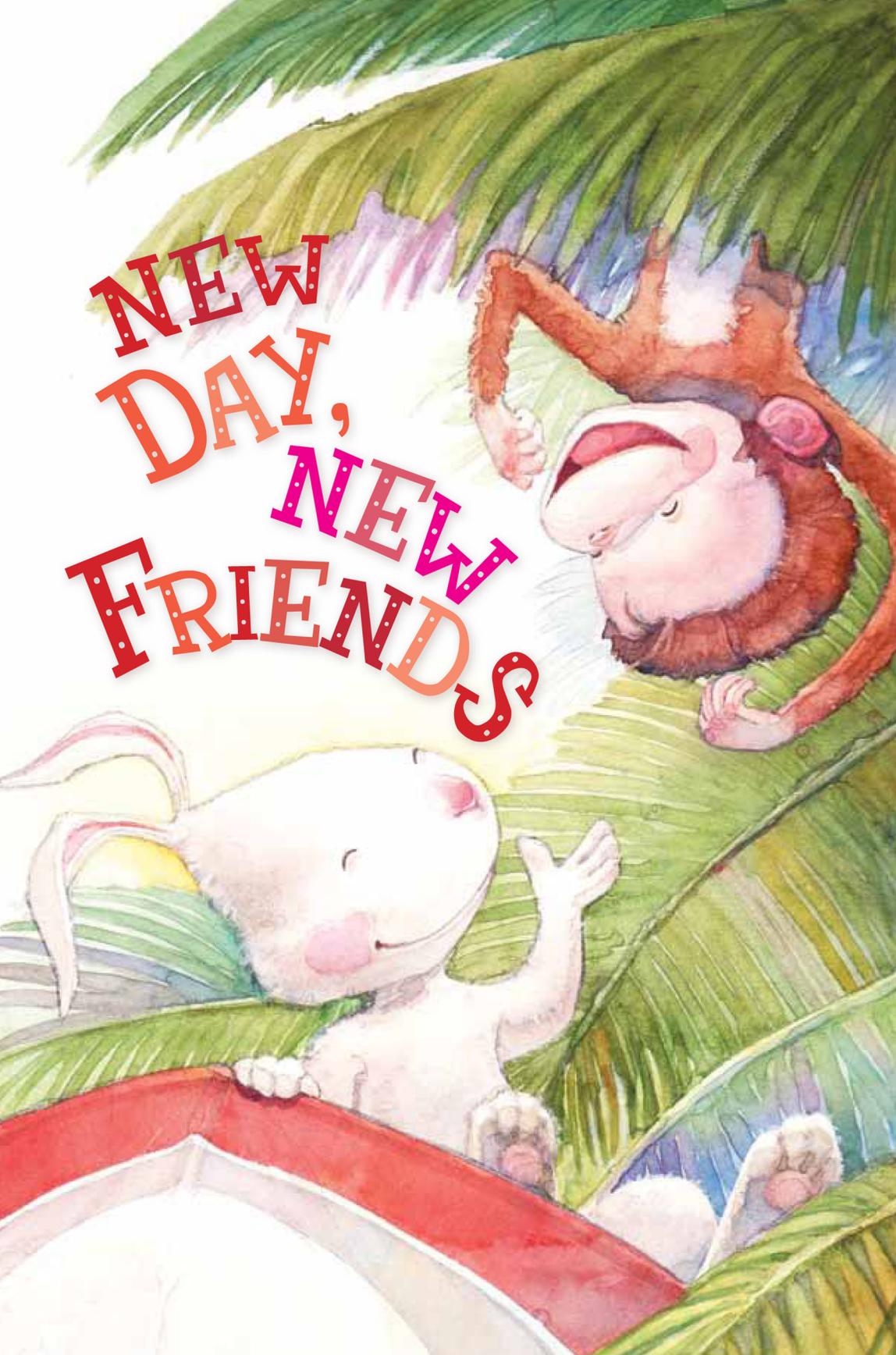


NEW
DAY,
NEW
FRIENDS



NEW DAY, NEW FRIENDS



by C. Alexander London
illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu





As Rabbit ran home, he heard a tree making the strangest sounds.

