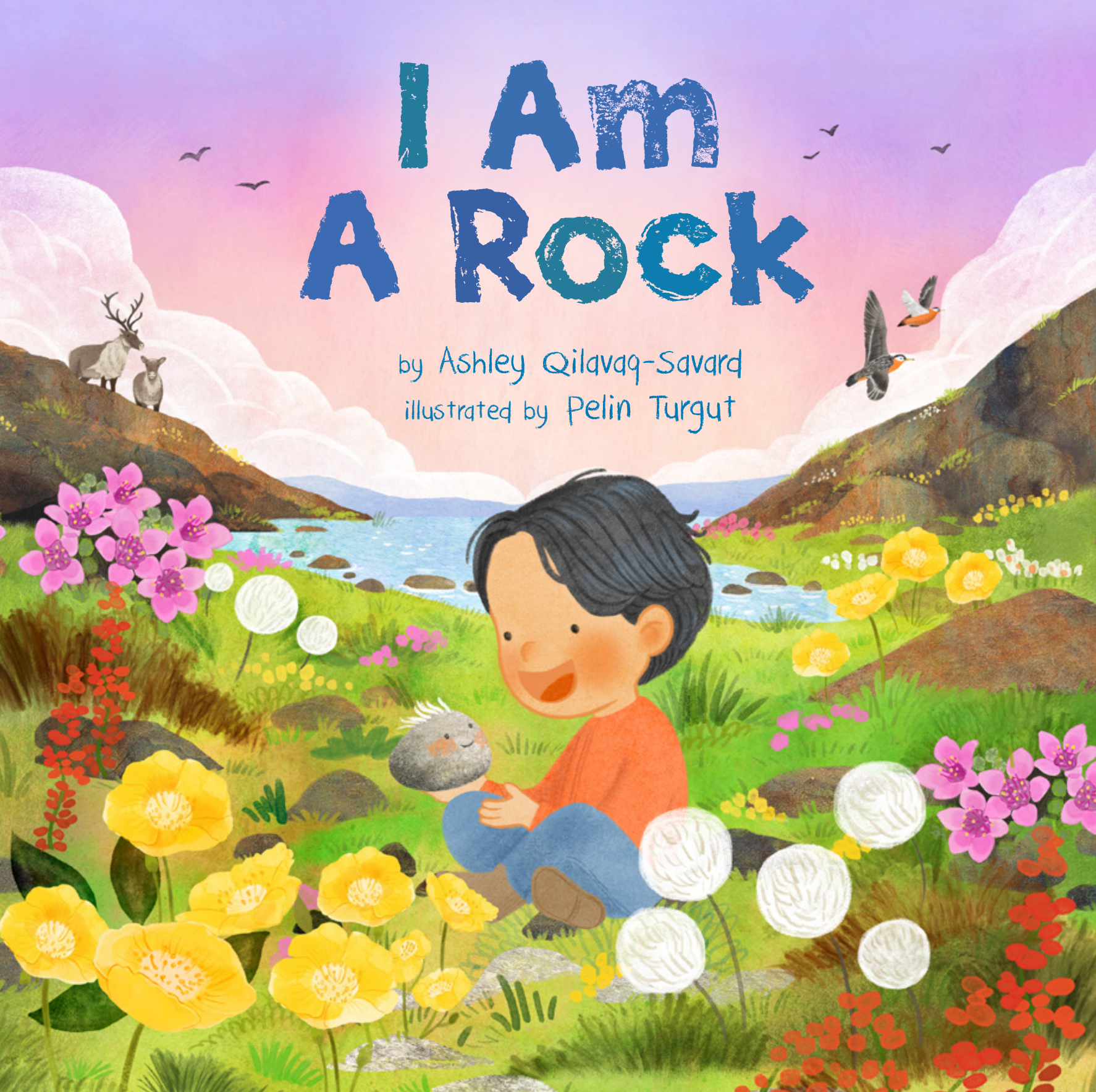



I Am A Rock

by Ashley Qilavaq-Savard
illustrated by Pelin Turgut





"*Andana*, what would it be like
if rocks were alive?"

What would it sound like if they
could talk?" Pauloosie asks his mom.

He lies cozy and snug in bed with his
pet rock, Miki Rock, by his side.



"Well, my son, if rocks were alive and could talk, I imagine they would say something like this . . ."



Andana holds Miki Rock and pretends he can talk.



I am a rock.

I do not fly.
I do not run.
I do not walk.

I live on the shoreline, and I get to watch
as the water ebbs and flows.

*I watch harvesting seasons with delight.
Seasons of clams, berries,
and running char,*

*seasons of snow homes,
foxes, and Arctic hare,*


*seasons of caribou,
heather, and ducks,*

*seasons of turbot,
ptarmigan, and seal pups,*

*seasons of snow geese,
eggs, and beluga too.*



"What can the rock hear, Anqana?" Pauloosie asks
as he rubs his sleepy eyes.



*I can listen to every sound
right here on the ground.*

*Every bird, every wolf,
every herd passing by.*

*Even the little lemmings,
I hear them too.*

*From chirps to howls to
beating hooves and squeaks,
I can hear them all.*



"Anana, can Miki Rock feel anything?"
Pauloosie asks after a big yawn.



Yes, I experience spring melt, and the soft snow that blankets me.



