



EVRIDIKI AMANATIDOU

**THE SUN
WHO LOST
HIS WAY**

Illustrations by

EVGENIA PAPAIOANNOU



Evridiki Amanatidou lives in Athens, even when she rests in her own world, hanging out with her other self, Erilia. Although she has studied in Law School, she always preferred playing with words, paper and pencils. For argument's sake, so far, four of her novels and a children's theatrical play "*A hat for the professor*", which was awarded by the Ministry of Culture, have been published.

Some of her texts can be found in various websites such as: www.schooltime.gr,
www.deity.gr, www.mesogios.gr,
www.vivliodeiktis.blogspot.gr,
www.onestory.gr, www.antiepilogou.gr,
www.fresh-magazine.net

She would be glad to meet you all in her e-homes: <http://evriam.blogspot.gr> and
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Evridiki A manatidou, The sun who lost his way
ISBN: 978-618-5040-05-5
March 2013

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website: www.saitapublications.gr

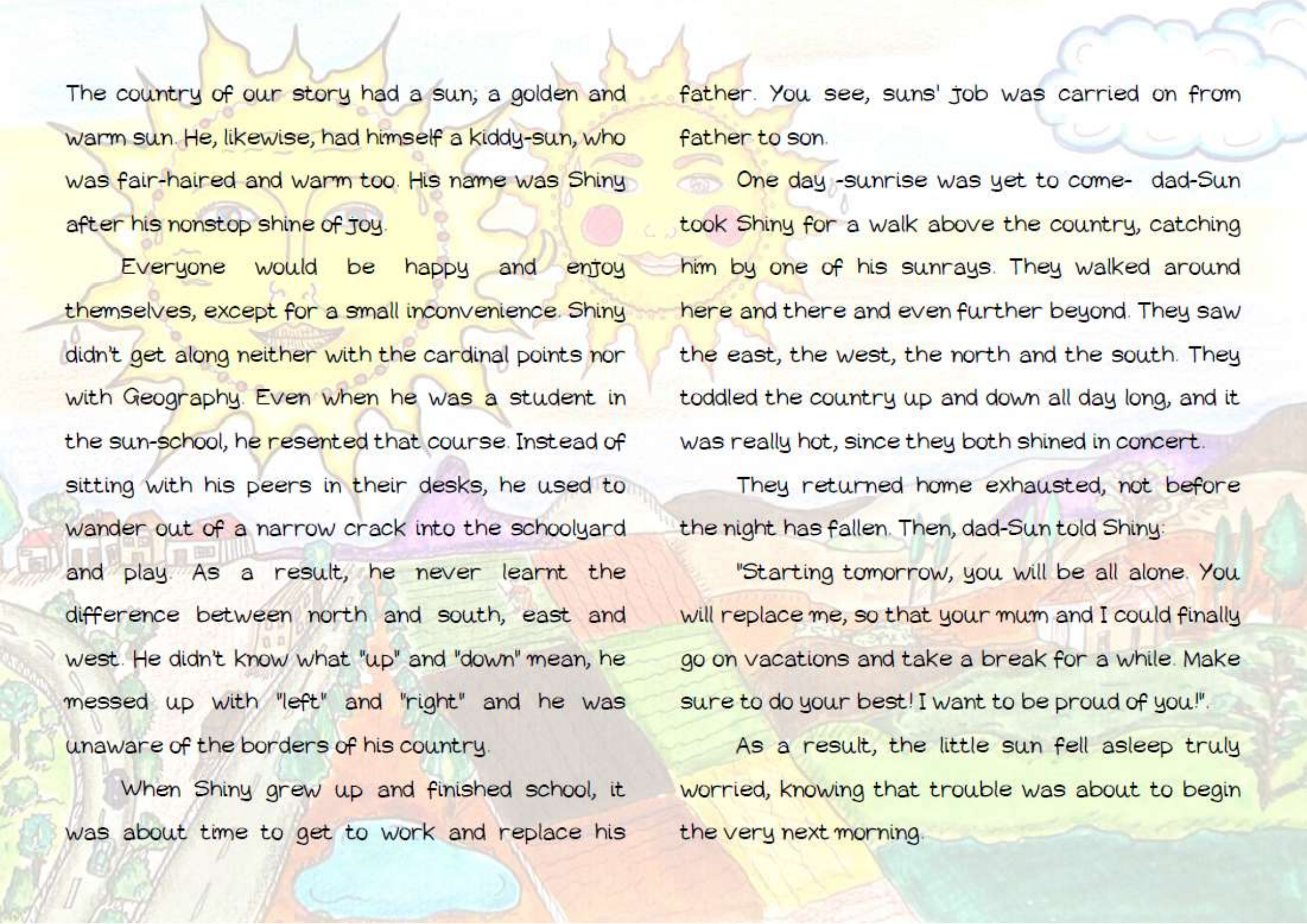
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The country of our story had a sun; a golden and warm sun. He, likewise, had himself a kiddy-sun, who was fair-haired and warm too. His name was Shiny after his nonstop shine of joy.

