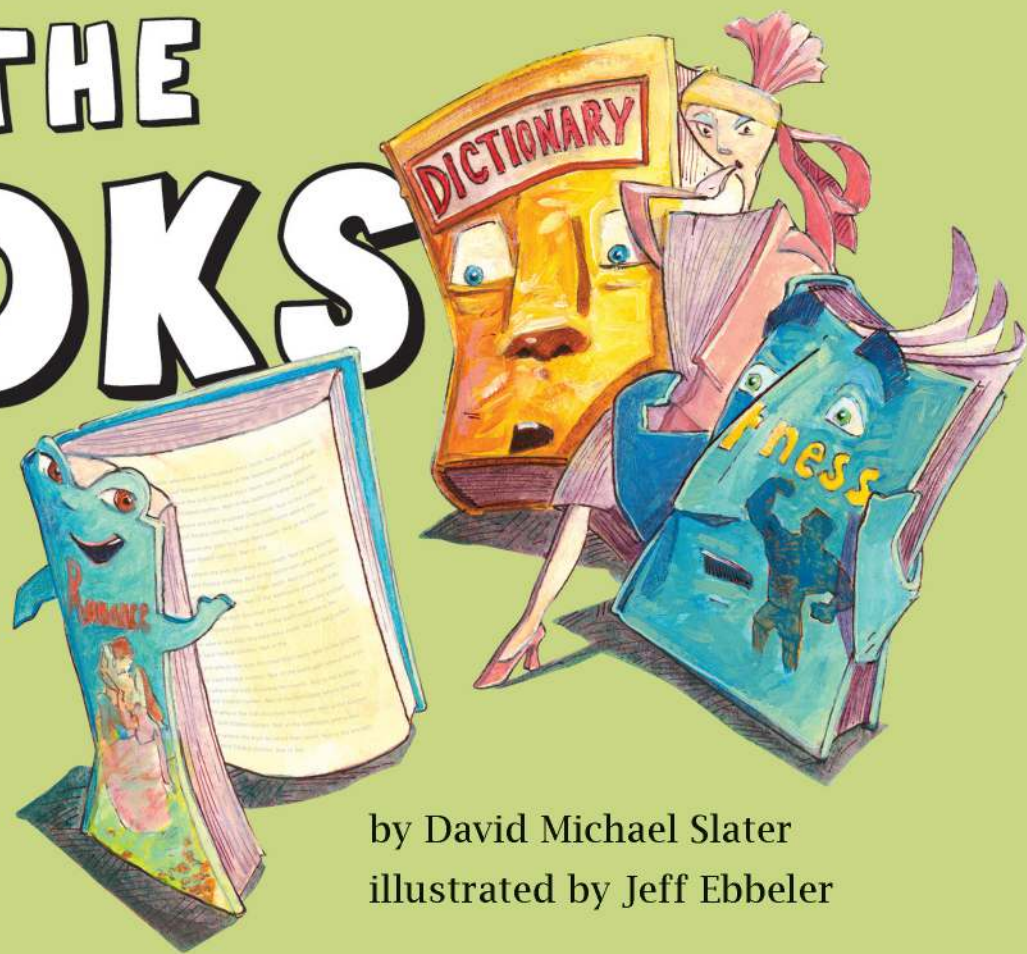


BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



by David Michael Slater
illustrated by Jeff Ebbeler

For Jace & Madelyn—DMS

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Summary: Two new books are dismayed when they are shelved at a library where the books
judge each other only by their covers.

