

# The Rock *and the* Butterfly

Kathy Stinson

ILLUSTRATED BY  
Brooke Kerrigan







# What do you do when your rock disappears?

The rock and the butterfly are a perfect fit. The butterfly takes shelter on the steady rock after hours of flittering and fluttering, and the rock loves to hear of the butterfly's adventures after a long day of sitting in one spot. Then one day the rock isn't where it has always been—and the butterfly is alone. It can't find a comfortable place to rest, and it eventually collapses on the ground. When it wakes, the butterfly realizes that it is lying in the exact spot where the rock used to be, and it takes comfort in all that its beloved friend left behind.

**Kathy Stinson** has loved reading all her life but was almost thirty when she discovered she loves writing too. She is the author of over forty books for young people, including the classic *Red Is Best* and the award-winning *The Man with the Violin*. When not reading or writing, she enjoys photography, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords and walking her dog in the woods and fields near her home in Rockwood, Ontario.

**Brooke Kerrigan** has loved drawing ever since she was a little girl, so it seemed only natural that she would grow up to be an artist. Brooke has illustrated more than ten picture books, including award-winning *A Wee Boo* and the Blue Spruce Award nominee *A Plan for Pops*. Born in Toronto, she currently lives with her husband in the French Alps.

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**Author:** Kathy Stinson

**Illustrator:** Brooke Kerrigan

October 15, 2024

In this meditative picture book about loss, a butterfly finds peace in the memories left behind by its friend, the rock.

## FORMAT

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## KEY SELLING POINTS

- This poignant tale addresses what it's like to lose someone you love through a gentle metaphor and shows how even though you might stumble, comfort can be found in the memories that special someone left with you.
- This story was originally written after the death of illustrator Brooke Kerrigan's father, penned for her mother by Kathy Stinson. Kathy and Brooke then realized it was a universal tale that they could bring to the page.
- Kathy's moving text combined with Brooke's striking illustrations give this book the feel of a timeless classic that will resonate with anyone who's experienced any kind of loss and provide a jumping-off point for a discussion about grief with children.
- Kathy Stinson is the author of over 40 books, including *The Man with the Violin*, a TD Canadian Children's Literature Award winner, and Brooke Kerrigan is the illustrator of numerous books for children, whose work has received an honorable mention from the Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Kathy Stinson** has loved reading all her life but was almost 30 when she discovered she loves writing too. She is the author of over 40 books for young people, including the classic *Red Is Best* and the award-winning *The Man with the Violin*. When not reading or writing, she enjoys photography, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords and walking her dog in the woods and fields near her home in Rockwood, Ontario.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



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# The Rock *and the* Butterfly

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Once there was a rock that sat  
solidly on the ground.

And once there was a butterfly that  
flitted and fluttered everywhere.



After every fluttery day, the butterfly folded its wings and tucked itself into a groove in the rock to rest.

If the butterfly felt dizzy from too much flitting, the rock helped stop the world from spinning.

