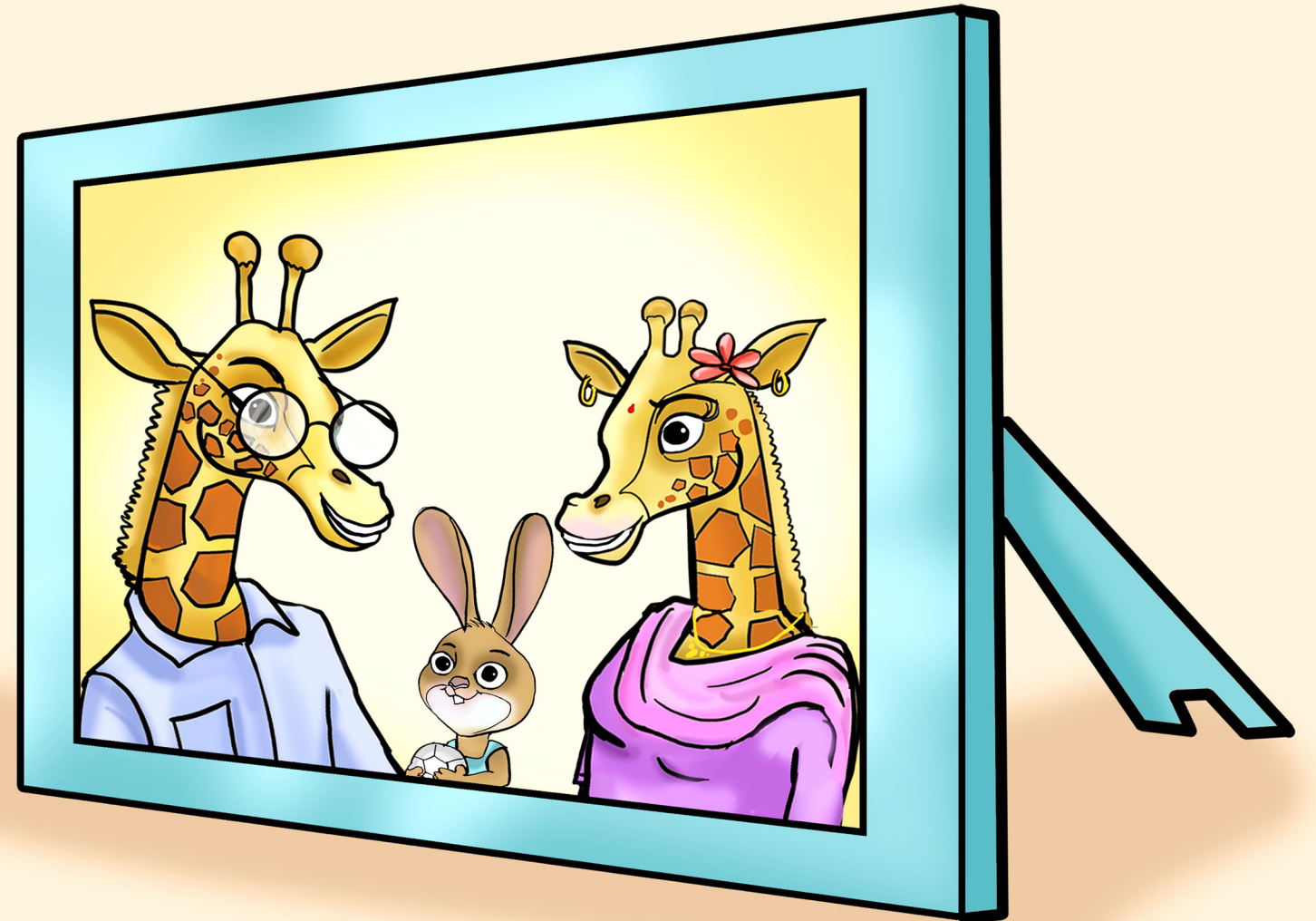
