



The Tale of the Royal Kangaroo

The Tale of the Royal Kangaroo
Text: © Michael Ford, 2006
Illustrations: © Regitze Schmidt, 2006
Printed by Schultz Grafisk

© 2006 AbZebra
www.abzebra.dk

ISBN 87-91687-14-4

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Copying or other reproduction of this book or parts thereof is prohibited in accordance with Danish copyright laws.

Earlier books by the same author - see www.michaelford.dk

Earlier published fairy-tales from AbZebra:

The Crooked Zebra

The Last Panda

Prince of Deer

The Spirit of Elsinore Castle

The Gnome of Hammer Mill

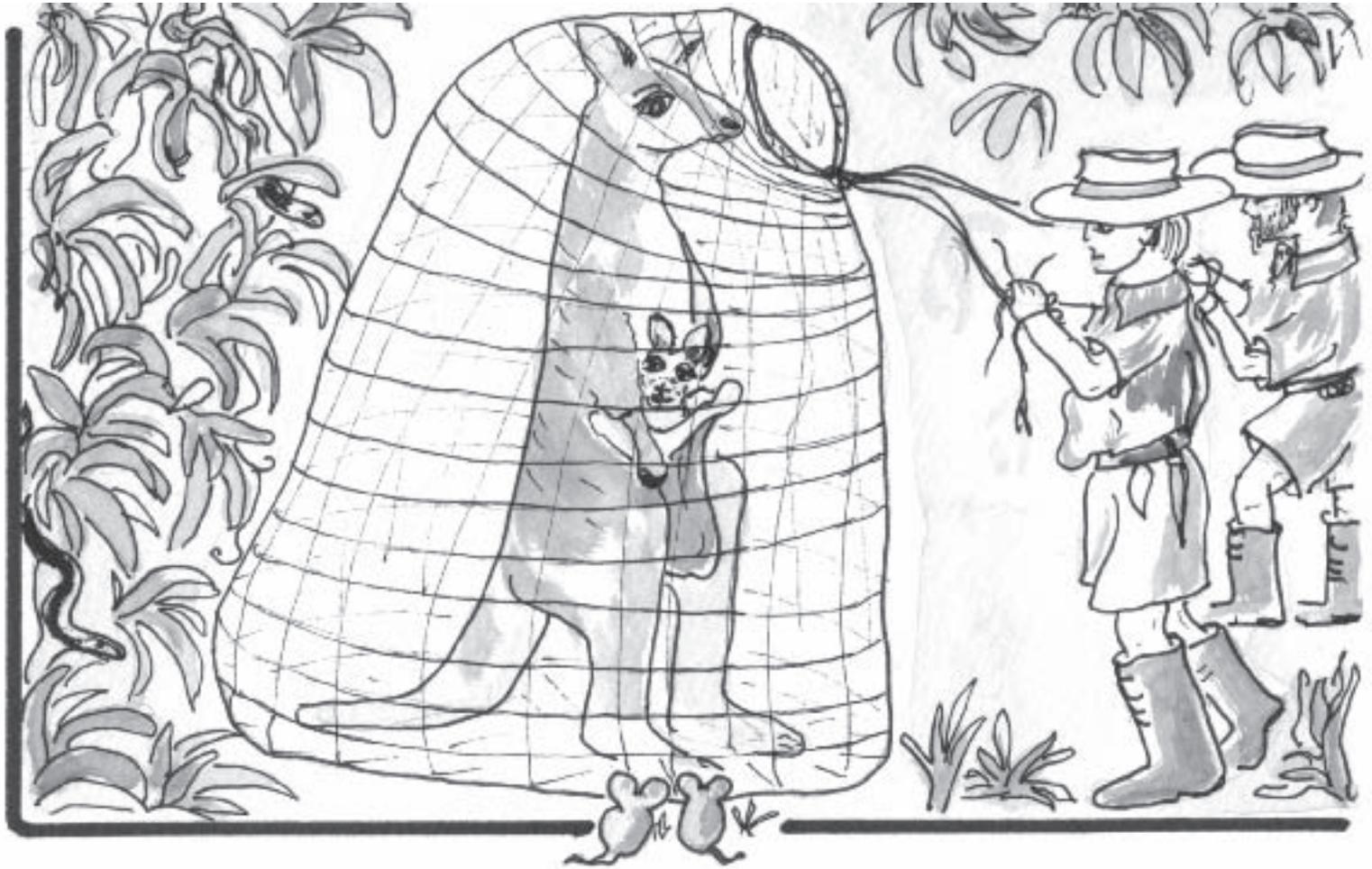
The original fairytale is a christening present
for Denmark's new prince on January 21st from
Children's Aid Foundation 6th of May 1904