"No good, no good, no good!" said the tree.

Rabbit was puzzled. Why was the tree repeating itself? Trees were not meant to talk. He approached the tree.

When he looked up, he saw Monkey, high up in the branches, all tangled up. Monkey was wriggling and squirming and getting himself more and more tangled.

"Excuse me," Rabbit said. "Is everything all right up there?"

"Everything's fine!" said Monkey, who thought himself the cleverest of all the animals. "I was just flying my kite!"

"Everyone says it is too windy for flying kites today," said Rabbit.

Monkey did not want to admit that he had gotten stuck and tangled. Monkeys were supposed to be clever.

So, he yelled at Rabbit instead. "Hop along, little Rabbit," he shouted. "This is Monkey business and no concern of yours."

Monkey was so rude that Rabbit started to hop away. But he heard Monkey wriggling.

"No good, no good, no good," Monkey muttered to himself again, tangled even worse than before.

Rabbit came back.







"Are you sure you're alright?" Rabbit asked.

The wind blew a strong gust that shook the whole tree and shook Monkey with it.

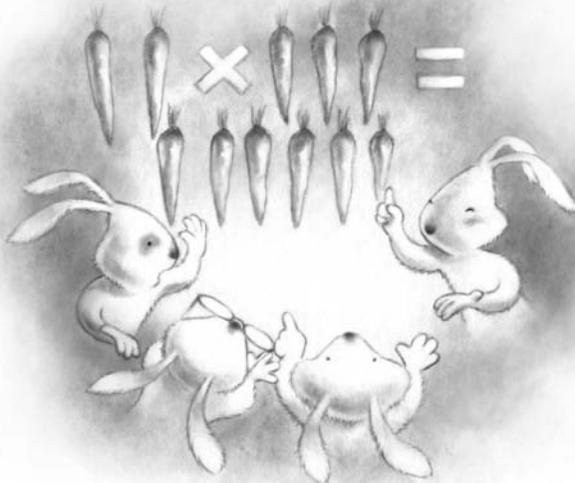
"I'm stuck!" Monkey cried out. "Could you please help me? Please???"





