

Harubeyu was a wisp of a child

a blink and you'd miss it flash in the dark

sometimes it seemed he was barely there



Harubeyu was not a regular boy

His mind was filled with fireworks

he discovered early in life that people wanted to place him in a box

Harubeyu tried to listen but his thoughts

couldn't

help

but

wander



with his balloon he was never alone

Harubeyu and his balloon loved to explore

they especially liked to visit the pond

Here they were free to explore hidden depths and secret passages

**they were drawn to the vivid greens and captivated by the creatures that lied within
the marsh**

**Hours became days and days became years as Harubeyu and his balloon played in the
pond. They skipped stones, built tree houses and danced across the rocks**



Harubeyu lived a charmed life, full of

strawberry days **and** thunder nights

with his balloon he felt invincible



as the years passed Harubeyu began to wonder why

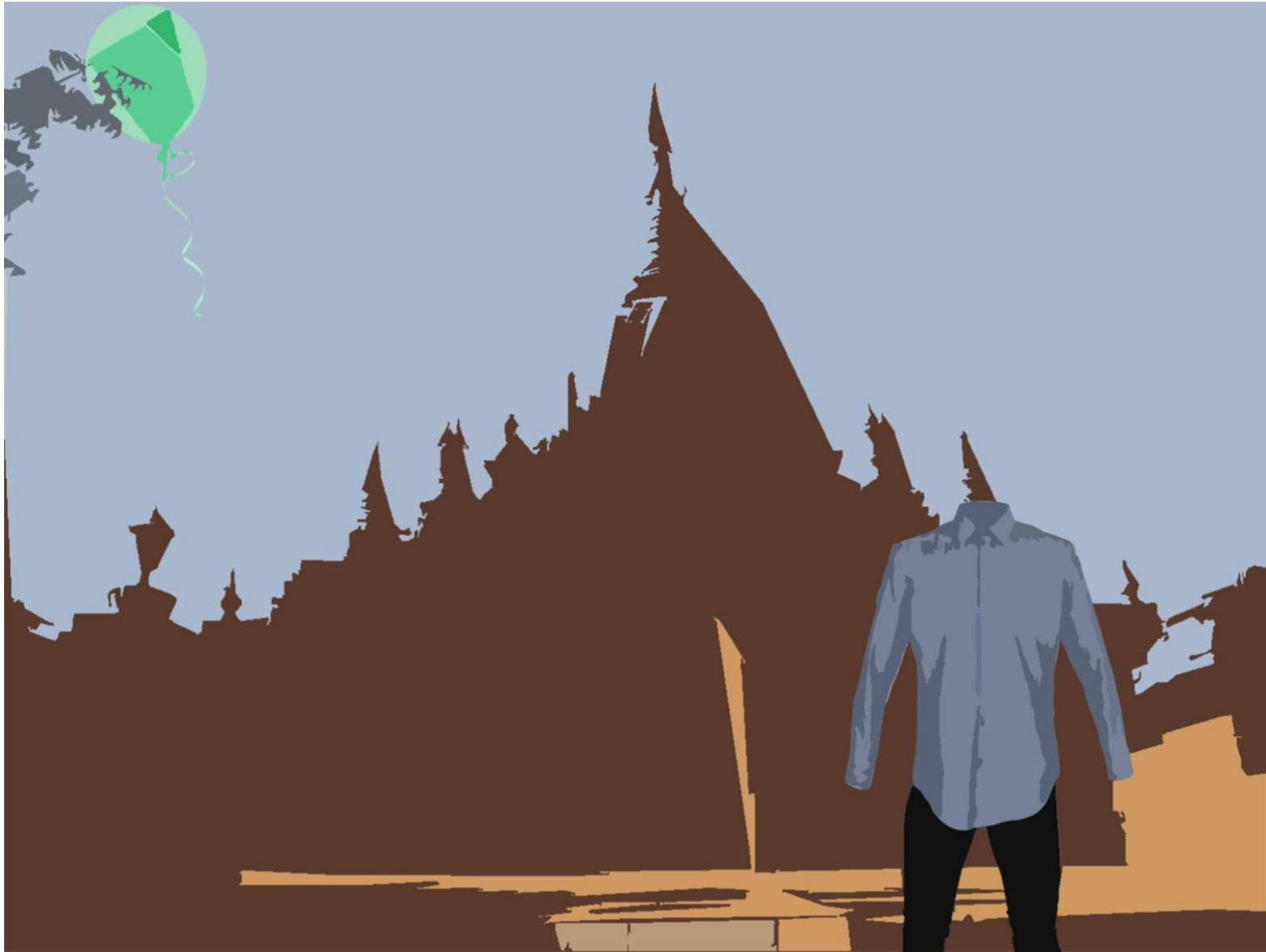
nobody else had a balloon

was his the **only one?**

Harubeyu travelled



in search of another balloon and the one who held it



but he began to realise

he felt really small

Harubeyu wondered why he had been given a balloon if nobody else could see it

he tried to visit the pond but it was hidden

when he finally found it was surrounded by an iron gate

and

the doors were locked



Harubeyu and his balloon tried to open it

but

It refused to yield

Harubeyu found himself visiting the gate less often

and

for the first time in his life he waited...

