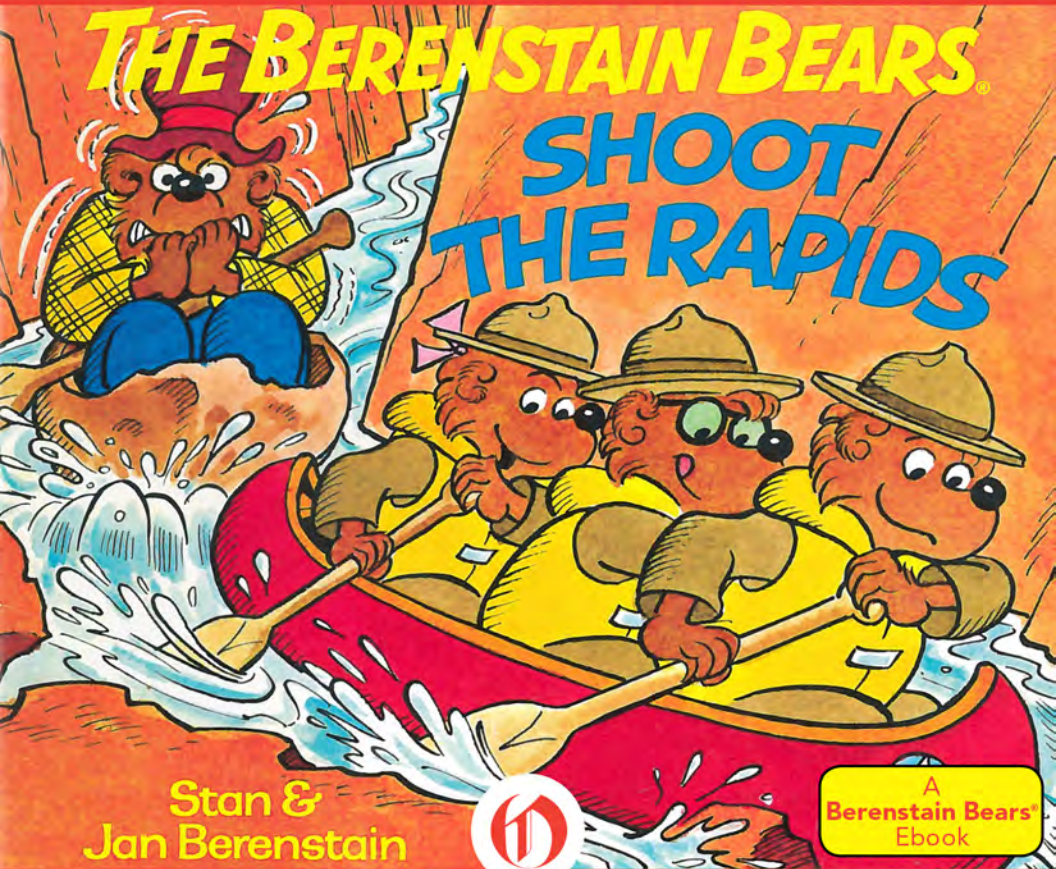


THE BERENSTAIN BEARS.

