



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, RESEARCH, AND TECHNOLOGY  
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2024

# This or That?

Barbara Eni & Singgih Cahyo

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#### **This or That?**

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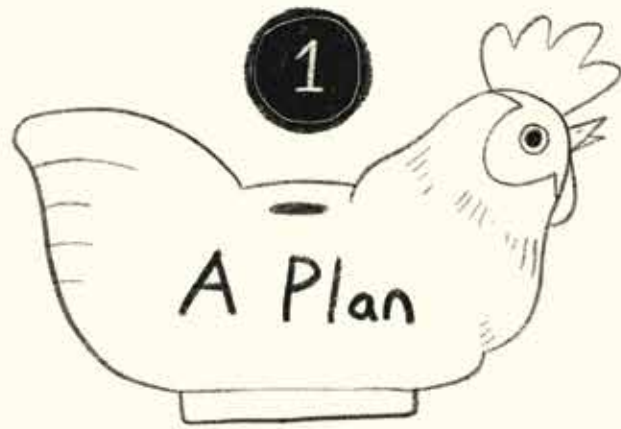




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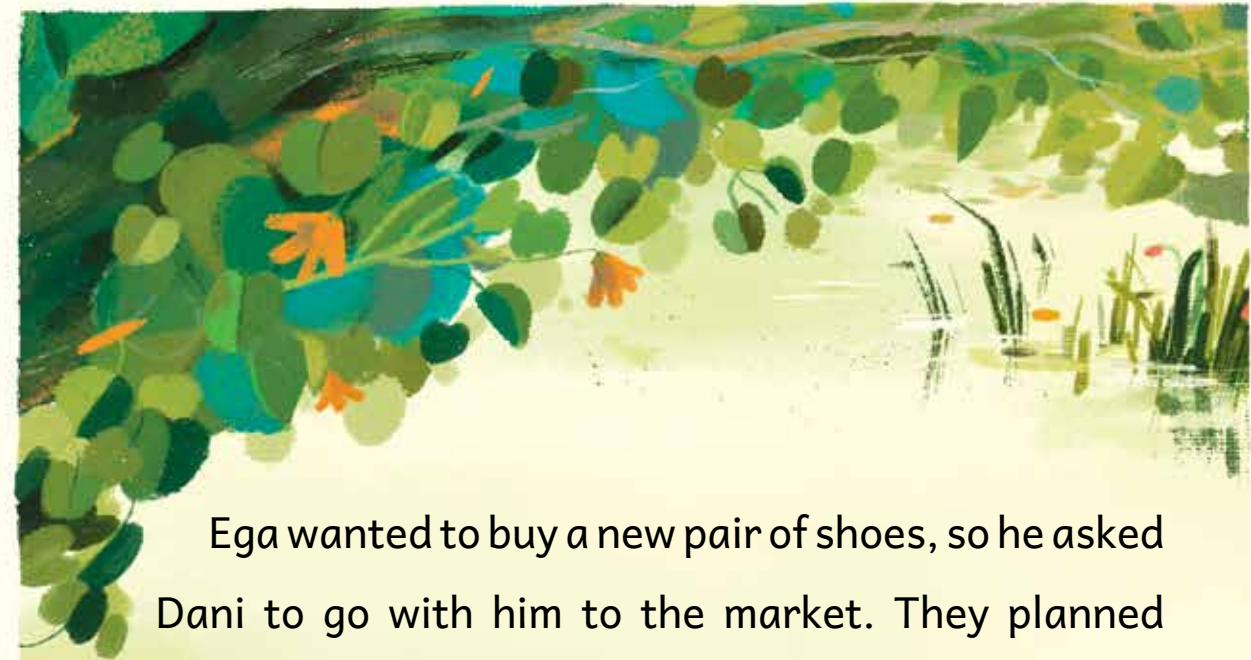
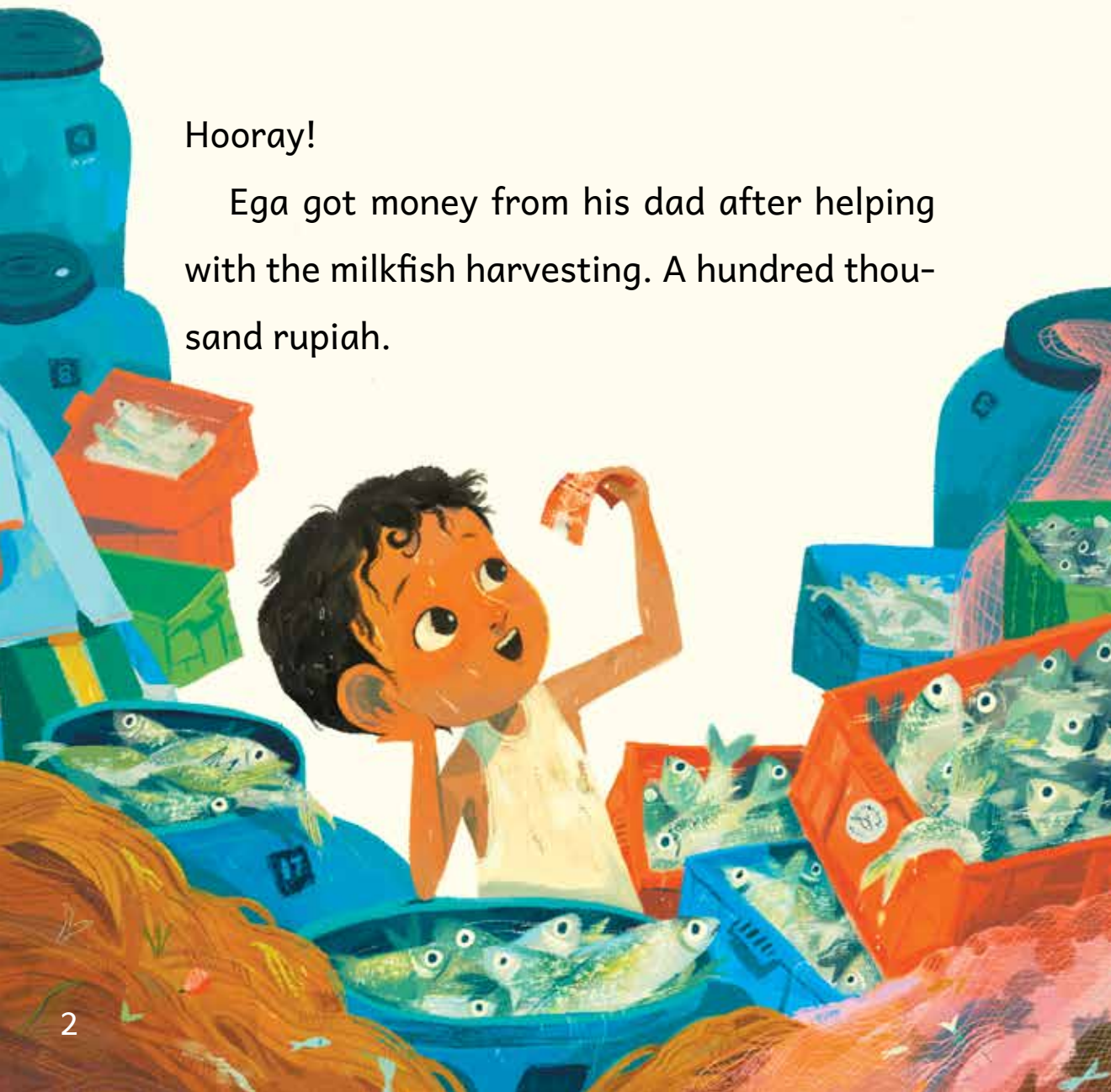
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Hooray!

Ega got money from his dad after helping with the milkfish harvesting. A hundred thousand rupiah.



Ega wanted to buy a new pair of shoes, so he asked Dani to go with him to the market. They planned to hitch a ride on a boat that carried the milkfish harvest.

Dani agreed. His school backpack has already faded in color. But before they left, Dani had to break open his chicky bank, where he kept his money.







Ega helped Dani break open his chicky bank. He put his money aside on the bed so it would not get mixed with Dani's money.

Ega lost count of the money so many times. Frustrated, Dani handed him a piece of paper and a pen to jot down his calculations. This way Ega could count the money easier.



Eighty-six thousand rupiah. Ega and Dani stacked the notes together and put the coins in a plastic bag. After that, they headed for the boat, where Ega and Dani's dads were working.

