

STEVEN  
UNIVERSE

# The Answer



written by **Rebecca Sugar**  
creator of Steven Universe  
art by **Elle Michalka** and **Tiffany Ford**

CN  
CARTOON NETWORK



STEVEN★  
UNIVERSE

# The Answer

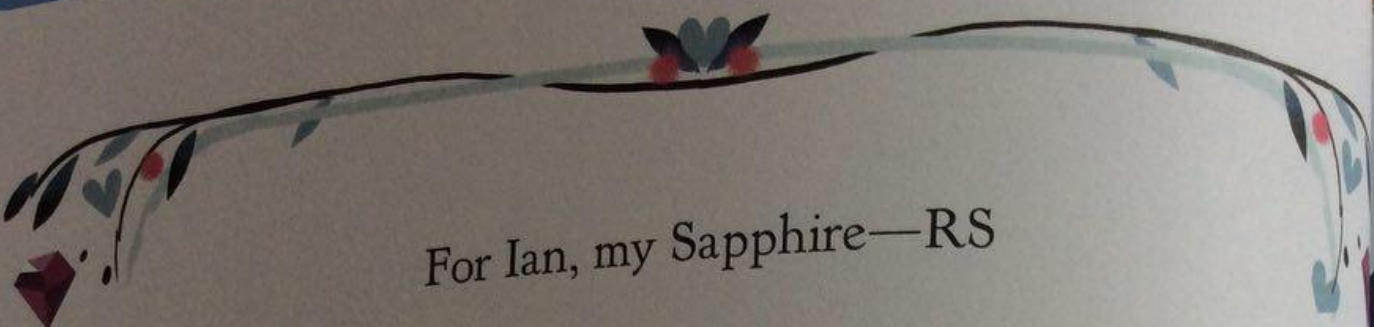
written by Rebecca Sugar  
art by Elle Michalka and Tiffany Ford



CARTOON  
NETWORK  
BOOKS

An Imprint of Penguin Random House






For Ian, my Sapphire—RS

CARTOON NETWORK BOOKS  
Penguin Young Readers Group  
An Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC



Penguin supports copyright. Copyright fuels creativity, encourages diverse voices, promotes free speech, and creates a vibrant culture. Thank you for buying an authorized edition of this book and for complying with copyright laws by not reproducing, scanning, or distributing any part of it in any form without permission. You are supporting writers and allowing Penguin to continue to publish books for every reader.


STEVEN UNIVERSE, CARTOON NETWORK, the logos and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © Cartoon Network. (s16). All rights reserved. Published in 2016 by Cartoon Network Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 345 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014. Manufactured in China.



ISBN 9780399541704

10987654321



The illustration features a landscape with stylized mountains in shades of blue and purple at the top. A character with long, flowing white hair and a blue dress stands on a peak. Below, a large, heart-shaped wreath made of dark green leaves and small red flowers frames the central text. Several large, faceted red and blue gemstones are scattered within the wreath. At the bottom, a small, round, red character with a white face and a black hat stands on a dark, wavy, blue ground. The background is a soft, light pinkish-purple.

This is the story  
of Ruby and Sapphire's time  
on the planet Earth.





This is the  
beginning of  
the story.

5,750 years ago,  
the Earth was in the process of being  
conquered by Gems,  
a space-faring race that always conquers planets,  
because that's what Gems are  
supposed to do!


But a rebellious Rose Quartz  
burst out and said, "STOP!"








Don't worry.  
She'll be captured  
soon.



She liked the planet the way it was—  
messy and pointless,  
covered in ridiculous  
plants and creatures  
growing every which way  
for no reason!


What could she like  
about a planet like this?  
Why would she fight  
her fellow Gems?  
And how could she be stopped?

The Gem with the answers  
would be a Sapphire:  
a rare Gem with the power  
to see into the future.

