

MICHAEL FOREMAN

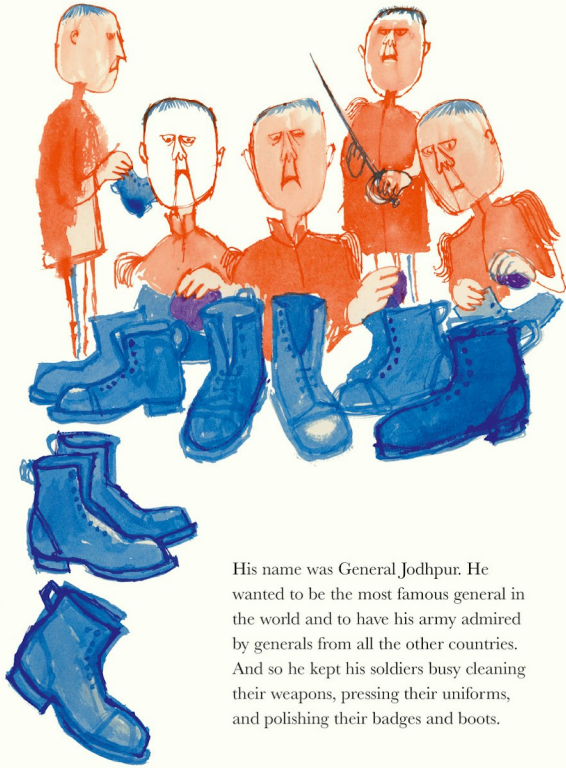
A
CELEBRATION
OF
Peace
&
Beauty



The General

text by

Janet Charters



His name was General Jodhpur. He wanted to be the most famous general in the world and to have his army admired by generals from all the other countries. And so he kept his soldiers busy cleaning their weapons, pressing their uniforms, and polishing their badges and boots.



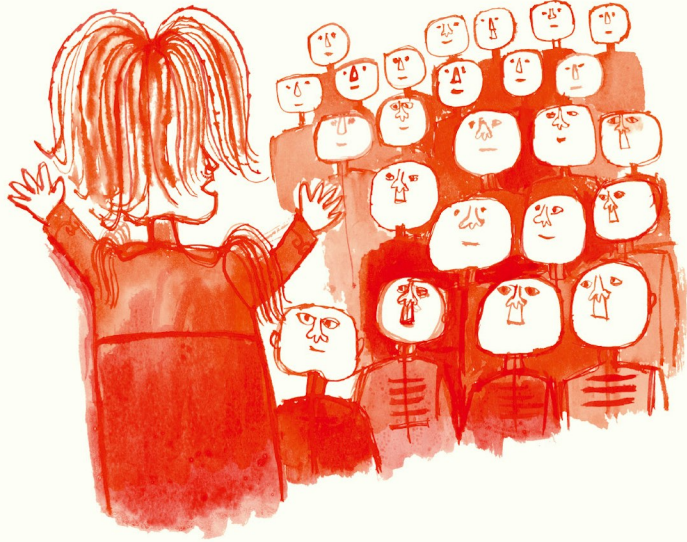
Every morning very early, as soon as the sun was up, the soldiers had to be out on the parade grounds smartly dressed ready to practise marching.

When they had finished marching, the soldiers divided into several groups. The cooks went to the kitchens to prepare the meals. The cavalry went to the stables to groom and feed the horses.

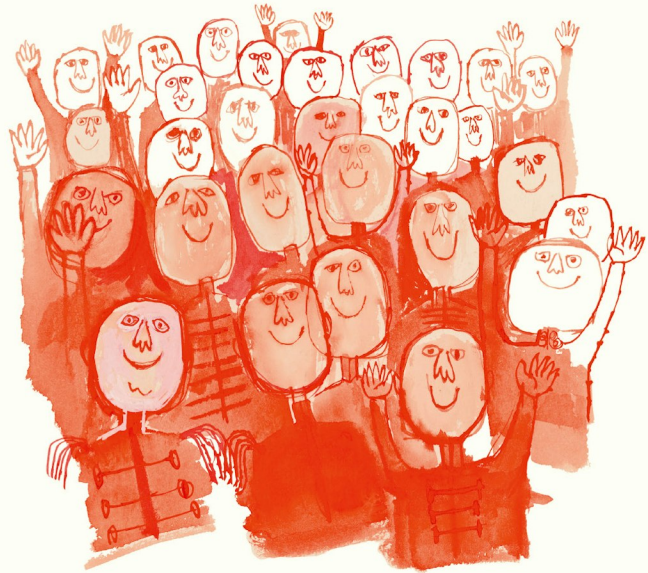


He heard the birds singing. All at once the General came upon a field of beautiful flowers. Never had he seen such a wonderful sight. There were more kinds of flowers than he had ever imagined, and more colours than any artist had ever dreamed of.

General Jodhpur stood quite still for a few minutes, and then he slowly walked across the field and sat down in the middle of the flowers. He watched the bees buzzing in and out, searching for pollen to make honey. He thought that one would be sure to land on his nose, but the bees were far too busy to notice even a famous general.



He knew that he and his soldiers must have marched over thousands of beautiful flowers and frightened small animals many times. "I will never harm or frighten anything again," he said. "I will try to help the animals and tend the flowers and plants and all other things that grow."



In the morning he told his soldiers that he wanted them to leave the army and return to their homes and jobs, and to help him make their country the most beautiful in the world. Everyone was so happy. But nobody was more happy than General Jodhpur.



General Jodhpur was very excited by all that was happening. When he visited his men to see how their work was progressing – and he did this every day – they were glad to see him.