



Pablo Puppy's

Search for the  
Perfect Person

*Sheila Hamanaka*







To **Kalluk**, my beloved bossy boots Alaskan  
Malamute packmate, and his pals **Toshi, Kai** and **Piff**.  
And in memory of **Herman**, who was the best.







**Animal Welfare Institute**  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
[www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org)

**Copyright © 2008 Sheila Hamanaka**

**ISBN: 978-0-938414-91-9**

**LCN: 2008940651**

**First printing 2008**

**Second printing 2012**

**Third printing 2015**

**Printed in the United States**

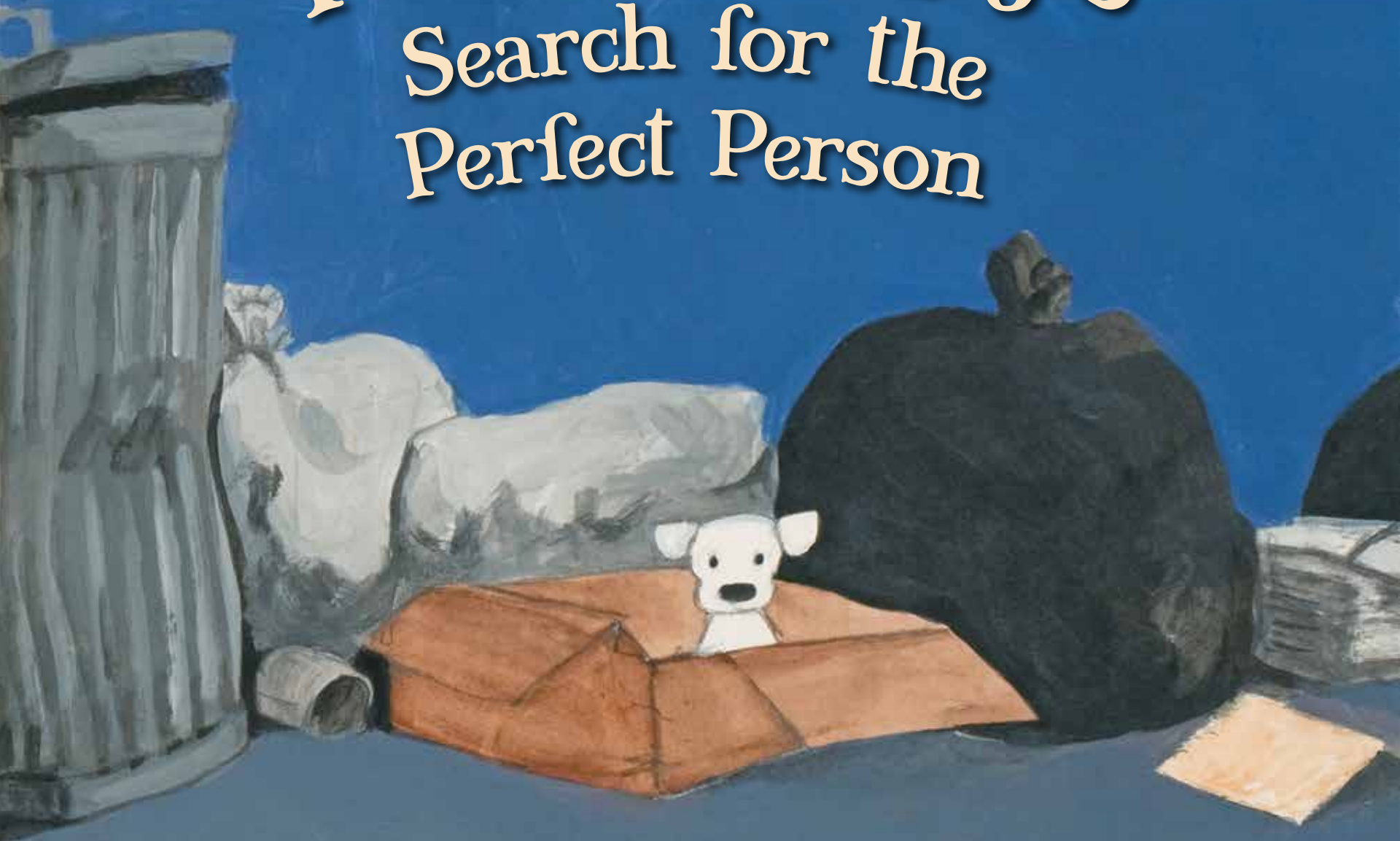
**Written and Illustrated by:**  
**Sheila Hamanaka**

