

### **Why This Book Was Born**

Many children, at some point, feel different.  
As if they don't quite fit in.

Maybe because they're quiet, or slow, or think in unusual ways.  
Maybe because they feel things a little more deeply than others.  
And sometimes, those feelings can make you believe you're not good enough,  
but that's simply not true.

This book is a celebration of those children.  
A joyful tribute to difference.

Because being different isn't a weakness, it's your hidden strength.  
Everyone is unique, and in every child lies a superpower, even if it still needs to be discovered.

Sometimes you just need a little help, some courage, or a few good friends to go on the journey with you.

The three characters in this story, a mole, a snail, and a toad, aren't the fastest, or the toughest, or the smartest by the world's standards... but together, they are something far more important:

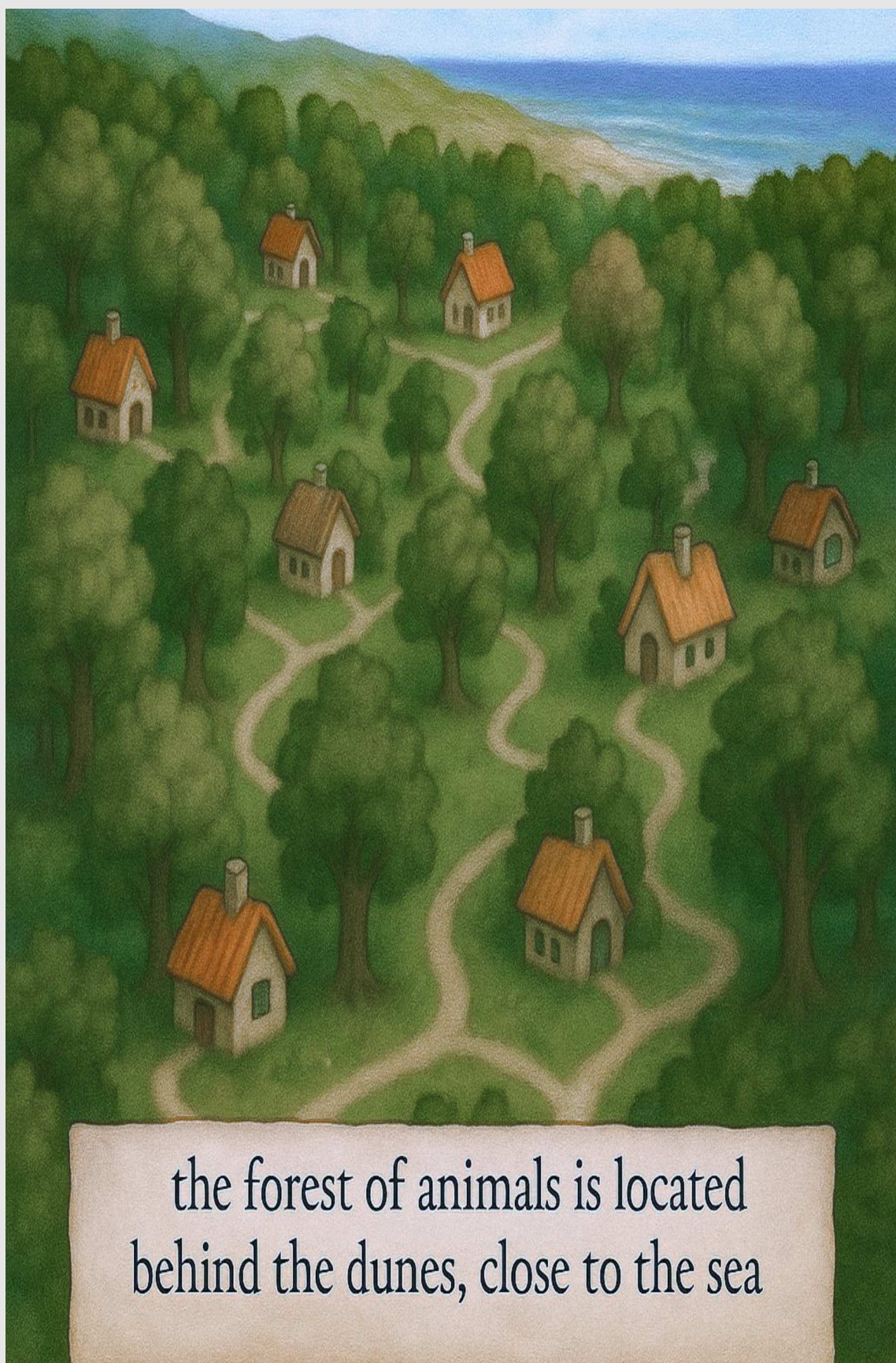
They are themselves.