Everyone would be happy and enjoy themselves, except for a small inconvenience. Shiny didn't get along neither with the cardinal points nor with Geography. Even when he was a student in the sun-school, he resented that course. Instead of sitting with his peers in their desks, he used to wander out of a narrow crack into the schoolyard and play. As a result, he never learnt the difference between north and south, east and west. He didn't know what "up" and "down" mean, he messed up with "left" and "right" and he was unaware of the borders of his country.

When Shiny grew up and finished school, it was about time to get to work and replace his

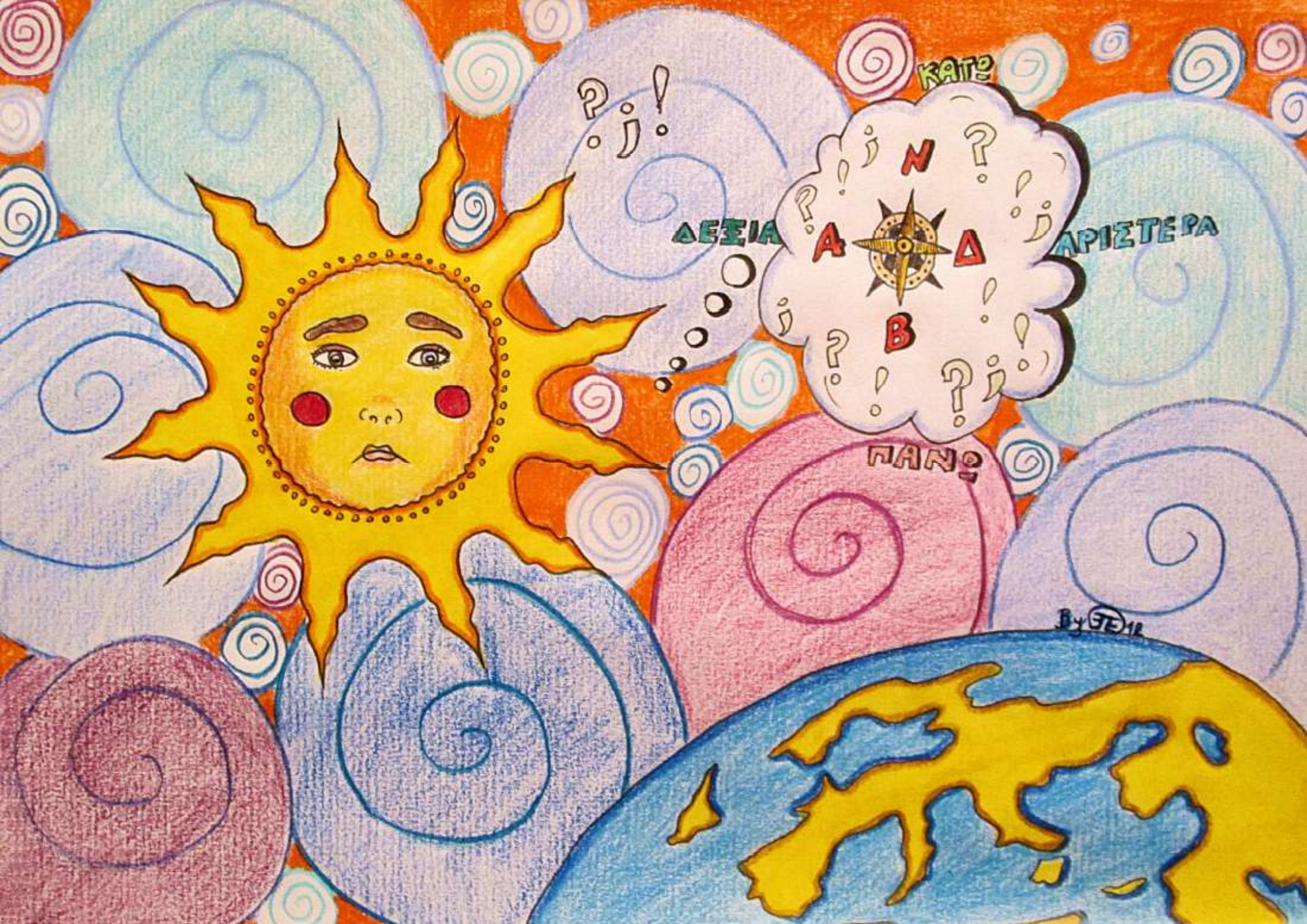
father. You see, suns' job was carried on from father to son.

