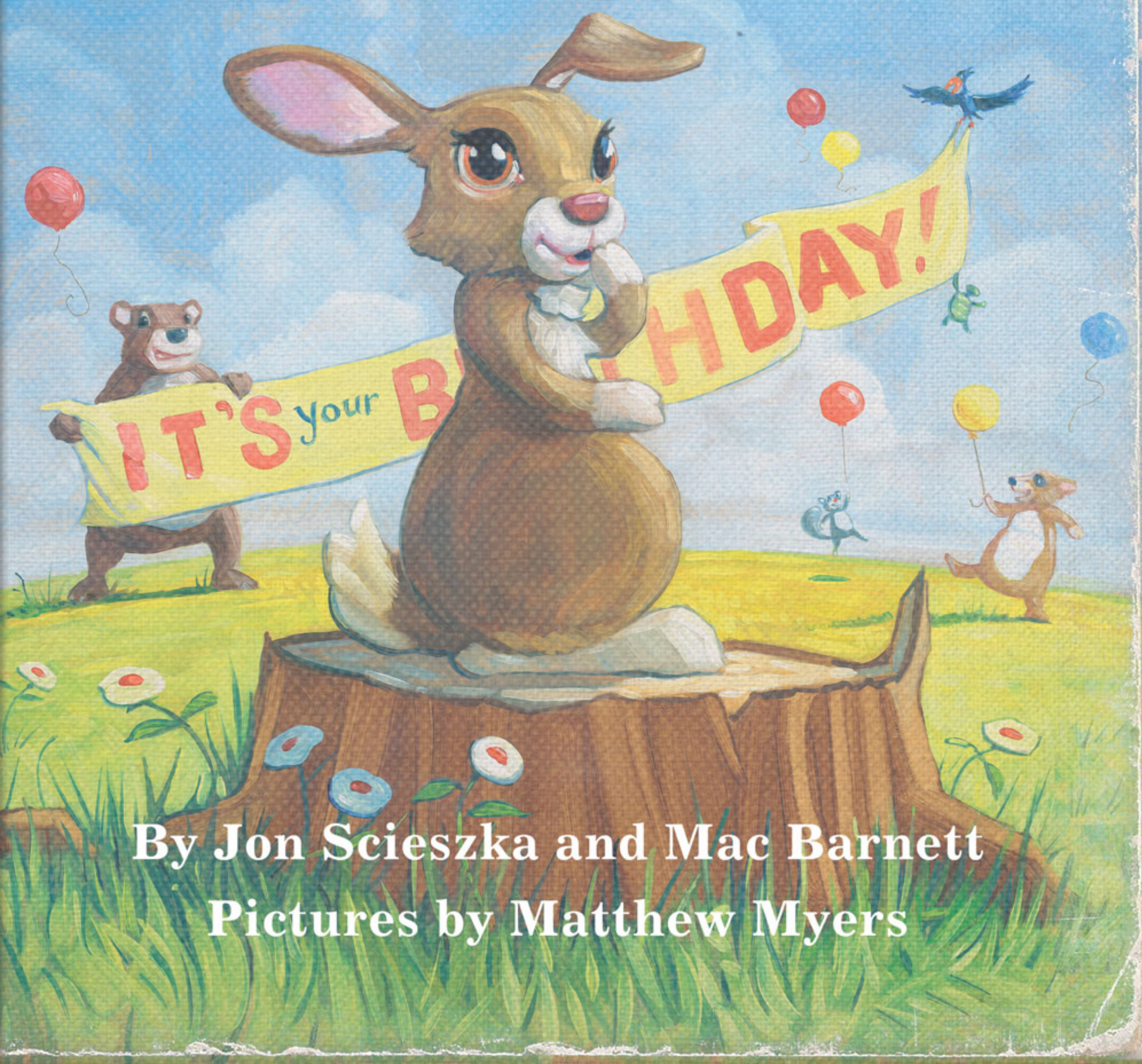
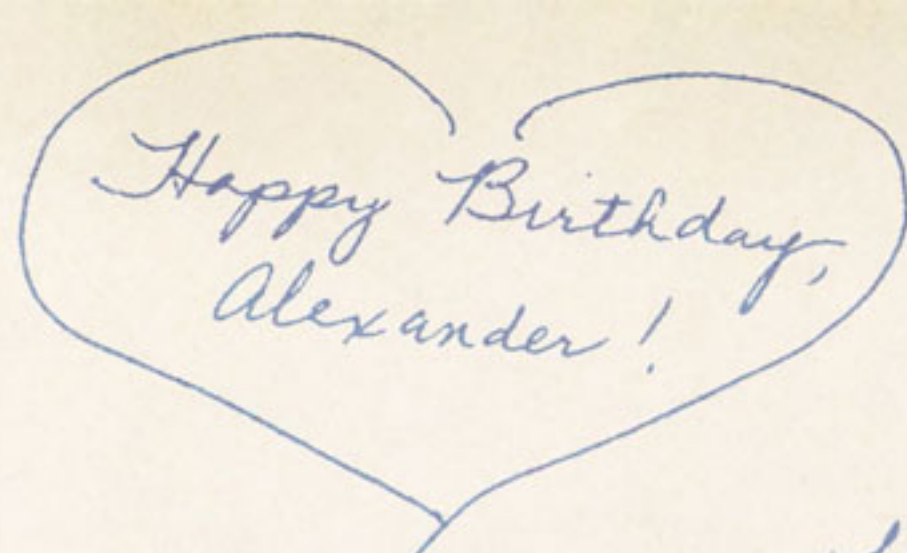


