

Philippe and Claude are friends

Monet

Anna Obiols & Subi

Monet

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Hello, my name is Philippe and I want to tell you about a great painter: Claude Monet. I met him when he and my aunt came to pick me up from the train station. "Philippe! Over here!" She shouted from the platform. "Hello aunt... Yes, I had a good journey." "I'm pleased that you have come to spend a few days with us. Let me introduce you to my friend Claude."



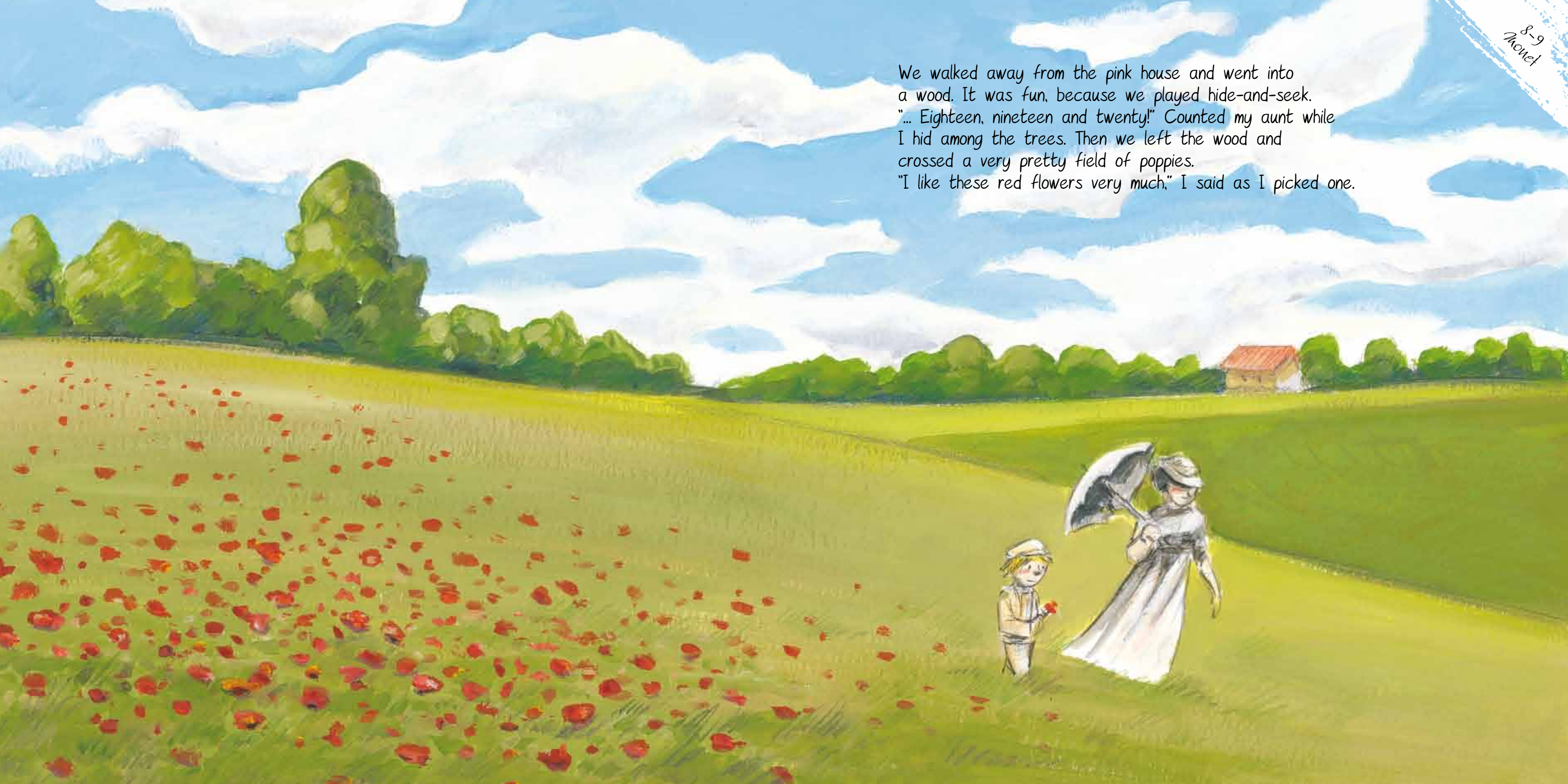
On the way home, we crossed a very long bridge
and Claude exclaimed:
"Look at the incredible light reflections in the water!
If only I had my palette and my paintbrushes..."
"Claude is happy painting and he spends the day in
the open air. You'll get to know him..." my aunt told me.

