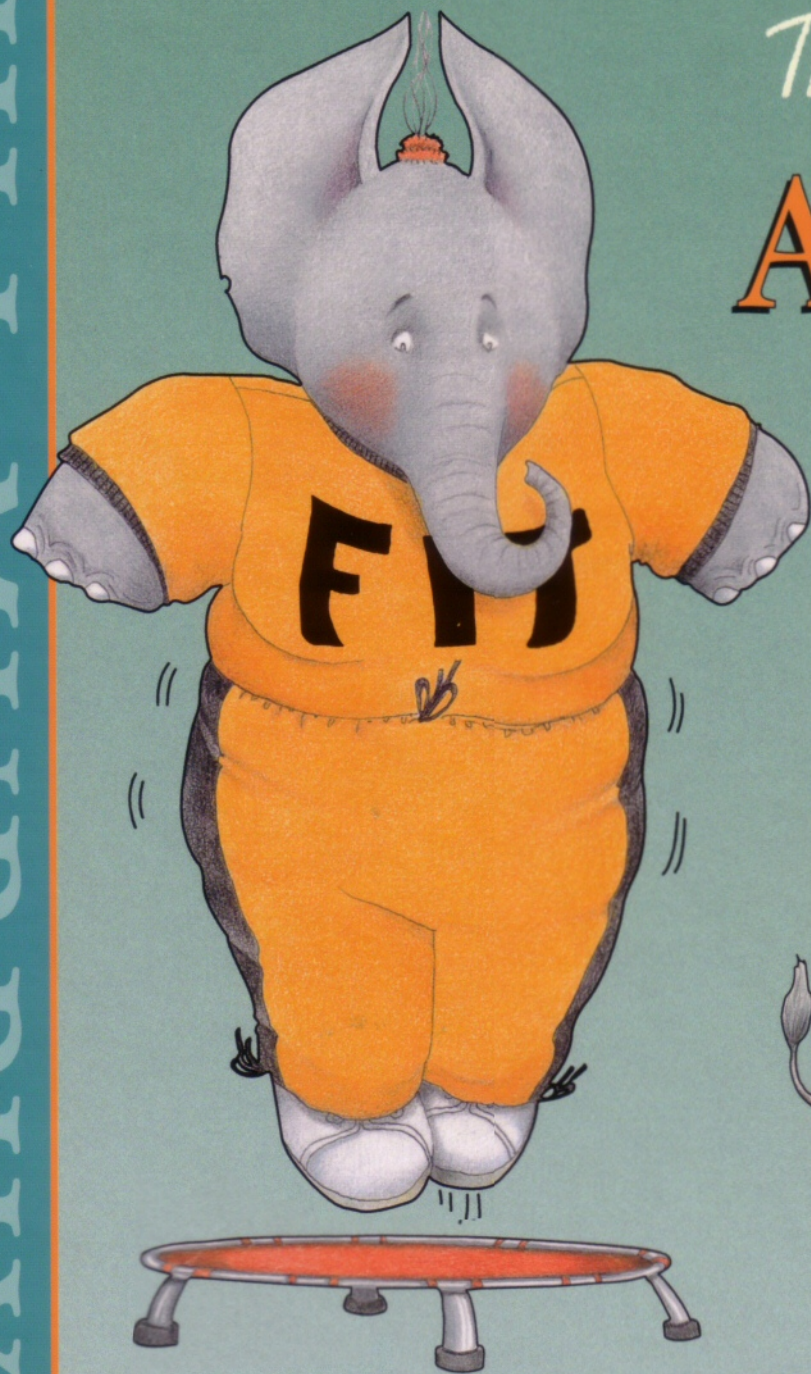


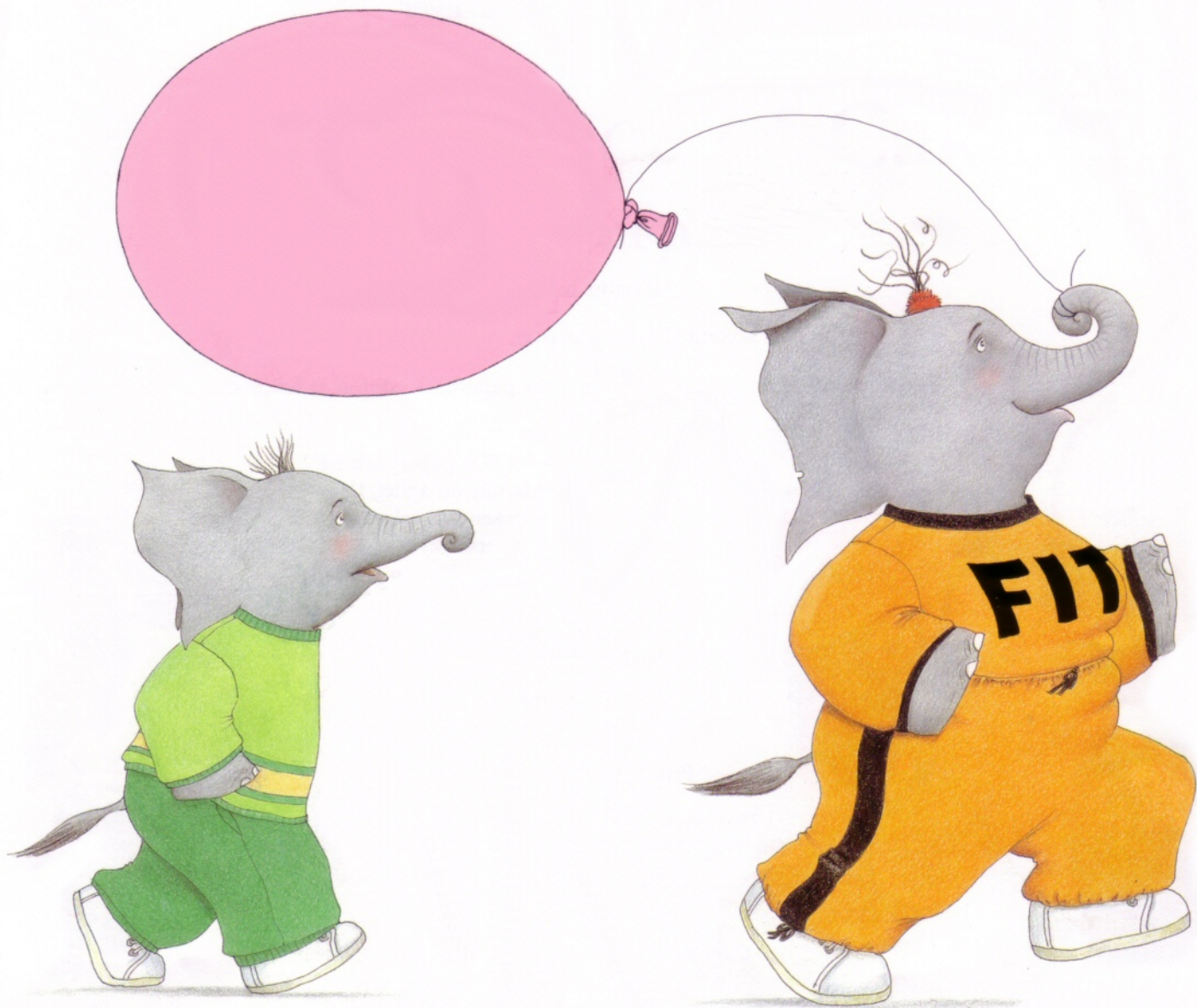
JILL MURPHY



The Large Family
