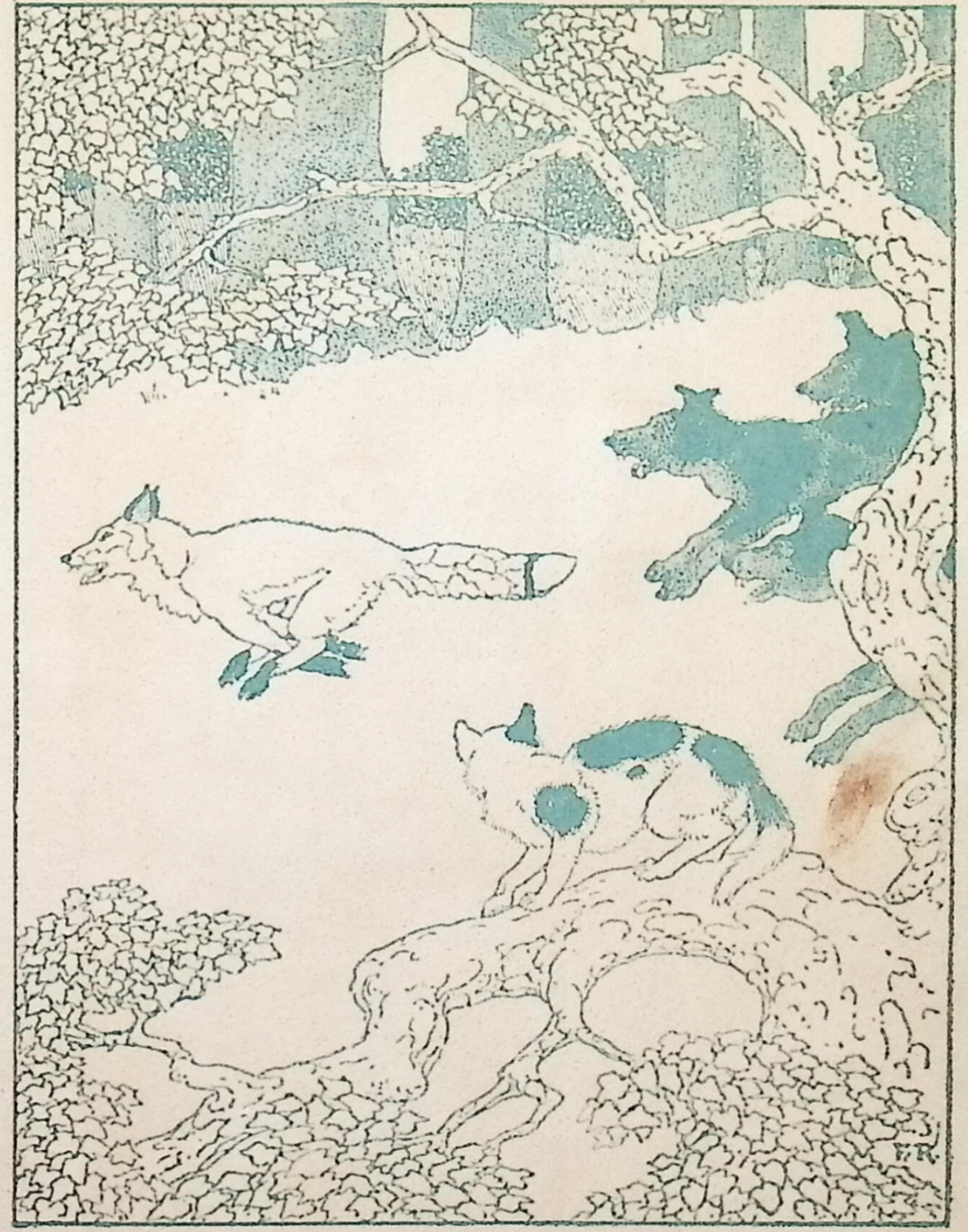


# REYNARD THE FOX





DAVID B. LOWE



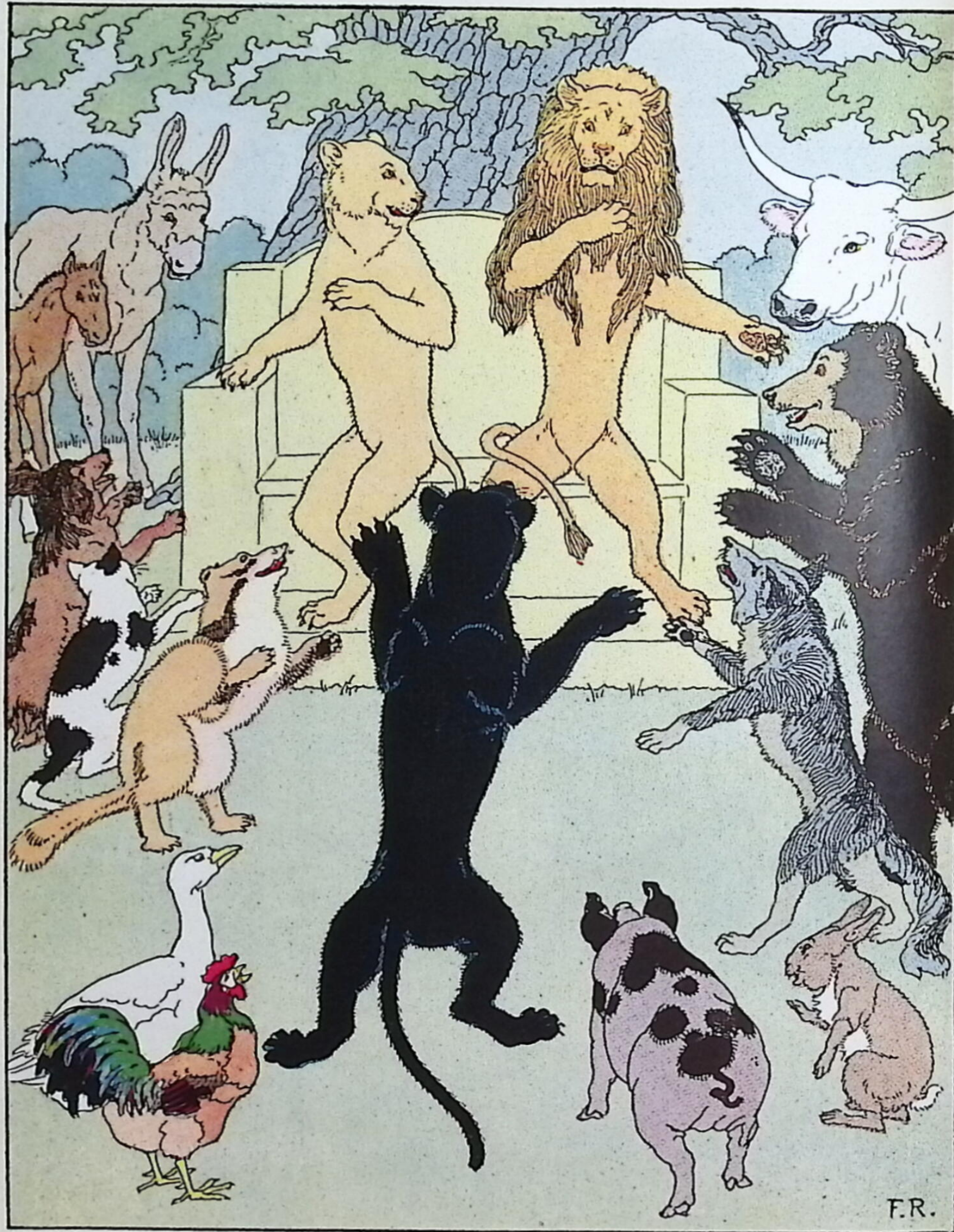




THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

David Howe  
35 Coaden Road





Everyone told the king that Reynard was a thief and a robber

# REYNARD THE FOX

RETOLD AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
BY  
SIDNEY G. FIRMAN



ILLUSTRATED BY  
FREDERICK RICHARDSON

THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY  
CHICAGO                      PHILADELPHIA                      TORONTO



**The Child's Garden of Charming Books**

A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES... *Robert Louis Stevenson*  
 ÆSOP'S FABLES.....  
 CINDERELLA, LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD, AND JACK  
 THE GIANT KILLER.....  
 A DOG OF FLANDERS..... *Louise de la Ramée ("Ouida")*  
 THE LITTLE LAME PRINCE..... *Miss Mulock*  
 JACKANAPES..... *Juliana Horatia Ewing*  
 REYNARD THE FOX.....  
 RIP VAN WINKLE..... *Washington Irving*  
 BOYS OF THE BIBLE..... *Harvey Albert Snyder*  
 GIRLS OF THE BIBLE... *Harvey A. Snyder & Ethel W. Trout*  
 GOODY TWO SHOES..... *Oliver Goldsmith*  
 THE KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER..... *John Ruskin*  
 THE NÜRNBERG STOVE... *Louise de la Ramée ("Ouida")*  
 ADVENTURES OF A BROWNIE..... *Miss Mulock*

Copyright, 1929, by  
 THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY

All rights reserved



PRINTED IN THE U. S. A.  
 AT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
 THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY, PROP.  
 PHILADELPHIA

Reynard the Fox

**CONTENTS**

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.....	vii
CHAPTER I	
THE ANIMALS TELL WHAT REYNARD HAS DONE.....	1
CHAPTER II	
ONE OF REYNARD'S FRIENDS SPEAKS FOR HIM	7
CHAPTER III	
WHAT HAPPENED TO CACKLE.....	10
CHAPTER IV	
BRUIN GOES TO BRING REYNARD TO THE KING	13
CHAPTER V	
SINCE REYNARD WOULD NOT COME FOR BRUIN, PUSS IS SENT TO BRING HIM.....	21
CHAPTER VI	
SINCE REYNARD WOULD NOT COME WITH BRUIN OR PUSS, THE BADGER IS SENT TO BRING HIM.....	28
CHAPTER VII	
REYNARD COMES BEFORE THE KING.....	35
CHAPTER VIII	
THE STORY ABOUT THE GOLD AND THE JEWELS	40
CHAPTER IX	
WHAT HAPPENED TO BUNNY AND BILLY.....	47



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER X	
MORE TROUBLE FOR REYNARD.....	55
CHAPTER XI	
THE ANIMALS WERE SURPRISED TO SEE REY- NARD AGAIN.....	62
CHAPTER XII	
THE WONDERFUL STORIES TOLD BY THE PICTURES.....	69
CHAPTER XIII	
WHAT BRUIN AND THE WOLF SAID.....	73
CHAPTER XIV	
REYNARD TRIES TO EXCUSE HIMSELF.....	76
CHAPTER XV	
THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE FOX AND THE WOLF	80

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

EVERYONE TOLD THE KING THAT REYNARD WAS A THIEF AND A ROBBER.....	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	PAGE
BUNNY BEGAN TO SING FOR REYNARD.....	5
BRUIN SAT DOWN TO WAIT FOR REYNARD TO COME TO OPEN THE GATE.....	15
“WHEN THE DOGS COME AFTER ME,” SAID THE CAT, “I RUN UP A TREE”.....	23
REYNARD TIED THE FEET OF THE WOLF TO THE ROPE OF THE CHURCH BELL.....	31
REYNARD BOWED LOW BEFORE THE KING.....	34
“LET ME SPEAK BEFORE I DIE,” BEGGED REYNARD	37
REYNARD FOUND HEAPS AND HEAPS OF GOLD AND JEWELS IN THE CAVE.....	43
REYNARD HUNG THE BAG AROUND BILLY’S NECK..	51
THE APE TOOK HER SHEARS AND CUT OFF ALL REY- NARD’S HAIR.....	81



## INTRODUCTION

---

**R**EYNARD THE FOX is one of the oldest of folk tales. It has come down to us from the Middle Ages. How long the story was told before it was written is not known; but someone who was able to write put the story into rather definite form as early as the year 1180. It was also one of the first stories published in English by Caxton.

The story appeared in France and Germany at about the same time, and each of those nations claims the story for its own. The name Reynard is an adaptation of *Raginhard*, which means "strong in council." It is a good name for an animal that lives by its wits. In French *Reynard* is still the common name for the fox.

At first the story was entirely about Reynard and the wolf. The story, *Why the Bear's Tail Is Short*, was at first *The Iced Wolf's Tail*. Since the wolf has almost as fine a tail as the fox, the story at first must have applied to one particular wolf that had lost his tail. In one of the variants of this part of the story the bear was substituted for the wolf, and the story was thus made to ex-



## INTRODUCTION

---

plain the natural fact that bears have short tails.

As has been said, at first the story was about Reynard and the wolf, but as the story passed from one story-teller to another, other animals were drawn into the story. Some of the animals were friends of Reynard and some of them were friends of the wolf.

The life of Reynard was typical of the life of the people of the Middle Ages. It was a never-ending struggle for existence. The strong were always oppressing those who were weaker. It was the time when "might made right." The weak could gain their ends only by cunning and deceit. Consequently, Reynard was a hero, because he was able to use his wits to get the best of his enemies.

The people of the Middle Ages thought Reynard's lies and tricks were very clever. They could see nothing wrong in them. They were necessities of the time. How long could Reynard have lived without them? No one was blamed for lying by the people of that time—unless he was found out. That also was true of the story of Reynard. As long as he was able to fool the king with his tricks, most of the animals were his friends. Besides, in his physical struggles with the wolf, the fox always had the disad-

## INTRODUCTION

---

vantage of size, which gave him the support of the crowd; for the crowd liked to see the smaller one win.