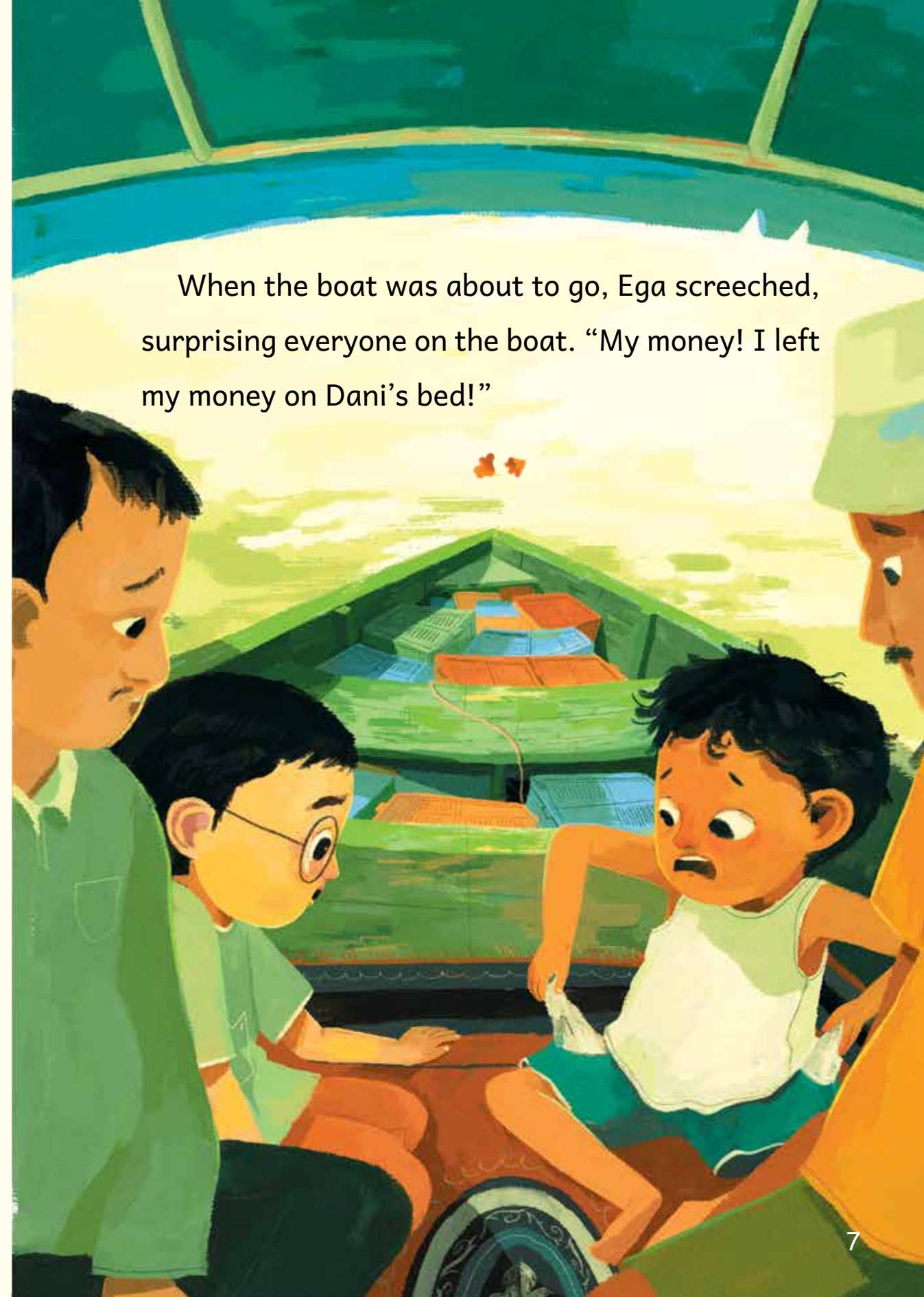


Ega noticed that Dani had his cat with him and he didn't like it. If the cat stole fish from the barrel, Dani would have to pay for it.



Dani did not want to take the risk. He asked his mom to take it home. It would be a waste of money to spend his savings on milkfish.

When the boat was about to go, Ega screeched, surprising everyone on the boat. "My money! I left my money on Dani's bed!"







As fast as lightning Ega jumped out of the boat. If he did not have the money, there was no way he could get new shoes.

