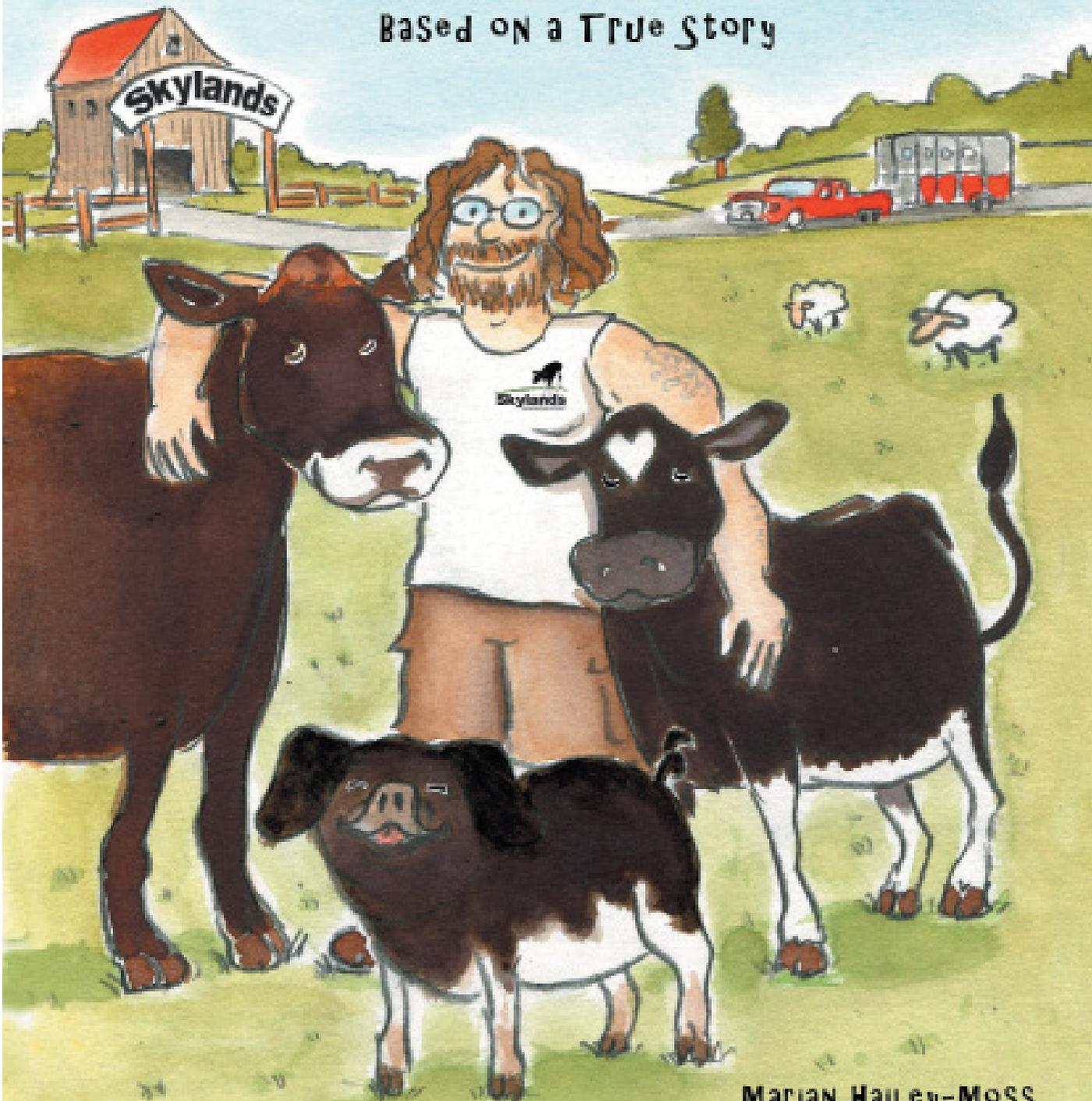


# MIKE

## & THE RESCUED ANIMALS

Based on a True Story



Marian Hailey-Moss  
Marc Chalvin

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Skylands Animal Sanctuary and Rescue

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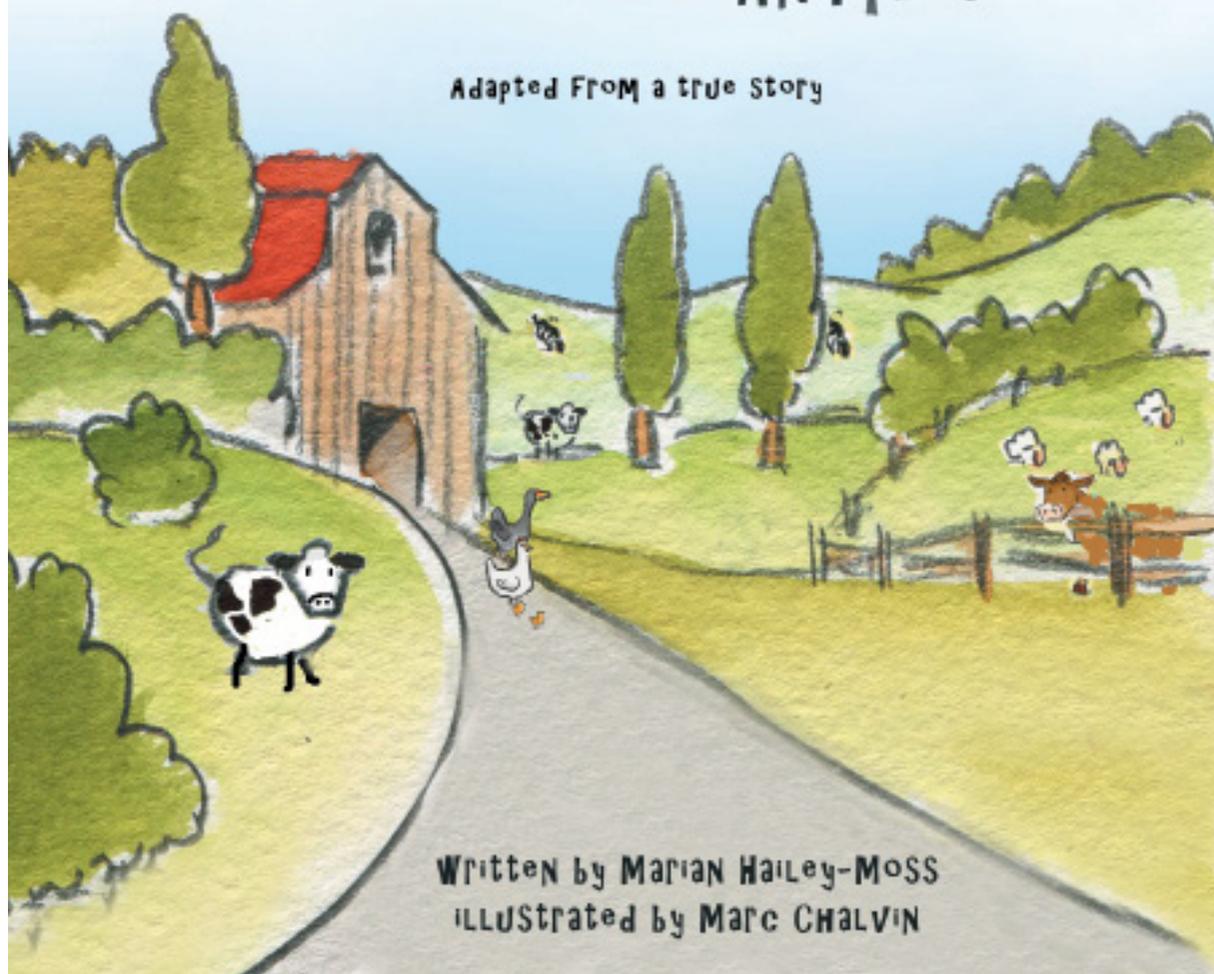
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# MIKE

## & The rescued ANIMALS

Adapted From a true story



Written by MARIAN HAILEY-MOSS  
ILLUSTRATED by MARC CHALVIN



For  
ALL ANIMALS OF THE EARTH  
May We Live IN peace together.

News had been spreading among the farm animals.

“There’s this guy with tattoos and long hair...”

“He risks everything and rescues animals...”

“He really cares...”

“There might be hope for us!”



