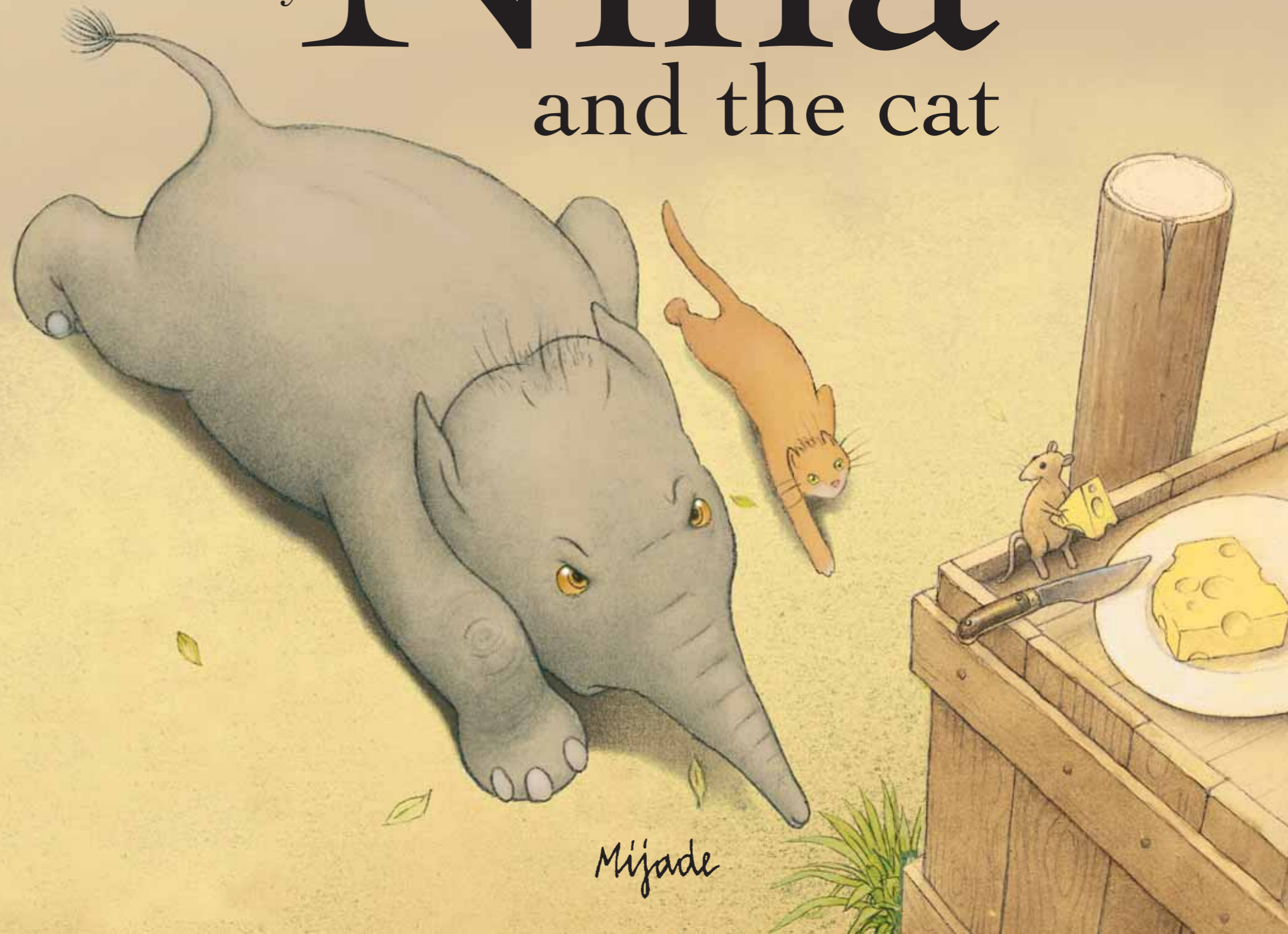


Vincent  
Hardy

# Nina

and the cat

Fatima  
Sharafeddine



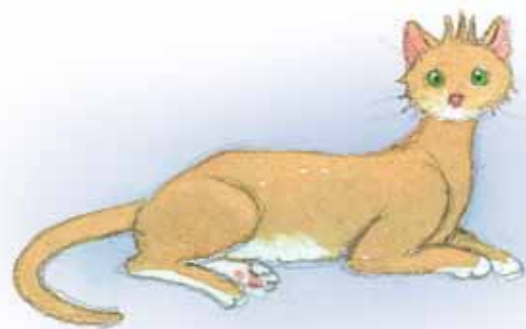
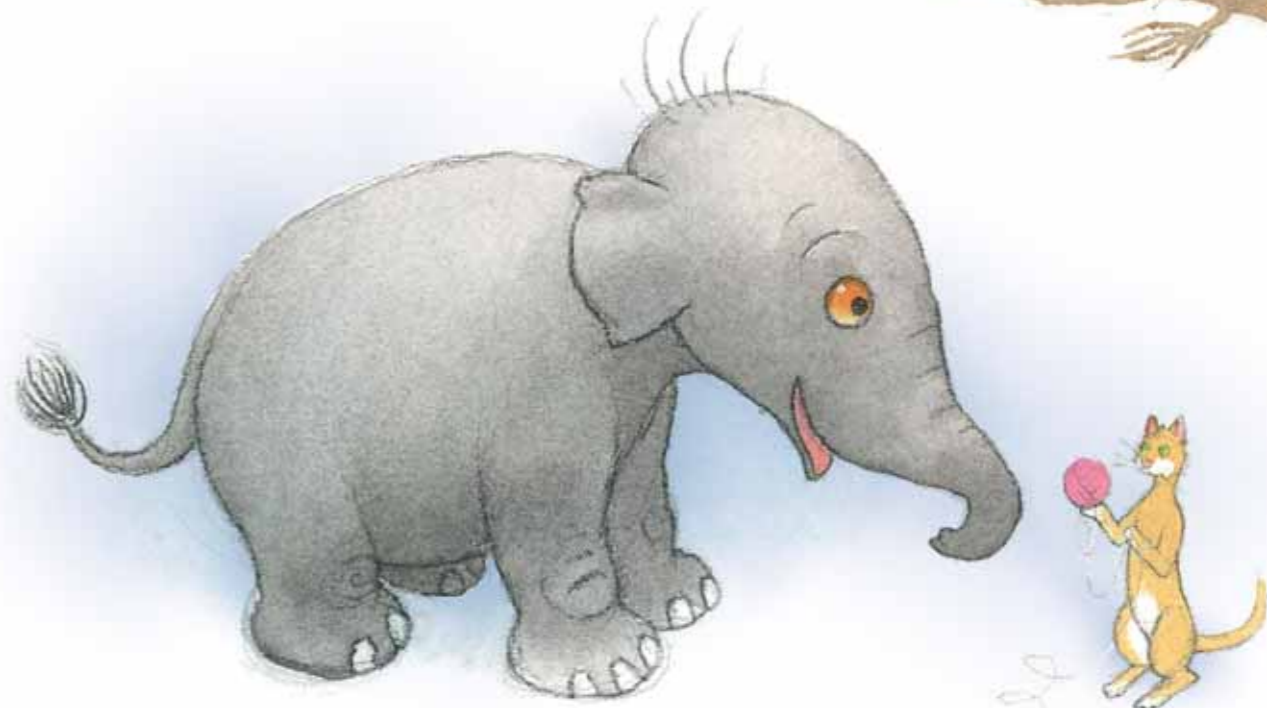
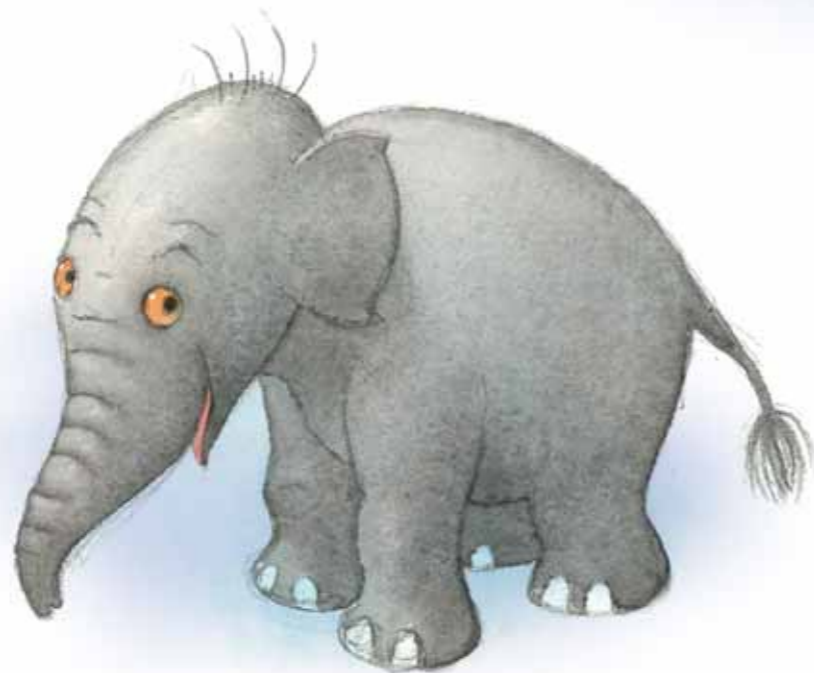
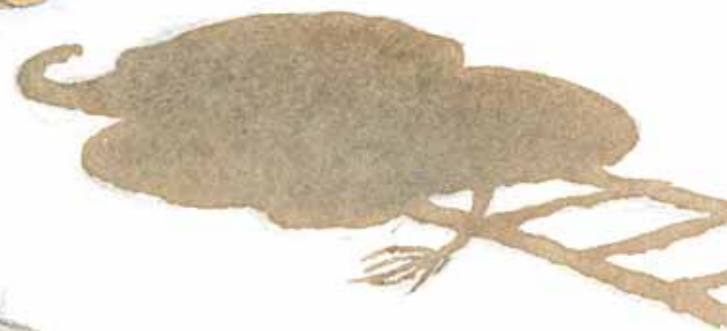
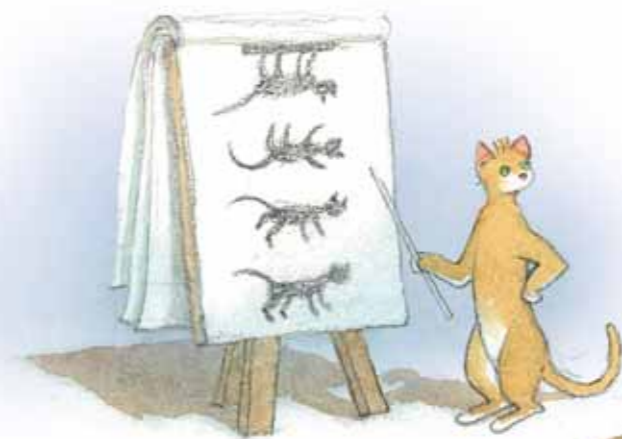
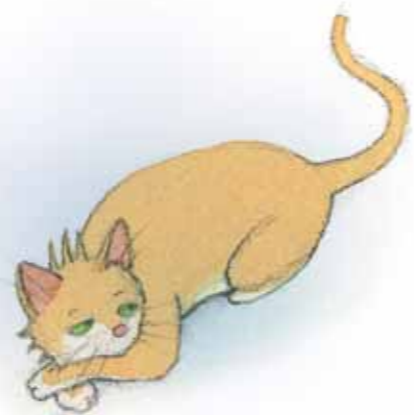
F. Sharafeddine & V. Hardy