**Design by:**  
**Ava Rinehart and**  
**Cameron Creinin**





# Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person



**Animal Welfare Institute**



# ANIMAL SHELTER



**Pablo  
was lucky.**



*He was a homeless puppy,  
but a kind person took him to  
an animal shelter.*

*It was full of cats and dogs  
who had no home.*

**Pablo was nervous.**



*A man dressed in green  
put him in a kennel.*

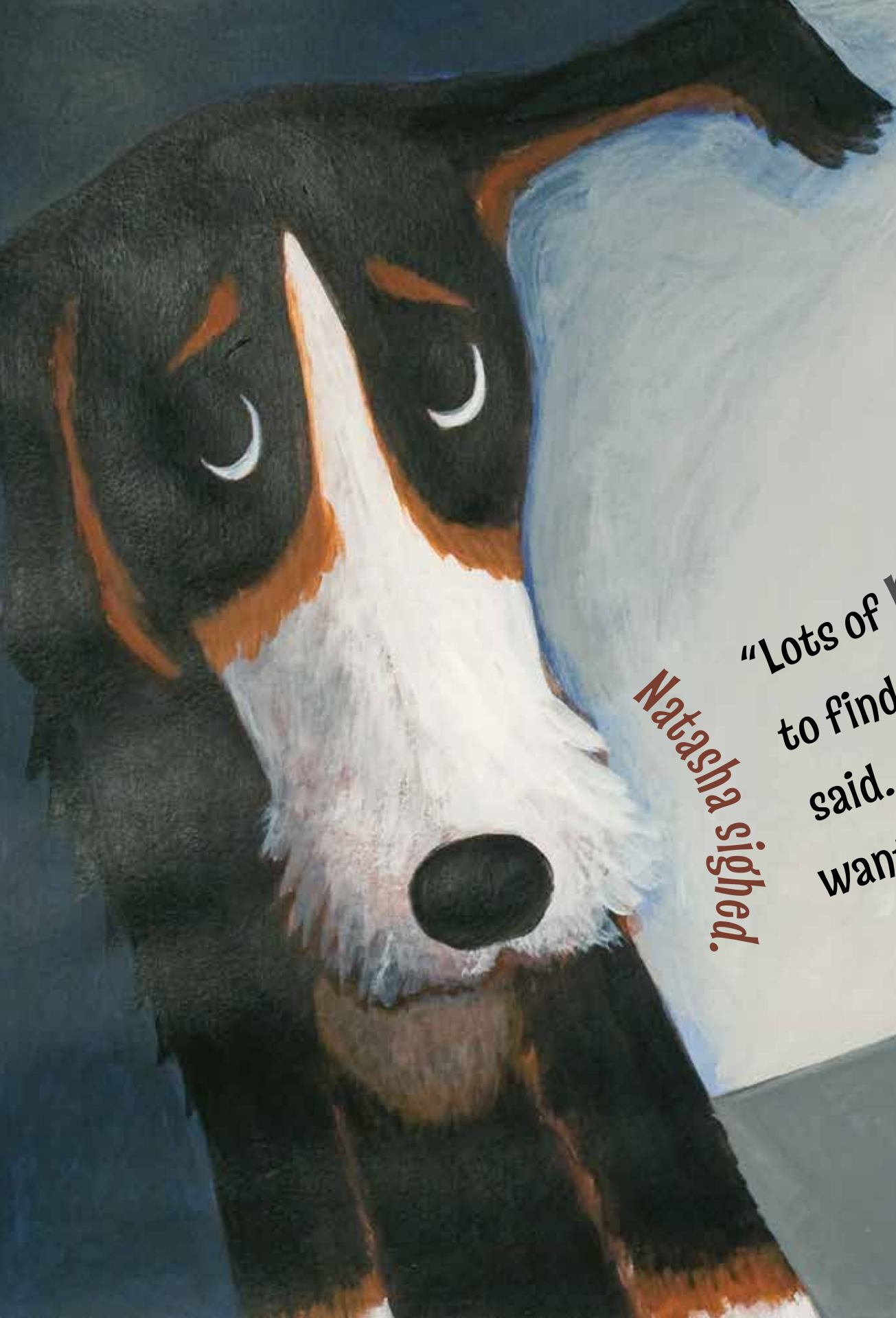
*There, Pablo met Natasha.  
She was big and old.  
And very sad.*



*“Why are you sad?” asked Pablo,  
who was happy to find a friend.*

**Finding a friend is like finding  
a pot of gold.**





*Natasha sighed.*

“Lots of **people** <sup>come</sup> here  
to find a dog friend,” she  
said. “But many of them  
want a cute little puppy.”



**Nobody  
wants an  
old dog  
like me.**

And if you make one mistake,  
some people will throw you away."

"That's not very nice," said Pablo.

"Well, I hope you find a perfect person,"  
said Natasha. *I will, thought Pablo...*

