





## by MADELINE SUNSHINE ustrated by CAROL NICKLAUS

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## A SESAME STREET/A GOLDEN BOOK

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It was a quiet morning on Sesame Street. Ernie and Bert were just finishing breakfast when the telephone rang.

"Hello?" said Ernie. "Um-hm. Sure. Don't worry, you can count on us. Good-by!"



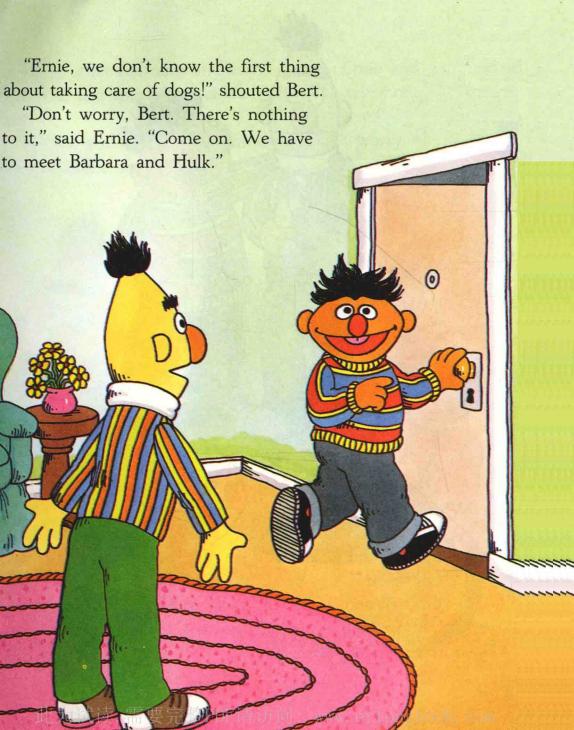


"Ernie, who was that on the phone?" asked Bert. "Who can count on us?"

"That was Barbara," said Ernie. "She called to ask us a favor, and I said we'd do it."

"Oh, good," said Bert. "What kind of favor?"

"Oh, it's nothing much, Bert," said Ernie. "I just said we'd take care of Barbara's dog, Hulk, while she visits her grandmother today."