**A Piece of
Cake**



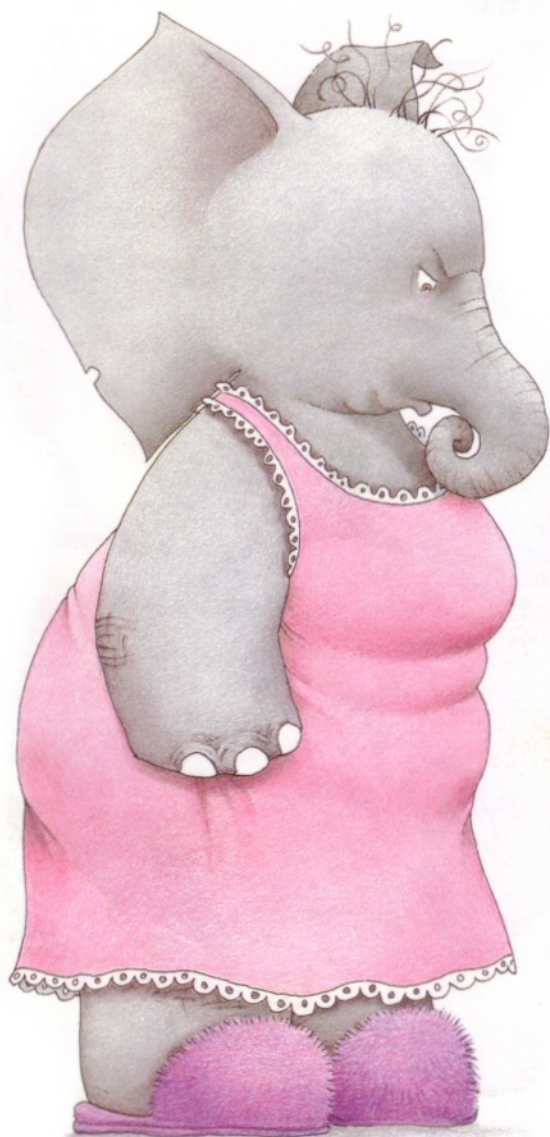




A Piece of Cake

Jill Murphy





“I’m fat,” said Mrs. Large.

