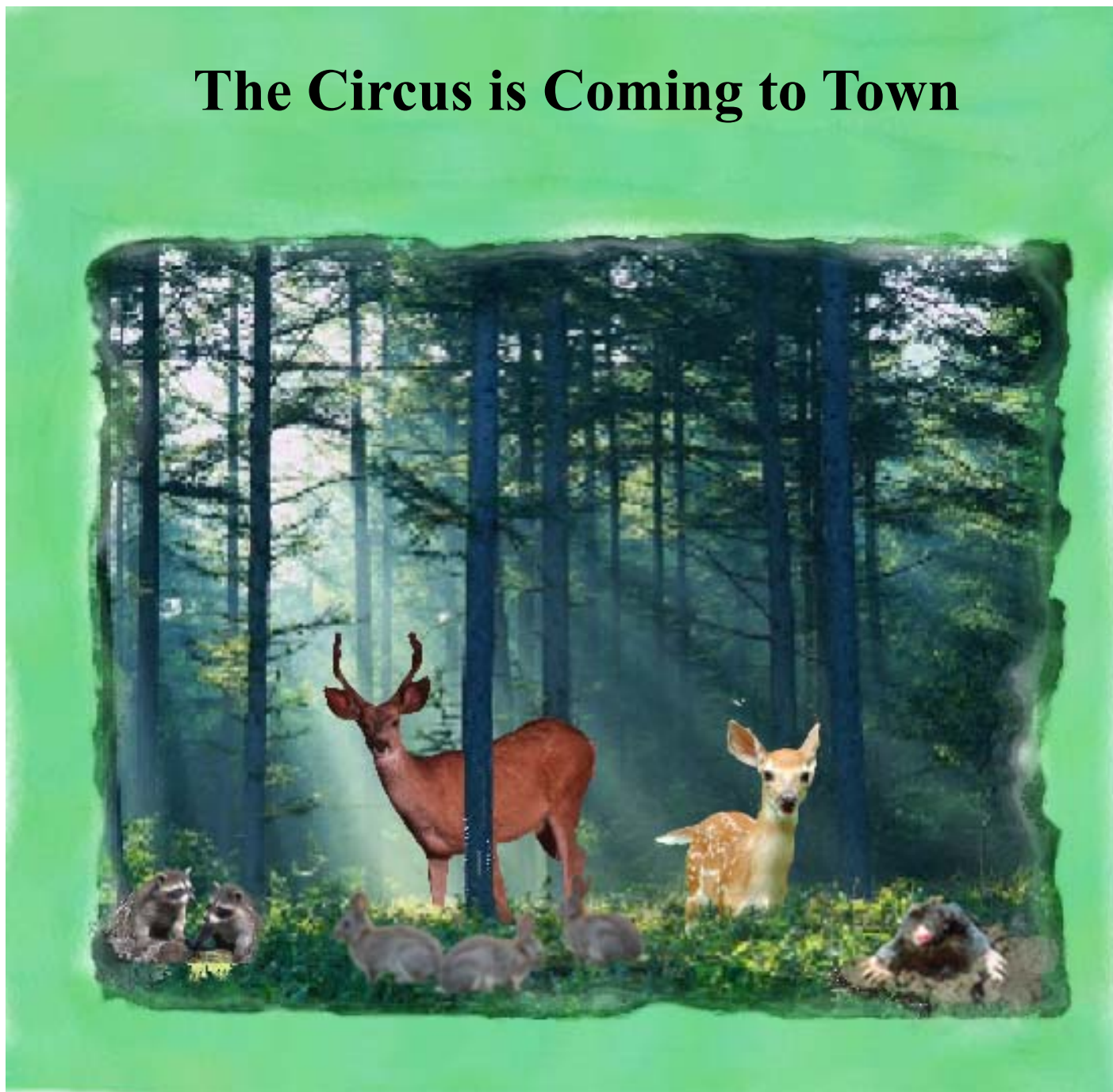


The Circus is Coming to Town



Sitting surrounded by morning's still
On the dawn draped crest of a rolling hill,
A forest community gathered in rising mist,
Their heads turned slightly in a listening twist.
A rumble in the distance was forming a frown.
Was that the Circus coming to town?



Mr. Rabbit snapped to attention, gathered his poise
And wiggled his nose toward the distant noise.
I must run now and watch over my hole.
I suggest you should also, my friend, Mr. Mole.
Off they scampered, the hill, they ran down,
Hoping the Circus wasn't coming to town.



An old black crow flew to the very top of a tree,
A better vantage point from which to see.
On the highest branch above morning's haze
Machines belching smoke greeted his gaze.
Fear stabbed his heart, recognition, his mind.
He cawed out his warning with all the strength he could find.



The mechanical menagerie inched toward the knolls,
Earthmovers, bulldozers, surveyors with scrolls.
The performers, the workers, saws with big chains,
Mindless to the destruction, unaware of the pains.
This embarking invasion would bring wealth of renown,
A premium, bigger, better than ever, Circus was coming to town.



The forest residents breathed deeply in a resigned sort of heave.
The trees seemed to shudder and fold up their leaves.
The whole forest trembled with the pounding of feet
As they ran to their families with the news of another defeat.
The brook seemed to gurgle louder than ever before,
As if issuing warning to the creatures that lived on its floor.

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