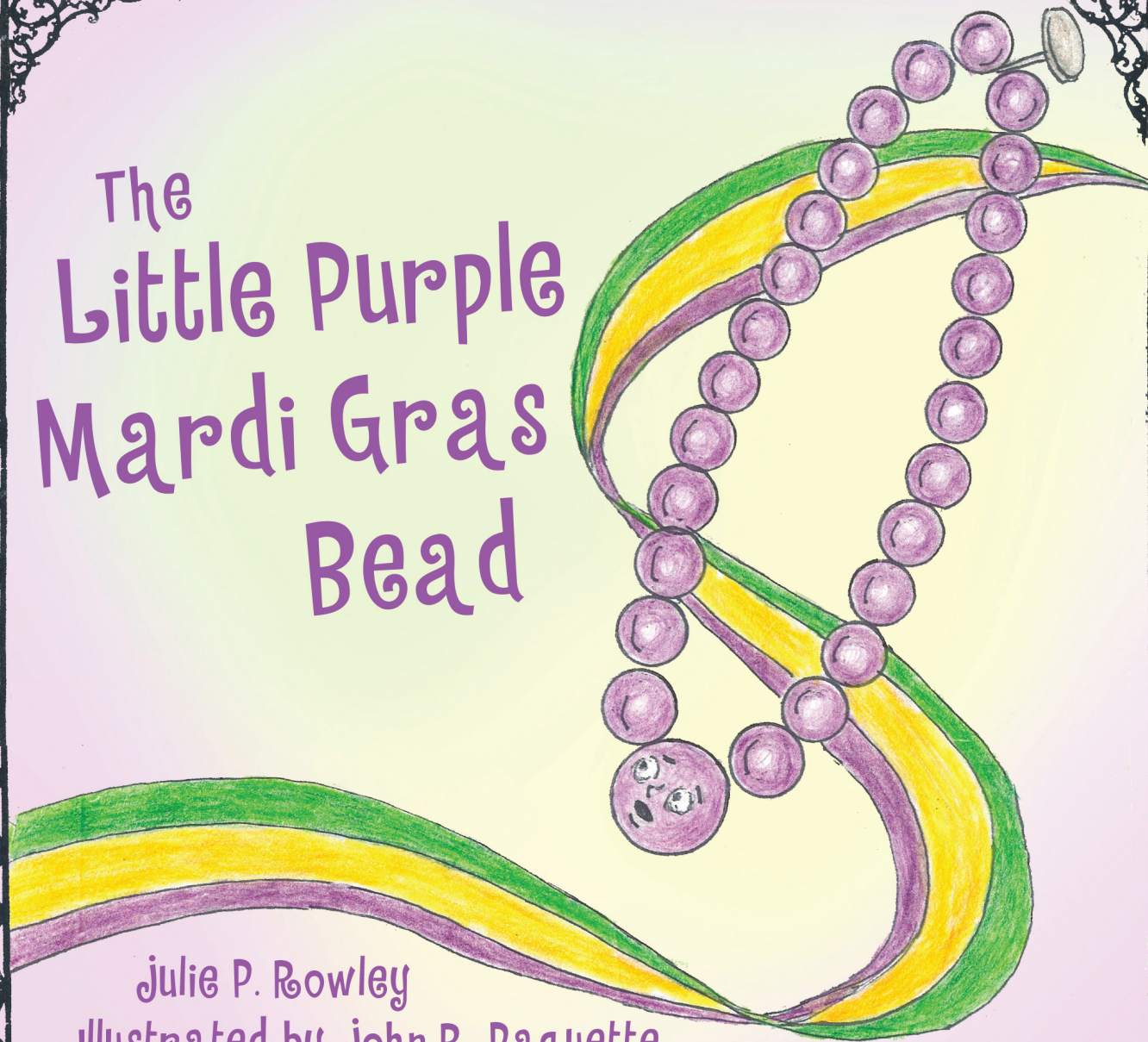


The Little Purple Mardi Gras Bead

Julie P. Rowley
Illustrated by John R. Paquette



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PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

GRETNA 2017

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Rowley, Julie P., author. | Paquette, John R.

Title: The little purple Mardi Gras bead / by Julie P. Rowley ; illustrated by John R. Paquette.

