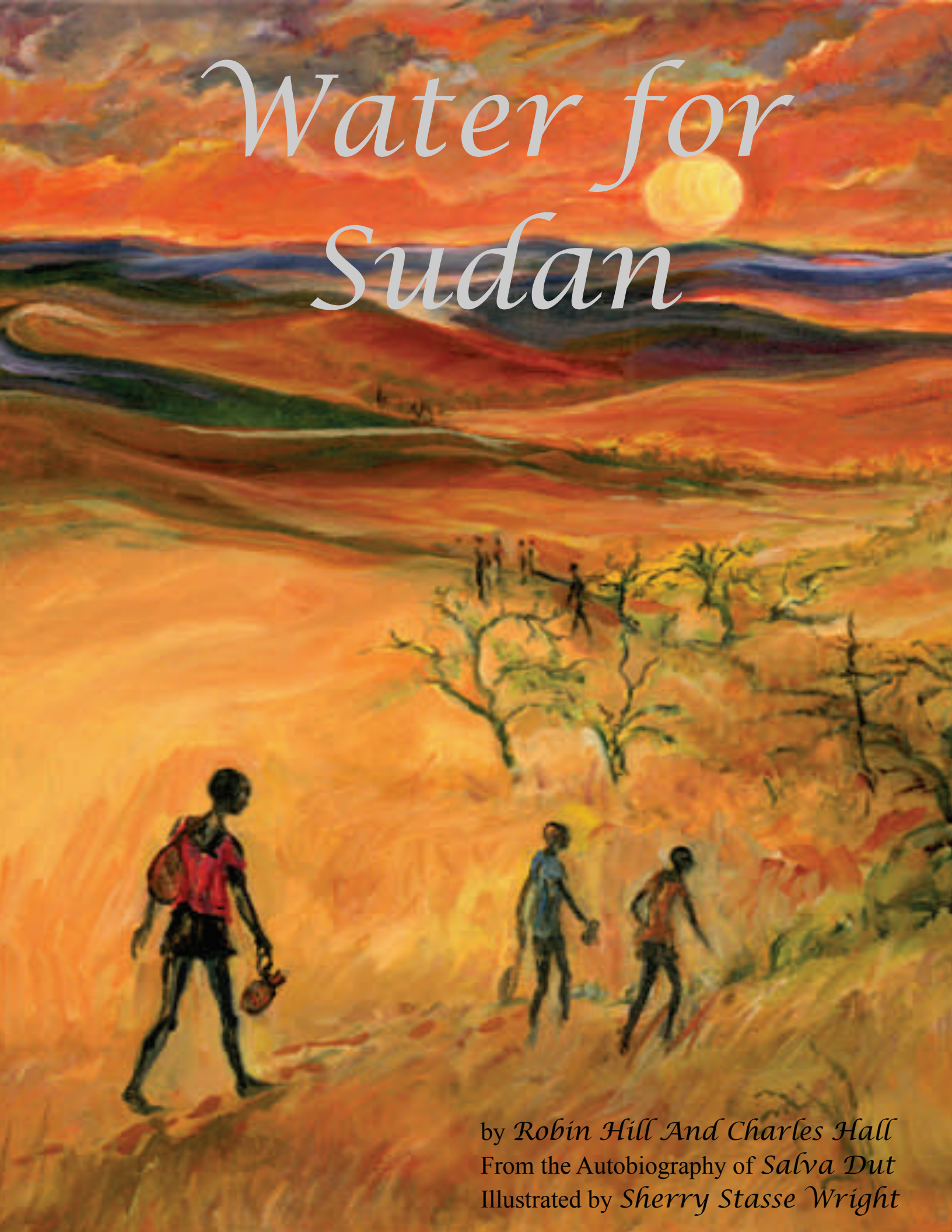
