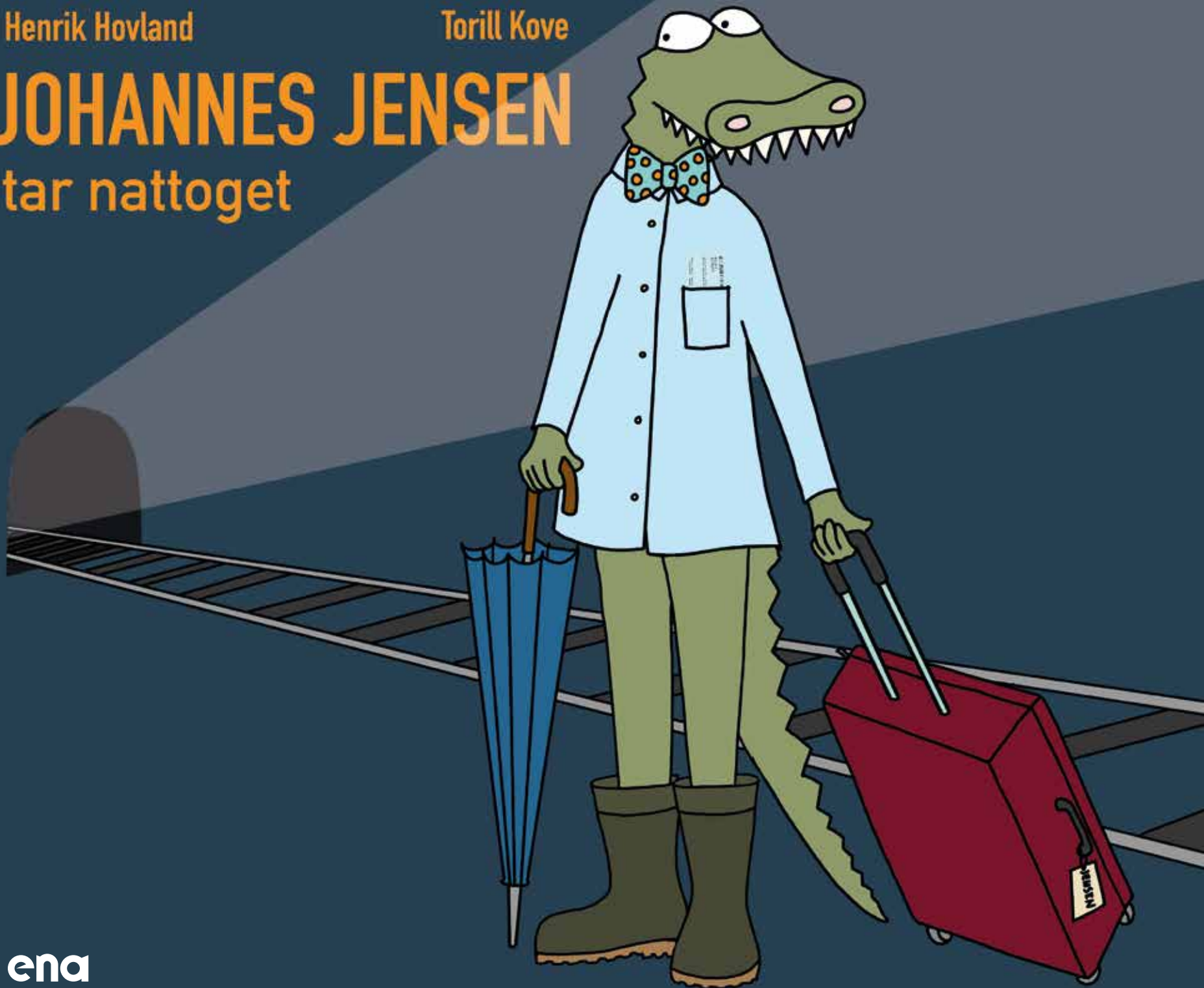


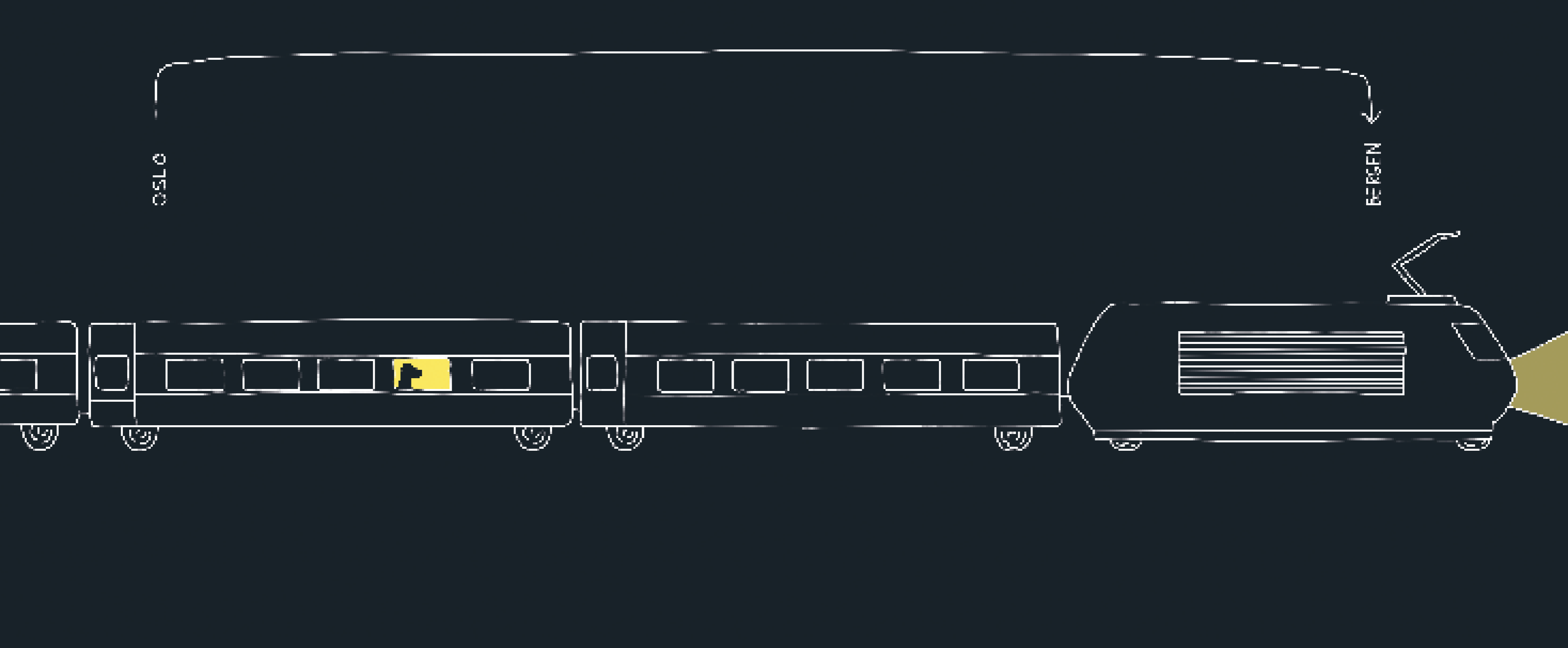
Henrik Hovland

Torill Kove

JOHANNES JENSEN

tar nattoget





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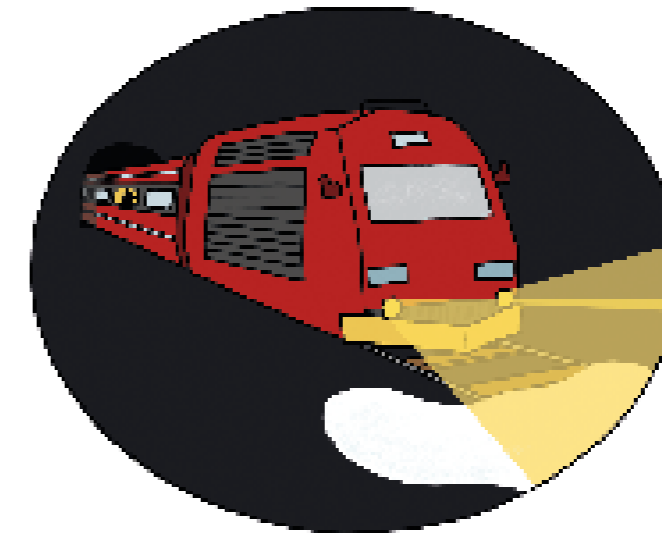
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John Jensen and the Night Train

