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# Sleep, Big BEAR, SLEEP!

by Maureen Wright

illustrated by  
Will Hillenbrand



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# Sleep, Big BEAR,

SLEEP!

by **Maureen Wright**

illustrated by  
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Marshall Cavendish Children



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Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 99 White Plains Road, Tarrytown NY 10591  
[www.marshallcavendish.us/kids](http://www.marshallcavendish.us/kids)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Wright, Maureen, 1961-

Sleep, Big Bear, sleep! / by Maureen Wright ; illustrated by Will Hillenbrand.  
p. cm.

Summary: As winter comes and Big Bear prepares to hibernate,  
he keeps thinking he hears Old Man Winter giving him exhausting orders  
that prevent him from sleeping.

ISBN 978-0-7614-5560-8

[1. Stories in rhyme. 2. Bears—Fiction. 3. Winter—Fiction. 4. Humorous stories.] I. Hillenbrand,  
Will, ill. II. Title.

PZ8.3.W9363S1 2009

[E]—dc22

2008029402

Book design by Anahid Hamparian

Editor: Margery Cuyler

Printed in Malaysia (T)

First edition

3 5 6 4

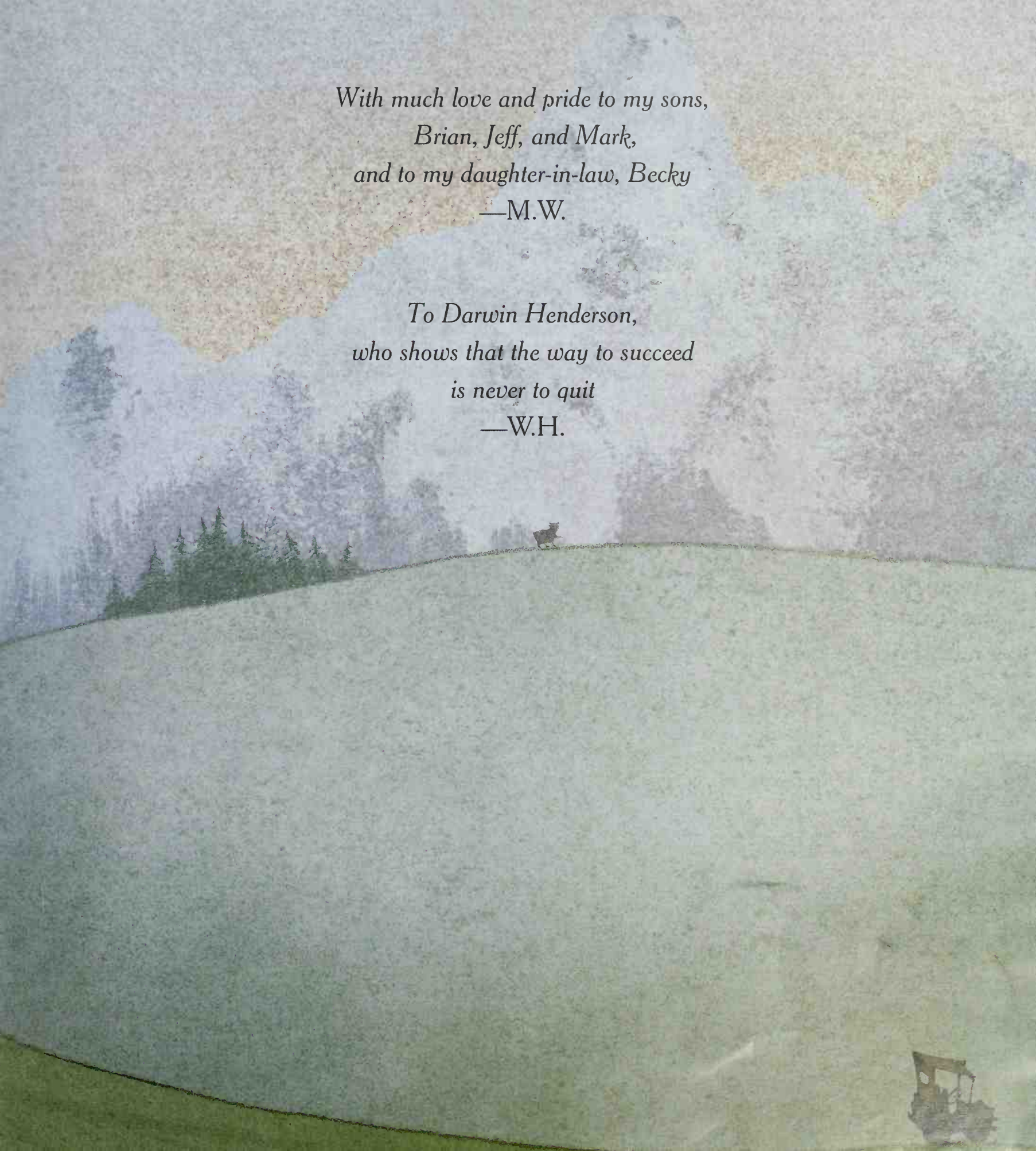
 Marshall Cavendish  
Children





*With much love and pride to my sons,  
Brian, Jeff, and Mark,  
and to my daughter-in-law, Becky  
—M.W.*

*To Darwin Henderson,  
who shows that the way to succeed  
is never to quit  
—W.H.*









**O**ld Man Winter from a storm cloud spied  
his big bear friend in the countryside.  
He leaned to the earth and softly sighed,  
*“Sleep, Big Bear, sleep.”*

