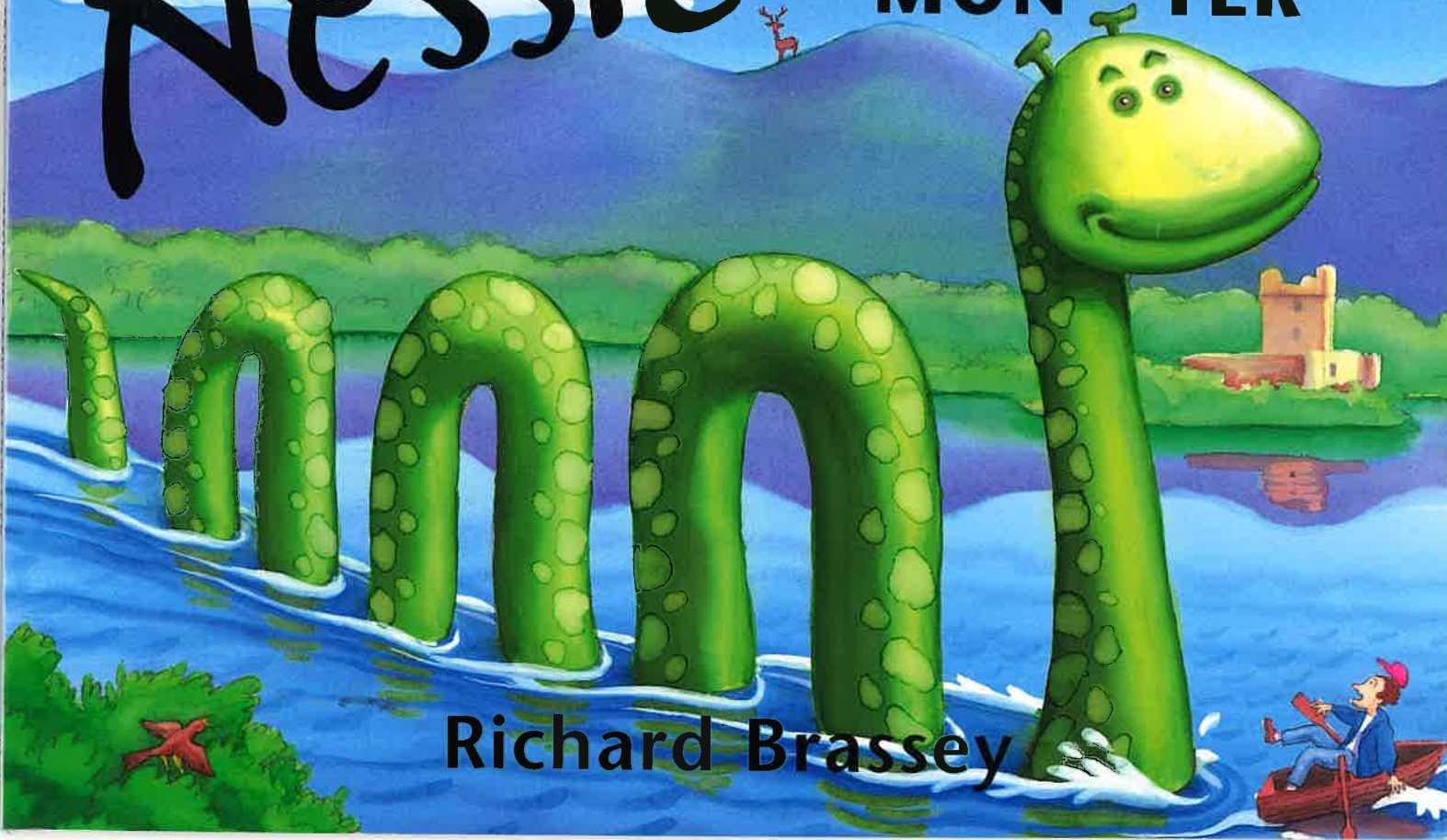
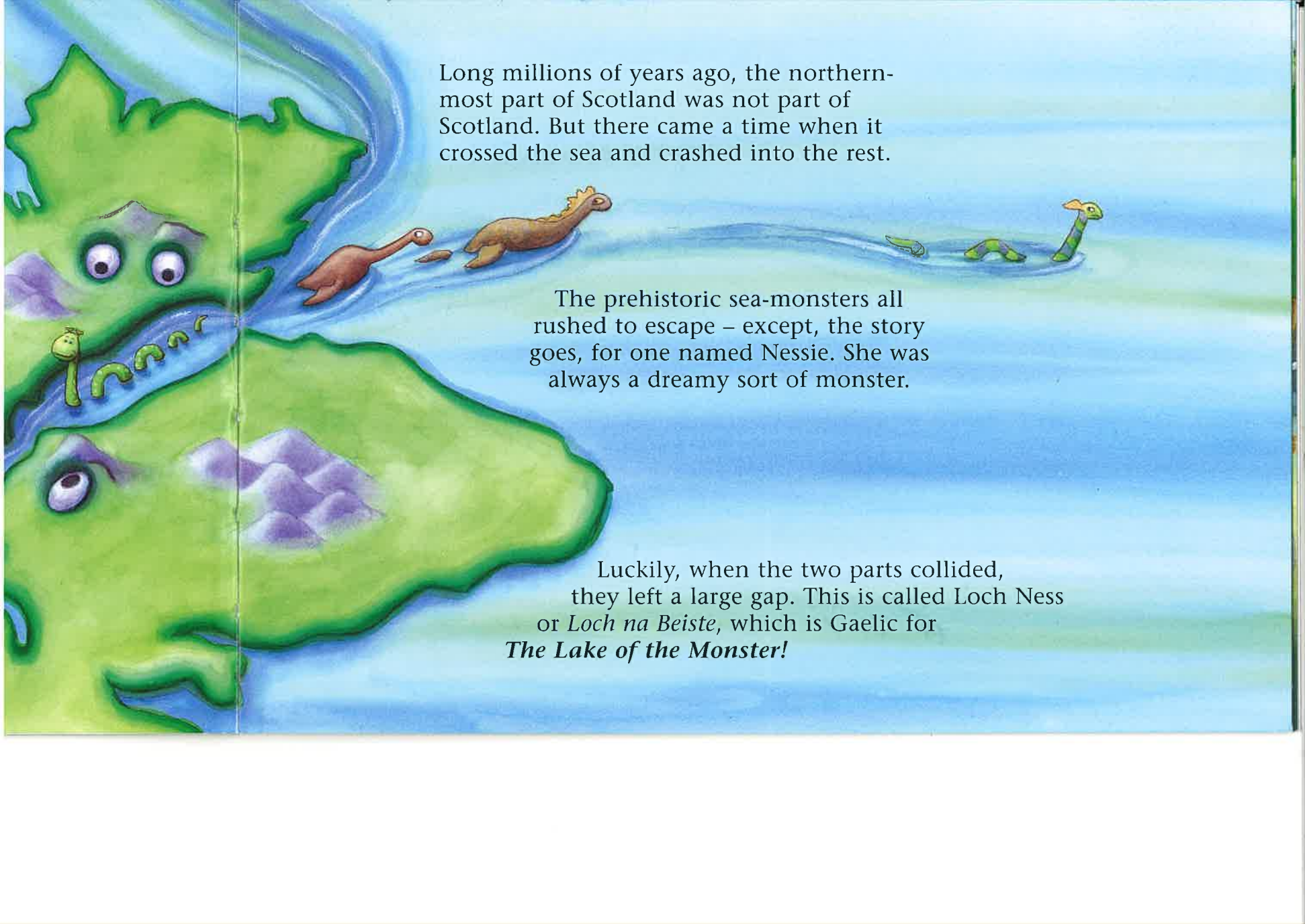


# Nessie

THE LOCH NESS  
MONSTER



Richard Brasseley



Long millions of years ago, the northernmost part of Scotland was not part of Scotland. But there came a time when it crossed the sea and crashed into the rest.

