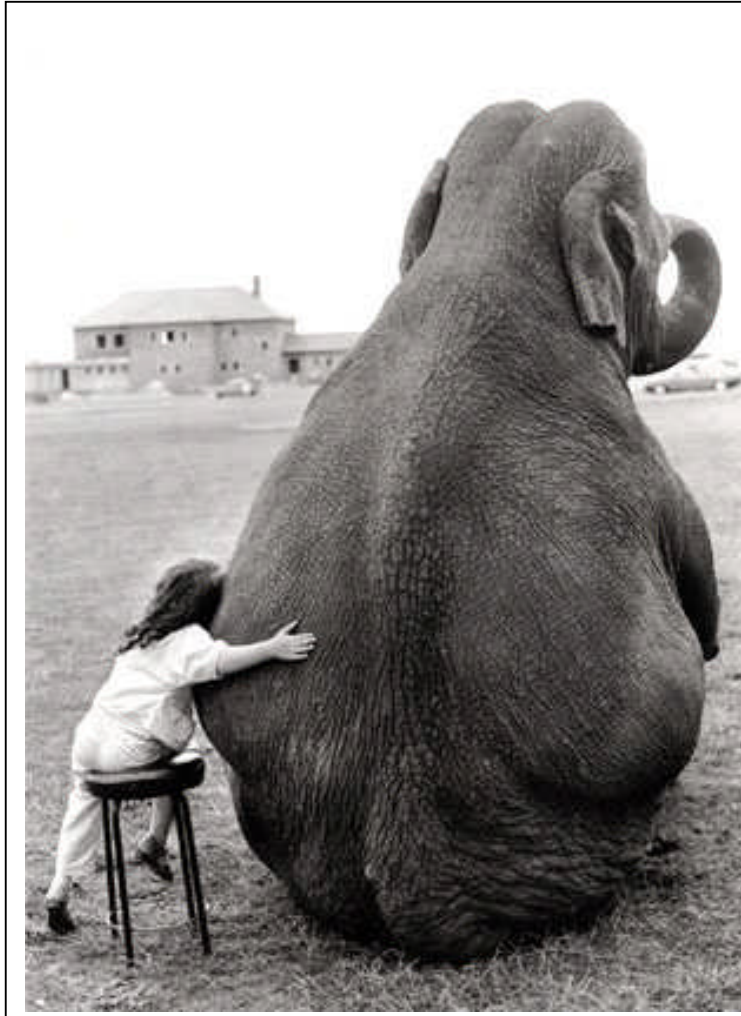


Jumbo's Blind Date



Jumbo had been on plenty of blind dates before, but none had been so disastrous as the one last night. Louie, his trainer, was forever trying to hook him up with “someone special,” but the guy ought to know by now that he didn’t mix well socially with other species. And Enid was as repellant a human woman as he’d ever met. *Woman?* Good grief, she was little more than a child! – but a child who seemed to share some of the same unpleasant traits as adults. She kept accidentally brushing up against him, trying to cop a feel in the process. Oh, he shuddered at the memory! But it got worse. Following an abysmal night on the town, they repaired to a discotheque. She’d asked him to dance, and he reluctantly agreed. Again she was all over him, and as he backed away in repugnance, he inadvertently trampled nine other dancers. Suddenly it was sheer bedlam in there! And when the catastrophe seemed to excite Enid and she snuggled against and tweaked his tail – well, that was the last straw. Up came the left front leg, then down it went with a thud that shook the whole building. Now there were *ten* meat puppets strewn over the dance floor. It was an experience he’d rather forget. Regrettably, that wasn’t in the cards for a memory bank like Jumbo.