

Annie Bryceson

A London Girl's Leap of Faith

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The story was originally written down by Annie's
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Revised for the a children's book by Becca Groberg
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Created with the help of AI

Annie Bryceson

A LONDON GIRL'S LEAP OF FAITH



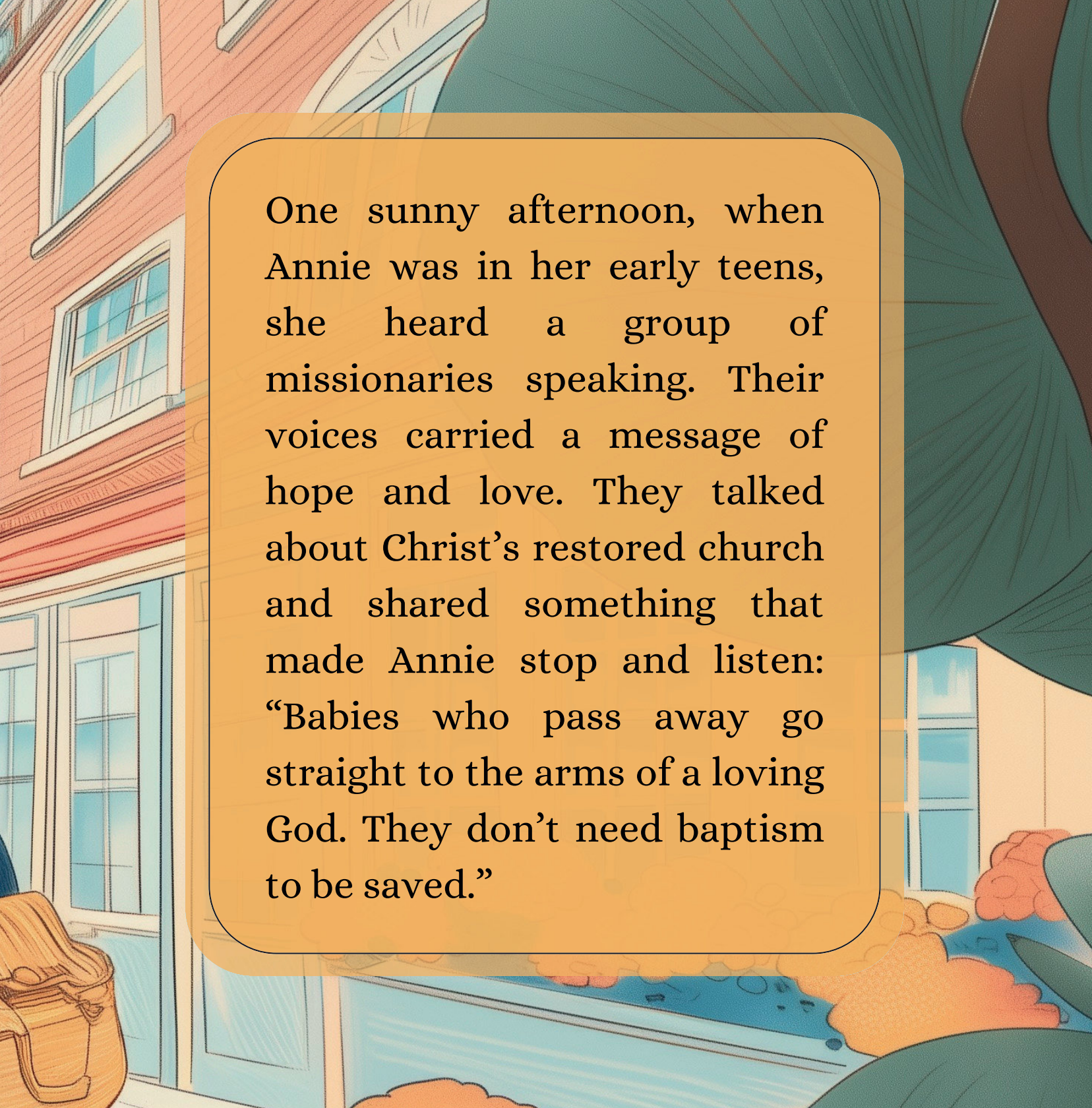


In the heart of London, where cobblestone streets echoed with horse hooves and the scent of fresh-baked bread filled the air, there lived a lively 15-year-old girl named Annie Bryceson. She was the seventh of eleven children in a bustling, happy home.

