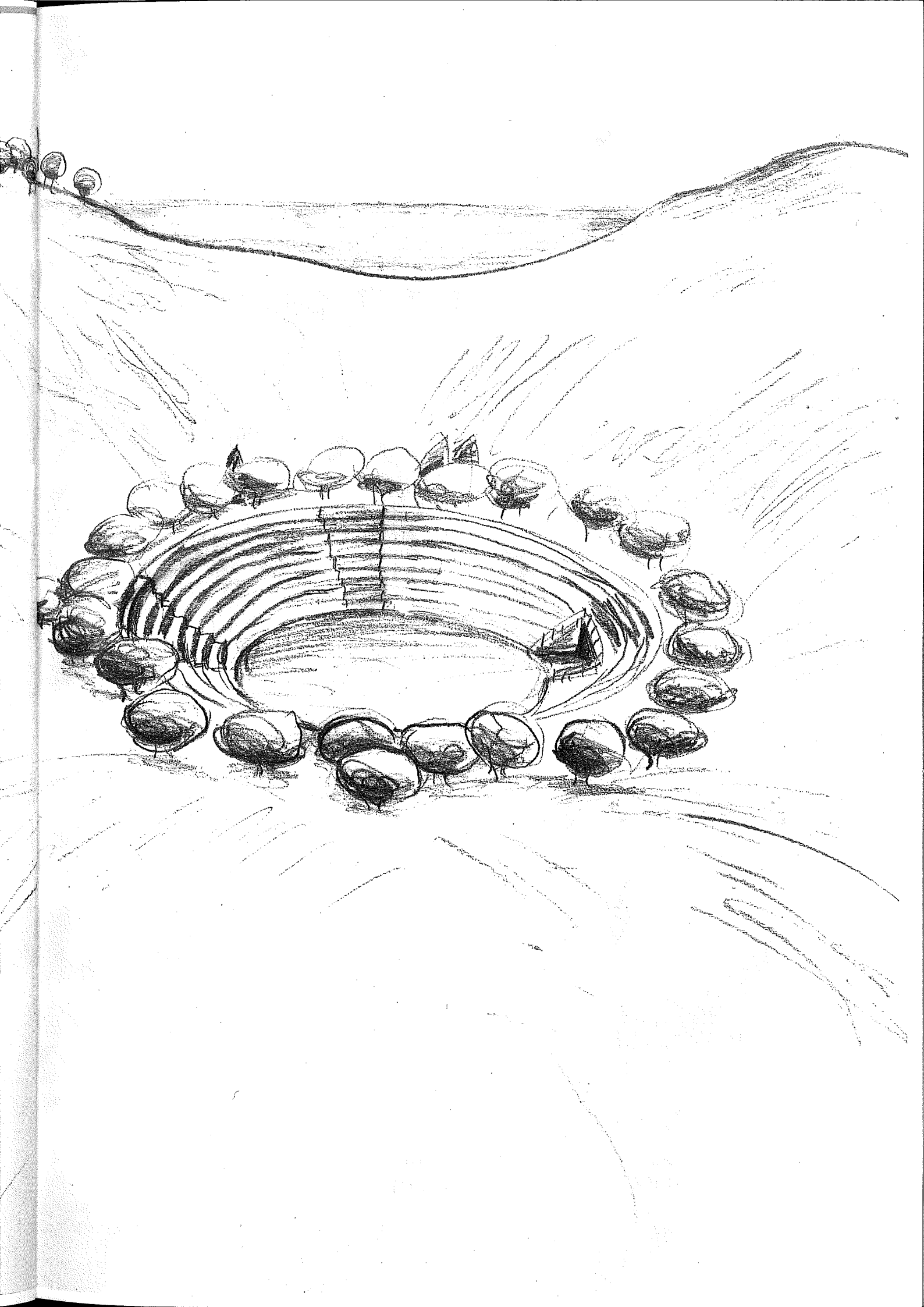
Η ολυμπιάδα της Χαράς



ΒΟΥΛΑ ΠΑΠΑΓΙΑΝΝΗ

Η Ολυμπιάδα της Χαράς

Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών
ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΔΙΑΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΙΚΗΣ ΑΓΩΓΗΣ
Αθήνα 2004

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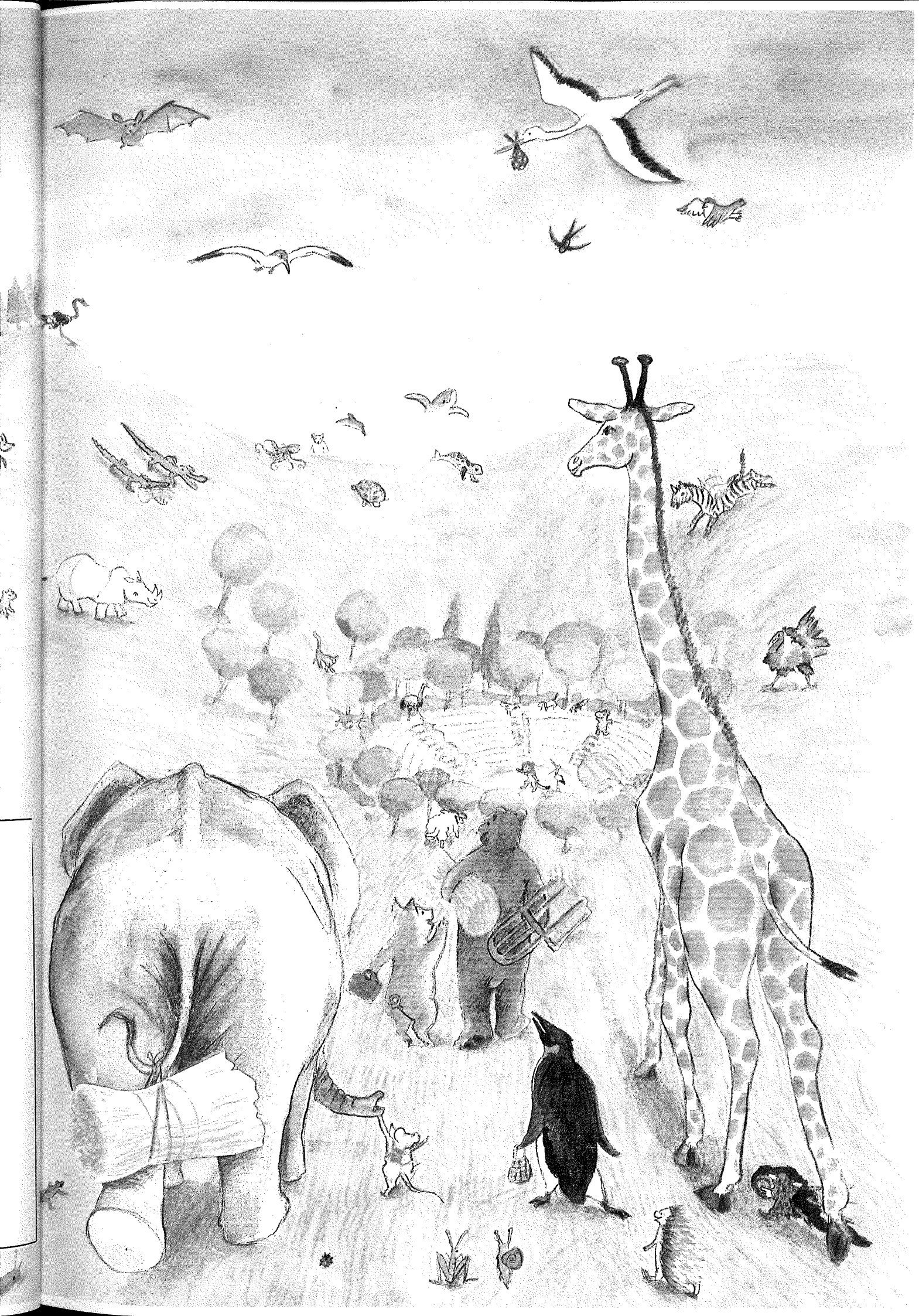
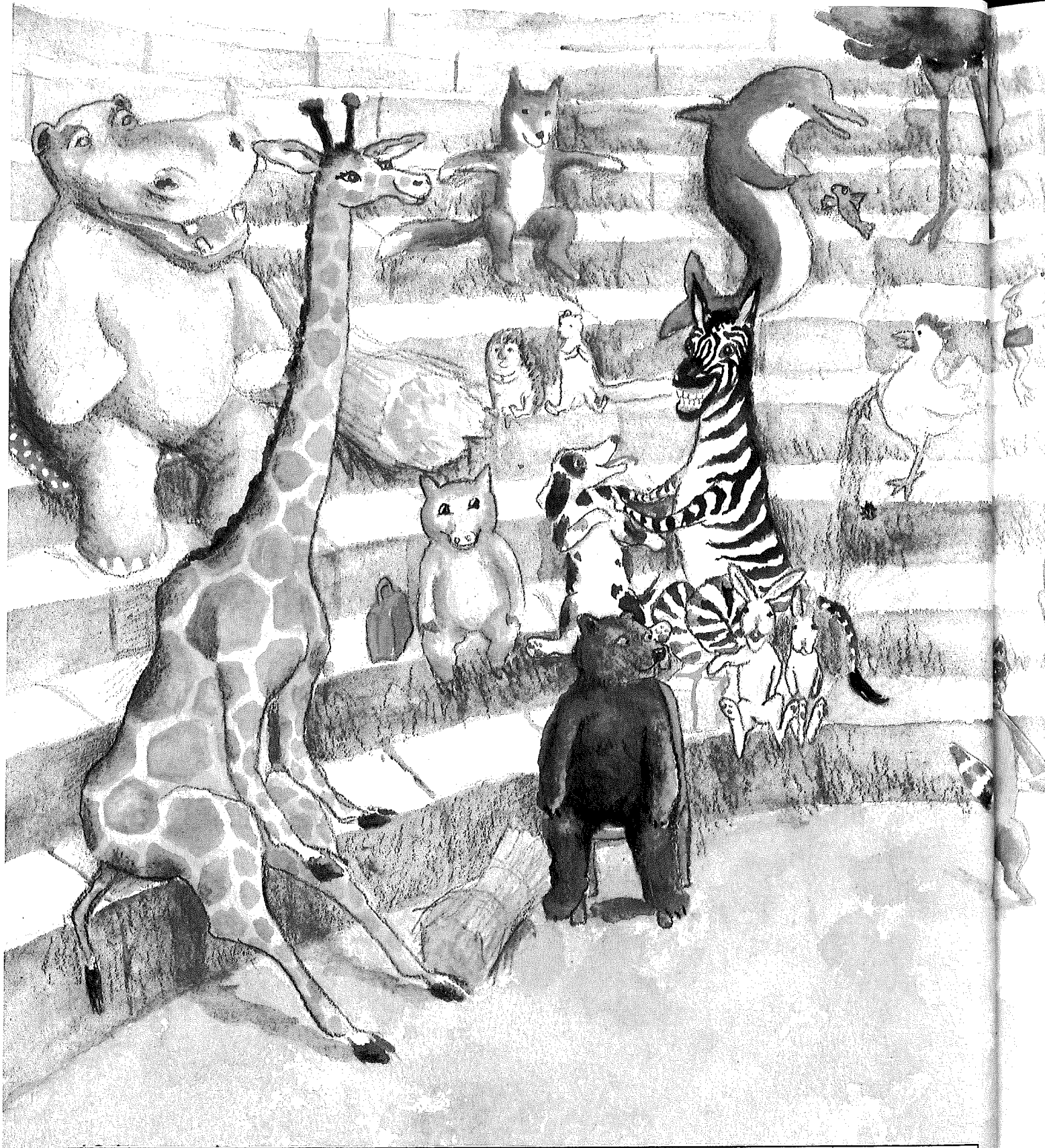
VOULA PAPAGIANNI

