

Fotini Tikkou

Little Smudge





To all big and little “smudges” in the world.

F. T.

© 2022, Φωτεινή Τίκκου για το κείμενο και την εικονογράφηση
© 2022, Εκδόσεις Ίκαρος

Επιμέλεια: Μάνος Μπονάνος
Στοιχειοθεσία - Σελιδοποίηση: Εκδόσεις Ίκαρος
Εκτύπωση: Γ. Κωστόπουλος γραφικές τέχνες Α.Ε.
Βιβλιοδεσία: Ηλ. Μπουντάς - Π. Βασιλειάδης

Πρώτη έκδοση Νοέμβριος 2022
ISBN 978-960-572-528-0

Απαγορεύεται η αναδημοσίευση ή αναπαραγωγή του παρόντος έργου στο σύνολό του ή τμημάτων του με οποιονδήποτε τρόπο, καθώς και η μετάφραση ή διασκευή του ή εκμετάλλευσή του με οποιονδήποτε τρόπο αναπαραγωγής έργου λόγου τέχνης, σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις του ν. 2121/1993 και της Διεθνούς Σύμβασης Βέρνης-Παρισιού, που κυρώθηκε με τον ν. 100/1975. Επίσης απαγορεύεται η αναπαραγωγή της στοιχειοθεσίας, της σελιδοποίησης, του εξωφύλλου και γενικότερα όλης της αισθητικής εμφάνισης του βιβλίου, με φωτοτυπικές ή οποιεσδήποτε άλλες μεθόδους, σύμφωνα με το άρθρο 51 του ν. 2121/1993.

ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΙΚΑΡΟΣ
Βουλής 4, 105 62, Αθήνα | Τ: 210 3225152
www.ikarosbooks.gr

Fotini Tikkou

Little Smudge



 ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ
ΙΚΑΡΟΣ

Some time ago, in a place far away from here,
there was a colorful town.
The sun shone bright, and the rainbow arched
in the sky every day, although it never rained.





The habitants of the town were of all kinds, colorful and different. Each one of them was special, and they all lived happily together.

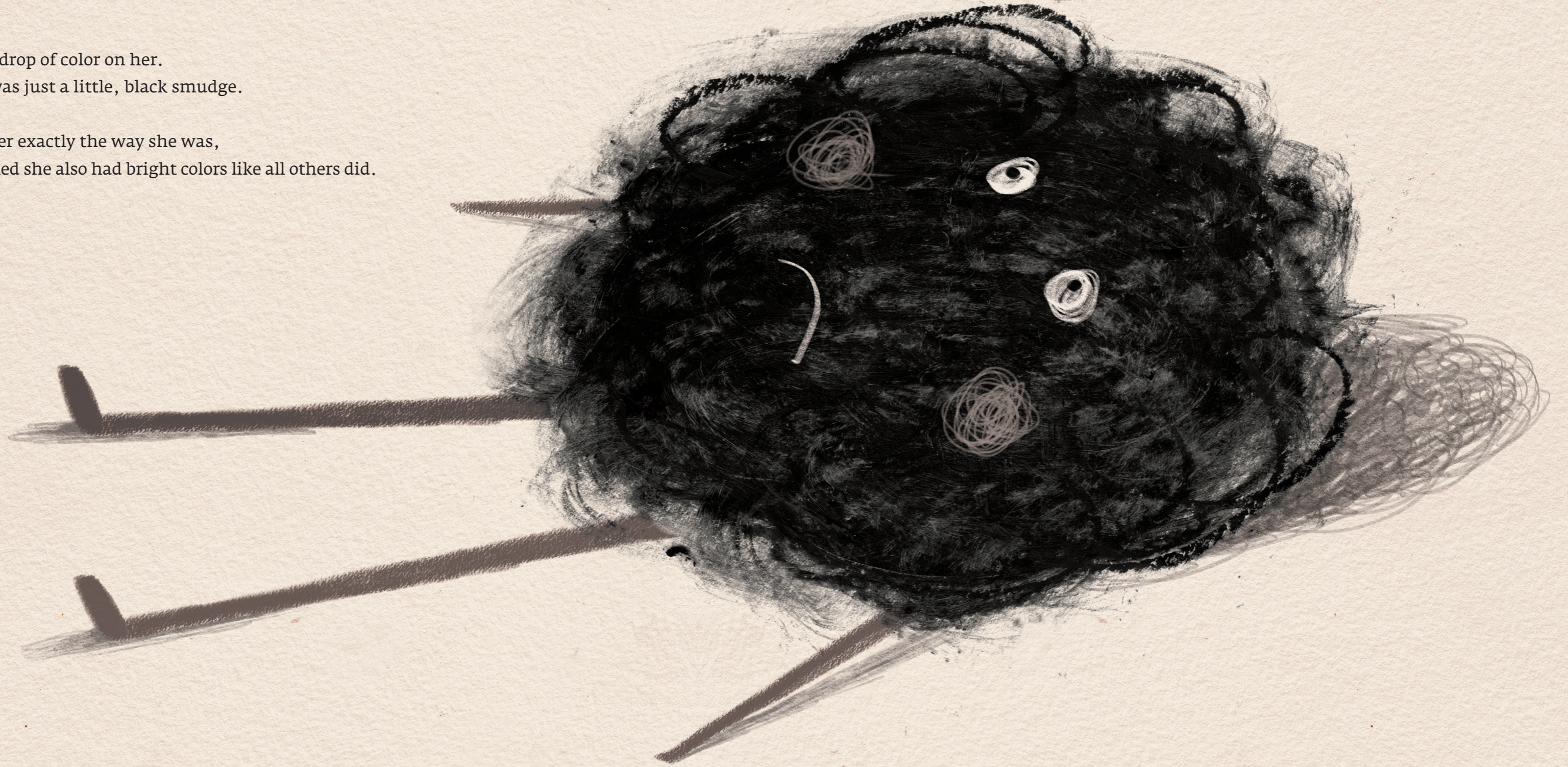
All but...

