

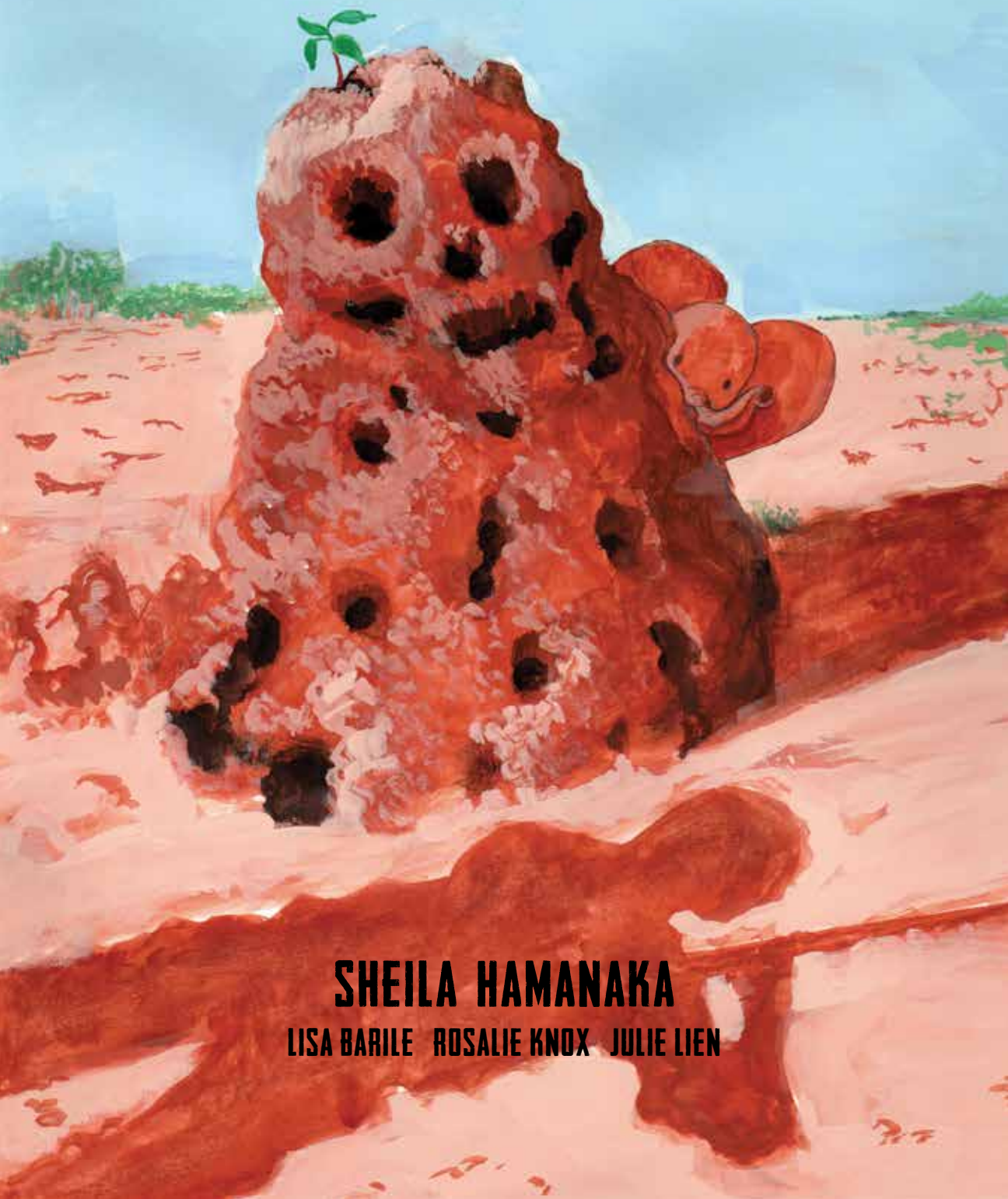


SHEILA HAMANAKA

LISA BARILE ROSALIE KNOX JULIE LIEN



A DANGEROUS LIFE



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ISBN: 978-0-938414-81-0
LCCN: 2014939705
Printed in the United States

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.

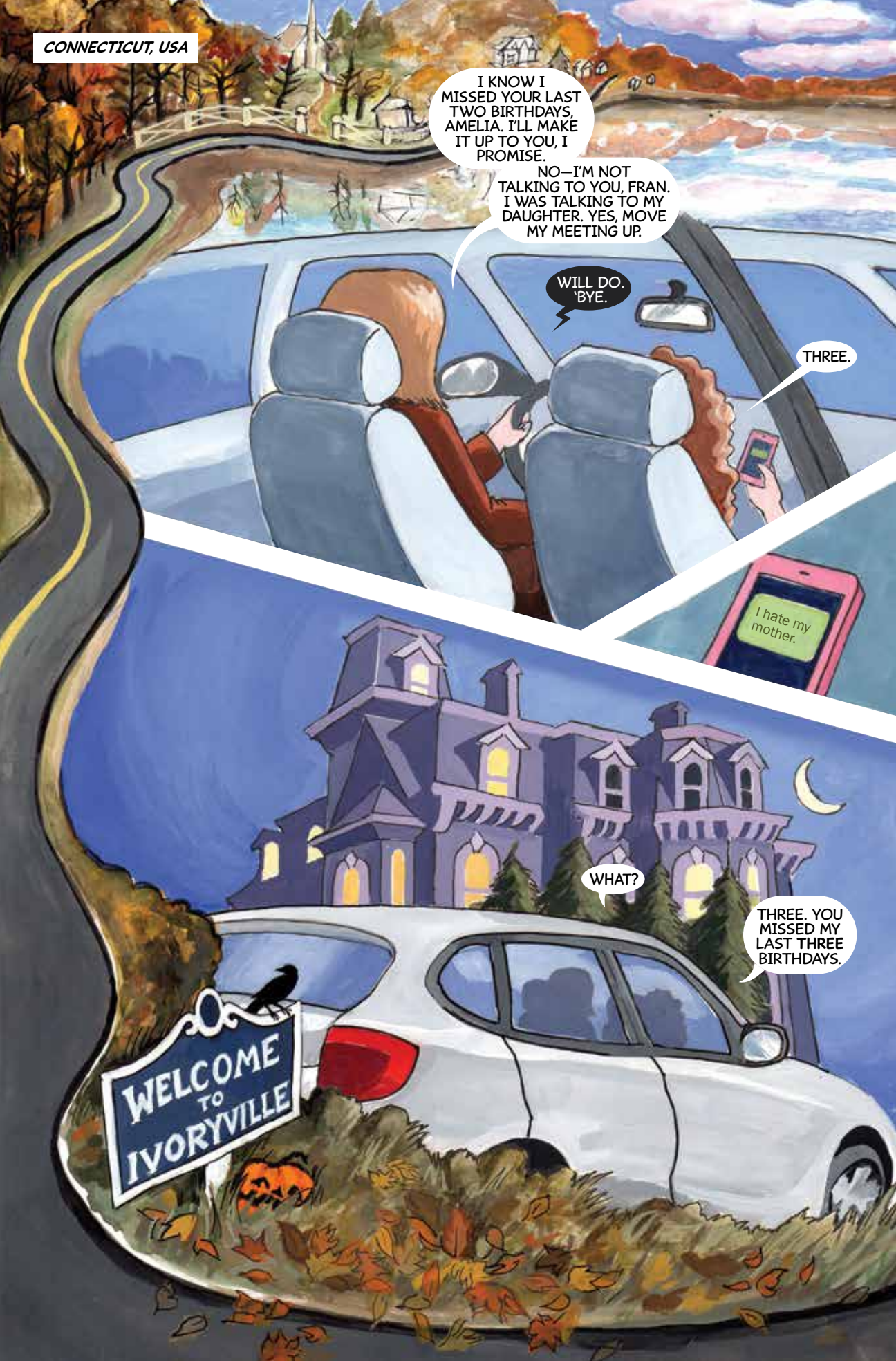
THREE.


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?



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!



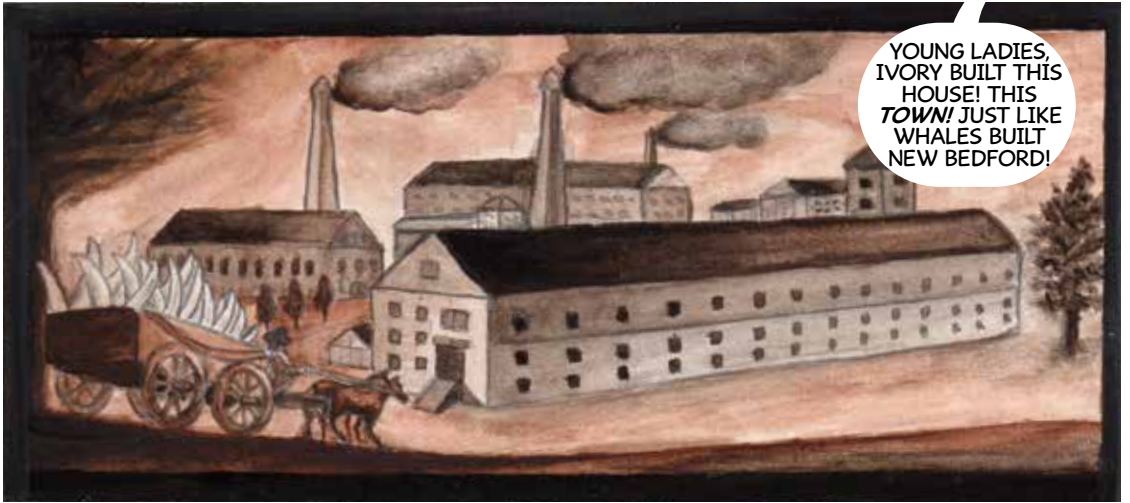
AMELIA,
LOOK AT THIS
BEAUTIFUL
PIANO!

IVORY
KEYS!

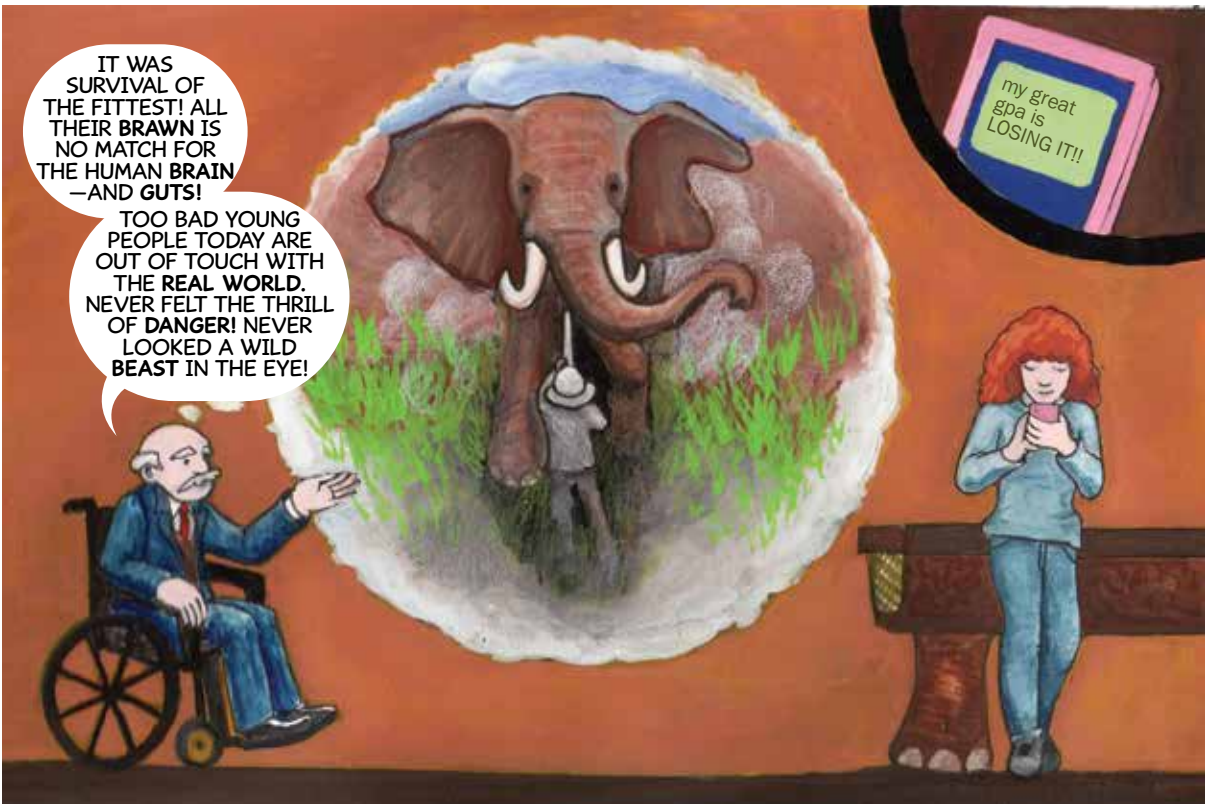


AND THIS
CHESS SET...

