

Book 37

The Revenge of the Elephants

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name NAME name names named surname name

“...” speech marks. “Hi. My name is

Abi. What’s your name?” “I’m ----.”

chimpanzee elephant owl penguin camel

reptile aquarium coral notice

whine whining whiny amazing marvellous treasure

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It's a lovely sunny Saturday, so Abi asks if the family can have a day out.

“Good idea!” says Dad. “Maybe we can meet my friend from work with his children. His twins are your age, Abi. How about a day at the zoo?”

“YES! I like the zoo!” shouts Abi.

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Dad phones his friend and arranges to meet near the elephant house at one thirty. Mum packs a picnic, and they set off.

The car park is quite a walk from the zoo gates. Dad locks the car and drops the keys into his jacket pocket.

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As soon as Abi and her parents join the queue to get into the zoo, Abi hears a whiny voice that she recognises somewhere ahead of them. Oh no, it's Billy!

“I hate the zoo. It smells of poo!” he whines at his Mum. “I want to go home and

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watch telly.”

Abi hopes Billy won't see her. He manages to spoil things for her and her friends quite often.

As they buy the entry tickets, Dad asks Abi if she can think of a good name for a baby

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chimpanzee that has just been born. The keeper is going to pick the best name, and the person who chose it will win a prize.

“I think Tricky is a good name,” says

Abi.

Dad writes the name Tricky on a card with

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Abi's name and phone number, and Abi posts the card into the entries box.

“Fingers crossed that I win!” she says.

It is rather humid in the reptile house, and

Abi soon feels sweaty. A keeper lets

Abi hold a snake. The snake is smooth,

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and not at all slimy. It feels funny as it moves in her hands.

“His name is Monty Python,” says the keeper. “I’m glad you like him. Lots of children are afraid even to touch him.”

Just then Billy appears, and he is still

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**moaning. He sees Abi, but does not notice
that she is holding a large snake. Billy
bumps into her arm on purpose, to annoy
her. As she turns to tell him to mind out,
Abi feels Monty Python starting to slither
towards Billy. For a second, he freezes.**

**He is terrified of snakes! Then, with an ear
splitting shriek, he rushes out of the reptile
house.**

**Next Abi's family visit the aquarium
where it is very cool. There are all kinds of fish
in the tanks. Mum shows Abi a box of**

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**lovely shells and coral which she can touch. There
are even some fish skeletons and sharks' teeth.**

**Oh dear! Abi can hear Billy's Mum
telling him off again.**

**"Please don't tap the glass on the tank,
Billy." But Billy takes no notice, and**

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bangs harder and harder on the glass. “Billy!

Stop it!” says his Mum crossly. “Look!

**You are startling the fish and they are all swimming
away so that nobody can see them properly.”**

**“Good,” says Billy, “I’m fed up with
them.” And he goes on thumping the glass with his**

fist. His Mum has to drag him out, whining as he goes.

“It’s time to meet my friend,” says Dad.

“I think the elephants have a bath at about this time, so we can see what happens while we are waiting.”

“Do they put the elephants in the bath?”

asks Abi.

“Let’s go and see, but I don’t think so,”

chuckles Dad.

Even as they get near to the elephants,

Abi can hear Billy’s moaning voice again.

“The elephants stink! I want to go on the climbing frame. I’m bored!”

“Please keep quiet for a minute, Billy, and watch the elephants have a bath,” his Mum is saying. “Look! The keepers are bringing buckets and setting up the hose.”

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**But Billy is not interested. He is busy with
a mean trick. He gets out his lunch box and
holds out a cookie to the elephants. A
big elephant spots it, and walks over
expecting a treat. As she reaches out her trunk
to take the cookie, Billy moves out of the**

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way, and crams the whole thing into his own mouth!

Then he starts jeering and making fun.

**But elephants are smart animals. This one
is not happy to be teased. Abi hears a loud
trumpeting noise and guesses that the elephant
is angry.**

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The next minute, the elephant sticks the end of her trunk into a bucket of water and sucks it all up. Raising her trunk again, and pointing at Billy's face, she squirts out all the water with a big WHOOSH!

All the people nearby are very tired of Billy, so

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**they clap the elephant, and Abi claps loudest
of all!**

**Billy's poor Mum takes her wailing and
dripping son away, and the elephant trumpets
again.**

“I bet she's saying something rude about

Billy,” smiles Abi. “Good for the elephant!”

Soon the family meet Dad’s friend with his children, and they all have a lovely time seeing lots of interesting animals. Abi gets to touch an owl and a camel, and even holds some penguin chicks.

Best of all, she is allowed to give an old elephant some vitamin drops on a slice of bread. She feels how gently he takes the bread with the tip of his trunk.

Just as they are about to leave, there is a tannoy message to say that Abi has won the

name the baby chimp prize. They all go to meet the keeper and collect the prize. It is a metal detector. Abi is so excited.

Now she can search for treasure.

All the way back to the car Abi tries out her metal detector. She finds a few ring

pulls from cans, but nothing of interest. As they approach the car park, Dad puts his hand in his pocket to get the keys. But they have gone! He forgot that there was a big hole at the bottom of his pocket.

“Oh no!” says Dad. “No keys!”

Just then, the noise of the metal detector changes, and when Abi bends down she finds something hard half buried in the grass. She pulls out a bunch of keys.

“Treasure!” shouts Abi, waving the keys in the air.

“Hurray!” shout Mum and Dad. “Three cheers for amazing Abi and her marvellous metal detector!”

“Can I visit the zoo again as a reward?” asks Abi, “and can I bring Martyna and Sam with me? Maybe I will invite Billy too, as

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**I'm sure the elephant may like to share her
bath again!"**

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Abi says

Have you been to the zoo?

**Write about the wild animals you like best, and
say why you like them.**

What did I win as a prize?

Can you think of a good name for a baby chimp?