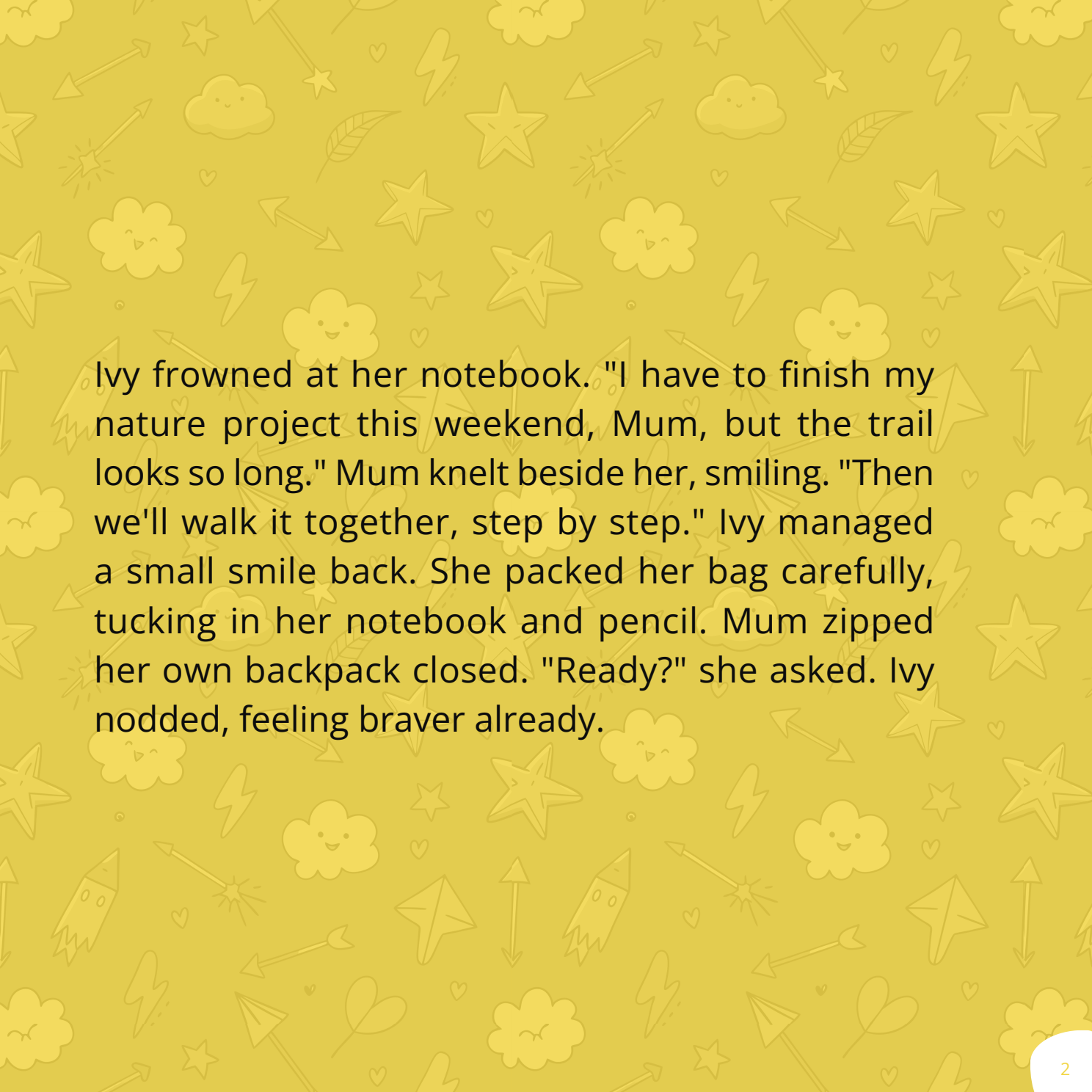


**WE DO THIS TOGETHER**

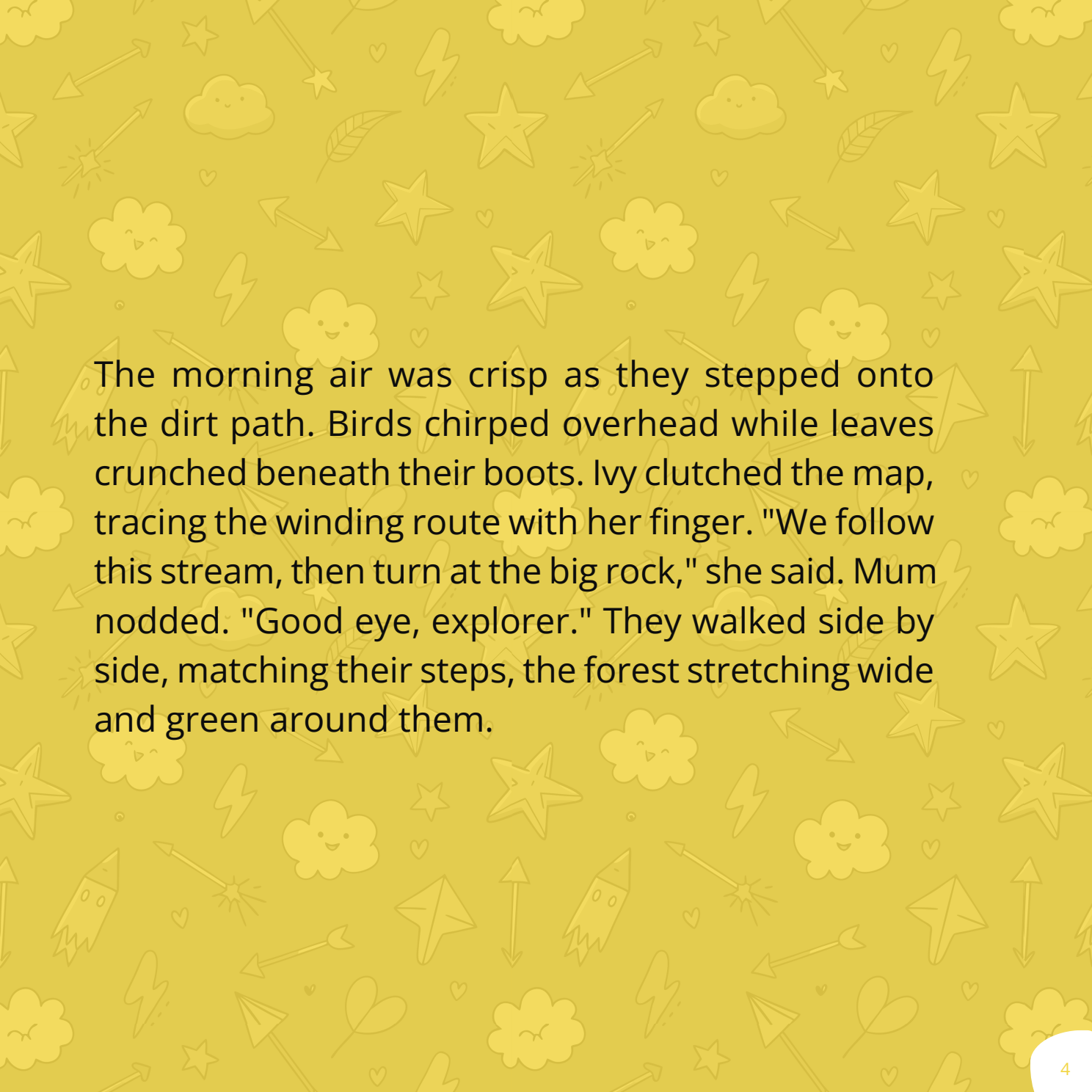


**BY CHILDBOOK.AI**



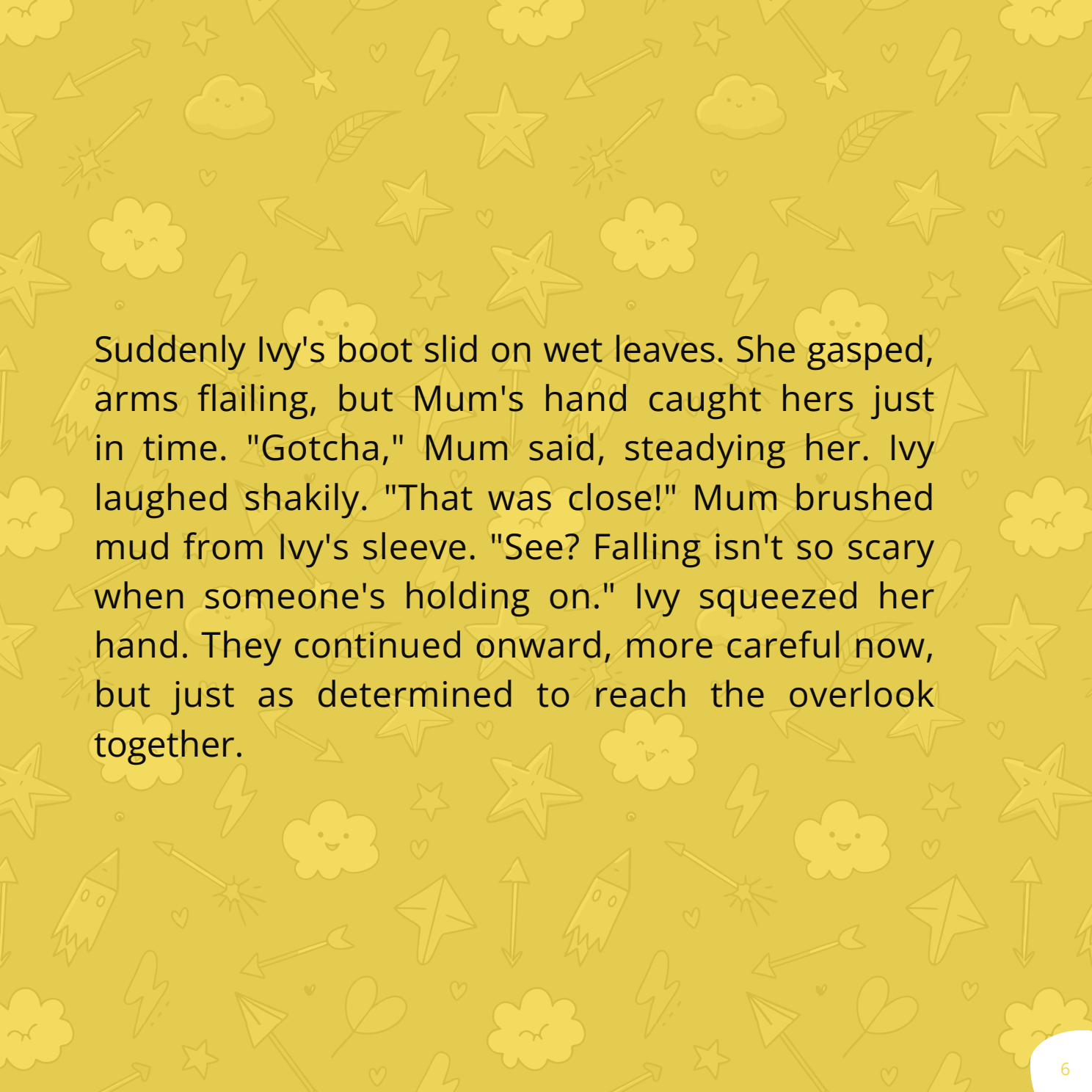
Ivy frowned at her notebook. "I have to finish my nature project this weekend, Mum, but the trail looks so long." Mum knelt beside her, smiling. "Then we'll walk it together, step by step." Ivy managed a small smile back. She packed her bag carefully, tucking in her notebook and pencil. Mum zipped her own backpack closed. "Ready?" she asked. Ivy nodded, feeling braver already.





