

Julie Bellinkx  
Melanie Louwerens

This is a publication by the  
AMBER Alert Europe Foundation

# **THE RUMBLING ADVENTURE OF HARE**

**A tale about following your intuition  
and keeping yourself safe**

# Colophon

Copyright © 2023 AMBER Alert Europe Foundation

[www.amberalert.eu](http://www.amberalert.eu)

Author: Julie Bellinkx

Illustrations and lay-out: Melanie Louwerens

Special thanks to: Drs. Evelien Speel-Flierman (Child and youth psychologist NIP, GSZ psychologist BIG), Kirsten van den Berg (Behavioral scientist), Mariska Custers (Psychologist), Nele Geerts (Illustrator), Carlo Schippers (Former missing persons expert at the Dutch National Police), Dr. Arine Vlieger (Pediatrician and researcher, MD, Phd.)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without permission of the Publishers.

# **THE RUMBLING ADVENTURE OF HARE**



It's a beautiful day in Harefield.

The sun is shining brightly.

Hare and his friend Hedgehog are running through the grass.

As they giggle and play, the blades of grass tickle their tummies.



Suddenly, Hare stops and lets out a sigh.

He always plays in the same green meadow,  
with the same tickling blades of grass.

“What’s wrong, Hare?” Hedgehog asks, concerned.

“I’d love to play somewhere else.” Hare says.

“Somewhere I’ve never been before.”

Hedgehog’s eyes light up with excitement as she thinks for a moment.

“I have a brilliant idea! Let’s go to the forest!”



Hare stands still and thinks.

Mum and dad warned him about the forest.

He's only allowed to go as far as the big old oak tree if they're not around.

Suddenly, Hare hears a strange sound.

“Rrr-rrr-rrr.”

“Hey, where's that sound coming from?”

He looks around.

“Rrr-rrr-rrr.”

Hare scratches his ear, how bizarre!

RRR

RRR

RRR



“Hey, Hedgehog, do you hear that odd sound too?” Hare says.

Hedgehog perks up her ears and listens carefully.

“What sound? I don’t hear anything!”

Hare shakes his head. Maybe he imagined it.

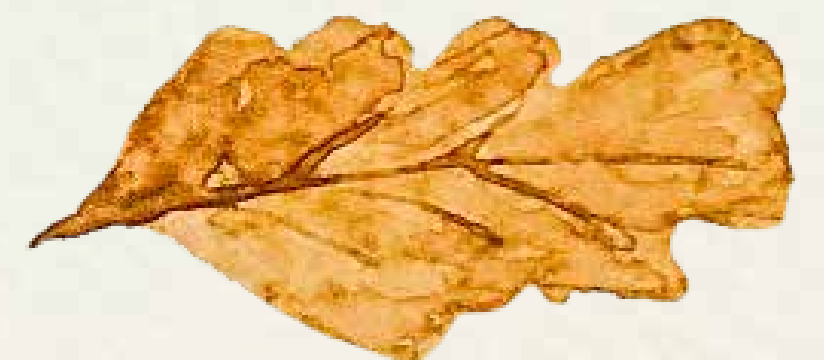


They reach the edge of the forest.

“Are you coming?” Hedgehog shouts.

“I don’t know.” Hare stammers.

