

# A BIG FRIEND

Babak Saberi Mehrdad Zaeri



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Babak Saberi (Text) Mehrdad Zaeri (Illustrations)

Translated from Farsi by Nazli Hodaie



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Baobab Books dankt terre des hommes schweiz und zahlreichen weiteren Geldgebern für die finanzielle Unterstützung.

## Ein großer Freund

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Text: Babak Saberi

Illustration: Mehrdad Zaeri

Übersetzung aus dem Persischen: Nazli Hodaie

Lektorat: Sonja Matheson

Typografische Gestaltung: Grafik und Gestaltung Babette Klöpfer

Druck: Druckerei Uhl GmbH & Co., Radolfzell

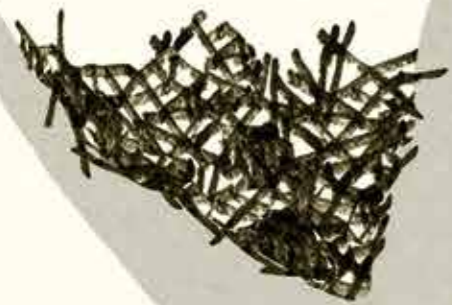
ISBN 978-3-905804-63-8

Original edition

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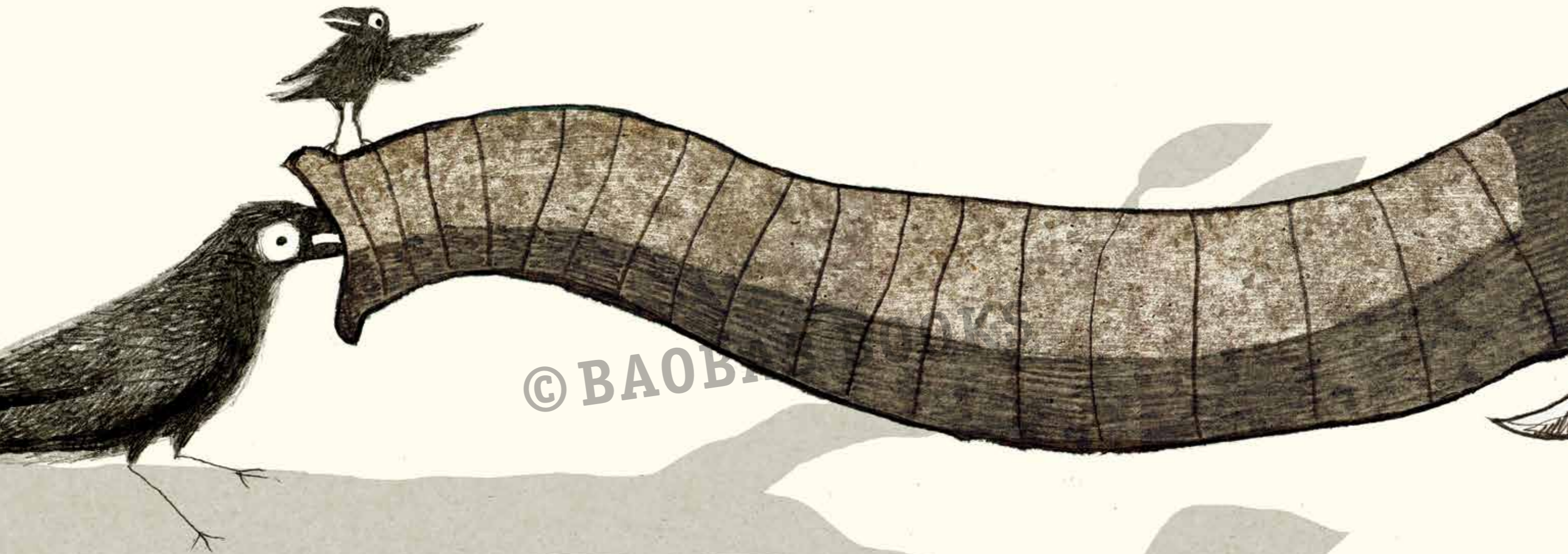
One day the little crow flew back home and announced happily: 'Mum, I've finally found a friend! Look, he's standing in front of our nest.'



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The mother looked outside.  
But ... what did she see there?  
'Good grief ...'  
'Mum, that's his nose.'  
'My girl! Did I not tell you  
that you should find a friend  
you can play with?  
One, who is as big as you are.  
This is an ....



