

Sergiy Kryvoruchko

THE KNIGHT SASAKO

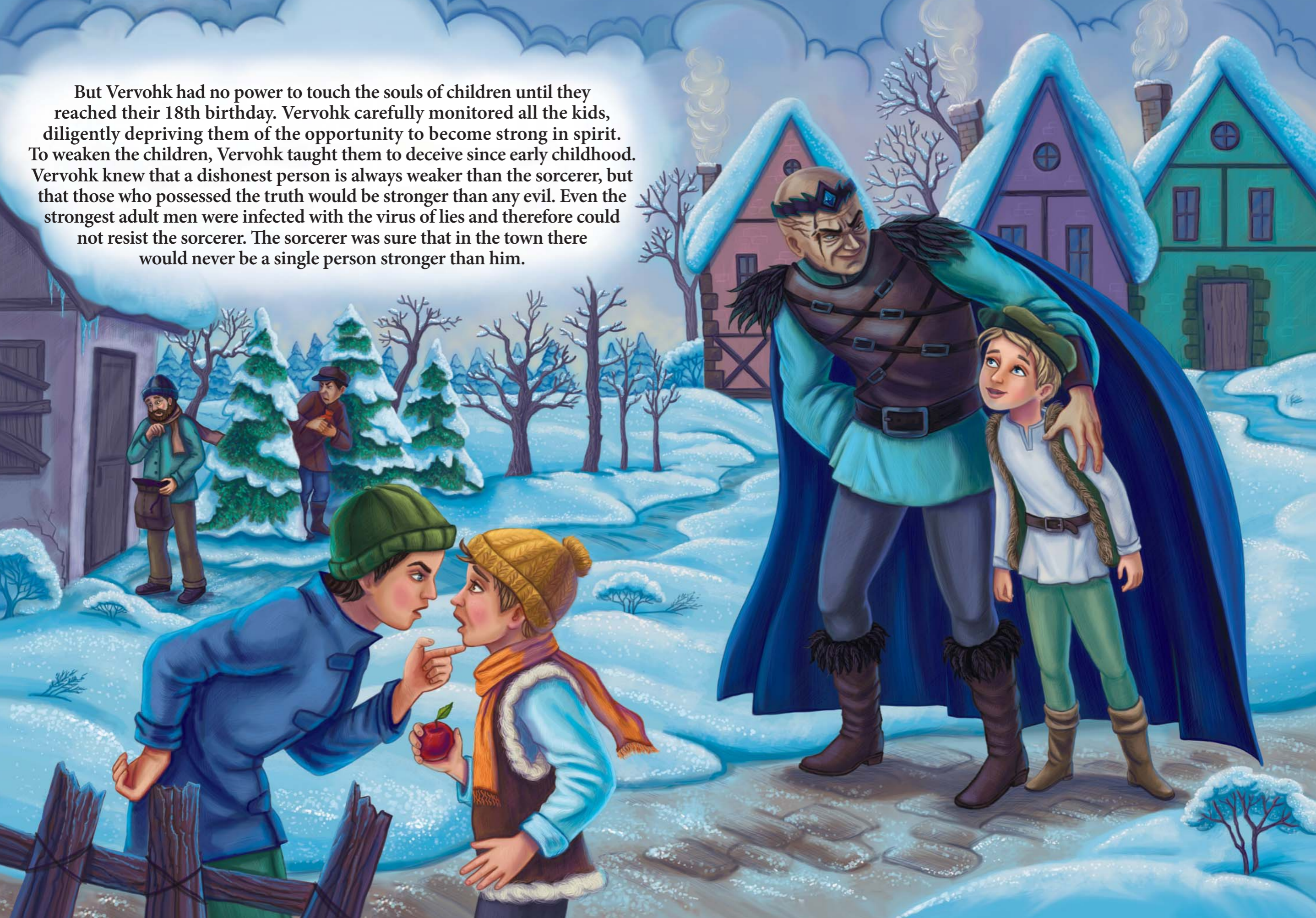
GRANDPA'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