People of The Far End Village used the river to get to town. The path between the fish ponds could only be accessed by two-wheeled vehicles. It was always dusty in the dry season and muddy in the rainy season.



“Look, a crocodile!” Ega pointed in the distance. Dani rubbed his eyes. Even though he had glasses on, his eyesight was still blurry. What a shame he couldn’t see the saltwater crocodile that rarely made an appearance.





As the boat arrived at the dock, Ega and Dani said goodbye to their dads. Both of them ran quickly to the nearest market. They actually had been to the market alone before, but Ega was scaring Dani with stories of pickpockets. This made Dani clutch his money tightly all the way through the market.



Even though they had just arrived, Dani was already tempted by cotton candy. He called it arum manis. “Don’t!” warned Ega. “Buy the bag first. If we have some money left, we can buy that.” Oh no, Dani had already bought some. He had tried it before and he loved the taste. Dani was not worried because he had only lost five thousand rupiah.



Ega actually wanted to buy cotton candy too.  
But he resisted. Luckily Dani was okay with sharing.  
Uh-oh, look at what Ega did!



He kept on sneakily picking at the cotton candy.  
Suddenly Dani's cotton candy was almost gone.  
Ega said the wind ate it, but Dani knew exactly who  
did it. Dani wanted to be angry, but he changed his  
mind. Something caught his attention.







A toy store!

How exciting it was to see that many toys. Ega wanted to buy a ball, but he remembered he needed new shoes. “Hold on!” Dani nudged Ega. “If we still have money, we can buy the ball.”



Ega slowly followed Dani. He thought that even if he spent ten thousand rupiah, he would still have a lot of money left.

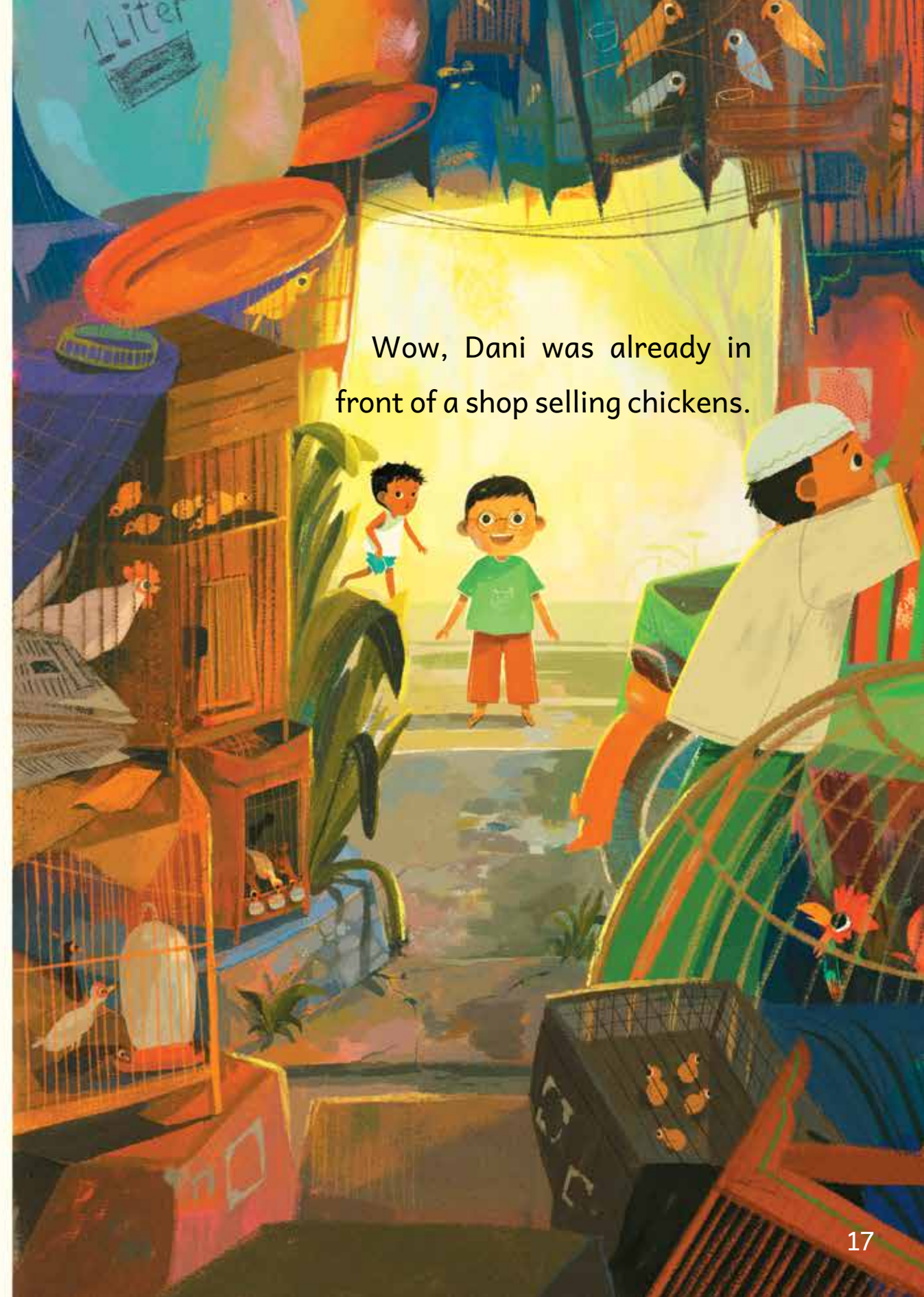
Suddenly, Dani’s footsteps stopped in front of people who were trying on glasses. Maybe he could find a pair of glasses that would fit him. He wanted to try them on too, but he was shy.



