

# WHEN SUNLIGHT TIPTOES

written by **Gillian Sze**      illustrated by **Soyeon Kim**



**Early chirps and whistles,  
colors hang in the air,  
crumbs and crunch and sizzle—  
the light is everywhere.**

**VIBRANT LANGUAGE AND RHYTHM** celebrate the start of a new day in this uplifting poem about a city waking up. On a beautiful, sunny morning, a family runs errands along a city street. They visit a bakery, flower shop and fruit market. Exuberant in sounds and sights—a baker sugaring tarts, flowers greeting passers-by and pigeons cooing—the story ends as a new day of sparkling possibility begins. Written in pantoum form and illustrated with delightful three-dimensional diorama images that play with light and shadow, *When Sunlight Tiptoes* is sure to brighten the day of the littlest readers.

**Gillian Sze** is the author of multiple poetry collections and children's books, including *The Night Is Deep and Wide* and *My Love for You Is Always*. Her work has been nominated for the Quebec Writers Federation's A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry and has received awards such as the University of Winnipeg Writers' Circle Prize and the 3Macs carte blanche Prize. Her writing for children has received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*. Gillian studied creative writing and English literature at Concordia University and received a PhD in études anglaises from the Université de Montréal. Originally from Winnipeg, she now resides in Montreal, where she teaches creative writing and literature.

**Soyeon Kim** is a Korean-born artist and educator currently living in Toronto. She is a graduate of the visual arts and education programs at York University and has participated in artist residences at the Hermitage (St. Petersburg, Russia), Spark Box Studios (Picton, Ontario) and the Toronto Public Library. She has illustrated a number of children's picture books, including *Once Upon an Hour, You Are Stardust, Wild Ideas, Is This Panama?, Sukaq and the Raven, You Are Never Alone* and *A Last Goodbye*. Soyeon won the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award in 2013.

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# When Sunlight Tiptoes

**Author:** Gillian Sze

**Illustrator:** Soyeon Kim

March 14, 2023

Stunning three-dimensional diorama illustrations complement this poetic celebration of the early morning sounds and sights of a city.

**FORMAT**

6 x 6"  
20 pages

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## KEY SELLING POINTS

- The story is a celebration of morning and follows a family along a city street as they run errands, enjoying the rich urban sounds and sights of a new day.
- The text is written in pantoum form (Malayan in origin). Similar to the villanelle, the pantoum is a closed form that is characterized by its quatrains, repetition and rhyme scheme.
- The meticulous illustration process for this book includes sketching and painting techniques to create three-dimensional dioramas that were then photographed.
- *When Sunlight Tiptoes* is a companion to *The Night Is Deep and Wide* (a NYPL Best Book of 2021). Both texts center on differing perceptions of light. While *The Night Is Deep and Wide* uses poetic language to slow down and lull the listener, *When Sunlight Tiptoes* uses poetic language to mimic the energy and rhythm of the morning.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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PHOTO CREDIT: MADIA ZHENG

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Soyeon Kim** is a Korean-born artist and educator currently living in Toronto. She is a graduate of the visual arts and education programs at York University and has participated in artist residencies at the Hermitage (St. Petersburg, Russia), Spark Box Studios (Picton, Ontario) and the Toronto Public Library. She has illustrated a number of children's picture books, including *Once Upon an Hour*, *You Are Stardust*, *Wild Ideas*, *Is This Panama?*, *Sukaq and the Raven*, *You Are Never Alone* and *A Last Goodbye*. Soyeon won the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award in 2013.



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL CULLEN

**Praise for *The Night is Deep and Wide***

★“A lovely visual lullaby to soothe the youngest readers to sleep.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Sze’s poetic description of nature’s slow unwind from day into night...Parents and caregivers are sure to use this board book over and over again during their child’s bedtime routine. Highly Recommended.”—*CM Reviews*

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# WHEN SUNLIGHT TIPTOES

written by

**Gillian Sze**

illustrated by

**Soyeon Kim**

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Sunlight tiptoes over our eyes,  
early chirps and whistles.  
“Good morning!” the city replies,  
crumbs and crunch and sizzle.



Early chirps and whistles,  
colors hang in the air,  
crumbs and crunch and sizzle—  
the light is everywhere.





Colors hang in the air,  
each balloon tugs on its string.  
The light is everywhere,  
dusting everything.

