

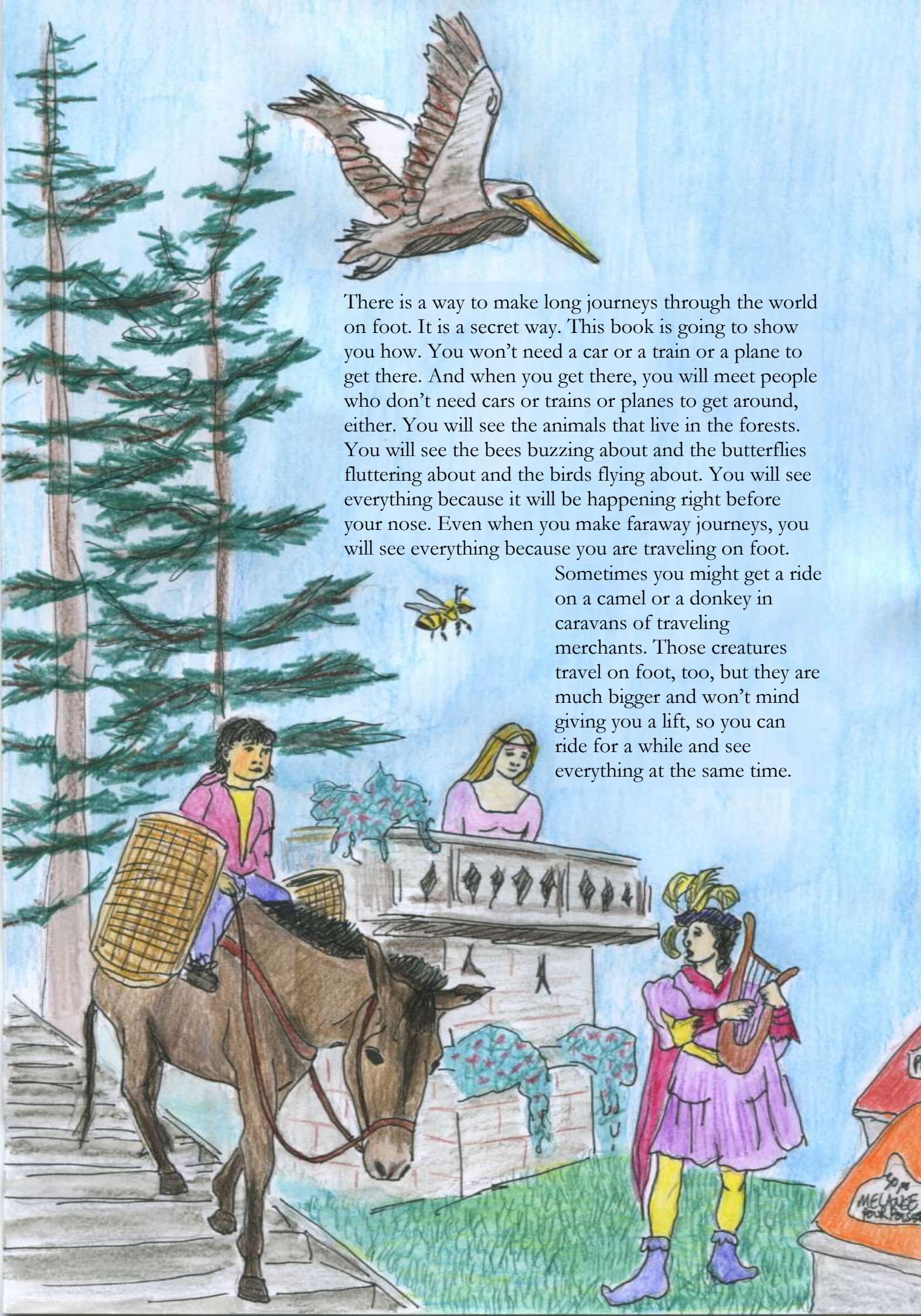
## The Hardy Traveler

Hiro lives in New York City. He used to be four, but now he is five. Some people might think he's still just a little guy, but Hiro is a hardy traveler. He has traveled to Japan many times to visit his grandfather. That's on the other side of the world. He has seen just about everything there is to see in Tokyo and almost all there is to see in New York City, too. But what do you think? He has never seen all the oceans and rivers and valleys and forests and mountains and villages and castles and farms and bakeries and train stations and people and animals that are in between. Why do you suppose that is? It's because when he travels he has to fly way up high in the sky in a jumbo jet. All he sees way up there is the inside of the plane.




Now it so happens that Hiro has a speedy means of his own for getting around: two sturdy legs. As soon as he opens his eyes in the morning, what do you think he does? He jumps down off his bed right onto those legs and stays on them all day long, traveling about. They take him through the bedroom, into the hallway, into the kitchen for breakfast, into the bathroom to wash his face and brush his teeth, and out the door into the world so he can take a look around. They take him upstairs and downstairs, forwards and backwards, into buses to go to school, and even into airplanes to fly to Japan. His legs are wonderful. They can go fast and they can go slow and they only get tired sometimes.





There is a way to make long journeys through the world on foot. It is a secret way. This book is going to show you how. You won't need a car or a train or a plane to get there. And when you get there, you will meet people who don't need cars or trains or planes to get around, either. You will see the animals that live in the forests. You will see the bees buzzing about and the butterflies fluttering about and the birds flying about. You will see everything because it will be happening right before your nose. Even when you make faraway journeys, you will see everything because you are traveling on foot.

Sometimes you might get a ride on a camel or a donkey in caravans of traveling merchants. Those creatures travel on foot, too, but they are much bigger and won't mind giving you a lift, so you can ride for a while and see everything at the same time.



When you travel this way, you will sing with troubadours and drink mountain water from village springs and watch merchants pour out piles of bright yellow and orange and red spices to weigh for villagers who will use them to cook curried potatoes. You will pass farms and meadows and fields and see deer and pelicans and moose. You will walk under giant trees and always hear the wind pass by on its way to somewhere mysterious, because you will notice the wind never stops. It is the greatest traveler of all.

What is this secret way that lets you travel everywhere like this? It's not a magic carpet. It's not a magic bottle with a genie inside to do whatever you wish. It's not in a magic potion. It's not even in a fairy tale. It's in a secret.

Are you ready to learn this secret? Please nod your head once if you are. Splendid! Off we go!

