

Ola Bylica

**A Woman
and Her Butterflies**

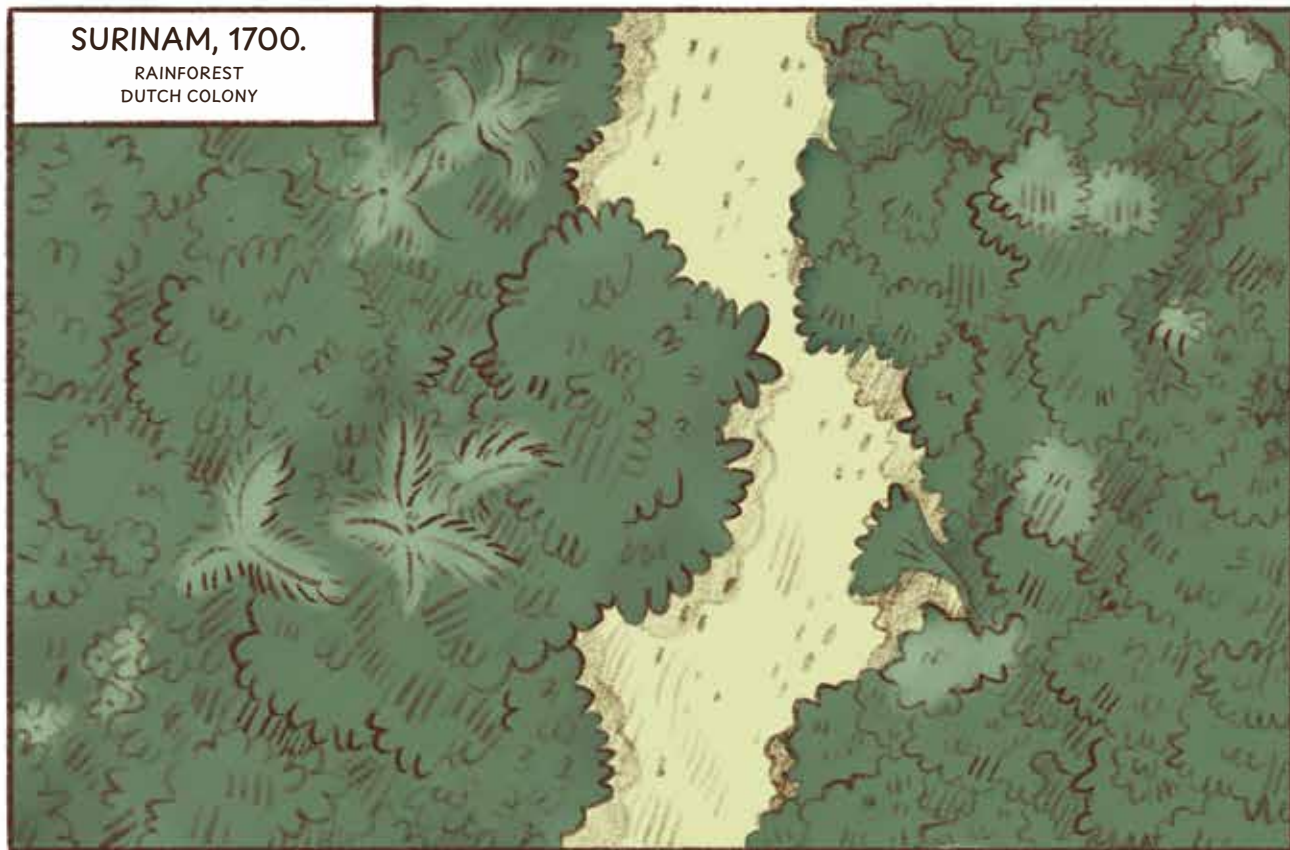
