

FREEDOM TO BE



ACLU
NC

Voices of Trans Youth in North Carolina
with pictures by Isabelle Sigrid



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*Voices of
Trans Youth in North Carolina*



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A note from the illustrator

It's been a privilege to get to put pictures to the words of trans and nonbinary youth here in North Carolina. As I worked on these illustrations, my heart was filled imagining a world where all trans and nonbinary kids get to live safely and proudly as themselves.

Care, safety, respect and love are necessities for all people, but they are often denied to trans youth. As an artist and an educator, I have so much gratitude for the trans and nonbinary children I have gotten to know, teach and learn from. Trans youth show us new ways of thinking and being. The trans youth in my life remind me that our actions, words and imaginations help create and nurture the world we live in.

In picturing a full and beautiful future for every trans child and in imagining what that will feel like, we help make it a reality. As you read through this book, I invite you to envision and feel the joy of the futures transgender children imagine, hope for and deserve.

Isabelle Sigrid,
Asheville, NC

The ACLU of NC would like to thank the Rainbow Collective for Change, Time Out Youth, PFLAG Charlotte, and the LGBT Center of Raleigh for their support in this project, as well as all the trans and nonbinary youth in North Carolina who shared their stories with us. This project wouldn't exist without you, and the world is a better place because you're in it.

The following book is inspired by the experiences and stories of trans and nonbinary youth in North Carolina that were collected by the ACLU of NC via interviews. Illustrations do not represent the youth interviewed and any likenesses are coincidental.



***Freedom
to Be...***

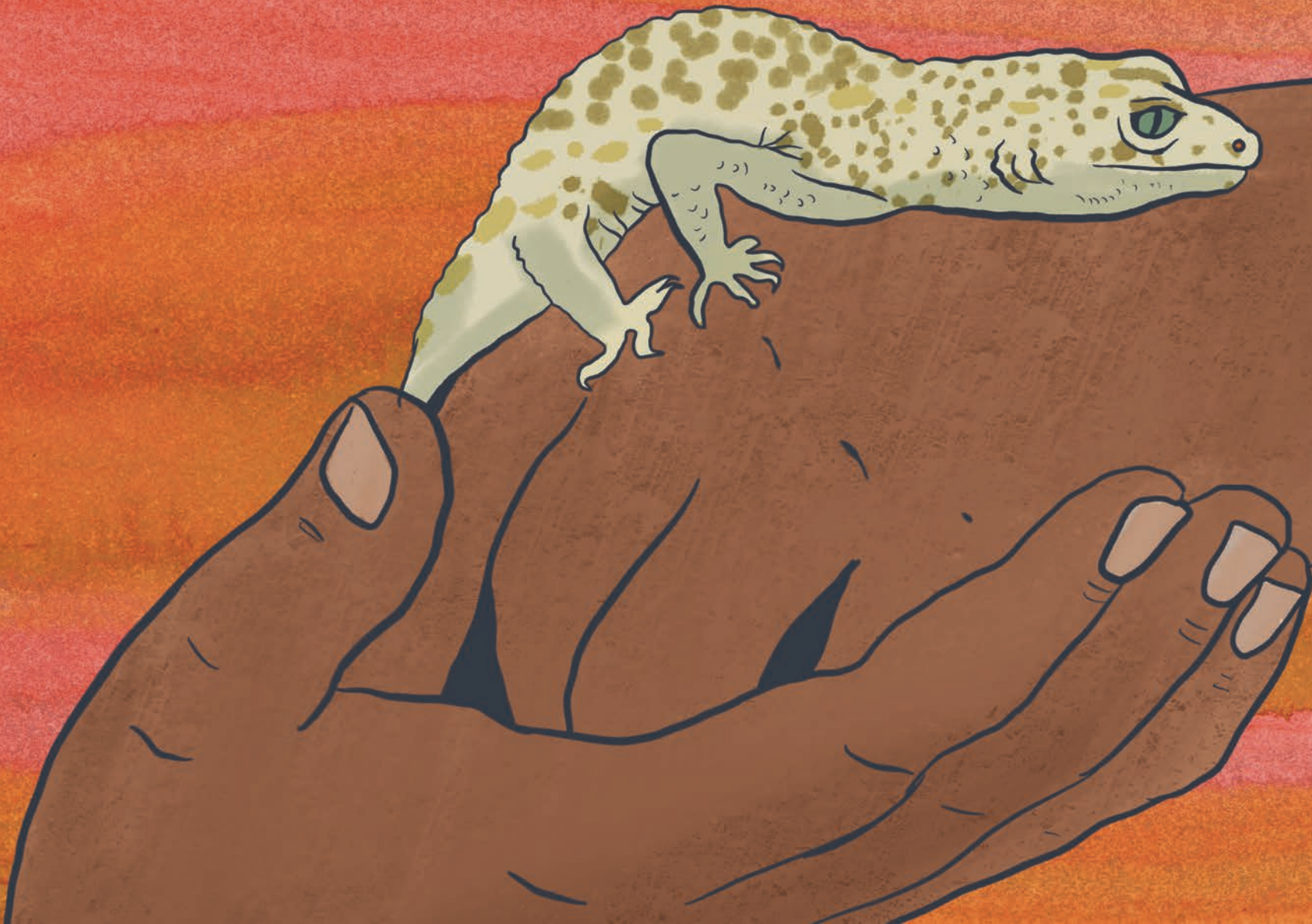
*Freedom to be gentle like an
elephant but fierce when I
need to be.*



*Freedom to be like a cat who can jump,
climb, see in the dark and live nine lives.*



*Freedom to be the guardian of
my leopard gecko.*



*Freedom to be inspired by
all the colors in the world.*



Freedom to be lying
in the sun, thinking
about life.





