

The Last Survivor

*written by
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*Illustrated by
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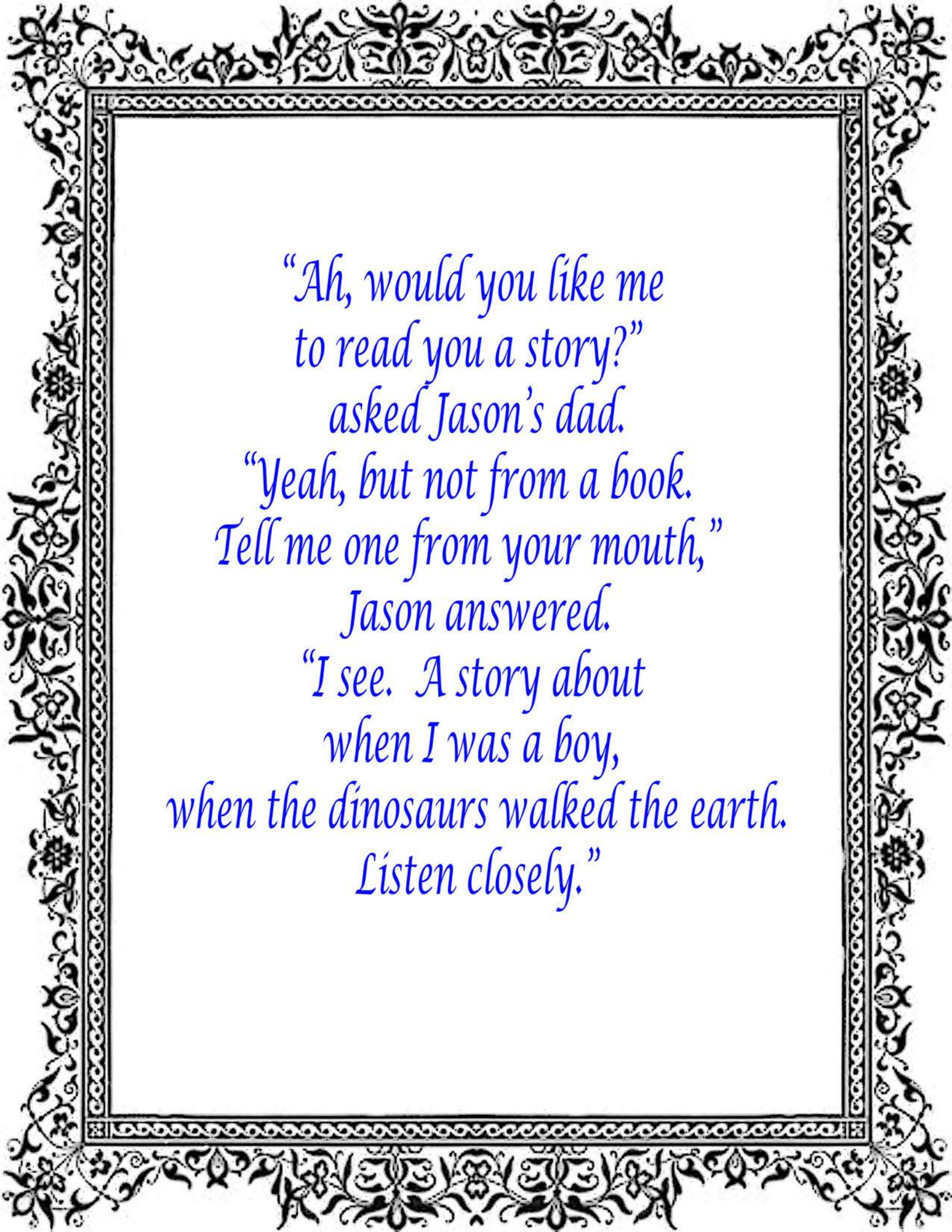


children's institute, inc.
safe children, strong families, healthy communities

Children's Institute, Inc. (CII) helps children in Los Angeles's most challenged communities heal from the trauma of family and community violence, build the confidence and skills to break through the barriers of poverty, and grow up to lead healthy, productive lives. Established in 1906, CII now reaches more than 20,000 children and families each year through treatment, youth development, early childhood and family support services. We also work to inform the larger field of children's services through the research and professional development efforts of our Leadership Center. childrensinstitute.org

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*Dedicated to:
Mom and Keith*



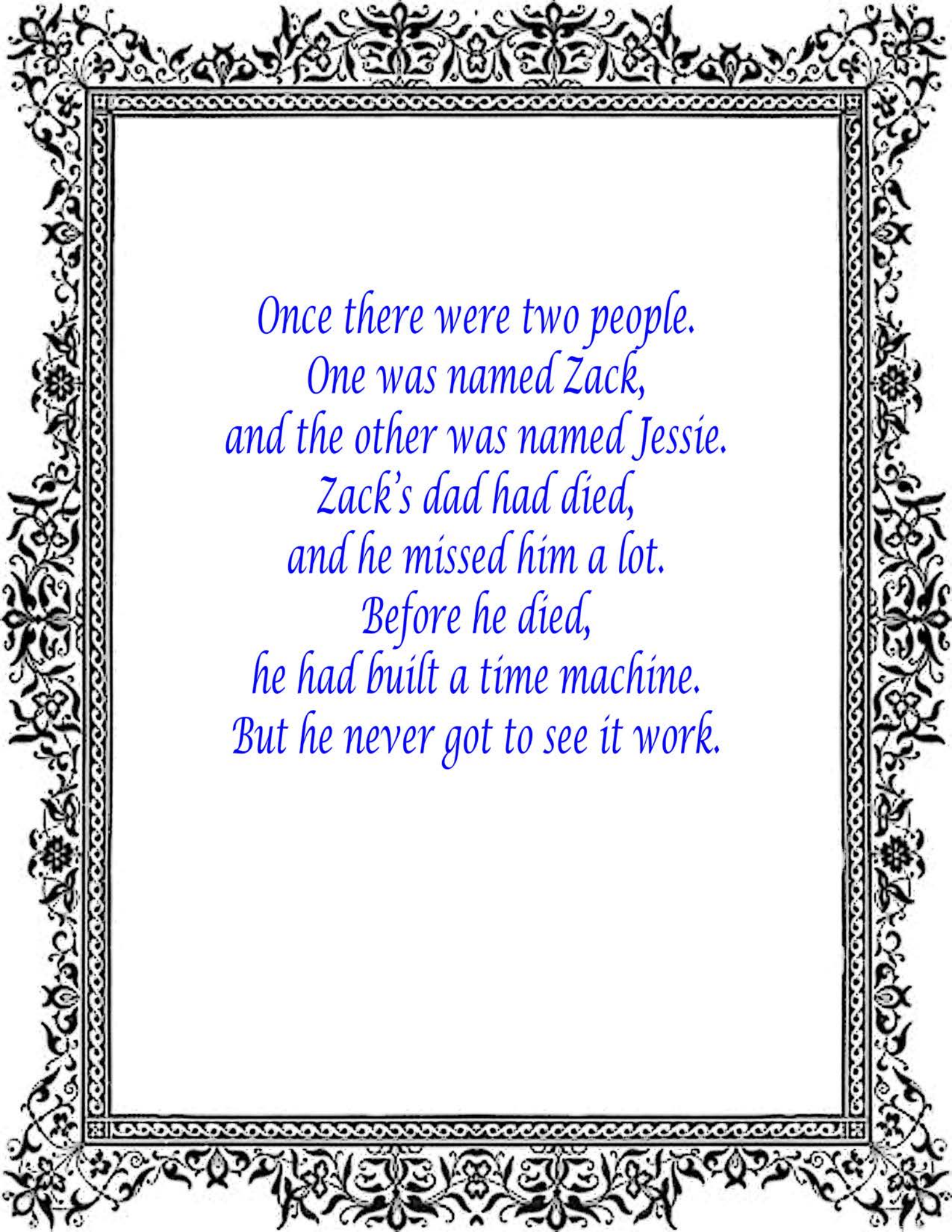
*“Ah, would you like me
to read you a story?”
asked Jason’s dad.*

*“Yeah, but not from a book.
Tell me one from your mouth,”*

Jason answered.

*“I see. A story about
when I was a boy,
when the dinosaurs walked the earth.
Listen closely.”*





*Once there were two people.
One was named Zack,
and the other was named Jessie.
Zack's dad had died,
and he missed him a lot.
Before he died,
he had built a time machine.
But he never got to see it work.*