Maria Sibylla Merian



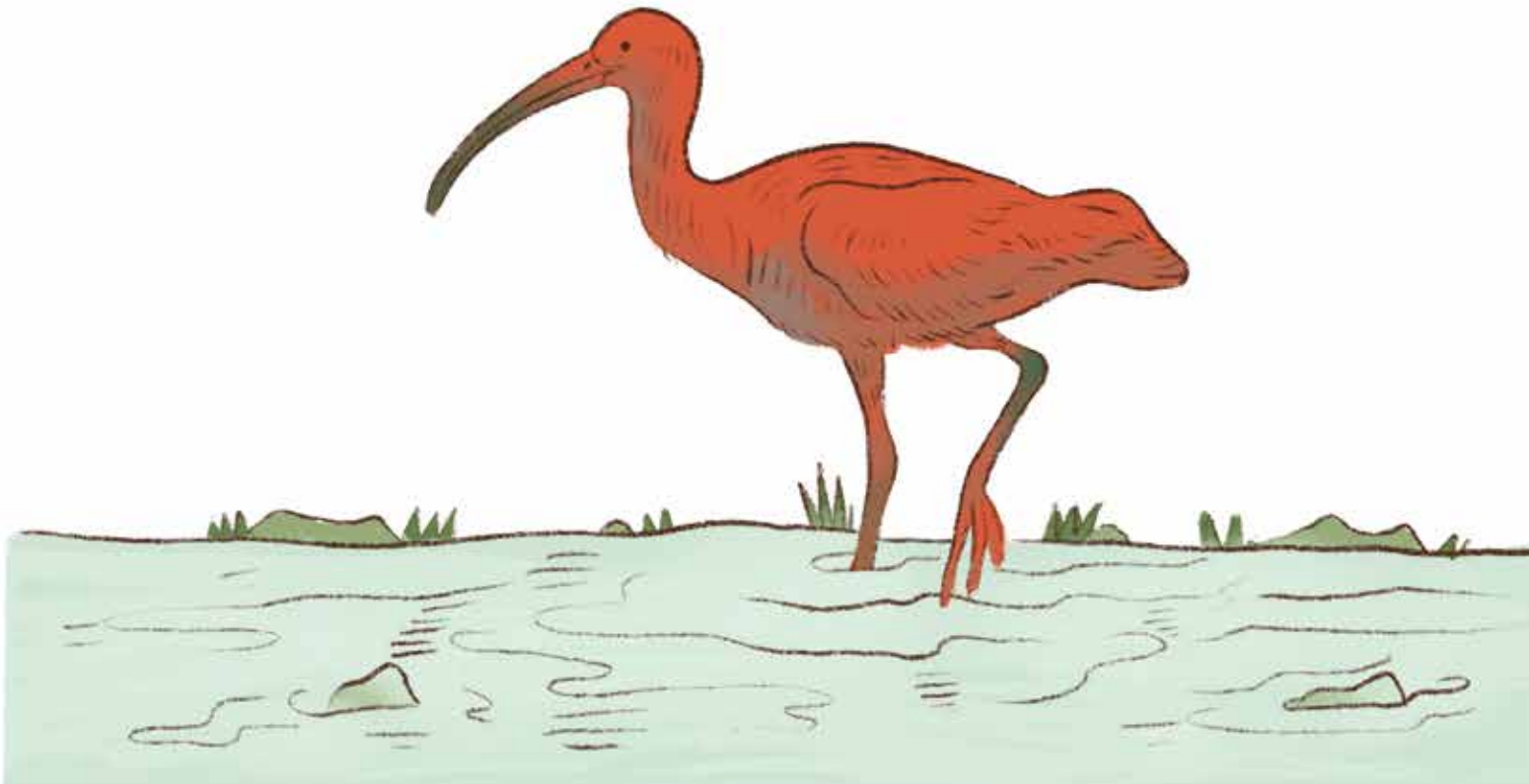
ERYTHRINA FUSCA