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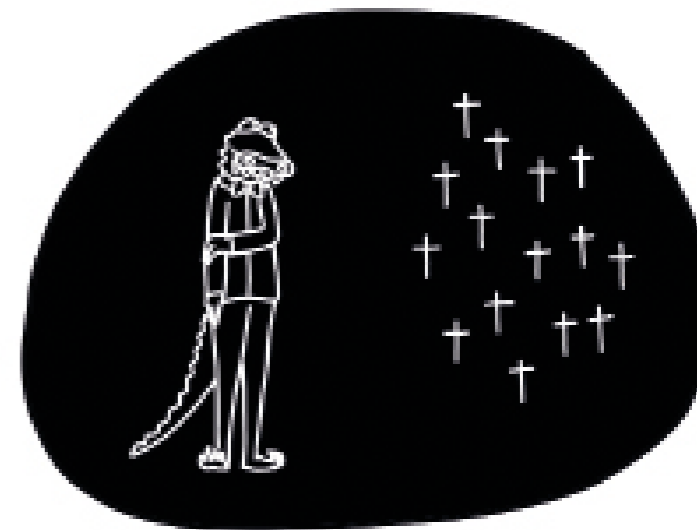
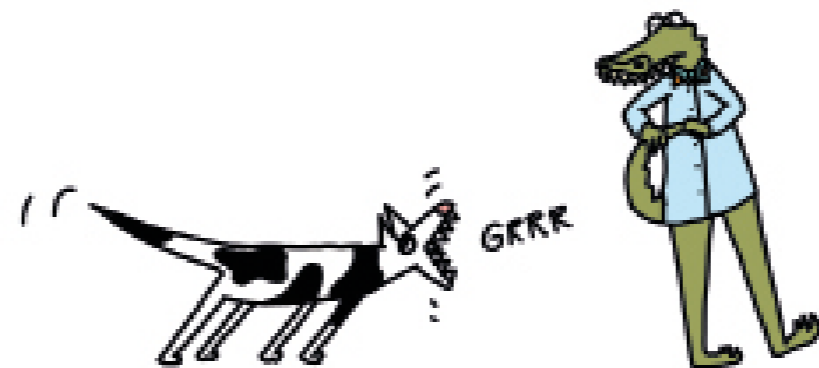
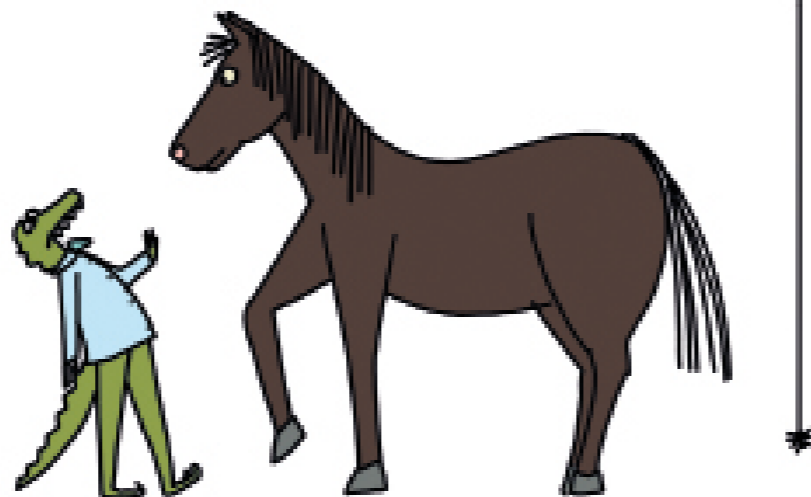
John Jensen is going on a trip. He's catching the night train. He's got his ticket and his suitcase is packed, but John Jensen is afraid.
He's going on his own, but he's not sure if he can.



Come along, says Frida. Everyone must see Bergen at some time in their lives. It may seem frightening, but it's not.
But don't think I can, says John Jensen.
Why not? Frida asks.
I'm afraid to say goodbye, says John Jensen.
I'll take you to the station, Frida says.



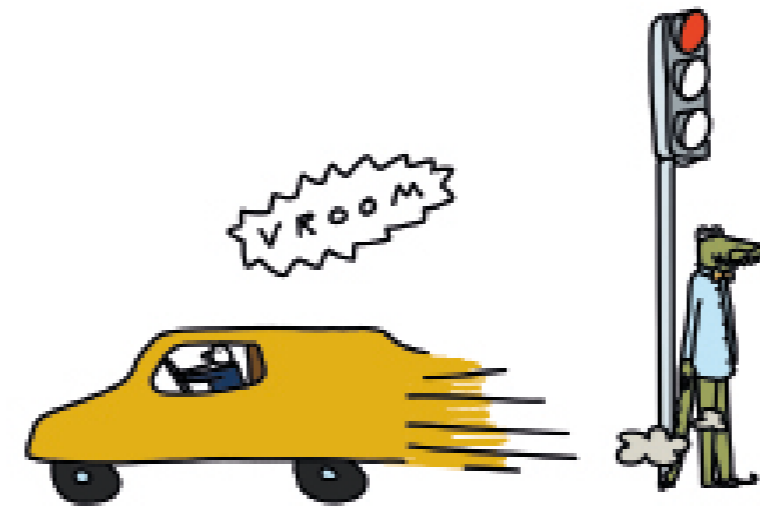
On the way to Oslo's Central Station,
John Jensen thinks about everything
he's afraid of.



He's afraid of the dark. Afraid of big animals. Afraid of noises in the kitchen at night. Afraid of using the lift. Afraid of spiders and snakes. Afraid of jumping off the high diving board. Afraid of sitting next to strangers.



Afraid of angry men with beards, of dogs that bark, and cars that don't stop when the traffic lights turn red. Afraid of death. Afraid of going on his own. Afraid of saying goodbye.





Everything will be fine, says Frida.
She gives John Jensen a hug on the platform.
I don't want to let go, John Jensen thinks. Frida steps away, but John Jensen won't let go.



WHY MUST I BE SO AFRAID?
EVERYONE'S AFRAID OF SOMETHING. YOU MUST PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.



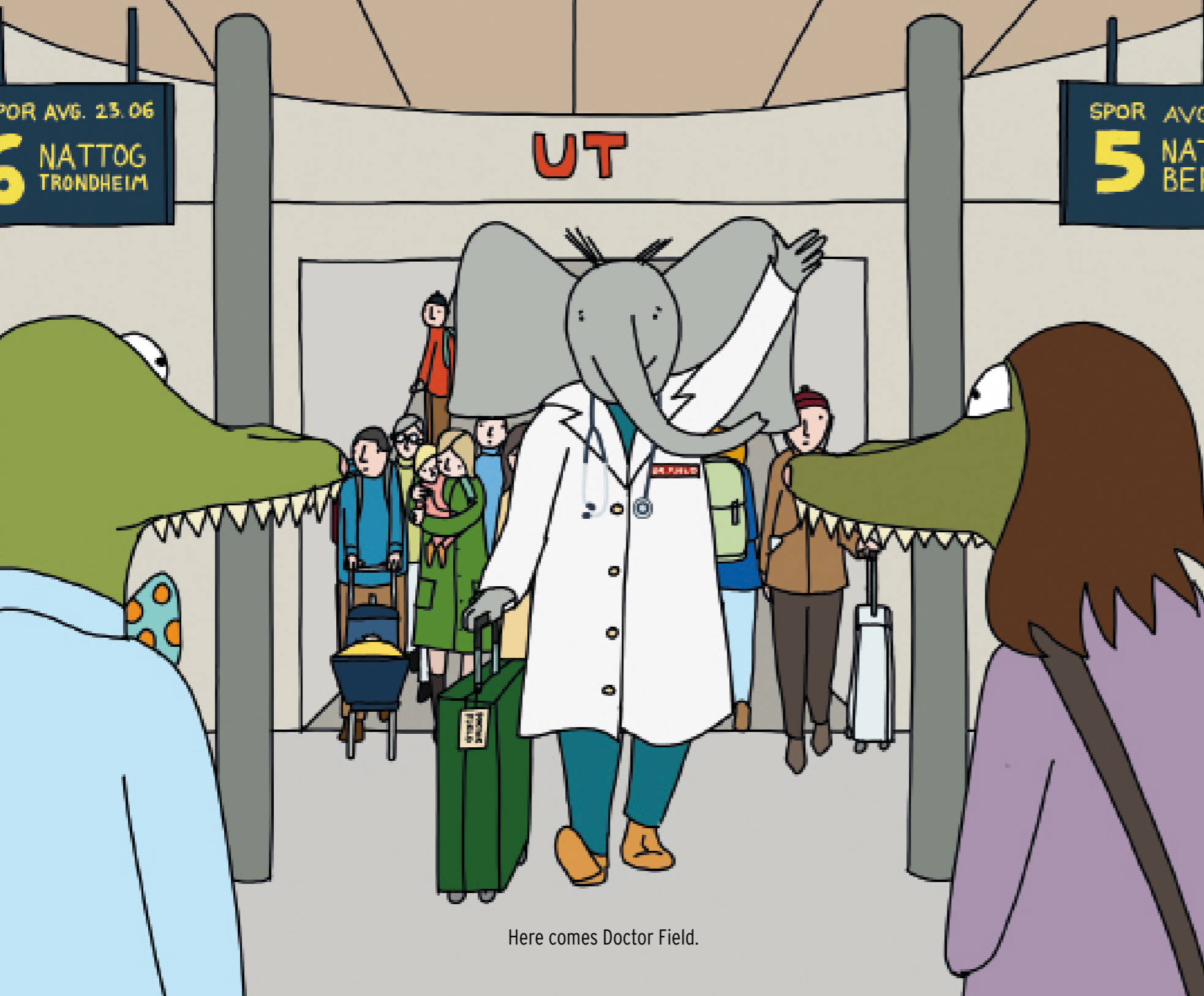
I CAN'T DO IT. I WANT TO GO HOME.
YOU CAN'T TURN BACK NOW!



