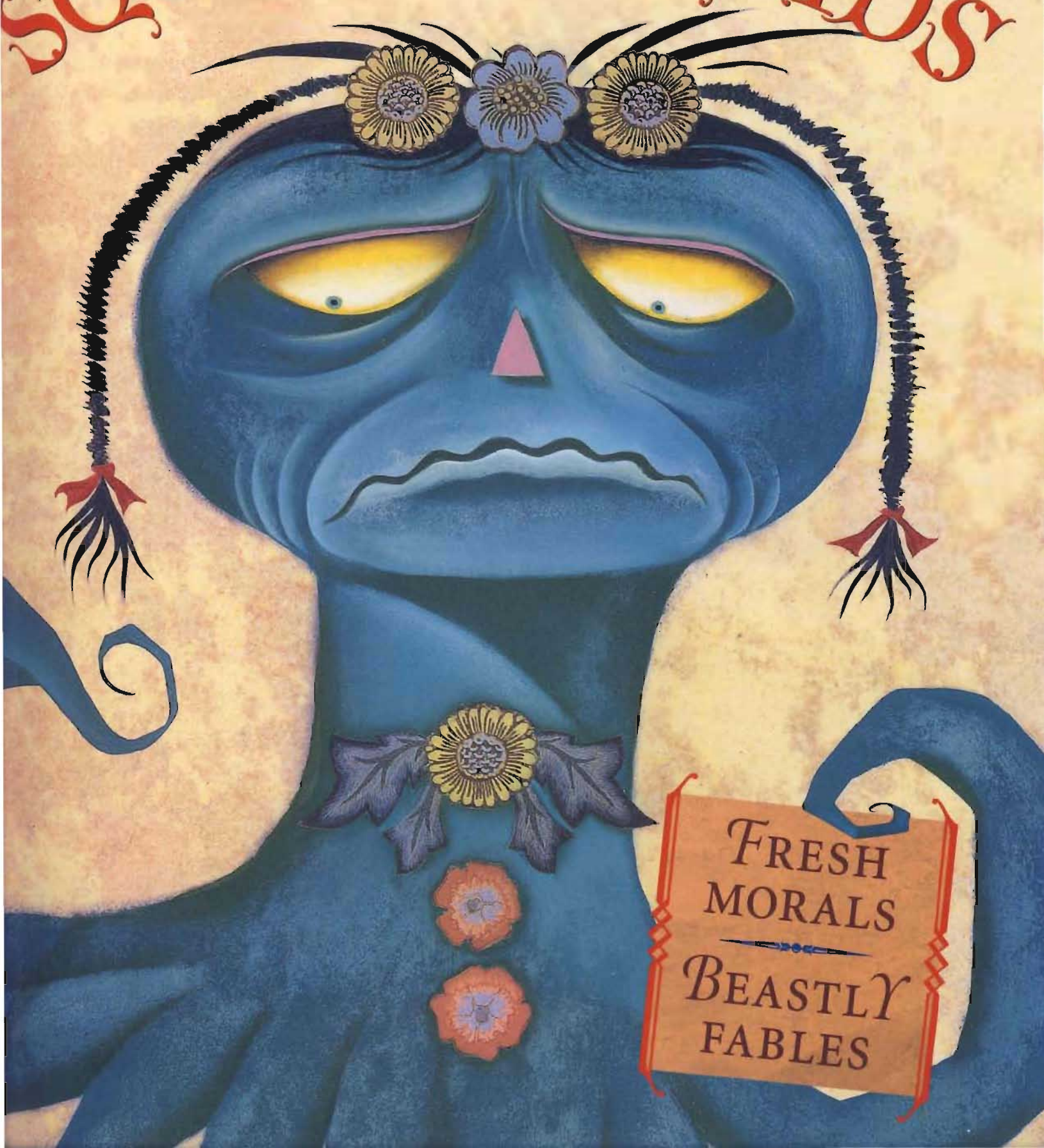


Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

SQUIDS will be **SQUIDS**
be



FRESH
MORALS
—
BEASTLY
FABLES

SQUIDS
will be
SQUIDS

FRESH
MORALS
—
BEASTLY
FABLES

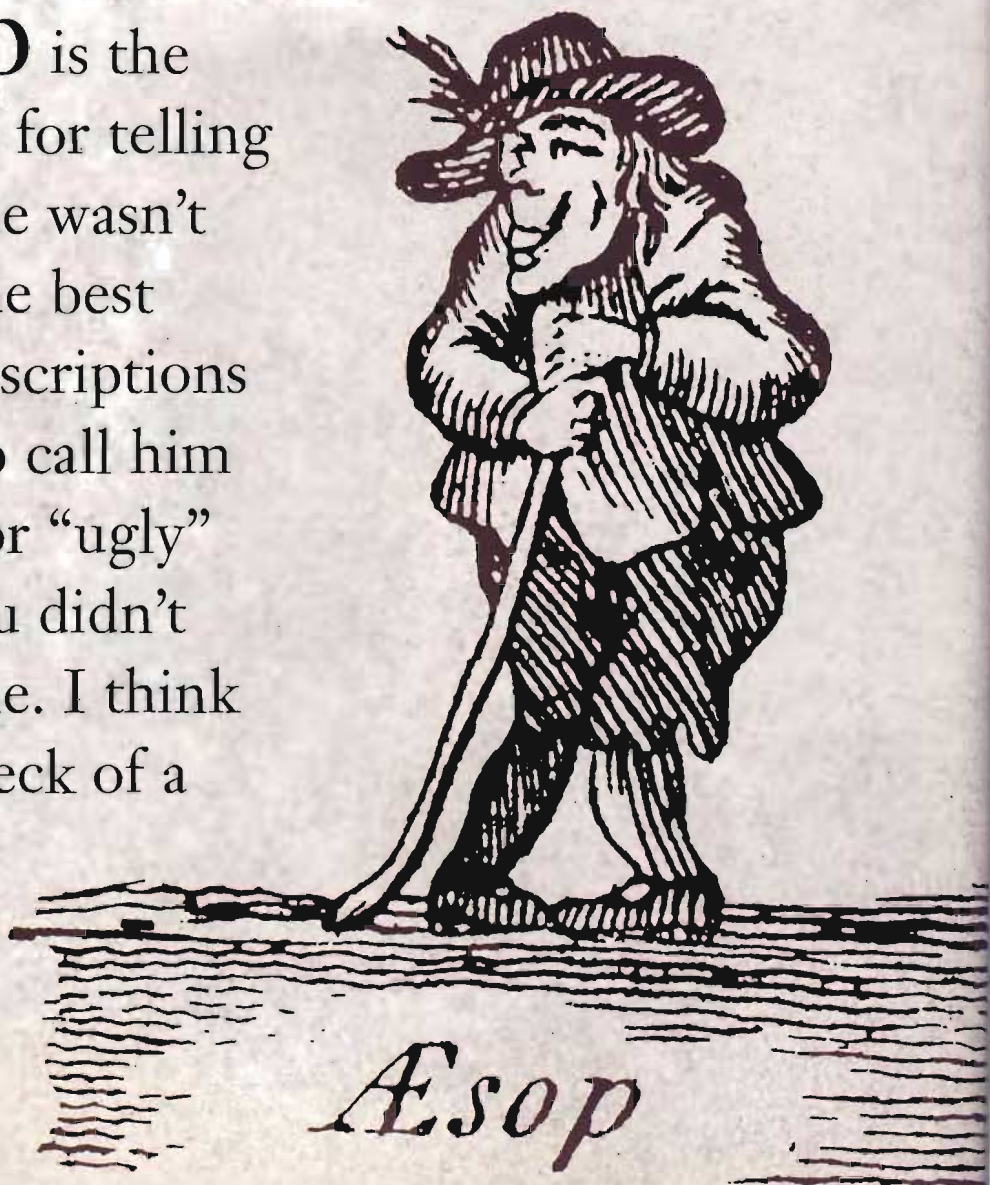
BY JON SCIESZKA & LANE SMITH

DESIGNED BY MOLLY LEACH

PUFFIN BOOKS

~ Fables have been around for thousands of years. And it's no wonder. Because even thousands of years ago people were bright enough to figure out that you could gossip about anybody—as long as you changed their name to something like “Lion” or “Mouse” or “Donkey” first. ~

~ Aesop is the guy most famous for telling fables. Though he wasn't the first . . . or the best looking. Most descriptions we have of Aesop call him “funny shaped” or “ugly” or worse. But you didn't hear that from me. I think Aesop was one heck of a swell guy. ~



~ This book, *Squids Will Be Squids*, is a collection of fables that Aesop might have told if he were alive today and sitting in the back of class daydreaming and goofing around instead of paying attention and correcting his homework like he was supposed to, because his dog ate it and he didn't have time to run out and buy new paper and do it over again before his bus came to pick him up in the morning. ~

~ These are beastly fables with fresh morals about all kinds of bossy, sneaky, funny, annoying, dim-bulb people. But nobody I know personally. ~

Really.