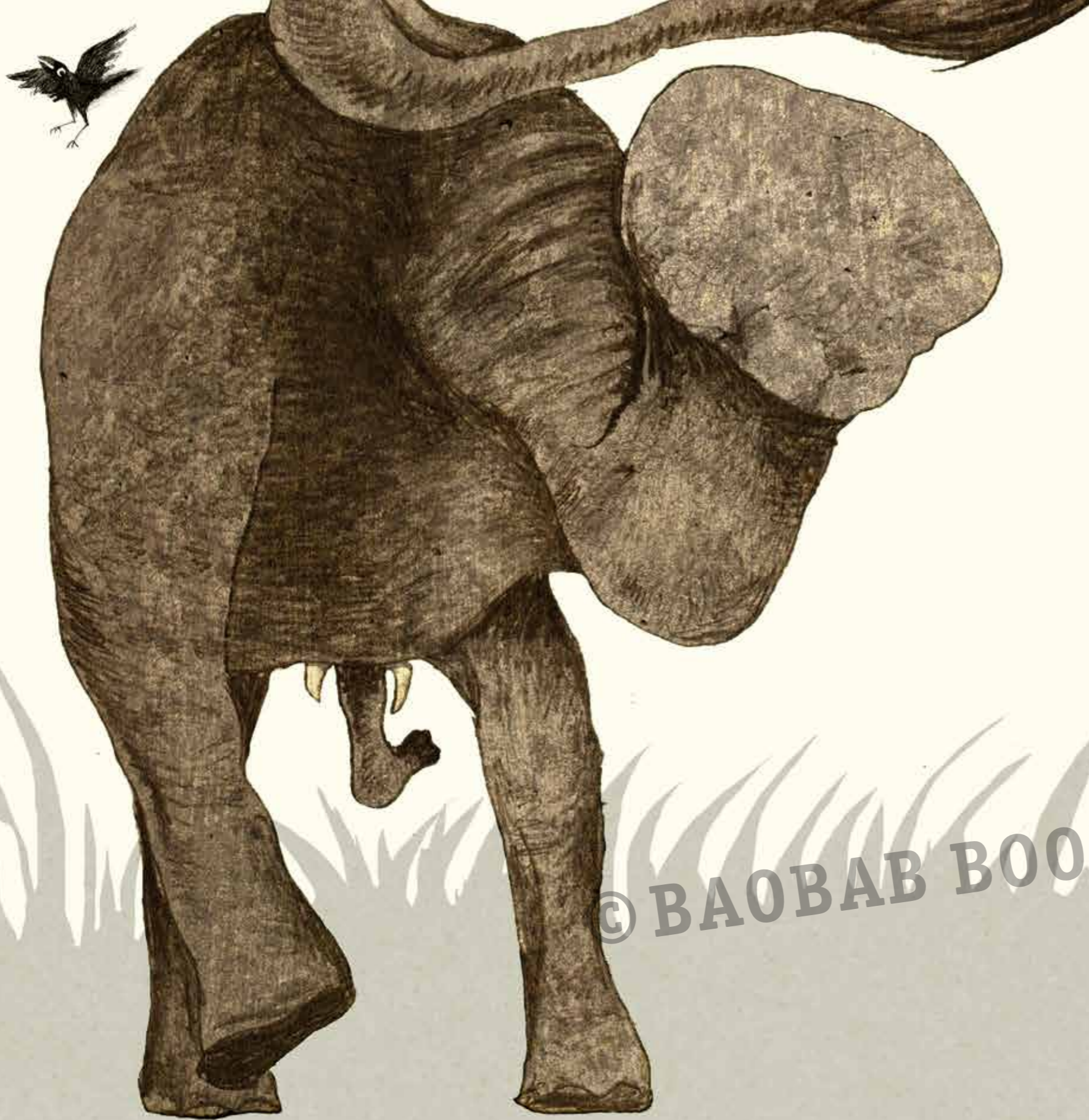


A detailed illustration of an elephant's head and trunk. The elephant is shown in profile, facing left. Its trunk is thick and wrinkled, with a single tusk visible. The skin is dark brown and textured. The background is a plain, light color.

... Elephant!

