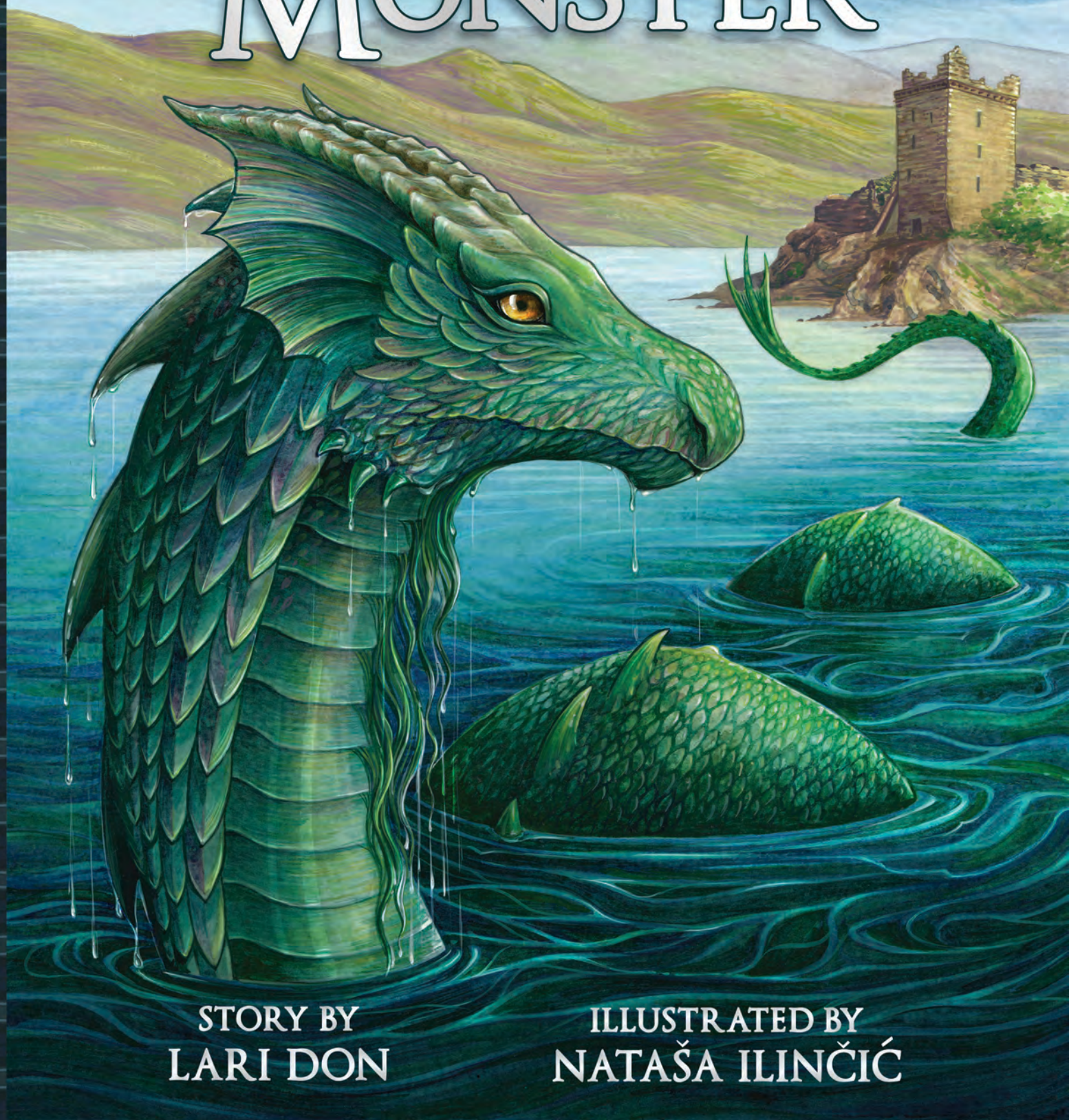




THE TREASURE OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER



STORY BY
LARI DON

ILLUSTRATED BY
NATAŠA ILINČIĆ

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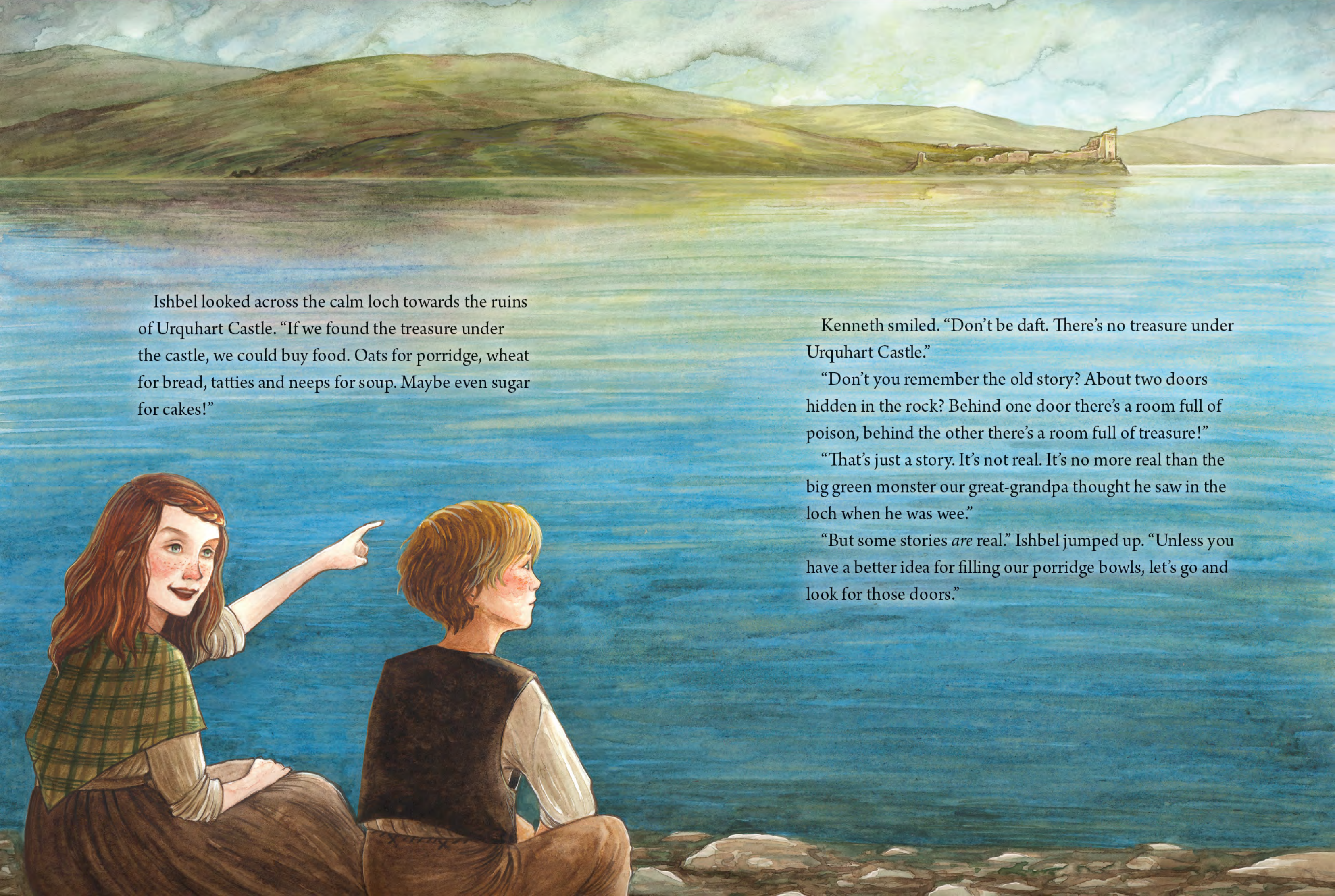




Once upon a time, two children sat by the deep gleaming waters of Loch Ness and listened to their tummies rumble.

“I’m hungry,” said Kenneth. “Are you hungry?”

Ishbel nodded. “And Granny’s cupboard is empty, so we’ll be hungry all winter.”



Ishbel looked across the calm loch towards the ruins of Urquhart Castle. “If we found the treasure under the castle, we could buy food. Oats for porridge, wheat for bread, tatties and neeps for soup. Maybe even sugar for cakes!”

Kenneth smiled. “Don’t be daft. There’s no treasure under Urquhart Castle.”

“Don’t you remember the old story? About two doors hidden in the rock? Behind one door there’s a room full of poison, behind the other there’s a room full of treasure!”

“That’s just a story. It’s not real. It’s no more real than the big green monster our great-grandpa thought he saw in the loch when he was wee.”

“But some stories *are* real.” Ishbel jumped up. “Unless you have a better idea for filling our porridge bowls, let’s go and look for those doors.”

The cousins rowed their family's old boat across the deep gleaming waters of the loch. They dragged it onto the pebbly shore under the castle ruins and stared at the blank rock.

