



★ THE LARGE FAMILY ★

A Quiet Night In

"THE BIG BEDTIME READ"
Ballyclare Nursery School
Grange Drive
BALLYCLARE
BT39 9EY



JILL MURPHY



“I want you all in bed early tonight,”
said Mrs Large. “It’s Daddy’s birthday
and we’re going to have a quiet night in.”
“Can we be there too?” asked Laura.
“No,” said Mrs Large. “It wouldn’t be
quiet with you lot all charging about
like a herd of elephants.”
“But we *are* a herd of elephants,” said Lester.
“Smartypants,” said Mrs Large. “Come on
now, coats on. It’s time for school.”





That evening, Mrs Large had the children bathed and in their pyjamas before they had even had their tea. They were all very cross. "It's only half past four," said Lester. "It's not even dark yet." "It soon will be," said Mrs Large grimly.



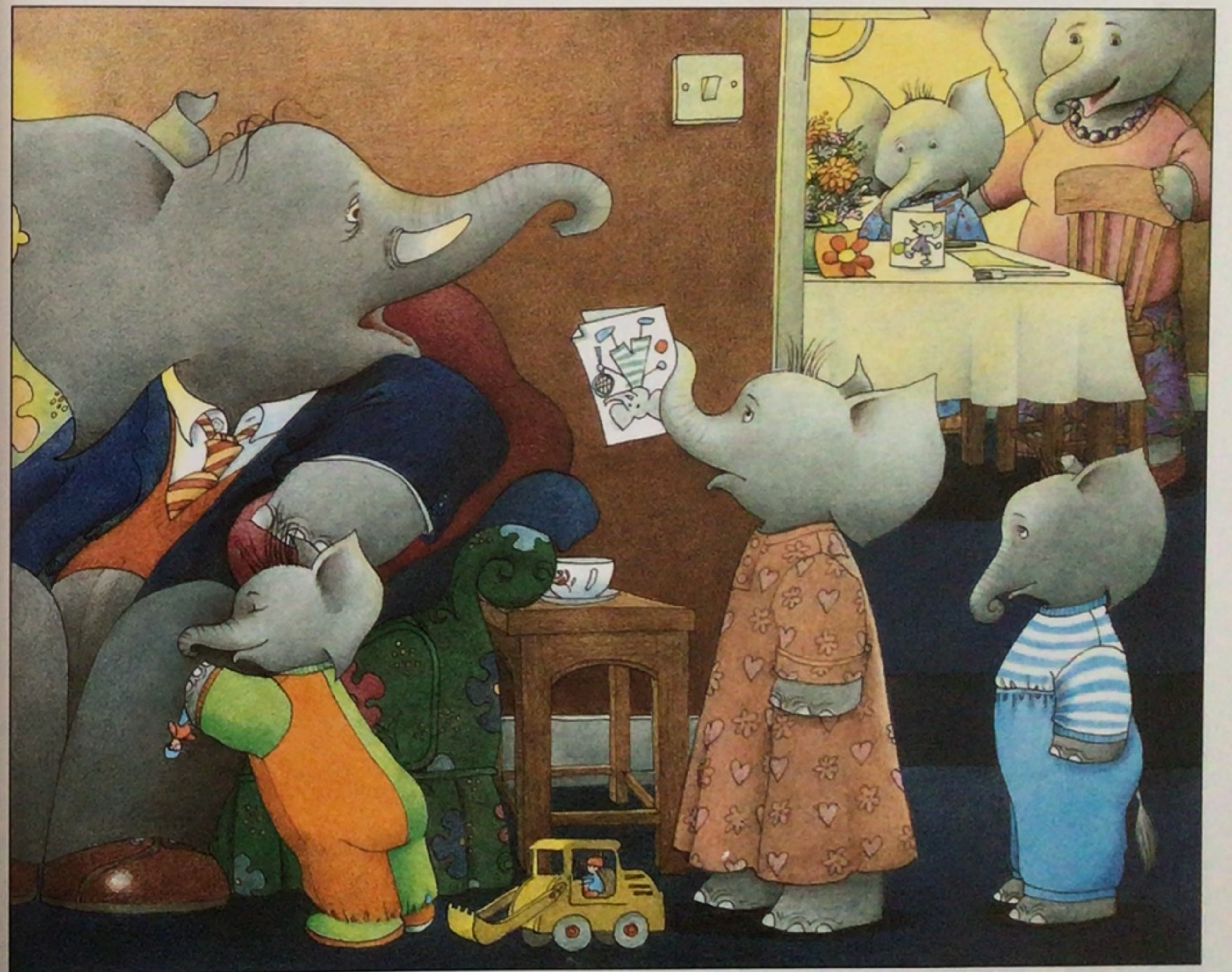


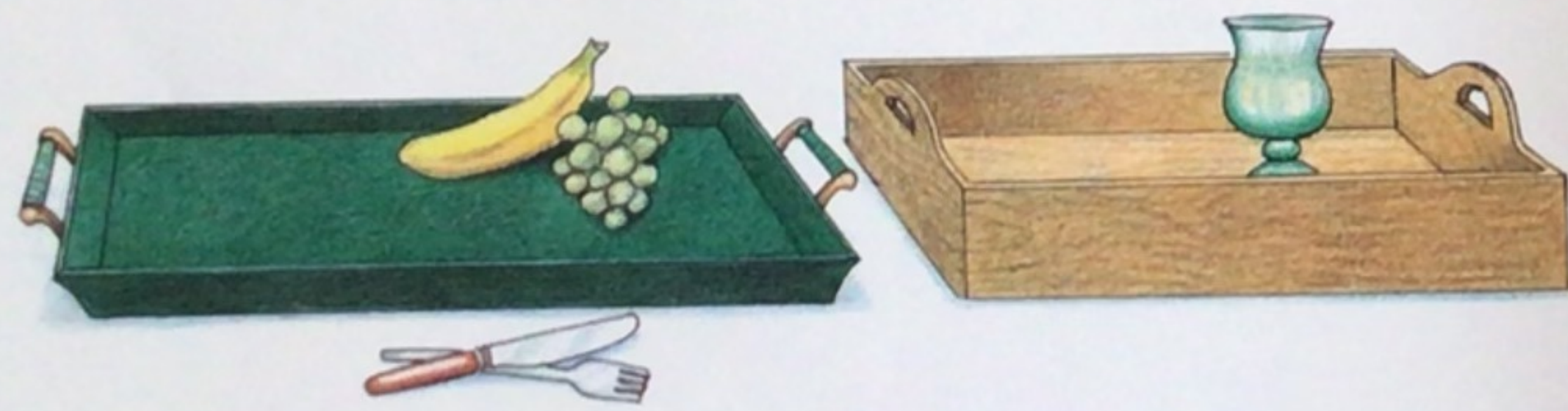
