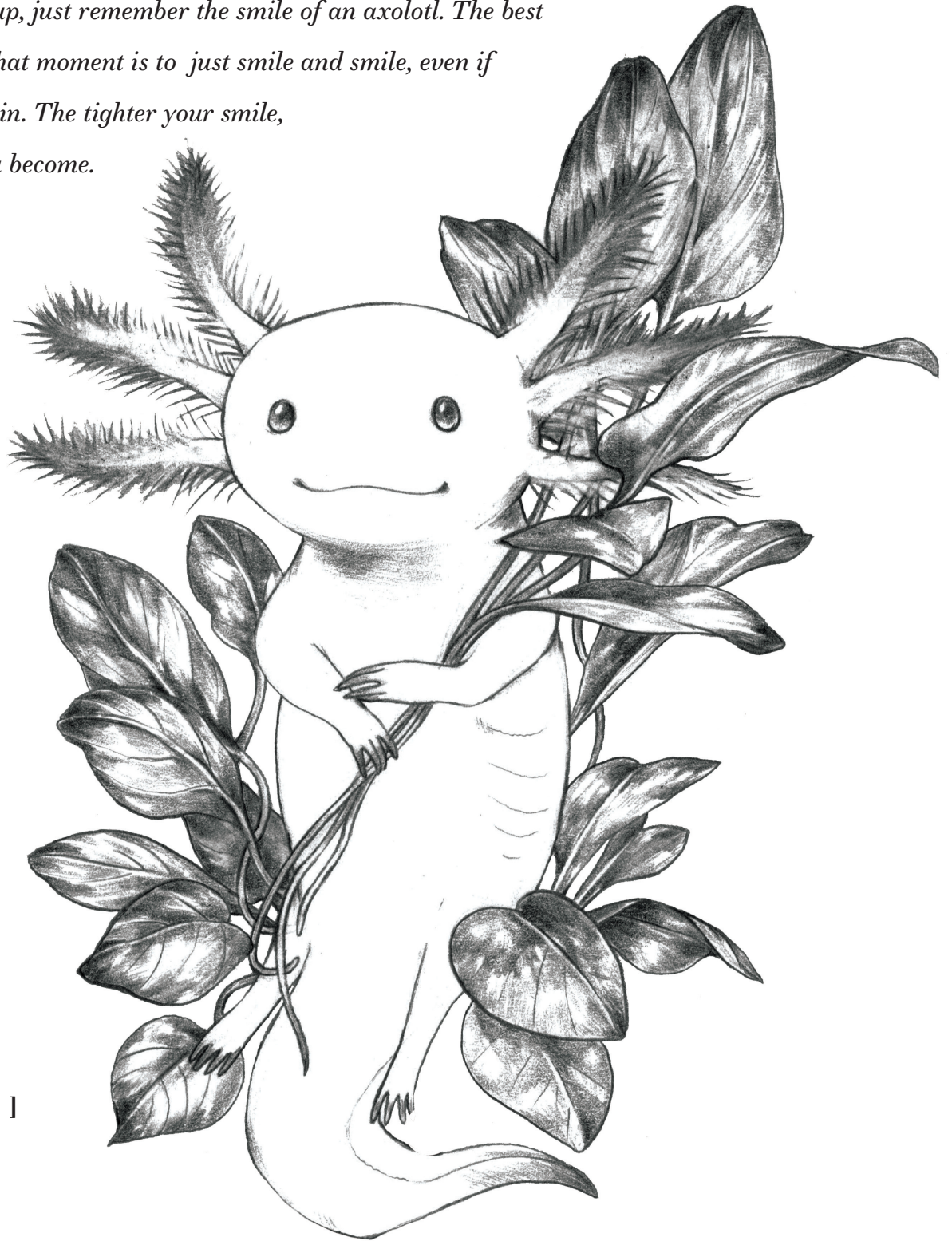


If a white girl tries to tell you what your brown skin can and cannot wear for makeup, just remember the smile of an axolotl. The best thing to do in that moment is to just smile and smile, even if your smile is thin. The tighter your smile, the tougher you become.