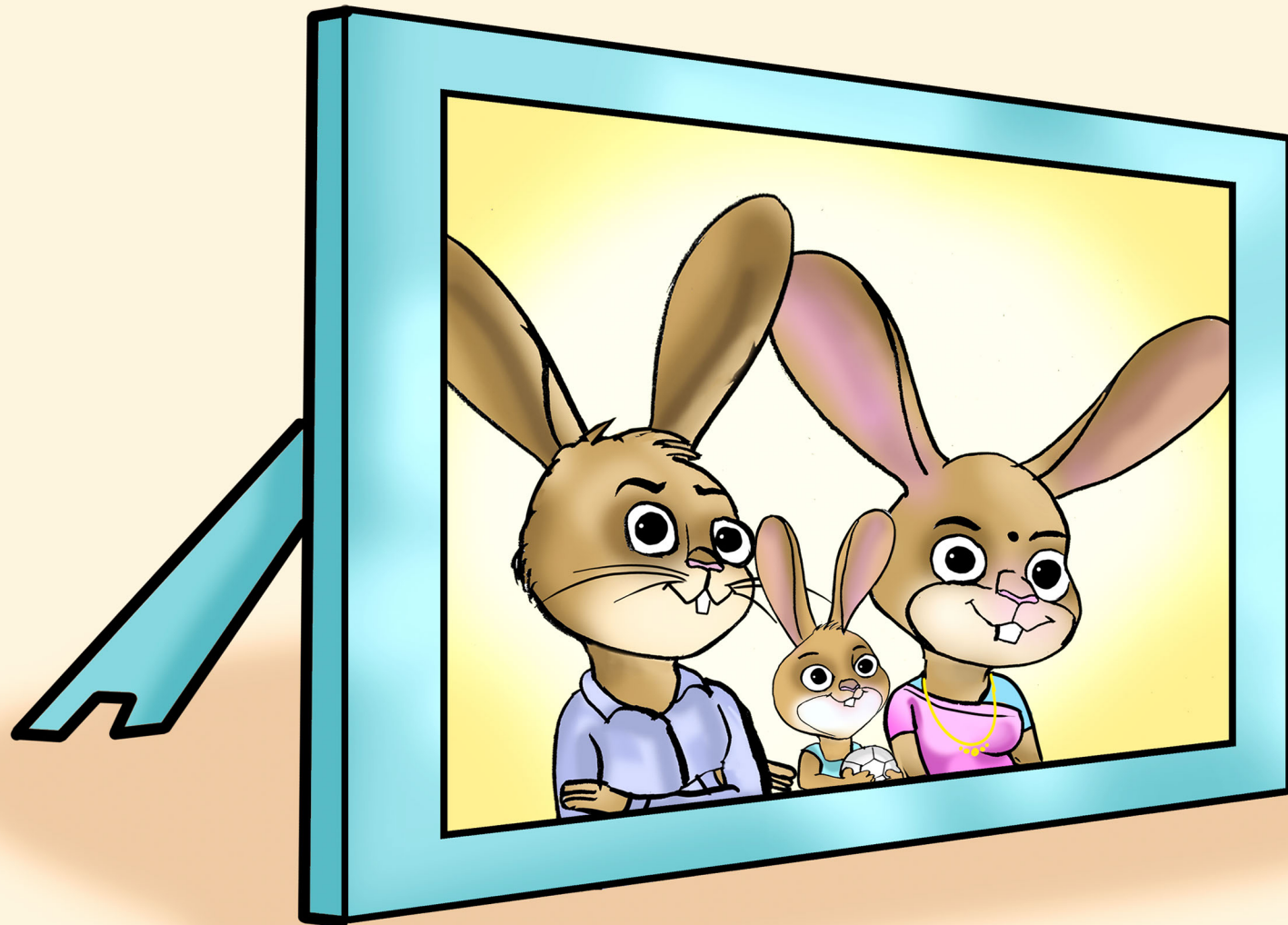
