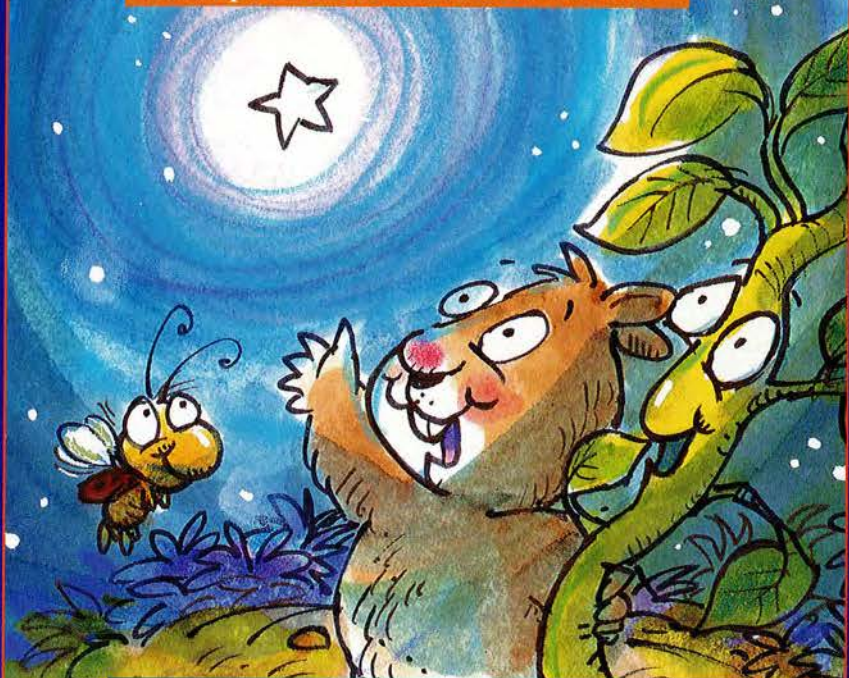


We hope you enjoy these sample pages. For ordering information, visit Liguori.org.

325-952

The **PROMISE**

A Sequel to the "The Proud Tree"



Written By
Luane Roche
Illustrated By
Chris Sharp

ISBN 0-89243-877-0

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 95-82112

Printed in the United States of America

96 97 98 99 00 5 4 3 2 1

Copyright © 1996, Luane Roche

Illustrations © 1996, Liguori Publications

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted without the written permission of Liguori Publications.

"Sing to the Mountains" © 1975 Robert J. Dufford, SJ and New Dawn Music, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Diligent effort has been made to locate and secure permission for the inclusion of all copyrighted material in this book. If any such acknowledgments have been inadvertently omitted, the publisher would appreciate receiving full information so that the proper credit may be given in future editions.

Cover design by Chris Sharp



It was the smallest chipmunk who first saw the sapling. Tiny and green, a newborn tree was growing where Rex's sap had mingled with the blood of Christ. Small branches and tender leaves reached toward the sun in wonder at the gift of new life. The proud tree had held Jesus while he was crucified and then had died too. Now Rex was resprouting, because love for Jesus had replaced his pride.

Chatty, as the chipmunk was called,
ran to get his friends. Soon he brought
Lily the rabbit, Prudence the squirrel,
Angelo the sparrow, and CJ the donkey
to gather around the new sprout.

"You're Rex, aren't you?" they asked
in wonder.
The sprout
nodded.



"Yes, I'm so excited! God brought me
back to life. Isn't God wonderful? I feel
like singing!"



Everyone laughed and sang along:

"Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Let all the earth rejoice.



"I will give thanks to you, my Lord.
You have answered my plea.
You have saved my soul from death.
You are my strength and my song.

"Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Let all the earth rejoice."



"We'd like to be your friends," Chatty suggested.

"And teach you all about God's Son, Jesus," Angelo twittered.