IVORY!



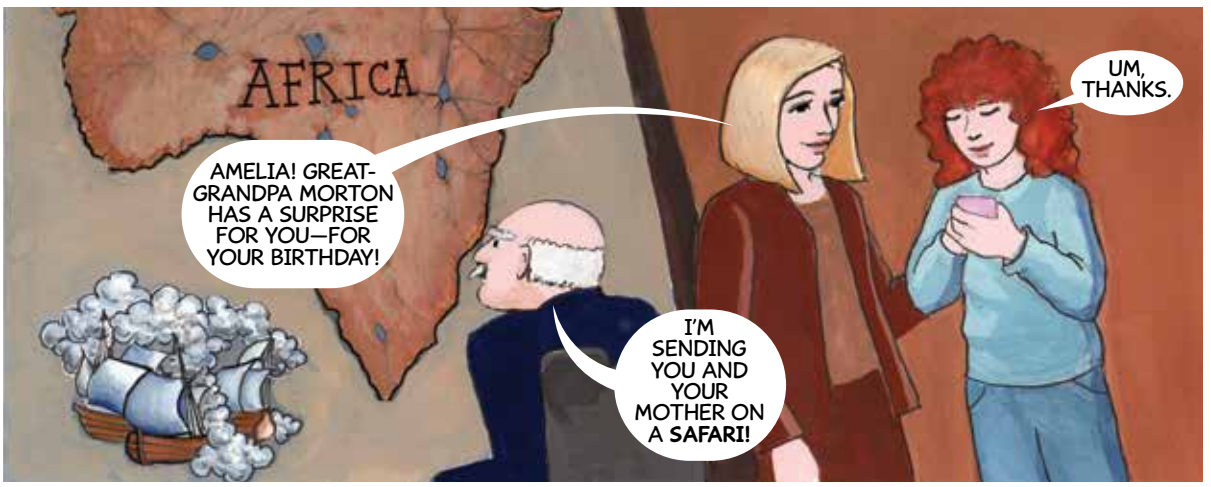
YOUNG LADIES,
IVORY BUILT THIS
HOUSE! THIS
TOWN! JUST LIKE
WHALES BUILT
NEW BEDFORD!



IT WAS
SURVIVAL OF
THE FITTEST! ALL
THEIR **BRAWN** IS
NO MATCH FOR
THE HUMAN **BRAIN**
—AND **GUTS**!

TOO BAD YOUNG
PEOPLE TODAY ARE
OUT OF TOUCH WITH
THE **REAL WORLD**.
NEVER FELT THE THRILL
OF DANGER! NEVER
LOOKED A WILD
BEAST IN THE EYE!

my great
gpa is
LOSING IT!!



AMELIA! GREAT-GRANDPA MORTON HAS A SURPRISE FOR YOU—FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY!

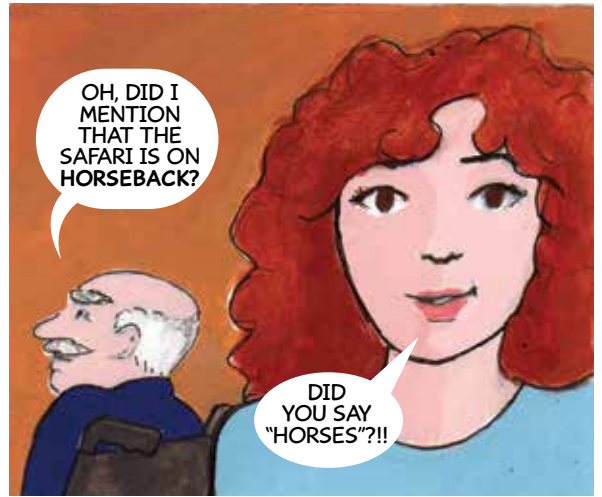
I'M SENDING YOU AND YOUR MOTHER ON A SAFARI!

UM, THANKS.



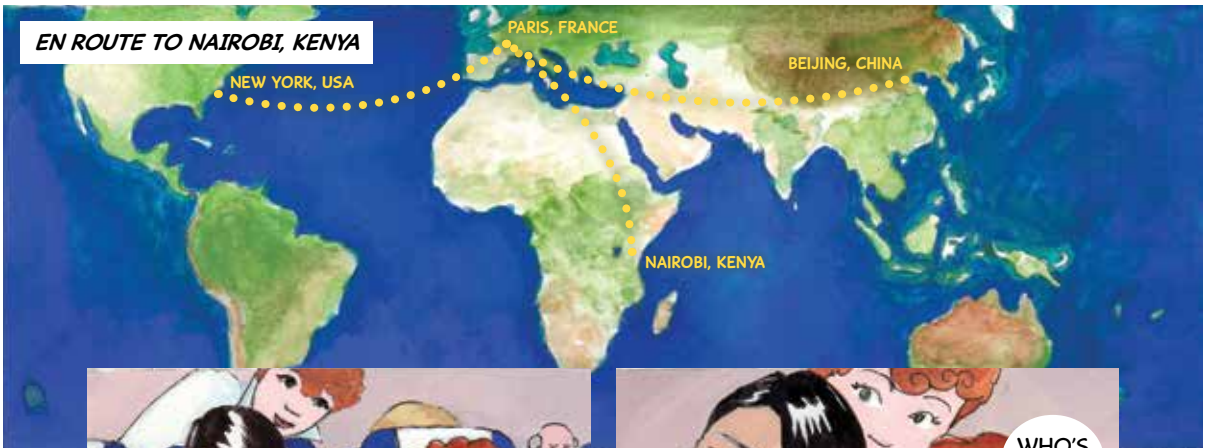
AMELIA—THIS WILL BE OUR SPECIAL TIME TOGETHER! I PROMISE! AUNT CLARICE IS COMING, TOO. WE LEAVE IN FOUR WEEKS. IT'S ALL SET.

FOUR...? BUT, MOM—THAT MEANS I'LL MISS THE BIG GAME, AND...



OH, DID I MENTION THAT THE SAFARI IS ON HORSEBACK?

DID YOU SAY "HORSES"?!!



EN ROUTE TO NAIROBI, KENYA

PARIS, FRANCE

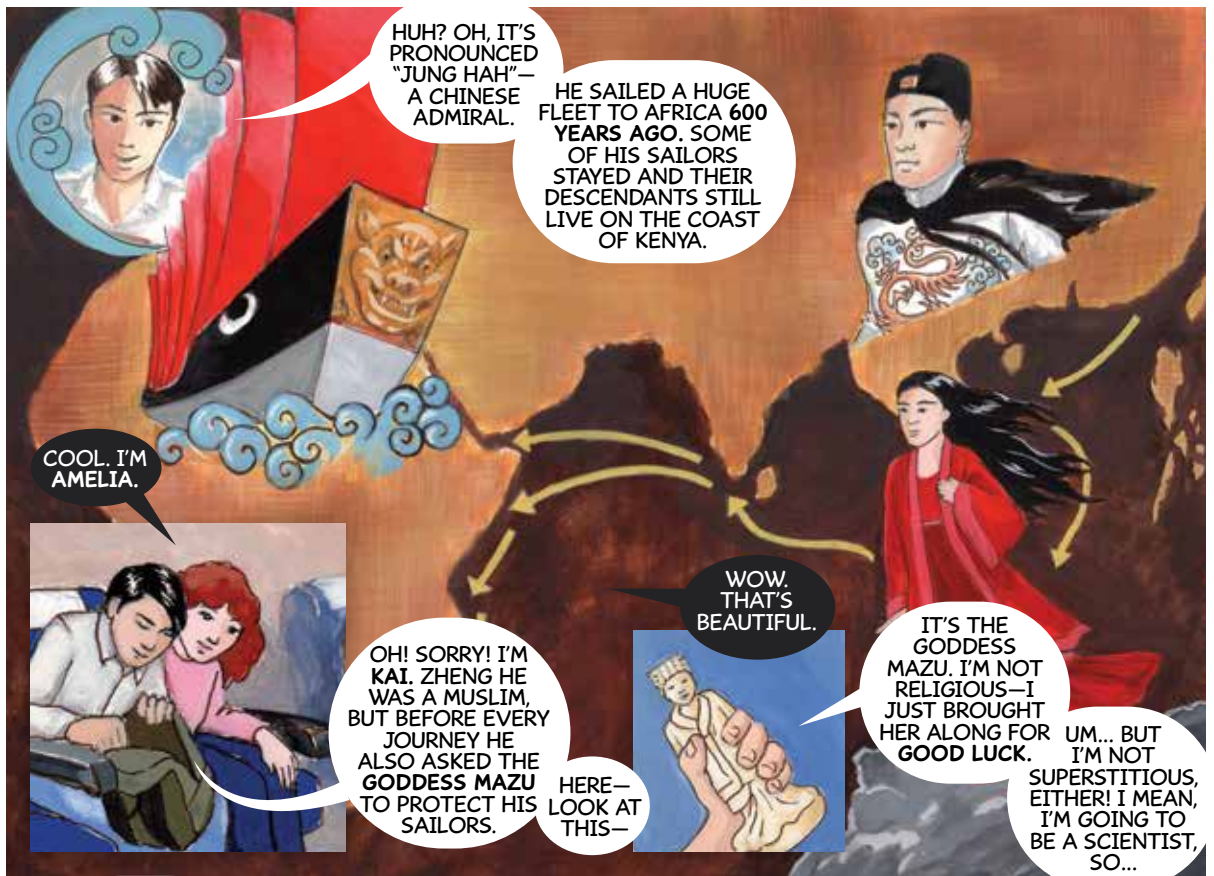
BEIJING, CHINA

NEW YORK, USA

NAIROBI, KENYA



WHO'S ZHENG HE?



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.

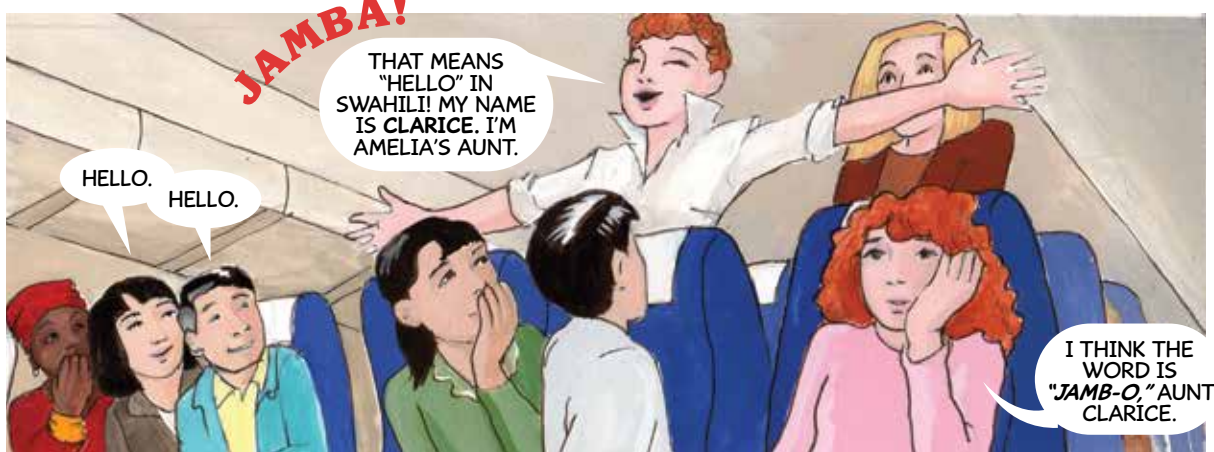
UM... BUT I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS, EITHER! I MEAN, I'M GOING TO BE A SCIENTIST, SO...



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!

