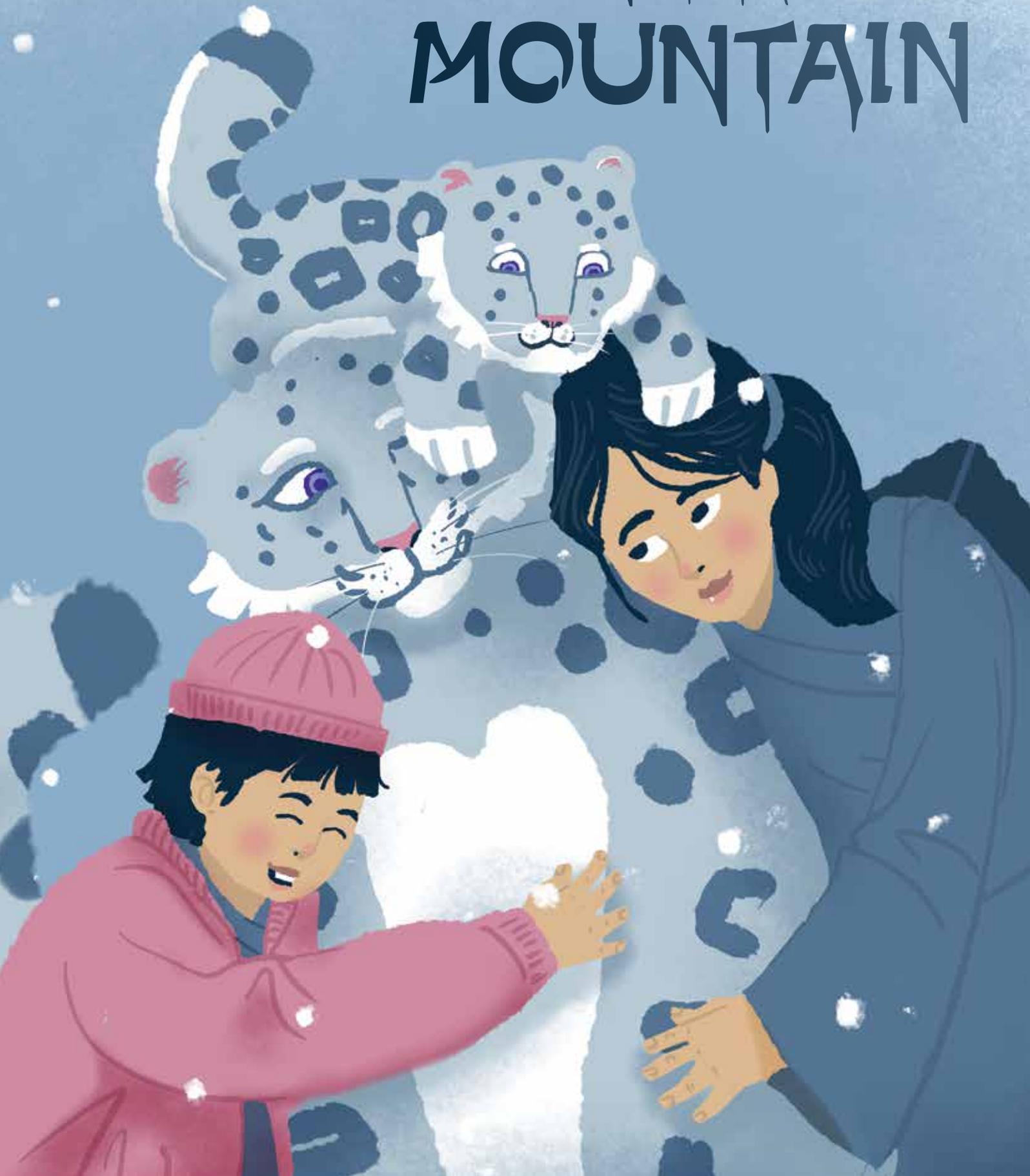




NEPAL

GHOST IN THE MOUNTAIN





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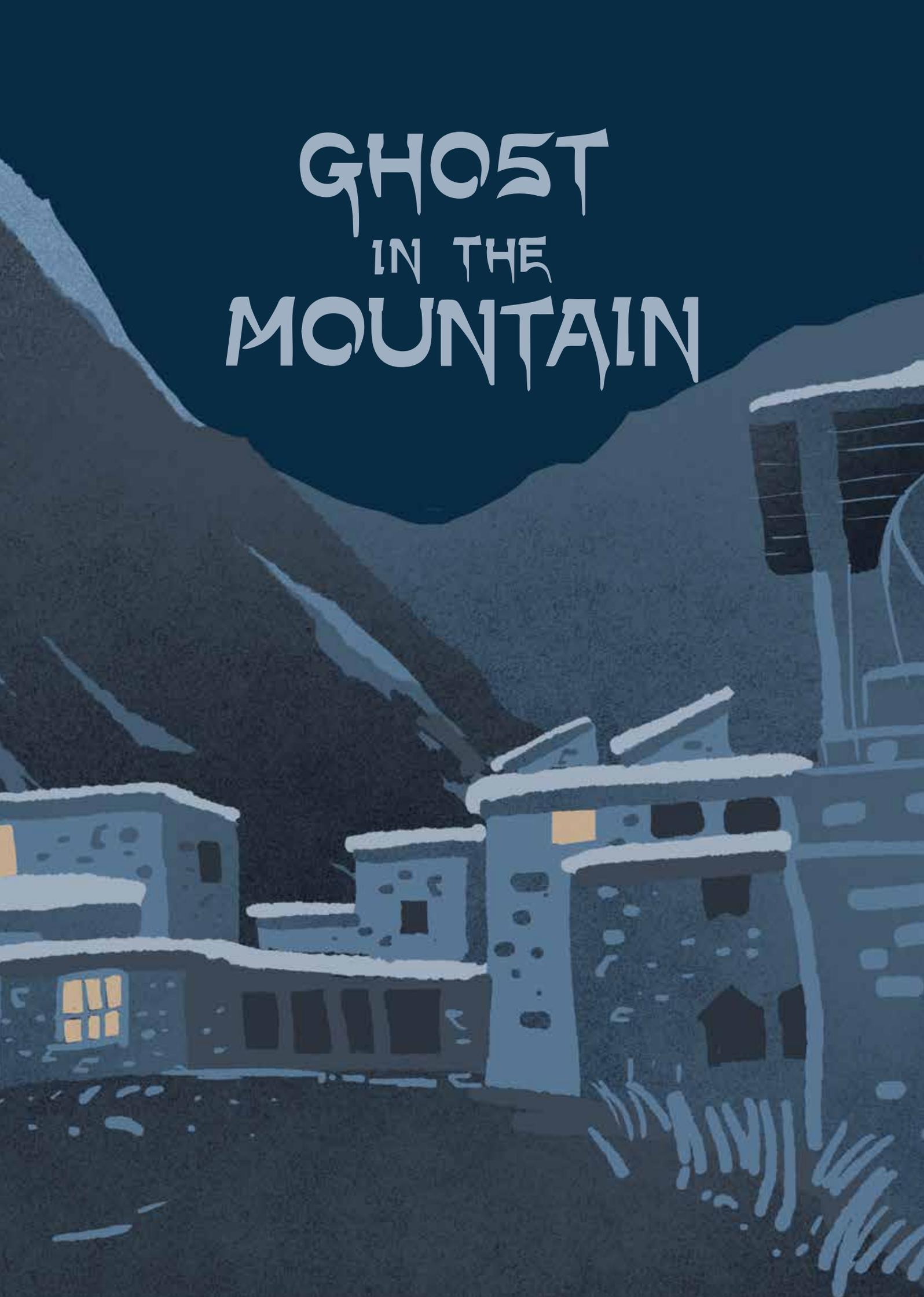