Nina and the cat

Mijade



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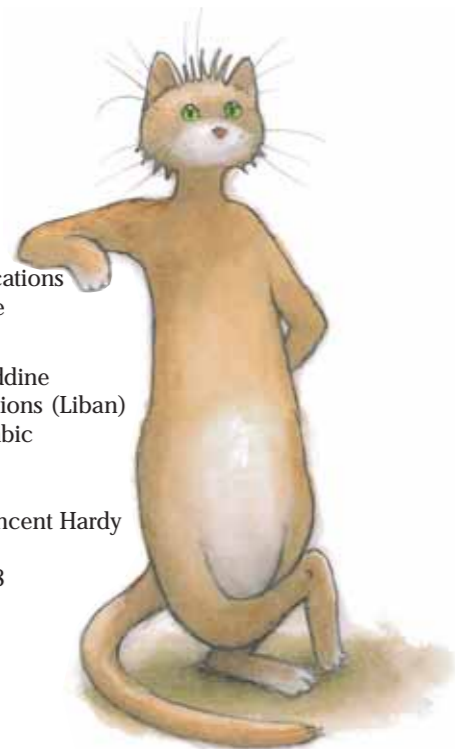


*To all the nannies*

ES

*To Théophile and Ladislas*

V.H.



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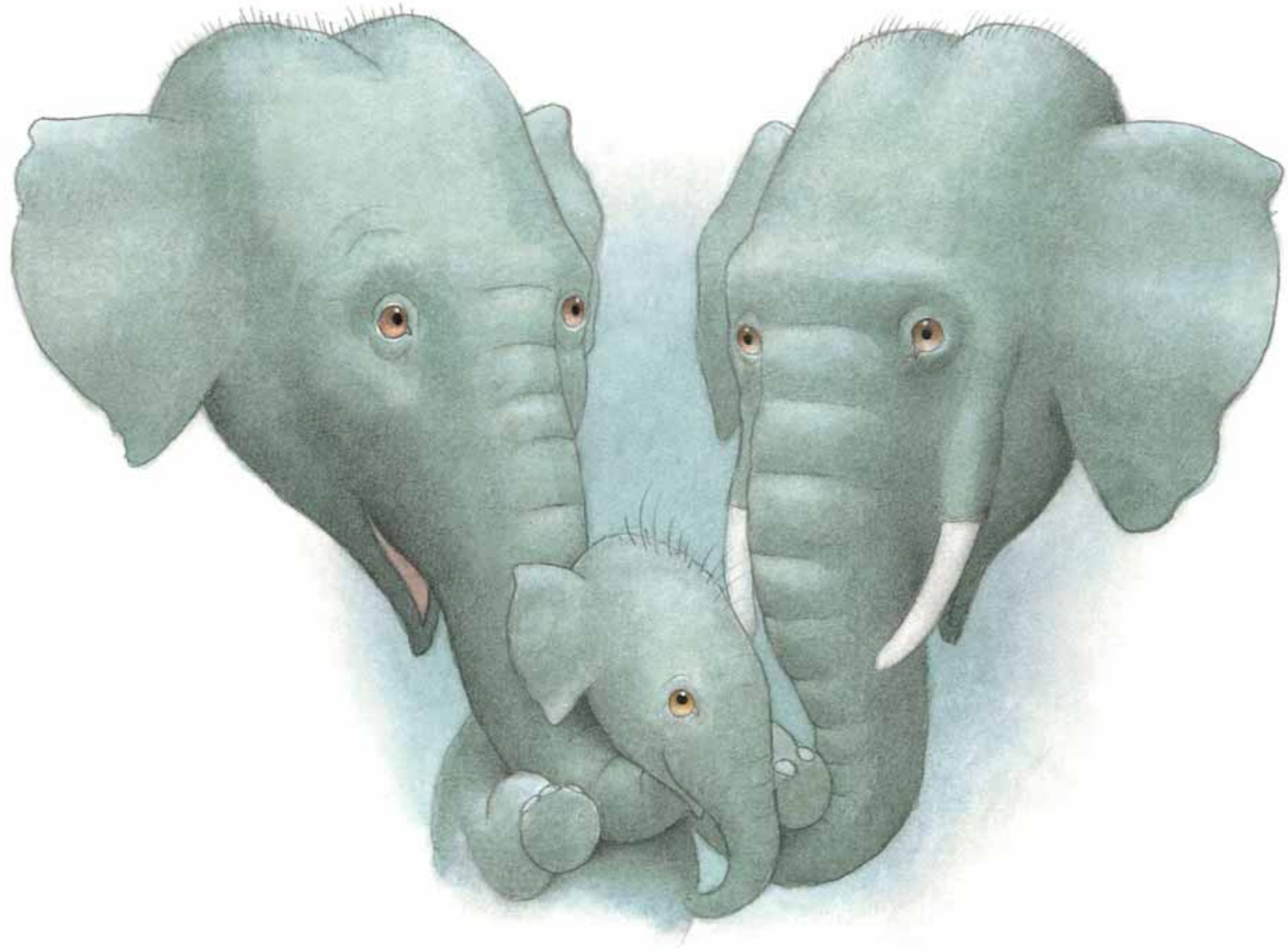
# Nina and the cat

Vincent Hardy

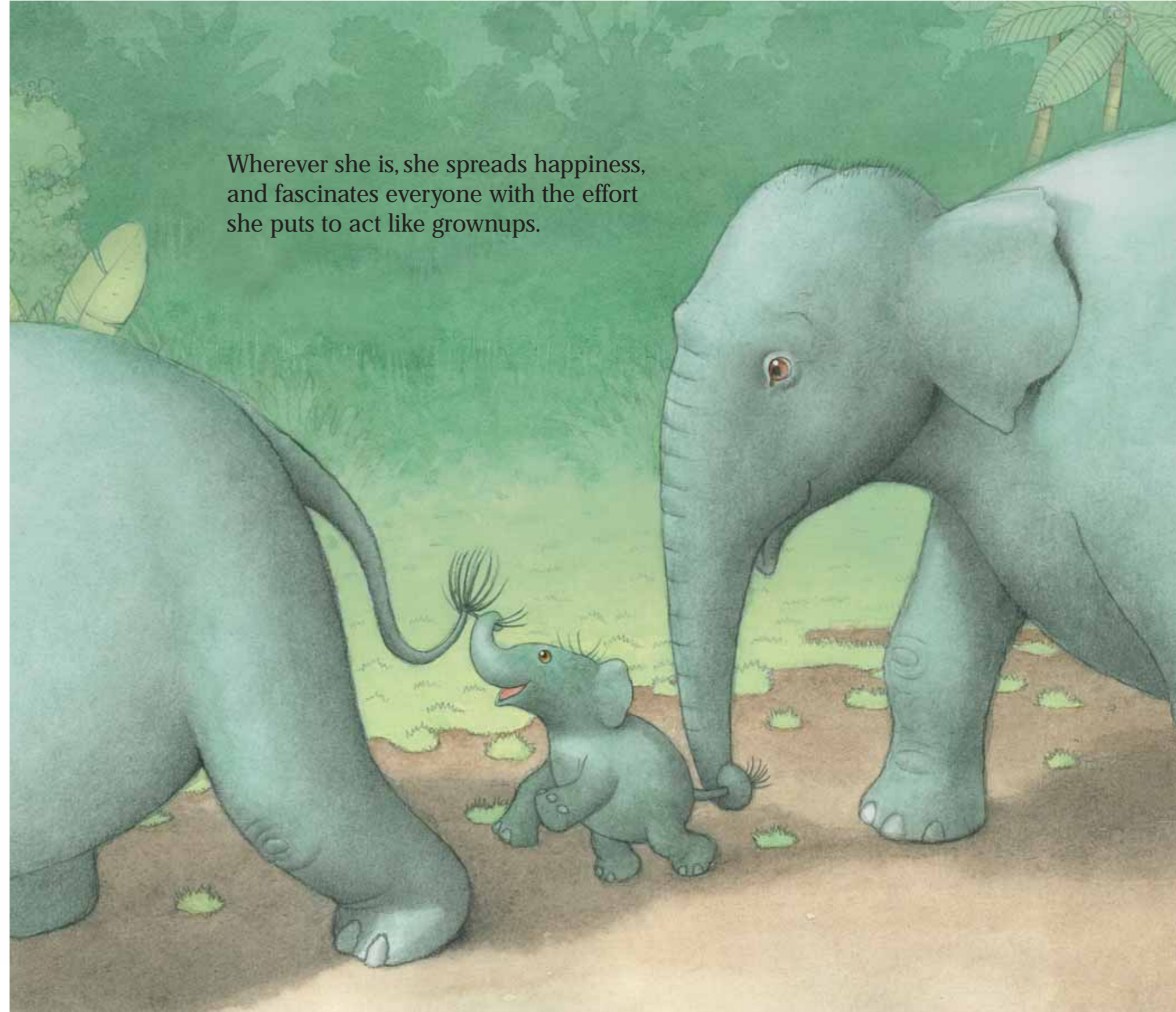


Mijade





Mama Elephant and Papa Elephant are very proud of their little Nina: She may still be just a baby, but she is already learning a lot of things!

