



Candy Pink

Once upon a time, in elephant country, there was a herd of elephants in which the females had large bright eyes and skin the color of candy pink.

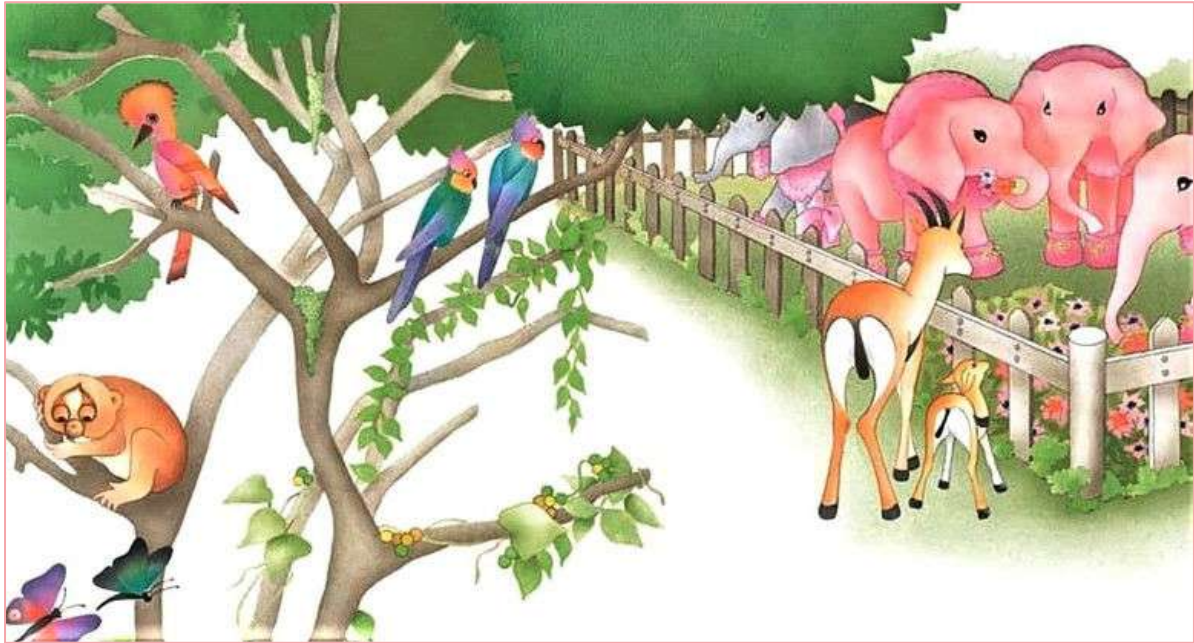
The little girl elephants got this beautiful color because, from the time they were born, they only ate anemones and peonies.



It's not that anemones and peonies were very nutritious...

...but they made their skin smooth and pink, and their eyes bright and beautiful.

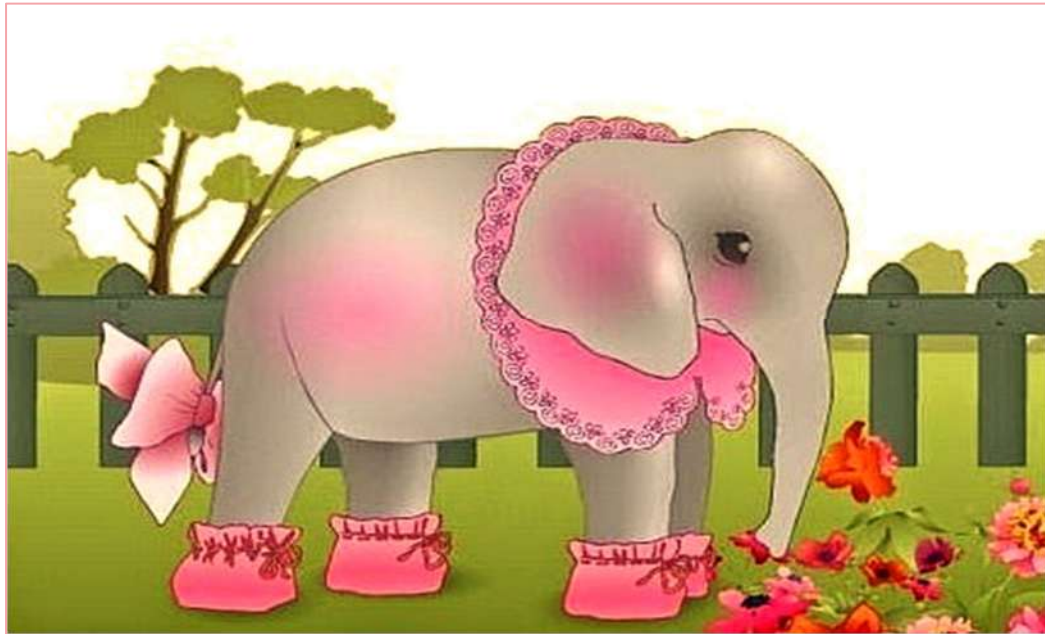
The anemones and peonies grew in a little walled garden. Enclosed within, the little girl elephants played together and ate the flowers.



