

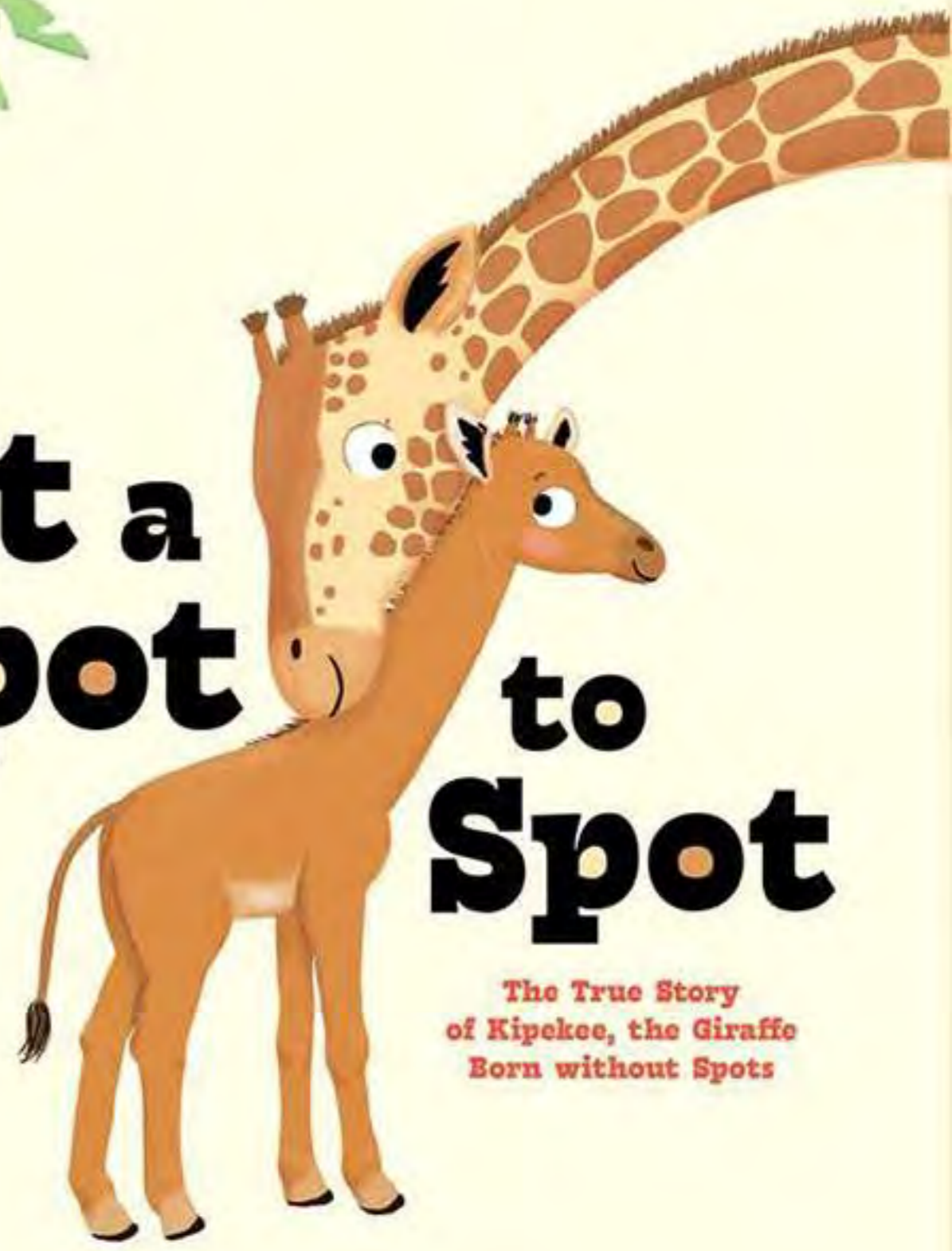


Verdick · Waring

 **Not a Spot to Spot**

Simon & Schuster

Not a Spot to Spot



**The True Story
of Kipekee, the Giraffe
Born without Spots**

Written by **Elizabeth Verdick**
Illustrated by **Zoe Waring**

With a *whoosh*,
the baby giraffe, or calf,
landed on solid ground.
Hello, world!