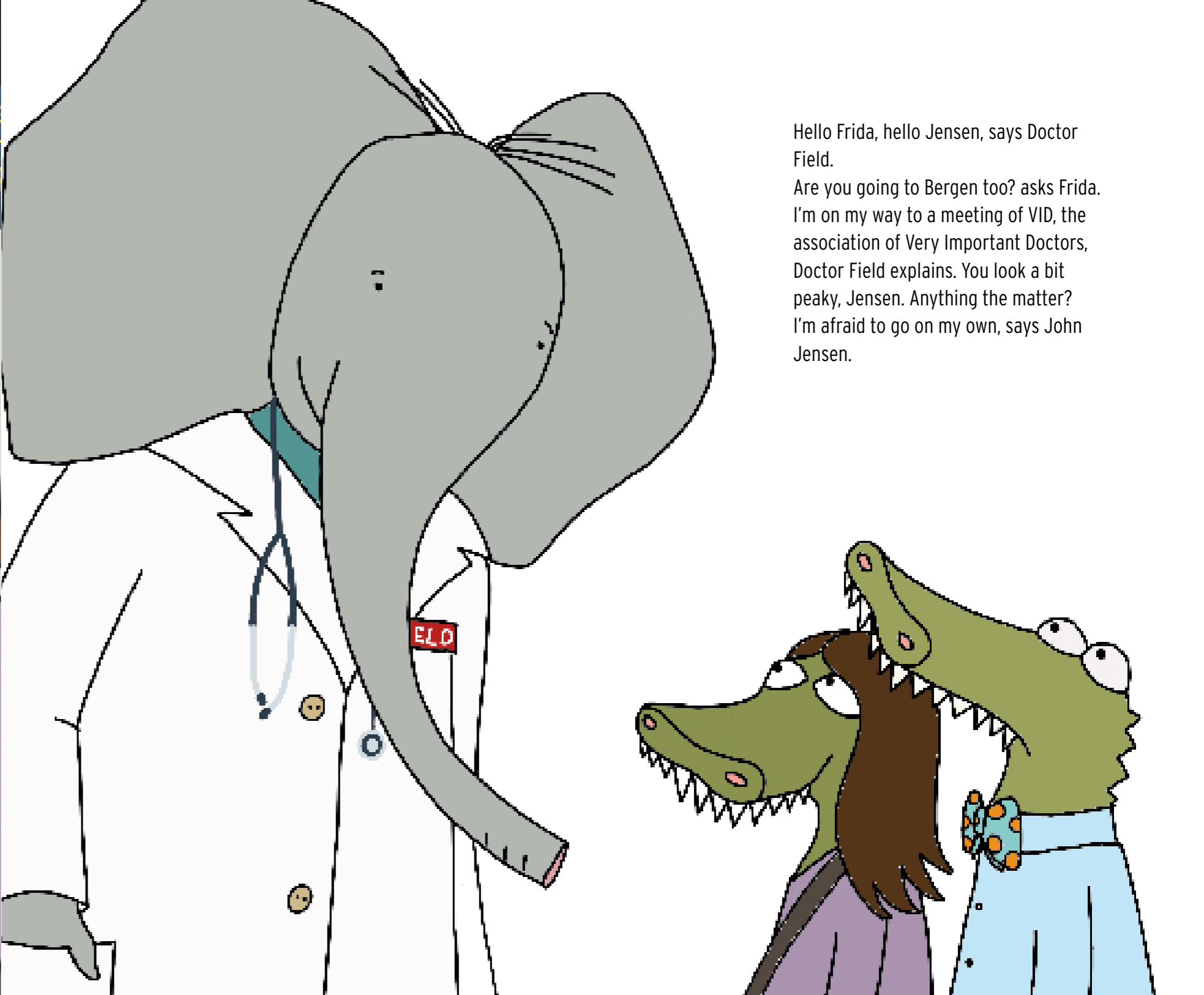
THERE'S NO SHAME IN TURNING BACK.
YOU'LL MISS YOUR TRAIN.



THERE'LL BE OTHER TRAINS.



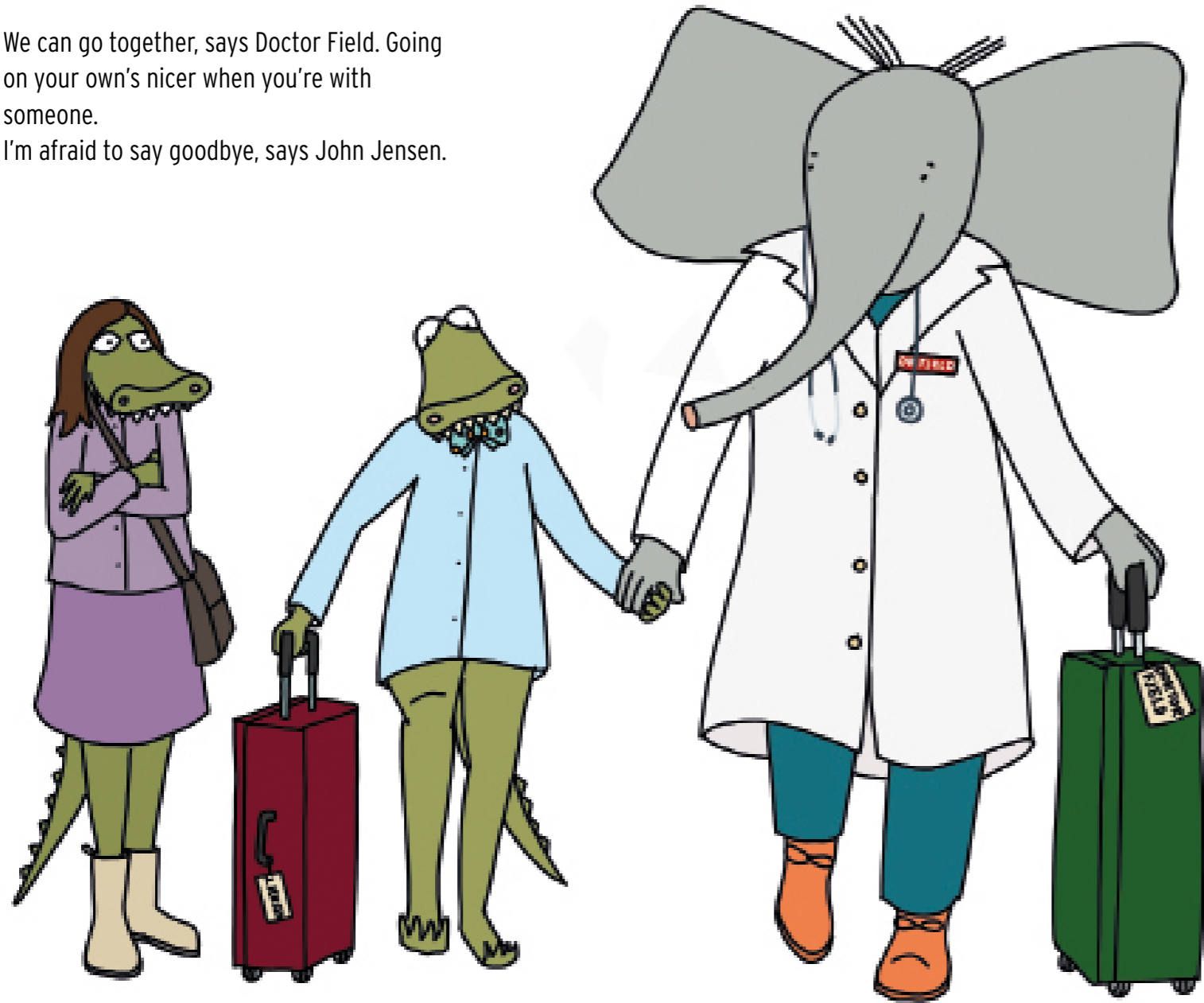
Here comes Doctor Field.