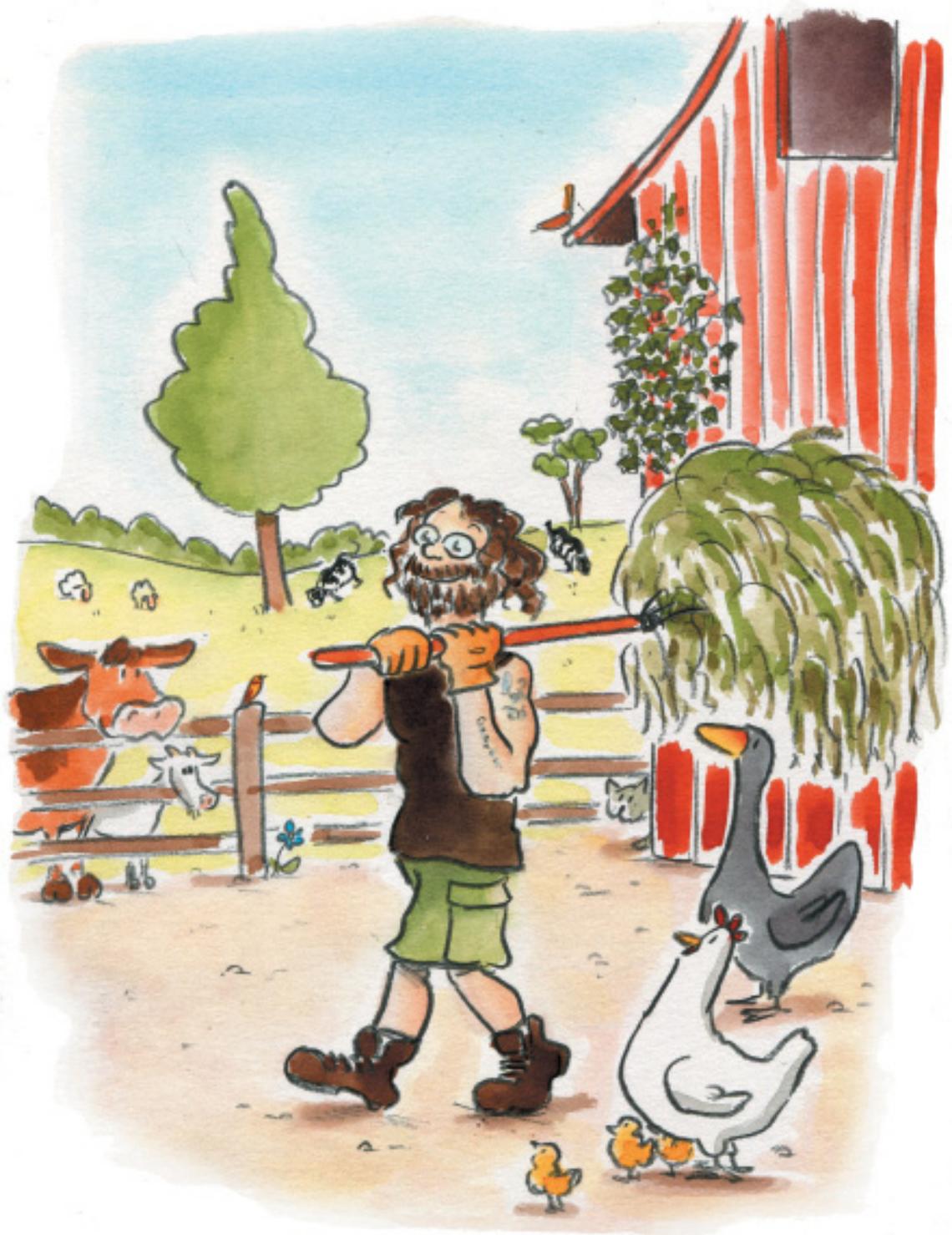
Meet Mike Stura!

Mike believed in kindness to *all* animals. Mike was a no-nonsense kind of guy. He was a scrappy-looking fellow, built like a wrestler and had a heart as big and warm as sunshine.



On days off from his truck-driving job, Mike volunteered at farm animal sanctuaries.

Those are homes for animals, where they can live their lives in comfort and peace.