“No you’re not,” said Lester.

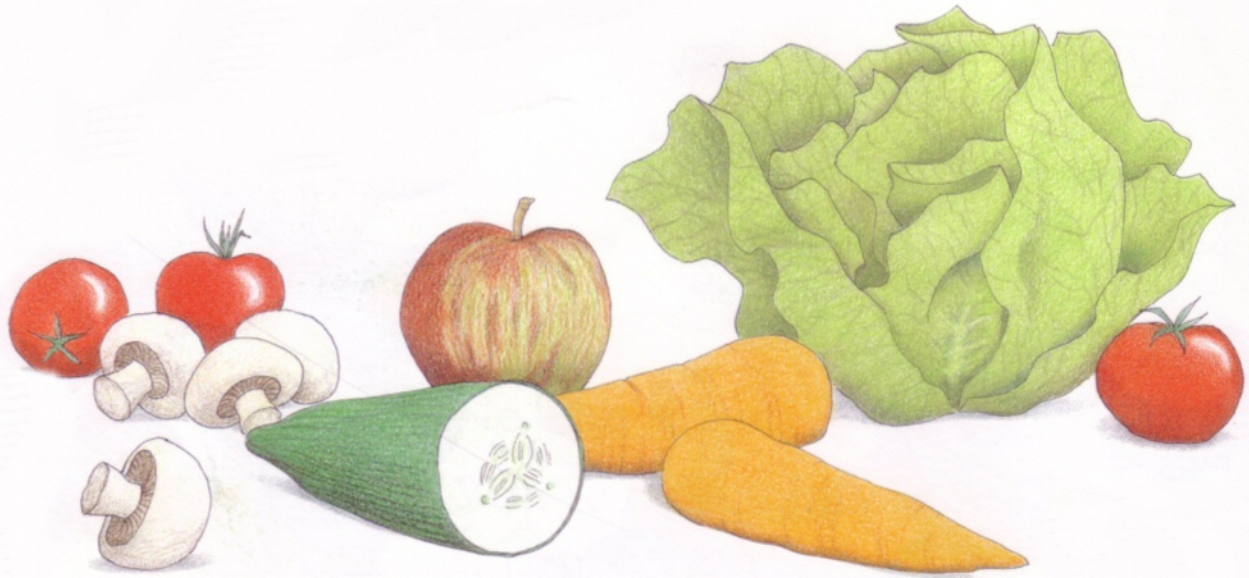
“You’re our cuddly mommy,”
said Laura.

“You’re *just* right,” said Luke.

“Mommy’s got wobbly bits,”
said the baby.

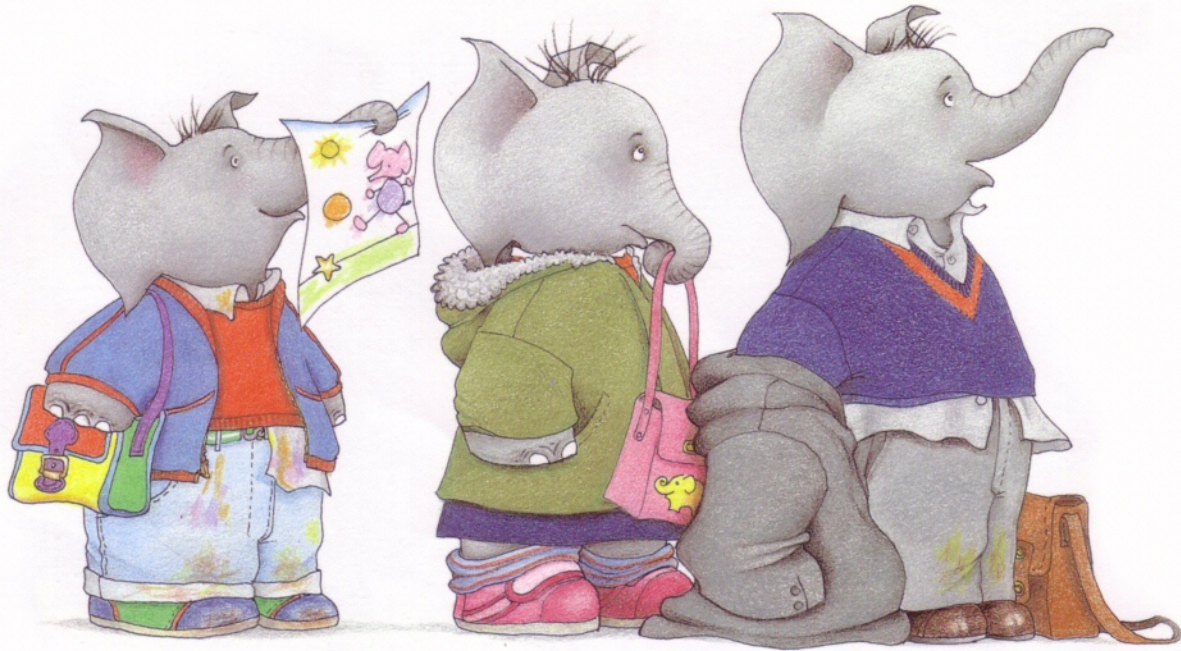
“Exactly,” said Mrs. Large. “As I was
saying – I’m fat.”