Hello Frida, hello Jensen, says Doctor Field.

Are you going to Bergen too? asks Frida. I'm on my way to a meeting of VID, the association of Very Important Doctors, Doctor Field explains. You look a bit peaky, Jensen. Anything the matter? I'm afraid to go on my own, says John Jensen.

We can go together, says Doctor Field. Going on your own's nicer when you're with someone.
I'm afraid to say goodbye, says John Jensen.



One step at a time, Doctor Field suggests. That way, what seems difficult at first becomes that little bit easier.
My hands are cold, says John Jensen.
You can warm them in mine, says Doctor Field.



John Jensen approaches the train with very small steps. He looks back at Frida. But Frida hasn't moved. She's staying behind. And John Jensen is too afraid to go.



We'll try again tomorrow, says Doctor Field. Very Important Doctors can wait.



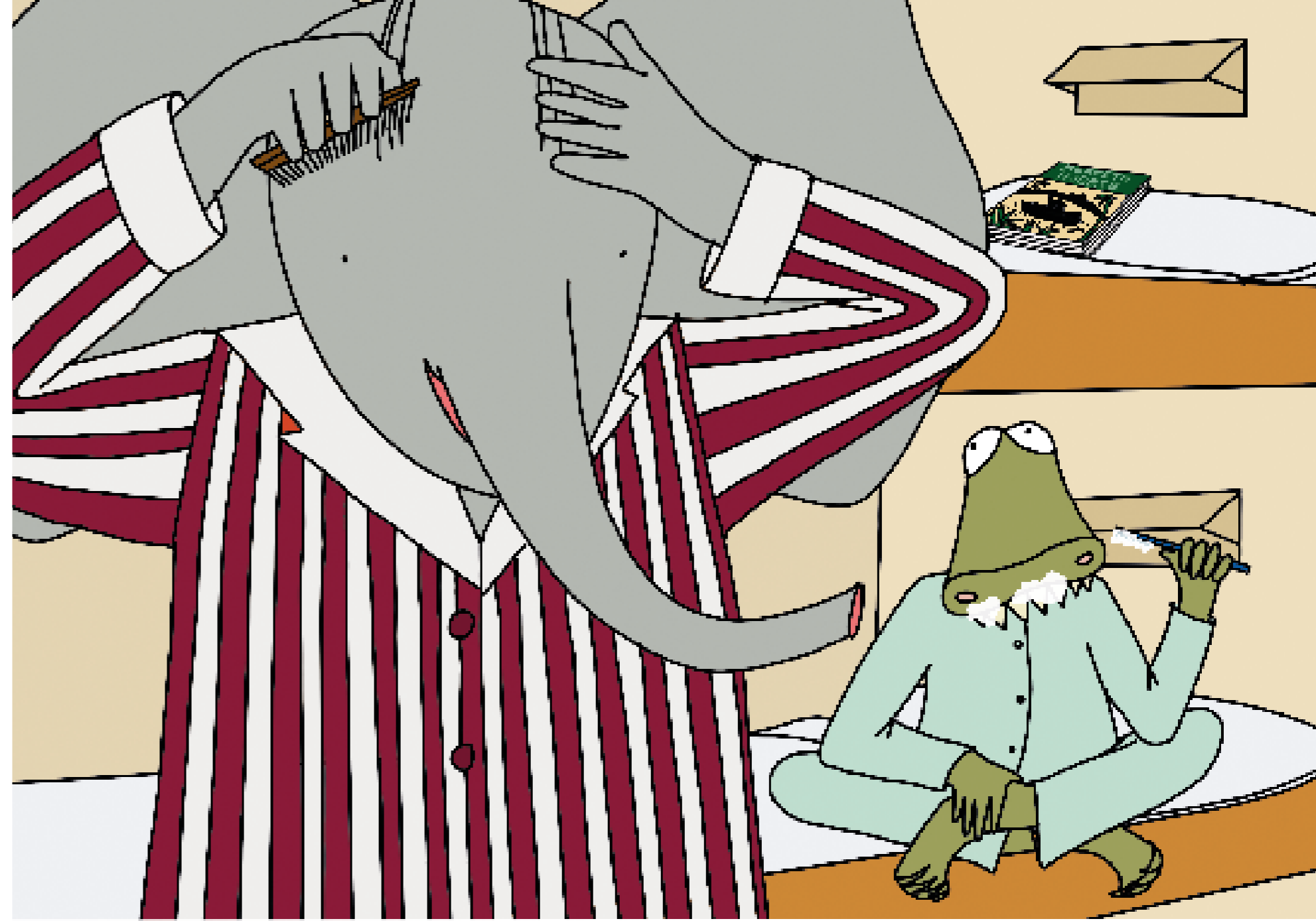
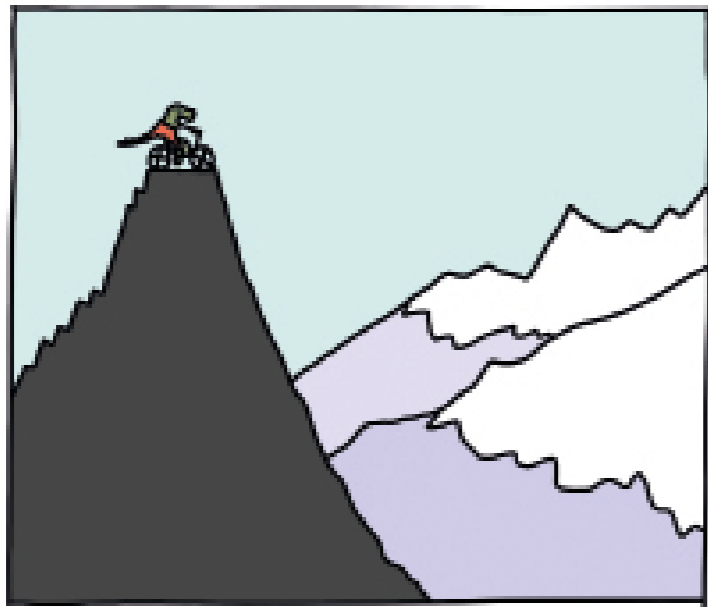
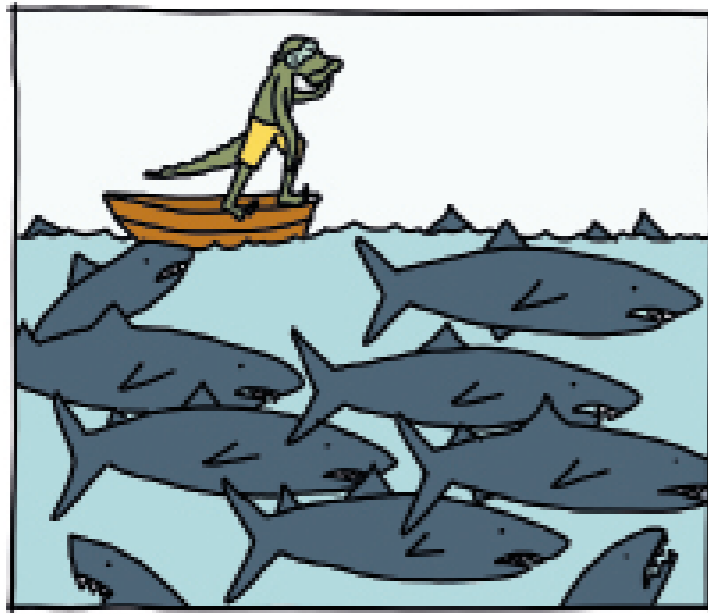
The next evening they try again. John Jensen is very afraid, but still he steps towards the doors. He hesitates for a moment, then climbs on board the train.



Time for chocolate cake and comics, says Doctor Field.
They wave to Frida, and the train pulls away from the station.



Why am I so afraid? John
Jensen asks as the train passes
Drammen.



Fear can be a good thing, says Doctor Field. It can stop us from doing things that are silly and dangerous. If we weren't afraid of heights, we'd be falling down from all sorts of places and hurting ourselves terribly.

But what if I have to do something I'm afraid of? asks John Jensen.
It helps to practise, says Doctor Field.
And in moments of need, it helps to think about chocolate cake.



Doctor Field is asleep, and John Jensen feels afraid.
A train passenger can be afraid of all sorts on a winter's night, if his thoughts start to wander:
Who sleeps in the long tunnels at night?
Who lives under the bridges?
Who's that howling in the dark?



Are there wolves on the track?



When Doctor Field is asleep, John Jensen feels it's nearly the same as going on his own. But everything's all right. Doctor Field snores, and John Jensen thinks about chocolate cake.



They arrive in Bergen.



That day, John Jensen and Doctor Field attend their different meetings.



In the afternoon, John Jensen practises at nearly everything he's afraid of.

