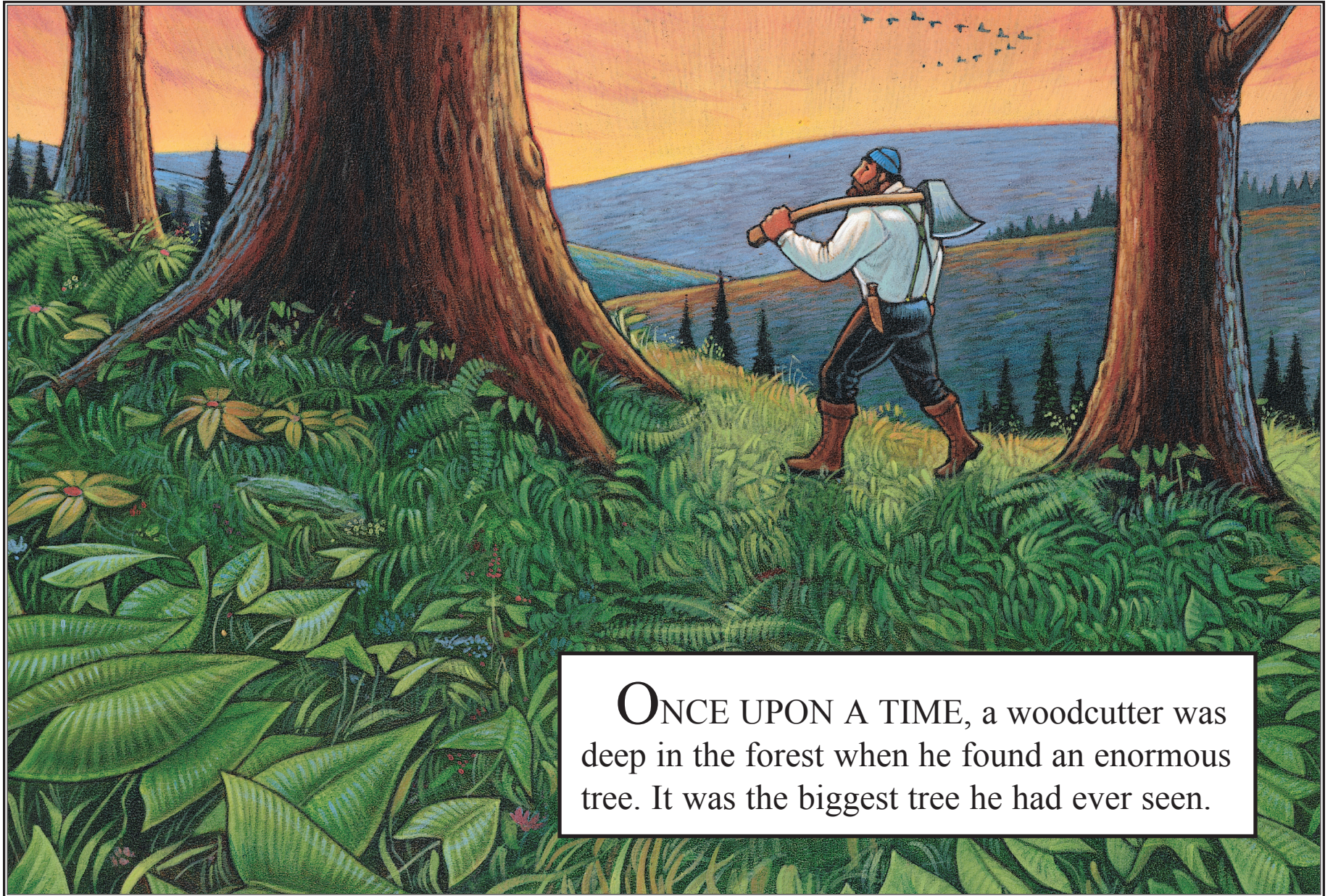


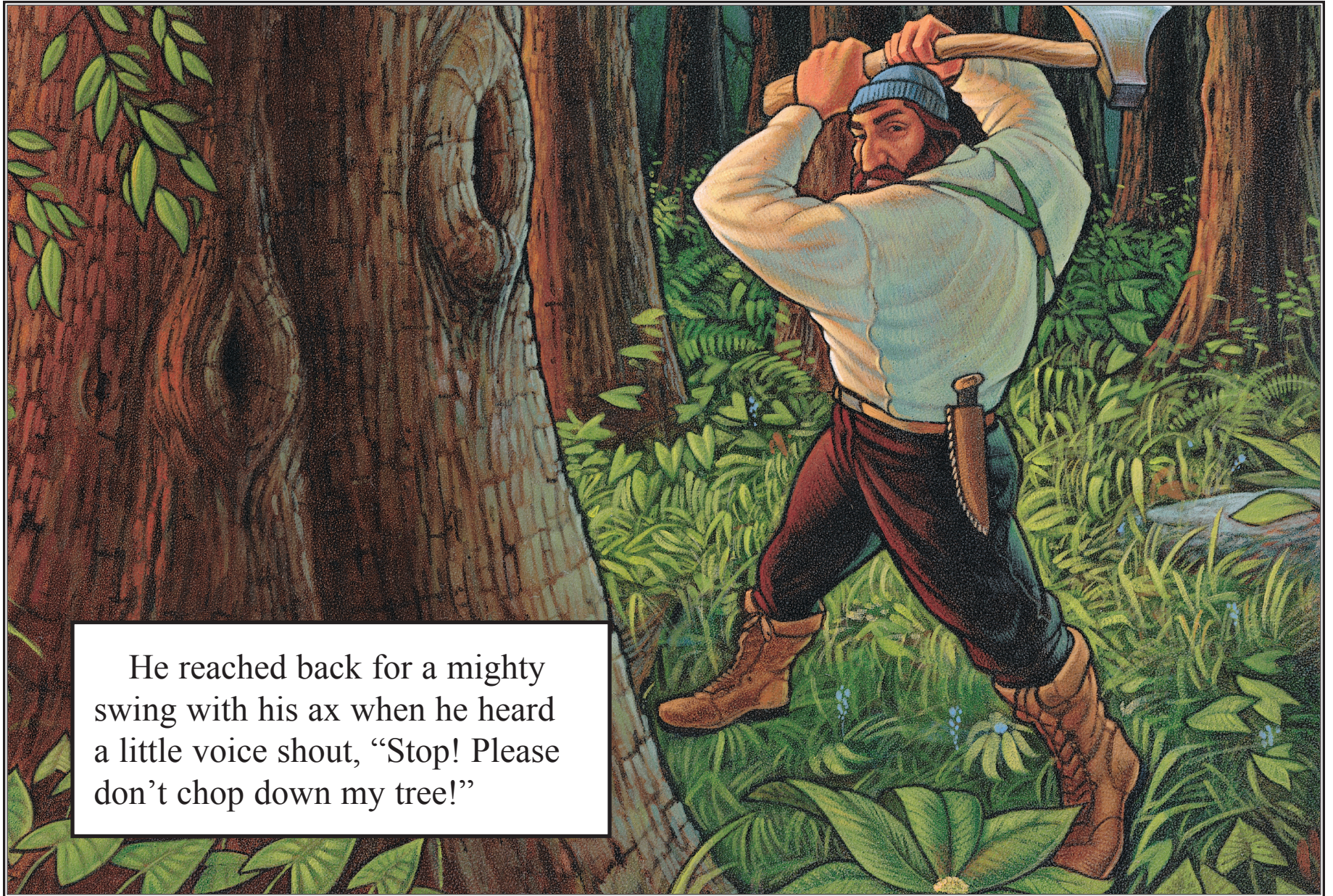
An illustration featuring a wizard on the left and a giant on the right. The wizard, with a long white beard and a purple top hat, wears a green and purple checkered robe and holds a staff. He is surrounded by three glowing yellow spheres. The giant on the right has a large, expressive face with a blue knit cap and a thick brown beard. The background is a dark, forest-like setting.

