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The Friendly Crocodile

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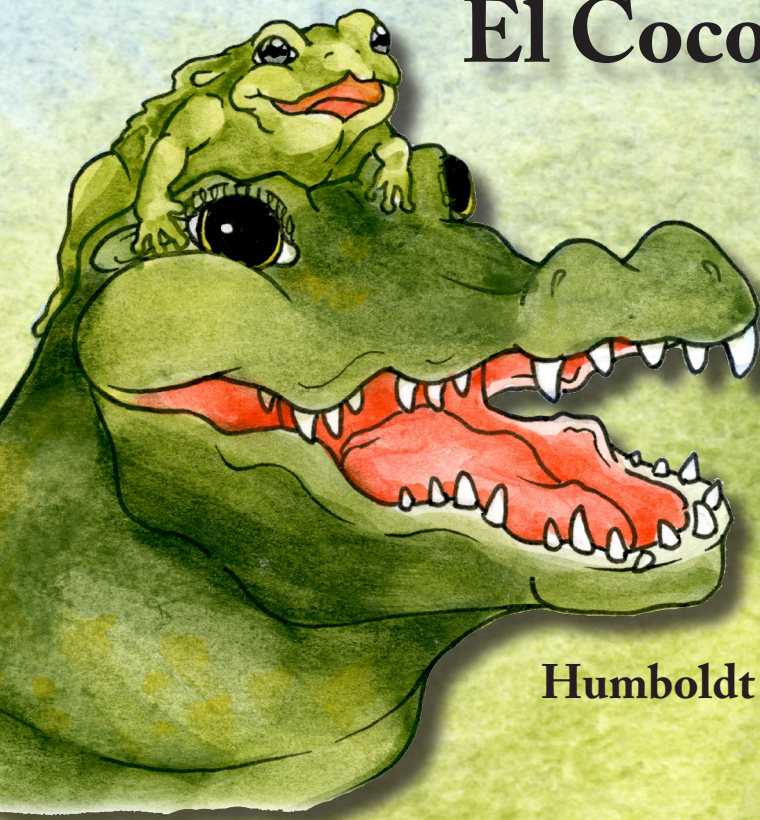
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The Friendly Crocodile

El Cocodrilo Amigable

By Katia G. Karadjova
Translated by Lilianet Brintrup
Illustrations by Emily Fernandes

Humboldt State University Press





**The Friendly Crocodile/El Cocodrilo Amigable
Bilingual English-Spanish version**

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Art by Emily Fernandes

Translation by Lilianet Brintrup

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The background of the page is a soft watercolor wash. On the left side, there are various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to a deeper cerulean. These blue washes blend into a pale, minty green that covers the right side of the page. The overall texture is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a gentle gradient of colors.