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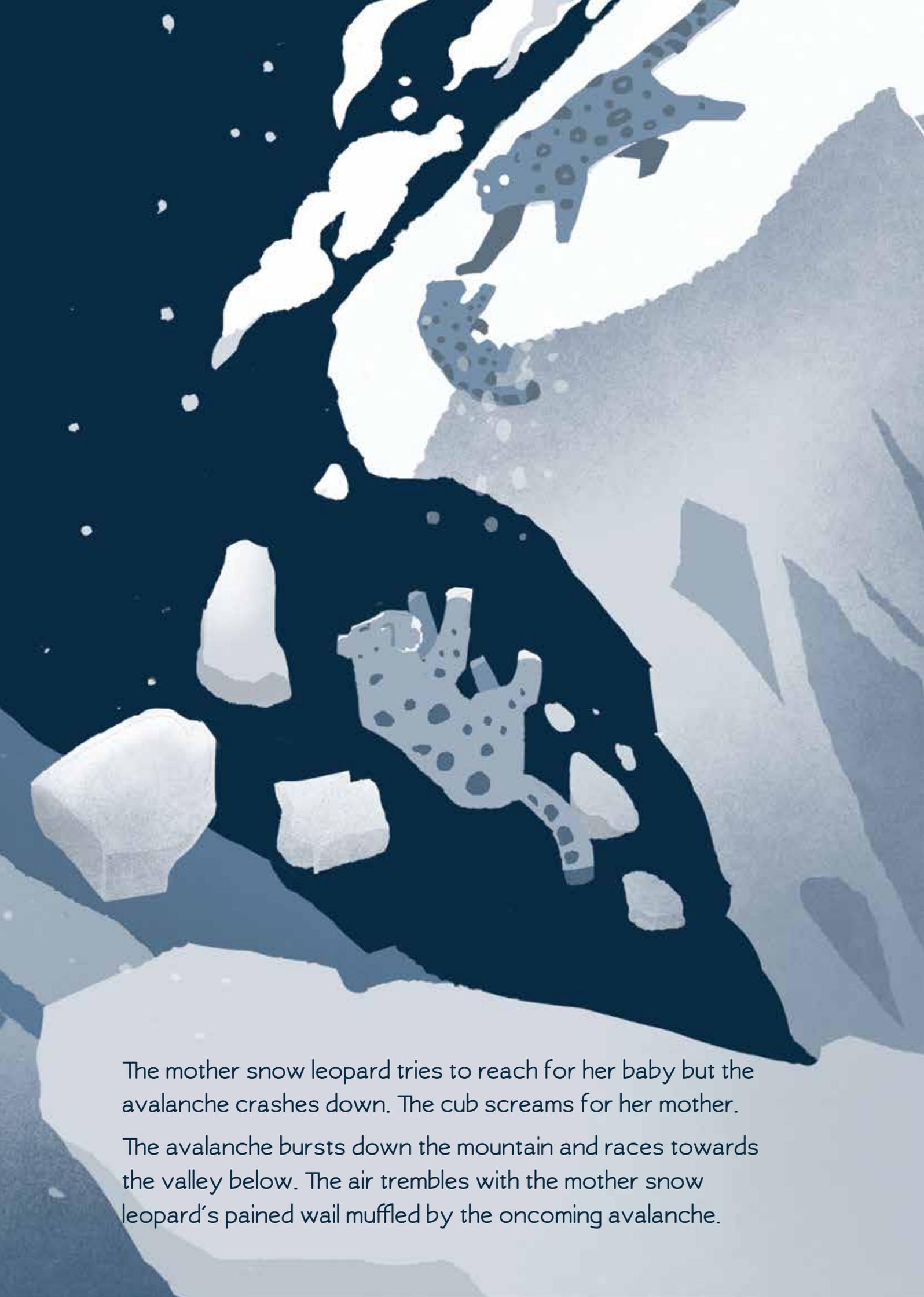
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GHOST IN THE MOUNTAIN



