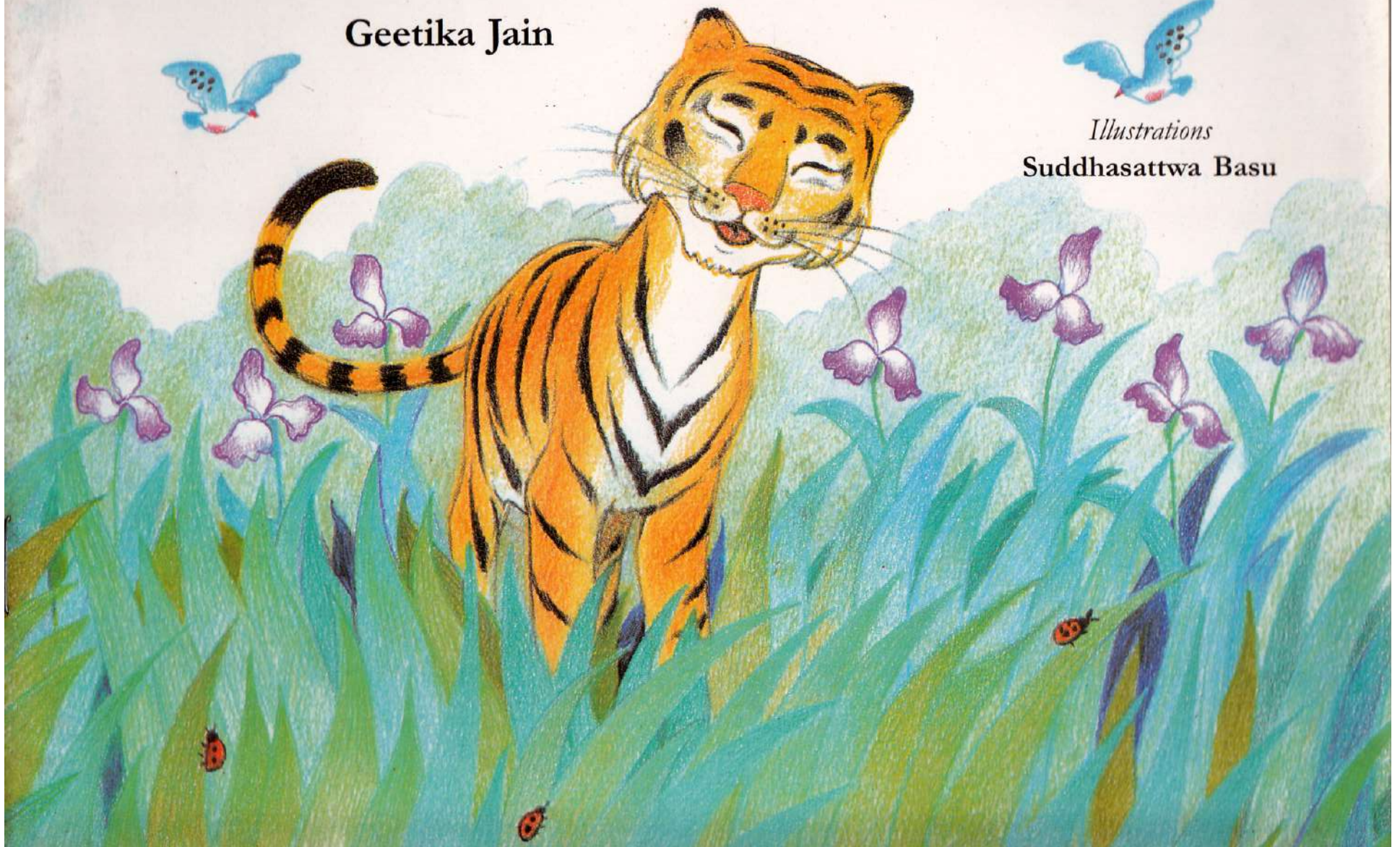









STRIPES IN THE JUNGLE

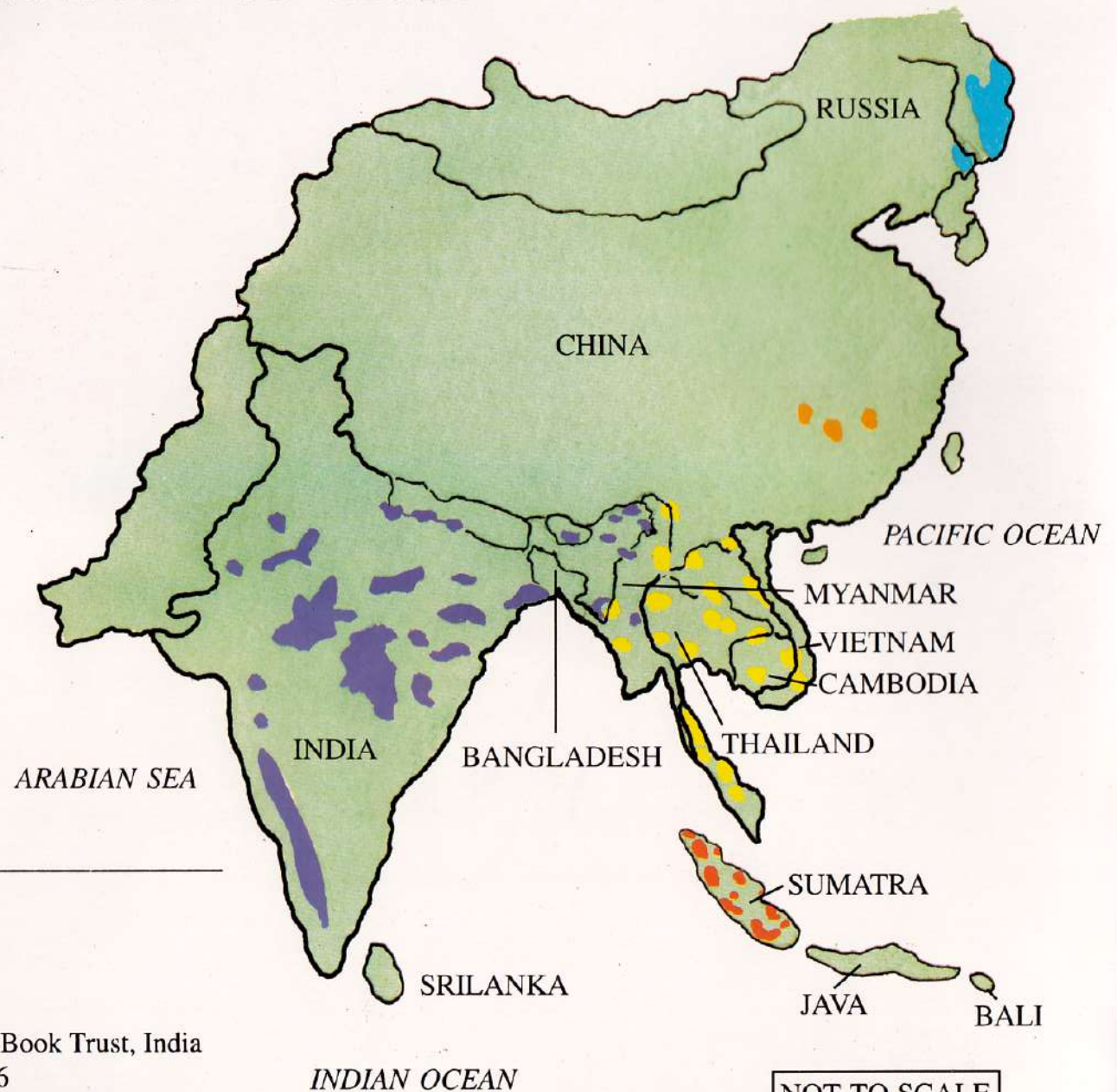
Geetika Jain

Illustrations
Suddhasattwa Basu



THE PRESENT RANGE OF TIGER

-  BENGAL TIGER
-  INDO-CHINESE TIGER
-  SUMATRAN TIGER
-  SOUTH - CHINA TIGER
-  SIBERIAN TIGER



