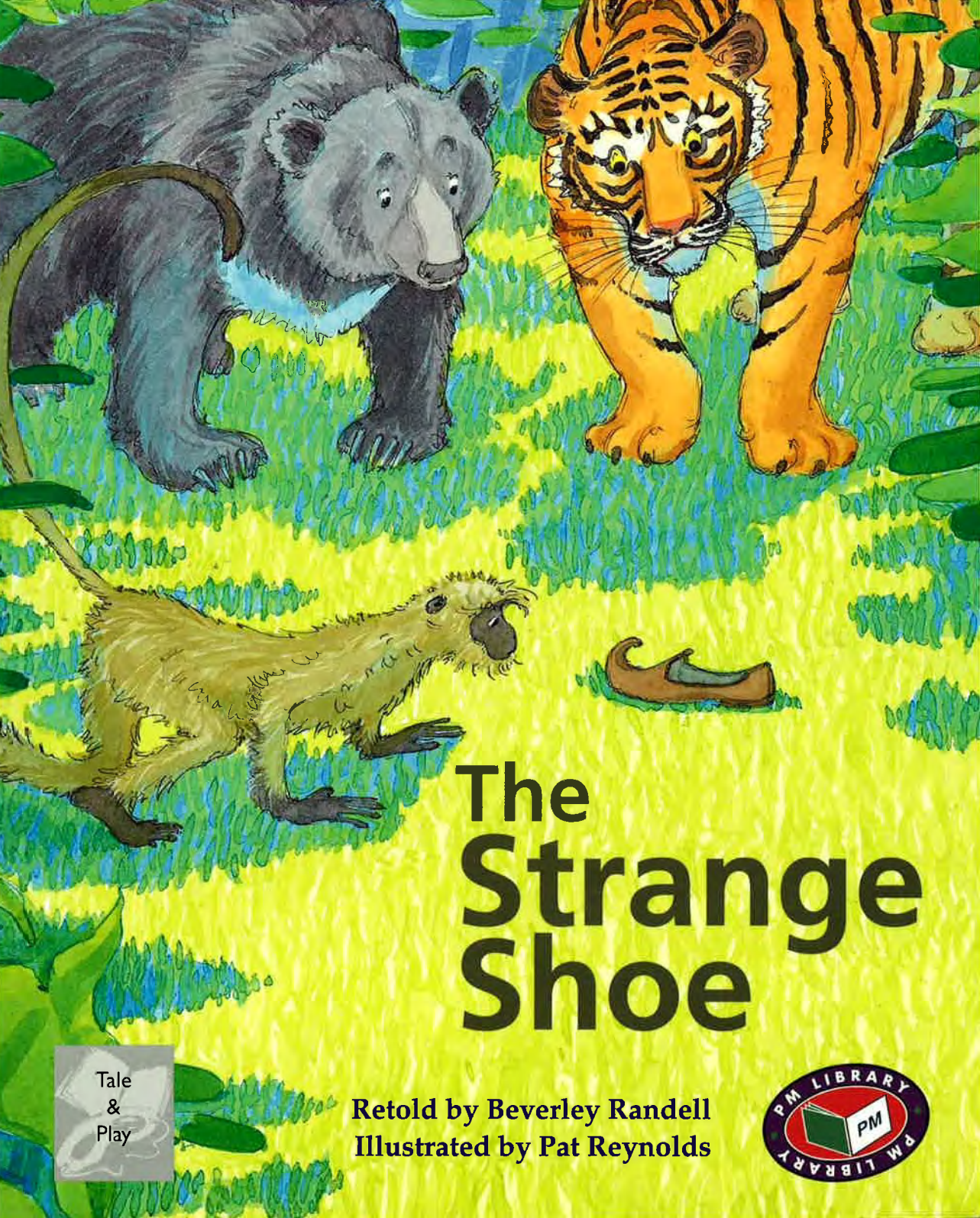


The Strange Shoe

Tale & Play

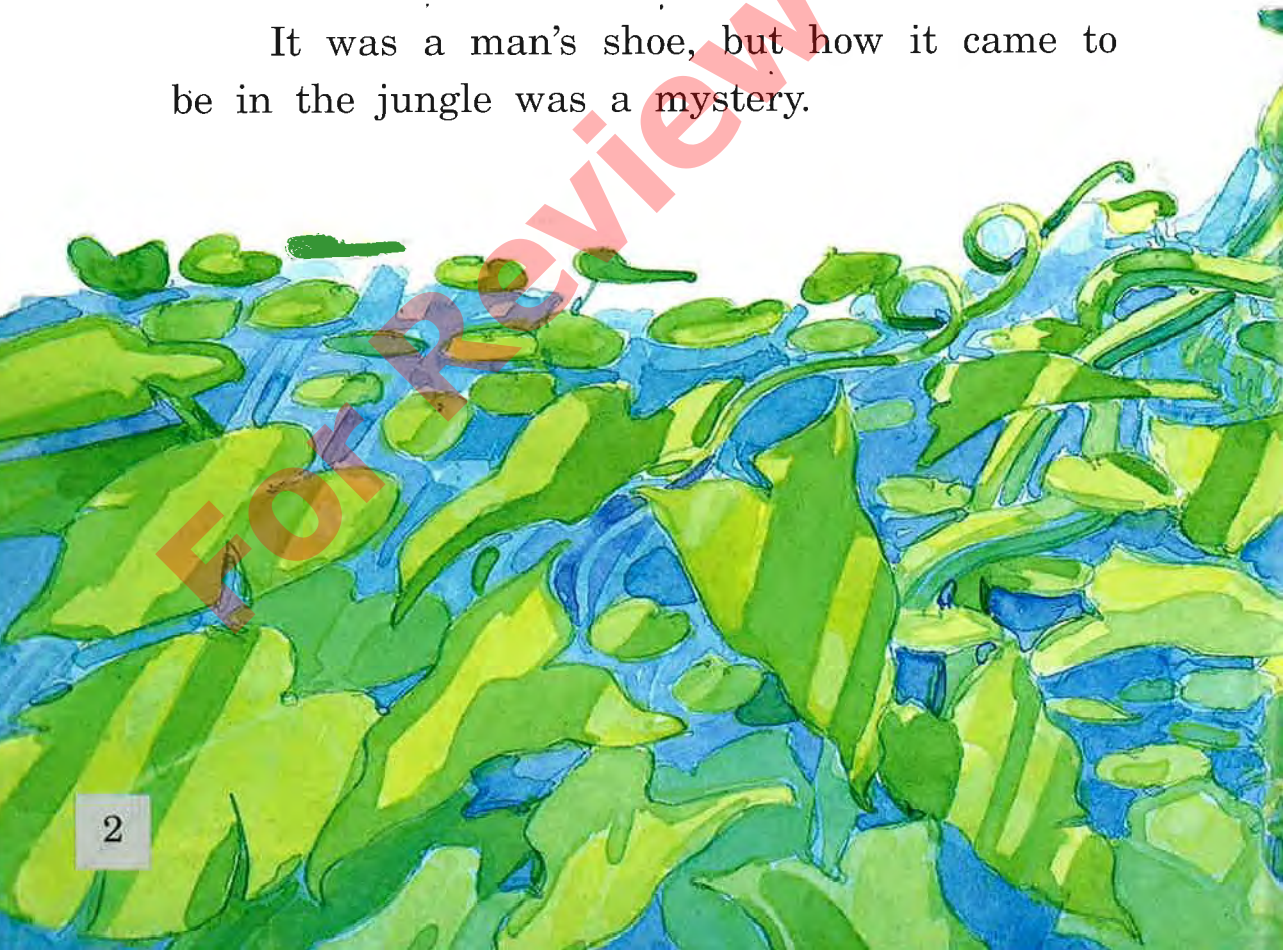
Retold by Beverley Randell
Illustrated by Pat Reynolds

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Once upon a time, some animals lived in a green Asian jungle, far, far away from the world of people. None of them had ever seen a man, or a woman, or a child.

One day, a large black bear came lumbering along a jungle path. She stopped when she saw something strange lying in a clearing. The black bear had no idea what it was.

It was a man's shoe, but how it came to be in the jungle was a mystery.



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The bear had never seen anything like a shoe before. She walked all around it, and sniffed at it with her long nose.

"It smells strange," she said. "It must be the tough skin of some fruit that I don't know about. It has turned brown, like an old banana skin."

While the bear was still smelling the shoe, a handsome tiger came prowling out of the long grass, and stopped to look.

The bear pushed the shoe towards the tiger. "This old brown skin smells strange," she said, "and I don't know what fruit it is. Can you tell me?"



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A play

The Strange Shoe

People in the play



Reader



Monkey



Bear



Deer



Tiger



Wolf



Owl

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Scene — A jungle clearing

Reader

Once upon a time, some animals lived in a green Asian jungle, far, far away from the world of people. None of them had ever seen a man, or a woman, or a child. So when they saw something strange lying in a clearing in the jungle, none of them knew that it was a man's shoe. The first animal to walk into the clearing was a large black bear.

Bear (sniffing at the shoe)

I've never seen anything like this before! It smells strange. It must be the tough skin of some fruit that I don't know about. It has turned brown, like an old banana skin.

Reader

Then a handsome tiger came prowling out of the long grass, and stopped to look.

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Bear (pushing the shoe towards the tiger)

This old brown skin smells strange, and I don't know what fruit it is. Can you tell me?

Tiger (rolling the shoe over and sniffing it)

I agree it smells odd, but it is nothing like a fruit. It smells too salty to be a fruit. I think it's a dried-up fish. Take a look at its shape!

Bear (taking the shoe back)

It does look rather like a fish, but it's not a fish, because it has no fins and no scales. It must be a sort of banana skin.

Reader

An inquisitive monkey dropped down from the branches, and scampered over to look.

Monkey

Let me see. No — you are both wrong. I eat a lot of nuts, and I can tell a nutshell when I see one.

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