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English 30B

Try not to think of pink elephants

by Thomas Hunt

Jenny lived in a land of music, magic and make-believe, that no adults could see. Jenny's best friend was Louisa, a large pink elephant that her father had given her for her birthday. Louisa and Jenny would always be playing, talking and telling jokes. Louisa's favorite joke was "Try not to think of pink elephants." Every time Jenny would tell it, Louisa would laugh and laugh and wiggle her tail.

One day as they were playing hide and go seek in the back yard, Jenny found a small blue teddy bear. Jenny picked up the bear and went to find Louisa, for certainly Louisa would be able to communicate with this bear and find out what had happened to it. Louisa was hiding in her typical hiding spot, under the porch steps and Jenny found her easily.

"Louisa," Jenny said, "Look what I found? Can you talk to him? Can you find out why he was in our yard? Is he lost?"

Louisa nodded at Jenny and began to converse with the small bear at great length. Jenny watched as the two animals had what seemed to be a very heated discussion.

Louisa nodded at Sharon and started to translate for Jenny. "His name is Sharon He seems to be from next door. He liked it there, but the other animals kicked him out."

"That's not right." Jenny said. "We should go next door and make them let him stay."

And go next door they did. They found the other animals had clearly marked off their territories with string. The white tiger Gordon had marked off all of the southeast, a brown camel name Eggo had taken the southwest and two twin lions named Libra and Sheba had taken the north, but it seemed that although they were brothers, they no longer acted as such.

When Jenny got there, she placed Sharon and Louisa down in the center of the other animals. She watched as Louisa yelled at the other animals and demanded that they allow Sharon to stay and play in their yard. The other animals protested and asked Louisa to mind her own business. Louisa continued to try and persuade them, offering them candy bars and ice cream if they would simply allow Sharon to live there with them, in peace. They said no. This angered Louisa and caused the elephant to loose

her cool. She stamped on their string lines and cut them here and there, forging out a new land for Sharon to live in. Sharon took his place in the center, thanking Louisa for bringing peace to the yard.

Jenny clapped her hands knowing that she had, in a very small way, helped Sharon to return home to his yard. Jenny picked up Louisa and once more Louisa warned the others to play nice or she would have to come back and teach them all a lesson in manners. Jenny smiled with pride knowing what a good animal her Louisa was. How nice it was of her to teach these other animals manners. Jenny couldn't wait till that night at the dinner table when she and Louisa would tell her mother and father the story of their dramatic journey next door and how Louisa had saved the day. Her father would surely grant Louisa the seat of honor at the head of the table and Jenny knew that after dinner they both would be given an extra slice of pie for desert. As Jenny and Louisa left the yard, they didn't notice Sharon stepping on Calvin, the small green frog who had once lived where Sharon was now living. They didn't notice as the frog cried and asked Sharon to stop. They didn't notice as Sharon puffed out his chest and stopped being a small blue bear and became a large blue grizzly bear. They didn't notice...