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Opening extract from  
**The Lonely Beast**

Written by  
**Chris Judge**

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# THE LONELY BEAST

CHRIS JUDGE



For Cliona

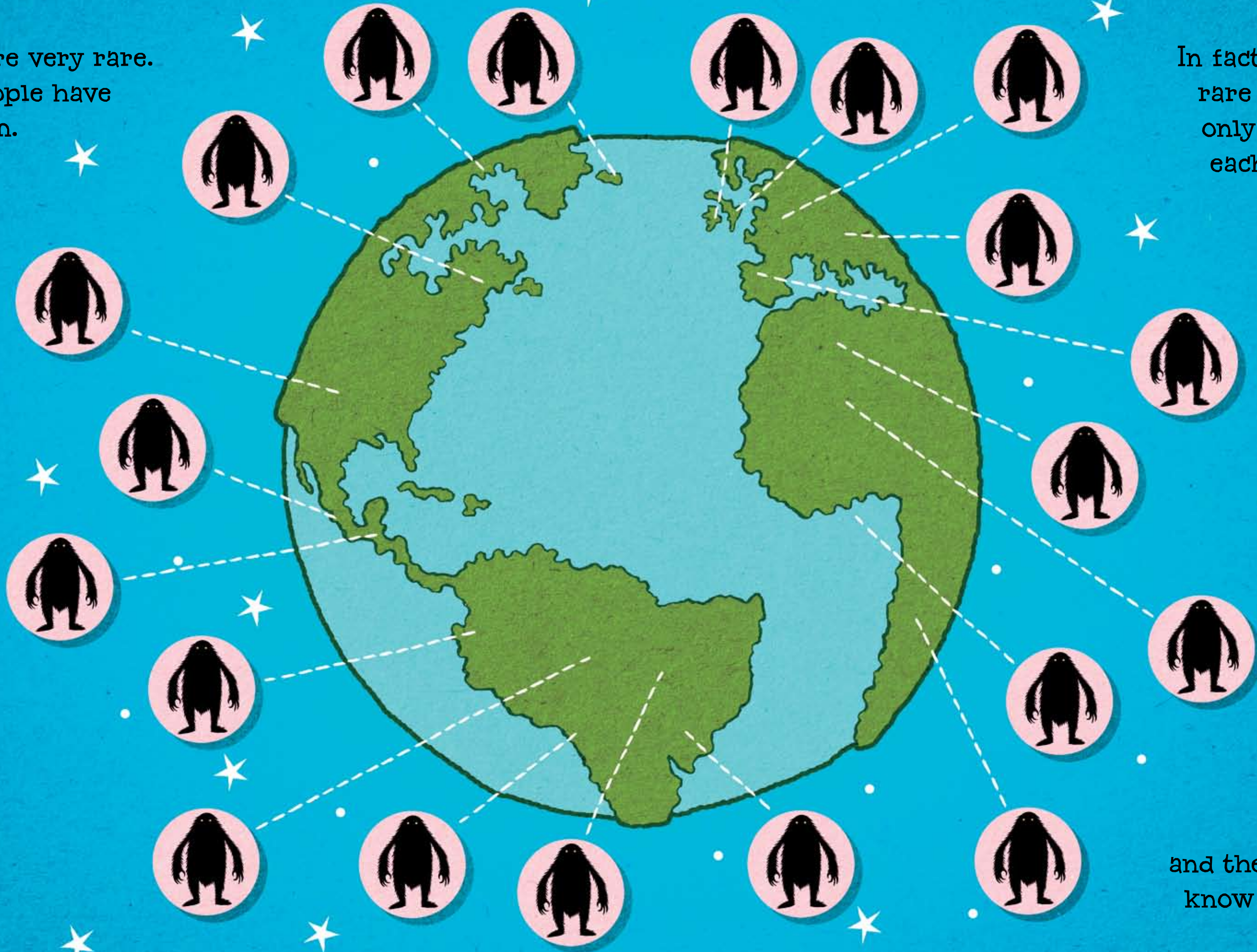
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The Beasts are very rare.  
Not many people have  
heard of them.

In fact, they are so  
rare that there is  
only one Beast in  
each country ...



and they don't even  
know one another.