**I wrote this poem for my younger son,
Darian, when he was 5 years old.**

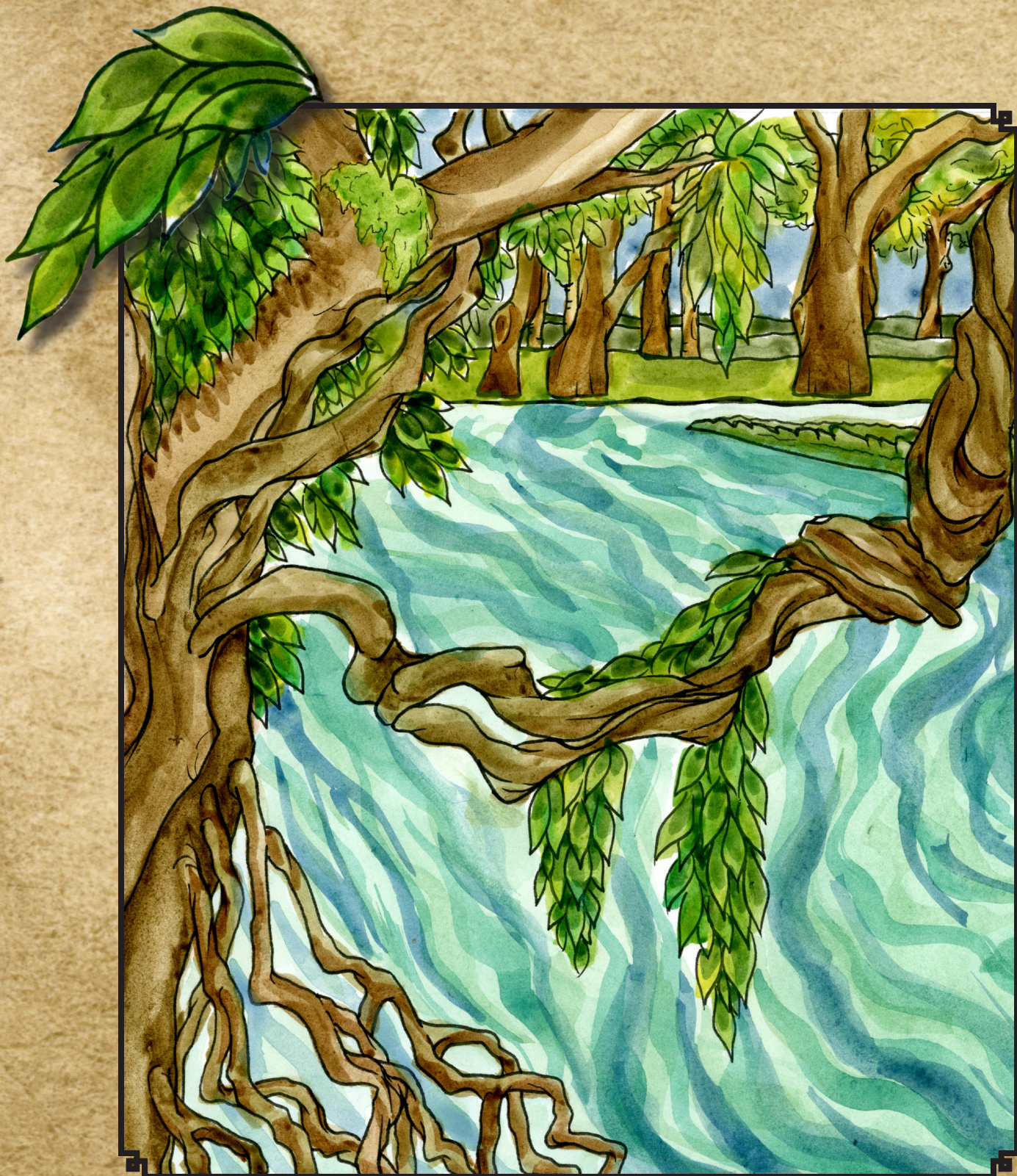
In a small and sunny lake
lives a Crocodile.
Every day he tries to make
a big and happy smile.

