

## What's this story about?

We need a lot of patience right now. Lockdown, contradicting news, extensive changes. We're asking ourselves, just like the little elephant is inquiring from his dad: „Will we be there soon?“

## For children age 3 and up

### What (and WHO) is HopeLit?

HopeLit is a voluntary union of creatives, mostly from the book trade. HopeLit wants to pay it forward through creative content and books for children and grownups. We want to be a ray of hope in a currently chaotic world. HopeLit wants to show how a common goal can unite us across industry boundaries and competition. „There is life after COVID and that's what we are working towards. Together. Insieme. Ensemble. Samen. Birlikte ...“

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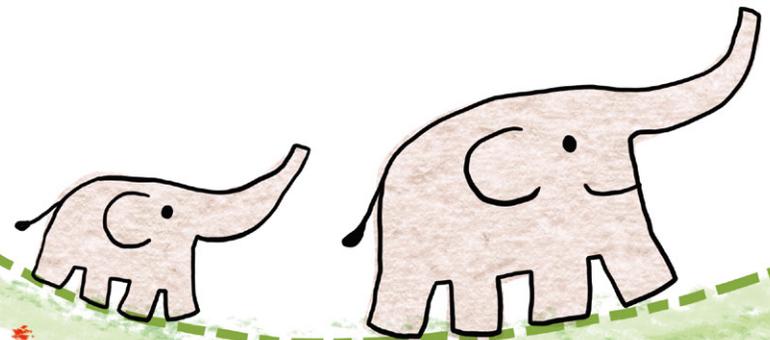
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# Daddy Elephant

Will we be there soon,  
Daddy Elephant?

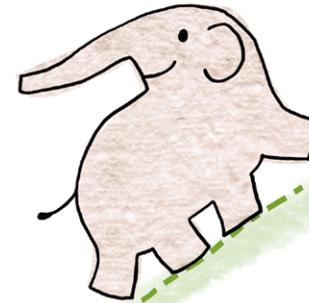
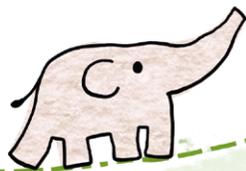


illustrated by Ann Cathrin Raab

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# Daddy Elephant

„Will we be there soon, Daddy Elephant?“  
asked the little elephant the big elephant.

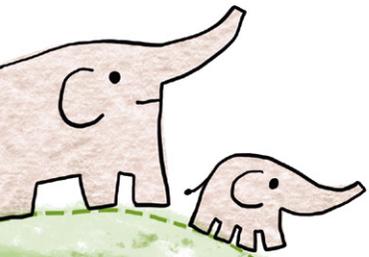


„Not yet, unfortunately.  
We still have to cross this hill,“ replied the big elephant.  
So they trudged over this hill.

„So. Now we've trudged over this hill. Will we be there soon, Daddy Elephant?" Asked the little elephant.

„Not yet, unfortunately. We still have to cross this river,"replied the big elephant.

So they swam across this river.

