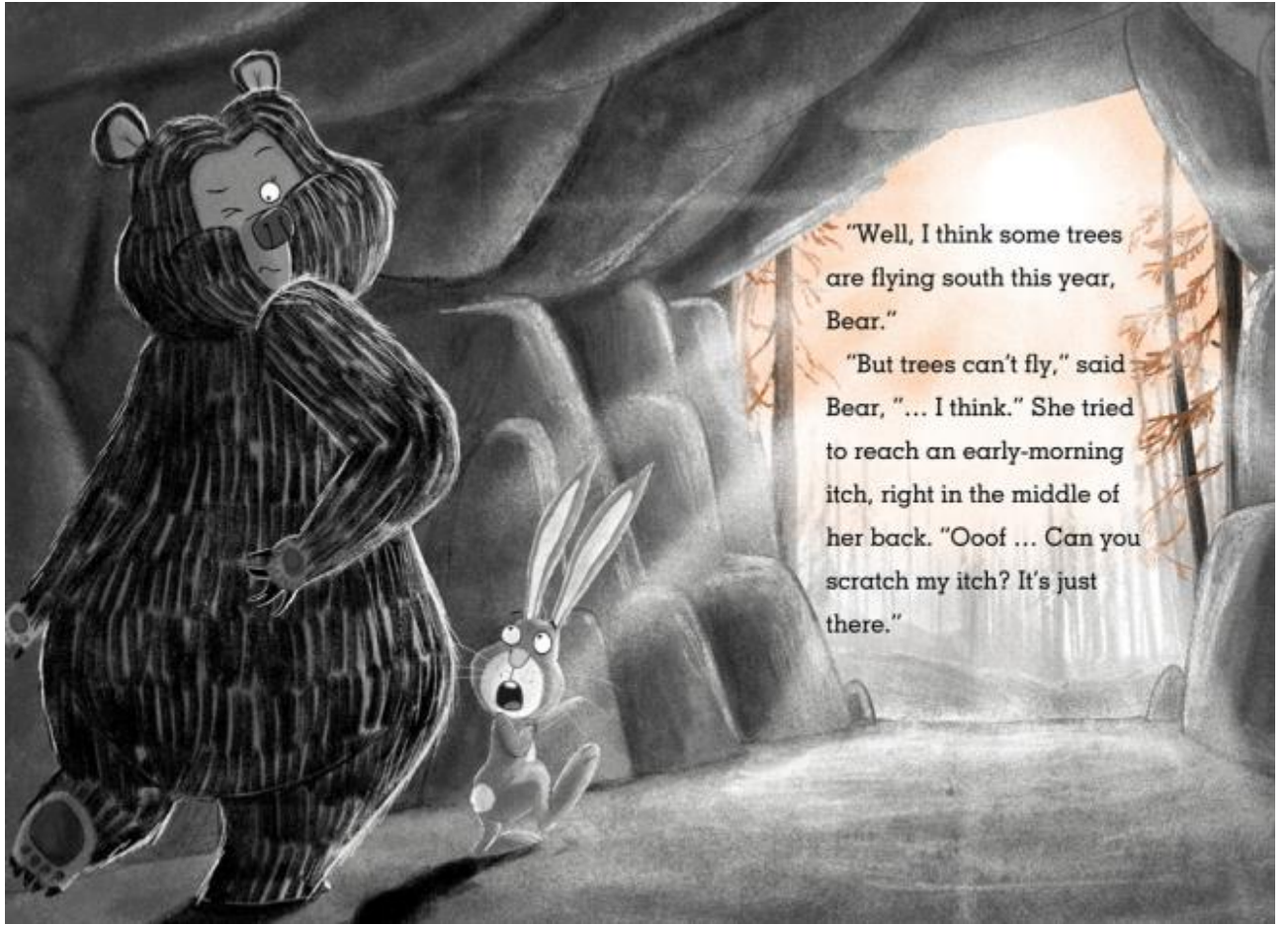


Rabbit burst into Bear's cave.

"Bear, where do trees go for the Winter?" said Rabbit.

"Trees stay exactly where they are," said Bear, yawning. "You're thinking of birds. Birds fly south for the Winter."





"Well, I think some trees are flying south this year, Bear."

"But trees can't fly," said Bear, "... I think." She tried to reach an early-morning itch, right in the middle of her back. "Ooof ... Can you scratch my itch? It's just there."

"Sure!" Rabbit jumped
as high as he could.

"Hmm. That's more of a
tickle, Rabbit."

"It's hard to reach the
itch, through all your fur ..."

"True," said Bear. "Well,
thank you for trying.

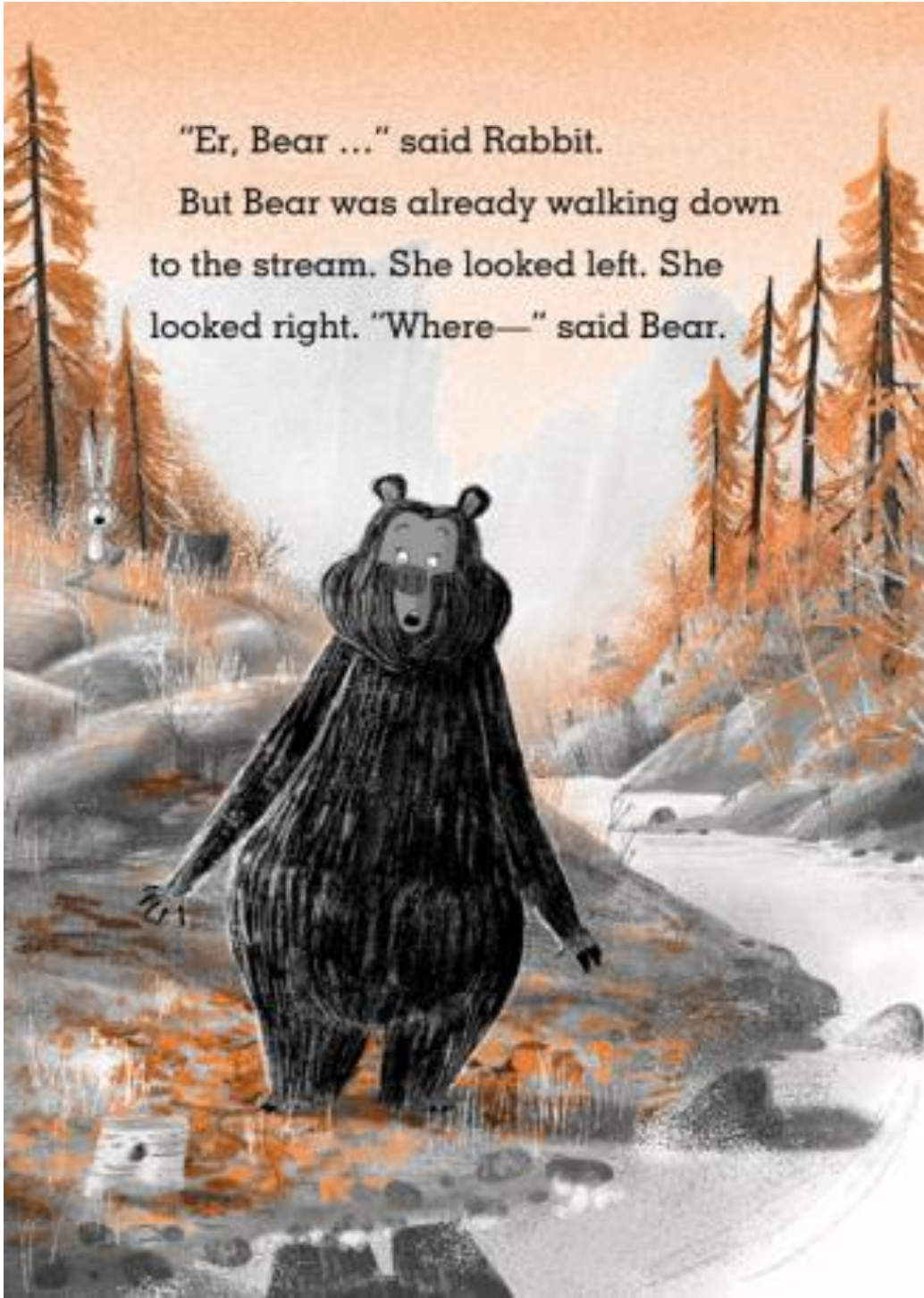
I will go and scratch
myself against my
scratching tree."

Mmmm ... even the
thought made the
itch feel less itchy.



"Er, Bear ..." said Rabbit.

But Bear was already walking down
to the stream. She looked left. She
looked right. "Where—" said Bear.



"That's what I'm trying to tell you ..." said Rabbit, catching up.

"Where is my favourite scratching tree?"

"Flying south, for the Winter?" said Rabbit.

Bear looked up into the sky, just in case.

"No ..."

Then Rabbit saw something. He gulped, and pointed down.