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STRIPES IN THE JUNGLE

Geetika Jain

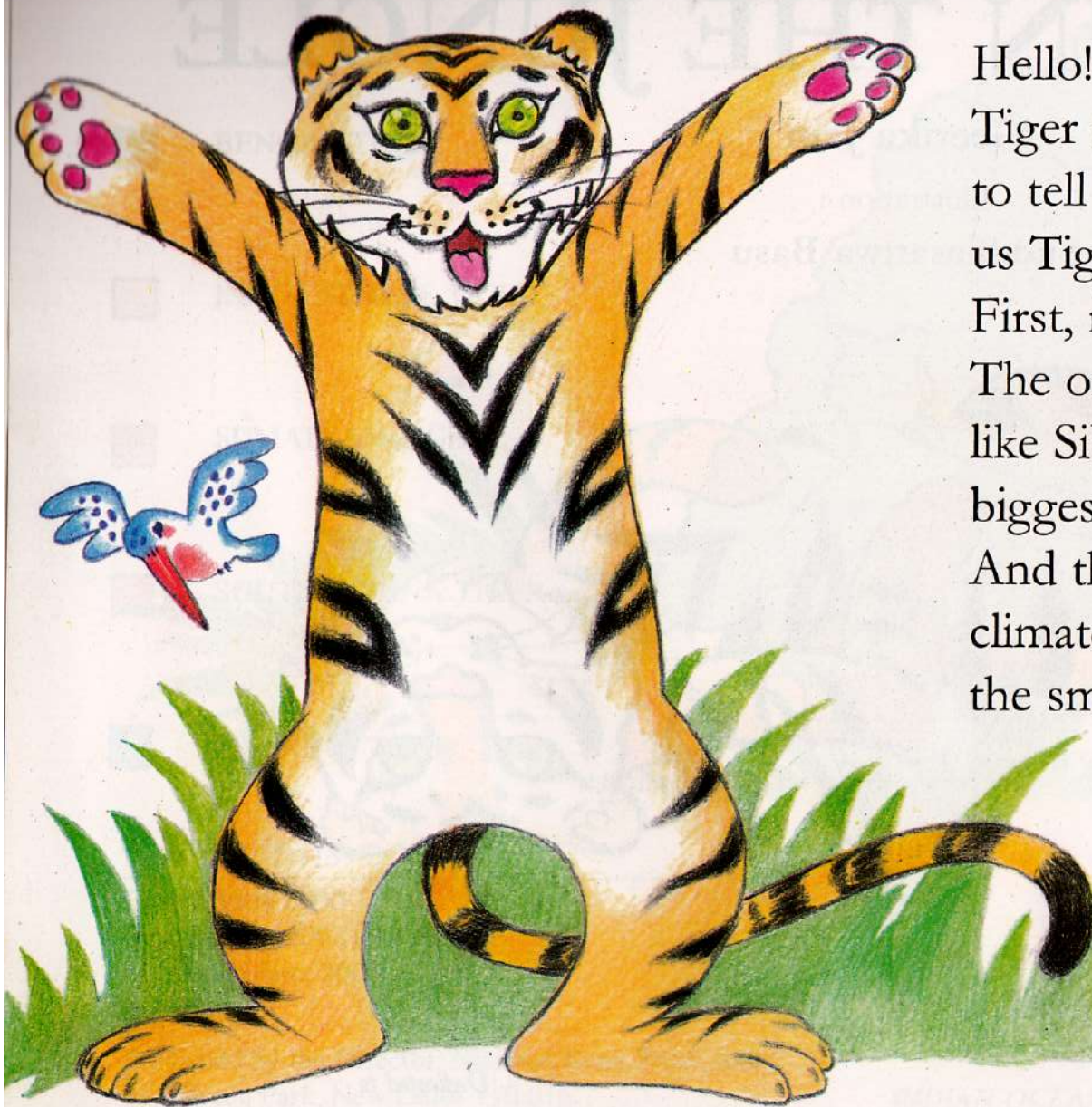
Illustration :

Suddhasattwa Basu



NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

Dedicated to
Bir and Swarnjit Rana and Ambuj and Shashi Jain.