the **THREE WISHES**

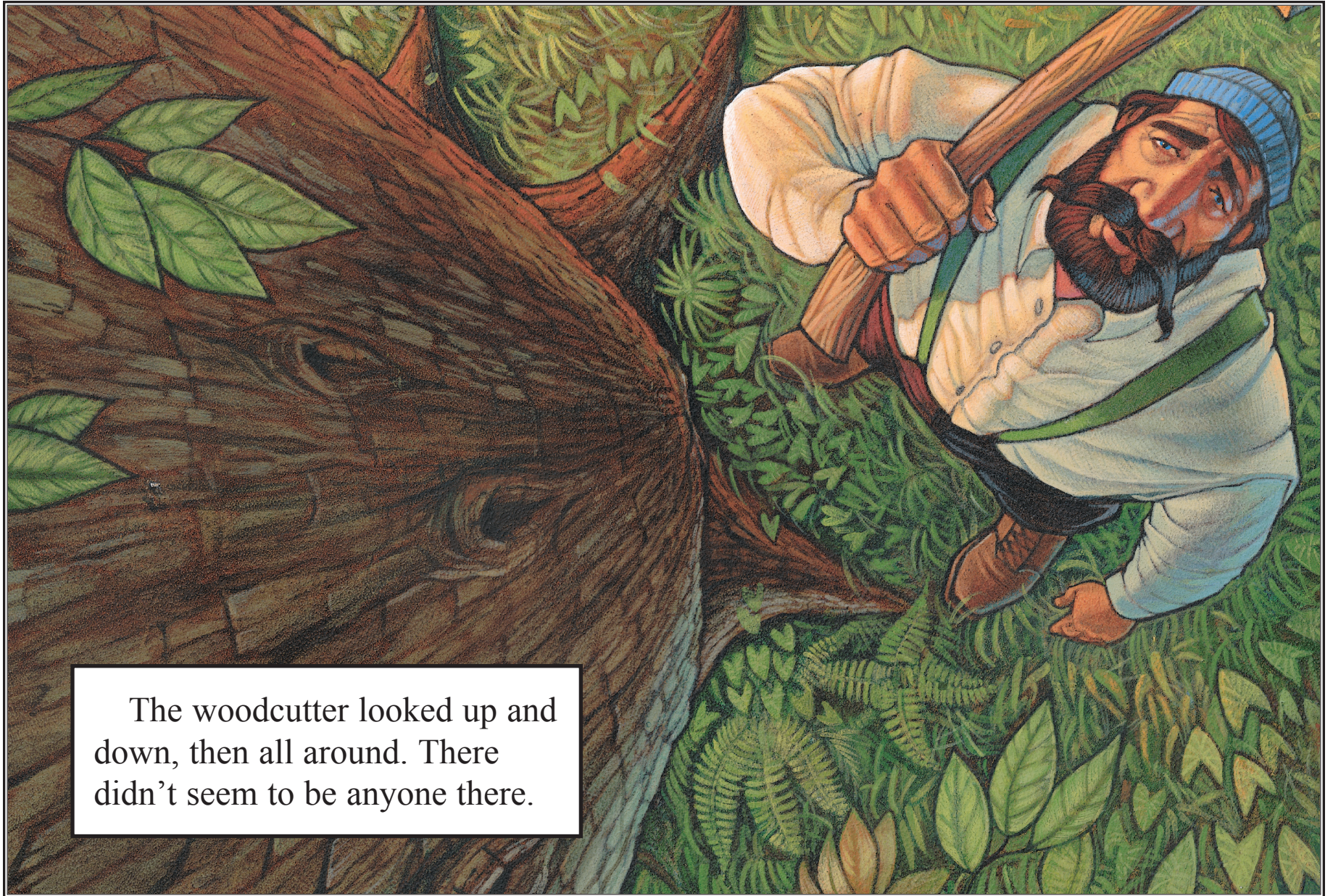
REWRITTEN BY MADGE TOVEY · ILLUSTRATED BY JIM MADSEN



