



For Oliver and Carter: Georgia’s ‘Wildlings’ – R.D.

For Joël, who knows and loves every creature that lives inside me – even the annoyingly hard-headed and terribly slow-moving ones. – Y.B.

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RUTH DOYLE

YESSICA BAETEN

# THE ZOO INSIDE ME



  
Andersen Press





Sometimes there is not enough room inside me  
For the jumbling feelings that others can't see.  
There's emotion, commotion  
and then – suddenly –



From deep down inside, my creatures break free...  
And I am...

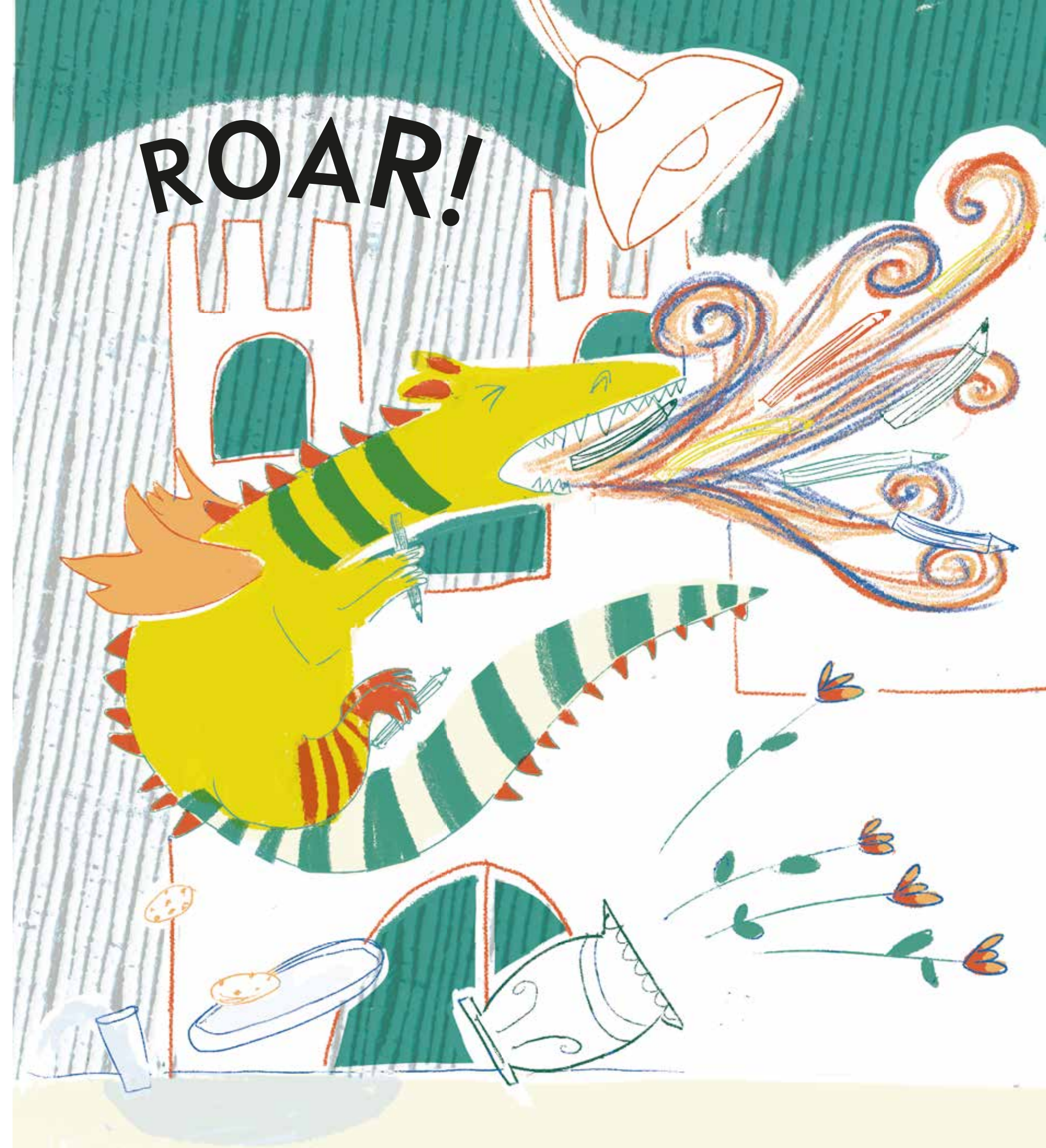




... part Dragon.  
Fizz-full of fireworks,

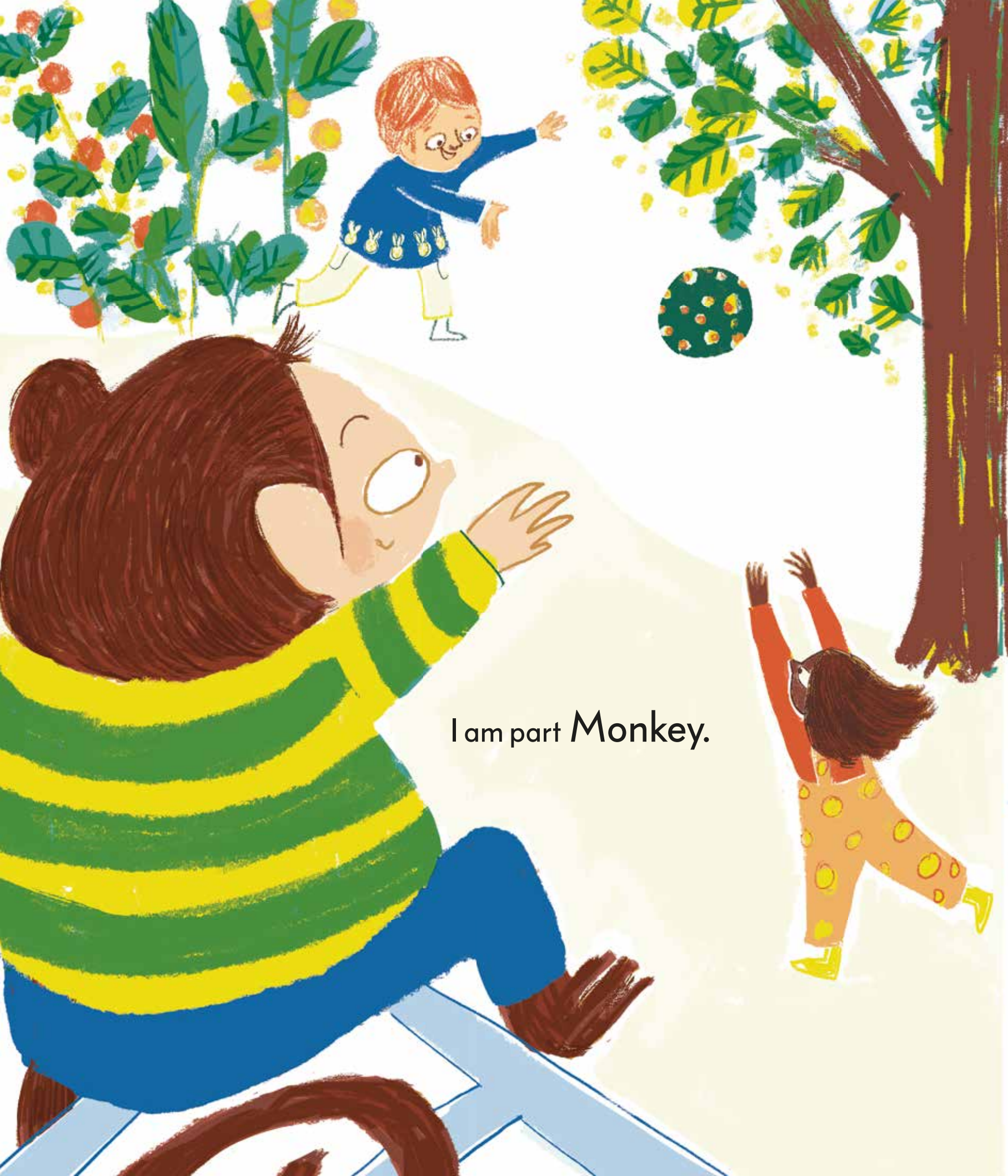


sparkling and popping and making me...



**ROAR!**





I am part **Monkey**.



Foraging for fun, paws itchy with mischief.  
I'm screeching, but reaching for friends is my mission.







I am part Llama.



Standing too close, with  
wide eyes, I stare.

Heart wild with wonder,  
I want you to care.



“Choose me,” I’m saying...  
Silently.