

*For Liam  
—L.F.*

*To my friend Gary Wilson,  
who introduced me to my lady  
—T.B.*

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# Puss in Boots

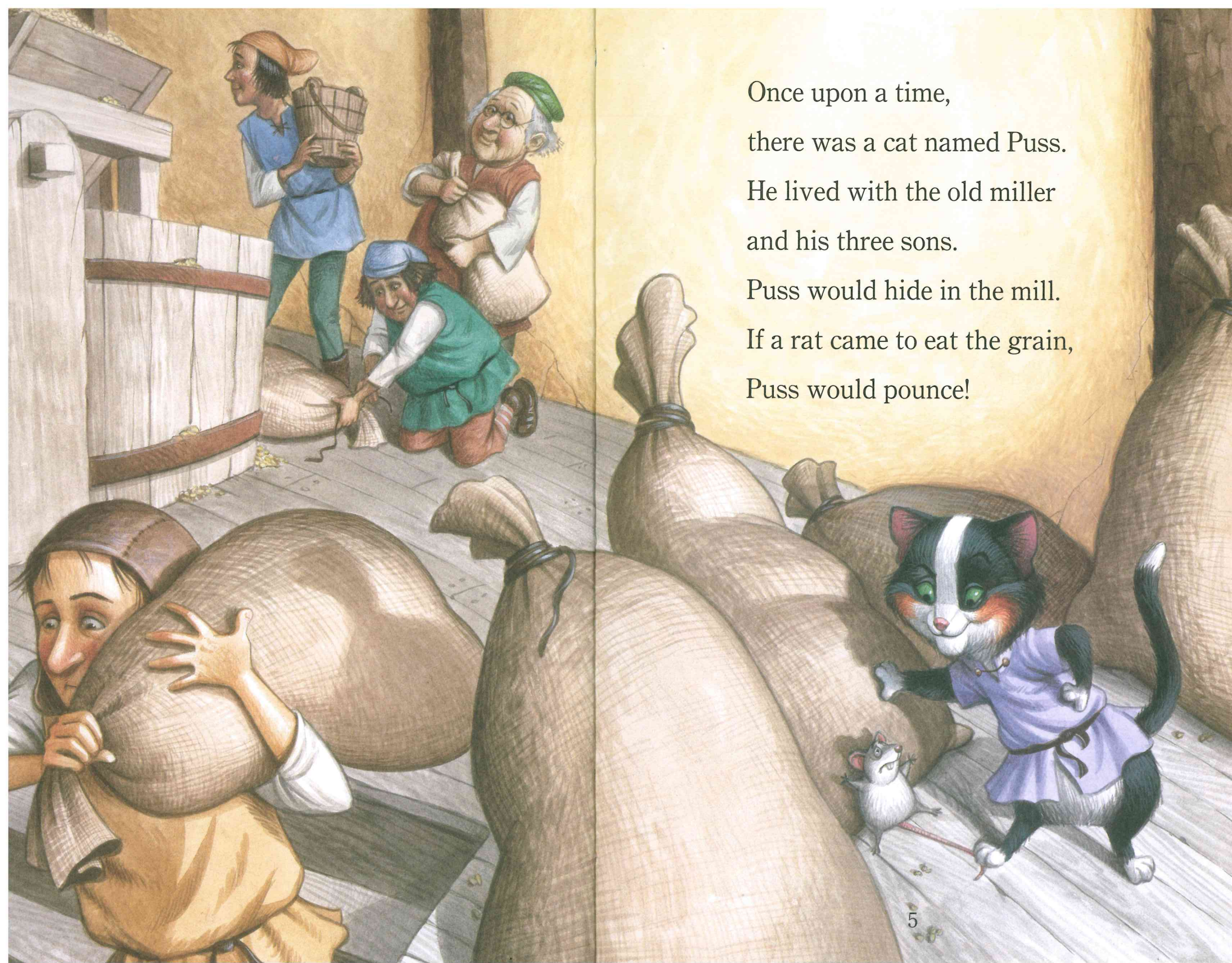


by Lisa Findlay  
illustrated by Tim Bowers


Random House  New York



Once upon a time,  
there was a cat named Puss.  
He lived with the old miller  
and his three sons.  
Puss would hide in the mill.  
If a rat came to eat the grain,  
Puss would pounce!







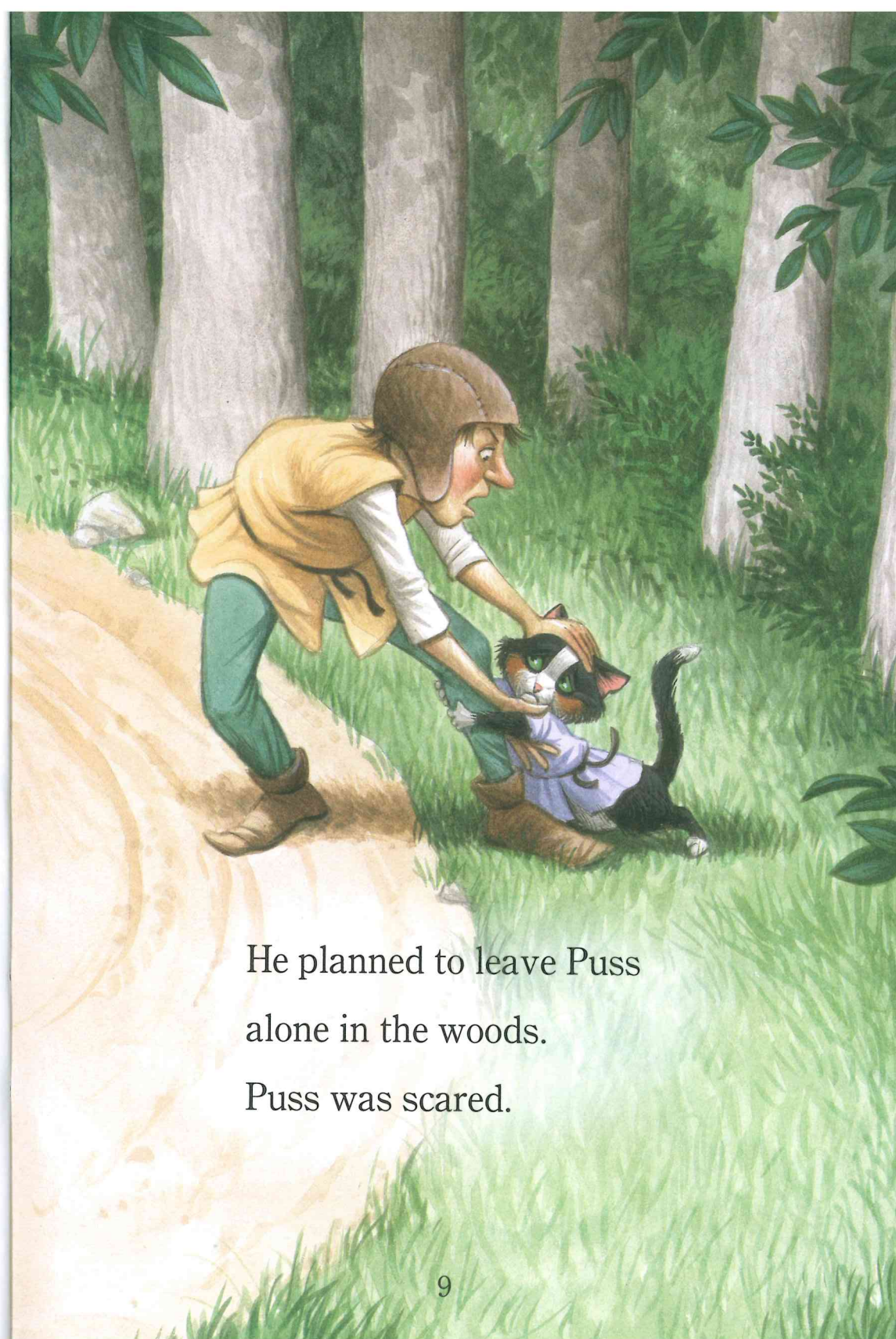
Then the miller died.  
The oldest son took the mill.  
The second son took the donkey.  
“There is nothing left for me!”  
said the youngest son.  
“You can have the cat,”  
his brothers said.





