

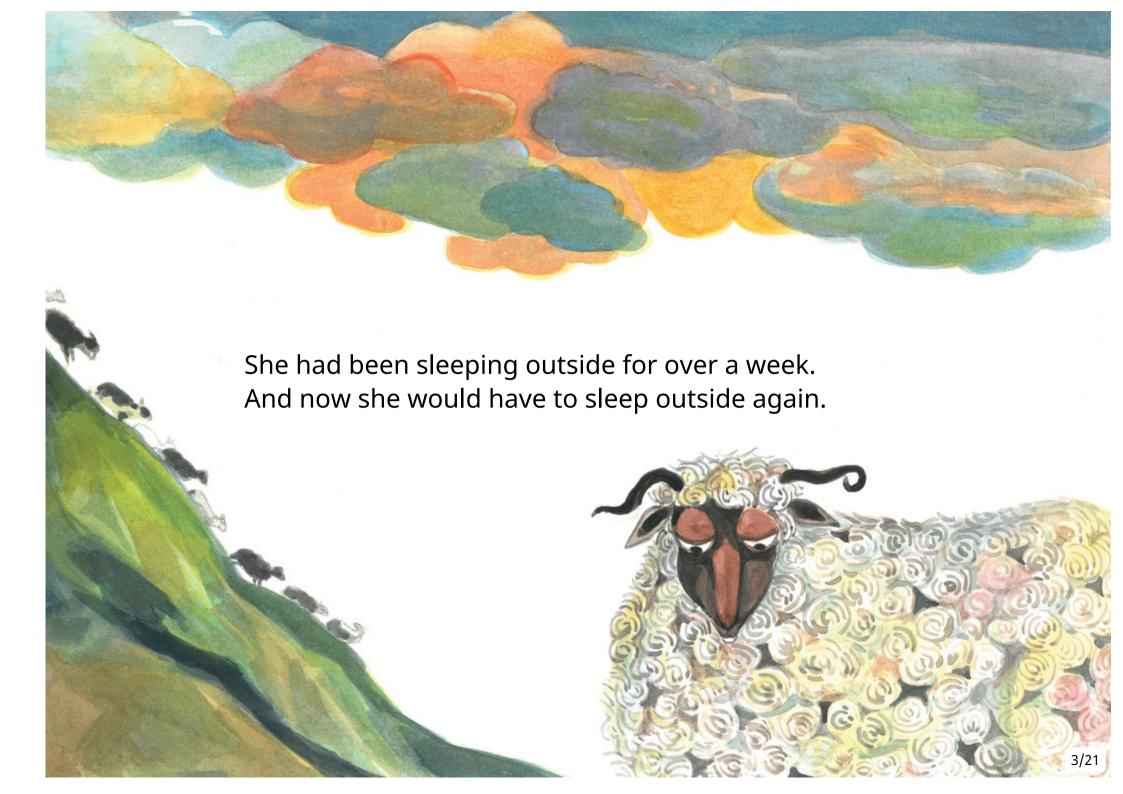
Just the Way I Am Author: Bindu Gupta

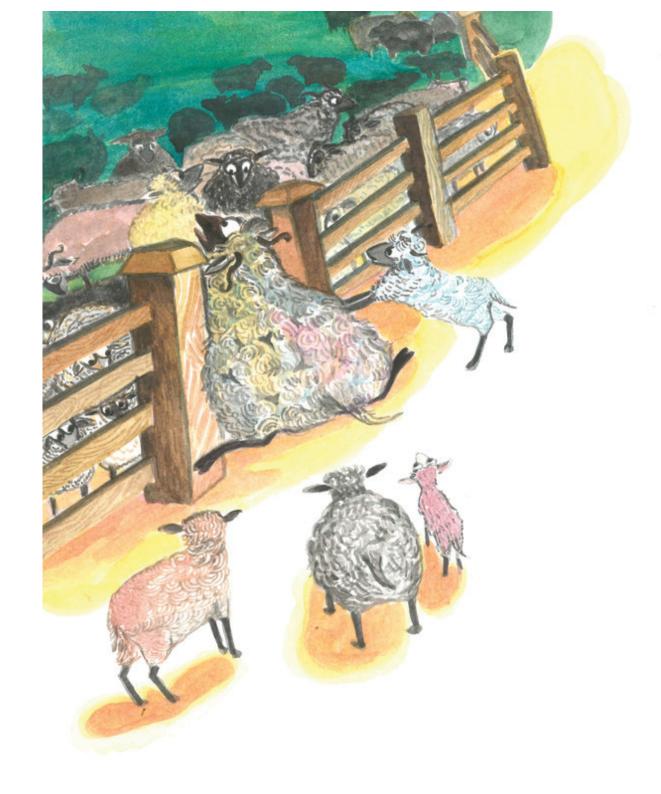
Author: Bindu Gupta **Illustrator:** Kanak Shashi **Translator:** Alisha Berger



A herd of sheep was coming back home in the evening, happy as usual.