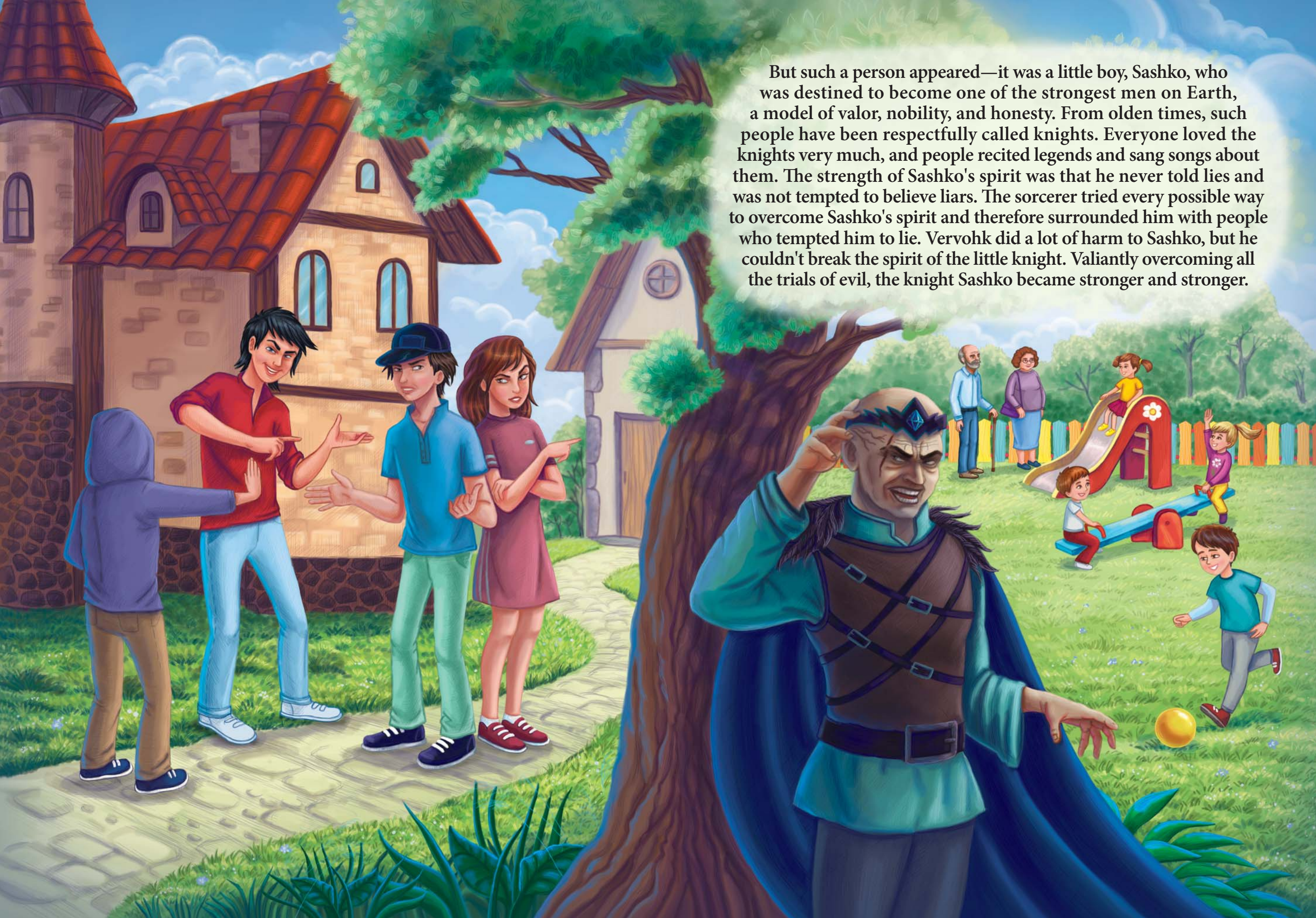


In ancient times, in a small northern town, an evil sorcerer, whose name was Vervohk, ruled over people. This sorcerer tried in every possible way to make people unhappy. The sorcerer took over all adults' souls, thereby completely devastating these people. The sorcerer kept the captured souls in a dark dungeon—Vervohk fed himself with the energy of the enslaved human souls' pain.