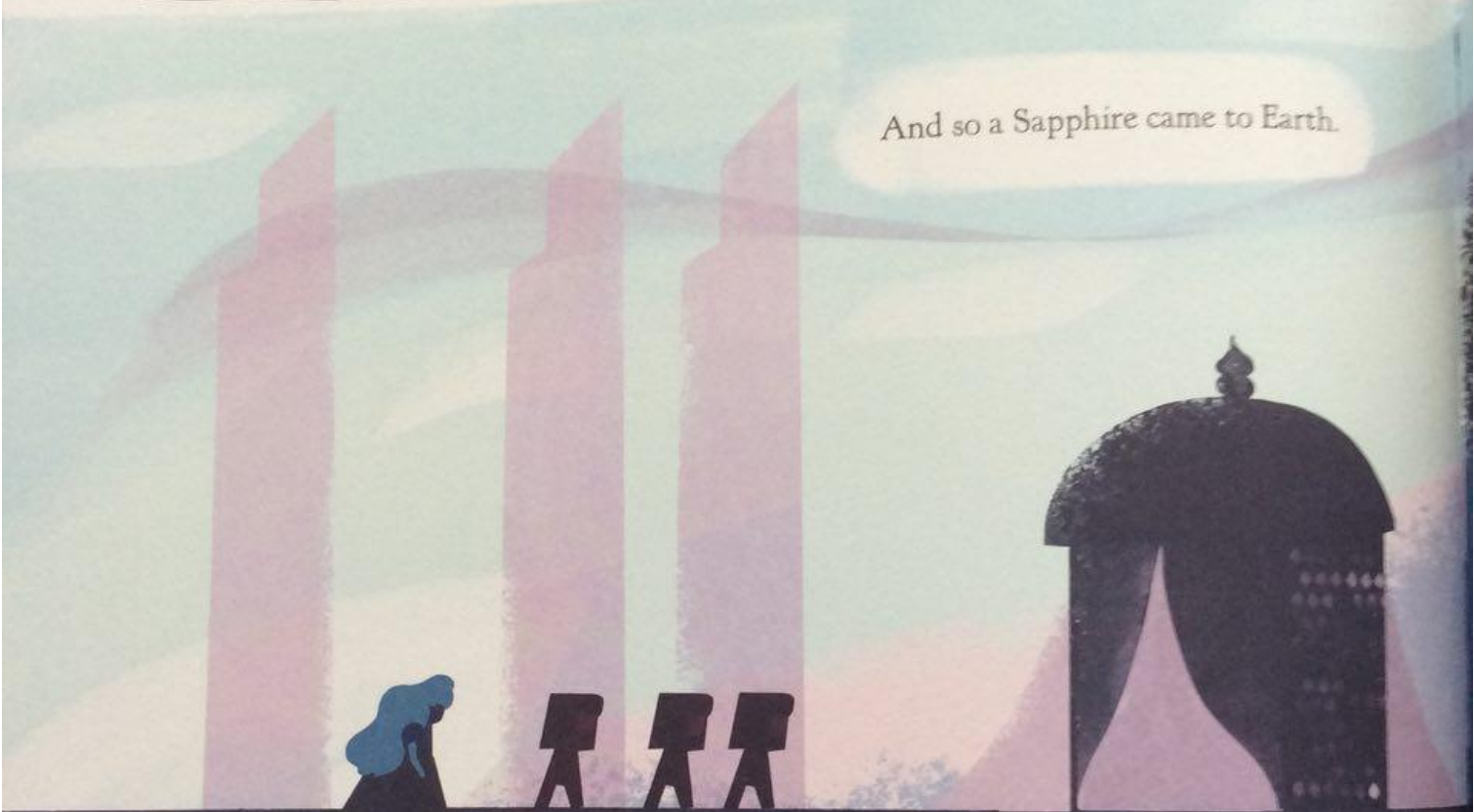


Wow, really? That's  
amazing. You know  
everything!






This is the  
middle of  
the story.



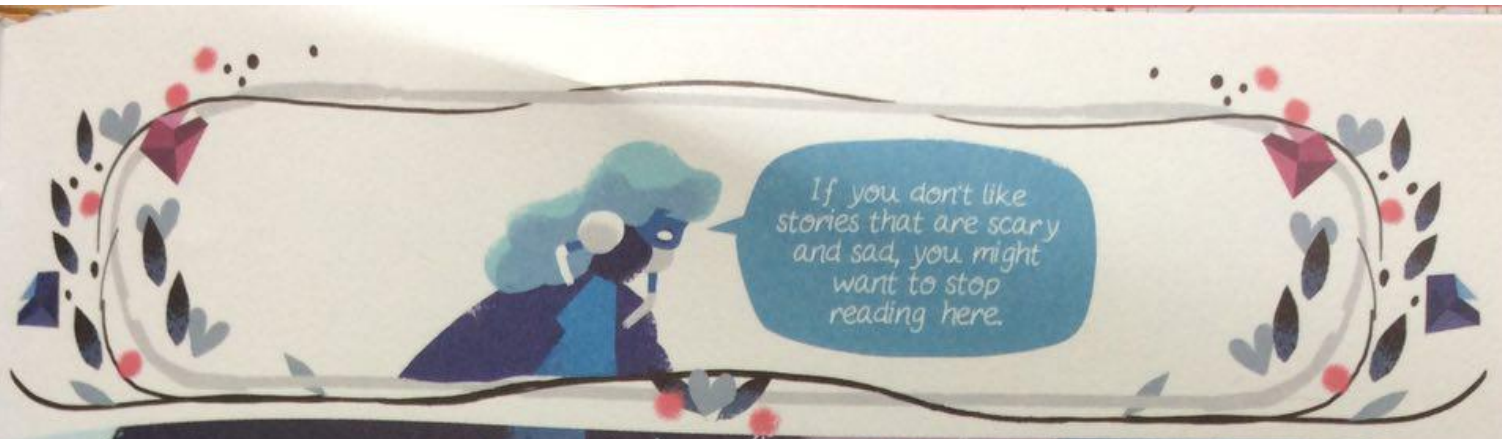
And so a Sapphire came to Earth.

She was assigned three Ruby guards to protect her.  
They were small, simple soldiers dispatched in groups,  
so when the going got tough,  
they could FUSE into ONE BIG RUBY!



