

THE SAD CORMORANT



Dr. Samira A. S. Omar

*Second Edition
Kuwait 2020*



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by

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Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

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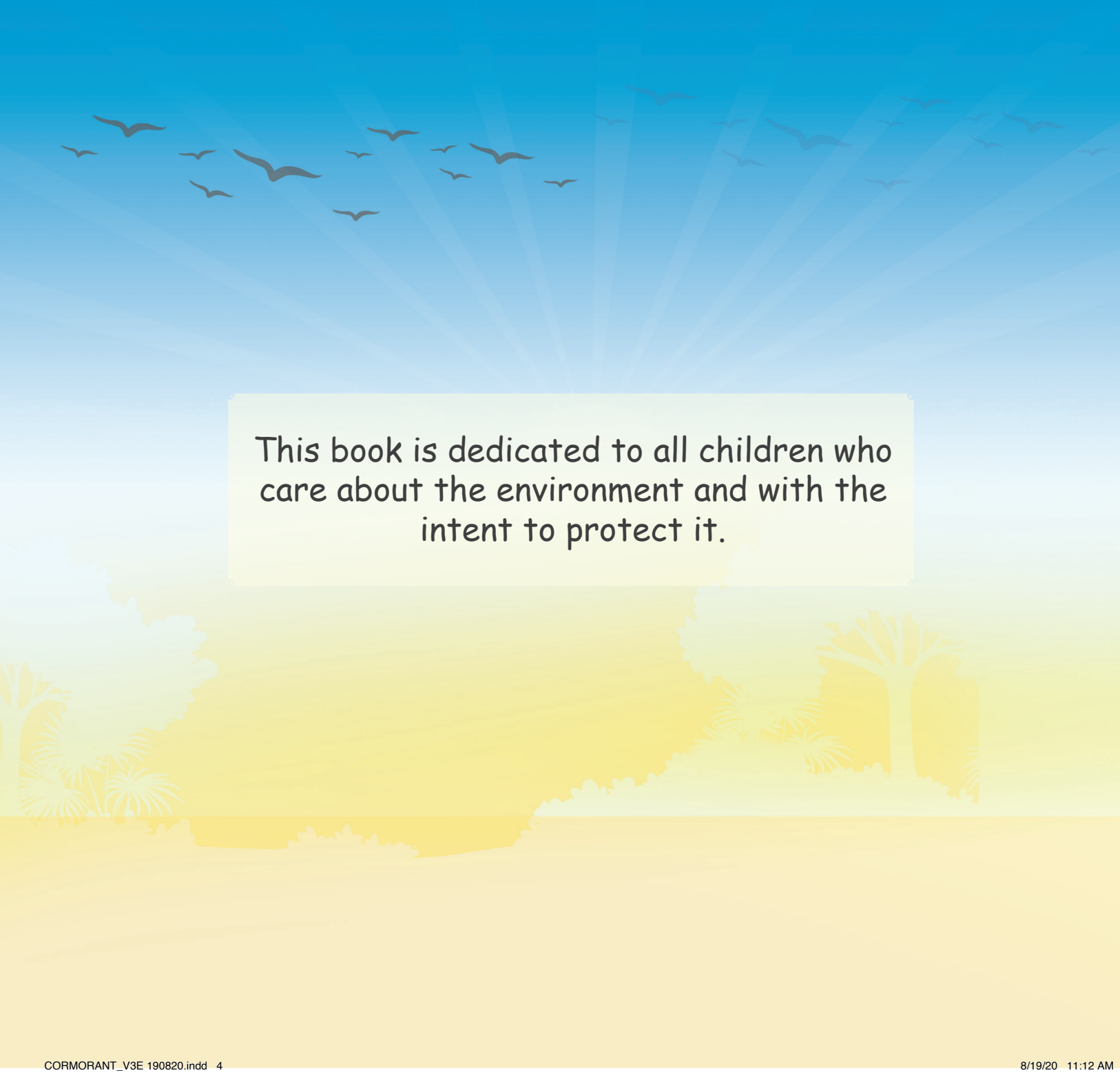
Prologue

The Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) visits the Arabian Gulf shores every year during winter, visiting in considerable numbers for few days and departing suddenly during early spring.

