A person is silhouetted against a bright, colorful stage background. They are holding a knife high in their right hand. The background is filled with vibrant red, orange, and blue light beams, creating a dramatic and energetic atmosphere. The person's figure is dark, contrasting sharply with the bright lights.

EXCEL [3] Careers

The Dream

by M.G. Higgins

The diner is full. People scarf their food. They are in a **hurry**.

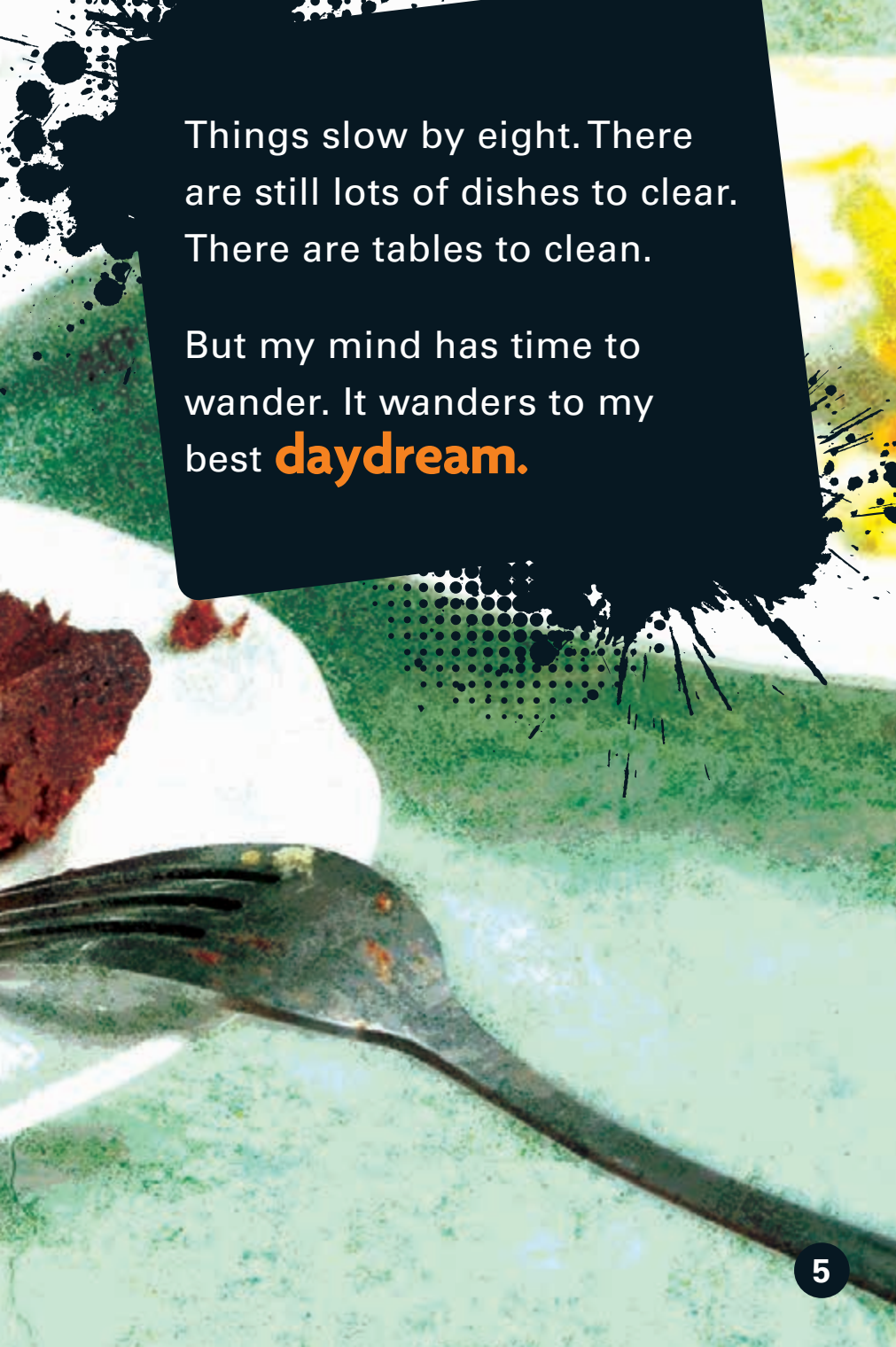
"Rico!" my boss calls.

"Table six needs water!"

Great. He just told me to clean table two. But I nod. I don't want him mad. I need this job.








Things slow by eight. There
are still lots of dishes to clear.
There are tables to clean.

