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opening extract from

The Lion Book of Two Minute Bedtime Stories

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Go Fast Slowly

A STORY FROM THE PHILIPPINES



There's another

and another



This is the best harvest ever!"

The farmer rubbed his hands with glee and set to work. He was gathering his crop of melons to take to market.

There were so many melons that the job took longer than expected. The sun was high in the sky as he set off in his donkey cart.

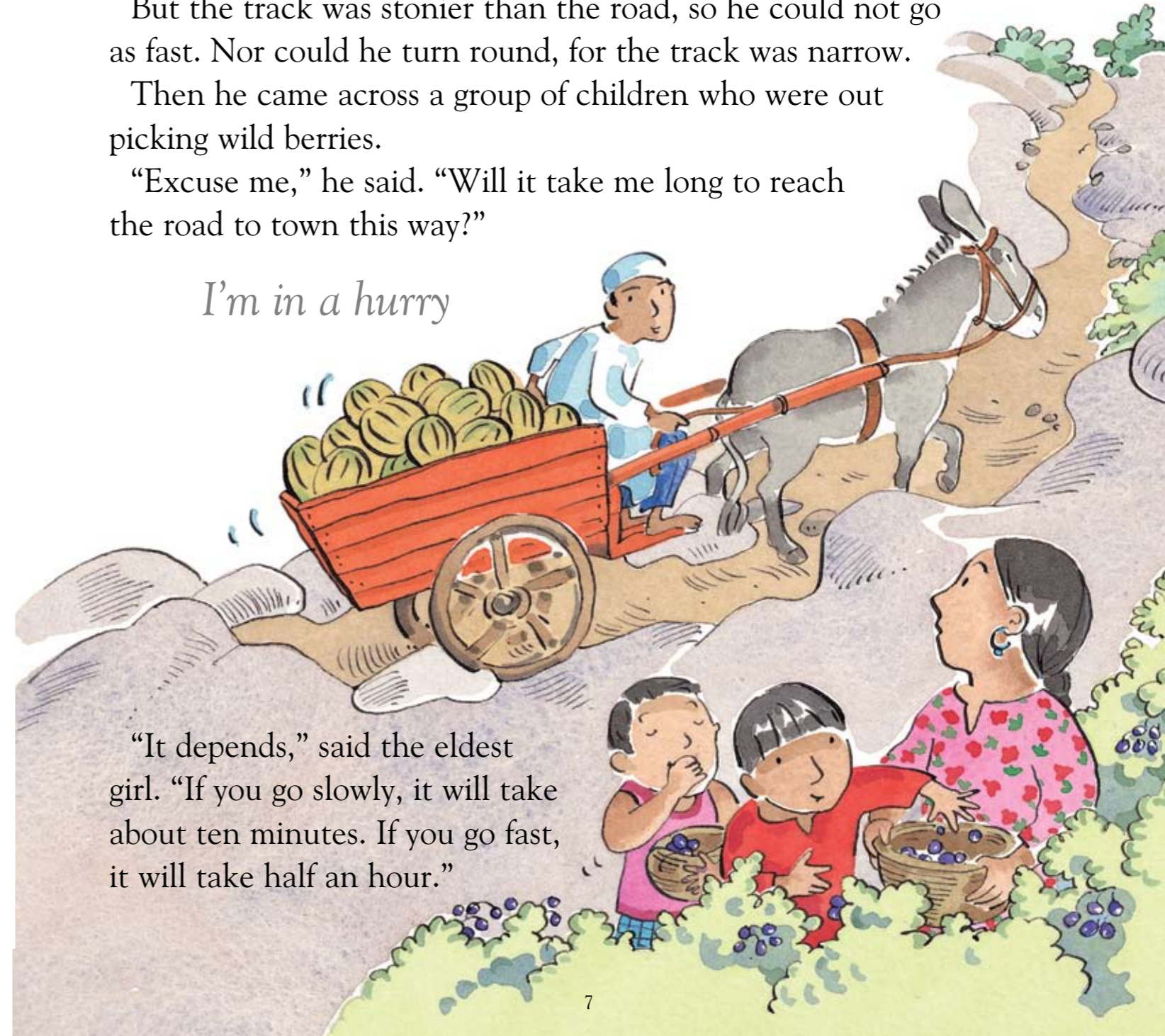
"I must hurry," he said to himself. "I shall take the track my neighbour uses as a short cut."