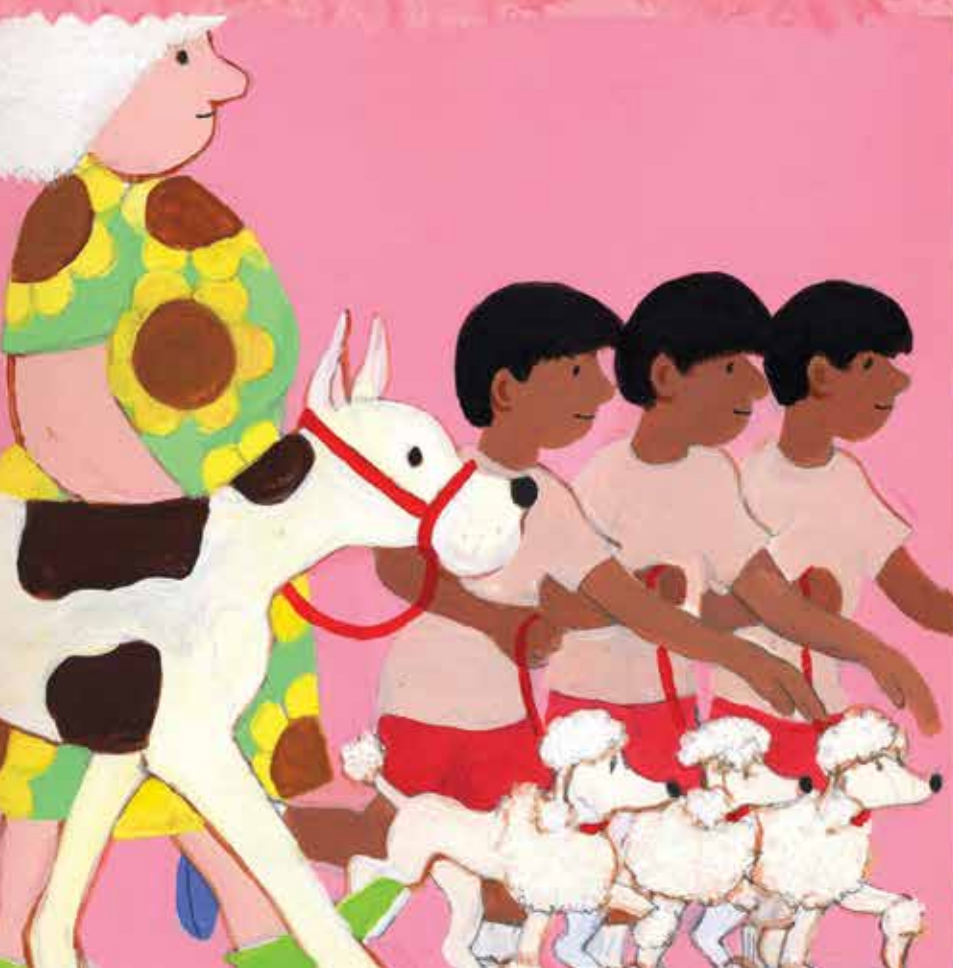


***I know I will...***

*“Um, what does a  
perfect person  
look like?”*

*asked Pablo.*

*“Perfect people  
come in all colors,”  
said Natasha.*



*“Some are young and some are old.  
Some walk fast and some walk slowly.*

*Some carry canes and some  
roll around in chairs with big wheels.*



Perfect people  
make sure their  
**dog friends**  
get exercise."

"What's exercise?"  
asked Pablo.

"Is it something to eat?"



"Oh, no," said Natasha.  
"It's long walks  
and toys that  
are tossed.

Perfect people  
**love to play.**  
That's why  
perfect people  
are often  
children."






*“And what does the **perfect** person sound like?” asked Pablo.*

*“A perfect person knows a dog has excellent hearing, so perfect people never shout. And they will never, ever hit you,” said Natasha.*



The background features a pink and red swirling pattern. Three circular vignettes are scattered across the scene: one on the left shows a girl with brown hair holding a golden retriever; one on the top right shows a boy with a black dog in front of the Eiffel Tower; one on the bottom right shows a husky's face. A green, textured hillside is at the bottom left.

*"Some speak to you in English.  
Some speak to you in Spanish,  
or Chinese, or Swahili, or hundreds  
of other languages."*

*"Do people speak dog?"  
asked Pablo.*

*"Perfect people know that dogs speak  
with their whole bodies," said Natasha.*



**Pablo's stomach started to grow!**  
"I think your tummy is talking to us,"  
said Natasha.

"I'm hungry," said Pablo.

"Ah, food," said Natasha.

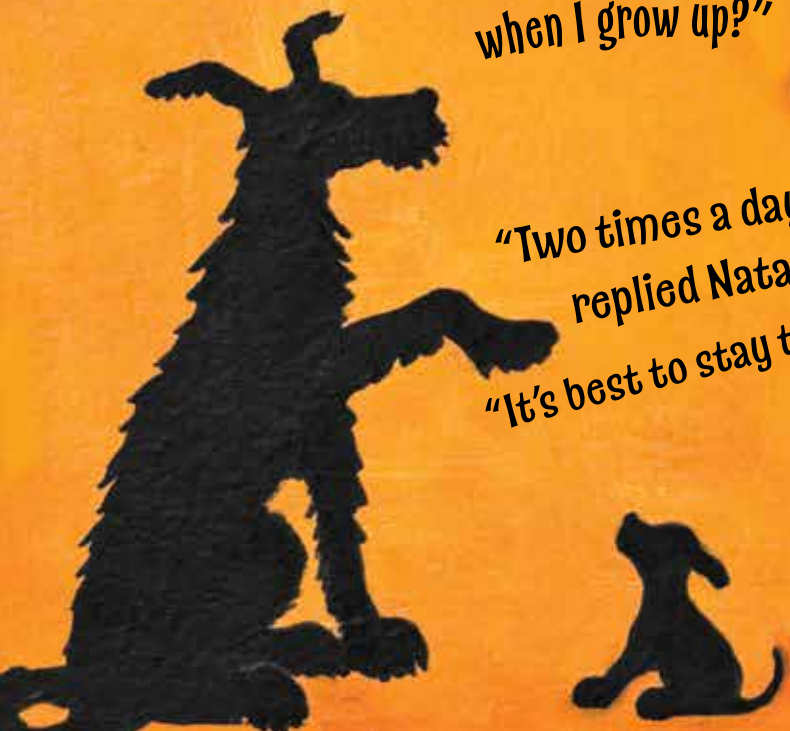
"A perfect person will feed a puppy  
like you four times a day."