One day -sunrise was yet to come- dad-Sun took Shiny for a walk above the country, catching him by one of his sunrays. They walked around here and there and even further beyond. They saw the east, the west, the north and the south. They toddled the country up and down all day long, and it was really hot, since they both shined in concert.

They returned home exhausted, not before the night has fallen. Then, dad-Sun told Shiny:

"Starting tomorrow, you will be all alone. You will replace me, so that your mum and I could finally go on vacations and take a break for a while. Make sure to do your best! I want to be proud of you!"

As a result, the little sun fell asleep truly worried, knowing that trouble was about to begin the very next morning.



The follow morning has arrived, and Shiny, groggy as he was, popped out in the twilight glow. He managed to get by at first, bearing in mind everything his father has said to him. He saw the country's high mountains and the grassy plain stretching further on. He also spotted the farmers heading to their land.

"Excellent!" he told himself. "Nicely done Shiny!"

He kept going cheerfully, but it was not long enough when he paused, feeling unease.

"What have I learnt about where "left" or "right" is? Where am I standing now? In the north or in the south?"

He looked downwards; still, no one was there to enlighten him. He moved on and on blindly, until he got even more confused.

"Ah!" he mumbled, "Geography was useful after all Shiny!"

The little sun has been wandering for hours. He didn't realize it was time to go down, until he

saw his watch. Drowsy as he was, he hid behind a mountain and fell asleep.

In the meantime, many unusual things happened all over the country and people were about to lose their mind. Since Shiny had no idea where he had been going while wandering, day and night had switched many times. Ongoing tasks couldn't be finished. For one moment there was daylight and the next moment it turned to dusk again. Not to mention of course, that there were many people who got really scared!

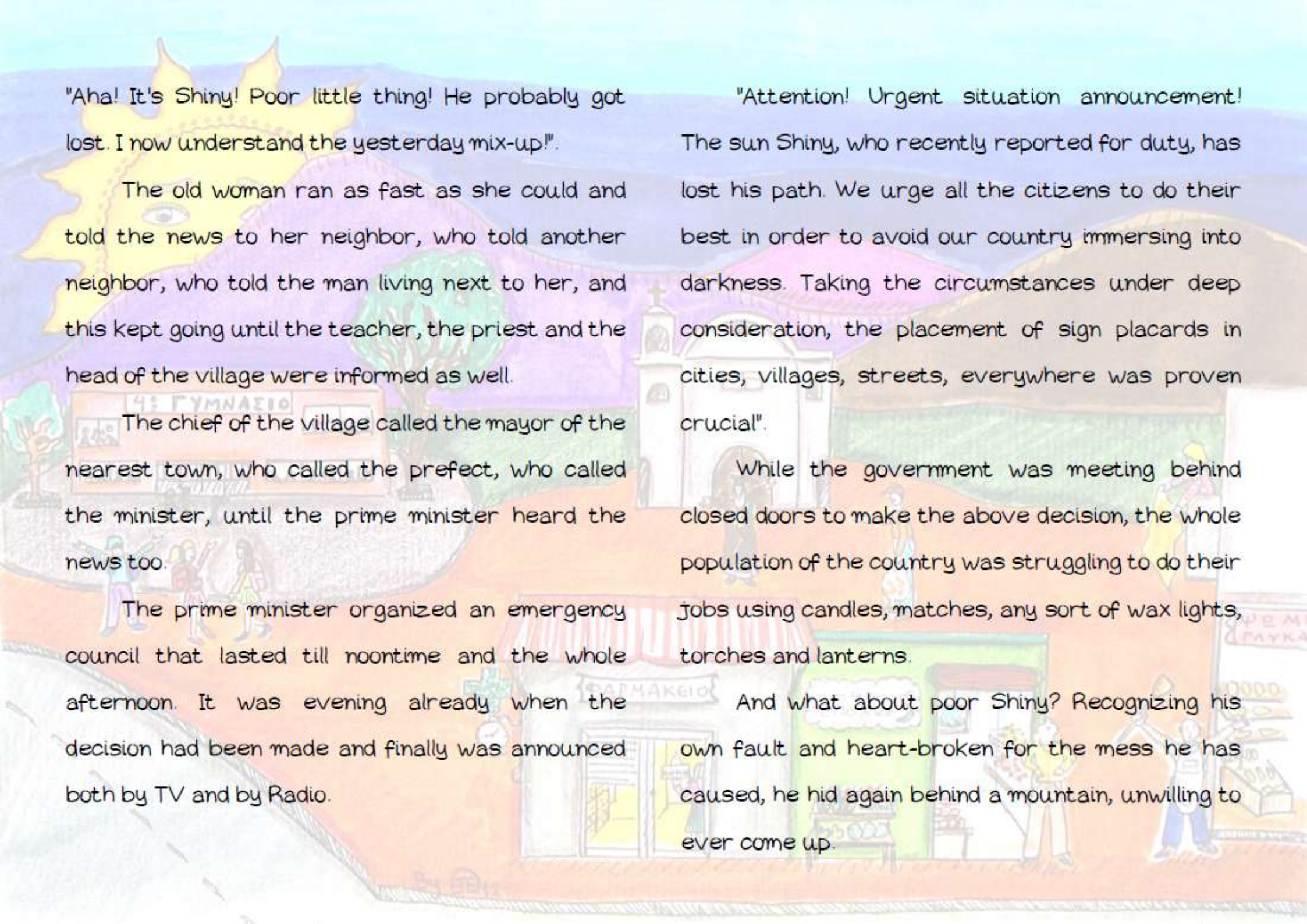
First thing next morning, Shiny woke up, he yawned and stretched and climbed up the mountain. He looked at his right, he looked at his left, and still nothing seemed familiar.