And together, because of their differences, they become a team no one expected, and one that can accomplish anything.

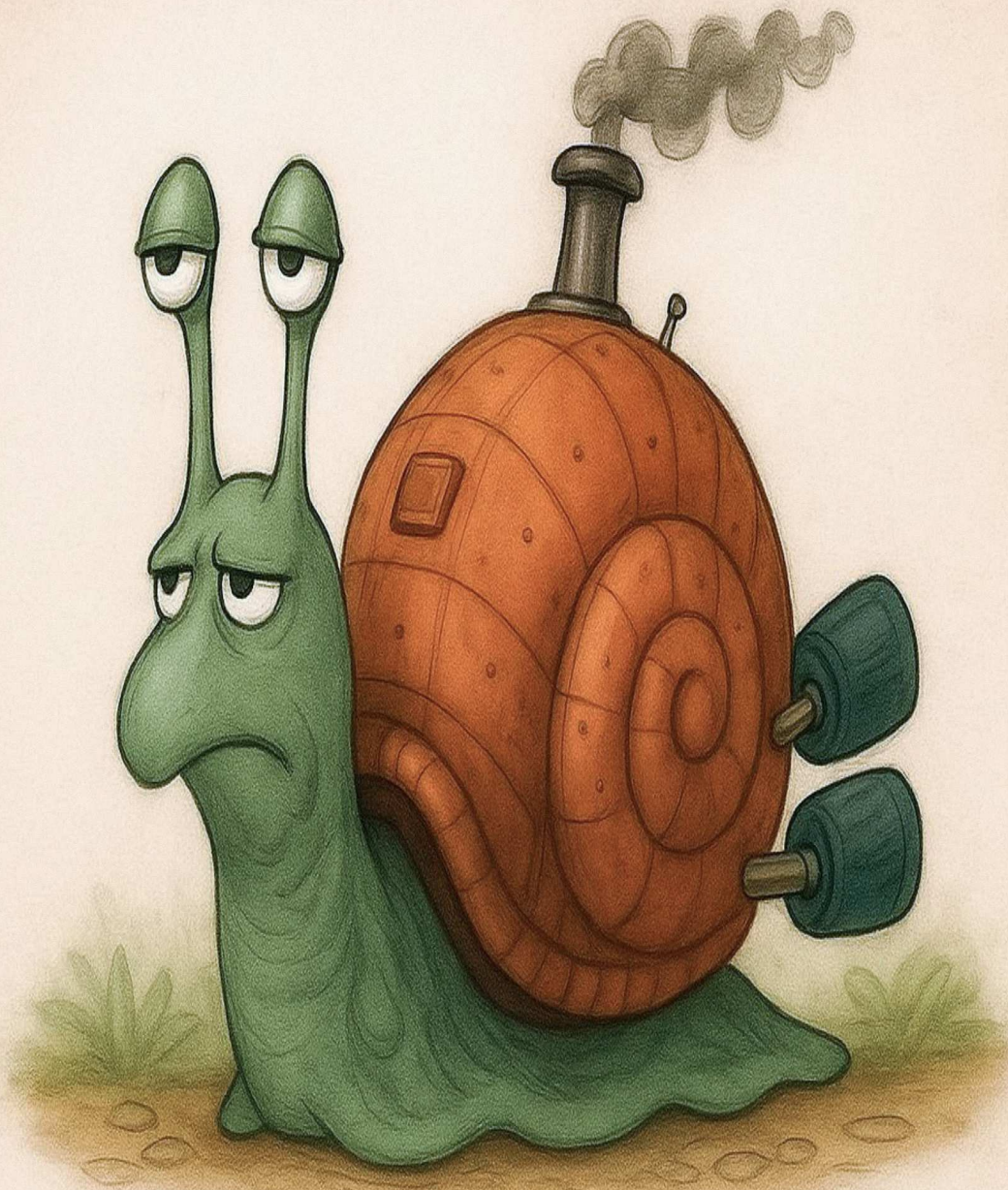
**Lovingly dedicated to my parents, my dear wife,  
and especially to my own three wonderful rascals: Julian, Ava and Lucas.  
You are my greatest inspiration. You are perfect just the way you are.  
And you each have superpowers the world has yet to discover.**

