

Little Bunny's Sleepless Night

by
Carol Roth

illustrated by
Valeri Gorbachev

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LITTLE BUNNY'S SLEEPLESS NIGHT
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To Mark, Wendy, Glenn, and Larry with love—
and to the new love of my life, Jacob Douglas—C.R.

To my parents—V.G.

Carol Roth has always loved writing. Carol's many wonderful books include *The Little School Bus*, *Who Will Tuck Me in Tonight?*, and *Five Little Ducklings Go to School*, and *Hold Your Temper, Tiger*. Carol lives in New Jersey with her husband, Mark.

Valerie Gorbachev is the author and illustrator of a number of children's books, both in the United States and in Europe, including *There Was a Turkey on the Farm*, *Chicken Chickens*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and more. Valeri emigrated to the United States from the Ukraine in 1991 and now lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

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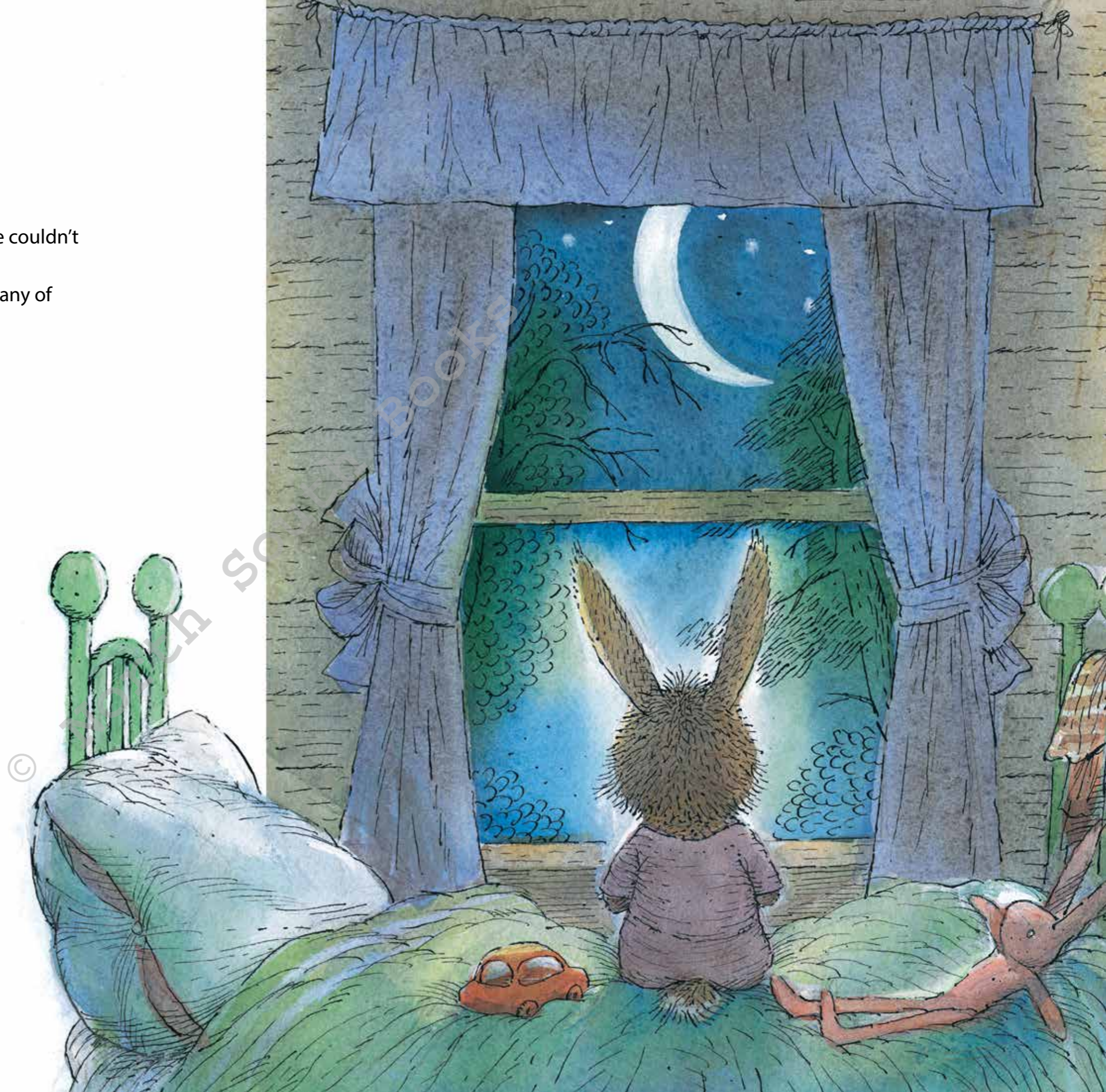
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Little Bunny had no brothers
or sisters. He had his very own room
with his very own bed.