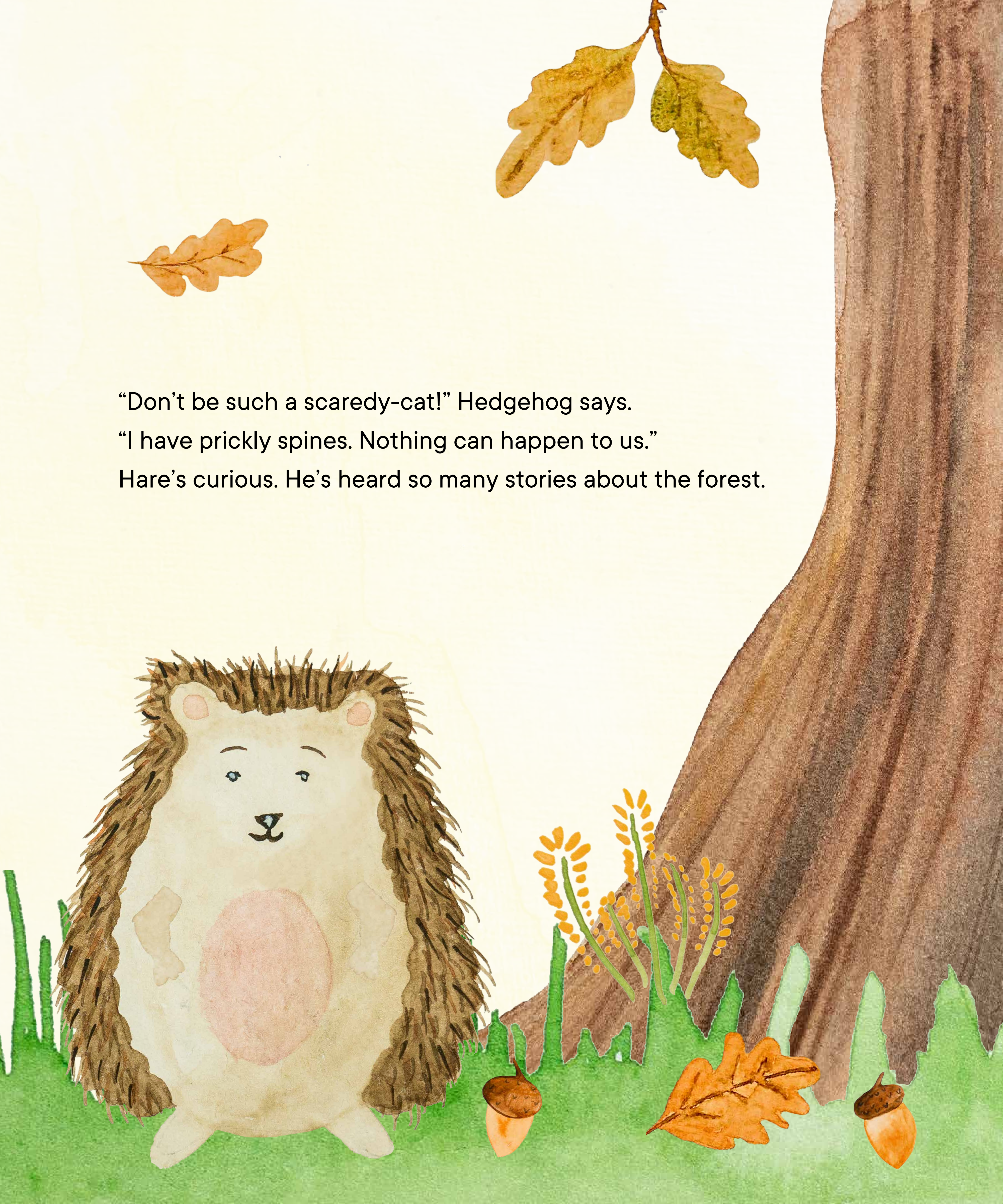
“Mum and dad said I shouldn’t go into the forest without them.”