His balloon grew heavy.

Harubeyu waited for a long time, the hope that he may someday find the key to the gate and revisit the pond

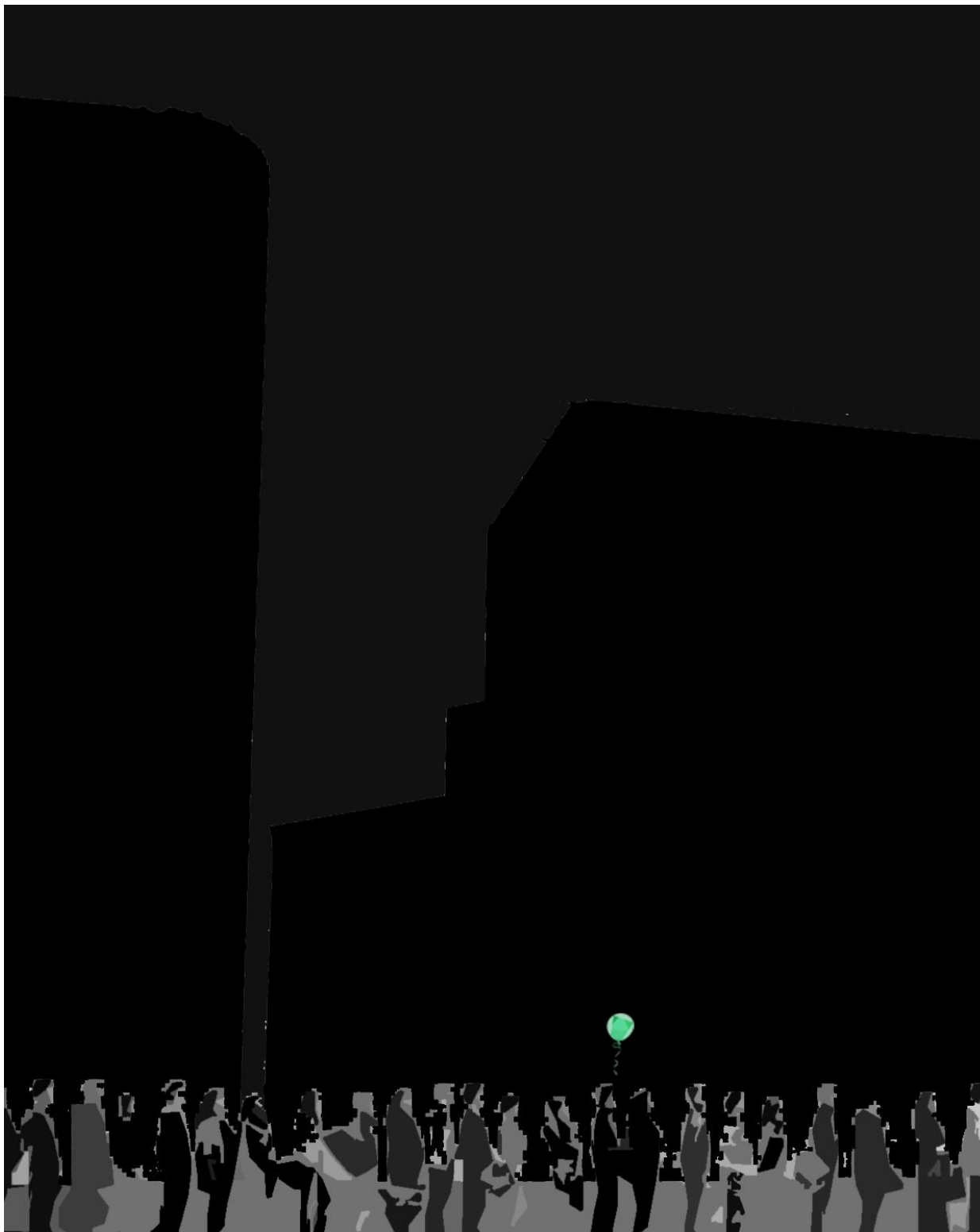
faded

he settled into an ordinary life, one without dreams

alone

however

His balloon would not leave him



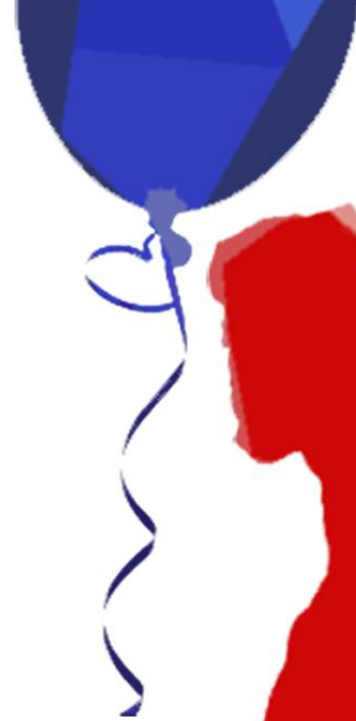
when he least expected it Harubeyu saw

something wonderful

a girl with a balloon just like his



She was beautiful



her name was Tsurashi, and she had a honey soul