While climbing even higher and going on, he met an old woman feeding her chickens.

"Does the sun rise from the west now? That's it, the world is officially broken!" she muttered.

Looking more carefully, she recognized the little sun.





"Aha! It's Shiny! Poor little thing! He probably got lost. I now understand the yesterday mix-up!"

The old woman ran as fast as she could and told the news to her neighbor, who told another neighbor, who told the man living next to her, and this kept going until the teacher, the priest and the head of the village were informed as well.

The chief of the village called the mayor of the nearest town, who called the prefect, who called the minister, until the prime minister heard the news too.

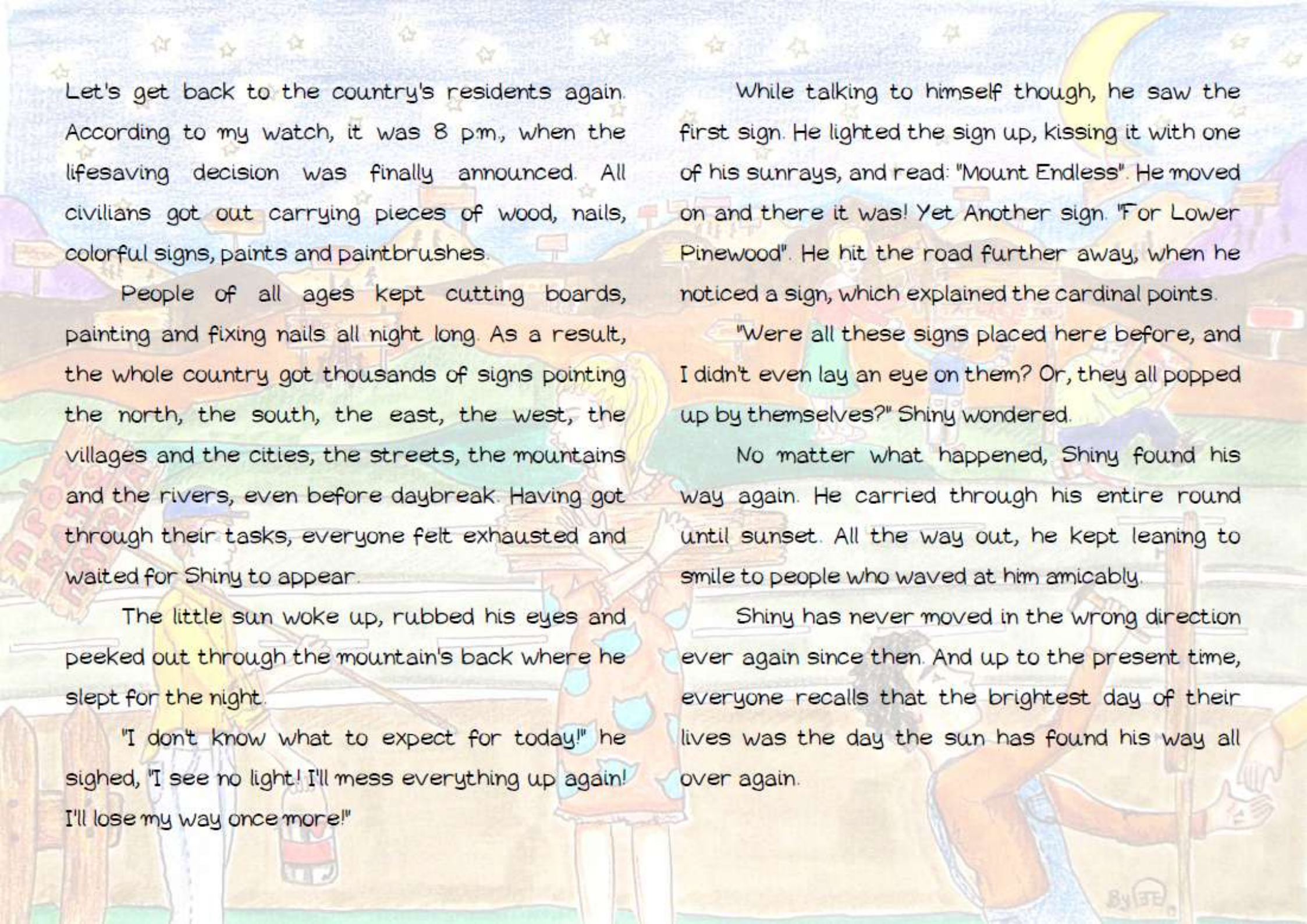
The prime minister organized an emergency council that lasted till noontime and the whole afternoon. It was evening already when the decision had been made and finally was announced both by TV and by Radio.

