

Bungle Book Two

Elly the Elephant

in

Tummy Troubles

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Word count: 1000 words

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in

"Tummy Troubles"

Elly the elephant is the biggest animal in the whole jungle. Now you don't get to be that big just like that. Elly likes nothing better than to eat all day long.

Elephants are meant to be big and sturdy. After all, who's ever heard of a skinny elephant.

But Elly is a bit *too* sturdy and that's not healthy. She's so "big" that her mummy has put her on a diet.

At night, Elly dreams of food. Slugs with honey, chocolate coated beetles and her favourite food; caterpillars with frog's egg.

Elly's tummy rumbles so loudly that she wakes up and she's staaaaarving!

"The other animals have more than enough to eat." She thinks. "And besides, I'm still a growing girl!"

Elly uses her long trunk to sniff out food. Ah, she's caught a whiff of something good; Maxie the Monkey's mothball porridge! Mmmmmm, it smells delicious!

Sluurrrp, and down goes the porridge, mothballs and all! Yum, yummy, yummy, down in Elly's tummy!

Elly's still hungry so off she goes again, following her long trunk. Sniff, sniff!

Ah-ha, there's Rita the Rhino! Rita has just made her favourite breakfast; pancakes with earwig jelly. That'll hit the spot all right! Sluurrrp, and down go the pancakes. Yum, yummy, yummy, down in Elly's tummy!

Elly smacks her lips. She's still peckish.

She smells something special being cooked by Gerri the Giraffe. It's a centipede pie with custard. It smells so wonderful that Elly's mouth starts to water. Slurrp, and down goes the pie, Yum, yummy yummy, down in Elly's tummy!

Elly still has a small corner which needs filling. She smells Lex the Lion cub's fried llama steaks. Just what the doctor ordered!

Sluurrrp, and down go the llama steaks. Yum, yummy, yummy, down in Elly's tummy!

And now Elly's tummy is finally full.

But all of a sudden she doesn't feel too well.

Buurrrp! She burps loudly!

"Aaaaaaa!" Elly wails. "My tummy hurts. Waaaaaaaah!"

She rolls around on the ground but that doesn't help.

"Ooooh, how do I cure tummy ache?" Elly thinks. "Maybe one of the other animals has an idea."

She pays a visit to Maxie the Monkey.

"Hey Maxie," Elly says, "do you know how to cure tummy ache?"

Maxie thinks about his delicious mothball porridge which he missed out on and then replies:

"Ants are good for tummy troubles."

"Yucky!" Elly says. "Ants don't taste nice, especially without syrup!"

"It's the only way to get rid of stomach-ache," Maxie replies. "And no syrup because that only makes things worse!"

Elly goes off to look for an ant-hill.

Sluurrrp, down go the ants. Down in Elly's tummy but this time it's not yum, yummy, yummy! The ants taste terrible and they tickle Elly's trunk. Hat-choo, hat-choo, she sneezes so hard that her tusks come loose!

Elly runs to Rita the Rhino.

"Wita, you muff help me!" She groans.

"I ate too mush and now I've got tummy twubbles. Maxthie told me to eat Anths but they tickled my twunk and made me sneeth stho hard that my tuskths came looth and now I've got a listhp!"

Rita remembered this morning's helping of earwig jelly.

Rita replied: "Ice will soothe your stomach. If you go to the cave behind the waterfall you can find icicles. If you lick one, you'll feel better."

Elly dashes off to find the cave. She carefully licks one of the icicles but her tongue gets stuck!

She pulls and pulls and pullllls but her tongue won't come loose.

She tries again until her tongue is stretched like an elastic.

Suddenly - crack! - the icicles breaks and smacks Elly on her trunk! Ow!

With the icicle dangling from her sore tongue, Elly searches desperately for Gerri the Giraffe.

"Gerri," she cries, "you're my lasth hope! I ate too mush and now I've got tummy twubble. Maxie made me eat anths and all I got wath a listhp. And Rita told me to sthuck an ithitle and my tongue got sthuck! Nothing helpth! Waah!".

"Hmmm," Gerri said, "people never get stomach-ache. Maybe you should eat people food."

"Oh, no, not people food! People food ith terwible!"

"Then you mustn't complain. It's the only way."

"Well, what do people eat?"

"Sprouts! Lots and lots of sprouts. And cabbages too!"

"Spwouts and cabbageth! Oh no that soundth dweadful!"

Elly holds her nose and munches down a large helping of sprouts and cabbage. The food is so awful it makes her shudder!

And now her stomach-ache is worse than ever. Elly can feel her tummy swelling up. She runs to Lex the Lion cub.

"Oh, Lexth, I fweel stho sthick! I've got a massthiff sthombach-ache and nobody knowth how to help me. I ate anths without sthucceth, and I sthucked an ithithle and that didn't help and spwouts and cabbageth only made me feel worsth!"

Lex replied: "Sprouts and cabbage are no good for stomach-ache. Now you're all full of gas. We have to get that out!"

"But how?" Elly asked.

Lex thought for a minute and then said a wide grin:

"I know! You have to crouch over a campfire. The warm air will suck out all the gas."

Elly makes a small campfire and then carefully - very carefully - crouches over the tiny flames.

At first nothing happens. But then Elly starts to feel her tummy stirring as if it was full of bubbles.

"It's working!" She thinks.

Her tummy starts to fizz and then a tiny, little bubble escapes, puuuuuurrrrrrrrrp!

Suddenly there's a huge blast and Elly flies through the air, trailing a long flame behind her.

Her bottom is all scorched and sore but at least her lisp is over.

Elly runs home and tells her mummy everything.

Mummy nods and then says:

"Well sweetie, if you play with fire you have to expect to get burnt. You never should have eaten the other animals' food and now you're even bigger than before. So next week I'm putting you on a special diet of sprouts and cabbages!"

Waaah!

THE END