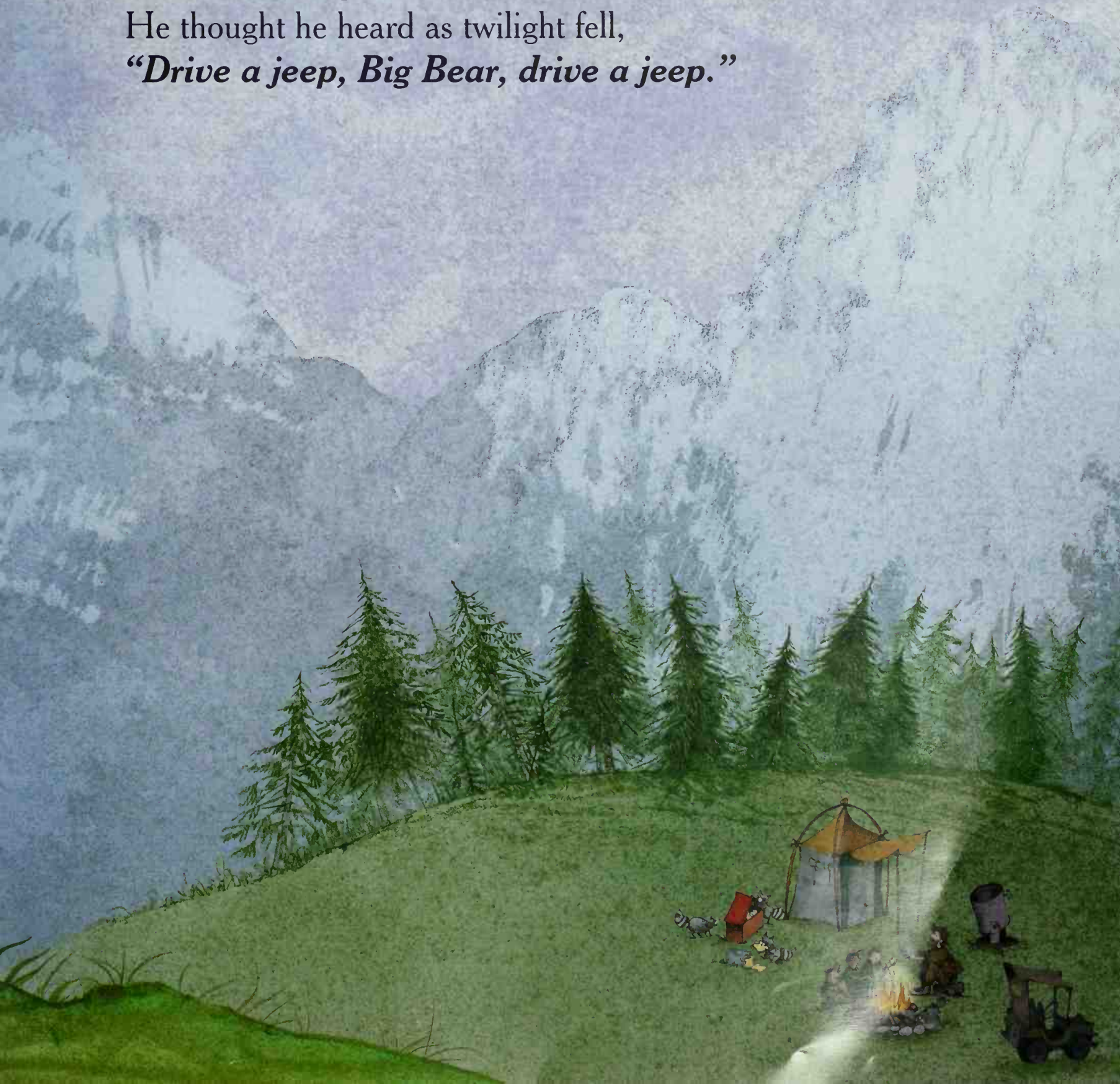








But Big Bear didn't hear very well;  
he couldn't sleep in his den in the dell.  
He thought he heard as twilight fell,  
