



ENZO GIANNINI

ZORINA BALLERINA

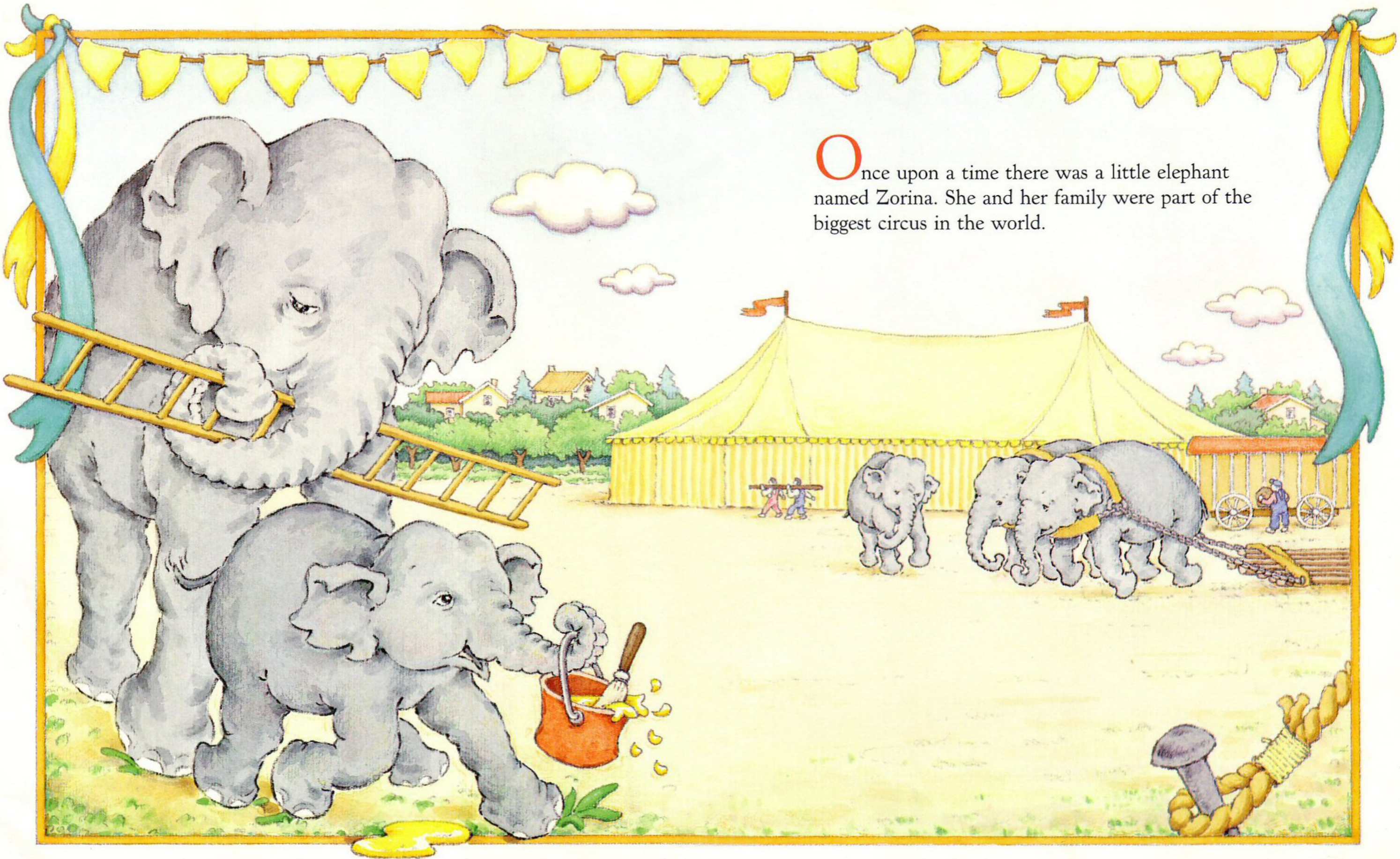
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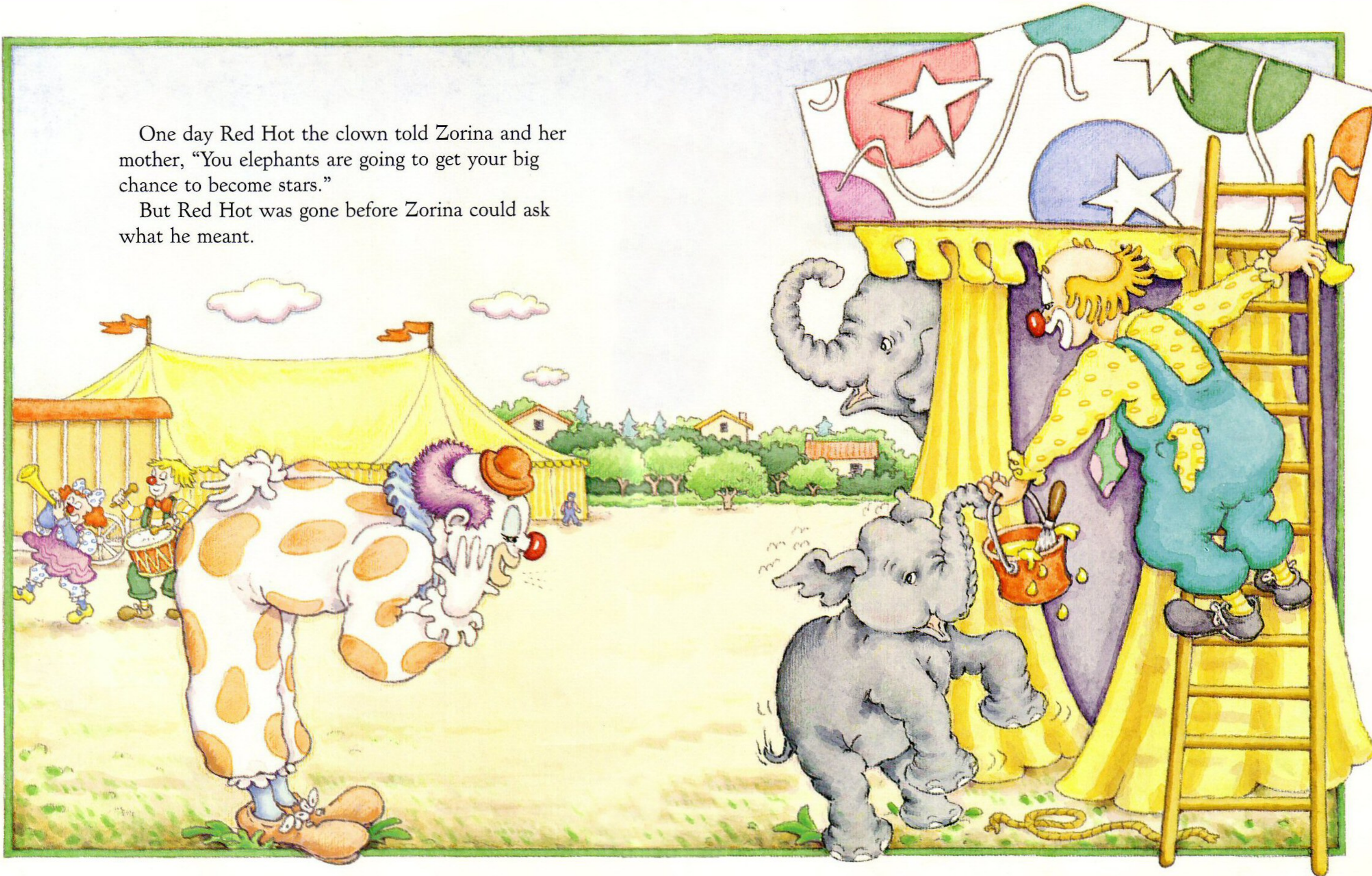


