

ELMER

and the Wind



David McKee



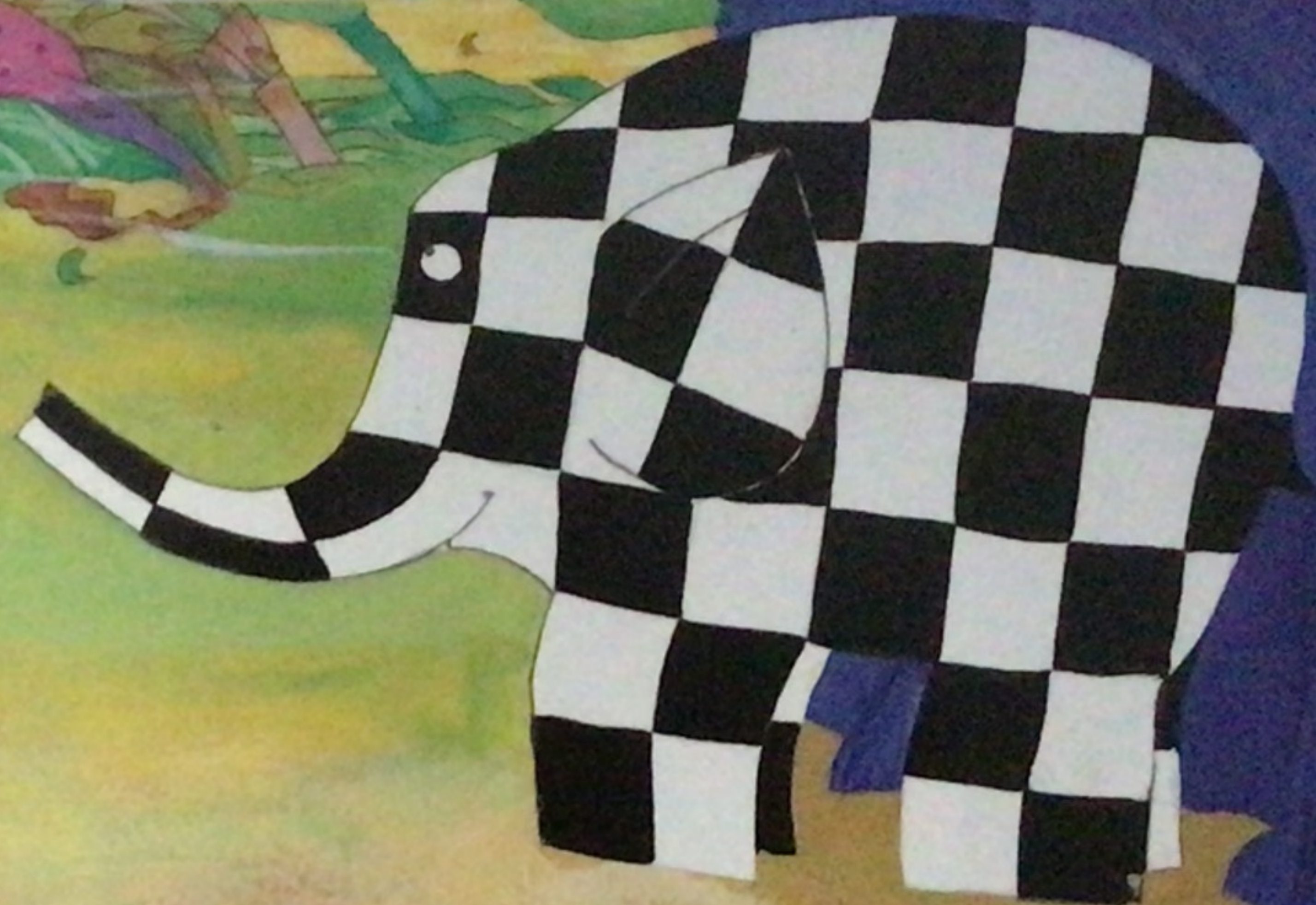
It was a very, very windy day. Elmer, the patchwork elephant, was sheltering in a cove with his elephant friends, some birds and cousin Wilbur, who was playing tricks with his voice. The elephants laughed when Wilbur made his voice come from a hole at the back of the cave.





"It's not a good day for flying," said a bird.
"It's a good day to be a heavy elephant," chuckled Elmer.