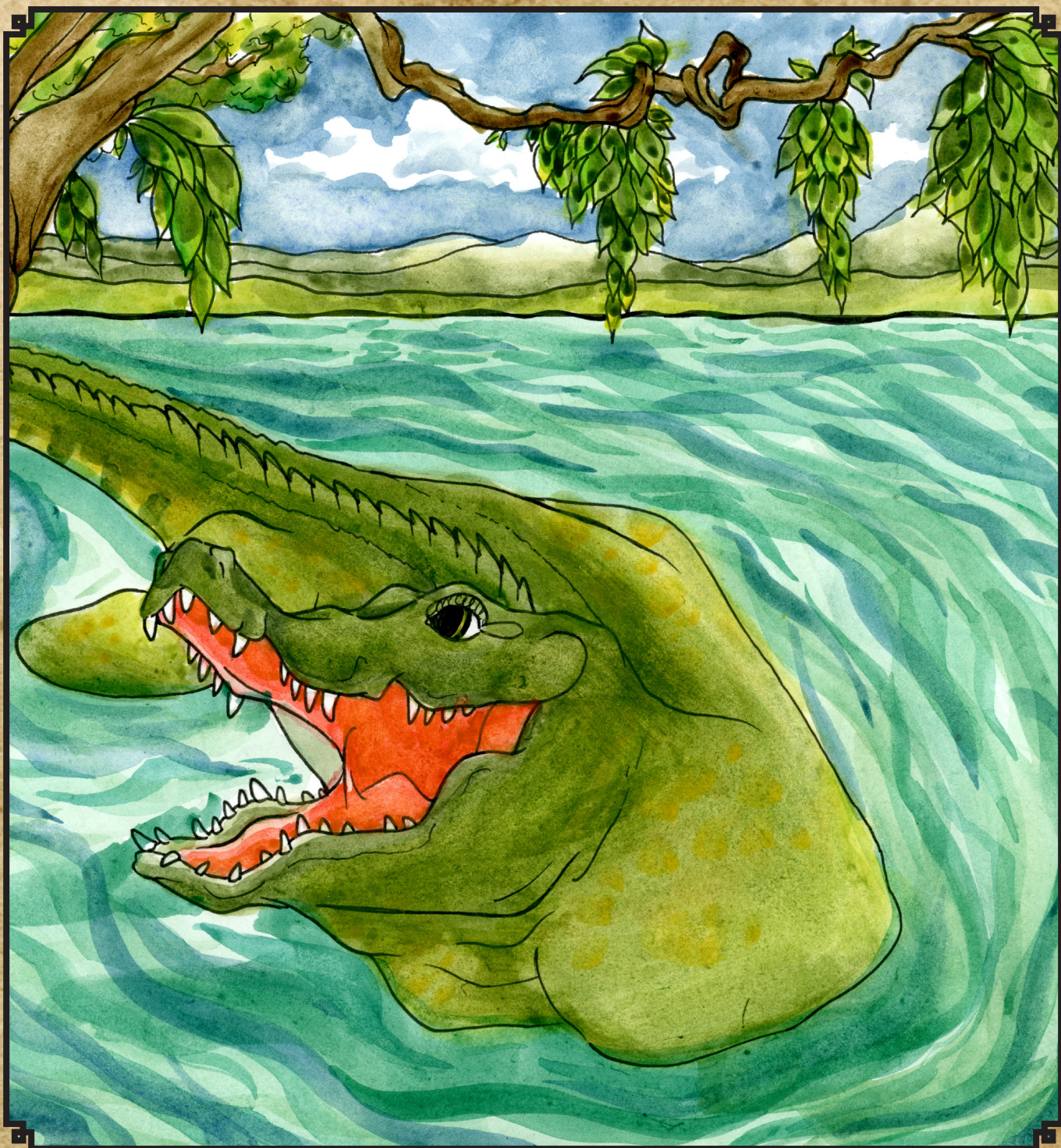


**En un pequeño y soleado lago
vive un cocodrilo.**

**Cada día ensaya una alegre y
gran sonrisa.**







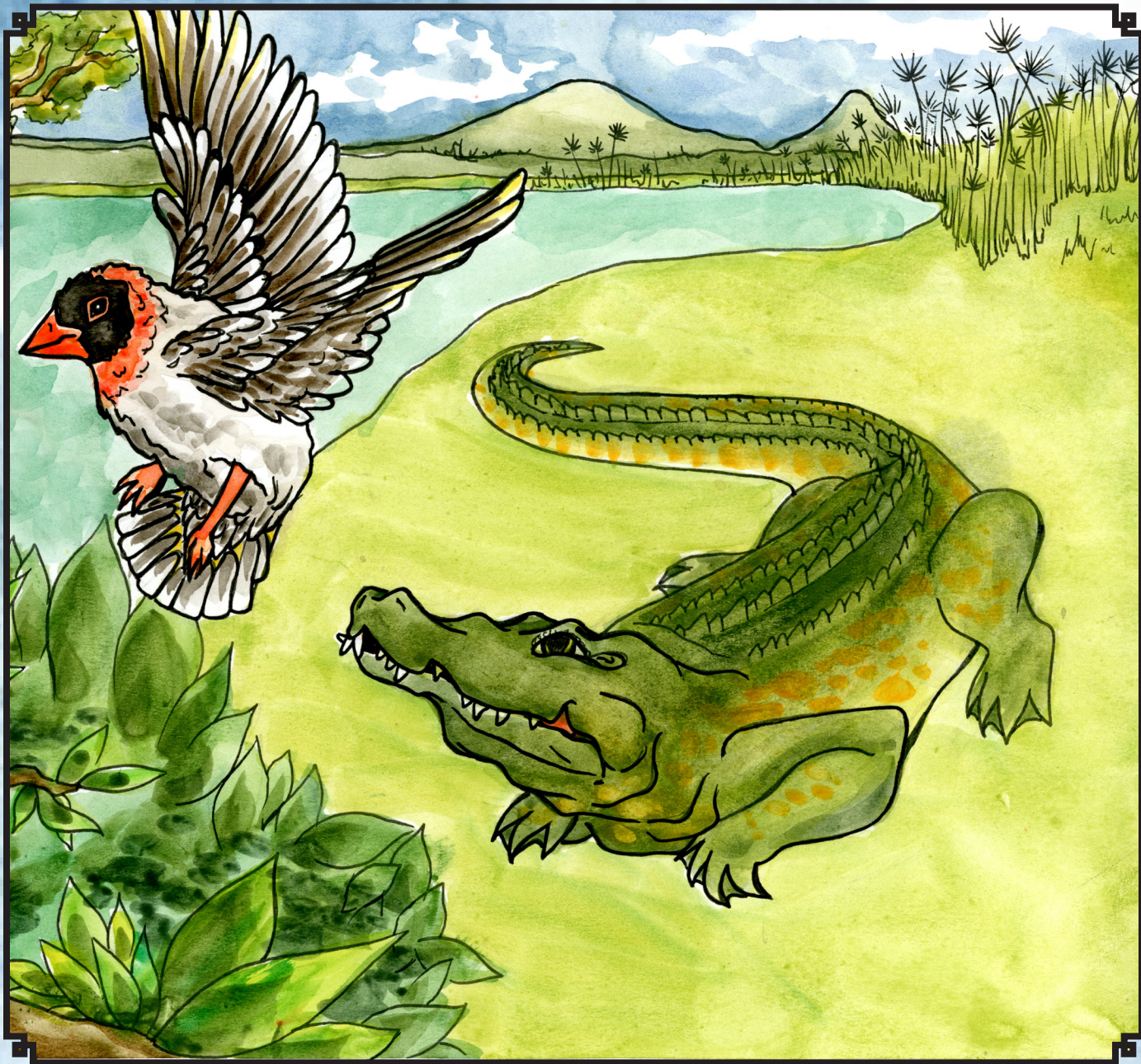