The Olympic Games of Joy

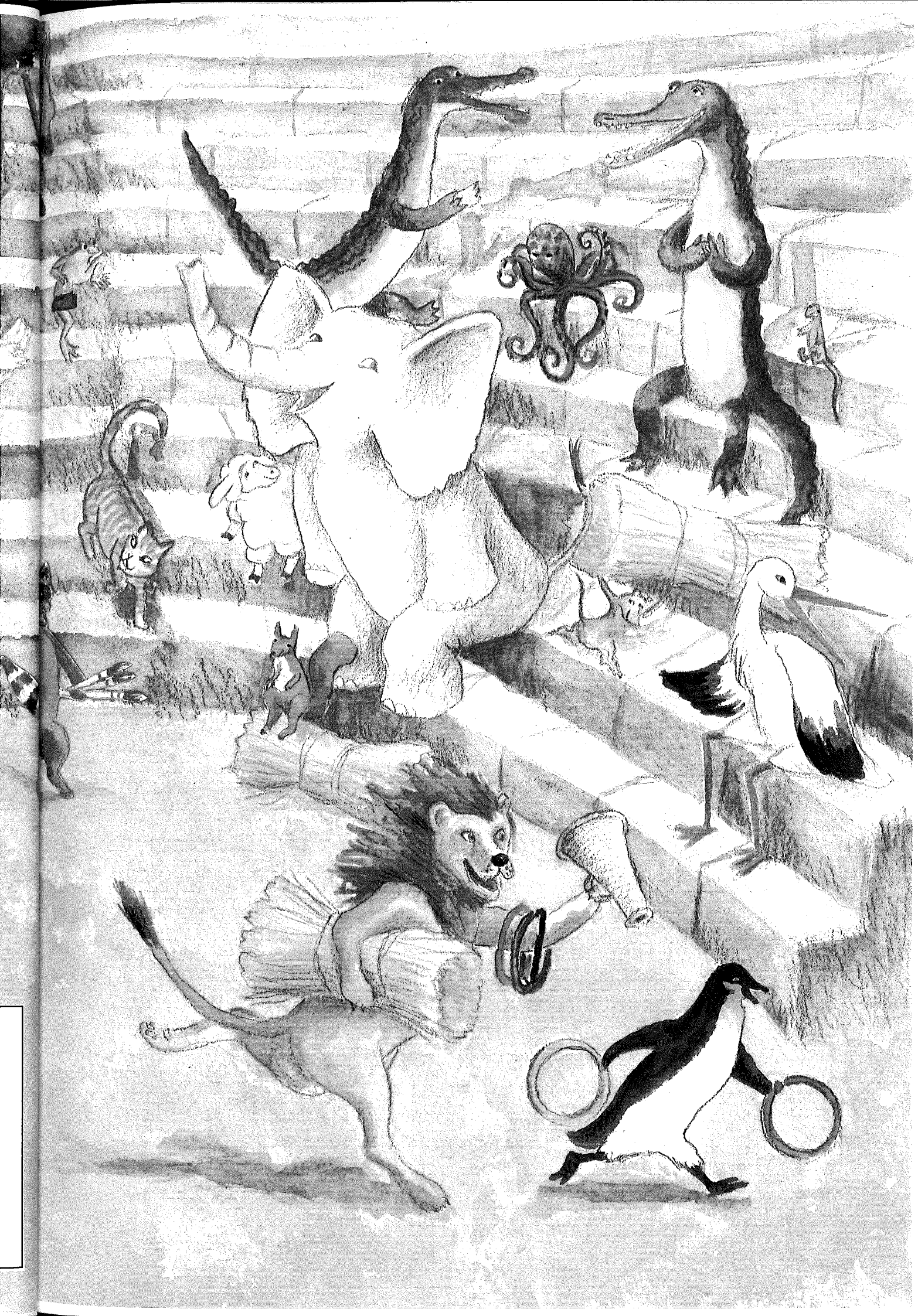
Translation: Melina Karamanou

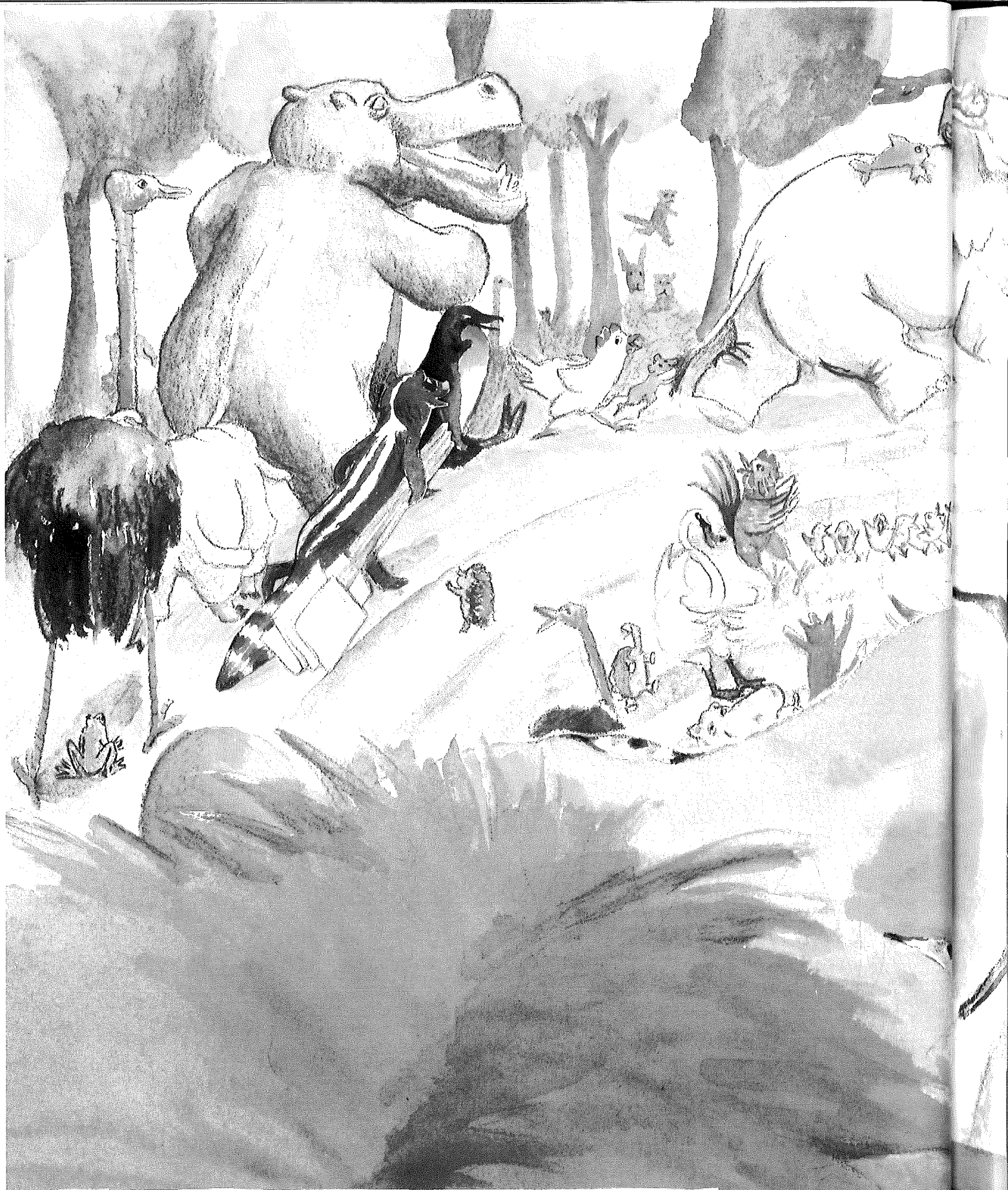
Everybody is running fast to get there. From above and below, from up and down, from the sea and the sky, from right and left; the famous Olympic Stadium is swarming with cheerful visitors. They are coming to watch and participate in the Olympic Games of Joy. What counts in these games is how much laughter and joy you can offer with your words, your dancing, your singing and your ideas.





