

PREVIEW



*The Bruised Apple*

*Written and Illustrated by  
Sarah Elizabeth*

The Bruised Apple (c) 2023

# PREVIEW

*To You.*

The Bruised Apple  
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# PREVIEW

*We pick up this bruised apple's story  
as it got set in a market's bin  
with other apples, shiny and red,  
ready and waiting to be eaten.*



A person passing by picked it up,  
but, on seeing our apple's big bruise,  
she swiftly set it down, for she thought,  
*What a bruise! Surely one I refuse.*

PREVIEW



# PREVIEW

The next who thought, *I want that apple,*  
saw the same bruise and put it back too,  
purposely placing it with its bruise  
facing up. Now passersby cried, "EWW!"



# PREVIEW

*So each person chose other apples,  
and when they were pulled out from below,  
our apple would fall—tumbling, rolling,  
and forming small spots that'd also show.*



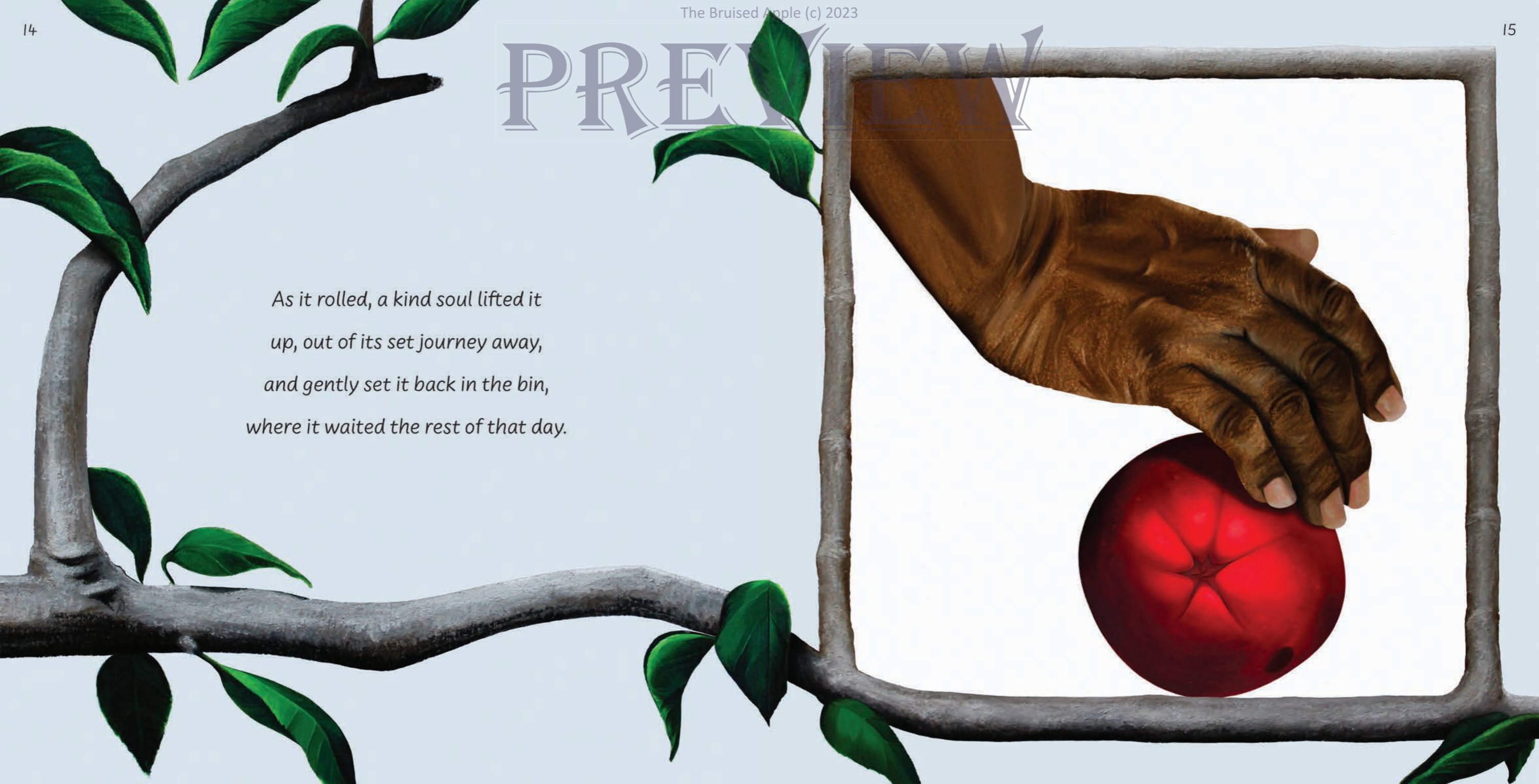
PREVIEW

*Once, it even bounced out of the bin  
and plunged helplessly down to more hurt.  
But, before hitting the ground, it rolled  
off a leg and just picked up some dirt.*