Oh, hey—it's  
you! Hey! And  
there's me!





If you don't like stories that are scary and sad, you might want to stop reading here.

Sapphire knew that very soon, the rebels would attack, and her Rubies would fuse, and would be defeated,

and only one would be left to helplessly watch while Sapphire fell under the sword of a rebel Gem.



Huh?  
WHAT?





Only five  
pages left.

But that was what was supposed to happen,  
so Sapphire didn't mind.

Sapphire had already accepted everything  
that would ever happen to her.  
She could see it ahead of her as easily as you  
can flip to the end of this book.

Wait, you're just  
going to let yourself  
fall under the sword  
of a rebel Gem?






Don't worry  
about it. It's  
fine.

The rebels would be caught, and punished,  
and the colony would be completed just as planned.  
And Sapphire would be taken back to  
the Gem Homeworld, where she would come to.

And she would never see Earth or her Ruby guards again.

Wait—wait—no!  
I don't like this  
story at all!





I'm so sorry,  
but this is how  
it goes.

The fight broke out,  
just as Sapphire knew it would.

The Rubies fused,  
just as they were supposed to.




They were defeated,  
just as Sapphire knew they  
would be.



Wait just a  
second!





This is the end  
of the story.

And the one Ruby left  
looked on as Sapphire fell  
under the sword of a rebel Gem.

HEY! Don't  
just lie there!



Thank you so  
much for reading  
our book.  
The End.



DO  
SOMETHING!











What???

What is that?

Whoa!

Wait!

How dare they!

Unbelievable!

A Fusion?

This is outrageous!

The crowd was stunned. The fighting stopped.  
They had NEVER seen a Fusion of a Ruby and a Sapphire!

OH MY  
STARS!





Wait, no!  
No, they don't!


Amidst the chaos, the rebels escaped.  
Ruby and Sapphire's Fusion split apart,  
and all the furious Gems closed in.

*How did this happen?!*




I don't know!





I don't know  
what to say. This  
doesn't happen!

Sapphire didn't have an answer!  
Ruby jumped to Sapphire's defense.  
The Gems turned all their anger  
toward Ruby.




*You will be Broken for this!*



Wait! Leave her  
alone! This is  
MY fault.





You . . . changed  
the story?

For the first time ever,  
Sapphire didn't think.

She just grabbed Ruby's hand,  
and she RAN!

I just . . .  
I couldn't let things  
end like that!



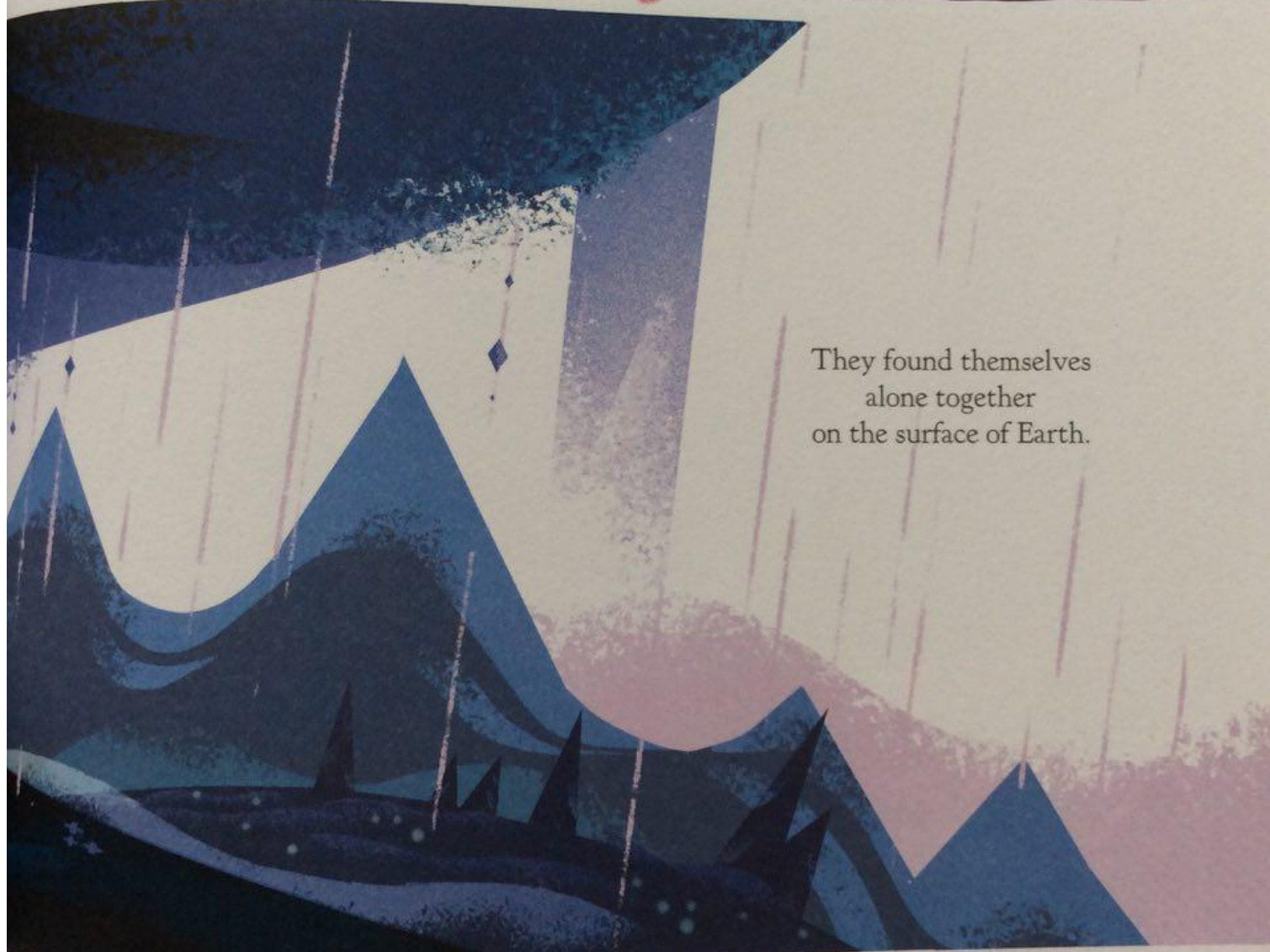
I can't believe  
this! This can't  
be happening.