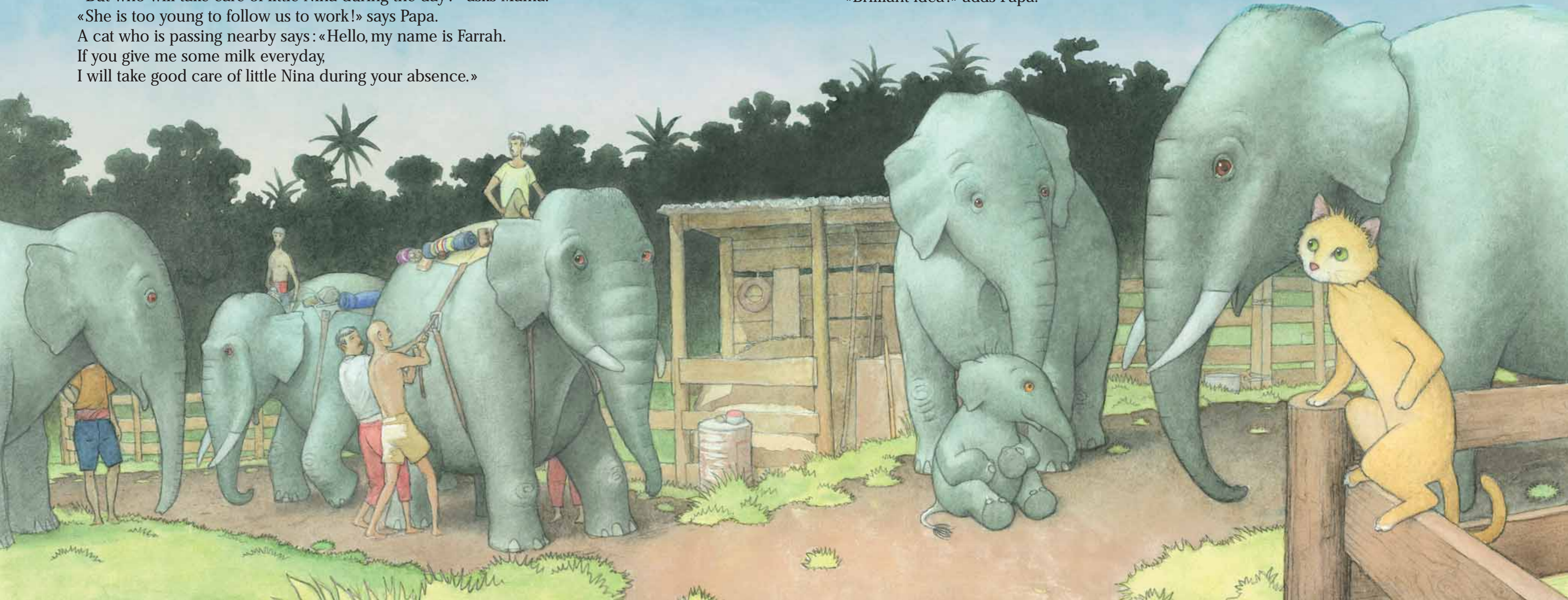


Wherever she is, she spreads happiness, and fascinates everyone with the effort she puts to act like grownups.



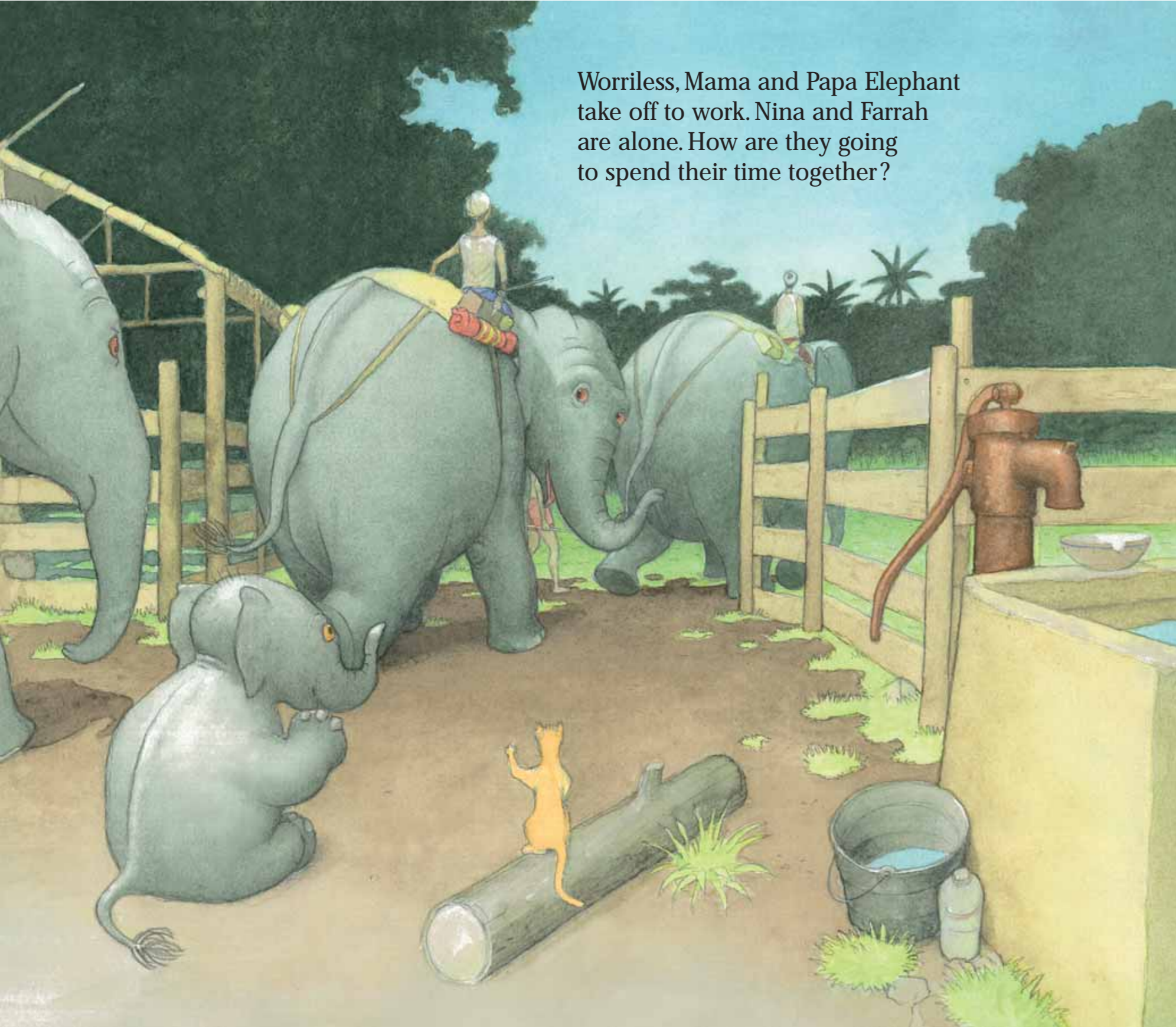
But there is a problem today.  
Mama and Papa Elephant have to go back to work in the forest.  
«But who will take care of little Nina during the day?» asks Mama.  
«She is too young to follow us to work!» says Papa.  
A cat who is passing nearby says: «Hello, my name is Farrah.  
If you give me some milk everyday,  
I will take good care of little Nina during your absence.»

«This is a very good solution!» says Mama.  
«Brilliant idea!» adds Papa.

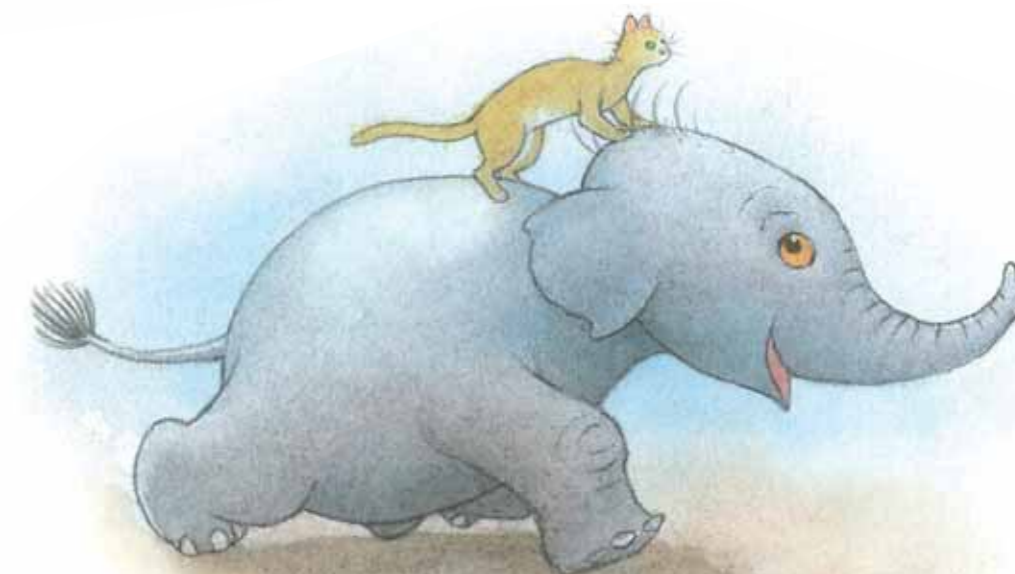




Worriless, Mama and Papa Elephant take off to work. Nina and Farrah are alone. How are they going to spend their time together?