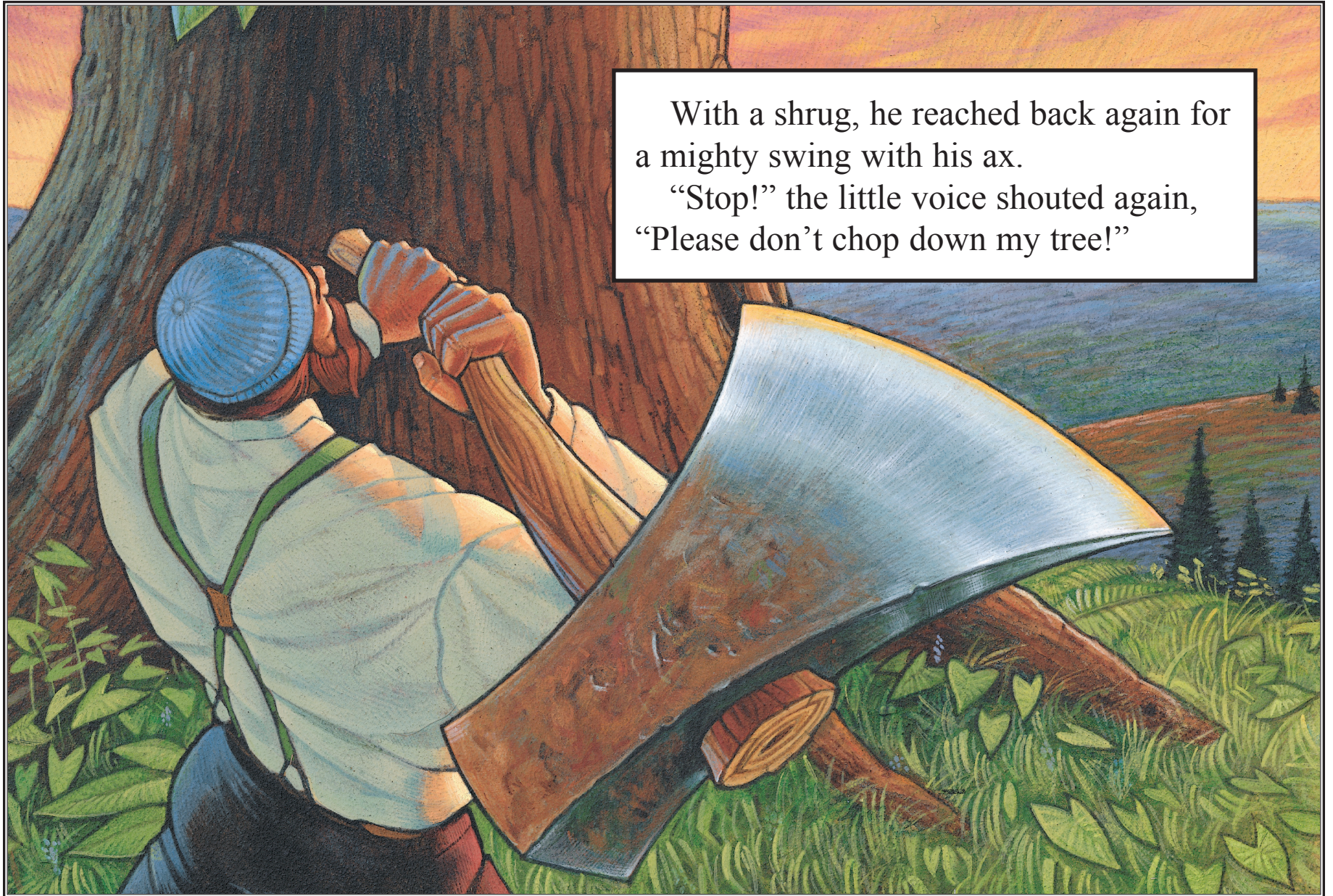
ONCE UPON A TIME, a woodcutter was deep in the forest when he found an enormous tree. It was the biggest tree he had ever seen.



He reached back for a mighty swing with his ax when he heard a little voice shout, “Stop! Please don’t chop down my tree!”



The woodcutter looked up and down, then all around. There didn't seem to be anyone there.

