



The Most Beautiful Animal



This book was originally written in Tshivenda by Hulisani Olga Tshisevhe
Illustrated by Imile Wepener Designed by Louisa Pieters



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Zebra thinks she is the most beautiful of all the animals. She has won the crown every year at the Grand Animal Beauty Contest.

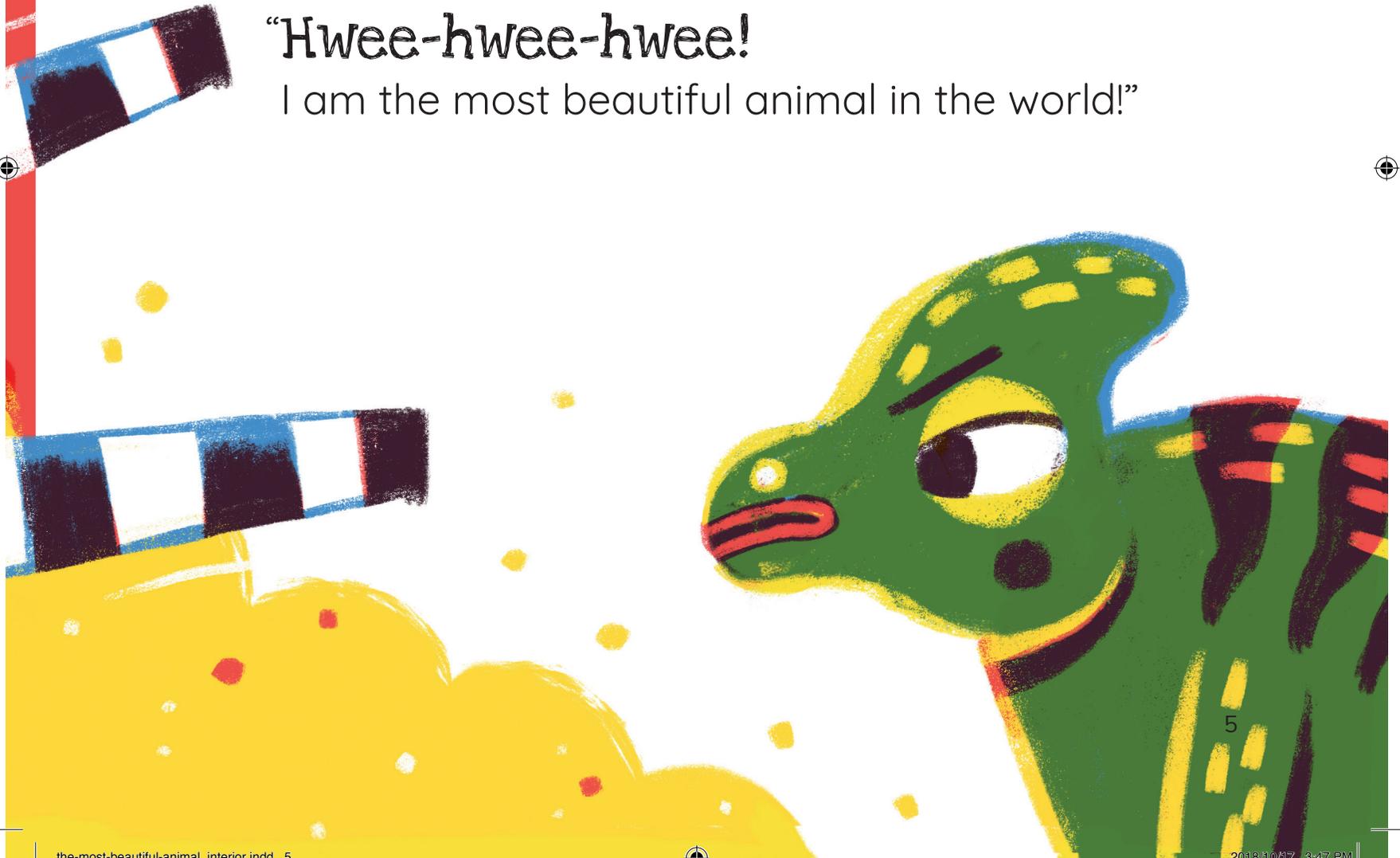


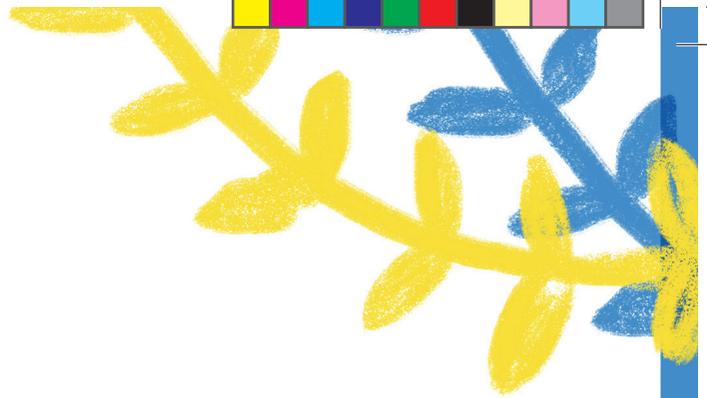


One day, Chameleon comes to the forest.
Zebra shows off.