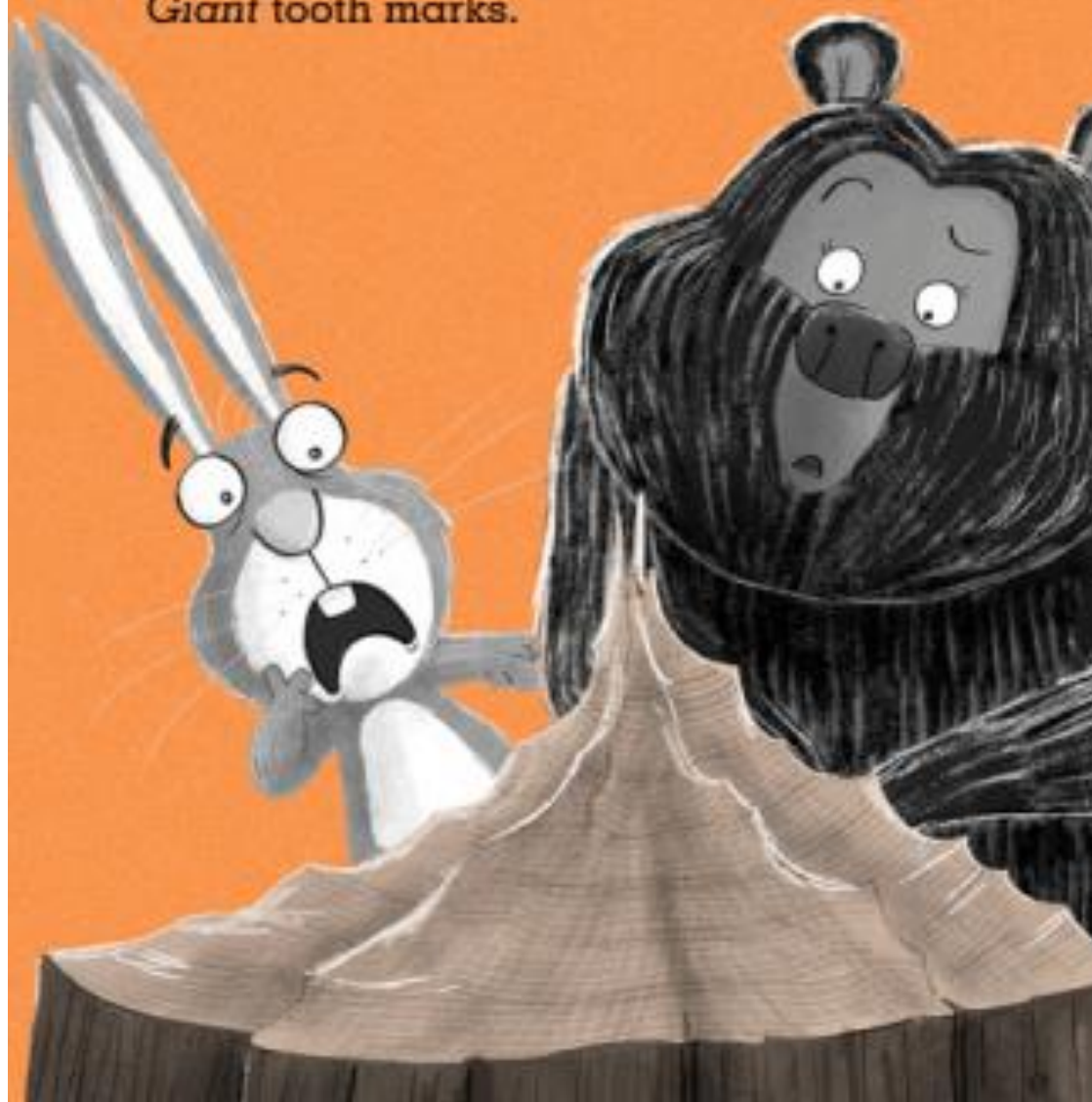


Bear looked.

There, where her scratching tree had
been, was a *stump*. Bear bent closer.

A stump covered in *tooth marks*.

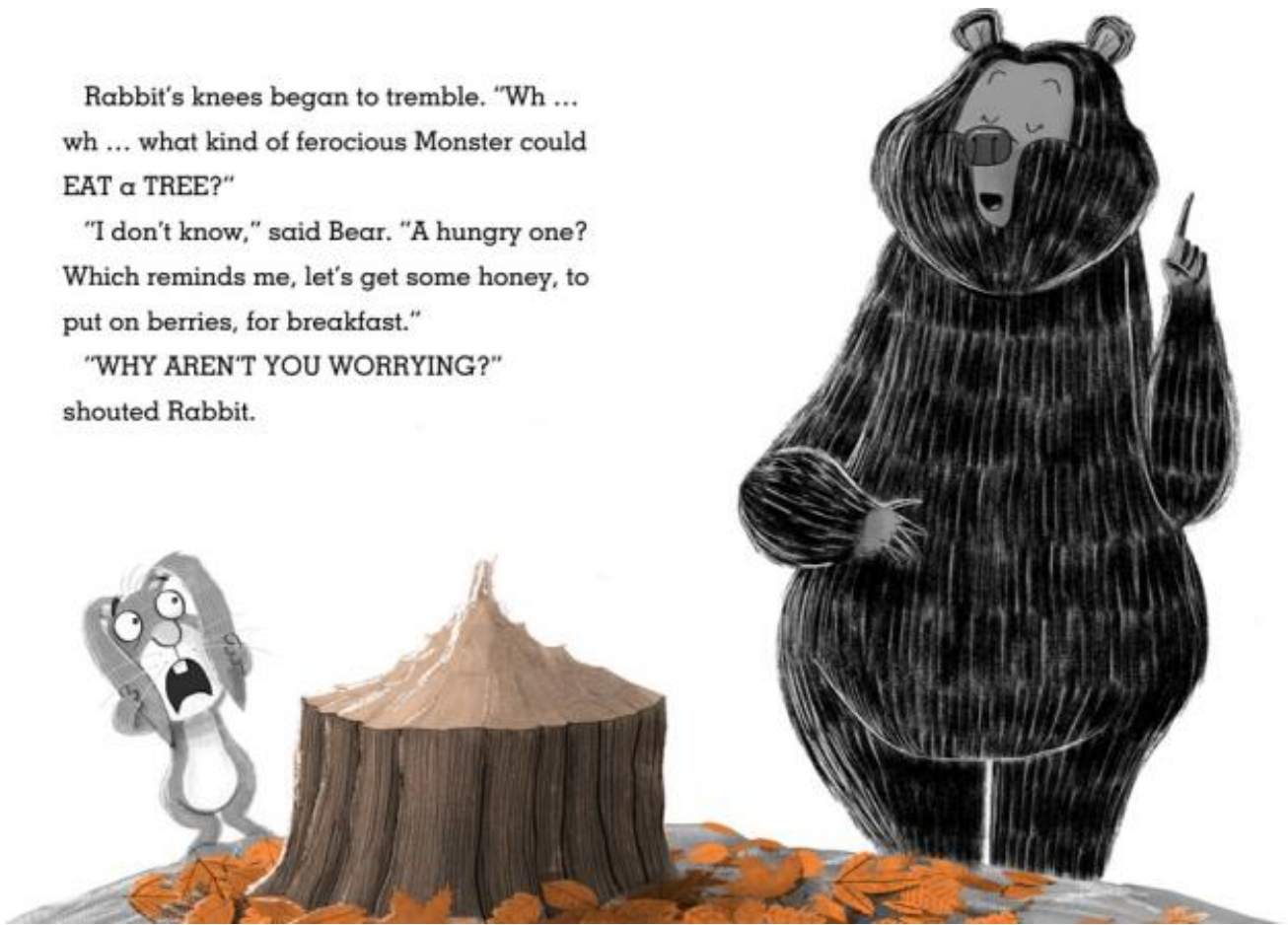
Giant tooth marks.



Rabbit's knees began to tremble. "Wh ... wh ... what kind of ferocious Monster could EAT a TREE?"

"I don't know," said Bear. "A hungry one? Which reminds me, let's get some honey, to put on berries, for breakfast."

"WHY AREN'T YOU WORRYING?" shouted Rabbit.



"Because worrying doesn't fix things,"
said Bear. "But breakfast does."

So Bear and Rabbit went to look for the
Honey Bee Tree.



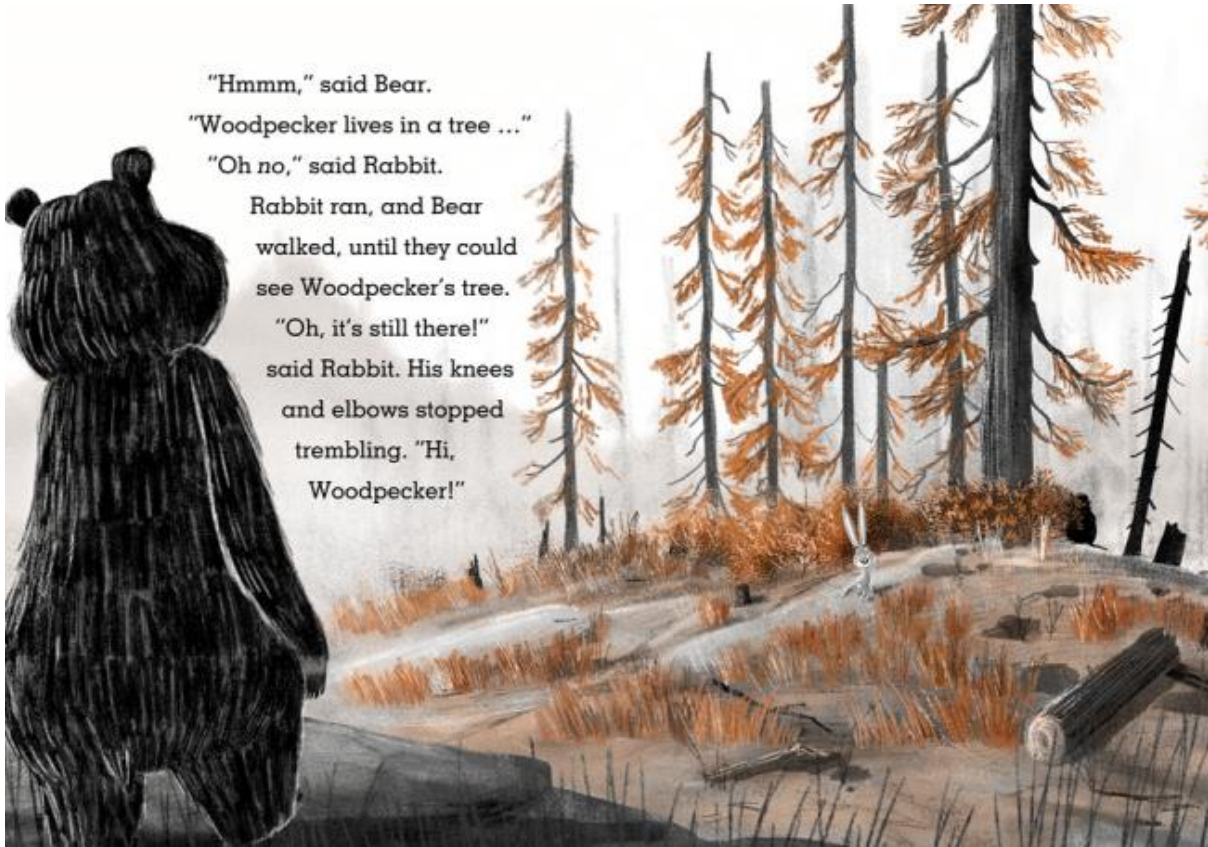


But the Honey Bee
Tree was gone.