Hello! I'm Sheroo, a Bengal Tiger from India. I'd like to tell you a little about us Tiger folk.

First, meet my cousins. . .

The ones from cold climates like Siberia are the biggest with the most fur.

And the ones from warmer climates like Sumatra are the smallest with the least fur.

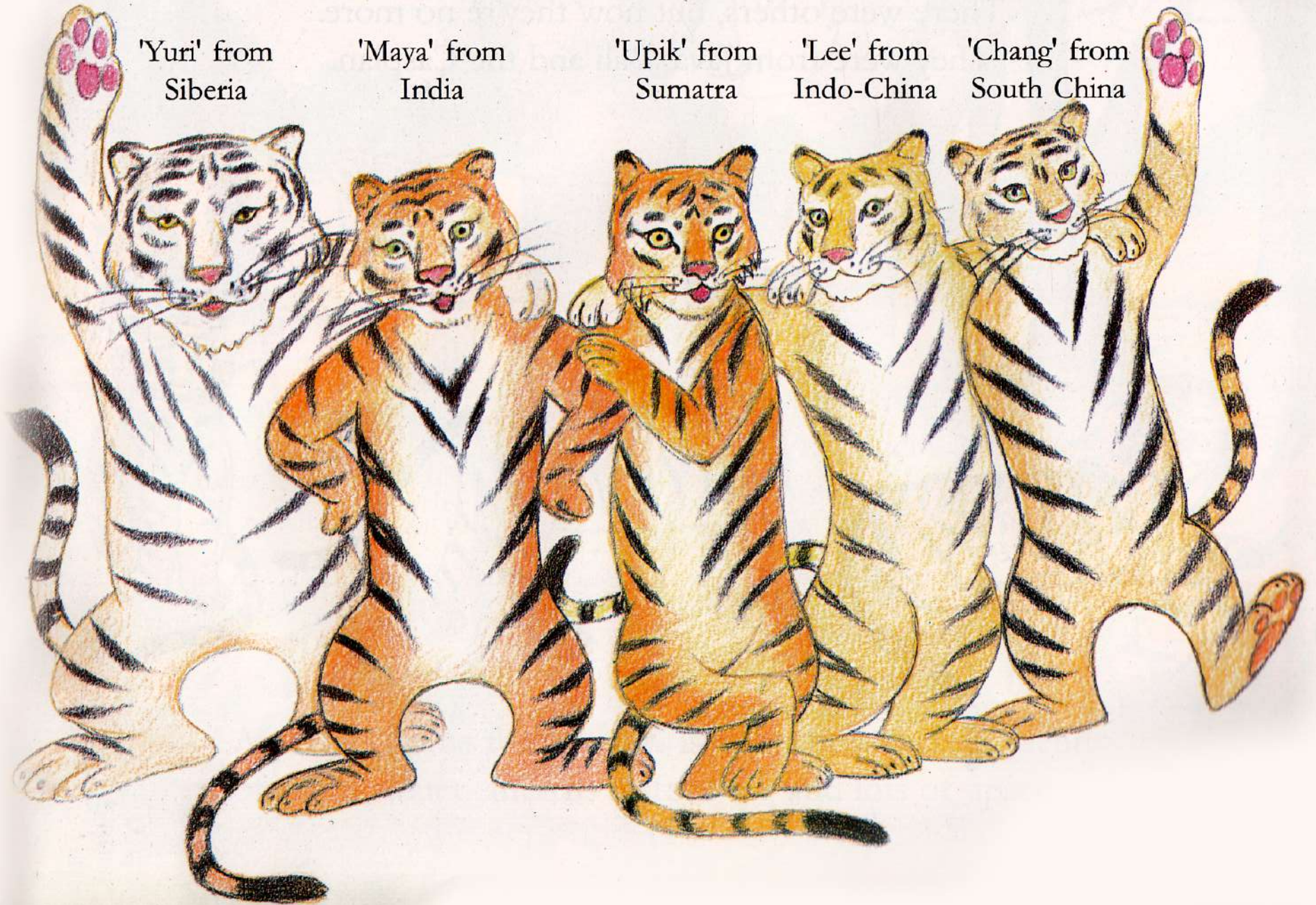
'Yuri' from