"Attention! Urgent situation announcement! The sun Shiny, who recently reported for duty, has lost his path. We urge all the citizens to do their best in order to avoid our country immersing into darkness. Taking the circumstances under deep consideration, the placement of sign placards in cities, villages, streets, everywhere was proven crucial".

While the government was meeting behind closed doors to make the above decision, the whole population of the country was struggling to do their jobs using candles, matches, any sort of wax lights, torches and lanterns.

And what about poor Shiny? Recognizing his own fault and heart-broken for the mess he has caused, he hid again behind a mountain, unwilling to ever come up.





Let's get back to the country's residents again. According to my watch, it was 8 p.m., when the lifesaving decision was finally announced. All civilians got out carrying pieces of wood, nails, colorful signs, paints and paintbrushes.

People of all ages kept cutting boards, painting and fixing nails all night long. As a result, the whole country got thousands of signs pointing the north, the south, the east, the west, the villages and the cities, the streets, the mountains and the rivers, even before daybreak. Having got through their tasks, everyone felt exhausted and waited for Shiny to appear.

The little sun woke up, rubbed his eyes and peeked out through the mountain's back where he slept for the night.

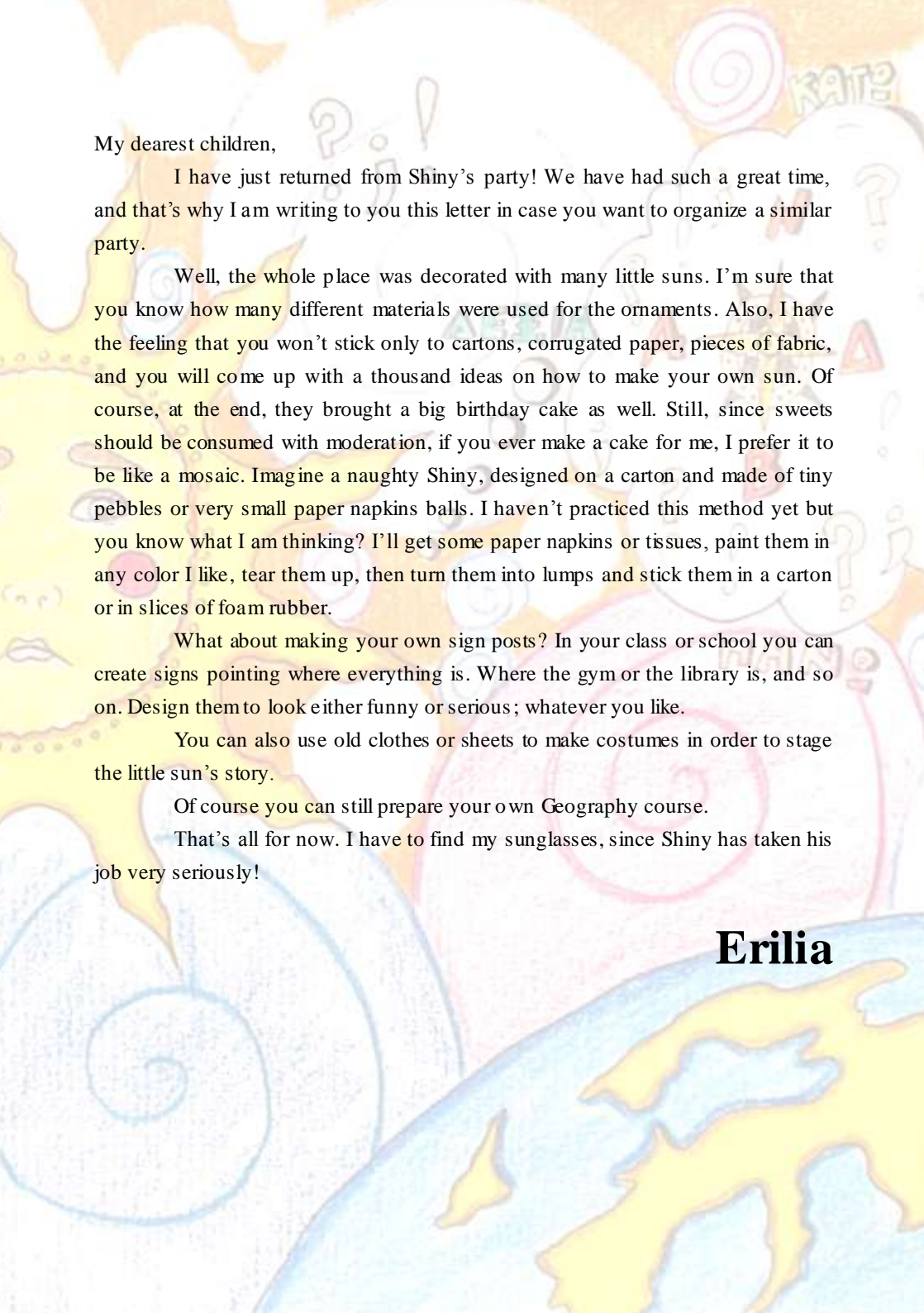
"I don't know what to expect for today!" he sighed, "I see no light! I'll mess everything up again! I'll lose my way once more!"

While talking to himself though, he saw the first sign. He lighted the sign up, kissing it with one of his sunrays, and read: "Mount Endless". He moved on and there it was! Yet Another sign. "For Lower Pinewood". He hit the road further away, when he noticed a sign, which explained the cardinal points.

"Were all these signs placed here before, and I didn't even lay an eye on them? Or, they all popped up by themselves?" Shiny wondered.