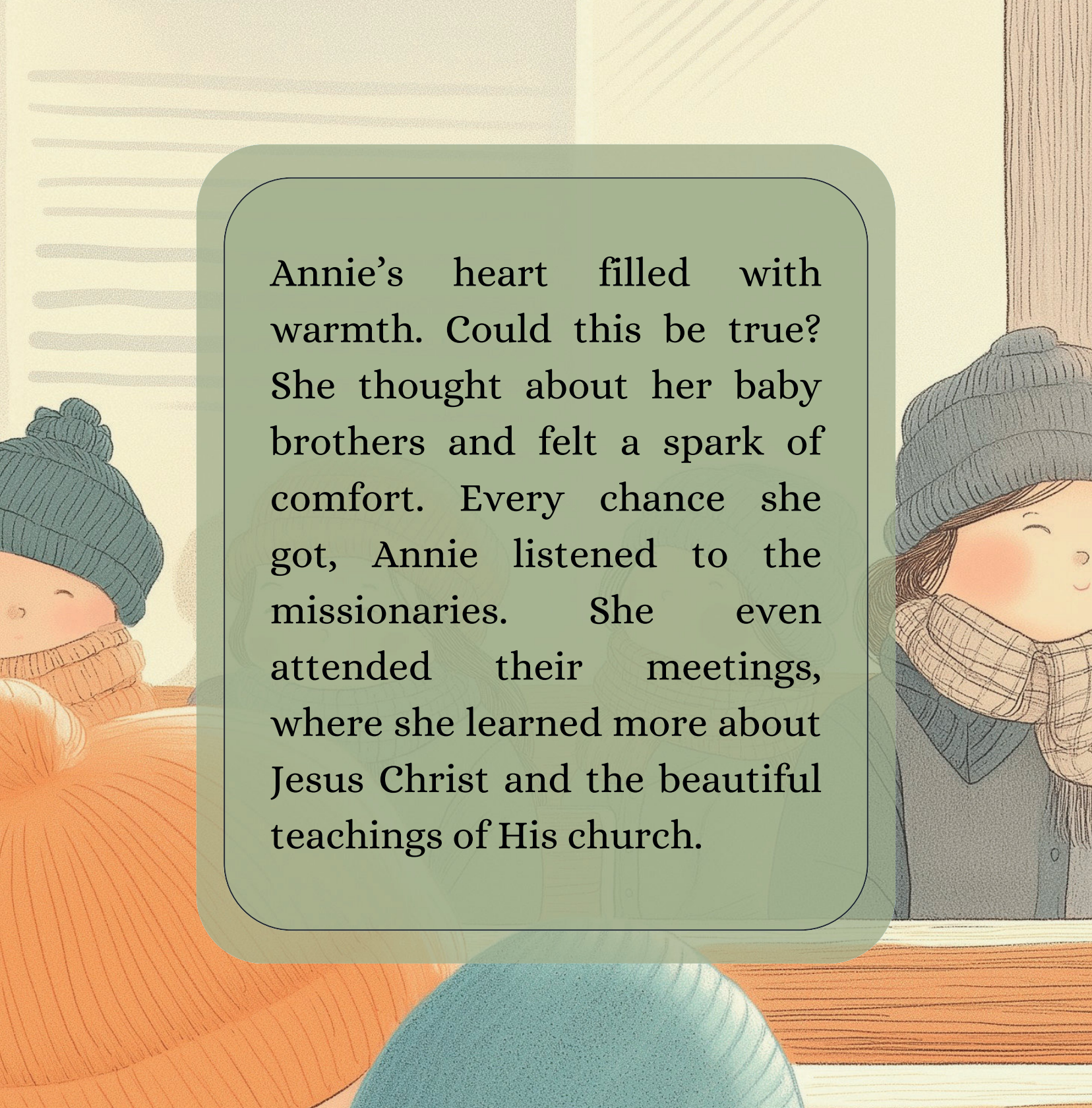
Annie loved her brothers and sisters dearly, but the world grew quiet and sad when two of her baby brothers passed away from a terrible illness called the “black measles.” Annie missed them so much and often wondered if she would ever see them again.



