

ELMER'S SPECIAL DAY



David McKee

Elmer, the patchwork elephant, has been a favorite of children around the world since the first book debuted in 1989. *Elmer's Special Day* is the latest book in this classic series.

It's almost Elmer Day again for the elephants, and they are getting their colorful parade outfits ready. But in their excitement they are making an awful lot of noise and upsetting the other animals. So Elmer changes the rules and invites every single animal to join in the parade. And they have a surprise in store for Elmer...



Especially for my Bakhtina

Also by David McKee

Elmer

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Andersen Press USA

Elmer, the patchwork elephant, looked at the other elephants and smiled. It was almost Elmer's Day—the day when once a year all elephants decorate themselves and parade. The elephants had only just begun to prepare for it, but they were already excited and noisy.





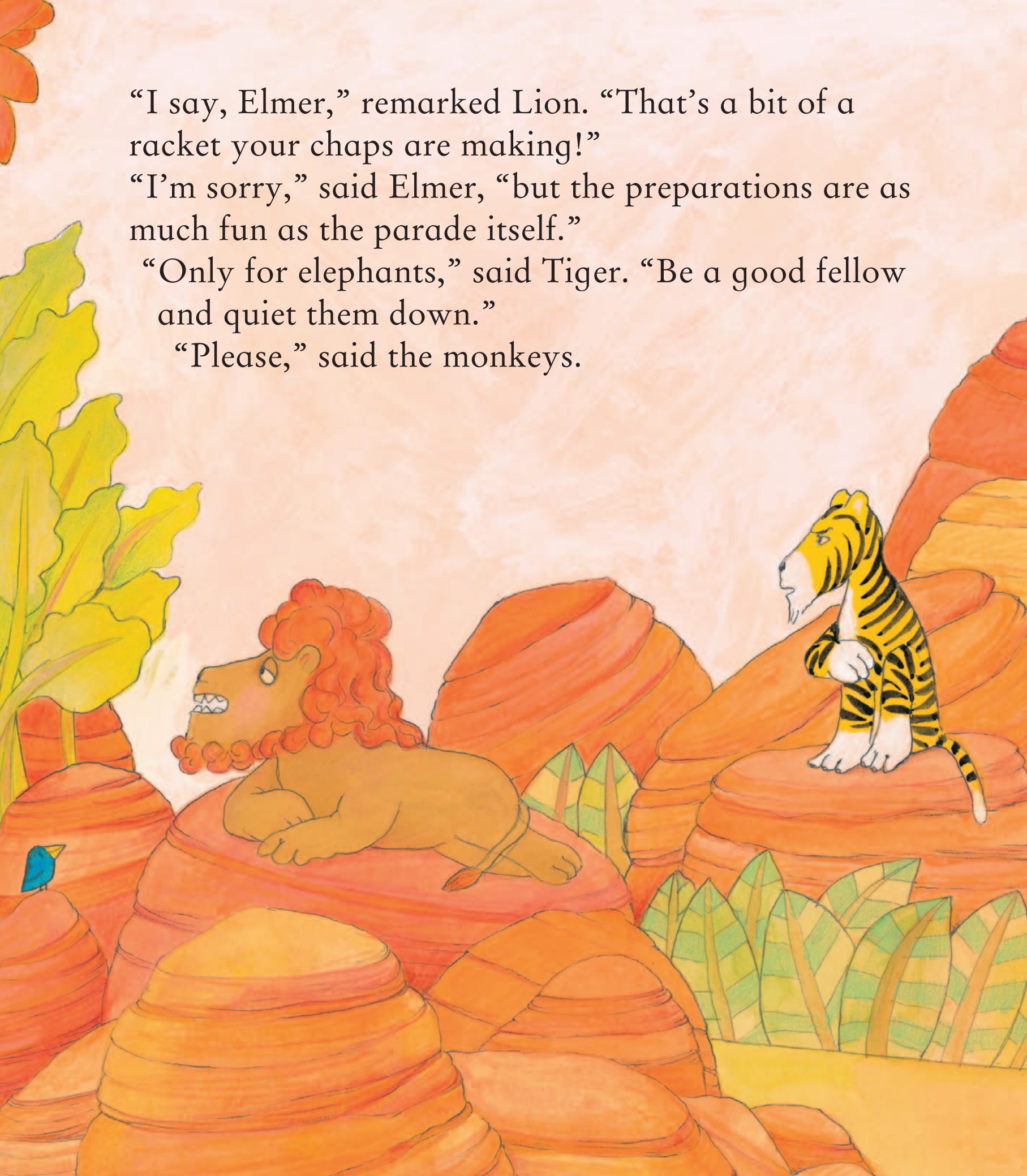


“I say, Elmer,” remarked Lion. “That’s a bit of a racket your chaps are making!”