Birthday Bunny



By Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett
Pictures by Matthew Myers



*To my little birthday bunny
on his special day.
Love, Gran Gran*



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An imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division
1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020
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Book design by Dan Potash

The text for this book is set in Bitstream Cooper BT.

The illustrations for this book are rendered in oils and pencil.

Manufactured in China

Manf code 0613 SCP

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Barnett, Mac.

Battle Bunny / by Mac Barnett and Jon Scieszka and Alex ; pictures by Matthew Myers but mostly

Alex. — 1st ed.

p. cm.

Summary: Alex, whose birthday it is, hijacks a story about Birthday Bunny on his special day and turns it into a battle between a supervillain and his enemies in the forest—who, in the original story, are simply planning a surprise party.

ISBN 978-1-4424-4673-1 (hardcover) — ISBN 978-1-4424-4674-8 (eBook)

[1. Birthdays—Fiction. 2. Rabbits—Fiction. 3. Supervillains—Fiction. 4. Forest animals—Fiction.

5. Parties—Fiction. 6. Humorous stories.] I. Scieszka, Jon. II. Myers, Matthew, ill. III. Title.

PZ7.B26615Att 2013

[E]—dc23

2012025515



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Pictures by Matthew Myers

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi



Bunny woke up from a night of pleasant dreams. *Today is a very special day*, he thought. *Today is my birthday. Today, I am not just a bunny.*



I am the Birthday Bunny!



Birthday Bunny made himself his favorite breakfast: carrot juice and a bowl of Carrot Crispies.

"My birthday is the most special day of the year because I get super birthday presents from all my friends. And I get to do whatever I want. I wonder who will be the first to give me a present?"

Birthday Bunny started on his path, hopping through the trees.





On the way, Birthday Bunny met Crow.

"Hello, Bunny!" said Crow. "Today is a special day!"

"That is so true!" said Birthday Bunny.



Crow swooped down. "I am saving shiny pebbles for my Sparkly Nest. And I have just finished my collection."



"Oh," said Birthday Bunny. "I will be on my way."

Bunny hopped sadly past Crow.

"Bye, Bunny," said Crow, and flew off into the sky.

