

# HENRY THE REMARKABLE ELEPHANT

## Chapter 2

Two hours later, Henry returned to the others and started collecting rocks and stones as if he hadn't been away. Gary gave Henry a funny look but Henry just smiled.

Oscar the King on the other hand was not smiling. The loggers were chopping down trees at a very fast rate and it would not be long before they arrived at the animals' home. If the barricade wasn't ready, the animals' home would be destroyed.

Later that day, Oscar visited all of the animals' work-stations to hurry them up and cheer them on. He could see that everyone was working as hard as they could so he praised them and thanked them. He came upon the young jungle animals who were running around, picking up stones and rocks and placing them in big piles. He said how well they were doing and was about to move off when he noticed something.

Henry the young elephant wasn't there.

"Where is Henry?" he asked with a frown.

"Err...he was here a few minutes ago," replied Gary, not wishing to get Henry into trouble.

"Fine," nodded Oscar. "I will wait for him to come back, just to make sure he is working as hard as the rest of you."

Five minutes went by. Then ten. Then twenty.

Oscar was getting angrier by the minute.

"One of you **MUST** know where he is!" snapped Oscar.

"We have no idea," said Jade.

"Does he do this often?" demanded Oscar. "Does he just go off and disappear?"

None of the animals said anything. They knew that Henry was probably in big enough trouble already.



Oscar waited another five minutes and then marched off to find Cal.

Cal was climbing up the barricade adding new stones to it when Oscar arrived.

Oscar took Cal to one side and explained what had just happened. "And by the looks on his friends' faces, this is not the first time Henry has sneaked off. I want you to find out what is going on, Cal."

The monkey nodded and hurried off to where Oscar had spoken to the young animals. When he got there he saw that Henry had reappeared and was now working with his friends.

"Fine, so you're here now," whispered Cal to himself. "But tomorrow I find out what you are up to, my little elephant friend."

The next day was extra hot and the animals, both old and young, were getting very tired. They had been working so hard on building the barricade but there was still a lot to do until they would finish it. The noise of the logging trucks could now be heard faintly in the distance. It was only a matter of time before they reached the animals' home.

Cal had climbed a tree that looked over the place where the young animals were doing their collecting. No one had seen him. He was spying on Henry and his friends. They were doing great work and were making huge piles of rocks and stones. Henry was working just as hard, if not harder than everyone else.

But when Frank, Jade and Gary went towards a very big rock, Henry slipped off and hurried in the other direction.

Cal started following him, swinging between the trees and making as little noise as he possibly could. Henry followed several paths until he reached a cave. Making sure there was no one else around and not spotting Cal, Henry crept into the cave.

"Ah-ha!" thought Cal, "so this is where he goes when he disappears."



Cal climbed down a tree and padded over to the mouth of the cave. He listened but could hear nothing. So, taking very small steps, he tiptoed inside. He found himself creeping down a dark tunnel that opened out into a large space. Light poured in through several holes in the rock ceiling.

Cal gaped at the walls of the cave. They were covered with beautiful paintings of trees and flowers and animals. They were amazing.

Then Cal's eyes moved to the far corner of the cave. Henry was standing in front of a long line of easels. Each easel was

covered with a large piece of tree bark. At Henry's feet were lots of thick wooden sticks. Henry was standing in front of the first canvas with a large paintbrush in his mouth. He was making some marks on the bark.

"So this is the big secret," thought Cal, "Henry is an elephant artist!"