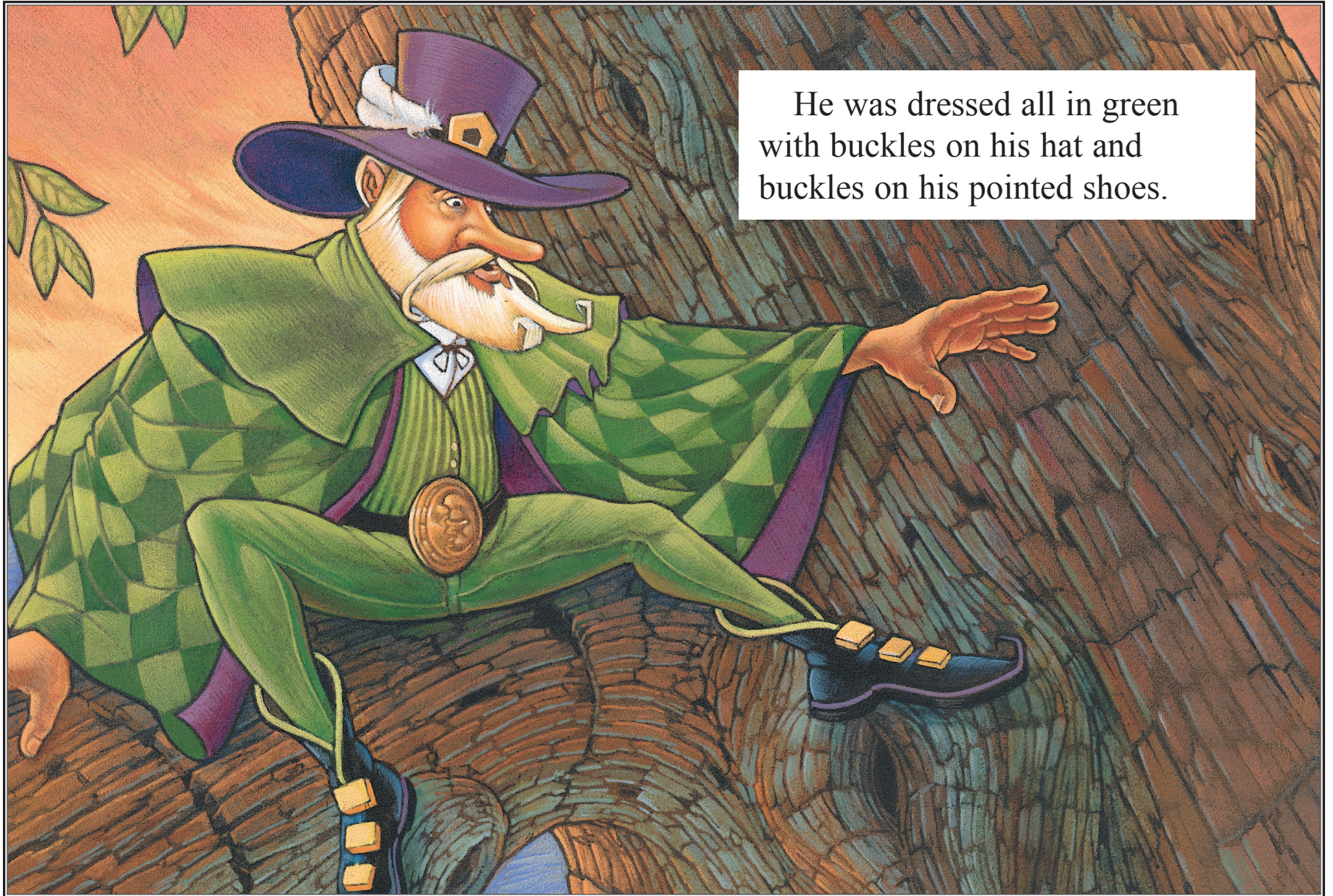


With a shrug, he reached back again for a mighty swing with his ax.

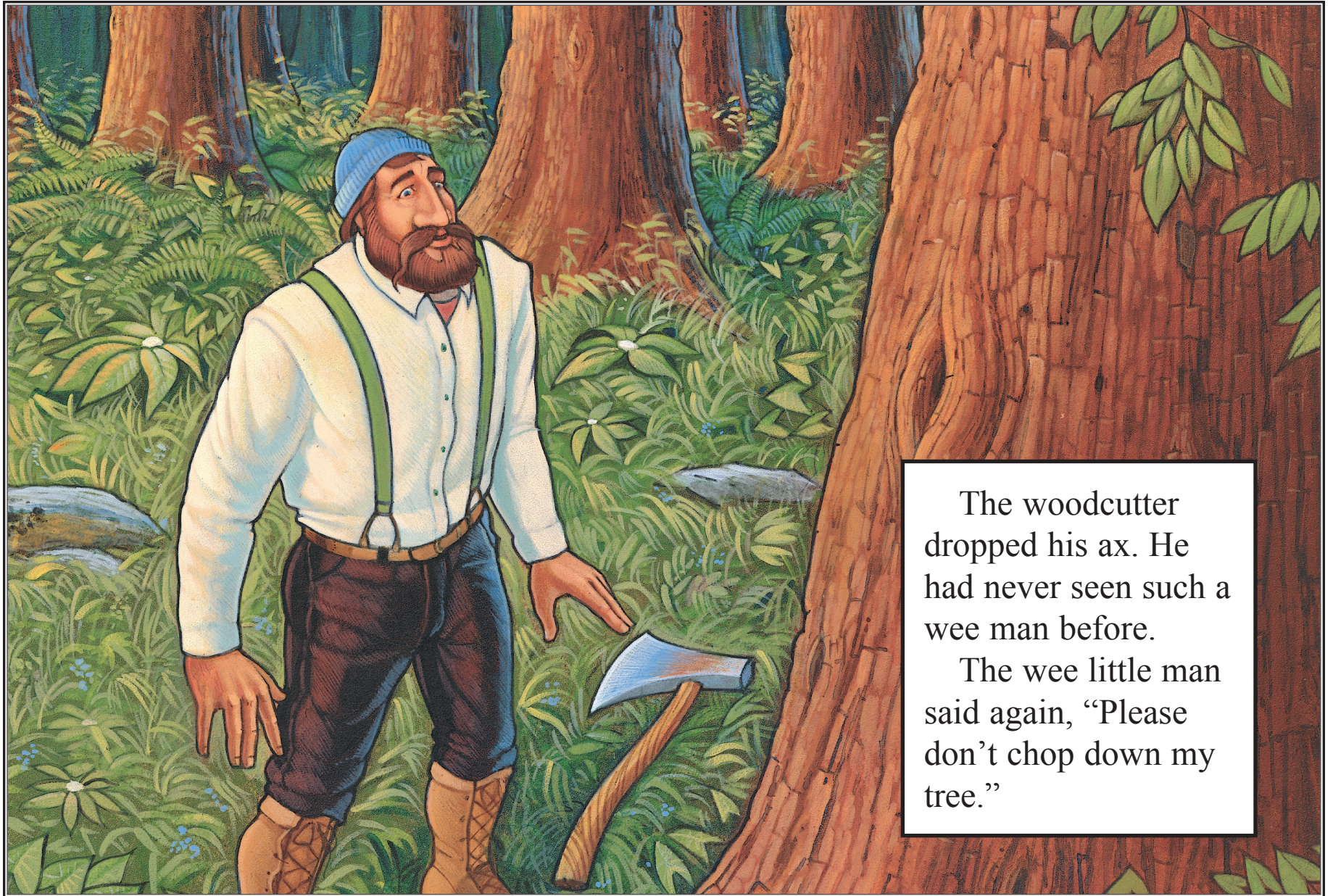
“Stop!” the little voice shouted again, “Please don’t chop down my tree!”



The woodcutter looked up and down, then all around again. At last he saw a wee little man sitting on the first branch of the big tree.



He was dressed all in green
with buckles on his hat and
buckles on his pointed shoes.



