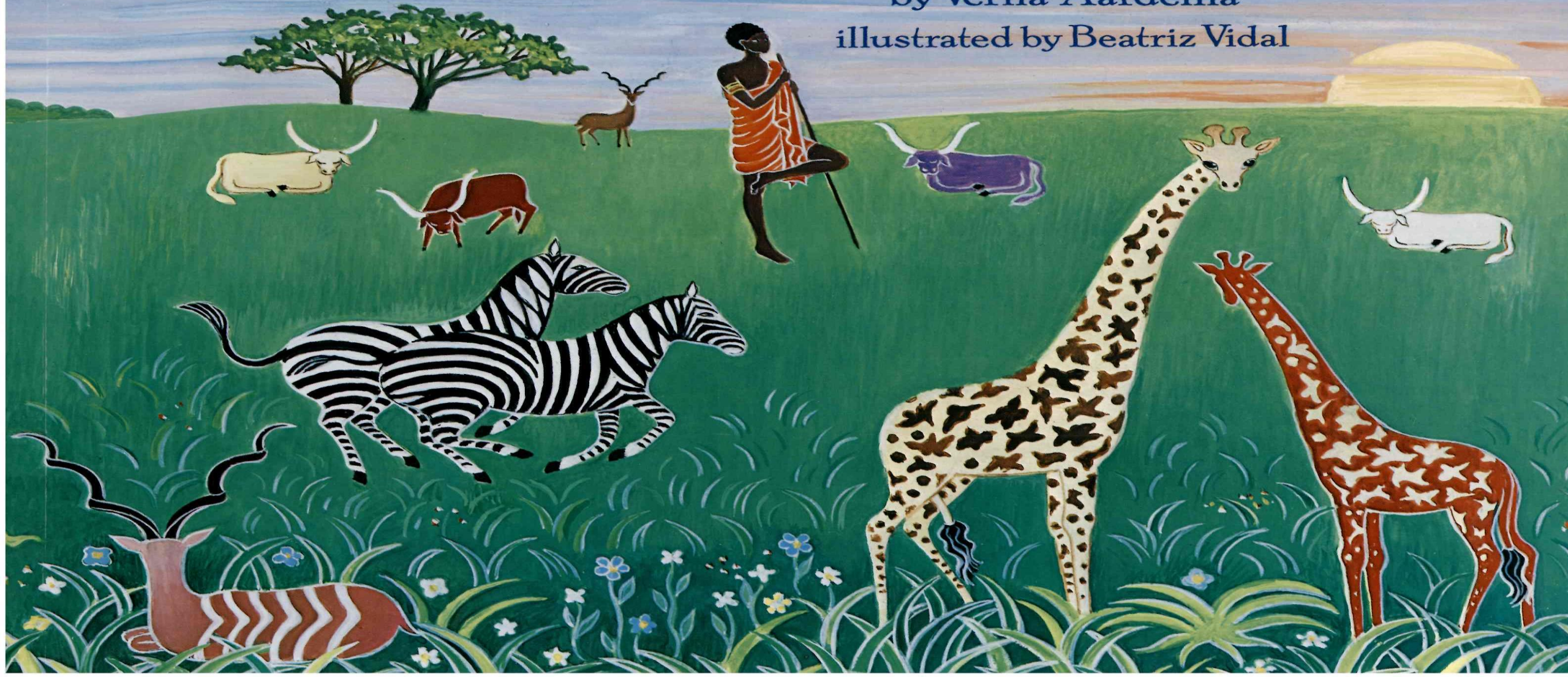
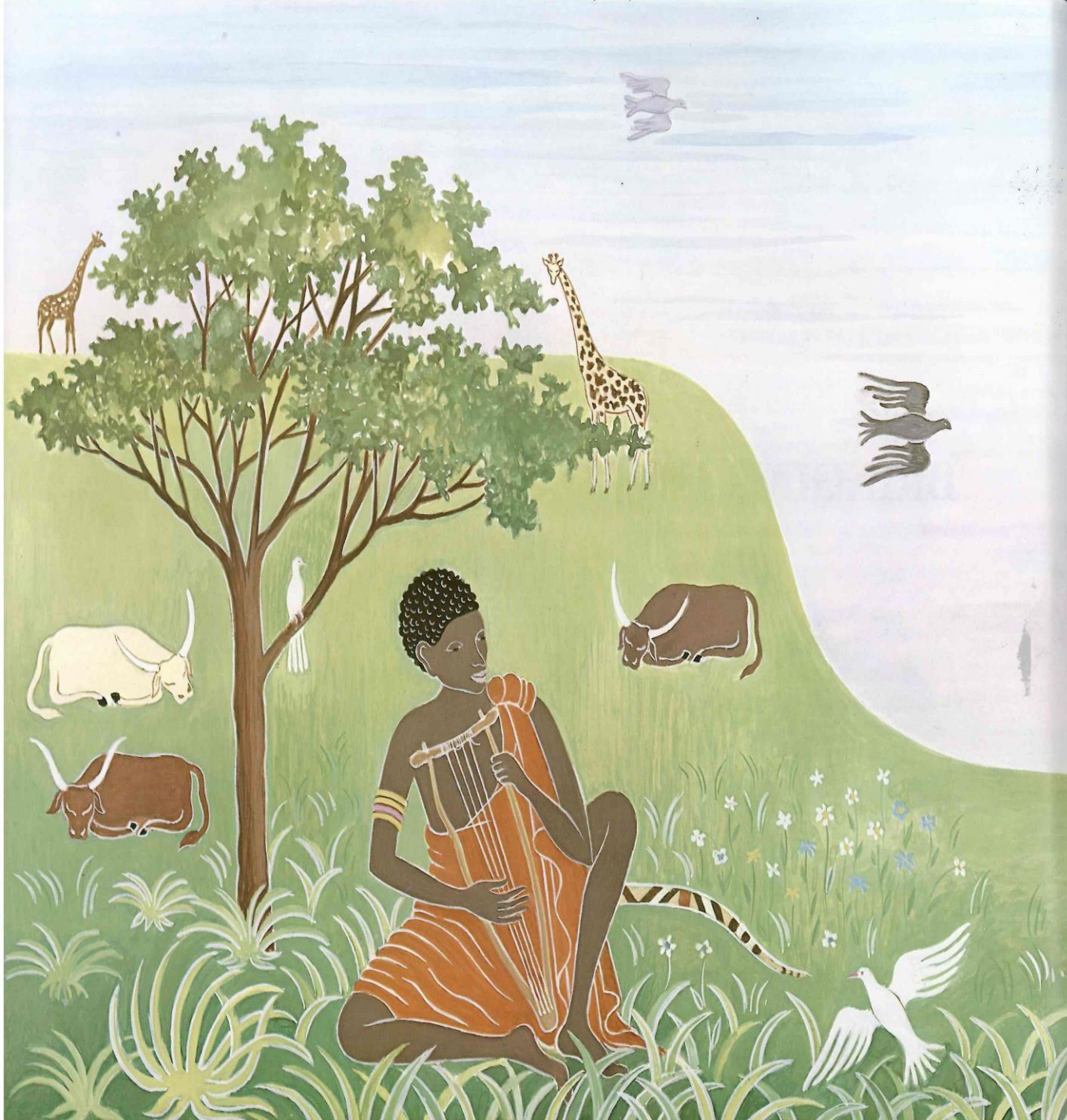


BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN

by Verna Aardema
illustrated by Beatriz Vidal



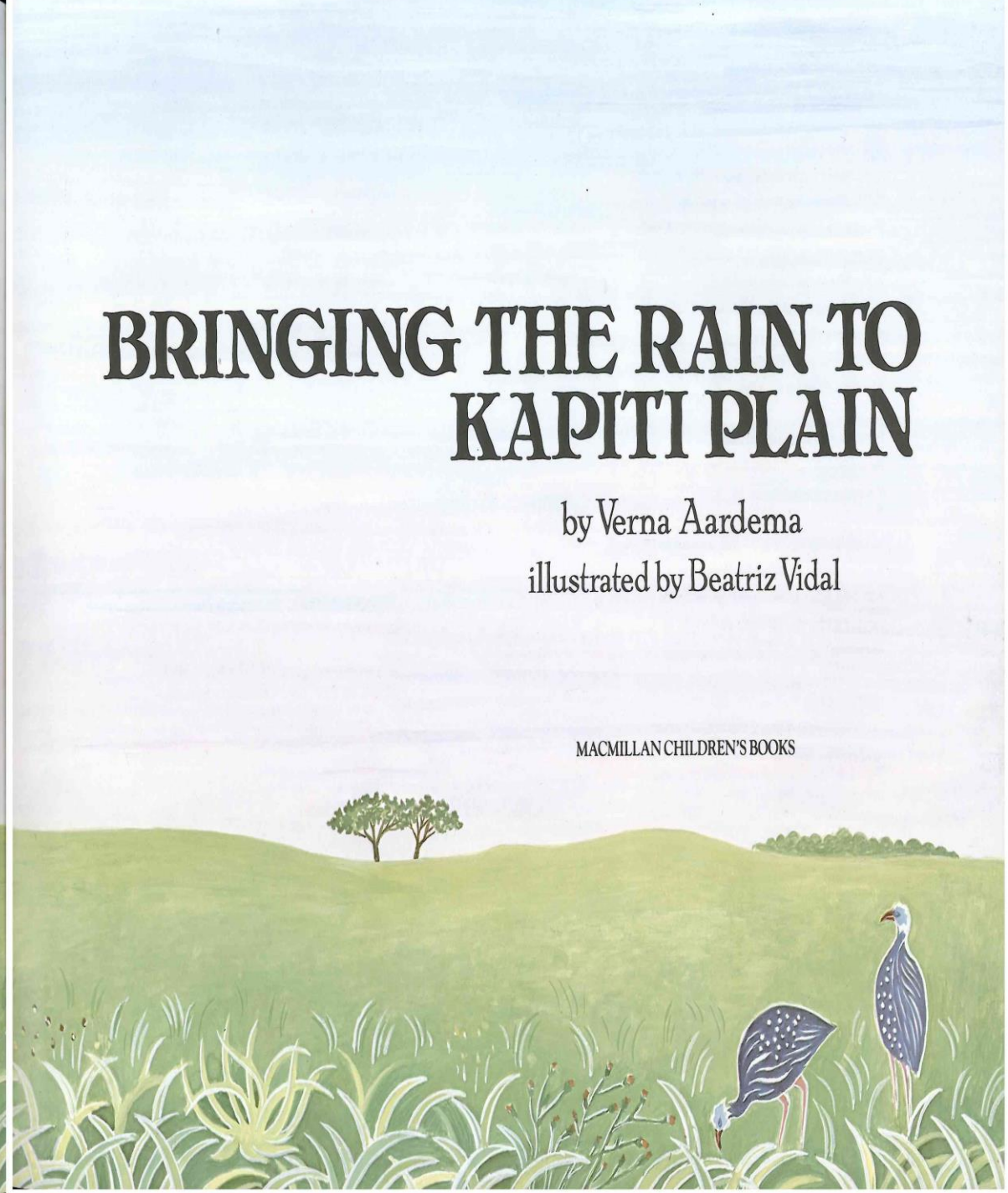
BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN



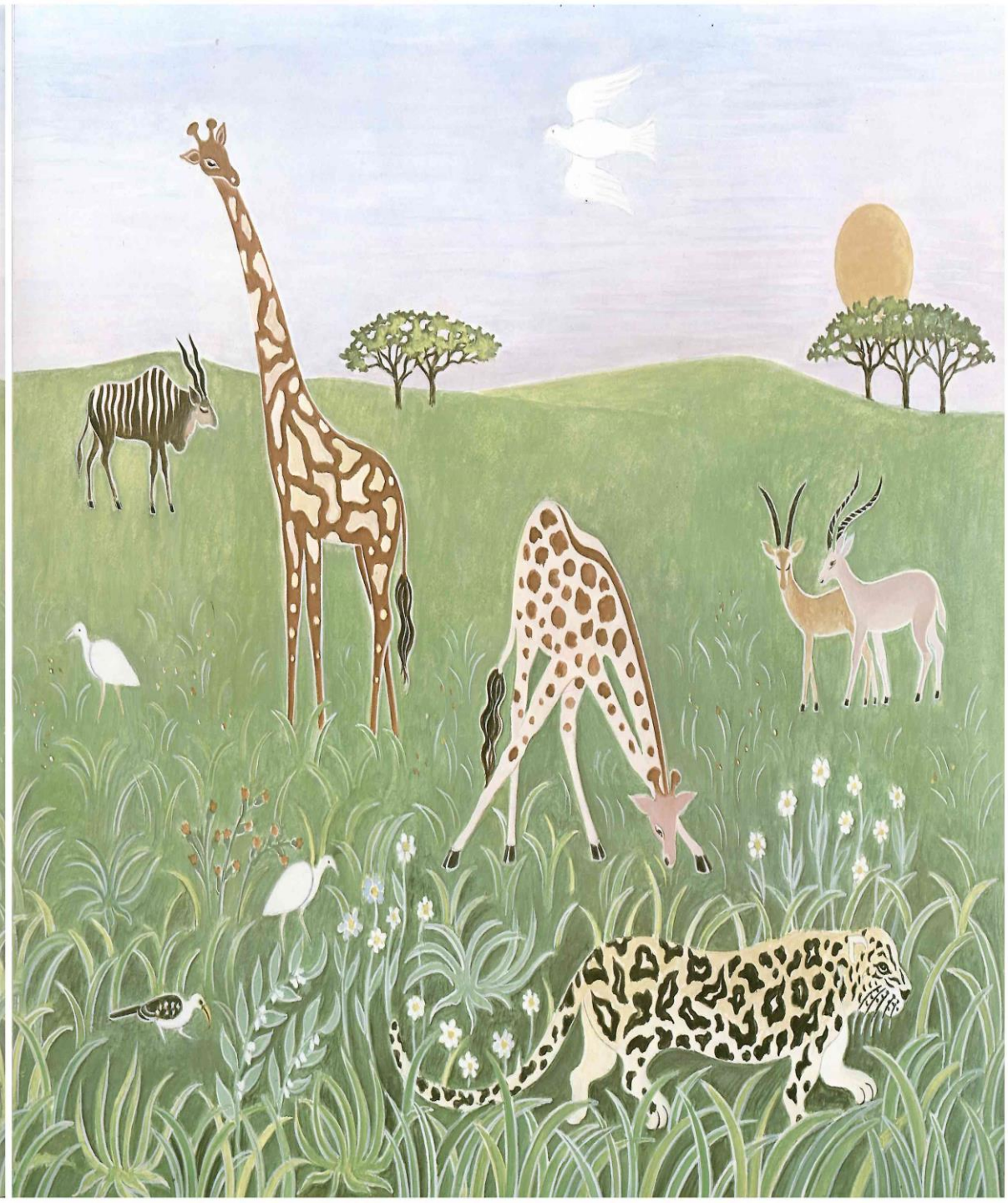
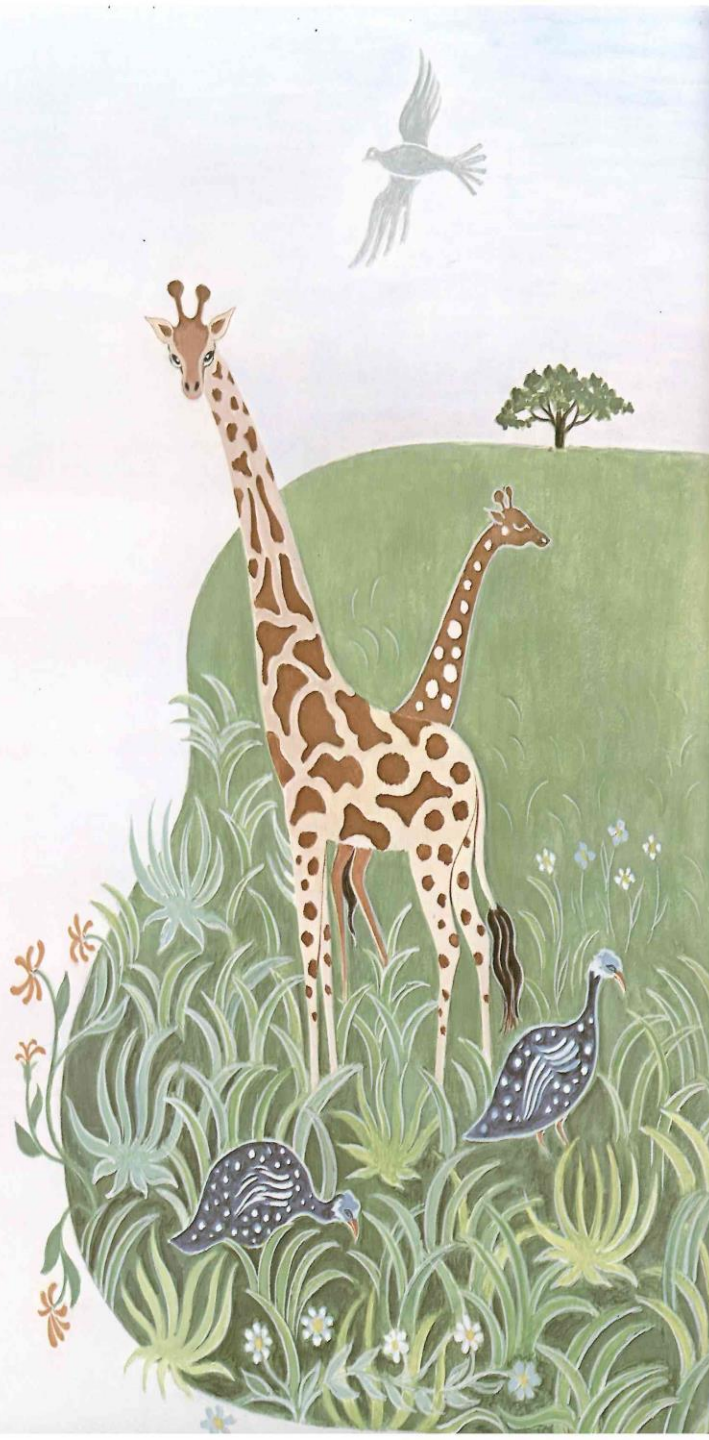
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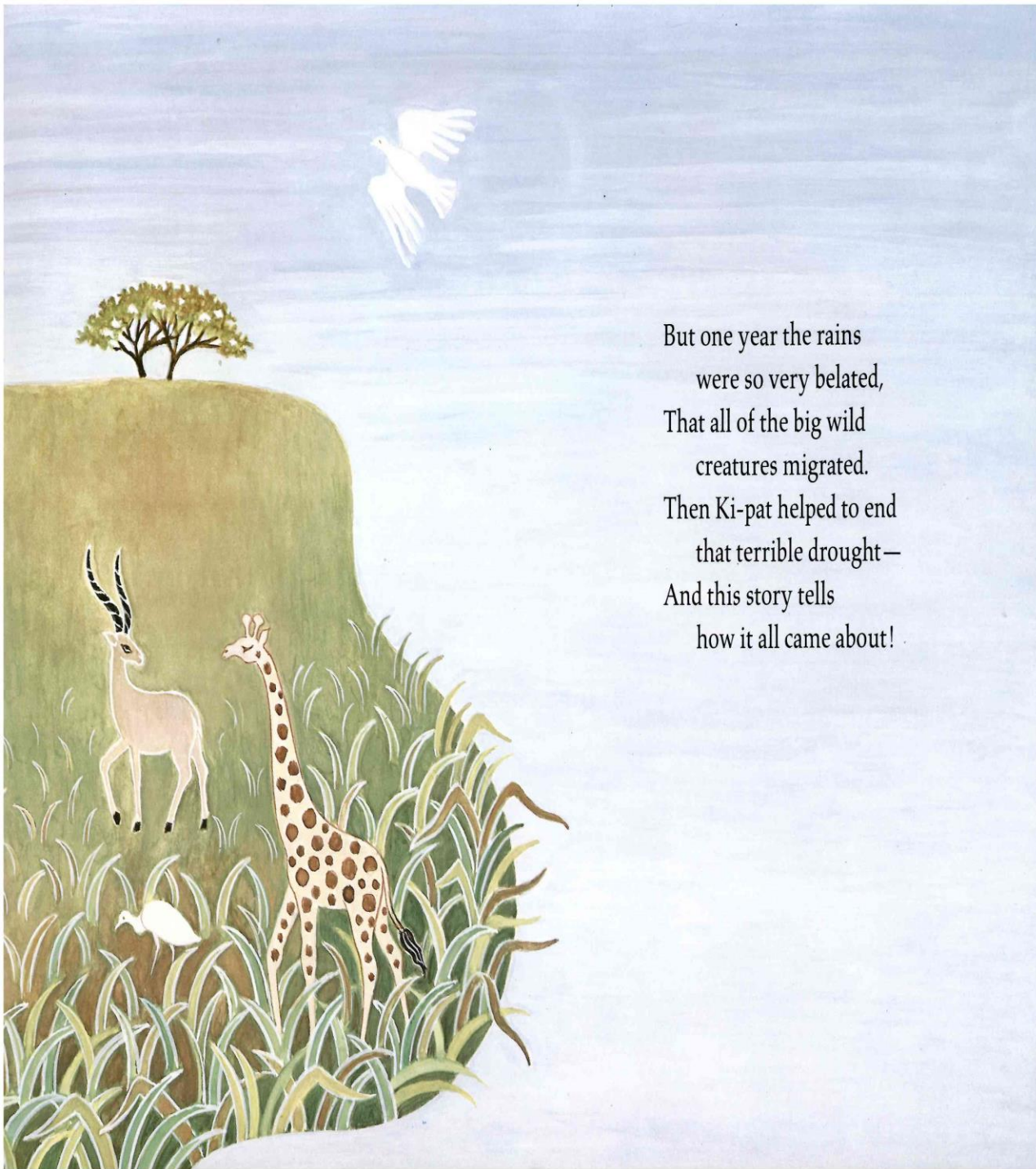
by Verna Aardema
illustrated by Beatriz Vidal