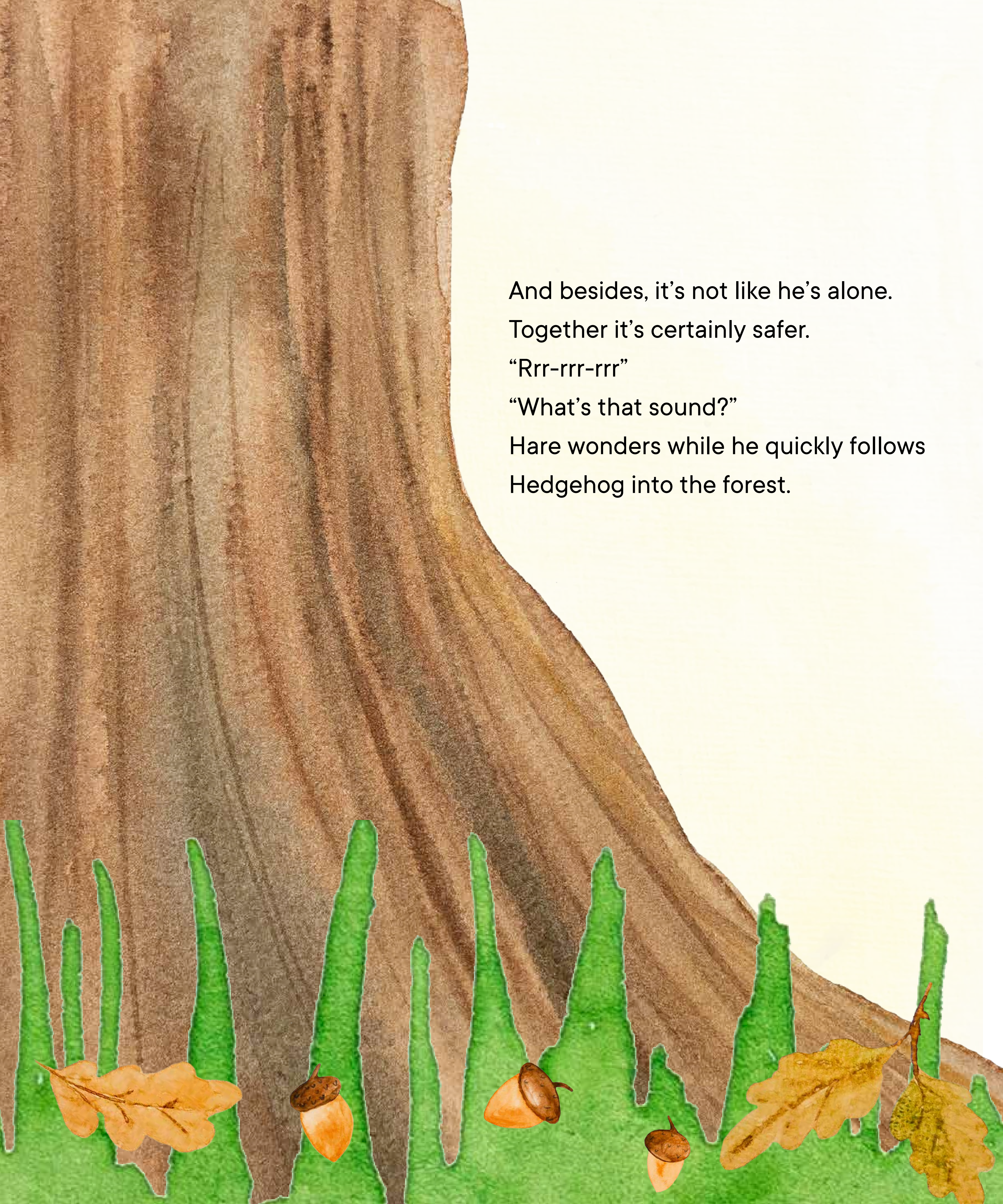
**FOREST**

A rustic wooden signpost made of weathered wood, pointing to the right. The word "FOREST" is written on the sign in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is mounted on a wooden post. The background features watercolor-style illustrations of green foliage and two red mushrooms with white gills.



A watercolor illustration of a hedgehog standing in a forest. The hedgehog is light-colored with a large pinkish-red patch on its belly and brown spines. It has a curious expression. The background features a large tree trunk on the right, green grass at the bottom, and several autumn leaves in shades of orange and brown. Some leaves are falling from the top, and one is on the ground. There are also some small yellow flowers with green stems near the tree.

“Don’t be such a scaredy-cat!” Hedgehog says.  
“I have prickly spines. Nothing can happen to us.”  
Hare’s curious. He’s heard so many stories about the forest.



And besides, it's not like he's alone.

Together it's certainly safer.

“Rrr-rrr-rrr”

“What's that sound?”

Hare wonders while he quickly follows  
Hedgehog into the forest.

Hare and Hedgehog wander deeper into the forest.  
They walk along streams and forest paths, past green trees,  
and red flowers, forgetting where they are for a moment.



Suddenly, they hear rustling from the bushes nearby.  
They freeze, startled by what might be lurking inside.  
“Could this be where the strange sound is coming from?” Hare thinks.

A red, fluffy tail pops out from the bushes.

“Hello, who’s there?” Hedgehog asks.

“I am a hare.” The animal replies.



Two fluffy red ears peek out of the bushes.

“Those aren’t hare ears at all!” Hare shouts.

“Yes, they are!” The animal says.

“Come closer and you’ll see.”



Hare senses something is off.

The fluffy red tail and ears can only mean one thing: a fox!

“Rrr-rrr-rrr.”

The sound is now even louder than before.

RRR RRR RRR

“We have to get out of here, Hedgehog! Otherwise, we’ll be a tasty meal!”

Their hearts beat fast as they dash through the forest.



The friends reach an open space in the forest.

“Where are we?” Hare feels worried.

“I’m not sure.” Hedgehog replies, scratching her head.

“But I know we’re far from Harefield.”

“Rrr-rrr-rrr.”



RRR RRR RRR

Hare jumps up. “Did you hear that?”

But Hedgehog still can’t hear a thing.



“There!” Hedgehog shouts. “The big old oak tree.”

The oak tree towers above the forest.

“If we walk towards the oak tree, we will surely get back to Harefield.”