S

moral

Sometimes the names are changed to protect the not-so-innocent.

g r a s s h o p p e r l o g i c

One bright and sunny day, Grasshopper came home from school, dropped his backpack, and was just about to run outside to meet his friends.

“Where are you going?” asked his mom.

“Out to meet some friends,” said Grasshopper.

“Do you have any homework due tomorrow?” asked his mom.

“Just one small thing for History. I did the rest in class.”

“Okay,” said Mom Grasshopper. “Be back at six for dinner.”

Grasshopper hung out with his friends, came home promptly at six, ate his dinner, then took out his History homework.

His mom read the assignment and freaked out.

“Rewrite twelve Greek myths as Broadway musicals.
Write music for songs. Design and build all sets.
Sew original costumes for each production.”

“How long have you known about this assignment?”

asked Mom Grasshopper, trying not to scream.

“I don’t know,” said Grasshopper.

moral

There are plenty of things to say to calm a hopping mad Grasshopper mom. “I don’t know” is not one of them.



f r o g ' s n e w s h o e s

Frog was watching TV one afternoon when he saw this great commercial for new skateboard shoes.

The guy in the commercial puts on the new shoes, then 360 kickflips a curb, fakie ollies a trashcan, and rides a nosegrind into the sunset.

Frog ran right out and got the shoes.

He laced them up and jumped on his board.

He tried the 360 kickflip and wiped out.

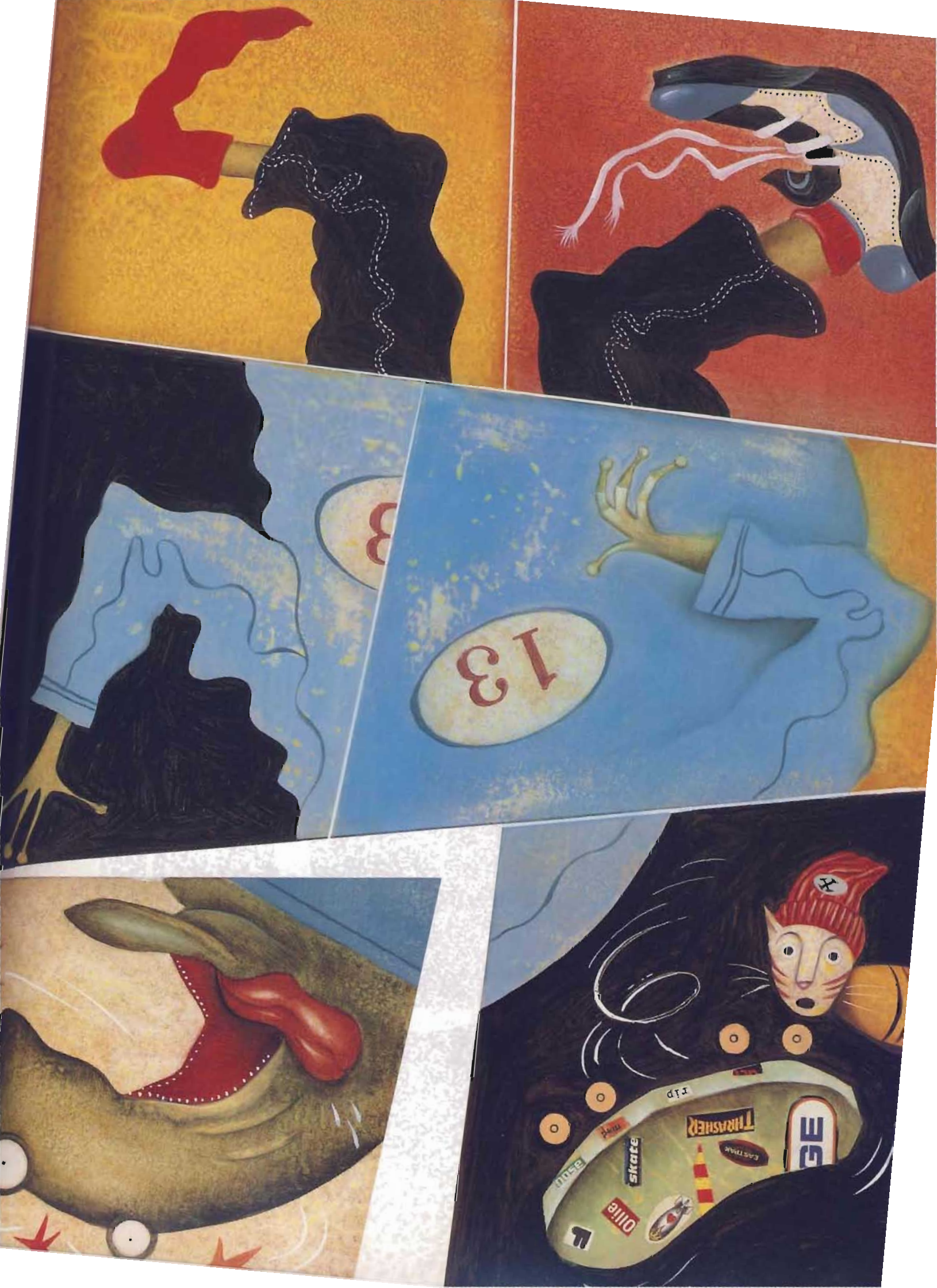
He tried the fakie ollie and smashed into the trashcan. He tried the nosegrind and spread himself on the pavement.

Cat skated over and helped him up.

“Nice shoes,” said Cat.

“Thanks,” said Frog.

moral Everyone knows frogs can't skateboard, but it's kind of sad that they believe everything they see on TV.



Deer, Mouse, Rabbit, & Squid

Deer, Mouse, Rabbit, and Squid sat on the steps trying to decide what to do.



“Let’s go see a movie,” said Deer.



“Great,” said Mouse.



“Great,” said Rabbit.



“There’s nothing good on,” said Squid.



“Let’s play Frisbee in the park,” said Mouse.



“Great,” said Rabbit.



“Great,” said Deer.



“My tentacles are too tired,” said Squid.



“Let’s go shopping,”
said Rabbit.

“Great,”
said Deer.

“Great,”
said Mouse.