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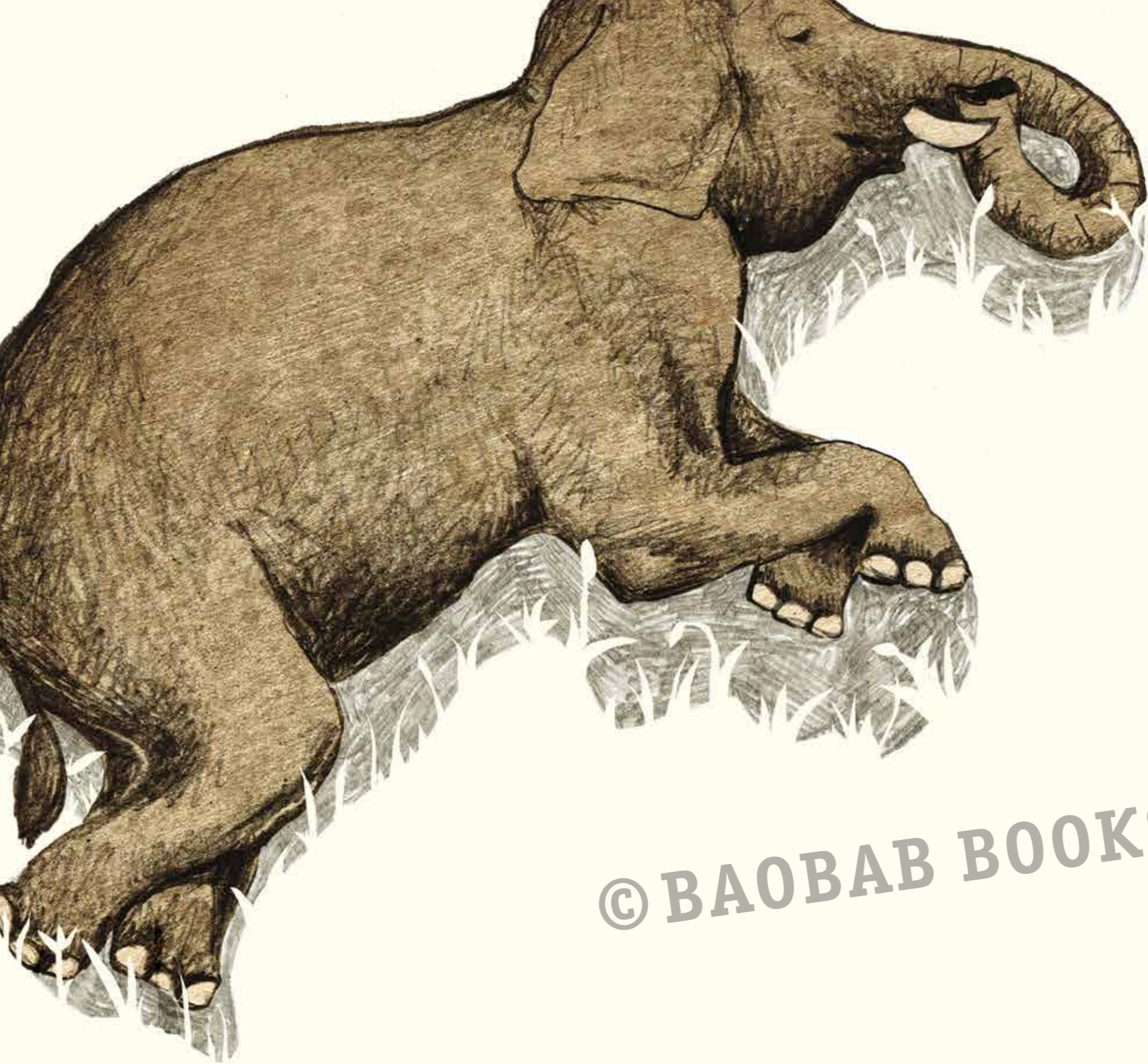


The little crow was surprised:  
'Mum, who says we're not  
the same size?  
Look, if I fly a bit lower and  
he jumps up a little bit,  
we're exactly the same size.'

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'And when I'm dozing on the big stone, and he's lying in the grass, we're also the same size. Then we'll have a rest. The elephant likes doing that in the afternoon.'

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'It's not that simple,'  
the mother said.  
'Don't even think of  
romping around with him!'  
'Of course not.  
Don't worry!!'







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'And never ever walk into the river with him  
to cool your feet or drink water!'

'No, mum, I don't do things like that.  
I'm not an elephant.'





'Tell me, can you actually  
speak the elephant language?'  
asked the mother.

'No, I can't.'

'So how do you communicate  
with your friend?'

'With my signs and my eyes.'

