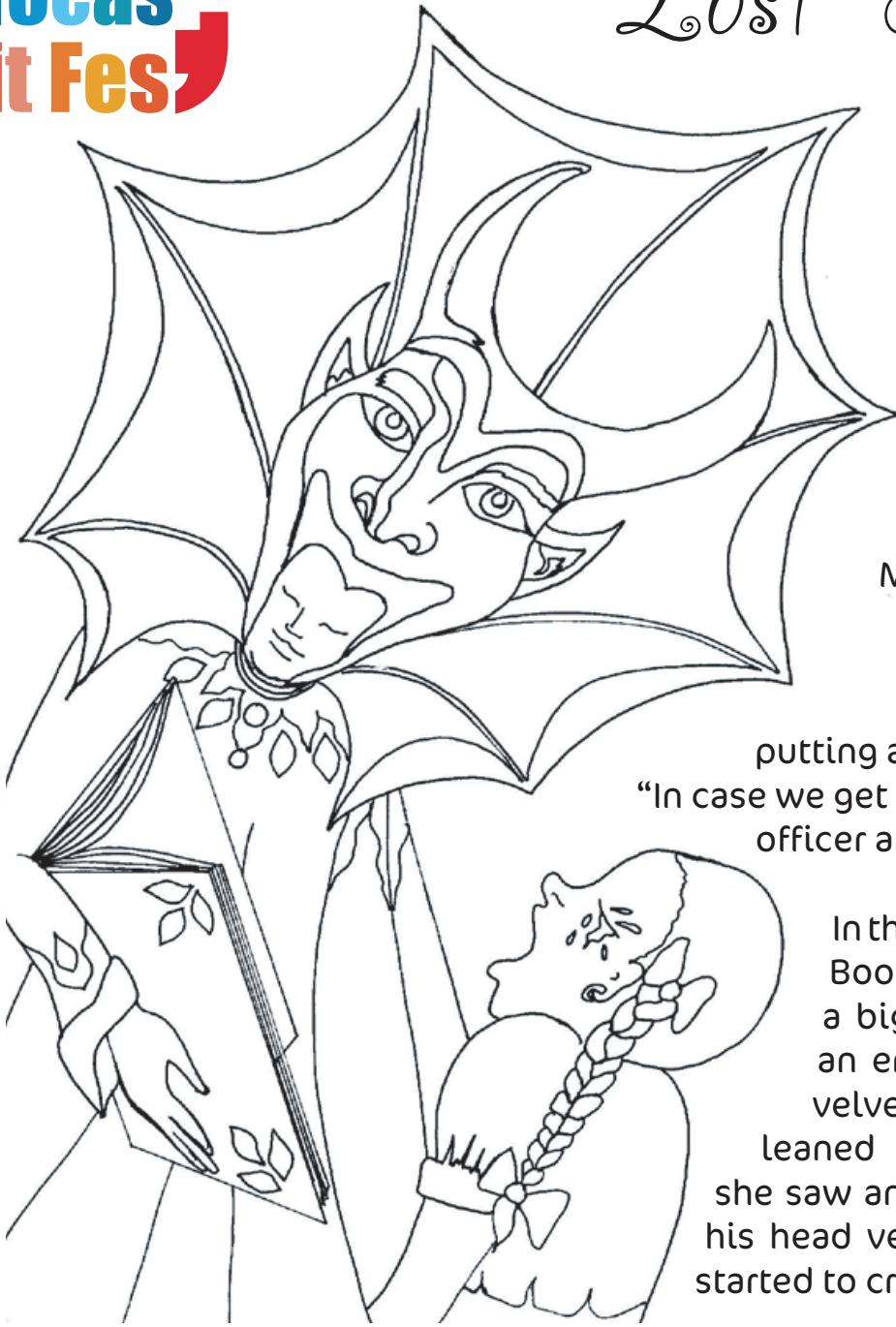


Lost In J'ouvert



It was J'ouvert, an exciting time, but a scary one, too.

At J'ouvert, you can meet Jab Jab, Red Devils, muddy people, Pierro Granade and Sailors. Blue Devils with oily skins wave their pitchforks and blow fire.

Before dark on Carnival Monday, Anya and her father headed into town.

"Stay close to me," he said, putting an I.D. bracelet on her wrist.

"In case we get separated, look for a police officer and show him this bracelet."

In the dark, noisy street, she saw Book Man dancing and holding a big book. He was dressed in an embroidered gown made of velvet and satin. When Book Man leaned forward to ask her name, she saw an angry devil with horns on his head very close to her face. Anya started to cry.

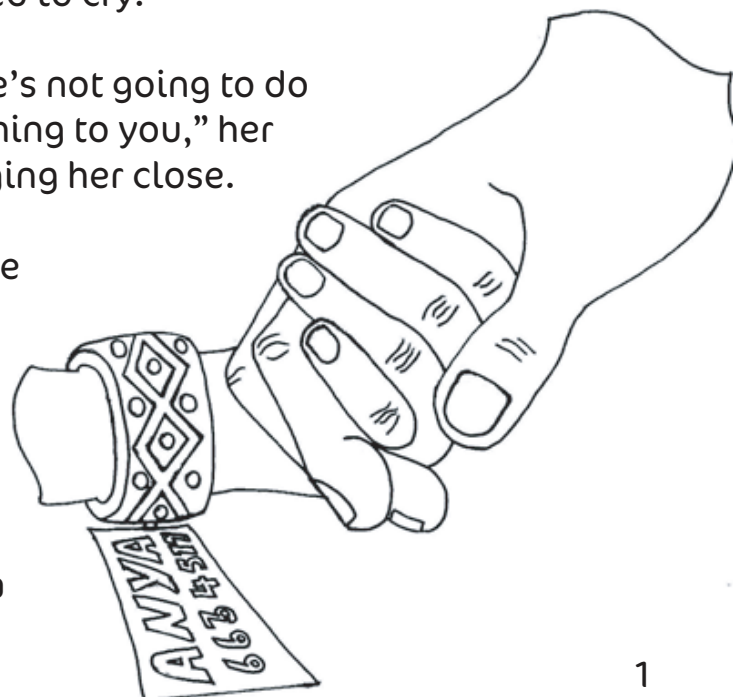
"He's not going to do anything to you," her father said, hugging her close.