The prehistoric sea-monsters all rushed to escape – except, the story goes, for one named Nessie. She was always a dreamy sort of monster.

Luckily, when the two parts collided, they left a large gap. This is called Loch Ness or *Loch na Beiste*, which is Gaelic for ***The Lake of the Monster!***



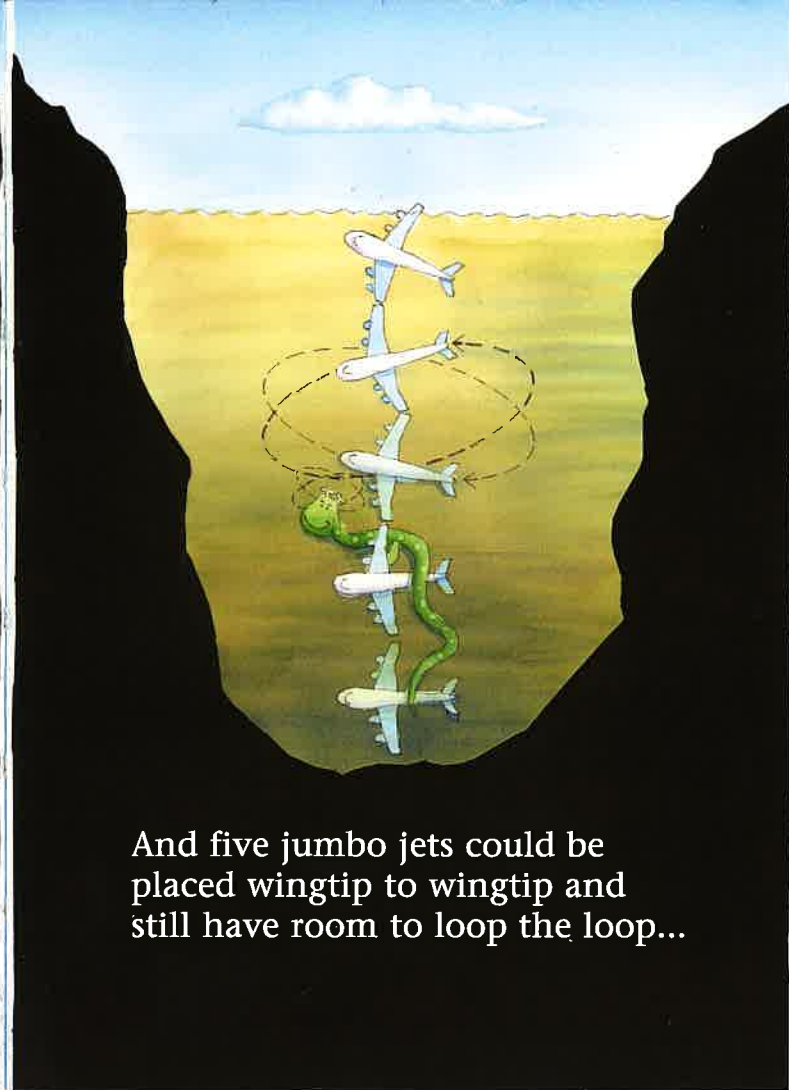
Loch Ness is so deep that you could stand three Big Bens in it and they would still not reach the top.



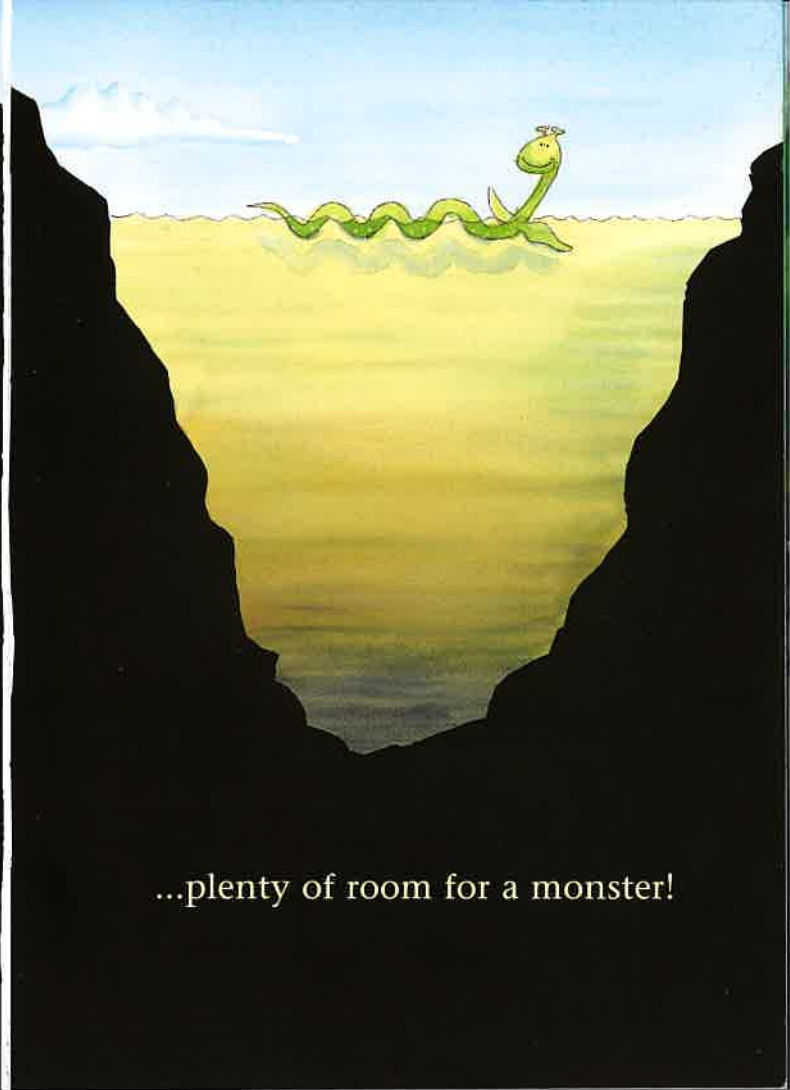
The Statue of Liberty could dive in happily without any chance of her head hitting the bottom.



...y could dive  
any chance  
the bottom.



And five jumbo jets could be  
placed wingtip to wingtip and  
still have room to loop the loop...

