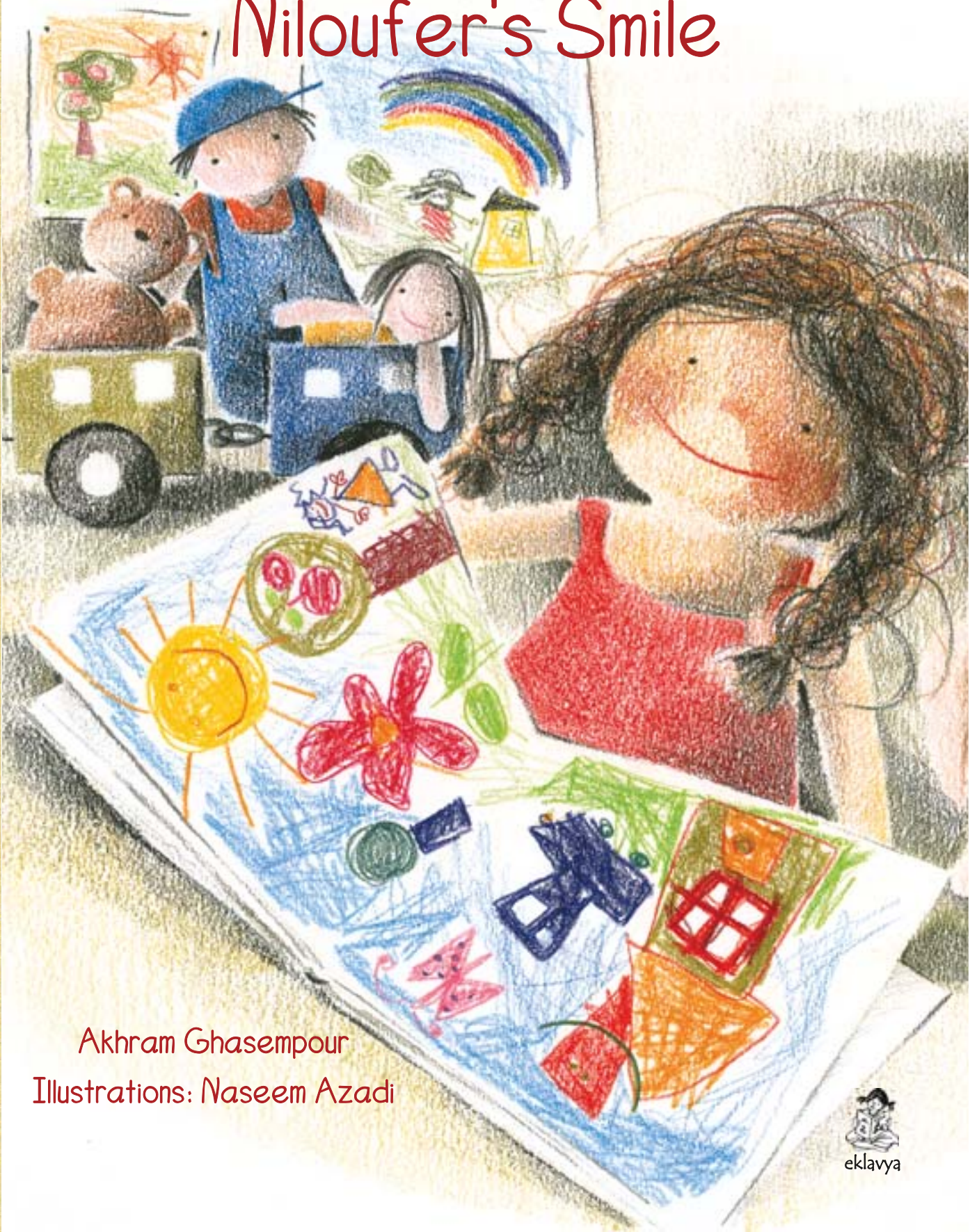


Niloufer's Smile



Akhram Ghasempour
Illustrations: Naseem Azadi

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Story: Akhram Ghasempour

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What a surprise! One morning Niloufer woke up to find her smile missing.

She searched every nook and cranny – under the pillow, in her pockets, in the almirah... she even looked inside the shoe-box. But it was nowhere.

Her face didn't look nice without a smile. The brightness of her eyes was also gone. She remembered her mother's words, "Only smiling children have stars shining in their eyes."