Naturally as the story of Reynard passed from one story-teller to another it underwent a number of changes. The story sometimes ended in one way and sometimes in another, but in all the versions Reynard got the best of everyone and was ten times worse at the end of the story than he was at the beginning. That is so out of keeping with present-day standards of morality, that I have changed the ending by making Reynard fall a victim to one of his most clever tricks.

This adaptation of the story follows closely the version of Joseph Jacobs, which, in turn, was adapted from the original English version by Caxton. The language in which the story is now told is so simple that children who are rather new readers should have no difficulty in reading it.



# REYNARD THE FOX

---

## CHAPTER I

### THE ANIMALS TELL WHAT REYNARD HAS DONE

SPRING had come. The days were warm and pleasant. The fields were full of flowers. The trees were covered with green leaves and sweet blossoms. The songs of birds filled the air.

Then the Lion sent his servants to call all the animals to a great meeting at his home in the forest. The Lion was the King. They had made him their King because he was so strong. He made all of the animals in this woods obey him. If animals from other places came into the woods, he drove them away.

When they heard that the King wanted to see them, the animals began to come from every direction. Some of the animals lived near-by, but many of them lived far away. Some had to climb over high hills and swim across deep rivers. They kept coming and coming. At last all had come except one. That one was Reynard the Fox. He had harmed so many of the animals



that he was afraid to come. He was afraid the King might wish to punish him.

Since Reynard was not there to hear what they said, even the timid animals were not afraid to tell the mean and cruel things that he had done. He did not seem to have any friends. Everyone said that Reynard was a thief and a robber, and should not be allowed to live any longer. No one seemed to care who heard what he said.

The Wolf with all of his family listened to all that was said. Then the Wolf went near the King and began to speak.

He said, "My dear King, pity me and punish the one who has harmed me. Much harm has been done to my family and me by Reynard the Fox.

"One day when I was away from home, Reynard came to my house. My wife tried to drive him away, but he would not go. When she was not looking, he opened the door and went into the house and hurt my children. He threw dirt into their eyes and made them blind.

"As soon as I came home, I ran into the woods and caught Reynard and brought him to the Judge, but when the Judge called Reynard's name, that wicked old fox was afraid. He jumped up and ran home as fast as his legs could carry him. No one ran after him, but he hid in his

den in the dark woods, and I have not seen him since. Reynard had done many other things to harm my family, but I will not take your time to speak of them now. I beg you to save me from that wicked fox."

When the Wolf had said this other animals wanted to speak. A cunning little Dog was one of them. He ran up and began to speak. He bowed before the King and said:

"Please let me tell something about Reynard. He is a bad fox.

"It was very cold for many days in the winter. The snow was deep, and I could not go to hunt for food. I could find nothing to eat but a small pudding, and Reynard took that away from me and ate it himself. I almost starved before I could find something else. Reynard is a thief, and I beg you to punish him. No one can be safe while he is free. I am afraid to go anywhere while he is around. I should not dare to speak about this if he were here."

As soon as the Dog's story had ended, the Cat sprang to her feet and began to speak. She looked very fierce and angry, but she bowed before the King and said:

"My lord, the King, let me tell you something about this story that the dog has told. Many bad things have been said about Reynard,



## REYNARD THE FOX

but bad things could be said about the other animals also. Reynard is not here to speak for himself.

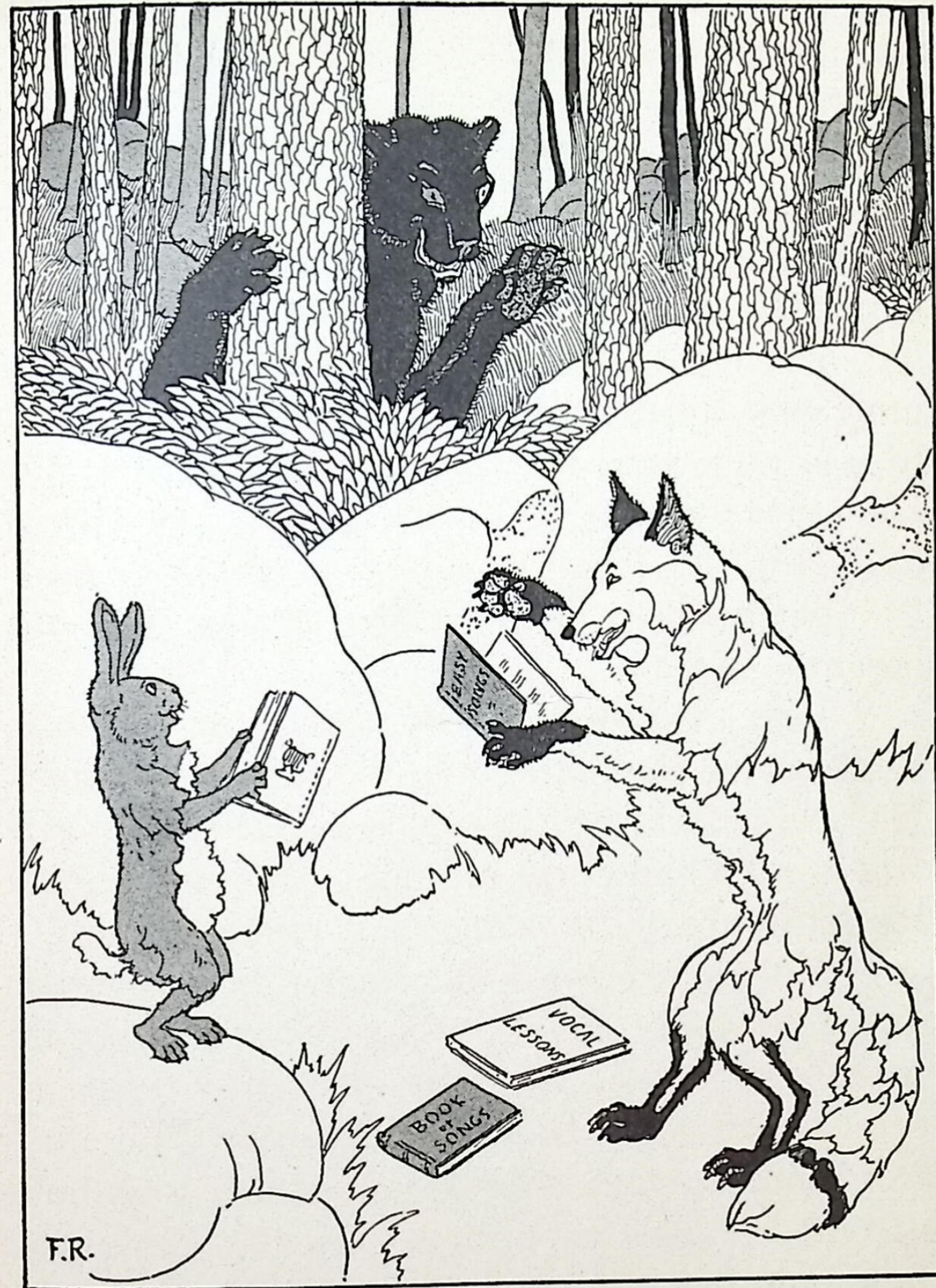
"The Dog should not say anything about Reynard. The thing that he tells about happened many years ago. If he wished to complain, why did he not say something before?"

"Besides, the pudding was not his. It was mine, and I was very hungry. I got the pudding from a mill while the miller was asleep, but the Dog took it away from me. I was the one to complain, but I have not said anything."

The Panther was the next to speak. He came beside Puss and said:

"Puss, why do you tell us not to say anything about Reynard. We all know he is a thief. He does not love anybody except himself. He tries to harm all of the animals. He would harm the King himself if he were not afraid of him.

"Let me tell you what I saw him do yesterday. Reynard went to Bunny and said he would teach him to sing. Bunny wanted to learn to sing, so he began to sing for Reynard; but just as I came through the woods Reynard took hold of him by the neck. Bunny tried to get away, but could not. If I had not come when I did, he would have been killed. Look at Bunny's neck and see the place where Reynard bit him. Rey-



BUNNY BEGAN TO SING FOR REYNARD



nard is too cruel. He should not be allowed to live. If you don't look out, he'll hurt you some day."

Then the Panther bowed before the King and said:

"O King, Reynard has broken your laws. He is not willing to obey you. He did not come when you called him. He has said bad things about you. He has harmed many of the animals. He has stolen many things. He has killed many rabbits and hens and geese. If he is not punished now, there will be no peace for any of us as long as he lives. Please do not let him harm us any longer."



## CHAPTER II

### ONE OF REYNARD'S FRIENDS SPEAKS FOR HIM

WHEN the Panther's story was ended, the Badger began to speak to the Wolf. Reynard was the Badger's uncle, so he wanted to say something good about him.

"Wolf, you are a bad fellow," he said, "and a bad person never speaks well of anyone. Many times you have hurt Reynard with your sharp teeth. If the King should hang the most wicked animal, I think you would be the one to die. If Reynard were here to hear you, I don't think you would tell such lies about him. It is easy to say things behind his back.

"Have you forgotten how you once cheated Reynard? You were hungry as usual, and went to ask him for something to eat. He did not have anything to give you; so you both went to hunt for something in the woods. You could not find anything there, so you came out to the road.

"Soon the fishman's cart came by. You said, 'O Reynard, let us have some fish to eat!'



"You were afraid to climb into the cart to get the fish; but Reynard climbed in and threw all of them into the road. You ate every one of the fish before Reynard could jump out to get his part. When he asked for some fish, you gave him only the bones. If you were not such a wicked Wolf, you would have saved some of the fish for Reynard."

The Badger also said, "Do you remember the pig you stole from Reynard?"

"You were hungry again and went to ask Reynard for something to eat. He had nothing to give you, but he said he knew where there was a fat pig. It was in the farmer's barn. Reynard and you went to the barn to get the pig, but you were afraid to go in. So Reynard crawled in through the window and threw out the pig, and you carried it away and ate it. You did not leave one little piece for him.

"You made so much noise that the farmer heard you; and when he came out to drive you away, you ran off and hid. But he caught Reynard before he could crawl out through the window. Then the farmer put him into a bag and beat him with a stick. It is a wonder poor Reynard was not killed. You did nothing to help him.

"I do not think Bunny should say anything

either. Reynard was his music teacher. He did take hold of Bunny's ears, but he did it to teach him to sing. He did not mean to hurt him. If a teacher does not beat his pupils, they will not learn. Reynard only tried to make him learn.

"Besides, I think the Dog should keep still about the pudding. The pudding was not his. He stole it from Puss, and Puss had stolen it from the miller while he was asleep. Who can blame Reynard if he took stolen goods from a thief?"

"My uncle is a very good man. He hates thieves and those who tell lies. He eats only plain food. He has not tasted meat for more than a year. He gives all his money to the poor, and he goes about doing good to everyone he meets. Only wicked animals say bad things about him."





## CHAPTER III

### WHAT HAPPENED TO CACKLE

JUST as the Badger's story was ended, the animals looked up and saw Chanticleer, the Rooster, coming down the hill. He was carrying a little dead hen. Reynard had bitten off her head. Behind Chanticleer came the sisters of the dead hen. They were weeping, and saying, "Pity our poor sister, Cackle. Pity poor Cackle."

"Great and noble King," said Chanticleer, as he bowed low, "I ask you to listen to my sad story.

"In the early spring I had eight sons and seven daughters. They were all good children and did as they were told. They were afraid of Reynard, so they stayed in the yard with the watchdog. Reynard was afraid of the watchdog and did not dare come into the yard. He hid in some bushes and waited for my daughters to come into the road.

"But one day Reynard came to my house. He said, 'Why are your children afraid of me? I do not eat meat any more. Why should I wish to harm your children? It is too bad to keep them shut up in the yard all day. Let

## REYNARD THE FOX

them come into the road and play. I shall not hurt them.'

"Then Reynard left me. But he did not go far away. He hid under the hedge.

"I believed what he had said, and opened the gate and let my children run out into the road to play. But they did not have long to play. Reynard was watching them all the time. When he saw my fine young children come into the road, he ran out and caught them one by one.

"Soon only four of them were left. Yesterday he killed my daughter Cackle. The dog ran out and drove him away or he would have eaten her. Only three of my children are alive now. Reynard has killed all of the others. O King, punish him for what he has done. Such a cruel animal should not be allowed to live."

When the King heard this, he was very angry. He said, "Badger, do you hear what Chanticleer says about your Uncle Reynard? Is this the way he is good? Is this the way he has given up meat? Why should he tell such lies? I promise you he shall be punished for this. He shall not have another chance to kill Chanticleer's children."

Then he said, "Chanticleer, I am sorry for you. We are all sorry for you, but your daughter



## REYNARD THE FOX

is dead. We can do nothing for her. We can only bury her in the field near the woods.

"All of us will go with you to bury Cackle. We shall place a little stone over her grave. On it we shall write:

Cackle  
Chanticleer's Daughter  
lies buried here.  
She was killed  
by  
Reynard the Fox.  
Her death was cruel and sad.



## CHAPTER IV

### BRUIN GOES TO BRING REYNARD TO THE KING

THEN the King spoke to Bruin, the bear, and said:

"Bruin, you must go and bring Reynard. He is very wise and cunning. He is as cruel as he is wise, so be careful for he may try to harm you."