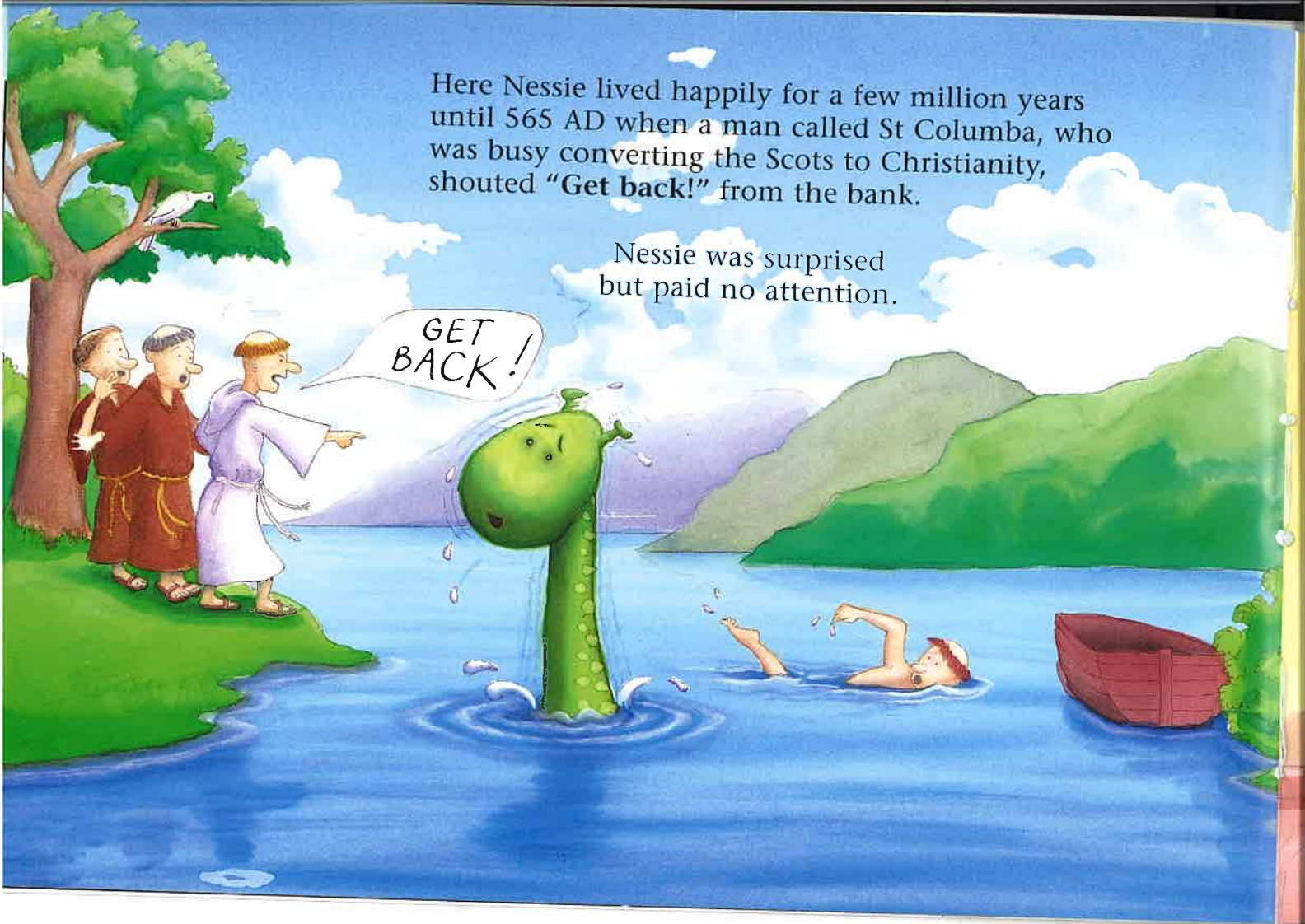


...plenty of room for a monster!

Here Nessie lived happily for a few million years until 565 AD when a man called St Columba, who was busy converting the Scots to Christianity, shouted "Get back!" from the bank.

Nessie was surprised but paid no attention.

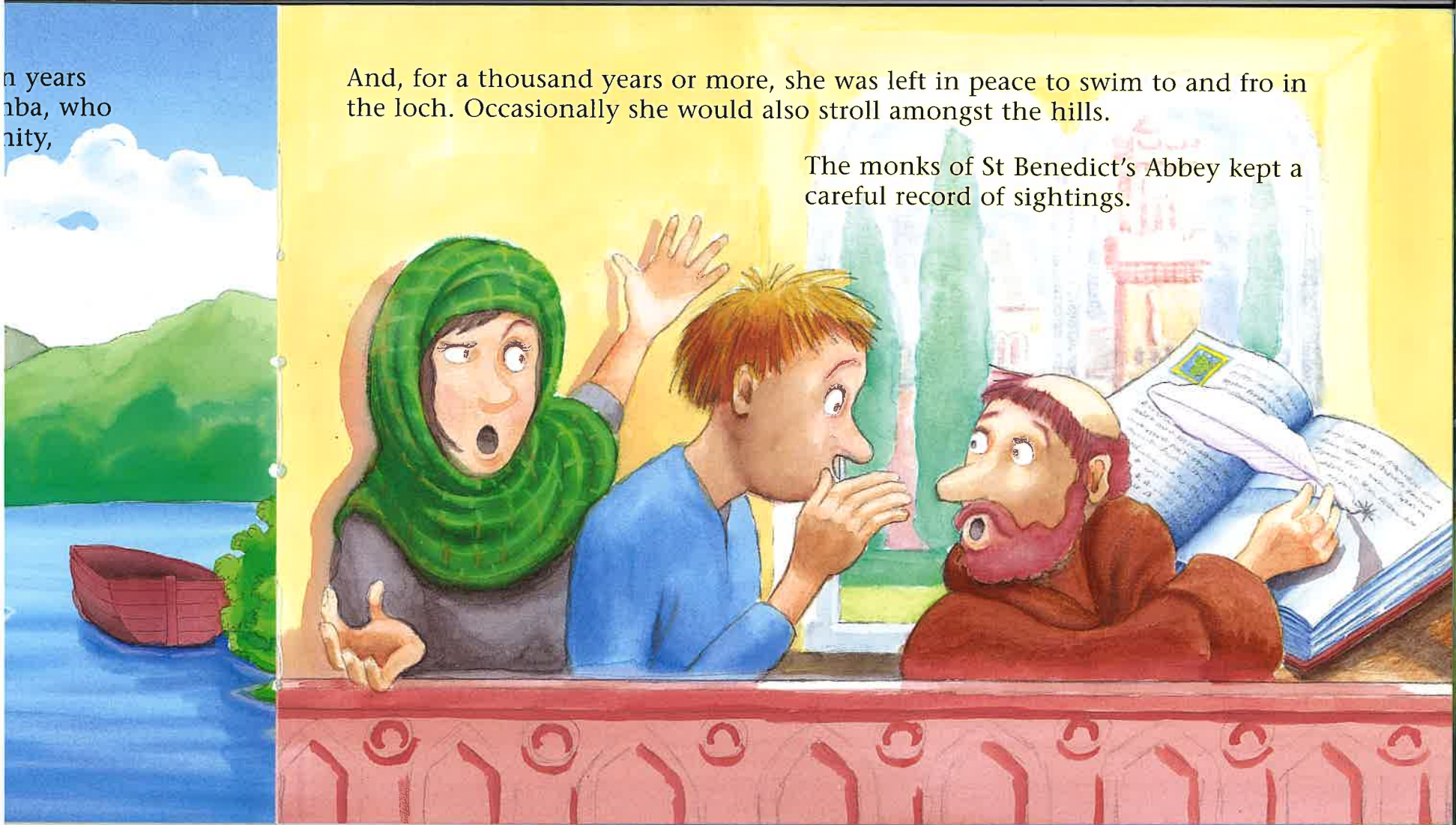
GET  
BACK!