PREVIEW

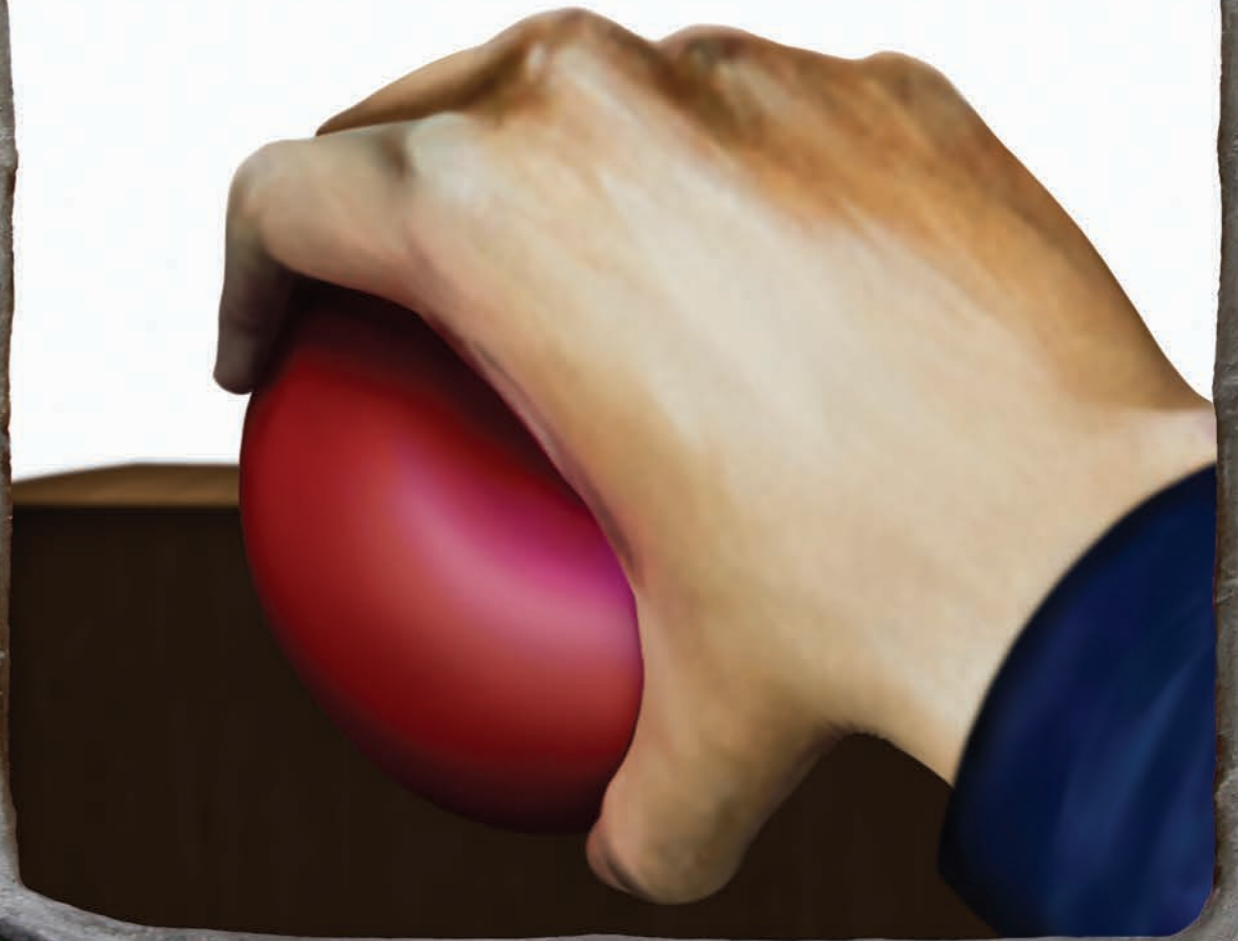
*As it rolled, a kind soul lifted it  
up, out of its set journey away,  
and gently set it back in the bin,  
where it waited the rest of that day.*