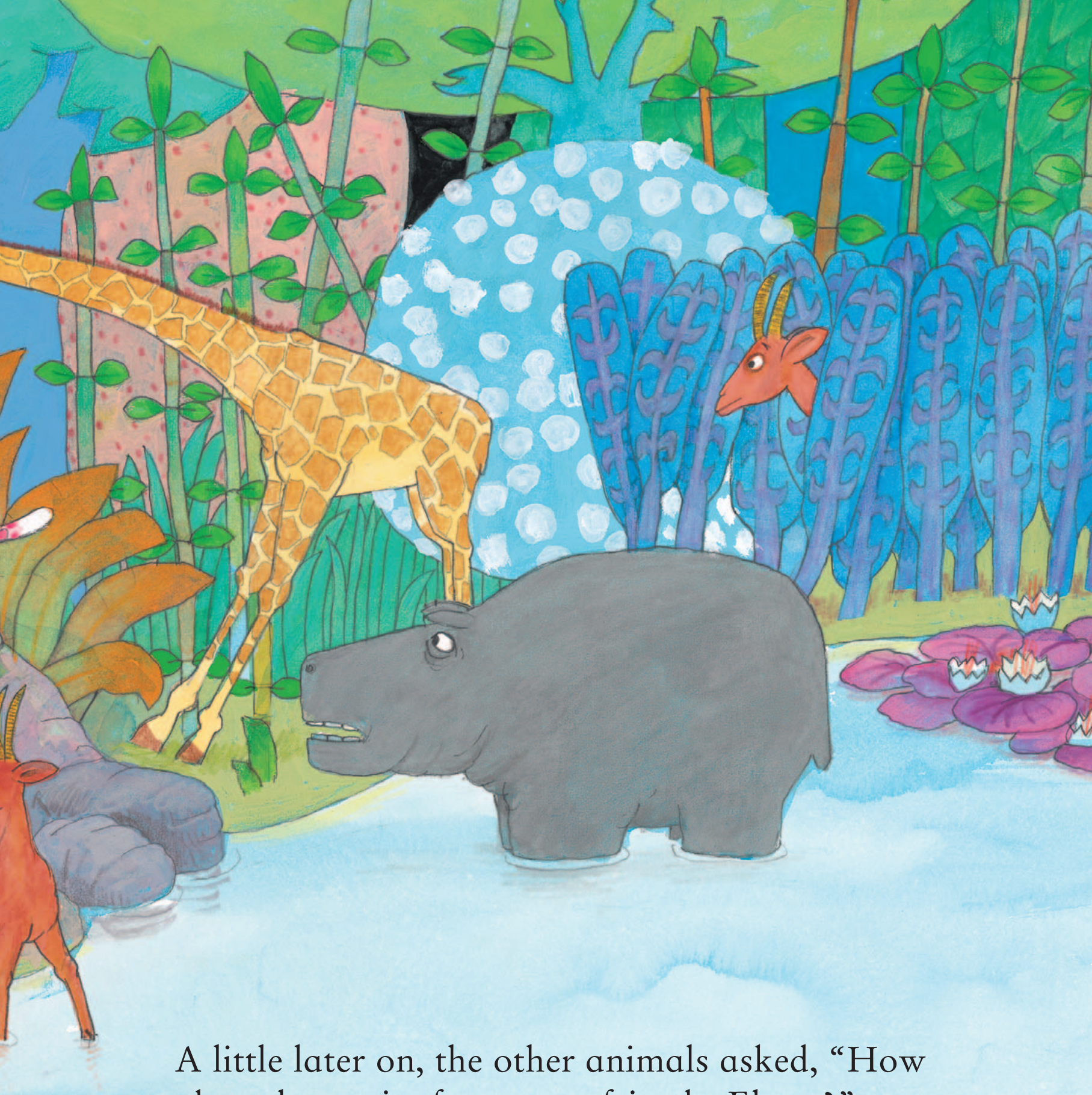
“I’m sorry,” said Elmer, “but the preparations are as much fun as the parade itself.”

“Only for elephants,” said Tiger. “Be a good fellow and quiet them down.”

