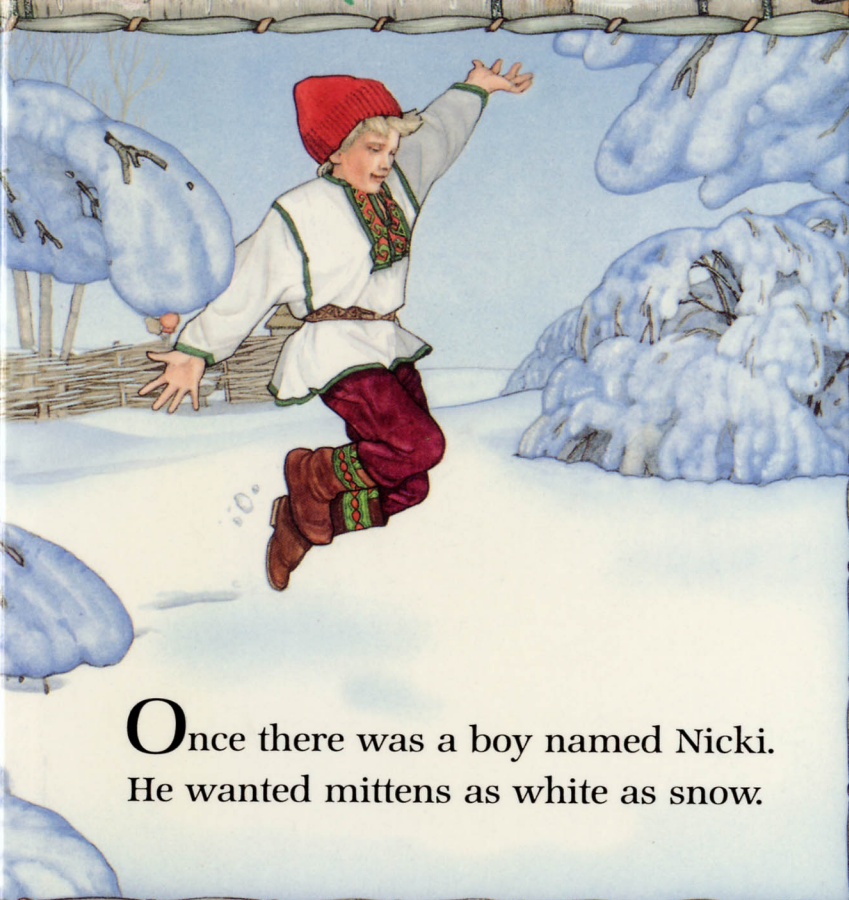




The Mitten

JAN BRETT





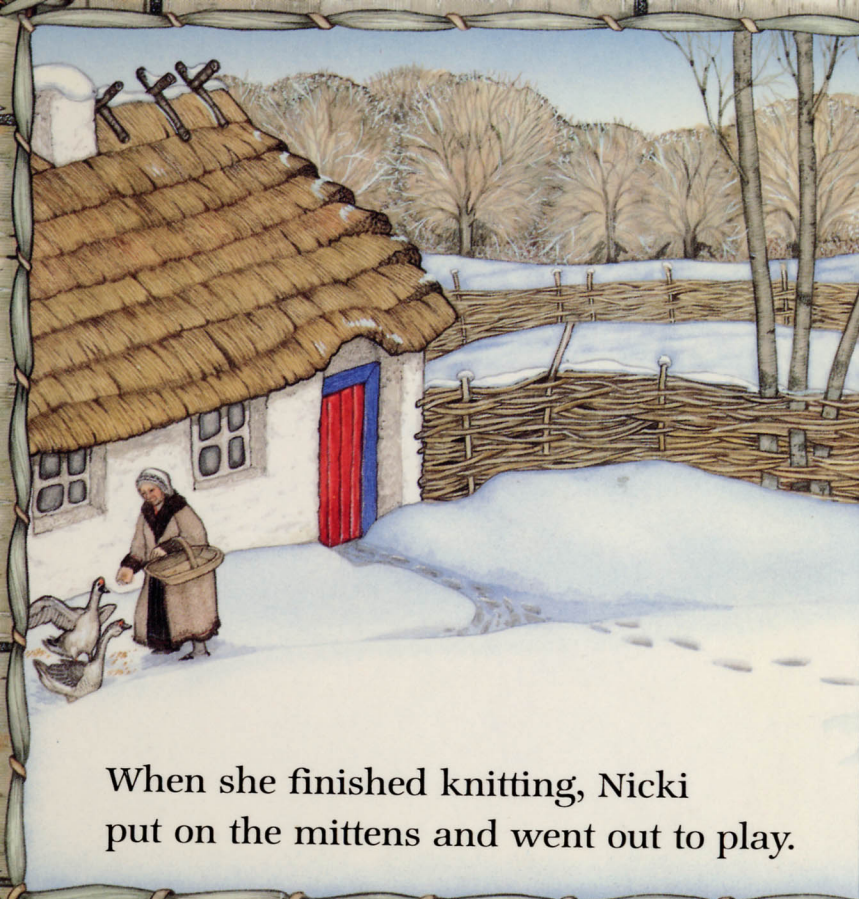
Once there was a boy named Nicki.
He wanted mittens as white as snow.