"Four times?" asked Pablo.

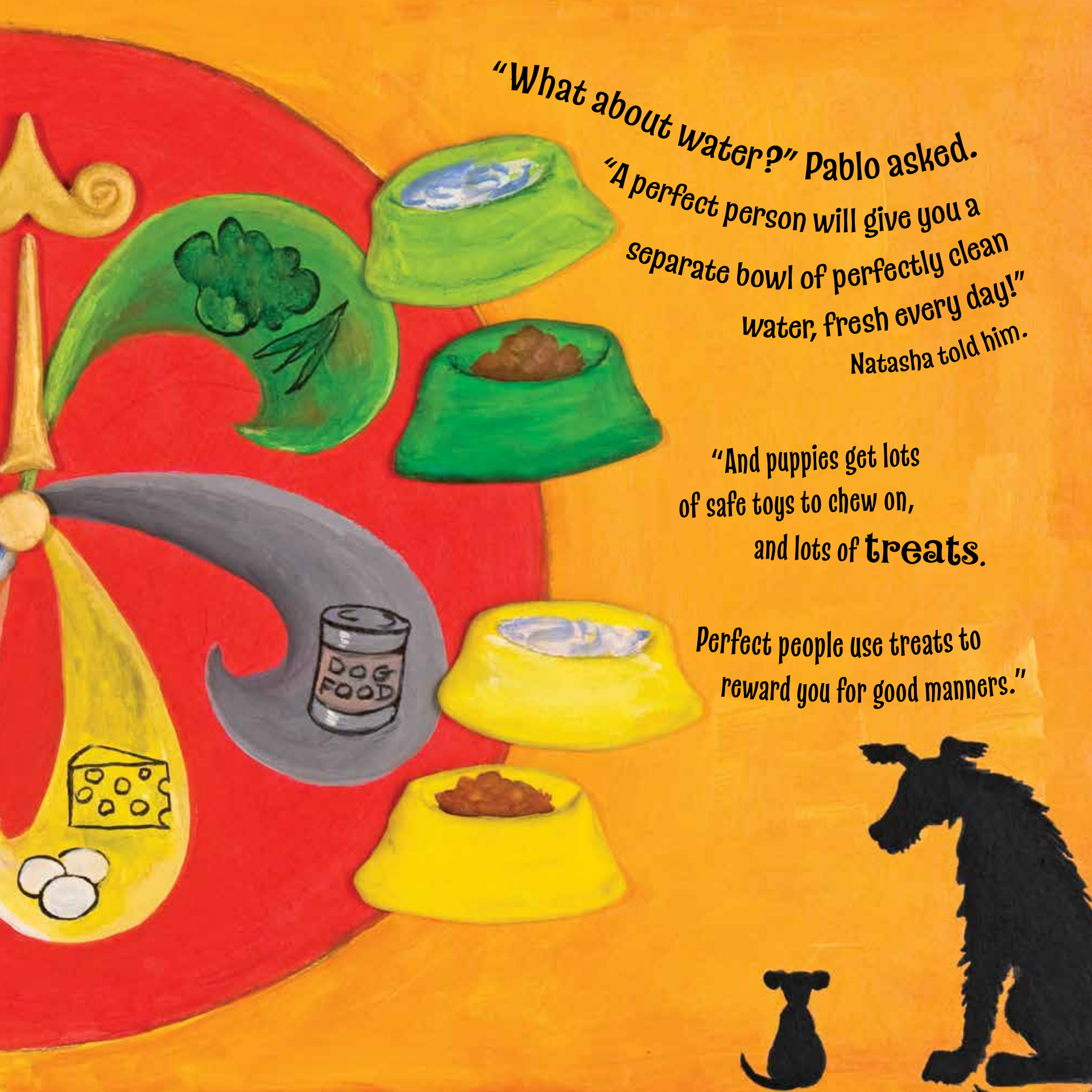
"That's Perfect!

And what about  
when I grow up?"

"Two times a day,"  
replied Natasha.  
"It's best to stay trim."







*"What about water?" Pablo asked.*

*"A perfect person will give you a separate bowl of perfectly clean water, fresh every day!"  
Natasha told him.*

*"And puppies get lots of safe toys to chew on,  
and lots of **treats**."*

*Perfect people use treats to reward you for good manners."*



Pablo was getting sleepy,  
and he snuggled next to Natasha.  
"Tell me more," he said yawning.

"A perfect person gives you a bed."



An old, folded  
blanket will do...



...but sometimes beds are fancy!"

Something tiny  
jumped off of Pablo.