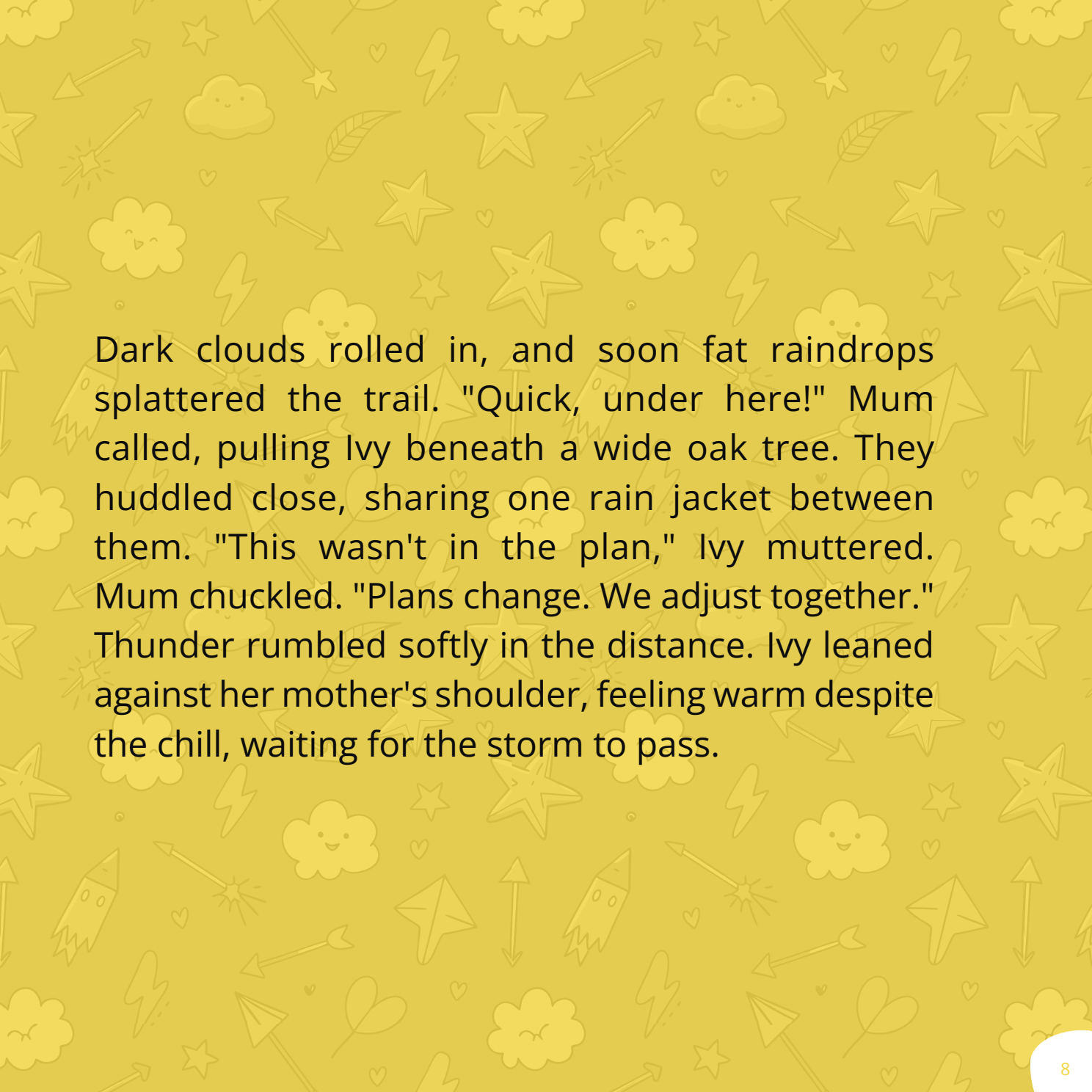
The morning air was crisp as they stepped onto the dirt path. Birds chirped overhead while leaves crunched beneath their boots. Ivy clutched the map, tracing the winding route with her finger. "We follow this stream, then turn at the big rock," she said. Mum nodded. "Good eye, explorer." They walked side by side, matching their steps, the forest stretching wide and green around them.





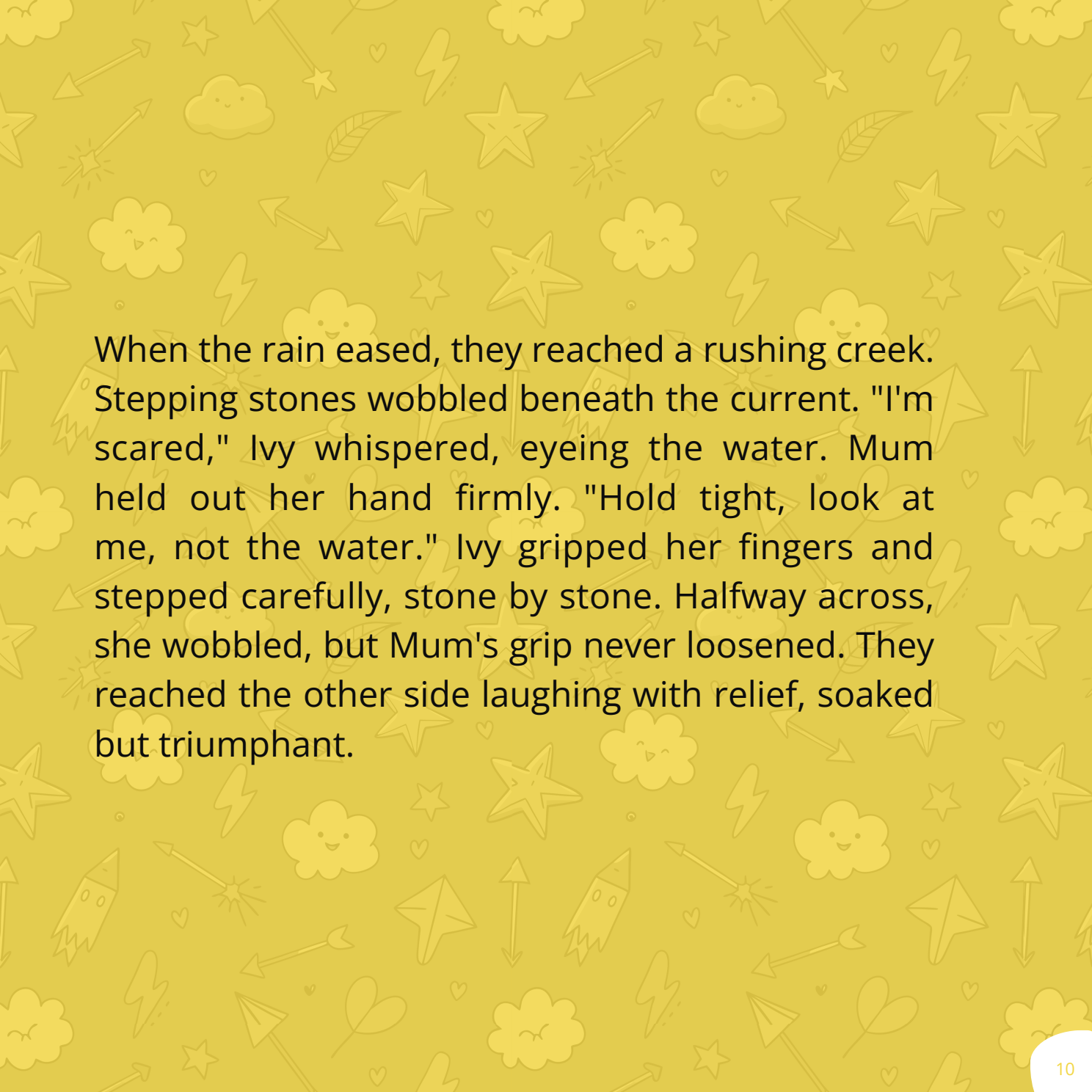
Suddenly Ivy's boot slid on wet leaves. She gasped, arms flailing, but Mum's hand caught hers just in time. "Gotcha," Mum said, steadying her. Ivy laughed shakily. "That was close!" Mum brushed mud from Ivy's sleeve. "See? Falling isn't so scary when someone's holding on." Ivy squeezed her hand. They continued onward, more careful now, but just as determined to reach the overlook together.





