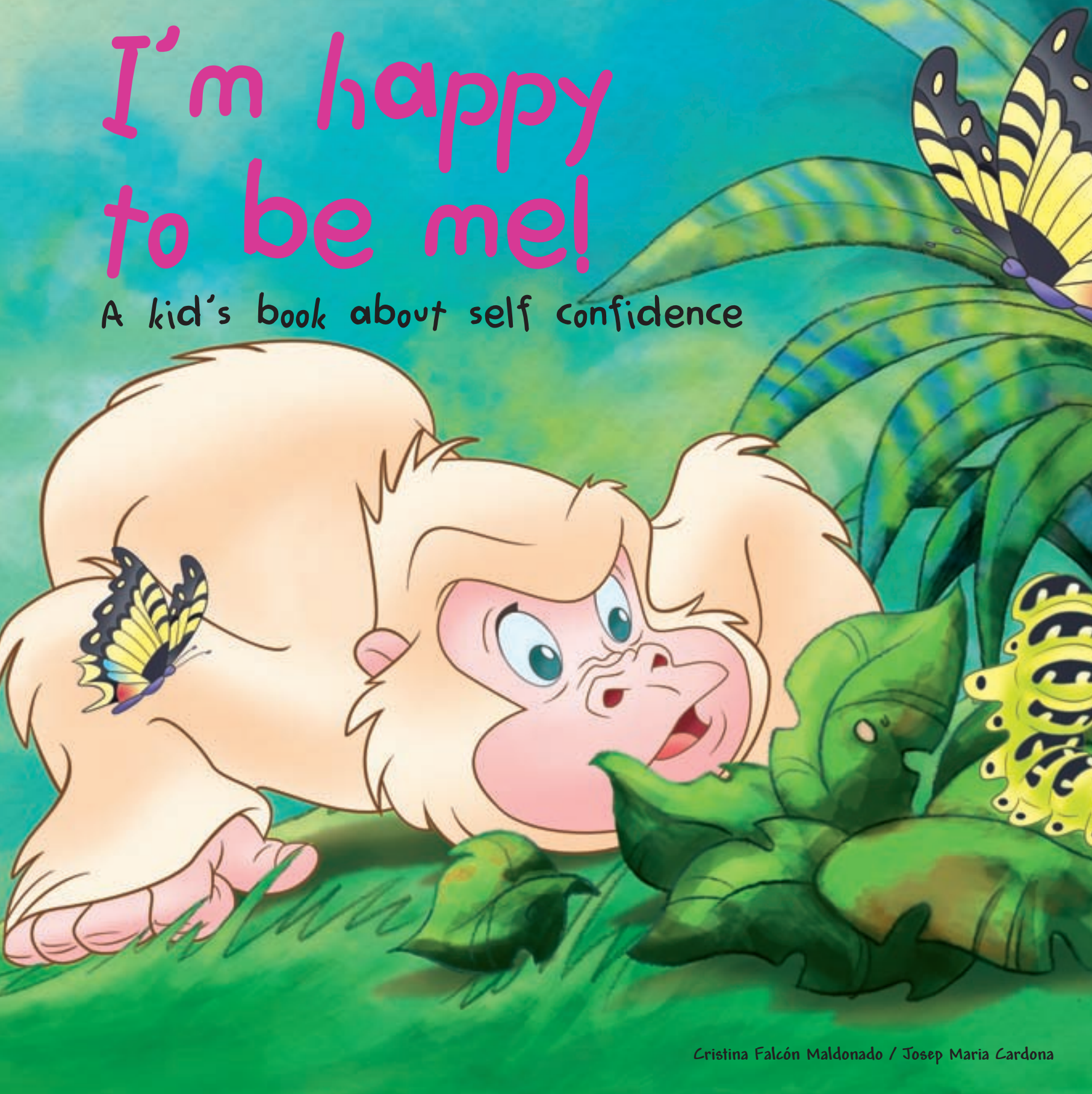


I'm happy to be me!

