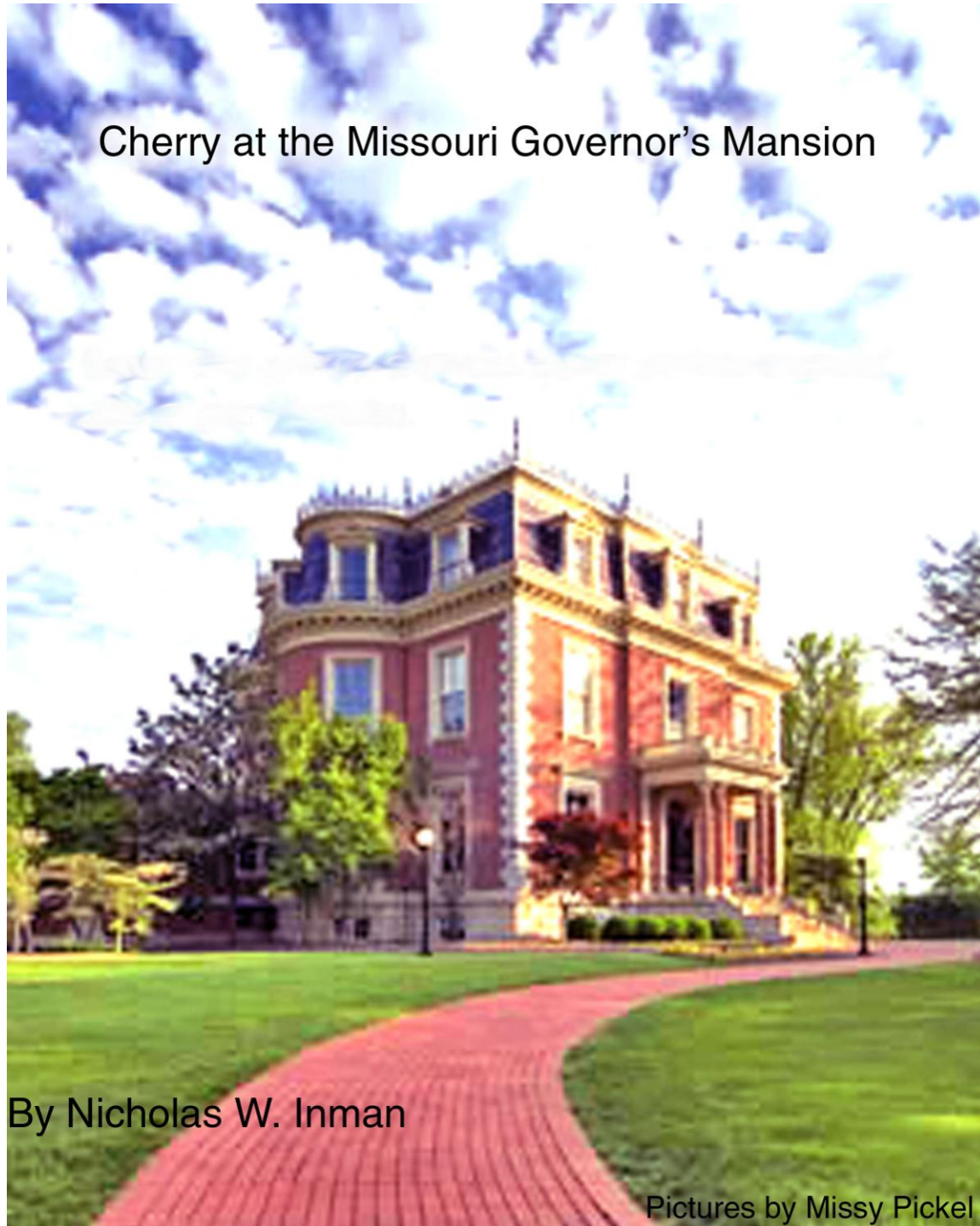


Cherry at the Missouri Governor's Mansion



By Nicholas W. Inman

Pictures by Missy Pickel

Dedicated to;
Reagan Rachelle Inman and
Missouri First Lady, Georganne Wheeler Nixon