The youngest son's name was Tom.

Tom had no money  
to feed a cat.



He planned to leave Puss  
alone in the woods.

Puss was scared.



"I can make you rich,"

Puss said to Tom.

Tom didn't know Puss could talk.

He thought a talking cat  
must be very clever.



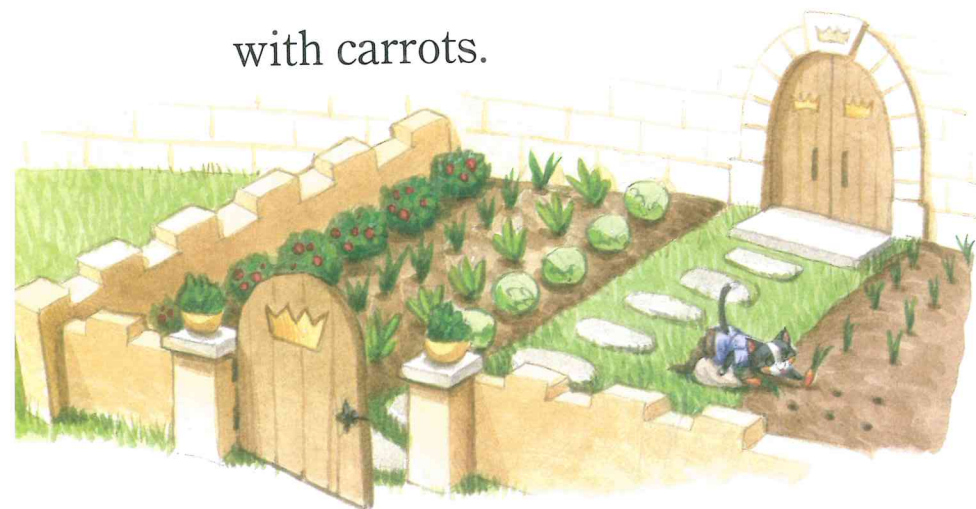
Puss asked for a sack.

He asked for a pair of boots.

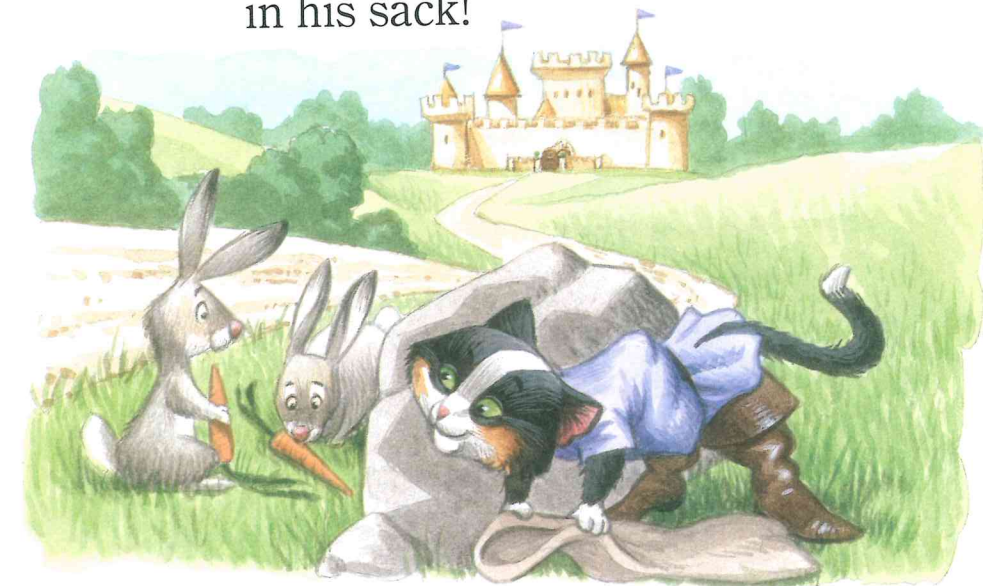
Tom gave him both things.



Puss filled the sack  
with carrots.



He hid behind a rock.  
Some rabbits came to eat.  
Puss snatched them up  
in his sack!



Puss brought the rabbits  
to the king's castle.

"A present from my master,"  
Puss said.

The king rubbed his stomach.  
He loved rabbit stew.





“What is your master’s  
name?” the princess asked.

Puss told a fib.

“Lord Carabas,” he said.



Puss brought a present  
to the castle every week.

He brought grain from the mill.



He brought fish from the river.



He brought flowers  
from the field.





One day, Puss saw  
the royal carriage  
coming down the road.  
He had an idea.



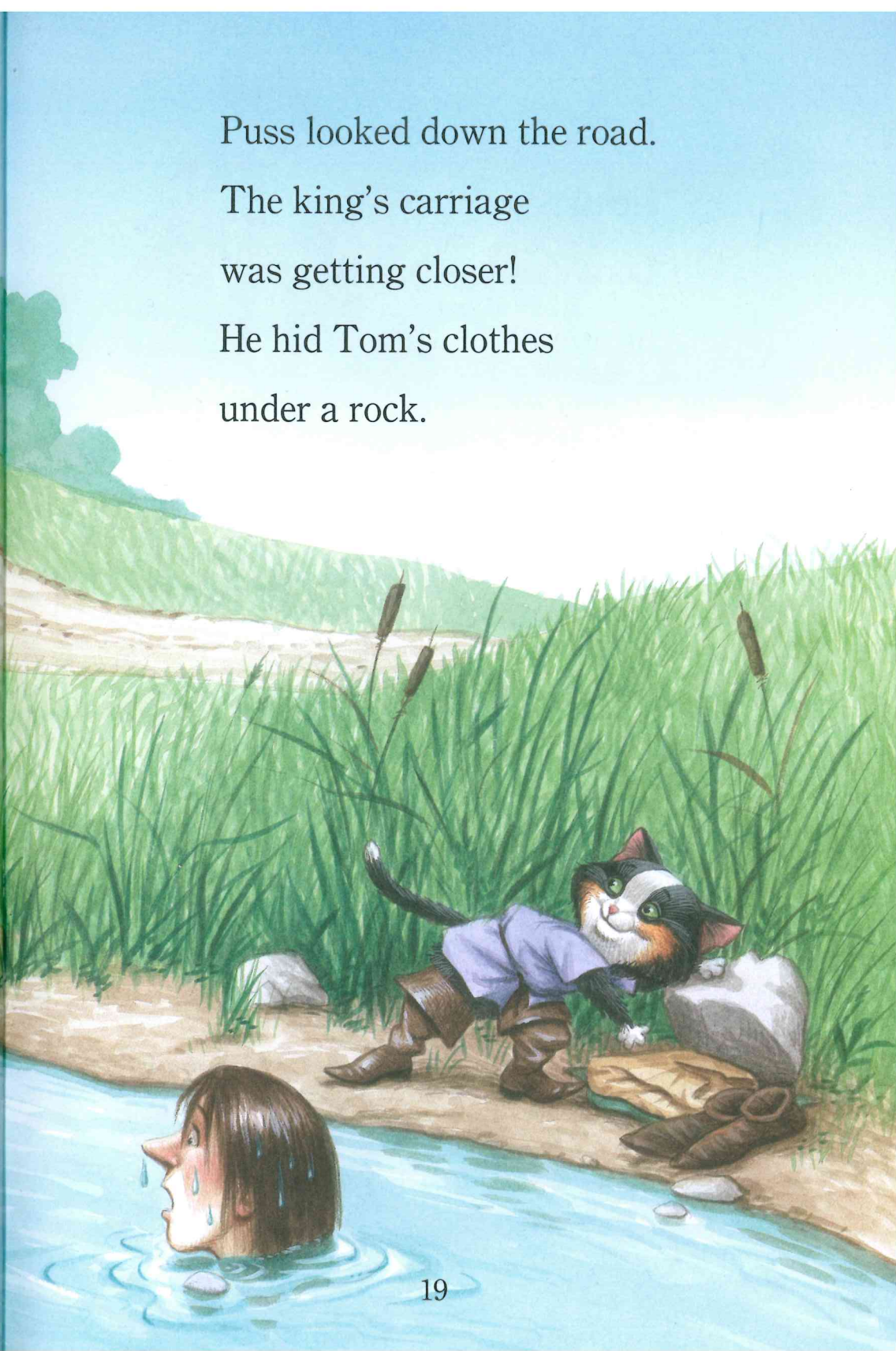
He told Tom to go swimming  
in the river.