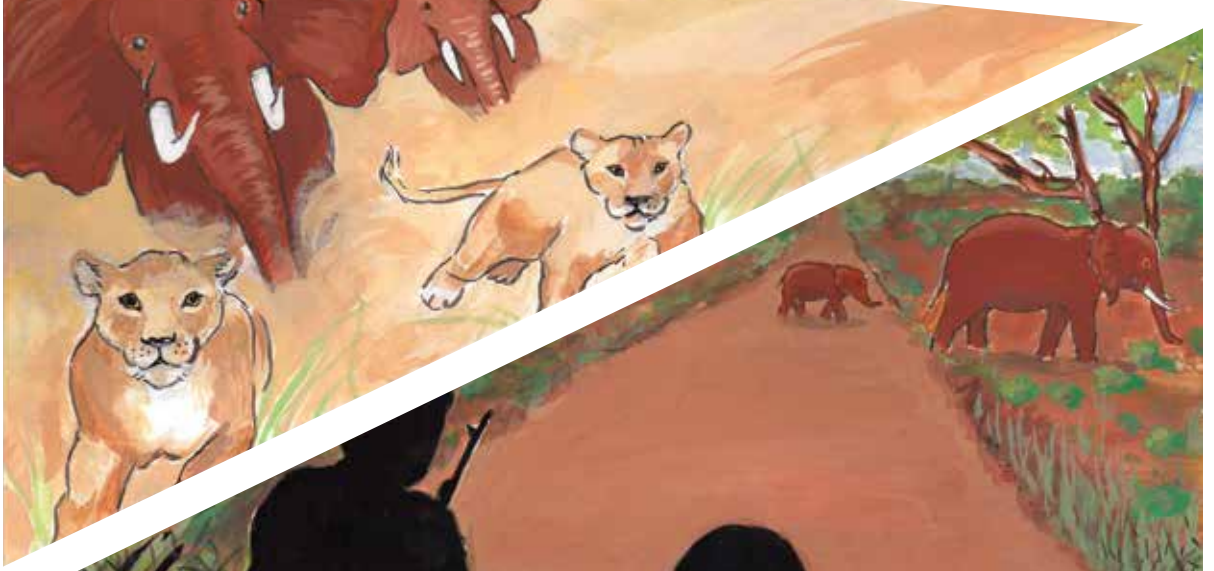
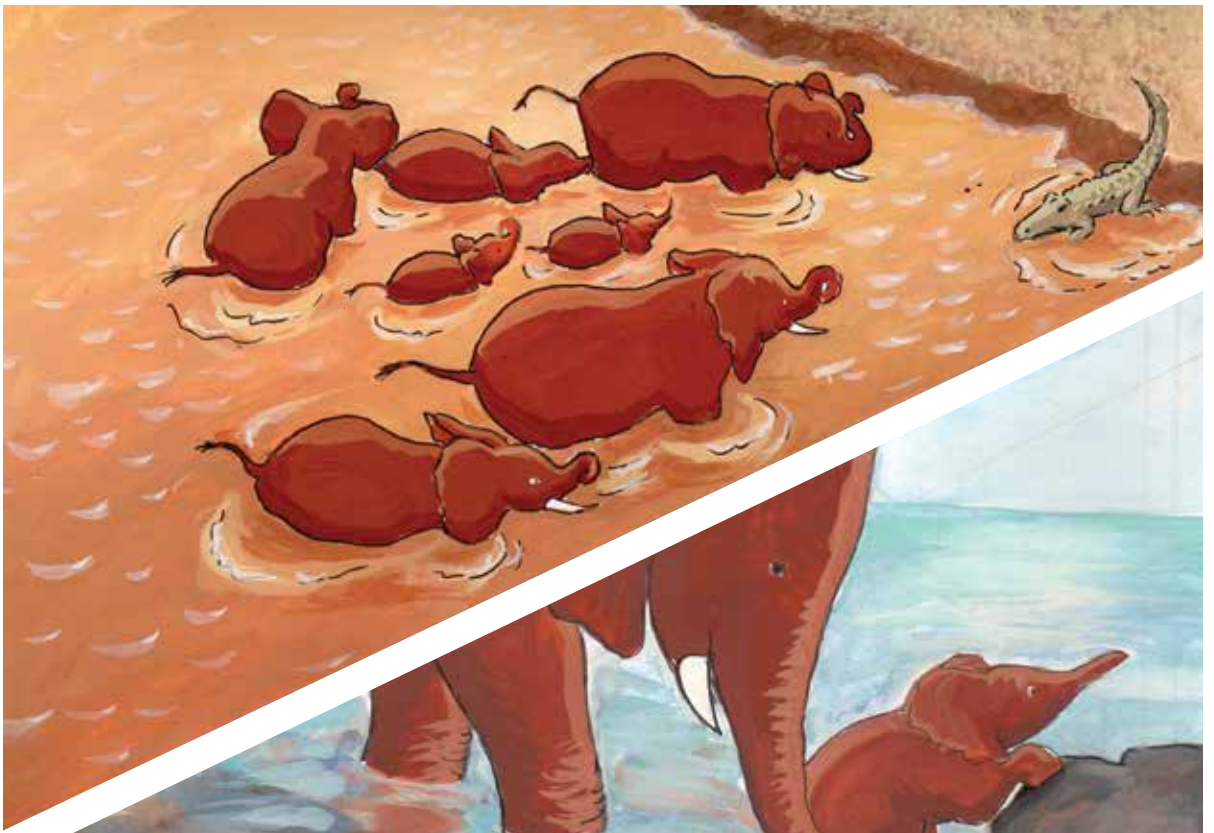
THAT MEANS "HELLO" IN SWAHILI! MY NAME IS CLARICE. I'M AMELIA'S AUNT.

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!



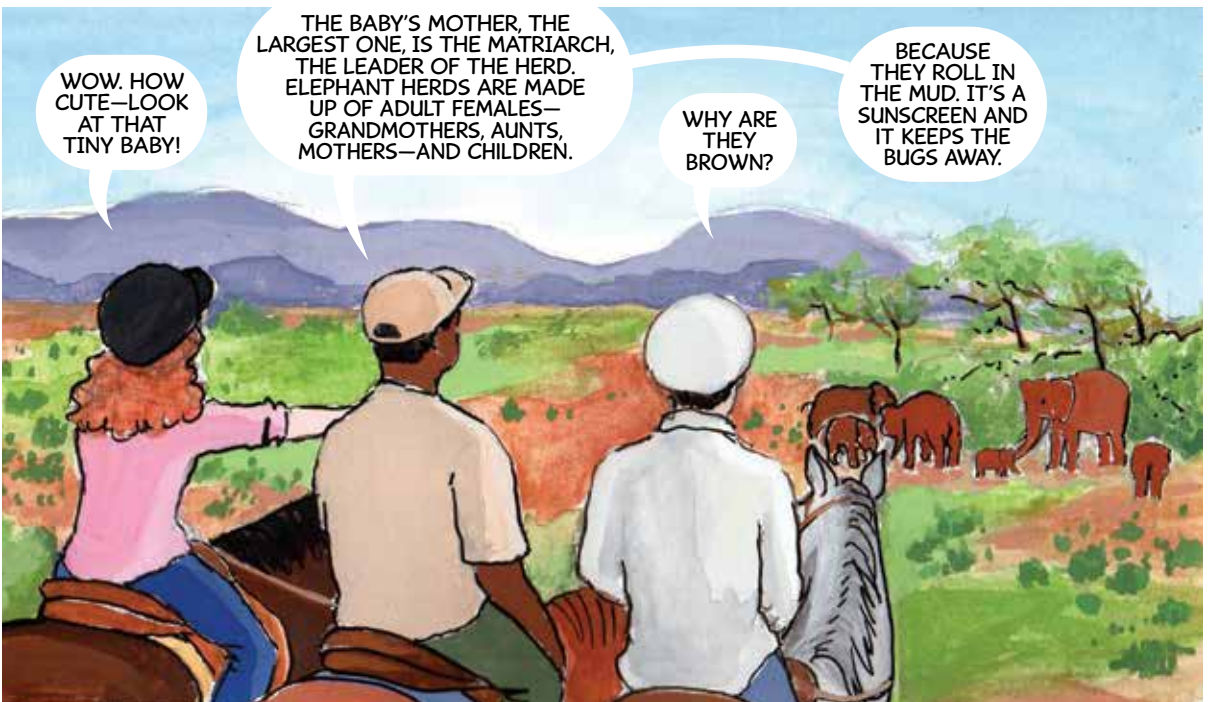
SAFARI, DAY ONE

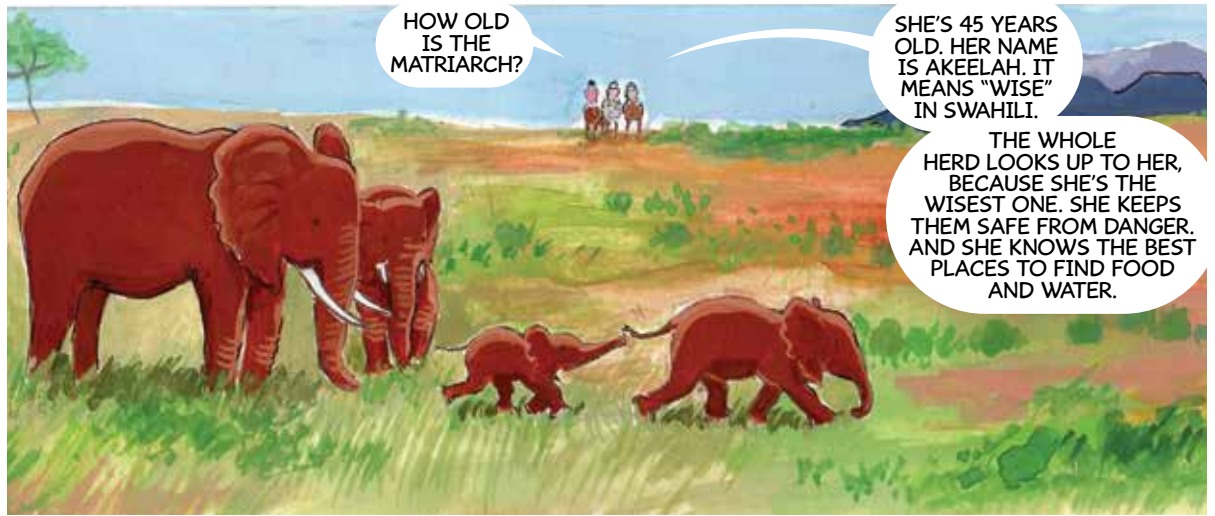


HI. MY NAME IS KAI.

I'M JABARI. I LIKE YOUR HAT!







HOW OLD IS THE MATRIARCH?

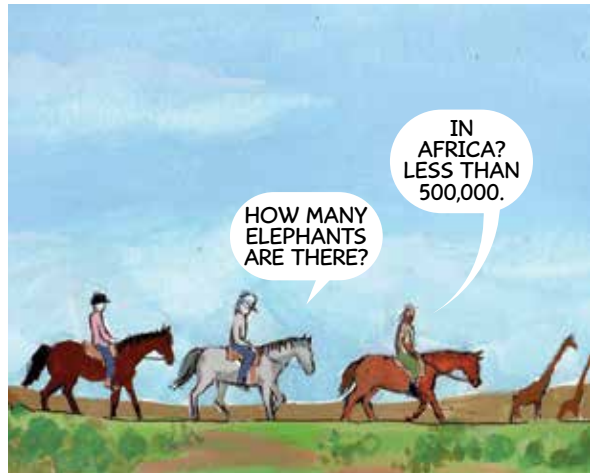
SHE'S 45 YEARS OLD. HER NAME IS AKEELAH. IT MEANS "WISE" IN SWAHILI.

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.



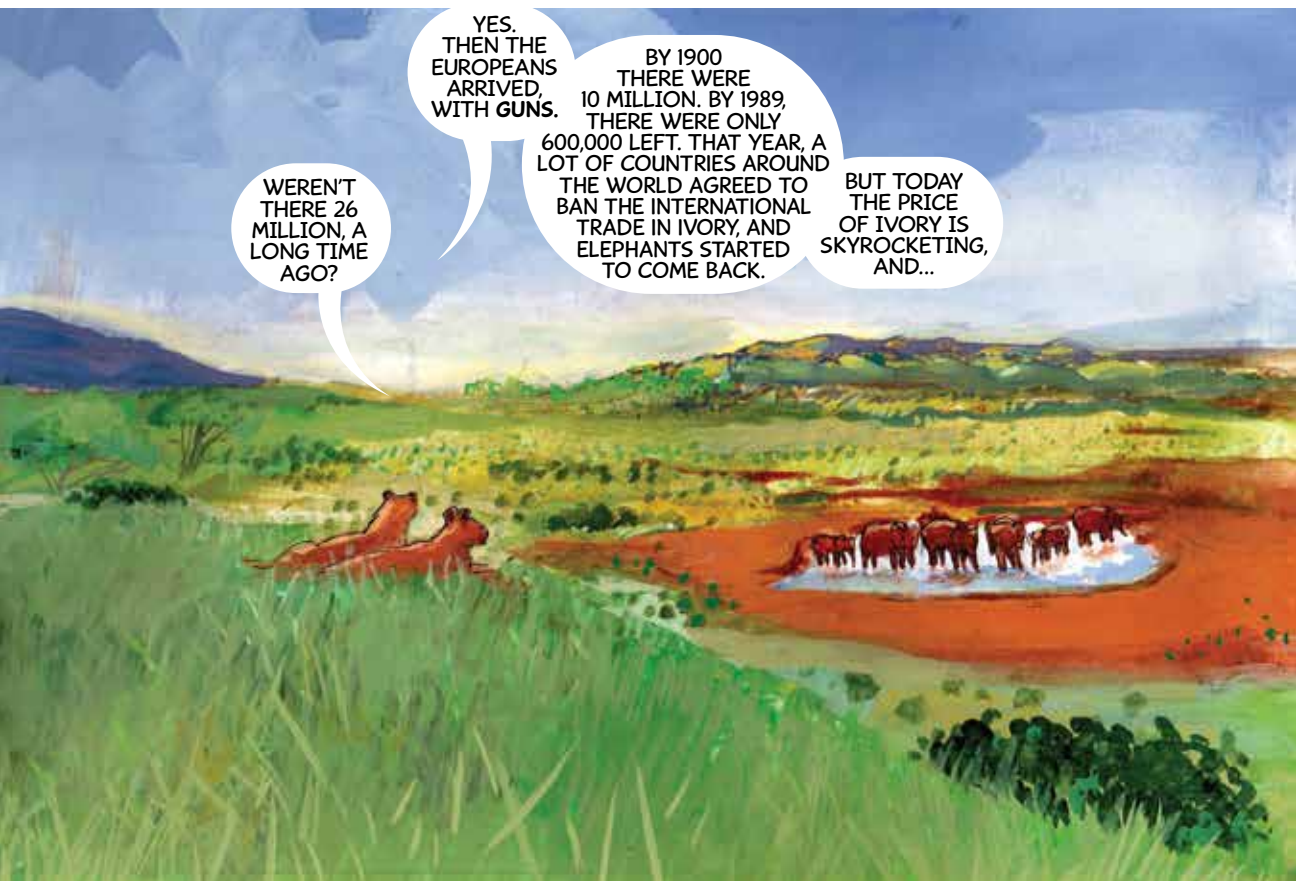
YOU GIVE THEM NAMES?