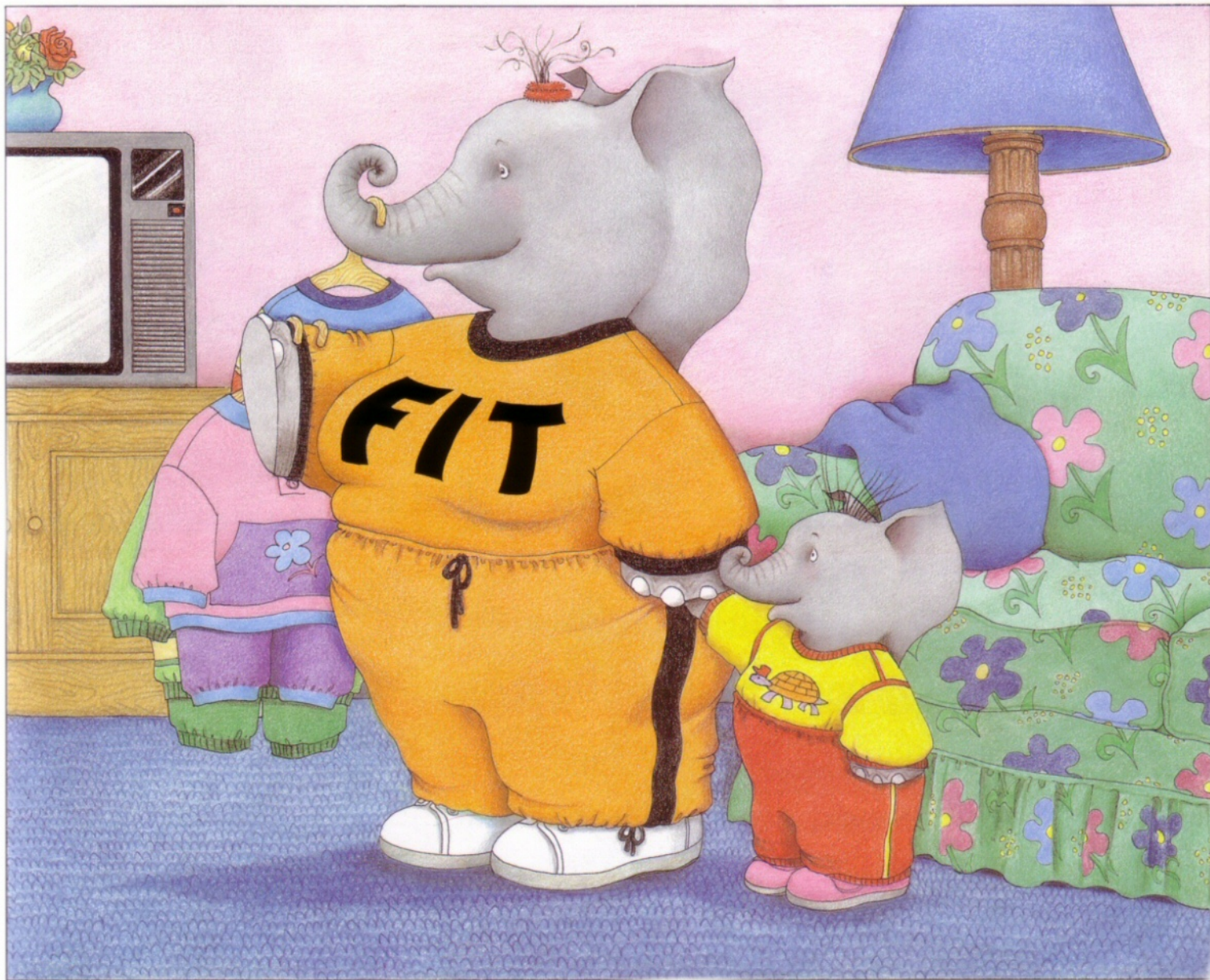
“We must all go on a diet,” said Mrs. Large.
“No more cake. No more cookies. No more
potato chips. No more sitting around all day.
From now on, it’s healthy living.”