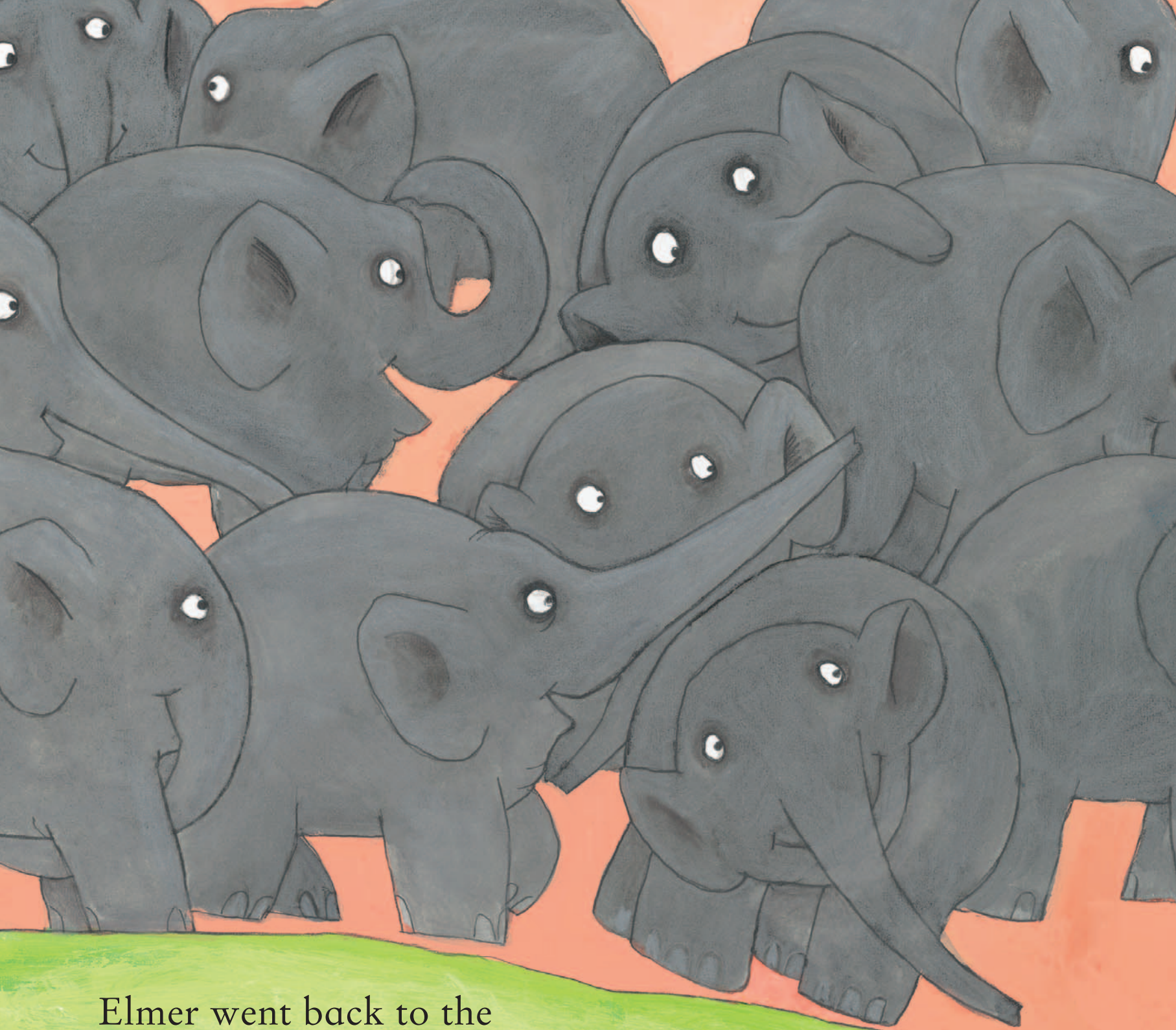
“Please,” said the monkeys.



