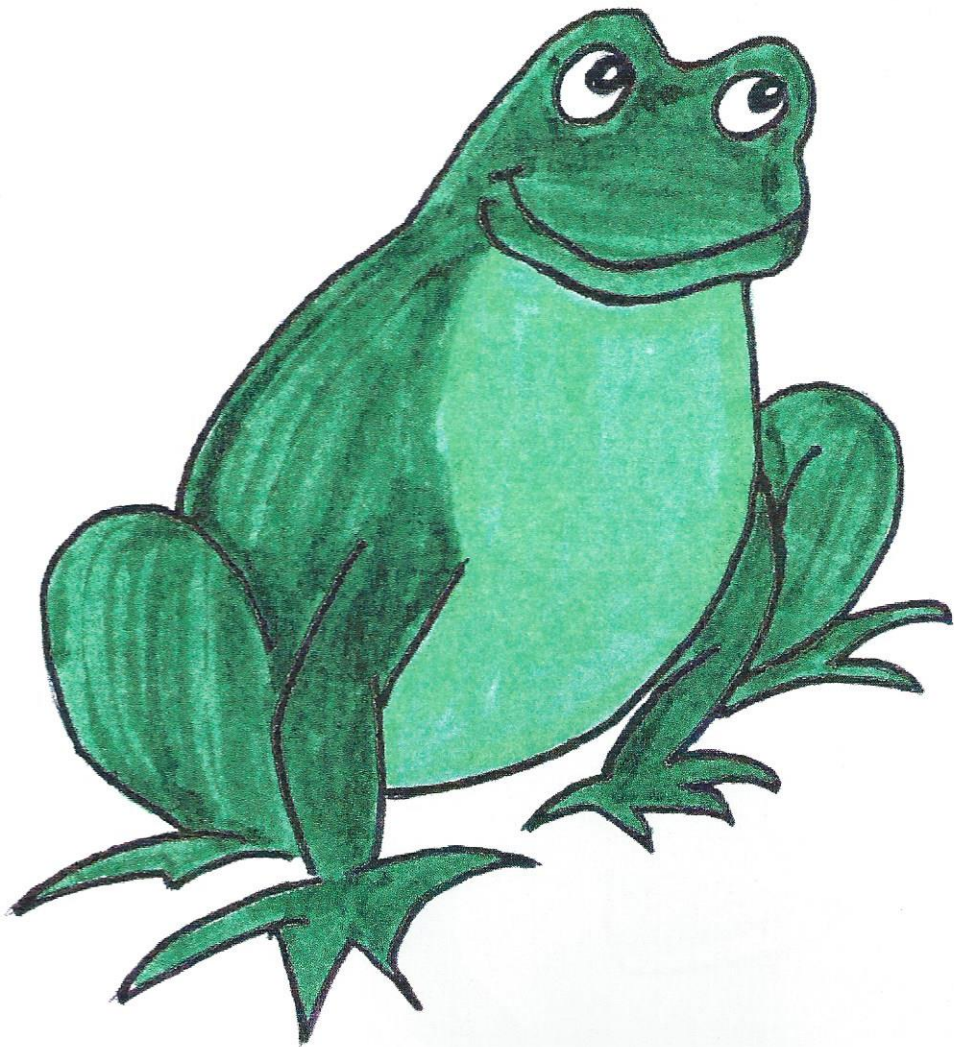


Toady and Mocha

Story and Pictures
by
Elaine J. Roark



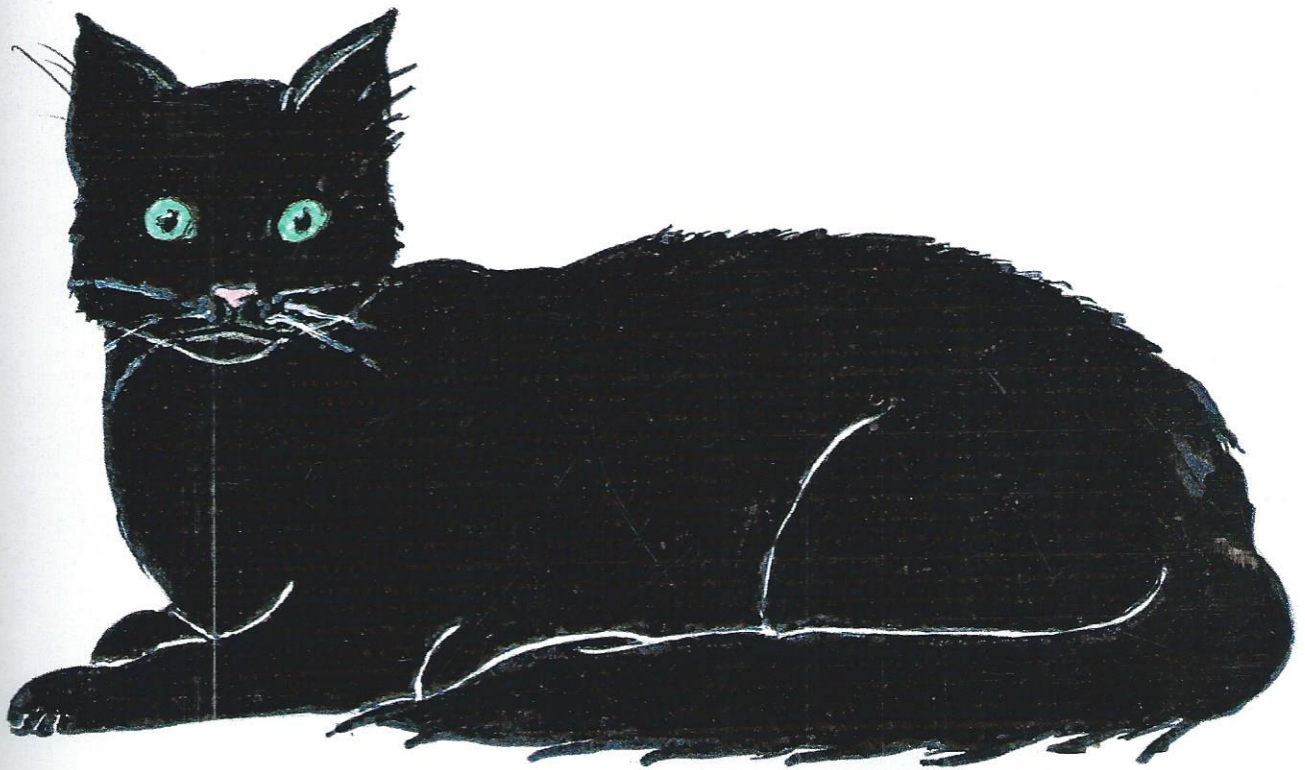
Desk Top Published
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Emporia, Kansas
1996



As you probably already know, Toady is a very fun loving stuffed frog.