She sings, “Hwee-hwee-hwee!
I am the most beautiful animal in the world!”

“Hwee-hwee-hwee!
I am the most beautiful animal in the world!”

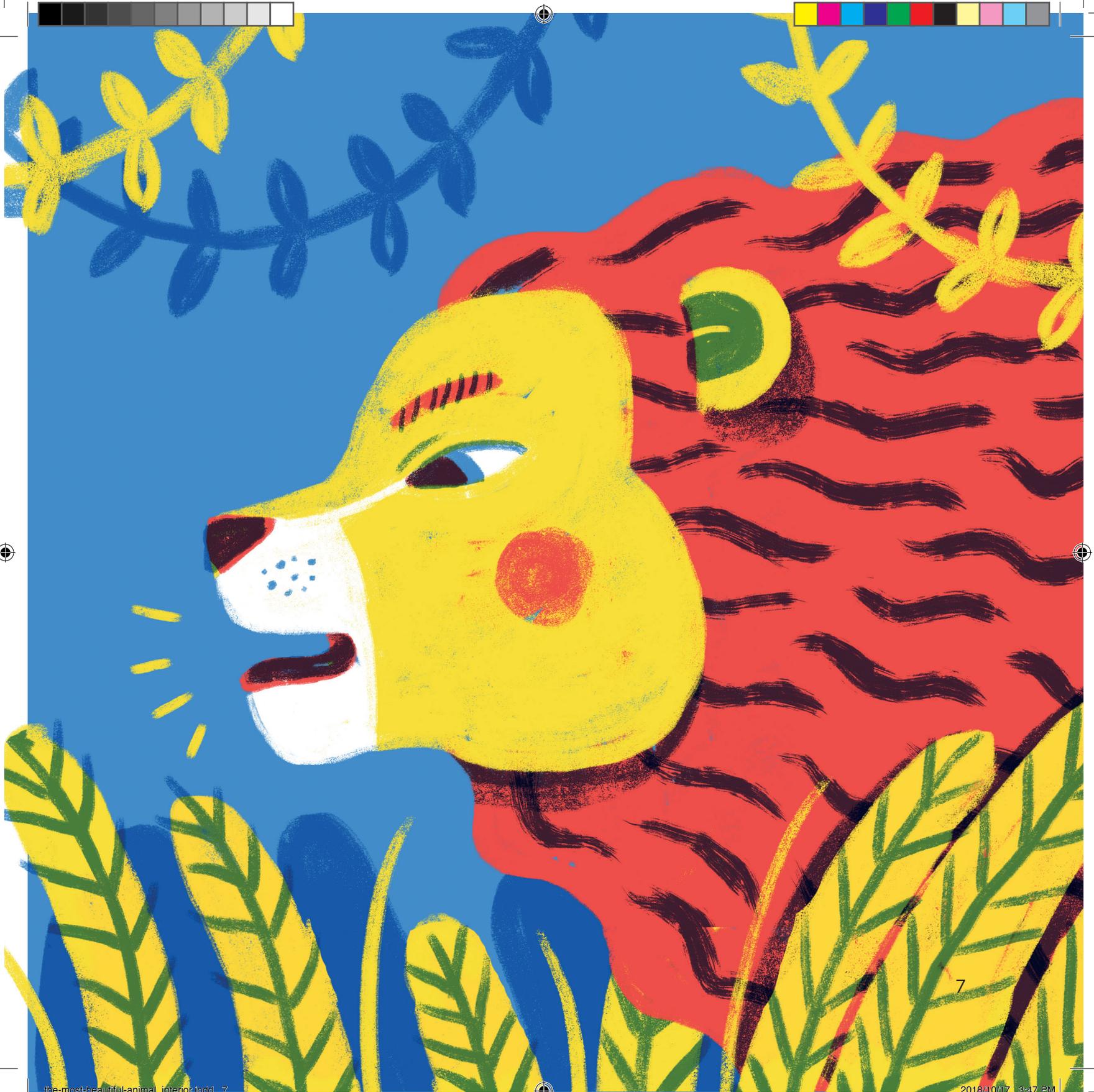




But she is so busy showing off, she doesn't see King Lion.

“Zebra, you are annoying everyone. It's time for you to return the crown so we can hold this year's contest,” roars King Lion.





