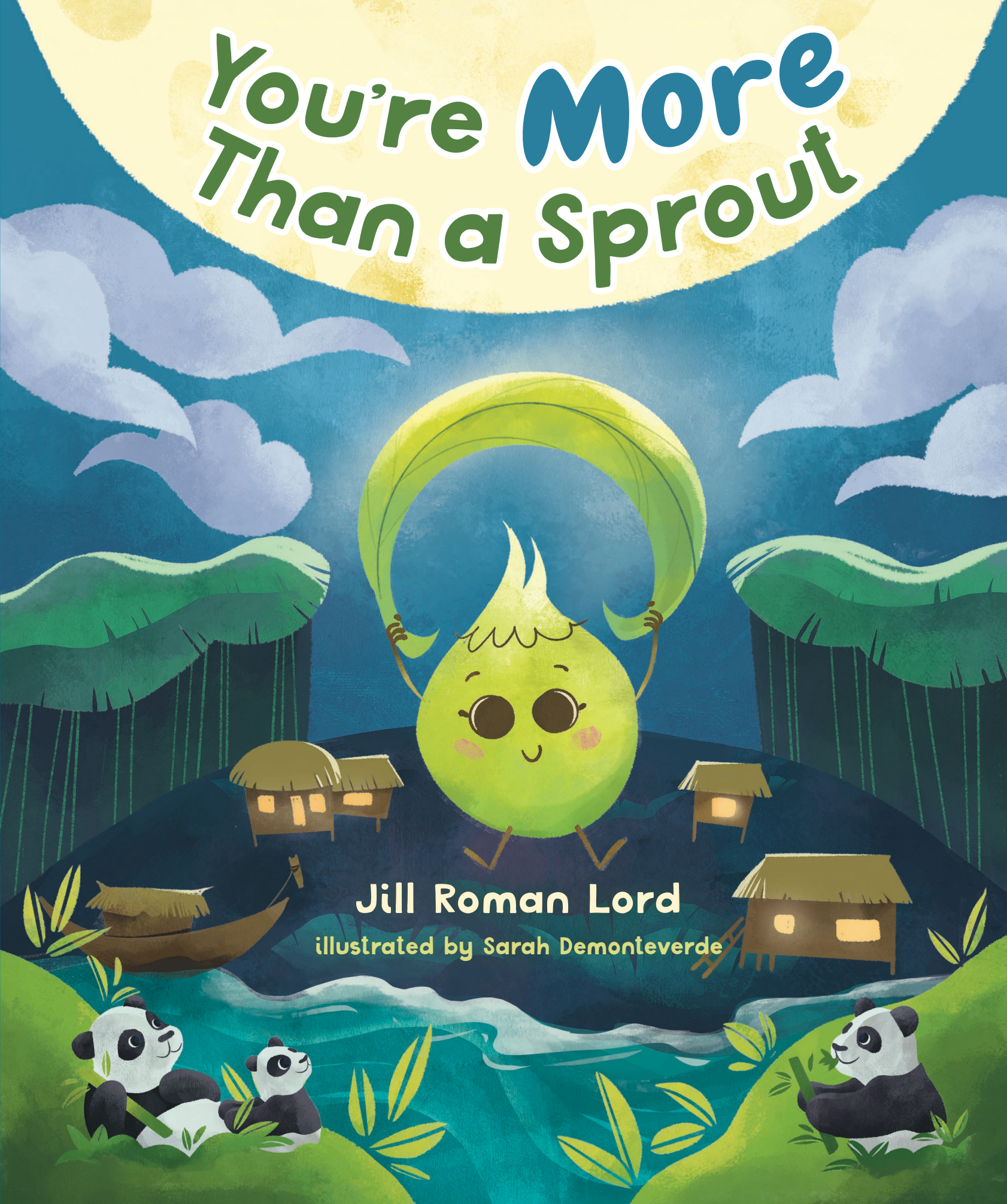


# You're More Than a Sprout



Jill Roman Lord

illustrated by Sarah Demonteverde





# You're More Than a Sprout



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***To Maddie and my future grands.  
Trust in God's plan for your lives.***

