


# Brother Moon

MAREE MCCARTHY YOELU & SAMANTHA FRY



For Mum and Dad, Jeff, Deba, and my Wadjigany family  
— may Brother Moon forever guide your way.  
MMY


For my Pa, and in memory of Popsy Dazzler.  
SF

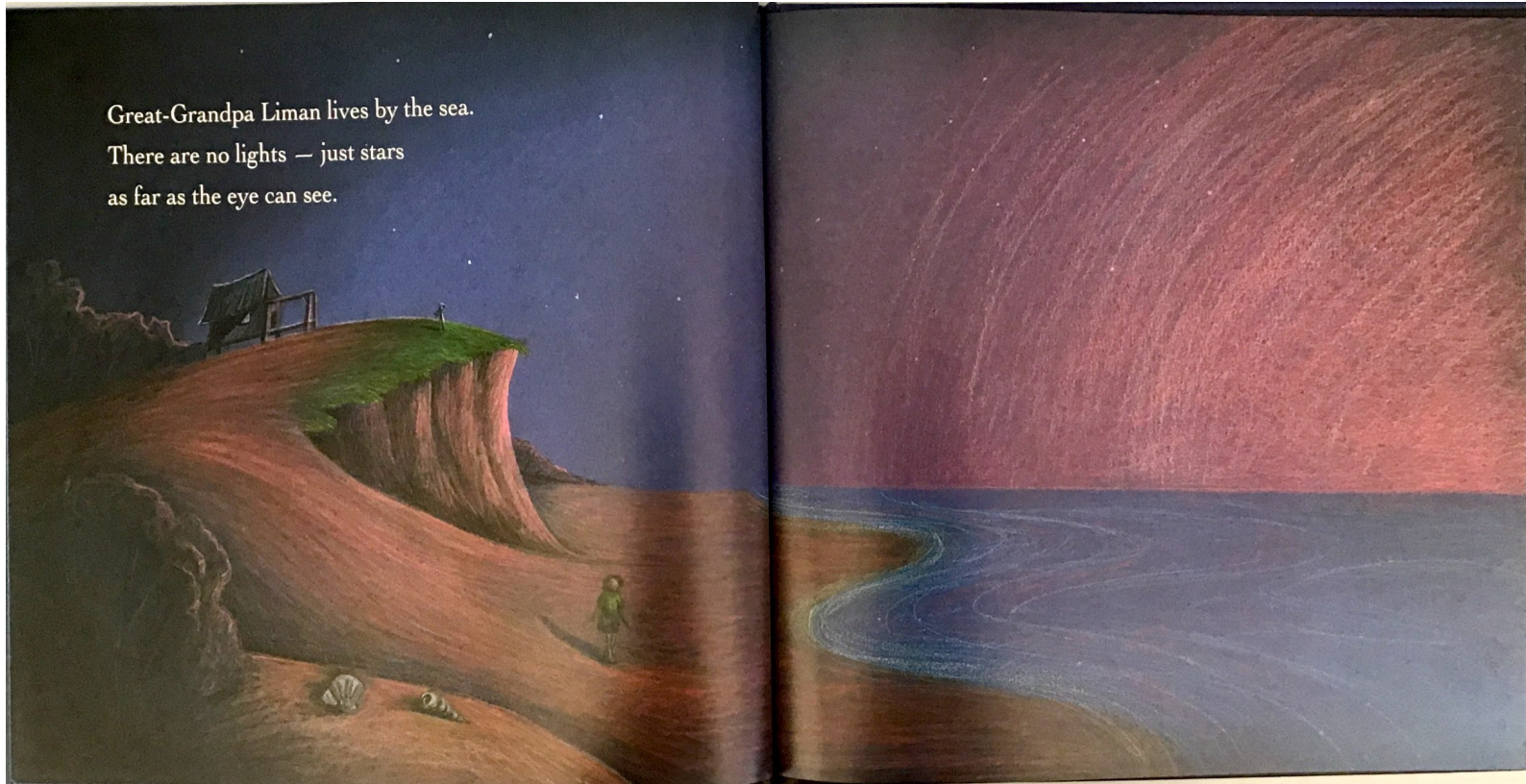