MARIA SIBYLLA MERIAN

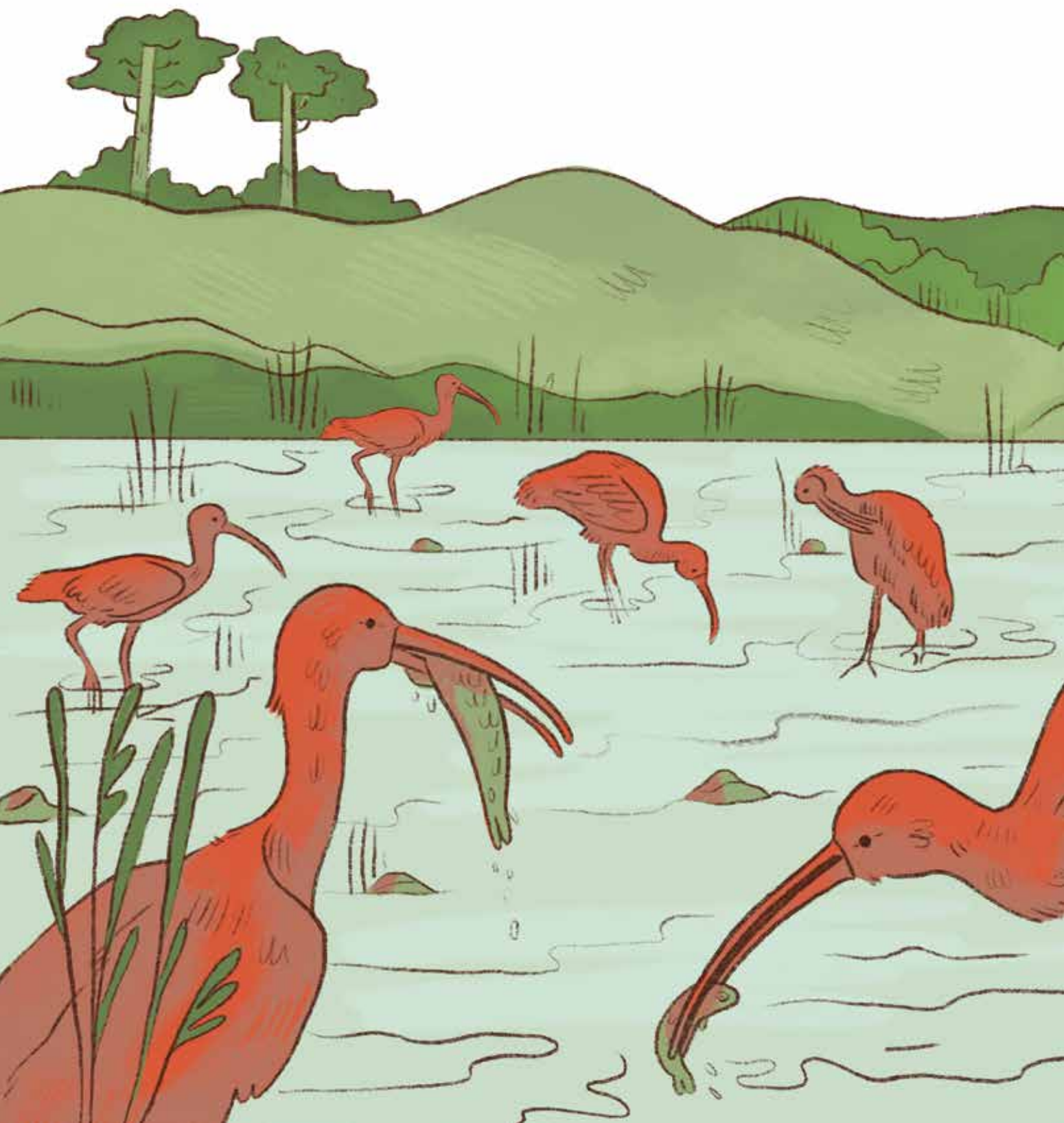
SURINAM, 1700.

