

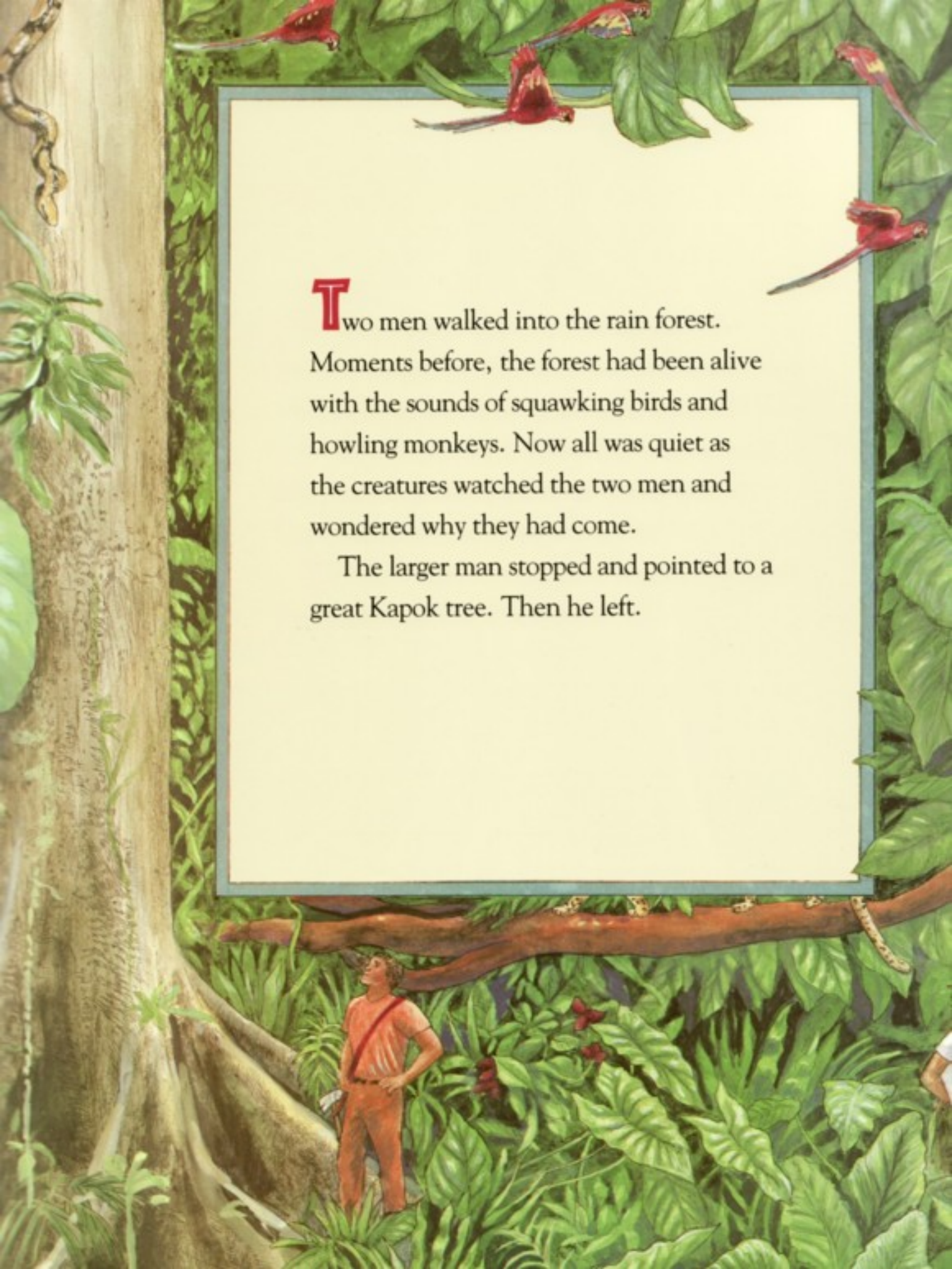


# THE GREAT KAPOK TREE

A TALE OF THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST

by Lynne Cherry

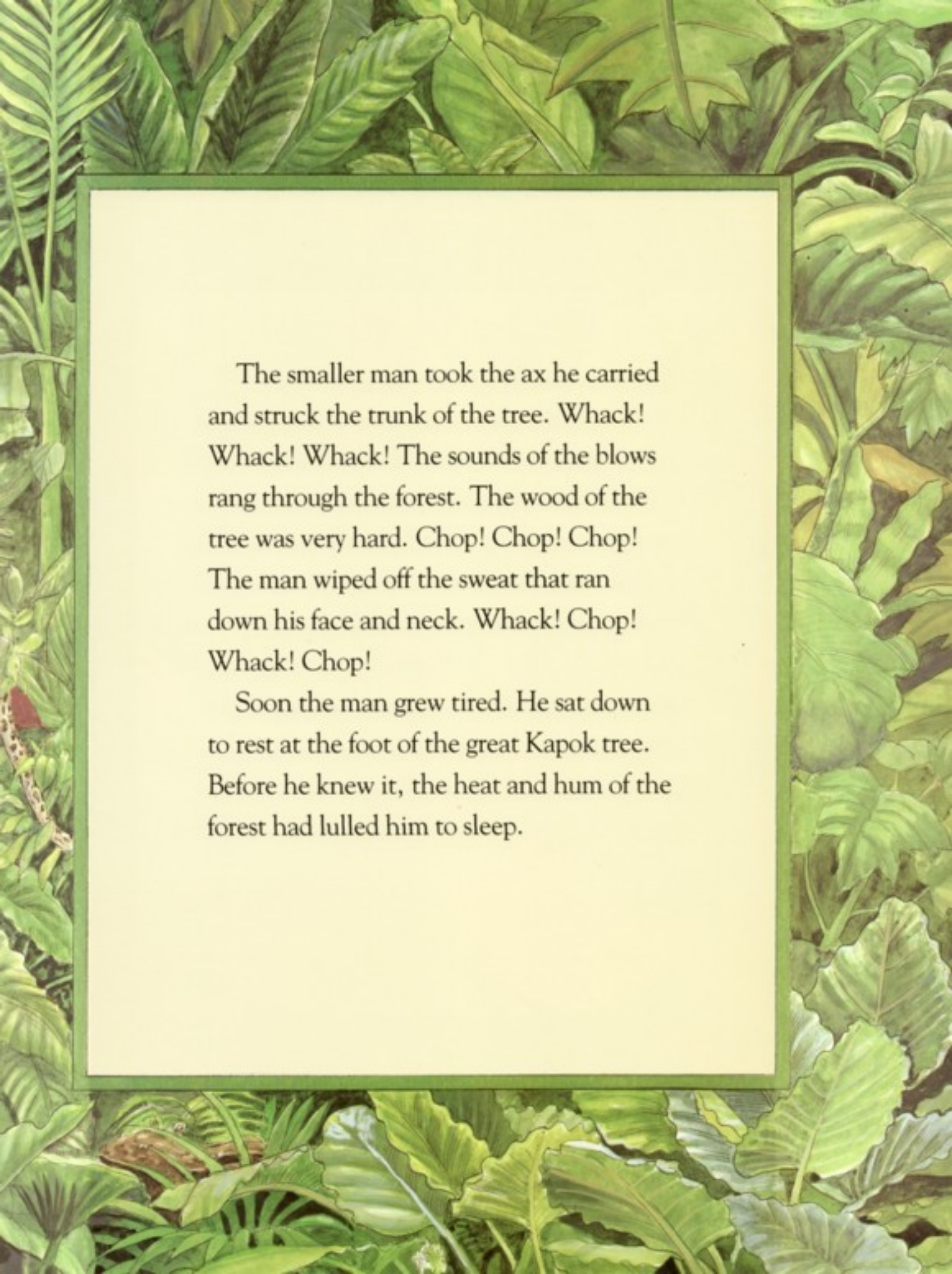




**T**wo men walked into the rain forest. Moments before, the forest had been alive with the sounds of squawking birds and howling monkeys. Now all was quiet as the creatures watched the two men and wondered why they had come.

The larger man stopped and pointed to a great Kapok tree. Then he left.

