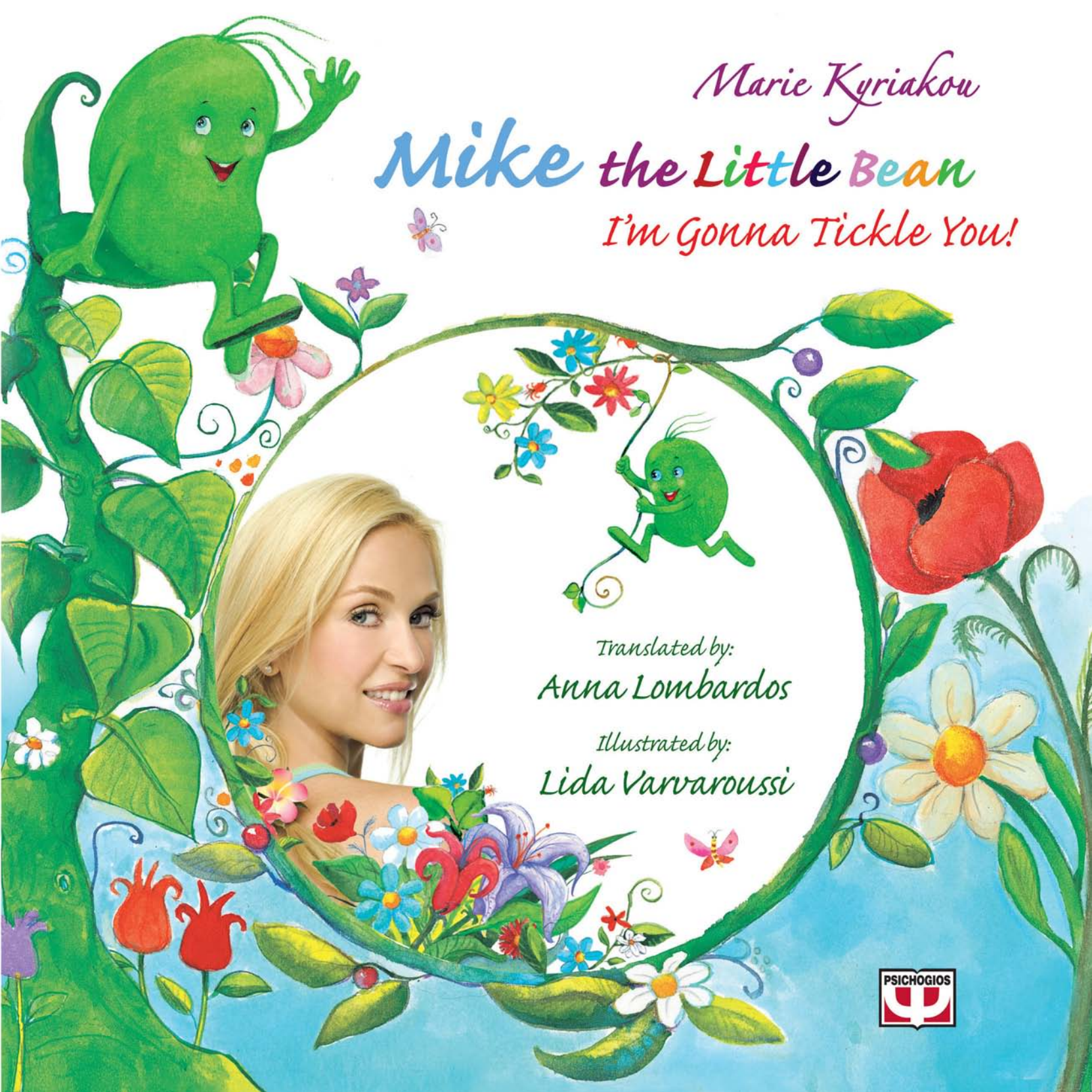


Marie Kyriakou

Mike the Little Bean

I'm Gonna Tickle You!



