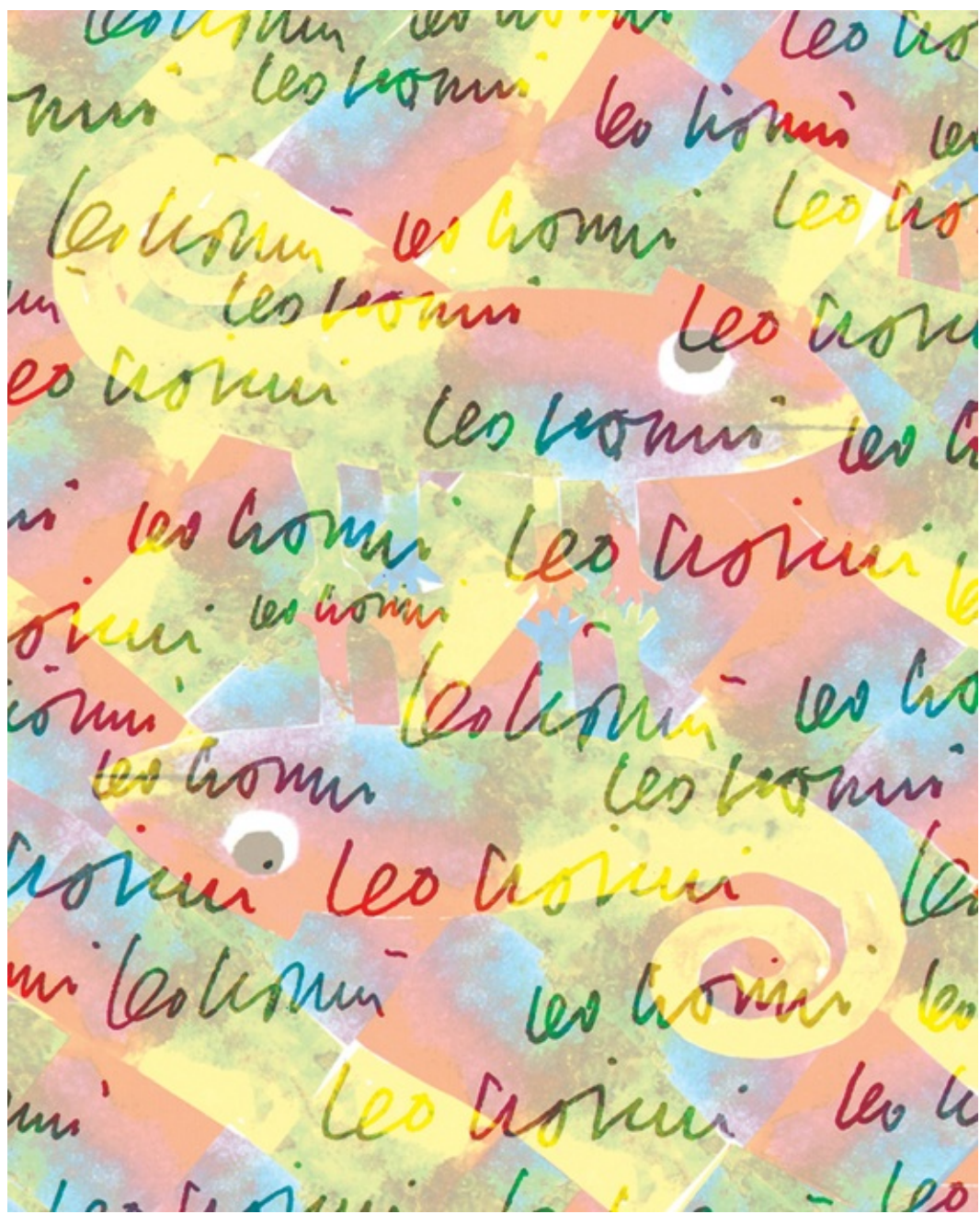


A color of his own

Leo Lionni






A color of his own

Leo Lionni



Alfred A. Knopf  New York

To Vera Barbara



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summary: A little chameleon is distressed that he doesn't have his own color like other animals. [1. Chameleons—Fiction.] I. Title.