"An elephant can't be blown away."
"I bet even you are afraid to go out in this wind, Elmer,"
said the bird.
"Afraid?" said Elmer. "Watch this then. Come on, Wilbur."
"Come back, don't be silly," called the elephants.
But Elmer and Wilbur had already gone out into the wind.





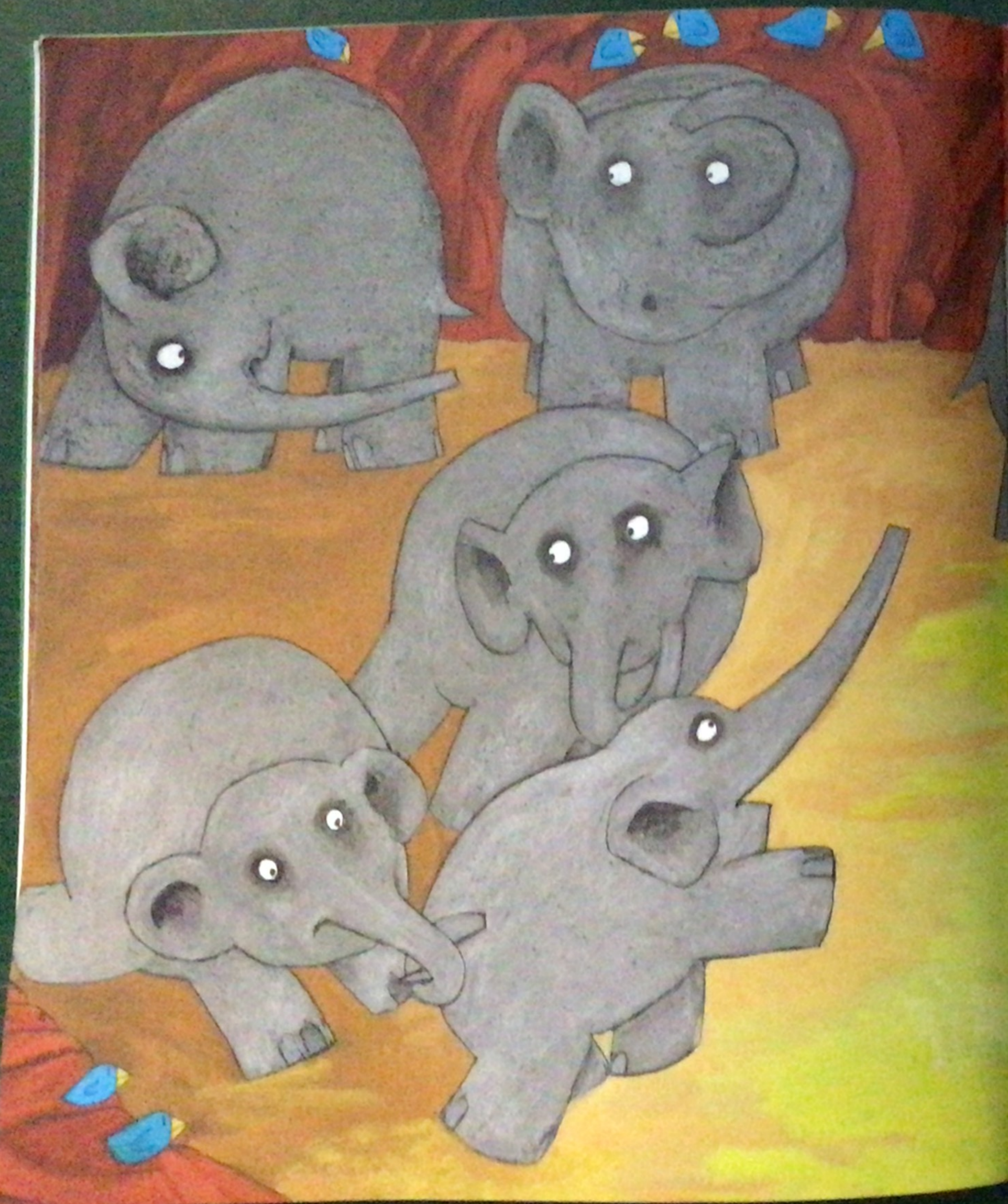
"I get it," said Wilbur. His voice came from the distance, sounding like Elmer, "It's hard to move in this wind." Then, like himself, "Careful, Elmer, hold on."

