



Translated excerpt

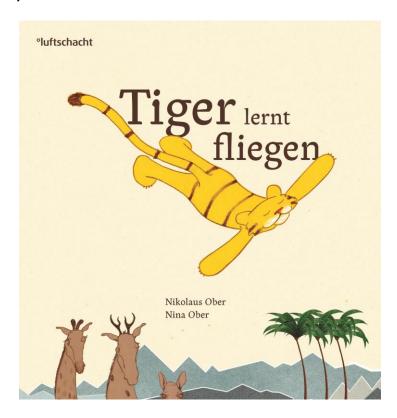
Nikolaus Ober / Nina Ober Tiger lernt fliegen

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Nikolaus Ober / Nina Ober Tiger learns to fly

Translated by John Reddick





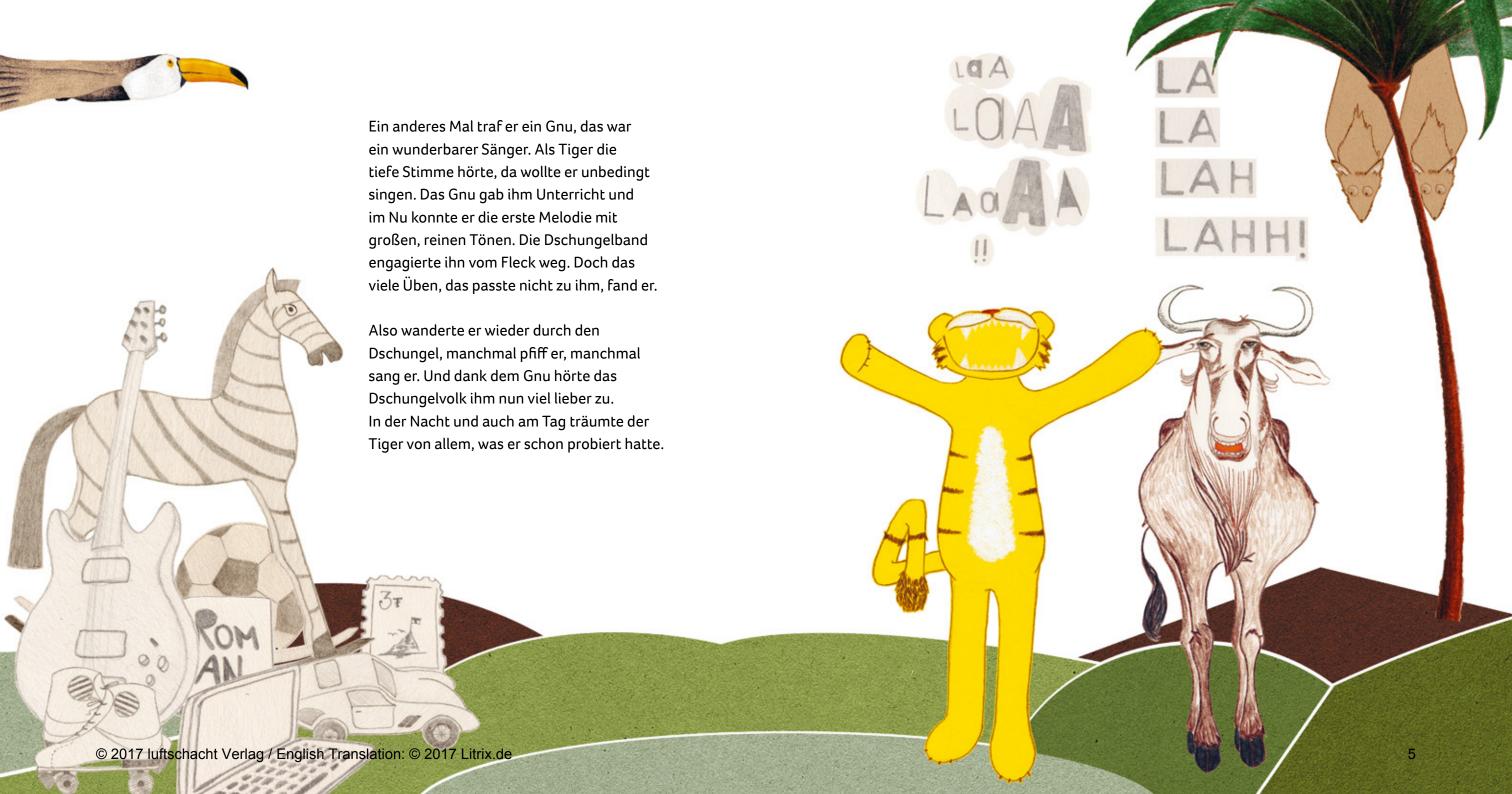
In a jungle there once lived a tiger who quite often felt bored. So *very* bored that he even became bored of feeling bored.

He lay there in the tall grass and sighed. He stretched out his paws and yawned, and he yawned and stretched out his paws. Then he wandered aimlessly through the hot jungle. He saw the monkeys swinging from tree to tree, he saw the parrots showing off their feathers to all and sundry.