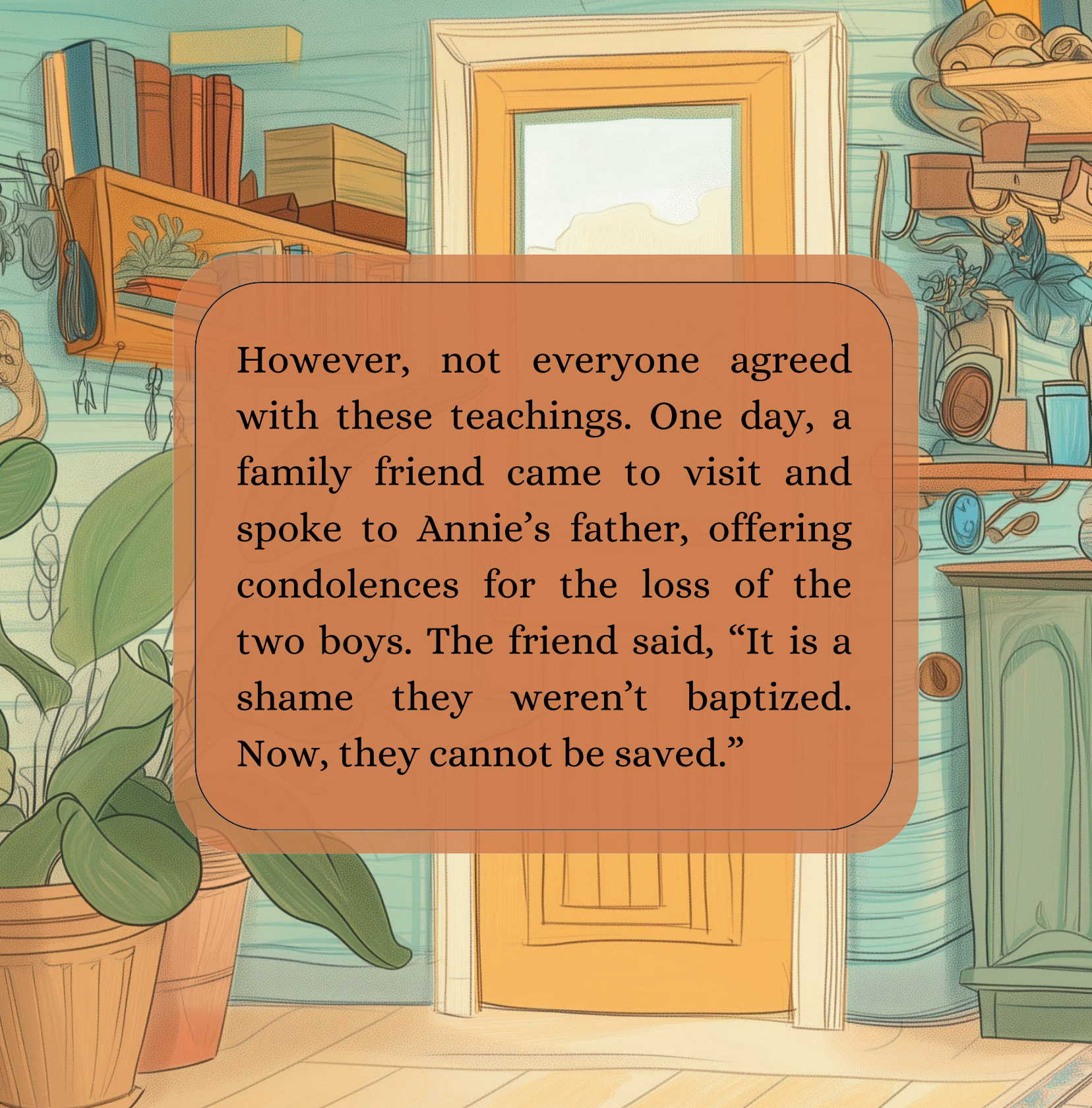




One sunny afternoon, when Annie was in her early teens, she heard a group of missionaries speaking. Their voices carried a message of hope and love. They talked about Christ's restored church and shared something that made Annie stop and listen: "Babies who pass away go straight to the arms of a loving God. They don't need baptism to be saved."


Annie’s heart filled with warmth. Could this be true? She thought about her baby brothers and felt a spark of comfort. Every chance she got, Annie listened to the missionaries. She even attended their meetings, where she learned more about Jesus Christ and the beautiful teachings of His church.





However, not everyone agreed with these teachings. One day, a family friend came to visit and spoke to Annie's father, offering condolences for the loss of the two boys. The friend said, "It is a shame they weren't baptized. Now, they cannot be saved."