**JRL**

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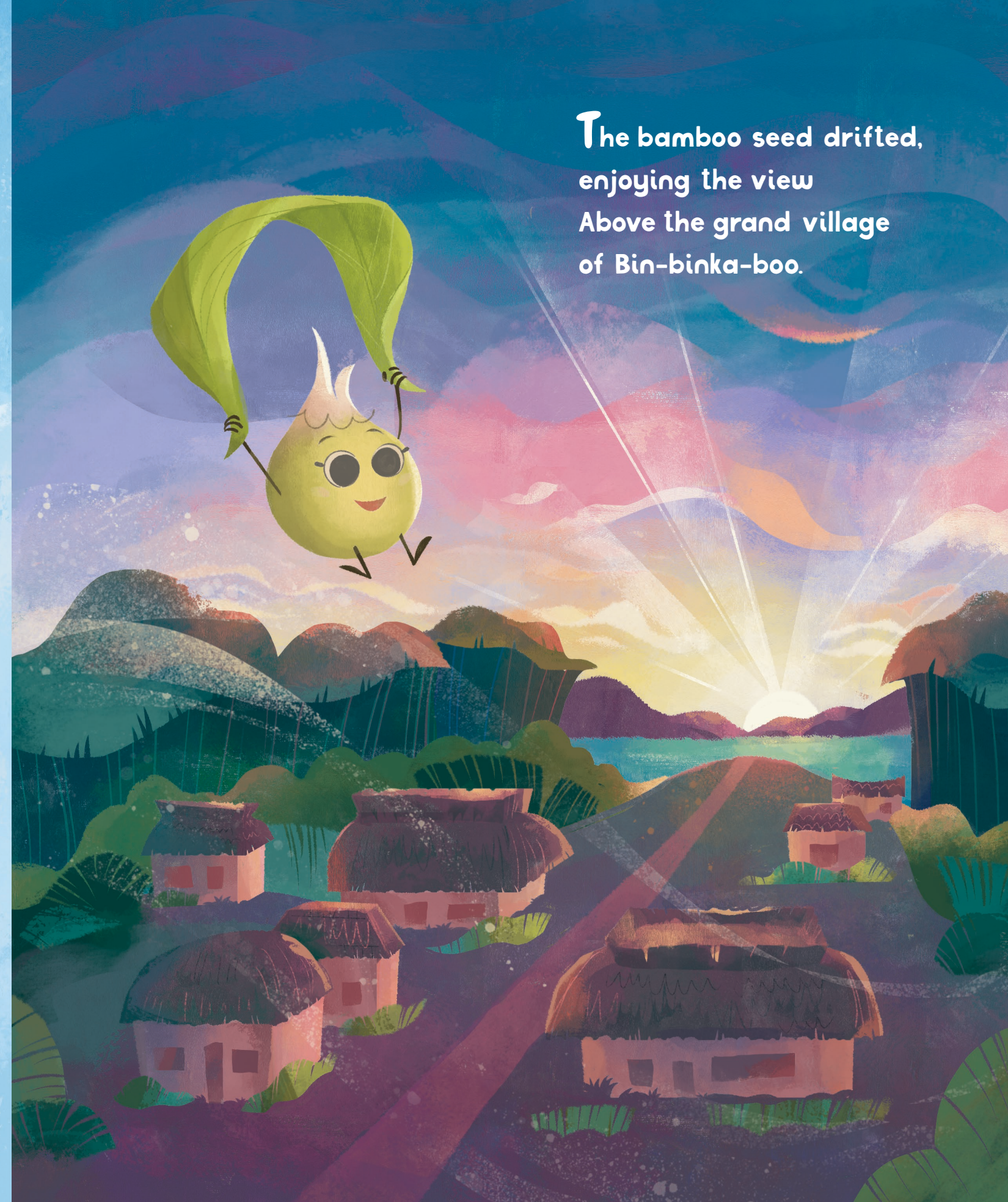
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**The bamboo seed drifted,  
enjoying the view  
Above the grand village  
of Bin-binka-boo.**





He drifted past cabins and boats on a pond,  
Viewed mountains of shade trees a little beyond.

He heard in the distance some whistling flutes  
With laughter of children and singing and hoots.

“Yes, this is the life!”  
he said, beaming  
with pride ...







Then **SLAMMED** to the ground at the end of his ride.

“This just can’t be true. I say, this is not fair!  
I loved my fantastic life floating through air.”



Alas, the young lad could do nothing but sit.  
This stuck bamboo seed did not like it one bit!




He thought about all he had seen on his flight  
And longed to be part of that world, if he might.



His days turned to weeks and his months into years.  
“Oh, what am I here for?” he cried through his tears.





"Be patient, my friend.  
There's so much you can be.  
Your life will touch others  
in ways you can't see."

Surprised, the young seed looked around in the night,  
But all that he saw was the moon shining bright.  
"Oh, sure, you can say that," he yelled to the sky.  
"You're not a mere seed left to dry up and die!"

"You shine in your glory. You light up the dark.  
But me, I can't even grow one piece of bark!"





## Remember:

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.—Philippians 1:6*

## Read:

Read Psalm 27:14. God has an amazing purpose and plan for your life that often requires waiting. The Master, who is God, is molding you in ways you may not be able see, to do things you can't even imagine, and to touch lives in ways you may never know. But God's plan is often realized through much growth and time. Just like a bamboo seed takes years to become a full bamboo stalk and serve the purpose for which it was designed, it may take a long time for you to see fully who God designed you to be. Psalm 27:14 reminds us to wait for the Lord and trust His perfect timing.

## Think:

1. Bamboo seeds are made when a parent bamboo flowers, which only happens once every thirty to 120 years! It then takes another three to five years for the seed to generate and mature. That's a long time! What dreams do you have that may take a long time?
2. Bamboo is used in many ways: as food, medicine, and to build homes. Each purpose helps and blesses others. Can you name three special traits God is growing in you? Are you a kind helper, a good leader, or great at making people smile?
3. The bamboo sprout had lots to share, but he didn't want to at first. The moon helped him realize that this was part of the Master's plan for his life—to give what he had to help others. What gifts can you use to bless others as you grow? For example, do you enjoy making music, drawing, helping bake?
4. In the story, the moon reminds the bamboo seed to be patient and that the Master (God) has a plan. Who in your life reminds you to keep looking to God? Say a prayer of thanks for that person, and ask God to help you be patient and trust in Him.



# What if you grow to be **more** than you ever imagined?

Little Bamboo Seed happily floats through the sky, dreaming of his exciting new life. But suddenly—slam! He finds himself buried in the dirt, lonely and forgotten. As he grows into a sprout and beyond, Bamboo must learn that the Master has bigger plans for him than he could ever imagine.

This rollicking story takes us from the sky, underground, and up again, reminding readers that through our up-and-down seasons of growing and waiting, God is always working wonders.

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