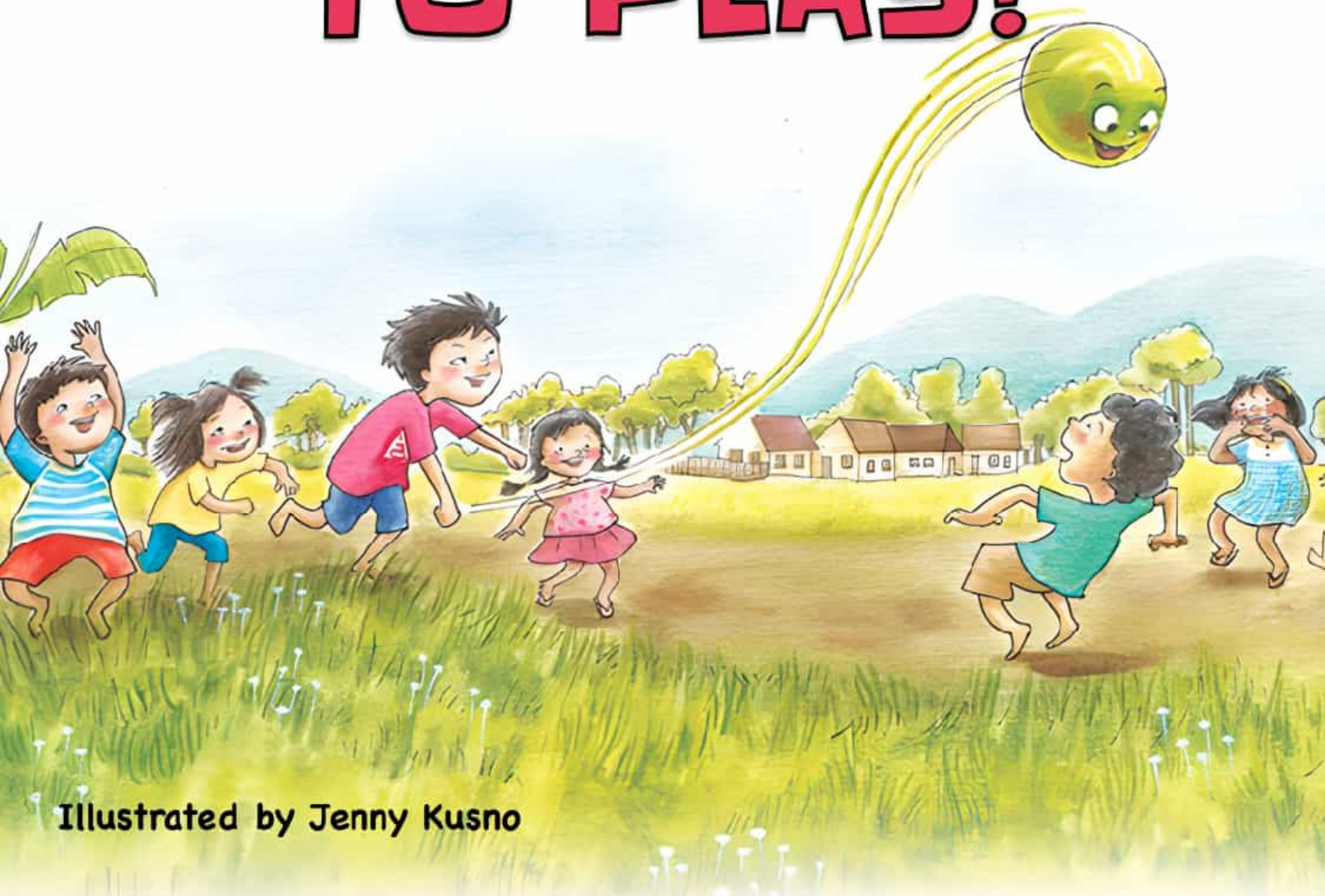