Harubeyu took Tsurashi and her balloon to the gate outside the pond

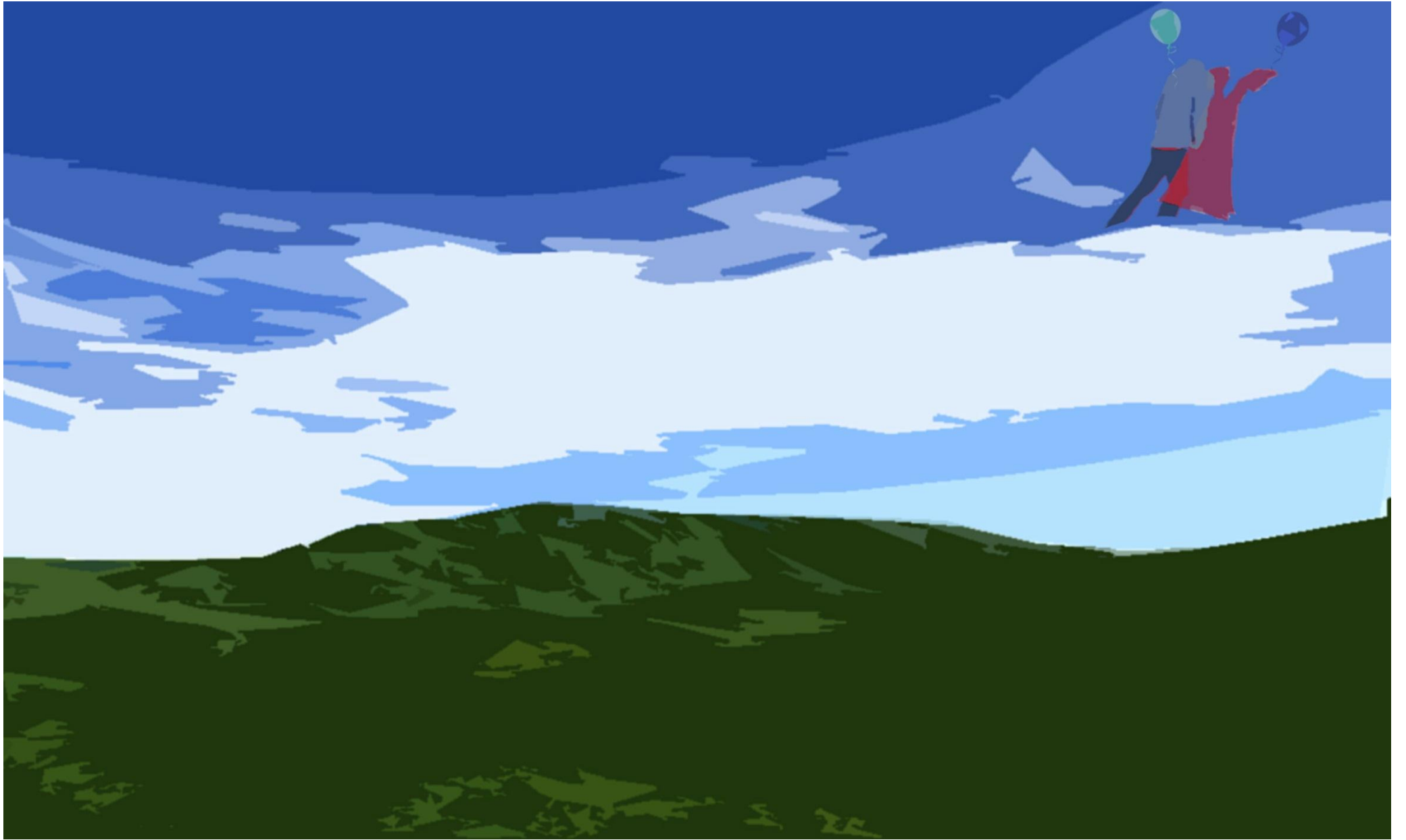
he explained that he had given up hope

**Tsurashi looked at the gate and laughed. She smiled at and whispered ‘why don’t you
just jump over it?’**

**Tsurashi took Harubeyu’s hand and held it tightly. In one deft movement she launched
them over the gate**

**Harubeyu glanced at the pond before this time
taking Tsurashi within his hands**

**her eyes sparkled before Harubeyu and
Tsurashi took flight, never to be seen again**



By Harvey Watson