Among the tall peaks around the Dho Tarap valley in Dolpo, a mother snow leopard scrambles to save her cub. Large slabs of snow slide down the mountain, pushing them further apart.





The mother snow leopard tries to reach for her baby but the avalanche crashes down. The cub screams for her mother.

The avalanche bursts down the mountain and races towards the valley below. The air trembles with the mother snow leopard's pained wail muffled by the oncoming avalanche.



In the valley below, an old resident of the valley sneaks in. Gong Po, known for his quick anger and violent ways, looks around the village menacingly. Years ago, his house had burned to the ground while chasing away a snow leopard passing through the village.



Gong Po had left the village for good. Why has he returned?



Gong Po's long limbs cast an eerie shadow across the ground. He hisses, "The Ghost of the Mountains shall be mine." On hearing his unnerving raspy voice, some of the villagers scurry away. Only a few wait and watch, as he walks away.

Where have you been all these years? What have you become?

If only he had listened and built a pen to secure his cattle, he wouldn't have lost everything.





Something soft but heavy falls on the blanket over Ladipma's face. It trembles and whimpers like a small cat. Alarmed, Ladipma wakes up only to find an injured cub!



"Menkhu," says Ladipma, "Wake up! This injured cat needs our help."



“How come injured animals always find you?” Menkhu groans as she rubs sleep out of her eyes and reaches for the switch. Startled by the light, the cub leaps off Ladipma’s lap, making the girls scream.



A short distance away, Gong Po hears the sisters scream. Slowly, he begins to creep towards the house. His rattling breath carries the words, "The Ghost of the Mountain shall be mine."

*The Ghost of
the Mountains
shall be mine*



A stylized illustration of a man with long, wavy black hair, a black cap, and a black robe. He has glowing red eyes and a black mustache. He is lunging through a window, with his arms outstretched. The background is a dark red wall with a window frame on the left. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional Chinese ink wash painting with a modern, graphic touch.

Gong Po spots the cub and lunges through the window.

*The Ghost of the Mountains
shall be mine*

The cub sees Gong Po's unnatural glowing red eyes and senses danger. She hisses and flees from the house, running alone into the night. "The Ghost of the Mountains shall be mine," Gong Po screeches, as he rushes after the cub.





Ladipma and Menkhu are both afraid but worried that the poor little cub is in grave danger. "Maybe we should tell the elders. If Aama and Baa were here, they'd gather everyone around and the elders would know what to do," Menkhu suggests.