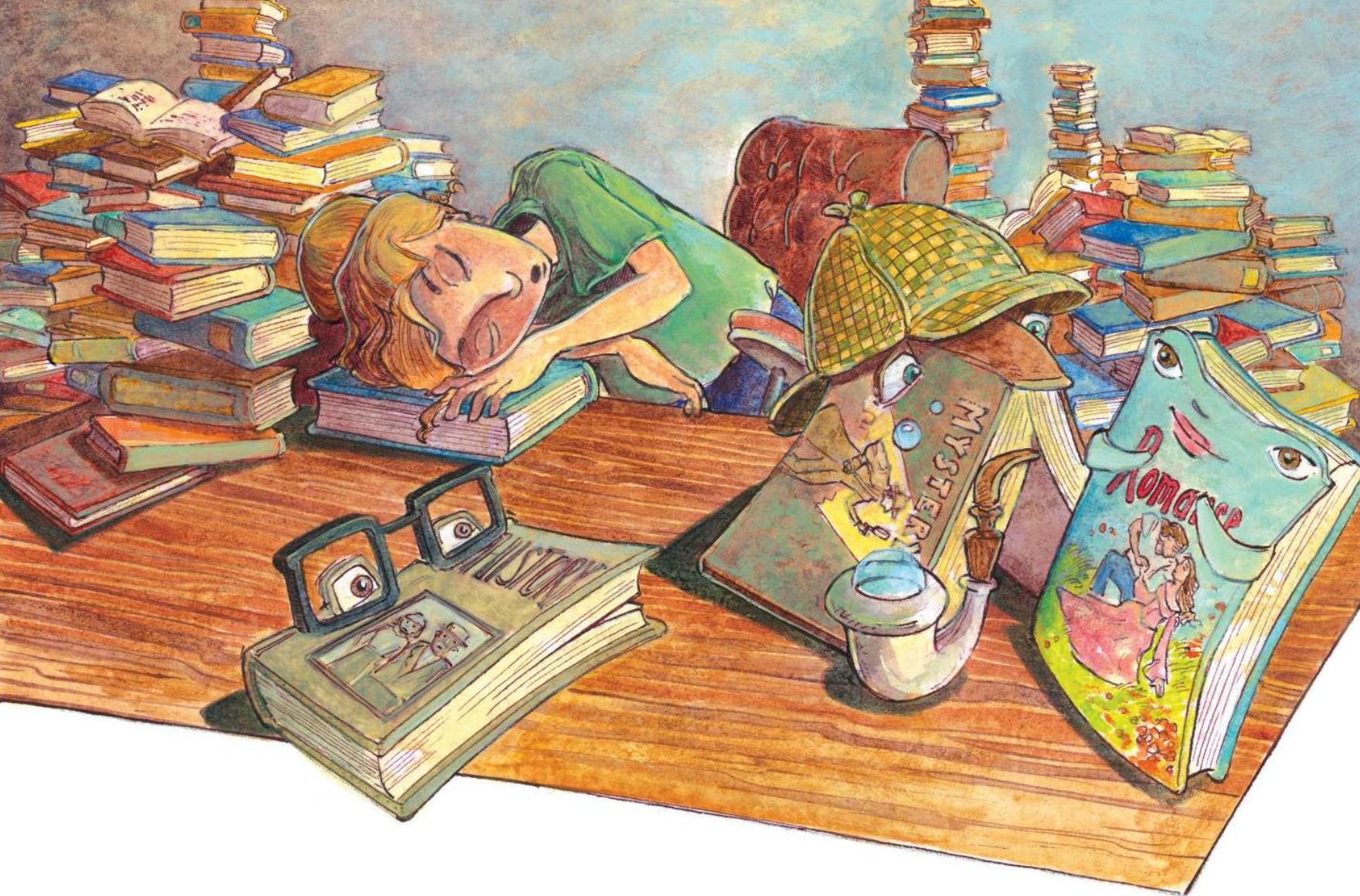
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When the librarian fell asleep, a mystery novel approached Paige. “Egads!” he said. “Wait till everyone checks you out!”

“Gosh, thanks!” Paige replied. She was new to the library and thrilled to get such a warm welcome.



The mystery novel frowned at Mark, the other new arrival.
“I’m afraid this library is all booked up,” he said.

Paige was confused, but she always found mysteries a little hard to follow. She wanted to say something to Mark, but she’d only just met him.