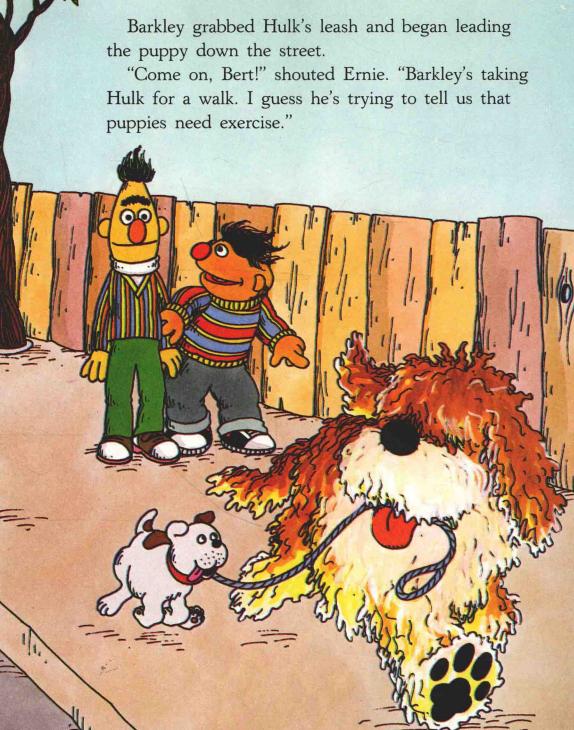


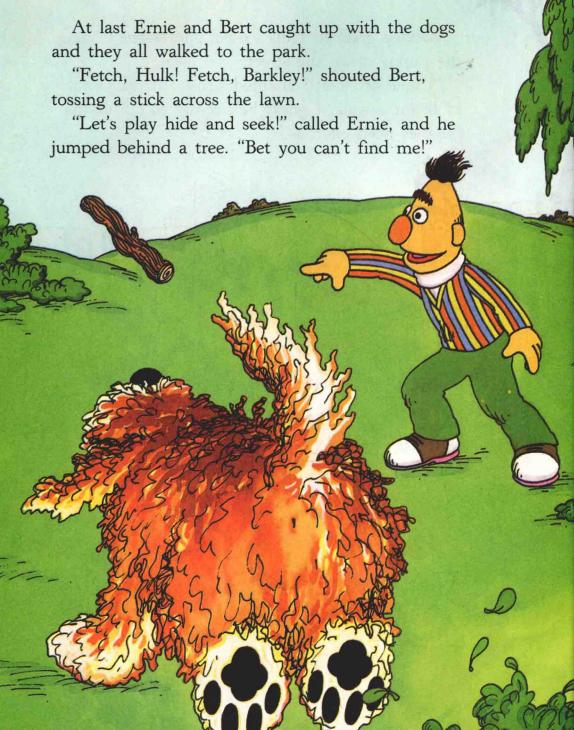
"Hi, Bert. Hi, Ernie," said Barbara when they all met in front of Mr. Hooper's store. "I'm glad you can take care of Hulk. I know you'll do a really terrific job. I have to go now or I'll miss my bus. Bye!"

"What are we going to do with this dog, huh, Ernie?" asked Bert.

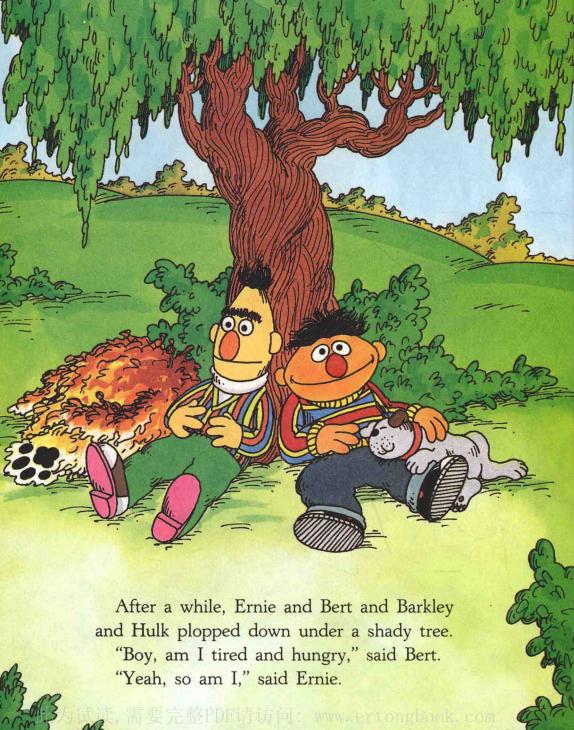


"I've got an idea, Bert," said Ernie as he saw Barkley the dog trotting toward them. "Hi, Barkley. Bert and I have to take care of this cute little puppy. Maybe you can give us a hand. I mean paw."

