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

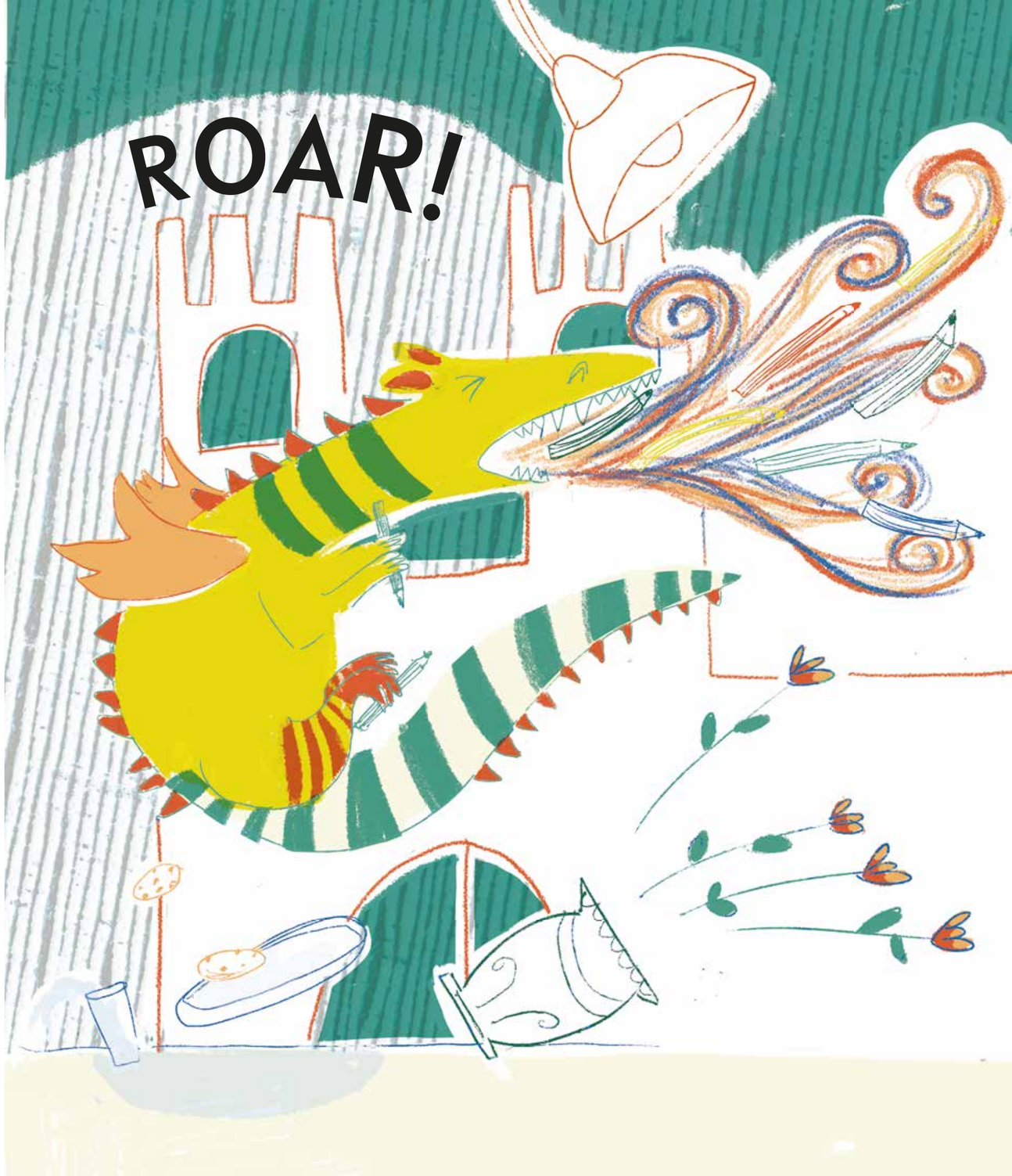
Andersen Press

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,

sparking and popping and making me...



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.