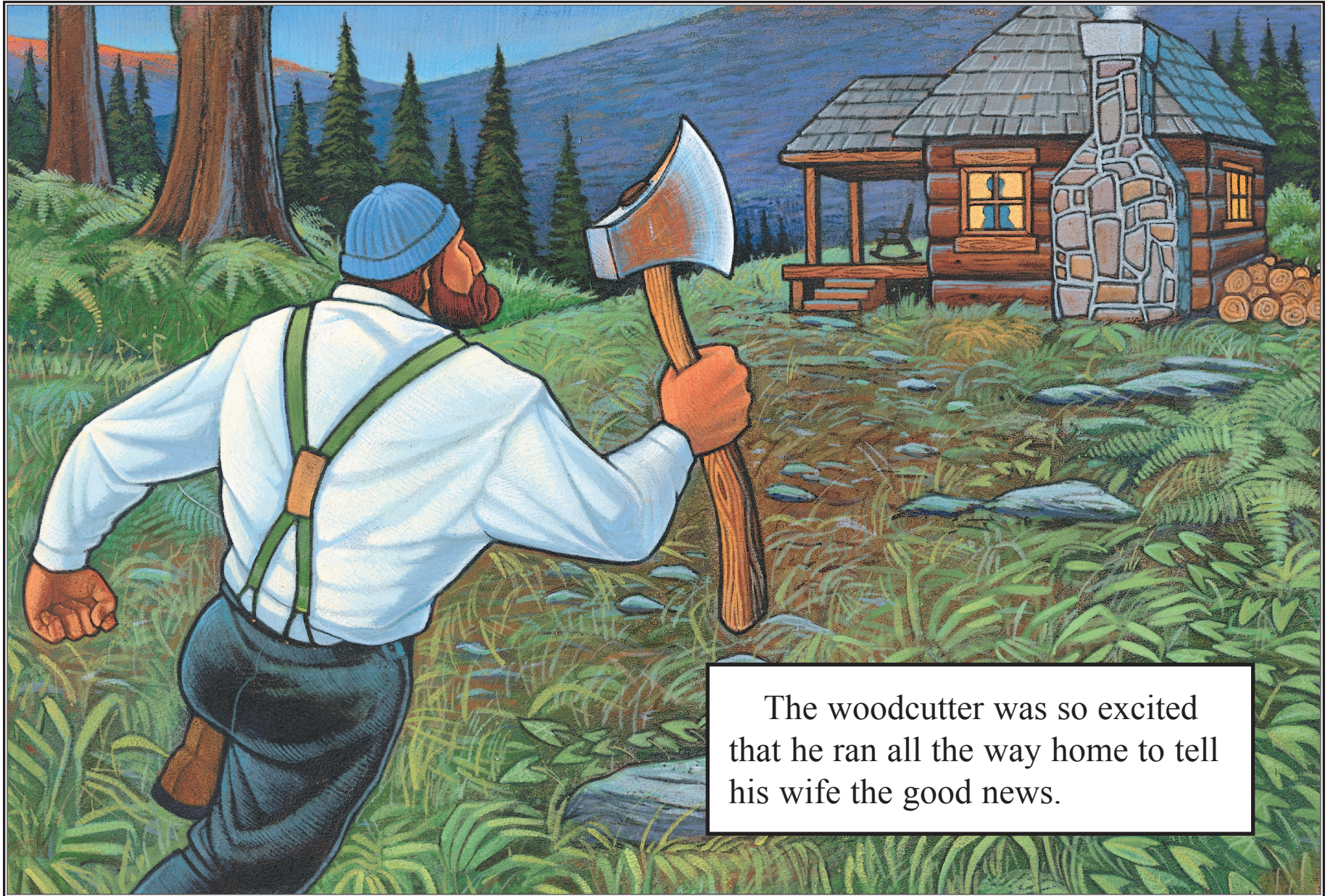
The woodcutter dropped his ax. He had never seen such a wee man before.

The wee little man said again, "Please don't chop down my tree."



The woodcutter was a kindly man, so he agreed never to chop down the enormous tree.

The wee little man was so grateful that he granted the woodcutter three wishes.



The woodcutter was so excited that he ran all the way home to tell his wife the good news.