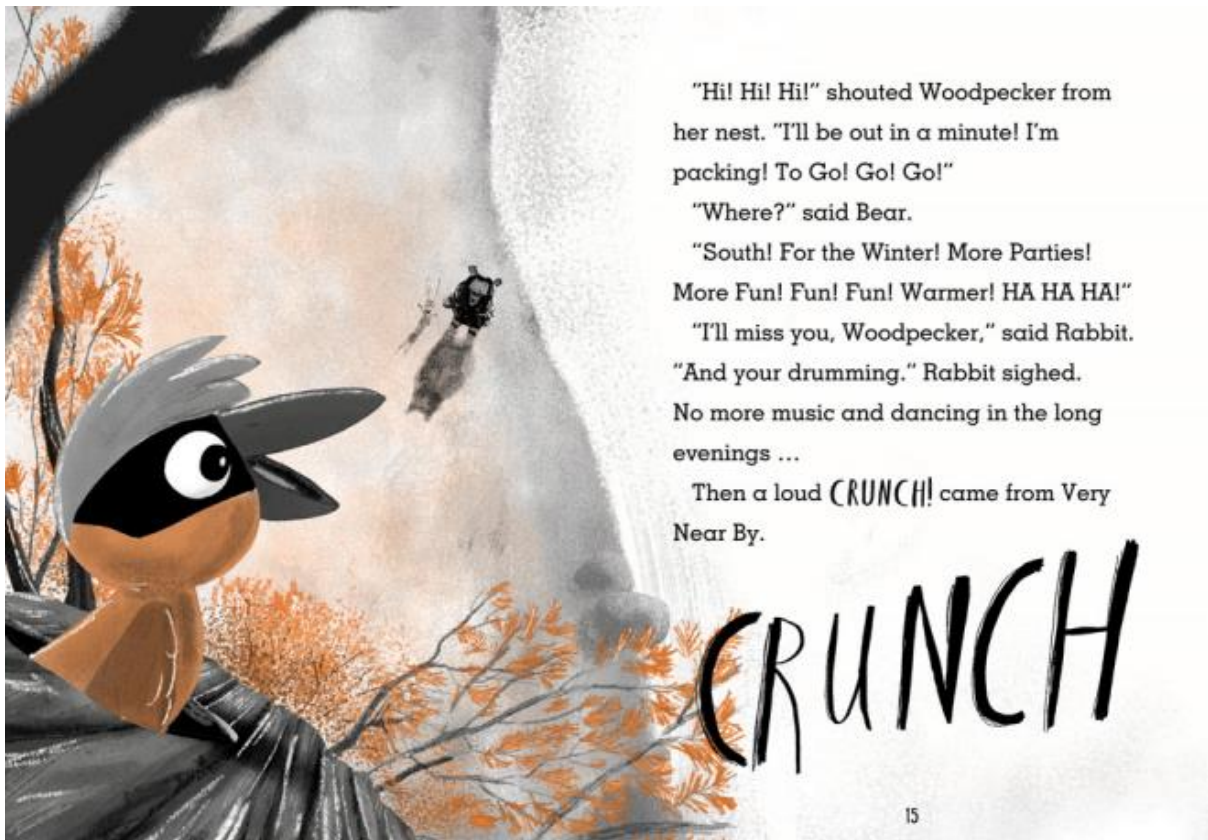
The stump was
covered with giant
tooth marks.

"Are you worried
yet?" said Rabbit.





"Hmmm," said Bear.
"Woodpecker lives in a tree ..."
"Oh no," said Rabbit.
Rabbit ran, and Bear
walked, until they could
see Woodpecker's tree.
"Oh, it's still there!"
said Rabbit. His knees
and elbows stopped
trembling. "Hi,
Woodpecker!"



"Hi! Hi! Hi!" shouted Woodpecker from
her nest. "I'll be out in a minute! I'm
packing! To Go! Go! Go!"
"Where?" said Bear.
"South! For the Winter! More Parties!
More Fun! Fun! Fun! Warmer! HA HA HA!"
"I'll miss you, Woodpecker," said Rabbit.
"And your drumming." Rabbit sighed.
No more music and dancing in the long
evenings ...
Then a loud **CRUNCH!** came from Very
Near By.

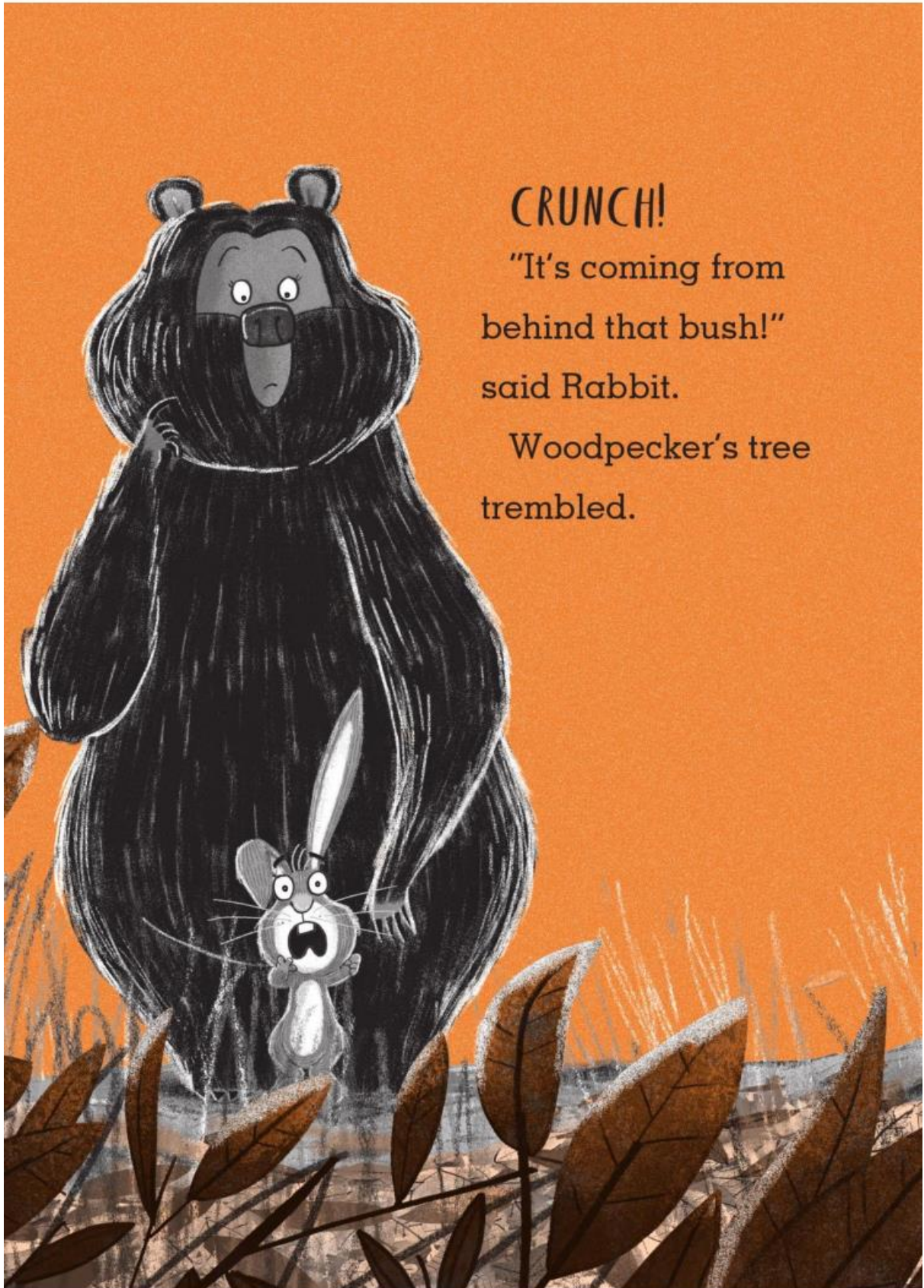
It sounded like the world's largest rabbit,
eating the world's largest carrot.

CRUNCH!

Like a Monster Rabbit, thought Rabbit ...
eating a Monster Carrot ... to give it the
energy ... to Attack!

This time Rabbit trembled so much, he
was worried his ears would fall off.

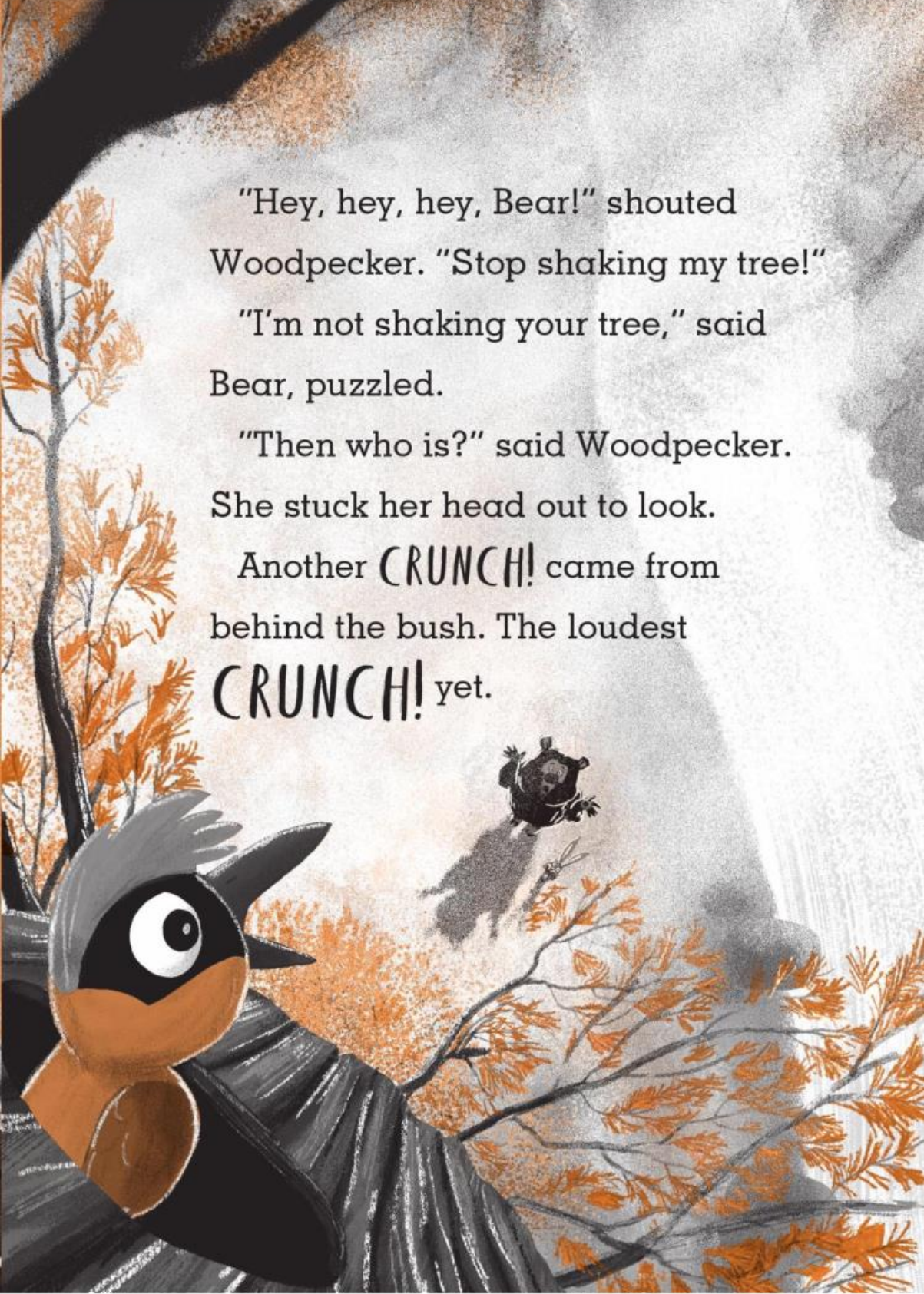




CRUNCH!

