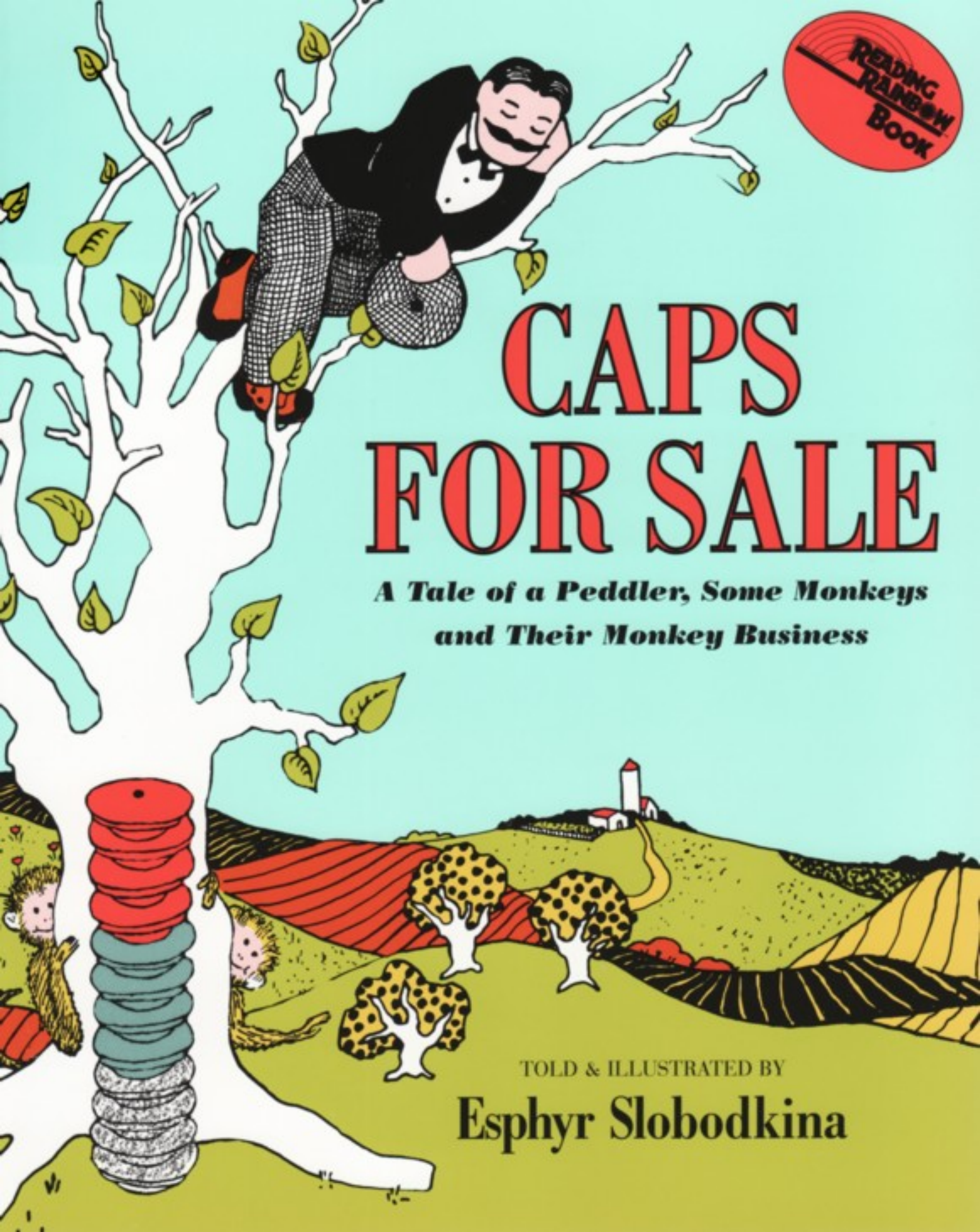




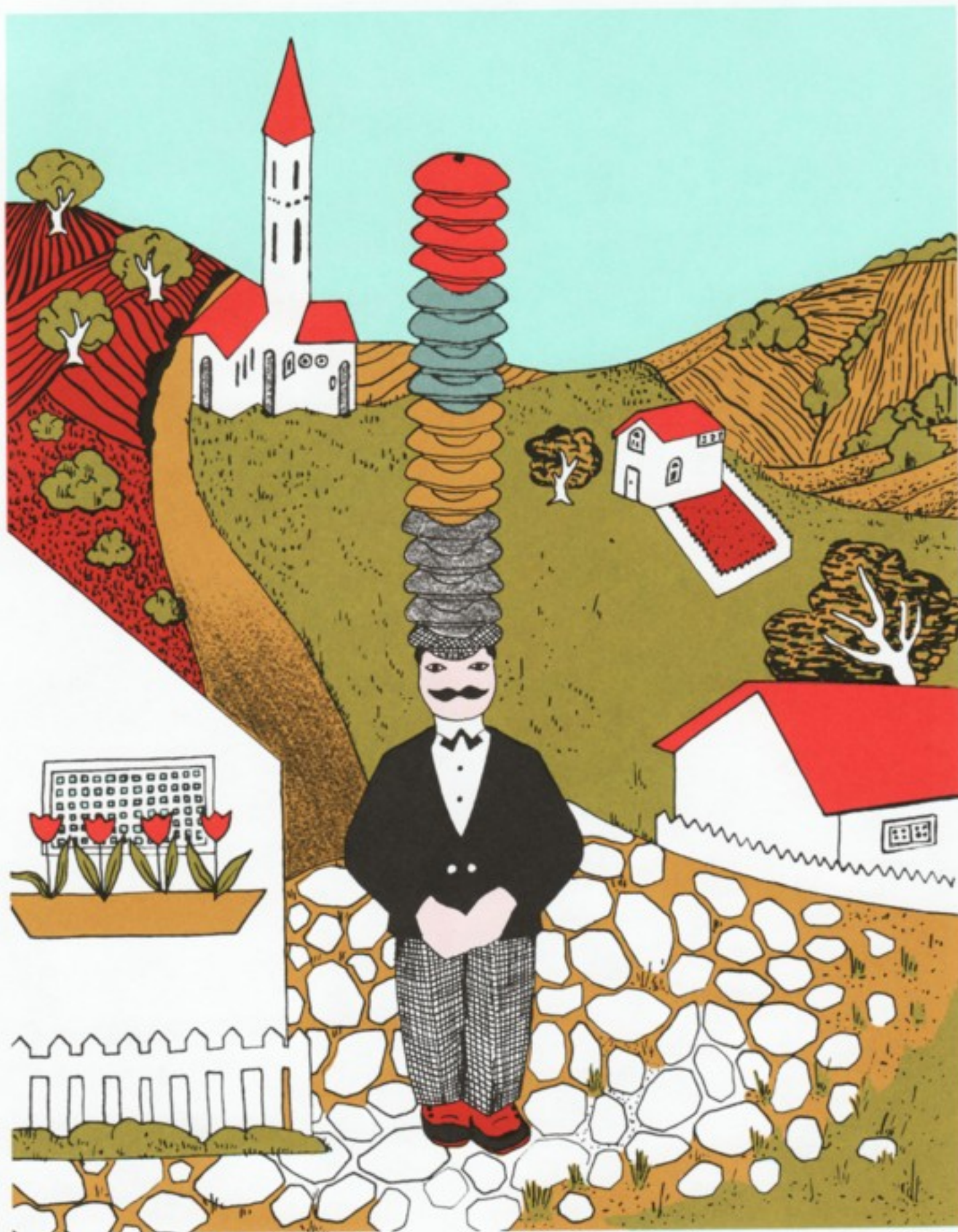
CAPS FOR SALE

*A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys
and Their Monkey Business*



TOLD & ILLUSTRATED BY

Esphyr Slobodkina



Once there was
a peddler who sold caps.
But he was not like
an ordinary peddler
carrying his wares on his back.
He carried them
on top of his head.

First he had on his own
checked cap,
then a bunch of gray caps,
then a bunch of brown caps,
then a bunch of blue caps,
and on the very top
a bunch of red caps.

He walked
up and down the streets,
holding himself very straight
so as not to upset his caps.

As he went along he called,
“Caps! Caps for sale!
Fifty cents a cap!”

One morning
he couldn't sell any caps.
He walked up the street and
he walked down the street calling,
“Caps! Caps for sale. Fifty cents a cap.”

But nobody wanted any caps
that morning.
Nobody wanted even a red cap.

He began to feel very hungry,
but he had no money for lunch.

“I think I'll go for a walk in the country,”
said he.

And he walked out of town—
slowly, slowly,
so as not to upset his caps.

“Caps! Caps for sale! Fifty cents a cap!” calls the peddler, walking up and down the streets. He balances a huge stack of caps on his head—gray, brown, blue, and red—all piled on his own checked cap. One day he stops under a tree to take a nap. When he wakes up, the gray, brown, blue, and red caps have all disappeared! The only one left is his own checked cap. Where on earth can the others be?

“From an old folk tale [the author] has fashioned this bright picture book, infusing it with a humor which seems to have sprung from her own hearty enjoyment of the troubles of a peddler with a band of monkeys.”

—*The New York Times*



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by Esphyr Slobodkina

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