Ega knew Dani had trouble seeing far away. He suggested Dani tell his dad. It was time for Dani to get new glasses.

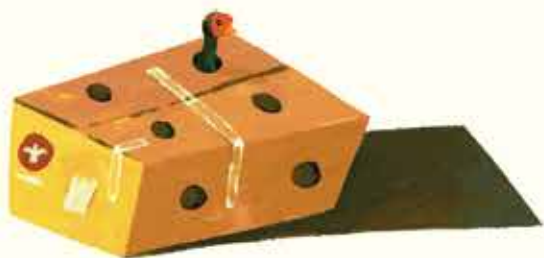


Dani would like that. But his dad was only a boatman, not a boat owner. New glasses cost a lot of money. Ega guessed that Dani must be sad. Skedaddle Whoop De Whoop, whoosh! Dani raced past him like the wind.



Wow, Dani was already in front of a shop selling chickens.





Dani showed off a month-old female chick he had just bought. It cost him twenty-five thousand rupiah. Did he have enough money left for a bag?

Ega laughed at Dani when he said he would take care of the chick because it could give him more chickens. But, how could a chicken breed without a rooster?

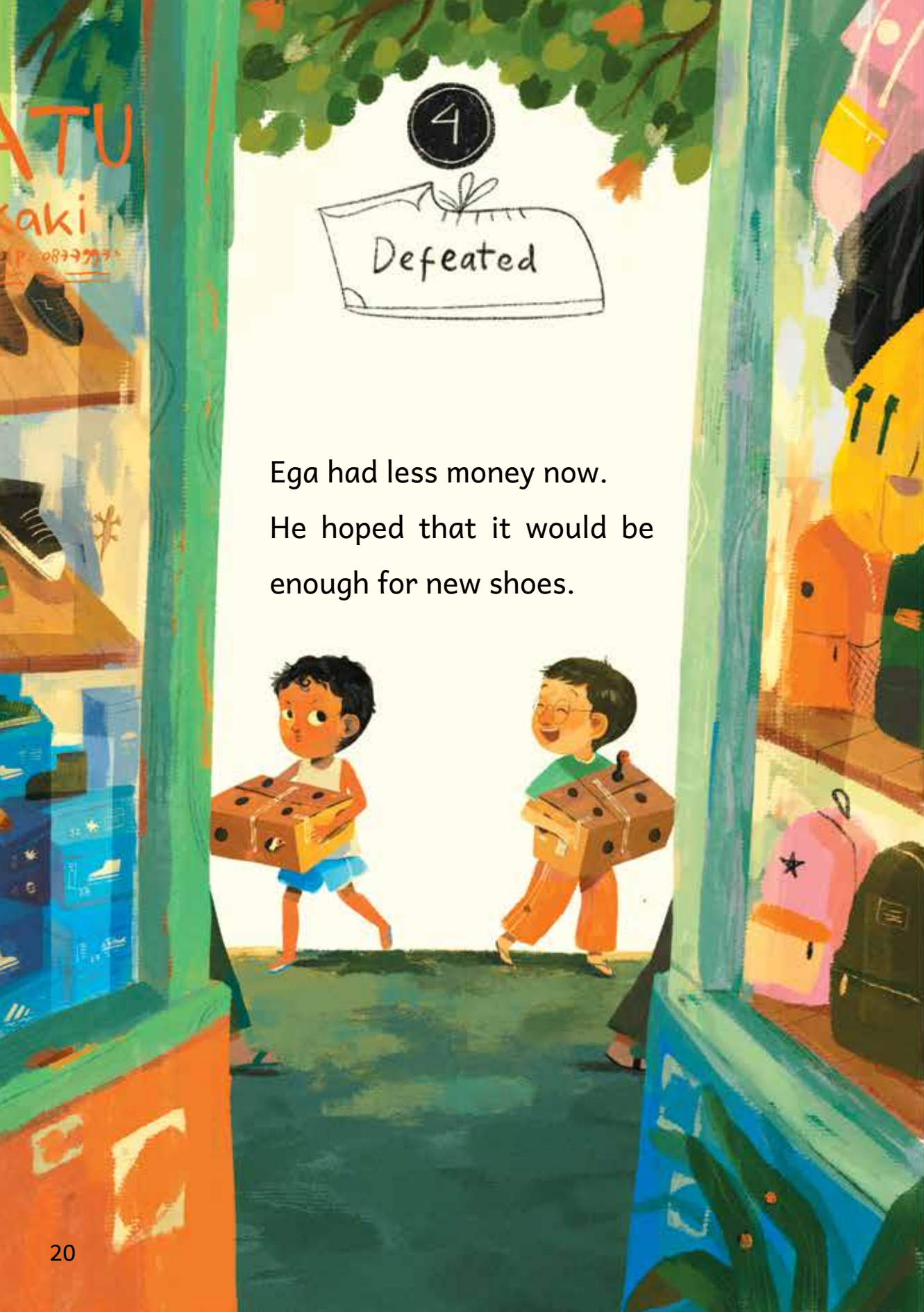