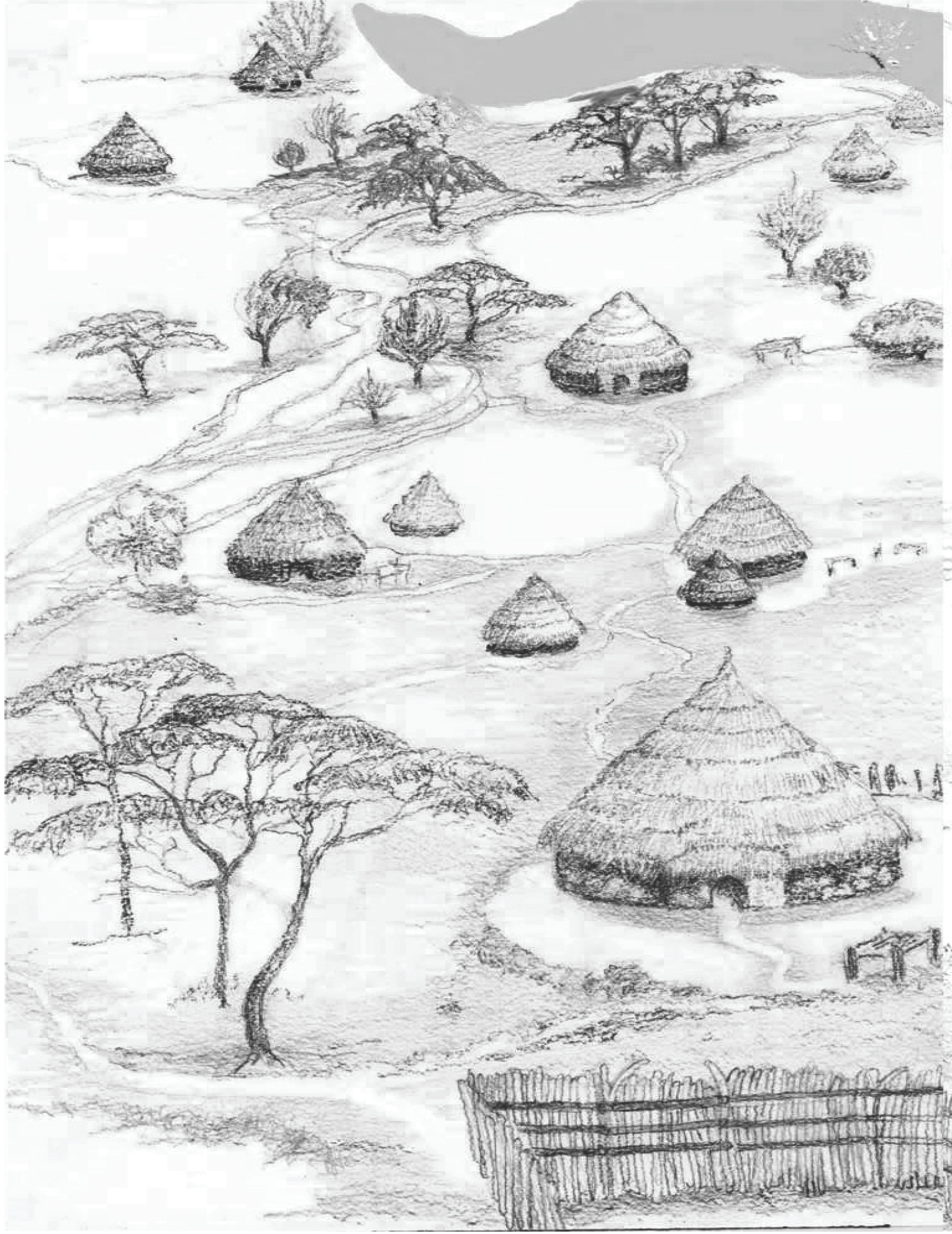