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.



HOW MANY ELEPHANTS ARE THERE?

IN AFRICA? LESS THAN 500,000.



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

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.

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

BUT...



HA HA HA HA!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

...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!

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.

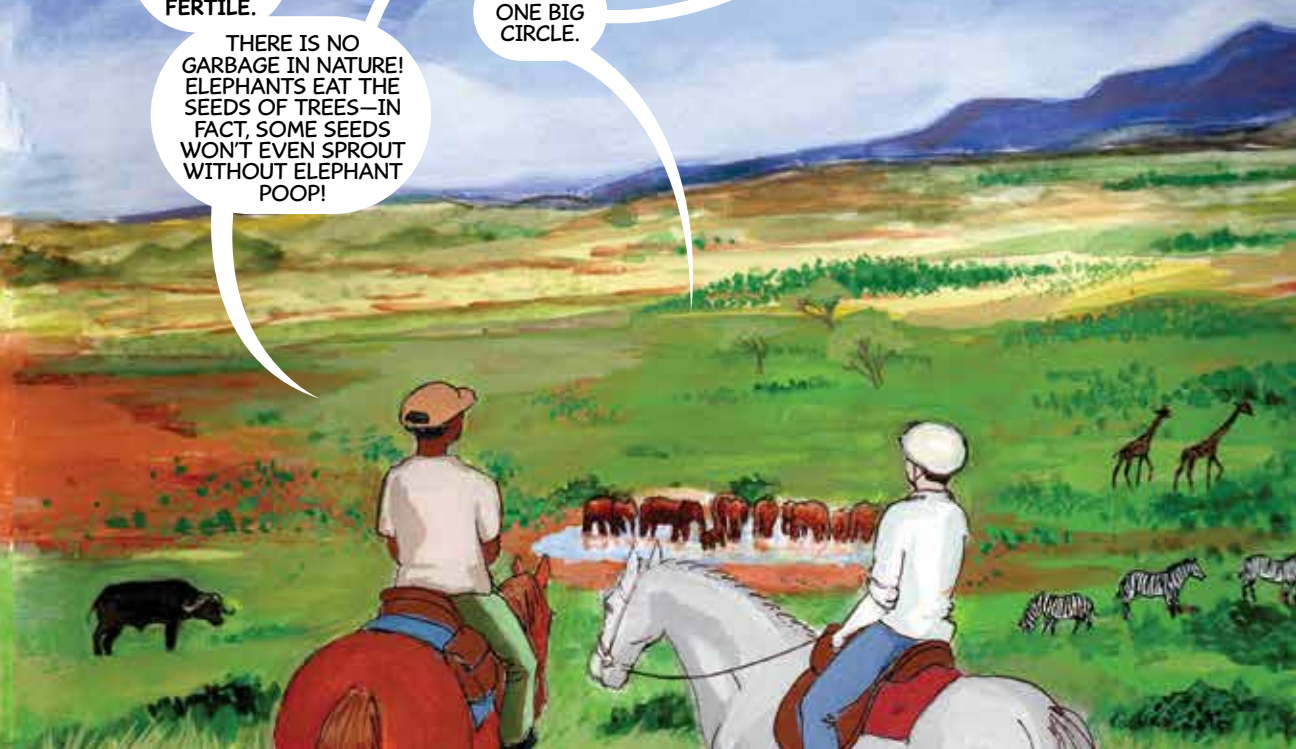
YES. FOR THEM, IT IS NEVER "ME FIRST." EVERYTHING THEY DO, THEY DO FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP.

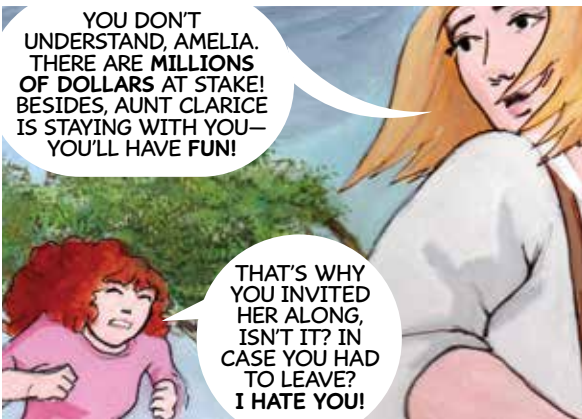
LIKE THE ELEPHANTS.

AND ELEPHANT POOP MAKES THE EARTH FERTILE.

IT'S LIKE ONE BIG CIRCLE.

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





SAFARI, DAY THREE





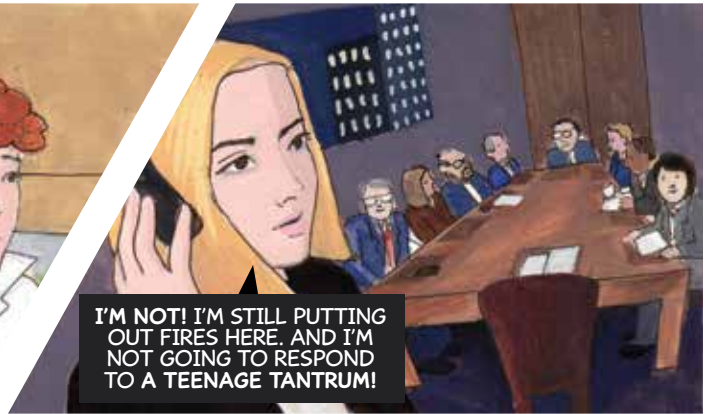
JEFF! CALL MY MOTHER ON YOUR SATELLITE PHONE! AMELIA IS MISSING! SHE TOOK OFF ON HER HORSE EARLY THIS MORNING!



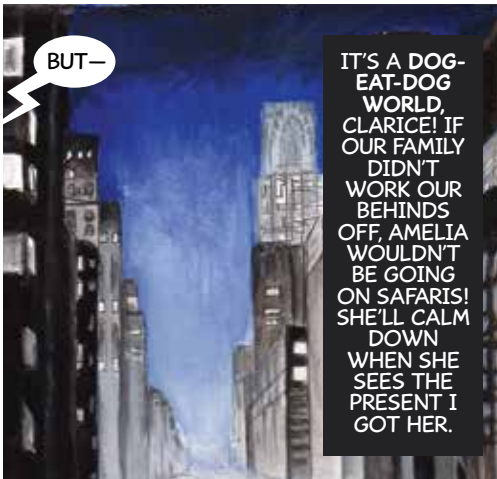
HELLO, WARDEN MWEMA? WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY.



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.