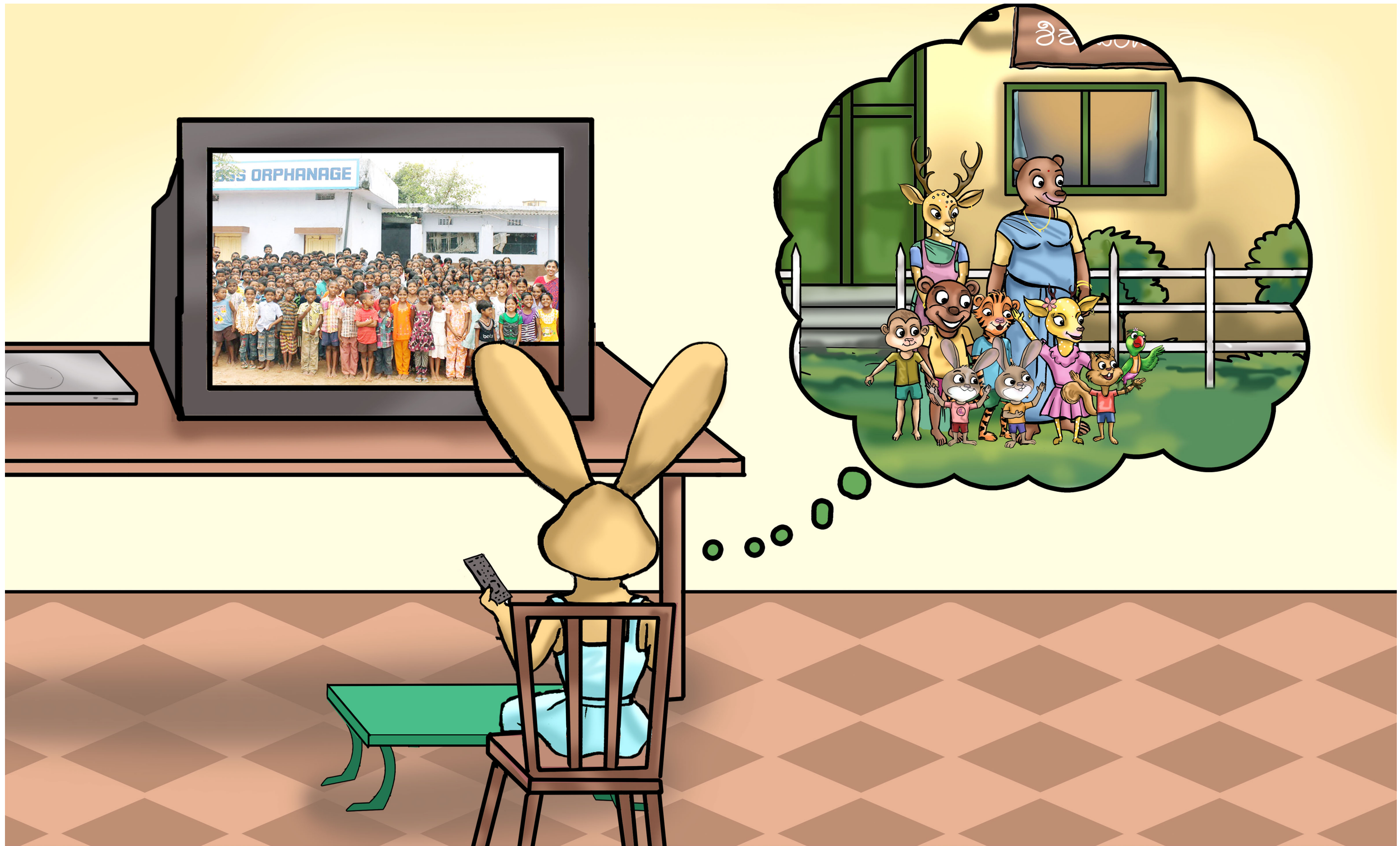