... Little Smudge



Little Smudge did not have a drop of color on her.
As her name prevailed, she was just a little, black smudge.

Although her friends loved her exactly the way she was,
she was always sad, and wished she also had bright colors like all others did.
She hated sticking out.





Every now and then she attempted to cheat her smudginess by wearing colorful hats and fabrics. However, she felt ridiculous.



Once she even tried to straighten her curly tangled lines with a blow dryer, but she did not feel like herself.



No matter what she did she always ended up feeling like a boring, peach black smudge.

Then one day, she decided to lock herself in her home. Her friends tried to make her change her mind, but she was adamant.



The next day, something strange happened. The rainbow in the sky appeared a little bigger than usual. At first, the habitants were amazed, they found it spectacular as it was shining like never before, all over the town. They were excited.



However, the rainbow kept growing bigger day by day. Its colors became more intense and its light a lot brighter. It started being annoying. After a while no one could circulate without wearing sunglasses. Night became day.

Everyone had trouble sleeping and when they managed, they had a hard time waking up. Accidents on the street were often, as most drivers were exhausted. Gradually, everyone locked themselves in their houses and shut the shutters.

The town was languishing. A solution had to be found. But what could they do?

Little Smudge stayed locked in for six whole days. On the seventh day she noticed a blue ray of light entering through the window. She thought that was strange and decided to go out and follow it.



There was not a soul in sight. *That's weird* she thought. But soon she realized she enjoyed wandering alone without having to think how dull she felt compared to others.

She turned her eyes towards the sky
and faced the enormous rainbow.
She was impressed by its colors.

