

Gili's Pockets

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In a town, not too big, not too small,
lives a boy called Gili.
He has curly hair,
a round smile,
laughing and curious eyes, and...
pockets.
Every day, Gili leaves his house, searching for and collecting adventures and surprises.



“What do you have in your pockets? What are you hiding there?” Mom always asks.

“It’s a secret...”

“Maybe you can tell your secret only to me...” Mom says.

“I can’t tell.”

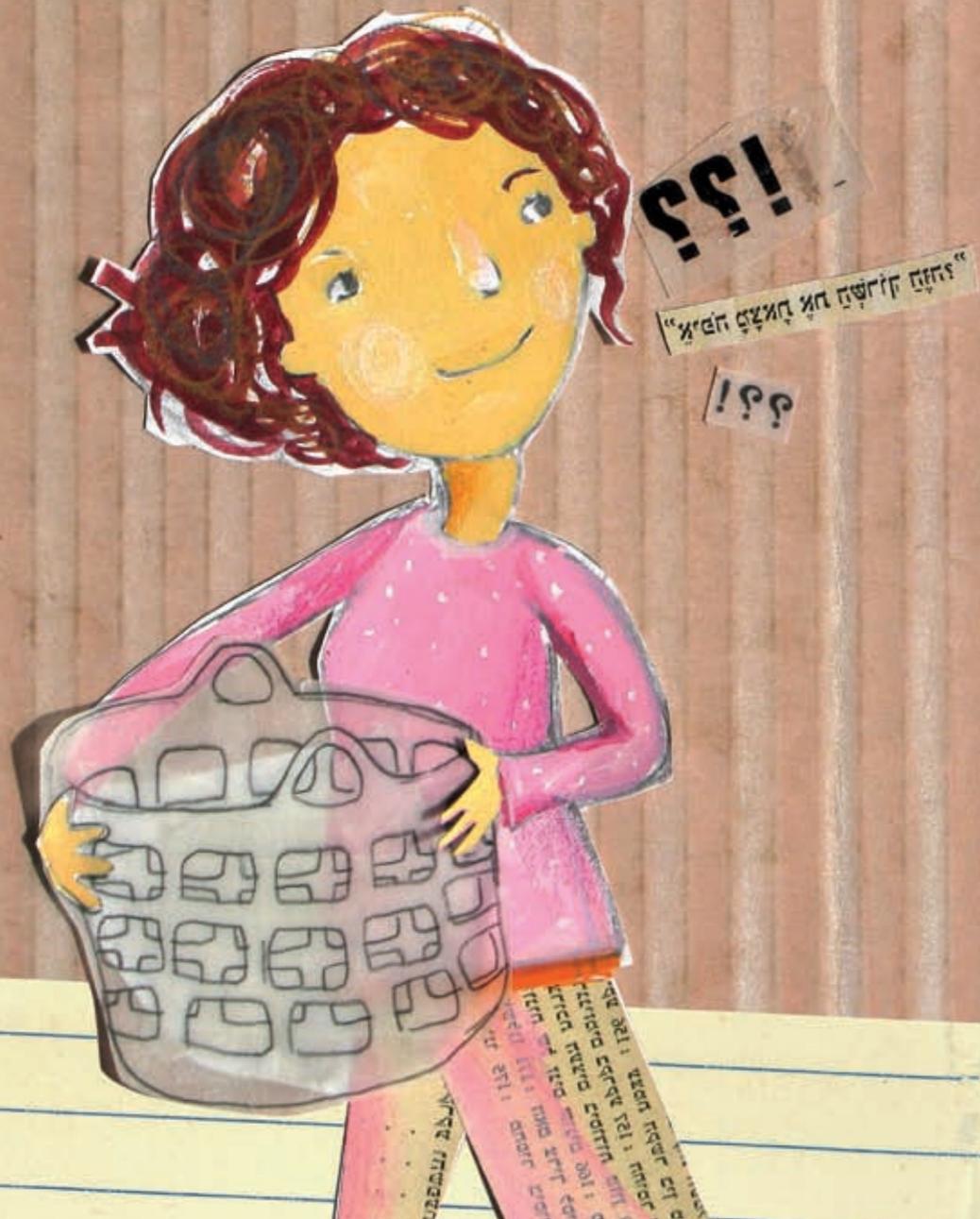
“Okay,” Mom says.



But in the end, just when Mom is busy doing other things, Gili tells her his secret.



