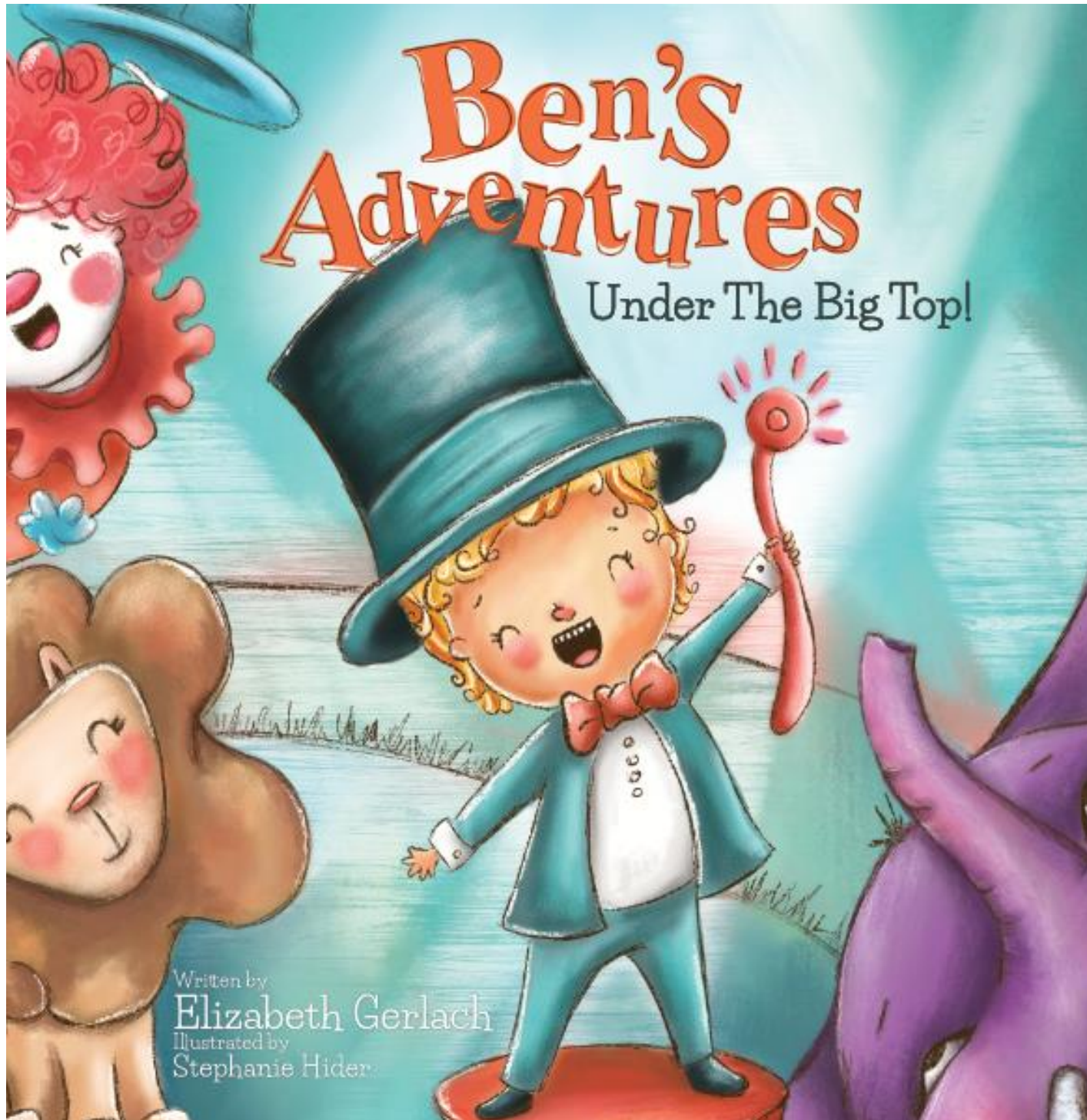


Ben's Adventures

Under The Big Top!



