



**A
GIFT
FOR
AUNTY
NGĀ**

*Ready
to Read*

BY DON LONG

ILLUSTRATED BY JUDITH KUNZLÉ

COOK ISLANDS

This book is a sequel to
A Quilt for Kiri.

Rarotonga •

NEW ZEALAND



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Ministry of Education

“Mum,” said Kiri one day,
“I want to take something special
to give to Aunty Ngā when we go
to Rarotonga.”

“Like a photo?” asked Mum.
“She liked the photos we sent
for her birthday.”

“No, not photos,” said Kiri,
“something special. I want
to give her our quilt.”

“Oh,” said Mum. She kept on
washing the dishes. Kiri dried
them and put them away.



On Monday nights, Kiri and Mum went
to sew their tīvaevae. Their first quilt was
almost finished. It was green and red and
blue. Mum was on the last flower, and Kiri
was helping with the leaves. It had taken
them a long time.





At the next tivaevae night, Kiri's mum told everyone, "When we go to Rarotonga next month, we want to give our tivaevae to Aunty Ngā."

The other mums and grandmas looked at Mum in surprise. They knew how special the quilt was to Mum and Kiri. But Aunty Ngā was special too.

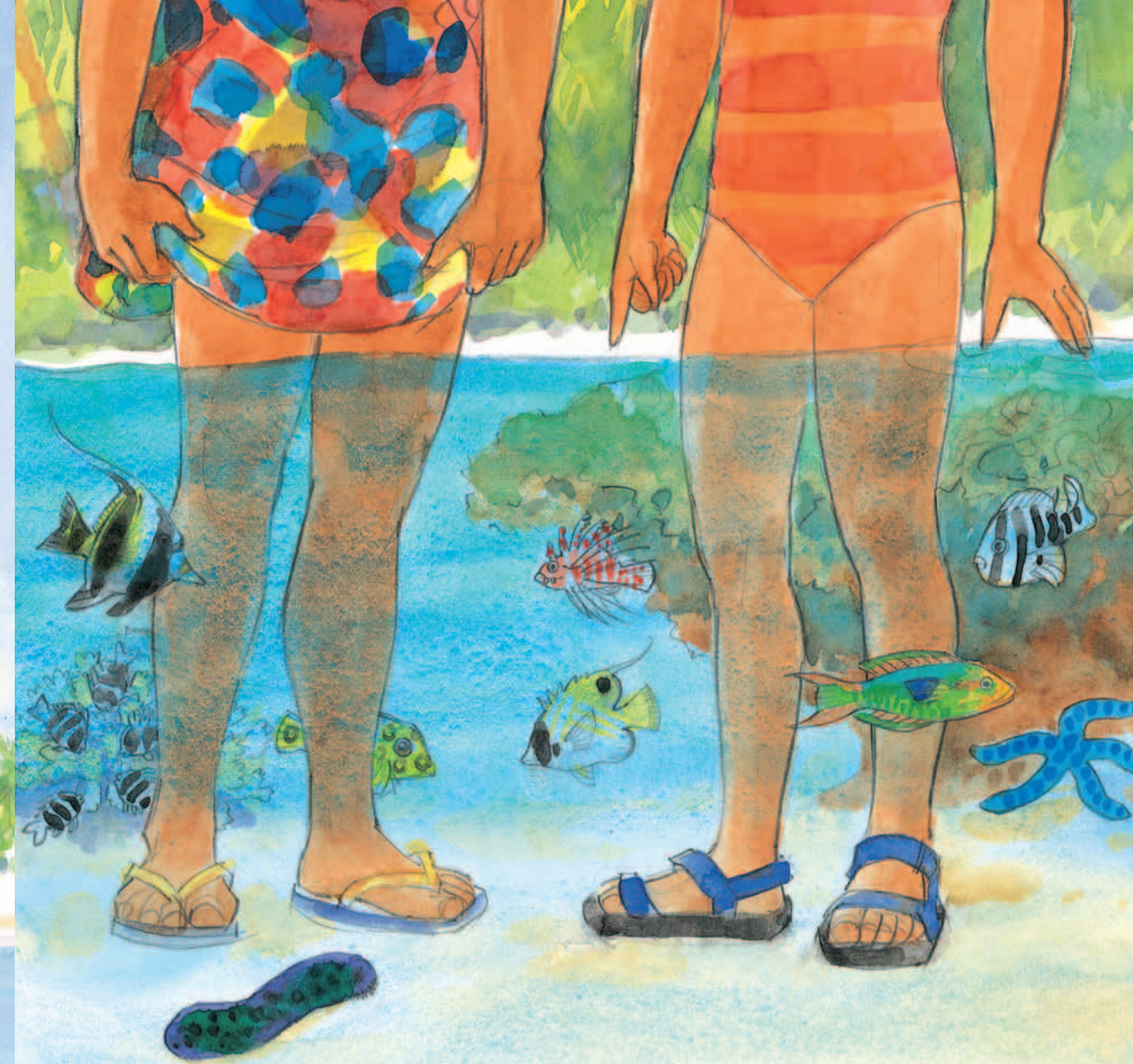
The next month, Kiri and her family flew to Rarotonga. The plane landed in the middle of the night. There were so many people waiting to meet them – cousins, aunties, uncles ... Dad ended up in one car and Mum in another.