Siberia

'Maya' from
India

'Upik' from
Sumatra

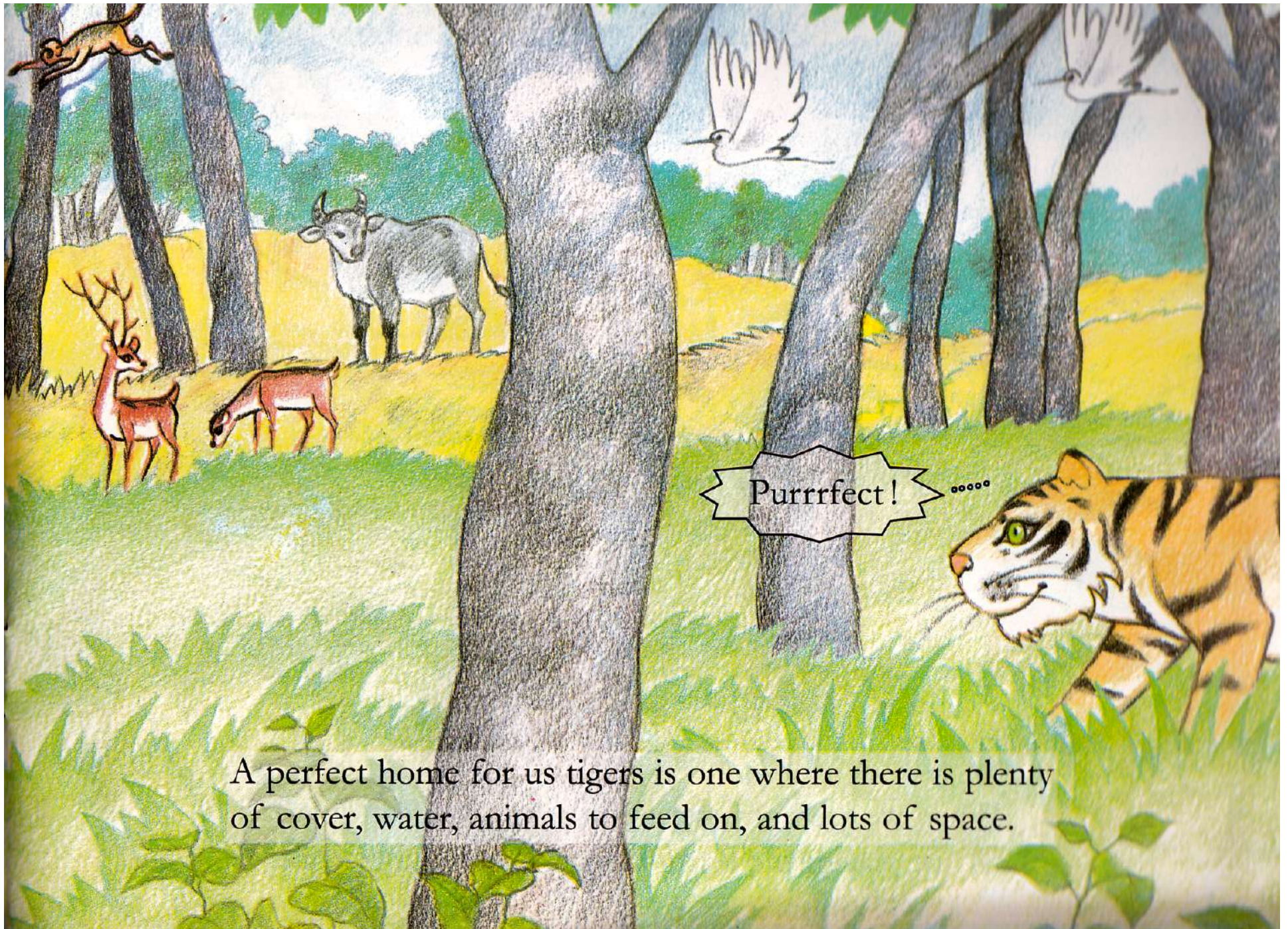
'Lee' from
Indo-China

'Chang' from
South China



There were others, but now they're no more.
They were from Java, Bali and the Caspian.





A perfect home for us tigers is one where there is plenty of cover, water, animals to feed on, and lots of space.