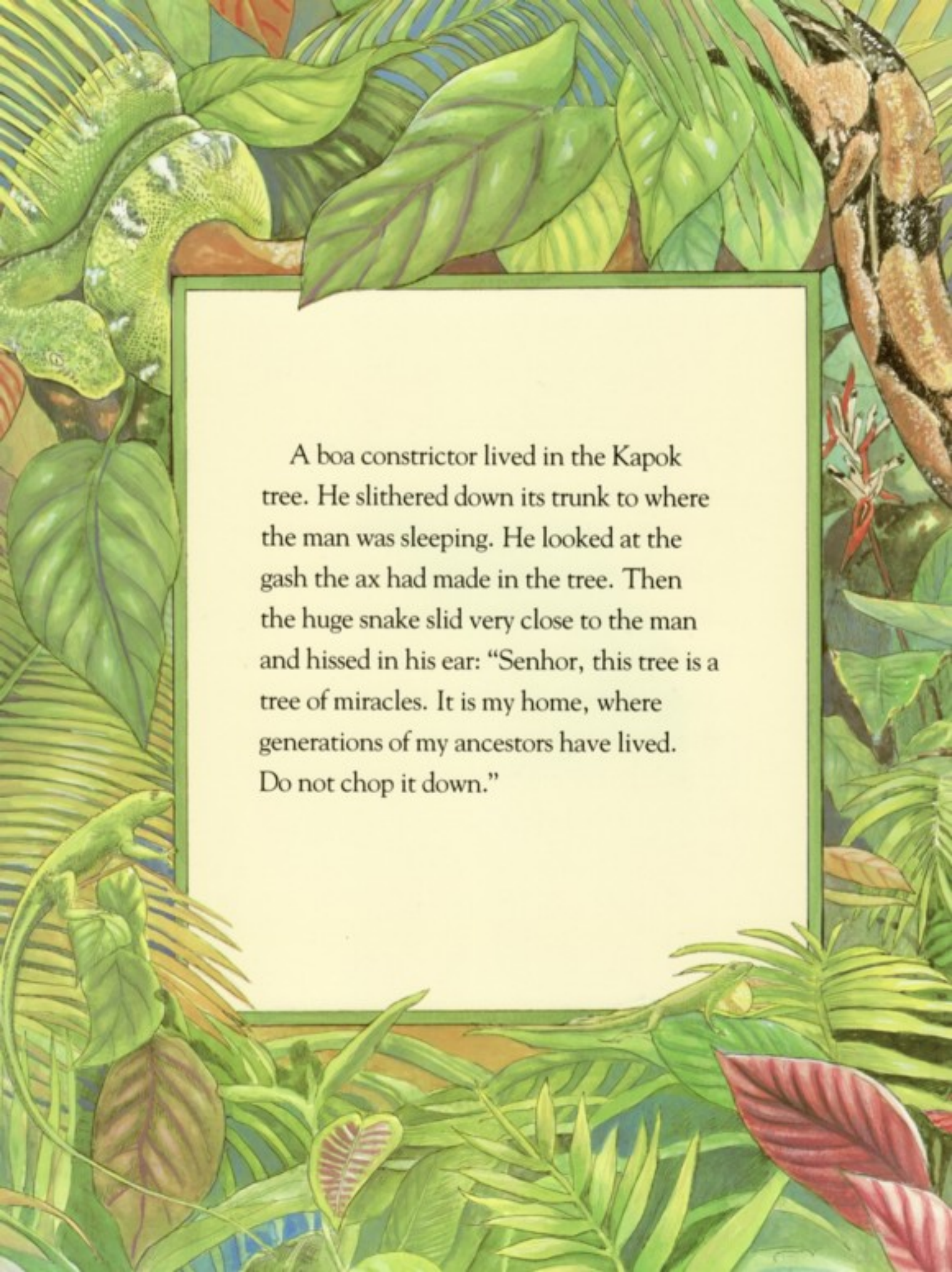




The smaller man took the ax he carried and struck the trunk of the tree. Whack! Whack! Whack! The sounds of the blows rang through the forest. The wood of the tree was very hard. Chop! Chop! Chop! The man wiped off the sweat that ran down his face and neck. Whack! Chop! Whack! Chop!

Soon the man grew tired. He sat down to rest at the foot of the great Kapok tree. Before he knew it, the heat and hum of the forest had lulled him to sleep.





A boa constrictor lived in the Kapok tree. He slithered down its trunk to where the man was sleeping. He looked at the gash the ax had made in the tree. Then the huge snake slid very close to the man and hissed in his ear: "Senhor, this tree is a tree of miracles. It is my home, where generations of my ancestors have lived. Do not chop it down."



In the Amazon rain forest, a man is chopping down a great Kapok tree. Exhausted from his labors, he puts down his ax and rests. As he sleeps, the animals who live in the tree plead with him not to destroy their world.



"Exceptionally colorful, bright and full of life . . . [This] book effectively makes specific the larger story of endangered rain forests by taking the problem one creature at a time."—*People Magazine*

"In full-page, vibrantly colored paintings, Cherry meticulously details the balance of nature within a Brazilian rain forest."—*The Boston Sunday Globe*

"Cherry's rich colored-pencil and watercolor drawings fairly buzz with life. She totally engages readers' attention and senses through vivid detail, dramatic perspective, and lifelike accuracy. The flora and fauna of the lush, steamy Brazilian rain forest seem to grow before readers' eyes. . . . Spectacular."—*School Library Journal*

*A Reading Rainbow Review Book*

*An ABA's Pick of the Lists*

*An IRA Teachers' Choice*

*An NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children*

*A Charlotte Award Winner*

*A Publishers Weekly Children's Bestseller*

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