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS



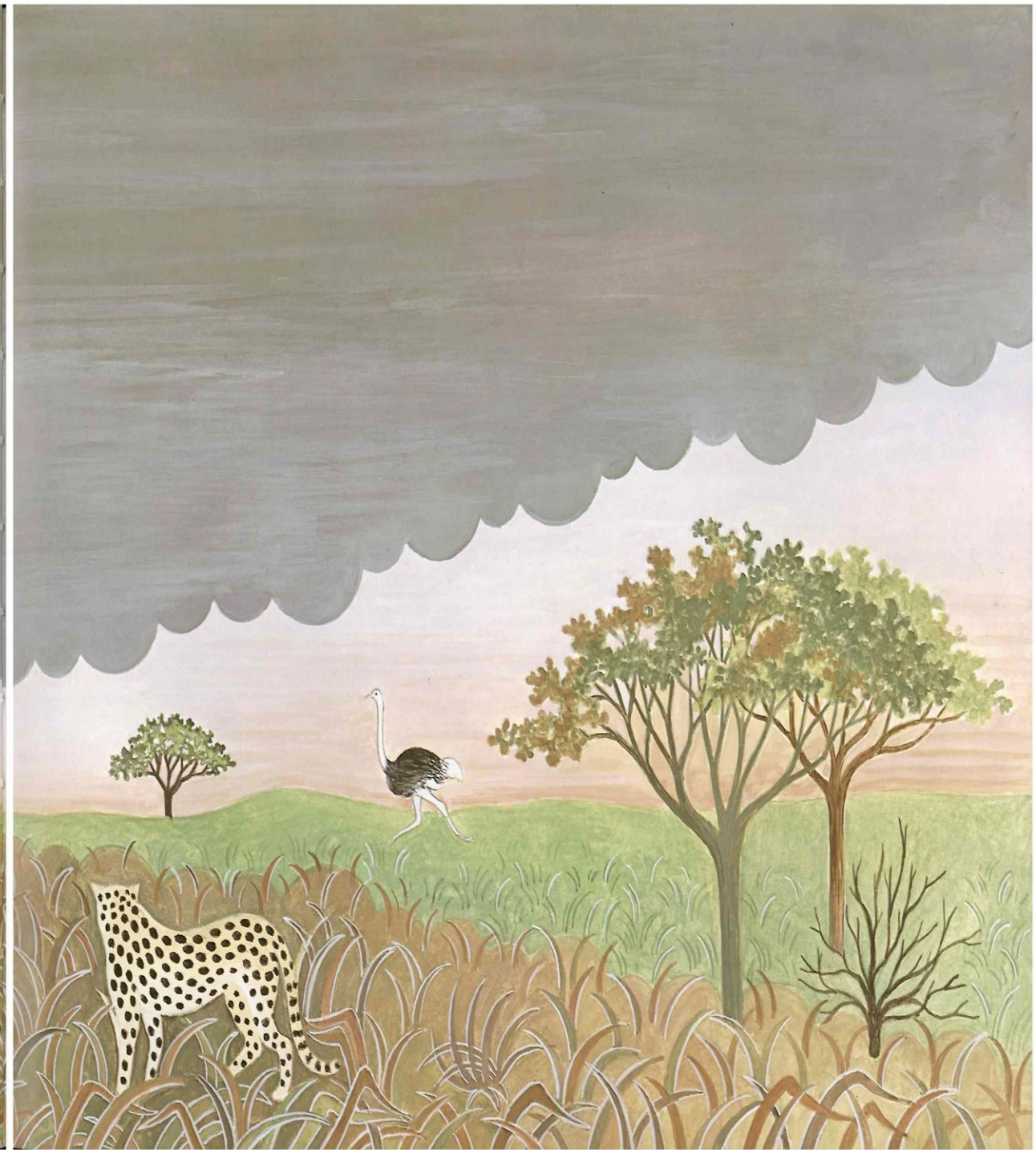
This is the great
Kapiti Plain,
All fresh and green
from the African rains—
A sea of grass for the
ground birds to nest in,
And patches of shade for
wild creatures to rest in;
With acacia trees for
giraffes to browse on,
And grass for the herdsmen
to pasture their cows on.