Once upon a time there was a little elephant named Zorina. She and her family were part of the biggest circus in the world.

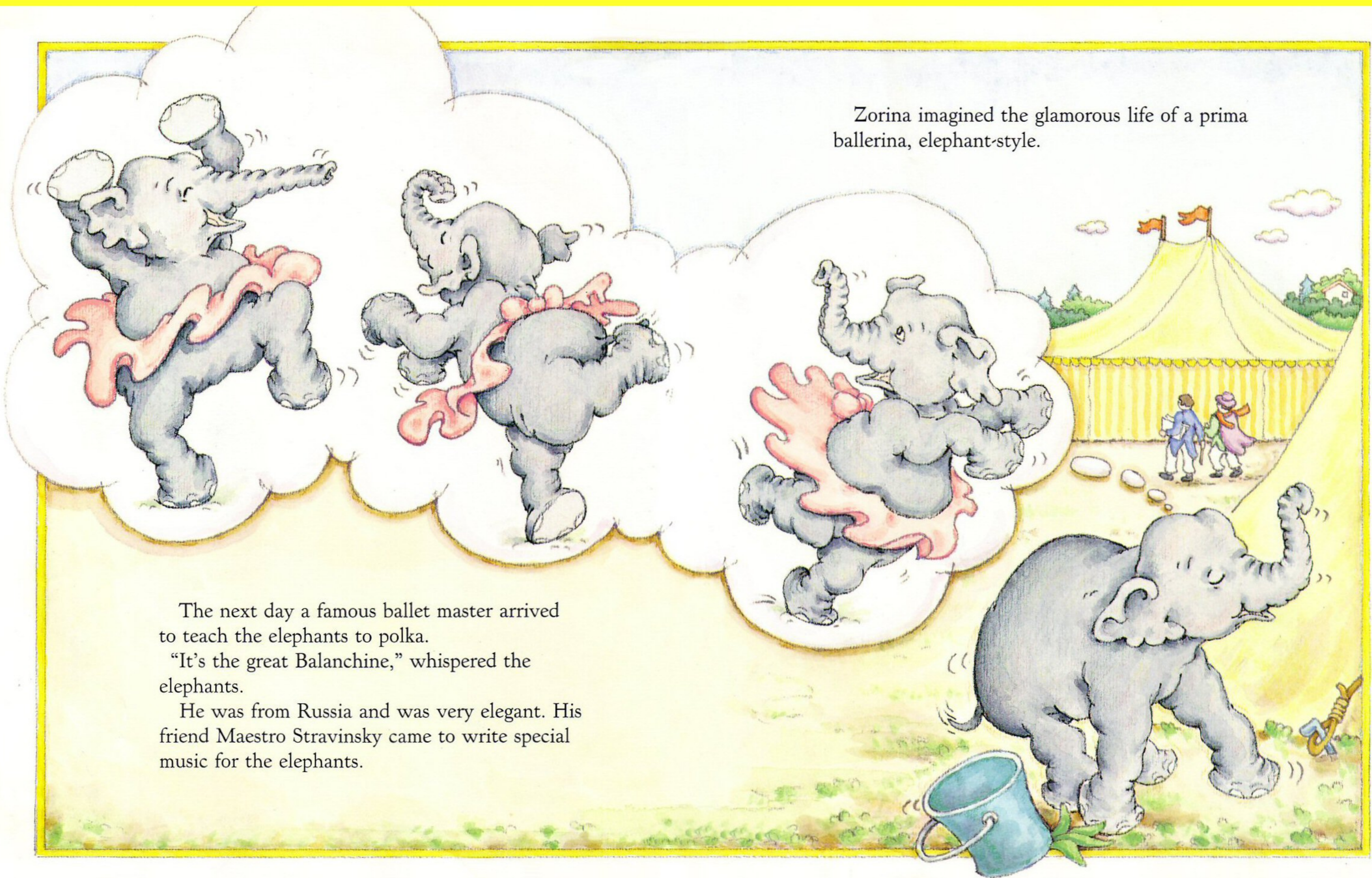


One day Red Hot the clown told Zorina and her mother, "You elephants are going to get your big chance to become stars."

But Red Hot was gone before Zorina could ask what he meant.