Translated by:
Anna Lombardos

Illustrated by:
Lida Varvaroussi



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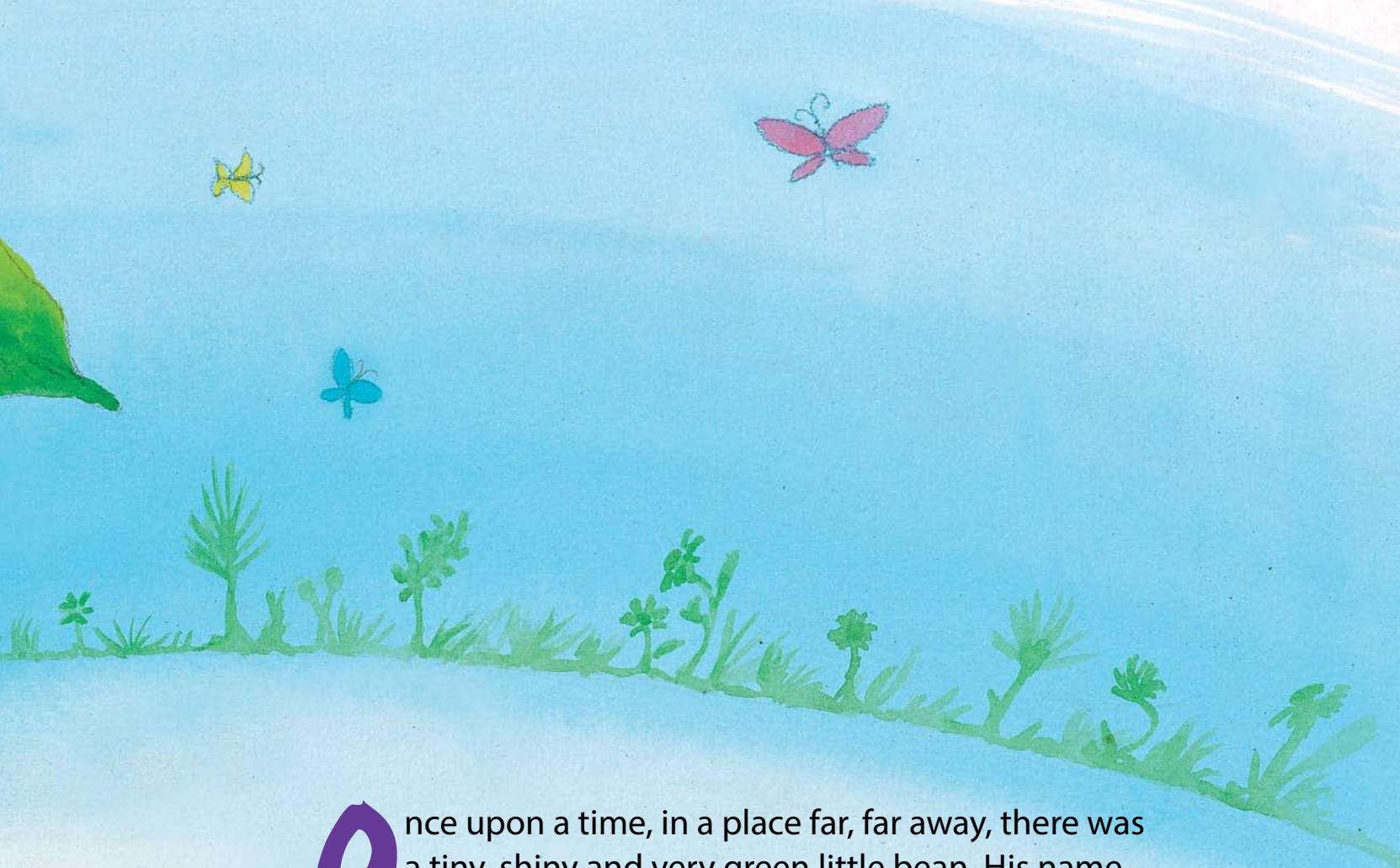




For my dad








Once upon a time, in a place far, far away, there was a tiny, shiny and very green little bean. His name was Mike. Mike was smart, adventurous and very funny. He loved to read stories, sing songs and play games.

Mike's home was a pod attached to a beanstalk which was surrounded by big, colorful trees and emerald green grass. It was enchanting. There were birds and butterflies in the air. And all the flowers, which bloomed in every color of the rainbow, were his friends. He loved his field for many reasons, but most of all, he loved it because it was where his family lived – his mom, dad, sister, and brother.







Then one day a strong gust of wind swept through the field and whirled around the pod so hard and so fast that it shook Mike the little bean, cut the beanstalk and threw him into the air.

The wind was so strong, and Mike was so little. It lifted him up, up, up, and far away from his home.

“Whoooo... ohhhh... where are you taking me?” he shouted as the wind pushed him higher and higher. “Stop! Stop! Let me go!” Mike the little bean yelled, but the wind moved him faster and faster.

“Stop, please. I want to go back home, back to my beanstalk,” he pleaded. “Put me down *now!*” Mike said in his most angry voice.

There was only one thing left to do.

“I’m gonna tickle you!” he said to the wind.



There was silence.

The wind stopped spinning round and round.

And then – *splash!* Mike plunged into a big puddle of water.

“Grrr.... Now look at what you’ve done. I’m soaked,” he said to the wind as he tried to get up.

“Ouch! Ow, ow, ouch! My aching back.” Mike said as he wiped his little eyes and looked up. He couldn’t believe he had fallen so far. “What a fall. I am soooo sore.”

Mike the little bean started to feel cold and scared. He didn’t know how to swim.

“I can do this,” he said to himself, hoping the wind could hear him too. He pulled himself out of the water and onto dry land.





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