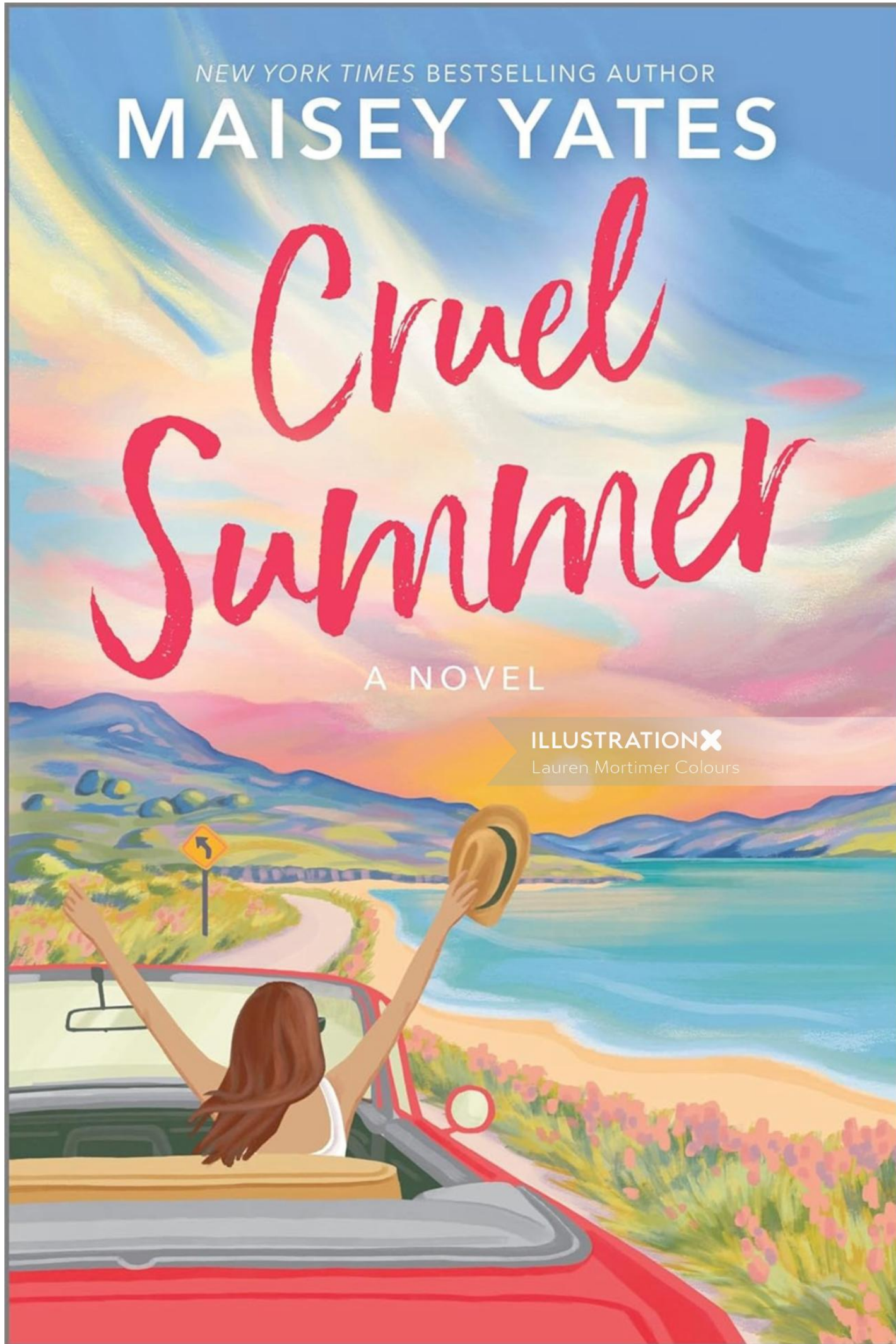


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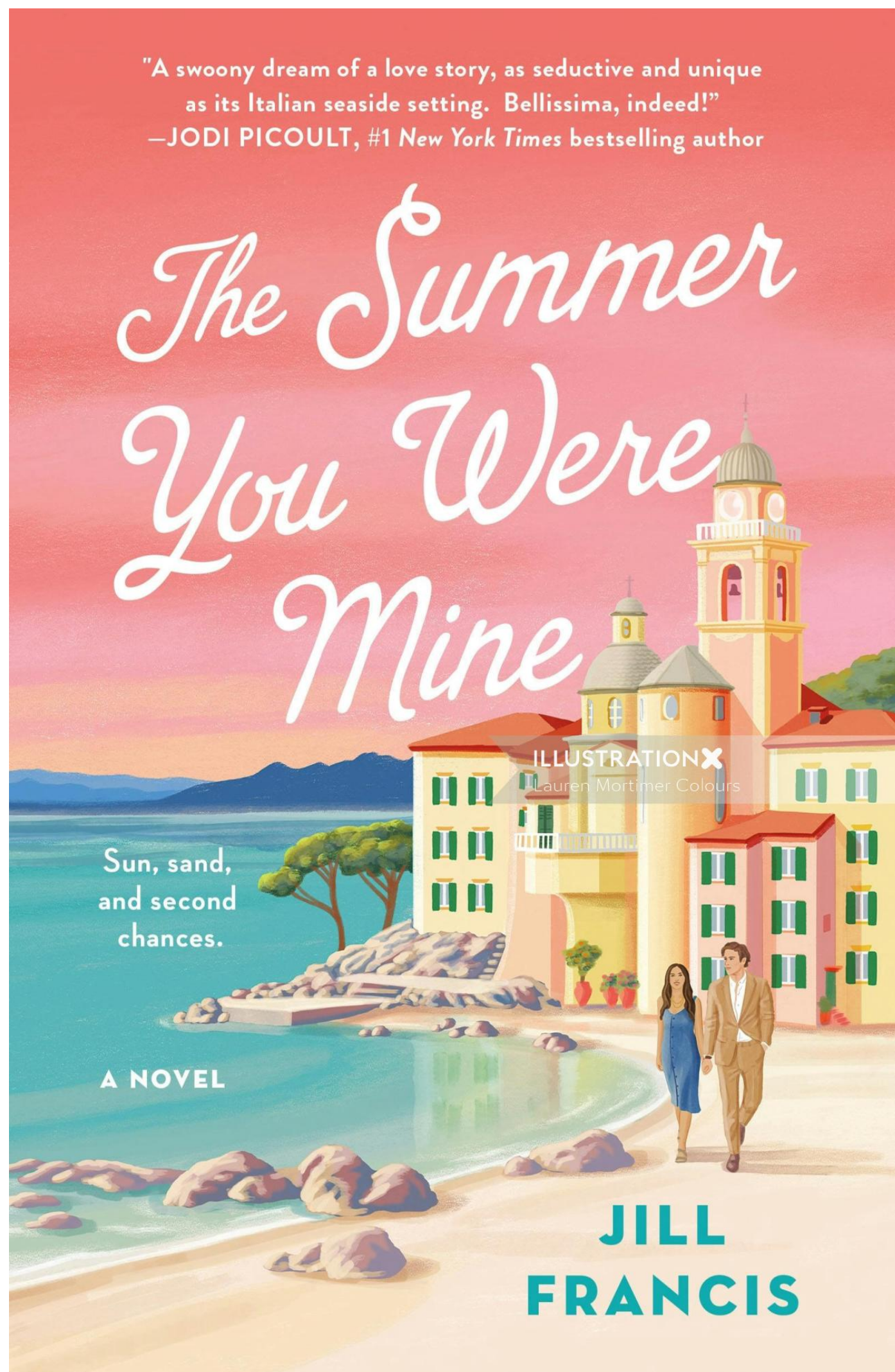
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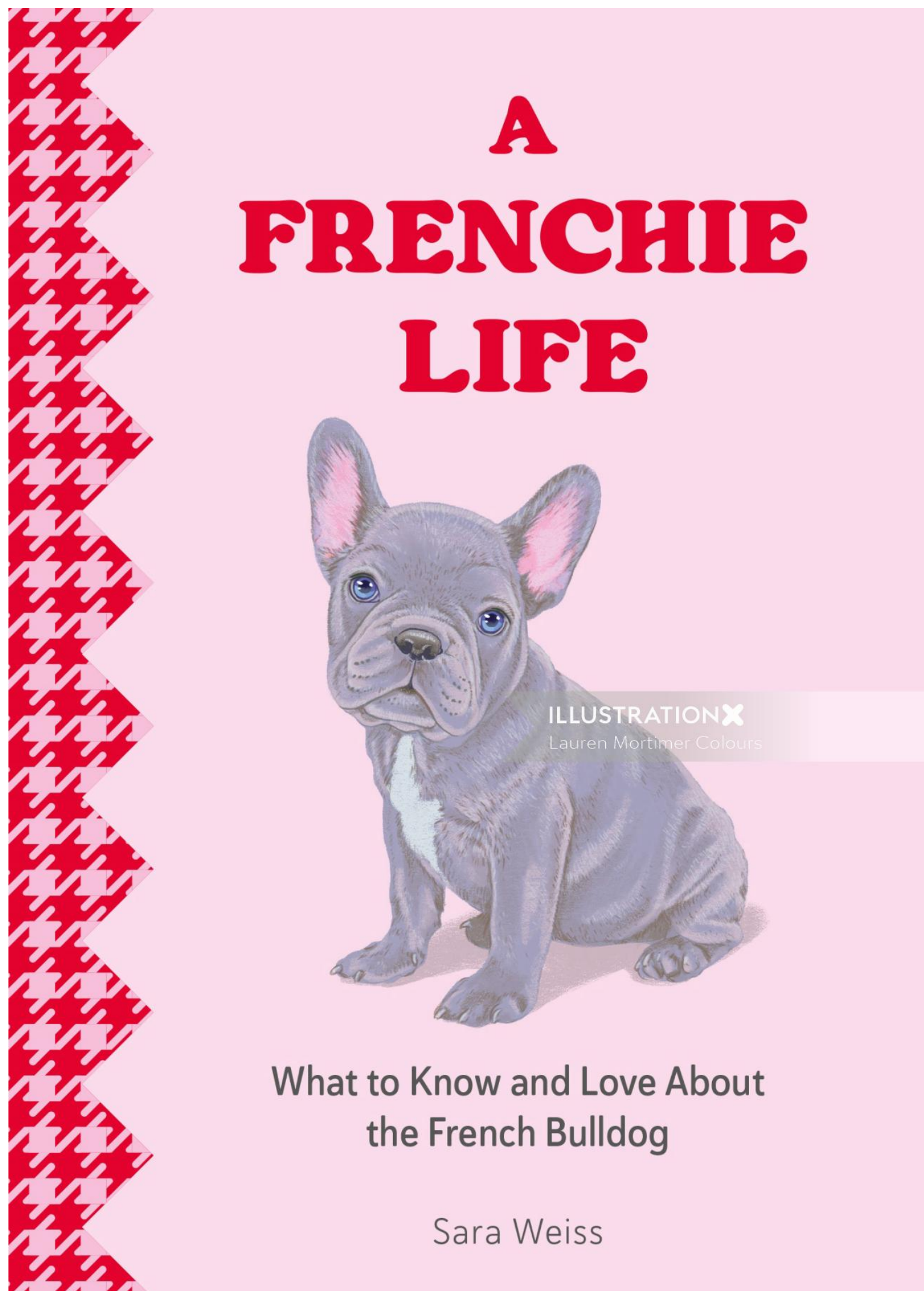
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from nurturer to encourager

Affirm your adult children
without overstepping
or lecturing

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **LAUREN MORTIMER**

OUR ADULT SON'S job-hunting search was proving to be far more difficult than we'd imagined. After each interview, he would be in the top group of candidates, only to find out, once again, that he didn't get the job. His confidence was waning, and he was beginning to wonder if there was a job out there for him.

No matter how old our kids are, as parents we still want to swoop in and save the day, fix their hurts, protect them from pain and help them be successful. But once they enter adulthood, that's no longer our job. They must learn lessons the hard way, develop resilience and figure out how to make life work when things are hard. What we *can* do, however, is be their No. 1 cheerleaders. That's a job we never grow out of.