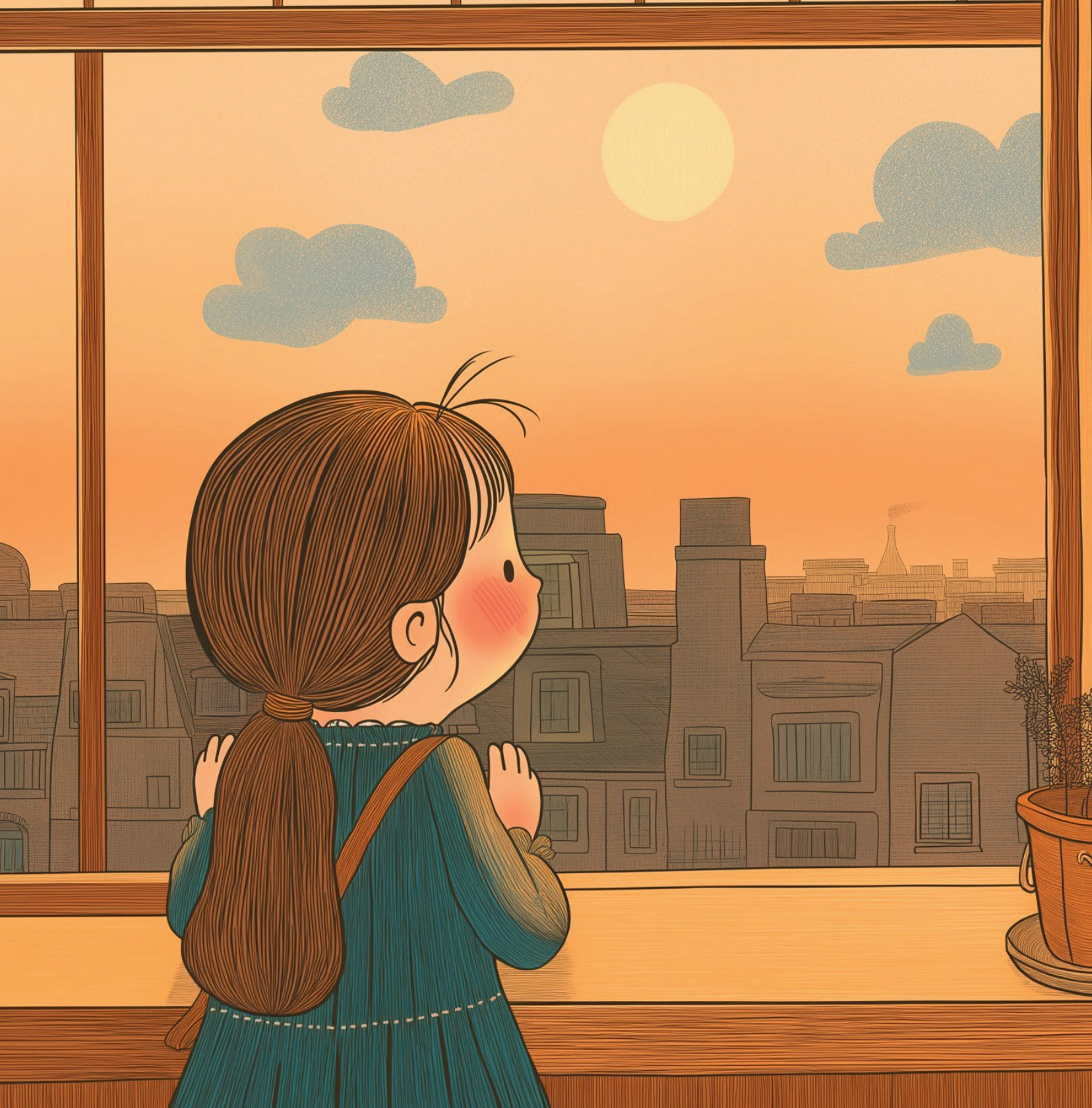
Annie, who was listening nearby, felt her heart race. She stood up, her hands trembling but her voice steady, and said, “That’s not true! Little children cannot sin and don’t need baptism. They go straight into the presence of Heavenly Father.”

Her father’s eyes widened in shock. “Where did you hear such a thing?” he demanded.

Annie hesitated, then confessed, “I’ve been attending the Mormon meetings.”

Her father’s face grew stern. “I forbid you from ever speaking of such things in this house again.”