“Can we watch TV?” asked Lester, as they trooped in from school.

“Certainly not!” said Mrs. Large. “We’re all off for a nice healthy jog around the park.”
And they were.





“What’s our snack, Mom?” asked Laura when they arrived home.

“Some nice healthy watercress soup,” said Mrs. Large. “Followed by a nice healthy cup of water.”

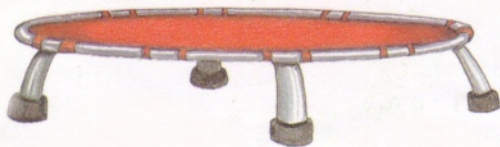
“Oh!” said Laura. “That sounds . . . nice.”

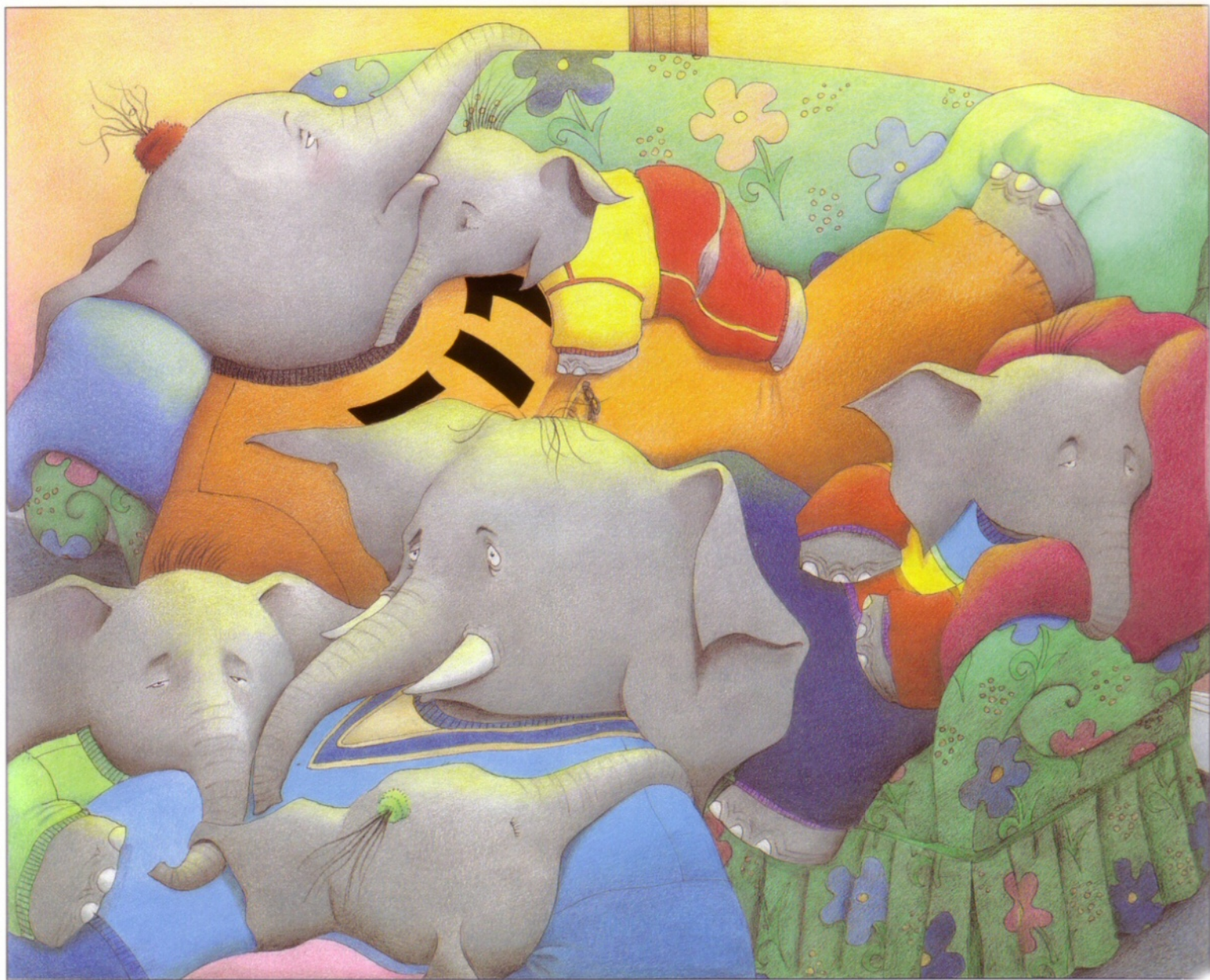


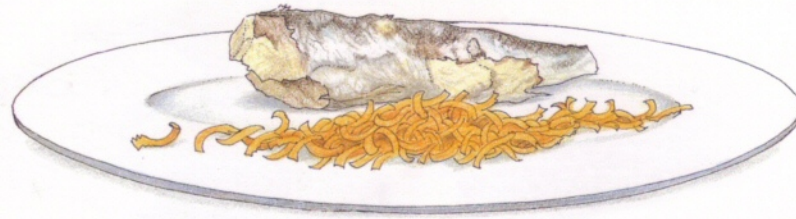




It was awful. Every morning there was a healthy breakfast followed by exercises. Then there was a healthy snack followed by a healthy jog. By the time evening came everyone felt terrible.







“I’m just going to watch the news, dear,”
said Mr. Large when he came home from work.

“No you’re not, dear,” said Mrs. Large.

“You’re off for a nice healthy jog around
the park, followed by supper – delicious
fish with grated carrots.”

“I can’t wait,” said Mr. Large.

