

# Marvin Disappeared

Rh a Dufresne Genevi ve Despr s



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# Marvin Disappeared

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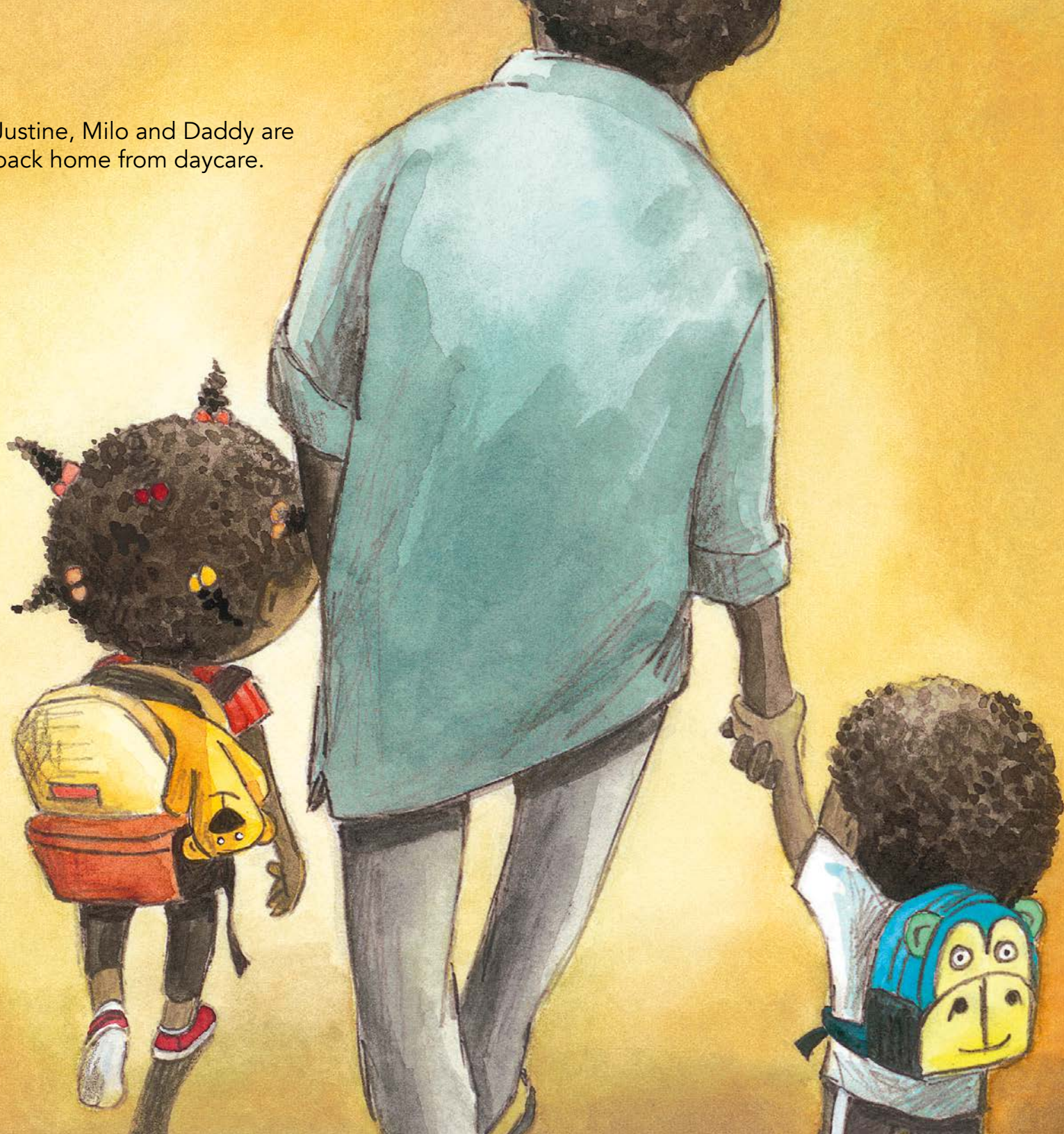
Rh a Dufresne Genevi ve Despr s

Translated by John Conn





Justine, Milo and Daddy are  
back home from daycare.