"It's coming from
behind that bush!"
said Rabbit.

Woodpecker's tree
trembled.

An illustration of a woodpecker and a bear in a forest. The woodpecker is in the foreground, looking towards the bear. The bear is in the background, standing near a tree. The scene is set in a forest with trees and bushes.

"Hey, hey, hey, Bear!" shouted Woodpecker. "Stop shaking my tree!"

"I'm not shaking your tree," said Bear, puzzled.

"Then who is?" said Woodpecker. She stuck her head out to look.

Another **CRUNCH!** came from behind the bush. The loudest **CRUNCH!** yet.



Woodpecker's tree
began to fall.

"Help! Help!"
shouted Woodpecker.

"The world is falling
over sideways!
Someone catch the
world!"

Bash! Crash!

Smash! SPLASH!

The top of the tree landed in the water.

So did Woodpecker.

"Hurgle! Gurgle!" said Woodpecker, with
her tail trapped under the tree. "Wurgle!
Murgle! SPLURGLE!"



Bear stepped into the water and pulled
Woodpecker free. But ... Pop! Pop! Pop!

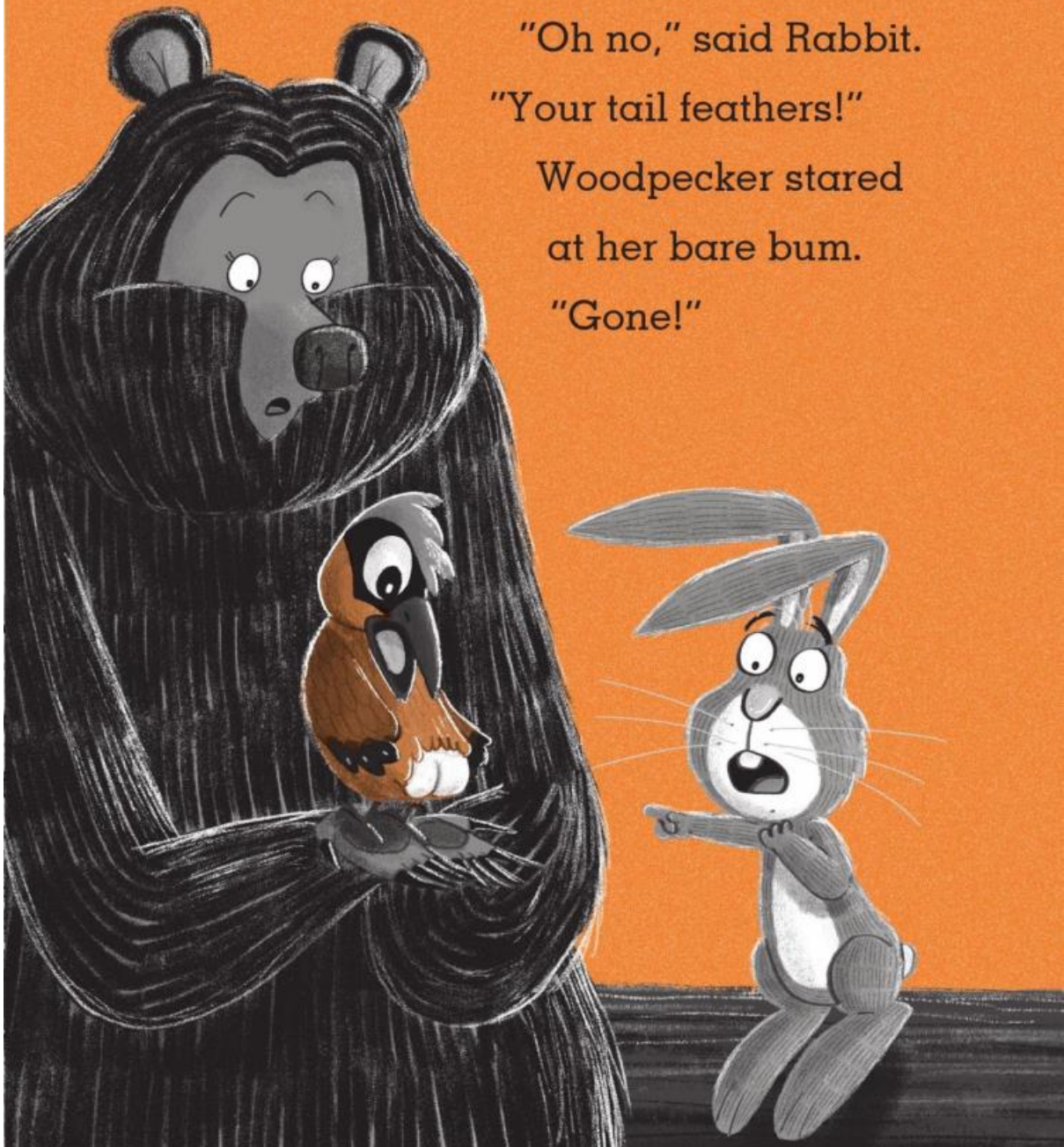
"Owwa! Owwa! Owwa!"

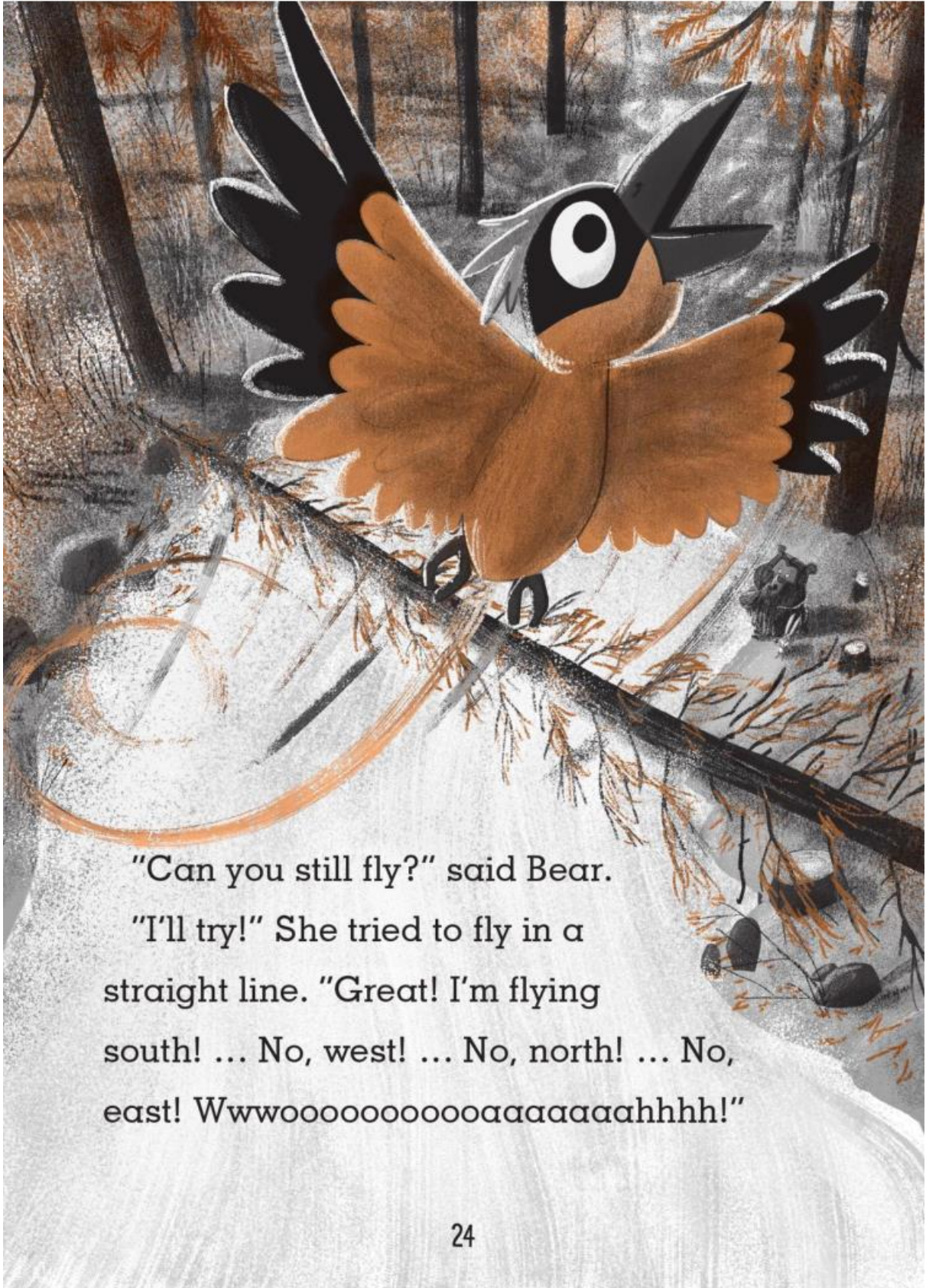
"Oh no," said Rabbit.

"Your tail feathers!"

Woodpecker stared
at her bare bum.

"Gone!"





"Can you still fly?" said Bear.

"I'll try!" She tried to fly in a straight line. "Great! I'm flying south! ... No, west! ... No, north! ... No, east! Wwwwoooooooooooooooooahhhh!"