Written by
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Illustrated by
Stephanie Hider

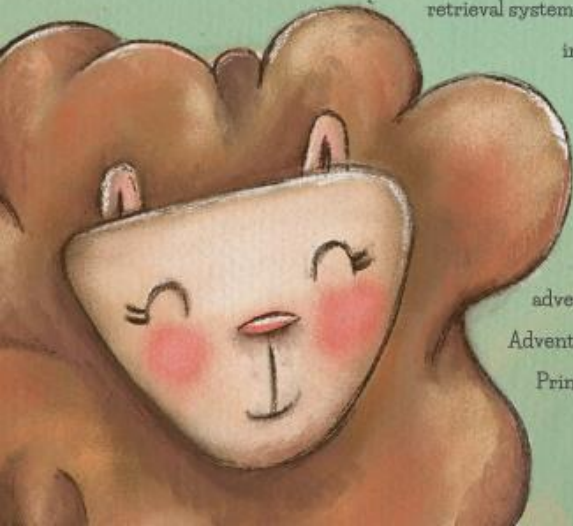
Ben's Adventures

Under The Big Top!

Dedicated to the special Early Childhood educators
who love our children, invest in them and make
learning fun in the process.

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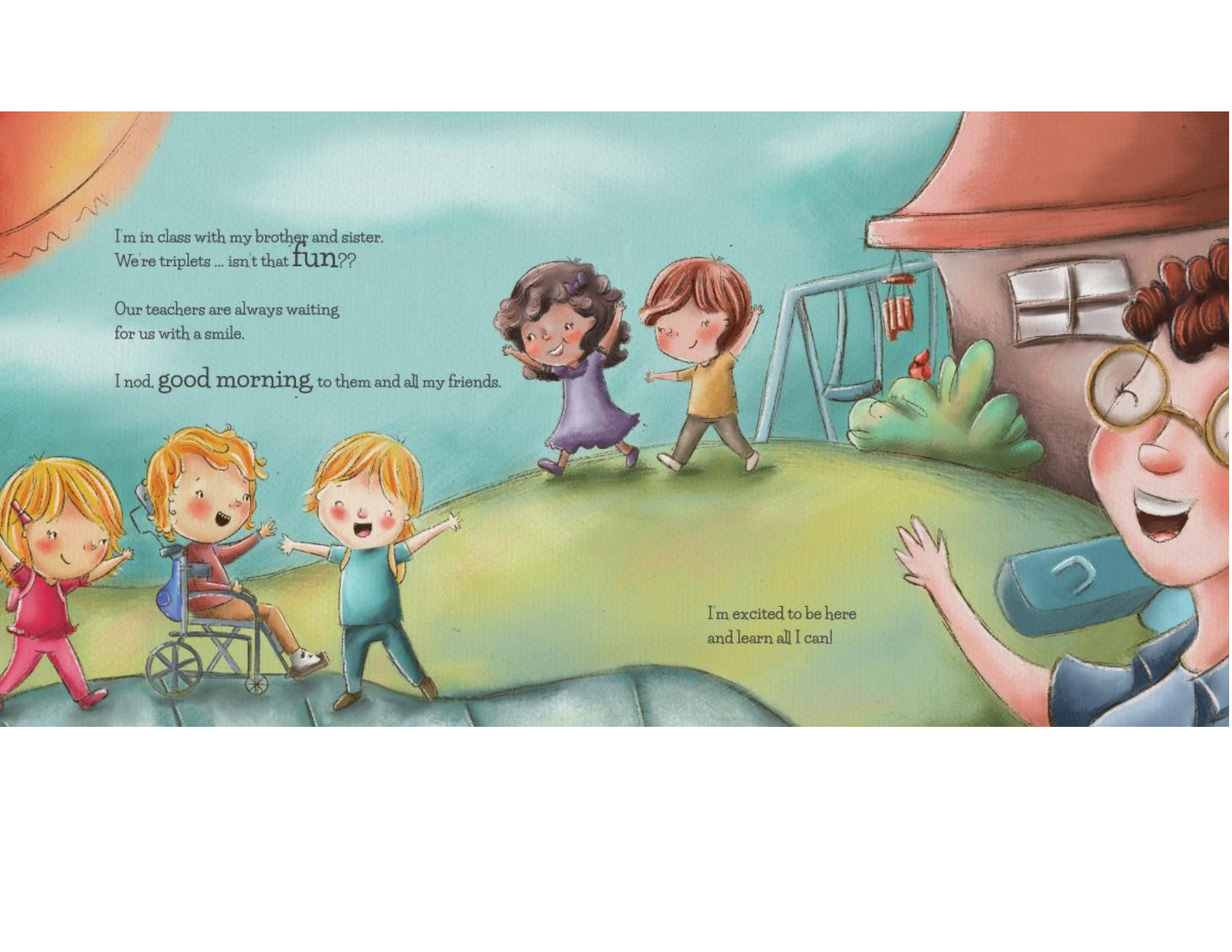
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Hi, I'm