Children's Aid Foundation 6th of May 1904
(Børnehjælpsdagen)
has H.R.H. Crown Princess Mary as patron.

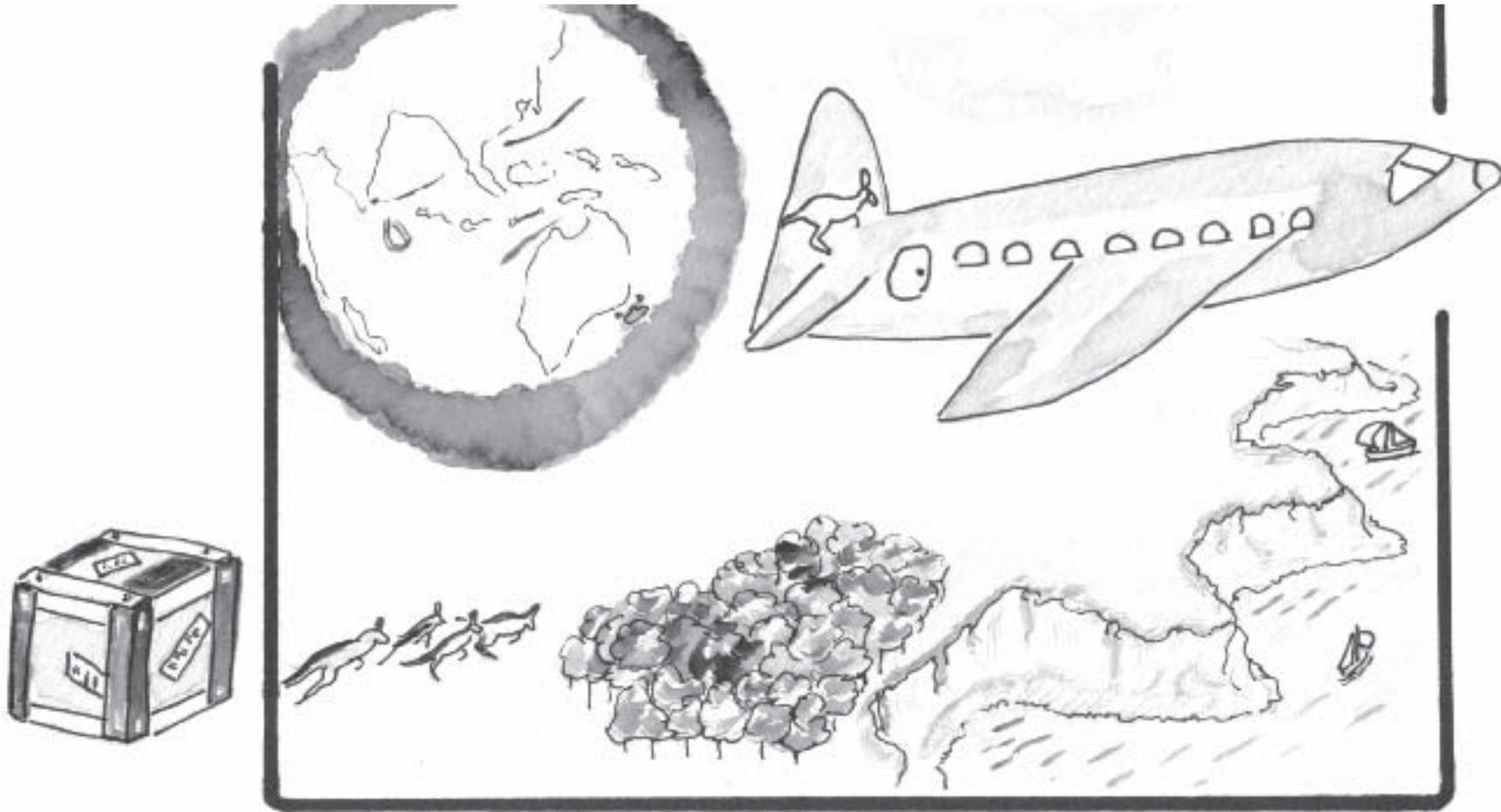
By purchasing this fairytale you support the foundation as agreed upon
by Children's Aid Foundation 6th of May 1904 and the publishing house AbZebra.