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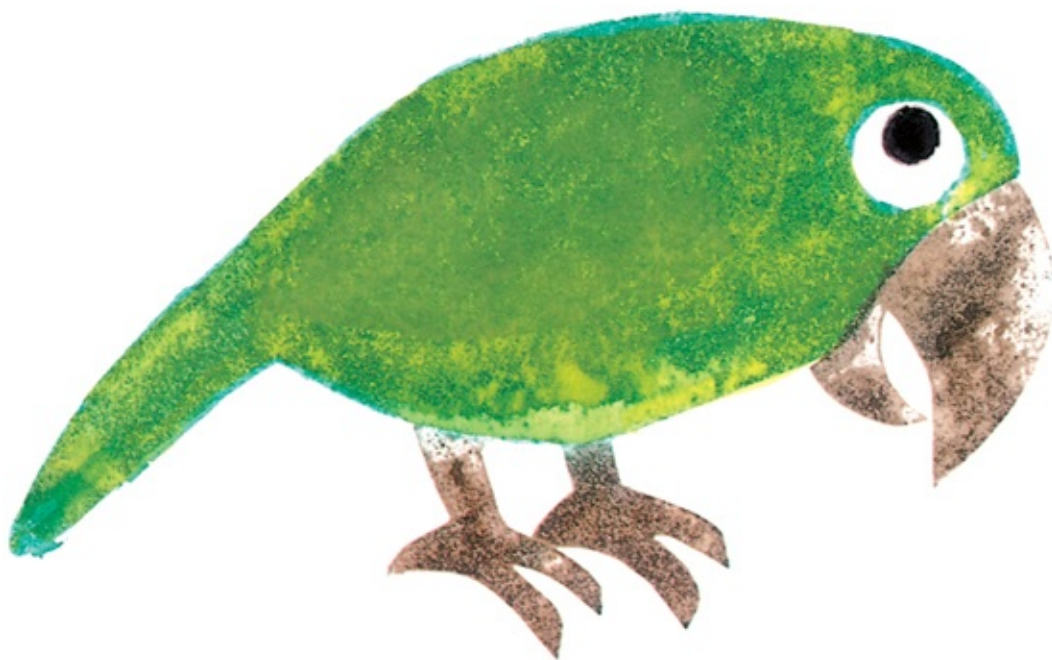
Title Page

