



*Winged Wishes for my Daughter*  
*- Hanoi*

In Vietnam we have a saying, 'Good land attracts birds'.  
My family had land. But it was not good.





**And there was always a bit of a bird about me.**





**When they started suggesting that I marry, I knew it was time to spread my wings.**



**My chance came when government officers visited my village  
looking for workers for the cement factory.**





And though I love and respect my parents,  
what is more natural than a bird flying the nest?





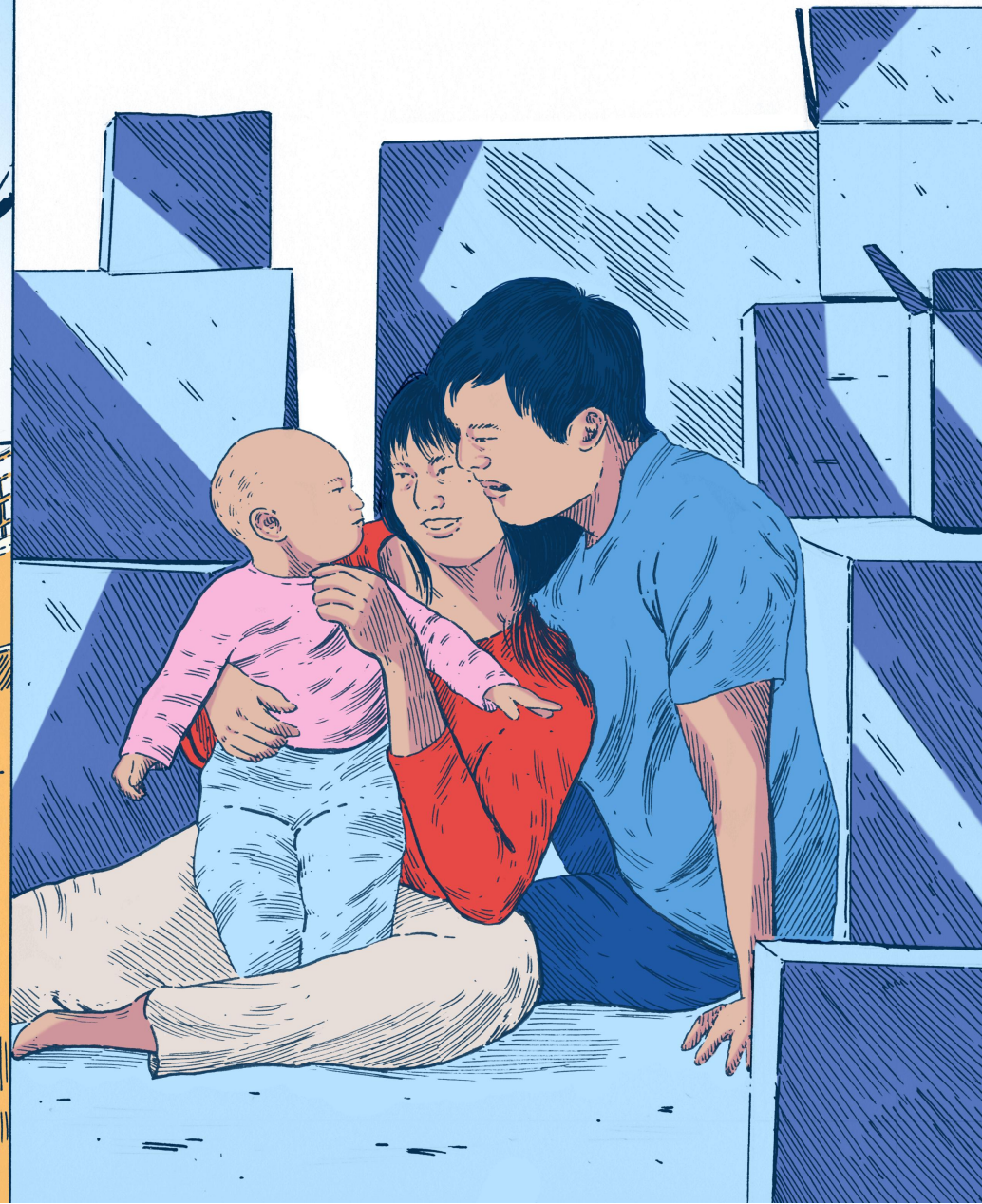


Working in the factory was hard, but unlike farming there were set hours.



**Soon I was making my own nest.**





**But it takes one bird to know another.**







And before long he was gone.



