



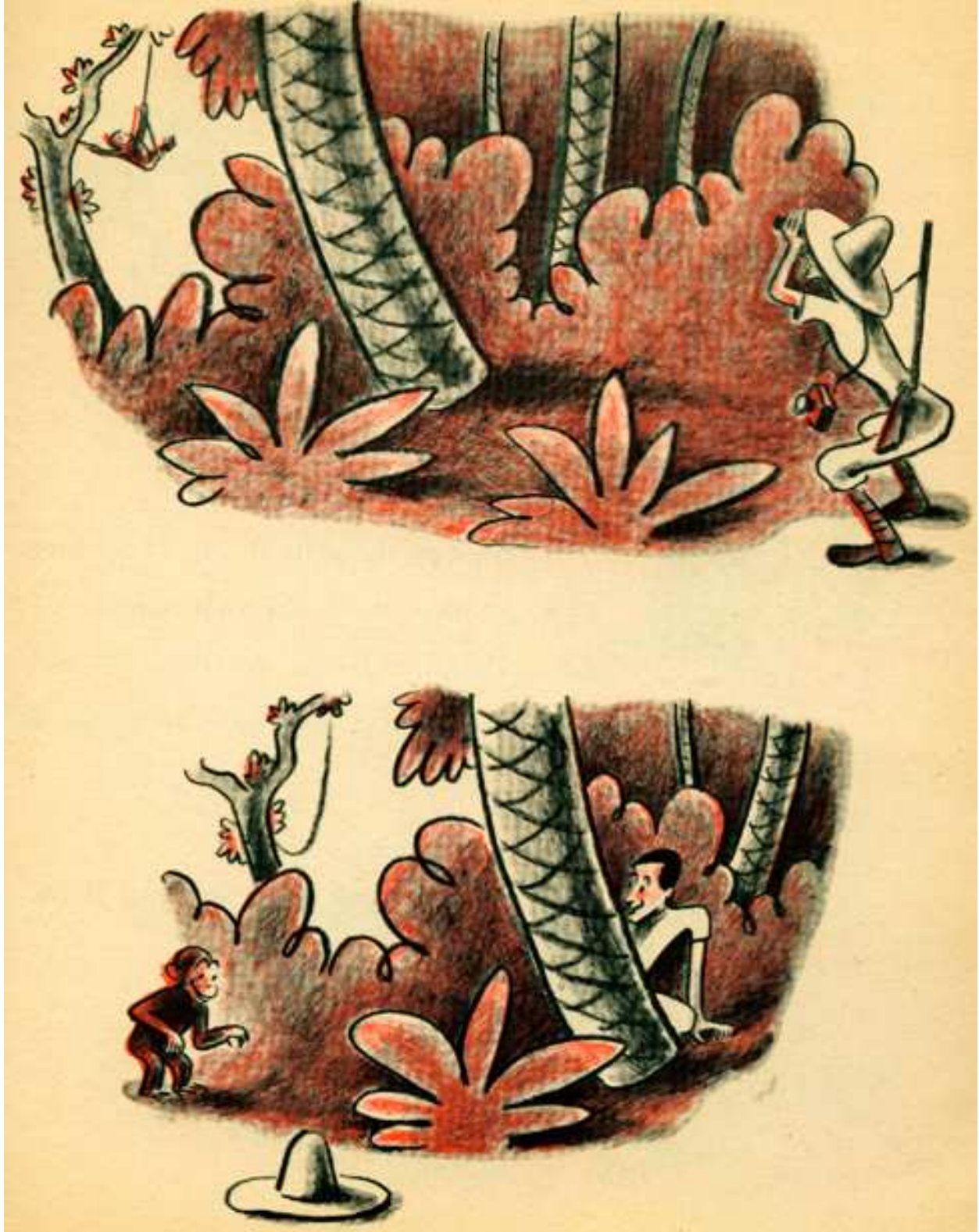
# Curious George

*by*

**H.A. REY**



This is George.  
He lived in Africa.  
He was very happy.  
But he had one fault. He was too curious.



One day George saw a man.  
He had on a large yellow straw hat.  
The man saw George, too.  
"What a nice little monkey," he thought,  
"I would like to take him home with me."  
The man put his hat on the ground,  
and of course George was curious.  
He came down from the tree  
to look at the large yellow hat.