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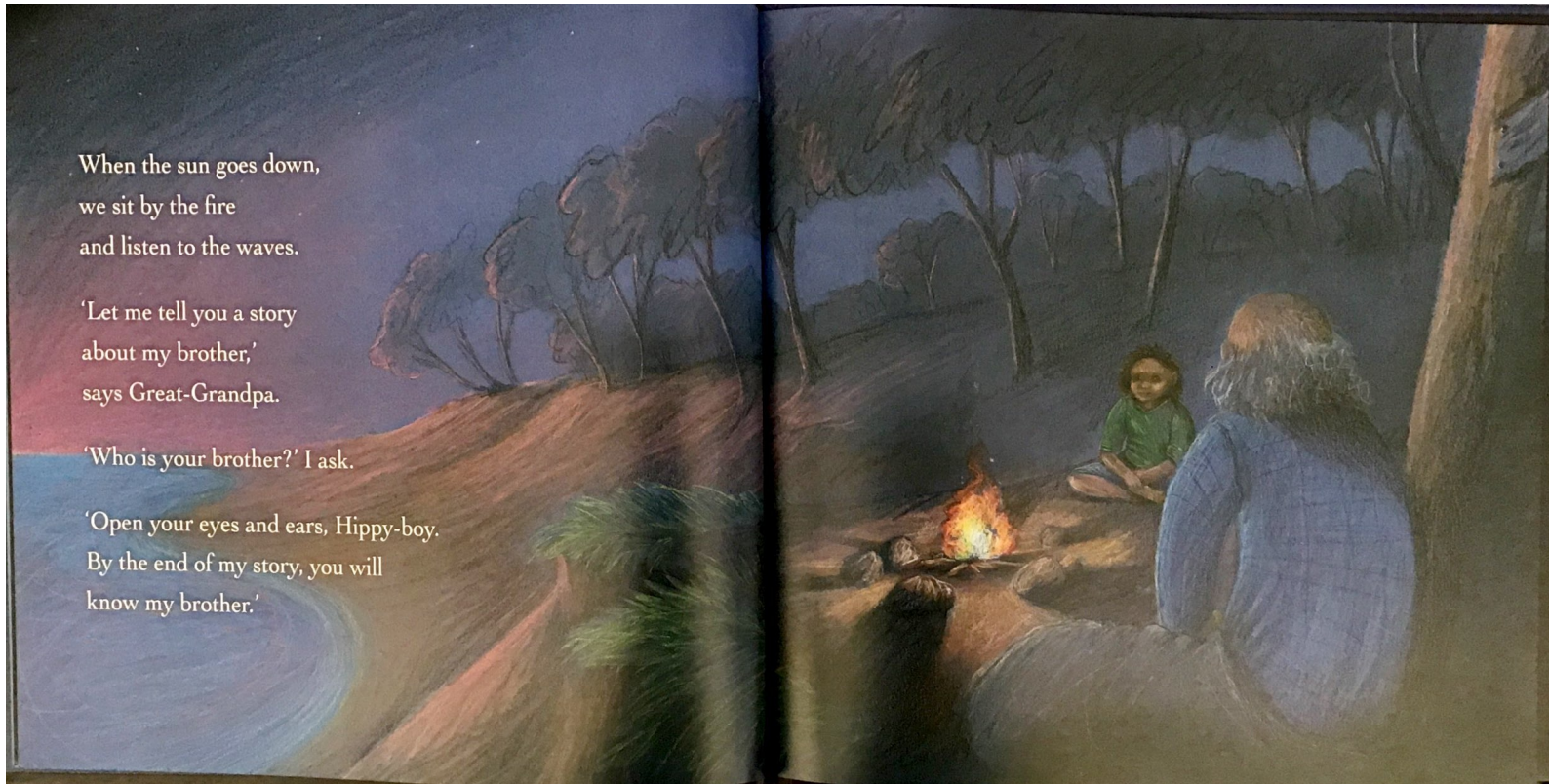
MAREE McCARTHY YOELU

illustrated by  
SAMANTHA FRY

magabala  
Books 



Great-Grandpa Liman lives by the sea.  
There are no lights — just stars  
as far as the eye can see.

