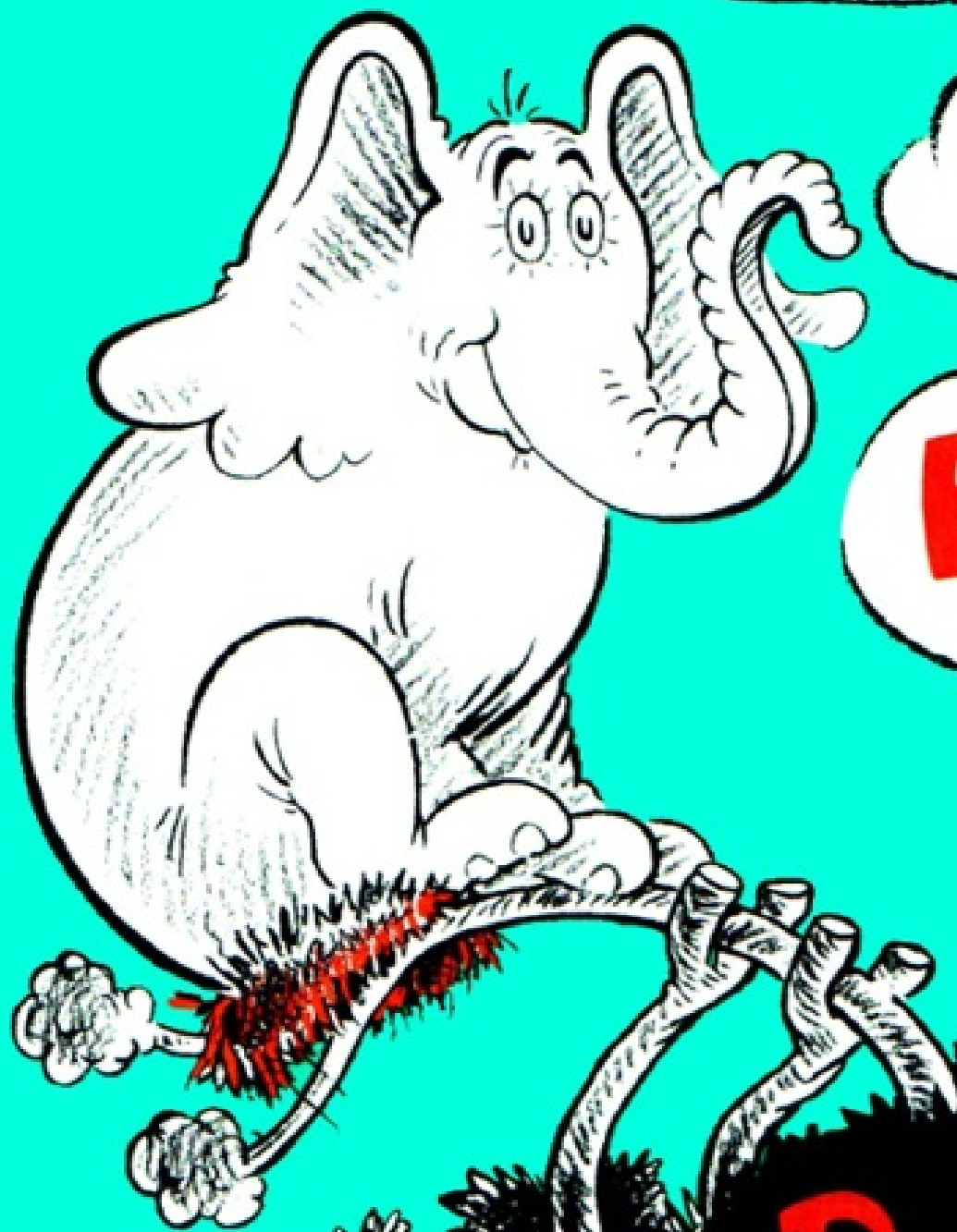


Horton

Hatches

the

Egg



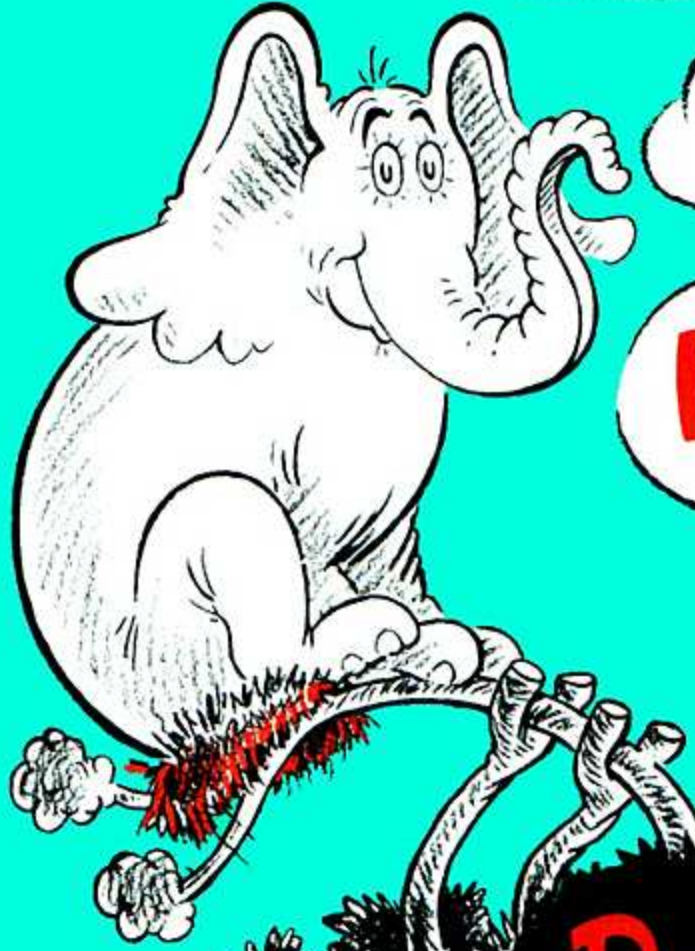
Dr. Seuss

Horton

Hatches

the

Egg



Dr. Seuss

HORTON HATCHES THE EGG

BY DR. SEUSS

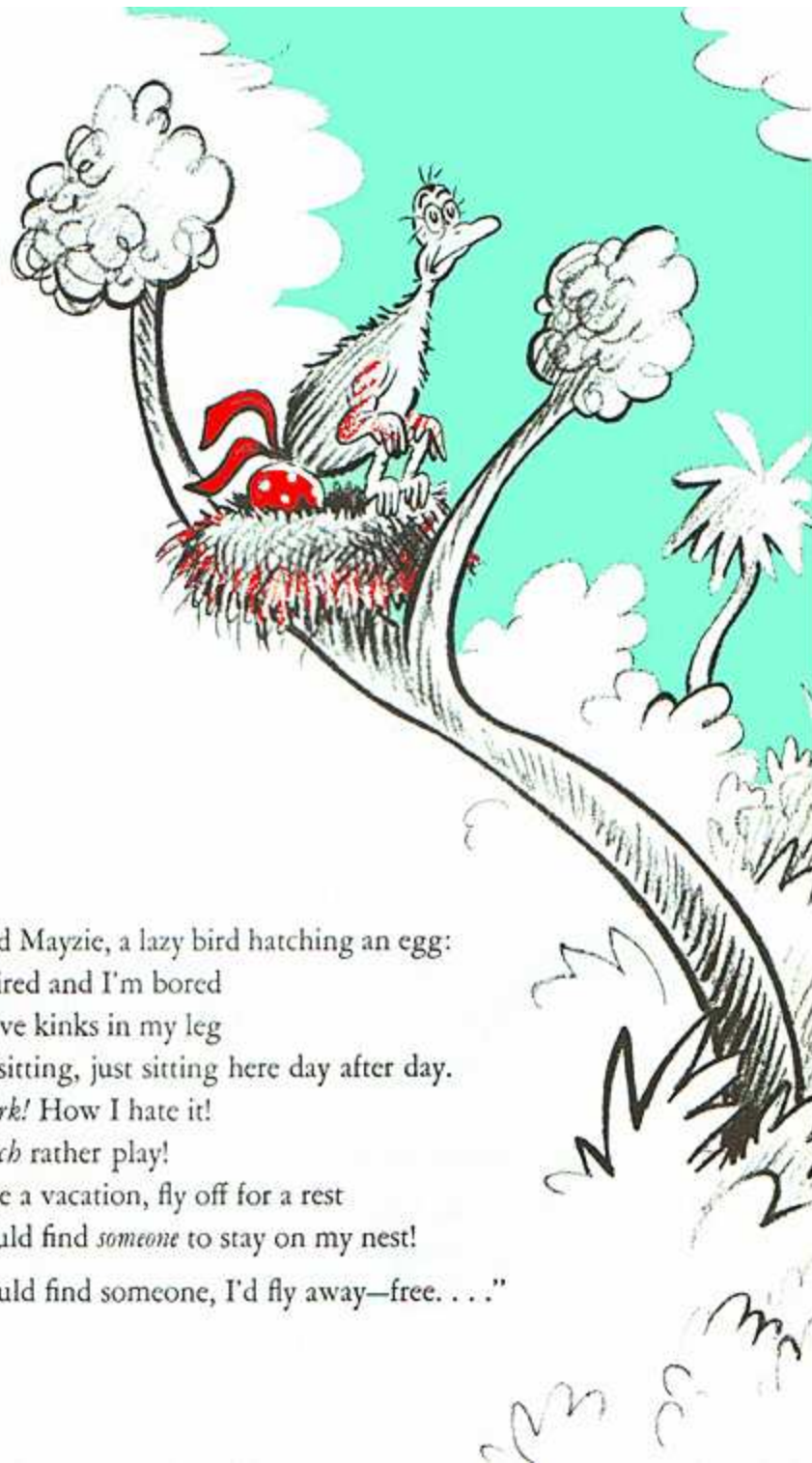