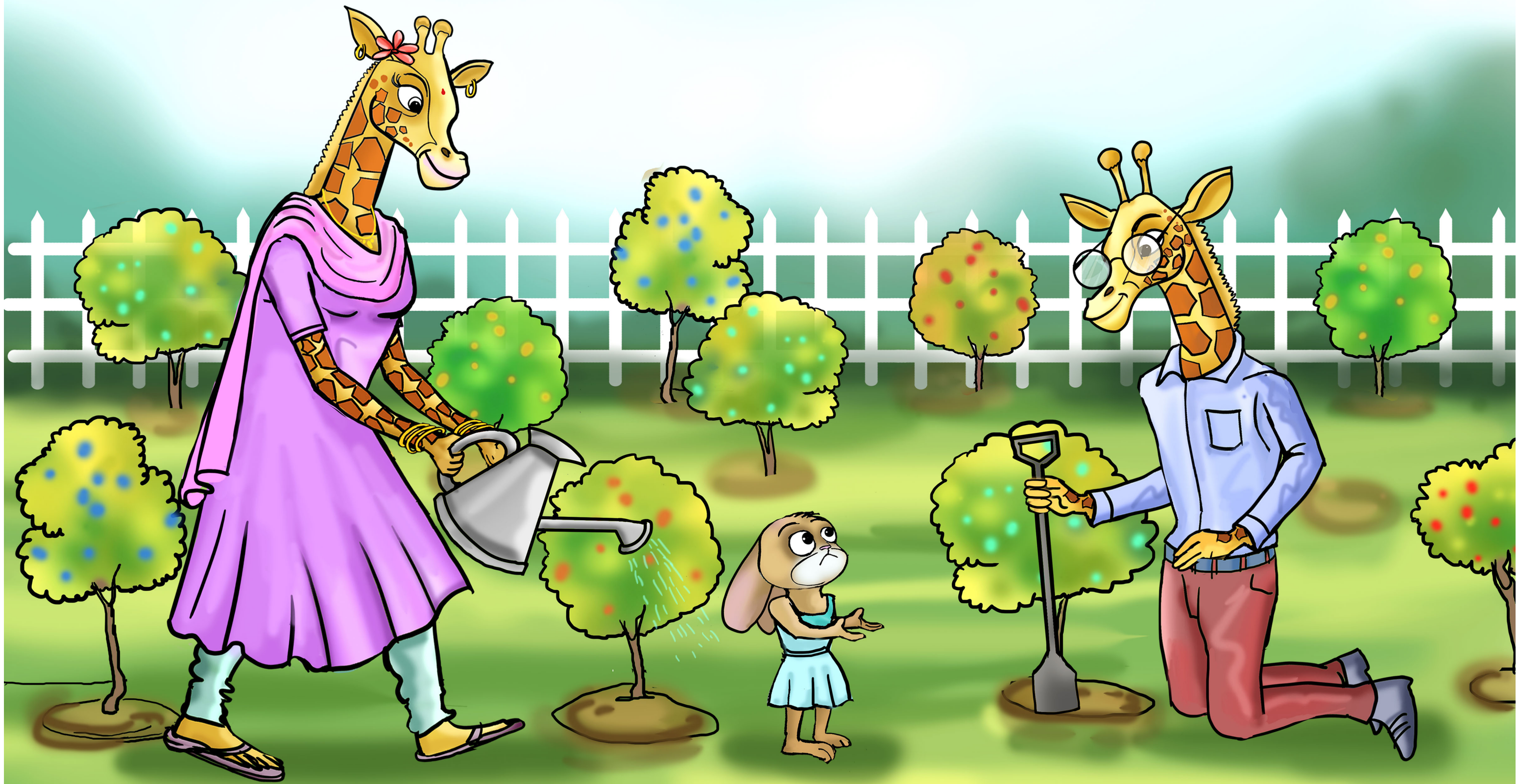


