First published in Great Britain in 2019 by Andersen Press Ltd., 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA. Copyright © David McKee, 2019.
The right of David McKee to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988. All rights reserved.
Colour separated in Switzerland by Photolitho AG, Zürich. Printed and bound in Malaysia.
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2 British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available. ISBN 978 1 78344 794 7



David McKee



Elmer, the patchwork elephant, was walking a morning walk. He said, "Good morning," to a group of elephants and kept walking. Once he'd gone, an elephant said, "Tomorrow is Elmer's birthday. For a joke let's act as if we've forgotten it. Nobody wish him 'Happy Birthday'. At the end of the afternoon we'll bring out a cake and celebrate. We'll have to warn his family and friends or it won't work." "I'm not sure it's a good trick," said Bird. "But if there's cake I'll tell the birds." The elephants chuckled and hurried off in different directions to see that nobody said "Happy Birthday".

38

When Lion was told, he said, "Funny kind of joke."

Tiger said, "For Elmer's birthday? But..." "Please, no buts," said the elephants. "Just do it," and they hurried off, afraid that Elmer might appear.