

“Elephants Dancing”

Lyrics & Melody by Lauren Katz | Music by Lauren Katz and Eli Kline

It's midnight and there is a terrible thunderstorm raging outside. Becca, 16, is in her bedroom reading a book, when she hears crying coming from her 8 year old sister's room. Becca opens Emma's bedroom door to find her cowering in her blanket, sobbing, and tossing and turning.

BECCA

(frazzled, but trying to help)

IT'S OKAY, SHHHH,
IT'S OKAY EMMA.
JUST THUNDER AND LIGHTNING,
I KNOW THAT IT'S FRIGHTENING,
BUT PLEASE STOP CRYING.

COME ON, SHHHH,
COME ON EMMA.
JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP
OR KEEP COUNTING SHEEP.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
I'M TRYING BUT I DON'T HAVE A CLUE.

WHAT WOULD MOM DO?

Emma pauses and thinks---

HEAR THAT EMMA?
IT'S ELEPHANTS DANCING,
YES, IT'S ELEPHANTS PRANCING
AROUND THE ROOM.
NOT TOO GRACEFUL,
NO, THEY AREN'T ON TIP TOES.
THEIR CLOMPY FEET BULLDOZE
WITH A BOOM.

BUT LOUD ISN'T BAD,
SO NO NEED TO BE SAD,
'CAUSE THEY'RE GLAD TO BE HAVING A BALL.
YES, THE ELEPHANTS CHOSE TO DANCE OUTSIDE YOUR WALL.

This is stupid, sorry--

EMMA

Emma is still crying, but is calming down a little.

NOOO keep going! It's helping.

BECCA

Uhh, okay...let me think...

Some more thunder, Emma cowers.

HEAR THAT EMMA?
IT'S ELEPHANTS RUMBLING,
OH THEY'RE MUMBLING, BUMBLING
BY YOUR WINDOWPANE.
NOT TOO QUIET,
NO, THEIR TRUNKS LIKE TO CHATTER
TO DROWN OUT THE PATTERN
OF THE RAIN.

MAYBE THEY'LL FIND A FEATHER AND HOLD ON TIGHT.
AND WITH THEIR FLOPPY EARS, THEY'LL FLY UP INTO THE NIGHT.
AND THE WEATHER WILL SUBSIDE,
BUT FOR NOW ENJOY THE RIDE,
'CAUSE THE ELEPHANTS CHOSE TO CHAT RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE.

EMMA

They chose *me*?

BECCA

They sure did!

Another boom of thunder, but Emma is okay. She's actually better than okay, she's great! She's not crying anymore and is fully immersed in her own whimsical imagination

EMMA

I hear them! I see them! That one just farted!

Emma erupts in laughter and then notices that Becca didn't join in. She turns to see tears running down Becca's face.

Wait, why are *you* crying?

Becca, lost in her own thoughts, hasn't even realized that she started

crying.

BECCA

Huh? Oh... *(trying to make light of it)* guess you passed the crying bug on to me. Now get some sleep, goodnight Emma.

EMMA

Thanks for the story Becca!

BECCA

It's not mine...thank mom.

Becca leaves Emma's bedroom and lets the brave face she put on come crumbling down

I WISH YOU WERE HERE,
TO WIPE EVERY TEAR,
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ON ALONE.
I MISS HOW WE'D WAKE UP
AND MAKE UP NEW WORLDS ON THE FLY.
YOUR MIND NEVER RAN DRY
WITH PIRATES AND FAIRIES AND ALL THAT'S ENTRANCING,
DRAGONS, AND MERMAIDS AND ELEPHANTS DANCING!

HOW CAN I
HEAR YOUR ELEPHANTS DANCING,
HEAR YOUR ELEPHANTS PRANCING
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
AND HOW CAN I
GO AND KEEP ON PRETENDING
STORIES HAVE HAPPY ENDINGS
WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE TONIGHT?

BUT I WANT TO HEAR IT,
TO SEE IT,
TO FEEL IT,
BELIEVE IT,
AND MAYBE SOMEDAY SOON
I'LL HEAR THAT TRUMPET TUNE,
AND THE ELEPHANTS DANCING
WILL BRING ME CLOSE TO YOU.