true colors
written and illustrated by faith kim
There once was a girl who lived in a city of black and white.
This city was full of colorless buildings, colorless skies, and colorless people who all looked the same.
This girl, Alice, had a secret.

She had color inside of her, but she was afraid of it.
Alice didn't want to stand out from everyone else.

In order to hide her color, she washed it off every day.
Alice hid like this for years and years on end.

But one day, her mother told her that their family was moving.
The girl was scared of leaving the place she had known all her life.

She was scared of going to another place where she knew she wouldn't belong again.
When she arrived, however, what Alice saw was unlike anything she had expected.
This city was full of life and color. She thought it was beautiful.
No matter how pretty Alice thought it was, she still felt out of place.

"Will it be the same no matter where I go?" she thought.
It was Alice's first day at a new school, and she felt just as uncomfortable as she thought she would.

Everyone stared at her with curiosity.
As Alice looked around the classroom, she noticed how everyone had a color of their own.

A bright and sunny yellow,

and a cool, calm blue.
No one in the class hid their colors like she did.

"Maybe it's okay to show mine too," thought Alice.
"Alice, I'm sure you have a color of your own. Why don't you share it with everyone?" said the teacher.
"Alright," Alice replied shyly.

Her classmates gasped in admiration when they saw the brilliant red.
A green colored boy named Ryan approached her with a drawing.

"I'd really love if you could help finish this drawing," he said.
"Some of our classmates already helped out, but I think it could use your color too."
"That red is uniquely yours, you see. When you stain the world with your color, it becomes even more beautiful."