




# Hallie

the  
Harvester Ant

Never Give Up

A Book By  
LaDene Mayville



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Hallie is a harvester ant.

Harvester ants live in dens underground, deep beneath the desert sand.

Inside the den thousands of ants zip through a maze of tunnels where they live and work.


Hallie is proud of her job. She is commander of the scout teams who search for food. Scouts feed the colony and they make sure no ant goes hungry.

At sunrise, the scout teams hit the dusty trails searching for food.

Life was good until the day she almost disappeared beneath the sand forever.







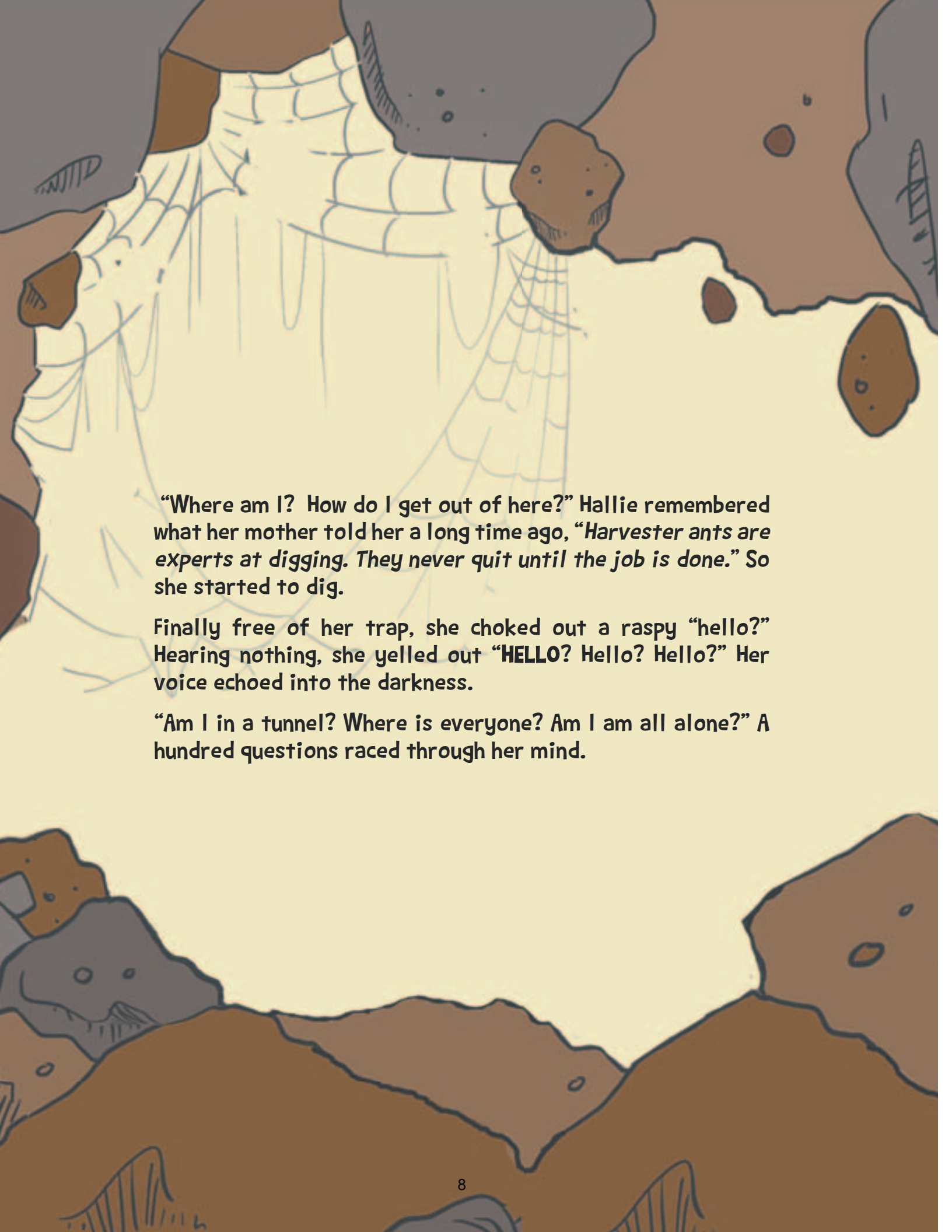
Hallie and her team were far from home when suddenly the ground began to shake. A thunderous roar filled the air as giant yellow monsters rumbled toward the ants, smashing everything in their path.