The environment of Kuwait was severely damaged during the Iraqi invasion. More than 780 oil wells were exploded and detonated by the Iraqi forces before they retreated from Kuwait. This caused the formation of hundreds of oil lakes. Oil lakes were formed from the gushing crude oil that accumulated in low lands and depressions, forming shallow to moderately deep lakes. Cormorants were found dead in oil lakes because they were deceived by sky-reflected light, thus, landing mistakenly in them.

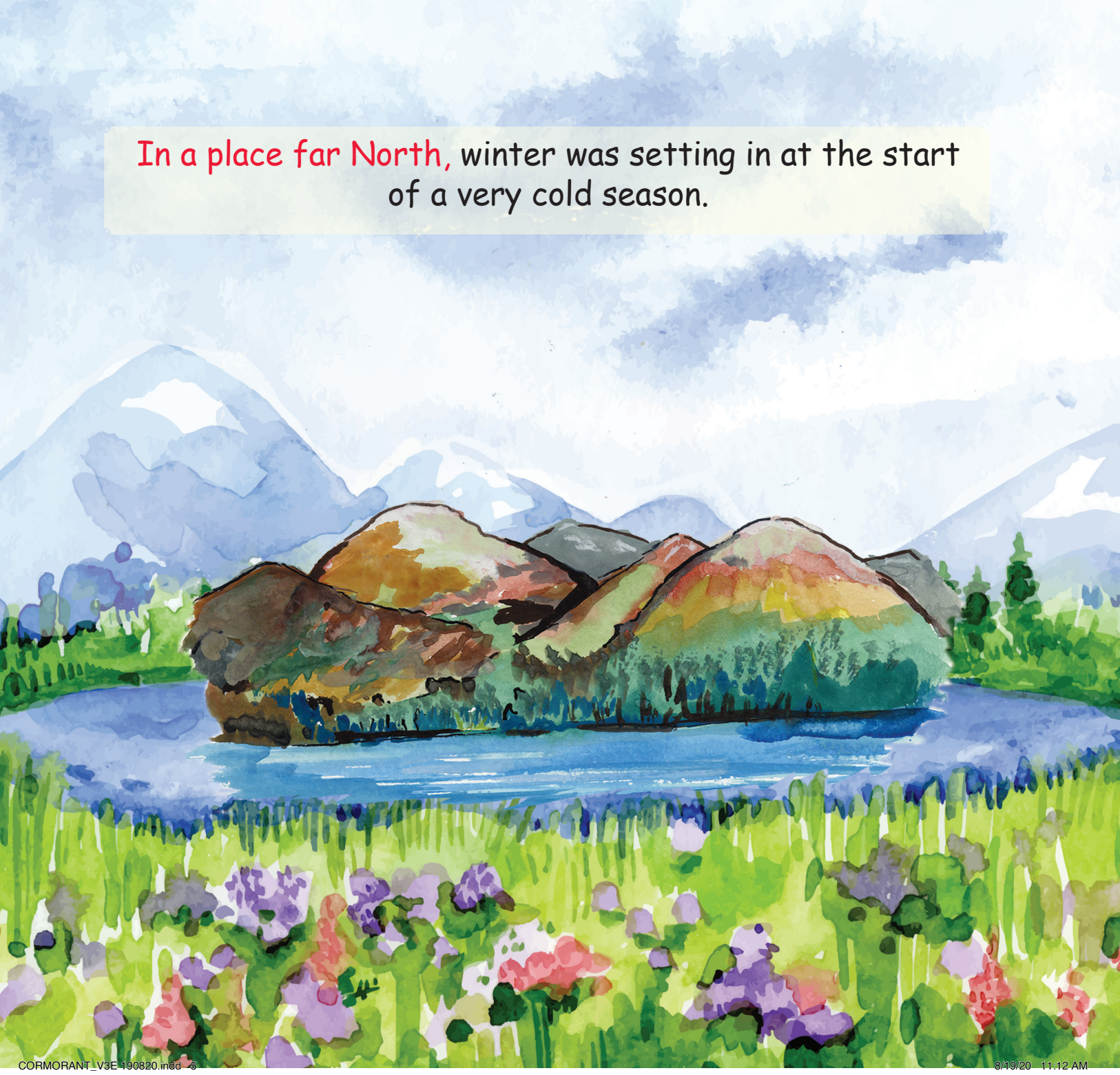
The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), in collaboration with the Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCPP) carried out a research project to remediate soil of some oil lakes by using bioremediation technology. This technology is used, because it is environmentally safe, allowing naturally growing bacteria to degrade the oil. A garden was established at Ahmadi named "Ahmadi Bioremediated Soils Park" by utilizing remediated soils to demonstrate remediation efforts and the potential of using the treated soil in greenery-enhancement projects.