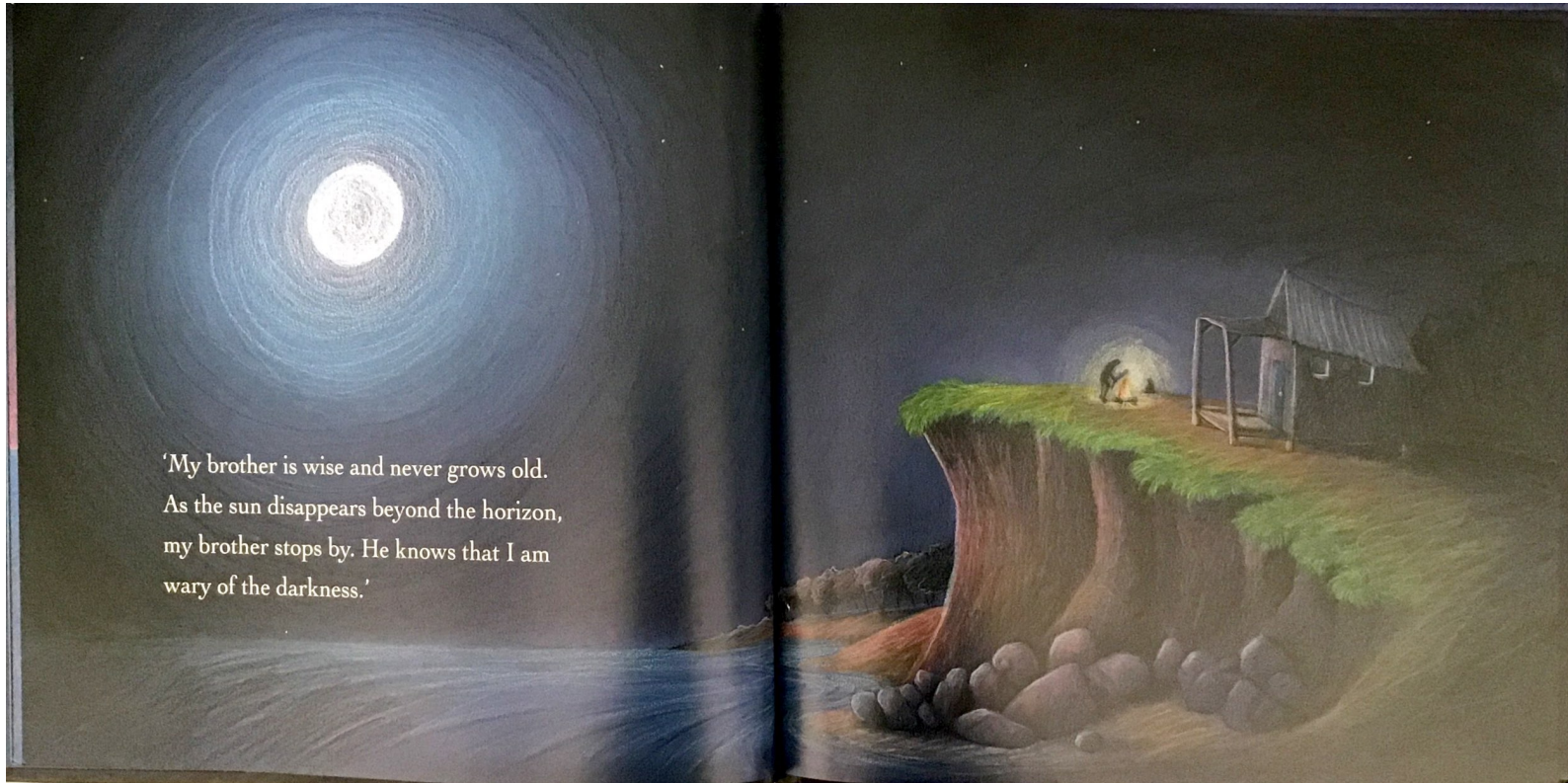


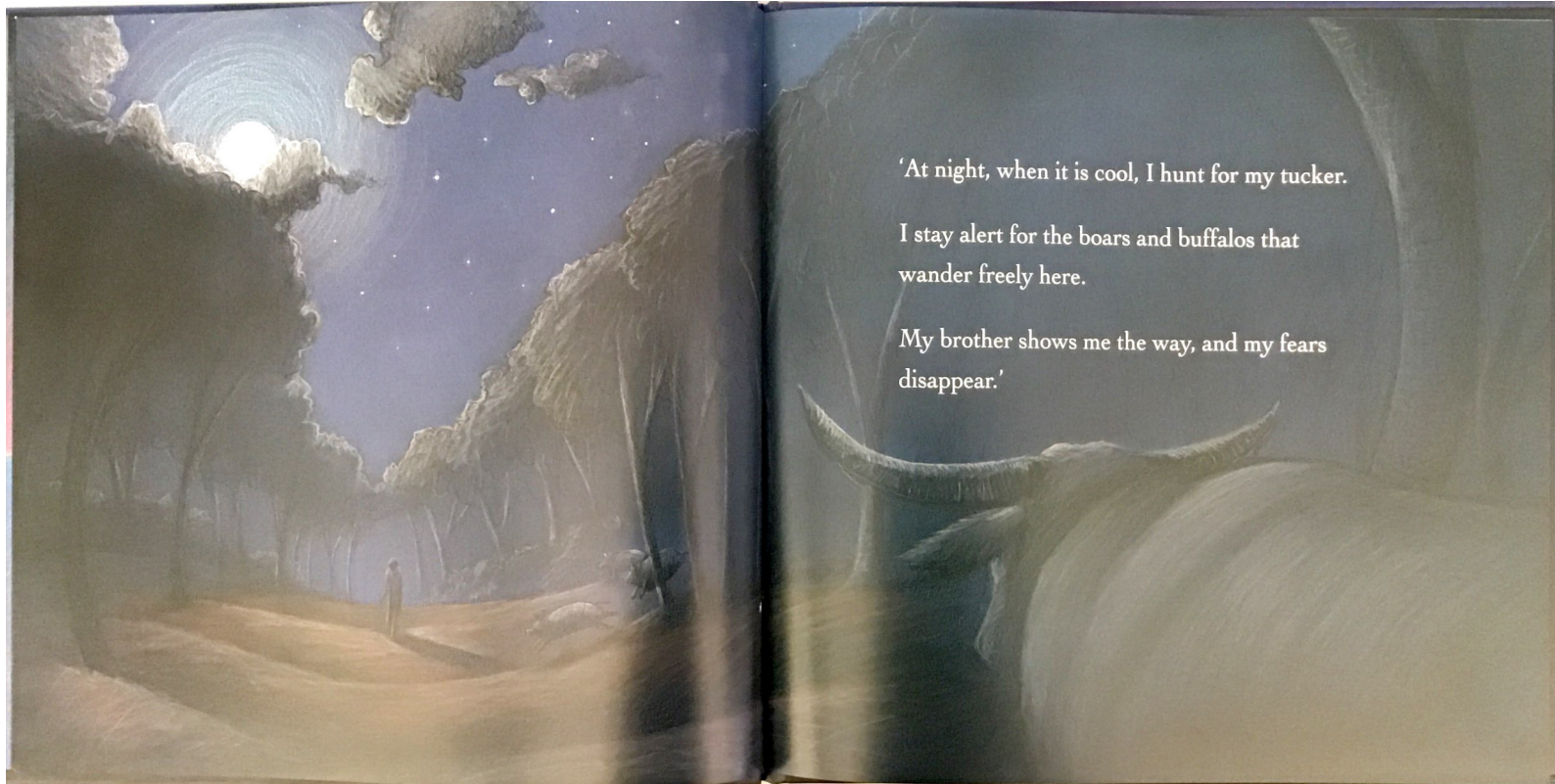
When the sun goes down,  
we sit by the fire  
and listen to the waves.