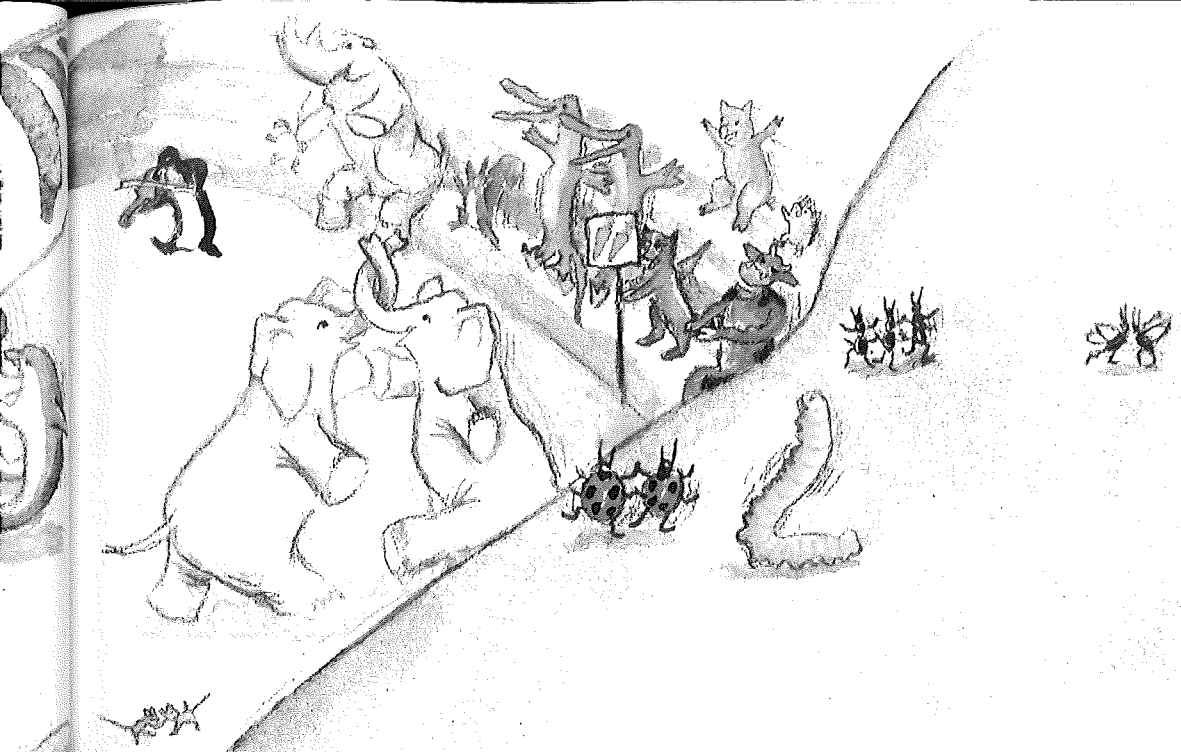
Everyone takes their places; the spectators sit on the special seats, the contestants head to the changing rooms. Here, there are no judges and no grand-stand in the stadium. The winners are chosen by the audience. The louder and more long-lasting the laughter, the greater the athlete!





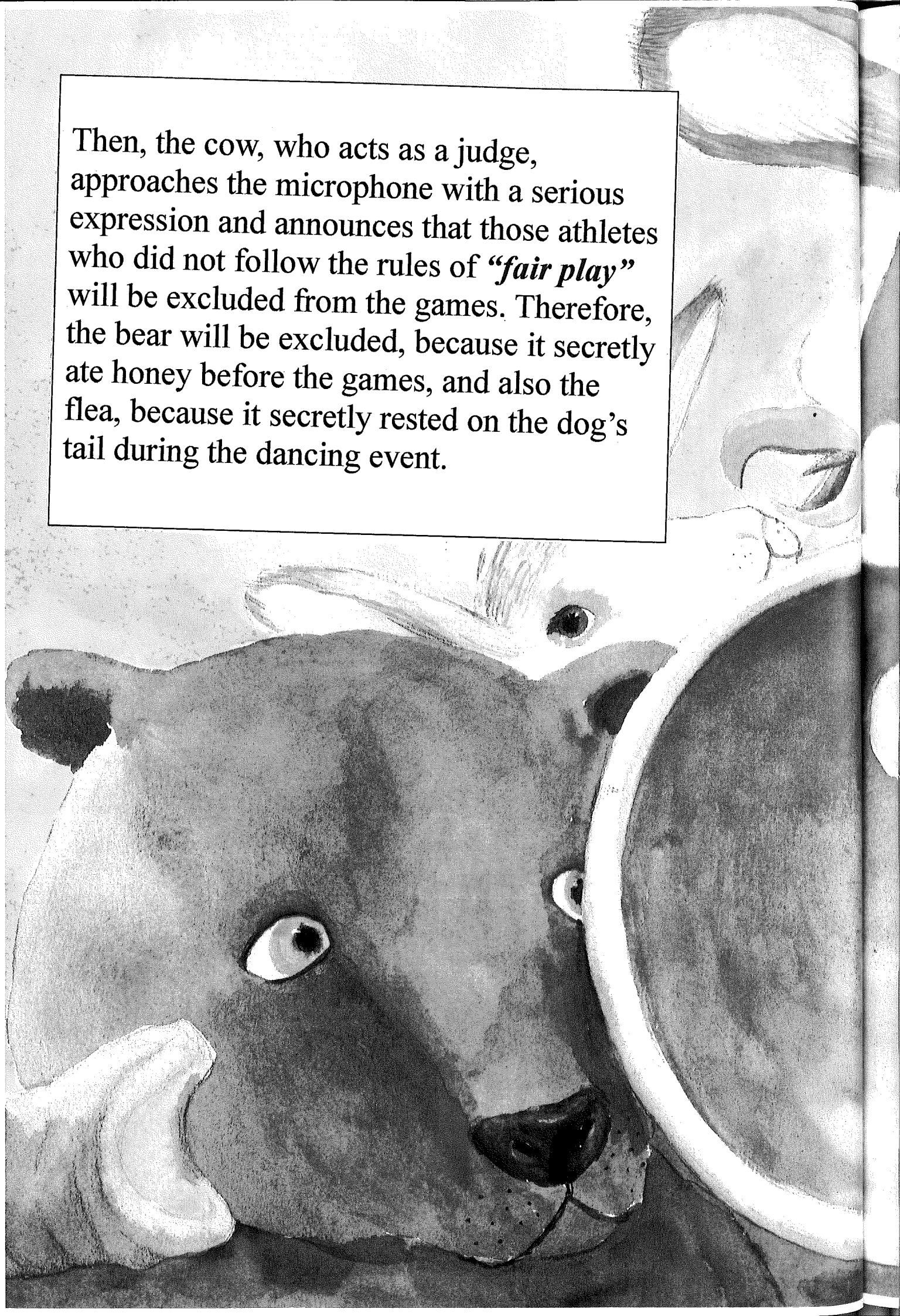
The lion, full of joy, proclaims the beginning of the Olympic Games. The great feast of Joy starts with the athletes' parade.

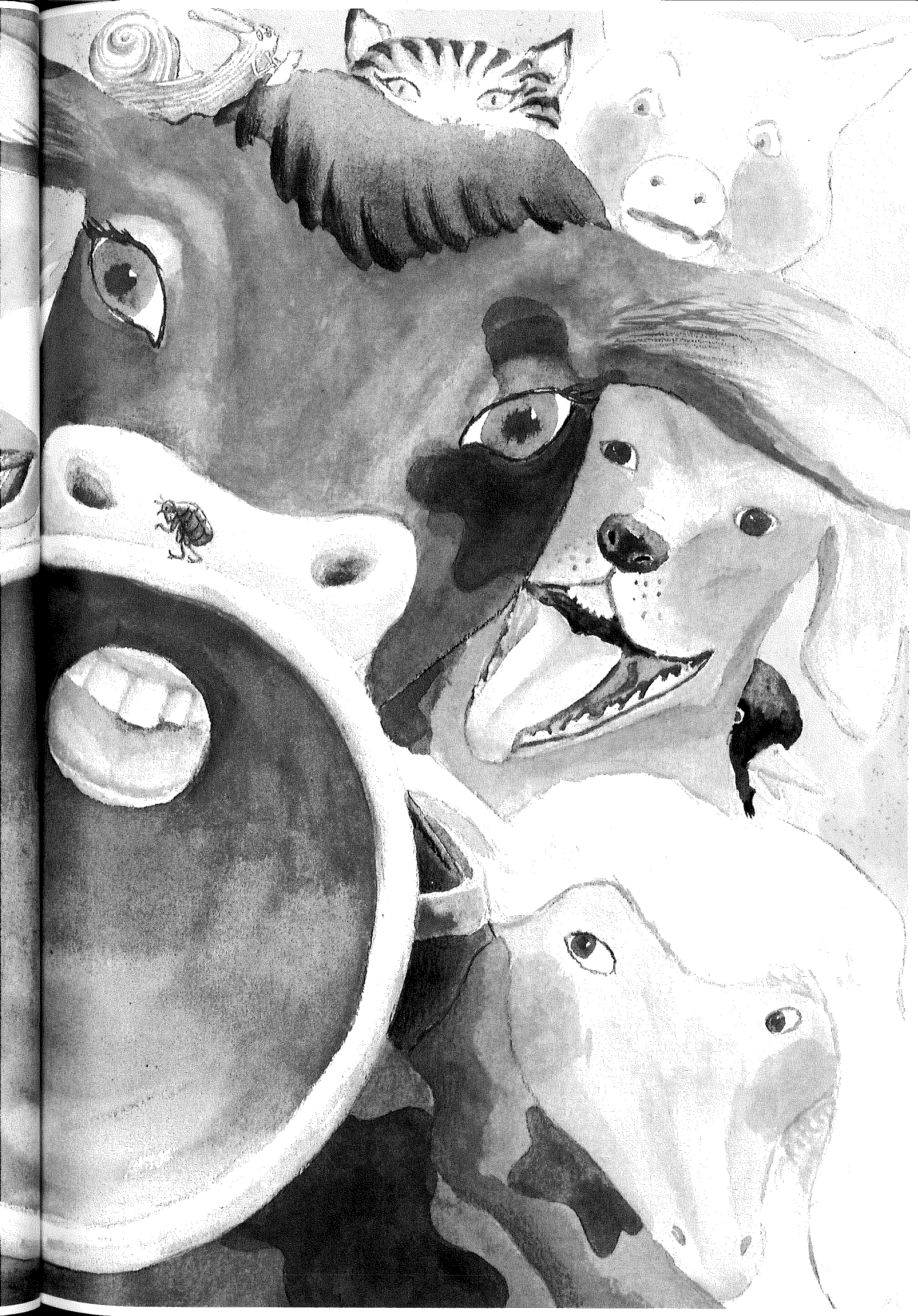
The events begin. The first event is called "The funniest figure". Everyone does their best to make the spectators laugh. All of them are great, but the winners are the ostrich, the frog and the octopus.