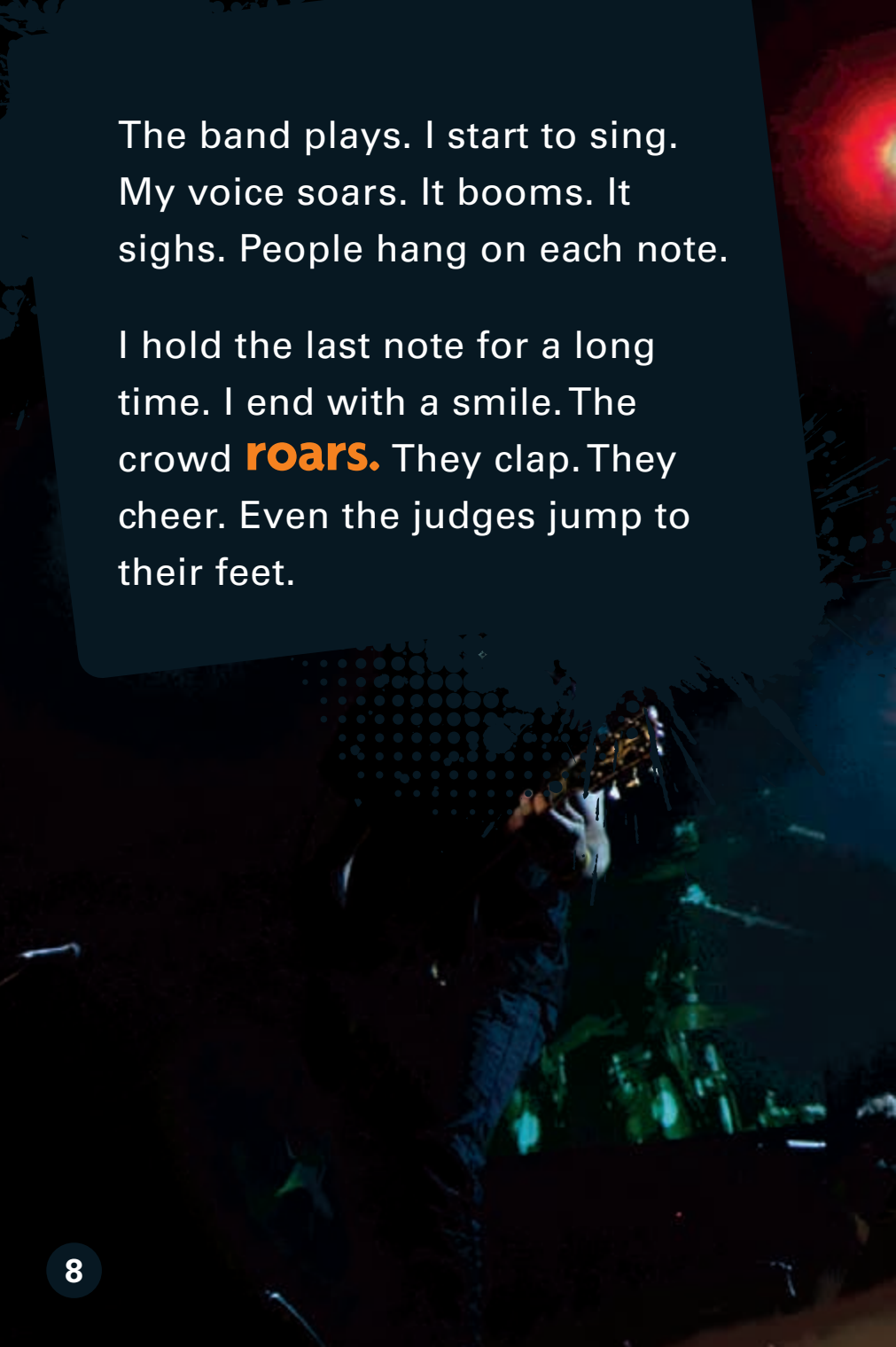
But my mind has time to
wander. It wanders to my
best **daydream.**





I am on ***Star Maker***, the TV music contest. I am up against 19 other singers.

I walk onto the stage. My hair is styled. My clothes are awesome. Girls scream when they see me.

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a musician playing a violin on stage. The musician is in the foreground, slightly to the left, wearing a dark shirt and jeans. In the background, a drum set is visible, illuminated with green light. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a red light source visible in the upper right corner.

The band plays. I start to sing.
My voice soars. It booms. It
sighs. People hang on each note.

I hold the last note for a long
time. I end with a smile. The
crowd **roars**. They clap. They
cheer. Even the judges jump to
their feet.