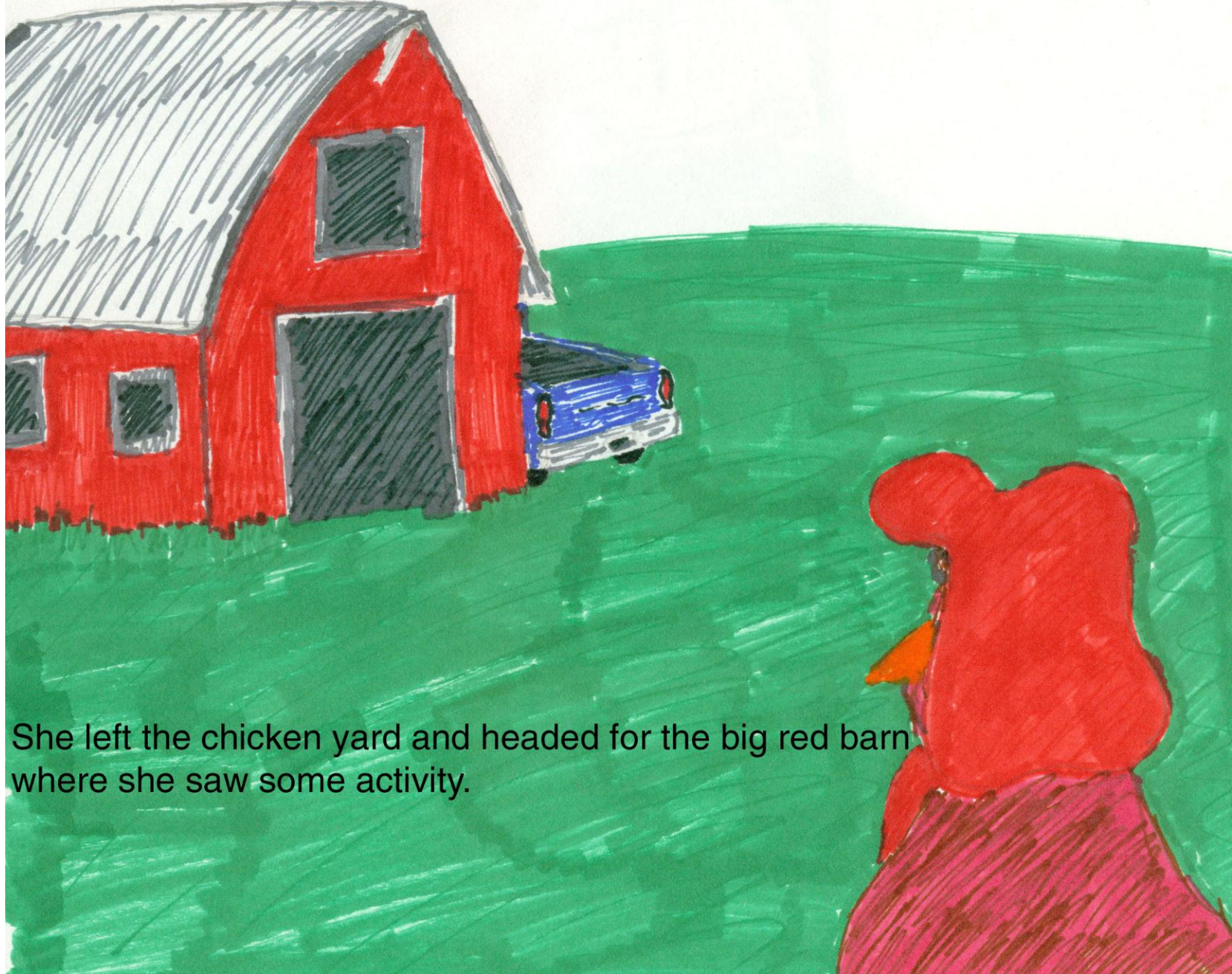


Missouri First Lady, Georganne Wheeler Nixon with Reagan Rachelle Inman at the Missouri Governor's Mansion following the planting of a Kwanzan Cherry Blossom Tree, which was a gift to the first family of Missouri from the Marshfield Cherry Blossom Festival in 2009.



The new friends closely examine the new Kwanzan Cherry Blossom tree following a gold shovel planting ceremony in the yard of the Missouri Governor's Mansion.

One morning as Cherry the Chicken woke up she decided to look for a new adventure.

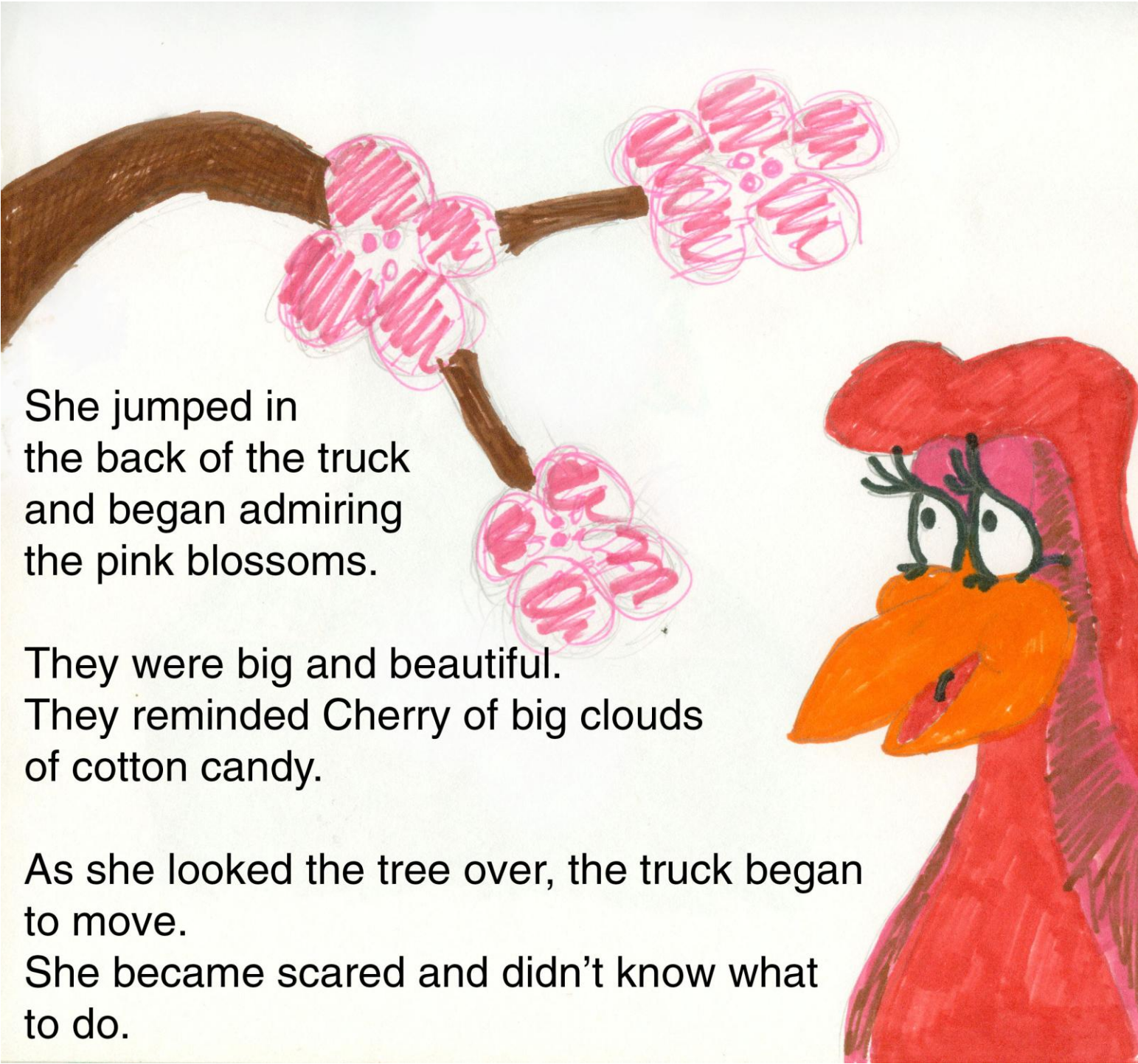


She left the chicken yard and headed for the big red barn where she saw some activity.



There she saw a truck loaded with a huge flowering tree.

Cherry remembered seeing a tree like this at the Marshfield Cherry Blossom Festival!

