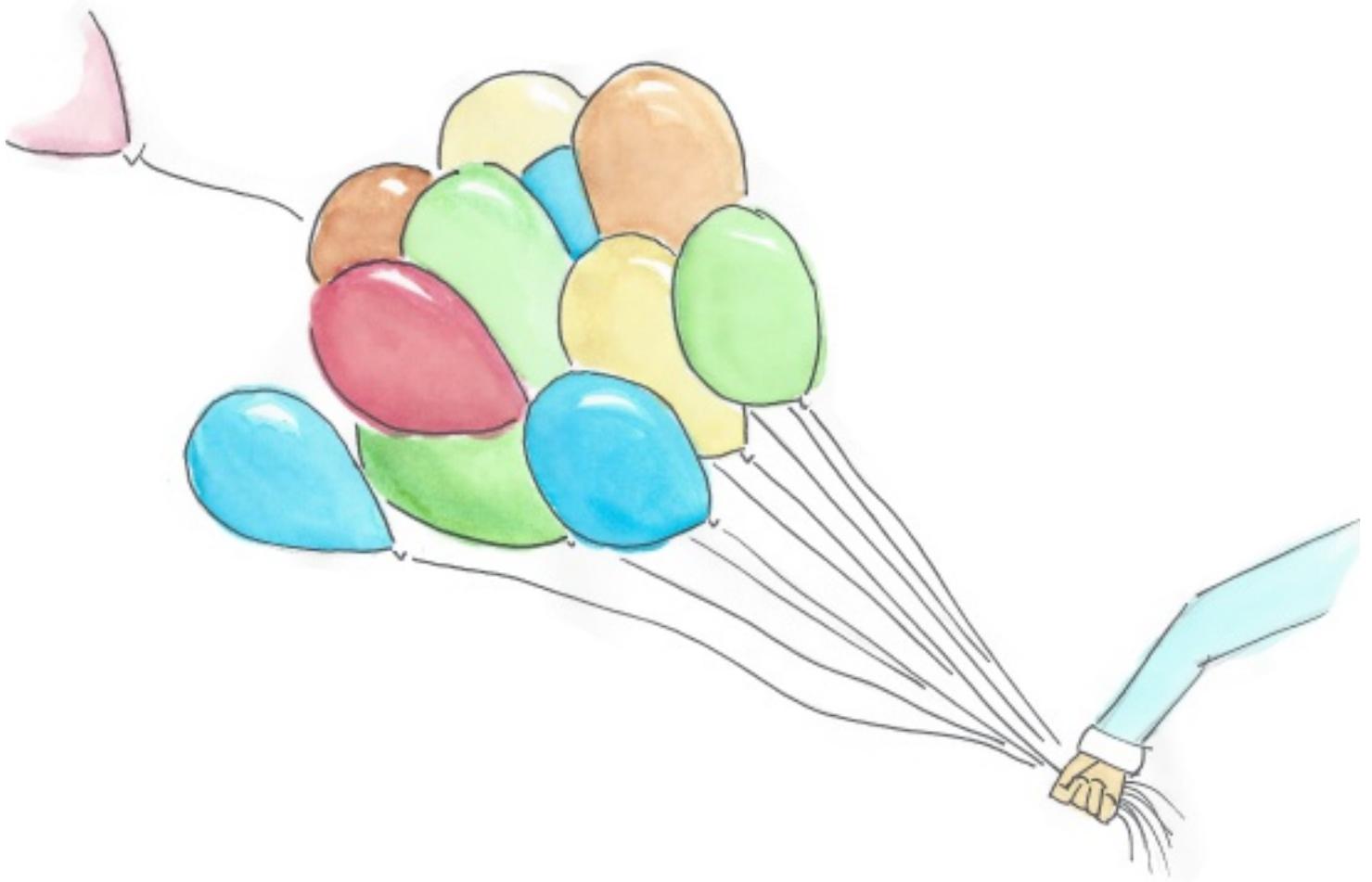


the
**PROUD
PINK
BALLOON**

by
Matt Haggard



In the bunch of balloons held by the balloon-selling fellow, floated balloons colored blue, orange, red, green and yellow.

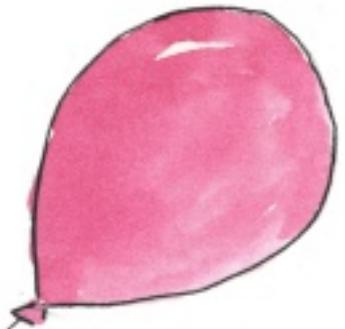


Just one pink balloon stood out bright in the crowd.
And Pink's tail was longest, which made Pink quite
proud.

"All you others are ugly and your tails are short. I'm glad I'm not you!" Proud Pink said with a snort.