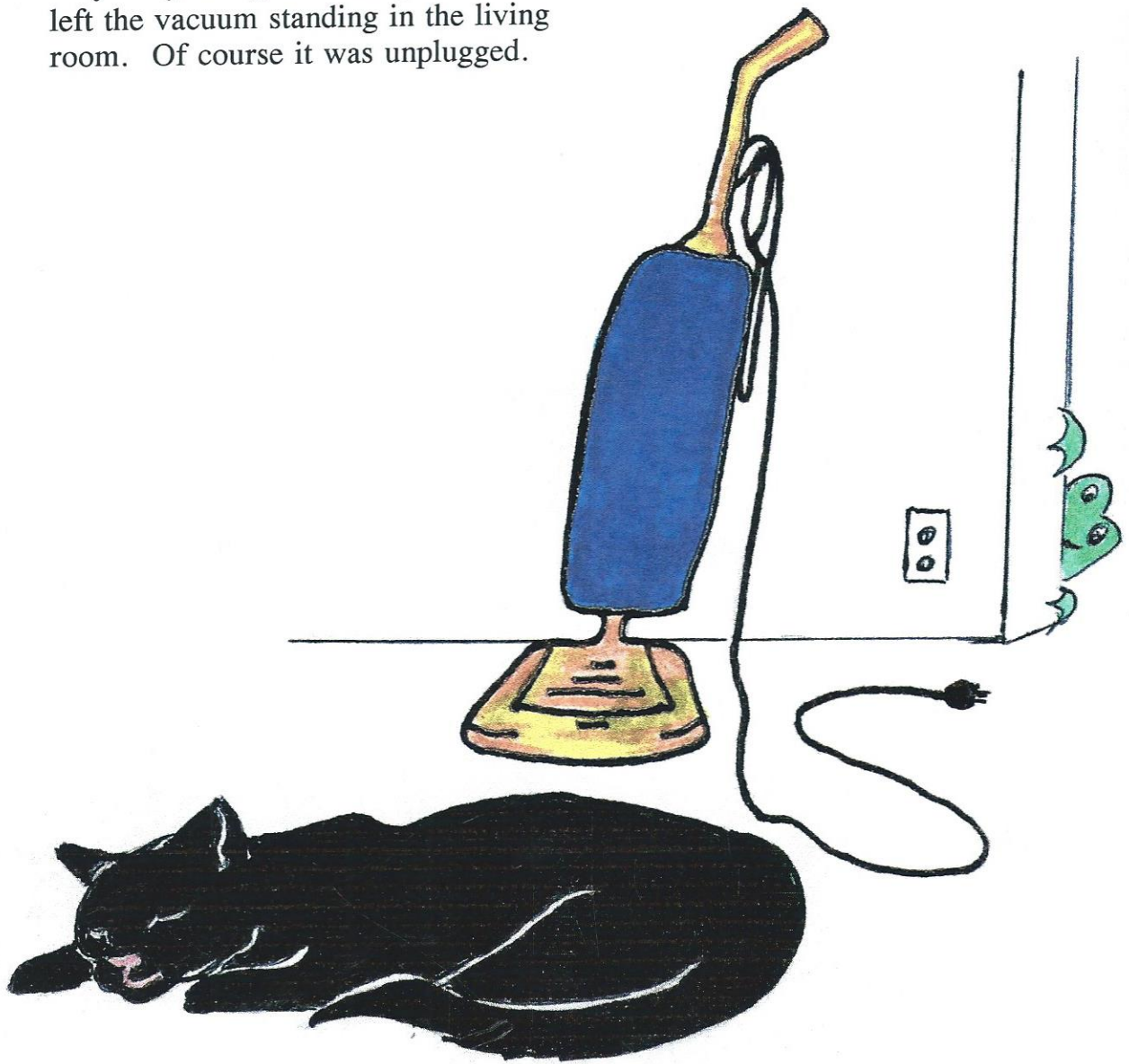
He lives happily with Zachary D. Wood, his boy,
whom they sometimes call Zach, for short.



What you may not know is that in this same house there also lives one large, very black cat, by the name of Mocha.

