


Guia Risari | Anna Godeassi

when I grow up

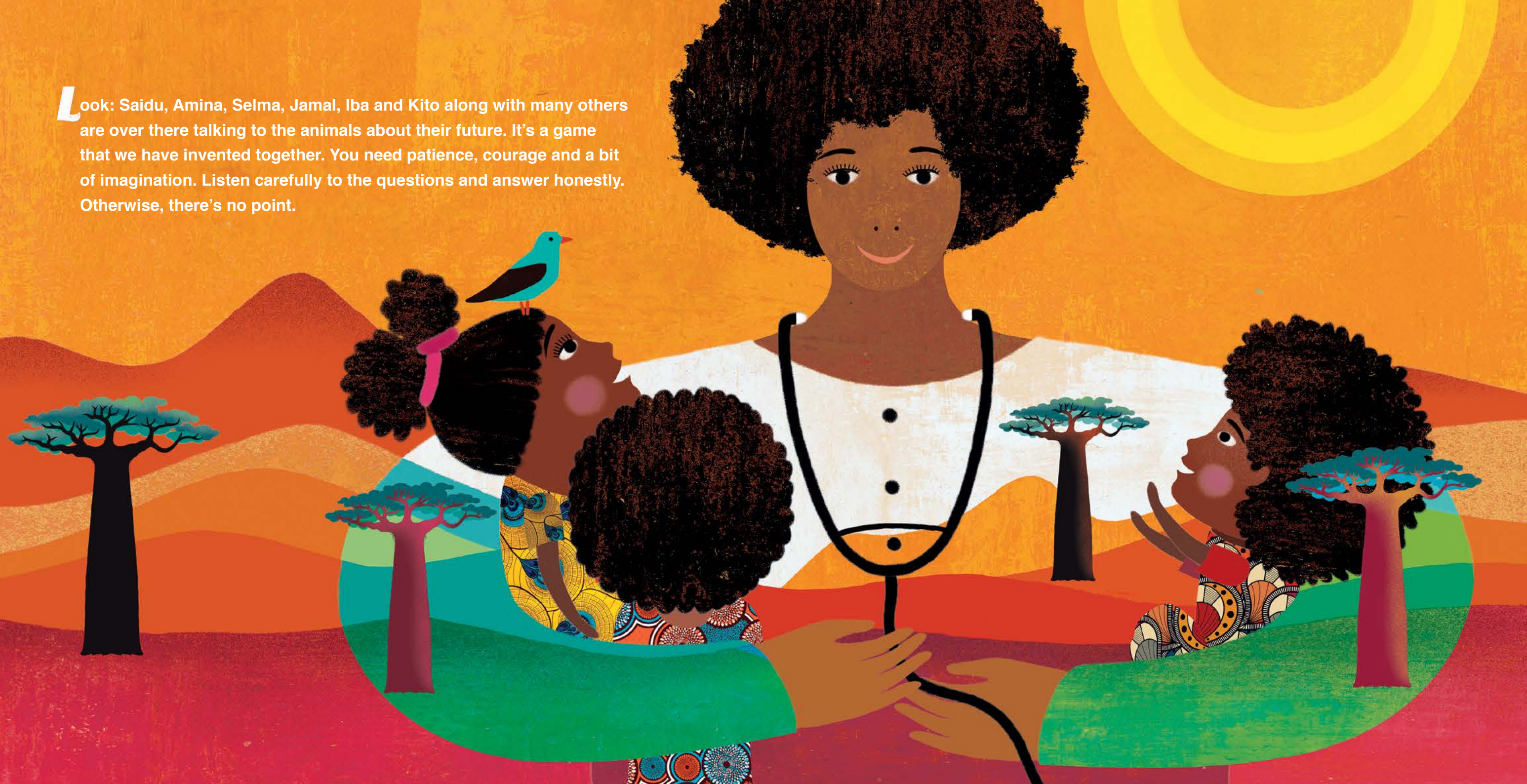


DOCTORS
WITH AFRICA
CUAMM



To the children, walking on their dreams
To the mothers, standing beside them

Look: Saidu, Amina, Selma, Jamal, Iba and Kito along with many others are over there talking to the animals about their future. It's a game that we have invented together. You need patience, courage and a bit of imagination. Listen carefully to the questions and answer honestly. Otherwise, there's no point.