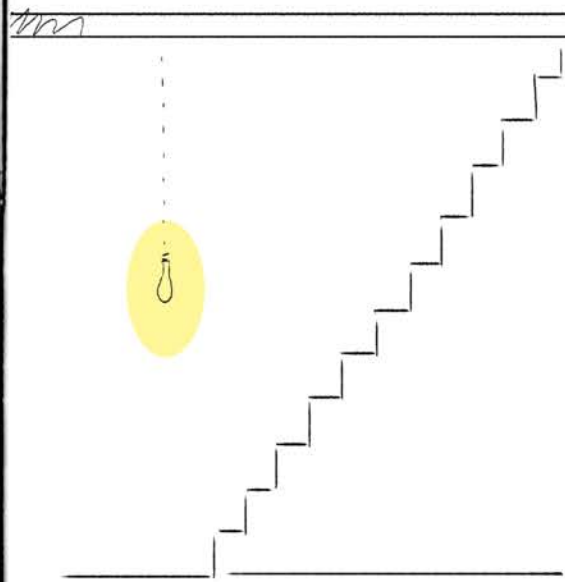
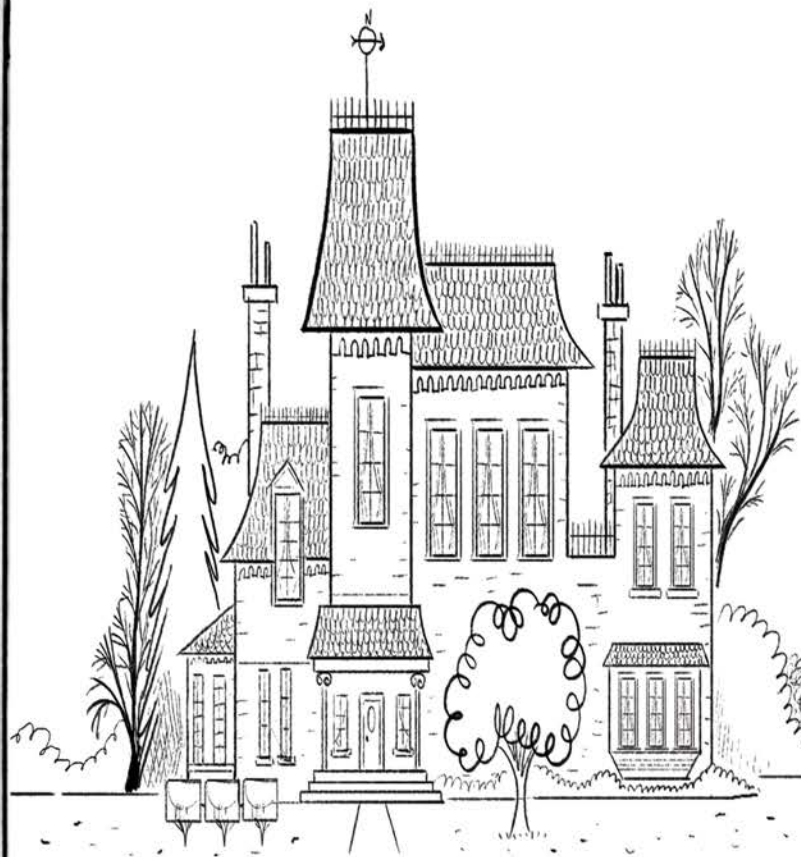
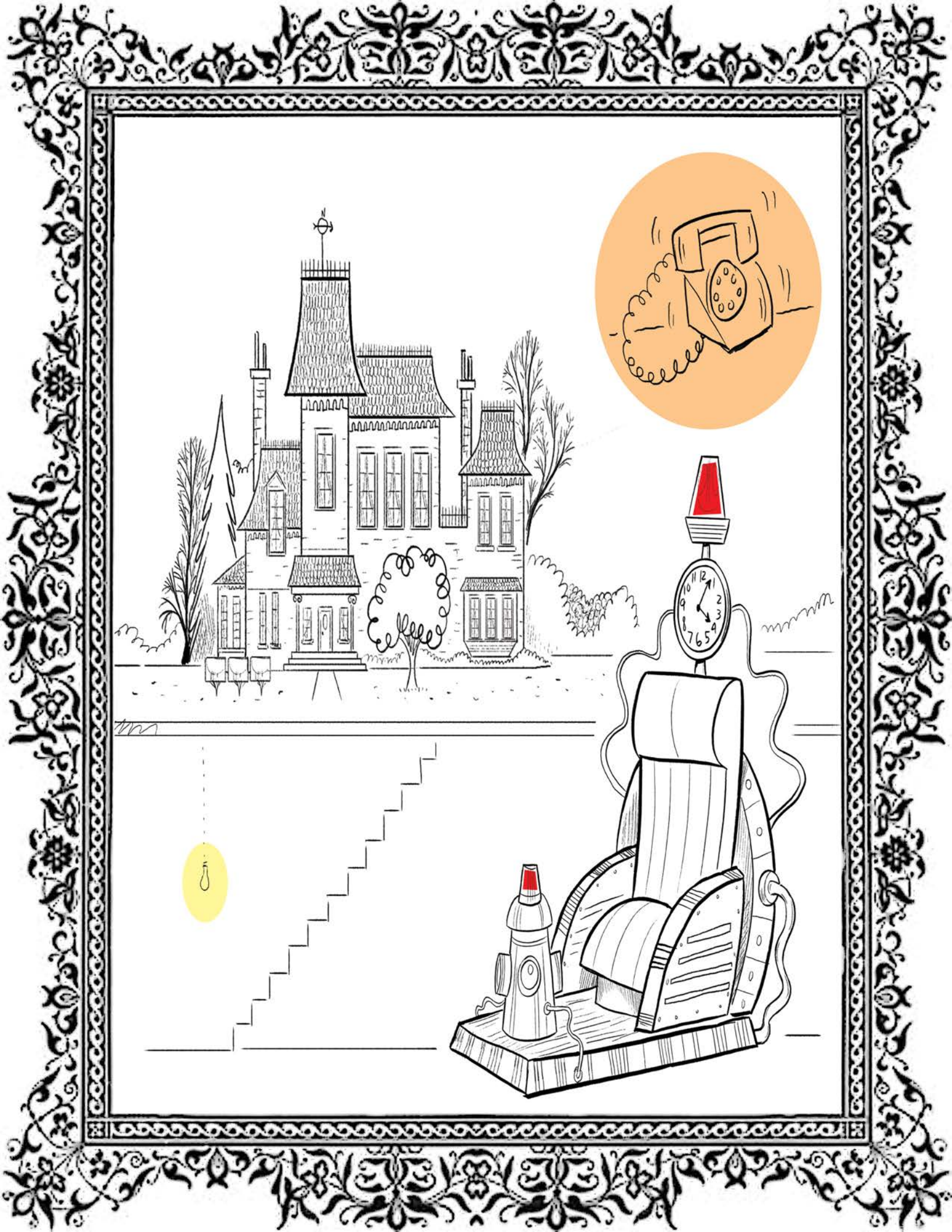


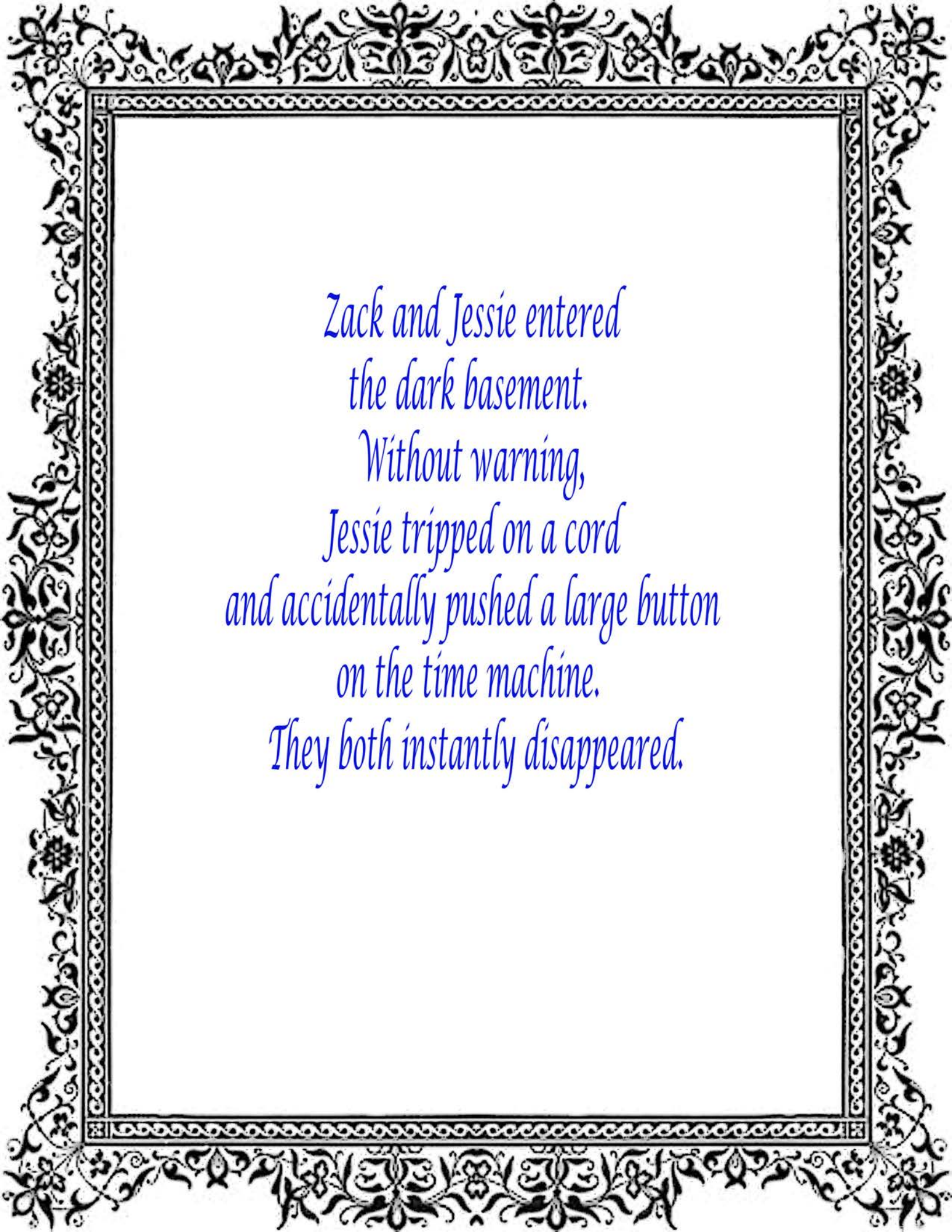
*Zack lived in a great big house,
because his father was rich.*

*The time machine was
at the bottom of this house,
in the basement.*

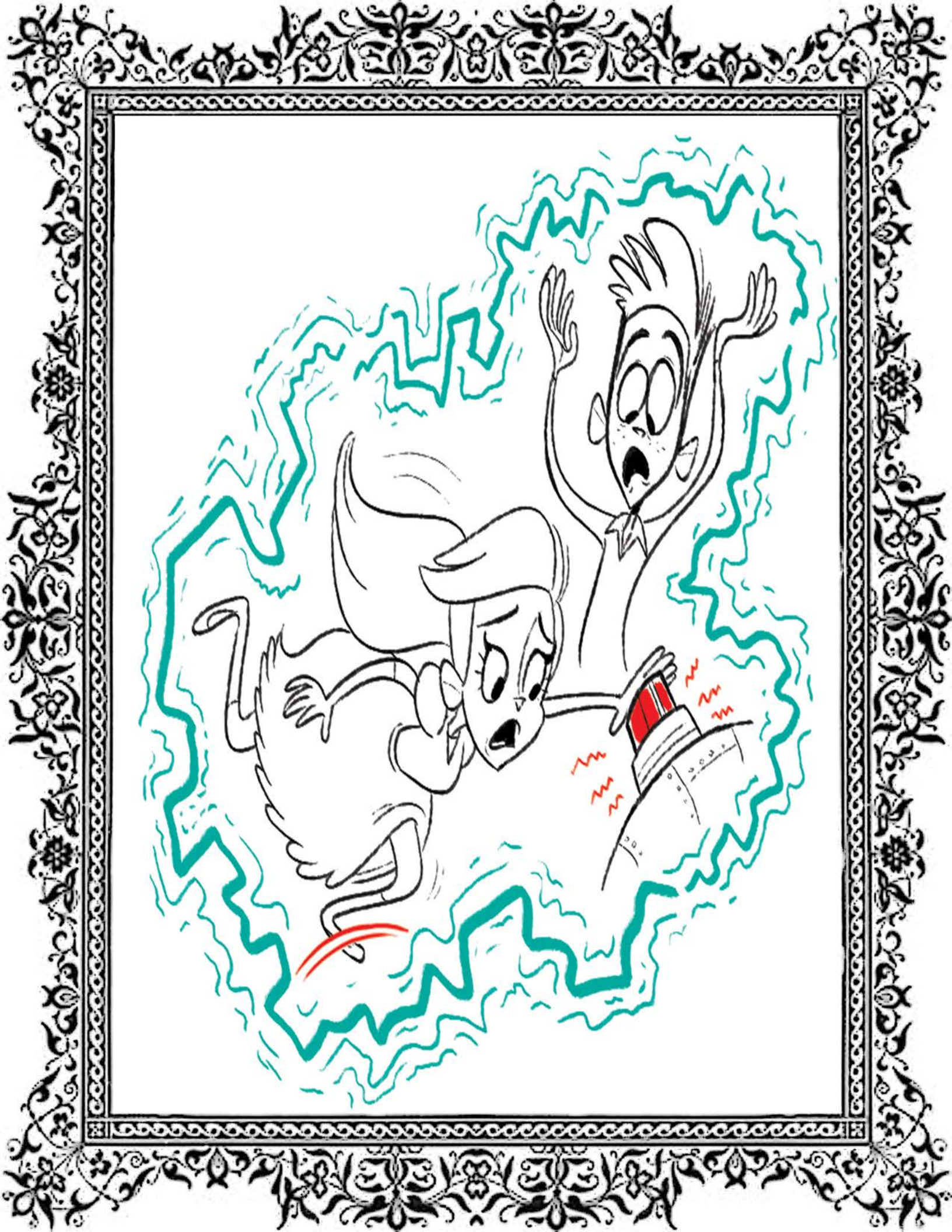
*One morning,
Zack woke up and called Jessie
to come over to see
the time machine.*

“Okay, “ she said.