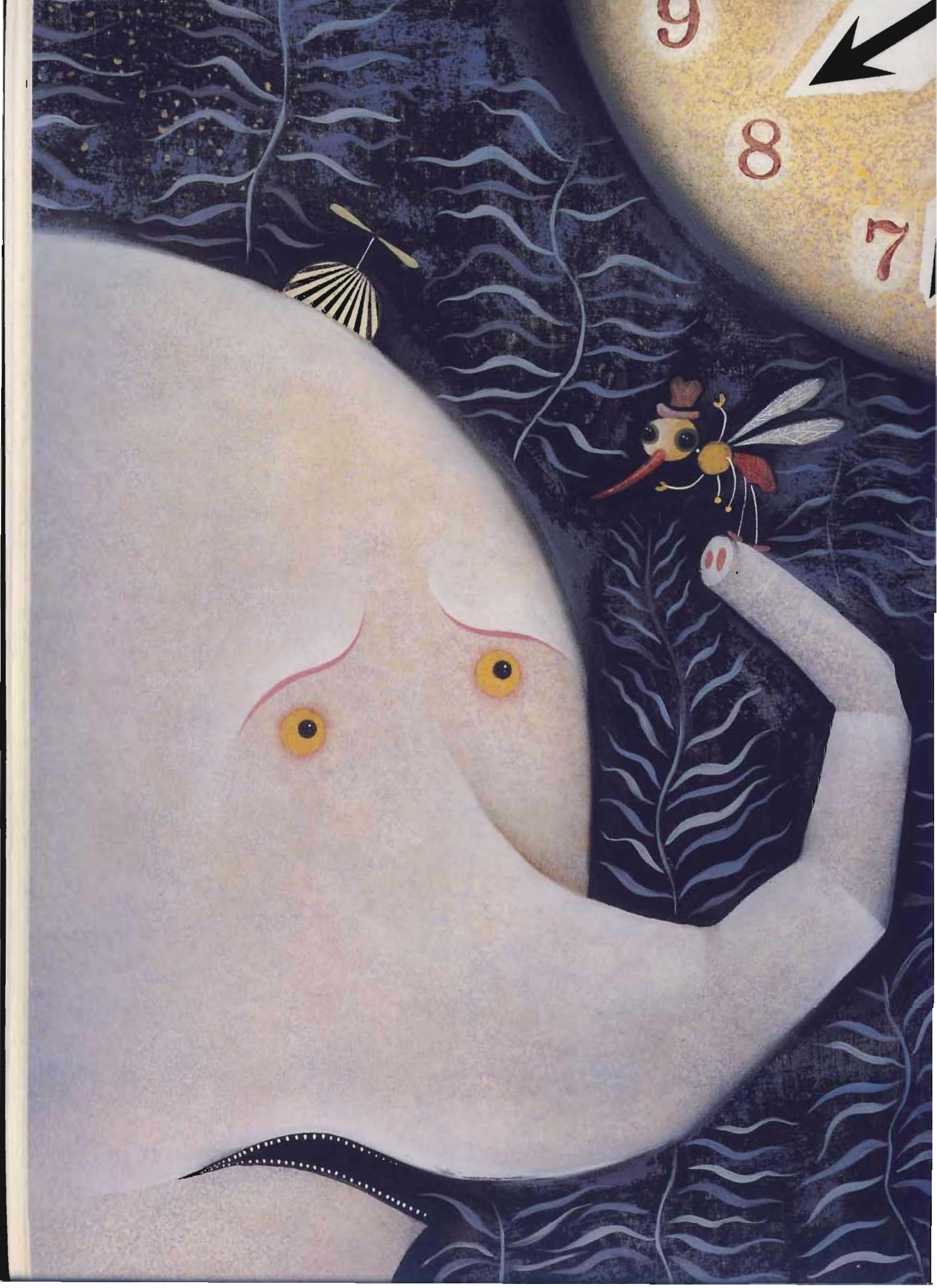
“That’s so boring,” said Squid. “I’m just going to go home.”

And she oozed off down the street.
Deer, Mouse, and Rabbit looked at each other.

“Great,” they said. Then they ran off to see a movie,
play Frisbee in the park, and go shopping.



moral Squids will be squids.



elephant & mosquito

Elephant and Mosquito stayed out late one night and completely lost track of time.

“Oh no,” said Elephant, when he finally saw a clock. “I was supposed to be home twenty minutes ago. My parents are going to kill me. I’d better call home now.”

“Ah, why bother?” said Mosquito.
“You’ll be home in five minutes.
What’s the big deal?”

So Elephant didn’t call.

When he got home, his parents grounded him for a week because he didn’t call to say he was going to be late.

moral

Don’t ever listen
to a talking bug.

h e w h o . . .

Skunk, Musk Ox, and Cabbage were sitting around the front porch at Skunk's house.

Slowly but surely,
the porch filled with
a terrible smell.

“Whoa!” said Skunk. “Is that you, Musk Ox?”

Musk Ox shook his shaggy head.

“No way, Skunk. That's Cabbage.”

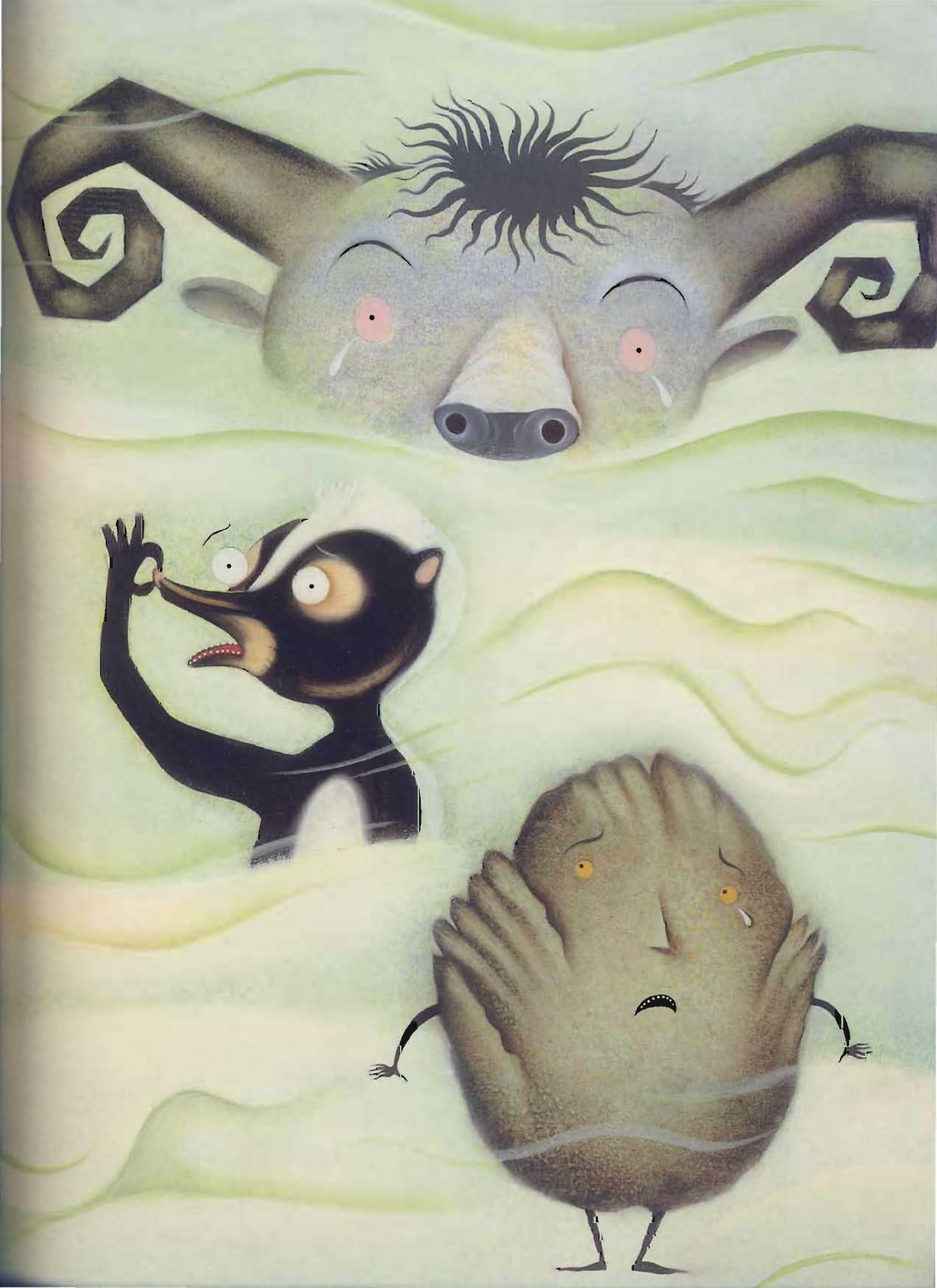
“Uh uh,” said Cabbage.

“That's not me.”

Musk Ox and Cabbage looked back at Skunk, who suddenly became very interested in tying his shoe.

moral

He who smelt it,
dealt it.



rock, paper, scissors

Rock, Paper, and Scissors were assigned to be partners for the big end-of-the-year Science project.

Rock thought up the idea for the project.

Paper drew all of the charts and graphs and illustrations.

Scissors did the research and the presentation.

It wasn't a very good project, and they didn't work very hard on it, so they got a C.

“You should have
done more
research,”

said Rock,
hitting Scissors.

“You should have
drawn more
illustrations,”

said Scissors,
cutting Paper.