What do you want to be when you grow up? A zebra asks.

When I grow up, I'll be a teacher: I'll teach people how to read, how to count, and how to find every country on a map. Together we'll draw, we'll do exercise and we'll sing in a chorus. Together we'll make cardboard masks to hang in the classroom. Every boy and girl will be heard.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A lion asks.

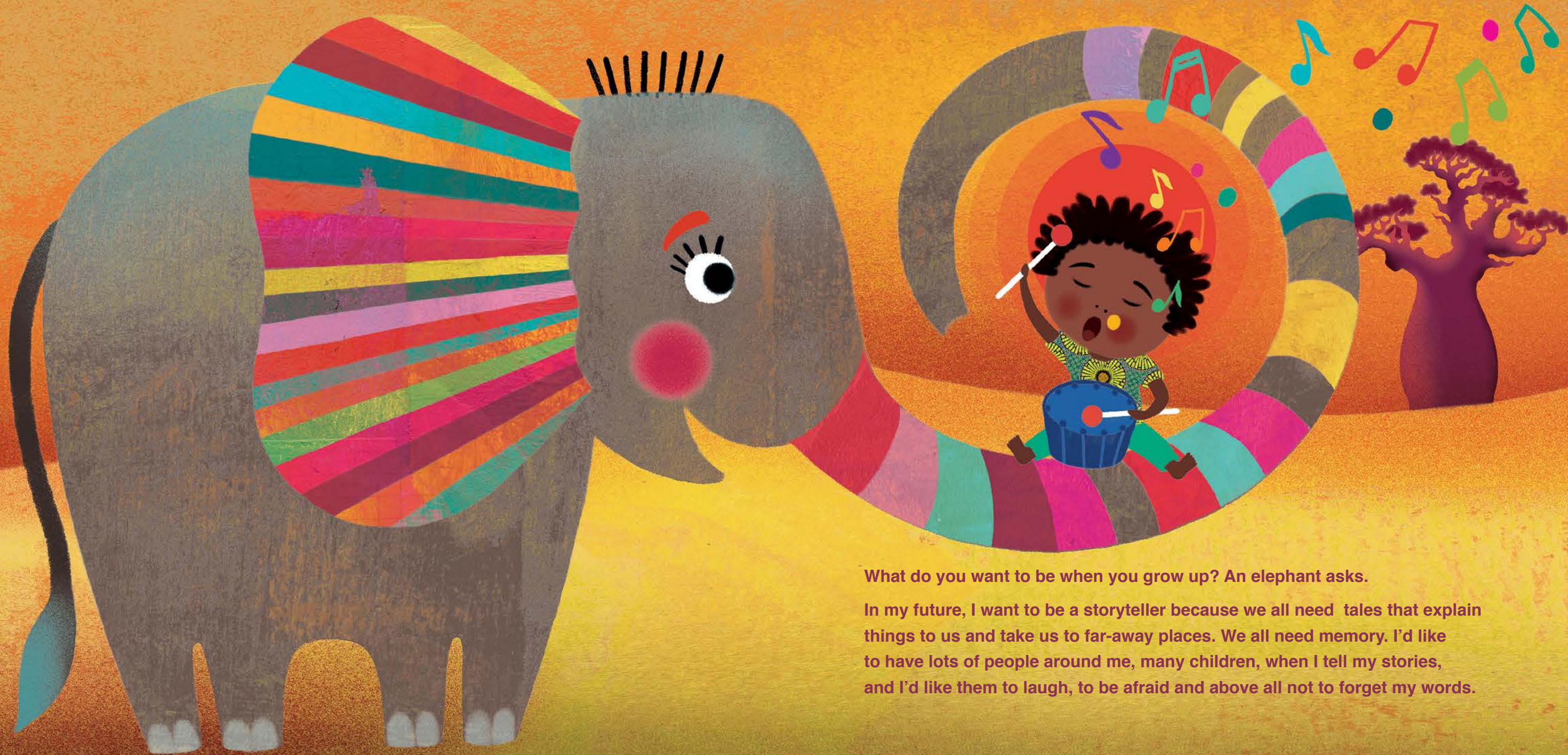
I would like to be a doctor to give hope to those who are sick. I would always wear a doctor's white coat: I'd go around with a stethoscope around my neck and a thermometer in my pocket. I would examine every patient carefully because each person is important and I would cure them with medicine, vaccines and smiles. You also need those for getting better, right?