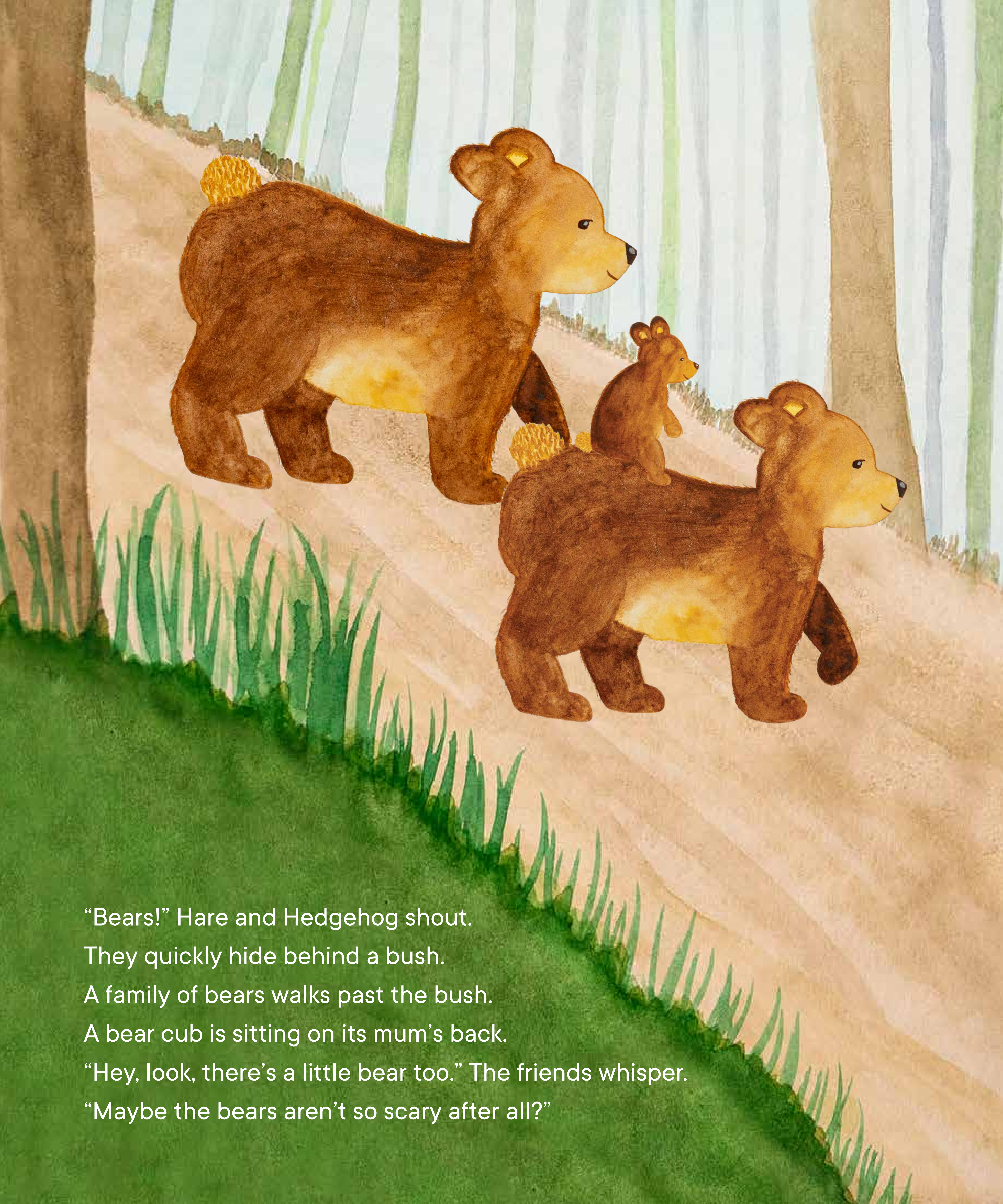
Hare and Hedgehog walk and walk.

“I don’t think we’re getting any closer to home.” Hare sighs.

Suddenly, the ground starts to shake.

Large footsteps are getting closer.





“Bears!” Hare and Hedgehog shout.  
They quickly hide behind a bush.  
A family of bears walks past the bush.  
A bear cub is sitting on its mum’s back.  
“Hey, look, there’s a little bear too.” The friends whisper.  
“Maybe the bears aren’t so scary after all?”

“Should we ask them for help? Otherwise, we’ll never get home.”

Hedgehog whimpers.

“Rrr-rrr-rrr!”

The sound is now louder than ever.

“Come on.” Hare says. “Let’s go.”

RRRR

RRRR

RRRR

“H...h...hello.” Hare says shyly to the bear family.

“We’re lost. Could you perhaps show us the way to Harefield?”



“Of course.” One of the bears says.

“Do you see those beautiful red flowers over there?”

“Keep following them until you reach the big pond.

When you get to the big pond, turn left.