So when he came to the place, he turned off the road. But the track was stonier than the road, so he could not go as fast. Nor could he turn round, for the track was narrow.

Then he came across a group of children who were out picking wild berries.

"Excuse me," he said. "Will it take me long to reach the road to town this way?"

I'm in a hurry

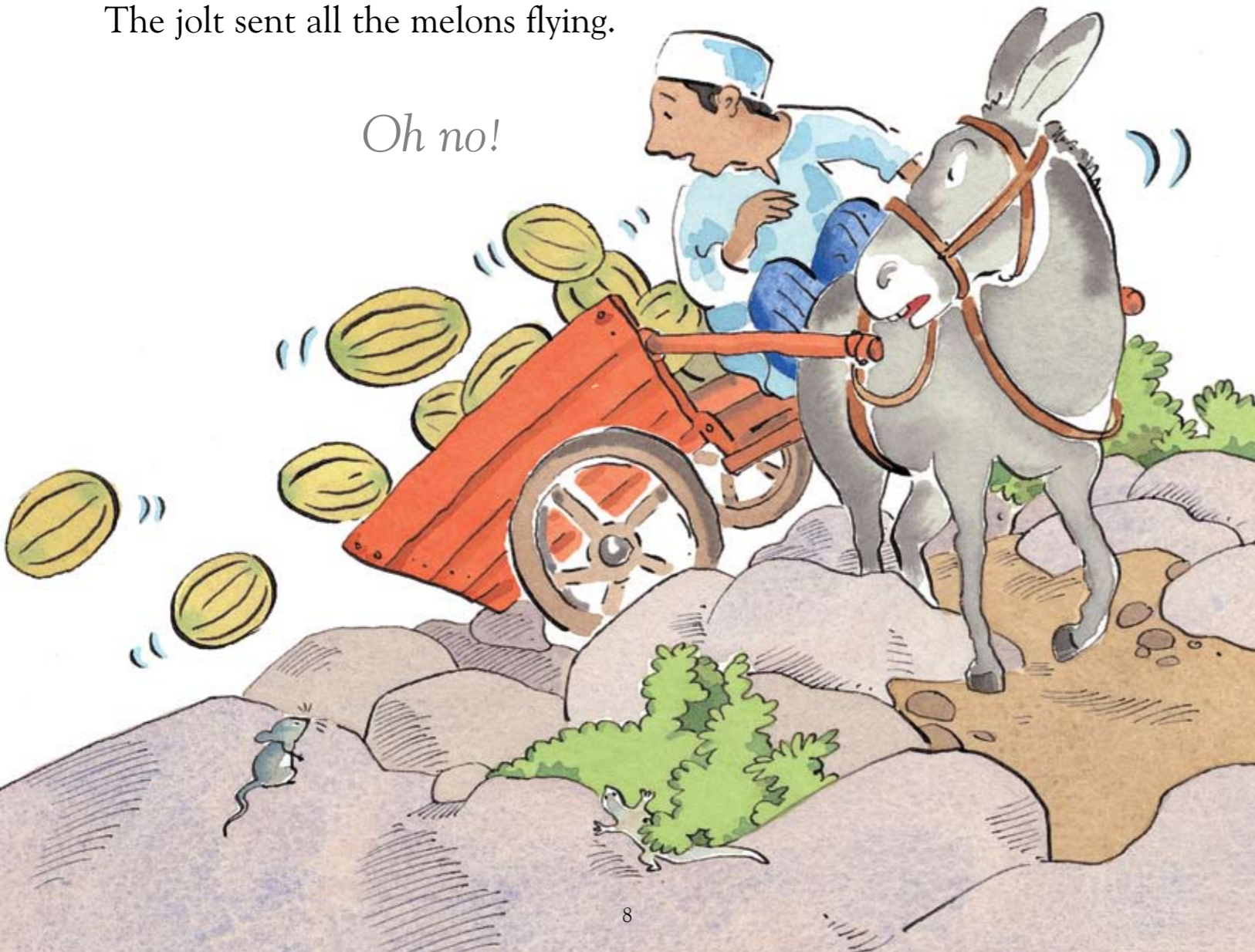


"It depends," said the eldest girl. "If you go slowly, it will take about ten minutes. If you go fast, it will take half an hour."