"I am not afraid," said Bruin. "Reynard might try to harm a little animal like Bunny, but I am big and strong. He will be afraid of me. He may try to run away when he sees me coming. Never fear, I shall be more than a match for him. I never saw a fox that I was afraid of."

Then the Bear said, "Good-by" to all the animals and went to find Reynard. He walked very proudly to show that he was not afraid. He had a long way to go, for Reynard lived far away in the dark woods. Sometimes it was very hard to find the way; but at last Bruin came to Reynard's house. He found the gate shut and locked. There was no one in sight, so he rapped loudly. Then he sat down to wait for Reynard to come to open the gate.



## REYNARD THE FOX

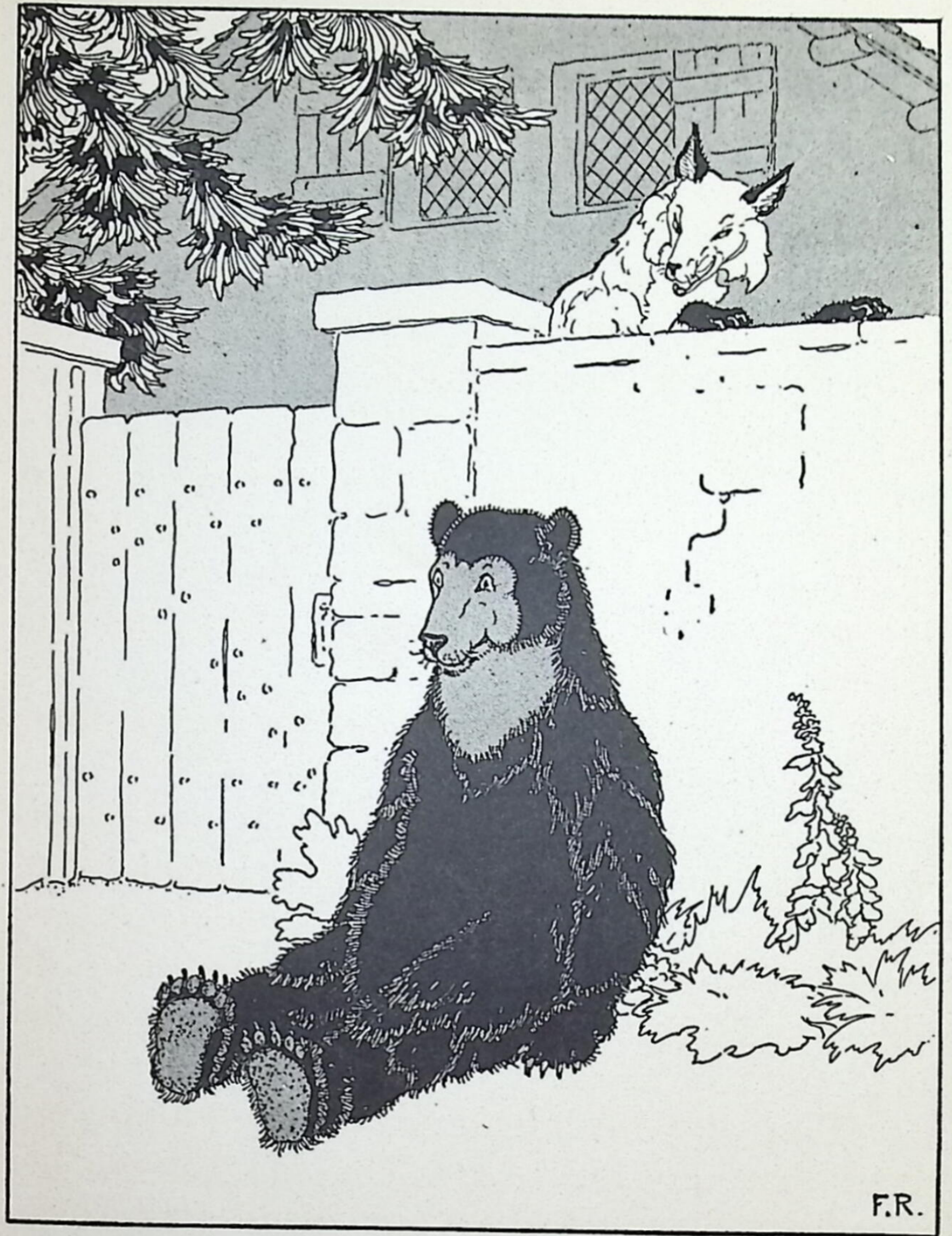
When he had waited a long time, Bruin became angry and called out, "Reynard, I know that you are at home. Do not try to fool me. I am Bruin. The King has sent me to bring you to him. Many of the animals have told the King the wicked things that you have done. You had better go and say a good word for yourself. If you don't, the King will come and punish you."

Reynard was hiding behind the gate. He heard all that Bruin said, but he kept very quiet. He did not want Bruin to know he was there. He was trying to think of some way to get rid of him.

At last Reynard opened the gate and came out. Then he said:

"My dear Cousin Bruin, I am so glad to see you! I hope you will pardon me for keeping you waiting. When I heard a rap at the door, I was saying my prayers and could not come then. If I had known you were here, I should have made my prayers very short.

"It was unkind of the King to send you on such a long journey. You are as great as the King himself. Why didn't he send some common animal like the dog or the cat or the wolf? They are not good for anything except to go on errands. Come in and rest yourself. You must



BRUIN SAT DOWN TO WAIT FOR REYNARD TO COME TO OPEN THE GATE



be very tired. Tomorrow we shall go to the King."

"Thank you," said Bruin. "I am very tired. I shall be glad to rest myself. The journey was very long. I did not know that you lived so far away. The path was hard to find and I walked very slowly."

"Yes, it is a long way to the King's house," said Reynard. "We must start early in the morning. Since I have given up eating meat my food makes me ill, and I cannot walk very fast. Now I must try to find something fit for you to eat. You must be very hungry."

"What is the food that makes you ill?" asked Bruin.

"It is only common food, such as the poor people in the country eat," replied Reynard. "I am sure you would not think of eating it. I'll try to find something else for you. For a long time we have had nothing to eat except honey, and I couldn't think of asking you to eat such poor food as that."

"Honey?" cried Bruin. "Why, I like that better than anything else in the world. Give me some honey and I'll be your friend forever. I could eat all of the honey that you have."

"Oh, do you like honey?" asked Reynard. "Come with me then. You shall have as much

as you want. There is more honey than you can eat. It is in a honey tree in a garden. I am so glad you like honey."

Not far from Reynard's house lived a carpenter. That day he had cut down a great tree. Then he had cut off a large log and tried to split it with his ax.

In that way he had made a wide crack in the log, and he had left his ax in the crack to keep the sides of the log apart. Reynard led Bruin to this tree. Then he said, "Cousin Bruin, this is the honey tree. Put your nose down into the log and eat the honey. You may eat as much as you like."

Bruin was in such a hurry to get the honey that he was silly enough to believe what Reynard told him. He put his nose and his paws far down into the crack to get the honey. Then Reynard pulled out the ax and the log held fast to Bruin's nose and paws. It was like a trap. Bruin pulled and pulled, but he could not get away.

The log hurt Bruin terribly, and he called for Reynard to come and help him; but Reynard only laughed and said:

"Is the honey good, Cousin Bruin? I am glad you like the honey, but do not eat too much. It might make you sick. I want to take



good care of you while you are here. Do not hurry, I shall wait for you at my house."

Bruin tried to get away and made so much noise that the carpenter heard him. When he saw Bruin in the trap, he called to his sons:

"I have caught a bear! I have caught a bear! Come and help me! Come and help me!"

When the carpenter and his sons came to Bruin they beat him with clubs and sticks. That hurt the poor creature so much that he tried harder to get away. He pulled one paw and then the other.

Someone ran and told the people in the village that a bear had been caught in a trap. Soon they came running to the carpenter's. A few of the men brought their guns, but the women and the children brought brooms and rakes and sticks. They made so much noise that they frightened the poor bear almost out of his wits. He pulled and pulled, and at last he pulled his nose and paws out of the log.

The skin was torn from Bruin's paws and his face was covered with blood. He could not see where he was going, and ran into the carpenter's wife and pushed her into the river. When she fell into the water, she called out:

"I am drowning! I am drowning! Come and help me! Come and help me!"

So everybody left the bear and ran to help the carpenter's wife. While no one was looking, Bruin swam across the river and escaped. He climbed out on the bank and lay down to rest. He groaned with pain and blamed himself for being silly enough to believe that lying fox.

Reynard was much pleased with himself for playing such a joke on Bruin. He went to the farmer's henroost and stole a fine hen for his breakfast. Soon he passed Bruin with the hen in his mouth. Reynard was surprised to find Bruin there. He thought he must be dead. He stopped and called out:

"O Cousin Bruin, is that you? Where did you get that nice red cap? Did you leave your gloves in the honey tree? How did you like the honey? I hope you ate all you wanted. I hope it will not make you sick."

Bruin's nose and paws hurt terribly, and he called out, "Oh, you red villain! Some day I'll pay you back for this!"

Then Bruin got up and tried to walk, but his paws were so sore that he cried with pain. After a while he got up again, and slowly crawled down to the river. Then he swam across and began his long journey back to the King's palace. He was so weak from hunger and his paws were so sore that he could go only a short distance



each day. However, he kept going as well as he could, and after a long time came to the end of his journey.

When the King saw Bruin coming, he was surprised and called out:

"Can that be Bruin? What has happened to him? Somebody has hurt him. It must have been that wicked Reynard!"

Bruin could hardly stand. So he lay down before the King and said:

"My dear King, look at me. See how I have been hurt by that lying fox! He tried to kill me because he did not want to come to you. Pity me and punish Reynard for what he has done."

"Poor Bruin!" said the King. "How did Reynard hurt you?"

So Bruin told the King about the honey tree, and how Reynard had lied to him. He told about the people who came to kill him, and how the skin had been torn from his face and his paws by the trap.

When the King asked the animals to tell him what to do with Reynard, they all cried:

"Reynard must come to the King and be punished!"

CHAPTER V

SINCE REYNARD WOULD NOT COME  
FOR BRUIN, PUSS IS SENT TO BRING  
HIM

SO the King called Puss to him and said, "Puss, you must go and bring Reynard. He is cruel to other animals, but he will be kind to you. He would not think of hurting you."

"My dear King," said Puss, "do not ask me to go for Reynard. Bruin is large and strong, but he could not make Reynard come. I am small and weak. How could I make him come? He does not want to come, and he would not come for me. He would hurt me more than he did Bruin. Please do not ask me to go. I am sure I should never come back alive."

The King replied, "Puss, you are small, but you are as wise as Reynard. You can make him come. He will not be able to harm you. If he does not come with you, I shall go with my soldiers and drag him out of his den and kill him."

"You need not be afraid to go, for a cat is as wise as a fox. I have heard a story about a cat and a fox. They were going along together,



## REYNARD THE FOX

and the fox began to brag about the tricks he had. He said, 'If the dogs come after me, I have a hundred tricks to fool them. They will never be able to catch me.'

"The cat said, 'I have only one trick, but that is a good one. When the dogs come after me, I run up a tree and there I am safe.'

"I should be afraid if I had only one trick,' said the fox.

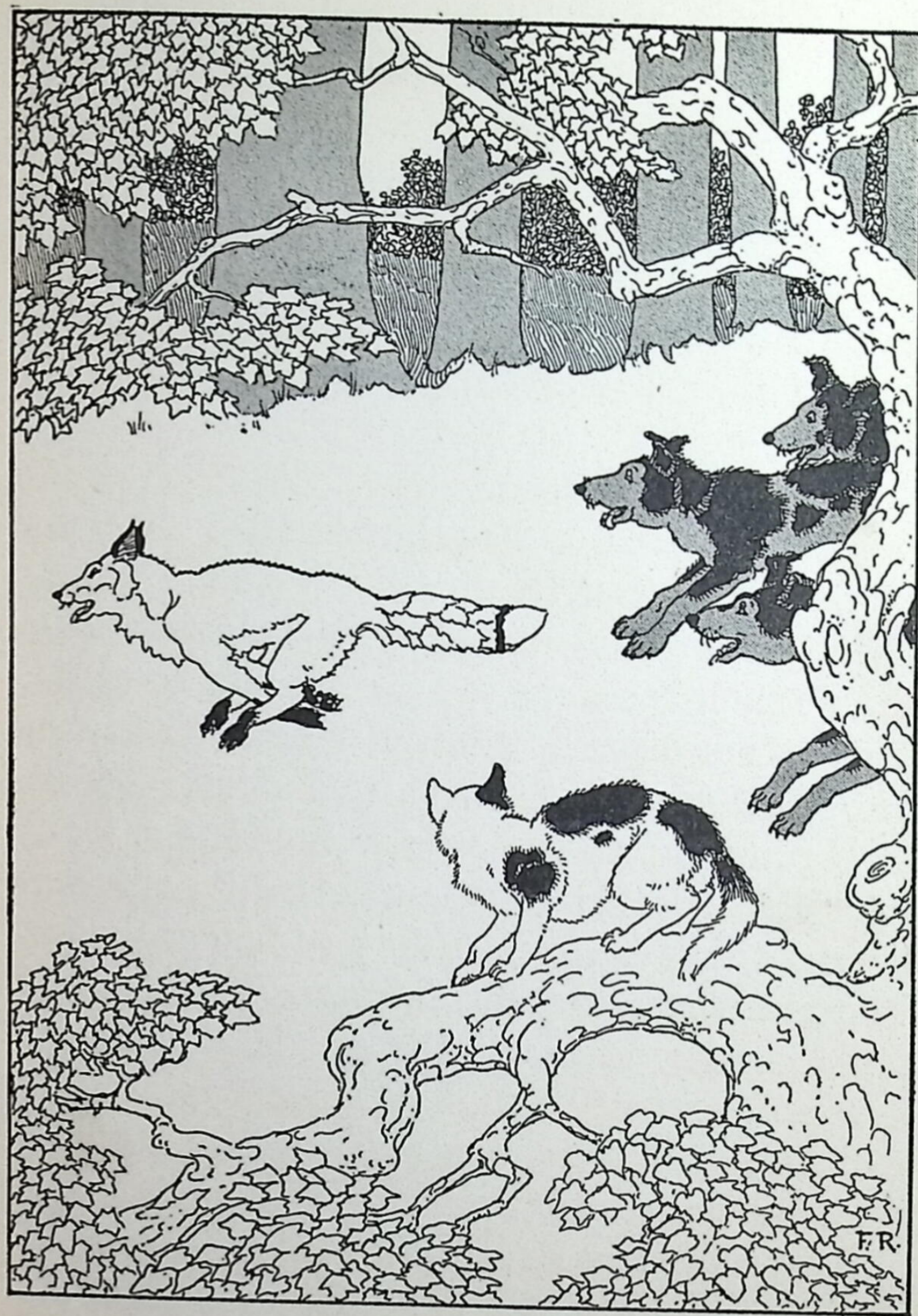
"Soon the dogs did come. The fox ran this way and that way. He used first one trick and then another, but the dogs soon caught him.