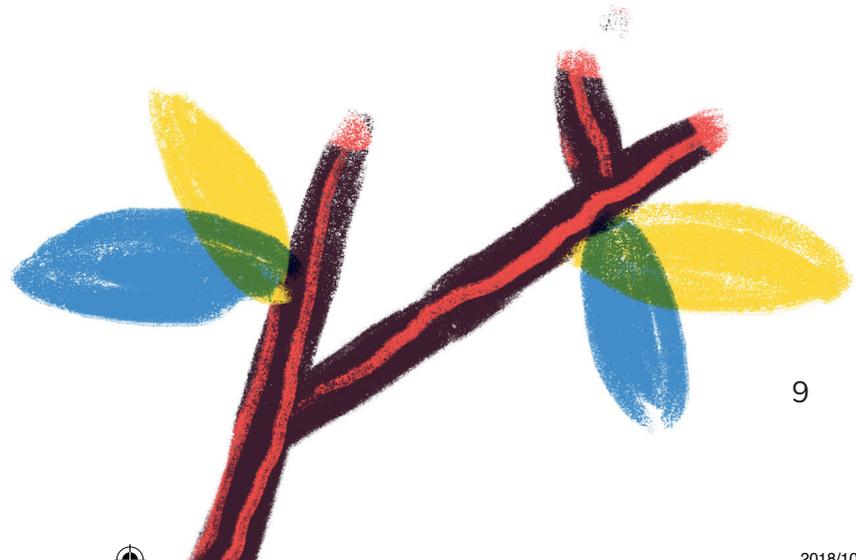




Chameleon is also annoyed by Zebra's boasts. She asks to be included in the contest.

"Reptiles in the contest?" questions King Lion.

"Well... I suppose so."





Zebra worries that Chameleon's colourful skin will win her the crown.

She says to Chameleon, "Don't enter the contest! You'll never win!"



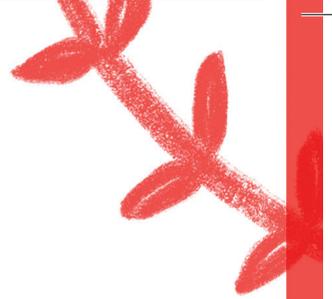






The day of the Grand Animal Beauty Contest arrives.
King Lion will be the judge.





“I humbly request last year’s winner to come to the front,” says King Lion.

“And now, any animal who would like to compete should come up as well. Let’s start with the birds.”





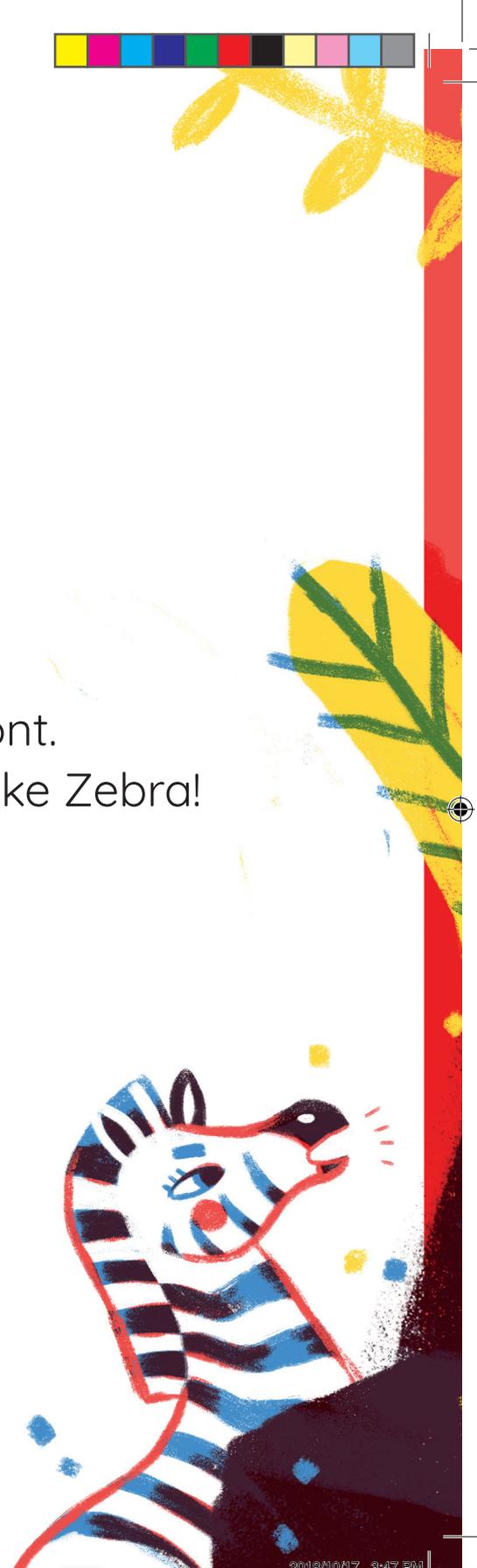




The mammals come next but Zebra
still fancies her chances best.



And then Chameleon comes to the front.
Suddenly, she is black and white just like Zebra!







Chameleon stands next to the crown.
She turns golden.

Chameleon stands next to the flowers.
She turns red and blue.

The crowd cheers wildly. Even Zebra!







“The winner is Chameleon!” proclaims King Lion. He crowns Chameleon.

Even Zebra says, “Chameleon, you are the champion, indeed!”





Room to Read South Africa

1209 Francis Baard Street, The Gables, 1 Floor, Hatfield, Pretoria 0028, South Africa
www.roomtoread.org

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Limpopo Faces
P.O. Box 5828, Polokwane North, 0750
22 Hyde Park, corner Giraffe and Springbok Street, Fauna Park, 0787, Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa
Domina Munzhelele | 071 149 6213 | 081 514 2337 | limpopofaces@webmail.co.za | domina@hotmail.co.za

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