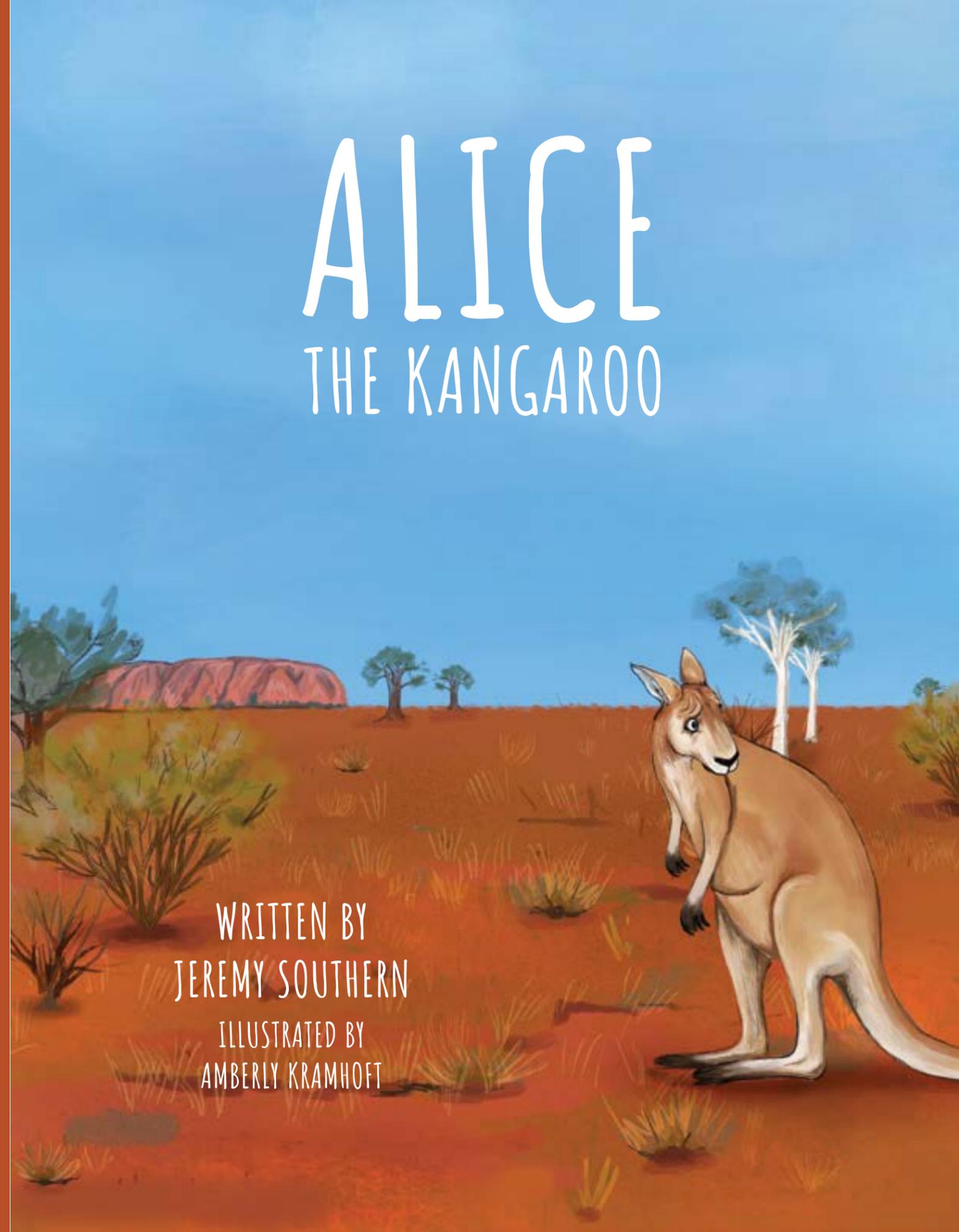




ALICE

THE KANGAROO

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In a sun-baked dusty desert
not that far from Uluru
lies a scrubland where you'll
find a herd of big red kangaroos.

Here they graze and spend their days
as happy as can be
beneath the leafy shelter of
a tough old Mulga tree.



