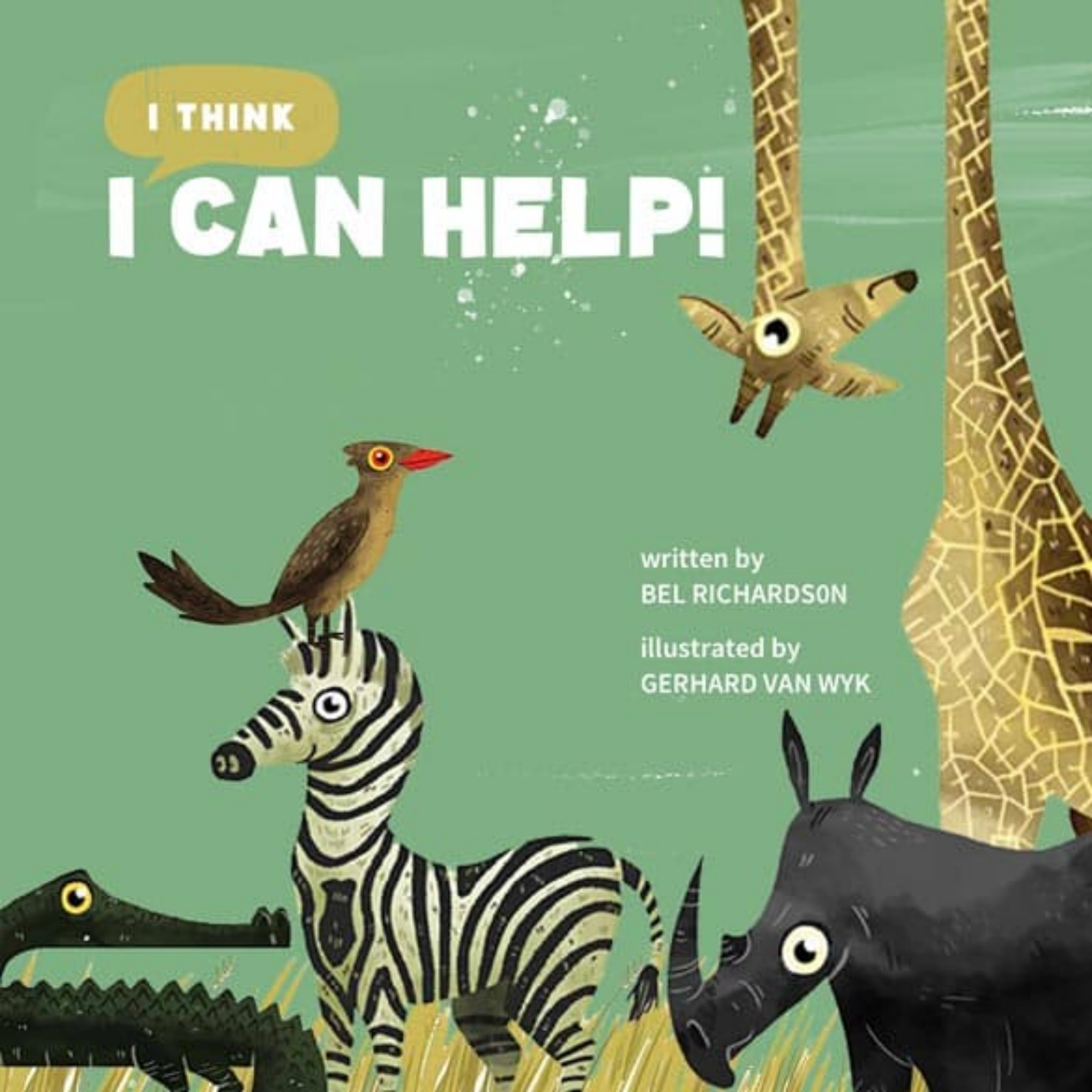


I THINK

I CAN HELP!

