



The Most Beautiful Animal



This book was originally written in Tshivenda by Hulisani Olga Tshisevhe

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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.

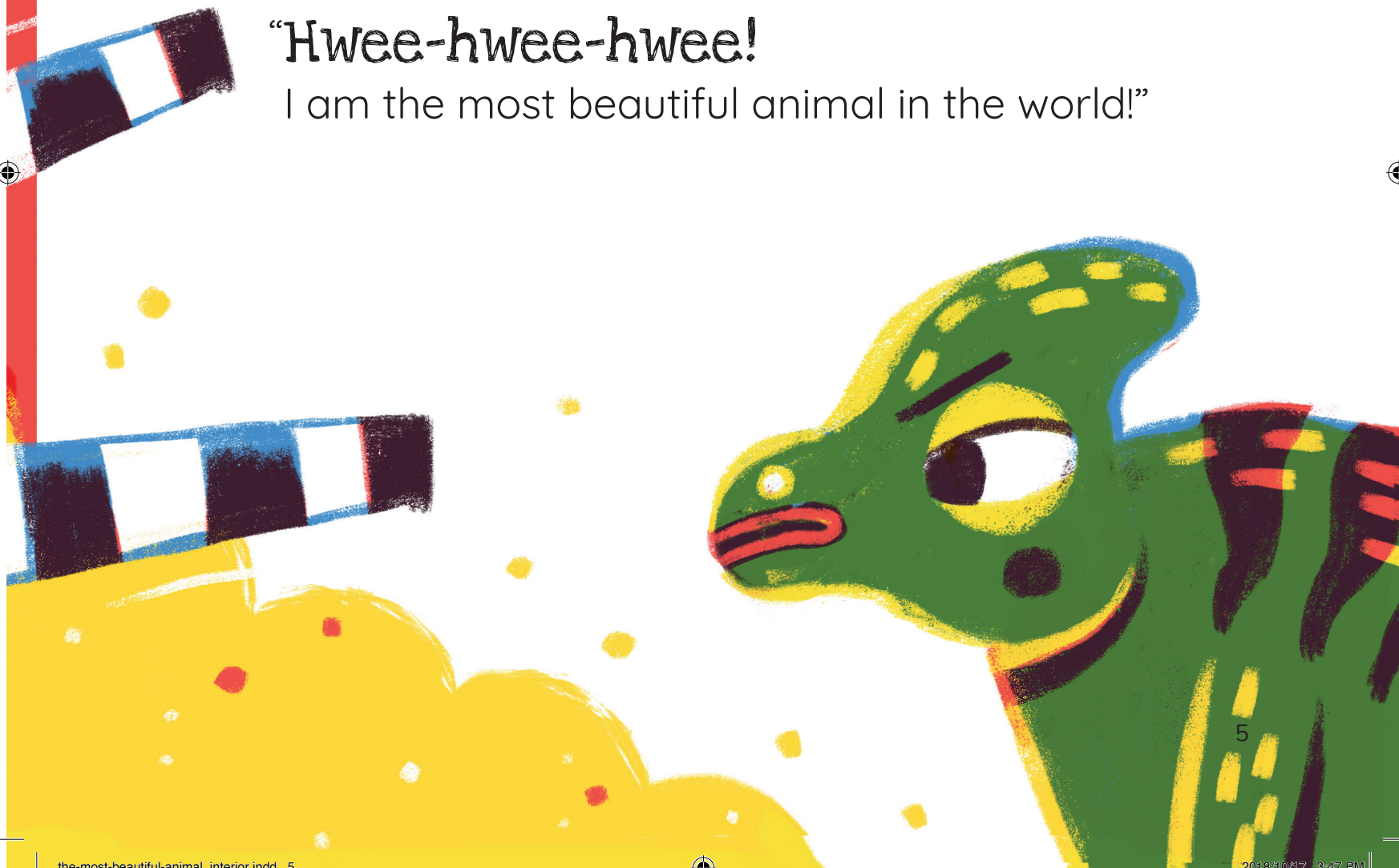


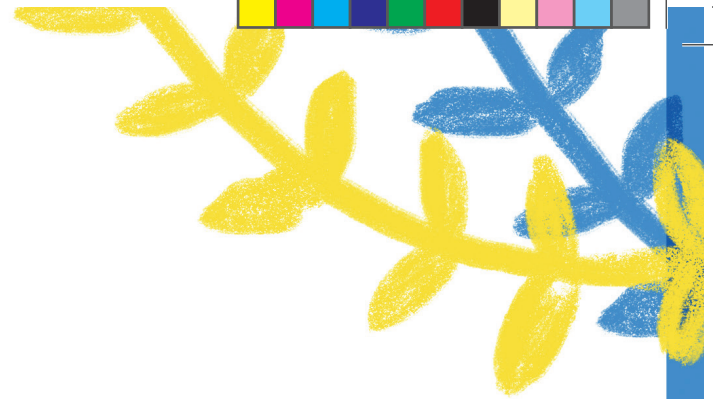


One day, Chameleon comes to the forest.
Zebra shows off.