After tea, the children set about making place cards and decorations for the dinner table. Then they all tidied up. Then Mrs Large tidied up again.





Mr Large arrived home looking very tired.
“We’re all going to bed,” said Lester.
“So you can be quiet,” said Laura.
“Without us,” said Luke.
“Shhhh,” said the baby.
“Happy Birthday,” said Mrs Large. “Come and see the table.”
Mr Large sank heavily into the sofa. “It’s lovely, dear,”
he said, “but do you think we could have our dinner on trays
in front of the TV? I’m feeling a bit tired.”





“Of course,” said Mrs Large. “It’s *your* birthday.
You can have whatever you want.”
“We’ll help,” said Luke.
The children ran to the kitchen and brought two trays.
“I’ll set them,” said Mrs Large. “We don’t want
everything ending up on the floor.”





“Can we have a story before we go to bed?” asked Luke.

“Please,” said Lester.

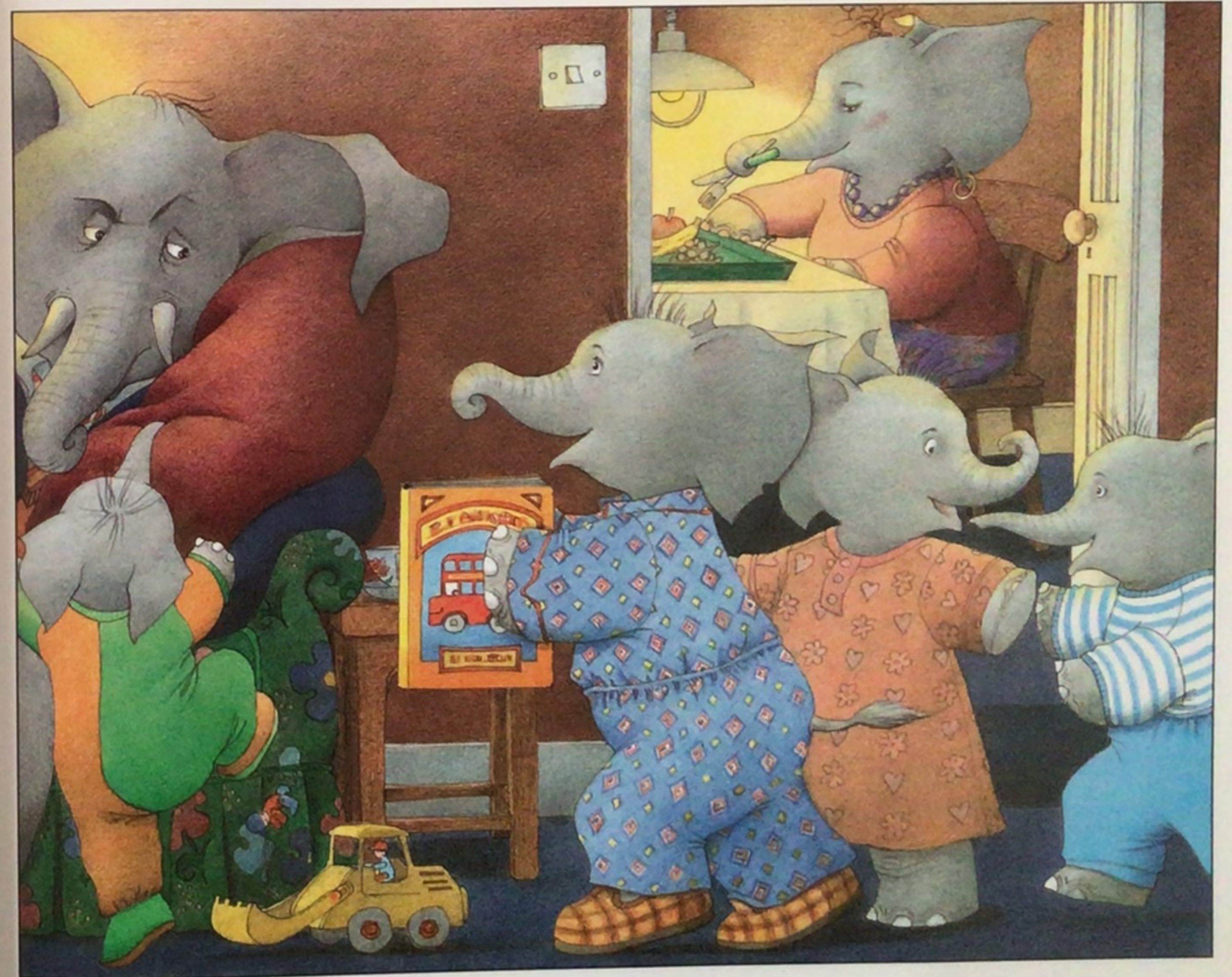
“Go on, Dad,” said Laura. “Just one.”

