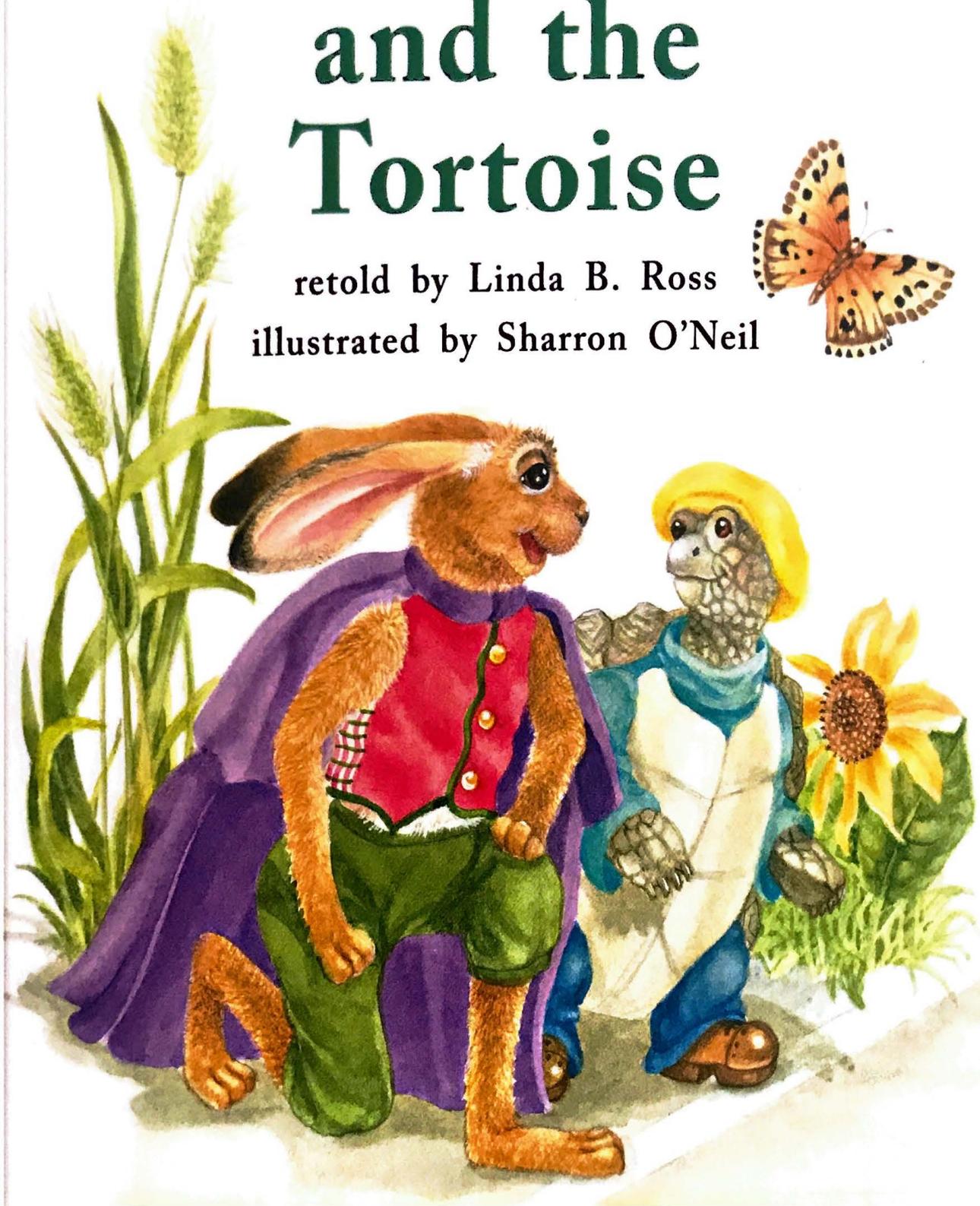


CLASSIC TALES

# The Hare and the Tortoise

retold by Linda B. Ross  
illustrated by Sharron O'Neil



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❧ A Classic Tale ❧

A long time ago, there lived a Hare and a Tortoise. The Tortoise was quiet and kind, but the Hare was loud and liked to brag a lot.

