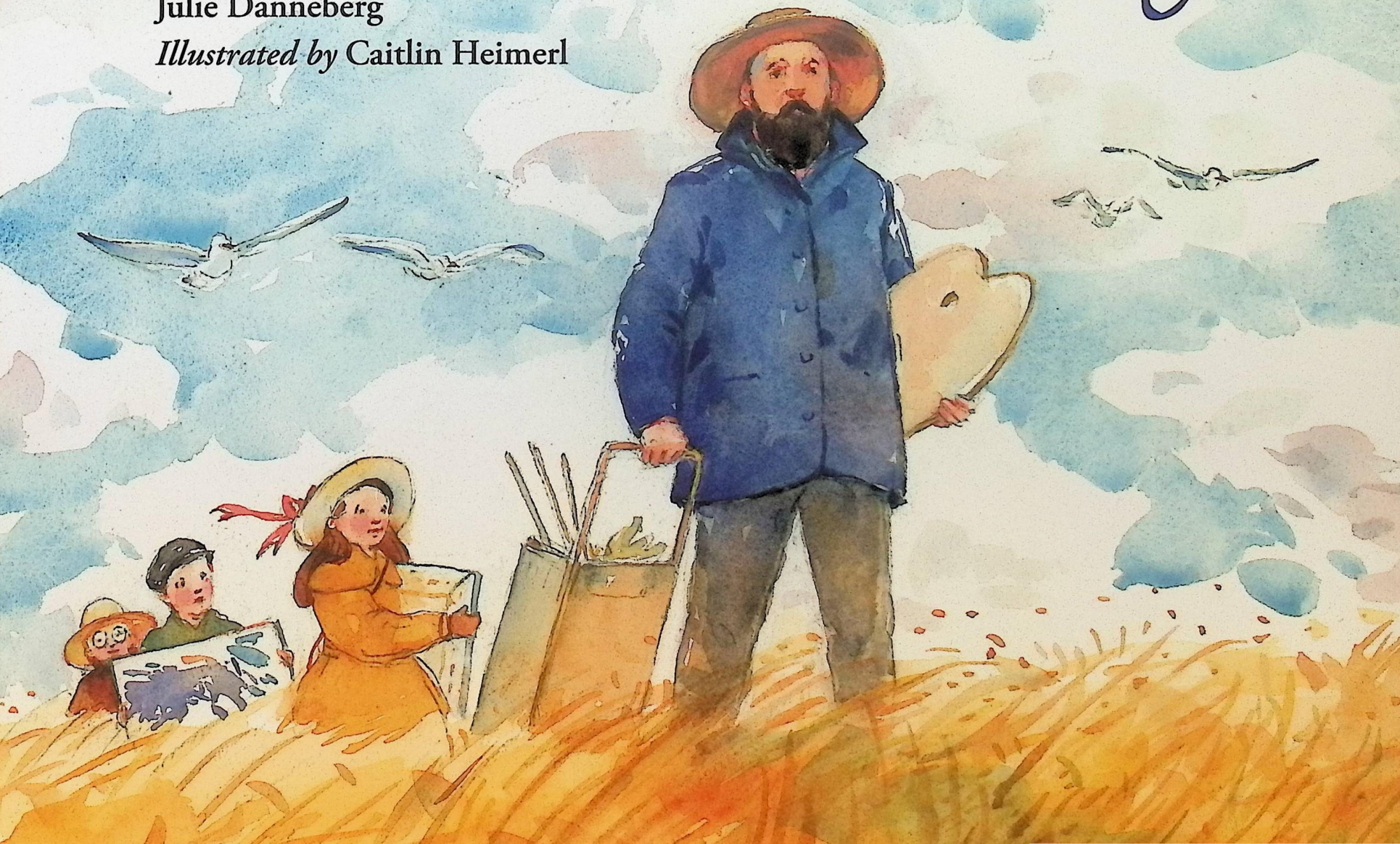


# Monet Paints a Day

Julie Danneberg

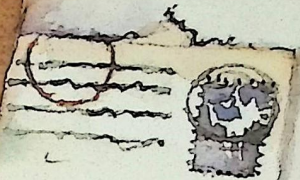
*Illustrated by* Caitlin Heimerl



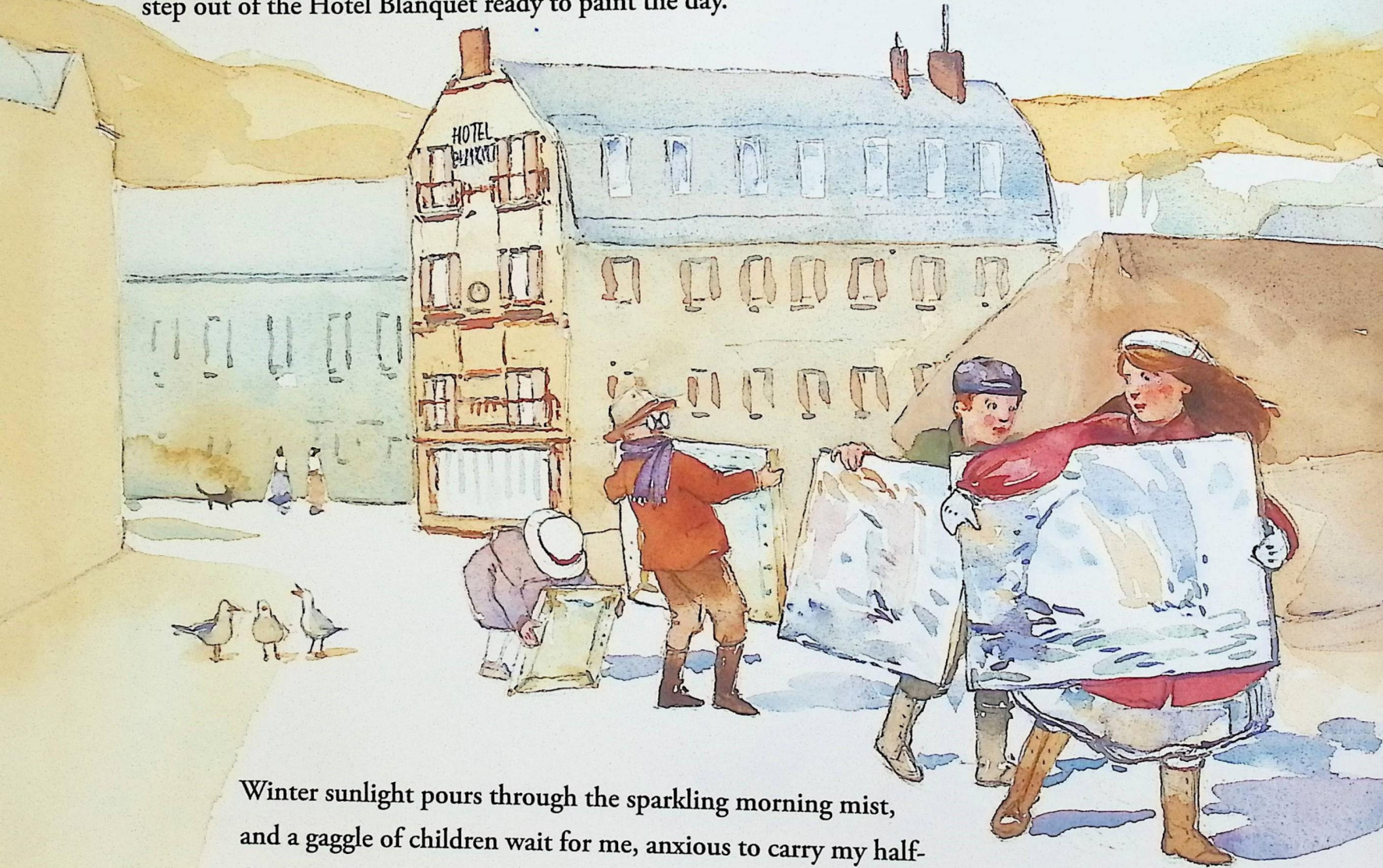
November 1885

Dear Alice,

This morning I went under the  
Manneporte to paint. I want to  
make a success of it because it's  
very beautiful, but very difficult  
I think.



*I, Claude Monet,* Impressionist painter,  
step out of the Hotel Blanquet ready to paint the day.



Winter sunlight pours through the sparkling morning mist,  
and a gaggle of children wait for me, anxious to carry my half-  
finished paintings. Like a string of ducklings, they follow me,  
toting my canvases while I carry my paint box and palette.



Monet created at least 83 paintings while on holiday in Étretat, France. He frequently wrote to his fiancée, Alice Hoschedé, about his progress.



Carefully, we make our way down the zigzagging cliff path  
and then trudge across the rocky beach.



Most of the painters during Monet's time made sketches outside and then returned to their studios to paint. Monet preferred to paint nature right on the spot, even though it meant lugging all his equipment and supplies to and from the hotel every day.

When we finally reach the crescent-shaped strip of sand, surrounded by towering cliffs, I stop. "We are here," I say. The children carefully set down my canvases. I toss them candy and coins, and then they scatter like seagulls. They know that I can be sunny and pleasant one minute and then, suddenly, my anger can roll in like a storm cloud. What makes me angry? Bad weather, poor light, and most of all, frustration with my painting.



Monet's frustration sometimes led to temper tantrums. When he was angry he might throw paintings he disliked into the water or rip them apart, and once he even burned some that especially displeased him.



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