

Jerry the Giant

Lucia Emiliani

Illustrated by Adriano Janežič





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Translated by Jason Blake



THE NEW YEAR WAS APPROACHING.

JERRY THE GIANT'S HOUSE SMELT OF VANILLA AND CINNAMON, BECAUSE HE'D SPENT THE ENTIRE AFTERNOON BAKING COOKIES.

"NEW YEAR'S NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS TREE," SAID **JERRY**. HE WENT TO THE HILL NEXT TO HIS HOUSE AND DECORATED THE TALLEST TREE WITH COOKIES. "IT'S BEAUTIFUL" HE SAID, WITH A NOD. "THE COOKIES WILL BE A TREAT FOR HUNGRY ANIMALS."

JERRY SAT HIMSELF DOWN AND STARED UP AT THE CRESCENT MOON.

"THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING," HE MURMURED. "IT WOULD BE NICE IF... PERHAPS I'M NOT THE ONLY GIANT IN THE WORLD. PERHAPS

THERE'S SOMEBODY OUT THERE WHO'S JUST AS ALONE AND LONELY AS I AM."



THE NEXT DAY

JERRY GOT INTO A CANOE AND

PADDLED OFF DOWN THE RIVER.



HE PADDLED FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE, FINALLY, SEEING A MEADOW BLOOMING WITH FLOWERS. HE STOPPED AND SAID TO A **BEE**:

“**BUZZING BEE**, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT IF PERHAPS YOU’VE EVER NOTICED SOMEONE ON THE MEADOW WHO’S SIMILAR TO ME.”

“I HAVEN’T. AND THERE’S NO WAY I COULD OVERLOOK SUCH A **HULK**,” REPLIED THE **BEE**. “BUT I PROMISE TO ASK MY FRIENDS. PERHAPS THEY’VE SEEN SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.”

JERRY THANKED HIM AND HEADED FORTH.



HE CAME ACROSS **JOLLY JAY** AND SAID TO HIM, “SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT I’D LIKE TO ASK IF YOU’VE EVER SEEN ANYONE IN THE WETLANDS WHO’S SIMILAR TO ME.”

JOLLY JAY SHOOK HIS HEAD. “I HAVEN’T. BUT I PROMISE TO ASK MY FRIENDS. PERHAPS THEY’VE SEEN SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.”

JERRY THANKED HIM AND HEADED FORTH.