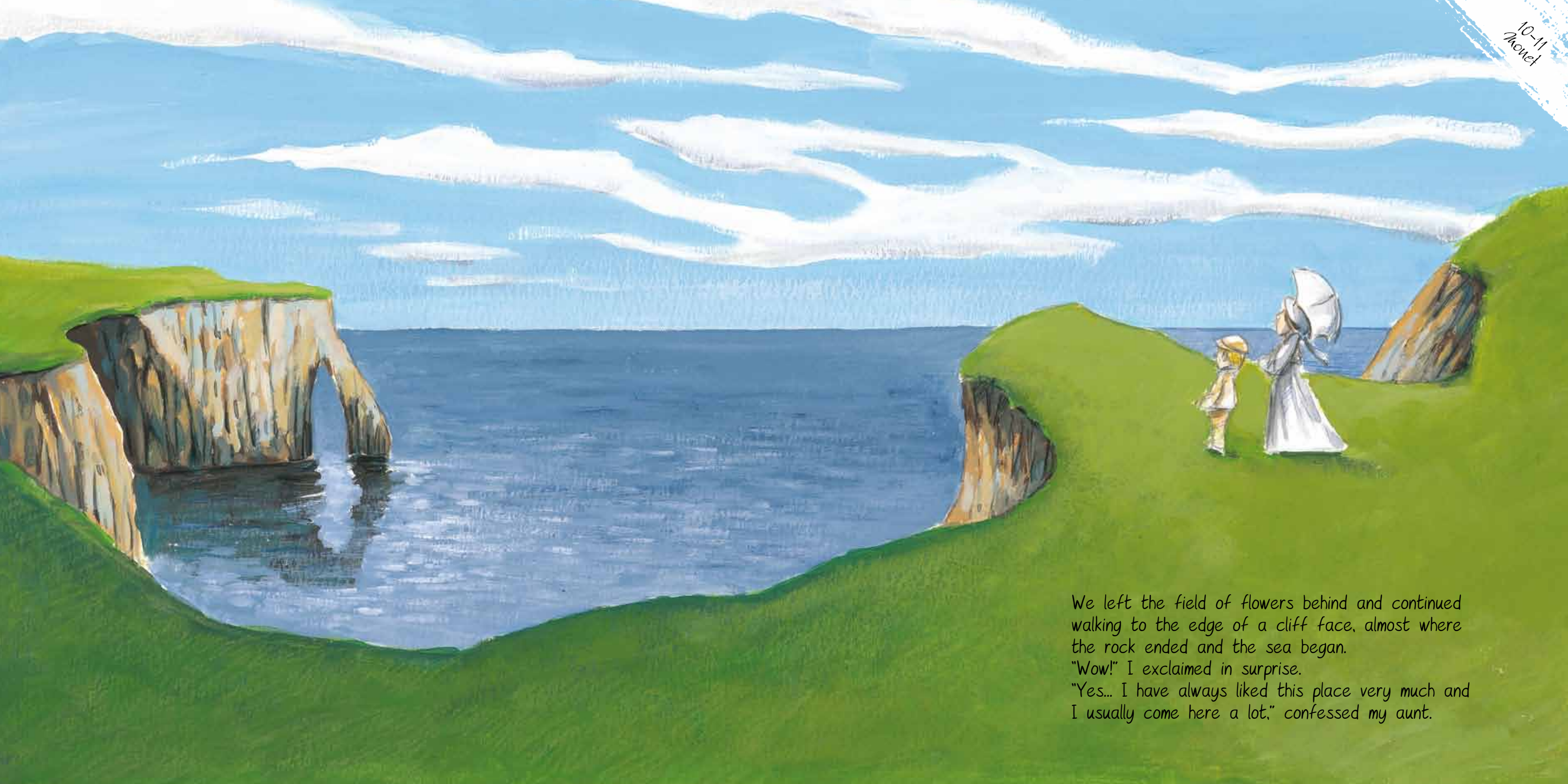




When we reached the pink house, it was a fantastic afternoon and my aunt and I decided to go for a walk. We were about to go out when we bumped into Claude, who was very busy. "We're going for a walk," we told him. "Have a nice time! Perhaps when you return, I will have finished the painting," he replied.

We walked away from the pink house and went into a wood. It was fun, because we played hide-and-seek. "... Eighteen, nineteen and twenty!" Counted my aunt while I hid among the trees. Then we left the wood and crossed a very pretty field of poppies. "I like these red flowers very much," I said as I picked one.





We left the field of flowers behind and continued walking to the edge of a cliff face, almost where the rock ended and the sea began.
"Wow!" I exclaimed in surprise.
"Yes... I have always liked this place very much and I usually come here a lot," confessed my aunt.