"The cat had only her one trick, but she ran up a tree and sat on one of the high branches. There she was safe. That cat was wiser than the fox. I am sure you will be a match for Reynard."

"Well," said Puss, "since you wish me to go, I must obey you. But I am very much afraid of Reynard. I am sure he will try to harm me. He is a very wicked fox and no one can believe anything he says."

So Puss went to find Reynard. It was easy for her to find the way, for she could follow Bruin's tracks.

When she came to Reynard's house, he was sitting in the sun beside the gate. He did not try to hide himself as he did when Bruin came. He jumped up and called out, "Welcome, my



"WHEN THE DOGS COME AFTER ME," SAID THE CAT, "I RUN UP A TREE"



dear Cousin Puss. It was good of you to come so far to see me. How did you find the way? Come in and rest yourself."

Puss replied to the fox:

"Thank you, Cousin Reynard, I hope you are well. I did not come to visit you, but the King sent me to bring you to him. If you do not go now, the King will kill you. He is angry because you have not come to him."

"I will go with you, dear Cousin Puss," said Reynard. "I thank you for coming to get me. You must be tired after walking so far. You will need to rest here tonight, and tomorrow morning we shall rise early and start on our way to the King. The other day Bruin came and asked me to go with him, but I was afraid of him. He was so big and ugly I was sure he would hurt me."

"You speak like a true friend," said Puss, "but I think it is better for us to start tonight. The moon shines as bright as day, and we can find our way through the woods. You know the path very well, and I can follow you."

"Oh, no, dear Cousin," replied Reynard. "Let us wait until morning. The night is full of dangers, but we shall meet only friends in the daytime. I am afraid to go out at night."

"Very well," said Puss. "I am willing to wait until morning if I may have something to

eat. I am very hungry. I have not had anything to eat all day."

"I am very poor," answered Reynard. "I always eat plain food. Now I have nothing to give you except honey. Shall I bring you some of that? It is very sweet. You may have as much as you want."

"No, thank you, I do not care for honey," replied Puss. "I would give all the honey in the world for one small mouse."

"Oh, do you like mice?" asked Reynard. "Near-by lives a farmer who has a barn full of mice. You can have as many as you like. The farmer would thank you for eating them. He does not like to have mice in his barn."

"My dear Reynard, please take me to the barn," replied Puss, "and I shall be your friend forever."

"I didn't know that you liked mice so well," said Reynard. "Come with me, then, and I will give you more mice than you can eat. The barn is full of mice and you can have as many as you want."

Puss and Reynard set out for the farmer's barn. As they went along, Puss said, "Mice are the finest food in the world. They are better than anything that was ever put upon a King's table. All cats are fond of mice."



"Isn't it fine that I have so many for you?" replied Reynard.

There was a wall around the farmyard, but the night before Reynard had dug a hole under it, and had carried off a big fat hen. The farmer had set a trap to catch the thief, and Reynard knew that when Puss tried to crawl under the wall she would fall into the trap. So he said, "Puss, go through this hole, and in less than a minute you shall have more mice than you can eat."

"Do you think it is safe for me to go in?" asked Puss. "Perhaps I shall not be able to get out again."

"What are you afraid of?" replied the fox. "There is no danger. I went through the hole last night. I never thought you were a coward. I am ashamed of you."

Puss tried to hide her fear and jumped through the hole. She was caught in the trap and called loudly for help. She called, "Come and help me! Come and help me!"

"If you call as loudly as that," answered the fox, "the farmer will come to help you. Do you like the mice? You had better eat all you want before the farmer comes. As soon as your supper is over, hurry back to my house. I shall be waiting for you."

The farmer heard Puss crying, and he jumped out of bed and ran to the barn. As he was going, he called to his wife:

"I have caught the thief who stole the hen! I have caught the thief! Come and help me! Come and help me!"

Soon the farmer's wife ran out with a candle. When they saw Puss in the trap, they beat her with sticks again and again. Poor Puss tried hard to get away, and at last she broke the trap. Then she quickly leaped through the hole and ran away.

Puss had been hurt by the trap and she was very lame. But she walked all night as well as she could, and came to the King's palace just after the sun was coming up.

When the King saw Puss coming, he called out:

"Puss, what has happened to you? Has Reynard hurt you, too. Oh, that wicked fox! That wicked fox!"

When Puss told the King how Reynard had lied to her about the mice in the farmer's barn, and how she had been caught in the trap, he was very angry. He said over and over again, "He shall be punished for this! He shall be punished for this!"



## CHAPTER VI

SINCE REYNARD WOULD NOT COME  
WITH BRUIN OR PUSS, THE BADGER  
IS SENT TO BRING HIM

WHEN the Badger had heard what Puss said, he said to the King:

"Reynard is my uncle. If he were twice as bad as he is, he ought to be given three chances to come to you. He has had two chances already. If he does not come when he is called the third time, then he should be punished."

"Who would risk his life by going after Reynard now?" asked the King. "Do you know anyone who would be foolish enough to go after what has happened to Bruin and Puss?"

"Yes," answered the Badger, "I will go, if you wish."

"Go, then," said the King, "and do not fail to bring Reynard back with you."

So the Badger went to get Reynard. When he came to the house, that sly fox and his wife were out in the yard playing with the children. As soon as they saw the Badger, they ran to meet him. They seemed very glad to see him.

Then Reynard said, "My dear nephew, I am glad to see you. Come in and rest yourself, and have something to eat. You must be tired from the long journey."

"I am tired and hungry," said the Badger, "but I cannot wait. The King is very angry because you have not come, and we must go to him at once. If you do not come with me now, he will tear down your house and kill you and your whole family. So you had better go with me at once."

"I will go with you," said Reynard. "I do not like to go through the dark woods alone. I am not afraid to go with you. Let us start at once."

So Reynard bade his wife and children good-bye and set out. They wept to see him go. They were afraid something would harm him. They were afraid they would never see him again.

When they started on their way, Reynard said to his nephew:

"I am not afraid to go to the King; for when he hears what I have to say, I am sure he will pardon me. Besides, if I stay here my poor wife and children will be punished to please my enemies. I can tell the King something about Bruin and the Wolf that they will not want to hear."

"I am glad you feel so well about going,"



## REYNARD THE FOX

said the Badger. "I am sure you are clever enough to take care of yourself anywhere."

For some time the two went on in silence. At last Reynard stopped and said:

"Dear nephew, do not blame me if I begin to feel a little bit afraid. I don't know what the King will do to me. I have done so many things that are bad that I think I shall feel better if I tell you about them."

"Then tell me about them," replied the Badger.

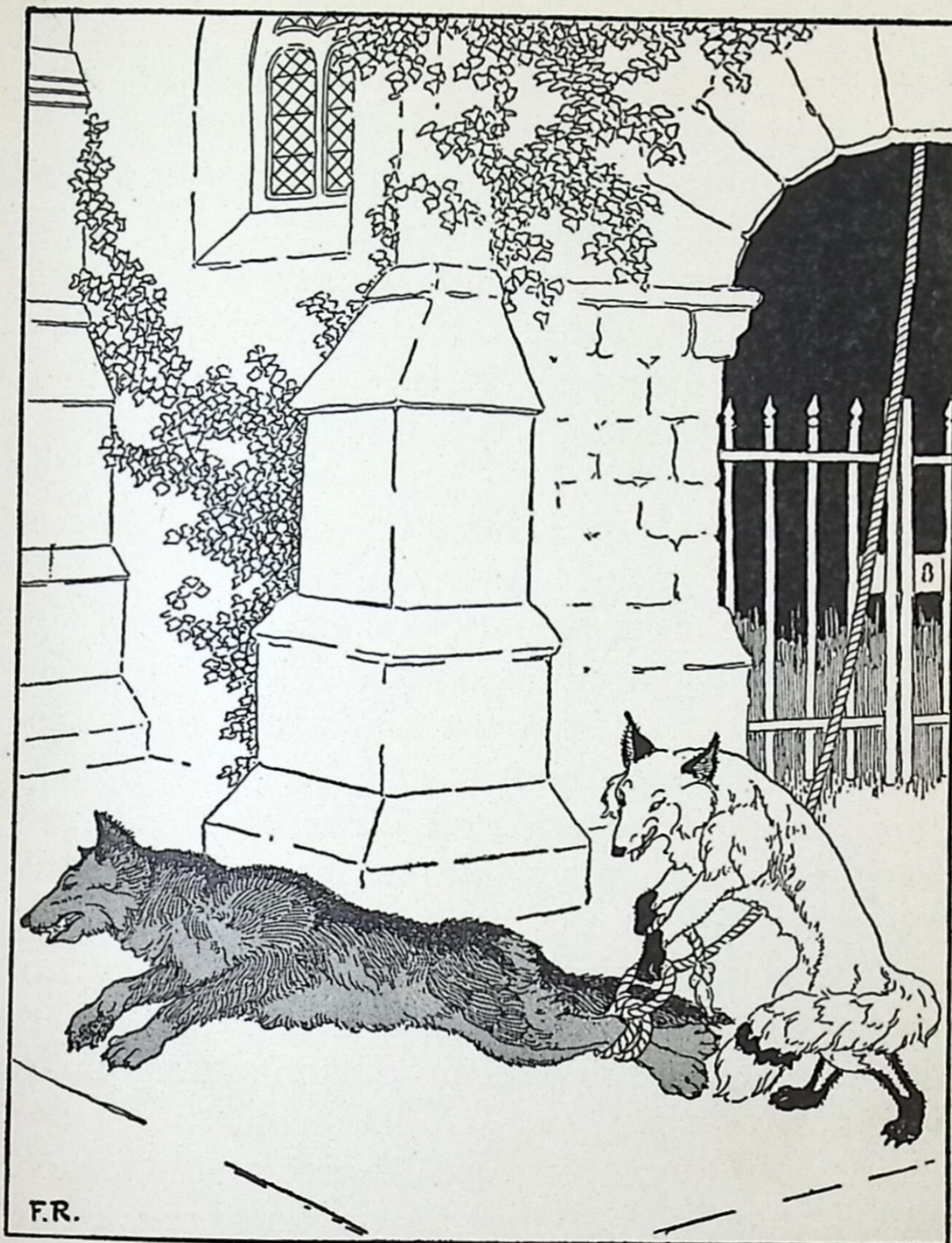
So Reynard began by saying:

"I have done all of the things that have been told about me. I lied to Bruin and pulled the ax out of the log and almost killed him.

"I lied to Puss about the mice in the farmer's barn. I told her to jump through the hole where she was caught in the trap.

"I have done many things that have not been told about me.

"I hate the Wolf, and I have done many things to harm him. Once I found him asleep beside the church and tied his feet to the rope of the church bell. When he awoke and tried to get away, the bell rang. Men and women came running to the church. When they saw him tied to the bell, they beat him with clubs and almost killed him.



REYNARD TIED THE FEET OF THE WOLF TO THE ROPE OF THE CHURCH BELL



"Once the farmer had a fat hen for his dinner," said Reynard, "but I quietly came into the house and jumped upon the table and ran away with it before he could eat it. That made the farmer very angry, and he ran after me and shouted, 'Kill the fox! Kill the fox! He has stolen the hen from my table!'"

"The farmer and his servants ran after me and almost caught me. But I led them to the place where the Wolf was hiding. Then I dropped the hen and crawled under the wall.

"When the farmer and his servants saw the Wolf with the hen beside him they thought he was the thief. So they hit him with stones and sticks until he fell down and lay still. They thought he was dead, and threw him over the wall. I do not know how he ever lived to get away from there.

"At another time, I took the Wolf to a hen house. We looked through the window and saw seven fat hens and a rooster sitting on a perch.

"The only way into the house was through a little door. This door was a trap, and when anyone went through, it shut tight and kept him from going out again.

"The Wolf laughed to think of the fine supper he would have. He said, 'Reynard, I shall

eat some of the hens, but I shall save a part for you.' Then he leaped through the door.

