



## The Line

by Per Dybvig

Original title: *De står i kø*  
Picture book  
40 pages  
Format: 22,0 cm X 28,0 cm  
Publisher: Aschehoug  
Publication date: April 2024

Translated from the Norwegian by Lucy Moffatt

2

Twig is bored.

He has climbed all over the forest  
but hasn't found a single person to play with.

3

But just a minute –  
What's that moving  
down there?

Slow... so slow?

4

They're standing behind and in front of each other.  
They're looking up and down and all around.

5

"Hi! What are you doing?  
Line-dancing? It looks like fun!  
Can I join in?"

6

"Hallooo!  
Can I play too?"

"This isn't a game. It's a line,"  
says the very big bird.

"If you want to join in,  
you'll have to go to the end."

7

"The end?  
Where is the end?"

8

"I don't know,"  
says the very big bird.  
"A long way back, I guess."

"I've been standing in this line  
since last winter."

9

Twig has a think.  
In the line since last winter?  
So the end of the line must be a really long way back.

Suddenly, he sees a  
storkfinch leaving.

10

"Can I take your place in the line?"  
shouts Twig.

"No, I'm coming back later," says the storkfinch.  
"I'm just going to get my umbrella."

Twig peers back along the line.  
It's a long way to go.

11

But then a mountain mink wanders out of the line.  
"Can I take your place?" asks Twig.

"Um... " says the mountain mink.  
"I think the lynx took it."

12

He's quite right. The lynx has taken his place.

"Can I sneak in behind you, then?" asks Twig.

"Absolutely not," says the lynx, turning around.

"That's little lynx's place now."

13

The line is long.  
The end is really far away.

14

Twig must take a break.  
No one wants to let him in.

No one wants to play.

Just then he feels something  
tickling his nose.

Leaves!

15

The leaves are falling from the trees, the wind is howling,  
and soon the line has come to a stop.

"We're not moving  
an inch!"  
shouts the  
very big bird.

Twig has a think.  
The line is standing still.  
The leaves are in the way – he has an idea!

"I can help!" he says.

"Is there an elephant in the line?"

16

Twig bounds back along the line, searching and searching.

"Have any of you seen an elephant?"

"I think there's one behind the anteater,"  
says the rhinoceros.

17

There he is at last!

"You have to help me," says Twig.

"We need to get the line moving again!"

18

So the elephant blows.

A mighty blast that only an elephant could blow.

He blows everyone out of line.

17

Twig smiles.

"Okay everyone – now the line starts... here!"