"You just stick with me," Aunty Ngā told Kiri.



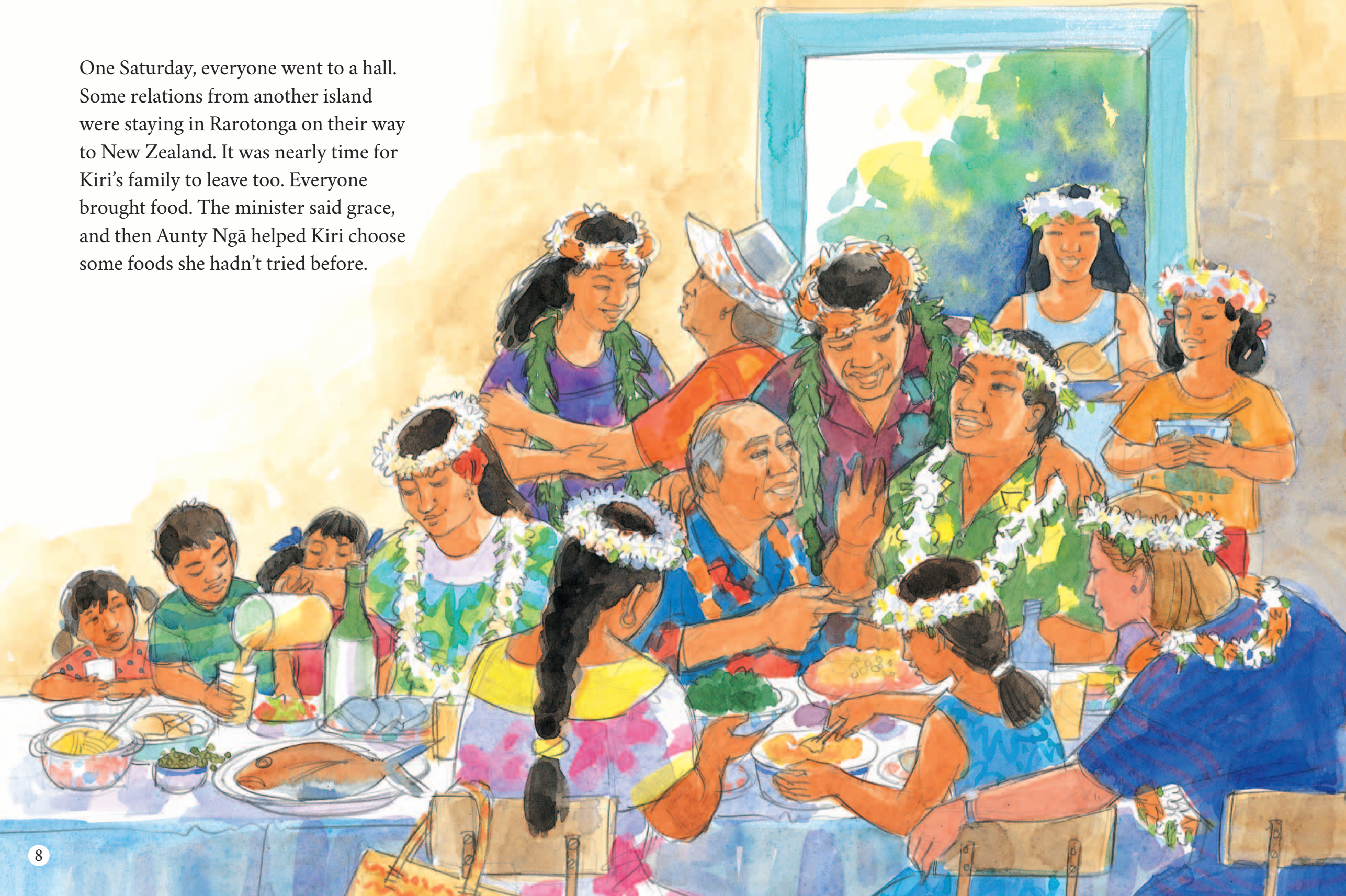
Kiri woke up early the next morning. She tiptoed outside, past Mum and Dad sleeping in the next room. And there, at the bottom of the garden, was the beach. A shell crawled past Kiri's feet. A hermit crab was hiding inside.