“Story!” said the baby.

“Oh, all right,” said Mr Large.

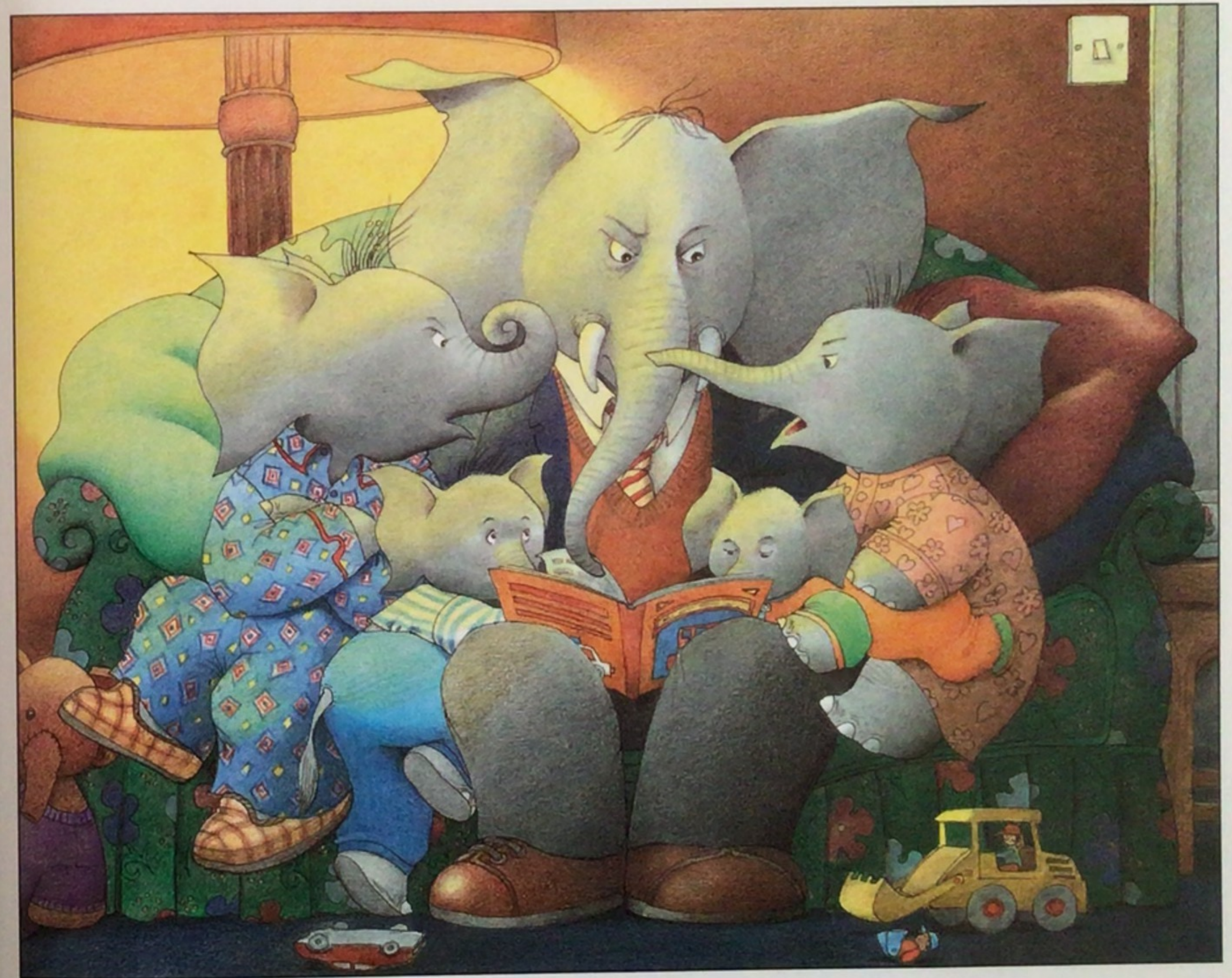
“Just one, then.”