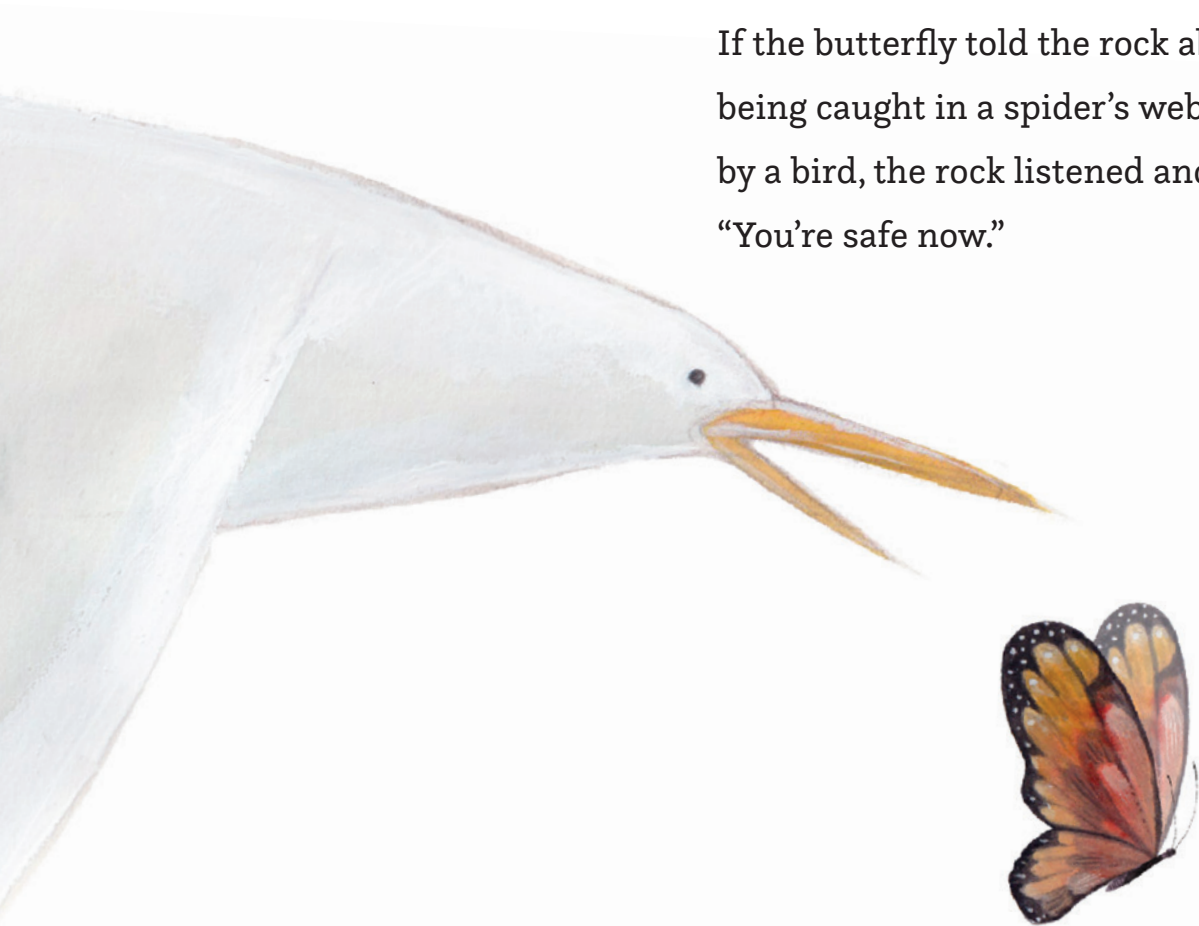






And after hours of steadfast sitting and going nowhere, the rock loved hearing all about the butterfly's flights of fancy.

If the butterfly told the rock about almost being caught in a spider's web, or chased by a bird, the rock listened and said calmly, "You're safe now."



Each was exactly what the other needed.  
The rock and the butterfly were a perfect fit.






One day the butterfly was sipping nectar from a flower when a child's giant fingers tried to grab its wings.

Terrified, the butterfly flew quickly back to the rock.







But the rock was gone.

The rock *couldn't* be gone.

