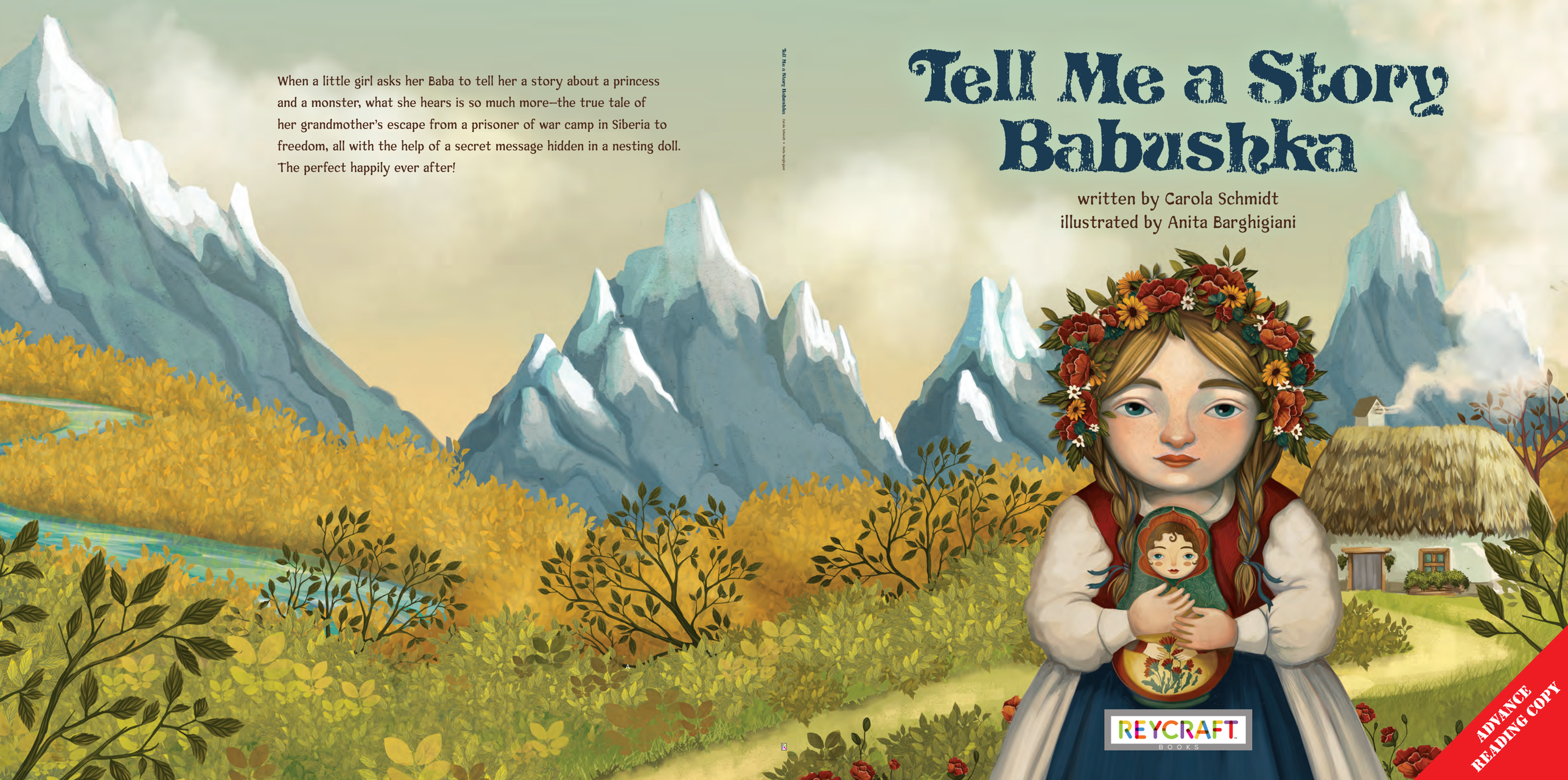
When a little girl asks her Baba to tell her a story about a princess and a monster, what she hears is so much more—the true tale of her grandmother's escape from a prisoner of war camp in Siberia to freedom, all with the help of a secret message hidden in a nesting doll. The perfect happily ever after!

Tell Me a Story Babushka · Carola Schmidt • Anita Barghigiani

Tell Me a Story Babushka

written by Carola Schmidt
illustrated by Anita Barghigiani



REYCRAFT BOOKS

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For both my Babas and Karina.

Baba means Grandmother in Ukrainian, and Babushka is "little Baba."

Holodomor is a Ukrainian compound word made up of the words holod, which means hunger, and mar, which means plague. It was estimated that 14.5 million deaths occurred from actions of the soviet communist party—which the author of this book, in memory of people affected by hunger between 1929 and 1933, refuses to write in capital letters.

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"Tell me a story, Babushka," said Karina, looking at the bread dough being kneaded by Baba.