Lester chose a book and they all cuddled up on the sofa.



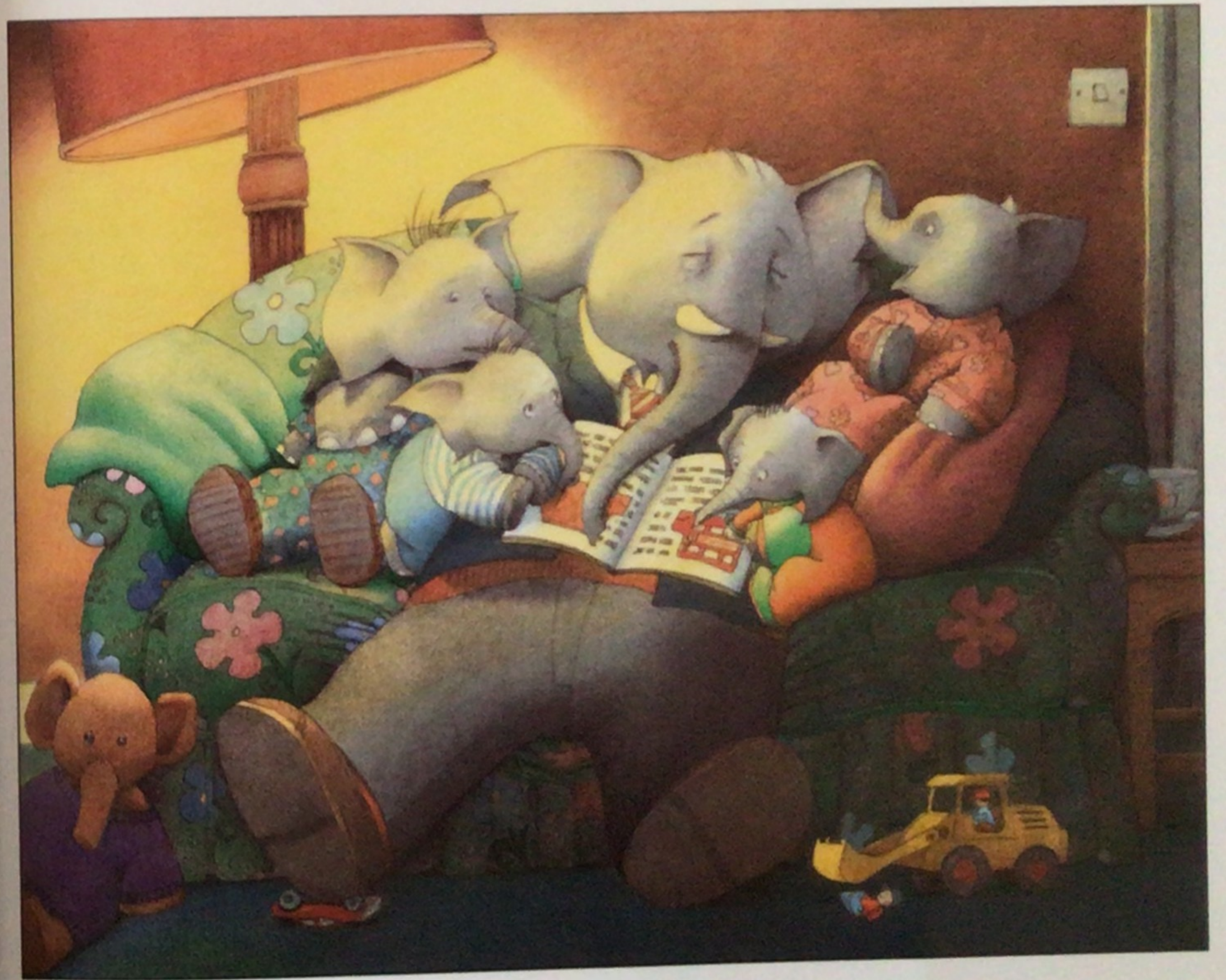


Mr Large opened the book and began to read:
“One day Binky Bus drove out of the big garage.
‘Hello!’ he called to his friend, Micky Milkfloat –”
“I don’t like that one,” said Laura. “It’s a boy’s story.”
“Look,” said Mr Large, “if you’re going to argue about it,
you can all go straight to bed without *any* story.”
So they sat and listened while Mr Large read to them.





