

Flowing Back to Me

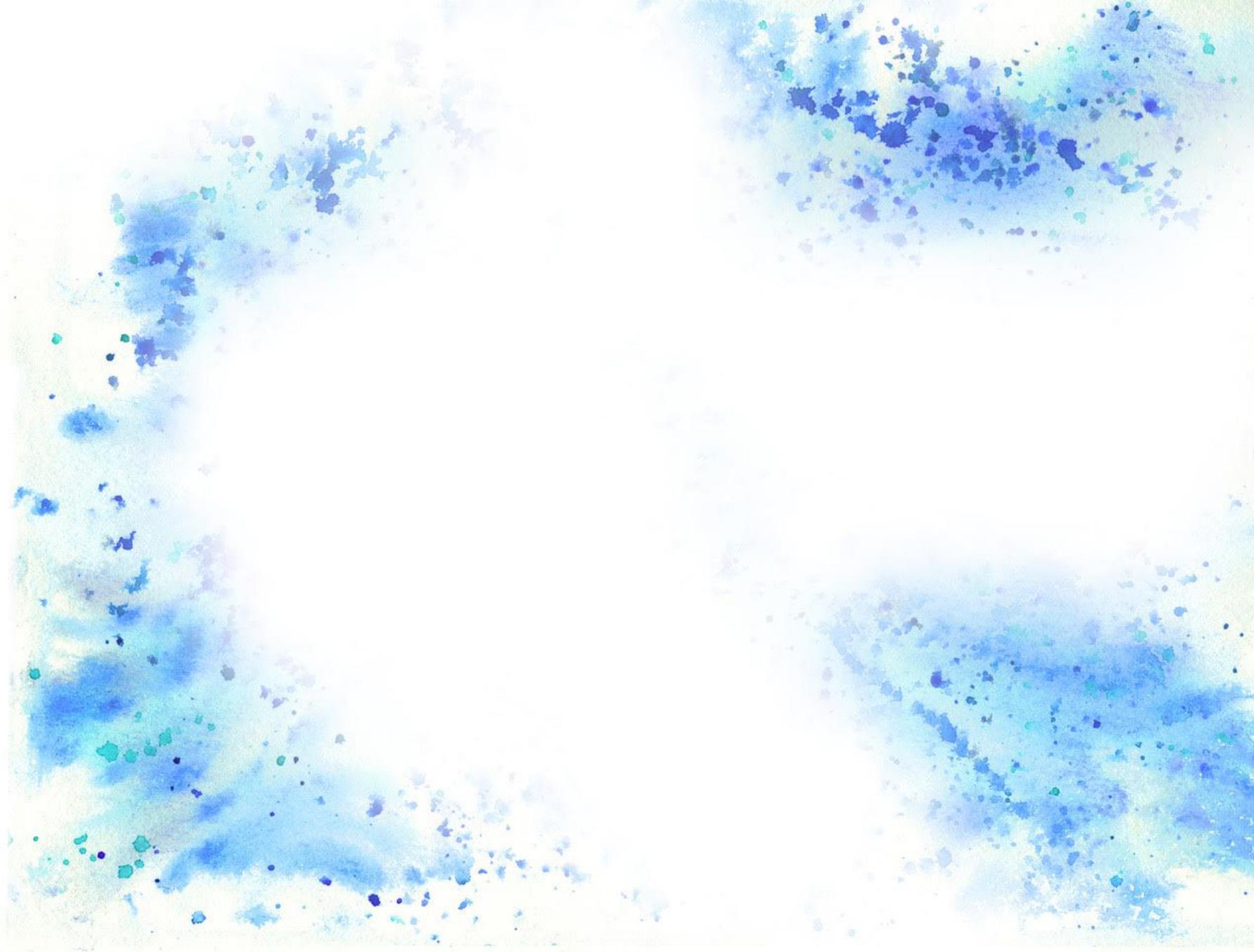
Created By

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Written by Nicole Poole
Illustrated by Angelica Romo and Angeles Salinas
Edited by Hannah Walker

