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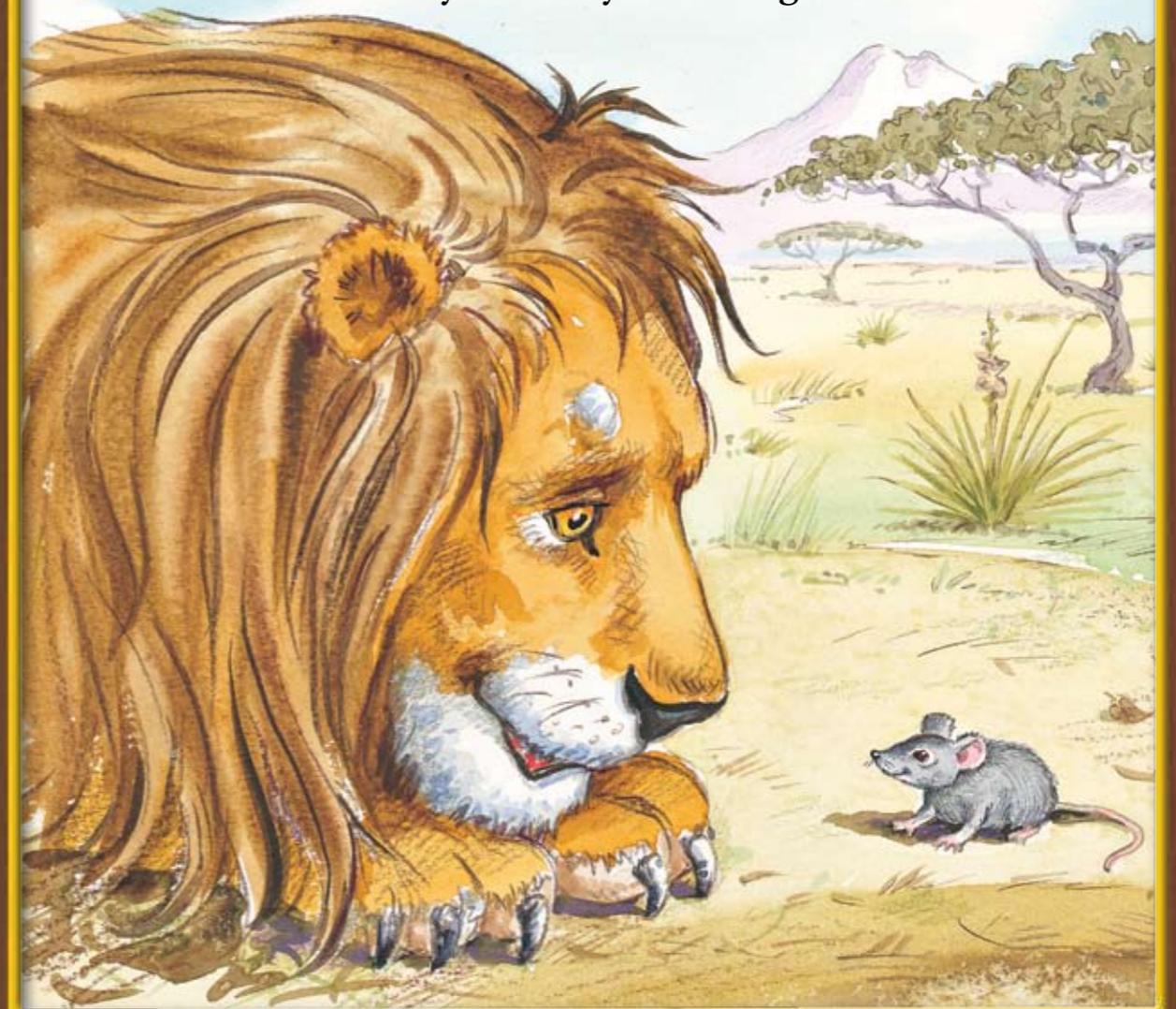
Level J

CLASSIC TALES

The Lion and the Mouse

retold by Linda B. Ross

illustrated by Aleksey and Olga Ivanov



The Lion and the Mouse

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The Lion and the Mouse

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❧ A Classic Tale ❧



One day, a Lion was taking a nap.
Soon, a little Mouse came running by.
He was in a hurry to get home.