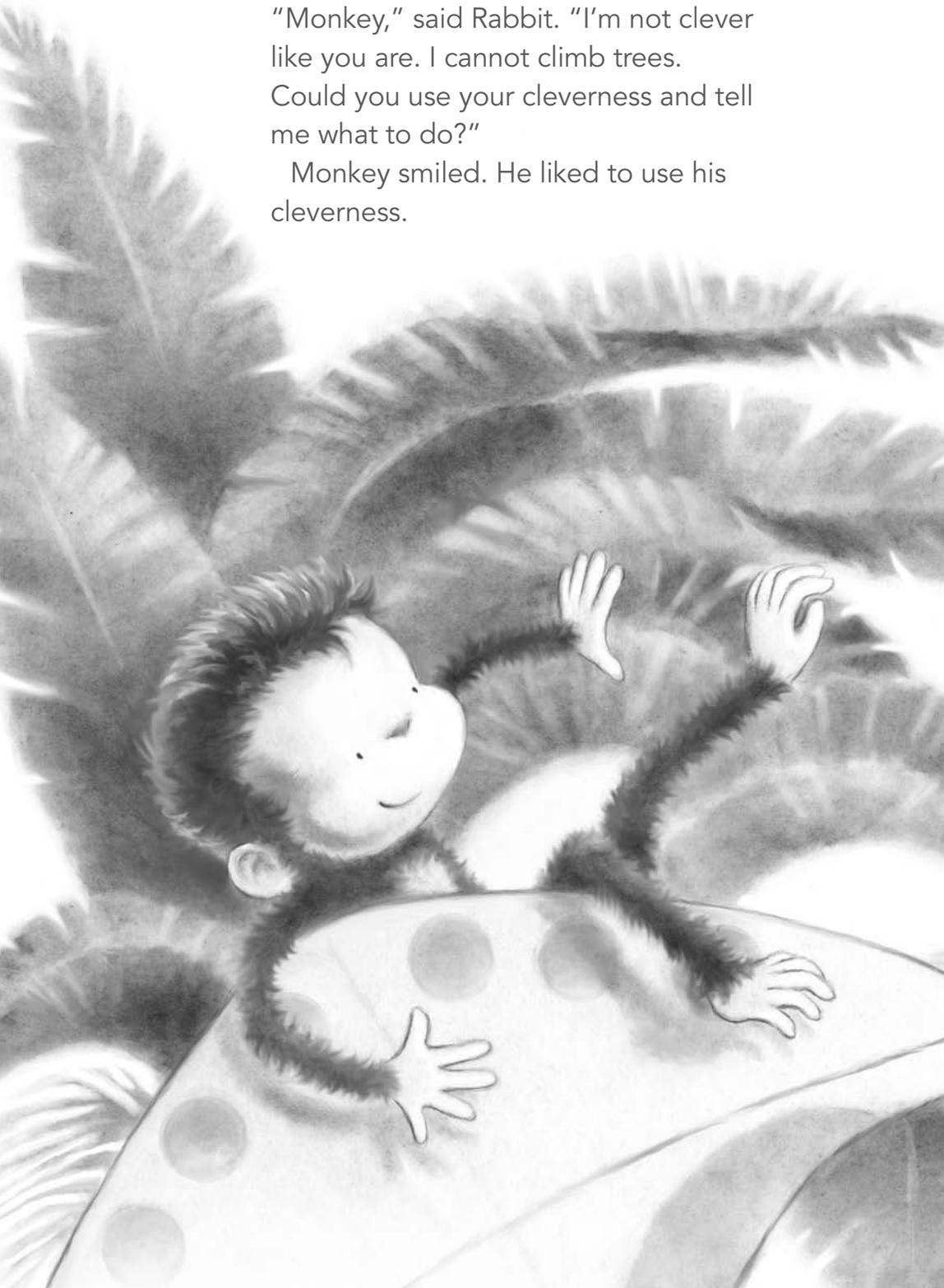
Rabbit liked to be helpful. Back at the rabbit warren, he carried carrots and he plucked thorns out of paws and helped the other rabbits with their multiplication tables.

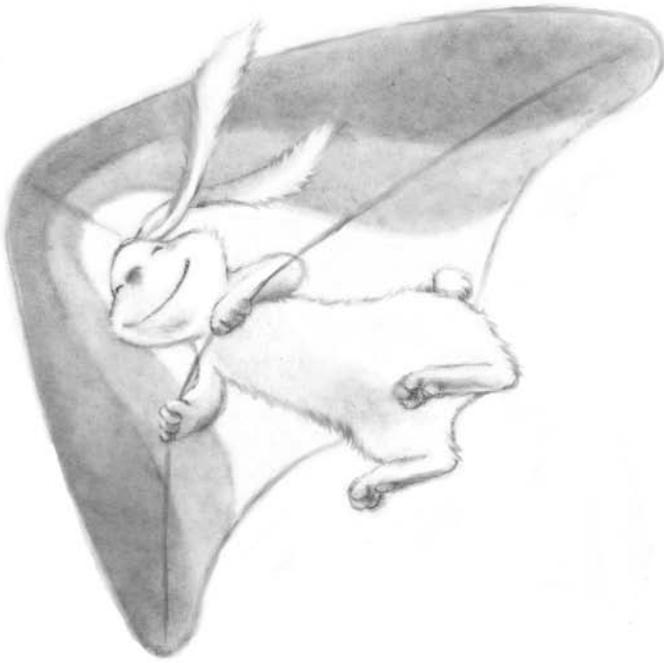
But he had never helped a monkey who was stuck in a tree. He didn't know what to do.



"Monkey," said Rabbit. "I'm not clever like you are. I cannot climb trees. Could you use your cleverness and tell me what to do?"

Monkey smiled. He liked to use his cleverness.





"Rabbit," said Monkey, "use your teeth to chew through the string and set me free."

"But how will I ever get up to where you are?" Rabbit asked.

"That's easy," said Monkey. "Use your kite!"

"But it's too windy to fly a kite!"

"Exactly!" said Monkey. "That's how I got into this mess."