“Now?” Tom asked.

“Now!” Puss said.

Tom stripped off his clothes.  
He jumped into the river.





Puss looked down the road.  
The king's carriage  
was getting closer!  
He hid Tom's clothes  
under a rock.

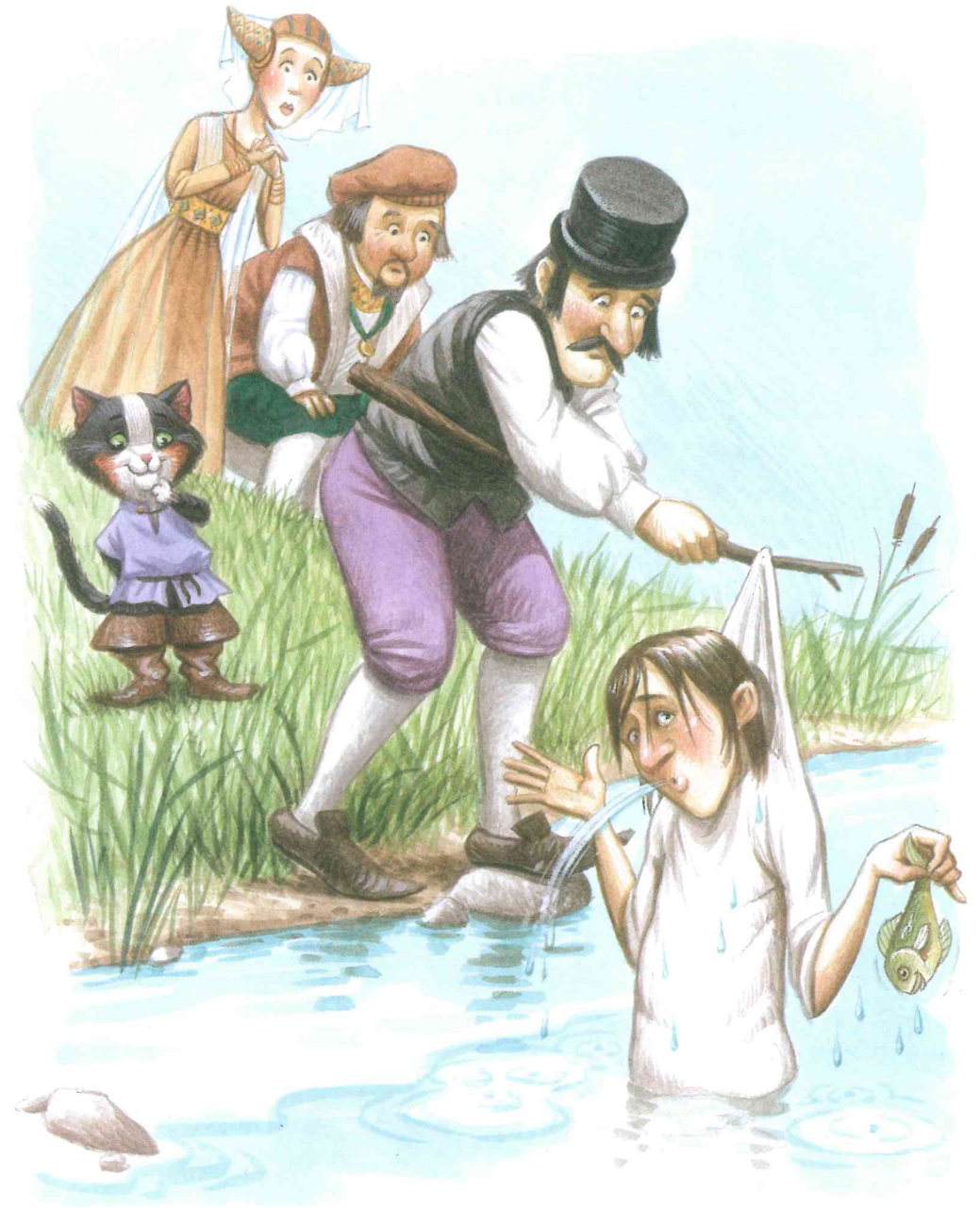


Puss ran into the road.

“Help!

Lord Carabas is drowning!”

he cried.



The carriage driver fished  
Tom out of the river.



Tom hid behind a bush.

“Bandits stole  
my master’s clothes,”  
said Puss.

