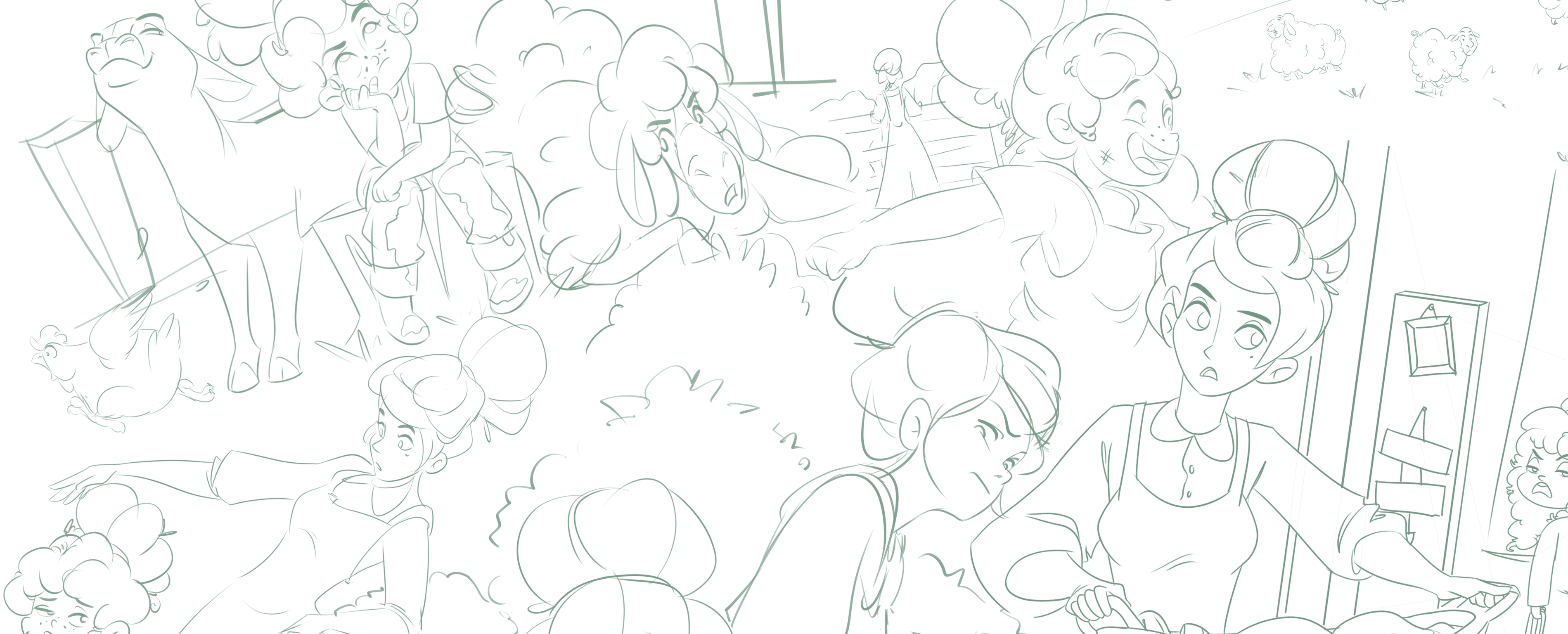


Kiyla Hulet

# MAGGIE'S MESSY MORNING



Illustrated by Kenneth Togonon





It was Saturday morning, and the sunlight peeked through the bedroom curtains. Maggie Marshall was sound asleep.

"Rise and shine!" Momma said, pushing the curtains open. "Time for morning chores!"

"It's Saturday! Can't I sleep for five more minutes?" Maggie groaned, pulling the pillow over her head.

"Maggie Marshall, those cows need to be fed, and the eggs have to be gathered," Momma said as she left the room.

Maggie slowly climbed out of bed. She stretched her arms, wiggled her toes, and yawned. "But it's Saturday," she mumbled as she got dressed.