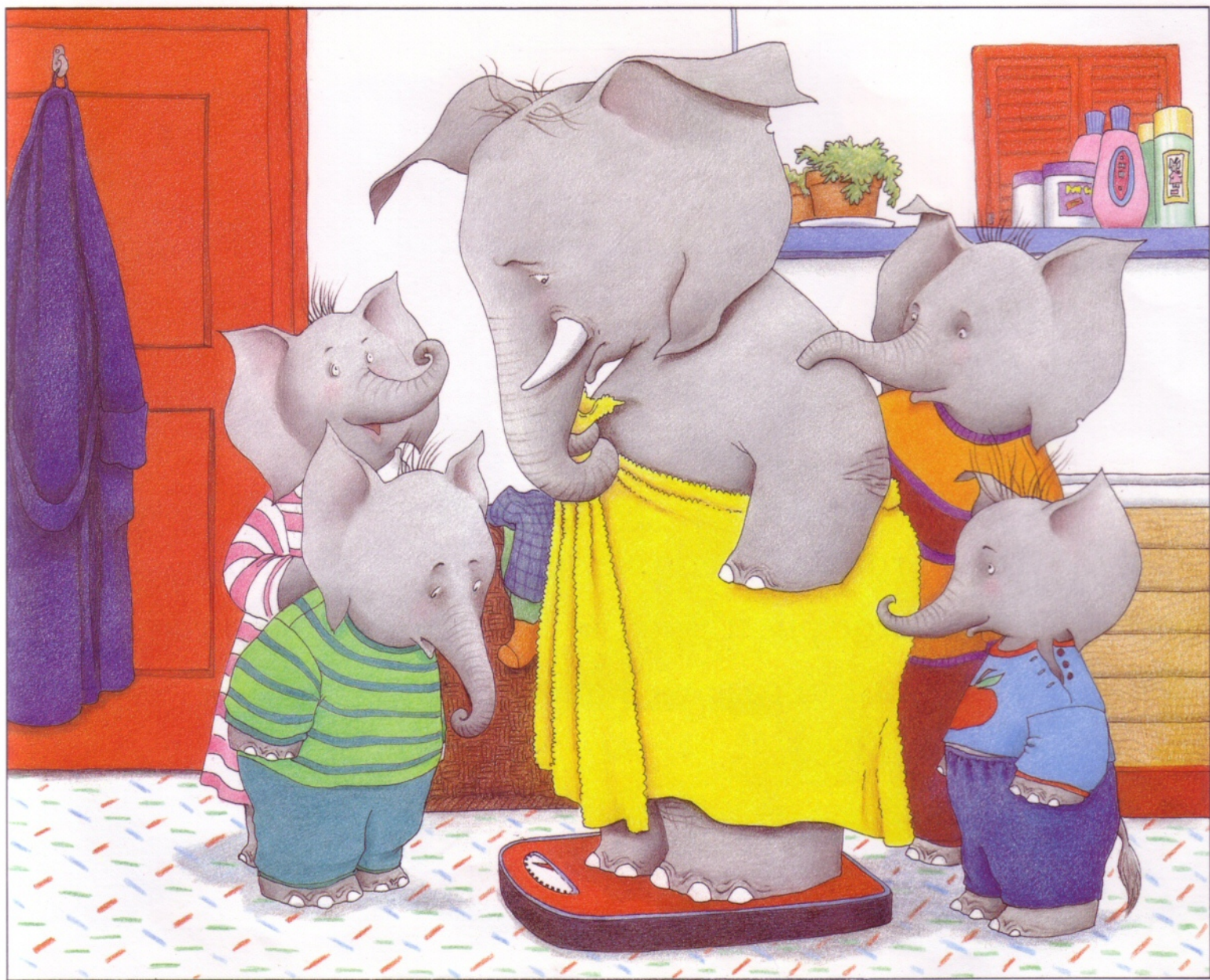


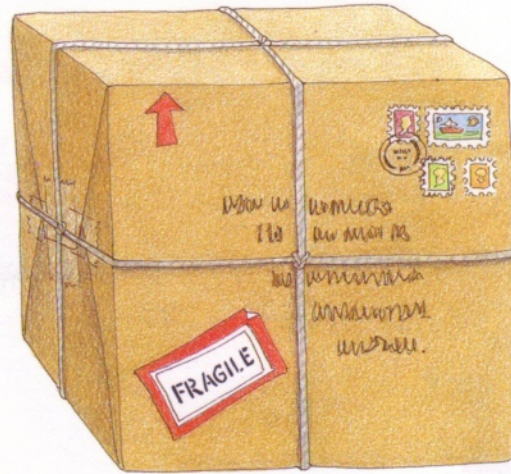
“We aren’t getting any thinner, dear,”
said Mr. Large.

“Perhaps elephants are *meant* to be fat,”
said Luke.

“Nonsense!” said Mrs. Large. “We mustn’t
give up now.”

“Wibbly wobbly wibbly wobbly,” went
the baby.