What do you want to be when you grow up?
An ostrich asks.

I'd like to be a mechanic. To polish cars, repaint them, but above all to repair tires and engines, the most important things. Cars connect villages and carry food, messages and medicine. You don't need them only for going on trips or to the river. And I would check that these cars, a bit like our legs, are healthy and strong, capable of whizzing around a race-track. And all of them with a fantastic horn. Beep beep!



What do you want to be when you grow up? An elephant asks.

In my future, I want to be a storyteller because we all need tales that explain things to us and take us to far-away places. We all need memory. I'd like to have lots of people around me, many children, when I tell my stories, and I'd like them to laugh, to be afraid and above all not to forget my words.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A giraffe asks.

I would like to help deliver babies, who are the joy of the world. It's an important job and I think I can do it. Other people would help me, but I would be the one to welcome the baby into this world. I know that women usually do this job, but I think that men too shouldn't be ashamed of loving life.



What do you want to be when you grow up? A crocodile asks.

When I grow up, I'll be a fisherman. I'll sail on boats as light as the wind and I'll catch big fish and tiny fish. With a bit of luck, my nets will always be full. Sometimes we'll have to escape the waves. Sometimes the fish will be too clever. But I would return home with the same desire to succeed.





What do you want to be when you grow up? A monkey asks.

I would like to work as a dressmaker. Already when I was little, I made dolls from leaves and earth, dressed like princesses. Now that I'm older, my aunt teaches me after school to cut and sew, and soon I'll make a skirt all by myself. Yes, well, almost. The fabric is beautiful: it's blue cotton and I really hope that I don't make too many mistakes.

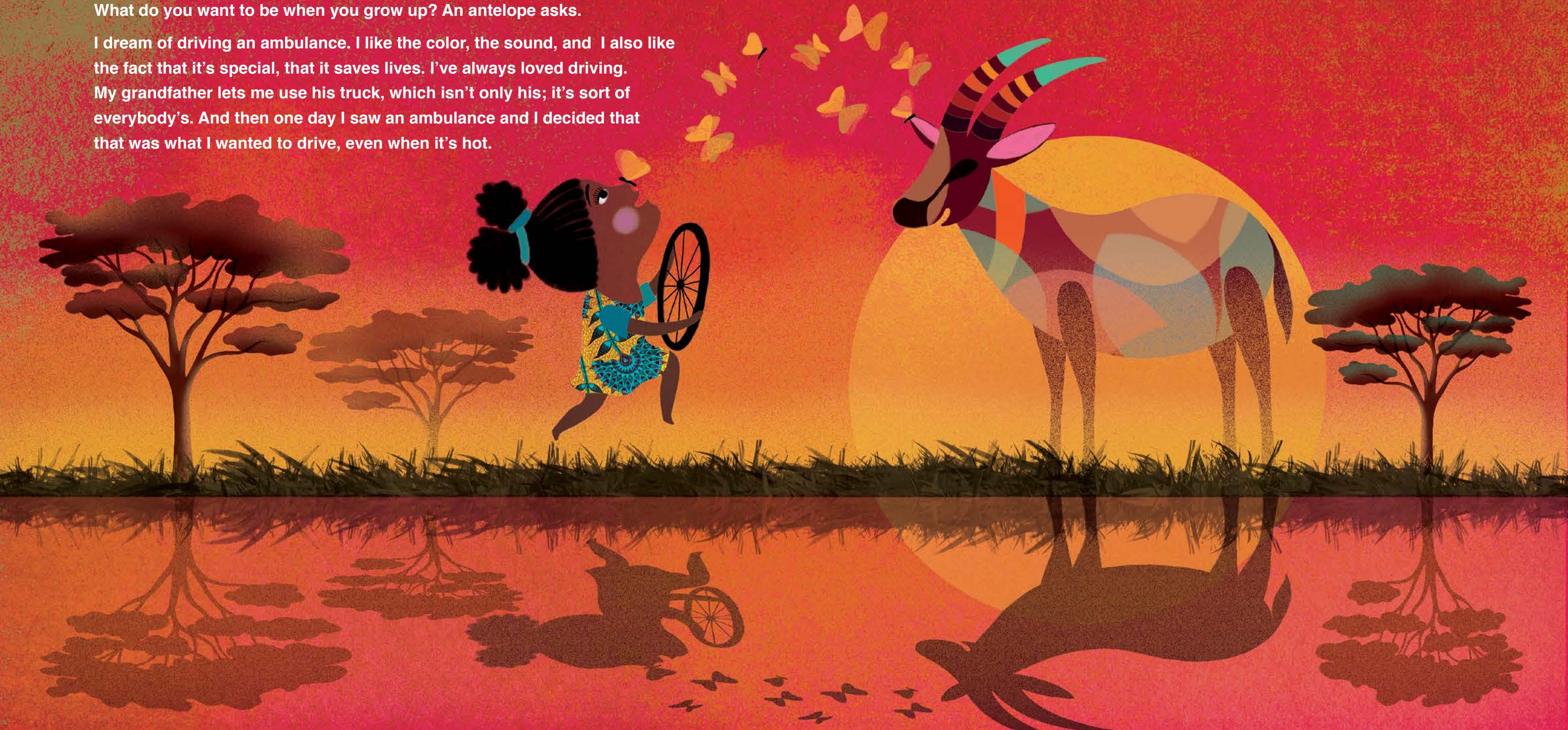
What do you want to be when you grow up? A rhinoceros asks.