The hat had been on the man's head.



head.

George thought it would be nice to have it on his own



He picked it up and put it on.

The hat covered George's head. He couldn't see.



The man picked him up quickly and popped him into a bag.



George was caught.



The man with the big yellow hat put George into a little boat, and a sailor rowed them both across the water to a big ship. George was sad, but he was still a little curious.



On the big ship, things began to happen.  
The man took off the bag.  
George sat on a little stool, and the man said,  
"George, I am going to take you to a big Zoo  
in a big city. You will like it there.  
Now run along and play,  
but don't get into trouble."  
George promised to be good.  
But it is easy for little monkeys to forget.



On the deck he found some sea gulls.  
He wondered how they could fly.  
He was very curious.  
Finally he HAD to try.  
It looked easy.  
But-

oh, what happened!

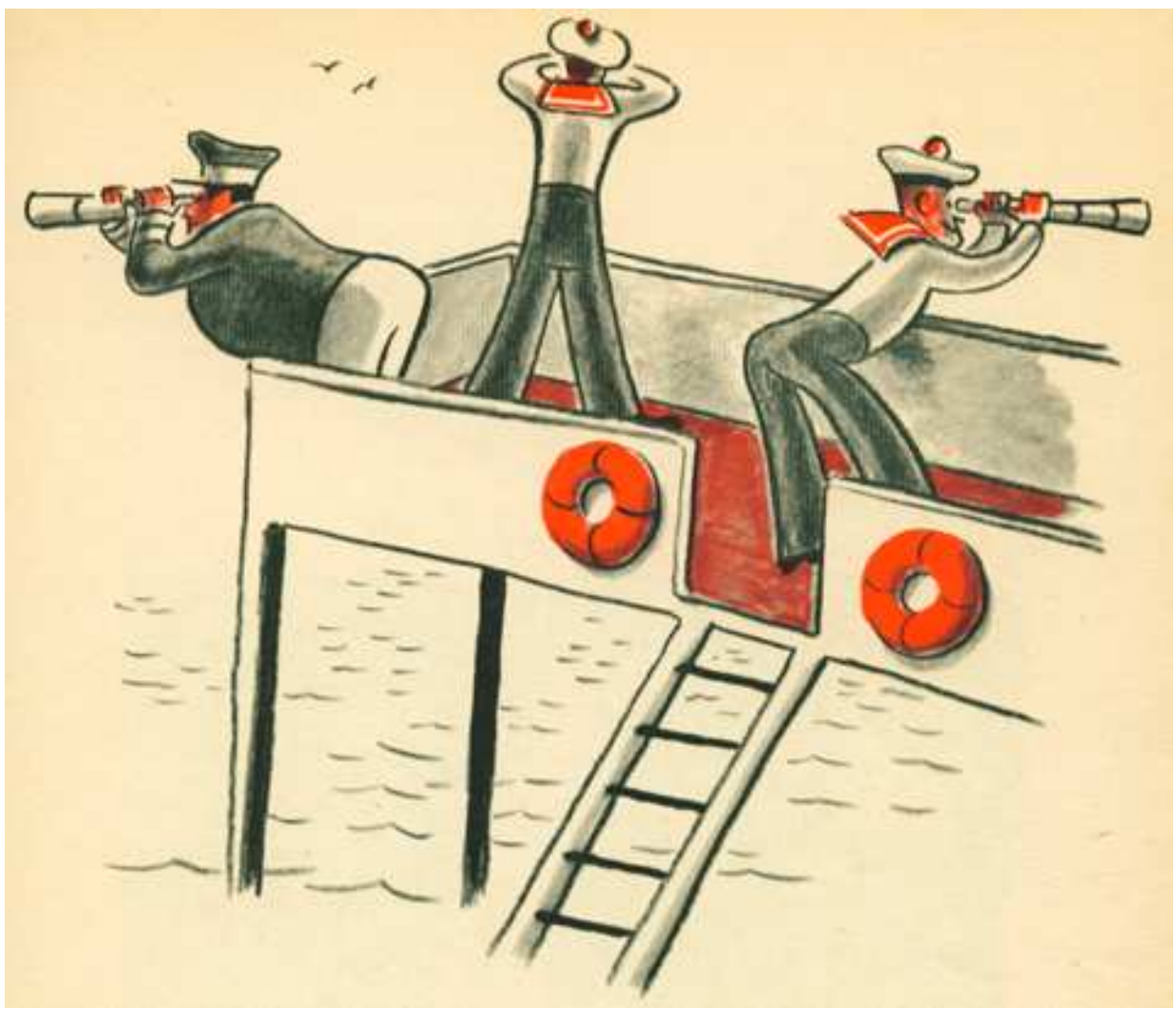


First this

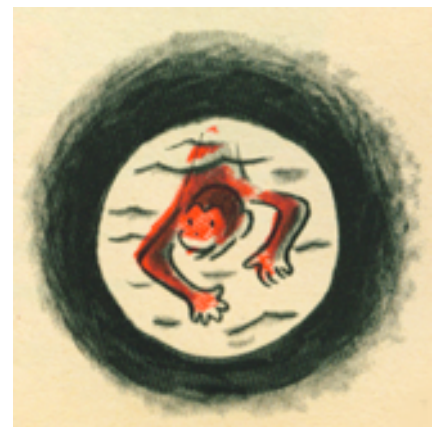


And then this!





"WHERE IS GEORGE?"  
The sailors looked and looked.  
At last they saw him  
struggling in the water,  
and almost all tired out.





"Man overboard!" the sailors cried as they threw him a life belt. George caught it and held on. At last he was safe on board.





After a good meal  
and a good pipe,  
George felt very tired.



He crawled into bed  
and fell asleep at once.



The next morning  
the man telephoned the Zoo.  
George watched him.  
He was fascinated.  
Then the man went away.  
George was curious.  
He wanted to telephone, too.  
One, two, three, four,  
five, six, seven.

What fun!