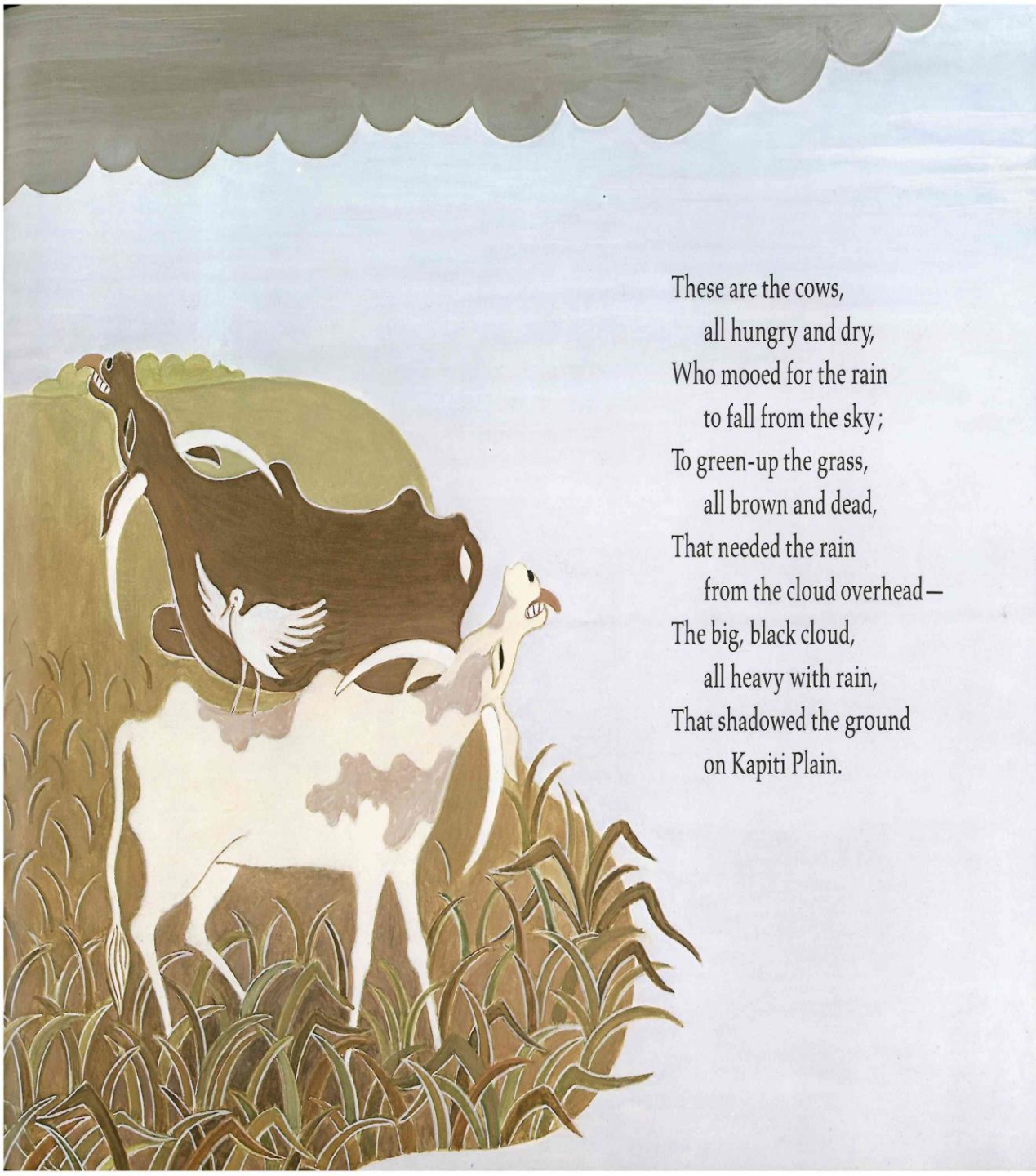
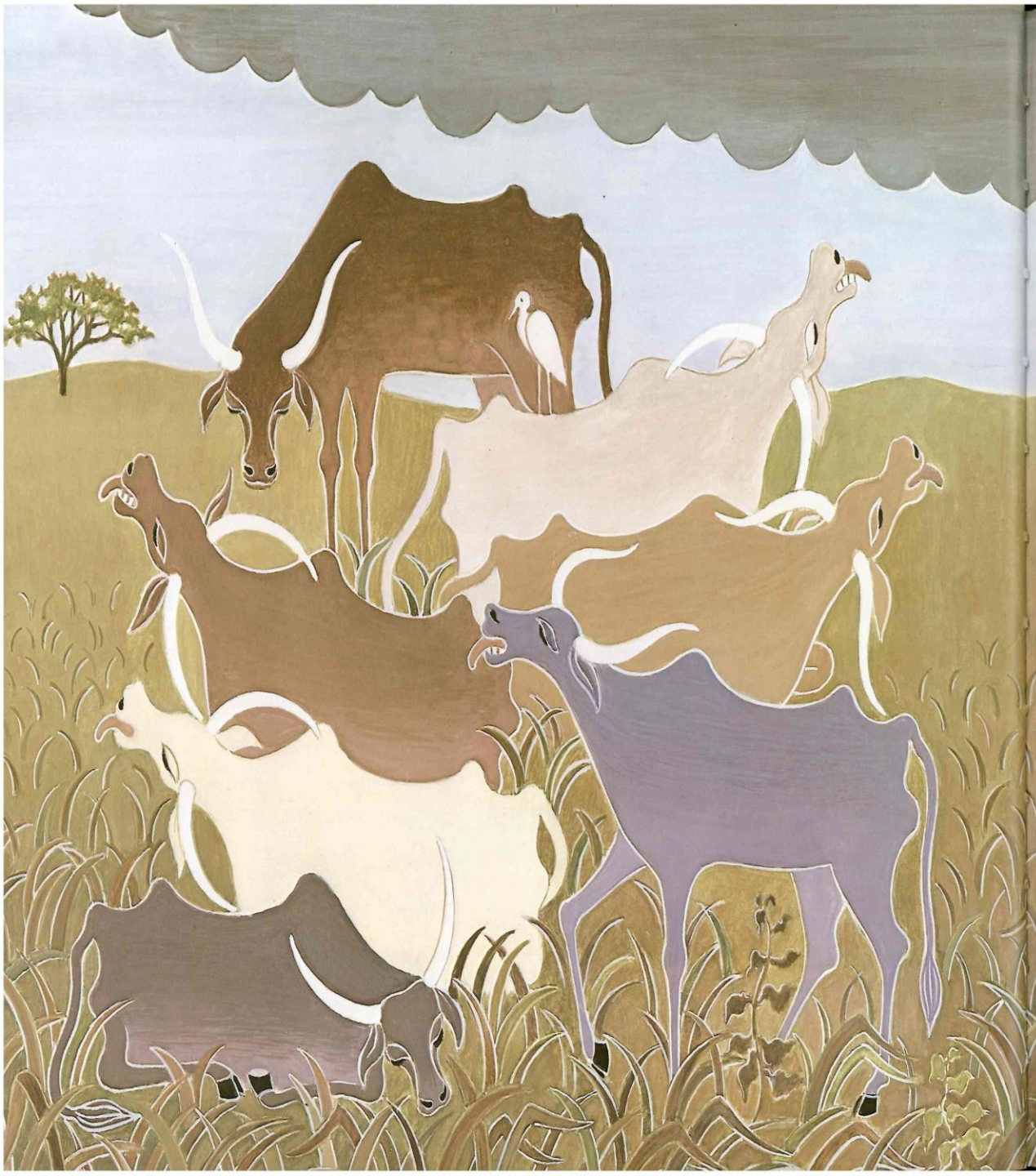
But one year the rains
were so very belated,
That all of the big wild
creatures migrated.
Then Ki-pat helped to end
that terrible drought—
And this story tells
how it all came about!

This is the cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



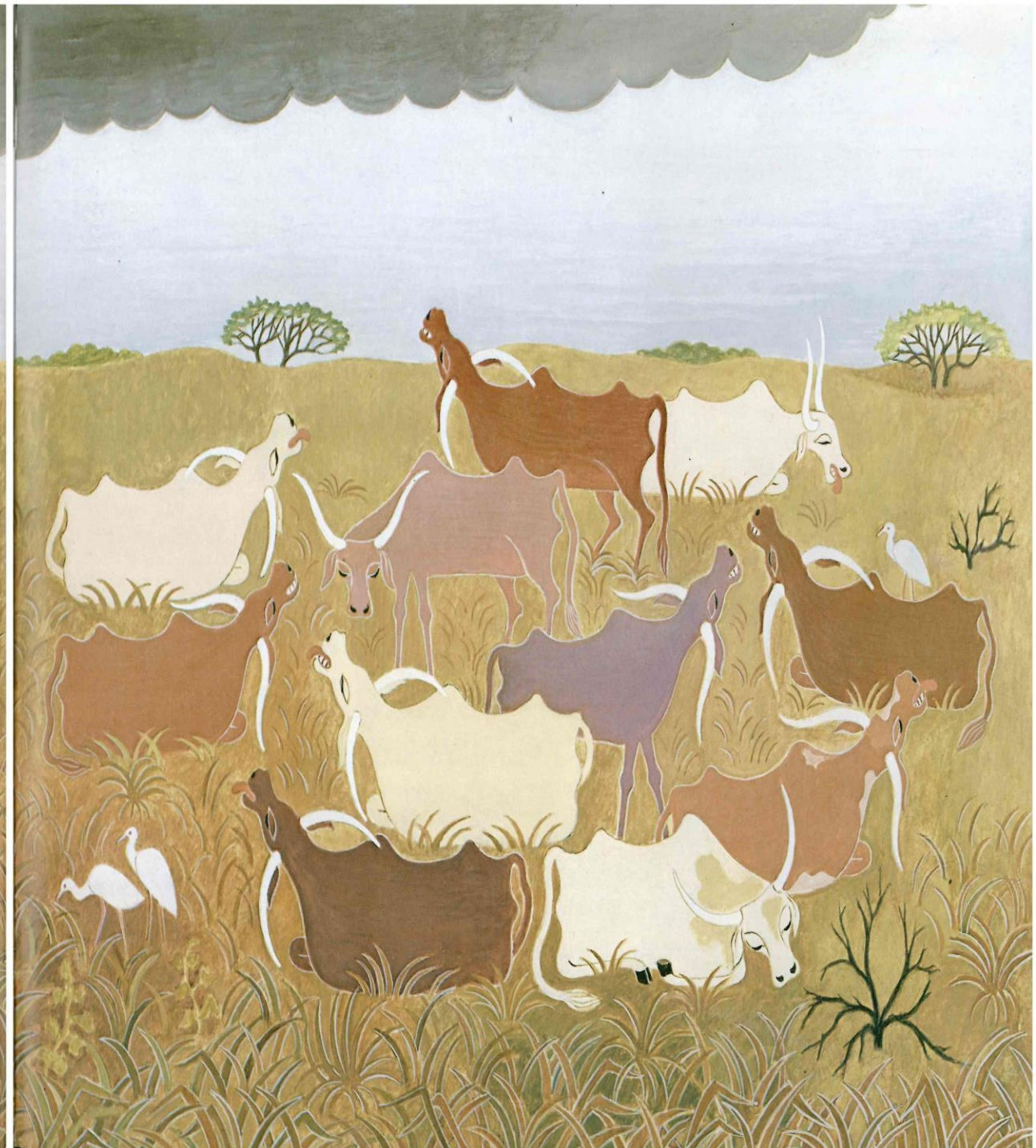
This is the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.