"Would you like a story about a princess, Karina?"

"Maybe one of those stories about a princess and monsters, Baba."

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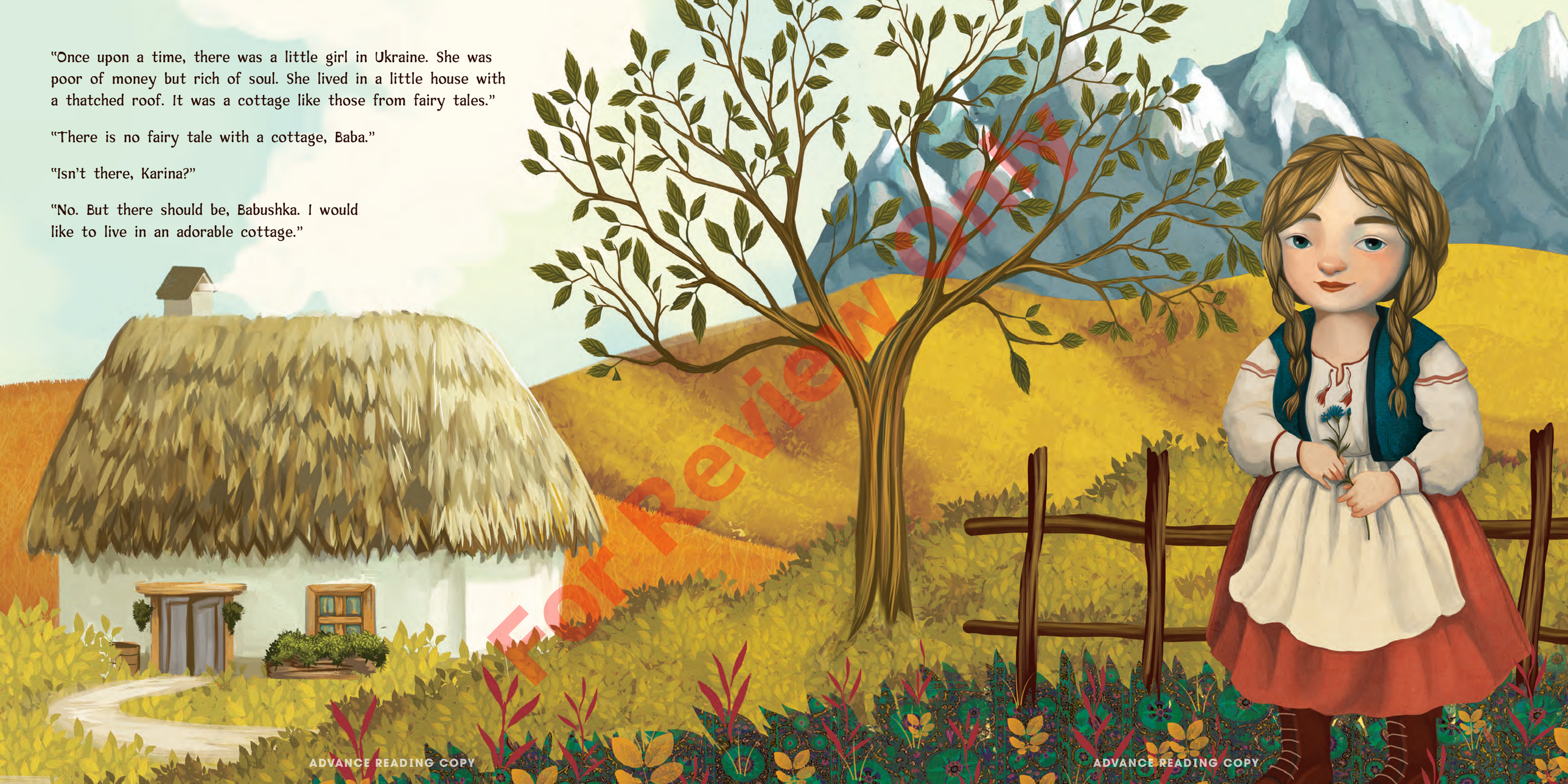
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"Once upon a time, there was a little girl in Ukraine. She was poor of money but rich of soul. She lived in a little house with a thatched roof. It was a cottage like those from fairy tales."

"There is no fairy tale with a cottage, Baba."

"Isn't there, Karina?"

"No. But there should be, Babushka. I would like to live in an adorable cottage."



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Baba smiled. "The little girl had a small flower and vegetable garden where potatoes and the world's biggest cabbages grew. She and her family were happy living there, but only until the day the monsters arrived in the little town."

"What did they do?"



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"They took away the Ukrainians' freedom. At first, the monsters stole all the grains produced in Ukraine. Many Ukrainians became sick and even died because there was no food. Then, the monsters wanted more grains."

"Why didn't the Ukrainians hide the grains?"

"The monsters said they would kill anyone who hid their grains."

"What happened to the little girl?"