***"Drive a jeep, Big Bear, drive a jeep."***





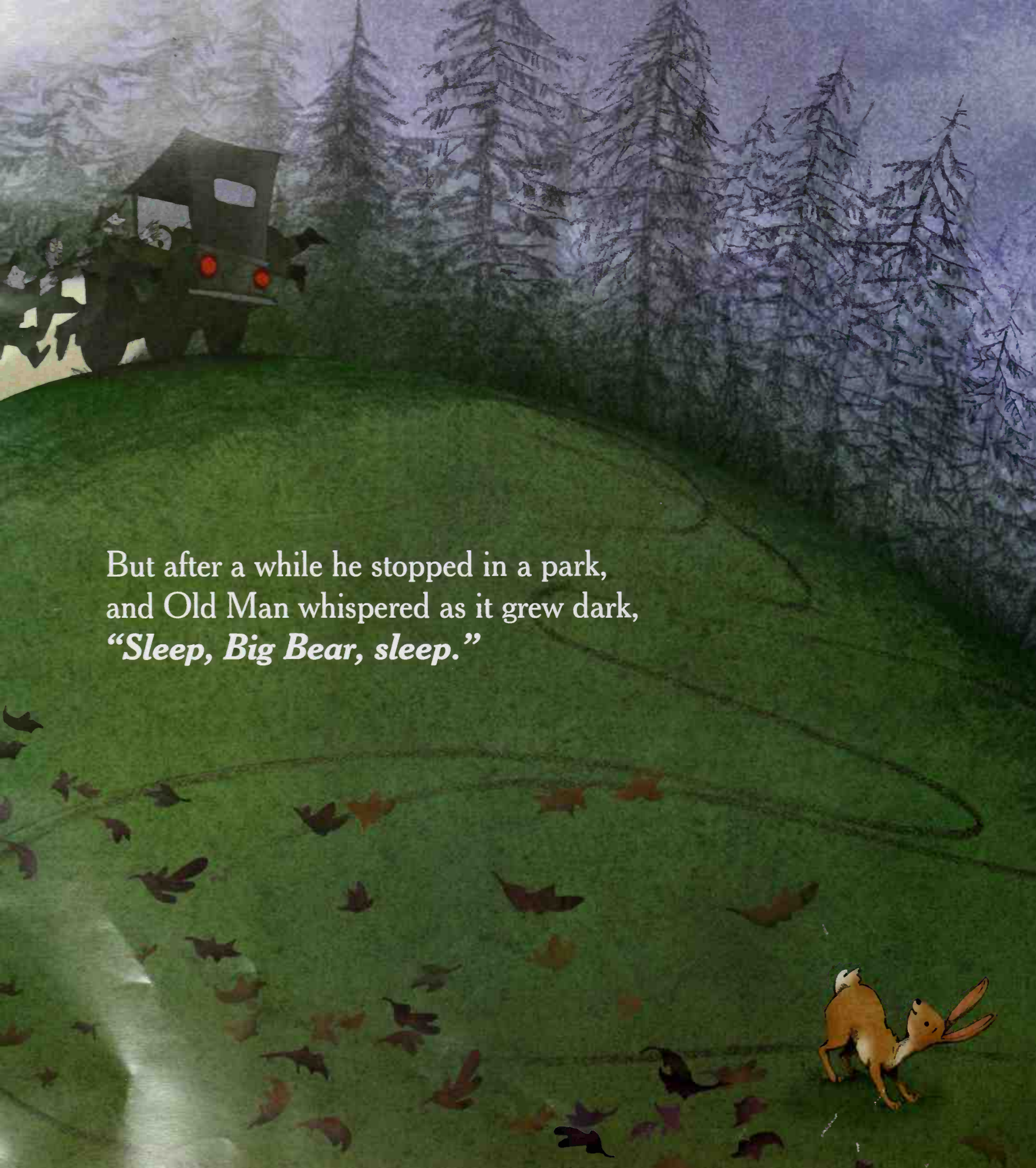
So Big Bear yawned as he drove around  
in a jeep on a road just south of town.