The author's purpose is to inform children about land degradation in Kuwait and the means by which they can be rehabilitated. All illustrations presented in this book are done by the author.



This book is dedicated to all children who care about the environment and with the intent to protect it.

In a place far North, winter was setting in at the start of a very cold season.

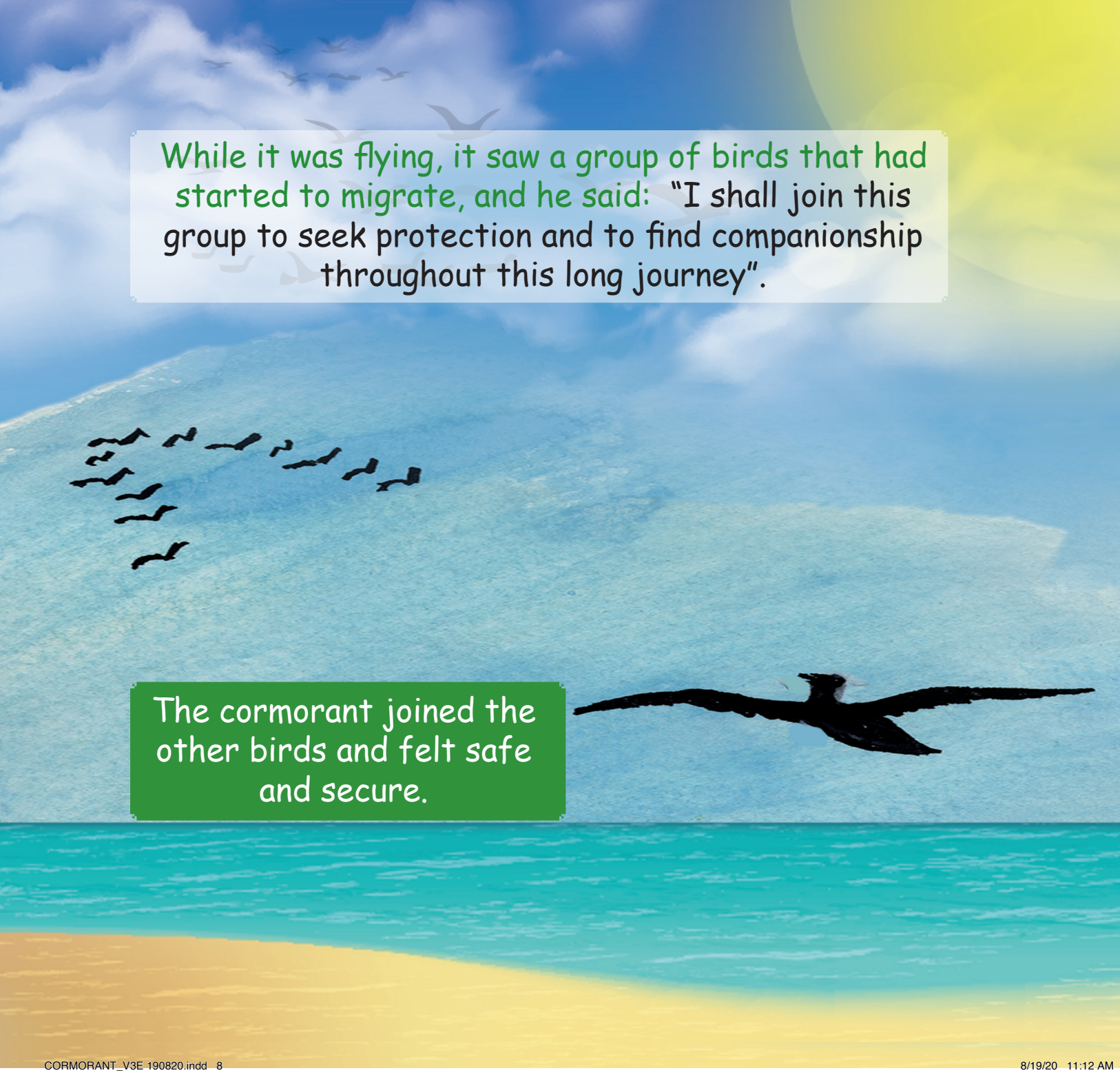


A cormorant who lived there woke up one morning and said to himself: "I shall move to a warmer place to find food and shelter, better than this cold lake".



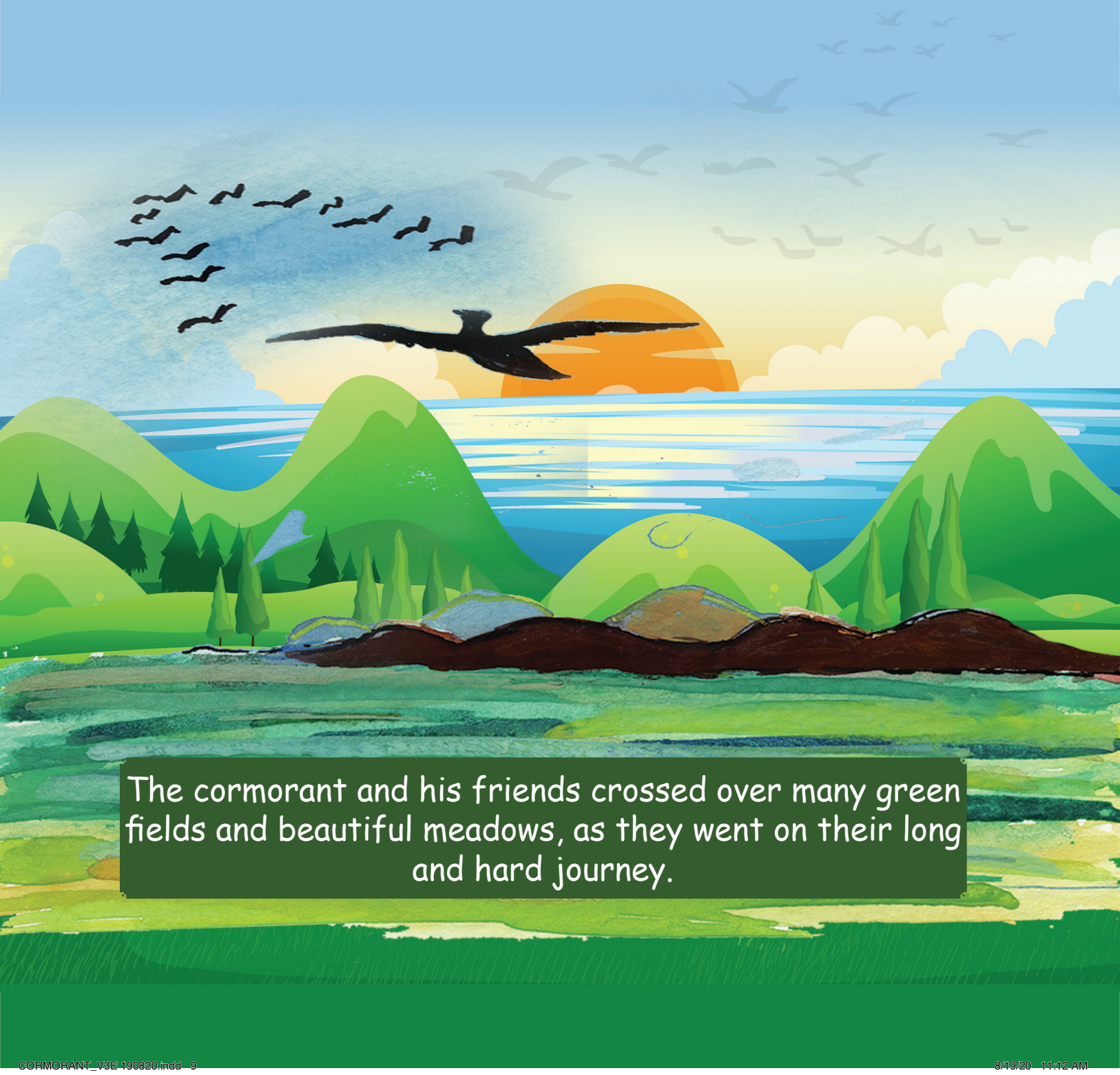
The cormorant left the blue cold lake, exposing its big black body and curved beak as it began to fly.