When our kids launch into their adult years, it can feel as

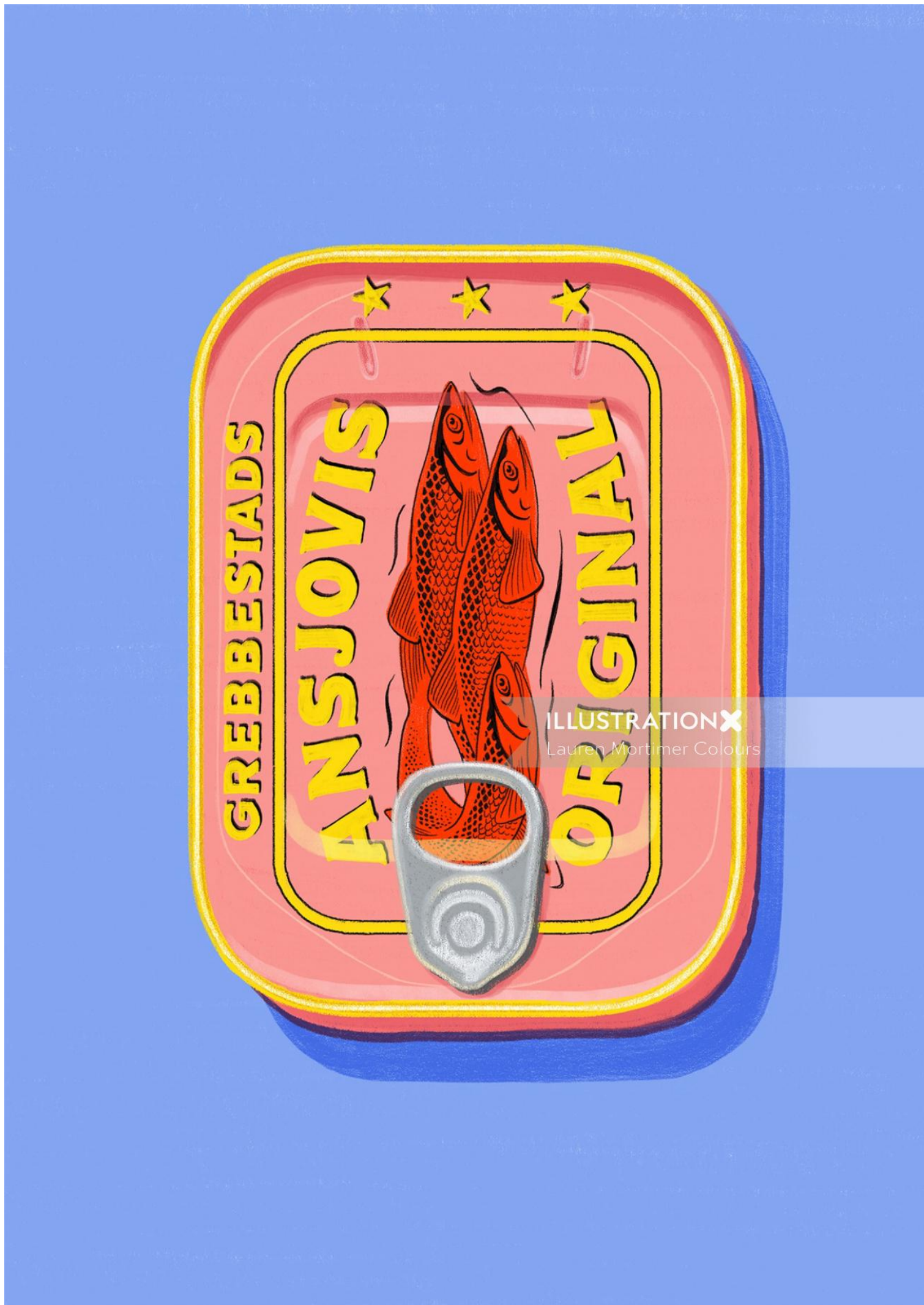
though we're no longer needed. The truth is that we *are* needed, but our roles change in their lives. The best part is that we can still offer them a listening ear, hope-filled words of encouragement and reminders that God has created them *on purpose for a purpose*. He sees and knows them, and so do we.