Ben!

It's a school day so
we're up with the sun.



I'm in class with my brother and sister.
We're triplets ... isn't that **fun??**

Our teachers are always waiting
for us with a smile.


I nod, **good morning** to them and all my friends.

I'm excited to be here
and learn all I can!

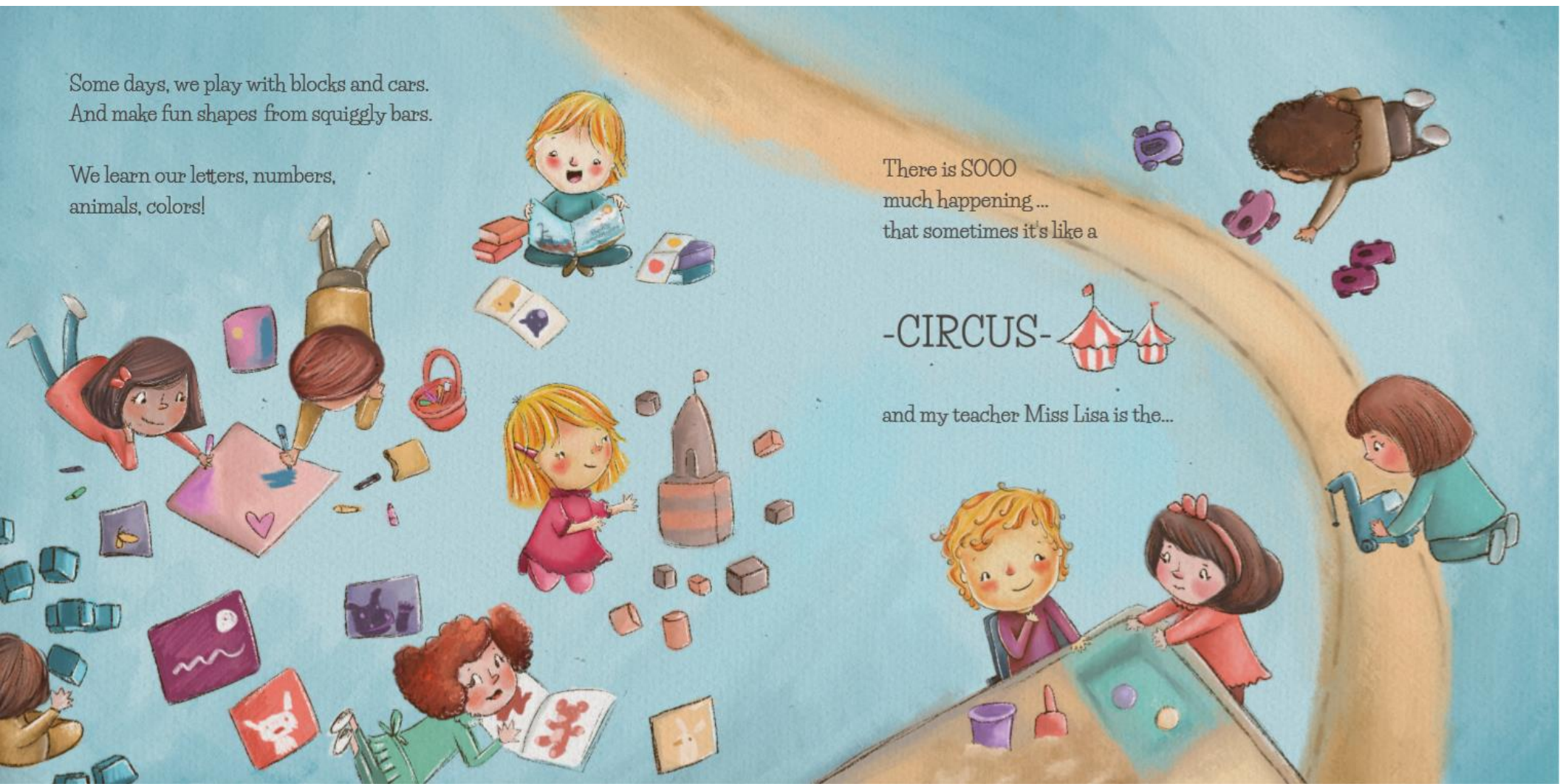
Some days, we play with blocks and cars.
And make fun shapes from squiggly bars.