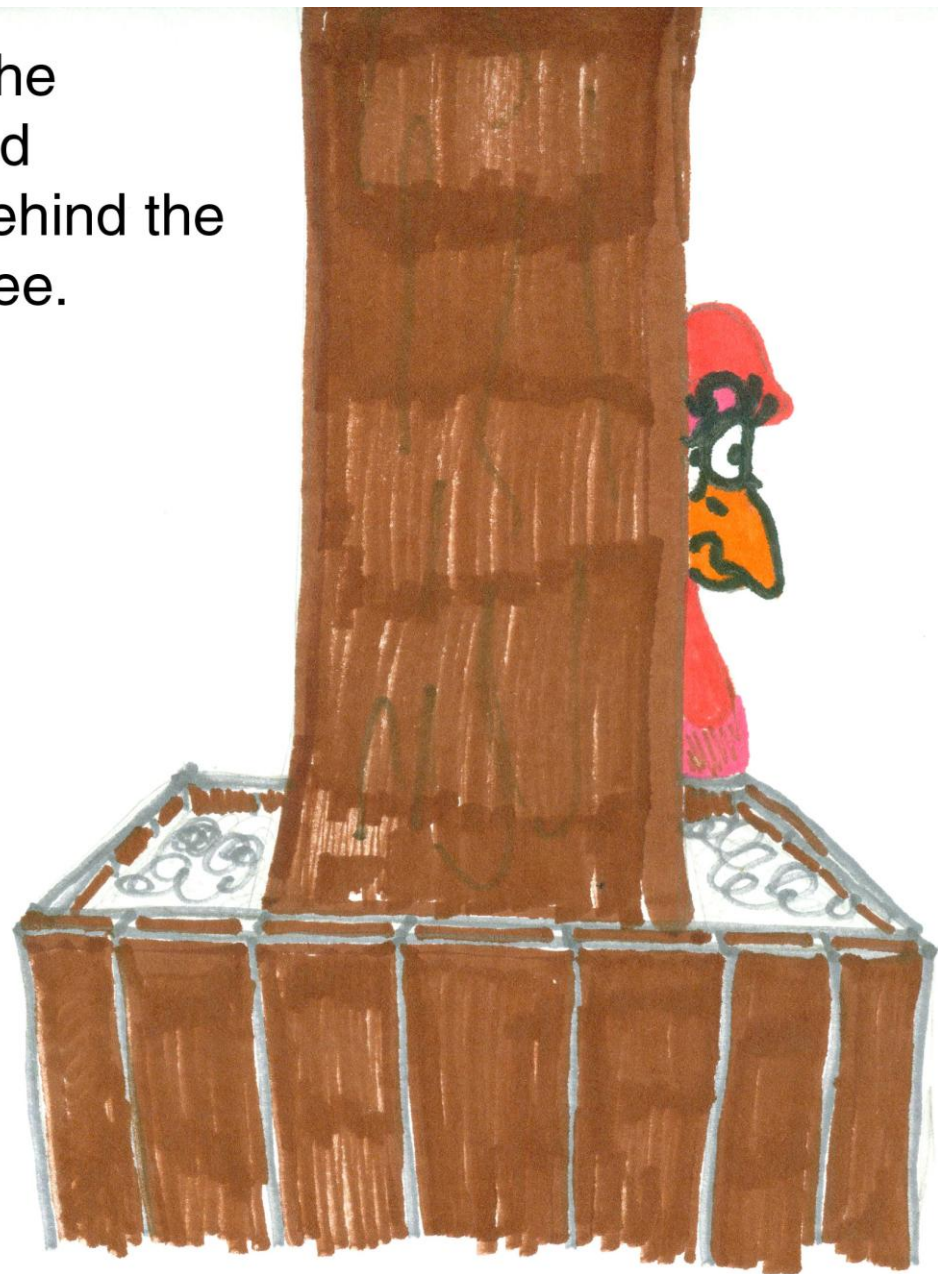
A hand-drawn illustration of a red bird with a large orange beak looking up at a tree with pink blossoms. The bird is on the right side of the page, looking towards the left. The tree is on the left side, with a brown trunk and several pink blossoms. The blossoms are drawn with pink outlines and filled with pink scribbles. The background is a light, textured grey.

She jumped in
the back of the truck
and began admiring
the pink blossoms.

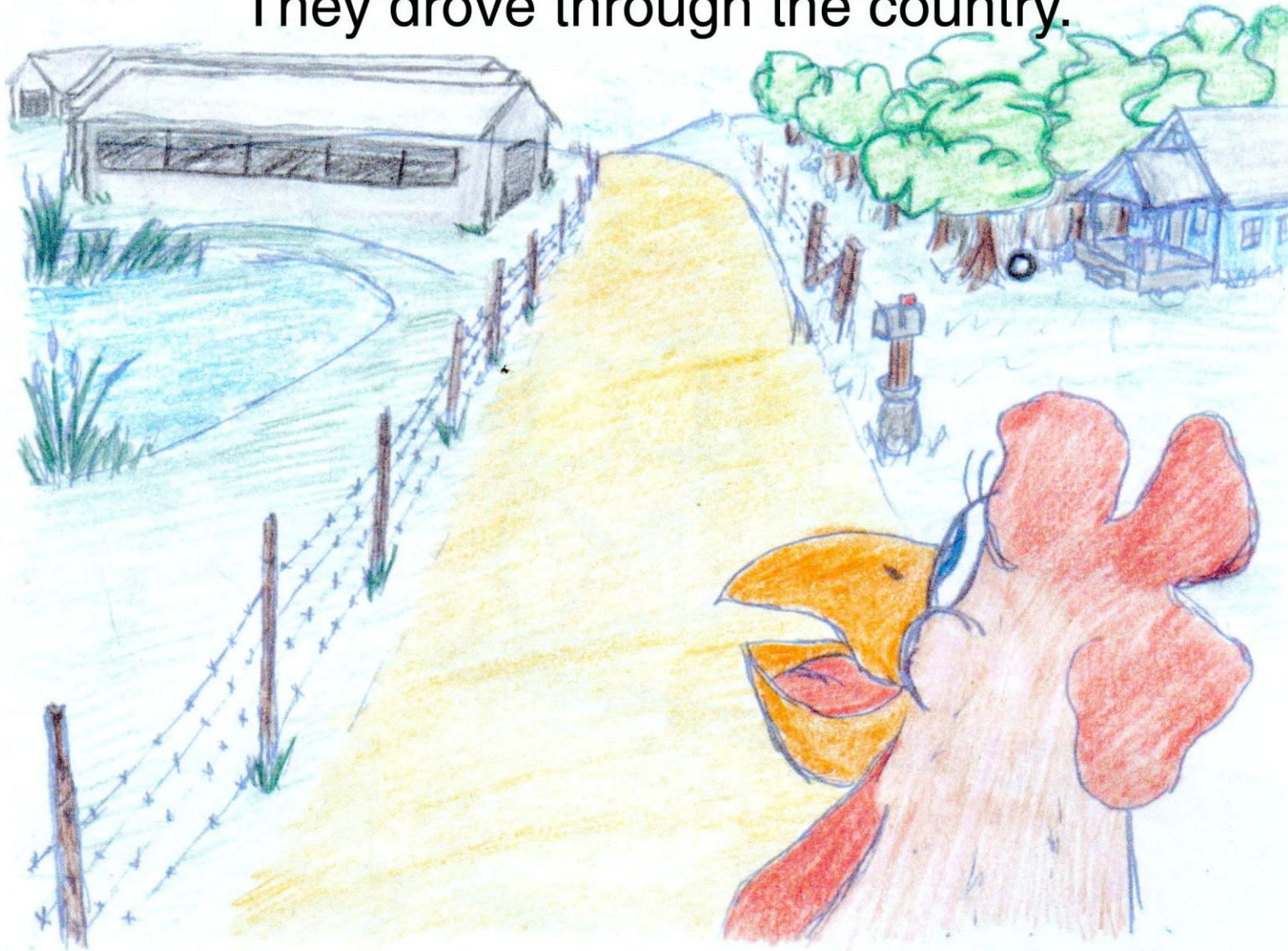
They were big and beautiful.
They reminded Cherry of big clouds
of cotton candy.