One day, Gili came back from the garden,
skipping and roaring.
The tip of a red shoelace dangled from
Gili's right pocket.
"Where did you find that shoelace?"
Mom asked.



"It isn't a shoelace, it's... it's a lion's tail,"
Gili answered and pulled the shoelace.
"Really?" Mom wondered.



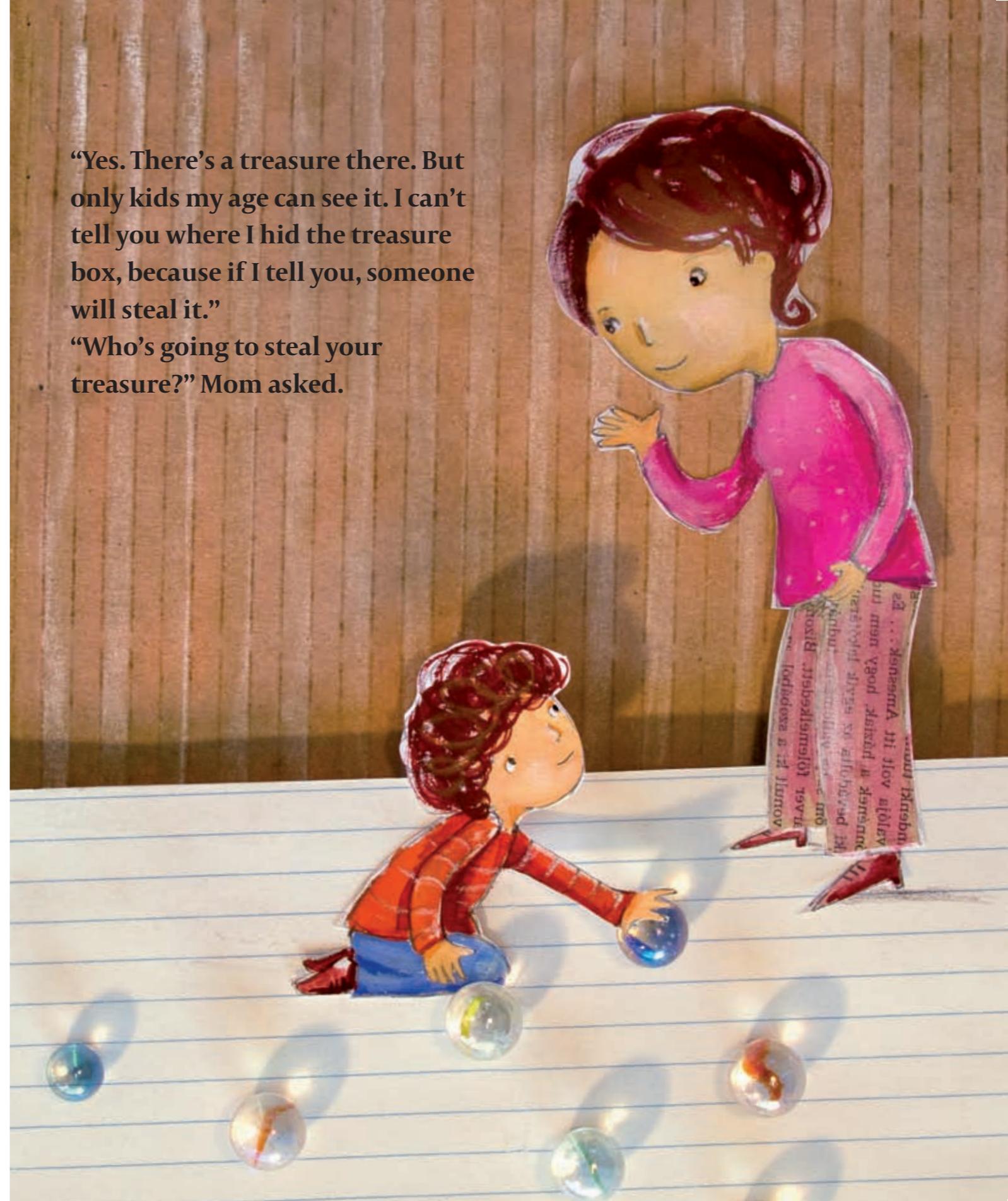
"I met a lion in the garden. He ran away from the zoo. He was sick of his cage. At first, we played on the red swing, and I pushed him really high. Then, I climbed on the lion's back and we galloped to the big forest. When we got there, he taught me how to roar really loudly and make these scary movements with my hands. All of the animals in the forest were so scared that they ran away.