**So we prepared to weather the storms ahead.**





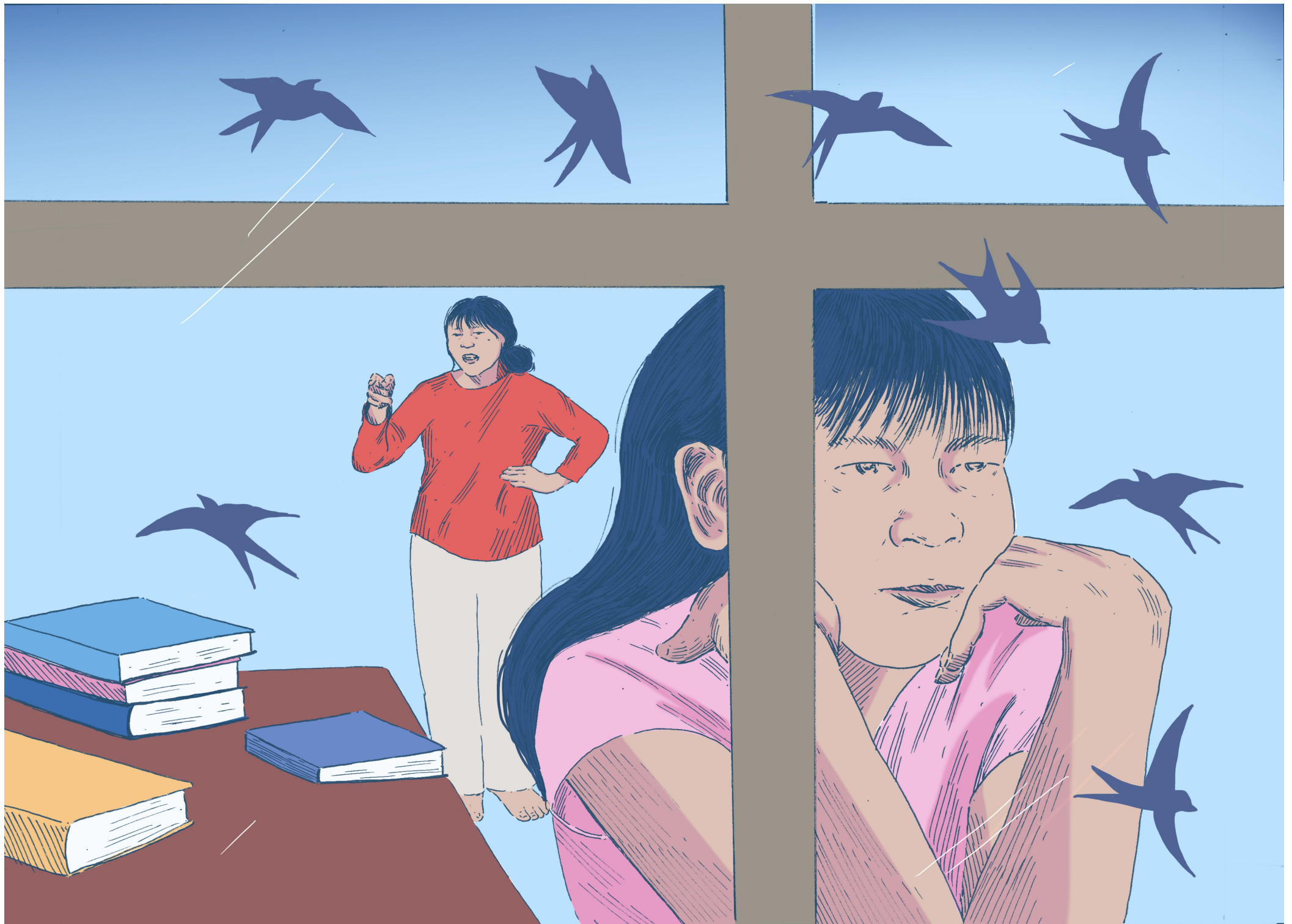
I knew that I had to rely on my own strength and frugality to support my child's education.







The thought of something happening to her felt unbearable to me.



I enforced her studies. Education was the only path to a better future.  
But our financial situation was challenging.





I knew that University would unlock a world of possibilities for her.  
But I had to ask her father for some money to help with her living costs.





**And I saved and I saved...**





... And then one day I knew it was time to let her go.