By chance he came across the vultures. They were famed throughout the entire jungle as the best footballers under the sun. And they played even better in the shade. The tiger was desperate to join in.

'Be best if you go in goal', said the vultures' team captain. The tiger stopped almost every shot - the high ones with his paws, the low ones with his tail. But by the time the penalty shoot-out was over he already felt thoroughly bored again.



Next he came across a gnu - who happened to be a fabulous singer. As soon as the tiger heard his deep bass voice, he too was desperate to become a singer. The gnu gave him lessons, and in the twinkling of an eye his very first song was ringing out, full-throated and pure. The jungle band signed him right then and there. But all that rehearsing just didn't suit him, he decided.

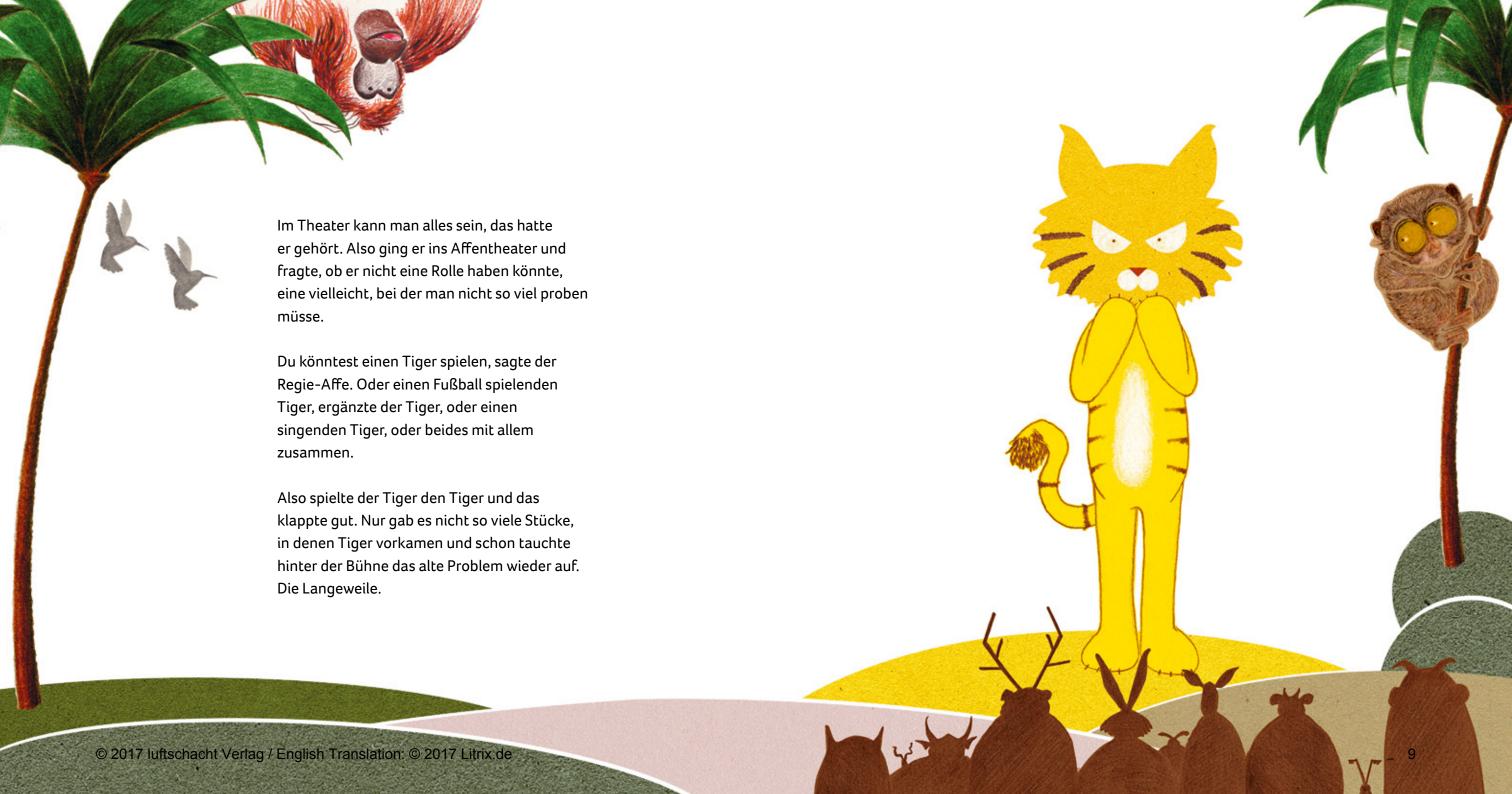
So once again he started wandering through the forest, sometimes whistling, sometimes singing. And thanks to the gnu the jungle folk enjoyed the sound of him much more than they did before. At night, and even during the day, the tiger dreamed of all the things he had tried so far.



Würde ich doch endlich einmal träumen, was das Richtige für mich ist, wünschte er sich.



But if only my	dreams would s	how me the thir	ng that's <i>really</i>	right for me!' he	e thought wistfull	у.