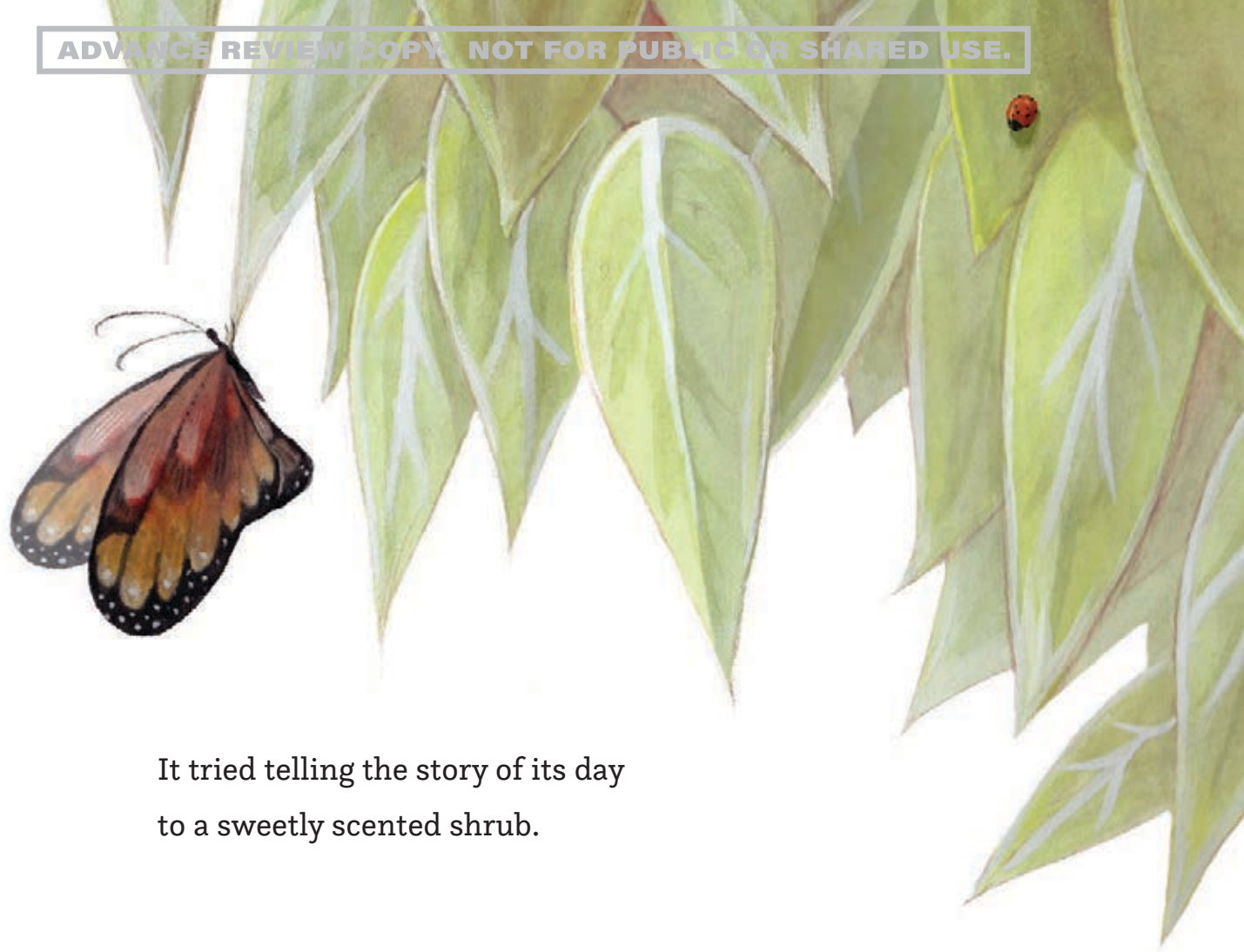
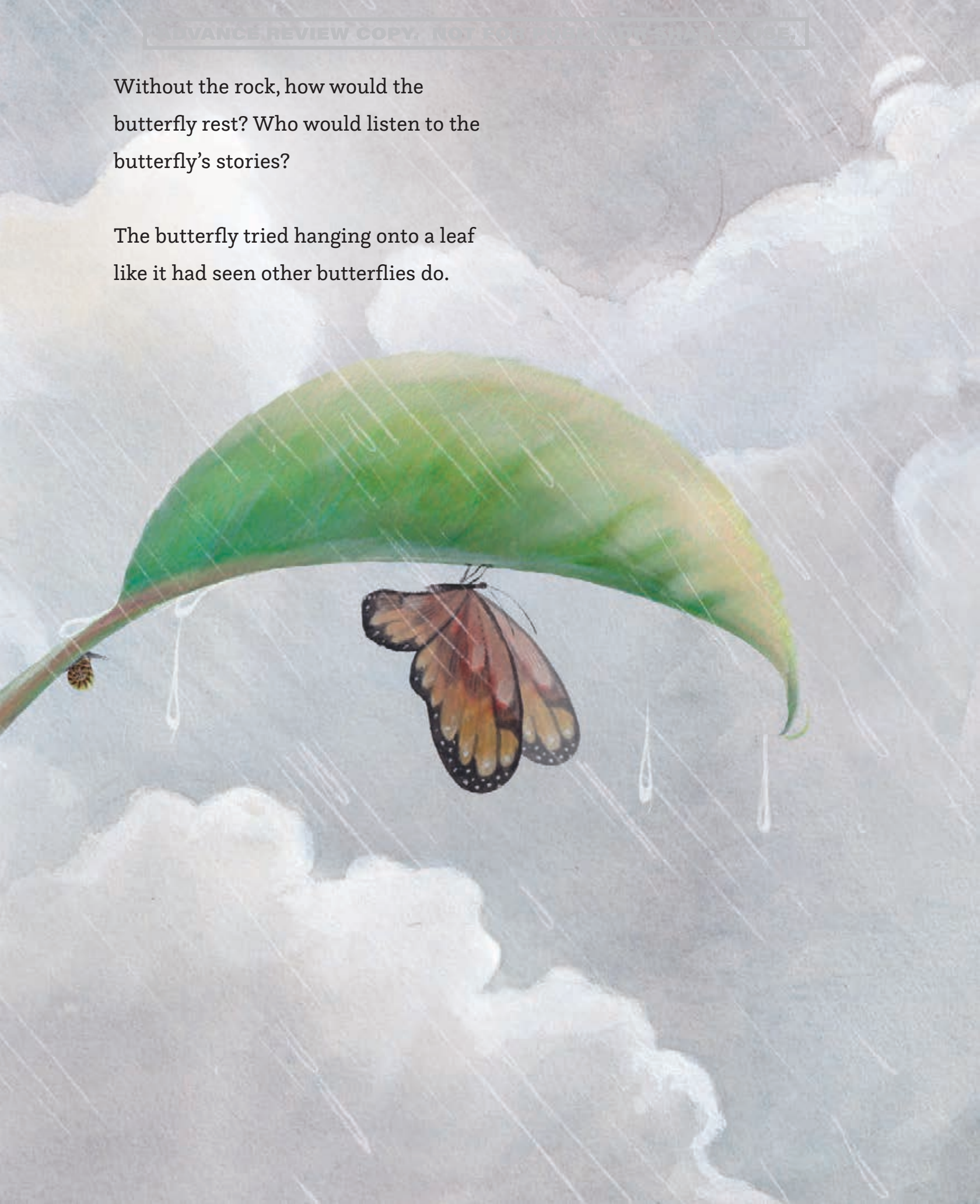
A rock was always where you left it,  
sitting solidly on the ground.

