

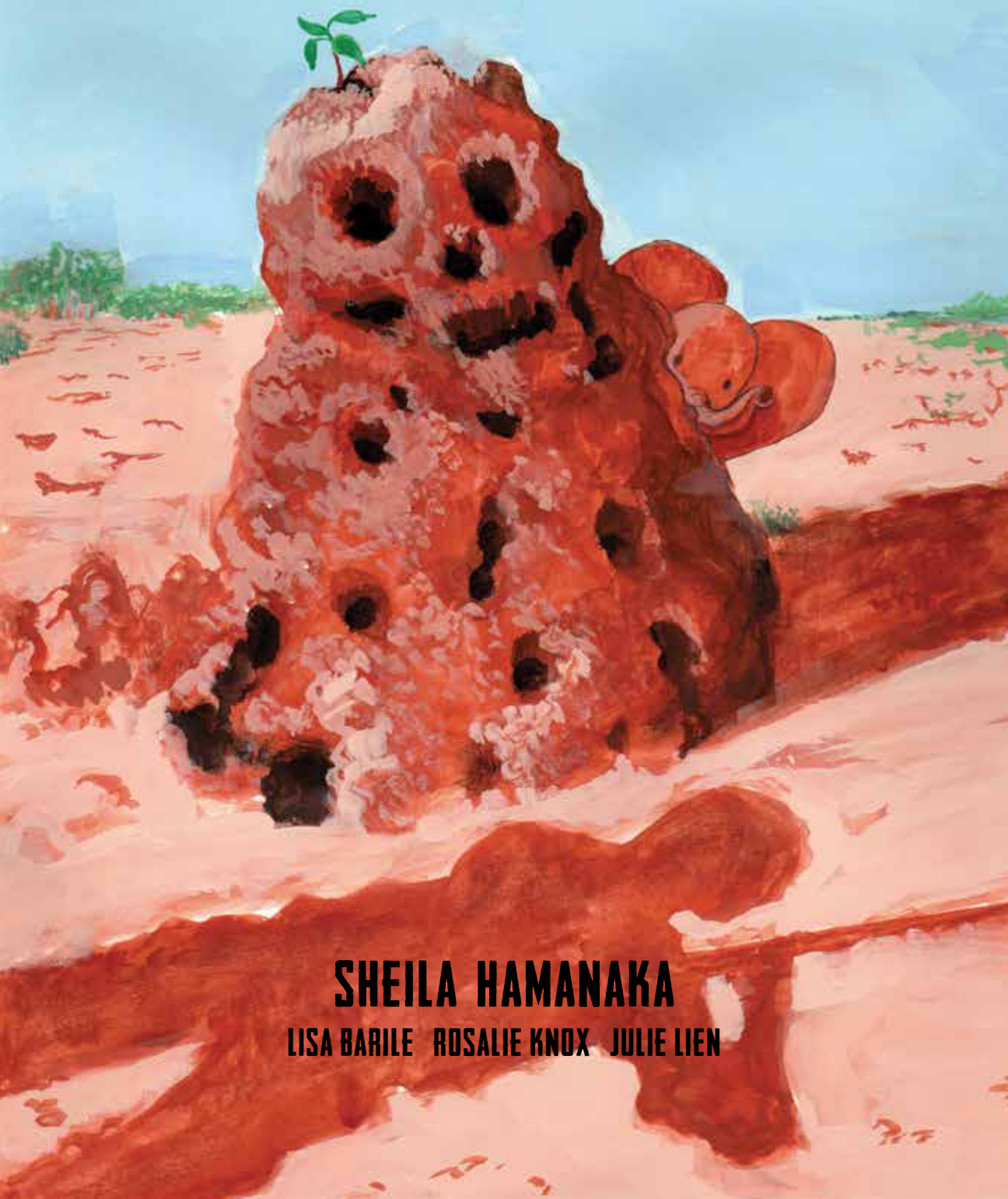


SHEILA HAMANAKA

LISA BARILE ROSALIE KNOX JULIE LIEN



A DANGEROUS LIFE



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I KNOW I
MISSED YOUR LAST
TWO BIRTHDAYS.
AMELIA. I'LL MAKE
IT UP TO YOU, I
PROMISE.

NO—I'M NOT
TALKING TO YOU, FRAN.
I WAS TALKING TO MY
DAUGHTER. YES, MOVE
MY MEETING UP.

WILL DO.
'BYE.

THREE.

I hate my
mother.

WHAT?

THREE. YOU
MISSED MY
LAST THREE
BIRTHDAYS.

WELCOME
TO
IVORYVILLE



GUESS HOW MANY BILLIARD BALLS YOU CAN MAKE FROM ONE ELEPHANT TUSK.

ANSWER YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER, AMELIA.

I DUNNO. A HUNDRED?



NO! THREE!

HA HA HA!



ONLY THREE? HOW MANY ELEPHANTS...

...DID MY GRANDDADDY'S FACTORIES NEED? A LOT! BUT THERE WERE TOO MANY "TUSKERS" ANYWAY! 26 MILLION OF 'EM, BACK IN 1800.

A HUNDRED YEARS LATER, THERE WERE STILL TOO MANY! 10 MILLION! AHHA, THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"...

...WHEN TEDDY ROOSEVELT WAS PRESIDENT!

HERE'S YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDDADDY WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AMELIA!

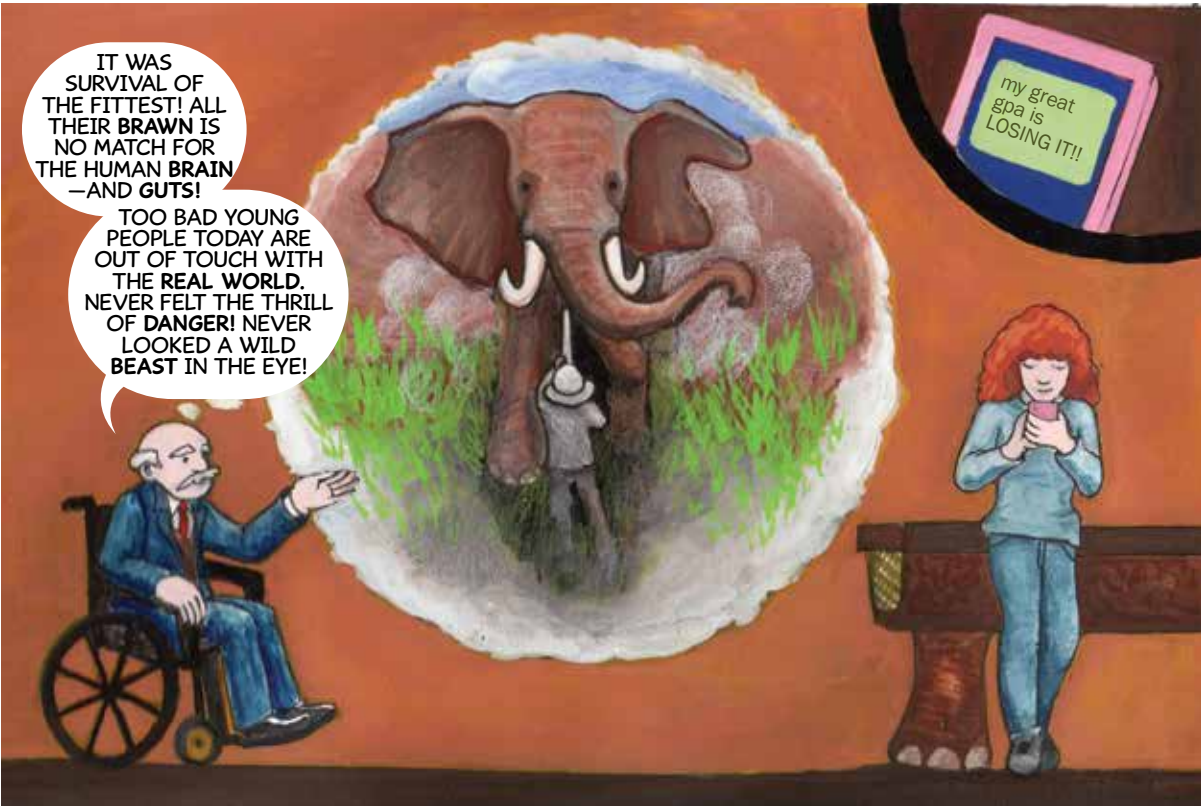


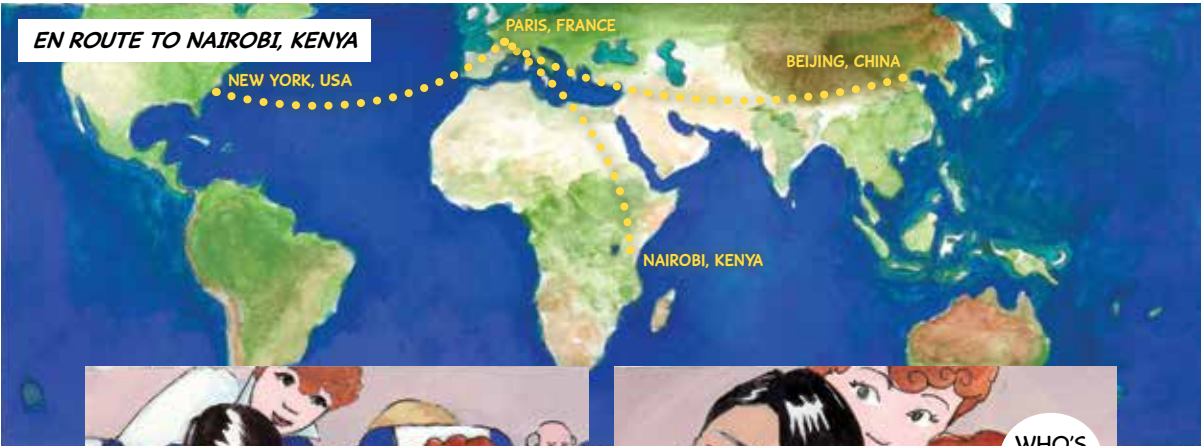
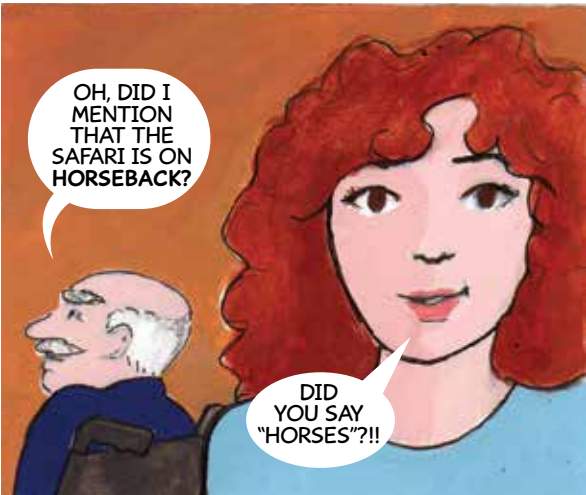
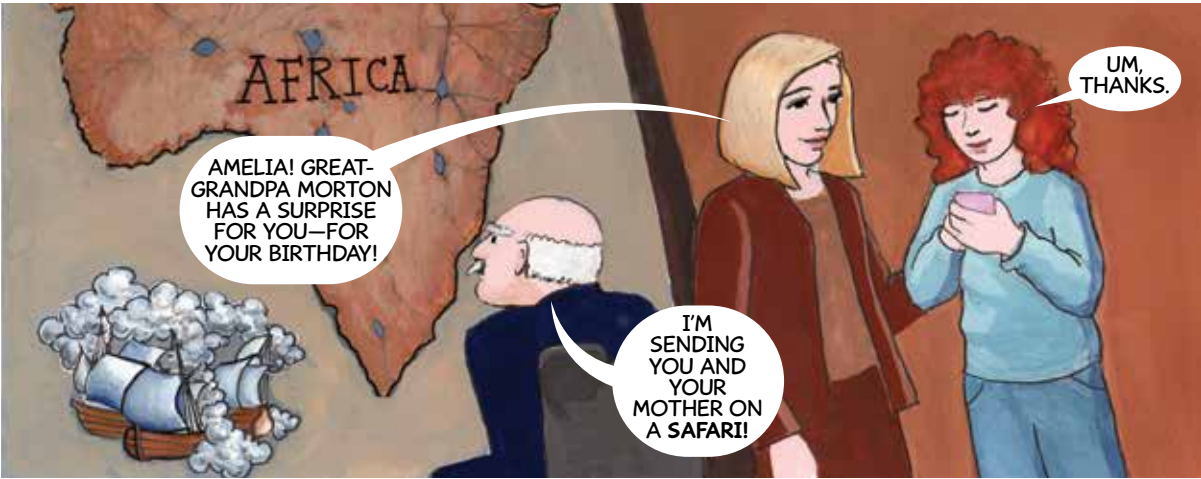
THIS IS ME.