The elephants heard the voices and started to worry.
Wilbur called, "Hold on to something, Elmer. Look out!"



"HELP!" came Elmer's voice. "HELP! I'm flying."
Wilbur called, "ELMER! COME BACK! ELMER!
OH, HELP! HELP!"



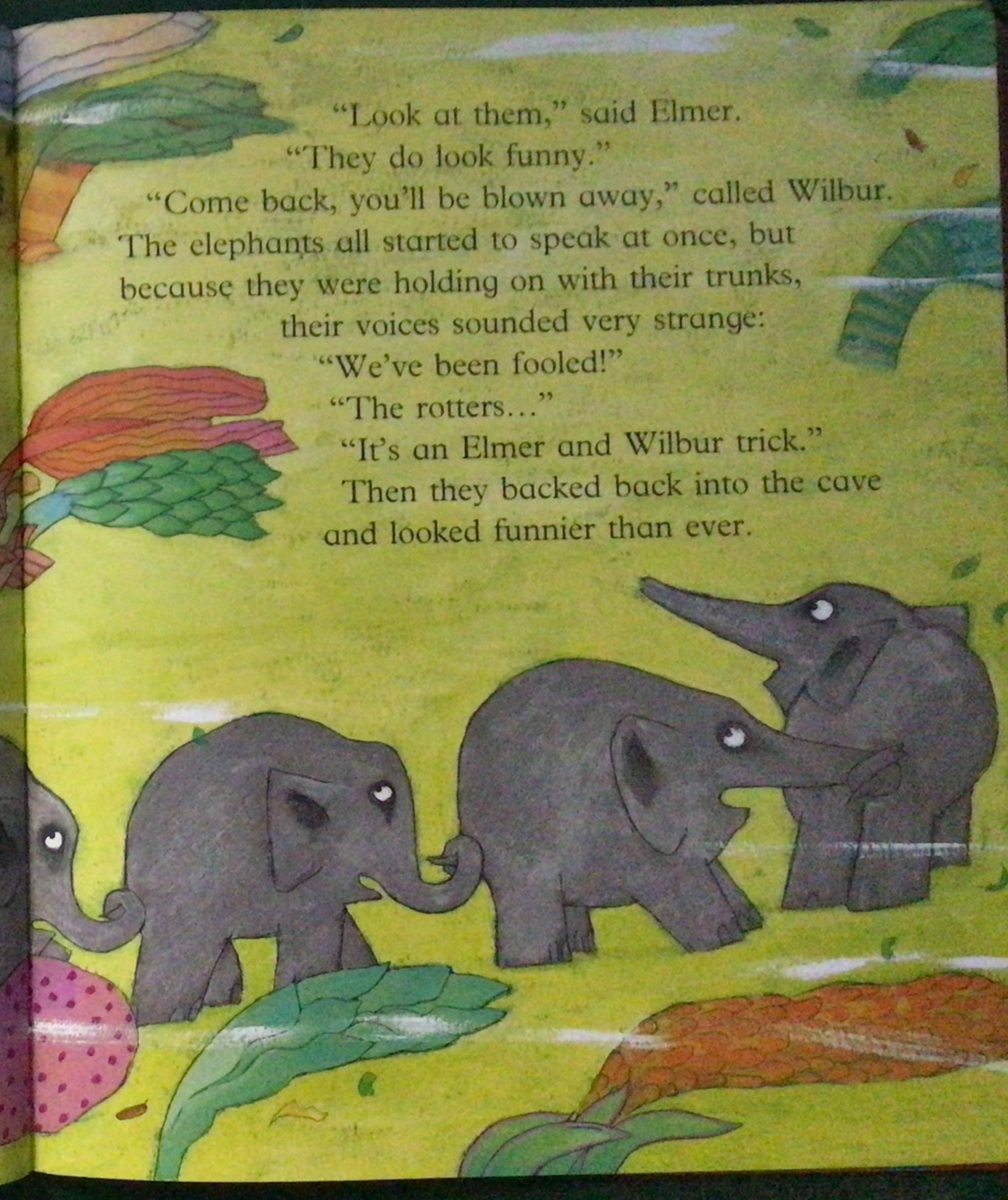
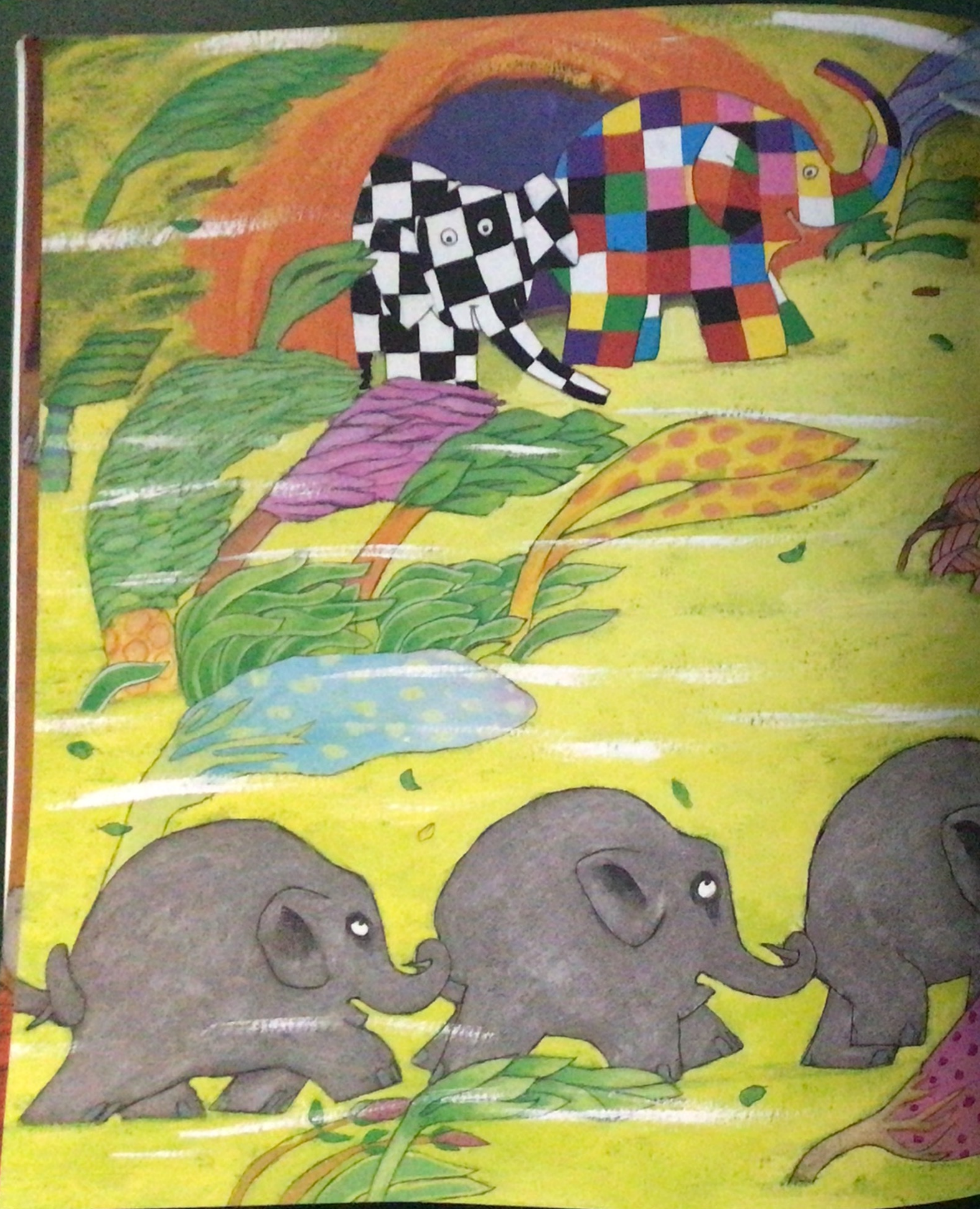


