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opening extract from

The Gorilla Suit

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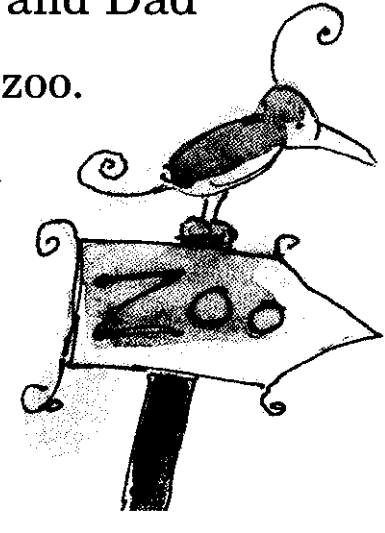
Chapter One

Tom was given a gorilla suit for his birthday. He loved it. He wore it everywhere. He even wore it the day Mum and Dad took him to the zoo.

'You'll bake in that,' Dad said.



'Waugh!' Tom answered in his gruffest voice. He sounded just like a gorilla.

'Why not wear ordinary clothes for once?' Mum pleaded.

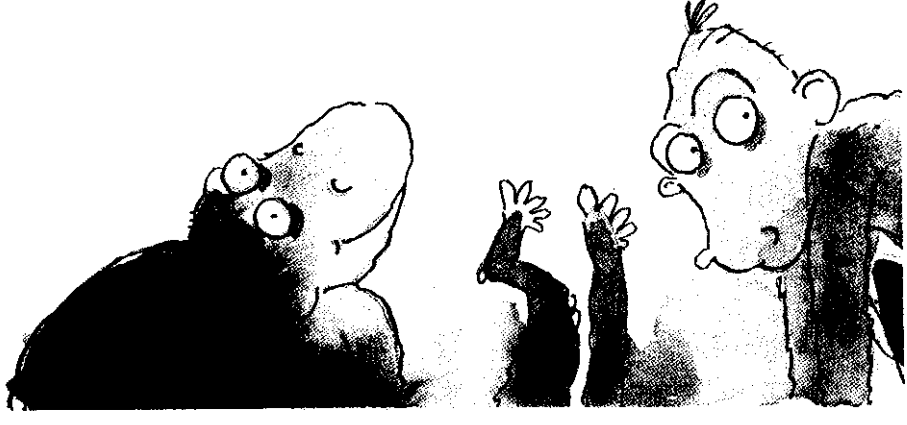
'Waugh!' Tom said again, and beat both hands on his chest.

So Mum and Dad gave in and took him as he was.

When they reached the zoo, Tom went looking for

gorillas. He climbed on a wall, and there they were. A whole family of them.

He felt really excited. He started jumping up and down.



'Waugh!' he shouted.

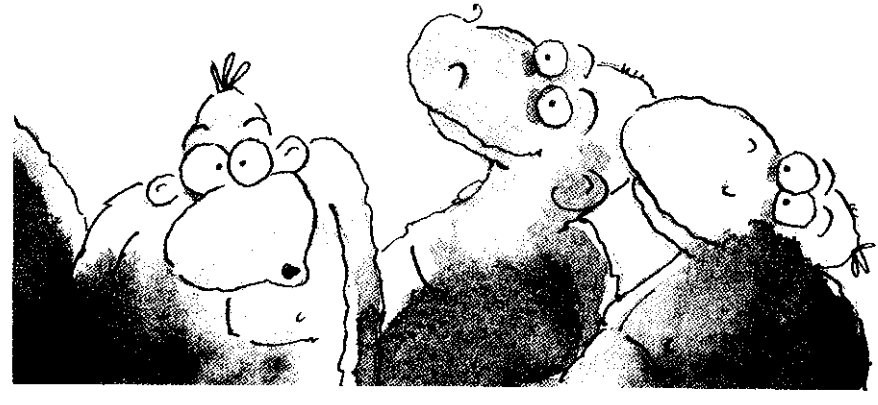
'Waugh-waugh-waugh!'

the gorillas answered.

Tom jumped higher still.

'Careful!' Dad said. But

the warning came too late.



Tom had already slipped. He fell into the gorilla pen.

Luckily, a female gorilla was sitting below the wall. He landed right in the middle of her soft furry belly.

'Waugh!' she grunted, and gave Tom a lick. Then a cuddle. Then tucked him under her arm.

'My baby boy!' Mum shrieked.

'Somebody fetch the keeper!' Dad shouted.

The keeper arrived a few minutes later, with a net

on a long pole. He looked down into the pen. He couldn't see a boy anywhere. Just two baby gorillas

romping together on the grass.

'One of those is our Tom,' Dad told him.

'The handsome one,' Mum said.

They looked about the same to the keeper. He reached down with the net and scooped one up.

'Waugh!' said the youngster.

Mum made a grab for him. 'That's Tom all right. I'd know his gorilla voice anywhere.'

She and Dad took him off home.