And then, I was tired and we went back home. On the way home, the lion ran quickly and the tip of his tail tore off, but he said it was okay and let me keep it. Tomorrow I'll give it back to him." "You must be so hungry..." Mom said. Gili wanted to say "yes", but what came out instead was a huge roar, which scared Mom a bit.



Several days passed.
Gili once again returned from the park. Shiny marbles tumbled out of his left pocket.
“Gili, you’d better pick up those marbles. Someone may slip on them and fall,” Mom said.
“Mom! These aren’t marbles! They’re precious stones I found in a treasure box.”
“A treasure box? In the park? No way!”

“Yes. There’s a treasure there. But only kids my age can see it. I can’t tell you where I hid the treasure box, because if I tell you, someone will steal it.”
“Who’s going to steal your treasure?” Mom asked.



“There are bandits hiding in the park. When I played ‘Treasure Hunt’ with them, I found the treasure map, and I reached the treasure box before the bandits did. Then, I filled my pockets with precious stones and gold coins and, before I left, I dug a hole and hid the box deep in the ground, so no one else would find it...”

“That’s nice...” Mom said. “It’s late. Time to take a bath.”
“Okay...” Gili said, and went to the bathroom.





The next day, grey rain clouds covered the sky.
It started raining.
Gili pulled on his blue boots and went outside
to play in the puddles.

When he got back home, he was soaking wet!
Colorful bottle caps peeked out of the back
pocket of his pants.



“Gili, where did you find all
these bottle caps?” Mom asked.
“Mom... these aren’t bottle
caps,” Gili answered.
“So what are they?”
“Don’t you see what they
are? Colorful shells from the
Mediterranean Sea.”
“From the Mediterranean Sea?
Are you sure?” Mom wondered.



**“I sailed on a pirate’s ship. I was the captain.
At first, the sea was quiet, and the waves
were nice and calm. But when we reached
the middle of the sea, a strong wind started
blowing, a huge storm broke, and then... the
ship sunk into the sea!**





There, in the depths, I met colorful fish, a small whale,

and I even ran into a shark with sharp teeth!

Beneath the shipwreck, I found colorful shells and put them in my pocket. At the end of my journey, I met a little seahorse, climbed on his back, and he brought me home.” Mom smiled a tiny, almost invisible smile. Gili finished telling his story and took off his wet boots.



Two days later, just as the sun was setting, Gili returned from the woods behind his house. Mom sat in the living room and read the newspaper. “Hey, Gili! What happened? Didn’t you find anything today?”

“Actually, I did,” Gili said. He shoved his hand in his pocket and gently pulled out a dry heart-shaped leaf.

“What a pretty leaf. Maybe we should keep it inside a book?” Mom suggested.

“A leaf?! That’s not a leaf! It’s a... it’s a fairy’s wing,” Gili whispered in a tiny voice.

“And where did you meet this fairy?” Mom asked.



“I was playing with Ethan in the woods behind the house. Suddenly, we heard a quiet buzzing sound from the bushes. Ethan got scared and ran away, but I crept closer and peeked. I saw so many fairies dancing in circles and singing songs. One of the fairies saw me. At first she was a bit frightened, but then she invited me to meet her friends.





“I climbed on her back and we flew to the enchanted forest, where I met lots more colorful, pretty fairies, tiny elves, and even pixies. They taught me how to make magic and prepare magic potions.

“When I said goodbye to the fairies, they gave me a fairy wing that they didn’t need. Maybe, at night, I’ll hide the wing under my pillow and make a wish, but just a little one, so I won’t waste all my wishes.”
“Wishes are never wasted,” Mom said.



On the way, they met a puddle
and a beetle, a daisy,
an anthill with tiny ants running
and jumping here and there,
and even... a bird's nest with two
small eggs in a pine tree.

The next morning, Mom and Gili
went to kindergarten.
A yellow sun peeked through
the clouds and one white cloud
stretched across the blue sky, like a
long stripe made by a paintbrush.