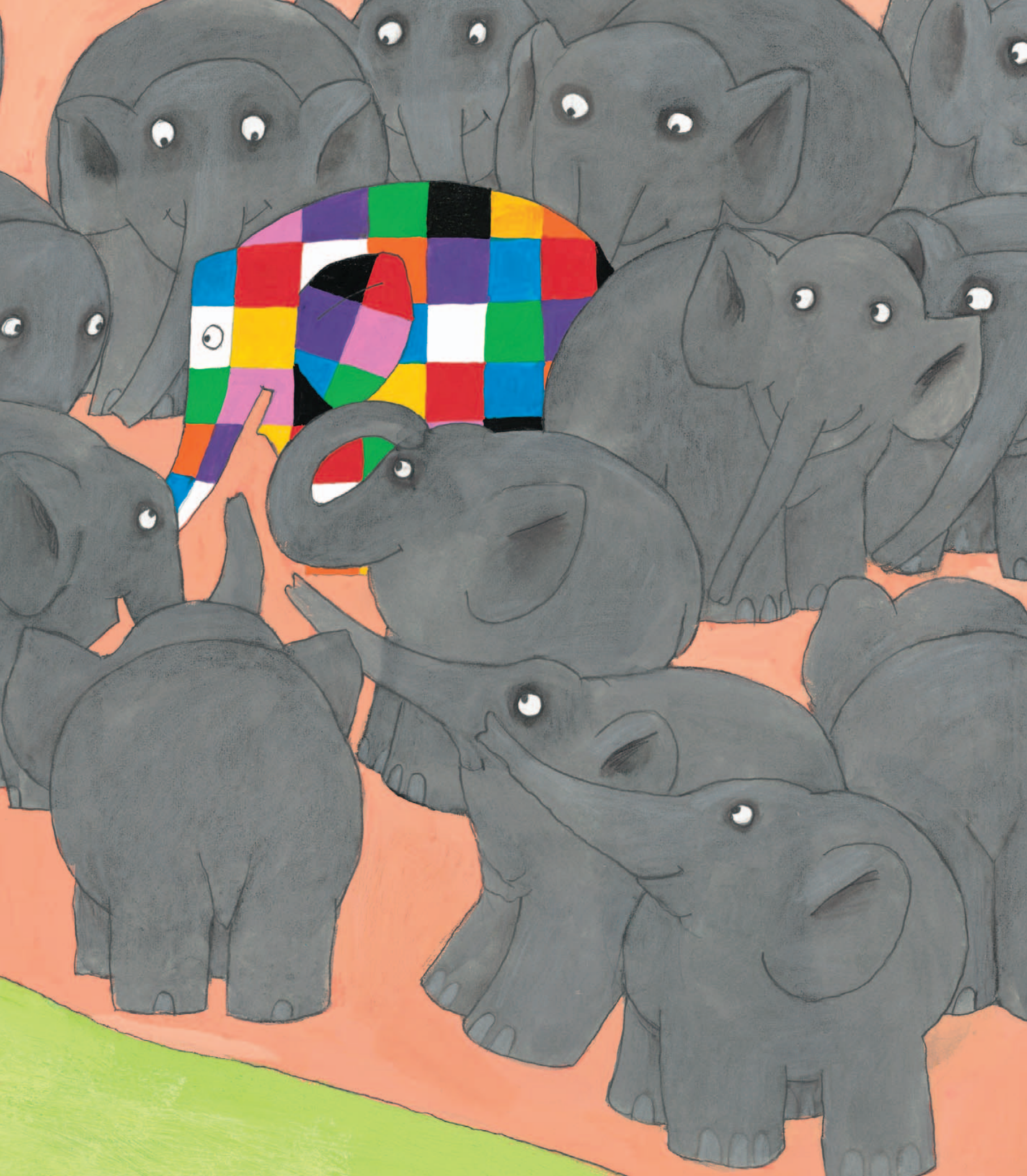




A little later on, the other animals asked, “How about less noise from your friends, Elmer?”
“Please,” said the rabbits.