When we got home, Claude was still painting in the open air.
"Still working?"
"Well, the light is so special at this time of day..."
As we approached him, we saw that he had painted
the two of us in the middle of the landscape.

12-13
Monet



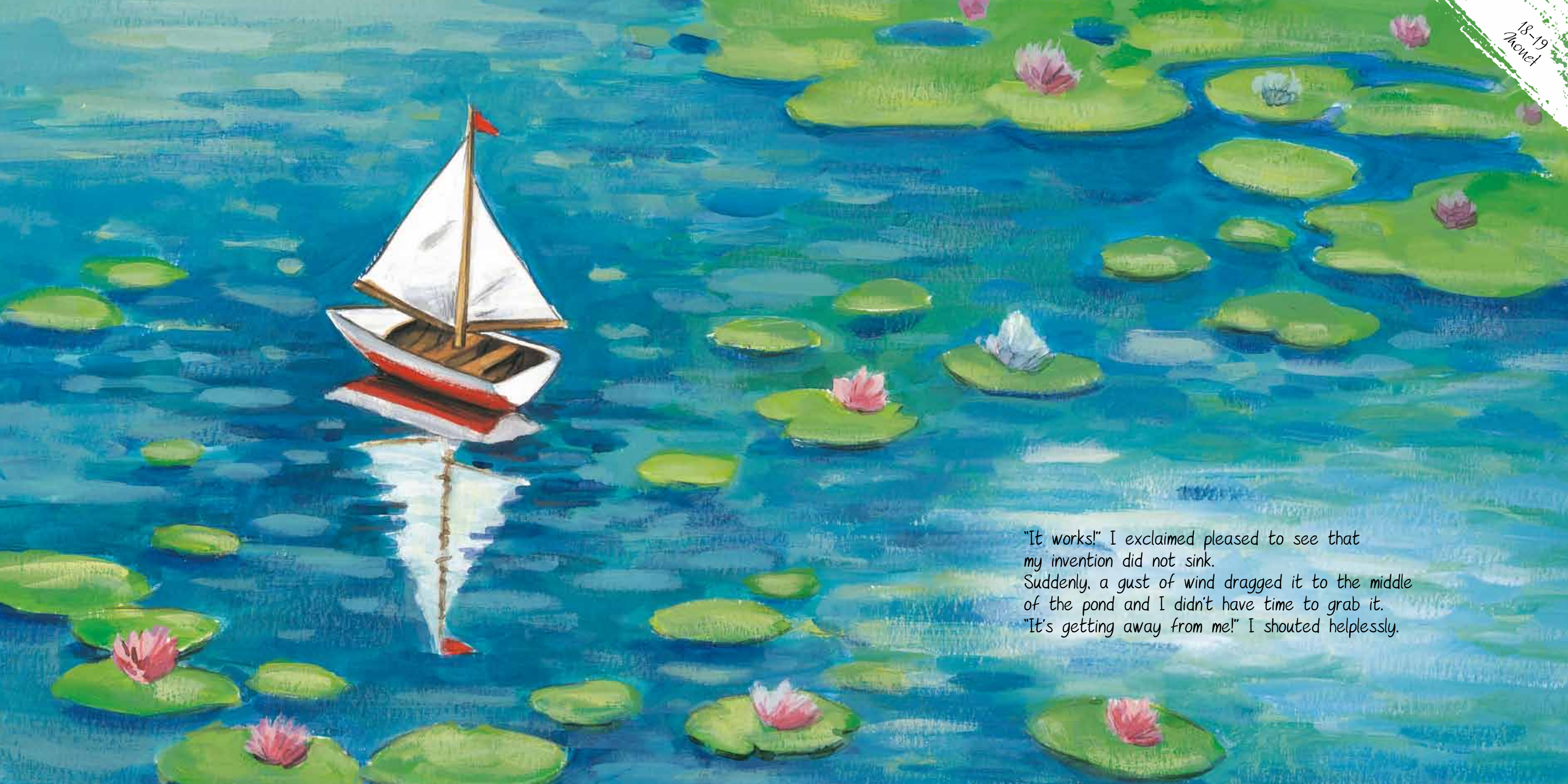
We left Claude outside to finish off the painting and we went inside the pink house. Then I had an idea: "I'll build a little boat and sail it!" Without losing a moment more, I set to work in the yellow dining room.



Building it was much more difficult than it seemed at first.
I had a lot of work to do, but in the end, I managed it.
Once it was finished, I wanted to test it straight away.
I went running to the water lily pond and floated it
on the water.

16-17
Monet





"It works!" I exclaimed pleased to see that my invention did not sink. Suddenly, a gust of wind dragged it to the middle of the pond and I didn't have time to grab it. "It's getting away from me!" I shouted helplessly.

