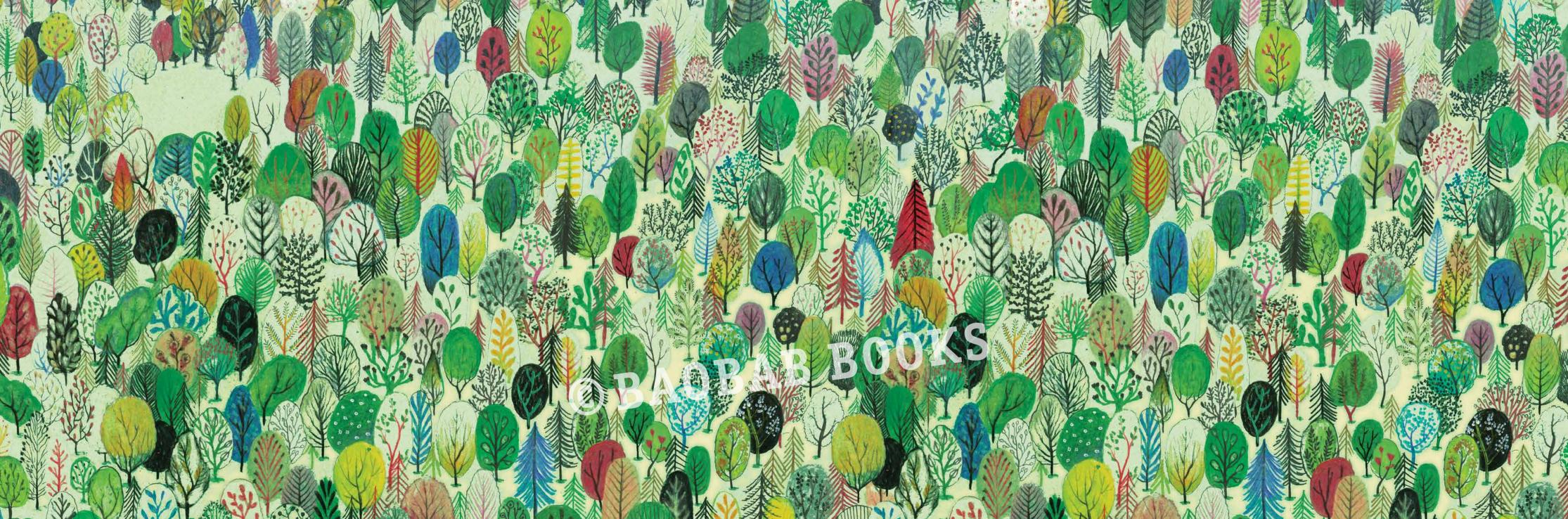


SOMETHING BLACK

Reza Dalvand







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A picture book from Iran

Translated into English by Regina Irwin

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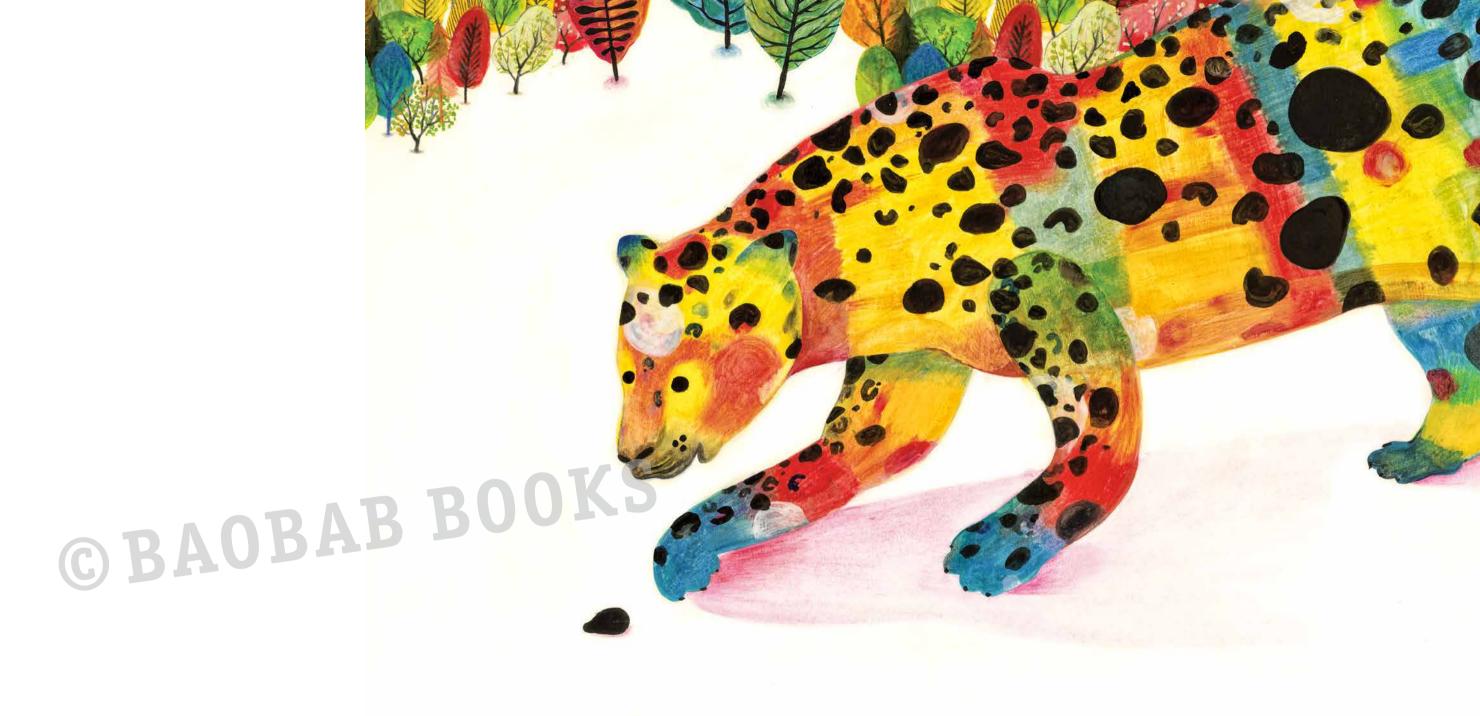
One morning at dawn the forest gleamed in colours as beautiful as never before.



Something black lay in a clearing between the trees that glittered green and red. Well, what could that be?



The leopard, who just walked by, saw the black something, went slowly closer and took a good look. Then he got scared: "this must be one of my spots; it must have fallen off whilst I was hunting yesterday. I have to warn the others, before they all lose their spots!" And off he ran.



A crow circled high above in the sky, when suddenly she saw something black on the ground. Quickly she flew down and turned the black thing over with her beak. "I bet that's a piece of a star ... It won't take long and the sky will fall on to the forest!" Croaking flusteredly, she flew away to tell the others.



The noise the crow made woke up the fox.

He followed the sound and saw something black on the ground. He sniffed it thoroughly and thought about it. But he could not work out what it was.



The fox had heard a lot about the king's palace in town. He muttered to himself: "I bet that's the princess' hankerchief. The wind must have blown it here. The princess will have cried a lot over the lost hankerchief, and the king will send out his army to look for it. I have to warn everybody, so that they will escape the soldiers!" And quickly he left.