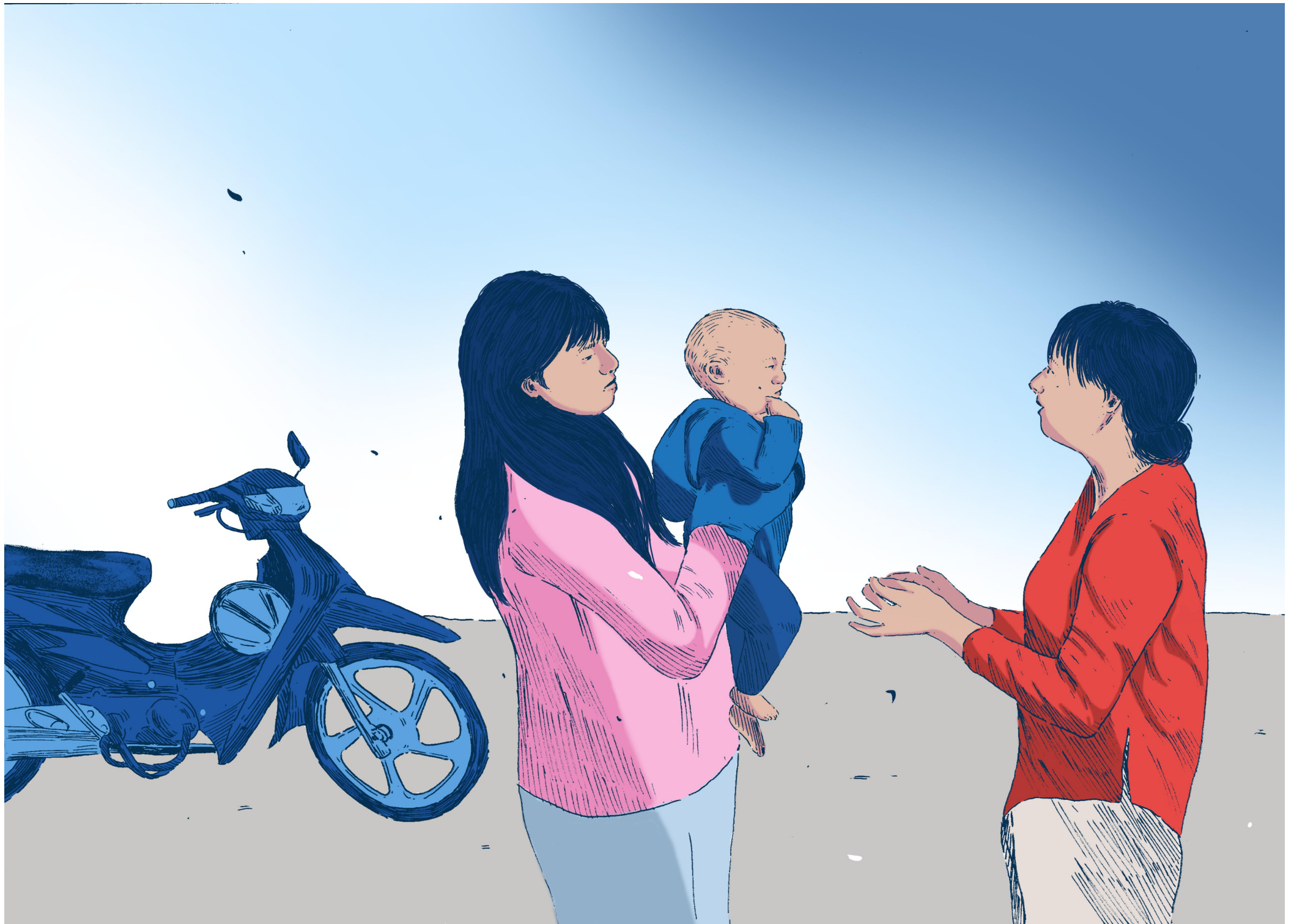


But life has a funny way of repeating itself. There were storms ahead for her too,



and eventually she flew back to me... with a gift.





**I knew it was time to return to my hometown.**





I had inherited land from my parents and built a house.



**For 5 years I lived there with my granddaughter  
while her mother worked hard to find a stable job.**





Once my daughter had found a secure job as an accountant and a flat for us, we travelled to live with her in Hanoi.