But Vervohk had no power to touch the souls of children until they reached their 18th birthday. Vervohk carefully monitored all the kids, diligently depriving them of the opportunity to become strong in spirit. To weaken the children, Vervohk taught them to deceive since early childhood. Vervohk knew that a dishonest person is always weaker than the sorcerer, but that those who possessed the truth would be stronger than any evil. Even the strongest adult men were infected with the virus of lies and therefore could not resist the sorcerer. The sorcerer was sure that in the town there would never be a single person stronger than him.






But such a person appeared—it was a little boy, Sashko, who was destined to become one of the strongest men on Earth, a model of valor, nobility, and honesty. From olden times, such people have been respectfully called knights. Everyone loved the knights very much, and people recited legends and sang songs about them. The strength of Sashko's spirit was that he never told lies and was not tempted to believe liars. The sorcerer tried every possible way to overcome Sashko's spirit and therefore surrounded him with people who tempted him to lie. Vervohk did a lot of harm to Sashko, but he couldn't break the spirit of the little knight. Valiantly overcoming all the trials of evil, the knight Sashko became stronger and stronger.




Unable to turn Sashko into a liar, the sorcerer decided with the help of black magic to steal the boy's face. The little knight's face should have become invisible. The sorcerer hoped that the invisible face would turn people away from Sashko. But here also the sorcerer was mistaken—after all, the knightly strength of Sashko's spirit made his figure radiant, and all the people fell even more in love with little Sashko and called him the Shining Image Knight.

Growing up, Sashko constantly defended the innocent and destitute from the cruelty of hypocrites, always defended the truthful, and took the side of justice. Sashko became more and more powerful, and Vervohk could not interfere with Sashko's strength in any way. Both Vervohk and the knight Sashko understood that when Sashko turned 18, they would meet in a fierce battle, from which only one would emerge victorious.



And finally that day came. When Sashko reached the age of majority, in the middle of the endless snowy steppe near the northern town, the knight Sashko and the sorcerer Vervohk faced each other in battle—the powers of good and evil came together. The sorcerer sought to win and take Sashko’s soul, and the knight Sashko had to win in order to permanently weaken the sorcerer and free all the stolen souls of the people enslaved by him.