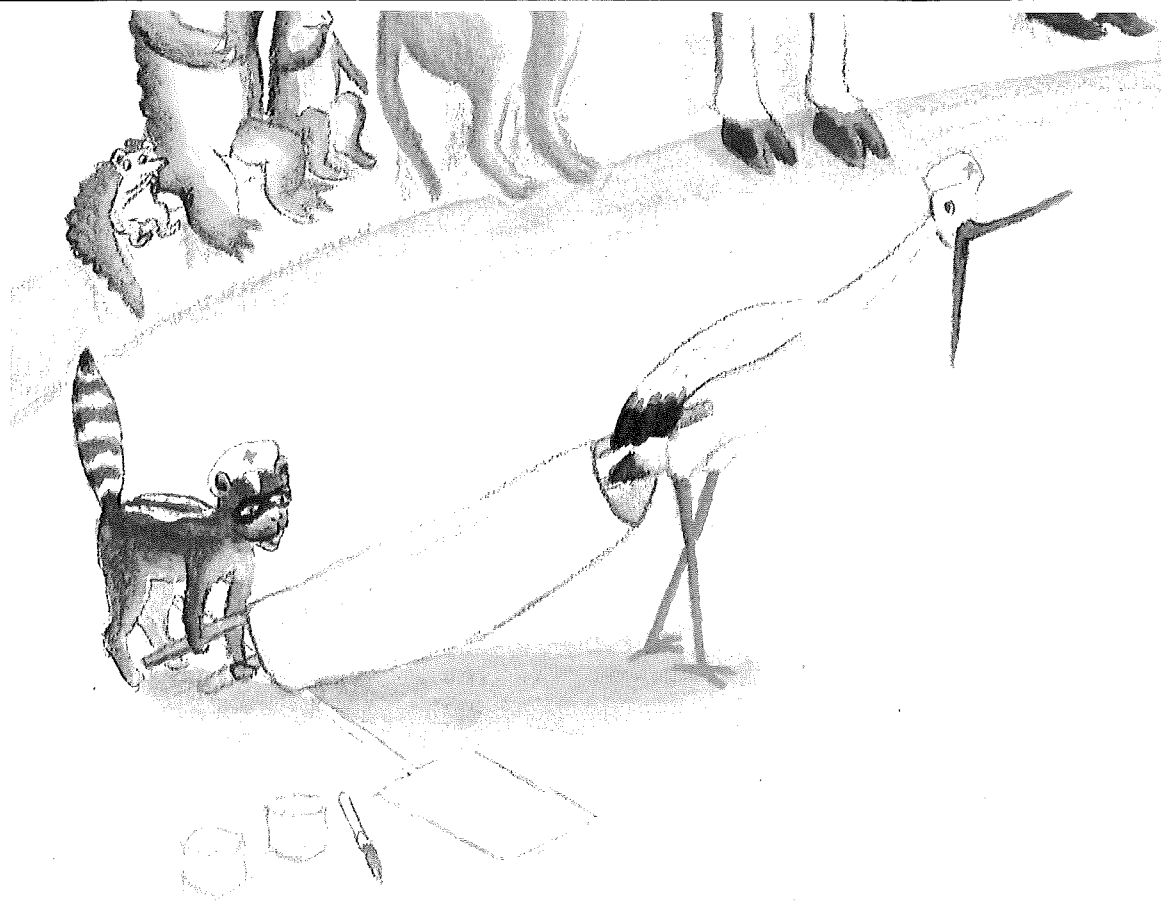
The second event is a team game and is called "The prettiest dance". Everyone does their best to dance as well as they can. The whole stadium is swaying together with the athletes. All of them are magnificent, but the winners are the elephants, the dolphins and the mice.

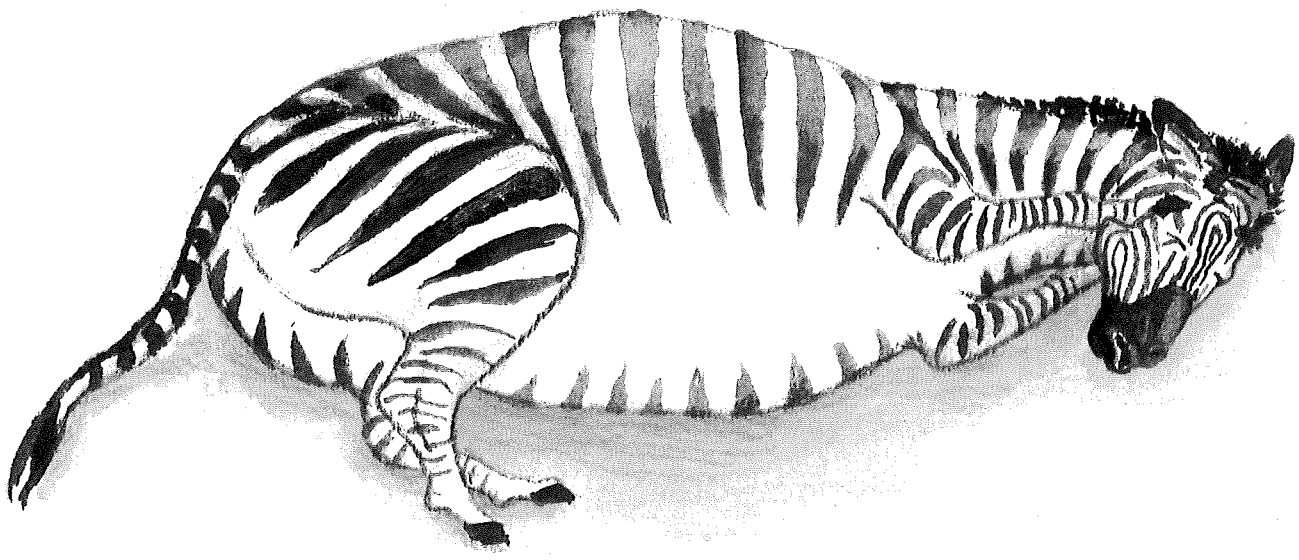
Then, the cow, who acts as a judge, approaches the microphone with a serious expression and announces that those athletes who did not follow the rules of ***"fair play"*** will be excluded from the games. Therefore, the bear will be excluded, because it secretly ate honey before the games, and also the flea, because it secretly rested on the dog's tail during the dancing event.



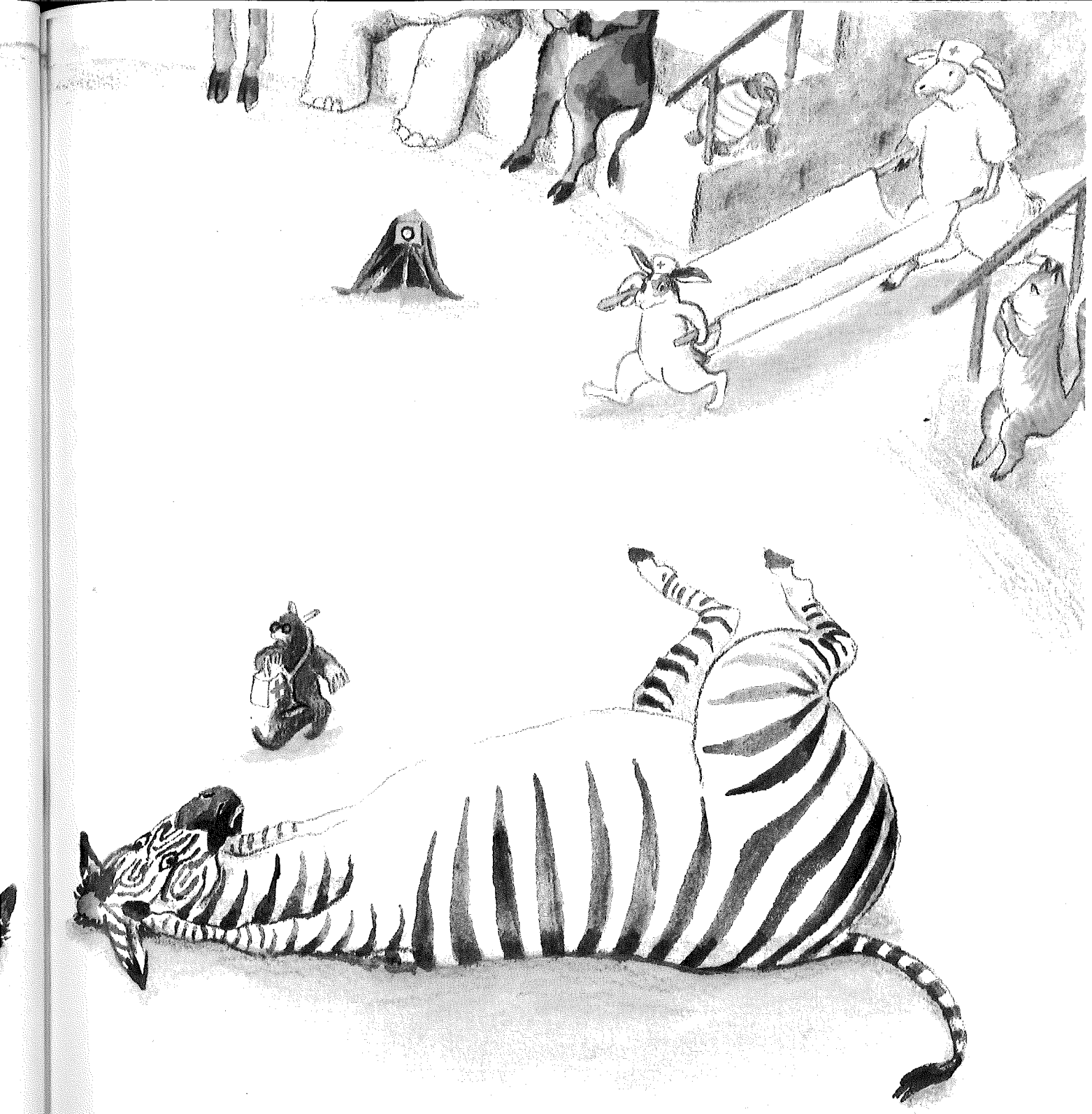


The third event is now beginning. The athletes compete on singing. Those who will sing more melodiously will be awarded. The stadium is filled with melodic voices and everybody is humming. All of them are excellent, but the winners are the nightingale, the canary and the hummingbird.