BUT THIS ONE GOT AWAY! I SHOT HIM IN THE EAR, BUT THE DEVIL GRABBED ME, AND THREW ME! I NEVER WALKED AGAIN!









HUH? OH, IT'S PRONOUNCED "JUNG HAH"—A CHINESE ADMIRAL.

HE SAILED A HUGE FLEET TO AFRICA 600 YEARS AGO. SOME OF HIS SAILORS STAYED AND THEIR DESCENDANTS STILL LIVE ON THE COAST OF KENYA.

COOL. I'M AMELIA.

OH! SORRY! I'M KAI. ZHENG HE WAS A MUSLIM, BUT BEFORE EVERY JOURNEY HE ALSO ASKED THE GODDESS MAZU TO PROTECT HIS SAILORS.

HERE—LOOK AT THIS—

WOW. THAT'S BEAUTIFUL.

IT'S THE GODDESS MAZU. I'M NOT RELIGIOUS—I JUST BROUGHT HER ALONG FOR GOOD LUCK.

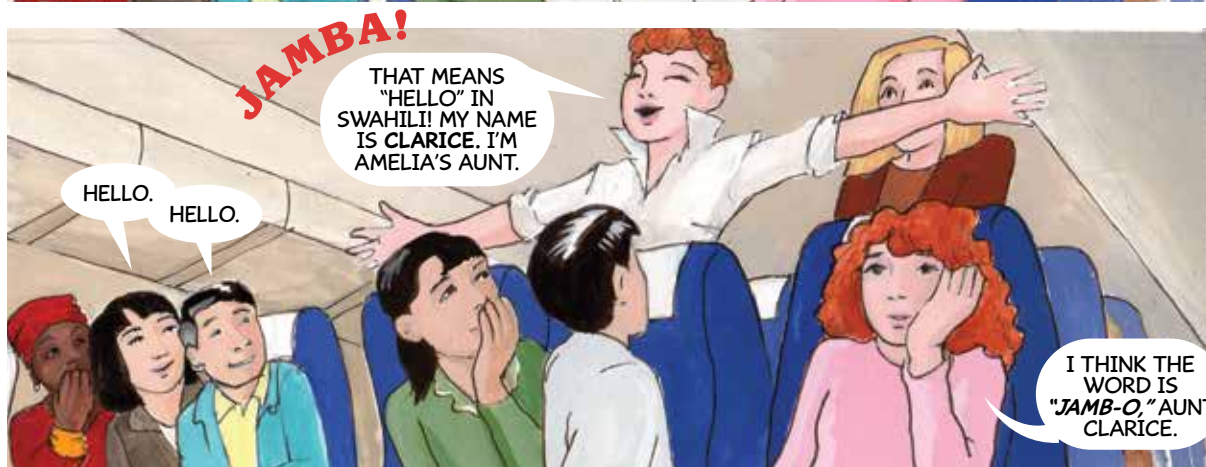
UM... BUT I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS, EITHER! I MEAN, I'M GOING TO BE A SCIENTIST, SO...



HOW LOVELY! IS IT REAL IVORY? HELLO, KAI, I'M CONSTANCE COBB, AMELIA'S MOTHER.

WE'RE GOING ON A SAFARI. ARE YOU? THIS IS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR AMELIA. A SPECIAL TRIP FOR US, ISN'T IT, AMELIA?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! YES. WE'RE GOING ON A SAFARI, TOO. THIS IS MY SISTER, LIN. MY MOTHER, LI LI, AND MY FATHER CHEN BAI.



JAMBA!

THAT MEANS "HELLO" IN SWAHILI! MY NAME IS CLARICE. I'M AMELIA'S AUNT.

HELLO. HELLO.

I THINK THE WORD IS "JAMB-O," AUNT CLARICE.

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER FAMILY IS ON A SAFARI





JOMO KENYATTA AIRPORT, NAIROBI, KENYA



MY PHONE
DOESN'T WORK
HERE!

GOOD!



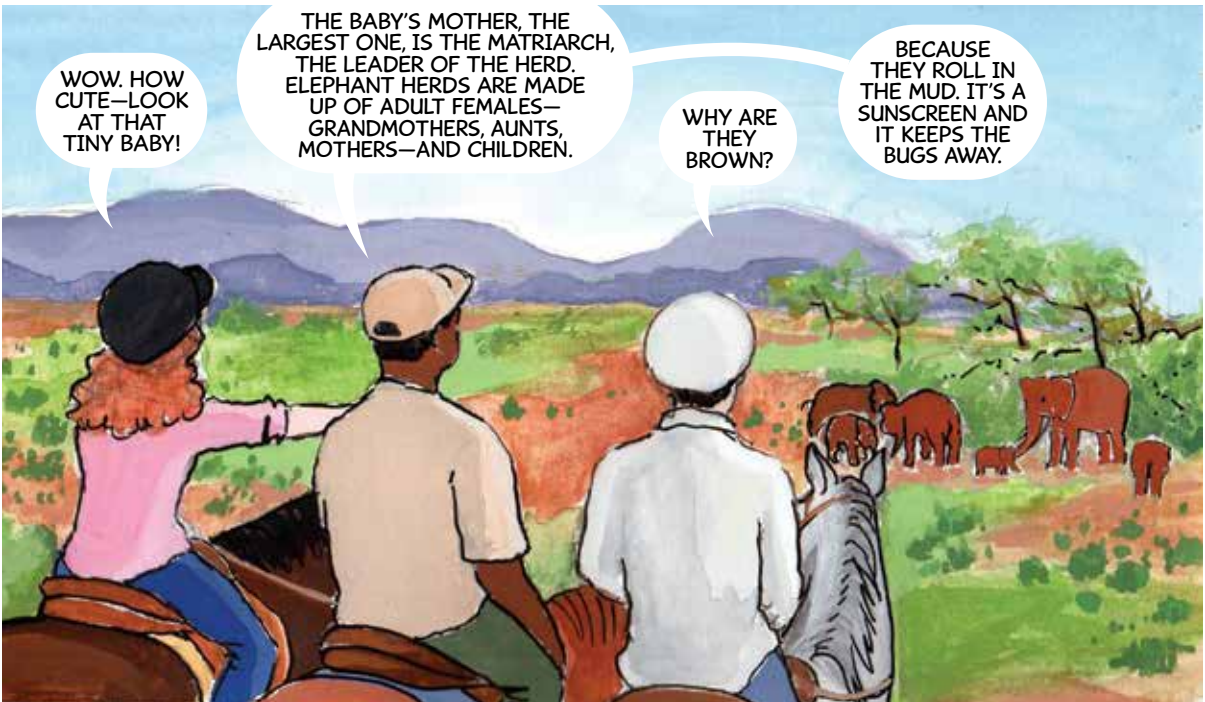
SAFARI, DAY ONE



HI. MY
NAME IS
KAI.

I'M
JABARI. I
LIKE YOUR
HAT!





WOW. HOW CUTE—LOOK AT THAT TINY BABY!

THE BABY'S MOTHER, THE LARGEST ONE, IS THE MATRIARCH, THE LEADER OF THE HERD. ELEPHANT HERDS ARE MADE UP OF ADULT FEMALES—GRANDMOTHERS, AUNTS, MOTHERS—AND CHILDREN.

WHY ARE THEY BROWN?

BECAUSE THEY ROLL IN THE MUD. IT'S A SUNSCREEN AND IT KEEPS THE BUGS AWAY.



HOW OLD IS THE MATRIARCH?

SHE'S 45 YEARS OLD. HER NAME IS AKEELAH. IT MEANS "WISE" IN SWAHILI.

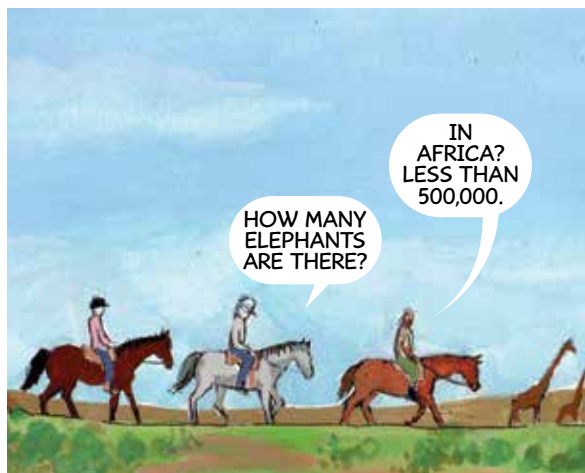
THE WHOLE HERD LOOKS UP TO HER, BECAUSE SHE'S THE WISEST ONE. SHE KEEPS THEM SAFE FROM DANGER. AND SHE KNOWS THE BEST PLACES TO FIND FOOD AND WATER.



YOU GIVE THEM NAMES?

