The Little Maybe Ribbon

A Giraffe and Elephant story

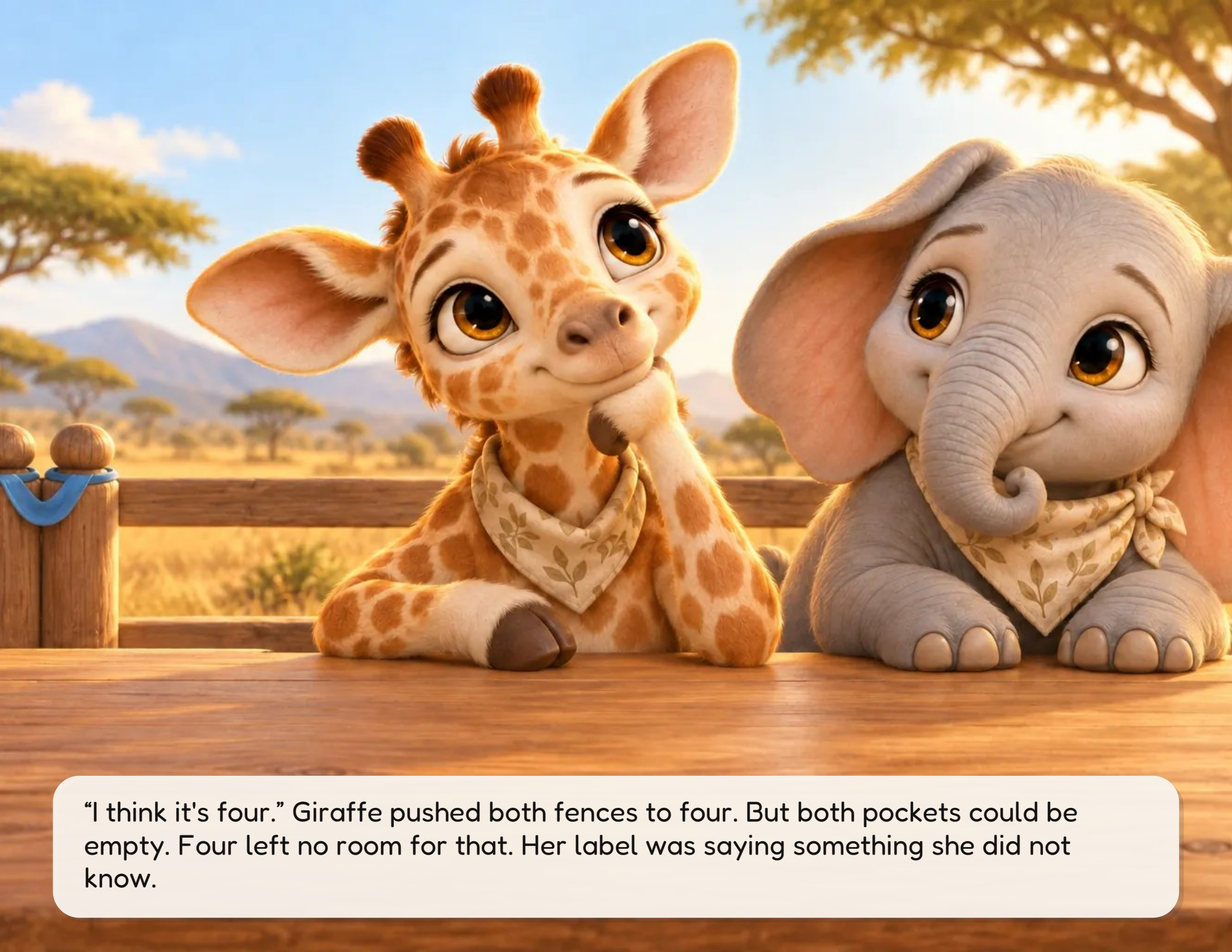
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Ages 5–7