Thick, black smoke darkened the sky and choked the ants as they scattered and ran for their lives.

Desperate to get away, Hallie raced toward a small tree when suddenly she found herself falling, tumbling head over heels. Dirt and rock rained down around the frightened ant until she was buried under a heap of rubble.







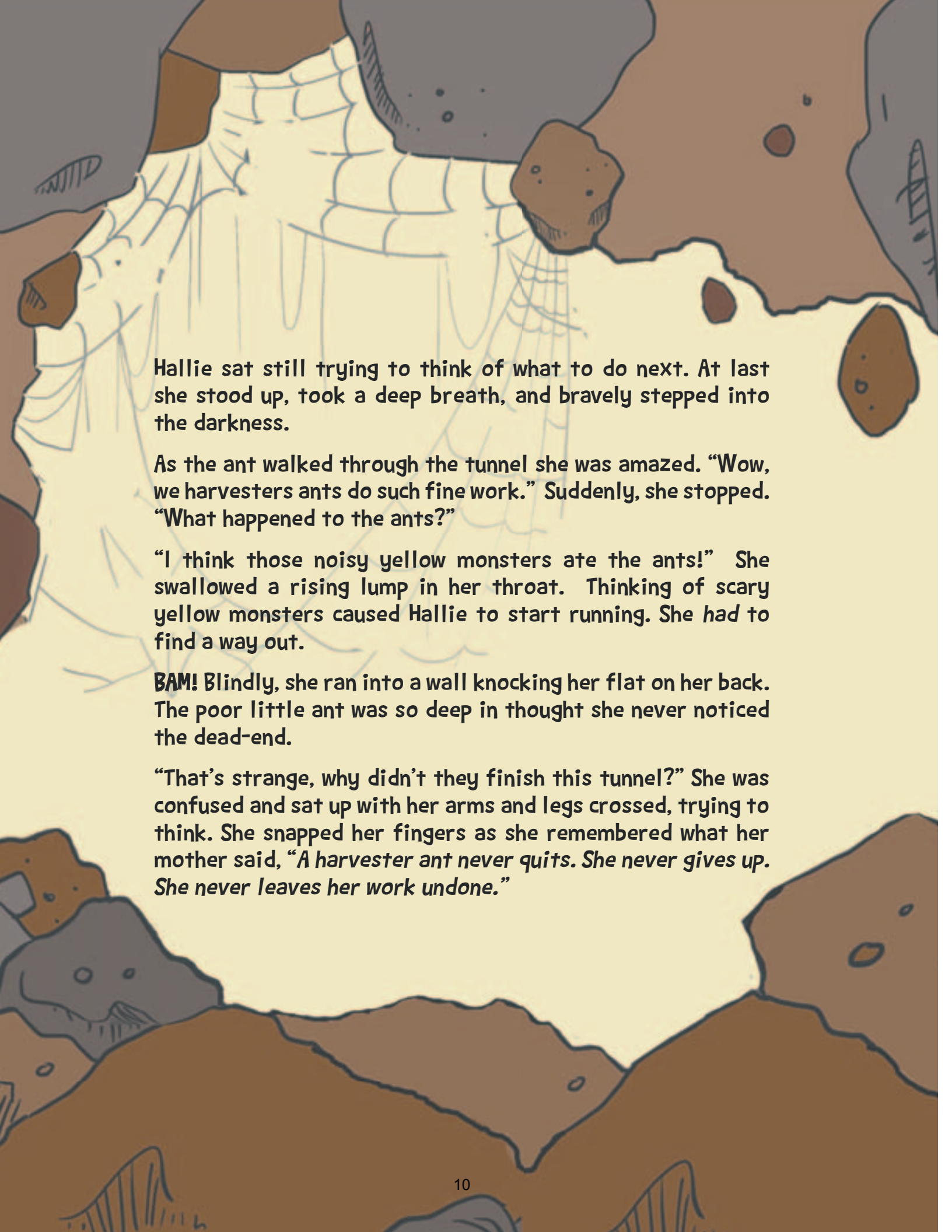
“Where am I? How do I get out of here?” Hallie remembered what her mother told her a long time ago, *“Harvester ants are experts at digging. They never quit until the job is done.”* So she started to dig.

Finally free of her trap, she choked out a raspy “hello?” Hearing nothing, she yelled out “**HELLO?** Hello? Hello?” Her voice echoed into the darkness.

“Am I in a tunnel? Where is everyone? Am I am all alone?” A hundred questions raced through her mind.