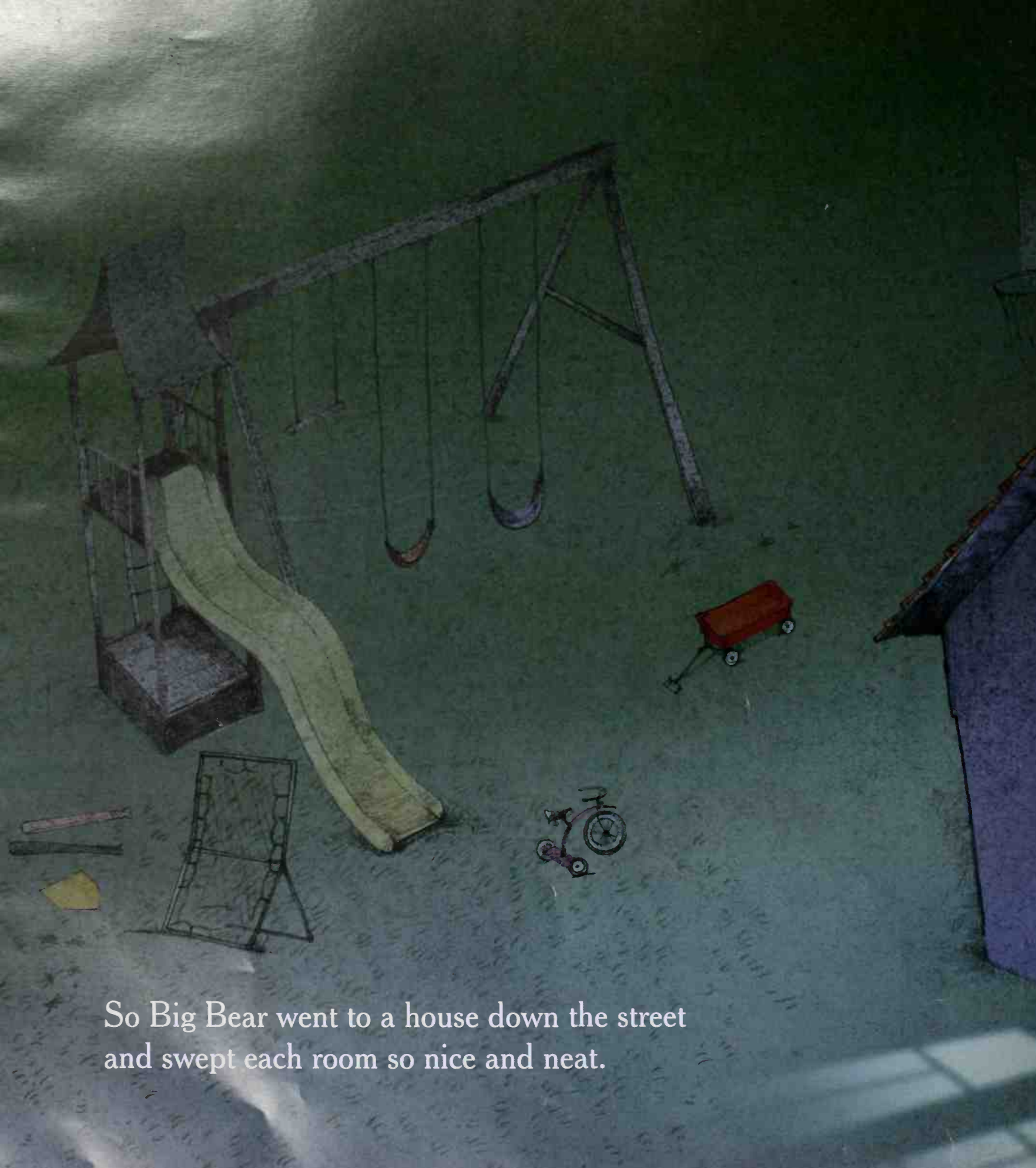
But after a while he stopped in a park,  
and Old Man whispered as it grew dark,  
*“Sleep, Big Bear, sleep.”*