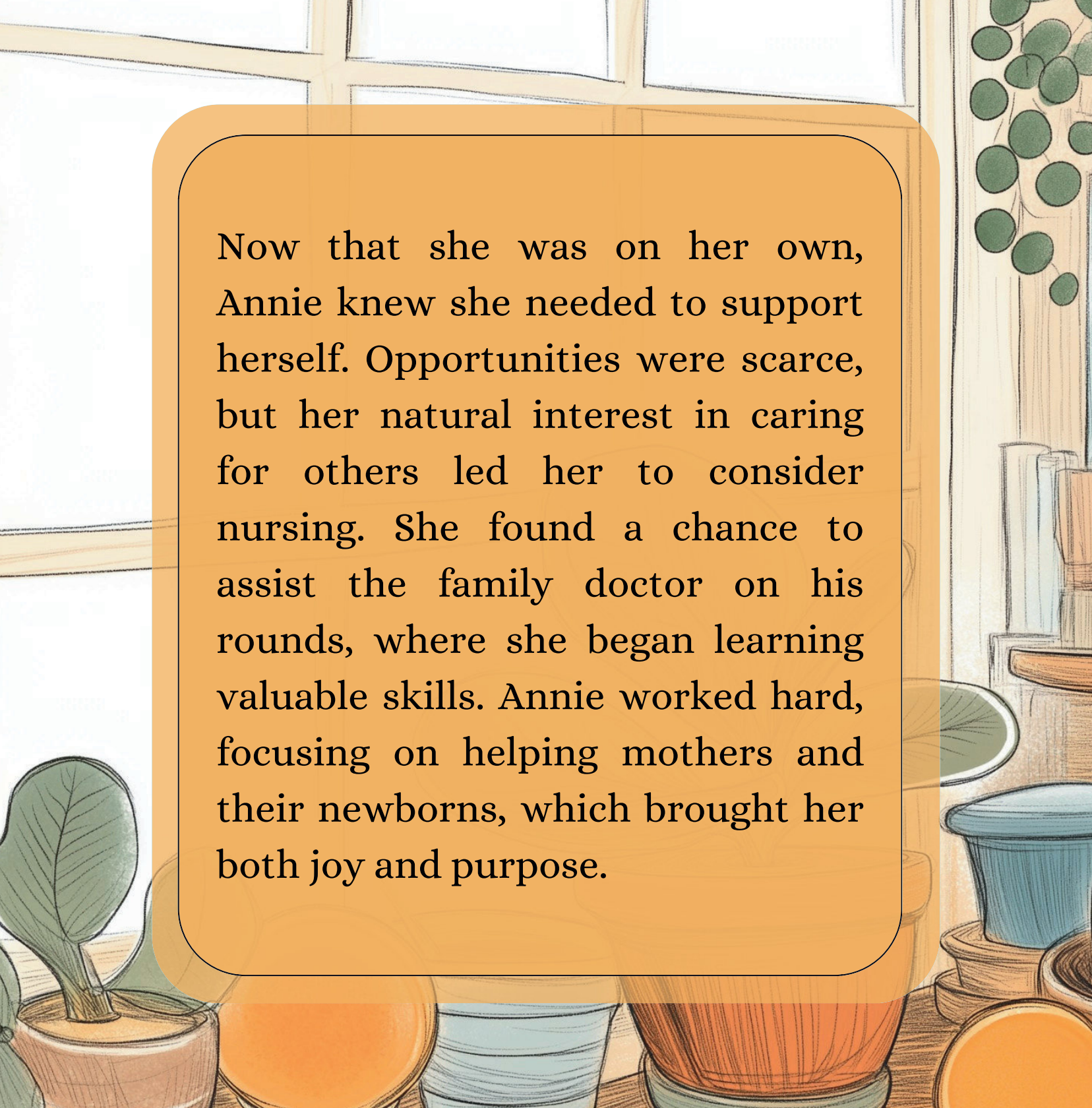
From that day on, life at home became difficult. The cheerful warmth of her family's home felt distant. Annie's heart ached as she realized her faith was causing tension, but she couldn't deny the truth she had come to believe. One evening, as the city lights twinkled outside her window, Annie made a brave decision. She packed a small bag and stepped out into the bustling streets of London, not knowing where she would go.