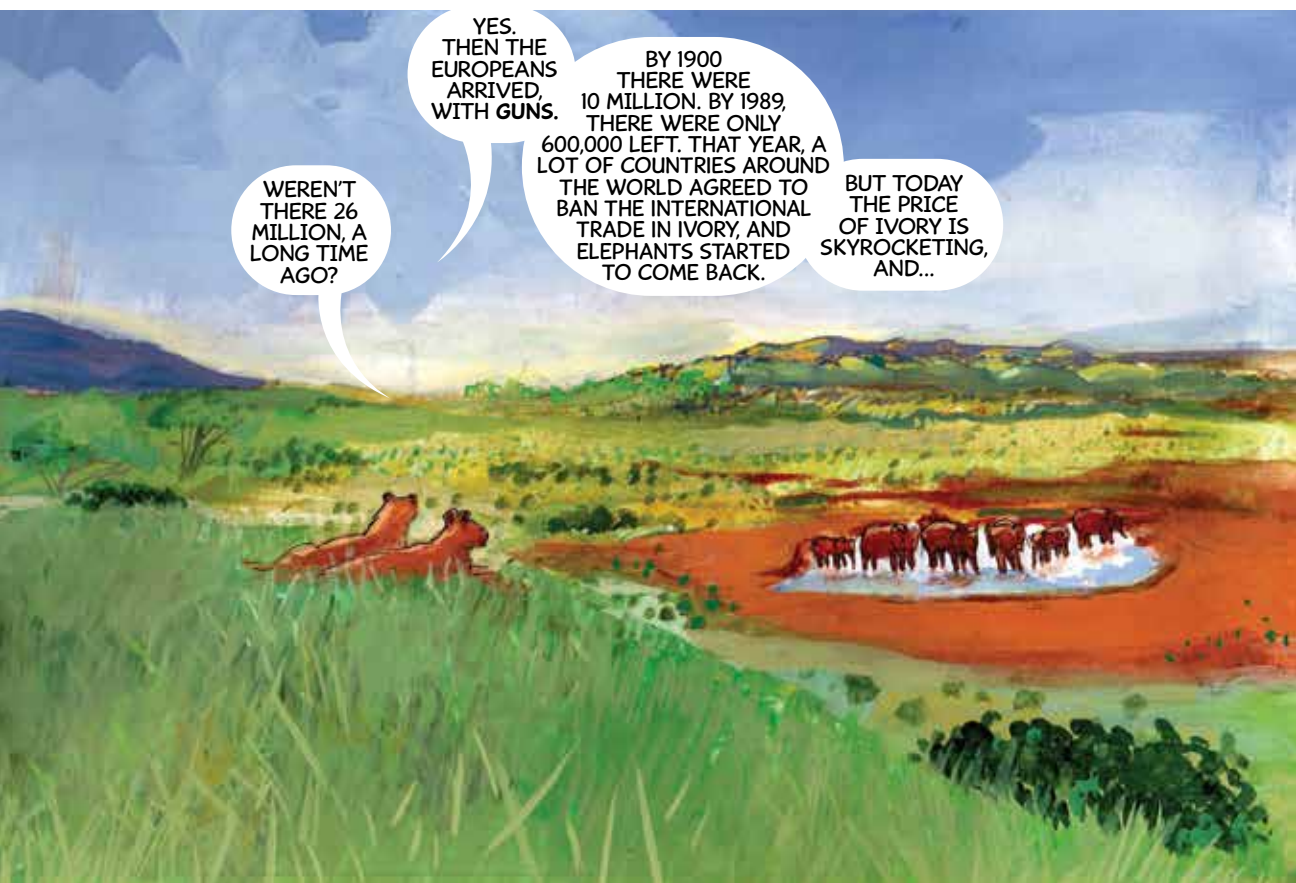
THEY ARE LIKE PEOPLE TO ME. WHEN I LOOK AT AN ELEPHANT, I SEE MYSELF.

I'M GOING TO BE AN ECOLOGIST, SO I CAN SAVE THEM—AND THE WHOLE PLANET! EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED. TO SAVE ANY OF US, YOU MUST SAVE ALL.



IN AFRICA? LESS THAN 500,000.

HOW MANY ELEPHANTS ARE THERE?

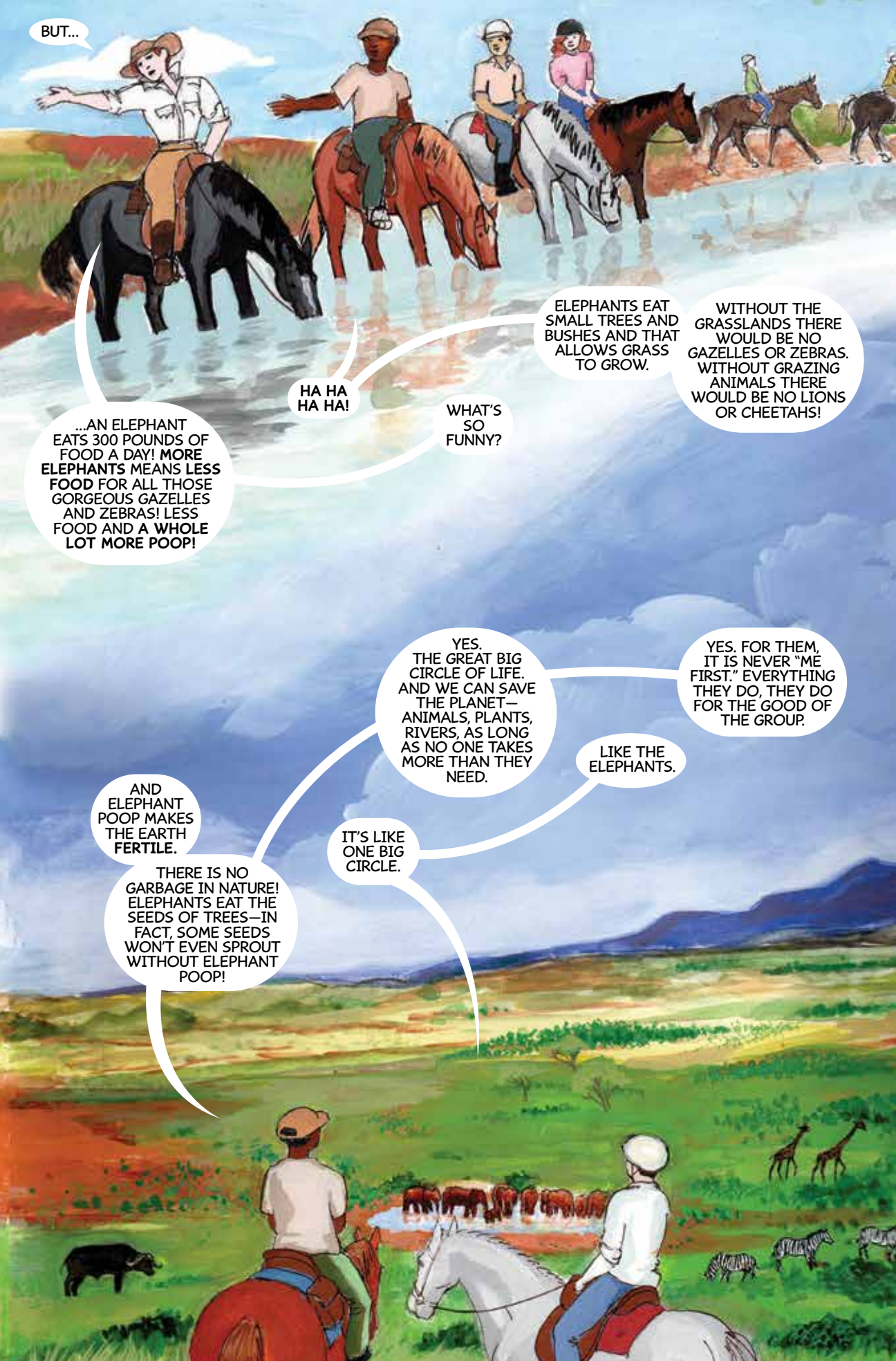


YES. THEN THE EUROPEANS ARRIVED, WITH GUNS.

BY 1900 THERE WERE 10 MILLION. BY 1989, THERE WERE ONLY 600,000 LEFT. THAT YEAR, A LOT OF COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD AGREED TO BAN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN IVORY, AND ELEPHANTS STARTED TO COME BACK.

WEREN'T THERE 26 MILLION, A LONG TIME AGO?

BUT TODAY THE PRICE OF IVORY IS SKYROCKETING, AND...



BUT...

HA HA
HA HA!

...AN ELEPHANT
EATS 300 POUNDS OF
FOOD A DAY! MORE
ELEPHANTS MEANS LESS
FOOD FOR ALL THOSE
GORGEOUS GAZELLES
AND ZEBRAS! LESS
FOOD AND A WHOLE
LOT MORE POOP!

WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?

ELEPHANTS EAT
SMALL TREES AND
BUSHES AND THAT
ALLOWS GRASS
TO GROW.

WITHOUT THE
GRASSLANDS THERE
WOULD BE NO
GAZELLES OR ZEBRAS.
WITHOUT GRAZING
ANIMALS THERE
WOULD BE NO LIONS
OR CHEETAHS!

YES,
THE GREAT BIG
CIRCLE OF LIFE.
AND WE CAN SAVE
THE PLANET—
ANIMALS, PLANTS,
RIVERS, AS LONG
AS NO ONE TAKES
MORE THAN THEY
NEED.

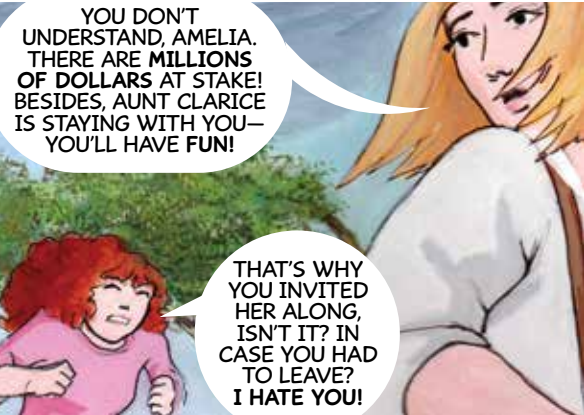
YES. FOR THEM,
IT IS NEVER "ME
FIRST." EVERYTHING
THEY DO, THEY DO
FOR THE GOOD OF
THE GROUP.

LIKE THE
ELEPHANTS.

AND
ELEPHANT
POOP MAKES
THE EARTH
FERTILE.

THERE IS NO
GARBAGE IN NATURE!
ELEPHANTS EAT THE
SEEDS OF TREES—IN
FACT, SOME SEEDS
WON'T EVEN SPROUT
WITHOUT ELEPHANT
POOP!

IT'S LIKE
ONE BIG
CIRCLE.