written by
BEL RICHARDSON

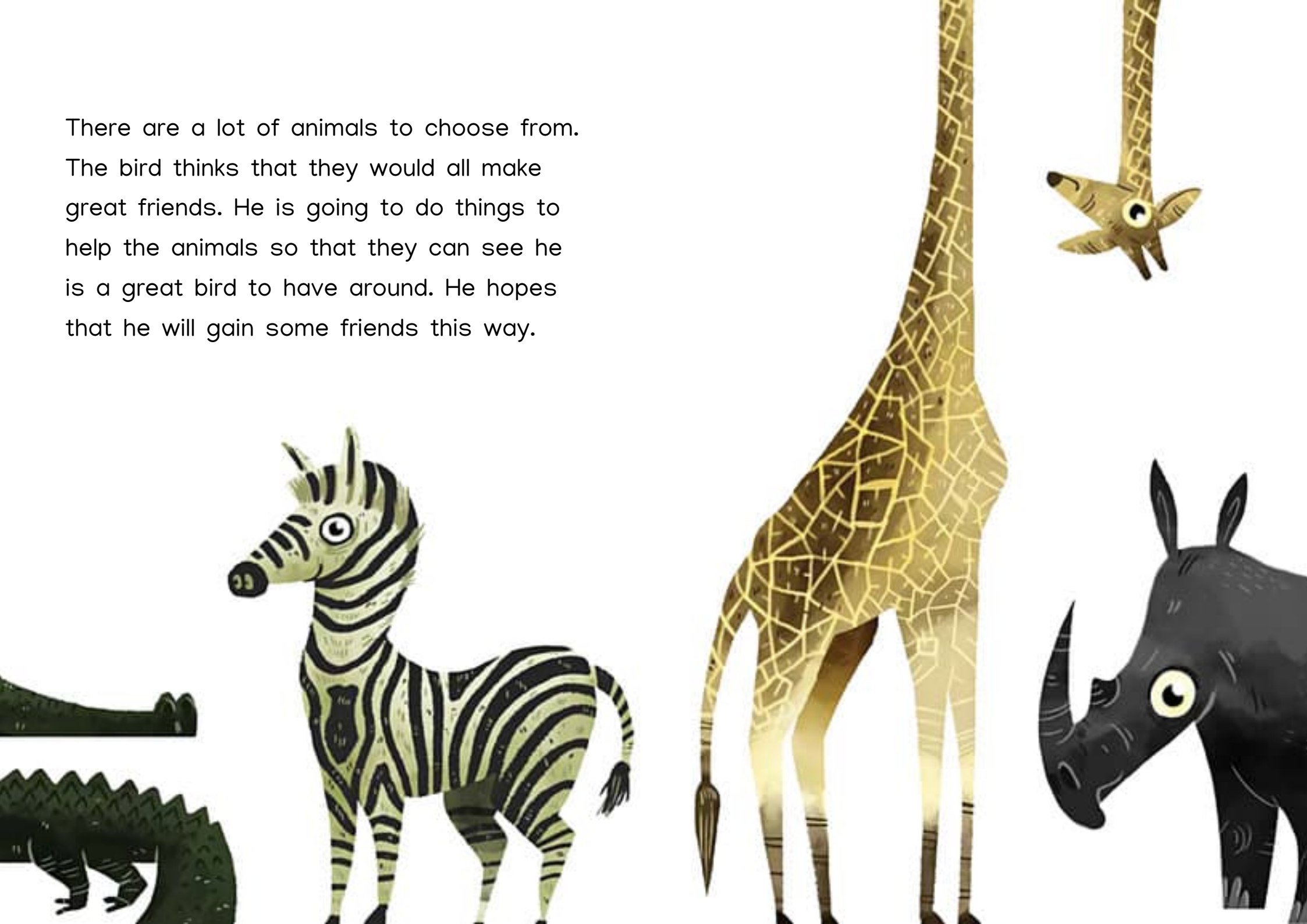
illustrated by
GERHARD VAN WYK





This bird is new in town. He likes his new home, but he does not have any friends yet. He will go and find some animals to be friends with so that he can feel welcome in this part of the world.

There are a lot of animals to choose from. The bird thinks that they would all make great friends. He is going to do things to help the animals so that they can see he is a great bird to have around. He hopes that he will gain some friends this way.



The rhino seems to be unhappy. There are flies all around its butt. A rhino is a long animal. It can't reach the flies with its mouth. All it can do is swat its short tail at them.



'I think I can help!' says the bird. He swoops in to save the day. He chows down on the flies that are hanging around. He likes this job. He gets a snack while he is working. The rhino perks up now. She thanks him. She wants to be friends.





The croc is feeling unwell. He thinks that there is something stuck in one of his teeth. It is making his whole mouth sore. It hurts a lot, and there is nothing that he can do.

'I think I can help!' says the bird. He is a brave bird. He goes into the croc's mouth and takes a look. He sees a bit of bone stuck between his teeth. He pecks it out. The croc says thanks. Most animals are too scared to trust him. He wants to be friends with the bird too!