"I'm the fastest animal of all!" he would say. "No one could ever beat me in a race!"



Hare bragged so much that no one believed him.

"You talk so much," said the Frog, "that you don't have time to race."

"I'm pretty fast myself," said the Squirrel.

"Me, too," said the Raccoon.



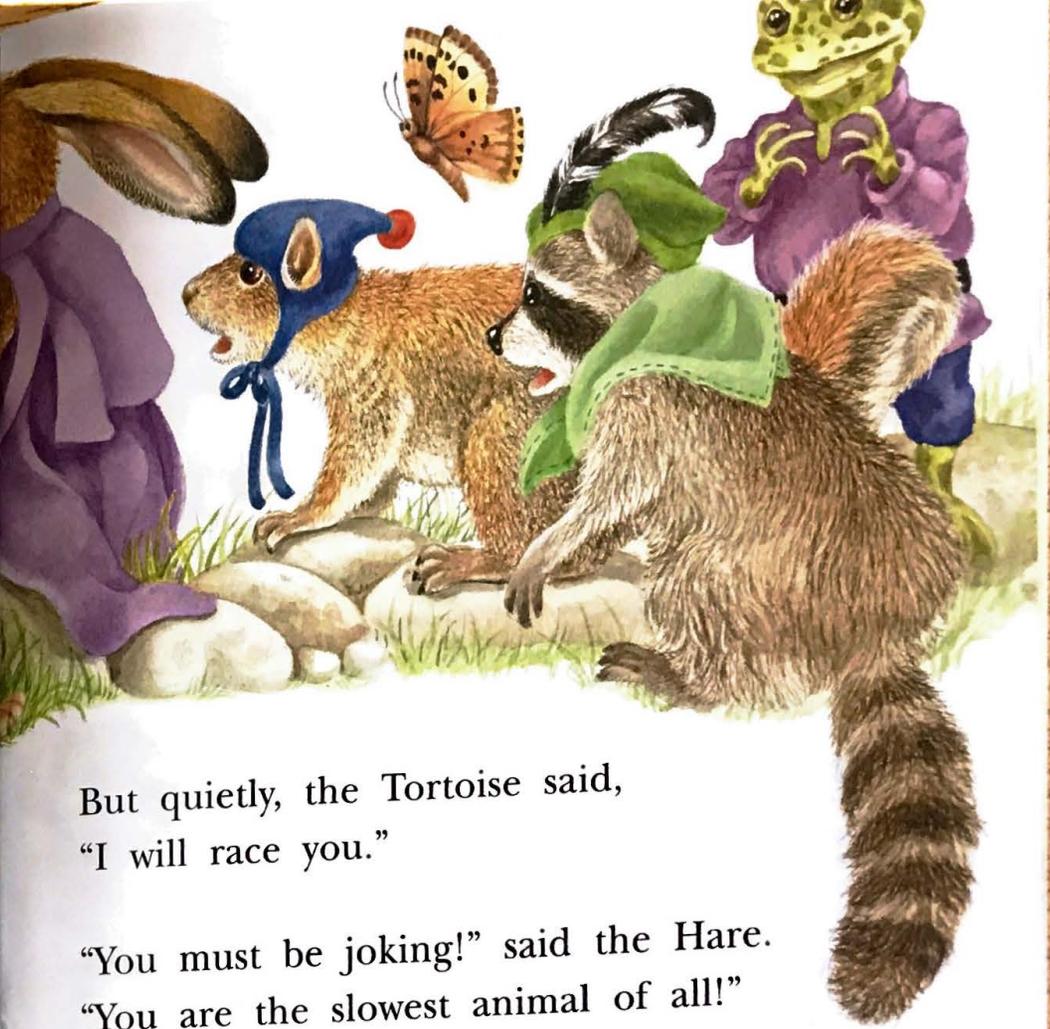


"You're not as fast as I am," said the Hare. "I'll race you!"

"No thanks," said the Frog.

"Not today," said the Squirrel.

"I don't think so," said the Raccoon.



But quietly, the Tortoise said,  
"I will race you."