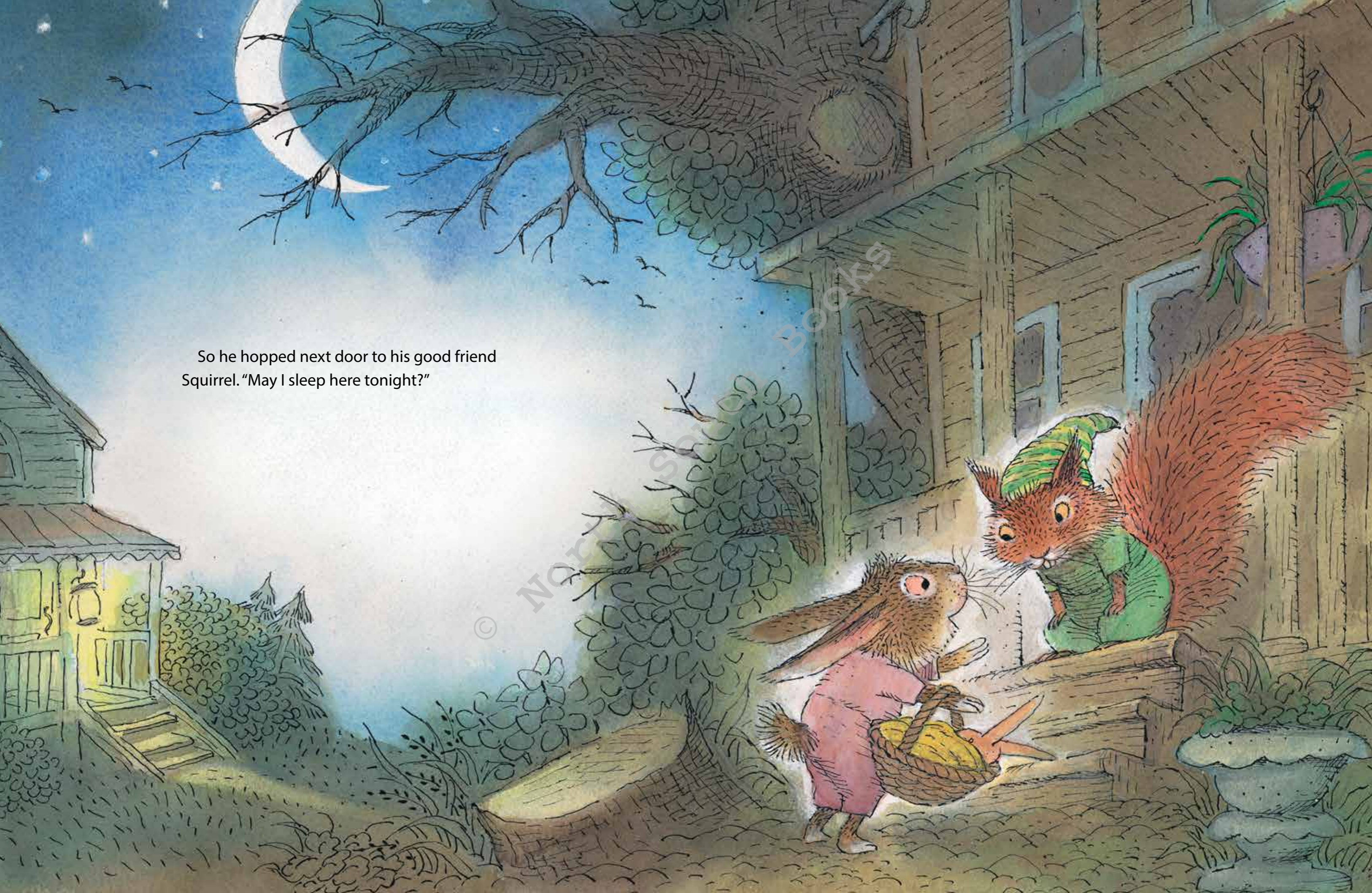


But sometimes he got lonely—so lonely that he couldn't fall asleep.

One night he thought: What I need is the company of a good friend.



So he hopped next door to his good friend Squirrel. "May I sleep here tonight?"





"Of course," said Squirrel as he welcomed him in.
Tucked all snug in bed next to Squirrel, Little Bunny thought
how lucky he was not be alone.
"Good night, Squirrel," said Little Bunny.
"Good night, Little Bunny," answered his friend.