I found a long branch and tried to get it back,
but without success.

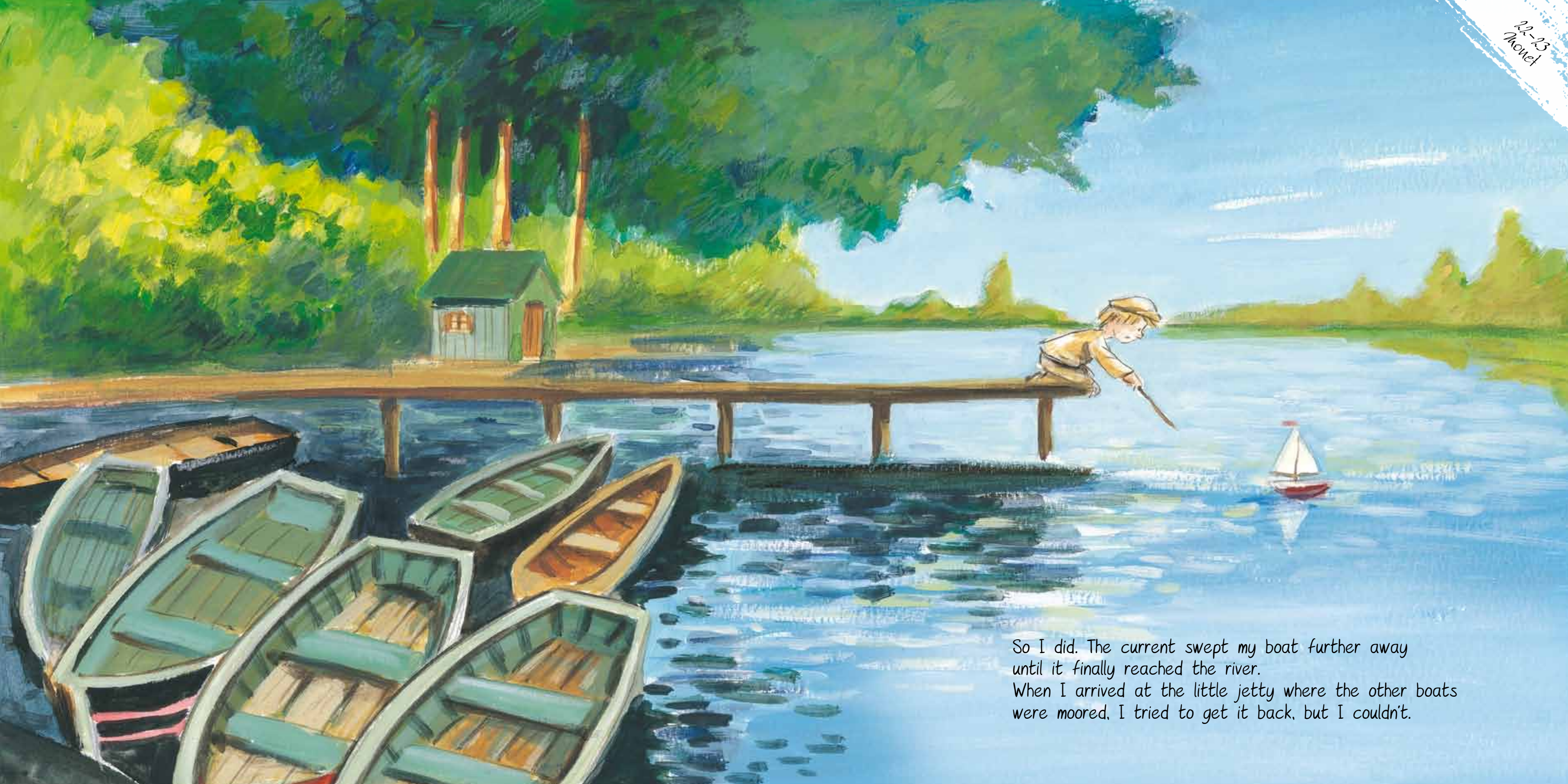
Right at that moment, Monet crossed
the Japanese bridge and said to me:

"Hello, Philippe. Is everything alright?"

"No, the wind has carried my little boat away
and I'm afraid I might lose it," I replied just
as it passed underneath him.