The Three no Good Crooks  
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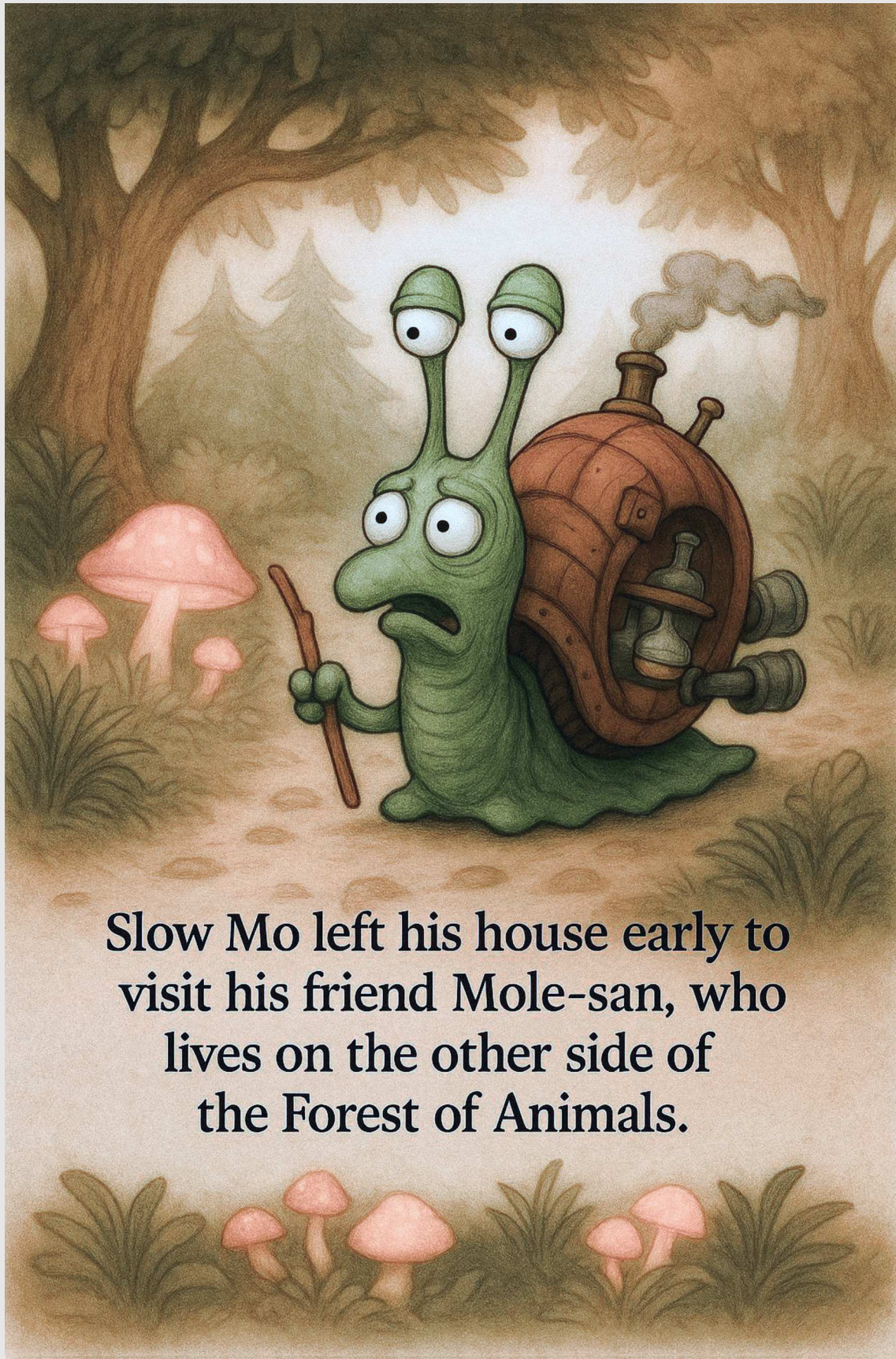