"As soon as the Wolf was inside, the door of the hen house shut. The Wolf could not open it again.

"When he saw that he was shut in with the hens, the Wolf called loudly for me to open the door. I only laughed and said:

"'Dear Wolf, don't be in a hurry to go away. Eat as much as you want. You must be hungry. You may not find such a good dinner again.'

"The people in the house heard the noise and ran out. I ran away and hid in the woods, but the people soon caught the Wolf. They dragged him out of the house and beat him. I do not know how he was able to get away from them."

"You have been very bad," said the Badger, "but I think the King will forgive you if you are sorry. You must promise not to do bad things again."

"Oh, I shall not do anything bad again," replied Reynard. "I shall always be good."

But as they went on their way, Reynard kept looking at the hens and ducks that were beside the road. All at once he leaped and caught one of the hens by the feathers. She flew away and left him only the feathers.



## REYNARD THE FOX

"Is this the way you keep your promise?" cried the Badger. "Unless you stop this, I shall tell the King all you have done."

Reynard promised not to harm the hens and the geese any more. But while they were going over a little bridge, he kept turning his head to watch the ducks that were swimming there. He looked and looked as long as he could see them.

"What are you doing?" asked the Badger.

"I am only saying a prayer for the poor chickens and ducks that I have eaten," said Reynard.

"I do not believe you," said the Badger. "I think you would eat them if you had a chance."

They did not see any more ducks or chickens, so Reynard did not have a chance to run after them.



Reynard bowed low before the king



## CHAPTER VII

### REYNARD COMES BEFORE THE KING

**W**HEN Reynard came before the King, he was afraid; but he made believe he was not. He stood up straight and boldly looked about. Then he bowed low and said:

“O noble King, may you have many happy days! There is no one who loves you as much as I. I would do anything for you. But my enemies are telling lies about me. Why do you believe what they say?”

But the King only replied, “You do not speak the truth, Reynard. I will not listen to you. Your enemies are not telling lies about you. Don’t think you can fool me with pleasant words.”

Then Reynard said, “You sent Bruin with a message; but he forgot his errand and went to the carpenter’s house to steal honey. Can you blame me because he was hurt there? Then you sent Puss. She did not come to see me. She went into the farmer’s barn to catch mice and fell into the trap. Am I to blame for that? I told her not to go, but she would not listen to me. Why do you blame me because Bruin and Puss were so greedy?”



## REYNARD THE FOX

Then the King said, "Stop, Reynard! I will not listen to you. You only tell lies. You do not know how to tell the truth."

Then the King said, "Is there anyone here whom Reynard has harmed?"

Then all of Reynard's enemies stood up. There were Bruin and Puss and the Wolf. There were Bunny and the Panther and the Dog. There were the Pig, the Goose, and the Colt. There were the Cock, the Donkey, and the Ox.

All of these spoke against Reynard. They said he was a thief. They told many cruel things he had done. They asked the King to punish him.

Then the King asked, "What shall be done to Reynard?"

And all his enemies cried out, "Reynard must die! Reynard must die!"

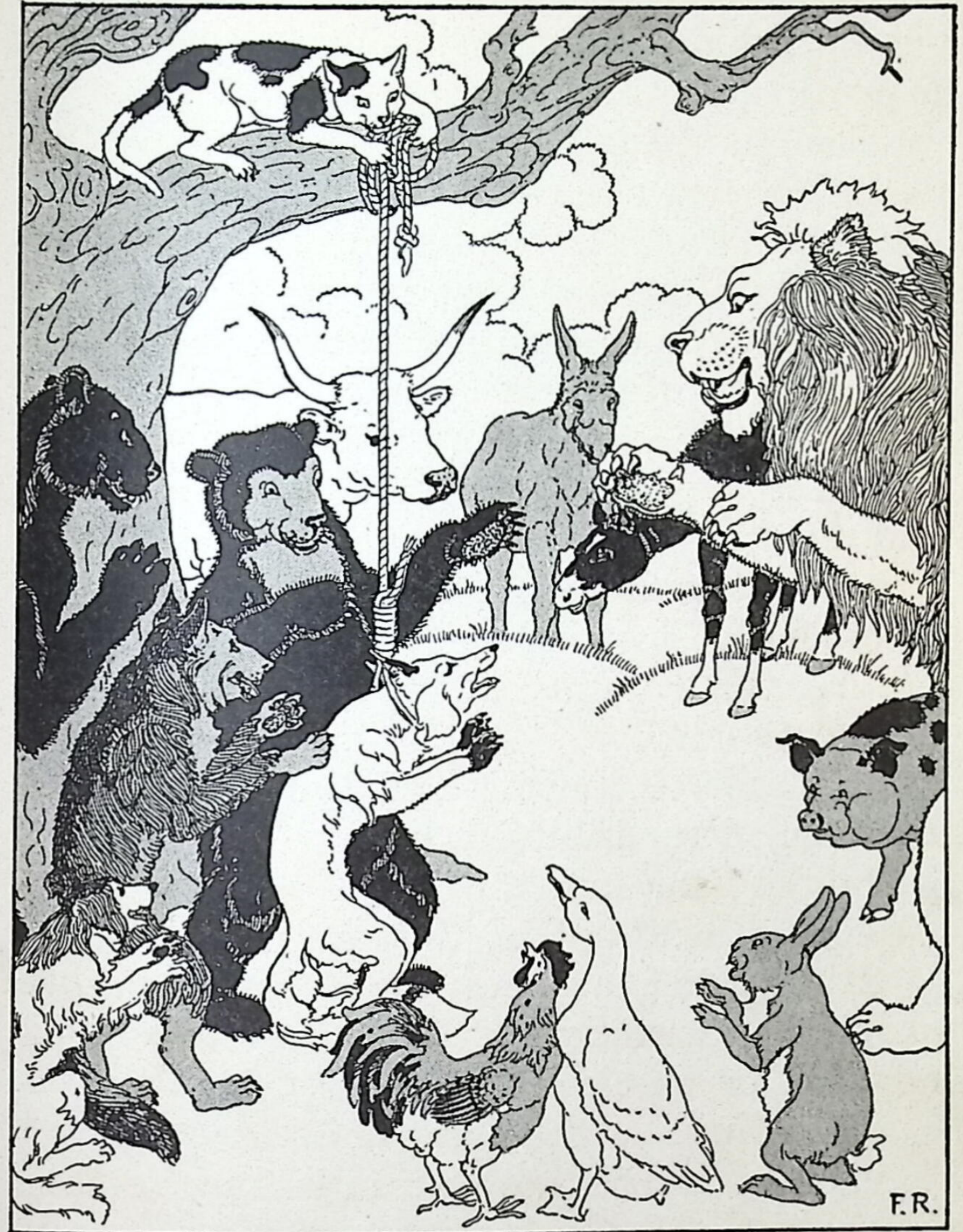
So the King said, "Bruin, you and the Wolf must hang Reynard."

When they heard this, the Badger and others of Reynard's family hurried away. They would not wait to see him hanged.

The King saw them go, and said:

"Reynard has many enemies, but he has a few friends, also."

Then Puss said, "Bruin, why are you and the Wolf so slow with your task? It is almost



"LET ME SPEAK BEFORE I DIE," BEGGED REYNARD



night. There are many bushes near-by where one could hide. If Reynard gets away, we shall never be able to catch him again. Bring the rope and hang him, for it will soon be dark."

"Your anger makes you foolish, Puss," said the Wolf. "Can't you see that we have no rope? How can we hang Reynard without a rope? If we had a rope, we should soon make an end of him."

Reynard heard what was said. Then he turned to his enemies and said, "I beg you to end my pain. Please hurry. Puss has a rope that is strong enough. It is the one with which she was tied in the bag in the farmer's barn. She can climb well. Let her climb up this tree and hang me."

So the Wolf and his friends led Reynard to the tree. They held fast to his fur so that he could not get away.

Puss climbed up into the tree and tied one end of the rope to a large branch. She tied the other around Reynard's neck. Then Reynard said:

"Let me speak before I die."

Near-by were the King and the Queen and Reynard's enemies, who were waiting to see him hanged.

So the King said, "Reynard, you may speak, and we will hear what you have to say."

"May you all forgive me," said Reynard, "for I see no one here whom I have not harmed. Yet when I was little I played with the lambs all day long. I did not hurt them. I was kind to everyone."

"But one day I bit one of the lambs in play. His blood was so sweet that I killed him and ate him. Then I killed a little goat and ate him. After that I began to kill hens and geese."

"In the winter I met the Wolf and we went to hunt together. I stole the little things and he stole the big things. I killed the little animals and he killed the big ones. He was always hungry and wanted to kill something every day."

"When the Wolf killed an ox, he left me only the bones. I had more than six cart loads of gold and jewels; but I could not get enough to eat. I almost starved before the winter was over."





## CHAPTER VIII

### THE STORY ABOUT THE GOLD AND THE JEWELS

**W**HEN the King heard Reynard speak of his gold, he said:

"Reynard, where is the gold you speak of?"

"I shall be glad to tell you," said Reynard.

"The gold can do me no good now, and I want you to have it. It is true this gold was stolen from the King of France. If I had not hidden it where my father could not find it, your enemies would have used it to hire someone to kill you. They did not want you to be king."

"What is that?" asked the King. "Tell me what you mean."

"I have only a few minutes to live," said Reynard. "My enemies cannot harm me if I tell you the truth. So I will tell you everything. I will show you where you can get the gold."

"Go on, Reynard, no one shall harm you," said the King. "Tell me all about the gold."

Then Reynard said, "One day my father was digging in the ground in the woods. There he found the gold and the jewels of the King of France. It made my father very proud to have

## REYNARD THE FOX

so much wealth, and he sent Puss into the forest to find Bruin.

"When Bruin came, my father showed him the gold. Then he said he would be willing to give all the gold to make him King. That pleased Bruin and he sent for the Wolf, the Badger, and Puss to come to the forest.

"All of these heard what my father said. They did not like to have you for their King, so they agreed to kill you and make Bruin King. My father promised to pay them with his gold. Then they went to hire the wolves and the bears to kill you and make Bruin King.

"One day my wife heard the Badger tell his wife what the bears and the wolves were going to do. She was very sorry, so she came and told me. We did not think anyone could do such a wicked thing."

Then Reynard said, "I did not know what to do. I lay awake all night. I tried to think of some way to help you. I remembered the story of the frogs who lived in a little pond. They had no king, so they asked Jove to give them one.

"Jove heard their prayers and threw a log into the pond. It made a great splash and frightened the frogs away. But they soon came back again.



## REYNARD THE FOX

"The log did not move, so the frogs swam around it. Then they climbed up and sat on it. They did not like such a stupid old king, and they asked Jove to send them another. This time he sent them a crane, which ate them one by one.

"Then they were afraid and asked Jove to take away the king; but he was angry, and would not listen to them. He said:

"You wanted a King and now you have one. At first you were unhappy because you had no king. Now you are unhappy because you have one."

"I was afraid the same thing might happen to us. You, O King, are always good and kind; but Bruin is cruel. If he should become King, he would kill every animal except the wolves and the bears."

"I did not wish to have Bruin for our King," said Reynard. "So I watched to see what my father would do.

"One day I saw him come out of a cave. I waited until he was out of sight, and then went into the cave myself. There I found heaps and heaps of gold and jewels. I never saw such fine things before. There was also a golden crown for the Bear. He was to wear it when he became King.



REYNARD FOUND HEAPS AND HEAPS OF GOLD AND JEWELS IN THE CAVE



"I went home and told my wife what I had found. As soon as it was dark, we went to the cave. We worked all night and carried away all of the gold and the jewels. We hid them in a dark cave where no one except ourselves could find them. We did not tell anyone what we had done.

"The next day my father and Puss and the Wolf and Bruin went away. They went to hire all the wolves and the bears to fight to make Bruin King. My father was to pay them with his gold.

"In a few days my father came back again. He went to the cave to get the gold, but it was gone. So he came out of the cave and looked everywhere. He looked for days and days. He could not find the gold, so he hanged himself on a tree. My wife and I buried him in the woods. We did not tell anyone what had happened.

"Soon Bruin and the Wolf came to look for my father. They could not find him, so they asked me to tell them where he had gone. When they heard that he was dead, they were angry. They said I had killed him and had stolen his gold, and now they hate me and tell lies about me."

"I think you are telling lies," said the King.  
"You always tell lies. You cannot tell the truth."

But the Queen wished to get the gold, so she said:

"I think Reynard is telling the truth this time. Let him come near and tell us where he hid the gold and the jewels. Maybe we shall be able to find them."

"Foolish Queen," said the King, "will you believe this lying fox? He is only trying to save his life."

"Yes," replied the Queen, "I believe him now. Let him come and tell us about the gold and the jewels."

So the King told Puss to take her paws off the rope. Then Reynard came and bowed low before the King and the Queen.

"Reynard, where are the gold and the jewels that you found in the cave?" asked the King.

Then Reynard replied, "My dear King, let me whisper to you so Bruin and Puss and the Wolf cannot hear. If they find out where the gold and the jewels are, they will take them away and hide them.

"I have only a few minutes to live. Gold and jewels can do me no good. I want you to have them, O King. If Puss and the Wolf and Bruin find them, they will kill you and make Bruin King."

"Do not be afraid, Reynard," said the King.



"No one shall harm you. Tell me how I can find the gold and the jewels."