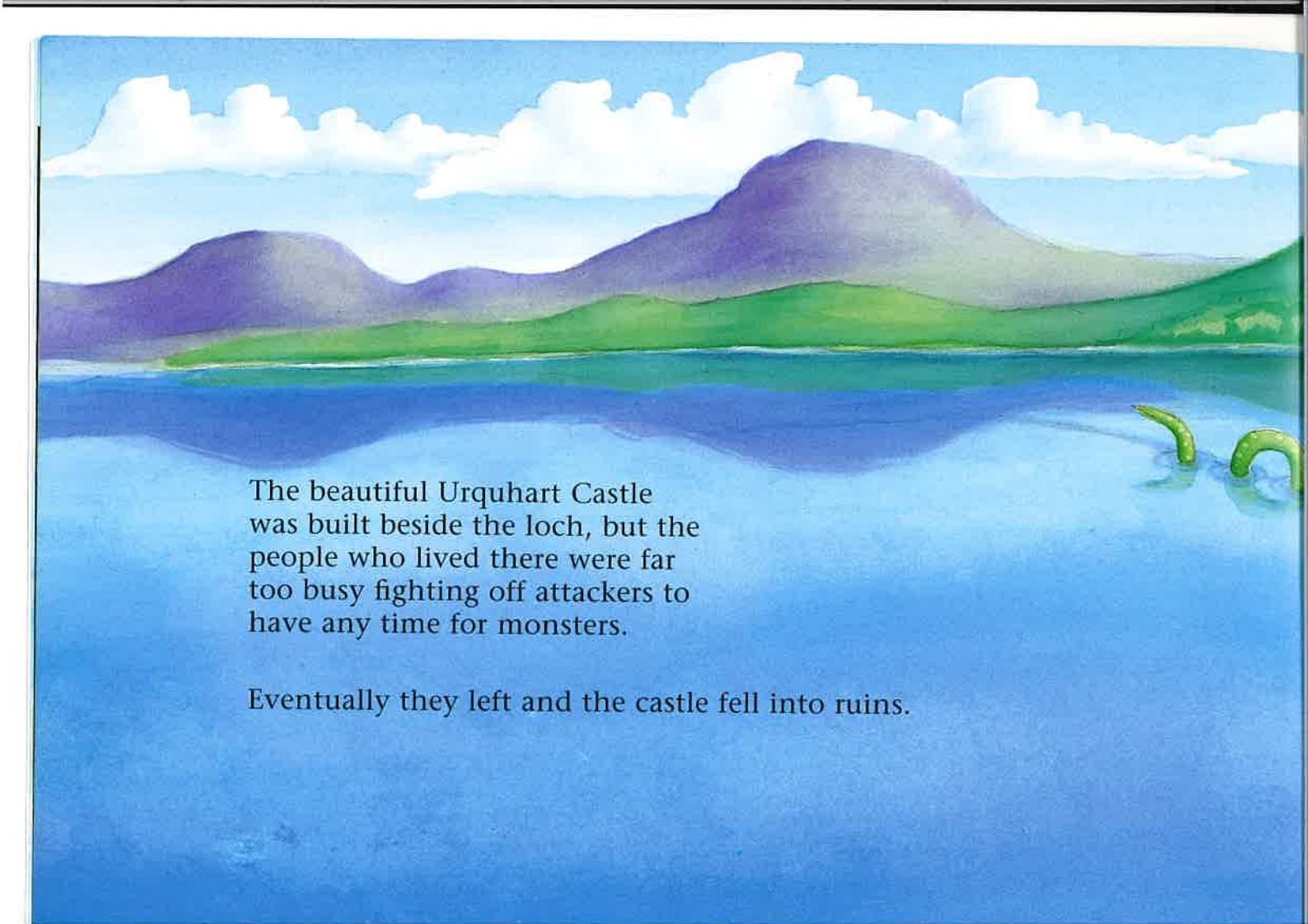


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And, for a thousand years or more, she was left in peace to swim to and fro in the loch. Occasionally she would also stroll amongst the hills.

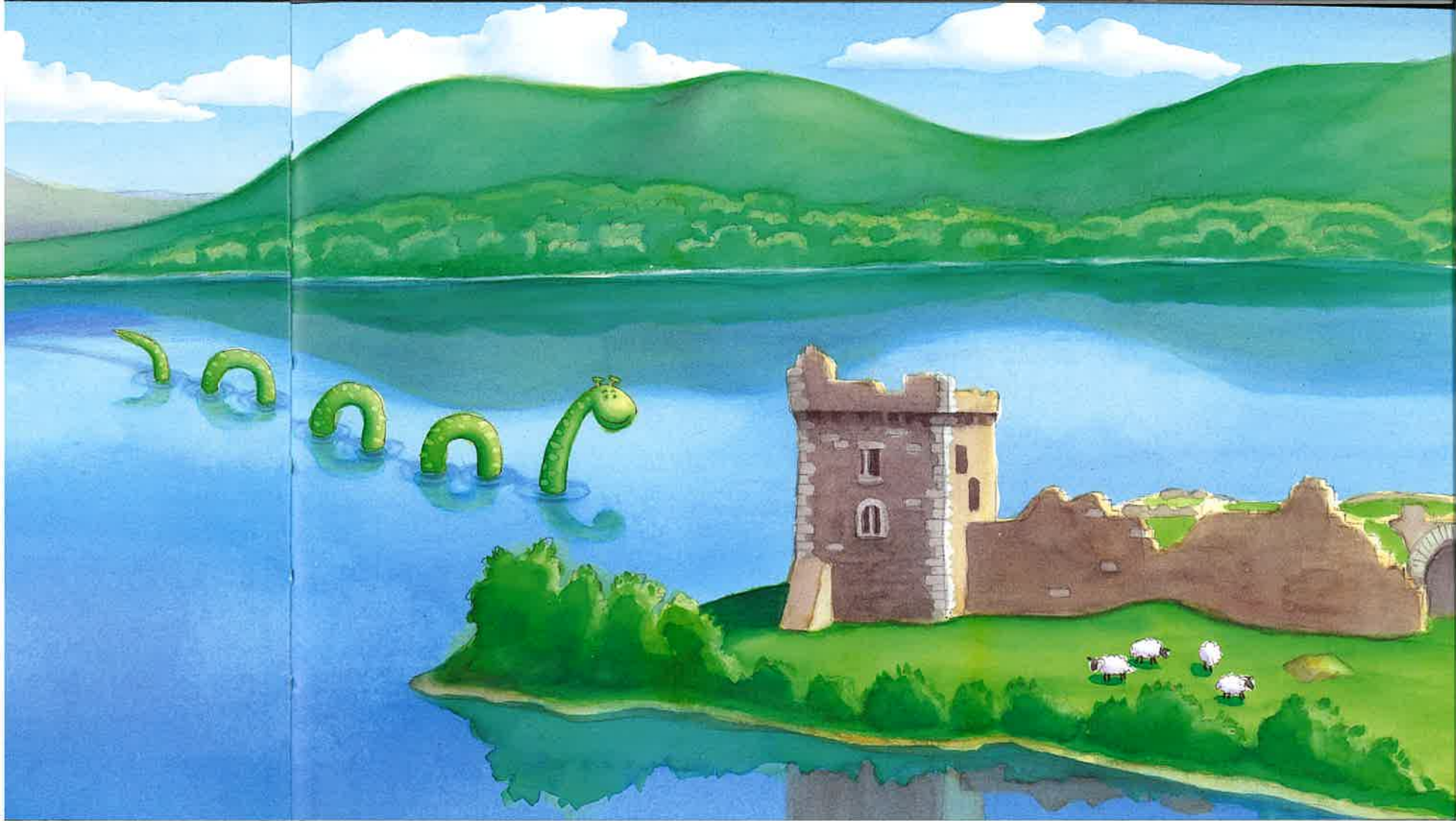
The monks of St Benedict's Abbey kept a careful record of sightings.





The beautiful Urquhart Castle  
was built beside the loch, but the  
people who lived there were far  
too busy fighting off attackers to  
have any time for monsters.