Mama's gentle eyes and grateful
nuzzles said, *Welcome.*





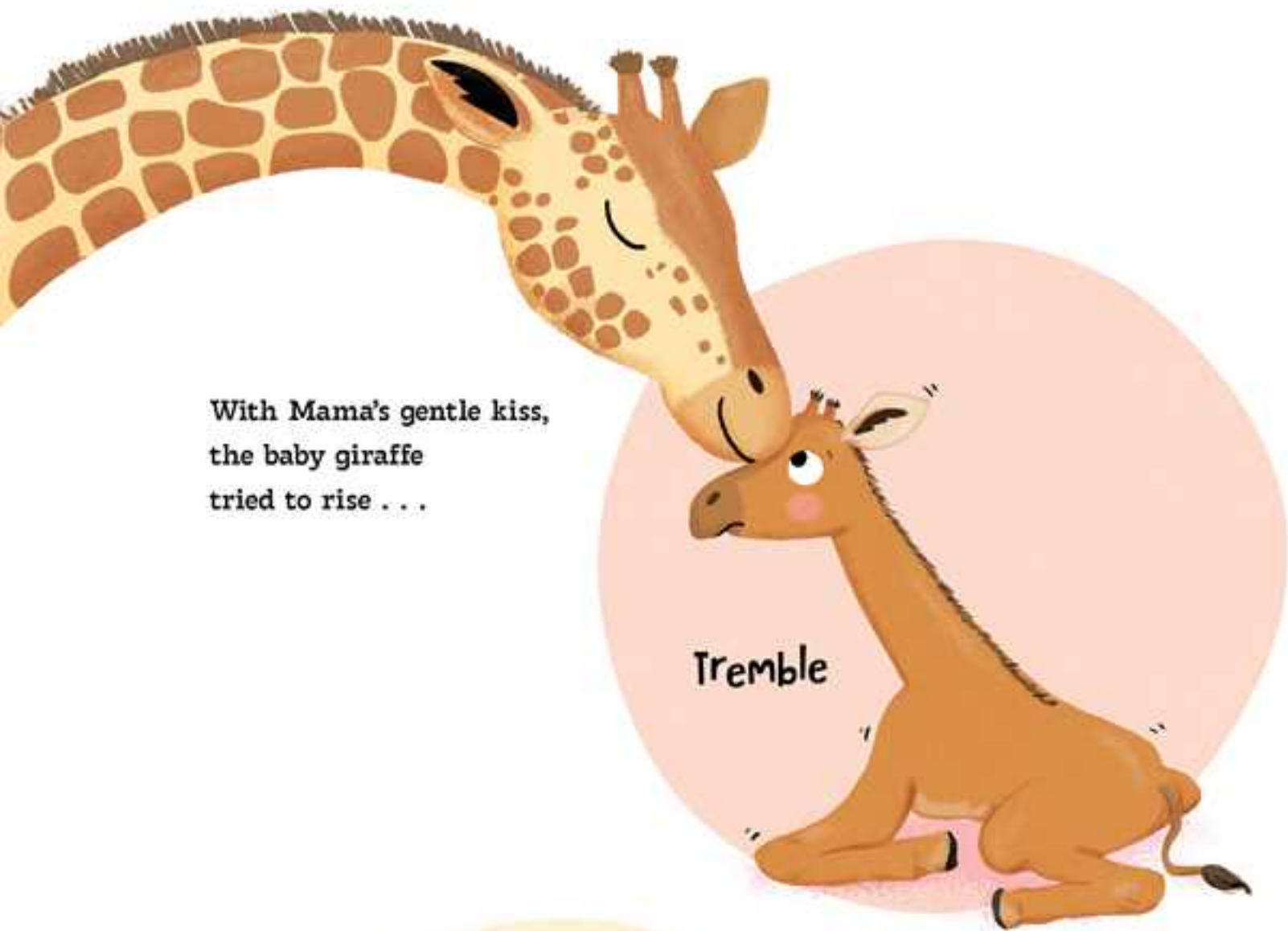
But *this* little giraffe was all one shade.
Tawny in the bright light
and soft like summer grass.

Not a spot to spot!



"Hmmm," said the zookeepers as the calf dried off.
"Where are her spots?"

Mama had spots.
The zoo's other giraffes had spots.
Wild giraffes in the African savanna did too.
The spots on their hides helped the giraffes to hide.



With Mama's gentle kiss,
the baby giraffe
tried to rise . . .

Tremble



Sway



wobble

Standing on
all fours!