Maggie trudged down the stairs, thumping each step heavily until she reached the front door.

She slumped her feet into her boots and headed outside.

The first thing she saw was the pig rooting up vegetables in the garden.

**“Silly pig, how did you get out?”**

*That naughty pig looks like he could use a Maggie hug! She thought. I'll come back for you later.*





While feeding the chickens and collecting eggs, Maggie noticed the rooster eagerly pecking the seeds on the ground. "You need a hug!" she smirked, setting down the egg carton.

She crouched down and crawled across the coop. When she got close, Maggie swiftly swooped him up by the leg!

**"GOTCHA!"**  
she giggled.

The rooster squawked and furiously flapped, causing Maggie to lose her grip.





She stumbled backwards  
and... SPLAT!  
Eggs went everywhere.



Momma heard the chickens cackling and came running. "Maggie, are you alright?" She was surprised to find Maggie covered in eggs.

"Yes, Momma," Maggie replied. "The rooster started chasing me, and I had to get away!"



She blushed as knots fluttered in her belly.  
"I tripped, and the eggs went everywhere. I'm sorry."  
Momma sighed, sensing something wasn't quite right. "Well, clean up this mess before feeding the cows."

"Okay, Momma," Maggie replied as she brushed herself off. "Yuck!" she muttered, turning toward the cows.







Inside the pen, she noticed the calf that had just arrived the day before.

**"I know you need a hug!"**

she said, determination glistening in her eyes.

She opened the gate and stepped inside.



Nearing the calf, Maggie held out her arms. "GOTCHA!" she squealed, but the calf darted between her legs.

**Her feet flew above her head, and she landed with a THUD!**

The other cows were startled, and Maggie quickly jumped up to close the gate.

But it was too late. The cows rushed through and began to scatter!



