

LEVELED BOOK • M

Vacation Time!



Illustrated by David Cockcroft

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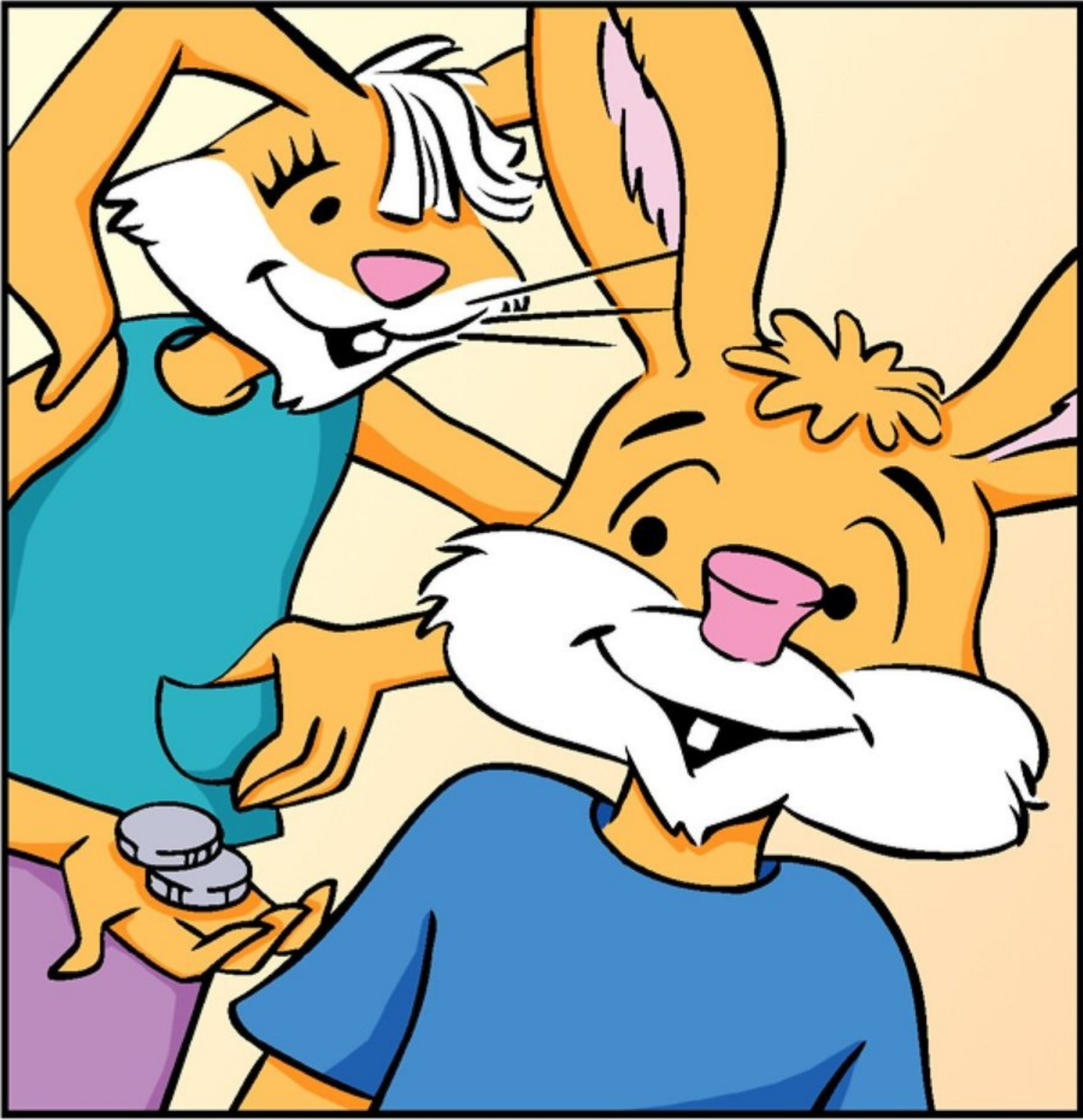
The four Hoppers woke up one bright June morning on the first day of vacation.

“Where should we go on our vacation?” asked Speedy Legs.

“What will we do with our vacation money?” asked Fluffy Tail.

“Vacation money?” said Snubby Nose, and then he began to cry. “I’ve lost my vacation money. I won’t be able to do anything this summer. I’ve looked all over, and I can’t find it.” Snubby Nose threw himself on the bed and sobbed.





