



Roland C. Barksdale-Hall currently is president of JAH Kente International, Washington, D.C., that promotes the arts in churches, libraries, and schools in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. As an AIDS educator, he used children's stories to teach valuable lessons. He draws upon twenty years of experience as a librarian, parent, and godfather to nine in his debut as an author of children's books.

A founder of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) of Pittsburgh and former executive director, Barksdale-Hall traveled to West Africa and researched storytelling. He served as national youth director of the Frontiers International and on the executive committee of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. He belongs to the National Association of Black Storytellers and is vice president of the *Buckeye Review*.

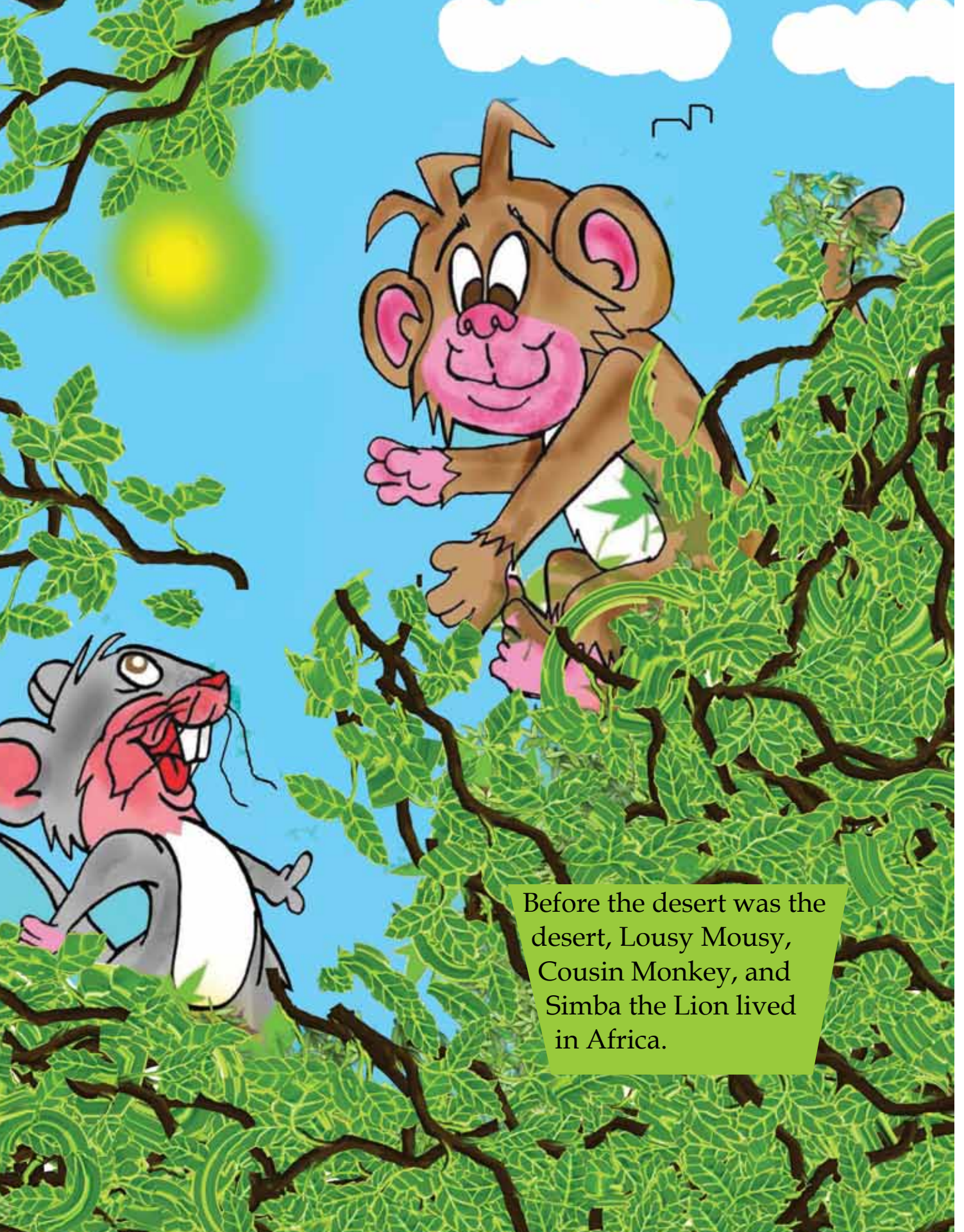
In 2009 the University of Pittsburgh awarded Barksdale-Hall the Blue, Gold and Black: Color of Achievement Award. Through storytelling he has taken his cultural health message to summer camps, leadership conferences, family reunions, and community celebrations throughout the country.