Who is Mimi's 'Real' Family?

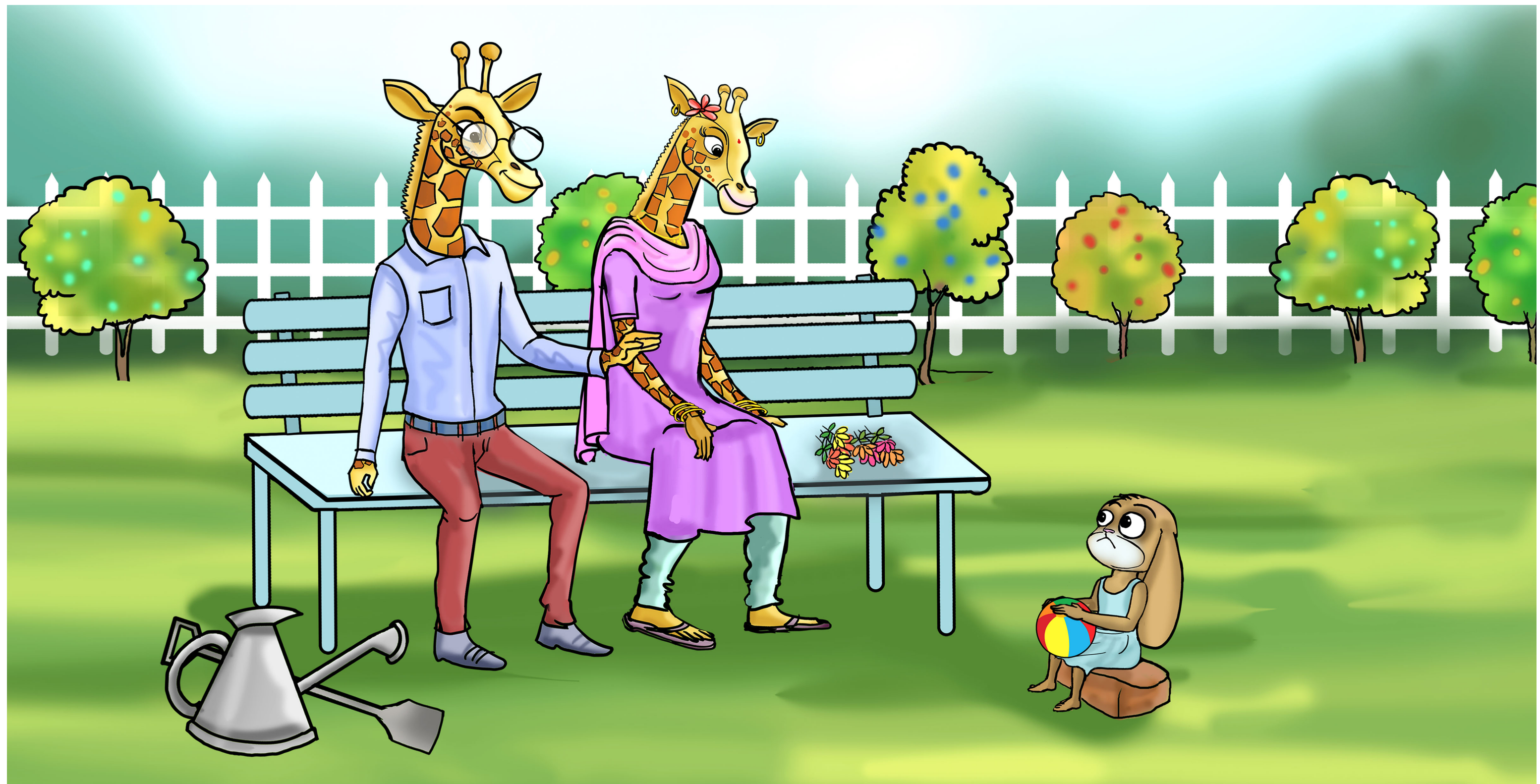




Mimi spent many happy days at home and school. One day, she saw a television serial about families not being able to look after their children and how they gave up their children to a Home. Why, thought Mimi, that home looks a lot like Mrs. Bear's Home...and those children are just like me and Tingu and Bobo and the rest! She was quiet for a long time after she watched the serial.