But then Floppy Ears leaned close and whispered in his ear. “I found your vacation money under a flower pot. It’s here in my shirt pocket.”

Snubby Nose stopped crying, and all the Hoppers leapt downstairs to eat breakfast.



“Where would you like to go on your vacation?” asked Papa Hopper.

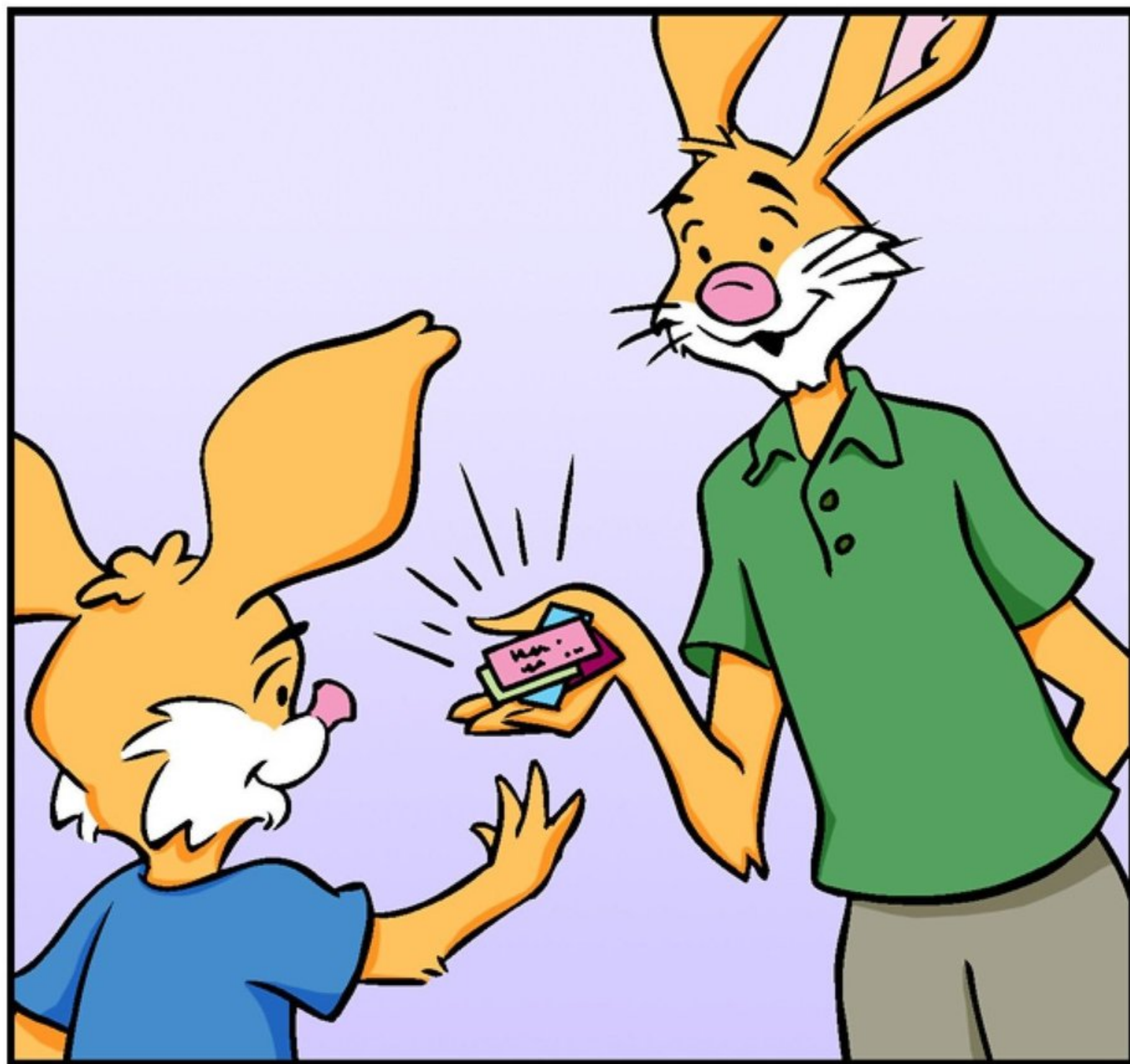
“I want to go camping!”
cried Floppy Ears.

“I want to have a picnic!”
said Fluffy Tail.