As she looked the tree over, the truck began
to move.
She became scared and didn't know what
to do.

She
hid
behind the
tree.

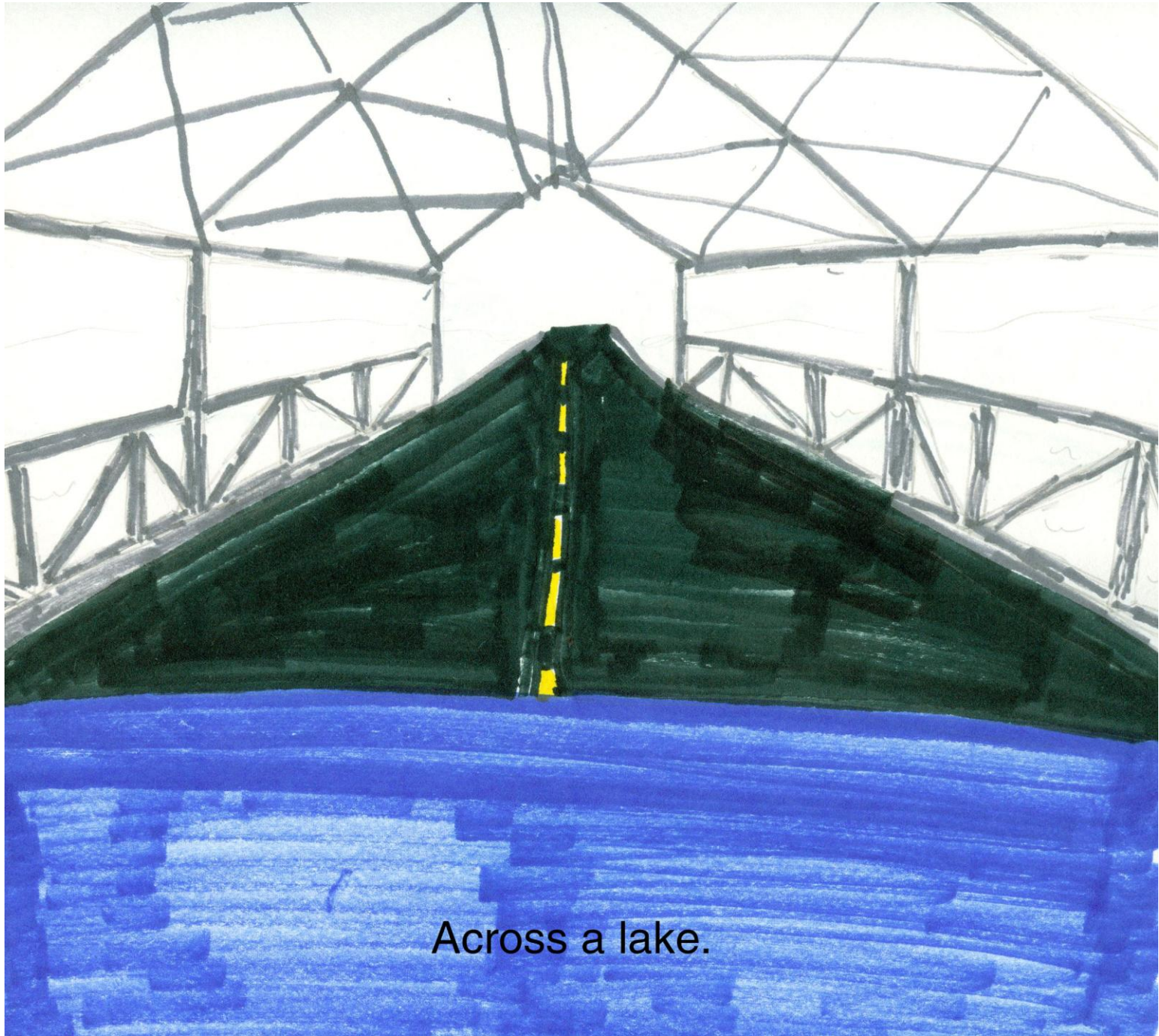


They drove through the country.