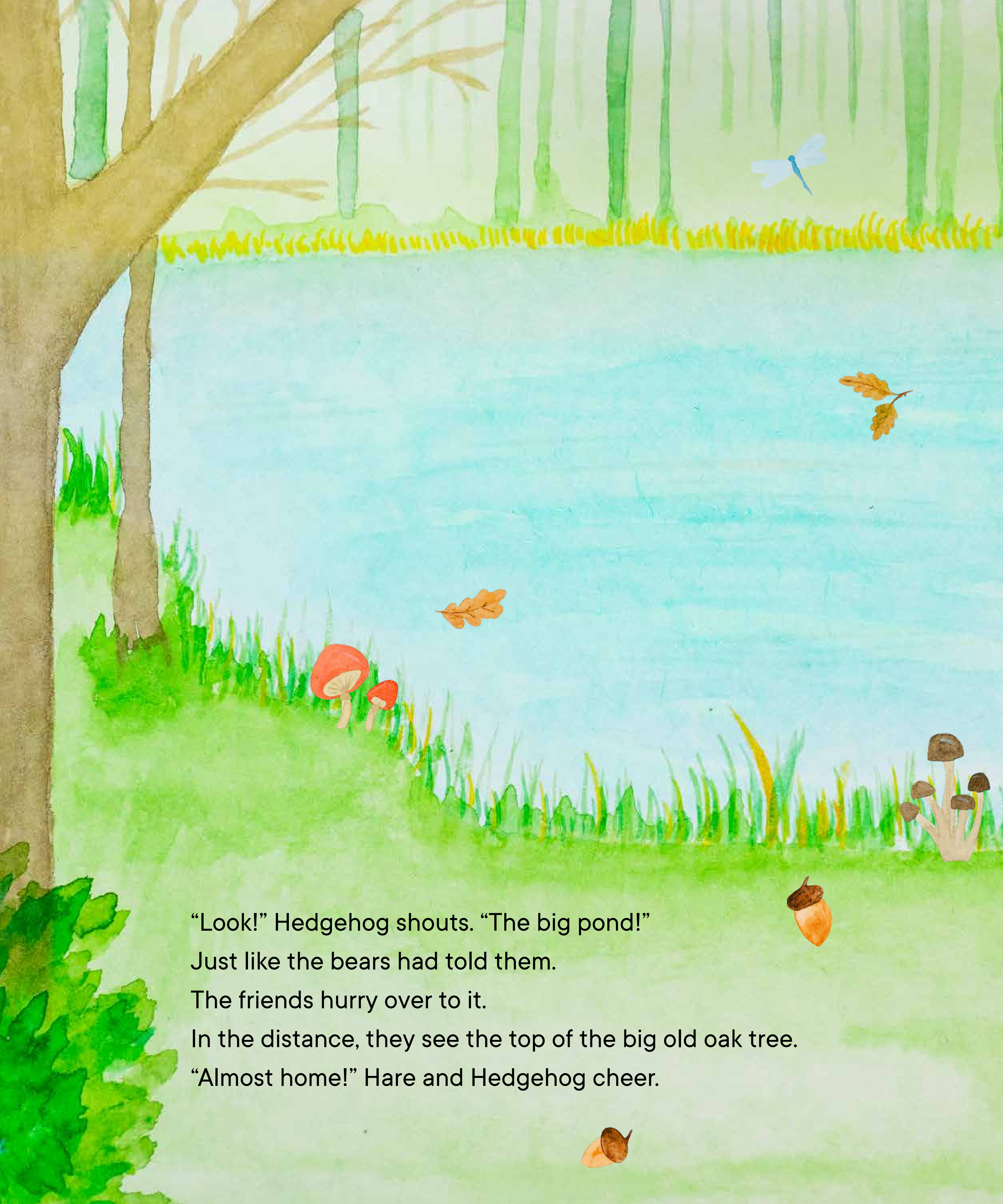
A little further on, you’ll see the big old oak tree.

When you see the oak tree, you’re almost there.”