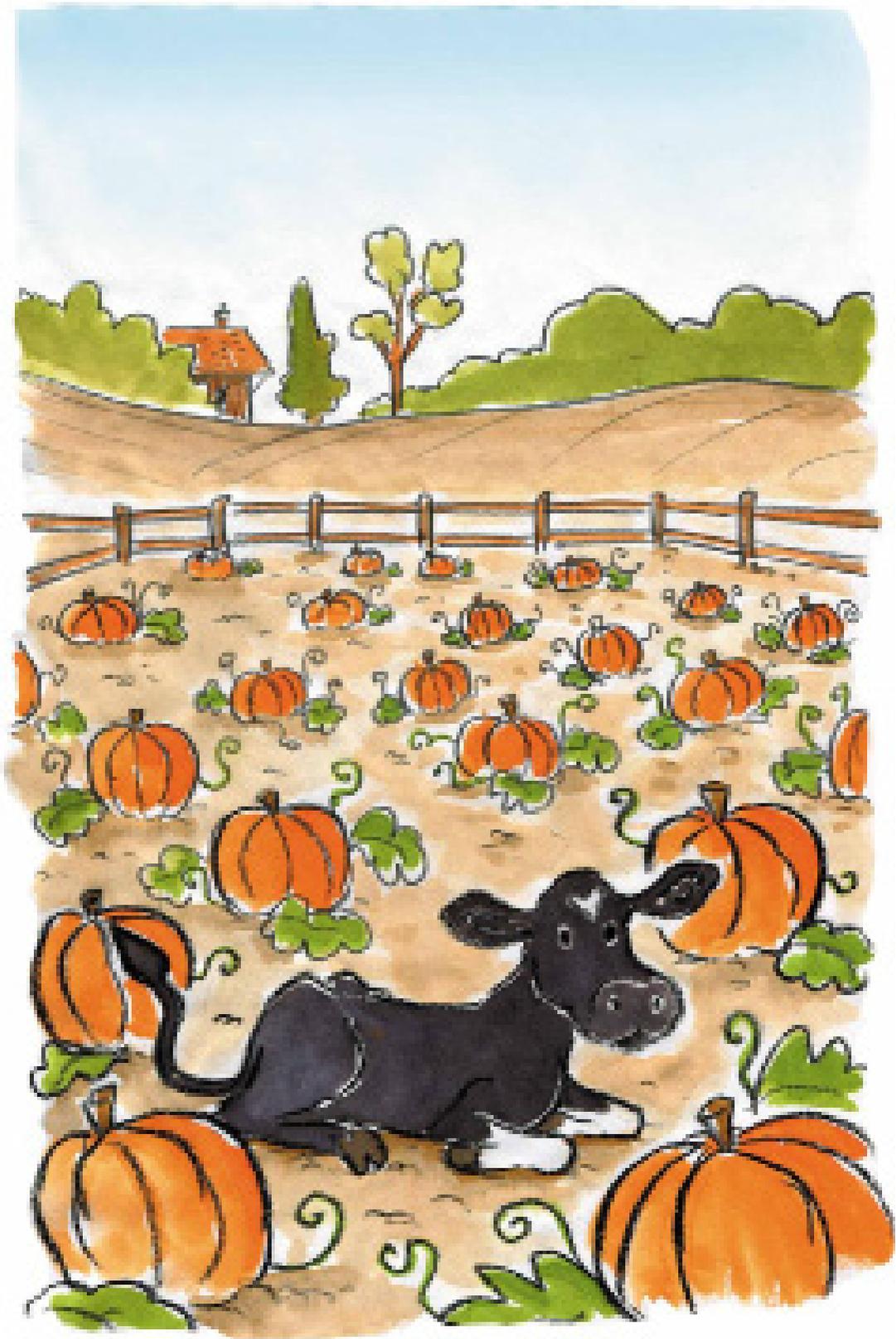


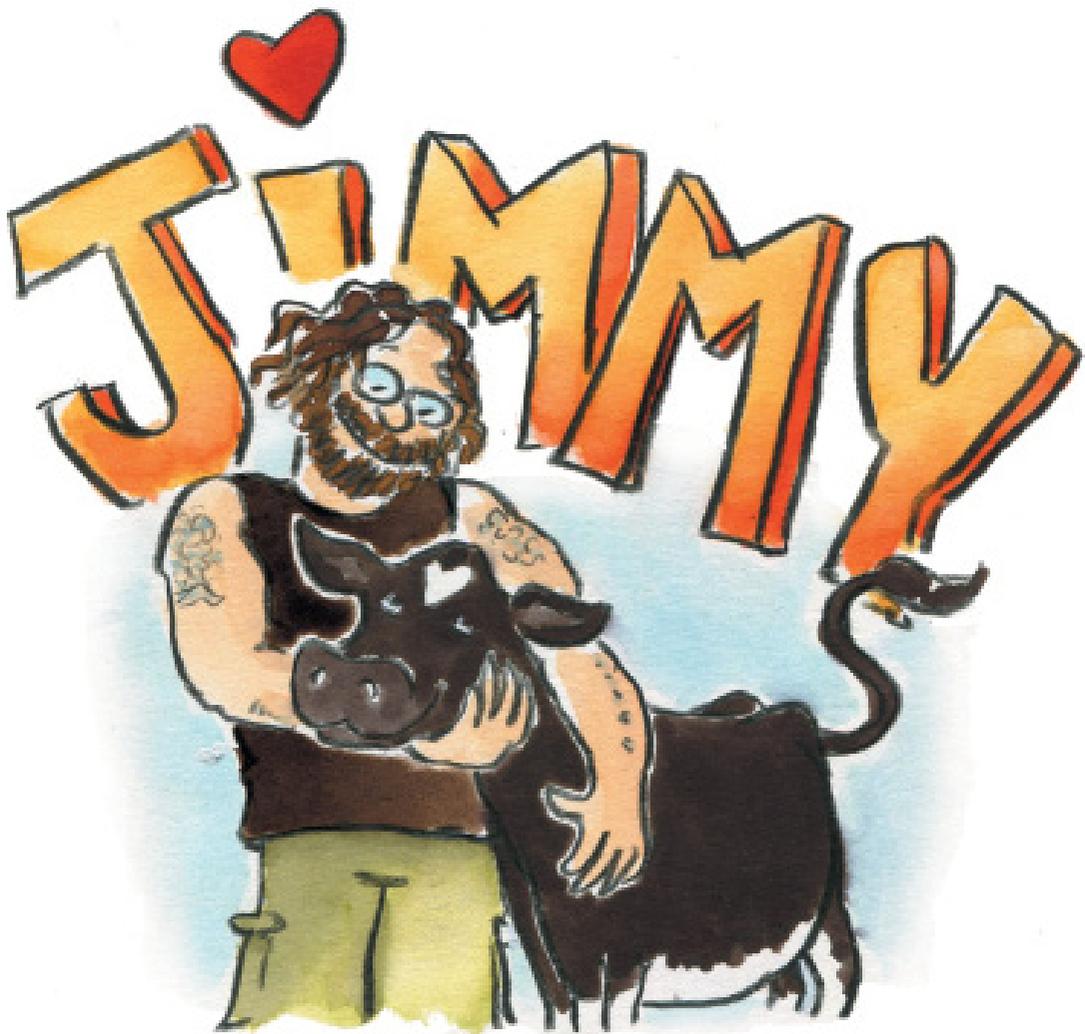
One day a woman and her daughter were visiting a local farmer who sold pumpkins. The farmer kept a calf that had been taken from a dairy farm, to live near his pumpkin patch. Folks would see the calf and then want to buy the pumpkins.

That day, the man told the woman and her daughter that the calf was soon to be sold and sent to a bad place. At three-weeks-old, the calf had grown too big for the pumpkin patch. The woman and her daughter were very upset. They had no idea that this is what the future would hold for the calf.

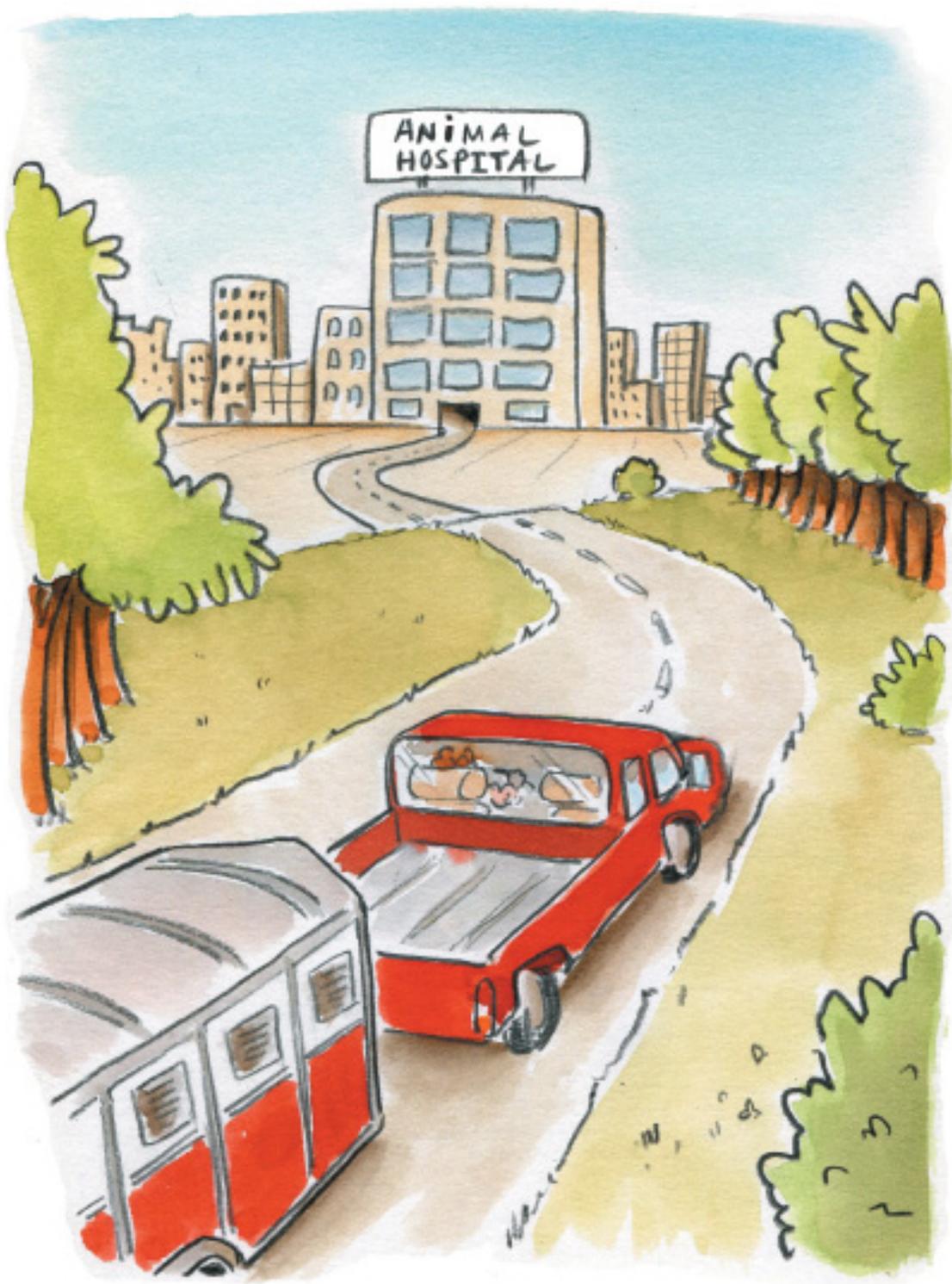
They pleaded with the man, and he said he would let the calf go to a better home if they had one for him. So the woman and her daughter called Mike, who went and rescued the calf.

Mike soon learned it only took a little calf in a pumpkin patch to change the world.





Mike named the calf Jimmy.



First, Jimmy had to be checked out at the hospital, like all the rescues.



They found that Jimmy had to stay until his knees healed. He hadn't been given enough of his mother's milk that would have protected him against infections and illness.