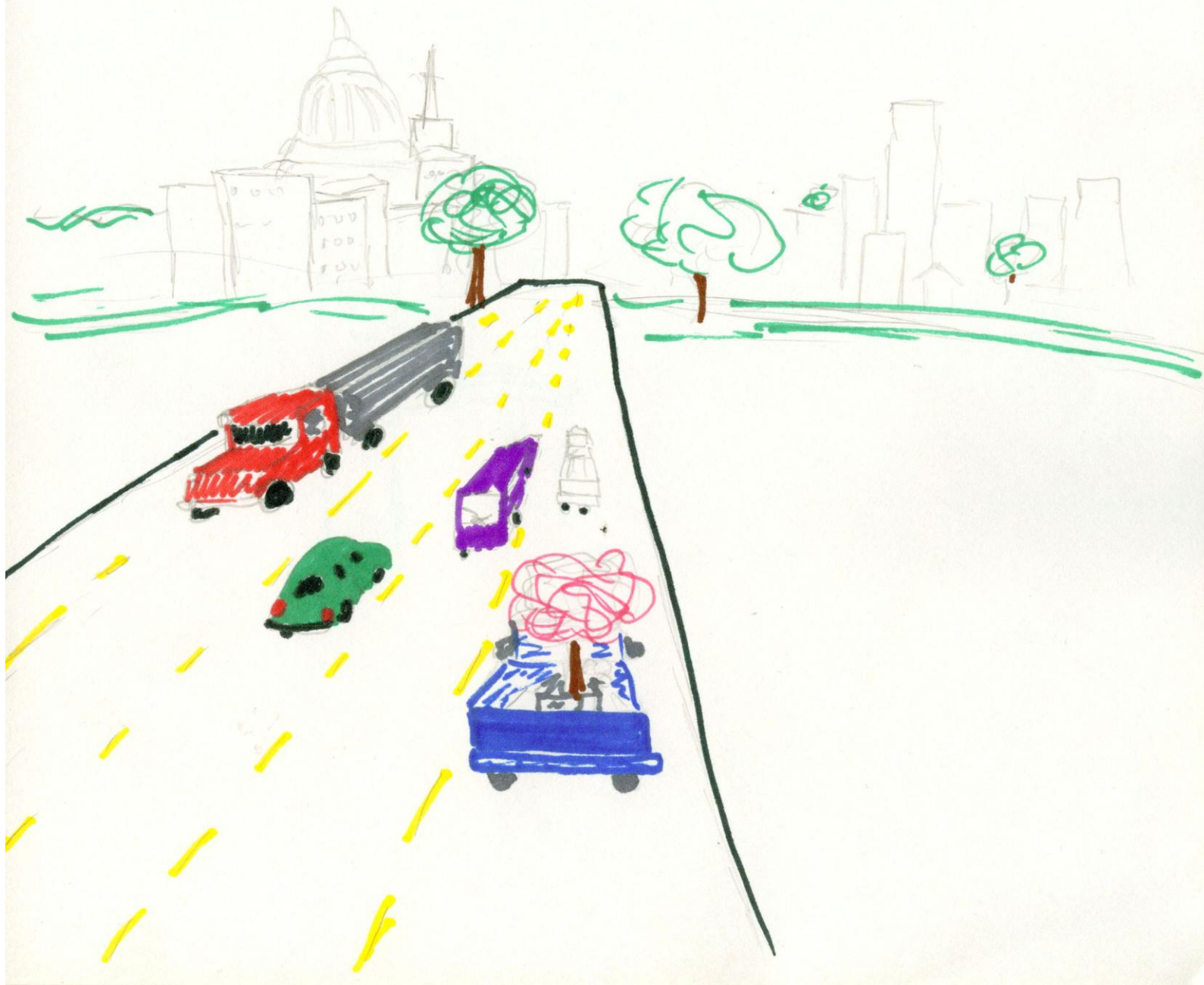
on the highway...



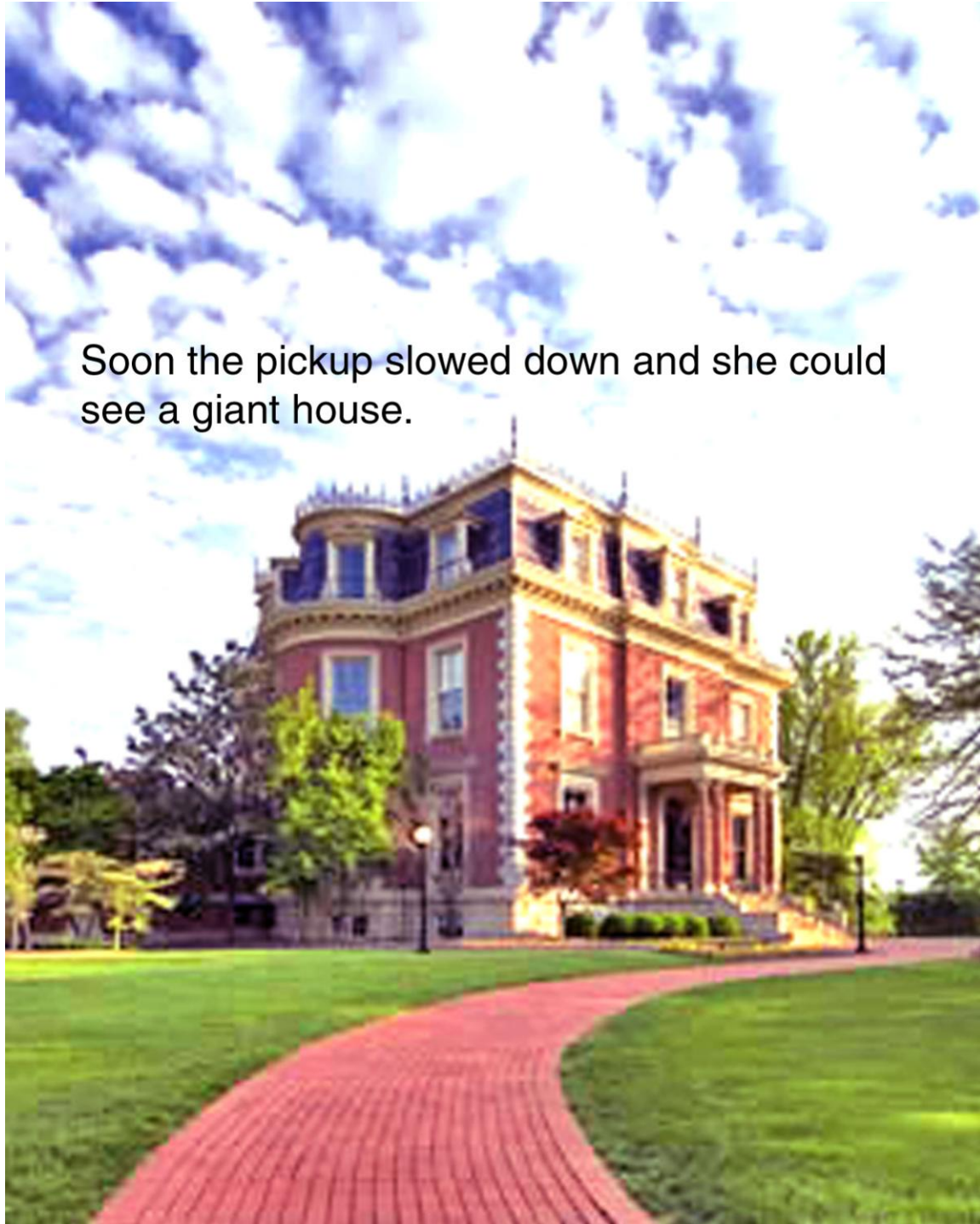


Across a lake.

and eventually arrived in a large city.