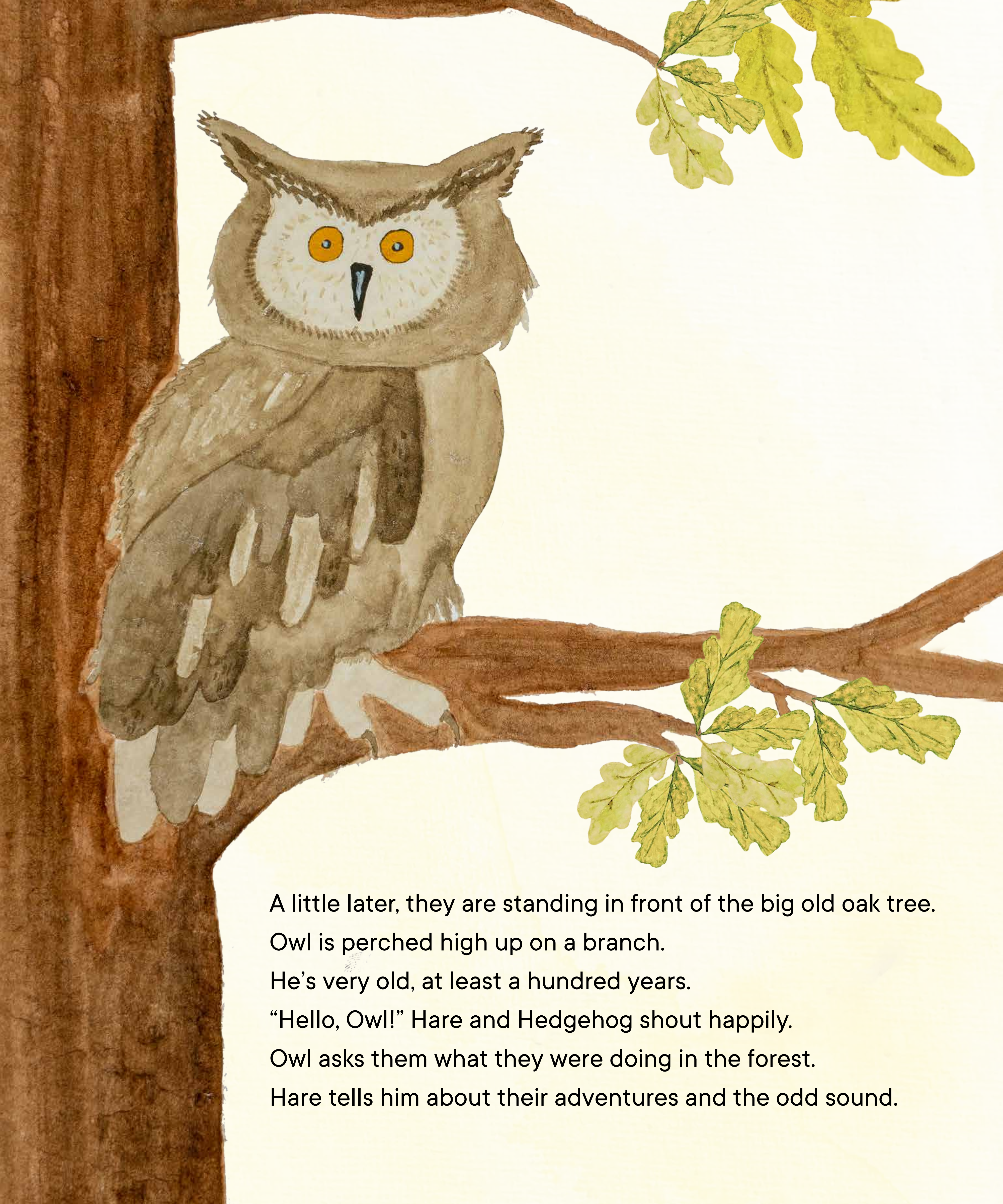


The friends thank the bear family and continue their journey.  
They walk along the path with beautiful red flowers,  
each flower even more beautiful than the last.





“Look!” Hedgehog shouts. “The big pond!”  
Just like the bears had told them.  
The friends hurry over to it.  
In the distance, they see the top of the big old oak tree.  
“Almost home!” Hare and Hedgehog cheer.



A little later, they are standing in front of the big old oak tree.  
Owl is perched high up on a branch.  
He's very old, at least a hundred years.  
"Hello, Owl!" Hare and Hedgehog shout happily.  
Owl asks them what they were doing in the forest.  
Hare tells him about their adventures and the odd sound.





“Do you know what that strange sound is?” Hare asks Owl.

“I do.” Owl says.

“Listen carefully, and you’ll hear it.”

Hare listens closely.





RRR

RRR RRR

Then, he hears his own tummy rumbling.

“Rrr-rrr-rrr.”

“That sound is coming from me!” Hare says in surprise.

He touches his tummy.

“That’s right.” Owl says.

“That’s your gut feeling, a kind of inner voice.

Your gut feeling tells you when something feels right or wrong.

If you learn to trust it, your gut feeling can help you make a decision.”



Hare nods. He thinks about all the adventures in the forest.  
His gut feeling has also tried to help him today.  
From now on, I'll always listen to that rumbling tummy of mine,  
Hare thinks.



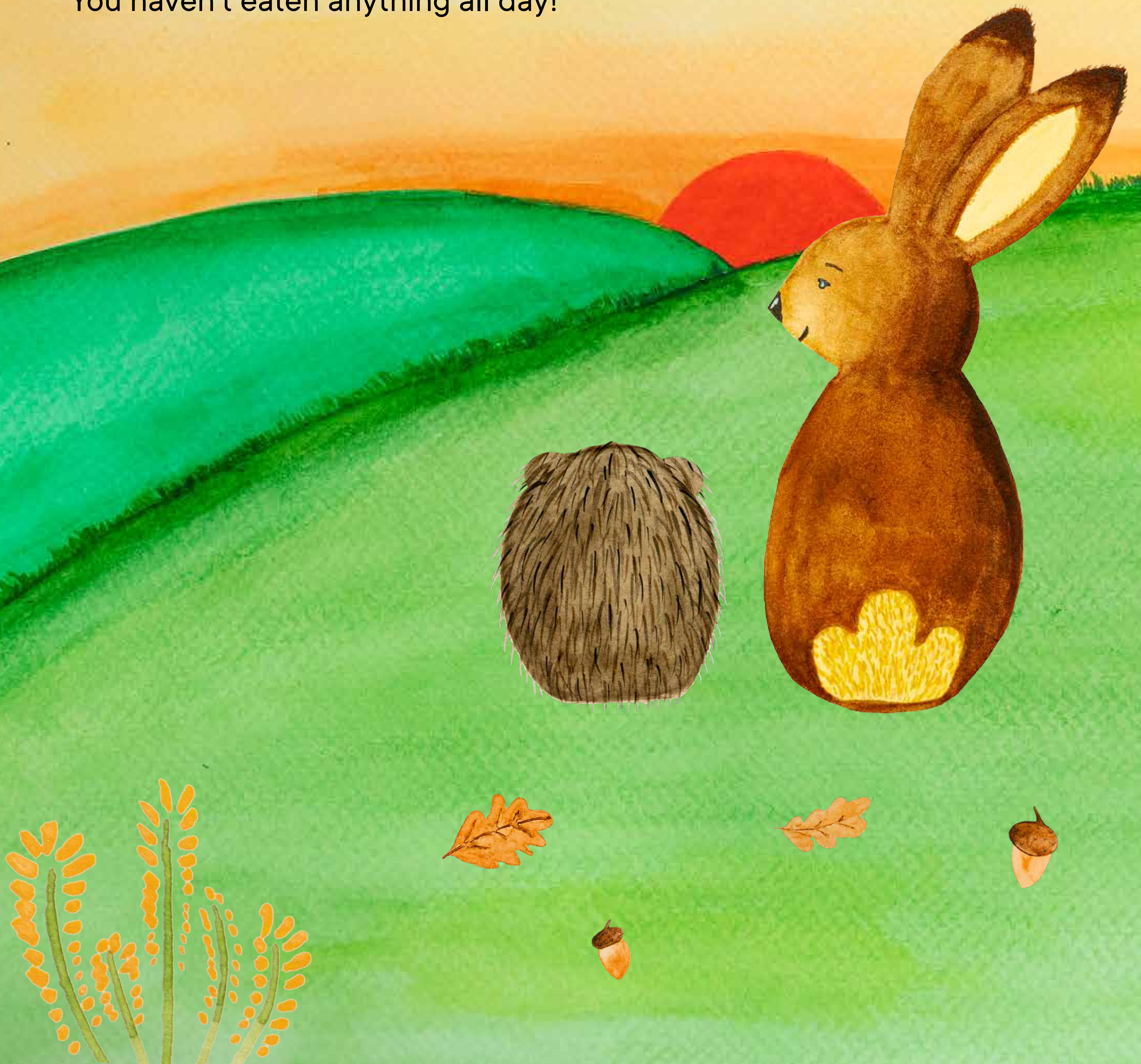
Hare and Hedgehog are sitting on a green hill near the big old oak tree. It's quiet as they watch the sun set over Harefield.

