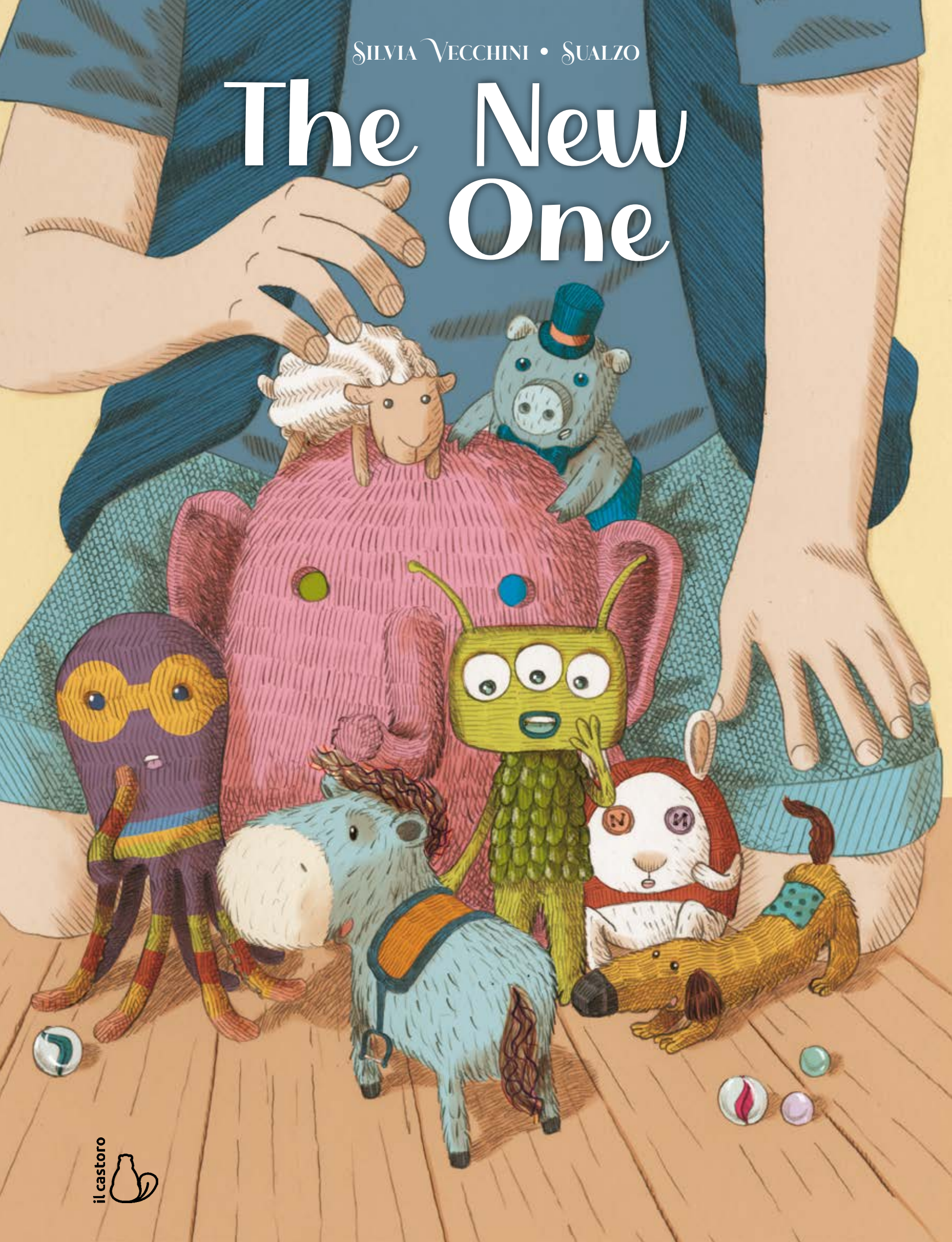


SILVIA VECCHINI • SUALZO

The New One





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The New One

Silvia Vecchini e Sualzo
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viale Andrea Doria 7, 20124 Milano
www.editriceilcastoro.it
info@editriceilcastoro.it

English Working Translation by Sara Benjamin



il castoro

Horsey is running as fast as he can.

No one's seen Kid for days –
and now Horsey knows why.

The New One has arrived!



Horsey gallops into the room so fast
that he nearly crashes right into his pals.

«So did you see him?»,
Green Apple Alien asks anxiously.



As Horsey tries to catch his breath, everyone has already understood: things are not looking good for them. «So the New One is really *that* great?» they ask in unison. «Yup,» Horsey answers, leaving them all stunned.



Oh no!

Uh-oh!

Help!

Ah!

«You mean he's softer than *me*?
But I'm **as soft** as they come»,
Sheepy whimpers fretfully.



«There's no way he's as colorful as I am!»
Octopus adds, waving her rainbow-colored tentacles around.
«Besides, *nobody* knows how to **tickle** as well as I do!»





«His nose is cuter than *mine?*»
Elephant, with one blue eye and one green, swings his trunk back and forth looking doubtful.

«**That's hard to believe!**»

«Plus, I'm big and strong!
Kid feels so cozy and safe when he uses me as a cushion!»

«But... is he really **brand new?**
Never even had *one* little accident?»
stammers Dachshund Doggy, with his huge spotted patch.

«And what about his tail?
Is it nicer than mine?» Piggy asks.
«Mine goes *boing* like a
coil-spring!»

«His ears are **longer** than *mine*?»
Bunny looks incredulous.





«I'm not sure how to explain it to you, friends, but there's just no competition.

The New One is simply magnificent!»

«And Kid? What does *he* say?» the others ask.

It's not easy, but Horsey tells them:

«Kid has eyes for him alone.»

«But... but he's going to come and play with us *today* at least, right?»

Horsey spreads his front legs out wide.

«I don't think so. He told his mom he had something important to do.»



«Shhh! He's coming!
Everyone quiet!»
Horsey whispers as the sound
of footsteps gets closer.



Kid comes in and picks everyone up off the floor.

Held tight together in his arms, the friends look around
apprehensively...

«Help! Is he taking us up to the attic?»

«Worse! He's going to toss us all
into the *garbage!*»





Oooh!

«Ah! So...»

«We're going to have **two** kids to play with!

Isn't that wonderful?»







All the toys are on edge: the New One has arrived!
Will Kid just toss them aside?
But there's no reason for them to be afraid.
A big, joyous surprise awaits them!