“The poor cub is too young and fragile! Did you see how he leapt after it? He is going to harm it. We need to help! We don’t have time to waste. You know Aama and Baa would’ve done the same.” Ladipma pleads. Menkhu agrees, and the two sisters quickly pull on warm clothes, thick shoes and grab a torchlight to maneuver the hard, snowy terrain.

Gong Po, bones rattling in the wind, walks slowly through the snow. Ladipma and Menkhu, remembering how agile snow leopards are, decide to follow its tracks.





When their paths merge with Gong Po, Ladipma and Menkhu hide behind the rocks and snow. They hear him hiss, "The Ghost of the Mountain shall be mine, the Ghost of the Mountain shall be mine."



“He keeps saying Ghost of the Mountain. Do you really think there’s a ghost out here?” Ladipma whimpers after walking uphill a while. “Nonsense. There’s no such thing as ghosts!” Menkhu says, trying to be strong for both of them, but her voice falters a little bit. “He was talking about the snow leopard. Remember Baa said that they blend in the rocky mountains perfectly and cannot be seen?”



They climb up the rocky pathway looking for the cub, carefully covering their tracks and brushing away the cub's pugmarks with snow.

"Why then is Gong Po after the snow leopard?" asks Ladipma. "Long ago, a snow leopard entered Gong Po's lands and killed all his livestock" says Menkhu. "And that is why, to this day he holds a grudge against all snow leopards, even though we all know that a snow leopard wouldn't be able to differentiate between livestock and wild animals."



Higher up the mountain,
the wind blows misty
snow into their faces. The
two girls struggle to walk.
Menkhu says, "We better
hurry, before Gong Po
finds the little cub!"



Huffing and puffing through the deep snow, the girls realize with great excitement that they are getting closer, as the wind carries the sound of Gong Po's rattling bones and terrifying voice. But they can't linger for long.



An illustration of a snowy mountain scene. In the upper part, two children wearing striped ponchos and boots are walking away from the viewer. In the middle, a large orange fox with glowing yellow eyes is lunging towards the foreground. In the foreground, a person in a dark winter coat and hat is seen from behind, holding a long wooden staff. The scene is filled with falling snow and a dark rock formation on the left side.

The girls hurry along trying not to look at how close Gong Po is looming. Suddenly, a Himalayan Red Fox jumps out from behind a rock, screams at Gong Po and scurries away as he lunges for it.



A Blue Sheep emerges curiously from the snowy thickets, eyes gleaming shyly at Ladipma and Menkhu. Gong Po looms large over them, he hisses “Where is the Ghost of the Mountain? Give me the Ghost of the Mountain!” Stricken by the sound, the Blue Sheep scampers back into the bushes.



Ladipma hides her face in Menkhu's chest, sobbing, "Gong Po is going to get us! And he will kill the cub."

"No, look! All the animals are helping us protect the cub. They all know how important a predator is for the mountains," Menkhu exclaims just as the air fills with a sinister growl. A Tibetan Wolf leaps at Gong Po.



“The Ghost of the Mountain is mine! It’s mine!” Gong Po wheezes as he stumbles around in the deep snow. In his dazed state, he confuses a common Pallas Cat for the snow leopard cub, and lunges at it.

The Ghost of the Mountains shall be mine. It’s mine.