**Everyone was so afraid
of the way he grins.
Even birds would fly away
to the tallest trees.**

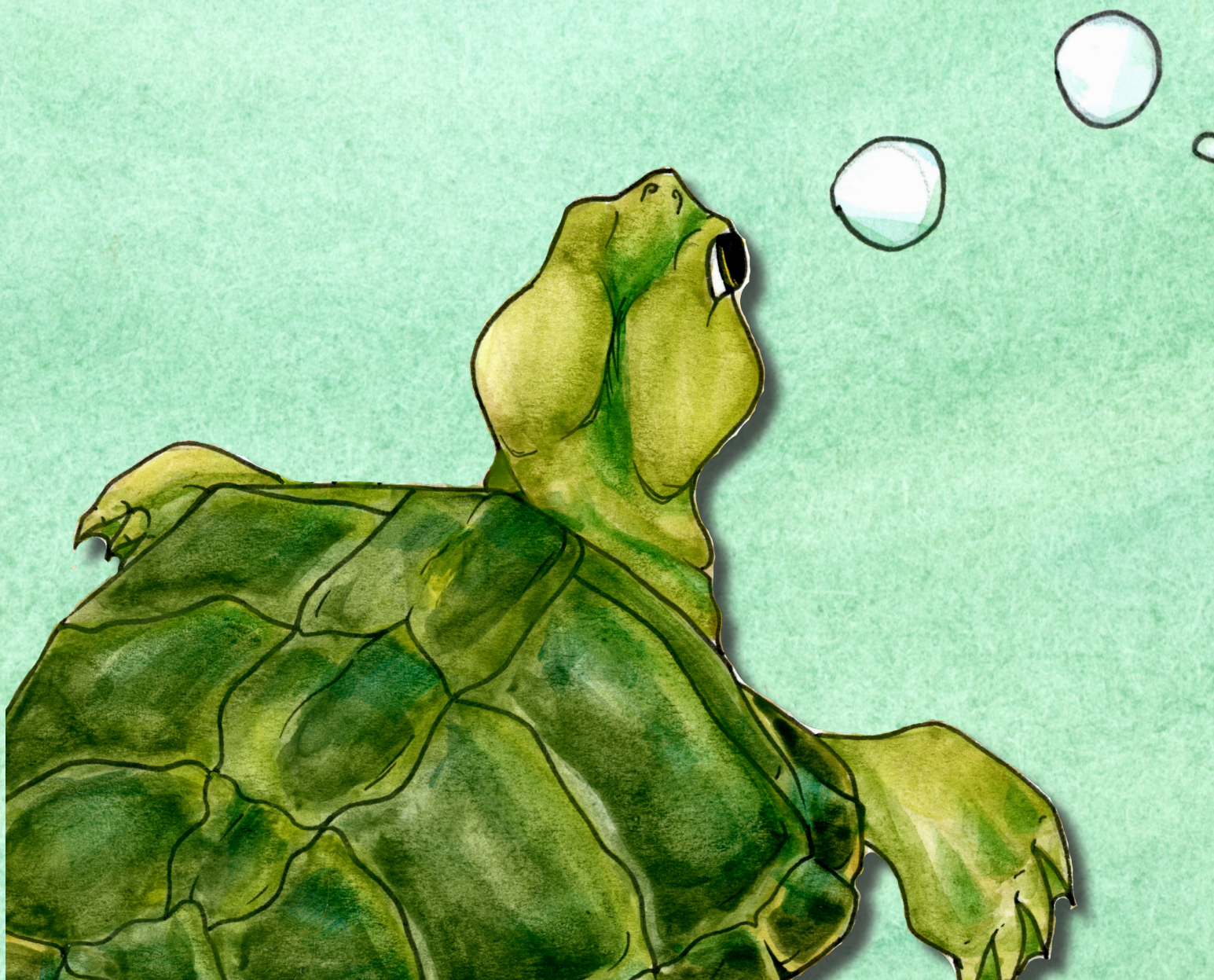
**Todos tienen miedo
de esta amplia sonrisa
y al árbol más alto
las aves vuelan de prisa.**