**A flea!**



*"That reminds me,"  
said Natasha.*

*"A perfect person will brush you everyday.*

*And sometimes they will give you a bath."*



*Pablo was amazed.*

*"A perfect person has a lot to do,"  
he said.*

*"Why would they do it?"*

*"Because they are kind," said Natasha,*

*"and full of love."*

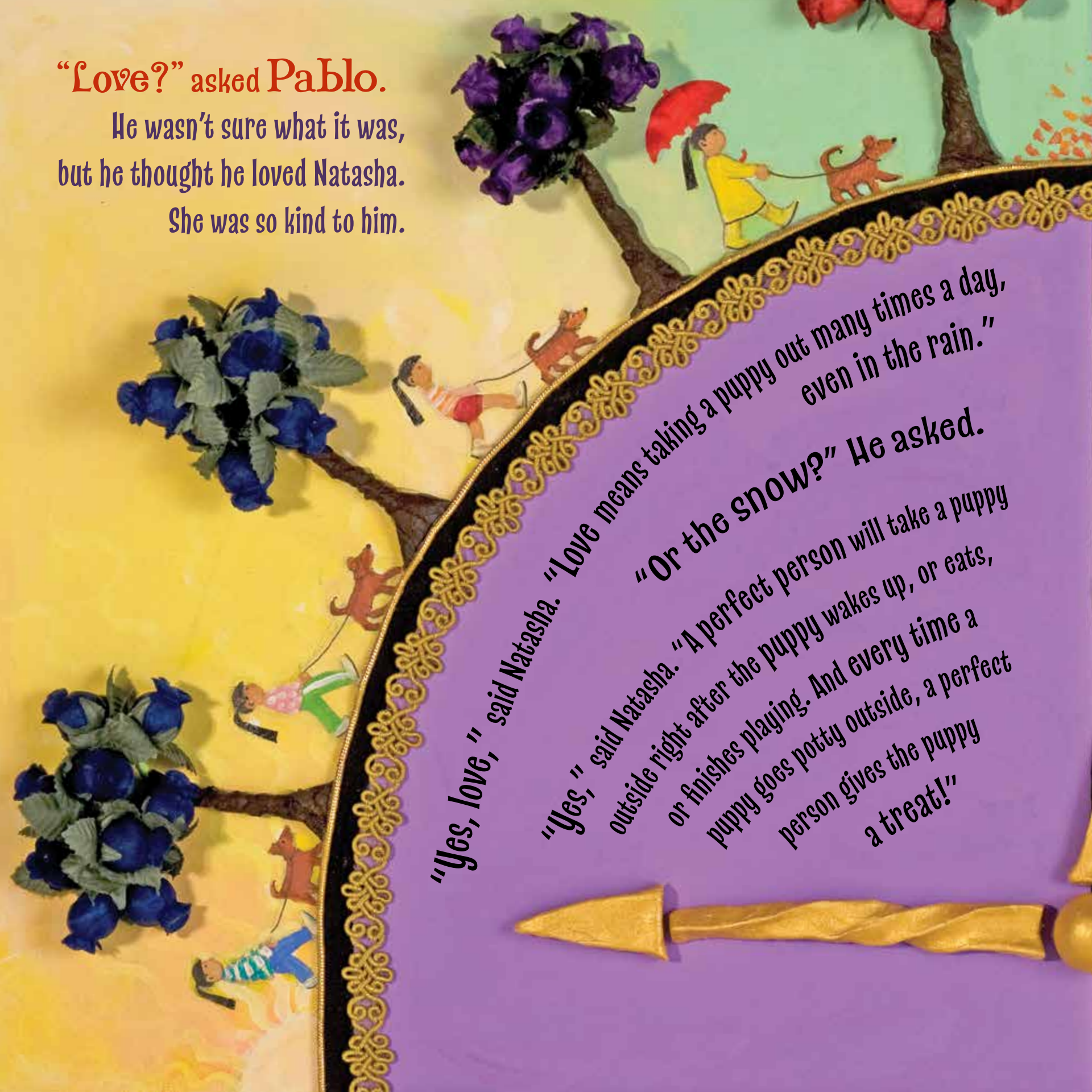




**“Love?” asked Pablo.**

He wasn't sure what it was,  
but he thought he loved Natasha.

She was so kind to him.