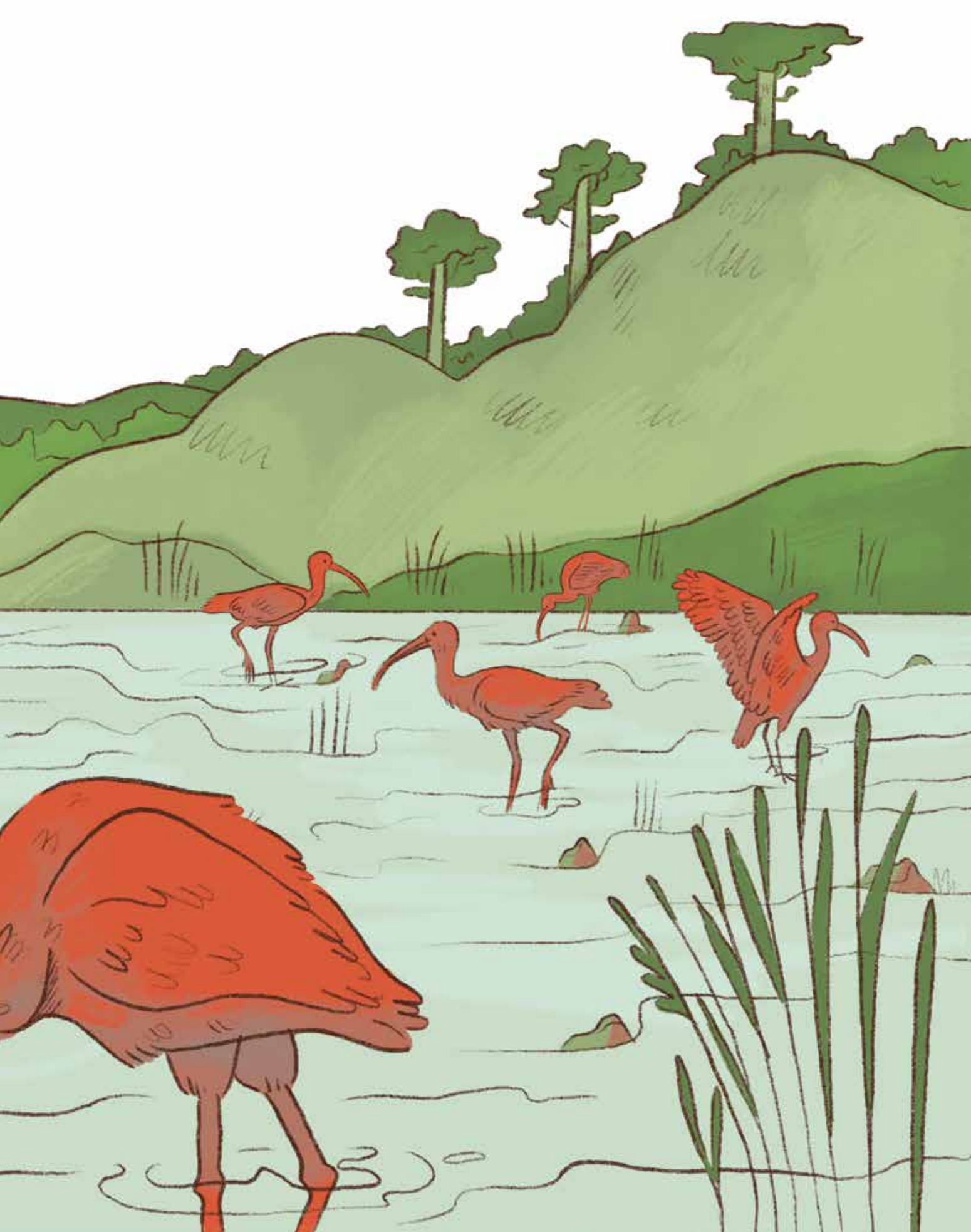
RAINFOREST
DUTCH COLONY





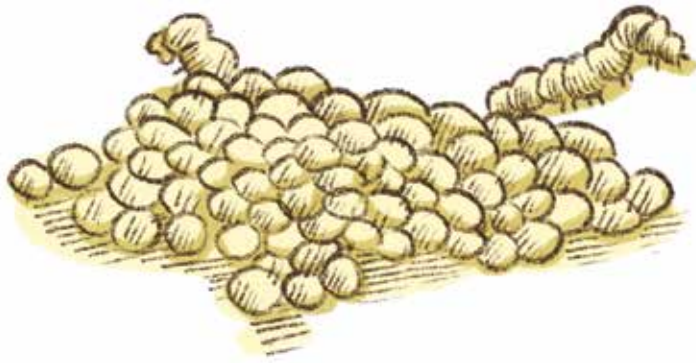






Chaper I

The Hatching





WHEN YOU WERE BUT A SMALL PEA IN MY BOSOM, I WOULD SPEND MY TIME IN YOUR LATE FATHER MATTHAUS MERIAN'S PRINTING HOUSE, SURROUNDED BY THE SUFFOCATING SMELL OF PAINT AND THE BUZZ OF THE WORKERS.

TABLES WERE FULL OF THE TWISTING, SNAKE-LIKE ANIMAL PELTS FOR BOOKBINDING,

AND PINNED TO THE WALLS WERE ROPES WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE NEW WORLD HANGING FROM THEM*, DESIGNED ACCORDING TO THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE BRAVE DISCOVERERS.



