

My Name is Ollie

A Bedtime Story by



David

My name is Ollie. I am ten years old. I am an elephant and I live in a forest in Thailand, a beautiful country far away. I live with my Mum and Dad and my sister Melissa who always looks out for me because she is two years older than me, and she is very kind and clever.

I am smaller than anyone and am still learning about everything. My Dad is very big and strong, but I don't see him very often as he is always working. My Mum is very lovely and is always fussing around me and making sure that I am always safe and have enough to eat. My sister says I am very handsome with cool grey skin, big brown eyes and long eyelashes. I have nice coloured spots on my skin and on my big flappy ears. I have a long trunk which I use to eat and drink with. I am the smallest of all the young elephants, but I feel safe with my Mum and Dad and my sister Melissa.

My Dad has big long tusks and my sister says that one day I will have some too.

The weather is very hot in my country but is very cool in the forest where I live because of the big shade made by the trees. On the edge of the forest is a beach and the sea. My dad works on the beach giving children rides which makes him and the children very happy. He loves his work. My Mum loves me and Melissa and we are all very happy, but my Dad says he will finish working soon as he is getting old.

I have a friend called Tommy the Tiger.

We play hide and seek games together. Tommy the Tiger is very big. My sister says he is very handsome with his lovely golden striped coat and long whiskers. He can run very fast and he always wins when we have races. We like to be together. I am happy with my life.

One day some men came and took me away. They taught me how to pull logs down to the river. This is very hard work and the men are not very kind. A man called a mahut sits on my back and tells me what to do and

where to go. He uses a long metal stick with a hook on it to hit me on my head to tell me when I am doing wrong. I am very unhappy and am lonely. The other elephants are older than me but they are unhappy too as they all miss their families so we don't make friends and we are all miserable.

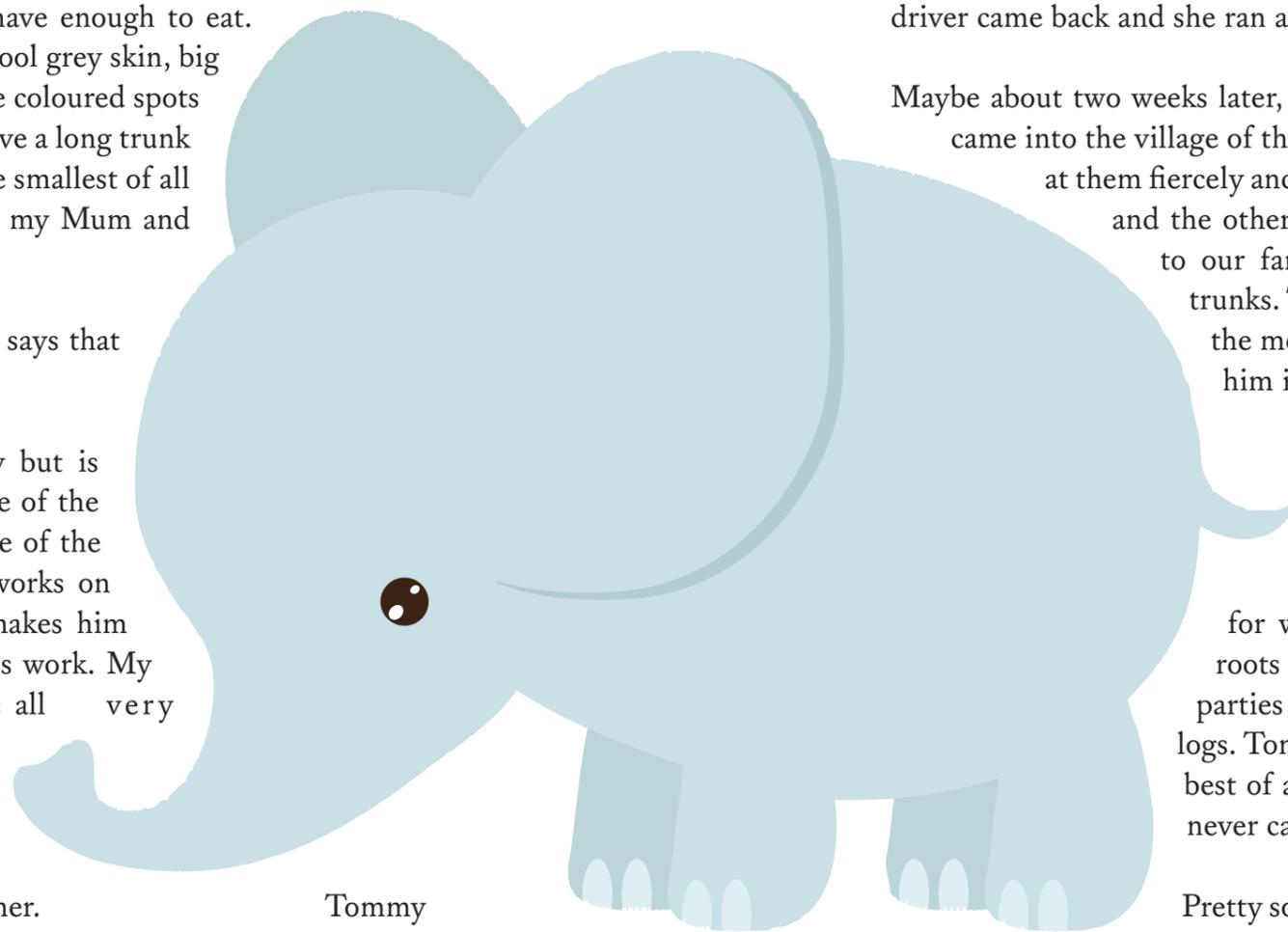
One day when my mahut was having his lunch break, my clever sister Melissa came to see me and she told me quietly that she and Tommy had a plan to help me escape. But before she could tell me the plan, my mahut driver came back and she ran away.

Maybe about two weeks later, I saw what the plan was. Tommy the Tiger came into the village of the men who had captured me. Tommy roared at them fiercely and loudly and the men all ran away, leaving me and the other elephants alone. We all quickly went back to our families making grateful noises through our trunks. Tommy told me that he would not have hurt the men, but he knew they would be frightened of him if he roared at them.

The men never came back and I was happy to be back with my Mum and Dad and my sister Melissa. My Dad had retired from his work and so we all together went for walks in the forest eating delicious cassava roots and leaves, and had wonderful bathing parties in the same river where I used to haul the logs. Tommy the Tiger came with us too. He was the best of all friends and kept us all safe. The log men never came back.

Pretty soon I grew tusks and my Dad said I was now old enough to take over his job making the children on the beach have fun riding on his back. My Dad taught me what to do and I love my work.

I am happy again, all my family are happy again and Tommy the Tiger is proud to have rescued me and happy to have his friend back.



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