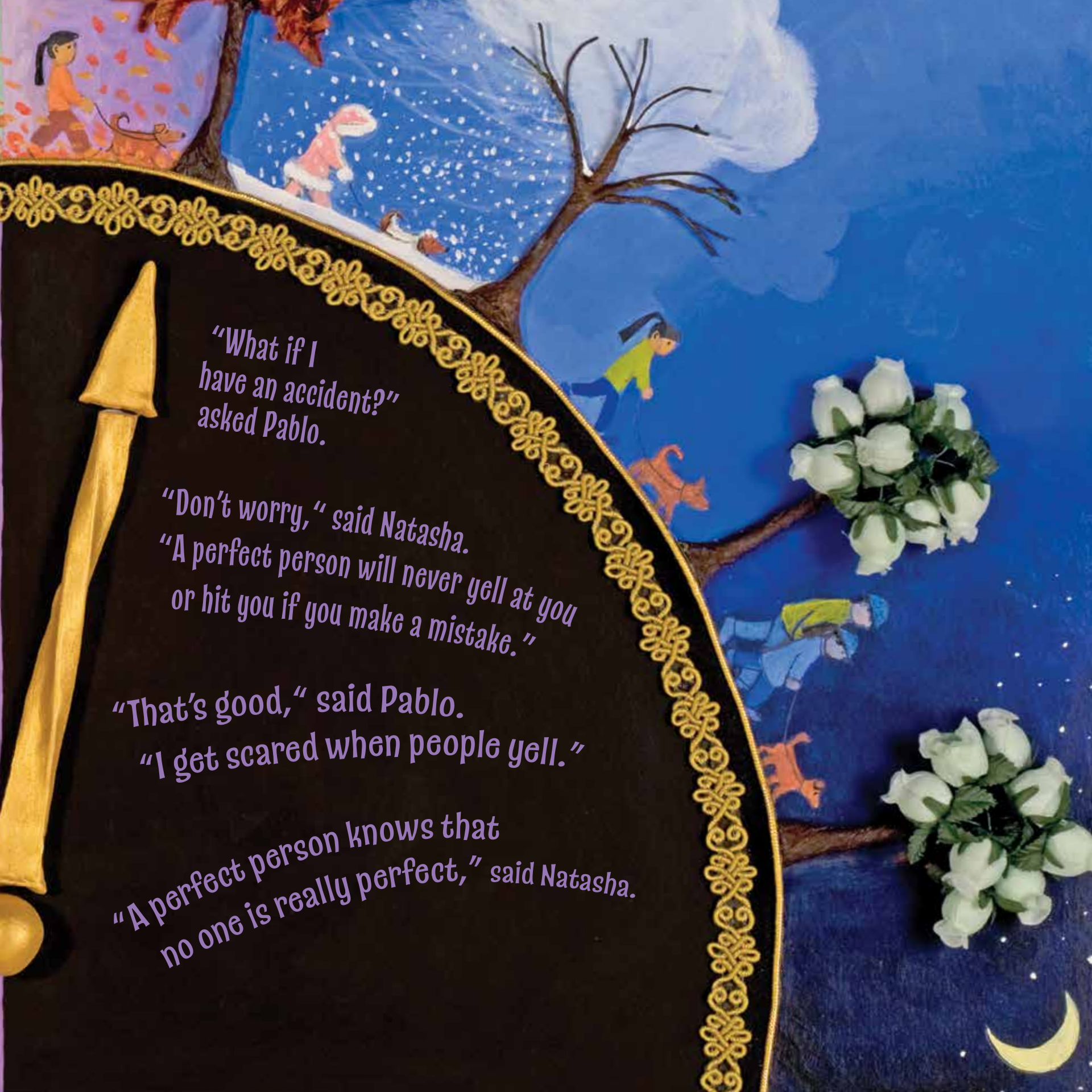


**“Yes, love,” said Natasha. “Love means taking a puppy out many times a day, even in the rain.”**

**“Or the snow?” He asked.**

**“Yes,” said Natasha. “A perfect person will take a puppy outside right after the puppy wakes up, or eats, or finishes playing. And every time a puppy goes potty outside, a perfect person gives the puppy a treat!”**





*"What if I  
have an accident?"  
asked Pablo.*

*"Don't worry," said Natasha.  
"A perfect person will never yell at you  
or hit you if you make a mistake."*

*"That's good," said Pablo.  
"I get scared when people yell."*

*"A perfect person knows that  
no one is really perfect," said Natasha.*





The dogs in the shelter began to bark.

People were coming!

Pablo hid between Natasha's legs and peeked out.

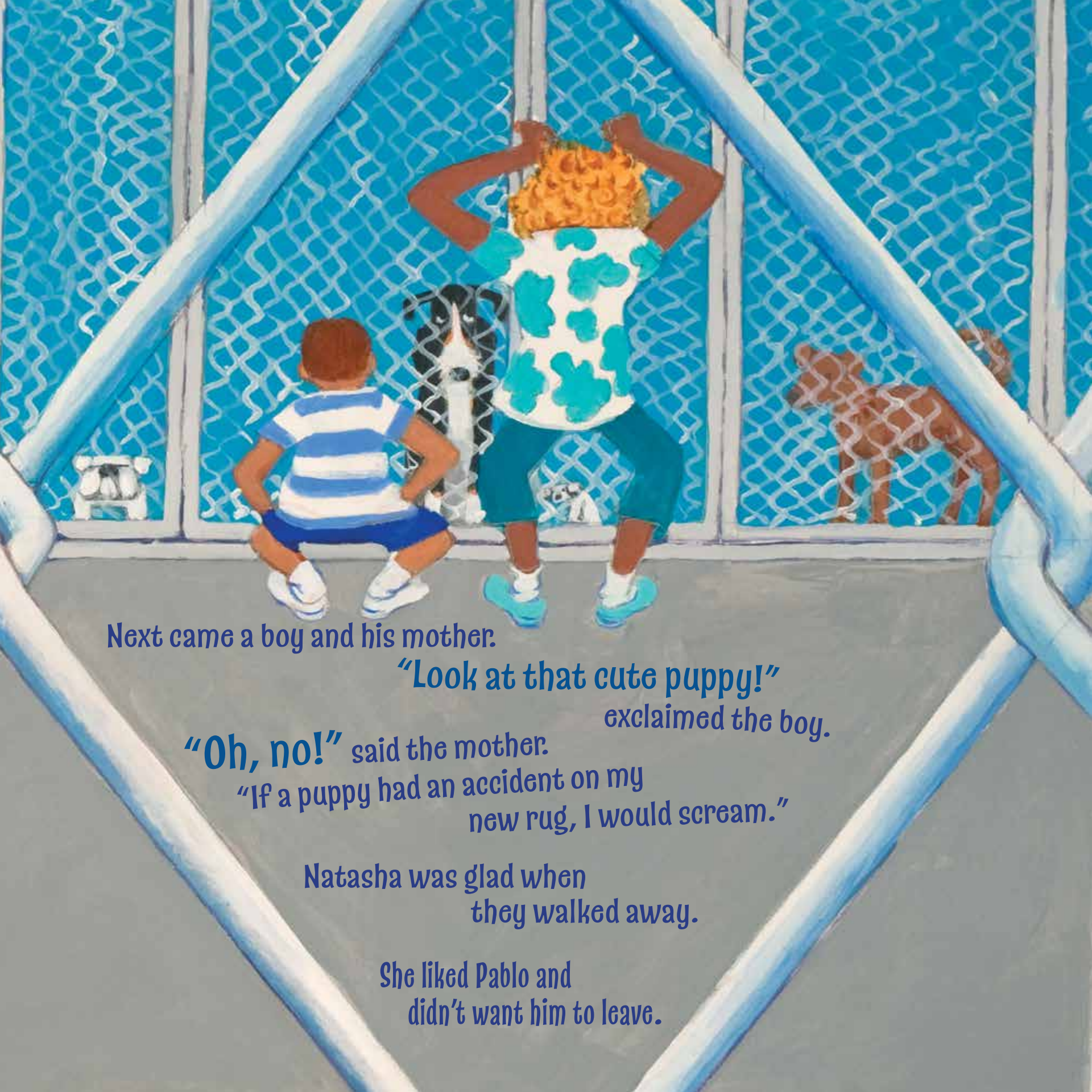
Would he find the *perfect* person?