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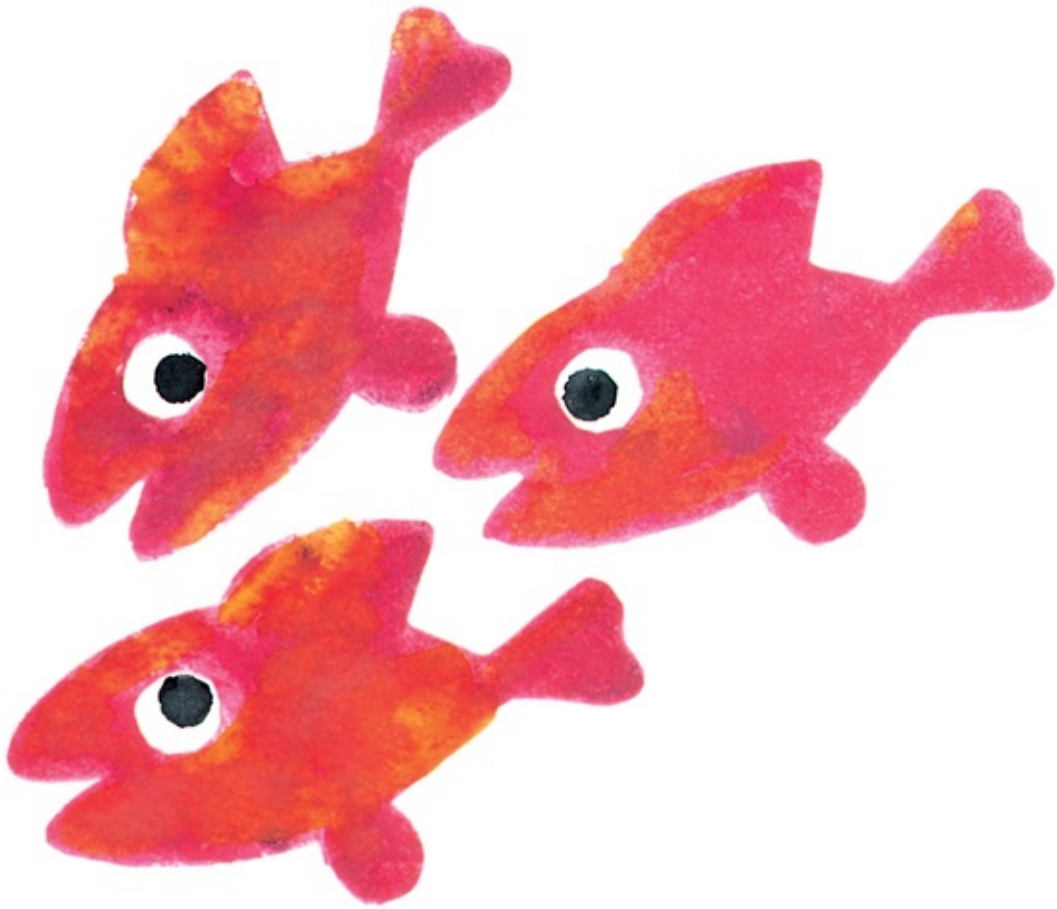
First Page

About the Author

Parrots are green



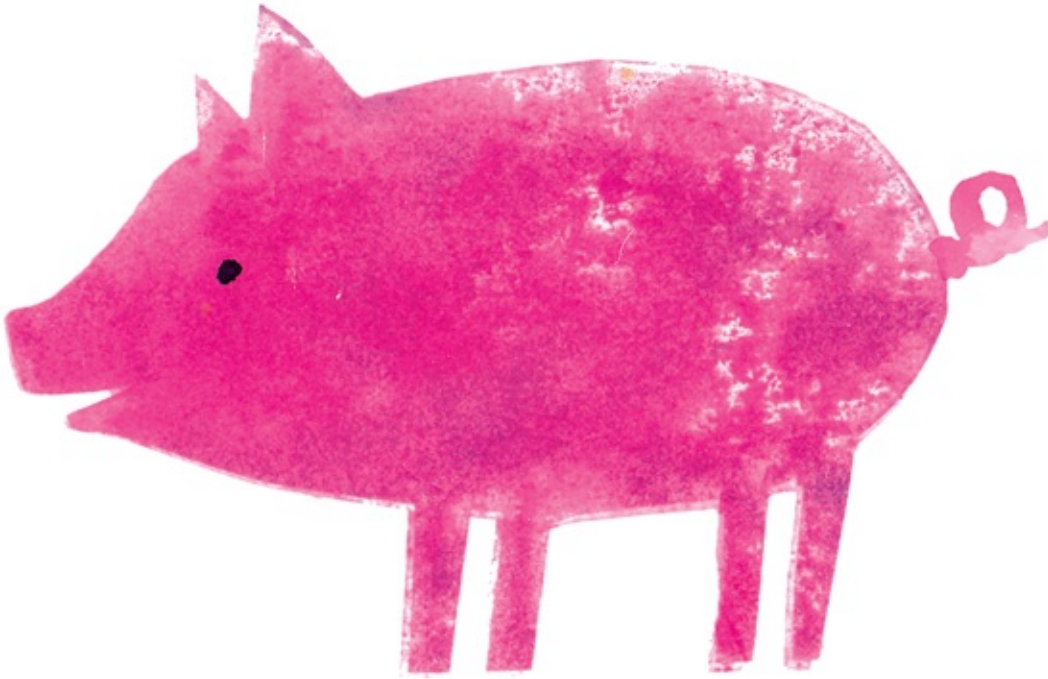
goldfish are red



elephants are gray



pigs are pink.