EVERYWHERE YOU LOOKED
THERE WERE PARCHMENTS,
ROLLS, RAKES.

FILINGS FROM TIN PLATES FROM PREVIOUSLY
ENGRAVED MATRIXES WOULD CRAWL UNDER
THE SKIN, TO SCRAPE AGAINST THE THROAT
WITH A DEEPER EXHALE.

IT WAS A CREATIVE MESS, AND YET
EVERYTHING HAD ITS OWN PLACE.

EVERYONE WOULD WORK HARD AND FAST,
AND YET WITH PRECISION. NOT ALL PEOPLE ARE
SUITABLE FOR SUCH WORK.

YOU NEED STRENGTH, PRECISION, A LOT OF PATIENCE
AND A CALM SPIRIT, AS SOMETIMES THE PRINTER'S PROOF
DOES NOT COME OUT AS INTENDED.

*terms with the asterisk are explained in the DICTIONARY at the end of the comic.



CROCODILOS CONFIDENTI RATIO
THÉODORE DE BRY AND HIS SONS

FRANKFURT, 1654.

JACOB MARRELL'S HOUSE

I LOOK UPON THE MEMORIES OF THAT TIME WITH MUCH SENTIMENT, AND YET I PREFER THE SMELL OF OIL PAINT AND THIS HOUSE.

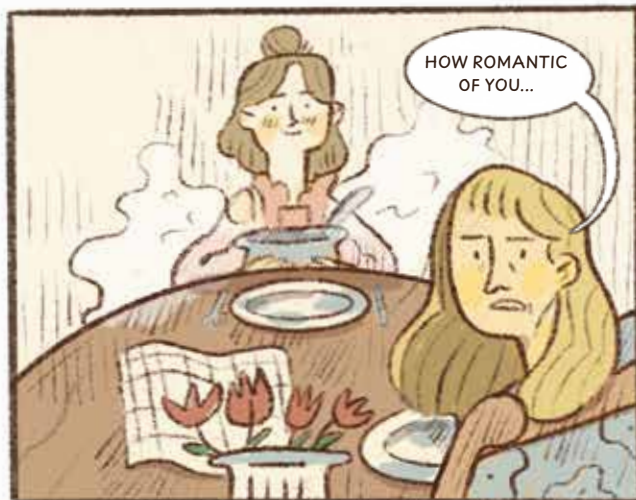
AND THAT IS WHY I BECAME A PAINTER. YOU NEED TO BE PRECISE, BUT WITH PAINTS YOU CAN GO CRAZY A LITTLE, AND IF SOMETHING COMES OUT WRONG - YOU CAN ALWAYS PAINT IT OVER!

ALTHOUGH I STILL ENVY YOUR MOTHER FOR BEING ABLE TO SPEND HER YEARS IN SUCH A PLACE!

IT'S THE GRANDEST PRINTING HOUSE IN THE WHOLE FRANKFURT!

JUST LOOK UPON THESE GRAPHICS!

CAN YOU TAKE THEM OF THE TABLE?



AND OF THIS
TERRIBLE
CROCODILE!

AAAAAH...

YOU'RE ALL
CRAZY...

DARLING! WILL YOU PICK
UP SOME TULIPS FROM THE
GARDEN? I NEED TO PUT THEM
IN A VASE BEFORE THE
APPRENTICES ARRIVE.