What do I want to be? I'll have the biggest herd in Africa and I'll bring it with me to graze. Over my oxen a cloud of pink vapor will rise, a cloud the birds will mistake for the sunset. I would walk for hours to find water and I would rest under a tree, where I would gaze at the horizon.



What do you want to be when you grow up? An antelope asks.

I dream of driving an ambulance. I like the color, the sound, and I also like the fact that it's special, that it saves lives. I've always loved driving. My grandfather lets me use his truck, which isn't only his; it's sort of everybody's. And then one day I saw an ambulance and I decided that that was what I wanted to drive, even when it's hot.



What do you want to be when you grow up? A hippopotamus asks.

I would like to be a cook and create recipes to get excited about. I would work in a street stand because that's really where you need emotions. And I would love to express them through tastes: sweet, savory, sour, spicy and also a little bitter. It's like a rule for living well.





What do you want to be when you grow up? A mongoose asks.

I will be a community worker. I'll visit the villages and teach people how to avoid getting sick and cook nutritious dishes. I'll respond to difficult questions with answers that are sensible and helpful. I will try to intervene in disagreements, helping everyone to reconcile their differences. But I will also play with the children to train their minds. Just the way she does, getting us to think about the future and talk to the animals.

Come on, children!

Saisu, Amina, Selma, Jamal, Iba and Kito!

Have you finished? Now do you know what you want
to be when you grow up? Shall we talk about it?

Leave those poor animals alone...Come here: today is your last day in hospital.

Soon you'll return home. You'll be happy, and you'll be able
to grow and fulfill your dreams.

So come!





When I grow up is a tale published by Doctors with Africa CUAMM on occasion of Mother's Day, written by Guia Risari and drawn by Anna Godeassi.

A story halfway between fantasy and reality that depicts children's dreams. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is the question everyone has been asked once in their childhood.

A question unveiling feelings of hope and high expectations that African mothers hardly ask to their children whose future is uncertain due to health conditions and preventable diseases.

Every year, in sub-Saharan Africa 265 women die due to childbirth and 1,2 million children lose their lives in their first month of life. Behind those figures there are people, desires and destinies interrupted before time.

This tale is about these children and the dreams they had neither the time nor the means to make come true. In the background, CUAMM's commitment and the dedication of its humanitarian workers who work around the clock to take care of the children, their health and dreams. From hospitals to health centres to the most remote villages reached by mobile health