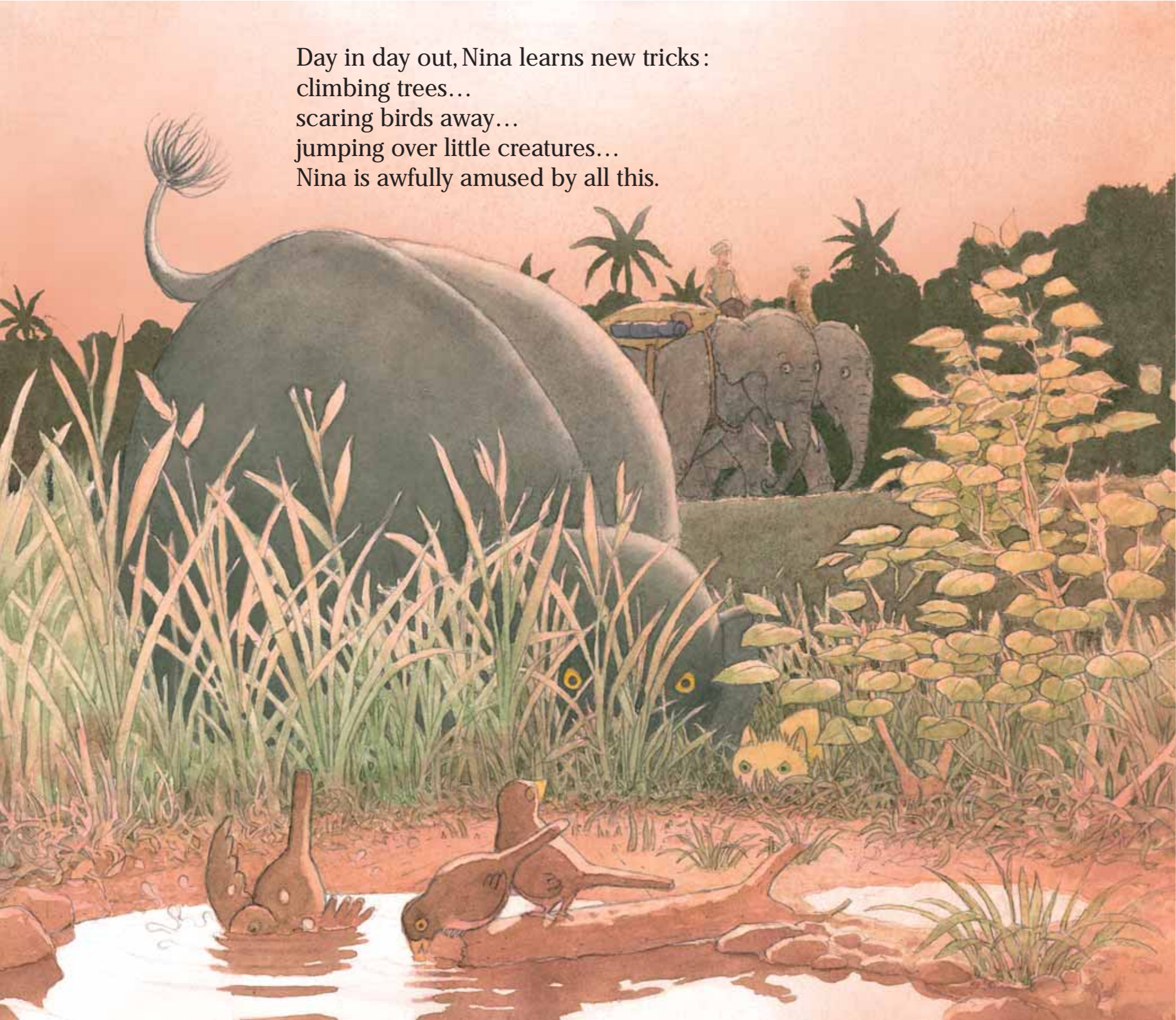
«I have an idea,» says the cat.  
«I will teach you everything I know!»



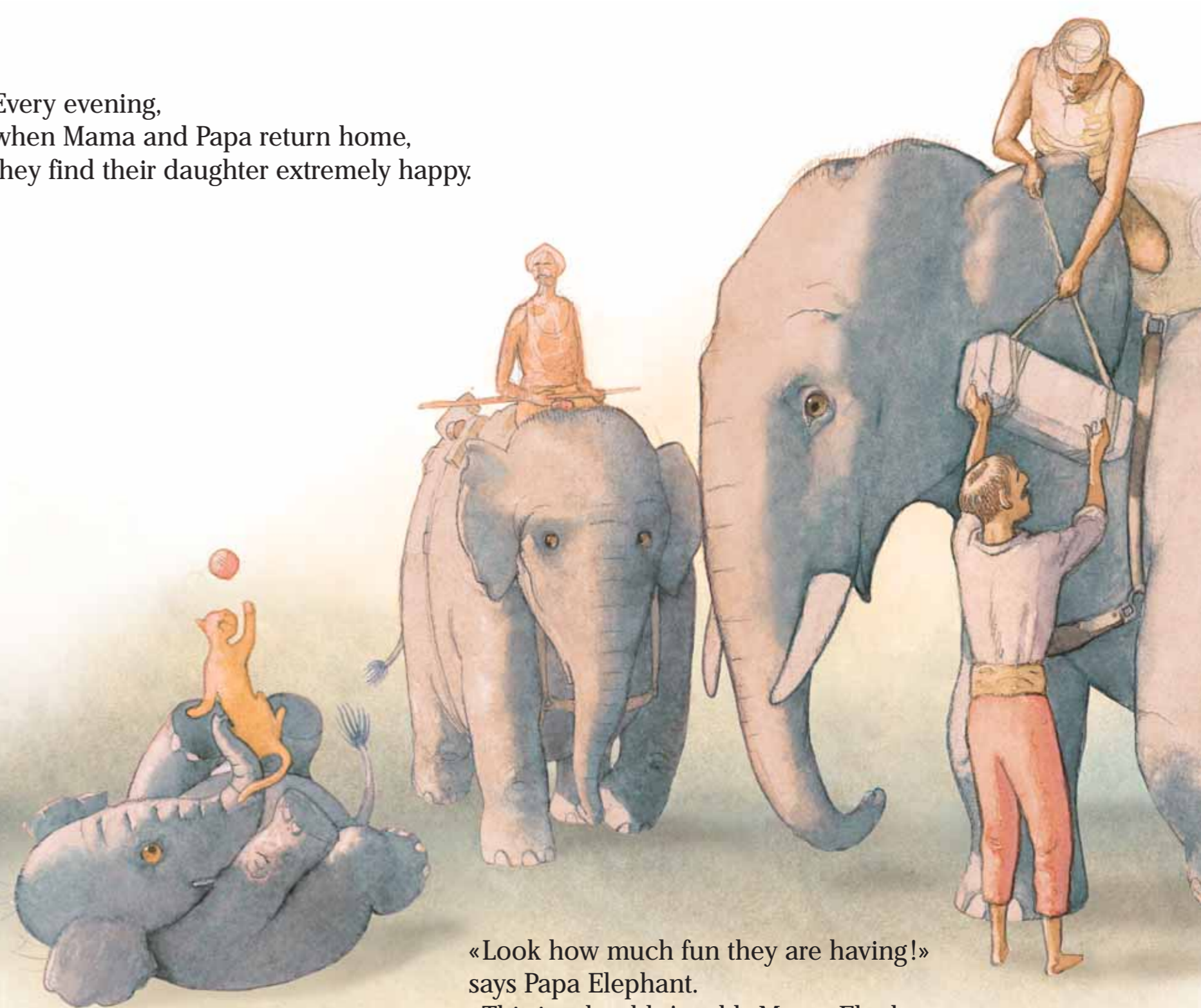
Nina is very excited.  
She can't wait to start her new adventure with Farrah.



Day in day out, Nina learns new tricks:  
climbing trees...  
scaring birds away...  
jumping over little creatures...  
Nina is awfully amused by all this.



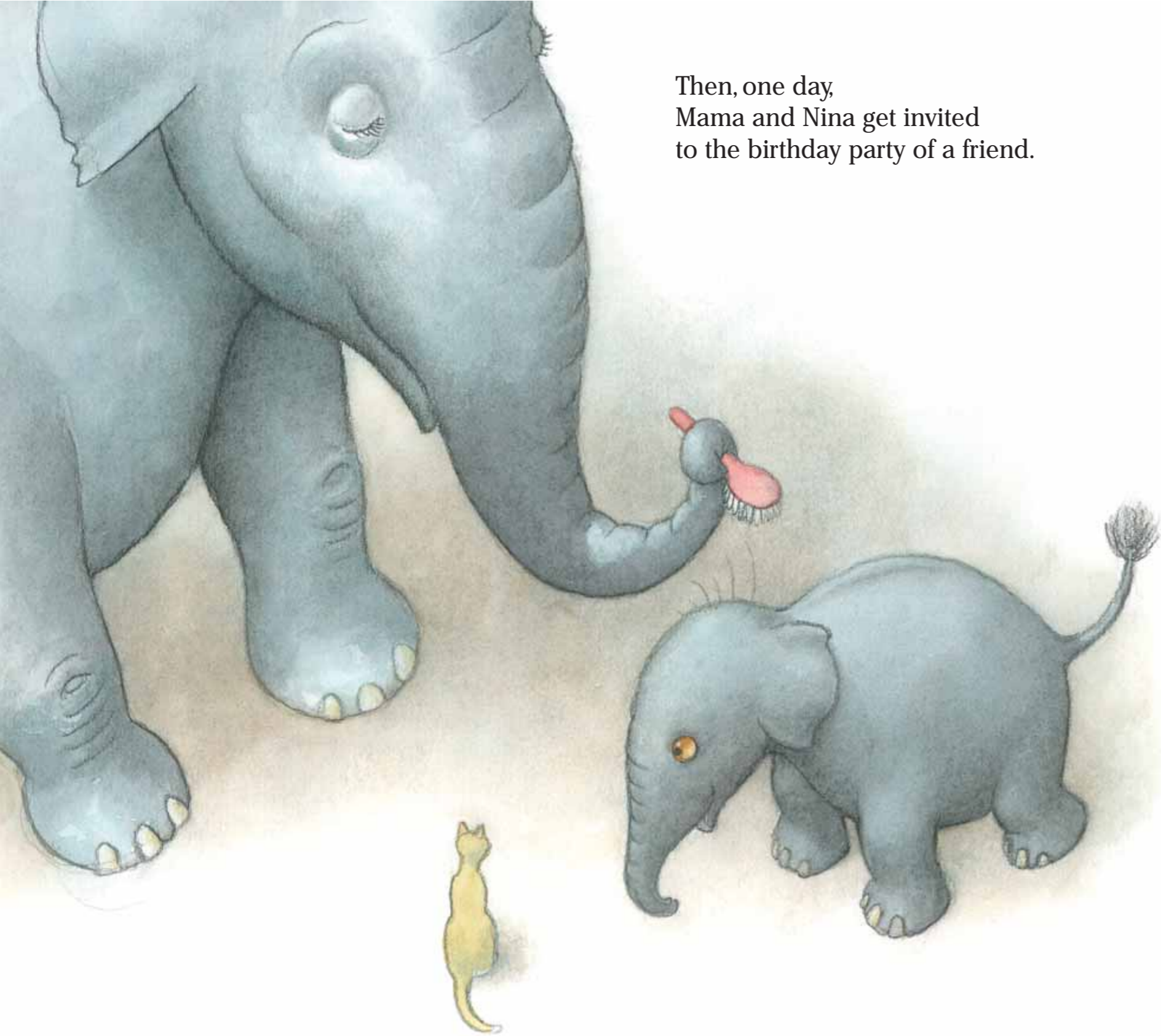
Every evening,  
when Mama and Papa return home,  
they find their daughter extremely happy.