We learn our letters, numbers,
animals, colors!

There is SOOO
much happening ...
that sometimes it's like a

-CIRCUS- 

and my teacher Miss Lisa is the...





...RINGMASTER!

Little ones, come gather 'round.
And welcome to the class BIG TOP.

Today's the day for laughs and joy,
the fun will never stop.

We'll learn to juggle great
big blocks that sit
right over there.

We nod in wonder,
then I think what
else is at this fair?



She reaches down to grab
the blocks and tosses
with a flourish.

Our eyes all gaze right up
at her -- she guides
this fancy CIRCUS.



She blinks just once
and points to me, and
then at my friend Finn.

We nod and spin around one time.
We're CLOWNS - and fit right in!

Miss Lisa kicks and jumps and flips.
She's TOO a circus clown!

Jumping, flipping, flying high,
her blocks come crashing down.

I turn and look right up at Finn
where he's on the trapeze.

Swinging smoothly through the air,
he looks like he's at ease.





I blink my eyes and there they are.
Ten lions march around the room.
I jump and grab my sparkly wand.
I'm now in a TAMER COSTUME!



I stop, stand still, then hear their roar.
It fills me with delight.
If these weren't ones in MY OWN dream,
it would be such a fright!

They march first left and next
the right ... but stop and
come my way!

I smile, they smile, and
then they say, "We'll play
with you today!"