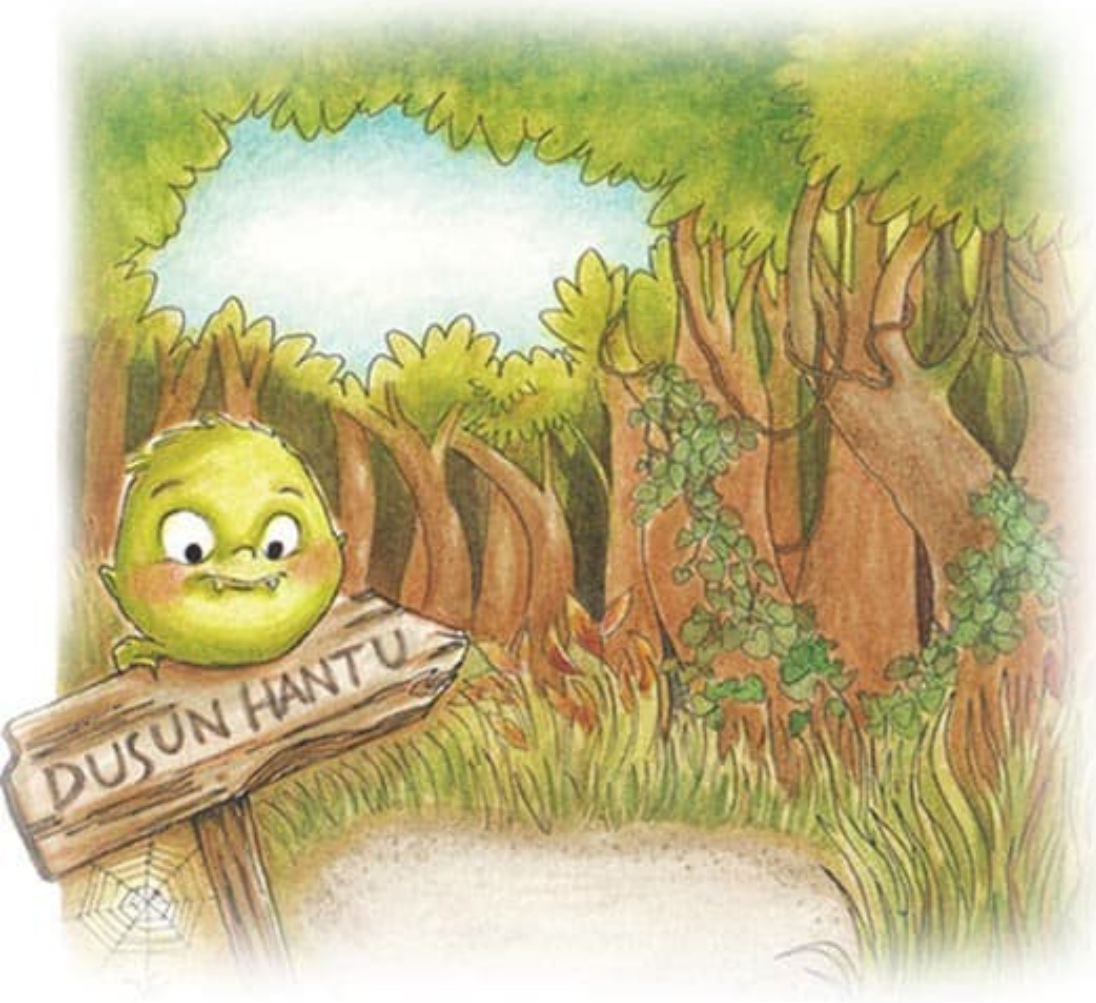