These are the cows,
all hungry and dry,
Who mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.

This is Ki-pat,
 who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
 like the big stork bird;
Ki-pat, whose cows
 were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
 to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
 all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
 from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
 all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
 on Kapiti Plain.





This is the eagle
 who dropped a feather,
A feather that helped
 to change the weather.
It fell near Ki-pat,
 who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
 like the big stork bird;
Ki-pat, whose cows
 were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
 to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
 all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
 from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
 all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
 on Kapiti Plain.

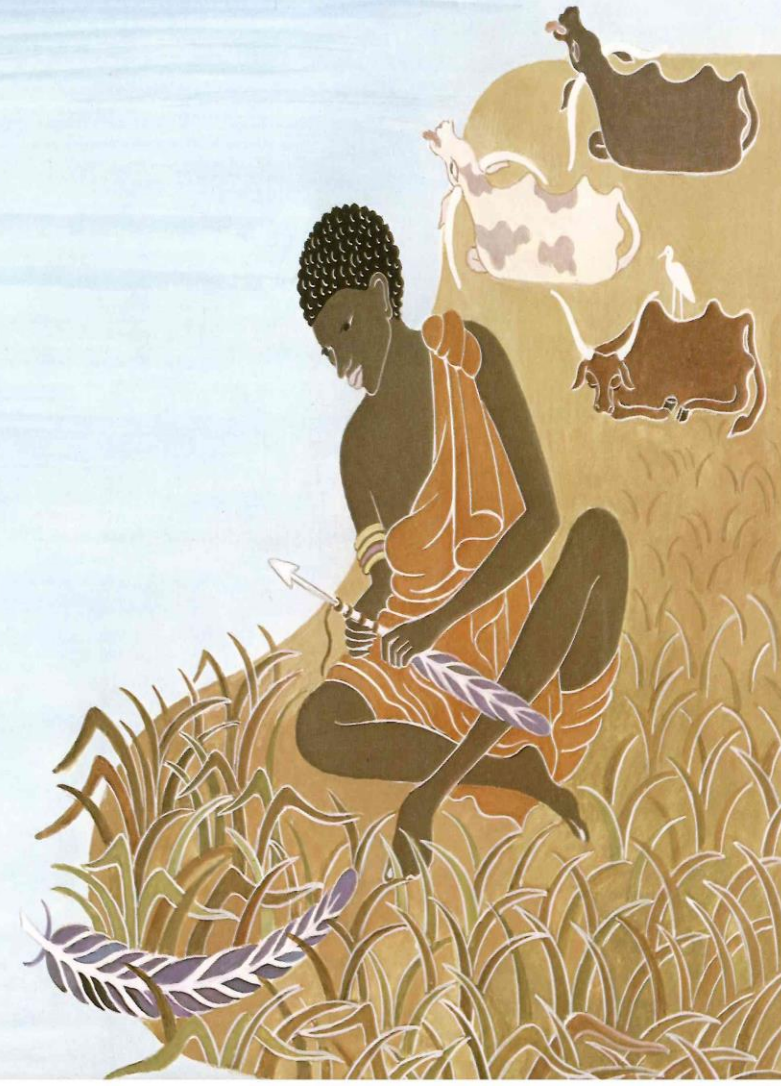





This is the arrow
Ki-pat put together,
With a slender stick
and an eagle feather;
From the eagle who happened
to drop a feather,
A feather that helped
to change the weather.




It fell near Ki-pat,
who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
like the big stork bird;
Ki-pat, whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.

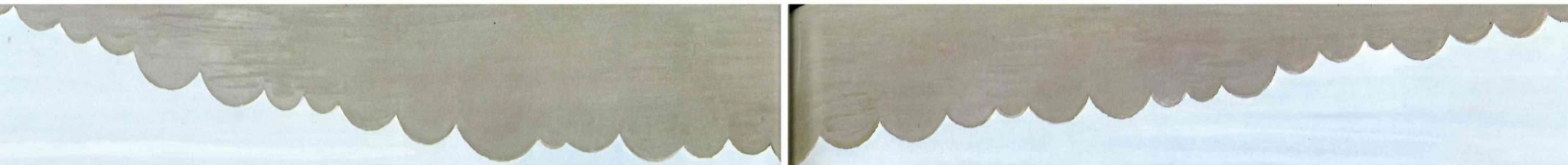


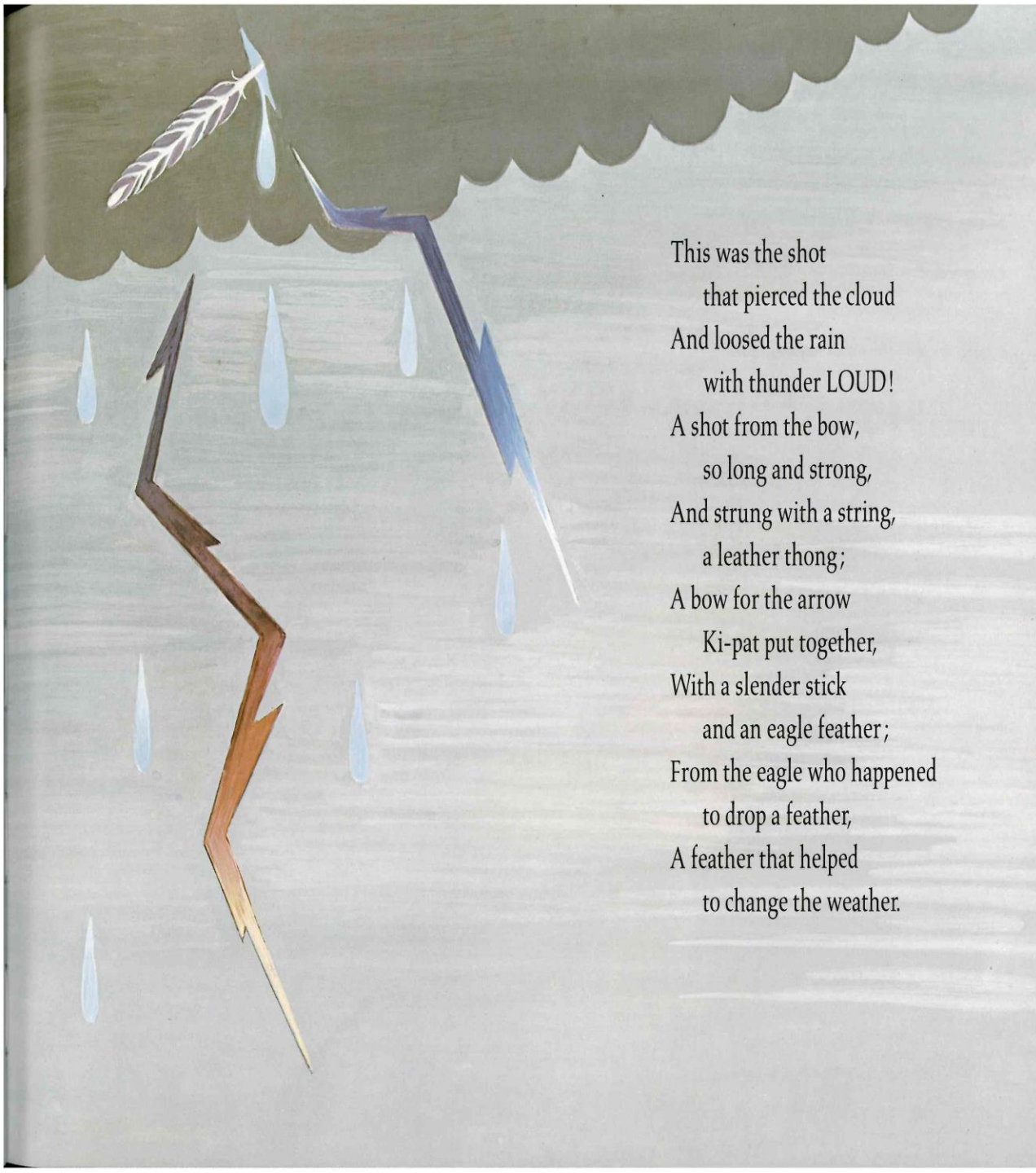


This is the bow,
so long and strong,
And strung with a string,
a leather thong;
A bow for the arrow
Ki-pat put together,
With a slender stick
and an eagle feather;
From the eagle who happened
to drop a feather,
A feather that helped
to change the weather.