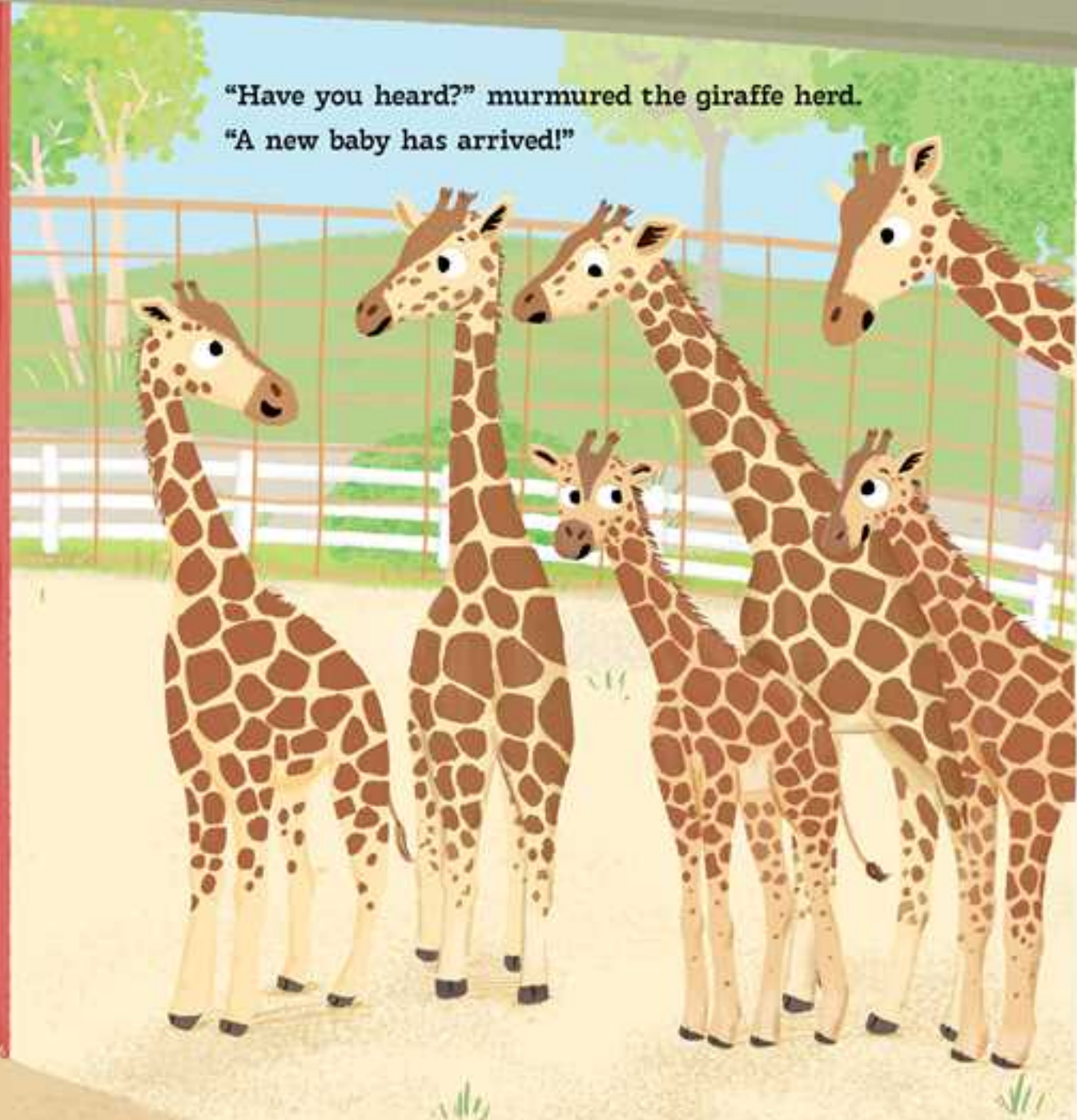
Hurray!

The calf took her place
by Mama's side.

One small, one tall . . .
a wondrous day for all.



"Have you heard?" murmured the giraffe herd.
"A new baby has arrived!"



Mama Giraffe just knew,
from her head to her hooves,
that her baby was
unique and one of a kind.

Perfectly herself.

As Mama marveled,
word traveled across pens and fences.
The zookeepers made calls:

"A spotless giraffe!"
"Have you ever seen one like this?"