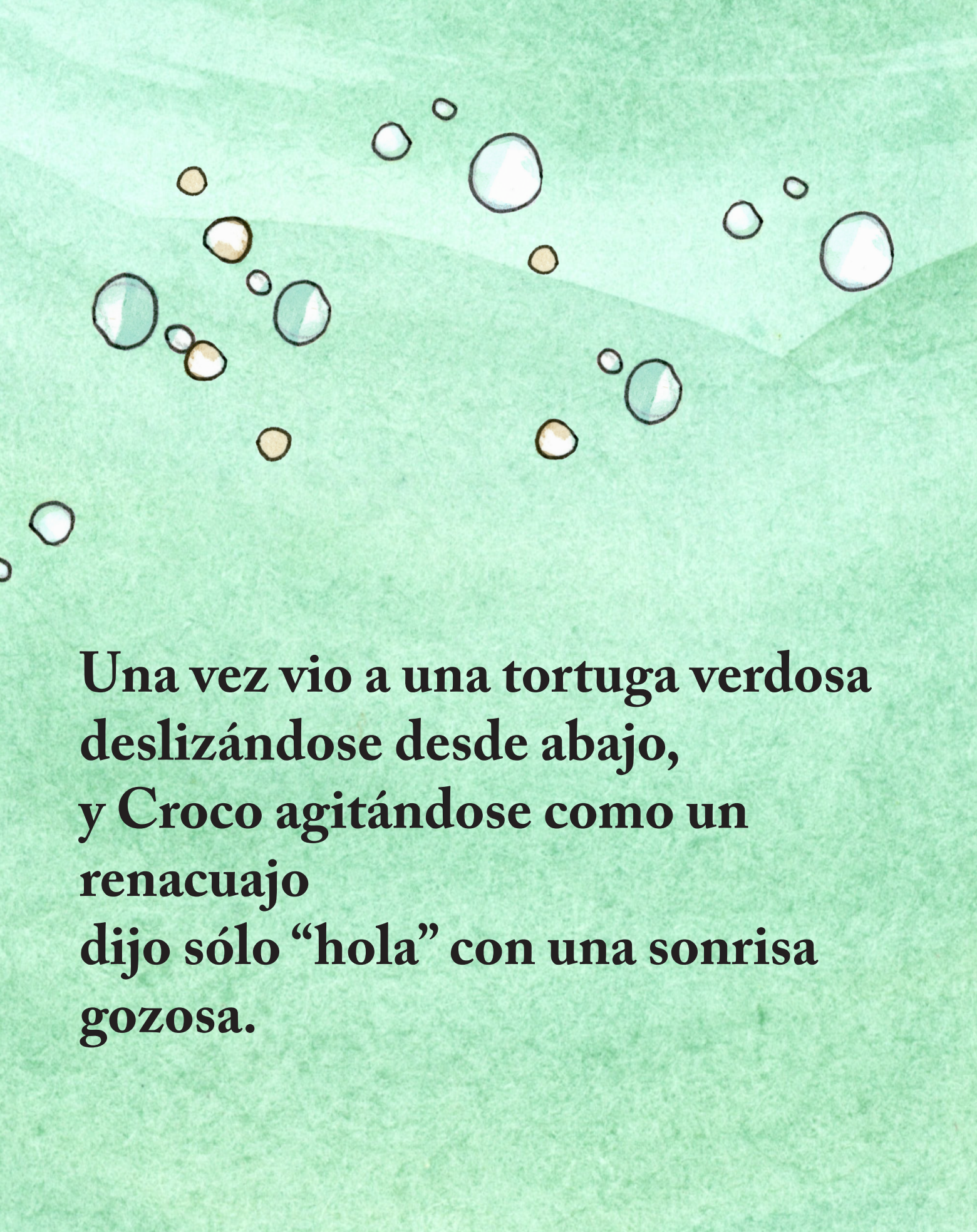






Once he saw a greenish turtle
sliding from below
and he made a little rattle
just to say “Hello.”





