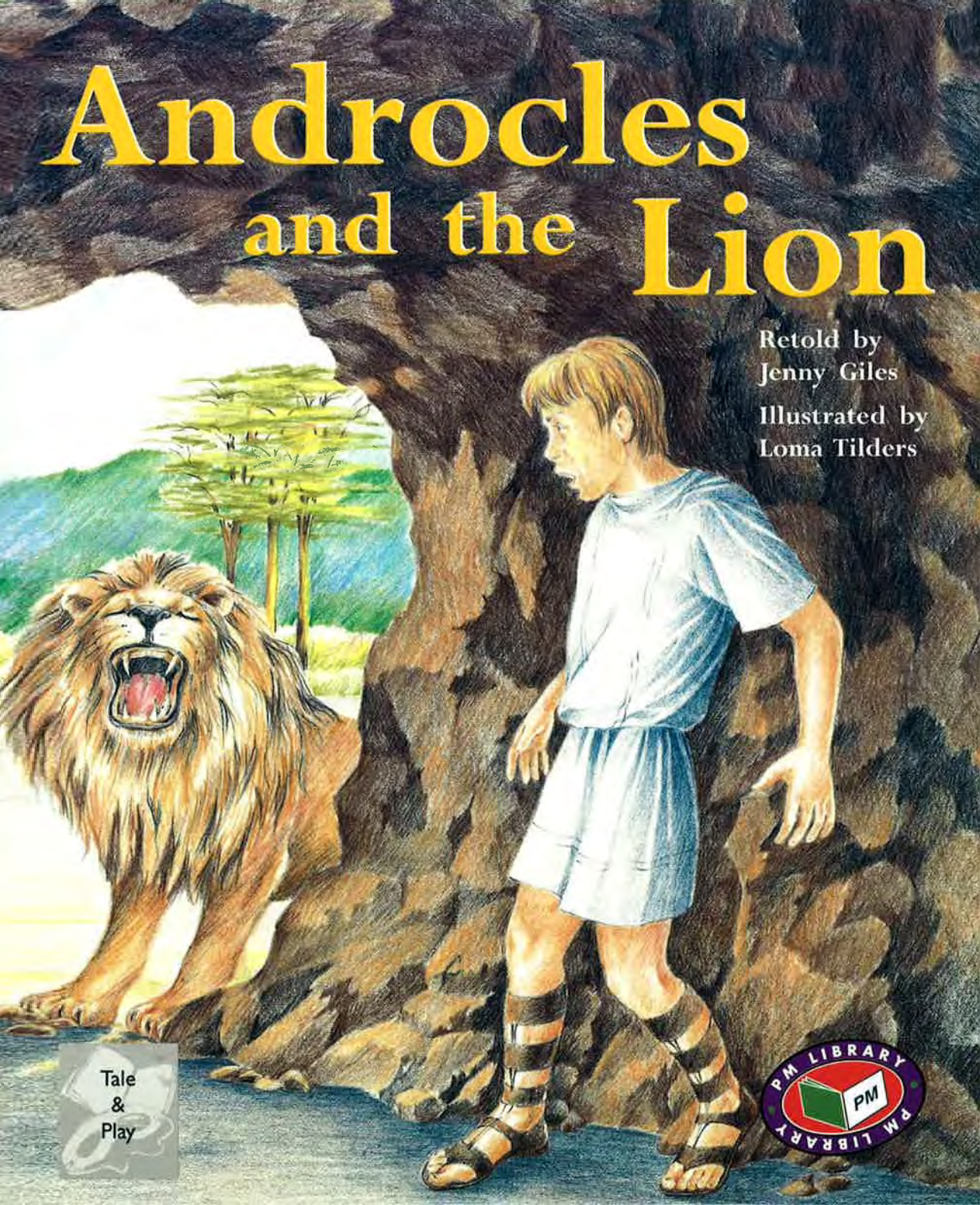
Androcles and the Lion

Retold by
Jenny Giles

Illustrated by
Loma Tilders



Tale & Play

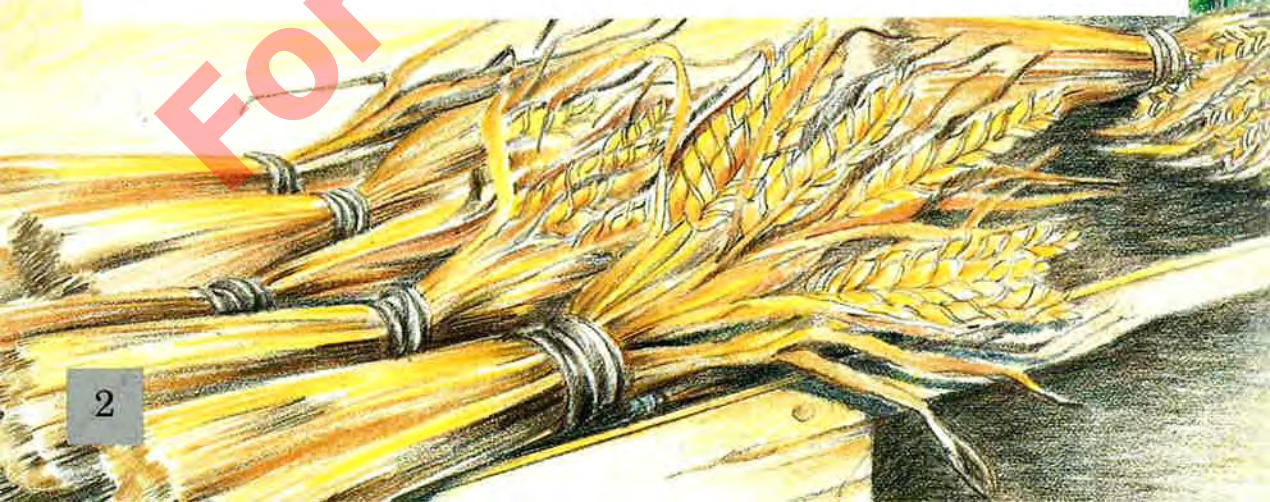
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Long, long ago, a wealthy landowner lived near the city of Rome. He had many slaves, and one of them was a man called Androcles.

Androcles and some of the other slaves had to work hard in the fields all day long. Their master was very cruel, and they were given little to eat or drink. If they stopped to rest, for even a short time, they were shouted at, and lashed with whips.

Although Androcles had been treated roughly all his life, he was still a gentle man. He took good care of his master's horses, and was always kind to the mice and rabbits and birds who lived in the fields.

Animals trusted him.



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After some years, Androcles' master sailed to Africa, taking many of his slaves with him. Androcles was among them and, when he arrived in Africa, he was made to work even harder than before. He was always hot and tired and hungry.

One day, when his master had been even more cruel than usual, Androcles decided that he would leave, and never return. He knew that his life would be in danger if he were caught, so he planned his escape carefully.

He waited until there was a dark, cloudy night with no moon or stars. Then he crept away, and fled down the empty road.

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A play

Androcles and the Lion

People in the play



Reader



Lion



Androcles



Androcles' master



Slave



Emperor



Two guards



Two soldiers



Crowd

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Scene One — A farm near Rome

Reader

Long ago, a wealthy landowner lived near the city of Rome. He had many slaves, and one of them was a man called Androcles.

Androcles

I am tired of working in the fields with the other slaves day after day. Our master is always cruel to us. He gives us little to eat, and if we stop to have a rest, he whips us.

Reader

Although Androcles had been treated roughly all his life, he was still a gentle man. He took good care of his master's horses, and was always kind to the mice and rabbits and birds who lived in the fields. Animals trusted him.

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Slave

I am very tired, but if I stop to have a rest, our master will punish me.

Androcles

There must be some way we can escape.

Slave

I am too afraid to leave. If we were caught, we would be made to fight wild animals in the arena in Rome.

Androcles

You are right. But one day, I will escape.

Reader

Later that year, Androcles' master sailed to Africa, taking many of his slaves with him. Androcles was among them and, when he arrived in Africa, he was made to work even harder than before.

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