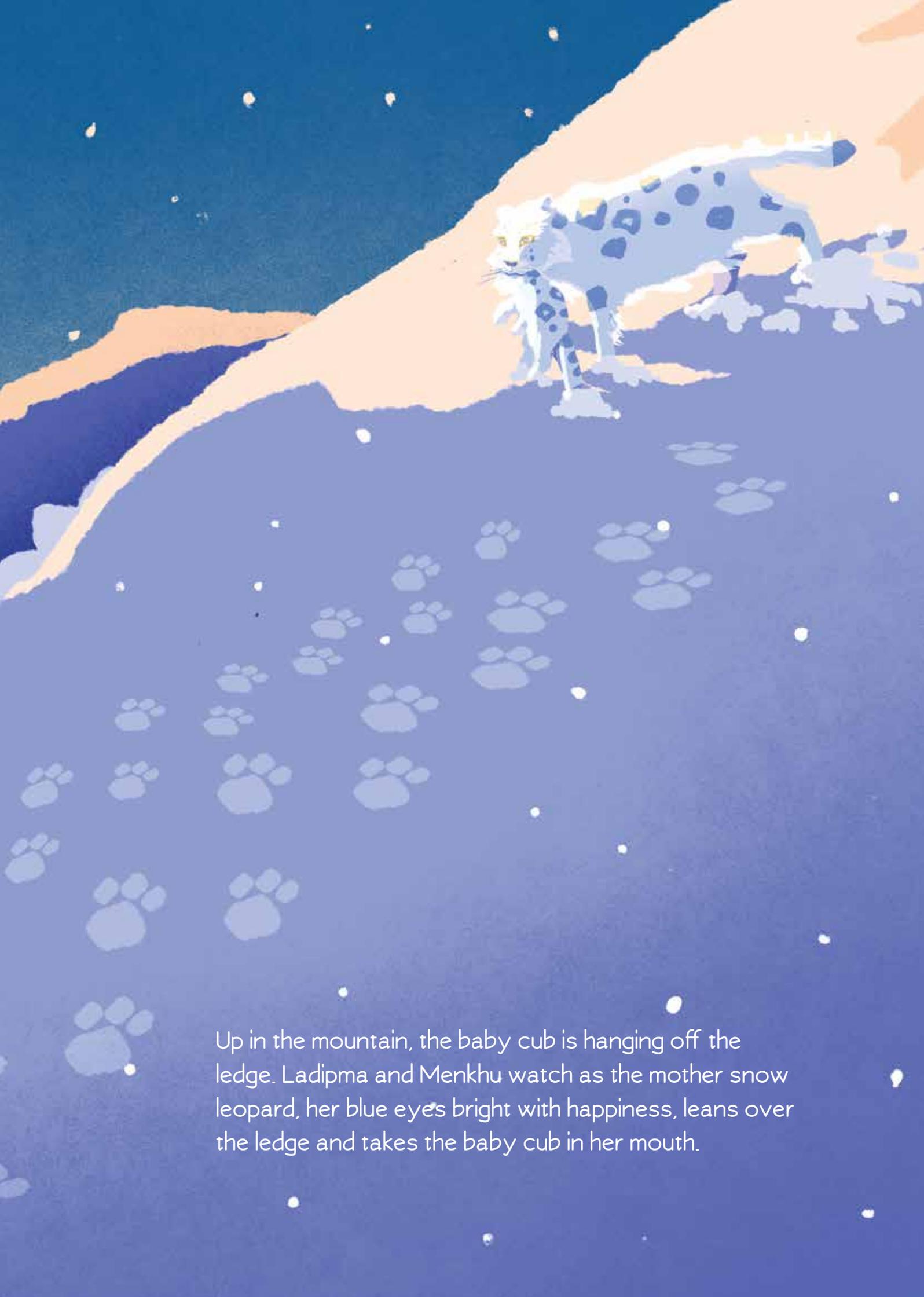


The clever feline quickly swerves away, sending Gong Po spinning down the side of the mountain. Ladipma and Menkhu look at each other, their eyes shining, knowing that the cub will finally be safe.



The dark sky begins to glow with the rising sun. As the sprinkle of stars on the night sky fade away, the clouds clear to reveal a light blue sky. Ladipma and Menkhu look around. "Look, Menkhu," Ladipma points at large pugmarks in the snow, "Look how huge they are!" She whispers excitedly, grabbing Menkhu's arm, "Look! Look, there she goes – the mother is going to get her cub!"





Up in the mountain, the baby cub is hanging off the ledge. Ladipma and Menkhu watch as the mother snow leopard, her blue eyes bright with happiness, leans over the ledge and takes the baby cub in her mouth.



The mama snow leopard and baby snow leopard turn towards their cave to rest after a long, hard night. The girls decide not to go further, even though Ladipma wants to. “No,” Menkhu decides, turning around. “Remember what Aama and Baa taught us about them? They are guardians of the Himalayas. They protect the mountains and our village. We must leave them alone.”

Growing sleepy after a night of adventure, the two return the same way they had come. They sing,

“There’s a ghost in the mountain
and we take the down turn.

We go down, down, down.

We run to the town.