**Una vez vio a una tortuga verdosa
deslizándose desde abajo,
y Croco agitándose como un
renacuajo
dijo sólo “hola” con una sonrisa
gozosa.**





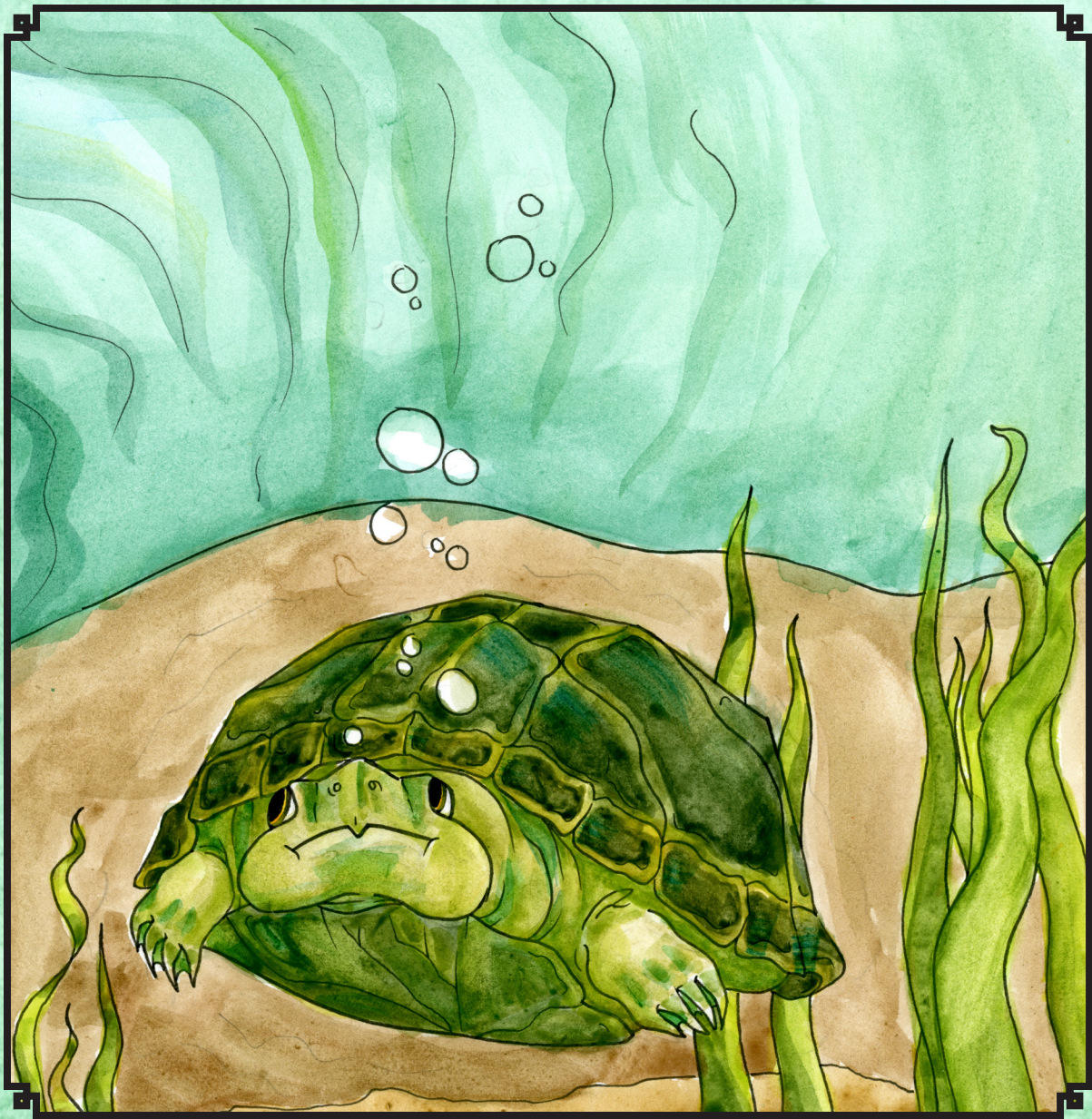


**She immediately deadened
in her turtleback
and remained in there hidden,
sinking like a rock.**

**La tortuga desapareció
y en su caparazón se refugió
y allí permaneció escondida
como una roca, hundida.**





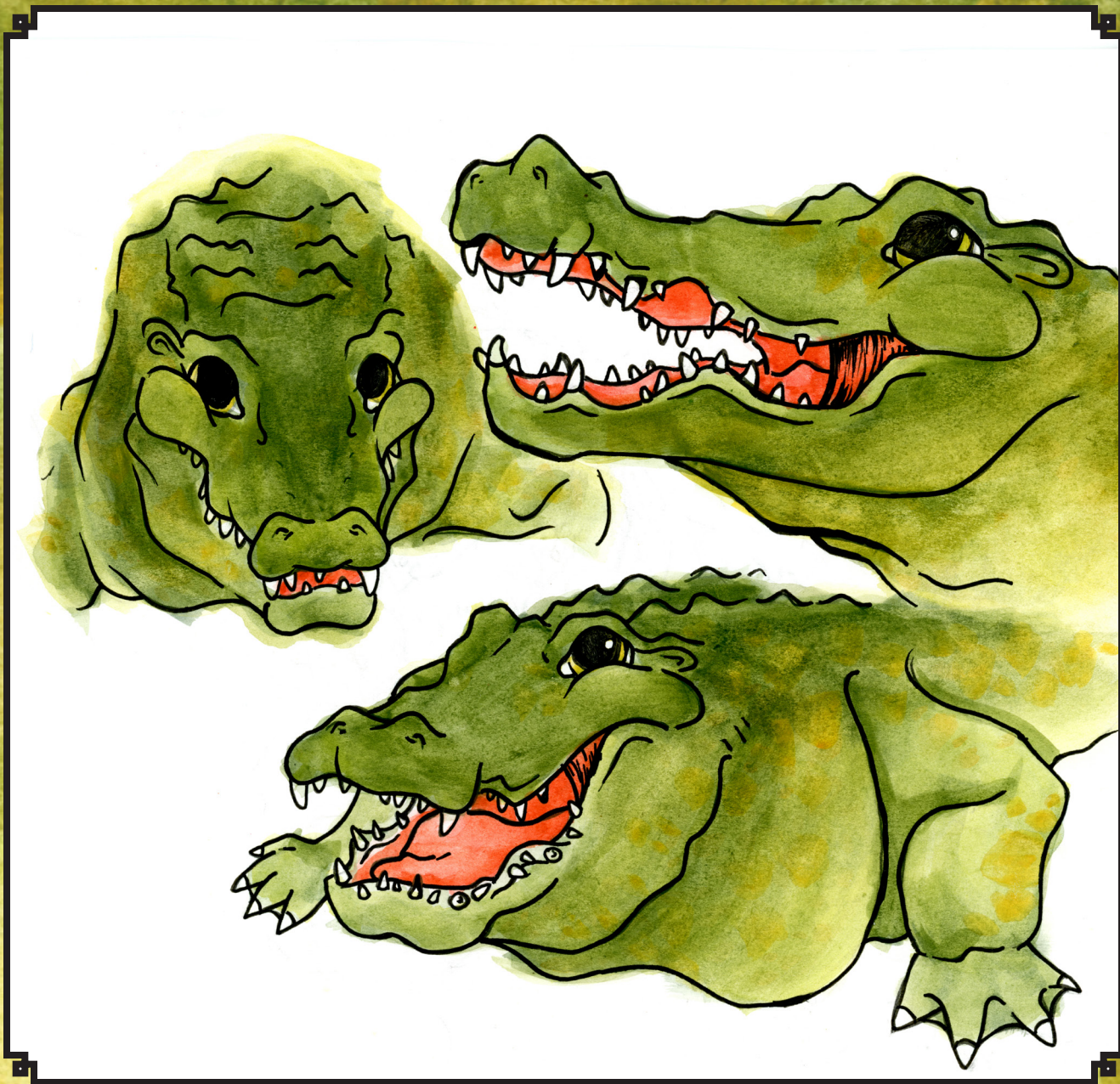


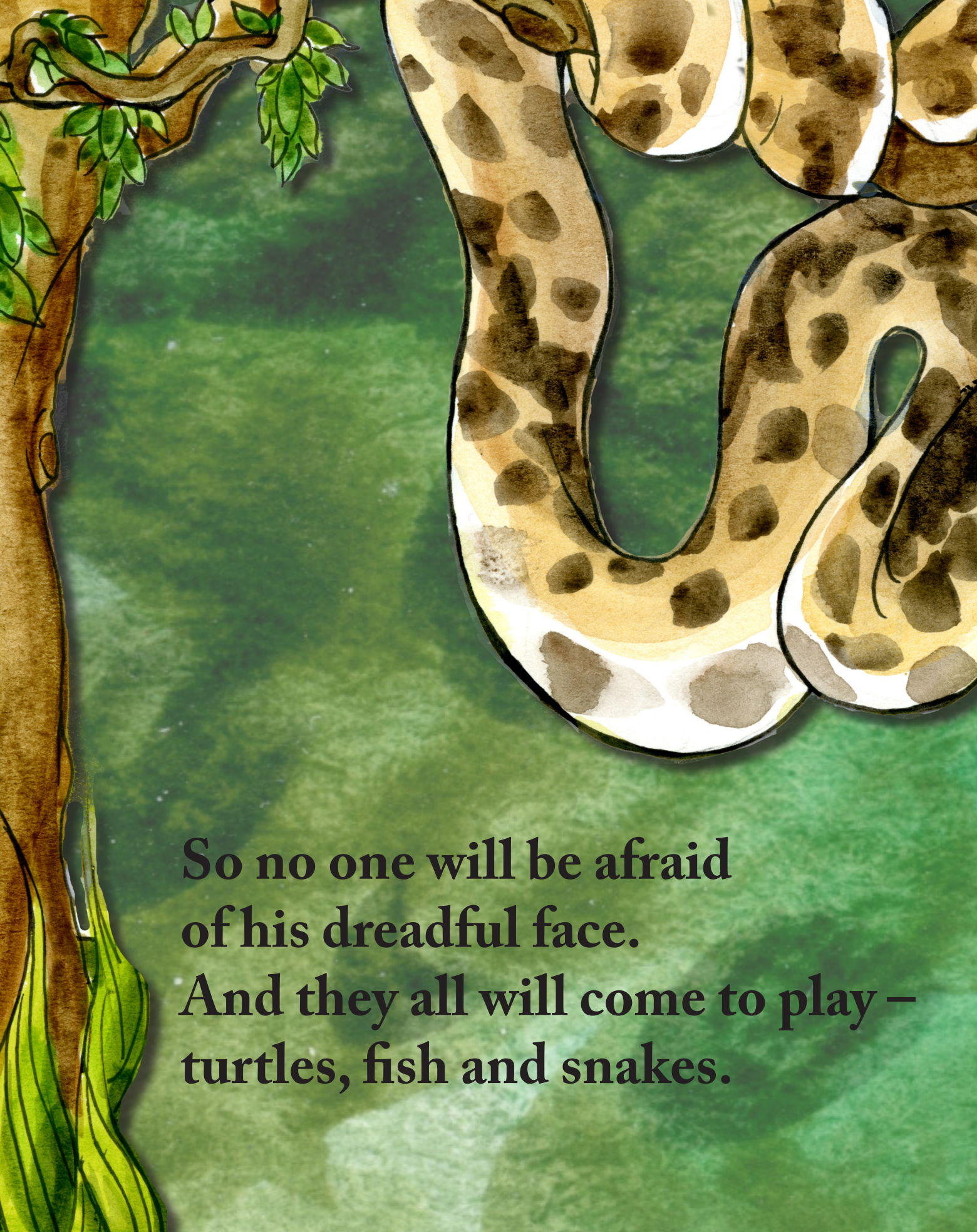
**Our Croco, sad and lonely,
had to move away.
He decided to practice smiling
every single day.**

**Solitario y triste
nuestro Croco tuvo que irse
Pero decidió un día
sonreír cada día.**









**So no one will be afraid
of his dreadful face.**

**And they all will come to play –
turtles, fish and snakes.**



**Así, ya nadie tendrá más temor
de su espantosa cara
y todos vendrán a jugar con amor -
el pez, la serpiente y la tortuga.**







Katia G. Karadjova, PhD, is the College Librarian for Natural Resources & Sciences at Humboldt State University (HSU), California, USA. She was born and raised in Bulgaria, Europe. Katia's