May be I did not take care of my smile.
But what do I do now?





Shall I tell Ma? But she will only say, "Try to think hard where you kept it last."

Niloufer kept on thinking, kept on searching. She peeped under the bed too, but...



Then Niloufer turned the pages of her drawing book. What if the smile was somewhere there?

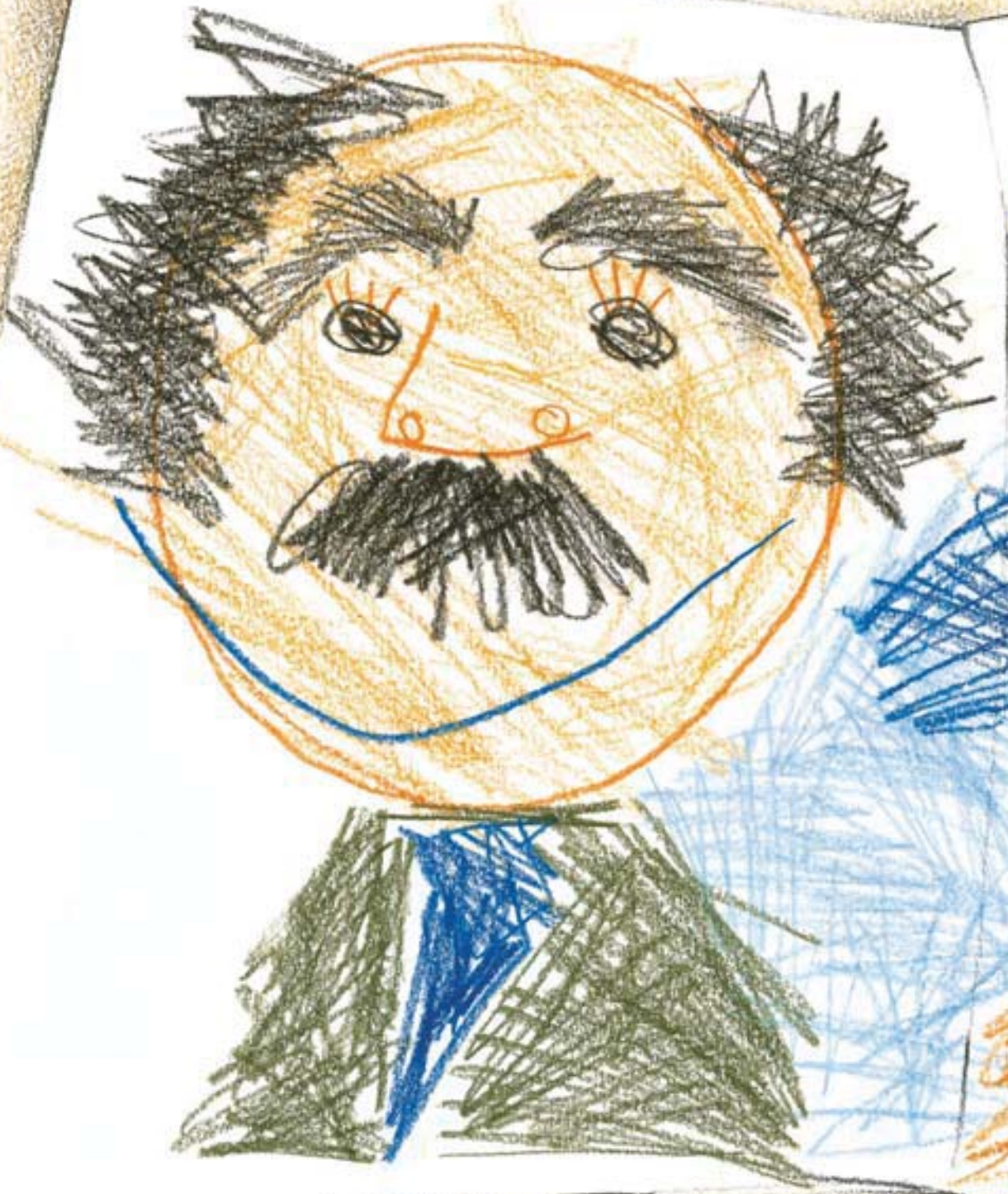
How angry the faces looked. Did she make them? She felt very bad looking at so many sad faces. Having lost her smile, she knew how bad it felt without a smile.