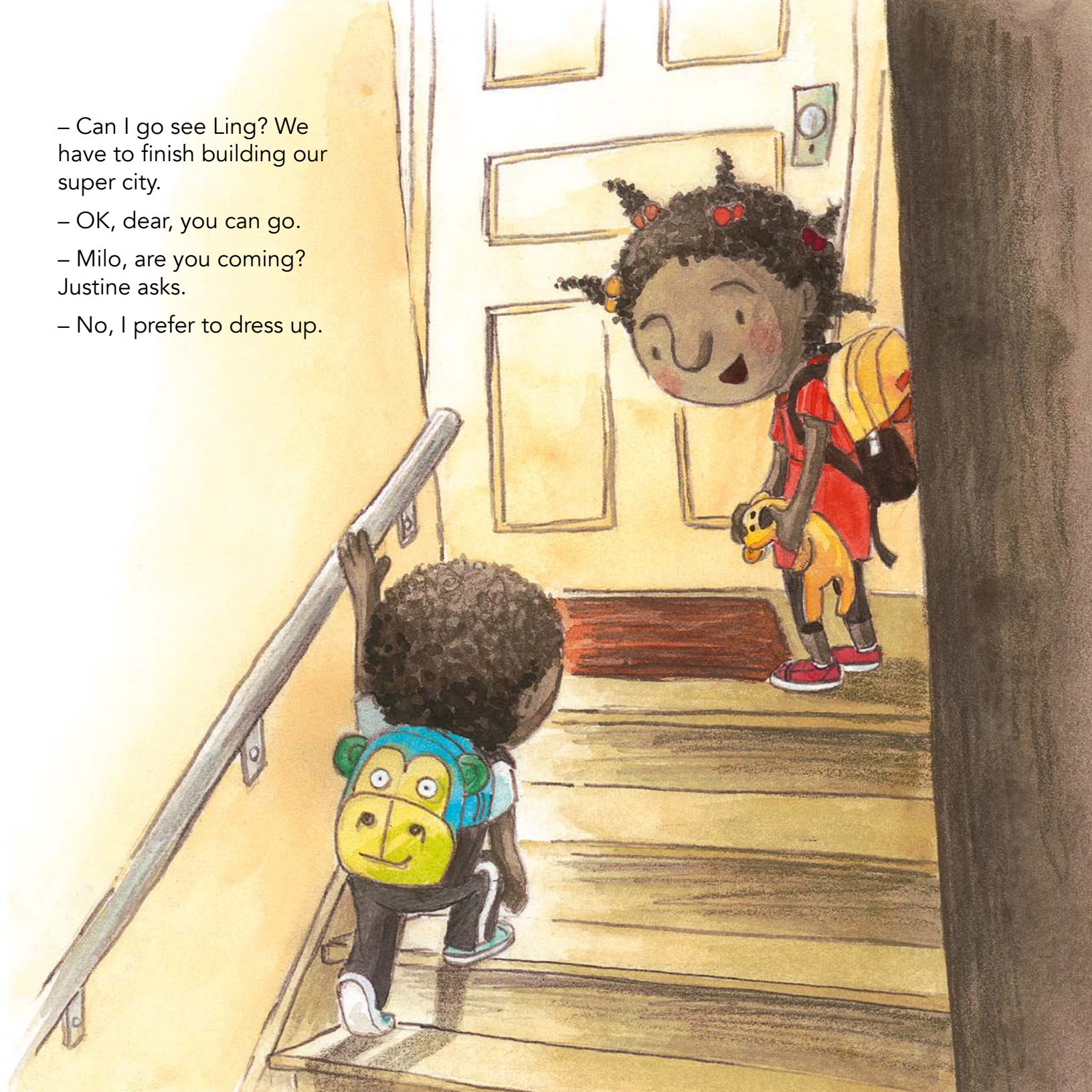


– Can I go see Ling? We have to finish building our super city.

– OK, dear, you can go.

– Milo, are you coming?  
Justine asks.

– No, I prefer to dress up.









Justine and Ling are building a bunch of roads  
and tunnels for their cars.

– You know what, Justine? We need a superhero  
to protect our city and help the people.

– Yes, we do! I'll go get my teddy bear Marvin.



Justine dashes into the kitchen.