SHOOT THE RAPIDS



Stan &
Jan Berenstain



A
Berenstain Bears®
Ebook

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS®

**SHOOT
THE RAPIDS**



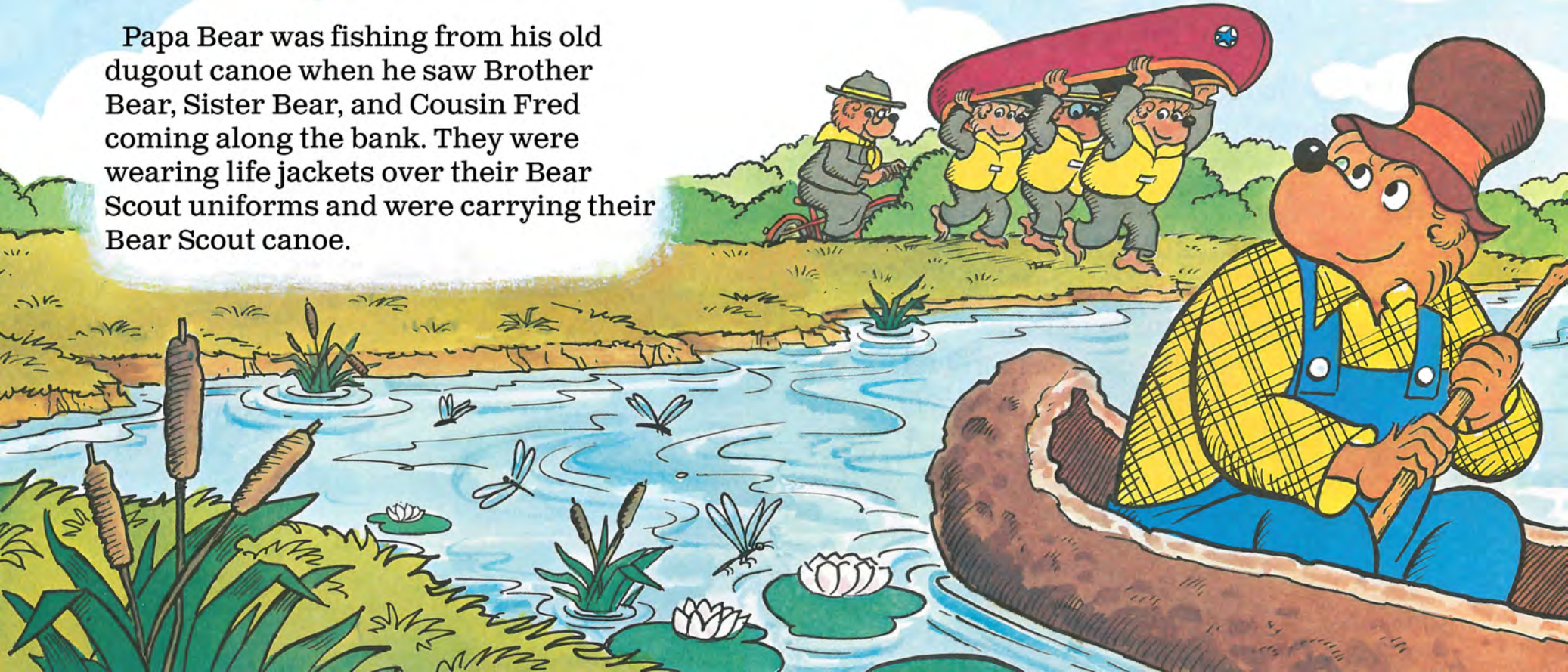
**Stan & Jan
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NEW YORK

Papa Bear was fishing from his old dugout canoe when he saw Brother Bear, Sister Bear, and Cousin Fred coming along the bank. They were wearing life jackets over their Bear Scout uniforms and were carrying their Bear Scout canoe.



The Bear Scouts slid their canoe into the water, hopped in, and started to paddle.

“Just a minute,” said Papa. “This is just a quiet stream, but it leads to Great Roaring River!”

“We know, Papa,” answered the scouts. “We’re going to earn our official Bear Scout Canoe Merit Badges today!” And off they paddled toward the sound of Great Roaring River.



"You'd better wait for me!" shouted Papa. "I just happen to be the world's greatest canoe expert. I can help if you get into trouble."

"But, Papa!" called Sister. "You're the one who may get into trouble. You're not wearing a life jacket!"

"Stuff and nonsense!" said Papa, standing up in his canoe. "Don't worry about *me*."



“Sit down, Papa!” said Brother. “The official Bear Scout guide book says ‘Never ever stand up in a canoe!’”

“Tut, tut!” continued Papa, ignoring Brother’s warning. “Why, I know this river like the palm of my paw. I know it from top to—hel-l-lp!” he hollered as the dugout tipped over...and sent him to the bottom.



“Don’t worry, Papa!” called Brother. “We’ll save you!” The Bear Scouts fished him out of the river with a boat hook and helped him back into his dugout.

“Save *me*? Expert swimmer Papa Bear? Pooh!” said Papa. “Why, I just decided to cool off with a little dip!”

“Hmm,” said Sister, looking at the map. “The river narrows up ahead. That could mean rapids!”



“Nonsense!” said Papa. “Those rapids are miles away! I’ll have a little nap and just float along.”