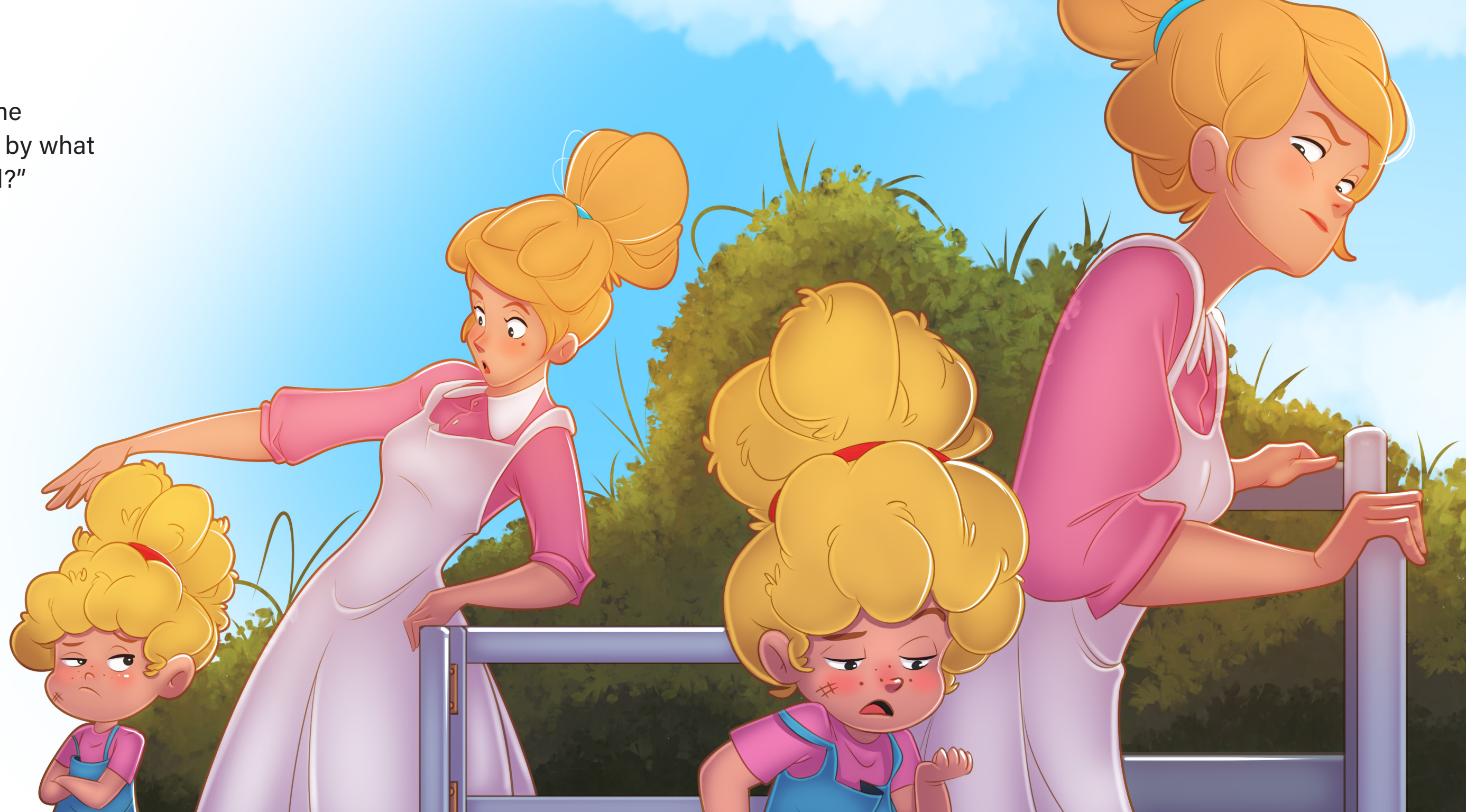


Momma heard the cows bawling and came running. "Maggie! Are you alright?" Baffled by what she saw, Momma paused. "What happened?"

"Well, Momma, I was going to feed the cows, but when I got here, they were all out! Someone must have left the gate open!" Maggie stammered. *That excuse was no good!* She thought as the knots tightened in her belly.

Momma's eyes narrowed. "Help me gather these cows, Maggie. Otherwise, they'll eat every leaf and stem in the yard."

**Then she added, "It just seems funny that someone would leave the gate open."**





After the cows were gathered, Maggie noticed the sheep grazing in the pasture.

**“I bet I can hug just one!”**  
she spoke softly. She paused  
and thought about the  
chickens and cows.





But with a quick skip,  
Maggie found herself  
opening the gate.

"It'll be easy," she  
whispered.