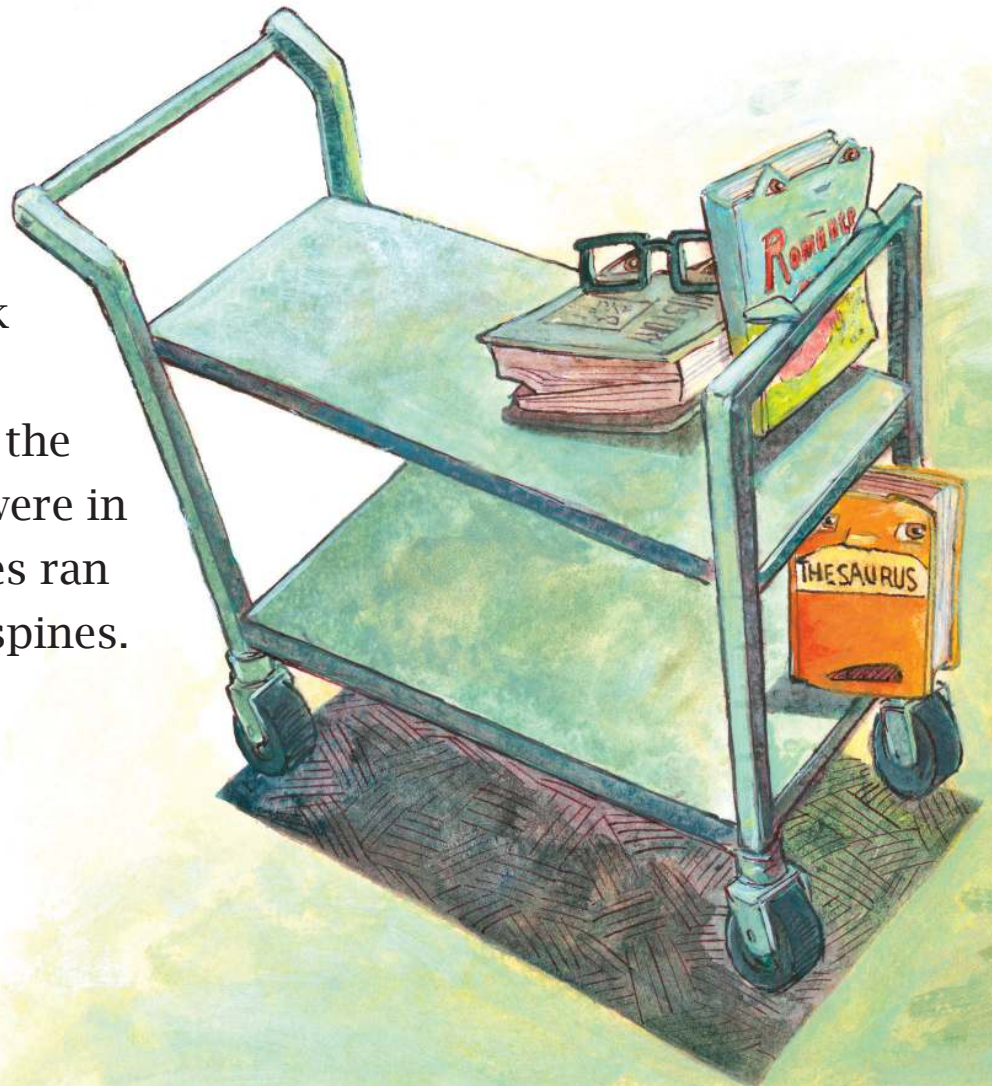
Suddenly, the librarian woke up and set the books on a cart.
Then she just as quickly fell asleep again.

“Is the librarian always so tired?” Paige asked.

“Always and all the time,” said a thesaurus. “Every morning she has to re-shelve every book in the library.”

“Why every book, every morning?” Mark asked, but no one would answer him.

The librarian woke up again and started pushing the cart. Paige and Mark forgot all about the strange behavior of the other books. They were in a real library! Tingles ran up and down their spines.





Paige was overjoyed by the friendly greetings she received. But across the aisle, no one was paying any attention to Mark. Paige considered calling to him, but there were just too many books to meet.