They found themselves  
alone together  
on the surface of Earth.







This book is  
supposed to be  
over already! This  
page shouldn't  
even exist.



Oh no, please  
don't worry! Hold  
on . . . I'll come  
up there!





What?  
How?

Meanwhile, Sapphire had no idea what to do.  
How could she call herself a Sapphire?!  
She was supposed to know everything,  
but the longer they spent in this  
extension of the story,  
the more wrong she became  
about everything!



Throw  
something down  
to me!






But as the sun rose over the hills,  
their thoughts turned to each other,  
and the impossible new Gem  
they had created together.








Sapphire had never fused, she was never meant to!  
She was never supposed to see dusk or dawn on Earth,  
or find cold drops of water on young plants in the morning.

She was never meant to hear Ruby's laugh,  
or watch her charge ahead  
as if they both weren't lost!

Could this Gem's unthinkable  
courage override reality?






Wow! Everything  
looks different  
from up here!

You think so?  
Look, your old  
spot is empty.

Ruby had always fused!  
She was always supposed to fuse  
with other Rubies into BIGGER Rubies!  
Never with anyone else,  
and of course not with a Sapphire!



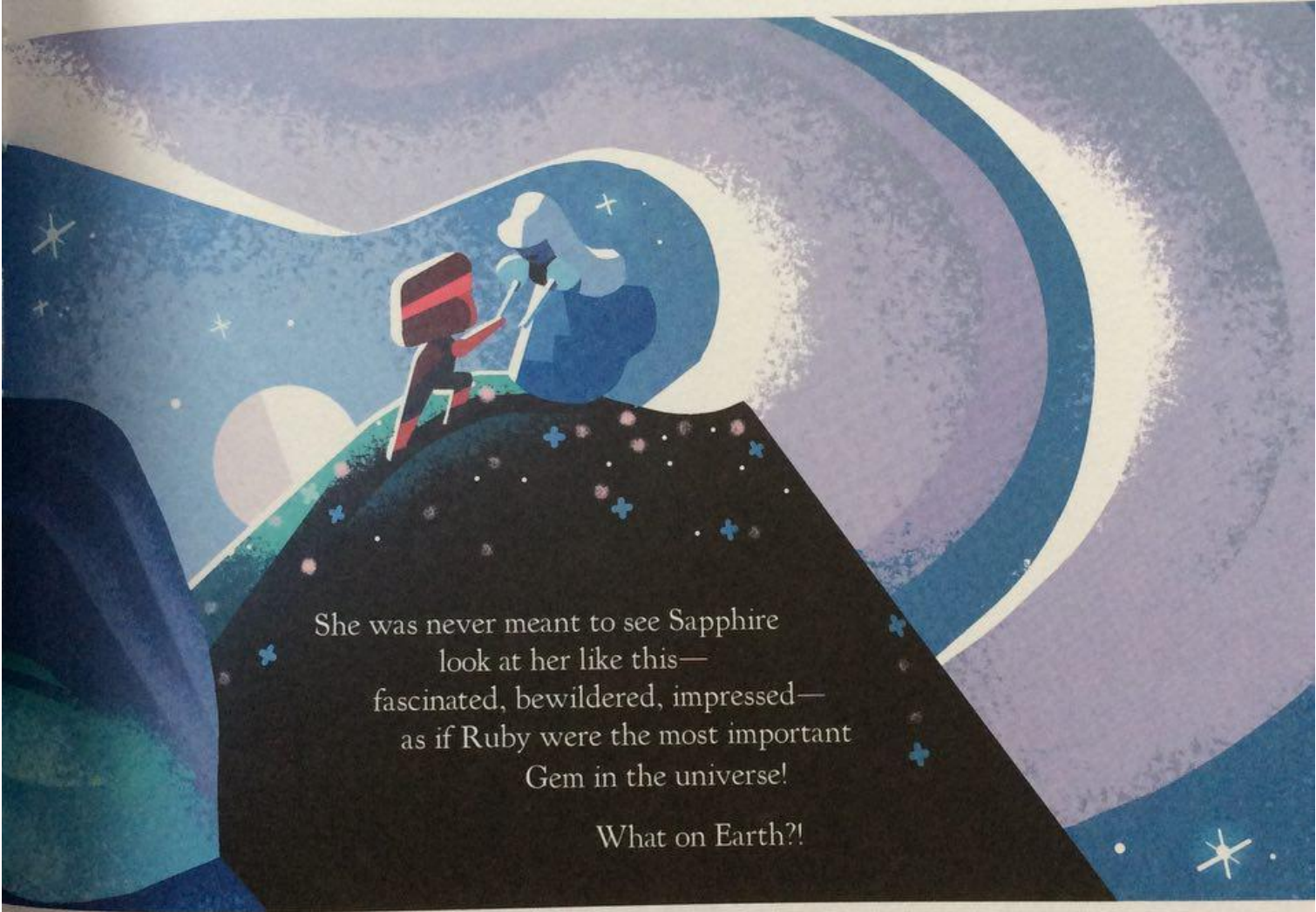
How could Ruby  
have ever hoped to combine  
with a Gem so valuable,  
so precious, so powerful,  
that she could see beyond  
space and time?





