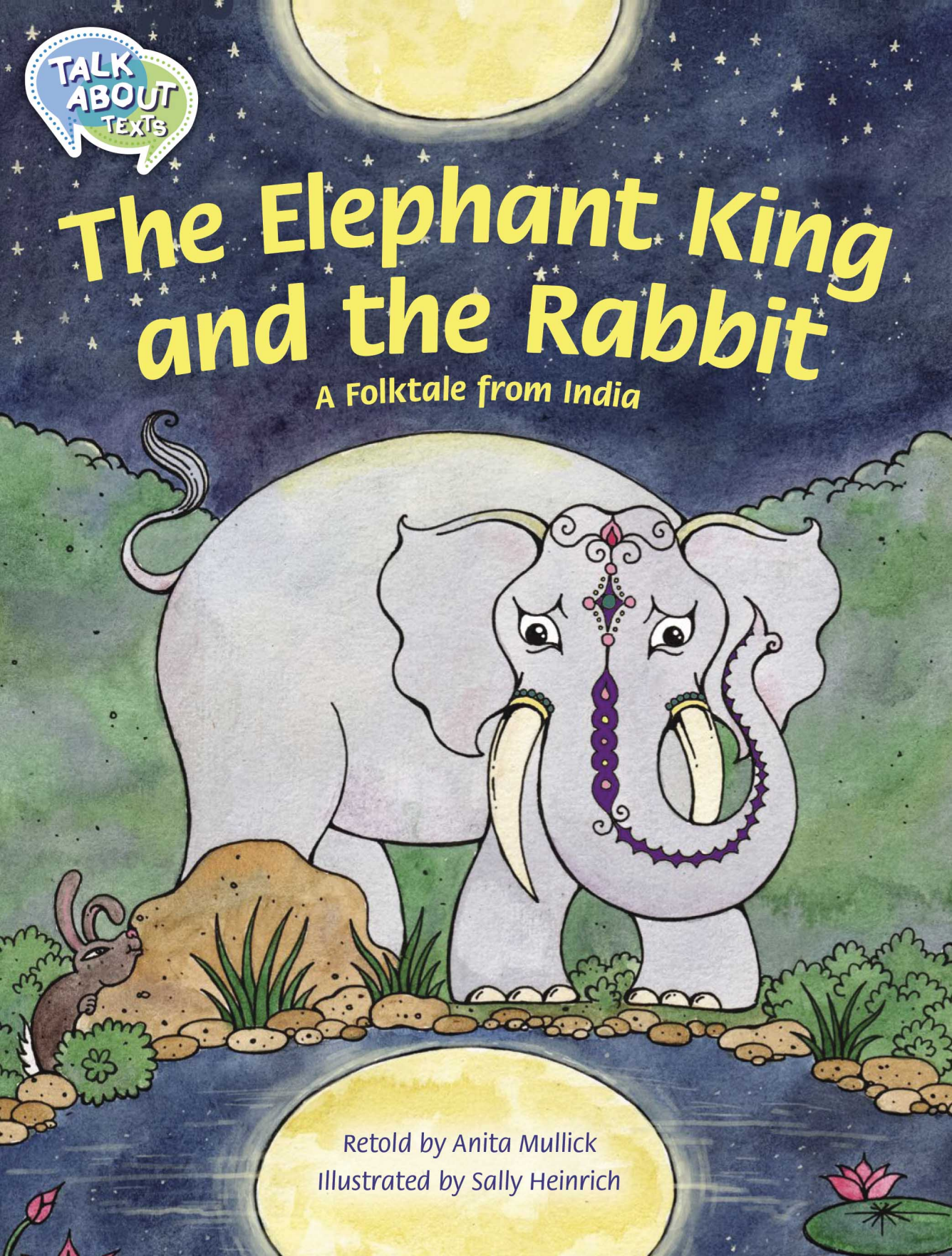

TALK ABOUT TEXTS
The Elephant King and the Rabbit
A Folktale from India
Retold by Anita Mullick
Illustrated by Sally Heinrich