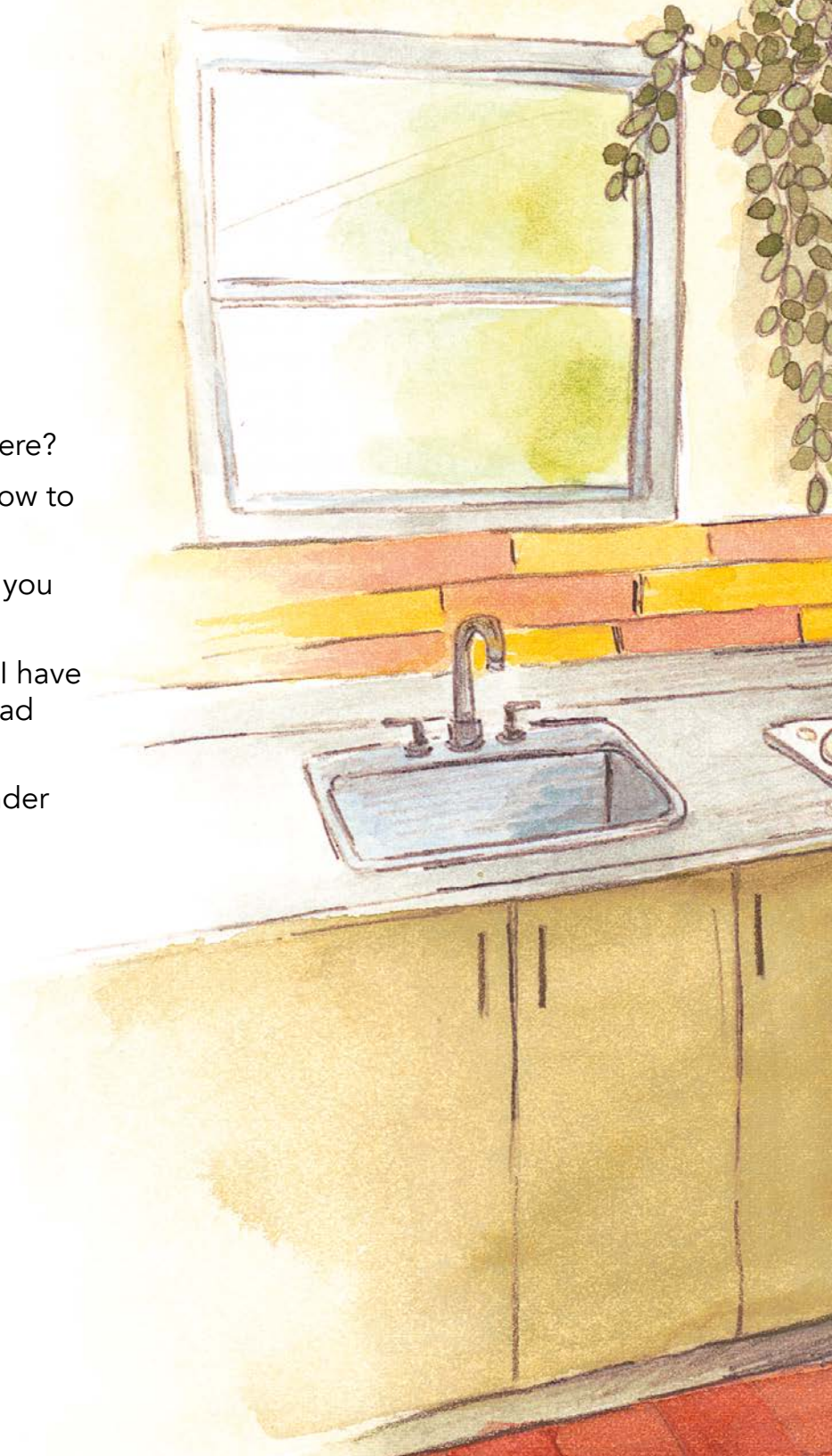
– Nassim... What are you doing here?

– I'm going to teach your father how to make my famous couscous.

– Oh! I'm looking for Marvin. Can you help me find him?

– Oh, my, my! I would like to, but I have to cut these onions before your Dad gets back from the grocery store.

Justine looks on the chairs and under the table but Marvin isn't there.







J Y W Z  
K Q H N V P L I R O U  
A B C D E F G X T S M







In the hallway, Justine searches her bag. Just then,  
the front door opens.

- Mommy! You're home early today.
- My bus got a flat tire. I had to bring it to the garage.
- Oh! I'm looking for Marvin. Can you help me find him?
- Oh, my, my! I would like to, but I have to go change.





Justine goes in her room.

