

ELLIE

AND THE

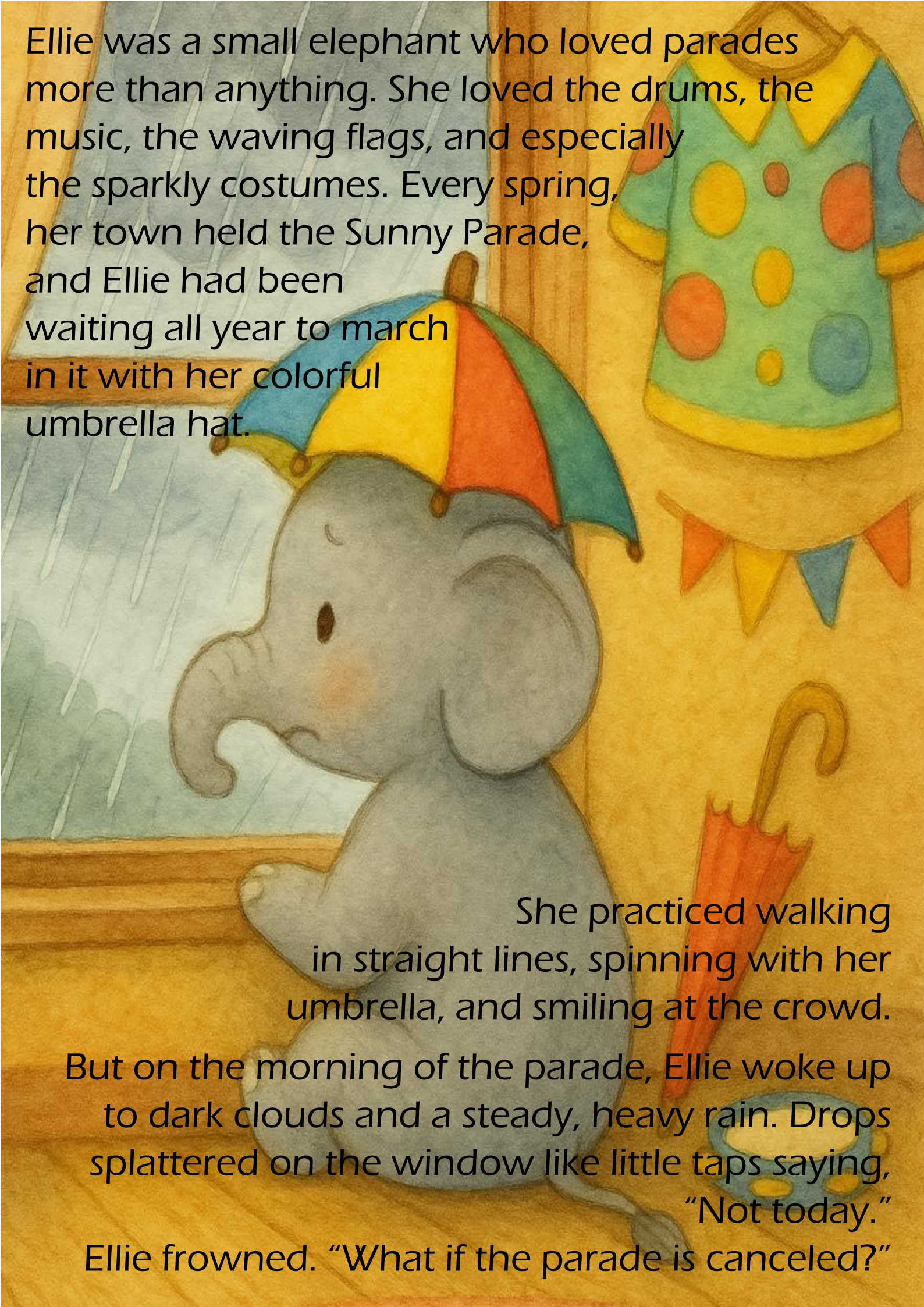
RAINY DAY PARADE



Ellie was a small elephant who loved parades more than anything. She loved the drums, the music, the waving flags, and especially the sparkly costumes. Every spring, her town held the Sunny Parade, and Ellie had been waiting all year to march in it with her colorful umbrella hat.

She practiced walking in straight lines, spinning with her umbrella, and smiling at the crowd.