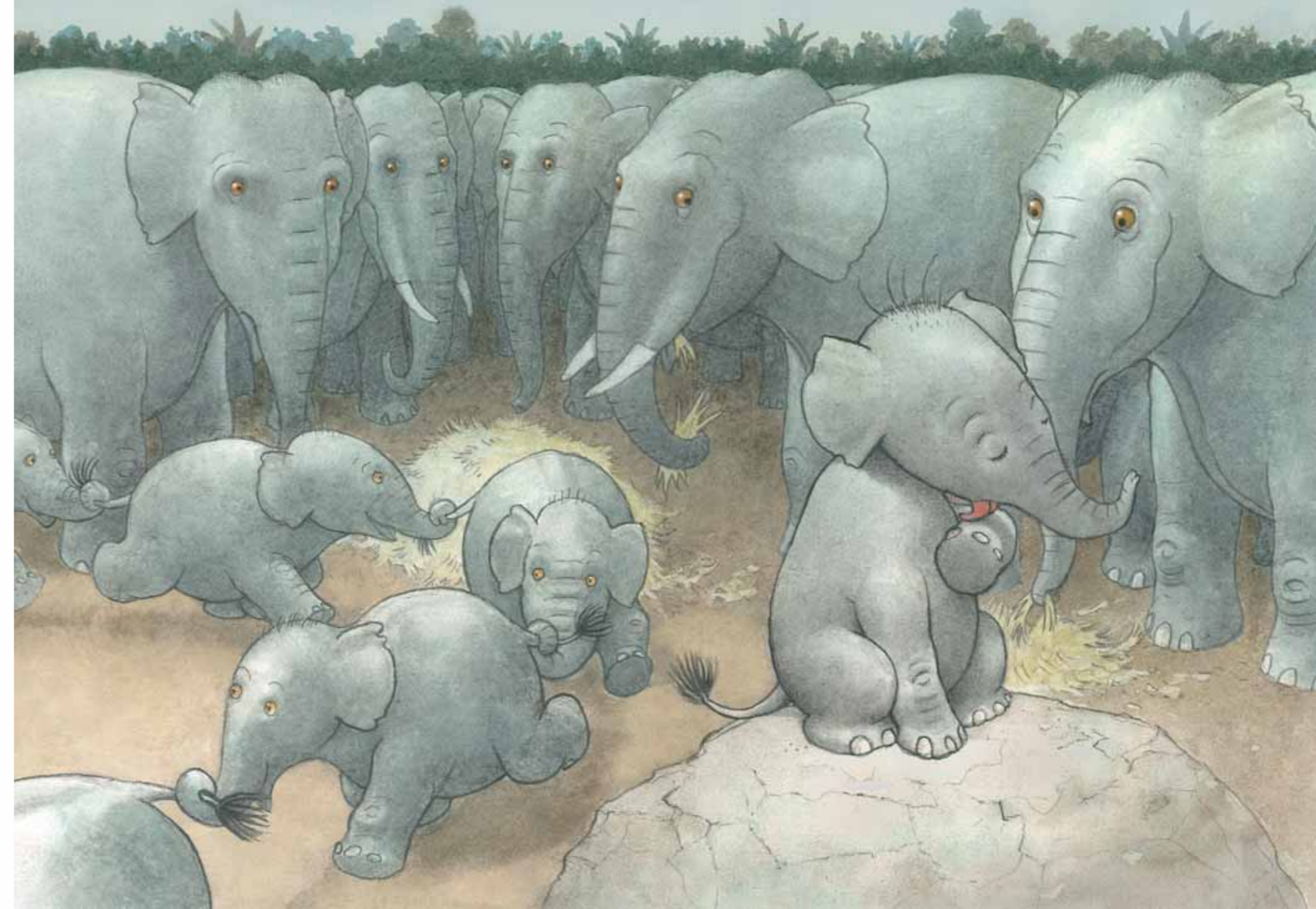
«Look how much fun they are having!»  
says Papa Elephant.  
«This is adorable!» adds Mama Elephant.



Then, one day,  
Mama and Nina get invited  
to the birthday party of a friend.



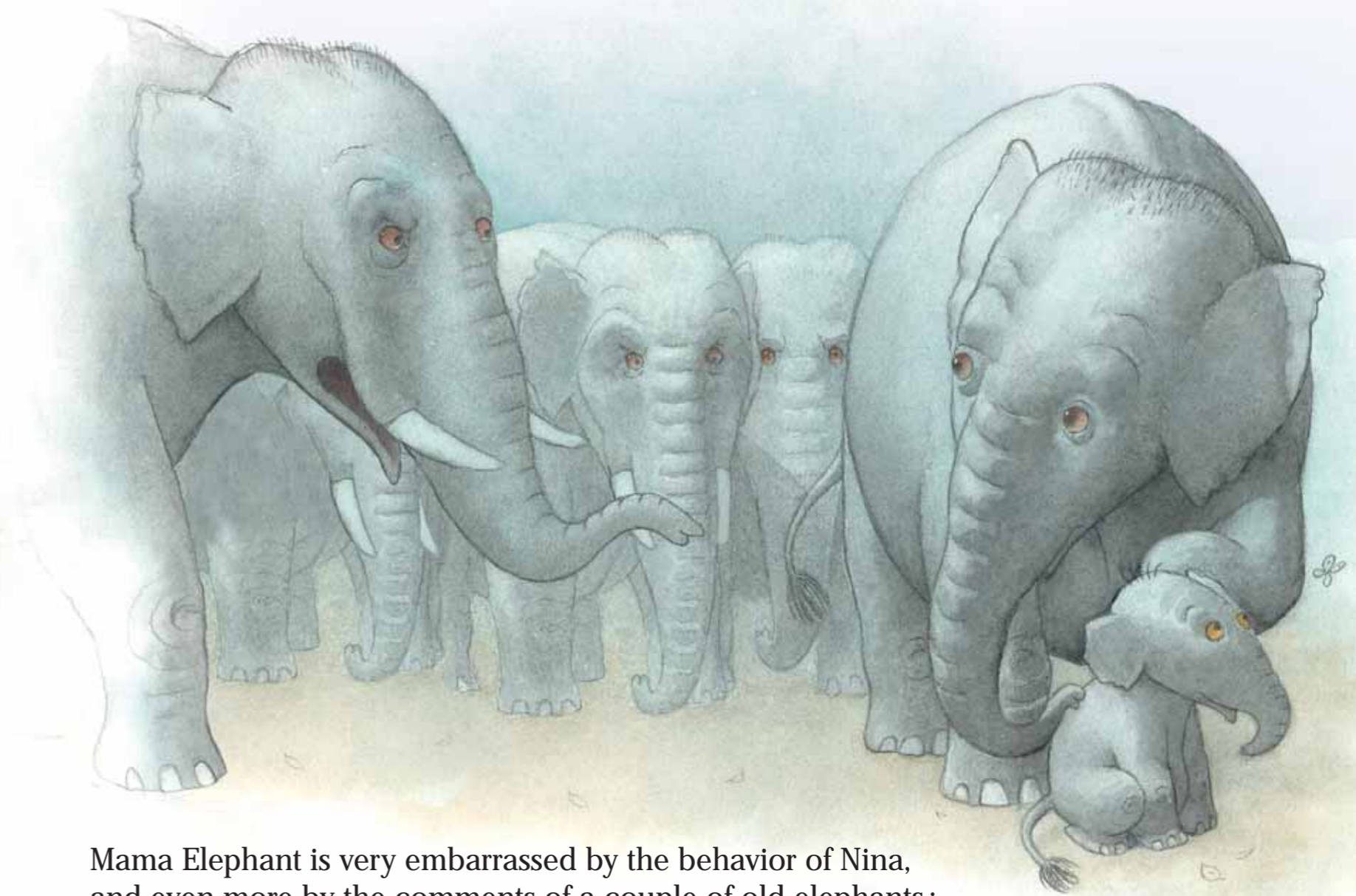
At the party, all the elephants are stunned by Nina's behavior.  
Her manners are nothing like elephant manners!  
«Look how she is licking herself, you would say it is a cat!»  
says one of the elephants.







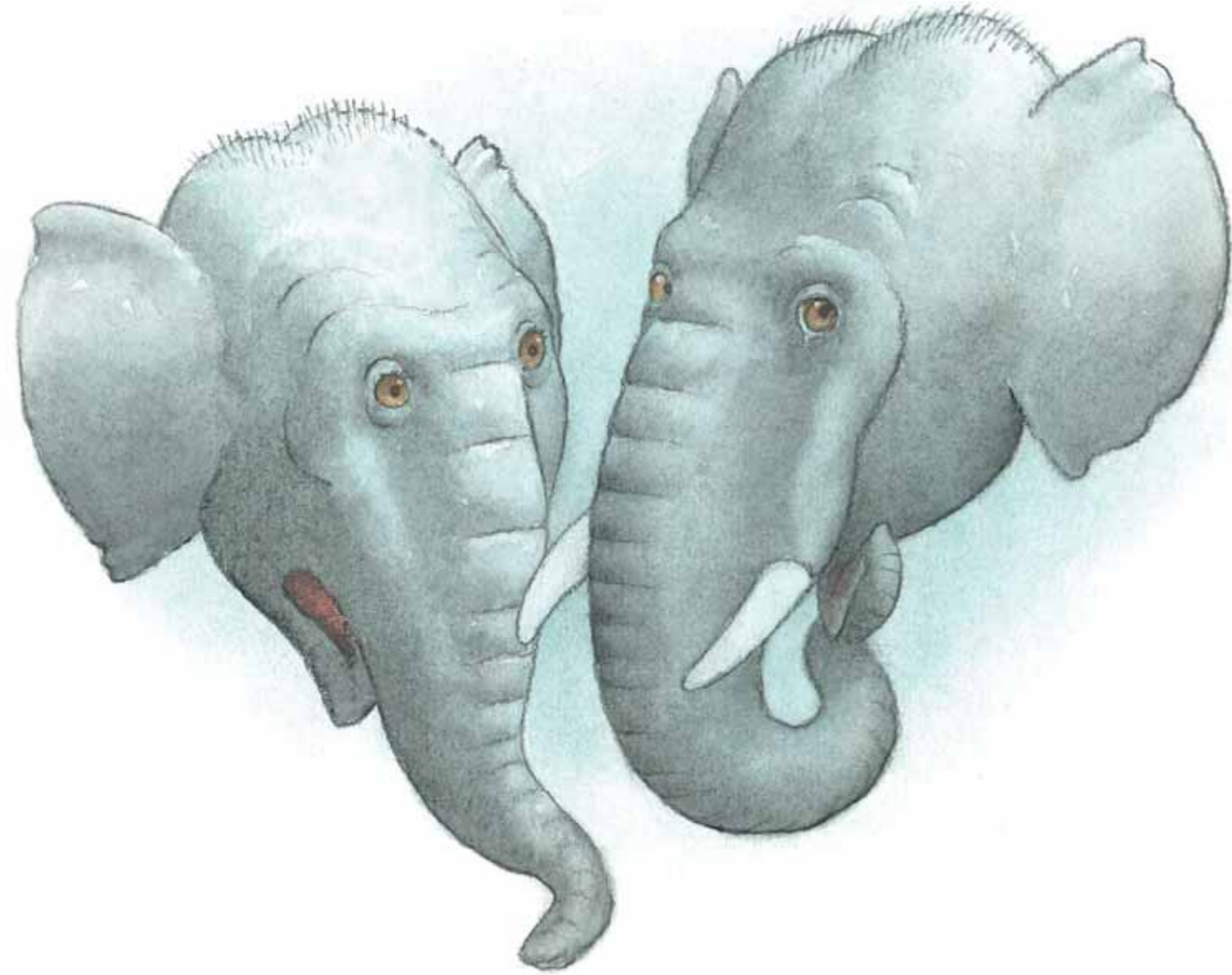
«Oh! Oh! She is climbing the tree! This is hideous!  
This little one brings disgrace to the whole community of elephants!»