Ega shook his head hard when Dani insisted he buy a male chick, so they could raise them together. No way was he doing that!

Suddenly Ega's eyes met those of the male chick. It looked like the chick was begging to be bought too. O, dear! Buy, don't buy, buy, don't buy,... Ega counted his fingers.

...buy!







Ega had less money now.  
He hoped that it would be  
enough for new shoes.

While waiting for the clerk who was serving someone else, Ega looked around the shop. He spotted a pair of shoes he liked. He reached into his pocket to make sure his money was still there.



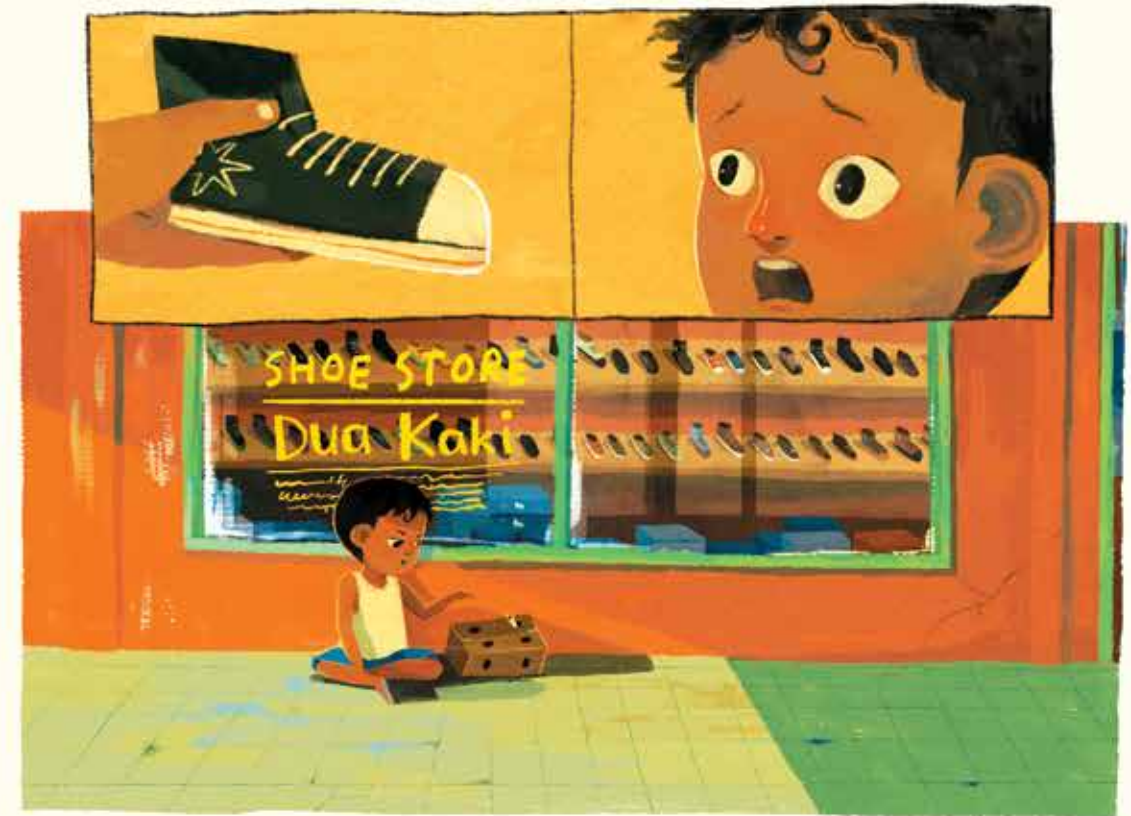
Hey, where was his money? The last time he remembered, he had more. Could it be that his money was mixed up with Dani's?