So Rabbit mustered all his courage and hoisted his kite into the air. It danced in the sky pulling him right into Monkey's tree.

"WHEEEEE!" cried Rabbit.

Rabbit chewed the kite strings and set Monkey free. "You did it!" cried Monkey.

"It was your idea," said Rabbit. "I just helped.

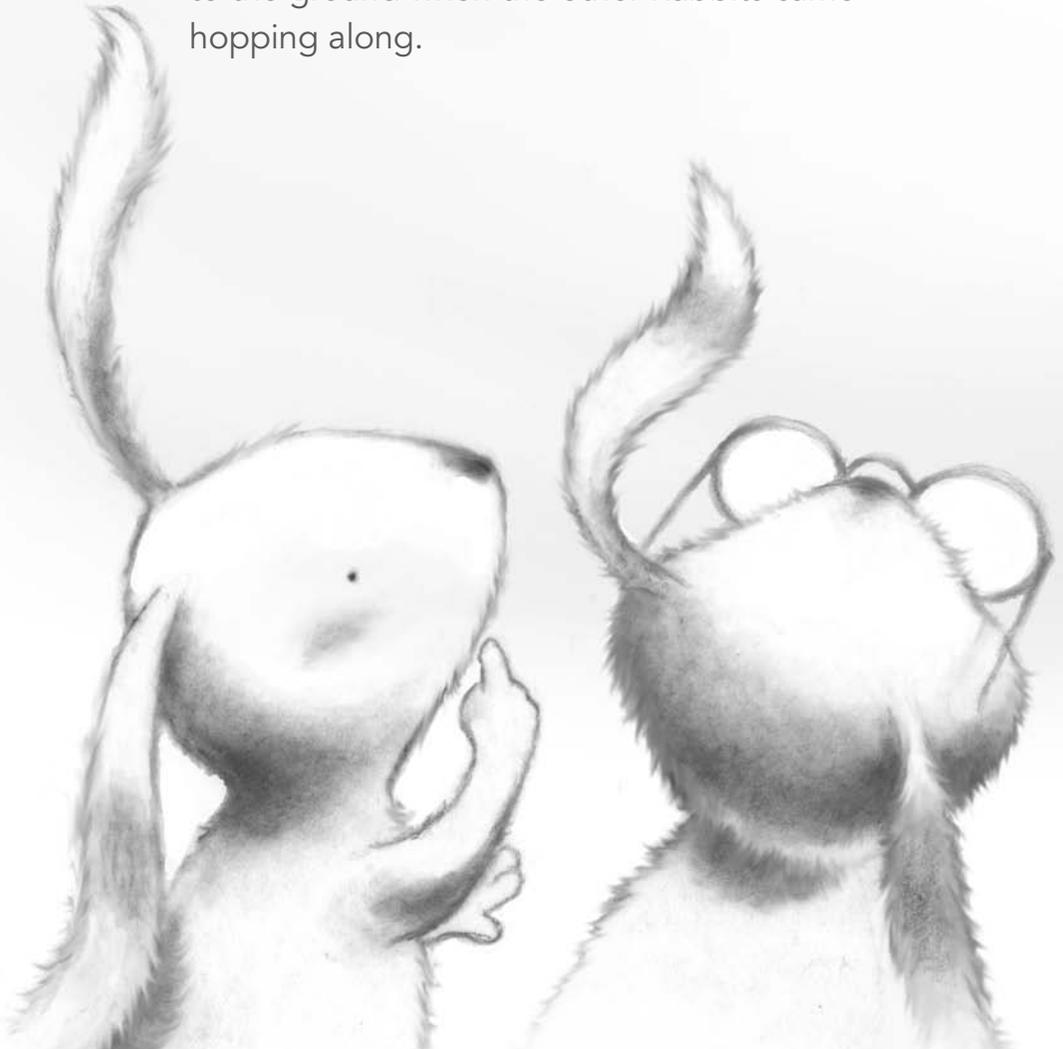
"We did it together," said Monkey.