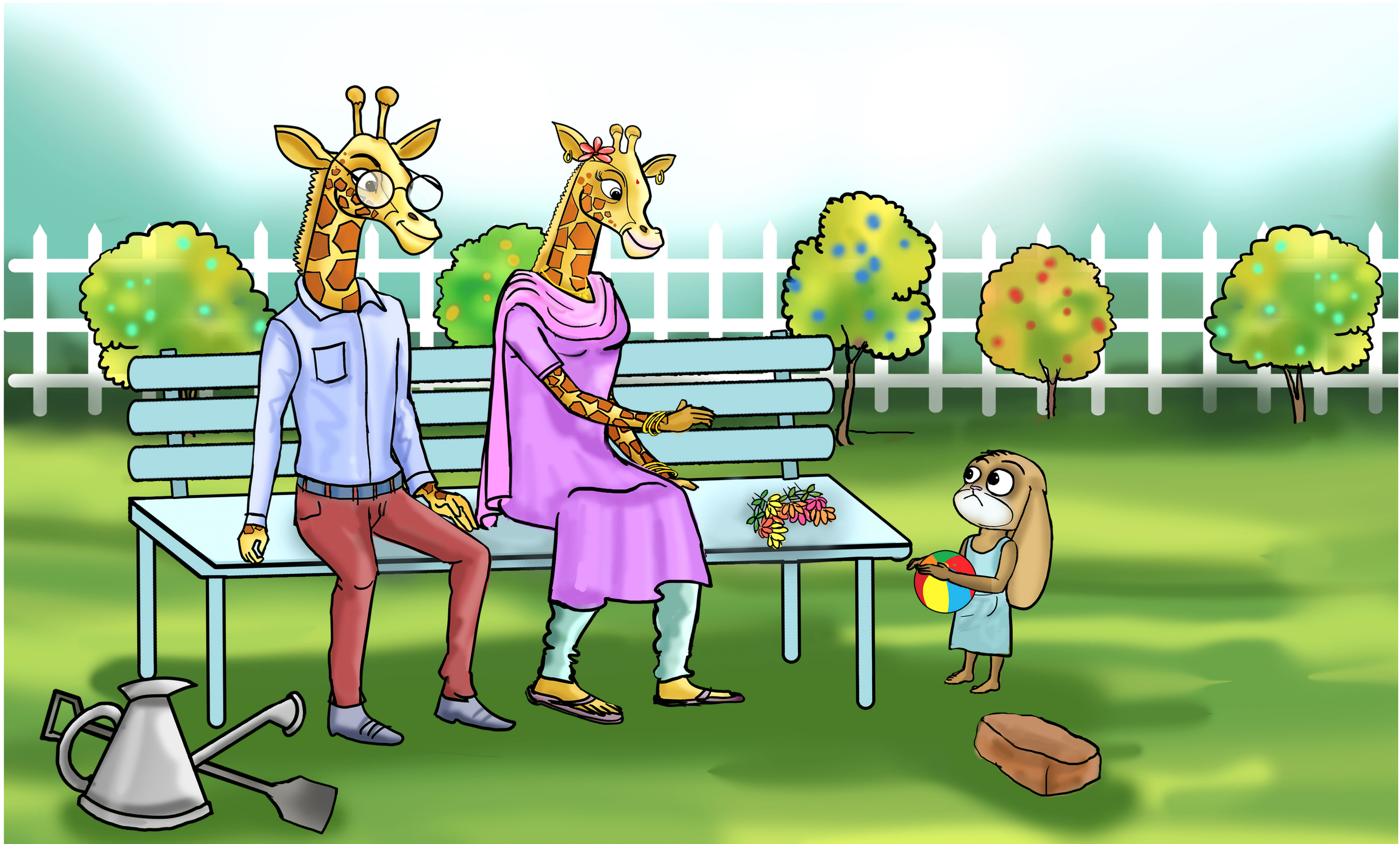
At last, she asked her Mummy and Daddy: "Why did my daddy not want to keep me and take care of me? You think he didn't want me or love me?" Mimi asked her parents.



"There can be many reasons why parents are unable to look after their children", said Daddy. "Most parents would like to keep and look after their children if they can. Some parents are very sick or they don't have any money to feed and look after their children. So they may give their children to a place like Mrs. Bear's Home. It isn't the children's fault if parents are unable to look after them...just like it was not your fault at all that your daddy couldn't look after you."