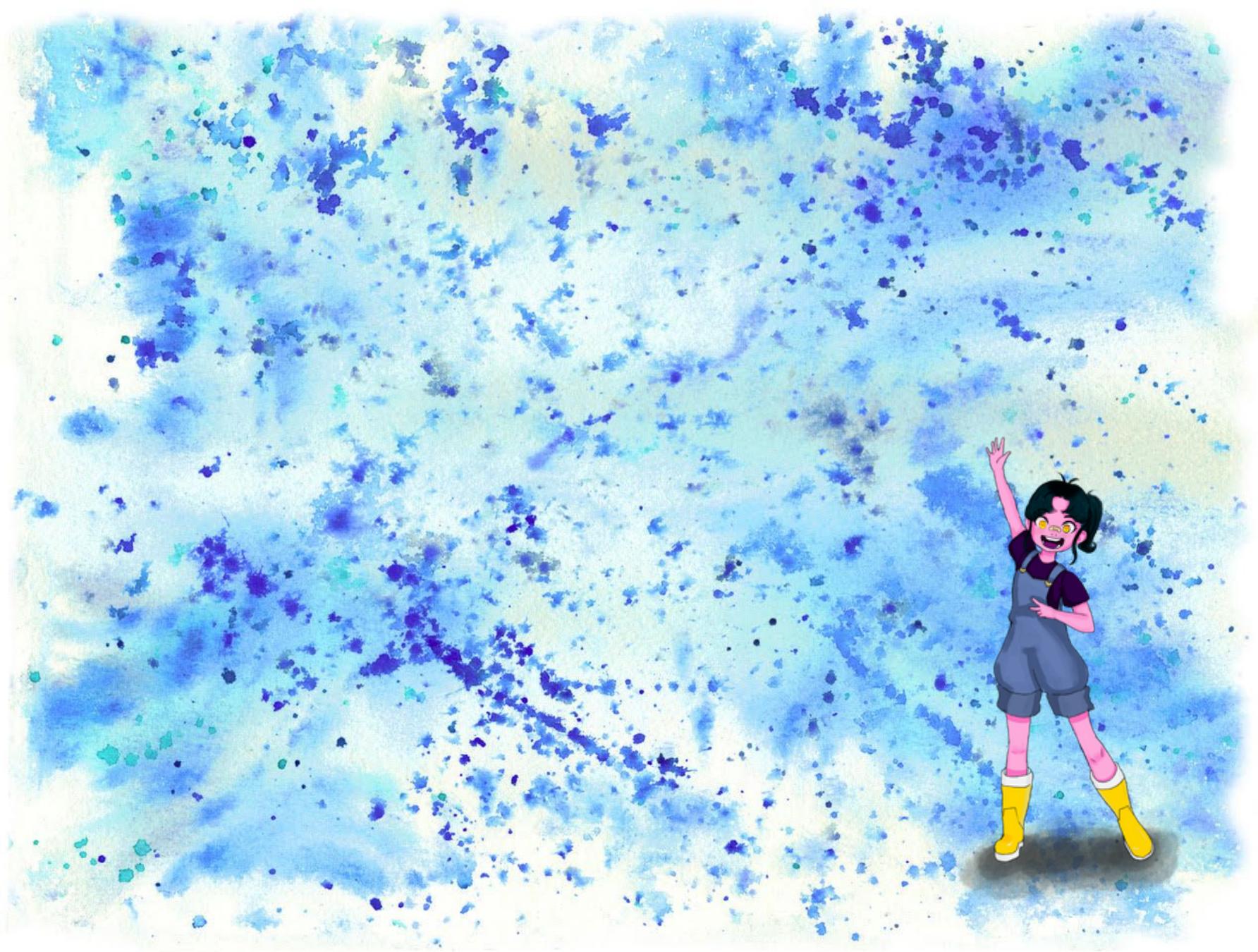
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Summary: A poetic picture book which details the journey of losing one's inner child and the path back to recovery.

[Inner Child--Fiction, Self-Identity--Fiction, Inner Conflict--Fiction, Journey--Fiction, Growing Up--Fiction]

The illustrations are a combination of traditional and digital methods: watercolor-on-cotton backgrounds, collaged with digital character design using Procreate.
The text type is EB Garamond.

Flowing Back to Me





As you are, so is the water.

Rushing,

full of movement,

wonder.



Along the way parts of you sink,

smiles committed

to the deep.

Confessed, confused,
unsure, untrue.