All animals have a color of their own



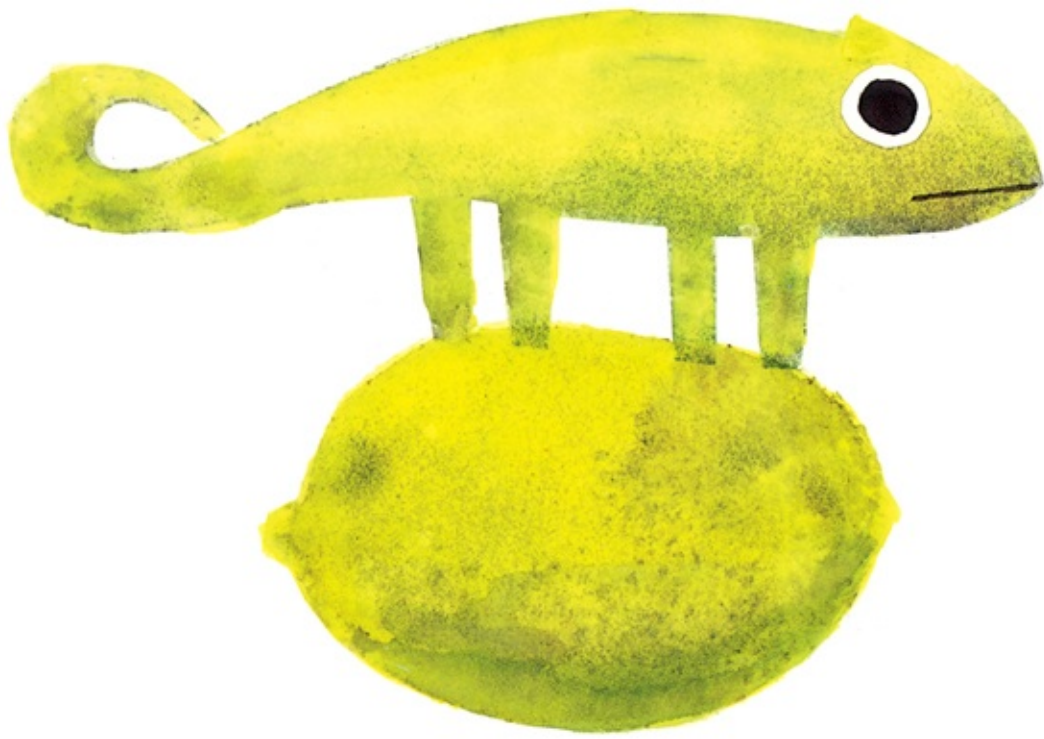
except for chameleons.