*Zack and Jessie entered
the dark basement.
Without warning,
Jessie tripped on a cord
and accidentally pushed a large button
on the time machine.
They both instantly disappeared.*





*They suddenly found themselves
way back in prehistoric times.*

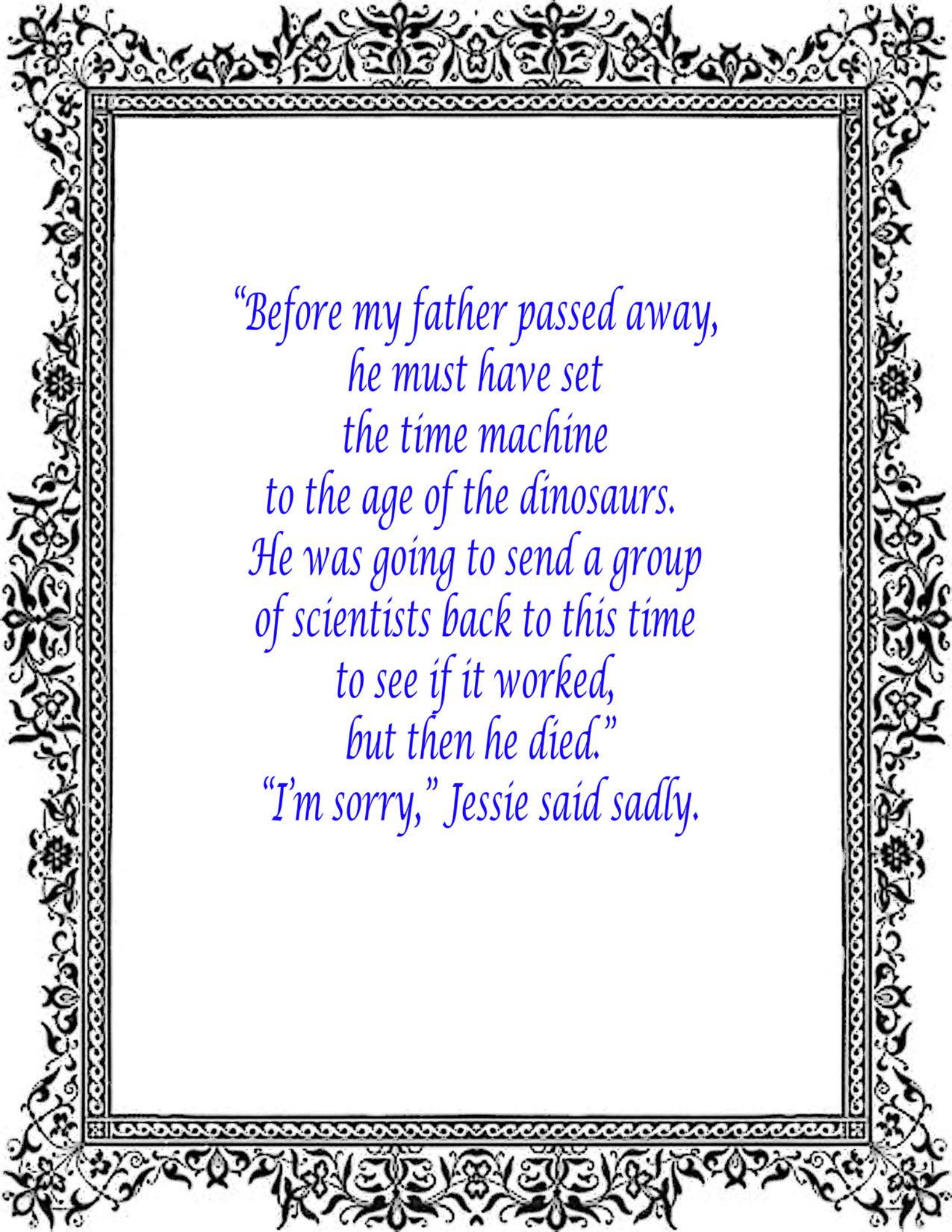
“Aaaah!” Jessie screamed.

*“Oh, no! The time machine is broken.
How do we get back now?”*

Jason shouted.

*“Back? How did we even get here?”
Jessie asked.*





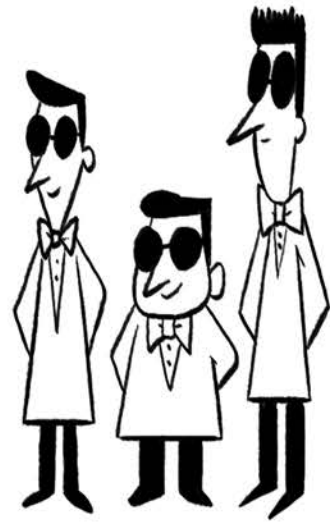
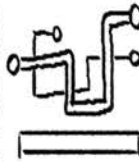
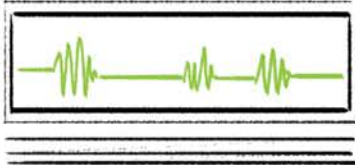
*“Before my father passed away,
he must have set
the time machine
to the age of the dinosaurs.
He was going to send a group
of scientists back to this time
to see if it worked,
but then he died.”
“I’m sorry,” Jessie said sadly.*

