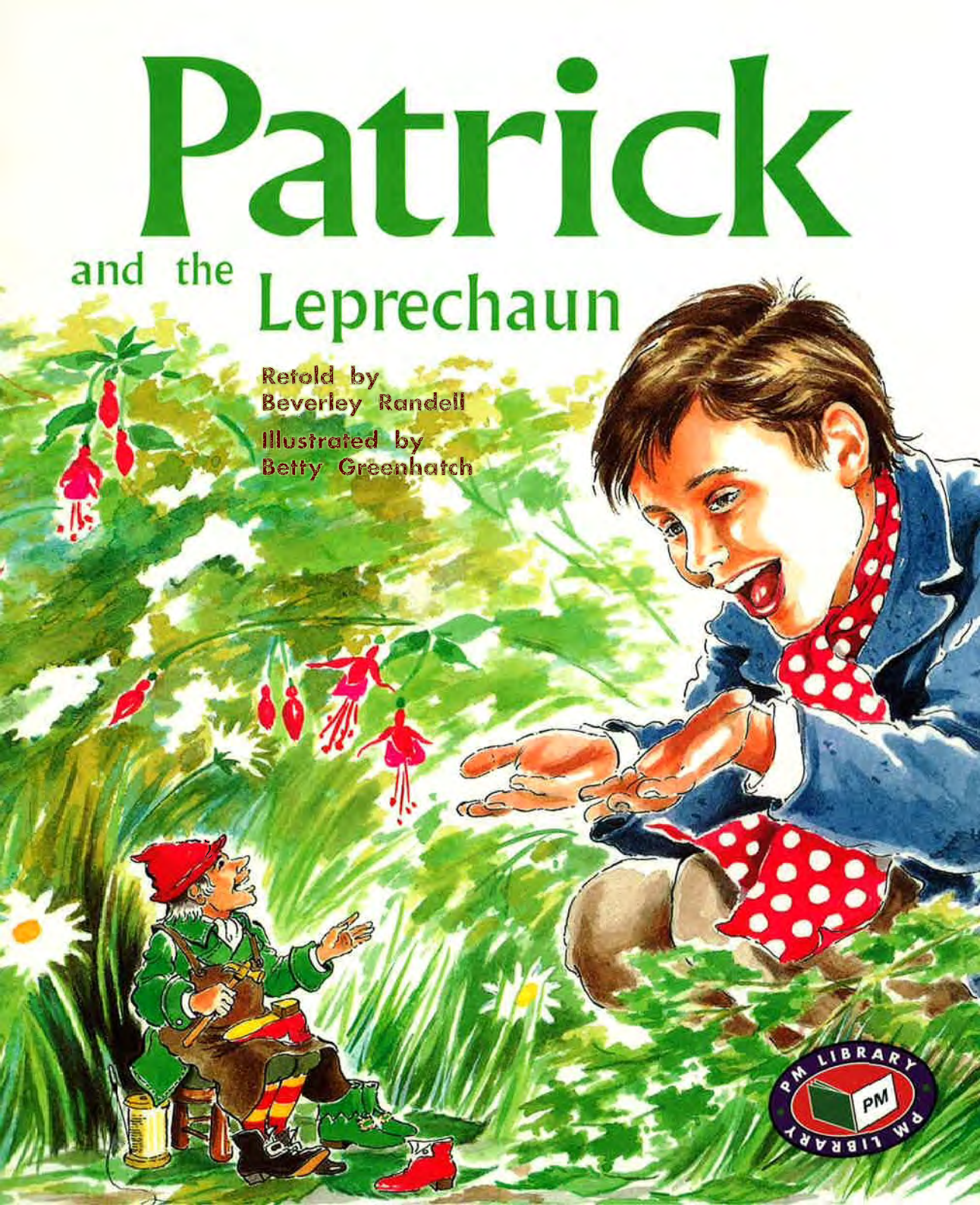
Patrick and the Leprechaun

Retold by
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Illustrated by
Betty Greenhatch



Once upon a time,
far away in the west of Ireland,
a boy called Patrick lived on a farm.

When the work was done for the day
his father would sit by the fire
and tell stories.
Patrick and his sisters
loved hearing about leprechauns.

"Leprechauns are tiny shoemakers,"
their father told them.
"They all own pots of gold.
If you ever find a leprechaun,
you can ask him to give you some gold,
but he will always try to trick you."

"How?" asked Patrick.

"In all sorts of ways," said his father.
"If you take your eyes off a leprechaun
he will disappear into thin air."

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"I wouldn't let a leprechaun trick me,"
Patrick told everyone.
"I'd keep watching him.
I'd make him give me some of his gold."