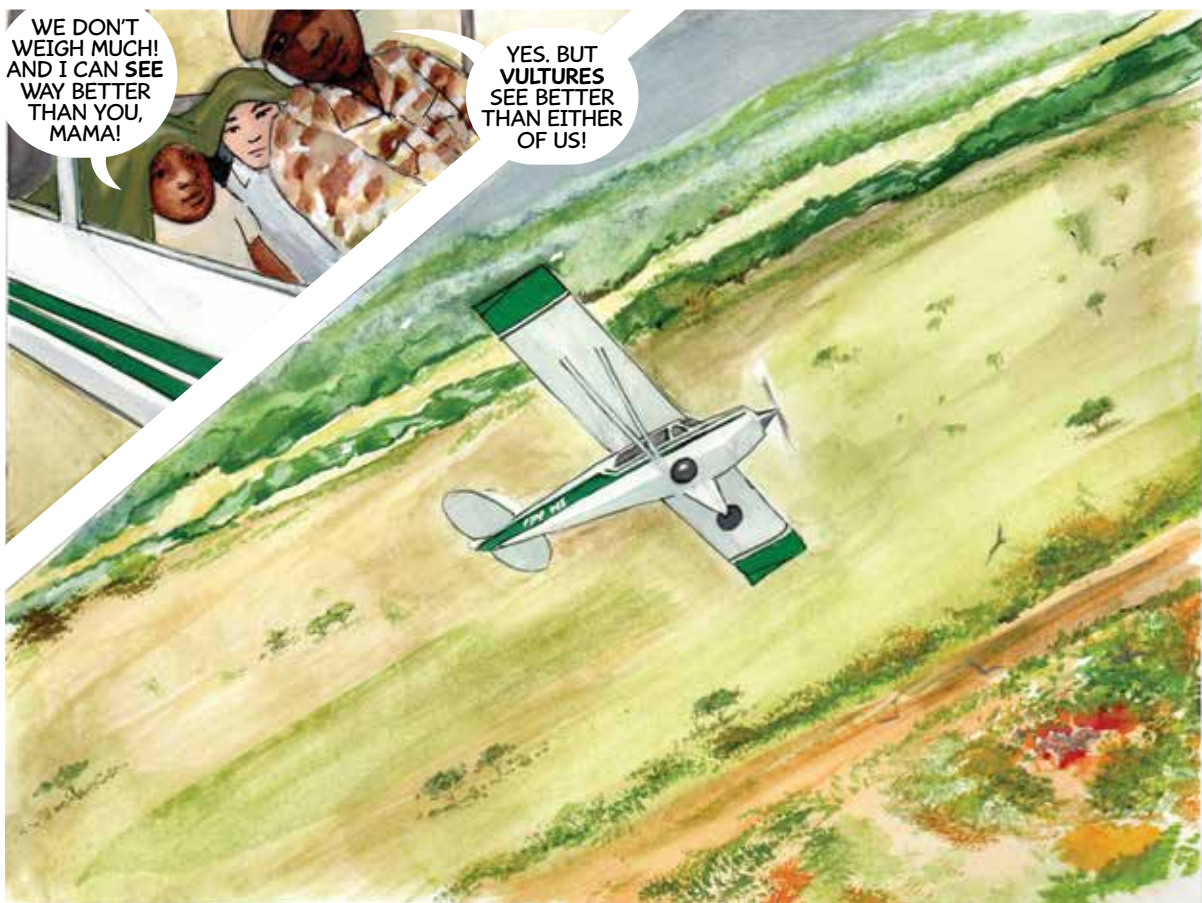


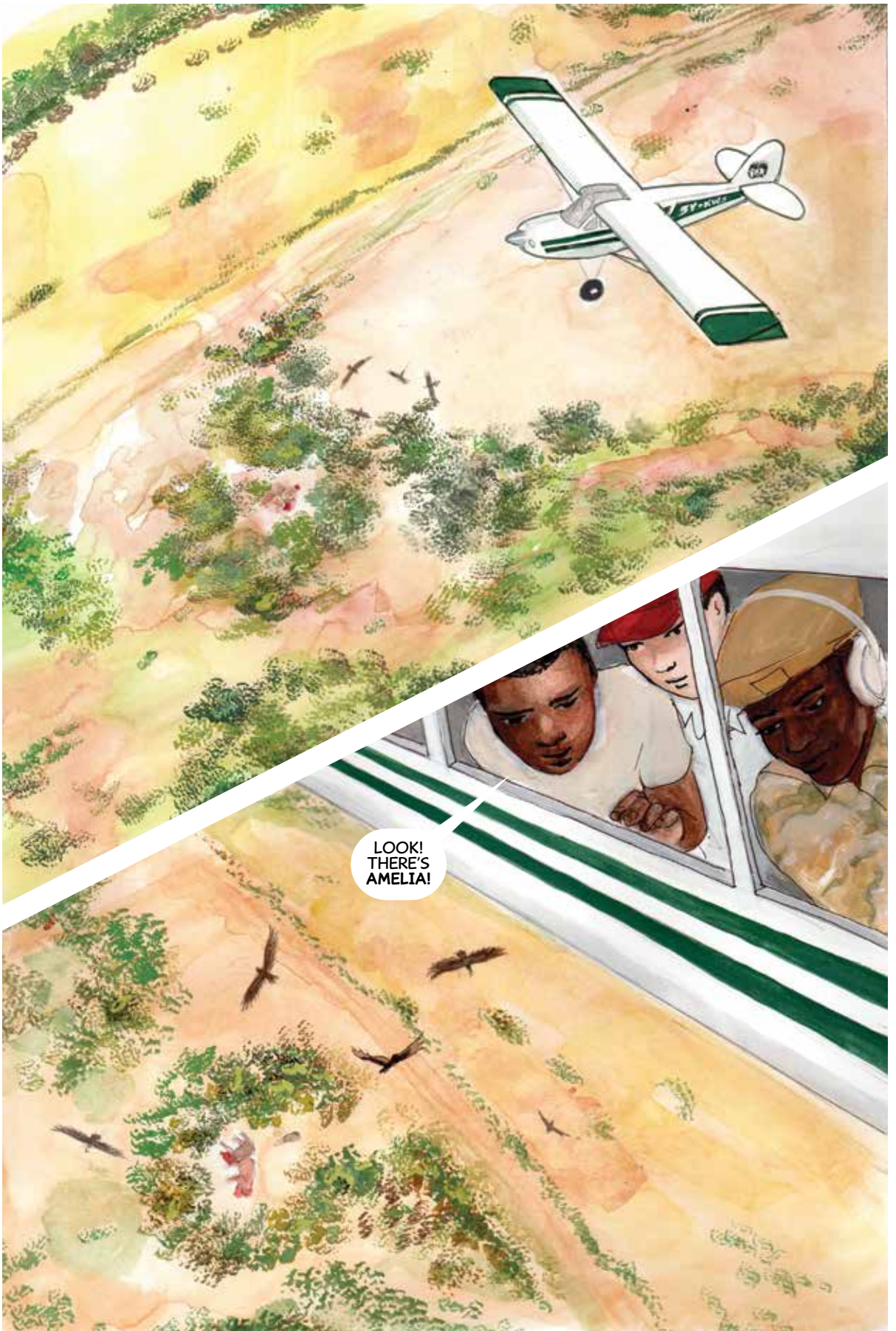
MY MOTHER IS ON HER WAY!

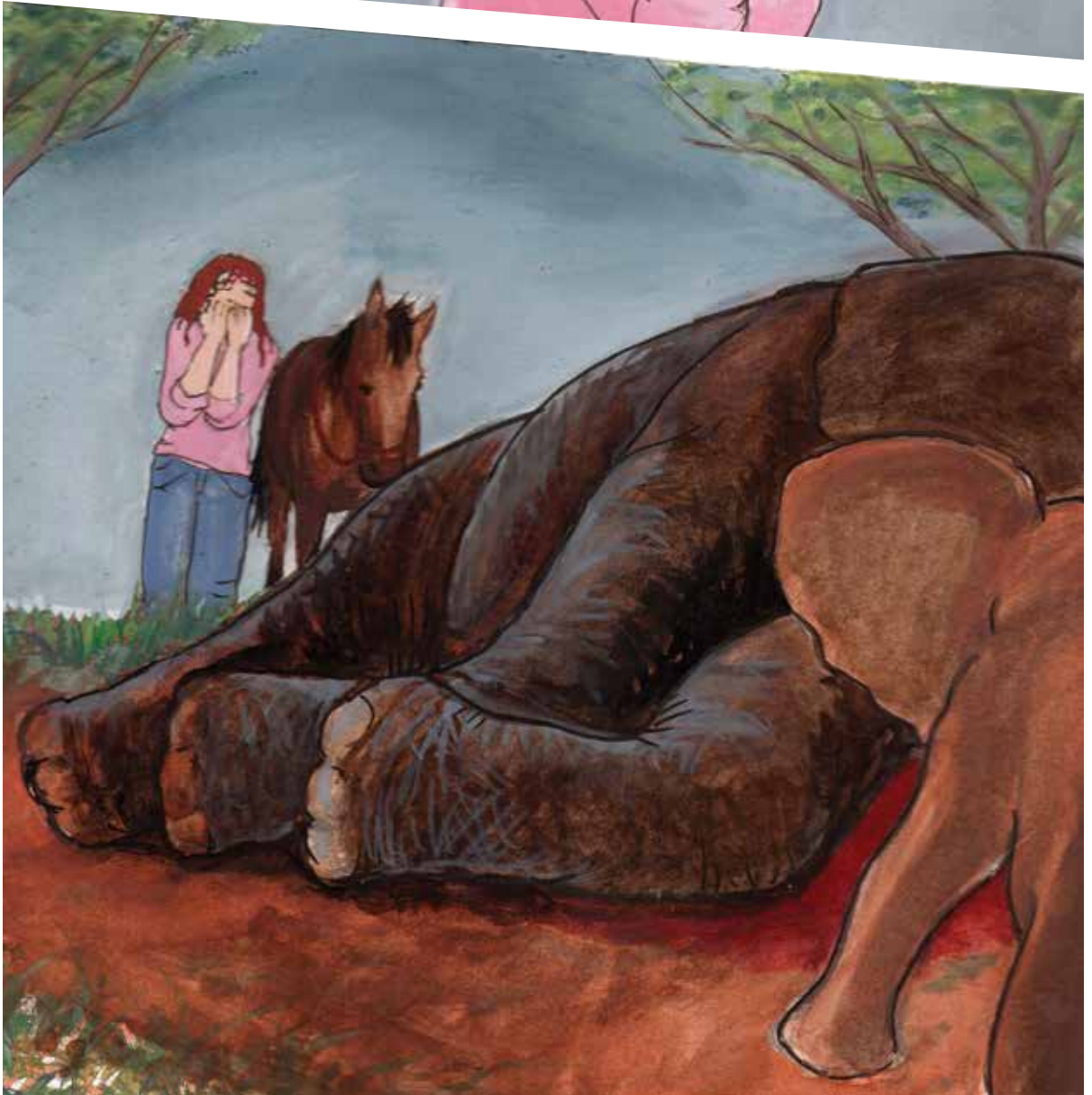


WE DON'T WEIGH MUCH!
AND I CAN SEE WAY BETTER THAN YOU, MAMA!

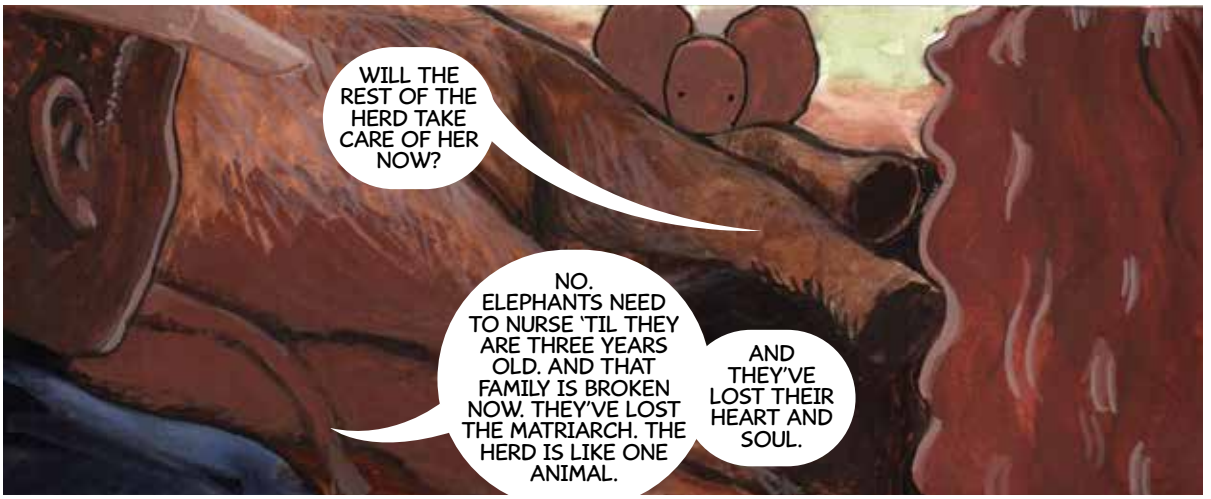
YES, BUT VULTURES SEE BETTER THAN EITHER OF US!











WILL THE REST OF THE HERD TAKE CARE OF HER NOW?

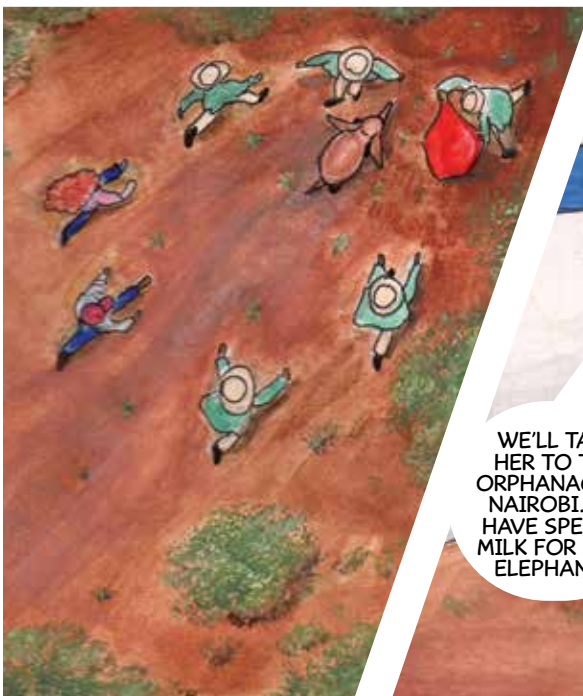
NO. ELEPHANTS NEED TO NURSE 'TIL THEY ARE THREE YEARS OLD. AND THAT FAMILY IS BROKEN NOW. THEY'VE LOST THE MATRIARCH. THE HERD IS LIKE ONE ANIMAL.

AND THEY'VE LOST THEIR HEART AND SOUL.



NO SIGN OF THE POACHERS! I'VE CALLED FOR HELP.

WE HAVE TO CATCH HER. SHE WON'T SURVIVE.



WE'LL TAKE HER TO THE ORPHANAGE IN NAIROBI. WE HAVE SPECIAL MILK FOR BABY ELEPHANTS.

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!

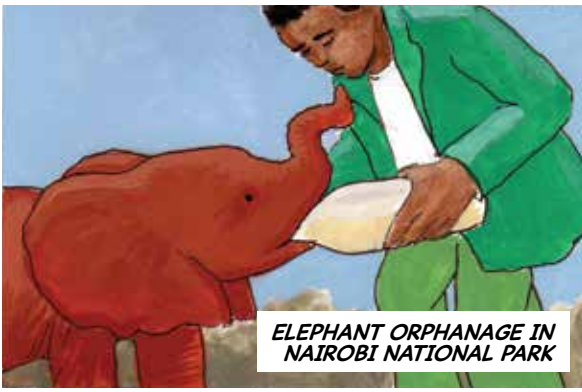
SO WHAT? IT'S STILL BLOODY IVORY!



WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL YOUR MOTHER?



TELL HER I NEVER WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN!



*ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE IN
NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK*



YOU HAD A
BAD DREAM?
IT'S OKAY.
YOU ARE SAFE
NOW. WE WILL
PROTECT
YOU.