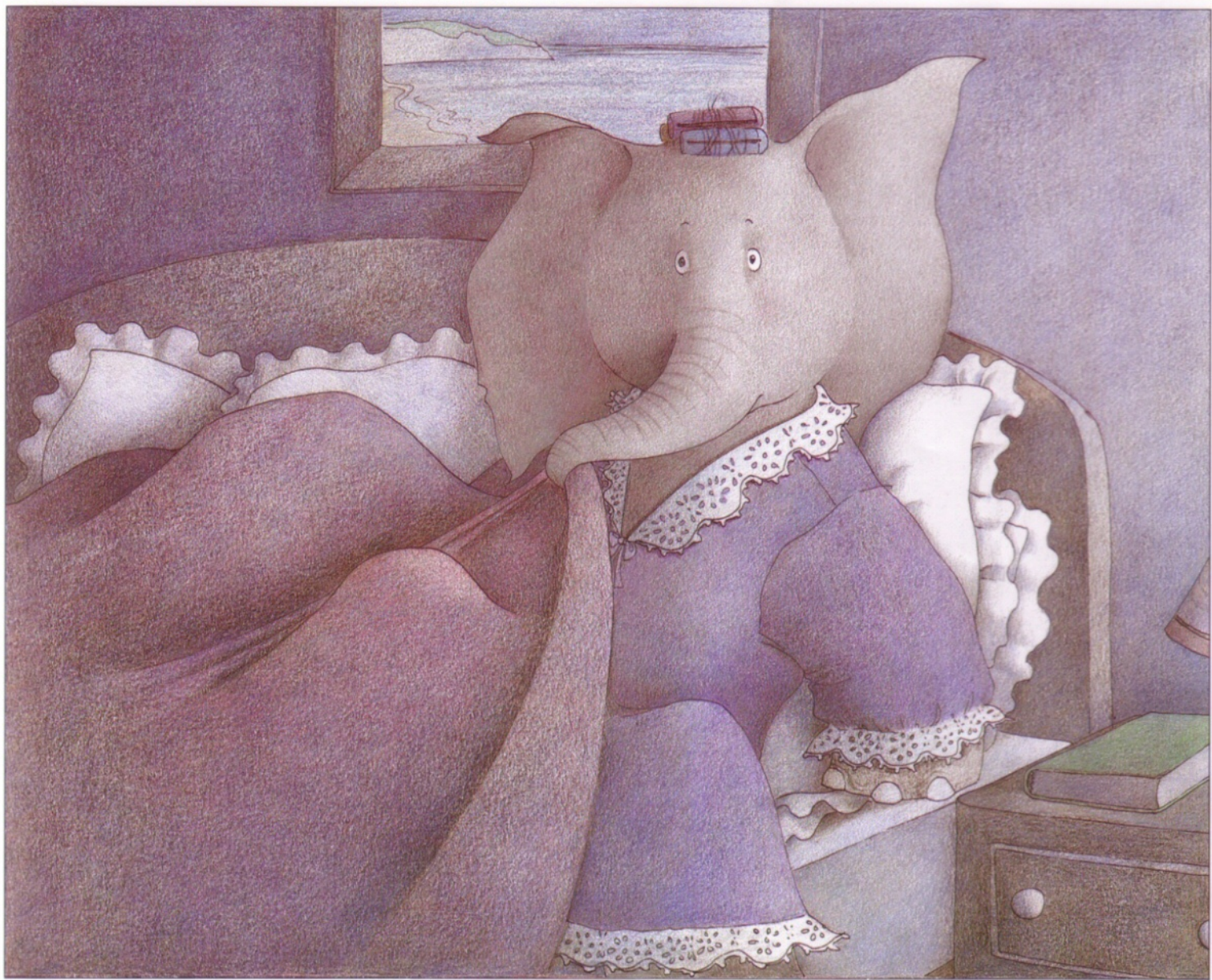


One morning a parcel arrived. It was a cake from Granny. Everyone stared at it hopefully. Mrs. Large put it into the cupboard on a high shelf. “Just in case we have visitors,” she said sternly.





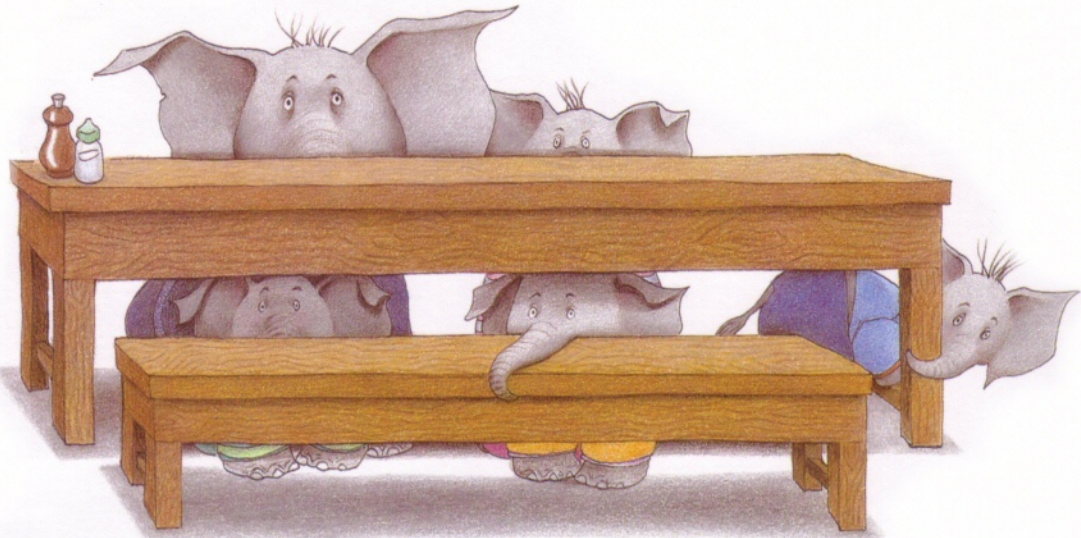
Everyone kept thinking about the cake.
They thought about it during the healthy jog.
They thought about it during supper.
They thought about it in bed that
night. Mrs. Large sat up. "I can't stand
it anymore," she said to herself. "I must
have a piece of that cake."





Mrs. Large crept out of bed and went downstairs to the kitchen. She took a knife out of the drawer and opened the cupboard. There was only one piece of cake left!





“Ah ha!” said Mr. Large, seeing the knife.

“Caught in the act!”

Mrs. Large switched on the light and saw Mr. Large and all the children hiding under the table.

“There *is* one piece left,” said Laura in a helpful way.





Mrs. Large began to laugh. “We’re all as bad as each other!” she said, eating the last piece of cake before anyone else did. “I do think elephants are meant to be fat,” said Luke.

“I think you’re probably right, dear,” said Mrs. Large.

“Wibbly wobbly wibbly wobbly!” went the baby.