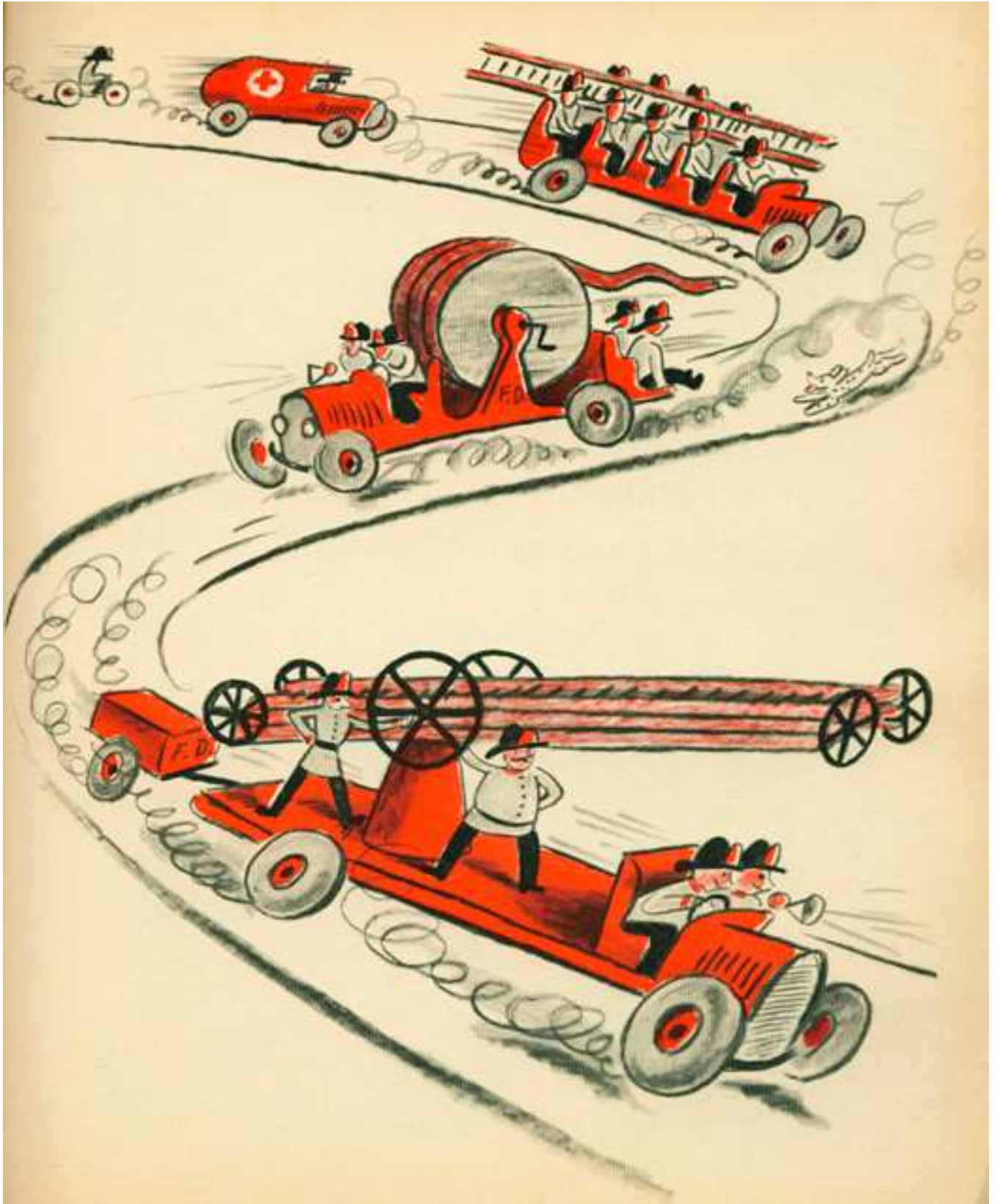


DING-A-LING-A-LING!  
GEORGE HAD TELEPHONED  
THE FIRE STATION!

The firemen rushed to the telephone.  
"Hello! Hello!" they said.  
But there was no answer.

Then they looked for the signal  
on the big map that showed  
where the telephone call had come from.  
They didn't know it was GEORGE.  
They thought it was a real fire.





HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!  
The firemen jumped on to the fire engines  
and on to the hook-and-ladders.

Ding-dong-ding-dong.  
Everyone out of the way!  
Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!



The firemen rushed into the house.  
They opened the door.  
NO FIRE!  
ONLY a naughty little monkey.

"Oh, catch him, catch him," they cried.  
George tried to run away.  
He almost did, but he got caught  
in the telephone wire, and -



a thin fireman caught one arm  
and a fat fireman caught the other.  
"You fooled the Fire Department,"  
they said. "We will have to shut you up  
where you can't do any more harm."

They took him away  
and shut him in a prison.



George wanted to get out.  
He climbed up to the window  
to try the bars.

Just then the watchman came in.  
He got on the wooden bed to catch George.  
But the watchman was too big and heavy.  
The bed tipped up,  
the watchman fell over,  
and, quick as lightning,  
George ran out through the open door.



He hurried through the building  
and out on to the roof. And then  