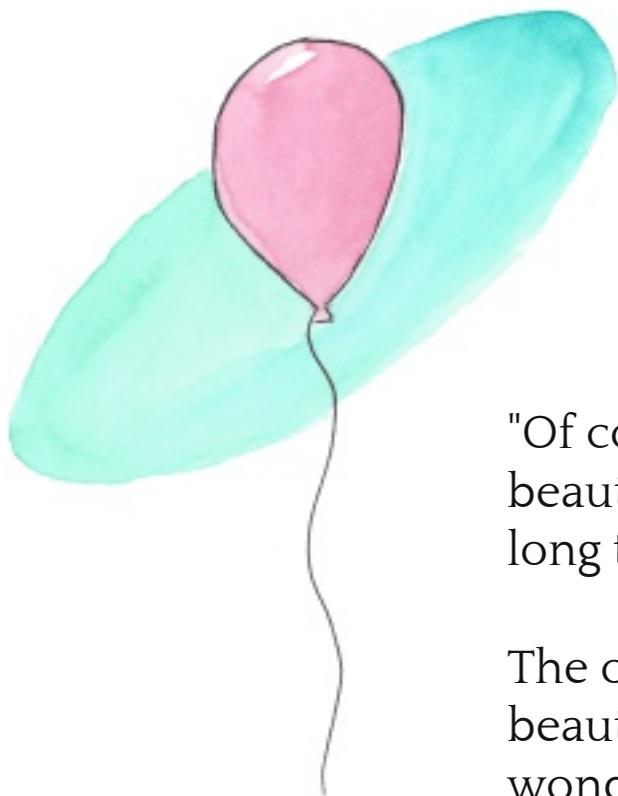
"I alone am the greatest—the best of the lot. I am simply amazing!"

Or so Proud Pink thought.



Along came a girl, dollar bill in her hand, to buy a balloon from the balloon-selling stand.





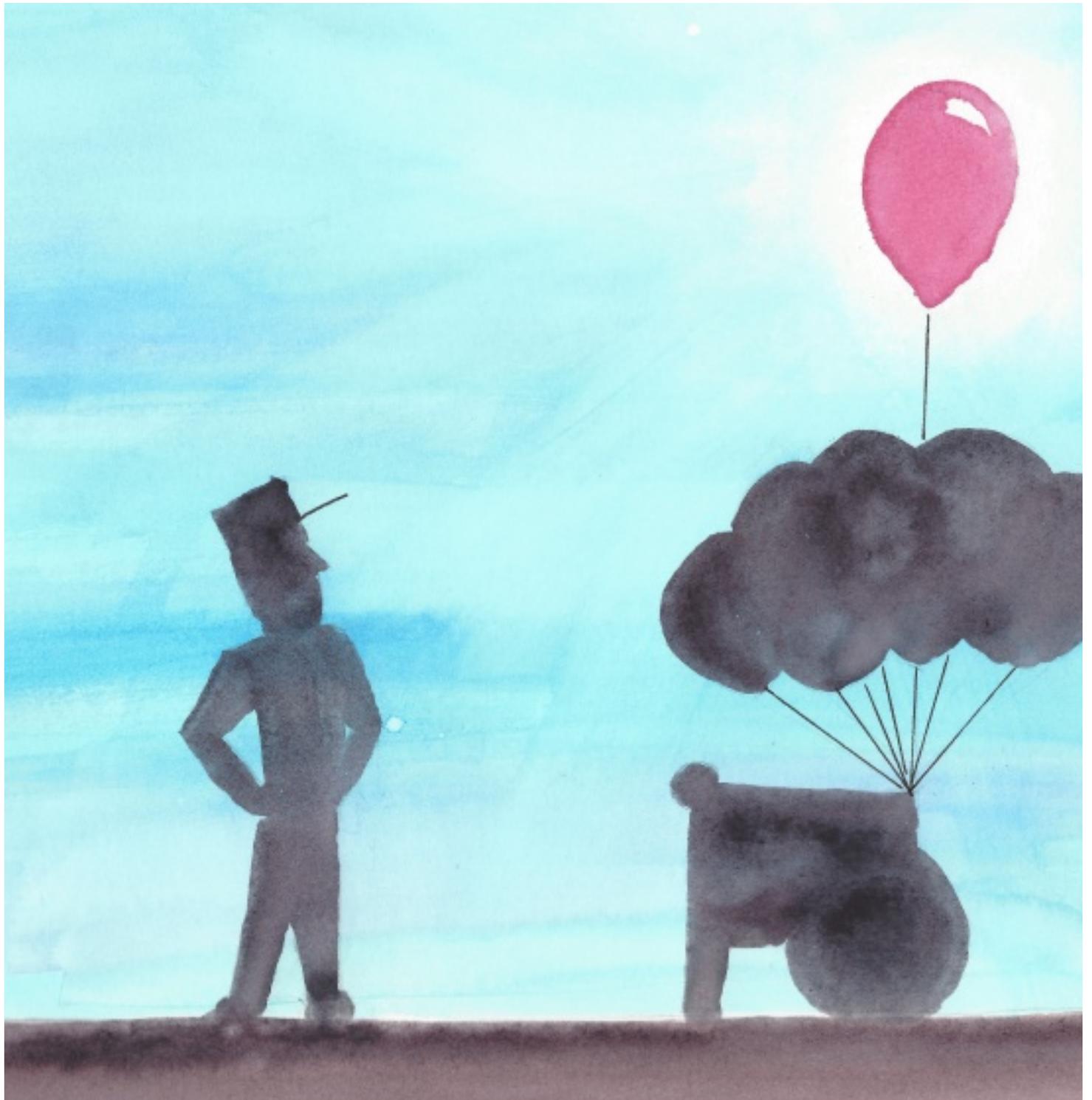
"Of course she'll choose me. I'm beautiful! I'm pink! And my lovely long tail is completely unique!"

The other balloons scoffed, "We're all beautiful too!" Though they secretly wondered if it might not be true.



Sure enough, Proud Pink sparkled and shined in the sun.
The girl pointed at Pink, "May I please have that one?"





Away the girl skipped with her new friend in tow.
As they left, Pink turned back and said, "Look at me
go!"



"I'm off on adventures that you'll never see,
while you're all stuck here wishing that you could be
me."