The Elephant King and the Rabbit

A Folktale from India



For Review Only

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Chapter 1

Elephants at the Lake

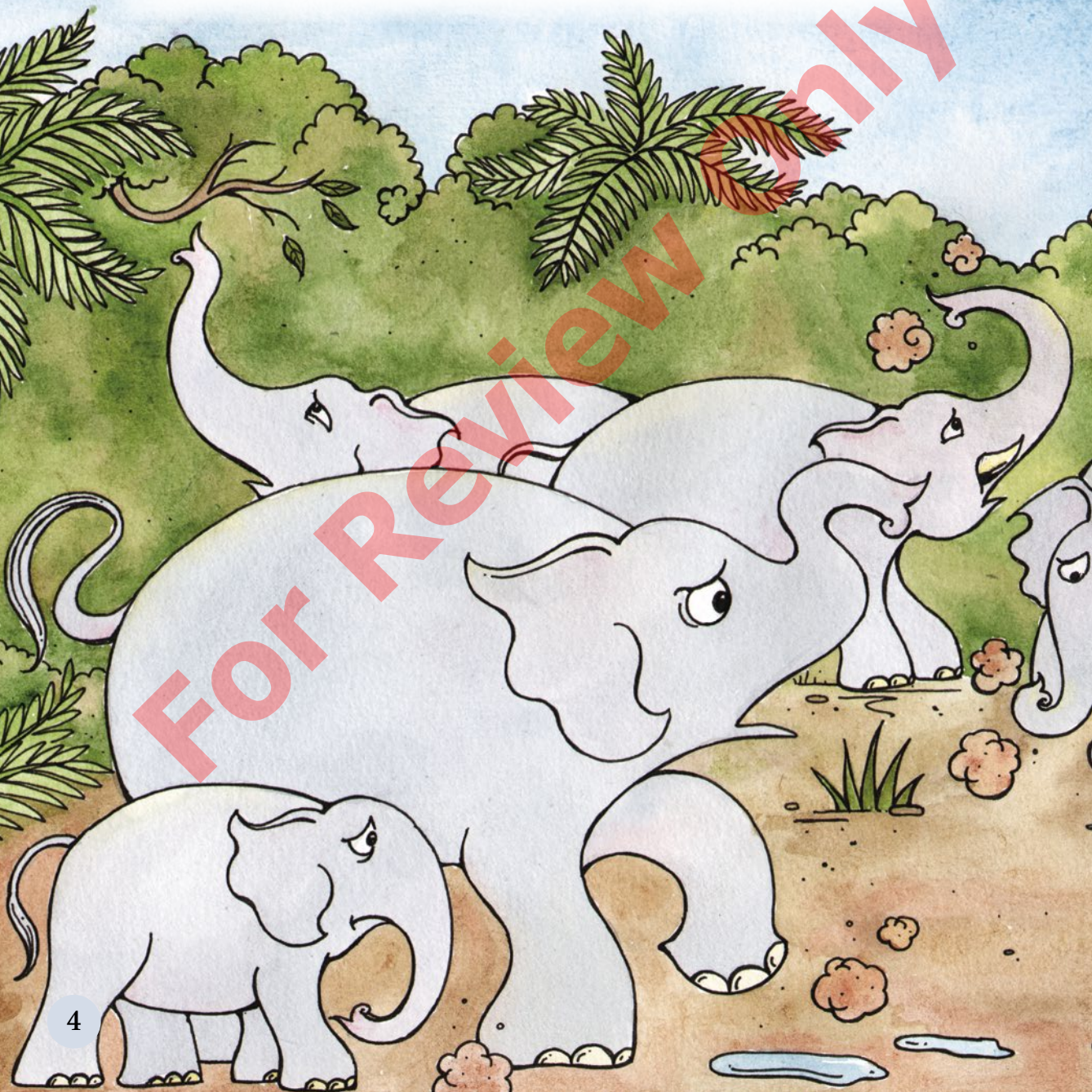


Many years ago, a herd of elephants lived in a forest ruled by a powerful king. The trees gave the elephants shade and juicy green leaves to eat. A sparkling lake gave them water.

Every day, the elephants went to the lake to quench their thirst. They bathed their wrinkled skin. They had all they needed for a happy and peaceful life.

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One year, the rains didn't come. The lake slowly dried up. Before, there had been cool fresh water. Now there was only dust. The birds and other animals left.



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"We'll die of thirst!" cried a young elephant. "What shall we do?"

"Let's ask our wise king," suggested the oldest elephant. "He'll help us find the answer."



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The elephants wove their way through the forest. They came to a large old tree. This was the favourite resting place of their king. The Elephant King was lying in the shade of its thick branches.

The king looked up at the elephants' worried faces. "Greetings, my herd," he bellowed.

"Your Majesty, as you know, it hasn't rained in a while. We elephants are thirsty," replied the oldest elephant. "We need your help to find water. Otherwise we won't live to see another year!"

The Elephant King was silent. Finally, he spoke. "We must send some of our elephants into the surrounding forests to look for water."

"Very well, Your Majesty," said the oldest elephant. "I suggest that one elephant goes north, one goes south, one goes east and one goes west."

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The Elephant King chose four elephants for the journey. They each went on their way.

The elephants that went north, south and west found no water. But the elephant that travelled east came across a wide, deep lake in a forest far away.

The lucky elephant returned to the herd and told the good news to the Elephant King. "Your Majesty, if the elephants go east, they'll have all the water they need for their whole lives."

"You have done well," the Elephant King praised her. "Elephants, we will begin our journey east!"

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