She looped the
loop three times,
and crashed into
Bear.

"OOOF," said
Bear. "Oh dear.
Well, your tail
will grow back
by Spring."



“But but but Spring comes after Winter!”
said Woodpecker. “That’s too late! I’ll
freeze!”

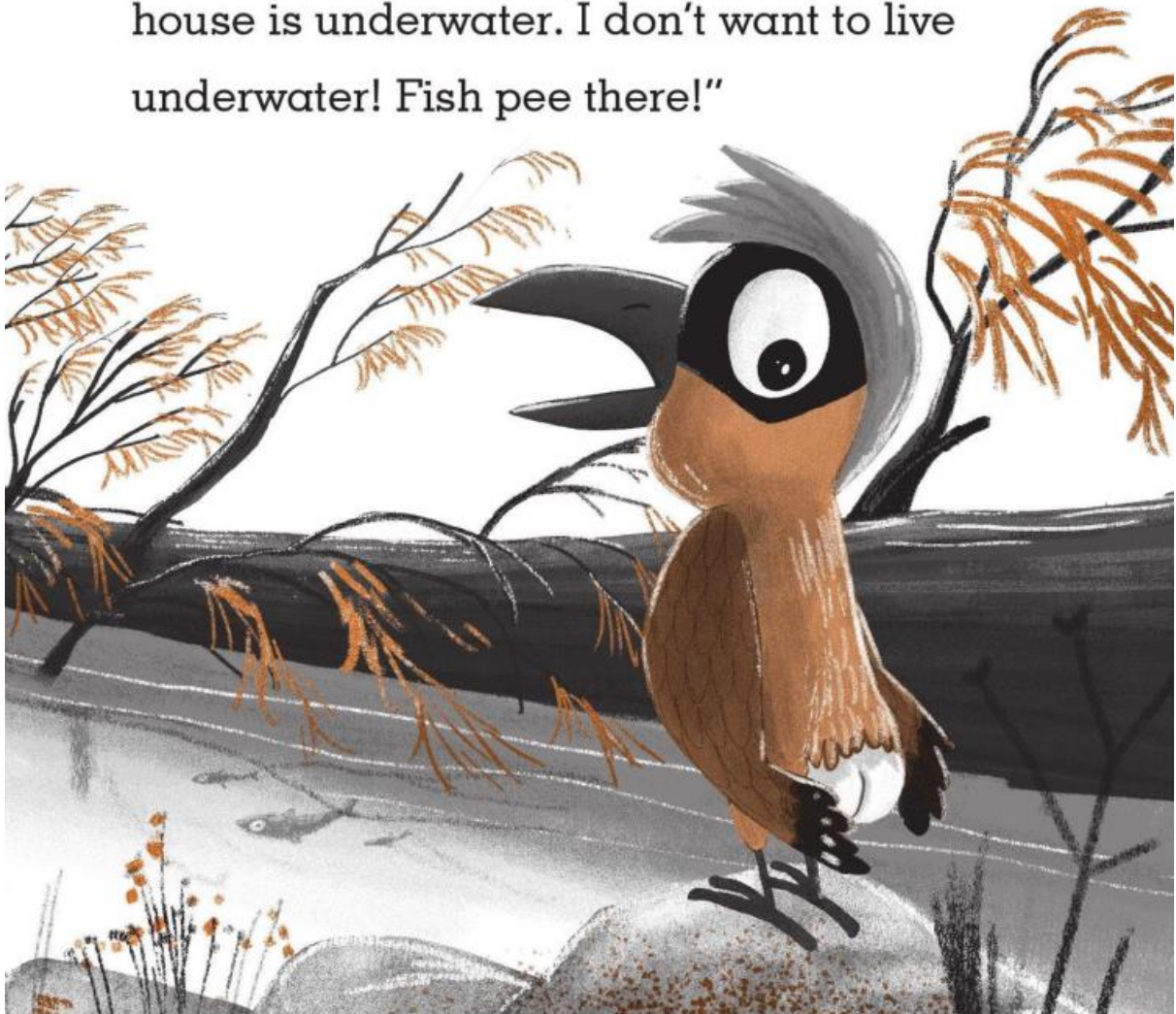


"Can you make a new nest," said Rabbit,
"at the top of a new tree?"

"I can't fly that high, with no tail!"

"Oh dear," said Bear. "So where are you
going to live for the Winter?"

"I don't know!" said Woodpecker. "My
house is underwater. I don't want to live
underwater! Fish pee there!"

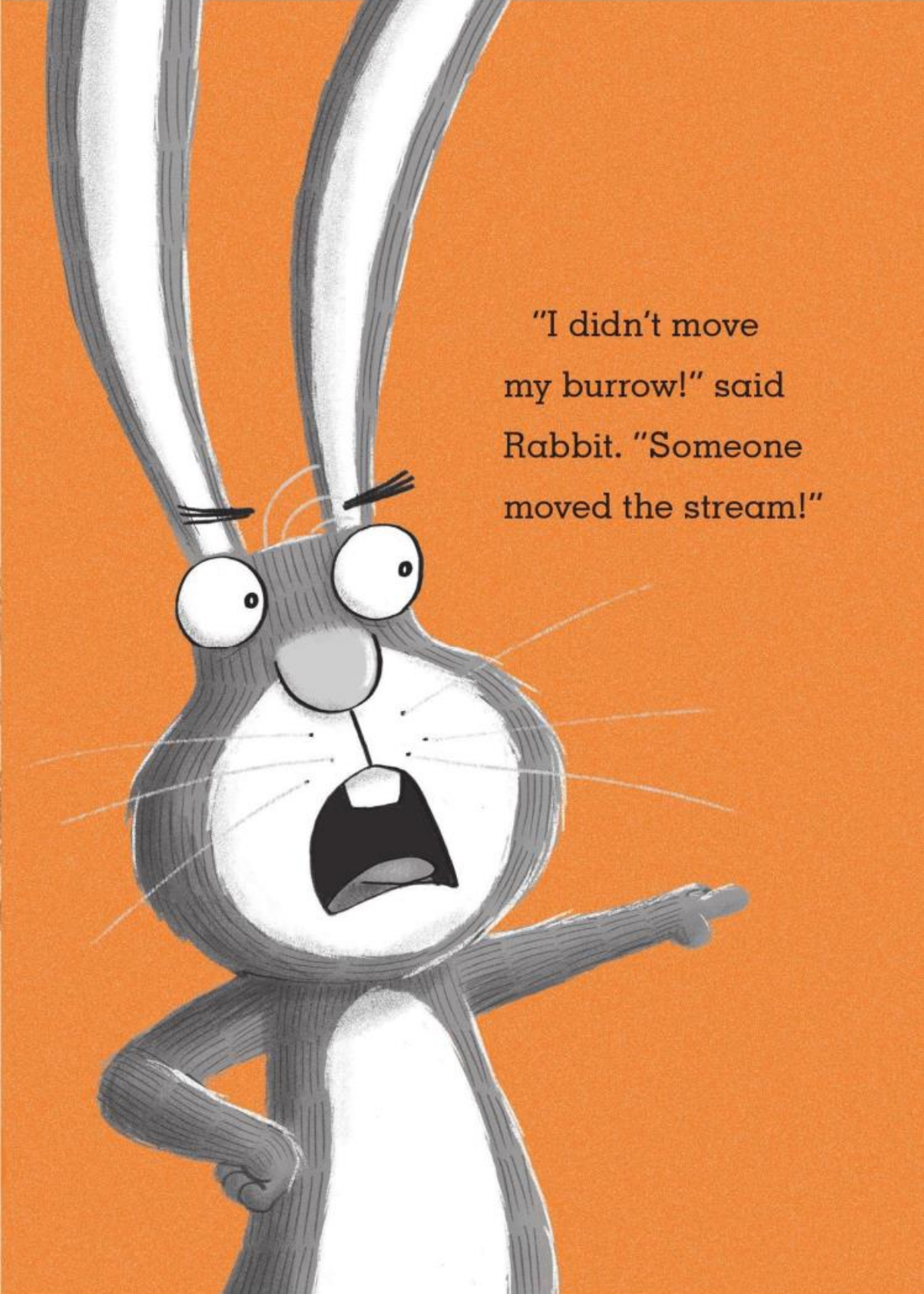




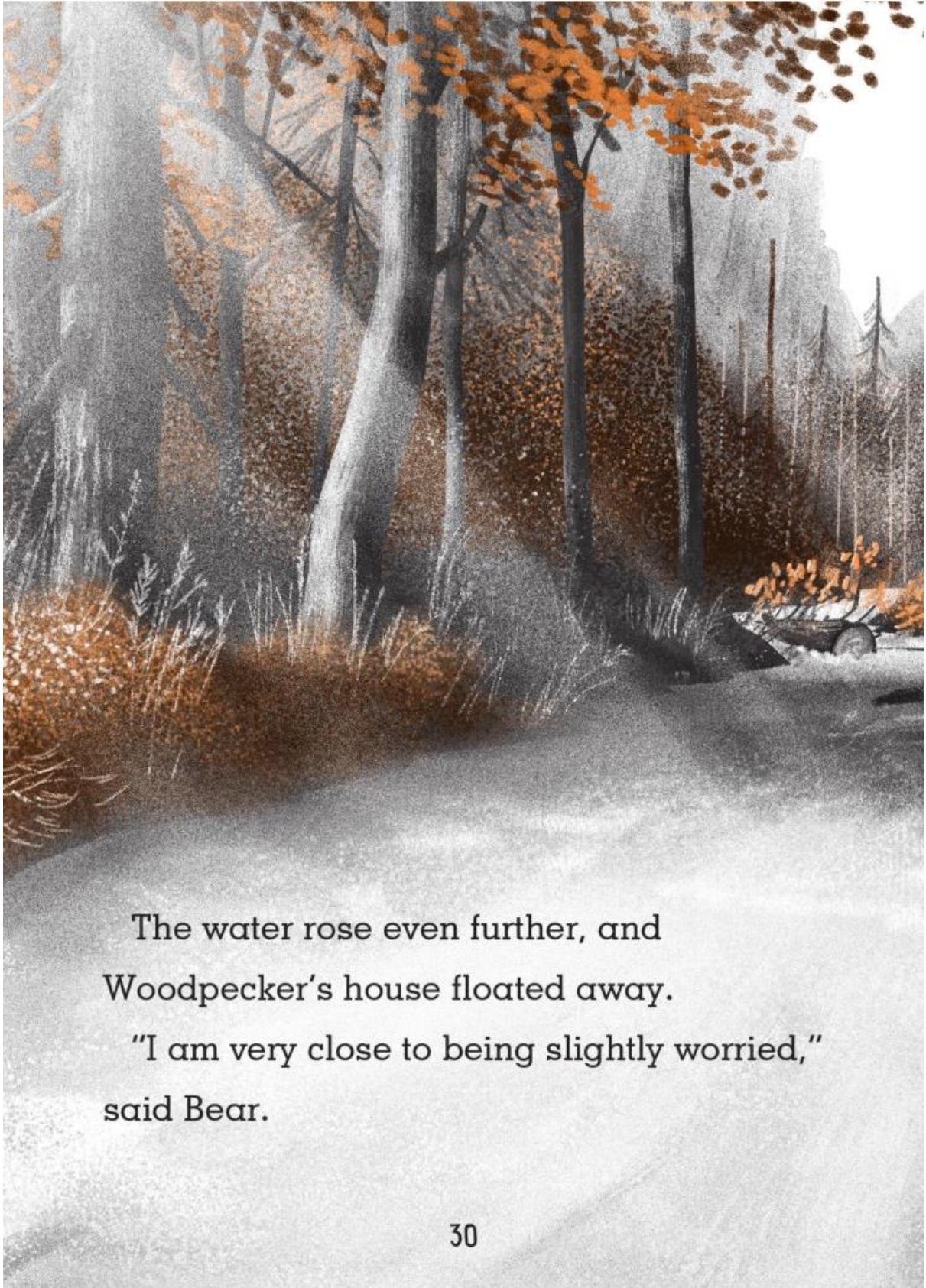
"Wait ..." said Bear,
and turned to Rabbit.
"You didn't live right
beside the stream
yesterday ..."