“What a foolish child,” said the man to himself.
“She said the opposite of what she meant.”

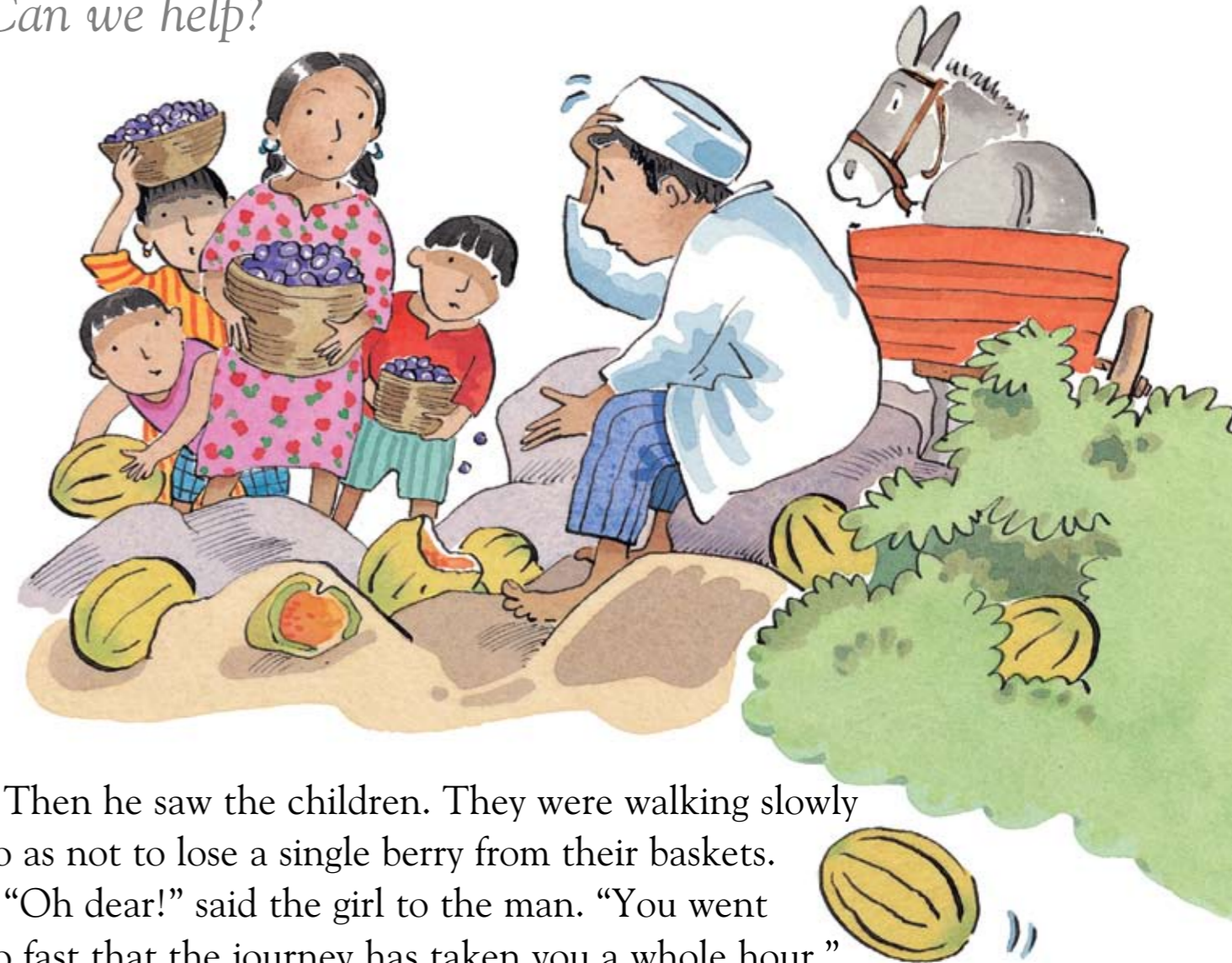
And with that, he shook the reins to make his donkey go faster.

All at once, a wheel struck a large stone.
The jolt sent all the melons flying.



He had to stop and pick up all the melons. They had rolled this way and that and the job seemed to take for ever.

Can we help?



Then he saw the children. They were walking slowly so as not to lose a single berry from their baskets.

“Oh dear!” said the girl to the man. “You went so fast that the journey has taken you a whole hour.”