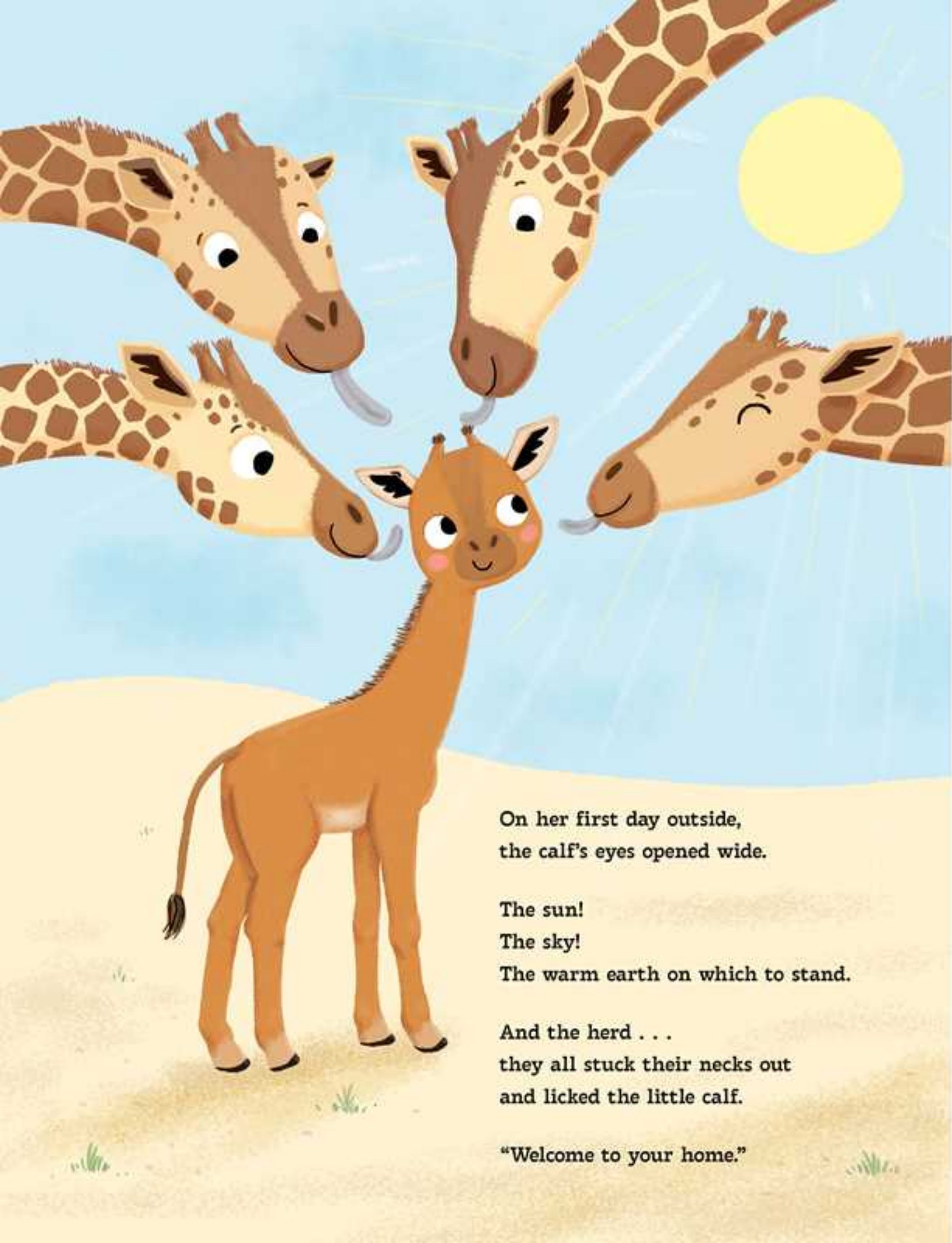


Where are
her spots?

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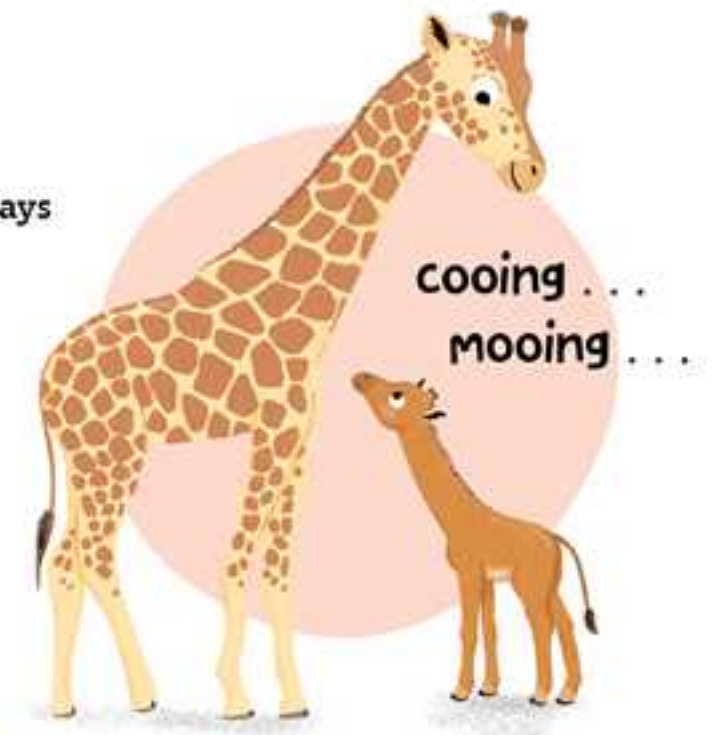
On her first day outside,
the calf's eyes opened wide.

The sun!
The sky!
The warm earth on which to stand.

And the herd . . .
they all stuck their necks out
and licked the little calf.

"Welcome to your home."

Mama and Baby spent summer days



cooing . . .
mooing . . .



feeding . . .
eating . . .



and running
in the sun.