But Big Bear didn't hear very well;  
he couldn't sleep in his den in the dell.  
He thought he heard as dry leaves fell,  
*"Sweep, Big Bear, sweep."*



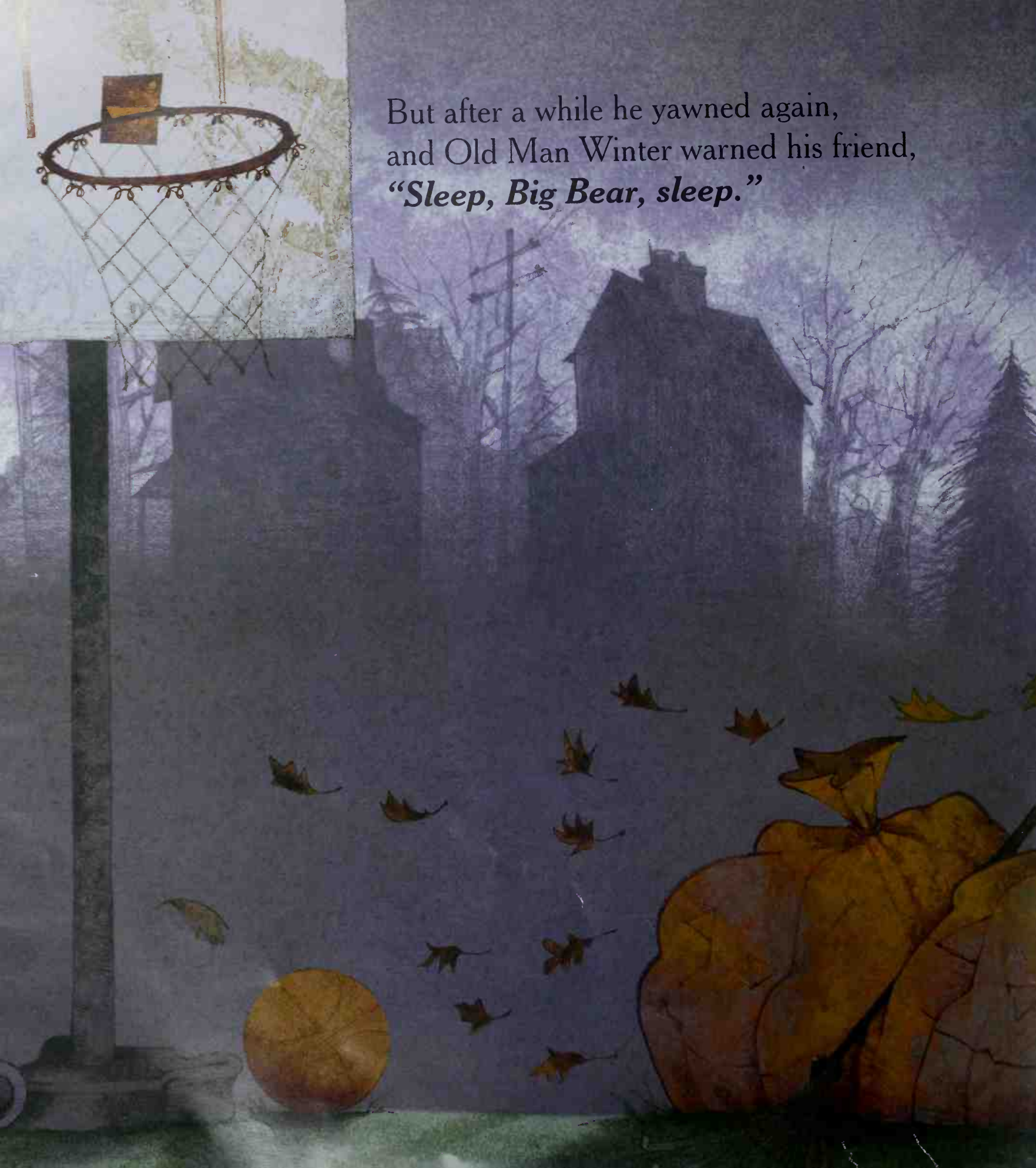


So Big Bear went to a house down the street  
and swept each room so nice and neat.









But after a while he yawned again,  
and Old Man Winter warned his friend,  
***“Sleep, Big Bear, sleep.”***



But Big Bear didn't hear very well;  
he couldn't sleep in his den in the dell.  
He thought he heard as shadows fell,  
*"Leap, Big Bear, leap."*





So Big Bear found a frog he knew  
and played leapfrog while the cold wind blew—  
till all at once he fell to the ground.

The wind through the trees was the only sound,  
and Old Man Winter said with a frown,

