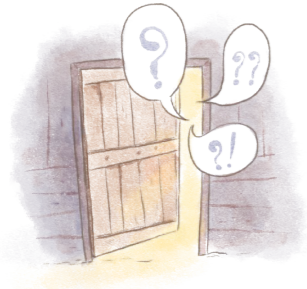




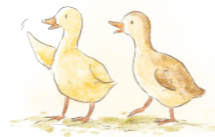
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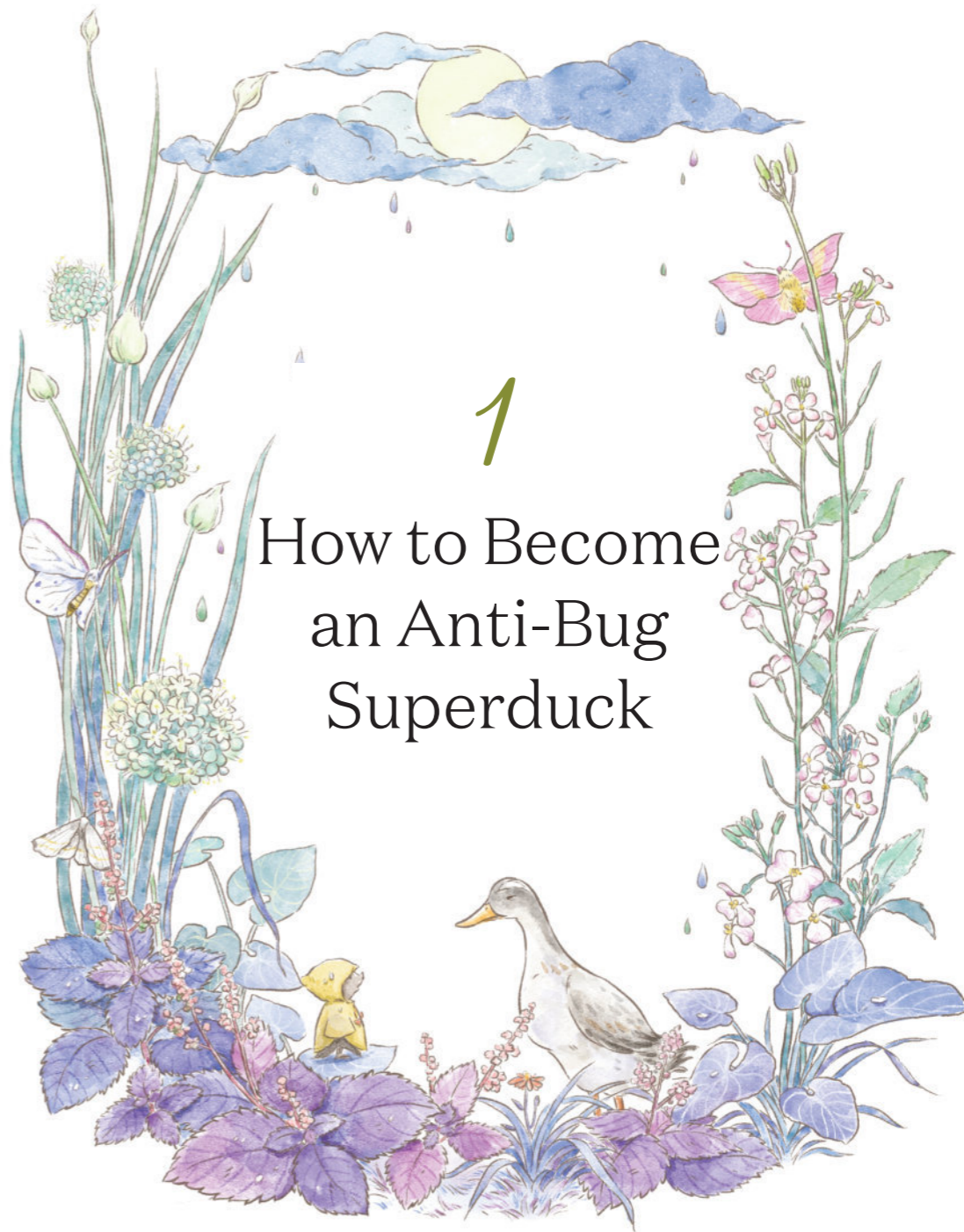


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1

How to Become  
an Anti-Bug  
Superduck



## Mr. Cuckoo's Secret

Cuckoo Farm's fresh organic produce was second to none in the Land of Dice.

Belly-bulging worms resting under hole-ridden cabbage leaves were unheard of.

The farm's regular customers sang the praises of the lettuces' fresh aroma, describing it as reminiscent of morning sunlight, sweet-smelling sap coursing through leaf veins, and roots freshly unearthed from damp soil.

Cuckoo Farm's vegetables owed their fame to Mr. Cuckoo, who didn't believe in pesticides. His secret to successful pest control lay with the ducks.