Mama Elephant is very embarrassed by the behavior of Nina, and even more by the comments of a couple of old elephants: «You failed at educating your daughter. She is acting like a cat,» says one. «You have to be much stricter with her and teach her appropriate elephant behavior!» says another.

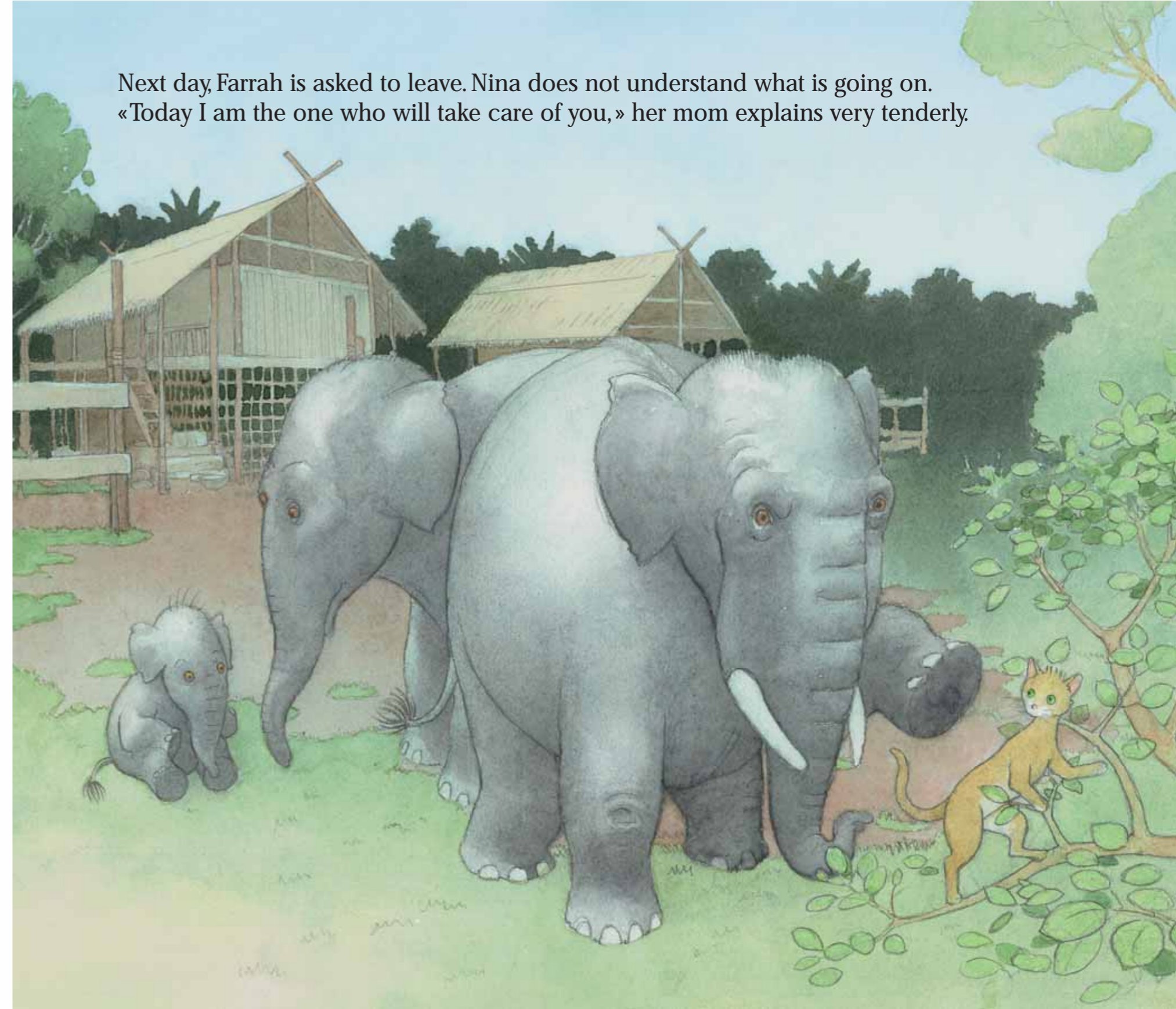


Later that evening, at home, Nina's parents contemplate.  
«Didn't we leave Nina with the cat more that we should have?»  
wonders Mama Elephant.

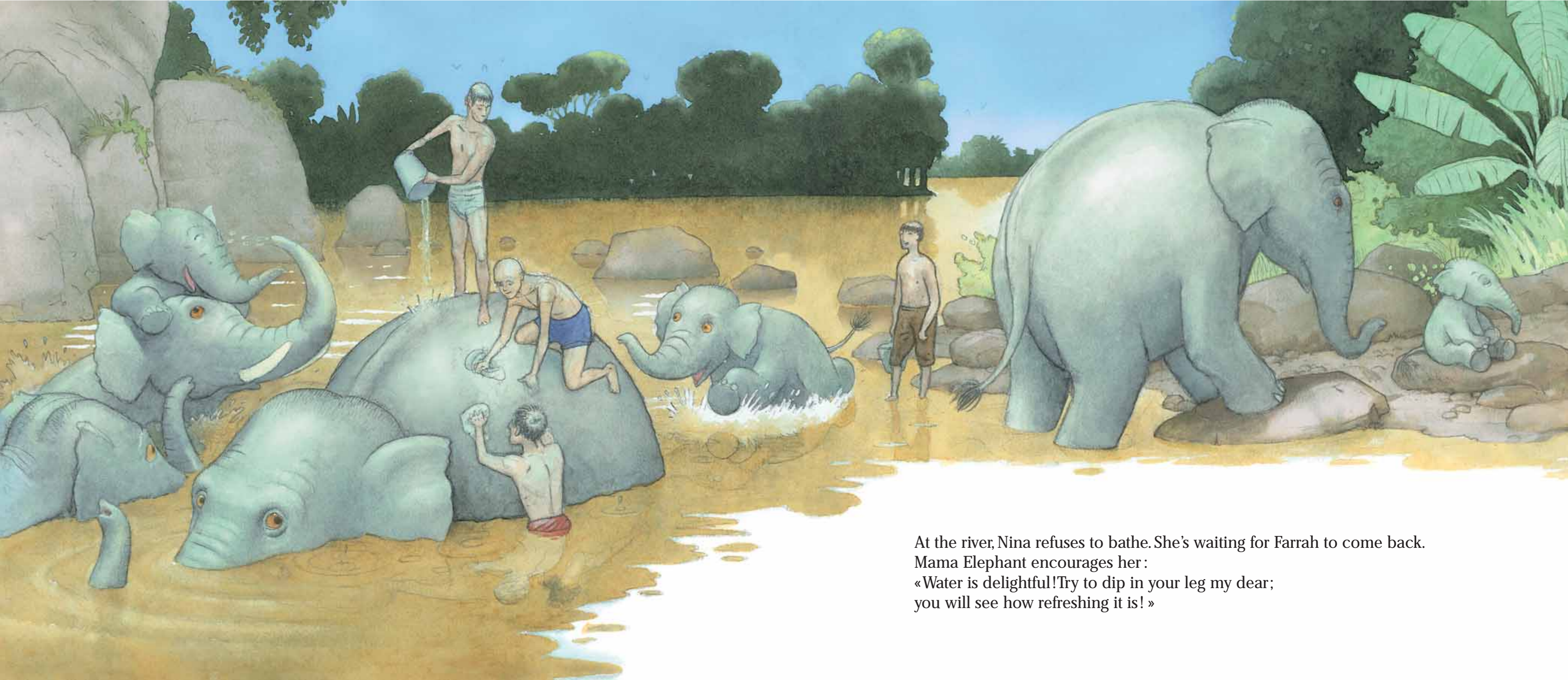


«If we do nothing about it now, she will forget she is an elephant!»  
Papa Elephant agrees : «You are right. It is best for Nina  
to be separated from Farrah now, before it is too late.»

Next day, Farrah is asked to leave. Nina does not understand what is going on.  
«Today I am the one who will take care of you,» her mom explains very tenderly.