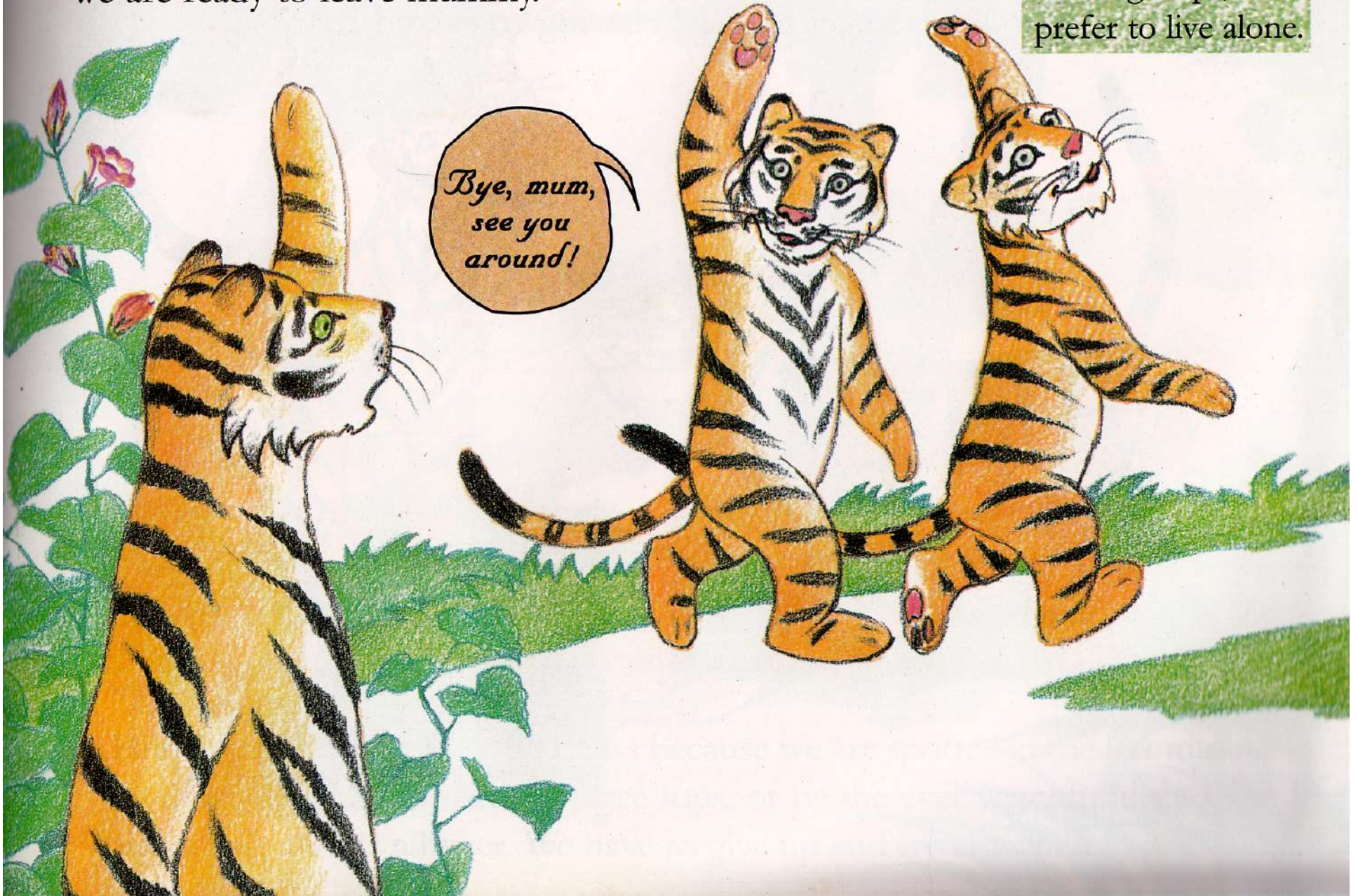


When we are born, we are usually twins or triplets.
While playing we learn to hide, chase and pounce.

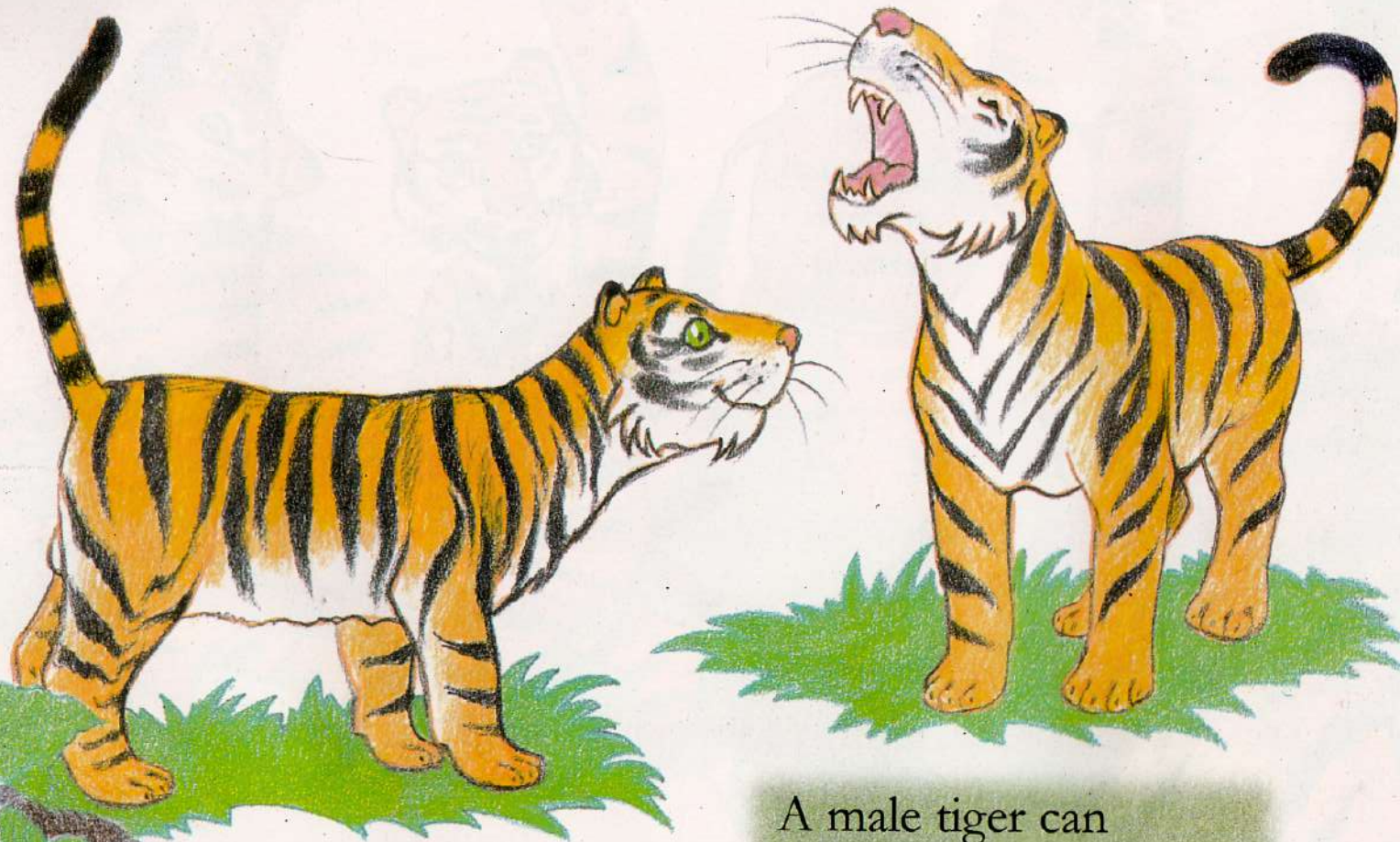
When we are about one and a half to two years old,
we are ready to leave mummy.

Unlike Lions, who
live in groups, we
prefer to live alone.