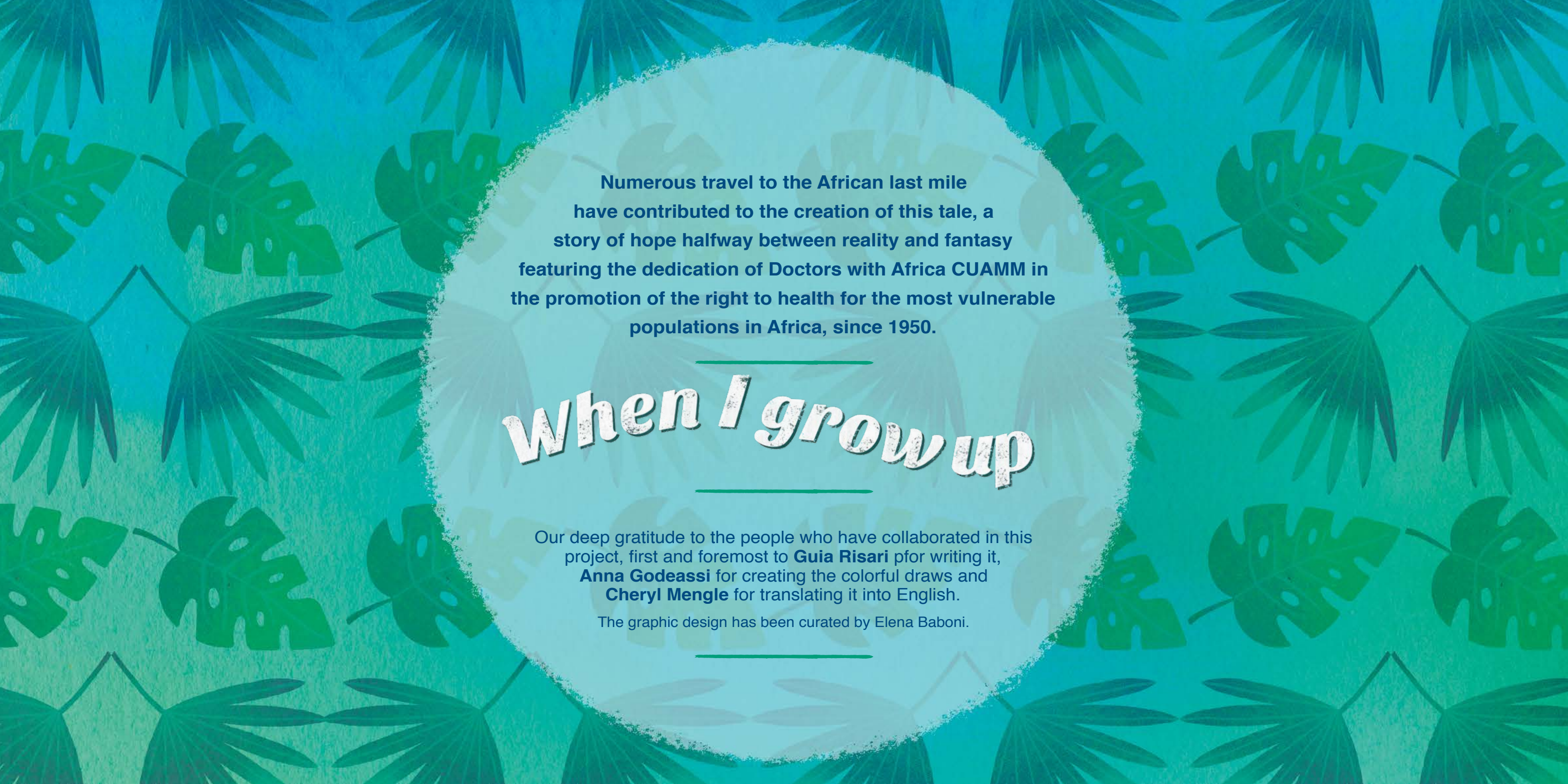


clinic, CUAMM's doctors, nurses and midwives work with little means to ensure health services to those most in need and to support the learning of local personnel. In over 70 years of field activities, we have learned that shaping a better future is possible by strengthening local healthcare systems and by creating concrete employment opportunities, as well as by training qualified healthcare workers willing to serve mothers and children, one dream at a time.

Help us stand with mothers and children and train those who take care of them. Support our work.

Doctors with Africa CUAMM
cuamm@cuamm.org
www.doctorswithafrica.org





Numerous travel to the African last mile
have contributed to the creation of this tale, a
story of hope halfway between reality and fantasy
featuring the dedication of Doctors with Africa CUAMM in
the promotion of the right to health for the most vulnerable
populations in Africa, since 1950.

when I grow up

Our deep gratitude to the people who have collaborated in this
project, first and foremost to **Guia Risari** pfor writing it,
Anna Godeassi for creating the colorful draws and
Cheryl Mengle for translating it into English.

The graphic design has been curated by Elena Baboni.