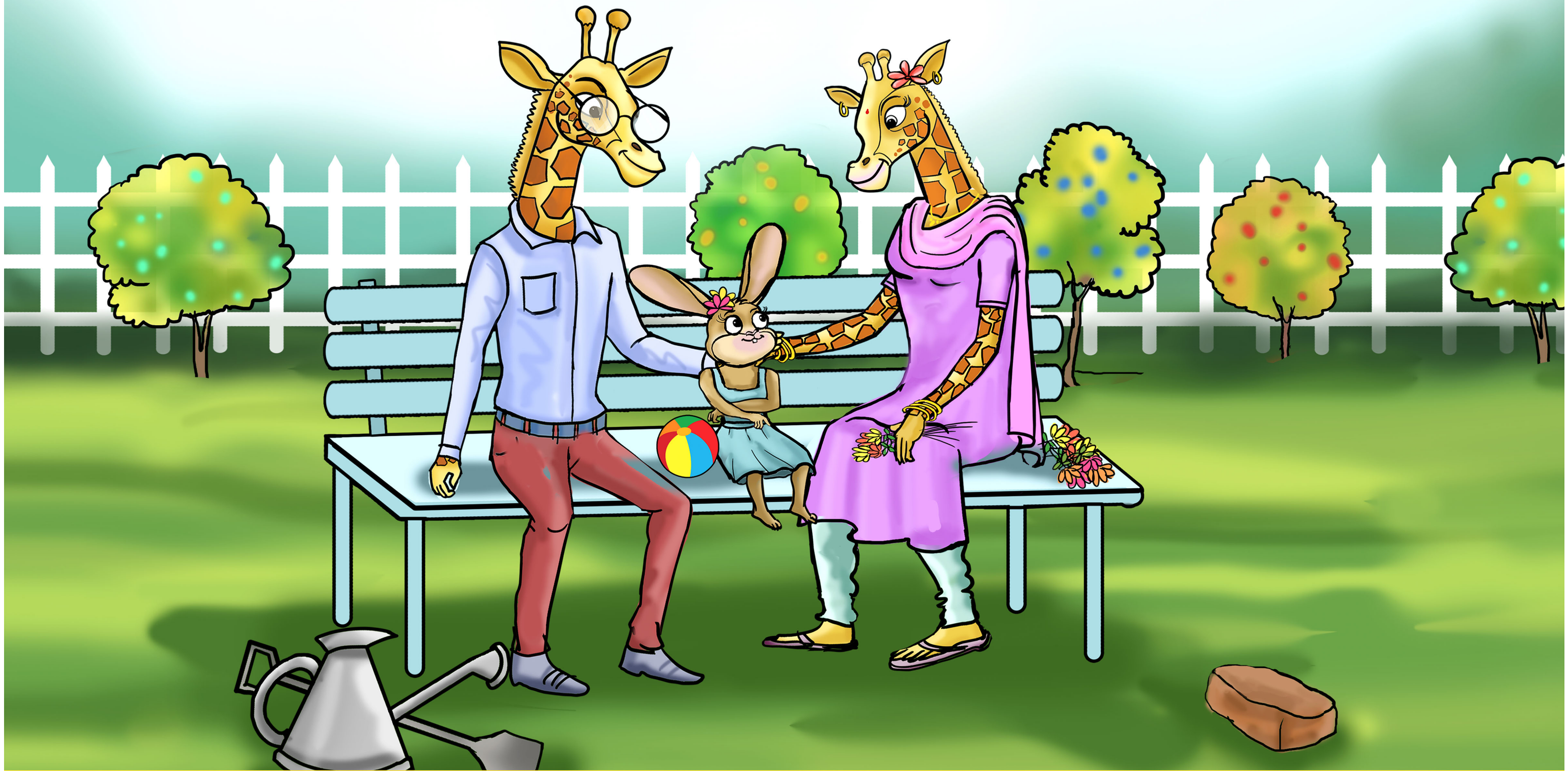
"So, perhaps your daddy loved you and would have liked to keep you but wanted you to be safe and cared for—something he couldn't do, especially as your mummy wasn't there to help either", said Mummy. "But we are here now to love and care for you...just as your birth mummy and daddy would have wanted."

"Sometimes parents may give up their children as tiny babies, and sometimes parents may wait until their children are a little bigger and older and give them up because they cannot take care of them later on. But they hope that their children will be well looked after, fed and cared for in the Home...like you were. And some of the children in these Homes even find a new home and parents, just like you did", said Daddy.



"But are you my real parents then? Or are they my real parents?" asked Mimi.

"They are your real parents because you were born to them and they took care of you for some part of your life—and did as much as they could at the time. But when they couldn't and now that they are no longer around, and we are here to love and care for you, we are your real parents", said Daddy.

