

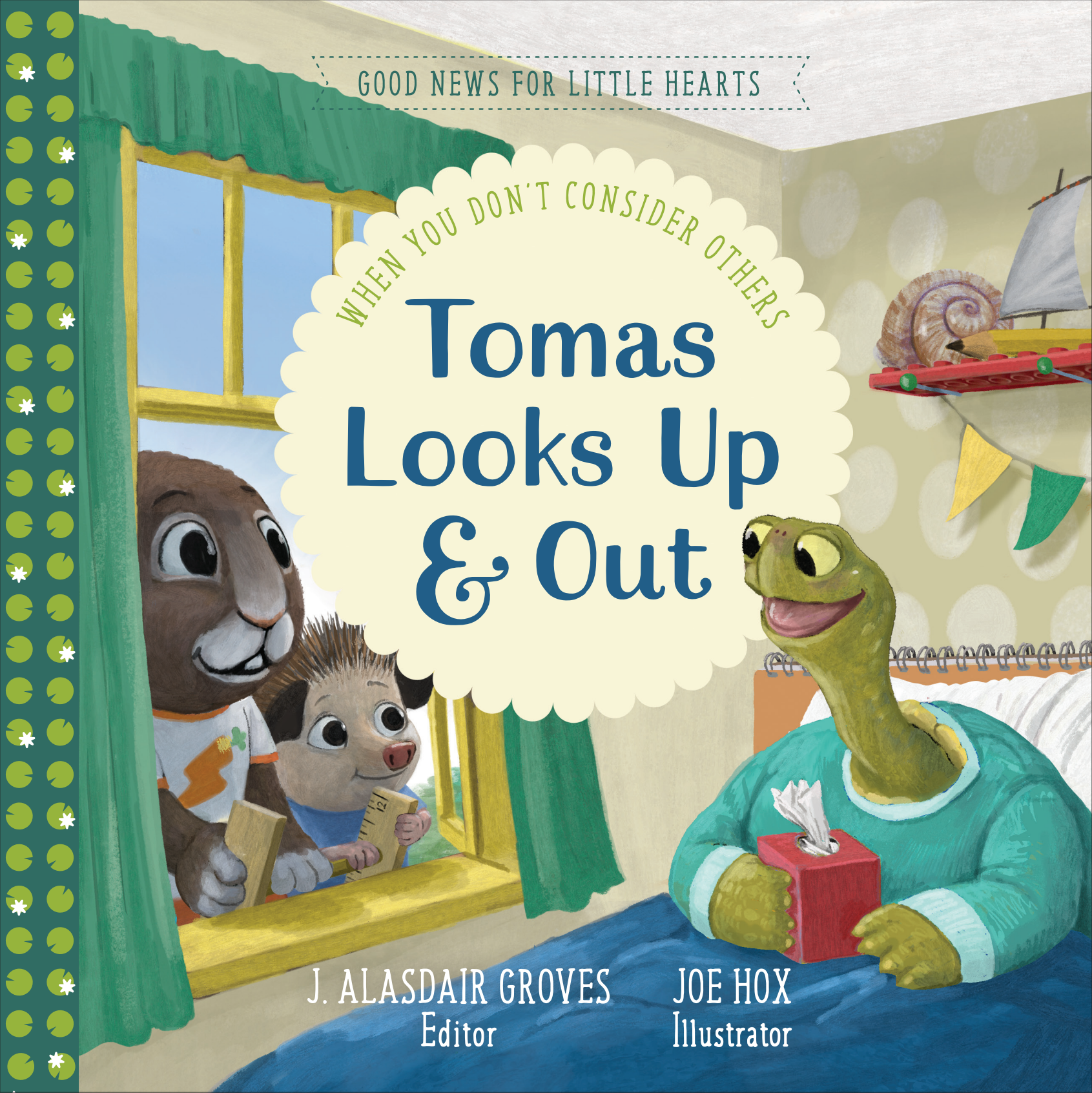
GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE HEARTS

WHEN YOU DON'T CONSIDER OTHERS

Tomas Looks Up & Out

J. ALASDAIR GROVES
Editor

JOE HOX
Illustrator



Beside the shimmering pond of Mulberry Meadow, in a small house nestled among tall grasses, Tomas Turtle tossed and turned under his blanket. He felt restless, roused by a noise downstairs.

He tried snuffing the noise out with blankets.

He tried plugging his ears with pillows.

But no matter how hard he tried, nothing helped.

Soon Tomas gave up and yelled,

BE QUIET!



But that didn't help either.

Annoyed, Tomas tromped down to the family room to find the culprit. There, on the couch, lay his younger sister, Tori, coughing, sniffing, and sneezing.

"Did you forget that it's Saturday—the day we sleep in?!"



“Tori’s not feeling well,” said Mama. “She’s been up all night. And to make matters worse, she has to miss Gertie’s birthday party.”

Tori sneezed and coughed a terrible cough.

“Well, I missed my sleep!” grumbled Tomas. “Sort of important before swim team tryouts! At least I still have my webbed feet . . .”

“Take this to Tori, please,” said Mama, handing him a hot water bottle.

Tomas plopped the water bottle on Tori’s shell and stomped back down the hall.