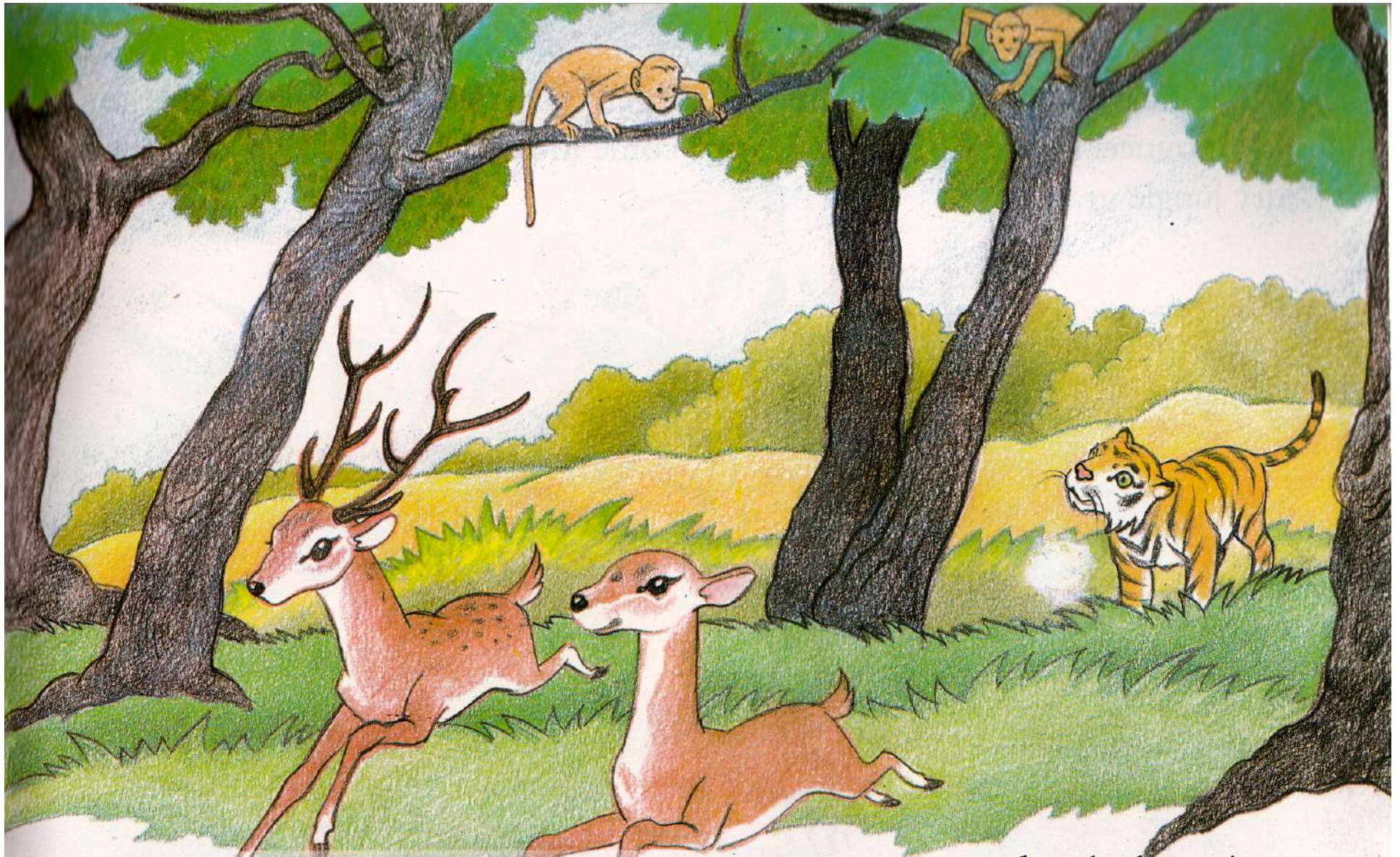
*Bye, mum,
see you
around!*



We select our territory and mark it by spraying
our body scent on bushes, clawing trees and roaring.



A male tiger can
roam over a territory
of a 100 sq. kilometres!



Hunting is not easy. We often miss because we are spotted at the last minute by those naughty monkeys on tree tops, or by the ever watchful deer. One alarm call, and its all over. We have to give up and try elsewhere.

While hunting we stalk our prey till we get very close, and then we charge and pounce. Our colouring and strips come in handy as we blend with the dry jungle grass.



With a little bit of skill and patience, we can get lucky!

Food glorious food! We eat deer, wild boar, peafowl, etc, and snack on crabs, turtles and fish.



We don't climb trees very well because we become too heavy.



But we do love water
and can swim well!



Did you know that tigers are called the "protectors of the forest?" . . . since we prey on plant eating animals, we keep their numbers in check. This way, there aren't too many animals eating up the forest vegetation.

A healthy forest acts like a sponge and soaks up extra rain water, releasing it slowly as needed. . . keeping nature's eco-system in balance.