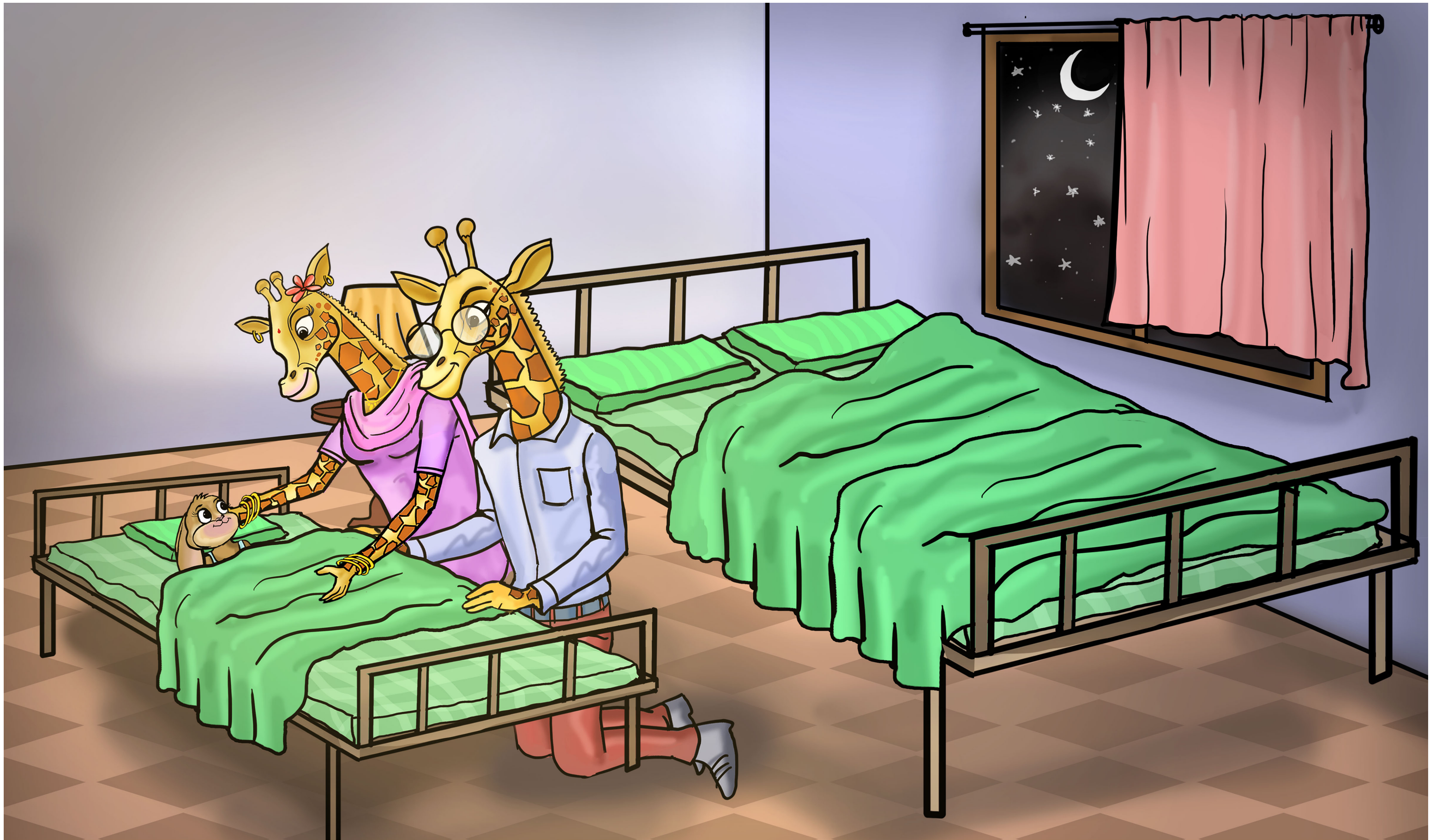


"So, you are both my real parents?" asked Mimi, surprised.

"Yes, of course," said Mummy. "Any parent who loves you and looks after you is a real parent."

"So, are you really my family now?" asked Mimi, doubtfully.

"Well, when Daddy and I met and decided to be together, we became a family," explained Mummy. Then, we met you and wanted you to be our child, so now you are family too...and we all belong to one family now!"



Families are funny things, thought Mimi as she went to bed that night. You can be born into one or be adopted by one...either way you belong! And you belong because you are wanted and loved...which is really what matters.

"I am really glad I belong to this family...I love you both", said Mimi to her Mummy and Daddy when they came to say good-night.

"We are lucky to have you as part of our family," said Mummy and Daddy. "We love you too, Mimi, very, very much...and for always!"

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