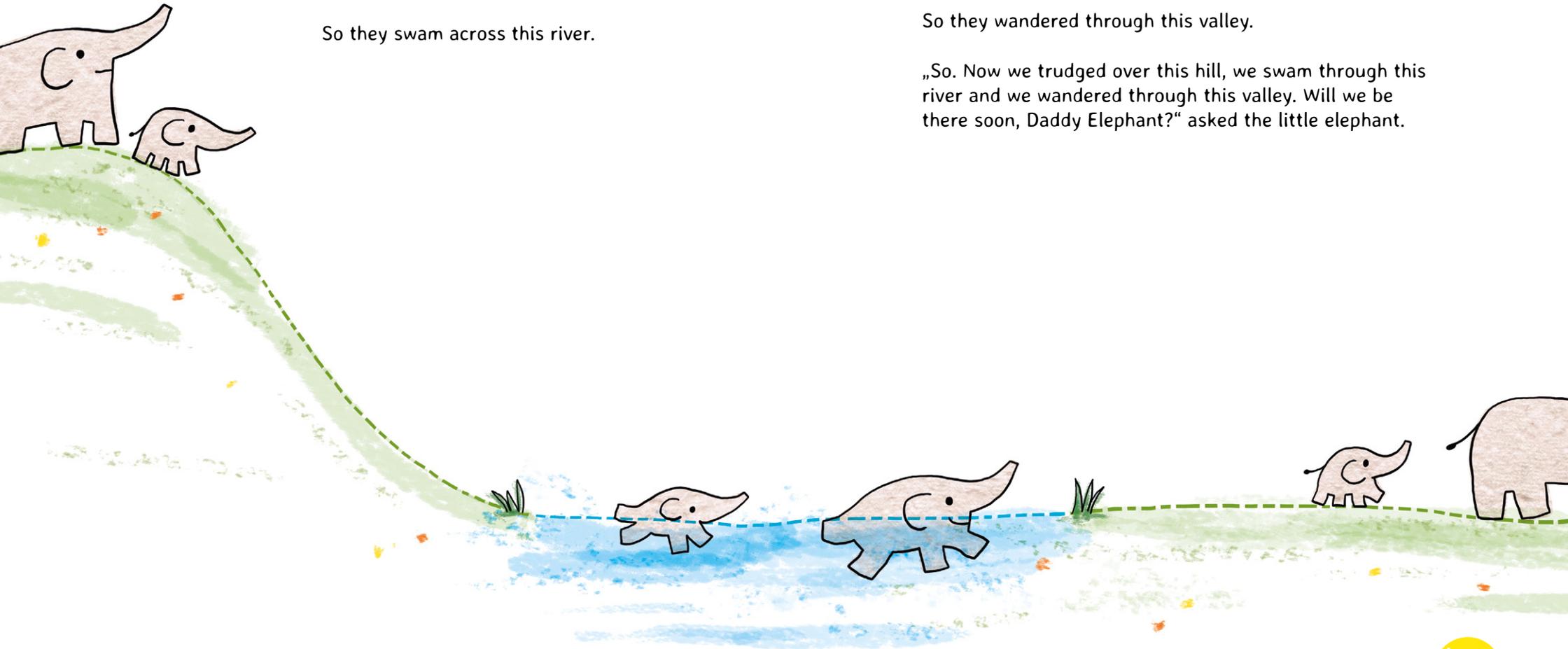


„So. Now we've trudged over this hill and we swam across this river. Will we be there soon, Daddy Elephant?" asked the little elephant wearily.

„Not yet, unfortunately. We still have to walk through this valley," replied the big elephant.

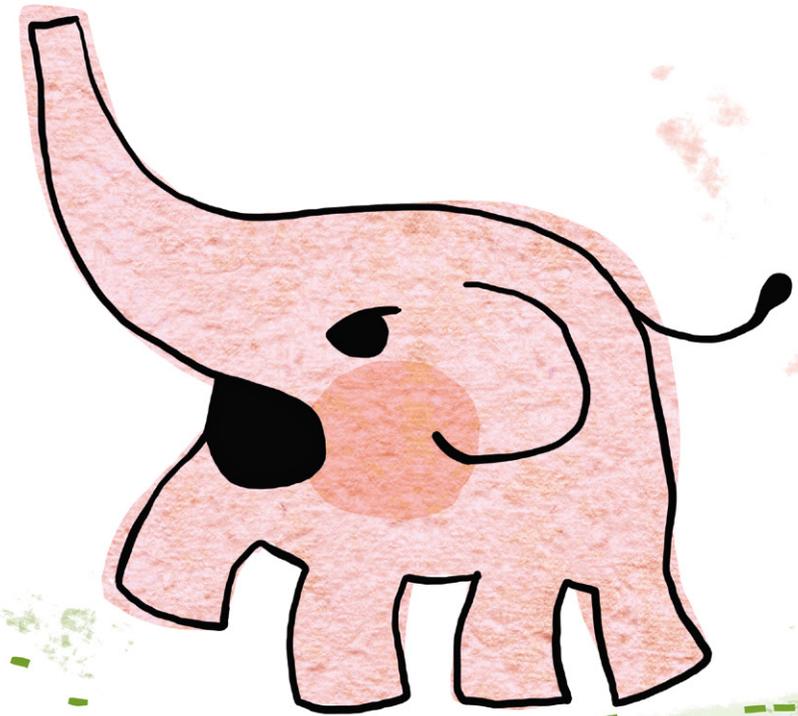
So they wandered through this valley.

„So. Now we trudged over this hill, we swam through this river and we wandered through this valley. Will we be there soon, Daddy Elephant?" asked the little elephant.