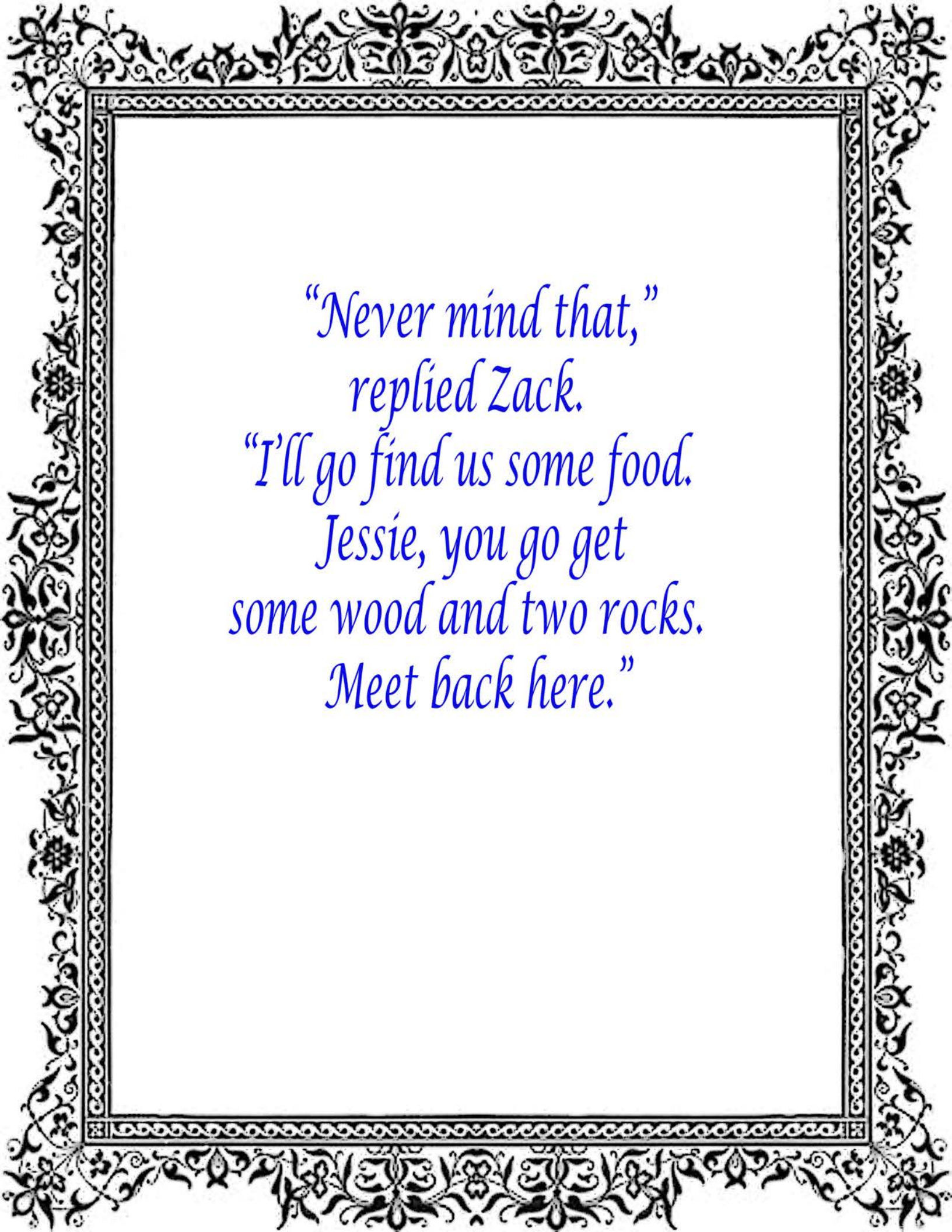
200

million
years ago

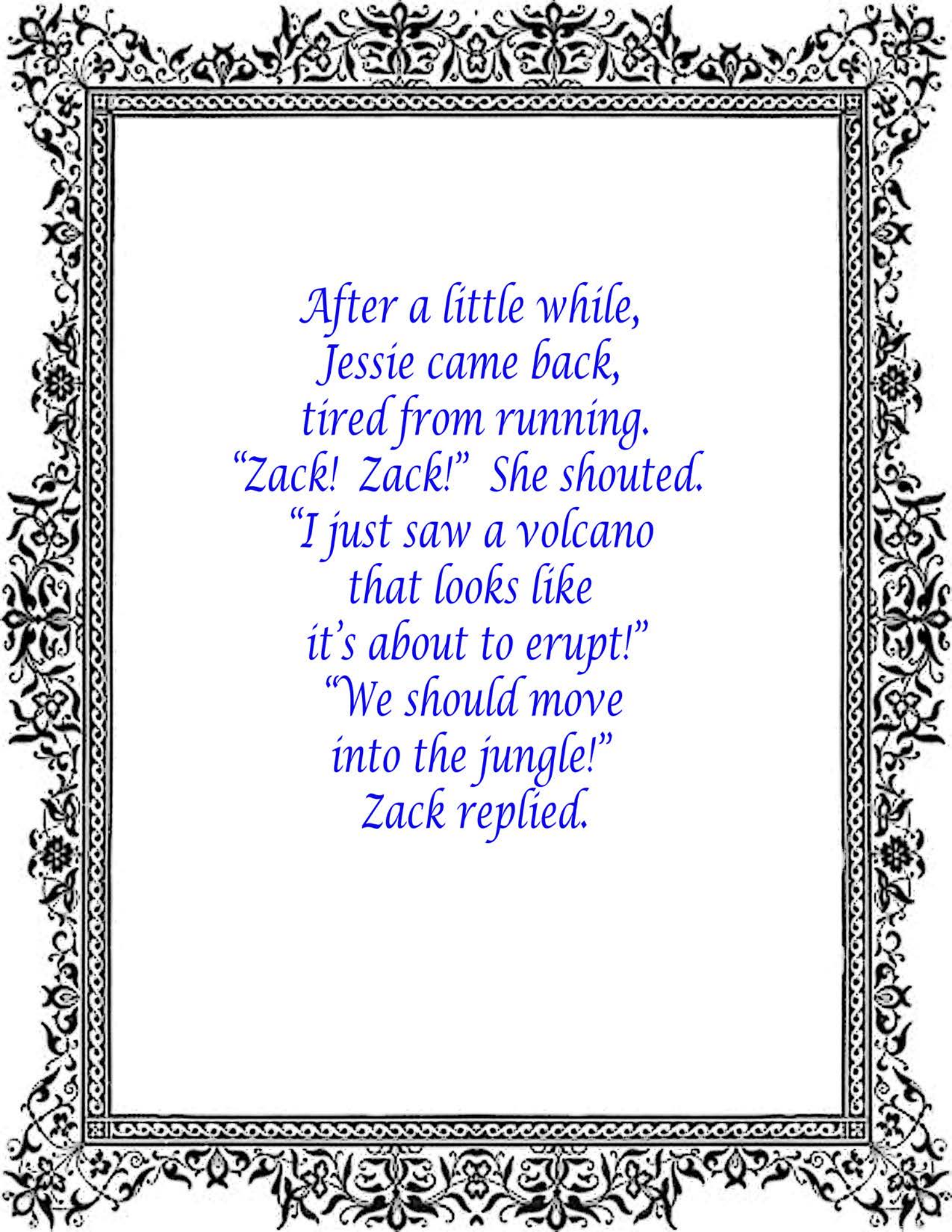


TIME CIRCUITS






*“Never mind that,”
replied Zack.
“I’ll go find us some food.
Jessie, you go get
some wood and two rocks.
Meet back here.”*

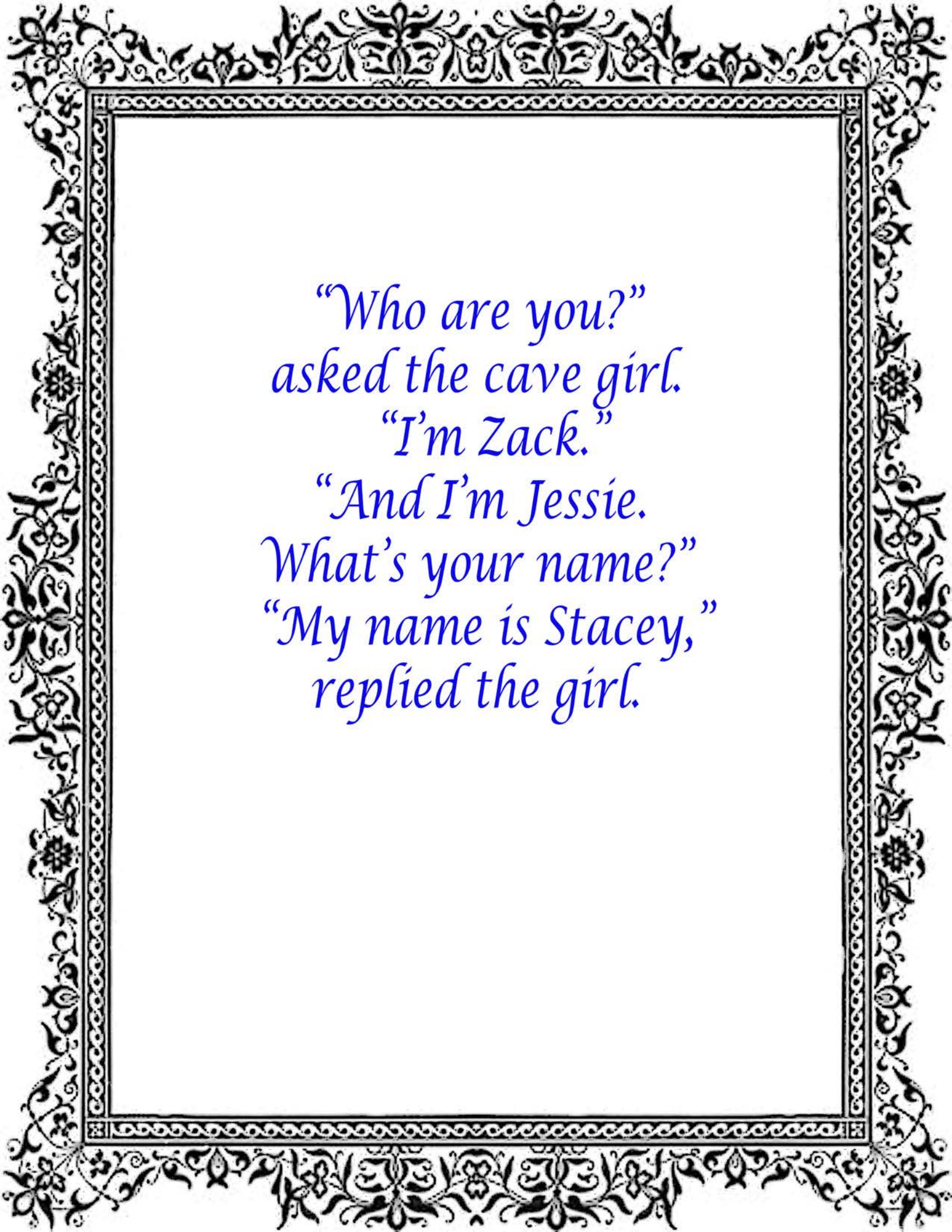


*After a little while,
Jessie came back,
tired from running.
“Zack! Zack!” She shouted.
“I just saw a volcano
that looks like
it’s about to erupt!”
“We should move
into the jungle!”
Zack replied.*



*“Wait,” said Jessie.
“Do you hear that?”
“What?” Zack replied.
“Something is in the bushes.”
Suddenly, a girl popped
out of the jungle.
They all screamed,
“Aaaaaahh!”*





*“Who are you?”
asked the cave girl.
“I’m Zack.”*

*“And I’m Jessie.
What’s your name?”
“My name is Stacey,”
replied the girl.*



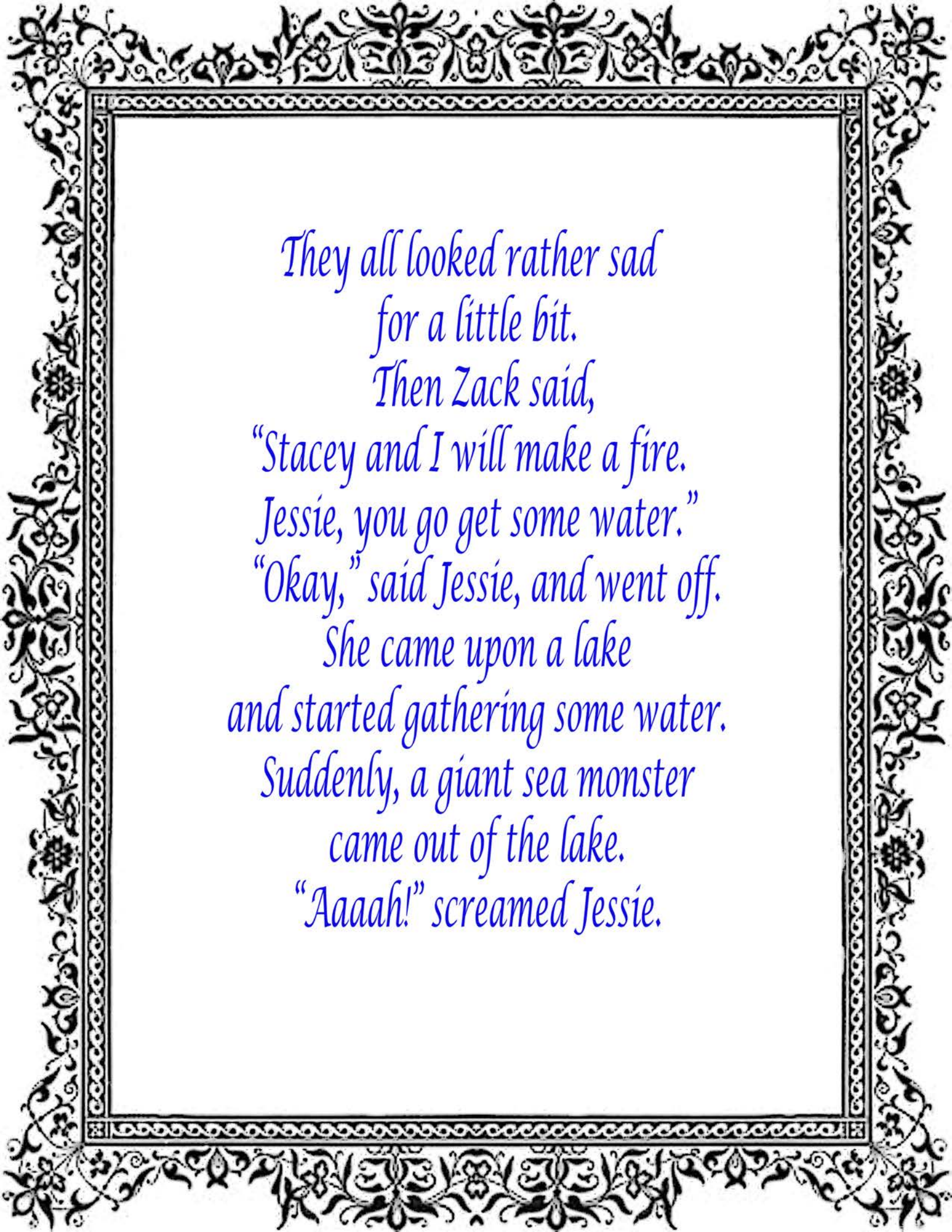
*“What are you doing here?”
asked Zack.*