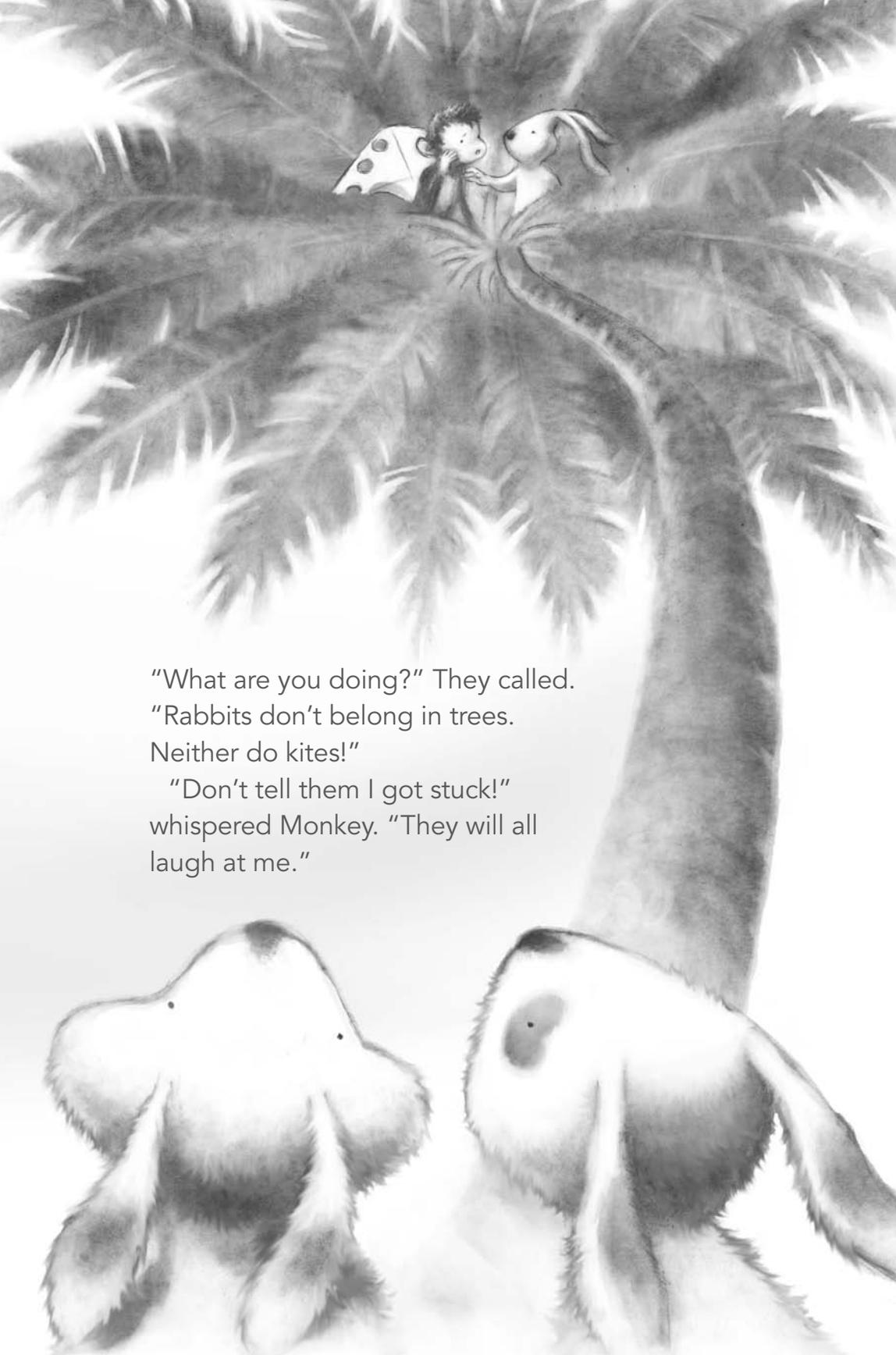
"You are a clever Rabbit."

Rabbit peered nervously at the ground.

"How will we get down? Rabbits can't climb trees and I'm afraid of falling."

