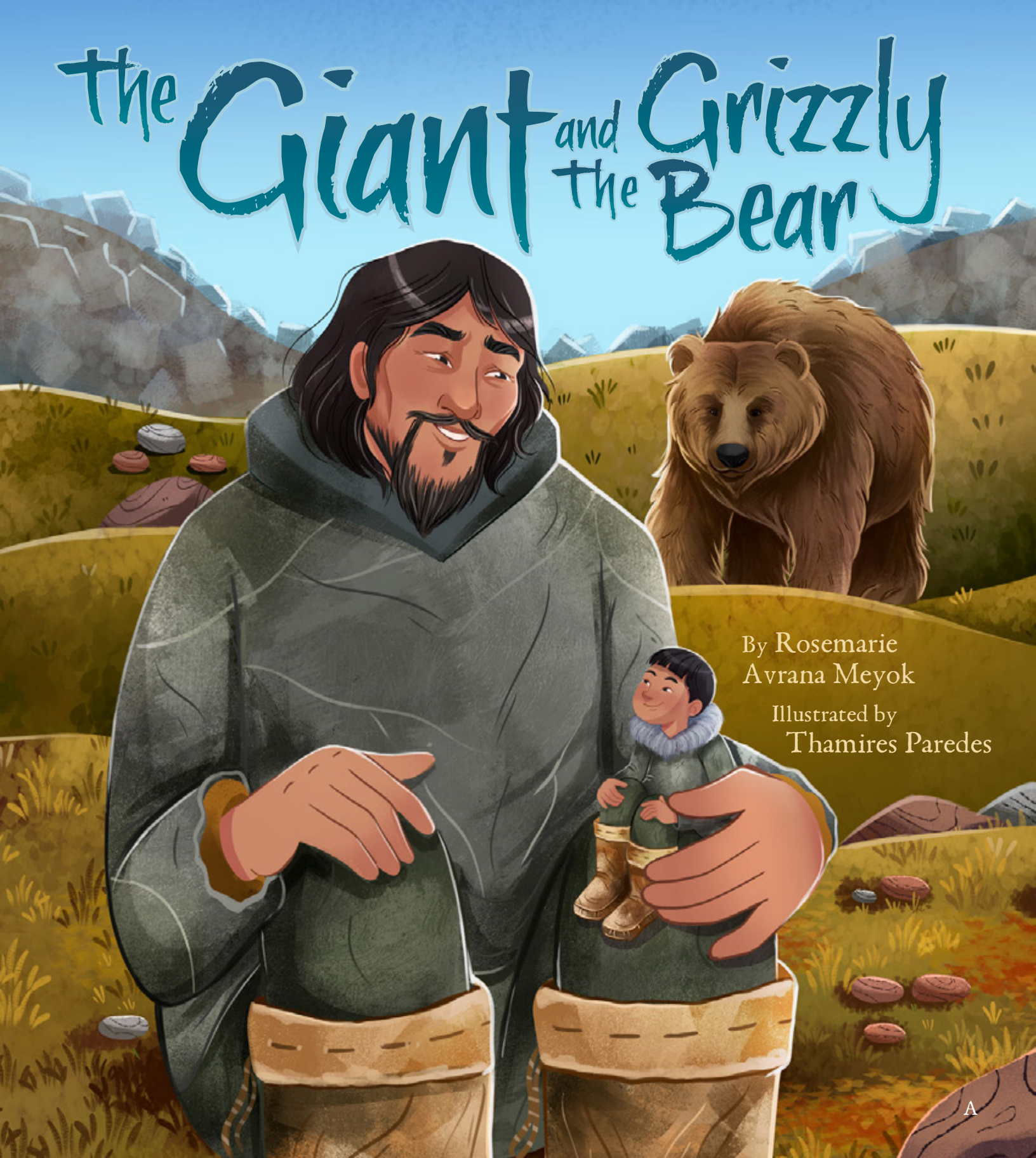


The Giant and the Grizzly Bear

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It was said that a long time ago, a giant lived by himself.

One day, as he walked the tundra, he came across a recently abandoned family camp. He looked around the campsite.

Not far from the tent ring, he came across caribou skins and heard the soft whimpering of a young child.





The frightened child, who had been left by his family, was hiding amongst the skins. The giant carried the child back with him to his tent and raised him as his own.

The winds were colder and stronger when summer came to an end. Autumn was the time of year when grizzly bears wandered the tundra in search of food before hibernating.



The giant would lay resting in his tent, thinking about preparing for the long winter months. Should he fall asleep, he asked the child to wake him by knocking him on the head with a stone. The child was to do this if he caught sight of a bear.





While the giant slept, the child played outside the tent. He made himself a bow and arrows from the willows close by. He would pretend that the rocks were caribou or muskoxen. He would sneak up to them and shoot his arrows at them.

“One day I will be a great hunter,” he said to himself as he pretended to hunt.



That was when the child saw a grizzly bear. He rushed into the tent to wake the giant by hitting his head with a rock, just as he had been told to do.

The giant woke up and saw the bear.

“That’s not a bear! It’s just a lemming!” the giant said, as he stepped on the bear.





The child, having learned from watching his family, tried his best to skin the bear and prepared the meat for food.



After a meal of bear meat cooked over a small fire, the giant settled comfortably to rest.

“My child, should I fall asleep, awaken me if the plain between the mountains is blocked by a giant bear and the sun no longer shines between the mountains,” the giant instructed.



Now, as the giant slept, the plain between the mountains really did become blocked the way the giant had described. There was no longer daylight visible between the mountains, just a huge mass of brown fur! The child rushed in to wake his adoptive father by hitting his head with a rock.



The giant rubbed his eyes and asked the child, “Is the plain blocked between the mountains?”

Rushing to peek out the entrance of the tent, the giant exclaimed excitedly, “A giant grizzly is approaching!”



The giant exclaimed excitedly, “Over there! There’s the huge Grizzly!”

The giant quickly stuffed his adoptive child down into one side of his *kamik*, tying the laces tightly so the child did not fall out.

“You’ll be safe in there,” the giant told his child as he hurried out and ran toward the giant bear.



The giant fought with the grizzly bear. He picked up the bear and threw it to the ground. The bear got back up and rushed toward the giant, and the giant did the same.

They clashed into one another, hitting the mountain and causing the rocks to crash down the sides.

All the while, the child hung on tightly to his adoptive father's leg.

It is said that those two running after one another caused the earth to shake whenever they stomped on the ground. Thus, they reshaped the landscape in the area.





The tired giant walked back to what was left of his camp, unlaced his kamik and put the child on the ground. Wiping his wounds, he turned and sadly said to his adopted child, “We will need to travel to find your real family.”

The battle had been too much for the giant and he was afraid he would be unable to care for the little boy.