Det a c h e d

A d r i f t



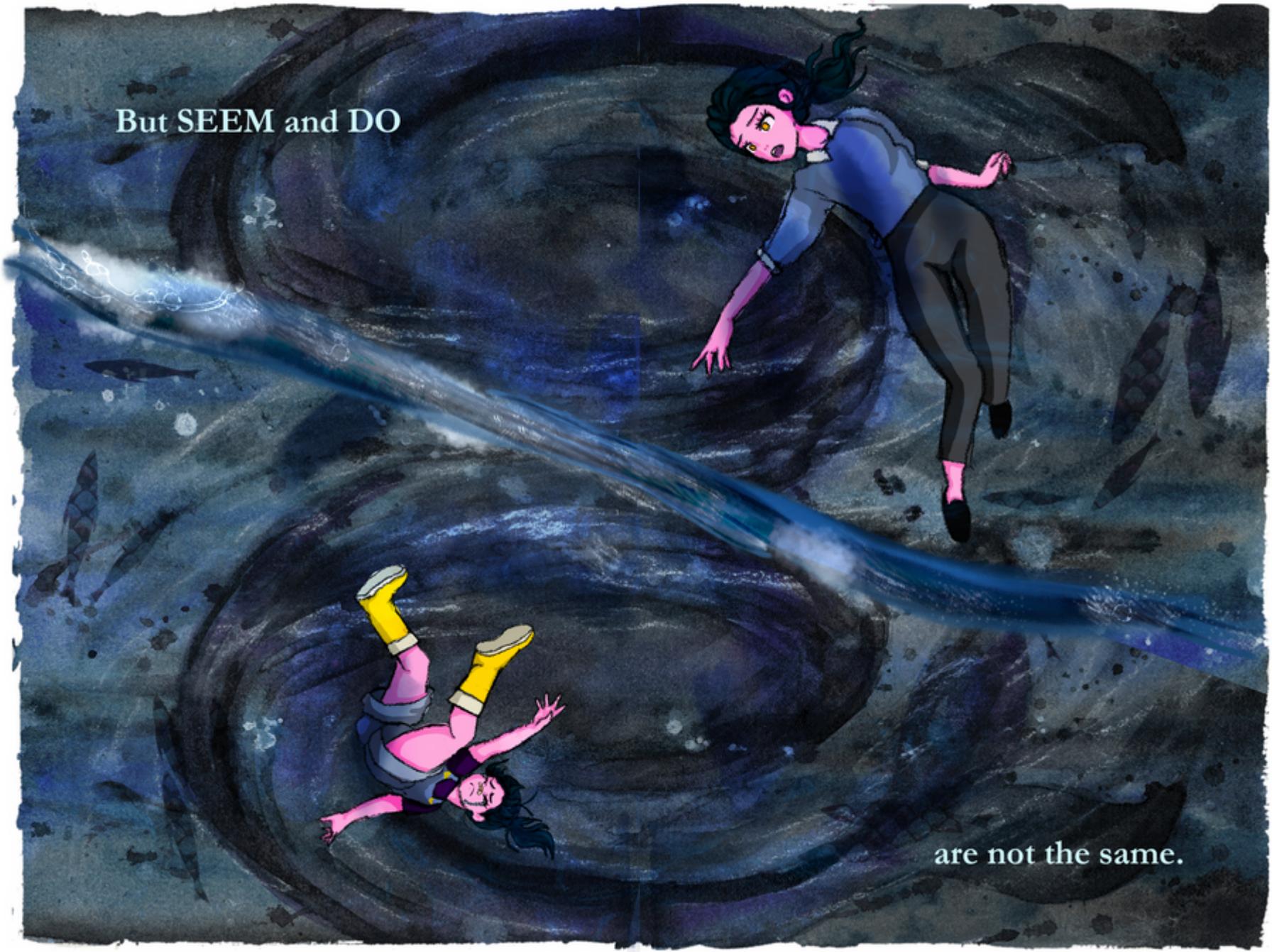
Alone in this place,



where rapids seem
to overtake.