The Mouse did not see the Lion.
So he ran right over the Lion's nose!

The Lion woke up with a loud roar.
He grabbed the little Mouse
with his big paw.
“I’M GOING TO EAT YOU!”
roared the Lion.
“YOU WOKE ME UP!”

The Lion opened his big jaws.
He was going to eat
the little Mouse!

“Dear Lion, please do not eat me!”
said the Mouse.
“I did not mean to wake you up.
Please let me go!”



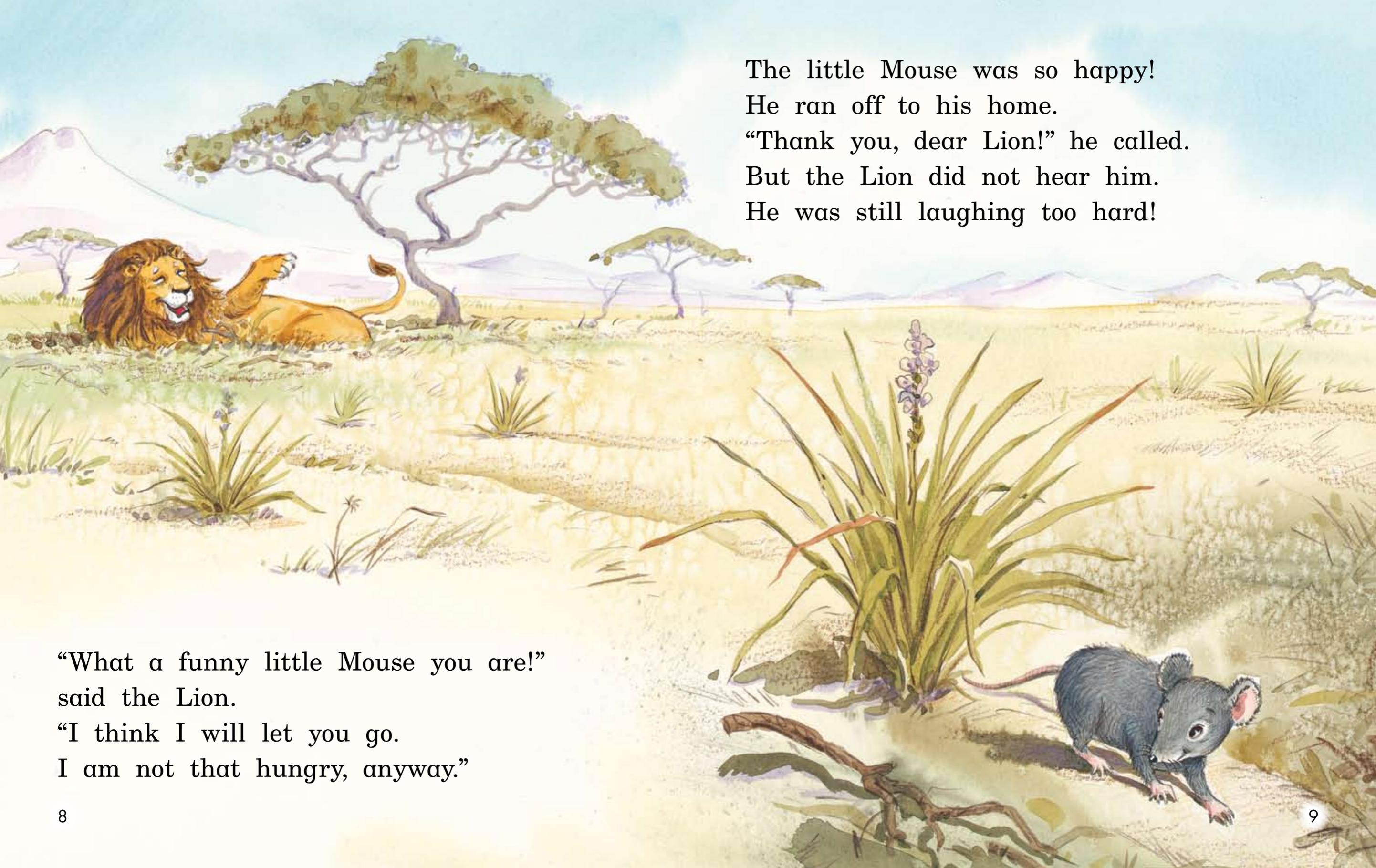


The little Mouse kept talking
and begging.