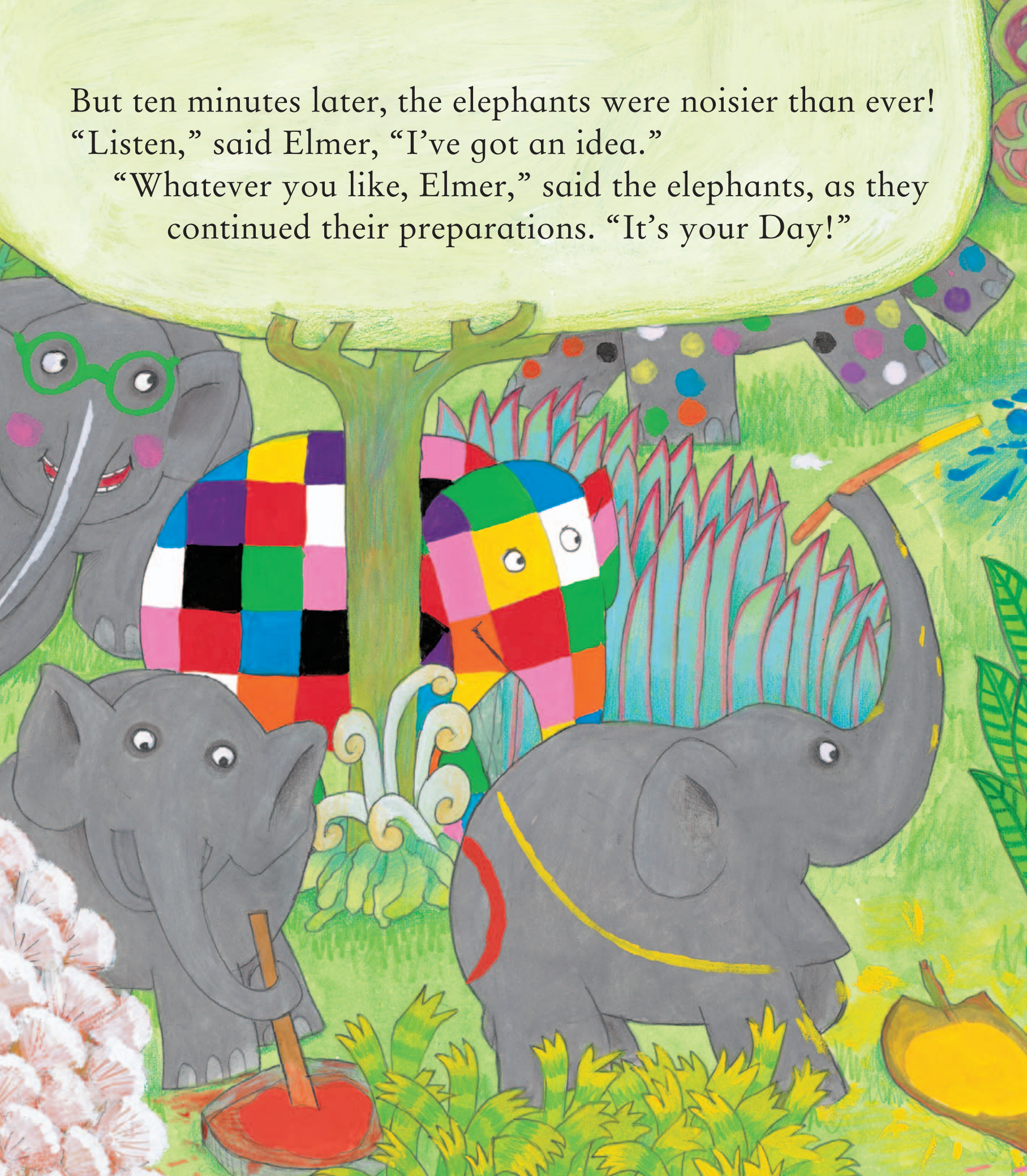


Elmer went back to the elephants. "The neighbors are complaining about the noise," he said. "Let's be a bit quieter." "Of course, Elmer." "Sorry, Elmer." "Certainly, Elmer." "Right, Elmer." "Don't worry, Elmer." "We'll be quieter than quiet, Elmer," the elephants promised.



But ten minutes later, the elephants were noisier than ever!
“Listen,” said Elmer, “I’ve got an idea.”

“Whatever you like, Elmer,” said the elephants, as they continued their preparations. “It’s your Day!”