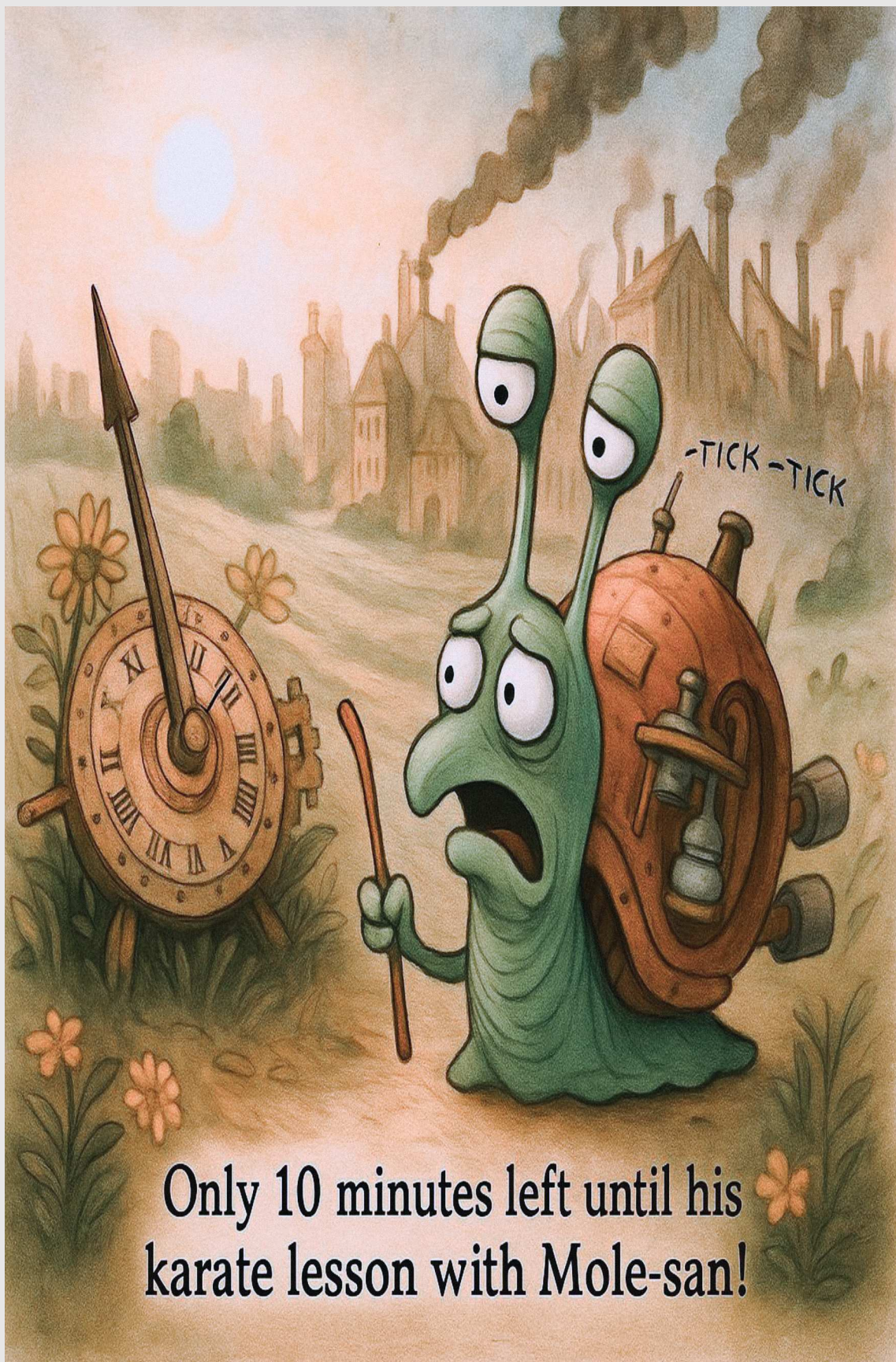
Slow Mo the Snail lives with his  
family in a small village called  
Nice and Quiet.