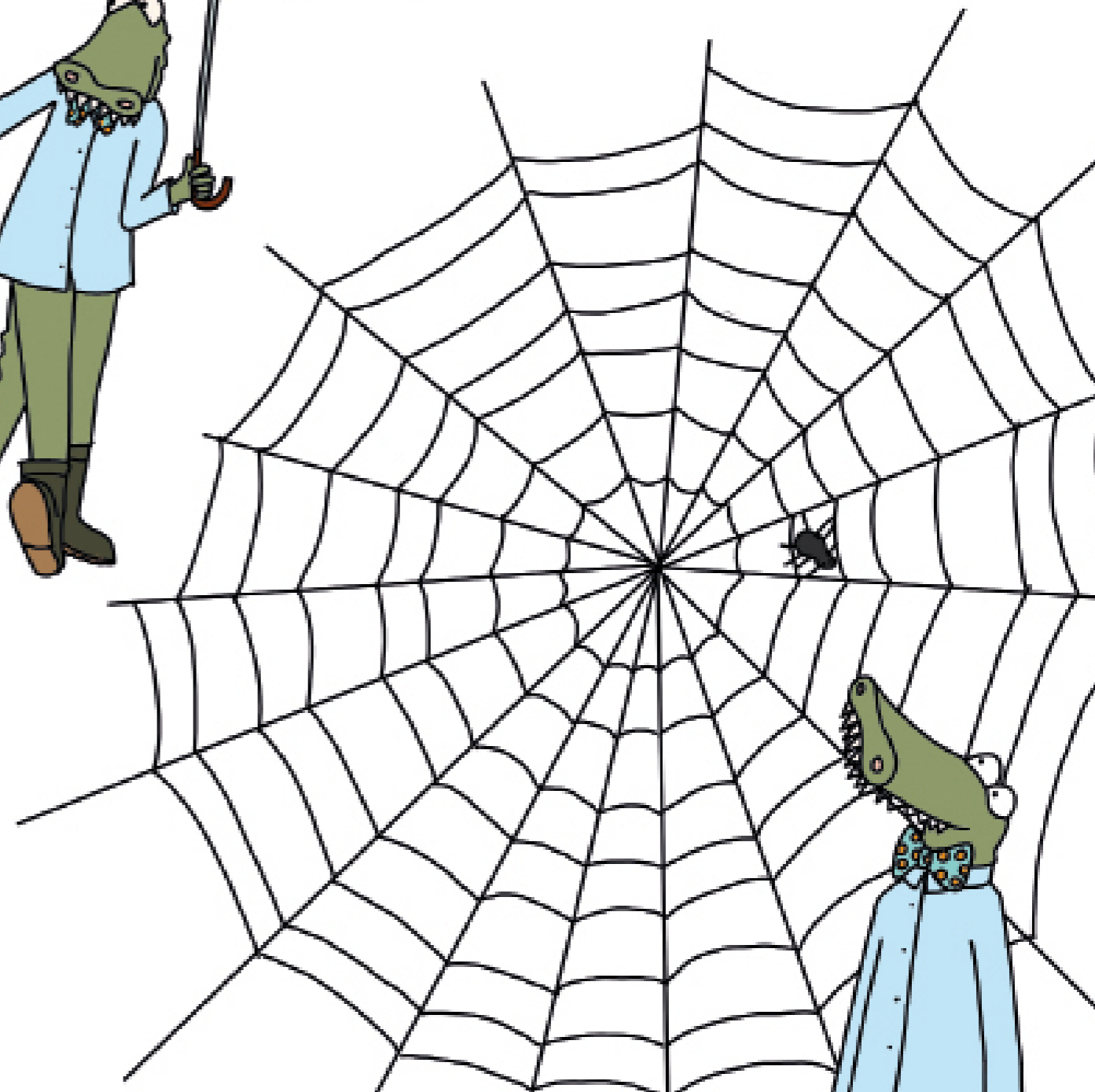


He sits beside som Bergeners.

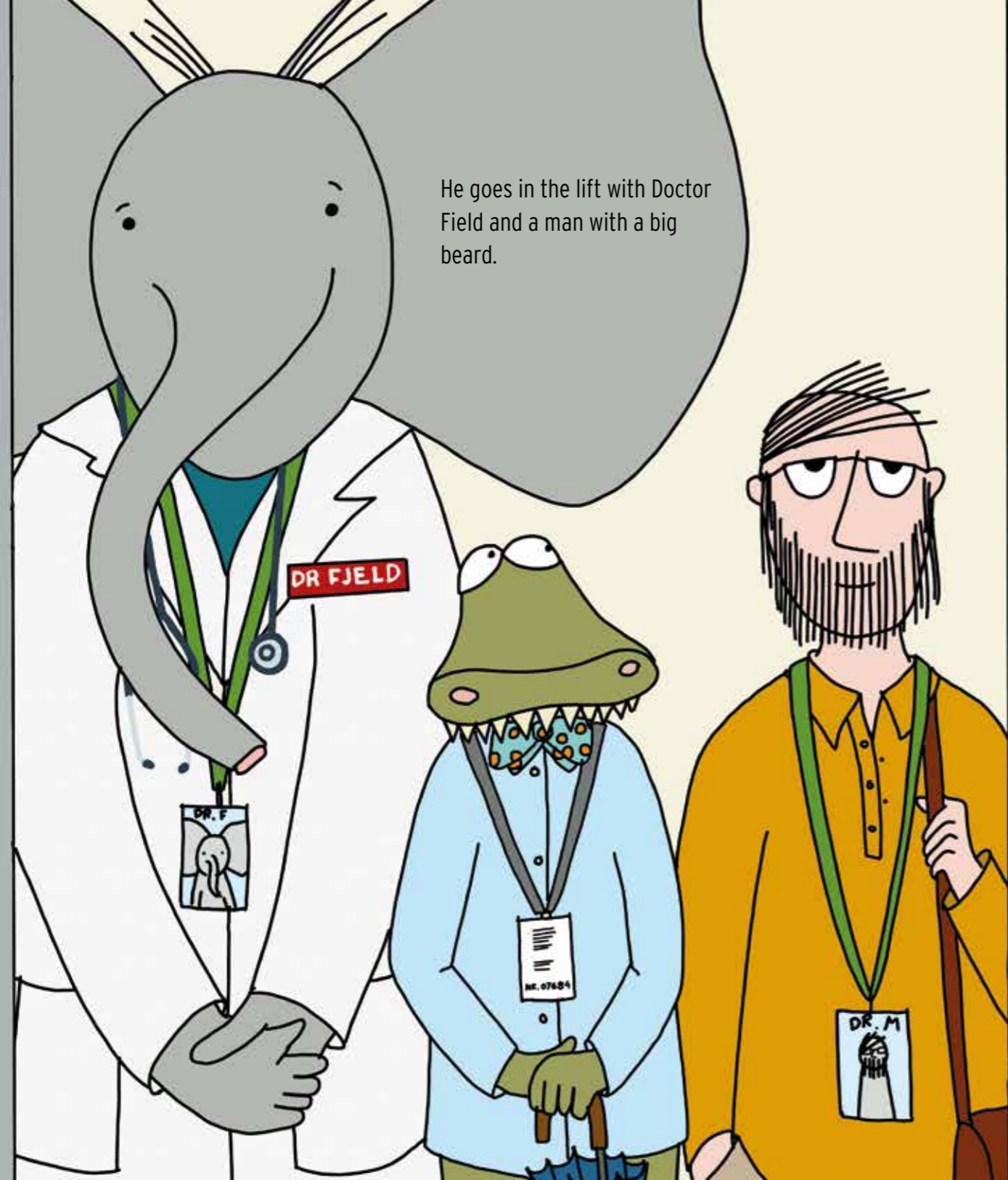


He goes to see some very big animals, and the next day he pats the one that seems nicest.

He visits a spider.



He goes in the lift with Doctor Field and a man with a big beard.