No matter what happened, Shiny found his way again. He carried through his entire round until sunset. All the way out, he kept leaning to smile to people who waved at him amicably.

Shiny has never moved in the wrong direction ever again since then. And up to the present time, everyone recalls that the brightest day of their lives was the day the sun has found his way all over again.



My dearest children,

I have just returned from Shiny's party! We have had such a great time, and that's why I am writing to you this letter in case you want to organize a similar party.

Well, the whole place was decorated with many little suns. I'm sure that you know how many different materials were used for the ornaments. Also, I have the feeling that you won't stick only to cartons, corrugated paper, pieces of fabric, and you will come up with a thousand ideas on how to make your own sun. Of course, at the end, they brought a big birthday cake as well. Still, since sweets should be consumed with moderation, if you ever make a cake for me, I prefer it to be like a mosaic. Imagine a naughty Shiny, designed on a carton and made of tiny pebbles or very small paper napkins balls. I haven't practiced this method yet but you know what I am thinking? I'll get some paper napkins or tissues, paint them in any color I like, tear them up, then turn them into lumps and stick them in a carton or in slices of foam rubber.

What about making your own sign posts? In your class or school you can create signs pointing where everything is. Where the gym or the library is, and so on. Design them to look either funny or serious; whatever you like.

You can also use old clothes or sheets to make costumes in order to stage the little sun's story.

Of course you can still prepare your own Geography course.

That's all for now. I have to find my sunglasses, since Shiny has taken his job very seriously!

Erilia



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