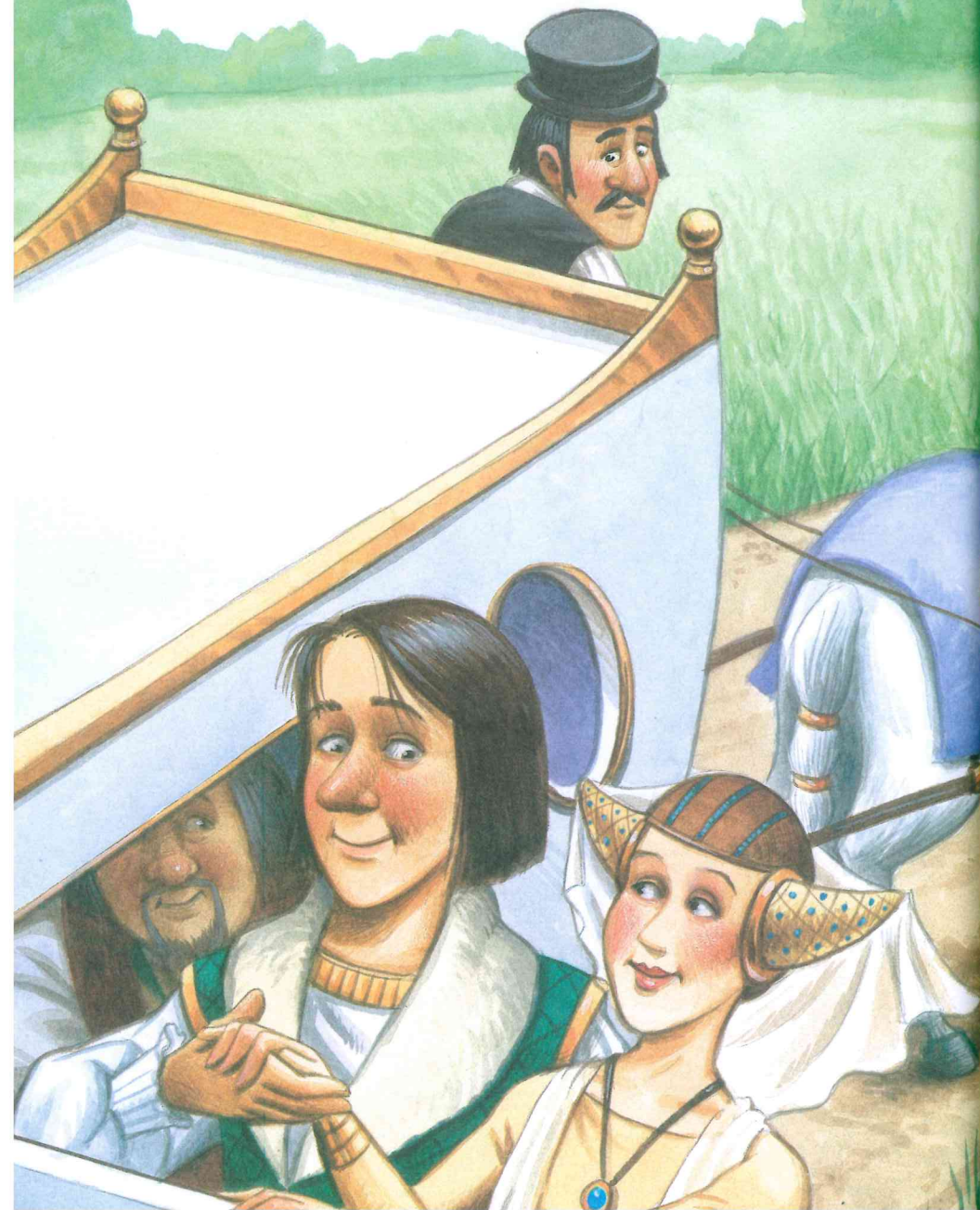


The king remembered the gifts  
from Lord Carabas.

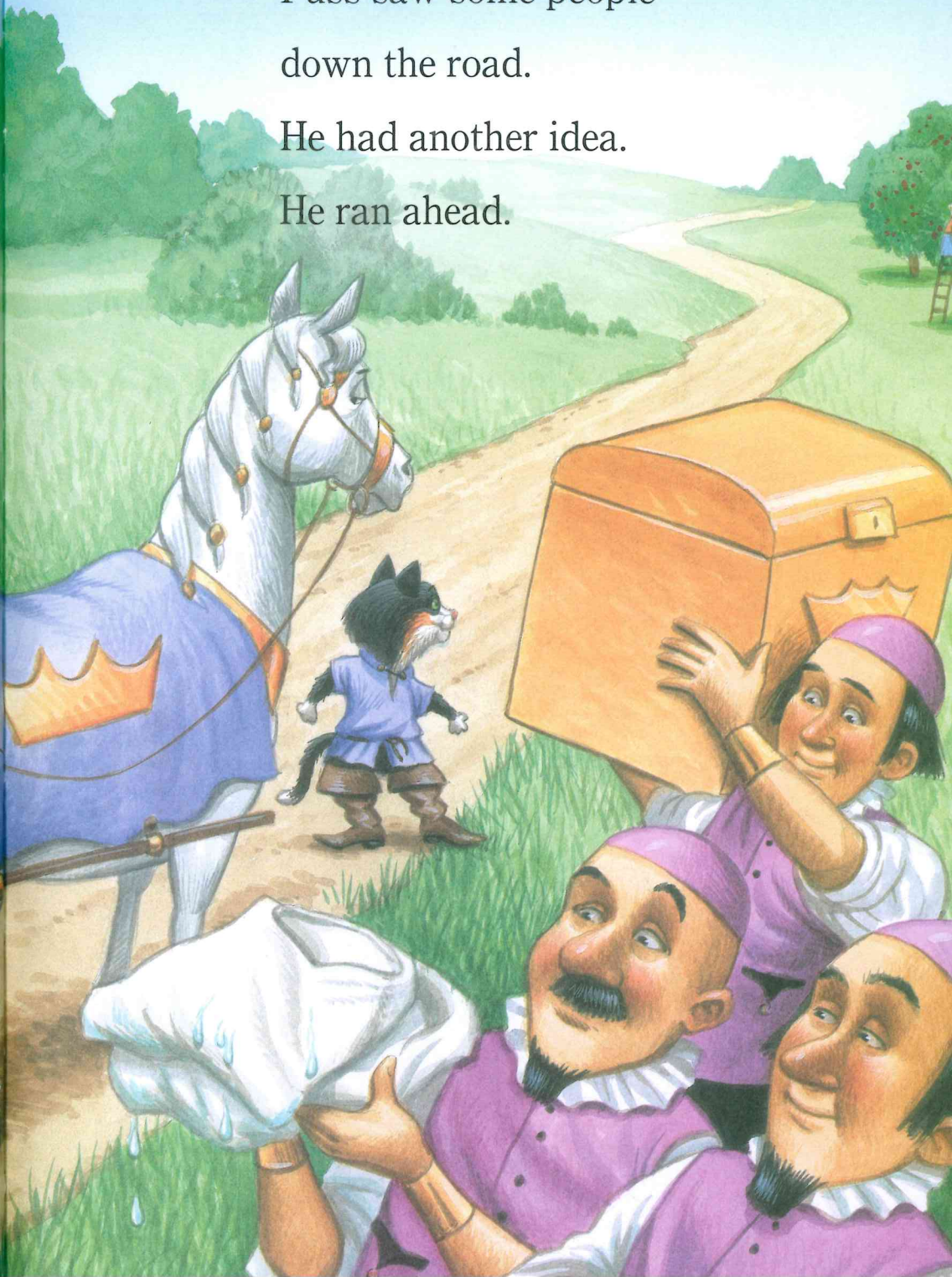
“Bring this man  
a fine new suit,” he said.



Lord Carabas got  
into the carriage  
with the king and the princess.



Puss saw some people  
down the road.  
He had another idea.  
He ran ahead.





The people were picking apples.

They looked hungry.

“Why don’t you eat the apples?”

Puss asked.