"Well, then," said Reynard, "far away from here there is a dark wood, and in the wood there is a river. It is a lonely place. No man or woman ever goes there. That is where I hid the gold and the jewels."

"When you come to the place, you will find two birch trees. And near these trees is a great dark cave. There you will find the gold and the jewels and the crown of the King of France. That is the crown that Bruin wanted to wear."

Then the King said, "You must go with me, Reynard, and show me the way. I could never find the way without your help. I never heard of such a place. I should become lost in the woods."

"I am very sorry," said Reynard, "but I cannot go with you to show you the way. I do not eat any meat, and it would make me ill to walk as far as the cave."



CHAPTER IX

WHAT HAPPENED TO BUNNY AND BILLY

"THEN how can I ever find the place?" asked the King.

"Bunny will go with you," replied Reynard. "He knows the way to the cave. He will show you where it is. It will be easy for you to find it."

So the King said, "Come here, Bunny. Now tell the truth. Do you know the way to the two birch trees in the dark woods?"

"Yes, I know the way," said Bunny. "I often go there to play. It is very far from here, but I will show you the way if you want to go."

"Very well, Reynard," said the King. "Now I believe what you have said. I am glad I did not believe the lies that your enemies told me. You were very kind to tell me about the gold and the jewels in the cave. I shall now go and get them."

Then he said to his soldiers, "Take Bruin and Puss and the Wolf and put them in the prison where they cannot harm Reynard. They are all very wicked creatures. They would kill poor Reynard if they could."



So those poor animals were put in prison, but Reynard went home to tell his wife all that had happened. He was much pleased because the King had been foolish enough to believe all his lies.

The King also made Bunny and Billy, the Goat, go part of the way with Reynard, so he would not be afraid to go through the dark woods.

When they had gone a long way, Bunny and Billy wished to leave Reynard and return home, but Reynard said:

"My dear friends, must we part so soon? I like to be with you. You are so kind and gentle. You eat only green leaves and a little grass. Come home with me and rest yourselves. You can make me as good as you are."

Bunny and Billy were pleased at what the fox said, and they were silly enough to go home with him.

When they came to Reynard's house, he said, "Billy, wait here a few minutes while Bunny and I go in to see my wife. I shall not keep you waiting long. Lie on the soft grass beside the gate."

So Reynard and Bunny went in, and Billy waited outside.

Reynard's wife and children were very glad

to see him. He had been gone so long that they were afraid someone had harmed him.

He sat down and told them all that had happened. How his wife and children laughed when he told them that the King had believed all the lies he told! How they laughed when he told them that the King was going to the woods to look for the cave that is full of gold and jewels. At last Reynard said:

"Bunny told lies about me. So the King wished to punish him and gave him to me. I may do what I like with him. The King does not want to see him again."

When Bunny heard that he was afraid. He tried to run away, but Reynard caught him before he could get to the gate.

Bunny called out, "Help, Billy! Help, Billy!"

But Reynard killed him before he could say another word. Then Reynard built a fire and his wife made a rabbit pie for supper. And that was the end of poor Bunny!

At last Reynard said, "I lied to the King as I told you. I told him that I had a cave full of gold and jewels. He will soon find out that I have lied to him. Then he will come and kill me and my whole family."

Reynard's wife began to cry when she heard that, so he said:



## REYNARD THE FOX

"We must go away from here and live in some other forest. There we shall have plenty of meat to eat. We shall find clear springs and cool shade. I was lucky to get away from the King alive. I do not care to fall into his hands again."

But Reynard's wife said, "I do not wish to go away from here. It has always been our home, and you are ruler of all who live about us. Besides, if the King comes here, he can never find us. We have many places in which we can hide. If we go away from here, we do not know what may happen to us."

"I think you are right," said Reynard. "It is best for us to stay here. We have always been safe, and I think we shall be safe if we stay where we are."

All this time Billy had waited at the gate. At last he became angry and called out:

"Come, Bunny! It is time to go home! I am not willing to wait any longer. I shall go back without you, if you do not come now!"

Reynard heard him call and went to the door.

"Do not be angry, Billy," said he. "Bunny is very tired. He will stay with us all night. He told me to ask you not to wait for him. He will go back alone in the morning."



REYNARD HUNG THE BAG AROUND BILLY'S NECK



"But I thought I heard Bunny call for help," said Billy. "I am sure I heard him."

"What do you mean?" asked Reynard. "Did you believe that any harm could come to him in my house? How silly you are! I am as fond of Bunny as you are. I would not harm him for the world."

Then he said, "Now, I know what you heard. When Bunny said that he must go home with you, my wife was very sorry. She fell down on the floor and began to cry. Bunny tried to lift her up, but she was too heavy. So he called, 'Help, Billy! Help, Billy!' that was what you heard."

"I must have been mistaken," said Billy. "I thought that Bunny was in danger and I wanted to help him. I am glad that he is safe. I didn't know that you and Bunny were such good friends."

"When I left the King," said Reynard, "he asked me to send him a letter. Will you take it to him for me?"

"I shall be glad to take it for you," said Billy. "I shall be careful and not lose it on the way."

"Thank you," said Reynard. "You are very kind to do this for me. You may carry it in this bag. Hang it about your neck, so you will not

lose it. The King will be pleased when he gets this. He will always like you for bringing it to him. He will give you some of the gold that he finds in the cave."

Billy promised to be careful and set out. He did not know what Reynard had put into the bag, or he would not have carried it.

When the King saw Billy coming alone, he called out, "Billy, where is Bunny? Why didn't he come back with you? What have you in that bag?"

Billy said, "Bunny wished to stay all night with Reynard and rest himself. I have a letter for you in this bag. Reynard sent it to you. He said you would be glad to have it. I promised him that I would not lose it."

Then the King told one of his servants to take the letter out of the bag. So he opened the bag and took out poor Bunny's head.

"What letter is this?" asked the King. "What letter is this? It is the head of poor little Bunny! Reynard has killed him! How foolish I was to believe him. Why did I ever trust that lying fox? Now poor Bunny is dead, and Reynard mocks me and sends his head to me in a bag. How foolish I have been!"

Soon the Tiger bowed before the King and said, "O King, I think Billy should be pun-



ished. I am sure he helped Reynard kill Bunny. If he didn't help kill him, where did he get this head?"

"That is so," replied the King. "Where did Billy get Bunny's head if he didn't help kill him. Then he was silly enough to bring the head to me. What shall I do with him?"

So the Tiger said, "Let Bruin and Puss and the Wolf out of prison, and let Bruin and the Wolf eat Billy. That will pay Billy for what he has done."

The King did as the Tiger said, and the hungry animals soon ate up poor Billy. They were glad enough to be out of prison.

Then the King sent for all the animals to come to his palace. So they came from every direction and made merry. But Reynard did not come. He was hiding in his den with his wife and children.



CHAPTER X

MORE TROUBLE FOR REYNARD

THE next day the Crow came to the King and said:

"Great King, I beg you to listen to my story.

"This morning my wife and I went for a walk in a field. There we found Reynard the Fox lying on the ground. His eyes were shut and his mouth was open. He did not move, so we thought he was dead.

"We went nearer, so we could see him better. Then my wife held her ear near Reynard's mouth to see if she could hear him breathe. As soon as she did that Reynard seized her and bit off her head. He tried to grab hold of me, but I flew up into a tall tree where he could not get me.

"There I sat while Reynard ate my wife. Oh! It was an awful sight! When the monster went away, I gathered up these few feathers. They are all that is left of my poor wife. And now, O King, I beg you to punish Reynard. Why will you let him live any longer. He is the most wicked animal in the forest."

When the King heard what the Crow said, he became very angry. As soon as the Crow stopped speaking, he said:



"Good Crow, I am sorry for your poor wife. She is dead. We can do nothing for her, but I promise you that Reynard shall be punished. He has done harm enough. I shall not allow him to live any longer."

Bruin and the Wolf and Puss were glad to hear that. They were sure their old enemy would be killed at last.

Then the King said, "All of you may now go to your homes. At the end of six days come again with your bows, your arrows, and your spears. With your help I shall hunt Reynard until I find him. Then I shall kill him and all his family. I cannot allow such a wicked creature to live."

When the Badger heard what the King said, he ran at full speed to tell Reynard. He wanted to tell Reynard to hide where the King could not find him.

The Badger found Reynard standing at the door of his house. He had just killed two young pigeons. They were just learning to fly, and he had caught them on the edge of the nest.

"I am glad to see you," said Reynard. "How is my friend, the King? I hope he is well."

"Yes, he is well," said the Badger, "but he is very angry with you. In a few days he will send his soldiers with bows and arrows to kill you

and tear down your house. You must hurry away from this place and hide in the woods."

"Do not let that worry you," said Reynard. "My foes tell lies to the King, but I am not afraid of them. I always do what is right, so I am not afraid."

Then he said, "Come into the house, dear Cousin. Thank you for coming so far to warn me. I have just caught two young pigeons, and we shall have them for supper. Tomorrow we shall go to the King. I shall tell him that my enemies are telling more lies about me. I am sure the King will believe me. He believes everything I say."

"The King is very angry for what you have done," said the Badger. "He may not believe you now. If I were you, I should hide where the King could not find me."

"Oh, I am not afraid," replied Reynard. "How do you like my children? They are very quick to learn. One has caught a chicken and the other has caught a duck already. They will soon learn to catch other game. Now I am teaching them to be afraid of hunters and traps."

"They are very smart children," said the Badger. "They are very much like the father and mother."



The next morning Reynard and the Badger set out for the King's palace. Reynard's wife did not wish him to go. She was afraid that the King would kill him. She began to weep when he said that he would go.

She said, "A few days ago you said that you were afraid of the King. You said we must move away from this place and go where the King could not find us. But now you say you will go to visit the King. If there was danger then, there must be danger now. If you go to the King now, you will never be able to get away from him."

"Do not be afraid," said Reynard. "I must go to see the King for I have something to tell him; but I shall come back again in a few days. Keep the door locked while I am away and do not let the children go into the yard to play. My enemies wish to harm me, but I am not afraid of them. I expect to be safe at home again in about five days. Do not worry about me."

Then Reynard said good-by to his wife and children and set out with the Badger.

As they went on their way, Reynard said:

"I am afraid to go to the King, but I am more afraid to stay away. If I go I can make him think my enemies have told more lies about me. Let me tell you what I have done.

"I lied to the King about the gold and the jewels. He will be very angry when he finds out that there is no cave full of gold and jewels in the dark woods. I killed Bunny and sent his head to the King by Billy. Then the King killed poor Billy for bringing it. I also killed the Crow's wife. I have done many other things, also.

"The last time I saw you, I forgot to tell you how I once fooled the greedy old Wolf. So I will tell you now.

"The Wolf and I were walking along a road," said Reynard, "when we saw a mother horse and her colt in a field.

"The Wolf was very hungry, and begged me to go and ask the mother horse if she would sell her colt. So I went and asked her; and the mother said that she would sell the colt for money.

"Then I said, 'What is the price?'

"And the horse said, 'You will find the price written on my hind foot.'

"I understood what she meant, and knew that it was time to run away. So I said, 'I do not wish to buy the colt, but the Wolf sent me to ask you.'

"Let him come,' said the horse. 'I am sure he will be satisfied.'



"Then I went to the Wolf and told him what the horse had said. I told him I did not buy the colt because I could not read the price. It was written on the mother's hind foot.

"'Oh, I can read,' said the Wolf, who was a great boaster. 'I can read all kinds of writing. I have read many books. I am sure I can read what is written on the horse's foot. I shall go and see what the price is.'

"So the Wolf hurried to the mother horse. He asked the price of the colt, and she held up her foot so he could read the price.

"He could not see very well. The nails looked like letters, so he came nearer and tried to read them. Then the mother horse struck him a terrible blow with her foot. The Wolf rolled over and over and then lay as if he were dead. He lay still for a long time. At last he began to move and howl like a dog.

"So I went to him and said, 'Are you ill? Did you eat too much of the colt? Didn't you save a part of it for me? What was written on the mother's hind foot?'

"'Do not be so cruel, Reynard,' said the Wolf. 'The mother horse has an iron shoe. I thought the nails were letters. And when I tried to read them, she hit me with her foot. I am sure my poor head is broken.'

"Then I said, 'I now see that the old saying is true. Those who read the best are not always the wisest men.'

"But the Wolf did not know what I meant."

So Reynard went on with the Badger. He looked as if he were not afraid. He made believe he did not care what would happen, but he was very much afraid. At last he said to the Badger, "What do you think the King will do to me?"

"I do not know," said the Badger. "But those who eat honey must lick their fingers."

He said that because he thought the King would surely punish Reynard. He did not think he would be able to escape again.





## CHAPTER XI

THE ANIMALS WERE SURPRISED TO  
SEE REYNARD AGAIN

WHEN the animals saw Reynard coming, they were surprised. They thought he would be afraid to come after what he had done. They thought he would hide where the King could not find him.

Reynard boldly walked up before the King and said:

"My dear King, I have come to tell you the truth. I have heard that my enemies are telling lies about me again. I want you to know just what I have done. I know that you want me to tell you."

"You are the one who tells lies," said the King. "But I think this will be your last day. You have lived too long already."

"It is an old saying that 'A pitcher may often go for the water, but at last it comes home broken.'"

But Reynard replied, "Yesterday the Crow came and told me his wife was dead. He said she had eaten too much meat and it had killed her. Now he says that I killed her. Do you

think I should dare to come here if I had done such a cruel thing as that? I could not think of hurting a crow. Besides, how could I kill a crow if I wanted to? Crows fly high up in the air, and I walk on the ground.