There’s a ghost in the mountain,

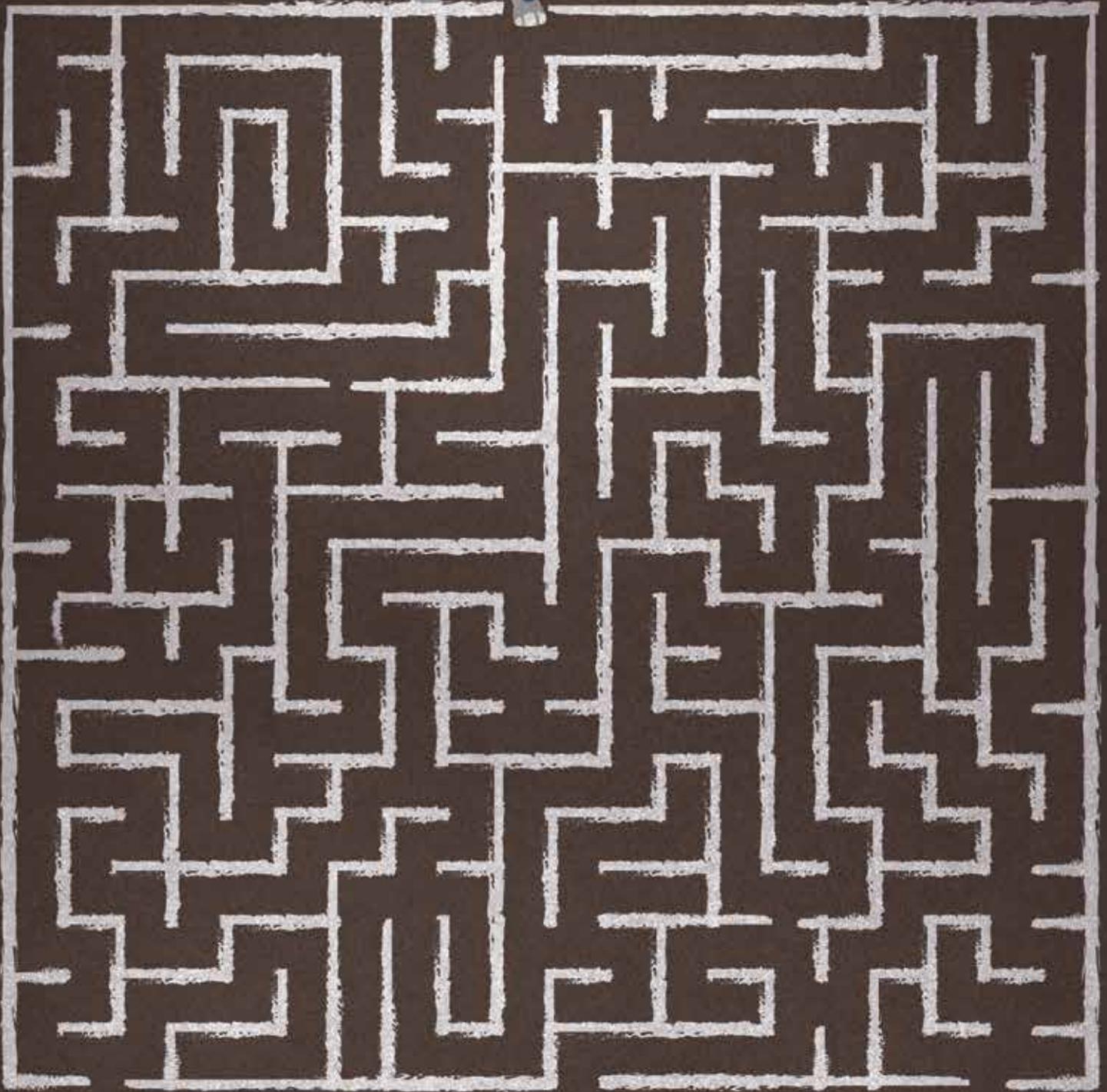
Run, Run, Run!”



Activity

Feed the Snow Leopard

The baby leopard is very hungry. Help the mother snow leopard navigate through the maze to find food for her baby cub.