"If you drop a white mitten in the snow,
it will be hard to find,"
his grandmother told him.

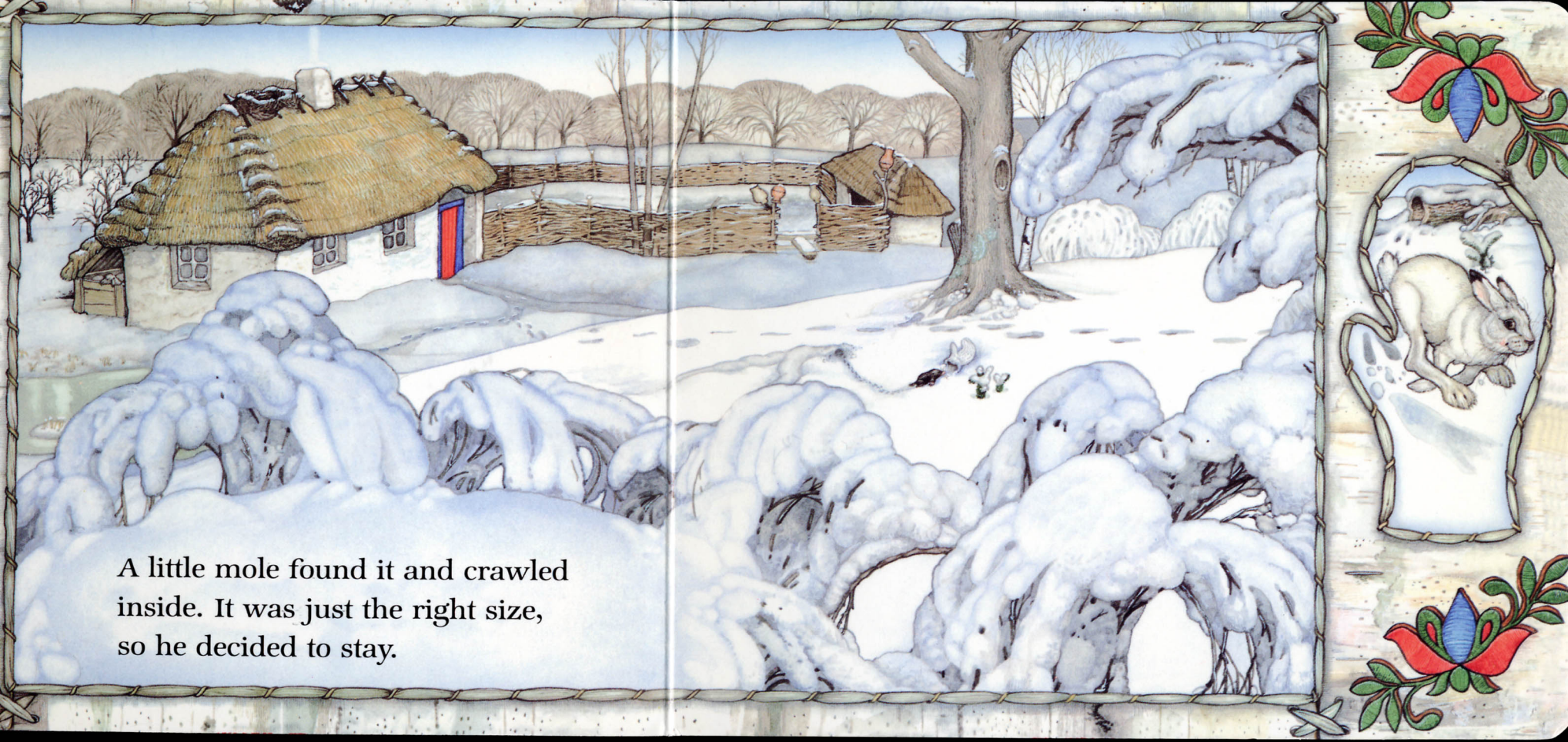
But Nicki wanted snow-white mittens
so much that Baba made them for him.