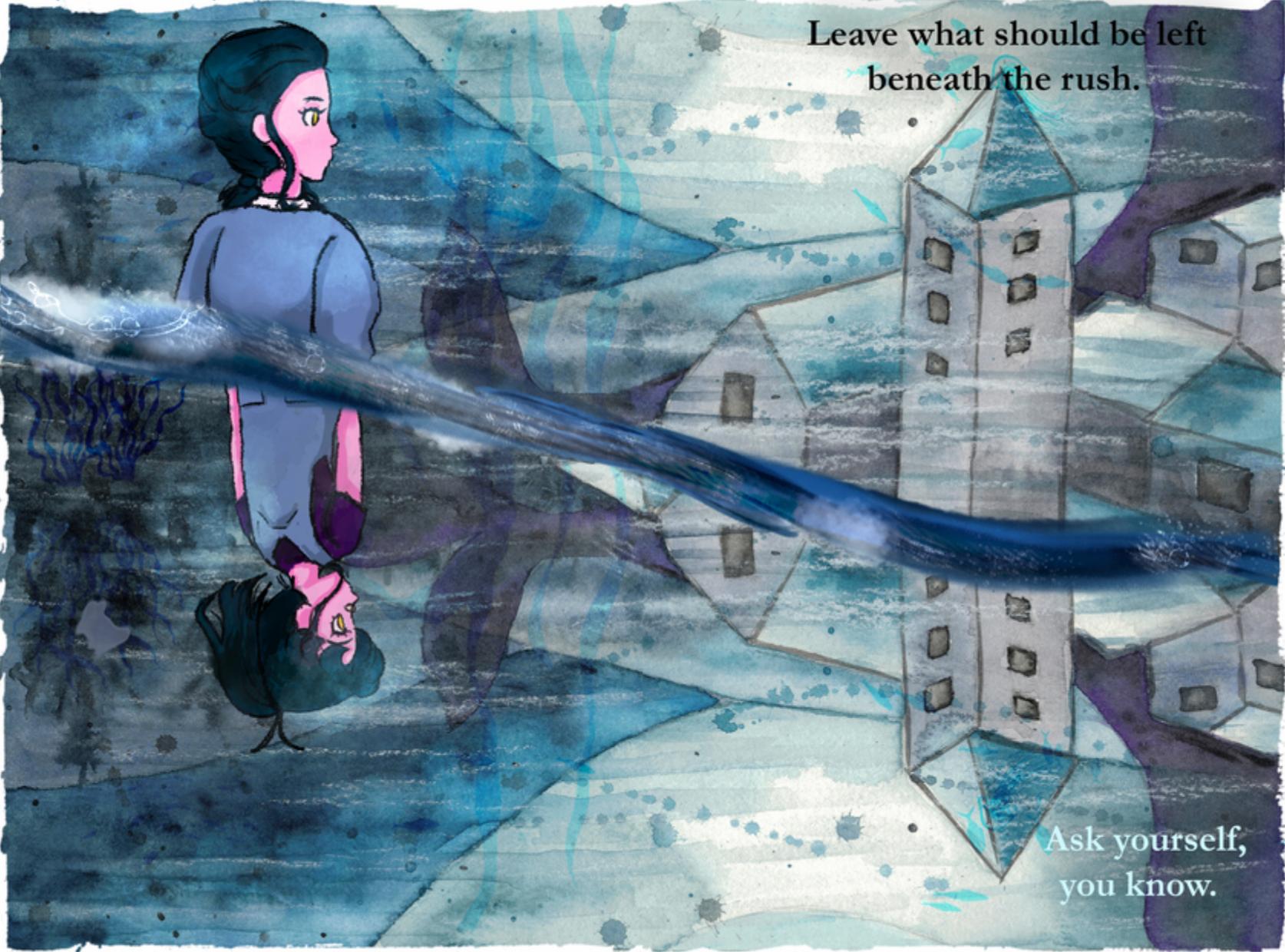
But SEEM and DO



are not the same.