'Let me tell you a story  
about my brother,'  
says Great-Grandpa.

'Who is your brother?' I ask.

'Open your eyes and ears, Hippy-boy.  
By the end of my story, you will  
know my brother.'





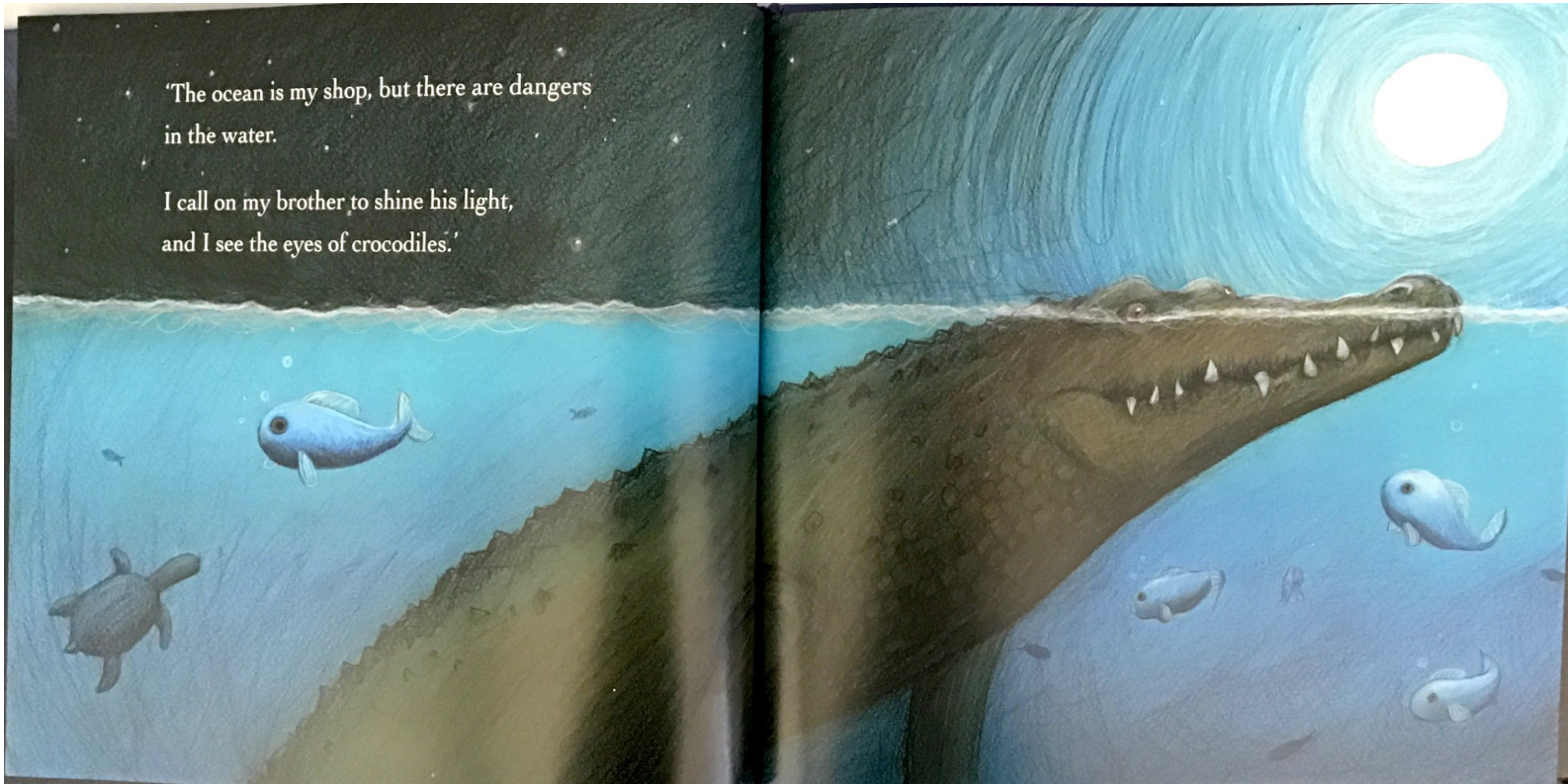
'At night, when it is cool, I hunt for my tucker.

I stay alert for the boars and buffalos that  
wander freely here.

My brother shows me the way, and my fears  
disappear.'

'The ocean is my shop, but there are dangers  
in the water.