They are very quiet creatures, who live alone high  
in the mountains or deep in the woods.  
They like nothing more than tending their  
beautiful gardens . . .



drinking tea . . .



reading a good book . . .



walking in the snow . . .



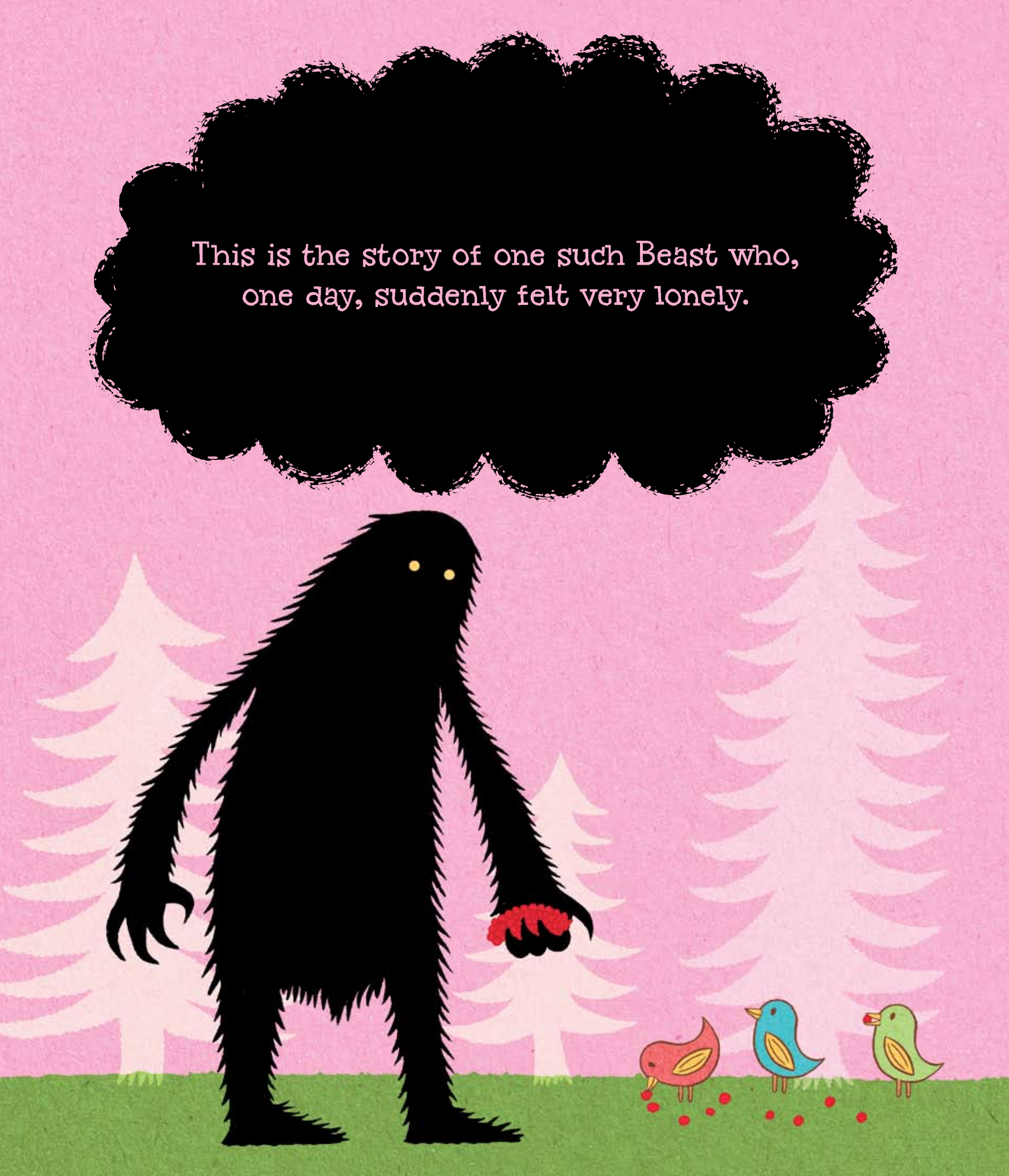
standing in the rain . . .