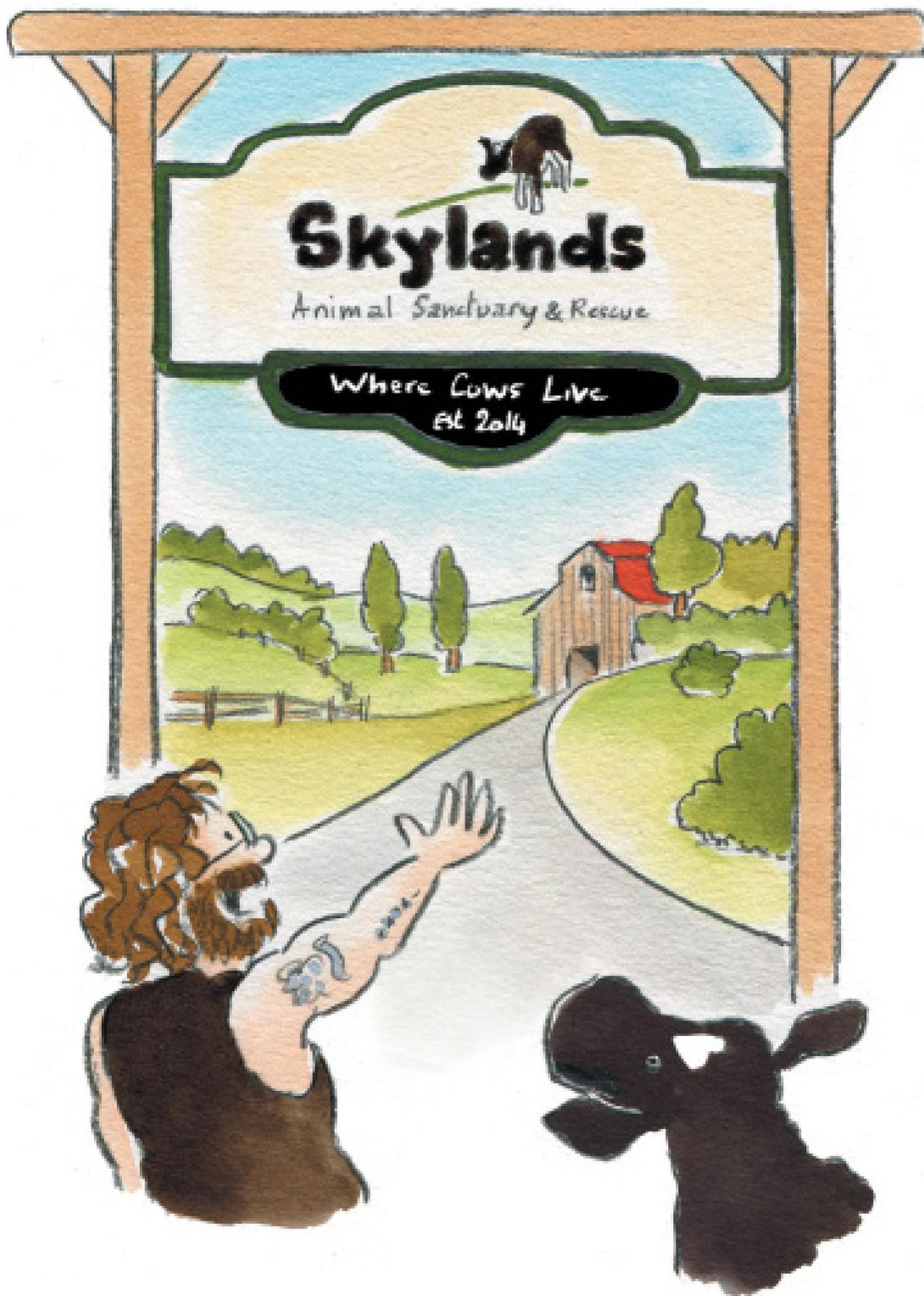


After six-and-a-half weeks, Jimmy was ready for his forever home. But where would he go? No sanctuary was available. Jimmy was homeless.

Mike had promised to keep Jimmy safe. So Mike did something very brave. He went and bought lots and lots of land in Wantage, New Jersey and created Jimmy's very own special home:

**Skylands  
Animal Sanctuary and Rescue!**

Jimmy had a home!





And Mike had a new job!

“I work for Jimmy,” Mike said.

Well! In that case...

Jimmy needed friends!



And so Mike would go anywhere, anytime, anyhow, no matter what - to rescue animals in need. He would say to each one:

“Do you know who I am?  
You’re safe with me.”

Skylands became home to many of Jimmy's friends.

Turn the page to meet just a few of the animals that Mike rescued from trouble and from the dining-room table.

## **TED THE GOOSE, LISA THE GOAT, and KITTY**

Ted the Goose has taken the role of “the boss of Skylands.” Ted is a Toulouse goose. Somewhere in Central New Jersey someone found Ted, who was left to fend for himself in a pond in front of a housing area. Winter was coming and the pond would freeze over. Then what would happen to Ted? So a caring person called Mike who brought Ted to Skylands.

Lisa the Goat likes bossy Ted, but then Lisa likes everyone. Lisa was rescued by Mike from a backyard breeder in Paterson, New Jersey, who was up to no good.

Kitty is one of many stray cats at Skylands. Kitty likes our story and can be seen throughout the book.



## **PEANUT THE STEER and LUCKY THE GOAT**

Peanut and Lucky are best friends. They tell each other everything. Peanut is a cross between a Jersey cow and a Holstein. Mike helped to place them on a small farm. Then that farm placed them with a friend on Long Island. That friend could no longer keep them. And so now they're happily living at Skylands. Maybe they've done well moving from home to home because of their strong friendship.



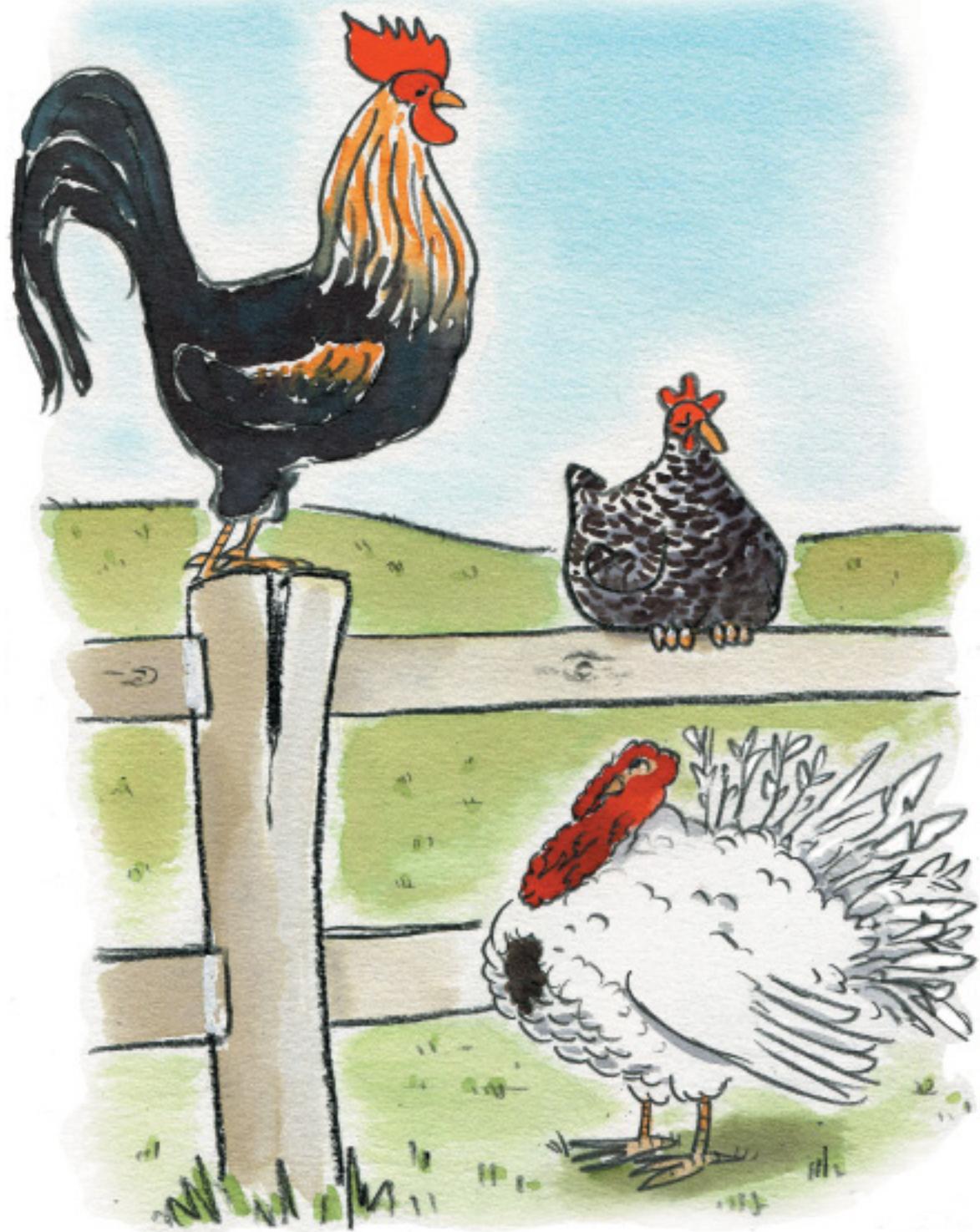
## **ROCKY THE ROOSTER, ROBIN THE TURKEY, and ANNETTE THE CHICKEN**

Rocky, along with two hundred plus birds and dozens of other animals, was the whim of a wealthy man who wanted to play farmer. One day a person found an ill lamb that had escaped the farm. The authorities and Mike were called in to help place the birds and animals. Mike kept Rocky. How lucky for Rocky!

Robin was left at the Skylands gate by “The Turkey Fairy.” Robin loves the girls but he’s not fussy. He just loves to prance and strut his feathers.

Annette was locked in a cage in a garage with other chickens to lay eggs. Annette is a beautiful barred rock hen. A family member took pity on them and called Mike to help. She’s doing well at Skylands.

Rocky’s wake-up call at Skylands sunrise really gets things moving. Robin and Annette think, with more practice, that Rocky might be ready for the opera.



## **CONNOR THE CALF**

Connor is a Scottish Highland calf. He was born on a farm in New York State. Connor wasn't doing well. Connor was weak and thin, and his mom wouldn't nurse him. The woman who owned the farm felt Connor had a chance for a good life. Mike took Connor and nursed him to health after checking him out with the doctors. Now Connor is a Skylands cute-and-curly, happy camper.



## **MUSHYFACE THE PIG**

Mushyface was rescued from a New York backyard breeder who was up to no good. Mushy was a sweetheart. She loved to dream and always looked forward to naptime.