A Jab Molassie spat as he danced by them. There was so much noise and fire, so many bodies

wriggling to the beat of the pans.

Suddenly, a drunken man staggered in front of her and made her jump. She put her hands to her mouth, letting go of her father's hand.

When she recovered from her fright, Anya



realized that a band of people dancing down the road had taken her father away. She ran to catch up with the passing band, but tripped and fell flat on her stomach. Spying her father in the crowd, Anya ran quickly to him. She hugged him around down at her.

Running in between the dirty dancers, she began looking for a police officer. Suddenly, she spotted her aunt, who was covered in mud and oil.

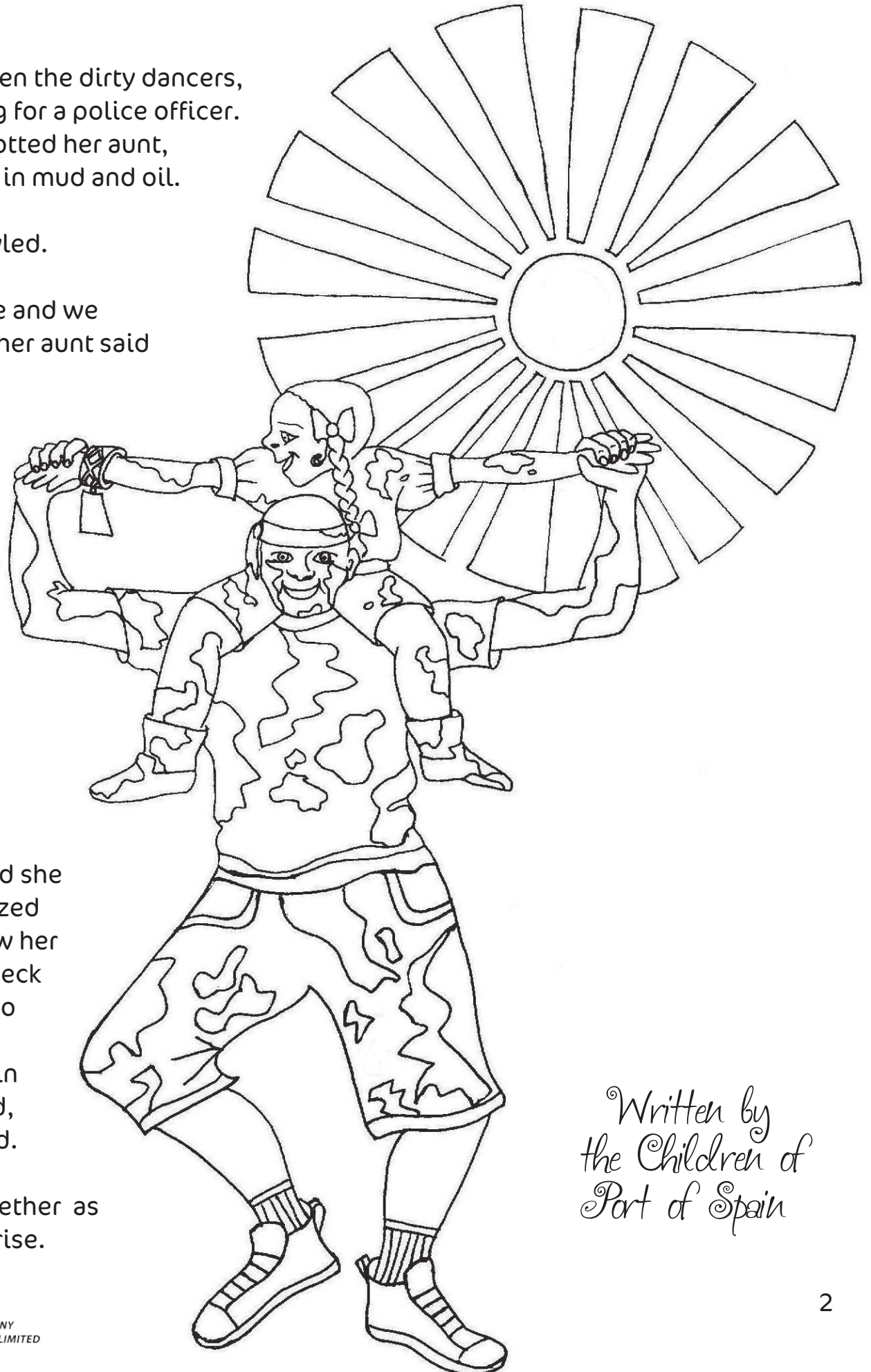
“Auntie!” she bawled.

“Just stay with me and we will find Daddy,” her aunt said comfortingly.

A big grin came over Anya’s face. She began to hear the music now, not just the noise. Staying close to her aunt, she started to move in time with the tune.

Through the crowd she suddenly recognized her dad. She threw her arms around his neck as he bent down to lift her up. Anya’s hug covered him in paint, oil and mud, but he didn’t mind.

They danced together as the sun began to rise.



*Written by
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