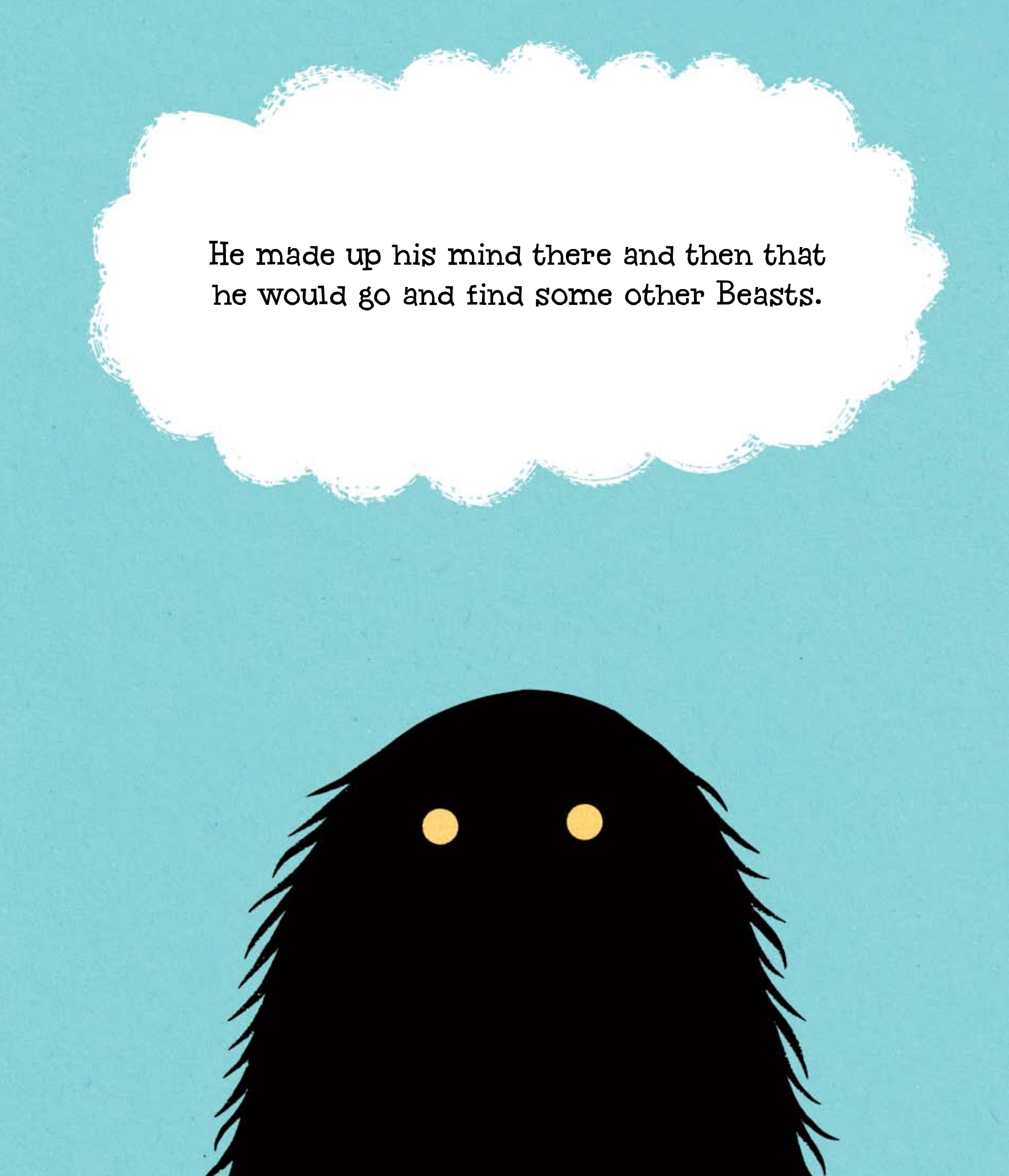
baking cakes . . .



and, of course, eating them.



This is the story of one such Beast who,  
one day, suddenly felt very lonely.



He made up his mind there and then that  
he would go and find some other Beasts.