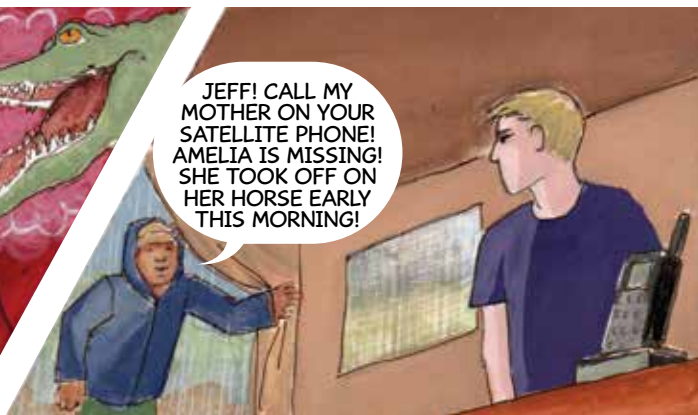


SAFARI, DAY THREE





JEFF! CALL MY MOTHER ON YOUR SATELLITE PHONE! AMELIA IS MISSING! SHE TOOK OFF ON HER HORSE EARLY THIS MORNING!



HELLO, WARDEN MWEMA? WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY.



A SEARCH PARTY IS ABOUT TO LEAVE. JABARI'S MOM IS A PILOT WITH THE KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE AND SHE'S ON HER WAY. HOW SOON CAN YOU GET BACK HERE, CONSTANCE?



I'M NOT! I'M STILL PUTTING OUT FIRES HERE. AND I'M NOT GOING TO RESPOND TO A TEENAGE TANTRUM!



BUT—

IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD, CLARICE! IF OUR FAMILY DIDN'T WORK OUR BEHINDS OFF, AMELIA WOULDN'T BE GOING ON SAFARIS! SHE'LL CALM DOWN WHEN SHE SEES THE PRESENT I GOT HER.



MY MOTHER IS ON HER WAY!

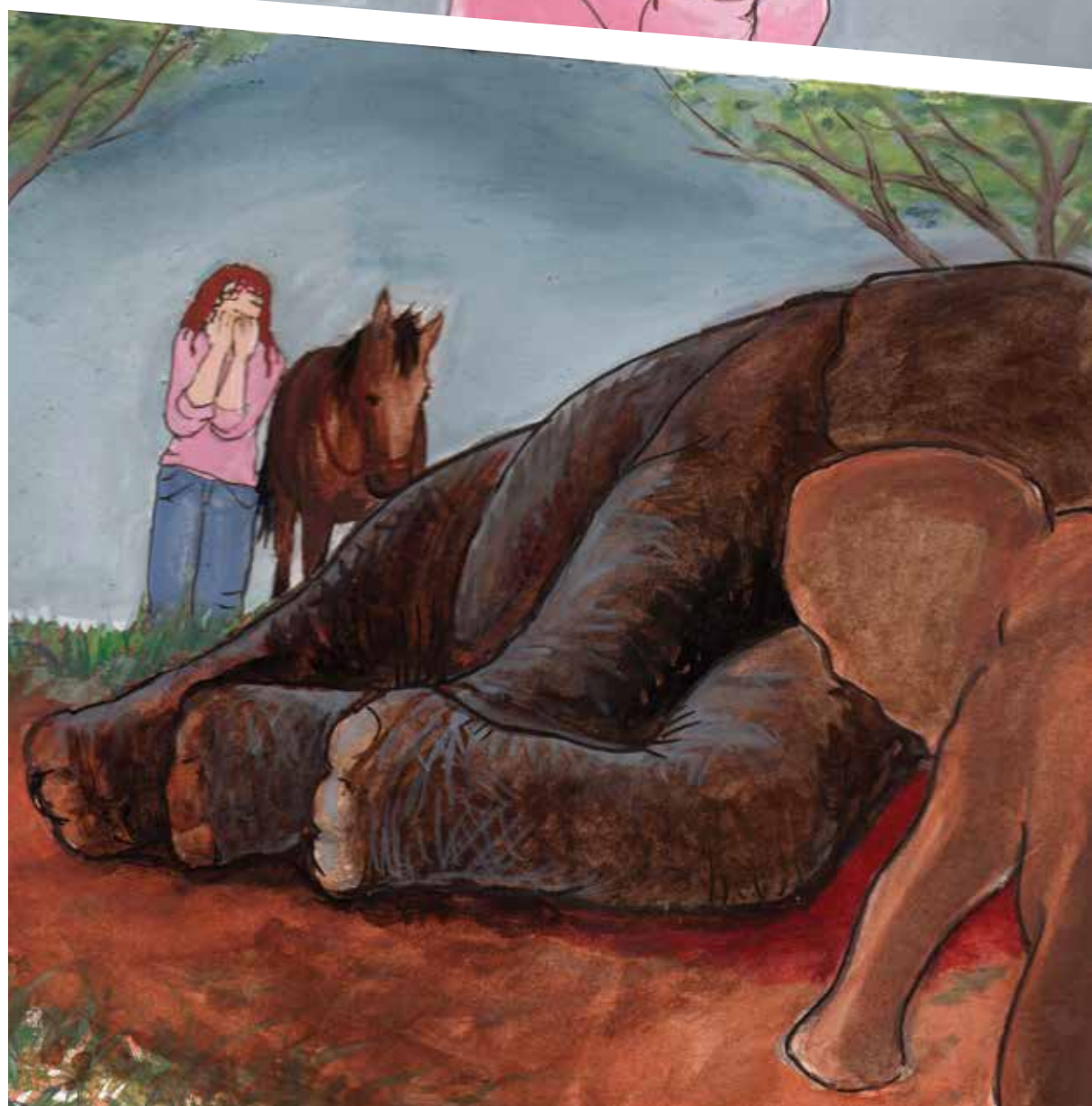


WE DON'T
WEIGH MUCH!
AND I CAN SEE
WAY BETTER
THAN YOU,
MAMA!



YES, BUT
VULTURES
SEE BETTER
THAN EITHER
OF US!









THAT NIGHT, AT THE SAFARI CAMP

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
AMELIA!





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING? THAT
COST A LOT
OF MONEY!

MONEY?
IT COST A LOT OF
MONEY? I'LL TELL
YOU WHAT IT COST—
IT COST A LIFE! A
WHOLE PRECIOUS
LIFE! THEY KILLED
A BABY'S MOM FOR
THAT, THAT...



BUT THAT
CAMEO
WAS AN
ANTIQUE!

SO WHAT?
IT'S STILL
BLOODY
IVORY!



WHAT
AM I GOING
TO TELL
YOUR
MOTHER?



**TELL HER
I NEVER
WANT TO
SEE HER
AGAIN!**



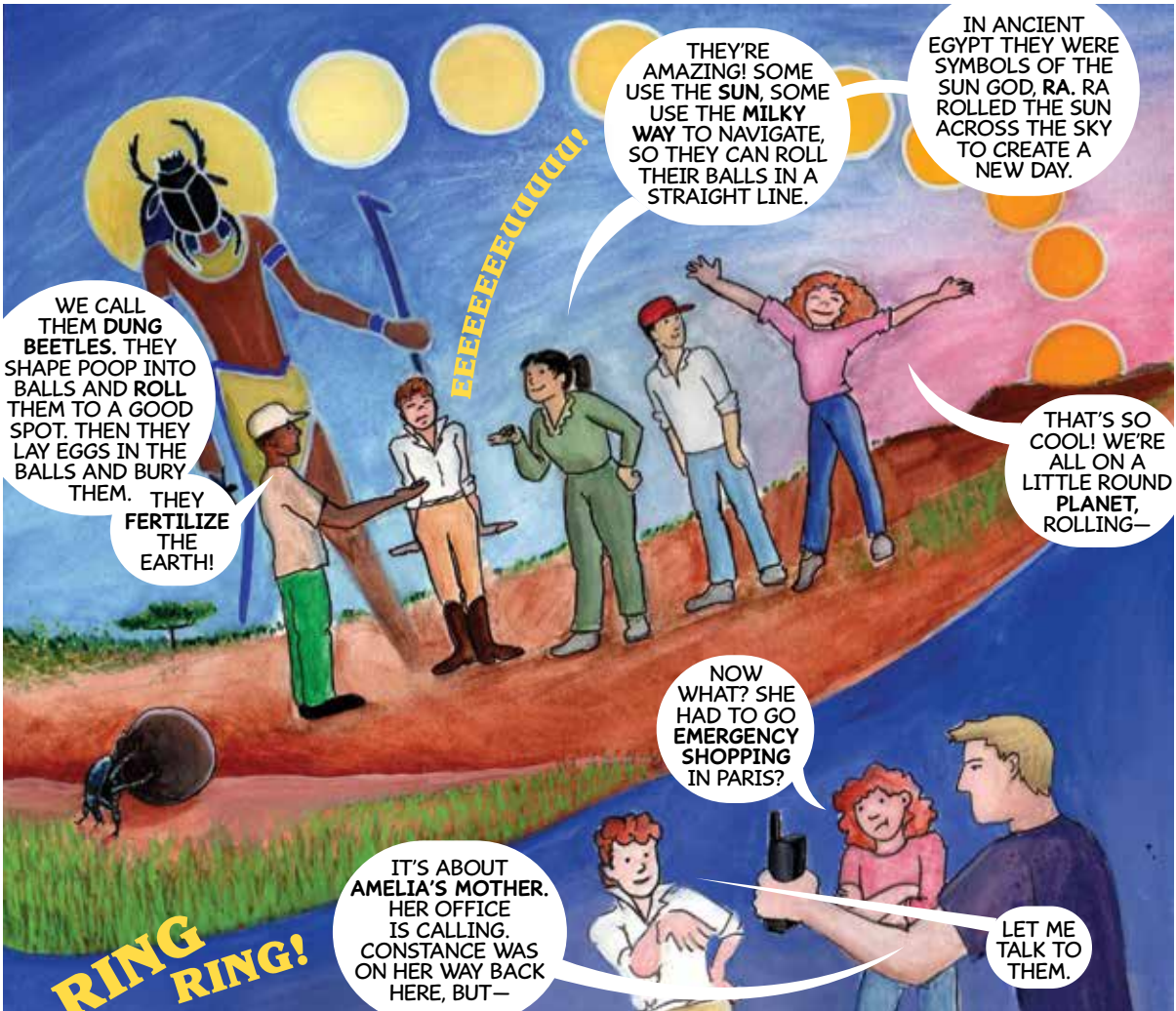


SAFARI, DAY FOUR

EEEEEEEEK!
HELP!



HOW
BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S A
SCARAB
BEETLE!



RING
RING!

IT'S ABOUT
AMELIA'S MOTHER.
HER OFFICE
IS CALLING.
CONSTANCE WAS
ON HER WAY BACK
HERE, BUT—

NOW
WHAT? SHE
HAD TO GO
EMERGENCY
SHOPPING
IN PARIS?

LET ME
TALK TO
THEM.