Zorina imagined the glamorous life of a prima ballerina, elephant-style.

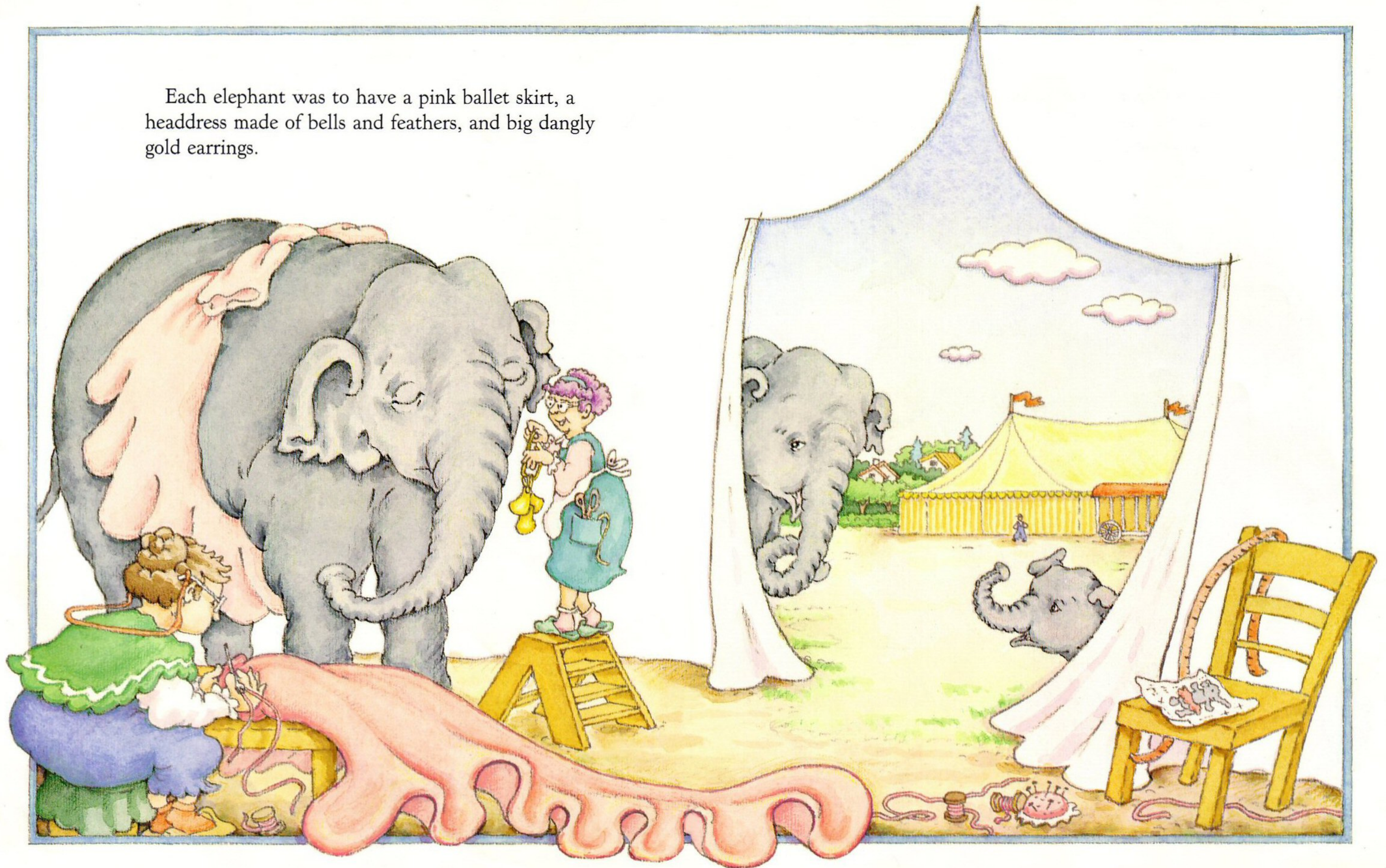


The next day a famous ballet master arrived to teach the elephants to polka.

“It’s the great Balanchine,” whispered the elephants.

He was from Russia and was very elegant. His friend Maestro Stravinsky came to write special music for the elephants.