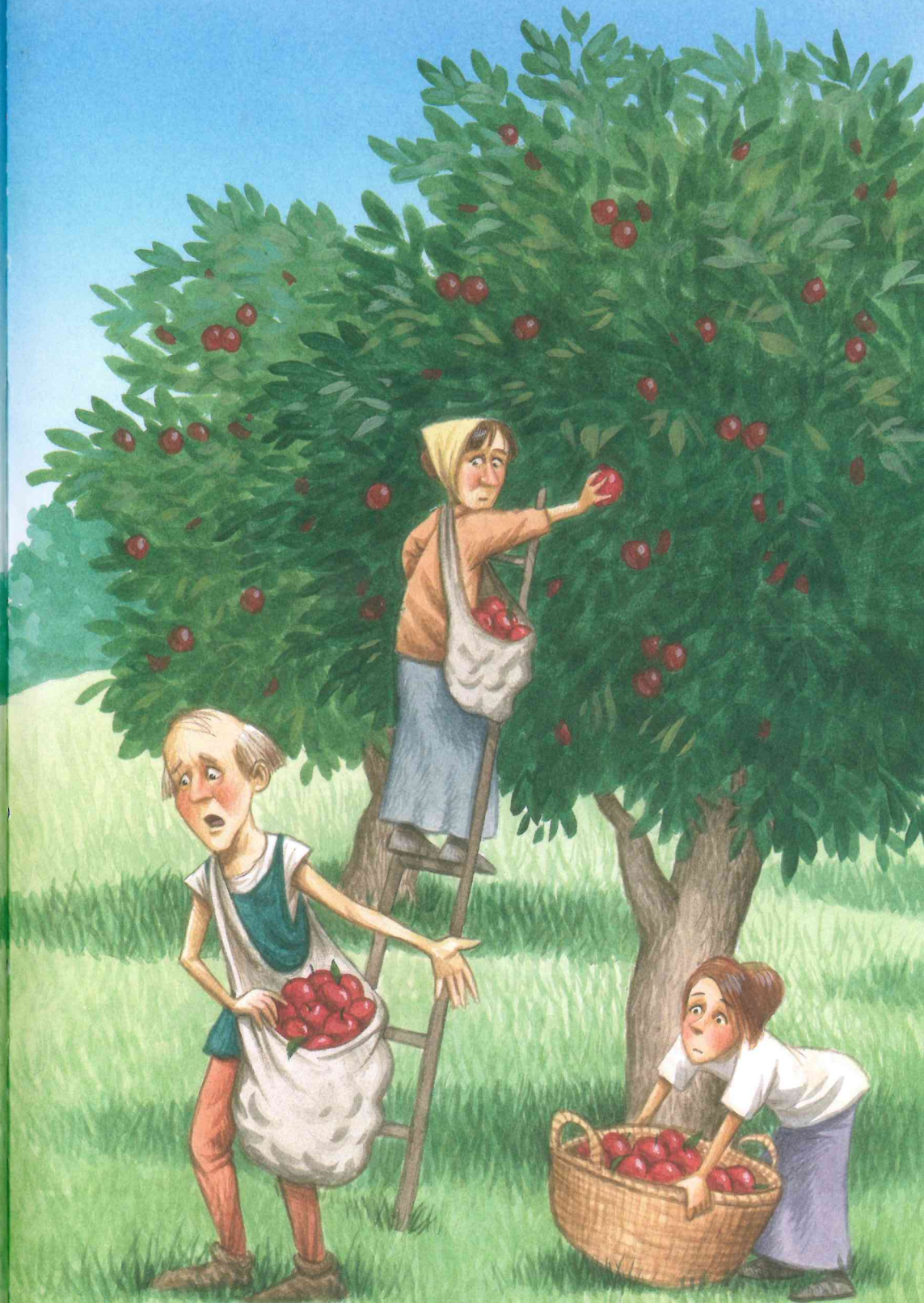
“We give all our apples

to a bad ogre,”

a man said.

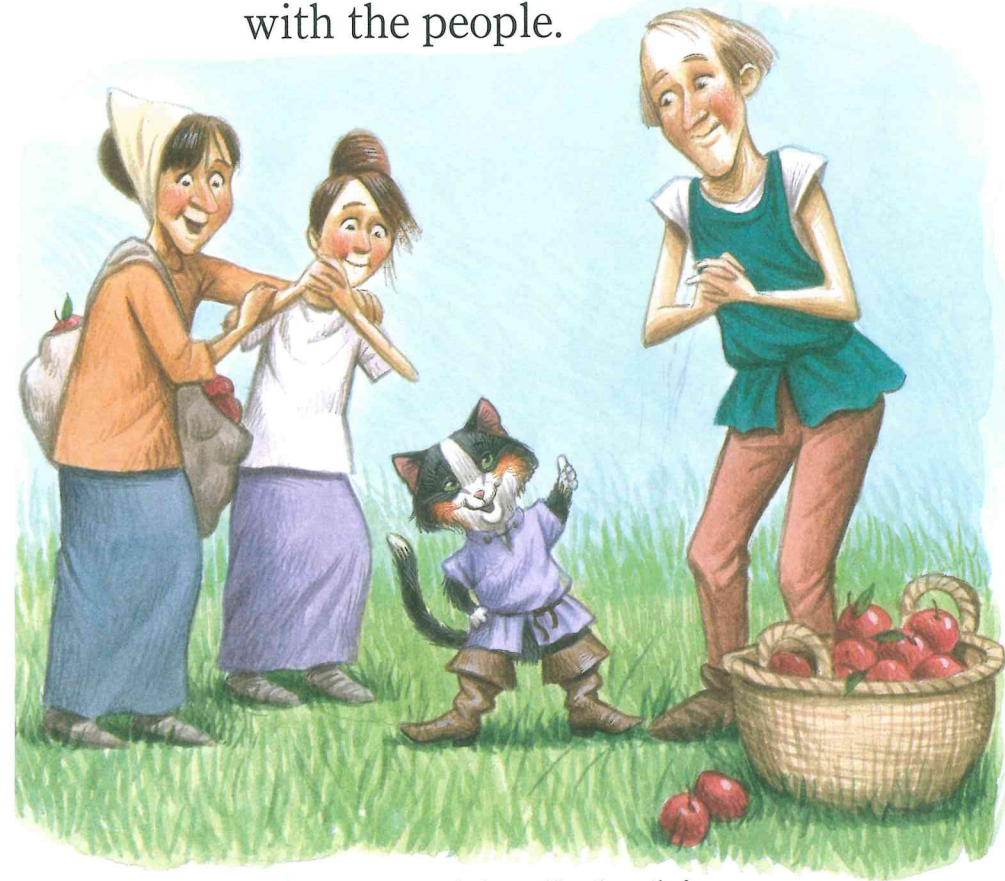
The ogre could turn

into a dragon.





Puss made a deal  
with the people.