## **EMMA THE COW and JACKSON, HER CALF**

Emma and Jackson were from a small dairy farm. Emma was ill and so the farmer let Mike take her calf Jackson to Skylands. The farmer wanted to keep Emma as she was his dairy cow. But Emma wasn't getting better, so the farmer finally let Mike take her. After two weeks healing in the hospital she was able to come to Skylands and rejoin her beloved calf, Jackson. They were so happy to be together again. Emma and Jackson are Jersey cows.



## **WALTER THE STEER**

Walter was rescued from a huge dairy farm in the Midwest. Walter is a Holstein steer. He was one-day -old and 90 pounds when Mike took him home to Skylands in Polar Vortex weather. Walter likes to spend his days with his “brother” Christopher at Skylands. Soon after Walter went home with Mike, the dairy farm was in the news. Undercover videos showed that the workers were not doing right by the animals. Many were fired and many stores no longer would sell their dairy products in protest. Angels may have guided Mike to rescue Walter from such a place.



## **BRIANNA THE COW and WINTER, HER CALF**

Brianna knocked out the door on the second level of a transport truck and jumped eight feet to the pavement below. She was running for freedom on a highway in Jersey when Mike came to the rescue. He was able to bridle her and get the okay to take her to Skylands.

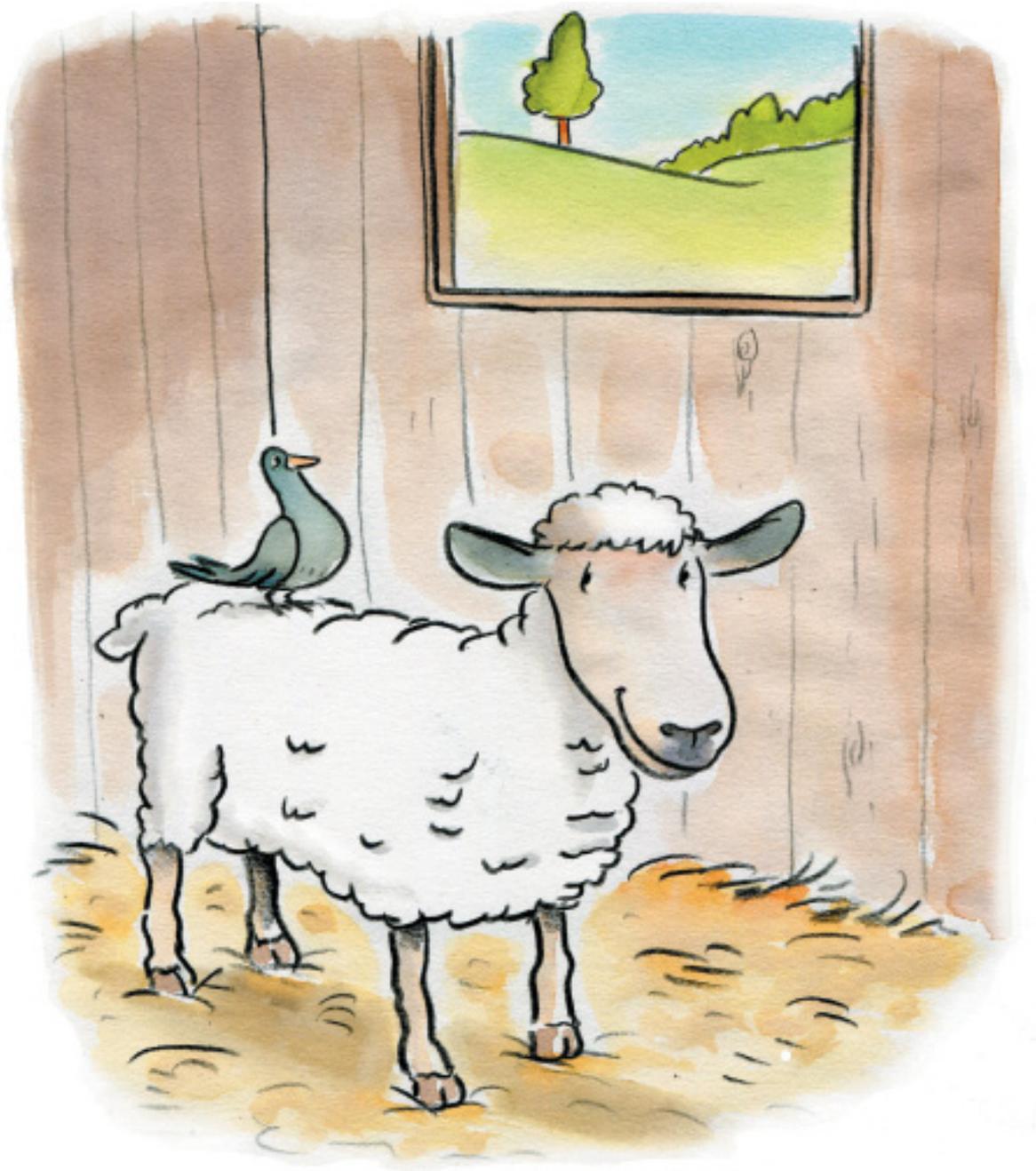
She gave birth to Winter a few days later. Now Brianna can watch Winter grow up happy and healthy by her side at Skylands. There has been a Brianna's bill drawn up to be made into law. People were so touched by Brianna's bravery and love for life. The bill reads something like: Animals that are mommies can no longer be transported. Brianna has proven that if you follow your heart, good things can happen. Brianna and Winter are Holstein cows.



## **SAMUEL THE SHEEP and PIGEON**

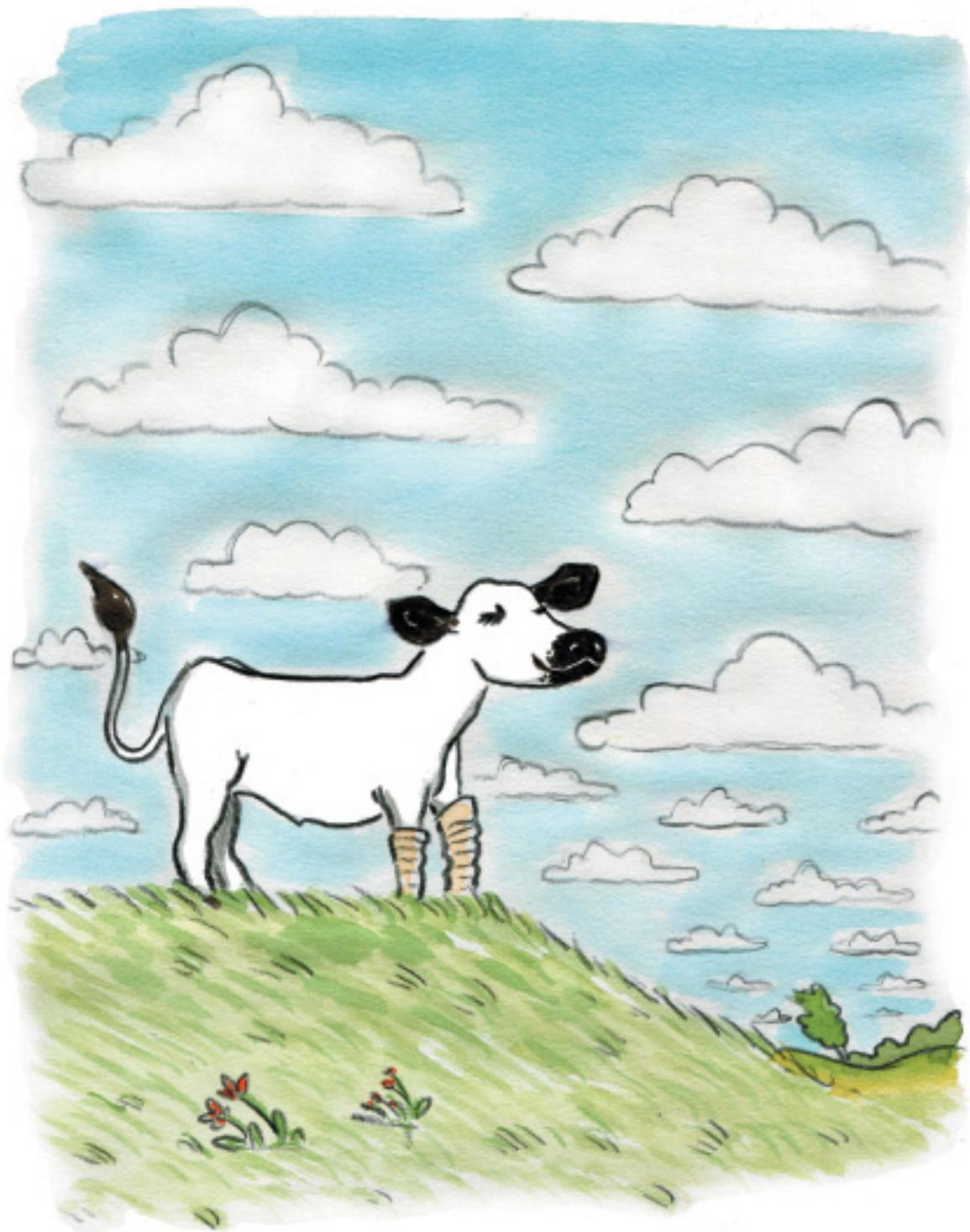
Samuel was born to his mother Isabella at Skylands. Isabella was rescued from one of those backyard breeders that was up to no good. Animal control called in Mike to help with the rescue. And now Isabella and Samuel are two happy sheep together at Skylands.