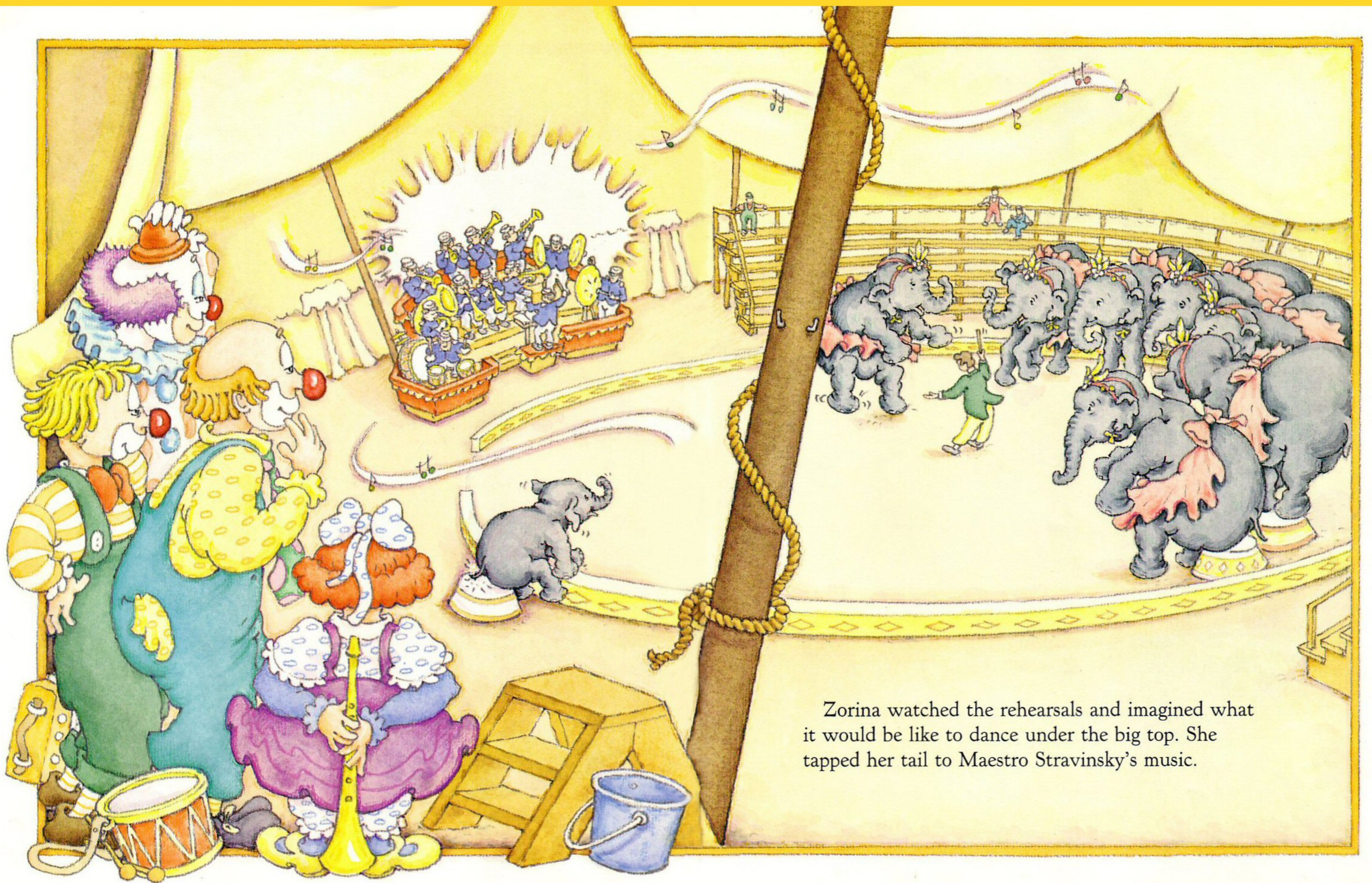
Each elephant was to have a pink ballet skirt, a headdress made of bells and feathers, and big dangly gold earrings.