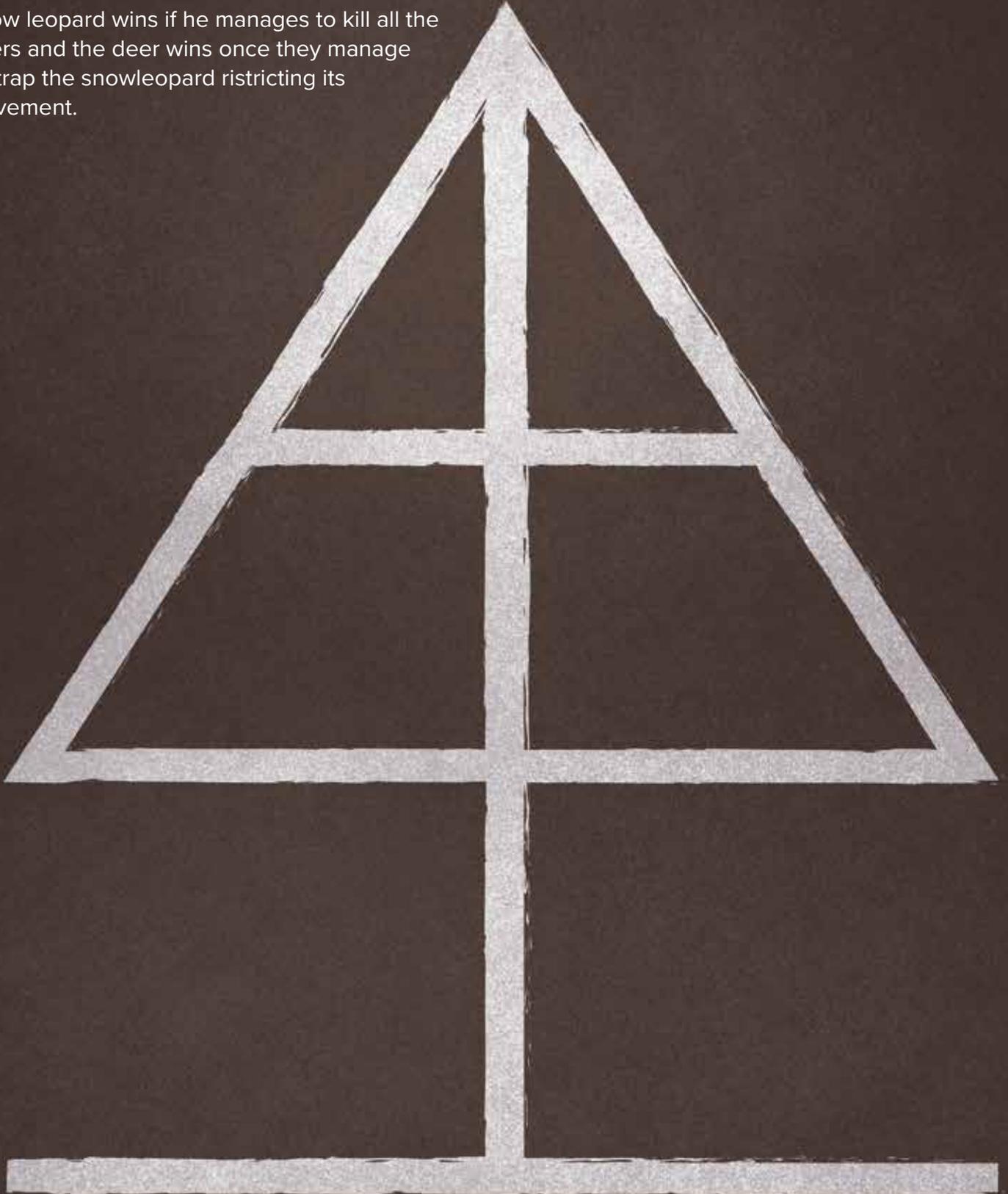
Activity

Bagchaal

You will need one stone to represent the snow leopard and 4 smaller stones to represent the deer.

In the game, one player controls the snow leopard and the other player controls the four goats. The snow leopard starts by placing his stone in any one corner. The deer follows by add their stones on any corner. The play begins after all four deers have been added to the board.

Snow leopard wins if he manages to kill all the deers and the deer wins once they manage to trap the snowleopard ristricting its movement.



Group Activity

Ramailo Pradarshan

Divide the team to 2 or more groups. The first team will whisper an action from the list of actions below and you have to “act out” a phrase without speaking, your team members try to guess what the phrase is. Your team members must guess the phrase as quickly as possible before time runs out. Each team gets 60 seconds to guess the action. If the team can’t guess consecutively for 3 round they lose.



Group Activity

Chitrakar Menkhu

Divide the team to 2 or more groups. The first team will whisper an action from the list of actions below and you have to draw a phrase without speaking, your team members try to guess what the phrase is. Your team members must guess the phrase as quickly as possible before time runs out. Each team gets 60 seconds to guess the action. If the team can’t guess consecutively for 3 round they lose.



Hungry snow leopard
Angry palas cat
Snow leopard with baby
Fighting blue sheep
Blue sheep
Red panda
Deer
Scared deer
Tibetan wolf sleeping
Blue Sheep fighting
Snow
Gongpo
Ranger
Jail
Snow leopard hiding
Farming potatoes
Goats
Goats grazing
Solar cooker
Money
Wood
Cooking
Insurance
Bear drinking water
School
Ghoral
Children learning
Irrigation
Flag

Exams
Studying
Fire
Firewood
Water
River
Mountain
Daphne
Greenhouse
Rain
Apples
Walnuts
Peaches
Pears
Plums
Oranges
Lemons
Persimmons
Kiwis
Litchi
Suspension bridge
Tourist
Hiking
Civet
Macaque
Mouse
Porcupine
Squirrel
Wild Boar
Woman leader
Cleaning

Child crying
Cutting wood
Hunting
Teaching
Girl studying
Children playing
Sunny
Electricity
Light
Trash can
Person Drinking water
Freezing water
Washing clothes
Knitting
Carpet
Forest Fire
Doctor
Bee
Leader
Training
Anti-poaching
Carpenter
Hotel
Mosquitoes
Leeches
Sick goat

Group Activity

Ghost in the Mountain

Run! Run! Run!

Everyone runs around in a circle and sings, “Ghost in the mountain, run, run, run!” They continue this until eventually the leader says, “Stand in twos” (or any other low number). Everyone has to stand in a group of two (or whatever number was said). Everyone waits until all the kids are standing in a group with the correct number of kids. Then a new round starts.