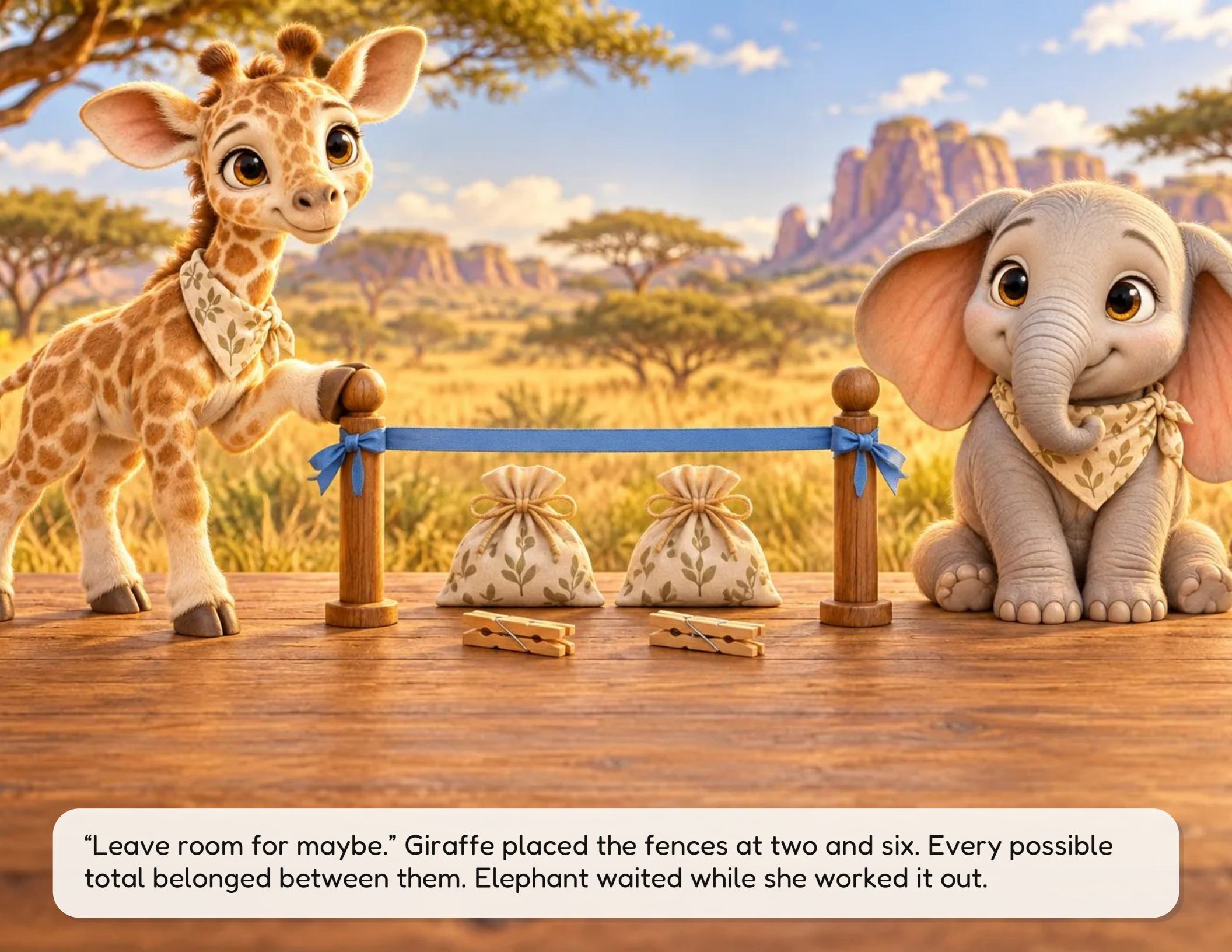
The clips arrived, but their count tag was blank. Two clips lay on the table. Two tied pockets could each hold zero, one, or two more. Giraffe wanted to open the ribbon-making table.



“I think it's four.” Giraffe pushed both fences to four. But both pockets could be empty. Four left no room for that. Her label was saying something she did not know.



Giraffe spread the fences from zero to ninety-nine. Too far! Two clips were already there. Even two full pockets could bring the total only to six.



“Leave room for maybe.” Giraffe placed the fences at two and six. Every possible total belonged between them. Elephant waited while she worked it out.