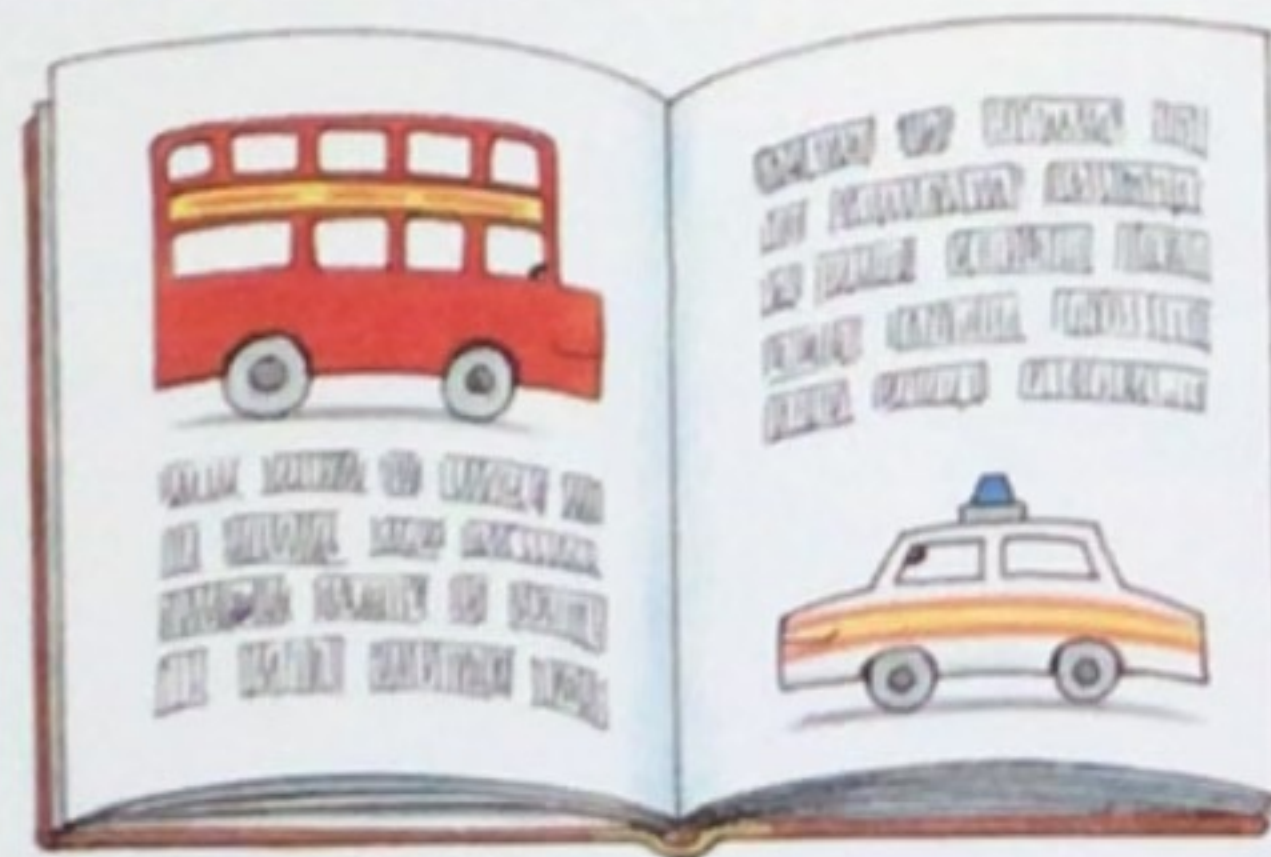
After a while he stopped.
“Go on, Daddy,” said Luke.
“What happened after he
bumped into Danny Dustcart?”
“Did they have a fight?” asked Lester.
“Look,” said Laura. “Daddy’s asleep.”
“Shhhh!” said the baby.