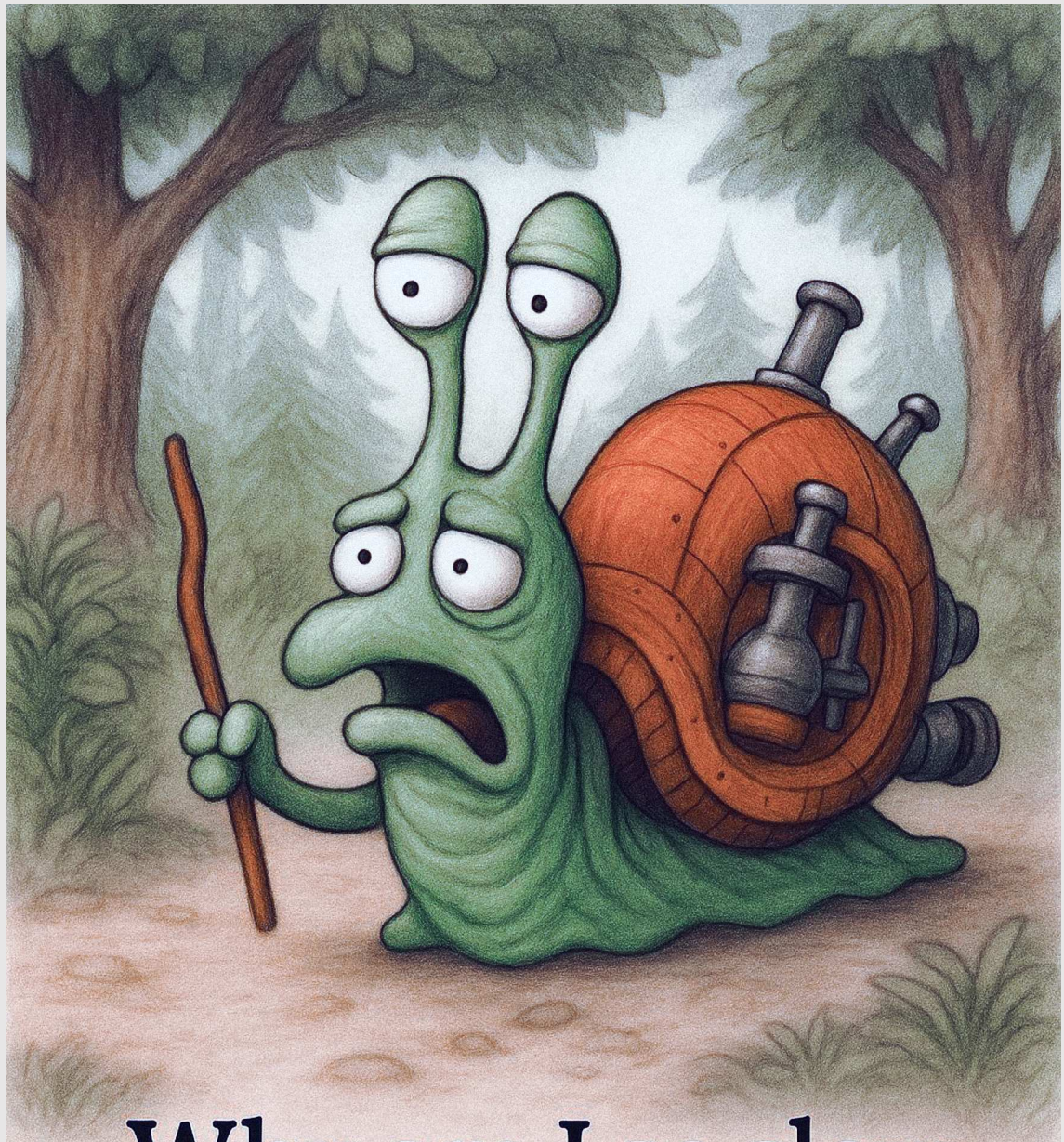


Slow Mo left his house early to  
visit his friend Mole-san, who  
lives on the other side of  
the Forest of Animals.