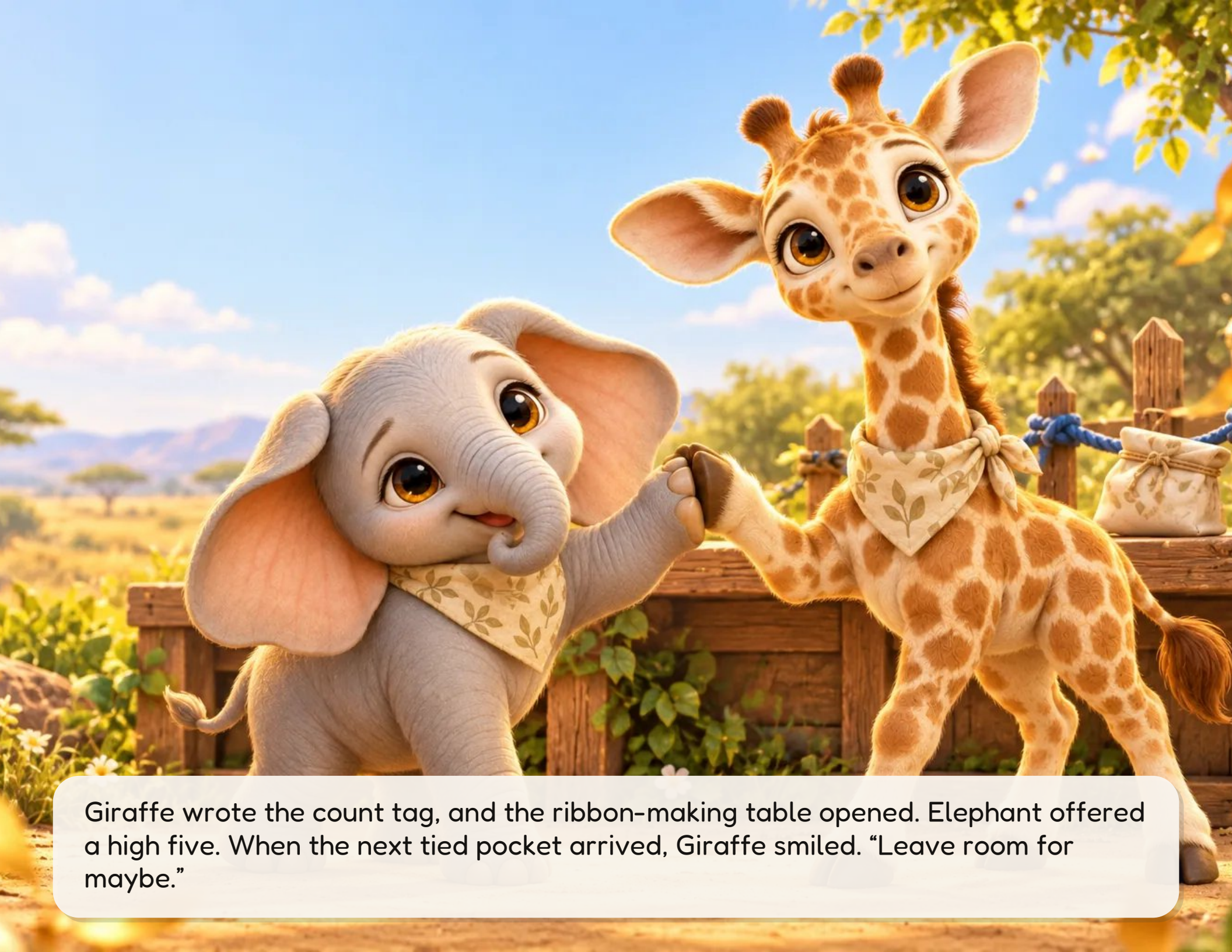
The first pocket opened. One clip! Now three clips were known. The closed pocket could still add zero, one, or two. Giraffe moved the fences to three and five.