"Elmer's being blown away, we must help," said an elephant.

"If you go out you'll be blown away too," said a bird.

"Form a chain, trunks holding tails," said another elephant.

They crept out of the cave, each elephant holding the tail of the elephant in front.



"Look at them," said Elmer.

"They do look funny."

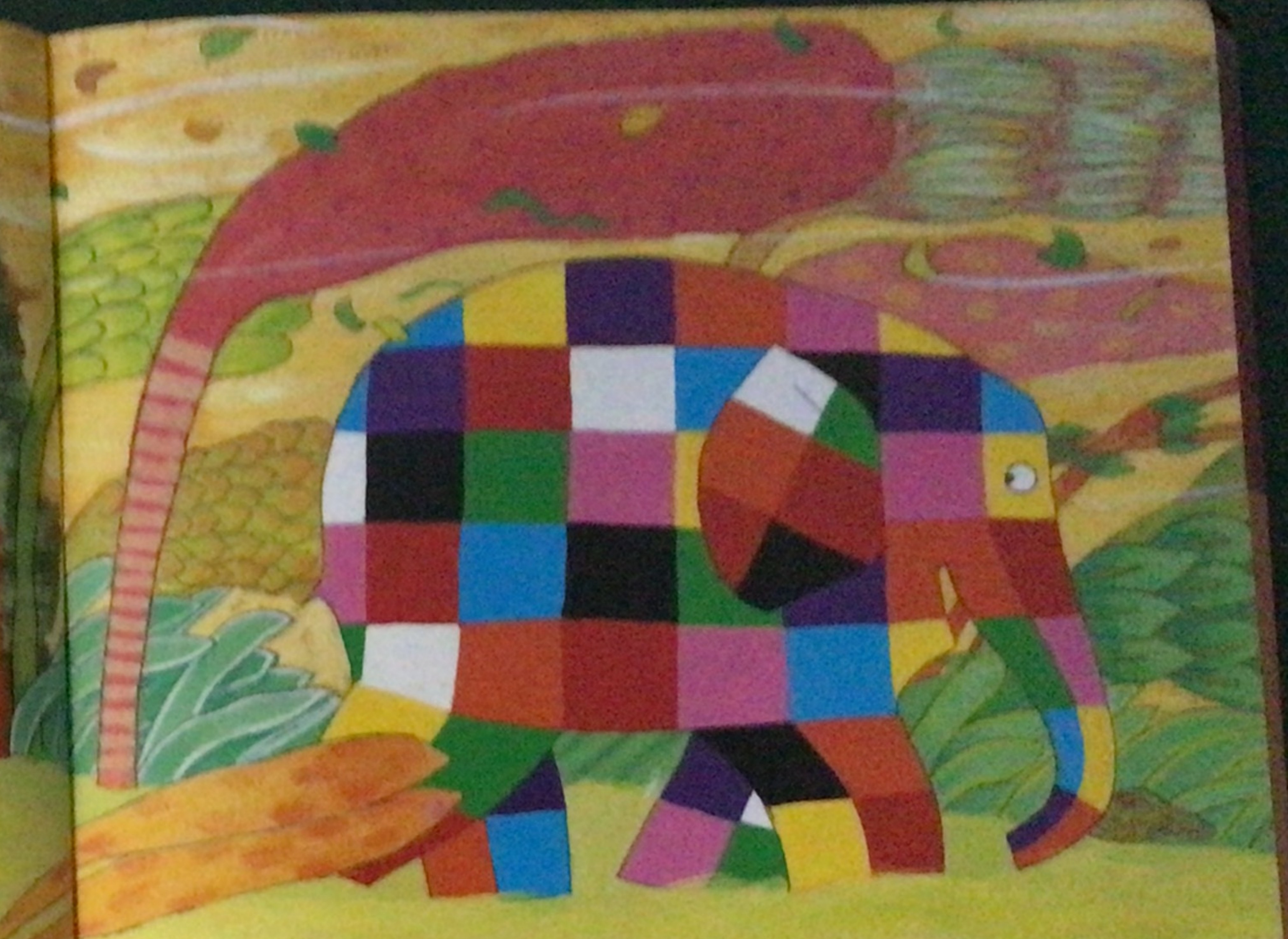
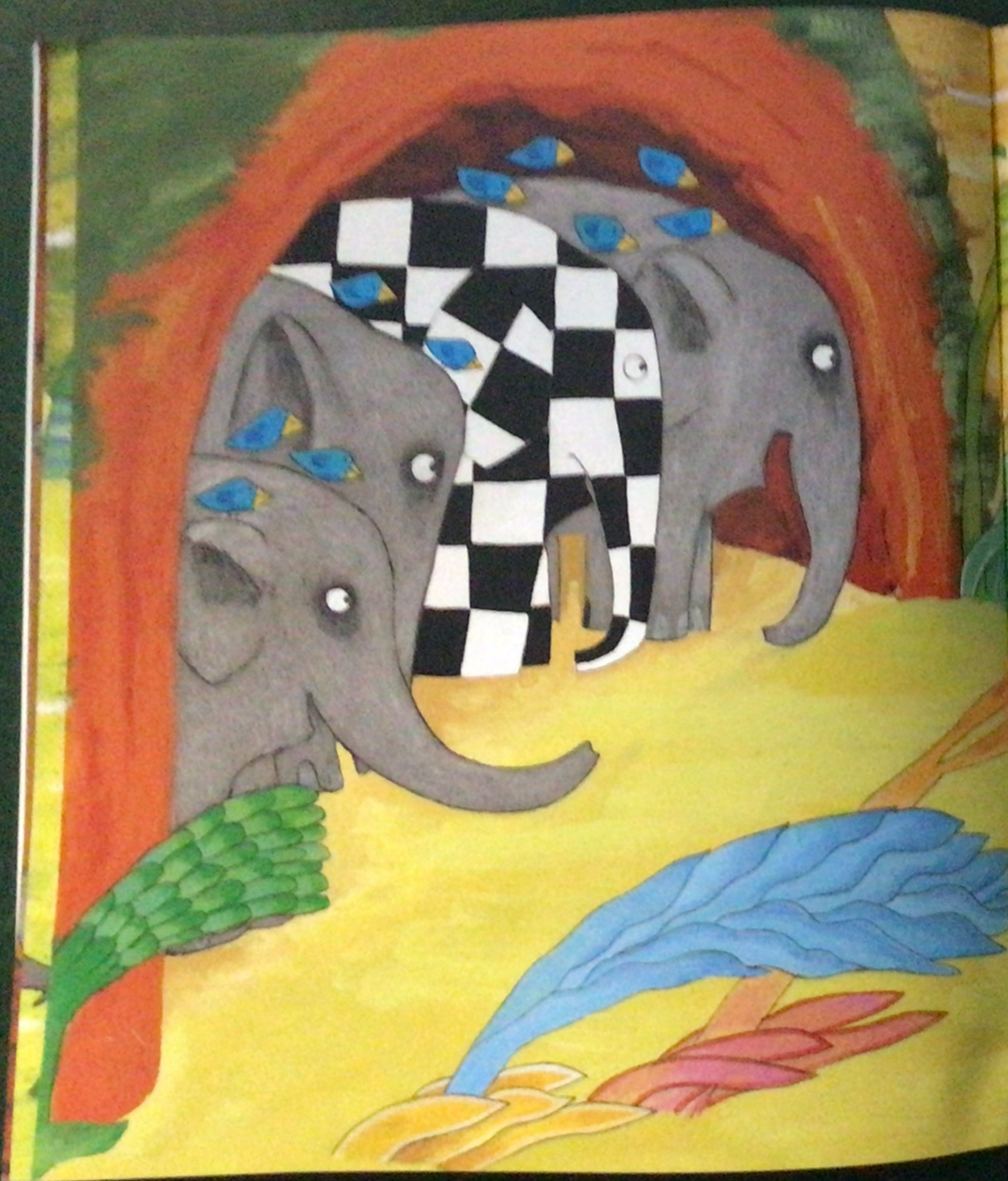
"Come back, you'll be blown away," called Wilbur.
The elephants all started to speak at once, but
because they were holding on with their trunks,
their voices sounded very strange:

"We've been fooled!"

"The rotters..."