A kid's book about self confidence



Cristina Falcón Maldonado / Josep Maria Cardona

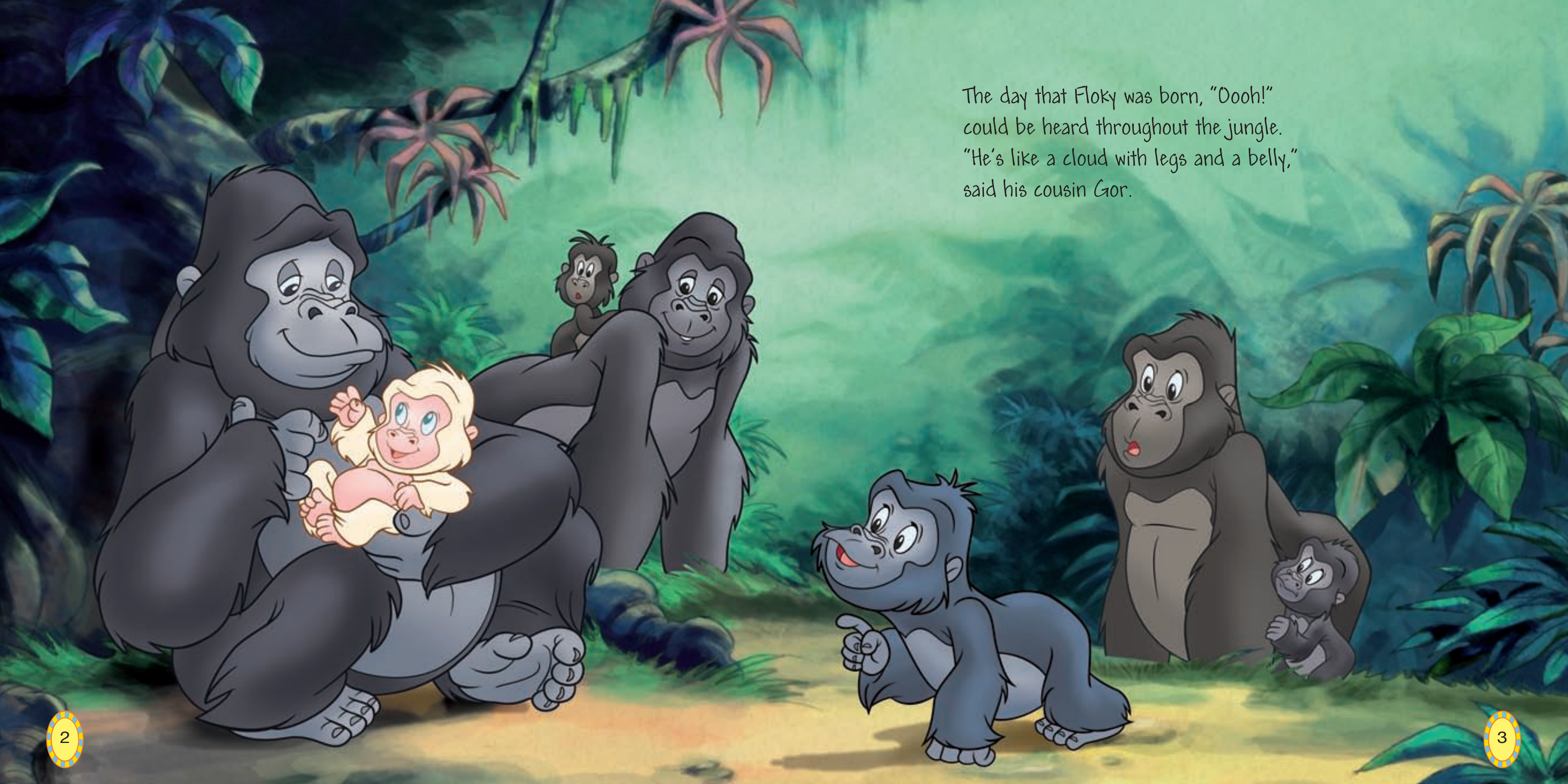
I'm happy to be me!

A kid's book about self confidence




GEMSER
PUBLICATIONS S.L.





The day that Floky was born, "Dooh!"
could be heard throughout the jungle.
"He's like a cloud with legs and a belly,"
said his cousin Gor.

"His fur is silver, like the mist," said his father, who was the leader of a group, a Silverback gorilla. The name comes from his silver back. "He's like the snow on Mount Karisimbi," said his mother as she stroked him.



But when he was born, Floky's white fur brought him nothing but trouble: He couldn't camouflage himself, or play hide-and-seek. The mud and plants stuck to him more than anybody else.