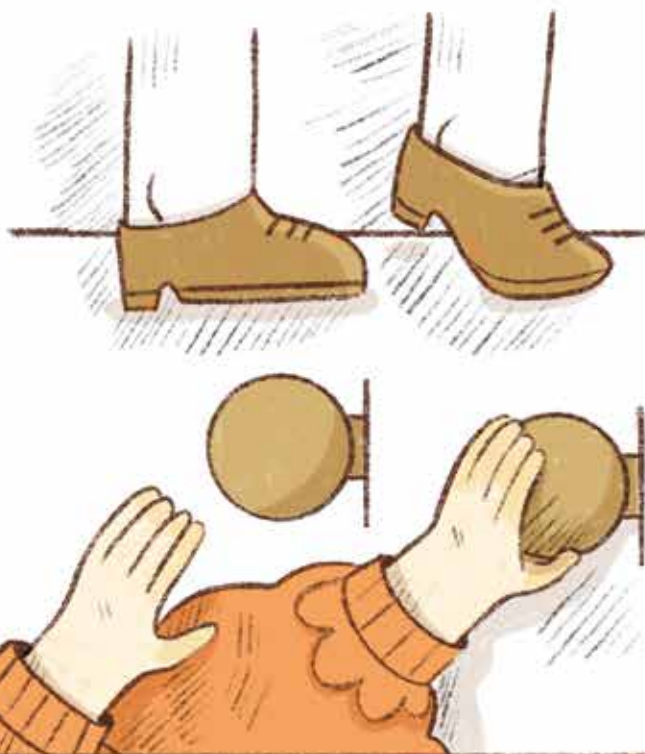
JACOB, FOR THE LOVE OF
GOD... THE GIRL WILL BECOME
A WILDLING BECAUSE
OF YOU!

LET MARIA GO...

CAN I,
CAN I?!

TRZASK









CHICKS, OR SMALL BIRDS, ARE CREATED FROM THE EGGS LAID BY LARGER BIRDS,



FOALS ARE BORN FROM MARES, OR FEMALE HORSES,



AND PEOPLE COME FROM PEOPLE.