He had heard that you can be whatever you want to be on the stage. So he went to the Monkey-Business Theatre and asked if they could give him a part - preferably one that didn't require much rehearsing.

'You could play the part of a tiger', suggested the monkey who ran the theatre. 'Or a football-playing tiger', added the tiger, 'or a singing tiger, or both at the same time.'

So the tiger played the part of a tiger, and it worked very well. But there weren't all that many plays with tigers in them, and in any case the same old problem began to surface again whenever he was waiting around in the wings: boredom.







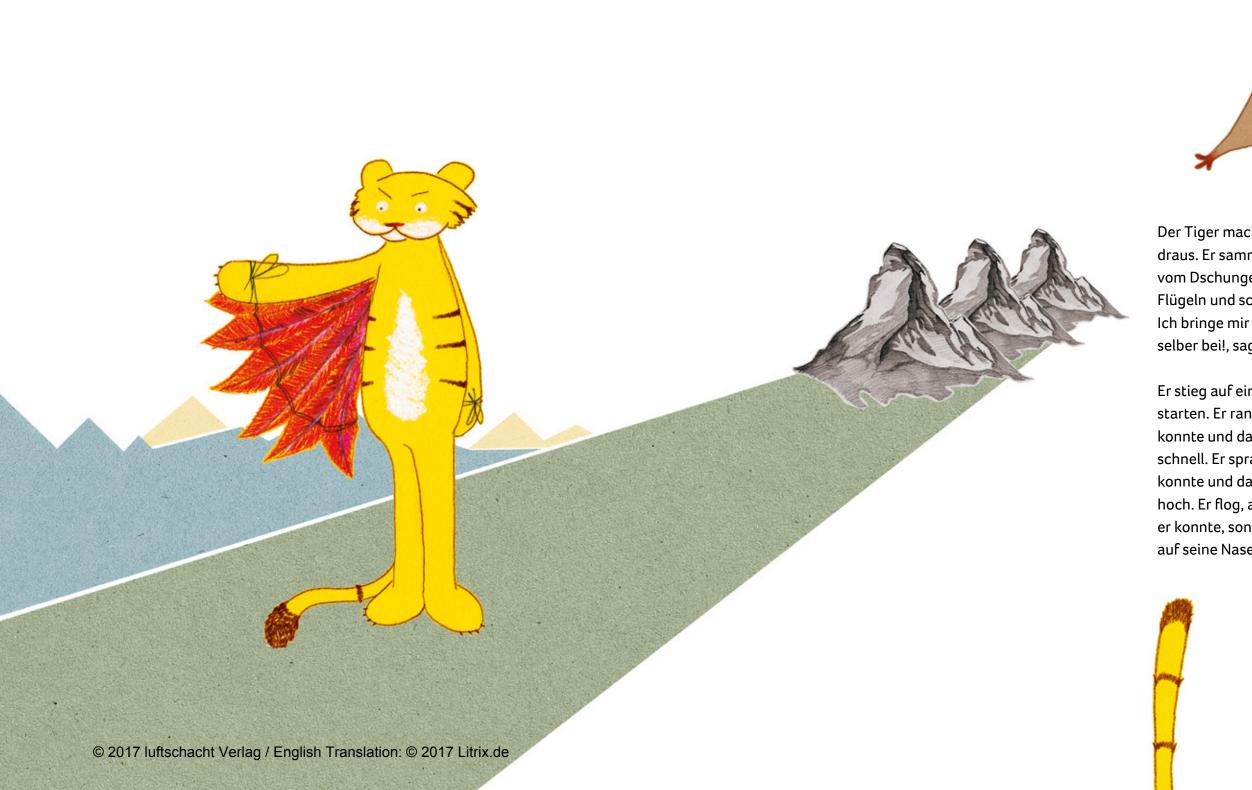
Als er auf einer Lichtung mitten im Dschungel lag und wieder so vor sich hinträumte, sah er den Vögeln zu. Fliegen, dachte er, das wäre toll, die Flügel ausbreiten und hinauf in den Himmel. Jetzt, wo ich schon so viel gelernt habe, kann ich auch das Fliegen lernen, sagte er sich und marschierte schnurstracks zu den Kranichen.

[PIGEON CRANE HUMMINGBIRD BAT HONEY BEE EAGLE GRASSHOPPER FLYING FISH]

Once, as he lay in a clearing in the middle of the jungle, all dreamy again, he took to watching the birds. 'Flying!', he thought. 'How fantastic that would be! Just spread your wings, and up you go into the sky! Now that I've learnt such a lot of other things', he said to himself, 'I can easily learn to fly as well' - and with that he headed straight for the cranes.



'Can you teach me how to fly?' His question caused a tremendous to-do. 'Tigers can't fly', screeched the lofty birds contemptuously. Some of them were laughing so much that their long necks were bent almost double. 'Everyone knows - ha ha ha! - that tigers can't fly!'