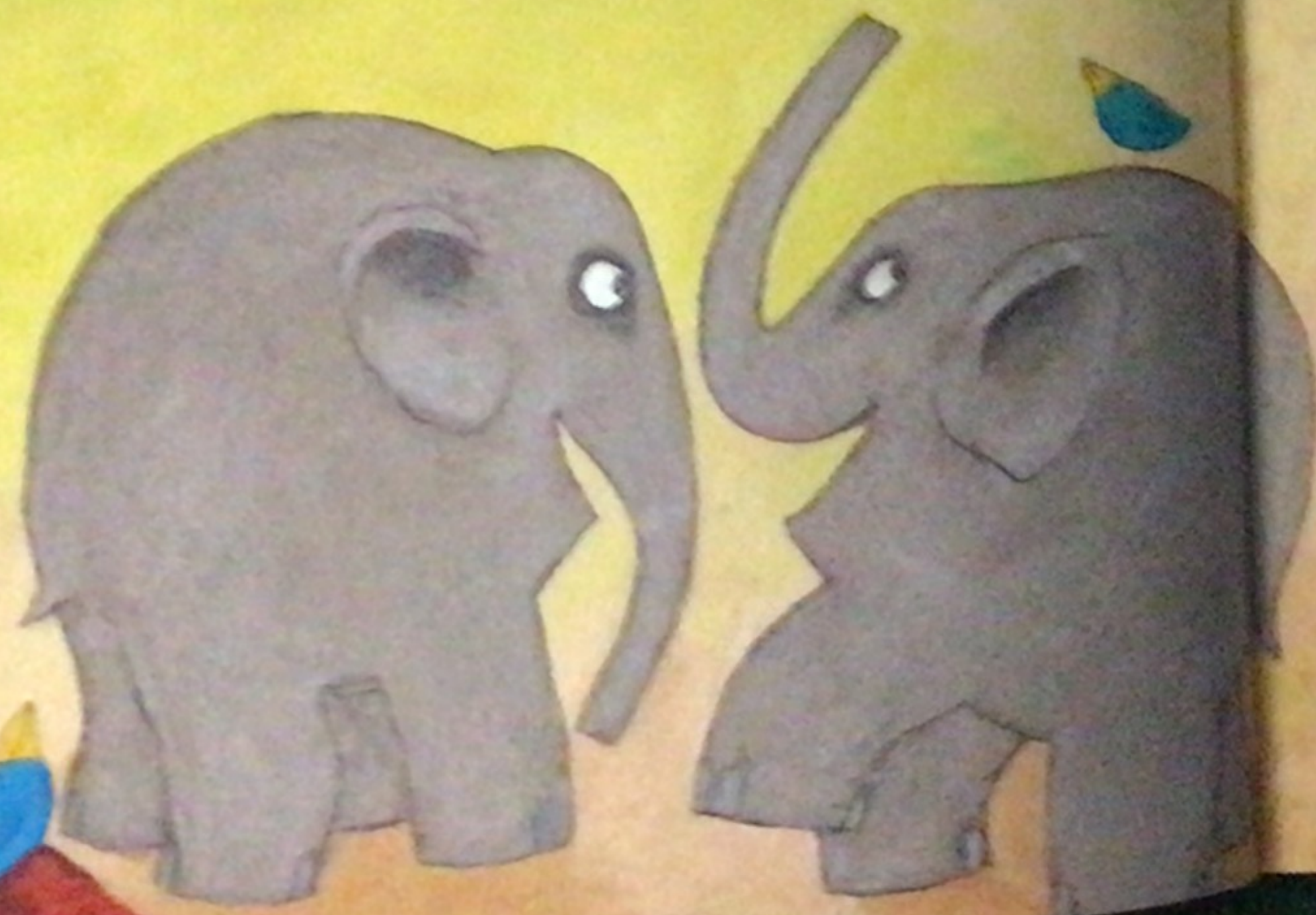
"It's an Elmer and Wilbur trick."

Then they backed back into the cave
and looked funnier than ever.



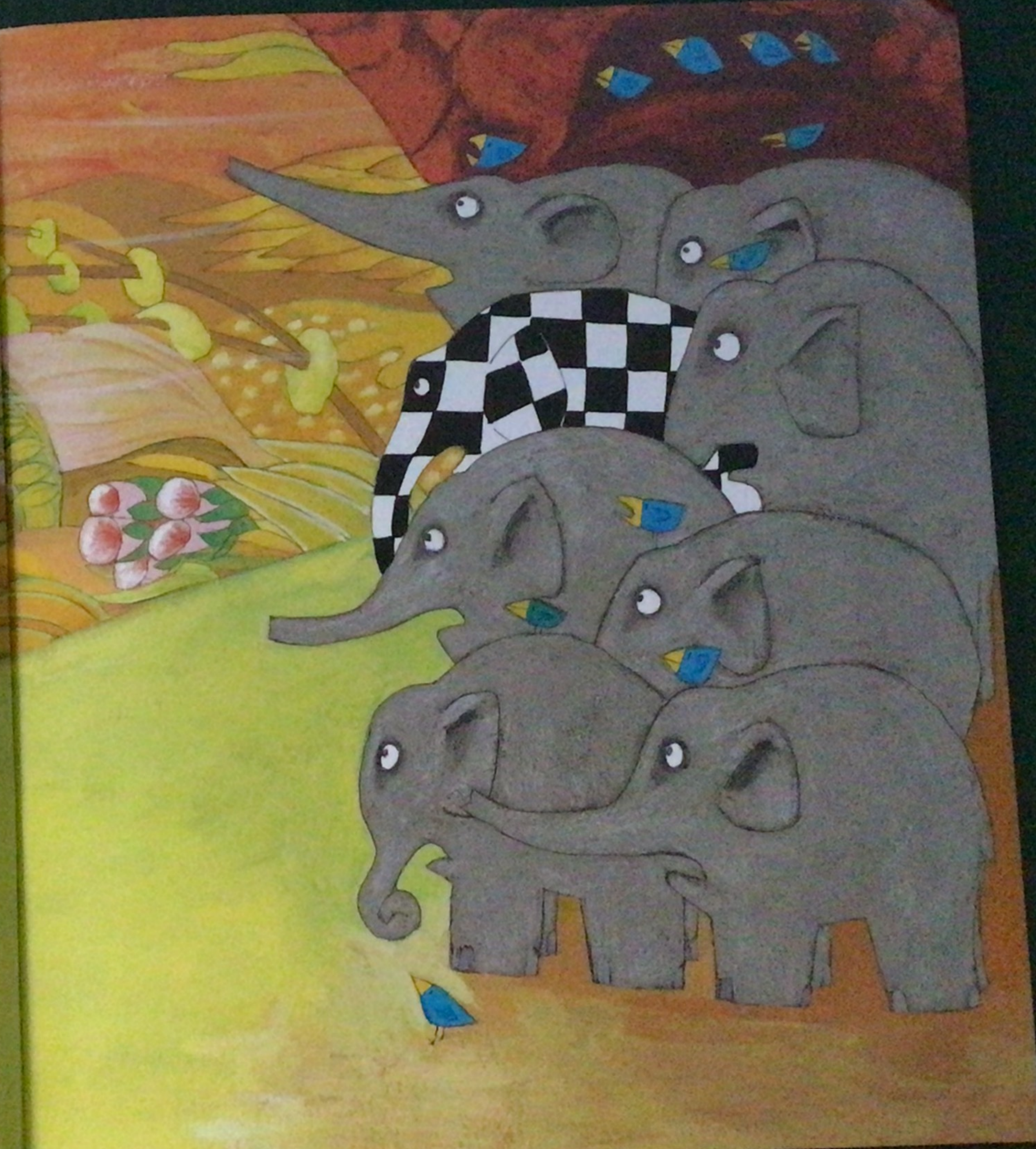
When they were safely back in the cave, Elmer and Wilbur returned as well. The elephants enjoyed the joke but a bird said, "That was very silly, Elmer." "But really, Bird," said Elmer, "an elephant can't be blown away. I'll walk to those trees and back to prove it." "Another trick," said an elephant, as Elmer walked away.

They watched as Elmer disappeared behind some trees. Then they heard Elmer's voice calling, "Help! I can't keep on the ground."
The elephants laughed, "Very funny, Wilbur."
The voice came again, "HELP! I'M FLYING!"
The elephants laughed louder than ever.
"It's not me this time," said Wilbur.