“You should have
thought of a
better idea,”

said Paper,
covering Rock

moral

RockPaperScissors

say, "Shoot, it
wasn't my fault."

pigeon pie

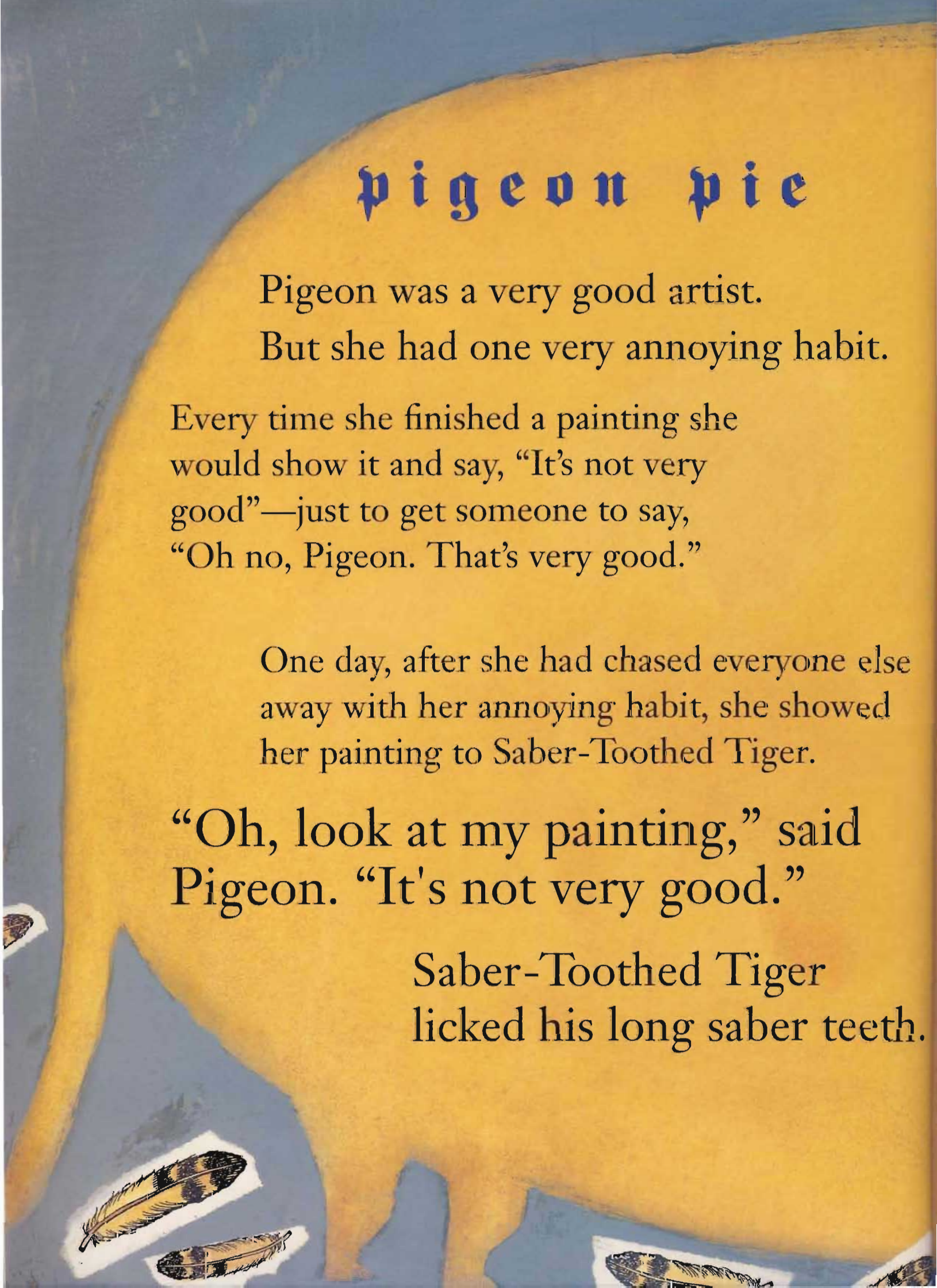
Pigeon was a very good artist.
But she had one very annoying habit.

Every time she finished a painting she would show it and say, “It’s not very good”—just to get someone to say, “Oh no, Pigeon. That’s very good.”

One day, after she had chased everyone else away with her annoying habit, she showed her painting to Saber-Toothed Tiger.

“Oh, look at my painting,” said Pigeon. “It’s not very good.”

Saber-Toothed Tiger
licked his long saber teeth.



“Oh no, Pigeon. That’s very good.
I’m sure it will be perfect roasted or
fried or even baked in a pie.”

Pigeon was puzzled.
She had painted a sad-eyed clown.

Then she noticed Saber-
Toothed Tiger wasn’t
looking at the painting.

But it was too late and . . .
the end of this fable is too messy to even tell.

moral

Whatever looks like a pigeon
and acts like a pigeon usually
makes good pigeon pie.



Straw & Matches

It was the end of summer vacation. Straw had done everything he could think of. He was bored. So he went over to play with someone he had been warned to stay away from.



“Let’s play checkers,” said Straw.

“Okay I’m the red ones I get to move first I get two moves and you get one,” said Matches.

“Forget it,” said Straw. “Let’s play Ping-Pong instead.”

“Okay I get the good paddle you stand on that side I get to serve first and you have to close one eye,” said Matches.



“Never mind,” said Straw.
“Maybe we should just watch TV.”

“Okay you sit over there on the floor I’ll sit on the couch I get the remote and we have to watch my favorite video,” said Matches.



“I think I hear my mom calling,” said Straw.

“I’d better go.”

moral Don't play with matches.

l i t t l e w a l r u s

Little Walrus's mom told her to
always tell the truth.

One day the phone rang.

Little Walrus was the only one home,
so she answered it.

“Hello,” said Little Walrus.

“Hello, Little Walrus,” said Whale.

“Is your mom home?”

“No,” said Little Walrus. “She’s out
having the hair taken off her lip.”

m o r a l

You should always tell the truth.
But if your mom is out having the
hair taken off her lip, you might
want to forget a few of the details.