„Unfortunately not yet,“ the big elephant started and was about to continue speaking when he watched the little elephant suddenly turn red in the face, puff up his cheeks, ram his feet firmly into the ground and then start scolding very loudly:

„That’s the last straw!  
I don’t want to keep walking!  
You keep saying we still have to do  
this and we still have to do that!  
I want to be there.  
I want to be there now!“

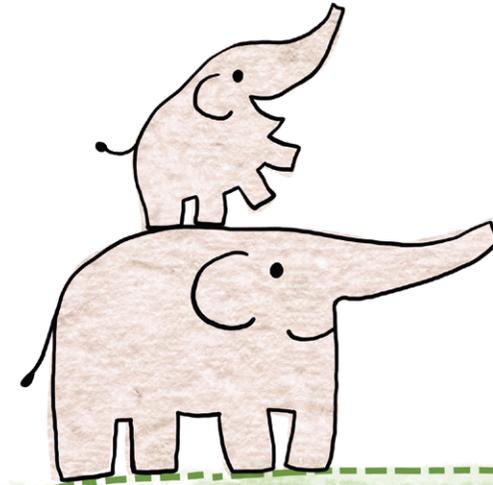


„I understand, little elephant,” said the big elephant.  
„Unfortunately we aren't quite there yet.

But look over there, you see the palm trees?  
And the sea?”

The little elephant stood up on his hind legs.  
Still, he couldn't see anything. So the big elephant lifted  
the little elephant on his back. Now the little elephant  
could see much better.

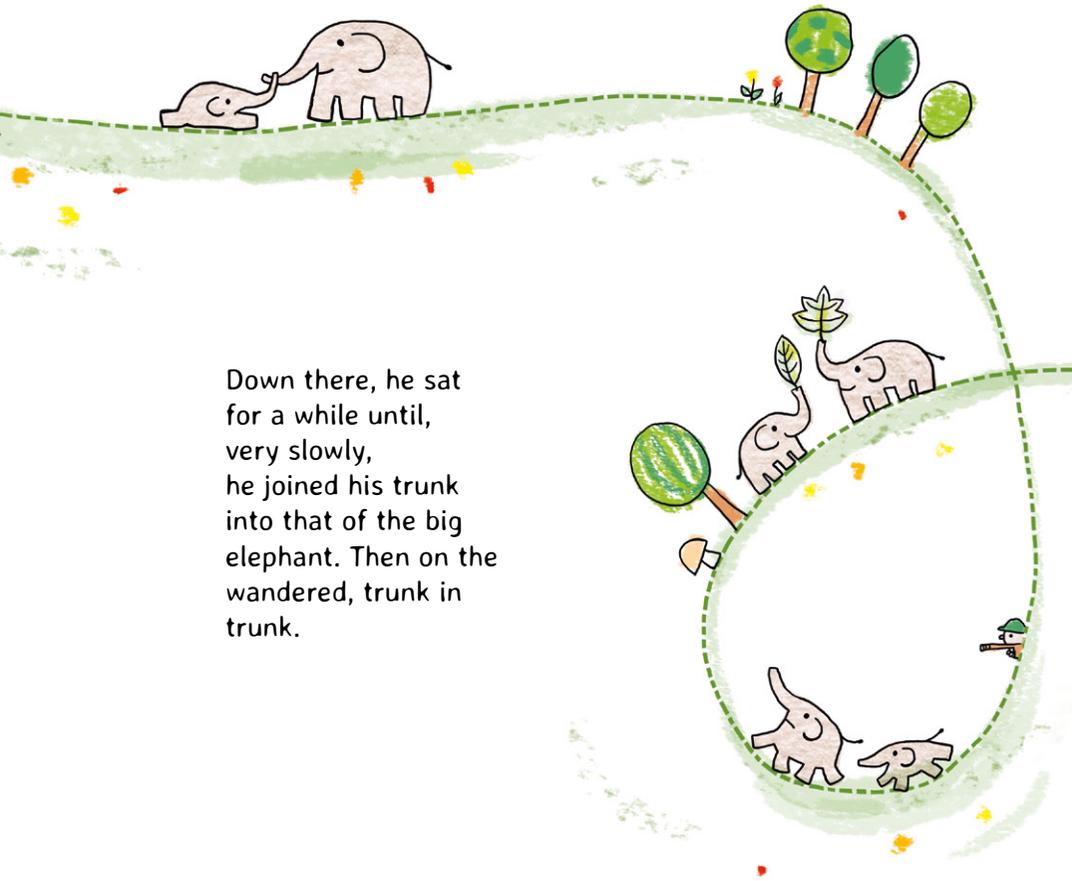
„I can see it! There are ships on the sea!  
And there are children in the water! ”  
cried the little elephant excitedly.