But on the morning of the parade, Ellie woke up to dark clouds and a steady, heavy rain. Drops splattered on the window like little taps saying, "Not today." Ellie frowned. "What if the parade is canceled?"



She put on her umbrella hat anyway and walked to the square. One by one, the other animals came too: pandas with pom-poms, kangaroos with tambourines, flamingos in feathers. They all looked disappointed.



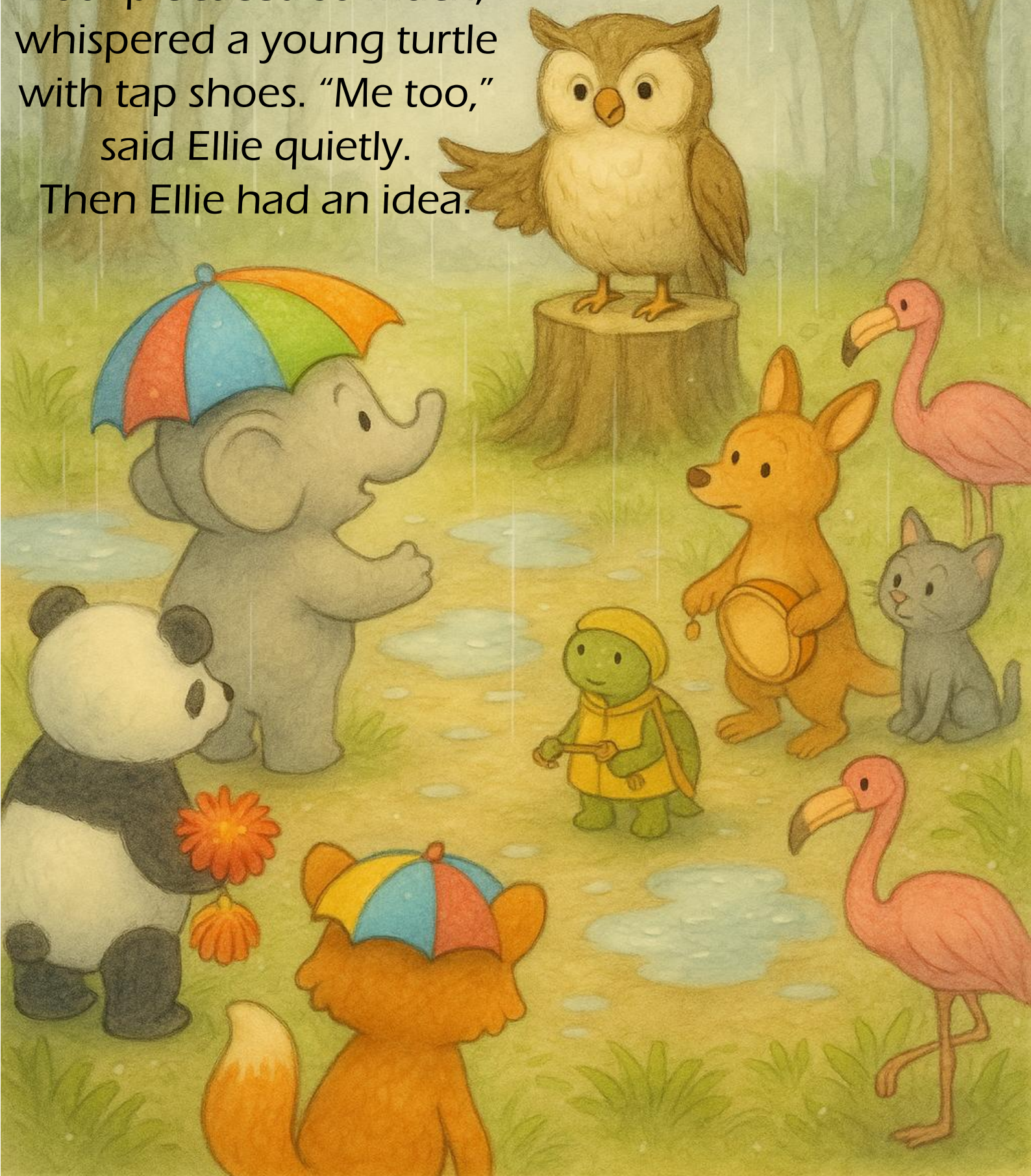
The mayor, a wise old owl, fluttered to the top of a bench and said, "Friends, the rain is too heavy.

We must cancel the Sunny Parade."