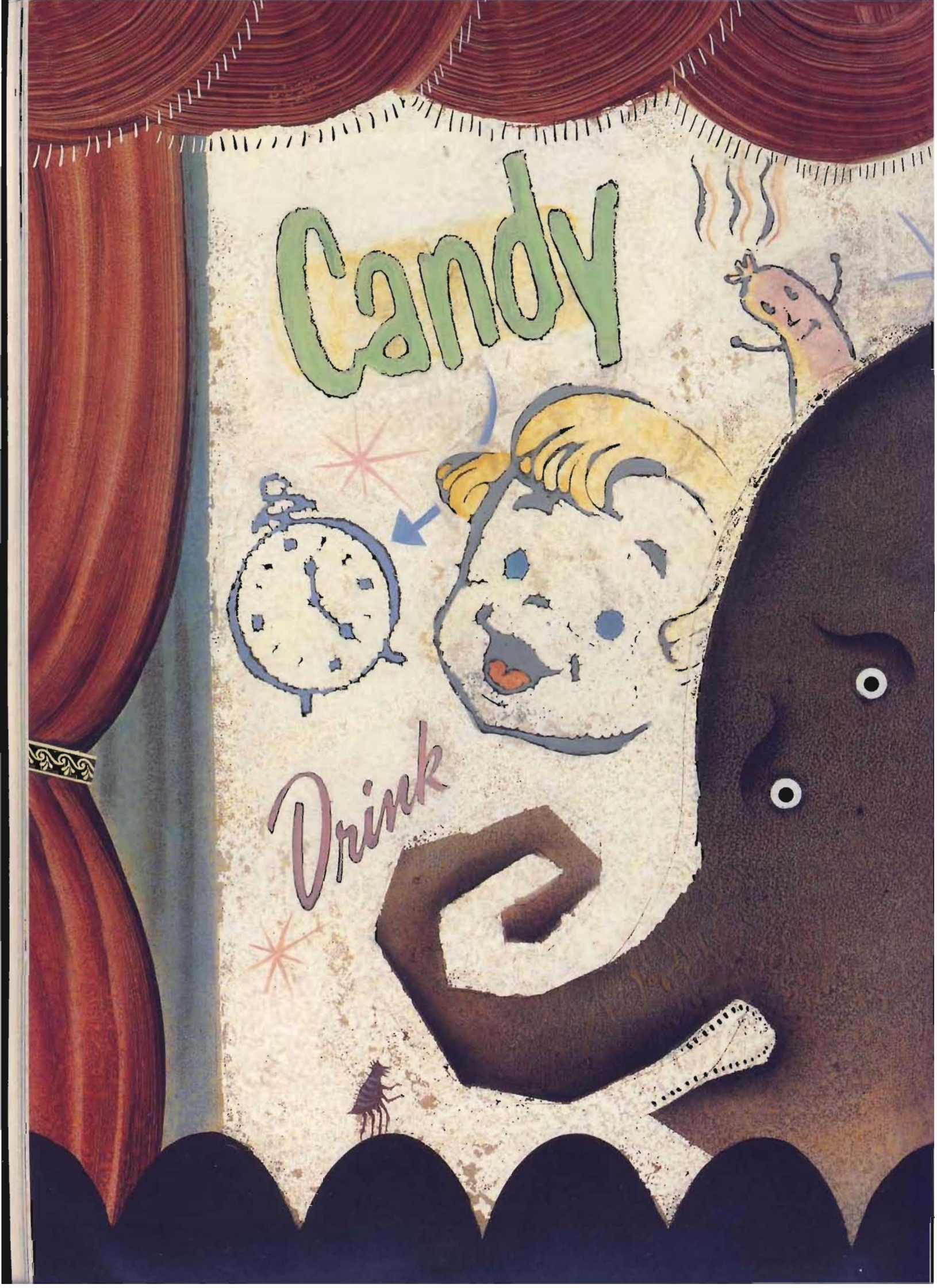


W

Candy



Drink



elephant & flea

As Elephant grew older, he also grew more responsible. One day he and Flea went to see a movie. They liked it so much that they saw it again and completely lost track of time.

“Oh no,” said Elephant, when he checked his watch. “I was supposed to meet Rhinoceros ten minutes ago. She is going to be furious. Do you have a quarter so I can call?”

Flea checked his pockets.

“Nope. Spent all my money on popcorn.”

So Elephant didn't call.

When Elephant finally showed up at Rhinoceros's house, he was twenty minutes late, and she was furious.

“You could at least have called,”
said Rhinoceros.

moral

Elephants never forget,
except sometimes.

termite, ant, & echidna



Termite and Ant had known each other since they were little.

They hung out and played and ate lunch together every day.

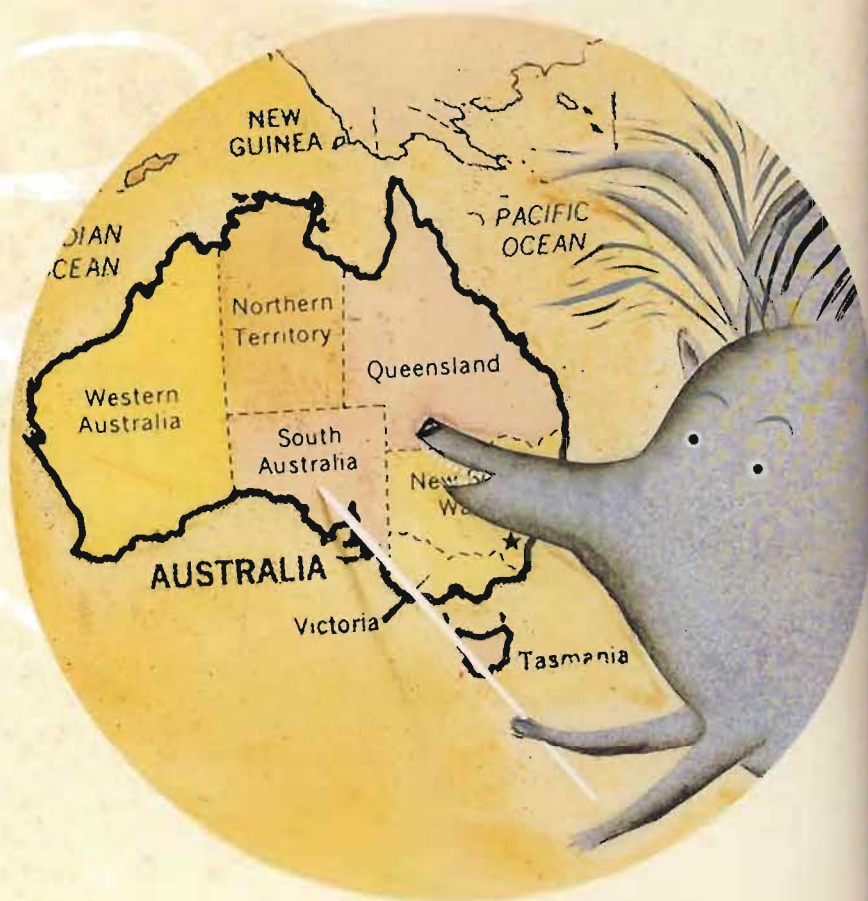


Then one day Echidna moved into the neighborhood.

“I come from Australia,” said Echidna.

“How exotic,” said Ant.

“My family name is Tachyglossidae,” said Echidna.



“Let’s be best friends,” said Ant.

Then Ant ignored Termite and played with Echidna the whole morning. At lunchtime Ant took out her sandwich and juice.



Echidna extended her long sticky tongue and slurped up a wiggling string of ants.

“Ulp,” said Ant.

moral

If you are an ant and are going to dump your best friend for a new one, you should know that Echidna is another name for Spiny Anteater.

horseshoe crab & blowfish

Horseshoe Crab and Blowfish were always fighting. They would use any excuse to start a fight or keep one going. One day Horseshoe Crab accidentally bumped Blowfish.

“Watch where you’re going, fossil face,” said Blowfish.

“Who are you calling fossil face, puff brain?”
said Horseshoe Crab.

“You’re a real helmet head,” said Blowfish.

“You’re a real balloon butt,” said Horseshoe Crab.

“Doofus.”

“Ding-dong.”

“Bozo.”

“Dodo.”

Horseshoe Crab and Blowfish called each other every name they could think of. Finally, one year later, neither one could think of another bad name.

“Spanking head,” said Horseshoe Crab.

“Spanking head?” said Blowfish.

“What’s a spanking head?”