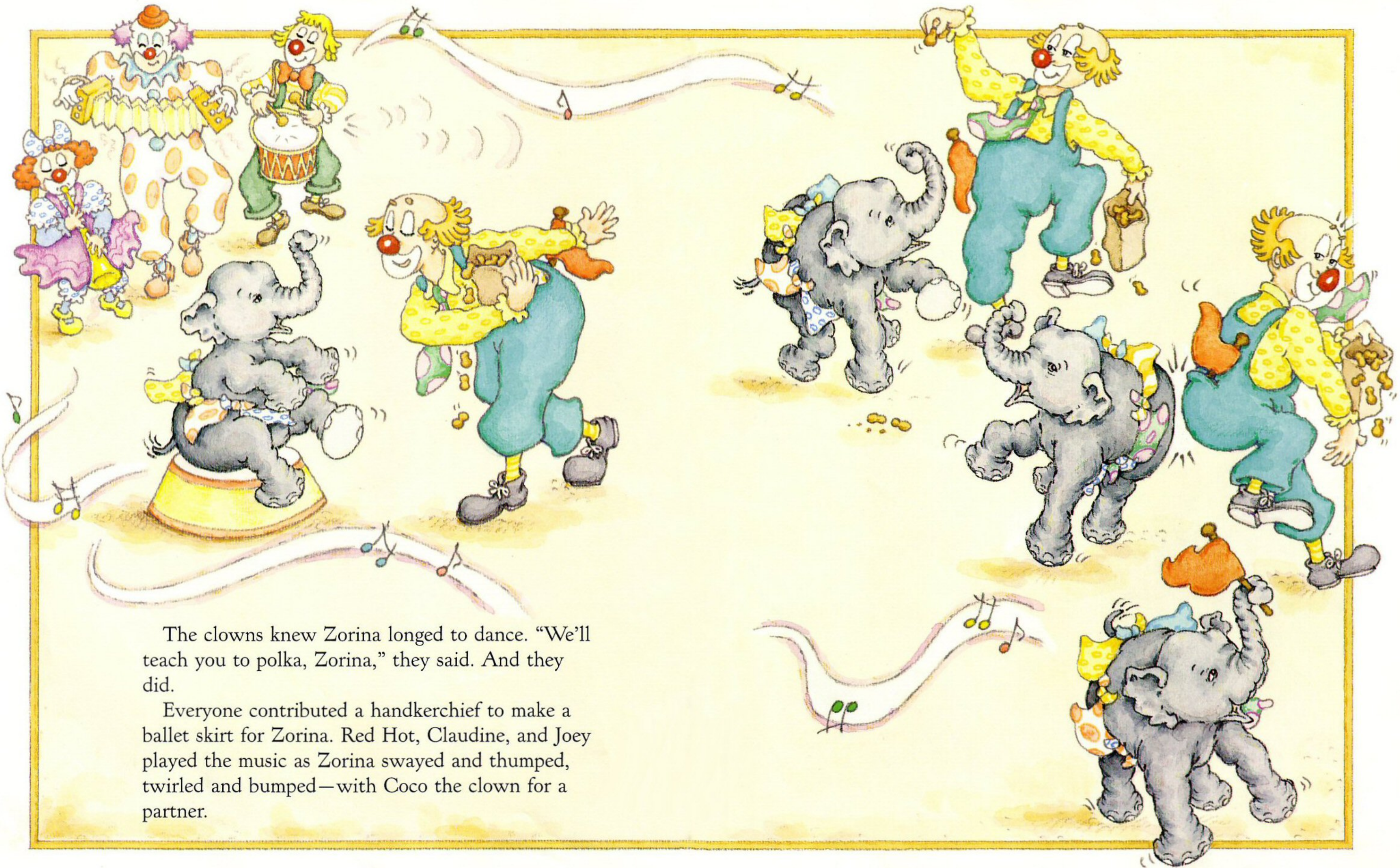


Modoc was the star of the elephant ballet.
The only thing she enjoyed more than dancing
was eating peanuts.

“Mama, I want to polka, too,” said Zorina.
“I’m not sure,” said her mother. “I think you might
be a little young to perform.”



Zorina watched the rehearsals and imagined what it would be like to dance under the big top. She tapped her tail to Maestro Stravinsky's music.

