

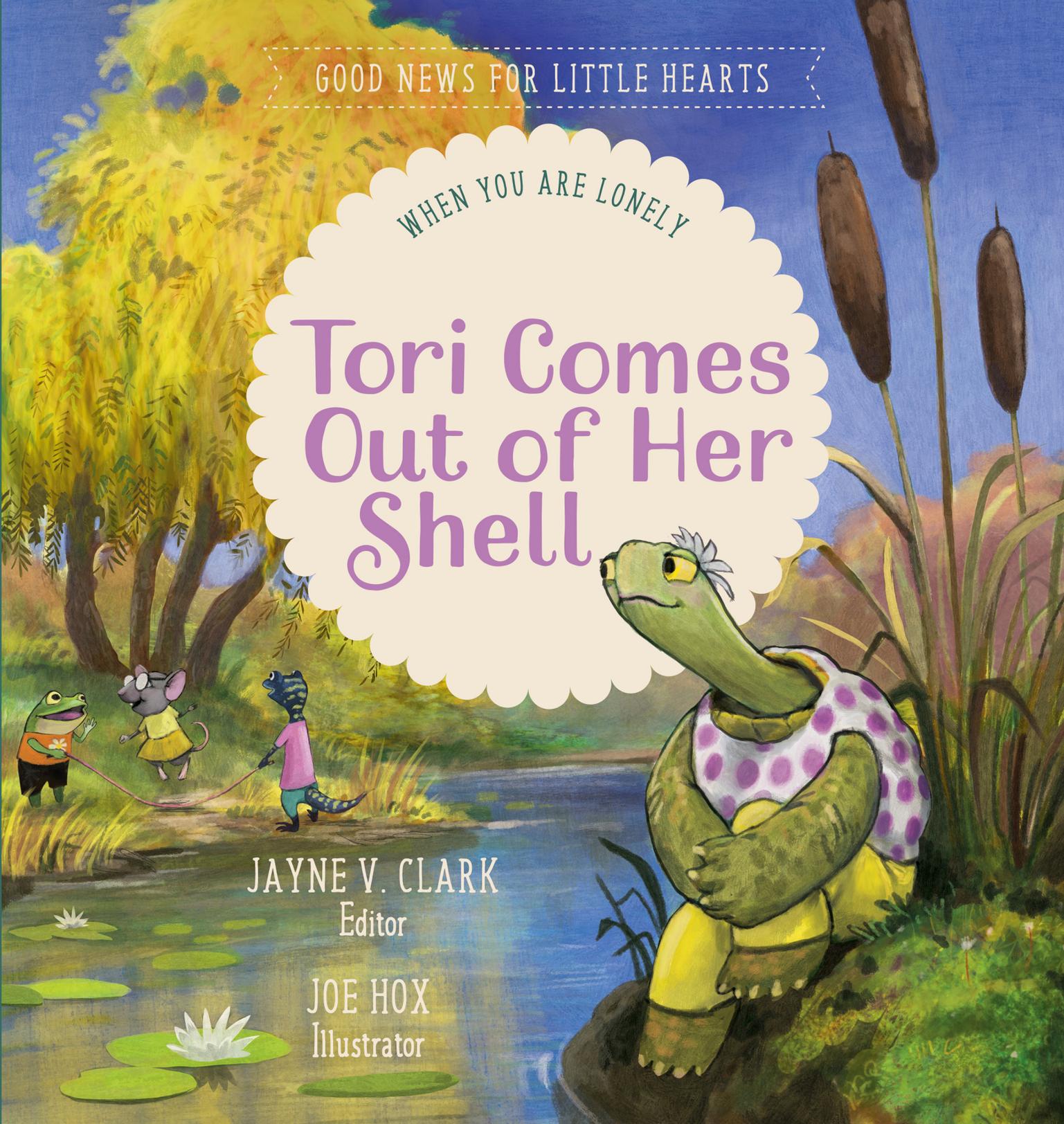
GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE HEARTS