"You must be joking!" said the Hare.  
"You are the slowest animal of all!"

"I'm not joking," said the Tortoise.  
So the two agreed to race the  
next morning.

Animals from near and far heard about the race. By the next morning, a crowd had gathered.

Everyone was sure the Hare would win. After all, he was the fastest animal. But everyone hoped the Tortoise would win. After all, he was the kindest animal.

Soon, the Hare and the Tortoise were at the START line.



The Frog rang the bell, and the race began. The Hare took off like a rocket! He ran past the Tortoise and called, "Good-bye, Tortoise! This will be a very easy race for me!"

The Tortoise walked slowly along the path. "I will not listen to the Hare," he thought. "Let him say what he wants. I will just keep going."

The Hare was near the FINISH line. When he looked back, he could hardly see the Tortoise. "This is such a silly race!" he said. "That slow Tortoise could never beat me. I can take my time and still win the race."



So the Hare stopped to eat some leaves. Then he drank some cool water from the lake. He ate and drank until he was very full.

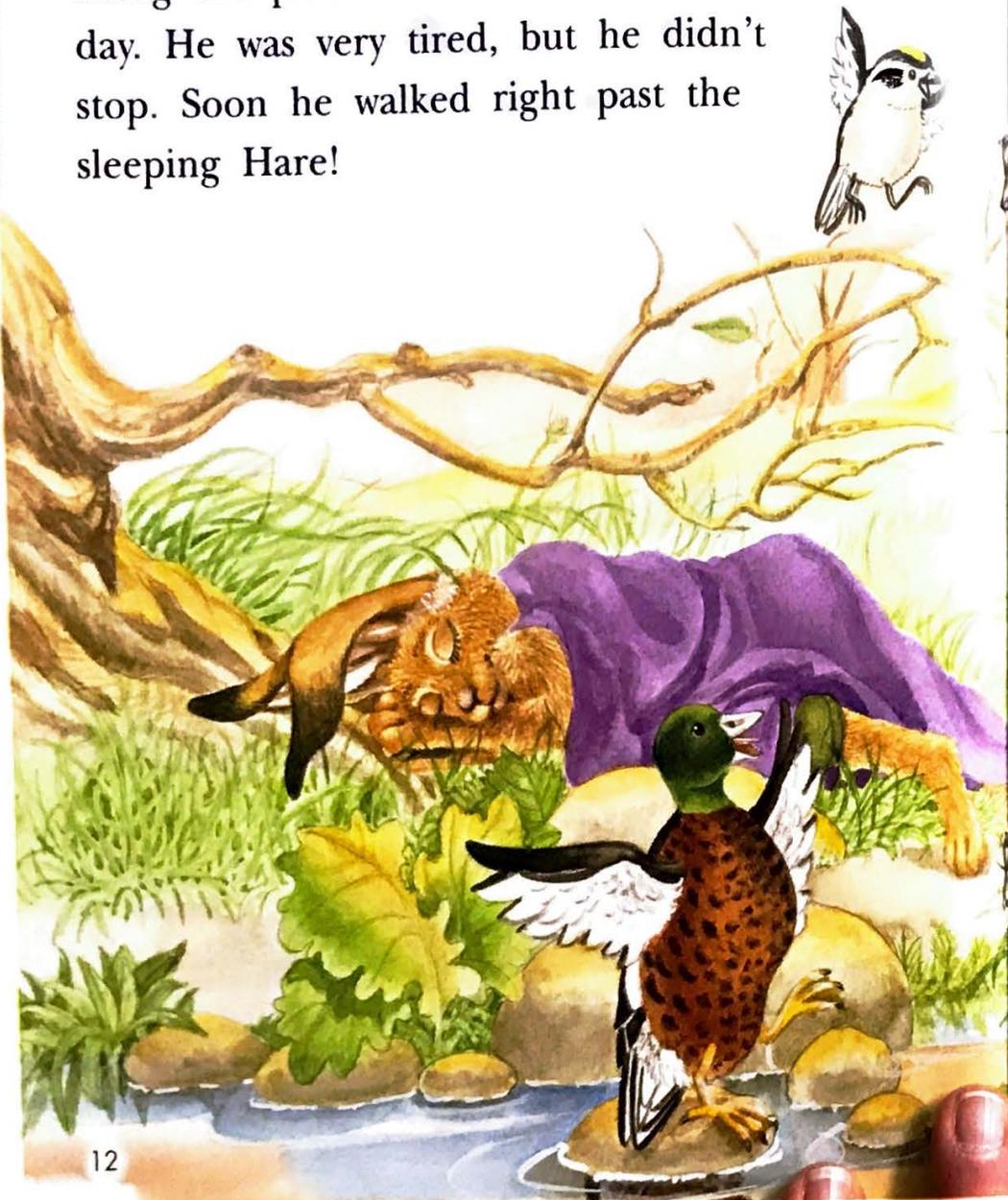
The Hare started to feel sleepy.