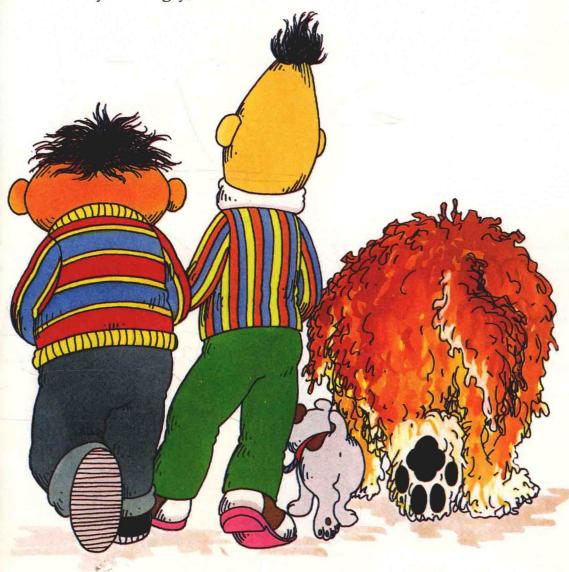






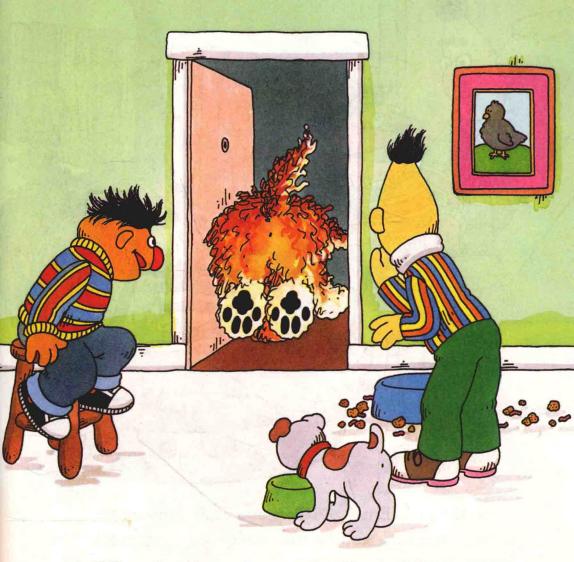


"Come on, Bert," said Ernie. "Let's take Barkley and Hulk home and feed them some lunch. I bet they're hungry, too."



"You were right, Ernie," said Bert, as Barkley and Hulk ate their dog food. "The dogs really were hungry and thirsty!"





"What should we do now, Bert?" asked Ernie, when they had all finished eating.

Before Bert could figure out an answer, Barkley dashed out the door and ran down Sesame Street.

"Barkley, wait! Where are you going?" called Bert.

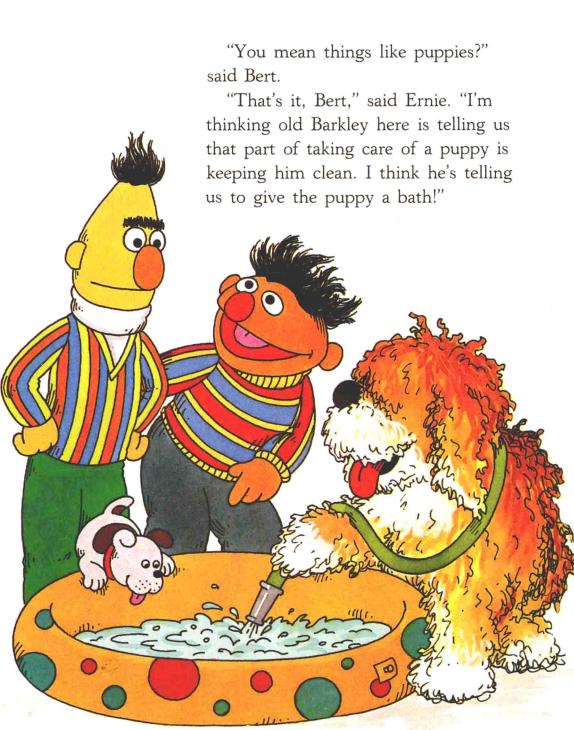


By the time Ernie and Bert and Hulk ran outside, Barkley was back and he was dragging a long, green garden hose.

"Hey, Bert," said Ernie. "Are you'thinking what I'm thinking?"

"I don't know, Ernie," said Bert. "What are you thinking?"

"I'm thinking that water washes things," said Ernie.



Bert got the dog shampoo. Ernie got his Rubber Duckie. They lathered Hulk with soap suds. Then, while Bert held the puppy gently, Ernie rinsed the suds off with cool water from the garden hose.