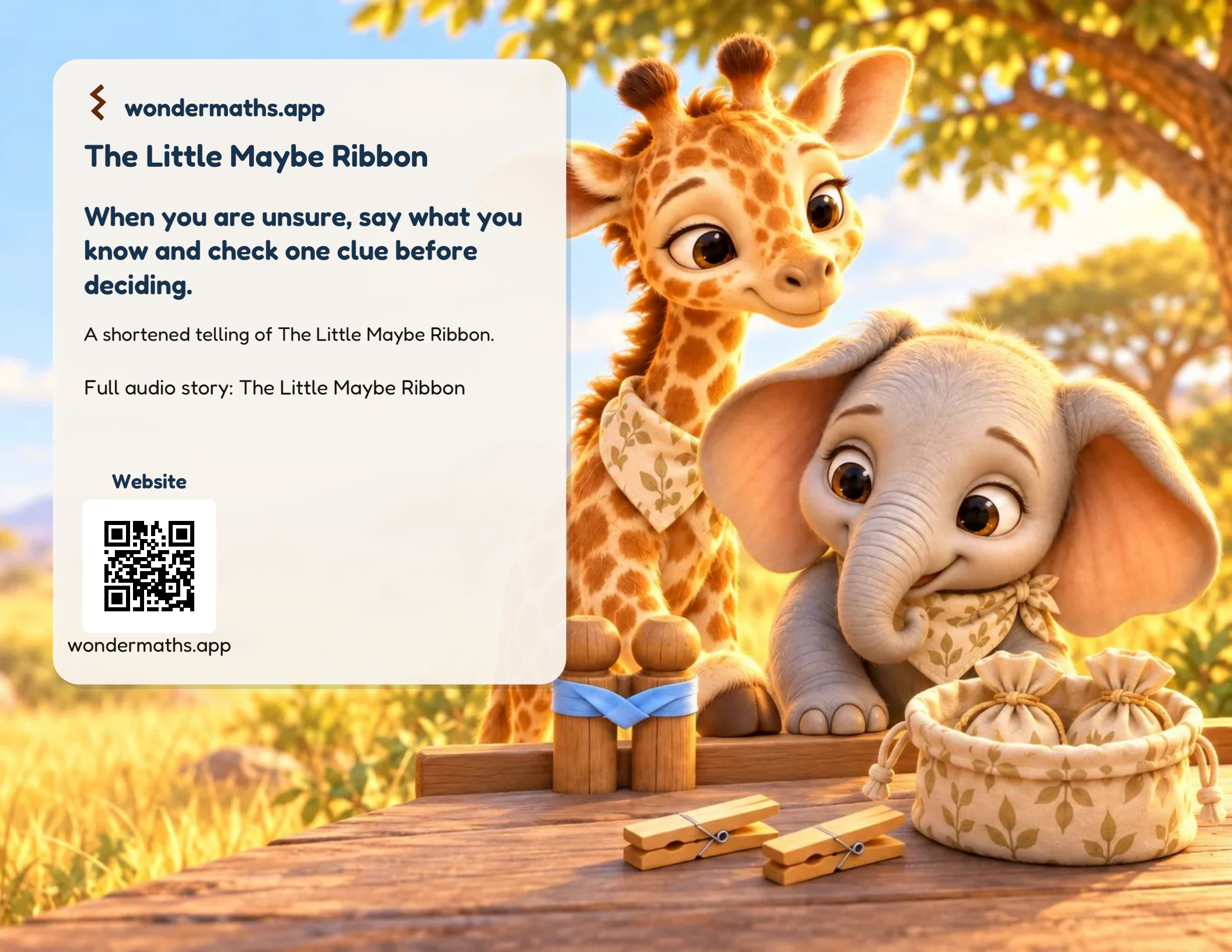
“The answer is getting a smaller home,” said Giraffe. The clips had not changed. She simply knew more about them. There was still room for every maybe.



Two clips waited in the second pocket. Three and two made five. Both fences met at five with a gentle tap. “Now I know,” said Giraffe.



Giraffe wrote the count tag, and the ribbon-making table opened. Elephant offered a high five. When the next tied pocket arrived, Giraffe smiled. “Leave room for maybe.”



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When you are unsure, say what you know and check one clue before deciding.

A shortened telling of The Little Maybe Ribbon.

Full audio story: The Little Maybe Ribbon

Website

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