Pigeon is a new friend of Samuel's and has decided that riding on Samuel's back is more fun than flapping wings. We'll see how that goes.



## **TREVOR THE STEER**

Trevor is a British White steer born on a dairy farm with legs that were crooked and wouldn't work. The doctors said the calf would never stand or walk. Mike and Trevor didn't believe that. Now after many operations, Trevor is walking up and down hills and around his grassy home at Skylands. He is such a dashing looking boy.



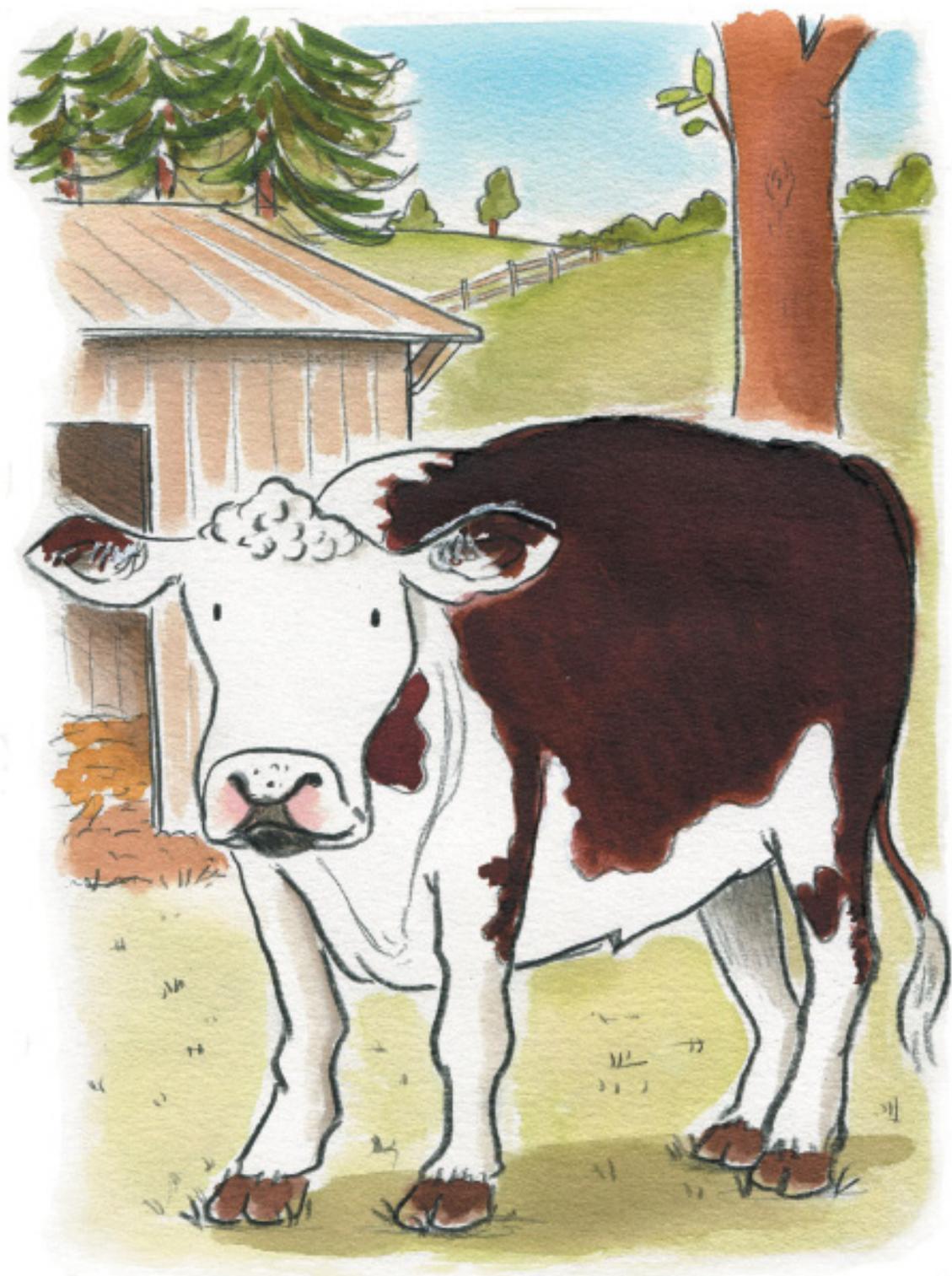
## **ALBERT THE PIGLET and LENNIE THE GOAT**

Albert the piglet was the teeny-weeny runt of his litter. The farmer of a small organic farm didn't think he could sell Albert. He gave the piglet to a teenager who was visiting the farm one day with his friends. The young man gave Albert to his parents, but the parents didn't know how to care for him. So they called Mike, who was willing to nurse Albert round the clock. Little Lennie, the baby goat shown here nursing his bottle, was almost part of a religious ceremony, but Mike whisked him away just in time. Both Albert and Lennie liked to be cuddled when they were babies, and they love to be petted now.



## **FREDDIE THE STEER**

Freddie is famous and he knows it. He was in all the newspapers and TV news when he escaped a transport truck and ran through the streets of Queens. In spite of his daring run for freedom, he was captured and taken to a bad place. Mike heard about him and after spending the night outside that place in his truck, he talked the owner into letting Freddie come with him to Skylands. Freddie likes that people know about him. He likes hearing his name and being talked about. He's a proud Hereford steer after all.

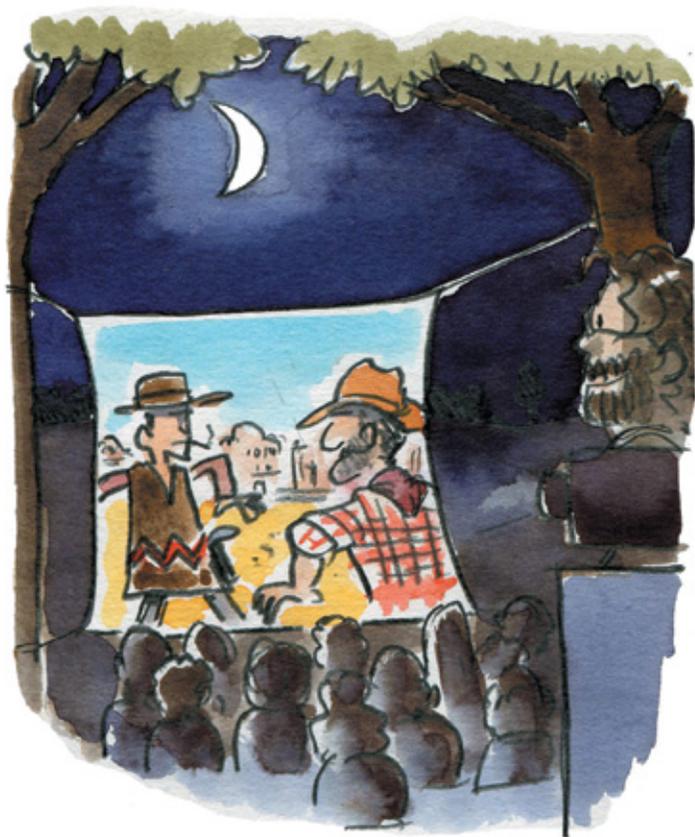


Well, having animal friends at Skylands was wonderful.

But now, Jimmy wanted people friends too.

Soon Skylands was holding tours and talks about the animals. Jimmy would welcome every person to his home with gentleness and love. Jimmy had a big heart. He loved meeting all the visitors.