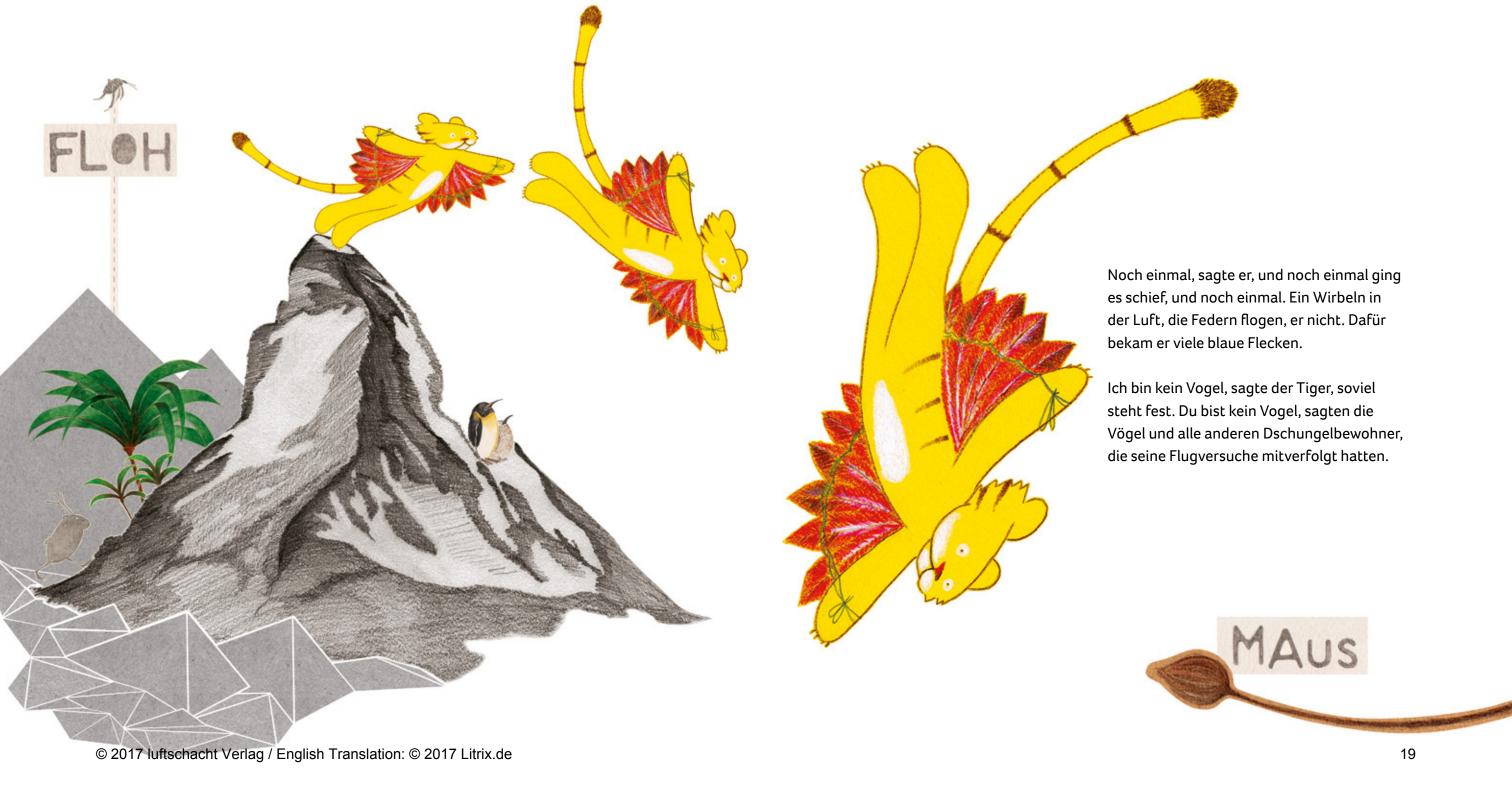
Der Tiger machte sich nichts draus. Er sammelte Federn auf vom Dschungelboden, band sie zu Flügeln und schnallte sie sich um. Ich bringe mir das Fliegen eben selber bei!, sagte er sich.

Er stieg auf einen Hügel, um zu starten. Er rannte so schnell er konnte und das war ziemlich schnell. Er sprang so hoch er konnte und das war ziemlich hoch. Er flog, aber nicht so hoch er konnte, sondern hinunter auf seine Nase ... This didn't deter the tiger one little bit. He gathered up feathers from the jungle floor, tied them together to make wings, and attached the wings to his body. 'I'll just have to learn all on my own how to fly', he said to himself.

He climbed to the top of a hill to get a good start. He ran as fast as he could - and that was pretty fast! He leapt as high as he could - and that was pretty high! He flew off into the air - but instead of flying as high as he might, he landed flat on his nose...