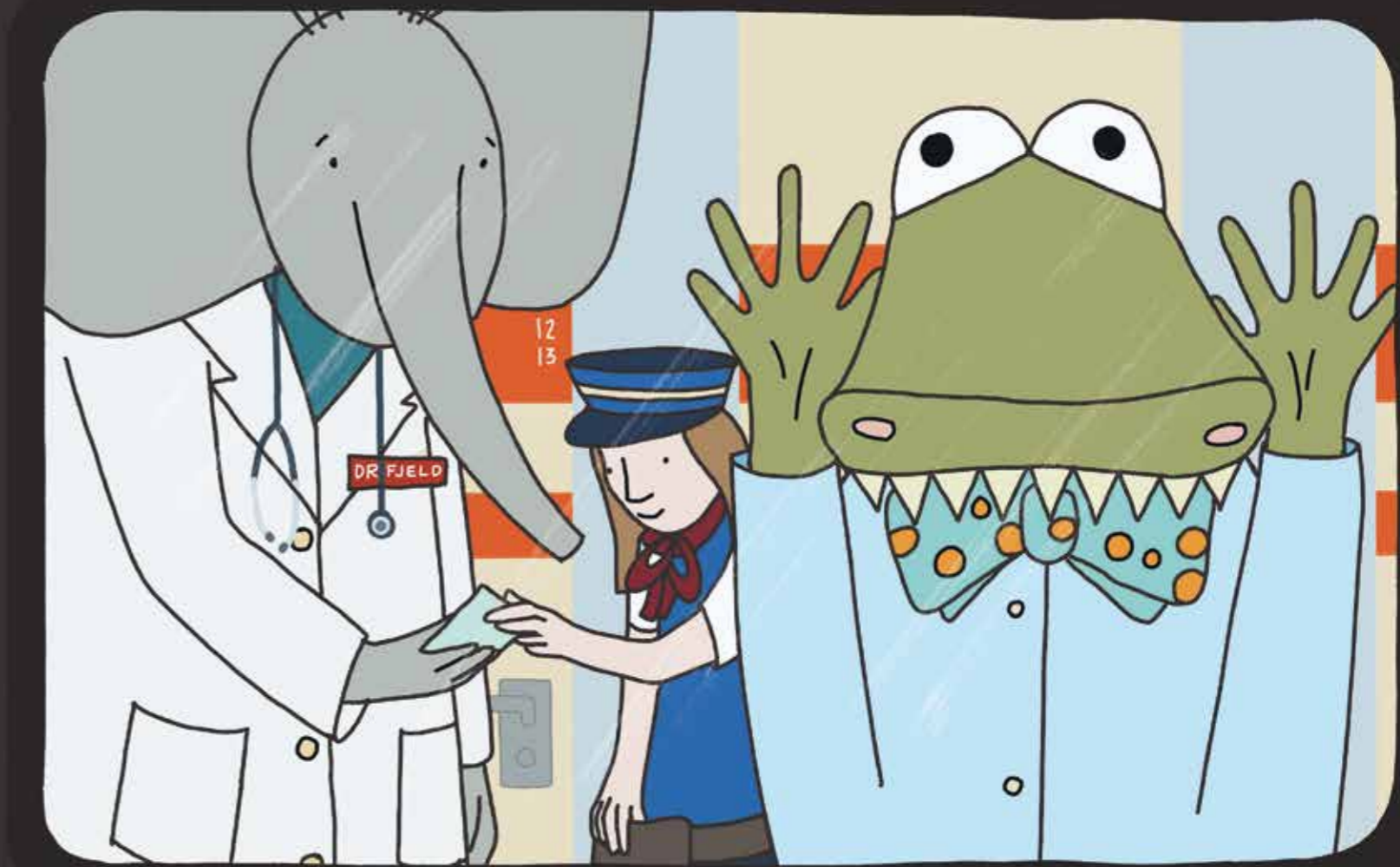


He sleeps with only two lights on in the hotel room.





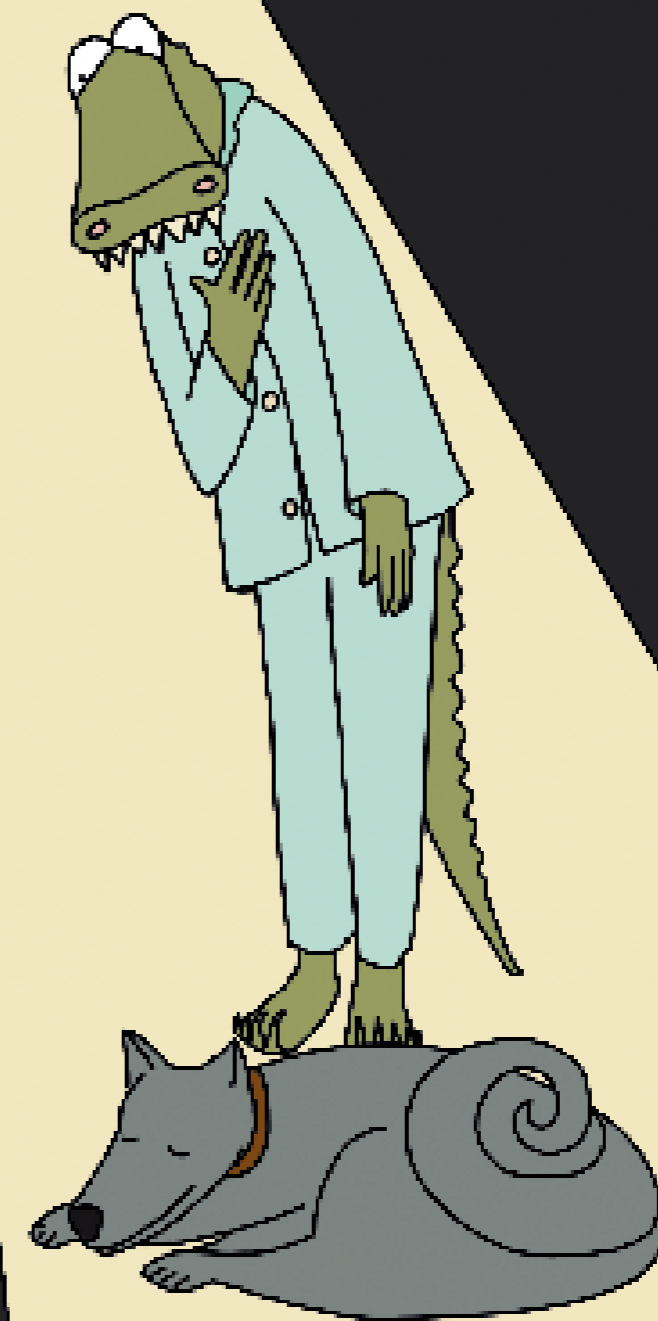
The time comes to go home. On the platform, John Jensen sees a lot of peaky faces. You're not the only one afraid to catch the night train, says Doctor Field.



Tickets please, says the conductor. They find their compartment. The thought of travelling through the nighttime again makes John Jensen's tummy ache.



Doctor Field falls asleep, and after a while John Jensen needs the loo. He steps into the corridor on his own. There's a wolf at the far end. John Jensen takes a deep breath, and then another.