No matter their age, our adult kids desperately need our affirmation and encouragement. That's exactly what our son needed from us during that long season of job hunting, though somehow it didn't quite seem like enough.

As a mother of five grown children, I've discovered some helpful tips for encouraging adult children without being pushy or overstepping bounds. As you affirm your kids, here are some important reminders:

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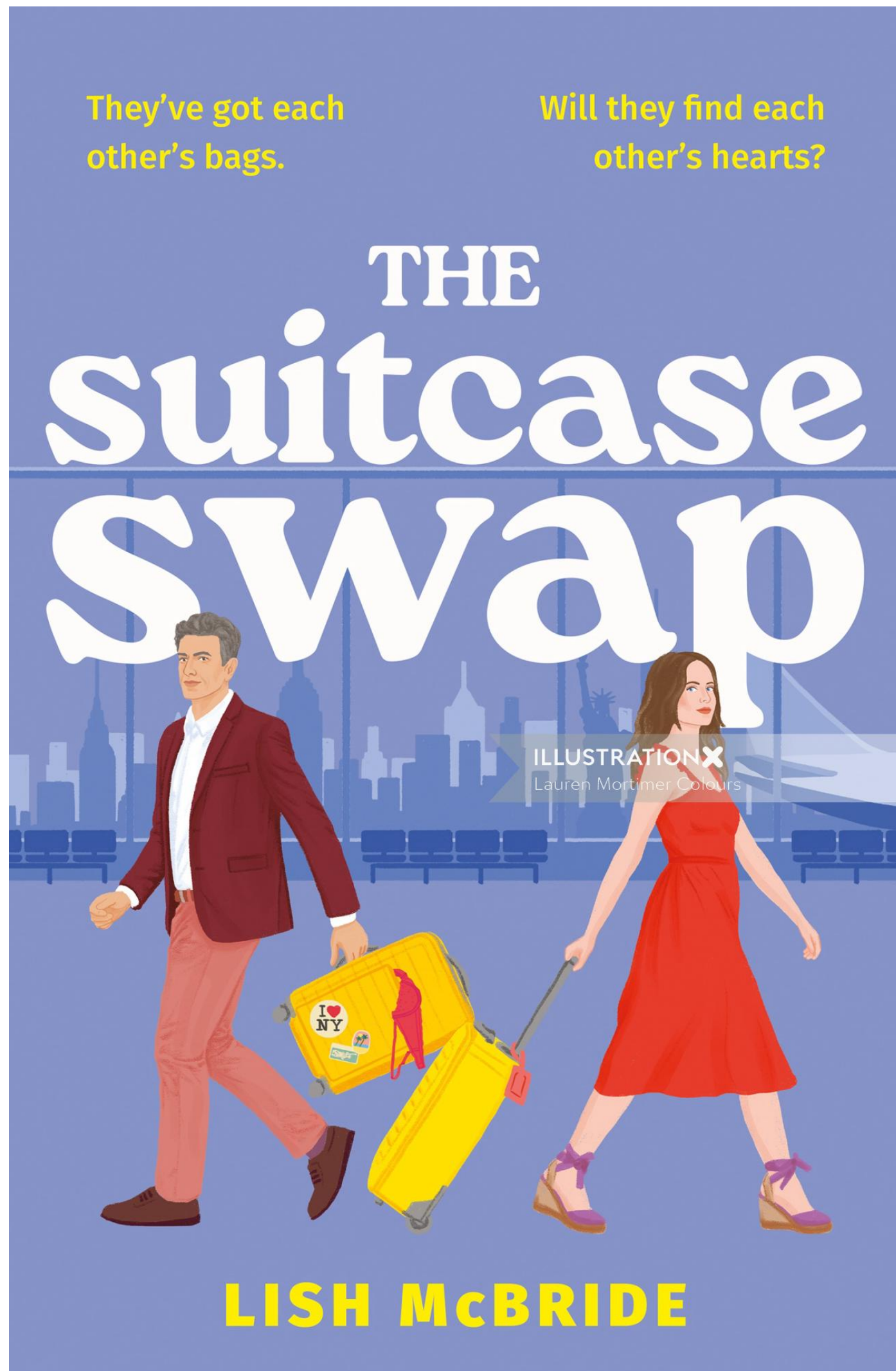
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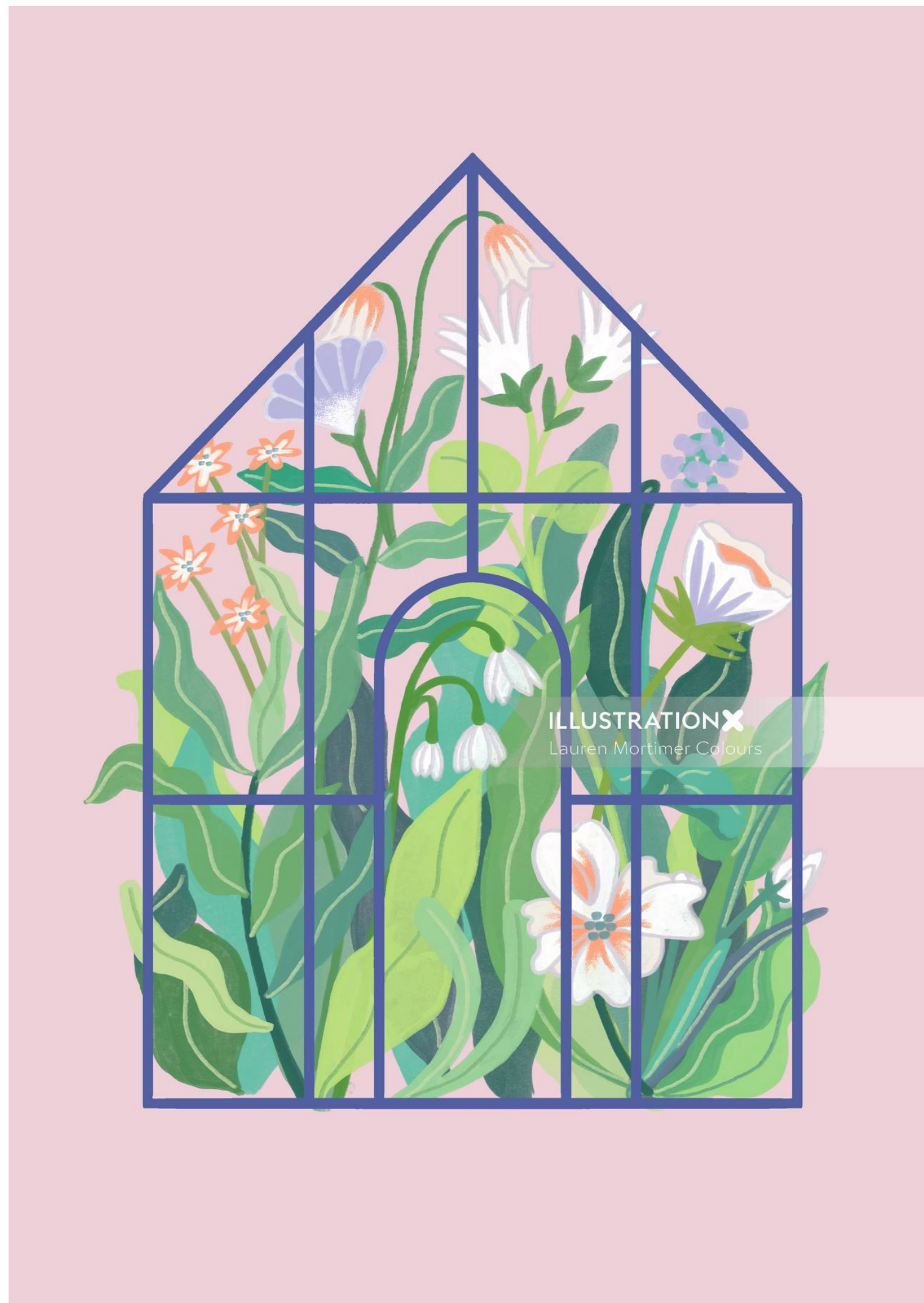
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