Soon the pickup slowed down and she could see a giant house.



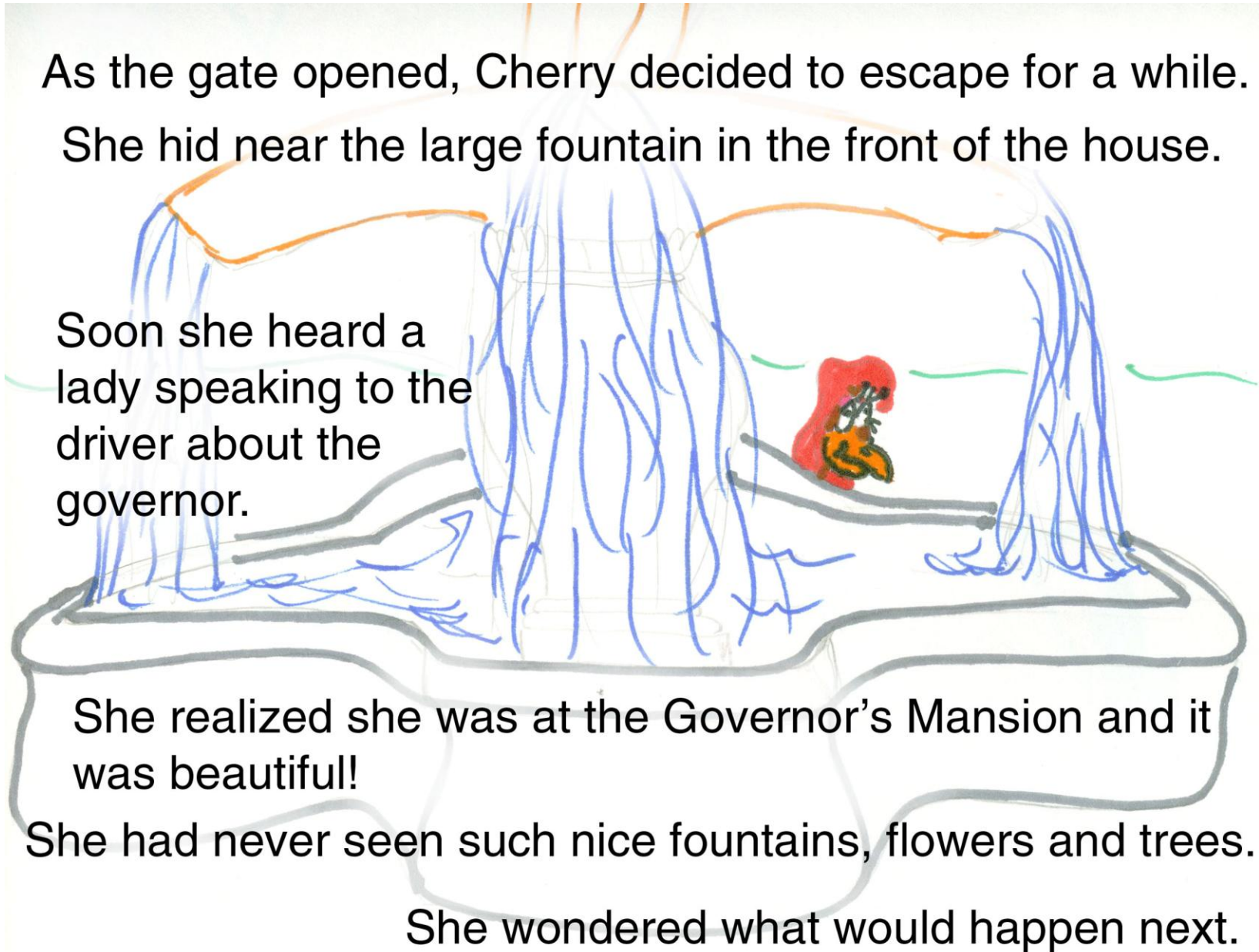
As the gate opened, Cherry decided to escape for a while.
She hid near the large fountain in the front of the house.

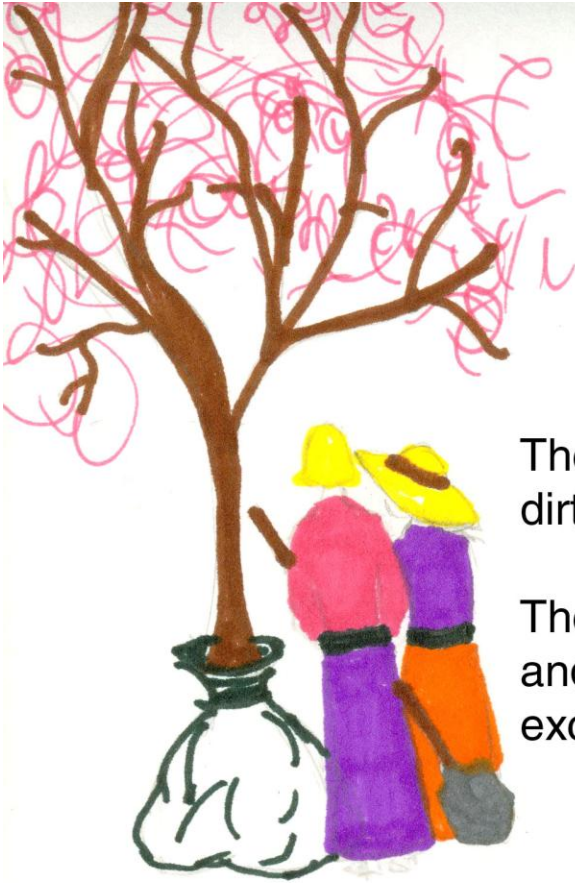
Soon she heard a
lady speaking to the
driver about the
governor.

