

# Farm Families on the Family Farm



ROBYN BUTTARS

Illustrations by  
BARBARA WESTOVER

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*Dedicated to dairy farmers in appreciation for the delicious,  
nutritious product they produce.*

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with Dairy West*

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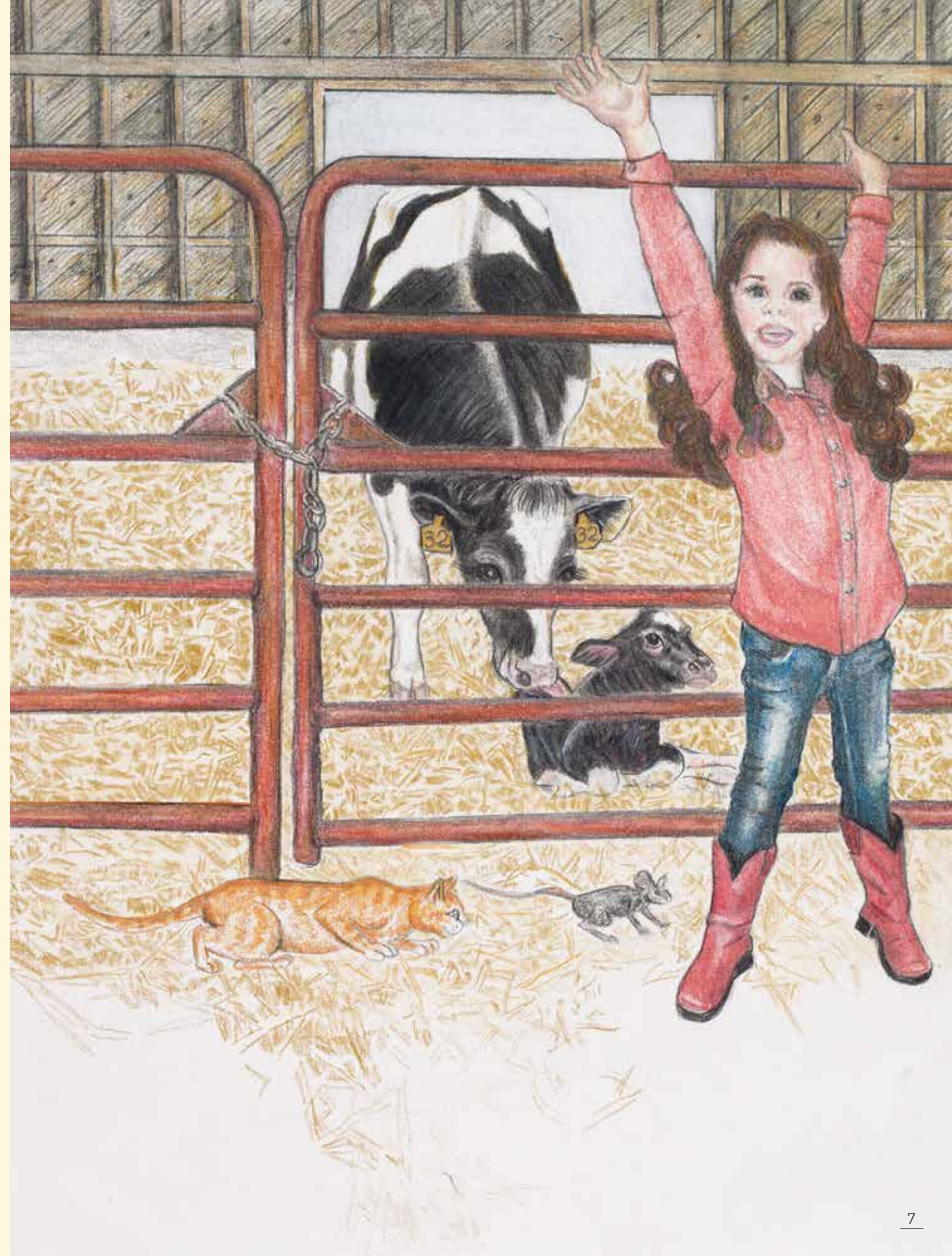
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Hooray! I get to name the newborn calf!

This calf is not just any calf—she is from Matilda’s family. My family and Matilda’s family have lived together on our family farm for 100 years.