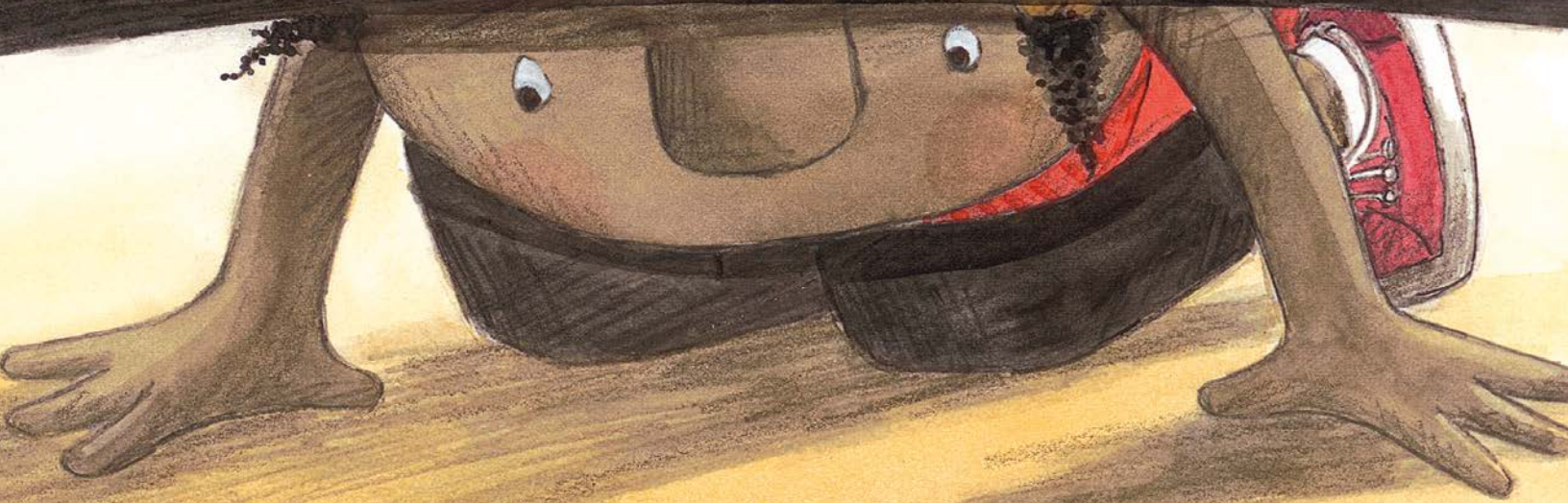
– Milo! What's your costume?

– I'm a witch!

– Oh! I'm looking for Marvin. Can you help me find him?

– Oh, my, my! I would like to, but I'm making a magic potion!

Justine looks through the costumes and under the bed but Marvin is nowhere to be found!





Justine returns to her friend. She is disappointed.

– Marvin disappeared, Ling. I can't find him anywhere.

– It's OK. Your doll Lily can be our superheroine.

– Dolls are for girls! Justine replies.

– That's not true! I play with dolls too.

– But Marvin is the one I'm looking for, Justine answers.

– You'll find him later. Let's keep building our city.













At dinner, Daddy notices Justine...

– Why aren't you eating? he asks.

– I lost Marvin, Daddy.

– I'm sure he's not far. Think about where you've been since you got home.

– Oh! Justine remembers. I went under the balcony to get some pieces of wood. He might be there!

– After dinner, we can look for him, Mommy suggests.



Justine is a bit scared outside in the dark.  
She holds onto Mommy's hand. Mommy smiles  
and she feels better.

Justine shines her flashlight from left to right and  
suddenly...

– I think I saw Marvin! I saw his eyes.

But no such luck... It's Julius, Nassim's cat,  
curled up in a ball.











Mommy opens the door to the shed. Shining her flashlight,  
Justine sees something...

– There's Marvin! I see something yellow.





But no such luck... It's her old swimsuit.

– I'm sorry Justine, we have to go in now. We'll find Marvin tomorrow.



As she goes on the balcony, Justine lights up the recycling bin:

– There he is! she exclaims, pointing to the little leg sticking out of the boxes.

– How did Marvin get into the recycling bin? Mommy asks.

– I remember, says Justine. I put him there when I was looking for boxes to build our city.

– Now that all is back to normal, Mommy says, we can go get ready for bedtime.







Justine is happy she finally found  
her teddy.

– I'm going to sleep well, she says.  
And tomorrow we will have a superhero  
and a superheroine to protect our city!









## GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

- Did you notice that Justine likes to play with her friend Ling? Can boys and girls play together? Who do you like to play with? What do you like to do with your friends? *Invite the children to identify a friend of the opposite sex with whom they like to play.*
- Milo dresses up and Justine builds a city with cars. Are there games and toys for girls and for boys? Tell me about the games and toys you like to play with. *Emphasize nonstereotyped games for girls and boys. Mention that tastes are different for everyone, regardless of sex.*
- Did you notice that Justine was scared and was feeling upset when she was looking for Marvin outside in the dark? Do boys also get scared or upset? What other emotions do you know about? Can girls and boys feel the same emotions? *Emphasize that children all have the same emotions, no matter their sex.*
- Justine's doll Lily is a superheroine. Do you know any superheroines? Girls are brave and strong! Tell me about a girl you know who is brave or strong.

**Marie-Vincent Foundation**

For further guidelines for discussions with the children  
visit [www.marie-vincent.org](http://www.marie-vincent.org)











Justine and her friend Ling are building a super city in their backyard.  
They just need a superhero or superheroine to protect it.  
Justine's teddy bear, Marvin, will be perfect.  
But Marvin has disappeared! The search is on to find him...

*An illustrated storybook that sheds light on egalitarian gender relationships.*



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