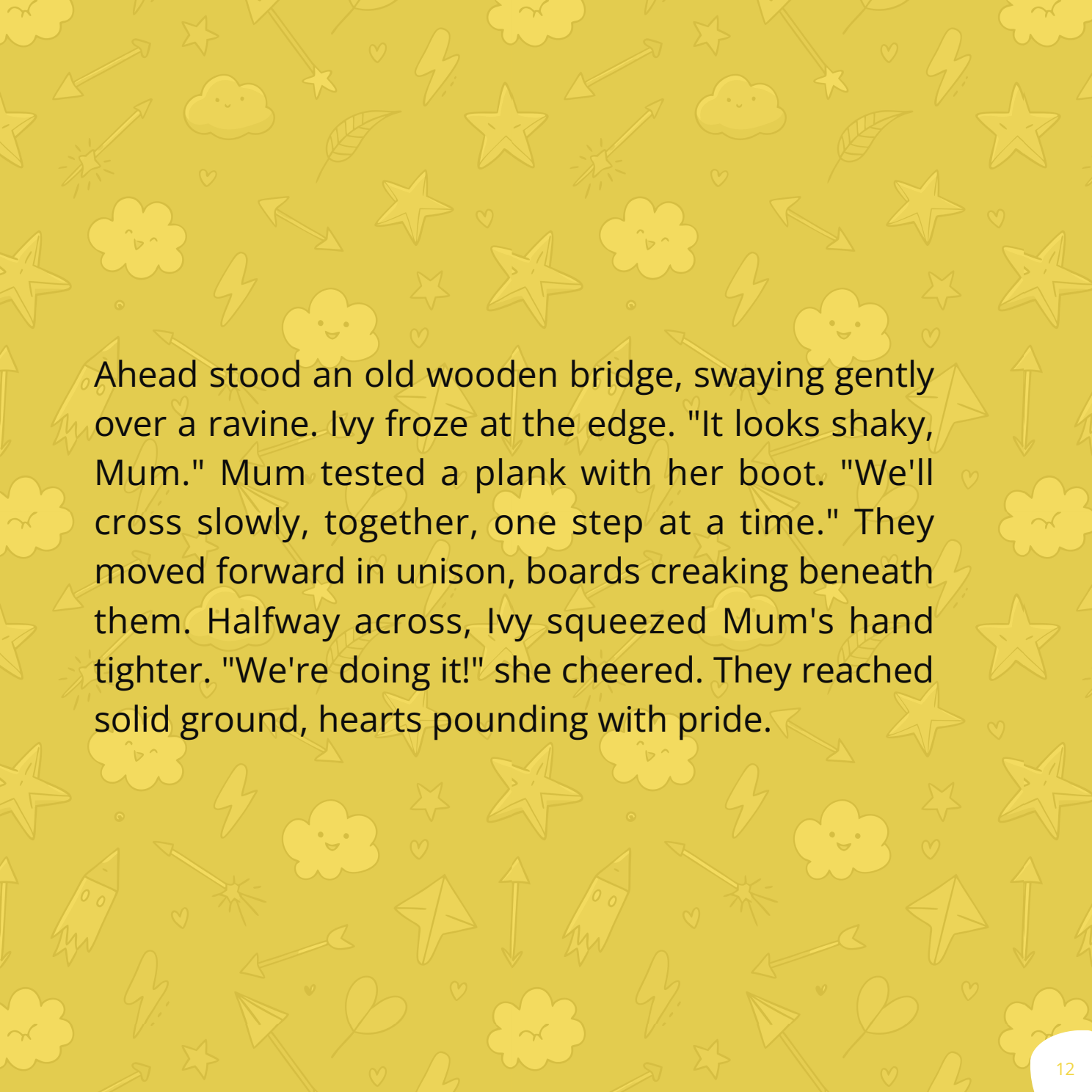
Dark clouds rolled in, and soon fat raindrops splattered the trail. "Quick, under here!" Mum called, pulling Ivy beneath a wide oak tree. They huddled close, sharing one rain jacket between them. "This wasn't in the plan," Ivy muttered. Mum chuckled. "Plans change. We adjust together." Thunder rumbled softly in the distance. Ivy leaned against her mother's shoulder, feeling warm despite the chill, waiting for the storm to pass.