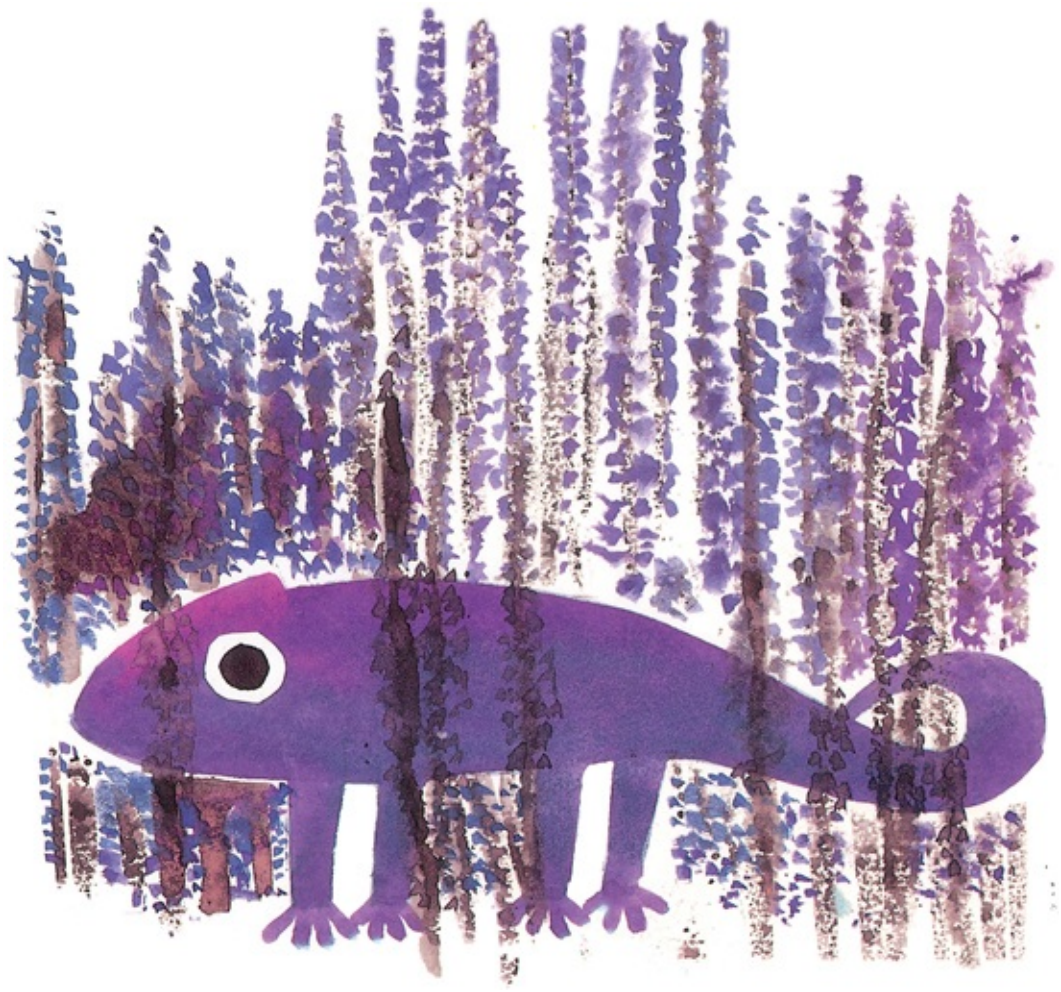


They change color wherever they go.





On lemons they are yellow.



In the heather they are purple.

And on the tiger they are striped like tigers.



One day a chameleon who was sitting on a tiger's tail said to himself,





“If I remain on a leaf I shall be green forever, and so I too will have a color of my own.”



With this thought he cheerfully climbed onto the greenest leaf.



But in autumn the leaf turned yellow —and so did the chameleon.

Later the leaf turned red
and the chameleon too turned red.



And then the winter winds blew the leaf from the branch and with it the chameleon.





The chameleon was black in the long winter night.

But when spring came he walked out into the green grass.
And there he met another chameleon.