"When I was not here my enemies said bad things about me. If they have anything to say why don't they say it now when I am here to hear them? They shouldn't say things behind my back."

While he said these things the fox looked so fierce that the Crow and some other animals who had told things about him ran away and hid.

Then the King said:

"If anyone has anything to say against Reynard let him come here and say it now. The fox is ready to answer."

No one dared speak. Even Bruin and the Wolf did not say anything. So the Ape, who was Reynard's aunt, began to speak. She was one of the Queen's pets. She said:

"Reynard is very wise and he has helped the King. When did the Wolf or the Bear ever do anything to help him? This is what Reynard did to help the King:

"As a man was going through some woods, he saw a big Tiger that had been caught in a



trap. The Tiger begged the man to open the door and let him out.

“‘If I stay here, I shall starve,’ said the Tiger. ‘Please let me out.’

“‘But I am afraid that you will eat me if I let you out,’ replied the man.

“Then the Tiger promised that he would not hurt the man if he would let him out of the trap. So the man opened the door and the Tiger quickly jumped out and was free.

“The man and the Tiger walked along together, but in a little while the Tiger became very hungry. He rushed at the man and said, ‘I am hungry and I shall eat you. I have nothing else to eat.’

“‘No, do not eat me,’ replied the man. ‘Have you forgotten that you promised not to hurt me? You must keep your promise.’

“‘Yes, I remember my promise,’ answered the Tiger, ‘but I shall starve if I do not eat something; so I must eat you. You cannot expect me to starve.’

“Then the man said, ‘Let us go on until we meet someone, and let him decide the matter for us.’

“The Tiger agreed to that, and the two went on until they met the Crow and his son. They told their story to them and asked what ought

to be done. The Crow hoped to get a share for himself and his son, so he said, ‘It is right for the Tiger to eat the man.’

“Then the Tiger rushed at the man, but he said, ‘Not so fast! How can robbers like these crows be fair judges? Let us go on until we meet someone else.’

“Then the man and the Tiger went on until they met the Bear. The man told him all that had happened and asked what ought to be done. The Bear hoped to get a share for himself, so he said, ‘It is right for the Tiger to eat the man.’

“So the Tiger again rushed at the man, but he said, ‘Not so fast! How can a cruel beast like the Bear be a fair judge? Let us go on until we meet someone else.’

“Then the man and the Tiger went on until they met the Wolf. The man told him all that had happened, and asked what ought to be done. The Wolf hoped to get a share for himself, so he said, ‘It is right for the Tiger to eat the man.’

“Then the man and the Tiger went on until they met Reynard. The man told him all that had happened and asked what ought to be done.

“Reynard replied, ‘I cannot tell what ought to be done until I have seen the trap in which the Tiger was caught.’



"So the man, the Tiger, and Reynard went back to the trap. When they came there, Reynard said, 'Now let the Tiger go into the trap so I can see how he was caught.'

"The silly Tiger walked into the trap and Reynard quickly shut the door.

"'Now you are where you were at first,' said Reynard. 'So let the man say whether he wishes to let the Tiger out of the trap or not. He knows more about Tigers now than he did at first.'"

"'No! I do not wish to let him out!' exclaimed the man. 'The Tiger tells lies. I cannot trust him.'

"So the Tiger complained to you, and you said, 'Let the Tiger stay in the trap where Reynard put him until he learns to tell the truth.'

"Reynard helped you to settle that, O King. What have the Wolf and the Bear ever done to help you?"

Then the King said:

"Reynard, I could forgive you for all you have done, if you had not mocked me by sending Bunny's head to me in a bag. How did you dare do such a thing as that?"

Then Reynard looked very much afraid. At first he did not know what to say. At last he asked sadly:

"What is that you say? Is poor Bunny dead?"

"You know he is dead!" replied the King. "You killed him! Then you sent his head to me by poor Billy!"

"Alas!" said Reynard. "Then the jewels are lost. Billy stole them."

"What jewels?" asked the King.

"There were three of them," replied Reynard. "One was for you, O King, and the others were for the Queen."

"Perhaps we can find them," said the Queen. "We must try."

"No, we shall never be able to find them," said Reynard. "The one who has them will never give them back. They were very costly. They would buy the whole world. It is too bad they have been lost."

"The jewel that I sent to you, O King," said Reynard, "was a ring. It was a magic ring that was made by the Fairies. Nothing could harm anyone who wore it."

"There were three stones in the ring. One was red, one was white, and one was green."

"The red stone shone very brightly. It made the night as light as the day."

"The white stone cured those who were ill. It was wonderful. If anyone was ill, he might



touch the stone and become well again in a minute.

"The green stone kept one from danger. Nothing could harm the one who wore the ring.

"I found the rings in the cave with my father's treasures.

"One of the jewels was a comb for the Queen," said Reynard. "It was made of one of the bones of a strange animal.

"This animal lives in a country that is far away. Its bones smell very sweet; and their smell cures all of the animals who are ill.

"The comb smells like roses and violets. A lady who wears it in her hair will always be happy. She will always be well. Everyone will love her."

Reynard stopped speaking for a moment and wiped the tears from his eyes. Then he said:

"The other jewel was for you also, O Queen. It was a wonderful mirror. You could look in it and see all that was going on all over the world. If you had the mirror, you would not need to go away from home to see strange places. You could see everything in the mirror.

"The frame of the mirror was made of wood, and it was covered with pictures. These pictures told many strange stories. Everybody liked to read the stories. I will tell you some of them."

CHAPTER XII

THE WONDERFUL STORIES TOLD BY  
THE PICTURES

ONE of the stories," said Reynard, "was about a strange Wooden Horse that a prince had given to the daughter of a King. It was a magic horse and could go a hundred miles in less than an hour.

"The King's little son thought the Wooden Horse was just like his hobbyhorse. He didn't know it could run from place to place. So he jumped upon its back to make believe he was riding.

"By accident he touched the pin in the horse's neck, and it leaped up and ran ten miles in a few minutes. The King's son was very much frightened, but he held fast to the horse's neck. He thought he never should be able to get back home again.

"No one saw him get on the horse's back, so the King did not know what had become of him.

"But at last, in some way, he learned to manage the Wooden Horse, and it brought him safely back to his father's palace. In a little while he learned to handle the horse so well that



he was allowed to ride on its back every day. He had many fine rides to places that were far away. It was a wonderful horse for a boy to have.

"Another of the stories," said Reynard, "was about a man who had a Dog and a Donkey.

"The man was very fond of the Dog. He petted him. He gave him fine food to eat and allowed him to sit on his lap.

"The Donkey worked all day for the man. And when his work was over, he was shut up in his stall. He had only straw to eat.

"So one day the Donkey said to himself, 'My master likes the Dog. Why doesn't he like me? The Dog never does any work, but I work all day long. The Dog has fine food to eat, and I have only straw. My master pets the Dog, but he never says a kind word to me.'

"The Donkey felt very sad. But at last he said, 'I know why the man likes the Dog. The Dog sits on his lap, and that is why he likes him. I shall sit on his lap, and then he will like me.'

"Soon the man came into the garden and sat down on a bench. Then the Donkey ran to him and sat on his lap.

"'Help! Help!' called the man. 'The Donkey is killing me! Take him away! Take him away! I will not have him here!'

"So the man's servants came and drove the Donkey away and beat him.

"Another story," said Reynard, "was about a Wolf and a Crane.

"While the Wolf was eating, a bone caught in his throat and choked him. So he went to some of his friends and asked them to take out the bone. They tried and tried, but they could not reach it.

"In a little while the Wolf met the Crane, and said, 'Please, Good Crane, take your long bill and pick the bone out of my throat. It is choking me. I will pay you well if you take it out.'

"So the Crane reached down the Wolf's throat and quickly pulled out the bone.

"'Oh! how you hurt me!' cried the Wolf. 'How you hurt me!'

"When the Crane had pulled out the bone he asked for his pay.

"'What more do you ask?' said the Wolf. 'You had your head in the mouth of a wolf and took it safely out again.'

"One of the stories," said Reynard, "was about a man and a horse.

"One day the man was trying to catch a deer, but he could not run fast enough. Soon the man met a horse. The horse said, 'Leap upon my back, and I will help you catch the deer.'



“So the man put a bridle on the horse’s head and climbed upon his back. Then the horse ran with the man upon his back and soon caught up with the deer.

“‘Jump down now,’ said the horse. ‘Here is the deer.’

“‘No, I will not jump down,’ said the man. ‘I have a bridle on your head and a whip in my hand. You shall be my servant. Why should I walk when I have you to carry me? It is much pleasanter to ride than to walk. You must carry me wherever I want to go.’

“And since that time the horse has always been a servant of the man.

“But now, O King,” said Reynard, “all these jewels are lost. My wife and I wanted you to have them. We went and got them out of the cave, but Billy stole them. Then he killed Bunny, so he could not tell who stole them.

“Now if you will let me go, I will hunt through all the world until I find the jewels. Then I will bring them to you myself. I will not trust anyone to bring them. He would steal them or keep them for himself.”

CHAPTER XIII

WHAT BRUIN AND THE WOLF SAID

DO not let him go, O King,” said the Wolf. “If you allow him to go away from here, you will never see him again. He will not be foolish enough to fall into your hands if he gets away this time.”

“No, do not let him go,” said Bruin. “Reynard tells lies so he can get away. Why do you believe him? Let me tell you what he did to my wife.”

All listened to hear what the Bear would say. Then the Bear said:

“In the winter we had nothing to eat for many days, so Reynard told my wife that he would teach her to catch fish.

“He showed her how to cut a hole in the ice on a river. Then he told her to put her tail down into the water. He told her to wait for a long time and sit very still. Then when she pulled her tail out of the water it would be covered with fish.

“She was silly enough to believe what the lying fox said, and she made a hole in the ice and waited a long time. But when she tried to



pull her tail out of the water, it was frozen fast in the ice.

"She called to Reynard to pull her away from the ice, but he only ran away and laughed. Then she called to me, and I ran to help her. But the men of the village also heard her call, and they came with clubs and tried to kill us.

"I took hold of my wife and pulled and pulled. At last she got away, but she left a part of her tail in the ice."

Then the Wolf said, "O King, Reynard's tongue is false. No one is safe with him. I could not trust myself to go anywhere with him.

"There were two buckets in a well. One was tied at each end of the same cord. When one bucket went up, the other went down.

"One day Reynard got into one of the buckets and it immediately fell down to the bottom of the well. He splashed in the water and made a great noise in trying to get out. I heard the noise and ran to see what was the matter.

"What are you doing down there, Reynard?" I asked.

"I am catching fish!" said he. "Come down and help me."

"Are there many fish?" I asked.

"Oh, the well is full of them," he replied.

"You must come down to help me. I cannot catch all of them alone."

"How can I come down?" I asked.

"Jump into the bucket up there," said he, "and you will be here in a minute."

"I was foolish enough to do as he said. I was heavier than he was. So the bucket I was in fell to the bottom of the well, and the bucket he was in went up to the top. Then he jumped out of the bucket and ran away.

"I called after him, 'Do not leave me down here.'"

"But he only said, 'That is the way of the world. When one goes up, another goes down.'"

"I remained there in the well for a whole day. I was cold and hungry. I almost drowned, but I could not get out of the well.

"At last a man came to draw water. He drew the bucket up to the top of the well. When he saw me in it, he was angry. He gave me so many hard blows that it is a wonder I was not killed. I never have dared to go near a well since."





## CHAPTER XIV

## REYNARD TRIES TO EXCUSE HIMSELF

THEN Reynard said:

"Puss complains because she was caught in a trap and says that I hurt her. Let me tell you what she did to my father.

"She asked him to go to hunt with her. They agreed that if either was in danger the other would help. Things went along well for a time.

"One day several hunters with dogs came after them. Puss ran up a tree and hid among the branches. My father ran this way and that way, but soon the dogs caught him and bit him terribly. He called for Puss to come and help him, but she only replied, 'I am safe enough here, but I can't help you. You'll have to look out for yourself. You can't expect me to help you.'"

Reynard also said, "The Wolf blames me because he gets into trouble. But it is his own fault.

"Once the Wolf and I went to look for something to eat. Soon we came to a deep hole. We heard something moving in the hole, and won-

dered what it could be. The Wolf was afraid to go in and see who was in the hole. So I went in and saw a great ugly Ape with five young ones beside her. I was frightened almost out of my wits, but I said:

"Dear Aunt, I have come to visit you. How are my little cousins? They are the prettiest children I have seen for many a day.'

"Thank you,' said the Ape, 'they are well. Come and see them and eat supper with us.'

"So they gave me many good things to eat. Then I thanked them for being so kind to me and went back to the Wolf.

"I told the Wolf what I had found. I said to him:

"Speak kindly to the Ape, and she will give you a fine supper.'

"He promised to do as I said. Then he went into the hole. When he came to the Ape, he looked at her children and said:

"Are these goblins your children? They are too ugly to live. Drown them before anyone sees them!'

"They are my children,' said the Ape. 'I like them well enough. Nobody has asked you to like them. You needn't look at them unless you want to. Go out of this hole before I scratch your eyes out!'



“‘Give me something to eat first,’ said the Wolf. ‘Then I will go away and not trouble you again. I am very hungry.’

“But the Ape and her young ones were angry. They bit the Wolf and scratched him until he howled with pain. When he came out of the hole he was almost dead. Was I to blame for that? He would not do as I told him.