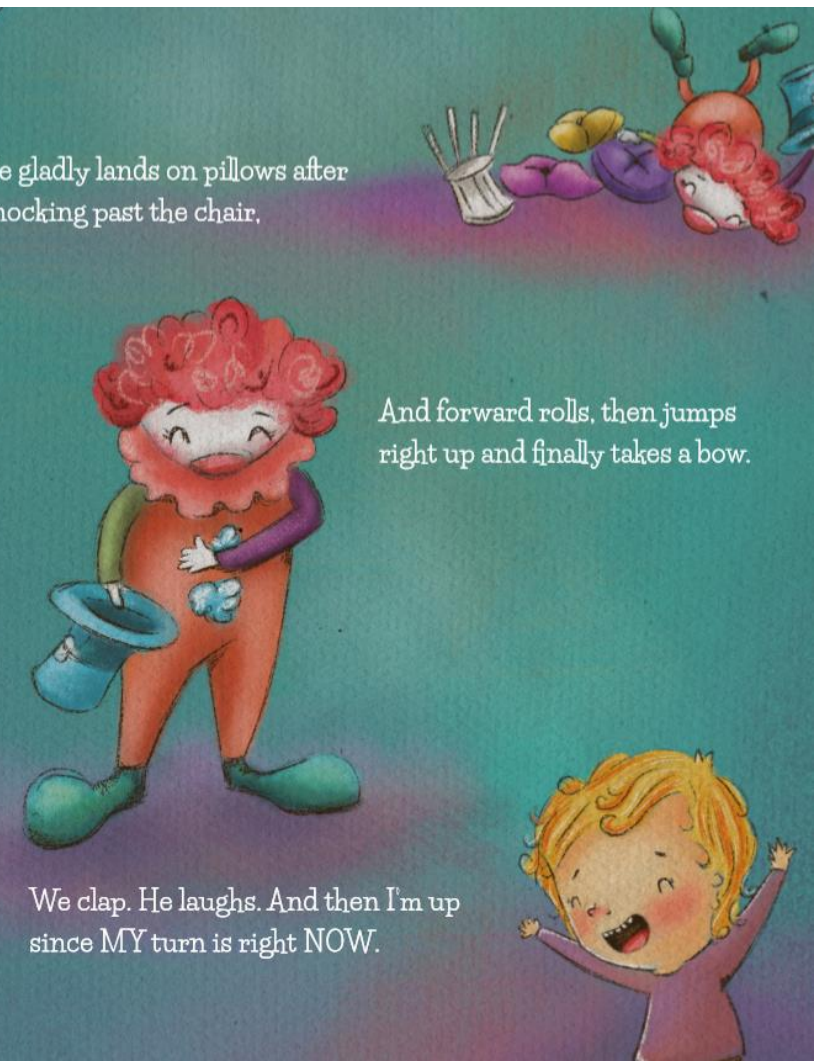
The popcorn pops.
The candy is sweet.
The lights light up the room.
This circus class is so much fun.
But there's a loud

KA-BOOM!





Clowny Colin finds the
cannon and
shoots up
through
the air.



He gladly lands on pillows after
knocking past the chair.

And forward rolls, then jumps
right up and finally takes a bow.

We clap. He laughs. And then I'm up
since MY turn is right NOW.

Time for me to juggle blocks of yellow, blue and green.
I start with four, then add some more - and soon I have

FIFTEEN!

Up and down. Then up and down.
Then up and down they go.

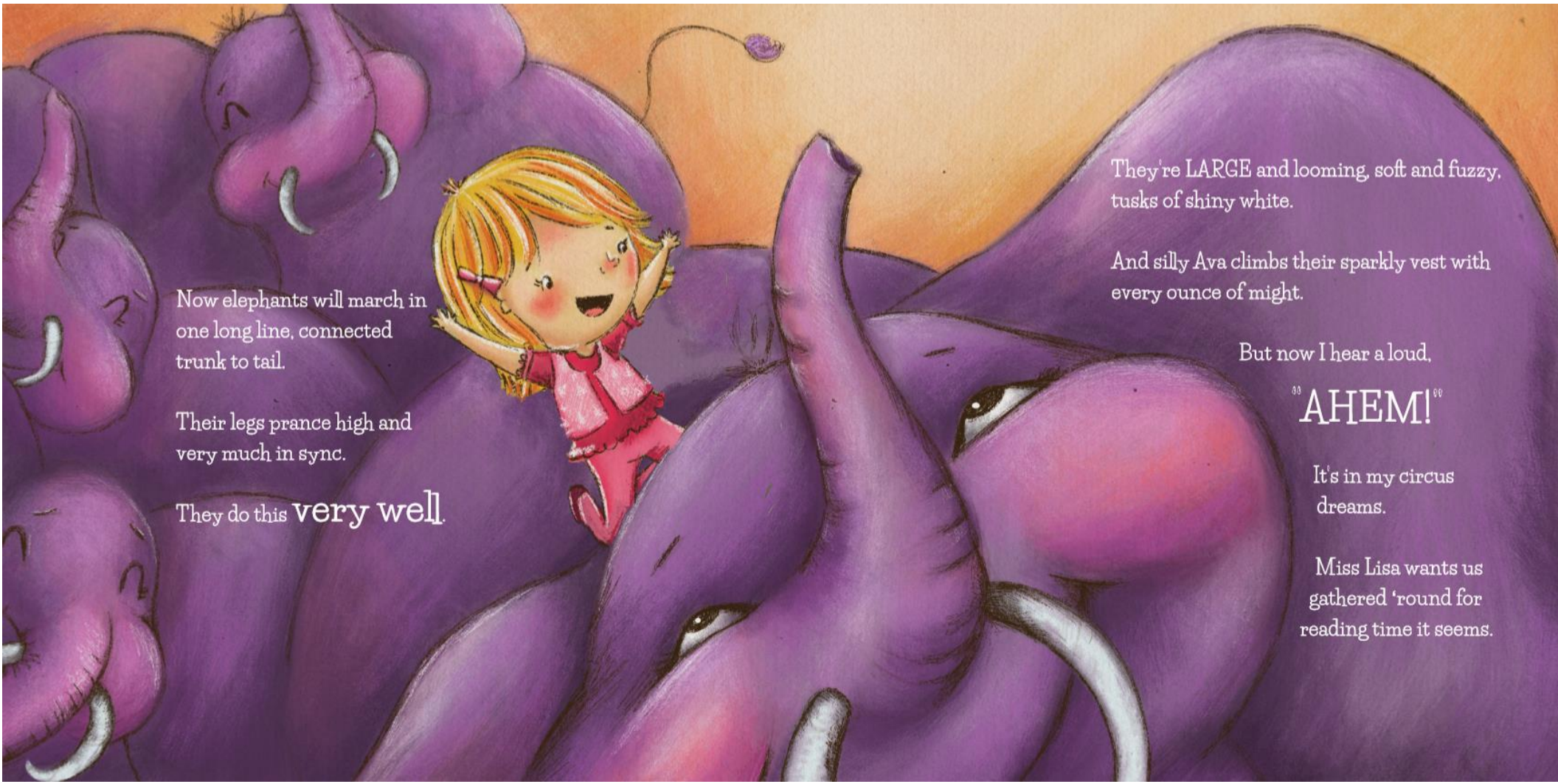
One by one.
They're up and down.
And then they start to GLOW!