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!”

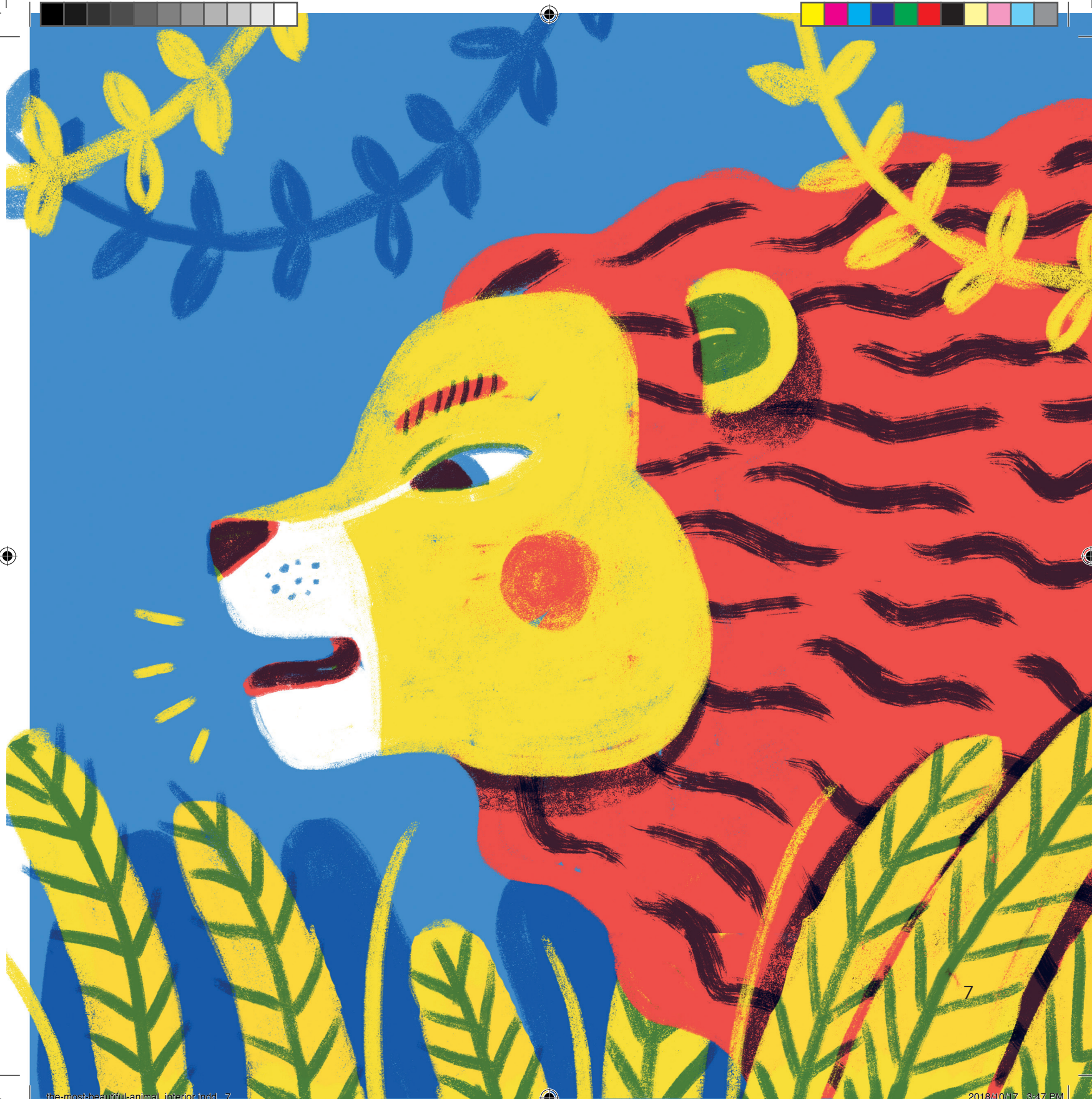




But she is so busy showing off, she doesn't see King Lion.

“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!"









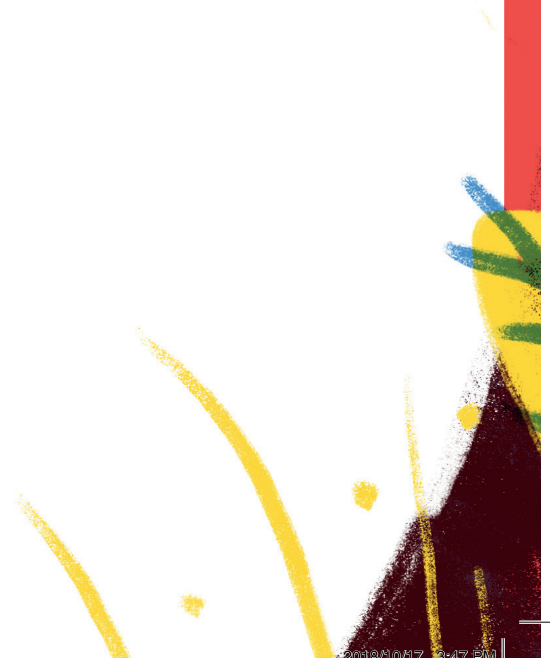
The day of the Grand Animal Beauty Contest arrives.
King Lion will be the judge.