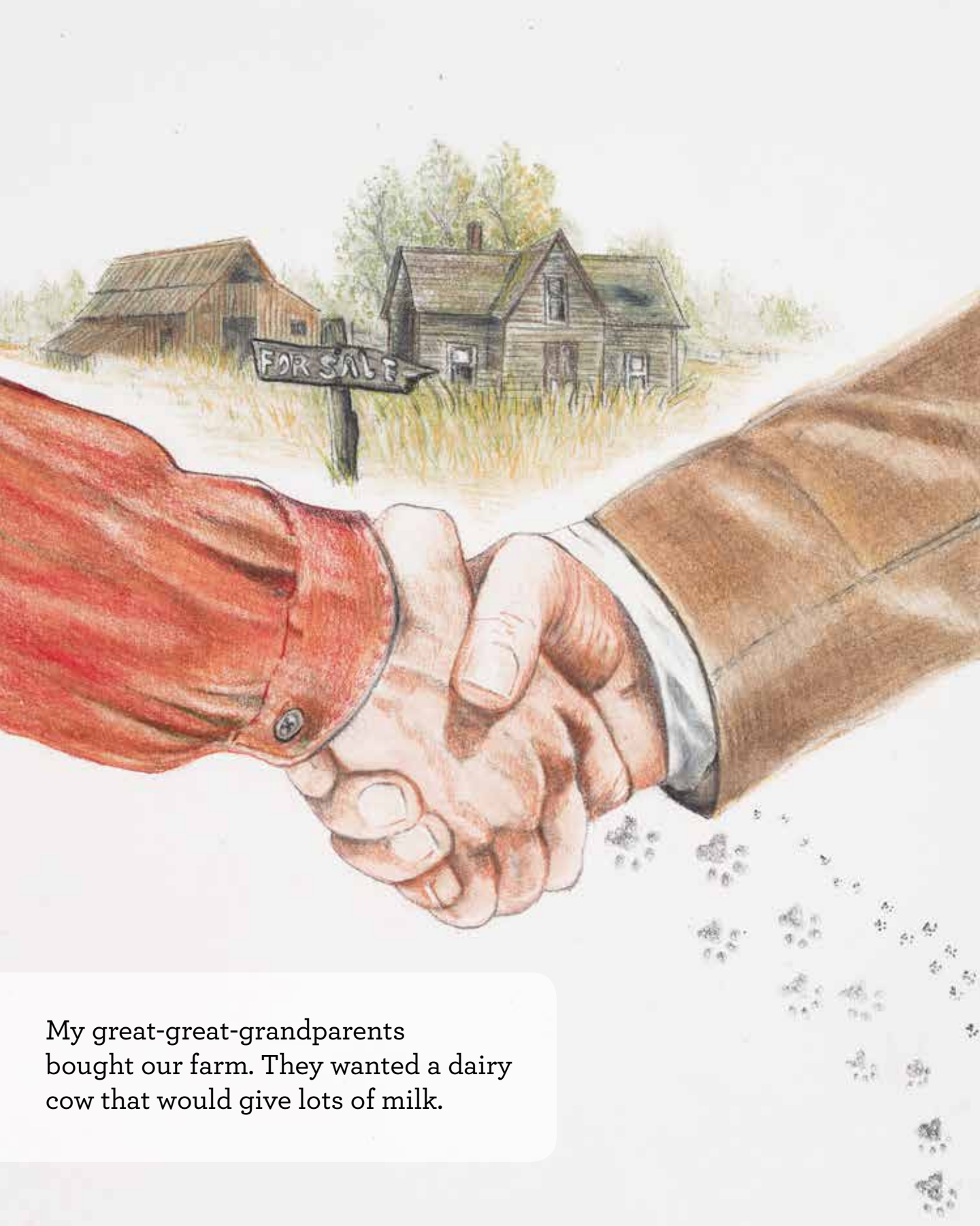




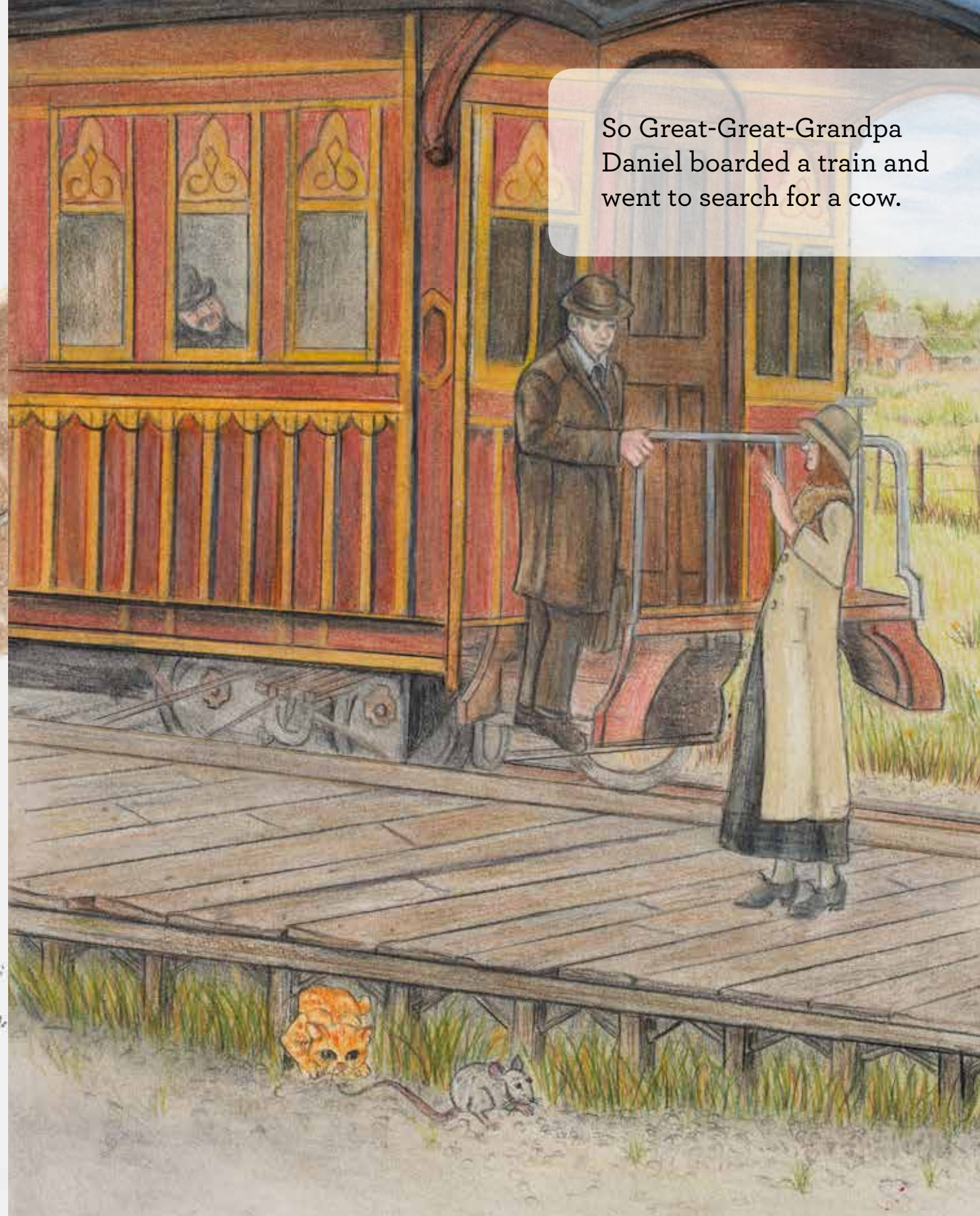
Pictures of Matilda's family are in our office. Soon, a picture of the newborn that I get to name will hang next to them.





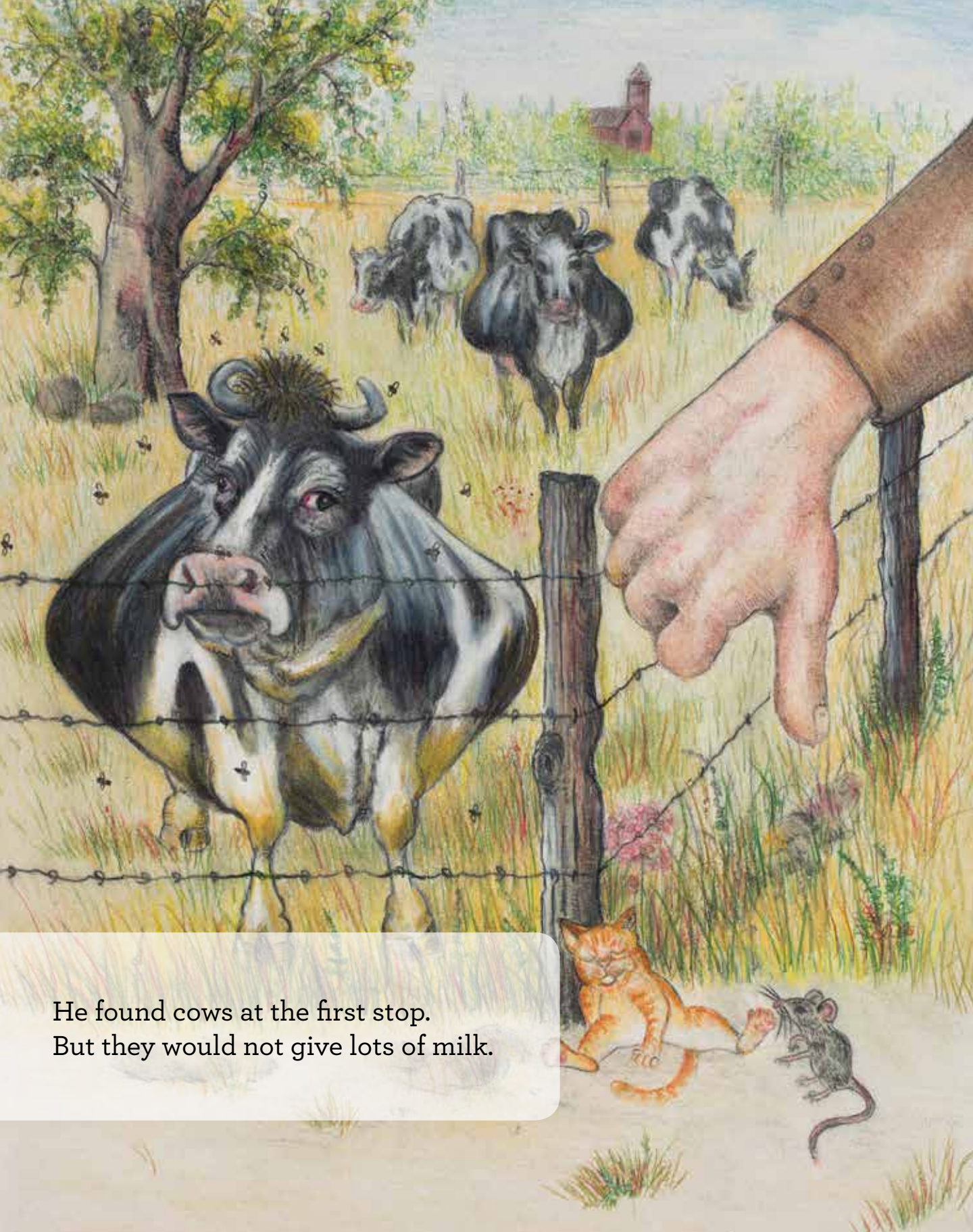


My great-great-grandparents bought our farm. They wanted a dairy cow that would give lots of milk.



So Great-Great-Grandpa Daniel boarded a train and went to search for a cow.