It fell near Ki-pat,
who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
like the big stork bird;
Ki-pat, whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They moored for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.

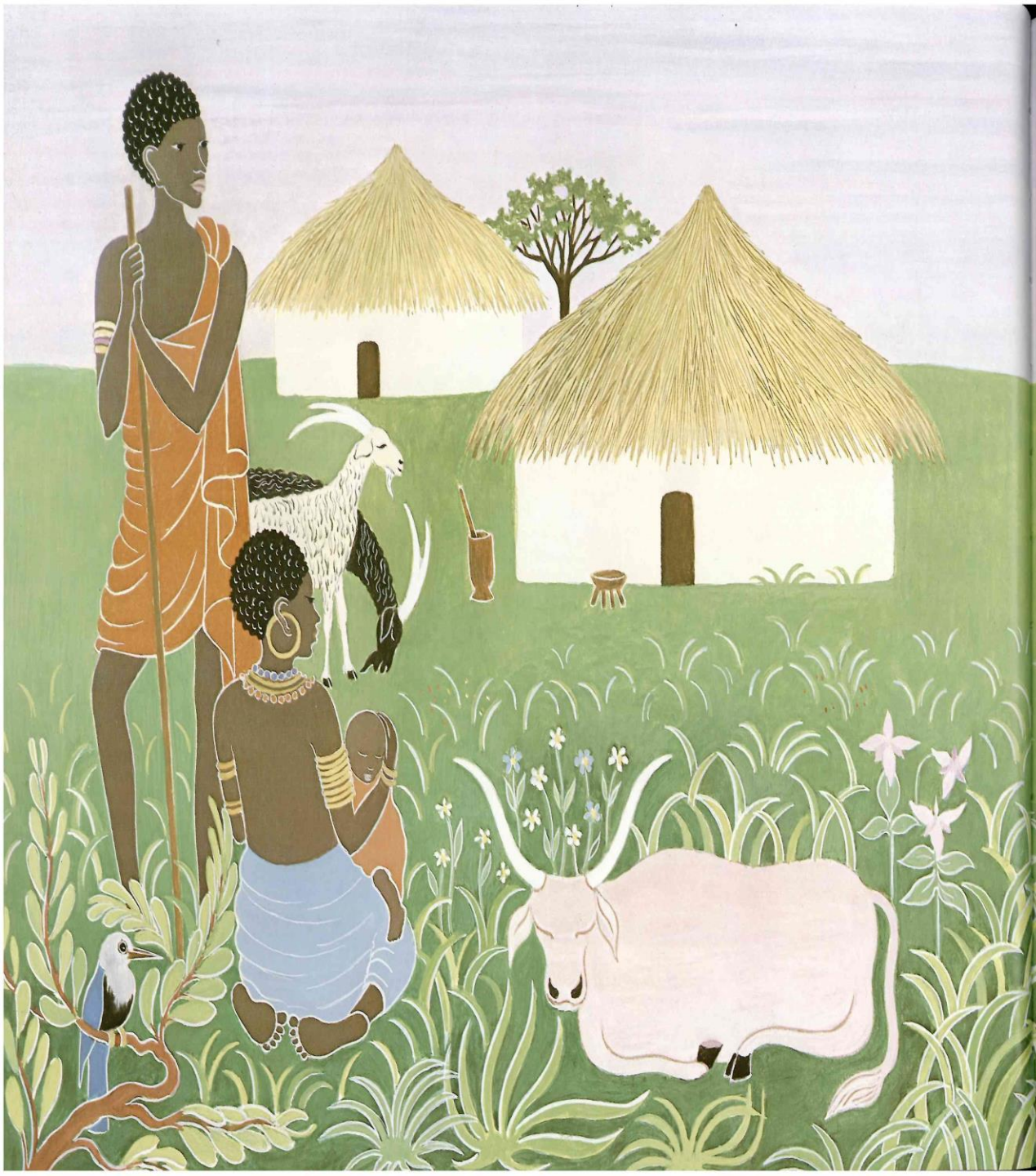




This was the shot
that pierced the cloud
And loosed the rain
with thunder LOUD!
A shot from the bow,
so long and strong,
And strung with a string,
a leather thong;
A bow for the arrow
Ki-pat put together,
With a slender stick
and an eagle feather;
From the eagle who happened
to drop a feather,
A feather that helped
to change the weather.

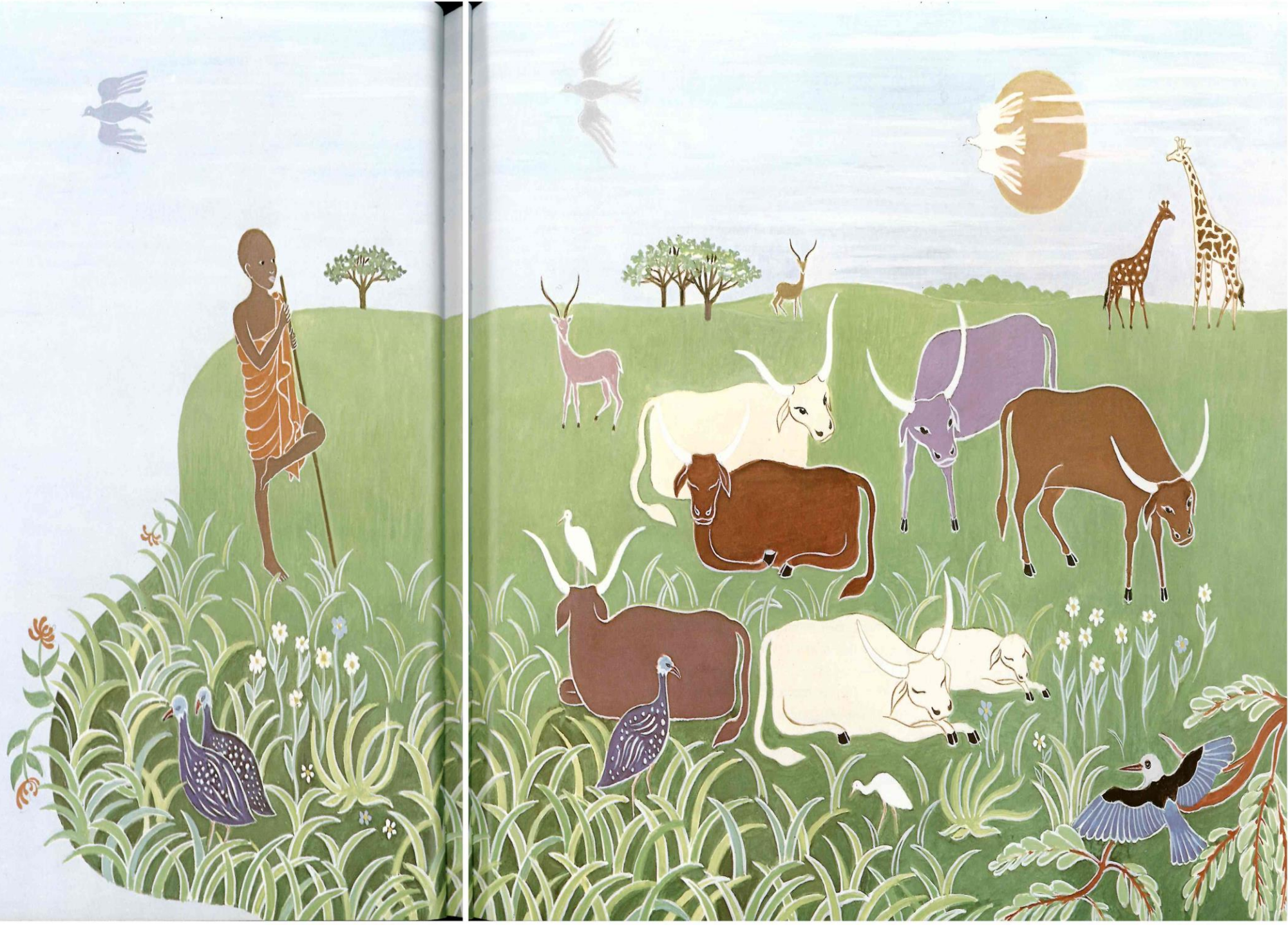
It fell near Ki-pat,
 who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
 like the big stork bird;
Ki-pat, whose cows
 were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
 to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
 all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
 from the cloud overhead—
The big, black cloud,
 all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
 on Kapiti Plain.