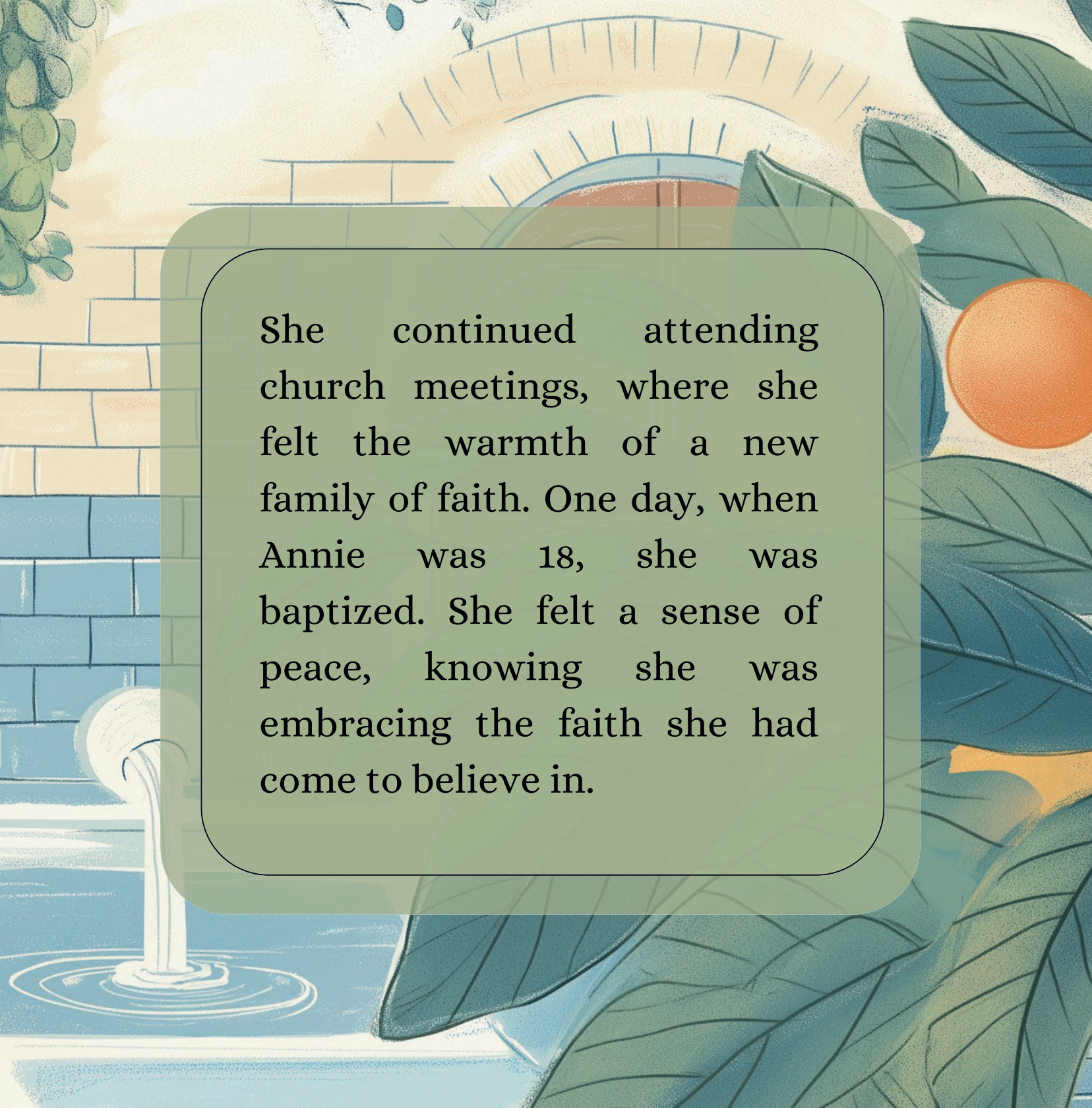
As she wandered the dark streets, fear crept in, but Annie's bravery guided her. She found help and a safe place to stay, resting that night with a mix of determination and hope for what lay ahead.



Now that she was on her own, Annie knew she needed to support herself. Opportunities were scarce, but her natural interest in caring for others led her to consider nursing. She found a chance to assist the family doctor on his rounds, where she began learning valuable skills. Annie worked hard, focusing on helping mothers and their newborns, which brought her both joy and purpose.