They crash. I laugh.
Then tell my friend,

⁰⁸ Now, THAT
was sure some fun!⁰⁸

I'm very proud that I could juggle
way more than just the ONE!





Now elephants will march in
one long line, connected
trunk to tail.

Their legs prance high and
very much in sync.

They do this **very well**.

They're LARGE and looming, soft and fuzzy,
tusks of shiny white.

And silly Ava climbs their sparkly vest with
every ounce of might.

But now I hear a loud,

AHEM!

It's in my circus
dreams.

Miss Lisa wants us
gathered 'round for
reading time it seems.

SNAP ... I open my eyes,
look around, and I'm on the
floor with my group.

I love storytime and hearing about other dreams I can dream.
I relax back in my chair.

Today's book is about a
Kids' Traveling Circus!

What do you know?



Miss Lisa reads about
all the jobs at a circus.

Maybe I could do that
for **REAL** one day!



School day is done and it's
time to head home.

"Hello, my little sweethearts.
I missed you," mommy says,
giving us each a hug and a
kiss when she picks us up.

"How was your
day today?"

I want to tell her about my circus dream,
but instead start thinking
about tomorrow's **adventure**.



Hi, Mrs. Lisa! I loved your class!

Hey there,
Logan, Caden &
Mason!

What's up ... Billy,
Brady & Kennedy?

Hi, Mrs. Elaine!

Hi, Grandma Lora!

Hi, Grandma!

Hey there, Uncle Robby,
Brenna, Connor & Joey!

How's it going,
Masterpiece
Ministry?

Hi there,
Karyn!

Hi Tracey!

Hi there, De Joinette!

Hi there, Kenneth!

Hi, Jackie! How are you?



Thank you to Ben's Team! Your support is amazing.