Except for Matko. She was too wide to fit through the new farm gate.

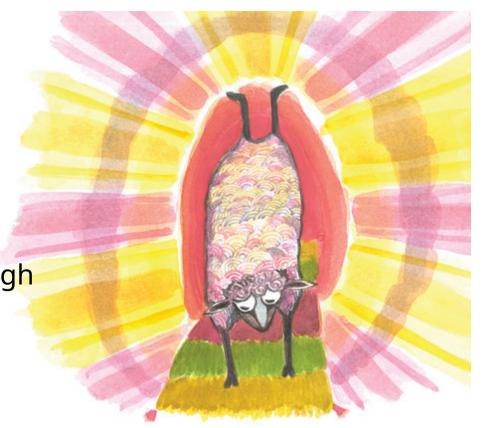




That darn gate!

It wasn't fair.

The yogi sheep said,
"Do yoga! Yoga will make you
thinner. Then you will fit through
the gate."







The next day, Matko started doing yoga.





But Matko was still too wide to fit through the gate.





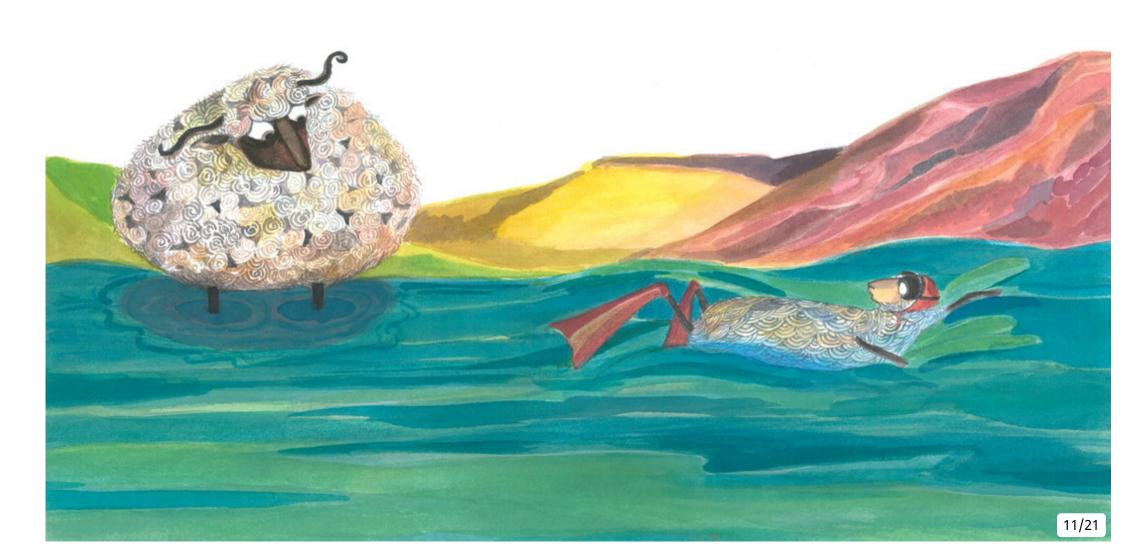
The jogger sheep suggested, "Start jogging! Jogging will make you thinner. Then you will fit through the gate."



So Matko went for a jog every day.