“Do you remember the time you praised me?” asked Reynard.

“Once upon a time you and the Donkey and I went to hunt together. We agreed to share all the game we might catch.

“In the evening we three hunters met at the edge of the forest. Some brought one kind of game, and some brought other kinds. You, O King, said it was time for supper. You asked the Donkey to divide the game.

“So the Donkey made three equal heaps of the animals that had been killed. Then he asked each of the others to step up and choose his heap. That made you very angry. You sprang upon the Donkey and killed him.

“Then you said, ‘Friend Fox, now there are only two of us. See how well you can divide the supper.’

“So I put almost all of the game into one great heap before you. I kept only a little for

myself. I wanted you to have more than anyone else. You were pleased at this, and said, ‘Friend Fox, who taught you to divide so well?’

“‘That dead Donkey taught me,’ said I.”





## CHAPTER XV

### THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE FOX AND THE WOLF

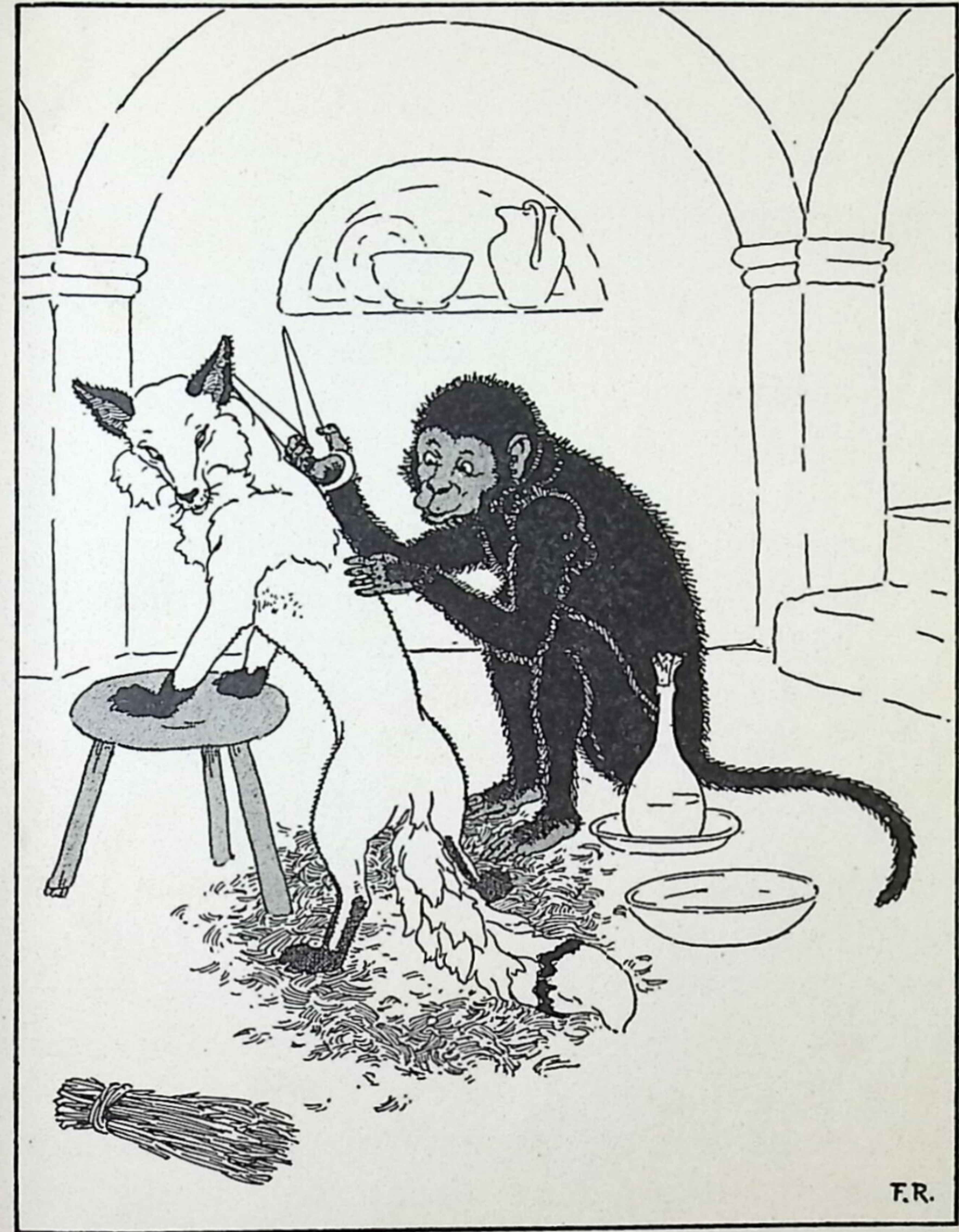
AT last the Wolf said, "O King, Reynard speaks cunning words. No one is able to match him. Now I will dare him to fight me here before you. If I win, he will be guilty. If I do not win, then he will not be guilty."

When Reynard heard this, he was afraid. He was small and weak, and the Wolf was large and strong. He did not think he should be able to fight against him. He wanted to run away. But he looked boldly at the King, and said:

"My dear King, I will fight this cruel Wolf and I will beat him, too, I shall beat him because I am good and he is wicked."

"All right, then, Reynard," said the King. "Be ready to fight tomorrow morning. If you win the fight, you shall be free. If you do not win, you shall die."

That night Reynard went to visit his aunt, the Ape. He asked her to help him, so she took her shears and cut off all his hair, so the Wolf



THE APE TOOK HER SHEARS AND CUT OFF ALL REYNARD'S HAIR



would not have any way to hold him. Then she poured oil all over him. She said:

"You are so slippery now that the Wolf cannot hold you, and you have no hair for him to hold to. Keep your tail between your legs so the Wolf cannot catch hold of it. When he runs after you, brush up the dust with your tail so it will go into his eyes. You can run faster than he can, so keep him running and you will soon tire him."

Reynard thanked the Ape, and then lay down and slept under a tree all night. When morning came the Ape brought him a fat duck for his breakfast.

The Wolf was so sure he would win the fight that he lay down and slept until morning. He did not ask anyone to help him. He thought he would win because he was so big and strong.

When the King saw Reynard with all of his hair cut off, he said:

"Well, Fox, I see you care more for your safety than you do for your looks. You may win the fight, after all."

Reynard did not say anything, but the Wolf went around bragging about the way he was going to fight Reynard. The Ape stood near Reynard, and kept telling him that when he was only a few years old he was brave enough

to go through the woods at night without a candle or a lantern or the light of the moon. So he must not be afraid now.

"Fight so your family will be proud of you," she said, as Reynard ran toward the Wolf.

The Wolf ran toward the Fox and tried to seize him, but Reynard leaped aside and threw dust into his eyes. Then the Wolf could hardly see, but he caught Reynard and tried to bite him. But the Fox was so slippery that he quickly got away.

When the Wolf stopped to wipe the dust out of his eyes, Reynard grabbed hold of his hind legs and dragged him along the ground.

Everyone thought the Wolf had won the fight, but he suddenly leaped up. Then he struck the Fox a terrible blow with his paw. Reynard fell down and lay quite still. Everyone thought he was dead. So the King said:

"Wolf, you have won the fight. Reynard is guilty. He must be hanged. We shall not allow him to live."

Just then Reynard began to move. Soon he was able to stand up. The Queen asked the King to pardon Reynard, and so let him go.

"Go home, Reynard," said the King, "and be good. You are lucky to get away alive. You are a bad fox. You always have been bad. I



hope you will try to be better. If you harm any of the animals I shall drive you out of the forest. I shall not allow you to live here."

Reynard promised to be good. He thanked the King and then ran away.

Reynard never looked back. He hurried home as fast as he could run. Not one of the animals went with him. Not one said good-by to him. The Badger had always been his friend, but he did not wish to go with Reynard now. Reynard noticed this, and said:

"All of my friends are false friends. They leave me when trouble comes. I do not want such friends."

When Reynard came to his house, his wife and children hardly knew him. He looked so strange without his hair. They were glad he was safe and they were satisfied. He had been away so long, they were afraid someone had harmed him. They were afraid the King had killed him, or locked him in the prison.

Soon supper was ready. Then they all sat down to eat. While they were eating, Reynard's wife said:

"Reynard, tell us about your friend, the King."

"He is well," said Reynard.

But he did not say anything about his fight

with the Wolf. He did not tell why his hair was so short. He was ashamed to tell what had happened to him. He made believe he was sleepy and did not care to talk. He ate a little supper and went to bed early.

The next day Reynard had a cold. He could not eat anything. He was not able to walk. He had to lie in bed, so his wife sent for the doctor.

Soon Doctor Quack, the Duck, came with his bag of pills. He was afraid to trust Reynard, so he brought the Dog with him. He was afraid Reynard might be playing a trick.

Doctor Quack felt Reynard's pulse. He looked at his tongue. Then he said, "Reynard has caught a cold because Mrs. Ape cut his hair too short. He must stay in bed until his hair grows long again."

So Reynard lay in bed for many days. His wife and children cared for him. They gave him the pills that the doctor left. They covered him with blankets to keep him warm. They gave him cold water to drink.

Day after day Reynard grew worse and worse. At last he died, but just before he died he said he was sorry he had been such a bad fox. He hoped his children would grow up to be good foxes.

Reynard's wife and children and all the foxes



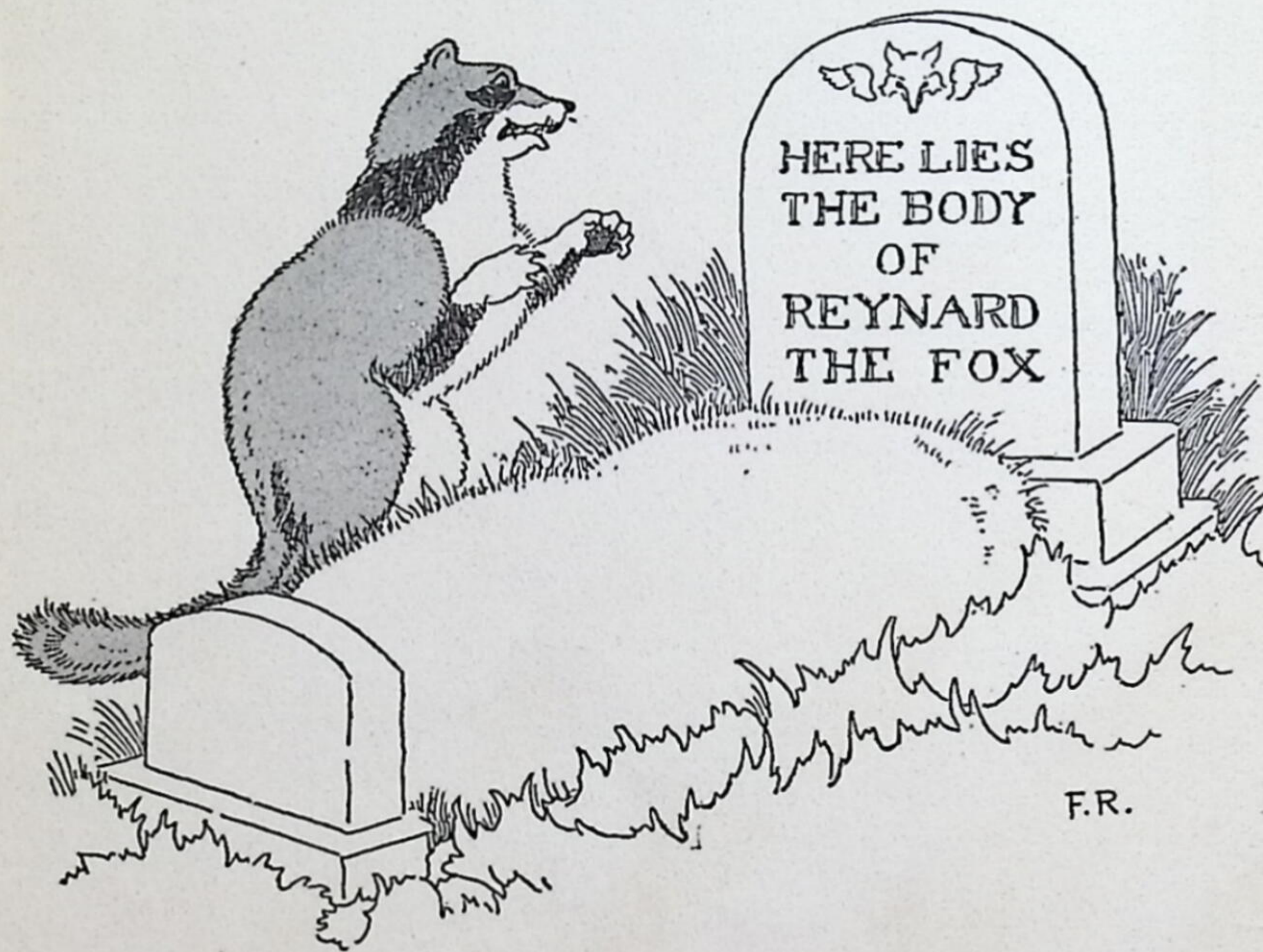
## REYNARD THE FOX

---

and the badgers buried him on a lonely hill near the woods. There they set up a stone, to mark the grave, and on the stone they wrote:

Here Lies  
the Body  
of  
Reynard  
the Fox.

And there the stone stands to this very day.



F.R.