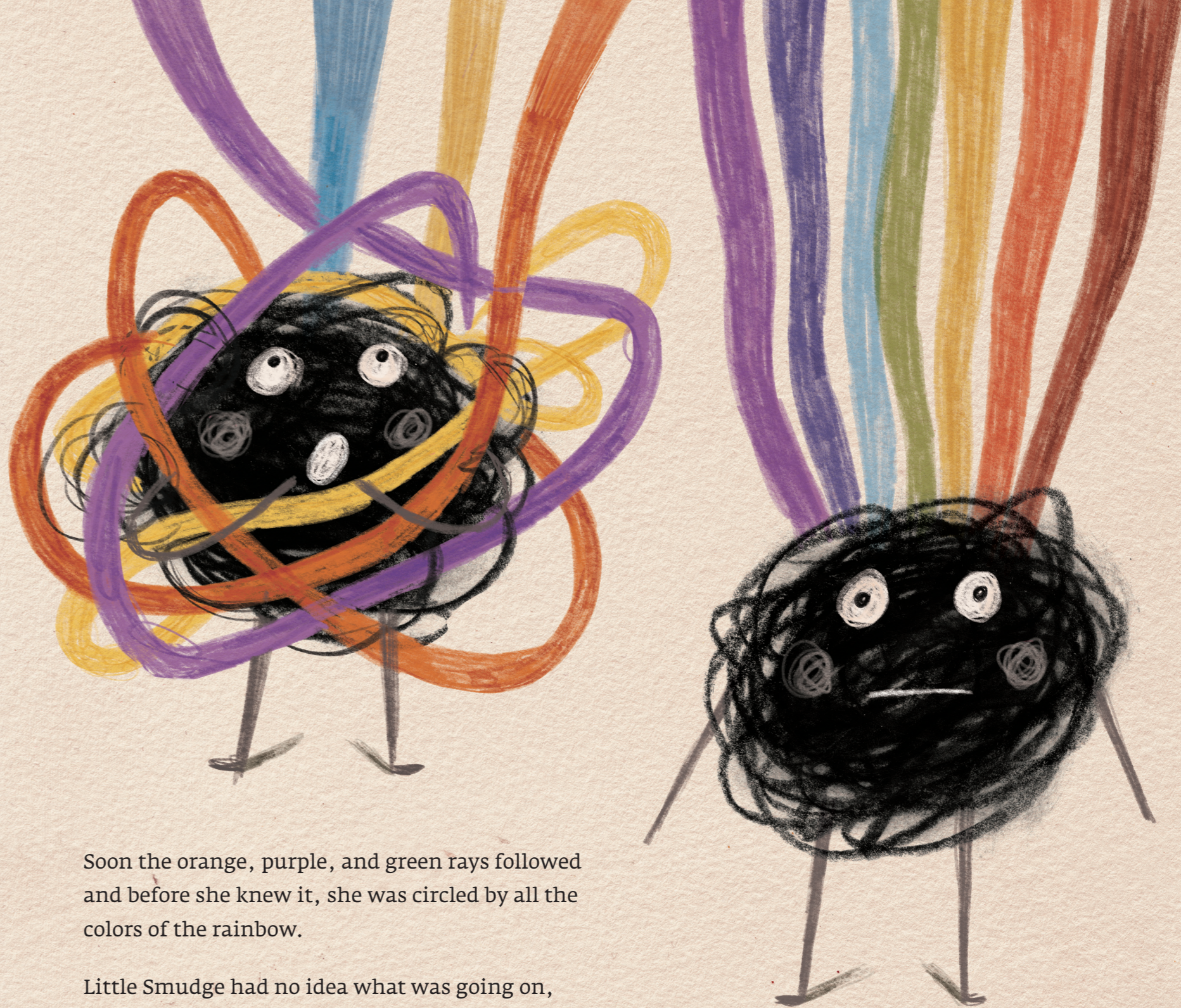


And then, something incredible happened.
The light blue ray, detached from the rest
and curled around her. She felt bizarre but comforted,
like a sweet warmth had surrounded her.



Soon the orange, purple, and green rays followed
and before she knew it, she was circled by all the
colors of the rainbow.

Little Smudge had no idea what was going on,
but she felt a pleasant tickle in her heart.



She started walking as the rainbow followed her every step in every direction she turned. For the first time she felt lightweight and careless.


“Is this what joy feels like?” she wondered.



She walked for hours carrying the beautiful colors of the rainbow through town.



She stopped by all her favorite spots.
From the ice cream shop, she went all the way
to the amusement park and reached the Modern Art Museum.



Little Smudge tirelessly walked, until at some point
the colors of the rainbow started fading.
Her heart still felt warm, though.

It appears like during the days that Little Smudge had locked herself
in her house, her color black stopped absorbing the light of
the rainbow, and that is why it endlessly reflected everywhere!



Little Smudge was now magnetizing the rainbow and her dense curly lines kept the colors inside her. The colors warmed her heart, and while it got warmer the colors weakened.

All habitants were now staring through their windows at Little Smudge and the rainbow getting smaller and dimmer behind her.

Then, all of a sudden, the rainbow rays began to fly away from Little Smudge, returning to their proper position. The rainbow resumed its original size and arched above them like it used to in the past. Everything was back to how it was before.



Everyone rushed out of their homes, joyfully cheering. They hugged and applauded Little Smudge for what she had accomplished.

Little Smudge felt special, important and, for the first time in her life, full of pride for her smudginess that had -apparently- saved the day.