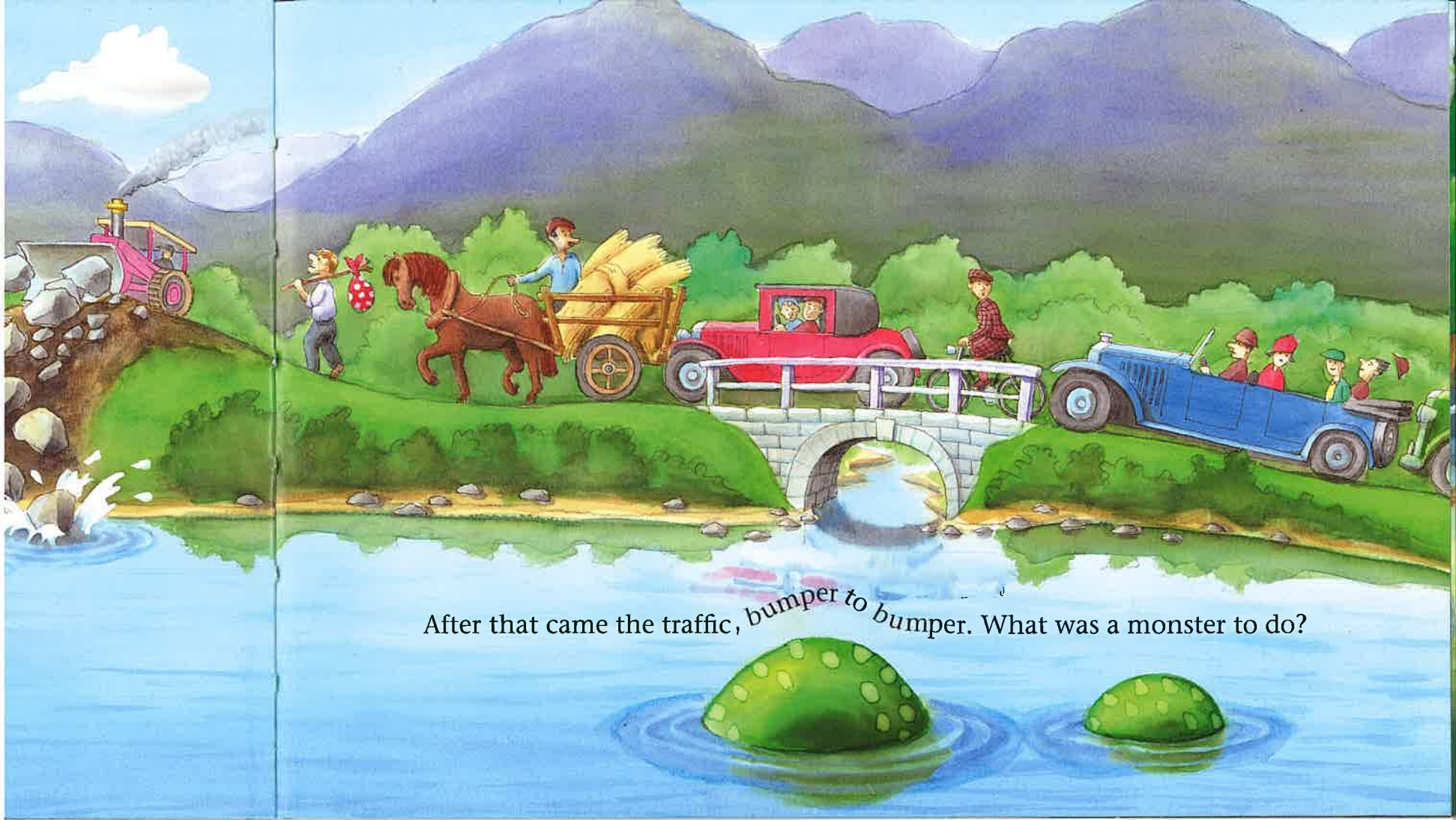
Eventually they left and the castle fell into ruins.



But then in 1933 disaster struck.



A road was built along the edge of the loch. The noise was frightful, what with crashing and banging and rocks splashing into the water all day long.



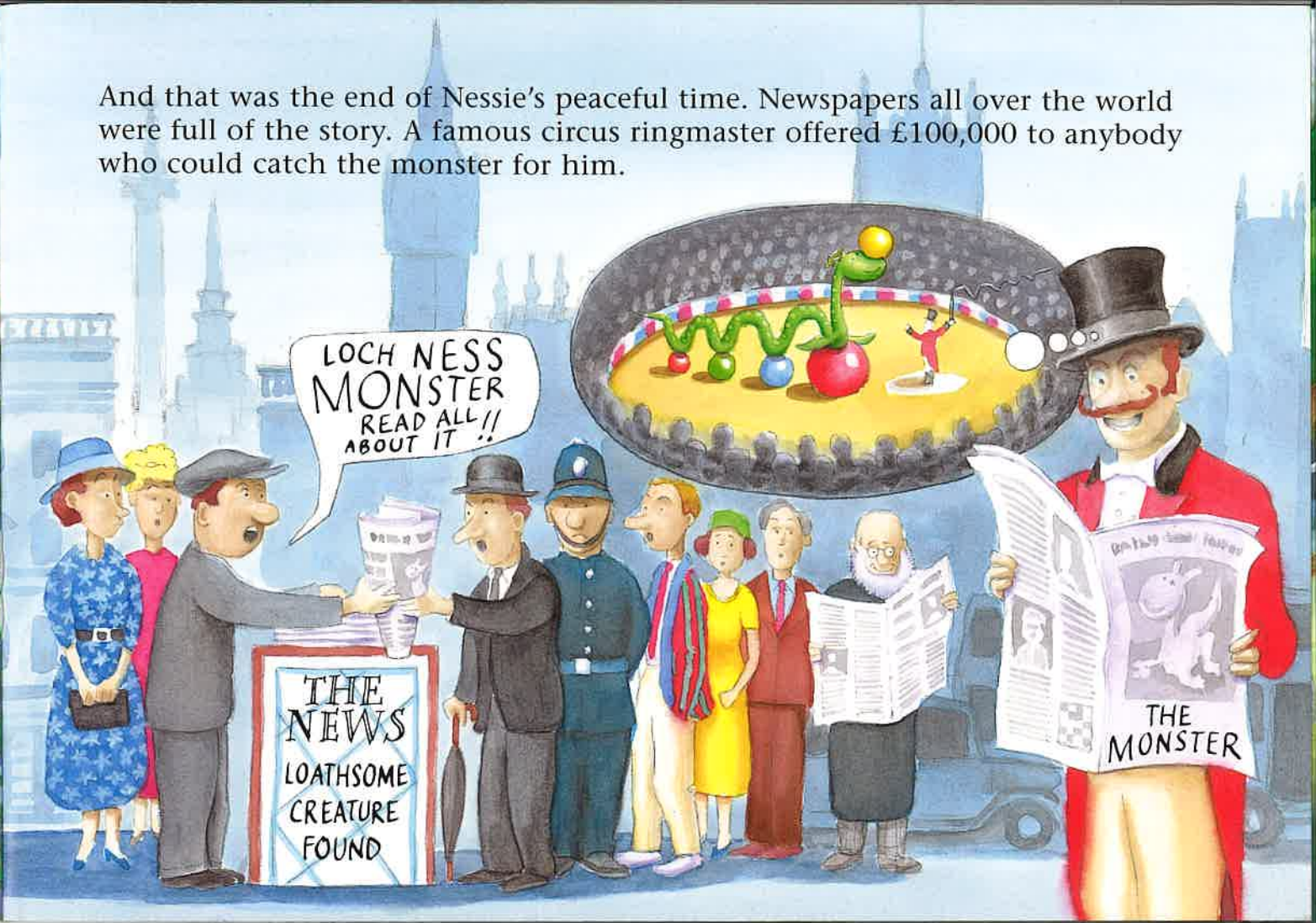
After that came the traffic, bumper to bumper. What was a monster to do?