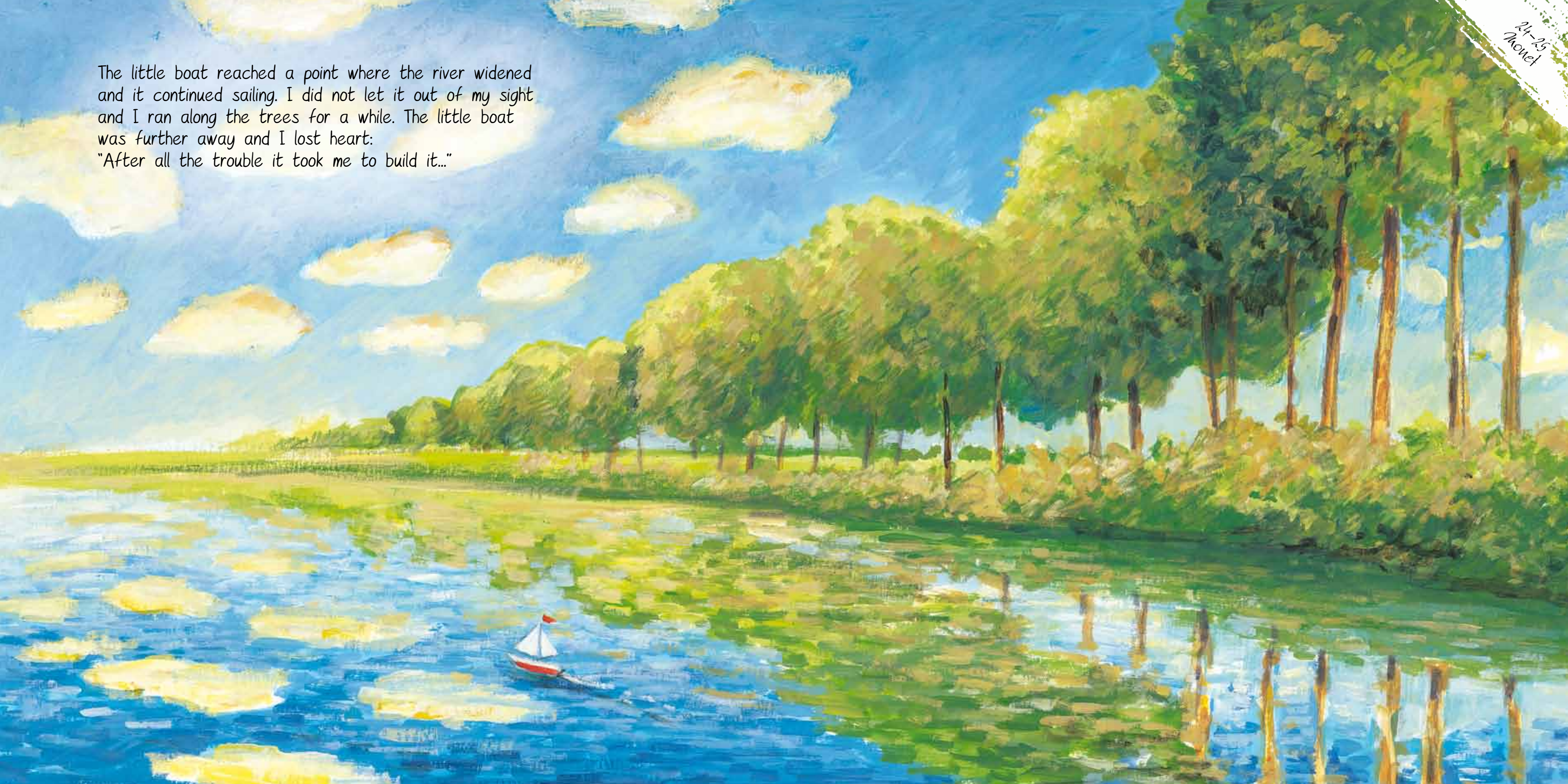
"Well, you'll have to follow the current," he suggested.

