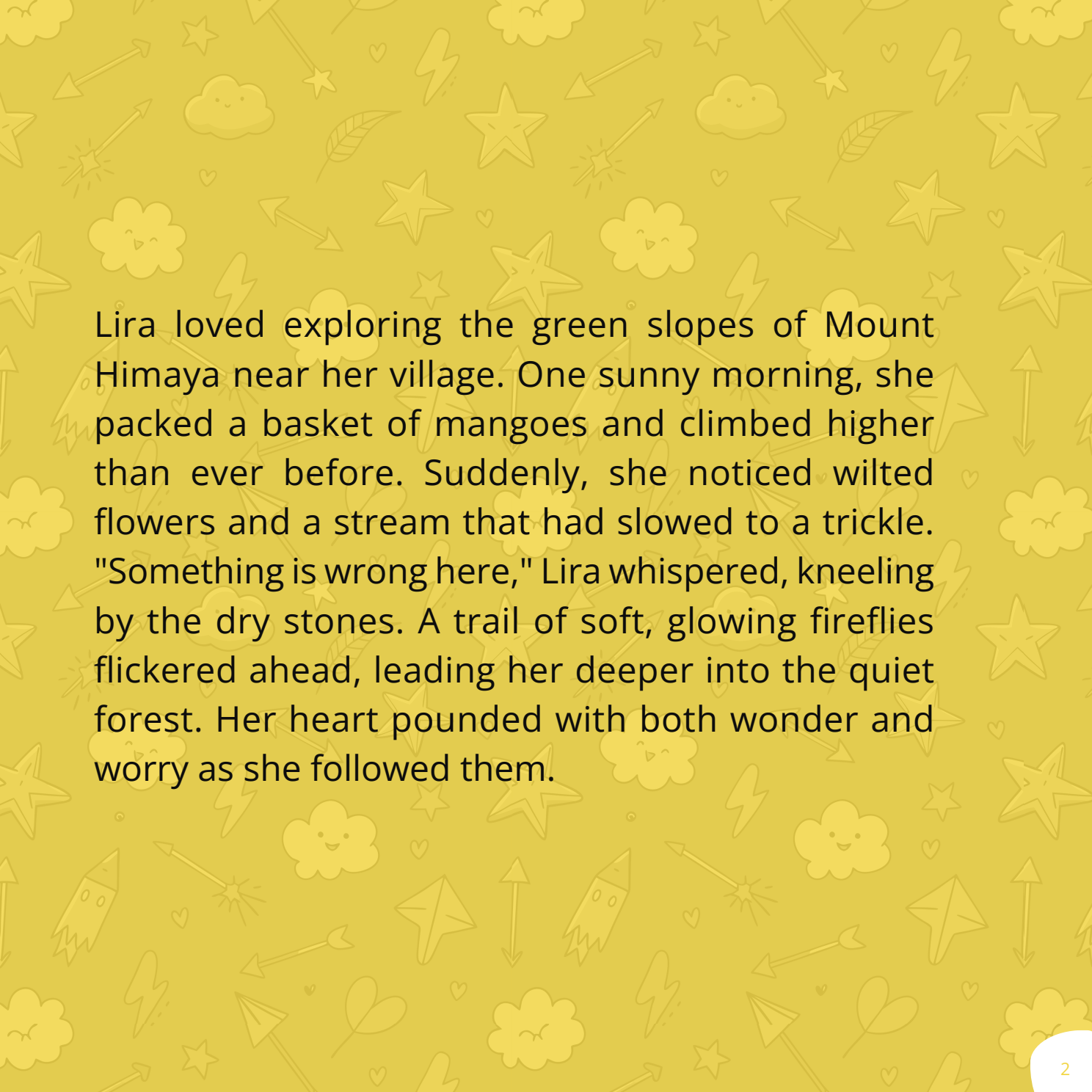


LIRA AND THE MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN

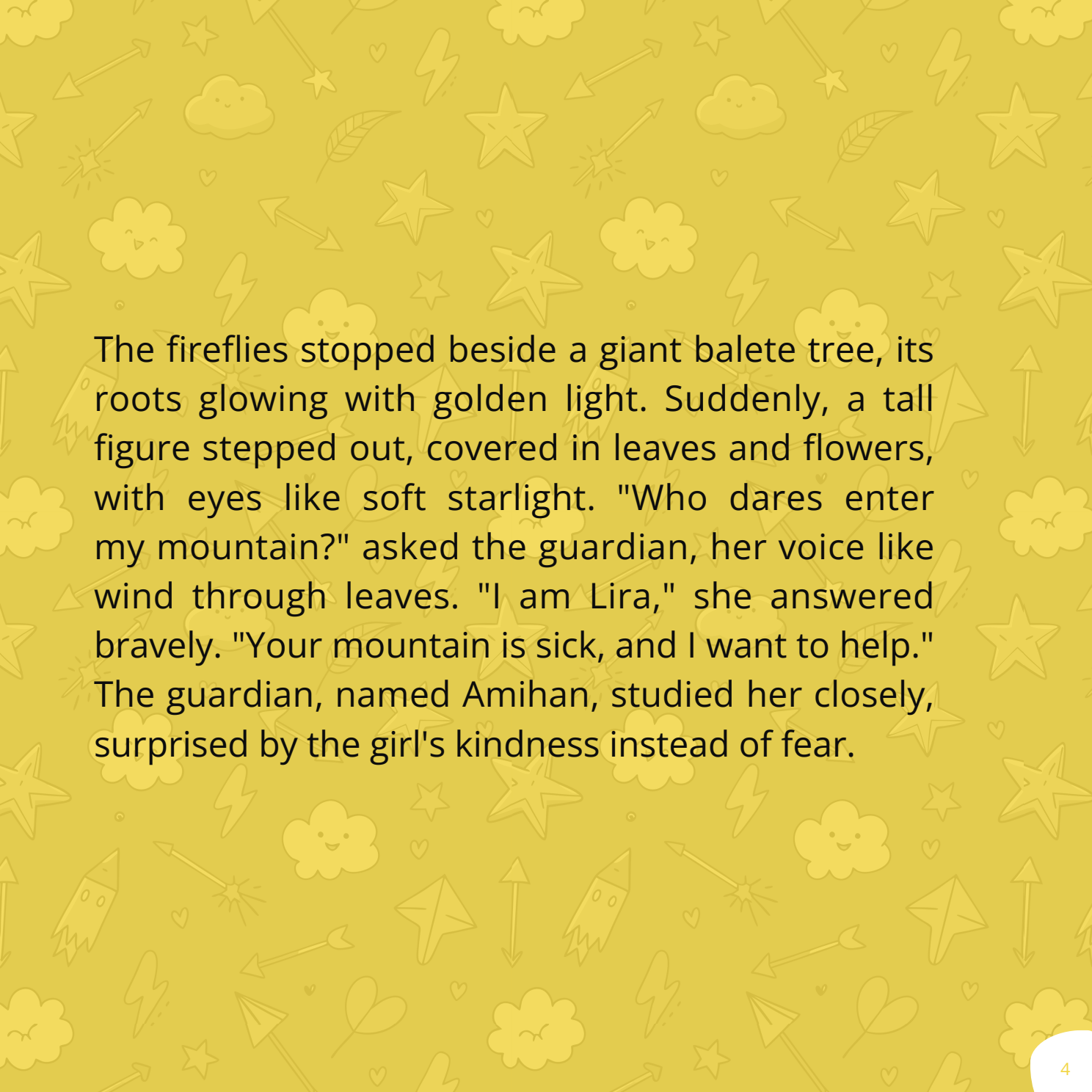


BY CHILDBOOK.AI



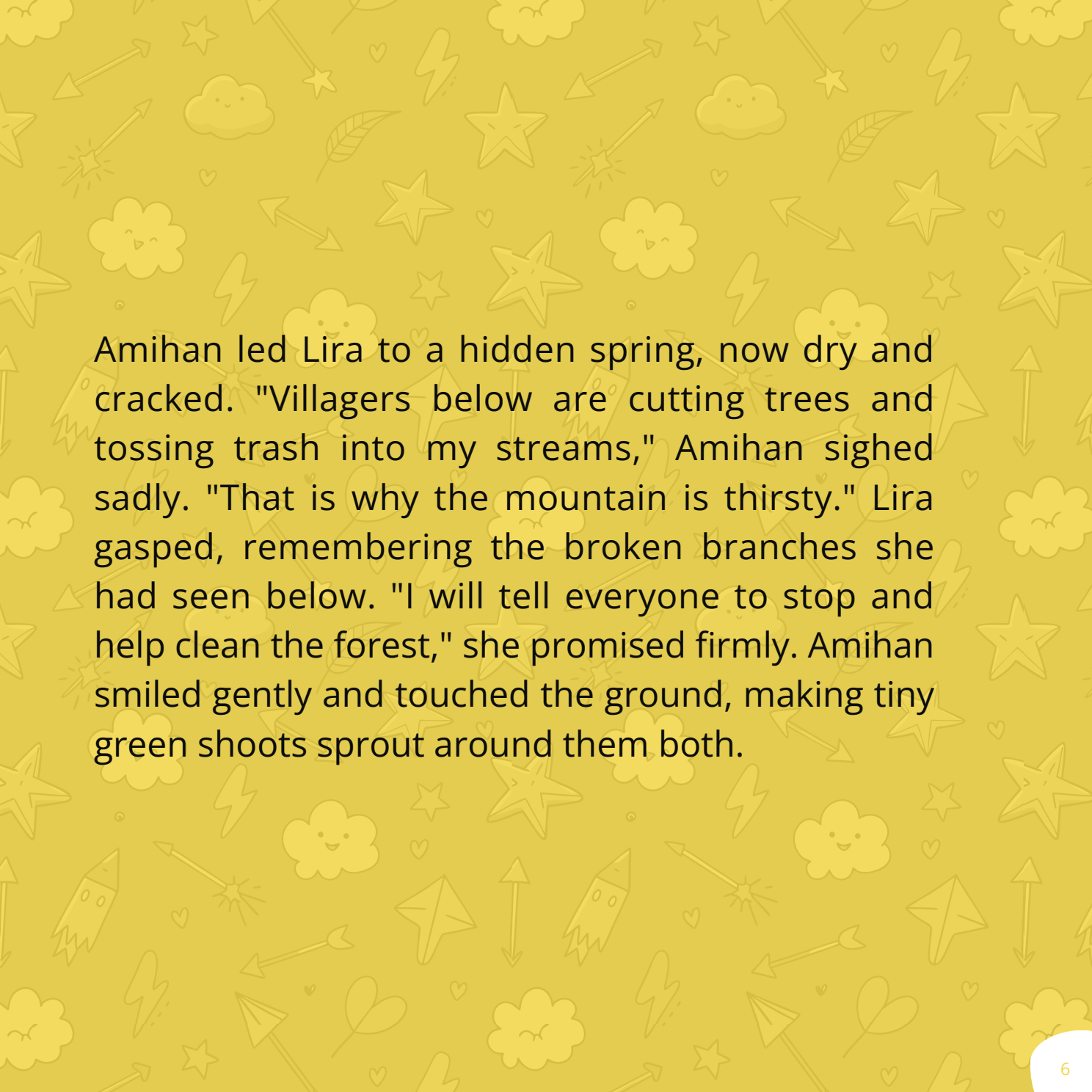
Lira loved exploring the green slopes of Mount Himaya near her village. One sunny morning, she packed a basket of mangoes and climbed higher than ever before. Suddenly, she noticed wilted flowers and a stream that had slowed to a trickle. "Something is wrong here," Lira whispered, kneeling by the dry stones. A trail of soft, glowing fireflies flickered ahead, leading her deeper into the quiet forest. Her heart pounded with both wonder and worry as she followed them.