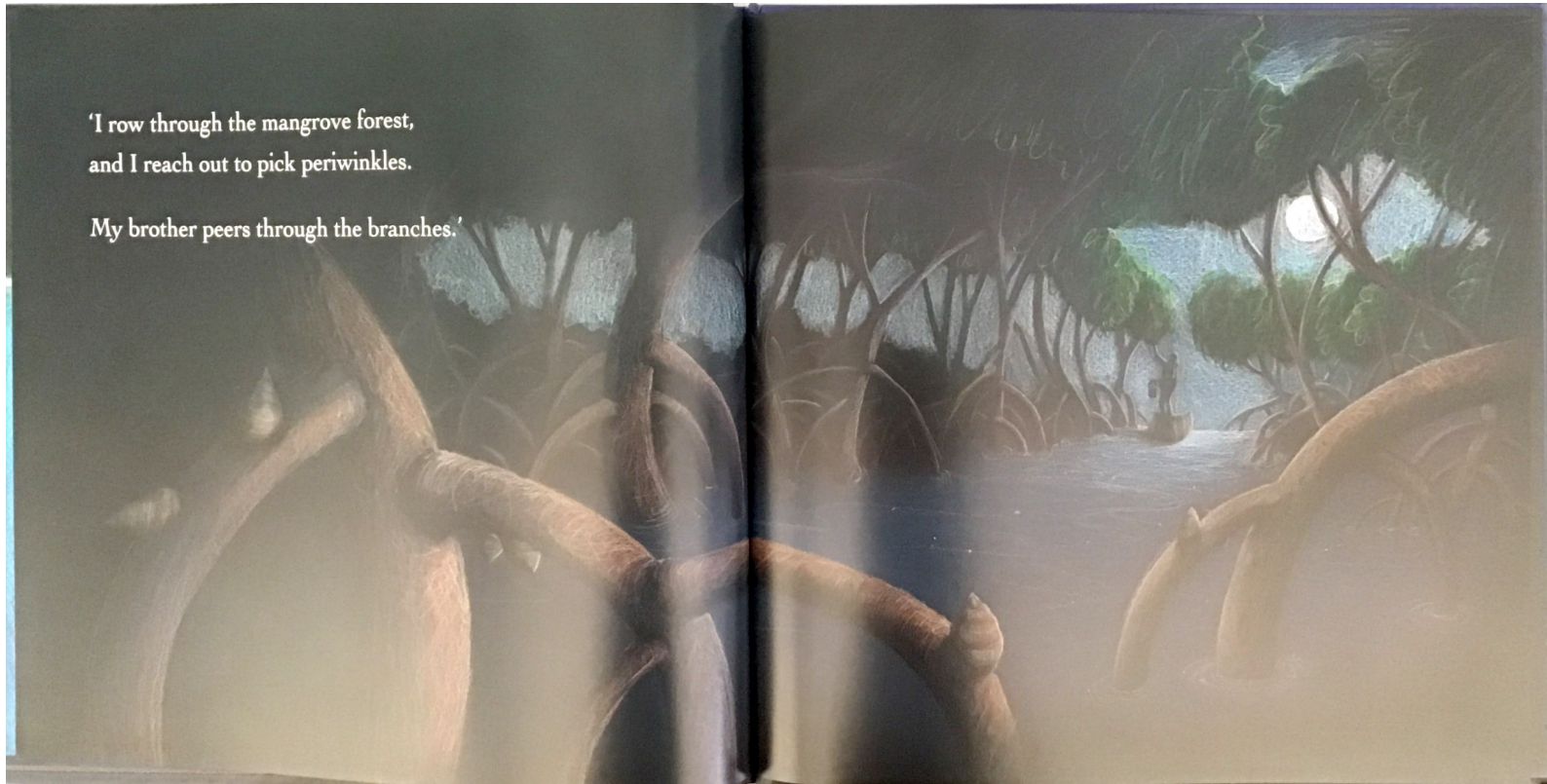
I call on my brother to shine his light,  
and I see the eyes of crocodiles.'