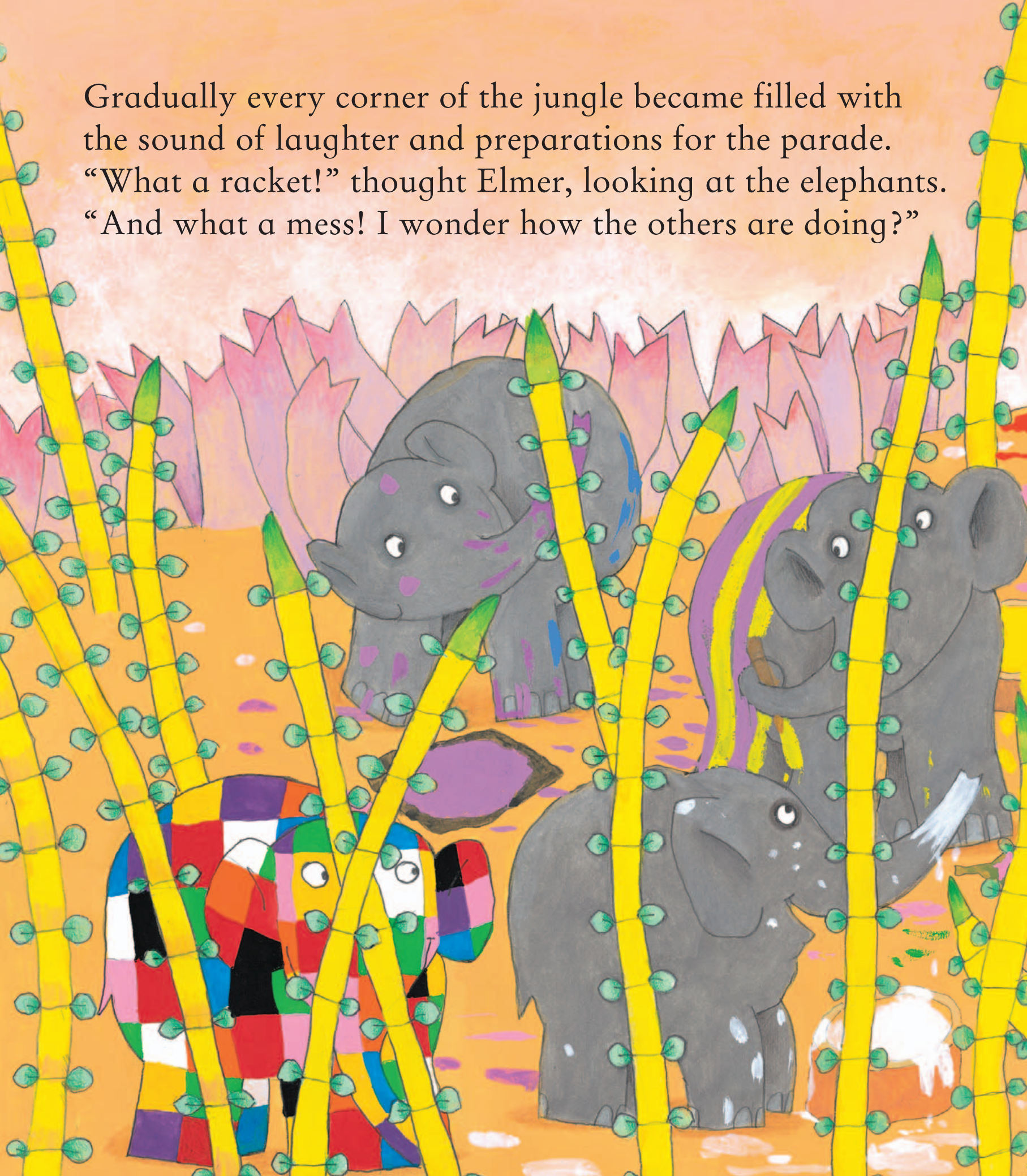




Elmer returned to the other animals.

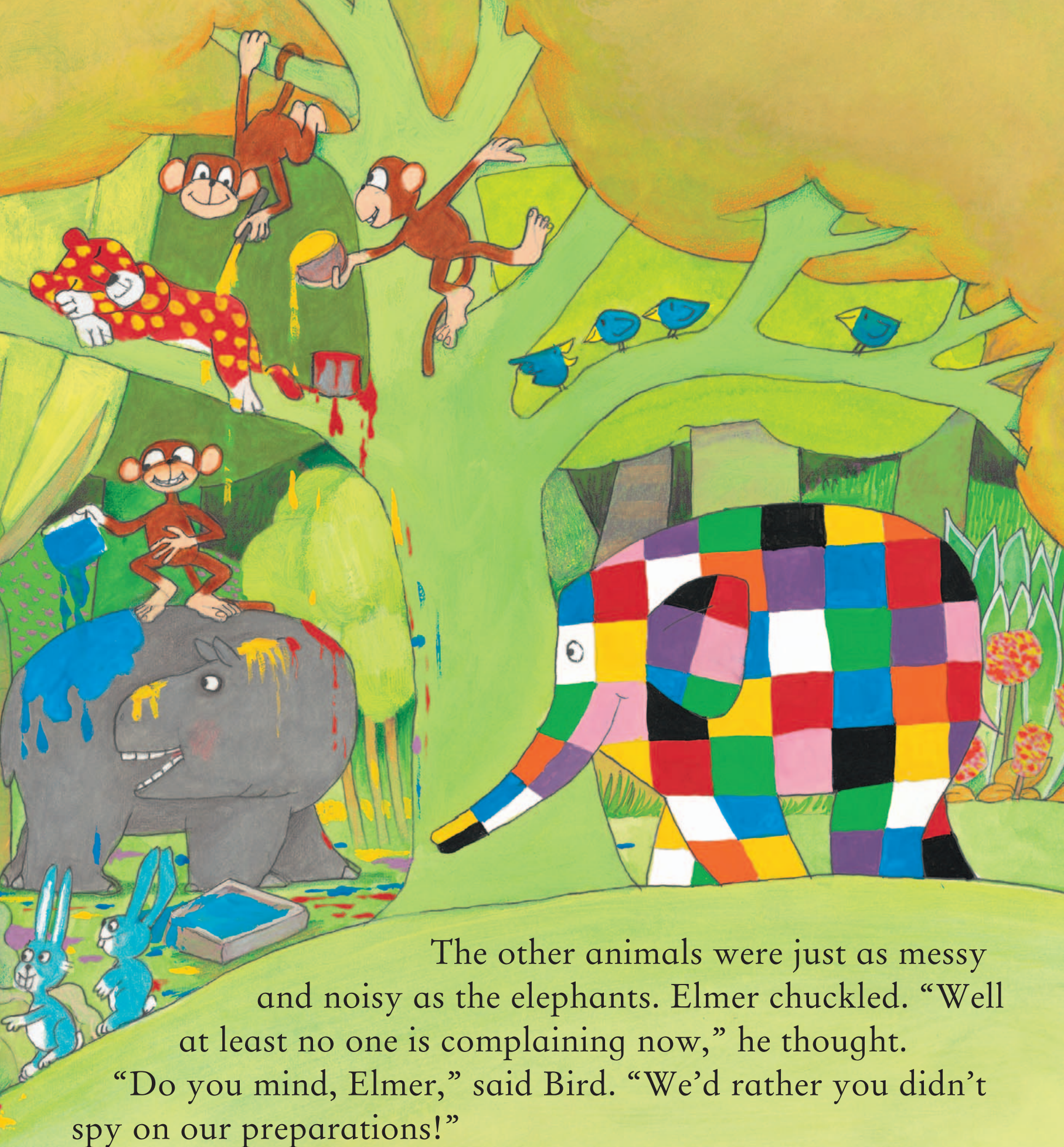
“I’m sorry about the noise,” he said. “But this year is a special year, because you are all invited to join the parade. Of course, you will have to decorate yourselves.” The animals were really excited.

