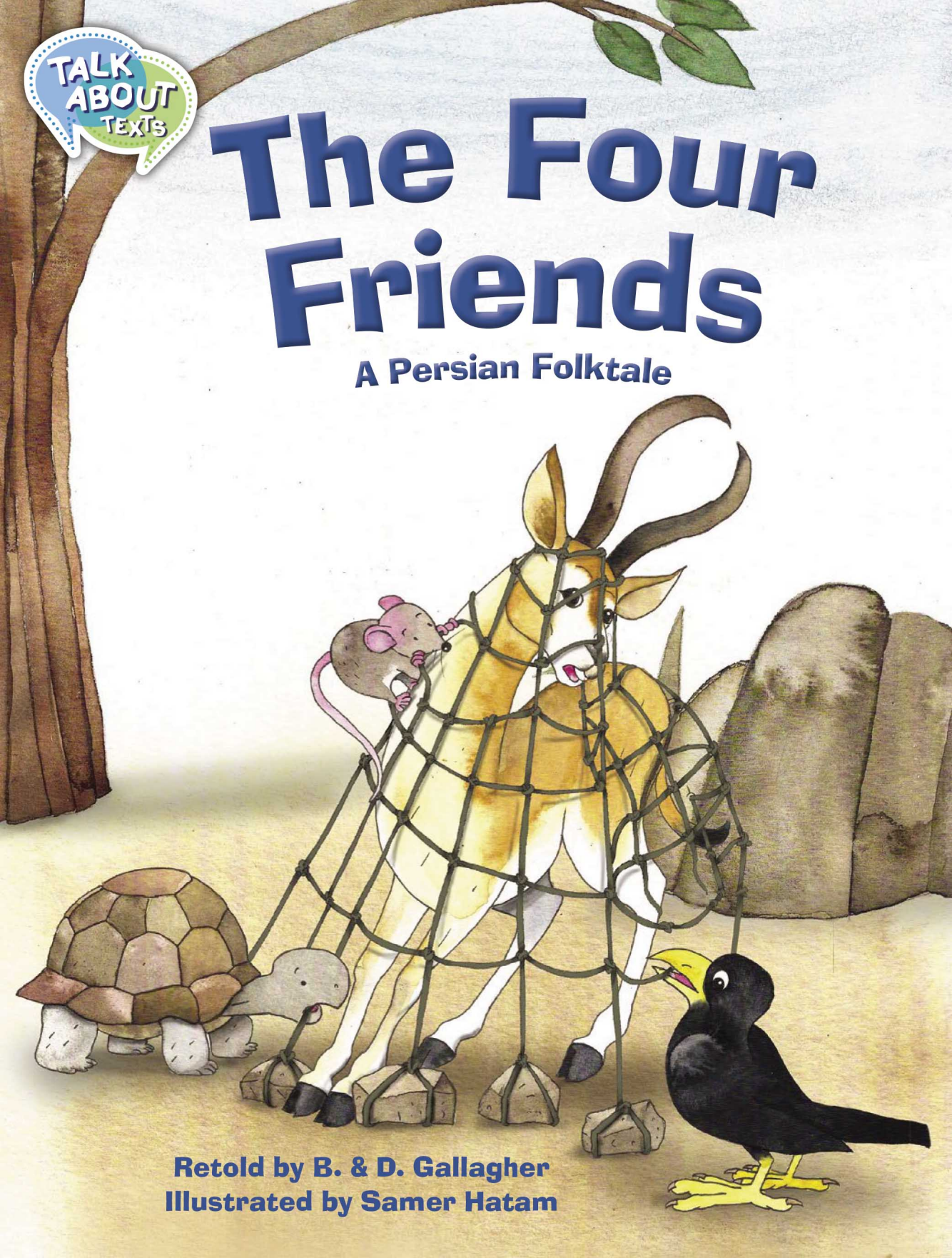
TALK ABOUT TEXTS

The Four Friends

A Persian Folktale



Retold by B. & D. Gallagher
Illustrated by Samer Hatam

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A Persian Folktale



For Review Only

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macmillan education

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Chapter 1

The Watchful Crow



This story about a crow, a mouse, a tortoise and a gazelle is a popular folktale in the Middle East. It was first written down in Persian, about 1500 years ago.

The story takes place in a forest where animals live, but where there are also hunters. Despite their differences, the four animals must learn to work together.

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A crow stood on the branch of an old tree, watching as a hunter placed a net on the ground. The hunter carefully covered the net with dirt and scattered some seeds on top of it. Then he hid behind some bushes and waited.

"I'm going to keep an eye on this hunter," Crow thought to herself.

Before too long, some small, white doves landed on the net and began pecking at the seeds. They were so happy to find the seeds that they did not notice the hunter.

Suddenly, the net sprang up and over them, trapping them inside it. Crow gasped in horror.

The doves panicked and flapped around in all different directions, trying to escape the net.

"Stop!" called one of the doves. "If we all fly up together, we can lift the net into the air and escape from the hunter."

The birds did as she said, and up they flew, still covered by the net.

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The hunter lost his grip on the rope that was attached to the net. He jumped up and rushed towards the net, but it was too late. The birds were beyond reach, flying away from him. And they had taken his net with them, tangled up in their legs.

The hunter was very disappointed. He stomped off angrily into the forest.

"How are the doves going to get out of that net?" Crow wondered. She flew after them and followed the doves until they landed beside a small log.



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Chapter 2

The Clever Mouse



"Mouse," one of the doves called out.

A mouse popped his head out of a hole in the small log. "Yes? What is your disaster?" he asked, blinking in the bright sunlight.

"We need your help," one of the doves explained carefully. "Something terrible has happened. We're trapped in this hunter's net."

"Not for long, my friends," the clever mouse told them.

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The mouse set about gnawing the strings of the net. The doves were nervous and looked around anxiously for the hunter, but the mouse was quick.

Before long, he had chewed a hole in the net. "You're free!" he cried out, triumphantly.

The doves were so happy. They pushed through the tangled strings of the net and flew up into the sky.

"You are a true friend! Thank you so much for helping us," the doves cooed, before flying away.



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