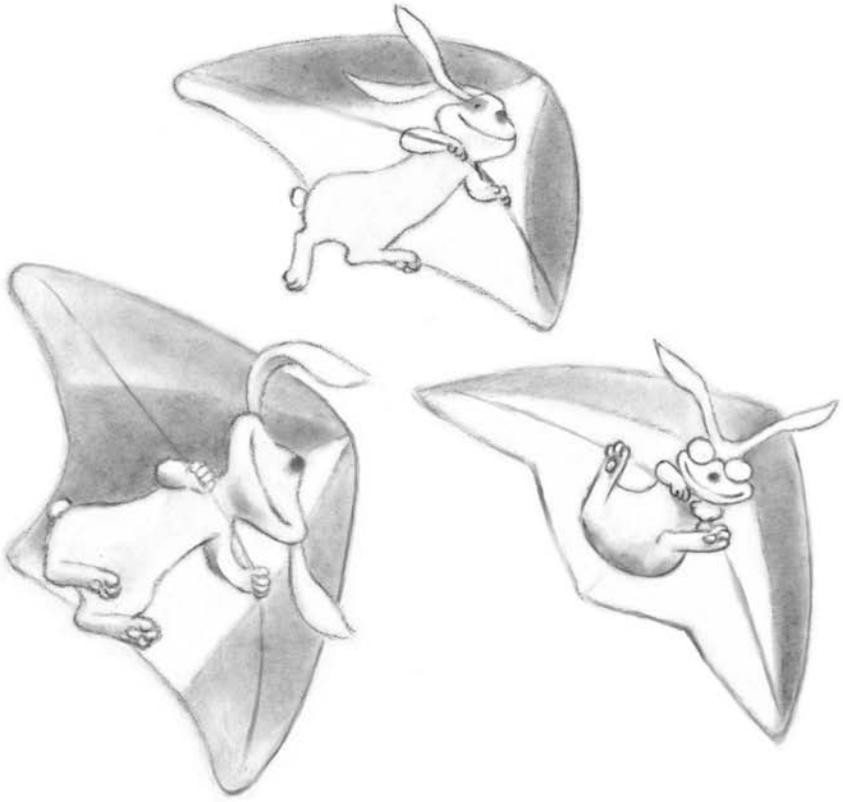
"I won't let you fall," said Monkey. He was about to carry his new friend down the tree to the ground when the other Rabbits came hopping along.





"What are you doing?" They called.
"Rabbits don't belong in trees.
Neither do kites!"

"Don't tell them I got stuck!"
whispered Monkey. "They will all
laugh at me."



Rabbit did not want to embarrass his new friend.

"We're having the most fun!" he said.

"We're decorating the tree with our kites!"

The other Rabbits looked at the two kites, tangled in the tree.

"Could we play, too?" they asked.

"Of course!" said Rabbit. "Grab your kites!"

"But it's too windy to fly our kites!"

"Exactly!" said Rabbit, feeling very clever indeed.





At the end of the day, Monkey helped each rabbit down to the ground.

Everyone admired the beautiful tree that they had decorated.

"Let's play again, tomorrow," said Monkey.

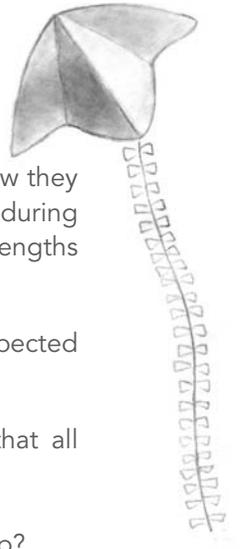
"Sure!" said Rabbit. "But let's stay on the ground this time!"

The Rabbits hopped home. Monkey climbed up the tree.

He could not wait to see his new friends the next day.



DISCUSSION GUIDE



NEW DAY, NEW FRIENDS is a story about values and how they reflect who you are and who you want to be. Before, during and after reading this story, explore how LitWorld's 7 Strengths characterize Monkey and Rabbit's relationship.

BELONGING—Identifying as a needed, loved, and respected member of one's family, community, and world as a whole

Discuss: Monkey knows who he is, because he knows that all monkeys have certain things in common, like being clever.

- ◆ What groups are you a part of in your community?
- ◆ How do you feel similar to other people in that group?
- ◆ How do you feel different from them?
- ◆ How do you celebrate what makes you different?