"I think I'll take a little nap," he said.  
"The Tortoise is very far behind. I can rest and still win the race!"

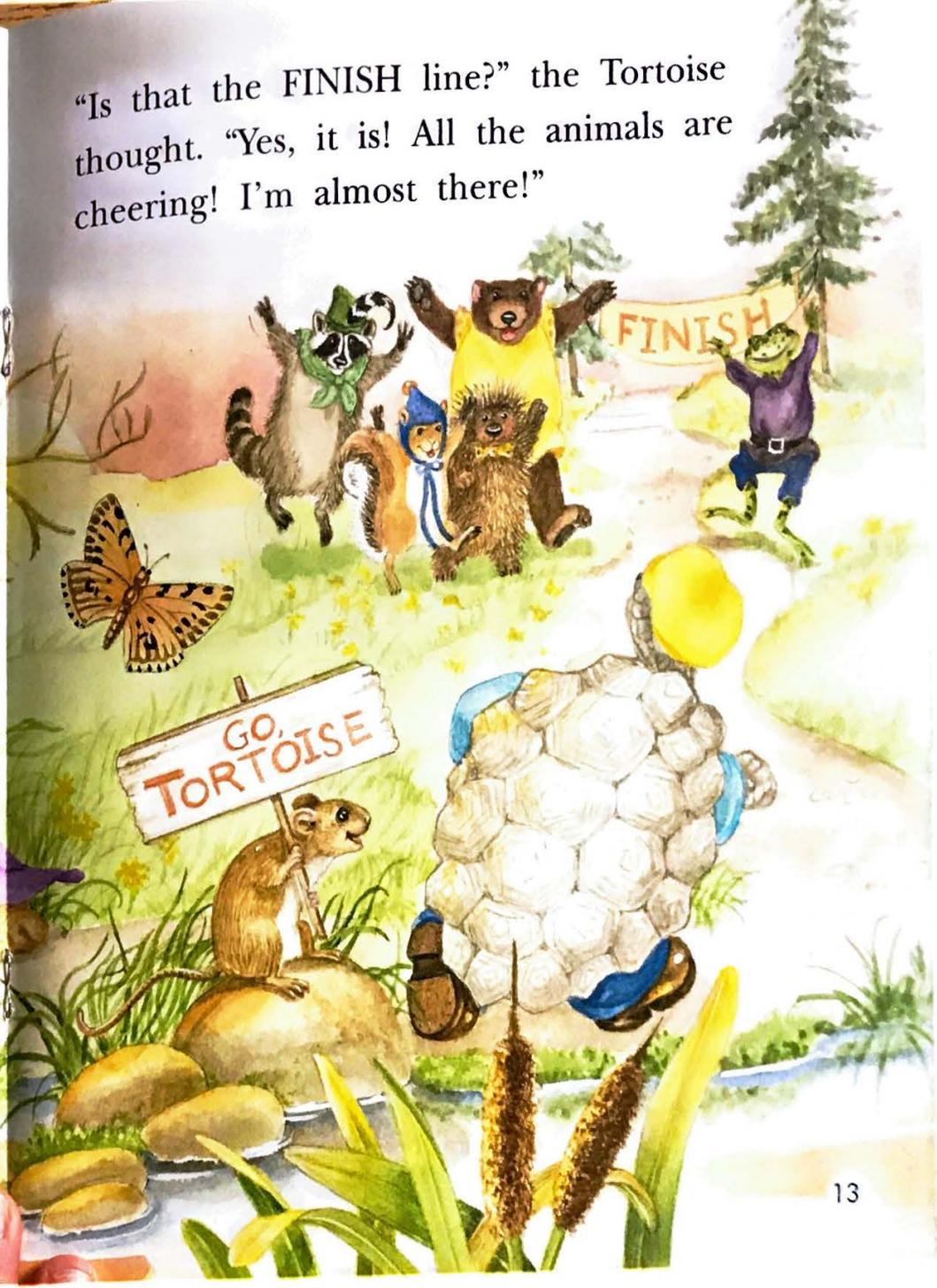


So the Hare sat down and closed his eyes. Soon he was fast asleep. He dreamed that he won the race.

Meanwhile, the Tortoise walked slowly along the path. He had walked all day. He was very tired, but he didn't stop. Soon he walked right past the sleeping Hare!



"Is that the FINISH line?" the Tortoise thought. "Yes, it is! All the animals are cheering! I'm almost there!"



All the cheering woke up the Hare.  
"What is going on?" he asked. Then  
he saw that the Tortoise was almost at  
the FINISH line. "Oh, no! This can't  
be happening. No one could ever beat  
me in a race!" he said.



The Hare jumped up. He ran as fast  
as he could. But it was too late. The  
Tortoise crossed the FINISH line and  
won the race!

"I can't believe that you beat me!"  
said the Hare.

The Tortoise smiled and said quietly,  
"Slow and steady wins the race."

And after that, the Hare never  
bragged again.



## The Hare and the Tortoise

### The Play

#### Characters



Narrator



Frog



Hare



Squirrel



Tortoise



Raccoon



### Narrator

A long time ago, there lived a Hare and a Tortoise. The Tortoise was quiet and kind, but the Hare was loud and liked to brag a lot.



### Hare

I'm the fastest animal of all! No one could ever beat me in a race!



### Frog

You talk so much that you don't have time to race.



### Squirrel

I'm pretty fast myself.



### Raccoon

Me, too.



### Hare

You're not as fast as I am. I'll race you!



### Frog

No thanks.



### Squirrel

Not today.



### Raccoon

I don't think so.



### Tortoise

I will race you.



### Hare

You must be joking! You are the slowest animal of all!



### Tortoise

I'm not joking.