So the grass grew green,
and the cattle fat!
And Ki-pat got a wife
and a little Ki-pat—

Who tends the cows now,
and shoots down the rain,
When black clouds shadow
Kapiti Plain.



About the Author

Verna Aardema was a highly acclaimed storyteller and the author of many books of African folktales. Her second book for Dial, *Who's in Rabbit's House?*, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, was an American Library Association Notable Children's Book and a *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year, 1977. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, also illustrated by the Dillons, was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1976 and was chosen as an American Library Association Notable Children's Book, as was a third Aardema-Dillon collaboration, *Behind the Back of the Mountain*.

Ms. Aardema was born in New Era, Michigan, and received her degree in journalism from Michigan State University. She lived in Muskegon, Michigan, with her husband, Dr. Joel Vugteveen.

About the Artist

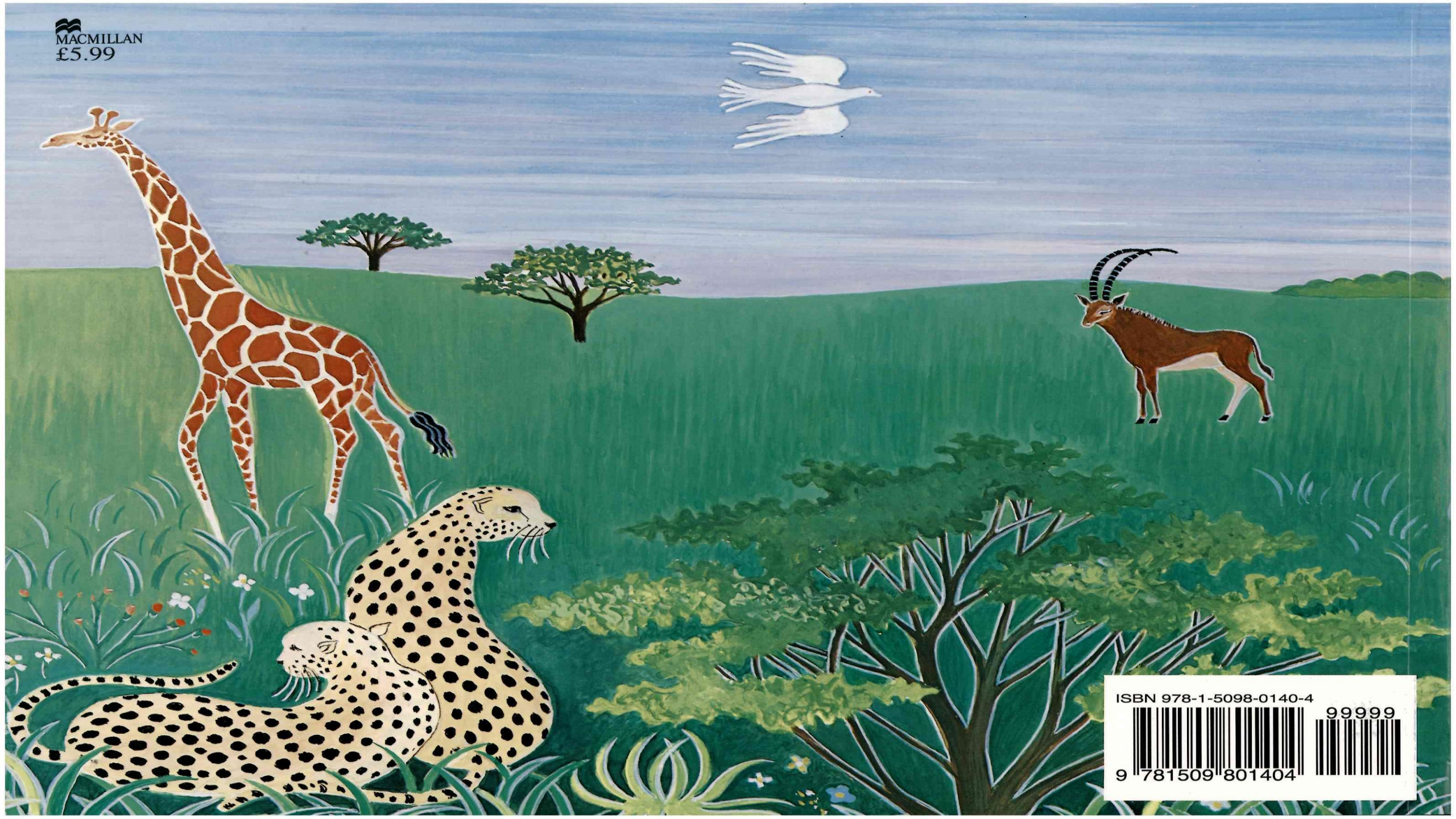
Beatriz Vidal was born in Argentina and received her Bachelor of Arts from Córdoba University. She has studied art with Ilonka Karasz, and her illustrations have appeared on UNICEF cards and publications including *Vogue* and *Woman's Day*.

Ms. Vidal currently lives in New York City. This was her first children's book.

About the Tale

This tale was discovered in Kenya, Africa, more than seventy years ago by the famous anthropologist Sir Claud Hollis. Sir Claud camped near a Nandi village and learned the native language from two young boys. He learned riddles and proverbs from the Nandi children, and most of the folktales from the Chief Medicine Man. This tale reminded Sir Claud of a cumulative nursery rhyme he had loved as a boy in England, one also familiar to us—"The House That Jack Built." So he called the story "The Nandi House That Jack Built" and included it in his book *The Nandi: Their Language and Folklore*, published in 1909. Verna Aardema has brought the original story closer to the English nursery rhyme by putting in a cumulative refrain and giving the tale the rhythm of "The House That Jack Built."

MACMILLAN
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