She picked up a crayon and started making smiles on all the faces.





A wide smile on Papa's face.

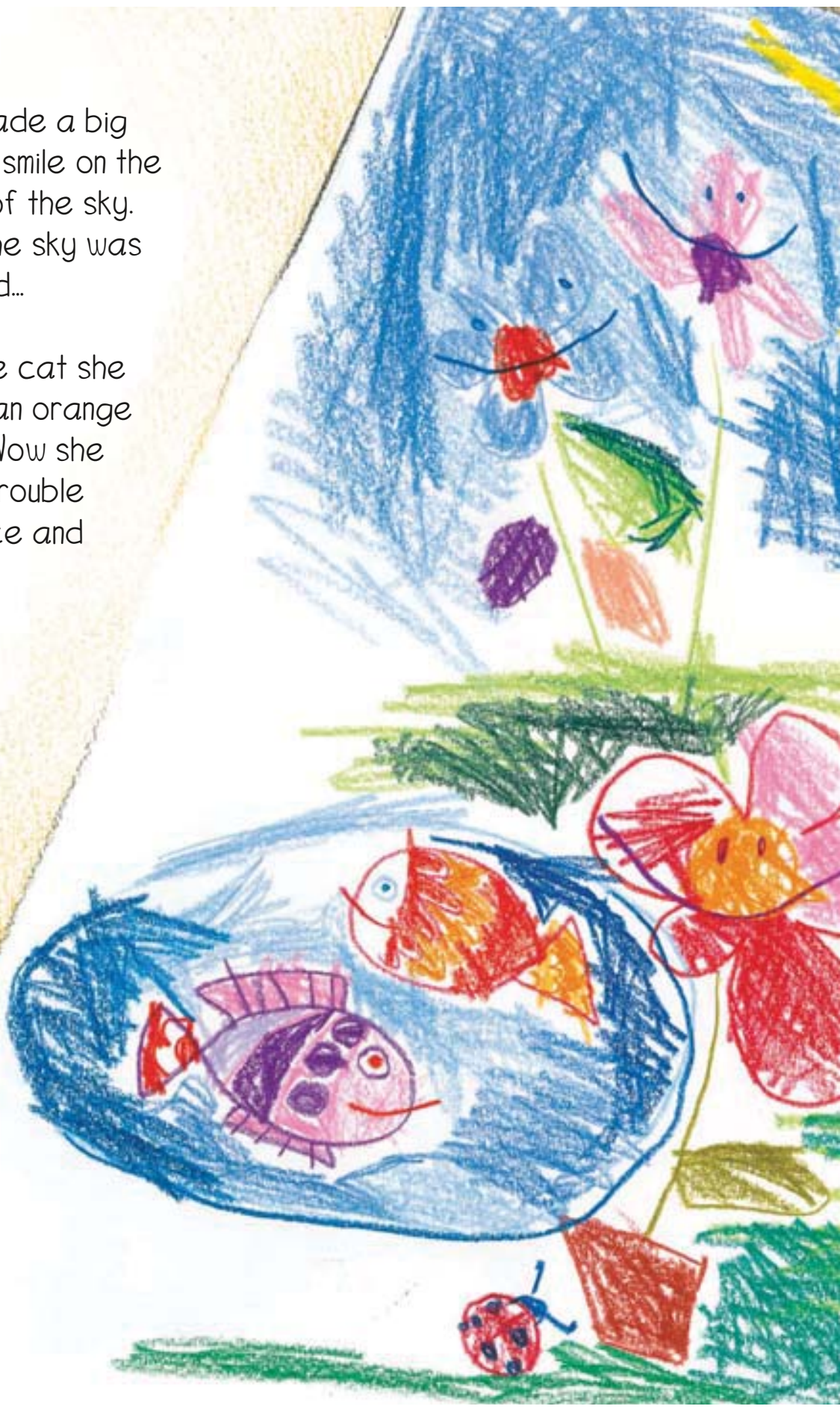


A bright smile on Ma's face.