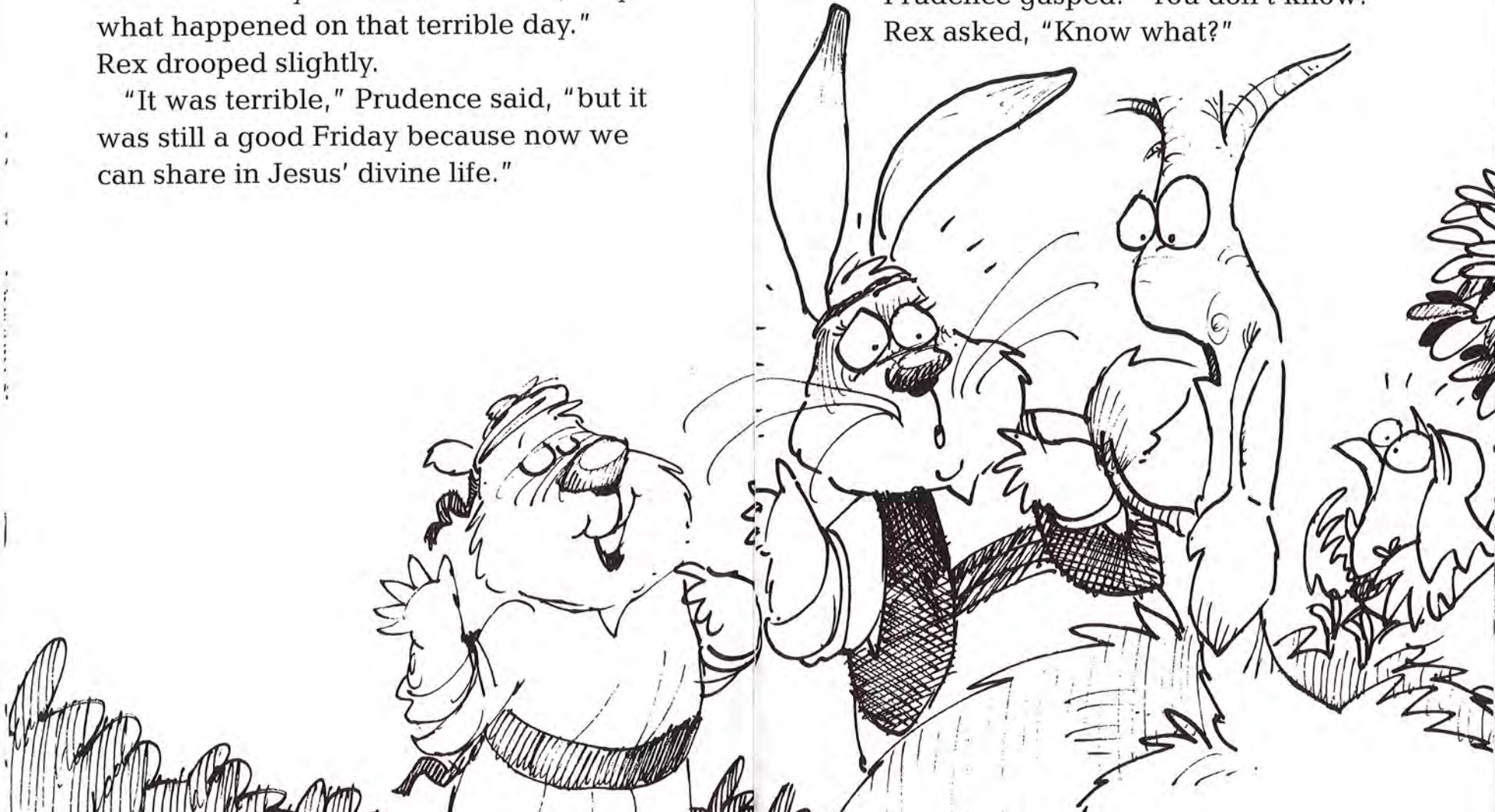
"Oh! Would you? I know so little, only what happened on that terrible day."

Rex drooped slightly.