Hallie sat still trying to think of what to do next. At last she stood up, took a deep breath, and bravely stepped into the darkness.

As the ant walked through the tunnel she was amazed. “Wow, we harvesters ants do such fine work.” Suddenly, she stopped. “What happened to the ants?”

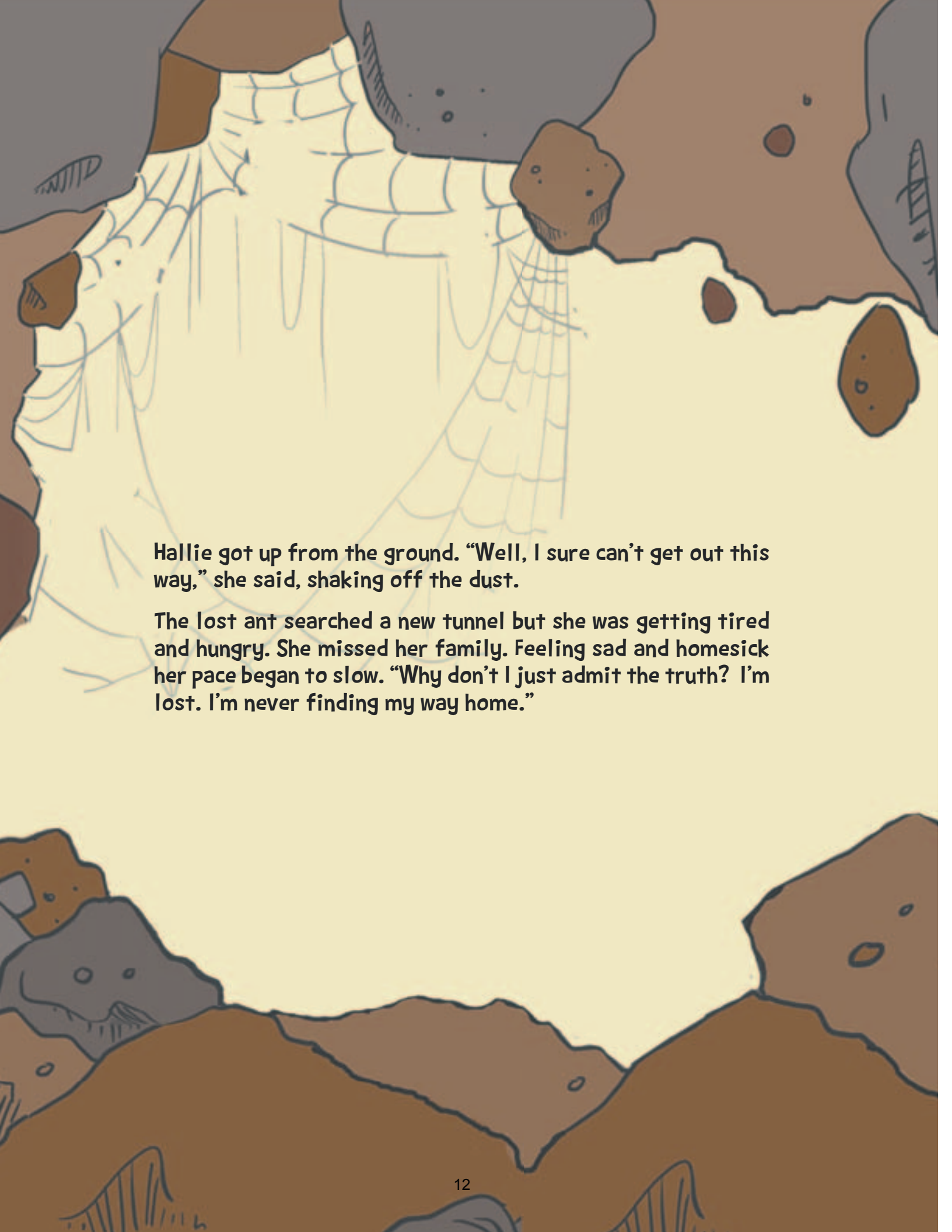
“I think those noisy yellow monsters ate the ants!” She swallowed a rising lump in her throat. Thinking of scary yellow monsters caused Hallie to start running. She *had* to find a way out.

**BAM!** Blindly, she ran into a wall knocking her flat on her back. The poor little ant was so deep in thought she never noticed the dead-end.