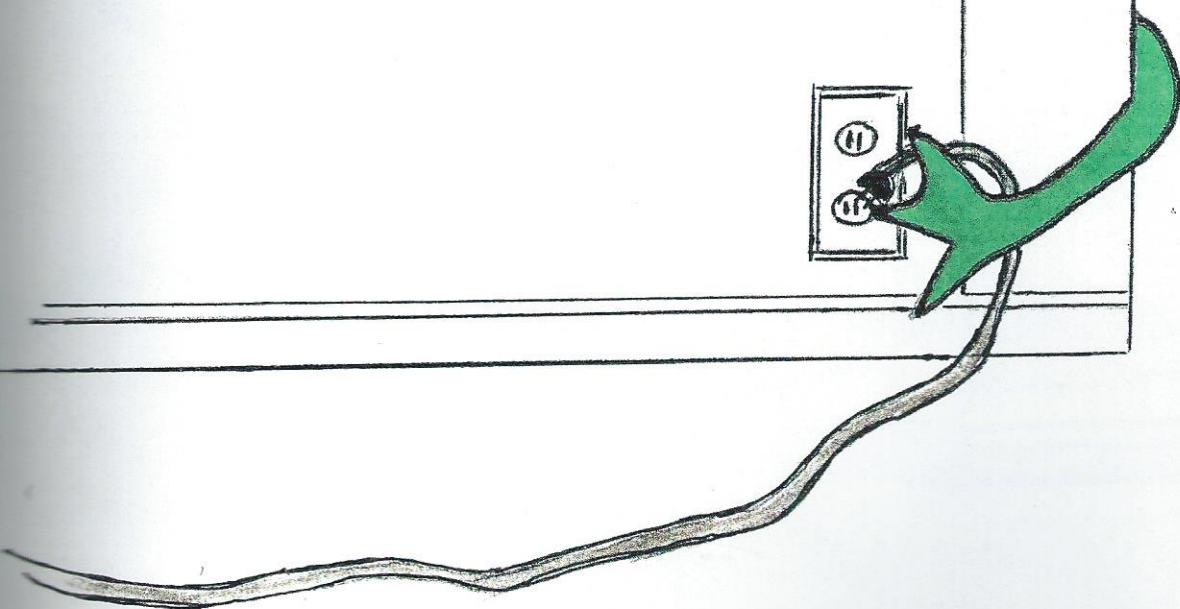
Now everyone knows that frogs, be they stuffed or otherwise, are not very fond of cats, and cats...well cats are mostly only fond of themselves.

On this particular day, Mother had been vacuuming the carpet in the living room. The telephone rang and she had gone to answer it. As mothers often do, she had become very busy doing something else and had left the vacuum standing in the living room. Of course it was unplugged.