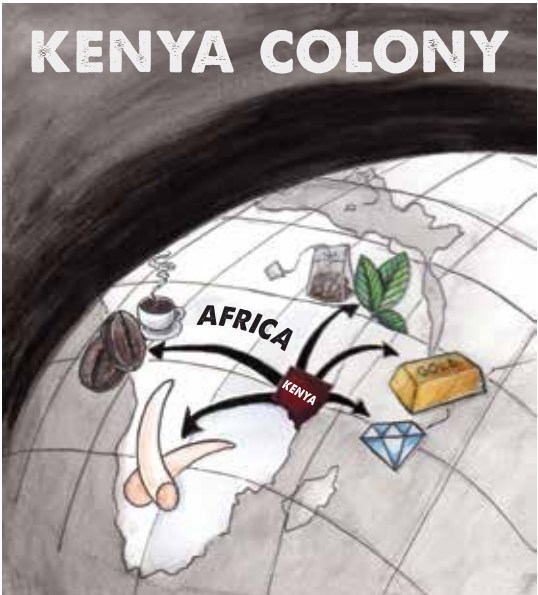
THAT'S SO
COOL! WE'RE
ALL ON A
LITTLE ROUND
PLANET,
ROLLING—

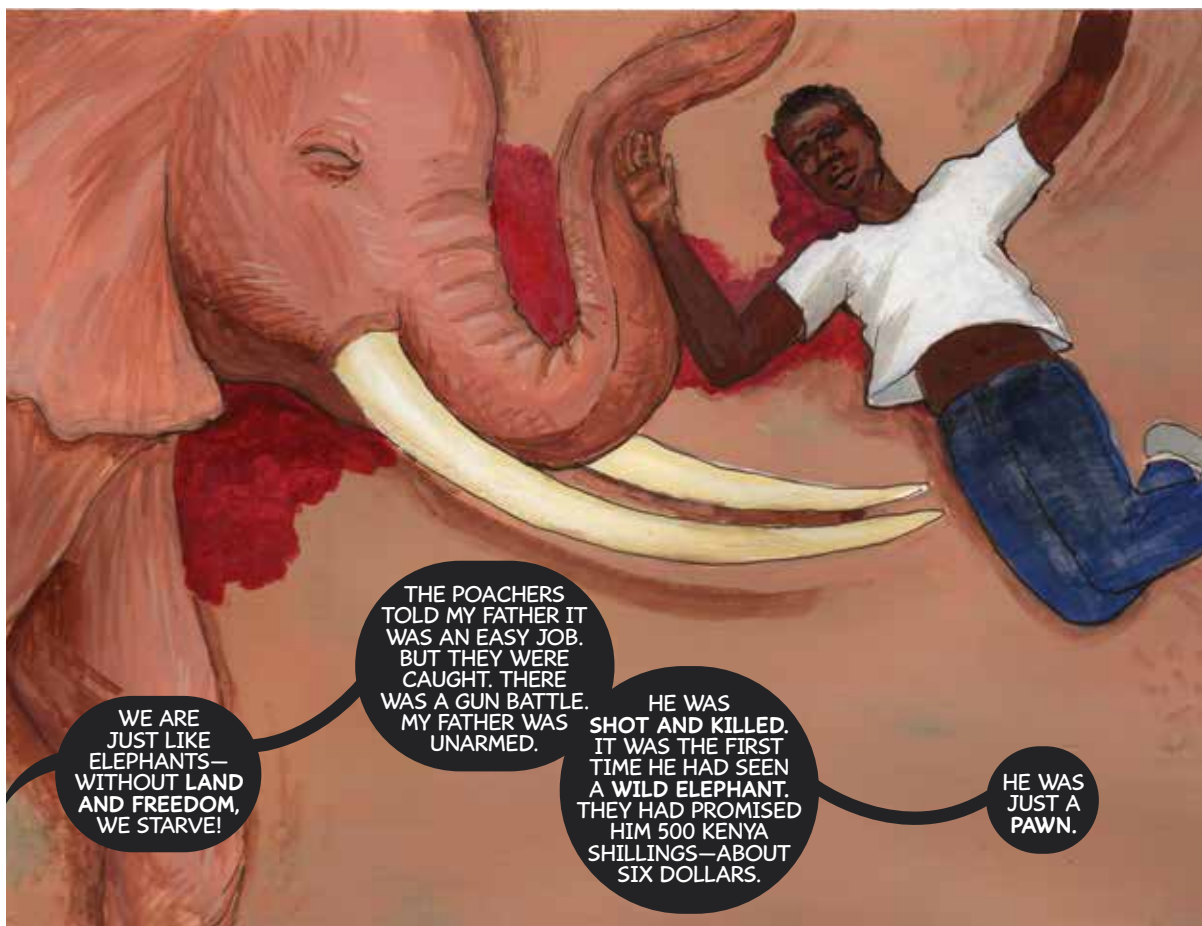
THEY'RE
AMAZING! SOME
USE THE SUN, SOME
USE THE MILKY
WAY TO NAVIGATE,
SO THEY CAN ROLL
THEIR BALLS IN A
STRAIGHT LINE.

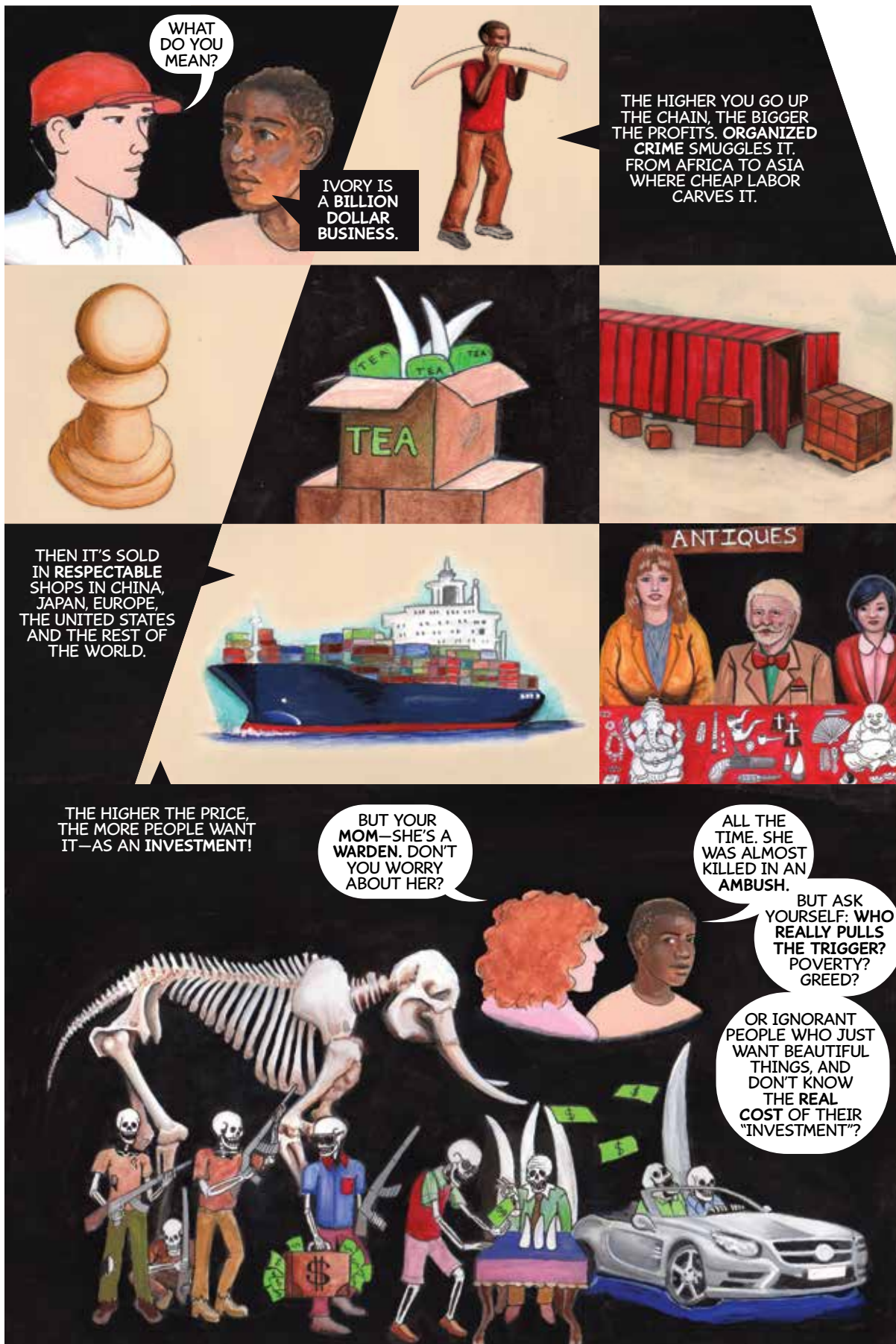
IN ANCIENT
EGYPT THEY WERE
SYMBOLS OF THE
SUN GOD, RA. RA
ROLLED THE SUN
ACROSS THE SKY
TO CREATE A
NEW DAY.

WE CALL
THEM DUNG
BEETLES. THEY
SHAPE POOP INTO
BALLS AND ROLL
THEM TO A GOOD
SPOT. THEN THEY
LAY EGGS IN THE
BALLS AND BURY
THEM. THEY
FERTILIZE
THE EARTH!











IVORYVILLE?

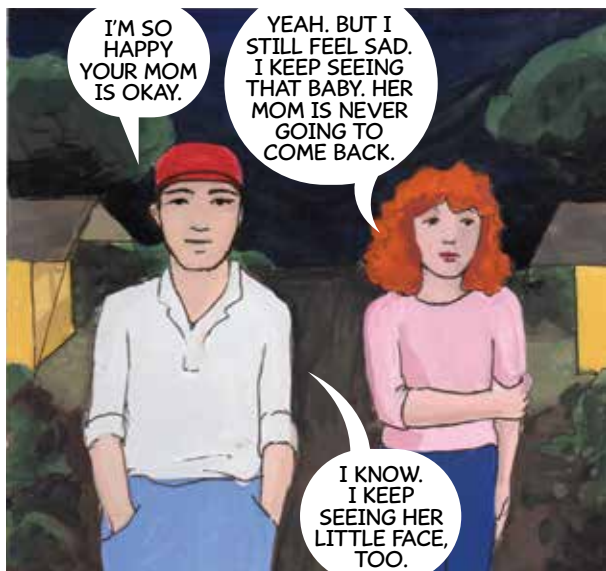
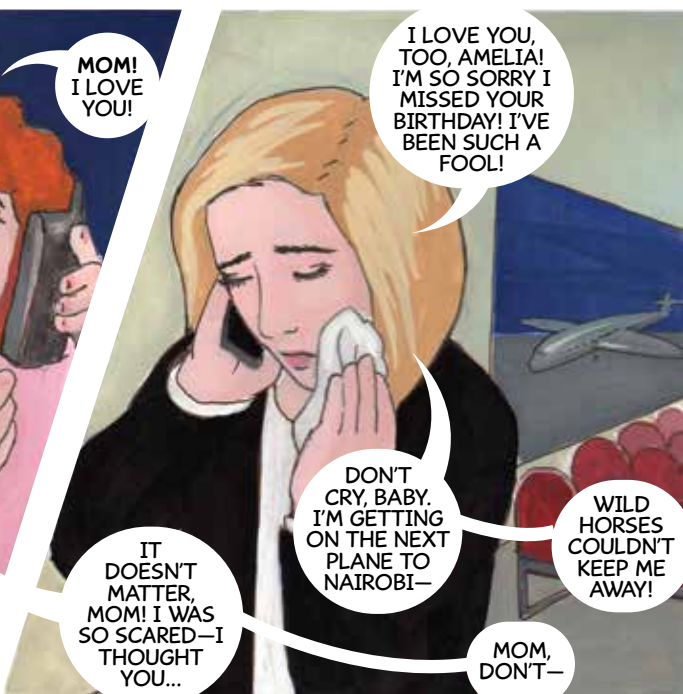
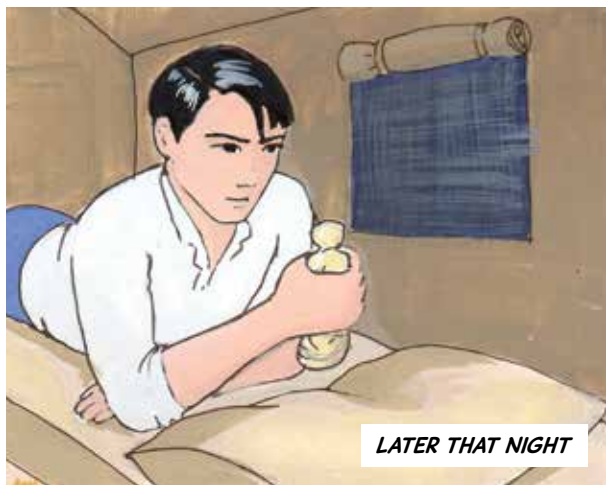
EVEN MY MOM GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE SYSTEM. HER COMPANY HAS TO COMPETE WITH OTHER COMPANIES. SO SHE HAS TO WORK ALL THE TIME! FOR WHAT? TO BUY STUFF FOR ME! I'M ALWAYS BUGGING HER FOR THE LATEST PHONE. I LIKE IT WHEN SHE DROPS ME OFF AT SCHOOL IN A FANCY CAR.





