



the SPEEDY SLOTH

REBECCA YOUNG
HEATH MCKENZIE



FOR SHELBY . . . ALL GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME. – RY

FOR AVA AND OSCAR, MORNING SLOTHS! – HM

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the **SPEEDY SLOTH**



REBECCA YOUNG HEATH McKENZIE

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It was finally time
for the event of the year,
Spike couldn't believe it—
THE GREAT RACE
was here!

The other sloths said
it couldn't be done . . .



but Spike didn't care, she was ready to run!

See, Spike likes to think that hard work pays,
so she'd been in the gym for the last seven days.



She checked her laces and prepared to soar,
her mum wished her luck as she jogged out the door.



'Be back for dinner—
you'd better be ready!
I'm cooking your favourite,'
she called out,

'SPAGHETTI!'





The others looked fit,
the others looked quicker,
they looked at the sloth
and tried not to snicker.

The racers lined up . . .

then the starting horn **BLEW!**
Spike took off *fast*—
her furry feet flew!

She bolted like lightning,
she practically soared!

There was no sloth who'd ever
run faster before.



She sprinted so fast,
she was all but a blur
of speed and technique
and sweaty **SLOTH** fur.



SNAIL overtook her—
but that guy was a beast!
As fast as a racecar,
or pushbike, at least!



In fact, Spike was trailing

a **LORIS**,

a **GRUB**,



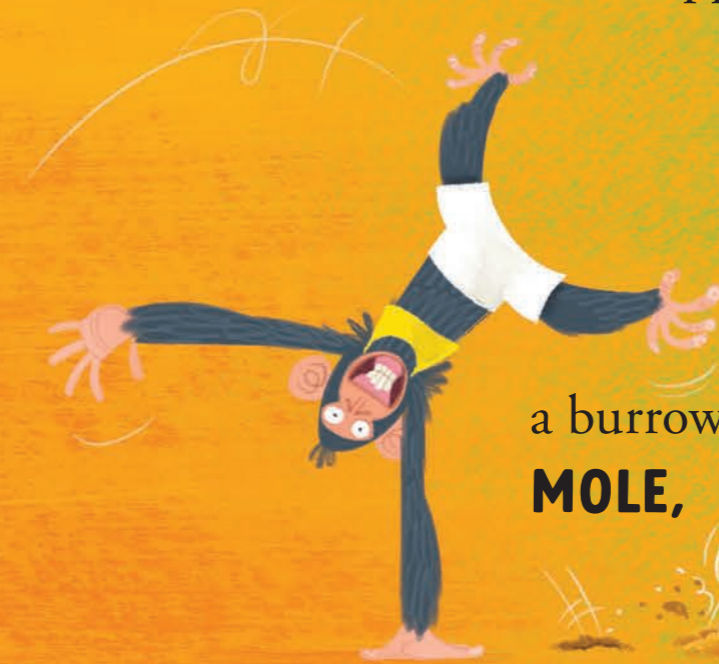
a **HARE** and a **TORTOISE**,

a mischievous
CUB . . .





A moonwalking **MEERKAT**,



a **CHIMP** who loves flipping,

a burrowing
MOLE,



a **GIRAFFE** prone
to tripping . . .



