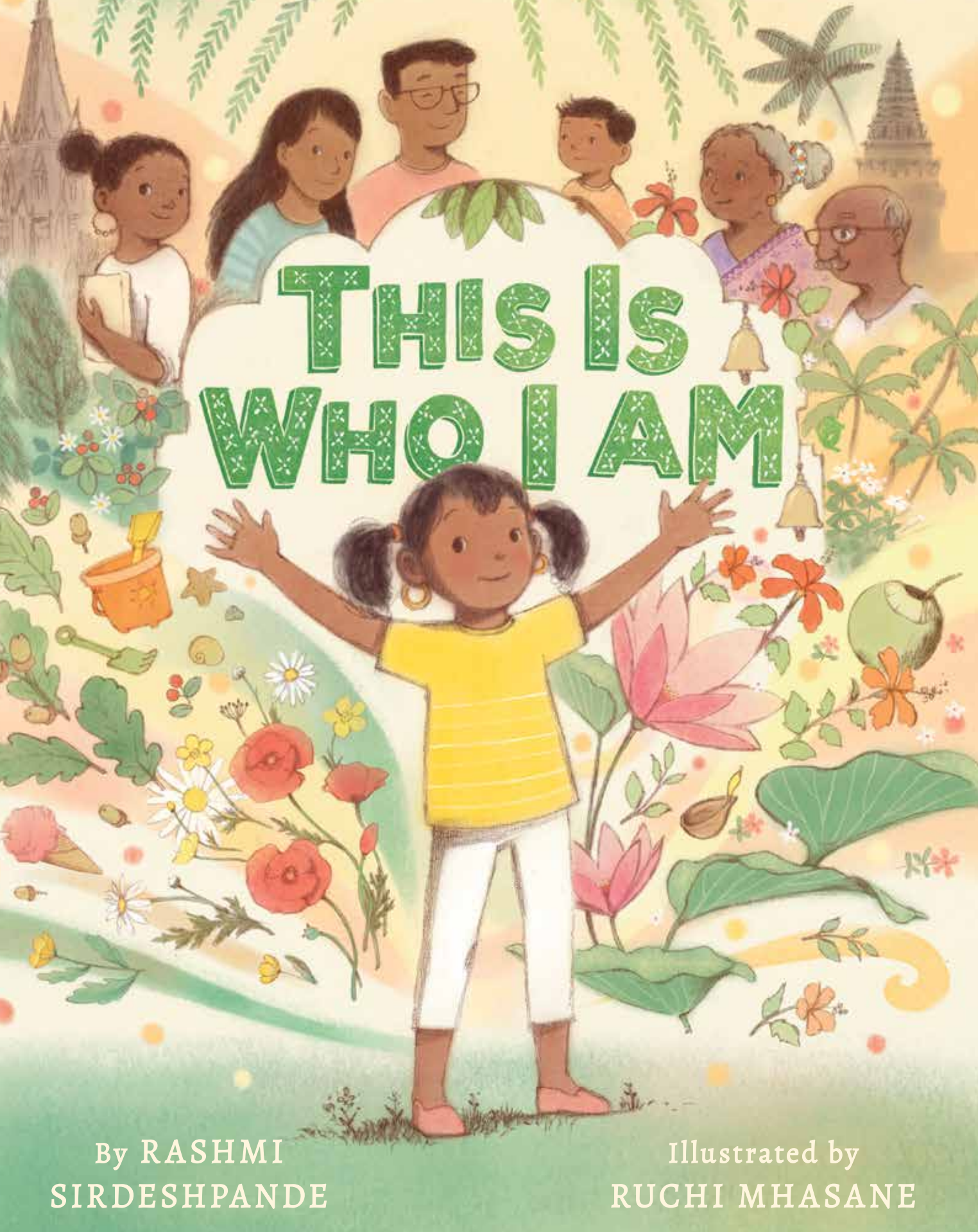




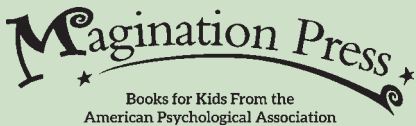
THIS IS WHO I AM

By RASHMI
SIRDESHPANDE

Illustrated by
RUCHI MHASANE

For Aaji, with love. With gratitude to everyone
who has touched my life and made me who I am—RS

To all those who have more than one world
to call their own—RM



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Magination Press, Books for Kids From the American Psychological Association
maginationpress.org

Distributed by Lerner Publisher Services
lernerbooks.com

Book design by Christina Gaugler
Printed by Sonic Media Solutions, Inc., Medford, NY

