

# The Elephant Who Cried Mouse!

Ronald the Elephant loves to frighten his family by calling "MOUSE!". But what happens when they stop believing him?





Once upon a time there was an elephant  
Ronald. I am sure you know how this  
goes. He was bewildered, frightened,  
absolutely **TERRIFIED** of mice.



And mice, as you know, are very nice.



Can you possibly imagine what there is to be frightened of in a mouse?

They have the tiniest teeth in the world!  
They have soft, furry little bodies! They  
are the size of your finger!



But Ronald couldn't help it. We don't always know why we're scared of things



Perhaps when Ronald was little, a mouse popped out of a tree when he was sleeping one night, and jumped close to his face, and so seemed **VERY BIG** to our poor little Ronald.



Perhaps Ronald had a bad dream about a mouse. These things can happen, especially when we eat too much chocolate before bed. And Ronald sure did like to eat a lot of chocolate before bed.



In fact, eating chocolate in bed was his favourite thing to do!





So anyway, here was Ronald, a great big grown-up five year old elephant, who was absolutely, earthquakingly, dumbfoundedly, flabbergastedly **TERRIFIED** of mice.



And because he felt so frozen-stiff petrified of the little micey kingdom, he naturally assumed that all of his elephant family felt the same way.



And being a bit of a joker in his family, he liked to scream out “MOUSE!” whenever he thought he would like to scare them and have a laugh.



“Heehee!” Ronald would giggle behind a tree.

Mumma wasn't very happy. Mumma wasn't scared of mice, but she knew Ronald was, and every time he screamed Mouse she would think she needed to save him from somewhere where a mouse was.



“MOUSE!” Ronald would scream behind Poppa.

And Poppa would jump a metre in the air, and when he landed all the water in the lakes would drench the villages, and there'd be no water left for the fish.



“Heehee!” Ronald would giggle behind a log.

Poppa wasn't very happy. Poppa wasn't scared of mice, but he hated loud noises, and every time Ronald screamed Mouse it made his heart gallop like a galloping horse until he realised it was just Ronald screaming  
“MOUSE!”



This worked like a treat for many months.  
Ronald would scream “MOUSE!” and  
everyone would get scared.

But one day, Ronald screamed Mouse and  
nobody said or did anything at all.



Hmm. Maybe they didn't hear him.

“MOUSE!” he screamed again.

But his whole elephant family ignored him and went about their business. They were so used to him screaming “MOUSE!” that they had simply become used to it. To them, now, it was just another sound of the jungle!





And then Ronald turned around and what  
do you think he saw?

**A SCARY, HAIRY, CREEPY, CRAWLY,  
CHITTERING LITTLE MOUSE!**



“EEEK!” shouted Ronald, and jumped into a tree. The Mouse stood looking up at him, and scratched his head.

“What’s wrong?” the mouse said. “Didn’t you call for me?”



And he was so soft and confused, so friendly and cute, that Ronald realised he was silly being scared.

“Actually, I guess I did!” he said to the mouse.



And so Ronald came down from the tree.

Now Ronald still cries “MOUSE!” from time to time. But when he does, his *Mouse* friend comes and they play on the seesaw together.

And they both scream together ... with  
laughter!