“That’s strange, why didn’t they finish this tunnel?” She was confused and sat up with her arms and legs crossed, trying to think. She snapped her fingers as she remembered what her mother said, “*A harvester ant never quits. She never gives up. She never leaves her work undone.*”





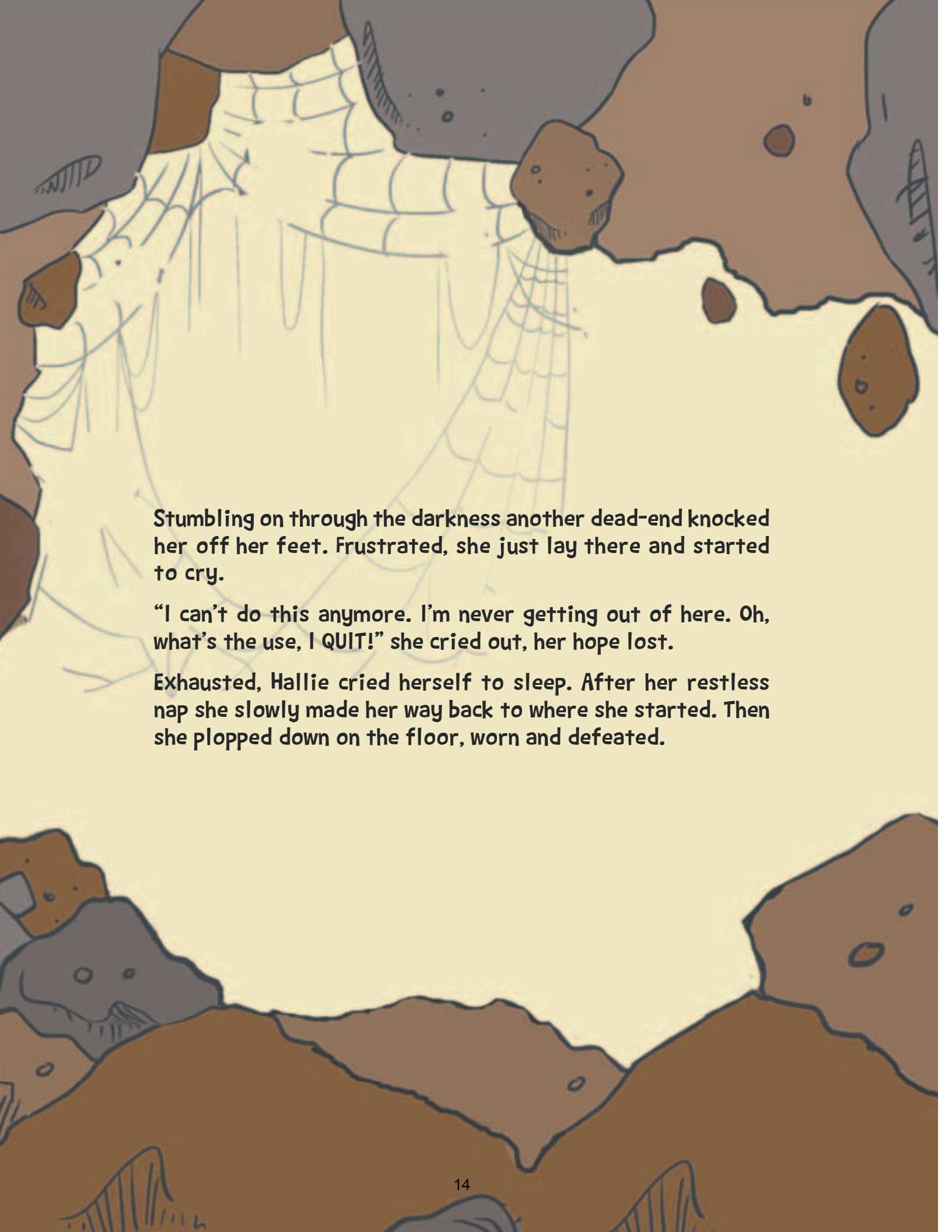


Hallie got up from the ground. “Well, I sure can’t get out this way,” she said, shaking off the dust.

The lost ant searched a new tunnel but she was getting tired and hungry. She missed her family. Feeling sad and homesick her pace began to slow. “Why don’t I just admit the truth? I’m lost. I’m never finding my way home.”