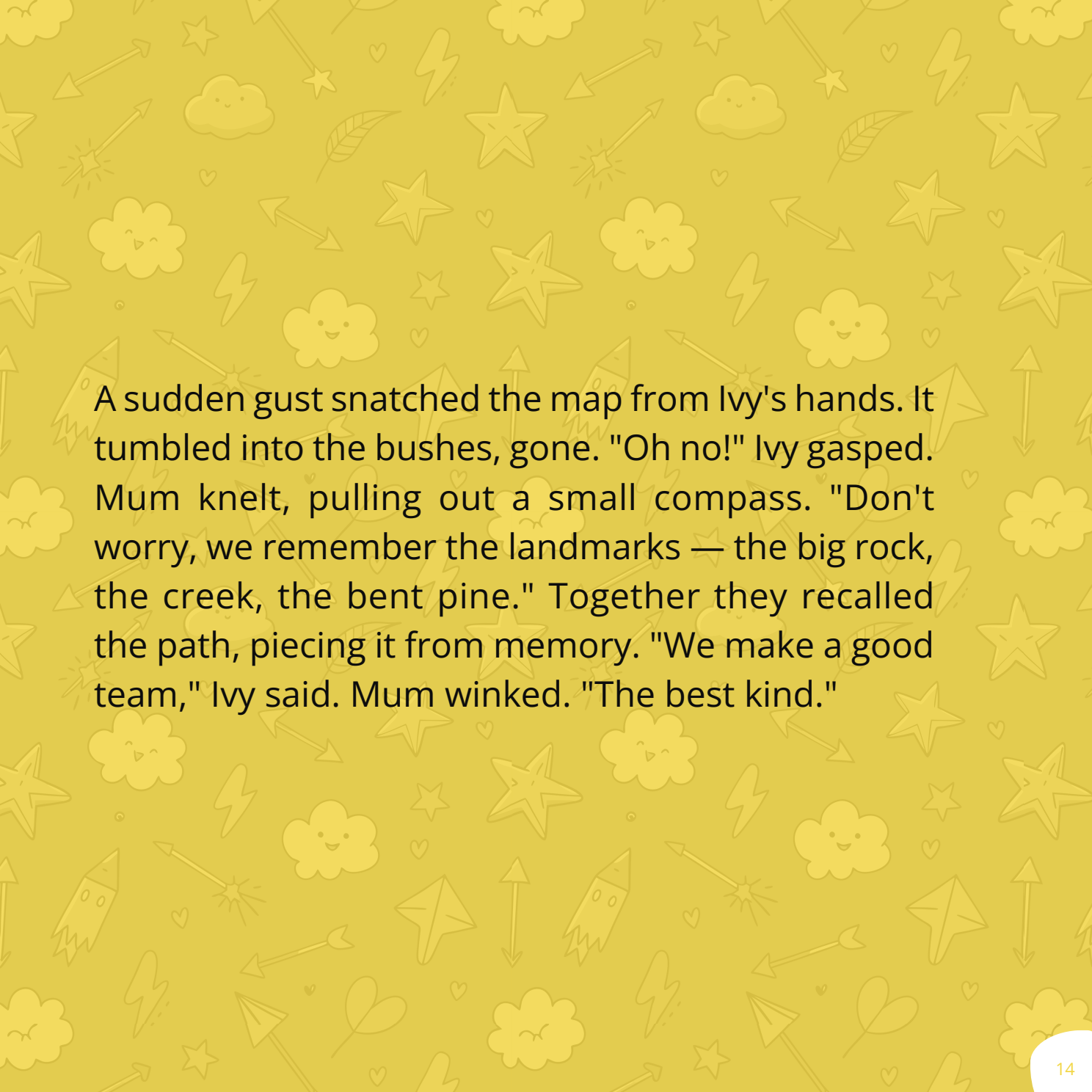
When the rain eased, they reached a rushing creek. Stepping stones wobbled beneath the current. "I'm scared," Ivy whispered, eyeing the water. Mum held out her hand firmly. "Hold tight, look at me, not the water." Ivy gripped her fingers and stepped carefully, stone by stone. Halfway across, she wobbled, but Mum's grip never loosened. They reached the other side laughing with relief, soaked but triumphant.





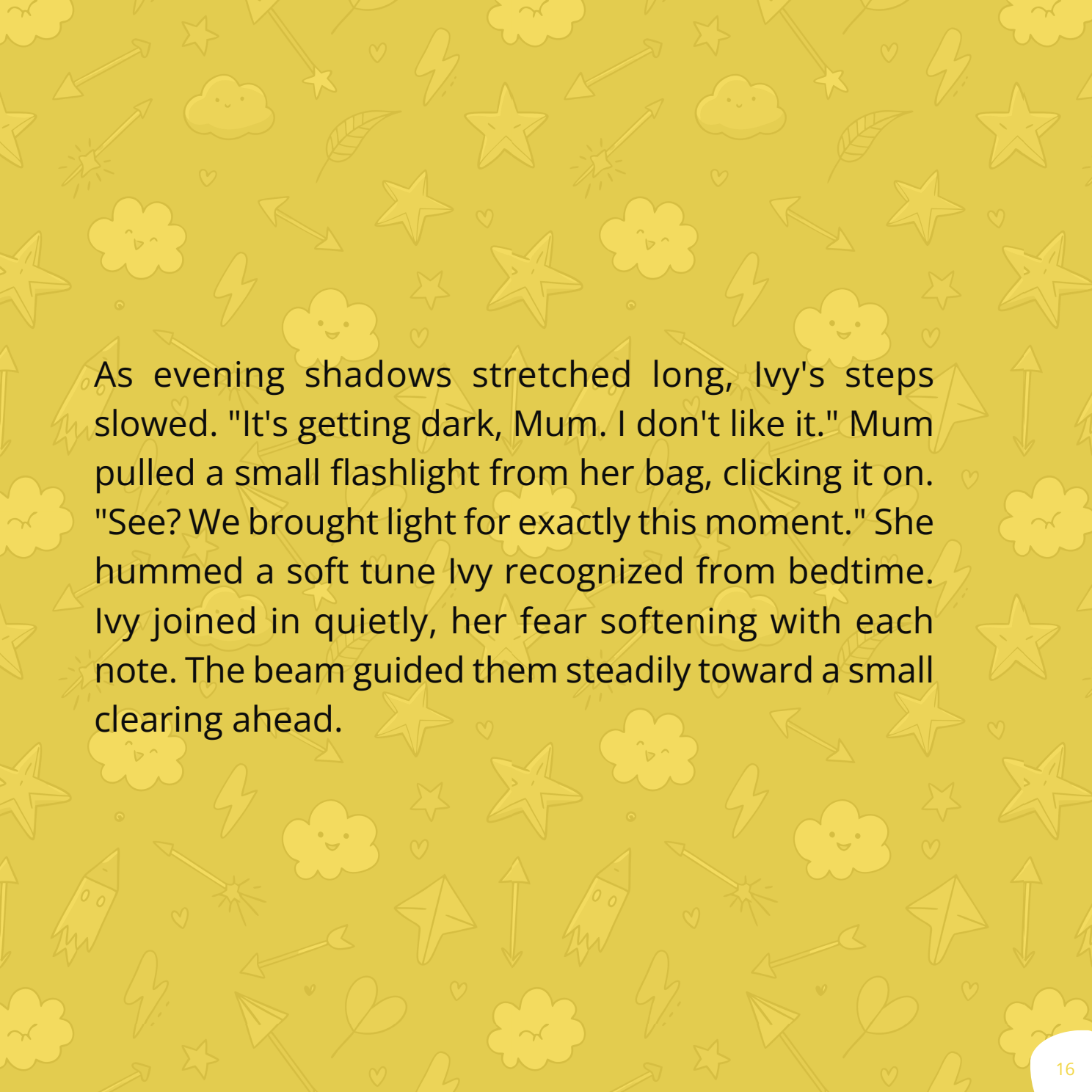
Ahead stood an old wooden bridge, swaying gently over a ravine. Ivy froze at the edge. "It looks shaky, Mum." Mum tested a plank with her boot. "We'll cross slowly, together, one step at a time." They moved forward in unison, boards creaking beneath them. Halfway across, Ivy squeezed Mum's hand tighter. "We're doing it!" she cheered. They reached solid ground, hearts pounding with pride.