[AXOLOTL]

From **WORLD OF WONDERS** *In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments*

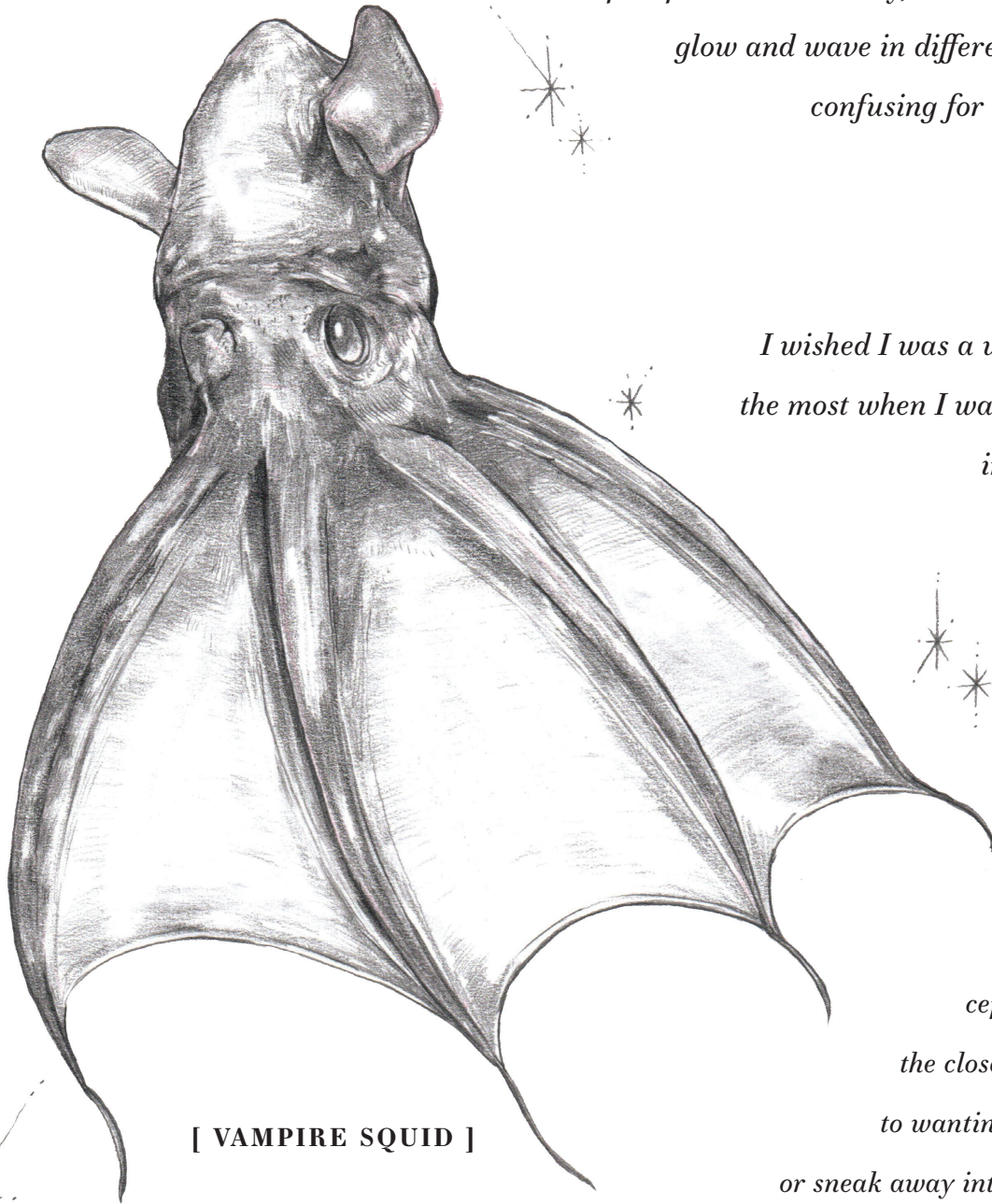
by **AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL** with illustrations by *Fumi Mini Nakamura*

published by Milkweed Editions September 2020

If the squid feels threatened or wants to disappear, perhaps no other creature in the ocean knows how to convey that with a more dazzling yet effective show. When the vampire squid pulse-swims away, each of its arm tips glow and wave in different directions, confusing for any predator.

I wished I was a vampire squid the most when I was the new girl in high school.

This was my cephalopod year, the closest I ever came to wanting to disappear or sneak away into the deep sea.



[VAMPIRE SQUID]

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*When Southern Cassowaries boom to each other
in the densest forest, sanctuary keepers
report that they can feel this
rumble in their bones, even
if they can't hear it.*



*The phrase “I can feel it in my bones”
is synonymous with “I know it to be true.”
What if the cassowary’s famous boom
is also nature’s way of asking us
to take a different kind
of notice of them?*

[SOUTHERN CASSOWARY]

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