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Falling asleep was easy, but staying asleep was not.

Little Bunny was soon awakened by C-R-U-N-C-H, C-R-U-N-C-H, C-R-U-N-C-H!

"What's that noise?" he asked as he sat up in bed.

"It's just me cracking acorns," said Squirrel. "I always have a little snack in the middle of the night."

"Well, thanks for having me, but I can't sleep with all that noise!"





So Little Bunny left and hopped some more until he reached his good friend Skunk.

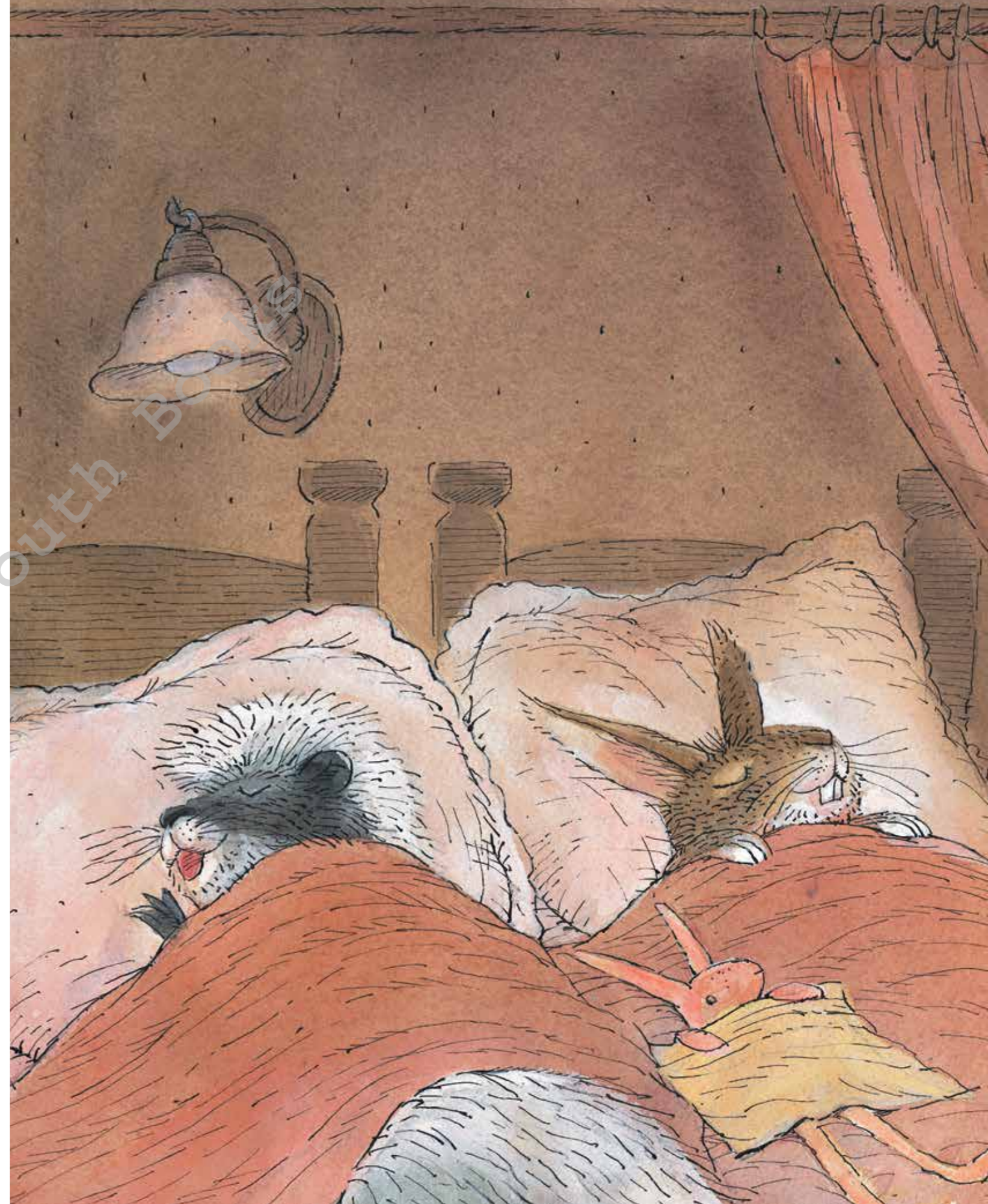
"May I sleep here tonight?"