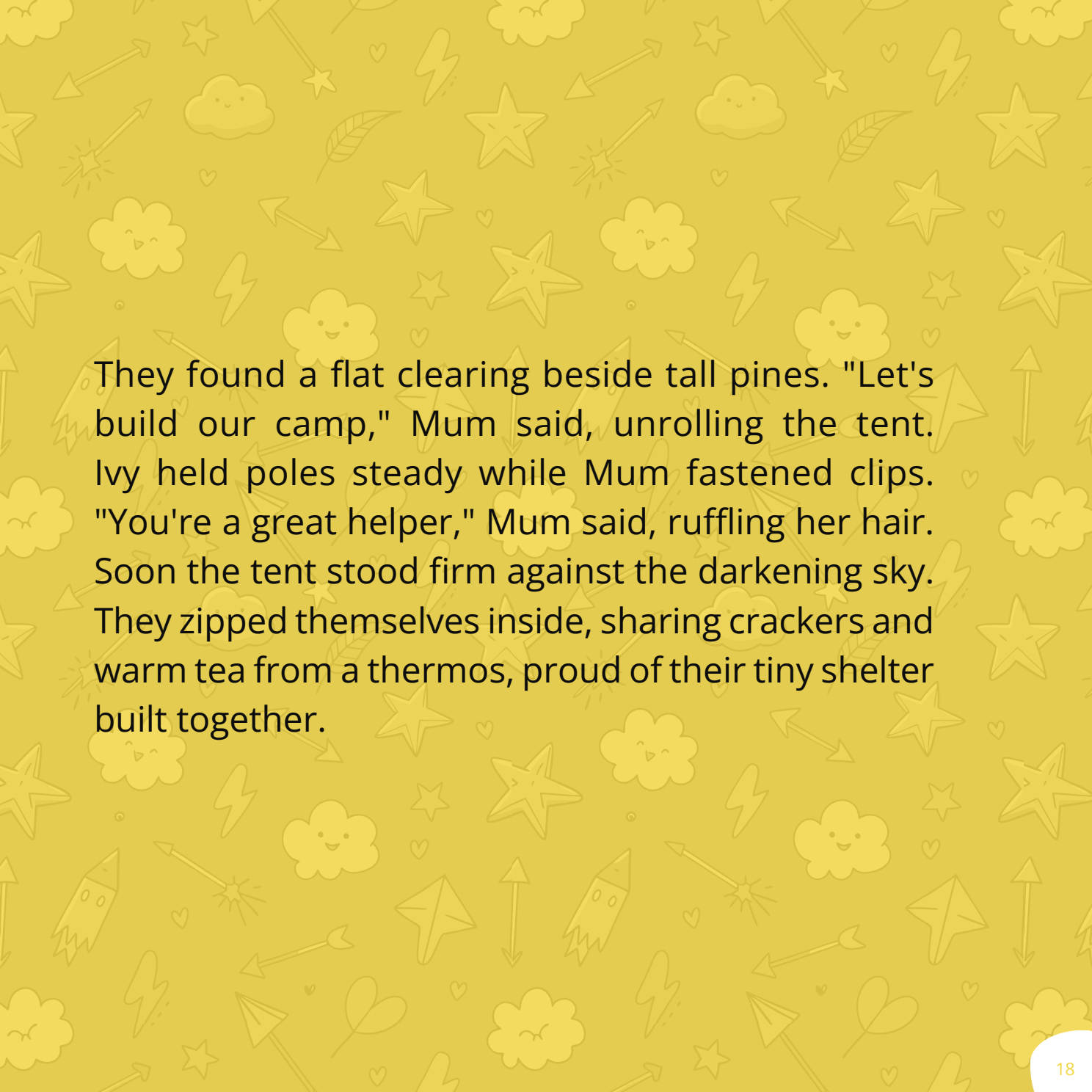
A sudden gust snatched the map from Ivy's hands. It tumbled into the bushes, gone. "Oh no!" Ivy gasped. Mum knelt, pulling out a small compass. "Don't worry, we remember the landmarks — the big rock, the creek, the bent pine." Together they recalled the path, piecing it from memory. "We make a good team," Ivy said. Mum winked. "The best kind."