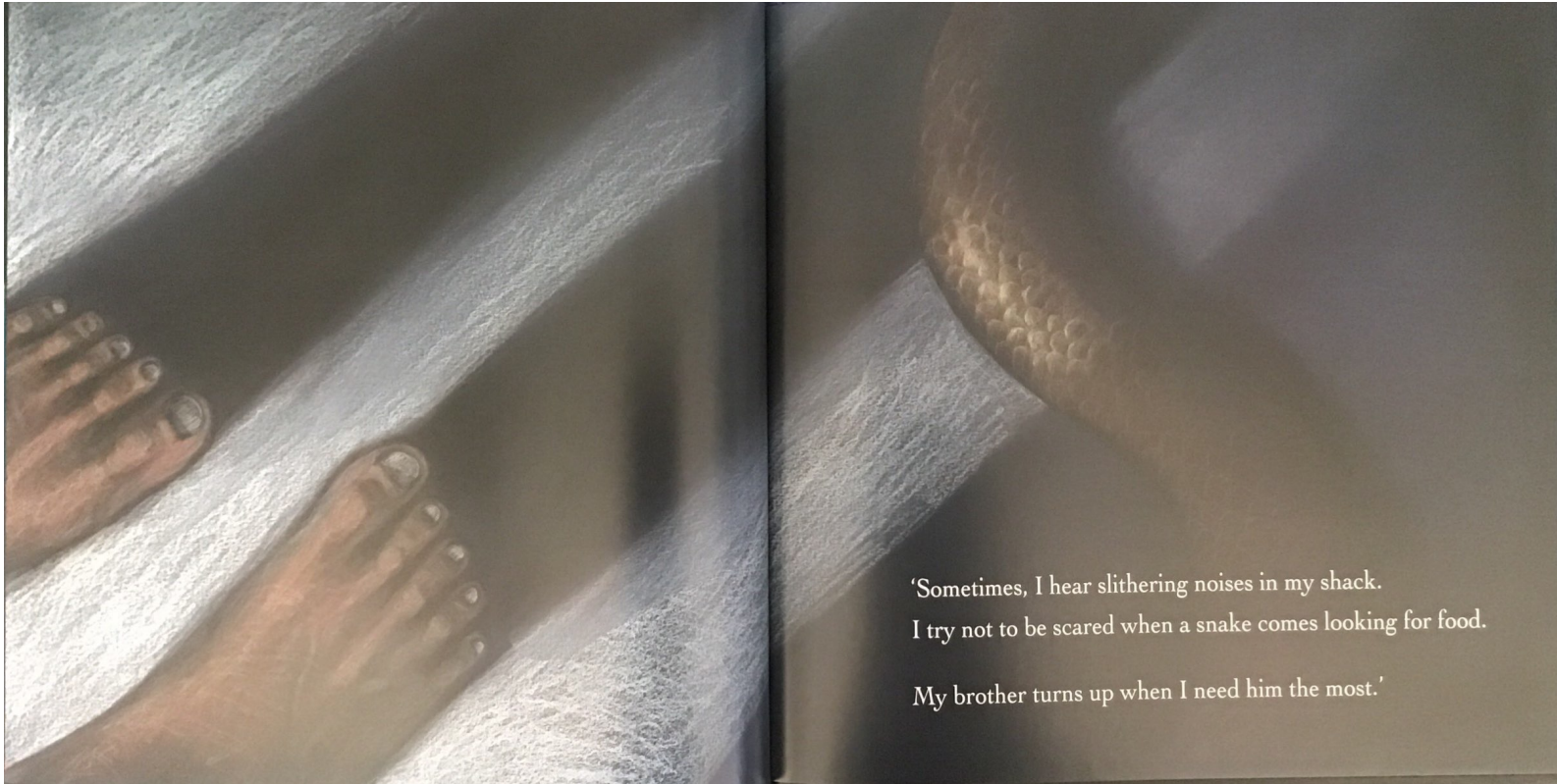




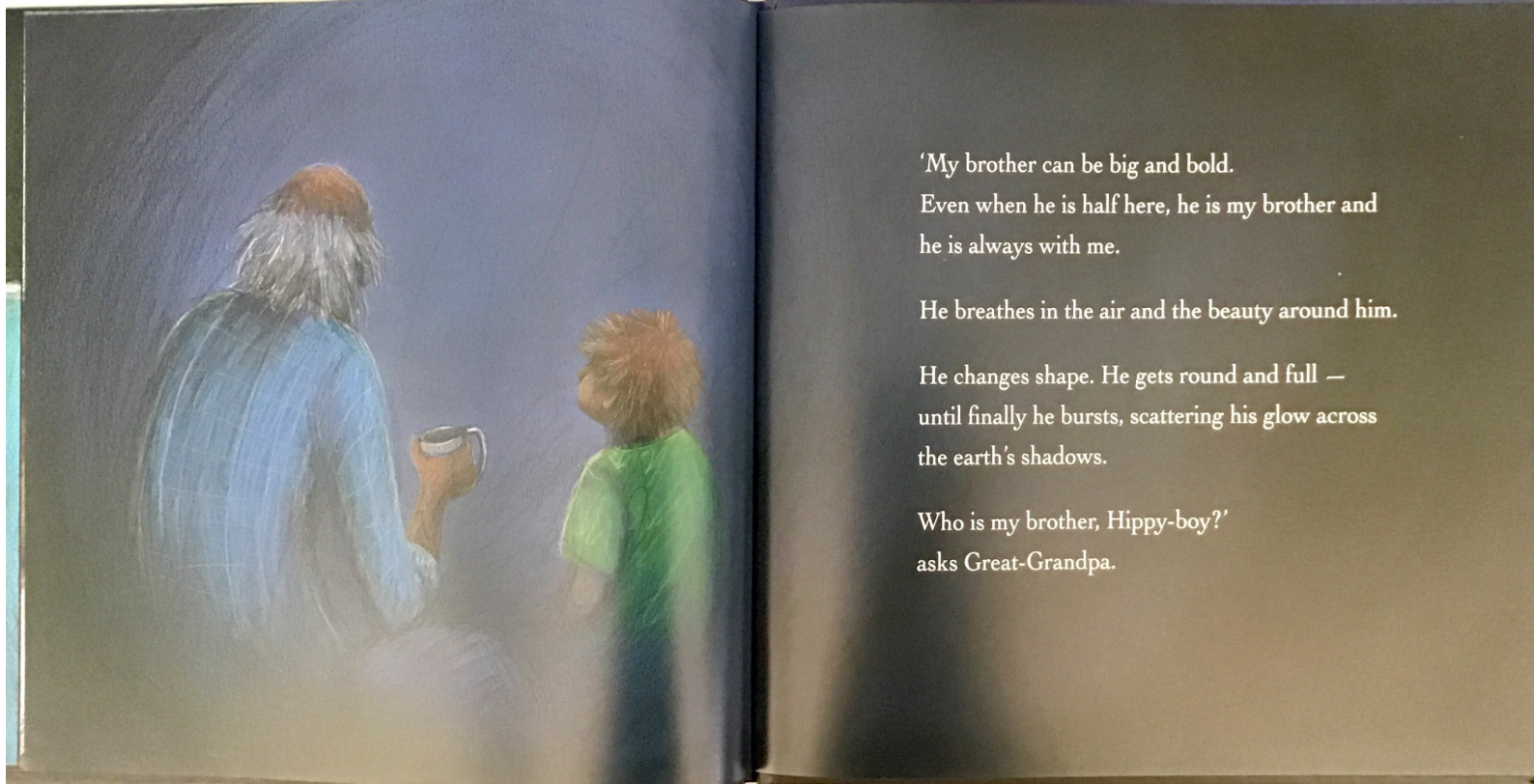
'I row through the mangrove forest,  
and I reach out to pick periwinkles.