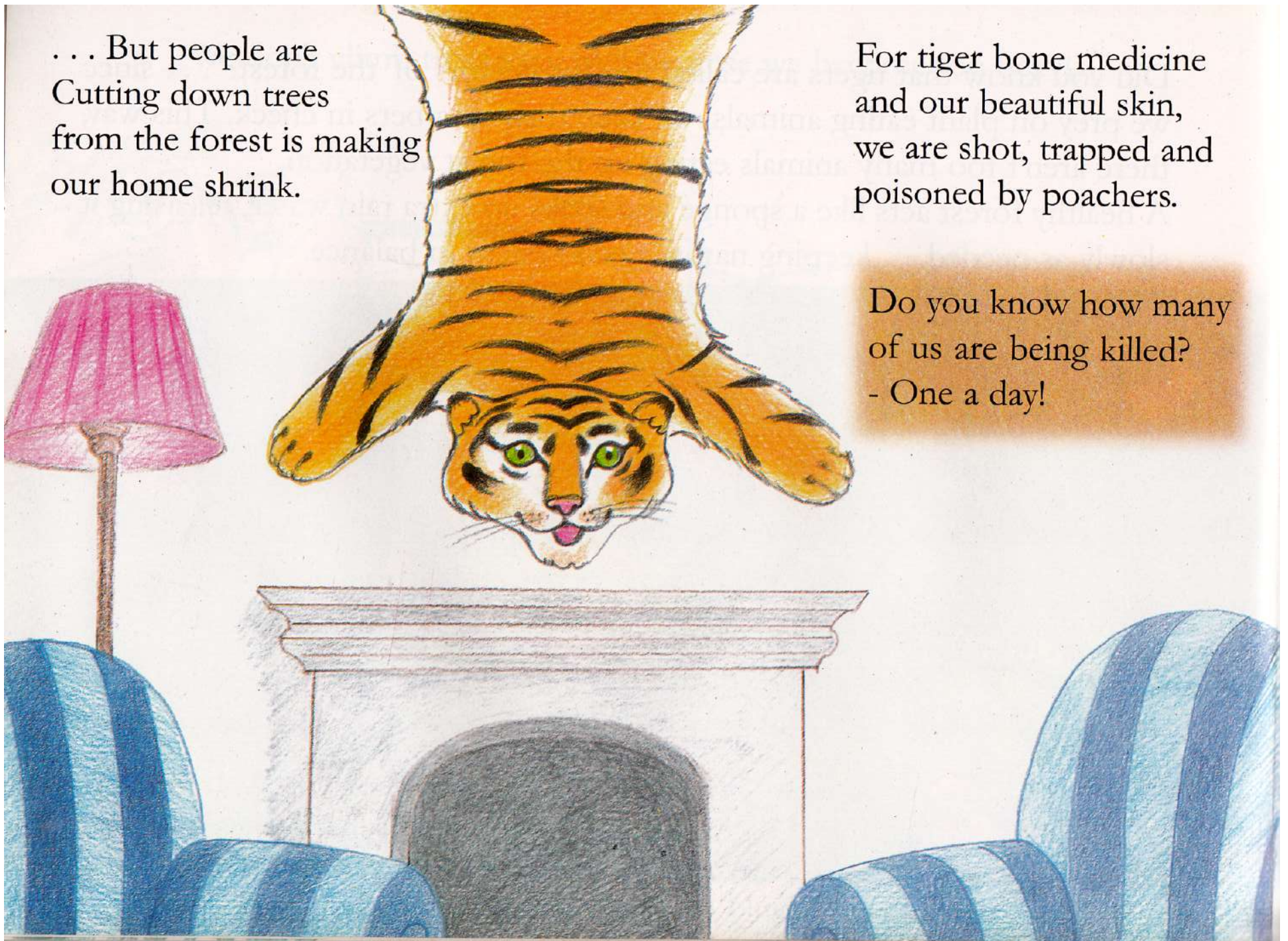


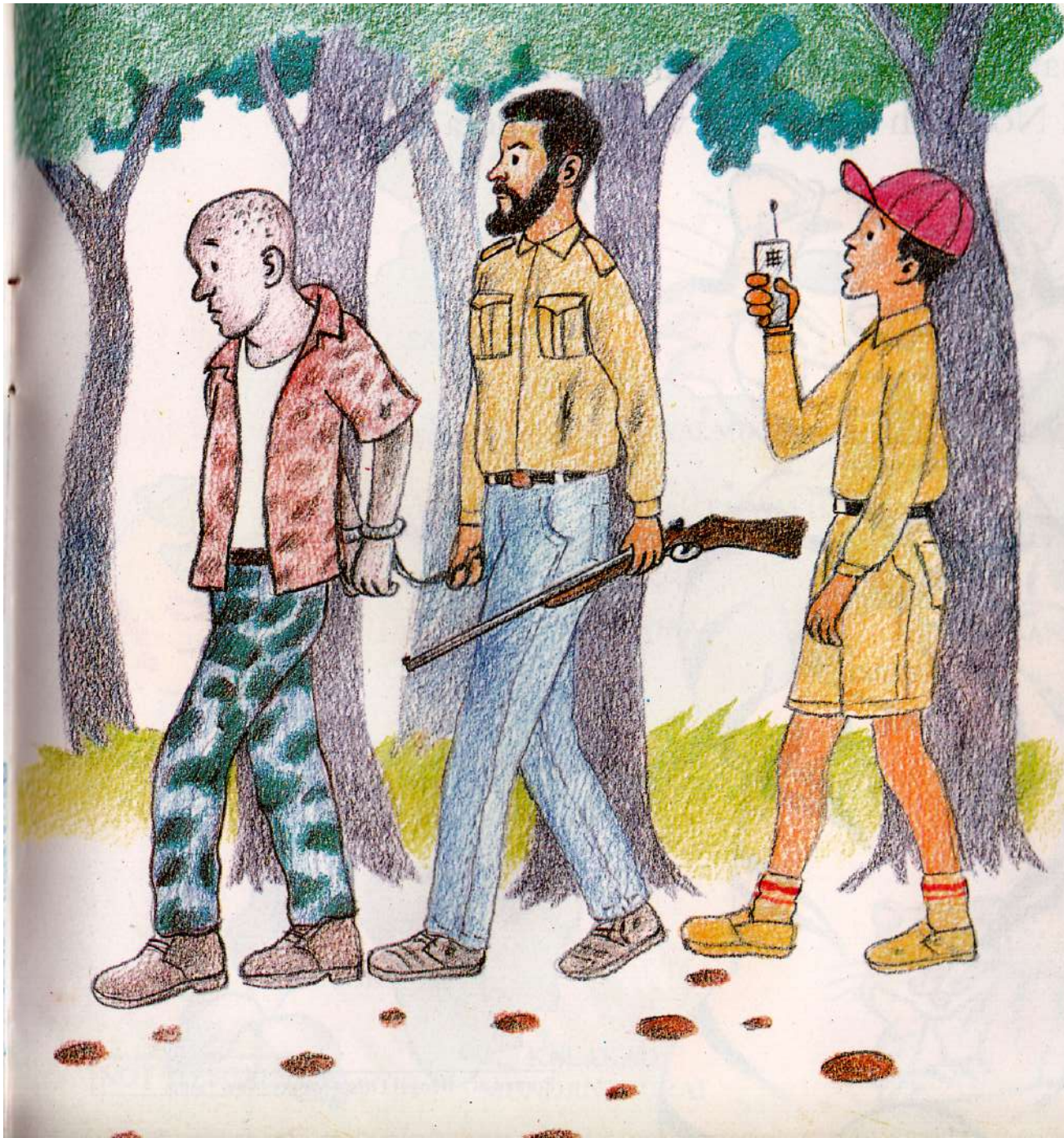
Humans should be happy to see us thrive. . .