... and that was pretty painful.
[OUCH]



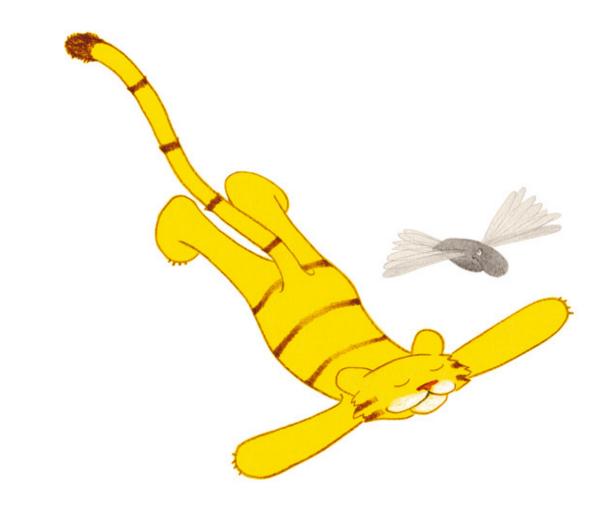
'I'll try again', he said, and again it went wrong, and then again and again. Limbs whirled in the air, feathers flew - but the tiger didn't. All he got was lots of bruises.

'I'm not a bird', said the tiger, 'that's for sure.' 'You're not a bird', said the birds and all the other inhabitants of the jungle who had watched him trying to fly.

[FLEA MOUSE]

Wenn ich selbst nicht in der Luft bleibe, ging es dem Tiger durch den Kopf, dann brauch ich einen Riesenvogel. Aber so einen gab es eben nirgends. Es wurde ihm wieder etwas langweilig, aber jetzt konnte er nicht mehr aufhören, ans Fliegen zu denken.

Er pfiff und sang und sah sich alle Tiere an, die fliegen konnten. Mücken, Grillen, große Vögel, kleine Vögel, Flughunde, Libellen, Schmetterlinge. Das machte ihn fast so vergnügt, als würde er selber fliegen.



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'If I can't stay in the air on my own', he reasoned, 'then what I need is an enormous bird to carry me up.'
But of course no such a creature was anywhere to be found. He started feeling a bit bored again, but from now on flying was all he could ever think about.

He whistled and he sang and he gazed at all the animals that could fly. Mosquitoes, crickets, big birds, small birds, bats, butterflies, dragonflies. It made him feel almost as good as if he were flying himself.

[MOUSE]





Doch dann sah der Tiger außer den fliegenden Tieren in der Luft noch etwas ganz anderes. Das lag zwar am Boden, funkelte in der Sonne aber so grell, dass man es gar nicht übersehen konnte. Es war riesengroß und hatte Riesenflügel in einer Farbe, die er noch nie gesehen hatte. But then - in addition to all those creatures flying through the air - the tiger spotted something very different. Although it was just lying there on the ground, it was sparkling so brightly in the sunlight that you simply couldn't miss seeing it. It was enormously big, and it had enormous wings in a colour he had never seen before.

[MOUSE]



It was a plane. The tiger had found a plane - an enormous bird exactly as he had imagined it. [MOUSE] Wo kommst du her Riesenvogel, fragte er, bekam aber keine Antwort. Als er sich das Ganze aus der Nähe betrachtete, sah er, dass alles aus Metall und nicht lebendig war. Der Tiger sprang ins Flugzeug, drückte auf alle Schalter und legte jeden Hebel um, doch es passierte nichts.

Wer kann mir helfen, den Riesenvogel zum Fliegen zu bringen, überlegte er. Da gab es im ganzen Dschungel nur einen, der das konnte. Den Brillenbär, der nämlich auch ein Schlaubär war, der alles wusste und alles reparierte.



'Well, Big Bird, where have you come from?' he asked. But there was no reply. Once he took a closer look at the whole thing he realised that it was made entirely out of metal and wasn't alive. Jumping into the plane, the tiger switched every single switch and moved every single lever, but nothing happened.

'Who can help me to get this enormous bird flying?' he wondered. There was only one animal in the entire forest capable of doing such a thing, and that was the spectacled bear, who as well as being a spectacled bear was also a wily old bird who knew everything and could repair anything.

[SQUEAK]



Ich weiß, was du gefunden hast, sagte der Brillenbär, ein Flugzeug. Ein Riesenflugzeug, sagte der Tiger. Einfach nur ein Flugzeug, sagte der Brillenbär, als sie endlich vor dem glitzernden Ungetüm standen, und stürzte gleich mit seinem Werkzeugkoffer auf die Motorhaube zu.

Lass uns sehen, was wir da haben, murmelte er und schon begann er mit seinem Schraubenschlüssel zu schrauben und mit seinem Hammer zu hämmern und mit seiner Zange zu zangen. 'I know what you've found', said the spectacled bear. 'It's a plane.' 'An enormous plane', said the tiger. 'No,' said the spectacled bear once they were standing in front of the glistening monster, 'it's just an ordinary plane', and he immediately leapt up onto the engine cowling with his toolbox.

'Let's see what we've got here', he muttered, and without further ado he began spannering with his spanner and hammering with his hammer and plier-ing with his pliers.

[SQUEAK]



Wann bist du fertig, fragte der Tiger vom Cockpit aus und drehte am Steuerrad und legte sich in den Sitz. Mhm, brummte der Brillenbär nur, drehte an einer großen Schraube und es krachte und quietschte dabei.