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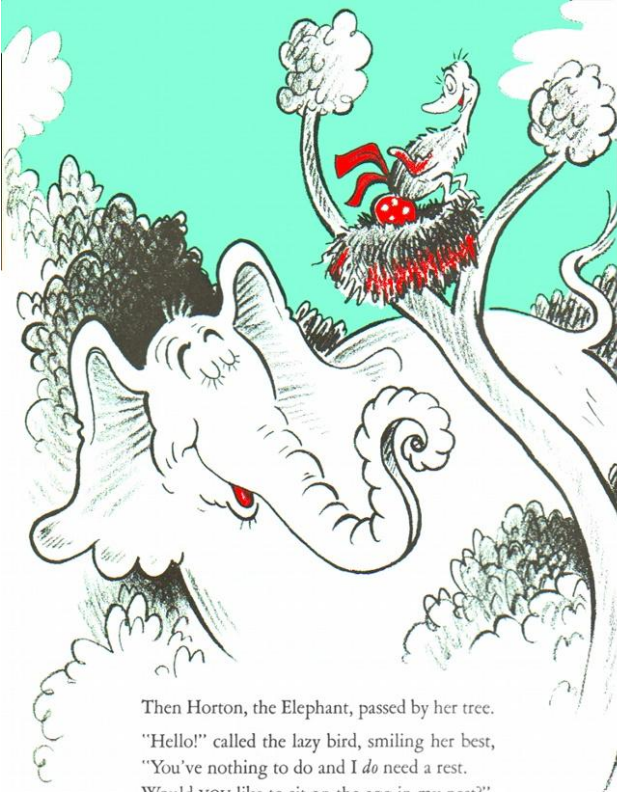
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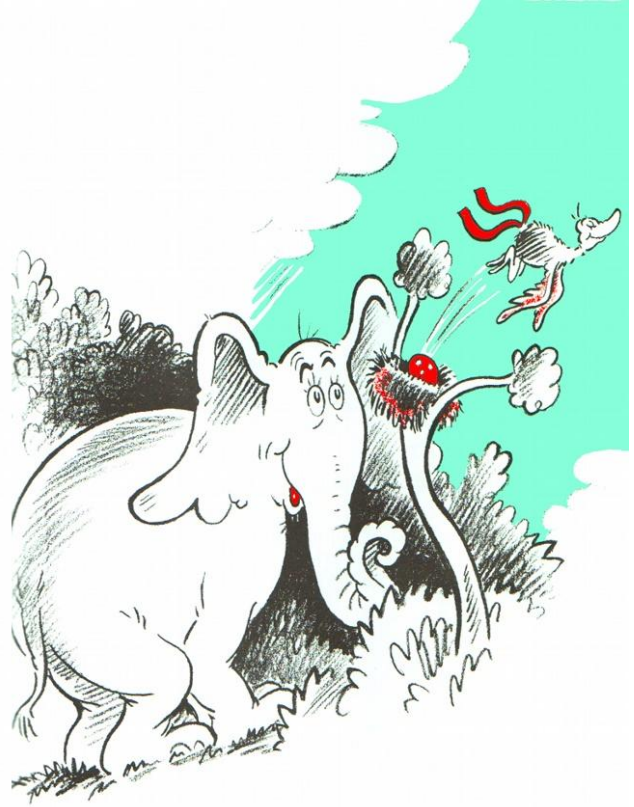
Sighed Mayzie, a lazy bird hatching an egg:
"I'm tired and I'm bored
And I've kinks in my leg
From sitting, just sitting here day after day.
It's *work!* How I hate it!
I'd *much* rather play!
I'd take a vacation, fly off for a rest
If I could find *someone* to stay on my nest!
If I could find someone, I'd fly away—free. . . ."