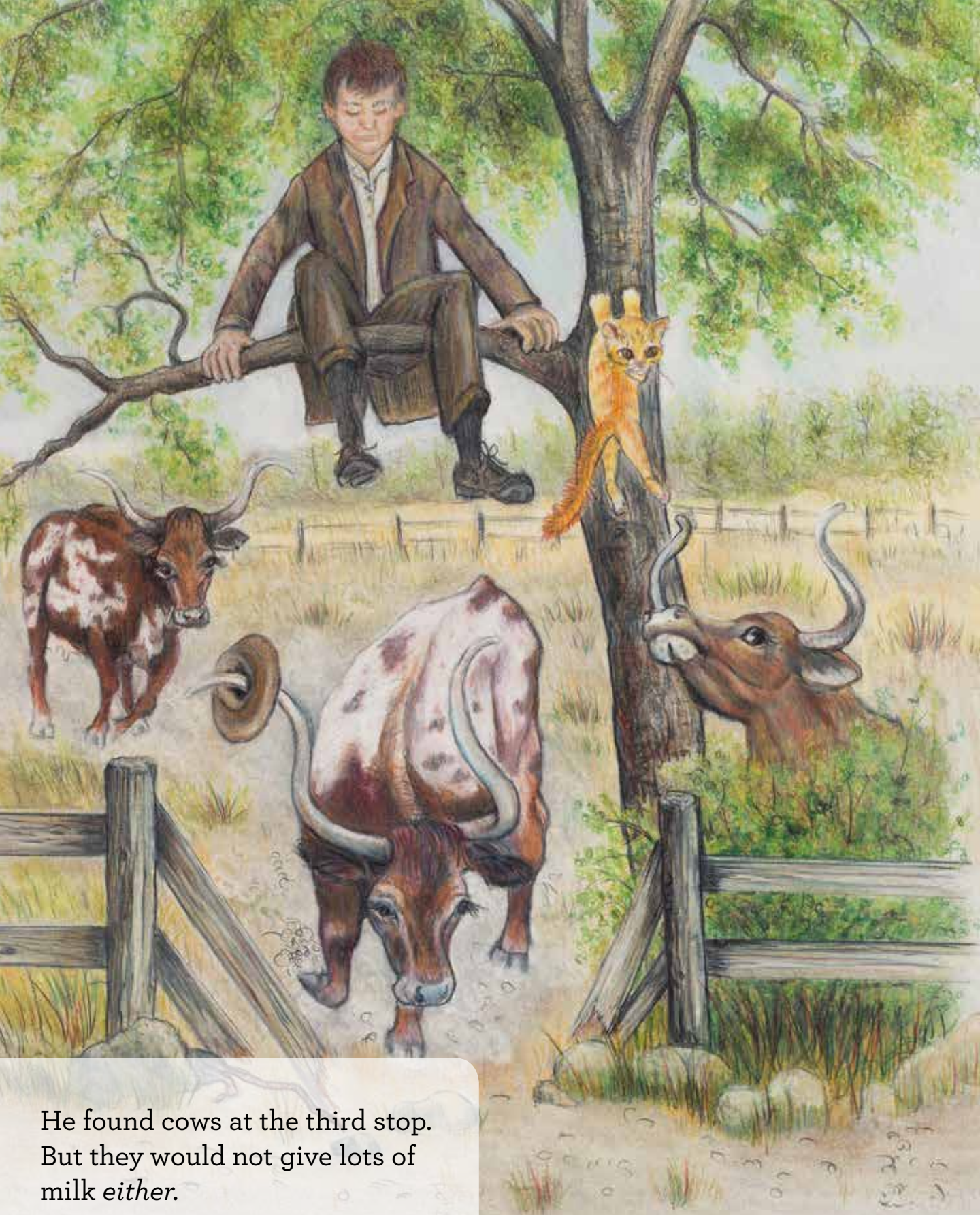


He found cows at the first stop.  
But they would not give lots of milk.

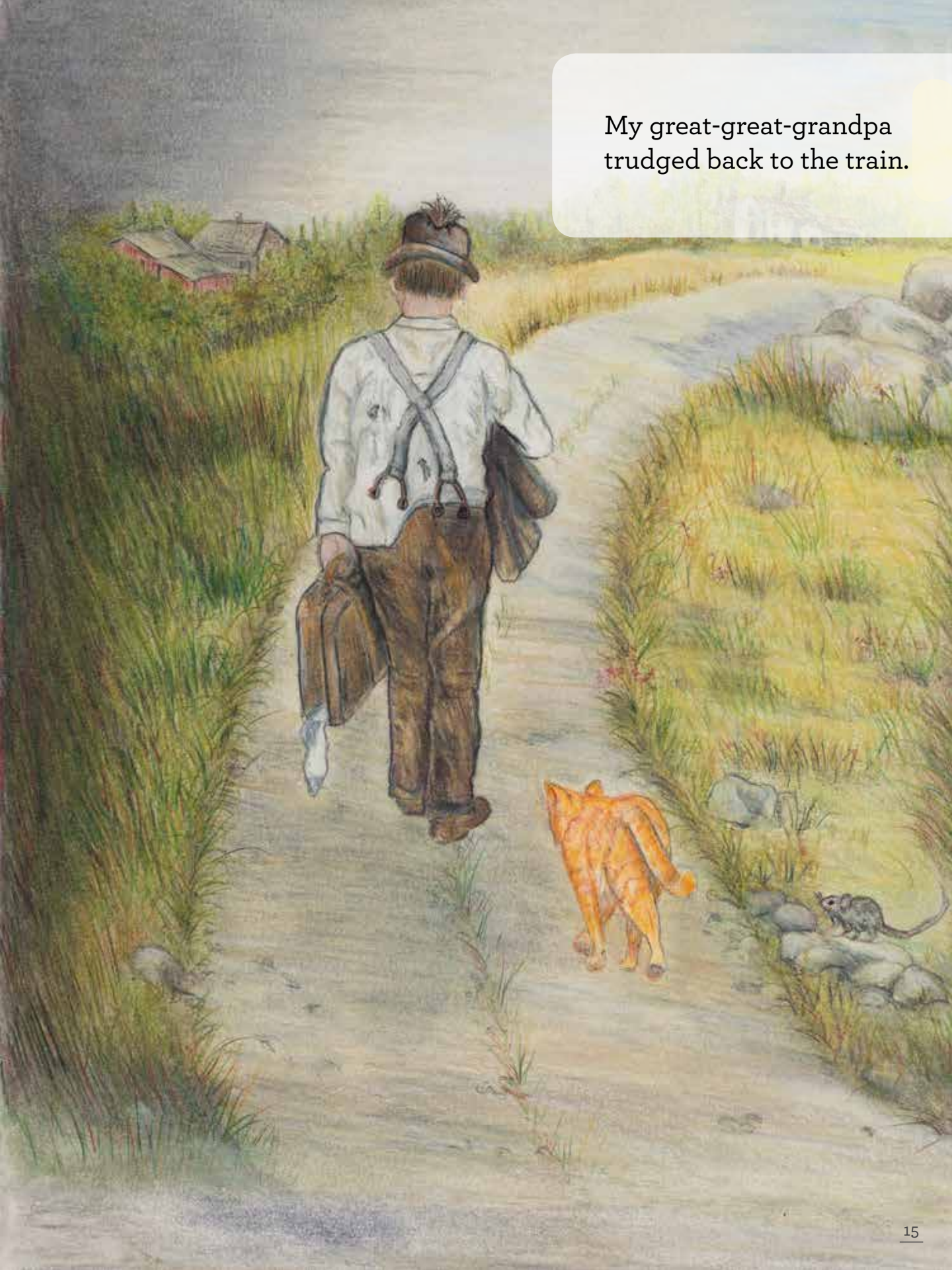
He found cows at the second  
stop. But they would not give  
lots of milk.