Ega quickly called Dani over and told his story while panicking. Dani shook his head while pointing at the chick. Ega grinned, embarrassed.



Ega turned around and asked the clerk how much the shoes cost. His heart dropped. The price was one hundred and five thousand rupiah.



He slowly put the shoes down. For some reason, the sight of his chick annoyed him. If only he hadn't bought it...





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Ega felt guilty, hating an innocent baby chick. Even if he hadn't bought it, he wouldn't have enough money. Plus, Ega would be embarrassed if he had to borrow Dani's money.



Meanwhile, Dani found the perfect bag. He even had the perfect amount of money left to buy it. Dani quickly left the store to tell Ega. Dani was confused seeing Ega sad. After hearing about his problem, Dani started thinking. In the end, he decided not to buy the bag.





In fact, Dani was thinking twice about buying a new bag. He thought about his eyes. Maybe he should give his dad his money for new glasses.



Ega had an idea, “I’ll just buy super glue.” Dani thought it was a good idea and suggested they should buy it now. But when they passed the toy store again, they stopped in their tracks. Should they put their money together and buy the cheapest toy?

“Nope!” Ega and Dani both shook their heads. They had spent on things that they didn’t need.

But the sun had made their throats dry. Should they buy drinks? Drinks were something important, right?







They decided it was better to get back to the boat quickly.



Ega and Dani apologized to their dads for being late and told them why. They told them that they planned on buying one thing but ended up with other things.



Their dads laughed because they had done something like that too. This comforted Ega and Dani a little bit. Next time they would focus on getting things that they actually needed.



“Oh no!” Ega suddenly cried out.  
“I forgot to buy ...”





“... super glue!”





Maybe Ega could ask his dad to take his shoes to the shoemaker. But his shoes were too tight. The shoes would only get tighter if they were repaired.

“I think I should save some money again,” Ega mumbled.

It was dusk when the boat arrived on the Far-End Village pier. Ega and Dani were instantly surrounded by their friends. It was because of the chicks they had bought.



One of them was interested in buying the chick. Dani refused because he wanted to take care of it. But Ega grinned.

Ega’s chick sold for thirty-five thousand rupiahs. He made a profit!



Ega's shoes were still in bad shape, but he had already asked Dani to go back to the market with him next week. Ega wanted to buy new shoes.



Dani agreed straight away because he wanted to buy more chicks. Who knew, maybe someone would want to swap with him. But Dani was worried Ega would forget their new plan.

“Relax,” Ega laughed. “I already marked it on my calendar.”



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Ega got money from his dad. He needed to buy something with it. Ega asked Dani to accompany him to the market. It turned out that the market offered so many interesting things that tempted Ega and Dani. Should they buy those things or the things they need? Did Ega and Dani get what they needed?



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