"Little girls," said their dads, "if you don't eat your anemones and finish your peonies, you'll never be beautiful and pink as your mommies. You'll never have bright eyes, and no one will want to marry you when you're older."



To make the pink color come out more, the parents dressed their daughters in pink shoes and pink collar bibs and tied pink ribbons on their tails.



While the little girl elephants stayed in the walled garden with the peonies and anemones, they watched their brothers and boy cousins, all of them gray elephants, playing in the fragrant savannah, eating green grass, wallowing in water and mud, and napping under the trees.

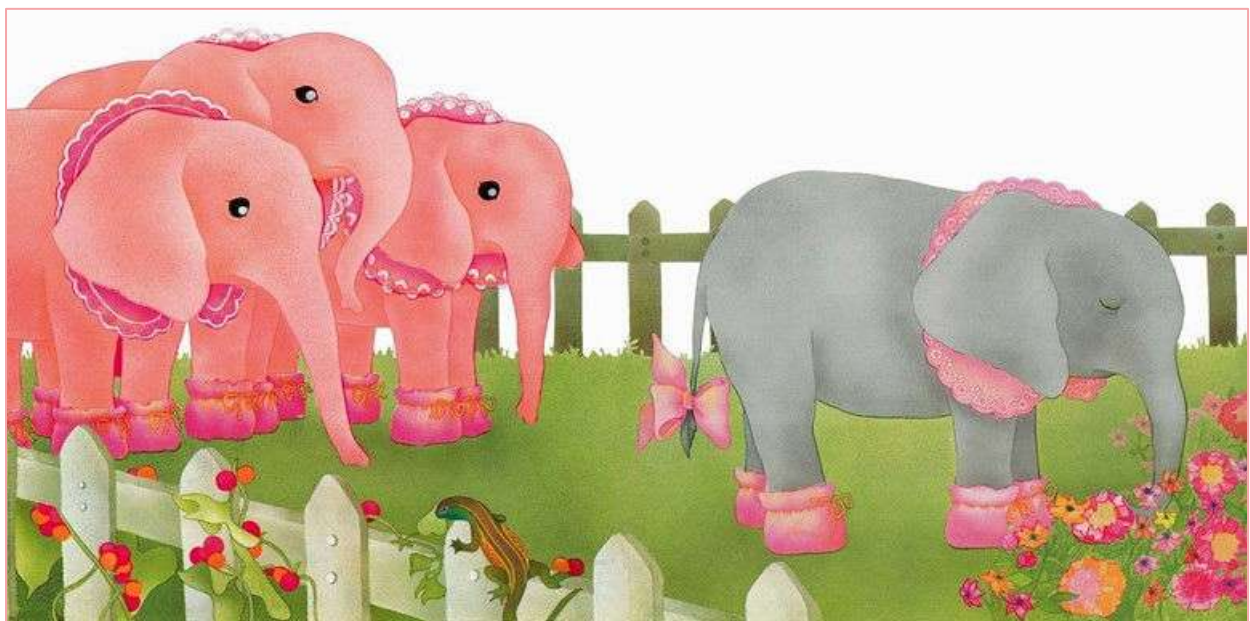


Daisy was slightly different from the other girl elephants. Even though she ate peonies and anemones, she was the only little elephant that didn't turn pink, not even a hint.