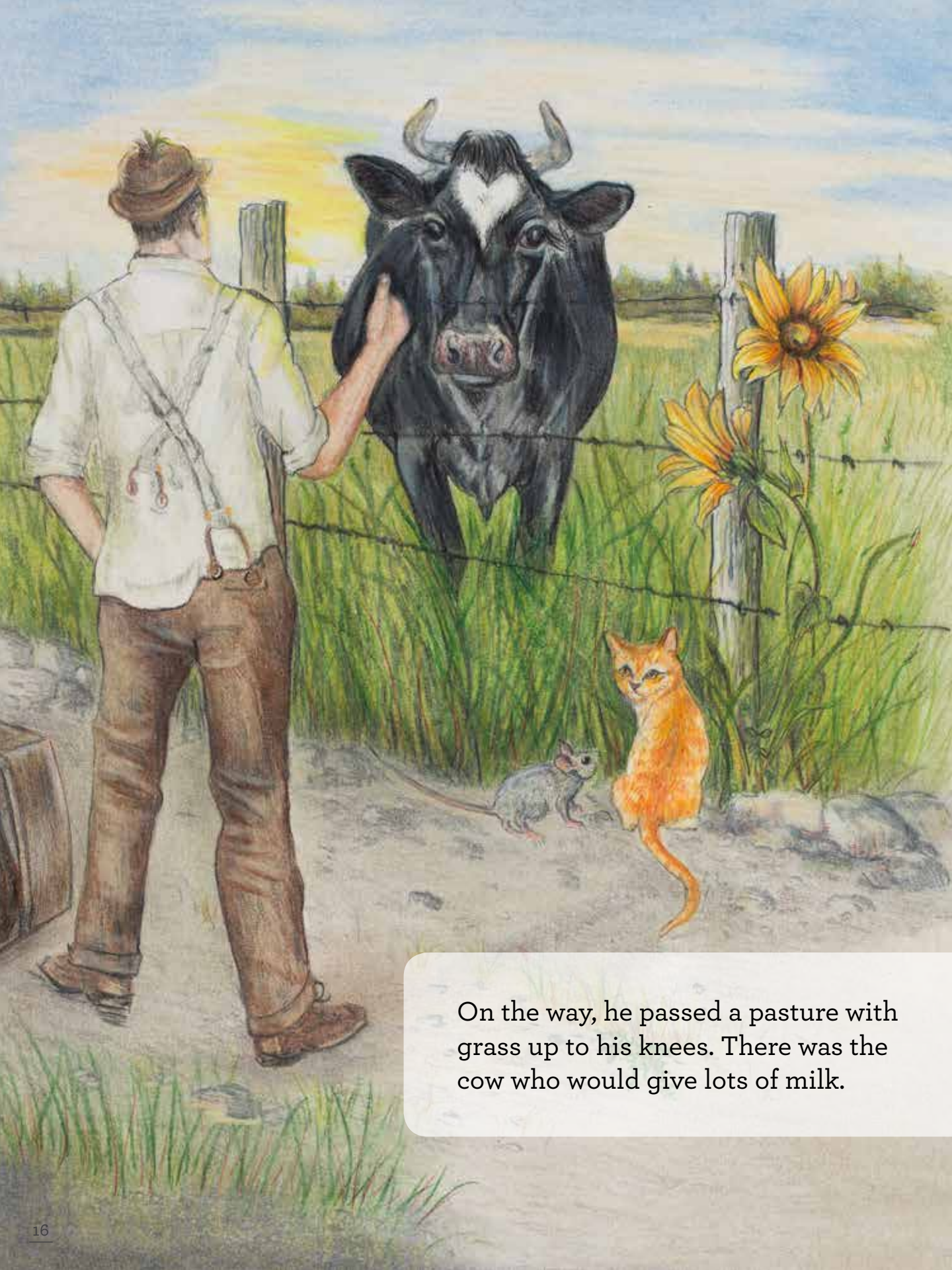


He found cows at the third stop.  
But they would not give lots of  
milk *either*.

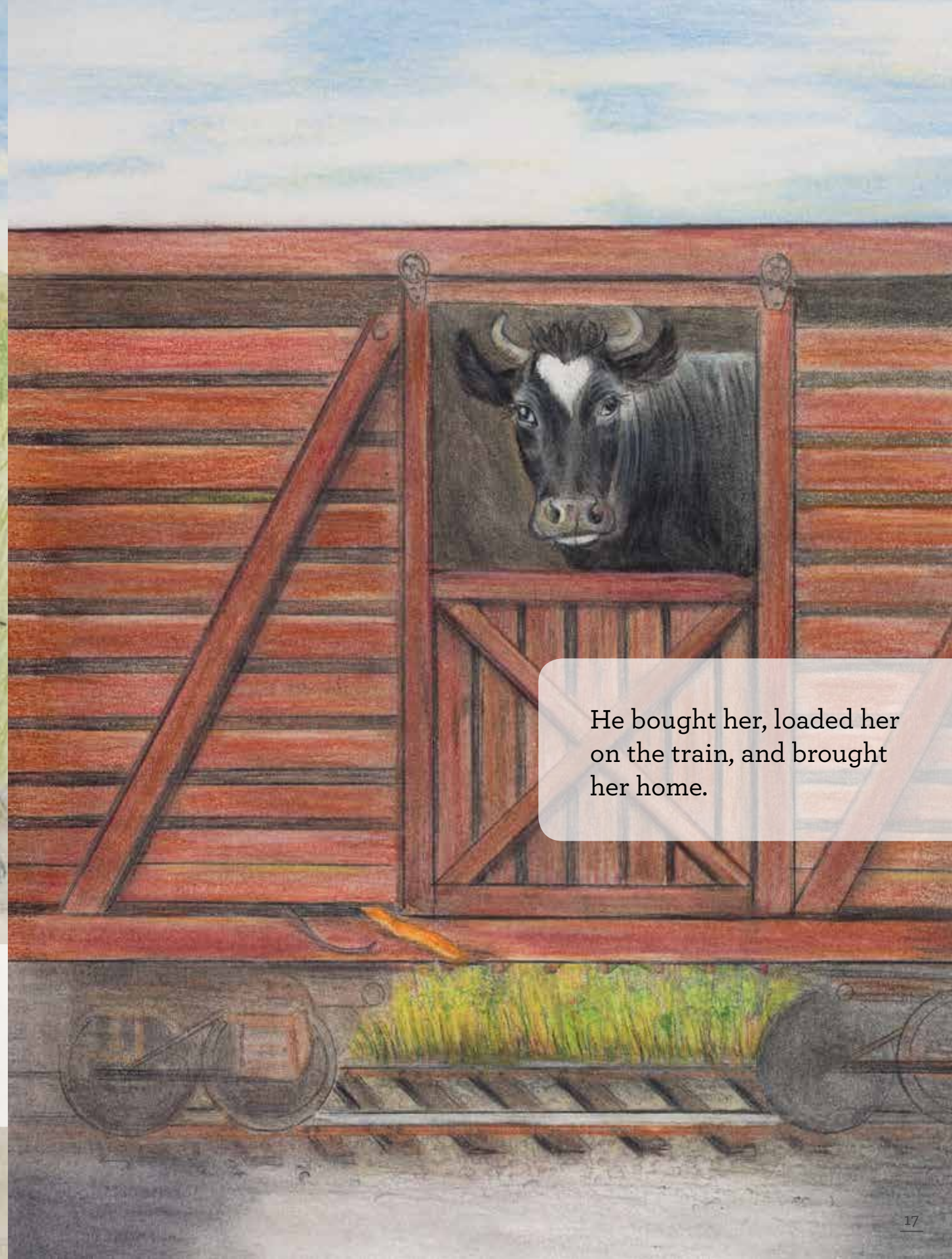


My great-great-grandpa  
trudged back to the train.





On the way, he passed a pasture with grass up to his knees. There was the cow who would give lots of milk.



He bought her, loaded her on the train, and brought her home.