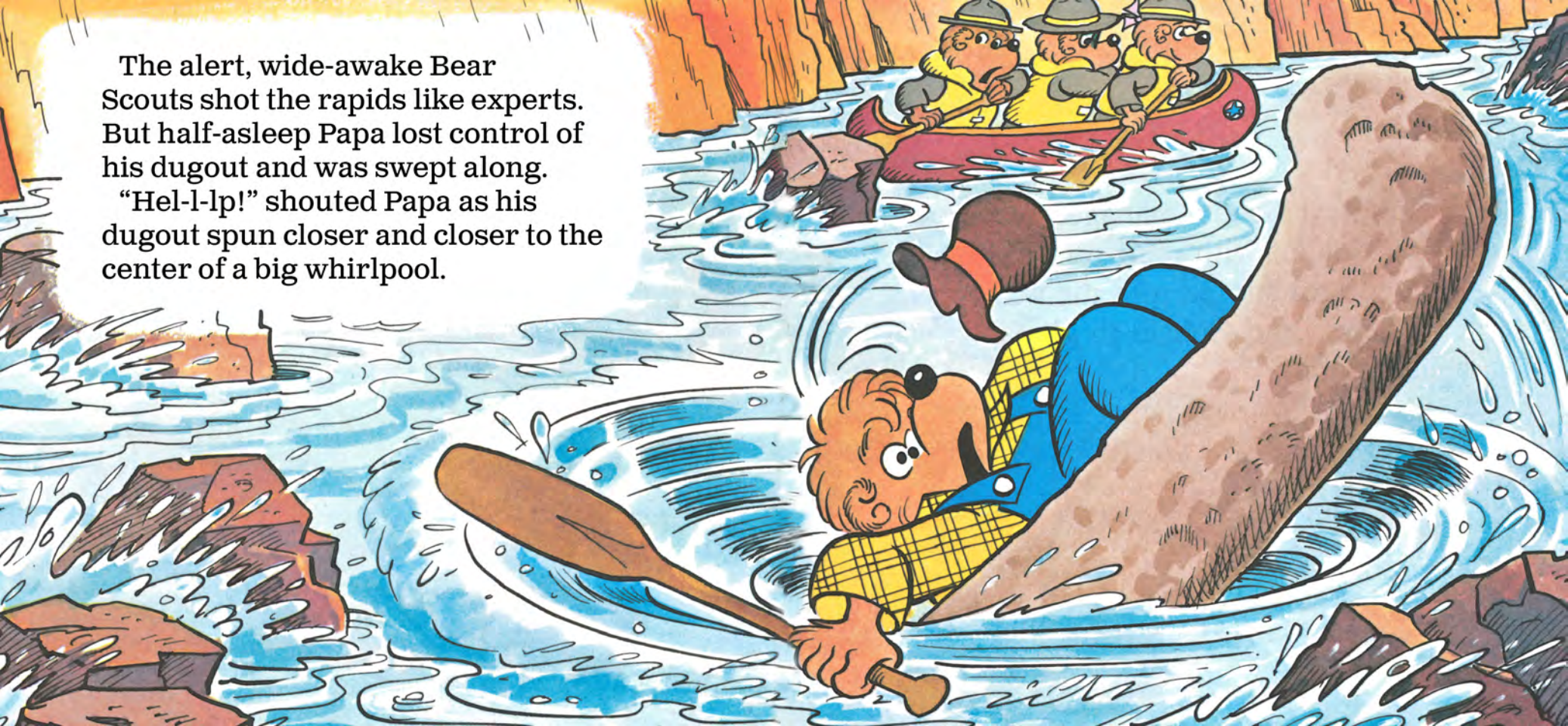
“Papa, the Bear Scout guide says ‘When canoing, be alert for every sight and sound,’” said Brother.

But Papa was already dozing and didn’t hear the sound of rapids ahead.

“White water!” screamed Sister as they rounded a bend.



The alert, wide-awake Bear Scouts shot the rapids like experts. But half-asleep Papa lost control of his dugout and was swept along. "Hel-l-lp!" shouted Papa as his dugout spun closer and closer to the center of a big whirlpool.



The Bear Scouts managed to lasso Papa's dugout with their rope just before it got sucked into the whirlpool.

"Phew!" said Cousin Fred. "That was a close call!"

"Not at all," said Papa. "I just wanted to see how you'd react in an emergency."



