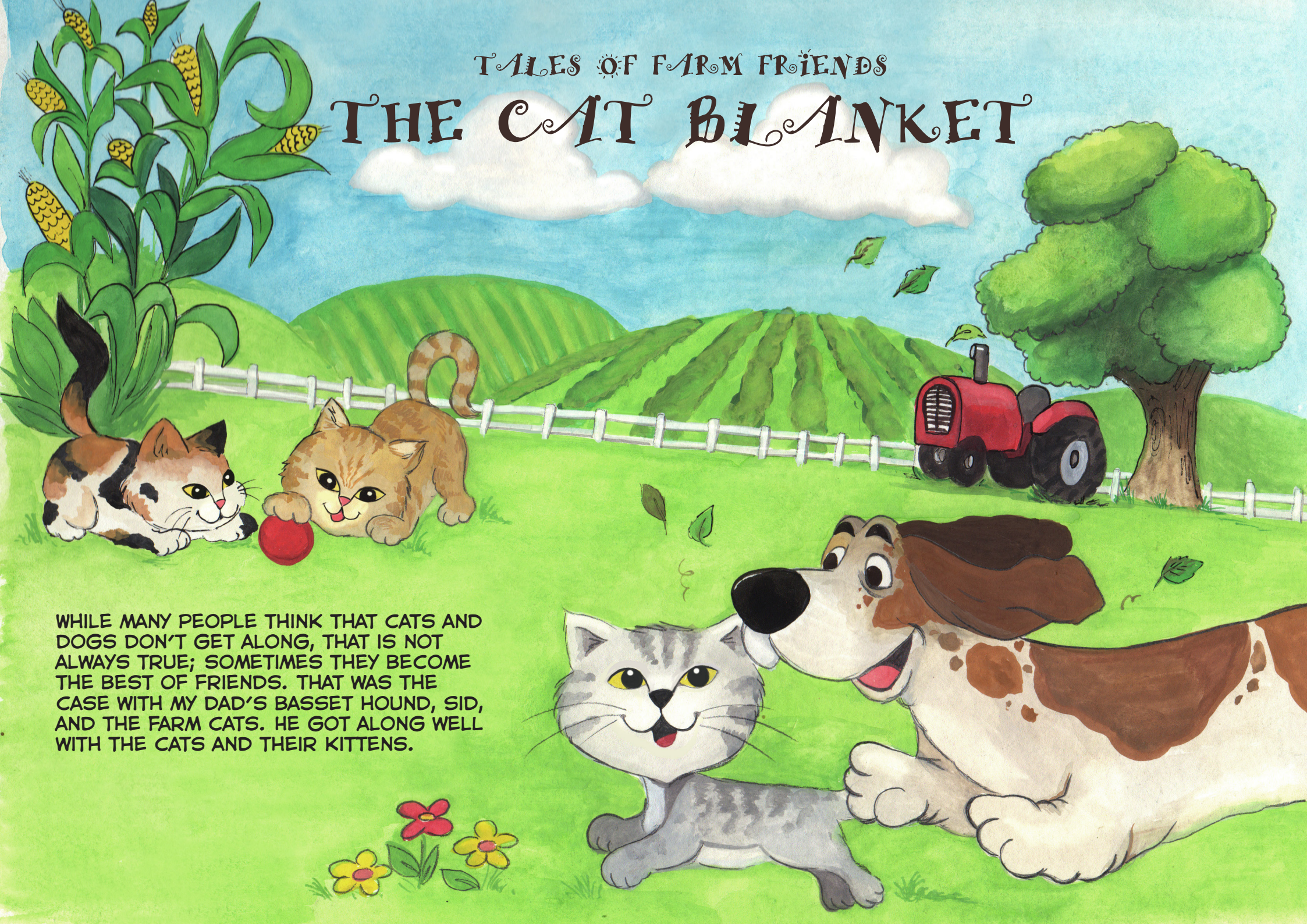



TALES OF FARM FRIENDS

THE CAT BLANKET

WHILE MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT CATS AND DOGS DON'T GET ALONG, THAT IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE; SOMETIMES THEY BECOME THE BEST OF FRIENDS. THAT WAS THE CASE WITH MY DAD'S BASSET HOUND, SID, AND THE FARM CATS. HE GOT ALONG WELL WITH THE CATS AND THEIR KITTENS.