*“I’ve been here my whole life,”
Stacey answered.*

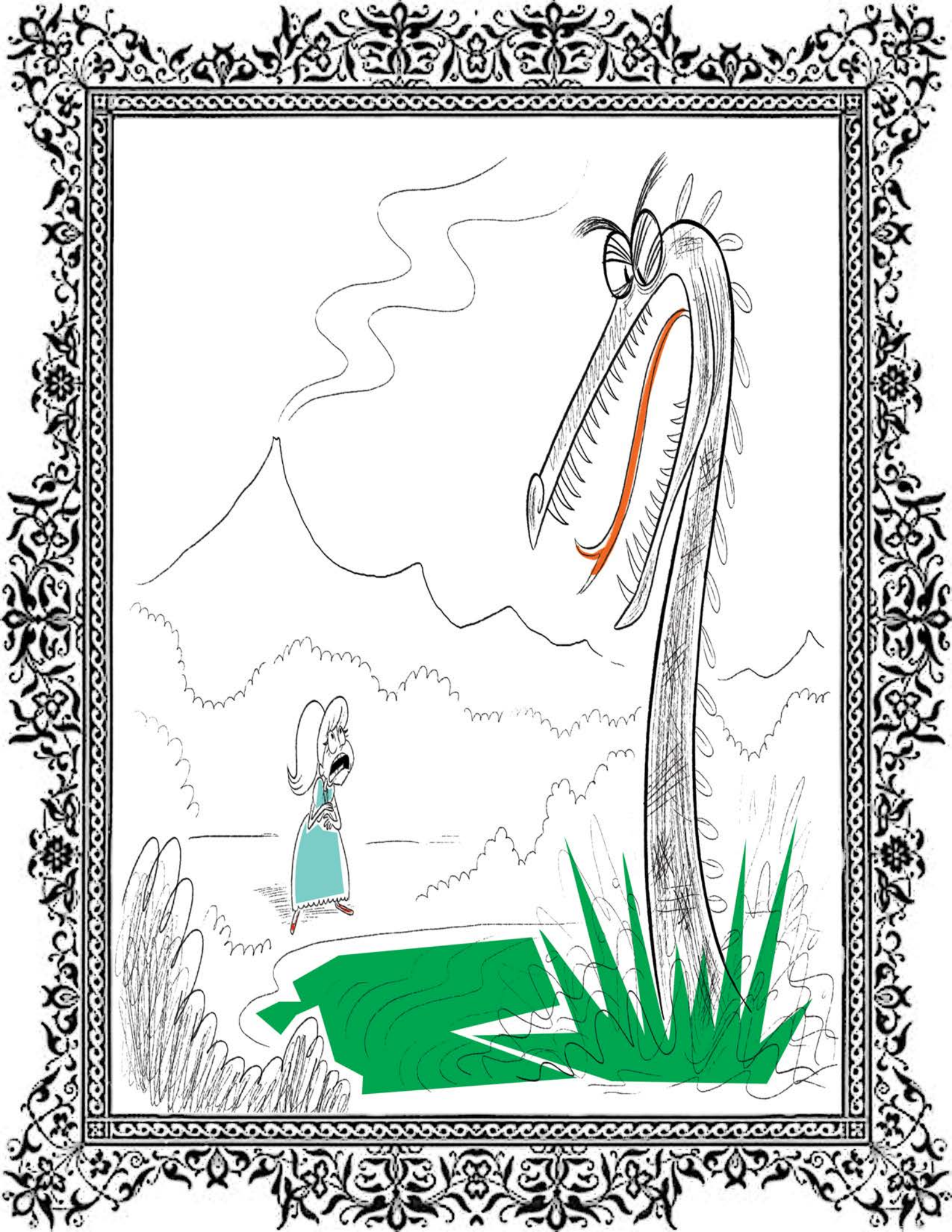
*“My parents died
when I was four years old.”*

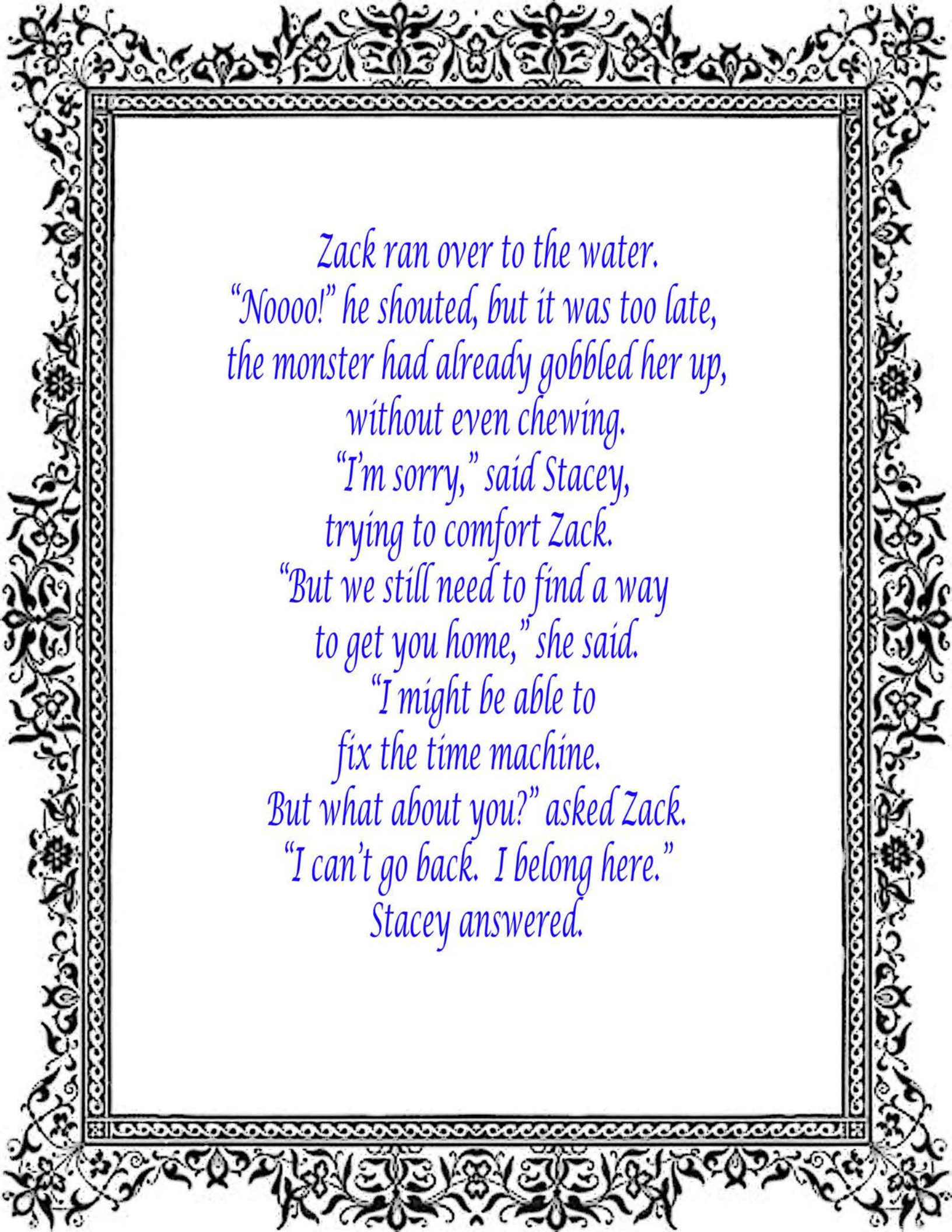
*“I know what that feels like,”
said Zack.*

*“My parents died, too.
I’ve been alone
for a long time,
ever since.”*



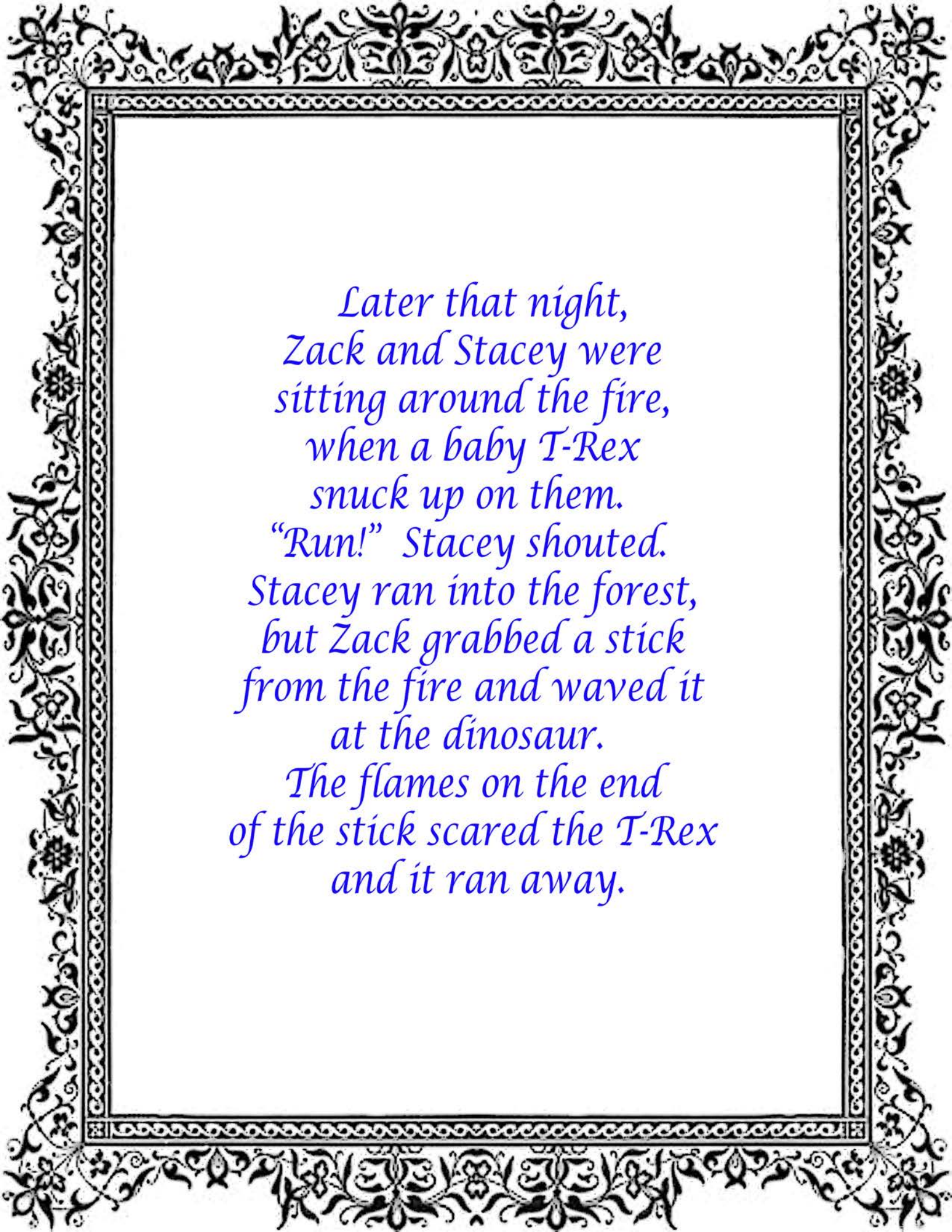
*They all looked rather sad
for a little bit.
Then Zack said,
“Stacey and I will make a fire.
Jessie, you go get some water.”
“Okay,” said Jessie, and went off.
She came upon a lake
and started gathering some water.
Suddenly, a giant sea monster
came out of the lake.
“Aaaah!” screamed Jessie.*





Zack ran over to the water.
"Noooo!" he shouted, but it was too late,
the monster had already gobbled her up,
without even chewing.
"I'm sorry," said Stacey,
trying to comfort Zack.
"But we still need to find a way
to get you home," she said.
"I might be able to
fix the time machine.
But what about you?" asked Zack.
"I can't go back. I belong here."
Stacey answered.