"There are no doors," said Kenneth. "No doors, and a long row back home..."

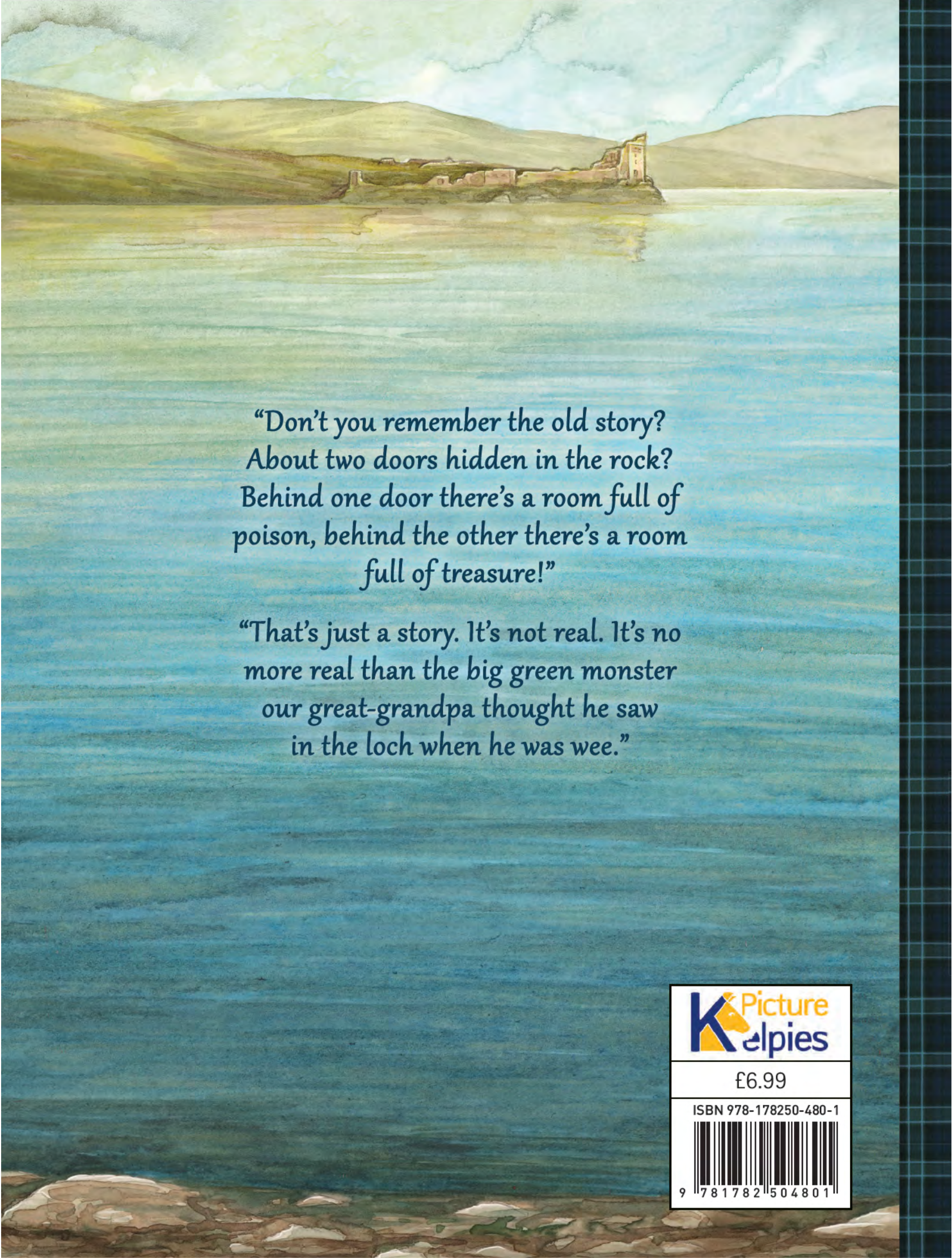
"They're *hidden* doors." Ishbel patted the rock. "We have to search for them."

"Even if you found them, how would you choose which one to open?" asked Kenneth. "That's the point of the story, isn't it? To win the treasure, you have to risk the poison."

Ishbel ran her hands along the rock. "Our whole family is starving, so I'll take that risk."

Kenneth laughed. "That's a brave thing to say, when you haven't found any doors!"





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The logo features a stylized 'K' in blue and yellow, followed by the words 'Picture' and 'Books' in a sans-serif font.

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