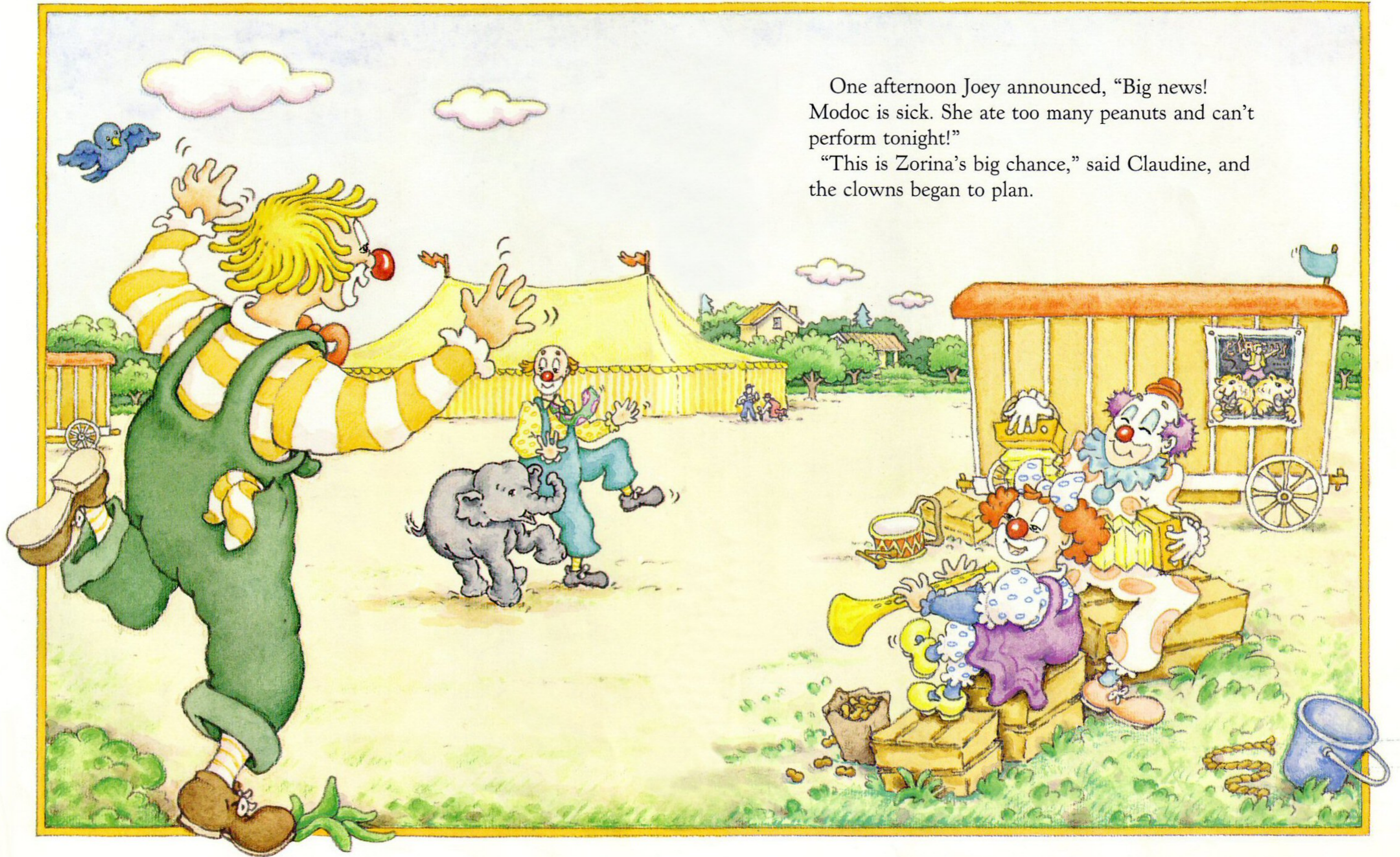


The clowns knew Zorina longed to dance. "We'll teach you to polka, Zorina," they said. And they did.

Everyone contributed a handkerchief to make a ballet skirt for Zorina. Red Hot, Claudine, and Joey played the music as Zorina swayed and thumped, twirled and bumped—with Coco the clown for a partner.



Zorina loved to polka!



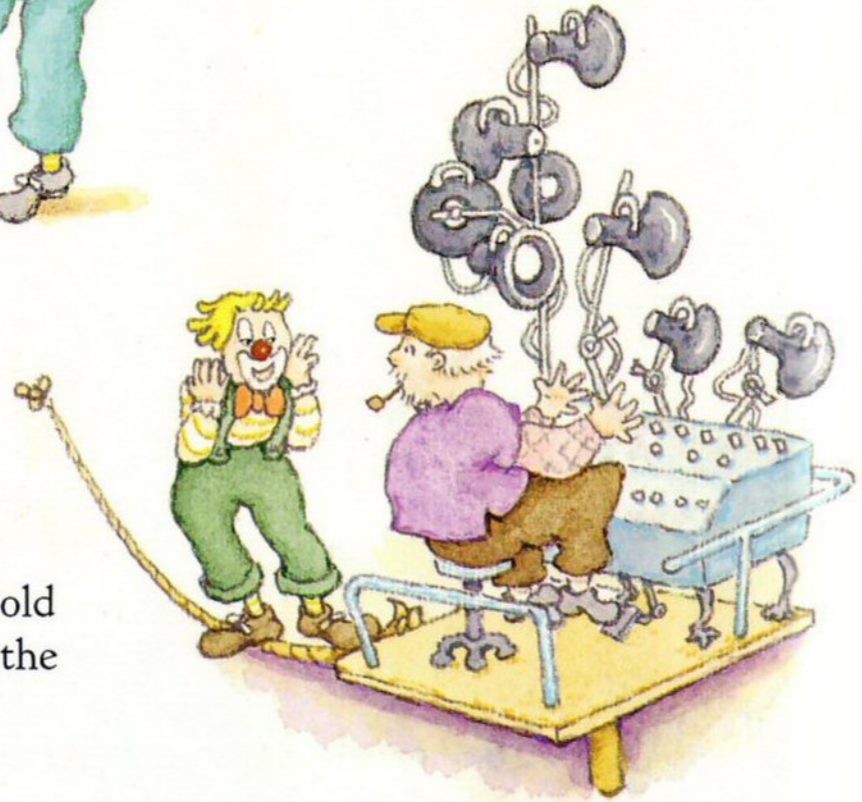
One afternoon Joey announced, "Big news! Modoc is sick. She ate too many peanuts and can't perform tonight!"

"This is Zorina's big chance," said Claudine, and the clowns began to plan.