doctoral work was on culturally grounded approaches to Information Literacy understanding to better serve specific groups. She has also an educational and work background in Physics and Documentary Filmmaking and speaks several languages. Katia is an active scholar and her areas of scholarly research and publications include: Information Literacy, International librarianship through the lens of human rights & travel literature, and Mindfulness & Contemplative pedagogy. She is also a poet and a fiction writer and has published several books, including books of poetry, a book of collected and translated Gypsy fairy tales, and The World "The way we saw it" book series. In her free time Katia enjoys photography, racquet sports, and traveling.





Emily Fernandes was a student at Arcata High School and the Arcata Arts Institute. She has grown up in a rural Northern California coastal community. Emily has been drawing since she was a child and enjoys nature and spending time with her friends. In 2017 she was presented with a first place painting award by the Redwood Arts Association and in addition received a certificate of commendation by the Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools for her work. Emily is planning on pursuing a career in the arts. At the moment, she is a student at the California College of Arts at San Francisco, CA.



Lilianet Brintrup, PhD, nació en Chile y reside en Estados Unidos. Enseña Lengua Española y Literatura Hispanoamericana en la Universidad de Humboldt en California. Obtuvo su Doctorado en The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Su escritura se centra en poesía y en investigación literaria de viajes y de importantes viajeros del Siglo XIX, de los cuales ha escrito más de 45 artículos, publicados en distintas revistas especializadas. Es autora de 4 poemarios sobre viajes y viajeros: En tierra Firme, Amor y Caos, El Libro Natural, Quiebres en California y Chile, en particular (inédito) y de Crónicas de sus propios viajes. Ha dado numerosos Recitales de poesía. Ha sido presidenta y organizadora de varios Congresos Internacionales de Poesía y de Literatura de Viaje: Estados Unidos, España, Chile, Hungría, Canadá, China, Marruecos, México, Alemania, Rumanía.