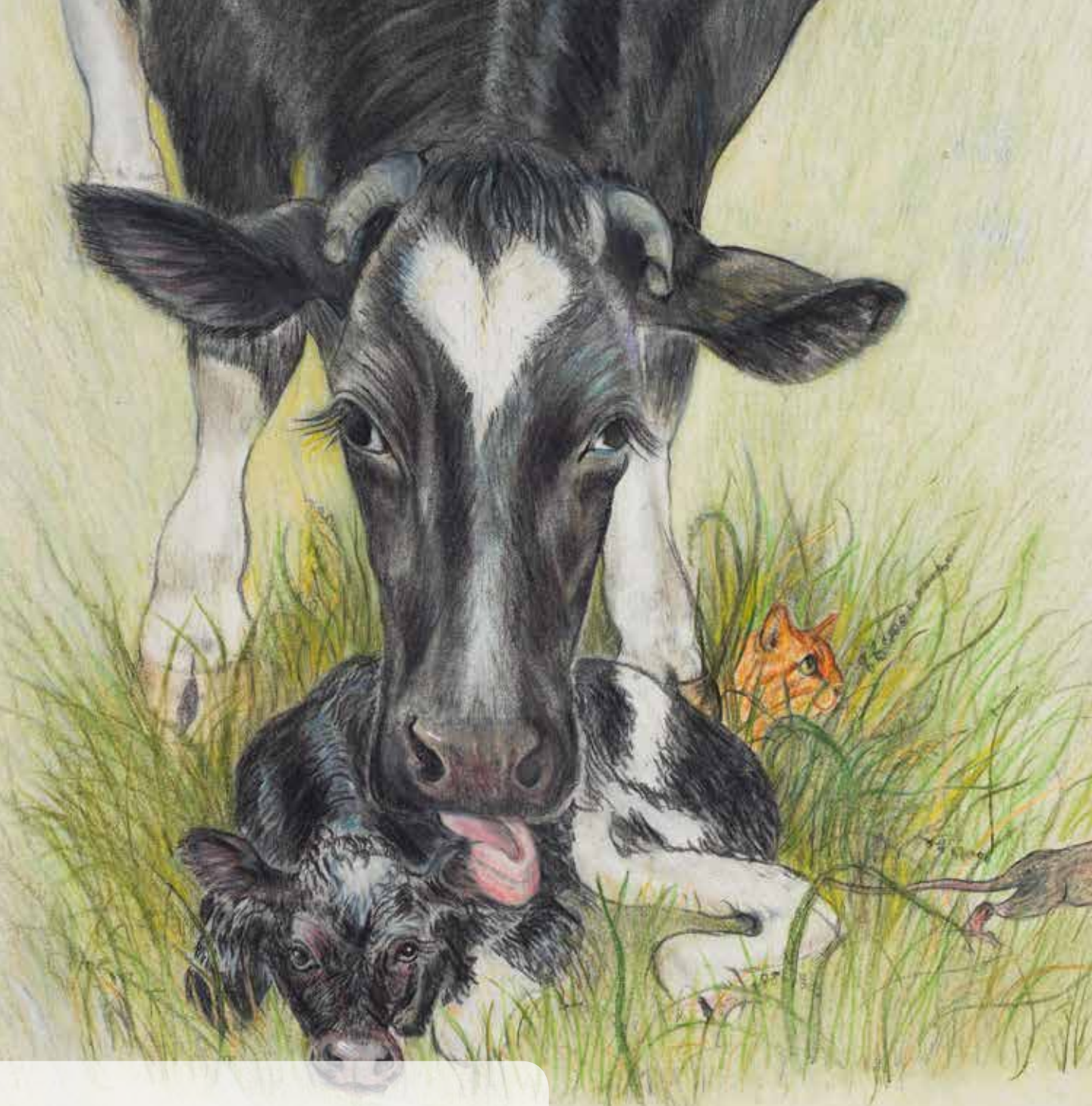


Great-Great-Grandma Maggie named the cow Matilda and milked her by hand, every morning and every night.



Their family drank the milk and churned the cream into butter.





When Matilda had a heifer calf, they named her Molly.

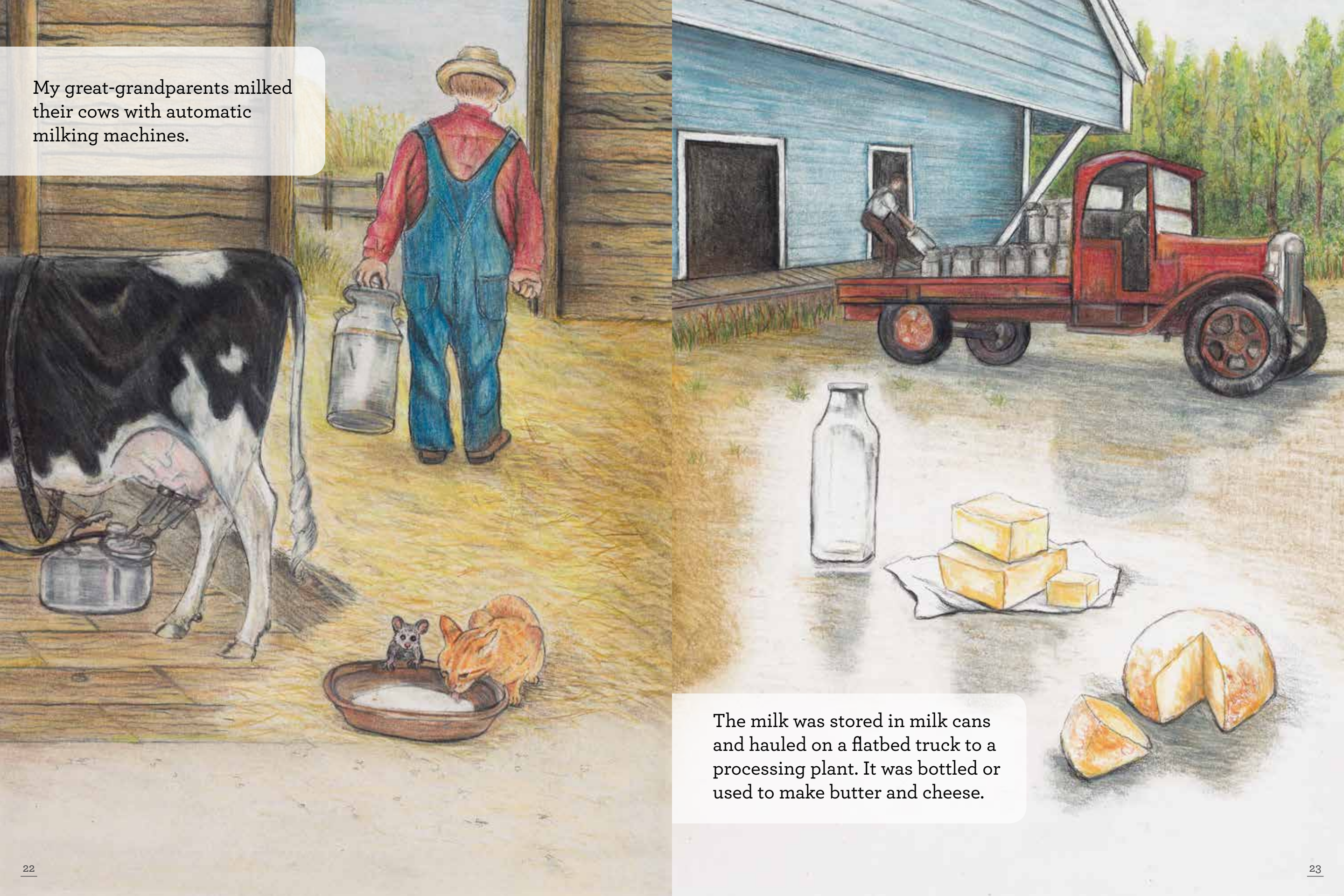
Molly had Mercy, and Mercy had Millie, and Millie had Mary and...



my great-grandparents bought the family farm.

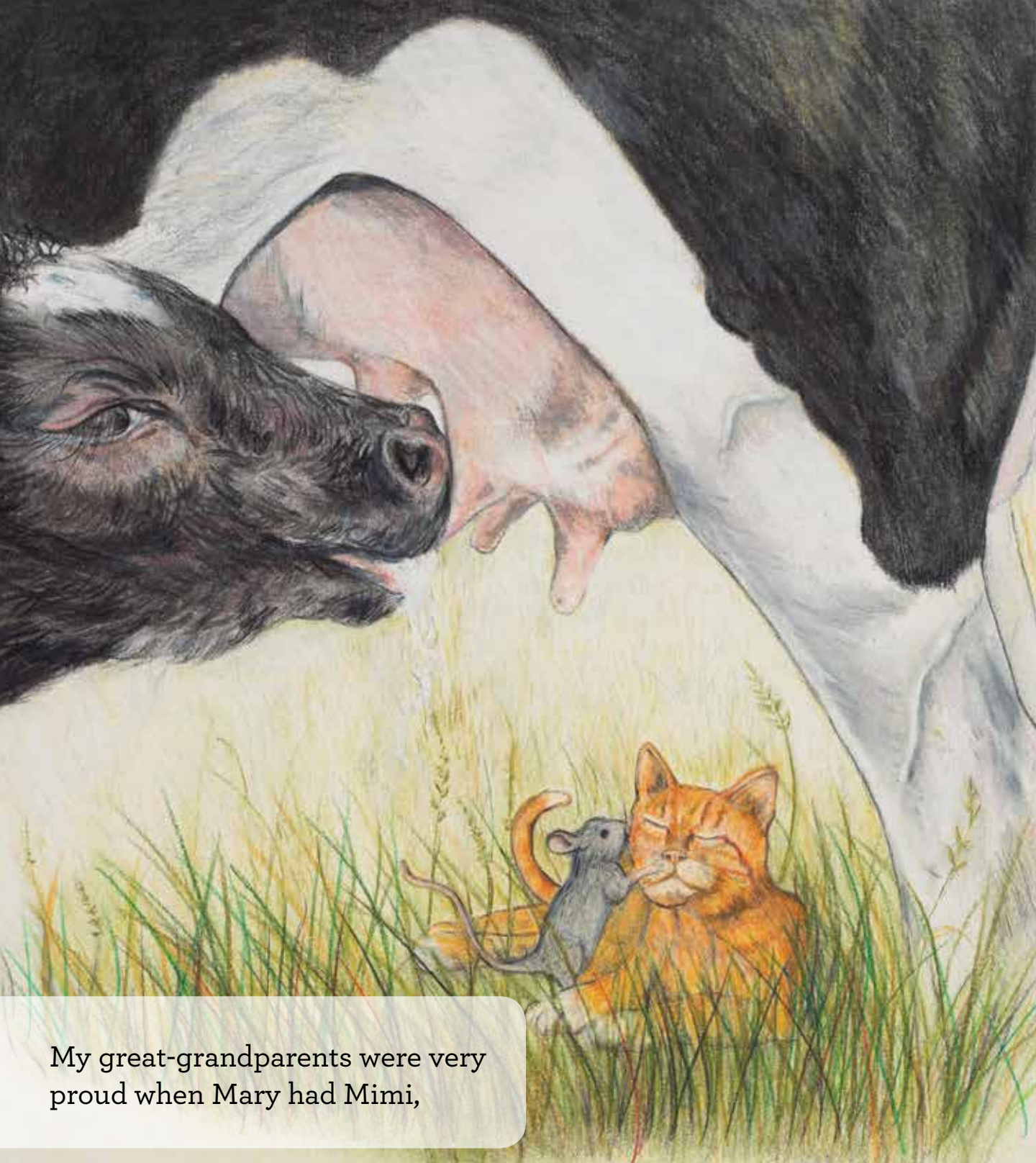


My great-grandparents milked their cows with automatic milking machines.