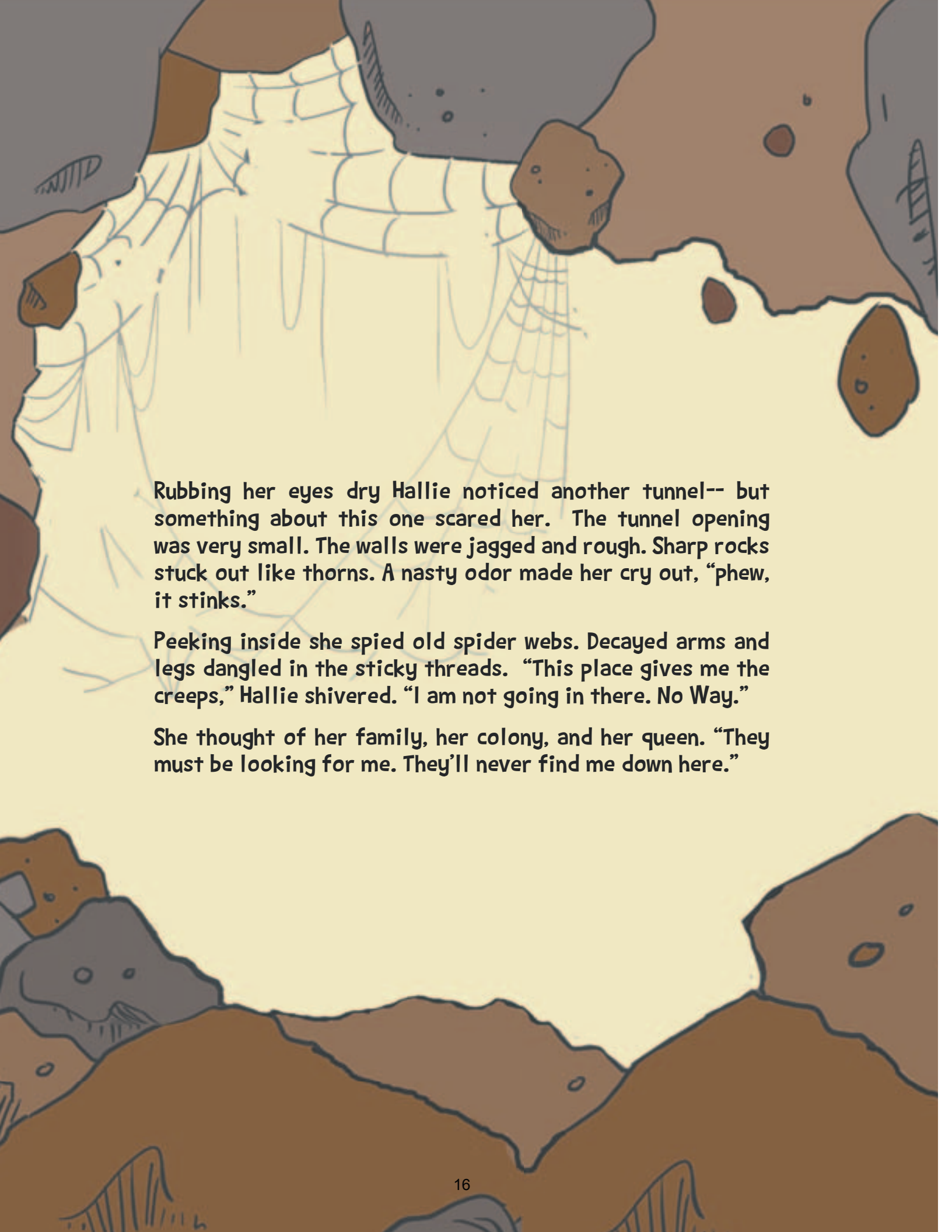
Stumbling on through the darkness another dead-end knocked her off her feet. Frustrated, she just lay there and started to cry.

“I can’t do this anymore. I’m never getting out of here. Oh, what’s the use, I QUIT!” she cried out, her hope lost.

Exhausted, Hallie cried herself to sleep. After her restless nap she slowly made her way back to where she started. Then she plopped down on the floor, worn and defeated.







Rubbing her eyes dry Hallie noticed another tunnel-- but something about this one scared her. The tunnel opening was very small. The walls were jagged and rough. Sharp rocks stuck out like thorns. A nasty odor made her cry out, "phew, it stinks."

Peeking inside she spied old spider webs. Decayed arms and legs dangled in the sticky threads. "This place gives me the creeps," Hallie shivered. "I am not going in there. No Way."

She thought of her family, her colony, and her queen. "They must be looking for me. They'll never find me down here."





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