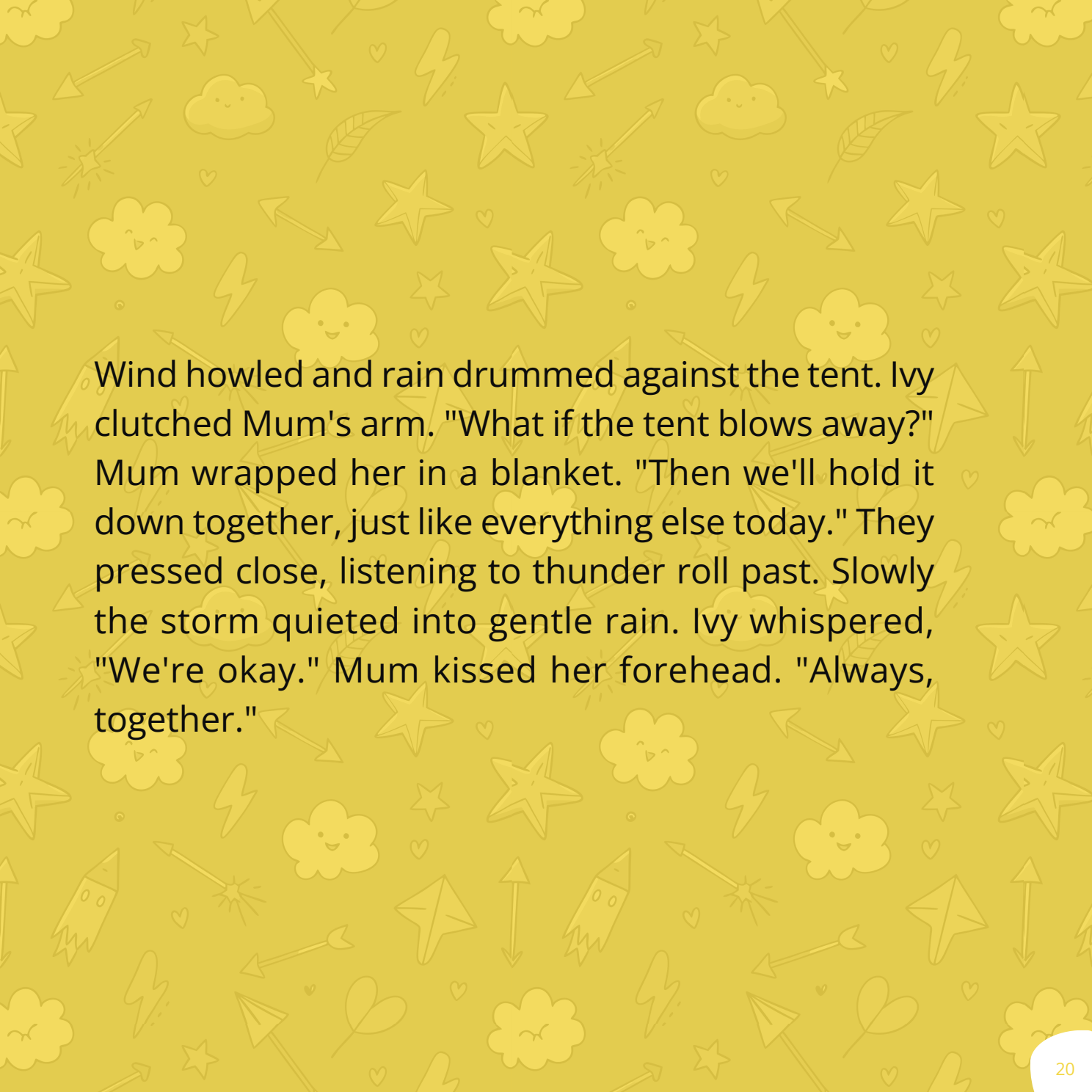
As evening shadows stretched long, Ivy's steps slowed. "It's getting dark, Mum. I don't like it." Mum pulled a small flashlight from her bag, clicking it on. "See? We brought light for exactly this moment." She hummed a soft tune Ivy recognized from bedtime. Ivy joined in quietly, her fear softening with each note. The beam guided them steadily toward a small clearing ahead.





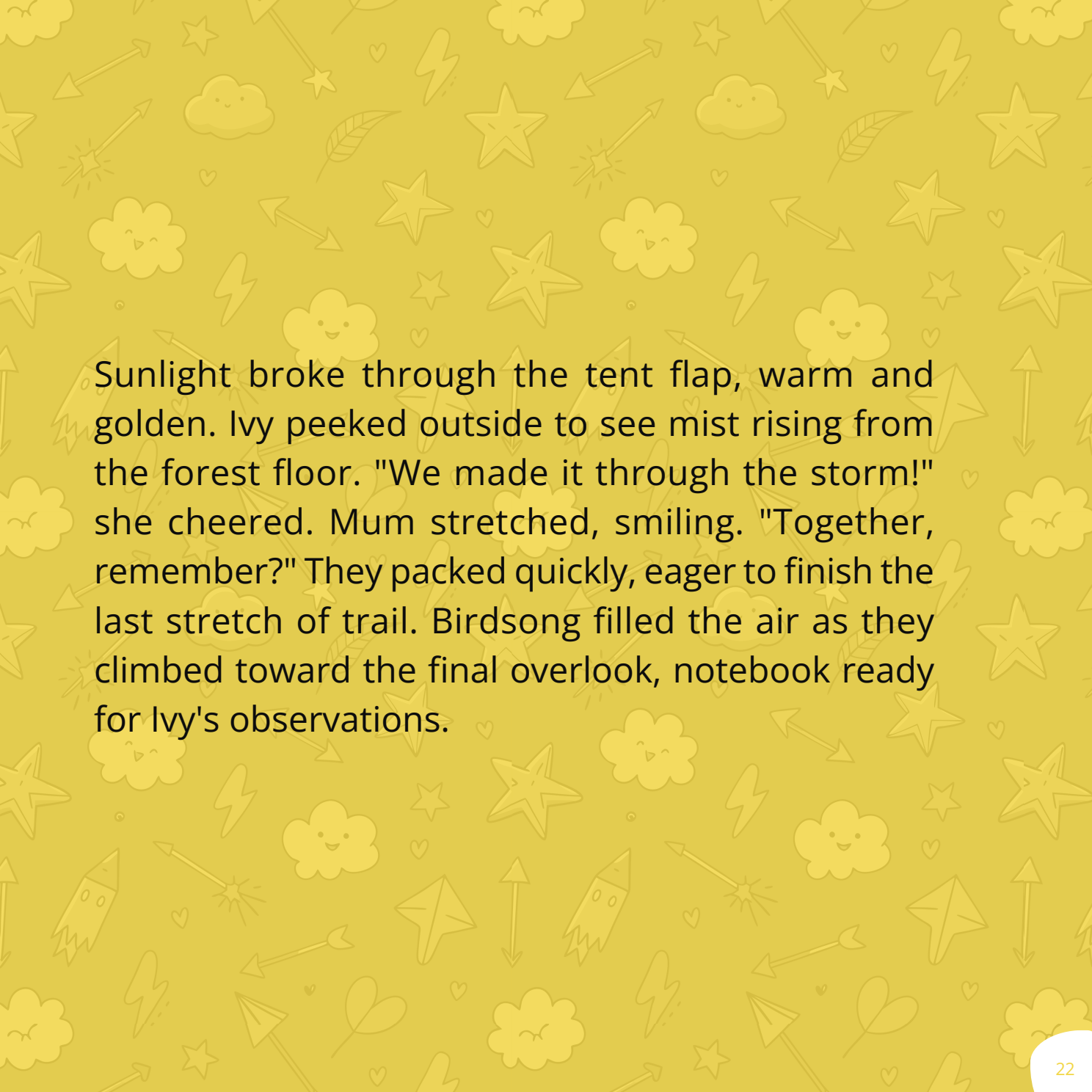
They found a flat clearing beside tall pines. "Let's build our camp," Mum said, unrolling the tent. Ivy held poles steady while Mum fastened clips. "You're a great helper," Mum said, ruffling her hair. Soon the tent stood firm against the darkening sky. They zipped themselves inside, sharing crackers and warm tea from a thermos, proud of their tiny shelter built together.