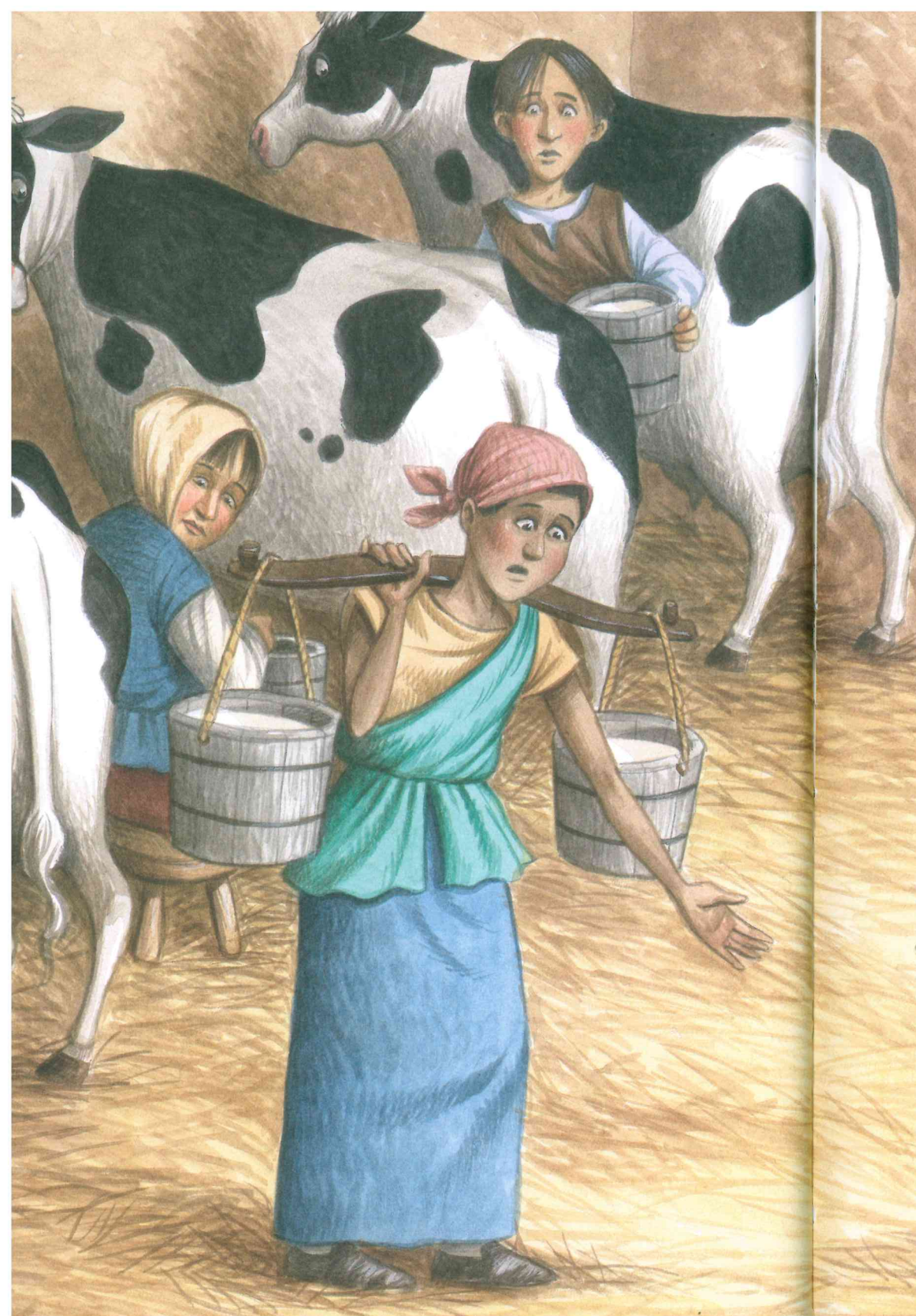


They would tell the king  
that the orchard belonged  
to Lord Carabas.  
Puss would get rid  
of the ogre.



Puss ran on.  
His boots helped him  
run fast.





Puss found some people  
milking cows.

They looked thirsty.

“Why don’t you drink the milk?”

Puss asked.

“We give all our milk  
to a scary ogre,”  
a woman said.

The ogre could turn into a tiger.





Puss made a deal with  
these people, too.  
They would tell the king  
that the cows belonged  
to Lord Carabas.



Puss would get rid  
of the ogre.  
“It’s a deal!”  
said the people.

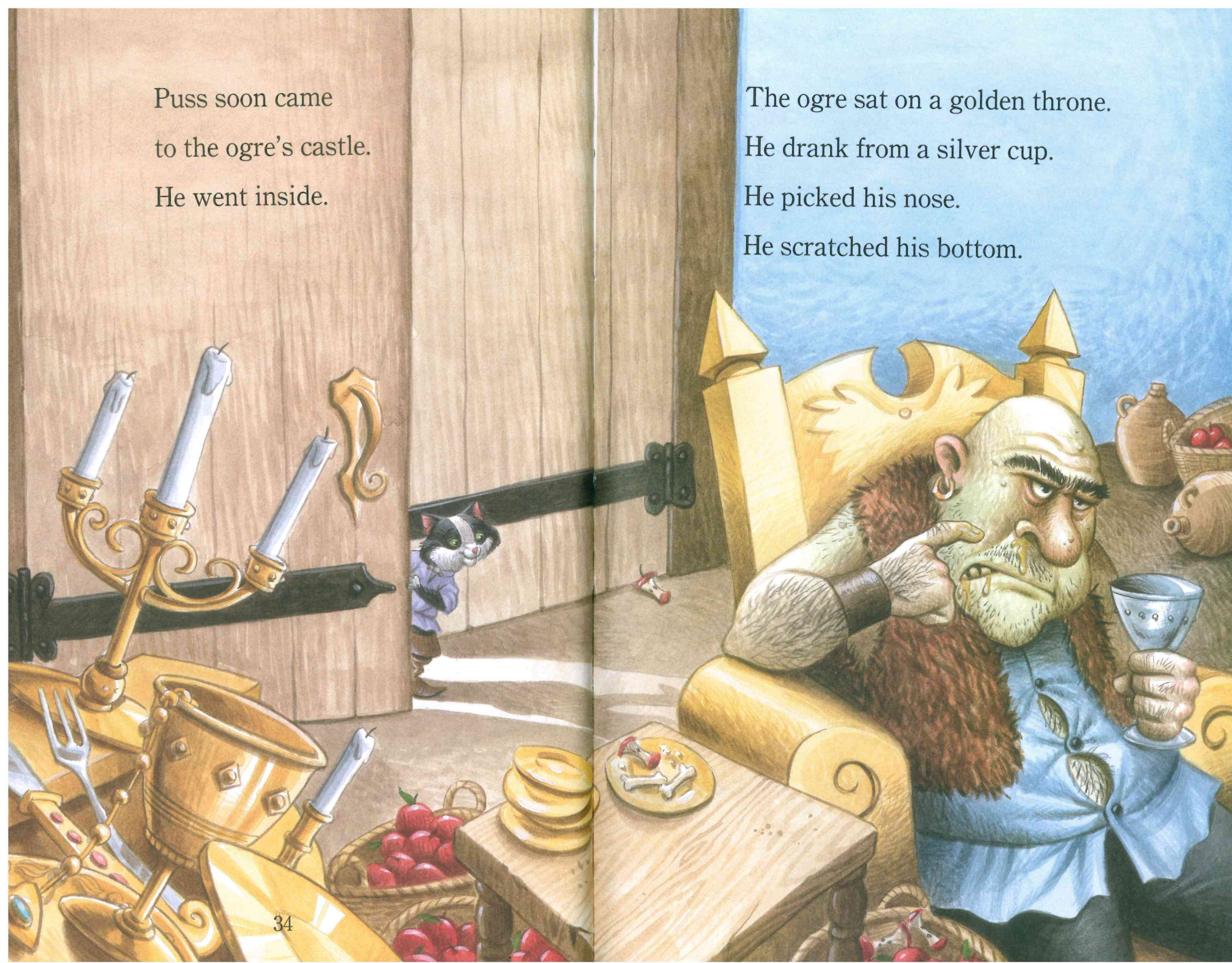
“*Moo*,” said the cows.  
Puss ran on.





Puss soon came  
to the ogre's castle.  
He went inside.

The ogre sat on a golden throne.  
He drank from a silver cup.  
He picked his nose.  
He scratched his bottom.