### Narrator

So the two agreed to race the next morning. By the next morning, a crowd had gathered.



### Squirrel

I know the Hare will win.



### Raccoon

Yes, but I hope the Tortoise will win. After all, he is the kindest animal.



### Narrator

The Frog rang the bell, and the race began.



### Hare

Good-bye, Tortoise! This will be a very easy race for me!



### Tortoise

I will not listen to the Hare. Let him say what he wants. I will just keep going.



### Narrator

The Hare was near the FINISH line. When he looked back, he could hardly see the Tortoise.



### Hare

This is such a silly race! That slow Tortoise could never beat me. I can take my time and still win the race.



### Narrator

So the Hare stopped to eat some leaves. Then he drank some cool water from the lake. He ate and drank until he was very full.



### Hare

I think I'll take a little nap. The Tortoise is very far behind. I can rest and still win the race!



### Narrator

So the Hare sat down and closed his eyes. Soon he was fast asleep. Meanwhile, the Tortoise walked slowly along the path.



### Tortoise

I am very tired, but I will not stop.



### Narrator

Soon the Tortoise walked right past the sleeping Hare!



### Tortoise

Is that the FINISH line? Yes, it is! All the animals are cheering! I'm almost there!



### Frog

### Squirrel

### Raccoon

Go, Tortoise! Go!



### Narrator

All the cheering woke up the Hare.



### Hare

What is going on? Oh, no! This can't be happening. No one could ever beat **me** in a race!



### Narrator

The Hare jumped up. He ran as fast as he could. But it was too late. The Tortoise crossed the FINISH line and won the race!



### Hare

I can't believe that you beat me!



### Tortoise

Slow and steady wins the race.



### **Narrator**

And after that the Hare never bragged again.