“Dear Lion, please,
please let me go!
If you do, maybe one day
I will help you.”

The Lion laughed at the little Mouse.
He laughed so hard
that he could not stop.
“You think **you** can help **me?**”
he asked.

“How could a little Mouse
ever help me?”

A colorful illustration of a savanna landscape. In the foreground, a small grey mouse is running towards the right, past a large green plant with purple flowers. In the middle ground, a lion is lying down on the left, looking towards the mouse. The background features rolling hills, several acacia trees, and a clear blue sky.

The little Mouse was so happy!
He ran off to his home.
“Thank you, dear Lion!” he called.
But the Lion did not hear him.
He was still laughing too hard!

“What a funny little Mouse you are!”
said the Lion.
“I think I will let you go.
I am not that hungry, anyway.”



A few days later,
the Lion was out walking.
Suddenly, a hunter's net trapped him.
He was caught.
The Lion roared and tried
to get free.
But he was trapped!

The little Mouse was close by.
He was taking a nap.
The Mouse woke up
when he heard the Lion roar.

“The Lion needs my help,” he said.
So he went to find the Lion.

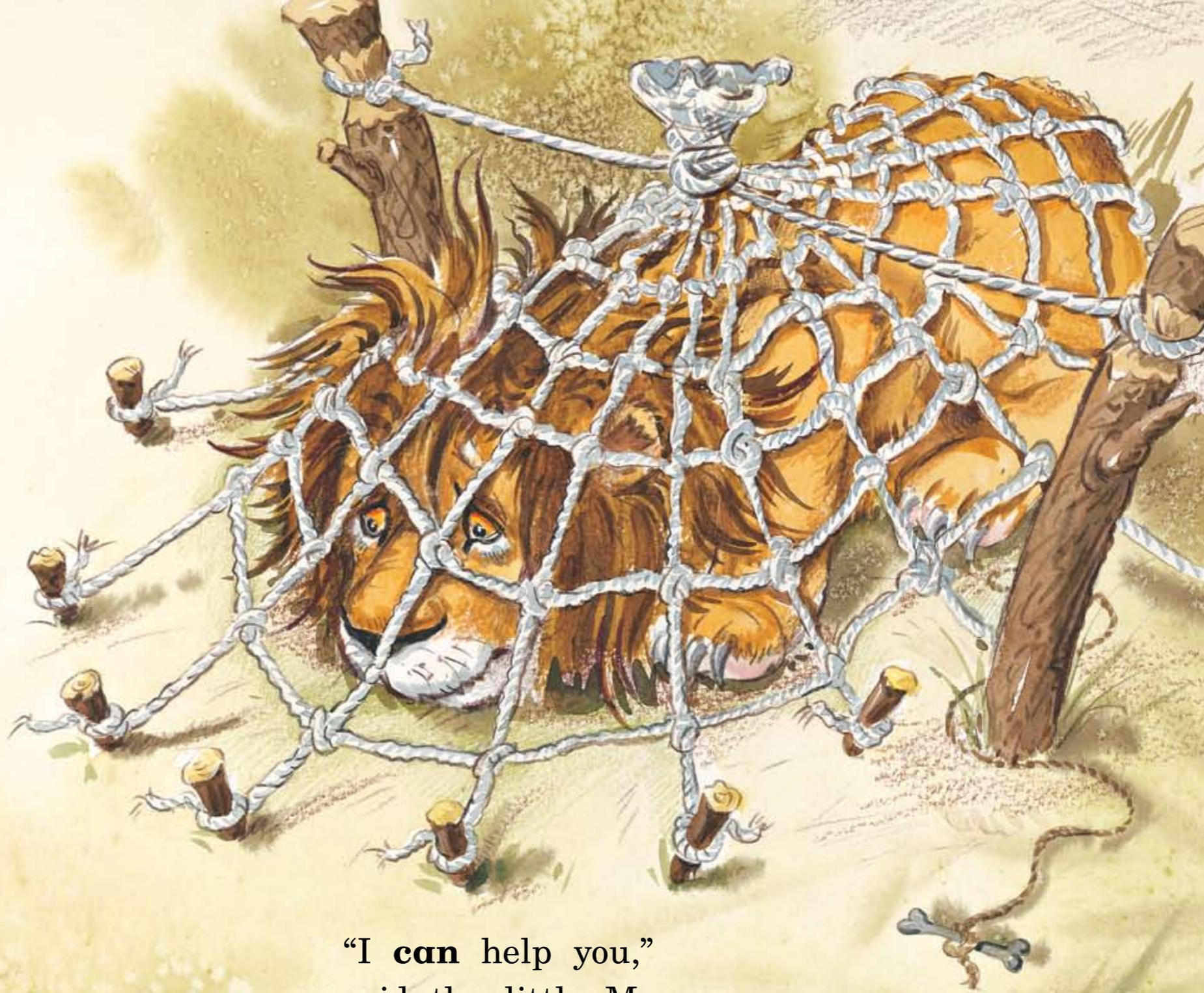


The little Mouse saw the Lion
in the hunter's net.

"I will help you, dear Lion,"
he said.

"Do not be silly, little Mouse,"
said the Lion.

"What can you do?
No one can help me now!"



"I **can** help you,"
said the little Mouse.
So the Mouse went to work.

He bit at the ropes
with his little teeth.
He bit and he chewed.
He chewed and he bit.
Then he bit and he chewed
some more.



It took the little Mouse a long time.
But at last, the Lion was free!
“How can I thank you?”
asked the Lion.
“What can I do for you?”

“Well, there is one thing,”
said the Mouse.
“I want to be your friend.”

And so it was.
The Lion and the Mouse