"No," said Rabbit, "no, I didn't."
"Why did you move your
burrow?" said Woodpecker
fiercely to Rabbit.





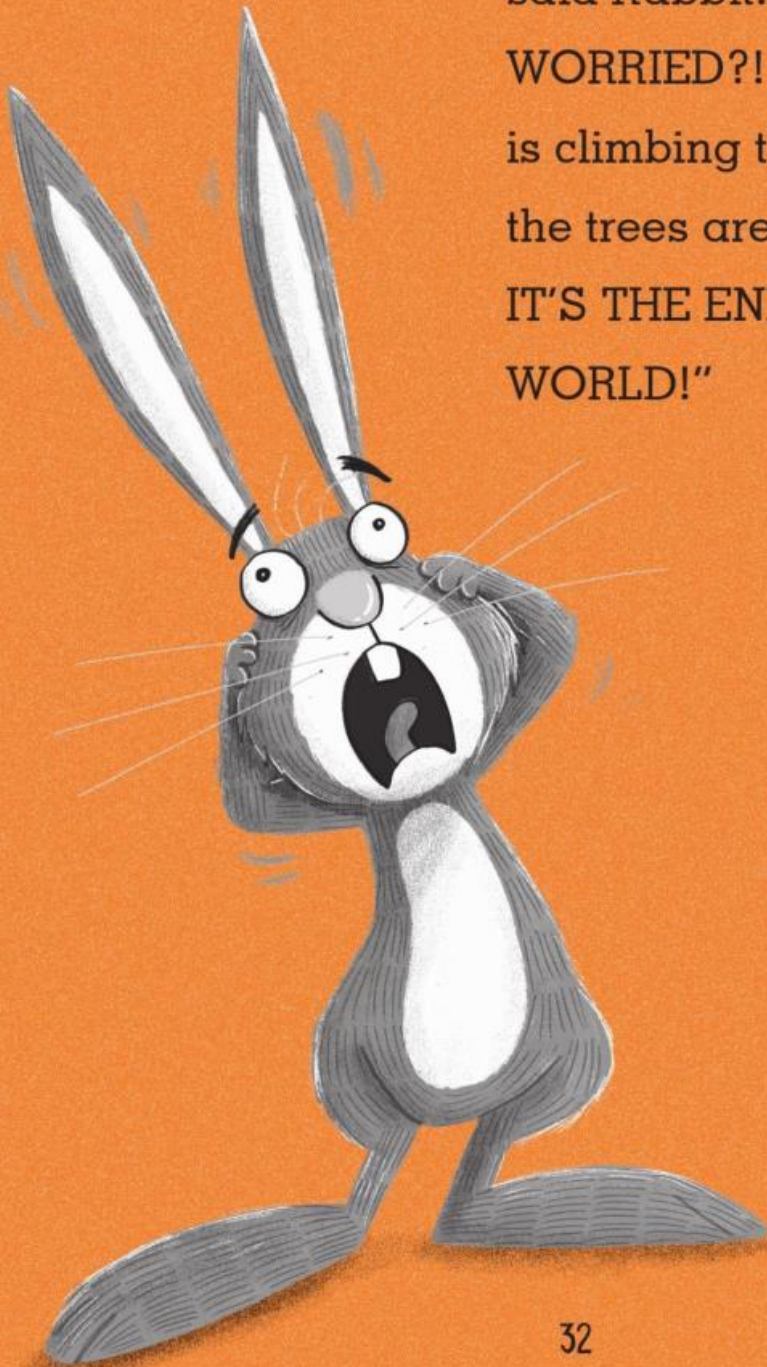
"I didn't move
my burrow!" said
Rabbit. "Someone
moved the stream!"



The water rose even further, and
Woodpecker's house floated away.

"I am very close to being slightly worried,"
said Bear.

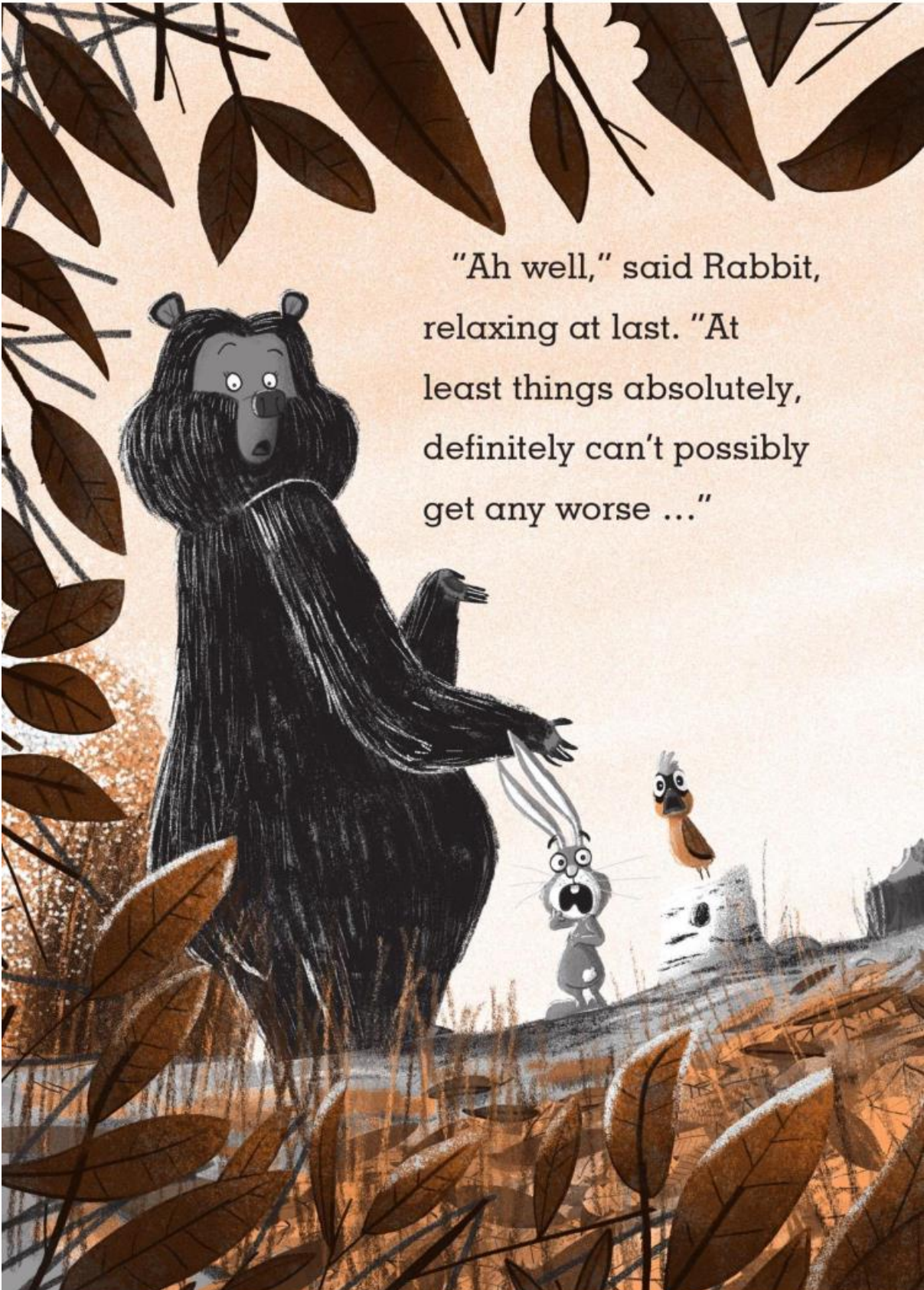
"Slightly worried?"
said Rabbit. "SLIGHTLY
WORRIED?! The stream
is climbing the hill! All
the trees are falling over!
IT'S THE END OF THE
WORLD!"