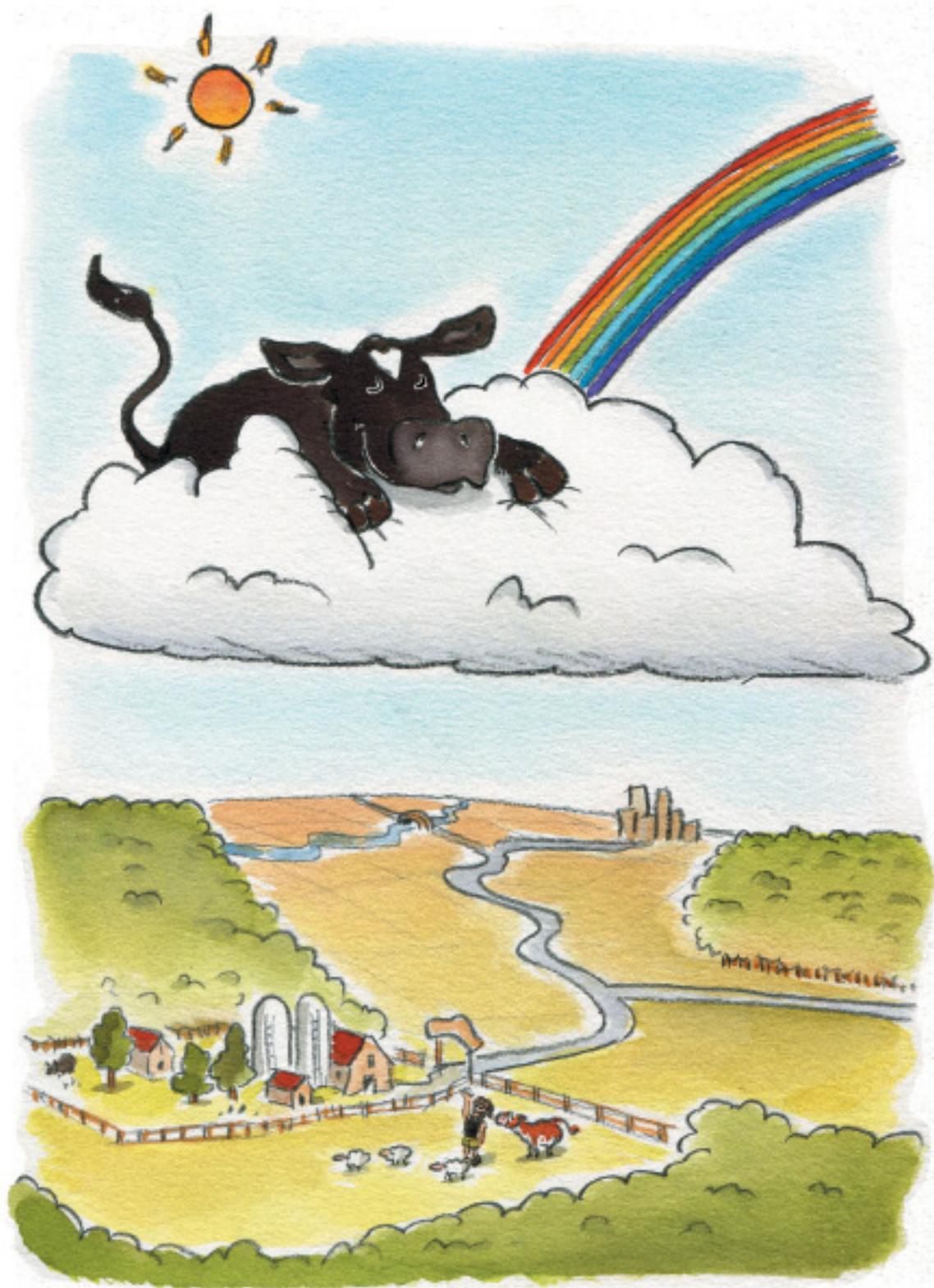




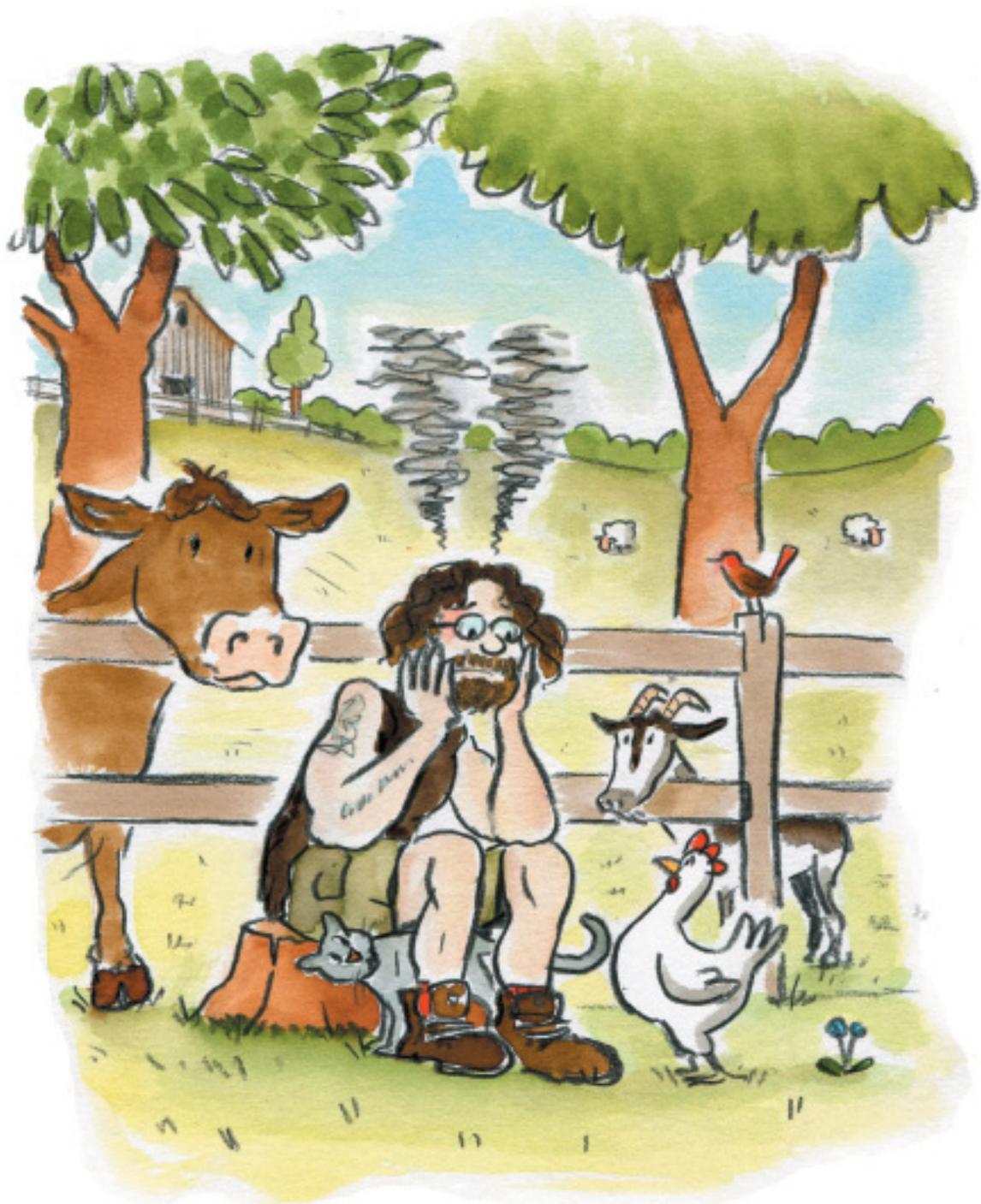
There were movie nights, yoga days and even Jimmy Jams, which were full days of meeting the animals and having yummy plant-based food to eat.

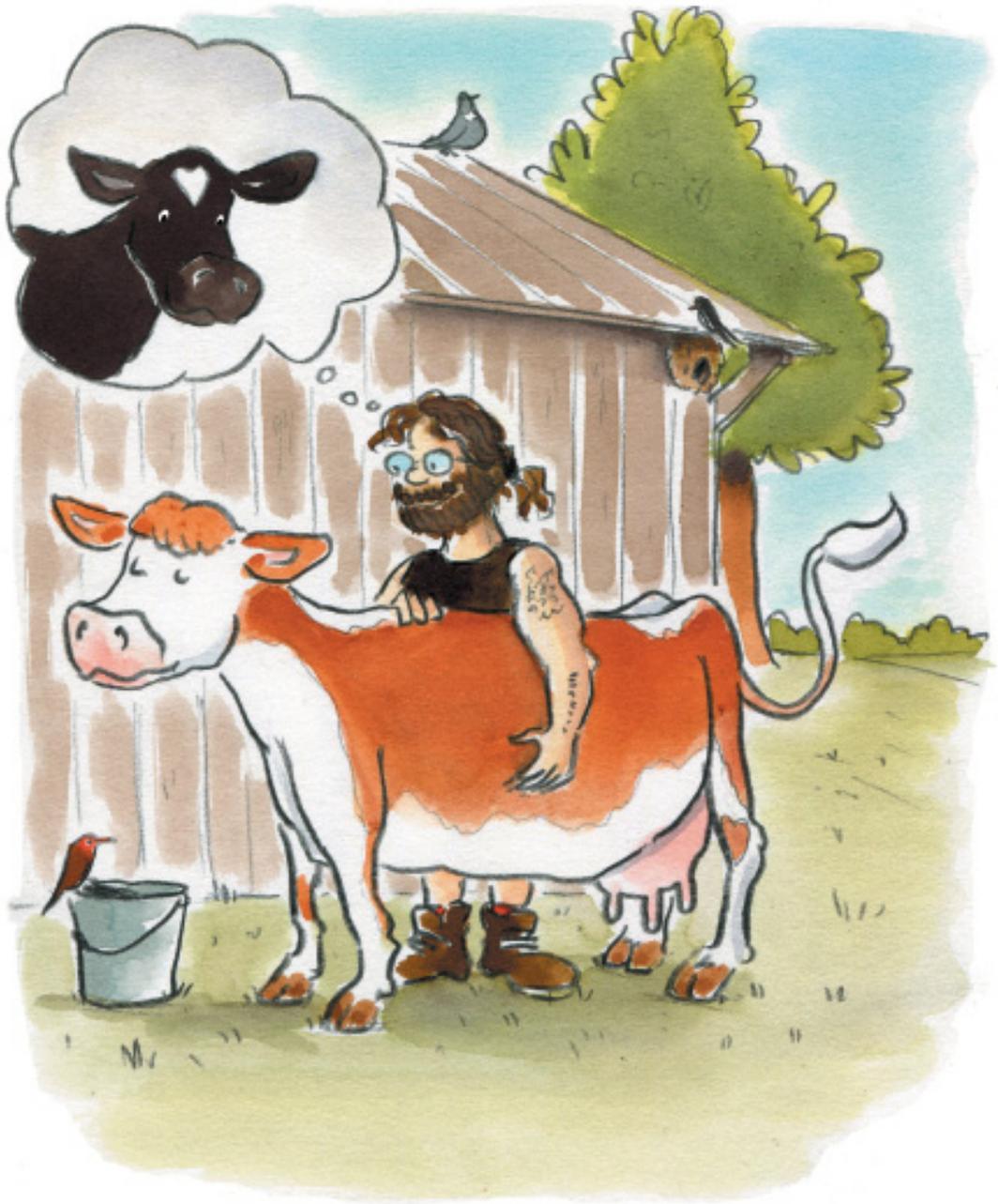
Oh, it was fun!! And people and animals learned a lot too. They learned they really liked one another.