Jetzt musst du mir helfen, rief er zum Tiger, dreh den Propeller! Der Tiger drehte den Propeller, der Brillenbär schraubte noch einmal, zangte noch einmal und auf einmal begann der Riesenvogel zu poltern und einen Höllenlärm zu machen.











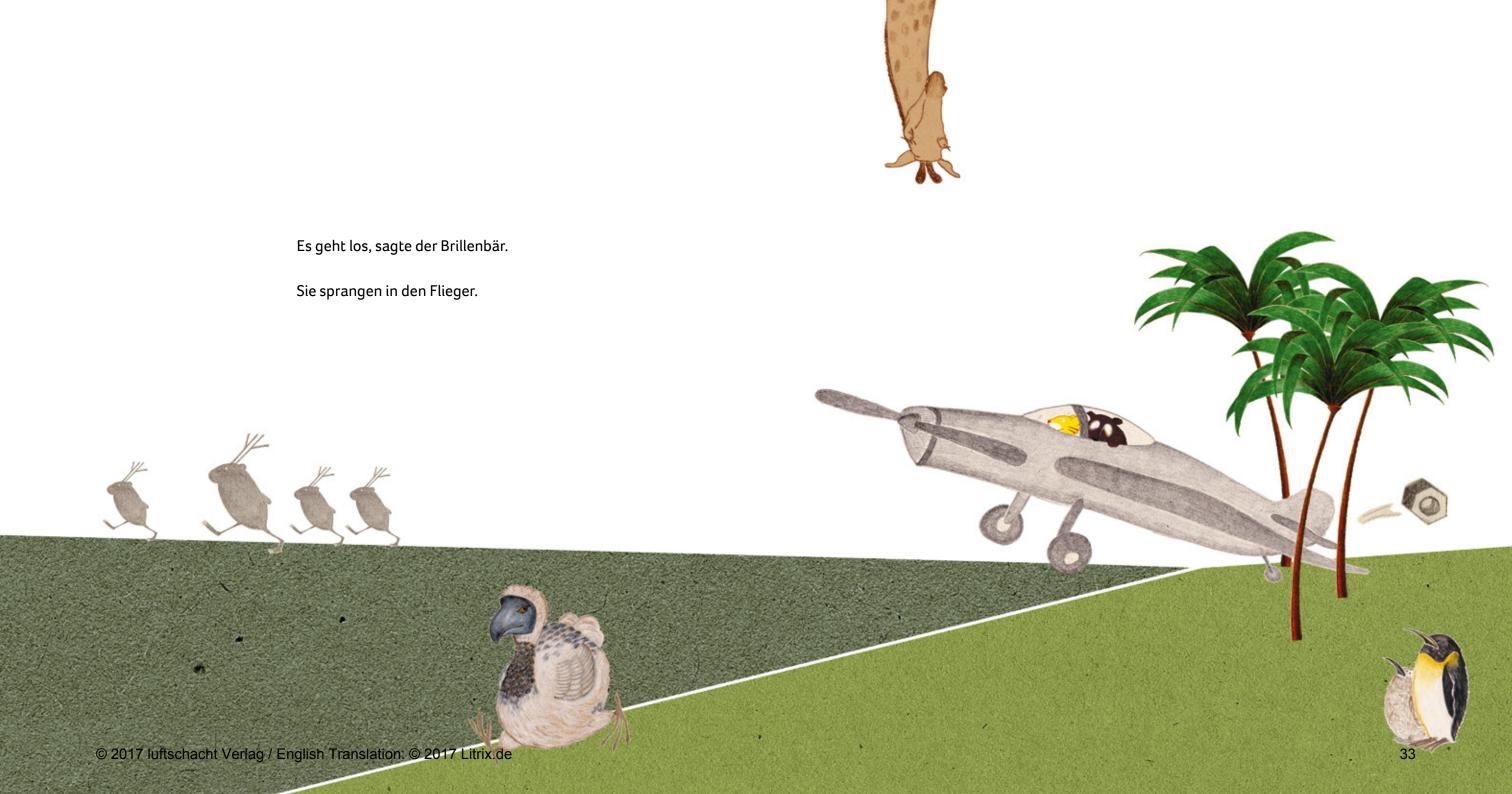




'How long before you've finished?' asked the tiger from the cockpit as he climbed into the seat and moved the joystick around. 'Harumph', growled the bear, tightening a large nut so hard that it scrunched and squealed.

'You'll have to give me a hand now', he called to the tiger. 'Turn the propeller!' The tiger turned the propeller, the bear spannered a bit more and plier-ed a bit more, and all of a sudden the enormous bird began to shudder and shake and make an earth-shattering noise.

[TIGER ISLAND]



'Off we go!' said the spectacled bear.

They leapt into the plane.



The bear told the tiger what to do. 'Press that button, pull that lever, now pull this one.' They roared along the ground and then - hurrah! - the plane really did take off. The tiger was flying after all, thanks to the spectacled bear - he would never have managed it without him. They went whizzing over the jungle, the tiger with windswept hair and the bear with a queasy tummy.

'You need to land', he said to the tiger, 'you're running out of juice.'