Suddenly, Hedgehog's tummy growls loudly.

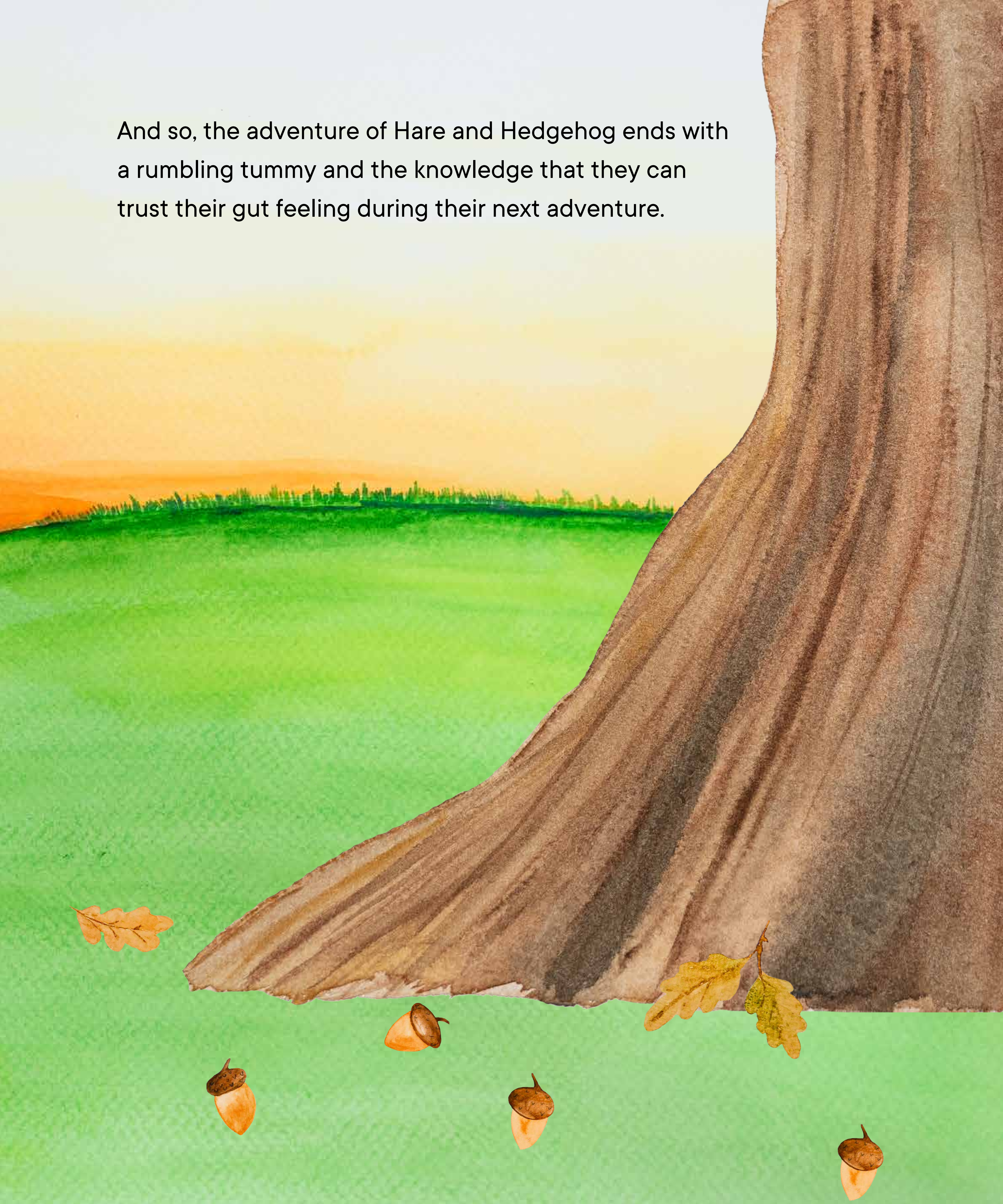
"Is that my gut feeling?" Hedgehog asks.