The milk was stored in milk cans and hauled on a flatbed truck to a processing plant. It was bottled or used to make butter and cheese.





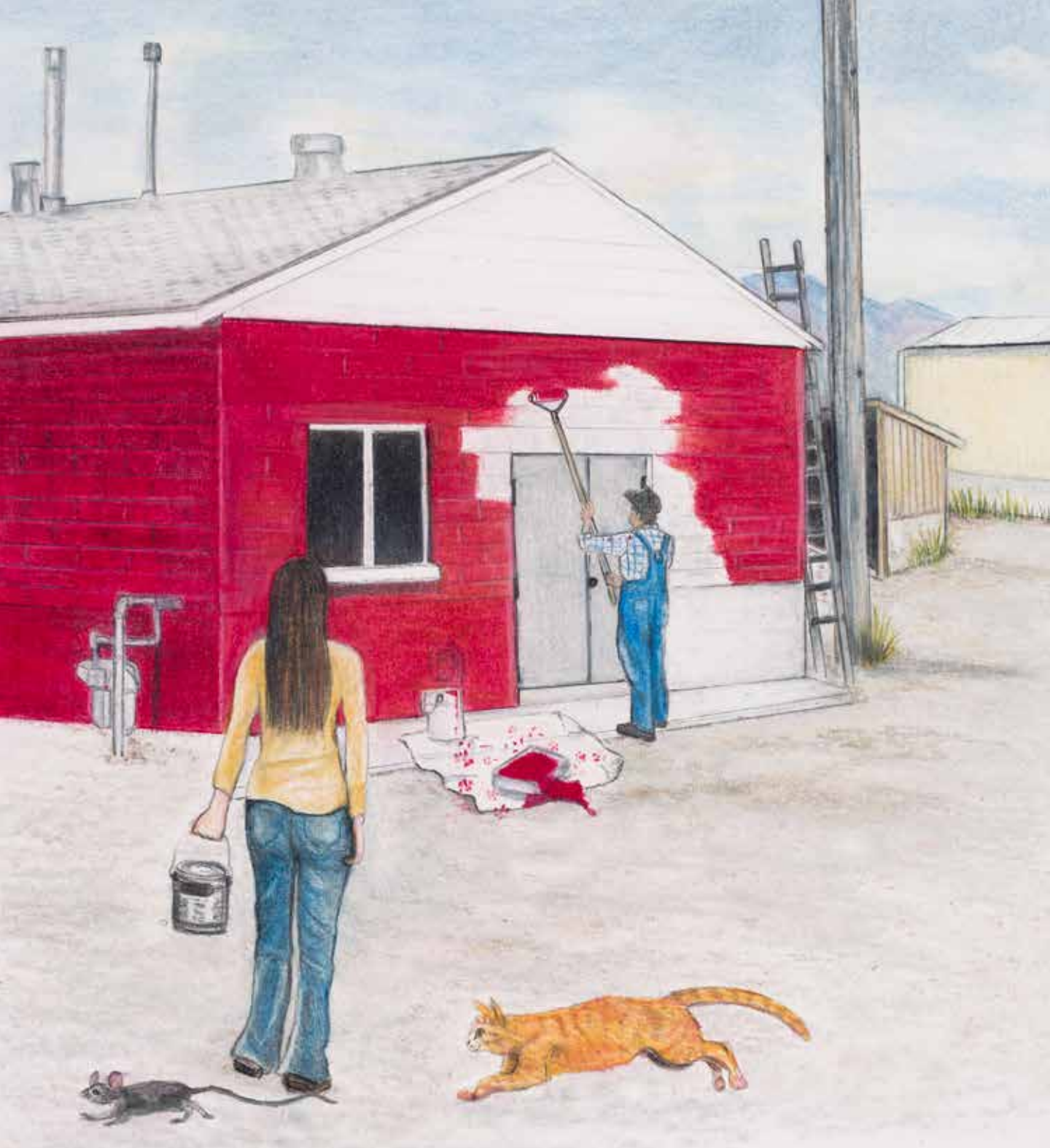
My great-grandparents were very proud when Mary had Mimi,

and Mimi had Marci, and Marci had Margi and...

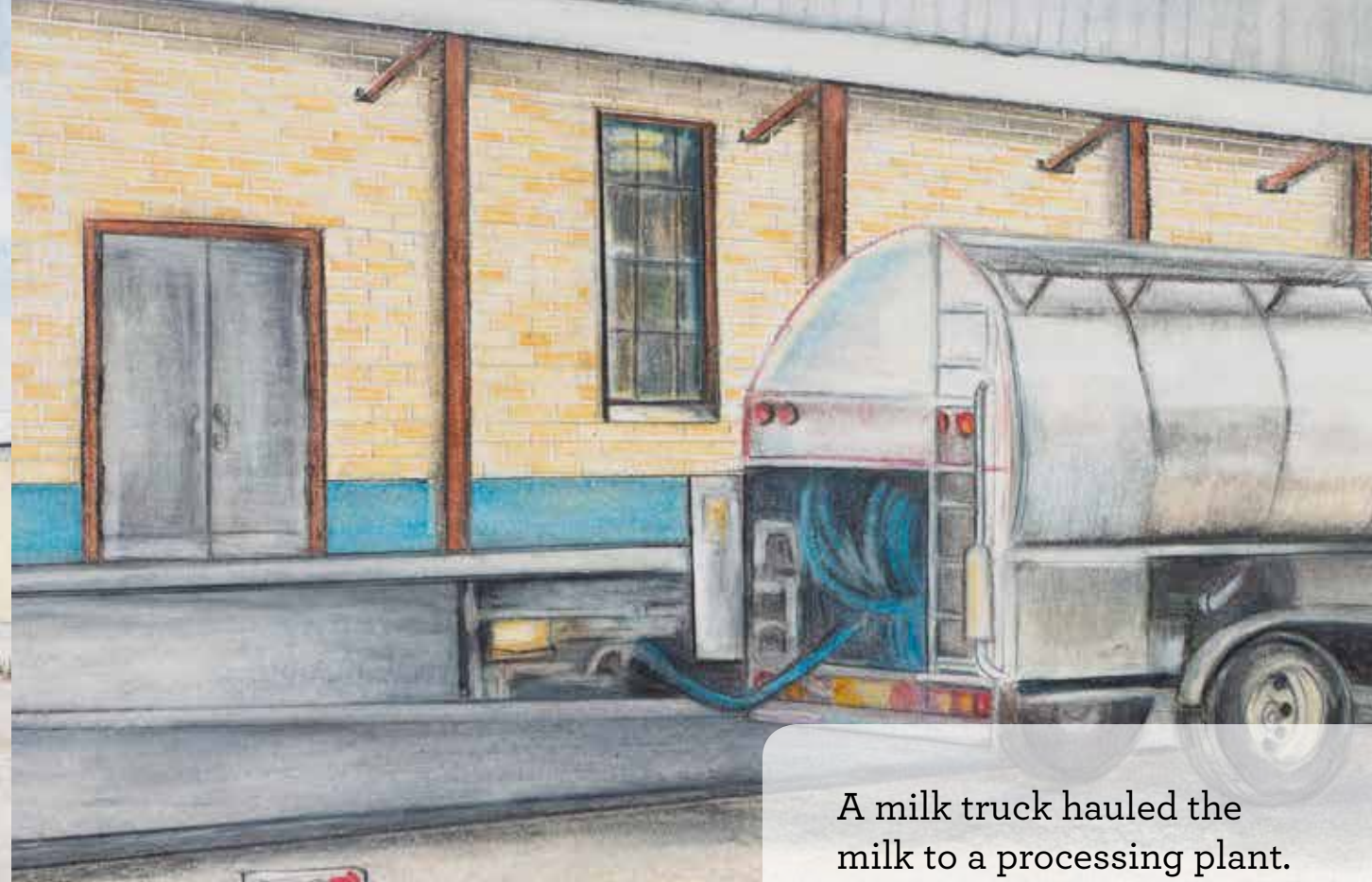


my grandparents bought the family farm.