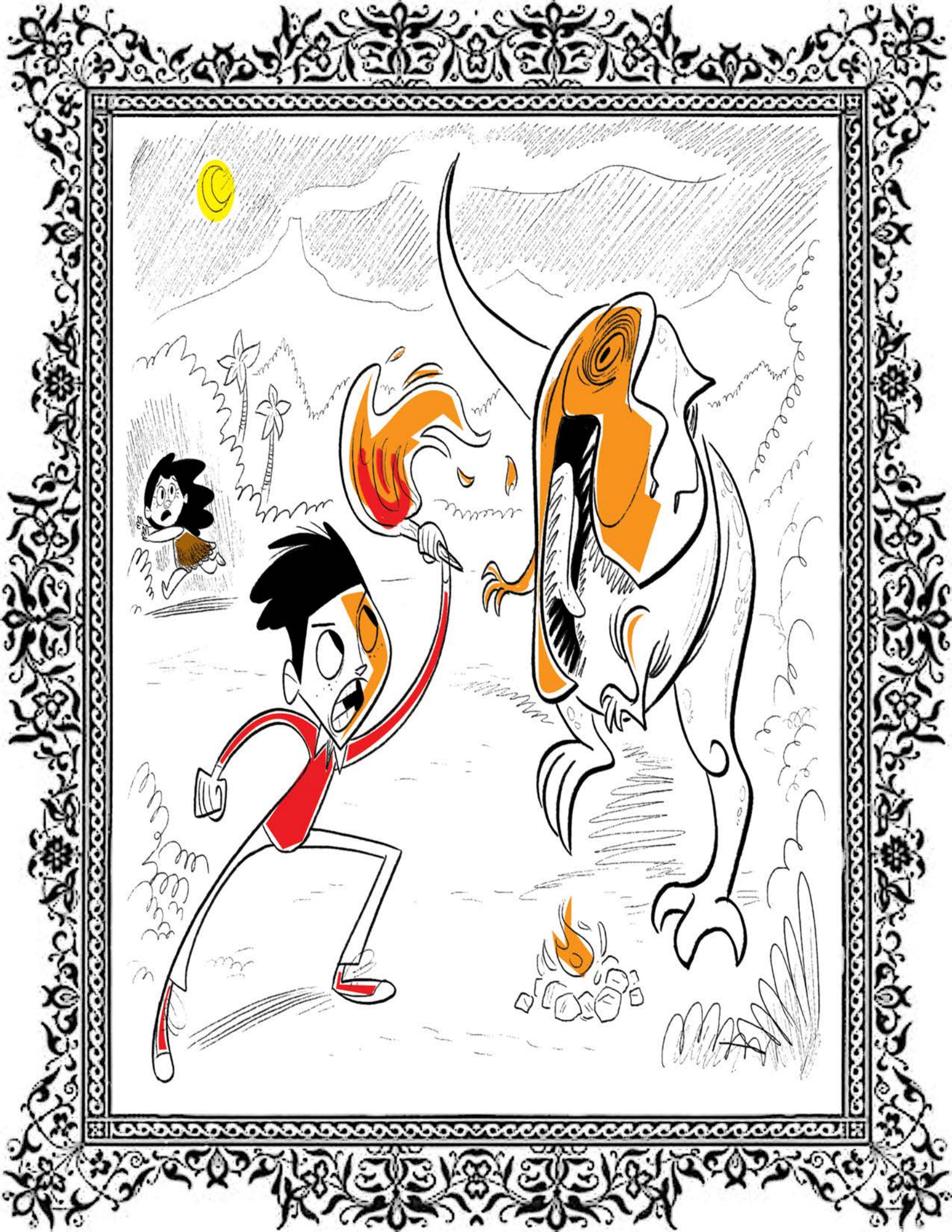


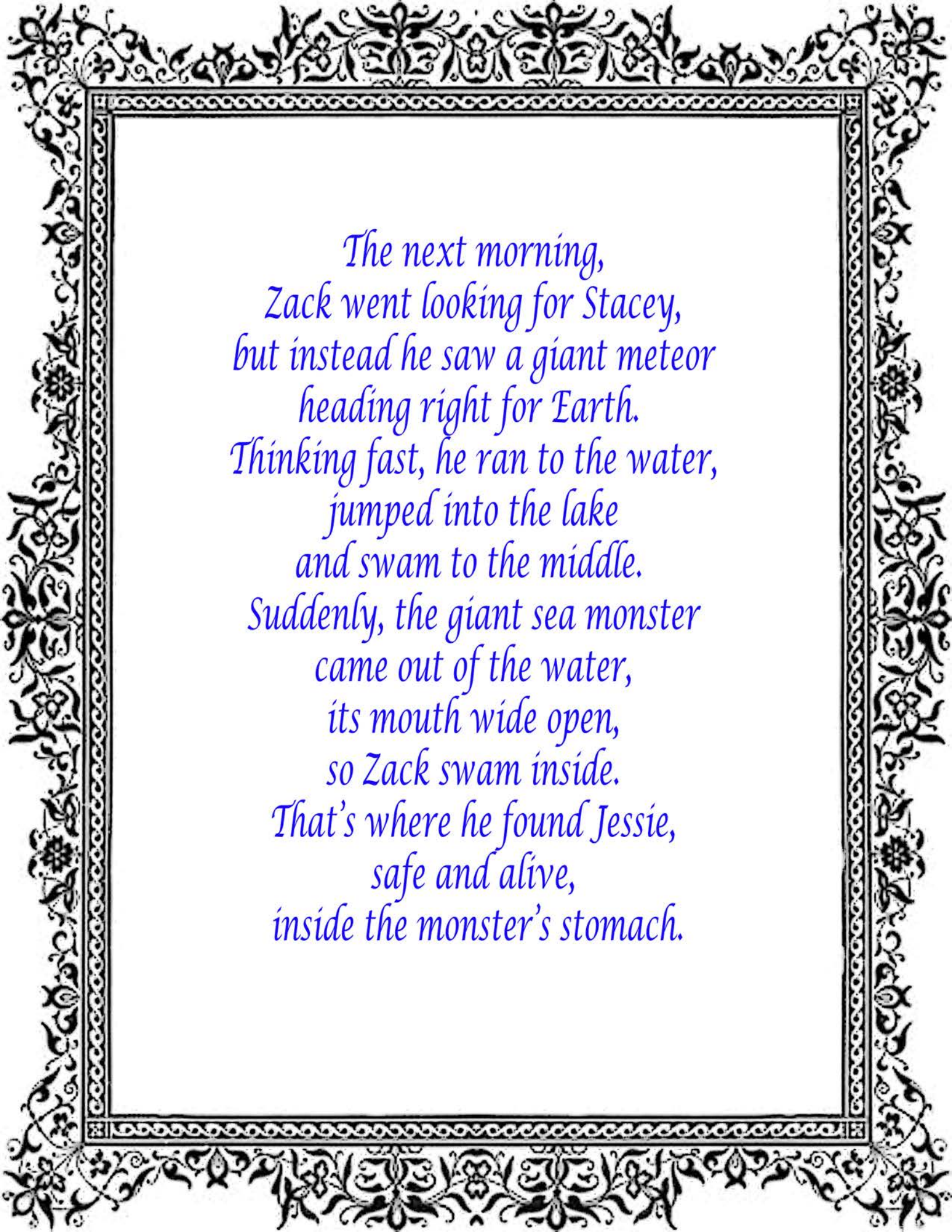


*Later that night,
Zack and Stacey were
sitting around the fire,
when a baby T-Rex
snuck up on them.*