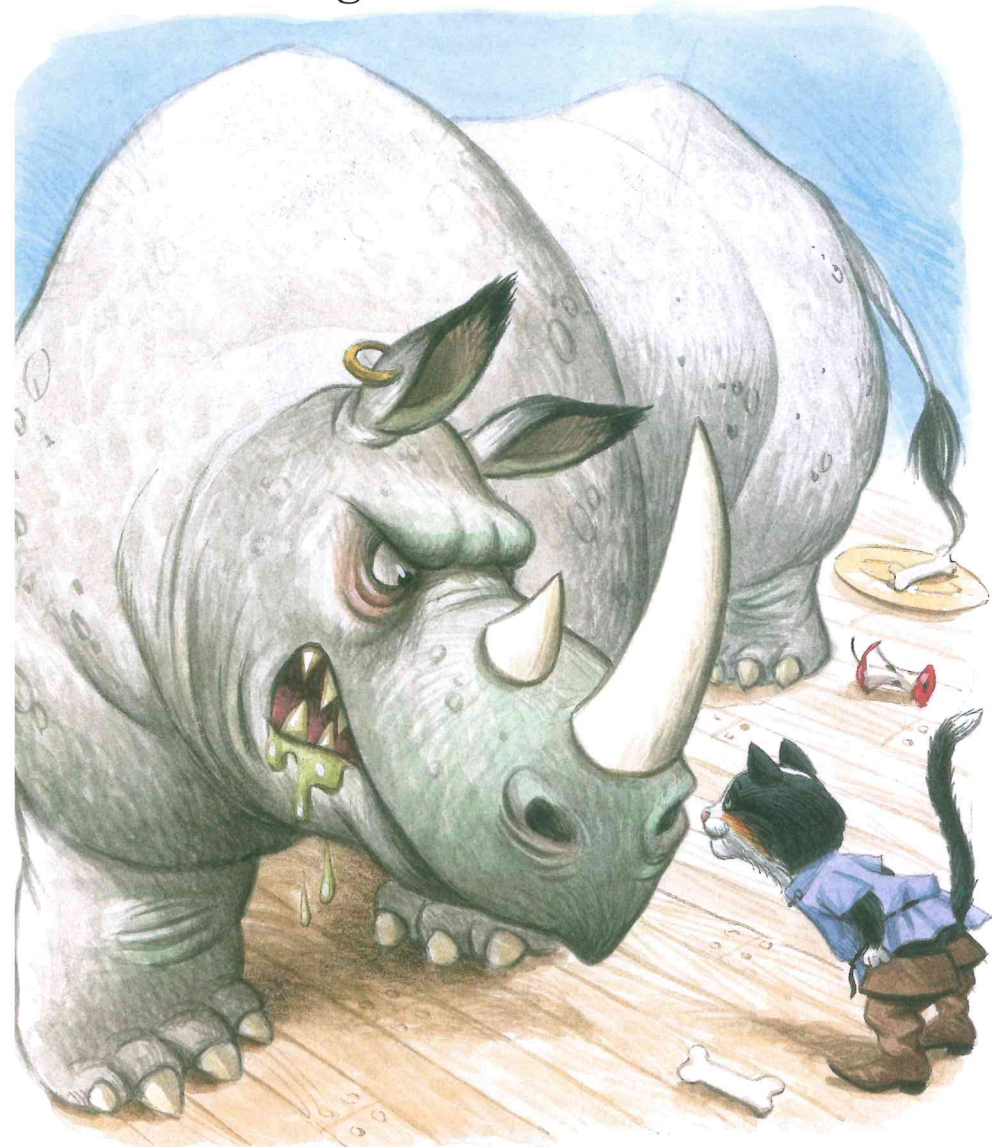
The ogre saw Puss.  
He wanted to eat  
Puss for dinner.  
The ogre tried to  
grab the cat.  
But he was too slow.  
Puss jumped onto the table.



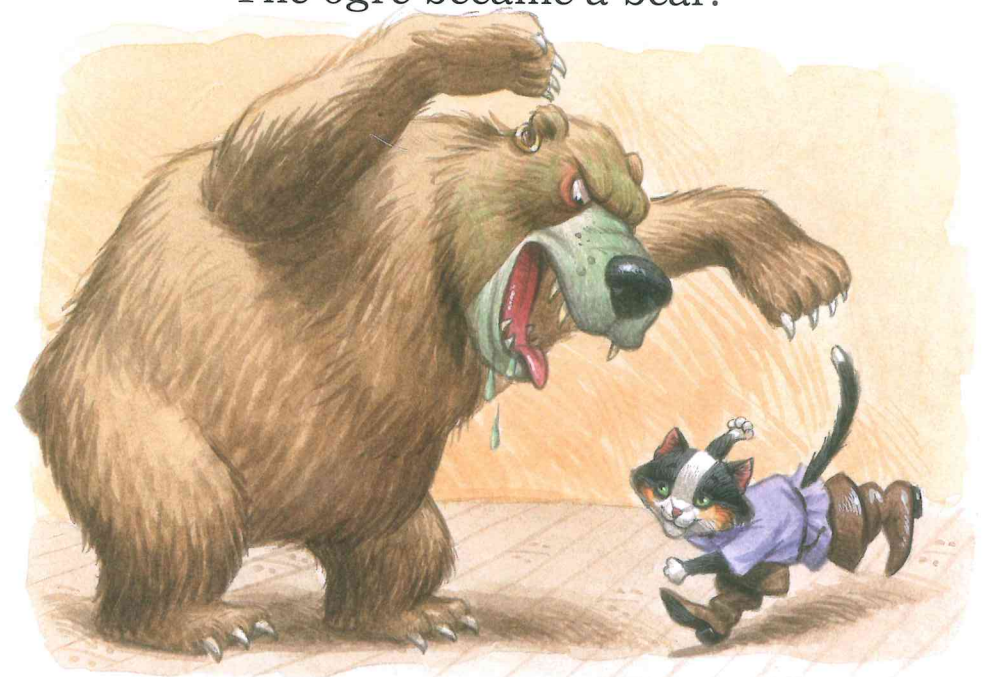
The ogre turned into a lion.  
Puss was shaking in his boots.



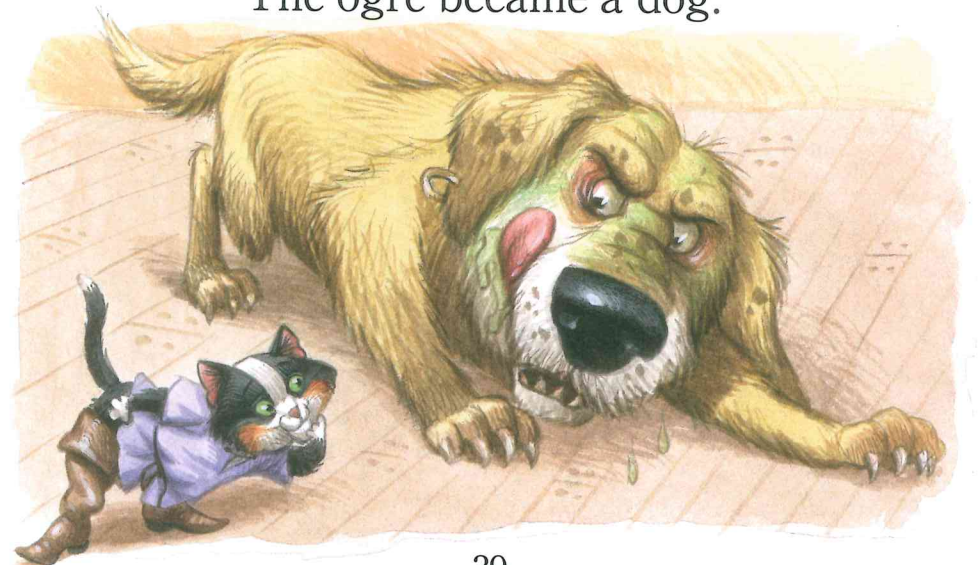
But Puss had an idea.  
“I bet you can’t turn  
into a rhino,” he said.  
The ogre became a rhino.



“A bear,” Puss said.  
The ogre became a bear.



“A dog,” Puss said.  
The ogre became a dog.





“I’ll bet you can’t turn  
into a mouse,” said Puss.  
The ogre became a mouse.  
*Pounce!*



Puss ate the mouse  
in one bite.



Puss went outside.

The royal carriage drove up.

“Welcome to the castle  
of Lord Carabas!”

he said.

The king liked  
the orchard and cows.

The princess liked the castle.

She loved Lord Carabas.