Yeah, you're right!

Hey, let's go down there. Jump with me!

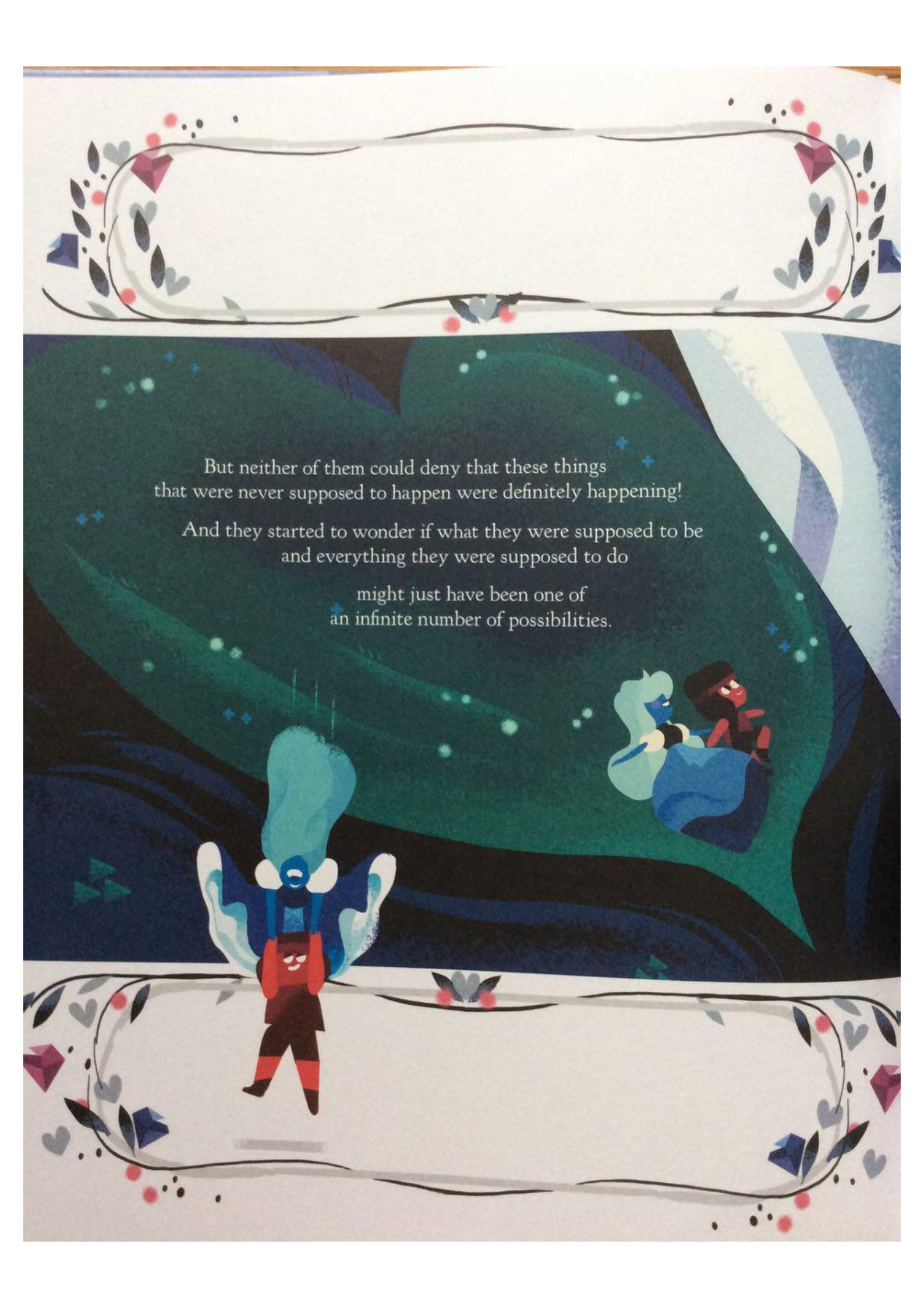


She was never meant to see Sapphire  
look at her like this—  
fascinated, bewildered, impressed—  
as if Ruby were the most important  
Gem in the universe!