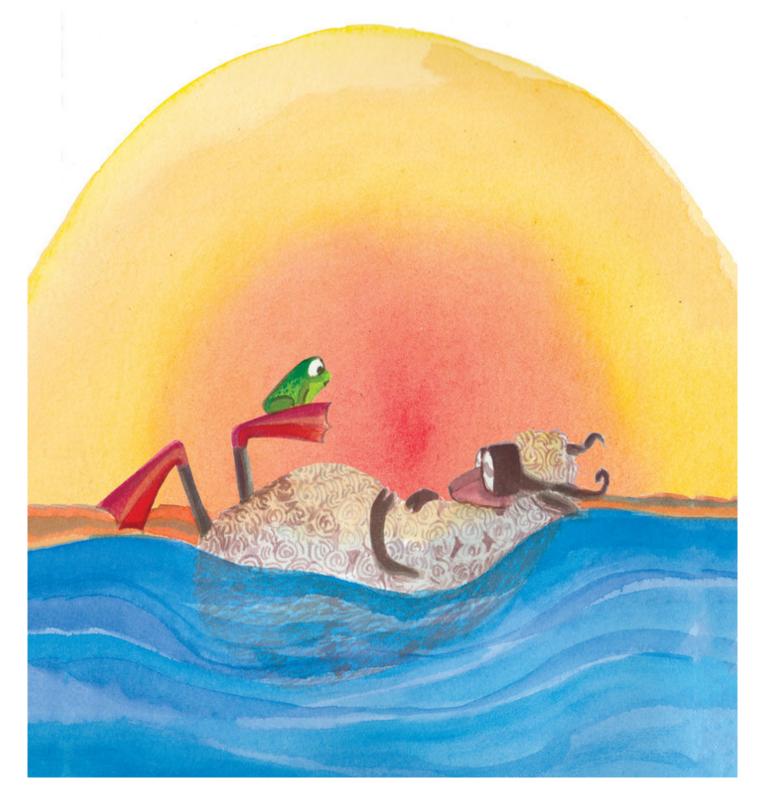
Days passed, but she was still too wide for the gate.

The swimmer sheep advised,
"Start swimming! Swimming will make you thinner.
Then you will fit through the gate."

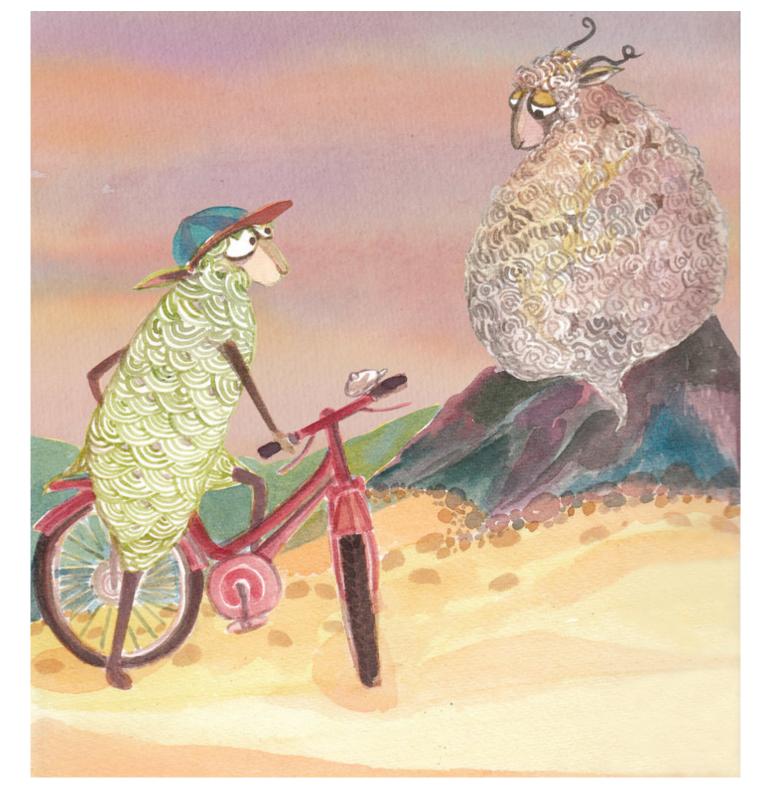




So Matko began swimming...