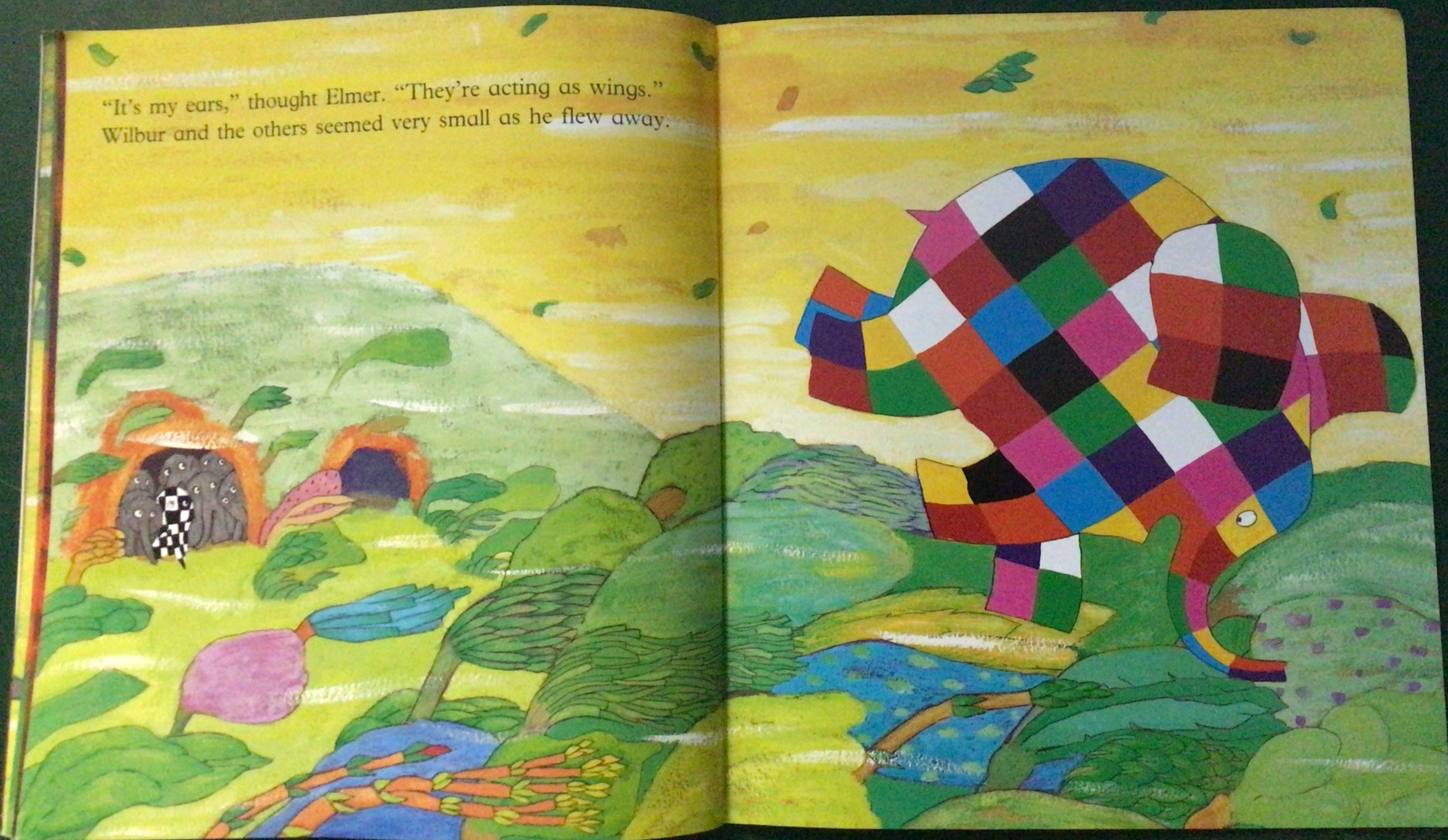




“Look!” said a bird. “It isn’t Wilbur.”
The elephants stared: there was Elmer above the trees.
“What’s he doing up there?” gasped an elephant.
“It’s called flying,” said a bird.
“Poor Elmer,” said an elephant.