What on Earth?!





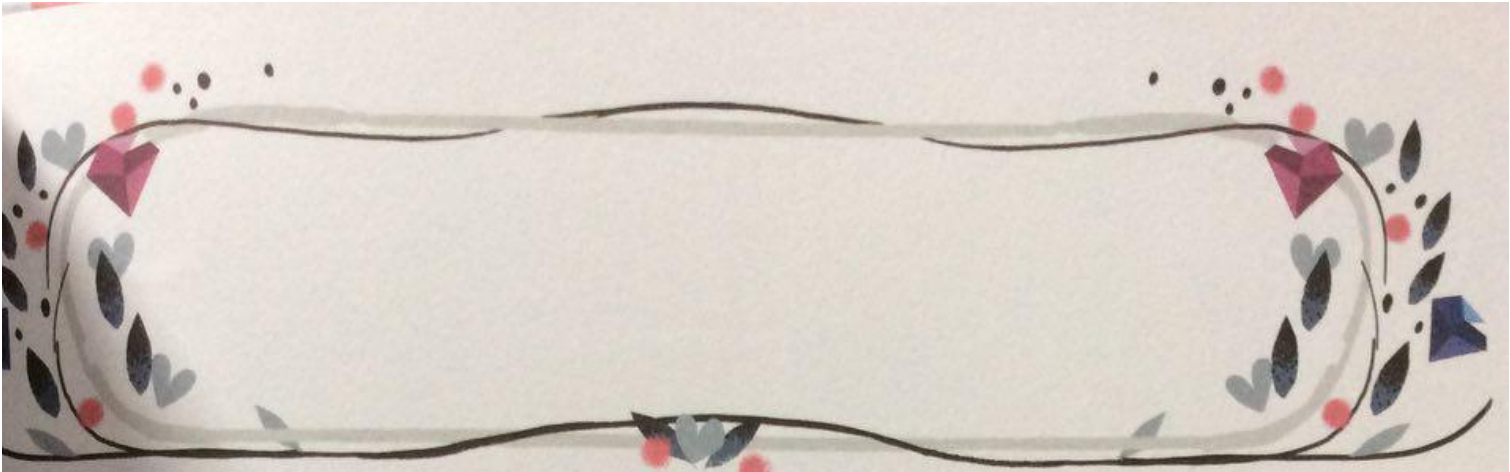


But neither of them could deny that these things  
that were never supposed to happen were definitely happening!

And they started to wonder if what they were supposed to be  
and everything they were supposed to do

might just have been one of  
an infinite number of possibilities.

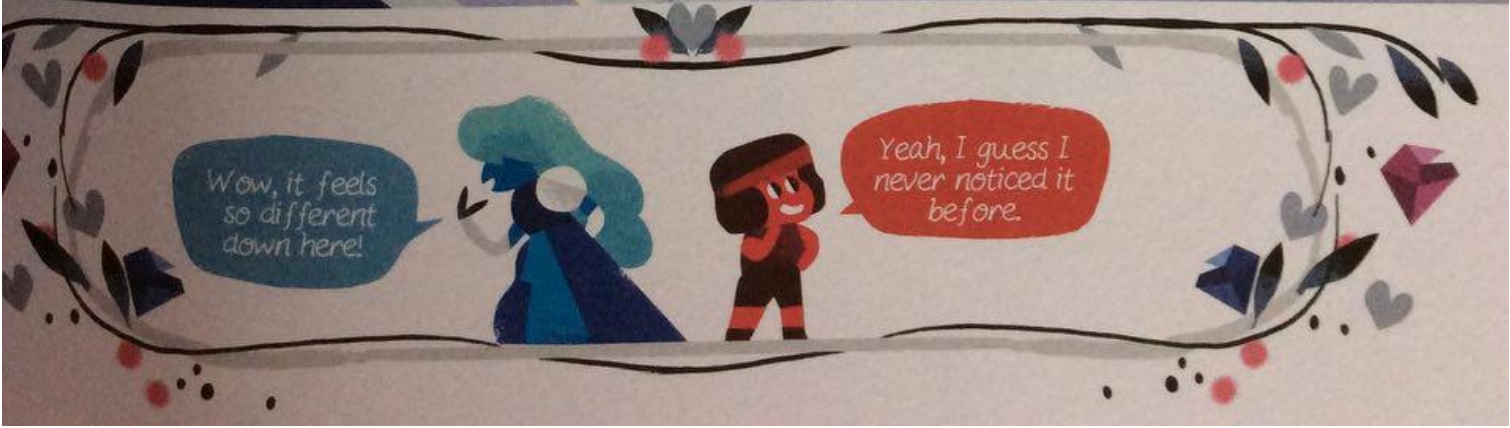




And what if Gems don't actually know what it means  
to be a Ruby or a Sapphire,  
if a Ruby can be special, and a Sapphire can be wrong?