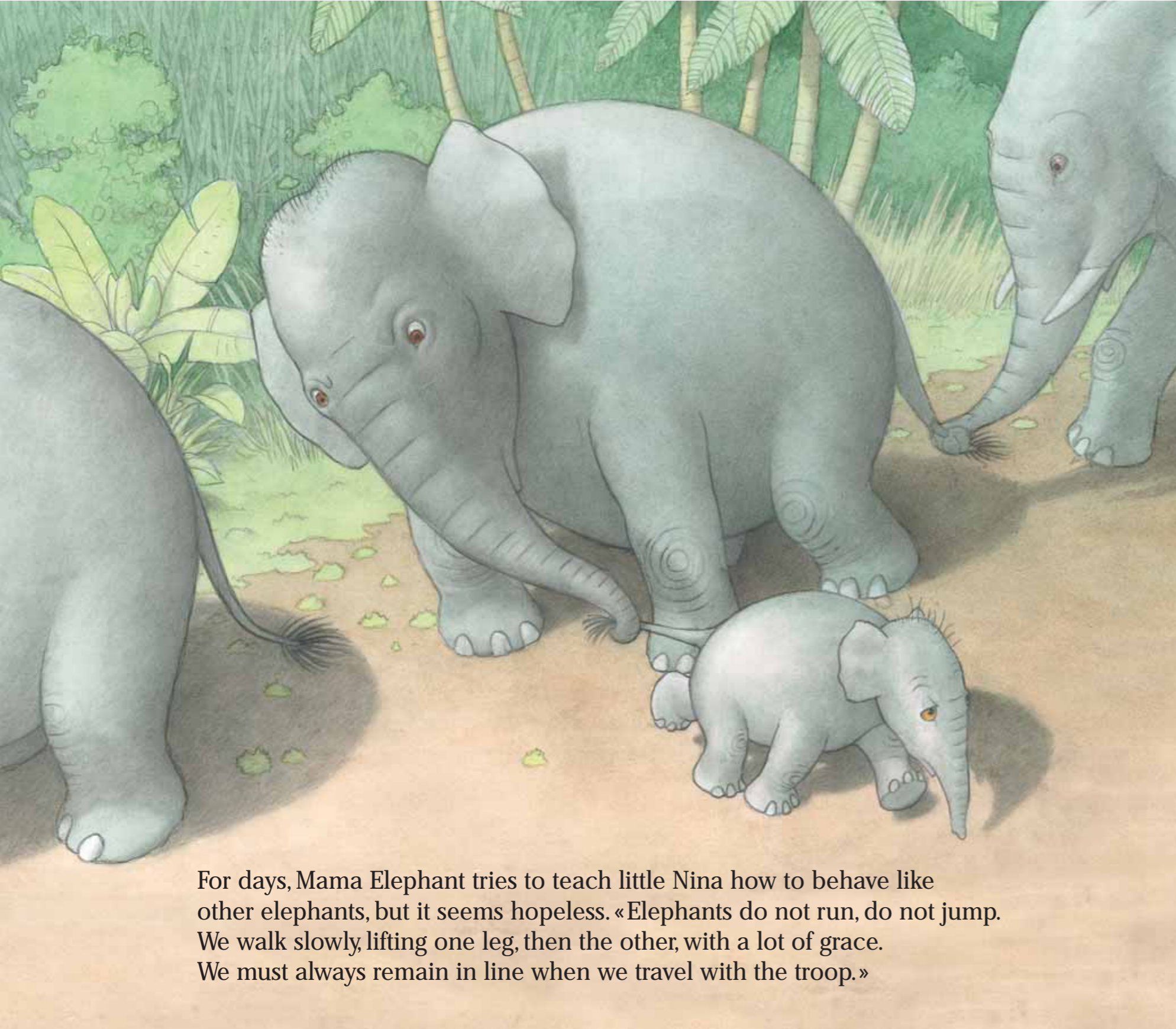






At the river, Nina refuses to bathe. She's waiting for Farrah to come back.  
Mama Elephant encourages her :  
« Water is delightful! Try to dip in your leg my dear;  
you will see how refreshing it is! »





For days, Mama Elephant tries to teach little Nina how to behave like other elephants, but it seems hopeless. «Elephants do not run, do not jump. We walk slowly, lifting one leg, then the other, with a lot of grace. We must always remain in line when we travel with the troop.»

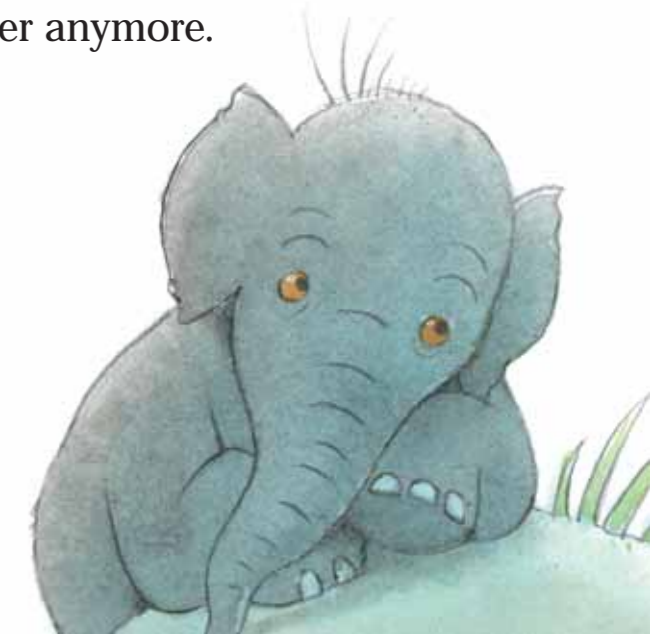
«We use our trunk to break little branches from trees, roll them neatly, and eat them.»



«Hmmmm! Delicious leaves! Isn't it fun to eat this way?» But Nina is not interested at all. She's extremely sad and Mama Elephant starts to lose hope. «Nothing interests her anymore. This is heartbreaking,» she complains to Papa Elephant.

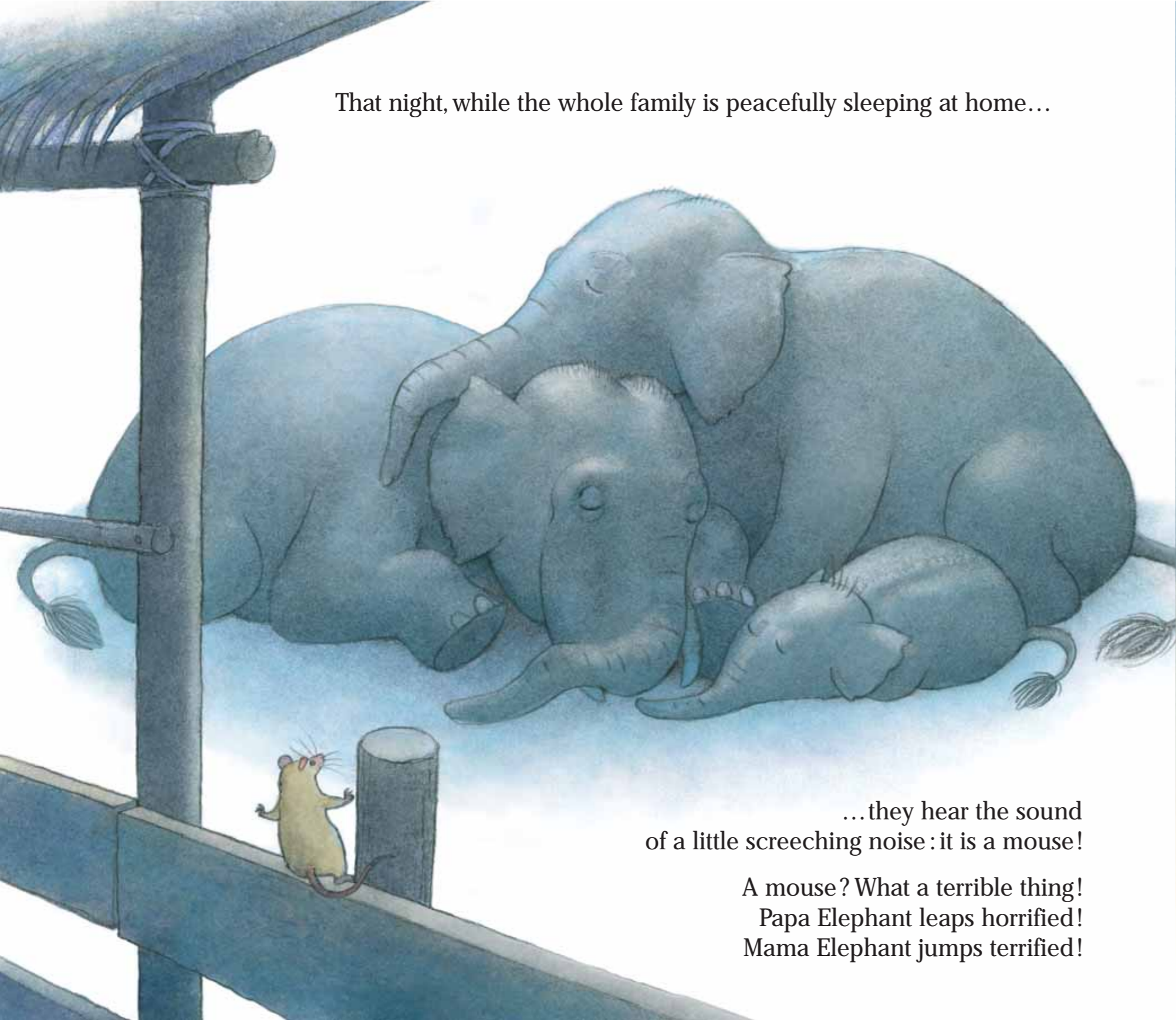


But Papa encourages her: «We should not give up! She will soon forget all about the cat...»