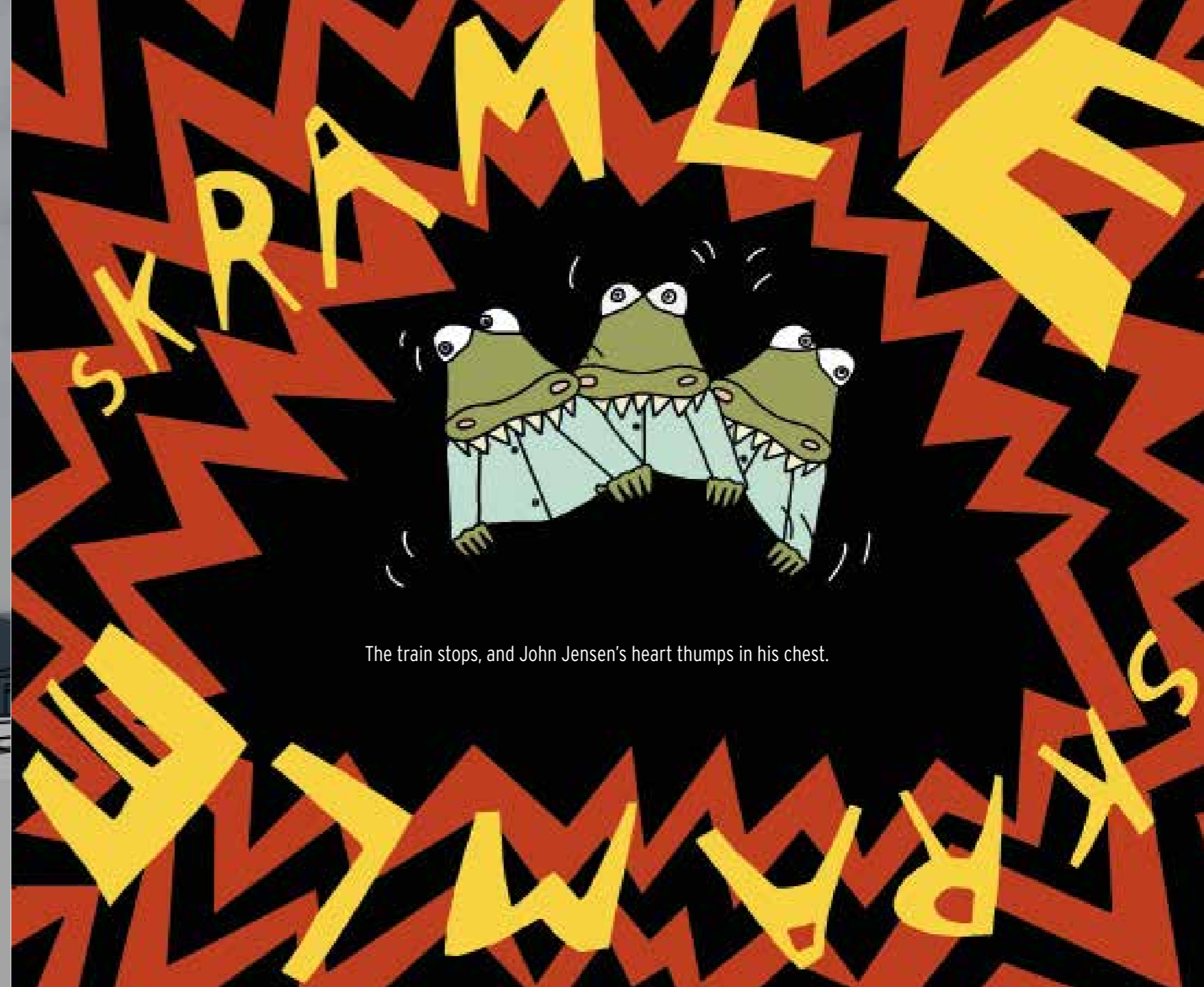


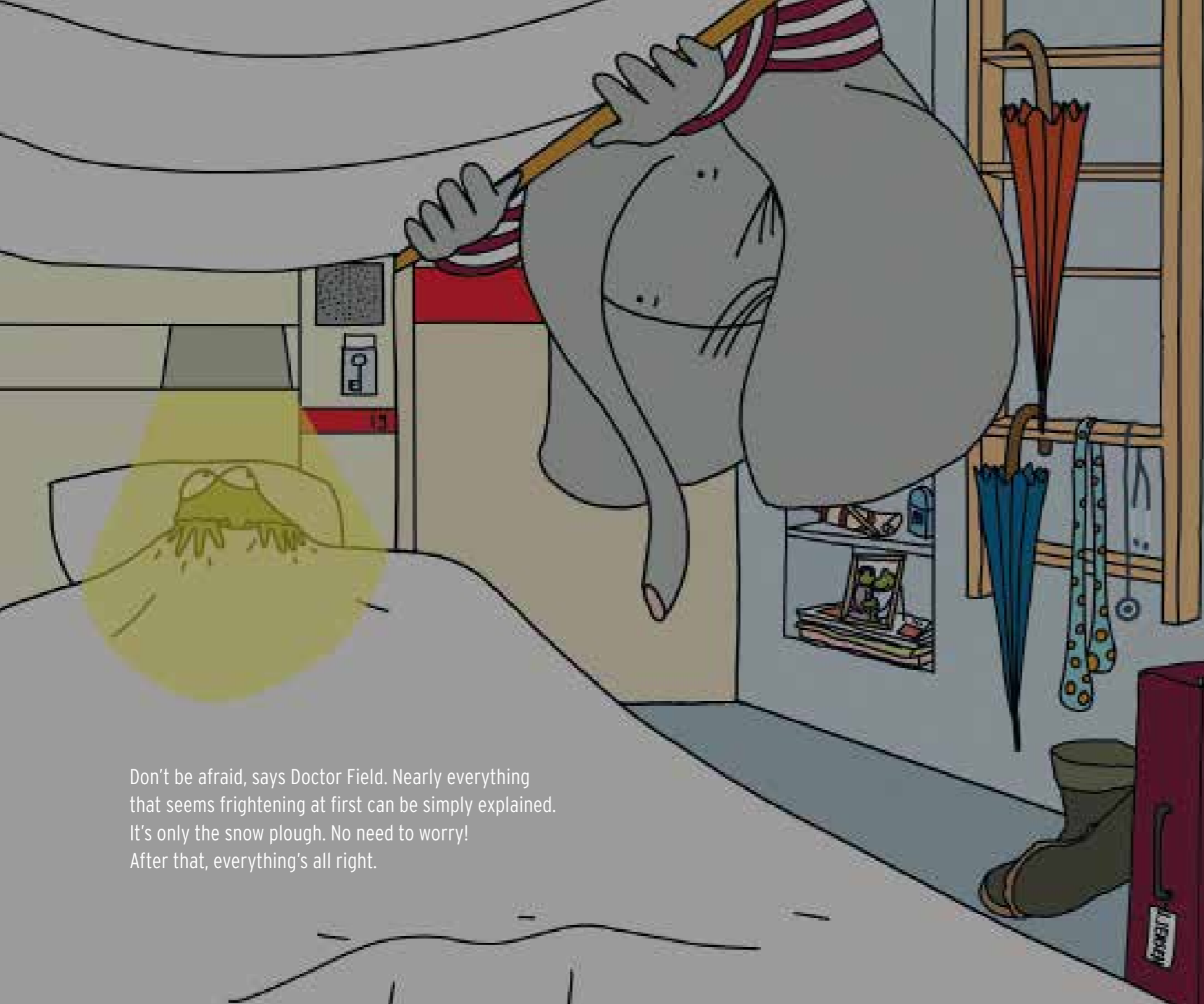
He finds it's not a wolf at all, but a husky dog with a curly tail.

Eventually, John Jensen falls asleep too. But all of a sudden he's woken up by a loud, scraping noise.



The train stops, and John Jensen's heart thumps in his chest.



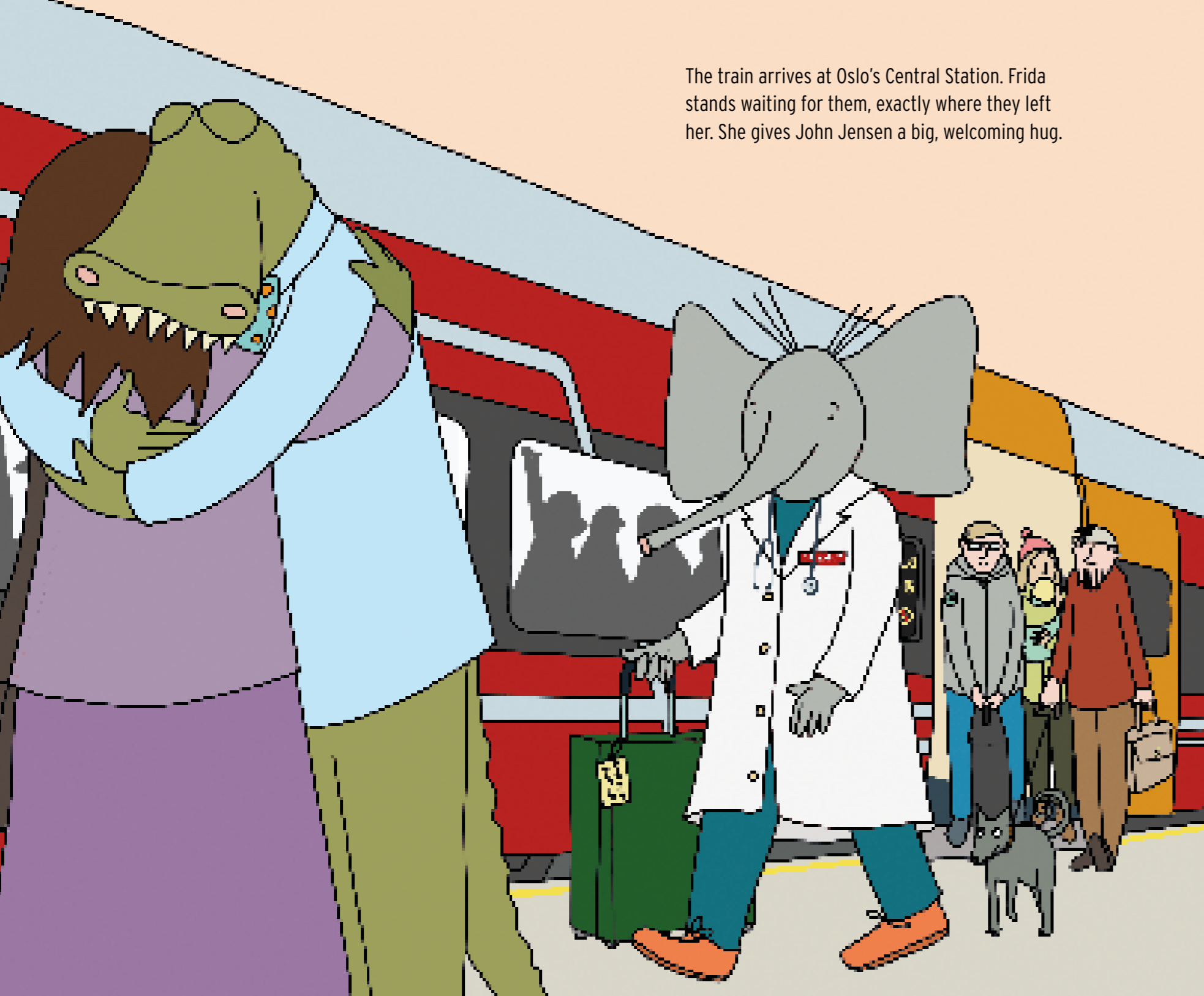


Don't be afraid, says Doctor Field. Nearly everything that seems frightening at first can be simply explained. It's only the snow plough. No need to worry! After that, everything's all right.