What if no one can actually say for sure  
that anything is meant to be anything,  
and we're all supposed to figure it out in real time?

... or NOT!



Wow, it feels  
so different  
down here!

Yeah, I guess I  
never noticed it  
before.

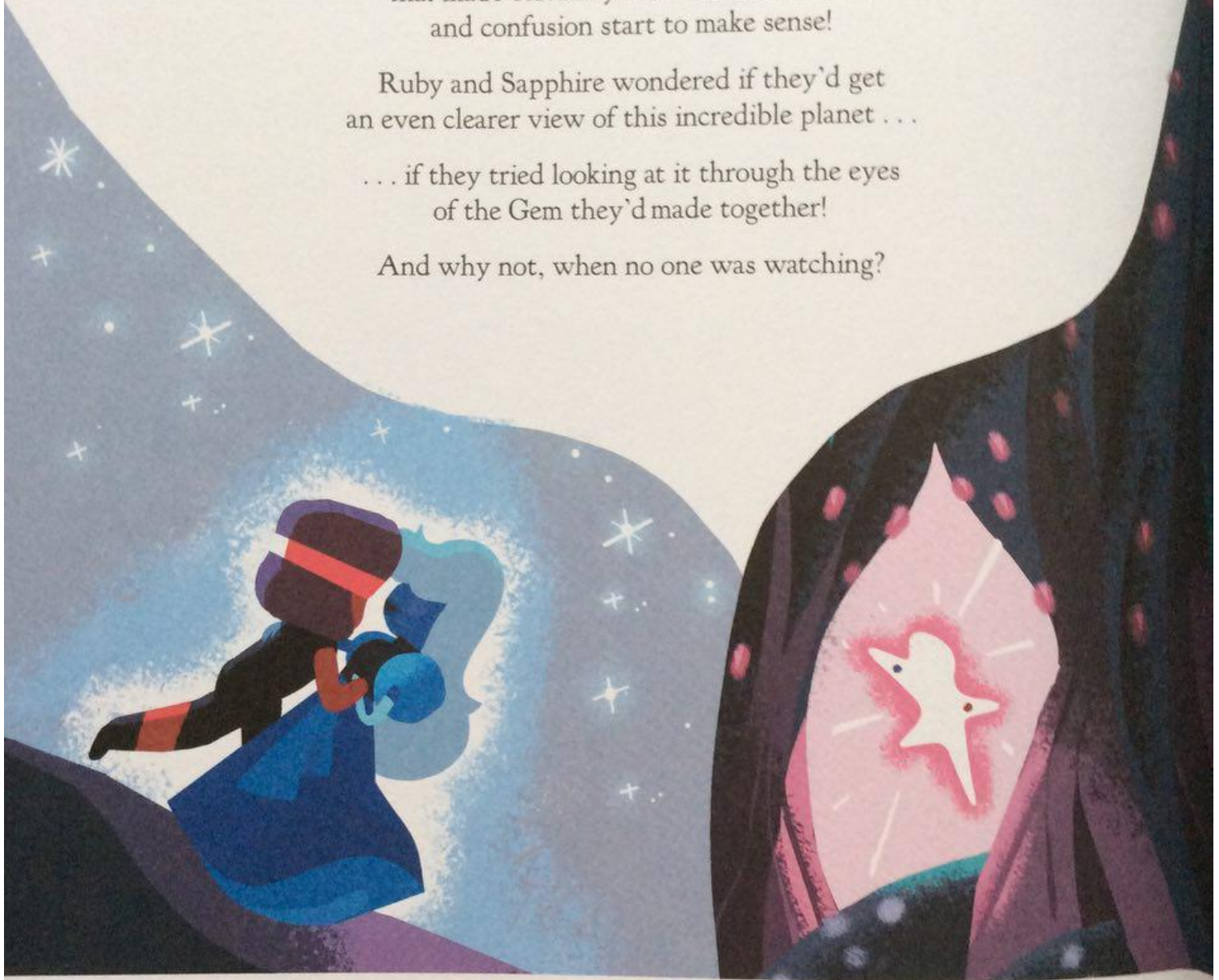


Maybe it was just this planet,  
and all its ridiculous plants and creatures  
growing every which way for no reason,  
that made certainty seem like foolishness,  
and confusion start to make sense!

Ruby and Sapphire wondered if they'd get  
an even clearer view of this incredible planet . . .

. . . if they tried looking at it through the eyes  
of the Gem they'd made together!

And why not, when no one was watching?



Hey, I'm really  
sorry I ruined  
your story.



I like this version  
better! I didn't know  
we could just . . .  
change it to whatever  
we wanted.







Except . . . someone was!


It was the leader of the rebellion, Rose Quartz.

Ruby and Sapphire's Fusion was scared at first,  
but Rose Quartz stood in awe of their discovery.