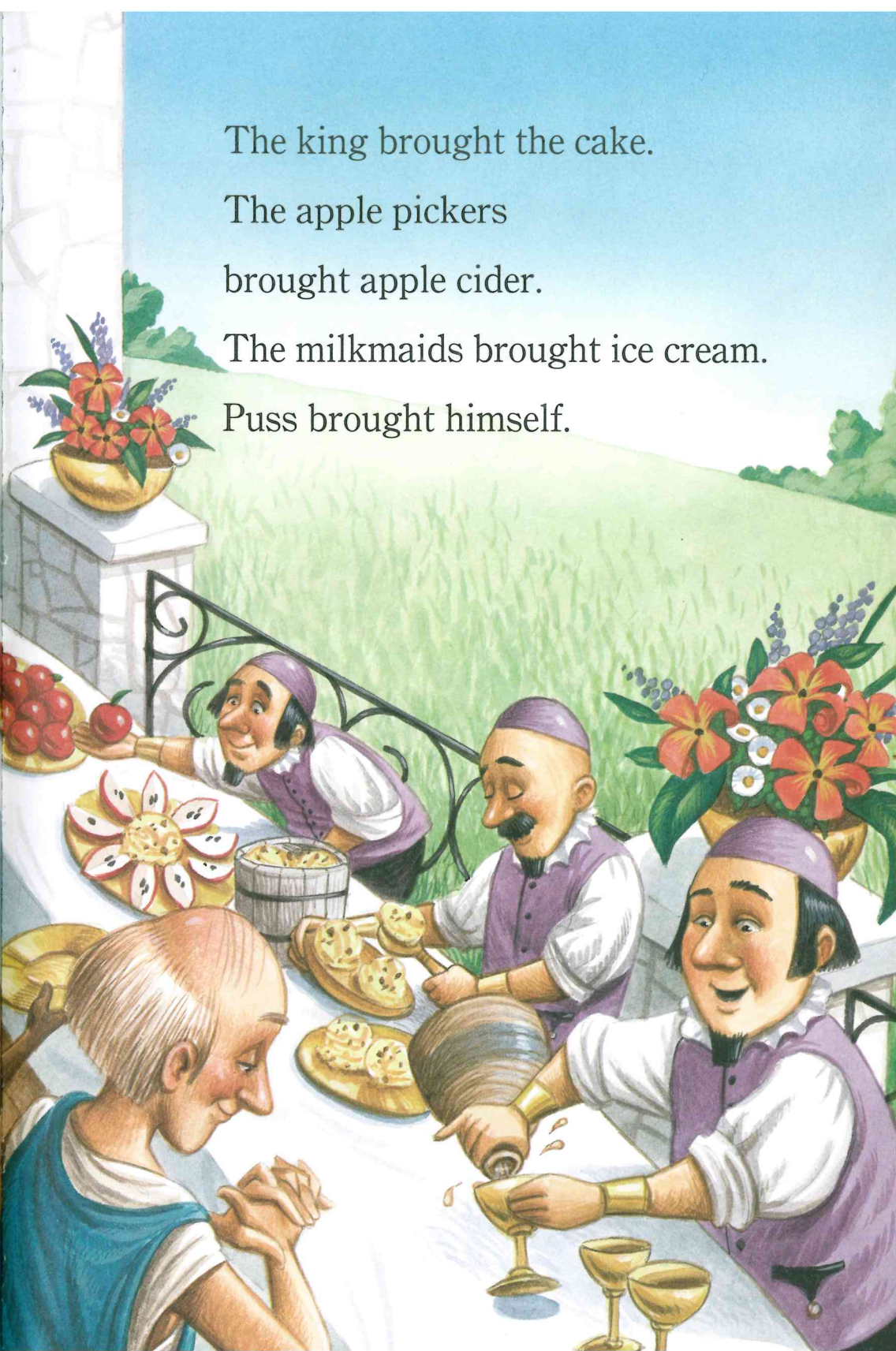
He loved her, too.



They were married  
the very next day.



The king brought the cake.  
The apple pickers  
brought apple cider.  
The milkmaids brought ice cream.  
Puss brought himself.



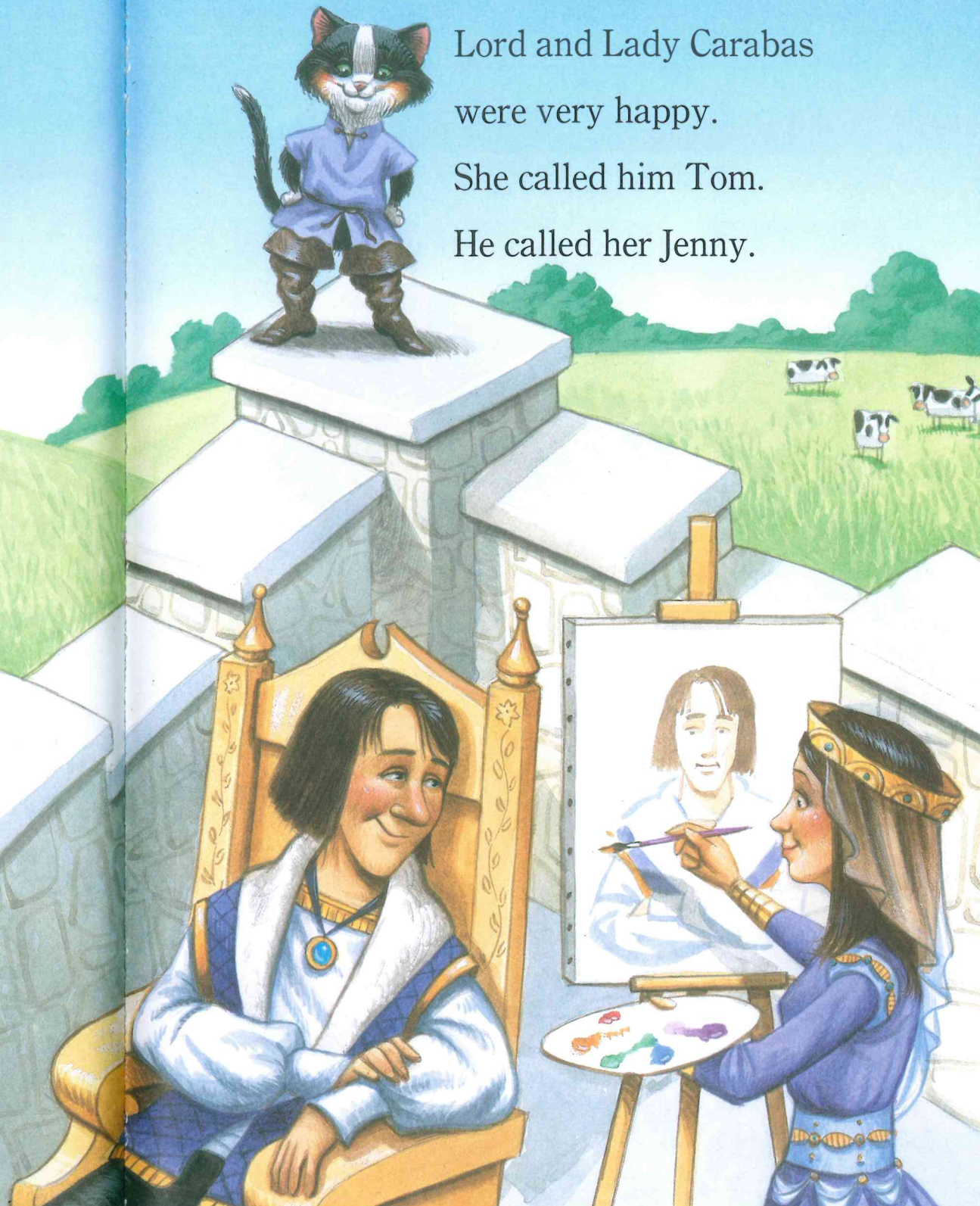


The ogre was gone,  
and everyone had  
enough to eat and drink.

Lord and Lady Carabas  
were very happy.

She called him Tom.

He called her Jenny.





Puss gave the sack  
back to Tom.  
But to this day,  
he still wears his boots.