Børnehjælpsdagen



Once upon a time there was a little, female kangaroo who lived in her mother's pouch somewhere in the vast outback in Tasmania. One day kangaroo hunters arrived and caught her mother with a large net. And the little kangaroo sat absolutely still in her mother's pouch.



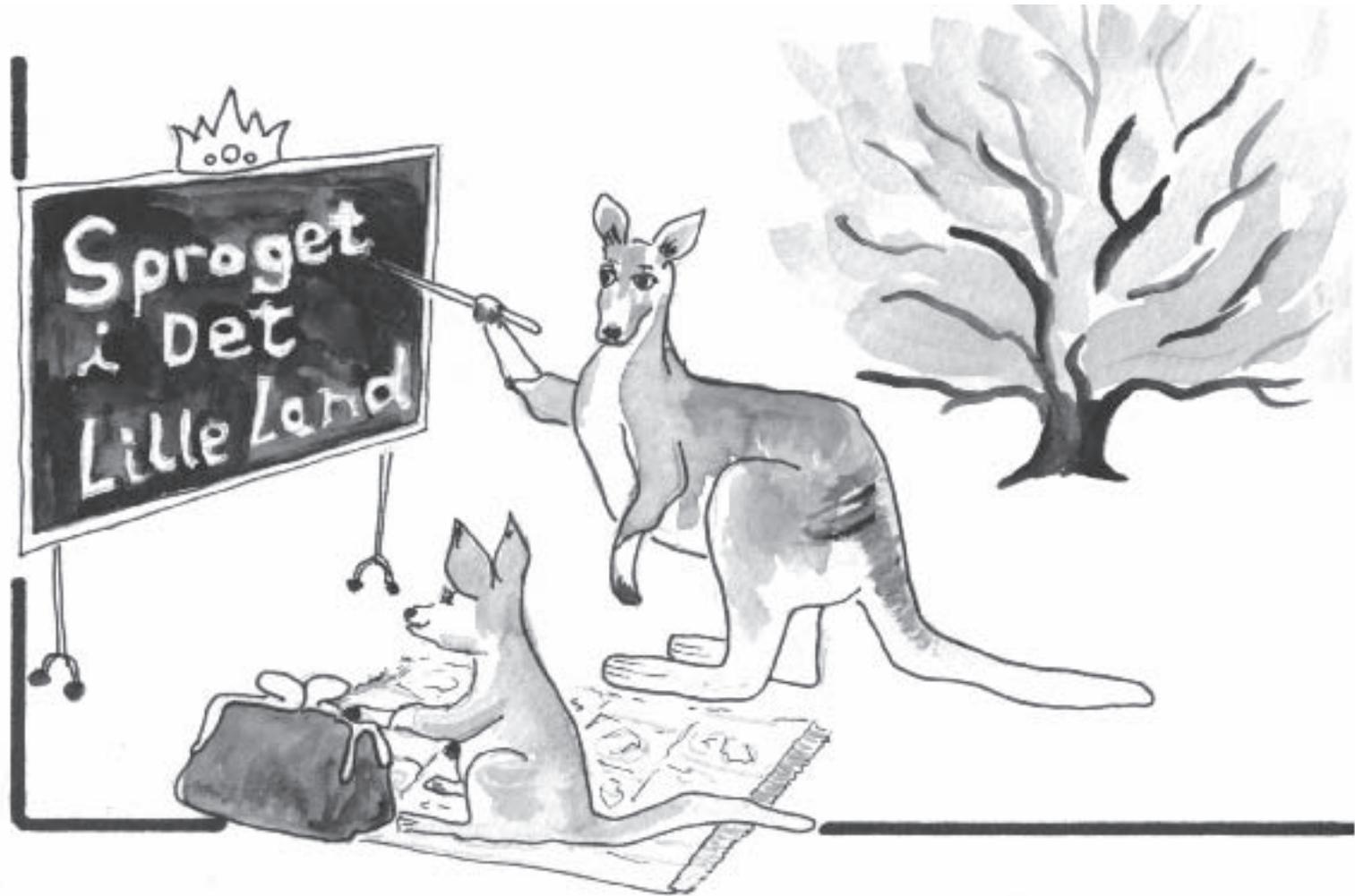
Then the little kangaroo and her mother was put in a box and loaded onto an aeroplane. They flew and flew, but the little kangaroo just sat perfectly still. When she finally stuck her head out of the pouch, she discovered that her mother had died.