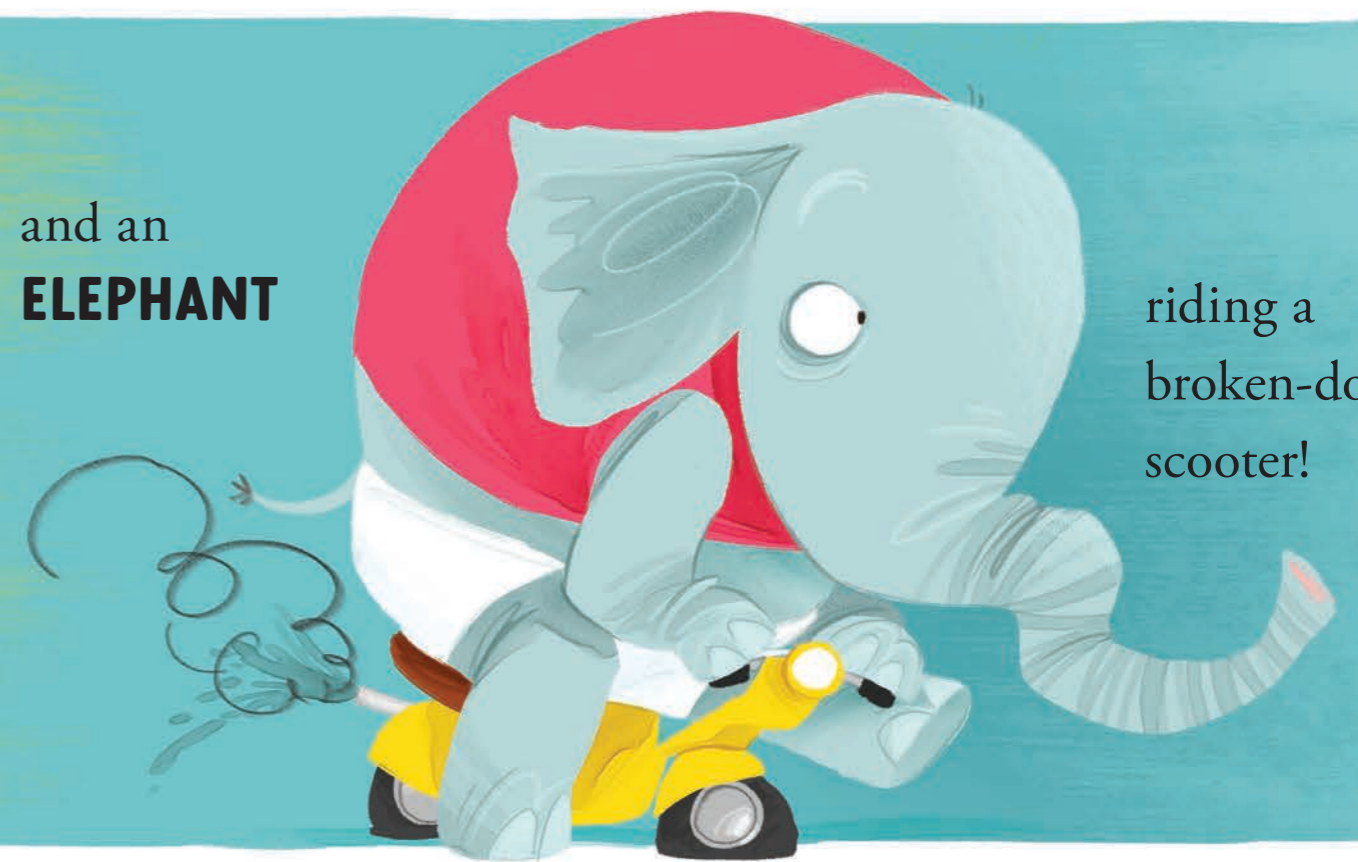
An old **ARMADILLO**,



a daydreaming **COUGAR**



and an
ELEPHANT



riding a
broken-down
scooter!

All that remained was **PETER THE CHEETAH . . .**

who bolted ahead, shouting,

**'HAHA!
I BEAT YA!'**



Spike was exhausted, she had to admit.
But she'd come so far, there was **NO WAY** she'd quit.



It was there, she could see it—
a fallen-down sign!

She grinned and leapt over . . .

...THE FINISHING LINE!

The other sloths gasped,
they reeled back, unsteady.

‘Look there, it’s Spike!’

‘She’s back *already?*’



Yes, Spike was slow, but for a sloth she was fast.
And yes, it is true that *this* sloth came last.

But Spike didn't care,
she was a

WINNER!





And she'd made it back home
in time for her dinner!

It was finally time for the event of the year,
Spike couldn't believe it—

THE GREAT RACE WAS HERE!

The other sloths said it couldn't be done,
but Spike didn't care, she was ready to run!



FROM AWARD-WINNING CREATORS REBECCA YOUNG
AND HEATH McKENZIE, COMES THIS INSPIRING STORY TO CELEBRATE
ALL WINNERS . . . ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO DON'T COME FIRST.

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