Description: Gretna : Pelican Publishing Company, 2017. | Summary: “Ready to ride in his first Mardi Gras parade, a small, plain purple bead learns about Carnival and is excited to be caught by a paradegoer who will value him”— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016053643 | ISBN 9781455623440 (pbk. : alk. paper) | ISBN 9781455623457 (e-book)

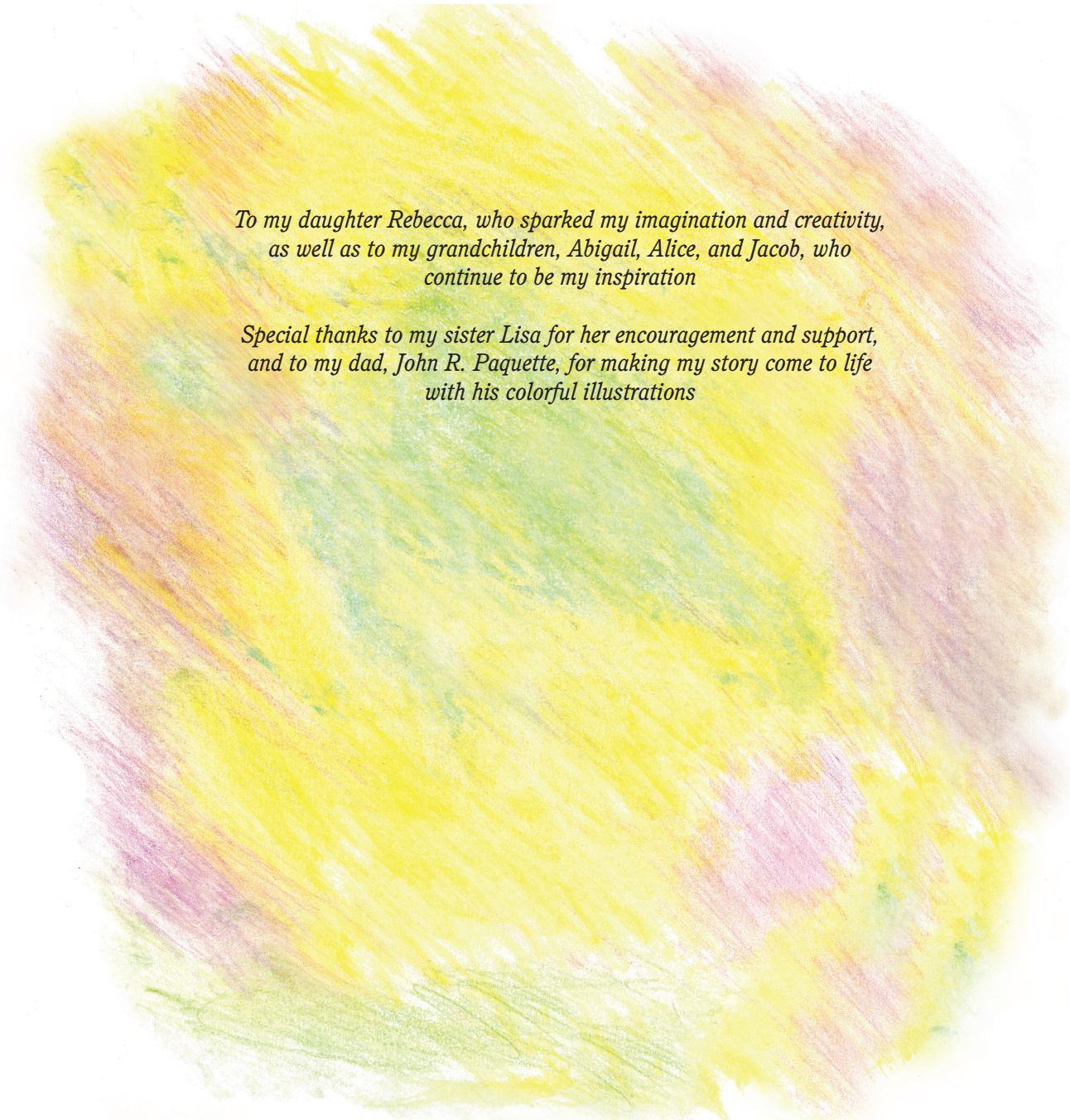
Subjects: | CYAC: Mardi Gras—Fiction. | Parades—Fiction. | New Orleans (La.)—Fiction.

