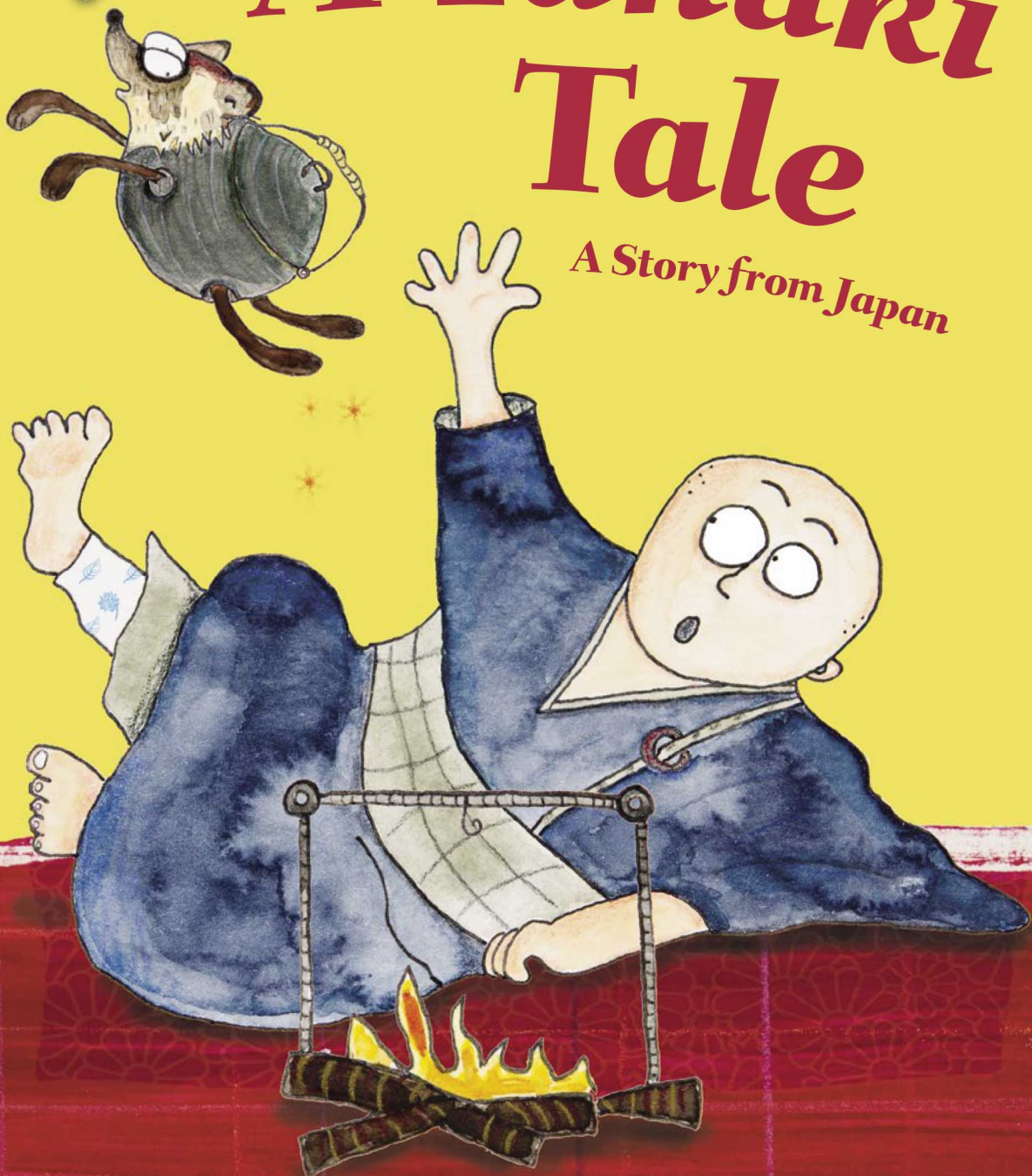


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# A Tanuki Tale

*A Story from Japan*



Retold by George Ivanoff  
Illustrated by Katrin Dreiling

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## A Story from Japan



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For Review Only

# Chapter 1

## The Kind Junkman



Long ago, there was a young man named Jinbei. People called him Junkman because he travelled around the Japanese countryside collecting old, unwanted things. He would bring them home, clean them up and then try to sell them.

Unfortunately, Jinbei was not very good at his job. He collected a lot of things that nobody wanted, so few people bought his junk and he was very poor.

One day, Jinbei was pulling his cart, loaded with junk, along a forest path. The path led to a Buddhist temple. As he walked, Jinbei heard a sad cry.

He stopped and peered into the forest, where he saw an animal with the head of a raccoon and the body of a dog. It was a tanuki – a Japanese raccoon dog!

The tanuki cried a mournful wail as it struggled to free itself from a rope that had snagged its foot.

Jinbei was a kind man, so he decided to help. He untangled the rope from around the animal's foot, and the tanuki limped off into the forest.

Jinbei continued on his way.



Jinbei did not get far before he saw the oldest monk from the temple walking towards him.

“Hey, you, Junkman!” the monk snapped at Jinbei. “I need a new kettle to boil water for my tea. Have you got a kettle to sell me?”

Jinbei searched through his junk, but there was no kettle.

“What kind of a junkman are you?” demanded the monk. “If you find a kettle, bring it to me immediately.”



The monk walked on.

Just then, Jinbei heard a strange sound from the trees and then a rattle in the back of his cart. He checked the cart but saw nothing unusual, so he continued on his way.

He returned home late in the evening and unpacked his cart. To his great surprise, he found an old kettle among the junk.

“That’s funny,” thought Jinbei. He had no memory of collecting a kettle.



# Chapter 2

## The Magic Kettle



Jinbei was polishing the dirty kettle with a cloth when, suddenly, it began to shudder in his hands. Jinbei stared at it with the greatest surprise, and when the kettle started to giggle, Jinbei dropped it in shock.

*POP! POP!*

Two furry legs sprang from the bottom of the kettle as it landed on the floor.

*POP! POP!*