Then Horton, the Elephant, passed by her tree.
"Hello!" called the lazy bird, smiling her best,
"You've nothing to do and I *do* need a rest.
Would YOU like to sit on the egg in my nest?"

The elephant laughed.
"Why, of all silly things!
I haven't feathers and I haven't wings.
ME on your egg? Why, that doesn't make sense. . . .
Your egg is so small, ma'am, and I'm so immense!"
"Tut, tut," answered Mayzie. "I know you're not small
But I'm *sure* you can do it. No trouble at all.
Just sit on it softly. You're gentle and kind.
Come, be a good fellow. I know you won't mind."
"I can't," said the elephant.
"PL-E-E-ASE!" begged the bird.
"I won't be gone long, sir. I give you my word.
I'll hurry right back. Why, I'll never be missed. . . ."

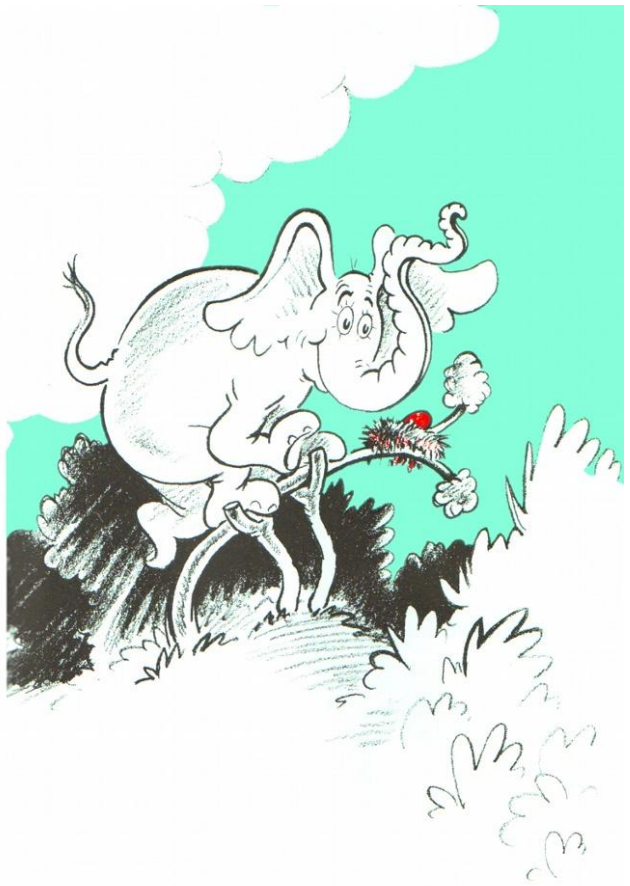
"Very well," said the elephant, "since you insist. . . .
You want a vacation. Go fly off and take it.
I'll sit on your egg and I'll try not to break it.
I'll stay and be faithful. I mean what I say."
"Toodle-oo!" sang out Mayzie and fluttered away.



"H-m-m-m . . . the first thing to do," murmured Horton,
"Let's see. . .
The first thing to do is to prop up this tree
And make it much stronger. That *has* to be done
Before I get on it. I must weigh a ton."



Then carefully,
Tenderly,
Gently he crept
Up the trunk to the nest where the little egg slept.



Then Horton the elephant smiled. "Now that's that. . . ."

And he sat
and he sat
and he sat
and he sat. . . .

