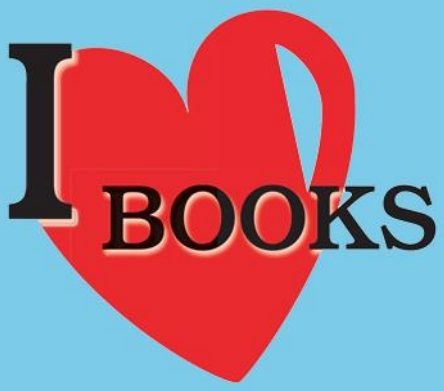


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Opening extract from

The Hole Story

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Illustrated by

Bruce Ingman

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For Helen, my ever
amusing muse, with love – P. B.

For Alvie, Ted and Ramona – B.I.

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The Hole Story



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In a land of strange happenings, far, far away,
lived two holes, Hamish and Hermione.



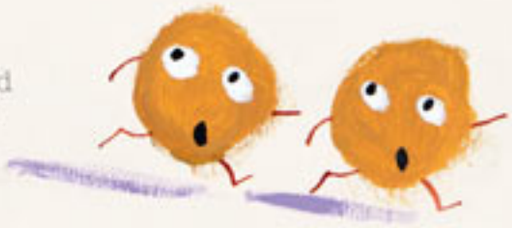
Their home was a chunk of Swiss cheese,
on a plate, in the kitchen, in the royal palace.

One day, a family of mice came along and ate all the cheese.



The cook chased the mice away, but now the two holes had nowhere to live.

"That cheese was getting stale anyway," said Hamish Hole. "Let's leave this dreary kitchen and search for a new home. A place where holes can be useful."



The King was in his dressing room when he let out a cry.

"Oh no! There's a hole in my sock – I can't let my people see the royal hairy legs."



He called for the royal seamstress to darn his sock...

but by the time she arrived, Hamish Hole had gone.

The Queen was in her boudoir
when she let out a **shriek**.



"Oh no! There's
a **hole** in my
knickers – I
can't let the
people see my
royal **pink**
bottom."

She called for her
maid to mend her
knickers...

but by the time she arrived,
Hermione Hole had disappeared.