The aeroplane landed in The Little Land on the other side of the globe. The box was taken to the zoo where it was opened. The director wept at the sight of the dead mother. But when he saw the little kangaroo, he was happy again.



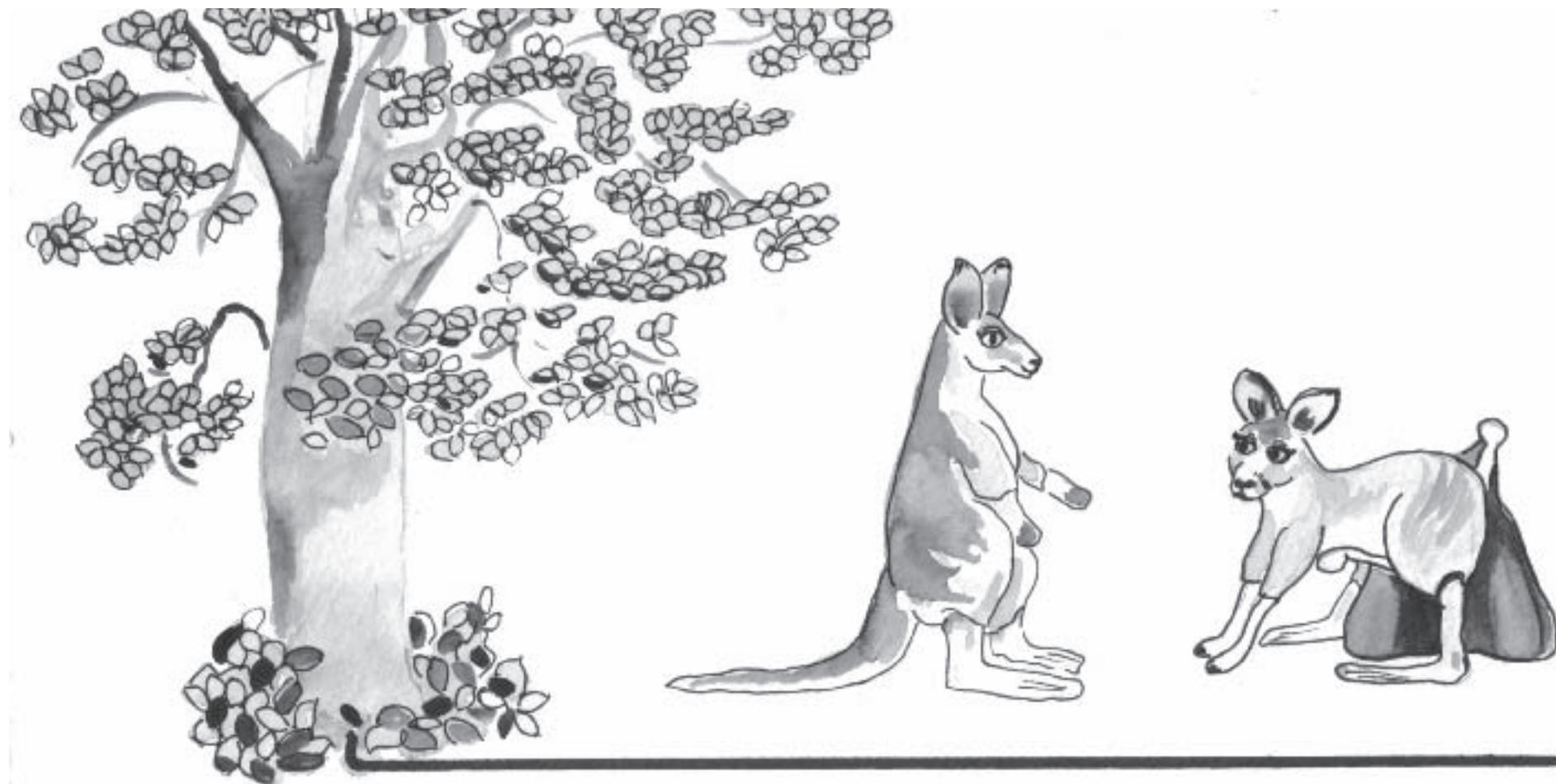
The little kangaroo was let in with the other kangaroos, but they refused to acknowledge it. Then the director of the zoo lifted it up and placed it in the pouch of the oldest of the female kangaroos. She was queen of all the other kangaroos at the zoo.