A loud sigh floated through the crowd.

"But I practiced so much,"
whispered a young turtle
with tap shoes. "Me too,"
said Ellie quietly.

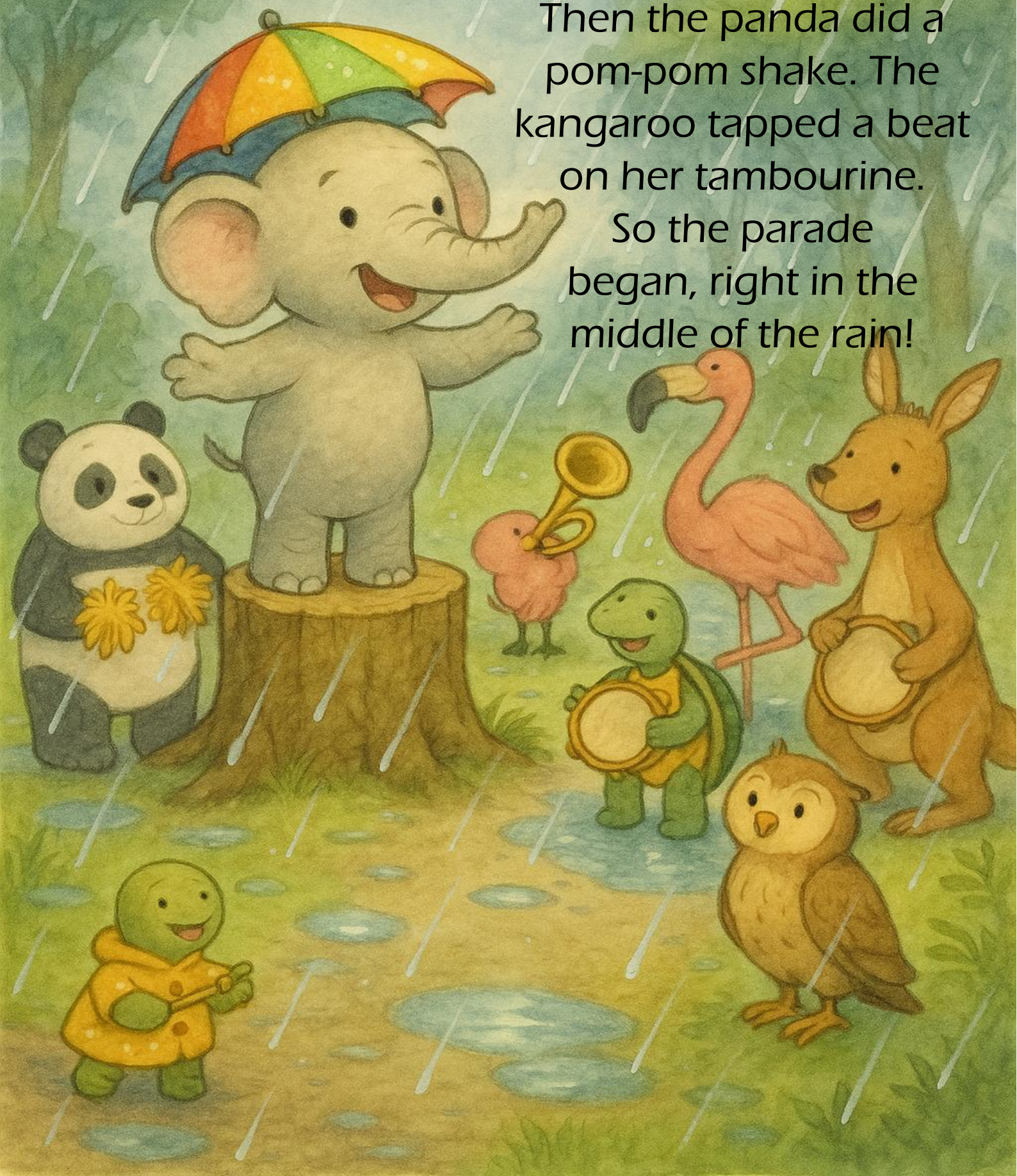
Then Ellie had an idea.