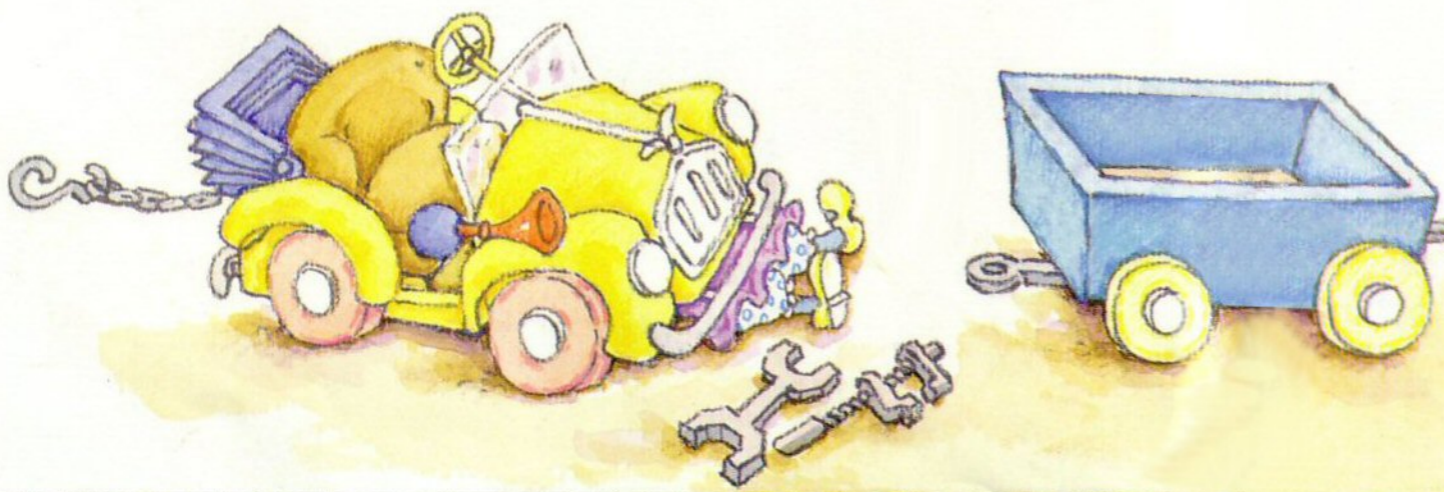


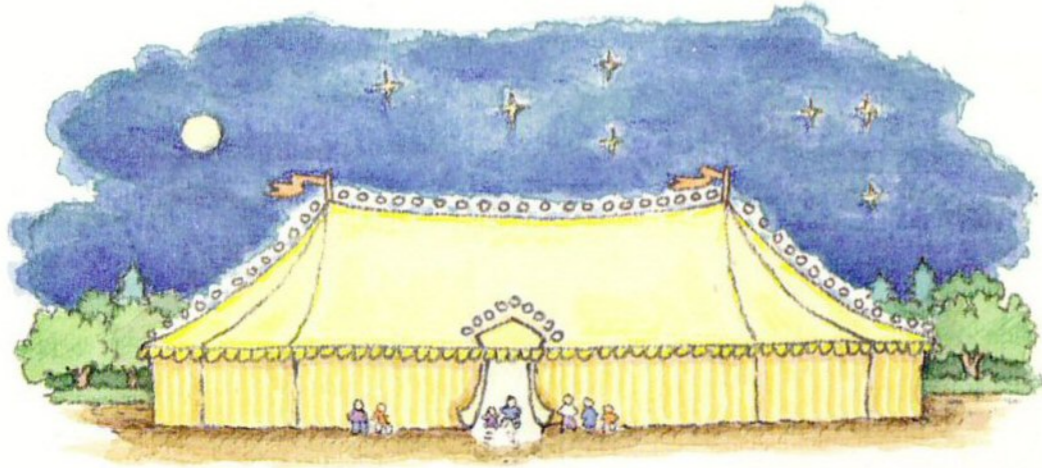
Zorina was thrilled as she put on her headdress and gold earrings.

and Red Hot got a caravan of clown cars to transport Zorina, hidden in a bouquet of balloons.



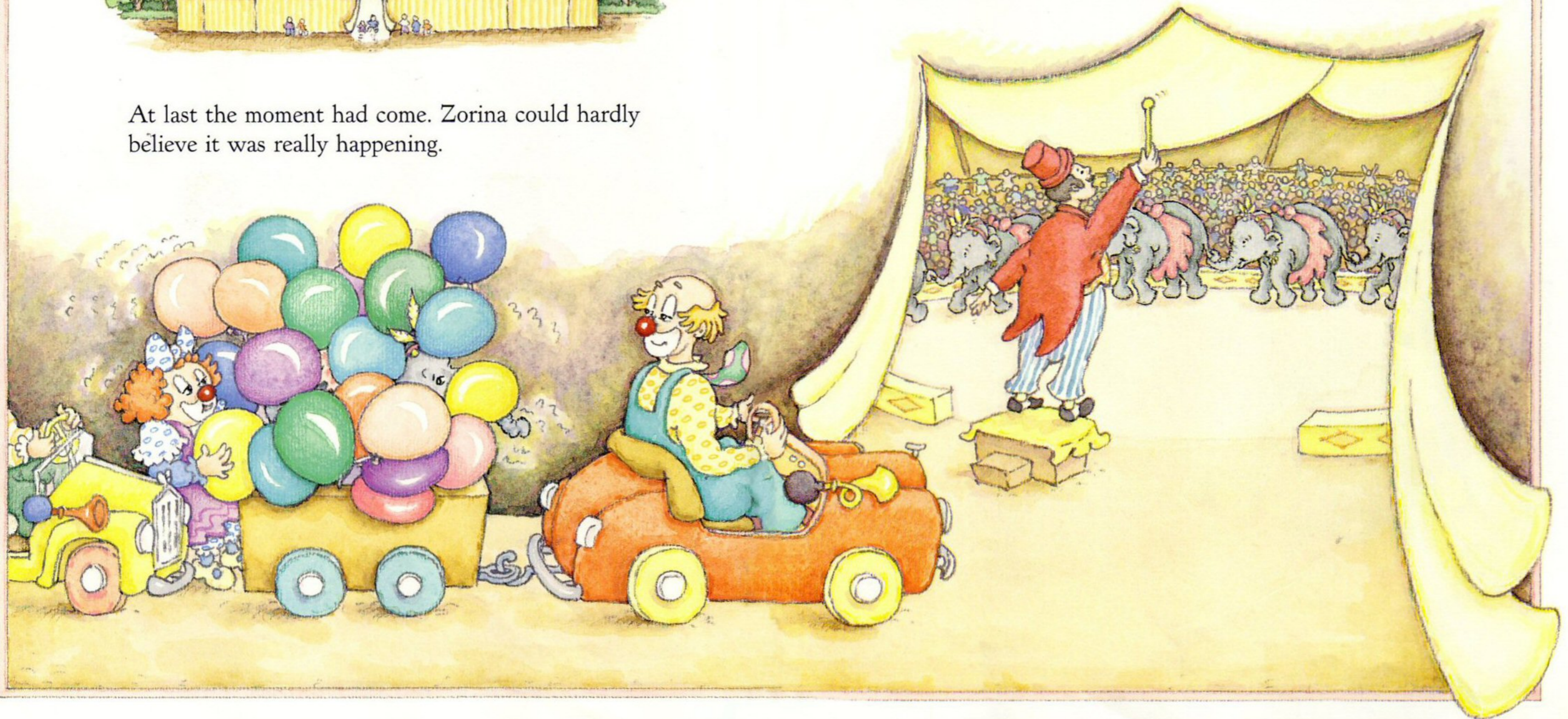
Joey told Gus, the old spotlight man, about the change in plans,