# PREVIEW

*When night set in, just a few were left.  
Each bore bruises and some sported spots,  
but the reasons they'd been rejected  
did not stop their rescue; all got boxed!*



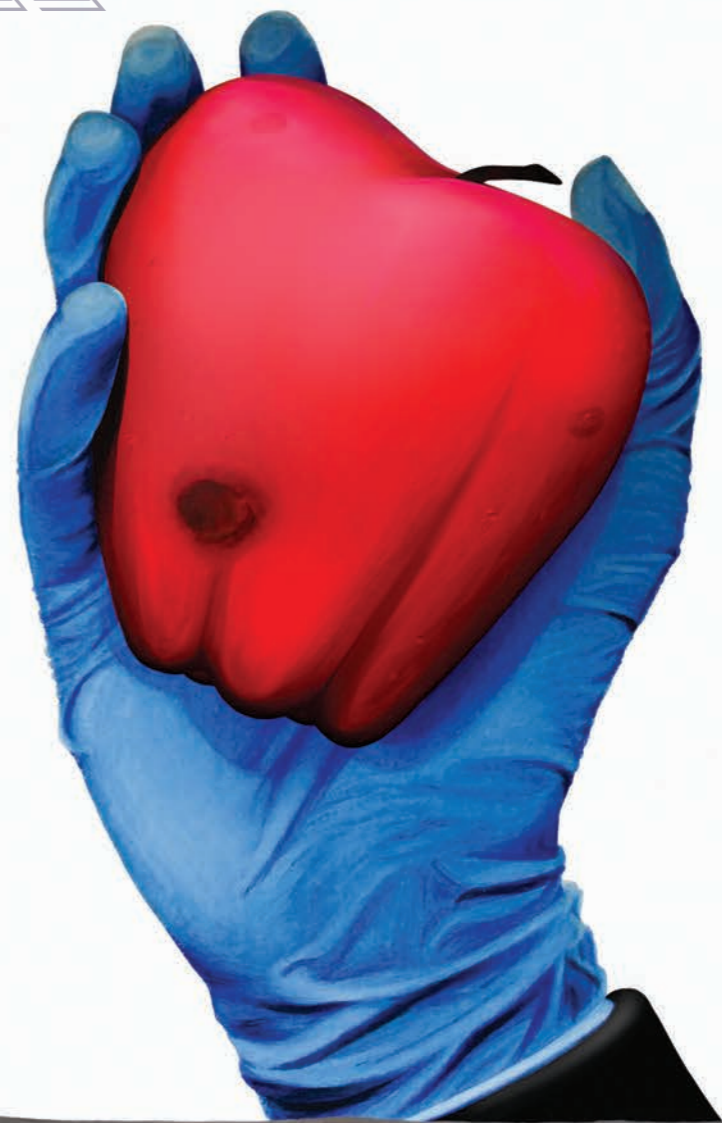
PREVIEW

*In with the apples, there also went  
broccoli, berries, and veggie roots;  
all ready, now, to get shipped out with  
a special purpose for this produce!*



# PREVIEW

*Off, they were carried, to a food bank,  
where our apple was held briefly by  
someone putting care into practice  
to keep safe food the hungry's supply.*



# PREVIEW

*Now another box held our apple.  
With it, a load of food was amassed  
as boxes were sorted, packed, and stacked.  
Their time to be delivered came fast!*