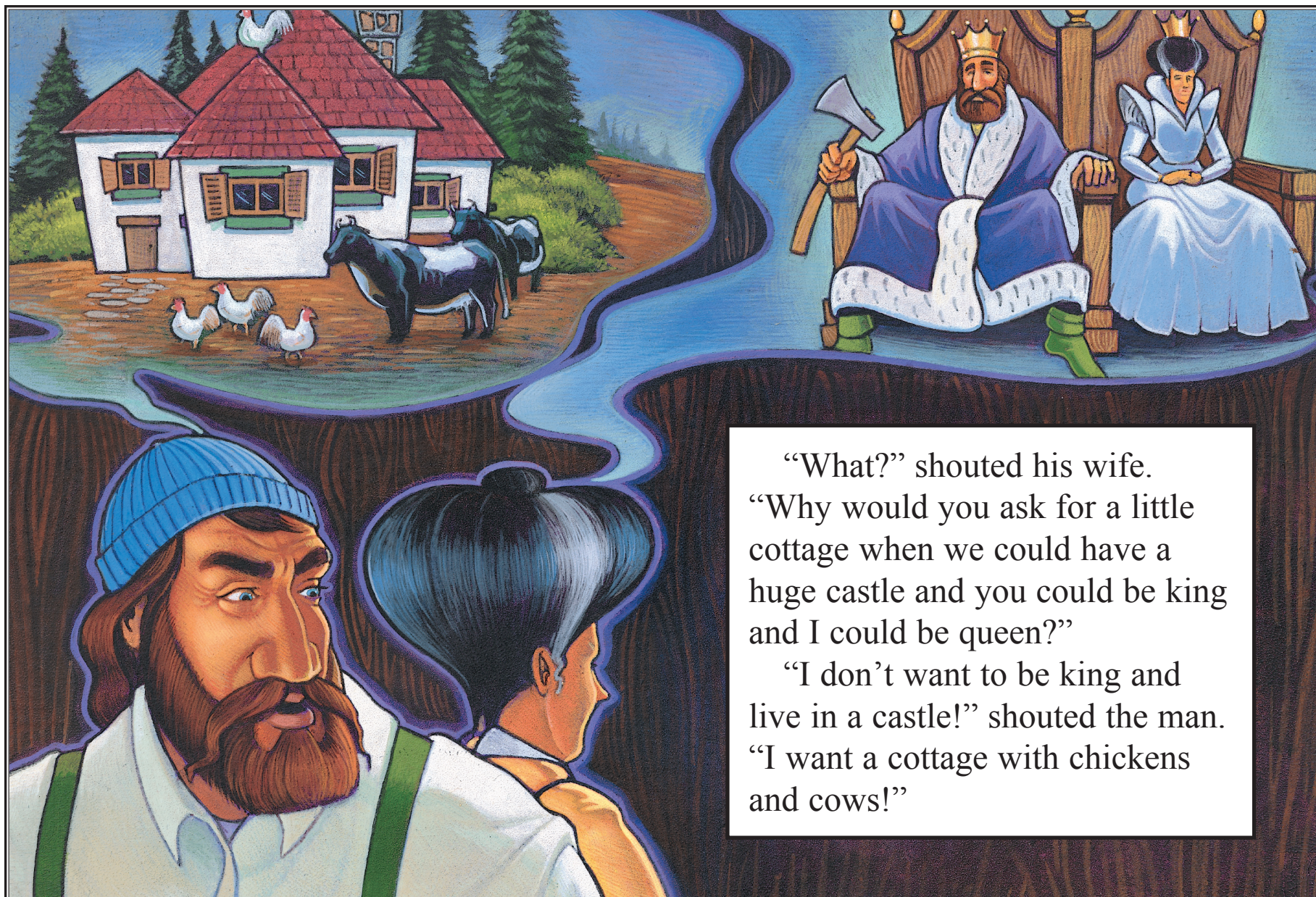


“Wife! Wife!” he called breathlessly. “Three wishes! We can have any three wishes we wish!”



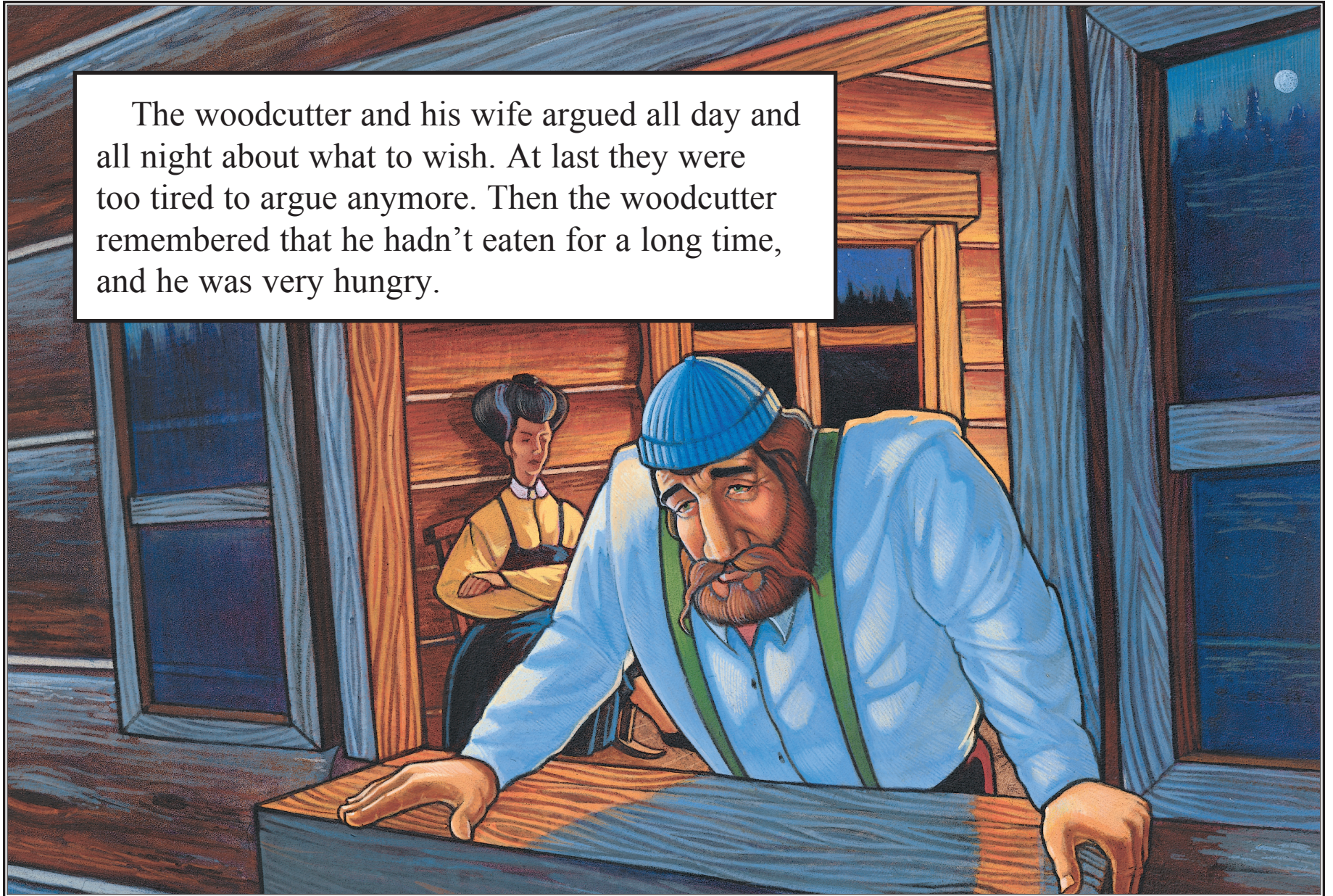
“Wishes, wishes!” sang the wife as she danced around the room. “What shall we wish?”

He said, “I think I’ll wish for a fine little cottage with some cows and some chickens.”



“What?” shouted his wife.
“Why would you ask for a little cottage when we could have a huge castle and you could be king and I could be queen?”
“I don’t want to be king and live in a castle!” shouted the man.
“I want a cottage with chickens and cows!”