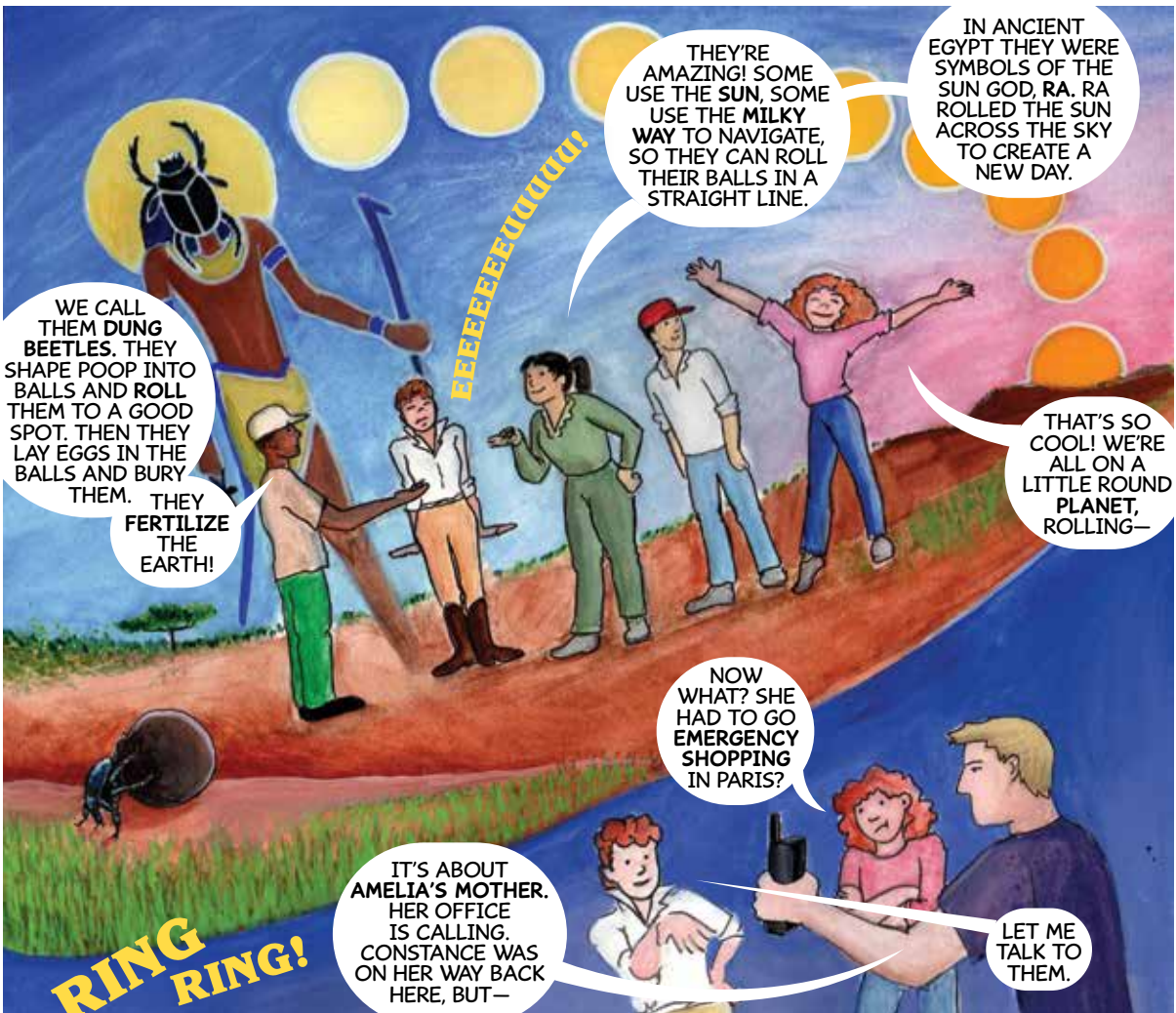


SAFARI, DAY FOUR

EEEEEEK!
HELP!



HOW BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S A SCARAB BEETLE!



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!

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.

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

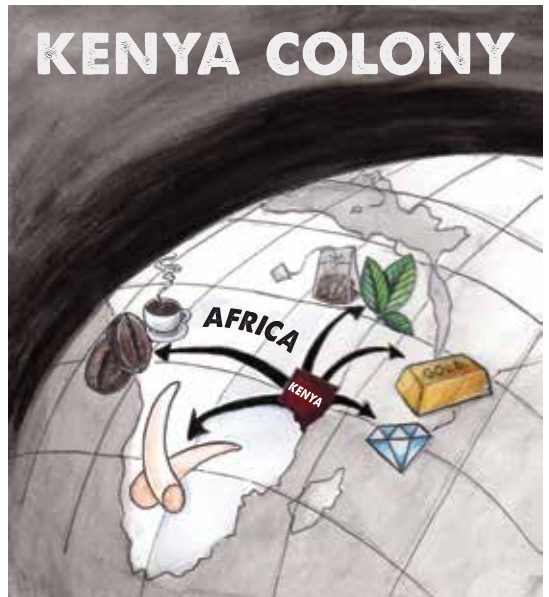
NOW WHAT? SHE HAD TO GO EMERGENCY SHOPPING IN PARIS?

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

LET ME TALK TO THEM.

RING RING!





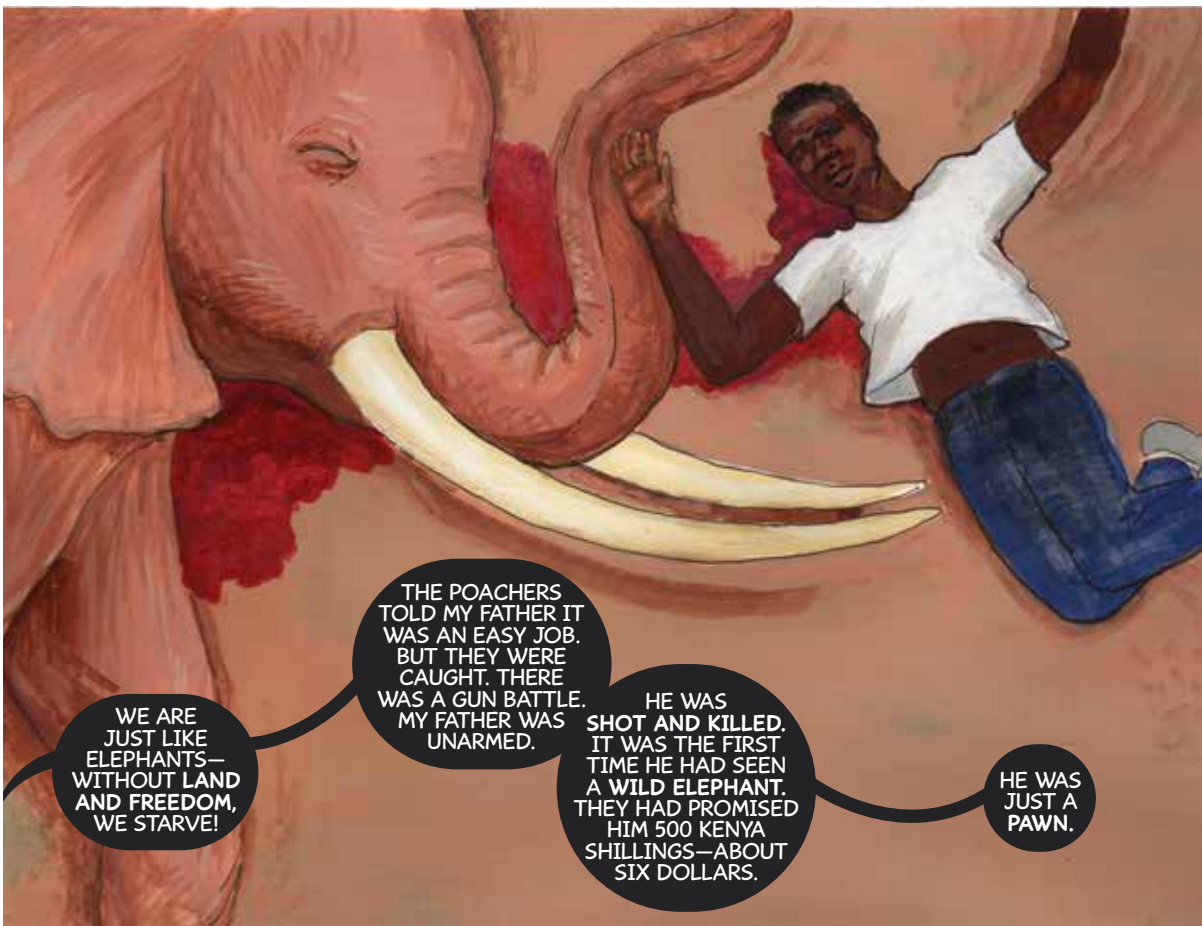


BEFORE WE WON THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE IN 1963, THE BRITISH TOOK THE BEST FARMLAND.

THEY KICKED THE KENYAN PEOPLE OFF THE LAND—INCLUDING MY FATHER'S FAMILY.



THOSE WHO RESISTED WERE KILLED OR PUT IN PRISON CAMPS. THERE WERE NO JOBS. OUR FAMILY WAS HUNGRY.



WE ARE JUST LIKE ELEPHANTS—WITHOUT LAND AND FREEDOM, WE STARVE!

THE POACHERS TOLD MY FATHER IT WAS AN EASY JOB. BUT THEY WERE CAUGHT. THERE WAS A GUN BATTLE. MY FATHER WAS UNARMED.

HE WAS SHOT AND KILLED. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD SEEN A WILD ELEPHANT. THEY HAD PROMISED HIM 500 KENYA SHILLINGS—ABOUT SIX DOLLARS.

HE WAS JUST A PAWN.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

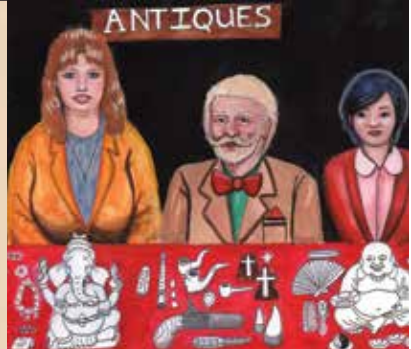
IVORY IS A BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS.



THE HIGHER YOU GO UP THE CHAIN, THE BIGGER THE PROFITS. ORGANIZED CRIME SMUGGLES IT. FROM AFRICA TO ASIA WHERE CHEAP LABOR CARVES IT.



THEN IT'S SOLD IN RESPECTABLE SHOPS IN CHINA, JAPAN, EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.



THE HIGHER THE PRICE, THE MORE PEOPLE WANT IT—AS AN INVESTMENT!

BUT YOUR MOM—SHE'S A WARDEN. DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT HER?

ALL THE TIME. SHE WAS ALMOST KILLED IN AN AMBUSH.

BUT ASK YOURSELF: WHO REALLY PULLS THE TRIGGER? POVERTY? GREED?

OR IGNORANT PEOPLE WHO JUST WANT BEAUTIFUL THINGS, AND DON'T KNOW THE REAL COST OF THEIR "INVESTMENT"?





MY FAMILY BUILT FACTORIES THAT MADE STUFF FROM IVORY. STUFF THAT'S MADE FROM PLASTIC TODAY—PIANO KEYS. BILLIARD BALLS. BRUSHES. COMBS. BUTTONS AND—HA—CAMEOS!

YOU KNOW WHERE I GREW UP?... IN IVORYVILLE.

YEAH. IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME, 'TIL NOW. ALL THE WORKERS IN THE IVORYVILLE FACTORIES—THEY WERE JUST LIKE YOUR DAD. THEY DIDN'T HATE ELEPHANTS.

IVORYVILLE?

THEY WERE JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE ALL CAUGHT IN A MACHINE THAT MAKES GOOD PEOPLE DO BAD THINGS. AND WE CAN'T EVEN SEE IT.



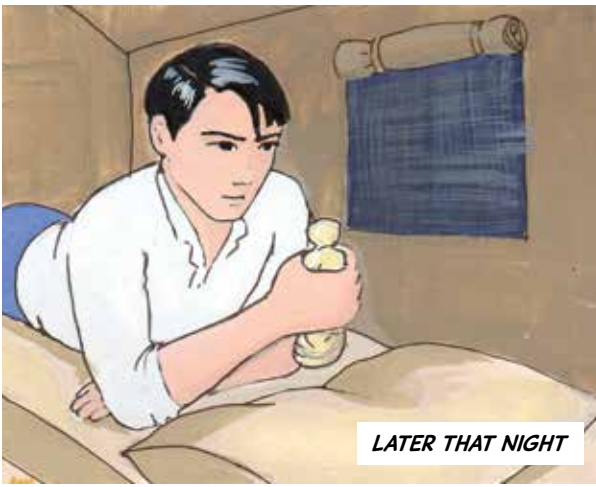
EVEN MY MOM GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE SYSTEM. HER COMPANY HAS TO COMPETE WITH OTHER COMPANIES. SO SHE HAS TO WORK ALL THE TIME! FOR WHAT? TO BUY STUFF FOR ME! I'M ALWAYS BUGGING HER FOR THE LATEST PHONE. I LIKE IT WHEN SHE DROPS ME OFF AT SCHOOL IN A FANCY CAR.





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.