## The Anti-Bug Superduck Squad

There were forty-six ducks on Cuckoo Farm, among which were twenty-four adult ducks in charge of keeping the vegetable gardens bug-free. They were known as the Anti-Bug Superduck Squad.

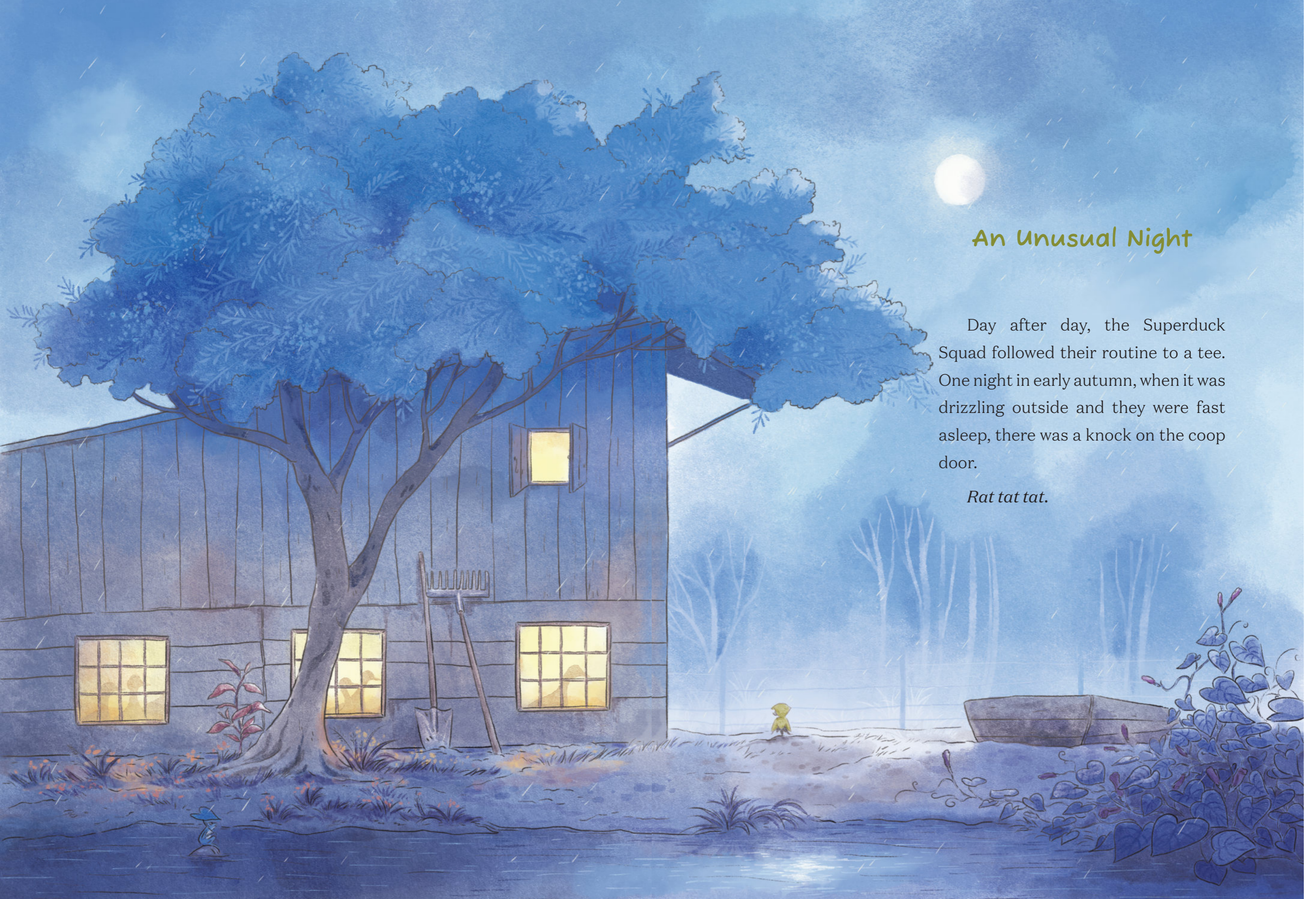
All twenty-four of them woke up at seven o'clock every morning. At five past seven, they did a roll call in the duck coop. Ten minutes later, they gathered outside to have breakfast before starting their work exactly at half past seven. They returned to the coop at five o'clock and went to bed at six o'clock in the evening. The Anti-Bug Superduck Squad ran like clockwork even without Mr. Cuckoo's supervision.

Every morning at half past seven, they formed one line with The Head Duck, the eldest, leading the way. They marched in unison, one step at a time. One, two, one, two, one, two, like a military parade.

Now and then, some customers dropped by the farm in the morning just to see the parade. Among the excited spectators, someone would exclaim: "Look at them! I've never seen a more disciplined formation."

As a show of respect, the shepherd dogs stood upright with their heads bowed every time the Superduck Squad marched by.





## An Unusual Night

Day after day, the Superduck Squad followed their routine to a tee. One night in early autumn, when it was drizzling outside and they were fast asleep, there was a knock on the coop door.

*Rat tat tat.*