My brother peers through the branches.'





'Sometimes, I hear slithering noises in my shack.  
I try not to be scared when a snake comes looking for food.  
My brother turns up when I need him the most.'

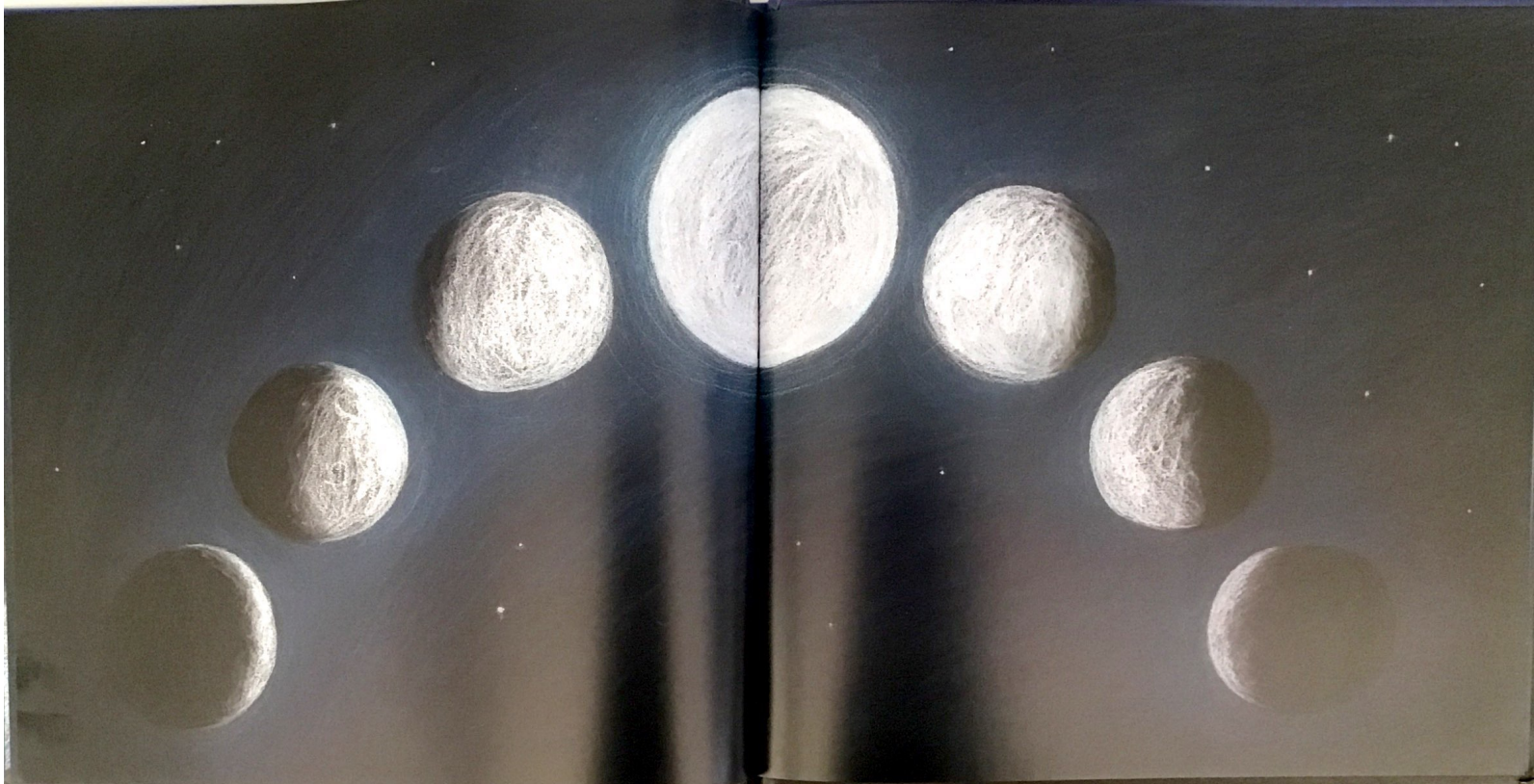


'My brother can be big and bold.  
Even when he is half here, he is my brother and  
he is always with me.