My grandparents built a new barn to milk the cows in.



A milk truck hauled the milk to a processing plant. The milk was packaged in cartons or used to make butter, cheese, and yogurt.







My grandparents were very proud when Margi had Marley,

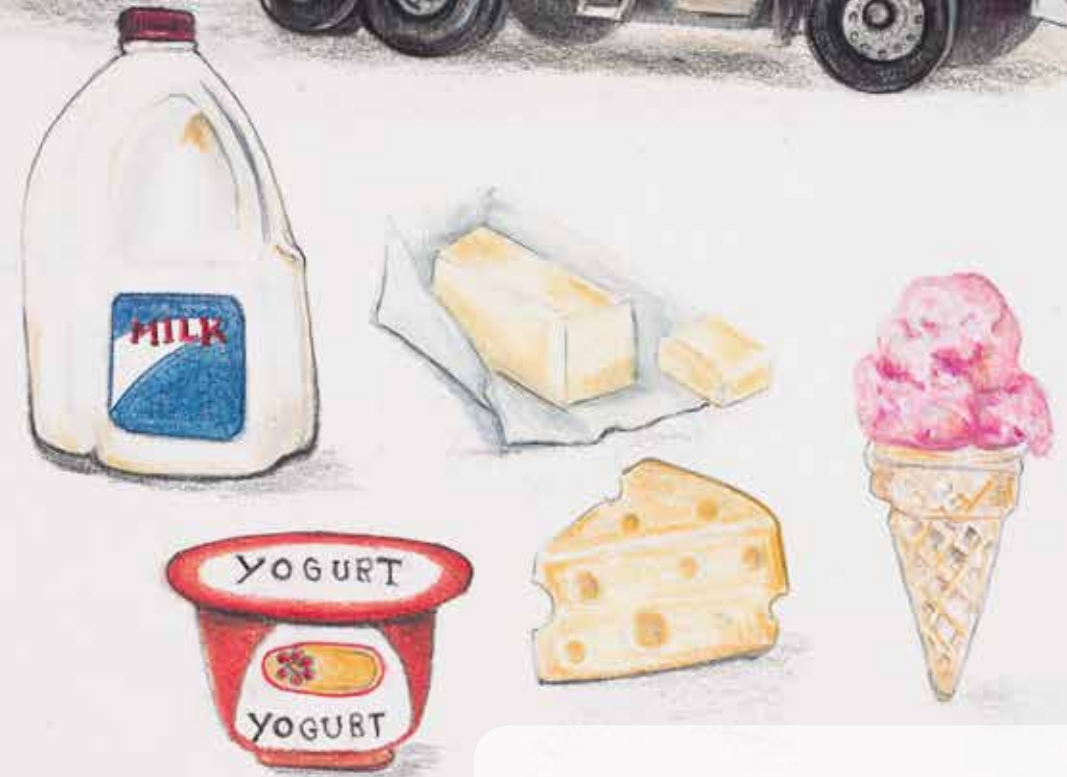
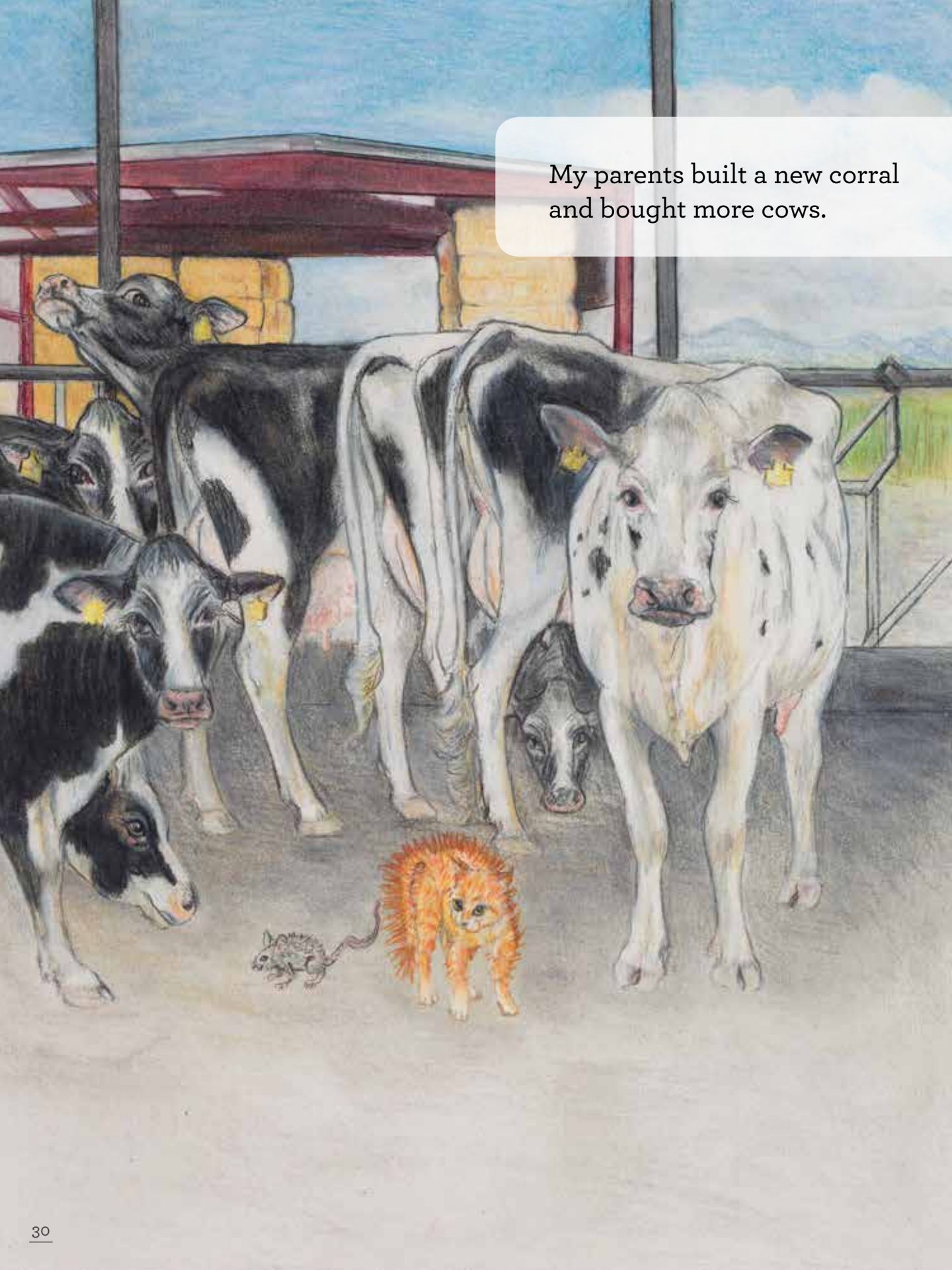
and Marley had Misty, and Misty had Mindy and...



my parents bought the family farm.



My parents built a new corral and bought more cows.