Gradually every corner of the jungle became filled with the sound of laughter and preparations for the parade. “What a racket!” thought Elmer, looking at the elephants. “And what a mess! I wonder how the others are doing?”










The other animals were just as messy and noisy as the elephants. Elmer chuckled. “Well at least no one is complaining now,” he thought.

“Do you mind, Elmer,” said Bird. “We’d rather you didn’t spy on our preparations!”

An illustration of a bush with large, vibrant red leaves and several clusters of dark, round berries. The background is a solid yellow color. Some berries are shown falling from the clusters. In the bottom right corner, there are blue daisy-like flowers with yellow centers and a brown tree trunk. At the bottom center, there is a pile of dark berries on the ground.

At last the big day came. The tradition was that on Elmer's Day only Elmer could be elephant-colored. So as usual, Elmer went to the bush with the elephant-colored berries and covered himself with berry juice until he looked just like an ordinary elephant. Then he returned to the herd.







The other elephants were ready and waiting.
“The parade can begin as soon as the other animals
arrive,” said Elmer. “Listen! Here they come!”



The elephants stared in amazement as the animals arrived. Then they cheered. “Wonderful! Fantastic!” they shouted. Not only were the animals decorated, but they all wore elephant masks.

“You see, it’s still an elephant parade!” Lion laughed.





“Let’s begin,” called Elmer from the front of the parade. “From now on everyone can join in the Elmer’s Day Parade . . .