Each round the leader changes the number that the kids must stand in as a group. This can be played until everyone gets tired.



Group Activity

Dong Lake

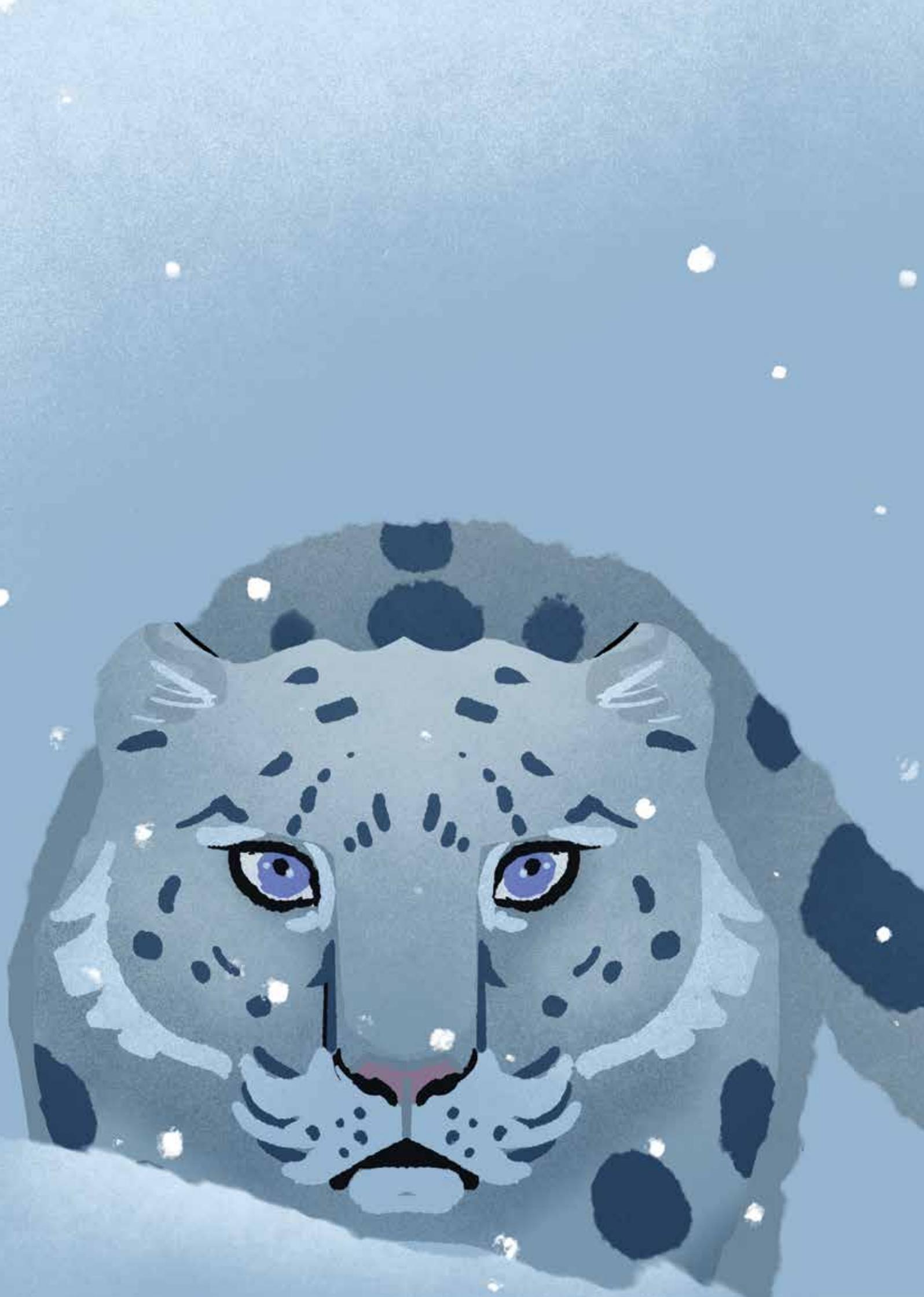
Number of players: At least 3 players

“Dong lake” is a game played in the northern Himalayas of Nepal, among the indigenous communities that reside there. Children play the game in large numbers.

Appoint one Mother Snow Leopard, and one Gong Po in your group. Once chosen, the remaining players will line up one by one, according to size, behind the Mother Snow Leopard with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. The objective of the game is for Gong Po to catch a snow leopard cub. Gong Po will chase the children, in an attempt to catch them. Since all the children are tightly packed behind the Mother Snow Leopard in a single line, the children have to move only when the Mother moves, without breaking the link. If the link is broken, the child is out of the game! If Gong Po fails to catch the children, a new Gong Po is chosen again.

Pro Tip: The longer the line behind the Mother Snow Leopard, the more likely to be caught!









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