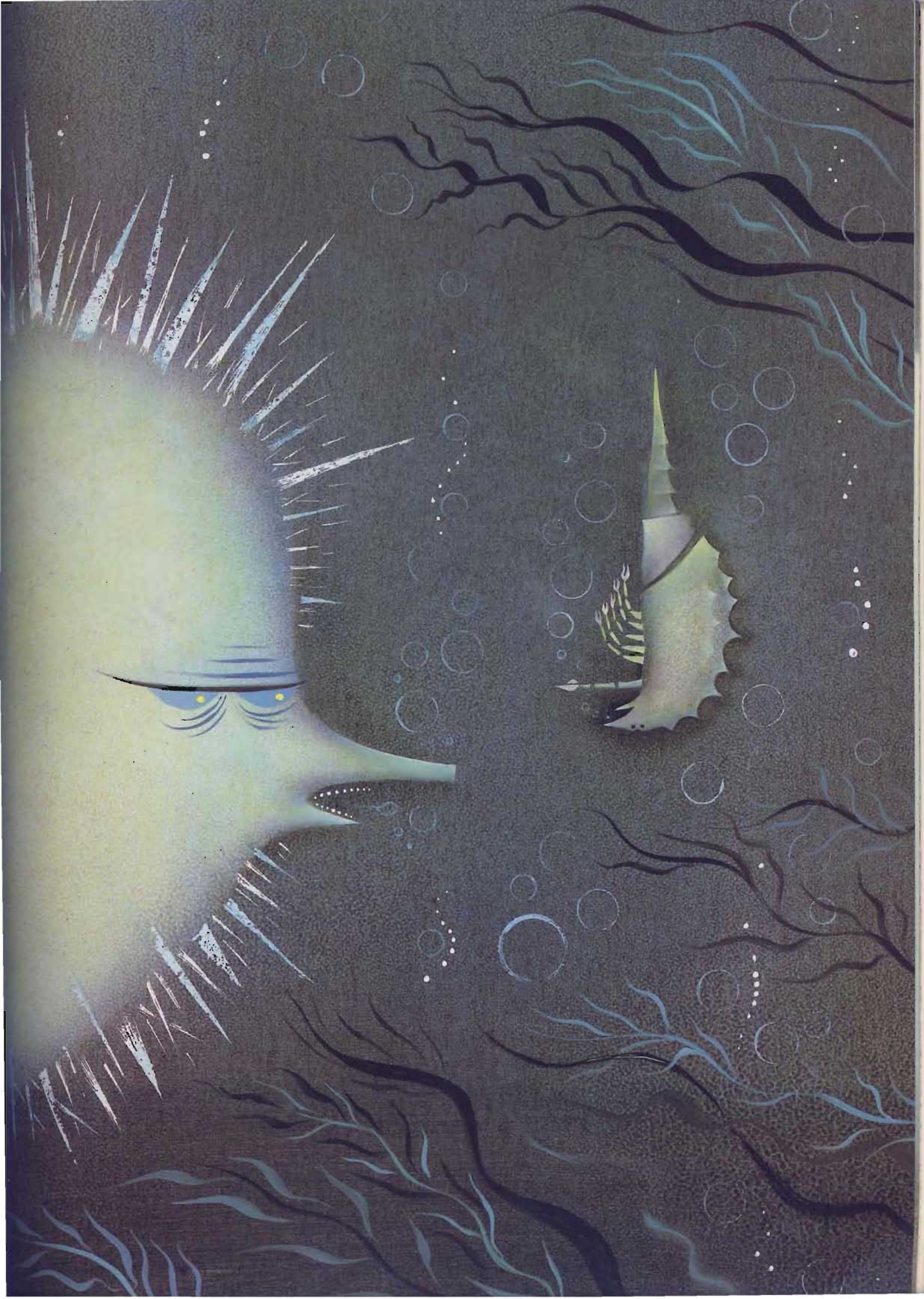
“I don’t know,” said Horseshoe Crab,

“but so’s your old lady.”

“I know you are,
but what am I?”
said Blowfish.

moral

It takes one
to know one.



99¢

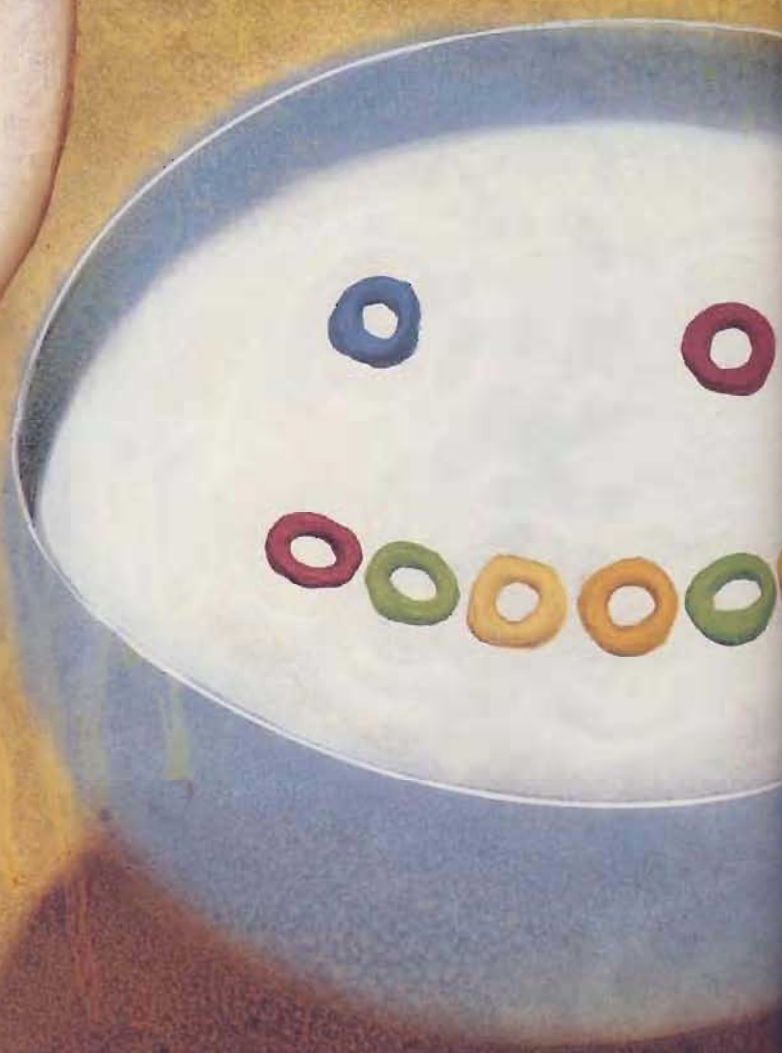
(REGULARLY \$1.59)

delicious!

nutritious

Cholesterol	8%
Sodium 125mg	0%
Total Carb. 23g	4%
Fiber 1g	
Sugars 12g	
Protein 1g	
Vitamin A 10%	• Vitamin C 20%
Calcium 0%	• Iron 20%
Vitamin D 10%	• Thiamin 20%
Riboflavin 20%	• Niacin 20%
Vitamin B ₆ 20%	• Folate 20%
Vitamin B ₁₂ 20%	• Zinc 20%

* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on diet of 2 slices, 1 cup of milk.



piece of toast & froot loops

Piece of Toast and Froot Loops sat on the breakfast table, arguing over who was loved the most.

“Of course everyone loves toast the most,” said Piece of Toast. “I’m half of ‘eggs and toast’ and all the toast in French toast. I am the toast with the most. Who could not love me?”

“We’ll soon find out,” said Froot Loops.

“Because I am a good source of 11 essential vitamins and minerals containing 20% of the minimum daily requirement of Vitamin C, Iron, Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Vitamin B12, and Zinc (based on a 2000 calorie/day diet and a 1 cup serving size not including the milk). I also have 1 gram of dietary fiber per serving and 12 grams of sugar, yellow dye #6, blue #1 and #2, and red #40. BHT has been added to preserve freshness . . .”

But while Froot Loops was rattling off his nutrition facts, Mom had a cup of tea, Dad drank coffee, Son ate a doughnut, and Daughter said she’d get a bagel on the way to school.

Toast got cold and stiff, and Froot Loops got very soggy.

moral

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.



slug's big moment

Slug was interested in only one thing—herself. She was so busy thinking about herself, she never learned anything.

Worm tried to help Slug in history class by asking her, “What two countries were in the Spanish-American War?”

Slug looked up from the note she was writing to herself.

“Huh?”

Snail tried to help Slug in science class by asking her, “What color is the great blue whale?” Slug looked up from her name that she was doodling in her notebook. “Huh?”

Then one day Larva saw a chance to help Slug change her ways.

“Slug, what is that big thing behind you that looks like a steamroller?” asked Larva.

Slug didn't even look up from the friendship bracelet she was making for herself.

And the last thing she said was,

“Huh?”

moral Slugs are not unlike Squids.





h a n d , f o o t , & t o n g u e

One evening at dinner, Hand, Foot, and Tongue got into a heated argument over who had the toughest job.

“I have the toughest job,” said Hand.

“Every day I work from sunup to sundown. I button shirts. I tie shoes. I hold the spoon and fork to feed all of us. I have to be strong enough to punch with a fist, and gentle enough to pat a baby. I definitely have the toughest job.”

“No you don’t,” said Foot. “I have the toughest job.

“Every day I have to carry all of you. And I’m not complaining or anything, but I usually have to do it in the dark—stuck in a smelly sock and laced in a shoe. I have the toughest job.”

Then Tongue spoke up.

“I am a fleshy muscular organ attached to the floor of the mouth. I help in both speech and taste. I start the process of digestion by moving food into position to get ripped and mashed and crushed and smashed to little bits by the teeth. Then I cover the little food bits with saliva and shape them into slimy blobs of guck that I push down the throat and—”

“That’s sick,” said Hand.

“Disgusting,” said Foot.

(moral There are some things we don’t talk about at the dinner table. **)**

duckbilled platypus vs. beefsnakstik[®]



“I have a bill like a duck and a tail like a beaver,” bragged Duckbilled Platypus.



“So what?” said BeefSnakStik[®]. “I have beef, soy protein concentrate, and dextrose.”

