

*About the cover, "Something terrible is about to happen," by Zeev Engelmayer:*

This illustration is the first I've drawn in color since October 7, and the bright colors of the sky, the flowers, and the roofs of the houses, illustrate the beauty of what was there, before.

I drew a kibbutz in a naive style, like the kibbutz figures in the Shamir brothers' posters, in Yohanan Simon's drawings, in Israeli children's books from the 1950s: houses with red roofs, vegetation and orange trees, paths with flowers, a water tower. I saw pictures of kibbutzim, surrounding Gaza, and even if all kibbutz houses did not have red roofs, what I wanted to depict in the image is not a certain realistic kibbutz, but a pastoral kibbutz, the atmosphere, the peace, and the beauty.

When I was looking for reference materials I found a picture of Kibbutz Be'eri's water tower, in its old location. During the War of Independence, it was used as a guard tower and fighting post against the Egyptian army that laid siege to the kibbutz. The abandoned water tower, which was also a guard tower, perhaps emphasizes the vulnerability and abandonment of the kibbutz, abandoned to its fate.

The picture reminds in its naivety of "then in the school there is a picture on the wall, and the farmer is plowing the land in it," a well-known Israeli song that talks about the innocence and beauty that was, and is no more.

