

HENRY

THE REMARKABLE

ELEPHANT



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Chapter 1

Deep in the heart of the Indian jungle lived a very kind young elephant called Henry. He had a big grey body, a long trunk and twinkling grey eyes. Henry was friendly with all of the other young animals in the jungle. There was Frank, the leopard, who was about as cheeky as any leopard you have ever read about. There was Jade, the cheetah, who was particularly fast at running races. And there was Gary, a great Indian rhino with a big laugh.

Like any other young animal, Henry loved playing games with his friends. He enjoyed basketball, where he bounced the ball with his trunk and scored baskets from huge distances. He liked making shelters - he was incredibly strong so he could lift massive chunks of wood. And he was very fond of swimming races - he just had to be careful not to splash the smaller animals too hard.

But there was one thing Henry did that his friends did not understand. Sometimes, in the middle of a game, he would sneak away and vanish for a few hours. After that, he would return to them as if he hadn't been away.

"I wonder where he goes?" said Jade one day, after Henry had slipped away during a game of piggyback races (Henry always carried an animal friend in this game because he was a bit too heavy for someone else to carry him).

"Who cares?" replied Frank, "he always comes back, doesn't he?"

Jade had to agree that this was true.



One scorching summer day when Henry and his friends were playing a game called "Rolling around in mud-baths and chucking mud at each other", they suddenly saw an old monkey called Cal running towards them. Cal was a macaque monkey, the right hand to the king of the jungle, a lion named Oscar.

"Young animals," panted Cal when he reached them, looking very serious. "You must stop playing at once and come and help us."

"Help you with what?" asked Frank.

"I have just been to the far side of the jungle," said Cal, "and I saw men with machines."

"What kind of machines?" asked Gary.

"Logging machines," answered Cal.

"But aren't logging machines used to chop down trees?" said Jade.

"Yes," said Cal. "The men are planning to chop down all of the trees in the jungle and sell them as wood."

"But they can't do that!" cried Henry. "We need the trees to live here. They give us fruit and berries."

"Plus shade when it's hot," added Frank, "and it is hot pretty much all of the time."

"What does King Oscar say?" asked Gary.

"He says we have to build a barricade," replied Cal.

"What's a barricade?" asked Frank.

"It's a huge wall," said Cal. "A wall that is strong enough to keep the loggers and their logging machines away from our trees. We need to start building this barricade right away!"

The young jungle animals didn't need telling twice. They jumped out of their mud-baths and started running after Cal. They ran back to where all of the other jungle animals were gathered.

"Friends and family," said Oscar, the King, who was standing on a large tree stump. "The loggers are already in our jungle and they are heading this way!"

There were angry boos and hisses from the animal crowd.

"But by making a barricade around our part of the jungle we can stop them!"

All of the animals shouted their agreement.

"But we can't use wood to make the barricade," someone called out. "The loggers will just chop it down."

"Exactly!" cried Oscar. "That is why we are going to build it of rocks and stones. The men's logging machines will not be able to cut through them."

There were cheers and whistles.

"So this is what we must do," said Oscar. "Some of you will collect rocks and stones. Some of you will carry them back here. And some of you will start building our barricade. We do not have much time. Now GO!"

Henry and his friends were sent off with the rocks and stones collecting group. They headed to a shady area where there were lots of rocks and stones and began grabbing them and placing them in tall piles. Other animals took the piles on their backs, in their trunks or on their heads and took them back to the barricade building group.

After an hour of collecting rocks and stones, Frank suddenly realised that Henry had disappeared... again.

Henry was already quite a long way away from the other animals. He had collected lots of rocks and stones and then slunk away. If you had seen him that day, you would have spotted that he reached a cave, took a quick look around to make sure no one could see him and then disappeared inside.