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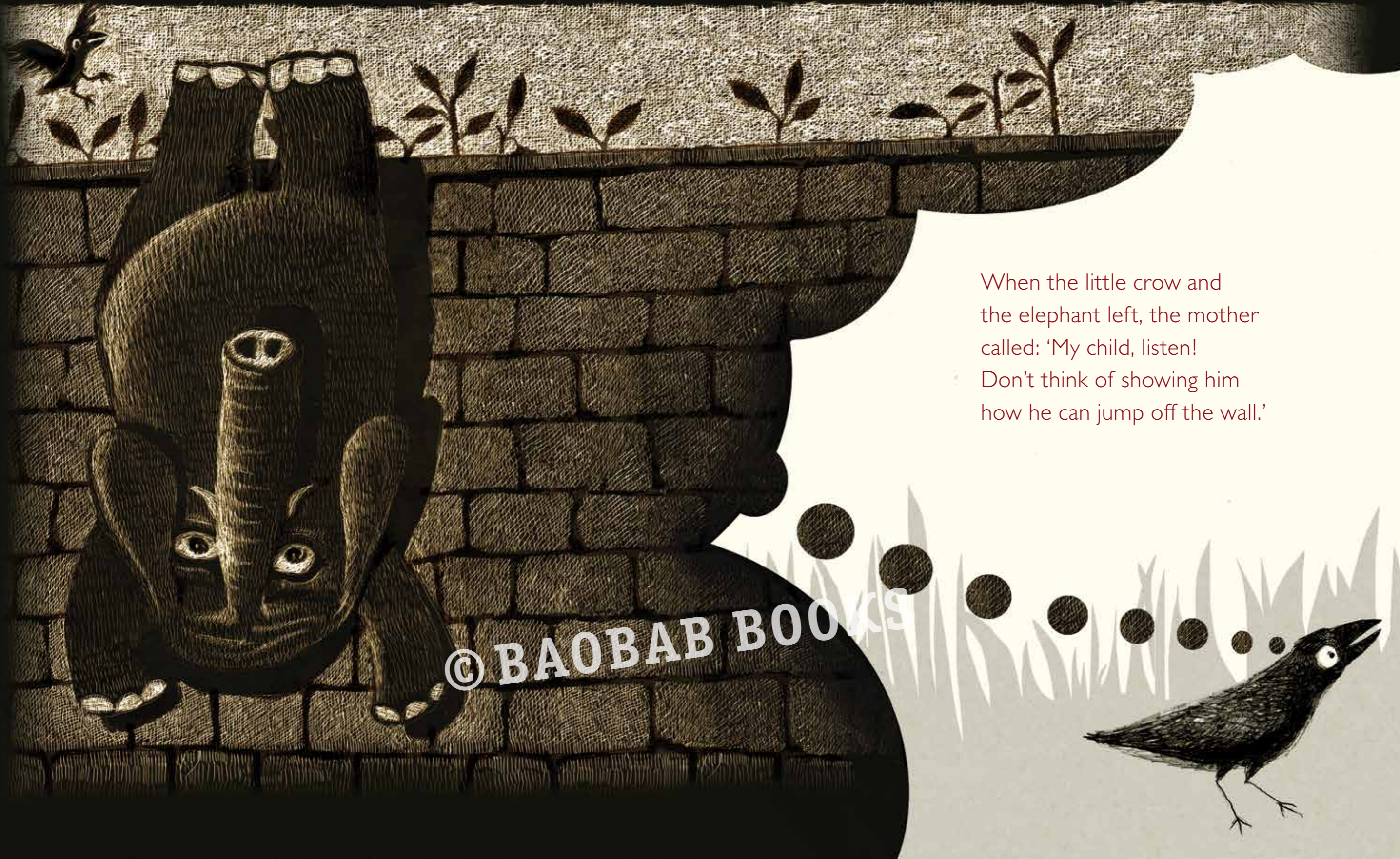






'Look, mum, even our shadows are the same size!  
We will tell each other the most wonderful stories.'





When the little crow and the elephant left, the mother called: 'My child, listen! Don't think of showing him how he can jump off the wall.'

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Mum, don't worry, of course  
I won't do that.  
He's an elephant, a simple elephant.



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Not a flying elephant!"



## The Author

Babak Saberi was born in 1965. He is an orthopedic surgeon who lives with his wife and their twin daughters in Yazd, a city located in the center of Iran. He has published many books for children some of which are translated into other languages like Chinese, English, French and Italian. He considers children's literature as his main profession, loves conjuring up stories and never misses a chance to recite them for children himself. About this book he says: "When I was a child, my mother would tell me to find a friend of the same size. But size has so many different meanings. In a friendship, from my point of view, it is most important that we grow with each others help."

## The Illustrator

Mehrdad Zaeri was born in Isfahan in Iran in 1970. When he was 14 his family first fled to Turkey, and then later to Germany. After completing his schooling he decided to become an artist. Today he lives in Mannheim with his wife, and works as a freelance artist. After he had read the story by Babak Saberi he knew immediately that he would want to illustrate it. "After we had left Iran, my family had to learn rather painfully how to live in different surroundings. Especially for my parents it was difficult and they felt the ground was falling from beneath their feet. It was scary for them to see me starting my own life, and it took them a long time to understand, that they do not need to worry. In that sense A big friend is also my personal story."



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ISBN: 978-3-906804-63-8