Each balloon tugs on its string  
while the baker sugars tarts,  
dusting everything,  
sprinkle, splash and spark.



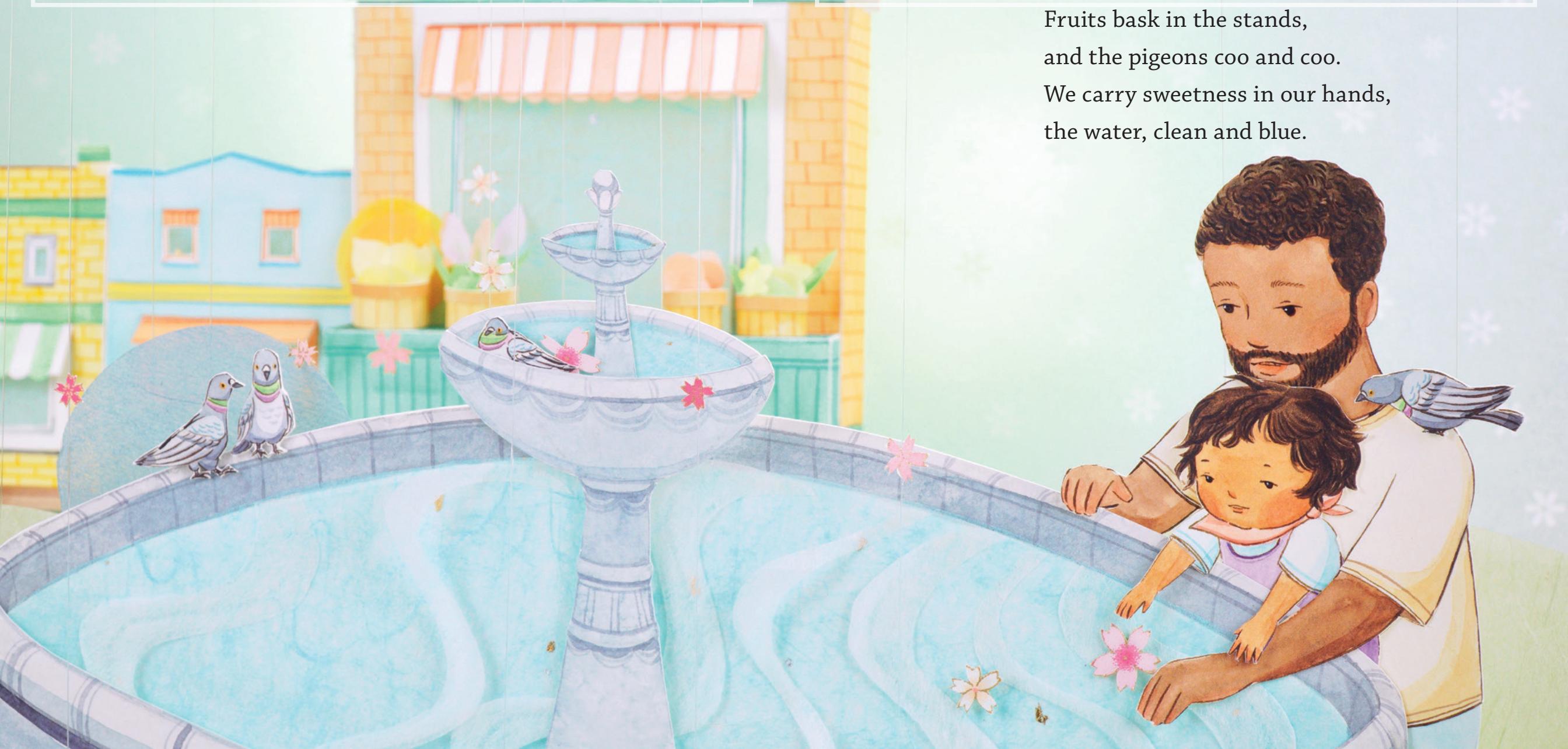


While the baker sugars tarts,  
the flowers are out for show.  
Sprinkle, splash and spark—  
each yellow pop shouts, “Hello!”

The flowers are out for show,  
and fruits bask in the stands.  
Each yellow pop shouts, "Hello!"  
We carry sweetness in our hands.