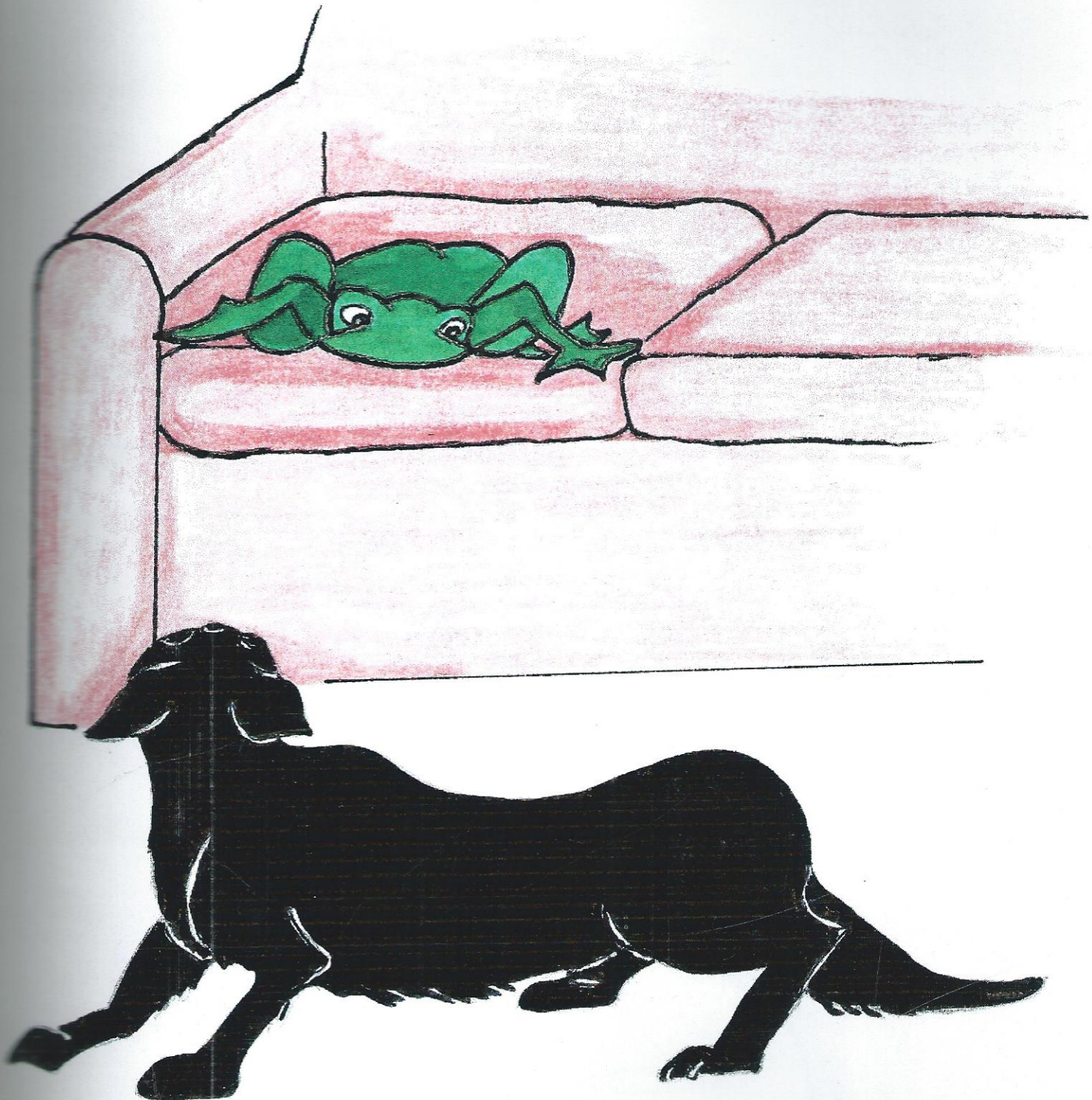
Mocha now was curled up asleep in the patch of sunlight in front of the large glass patio door. This was his favorite napping spot. The vacuum was also standing silently in the patch of sunlight in front of the glass door. The long black cord of the vacuum cleaner trailed across the carpet with the plug lying just below the electrical outlet where Mother had left it.

Without a sound, a long green hand
reached around the corner and slid
the plug into the socket.

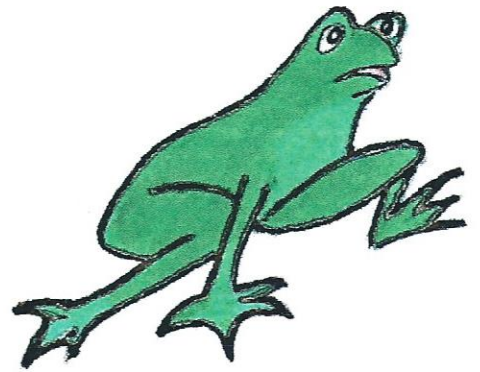


VAROOM //
MROOR





Toady leaped to the sofa! Mocha prepared to spring!