And if that were not enough, he couldn't go out in the sun, because it harmed his fair skin. It burned him much more than the others, so he had to wait for nightfall to go out, but by then, everybody was snuggled up in their dens, so he was always left on his own.



Until one evening, he was bored and decided to go in search of adventures and new friends. He walked and walked all night long, asking everyone he found along the way to play with him, but nobody wanted to. Those who were awake told him not to bother them and those who were sleeping replied with snores.



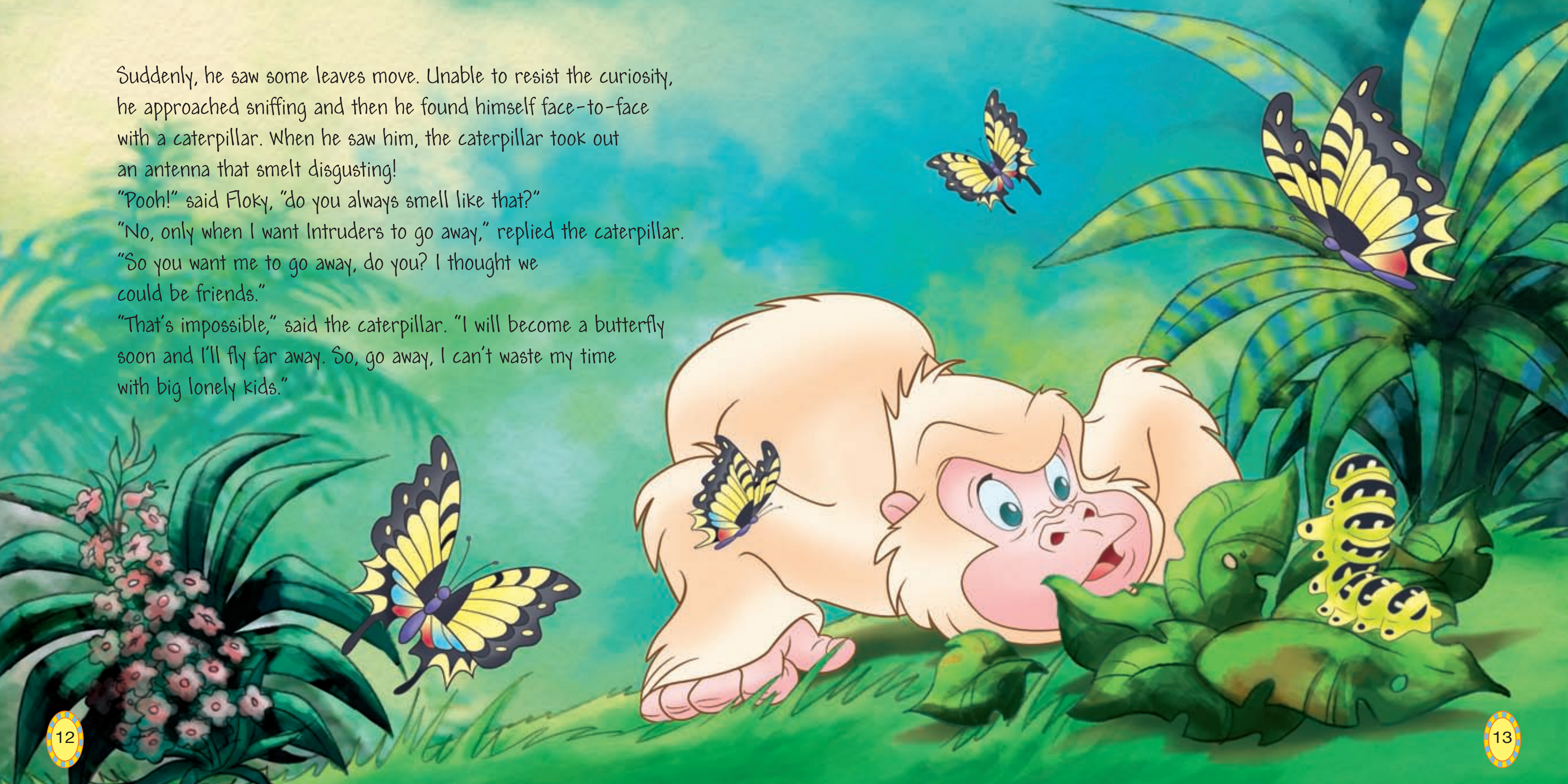
Suddenly, he saw some leaves move. Unable to resist the curiosity, he approached sniffing and then he found himself face-to-face with a caterpillar. When he saw him, the caterpillar took out an antenna that smelt disgusting!

