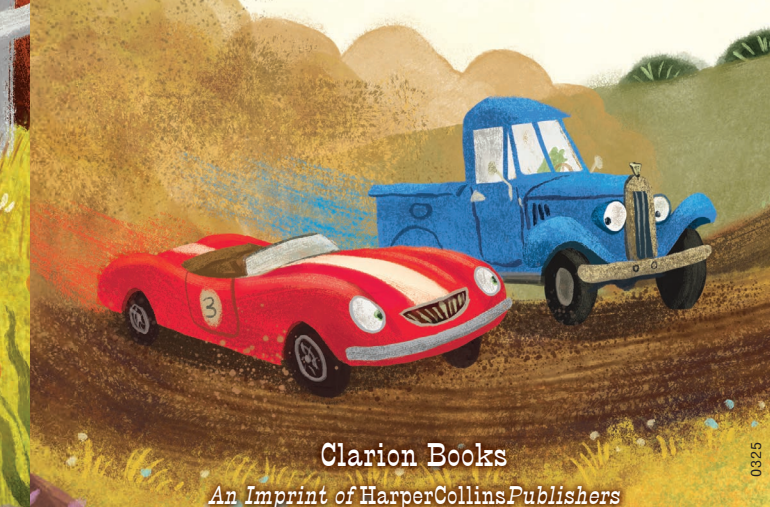


Beep!
Beep!
Look out!

Blue and Toad share the road with Racer Red, a sleek and speedy race car who loves to go fast. When she invites Blue to a friendly race, he is certainly up for the challenge—and a good time! Because Little Blue Truck knows that win or lose, it's fun to try. All the animals come to cheer on their friend—and make a new one in Racer Red.

Ready, set . . . ZOOM!



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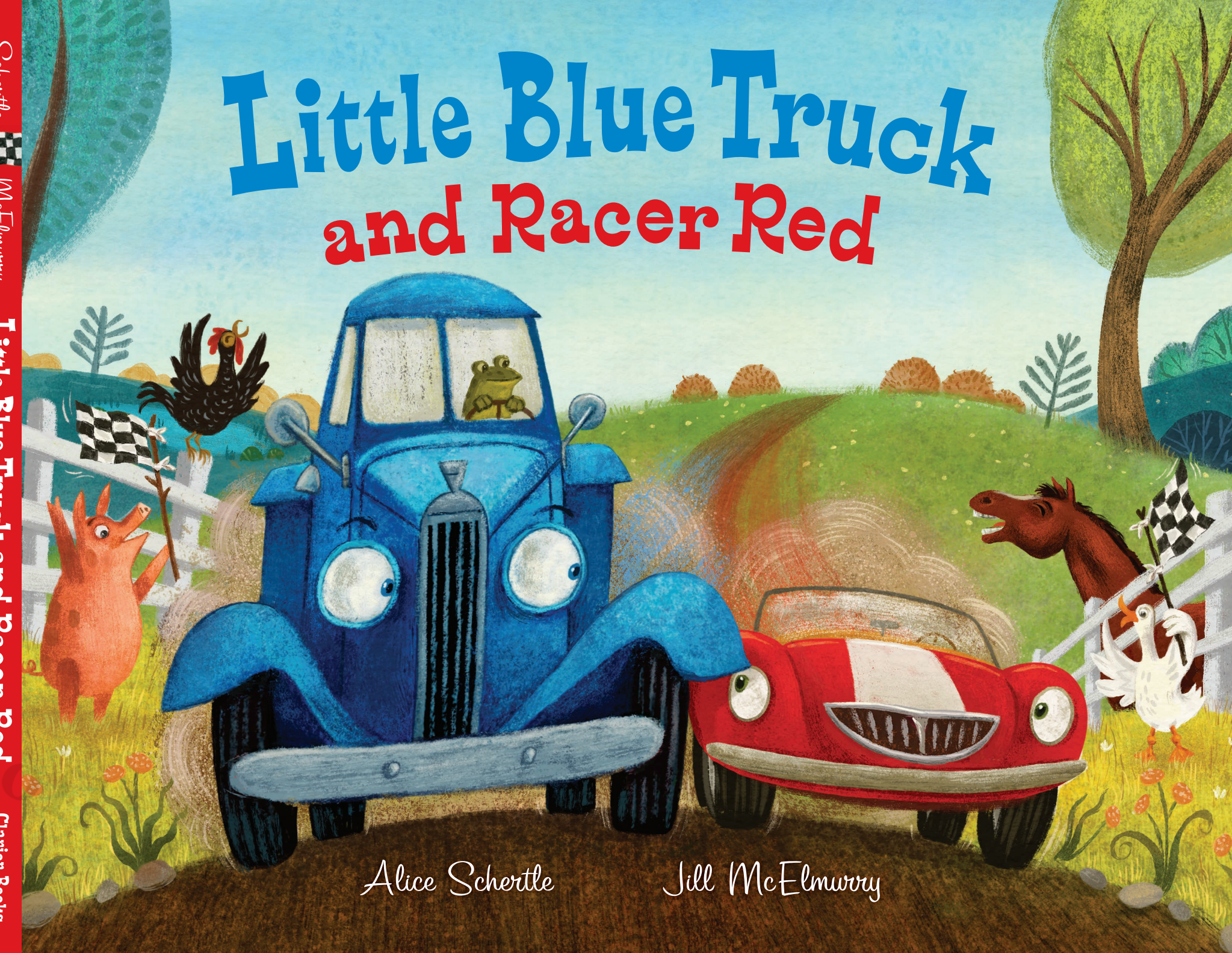
Little Blue Truck and Racer Red