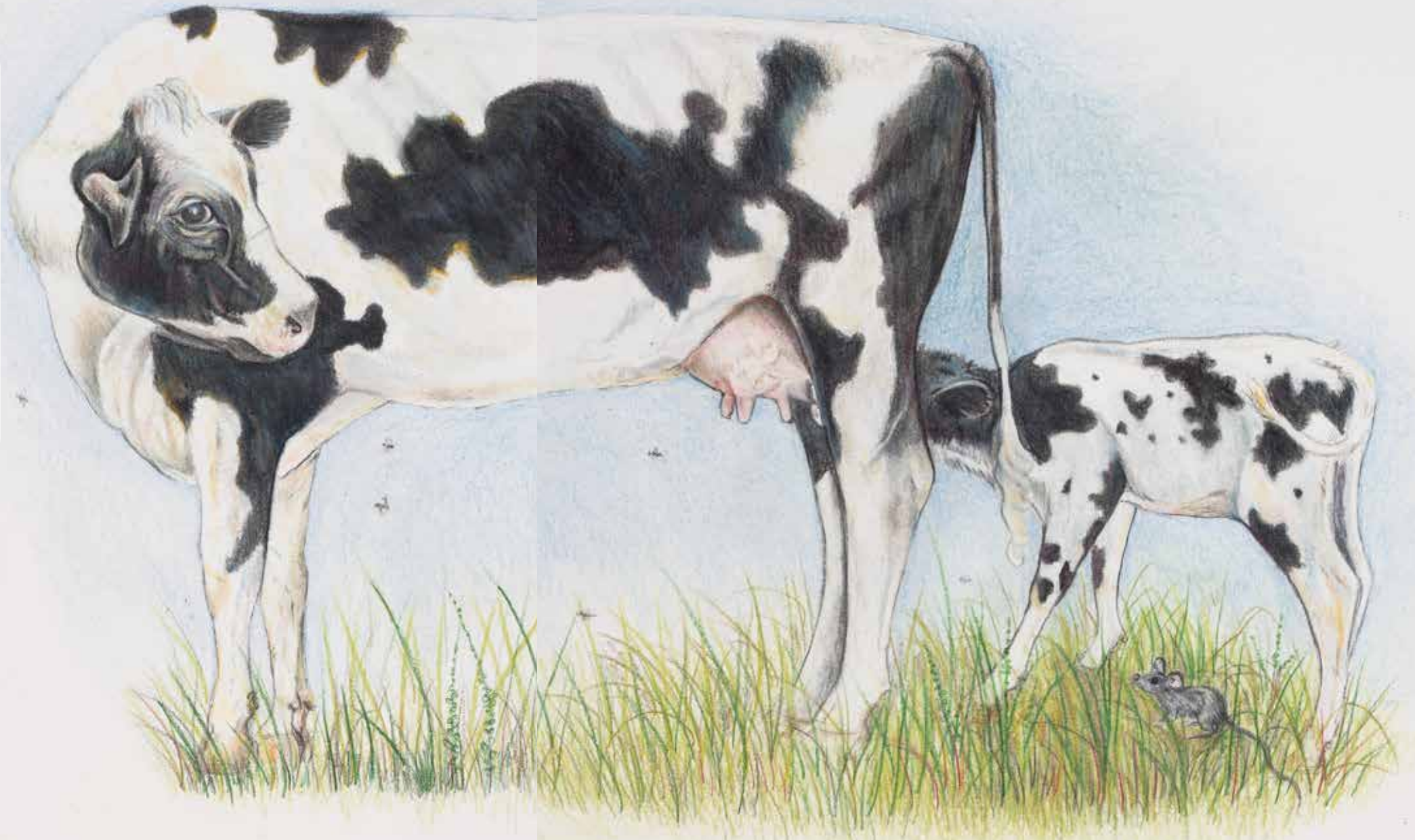


Now, a semi-tanker hauls our milk to a processing plant. It is packaged in jugs or used to make butter, cheese, yogurt, and ice cream.



My parents were very proud when Mindy had Maisie, and Maisie had Marva, and Marva had the calf I now get to name.

Her name must start with an “M,” just like the rest of Matilda’s family. But what should it be?

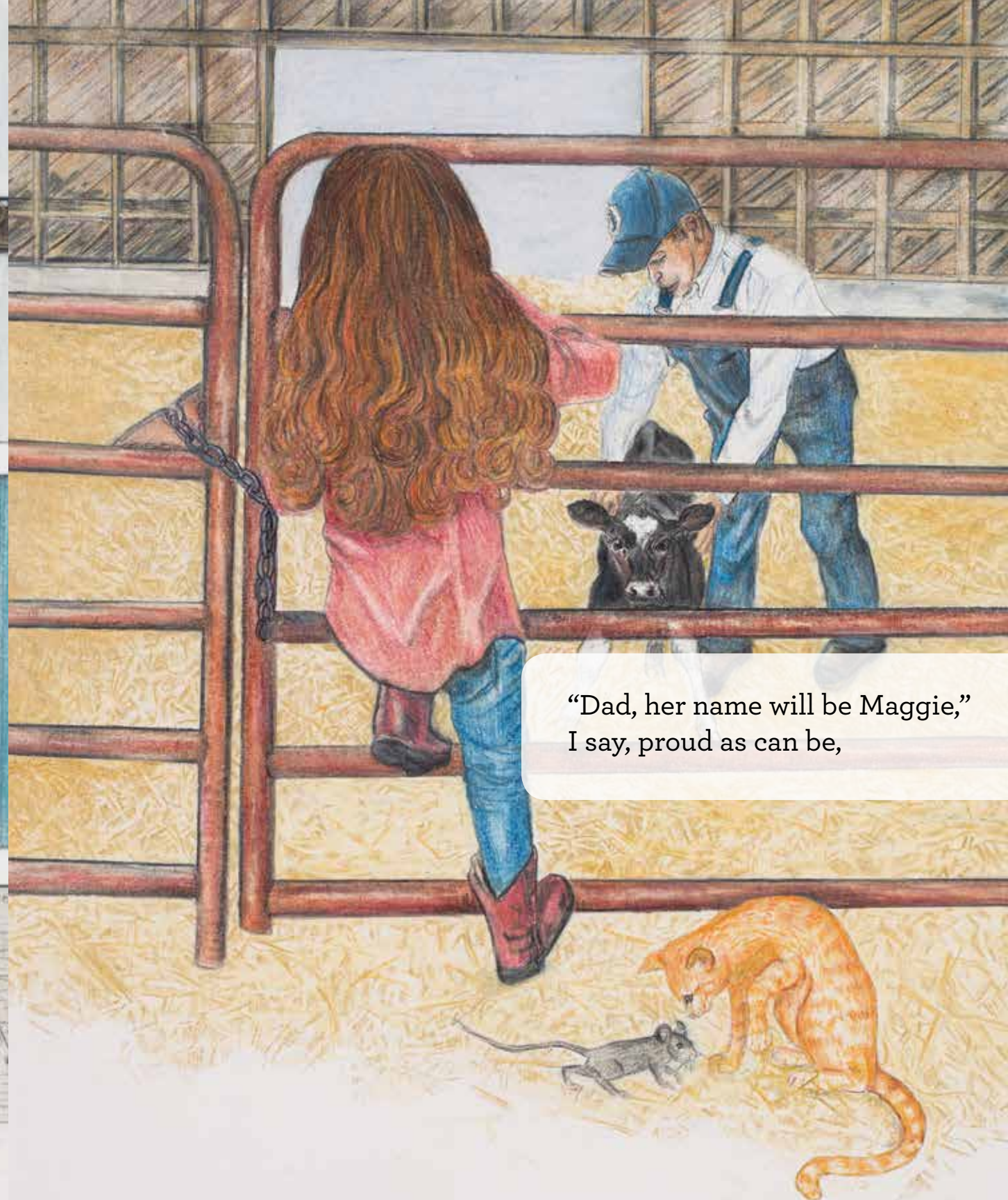


My parents named me after my great-great-grandma who lived in the house that I live in now. She milked Matilda every morning and every—





Wait! I gasp. That's it!



“Dad, her name will be Maggie,”  
I say, proud as can be,





“After my great-great-grandma  
and me.”





## did you know?

There are more than 600 dairy farms in Idaho and Utah.

Nearly all dairy farms (95%) are family-owned and operated and most are generations deep.

Milk is local! You probably live within a couple of hours of a dairy farm.

No matter the size of the farm, dairy farmers care deeply for their cows, and work to preserve the land, water and air for future generations.

Dairy foods are simple, real, and nutritious! They're packed with important nutrients for people of all ages.



Learn more about U.S. dairy by visiting [www.dairywest.com](http://www.dairywest.com), [www.nationaldairycouncil.org](http://www.nationaldairycouncil.org), or [www.usdairy.com](http://www.usdairy.com).

## about the author and illustrator



**Robyn Buttars** is an award-winning writer. Her work includes novels, stories for children, poetry, and music. She lives in northern Utah on the Butter-Dell Dairy, a five-generational farm started by Daniel and Maggie Buttars over 100 years ago. She and her husband, Kent, raised their six children on the family farm, and now enjoy sharing their agricultural traditions with their grandchildren. Robyn loves spending time with family and friends, traveling, and reading. Inspiration for a new creative project makes her day; being able to complete the project and share it with others is a special gift. To contact Robyn go to [www.robynbuttars.com](http://www.robynbuttars.com)

**Barbara Westover** has a great love and respect for all forms of art. Like her Grandfather Rawson, she excels at woodcarving. She was recognized with “Best of Show” at the Great Salt Lake Woodcarvers Show and Competition in 2006. Her life-size butter cow sculptures were a crowd favorite for many years at the Utah State Fair. Both of Barbara’s grandfathers were dairy farmers and so it was no surprise when she fell in love and married a dairy farmer herself. Although devoted to carving, she went back to sketching while caring for her husband, Craig, when he became ill. Craig and Barbara raised four children on the dairy, and farmed the land in Lewiston, Utah that has been in their family for generations. Just as they grew the dairy and farming operation, their son Jason, his wife Jonna, and their two children, have continued in their footsteps expanding the entire operation to what it is today.





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