WHEN ALL
YOU REALLY
WANTED WAS
HER LOVE.
FOR HER TO BE
THERE.

THAT'S WHY I
LOVE ELEPHANTS.
THEY DON'T OWN
ANYTHING. BUT THEY
ARE THE RICHEST
CREATURES ON
EARTH BECAUSE
THEY HAVE EACH
OTHER.





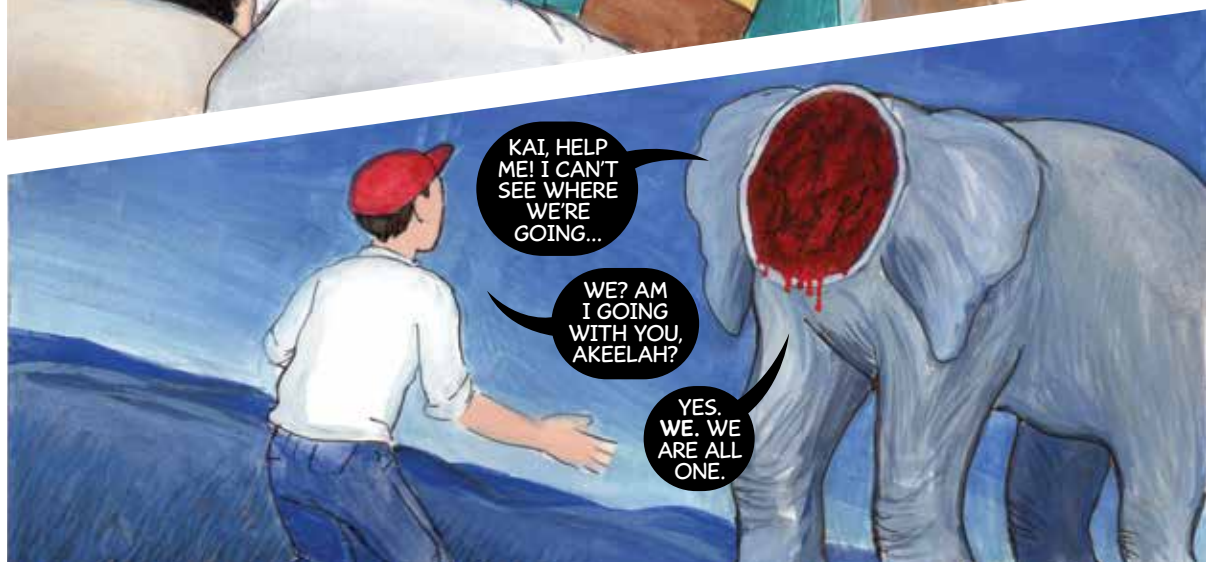
"WHO REALLY
PULLS
THE TRIGGER?
POVERTY? GREED?
OR IGNORANT
PEOPLE WHO
WANT TO BUY
BEAUTIFUL
THINGS?"



HE
LOOKS
HAPPY.

MAYBE HE
THINKS ZHENG
HE'S FAVORITE
GODDESS
SAVED AMELIA'S
MOTHER FROM
THE STORM.

I RAISED
HIM TO BE A
SCIENTIST.
HE'S PROBABLY
DREAMING
ABOUT THE
LAW OF
GRAVITY.



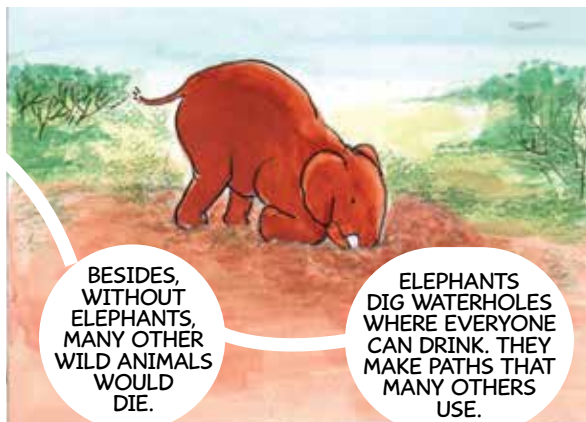
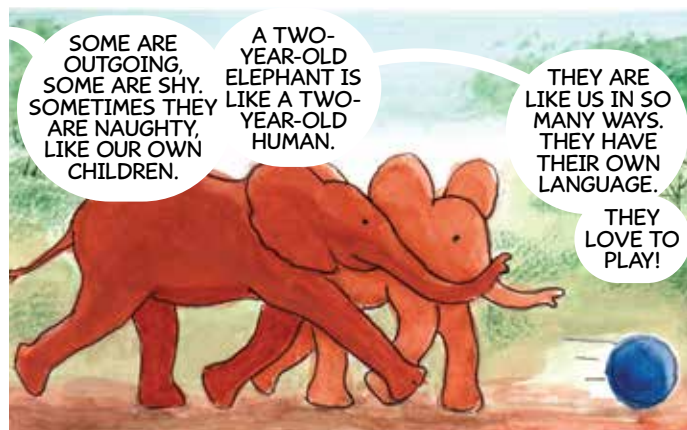
KAI, HELP
ME! I CAN'T
SEE WHERE
WE'RE
GOING...

WE? AM
I GOING
WITH YOU,
AKEELAH?

YES.
WE. WE
ARE ALL
ONE.

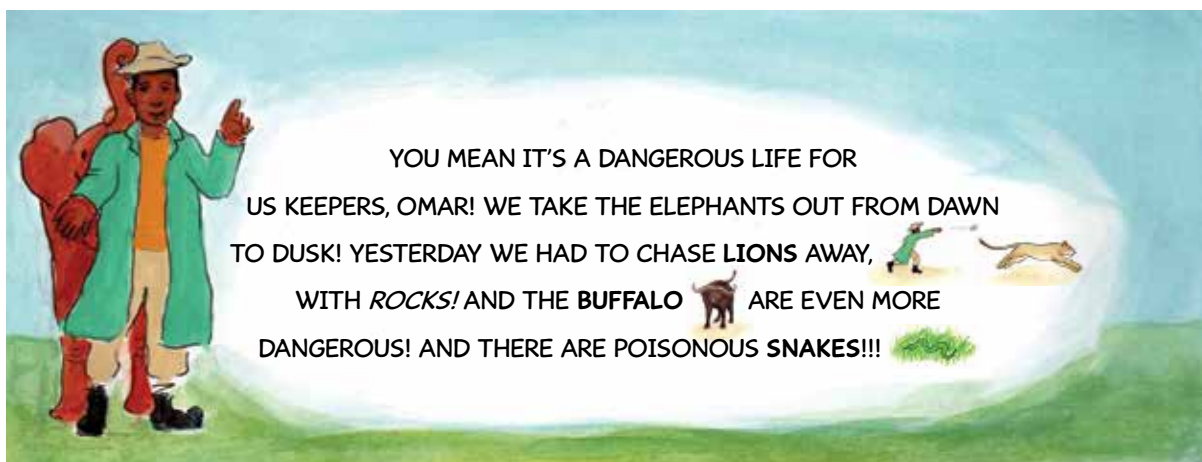
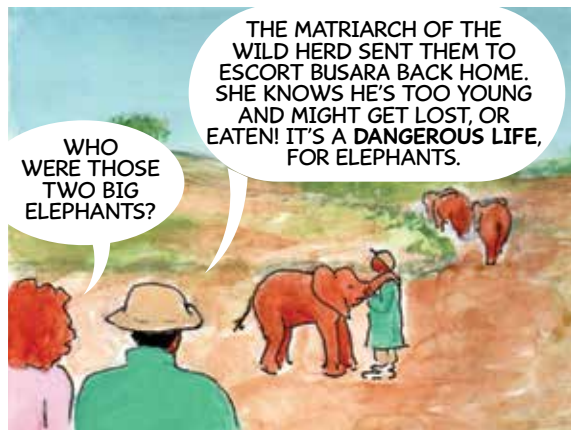
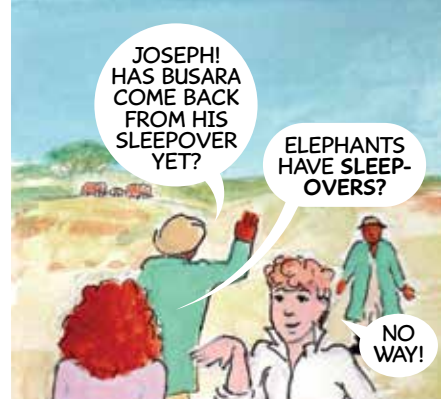
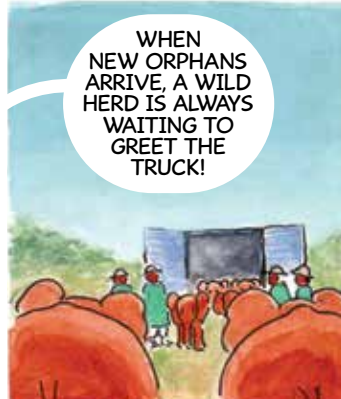
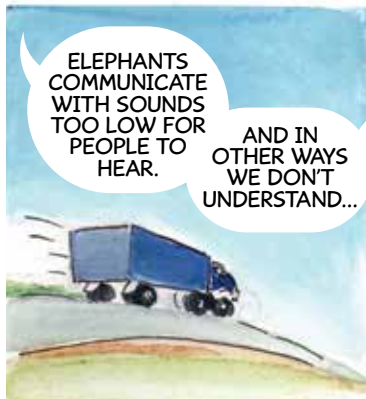
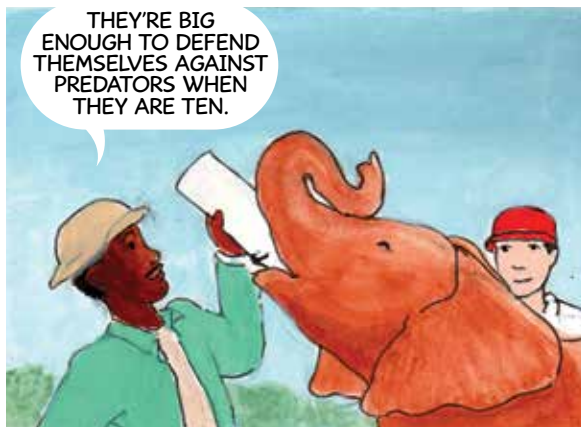