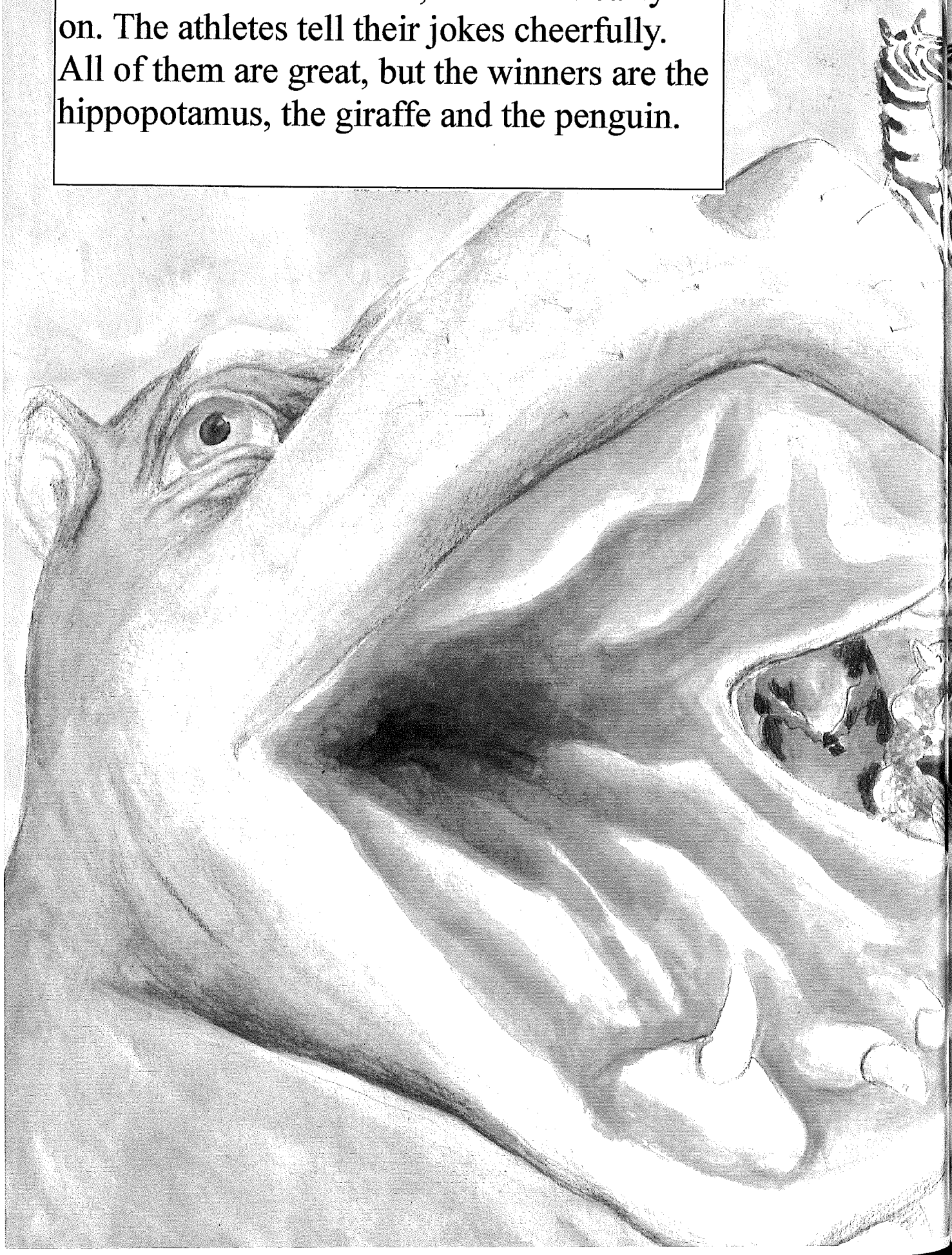


The forth game has just begun and the athletes compete on who will tell the best joke. Suddenly, stretcher-bearers enter the field, holding stretchers!

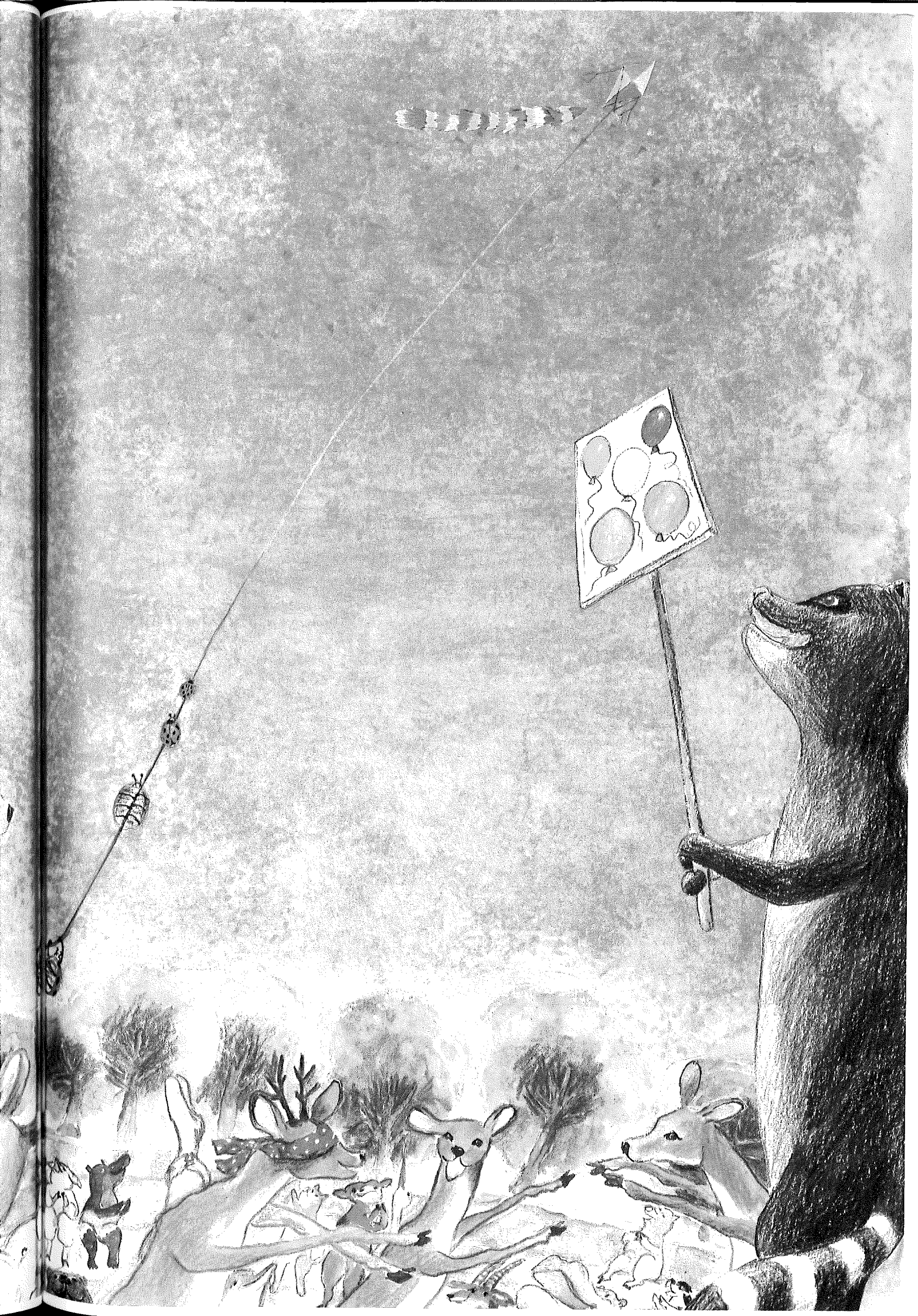


What has happened? An accident! Two zebras bumped into each other and have fallen down. Oh, how much must they hurt! Luckily, it is nothing serious. “In a while they will be fine” says the doctor, but orders total immobility.

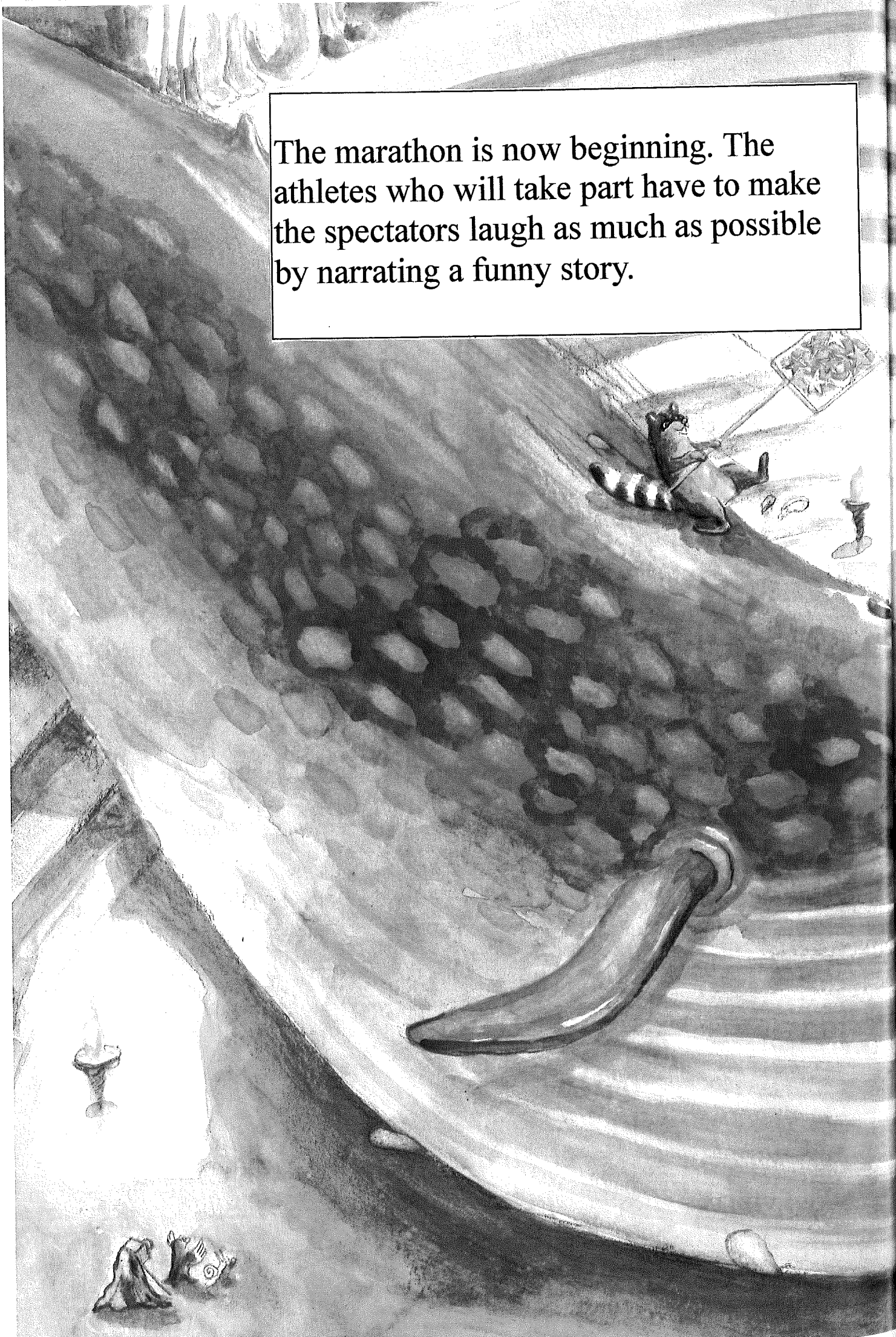
After this minor incident, the events carry on. The athletes tell their jokes cheerfully. All of them are great, but the winners are the hippopotamus, the giraffe and the penguin.