***“Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep.”***

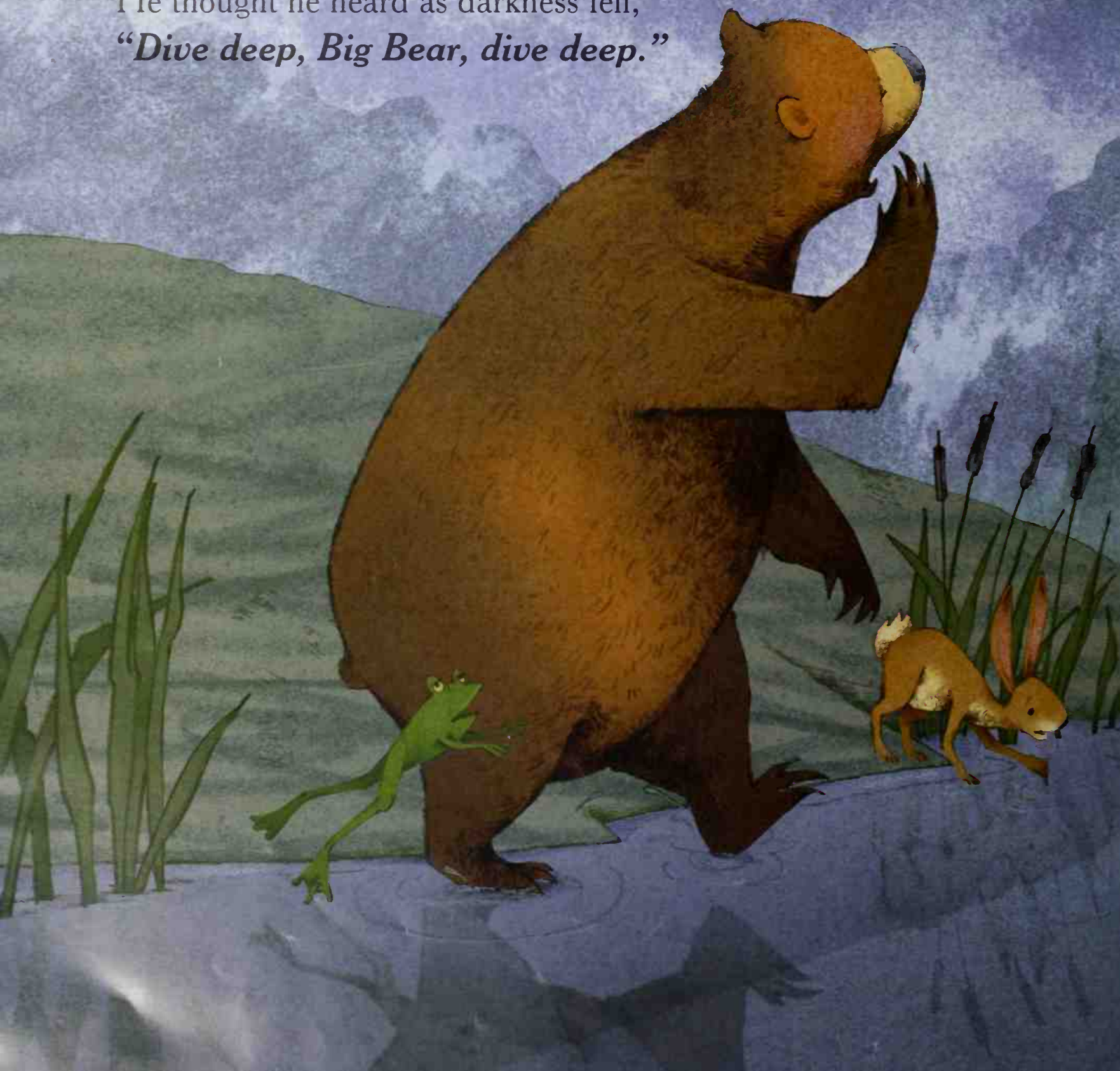








But Big Bear didn't hear very well;  
he couldn't sleep in his den in the dell.  
He thought he heard as darkness fell,  
*"Dive deep, Big Bear, dive deep."*