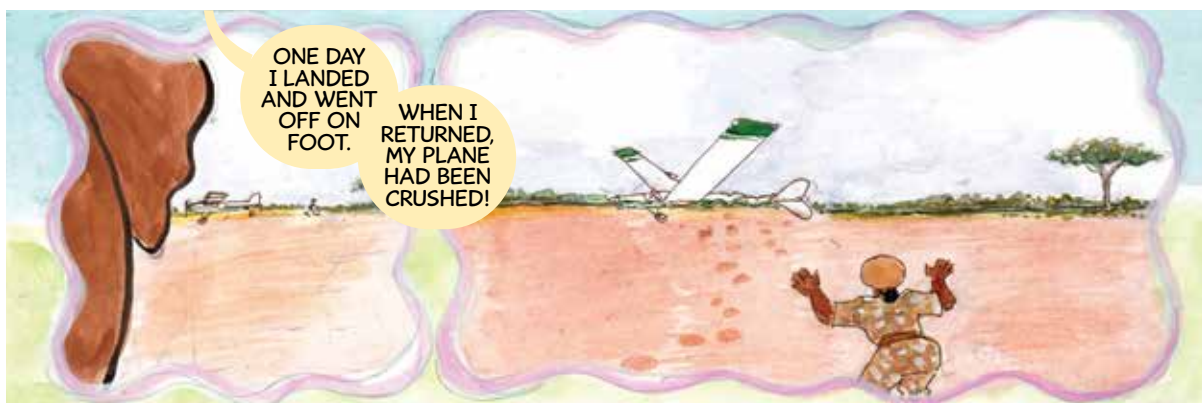


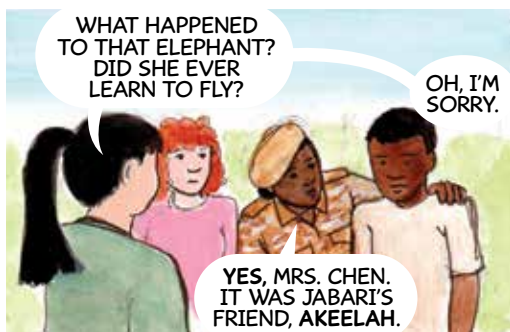












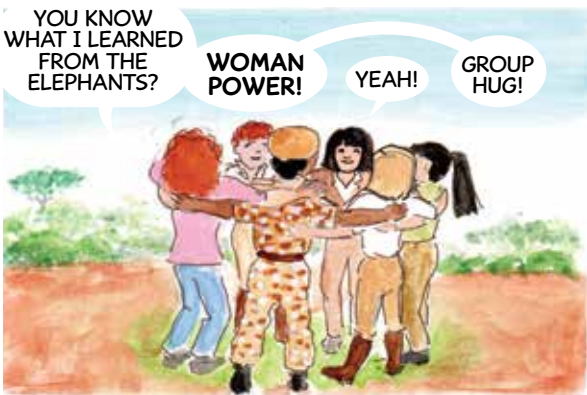


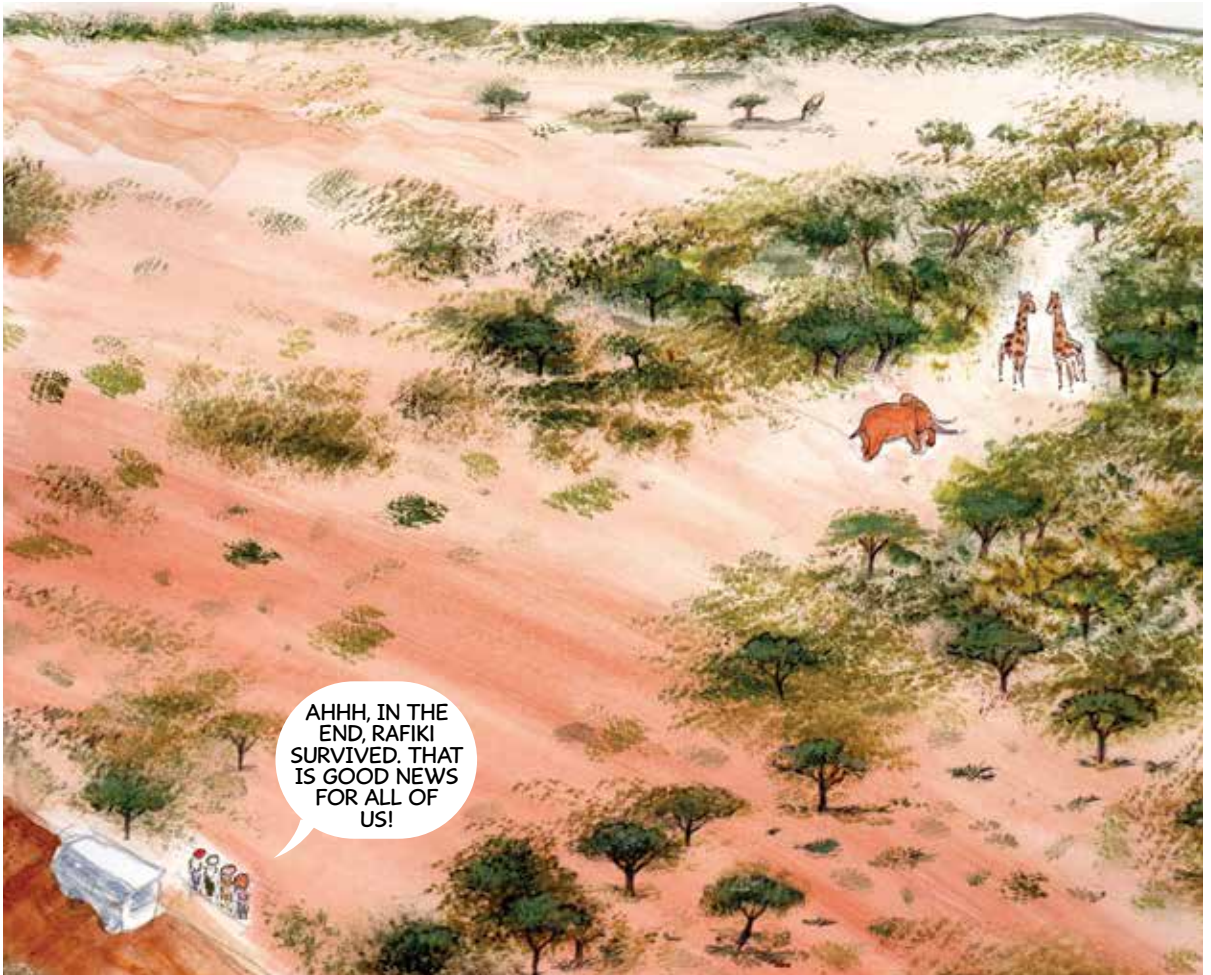
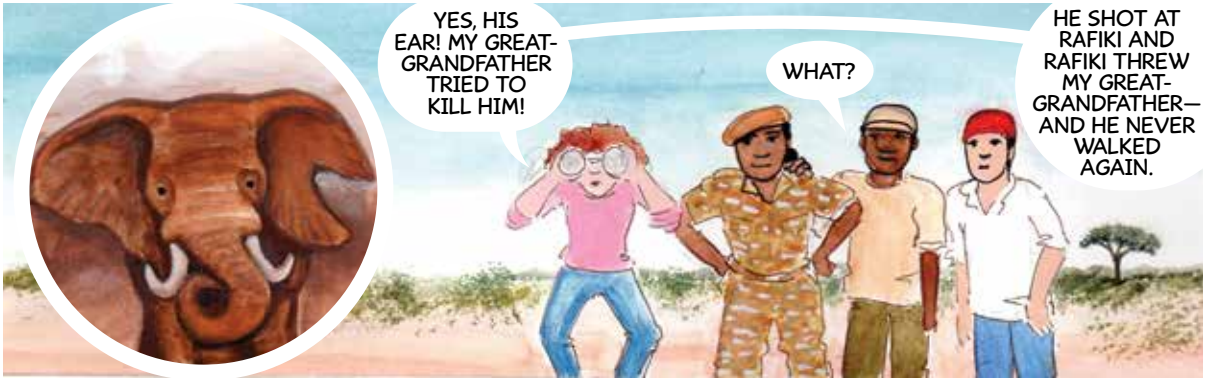
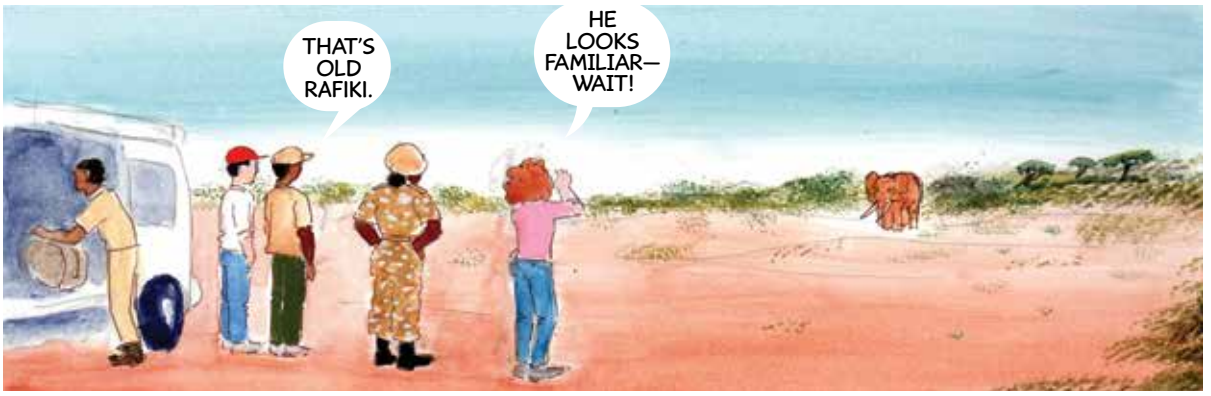
I SAW
THIS ON
TV ONCE.
WATCH!