became best friends.
And the Lion learned this lesson:
“A little friend can be
the best friend of all!”



The Lion and the Mouse

The Play

Characters



Narrator 1



Narrator 2



Lion



Mouse



Narrator 1

One day, a Lion was taking a nap.

Soon, a little Mouse came running by.

The Mouse did not see the Lion.

So he ran right over the Lion's nose!



Lion

YOU WOKE ME UP!

I'M GOING TO EAT YOU!



Mouse

Dear Lion, please do not
eat me!
I did not mean
to wake you up.
Please, please let me go!
If you do, maybe one day
I will help you.



Lion

You think **you** can
help **me**?
How could a little Mouse
ever help me?
What a funny little Mouse
you are!
I think I will let you go.
I am not that hungry,
anyway.



Narrator 2

The little Mouse was so happy!



Mouse

Thank you, dear Lion!



Narrator 1

A few days later,
the Lion was out walking.
Suddenly, a hunter's net
trapped him.



Lion

I am caught! ROAR!



Narrator 2

The little Mouse was close by.
He was taking a nap.
The Mouse woke up
when he heard the Lion roar.



Mouse

The Lion needs my help.



Narrator 1

The little Mouse saw the Lion in the hunter's net.



Mouse

I will help you, dear Lion.



Lion

Do not be silly, little Mouse.
What can you do?
No one can help me now!



Mouse

I **can** help you.



Narrator 2

So the Mouse went to work.
He bit at the ropes
with his little teeth.
He bit and he chewed.
He chewed and he bit.



Narrator 1

Then he bit and he chewed
some more.
It took the little Mouse
a long time.
But at last, the Lion was free!



Lion

How can I thank you?
What can I do for you?



Mouse

Well, there is one thing.
I want to be your friend.



Narrator 1

And so it was.
The Lion and the Mouse
became best friends.



Narrator 2

And the Lion learned
this lesson:



Lion

A little friend can be
the best friend of all!