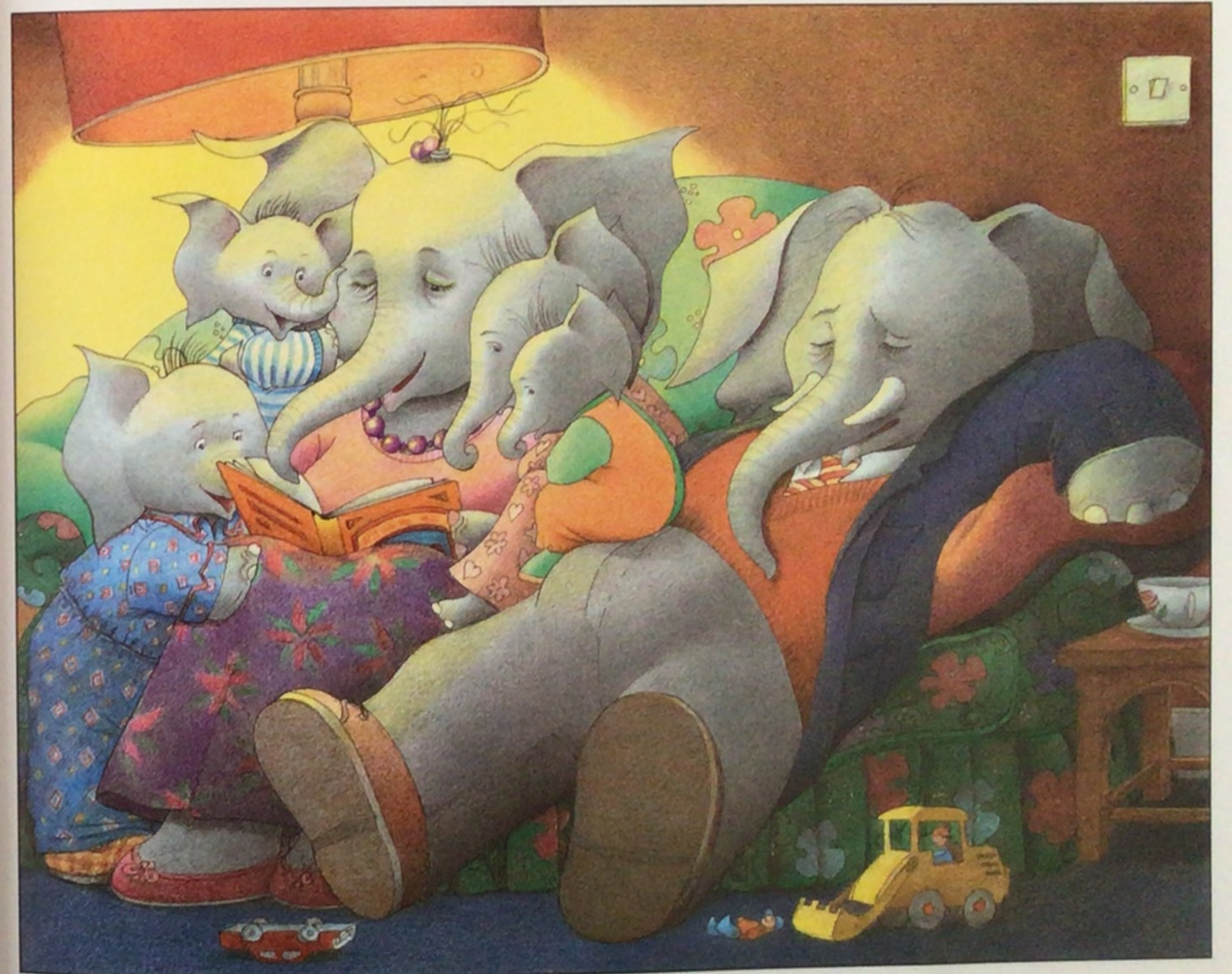


Mrs Large laughed. "Poor Daddy," she said.
"Never mind, we'll let him snooze a bit longer
while I take you all up to bed."
"Will you just finish the story, Mum?" asked Lester.
"We don't know what happens in the end," said Luke.
"Please," said Laura.
"Story!" said the baby.