'Juice?!' asked the tiger. 'Don't worry', the bear quickly reassured him, 'I can get you plenty, and it doesn't cost anything.' 'You're the bestest spectacled bear in the entire jungle', said the tiger.

All the tiger needed now was an airman's scarf and a proper flying helmet. They found everything in the bear's workshop - a treasure-trove full of all the weird and wonderful things that the jungle animals had brought to him because they didn't have the faintest idea what else to do with them.









Ich werde eine Flugschule gründen, verkündete der Tiger.

Zuerst brauchst du selber noch ein paar Flugstunden, lieber Tiger, meinte der Brillenbär, und ein wenig Fachwissen aus meinem Fluggerätelexikon. Die Zeiger und Striche neben den Hebeln übrigens sind zur Information des Piloten gedacht, fügte er dann noch wissend hinzu.





'I shall start a flying school', declared the tiger.

'You need a few flying lessons yourself first, my dear tiger', said the spectacled bear, 'plus a bit of expertise gleaned from my Aircraft Manual. And by the way', added the all-knowing bear, 'the dials and the marks next to the levers are there to give the pilot the information he needs.'

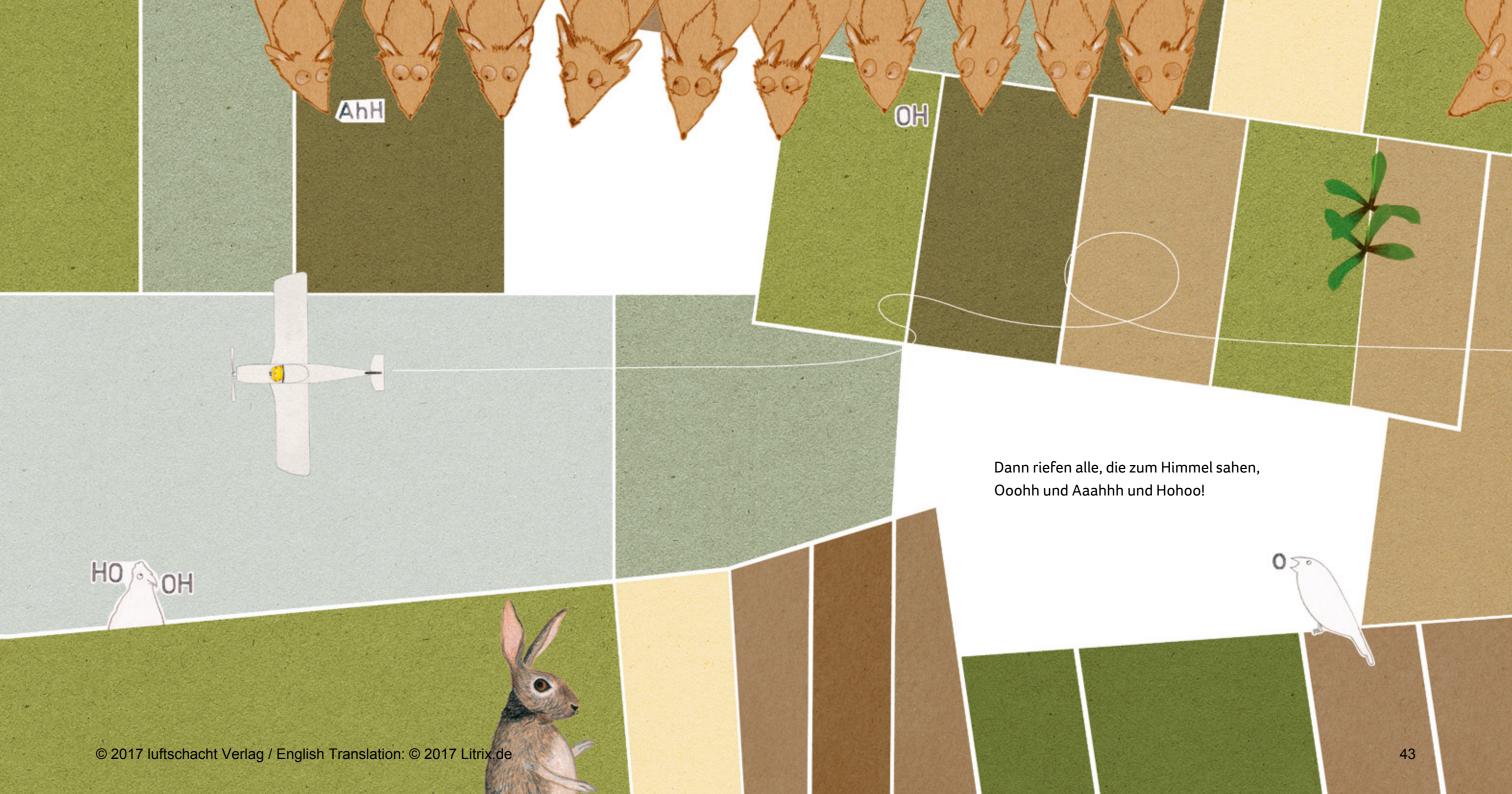
[HELICOPTER ROCKET AIRSHIP HUMMING BIRD PARAGLIDER BALLOON]