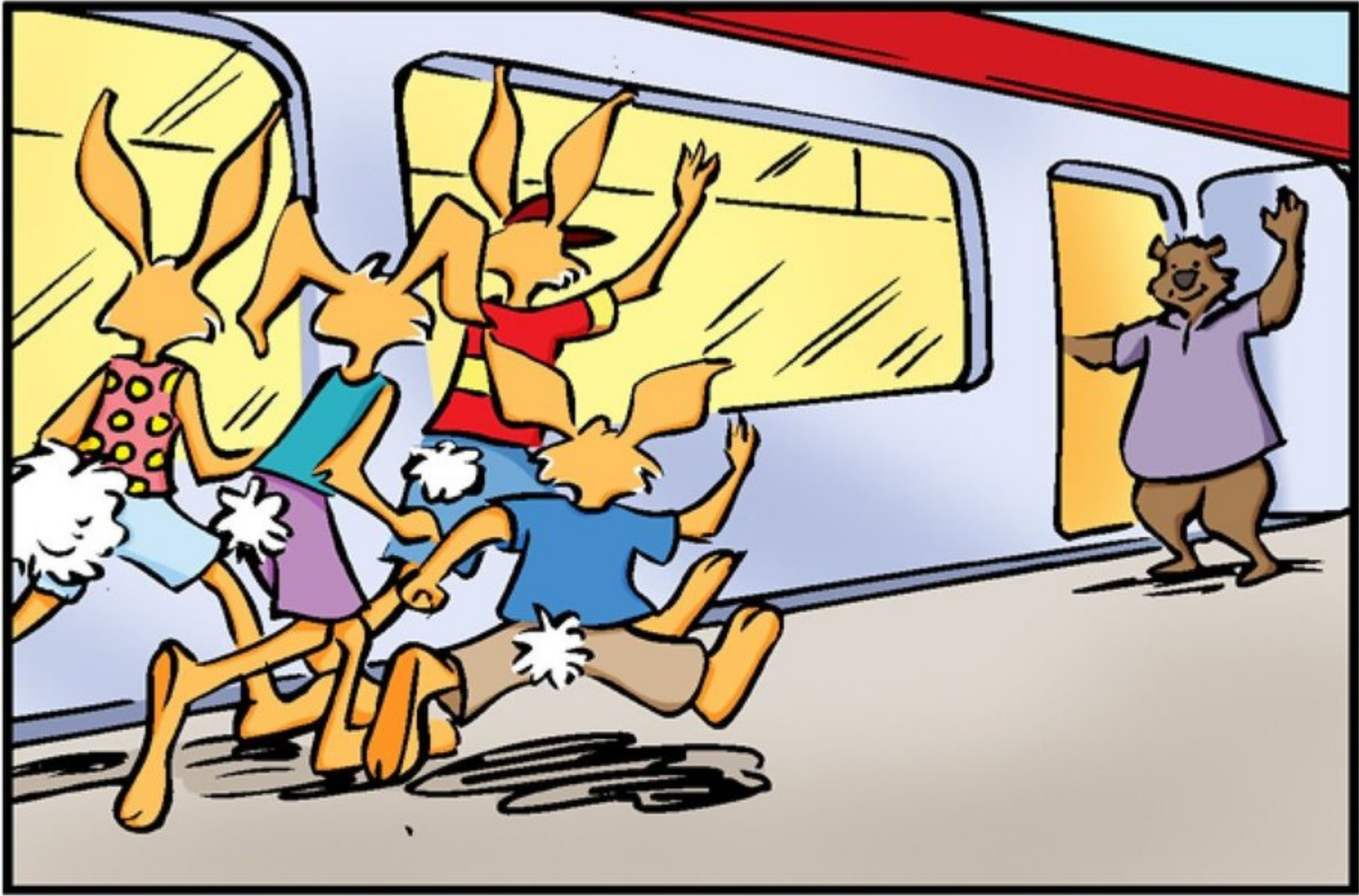
“I’d like to go fishing,”
said Speedy Legs.

“Hmm,” said Papa Hopper, frowning.
“None of you wanted to go on a
train ride? That’s too bad, because
I’ll have to give these train tickets
away.”

“Oh no, don’t do that,” yelled
Snubby Nose. “We’d love to go
on a train ride.”



So all the Hoppers got their things together and went down to the train station. And there waiting for them on the platform was Grandpa Grizzly.



“Hello, Hoppers,” he said, waving.
“All aboard for the train ride.”

The Hoppers and Grandpa Grizzly all hopped aboard the train. They sat in their own special cabin, and with a chug and a puff, the train was off.

“My, how fast we’re going,” said Mother Hopper.

“Look at the trees and houses flying by the window,” said Papa Hopper.