Schertle

McElmurry

Little Blue Truck and Racer Red

Clarion Books



Alice Schertle

Jill McElmurry

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Horn went **“Beep!”**
Engine purred.
Friendliest sounds
you ever heard.

Little Blue Truck
came down the road,
taking a drive
with good friend Toad.



Flowers buzzed with busy bees.
Birds were singing in the trees.

Rabbits scampering in the grass
stopped to watch the two friends pass.

THEN . . .

ZOOM! ZOOM! ZOOM!

“Look out!” croaked Toad.

“Somebody thinks
she owns the road!”



A bright red race car
whizzed right by . . .



... then whizzed right
back and shouted **"HI!"**



"Wanna race?
That's what I do!
Please let me have
a race with you!"

"I just love
the way it feels
to be the fastest
thing on wheels!"

“**Beep!**” laughed Blue. “But did you know there’s lots to see when you go slow?”

“Not for me!” said Red. “I’m *fast!*
One thing I’ve never been is last!”

“See my shape—
all sleek and low?
This shape is made
for speed, you know.”



"Please, please, please!" begged Racer Red.
"I'll race you to the pond," she said.



"Beep! Beep! Beep!"
laughed Little Blue.
*"I'll do my best.
I'll race with you."*

“Croak!” said Toad.

“She thinks you’re slow!

Let’s show her, Blue.

“Ready . . .

set . . .

GO!”

Off they went with
a roar and a squeal,
hood to hood
and wheel to wheel.



Thundering down
the dusty road,
Racer Red,
Blue, and Toad.

“**Honk!**” yelled Goose,
and Hen cried, “**Cluck!**”
Look who’s racing with
Little Blue Truck!”

“**Baa!**” cried sheep.
Horse yelled, “**Neigh!**”
Here they come!
Clear the way!”



“Oink!” squealed Pig.
Cow cried, **“Moo!”**
There’s a race on!
Come on, Blue!”

“Maa!” yelled Goat.
“Quack!” gasped Duck.
“Follow that car
and Little Blue Truck!”



Little Blue Truck
was in the lead,
then Racer Red
put on some speed . . .

The pond was the finish line—just ahead—
Who would be first . . . ?

She zipped by Blue
and was leading still,
but Blue caught up
on a little hill . . .



It was Racer Red!