Freedom to be
a painter of
landscapes.

Freedom to be a lover of pop music.



Freedom to be a
choreographer.



Freedom to be...

a dancer.





PROD. ME

DIR. ME

SCENE

1

TAKE

2

DATE

11/5

Freedom to be a
writer, director,
and producer.



*Freedom to be
an actor.*



Freedom to be a reader.



**Freedom to be a
marine biologist.**





Freedom to be
thinking about
where I want to
live in the future...
mountains?
Beach?



**Freedom to be
cheered up by my friends
who make me laugh.**



Freedom to
be the
recipient
of a
special
award at
camp.

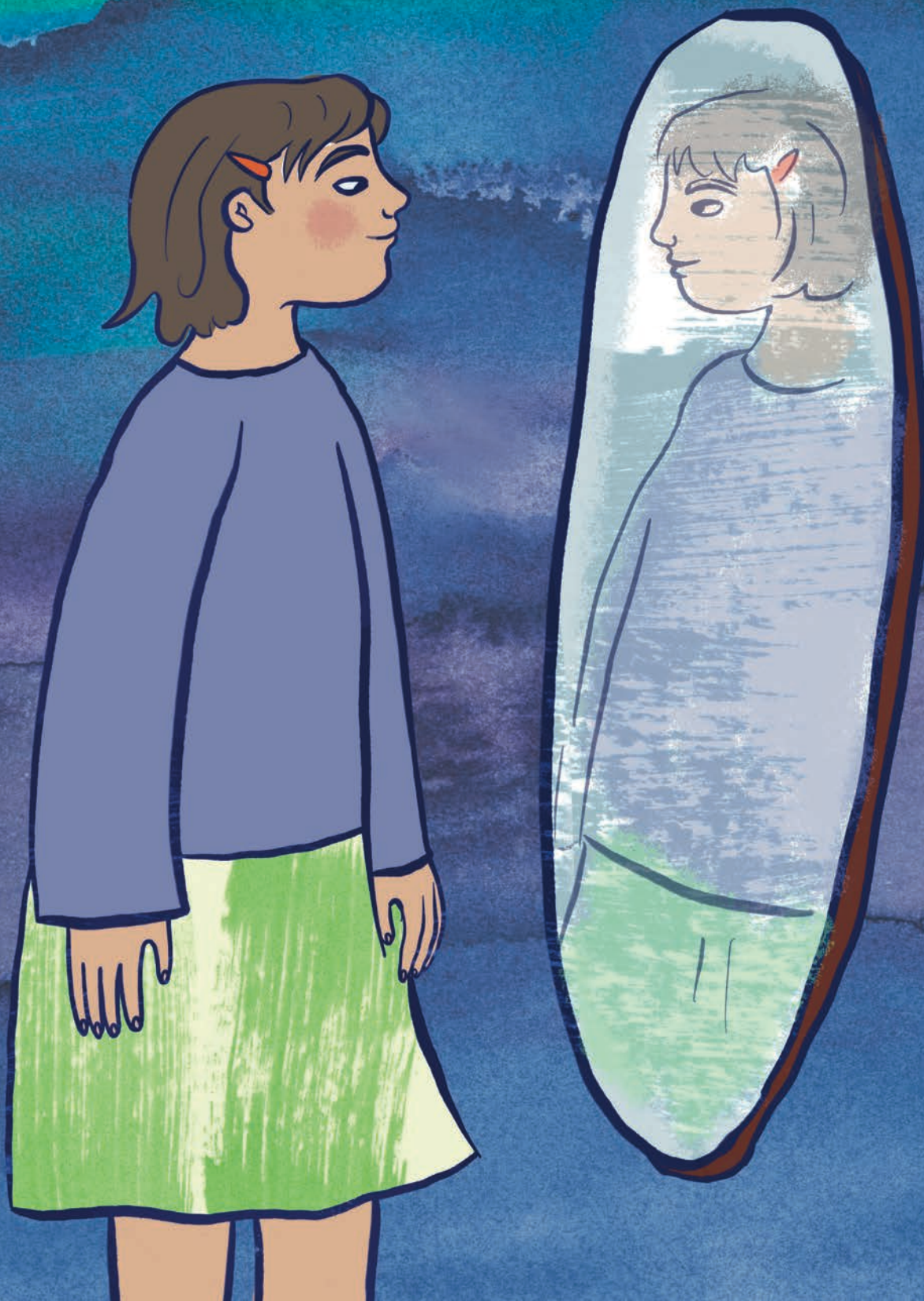


Freedom to be loved by my parents.

Freedom
to be
non-binary.



Freedom
to be
transgender.



Freedom to be safe.



**Freedom
to be**

ME.



Freedom
to be
happy.





The fight for transgender rights is not over until every trans and nonbinary person is able to live their life fully, completely, and freely. The ACLU of NC will continue to advocate for and uplift the voices of the transgender and nonbinary community, as well as their freedom to be.

For more information and to access our Trans Youth Freedom to Be animated shorts, please visit the www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/en/freedomtobe or through the QR code below.





ACLU North Carolina