

The Tortoise and the Hare

An Aesop Fable
adapted and illustrated by

Janet Stevens



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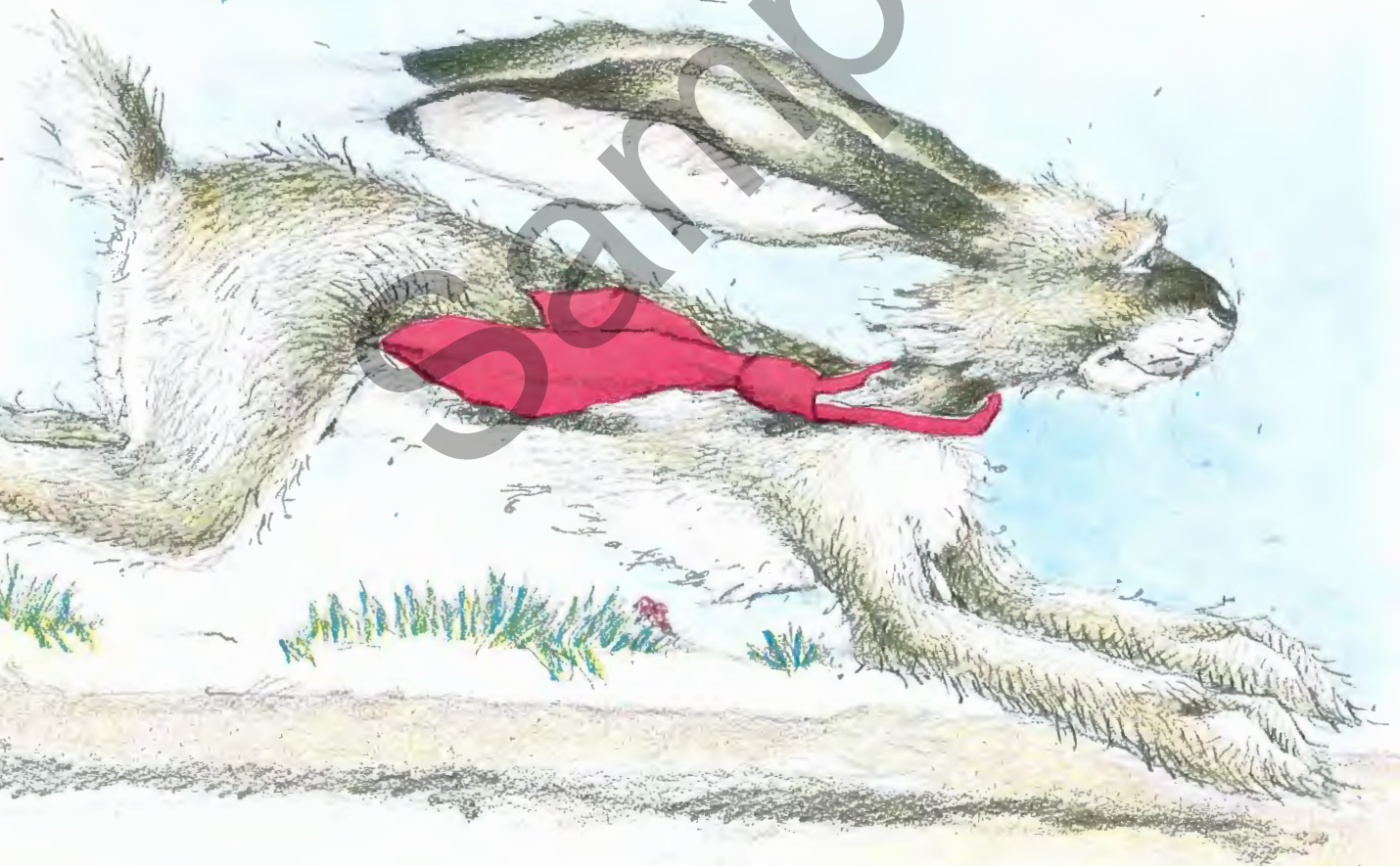
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and the persevering tortoise.