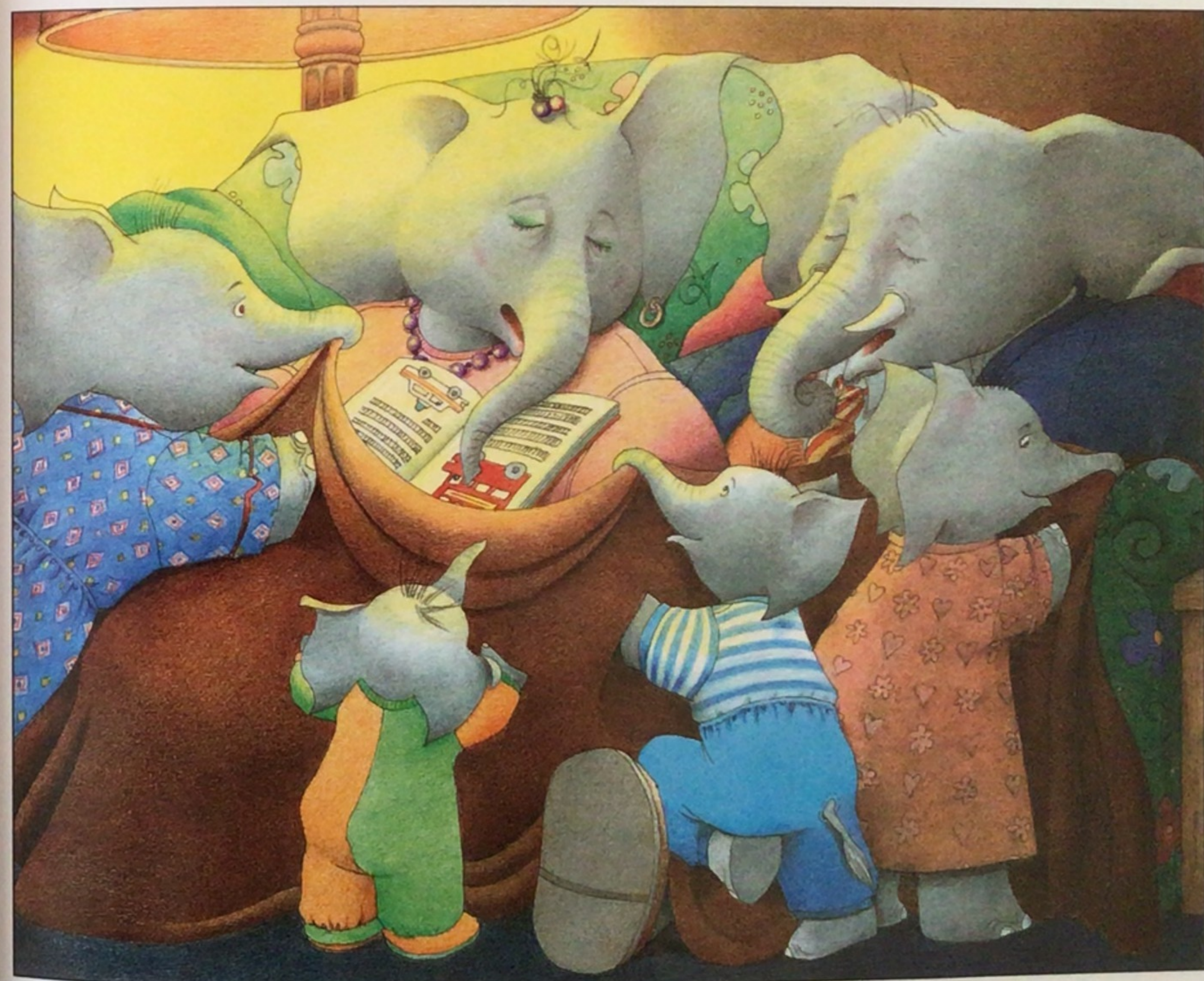




“Move up, then,” said Mrs Large. She picked up the book and began to read: ““Watch where you’re going, you silly Dustcart!” said Binky. Just then, Pip the Police Car came driving by...”



After a while, Mrs Large stopped reading.
“What’s that strange noise?” asked Lester.
“It’s Mummy snoring,” said Luke. “Daddy’s snoring too.”
“They must be very tired,” said Laura, kindly.
“Shhhh!” said the baby.
The children crept from the sofa and fetched a blanket.
They covered Mr and Mrs Large and tucked them in.





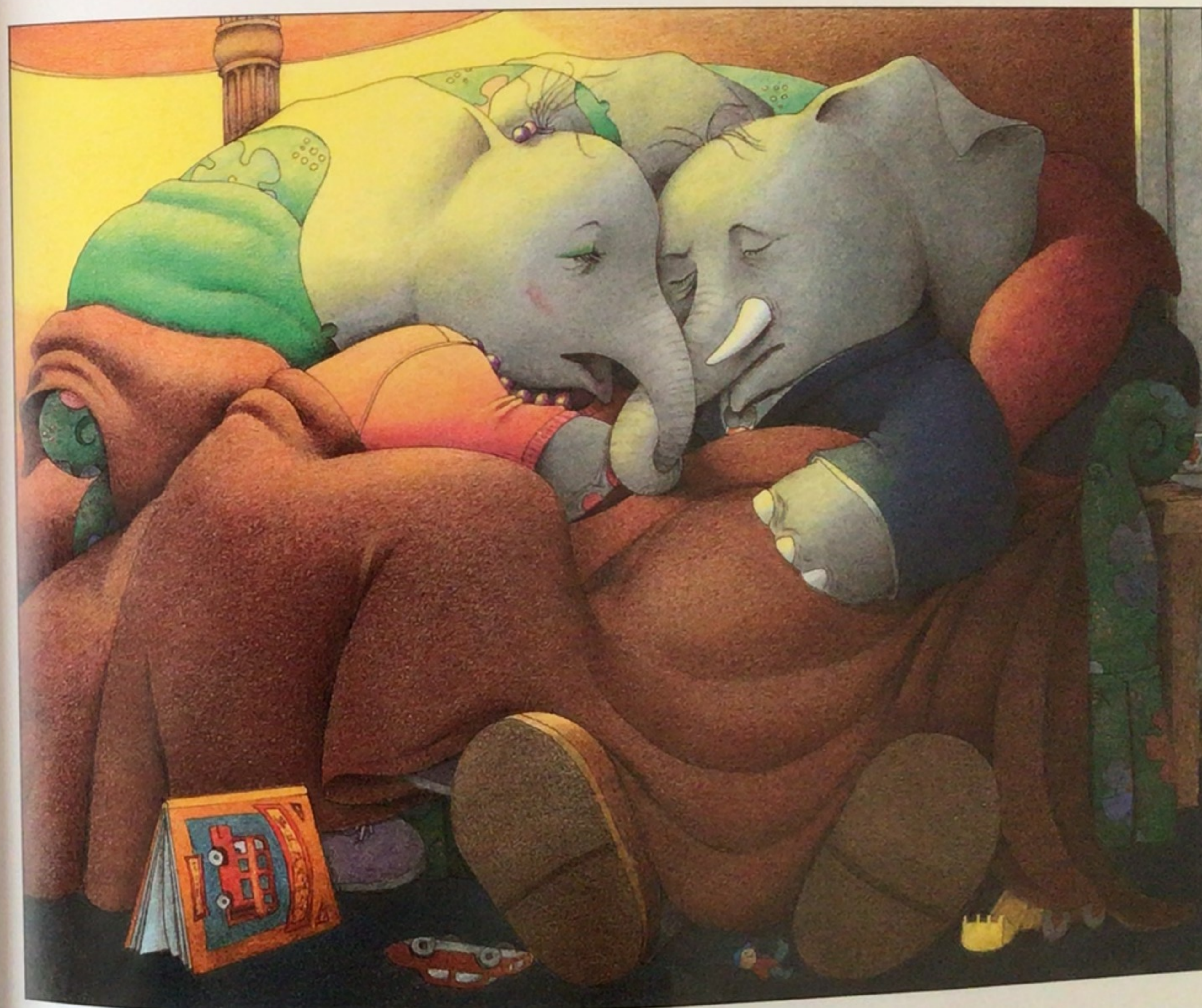
“We’d better put ourselves to bed,”
said Lester. “Come on.”