"YES! YES! A HUNDRED TIMES YES!" shouted Skunk.

"No one has ever asked to sleep over before!"

Afraid Little Bunny might change his mind, Skunk quickly pulled him inside.

"This is fun," Skunk said as they got into their beds. Shortly after, they fell asleep . . . but not for long.



Little Bunny was soon awakened by a terrible smell.
"What smells?" he asked as he jumped up.
"I'm afraid I do," said Skunk. "I forgot someone else was
in my room. I got scared and sprayed."
"Well, thanks for having me, but I can't sleep with
that smell!"



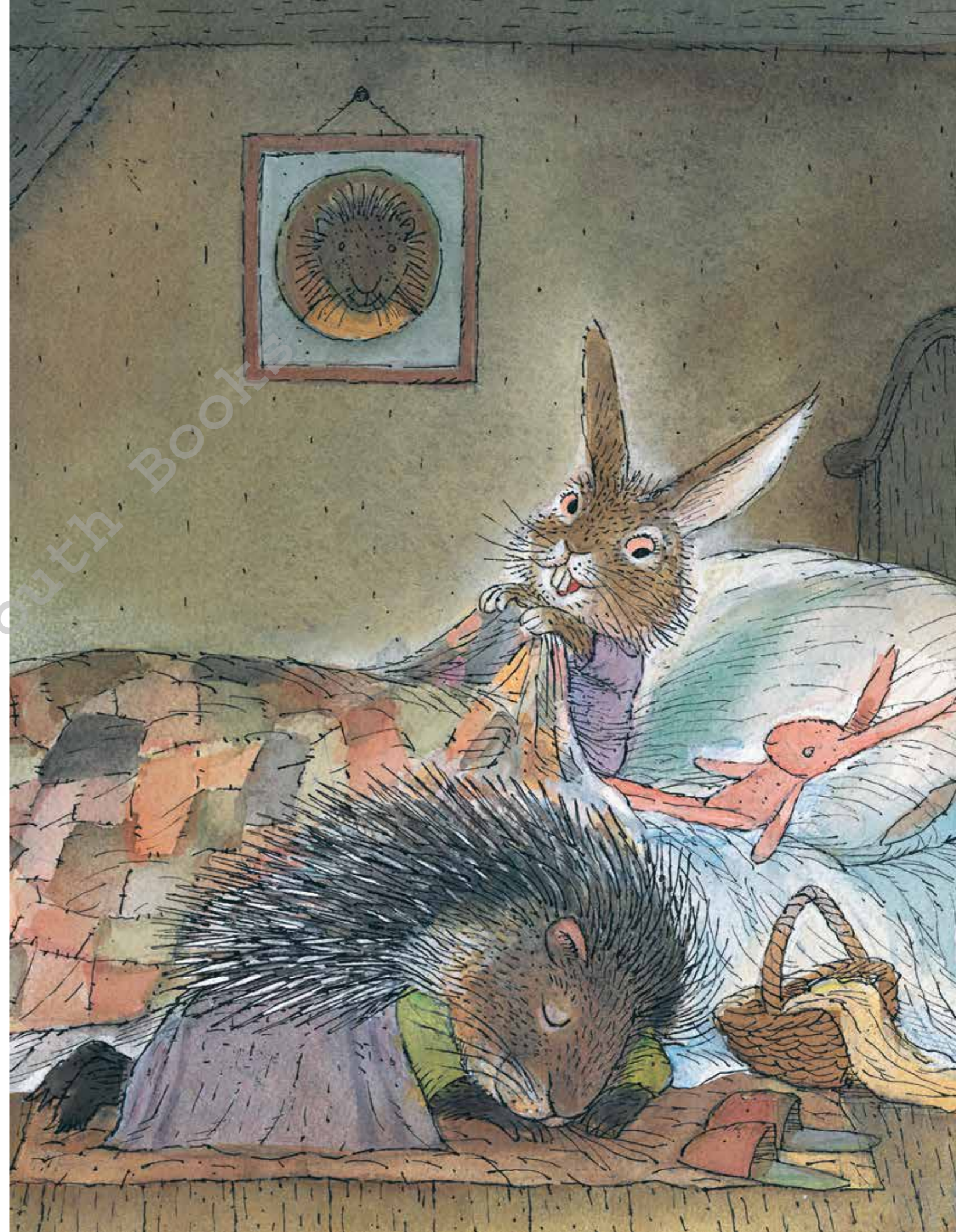


So Little Bunny left and hopped some more until he reached his good friend Porcupine.

"May I sleep here tonight?"

"Certainly," said Porcupine. "You take my bed and I'll sleep on the floor."

"Yippee!" shouted Little Bunny as he climbed into Porcupine's bed and bounced around with excitement.