Jimmy and Mike were together for five years. They made life happier for farm animals and people. Then one night Jimmy passed away peacefully. His job on earth was over.



Mike was filled with sorrow without Jimmy  
by his side.





But Mike couldn't just stop taking care of Jimmy's friends.

Mike heard Jimmy's voice in his mind, "Keep rescuing my friends, Mike! And treat them well like you always do!"



Mike always took good care of the animals and treated them well, much better than the places they came from. But it was harder without Jimmy's help. And there were so many of these animals!



Do you think *you* could help Mike?



You want to know how?

It goes like this: If you fill your plate with veggies, fruits, grains, legumes, nuts, plant-based dairy, and no animal products, then . . .



\* every day you "reScue":

1 ANIMAL'S LIFE

AND:

1110 GALLONS OF WATER

40 POUNDS OF GRAIN

30 SQUARE FEET OF FOREST

20 POUNDS OF CO<sub>2</sub>

WOW !

\* [www.thevegancalculator.com](http://www.thevegancalculator.com)

You'll be part of Mike's Happy **Green Plate** Team!

Helping Mike rescue animals is really fun and awesome!

Come to Skylands or any sanctuary near you and see how happy our animal friends are when they are living as mother nature wanted them to. They love visitors.



Every night while Jimmy was at Skylands  
Mike would read Jimmy a children's bed-  
time book.

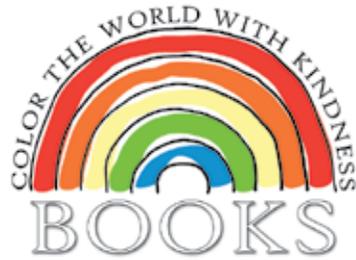


Maybe someday you can read this very book you're reading now to an animal you love. And you can tell them that you, also, in your own special way, "rescue animals and treat them well" in honor of Jimmy, the little calf from the pumpkin patch and Mike, the man with a heart of sunshine.









Marian Hailey-Moss

– Author –

Marian lives and writes in New York City. She advocates a plant-based diet and compassion for animals.

[www.marianhaileymoss.com](http://www.marianhaileymoss.com)



Marc Chalvin

– Illustrator –

Marc is a Parisian artist who fills his drawings and animations with life, wit and whimsy.

[chalvin.free.fr](http://chalvin.free.fr)

## Books for Kids by Marian and Marc

Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Mother Nature's Secret – Co-authored with Chris Stover

A Dog Named Randall – Co-authored with Mark Wilk

TAMING SOPHIE one dream at a time

A Palace for Peepers – Co-authored with Andrea End

Milky Whey's Dream – Co-authored with Chris Stover

Maggie the Chicken – Co-authored with Chris Stover

Mister Pepper's Secret – Co-authored with Chris Stover

An Elephant Called Butterfly – Co-authored with Lois Meredith

An Elephant Called Mira

Peacefood with Virgil the Elephant

Astor Court Stories

## Coloring Books

Available at [www.marianhaileymoss.com](http://www.marianhaileymoss.com)

NALA the Little Elephant

FREDDIE the Runaway Cow

CHA CHA Chicken

## THE RESCUE TEAM FOR THIS BOOK

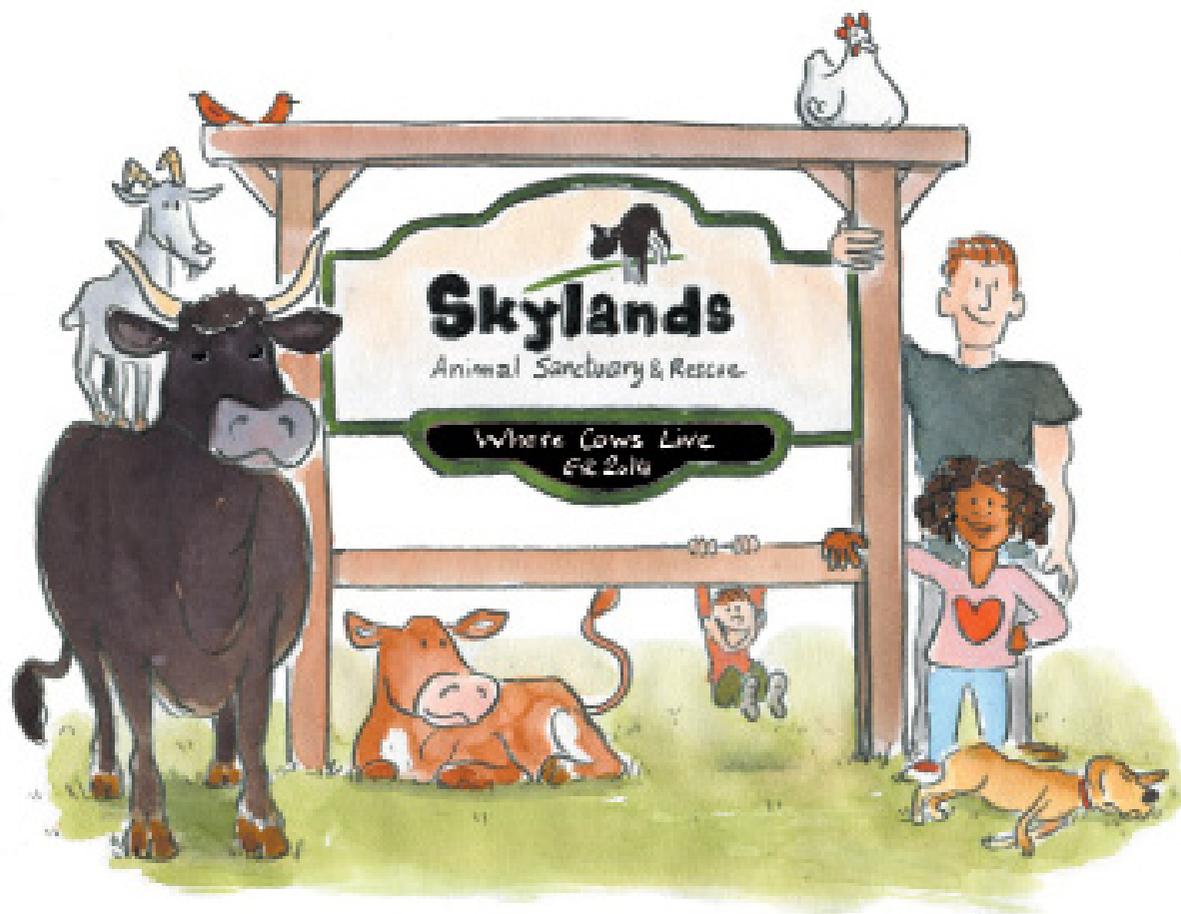
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Tamara Zannetti  
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Victoria Andreo  
Victoria Moran  
Yolande Bavan



MIKE GIVES ANIMALS HOPE THAT SOMEDAY  
THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE OUT THEIR  
LIVES IN PEACE. YOU CAN BECOME PART OF  
MIKE'S TEAM. YOU AND MIKE WORKING  
TOGETHER CAN MAKE A BETTER WORLD.

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