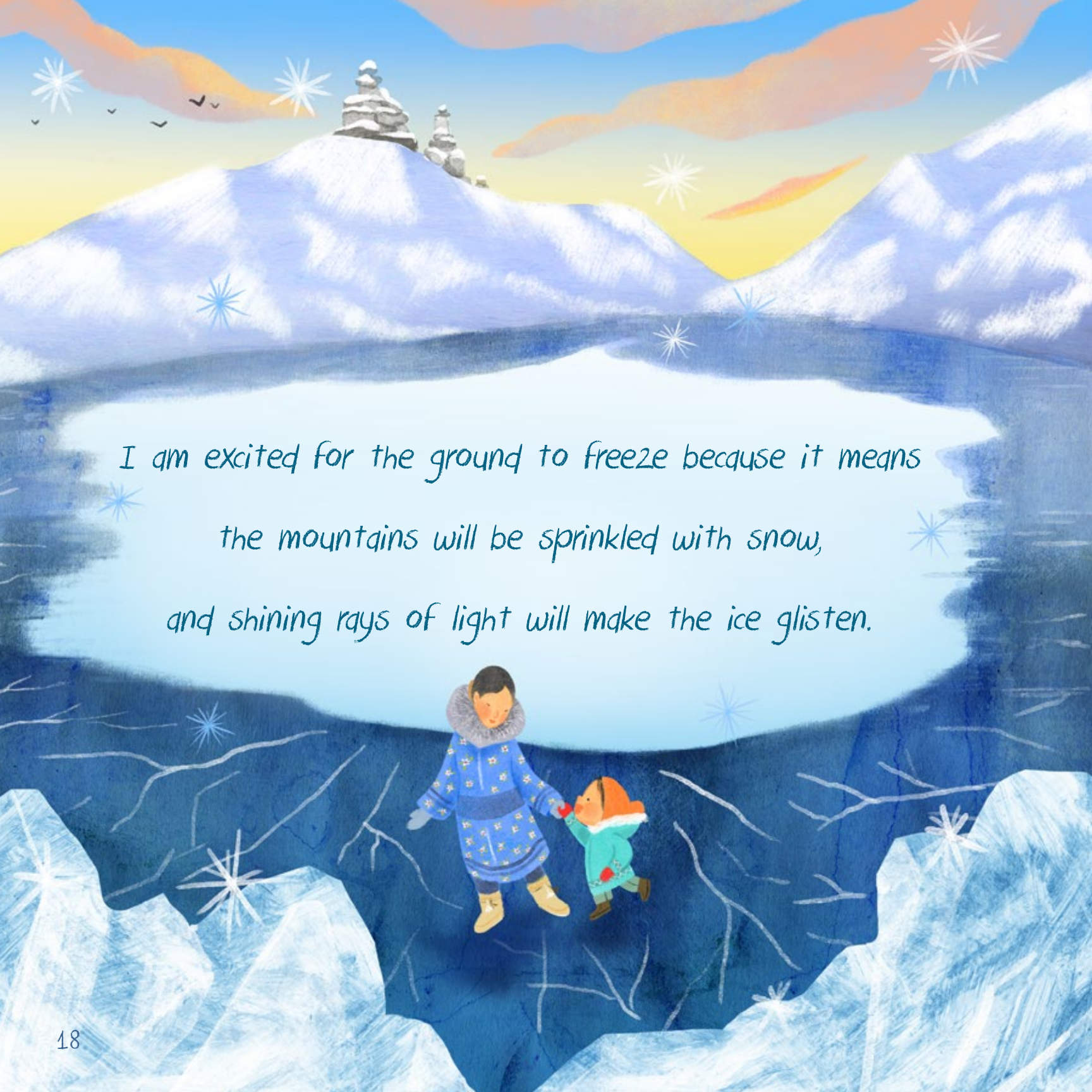
I feel the joy of the sun's warm kiss,



and the cool Arctic breeze brushing by.



I feel happy as the land breathes brilliant colours around me.



*I am excited for the ground to freeze because it means
the mountains will be sprinkled with snow,
and shining rays of light will make the ice glisten.*

I patiently watch as the sun says goodnight,



to dance and sing through the northern lights.





I am a rock.

*I watch, I hear, and I feel life on the land
time and time again, until one day you pick me up
and bring me home.*

*With you I can fly,
I can run,
and I can walk.*

I am
your
rock.



Anaana puts Miki Rock beside sleeping Pauloosie,
and kisses his forehead.



Ashley Qilavaq-Savard is an Inuk writer, artist, and emerging filmmaker born and raised in Iqaluit, Nunavut. She is the author of *Where the Sea Kinks the Land*, which is about decolonizing narratives, healing from intergenerational trauma, and love of the land and culture. She has published two short stories relating to her Inuit culture, "My very First Ulu" with *Nipiit* magazine and "Miki and the Aqsarniit" with *Chirp* magazine. Since attending the Vancouver Film School, Ashley has led acting and storytelling workshops for children and youth with the Qaggiavuut Performing Arts Society and the Labrador Creative Arts Festival. Ashley also creates sealskin and beaded jewellery, and is a dedicated student of Inuktitut.

Pelin Turgut is an illustrator, born and raised in Turkey. She completed her undergraduate studies at Yeditepe University of Fine Arts, Faculty of Graphic Design. Since 2018, she has illustrated many children's books. Pelin loves what she does, and she continues to work in her studio in Bodrum, Turkey, to make her dreams come true.