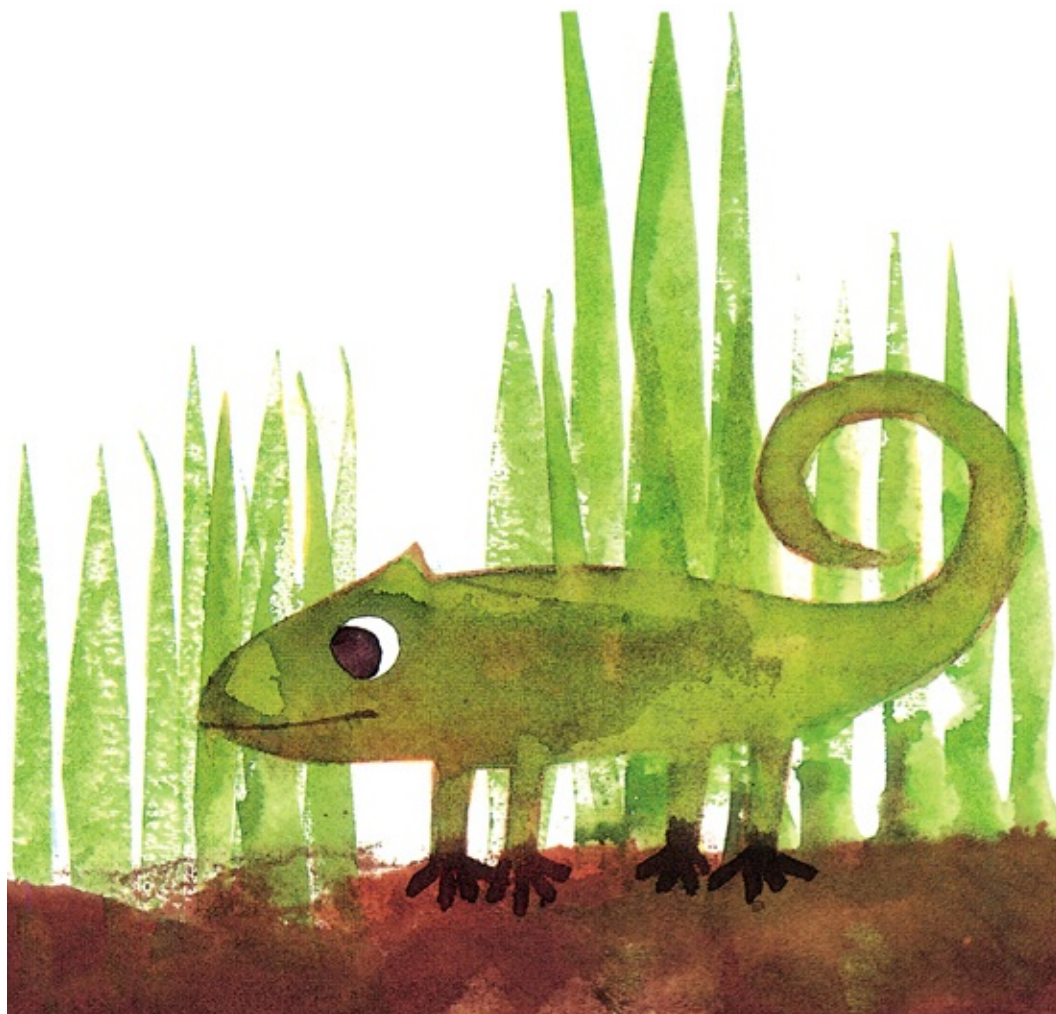
He told his sad story.
“Won’t we ever have a color of our own?” he asked.



“I’m afraid not,” said the other chameleon who was older and wiser.
“But,” he added, “why don’t we stay together?”



We will still change color wherever we go, but you and I will always be alike.”



And so they remained side by side.



They were green together

and purple





and yellow

and red with white polka dots.



And they lived happily ever after.



Leo Lionni, wrote and illustrated more than forty highly acclaimed children's books. An internationally known designer, illustrator, graphic artist, and children's book author, he was born in 1910 in Holland and came to the United States in 1939. He received the 1984 American Institute of Graphic Arts Gold Medal, was a four-time Caldecott Honor winner—for *Inch by Inch*, *Frederick*, *Swimmy*, and *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse*—and was honored posthumously in 2007 with the Society of Illustrators Lifetime Achievement Award. Leo Lionni died in October 1999 at his home in Tuscany, Italy, at the age of eighty-nine.