She realized she was at the Governor's Mansion and it
was beautiful!

She had never seen such nice fountains, flowers and trees.

She wondered what would happen next.





Soon the Governor's wife arrived and she saw a crowd of people gathered around the tree.

Cherry hid among some tulips.

The Governor's wife lifted up a shovel and threw dirt on the tree.

The crowd cheered and Cherry got excited too!

Cherry heard her say, "Thank you Marshfield for this beautiful Cherry Blossom Tree!"

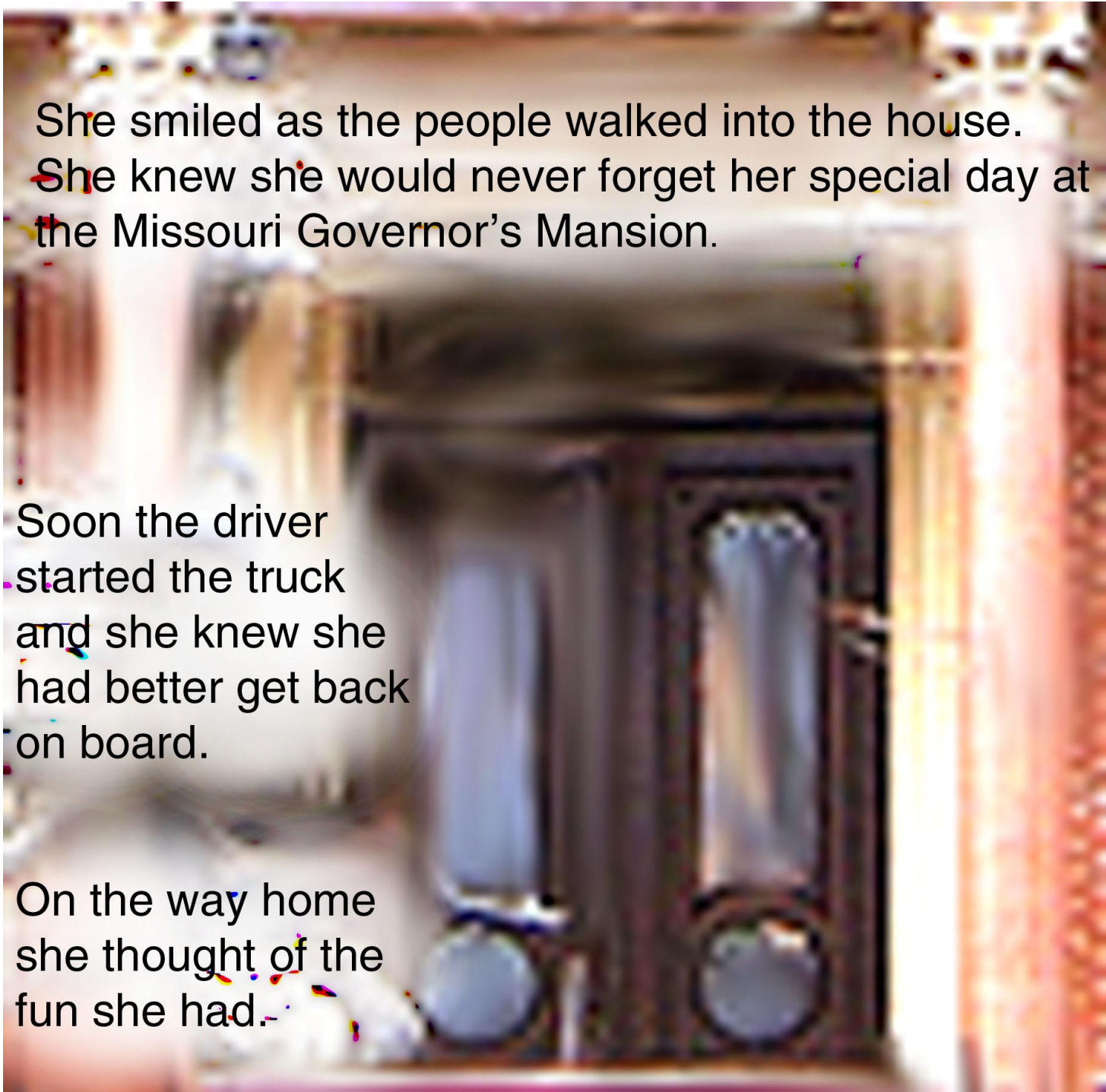
Cherry realized she was witnessing history!

