

NOT MY GIRL

Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

Art by Gabrielle Grimard

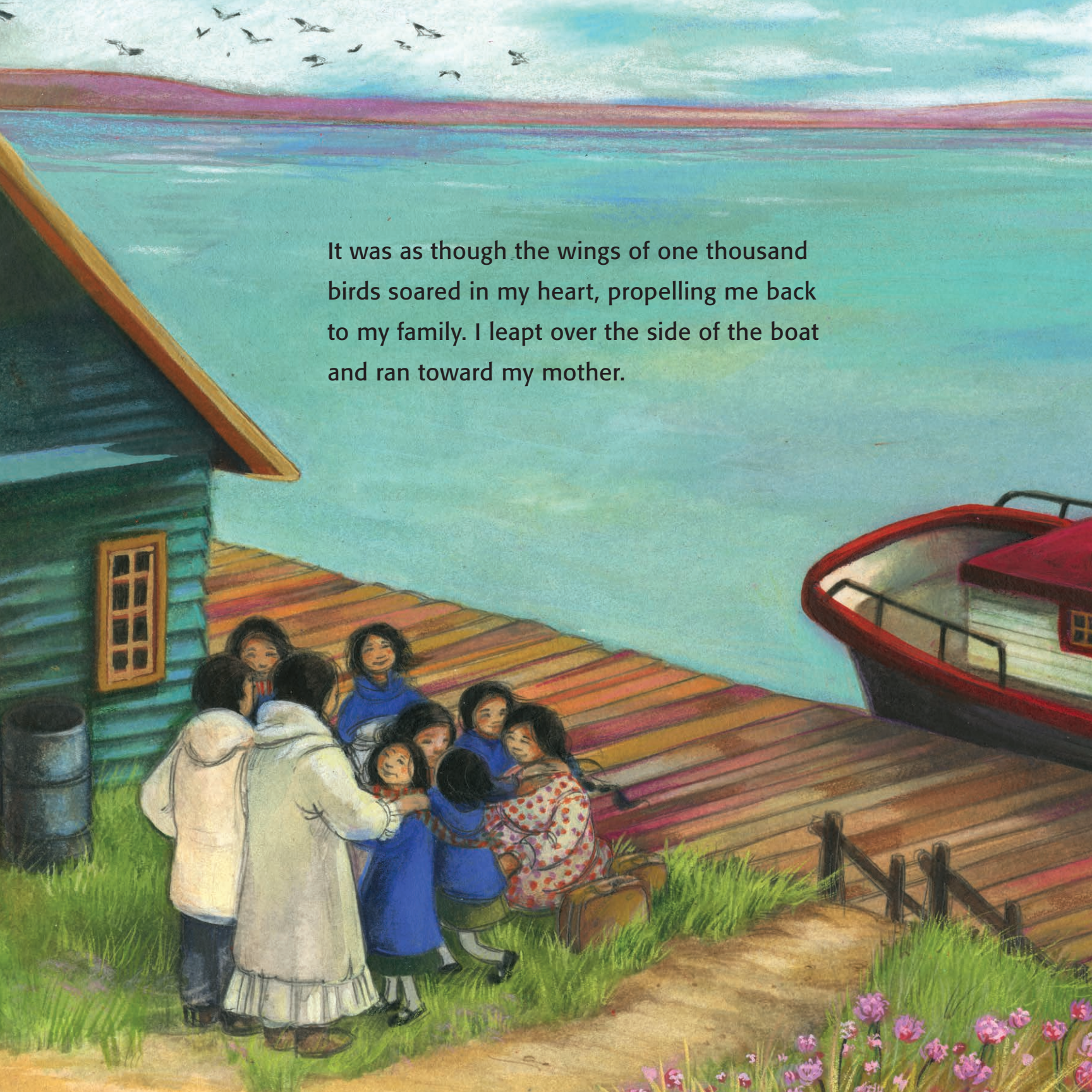


annick press

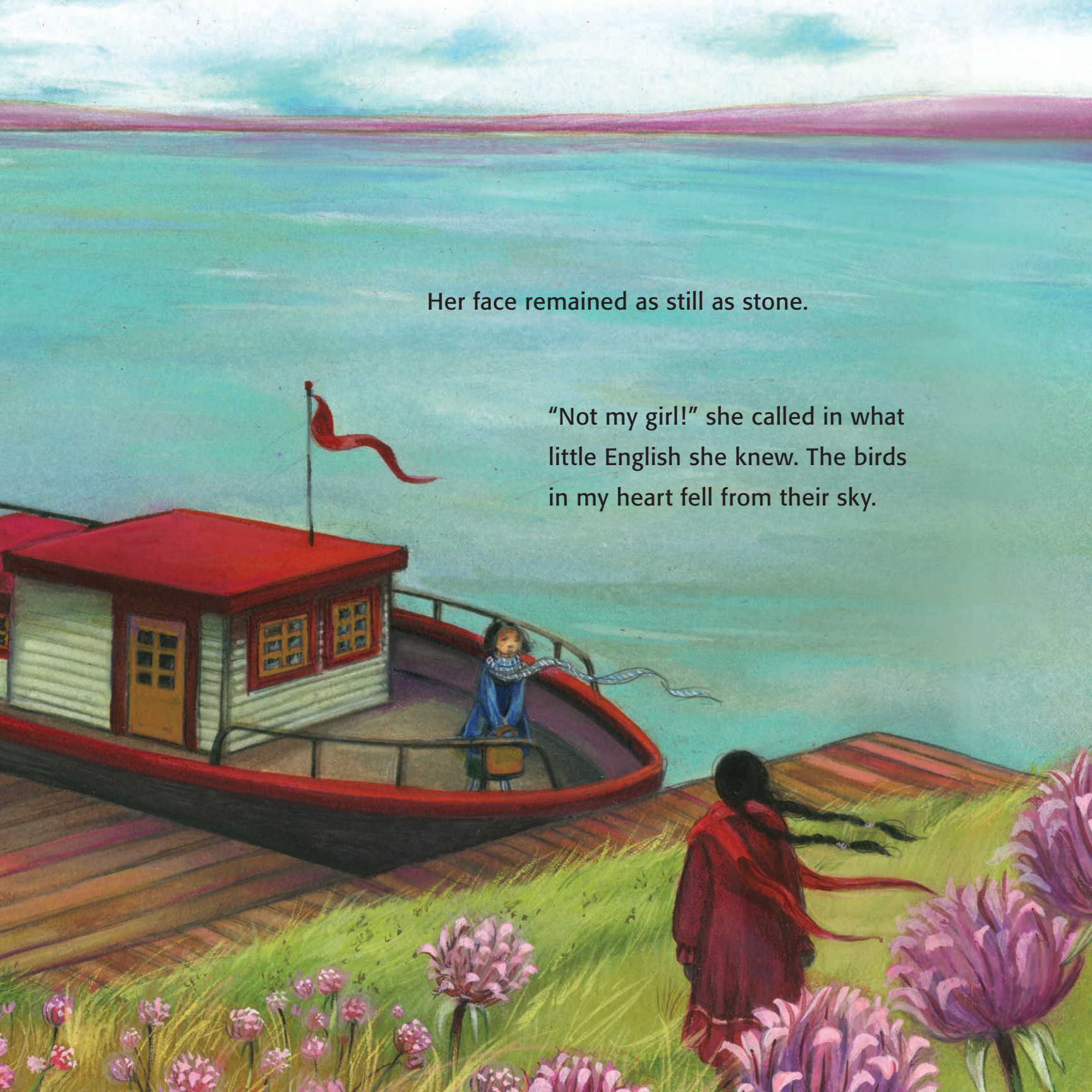
toronto + new york + vancouver



Margaret with her
parents, around 1937



It was as though the wings of one thousand birds soared in my heart, propelling me back to my family. I leapt over the side of the boat and ran toward my mother.