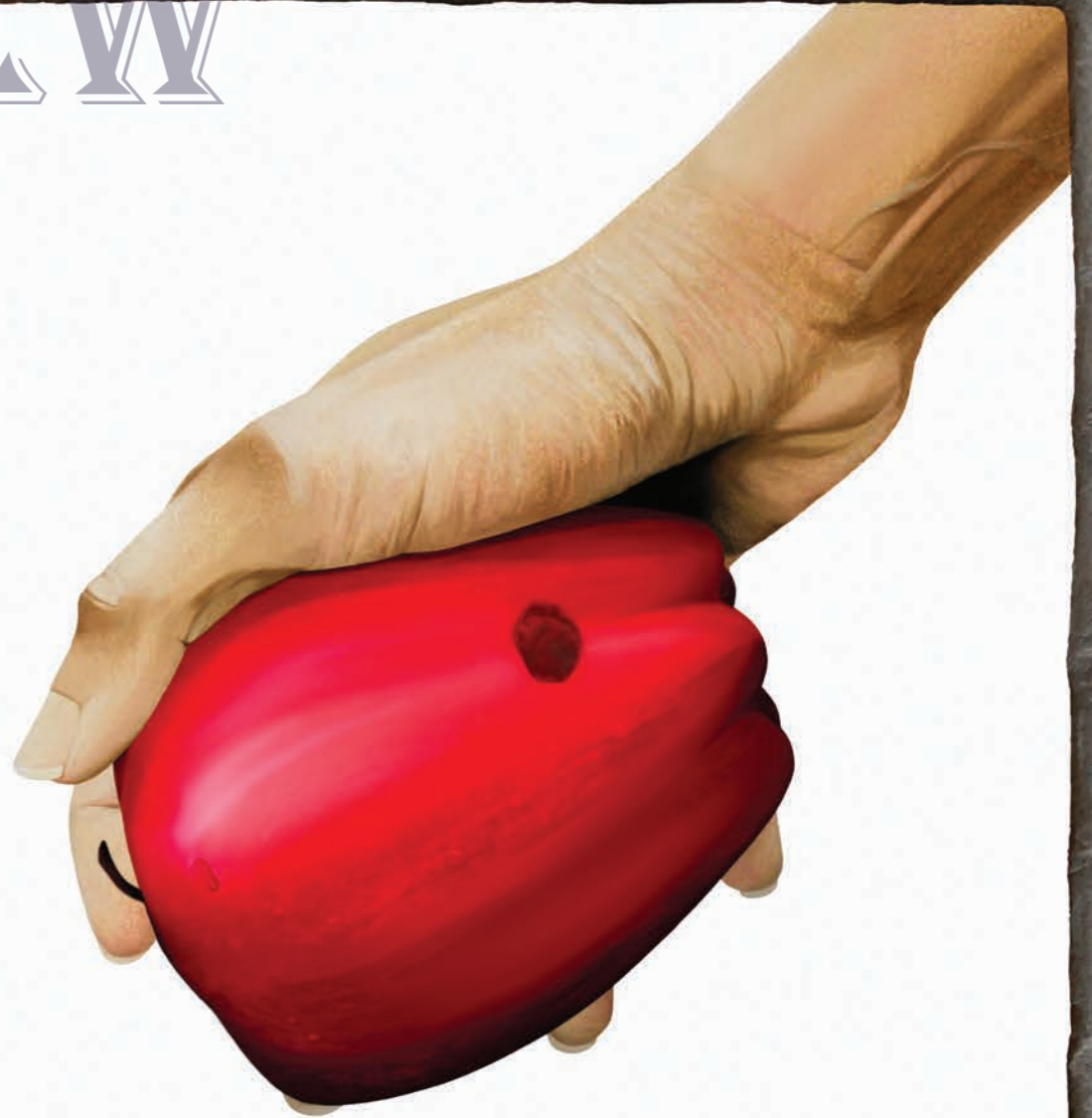
# PREVIEW

*They were sent to a food pantry, where,  
by the helping hand of another,  
our newly shined apple was put out  
and was soon picked up by a mother.*



# PREVIEW

*She set the apple in a basket  
with other food that would meet some needs  
felt by her small, hungry family  
anew every day as on life speeds.*



# PREVIEW

*Later that day, she washed their apple,  
then ate its red peel and cut the rest.*

*When she gave it to her boy, he said,  
"Thanks, Mom! Have I told you, you're the best?!"*



# PREVIEW

*He caught a glimpse of her smile starting  
but setting his focus on his feast  
let him imagine that her smile reached  
her eyes, which the weight of worry creased.*





PREVIEW

*"I'm sorry, God", she prayed, "I'm trying."*  
By faith, His Word reassured, My child,  
keep trusting me through this hard trial;  
my grace will keep all the reconciled.



# PREVIEW

*Then a genuine smile lit her face  
when her boy, with each and every bite,  
would "Mmm" over the crunch and do a  
silly wiggle to show his delight.*



PREVIEW

*This apple was so juicy and sweet!*

*He was grateful it was his to eat.*



# PREVIEW

the end  
of  
The Bruised Apple

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Pages 5, 17, 19, 21, and 39:

Emily Capellari gave me her hands as references for pages 5, 17, and 19; Mary Ann Wilson gave hers for pages 21 and 39. Thank you both for giving me more than your hands! And for that, thank you to all of my family and friends too.