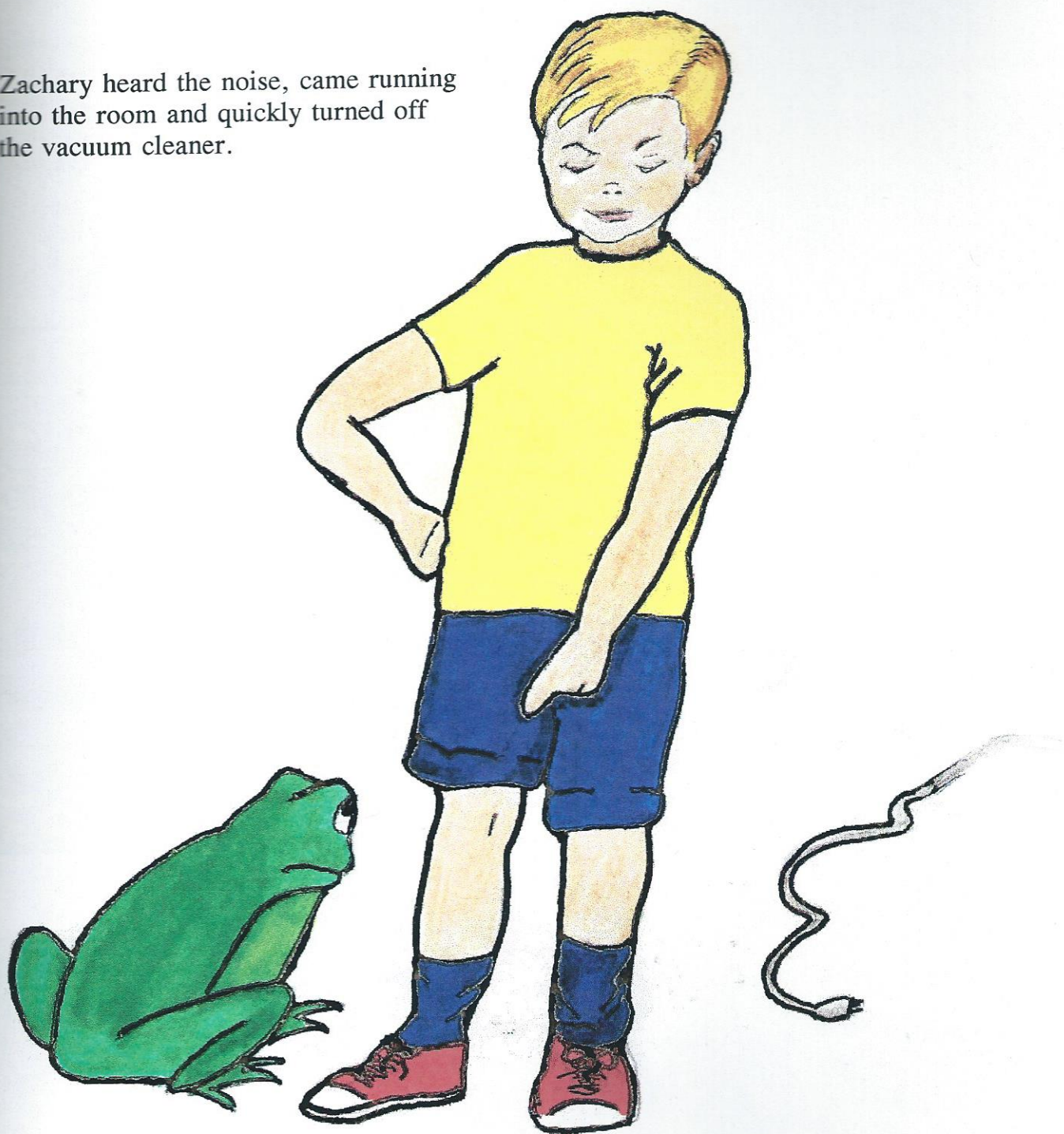
The

Chase

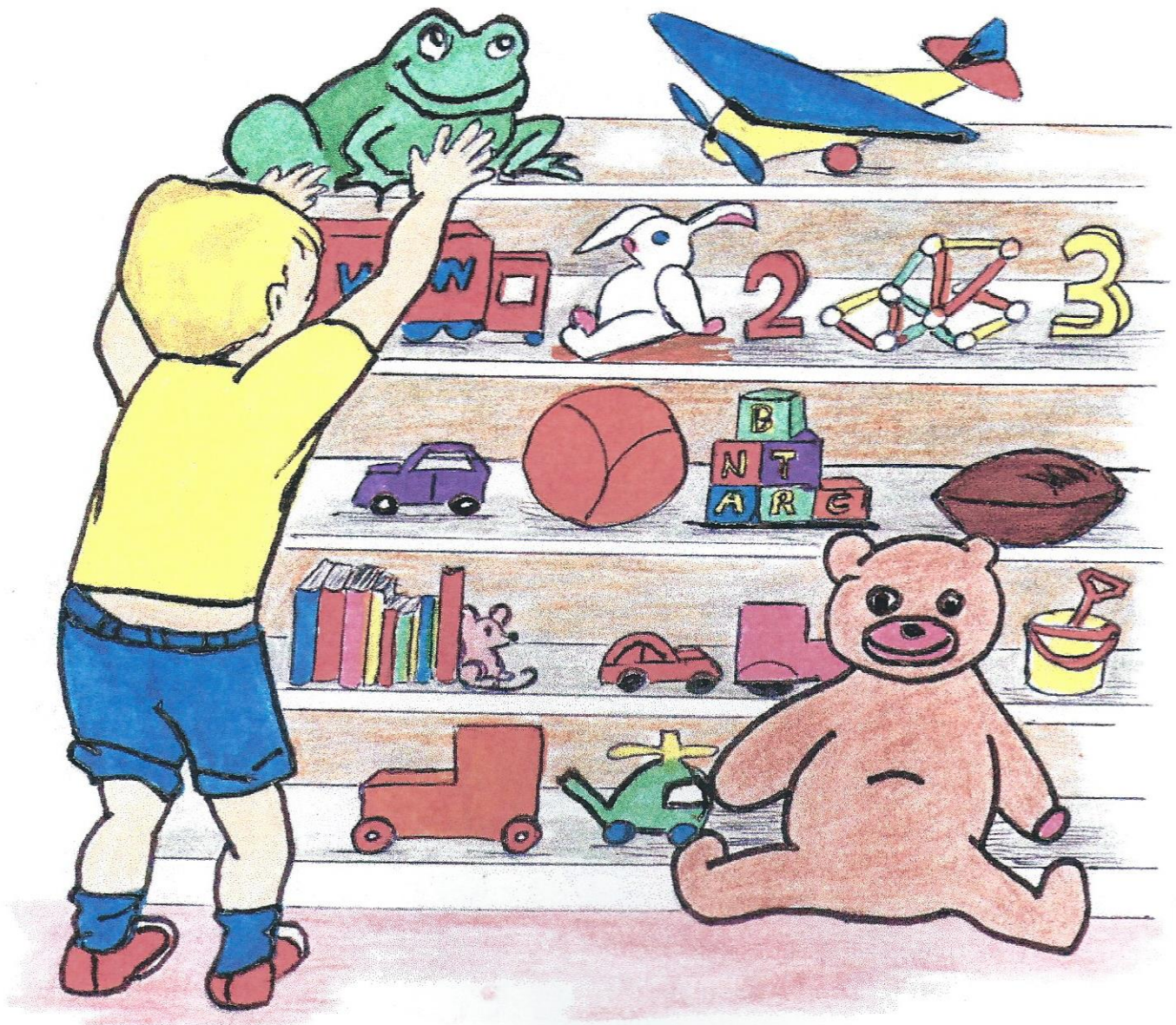
Was

On!

Zachary heard the noise, came running into the room and quickly turned off the vacuum cleaner.



"Toady, that was not nice!" scolded Zach. "You must not frighten Mocha! You know he is afraid of that vacuum cleaner!" Toady tried to look innocent, or at least sad, but he really was neither.



Zachary picked him up, carried him to his room, and put him on the toy shelf.



After Zachary had returned Toady to the toy shelf in his room, Mocha peered cautiously in the door to see Toady stashed away quietly on the shelf. Satisfied that all was safe, Mocha walked stiffly away.