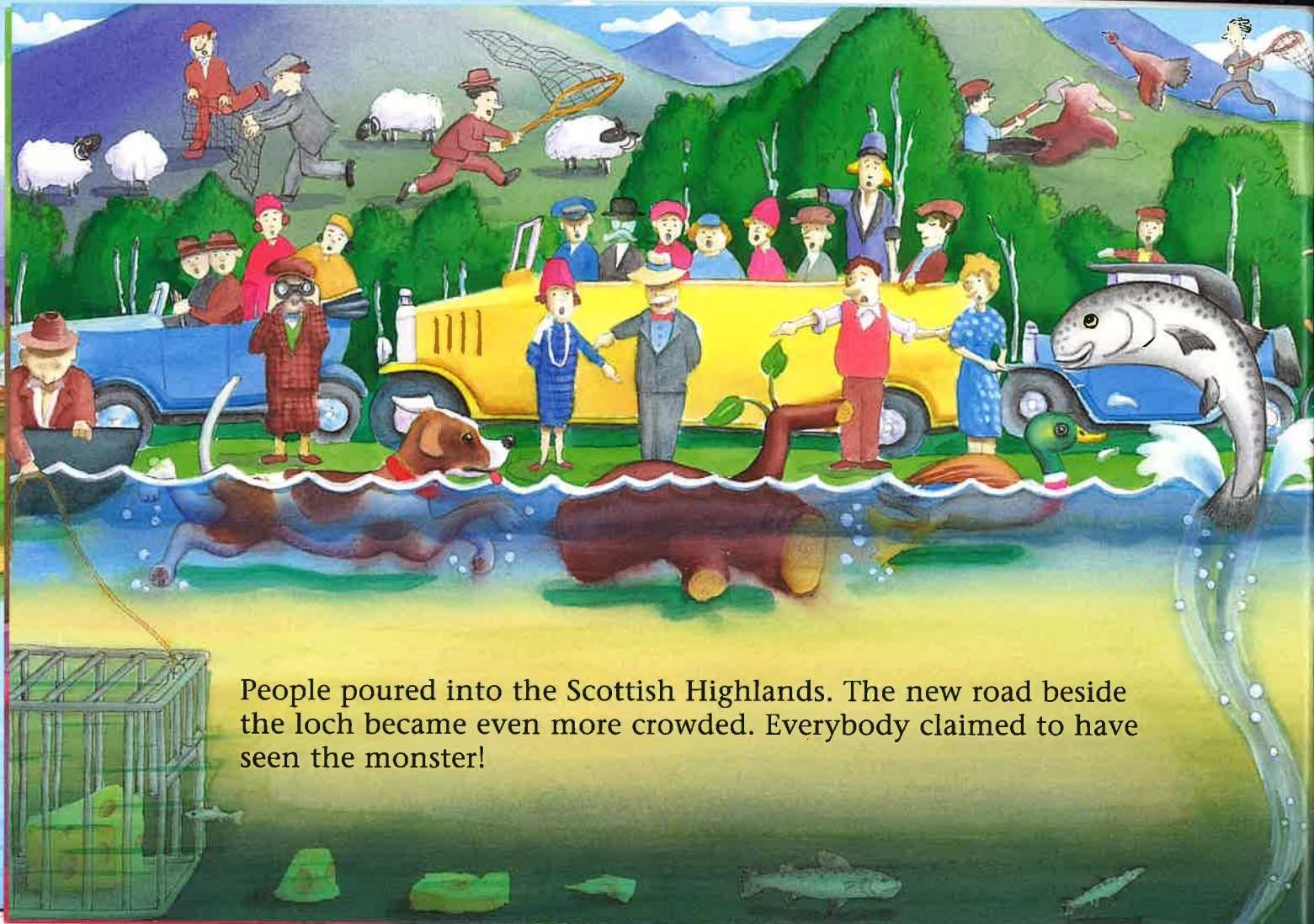
Everywhere Nessie went there were people.

She tried to keep out of their way, but one day, while sneaking over the road for a wee wander in the heather, she was spotted by Mr and Mrs George Spicer from London, England.



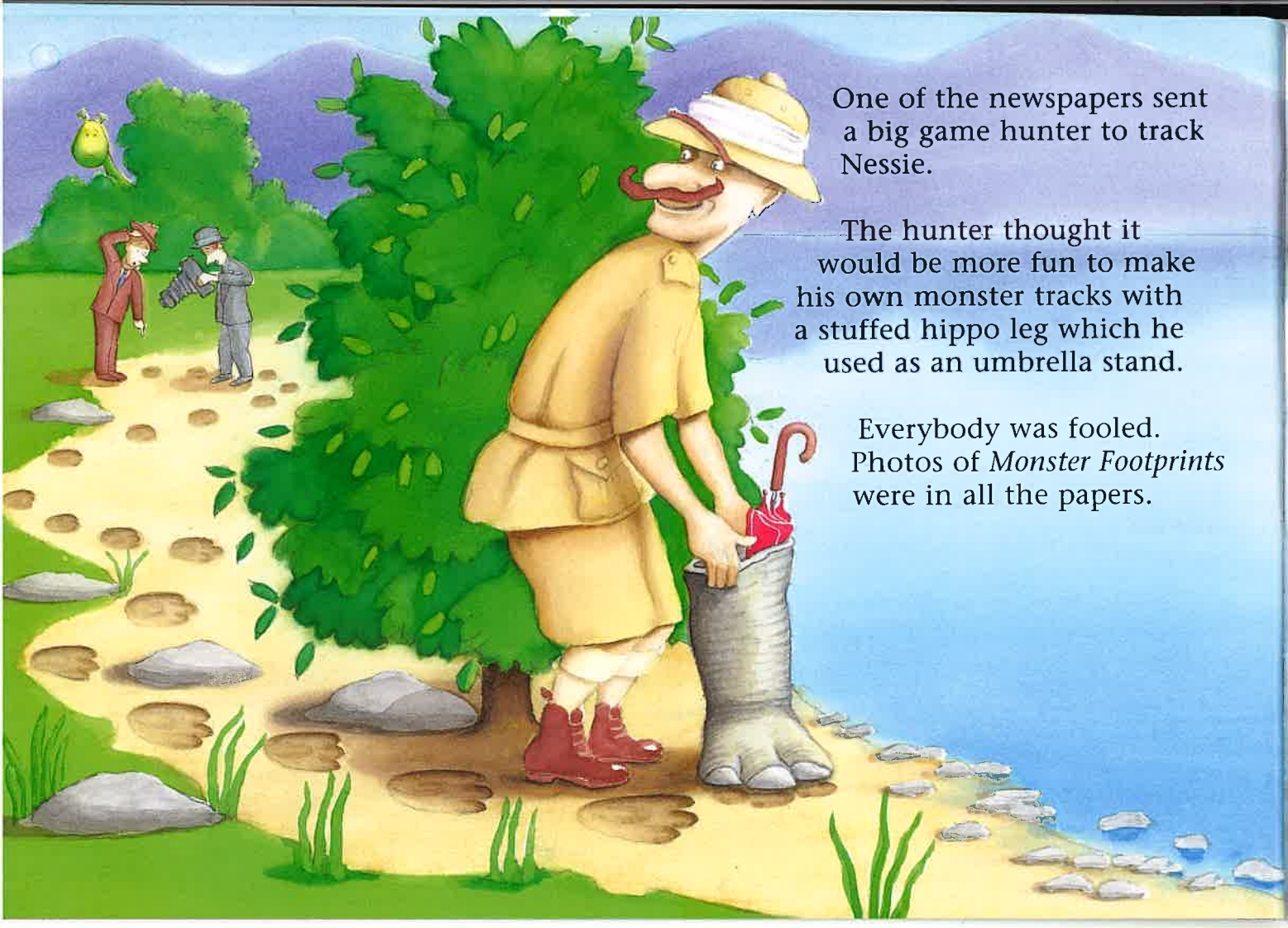
And that was the end of Nessie's peaceful time. Newspapers all over the world were full of the story. A famous circus ringmaster offered £100,000 to anybody who could catch the monster for him.





People poured into the Scottish Highlands. The new road beside the loch became even more crowded. Everybody claimed to have seen the monster!





One of the newspapers sent a big game hunter to track Nessie.