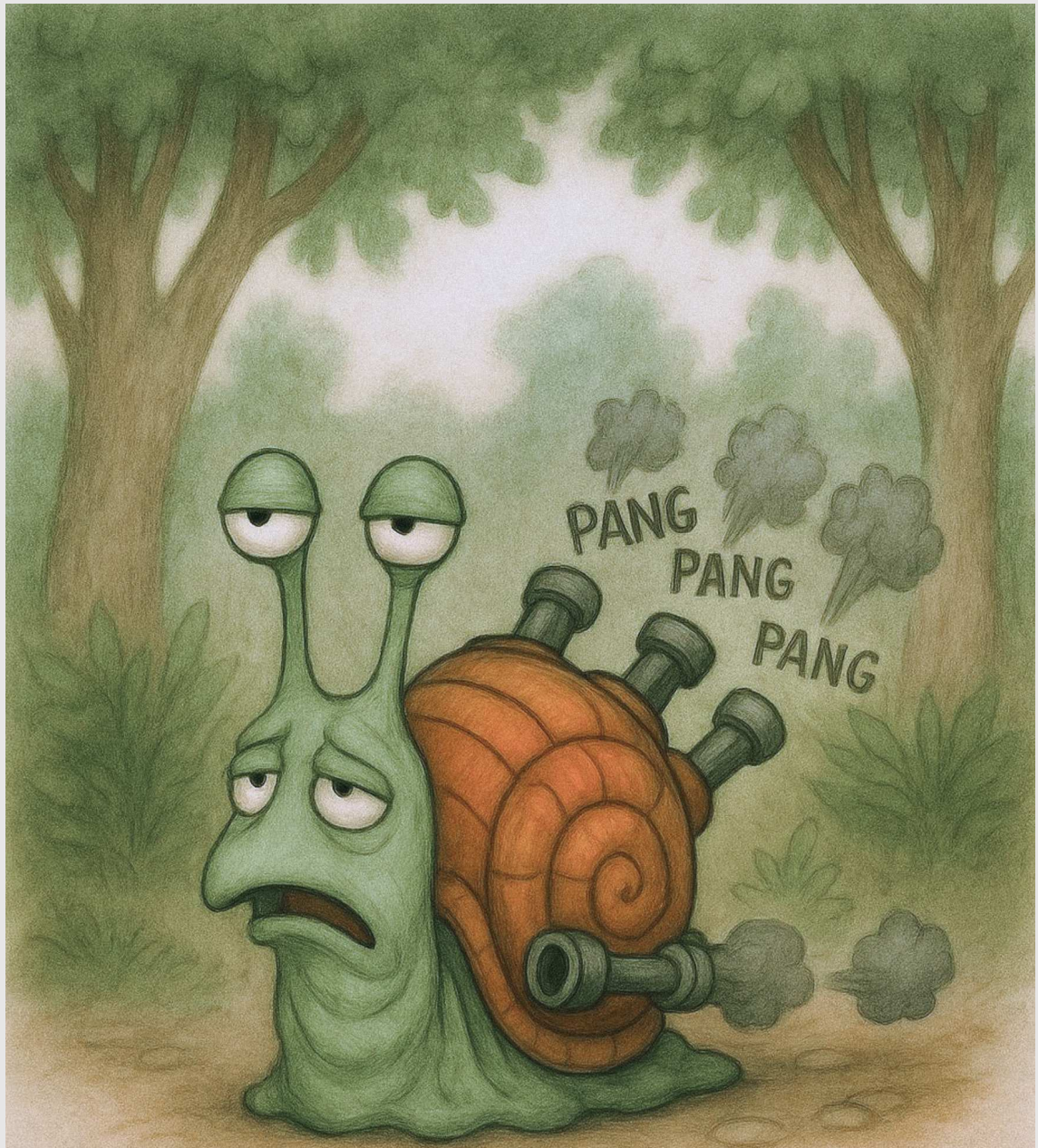
**Why am I so slow.  
I'll be late again.**





Could his jet engine  
help him this time?





“Well, unfortunately,”  
Slow Mo mutters,  
“I guess we’re going  
the slow way again.”





Meanwhile, high above the ground, Rascal Raven wakes up in his nest.





His tummy rumbles.  
Time for breakfast.