A cormorant is shown in flight over a beach and ocean. In the background, a group of birds is flying in a V-formation against a blue sky with white clouds. The scene is bright and sunny, with a yellow sun in the upper right corner.

While it was flying, it saw a group of birds that had started to migrate, and he said: "I shall join this group to seek protection and to find companionship throughout this long journey".

The cormorant joined the other birds and felt safe and secure.



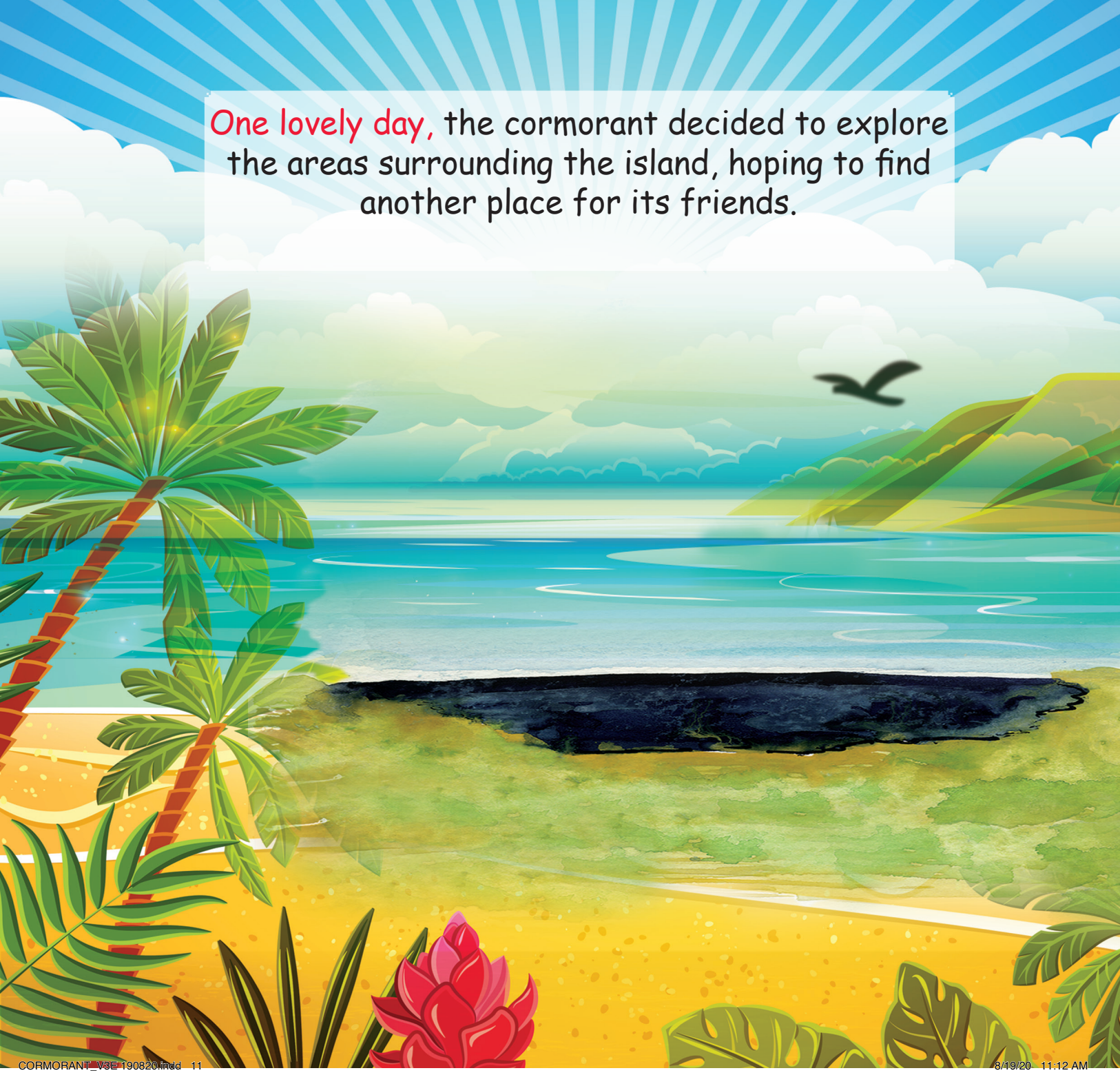
The cormorant and his friends crossed over many green fields and beautiful meadows, as they went on their long and hard journey.

