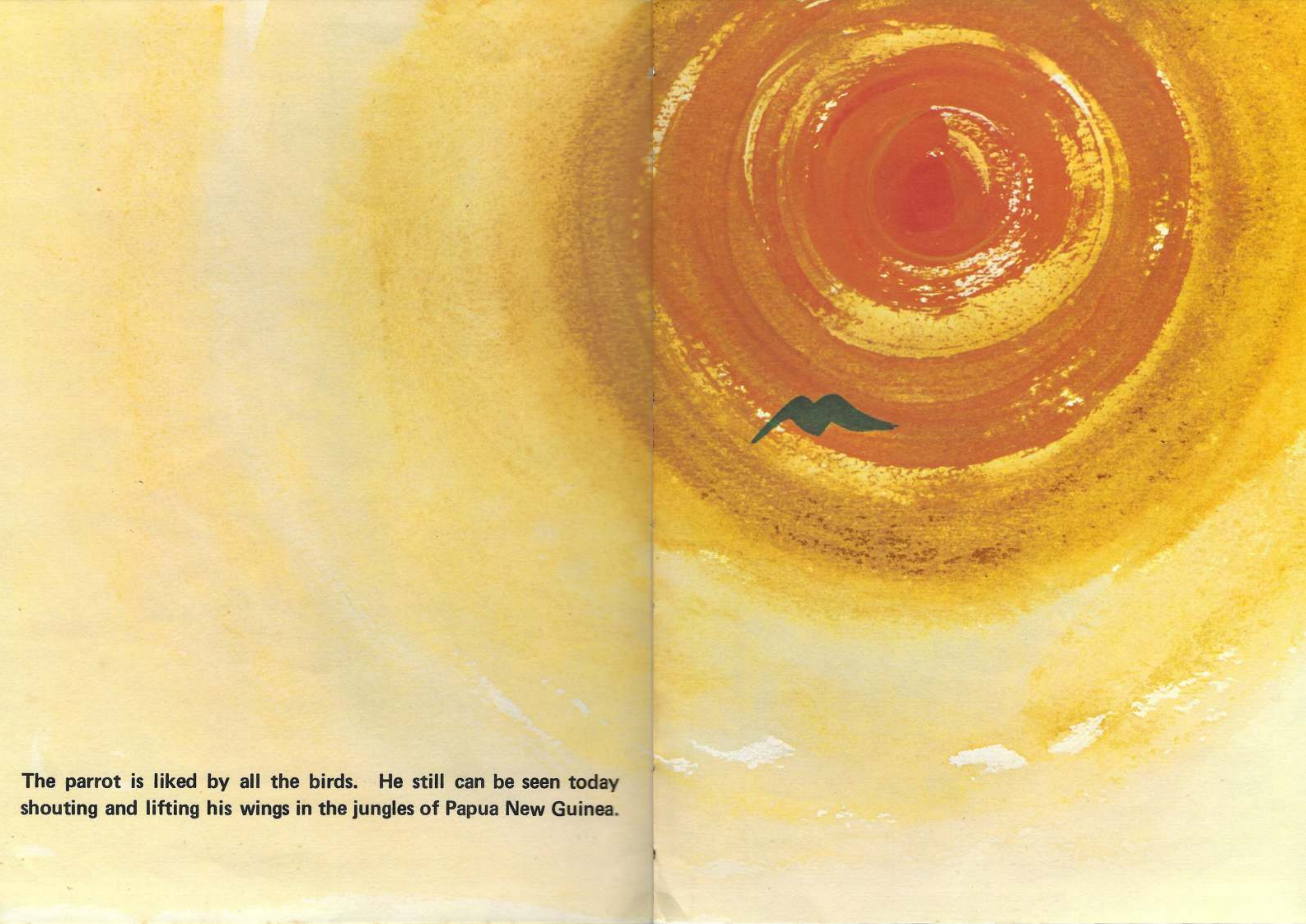




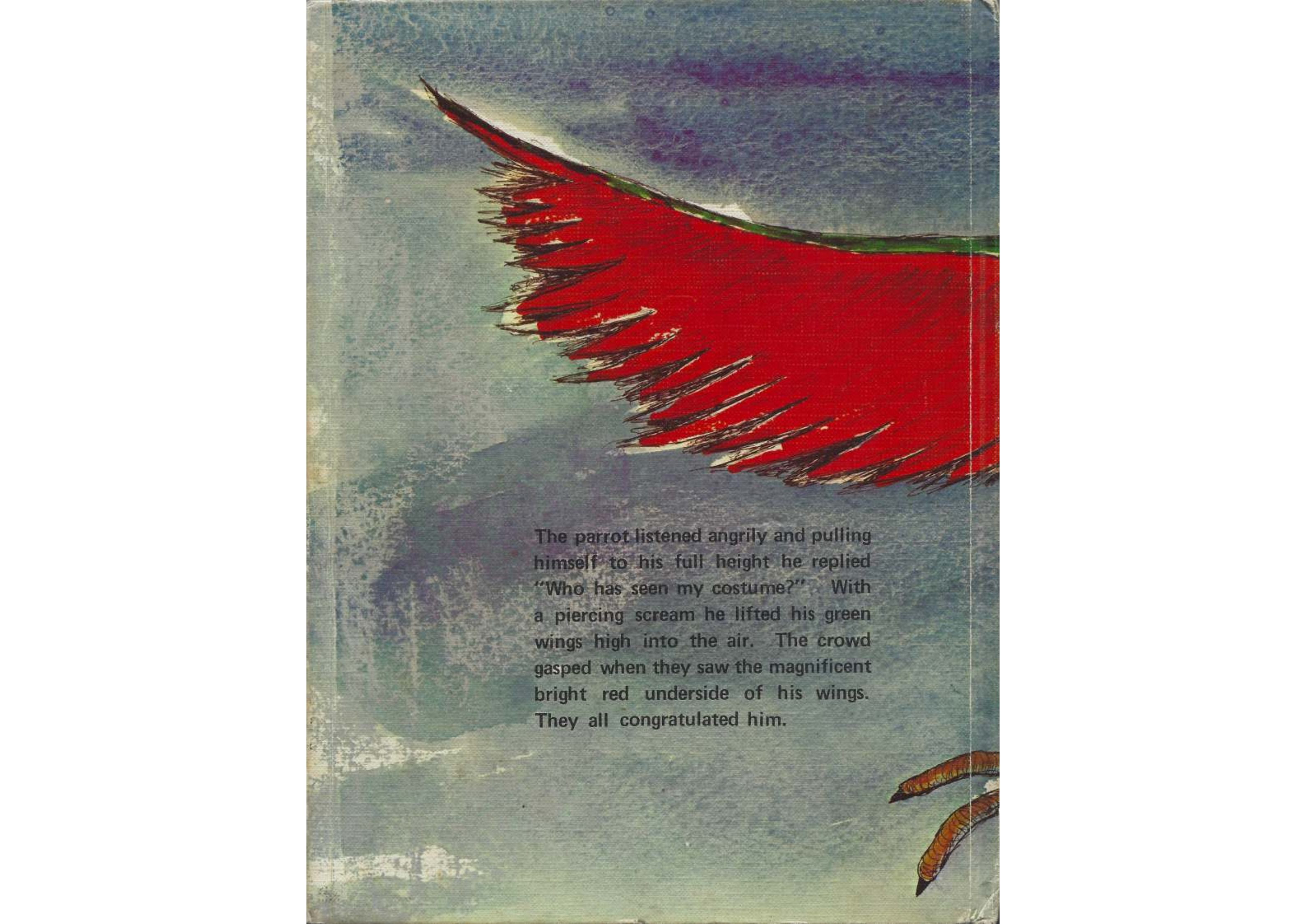
The leguan was so annoyed and ashamed of his behaviour that he filled his face and neck with air to stop himself from speaking.



So even today the leguan's neck is puffed up. The birds never speak of this and now that Man has come to their land they don't speak human language, for fear some hunter may overhear their plans and trap them.



The parrot is liked by all the birds. He still can be seen today shouting and lifting his wings in the jungles of Papua New Guinea.

A large, vibrant red wing of a parrot is the central focus, extending from the upper right towards the center. The wing's underside is a brilliant, saturated red, with darker, almost black, feather tips visible. Above the wing, the sky is a mix of deep blue and purple hues, suggesting a twilight or dawn setting. In the bottom right corner, a small portion of another wing, colored orange and yellow, is visible. The overall texture of the illustration is painterly and slightly grainy.

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