“And now, ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages,” boomed the ringmaster, “our Elephant Extravaganza. Watch these bounteous ballerinas as they dance for you the Circus Polka!”

At last the moment had come. Zorina could hardly believe it was really happening.



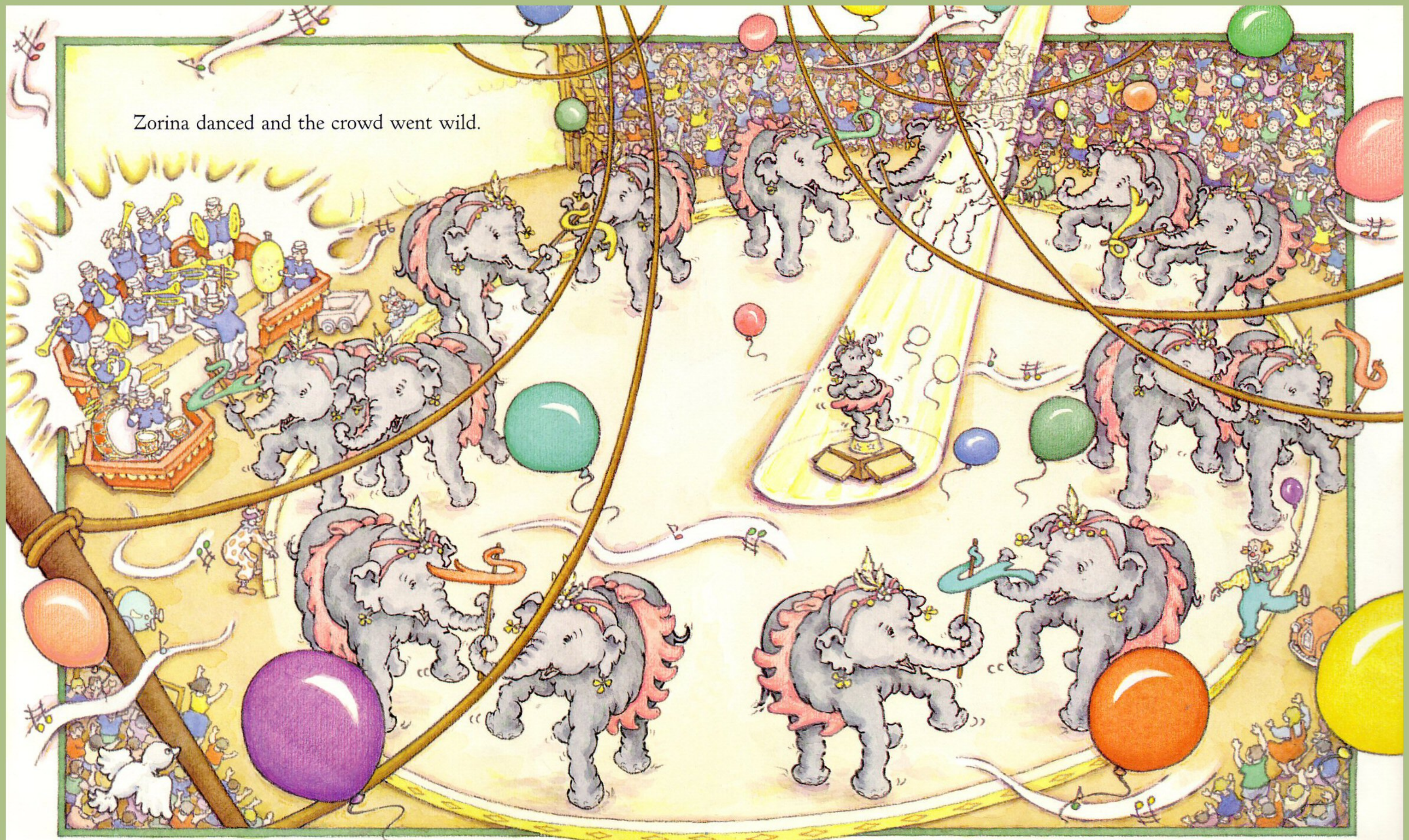
The bandmaster lifted his baton and the polka began.





Gus turned the spotlight on the center ring. Up, up rose the balloons, and there was Zorina swaying to the music.

Zorina danced and the crowd went wild.





She was indeed a star.

