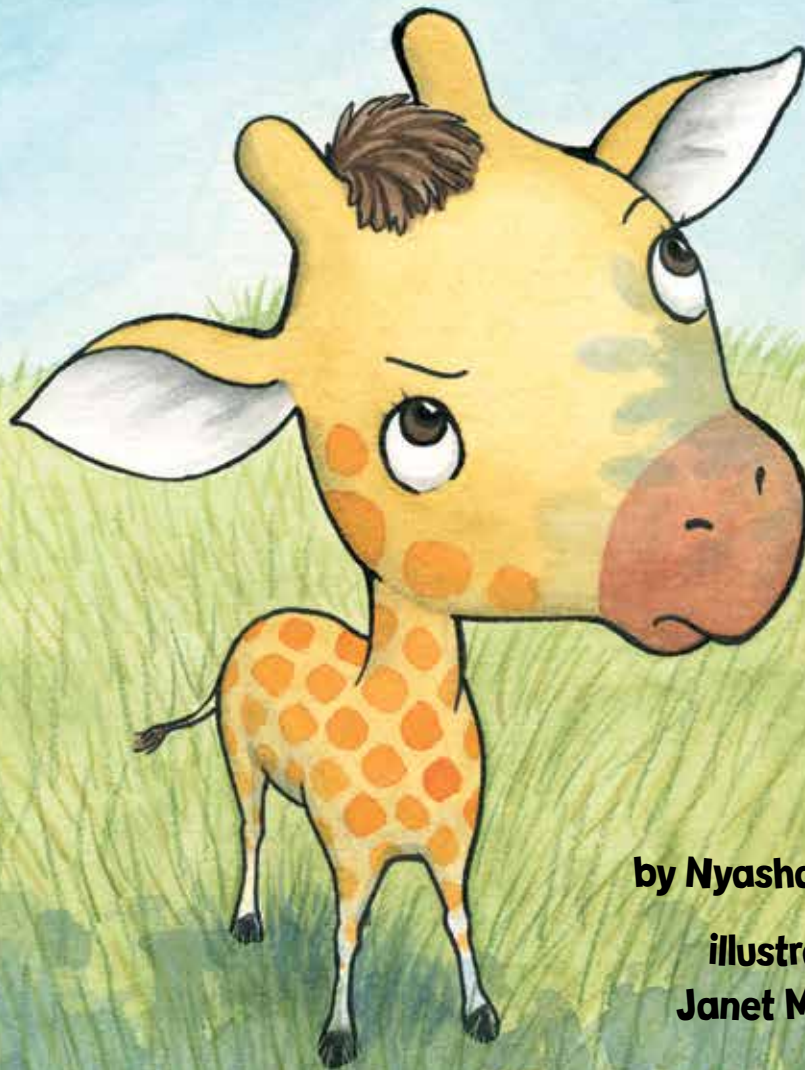


GIRAFFE ASKS FOR HELP



by Nyasha Chikowore

illustrated by
Janet McDonnell

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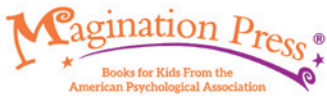


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To my favorite people to ask for help: Mom, Mercy, Tinashe, Dad, Takieya, Chrissy, Donica, Keisha, Jeff, Jordyn, Jianna, Carla, Derrick, Panama, Ingrid, Mobola, Tia, Corte, UMB School Mental Health Program, my Cherry Hill #159 friends, Liz, Tozer, Selena, my cohort, & my supporters at CNMC SCORE— NC

For Tanner, who has gotten very good at asking for help but needs it less and less—*JM*



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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 Gwen Grafft

Printed by Sheridan Worzalla, Stevens Point, WI

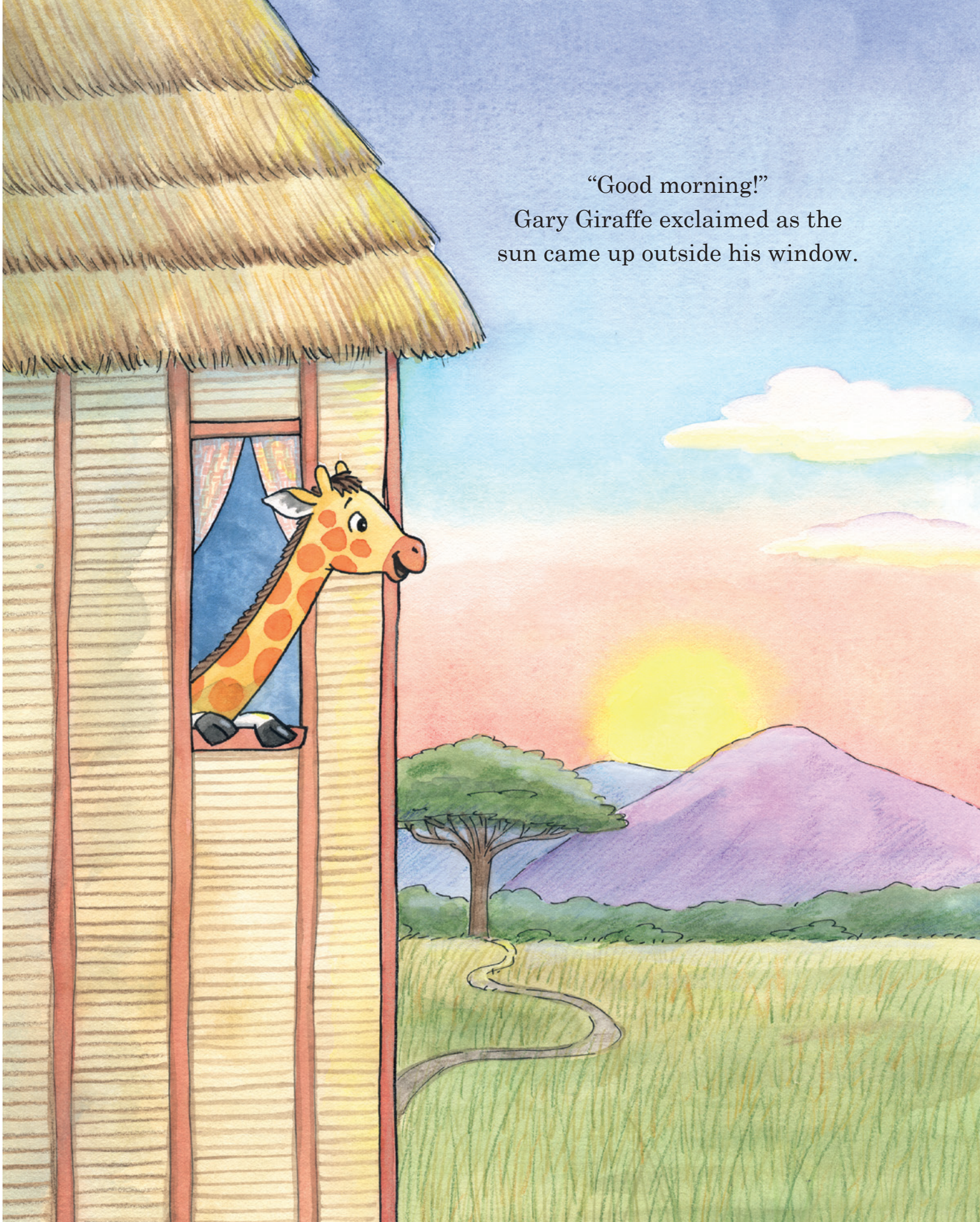
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Chikowore, Nyasha, author. | McDonnell, Janet, 1962- illustrator.
Title: Giraffe asks for help / by Nyasha Chikowore;
illustrated by Janet McDonnell.

Description: Washington, DC: Magination Press, e[2019] | “American Psychological Association.” | Summary: Clumsy Gary the Giraffe is disappointed that he still cannot reach the top leaves on trees after turning six, but his friends assure him he is not too old to ask for help.
Identifiers: LCCN 2018011912 | ISBN 9781433829468 (hardcover) | ISBN 1433829460 (hardcover)
Subjects: | CYAC: Ability—Fiction. | Helpfulness—Fiction. | Friendship—Fiction. | Giraffes—Fiction. | Animals—Fiction.
Classification: LCC PZ7.1.C4983 Gar 2019 | DDC [E]—dc23 LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018011912>

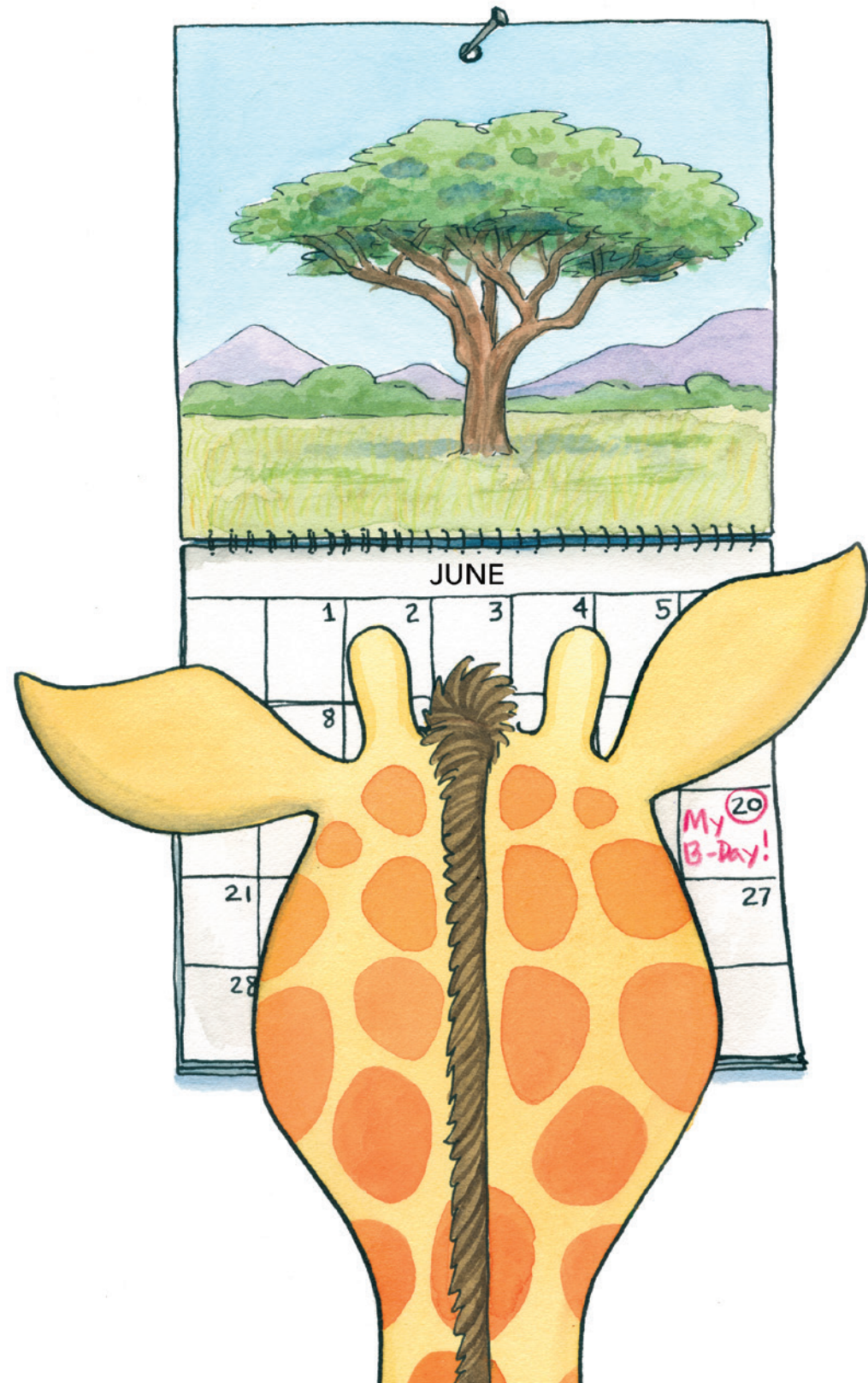
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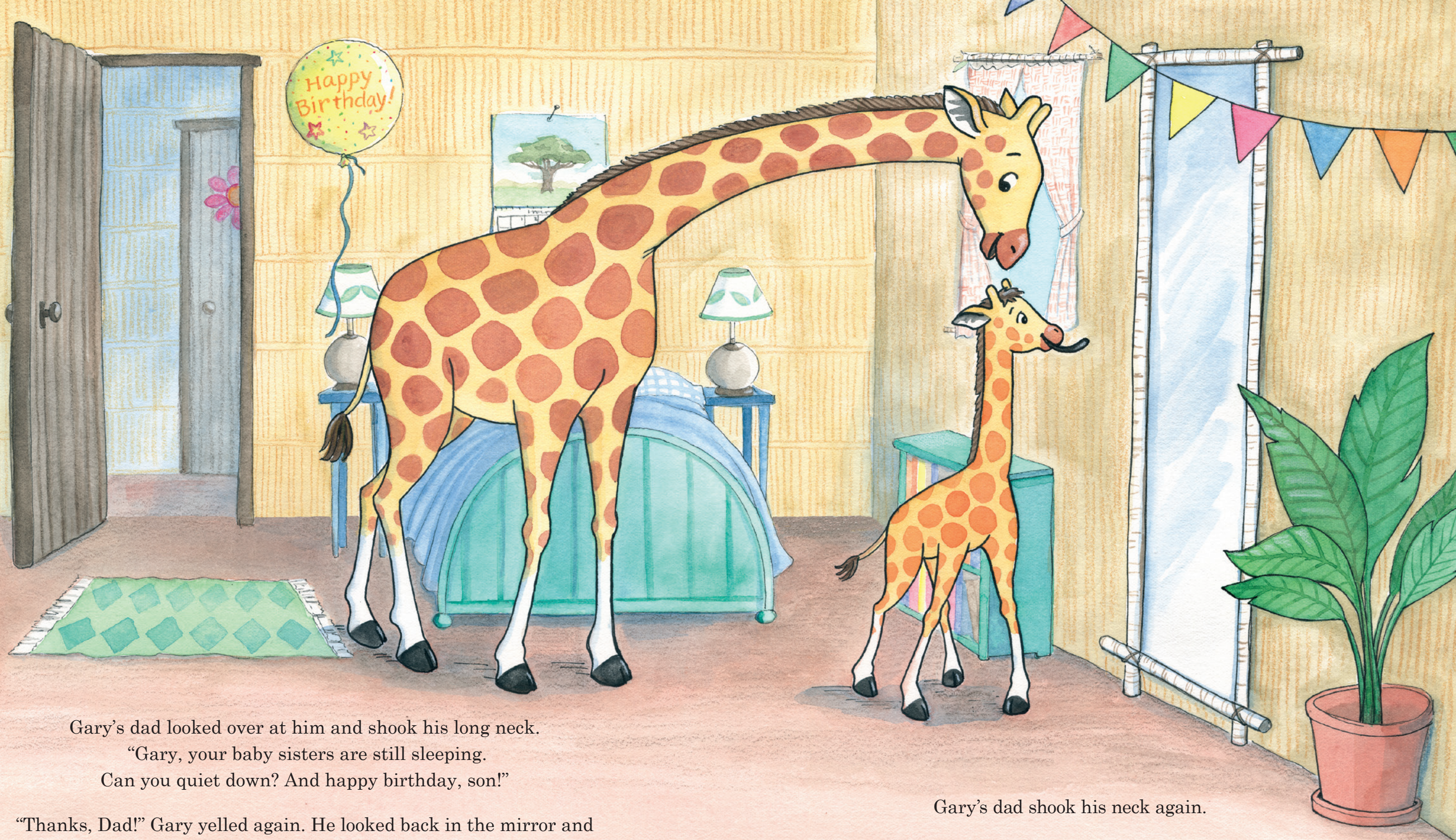
“Good morning!”
Gary Giraffe exclaimed as the
sun came up outside his window.



Today was Gary's 6th birthday, which is a big deal for giraffes. He would finally be tall enough to reach the best leaves from the giant acacia trees.



He ran to look in the mirror and saw that his circle and square-shaped spots were getting darker. "Yes! I'm getting older!" Gary yelled with glee.



Gary's dad looked over at him and shook his long neck.

"Gary, your baby sisters are still sleeping.

Can you quiet down? And happy birthday, son!"

"Thanks, Dad!" Gary yelled again. He looked back in the mirror and stuck out his super long tongue. "I can't wait to get leaves with you!"

Gary's dad shook his neck again.

"Let's go, Gary. The early giraffe gets the good leaves!"

As Gary and his dad walked along, neighborhood animals wished Gary a happy birthday.

Gary had the biggest, widest smile on his face.