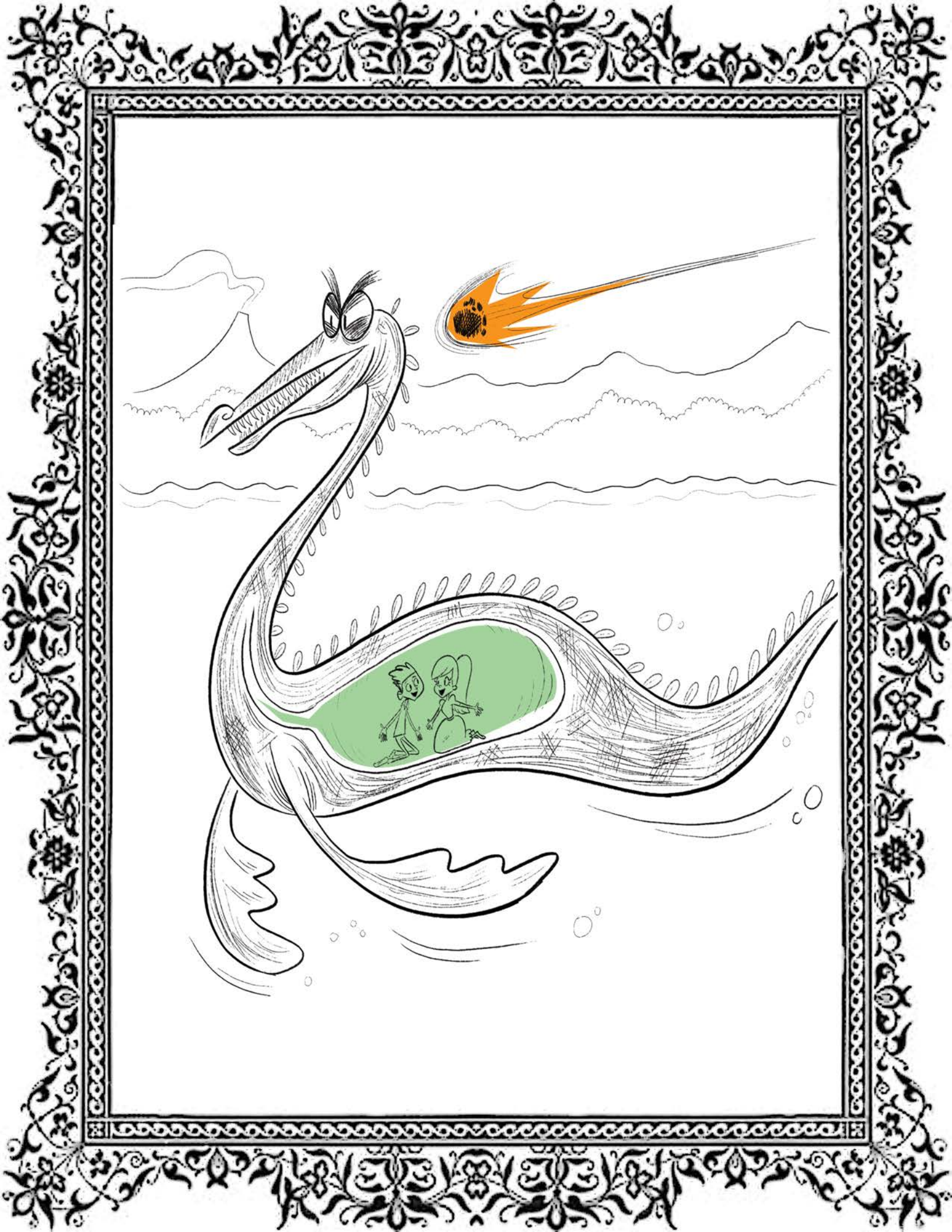
*“Run!” Stacey shouted.
Stacey ran into the forest,
but Zack grabbed a stick
from the fire and waved it
at the dinosaur.*

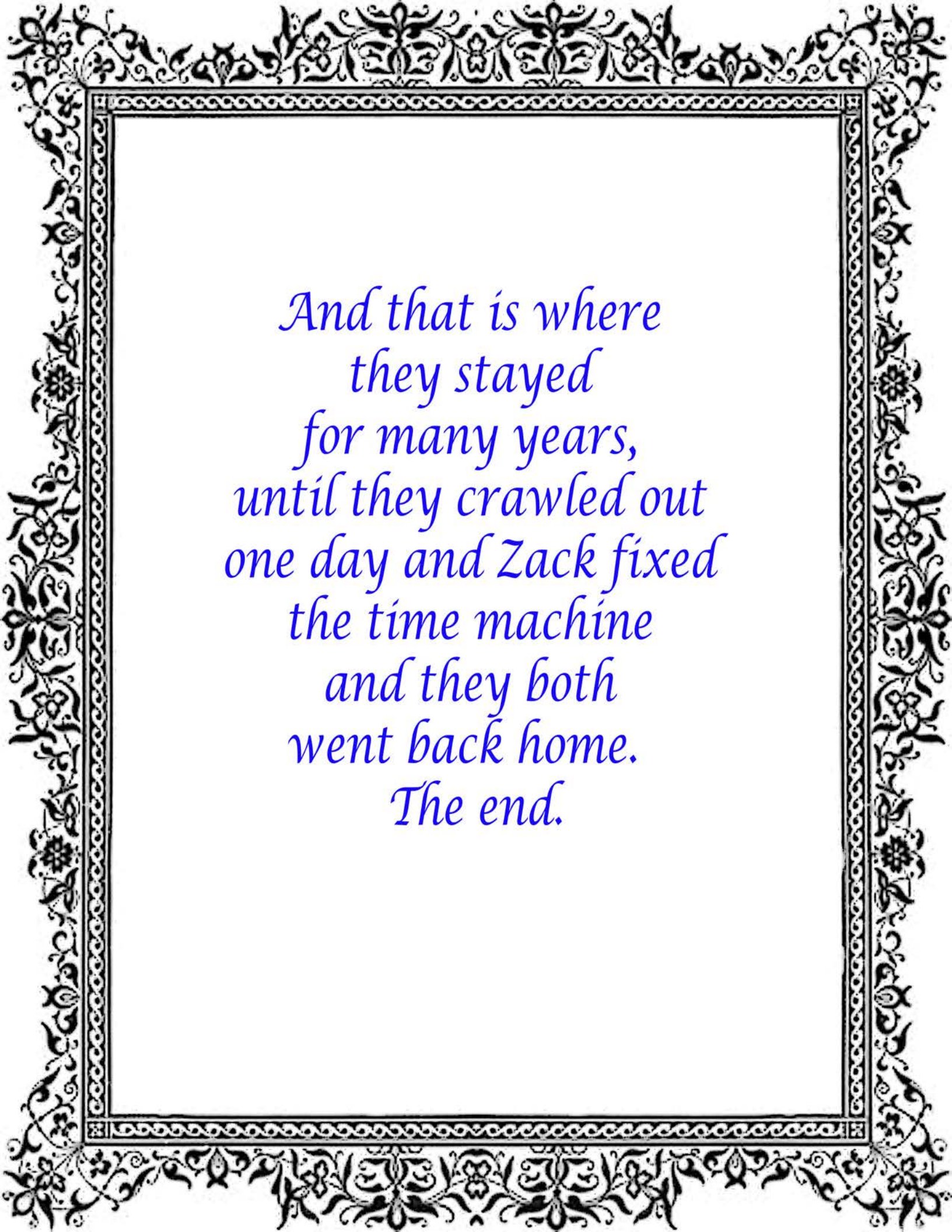
*The flames on the end
of the stick scared the T-Rex
and it ran away.*





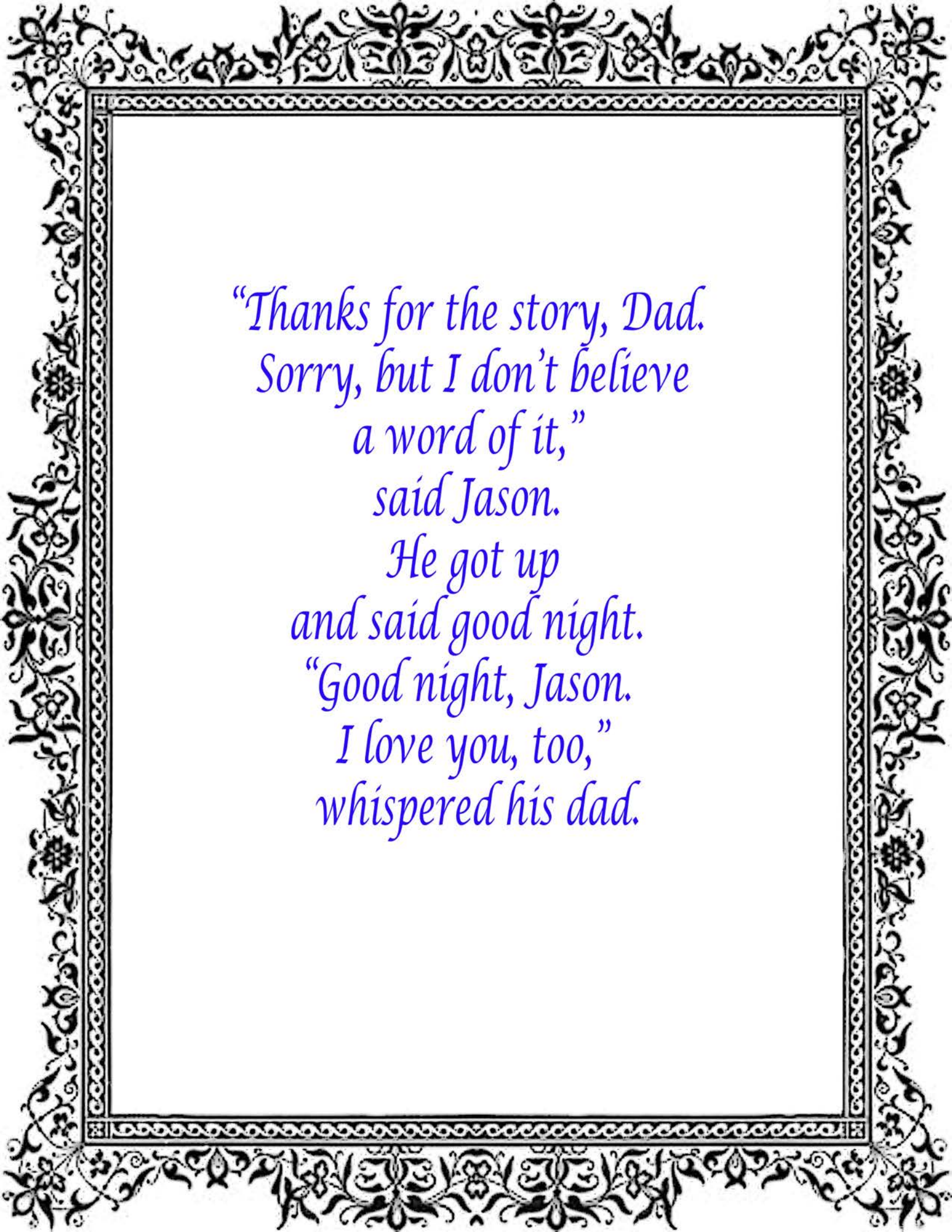
*The next morning,
Zack went looking for Stacey,
but instead he saw a giant meteor
heading right for Earth.
Thinking fast, he ran to the water,
jumped into the lake
and swam to the middle.
Suddenly, the giant sea monster
came out of the water,
its mouth wide open,
so Zack swam inside.
That's where he found Jessie,
safe and alive,
inside the monster's stomach.*





*And that is where
they stayed
for many years,
until they crawled out
one day and Zack fixed
the time machine
and they both
went back home.
The end.*