Wasn't it?



Without the rock, how would the butterfly rest? Who would listen to the butterfly's stories?

The butterfly tried hanging onto a leaf like it had seen other butterflies do.



It tried telling the story of its day to a sweetly scented shrub.



It tried snuggling down between blades of grass.



But the butterfly missed the solid feel of  
the rock and kept on flitting.

Try as it might, it could not settle down.



Flapping frantically, the butterfly feared  
it might never rest again!





Finally, exhausted, the butterfly collapsed.



During the day the sun warmed it.



At night the moon calmed it.







But something else, it seemed, was making the butterfly feel warm and calm. Something about the ground where it was resting felt...safe.

Soon the butterfly's wings began to quiver.  
And quiver some more.




The butterfly was feeling...fluttery!



When it tried moving its wings again,  
it felt itself lifting off the ground.  
Just a little.





The butterfly rose higher—high enough to see that everything around it looked familiar. And the dip in the ground was clear.

Where the butterfly had been resting was exactly where the rock had sat for so long.



High, high above the ground the butterfly flew!



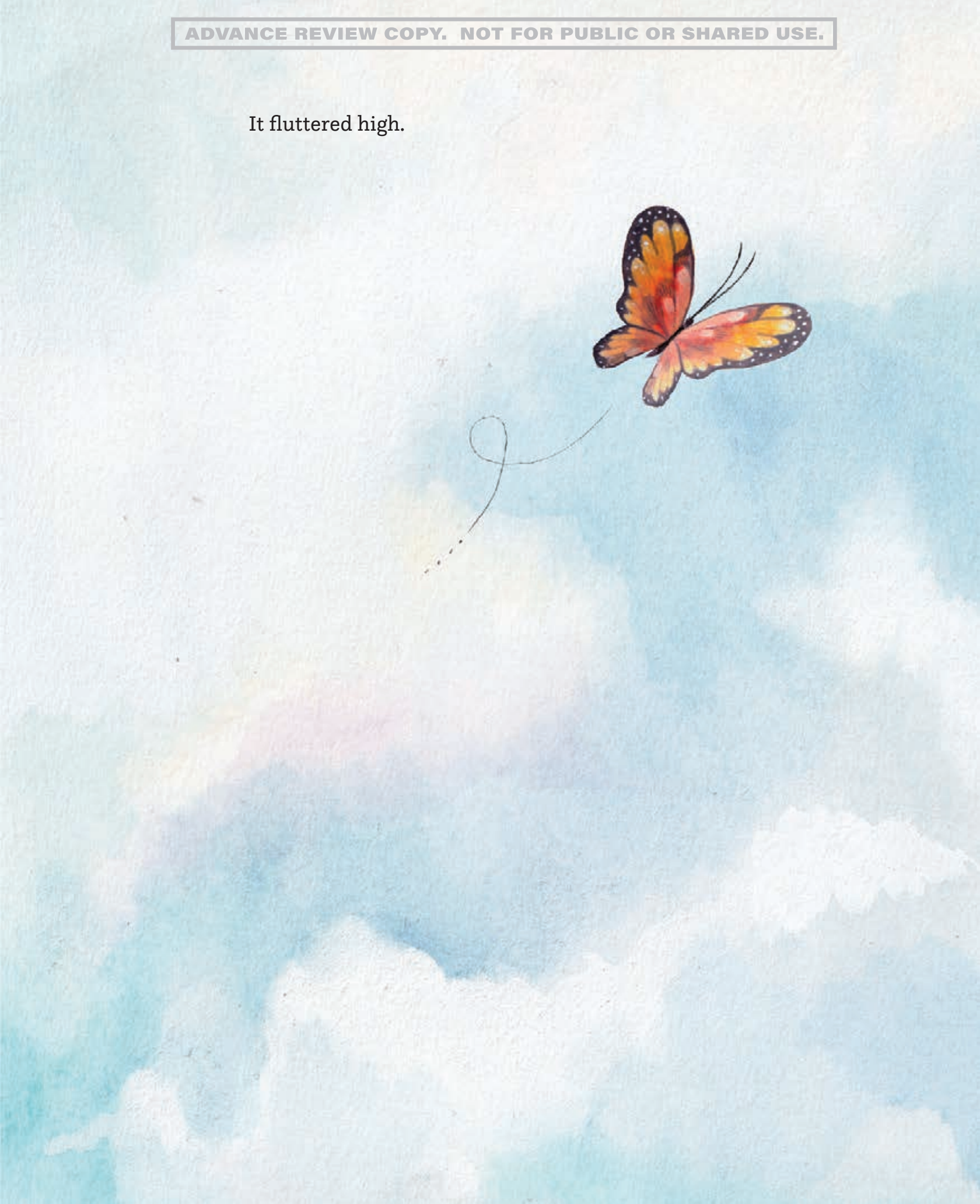
It flitted near. It fluttered far.





It flitted low.

It fluttered high.





And whenever the butterfly needed to rest, or had a story it needed to tell, it returned to that dip in the ground and all that the rock had left behind.

It was a perfect fit.





*To longtime friends Heather Collins,  
the original butterfly, and her rock,  
Blair Kerrigan.  
—K.S.*

*For you Dad.  
Still a grounding force in my life.  
You are always in my heart.  
—B.K.*



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**Summary:** In this meditative picture book about loss, a butterfly finds peace in the memories left behind by its friend, the rock.

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