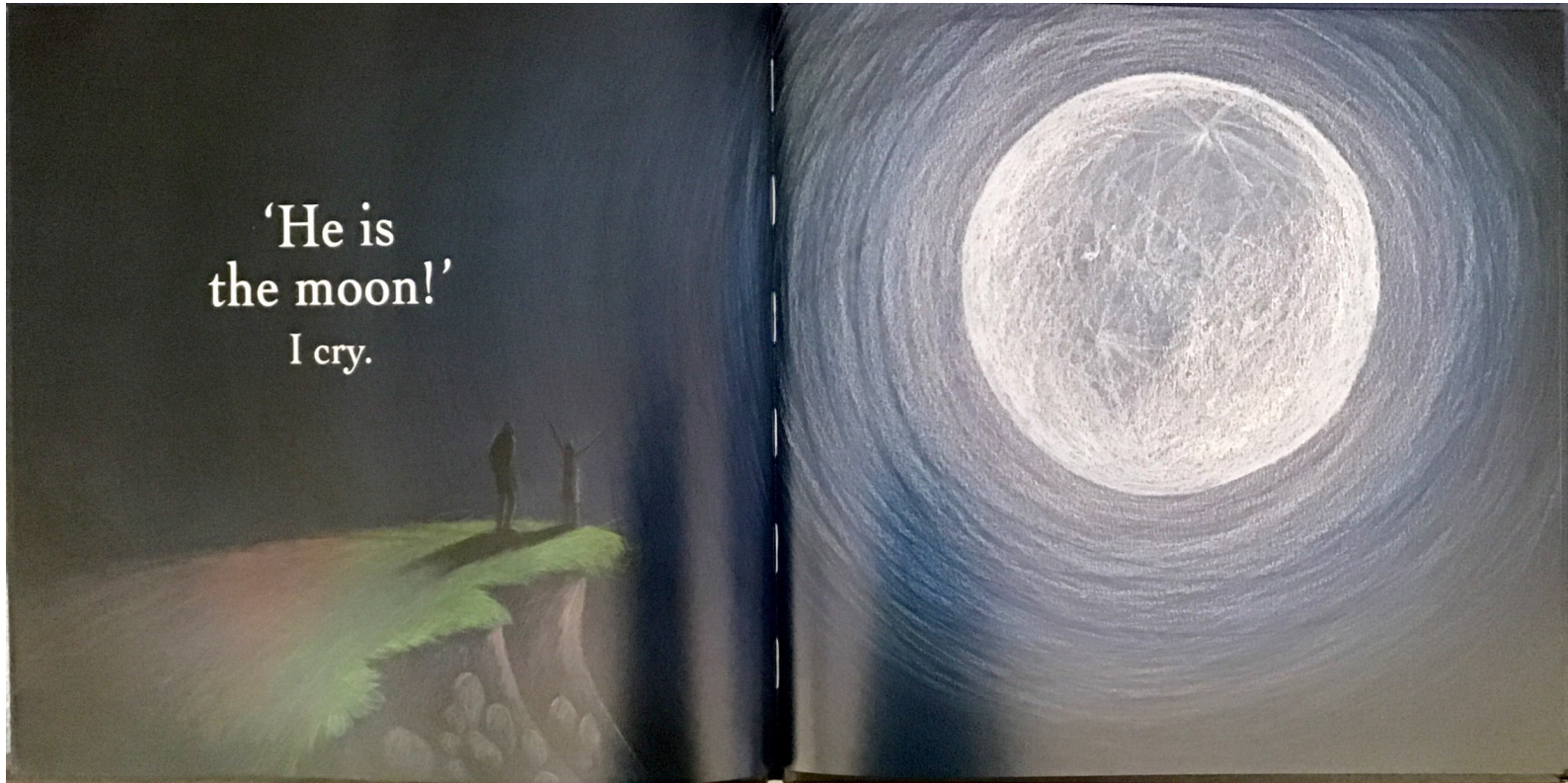
He breathes in the air and the beauty around him.

He changes shape. He gets round and full —  
until finally he bursts, scattering his glow across  
the earth's shadows.

Who is my brother, Hippy-boy?  
asks Great-Grandpa.

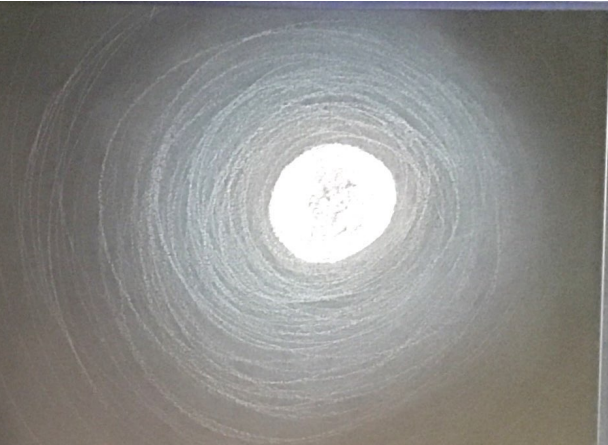


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'Yes,' says Great-Grandpa.  
'Near or far, old or new,  
his glow is always brightest  
in the dark.

He is my brother —  
the moon.'



I fall asleep under the night sky.  
Just Brother Moon and me,  
and Great-Grandpa Liman.

LIMAN (HARRY MORGAN) was a respected Wadjigany man – a leader amongst his people and the community.

Liman was born at Manjimamany (Point Blaze) in the Northern Territory in 1916.

He was a canoe maker, hunter, community mediator and a family man, who lived off the land and travelled the seas. Liman spoke Batjamalh, his first language, and other languages from the Daly River area.

Liman was also a wonderful storyteller. He told the story of Brother Moon to Hippy (Heath Wilson), his great-grandson, when Hippy first visited Wadjigany country as a small boy.

Hippy, a young Wadjigany and Tyemirri man, still returns to Wadjigany country to hunt and fish, and spend time with family.

MAREE MCCARTHY YOELU is a Wadjigany woman, from the western Wagait region in the Northern Territory. She grew up in Daly River and now lives in Darwin where she works in radio. Liman is Maree's grandfather. She writes to keep his stories and the Batjamalh language alive for generations to come. This is her first book.

SAMANTHA FRY is descended from the Dagiman people of the Katherine region in the Northern Territory. As a child she lived in communities across the Top End. Samantha is an accomplished artist and designer living in Darwin. She is the illustrator of the celebrated children's book *Alfred's War* (Magabala Books 2018).

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