"I'll show you my favourite spot," said a gentle voice behind Kiri. It was Aunty Ngā.



The weather was so hot. Kiri went for a swim every day. Some of the fish could sting. Aunty Ngā showed her the ones to look out for.

One Saturday, everyone went to a hall. Some relations from another island were staying in Rarotonga on their way to New Zealand. It was nearly time for Kiri's family to leave too. Everyone brought food. The minister said grace, and then Aunty Ngā helped Kiri choose some foods she hadn't tried before.



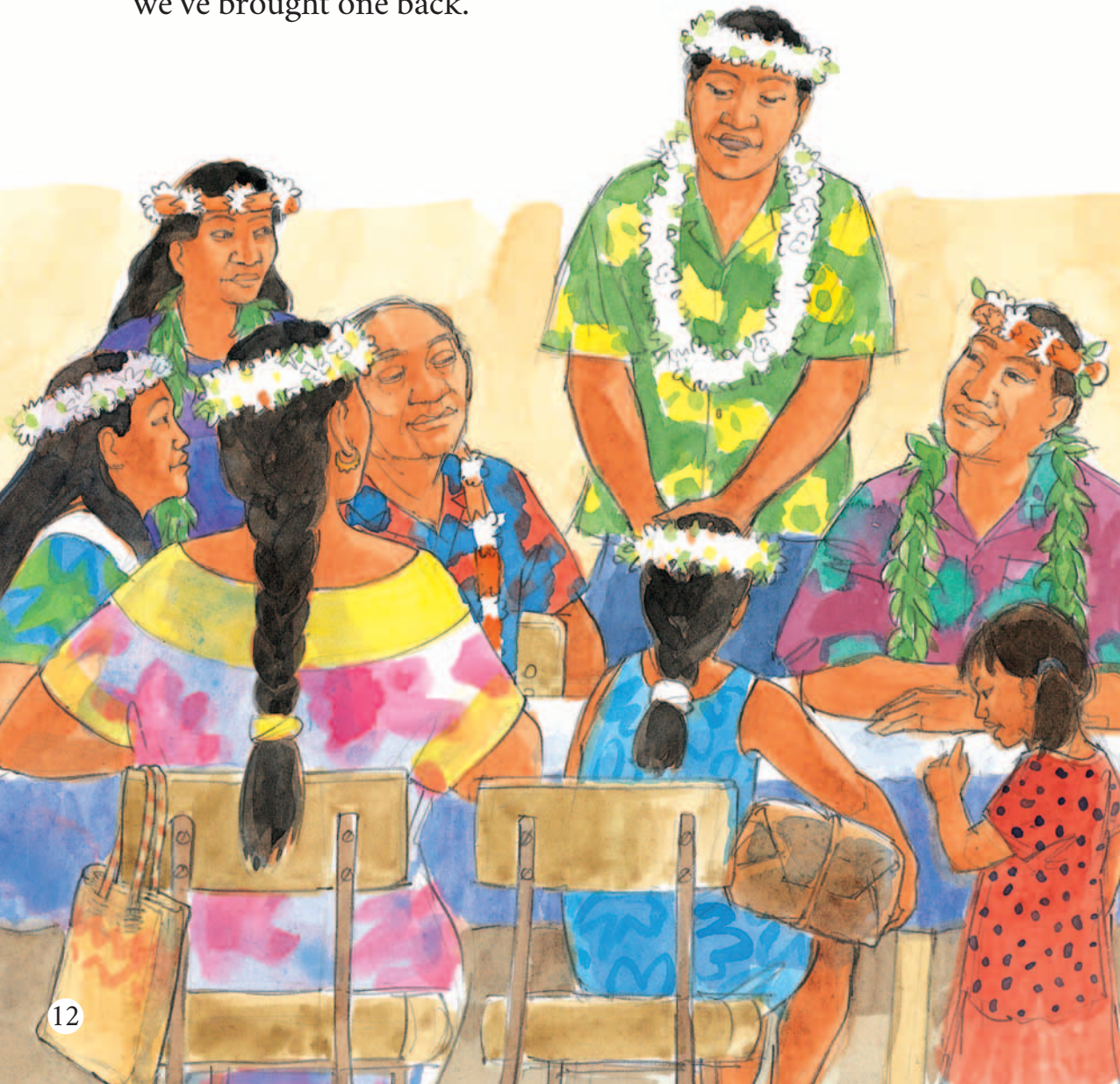
Then the singing started – and the dancing.
Dad was so good at it. But the speeches were sad.
The other family were shifting to Auckland.
Aunty Ngā wiped big tears from her eyes.
“Just like your dad. So far away.”



Dad looked at Kiri. She nodded.
The package was under her chair.
Mum squeezed her hand.
Mum was ready too.

Dad got up to speak. “We’re going back to New Zealand too. Who knows when we’ll be back.”