This made her mom very sad and greatly annoyed her dad.



“But Daisy,” they said, “why do you still have this ugly gray color? That simply doesn't suit the little girl elephant. Why are you doing this on purpose? Perhaps you want to be a rebel. Listen, Daisy, you can't carry on like this. You'll never be a beautiful elephant”.



Daisy, becoming grayer and grayer every day, just kept quiet. But to make her parents happy, she ate another mouthful of anemones and another one of peonies.

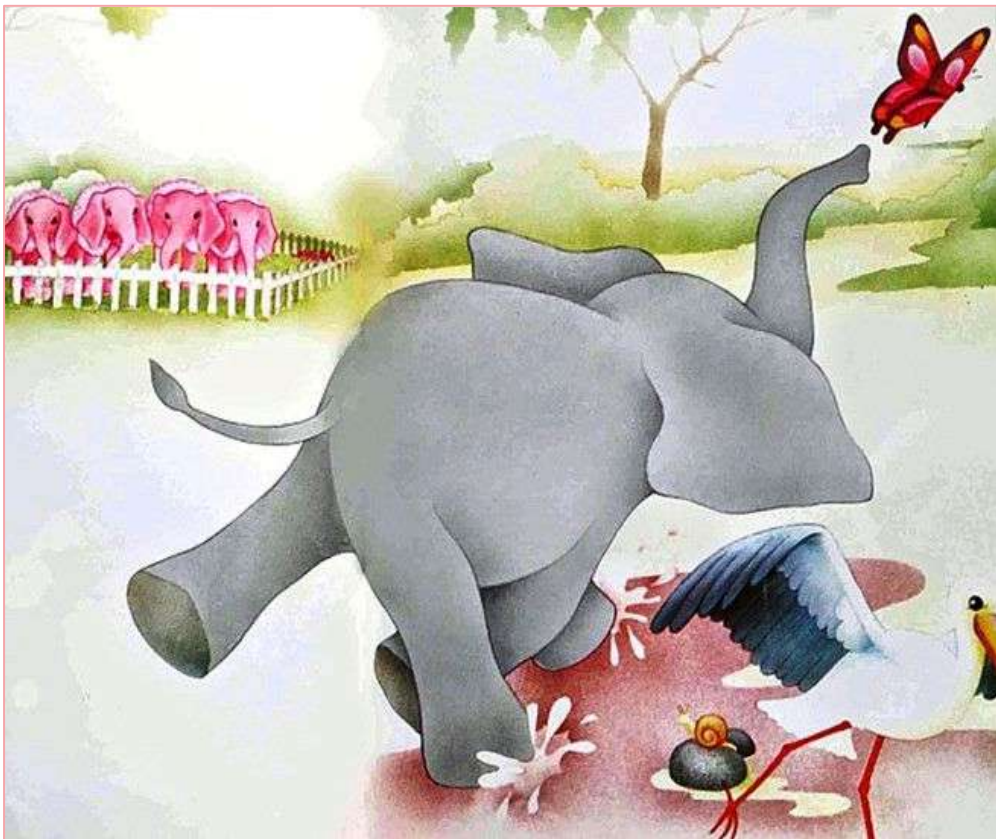
Daisy's parents eventually abandoned all hope of her becoming pink and beautiful with big bright eyes, as any elephant should be.

They decided to leave her in peace.



Daisy felt so relieved. She left the enclosure and got rid of her pink shoes, pink collar and pink ribbon tied to her tail.

She wandered off on her own in the tall grass. Under the trees she ate delicious fruits and wallowed in lovely muddy puddles.



From the walled garden, the other little girl elephants watched.



The first day they felt frightened; the second day worried; the third day bewildered; and the fourth day jealous. On the fifth day, one by one, the bravest began to leave the enclosures, shoes, bibs and ribbons lay abandoned in piles all around the garden of peonies and anemones.



After tasting the green grass and the tasty fruit in the cool breeze, playing joyful games, taking naps under the shade of the leafy trees, none of the little girl elephants ever wanted to see a shoe or eat a peony, let alone stay in the walled garden.



Ever since then it's been hard to tell the difference between boy elephants and girl elephants.



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Candy Pink
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