Classification: LCC PZ7.1.R79 Li 2017 | DDC [E]—dc23 LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016053643>



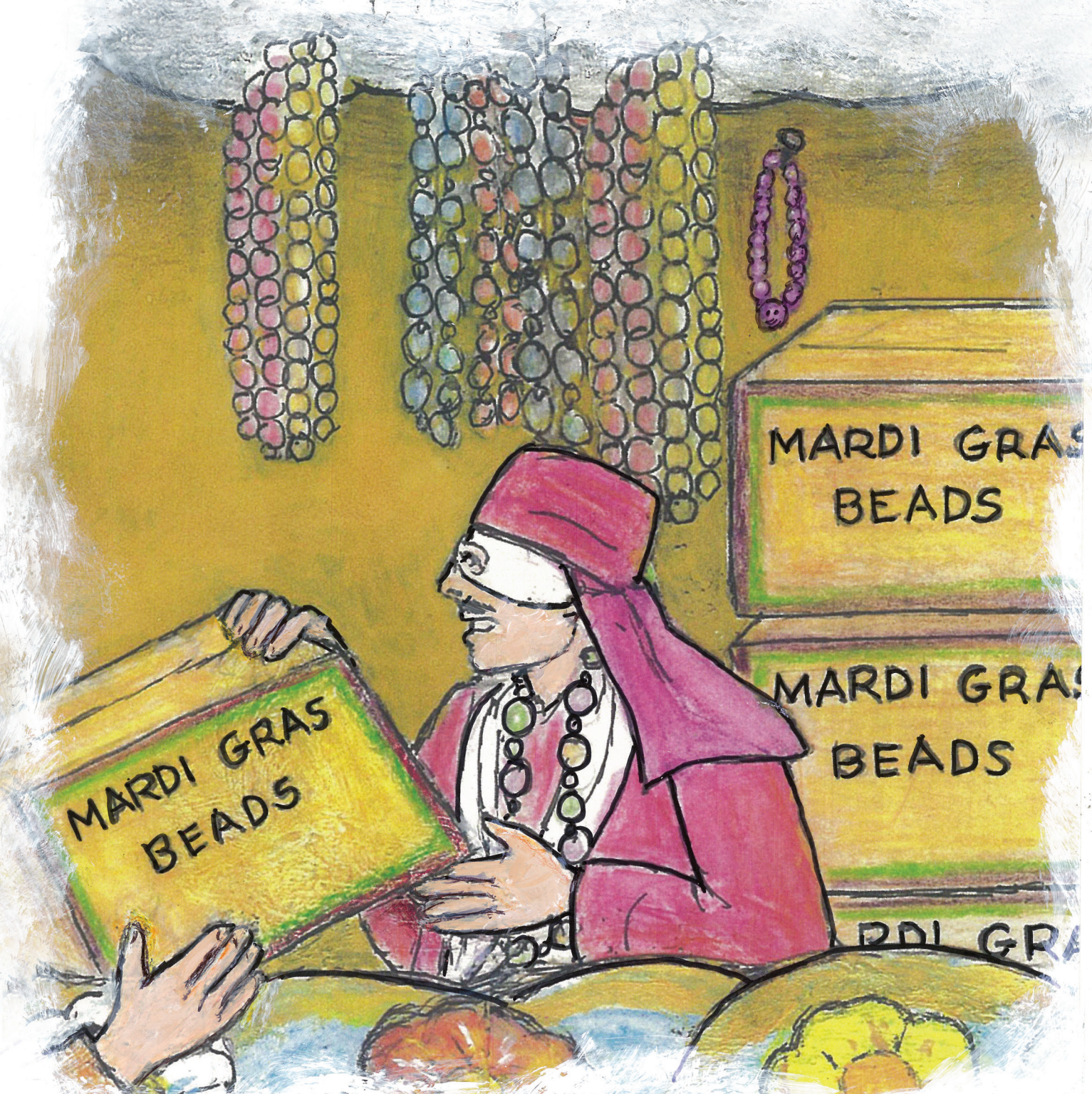
Printed in the United States of America

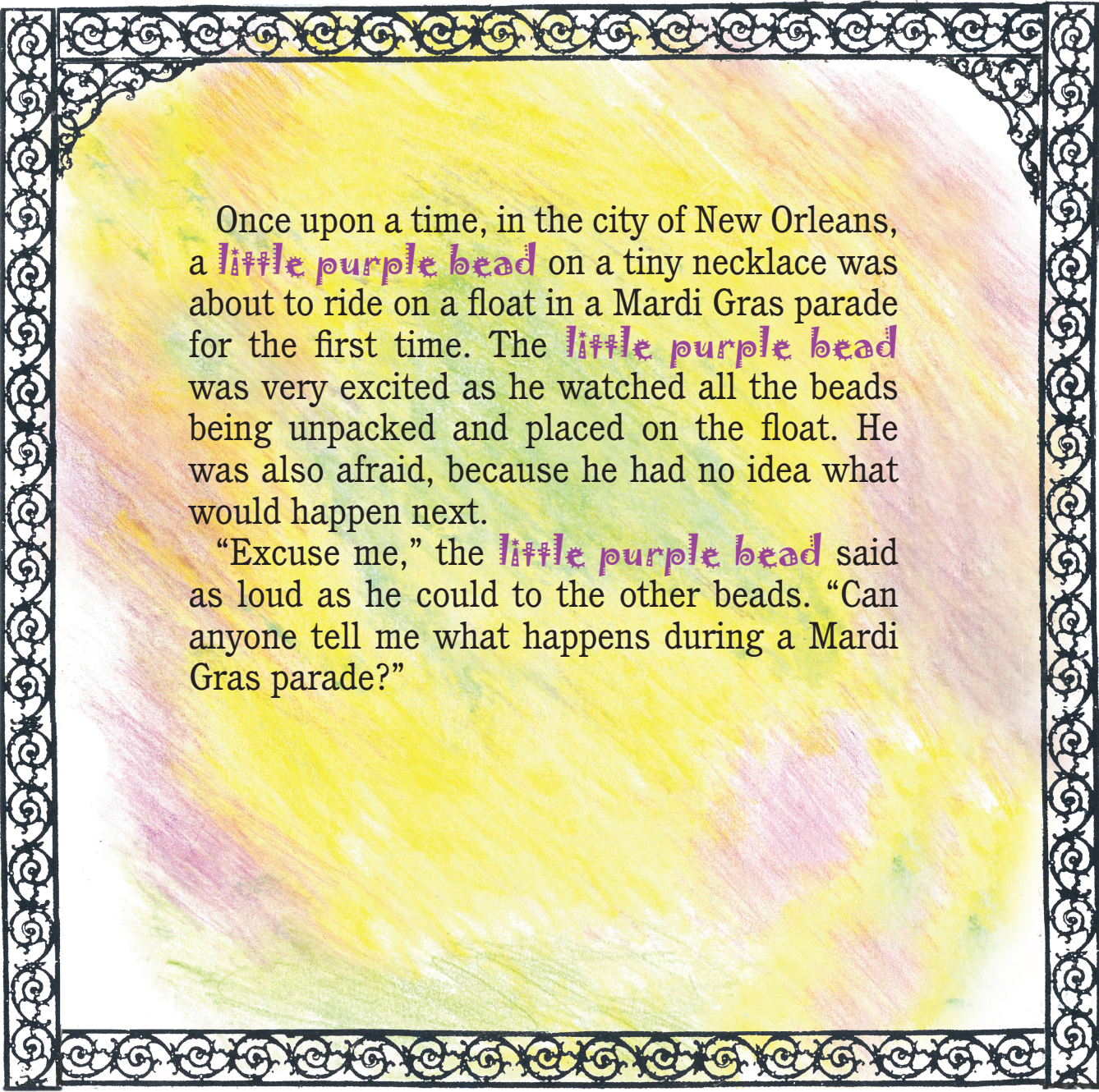
Published by Pelican Publishing Company, Inc.
1000 Burmaster Street, Gretna, Louisiana 70053



*To my daughter Rebecca, who sparked my imagination and creativity,
as well as to my grandchildren, Abigail, Alice, and Jacob, who
continue to be my inspiration*

*Special thanks to my sister Lisa for her encouragement and support,
and to my dad, John R. Paquette, for making my story come to life
with his colorful illustrations*





Once upon a time, in the city of New Orleans, a **little purple bead** on a tiny necklace was about to ride on a float in a Mardi Gras parade for the first time. The **little purple bead** was very excited as he watched all the beads being unpacked and placed on the float. He was also afraid, because he had no idea what would happen next.

“Excuse me,” the **little purple bead** said as loud as he could to the other beads. “Can anyone tell me what happens during a Mardi Gras parade?”