The hunter thought it would be more fun to make his own monster tracks with a stuffed hippo leg which he used as an umbrella stand.

Everybody was fooled. Photos of *Monster Footprints* were in all the papers.

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the hunter to track

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ly was fooled.  
f *Monster Footprints*  
ll the papers.

One day a surgeon  
who was driving by  
the loch was startled to  
see Nessie. He took a photo.

It did not come out very clearly.  
Perhaps his hands were shaking at  
the time. But it is still the best photo  
of Nessie that anyone has yet taken.

Whether the surgeon's hands were  
still shaking when he later removed  
an appendix in Inverness is not known.



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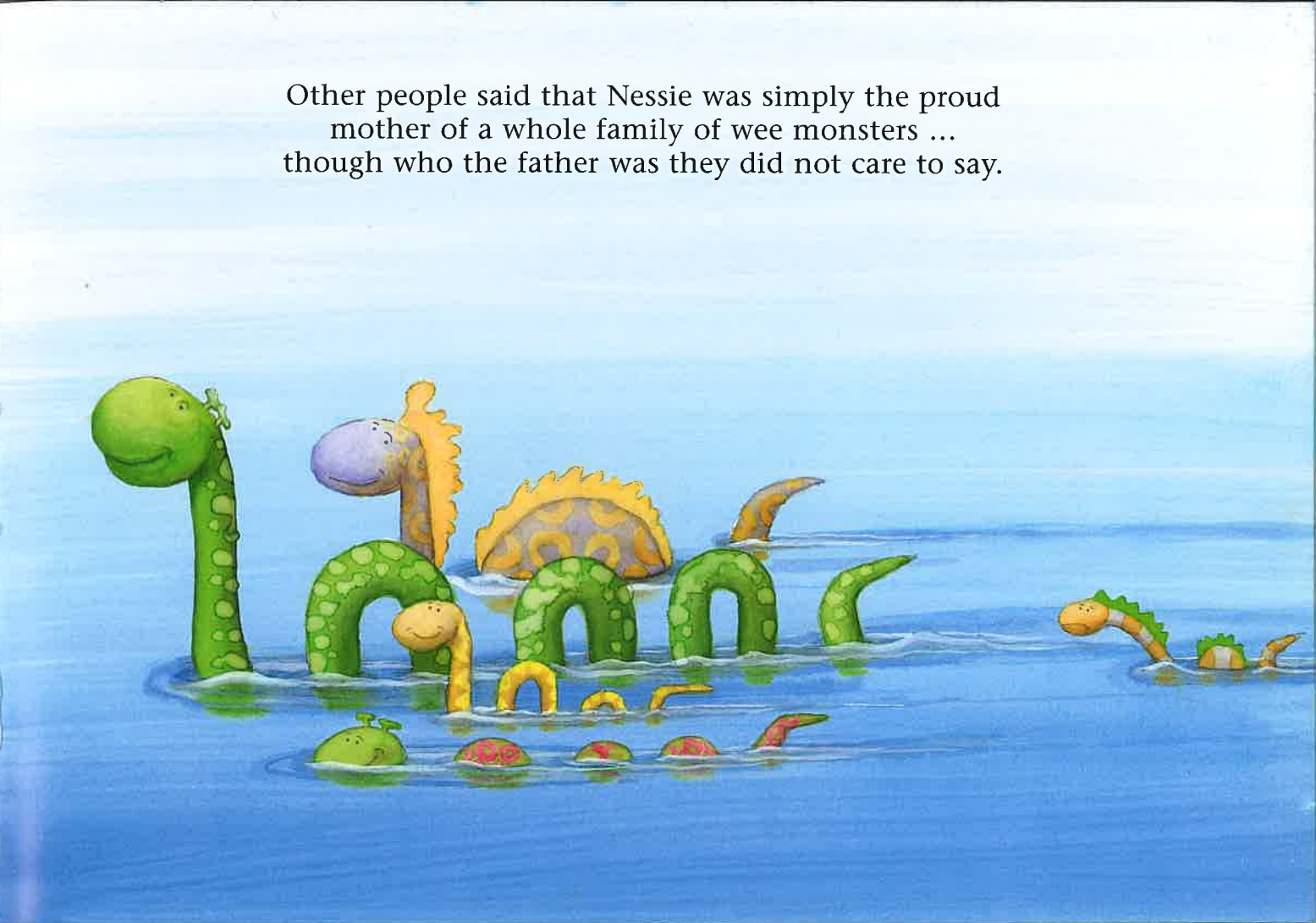
Everybody wanted to find out how Nessie came to be in Loch Ness and why she looked different to each person who saw her. Some people said that she came and went through mysterious tunnels connecting Loch Ness to the sea. They said there were other monsters too.

They couldn't explain why the water in the loch didn't run away through the tunnels.

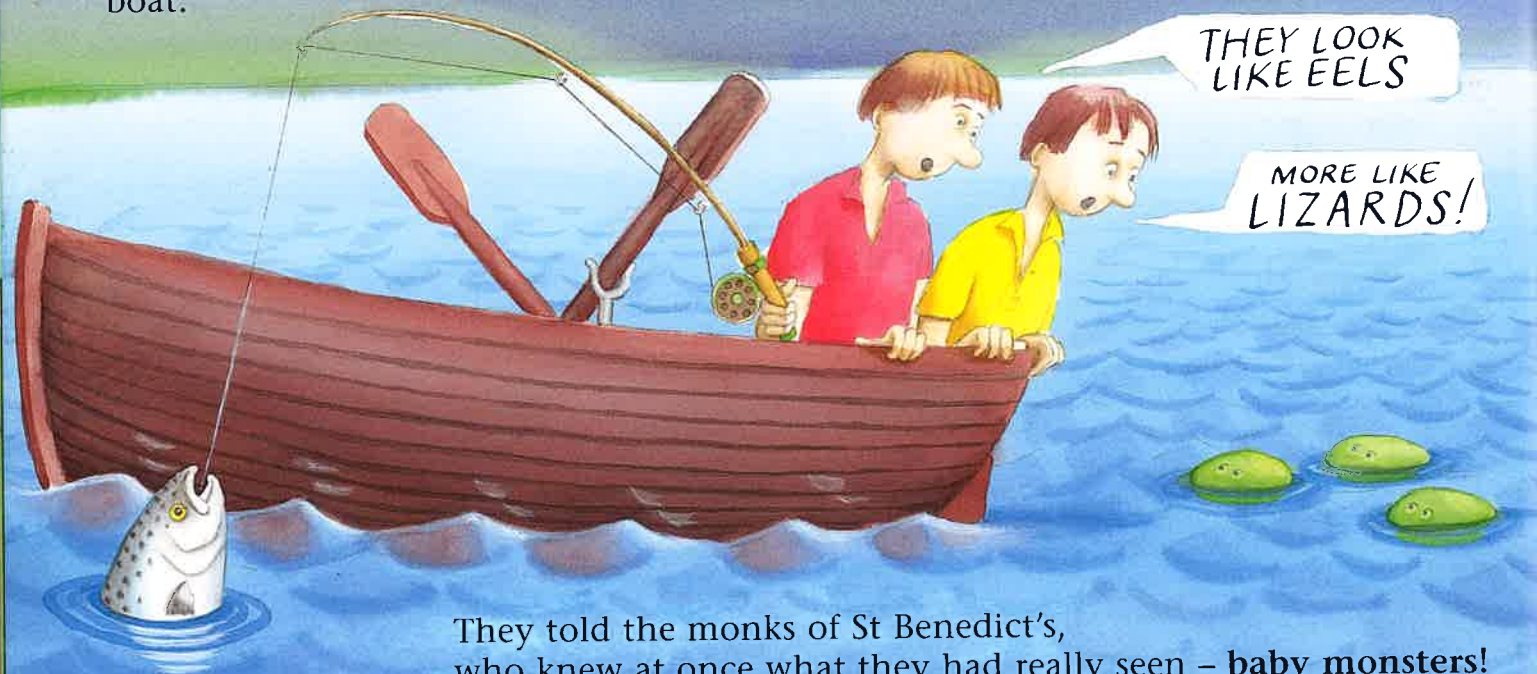


Other people said that Nessie was simply the proud mother of a whole family of wee monsters ... though who the father was they did not care to say.