LITTLE GHOST WANTS TO PLAY!



Illustrated by Jenny Kusno



Hello! Don't be scared, I won't hurt you!

Yes, ghosts exist, and I'm one of them!

My name is Gad, but I'm a good ghost, I promise!

No, I do not want to scare anybody. I'm very friendly.

Some ghosts are not quite so friendly, though!

Actually, a lot of them are really quite nasty.
They love nothing more than to scare people.
They lurk in the woods all night, waiting for
someone to go by.
Then, they jump out and make them anxious
for months!
That's not really what I like to do.





I like to have lots of fun!

But I am very lonely, because other good ghosts don't exist.

Oh, what's that down there?

That group of kids looks like they are having some fun!

I will go down and join them!

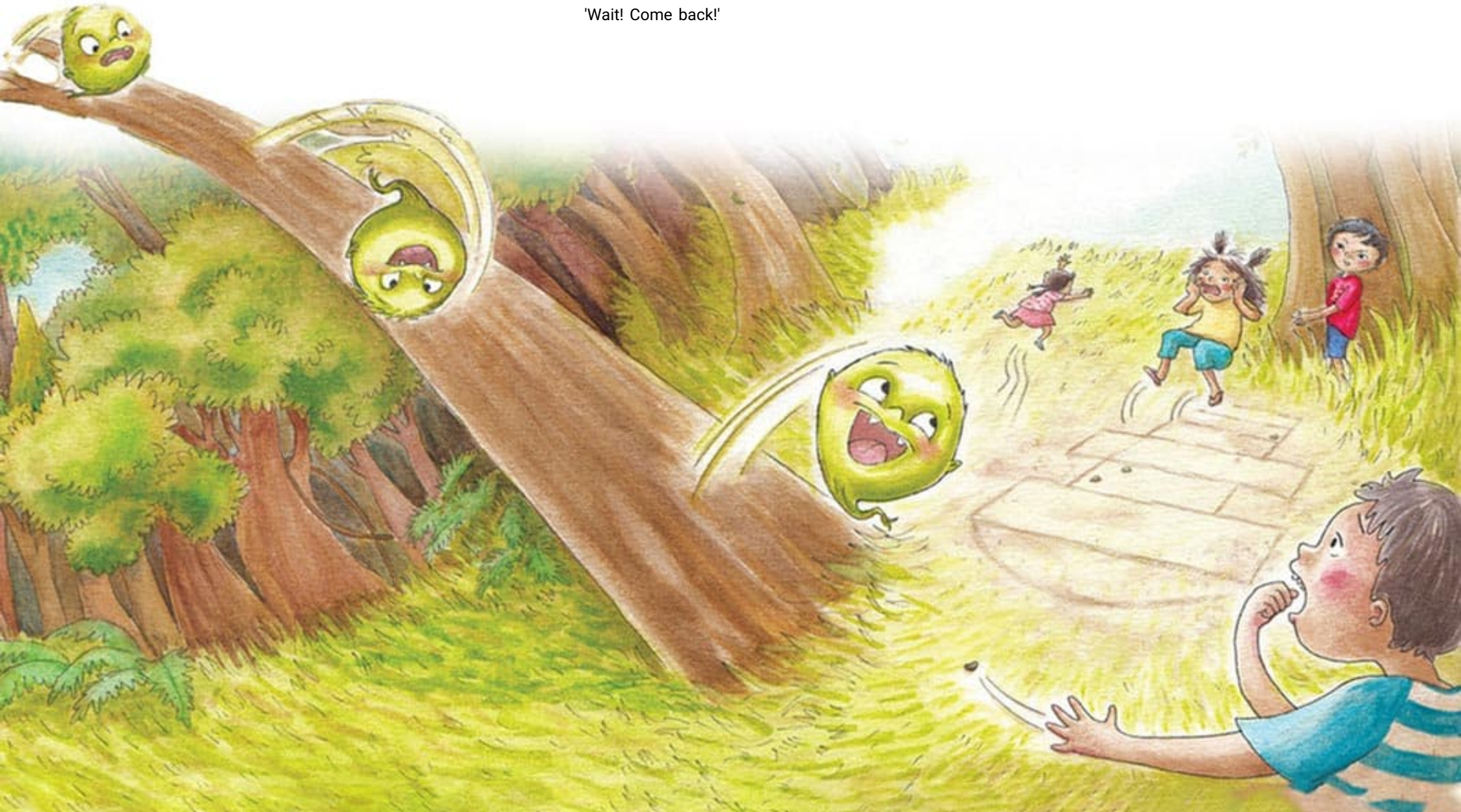
I float down to them as nicely as I can, trying not to make them anxious.

'Hey, kids, what's going on? I'm Gad!'

But they do not listen to what I am saying.

They take one look at my ghostly green form and run away!

'Wait! Come back!'



'Why are you afraid? I just want to play!' I shout.

But it is no use, they run the maximum amount of distance they can from me!

They look like they have seen a ghost!

Well... I suppose they have seen a ghost, but I'm a friendly ghost!

I will try again.





I follow them to the market to see if I can make them laugh.

I disguise myself as a green coconut!

But I think I looked like a toxic fruit nobody could go near.

I know, I will turn into a balloon!

Ghosts and balloons have a lot in common, you know.

I float over to the kids as a green balloon, trying not to seem too much like a ghost.

'Hey kids, who wants to play with me! I'm just a talking balloon,' I say.

The kids are still a little anxious.

All of a sudden, I hear a loud meow behind me.

Oh no, it's a cat!





The cat tries to pop me, but I am more flexible than that!



So it flops and jumps about while I make funny faces.

The kids start laughing!

'Hey, you're not a scary ghost after all,' one of them says.



'Would you like to play with us?'



'I thought you'd never ask!' I say.

I change colors and shapes to make them smile.

I whizz around like a pixie, getting smaller and bigger.

They laugh and have a great time.

But wait, where are they taking me?

Oh, we're going to play volleyball!

And I'm the ball!

I can't wait until the other team finds out that I am a ghost!

Well, here goes nothing.