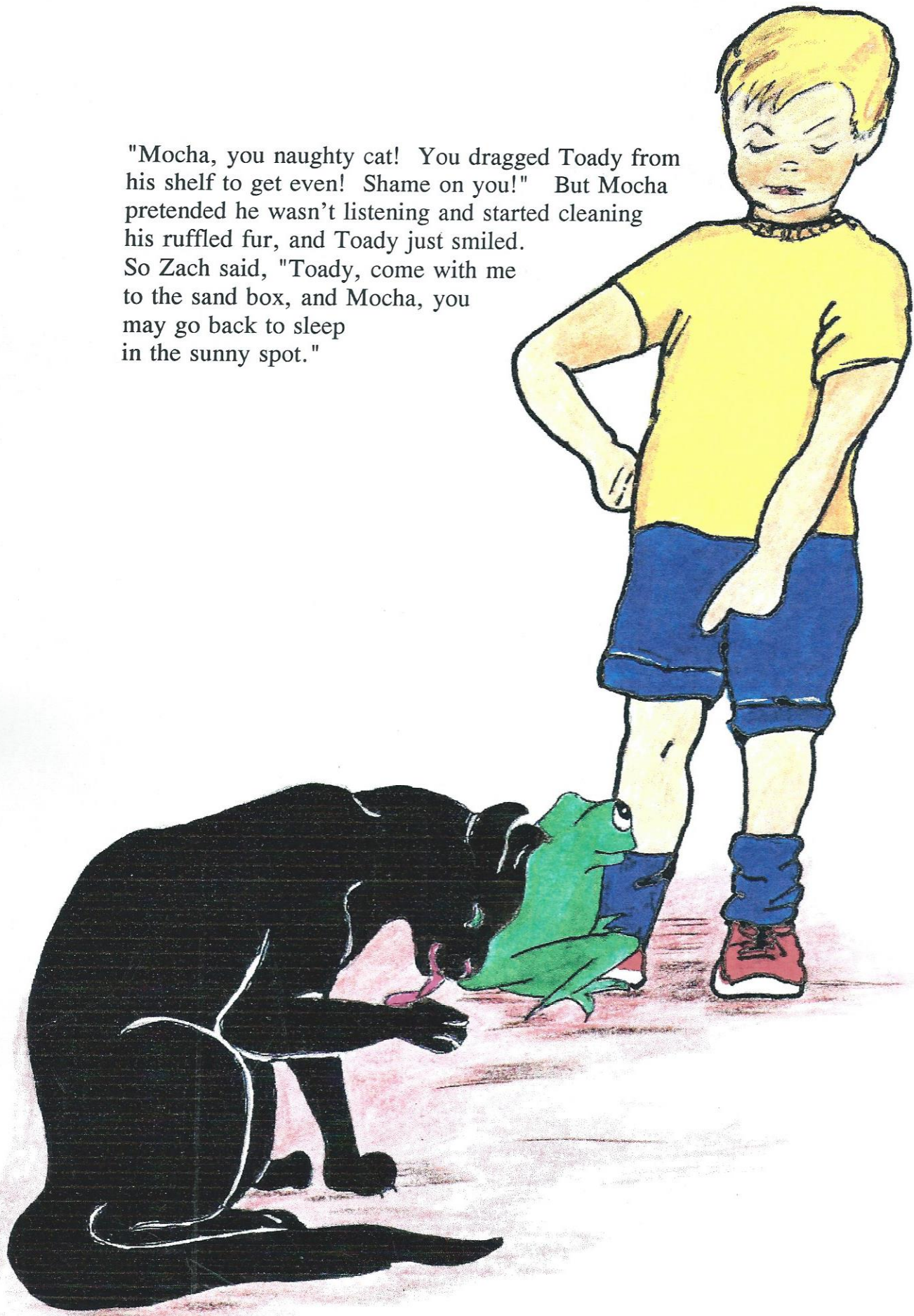


That was a mistake! Toady, who is always quick to seize an opportunity, sprung from the shelf.



Just at that moment, Zach came into the room.

"Mocha, you naughty cat! You dragged Toady from his shelf to get even! Shame on you!" But Mocha pretended he wasn't listening and started cleaning his ruffled fur, and Toady just smiled. So Zach said, "Toady, come with me to the sand box, and Mocha, you may go back to sleep in the sunny spot."





Zach knew that even though Toady and Mocha teased one another, later that day he would find them curled up together sleeping in the sun.