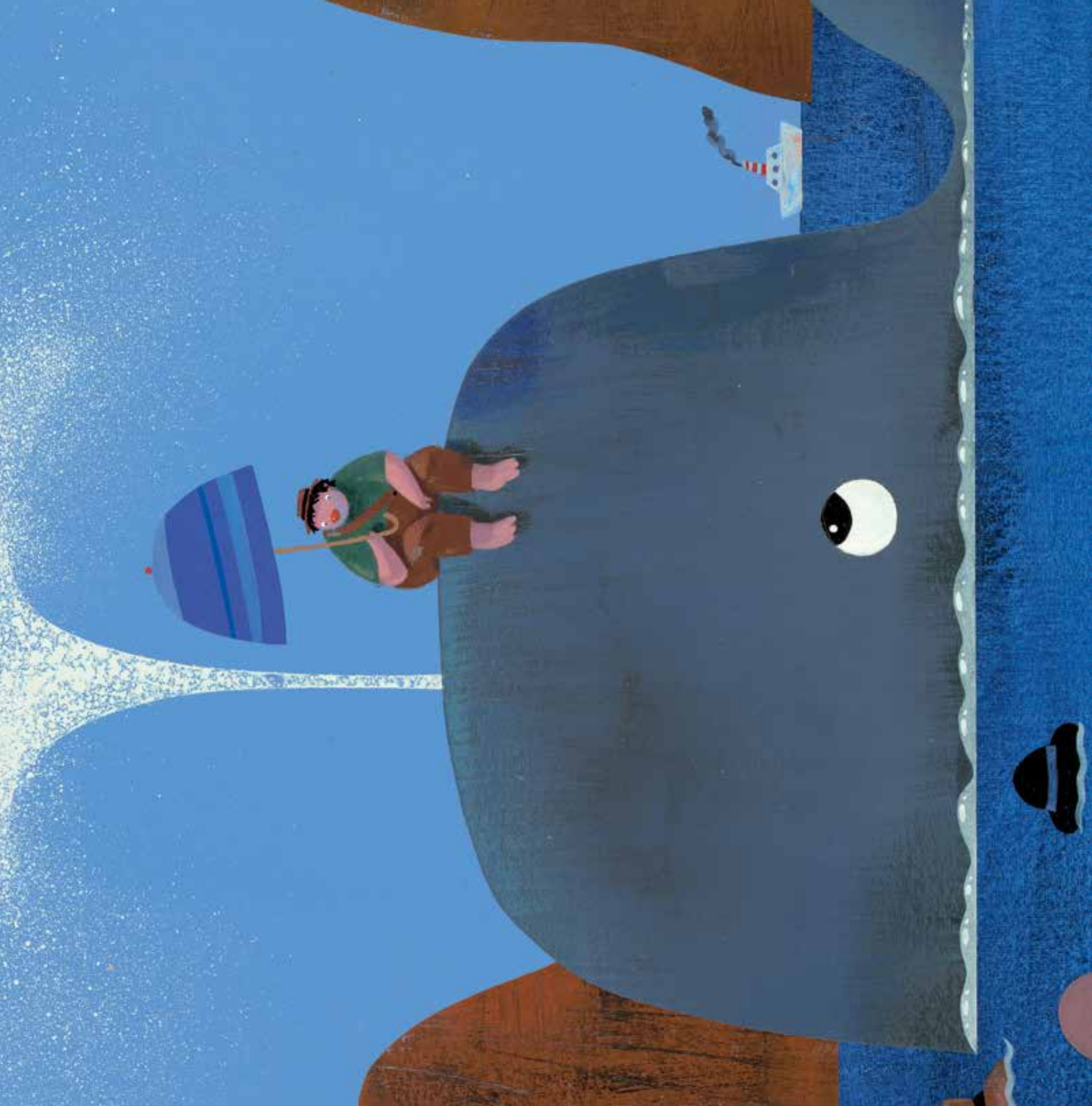


JERRY PADDLED OFF INTO AN UNKNOWN LAND, WHERE BREAD GREW IN THE FIELDS.

“IT WOULD BE NICE TO LIVE HERE,” HE SAID. “HERE PEOPLE CERTAINLY DON’T GO HUNGRY. HE MET SOME **CHILDREN** AND SAID, “I’M TRAVELLING THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF SOMEBODY WHO’S SIMILAR TO ME. MAYBE THERE’S ONE IN YOUR LAND?”

“WE HAVEN’T SEEN ONE,” THE **CHILDREN** ANSWERED, “BUT WE PROMISE TO ASK OUR FRIENDS. MAYBE THEY’VE SEEN SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.”

JERRY THANKED THEM AND HEADED FORTH.



HIS PATH LED HIM TO THE SEA, WHERE HE SAW A **FRIENDLY WHALE**. “YOU SWIM FAR AND SIDE,” HE SAID. “MAYBE YOU’VE SEEN SOMEBODY WHO’S SIMILAR TO ME?”

THE **WHALE** SHOOK HIS HEAD. “ALAS, YOU’RE NOTHING LIKE ANYBODY I’VE EVER SEEN. BUT I PROMISE TO ASK MY FRIENDS. PERHAPS THEY’VE SEEN SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.”

JERRY THANKED HIM AND HEADED FORTH.



THEN, TIRED FROM HIS LONG JOURNEY, **JERRY** CAME TO A DRY LAND AND MET **BUNNY**. AND HE SAID, “I’M TRAVELLING THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF SOMEBODY WHO’S SIMILAR TO ME. IS THERE ANYBODY LIKE THAT IN YOUR LAND?”

THE **BUNNY** SHOOK HIS HEAD TIMIDLY. “NO, I DON’T THINK SO. BUT I PROMISE TO ASK MY FRIENDS. PERHAPS THEY’VE SEEN SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.”

JERRY THANKED HIM AND HEADED FORTH.



DAY TURNED TO NIGHT, AND NIGHT TO DAY, AGAIN AND AGAIN. HE CAME TO A STRANGE LAND, WHERE HE MET **DINOSAUR**.

»GREETINGS, **DINOSAUR**. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING: IS THERE ANYBODY LIVING IN YOUR LAND THAT LOOKS SIMILAR TO ME?»

THE FRIENDLY **DINOSAUR** REPLIED:

“DESPITE MY MANY YEARS ON THIS EARTH, I’VE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY LIKE THAT. BUT I PROMISE TO ASK MY FRIENDS. PERHAPS THEY HAVE.”

JERRY THANKED HIM AND HEADED FORTH.



HE DIDN'T DESPAIR. AFTER WALKING FOR A FEW DAYS, HE SAID TO SOME **STORKS**:
"YOU FLY ACROSS HALF THE WORLD – SURELY YOU'VE SEEN SOMEBODY WHO
LOOKS LIKE ME?"

"WE HAVE INDEED SEEN MUCH OF THE WORLD, BUT NEVER ANYBODY WHO LOOKS
LIKE YOU. BUT WE PROMISE TO ASK OUR FRIENDS. PERHAPS THEY HAVE."
REPLIED THE **STORKS**.

JERRY THANKED THEM AND HEADED FORTH.



TIRED, HE TOOK A SEAT ON A HILL. HE STARED OFF INTO SPACE FOR A LONG TIME, THEN COMFORTED HIMSELF:

“WELL, I GUESS I’M UNIQUE. THE ONLY **GIANT** IN THE WHOLE, WIDE WORLD.”

HE DECIDED JUST TO GO HOME.



NEWS ABOUT THE GIANT'S TRAVELS HAD SPREAD TO EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD.

WHEN HE GOT HOME THERE WAS A SURPRISE WAITING FOR HIM.

SIX **GIANTS** WHO WERE JUST AS LONELY AS JERRY HAD COME FOR A VISIT.



Jerry the Giant had baked some cookies and decorated the Christmas tree. He soon realized that the tree would be more beautiful and the cookies would be much sweeter if only he had somebody to share it all with. Jerry decided to set out to see if there was anyone else like him in the world.

But unfortunately no one he asked had ever seen a giant, though they all promised to ask their friends.

Jerry the Giant resigned himself to the fact that he would spend New Year's alone, and he headed home. When he got there, however,

there was a *big surprise* waiting for him!