"Pooh!" said Floky, "do you always smell like that?"

"No, only when I want Intruders to go away," replied the caterpillar.

"So you want me to go away, do you? I thought we could be friends."

"That's impossible," said the caterpillar. "I will become a butterfly soon and I'll fly far away. So, go away, I can't waste my time with big lonely kids."



Almost beaten and sad, Floky continued walking through the jungle until he heard a roar and he stopped. "Did something scare you?" asked the panther. To which the hyena replied laughing: "It's a ghost! Can't you see it? Ha, ha ha!"



Floky didn't think it was even worth replying, so he continued on his way, feeling ever more lonely. After walking for a long way, he arrived at the Great Lake, approached the water's edge and then he saw the moon, which was as white and shiny as he was. "You certainly can't camouflage yourself!" he said to the moon. "Would you like to be my friend?"

But the moon didn't open its eyes or reply to him. Suddenly, he felt a flutter and when he looked into the water again, the moon had disappeared.



"Oh! Whoever you are, go away, you're covering the moon up!"
Cried Floky.

"I didn't even cover you from the sun!" Replied the jaribu.

"Could you?" Said Floky, doubtfully.

"Could I what?" Asked the jaribu.

"Be my sunshade friend and protect me from the sun. If you
did, we could play like the others, at any time of the day."



"Mmm! Nobody has ever asked me such a strange thing before. I'll think about it," said the jaribu.

"Ahem! I didn't think about it that much to remove your fleas," said the puffin.



"And who are you?" Asked Floky.

"My name is Ox, Oxpeker and I'm a guardian and cleaning bird."

"Guardian?" Asked Floky trying not to laugh.

"Yes, I have a better sense of smell than all these big kids and I warn them when there is danger: The zebra, the hippopotamus, the gazelle, the rhinoceros, the crocodile..."

Then the jaribu replied: "We could try in out!"



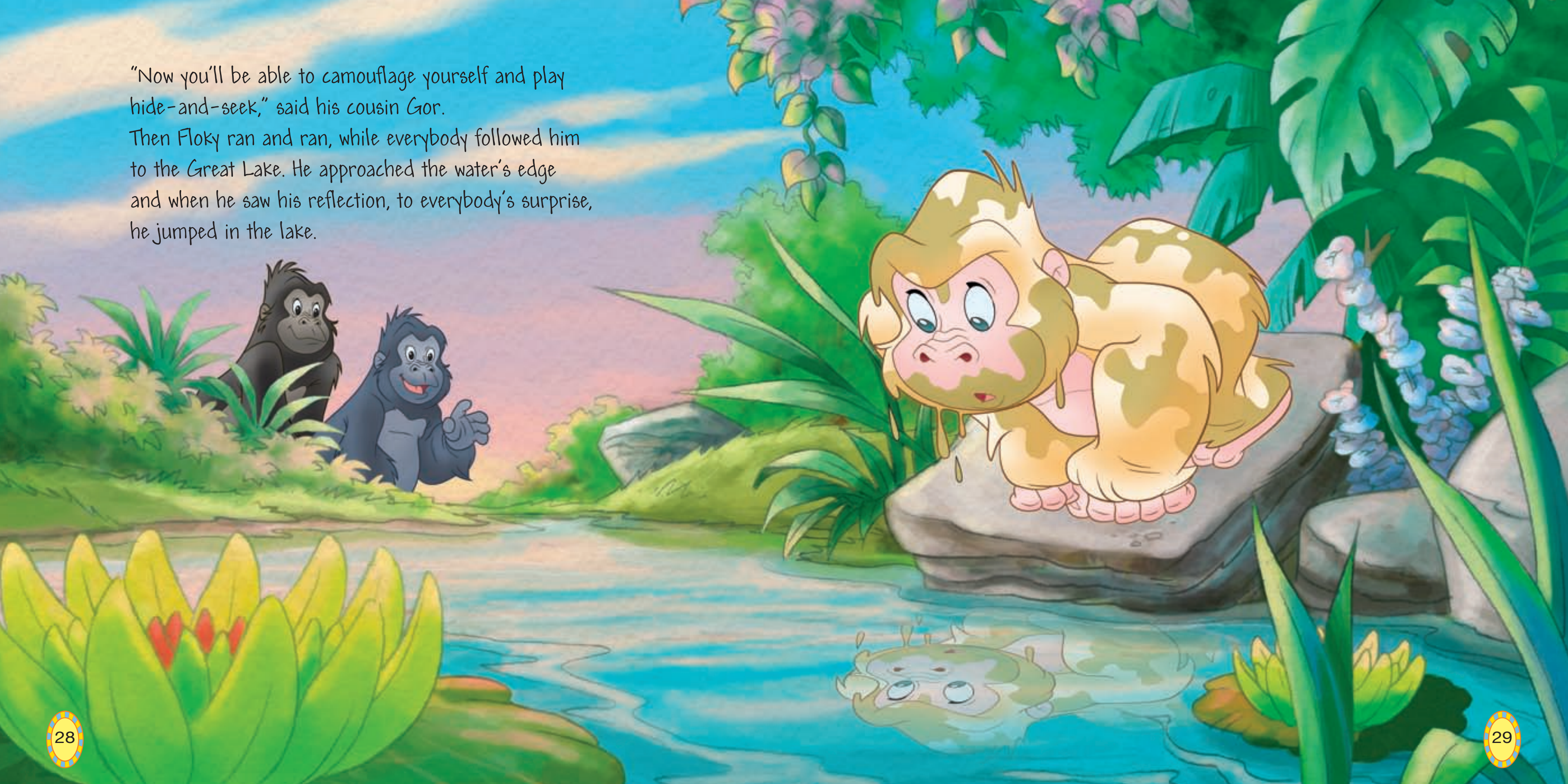
The next morning, when the sun had barely risen, the three of them set out walking through the jungle climbing high up to the gorilla's forest. Everybody greeted them happily and surprised, because Floky and his new friends made the strangest and most original trio they had ever seen before and above all, it worked!