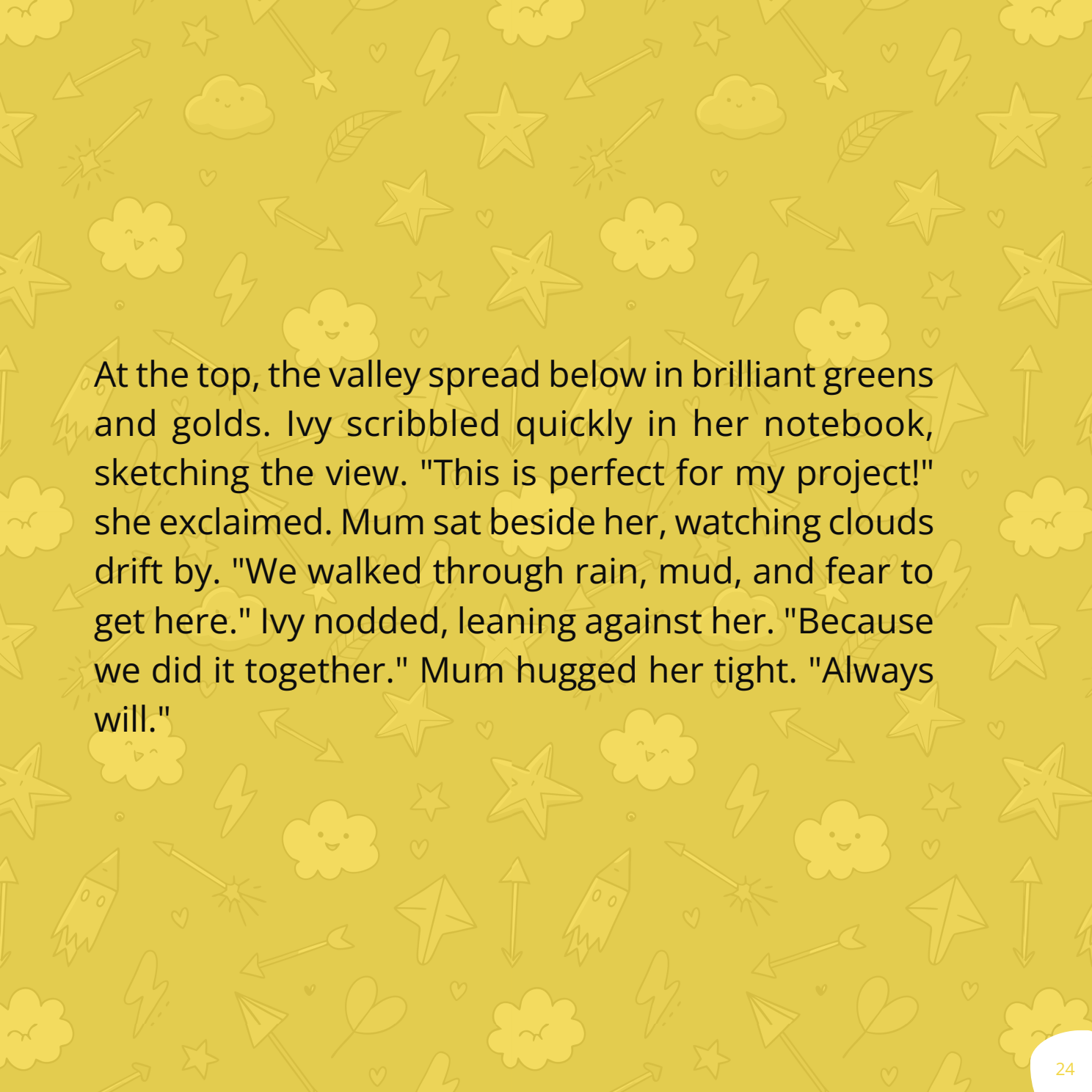
Wind howled and rain drummed against the tent. Ivy clutched Mum's arm. "What if the tent blows away?" Mum wrapped her in a blanket. "Then we'll hold it down together, just like everything else today." They pressed close, listening to thunder roll past. Slowly the storm quieted into gentle rain. Ivy whispered, "We're okay." Mum kissed her forehead. "Always, together."





Sunlight broke through the tent flap, warm and golden. Ivy peeked outside to see mist rising from the forest floor. "We made it through the storm!" she cheered. Mum stretched, smiling. "Together, remember?" They packed quickly, eager to finish the last stretch of trail. Birdsong filled the air as they climbed toward the final overlook, notebook ready for Ivy's observations.





At the top, the valley spread below in brilliant greens and golds. Ivy scribbled quickly in her notebook, sketching the view. "This is perfect for my project!" she exclaimed. Mum sat beside her, watching clouds drift by. "We walked through rain, mud, and fear to get here." Ivy nodded, leaning against her. "Because we did it together." Mum hugged her tight. "Always will."



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