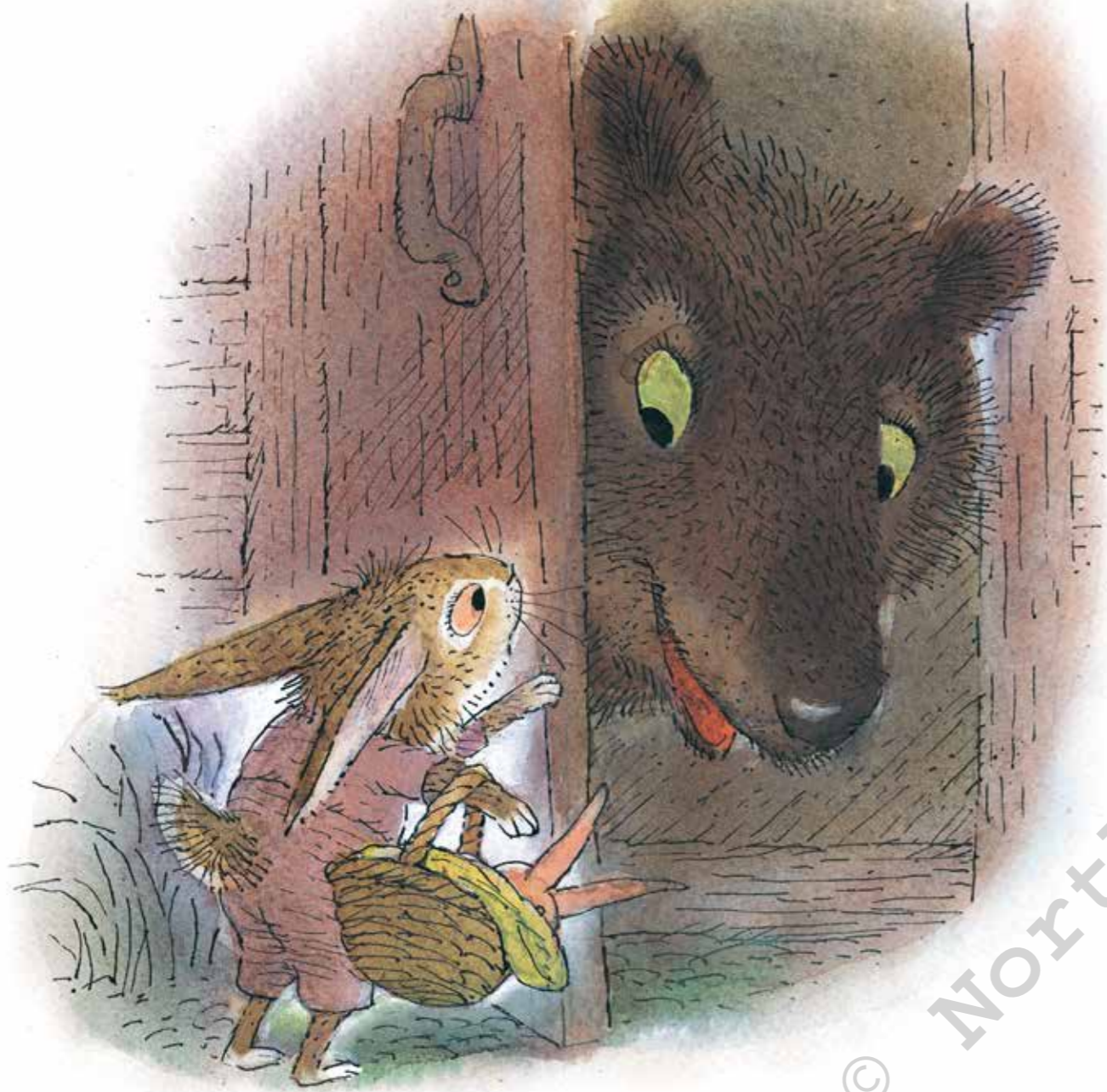




"O-U-C-H!" he screamed. "What do you have in here?"

"It's just my quills," said Porcupine. "I lose some every now and then."

"Well, thanks for having me, but I can't sleep with those prickles!"