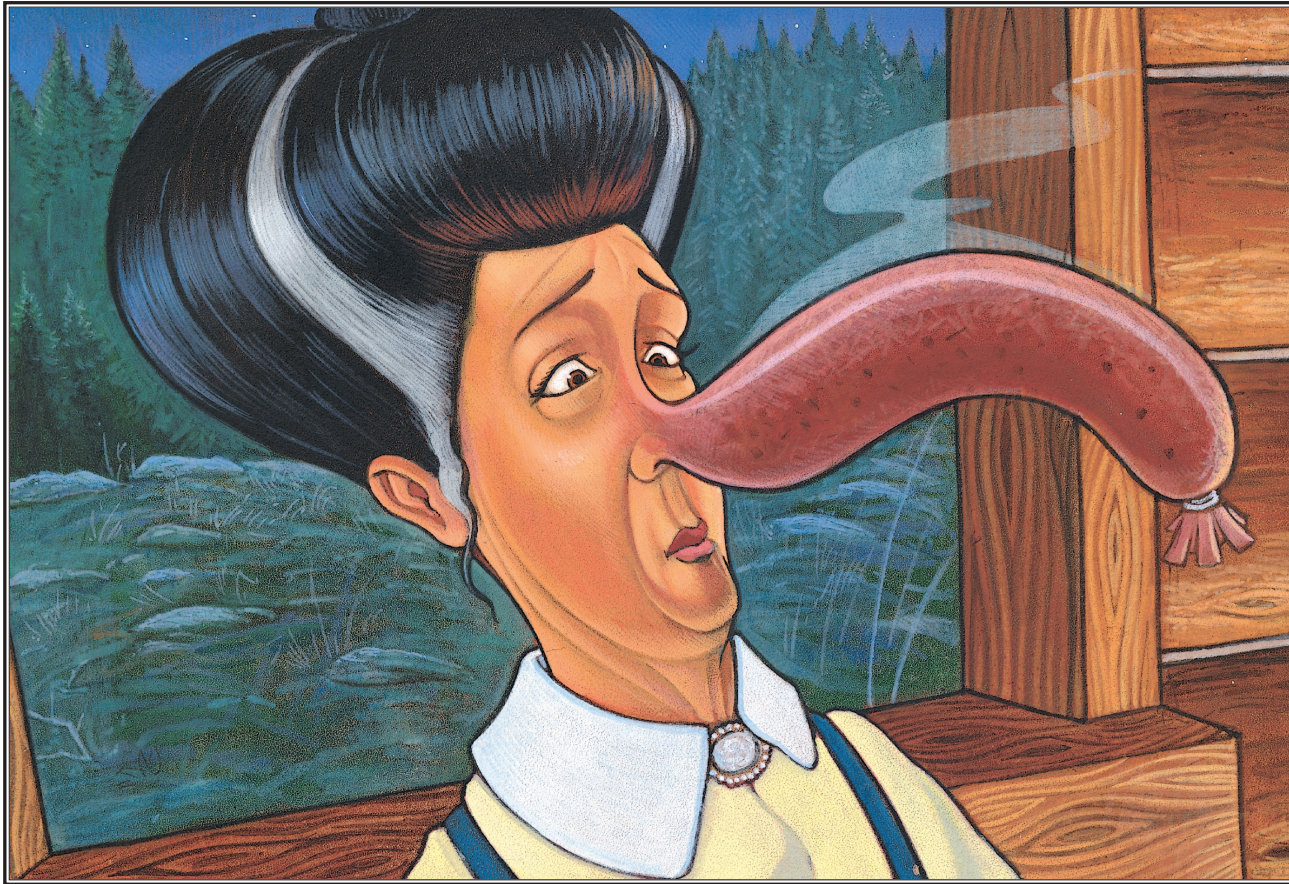
The woodcutter and his wife argued all day and all night about what to wish. At last they were too tired to argue anymore. Then the woodcutter remembered that he hadn't eaten for a long time, and he was very hungry.





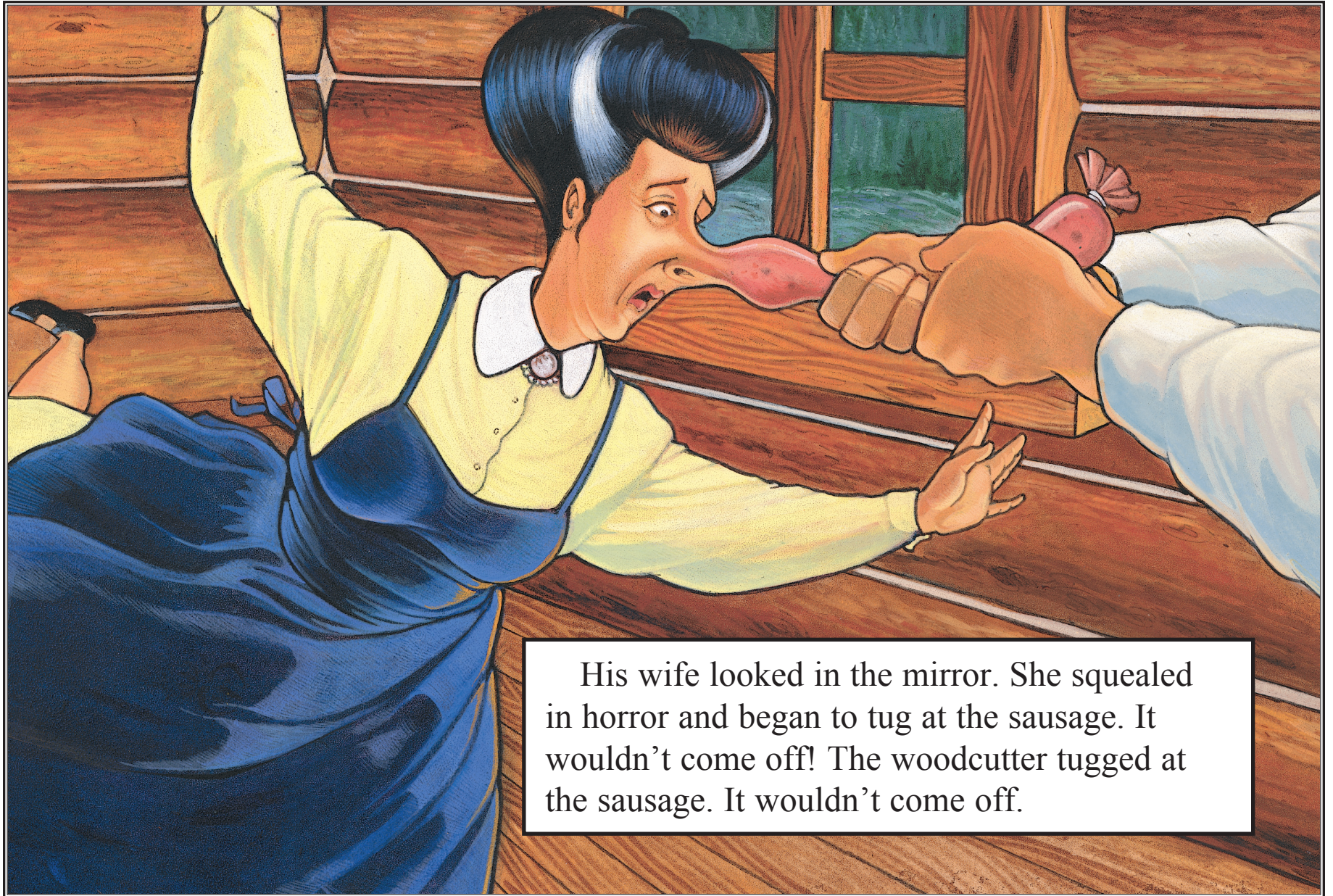
He said, "I'm so hungry. I wish I had a nice, fat sausage to eat." Instantly a most delicious, fat sausage appeared on a plate before him.