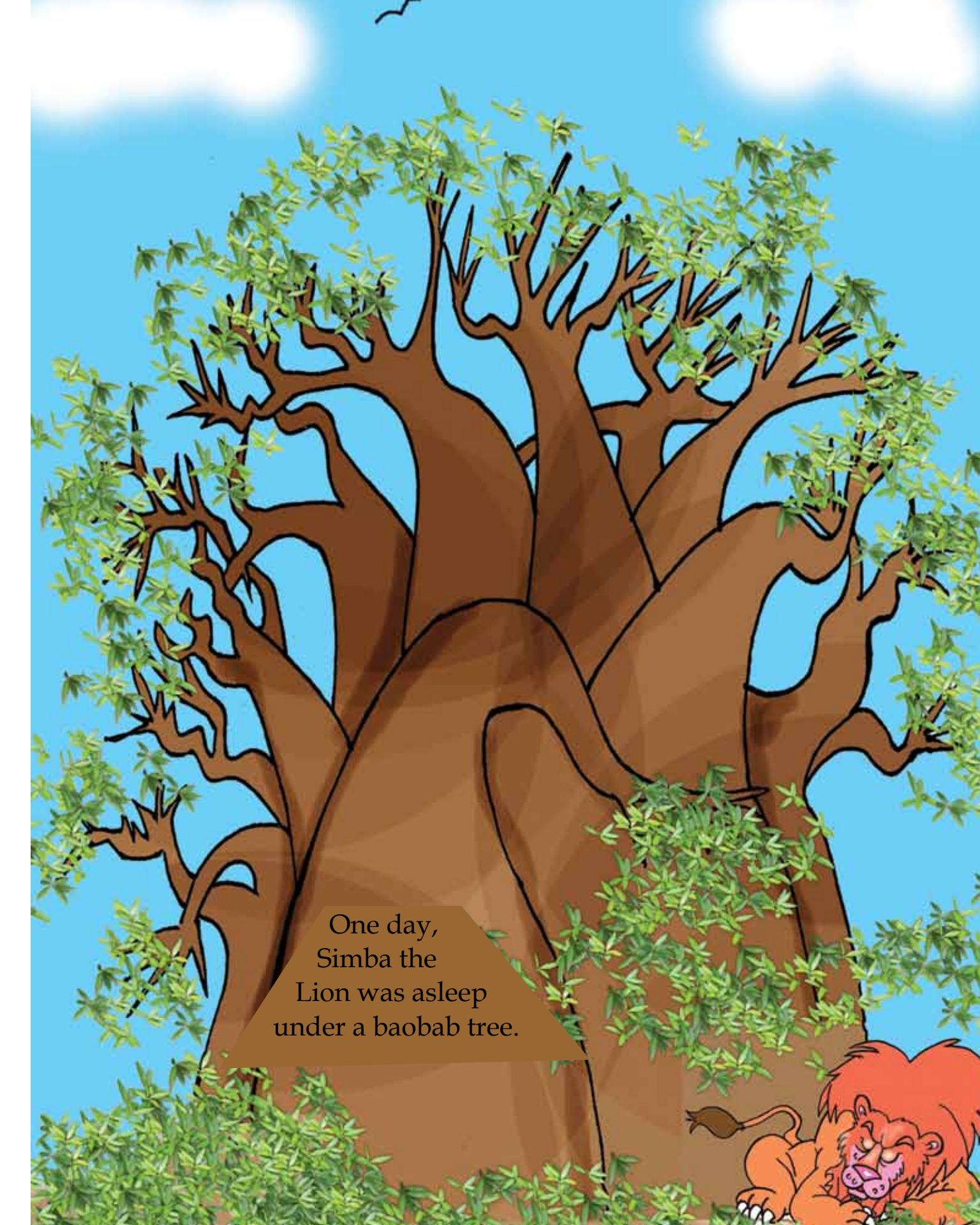
Bill started his career as an illustrator in the early 1970's, as a teenager working with the Johnson Publishing Company, the publishers of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. Murray earned his bachelor of fine arts degree in visual communications from the Institute of Art, Chicago, Illinois. Reading to his four-year-old daughter, Cheyanne (in photo above), inspired him to illustrate children's books.

Murray's first feature was "Those Browns," a cartoon series that Sammy Davis, Jr., distributed from 1975 to 1981. After creating *Adam & Eve, A.D.*, a comic book, Murray hired Kevin Eastman, creator of the Ninja Turtles, to design the cover of his first issue in 1985. Highly successful, *Adam & Eve, A.D.* was distributed internationally and issues are now collector's items.