Jessica Reams, Ronda Green & Family, Colleen Schmitt, Tami Speten, Katie Likar, Savy Leiser, Katharine Patterson, Barbara Bond, Effie Koliopoulos, Aaron McGinley, Gaurav Bhatnagar, Brian Blackmore, Jennifer Aicher, Sheri Wall, Carrie Barley, Laura Welsch, Jody Paige, Megan Neitzel, Stacy C Bauer, Lauren O'Connor, Thuy Ha, Jes Linville, Divya Mohan, Angela Castillo, Ross Hammond, Angela Repke, Mikala Albertson, Lisa Ferland, Melissa Reams, Lauri McGuire, Linda McDonald, Chit-wa Sarah Tam, Hannah Zies, Daniel Capuciatl Overbay, Susie Redfern, Arnold Henry, Lisa Leshaw, Thicia Sabathne, The Trean Family, Lindsay Achtman, John Hanely, Alex Gerlach, Polly Foley, Jana Broecker, Kelly, Jenny Bereiter, Rachelle Jones Smith, Patricia Breuschke, Sandie Fishbein, Michiko Gupto, Jayna, Sharon Pennock, Brian Bennett, Sue Fay, Mike Anderson, Stacy Forrest, Jonathon Masiulionis, Nichole, Cassie Cahill, Jesse Palmer, Emily North, Brandi Wiatrack, Kelly Avraam, Heather Clark, Kelly Kalseth, Christina Lyerla, Lizdella Pinon, Lisa Marie Michaelis, Mary Yurik, Shona Fowler, Jack Malsom, MaryAnn Foltz, Ava D, Wendy Jo Bradshaw, Gail Hoffer-Loibl, Kristen, Super Soren Inc., Anne Bodestine, The Tavernier Family, Anne Porter, Michelle Brandonisio, The Babbitt Family, Stefanie Jahnke, Betty Young, Lara Tjin A Tam, Lansy Samuelson, Laurie Wright, The Garon Family, Ashleigh Key, Megan Nicole, Harriet S Hawkins, The Sparks Family, Linda Hogan, Amy Skotzko, Peggy Sawyer & Family, Chris Brathwaite, Dan Harrison, Kristi Tinsley & Family, Beth Paron, Abby Adams, Gerald Jacobs, Gina Hendron, The Kamin Family, Jenna Bingener, Cindy, Jenny, Krissy & Jason, Jamie Roberts, Heather Less, Yahna Awazu, Lauren Kirchgassner, The Gesiakowski Family, Tony Ehlert, Terri Robinson, Jessica Mannion, Kathleen Kelly, Eve Leinonen, Stevie Swift, Carolyn Krueger, JoAnna Barton, Michelle Mansfield, Deborah Klos, Lisa Mackey, Vykki Harrell, The Baugh Family, Frances Hasty, The Welch Family, Cheryl Eleazer, Lisa Olinger, The Kerstiens Family, Pat Sparks, The Dunn Family, The McClure Family, Lora Harrison, The Pond Family, Jaimie Valentini, Kenneth Singleton, Karyn Doerfler, The Cheesman Family, Jackie Kim, Pigeon, De Jionette Norton



About the Author:

Elizabeth Gerlach (Ben's mommy) is a triplet & special needs mom, wife, fundraiser, and most recently children's book author. She was inspired to develop the Ben's Adventures book series as a tribute to her son Benjamin, showing even though his short life was a struggle, he was a little boy first .. with friends, dreams, and a love for his family and life. Elizabeth and her husband Rob also established the Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation (www.BenSmiles.org) to spread Ben's joy by gifting adapted toys and devices to kids with motor diagnoses. She believes that things happen for a reason and this was meant to be their story.

Originally from Virginia, she is a southerner at heart but currently resides in the Chicago suburbs with her husband, dogs and Ben's triplet brother and sister. www.ElizabethGerlach.com



About the Illustrator:

Stephanie Hider is a visual designer, illustrator and front end developer. She helps her awesome clients recreate their digital homes. She brings magic and life to author's picture books and licenses artwork across multiple products. Stephanie's love of art began at just five years old when she started to notice lines and how they moved to create shapes and characters. Throughout her training, education and career, she has developed a strong passion for textile art, graphic design, web design, and now picture book illustration. She currently lives in Oklahoma with her daughter and multi-poo puppy. www.StephIsDoodling.com

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Thank you!
-Elizabeth

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