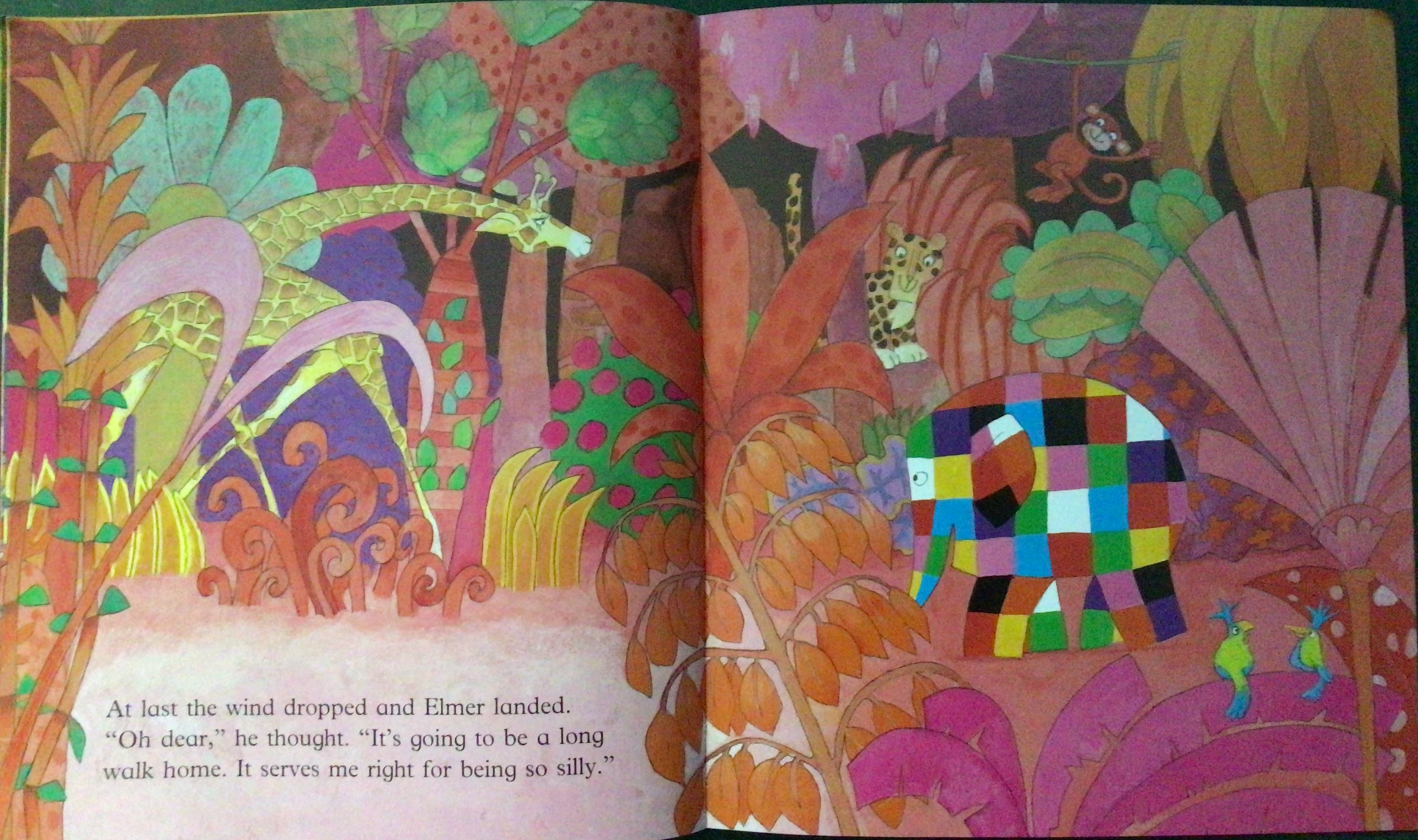


"It's my ears," thought Elmer. "They're acting as wings."
Wilbur and the others seemed very small as he flew away.



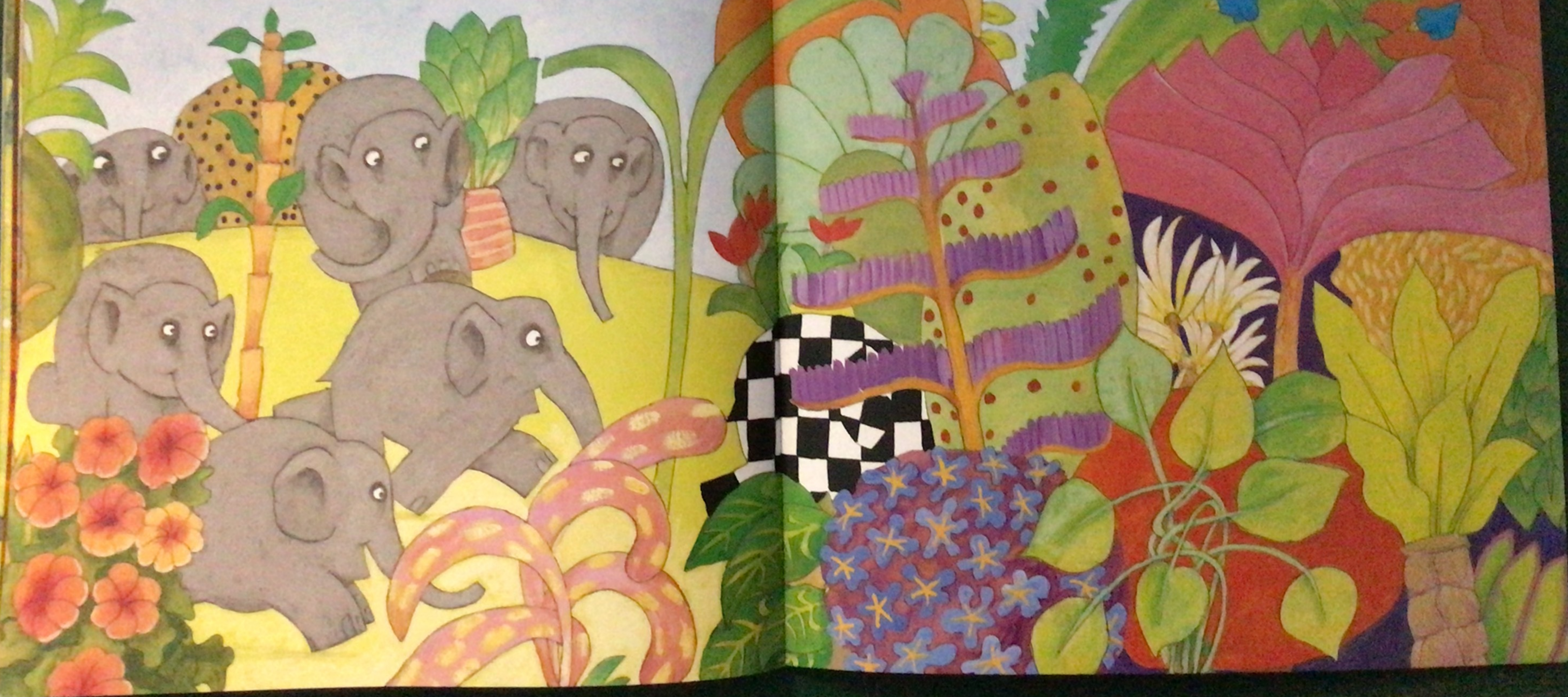
"This is really quite fun," thought Elmer after a while.
He could see the other animals sheltering from the
wind. They stared to see an elephant fly by.
"It's Elmer," said a lion. "I expect he's up to another
of his tricks."