When she finished knitting, Nicki
put on the mittens and went out to play.



It wasn't long before one mitten fell off.

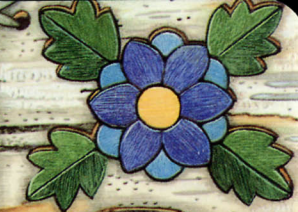


A little mole found it and crawled inside. It was just the right size, so he decided to stay.

A rabbit came hopping by.
He wiggled in next to the mole.



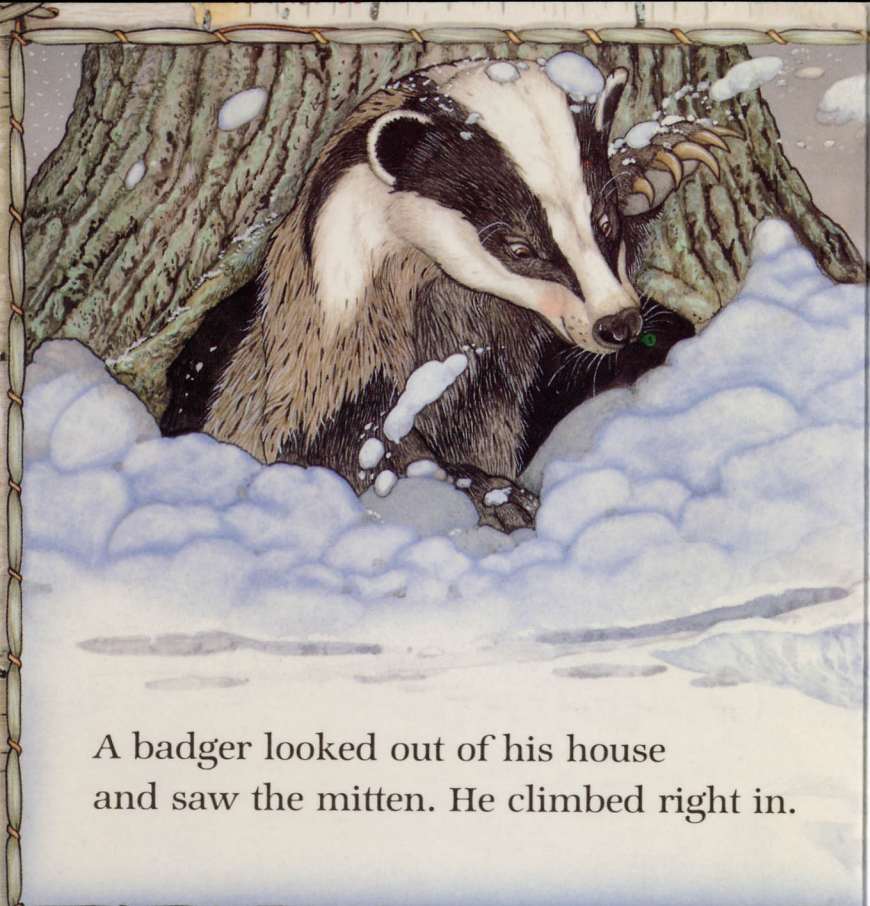
A hedgehog wanted to get warm.
The mole and the rabbit
made room for him.



