

FOX BE NIMBLE

BY JAMES MARSHALL

FOX THE FAMOUS

Fox's mom was on the phone. "Fox would *love* to help," said Mom.

"I'll send him right over."

"I won't do it," said Fox. "Whatever it is. I'm playing rock star."

"Mrs. Ling across the street needs you to sit with her kids," said Mom.

"Why don't you do it? Said Fox.

"This is my quiet time," said Mom. "Now hurry up."

"No," said Fox. "And that is that."

"Oh really?" said Mom.

And Fox went across the street.

"How nice of you, Fox," said Mrs. Ling.

"Mom made me," said Fox.

Mrs. Ling got into her car. "I hope they behave," she said.

"I can handle them," said Fox. "They're just kids."

Mrs. Ling drove off.

"Hot dog!" yelled the Ling kids. And they went wild.

"Stop that!" cried Fox. "Come down from there!" cried Fox.

"Quit it!" cried Fox. "I don't have time for this!"

But the Ling kids would not quit. They did just what they wanted.

Fox had to get tough. "I'll tell your mom!" he said. The Ling kids got very still. "We'll be good," they said.

"Why don't you go play in the backyard?" said Fox.

The kids liked the idea. "May we play with our new balloons?" they said.

"I don't see why not," said Fox.

Fox went back to play rock star. "The girls will love this," he said.

Suddenly he had an odd feeling. The Ling kids were up to something.

Fox ran into the backyard. "Come back here this minute!" he cried.

"Bye-bye!" the Ling kids called out.

"Oh, no!" cried Fox. "Their mom will *kill* me!"

"I'll have to catch them!" He climbed the fence.

And he fell right into some mud, tore his brand-new blue jeans,

Tripped and stubbed his toe, and ran smack into Mrs. O'Hara.

But the wind carried the Ling kids right back home.

"What have you little darlings been up to?" said Mrs. Ling.

"And just *what* have you done with poor Fox?"

That night Fox's mom turned on the TV.

"A fox was rescued from a high place today," said the newscaster.

"Why that's *you*, Fox!" said Mom.

"Fox is famous!" cried little Louise.

"Oh, quit it!" said Fox.

FOX THE BRAVE

Fox stepped on one of his skates and went flying.

"Who left *that* there?" he cried. And he landed with a bang.

Mom and Louise came running.

"I'm dying!" cried Fox.

"It's only a scratch," said Mom. "Nothing to worry about."

"I can't look at all the blood!" cried Fox.

"There's no blood," said Mom.

"Don't leave me!" cried Fox.

Mom and Louise put Fox to bed.

"Call the Doctor Ed," said Fox. "Before it's too late."

"Really, Fox," said Mom. "You're making *such* a fuss."

Louise called Doctor Ed to come over.

Then she stepped on Fox's other skate, bounced down the stairs, flew right out the front door, and ran smack into Mrs. O'Hara.

"Poor Louise must hurt all over," said Doctor Ed. But Louise didn't cry. She didn't complain. Not even a peep.

"Very brave," said Doctor Ed. "Very brave."

"Louise is tough," said Mom.

"Now then," said Doctor Ed. "What's the matter with Fox?"

"Oh, it's just a scratch," said Fox. "I don't like to make a fuss."

Mom didn't say a word.

FOX ON PARADE

"Fox is showing off!" said Dexter.

"Quit it, Fox," said Mr. Sharp. "We don't have time for this. The big parade is next week."

And the band played on.

"Fox is showing off again!" said Carmen.

"That does it!" said Mr. Sharp.

Fox was told to leave the band room.

"Come back when you have changed your ways," said Mr. Sharp.

"But I *like* to show off," said Fox.

Fox sat in the schoolyard by himself.

"There are some things you just *can't* change," he said.

"Look out! Look out!" cried a voice.

Fox almost got hit.

"Oh dear!" said his friend Raisin. "I'm *so* clumsy!"

"You should be more careful!" said Fox crossly.

"I'm sorry," said Raisin. "I'm just not good at this."

"It looks easy to me," said Fox.

"Oh really?" said Raisin. "Then *you* try it."

Fox gave the baton a twirl. And he dropped it on his toe.

"Ouch!" he yelled. "This is harder than it looks,"
But, soon he got the hang of it and he got better and better.

Raisin couldn't believe her eyes.

"Wow!" said Dexter.

"Will you look at *that*"?

"Fox said Mr. Sharp. "May I speak to you a moment?"

"What now?" said Fox.

On the day of the big parade the band was great.

Fox could show off to his heart's content. And the crowd went wild.