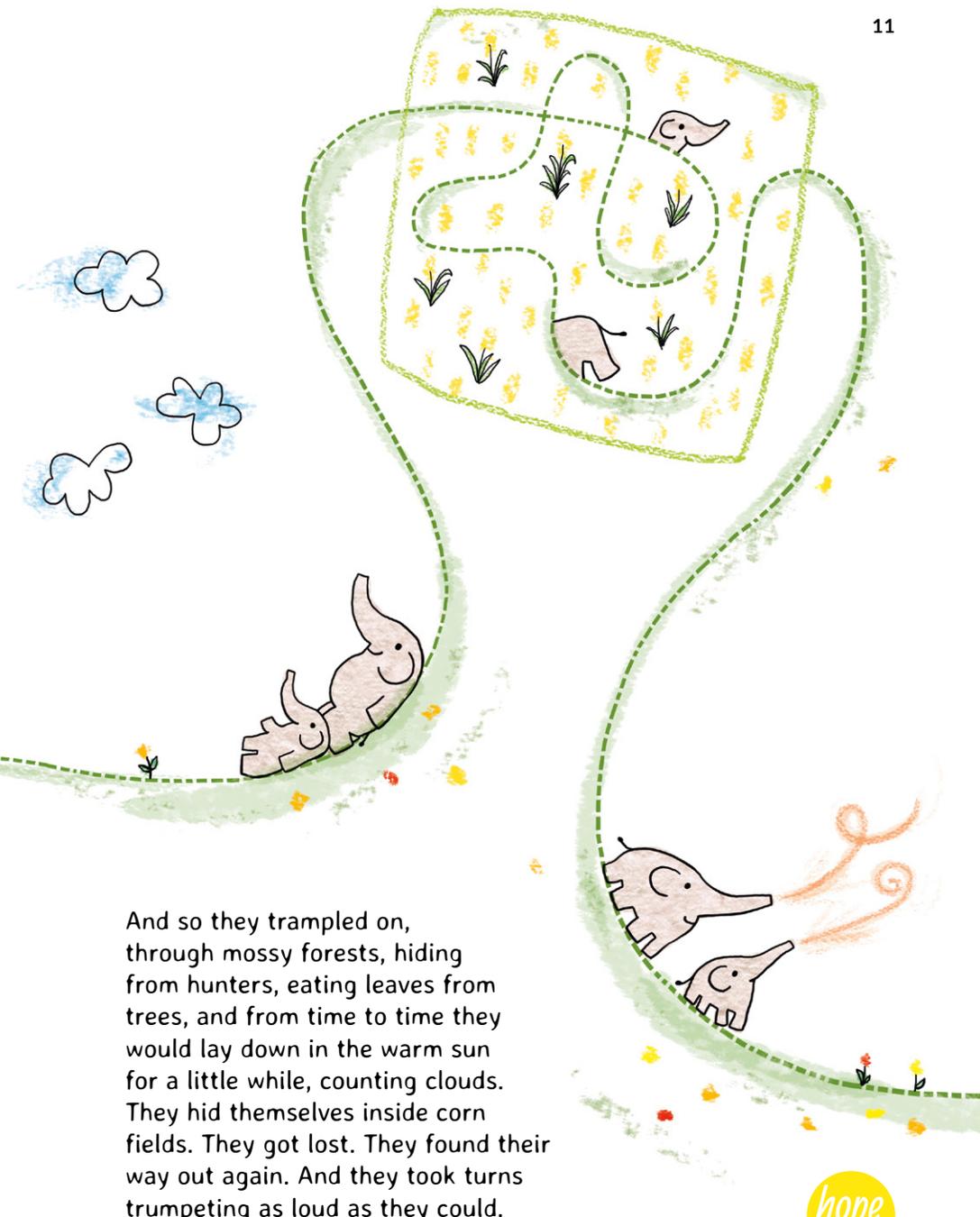
The little elephant stretched its trunk as high as it  
would reach, sniffing the clear air. „I can smell the sea  
from here. Are we almost there yet, Daddy Elephant?”  
asked the little elephant.