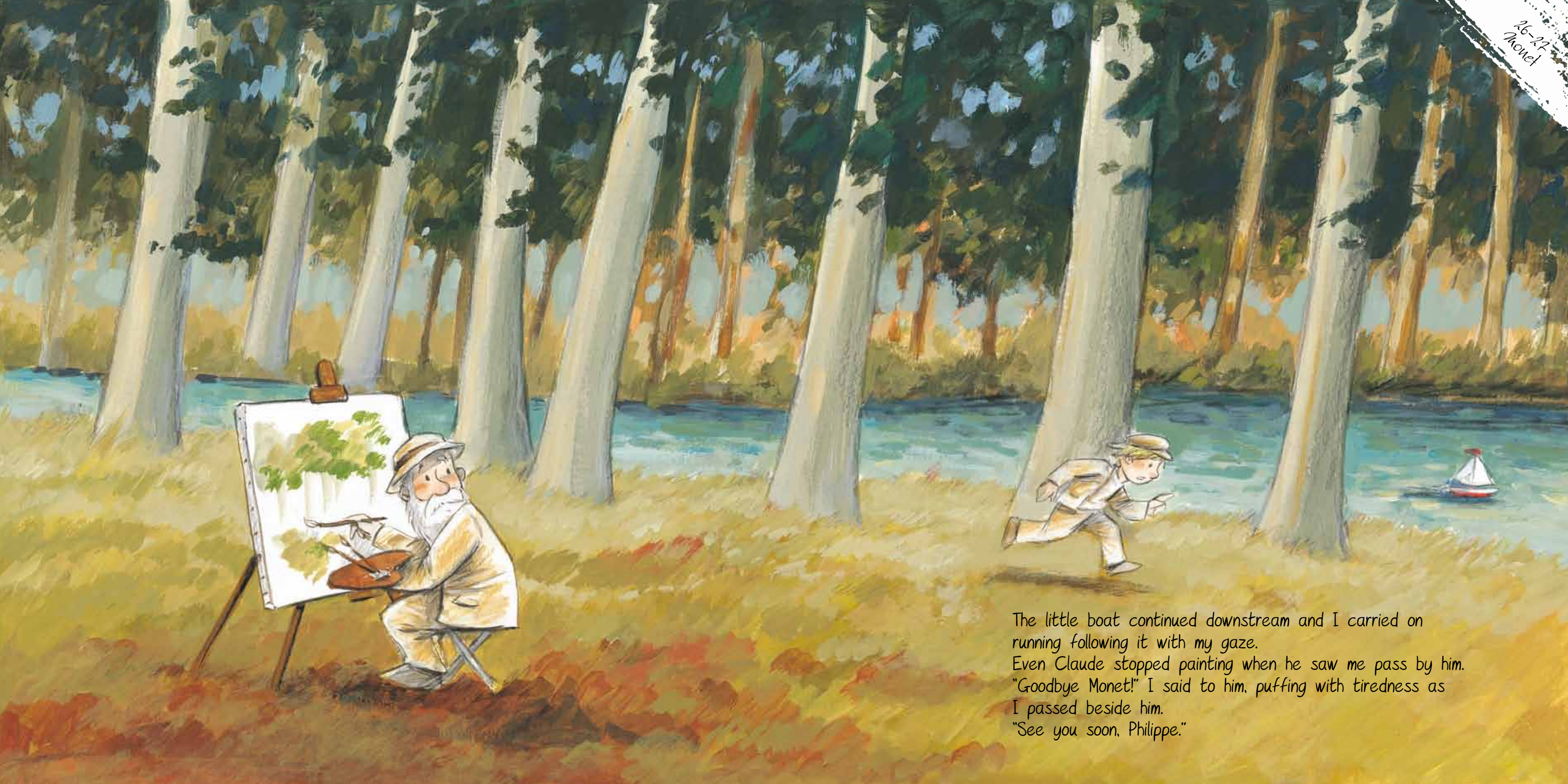




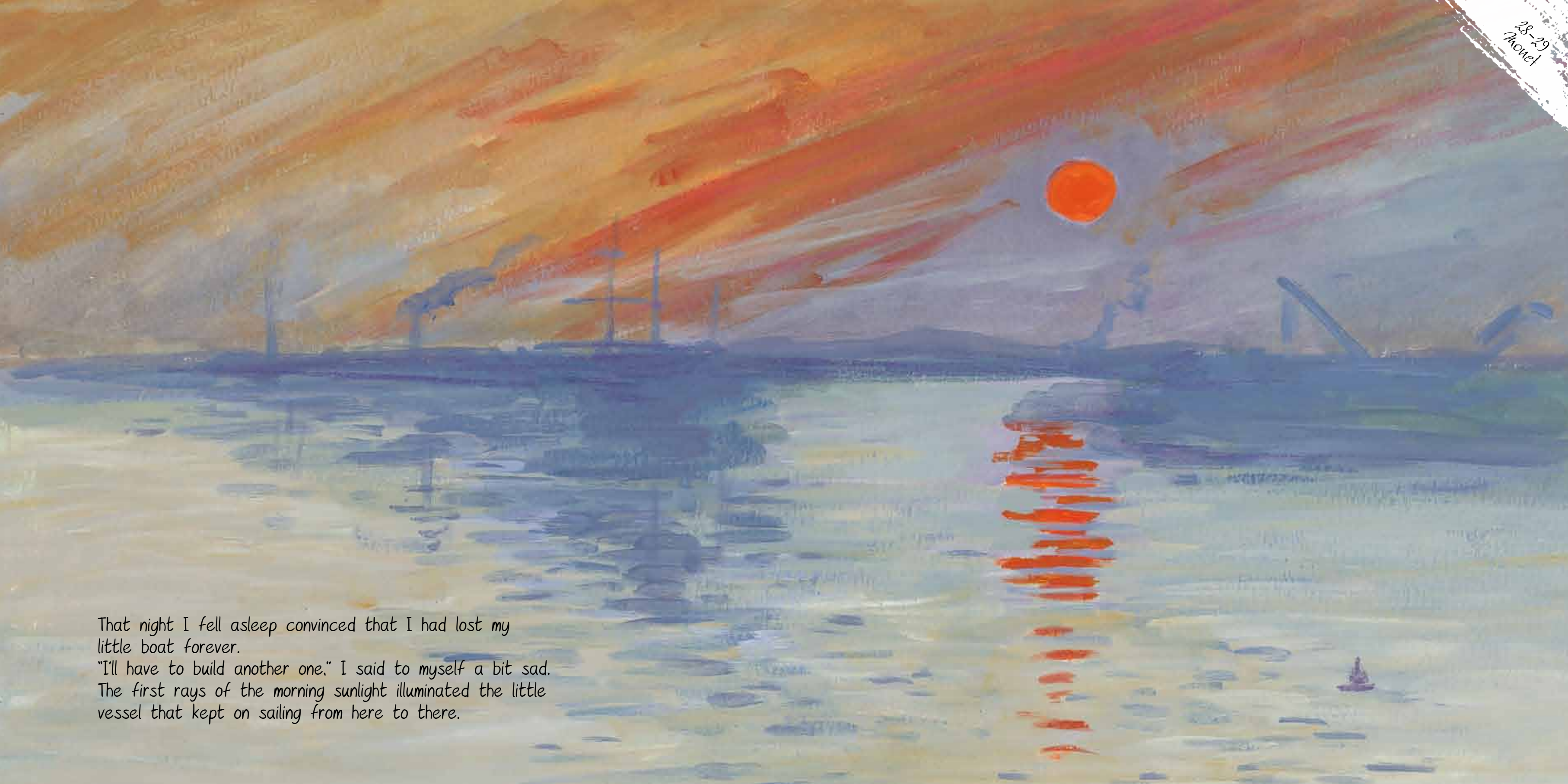
So I did. The current swept my boat further away until it finally reached the river. When I arrived at the little jetty where the other boats were moored, I tried to get it back, but I couldn't.

The little boat reached a point where the river widened and it continued sailing. I did not let it out of my sight and I ran along the trees for a while. The little boat was further away and I lost heart:
"After all the trouble it took me to build it..."





The little boat continued downstream and I carried on running following it with my gaze. Even Claude stopped painting when he saw me pass by him. "Goodbye Monet!" I said to him, puffing with tiredness as I passed beside him. "See you soon, Philippe."