'Boo!'



I am great at volleyball.

When they try and serve me, I bounce in the opposite direction.

When they try and deflect me, I pass straight through them!

My ghost ball technique has given the other team too much anxiety.

Of course my team wins!



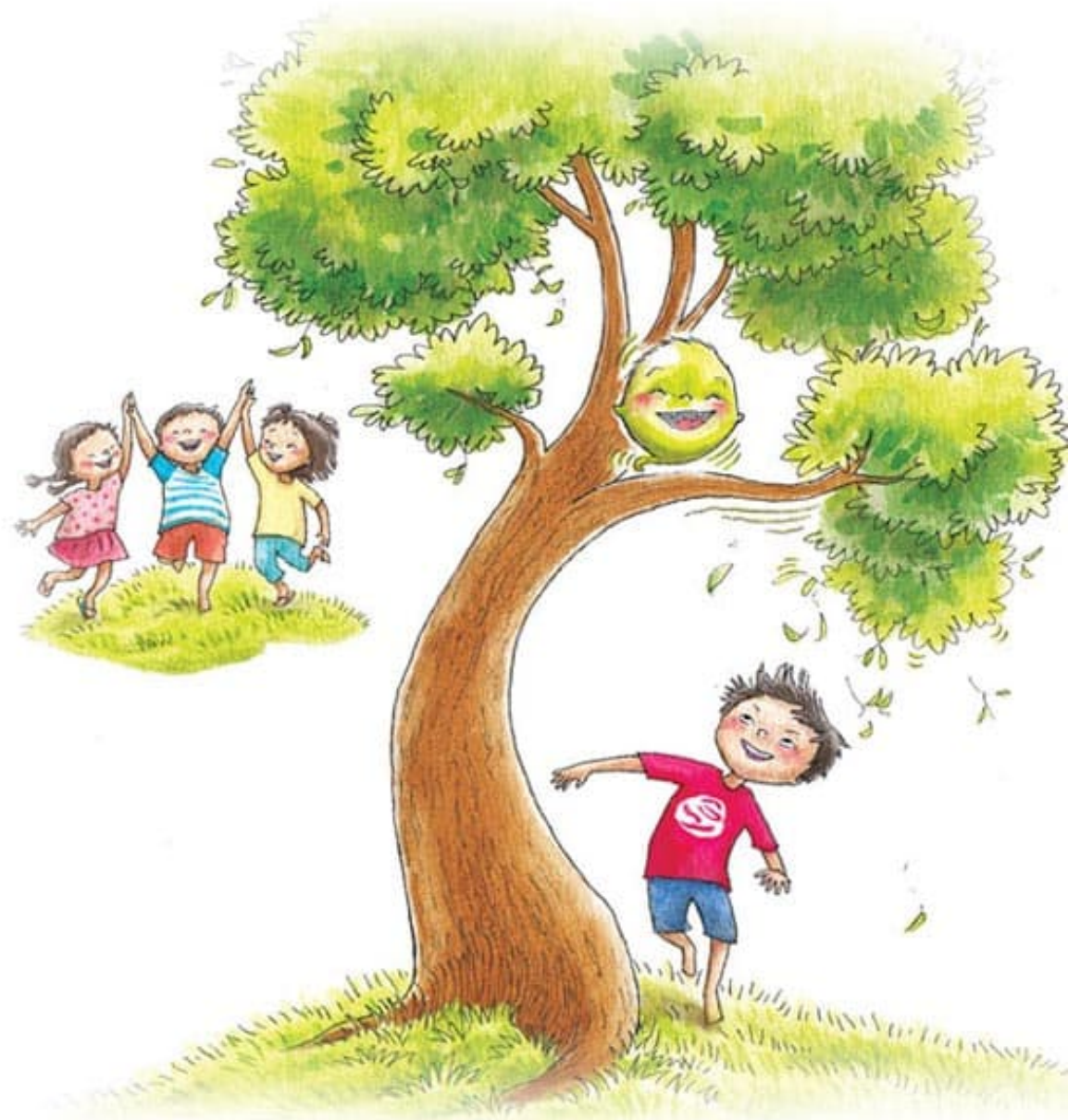
What a fun day I had today!

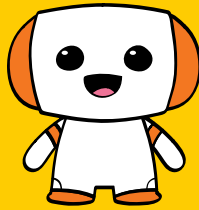
I met some new friends, and they now know good ghosts exist!

The other ghosts in Ghost Town will be so jealous.

Maybe this will convince them to stop scaring people?

Either way, I'm coming back to play tomorrow!





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