„Not quite yet, unfortunately,“ replied the big elephant.

The little elephant hung his ears and slipped off the big elephant's back to the ground.



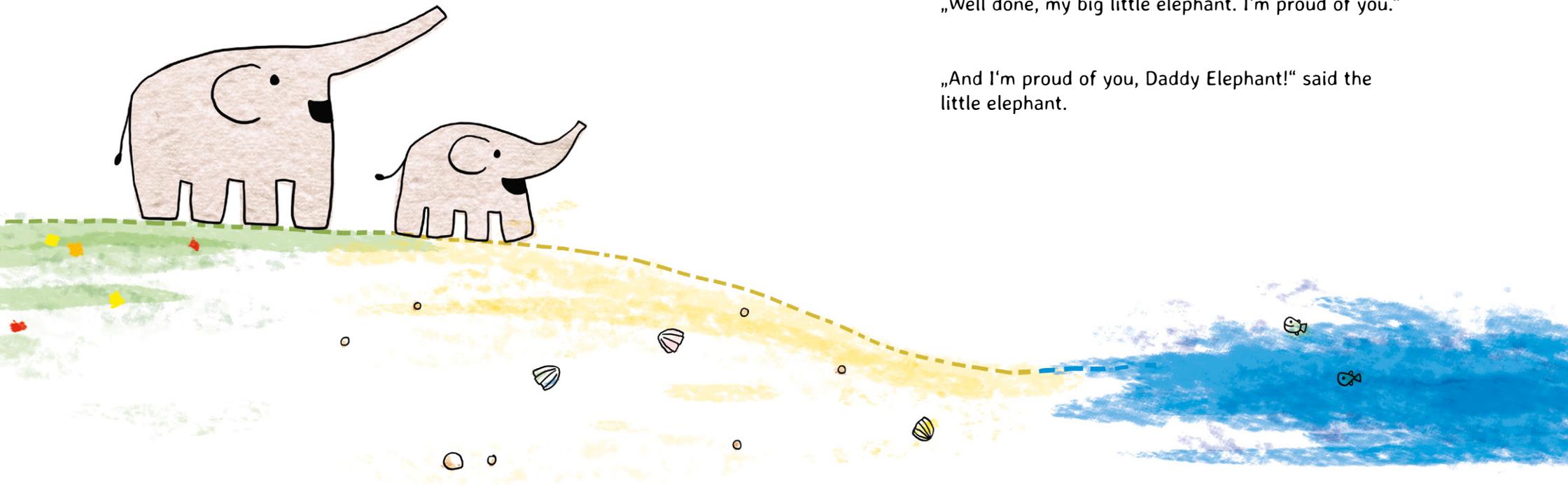
Down there, he sat for a while until, very slowly, he joined his trunk into that of the big elephant. Then on they wandered, trunk in trunk.



And so they tramped on, through mossy forests, hiding from hunters, eating leaves from trees, and from time to time they would lay down in the warm sun for a little while, counting clouds. They hid themselves inside corn fields. They got lost. They found their way out again. And they took turns trumpeting as loud as they could.

Suddenly, their feet stepped onto warm sand.  
 Their ears caught the sounds of the sea.  
 They heard the rush of waves and the screeching seagulls.  
 The big elephant and the little elephant looked in astonishment  
 at the beach beneath them and the sea in front of them.

„That was very quick,“ said the little elephant.



„Yes,“ replied the big elephant. „Who would’ve  
 thought that we would trudge over this hill and  
 swim across this river, wander through this valley,  
 trample through mossy forests and find safety from  
 hunters, that we’d eat leaves from trees, lay down  
 in the warm sun counting clouds, that we’d hide in  
 corn fields, lose our way, find it again and that we’d  
 take turns trumpeting as loud as we can?!“

„It was pretty exhausting!“ Said the little elephant.

„Indeed, it was!“ Said the big elephant.

„Well done, my big little elephant. I’m proud of you.“

„And I’m proud of you, Daddy Elephant!“ said the  
 little elephant.

They raced into the sea and sprayed each other with cooling ocean water.

Then they rolled in the sand, let the sun dry them, used their trunks to dust the sand off each other's back and built the largest sand castle the world had ever seen.