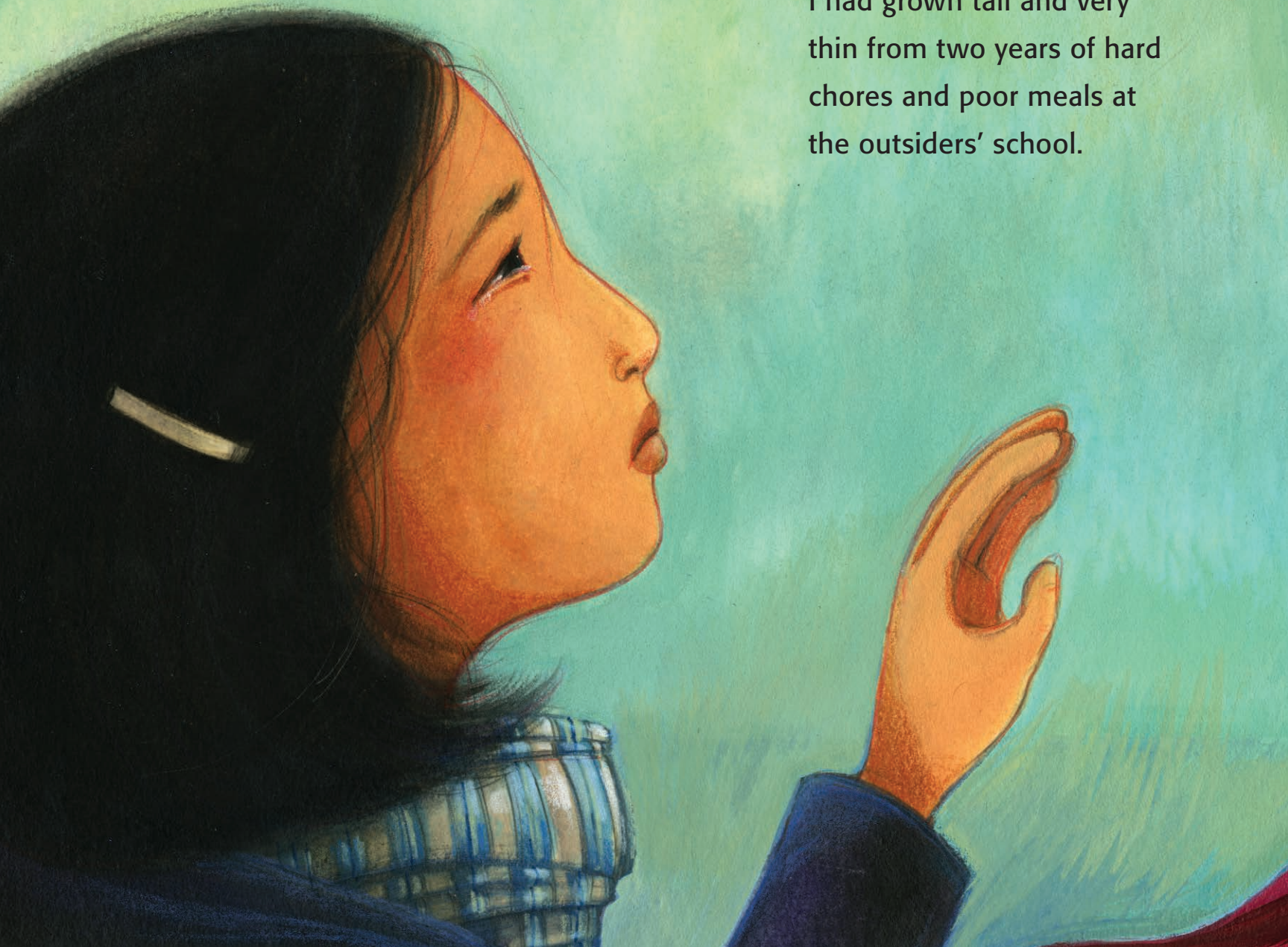


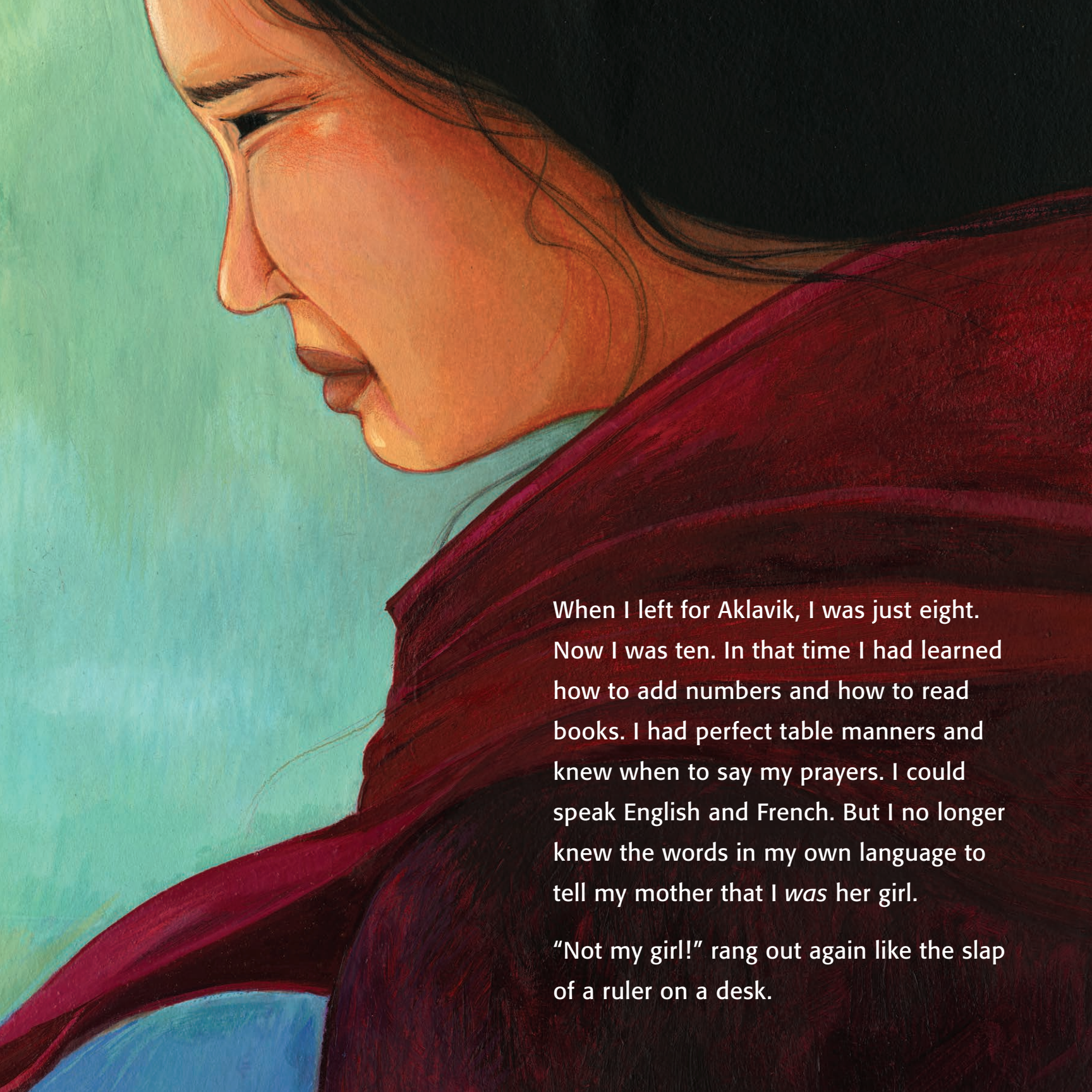
Her face remained as still as stone.

“Not my girl!” she called in what
little English she knew. The birds
in my heart fell from their sky.

I caught a glint of my own reflection in my mother's hard eyes. The long braids she had once lovingly plaited had been cut away, along with everything she remembered of me.

I had grown tall and very thin from two years of hard chores and poor meals at the outsiders' school.





When I left for Aklavik, I was just eight. Now I was ten. In that time I had learned how to add numbers and how to read books. I had perfect table manners and knew when to say my prayers. I could speak English and French. But I no longer knew the words in my own language to tell my mother that I *was* her girl.

“Not my girl!” rang out again like the slap of a ruler on a desk.

Dedications

For my three little
Inspirations. And for
Marty Simon and
Debra Grant, two
beautiful souls who
have each created
safe places for healing
—Christy

For all the children
still trying to find their
way home. May you
each discover a way
to step out from the
darkness behind you
into the light ahead
—Margaret

For my children
—Gabrielle

© 2014 Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (text)