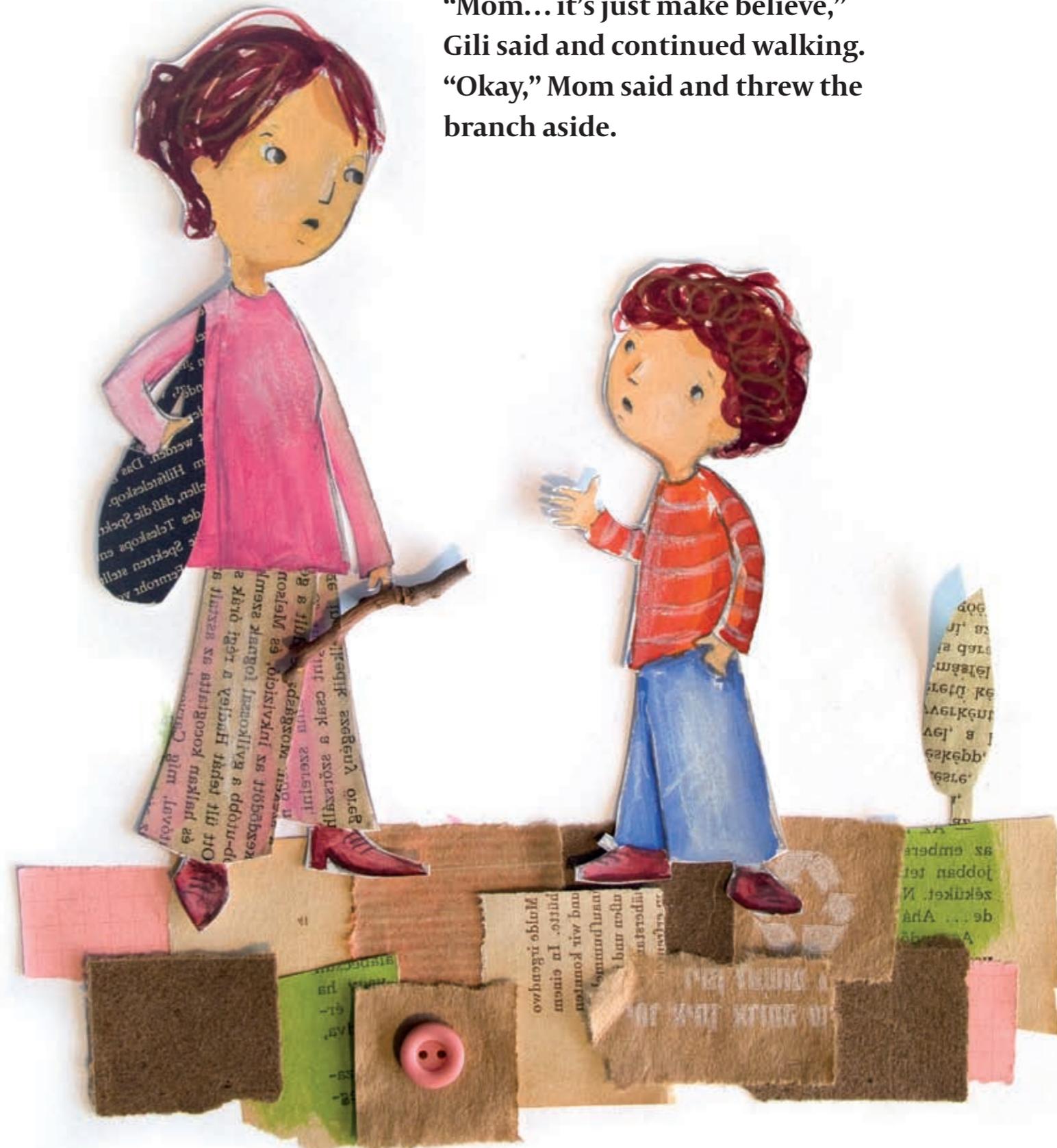


On the sidewalk, Mom found a long, twisted branch.

“Gili, look. I found a magic wand. I can make magic with it, and turn everything into something else,” Mom said happily.

Gili looked at the wand, then at Mom, and said, “That’s not a magic wand. It’s just a branch.”

“It is so,” Mom said. “It’s a magic wand. If you don’t believe me, I can show you a magic trick.”



“Mom... it’s just make believe,” Gili said and continued walking. “Okay,” Mom said and threw the branch aside.



Mom and Gili continued walking along the familiar path leading to Gili's kindergarten, and talked about many things. But right before they went into the kindergarten, Gili stopped suddenly and thought for a tiny little second, and then for another tiny little second. "Mom, wait for me here. I'll be right back," Gili said and turned back. He ran quickly, picked up the branch...



And put it in his pocket.