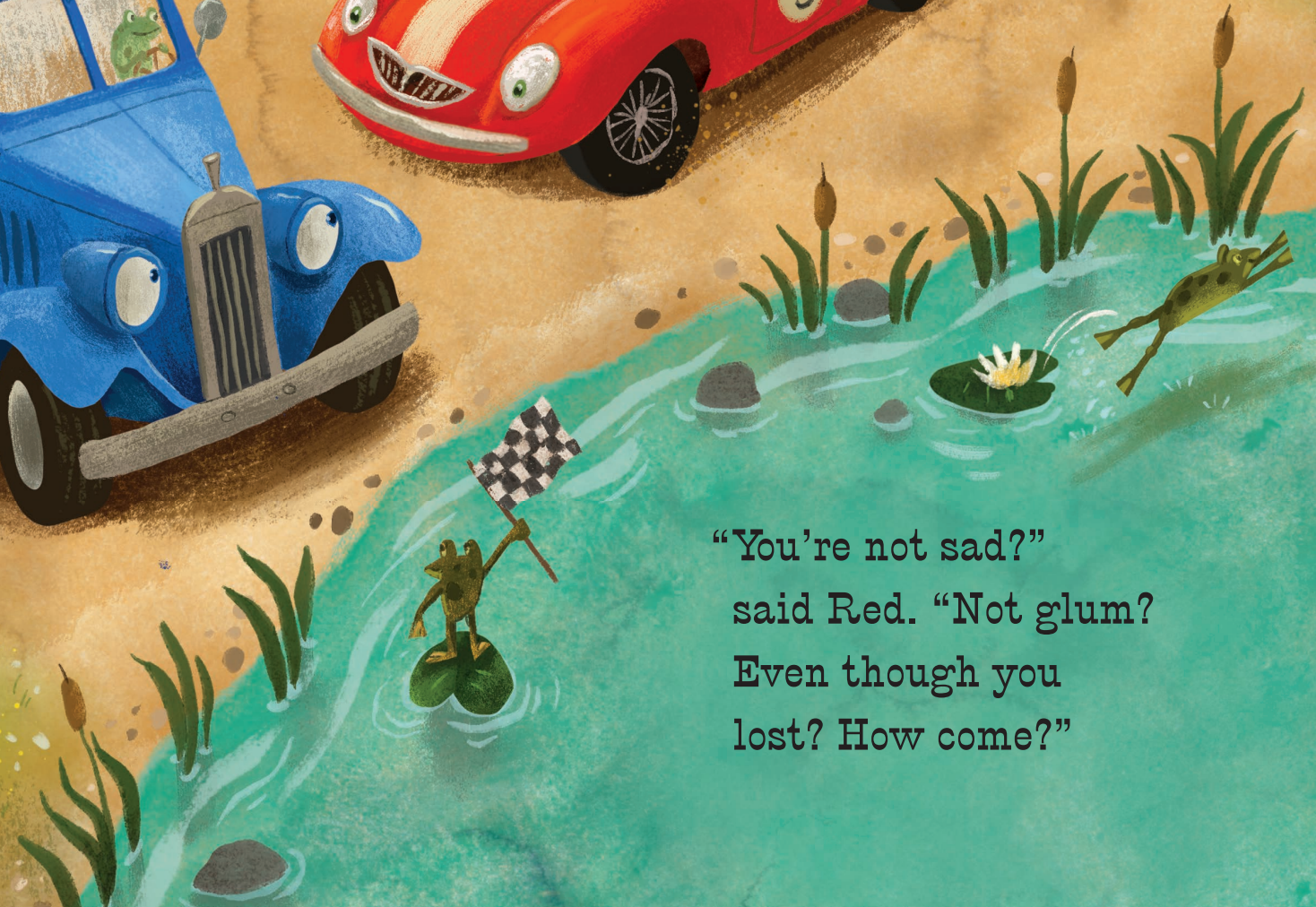


“Beep! Beep! Beep!”

said Blue. “Well done!
Congratulations!
That was fun!”



“You’re not sad?”
said Red. “Not glum?
Even though you
lost? How come?”



“Beep!” said Blue.
“The reason why
is win or lose,
it’s fun to try!”

“Here come my friends,”
Little Blue said.
“Hey, everyone, meet
Racer Red.”



“Hop in if you’d like a ride.”
Everyone scrambled to jump inside.



“Beep, beep, beep!”
said Little Blue.
“Racer Red,
you come too.”



ollins

Off they went,
down the road,
rolling along
with Blue and Toad.



Racer Red said,
“I’ve begun
to think that *slow*
is kind of fun.”





“Fast is fun,
and slow is too,
as long as you’re
with friends,” said Blue.

“Beep! Beep! Beep!”

To Jen, Drew, Kate, John, Marrie, Aaron, Clara, Dylan, Spence, and now . . . Mahin! —A.S.

For Jack and Miles, Hannah and Aaliah. Thank you for your help. —J.J.



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Little Blue Truck and Racer Red

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