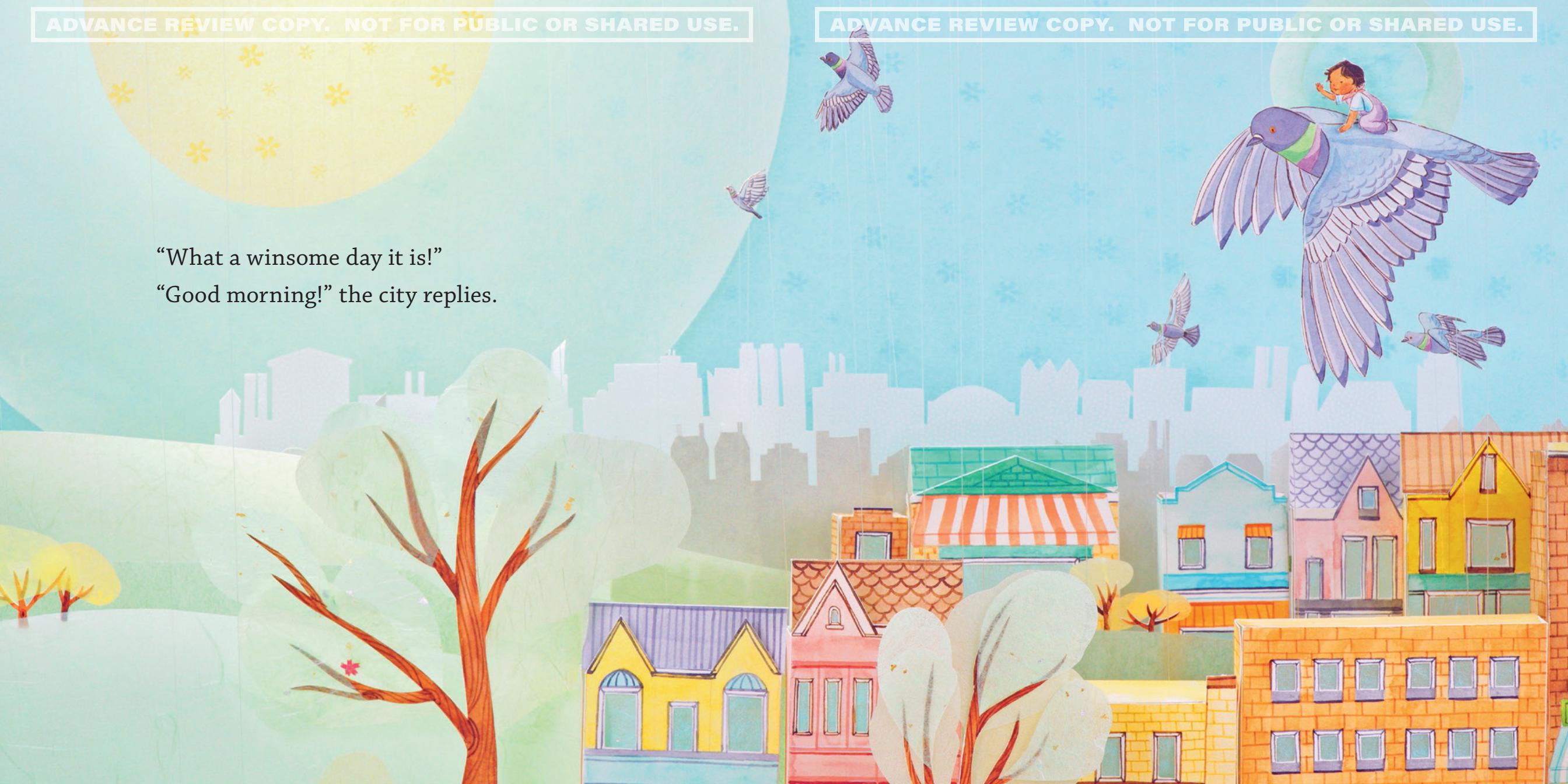
Fruits bask in the stands,  
and the pigeons coo and coo.  
We carry sweetness in our hands,  
the water, clean and blue.



The pigeons coo and coo,  
“What a winsome day it is!  
Look at the sky—so clear, so blue!  
There’s nothing else like this!”



“What a winsome day it is!”  
“Good morning!” the city replies.





There's nothing else like this,  
when sunlight tiptoes over our eyes.

For Liz Kemp, with cosmic gratitude and admiration.

—G.S.

For Joe Calabro, whose smile was as  
bright as sunshine filled with love.

—S.K.

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**Summary:** Stunning three-dimensional diorama illustrations complement this poetic celebration  
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