As a syndicated cartoonist-flash animator -illustrator, Murray has created cartoons for print and broadcast media: Real Times, Inc. (that bought Sengstacke Enterprises, Inc.); DBR Media; editorial cartoons (Sunday edition) of the *Herald* newspaper, Sharon, Pa.; freelance work for CNN News and Fox News.



Before the desert was the desert, Lousy Mousy, Cousin Monkey, and Simba the Lion lived in Africa.

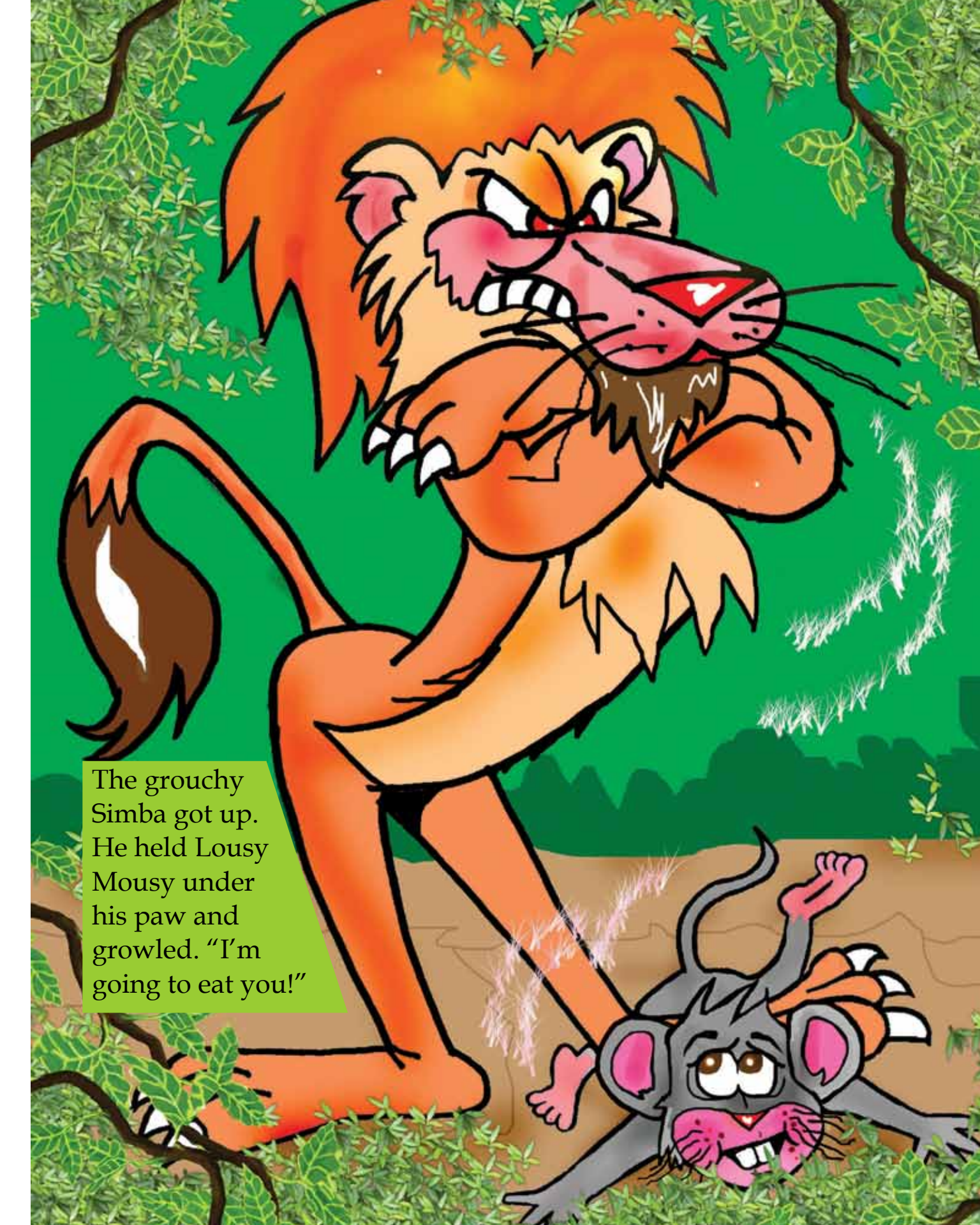
A cartoon illustration of a large baobab tree with a lion sleeping at its base. The tree has a thick, brown trunk and many green leaves. The sky is blue with a bright sun and a small bird flying in the distance. The lion is orange and is lying down, appearing to be asleep.

One day,
Simba the
Lion was asleep
under a baobab tree.



Lousy Mousy
ran over his back
and woke him up!





The grouchy Simba got up. He held Lousy Mousy under his paw and growled. "I'm going to eat you!"