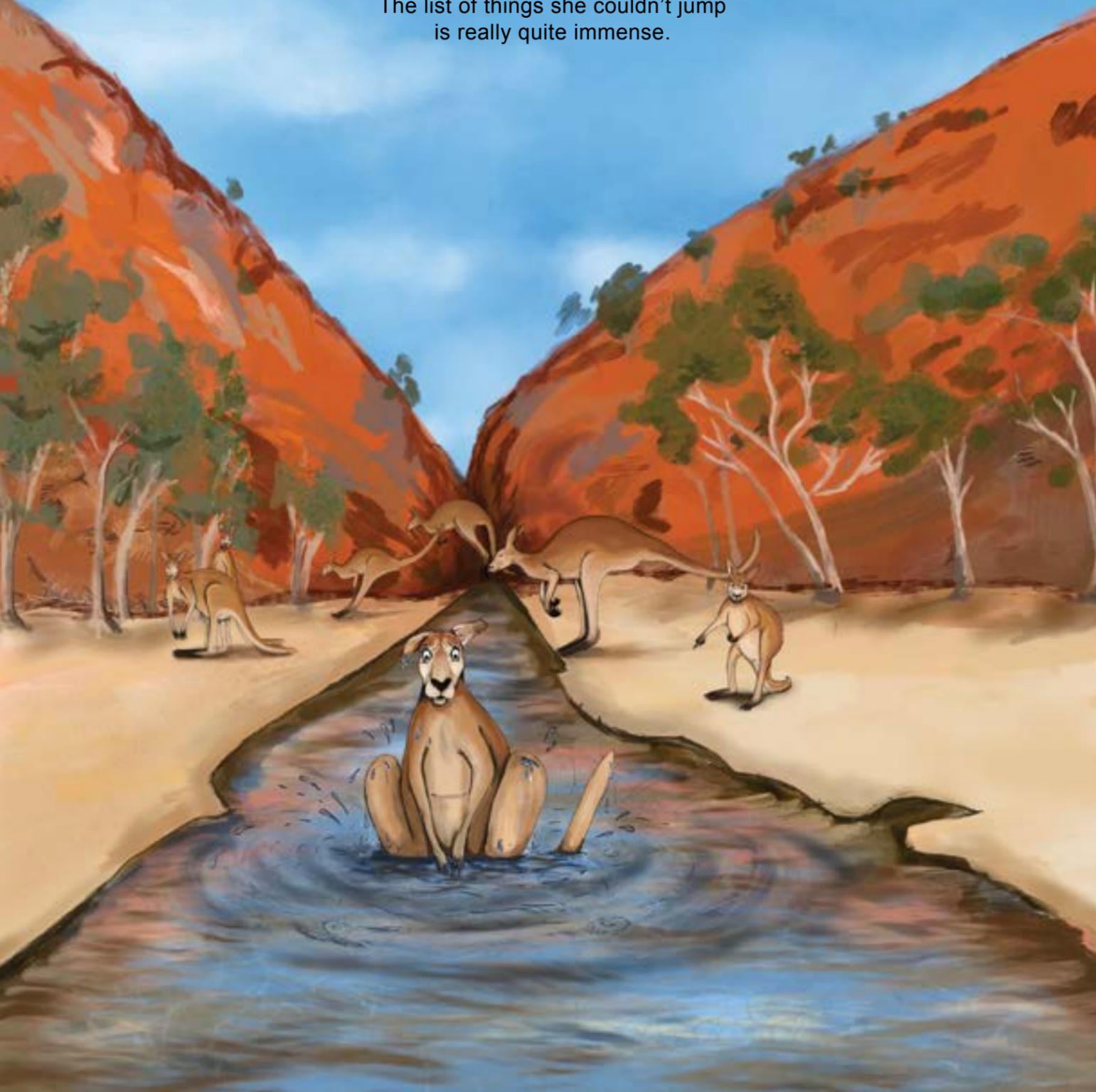
It's true that kangaroos are
mostly famous for their hopping.
They bounce along for hours on end
without the need for stopping.

And it's been found a single bound
can reach nine metres long
(I double-checked this on the Net
to make sure it's not wrong).



But now it's time to tell you
of a roo that I once knew
whose hop was such a flop it seemed
her legs were stuck in glue.

She couldn't leap a tiny creek
or clear the lowest fence.
The list of things she couldn't jump
is really quite immense.



She couldn't vault a grazing sheep
or clear a garden wall.
One day she tried but nearly died,
so nasty was her fall.



And then there was the time she tried
to jump a fallen gum
but had a trip and did a flip
and landed on her bum.



This roo (her name was Alice)
really meant to do her best
but simply didn't have the speed
to keep up with the rest.