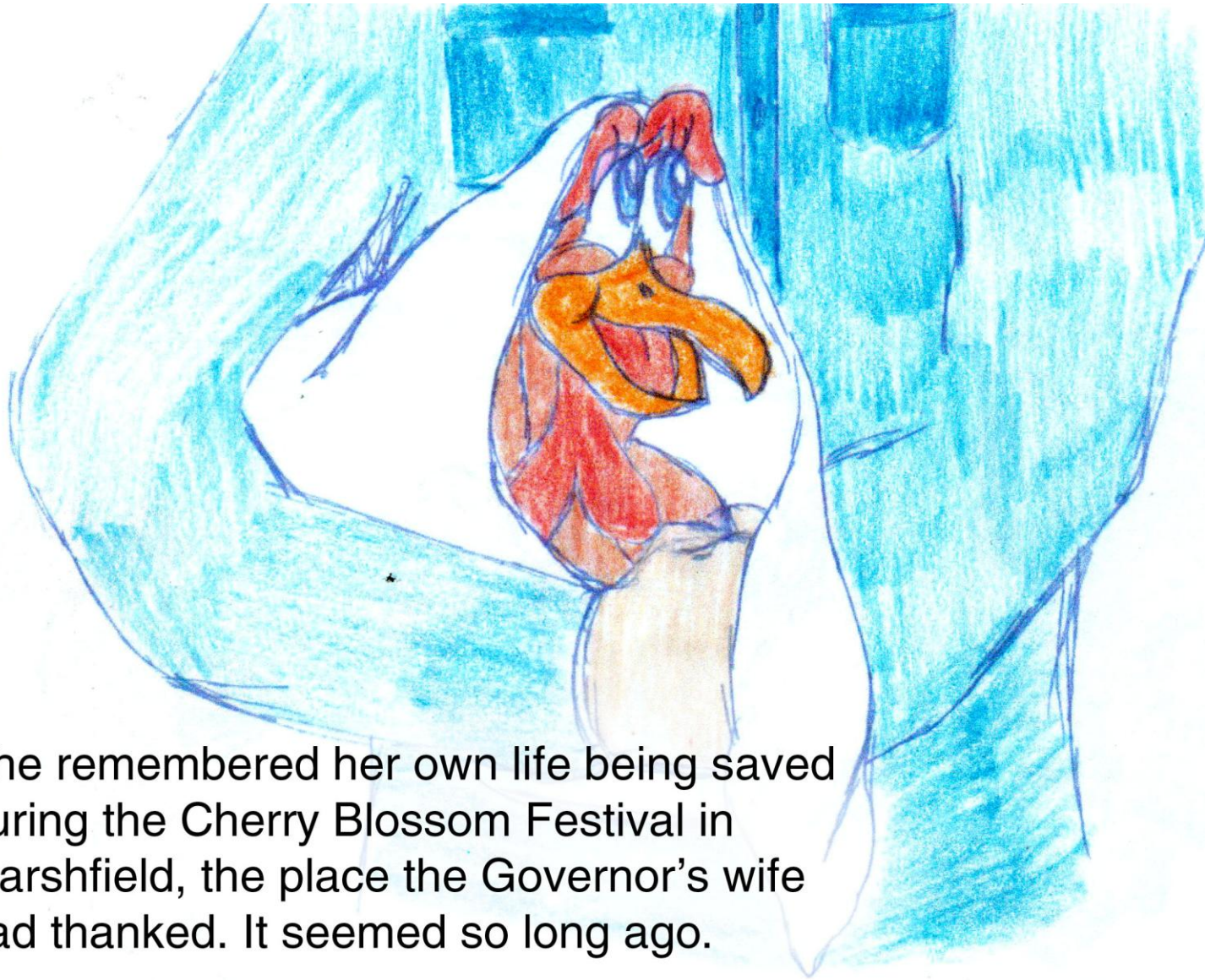


She smiled as the people walked into the house.
She knew she would never forget her special day at
the Missouri Governor's Mansion.

Soon the driver
started the truck
and she knew she
had better get back
on board.

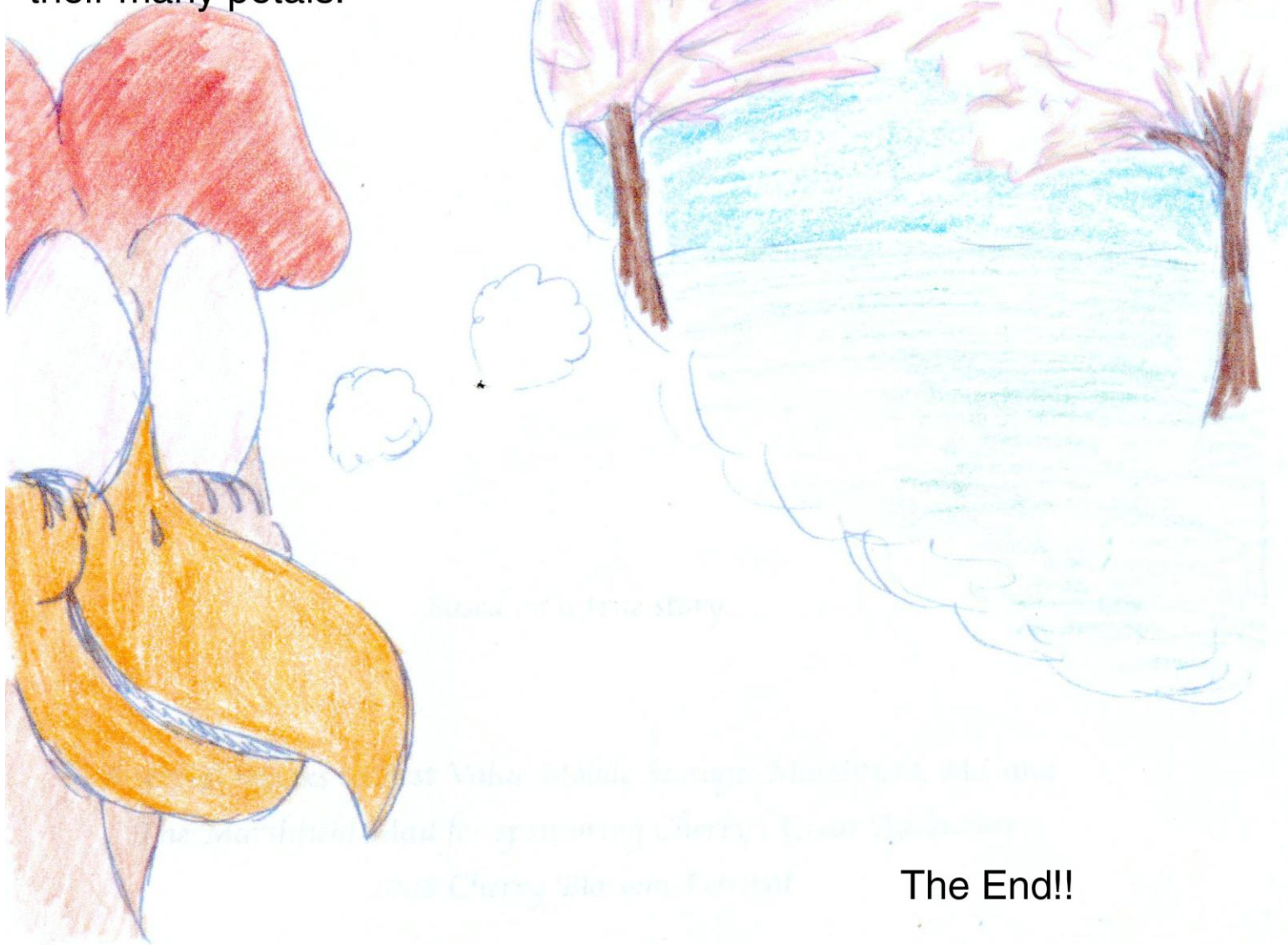
On the way home
she thought of the
fun she had.





She remembered her own life being saved during the Cherry Blossom Festival in Marshfield, the place the Governor's wife had thanked. It seemed so long ago.

As she went to be that night
she dreamed of the
beautiful cherry blossoms
and went to sleep counting
their many petals.



The End!!