he was lucky to be a monkey.  
Out he walked on to the telephone wires.  
Quickly and quietly over the guard's head,  
George walked away.

He was free!



Down in the street,  
outside the prison wall,  
stood a balloon man.  
A little girl bought a balloon  
for her brother.  
George watched.

He was curious again.  
He felt he MUST have  
a bright red balloon.  
He reached over and  
tried to help himself, but -



instead of one balloon,  
the whole bunch broke loose.  
In an instant  
the wind whisked them all away  
and, with them, went George,  
holding tight with both hands.



Up, up he sailed, higher and higher.  
The houses looked like toy houses  
and the people like dolls.

George was frightened.  
He held on very tight.





At first the wind blew in great gusts.  
Then it quieted.  
Finally it stopped blowing altogether.  
George was very tired.  
Down, down he went - bump,  
on to the top of a traffic light.  
Everyone was surprised.  
The traffic got all mixed up.  
George didn't know what to do,  
and then he heard someone call, "GEORGE!"  
He looked down and saw his friend,  
the man with the big yellow hat!



George was very happy.  
The man was happy, too.  
George slid down the post,  
and the man with the big yellow hat  
put him under his arm.  
Then he paid the balloon man  
for all the balloons.

And then George and the man  
climbed into the car,  
and at last away they went -



to the ZOO!  
What a nice place  
for George to live!

end