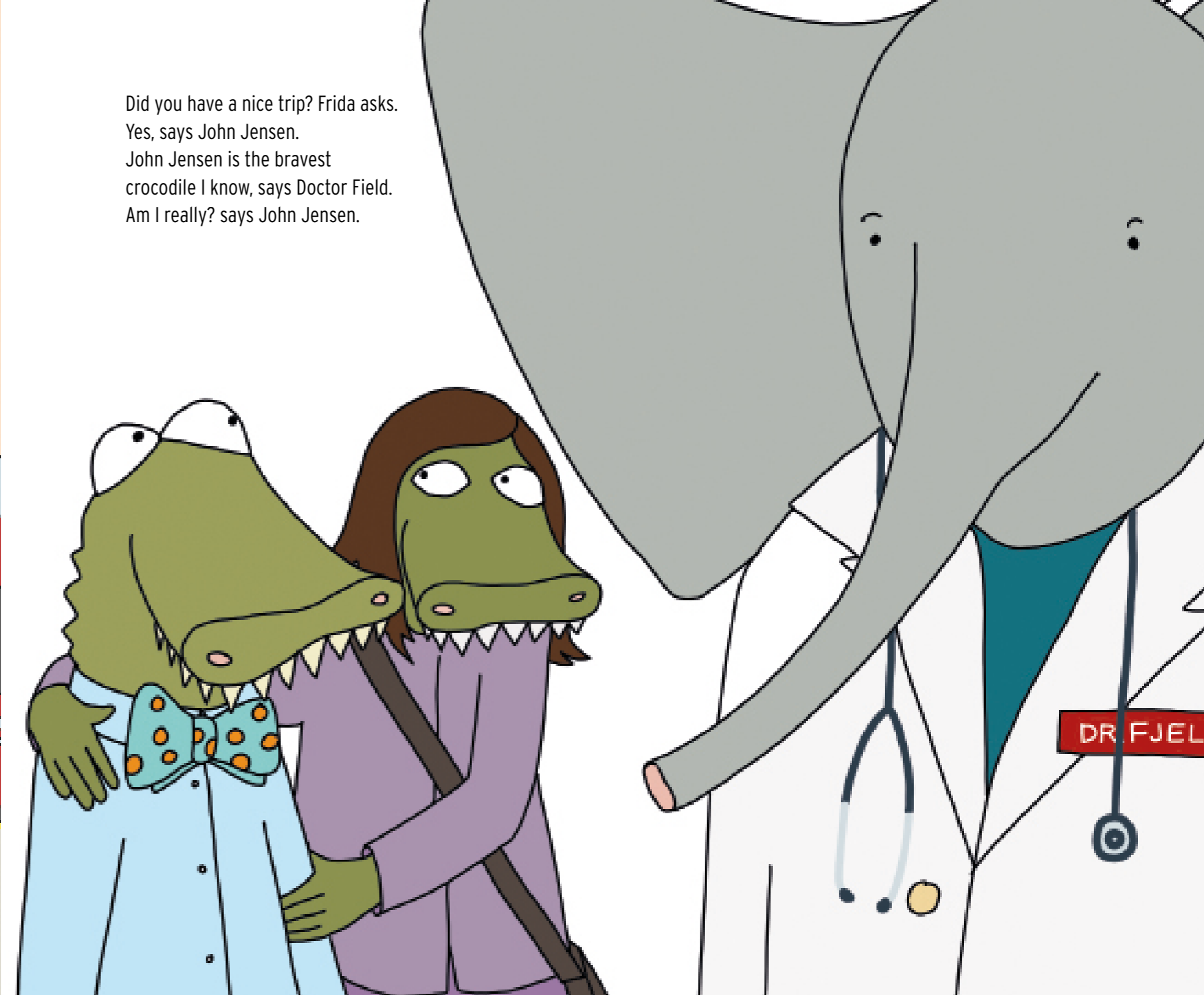


At last, they pass through Drammen.

The train arrives at Oslo's Central Station. Frida stands waiting for them, exactly where they left her. She gives John Jensen a big, welcoming hug.



Did you have a nice trip? Frida asks.
Yes, says John Jensen.
John Jensen is the bravest
crocodile I know, says Doctor Field.
Am I really? says John Jensen.

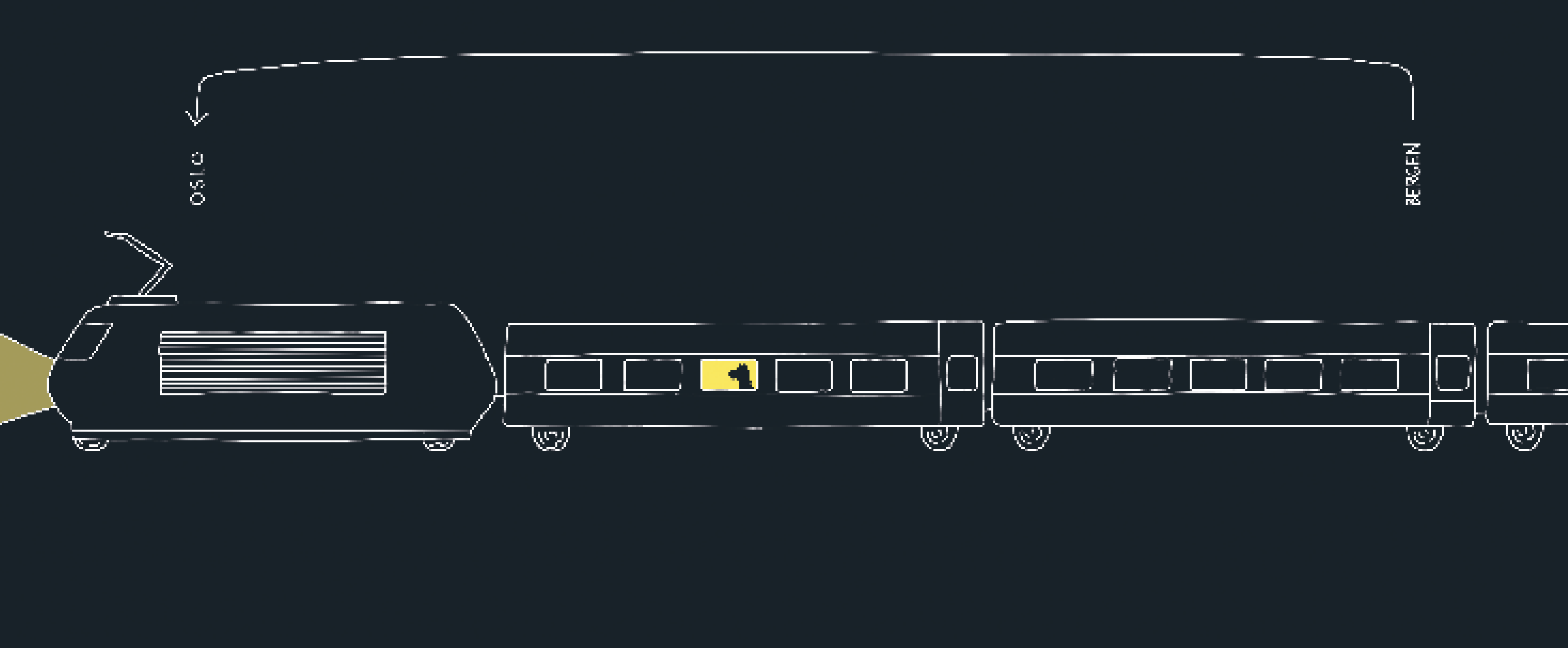




Indeed, says Doctor Field. Being brave doesn't mean not being afraid. Being brave is trying what you're afraid of.



And not giving up, says Frida.





Johannes Jensen skal legge ut på en reise. Han skal ta nattoget, menhan tør ikke. For den som reiser alene er det mye å engste seg for:
Hvem sover i de lange tunnelene om natten?
Hvem bor under broene?
Hvem tuter i mørket?
Er det ulv på linjen?
Heldigvis dukker Doktor Fjeld opp på stasjonen.
Vi kan reise sammen, sier Doktor Fjeld. Det er hyggeligere å reise alene når man reiser sammen med noen.