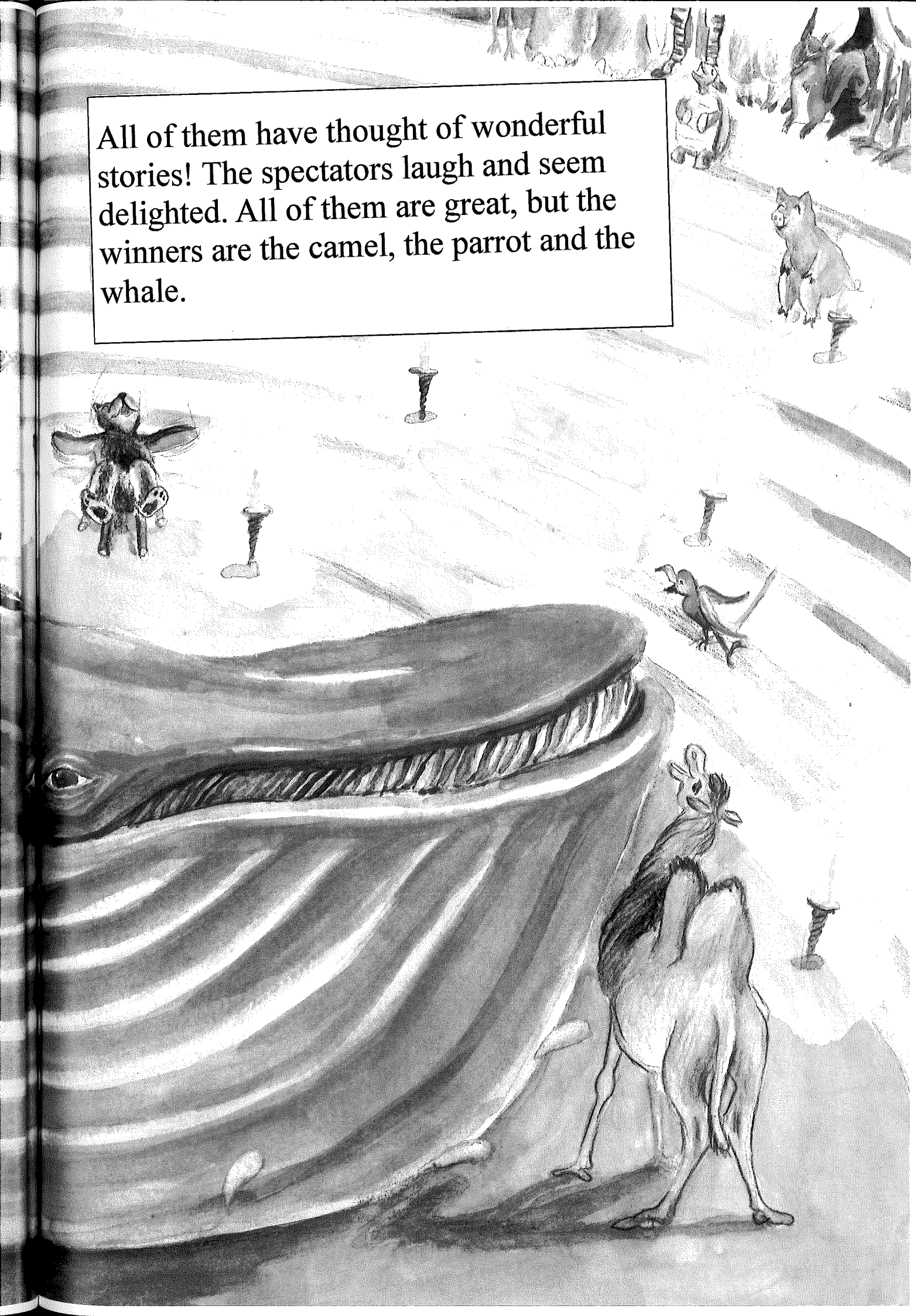
The next event is for those who know the best games in the world. It is a difficult sport, because all the games are enjoyable. The games that were presented are all so amusing, that the audience found it hard to decide. So, the antelopes and the kangaroos will share an award, because they brought the same score. The elephants and the ladybirds will also stand with pride on the podium.

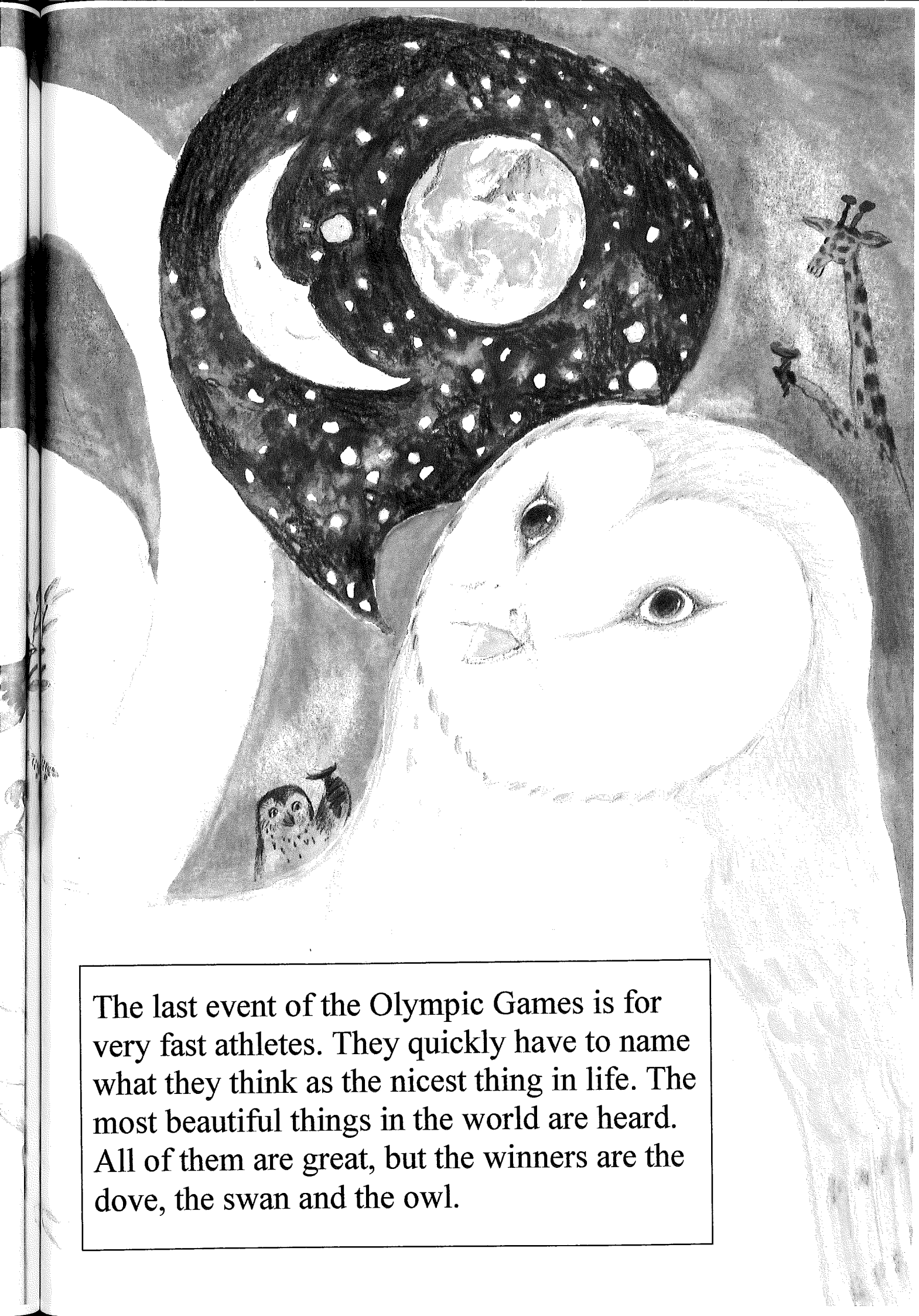


On the fifth event, the athletes compete on who will narrate the most beautiful dream. All of the dreams make the spectators smile, but the winners are the cow, the reindeer and the bogue.