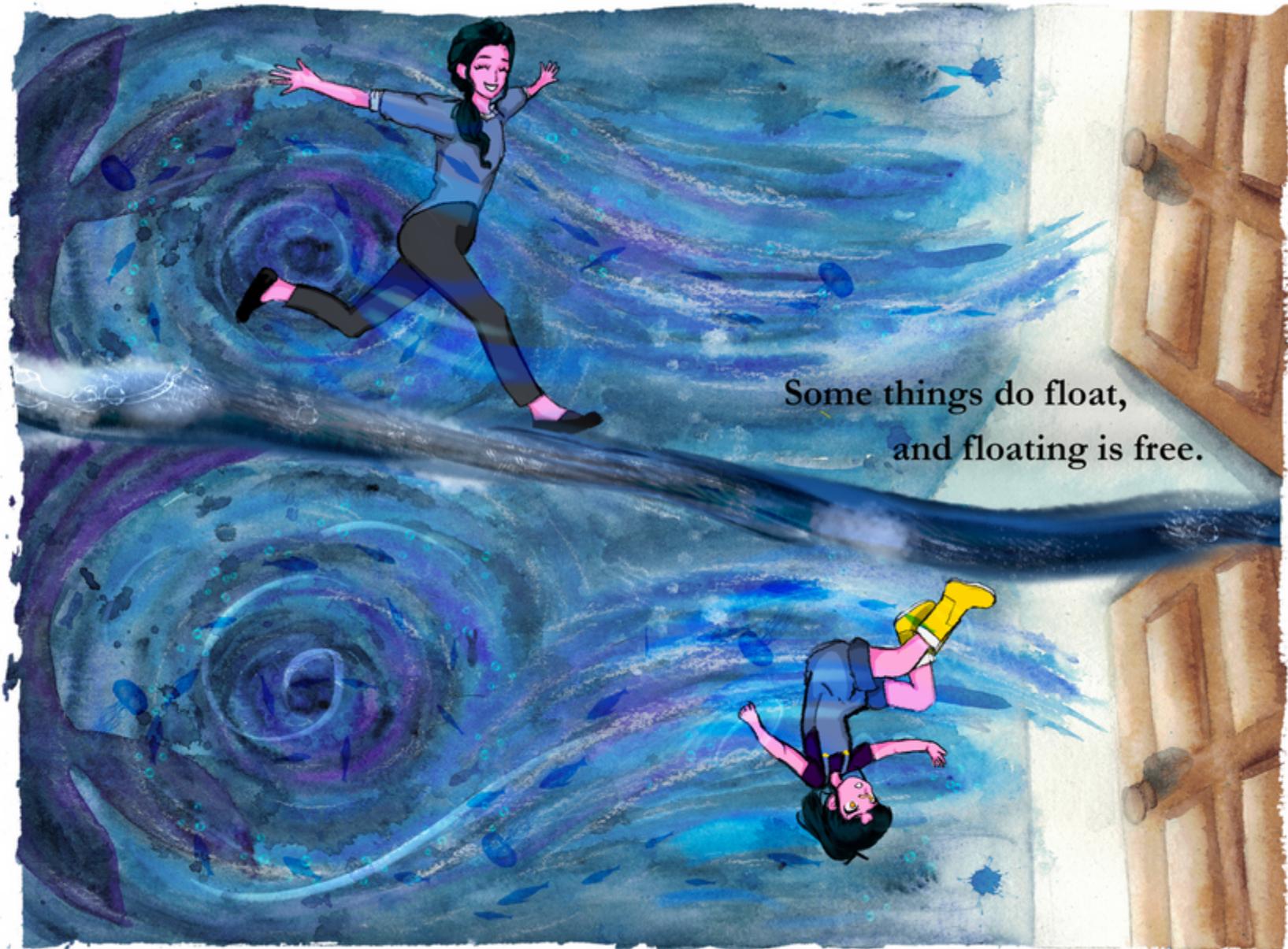


There is a shallow
on which to stand.

A watercolor illustration with a blue and purple color palette. On the left, a woman with dark hair in a blue dress stands on a dark, rocky shore, looking across a body of water. The water reflects a town with several buildings, including a prominent tall, multi-story structure. The background shows rolling hills or mountains under a pale sky. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Leave what should be left
beneath the rush.

Ask yourself,
you know.



Some things do float,
and floating is free.

Your **YOU**
finds itself back to

ME.





Author

Nicole Poole is an artist, higher education administrator, and a graduate student of art history at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The writing of this story was inspired by a struggle that many can relate to – losing their inner child and the attempts to recover it. Life experience can feel like the tides in the ocean, so powerful in imposing direction. A series of waves can push us so far that we feel lost. But the tides do change, and we have the ability to navigate our course. We can find our way back to what truly fulfills us. This story is a testament to that journey.

Editor

Hannah Walker is a graduate student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, pursuing her MA in Art History. She has always had a passion for books and spent countless hours of her childhood reading stories from around the world; she now looks towards combining her interests in literature, art, and history in her future as an educator. Some of her favorite genres are folklore, mystery, and fantasy/science fiction, but any good story will grab her attention. The story in this picture book certainly did —thinking back on what it was like to be young and wondering about the world and learning it was bigger than expected but didn't have to be as scary as it seemed. She is proud to have lent a hand in its creation.

Traditional Illustrator

Angeles Salinas is a Mexican painter and a graduate student in the Masters of Fine Art program at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her current artwork is the expression of the permanent dialogue occurring in the psyche of a middle-aged Mexican ex-patriate. Largely autobiographical, her work depicts a cumulus of experiences and life occurrences that continuously steer her path towards eventful situations that either gradually or abruptly modify the perception of herself. Salinas presents a collection of questions and statements about faith, displacement, belonging, existence, and the human condition. *Flowing Back to Me* is a picture book that intimately resonates with her own story.

Digital Illustrator

Angelica Romo is a Mexican American printmaker from Chicago, and a candidate for the Master of Fine Arts Degree at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Romo's current work details the struggles of women within the current systems of oppression and violence which exist in their lives. Romo is an illustrator for *Flowing Back to Me*, a picture book made in collaboration with other women artists. This picture book is important and resonates with Romo because of the many challenges in life that force young children to grow up, leaving most, if not all of their childhood behind. It is important to go back and care for one's inner child.