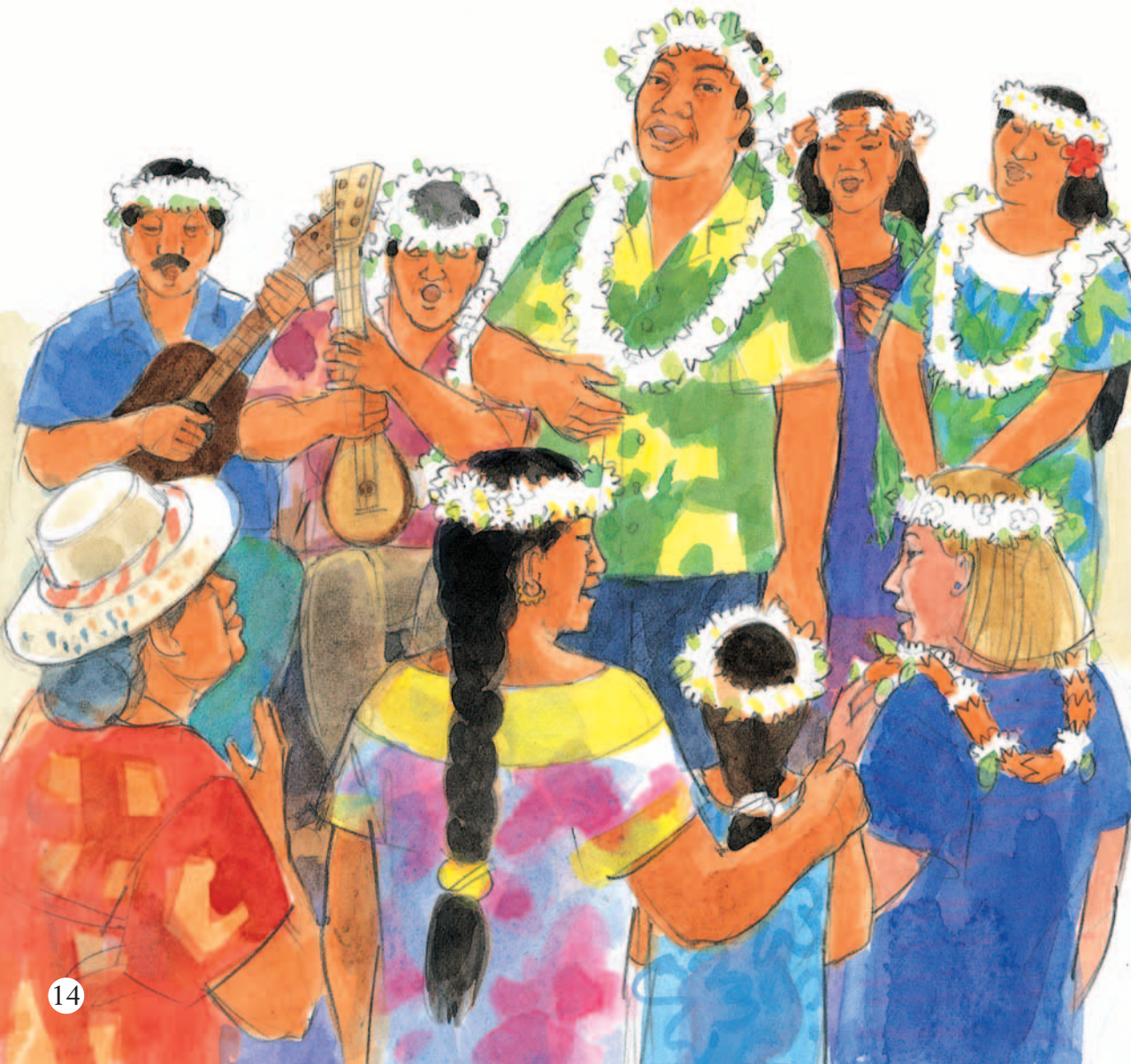
Everyone was quiet. Everyone was listening. “When Māmā died, you sent us a quilt. Now we’ve brought one back.”



Mum helped Kiri unwrap it. They carried it over to Aunty Ngā.

“Kiri and I made it together,” said Mum. “It’s not as big as the one you sent, but every stitch is filled with love.” Then she burst into tears and threw her arms around Aunty Ngā.

Everyone was silent. Then Dad started to sing.
He sang Grandma's song, a song he'd taught to Kiri.
Then another voice joined in, and another.
Soon, everyone was singing Grandma's song.
Everyone was happy and sad, all at the same time.



“Oh, Kiri,” said Aunty Ngā on the last morning,
“you’re going to be so far away.”
She gathered Kiri up in a big, squeezey hug.
“But your quilt will help to keep you close to me,
as close as you are to me right now.” She put Kiri down.

“Now, go and get your mum and dad.
The food is ready. Let’s sit down and
eat together. And then they can take you
back to New Zealand.”



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Ngā (nah – ng as in ‘singer’)

tīvaevae (tee-vy-vy)

Māmā (mah-mah)



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