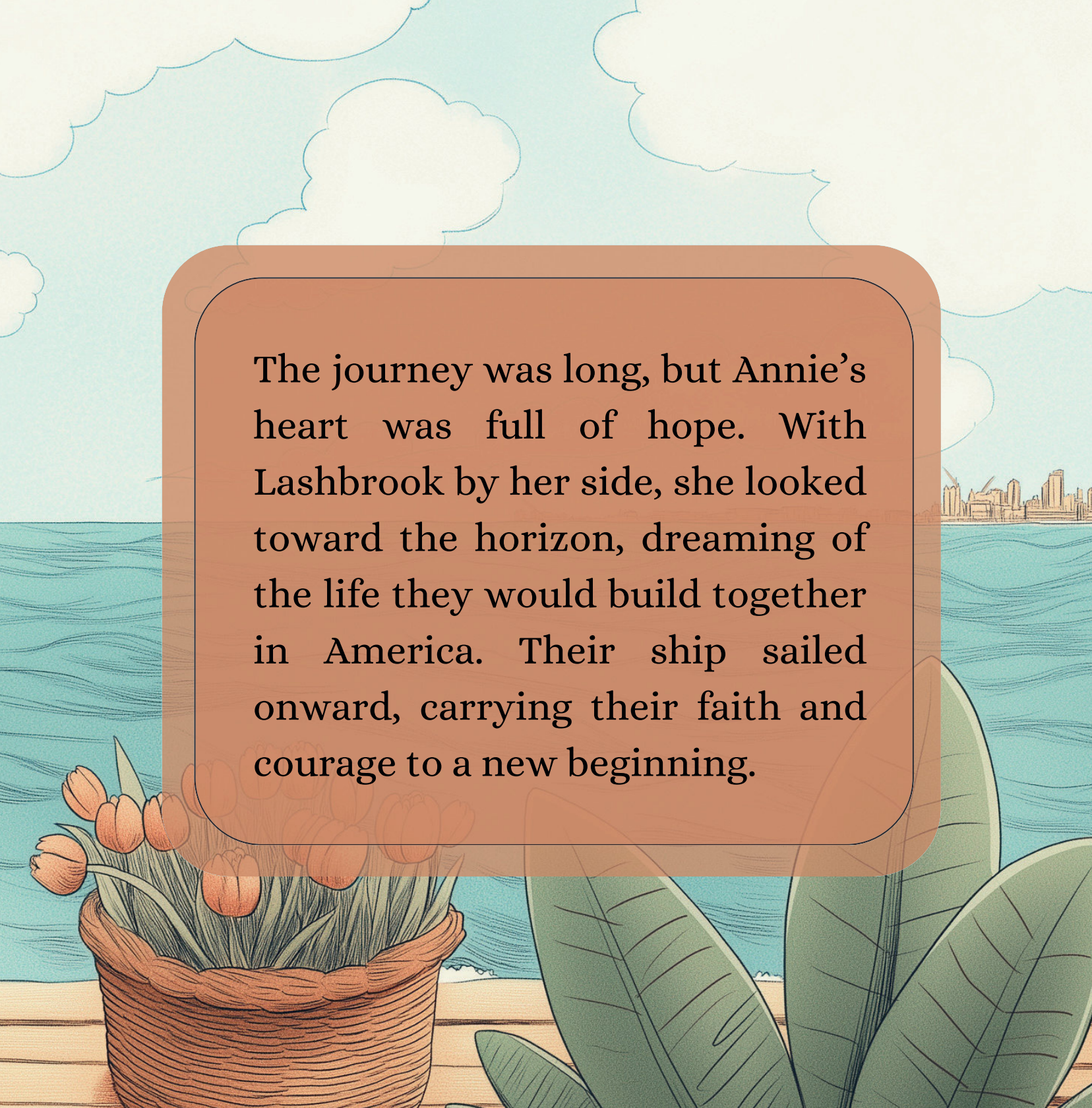



She continued attending church meetings, where she felt the warmth of a new family of faith. One day, when Annie was 18, she was baptized. She felt a sense of peace, knowing she was embracing the faith she had come to believe in.

At church, Annie's heart found another spark of joy. She met a tall, dark-haired silversmith named Lashbrook Laker. His kindness and faith made her heart flutter. The two fell in love, and soon they were married in London. Together, they dreamed of a bright future and decided to sail across the ocean to America, where they could build a new life.







The journey was long, but Annie's heart was full of hope. With Lashbrook by her side, she looked toward the horizon, dreaming of the life they would build together in America. Their ship sailed onward, carrying their faith and courage to a new beginning.



Annie Bryceson
Laker

Annie Bryceson was born in London, England in 1832, the seventh of eleven children. In her early teens, she heard Mormon missionaries preaching and became convinced of their teachings, particularly regarding infant baptism, as she had lost two unbaptized brothers. When she defended this belief against a family friend, her father forbade her from speaking of it, creating a strained home environment that led her to leave home.