For the first time, Floky was able to play in the full sunlight, swim in the lake and swing along the liana path, until, splash! He fell into a quagmire. Then "oooh!" was heard throughout the mountain, when Floky got up.



"Now you'll be able to camouflage yourself and play hide-and-seek," said his cousin Gor. Then Floky ran and ran, while everybody followed him to the Great Lake. He approached the water's edge and when he saw his reflection, to everybody's surprise, he jumped in the lake.



After a while, he came to the surface, quickly emerged from the water and then shook himself strongly and looked at himself again. Then he said, with a smile that filled the Lake and the surroundings: "That's me!"





What does ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES mean?


It means learning to value the things that make us different from others, the differences that make each one of us unique and special. If everybody in the world were the same, wouldn't it be a bit boring? That's why the best thing we can do

is to accept ourselves and others exactly as we are and get to know ourselves and others. If you can look at yourself, as if you were standing in front of a mirror, getting to know what you are like, your appearance, your body, personality, skills and abilities, you will be able to know what your best resources are, that you can use to achieve your goals in life. Knowing and accepting yourself will help you to feel strong because of what you are and what you are like.



Some Advices for your Journey

When you travel to very hot places, you should take precautions to avoid getting sunburnt or dehydrated from the heat. Here is some advice:

 Use high factor sun protection creams abundantly.




Avoid the middle of the day, when the sun's rays are strongest.



Cover your body with a shirt if you are outside.




 Remain in the shade for as long as possible and use a protective hat or sunglasses.



 Don't do heavy exercise in the sun.


 Bathe frequently and wet your head.



 Avoid indiscriminate exposure to the sun, even on cloudy days.

Eat fruit regularly.



 Drink water often (even if you're not thirsty) to prevent dehydration.



*I'm happy
to be me!*

Text: ***Cristina Falcón Maldonado***

Illustrations: ***Josep Maria Cardona Blasi***

Design and layout: ***Gemser Publications, S.L.***

© Gemser Publications, S.L. 2010

El Castell, 38 08329 Teià (Barcelona, Spain)

www.mercedesros.com

ISBN: XXX-XX-XXXXX-XX-X

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, by photostat, microfilm, xerography, or any other means, or incorporated into any information retrieval system, electronic or mechanical, without the written permission of the copyright owner.