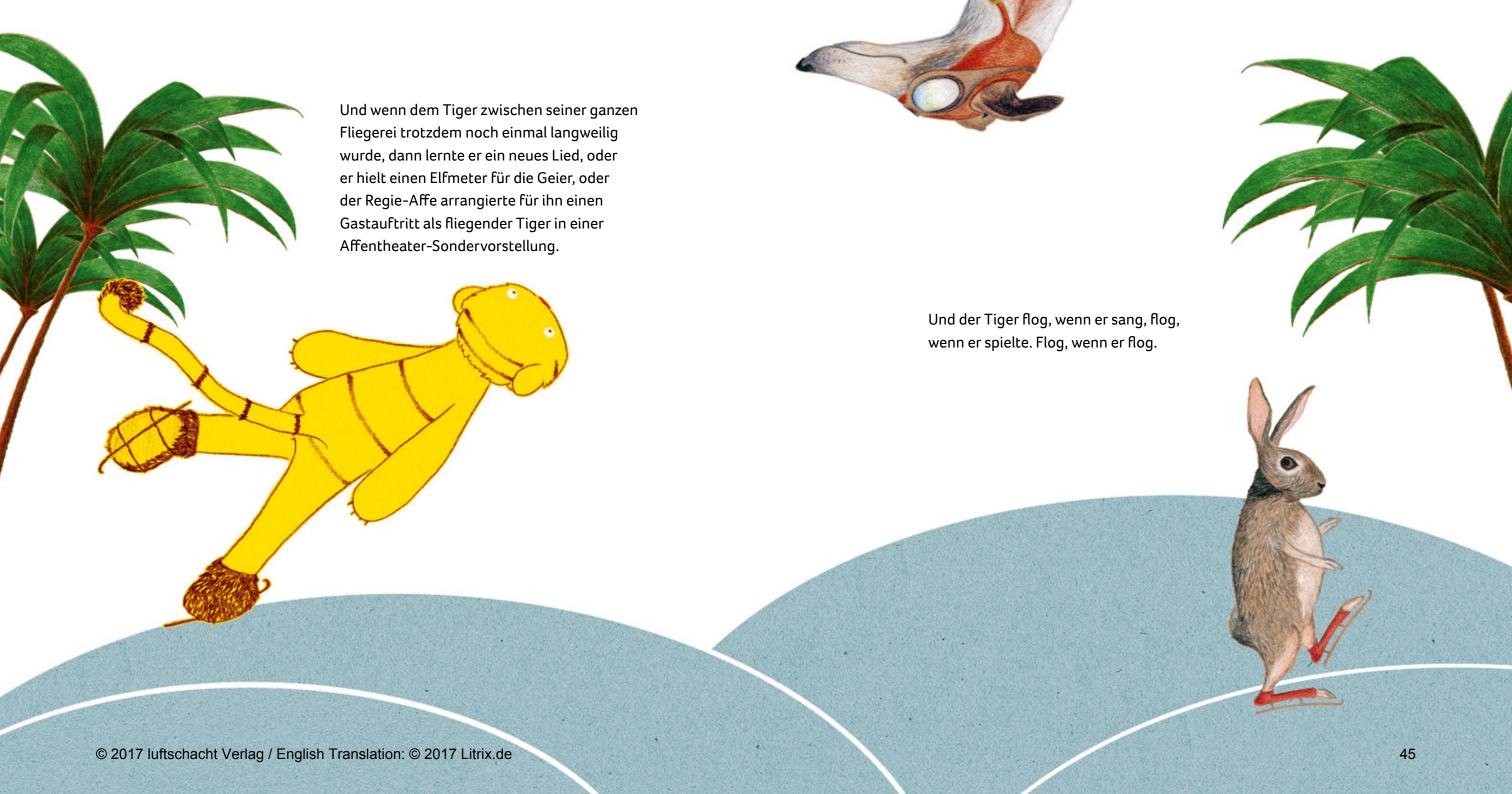
Der Tiger tat nun nichts mehr lieber als zu fliegen mit seinem Flieger. In seiner Flugschule, die sich stolz "Sturzflug mit Tiger" nannte, brachte er den Dschungeltieren ohne Flügel das Fliegen bei und er machte Rundflüge mit den Jungen und manchmal führte er kleine Kunststücke und sogar Loopings vor.



From that moment on there was nothing the tiger liked doing more than flying his plane. In his flying schoo which gloried in the name 'Power-Dive With Tiger', he taught jungle animals that didn't have wings how to fly, he took youngsters on little trips, and occasionally he did stunts, and even looped the loop.



Then everyone looking up at the sky would say 'Ooh!' and 'Ah!' and 'Wow!'



And whenever the tiger started to feel bored again despite all his many flying activities, then he would learn a new song, or stop a penalty kick for the vultures, or make a guest appearance as the Flying Tiger in a special show put on for him by the boss of the Monkey-Business Theatre.

And the tiger flew whenever he sang, flew whenever he played, flew whenever he flew.

[THE END]