"Look at that cute puppy!" said a woman.

"He's too small!" replied the man  
in a *loud* voice.

They kept walking.





Next came a boy and his mother.

**“Look at that cute puppy!”**

*exclaimed the boy.*

**“Oh, no!”** said the mother.

*“If a puppy had an accident on my  
new rug, I would scream.”*

Natasha was glad when  
they walked away.

She liked Pablo and  
didn't want him to leave.



*Next came a little girl and her grandmother.*



*"Look at that cute puppy!"  
the little girl said.*

*"Puppies are a lot of work,"  
said the grandmother.*

*"Will you feed him four times a day?"*

*"Yes!" said the girl.*

*"And will you brush him every day?"*

*"Yes!" said the girl.*

*"And will you take him outside to go potty  
many times a day, even in the rain?"  
asked the grandmother.*





**“Yes!”** said the girl.  
**“And in the snow, too!”**

The grandmother looked  
deep into the girl’s eyes.



**“And most important of all,”** she said,  
**“do you promise *never* to yell at the puppy or  
to hit him, even if he makes a mistake?”**

**“Yes!”** said the girl,  
who was very wise.

She knew that all puppies make mistakes—  
just like children do.





An illustration of a veterinarian in a white coat and stethoscope examining a small white puppy. A young girl with braided hair, wearing a blue floral shirt, stands behind a counter watching. The scene is set in a colorful, abstract environment with geometric shapes in shades of pink, purple, green, and blue. There are floral patterns in the corners, including a blue pattern with yellow and brown flowers in the top left and bottom right, and large pink and red flowers in the bottom left and right.