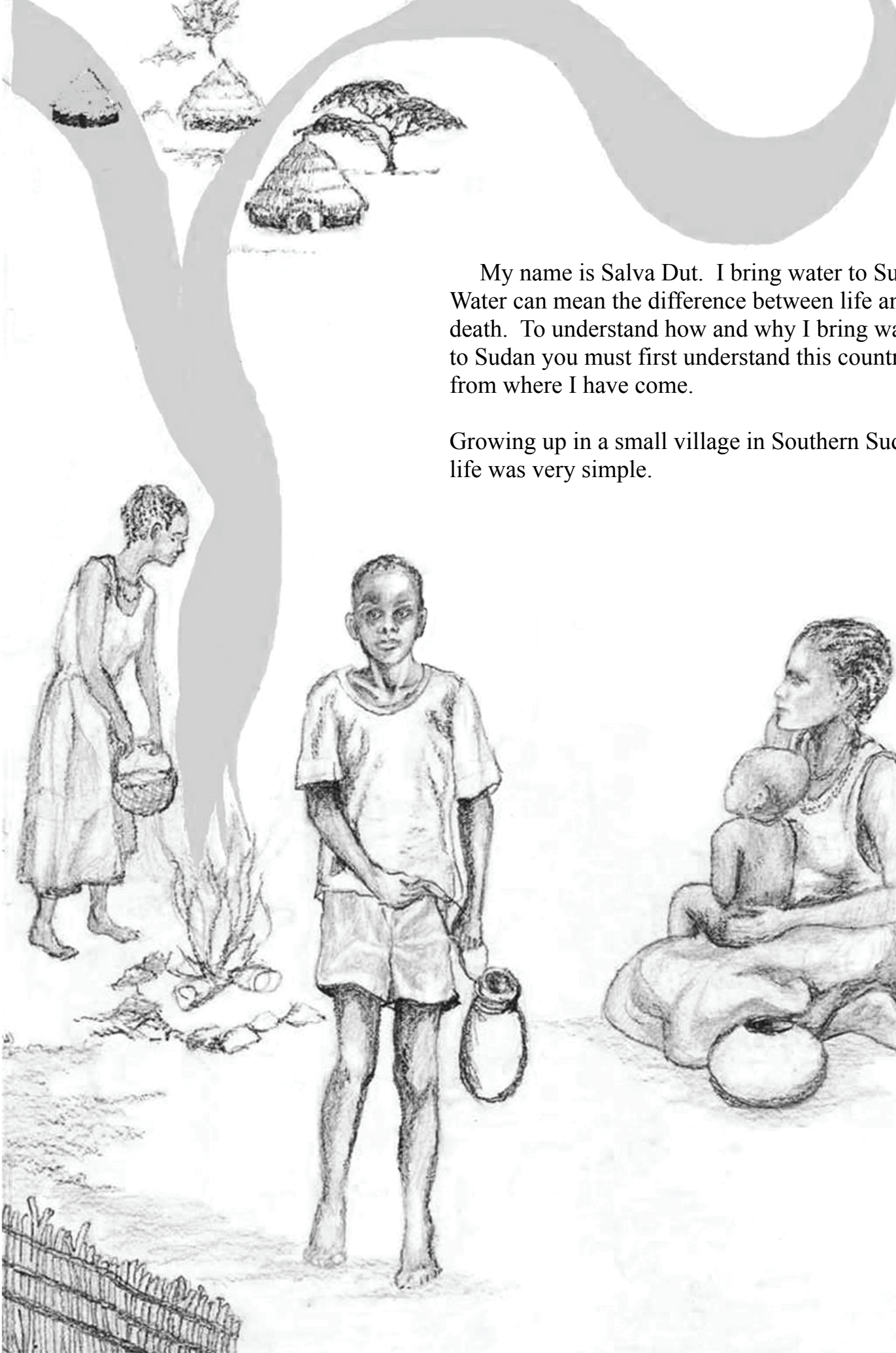


Water for Sudan



by *Robin Hill And Charles Hall*
From the Autobiography of *Salva Dut*
Illustrated by *Sherry Stasse Wright*





My name is Salva Dut. I bring water to Sudan. Water can mean the difference between life and death. To understand how and why I bring water to Sudan you must first understand this country from where I have come.

Growing up in a small village in Southern Sudan, life was very simple.