"Look what you've done!" scolded the wife angrily. "You've wasted one of our wishes!"



The woodcutter stomped his foot and cried, “I wish that sausage were on the end of your nose!”

Instantly the sausage appeared on the end of his wife’s nose! Oh, dear. The woodcutter knew he had made a big mistake.



His wife looked in the mirror. She squealed in horror and began to tug at the sausage. It wouldn't come off! The woodcutter tugged at the sausage. It wouldn't come off.



The woodcutter told his wife that he would use his last wish to please her.
He would wish for a fine castle where she could be queen.

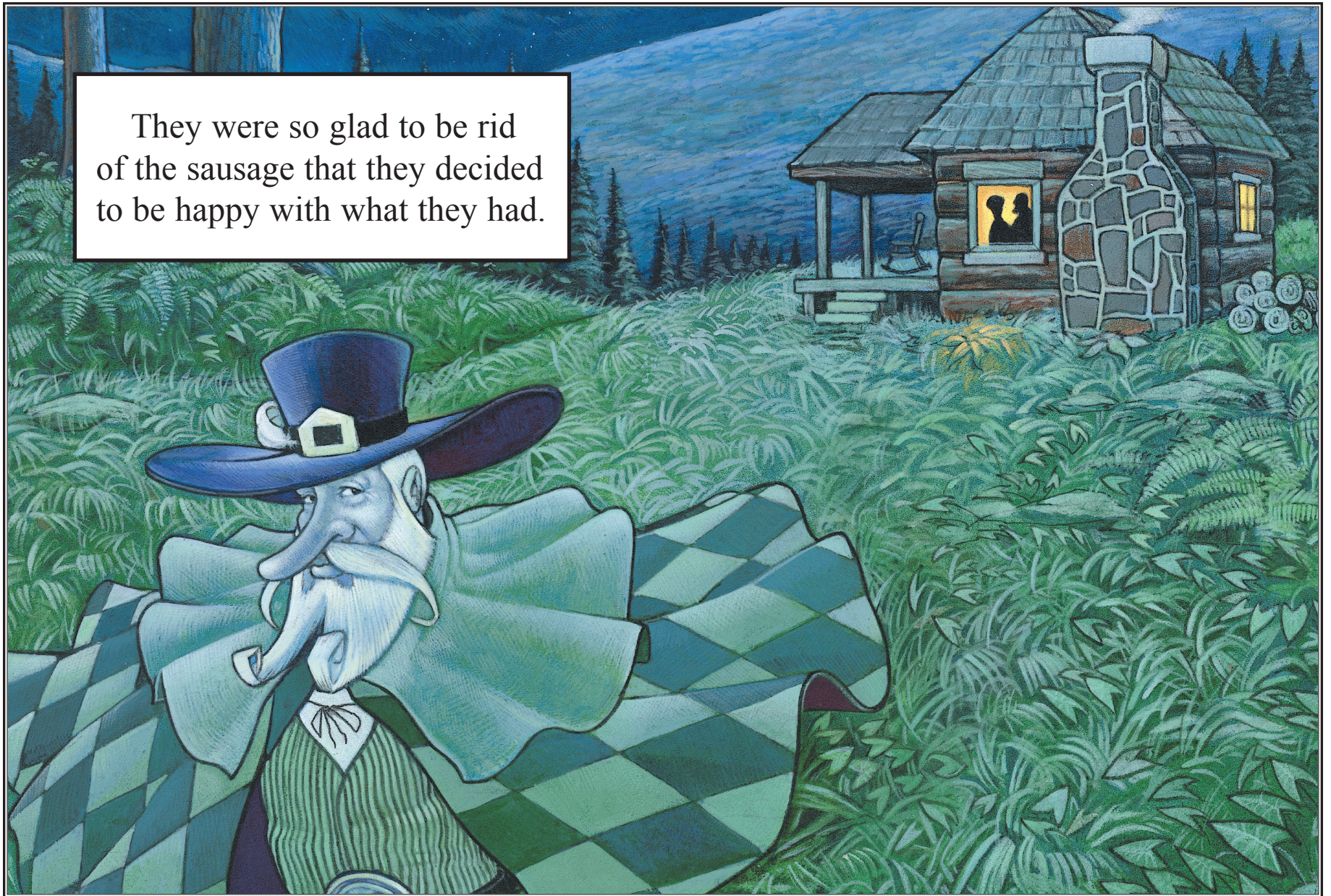


“What!” shouted his wife. “How could I be queen in a fine castle with a big sausage on my nose?”



At last they agreed on what he should wish. The woodcutter wished with his very last wish that the sausage would disappear from his wife's nose.

They were so glad to be rid
of the sausage that they decided
to be happy with what they had.



Reading

Traditional Tales are beautifully illustrated stories from around the world designed to be shared with children of all ages.

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