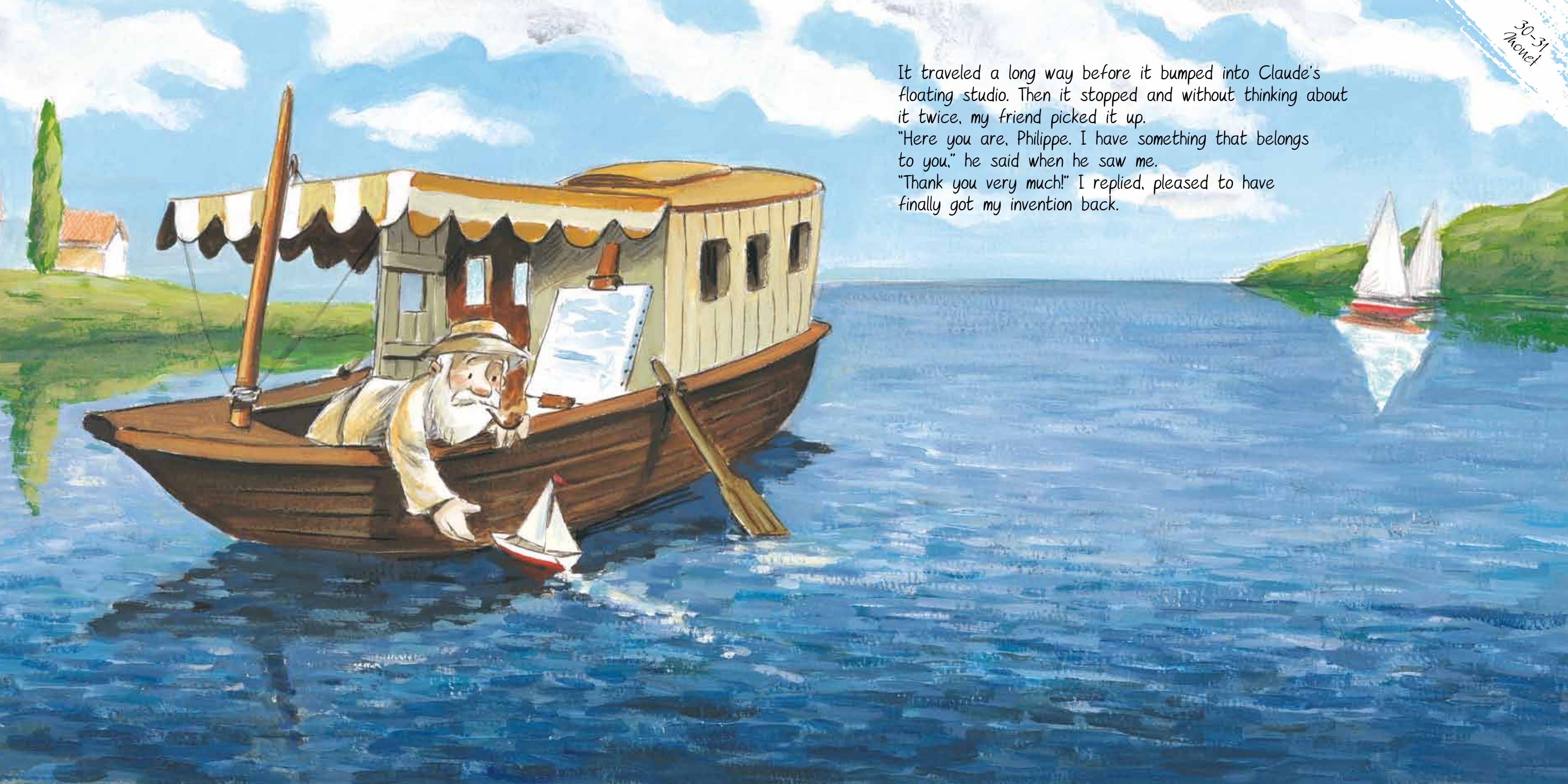


That night I fell asleep convinced that I had lost my little boat forever.
"I'll have to build another one," I said to myself a bit sad.
The first rays of the morning sunlight illuminated the little vessel that kept on sailing from here to there.

It traveled a long way before it bumped into Claude's floating studio. Then it stopped and without thinking about it twice, my friend picked it up.

"Here you are, Philippe. I have something that belongs to you," he said when he saw me.

"Thank you very much!" I replied, pleased to have finally got my invention back.



A painting of a river scene with a sailboat and a field of water lilies. The sailboat has a white sail and a red stripe. The water is blue and yellow. The background is a green field with a blue sky and white clouds.

Biography

Claude Monet (1840-1926) was born in Paris. He started drawing caricatures and later dedicated himself to painting. He liked painting outside and capturing light at different times of the day. In his works, there are churches, people, mountains, water lilies, beaches, rivers and even locomotives!

In 1871, he rented a house in Argenteuil, a village near Paris and he bought a boat that he converted into a floating studio. With it, he sailed along the Seine painting the river scenes that he observed along the way. Later, he moved to Giverny, a village between Paris and Rouen, where he lived in a large pink house with a yellow dining room and a blue kitchen. The house had an orchard and a garden. Later on, Monet built a stream and a pond, which he gradually converted into a water garden full of water lilies. He also built a Japanese-style bridge. The bridge and the flowers appear in many of the works completed in the final years of his life, when he lost his sight due to cataracts. Almost blind, Monet began using the color red a lot. Almost all the paintings from this period are characterized by the use of red tones! After his operation, his paintings regained their usual colors.

Artistic Style

In 1874, an exhibition that was to change the world of art opened its doors in Paris. There, paintings were exhibited by artists who, contrary to what was recommended in the art schools, used bright colors and not very soft brushstrokes. The majority, like Monet, painted nature and outdoor life attempting to capture the moment when the light changed, when the afternoon began to turn into the night, or the morning into afternoon. Others, such as Degas, preferred to paint indoor scenes. However, they all fled from what the visual arts teachers advised and were not afraid of the jokes and critics of the connoisseurs. These artists started to be known by the name of **Impressionists** and Monet is their main representative.

Monet felt a great admiration for Japanese art and culture and one of his favorite themes was water. His great preoccupation was capturing color and the effects of the light on objects. He did so through quick broad brushstrokes that barely touched the canvas and by combining the complementary colors. In fact, his paintings are said to be like "an orchestra of colors." Monet was a pure Impressionist, who apart from the initial misunderstanding never abandoned his artistic beliefs.



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