“Here we go over a high bridge,” said Grandpa Grizzly.

The train went far into the countryside, through forests and fields and mountains. The four young Hoppers sat with their noses pressed against the window. The train went faster and faster. The rails roared and the whistle blew.

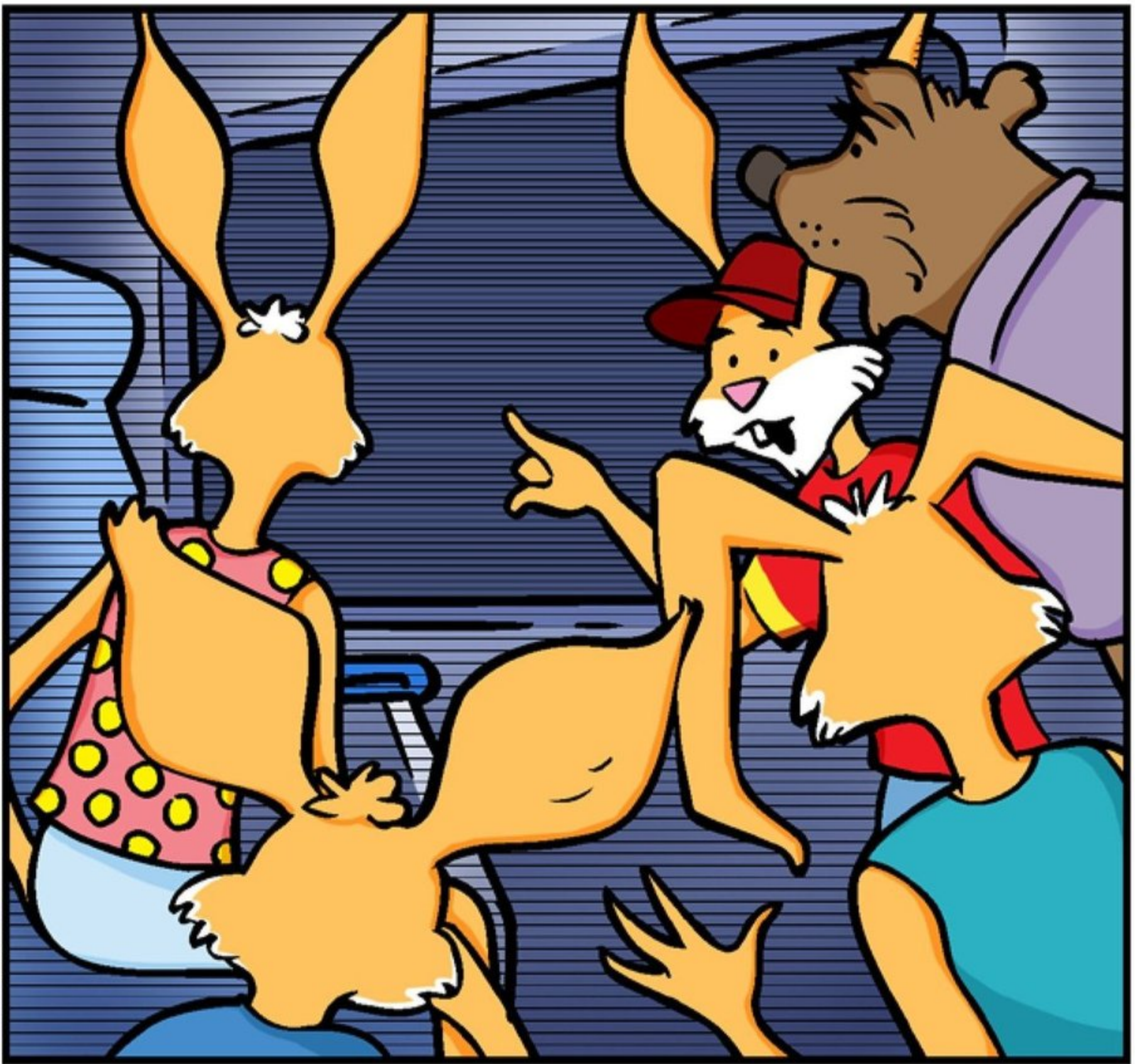


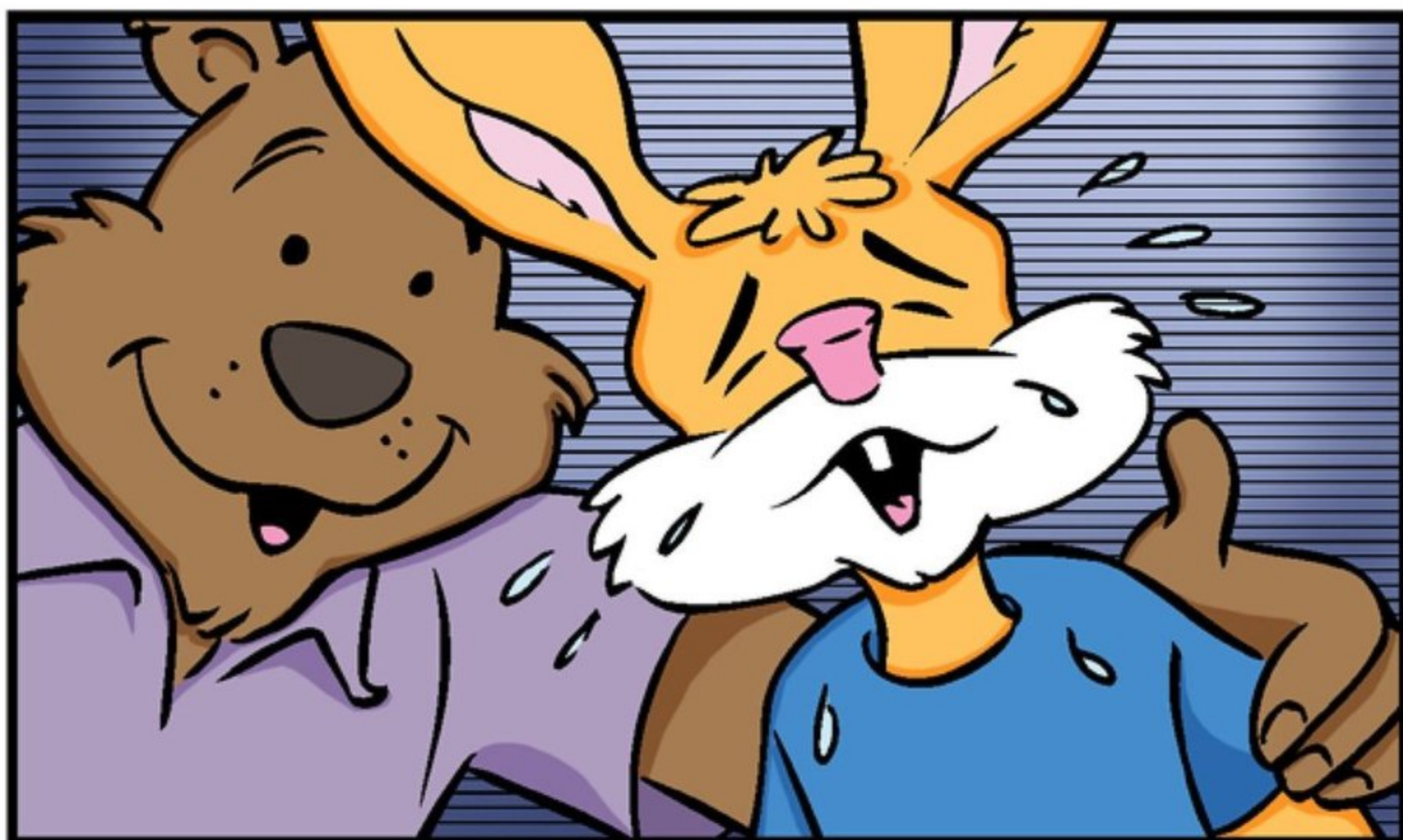
Suddenly, the train got very loud
and everything became pitch dark.

“It’s a tornado!” cried Speedy Legs.

“We’re caught in a thunderstorm,”
said Fluffy Tail.

“I think there was an explosion,”
said Floppy Ears.