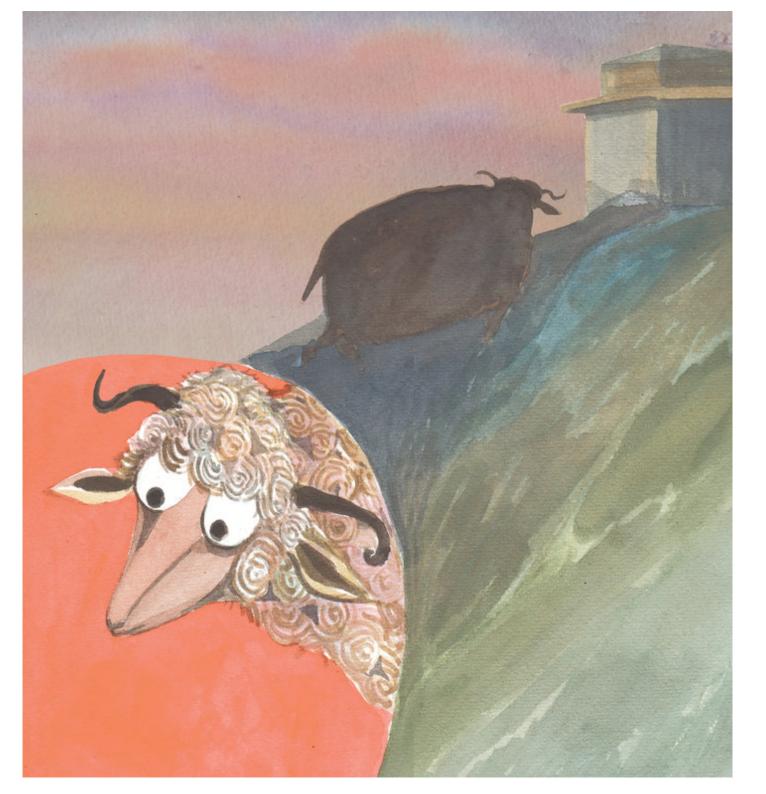


But she was still too wide to fit through the gate!



Bunni came by showing off her bicycle.

"Start cycling, Matko.
Cycling will make you
thinner. If cycling
doesn't help you fit
through the gate, I'll
eat my hat!"

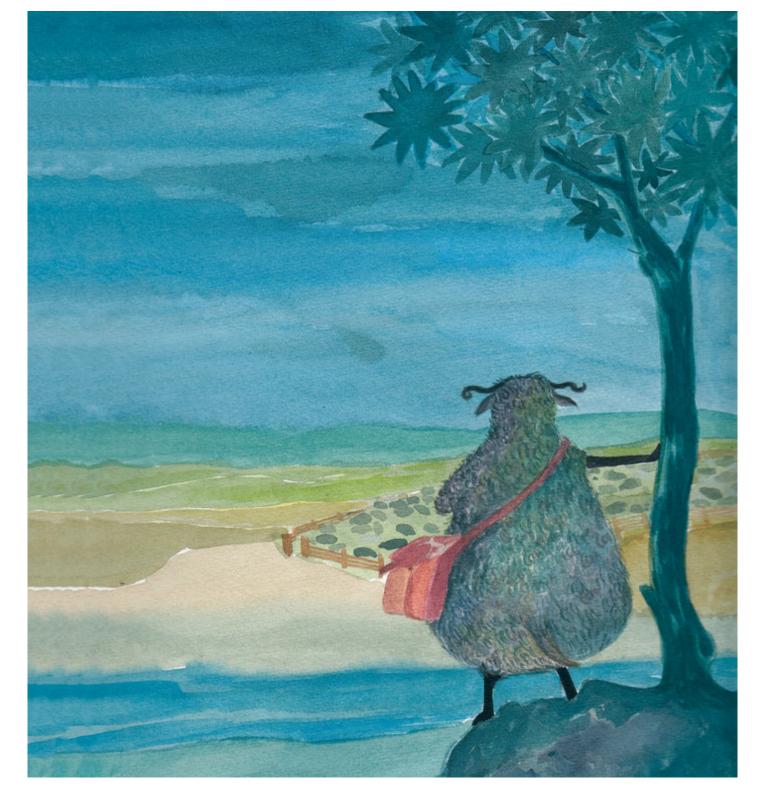


Matko was upset.

"Enough now! I just want to go home."