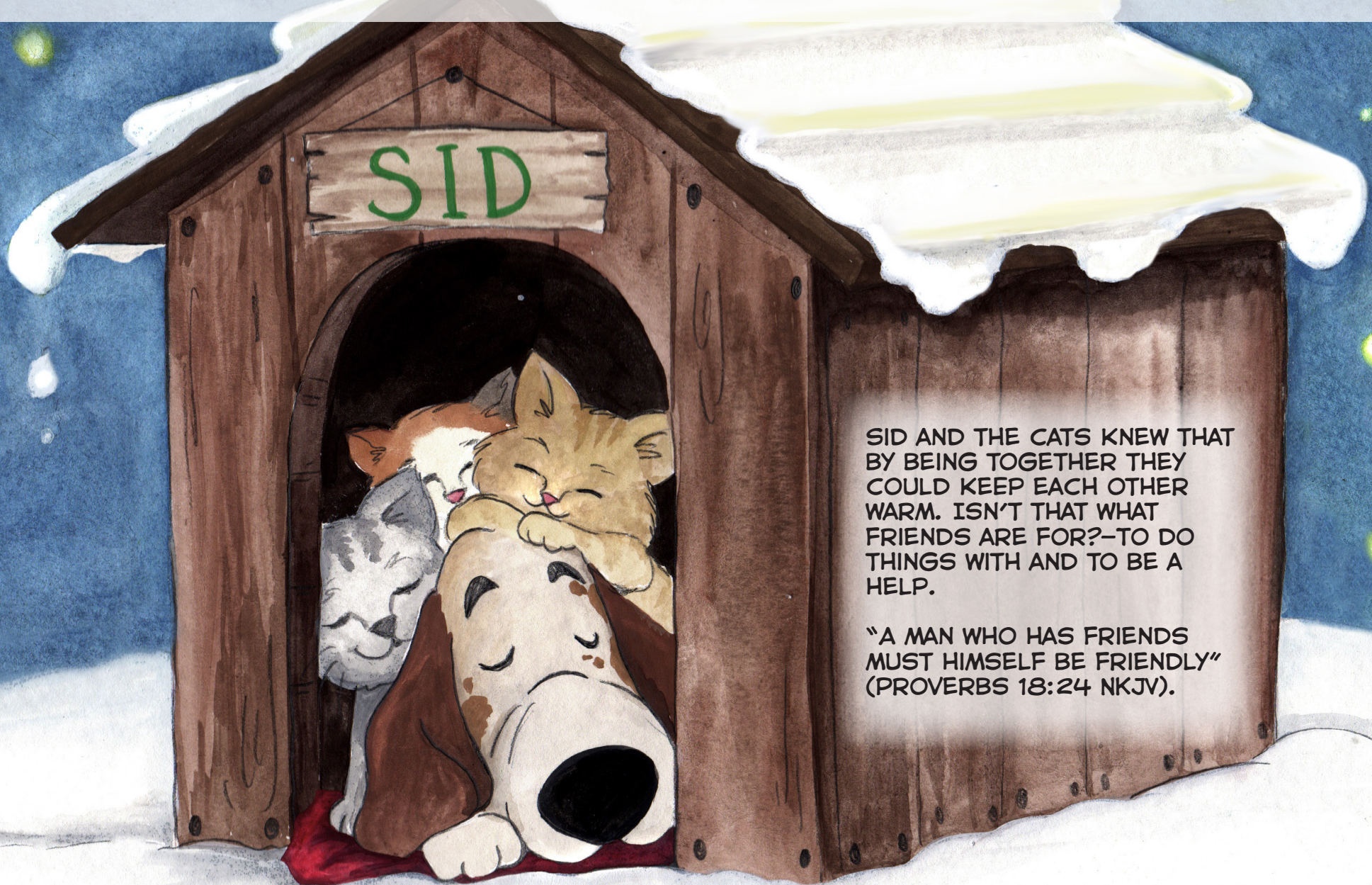




DURING THE DAY, SOMETIMES SID WOULD CHASE THE CATS FOR FUN. THE CATS, KNOWING HE JUST WANTED TO PLAY, WOULD MAKE A GAME OF IT. WHEN THE GAME ENDED, THE CATS WOULD RUN UP A TREE. SID WOULD STAND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TREE AND LOOK UP, AND THEN WALK OFF. HE WAS SIMPLY CONTENT WITH THE FUN HE HAD CHASING THEM UP THERE.

SID SLEPT OUTSIDE IN A DOGHOUSE. WHEN THE WEATHER WAS SNOWY AND COLD, MY MOM PUT SOME OLD RUGS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE DOGHOUSE FOR SID TO SLEEP ON, AND A BLANKET OVER THE DOOR TO KEEP HIM WARM. ON HIS OWN, SID DISCOVERED AN ADDITIONAL MEANS TO KEEP WARM. HE INVITED SOME CAT FRIENDS IN, WHO SLEPT ON TOP OF HIM—HIS PERSONAL CAT BLANKET.

IN THE MORNING WHEN MY DAD WOULD GO OUTSIDE TO DO THE FARM CHORES, SID WAS ALWAYS EAGER TO GREET HIM. DURING THE WINTER, INSTEAD OF SEEING ONLY A DOG COME OUT OF THE DOGHOUSE, FIRST THERE WAS ONE CAT, THEN ANOTHER, AND THEN ANOTHER. AND FINALLY AFTER ALL THREE CATS HAD EXITED THE DOGHOUSE, SID WOULD APPEAR STRETCHING AND CONTENT FROM A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN HIS WARM DOGHOUSE WITH THE CAT BLANKET.



SID AND THE CATS KNEW THAT BY BEING TOGETHER THEY COULD KEEP EACH OTHER WARM. ISN'T THAT WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR?—TO DO THINGS WITH AND TO BE A HELP.

“A MAN WHO HAS FRIENDS MUST HIMSELF BE FRIENDLY”
(PROVERBS 18:24 NKJV).