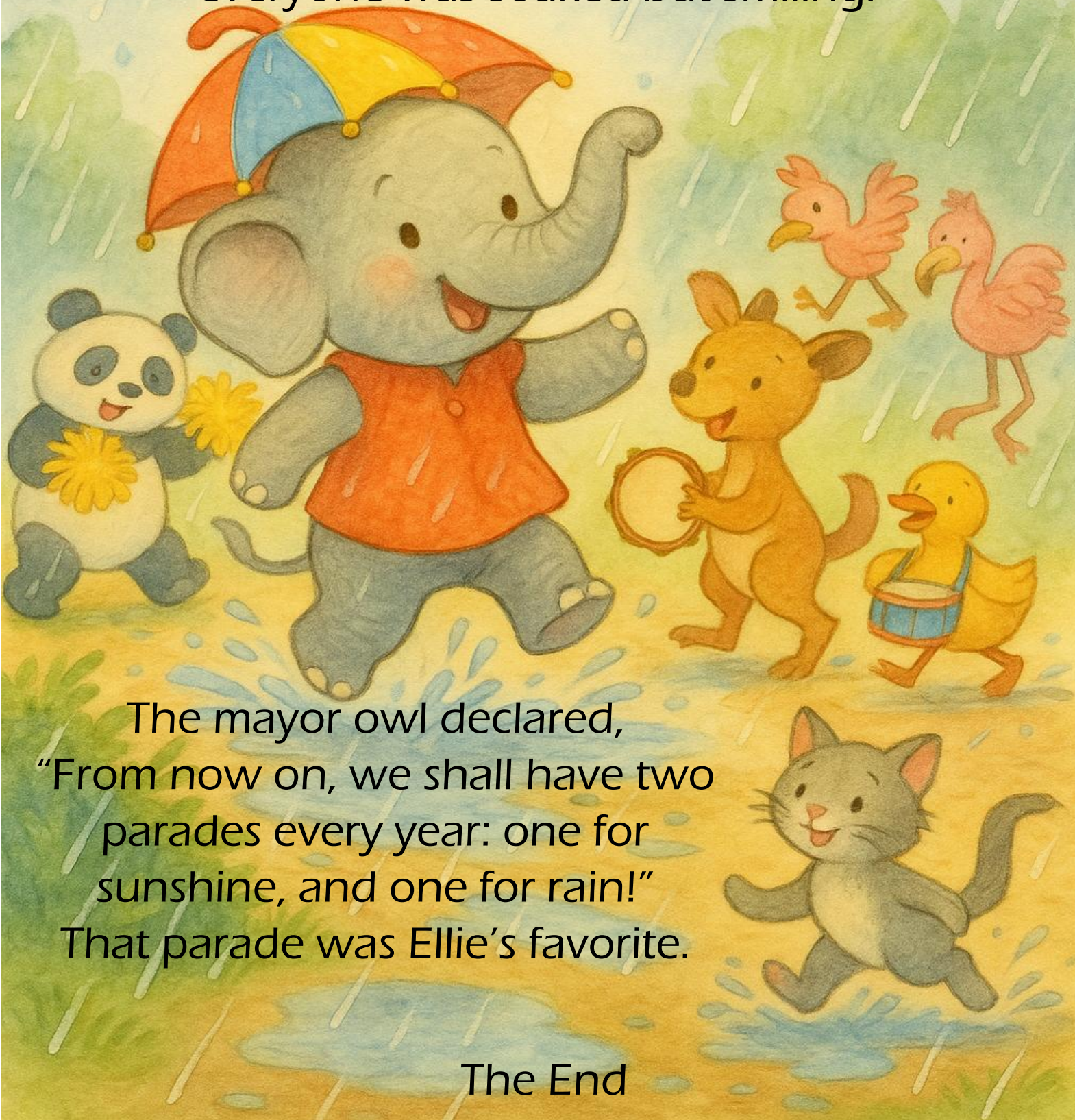
She climbed onto a tree stump and called out,
“What if we have a Rainy Day Parade instead?
We can splash in puddles, twirl in the rain,
and play soggy music!” Everyone paused.

Then the panda did a
pom-pom shake. The
kangaroo tapped a beat
on her tambourine.

So the parade
began, right in the
middle of the rain!



The turtle tap-danced through the splashes. Ducks quacked in rhythm, and even the owl clapped his wings along to the beat. It wasn't the Sunny Parade. It was something better: a Rainy Day Parade full of giggles and splashes and heart. When it was over, everyone was soaked but smiling.



The mayor owl declared, "From now on, we shall have two parades every year: one for sunshine, and one for rain!" That parade was Ellie's favorite.

The End