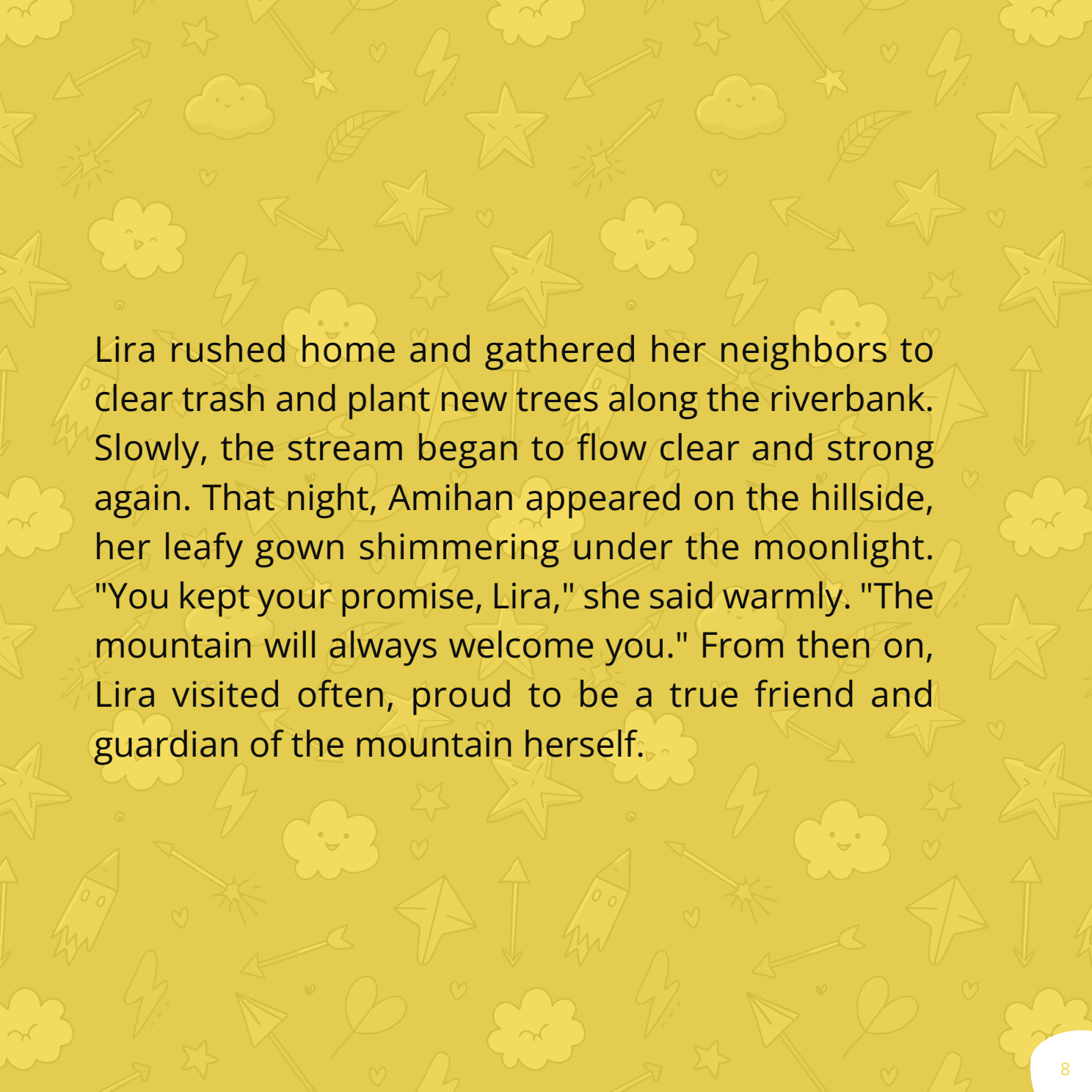
The fireflies stopped beside a giant balete tree, its roots glowing with golden light. Suddenly, a tall figure stepped out, covered in leaves and flowers, with eyes like soft starlight. "Who dares enter my mountain?" asked the guardian, her voice like wind through leaves. "I am Lira," she answered bravely. "Your mountain is sick, and I want to help." The guardian, named Amihan, studied her closely, surprised by the girl's kindness instead of fear.





Amihan led Lira to a hidden spring, now dry and cracked. "Villagers below are cutting trees and tossing trash into my streams," Amihan sighed sadly. "That is why the mountain is thirsty." Lira gasped, remembering the broken branches she had seen below. "I will tell everyone to stop and help clean the forest," she promised firmly. Amihan smiled gently and touched the ground, making tiny green shoots sprout around them both.





Lira rushed home and gathered her neighbors to clear trash and plant new trees along the riverbank. Slowly, the stream began to flow clear and strong again. That night, Amihan appeared on the hillside, her leafy gown shimmering under the moonlight. "You kept your promise, Lira," she said warmly. "The mountain will always welcome you." From then on, Lira visited often, proud to be a true friend and guardian of the mountain herself.



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