I AM OLD ENOUGH! By SUSANNA ISERN

Pàg. 2

It's Turtle's birthday and her friend Lady Elephant is setting up a surprise party for her. Baby Elephant shows his trunk in the kitchen.

"Mummy, can I help you. I'm old enough." Lady Elephant looks at her son, she has a special glimmer in her eyes. He has grown a lot and, besides, the town is a very safe place.

"Okay, Baby Elephant. I'm going to give you a mission."

Pàg. 3

"For the first time you'll go by yourself to run some errands. Here is the list."

Dark chocolate 1 box of matches 10 balloons 100 candles 2 eggs Pick up the present

"Thank you, mummy!" Baby Elephant says excitedly.

Pàg.4

"Listen, baby. It's best if you leave the eggs for last so they don't break. Don't forget to pick up the present before 6 o'clock, because the Clock and Watch shop closes at that time. Oh! And remember to buy 100 candles. Today Turtle is turning a hundred years old. But above all, the most important thing is that you must be careful so nothing happens to you."

"Don't fret, mummy. Everything will be fine. I will accomplish the mission." Before he leaves, Lady Elephant hugs her son with her big ears.

Pàg. 5

Baby Elephant is so happy with the mission his mother has given him that he goes down to the bakery whistling.

Pàg. 7

Mr. Hippo is a great baker, he makes the best chocolate in town and in the whole wide world.

"Good afternoon, Baby Elephant. What can I get you?"

"I want dark chocolate."

"There you go, a tasty chocolate bar."

"It looks yummy! Thank you very much."

Pàg. 8

Baby Elephant continues his journey, but the chocolate smells so good he can't help taking a bite.

"It's okay if it's only a little piece" he says.

But it's so yummy that he sinks his fangs into it again.

"Yum... Just another tiny piece."

And another one...

Pàg. 9

The next place he visits is Miss Ostrich's Egg shop. This kind ostrich is famous for laying eggs as big as dinosaurs' ones.

Pàg. 10

"Hello, Baby Elephant. Do you need some eggs?" "Yes, Miss Ostrich. I need two." "Two fresh eggs, coming right up!" "They are perfect!"

Pàg. 11

As he is leaving Miss Ostrich's Egg Shop, Baby Elephant bumps into his friends Zebra and Crocodile skipping rope.

"Baby Elephant, do you want to play with us?" they say.

"Okay. But only three jumps..." he says after thinking about it for a second. "I have to accomplish a very important mission."

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Baby Elephant skips three times -- and a few more-- and then moves on to his next stop.

Pàg. 13

In the terrace of his house, Old Lion is extremely focused reading. He always has matches handy because he loves reading in the candlelight day and night. When he hears Baby Elephant approach, he takes off his glasses and waves.

Pàg. 14

"Why, hello, Baby Elephant! What are you doing here?"

"Hello, Old Lion. Can I borrow a box of matches?"

"By all means! Here you go."

"Great. Thank you, Old Lion."

Baby Elephant puts the box of matches in his pocket and then leaves.

Pàg. 15

The Fun Giraffe's store is on the other side of the river and it's getting a bit late. If he crosses the water,

he'll get there faster than if he goes through the bridge.

Pàg. 16

Baby Elephant puts the basket on top of his head, so it does not get wet and dashes to the stream.

Pàg. 17

The Fun Giraffe's store is the most fun of all the stores in town and the very favorite of all the children. There are lots and lots of interesting books, incredible objects, magic sets, party gizmos and novelty items.

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"Hello Baby Elephant. How can I help you?" "Hello, Fun Giraffe. I need balloons and candles." "How many of each?" Baby Elephant looks for his errand list in his pockets, but he can't find it.

"Oh dear! It must have fallen in the river. But it's okay. If I'm not wrong, I need 100 balloons and 10 candles.

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Baby Elephant only needs to go pick up the present to the Clock and Watch shop, but under a tree he finds a young meerkat crying buckets and buckets.

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"What's wrong, little one?" he asks. "I'm lost. I can't find my mummy" the meerkat replies in tears. "Don't worry! I'll help you!"

Pàg. 21

Then Baby Elephant has a great idea.

With his large trunk he blows up the 100 colored balloons, he ties them up and asks Meerkat to hold onto them very tight.

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Then he kneels down and tells him to climb on his back. "I don't know if we'll find your mummy, little one. But this way, I'm sure she will find us. Hold on tight!

Pàg. 23

Baby Elephant starts prancing with Meerkat hanging on by his ears and a 100 balloons flying over their heads. Everyone on the streets stops to look at them when they pass and then join the search party.

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Suddenly, Mummy Meerkat appears. "I'm here, little one. I finally found you!" "Mummyyyyy!!!!"

Pàg. 25

Mother and son embrace. Baby Elephant looks at them satisfied. The 100 balloons have untangled and are now flying through the sky. With so many emotions Baby Elephant almost forgets his mission. All he has left to do is go to the Clock and Watch shop to pick up Turtle's present.

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But as he feared, it is too late.

The shop is closed. Baby Elephant's heart drops and he turns as white as a freshly fallen snowflake.

"What a disastrous mission! What do I do now?" he ponders on the way back.

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Baby Elephant gets home,

Lady Elephant hugs him with her big ears to welcome him.

In that moment he bursts into tears.

He couldn't get the present for Turtle because it got too late.

And on top of that he has eaten almost all of the chocolate on the way,

the eggs have cracked because of his skipping rope,

the matches are wet because he got in the river,

he has only bought 10 candles

and has lost a 100 balloons.

"I'm sorry mummy. I did everything wrong.

I haven't completed the mission. I have failed you."

Lady Elephant hugs him even tighter.

"Baby Elephant, you haven't failed me! Quite the opposite. Follow me, we were waiting for you."

Pag. 29

In the garden the party is about to start.

The music plays and everyone laughs very merrily.

The guests have brought lots of things and there is nothing missing.

Turtle is standing in front of a huge cake, ready to blow a 100 candles.

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"Baby Elephant you needn't worry. You are still young and making mistakes and learning is also accomplishing the mission. I am immensely proud; you have taken good care of yourself. Also, ¿do you see Meerkat?" Baby Elephant nods while looking that the little one and his mummy, they are also at the party. "He says you are his hero."

Pag. 32

Now Baby Elephant is smiling.

Suddenly he really, really wants to dance.

And, some balloons, 10 of them to be exact, have also arrived at the party.