She wanted to meet this Gem who shouldn't exist!  
She wanted to hear this story's secret ending.







Suddenly faced with  
someone who seemed  
to understand her,  
Ruby and Sapphire's Fusion  
became a flood  
of questions.

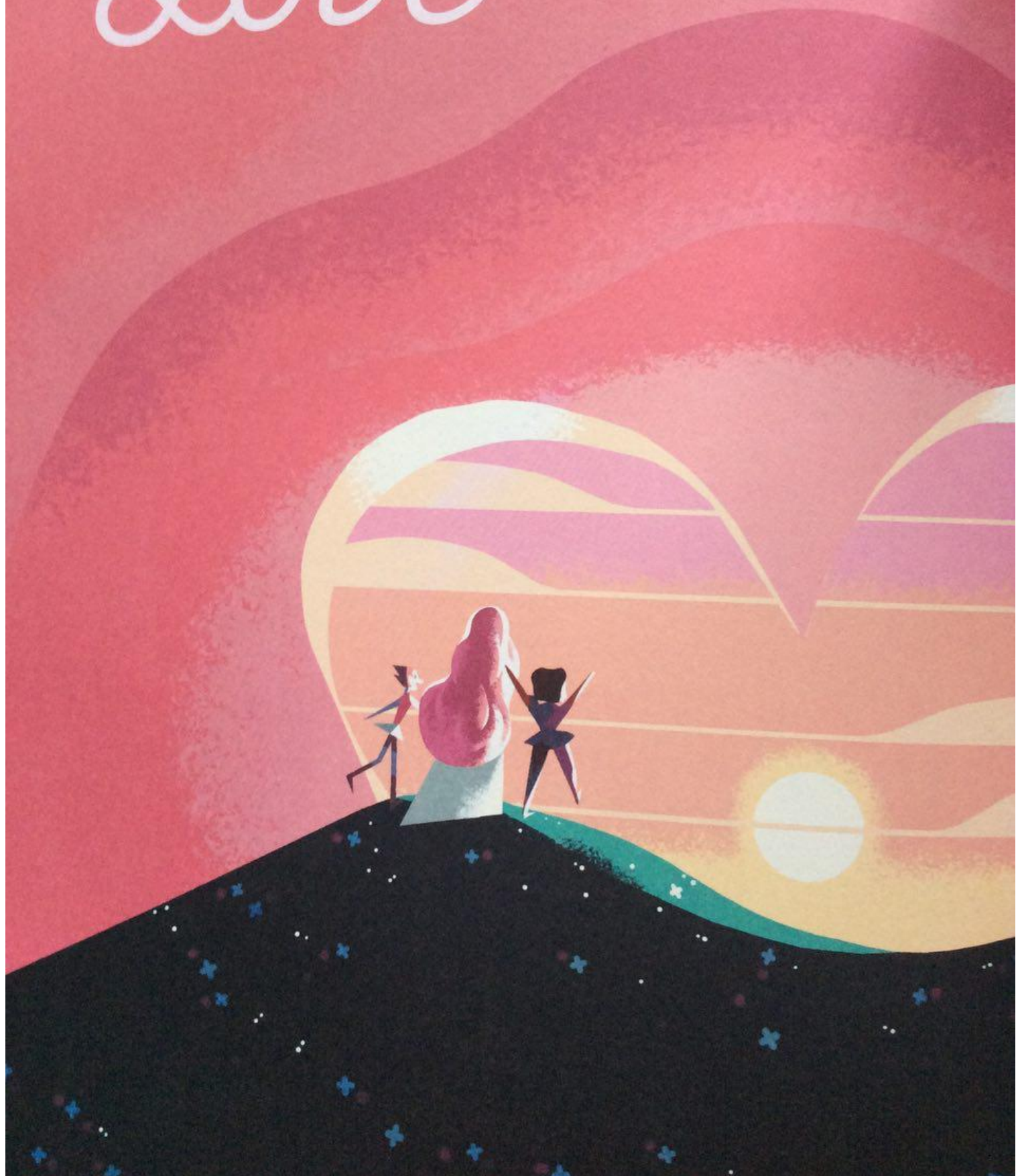
How was Ruby able  
to alter fate?  
Why was Sapphire willing  
to give up everything?  
WHO AM I?

But Rose told her to never ask  
another question.

*You already are  
the answer!*



Love







Why would a Gem turn against  
her Homeworld to protect the  
messy, pointless planet Earth?

What would make an aristocratic Gem  
risk everything for a common guard?

And how could a humble soldier alter  
the track of fate forever?

It's up to Sapphire and Ruby to  
find *The Answer*.



TM & © Cartoon Network. (s16) **CARTOON NETWORK BOOKS**

\$9.99 US  
(\$13.99 CAN)

**CARTOON NETWORK BOOKS**

[www.penguin.com/youngreaders](http://www.penguin.com/youngreaders)  
[www.penguin.com/cartoonnetwork](http://www.penguin.com/cartoonnetwork)

ISBN 978-0-399-54170-4



5 0 9 9 9 >