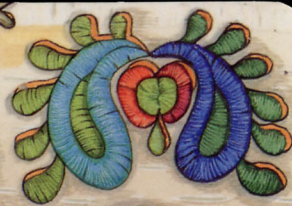


The owl didn't want to be left out.
So the mole, the rabbit,
and the hedgehog had to move over.
The little mitten was getting crowded.





A badger looked out of his house
and saw the mitten. He climbed right in.



It started to snow,
so a fox pushed his way in
and made himself right at home.

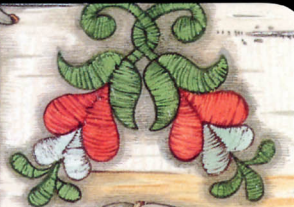




Then a big bear sniffed at the mitten.
The animals were packed in tight,
but the bear didn't care.

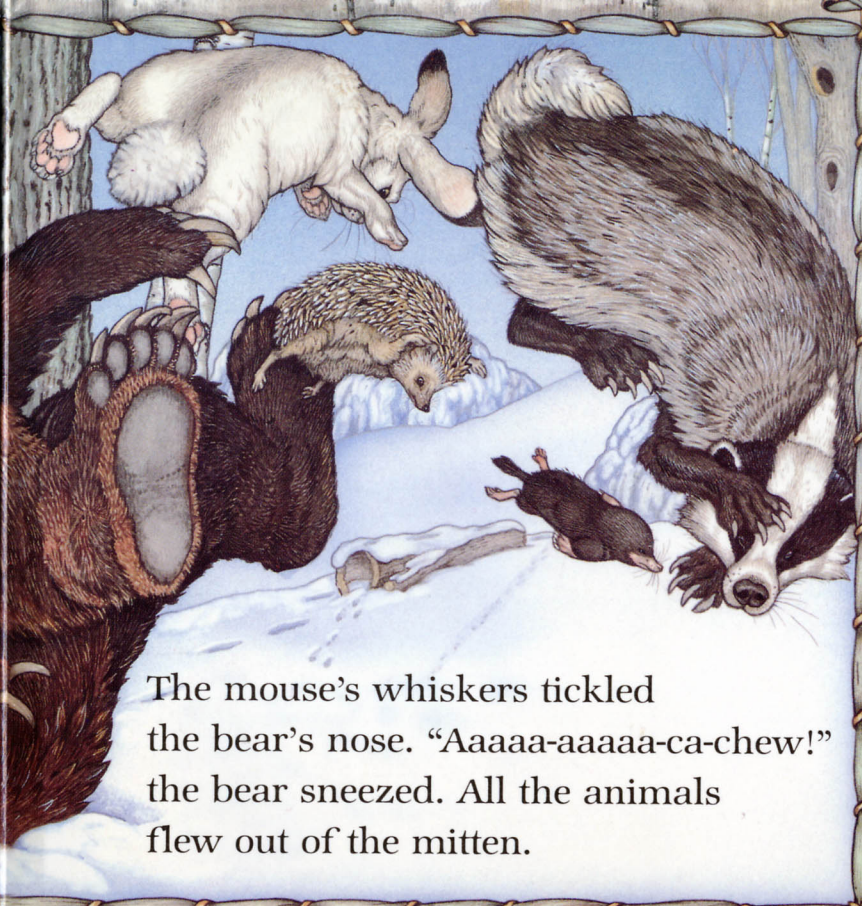


He crawled in anyway.
The mitten was getting bigger
and bigger and bigger.



Then a tiny mouse squeezed in
and perched herself on the big bear's nose.





The mouse's whiskers tickled the bear's nose. "Aaaaa-aaaa-ca-chew!" the bear sneezed. All the animals flew out of the mitten.





Nicki saw his mitten sail up into the air.





From the window, Baba watched Nicki catch his mitten. "See, Baba!" he called to her. "I have both my mittens." And Baba smiled.