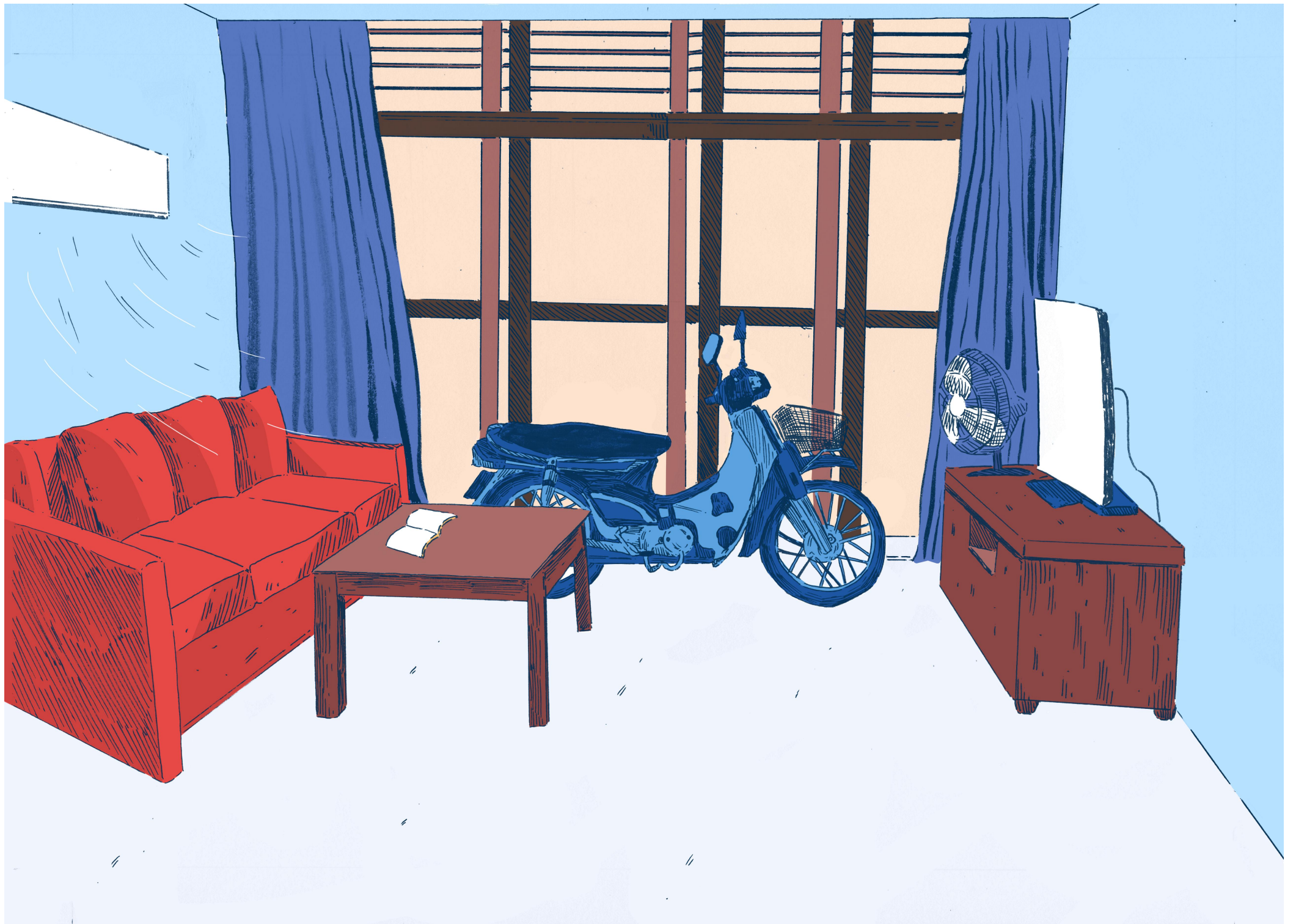
**By now the both of us have shed our wings.**







I receive a modest pension from my work at the factory.  
I wouldn't have had that if I'd stayed in farming.  
The storms have passed and life has settled down.  
We have air-conditioning, motorbike and a bicycle.  
All the necessities of a middle-class life.