“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.”







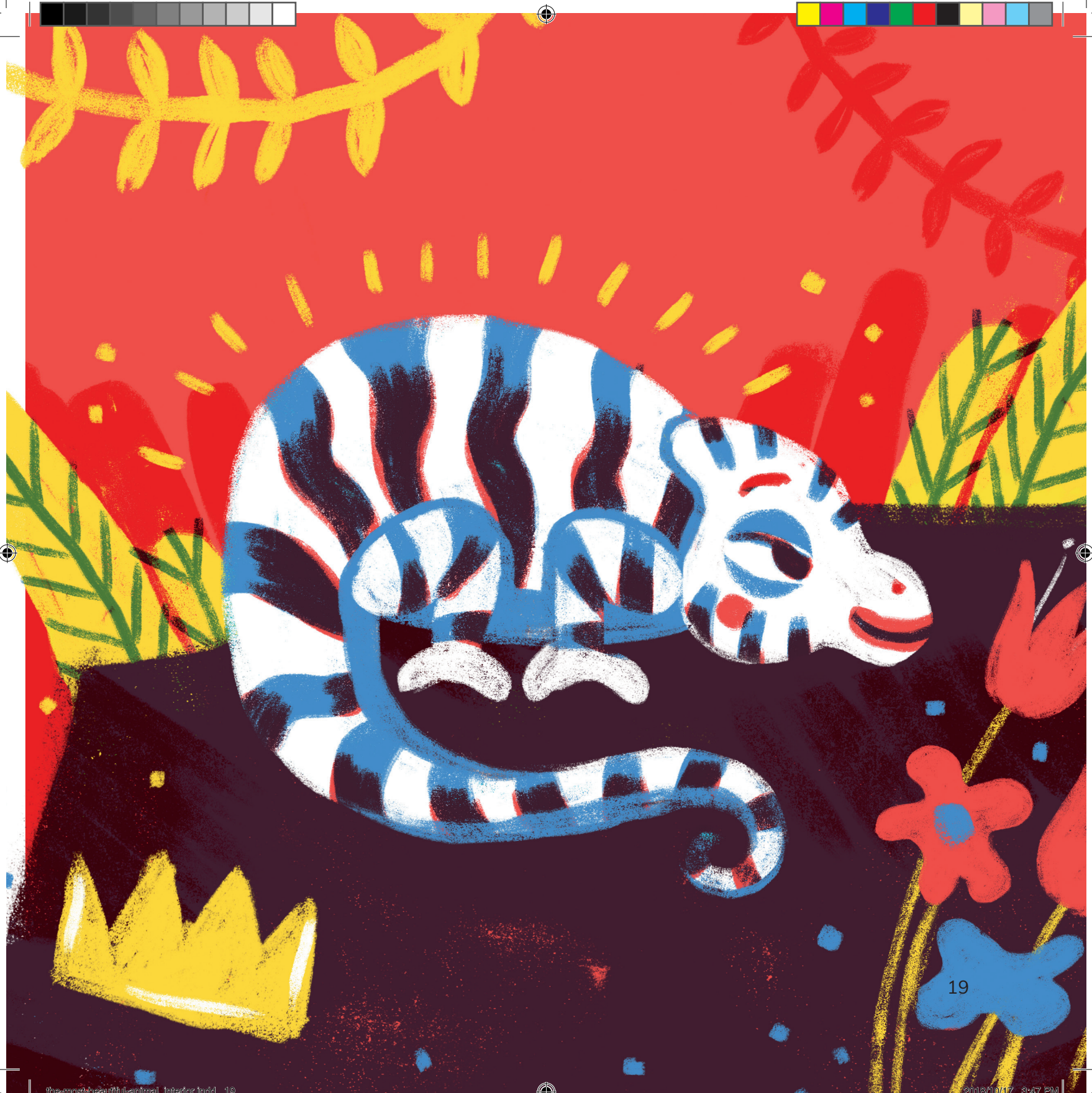


The mammals come next but Zebra
still fancies her chances best.



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

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Room to Read GSD ID: ZA-ABP-18-0085
ISBN: 978-1-928474-07-4

The first edition of this book was published by Limpopo Faces.
This book was originally written in Tshivenda by Hulisani Olga Tshisevhe.
Illustrated by Imile Wepener
Designed by Louisa Pieters
Edited by Jocelyn Newmarch
with the help of the One Day One Book participants in Johannesburg on 9 June 2018.

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This project was funded by Results in Education for All Children (REACH) trust fund at the World Bank and the Global Book Alliance, and supported by the Department of Basic Education.



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