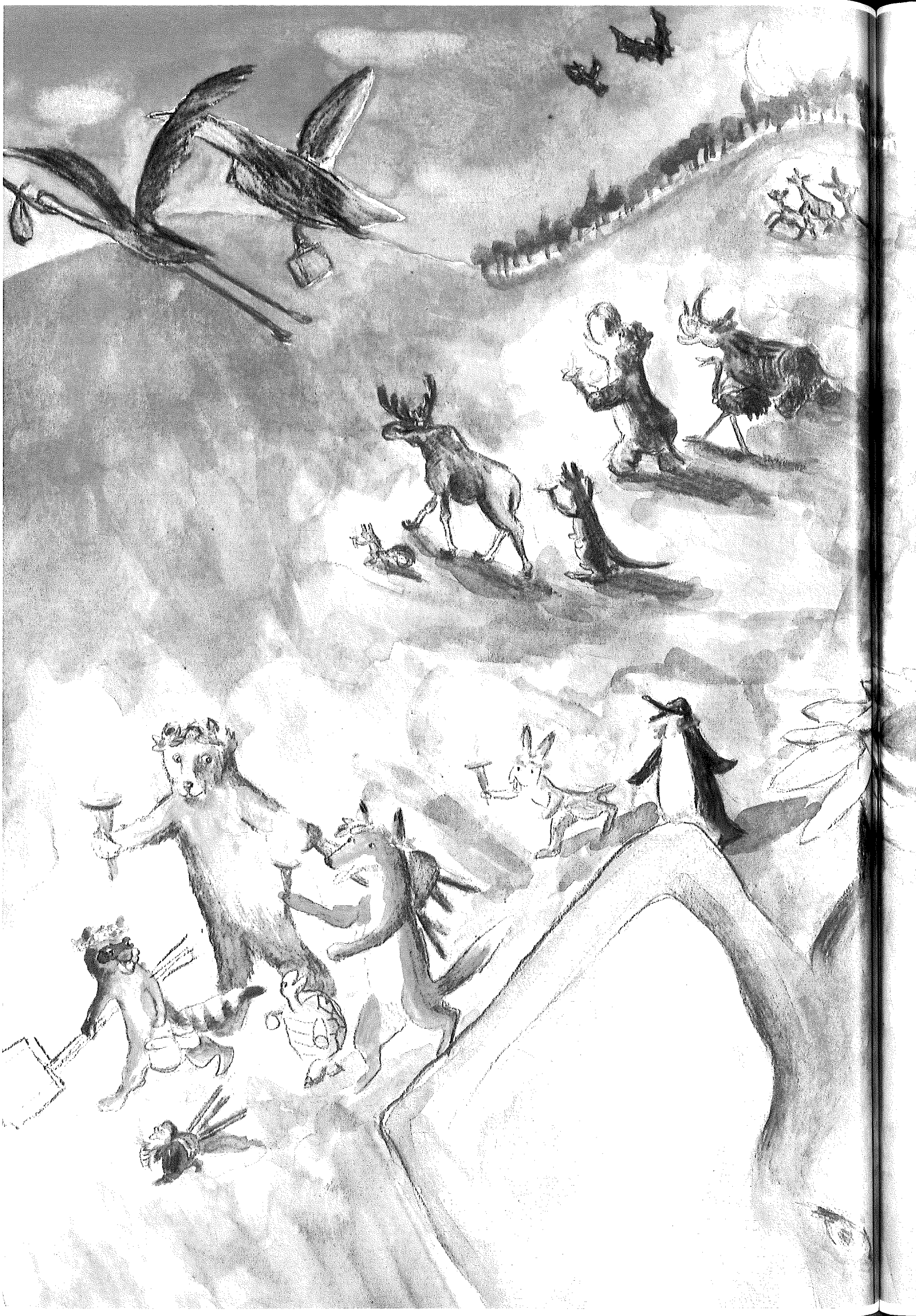

The marathon is now beginning. The athletes who will take part have to make the spectators laugh as much as possible by narrating a funny story.

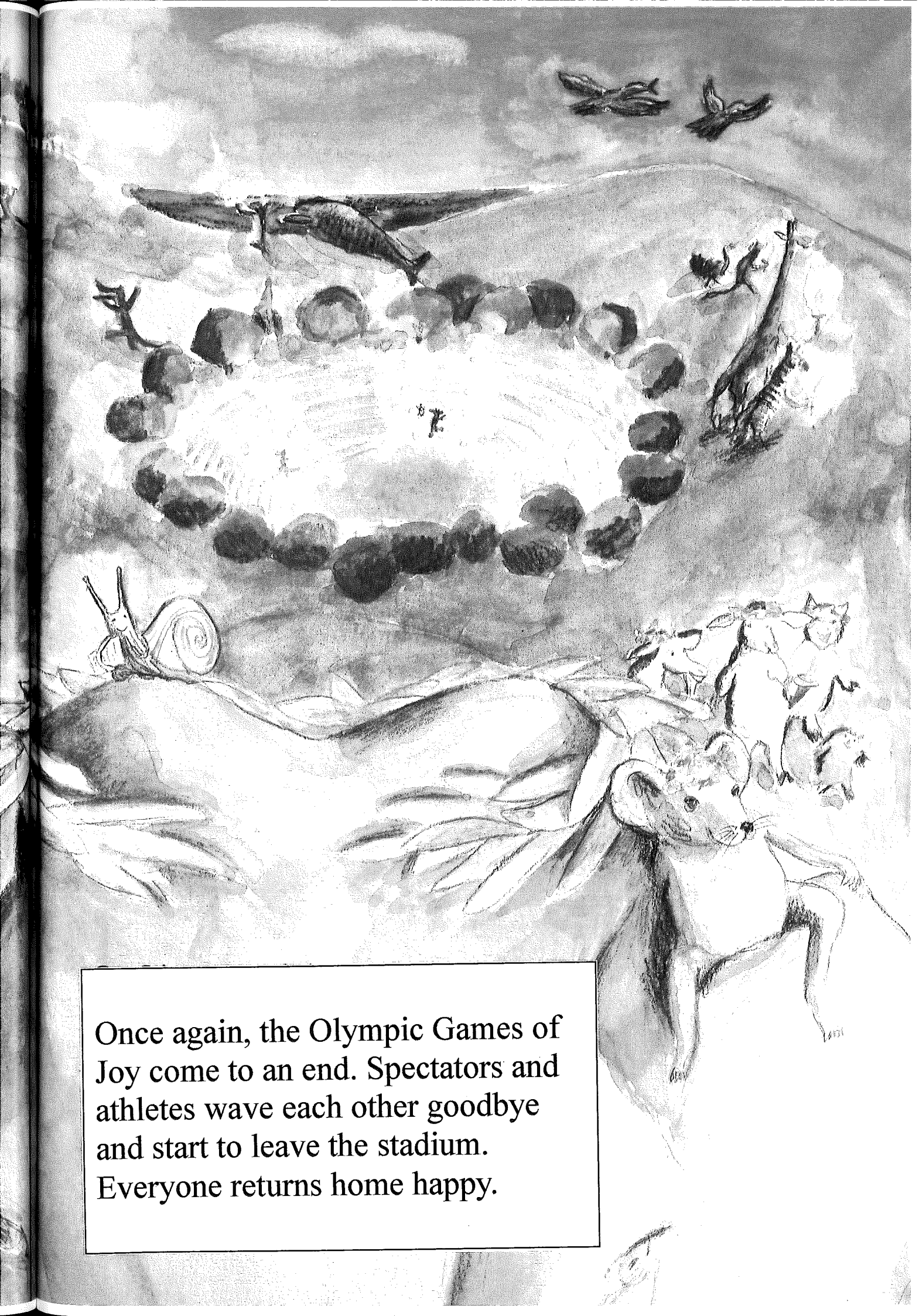
All of them have thought of wonderful stories! The spectators laugh and seem delighted. All of them are great, but the winners are the camel, the parrot and the whale.





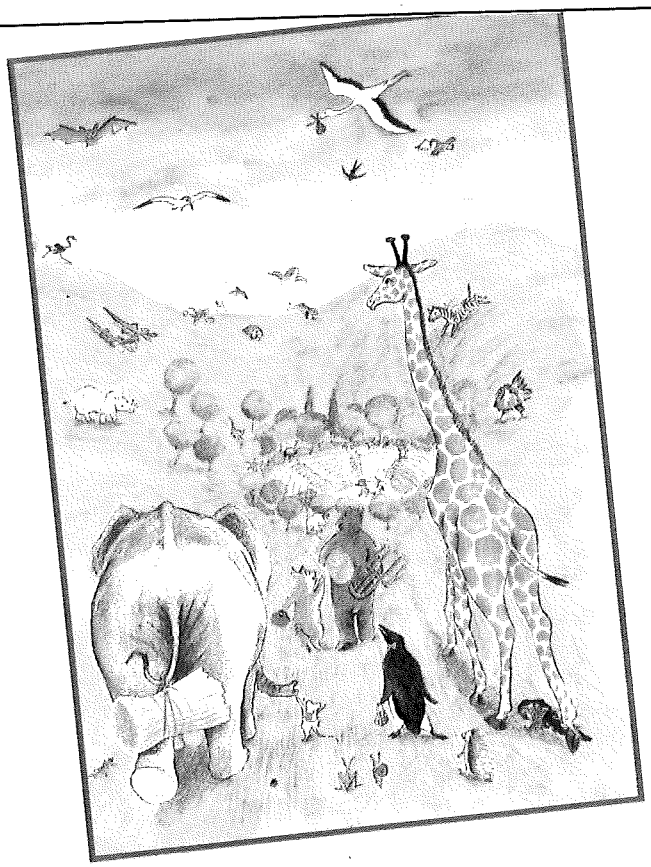
The last event of the Olympic Games is for very fast athletes. They quickly have to name what they think as the nicest thing in life. The most beautiful things in the world are heard. All of them are great, but the winners are the dove, the swan and the owl.