... why the  
didn't run  
tunnels.



One day two boys out fishing noticed three very queer little creatures swimming behind their boat.



THEY LOOK LIKE EELS

MORE LIKE LIZARDS!

They told the monks of St Benedict's, who knew at once what they had really seen – **baby monsters!**

A great expedition was organised. Twenty men watched the loch for a whole month and one of them actually filmed the monster.

The film was rushed to London and shown to some famous zoologists. The zoologists pretended to know what Nessie was, though they hadn't a clue.

THEY LOOK LIKE EELS

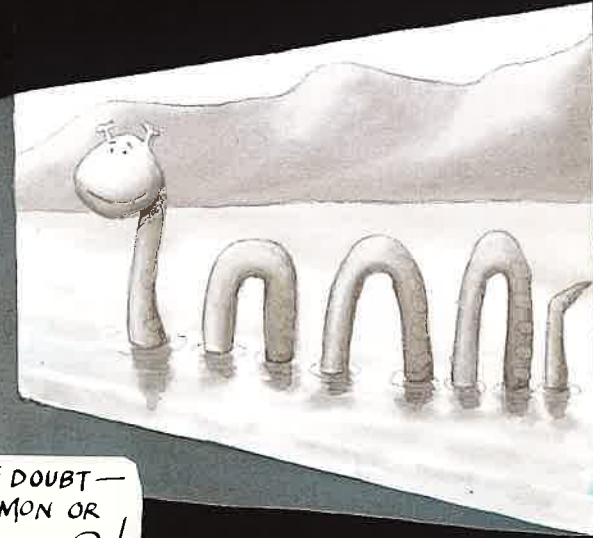
MORE LIKE LIZARDS!

A SEAL!  
DON'T YOU KNOW

MOST CERTAINLY  
A SEAL ... OR ELSE  
A SALMON!

NOT A SHADOW OF DOUBT —  
A SEAL OR A SALMON OR  
ELSE... A SHRIMP!

- baby monsters!



The film was never seen again.

People are still trying to find Nessie.

The man who searched on a hang glider was afraid the noise of an aeroplane might scare Nessie off.



One man went fishing for her by night.

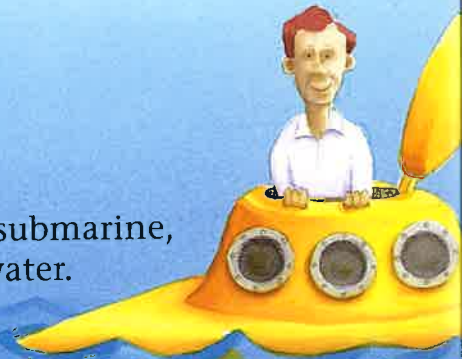


His boat was found empty the next morning. He had vanished.



Another man was nearly drowned as he tried to take a photo when Nessie came up under his canoe.

Still another dived in a mini-submarine, taking photographs underwater.



Some people would like to drain the loch so they can search the bottom.  
Others devise complicated traps which never seem to work.

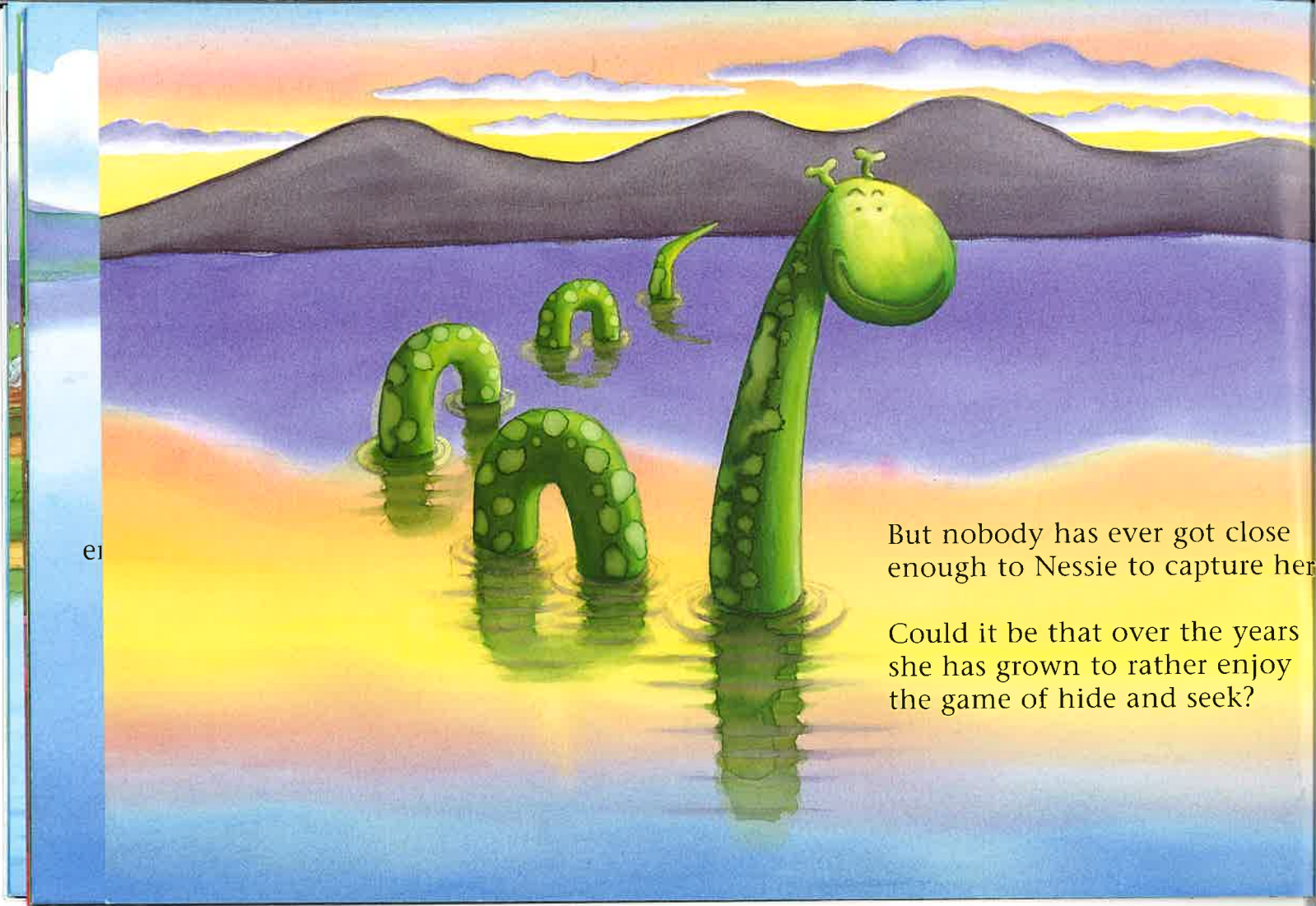
noise  
plane might  
sie off.

A group of scientists tried boats fitted with  
sonar, which is what bats use to find insects.

And there's one man who has searched  
up and down the loch for thirty years  
or more. He did once  
catch a glimpse of  
Nessie.

tine,





er

But nobody has ever got close enough to Nessie to capture her

Could it be that over the years she has grown to rather enjoy the game of hide and seek?