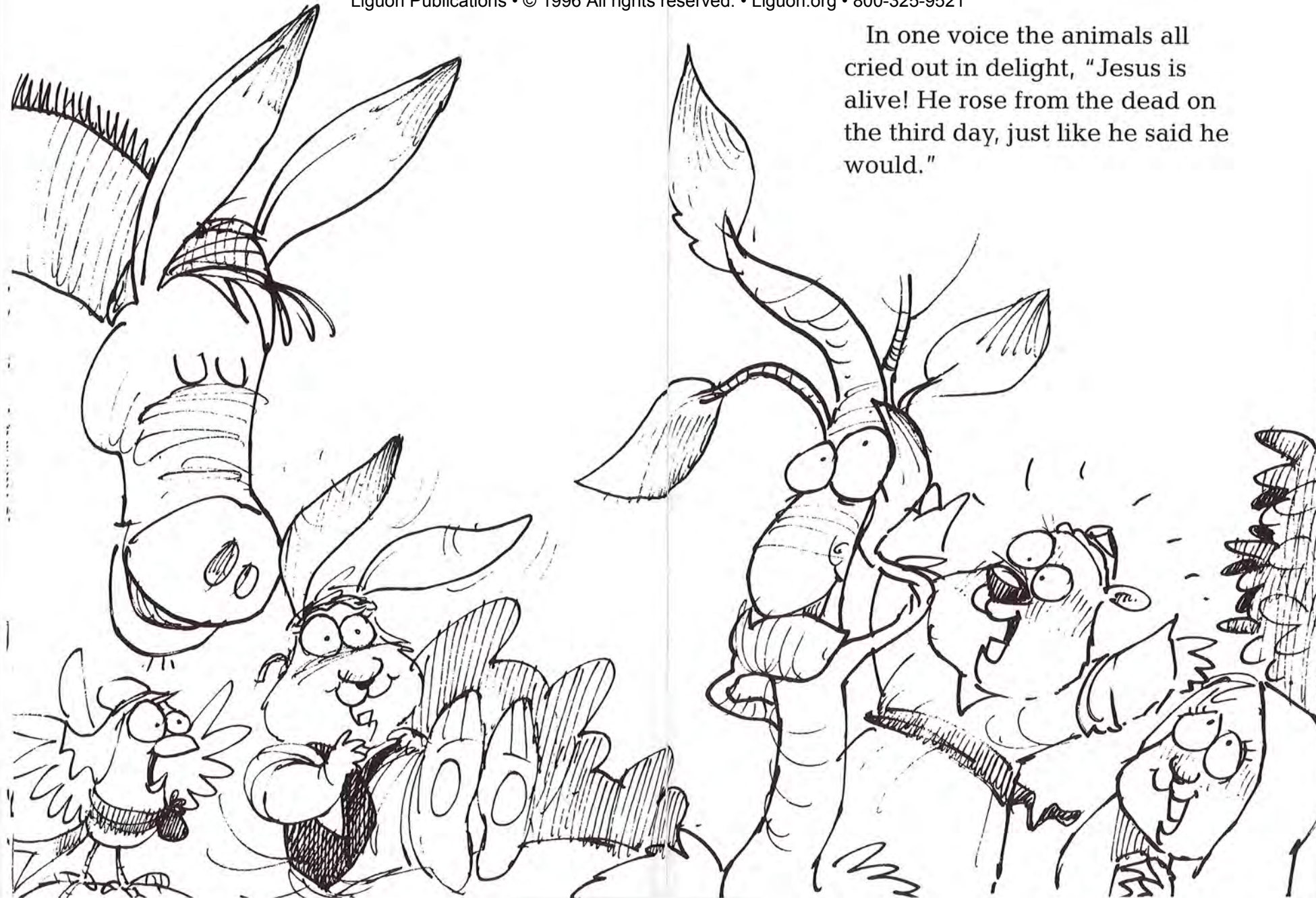
"It was terrible," Prudence said, "but it was still a good Friday because now we can share in Jesus' divine life."

Rex looked puzzled. "Share in his life? Jesus died. They buried him in a guarded tomb, which I still think was silly."

Prudence gasped. "You don't know!" Rex asked, "Know what?"



In one voice the animals all
cried out in delight, "Jesus is
alive! He rose from the dead on
the third day, just like he said he
would."



Lily explained, "I was eating some clover by Jesus' tomb at dawn. The Roman guards were sleepy. Suddenly, the earth trembled, and the giant round stone covering the tomb rolled to the side. A light brighter than the sun came from inside and blinded the soldiers. I covered my eyes with my ears. The garden all around was terribly still for a long time, and when I peeked, the light was gone. The tomb was empty except for the burial clothes on the stone inside. When the guards saw that Jesus' body

was gone, they ran away as fast as their legs could go."

Prudence continued, "Jesus conquered death. Someday, if we believe in Jesus and live as he taught us, we'll all rise from the dead and live with God forever and ever."