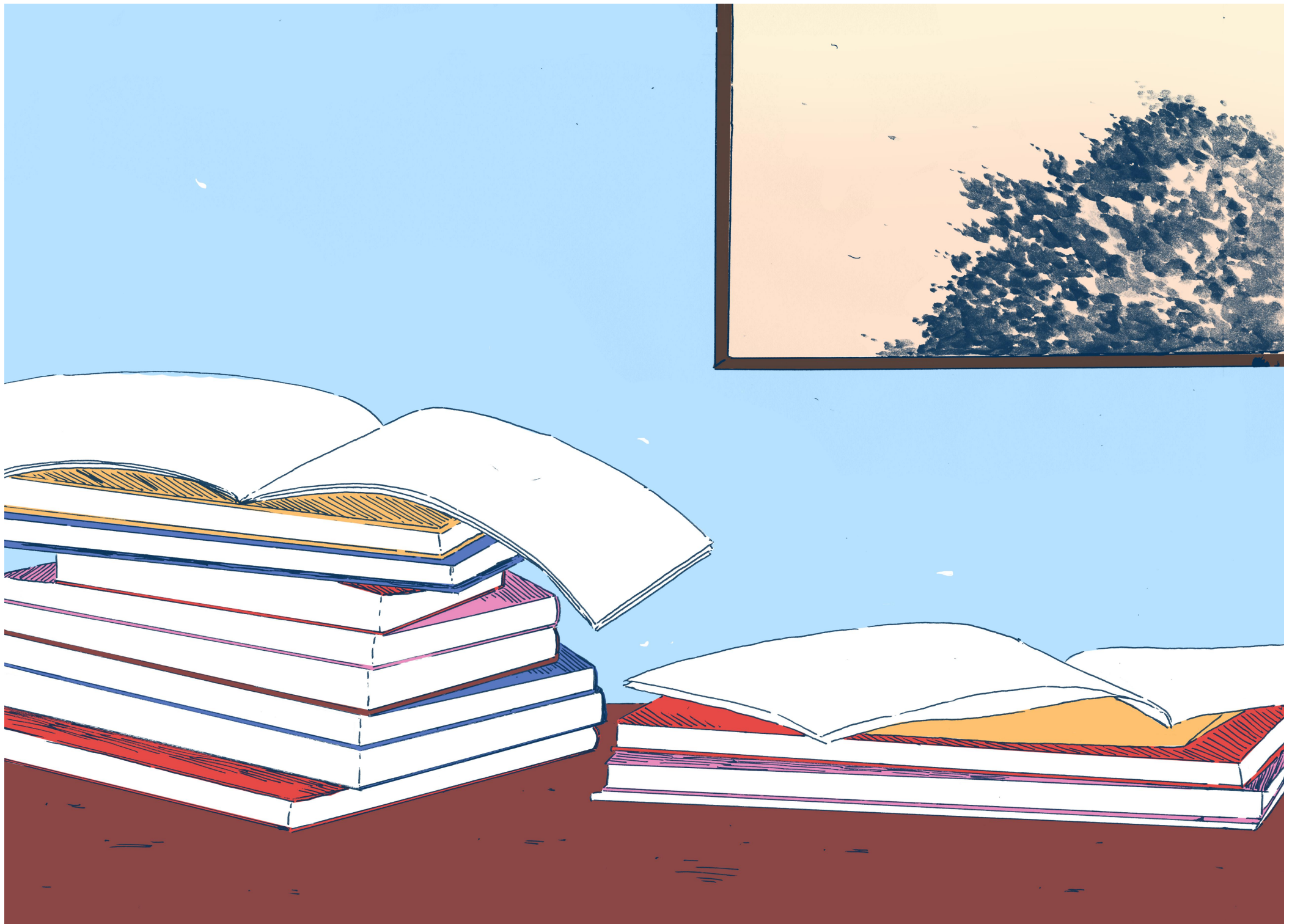
**But sometimes we grasp my granddaughter a little too tightly.**







We pay for extra tutors for her. She must do well at school this year so that she can pass the entrance exam to get into a good public high school.



I don't need her to achieve great things.  
I simply hope that she can have a good life.





So that one day if she so desires, she can stay or fly off and find her good land to settle in.



**The vast majority of the global increase  
in the size of middle classes occurs in Asia.**

**Migration Rhythms in a research project  
from Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)  
that explores trajectories of upward social mobility in Asia.**

**To find out more visit: [www.prio.org/migrationrhythms](http://www.prio.org/migrationrhythms)**

## **Researchers:**

Dr. Karen Liao, Dr. Nguyen Le, Dr. Do Ta Khanh, Dr. Arve Hansen

**Research director:** Dr. Marta Blvand Erdal

**Illustrator:** Diana Nguyen

**Script writer:** Karrie Fransman

**Translators:** Dr. Nguyen Le & Dr. Do Ta Khanh

**Producer:** Karrie Fransman

**Production:** PositiveNegatives

**Director:** Dr. Benjamin Worku-Dix

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