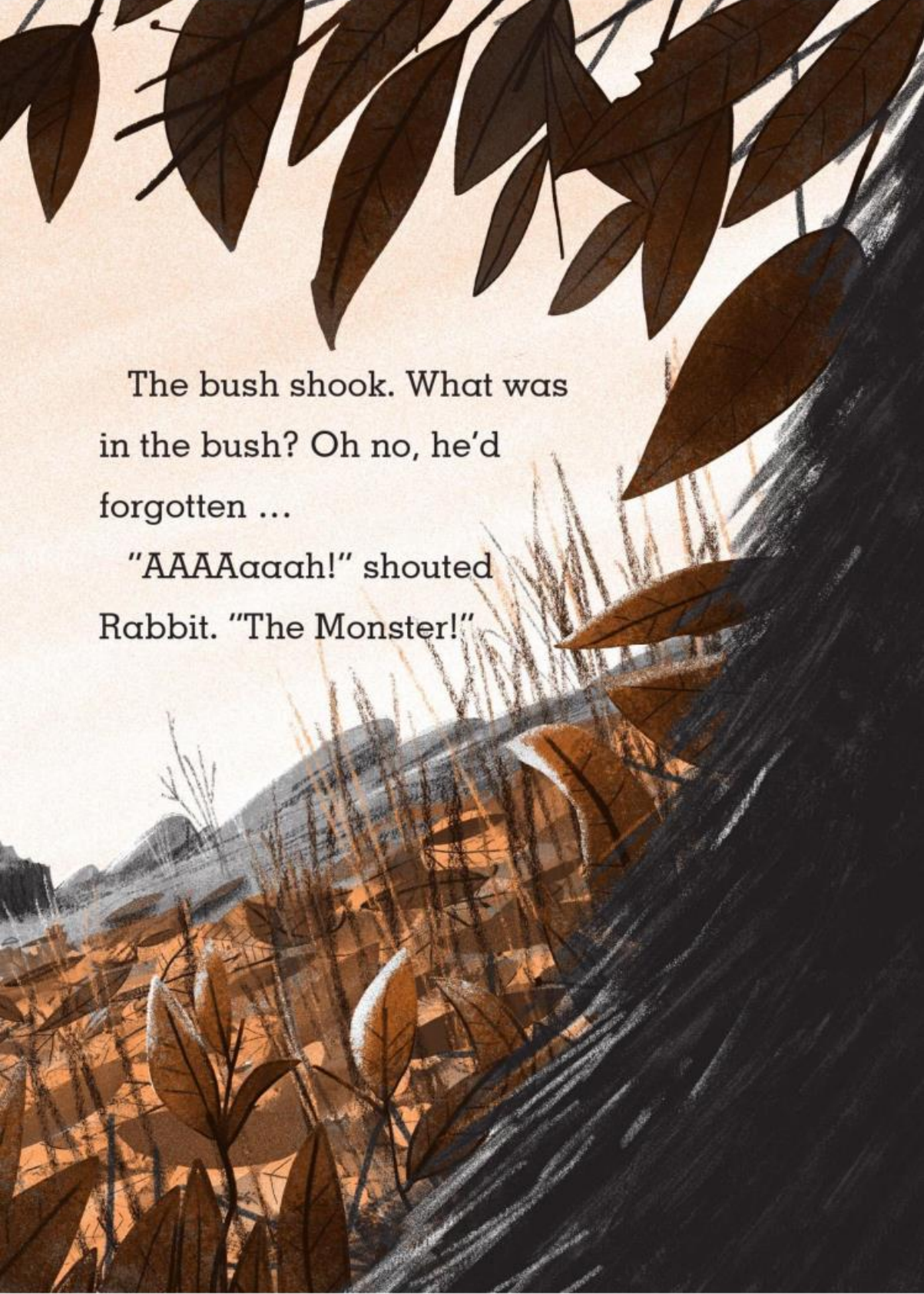
"Oh," said Bear, "I don't think it's that bad."

"Yes yes yes it is!" said Woodpecker. "My house just floated around the bend. I'm going to freeze into an icicle. An icicle with an extra-cold bum!"



An illustration of a forest scene. A large black bear stands on the left, looking surprised with wide eyes and an open mouth. To its right, a small grey rabbit with long ears stands on a log, also looking surprised. A small brown bird with a crest is perched on a rock behind the rabbit. The background is filled with brown leaves and branches, suggesting an autumn or winter setting. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the illustration.

"Ah well," said Rabbit,
relaxing at last. "At
least things absolutely,
definitely can't possibly
get any worse ..."



The bush shook. What was
in the bush? Oh no, he'd
forgotten ...

"AAAAaaah!" shouted
Rabbit. "The Monster!"

The Monster came out from behind the bush.

"Aaaargh!" said Rabbit. "The Monster's teeth are enormous!"

"Er, yes," said Bear. "True. But the actual Monster is ... quite small."



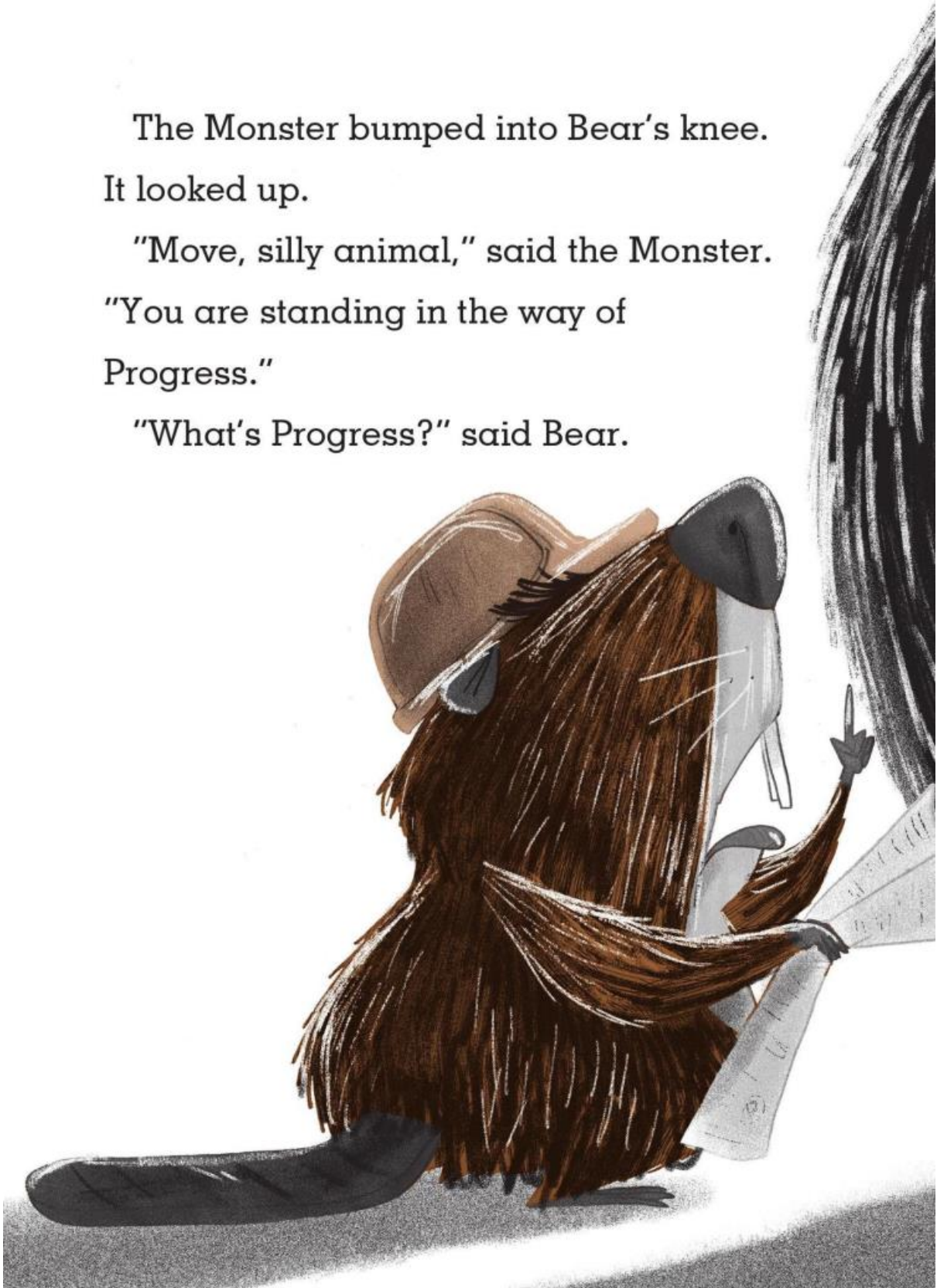
The Monster walked up to them, reading
a piece of bark. It had the biggest two front
teeth they had ever seen.



The Monster bumped into Bear's knee.
It looked up.

"Move, silly animal," said the Monster.
"You are standing in the way of
Progress."

"What's Progress?" said Bear.



"Progress is making things ... Newer!"

CRUNCH!

"Bigger!"

CRUNCH!

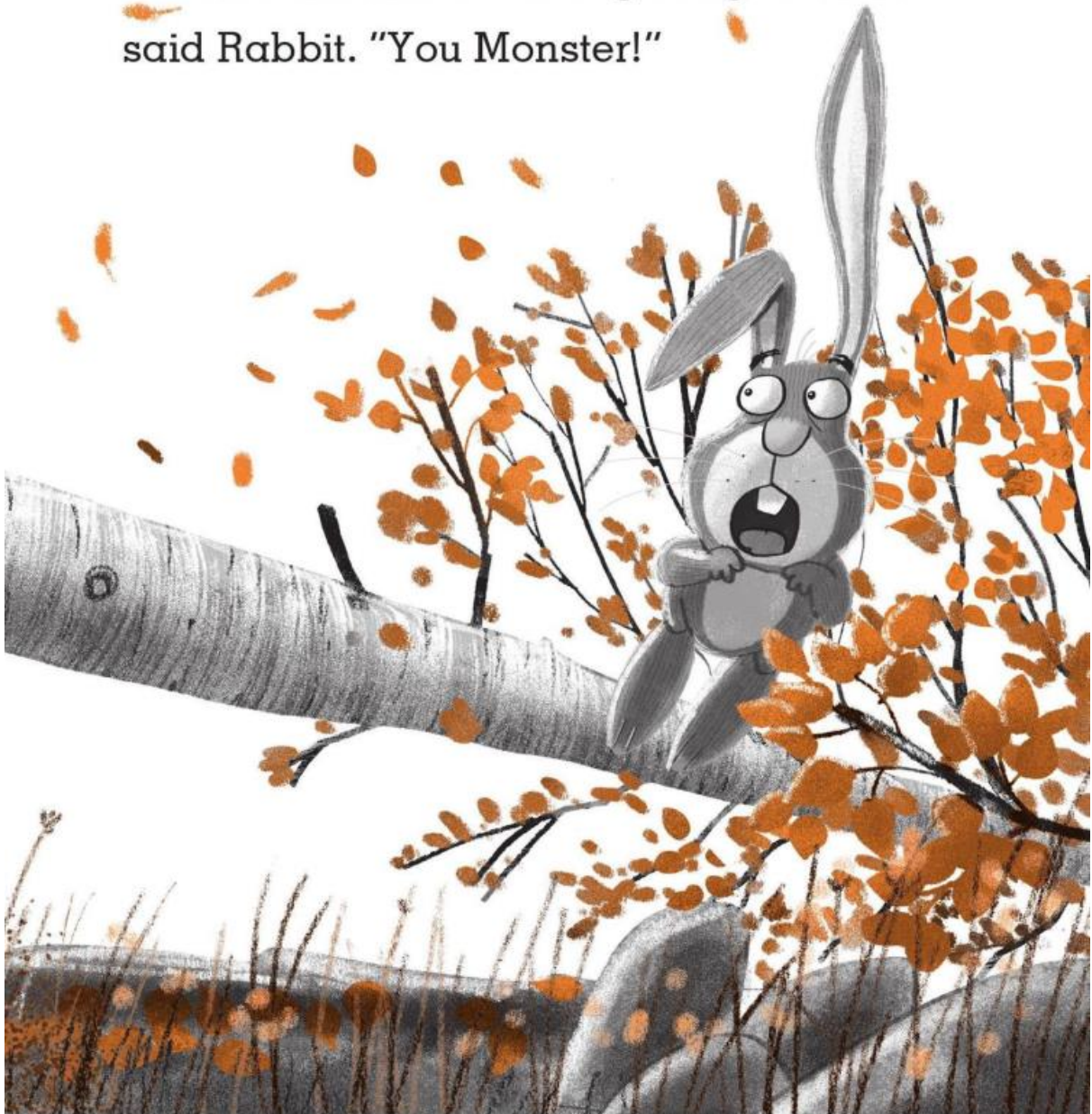
"Better!"