At first the queen did not know what to make of the foreign kangaroo. She was a pretty little thing, but she only spoke Tasmanian. So the queen ordered her eldest son to teach the little kangaroo the language of The Little Land.



The queen's eldest son was crown prince of all the other kangaroos. He was to be king after his mother. He was a strapping, young kangaroo with a handsome fur. At first he refused to do it, but then his mother gave him her serious queen look, and that was the end of that.



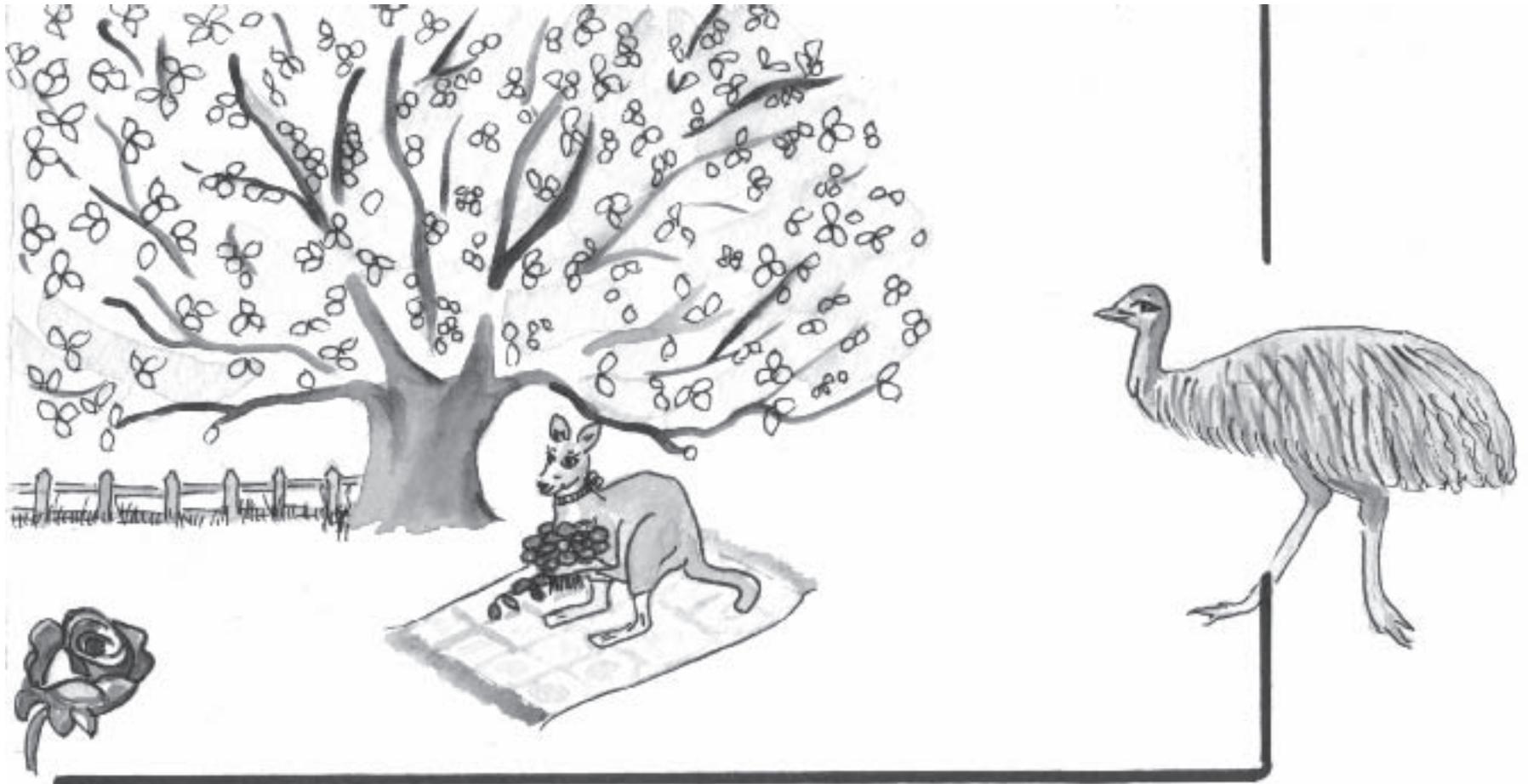
And when the little kangaroo jumped out of the queen's pouch, the crown prince saw how beautiful she was. She was quite different from all the other young, female kangaroos in The Little Land, and he took her to the huge, old beach tree where he loved to play.



The crown prince told her about the beach tree, which was the handsomest of all the trees in The Little Land. It had wonderful, green leaves, and in autumn it sparkled with yellow and brown and red colours. And then he showed her how to rub up against the broad trunk and the grey bark.