WHEN YOU ARE LONELY

# Tori Comes Out of Her Shell

JAYNE V. CLARK  
Editor

JOE HOX  
Illustrator



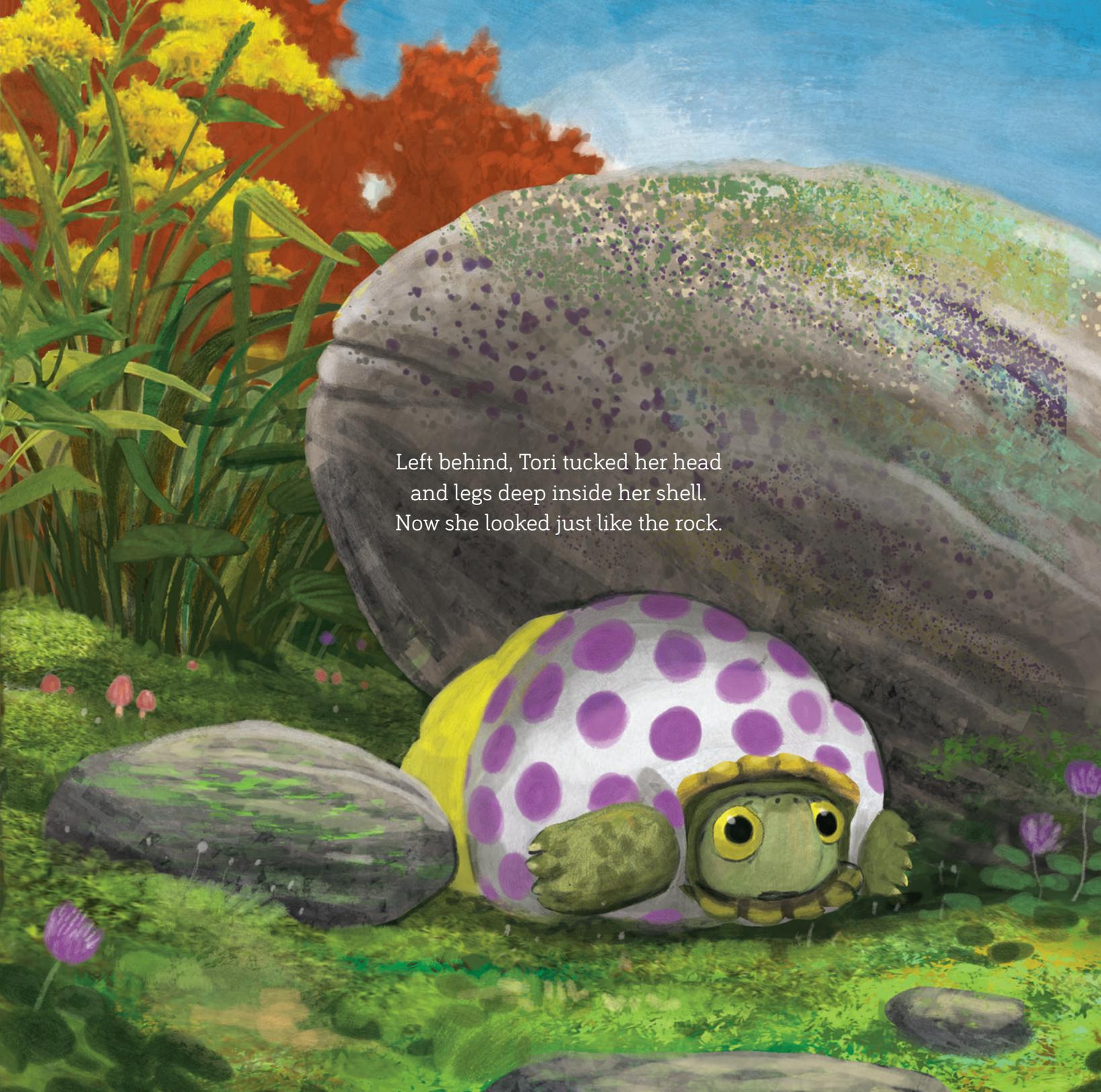
An illustration of three turtles sitting on a large, dark grey rock in a lush meadow. The turtle on the left is wearing a teal shirt and blue pants. The turtle in the middle is wearing a red shirt and blue pants. The turtle on the right is wearing a purple and white polka-dot shirt and yellow pants. They are all looking towards the right. The background features a blue sky with white clouds, yellow flowers, and a body of water in the distance.

It was fall—a season of change.  
The sound of chirping crickets turned to the sharpening of pencils.  
It was time for a change for the Turtle family too.  
They had grown out of their log home in Woodland Pond,  
so they moved to Mulberry Meadow.

Their new log home had  
plenty of room for Papa, Mama,  
Tomas, Ted, and Tori.

On their first day in their new home,  
the young turtles all sat outside on  
a rock. They stretched their striped  
arms and necks and enjoyed the  
warm sun.

“Look, Ted!” Tomas shouted, pointing across the pond.  
“I see some new friends! Race you!”  
And they were off.

An illustration of a turtle with a purple and white polka-dot shell tucked into its shell. The turtle is lying on its side on a grassy area. In the background, there is a large, grey, textured rock. The scene is set in a meadow with green grass, purple flowers, and a blue sky.

Left behind, Tori tucked her head  
and legs deep inside her shell.  
Now she looked just like the rock.



“Tori, where are you?”  
called Mama coming out from the kitchen  
and looking out over the pond.

Finally spotting her, Mama said,  
“What are you doing out here all by yourself?”

“Nothing,”  
Tori replied.

“Well, come inside and we’ll make sure  
everything is ready for your first day  
of school! Just think of all the new  
friends you’re going to make!”

But Tori wasn't so sure that making  
new friends would be easy.  
*What if no one talked to her?*  
*What if she had no one to play with at recess?*

*Or even worse, what if someone  
made fun of her for being  
"slow as a turtle"?*

"Come on," said Mama.  
"Let's pick out your outfit for school  
and get your backpack ready."



"Okay," said Tori. She didn't tell Mama how worried she was. After Mama left,  
she spent the rest of the day by herself, unpacking her shell collection.