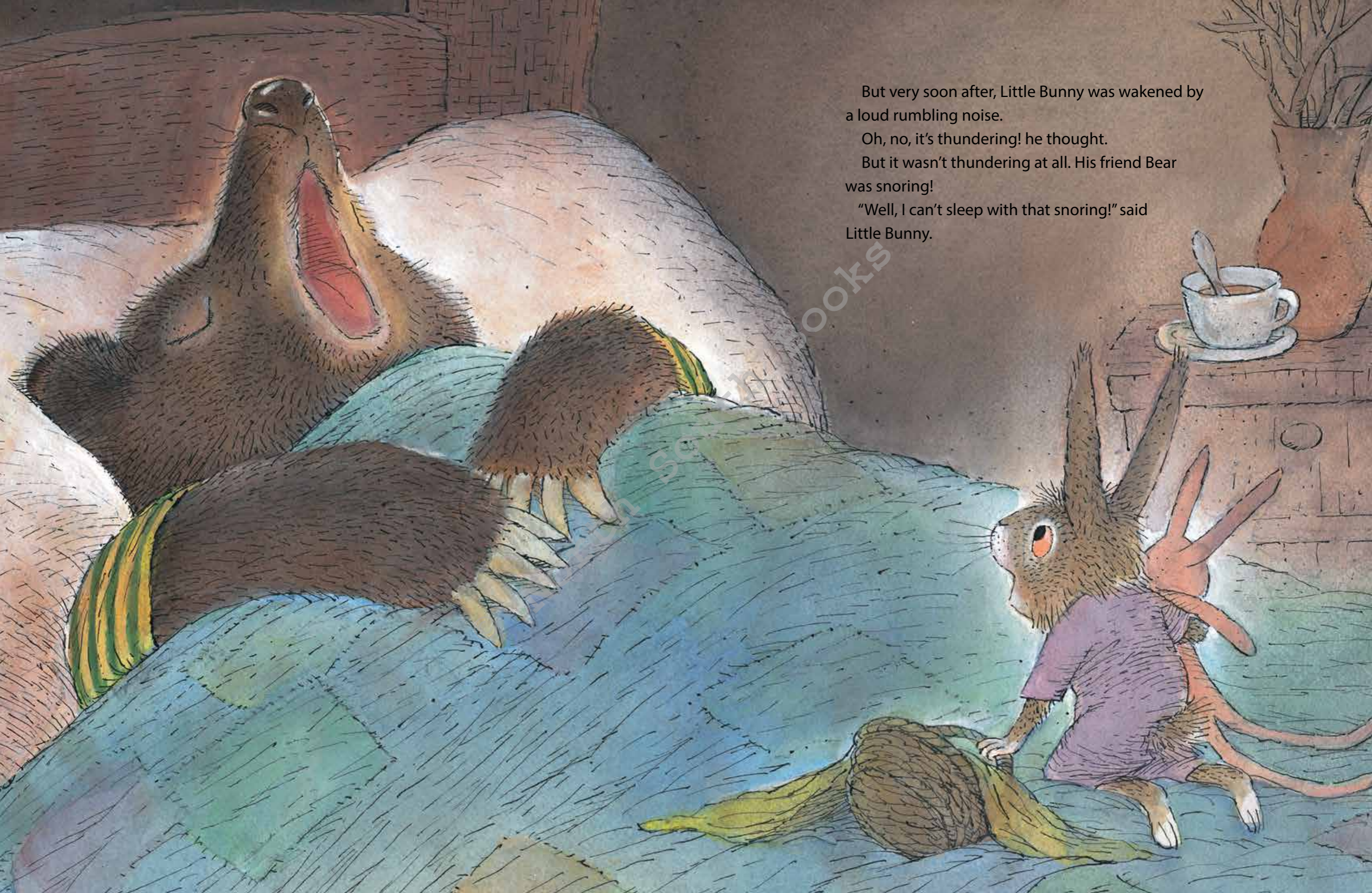
So Little Bunny left and hopped some more until he reached his good friend Bear.

"May I sleep here tonight?"

"Why sure, make yourself at home," said Bear.

By now Little Bunny was so tired he just curled up on the floor and went right to sleep.





But very soon after, Little Bunny was wakened by a loud rumbling noise.

Oh, no, it's thundering! he thought.

But it wasn't thundering at all. His friend Bear was snoring!

"Well, I can't sleep with that snoring!" said Little Bunny.



So he left and hopped some more until he reached his good friend Owl.

"May I sleep here tonight?"

"Why yes, if you want to," said Owl. "Just follow me."





An exhausted Little Bunny went right to sleep, but soon he was wakened by a bright light shining in his eyes.

"PUT THE LIGHT OUT!" he shouted.

"I can't," said Owl. "I stay up reading every night. That's how I got to be so wise."

"Well, since you're so wise, could you please tell me how I'm ever going to get some sleep?"

"That's easy," said Owl. "Just go back home where you belong."



Little Bunny took his wise friend's advice. Too tired to hop, he dragged himself home. His bed never looked so good to him before.



He jumped right in.

“How wonderful!” he said to himself as he snuggled down. “No crunching noise, no terrible smell, no prickly quills, no snoring, and no bright lights. Just me, by myself, and peace and quiet. Now I can fall asleep!”



And that's just what Little Bunny did!



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Little Bunny, an only child, is so lonely that he can't fall asleep. If only he had the company of a good friend. But when Little Bunny tries to spend the night with each of his buddies—Squirrel, Skunk, Porcupine, Bear, and Owl—he makes a wonderful discovery.

Back in print, this beloved bedtime tale with its gentle rhyme and endearing animals will send kids to bed knowing there's no place like home.



"Loaded with child appeal."
—*School Library Journal*

"This picture book scores high points on the snuggle scale and is just the ticket for the train to Nod."
—*Publishers Weekly*