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Sirdeshpande, Rashmi author | Mhasane, Ruchi illustrator
Title: This is who I am / Rashmi Sirdeshpande; Ruchi Mhasane.
Description: Washington, DC : Magination Press, 2025. | “American Psychological Association.” | Audience term: Children | Summary: A young girl celebrates the rich heritage of her immigrant family and their journey to build a new life.
Identifiers: LCCN 2025023620 (print) | LCCN 2025023621 (ebook) | ISBN 9781433848919 hardcover | ISBN 9781433848926 epub | ISBN 9781433848933 epub | ISBN 9781433848940 pdf
Subjects: CYAC: Immigrants—Fiction | Family life—Fiction | LCGFT: Picture books | Fiction
Classification: LCC PZ7.1.S5697 Th 2026 (print) | LCC PZ7.1.S5697 (ebook) | DDC [E]—dc23/eng/20250624
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025023620>
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025023621>

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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By RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE

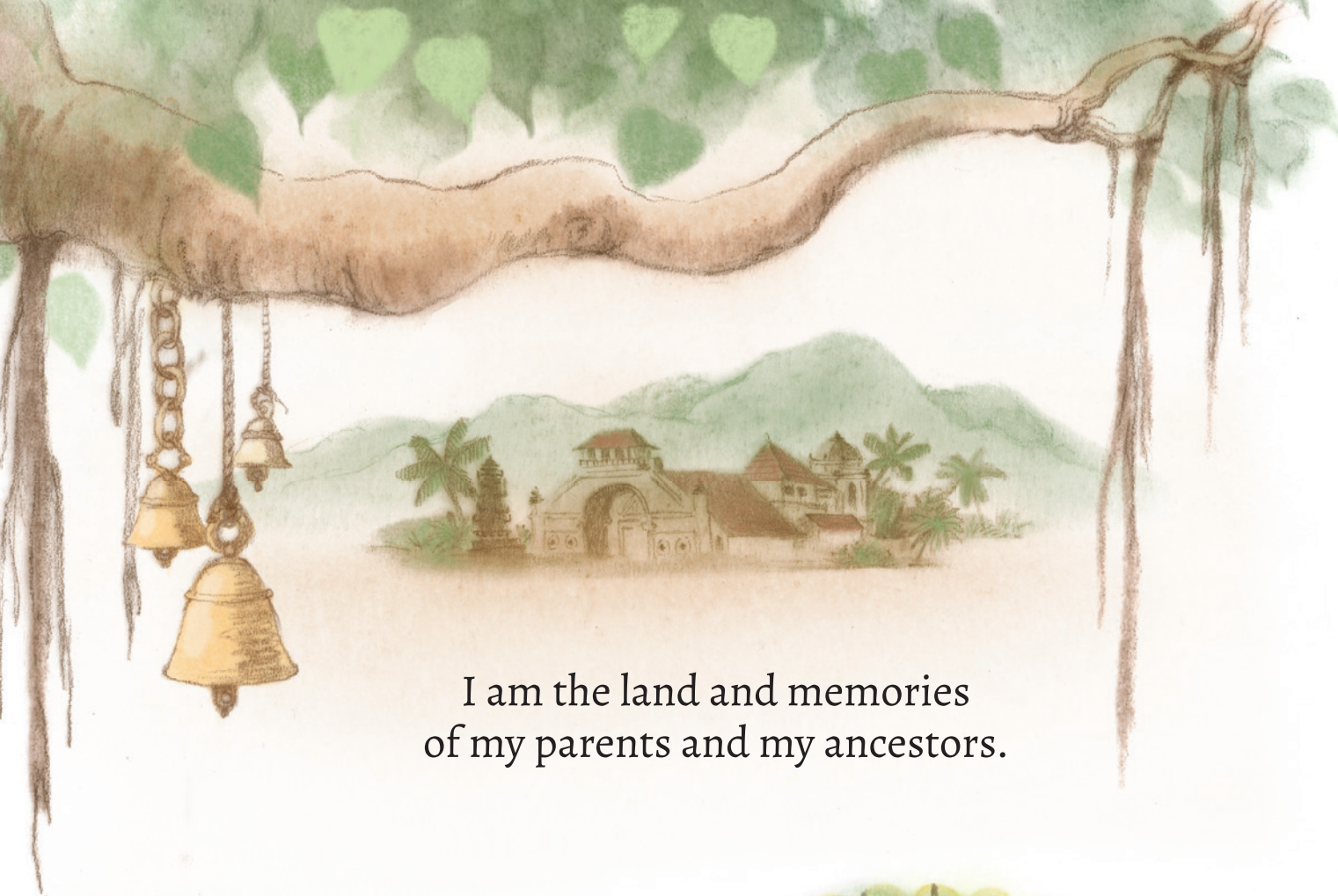
Illustrated by RUCHI MHASANE



When people ask me what I am
or where I'm from, I smile.

I say I have a foot in two worlds,
but I am so much more than that . . .





I am the land and memories
of my parents and my ancestors.

I am temple bells and
flower garlands.

I am the deep greens
of the forest . . .



the long, twisted branches of
ancient banyan trees . . .

and the pinks and
whites of lotuses
dancing on the
water.



I am the plane that carried my
parents to a new world.

I am the kindness of the people
who made them feel welcome.



And the strength they found inside
when others did not.