“Shall we take the food up with us?”
asked Luke. “It *is* on trays.”

“It’s a pity to waste it,” said Laura.

“I’m sure they wouldn’t mind. Anyway,
they wanted a quiet night in.”

“Shhhh!” said the baby.



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It's Mr Large's birthday
and Mrs Large is
planning a quiet night
in – without any
children. But in the
Large household things
never go as planned.

“Jill Murphy deserves a
constellation of gold
stars for consistently
writing picture books
that please children and
enrapture parents.”
THE OBSERVER

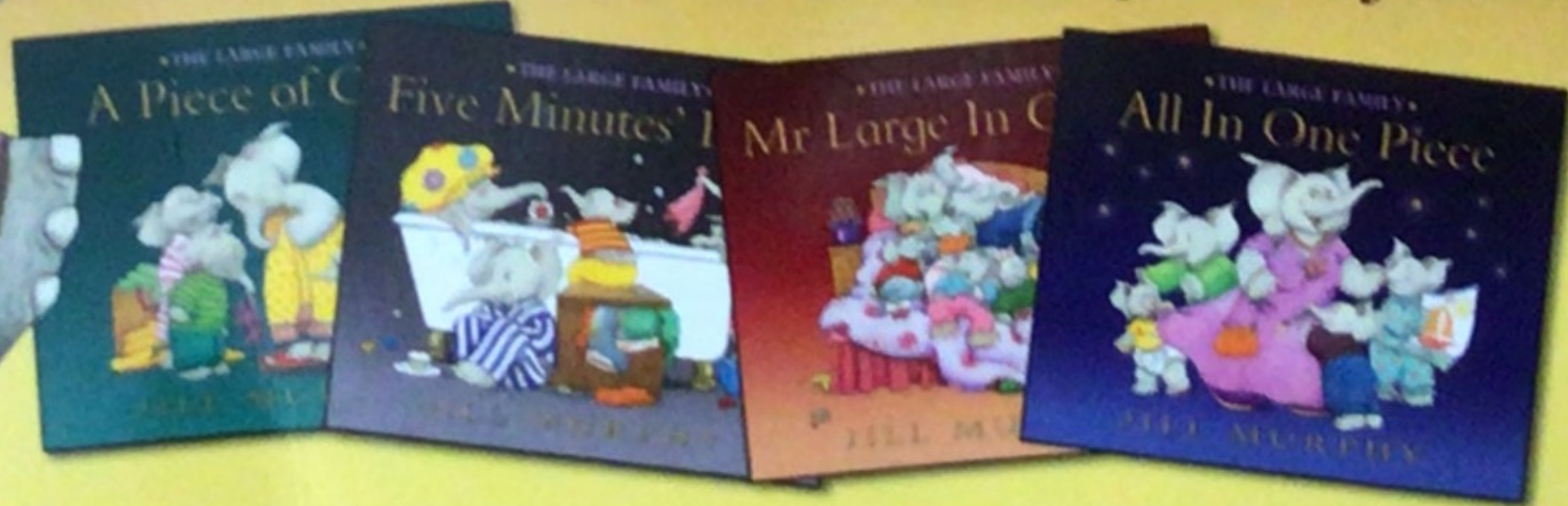
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“Family life is
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“If you are not
familiar with these
stories, you really
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get better.”
THE GUARDIAN



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