Birthday Bunny kept hopping through the woods until he saw Badger.

"Greetings, Bunny," said Badger. "Why are you hopping so sadly? Today is a special day."



“Yes, it is!” said Bunny.

Badger motioned with his paw. “Today I found a perfect spot for my burrow, next to a big, shady tree.”

“Oh,” said Birthday Bunny. “I suppose that is special.”



“Good-bye, Bunny!” said Badger. He went back to digging.



Birthday Bunny hopped and hopped until he saw Squirrel.

“Stop for a moment. I have a surprise,” said Squirrel. “Today is a special day!”

“Yes, it is!” said the Birthday Bunny.

Squirrel smiled. “Today is a special day because I have stored so many nuts in my tree and now I am ready for the winter.”



Birthday Bunny frowned.

“Yes, that is special.”

“You should plan to save too, Bunny!” said Squirrel, scampering up her tree.



Birthday Bunny felt so very sad. "No one remembers it's my special day. And now my day is almost done."

Birthday Bunny sat on a stump.



Soon Bear and Turtle came walking down the path together.

“Yoo-hoo! Yoo-hoo! Over here, Bunny!” they said.



“We were looking all over the forest to find you.”

“You were?” said the Birthday Bunny.

“Yes. For today is a special day!”

“Yes, it is special!” said the Birthday Bunny.

“Today we are making a very special boat. Can we borrow your handkerchief for a sail?”

“Oh,” said Birthday Bunny. “That sounds very special. Yes, you can borrow my handkerchief.”



The Birthday Bunny felt like crying again.

Birthday Bunny went to his Special Thinking Place—a big gray rock in the Great Meadow.

Everybody needs a Special Thinking Place where they can think their best thoughts. Where is your Special Thinking Place?

Birthday Bunny thought, *I just want everyone to remember my birthday.*

He thought about his friends, the other animals in the forest, and how they had forgotten his special day.

Maybe I will just never have another birthday again, thought Birthday Bunny.



Bunny thought, *Who cares?*

Bunny thought, *What's the use?*

Bunny thought, *If no one treats a special day like a special day, is it a special day?*

Bunny thought,

Must I hop on?

I can't hop on.

I'll hop on.



Birthday Bunny had been thinking so hard he didn't hear a rustling in the bushes behind him.

“SURPRISE!”

“Today is a special day,” said all the forest animals at once.

“It is?” said the Birthday Bunny.

“Yes. BECAUSE IT IS YOUR BIRTHDAY! AND THIS IS
YOUR SPECIAL SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY THAT WE
HAVE BEEN PLANNING ALL ALONG.”



“Oh!” said the Birthday Bunny. “All my friends
are wonderful!”



Crow gave Bunny his shiniest stone.



Badger gave Bunny a drum made from a log.



Squirrel gave Bunny a clock made out of nuts.



And Bear and Turtle gave Bunny a necktie made from
his handkerchief.





The animals all ate carrot cake and
laughed and danced, and laughed and
danced some more.

Then Bunny stood in the middle of the clearing. “I
have a special birthday speech to make,” he said.

“You have surprised me with the greatest birthday
present.



“Now I know that every day is special if it’s a day
spent with your friends.”

“Hooray!” shouted the animals in the forest.



It was a special day indeed.



Which books from our



have *you* read lately?

The Good Bunny

Bunny Easter

I Grew Up in the Carrot Patch

Sweet Bunny Dreams

My Bunny Hopping

Author Jon Scieszka's special day is September 8.

Author Mac Barnett's special day is August 23.

Illustrator Matthew Myers's special day is June 26.