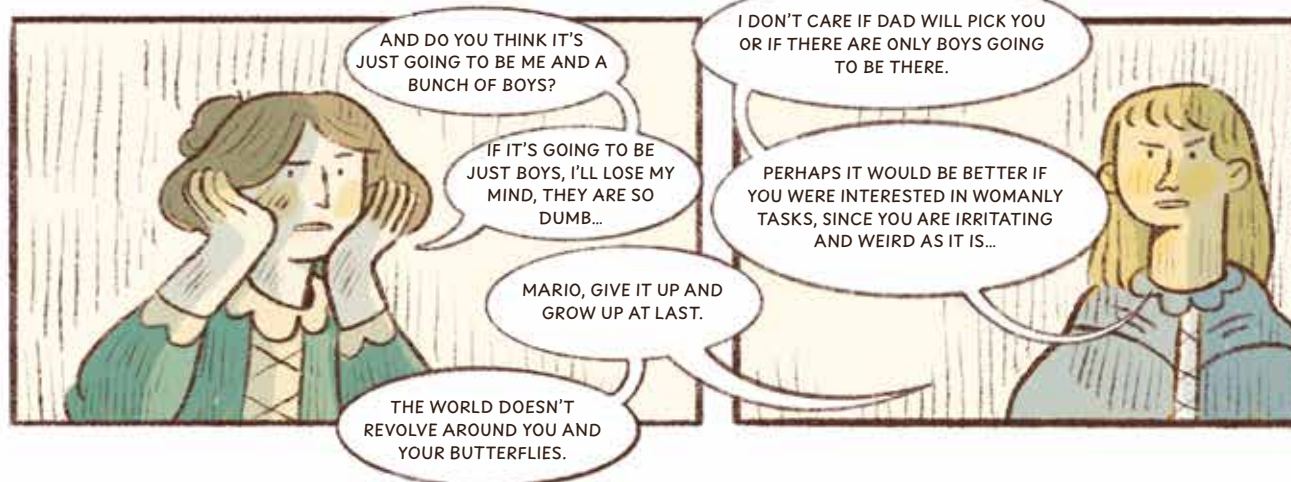


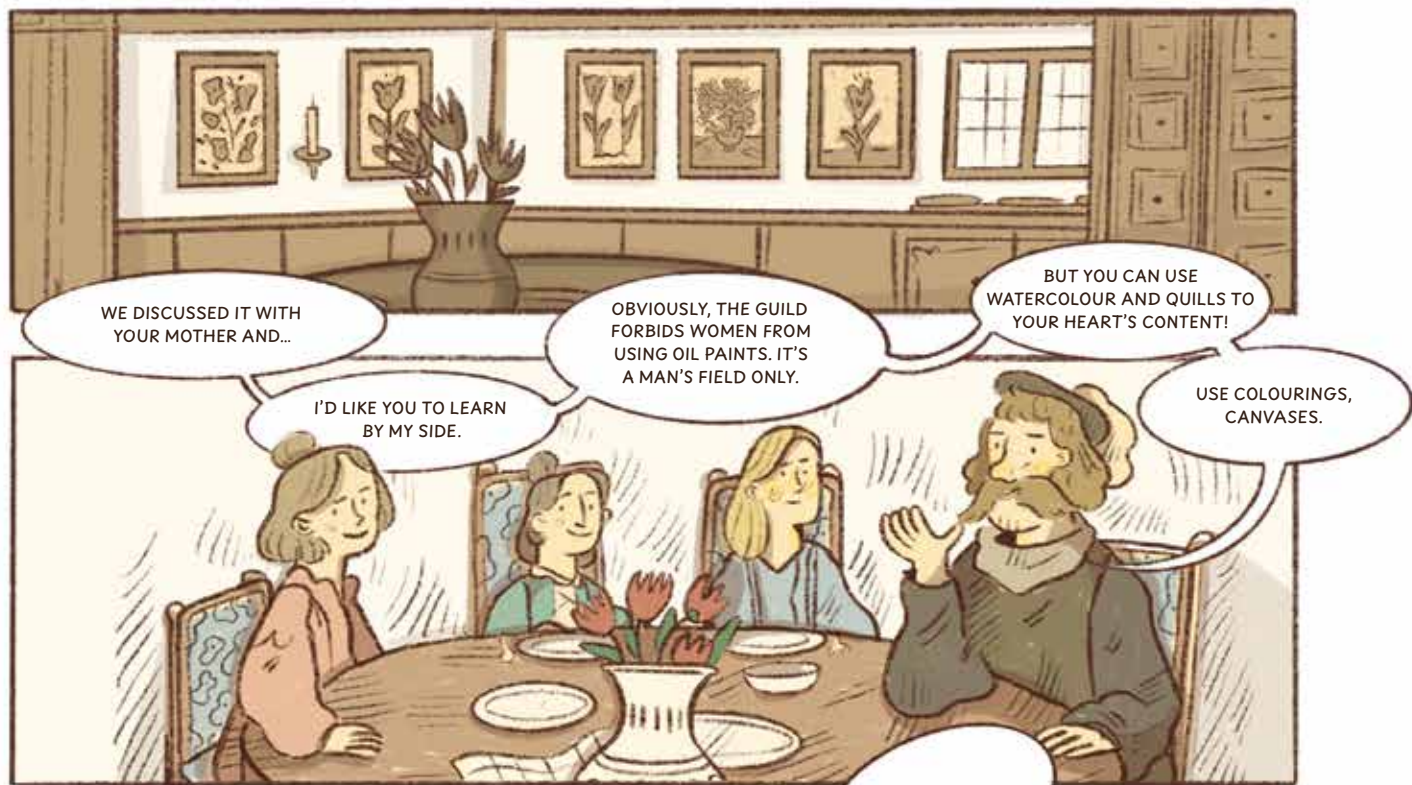




FRANKFURT, 1660.

JACOB MARREL'S HOUSE









PFF,
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HER...
THE MASTER ONLY LIKES HER BECAUSE HE'S
SLEEPING WITH HER MOTHER!

FRANKFURT, 1664.

JACOB MARREL'S HOUSE



BESIDES, SHE'S BUT A LASS. WHO CARES HOW WELL SHE'S DOING, SHE WON'T MAKE A SINGLE PENNY FROM IT.

AND THEN NO ONE WILL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT HAG!

CRAZY BUTTERFLY LADY! IF SHE GOES ON LIKE THIS, THEY WILL TAKE HER FOR A WITCH!

HAHAHA, WEIRDO! I HEARD SHE TURNS INTO HER CATERPILLARS AT NIGHT!

YUCK! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HAHA! I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED!



I WOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH MY WORDS, LADS... JEALOUSY IS A SIN. REMEMBER THAT!

IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD FOCUS ON PAINTING THIS HYDRANGEA INSTEAD OF RUNNING YOUR MOUTHS...



WHAT A KNOW-IT-ALL...

CAME FROM ITALY AND THINKS HE CAN BOSS AROUND!

MARREL'S FAVOURITE.

POOR MAN'S PAINTER!

QUALEM BLENNUM!*

CAME AND RUINED ALL THE FUN...