CURIOSITY—Fostering a willingness to explore new territory and test new theories

Discuss: Even though it's a new idea for them, the rabbits decide to try flying their kites into the tree.

- ◆ When have you tried something new?
- ◆ What would you like to try that you haven't already done?
- ◆ What do you wonder about?

FRIENDSHIP—Having close, trusting relationships with others

Discuss: At first, Rabbit and Monkey don't know each other. By helping each other, they get to know one another.

- ◆ Why do Rabbit and Monkey become good friends?
- ◆ Are they very similar or very different?
- ◆ What qualities make you a good friend to someone else?

COMPASSION—Being tender towards others who are in need, both near and far

Discuss: Rabbit likes to help others. He helps other rabbits in the rabbit warren and he also decides to help Monkey

- ◆ When have you helped others?
- ◆ When has someone helped you?
- ◆ How does being helpful make you feel?
- ◆ How do you feel when someone helps you?
- ◆ What makes you decide when to help someone else?



CONFIDENCE—Thinking independently and expressing ideas with assurance

Discuss: Rabbit does not know if he can help Monkey but he tries anyway.

- ◆ When have you tried something new and succeeded?
- ◆ When have you tried something new and didn't succeed?
- ◆ What is your proudest accomplishment?

ESTEEM—Feeling respect and admiration for self and others

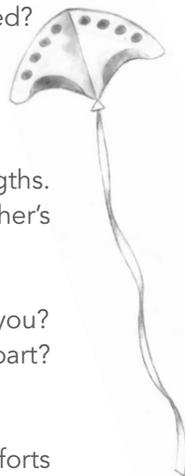
Discuss: Rabbit and Monkey have different skills and strengths. They respect their differences and appreciate each other's uniqueness.

- ◆ How do you feel about people who are like you?
- ◆ How do you feel about people who are different from you?
- ◆ How do the differences bring you closer or keep you apart?
- ◆ Who in your life do you admire and respect?

HOPE—Thinking optimistically and believing that today's efforts will produce good things in the future for self and for the world

Discuss: At the end of the story, all of the characters are happy and safe. They have become friends and imagine having fun together in the future.

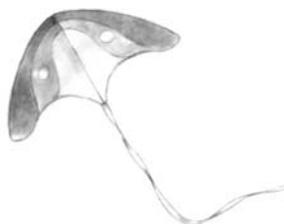
- ◆ What do you hope for right now?
- ◆ What do you hope for your future?
- ◆ What steps can you take to make that happen?



READER'S ACTIVITY—DESIGN YOUR OWN KITE

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Tape



INSTRUCTIONS

Draw a kite of your own. Choose a shape that you like best for the outline. Color in your kite or draw pictures on it .

NEW DAY, NEW FRIENDS

Dearest Children of Iraq,

This storybook is dedicated to you.

New Friends, whom you do not know, from across the seas, are thinking of you and love you. With this book, we want to let you know that there is a new day coming. We hope that the 7 inner strengths that you will find woven into this story can help you awaken to each new day filled with hope, belonging, confidence, esteem, compassion, friendship and curiosity.

For those of you who are family and caregivers to these precious children, the act of reading this story with a child says: I am with you. You are not alone. We are walking this road together.

We hope this book brings you fun, comfort, belonging and learning. It is our deepest hope that it will lighten the load you carry because you know you have New Friends who love you.

Representing your New Friends at LitWorld,
The Children's Village, and
Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation



LitWorld's mission is to use the power of story to cultivate literacy skills in the world's most vulnerable children.

The Children's Village works in partnership with families to help society's most vulnerable children become educationally proficient, economically productive, and socially responsible members of their communities through education, work, lifelong relationships and social responsibility.

The mission of the Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation is to come alongside families and communities of Iraq in providing compassionate care for needy orphans, under the leadership of the Iraqi people. Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation mobilizes international partnerships and invests in Iraq's community organizations.

Text copyright © 2011 by LitWorld • Illustrations copyright © 2011 by Ying-Hwa Hu
Designed by Stephanie Bart-Horvath • All rights reserved • For more information, please visit litworld.org