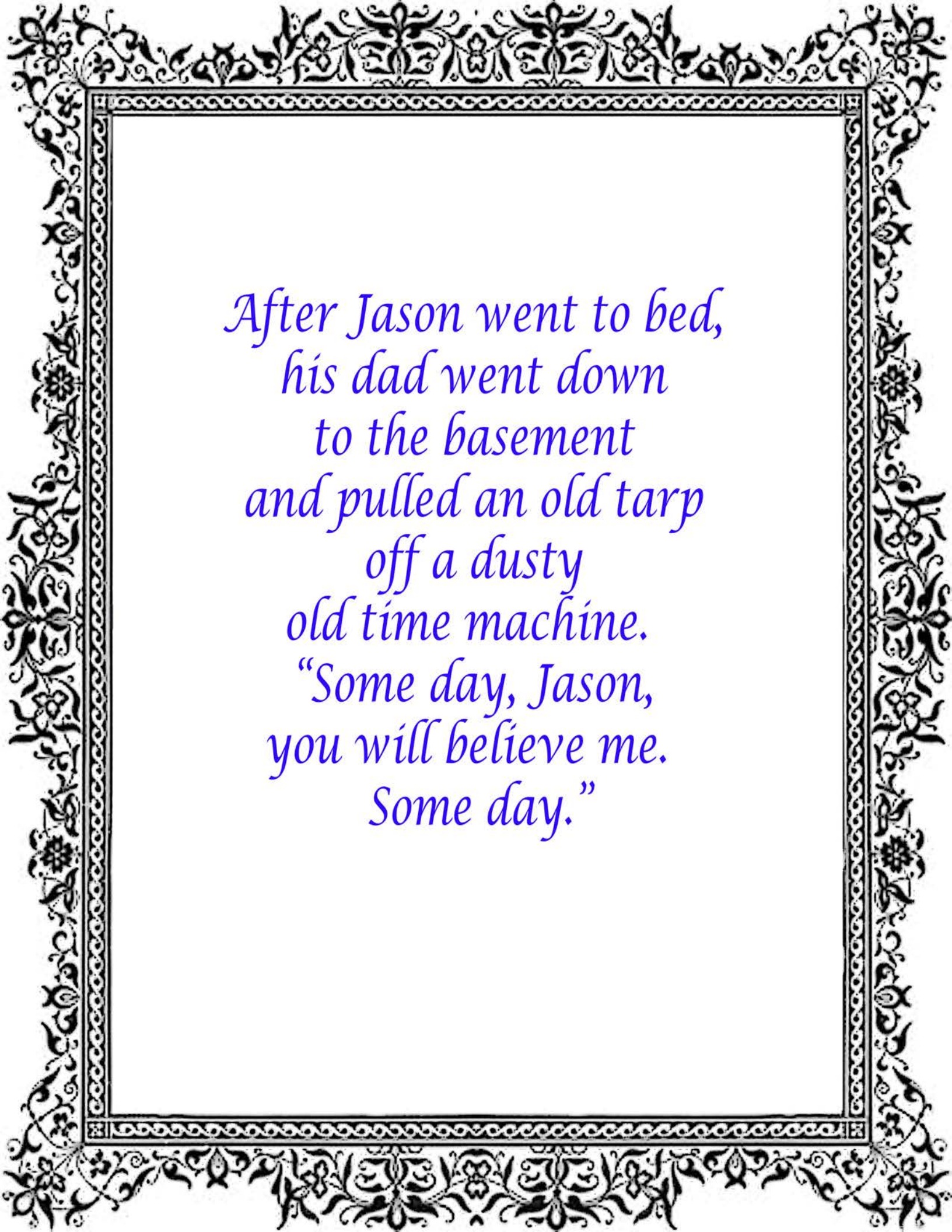


*“Thanks for the story, Dad.
Sorry, but I don’t believe
a word of it,”
said Jason.*

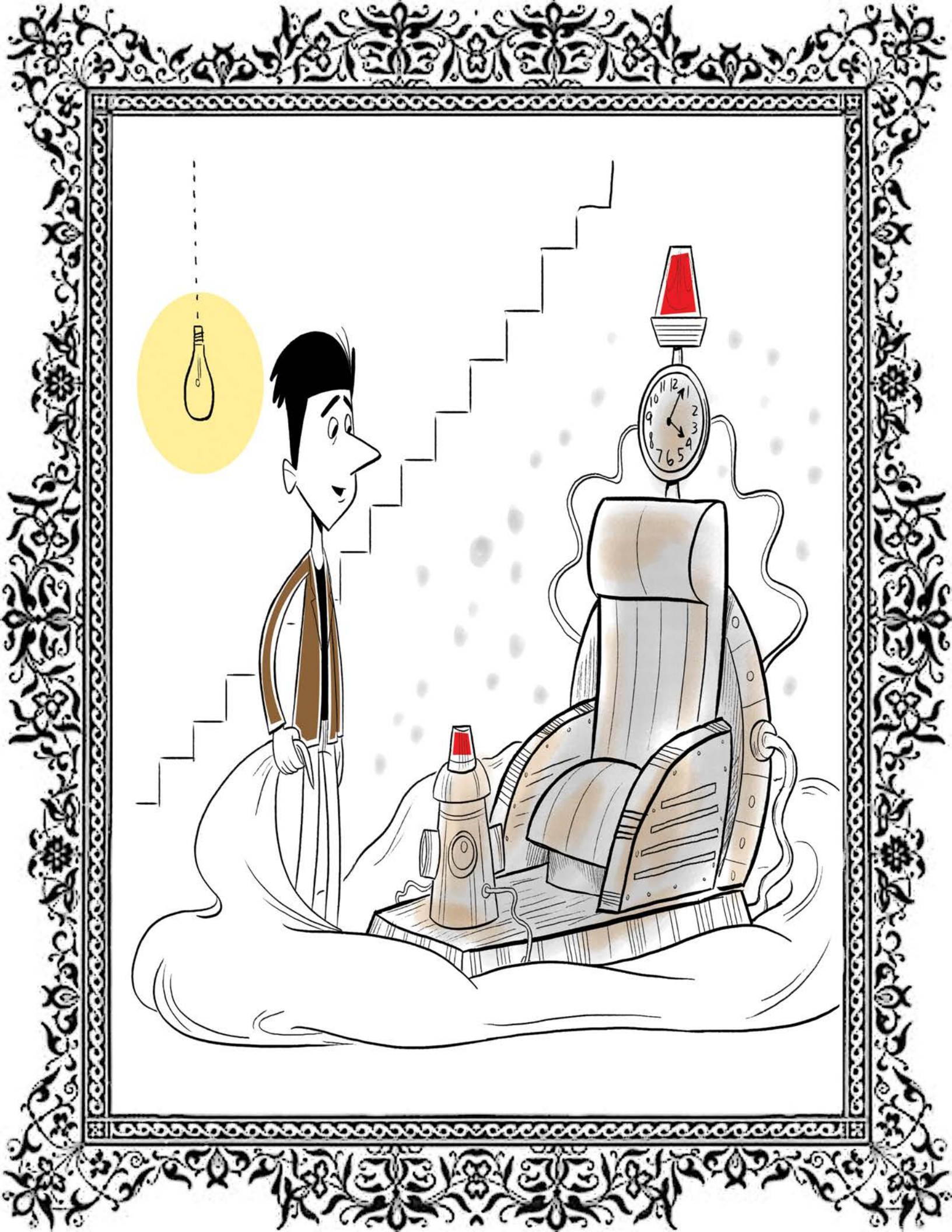
*He got up
and said good night.*

*“Good night, Jason.
I love you, too,”
whispered his dad.*

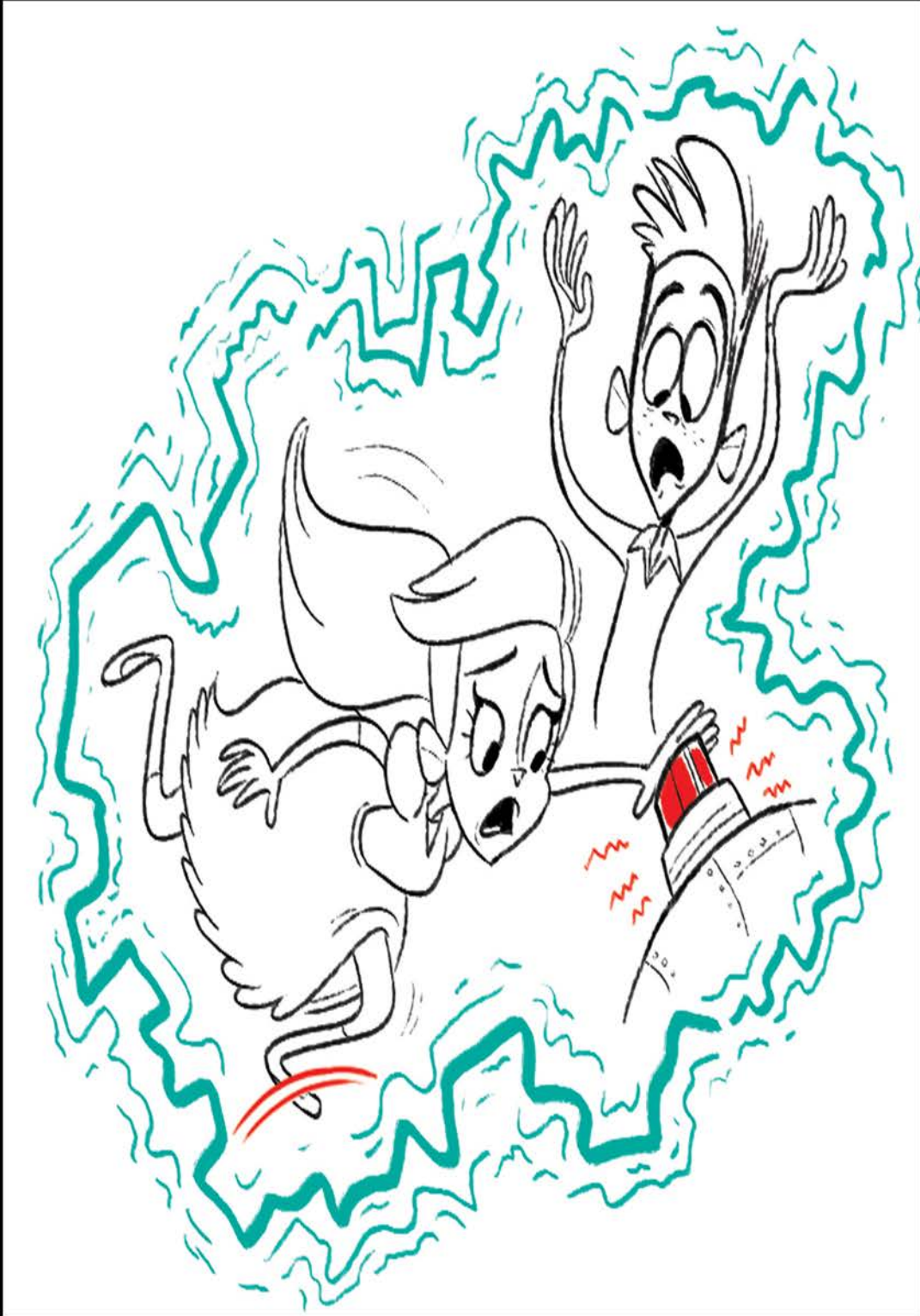




*After Jason went to bed,
his dad went down
to the basement
and pulled an old tarp
off a dusty
old time machine.
“Some day, Jason,
you will believe me.
Some day.”*



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