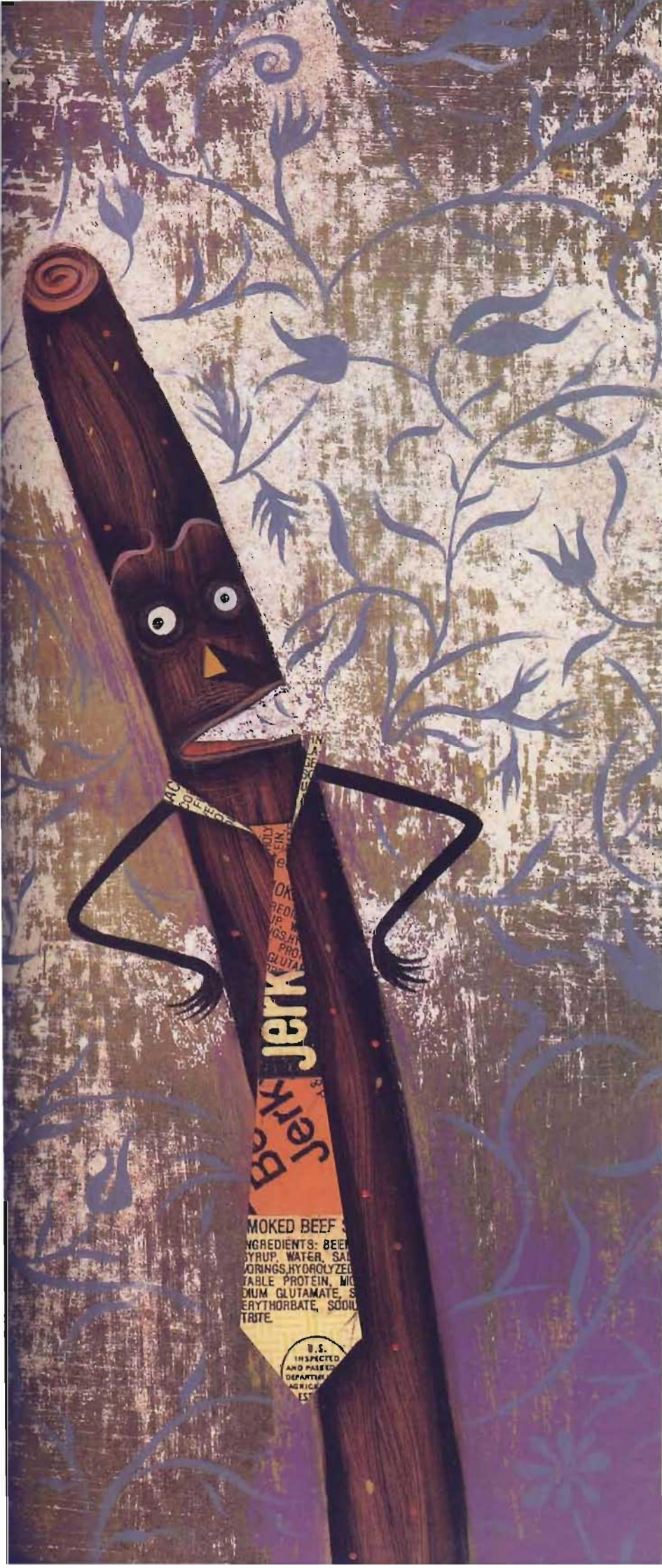
“I also have webbed feet and fur,” said Duckbilled Platypus.



“Who cares?” said BeefSnakStik[®]. “I also have smoke flavoring, sodium erythorbate, and sodium nitrite.”

“I am one of only two mammals in the world that lay eggs,” said Duckbilled Platypus.





“Big deal,”

said

BeefSnakStik®.

“I have beef lips.”

moral

Just because you have a lot of stuff, don't think you're so special.

elephant & gnat

In his later years, Old Elephant became a wise and gentle creature. One night he and Gnat stayed out late and completely lost track of time.

“Oh no,” said Old Elephant, when he finally saw a clock. “I was supposed to be home an hour ago. I’d better call home now.”

“Why bother?” said Gnat.

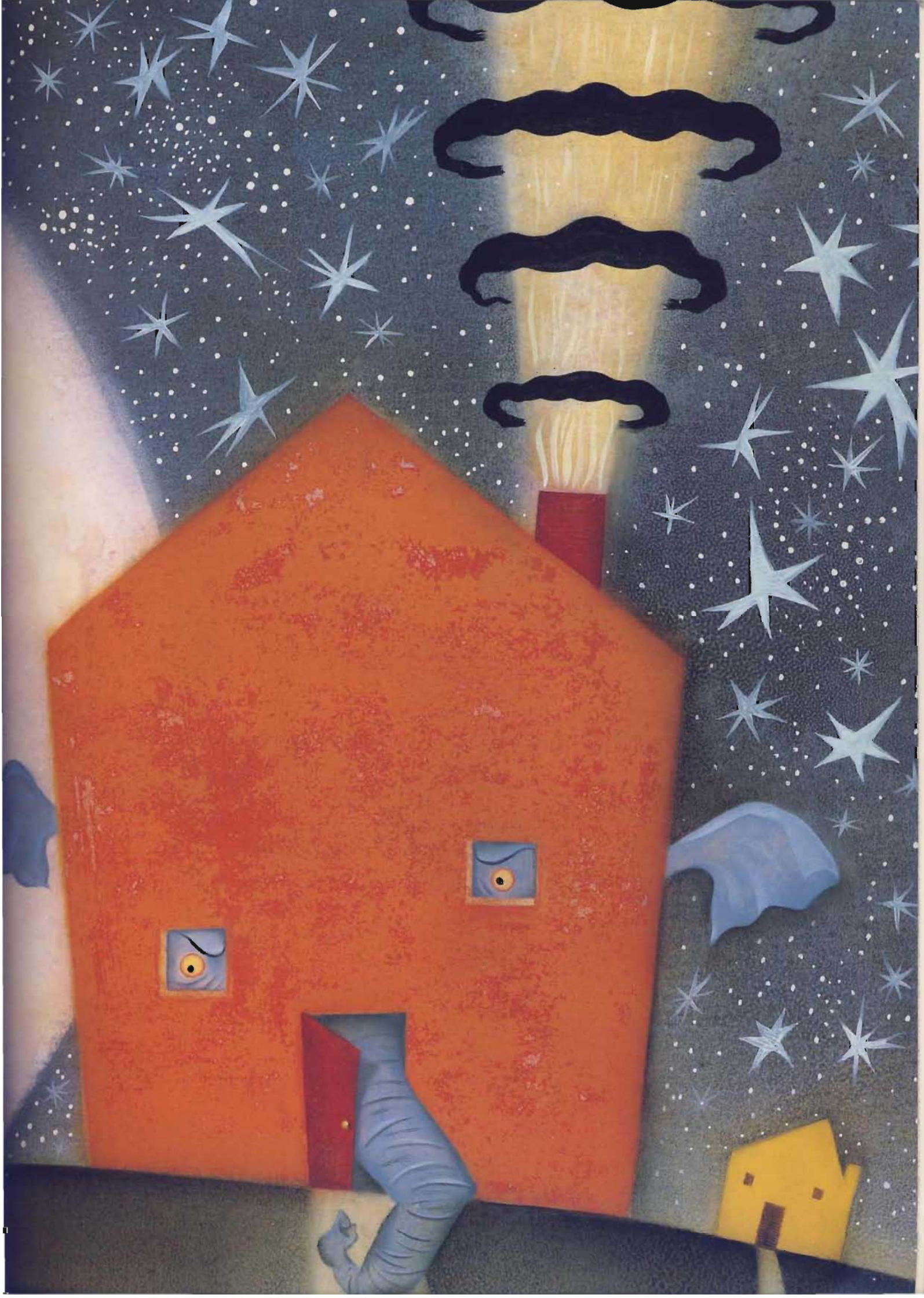
“Mrs. Elephant is surely sleeping, and you’ll just wake her up if you call.”

So Old Elephant didn’t call.

When he got home, Mrs. Elephant was furious.

And she never forgot.

moral Don't forget the other
moral about bugs,
and always, always, always call home.