... But people are
Cutting down trees
from the forest is making
our home shrink.

For tiger bone medicine
and our beautiful skin,
we are shot, trapped and
poisoned by poachers.

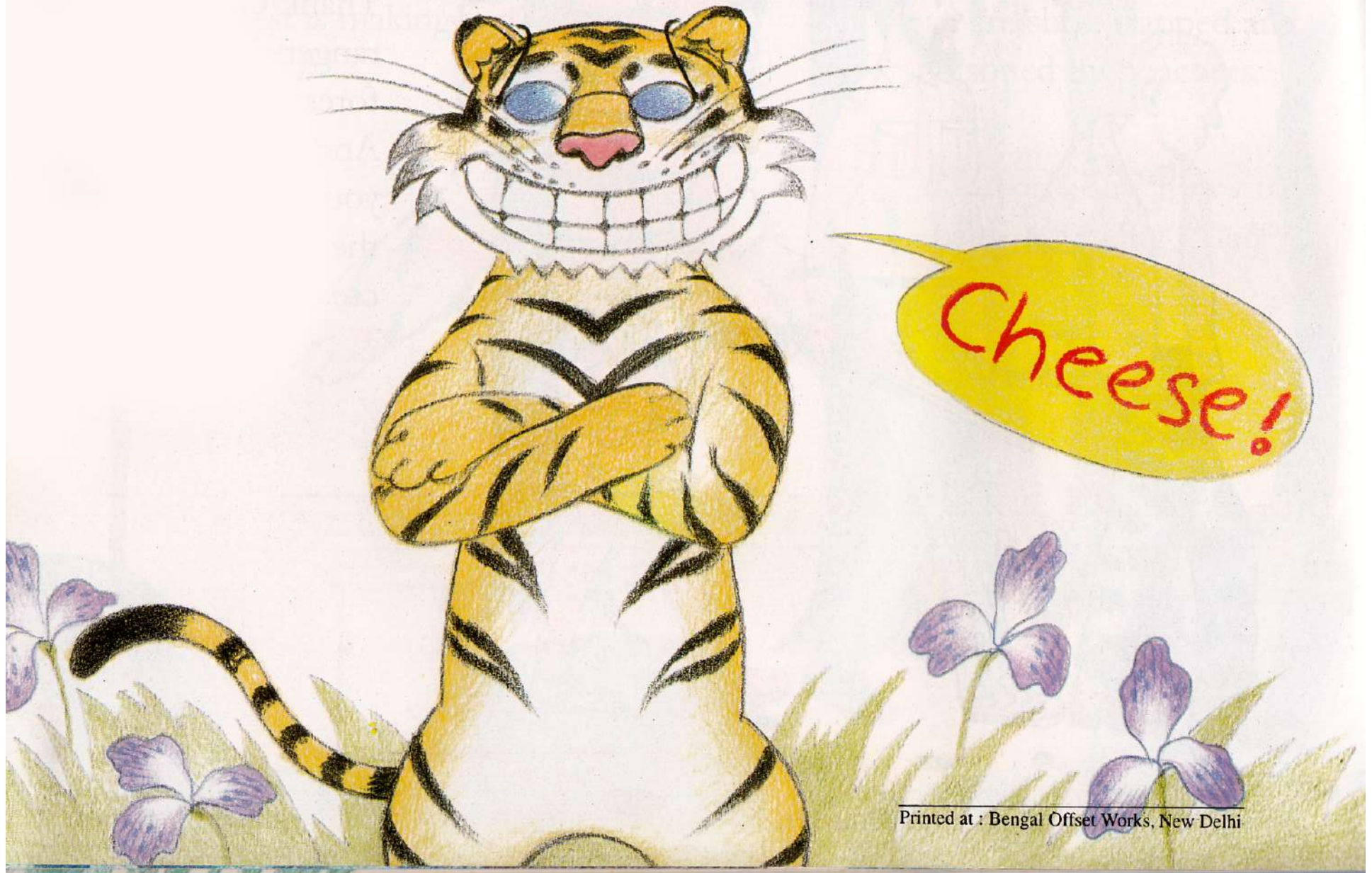
Do you know how many
of us are being killed?
- One a day!





Thank God for
rangers and
forest guards.
And for people like
you who care about
the forest and its
creatures.

I know that you love me and will look out for me.
Shoot me! Not with a gun, but with a camera, silly!





NOT TO SCALE





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