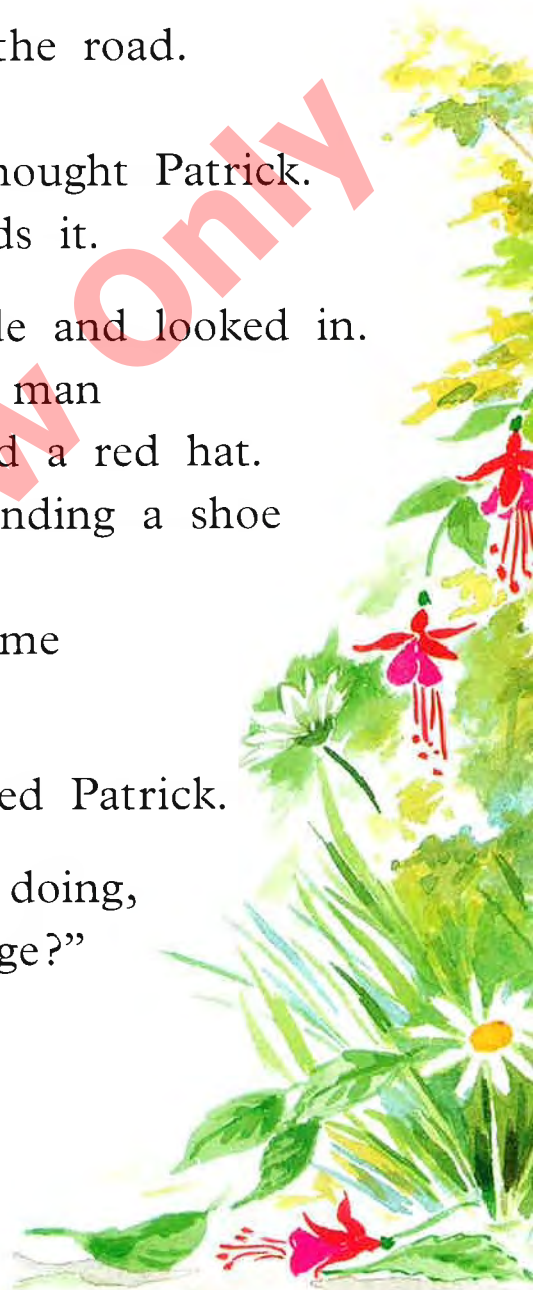
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One afternoon, Patrick heard a noise,
tap tap tap, tap tap tap,
coming from the side of the road.
"It seems to be coming
from inside the hedge," thought Patrick.
So he crept quietly towards it.

He pushed the leaves aside and looked in.
And there he saw a little man
wearing a green jacket and a red hat.
He was hard at work, mending a shoe
no bigger than a thumb.
The tapping noise had come
from his tiny hammer.

"A real leprechaun!" gasped Patrick.

"And what might you be doing,
poking around in my hedge?"
asked the leprechaun.



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"If you please," said Patrick,
"I want you to show me where you keep your pot of gold."

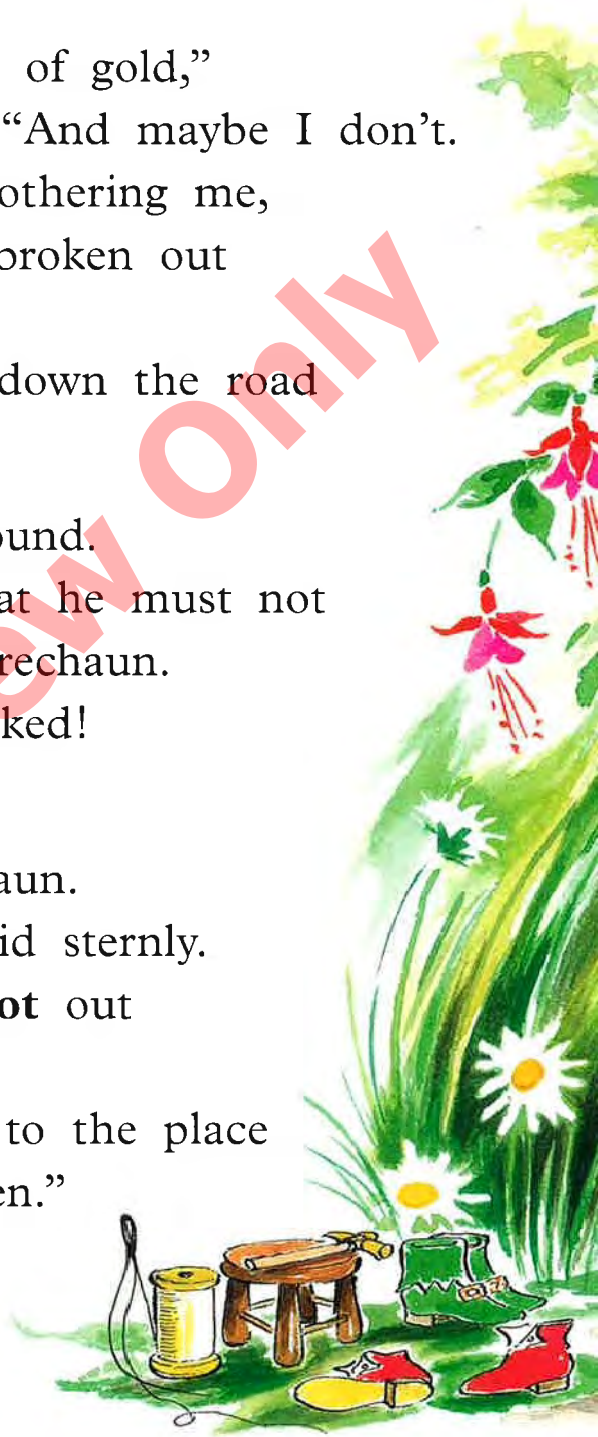


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"Maybe I do have a pot of gold,"
replied the leprechaun. "And maybe I don't.
But while you've been bothering me,
your father's cows have broken out
of the field.
There they are, coming down the road
behind you."

Patrick nearly turned around.
Then he remembered that he must not
take his eyes off the leprechaun.
He had almost been tricked!

Patrick reached down
and grabbed the leprechaun.
"No more tricks!" he said sternly.
"My father's cows are **not** out
on the road.
Now you must take me to the place
where your gold is hidden."



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