**"If I sneak up  
behind them, I can...  
GOTCHA!"**

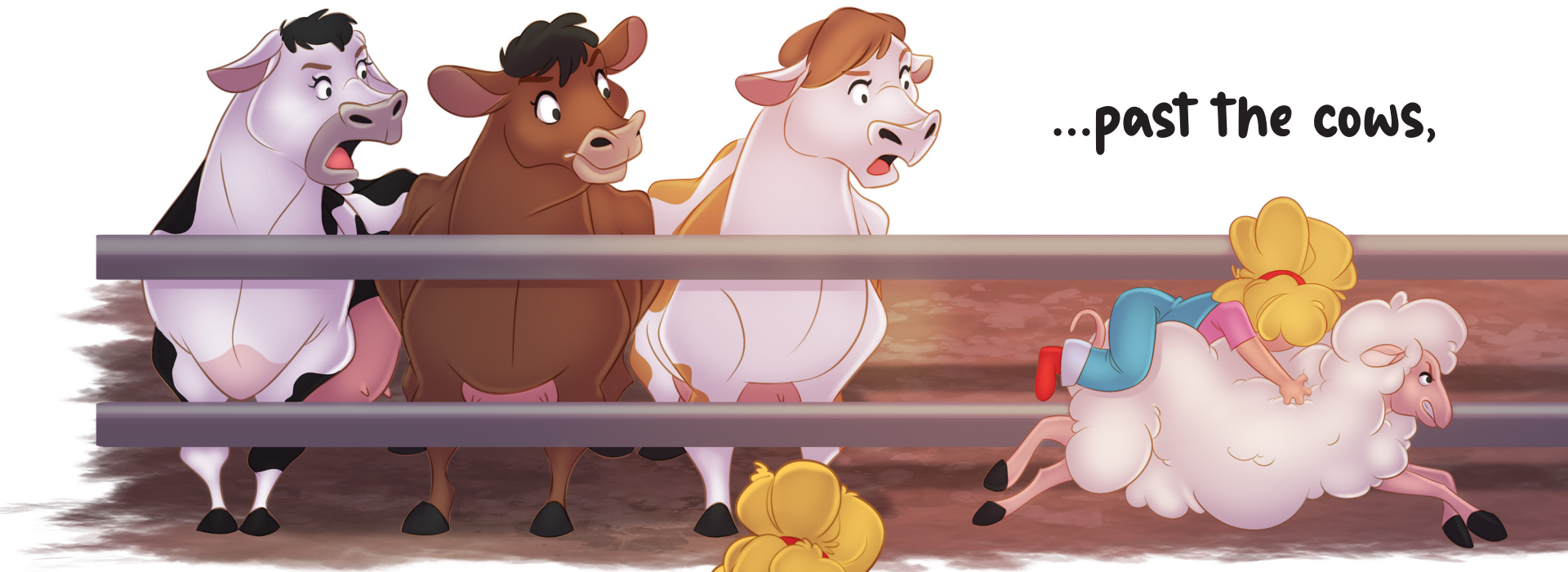




Maggie clung to the sheep's wool as they bolted from one end of the pasture to the other. They flew past the gate. Maggie felt the breeze through her curls and heard the puttering of the sheep's hooves below.



...past the cows,



They dashed through the apple orchard...



and turned at  
the chicken  
coop, when  
suddenly...





**They ran past Momma!**

**“Maggie!” Momma shouted.**

But Maggie couldn't hear her.  
She was too busy hanging on!

Momma yelled, “MAGGIE  
MARSHALL, YOU GET  
OFF THAT SHEEP THIS  
INSTANT!”

**Maggie let go and  
slipped off, landing  
right in a mud puddle.**





"Momma!" Maggie squealed. "I was on top of the fence watching the sheep, but I slipped! I grabbed the sheep so I wouldn't fall, and she started running!"

"Oh, Maggie, this morning has been such a mess! First the eggs, then the cows, now the sheep.

How could all of this happen in just one day?" Momma's face began to tighten.


The knots in Maggie's belly were so tight, she couldn't take it anymore. *I can't keep lying to Momma*, she thought.

She took a deep breath as tears welled up in her eyes.

**"Momma, it was me," she admitted. "I tried to hug the rooster, but he was too strong! Then I tried to hug the calf, but he was too quick! When I tried to hug the sheep, she ran!"**







Momma sighed. "Maggie, telling lies to stay out of trouble isn't okay. Just look at this mess. We need to clean you up and get the sheep back to her pasture."

"I know," Maggie murmured. "I'm sorry, Momma. I won't lie again."