Hare chuckles. "No, because I hear it too. I think you're just hungry.

You haven't eaten anything all day!"



And so, the adventure of Hare and Hedgehog ends with a rumbling tummy and the knowledge that they can trust their gut feeling during their next adventure.



# To the storytellers

*The Rumbling Adventure of Hare* is created with the aim of teaching children how to protect themselves from going missing.

Every year, 300,000 children go missing in Europe. To reduce this staggering number, it is important to teach children at a young age the skills and knowledge they need to stay safe.

With *The Rumbling Adventure of Hare*, children are provided with important rules of thumb in a playful and positive way. These rules of thumb are based on five tips from experts in the field of missing children:

- 🍂 Always trust your own instincts. If it doesn't feel right, don't do it.
- 🍂 Never go somewhere alone. It's safer to go together.
- 🍂 Don't go with someone you don't know or don't expect.
- 🍂 Ask other parents for help if you get lost.
- 🍂 Learn to take note of landmarks. This makes it easier to find your way back.

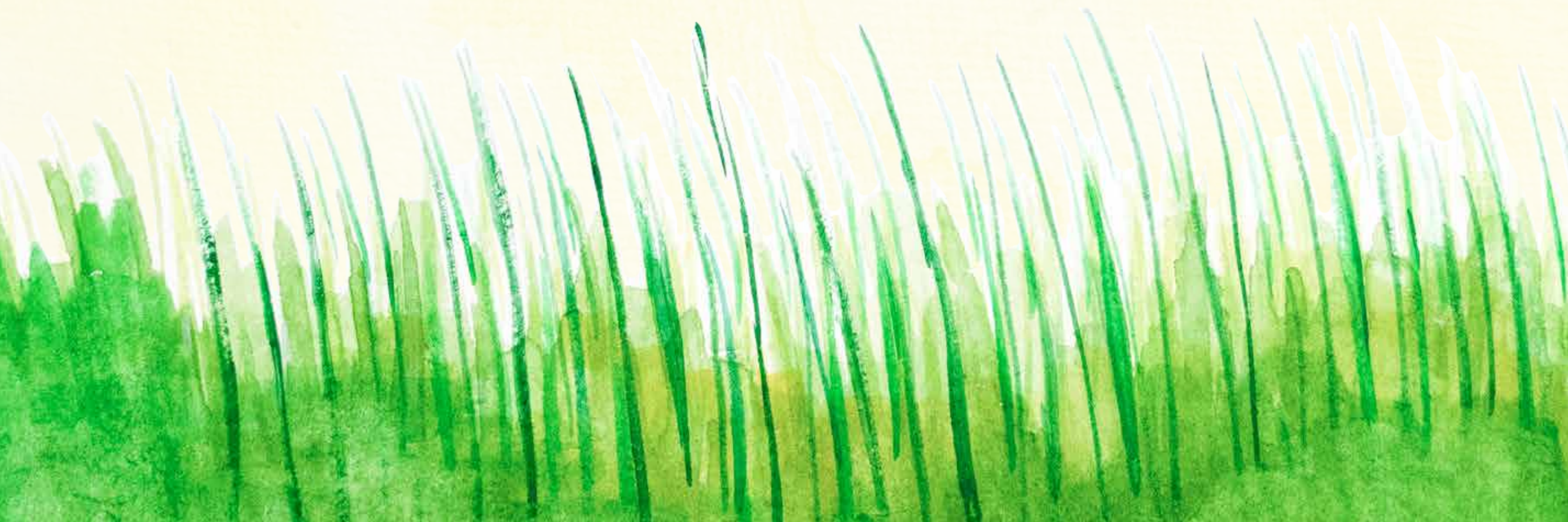
In short, *The Rumbling Adventure of Hare* is not only an exciting and beautiful picture book, but also a valuable addition to your child's education.



# The AMBER Alert Europe Foundation

AMBER Alert Europe, the European Centre for Missing Children, is a foundation that strives to improve the protection of missing children and to prevent children from going missing by empowering them and raising awareness on the issue of missing children and its root causes. We connect experts from 44 governmental organisations, in particular ministries of the interior and police forces, and non-governmental organisations from 28 countries in our mission towards zero missing children in Europe.

[www.amberalert.eu](http://www.amberalert.eu)





# THE RUMBLING ADVENTURE OF HARE

In *The Rumbling Adventure of Hare*, Hare and his friend Hedgehog go on an adventure in the forest, searching for a strange sound that only Hare can hear. Along the way, they meet new friends and find themselves in exciting situations. Will Hare and Hedgehog be able to unravel the mystery of the odd sound?