**“Of course,**

**it will cost money to take  
the puppy to the veterinarian for checkups,”**

**said the grandmother.**

**“I will make cookies and sell them  
at a bake sale to help out,”**

**said the girl.**

**“Perfect!”**  
**said the grandmother.**



**Pablo was excited!**

**He had found the perfect person!**

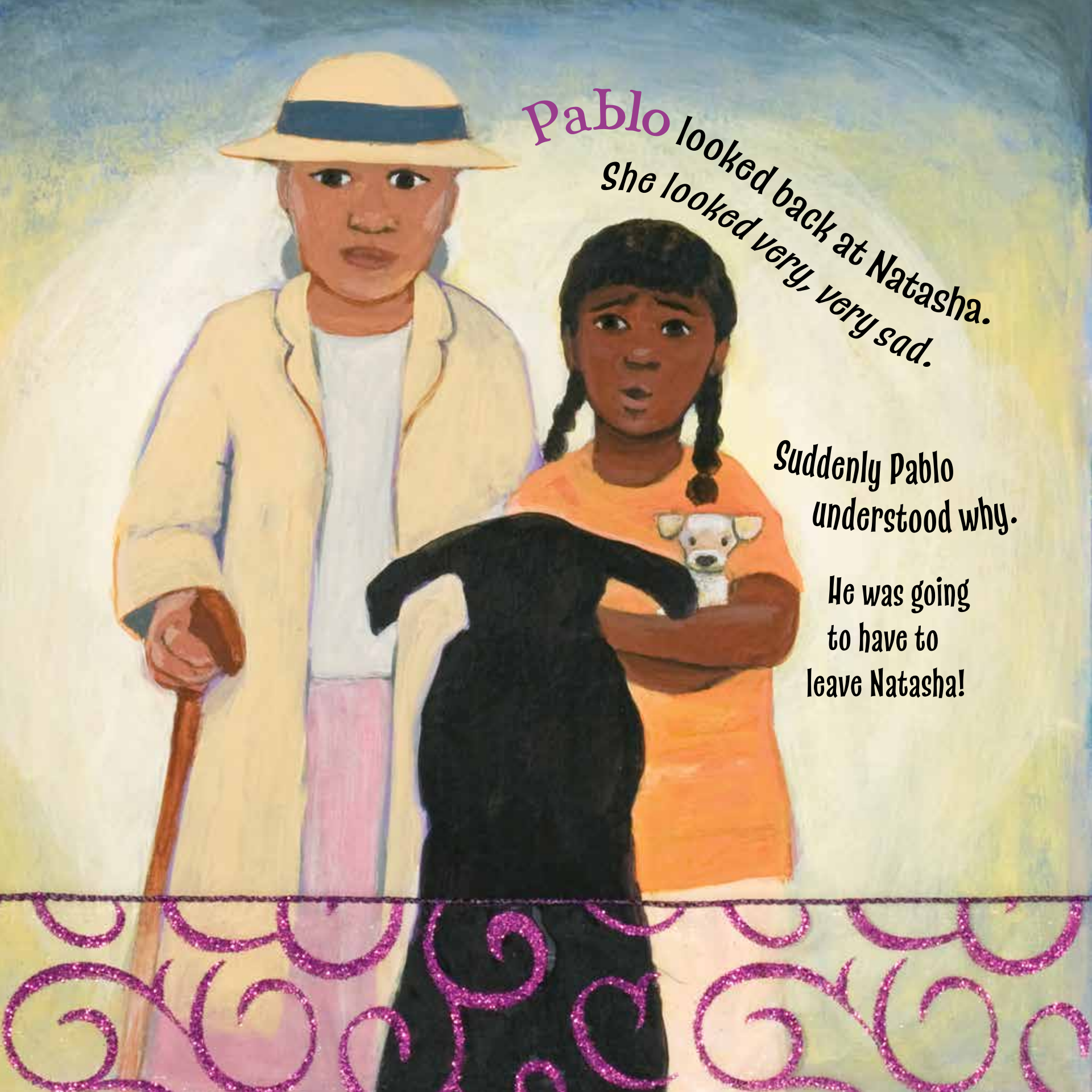
**The man in green took Pablo  
out of the kennel so he could  
meet the girl.**



**He wagged his tail and  
licked her hand.**





An illustration of two characters, Pablo and Natasha, standing together. Pablo is on the left, wearing a light-colored jacket, a white shirt, pink pants, and a tan hat with a dark band. He holds a wooden cane. Natasha is on the right, wearing an orange t-shirt with a small dog on it and a black dress. She has her arms crossed and is holding a small white dog. The background is a soft, textured blue and yellow. The bottom of the page features a decorative border with purple and pink swirls.

**Pablo** looked back at Natasha.  
She looked very, very sad.

Suddenly Pablo  
understood why.

He was going  
to have to  
leave Natasha!



A heart-shaped basket filled with yellow, red, and purple flowers, with two large white wings attached to its sides. The basket is flying over a landscape of rolling hills and a winding river. A single yellow flower is on the ground in the valley. The sky is a mix of purple and blue. At the bottom of the page, there is a decorative border of pink, sparkly swirls.

Then the girl said, "The puppy's friend looks very sad."

"Yes," said the grandmother. "Dogs have feelings too. She is going to miss her friend."

"Grandma,"  
said the little girl,  
"can we..."



**"Well,"** said the  
grandmother,  
thinking it over.

She knew that adopting a dog  
was a big decision,  
because a dog friend is a  
friend forever.



**"Yes!** I need a friend who will  
take long, slow walks with me.

I think I have found the **perfect dog!**"





## About the Animal Welfare Institute

*The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) was founded in 1951 to reduce the pain and fear people cause animals. AWI helps a wide range of animals in need, including those used in experimental laboratories, confined on factory farms, caught in steel traps in the woods, and threatened with extinction across the globe—from the smallest mice to the great whales of the sea. We believe that each person can make a difference for the animals by stepping up to help those who are suffering or are in need of a little assistance. Why don't you join us in making the world a better place for all? For more information, please visit AWI at:*

*[www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org)*







## About the Author-Illustrator

**Sheila Hamanaka** is an award-winning children's book author-illustrator whose work focuses on multiculturalism and peace. Her books include the popular *All the Colors of the Earth*; *The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal*; *Grandparent's Song*; and *Be-Bop-A-Do-Walk*. Deeply concerned about our fellow animals and the future of our planet, Hamanaka wrote and illustrated three other books for the Animal Welfare Institute: *The Boy Who Loved All Living Things: The Imaginary Childhood Journal of Albert Schweitzer* (2006); *Kamie Cat's Terrible Night* (2010); and, *A Dangerous Life* (2014), a graphic novel about saving elephants.

Download free Pablo Puppy and Kamie Cat activities for children from the Animal Welfare Institute website: [www.awionline.org/educationalmaterials](http://www.awionline.org/educationalmaterials)







**Everyone wants to find the perfect dog  
for their family. Now, meet *Pablo Puppy*  
who is searching for the perfect person!**



**He turns to *Natasha*, a wise old shelter dog  
who gives *Pablo* a few pointers. This heartwarming  
story is both a child's introduction to dog care  
and a tribute to the special relationship  
between young and old.**

published by the  
**Animal Welfare Institute**