The stag thought the black thing was a horseshoe one of the army horses had lost, and the enemy would be in the forest soon!



The owl with her great night vision saw something black in the darkness and was certain that it was a dragon's egg. The dragon would hatch soon and set the whole forest on fire.



 ${f A}$ nd the cat though the black something was her poo and wanted to cover it up.





Soon there was complete chaos in the forest.

Everybody reported what they had seen: the spot of a leopard, a piece of a star, a lost horseshoe ... and a thousand other black things that you could find in the world. Everybody was very excited about the black something and the danger that threatened them.



Since then a lot of time has passed. In the clearing, between red and green trees, still lies something black. Something small and black. Perhaps the seed of a beautiful tree, or a piece of chocolate, or a bag of coins.





But perhaps it is also something that only you know, what it is: something black, something lovely, something totally harmless ...
Something black like ...





One dawn the woods shine in more beautiful colours than ever before. And there in the sunlight – there's something black lying on the ground. The crow flies down to it and excitedly exclaims: "this must be a piece of a star. Soon the sky will fall on our heads!" The fox, woken by the raven's noisy opinion, comes by, and one after the other all the animals appear. Soon there is mayhem in the forest. The leopard, the owl and the cat – they all report what they have seen and talk about the looming danger. But perhaps the black thing lying on the ground is nothing more than a ...