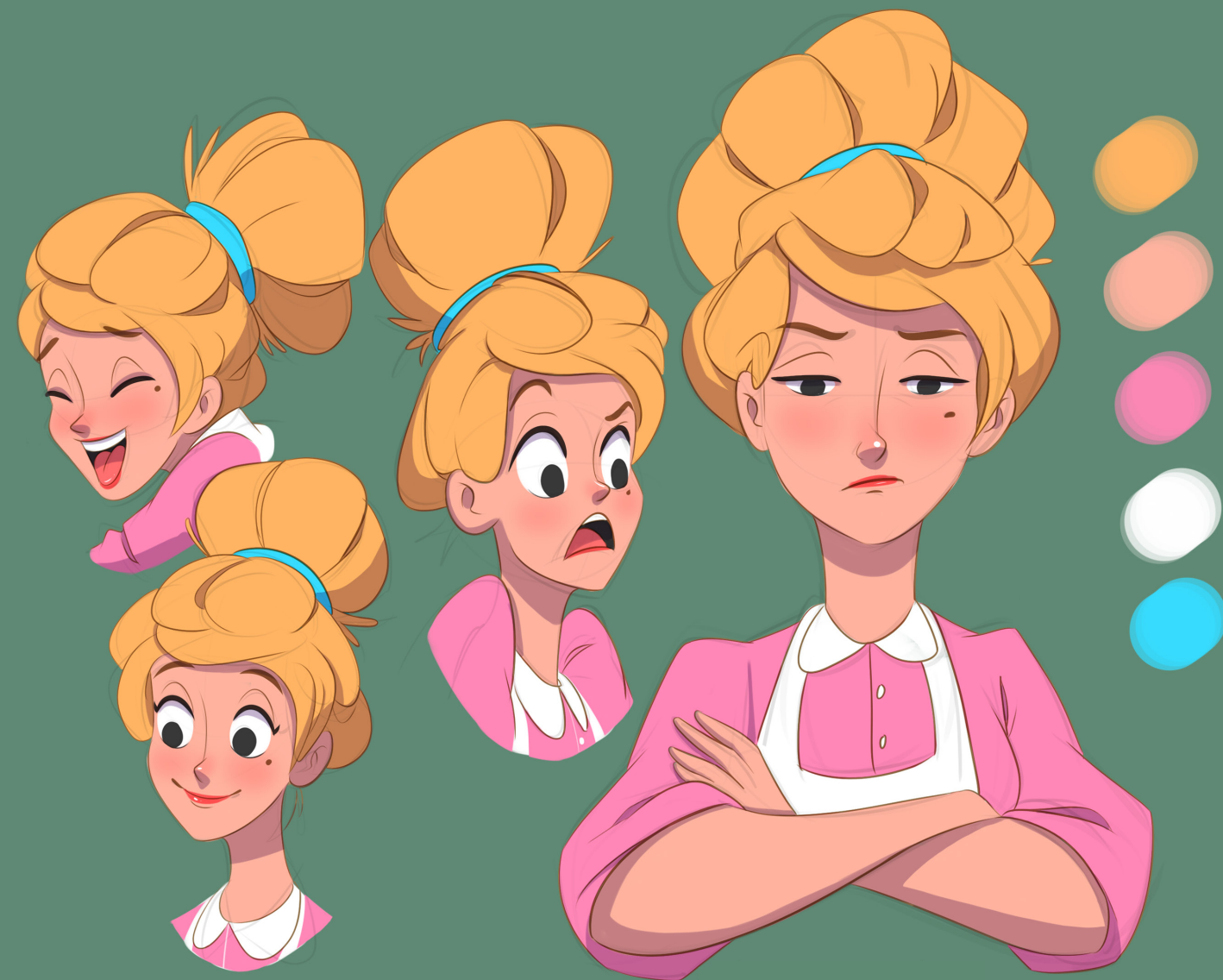
Helping Maggie out of the puddle, Momma couldn't help but grin. "You and your big heart sure keep things exciting around here!"

**Maggie smiled. "Yeah. Now, if I could just hug that pig!"**





Maggie Marshall  
CHARACTER SHEET



Mother Marshall  
CHARACTER SHEET



Maggie just loves her farm animals.  
But when she finds herself in a mess, Maggie  
also finds herself with knots in her belly.

Find out why her morning chores turn into  
quite the adventure in the exciting story of...

## **MAGGIE'S MESSY MORNING**