Cover design by Dan Potash
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Manufactured in China
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Simon & Schuster
New York
Ages 4-8
0913
EBOOK EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

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KIDS.SimonandSchuster.com

[barcode box: US \$14.99/ \$17.99 CAN

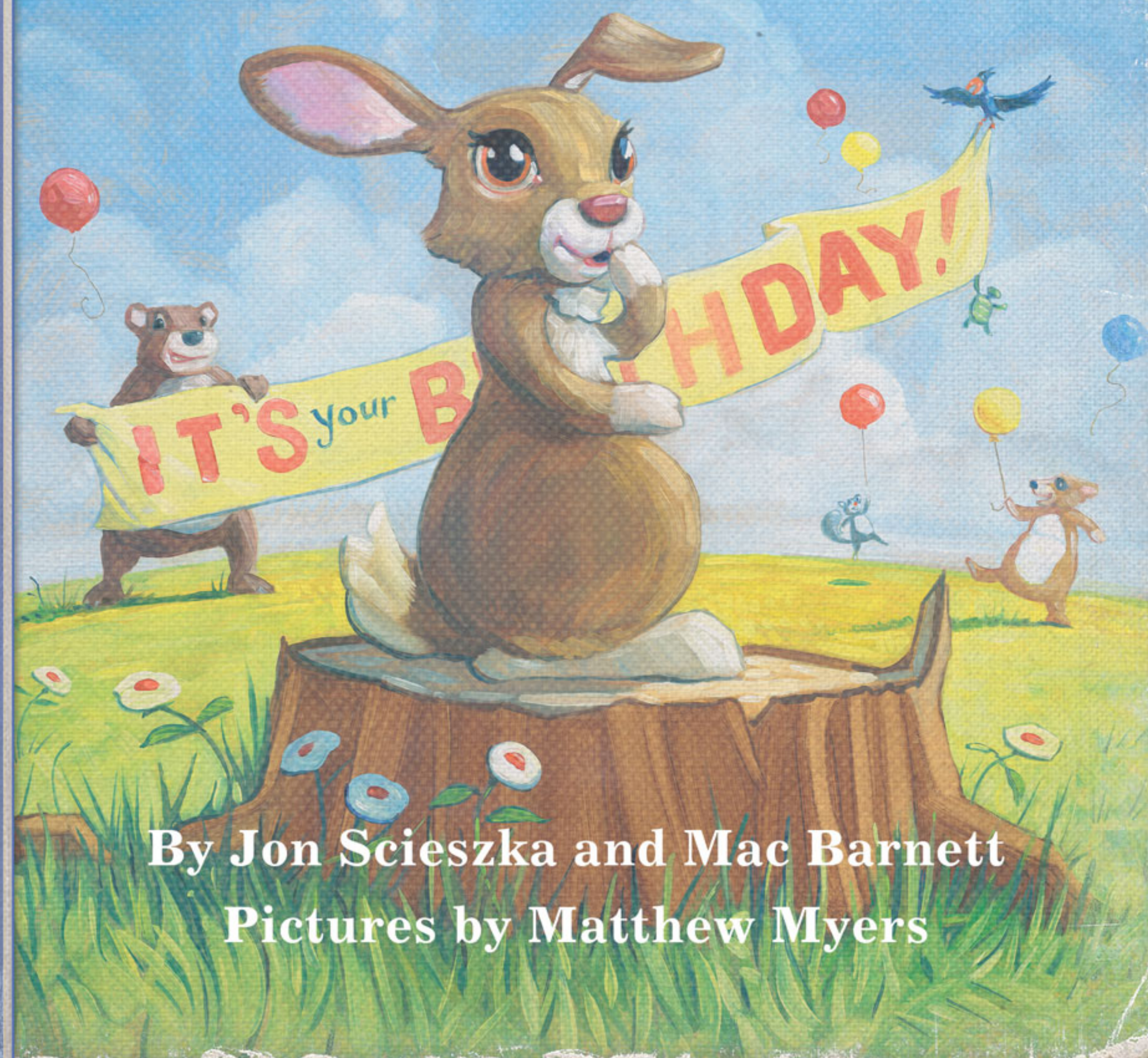
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