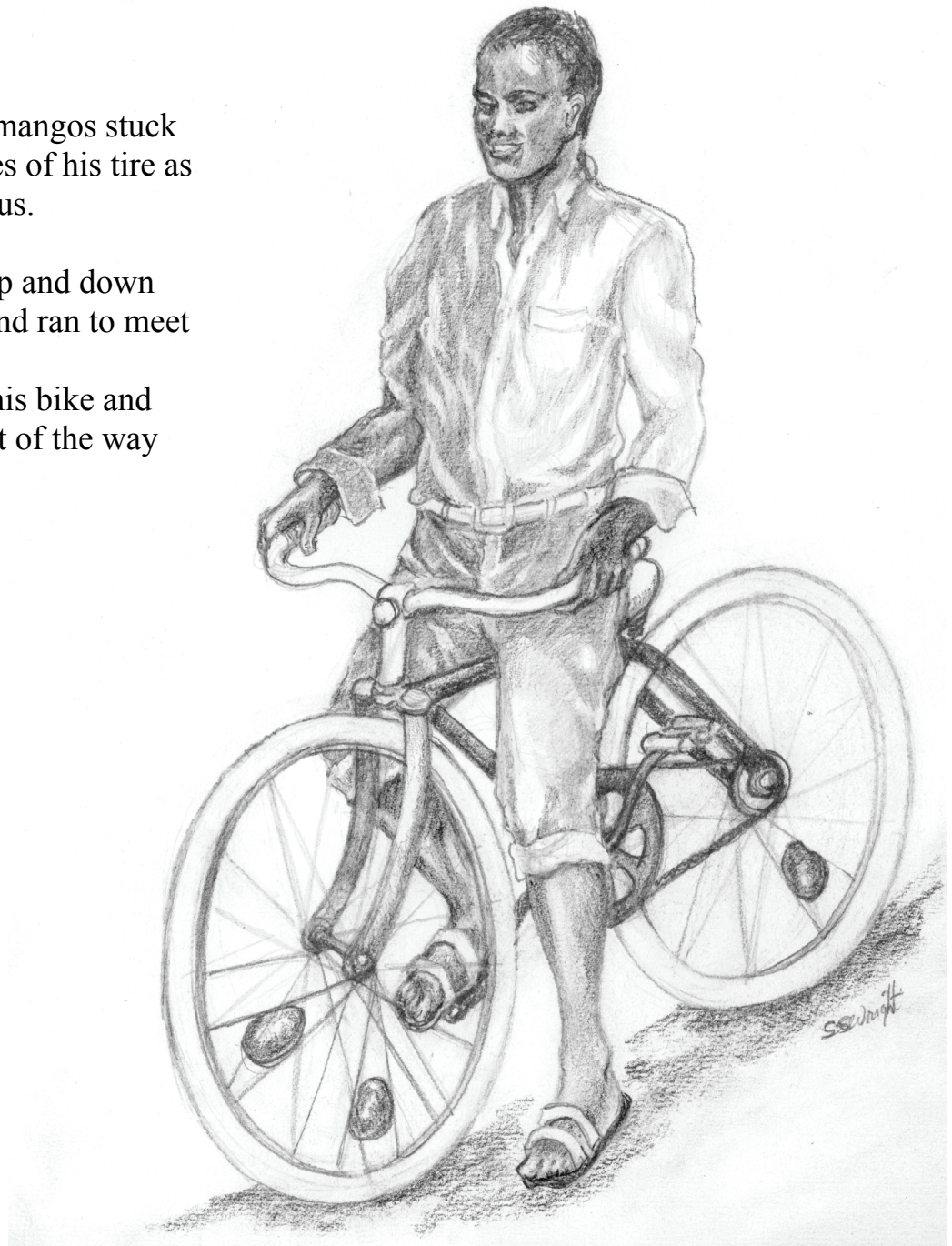
Outside our mud hut chickens rested in the shade of a big tree to escape the heat of the day. My mother started a small fire to boil beans for dinner.

From a distance, I saw the dusty trail my father's bike made as he peddled up the road.

He carried mangos stuck between the spokes of his tire as a special treat for us.

I jumped up and down with excitement and ran to meet him.

He got off his bike and we walked the rest of the way home together.



The ground was dry and cracked. Dust covered my feet as we walked. “Father, when will the rains return? It has been so dry, everything is dying.”

Smiling, my father replied, “Salva, you have seen that we have wet and dry seasons. In the wet season there is rain, the grasses grow, flowers bloom, and fruit fills the trees. In the dry season most of the water dries up and begins an incredible journey. It travels to places far away and joins up with other drops of water. One day those drops of water will return to our land and working together they will bring life again. Water is truly a gift.”

I did not know it then, but my life would soon follow a similar path.



Dear Readers,

My name is Salva Dut. I was born in a small village called Lounariik in Tonj County southern Sudan. I stayed in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya for many years before I came to America. I give great thanks to the community of Rochester, New York, people of the United States, and around the world that joined me make my project to help the people of Sudan come true, Water for Sudan Inc.

I am so grateful for the education that I received which I used to help my people back home. I overcame all the difficult situations in my life because of the hope, faith, and perseverance that I had. I would not have made it without those three things. My message to all children is to stay calm when things are hard or not going right for you. You can get through it if you have hope, faith, and perseverance. Also, value your education and give back whenever you can to make life better for others.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Salva Dut', written in a cursive style.

Salva Dut

Water for Sudan's mission is simple: drill borehole wells which bring safe drinking water to the people in Southern Sudan's remote villages, transforming lives in the process. This mission is inspired and led by its founder, former "Lost Boy" Salva Dut.

As Salva says, "You never know which child will change the world someday...maybe a child in this corner of the world. It's very important to do this work...to show them the path where they could go."

As of 2009, Water for Sudan has successfully drilled 43 borehole wells, bringing clean, safe water to tens of thousands of people in Southern Sudan's remote villages.

People in the villages where Water for Sudan operates become partners in the process of making safe, drinkable water available there. Villagers provide free, "sweat equity" labor, from unloading trucks and carrying supplies to lugging heavy bags of rocks then pounding them into needed gravel.



Salva Dut, founder of Water for Sudan

Village elders help determine a well's location and appoint one of their people to maintain the completed well and its pump. The Water for Sudan team trains that well manager and provides spare parts.

The result is a village renewed by its own efforts with increased confidence that its people can continue to transform their own lives.



To learn more about Water for Sudan, visit Waterforsudan.org