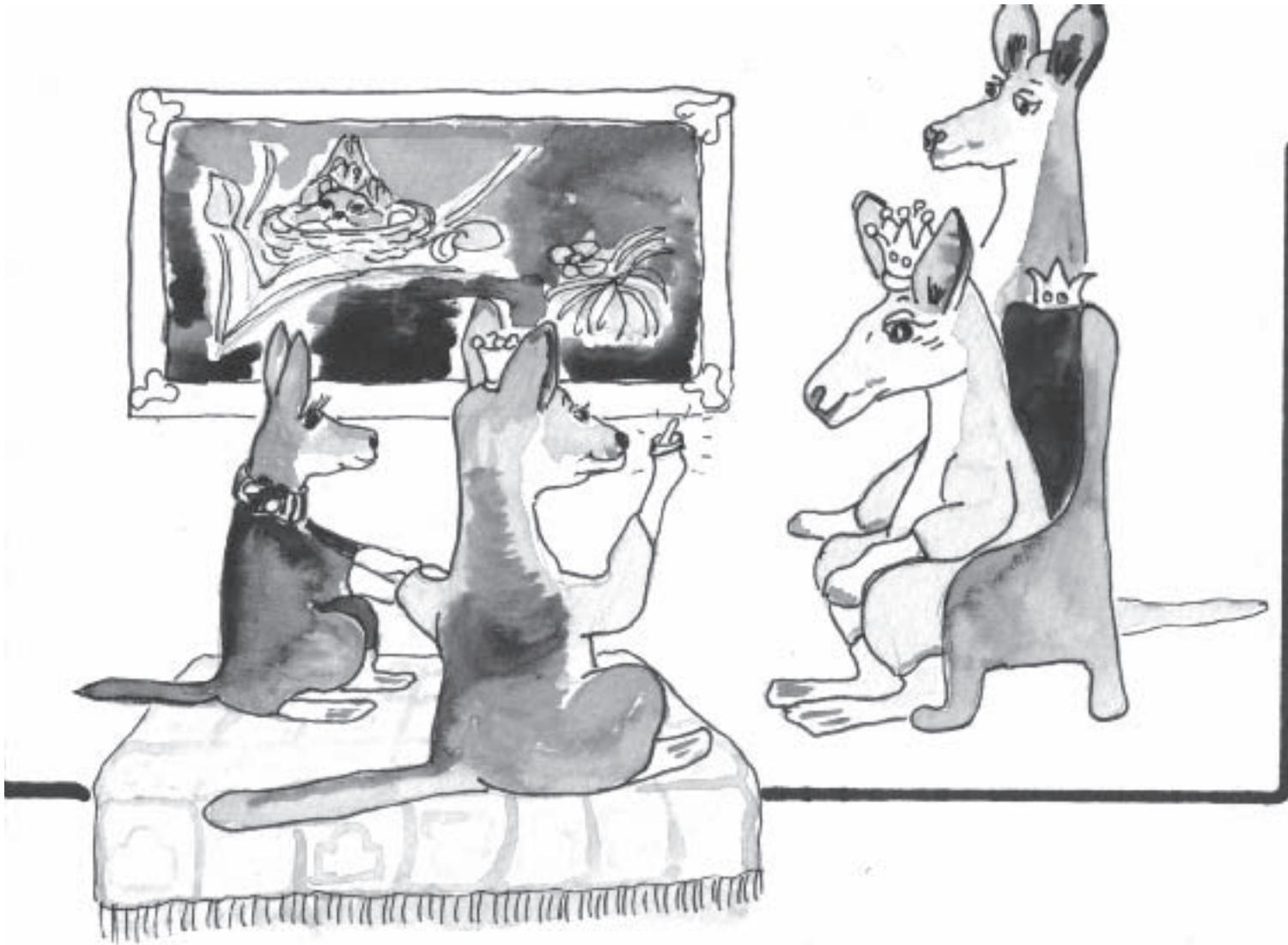
Time passed, and the little kangaroo grew up and learned to speak the language of The Little Land. She was now a beautiful, Tasmanian kangaroo, and all the young, male kangaroos wanted to marry her. But she had no eyes for anyone but the crown prince who had taught her the language.



Most of the time she spent sitting underneath the beach tree thinking of how happy she was to be in The Little Land. Both the director of the zoo and the queen of all the kangaroos had been so very nice to her. And then there was the handsome, young crown prince.



One day when the young, female kangaroo was sitting underneath the huge, old beach tree, the crown prince came jumping over to her. He smiled and asked her if she wanted to be his crown princess and share life with him there at the zoo in The Little Land.



The Tasmanian beauty told the crown prince yes, and then one fine day he summoned up all his courage and told his mother that he wanted to marry the kangaroo from the faraway land. The queen had grown to adore the beautiful kangaroo, so she agreed.



There was a lovely wedding underneath the beach tree, and the director and all the other kangaroos attended. The crown prince was happy, and so was his Tasmanian bride. And the queen blessed the young couple, who one day was going to govern all of the kangaroos.



And a short time later the queen proudly announced to everyone who wanted to hear the news that she was expecting a grandchild. And on a sunny day in autumn the little one was born at the zoo in The Little Land. It was a male - a royal kangaroo - and that's the truth of it!