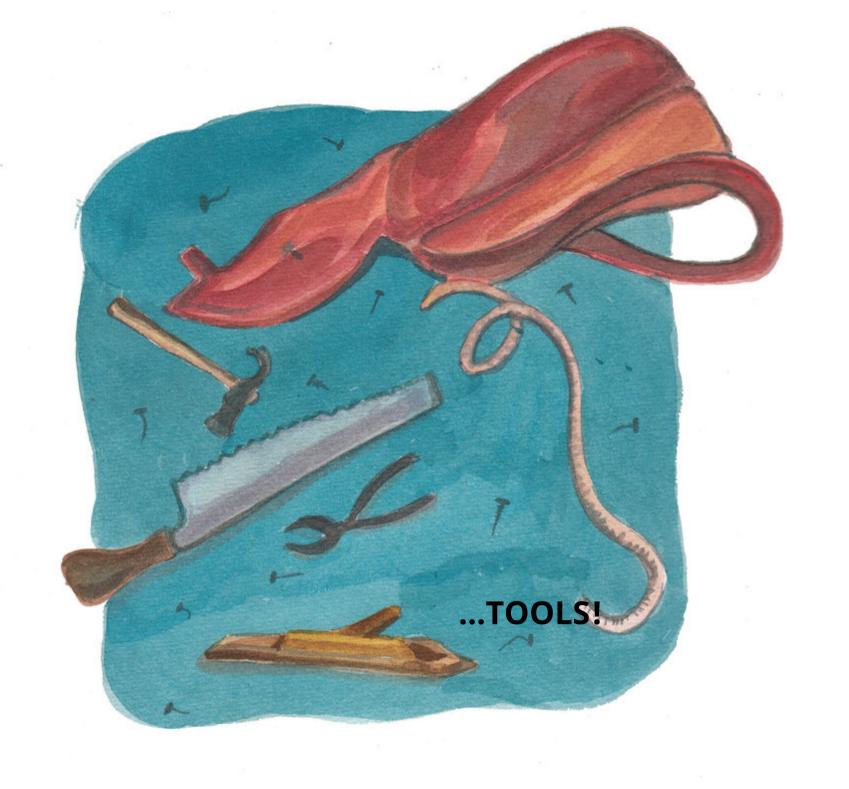
So she thought. And she thought, and she thought some more.

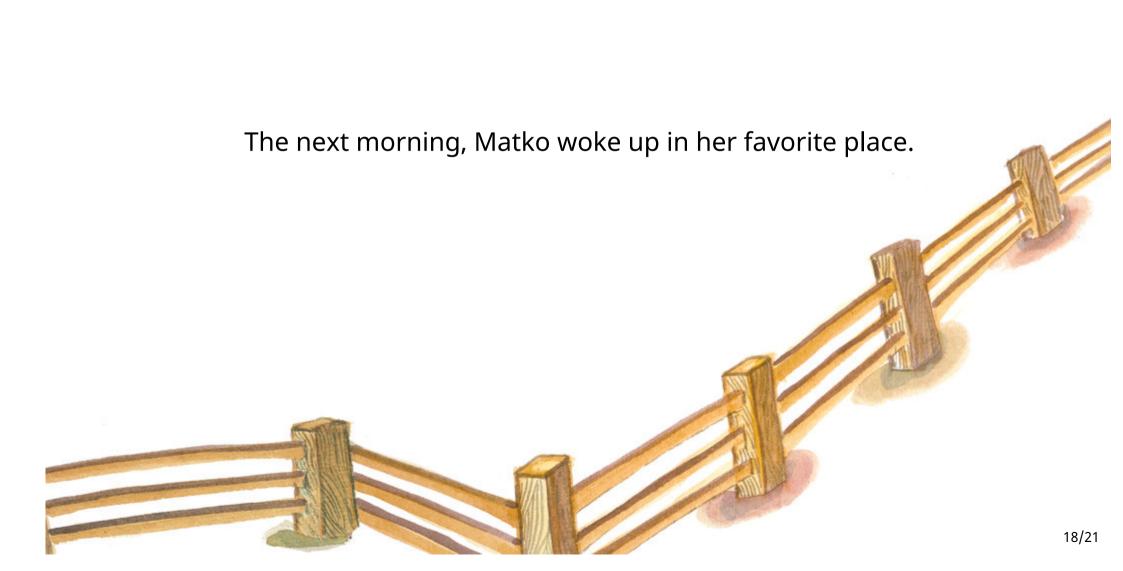
And then she set off.



A few days later, Matko returned.

Now she had a plan. She had...







All the other sheep were astonished.

"But you're still so wide!" they braved. "How did you get insi

"But you're still so wide!" they brayed. "How did you get inside the yard?"



"I simply made the gate a little wider," Matko replied with a grin. "I am fit, and I am fine...just the way I am!"