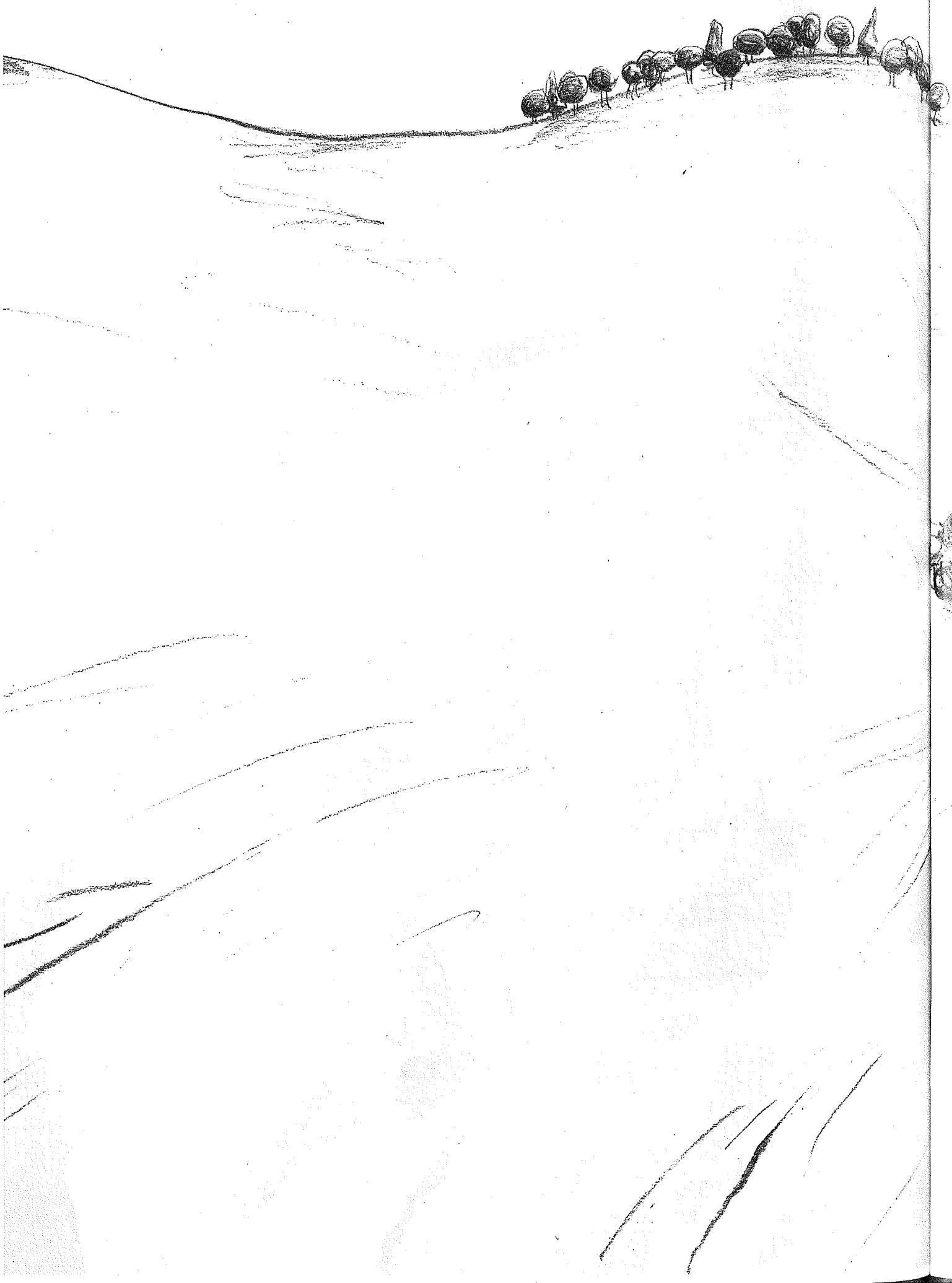


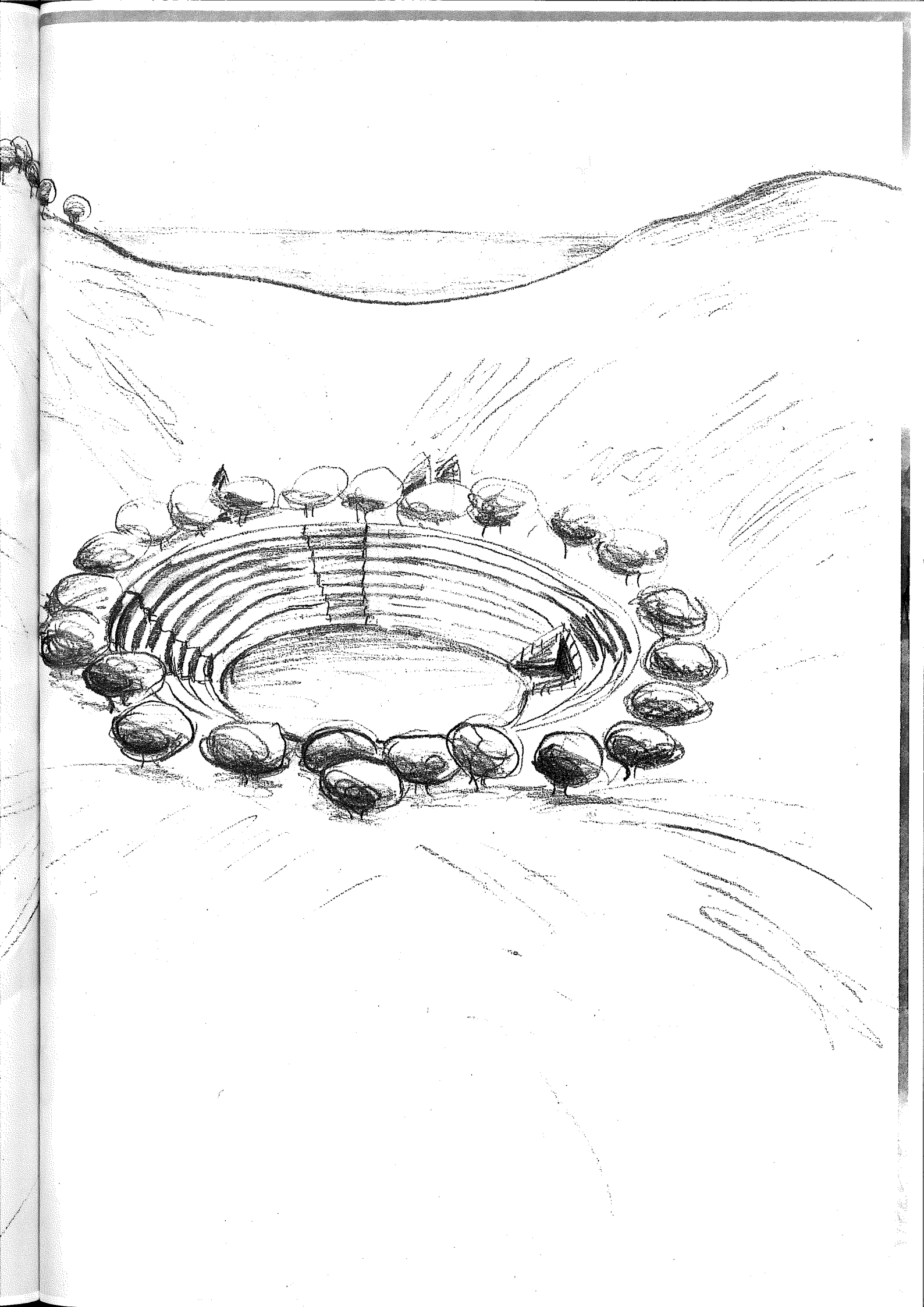
Once again, the Olympic Games of Joy come to an end. Spectators and athletes wave each other goodbye and start to leave the stadium. Everyone returns home happy.

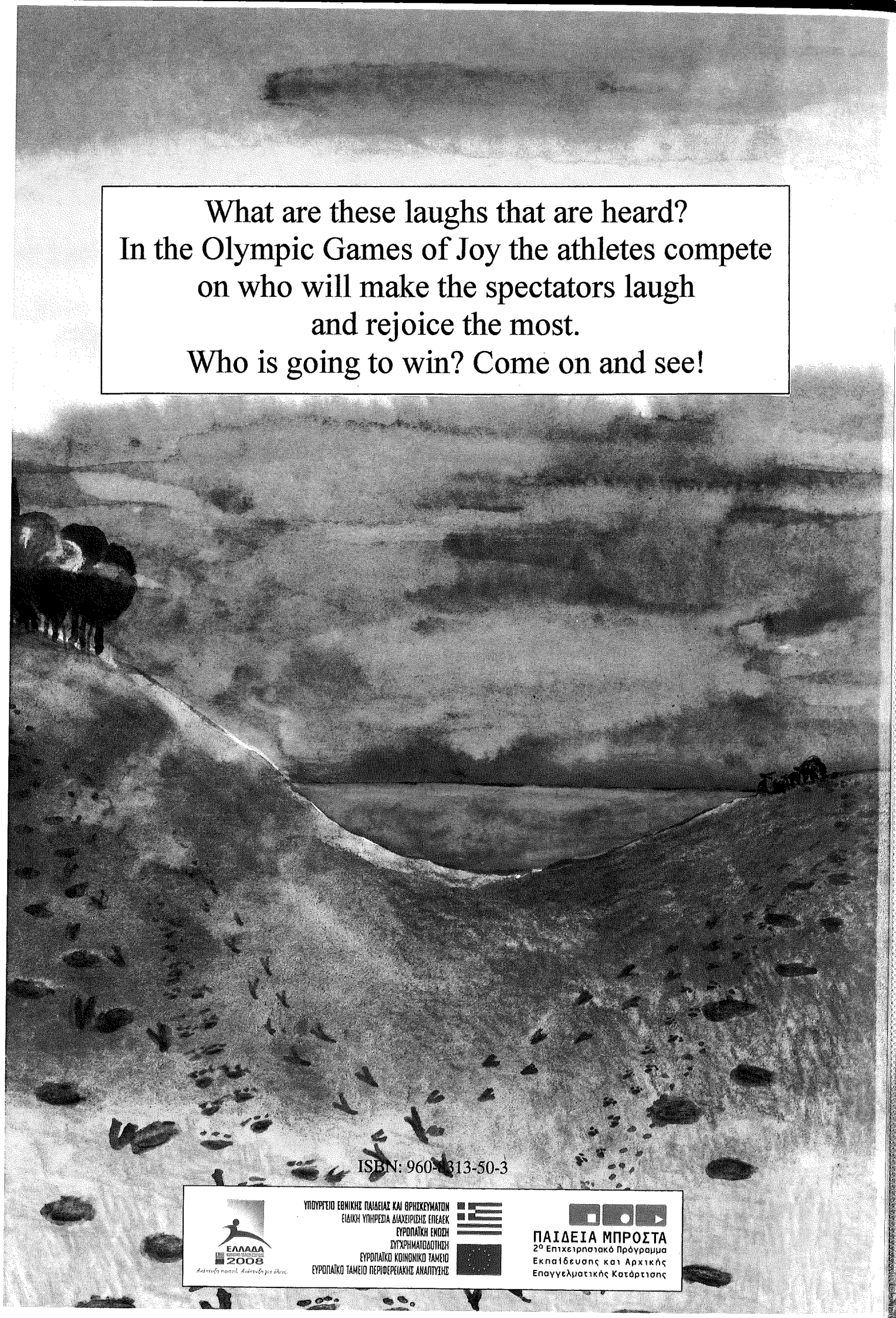
In four years



they will meet again!







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