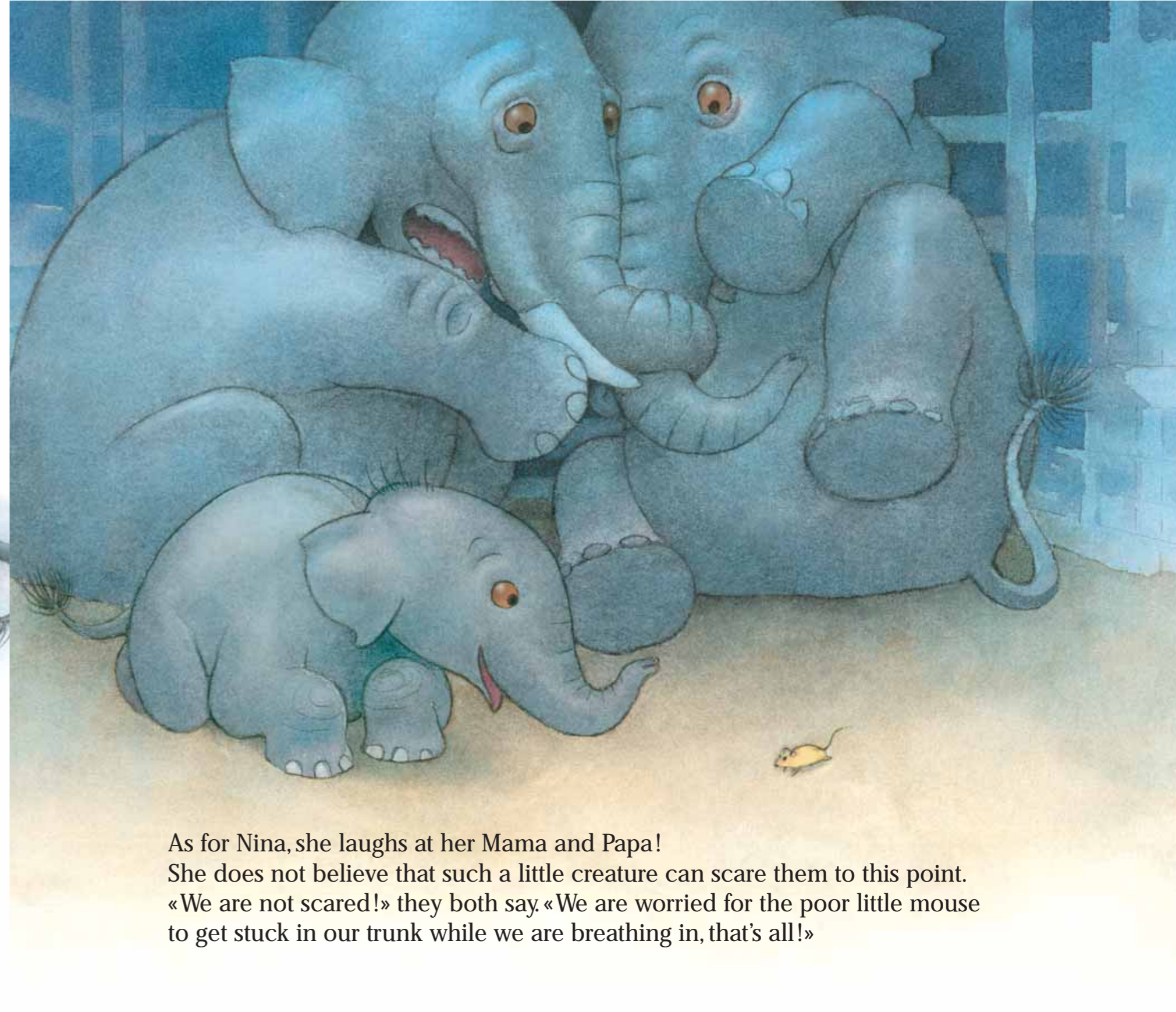


That night, while the whole family is peacefully sleeping at home...



...they hear the sound  
of a little screeching noise : it is a mouse!

A mouse? What a terrible thing!  
Papa Elephant leaps horrified!  
Mama Elephant jumps terrified!

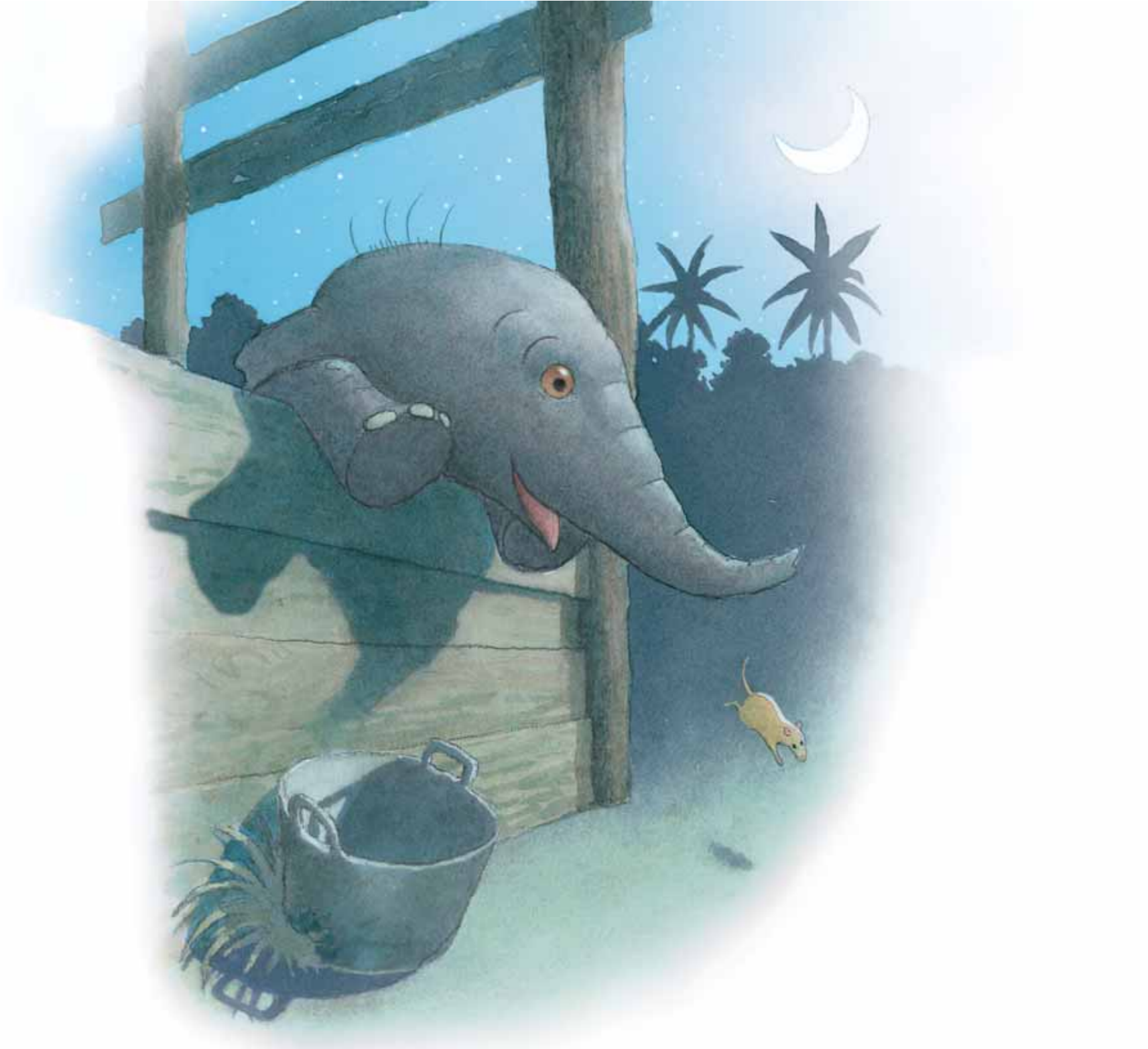


As for Nina, she laughs at her Mama and Papa!  
She does not believe that such a little creature can scare them to this point.  
«We are not scared!» they both say. «We are worried for the poor little mouse  
to get stuck in our trunk while we are breathing in, that's all!»



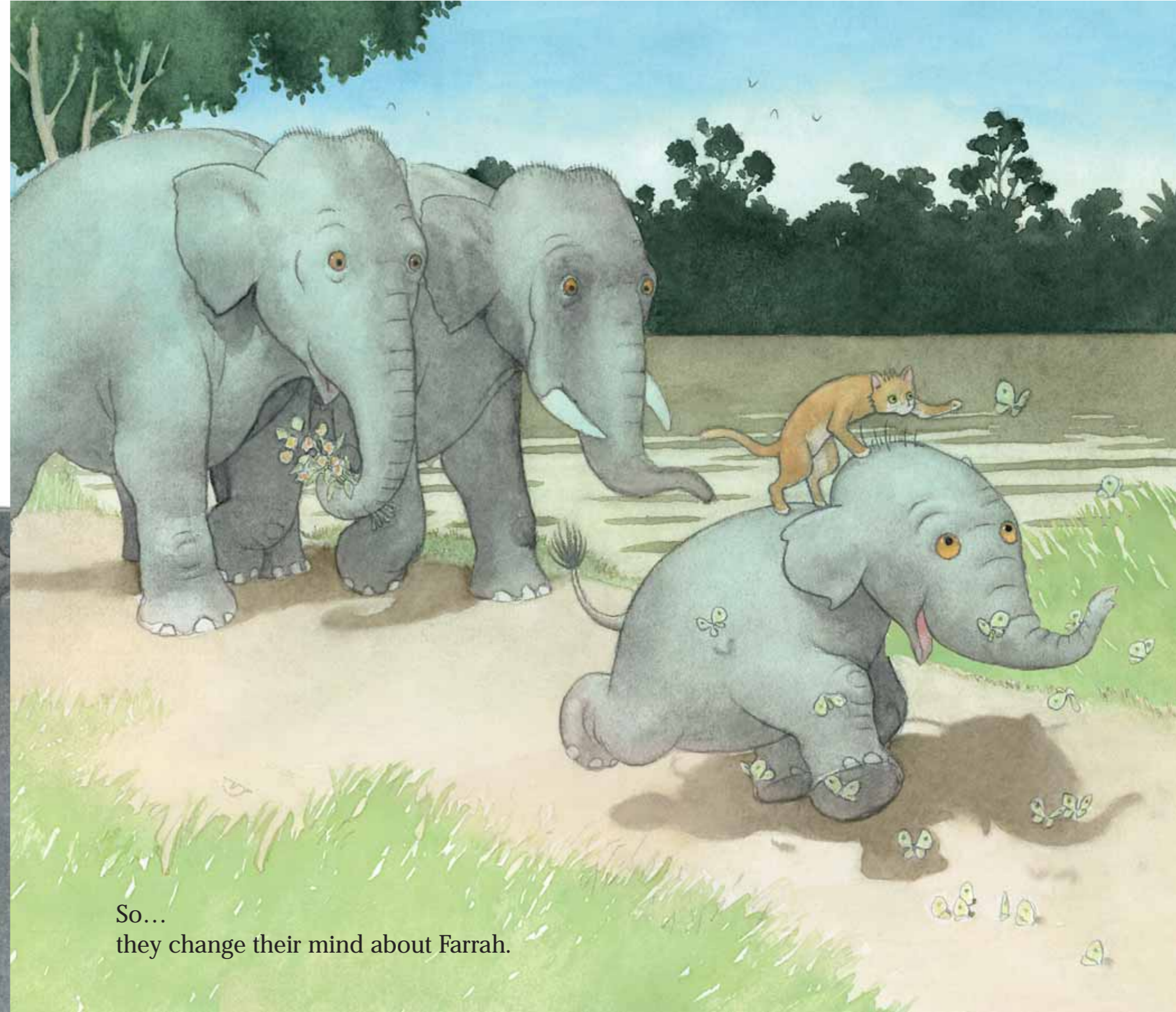


With one quick dive, Nina attacks the mouse, rolls her trunk around him, and calmly puts him down outside.





Mama and Papa are very happy  
with the courage and speed of little Nina.  
After all, it is practical to have someone  
who knows cat tricks around here...



So...  
they change their mind about Farrah.