CRUNCH!



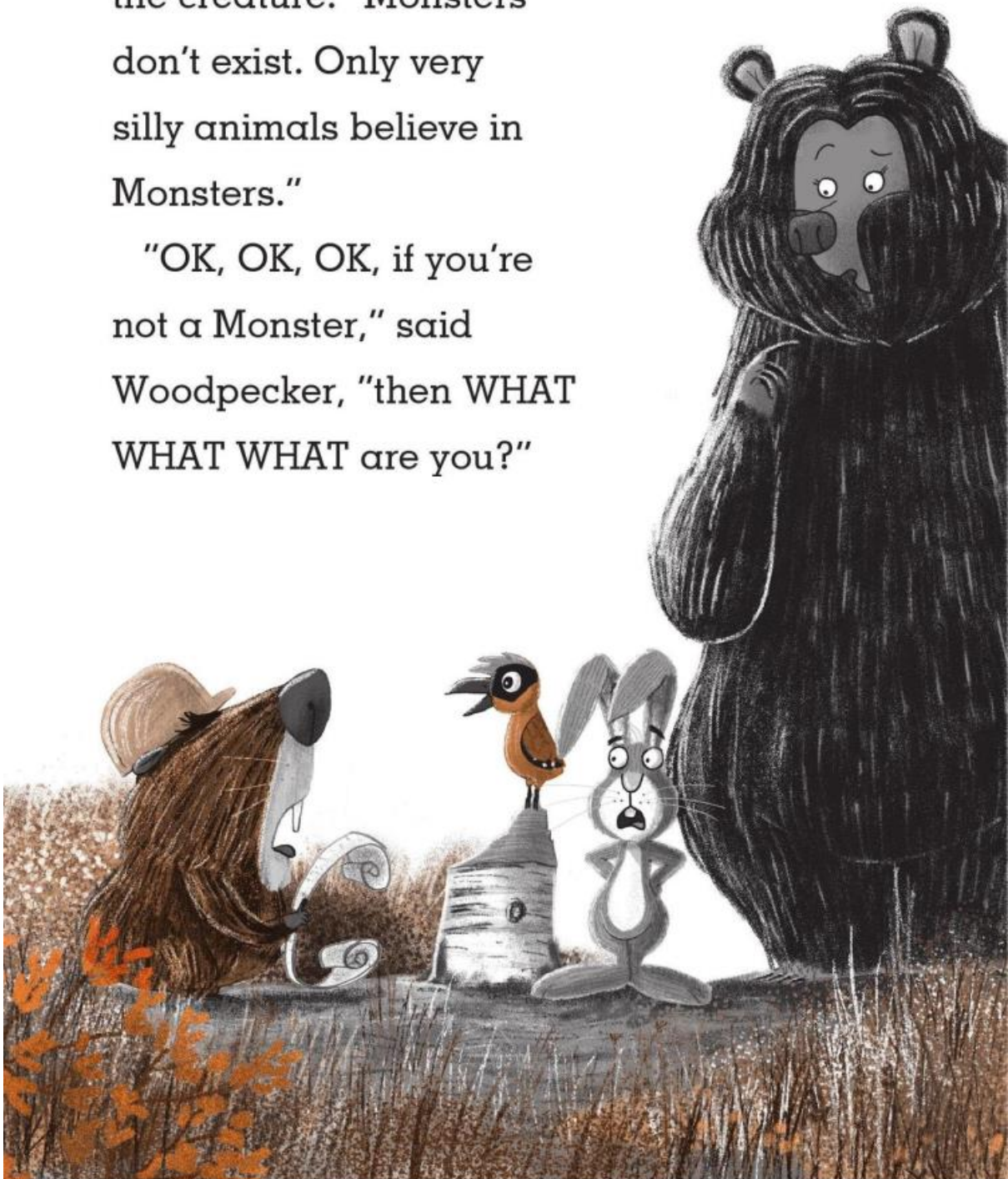
And the creature chewed through a small tree like it was a carrot. Rabbit jumped out of the way as it fell.

"You think this is making things Better?" said Rabbit. "You Monster!"



"I'm not a Monster," said the creature. "Monsters don't exist. Only very silly animals believe in Monsters."

"OK, OK, OK, if you're not a Monster," said Woodpecker, "then WHAT WHAT WHAT are you?"



"You can call me ... *Castor Canadensis*,"
said the creature.

"Eh?" said Rabbit.

"It is the scientific name for the North
American Beaver," said *Castor Canadensis*.





"Why did you move our stream, Castor?" said Woodpecker.

"I didn't move it," said Castor. "I'm just making it Bigger. And therefore Better. Progress!"

"But ..." said Bear, "how do you make a stream bigger?"

"Engineering!" said Castor.

"You put an Engine in our stream?!" said Rabbit.

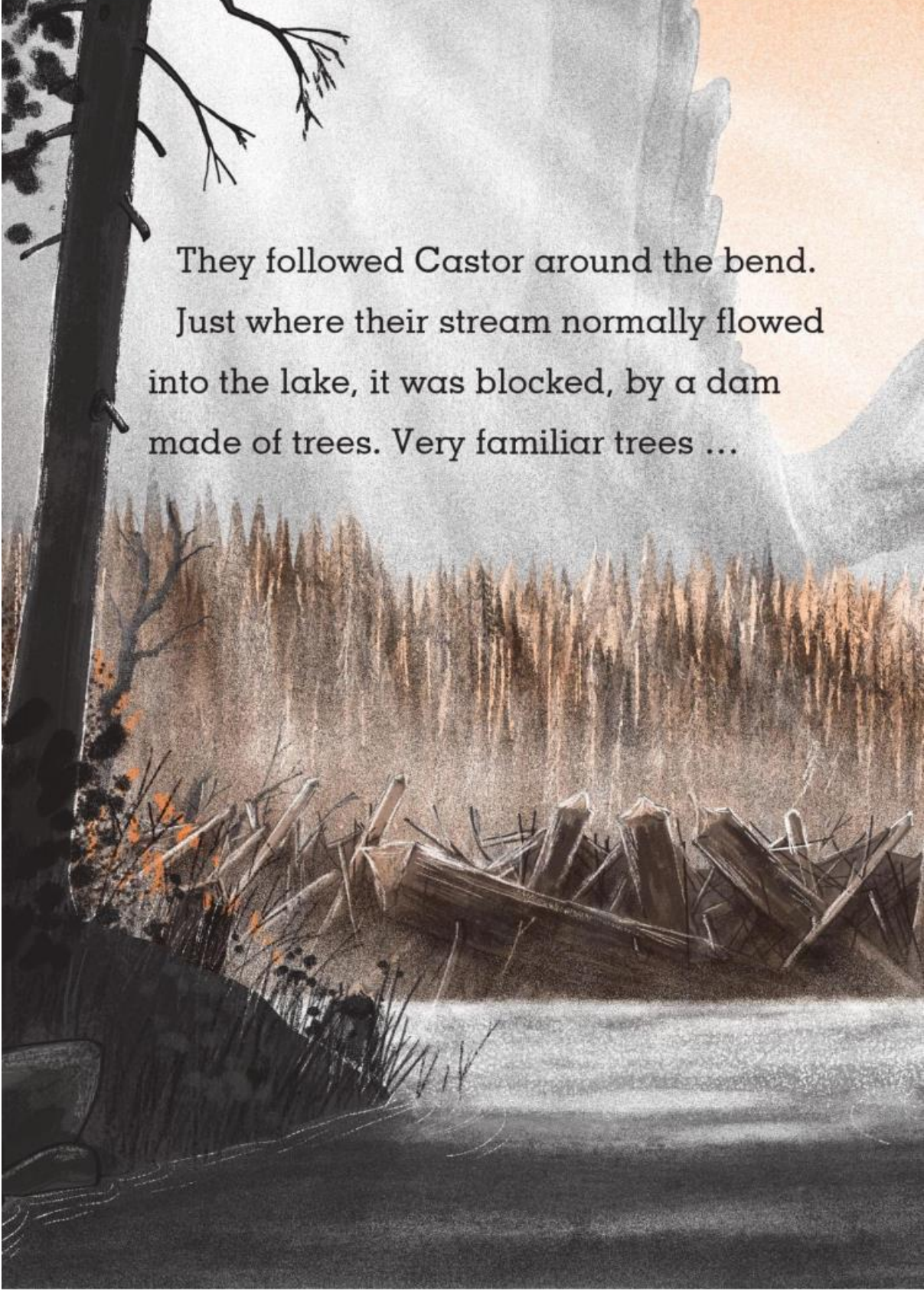
"No, silly rabbit!" said Castor.

"Engineering is the Science of Building Newer, Bigger, Better things." He waved at the deeper, wider stream. "Progress!"

"What has that got to do with our missing trees?" said Bear.

"Everything! Follow me, silly animals, and I'll show you."





They followed Castor around the bend.
Just where their stream normally flowed
into the lake, it was blocked, by a dam
made of trees. Very familiar trees ...