Annie found work assisting a doctor, gaining skills in nursing and midwifery. She continued attending Mormon services and was baptized in April 1856. There, she met Lashbrook Laker, a silversmith, and they married in August 1855. Three weeks later, they sailed for America.

They lived in Williamsburg, New York, where Lashbrook worked as a silversmith and Annie worked in mantling. They adopted a five-month-old boy. They then moved to Wallingford, Connecticut, where they had three daughters, one of whom died. In 1861, the Lakers emigrated to Utah and settled in Grantsville, later moving to Skull Ranch. In 1864, they were called to settle Bear Lake, Idaho.

Annie was known for her service as a midwife and Relief Society president. She was also the President of the Stake Primary for over 30 years. Besides raising six children of her own, she took in nine other motherless children. Lashbrook died in 1901, and Annie passed away in Paris, Idaho, in 1921 at the age of 89.

Timeline

- **July 12, 1832**: Annie Bryceson was born in London, England, on Commercial Road, Parish of Stepney, the seventh of eleven children.

- **Early teens:** Annie heard missionaries preaching on the street in London and became interested in their teaching that infant baptism is unnecessary, especially after two of her younger brothers die of "black measles”.

- **April 1850 (age 18):** Annie was baptized. She leaft home after a conflict with her father about her new religious beliefs.

- **Around 1853 (around age 21):** Annie met Lashbrook Laker, a silversmith who was also had recently been baptized.

- **August 19, 1855 (age 23):** Annie Bryceson and Lashbrook Laker married in London at the Trinity Church, Paddington.

- **1855 (age 23):** Three weeks after their marriage, they sailed for America on the ship Empire State (also called the Emerald Isle) and arrive in New York City after a five-week voyage.

- **October 18, 1855 (age 23):** The couple arrives in New York and settle in Williamsburg. Lashbrook works as a silversmith, and Annie works in mantling (probably sewing coat or outerwear).

- **1856 (age 24)**: Annie and Lashbrook adopted a five-month-old baby boy named William Thomas Laker They moved to Wallingford, Connecticut.

- **January 7, 1857 (age 24)**: Annie and Lashbrook's first child, a daughter named Eva Anna, was born but dies after 21 days.

- **February 24, 1858 (age 25)**: Annie and Lashbrook's second daughter, Amy Ellen, was born.

- **January 23, 1859 (age 26)**: Annie and Lashbrook's third daughter, Sarah Edith, was born. Their adopted son died shortly after this birth.

- **1859 (age 26)**: The family visited Lashbrook’s father in Richmond, Indiana, before returning to Connecticut.

- **1861 (age 29):** The family emigrated to Utah due to the start of the Civil War. They traveled across the plains in ox teams.
- **September 18, 1861 (age 29):** They arrived in Salt Lake City and move to Grantsville, Tooele County.
- **December 26, 1861 (age 29):** Annie and Lashbrook's daughter Mary Jane was born in Grantsville.
- **1862 (age 30)**: The family moved to Skull Ranch.
- **1864 (age 32)**: The family was called to settle in Bear Lake Valley, Idaho. They traveled there in a wagon and camp in the wagon box all winter.
- **November 11, 1864 (age 32)**: Annie and Lashbrook's daughter Elizabeth DeEtte was born.
- **October 6, 1867 (age 35)**: Annie and Lashbrook's daughter Elnora was born.

- **November 6, 1871 (age 39)**: Annie and Lashbrook's son, Lashbrook Bryceson Laker Jr., was born. The family was living on their own farm some distance from town, and living in a one-room house previously used as a stable.

- **For 25 years:** Annie acted as a midwife in the Bear Lake community.

- **For 15 years:** Annie presided over the Relief Society in Bear Lake and cared for the poor and sick.

- **For more than 30 years:** Annie served as the President of the Stake Primary and traveled many miles by horse and buggy.

- **1901 (age 69):** Lashbrook Laker died in St. Charles, Idaho.

- **August 19, 1921 (age 89)**: Annie Bryceson Laker died in Paris, Idaho, at 89 years of age, and was buried in St. Charles, Idaho, beside her husband.

Annie Bryceson Laker

Annie Bryceson's quest for truth led her from her London home to a new faith. Her courage to leave her family and embrace the unknown brought her to the arms of a new community and to her love, Lashbrook Laker. Together they sailed to America, their faith a compass guiding them to a new beginning.