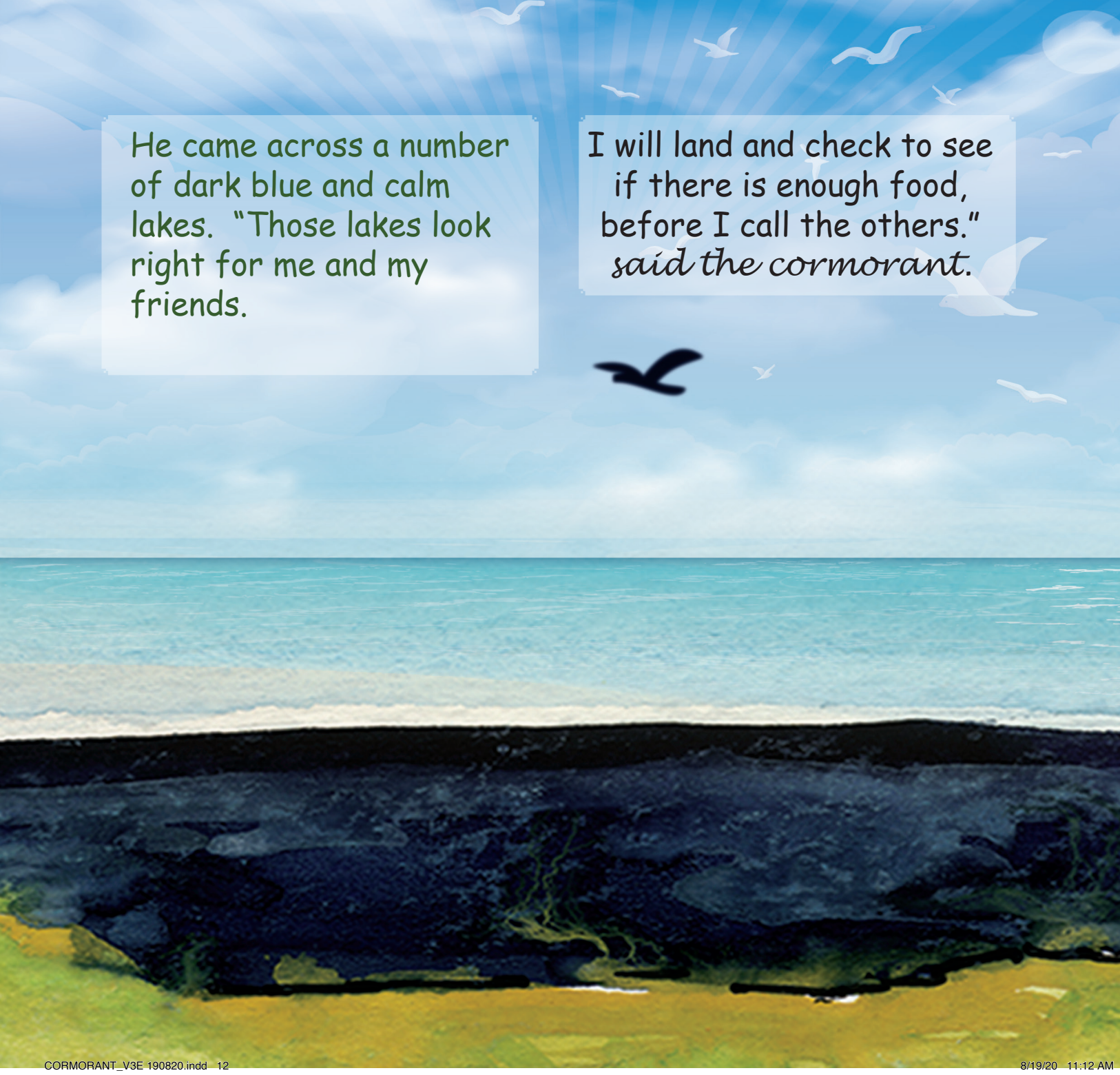


Finally, they landed
on an island covered
with golden sand and
surrounded by beautiful
clean sea.

This island is part of Kuwait
and is called "Kubar".
The birds settled on this
lovely island, where they began
feeding and breeding.

One lovely day, the cormorant decided to explore the areas surrounding the island, hoping to find another place for its friends.





He came across a number of dark blue and calm lakes. "Those lakes look right for me and my friends.

I will land and check to see if there is enough food, before I call the others." *said the cormorant.*

The cormorant landed in the lake using its strong wings and legs. As soon as his body touched the lake, it wondered why it felt so sticky and smelled so bad?

After a while, it found that the lake was nothing but a deadly oil lake. He cried out:

"Oh no! I was fooled by this lake!"



The poor cormorant was trying to free himself but whenever it tried, he got soaked even more and more in the oil.

He became exhausted and hopeless, and closed its eyes surrendering his life forever...

