Be quiet?
No, Charlie *could not* be quiet!
Not today, not with the carnival in town –
the best carnival in the world!
There might be a cake as big as the town square,
lollipop trees and a lemonade river,
marshmallow bunting and cupcake hats.

Charlie couldn't stop talking about
everyone dancing to fast, whirling music,
dogs wearing waistcoats, joining the fun,
fireworks bursting with real shining stars,
and presents tumbling from the skies –
one for every child!

Then Mama shouted very loudly:

"SHUUUUUSSSSHHHH!

Please be quiet, or we won't go at all!"
Charlie stopped talking.
He found his party hat.
Phew. Just in time.

At first the carnival seemed like any other carnival,
just a bit bigger and busier.

But then...

...then they saw the elephant.
"Charlie!" Mama cried. "What's that?"
"It's an elephant," said Charlie.
What else could he say?
"Let's climb onto its trunk
so it can lift us up."

And it did!
They rode through the streets
on their taxi elephant.
Mama was shaking, but only a little.