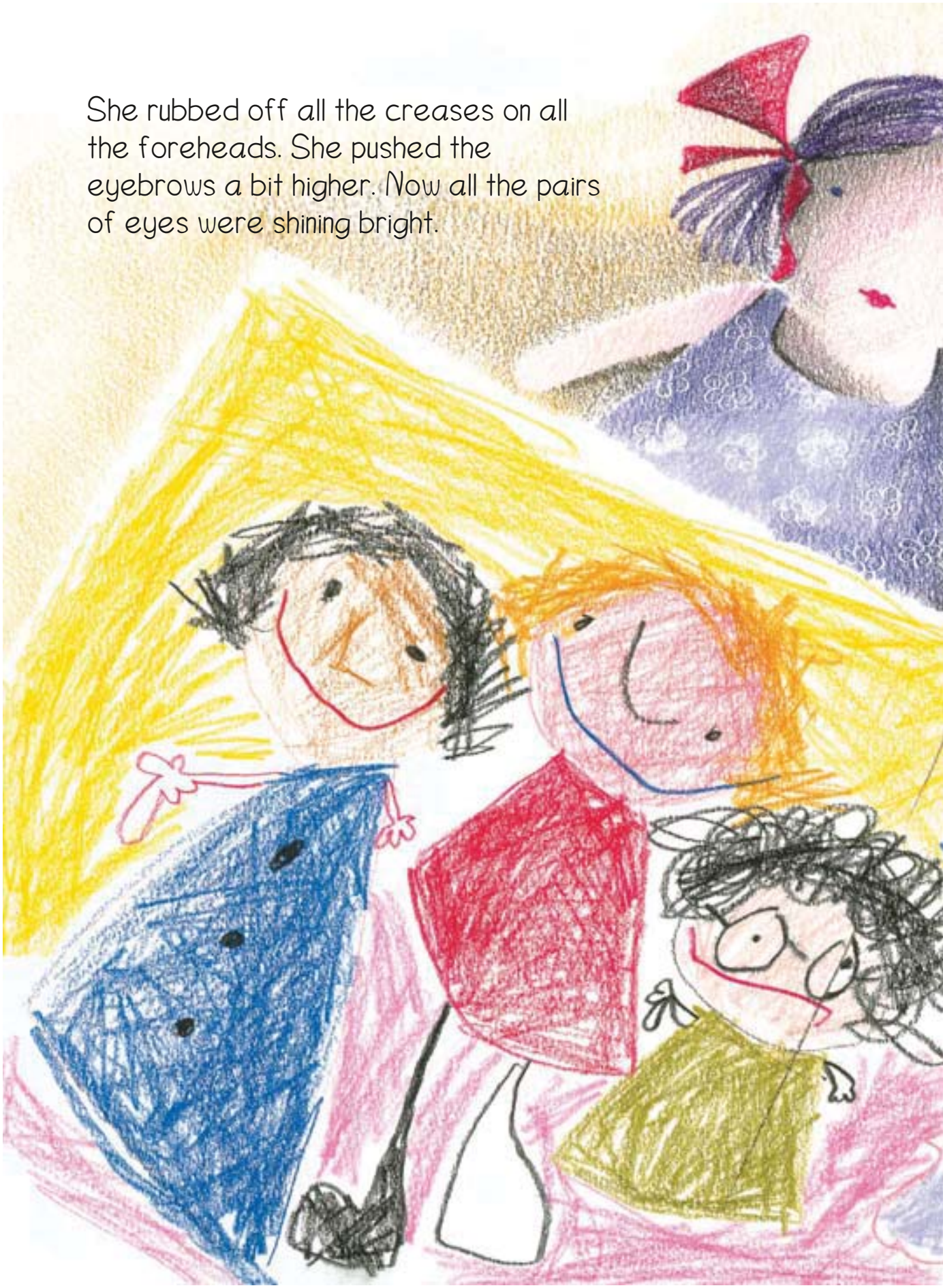
She made a big
yellow smile on the
face of the sky.
Now the sky was
not sad...

For the cat she
made an orange
smile. Now she
won't trouble
the mice and
fish.





She rubbed off all the creases on all the foreheads. She pushed the eyebrows a bit higher. Now all the pairs of eyes were shining bright.







She even made a green smile on the chimney. How funny it looked!

Niloufer laughed out aloud ...and suddenly her smile was back.





Wonder where Niloufer had lost her smile. . .
But see, now she goes about smiling with all her
dolls and toys.



What a surprise!
Niloufer's smile disappeared.
She looked everywhere but it was
nowhere to be found.


She turned the pages of her drawing book.
Who knows if it might be inside?

She picked up a crayon and started making
a smile on all the faces, and then . . .

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