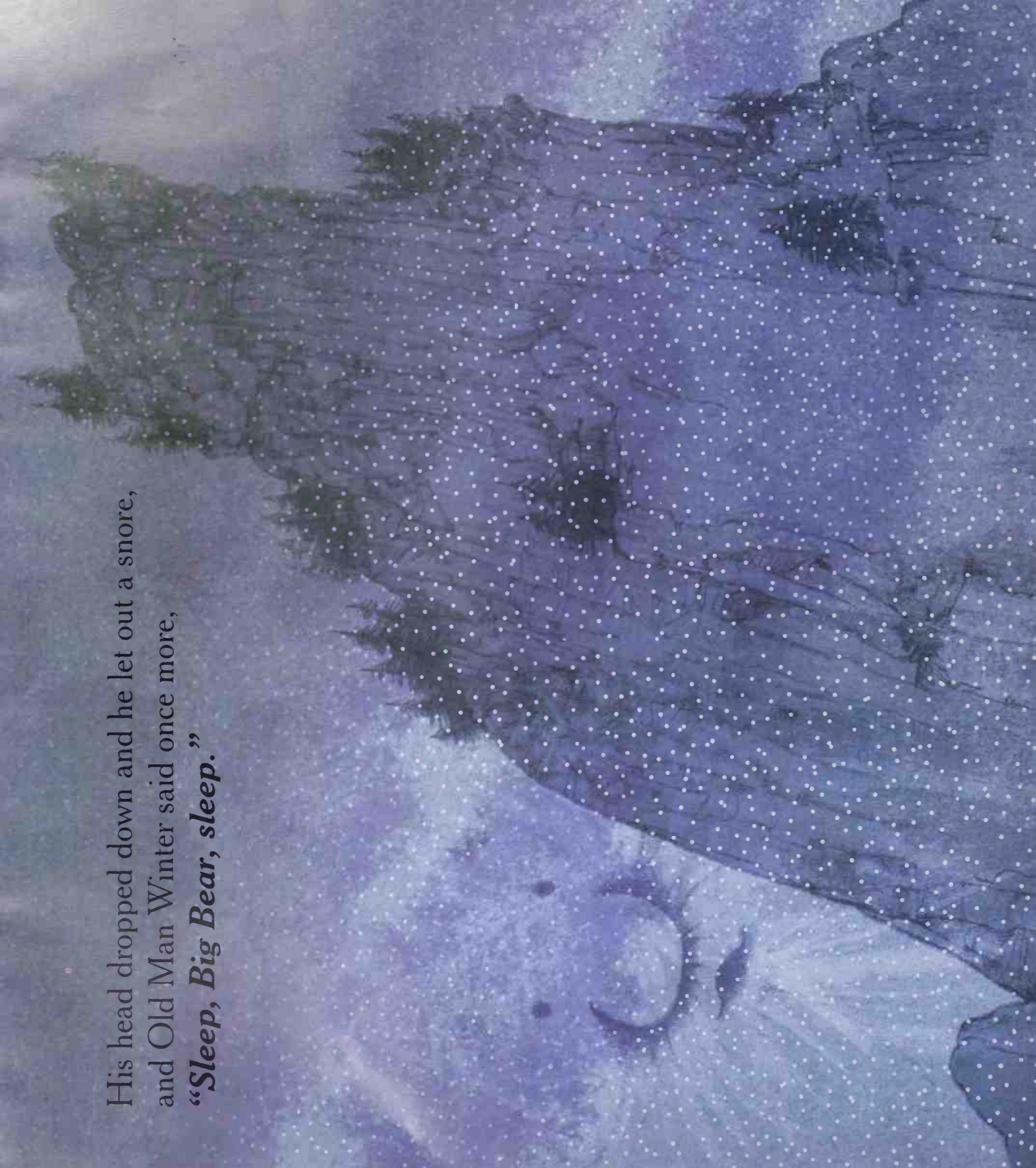








His head dropped down and he let out a snore,  
and Old Man Winter said once more,  
***“Sleep, Big Bear, sleep.”***





But Big Bear didn't hear very well;  
he couldn't sleep in his den in the dell.  
He thought he heard as snowflakes fell,  
"*Climb a mountain steep, Big Bear, steep.*"





So Big Bear trudged to the mountaintop,  
where the cold wind blew and the temperature dropped.  
He sat on a stump on the highest spot  
and wished for a blanket and a fold-up cot.











Then he stumbled back down with his eyes half shut,  
so tired he didn't know which end was up.  
Old man yelled while shaking his head . . .















He put on his PJ's and blew out the light,  
and fluffing his pillow, he said, "*Good night!*"















\$16.99  
ISBN 978-0-7614-5560-8  
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