© 2014 Gabrielle Grimard (illustrations)

Edited by Debbie Rogosin
Designed by Natalie Olsen/Kisscut Design

Annick Press Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund (CBF) for our publishing activities.



Cataloging in Publication

Jordan-Fenton, Christy, author
Not my girl / Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton ;
art by Gabrielle Grimard.

Previously published as: A stranger at home.
ISBN 978-1-55451-625-4 (bound).—ISBN 978-1-55451-624-7 (pbk.)

1. Pokiak-Fenton, Margaret—Childhood and youth—Juvenile literature. 2. Inuit—Canada—Residential schools—Juvenile literature. 3. Inuit—Cultural assimilation—Canada—Juvenile literature. 4. Inuit women—Biography—Juvenile literature.

I. Pokiak-Fenton, Margaret, author II. Grimard, Gabrielle, 1975–, artist III. Jordan-Fenton, Christy. Stranger at home. IV. Title.

E96.5.J652 2014 j371.829'9712071 C2013-906425-7

Distributed in Canada by:
Firefly Books Ltd.
50 Staples Avenue, Unit 1
Richmond Hill ON L4B 0A7

Published in the U.S.A. by Annick Press (U.S.) Ltd.
Distributed in the U.S.A. by:
Firefly Books (U.S.) Inc.
P.O. Box 1338
Ellicott Station
Buffalo, NY 14205

Printed in China

Also available in e-book format.
Please visit www.annickpress.com/ebooks.html
for more details. Or scan