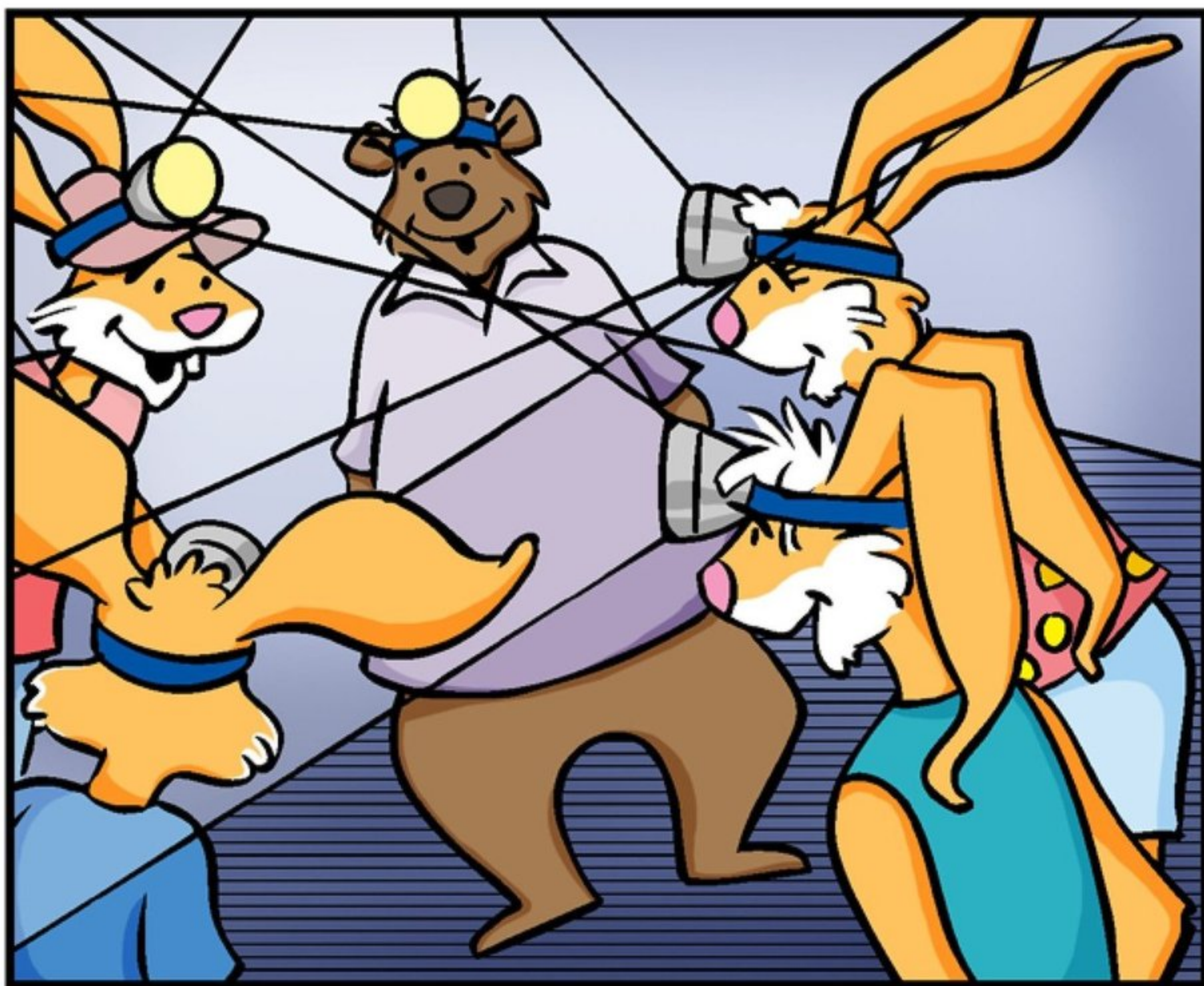
Snubby Nose got so scared that he began to cry. The other Hoppers were afraid, too.

“Don’t worry, Snubby Nose,” said Grandpa Grizzly. “We’re just going through a tunnel.”

But it was so dark and the train roared so loudly that Snubby Nose was still afraid.

“The tunnel won’t hurt you, Snubby Nose,” said Grandpa Grizzly.

Grandpa Grizzly reached into his bag, took something out, and put it around Snubby Nose's head. Then he put something on his own head. He flipped a switch, and a bright light shone from Snubby Nose's forehead. Then a light shone from Grandpa Grizzly's forehead. Grandpa Grizzly gave all the Hoppers their own head lamps.





“Let’s pretend we’re miners in the tunnel,” said Grandpa Grizzly.

Finally, Snubby Nose stopped crying, and the other Hoppers weren’t afraid anymore.

The Hoppers went up and down the dark train with their head lamps on. Soon they saw a little light from a sign that said “Snack Car.”

Grandpa Grizzly followed the sign and disappeared into the snack car. When he came out, he had four shiny gold coins in his hand.

“We must be in a gold mine,” he said, handing a glittering coin to each of the Hoppers.

“Even better,” said Snubby Nose.

“We’re in a chocolate mine!”

The Hoppers opened the gold wrappers on the coins, and inside were four coins made of chocolate.



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