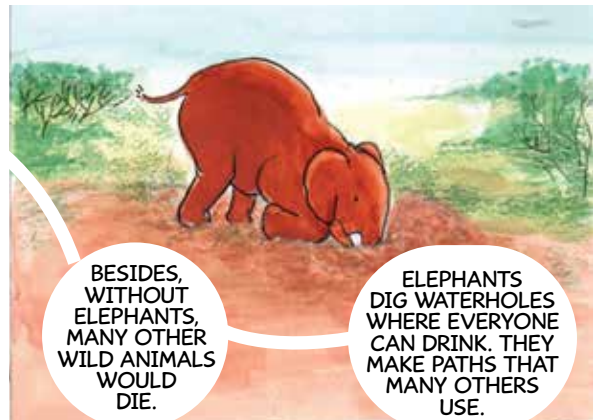
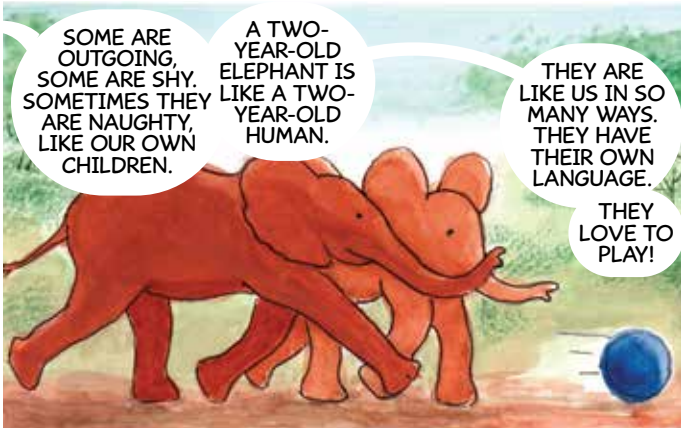
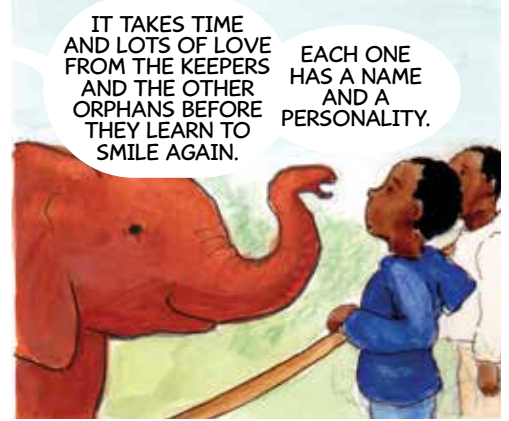
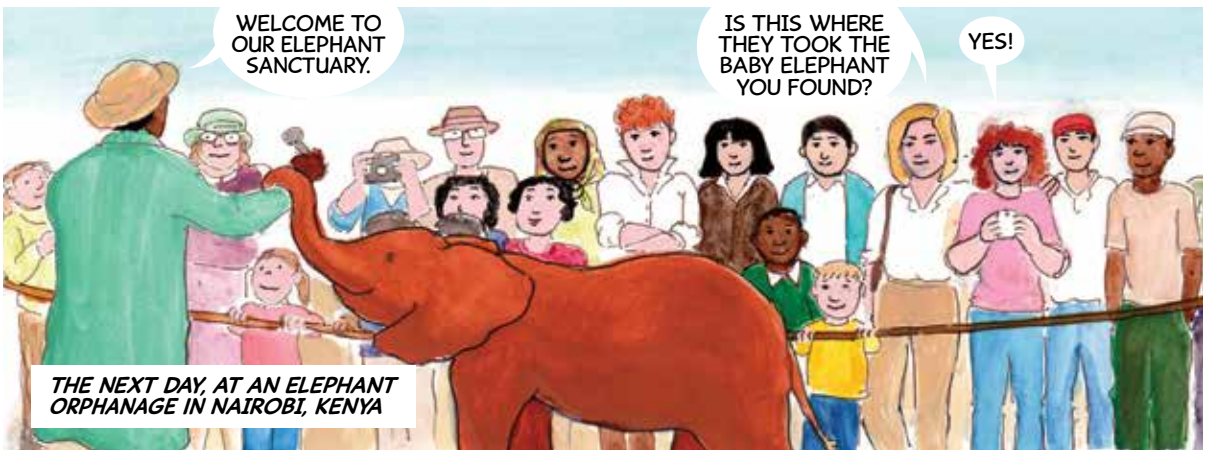
KAI, HELP ME! I CAN'T SEE WHERE WE'RE GOING...

WE? AM I GOING WITH YOU, AKEELAH?

YES. WE. WE ARE ALL ONE.









ELEPHANTS ARE A "KEYSTONE SPECIES." AFRICA NEEDS THEM.

IF WE DON'T STOP BUYING IVORY AND IF WE DON'T STOP POACHING, THEY WILL SOON DISAPPEAR.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, AN ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM WILL COLLAPSE, JUST LIKE AN ARCH WILL COLLAPSE IF WE KNOCK OUT THE KEYSTONE THAT SITS AT THE CENTER.



I DON'T WANT THEM TO DISAPPEAR!



DON'T CRY. WE WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!



YOU PROMISE?



YES! YES! YES!



HA HA HA HA!



SHE IS STILL AFRAID, AND MISSING HER MAMA.

WE CALL HER KIANGA, WHICH MEANS SUNSHINE IN SWAHILI.

WHAT'S HER NAME?

LATER THAT DAY



I THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE HER MAMA, LIKE AKEELAH.



MY MOTHER'S TAKING US TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY RELEASE THE ORPHANS BACK INTO THE WILD.



TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK



ORPHANS AND THEIR KEEPERS RETURN AFTER A DAY IN THE BUSH, WHERE THEY PLAY WITH WILD ELEPHANTS.

HOW OLD ARE THESE ELEPHANTS?

FOUR TO TEN YEARS OLD.



THEY'RE BIG ENOUGH TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST PREDATORS WHEN THEY ARE TEN.



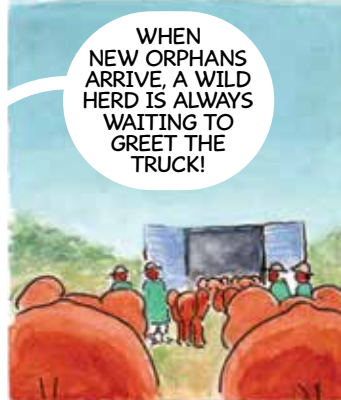
THERE ARE EX-ORPHANS IN THE WILD HERDS. THEY KNOW IT'S THEIR JOB TO ADOPT THE NEW ONES.

SWEET!

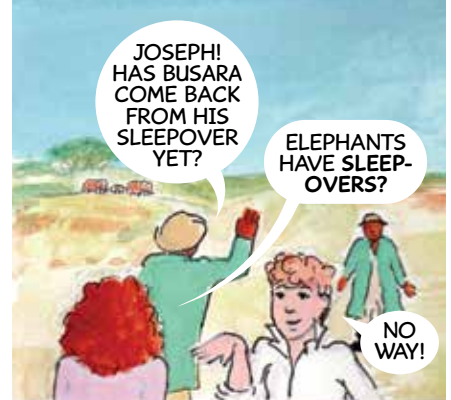


ELEPHANTS COMMUNICATE WITH SOUNDS TOO LOW FOR PEOPLE TO HEAR.

AND IN OTHER WAYS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND...



WHEN NEW ORPHANS ARRIVE, A WILD HERD IS ALWAYS WAITING TO GREET THE TRUCK!



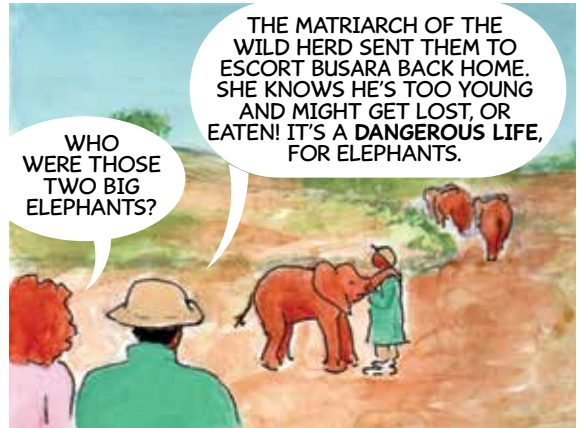
JOSEPH! HAS BUSARA COME BACK FROM HIS SLEEPOVER YET?

ELEPHANTS HAVE SLEEPOVERS?

NO WAY!

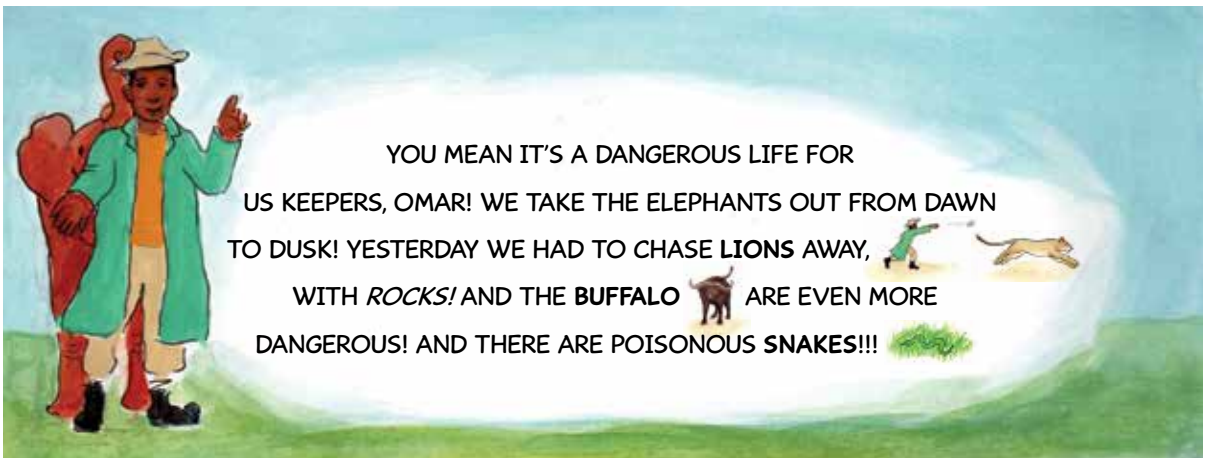


HERE COMES BUSARA NOW!

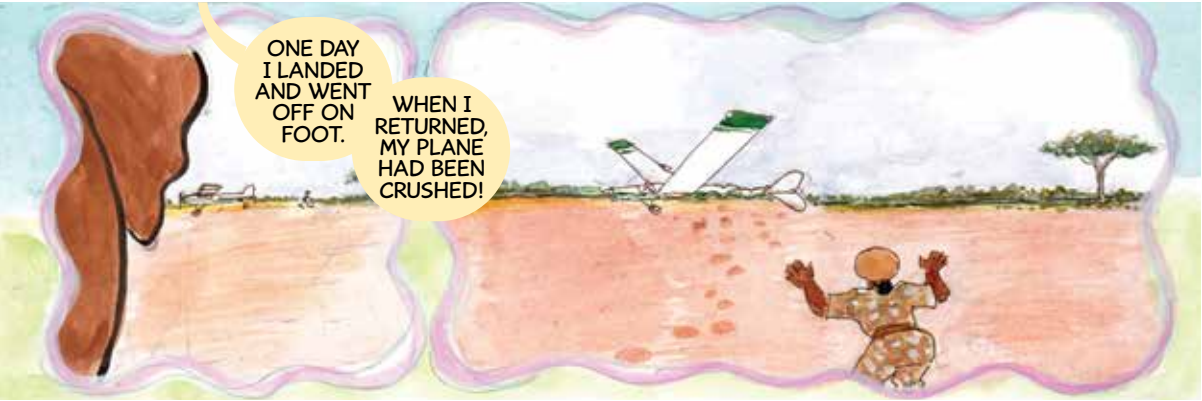
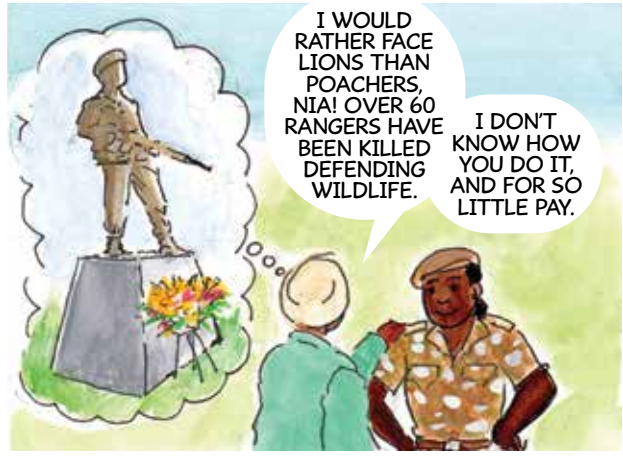


WHO WERE THOSE TWO BIG ELEPHANTS?

THE MATRIARCH OF THE WILD HERD SENT THEM TO ESCORT BUSARA BACK HOME. SHE KNOWS HE'S TOO YOUNG AND MIGHT GET LOST, OR EATEN! IT'S A DANGEROUS LIFE, FOR ELEPHANTS.



YOU MEAN IT'S A DANGEROUS LIFE FOR US KEEPERS, OMAR! WE TAKE THE ELEPHANTS OUT FROM DAWN TO DUSK! YESTERDAY WE HAD TO CHASE LIONS AWAY, WITH *ROCKS!* AND THE **BUFFALO** ARE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS! AND THERE ARE POISONOUS **SNAKES!!!**





SHE HAD SEEN ME FLY, AND SHE WANTED TO TRY IT HERSELF!



THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

THE INSURANCE COMPANY THOUGHT SO, TOO.



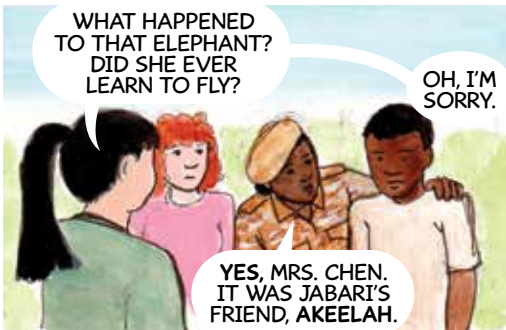
THEY SENT AN INVESTIGATOR FROM LONDON.