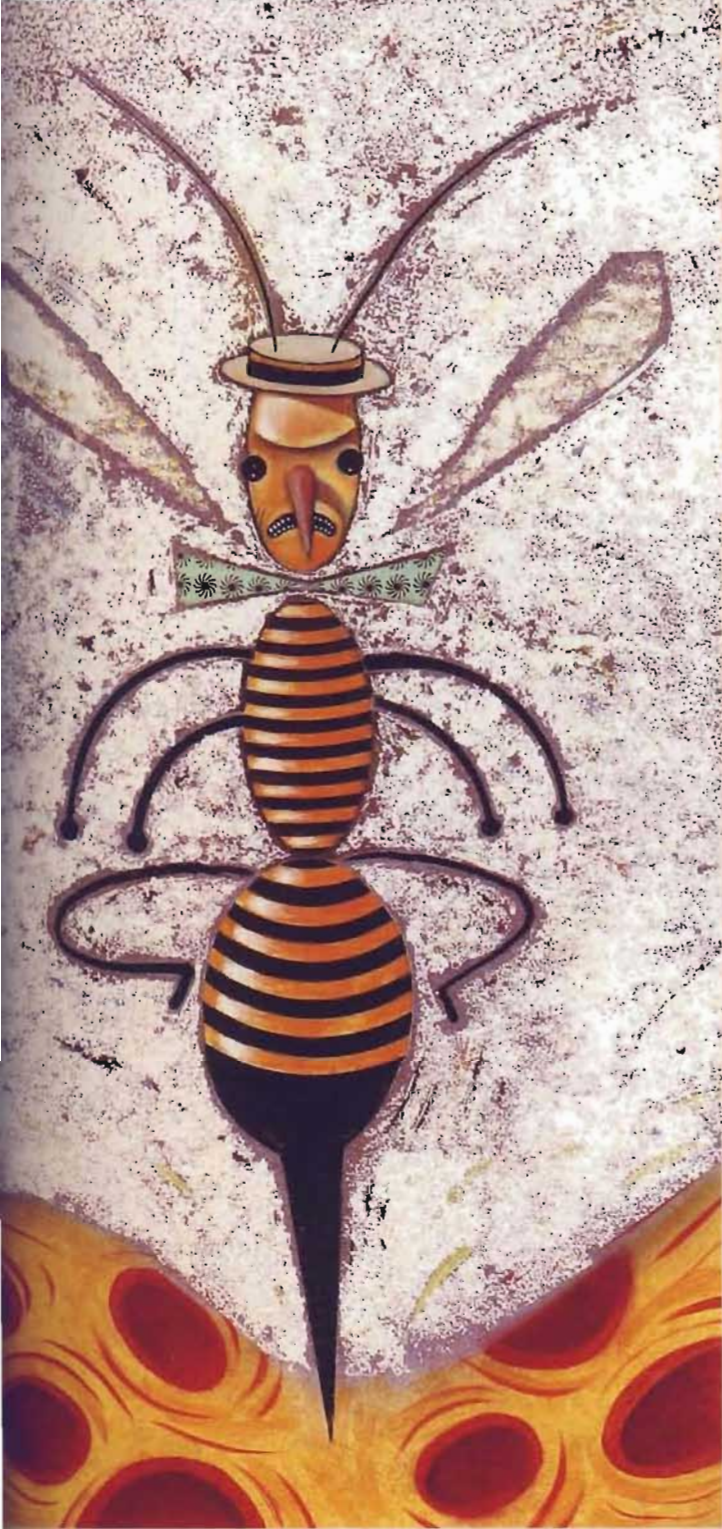


g e e . . . l w o n d e r



Shark,
Wasp, and
Bacteria
ate lunch
together
every day.

“No one else
ever sits with
us,” said Shark,
ripping into his tuna
sandwich with his
double row of huge
razor-sharp teeth.
“What’s their
problem?”



“It’s just
not fair,”

said Bacteria, infecting
her pudding. “Why
won’t anyone give us
a chance?”




“We’re just
misunderstood,”
said Wasp, stabbing his
pizza and injecting it
again and again and again
with paralyzing venom.

I **now**
Think


read



about it.





 **You** have just finished reading fables about all kinds of bossy, sneaky, funny, annoying, dim-bulb people . . . I mean *animals*.

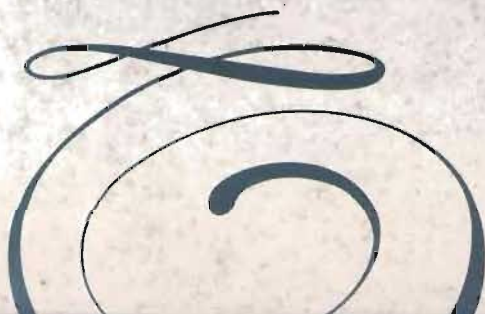
“What fun,” you are thinking.

“I should write some of those myself,” you are thinking. 

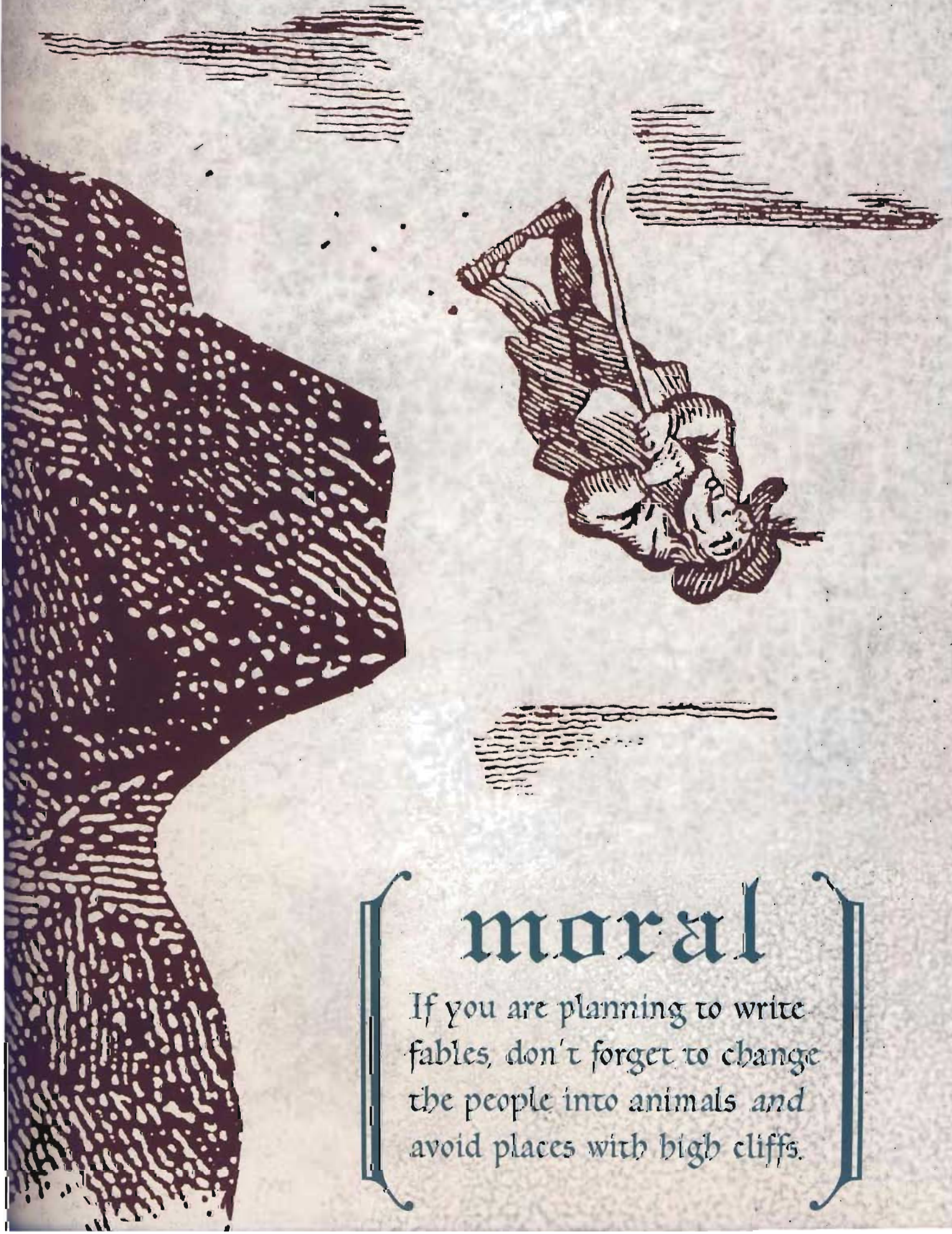
 **But** before you get started, it just occurred to me that you might want to know one more little bit about Aesop. 

 **Aesop** used to tell this one fable about a real bossy jerk “Lion” who ruled a city. When the real bossy jerk guy who ruled Aesop’s city heard this fable, he didn’t like it. 

So he had Aesop
thrown off a cliff.



historical afterword ❀❀



moral

If you are planning to write fables, don't forget to change the people into animals and avoid places with high cliffs.