GOT
ANY
SYRUP?

HA HA
HA HA!







EN ROUTE TO
PARIS FROM
NAIROBI



WHA...



WHAT'S
WRONG?



REMEMBER
WHEN JABARI
TOLD US ABOUT
HIS DAD?

YEAH.

WELL, I
WANTED TO SAY
SOMETHING,
BUT I WAS TOO
EMBARRASSED.

JAMBA!

THAT MEANS
"GOODBYE" IN
SWAHILI... OR AM
I GETTING THAT
MIXED UP WITH
"ALOHA"?

IT'S "JAMB-O"
AUNT CLARICE.
AND IT MEANS
HELLO, NOT
GOODBYE.

WHATEVER!
YOUR MOM AND
I ARE PLANNING
A SAFARI ON
HORSEBACK—
TO CHINA!

EXCUSE
US, AUNT
CLARICE,
BUT WE
WERE JUST
TALKING—



OH... I GET
IT. AREN'T WE A
LITTLE YOUNG
TO BE DATING,
AMELIA?

HUH?

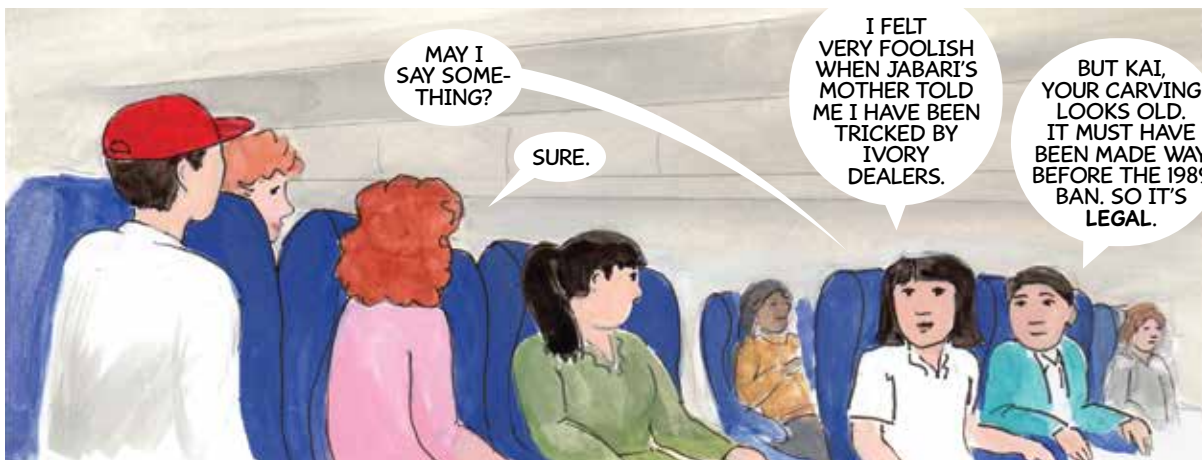


ADULTS!



I FEEL
HORRIBLE. MY
STATUE OF
THE GODDESS
MAZU—IT'S MADE
OF IVORY...

YEAH. I
UNDERSTAND.



MAY I
SAY SOME-
THING?

SURE.

I FELT
VERY FOOLISH
WHEN JABARI'S
MOTHER TOLD
ME I HAVE BEEN
TRICKED BY
IVORY
DEALERS.

BUT KAI,
YOUR CARVING
LOOKS OLD.
IT MUST HAVE
BEEN MADE WAY
BEFORE THE 1989
BAN. SO IT'S
LEGAL.



A CALL TO ACTION

NEVER
BUY, SELL
OR WEAR
IVORY.

BE AN
"ECO-TOURIST."
TOUR NATURAL AREAS
AND OBSERVE LOCAL
WILDLIFE THROUGH
PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT
PROTECTION OF THE ANIMALS
AND THEIR HABITATS.
STUDY THE CULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT OF THE
PLACES YOU VISIT
BEFORE YOUR TRIP!

SEND
A LETTER TO
THE EDITOR OF
YOUR LOCAL
NEWSPAPER.

PLEASE, TELL
YOUR FRIENDS,
CLASSMATES AND
COMMUNITY ABOUT
HOW AMAZING
ELEPHANTS ARE
AND THE URGENT
NEED TO PROTECT
THEM.

WRITE TO
YOUR
POLITICIANS
TO ASK THEM
TO HELP STOP
POACHING AND
ALL TRADE IN
IVORY.

IF YOU LIVE IN
KENYA OR ANOTHER
COUNTRY IN AFRICA
THAT WORKS TO
PROTECT ELEPHANTS,
PLEASE THANK YOUR
COUNTRY'S WILDLIFE
RANGERS IN
PERSON.

SEND THE
RANGERS THANK
YOU LETTERS AND/OR
ARTWORK DEPICTING
ELEPHANTS. YOU CAN MAIL
THEM TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE
INSTITUTE, AND THEY'LL PASS
THEM ON TO THOSE BRAVE
MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
WORKING SO HARD
TO SAFEGUARD
ELEPHANTS AND OTHER
WILDLIFE.



SHEILA HAMANAKA

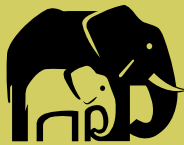
Sheila Hamanaka is an award-winning children's book author–illustrator whose work focuses on multiculturalism, peace and animal welfare. Her books include the popular *All the Colors of the Earth*; *The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal*; *Grandparent's Song*; and *Be-Bop-A-Do-Walk*. The Animal Welfare Institute has published three previous books written and illustrated by Hamanaka: *The Boy Who Loved All Living Things*, *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person*, and *Kamie Cat's Terrible Night*. To learn more about Hamanaka's work, go to www.sheilahamanaka.com



ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

AWI is a non-profit charitable organization founded in the United States in 1951 and dedicated to reducing animal suffering caused by people. AWI engages policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public to achieve better treatment of animals everywhere—in the laboratory, on the farm, in commerce, at home, and in the wild. AWI works internationally to protect wild species threatened with extinction and advocates for strong enforcement of wildlife protection laws.

www.awionline.org



KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

KWS is a state corporation that conserves and manages Kenya's wildlife for the Kenyan people and the world. KWS manages Kenya's dozens of national parks, reserves, sanctuaries, marine parks, and marine reserves. KWS also oversees wildlife conservation and management outside national protected areas, conducts conservation education and training, undertakes wildlife research, and provides input into national and international wildlife-related law and policy. KWS rangers defend the country's wildlife against poaching and the illegal bush meat trade.

www.kws.org

ELEPHANT FACTS

There are two kinds of African elephant: the African savannah (or bush) elephant, who lives in Kenya and 36 other countries south of the Sahara Desert; and the African forest elephant, who lives in the lush rainforests of the Congo Basin in west-central Africa. A third elephant species, the Asian elephant, lives in southeast Asia from India in the west to the island of Borneo in the east.

The African savannah elephant is the largest land animal on Earth. An adult stands between 8.2 and 13 feet (2.5 to 4 meters) tall and weighs 5,000 to 14,000 pounds (2,268 to 6,350 kilograms).

A baby African savannah elephant is no slouch, either. Newborns stand about 3 feet (1 meter) tall and weigh 200 pounds (91 kilograms) or more.

In prehistoric times, there were many elephant species spread throughout the world. Some were hairy, like woolly mammoths and mastodons. Some were bigger than modern elephants, some the size of a modern-day pig. All but the two African elephants and the Asian elephant species have gone extinct.

Elephants grieve for lost loved ones. When an elephant dies, family members are despondent and engage in “burial” rituals. Field biologists have observed elephants pausing for long moments at spots where a companion has died, and caressing the bones of long-dead elephants.

If no one tries to steal their tusks, wild elephants can live a long time—60 to 70 years.

An African elephant's large ears are shaped like the continent of Africa. Asian elephant ears are smaller (and not shaped like Asia). Elephant ears are not just to hear with—they also communicate. Flapping ears can signify aggression or joy.

Sometimes, though, elephants flap their ears just to cool off. A network of small blood vessels carries warm blood to the ears. Flapping releases the heat, so cooler blood can recirculate back into the elephant's body core.

Unlike their African cousins, female Asian elephants rarely have tusks (they can have small ones, though).

Imagine having fingers on the end of your nose. African elephants have two finger-like protrusions at the end of their trunks to help them delicately grasp objects. Asian elephants have one.

Female elephants stay together all their lives in family groups of closely related females and their children. Adult males wander alone or in small groups of other males.

Like chimpanzees and dolphins, elephants are very smart. They have the biggest brain of any land mammal, and the greatest volume of cerebral cortex—the folded outer surface of the brain that plays a key role in higher-level thinking, perception and memory.



Yes, elephants do have amazing memories. They have been known to recognize and warmly greet friends after years, even decades, apart.

Upon the return of a friend, elephants engage in a greeting ceremony—turning in circles, flapping ears, and trumpeting.

Elephant tusks are modified incisor teeth. Both male and female African elephants are born with them, but the “baby” ones fall out after a year, and are replaced by permanent ones.

An elephant’s trunk is said to contain over 40,000 muscles. By most counts, your entire body has fewer than 650.

With all that nose, you’d expect elephants to have an excellent sense of smell, and they do—up to four times as sensitive as a bloodhound’s. Elephants can smell water several miles away. (How far away can you smell water?)

Elephants have the longest gestation period of all mammals. Pregnant elephants carry their young for 22 months before giving birth.

Elephants have strong hearing. They have no trouble hearing another elephant’s trumpet calls $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (4 kilometers) away—or twice that distance if conditions are right.

Elephants don’t just trumpet, though. They make a variety of noises to signal different things—one researcher identified around 70 sounds, each with a different meaning.

Elephants make long-distance calls. They send out throaty, “infrasonic” rumbles that are too low for humans to hear. Other elephants can hear them, though, and can even pick up the signal from many miles away, through ground vibrations felt with their sensitive feet.

Elephants have tough skin that is an inch (2.5 centimeters) thick. But it’s so sensitive that an elephant can feel a fly landing on it.

Elephant skin is gray, but they often appear reddish brown in the wild. That’s sunscreen! Elephants can get sunburned, so they throw sand or dirt on their bodies to block out the intense rays. Young ones will also shield themselves from the sun by standing in the shadows of their mothers.

Elephants eat a lot. In a single day, an adult might go through 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of bark, grasses, fruits and roots. (But despite what you see in cartoons, they don’t actually eat peanuts.)

Elephants drink by sucking water up their nose... but not all the way. They draw it into their trunk partway and then drain it into their mouth. (Don’t try this!)





**“ONLY WHEN THE LAST TREE HAS DIED
AND THE LAST RIVER BEEN POISONED
AND THE LAST FISH BEEN CAUGHT
WILL WE REALIZE WE CANNOT EAT MONEY.”**

—NINETEENTH CENTURY NĒHILAWĒ (CREE) PROVERB







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