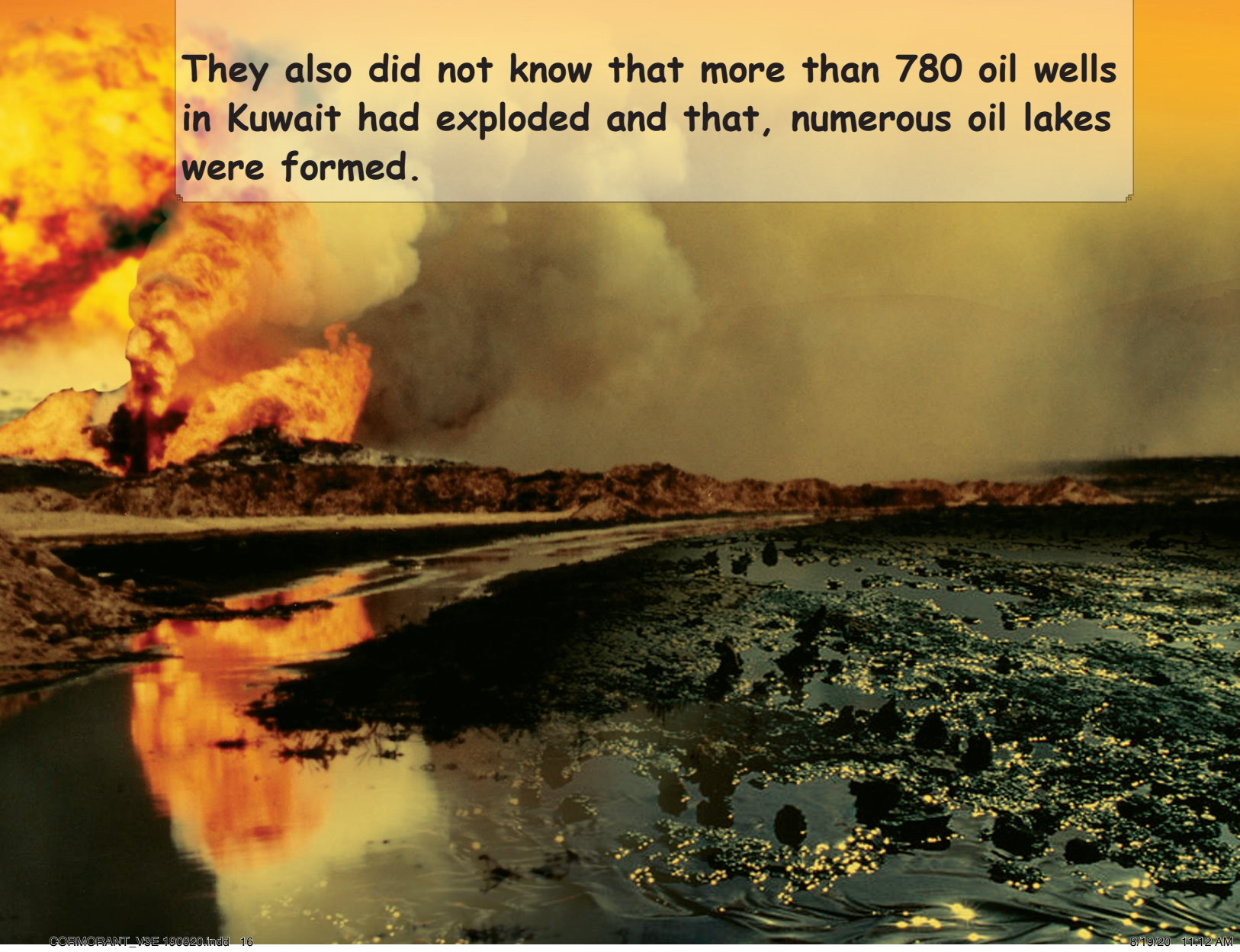



The cormorant was not alone in this deadly lake. The lake had swallowed so many insects, birds mammals, and reptiles..



The birds did not know what had happened to their poor friend who left and never returned.

They also did not know that more than 780 oil wells in Kuwait had exploded and that, numerous oil lakes were formed.



A dramatic landscape with a large fire on the left, a bright sun in the center, and a dead cormorant in the foreground. The sky is orange and yellow, with several white birds flying. The foreground is dark and reflective, showing the dead cormorant.

The body of the poor cormorant has
remained in the deadly lake after
many years..

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research started to remediate/clean the oil lake and to improve the soil in order to enhance greenery and beautification.

A Japanese garden was established in Ahmadi using the oil-remediated soil.



With that, the dirty dry land was transformed into a green healthy land in memory of the poor cormorant.



THE END



Japanese garden





Simplified Glossary

- **Rehabilitation:** Helping nature recover after it has had a serious damage or pollution.
- **Degradation:** Causing damage to the quality or condition of land or the environment.
- **Bioremediation:** A technology used for cleaning polluted soils by biological activities.
- **Oil lakes:** Lowlands filled with crude oil gushing from exploded and detonated oil wells.
- **Cormorant:** A large sea bird that feeds on fish.
- **Meadows:** A field of grass often with flowers.
- **Kubar Island:** An island located in Kuwait.
- **Greenery:** Planting ornamental plants for beautification of urban areas.
- **Ahmadi:** A city located in the southeast of Kuwait near the oil production fields.



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