

SEVEN ATE NINE!



Written By David Michael Slater

illustrated By Zachary Trover

For Emma, Elsie & Max — DMS

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Summary: When Seven eats One through Nine to become the best number, only One has the quick wit to save the numbers and bring the group back together again.

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"Me...two, three...and four...then five...and...six...um...."

One knew she could count past six. She'd done it lots of times when she was alone. But she couldn't think straight, not with everyone looking at her like that.



"You shoulda been a zero," said Seven, rolling his eyes.

"Well, I hope you don't think you're number one around here," Nine said to Seven.

"You're no hot number yourself, Nine," said Two.



Then all the numbers started squabbling
about whom was best, just like they always did.
They could be very negative numbers.

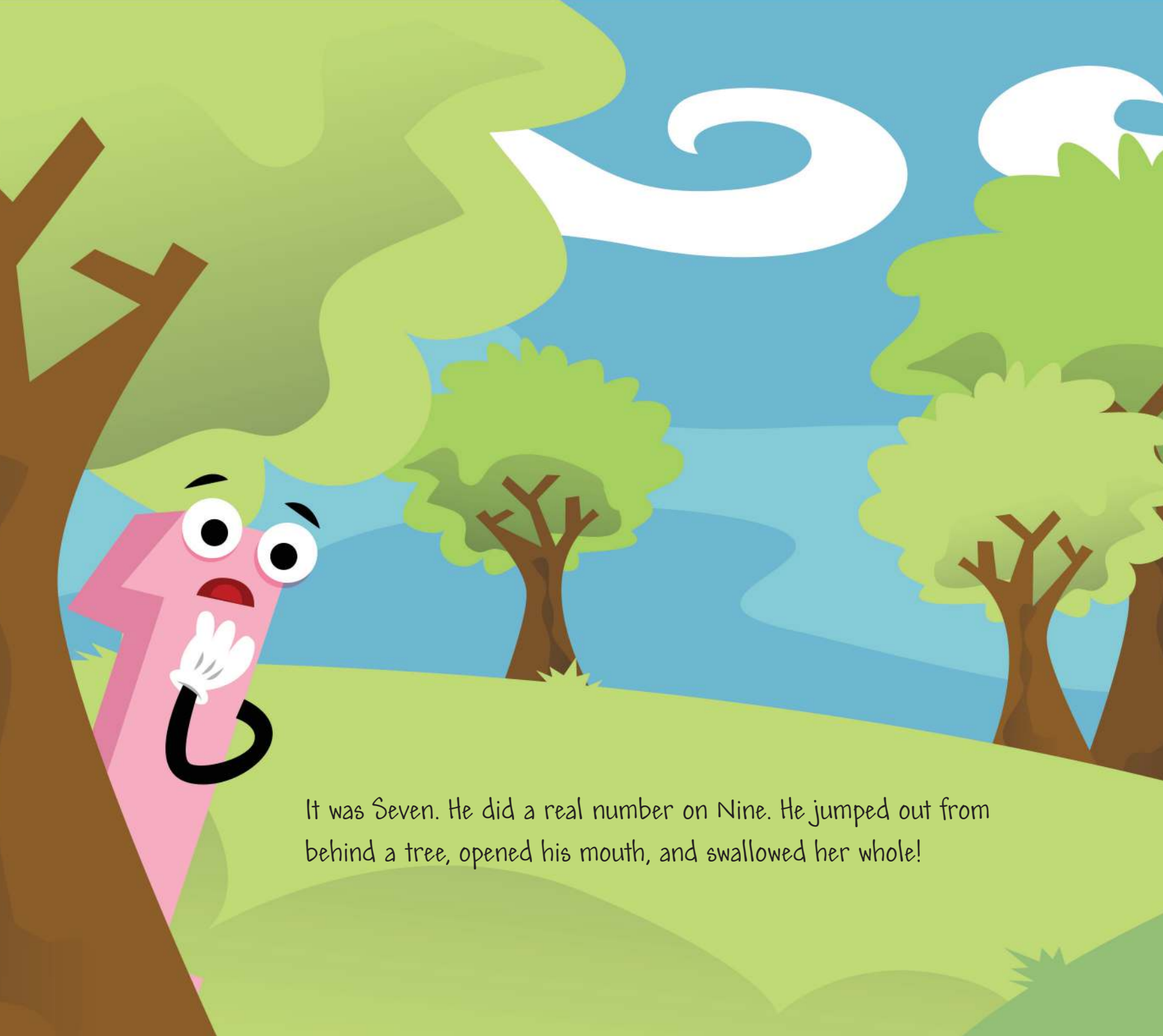
"Please stop," One pleaded, but nobody paid her any mind.

One was the loneliest number. She was the youngest and smallest, and nobody ever took her seriously. She shuffled to her hiding place and hunkered down alone, feeling too low for zero.





A while later, Nine walked by. She was all dressed up for a party with some capital letters. One watched her and wished she could go, too. That's when it happened.



It was Seven. He did a real number on Nine. He jumped out from behind a tree, opened his mouth, and swallowed her whole!