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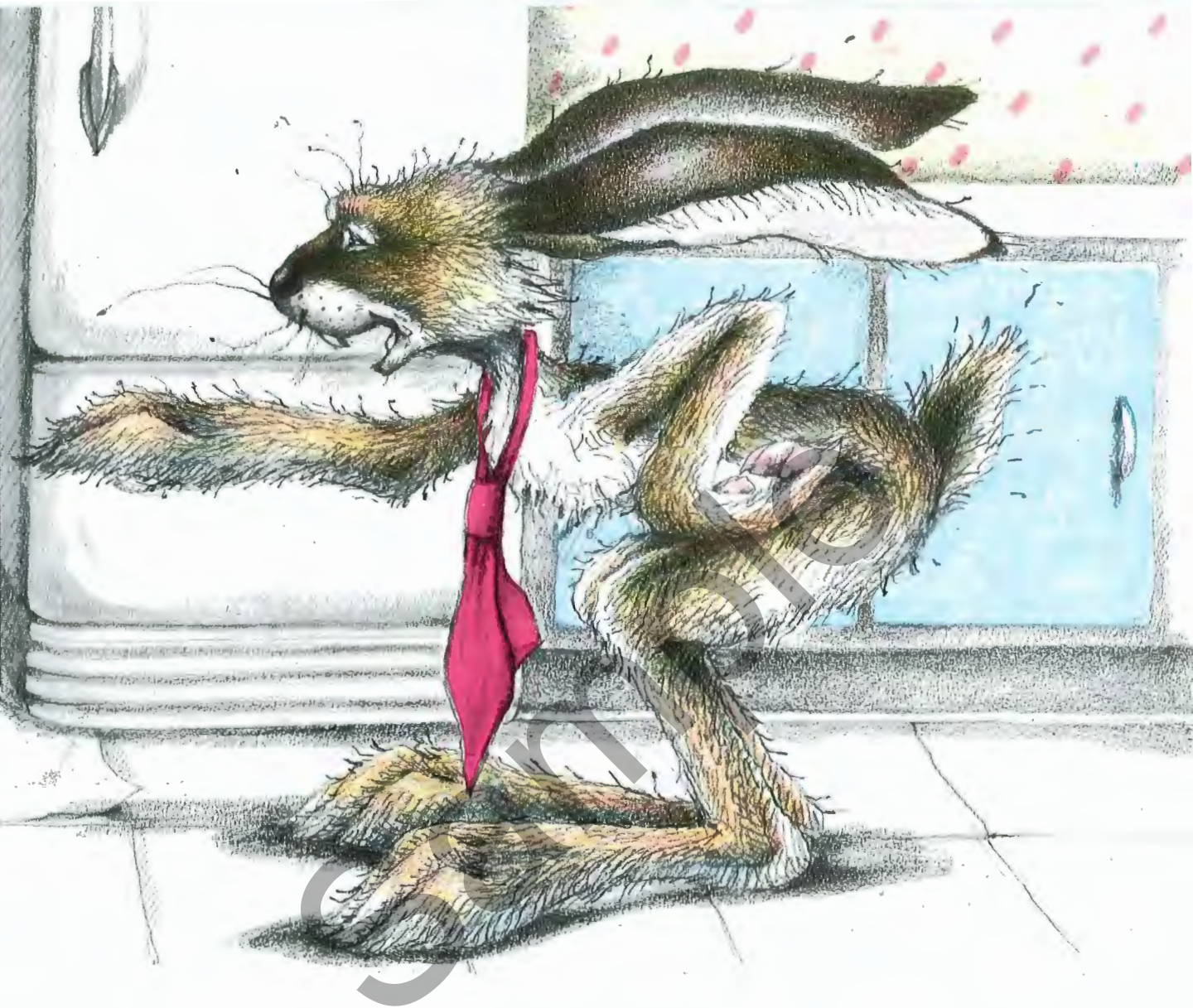
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Once upon a time, there was a tortoise and a hare.

Tortoise was friendly and quiet. He did everything slowly. Hare was flashy and rude. He did everything quickly.

Hare liked to tease Tortoise about being so slow.

When Tortoise ate breakfast, Hare said, "By the time you finish your last bite, it will be dinnertime."

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When Tortoise worked in his garden, Hare said, "By the time you pick those spring flowers, it will be winter."

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One afternoon, Hare followed Tortoise to the store. Hare teased him on the way. "By the time you get there, the store will be closed," he said. "You're so slow, I could beat you at a race, hopping backwards on one paw."

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“But I could never beat you, Hare,” said Tortoise.
“Yes, you could,” said Tortoise’s friends. “All you need
is a little help.”
“Then you *will* race me, Tortoise?” asked Hare.

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