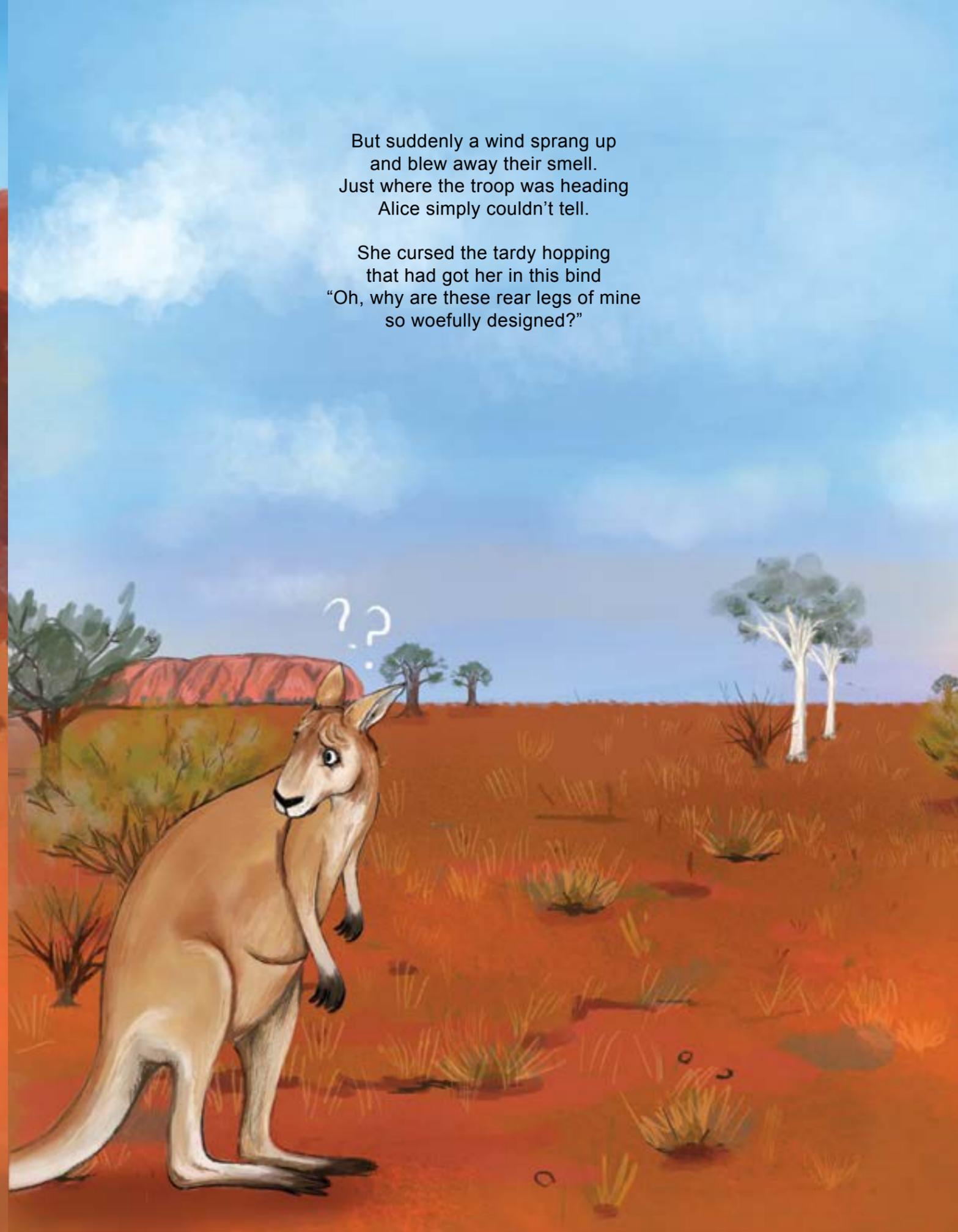
Before too long, the herd was gone,
and she was at the back
with nothing but her sense of smell
to stay upon their track.

One day the troop went searching
for a far-off billabong
and Alice wound up way behind;
it didn't take too long.

She stuck her nose into the air
to sniff the kanga scent
and used it as a way of tracking
where the others went.

But suddenly a wind sprang up
and blew away their smell.
Just where the troop was heading
Alice simply couldn't tell.

She cursed the tardy hopping
that had got her in this bind
"Oh, why are these rear legs of mine
so woefully designed?"





As Alice stood there moaning
with a tummy full of dread
she saw a sudden movement
in the tree above her head,

And spied a pink and grey galah
with coral coloured crest
who'd landed on a gnarled old branch
that led right to his nest.



This galah (his name was Gary)
had been out collecting seed,
'Cause in his lair he had a pair
of hungry chicks to feed,

When quite by chance he caught a glance
of our poor rueful roo
and thought he'd better head on down
to see what he could do.