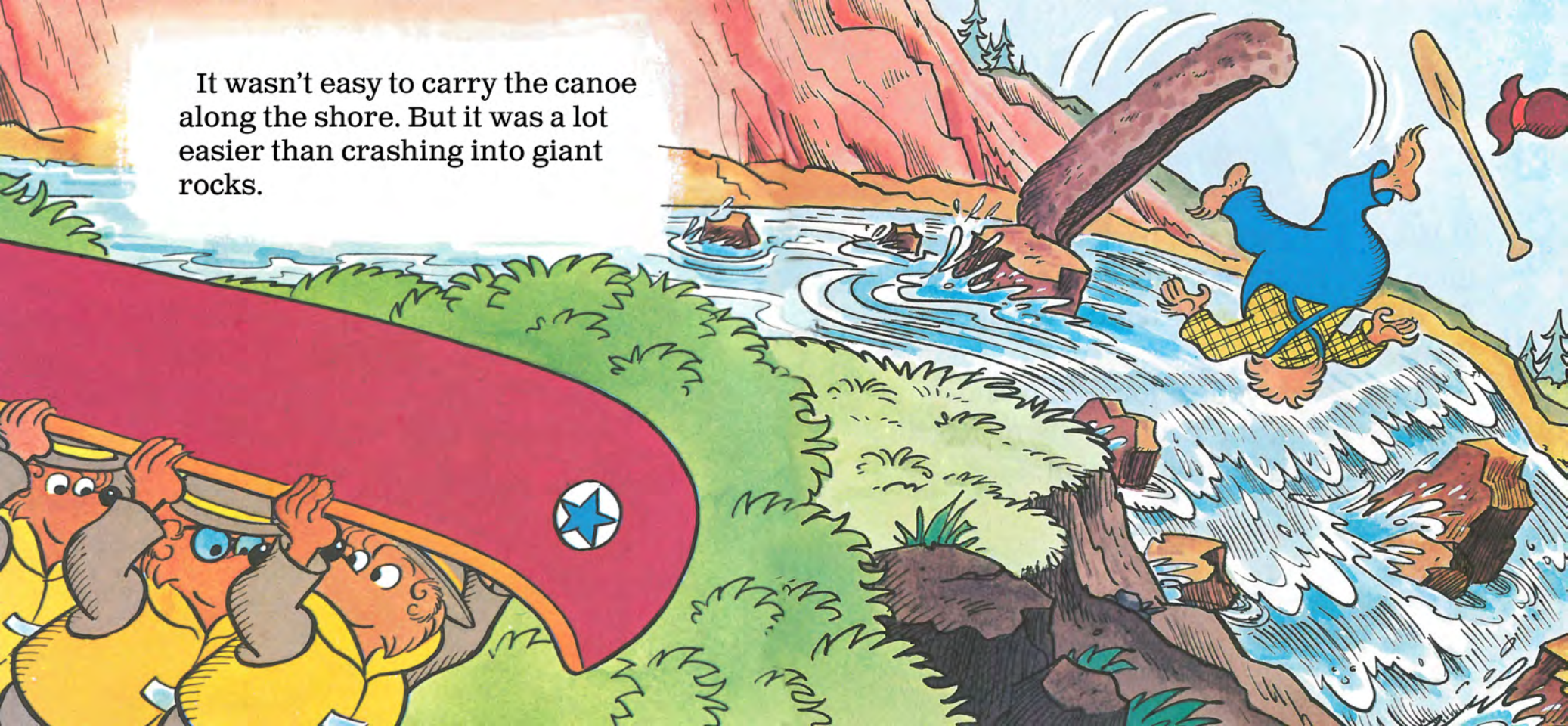
Soon after they shot the rapids, Brother shouted, "Head for the shore! The map says 'Danger—rocky gorge ahead.' It's time to portage!"

"What's 'portage'?" asked Sister, "It means to take the canoe out of the water and carry it along the shore."

"Carry the canoe? That's ridiculous!" said Papa. "As for rocks—who's afraid of a rock or two? See you downstream! Ta-ta!"



It wasn't easy to carry the canoe along the shore. But it was a lot easier than crashing into giant rocks.



When the cubs got back to the river, there was Papa, hanging on to a rock for dear life as his battered dugout floated away.

“What took you so long?” he said.

Once again, the Bear Scouts managed to rescue Papa and his dugout.



The Bear Scouts were almost at the end of their merit badge trip down Great Roaring River. To the right was a small winding stream.

The scouts looked at the map. The right fork showed a twisty stream. Straight ahead was marked “Danger!”

“No twisty streams for me! I’ll take the fast way,” said Papa, paddling straight ahead. A few seconds later he saw a sign: GREAT GRIZZLY FALLS AHEAD.



But
it was
too late.



The cubs paddled their way down the twisty stream. When they got to the bottom of Great Grizzly Falls, there was Papa waiting for them once more. He was in tatters and his dugout was in splinters. Scout Leader Jane was waiting too. Together they pulled him out of the river.



“We’re sorry,” said Brother to Scout Leader Jane. “But we were so busy rescuing Papa that we didn’t have time to do our merit badge tests.”

“You did them—and then some!” answered Jane. “Because Papa Bear put you to the test! So here are merit badges for each of you...and one for Papa, who showed you what you should *not* do!”





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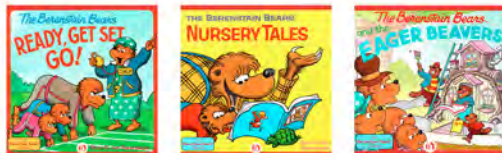
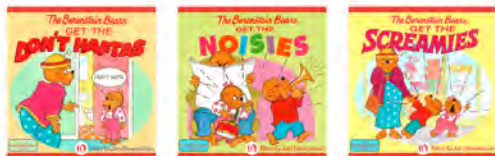
978-1-4532-9441-3

This edition published in 2012 by Open Road Integrated Media
180 Varick Street
New York, NY 10014
www.openroadmedia.com



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