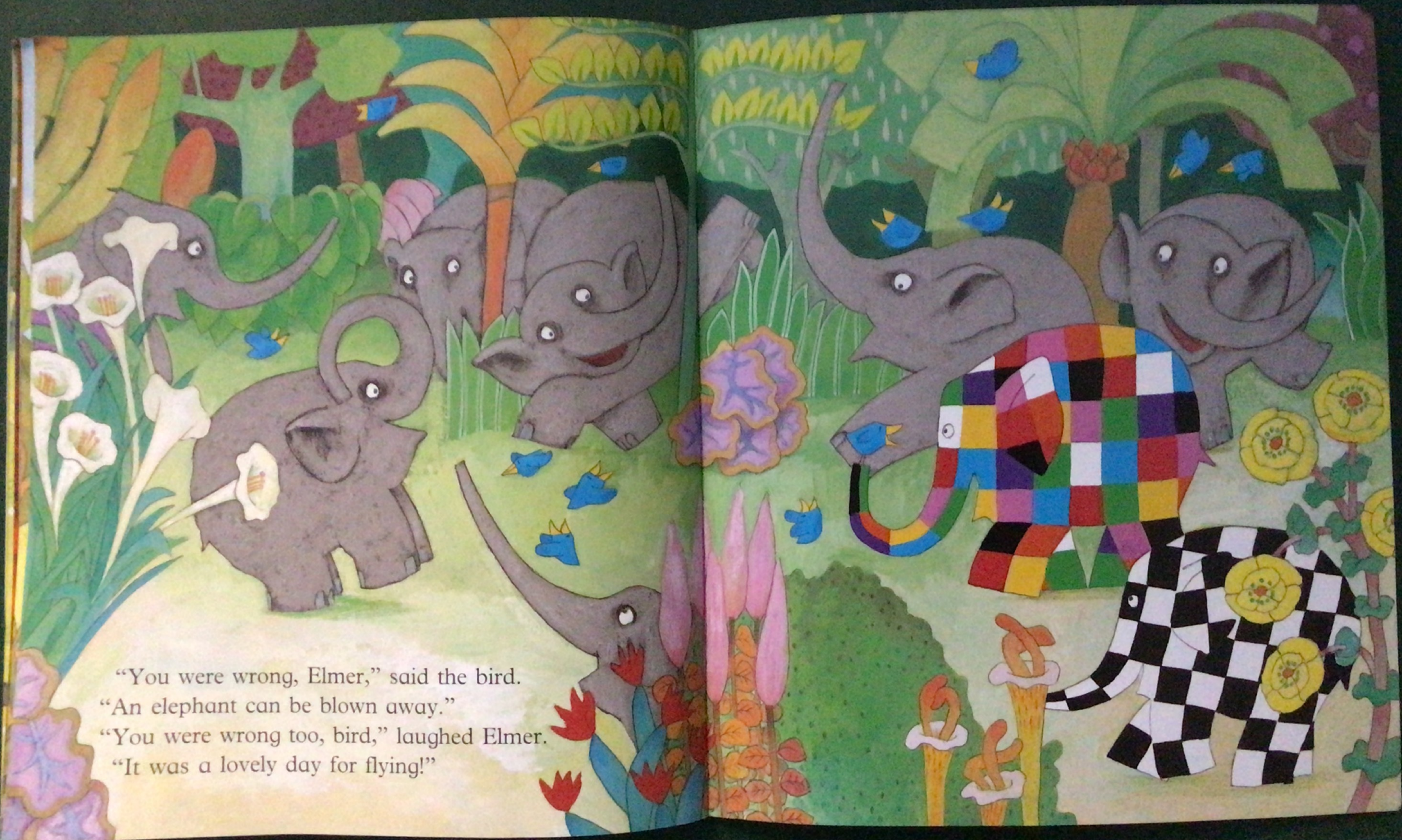




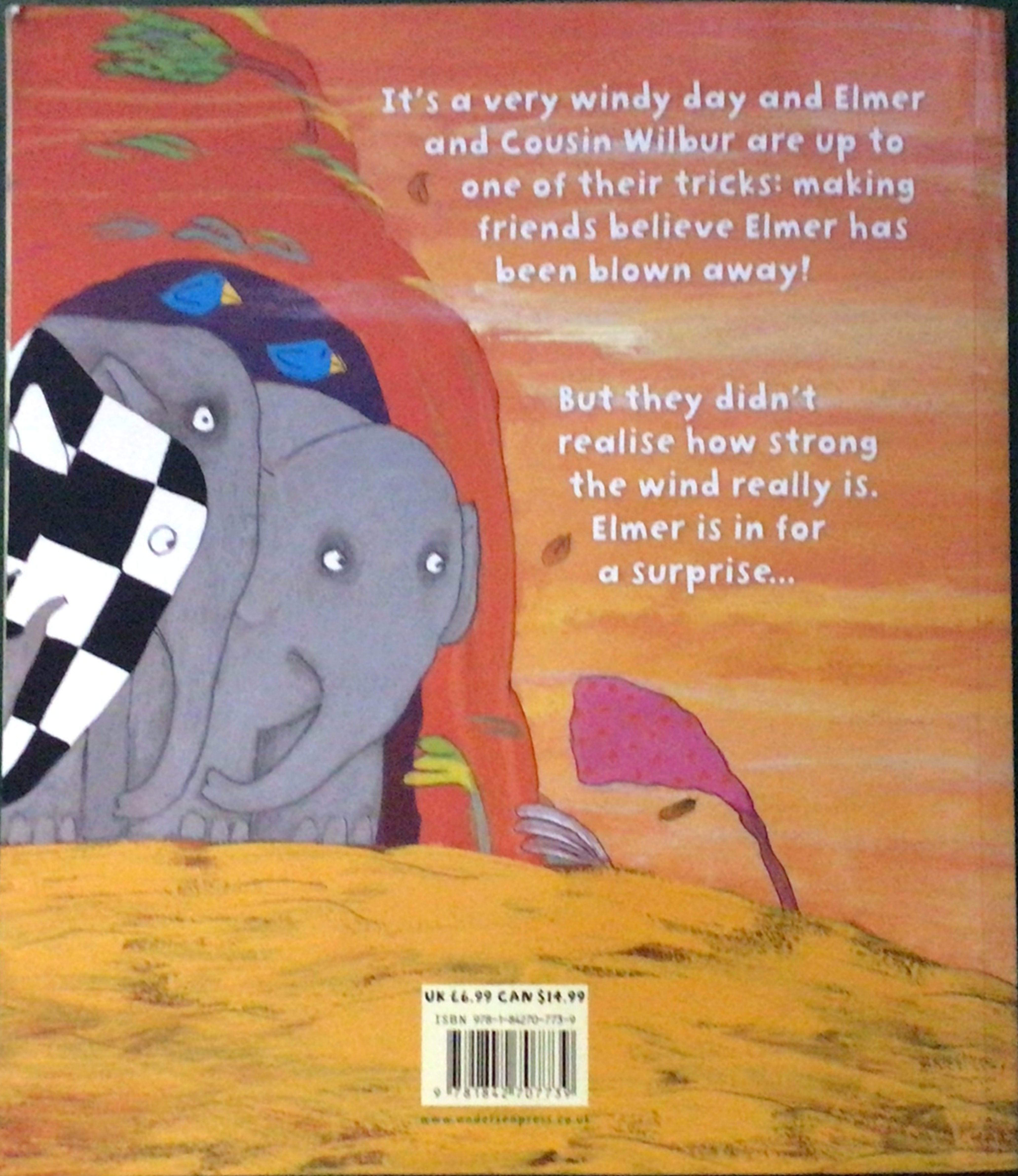
At last the wind dropped and Elmer landed.
"Oh dear," he thought. "It's going to be a long
walk home. It serves me right for being so silly."

When the wind stopped, the birds flew off to find Elmer and help guide him home. When at last the elephants saw the birds flying above the trees, they knew that Elmer was near. They rushed to meet him to hear about his adventure.





“You were wrong, Elmer,” said the bird.
“An elephant can be blown away.”
“You were wrong too, bird,” laughed Elmer.
“It was a lovely day for flying!”



It's a very windy day and Elmer and Cousin Wilbur are up to one of their tricks: making friends believe Elmer has been blown away!

But they didn't realise how strong the wind really is. Elmer is in for a surprise...

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