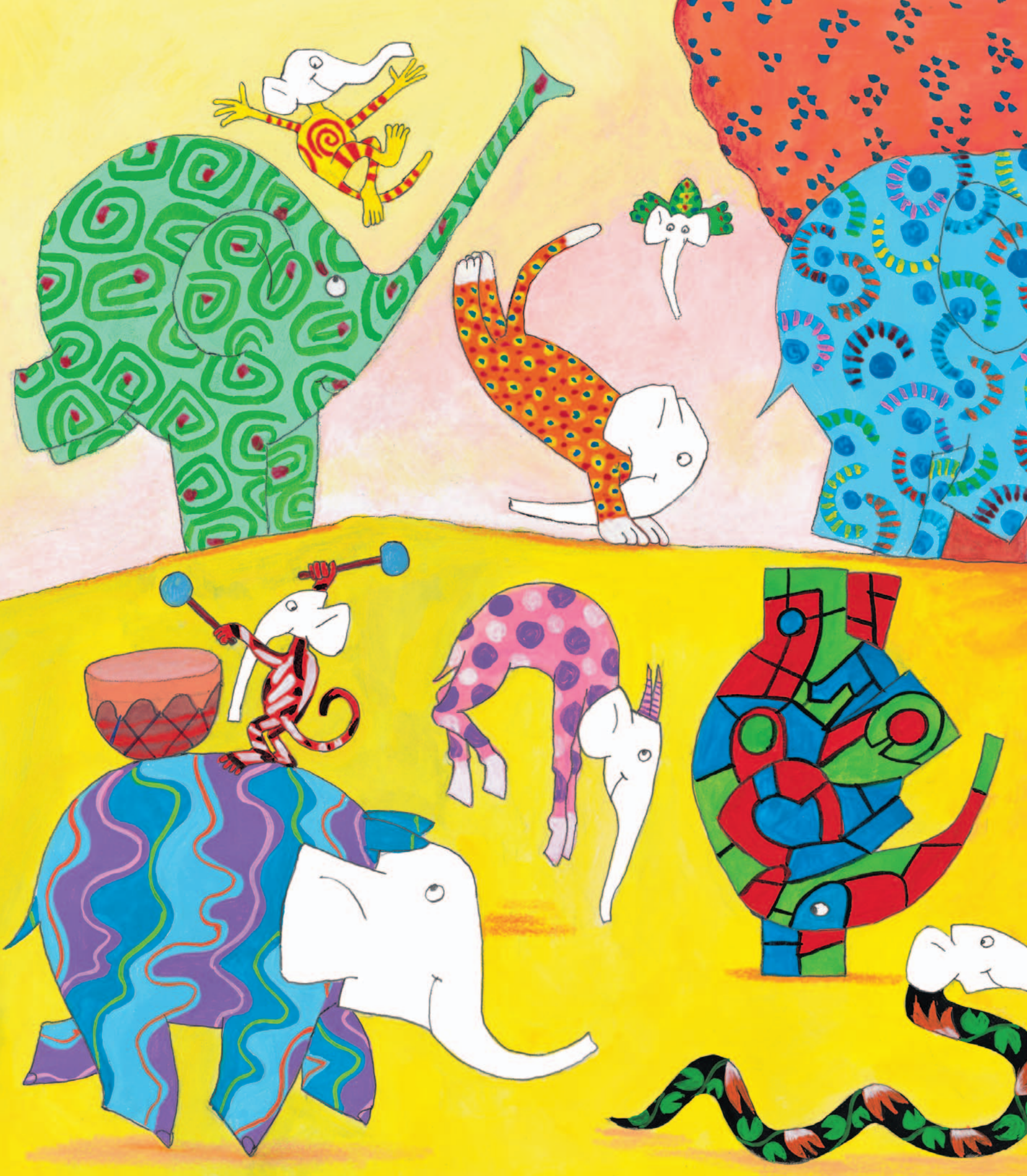


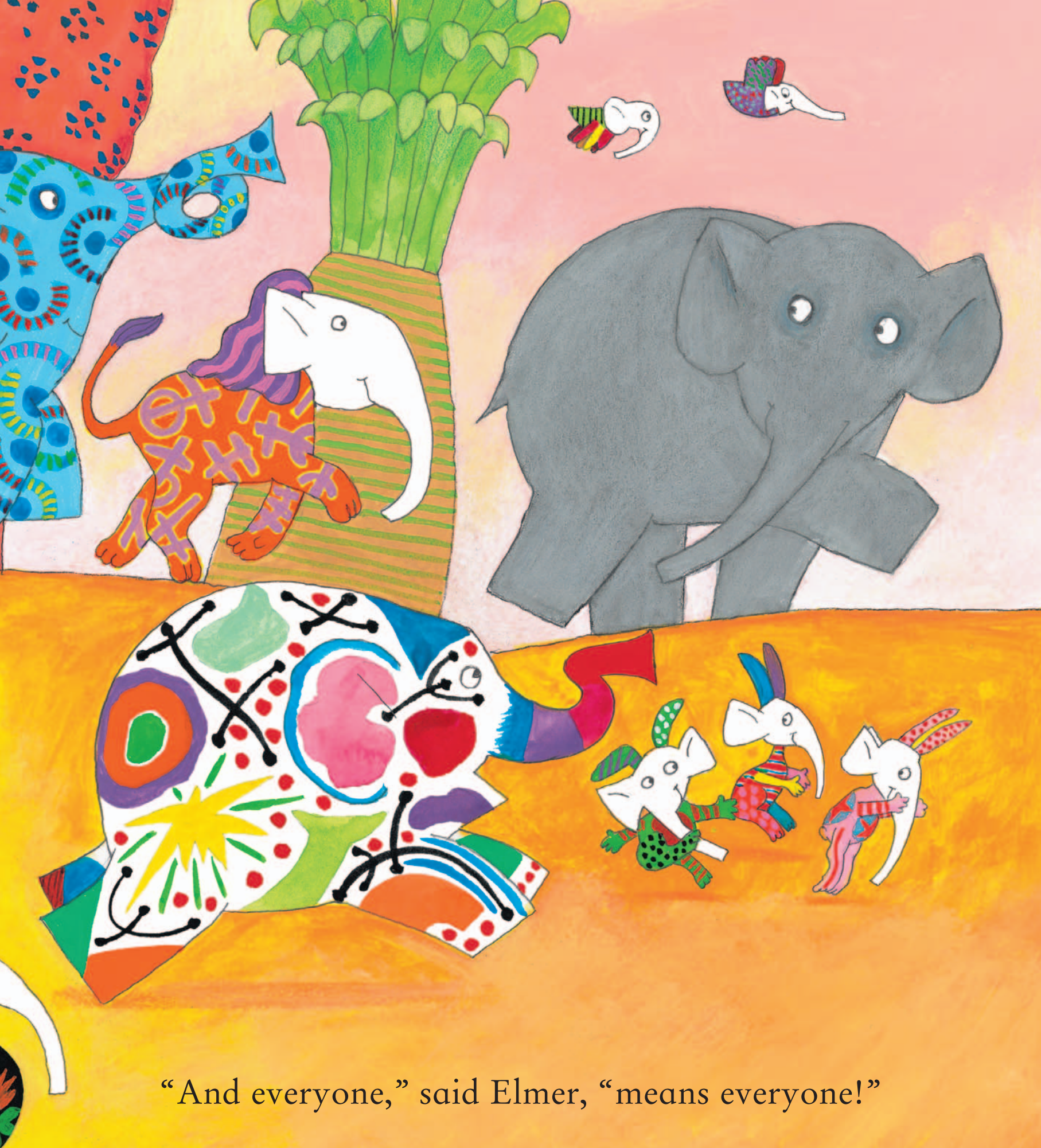






... as long as they wear an elephant mask!
This will be the best elephant parade ever!"





“And everyone,” said Elmer, “means everyone!”

Ever since his first book was published in 1964, **David McKee** has been one of the leading contemporary children's book creators. His books are published in numerous languages throughout the world, and many of his books have been adapted for television. He is best known as the creator of Elmer, the patchwork elephant. He now divides his time between London and the south of France.

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