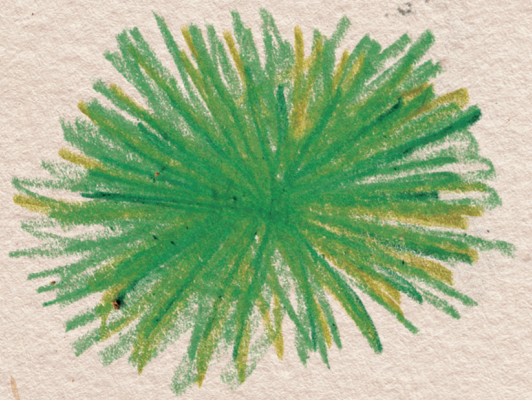
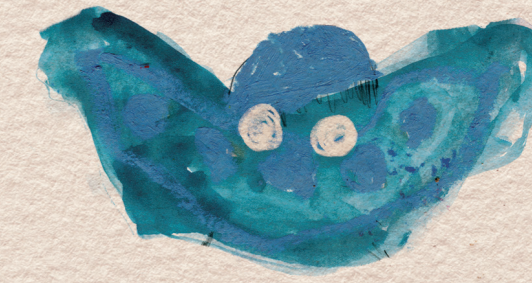
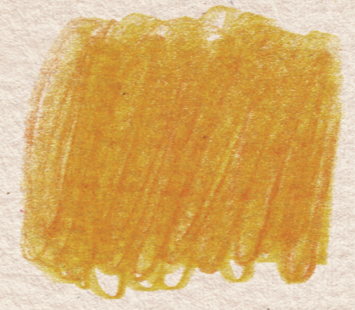
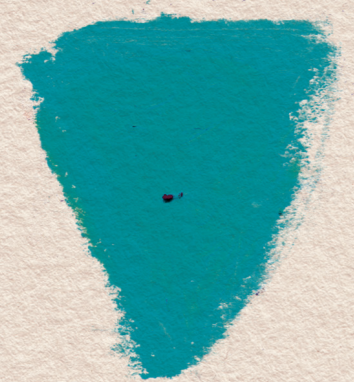
On the same night a big party was organized. A large banner saying "WE MISSED YOU LITTLE SMUDGE" was the main decor. After some time, the mayor declared Little Smudge a town benefactor, and a statue was placed in the central square to honor her and to remind everyone -including her- how important she was to their town.



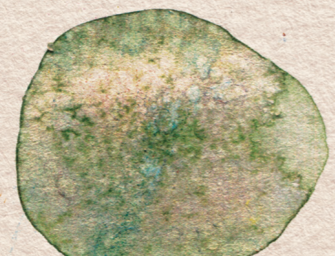
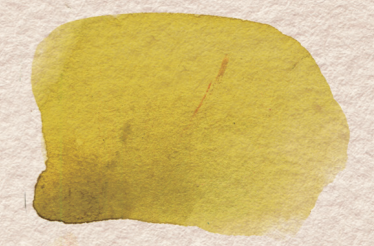
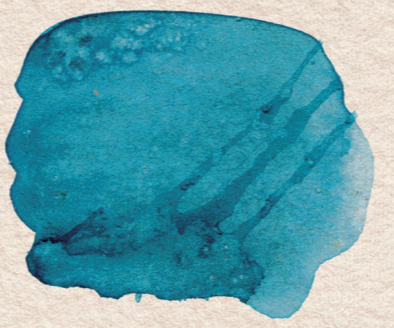
Little Smudge was never dark again.

And if she felt a little down, she took a look at the little gift the rainbow had left for her. The one colorful line that had grown on her when all this had happened. On the day that everyone would remember as the day a little peach black smudge managed to tame a whole rainbow and save the town from a certain catastrophe.

Make your own creatures...



FOTINI TIKKOU graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts and got an MA in Visual Arts by the Luca school of Arts in Brussels in 2014. She started working as a freelance illustrator, working mostly on children's books. Today her work also includes editorial illustrations, pattern design, art licensing projects and book covers. She's also a ceramic artist. In her work, she uses a mixture of traditional and digital techniques enriched with collage elements. She has collaborated with many Greek and international companies, like Penguin Readers, Oxford University Press, Little Tiger, Flow Magazine, Benchmark Education and Babel Magazine. She lives in Athens with her partner and their little daughter.





What will happen if a rainbow
and a little smudge meet,
under the sunny sky of a beautiful town?

An original, colorful story
for everyone who has felt different.