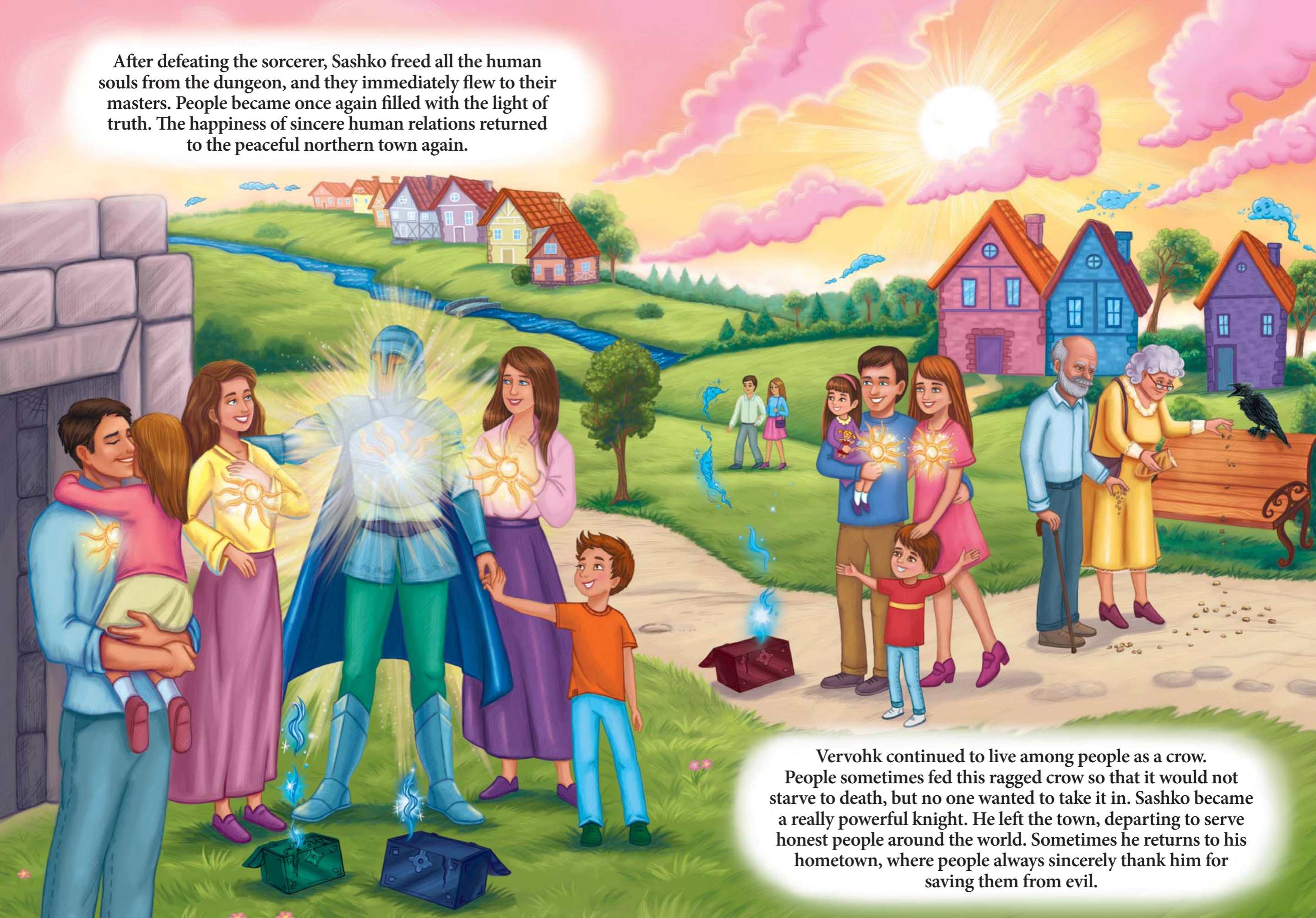
It was a very fierce battle. It seemed that all the evil appeared on the side of the sorcerer, and on the side of the knight Sasha—all the power of truth. Vervohk tried in every possible way to deliver insidious blows to Sashko’s back with his sorcerer’s sword, to weaken Sashko, and to exhaust him with a heavy battle, raising a snowstorm of such force that it covered the sun and the darkness of evil descended on the steppe.



From once being the strongest, Vervohk turned into a defenseless, exhausted creature, because truth is always stronger than evil. In recognition of his defeat, Vervohk handed Sashko his sorcerer's sword, which the knight broke like a splinter, and thus finally and forever neutralized the power of Vervohk. The sorcerer gradually turned into a ragged crow, which could still caw loudly and frighten people, but could no longer harm anyone.

But the shining image of Sashko lit up the battlefield. The knight Sashko fought nobly. This nobility increased the knight's strength and weakened the sorcerer. Sashko's strength was unshakable. Finally, the sorcerer no longer had the strength to hold his sorcerer's sword. He lowered his sword and knelt before the knight Sashko.

After defeating the sorcerer, Sashko freed all the human souls from the dungeon, and they immediately flew to their masters. People became once again filled with the light of truth. The happiness of sincere human relations returned to the peaceful northern town again.



Vervohk continued to live among people as a crow. People sometimes fed this ragged crow so that it would not starve to death, but no one wanted to take it in. Sashko became a really powerful knight. He left the town, departing to serve honest people around the world. Sometimes he returns to his hometown, where people always sincerely thank him for saving them from evil.

Sergiy Kryvoruchko

THE KNIGHT SASHKO

GRANDPA'S EVENING FAIRY TALE




lat&k
publisher
KYIV 2021

UDK 82-93

Art publication
The Knight Sashko
Tale



Sergiy Kryvoruchko, PhD.

K82 The Knight Sashko. – K., LAT & K, 2021. –
16 p., il.

Lullaby fairy tale for kids and those adults who love them.
This is the author's fourth book in his fabulous publication
series.

UDK 82-93



Artistic illustrations
by Svitlana Radchuk.

Layout designer
Andrey Brem

Technical Editor
Viktor Bykhun

Printed in Ukraine

© Sergiy V. Kryvoruchko, 2021
© S.Radchuk, illustrations, 2021
© Publisher LAT & K, design, 2021