AND?

AND THEY PAID!

HA HA HA HA HA!



WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT ELEPHANT? DID SHE EVER LEARN TO FLY?

OH, I'M SORRY.

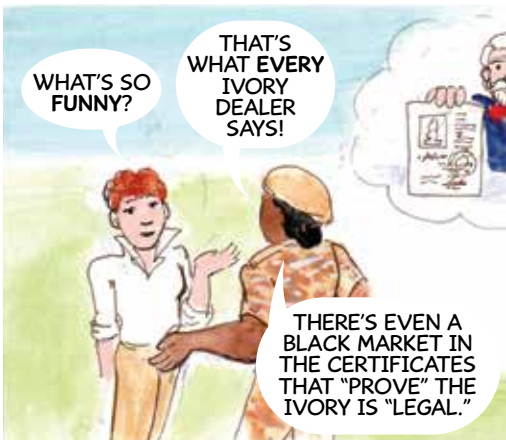
YES, MRS. CHEN. IT WAS JABARI'S FRIEND, AKEELAH.



I HAD NO IDEA ELEPHANTS WERE SO SMART!

HA HA HA HA!

YES. WE MUST SAVE THEM. FROM NOW ON WE ARE ONLY GOING TO BUY ANTIQUE IVORY.



WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

THAT'S WHAT EVERY IVORY DEALER SAYS!

THERE'S EVEN A BLACK MARKET IN THE CERTIFICATES THAT "PROVE" THE IVORY IS "LEGAL."

I ONLY SELL IVORY THAT WAS CARVED BEFORE THE BAN IN 1989! THIS PIECE OF PAPER PROVES IT!



SO THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE ELEPHANTS IS TO NEVER BUY IVORY?

AND TO SAVE THE RANGERS' LIVES, TOO, MOM!

I GUESS I'M NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN.

SAFARI, THE LAST DAY



I SAW THIS ON TV ONCE. WATCH!



GOT ANY SYRUP?

HA HA HA HA!



YOU BOTH HAVE TO VISIT ME, IN BEIJING!

SAVE THE ELEPHANTS!

AND NEW YORK! WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

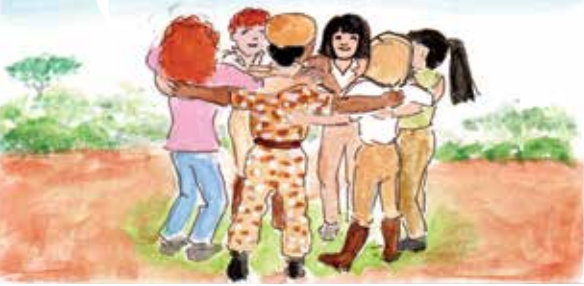
SAVE THE PLANET!

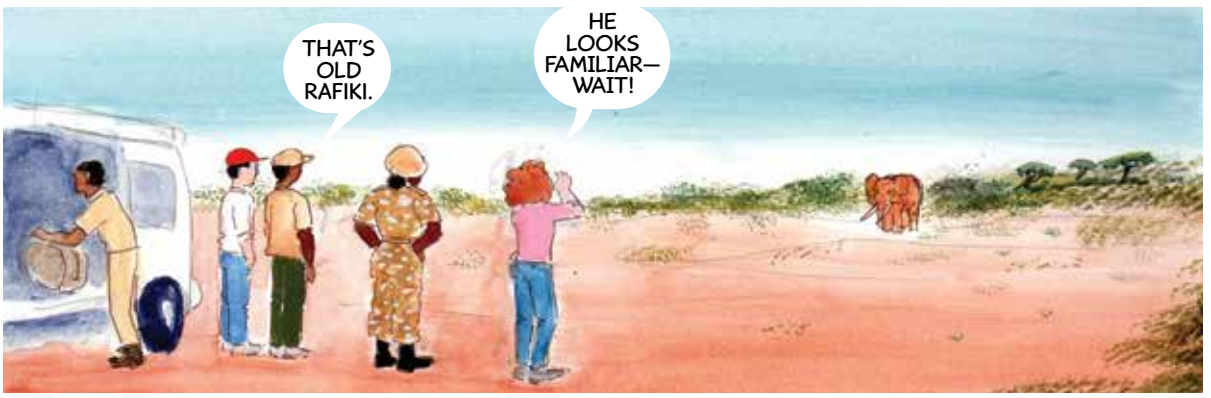
YOU KNOW WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE ELEPHANTS?

WOMAN POWER!

YEAH!

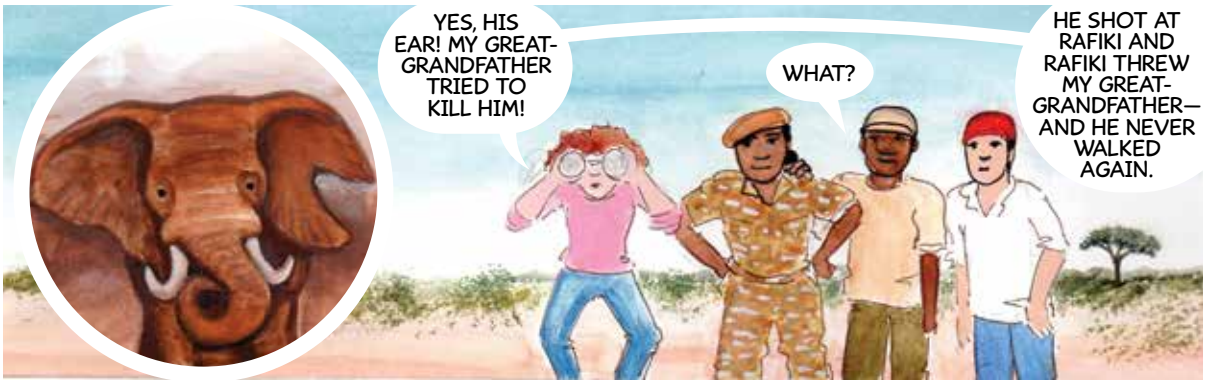
GROUP HUG!





THAT'S OLD RAFIKI.

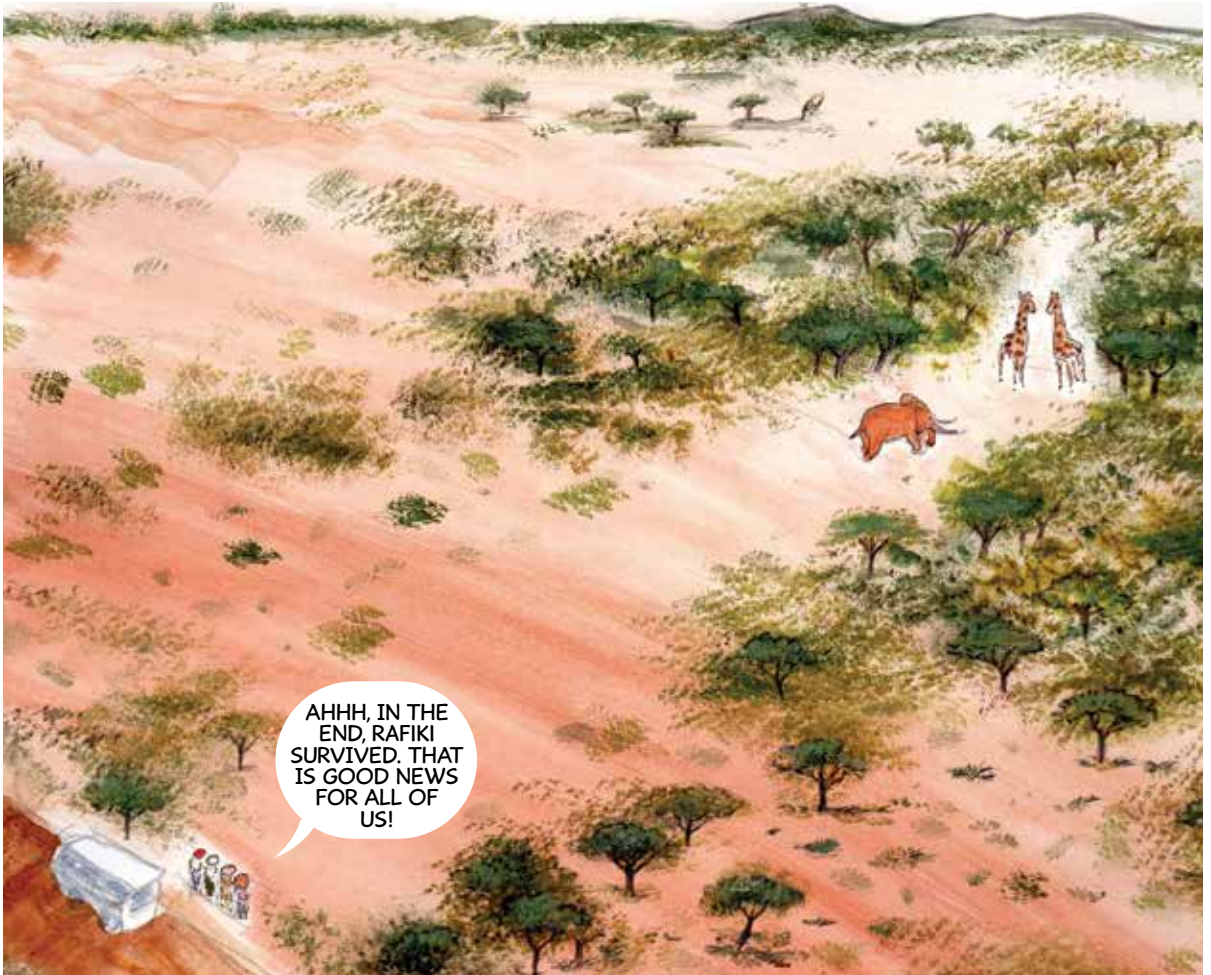
HE LOOKS FAMILIAR—
WAIT!



YES, HIS EAR! MY GREAT-
GRANDFATHER
TRIED TO
KILL HIM!

WHAT?

HE SHOT AT
RAFIKI AND
RAFIKI THREW
MY GREAT-
GRANDFATHER—
AND HE NEVER
WALKED
AGAIN.



AHHH, IN THE
END, RAFIKI
SURVIVED. THAT
IS GOOD NEWS
FOR ALL OF
US!



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?

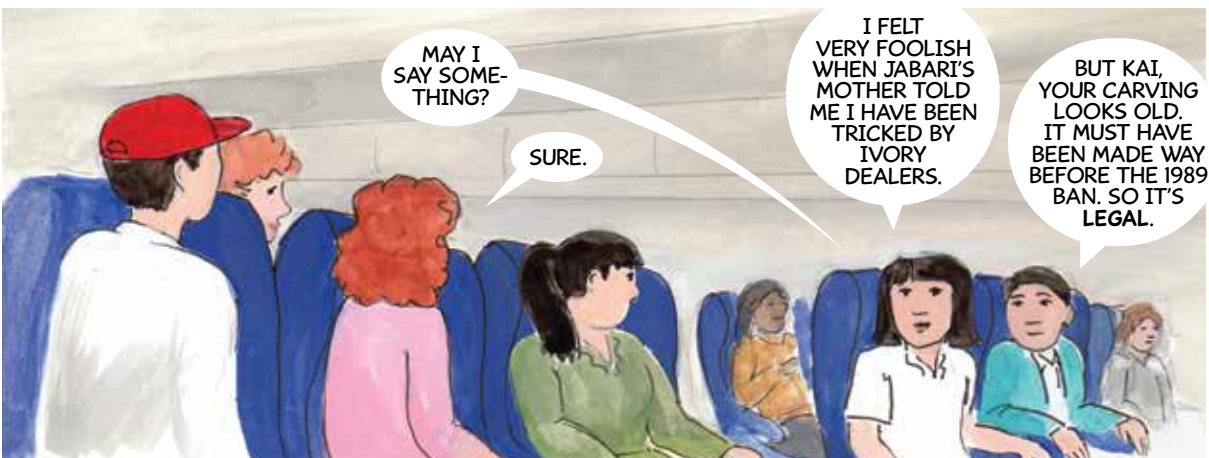


ADULTS!



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

YEAH. I UNDERSTAND.



MAY I SAY SOMETHING?

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.

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.

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!

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.

SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER.



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.sheilahanaka.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







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It takes a world to save the elephants. The author would like to thank the Kenya Wildlife Service family of rangers, wardens, and staff; Cathy Liss, who was inspired by the elephants to make this project happen; the crew at the Animal Welfare Institute; Wendy Murdoch, horsewoman extraordinaire; the many educators, activists and Indigenous Peoples who dedicate their lives to saving Mother Earth and all her children; and last but not least, the elephants, for showing us the way. Because of you all, this book has meaning and purpose.

Sheila Hamanaka





PUBLISHED BY
ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE