



Štěpánka Sekaninová • Linh Dao

A CURIOUS DRAGON AND THE WEATHER

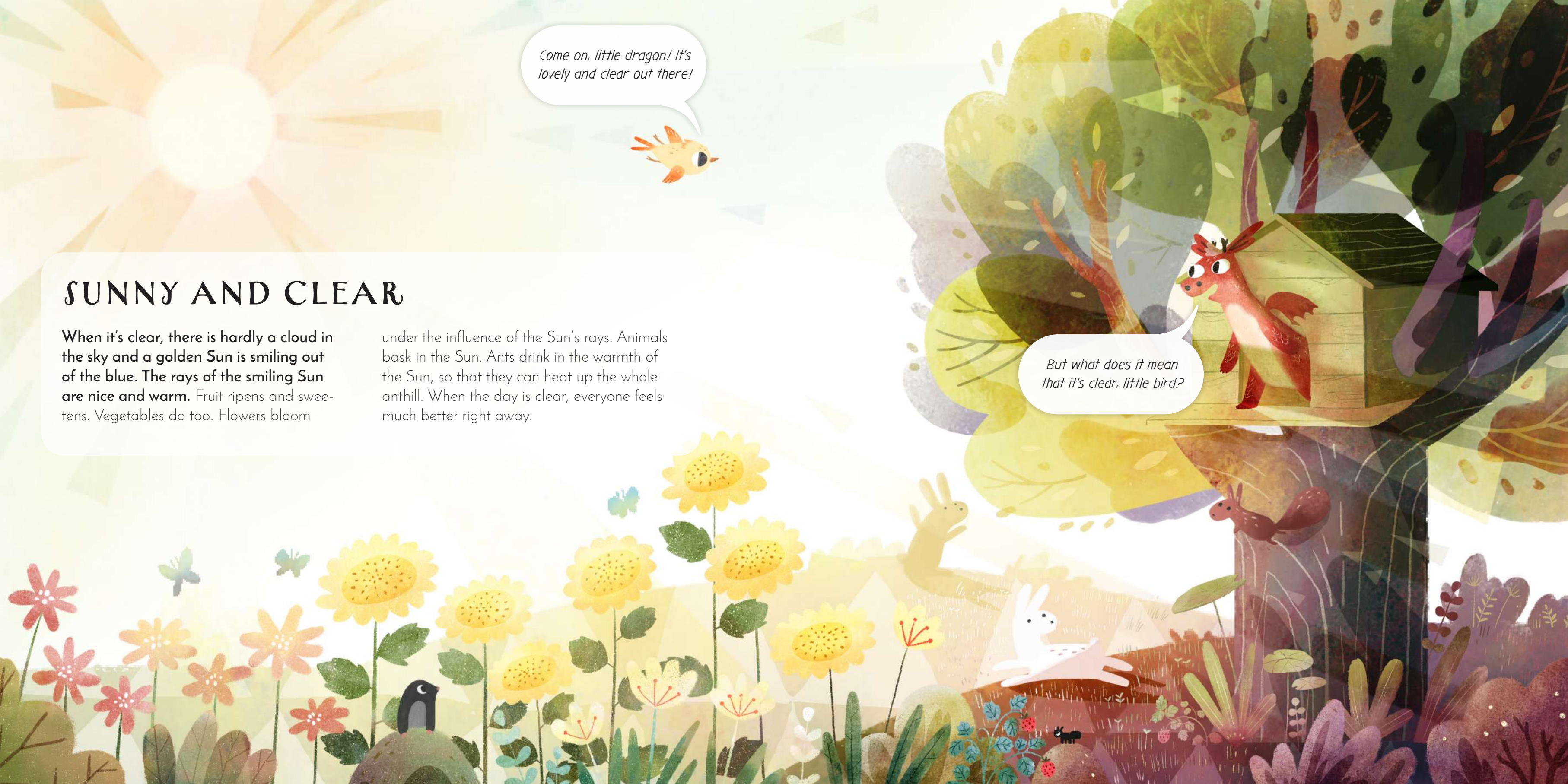


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Come on, little dragon! It's lovely and clear out there!

SUNNY AND CLEAR

When it's clear, there is hardly a cloud in the sky and a golden Sun is smiling out of the blue. The rays of the smiling Sun are nice and warm. Fruit ripens and sweetens. Vegetables do too. Flowers bloom

under the influence of the Sun's rays. Animals bask in the Sun. Ants drink in the warmth of the Sun, so that they can heat up the whole anthill. When the day is clear, everyone feels much better right away.

But what does it mean that it's clear, little bird?

PARTLY CLOUDY

Partly cloudy means that the Sun is partly hidden by clouds. When the Sun is completely hidden, we say that it is overcast. Then there are many different kinds of clouds in the sky, and the day is gloomy.

Partly cloudy? What does that mean?

Look outside, little dragon. The Sun is shining here and not shining there. It is partly cloudy.

CLOUD TYPES



1 Clouds that look like lambs. They float about the sky, a lovely sight.



2 Clouds that look like fluffy, curly clumps. They hover low above the ground.



3 Some clouds look like strips of cloth.



4 Clouds that look like huge towers or mountains. They contain lightning and rain.



5 A thick, dark cloud that covers the Sun easily. It warns of coming heavy rain or snow.

WIND

Wind is moving, flowing air. It moves because air temperature differs from place to place, so air pressure differs, too. The cooler the air, the higher the pressure. Air moves, flows and blows because it wishes to balance out the differences.

The wind carries fresh air to the ground, cooling plants and spreading their seeds all over the world. Air currents also carry little birds and dragons like a dream!

*Spread your wings,
little dragon, and the wind
will carry you.*

Wind?

WIND TYPES



1 Wind can be as **gentle** as a lamb, a soft touch on your face. Such wind is known as a breeze.



2 **Light wind** breathes on trees, making their leaves rustle. It is one of Nature's musicians.



3 **Strong wind** wants more than to move leaves and twigs. Its breath can move whole branches, even big ones. Strong wind likes excitement.



4 **Strong wind** will shake everything in its path. With just one breath, it can set a full-grown tree swaying. Where are you going, little dragon? You won't get far against a strong wind!



5 A **gale** is the dragon of winds. It even attacks homes – and with gusto! It likes to rip tiles from roofs and to break chimneys.

SNOW

Snow is small particles of ice that fall from the clouds. We call these flakes. If we were to see them up very close, we would see how delicate and beautiful they are. And no two are the same. Amazing, isn't it?

For a snowflake to be born, we need damp air and a grain of dust or pollen. Raindrops

are made when vapour condenses and wraps itself around these tiny grains. When this miracle with vapour and grains takes place very high in the sky - where it is really cold - the drops freeze into honeycomb-shaped crystals. As these crystals fly through the air, they bump into one another and form lovely flakes.

It's snowing, little dragon. It's cold, so I'm flying off to get warm. See you in the spring!

Goodbye, little bird ... But what actually is snow?

SHAPES OF FLAKES

The shape of snowflakes affects air temperature. Some are as flat as pancakes, while others are like chips of ice. The loveliest ones look like fine lace.



1 Simple Prisms



2 Stellar Plates



3 Stellar Dendrites



4 Hollow Columns and Needles

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What is rain, and what is a storm? Why is the sky sometimes red? Is it true that there is more than one type of snow? These are just some of the questions that keep a curious little dragon awake at night. He would love to know exactly what weather is. Luckily, his little bird friend is able to explain it all before he flies off to warmer climes, that is, for the bird doesn't like the frosts of winter. What is frost, anyway? The pages of this book will solve every mystery of the weather, so answering all the dragon's questions.



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