The giraffe has something stuck behind its ear. It was munching on some leaves when it happened. He thinks it might be a stick. He is whipping his long tongue around to try and pry it free.



'I think I can help!' says the bird. It swoops in and snaps up the stick. The giraffe is unsure that he ever would have been able to get it by himself! He tells the bird that he's heard the other animals talking about what a great friend he is. He asks if they can be friends too.

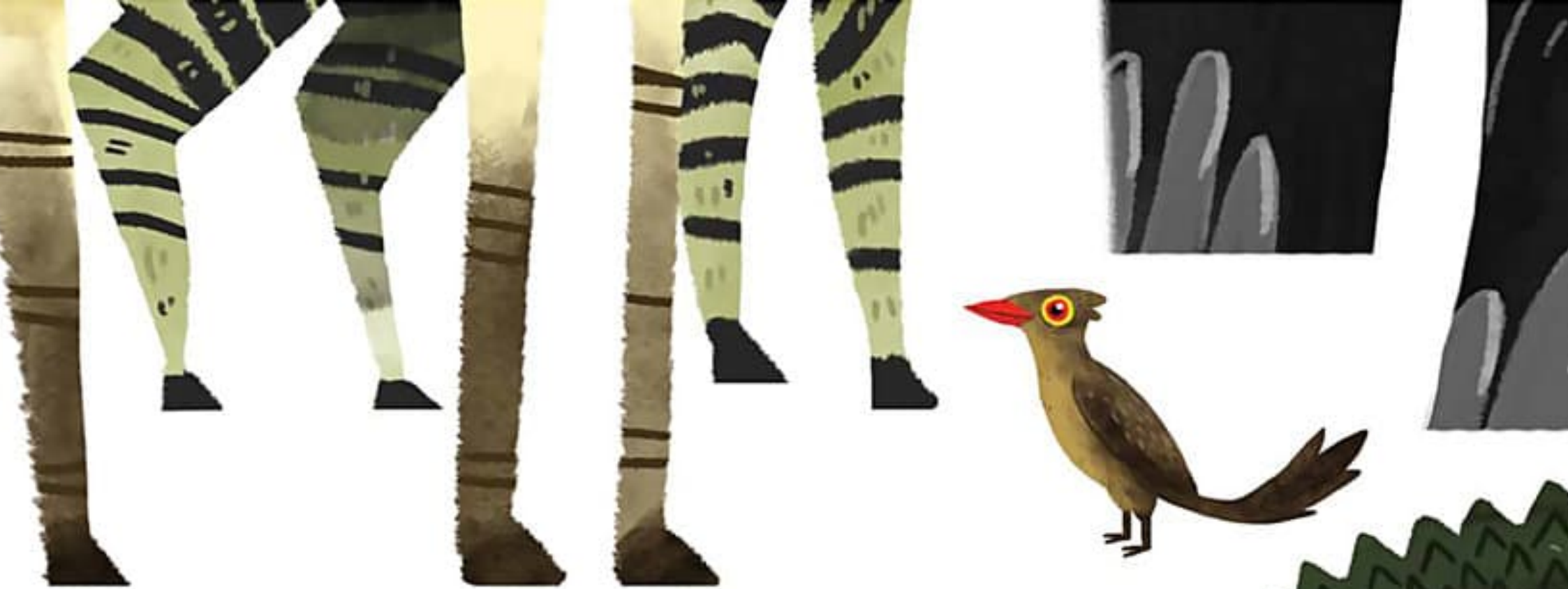




The bird flies over near the zebra now. She says that she has no time to talk as she is watching for lions. She is very grumpy because all she wants to do is eat, but she does not want to let her guard down. It is unsafe for her to do that.



'I think I can help!' says the bird. The bird offers to keep watch for her. The zebra tucks into the grass. She eats the best meal that she has had for weeks because no lions are going to sneak up on her. The bird is happy to help.



The bird is so happy that he has made a group of friends. The four of them ask what they can do for him because he has been so kind. He has made their day a breeze! The bird thinks...



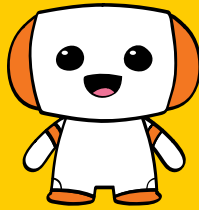


'You can tell me what you think of my singing!' the birds says before he bursts into song. The animals listen. His song is very sharp. It hurts their ears, but they want to be good friends.

'You have a lot of heart in your song,' says the croc. 'We love to sing too!' said the giraffe.

'We can all help each other with our singing,' said the rhino and the zebra. The bird could not have been more pleased.





S5

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