

# Hopper Hunts for Spring

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**"Spring is coming at last! said Hopper's mother.  
"great! I'll go and meet him, "said Hopper, and  
off he hopped over the melting snow.  
In a little hill he found a hole. "Maybe this is  
where Spring lives," thought Hopper.**







Hopper crept into the hole. A dark tunnel led to a small cave. There he met a mole. "Hello, are you Spring?" asked Hopper.

"Oh, no," laughed the mole. "I'm sure Spring has a much bigger house than I have."

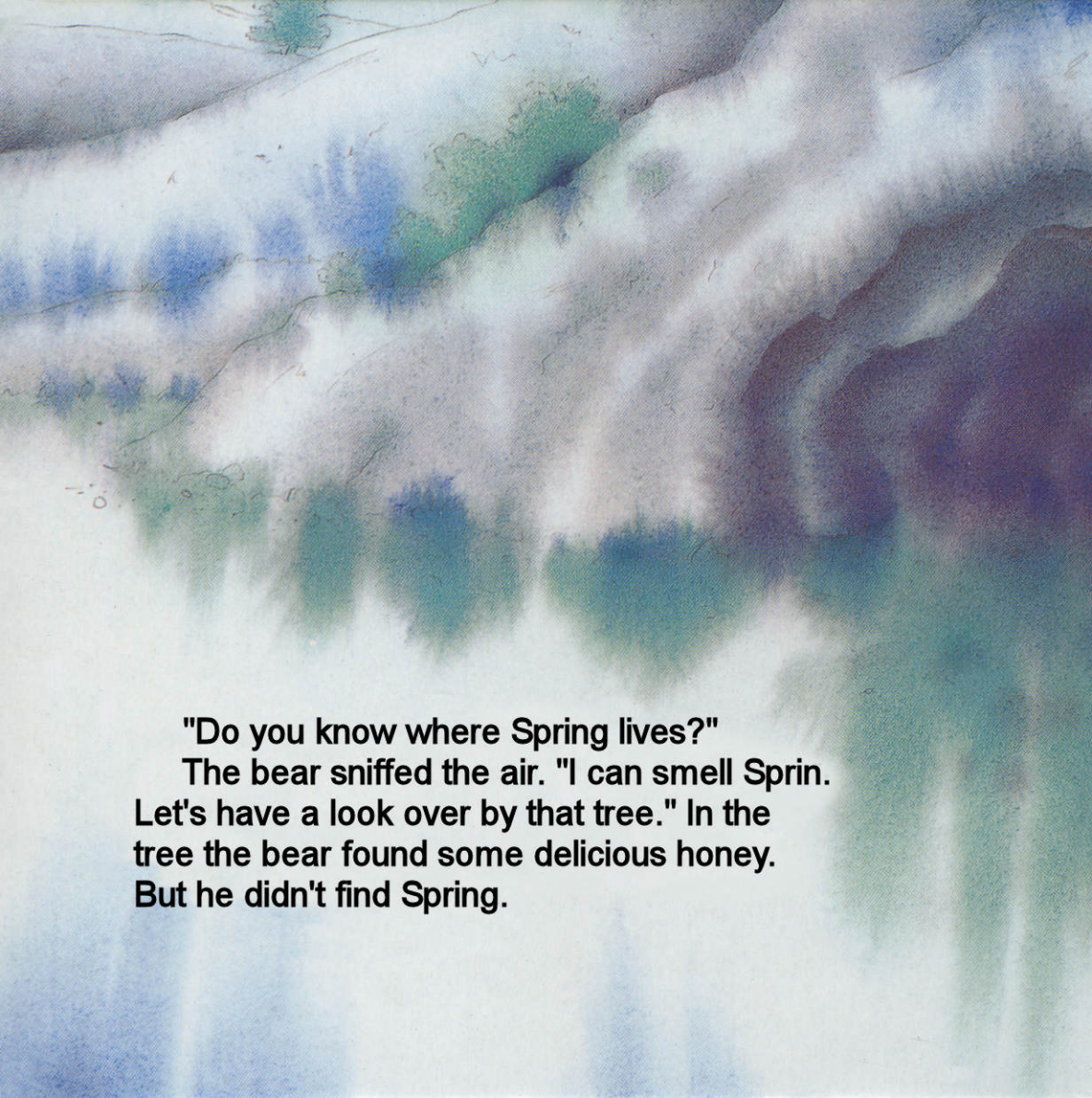


**"Try the big cave on the other side of the forest,"  
said the mole.**

**Hopper soon found the cave. Something big  
and brown was in the corner. "Wake up, Spring!  
It's me, Hopper."**

**"I'm not Spring," growled the bear. "I'm a bear."**





**"Do you know where Spring lives?"**  
**The bear sniffed the air. "I can smell Sprin.**  
**Let's have a look over by that tree." In the**  
**tree the bear found some delicious honey.**  
**But he didn't find Spring.**







**"I'm too tired to look for Spring anymore,"  
said Hopper. "We'll just have to wait until he  
comes." He sat with the bear under the tree. The  
bear let Hopper lick some honey off his paw.**

**"let me take you home," said the bear kindly.  
"I need to stretch my legs after my long sleep."**







**In the evening they arrived at Hopper's home. His mother hugged him tightly.**

**"I didn't find Spring," said his mother. "It's just the time of year when the snow melts. But don't be disappointed. You did find a new friend."**

**Hopper waved good-bye to the bear. "Come back soon!" he called. "We can play together all through the Spring."**

