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Opening extract from

When I Woke Up I Was a Hippopotamus

Written by

Tom MacRae

Published by

Andersen Press Ltd

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For my wonderful mum who, when she woke up, was not a hippopotamus. T.M.

For Sabine, Lonneke, Jessie and Max. R.C.

Other books by Tom MacRae:

Baby Pie

The Opposite

(Winner of the Parents' Choice Foundation Silver Honour Award)

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Ross Collins has used concentrated watercolour, vinyl colour and pen on watercolour paper in this book.
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WHEN I WOKE UP I WAS A HIPPOPOTAMUS

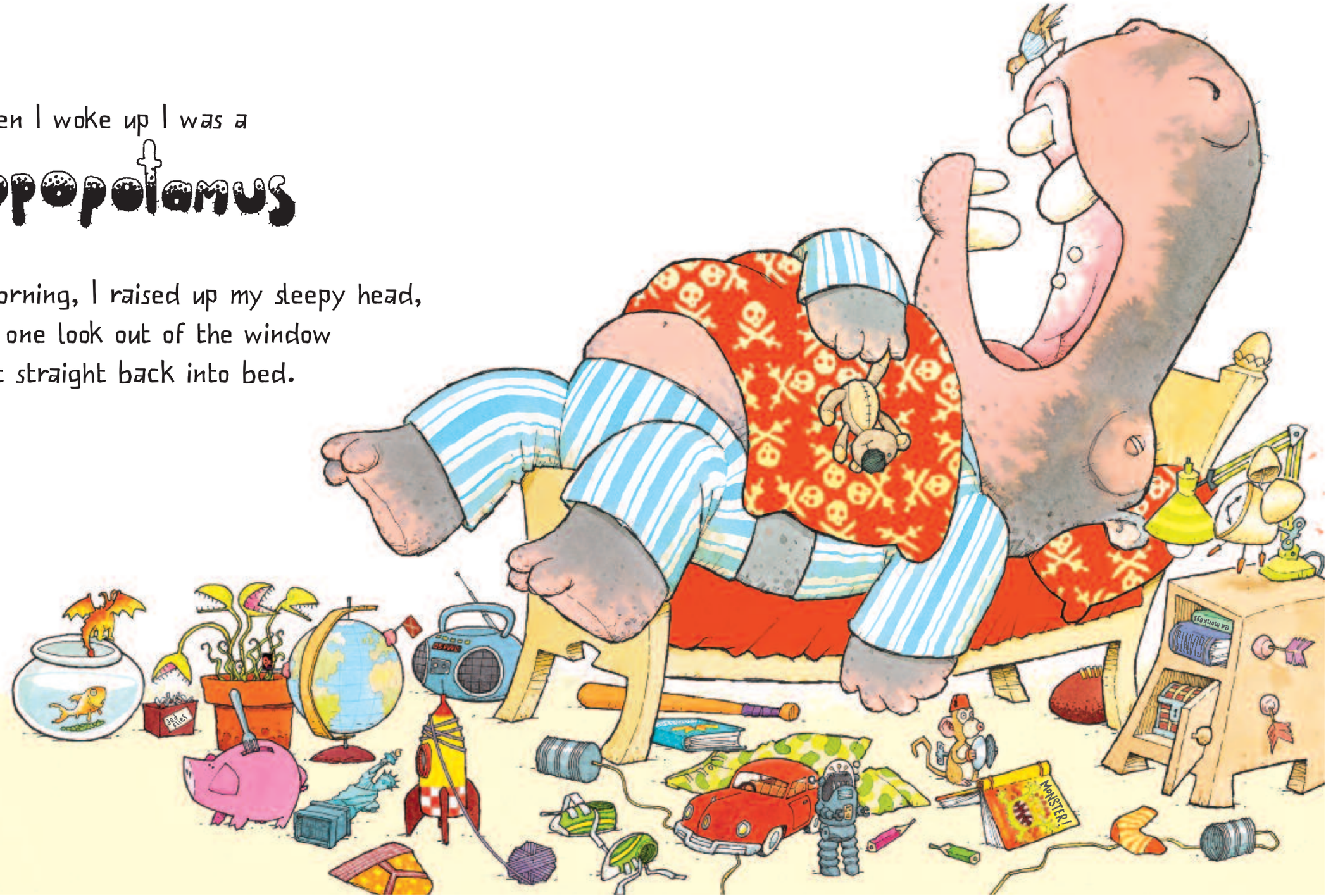
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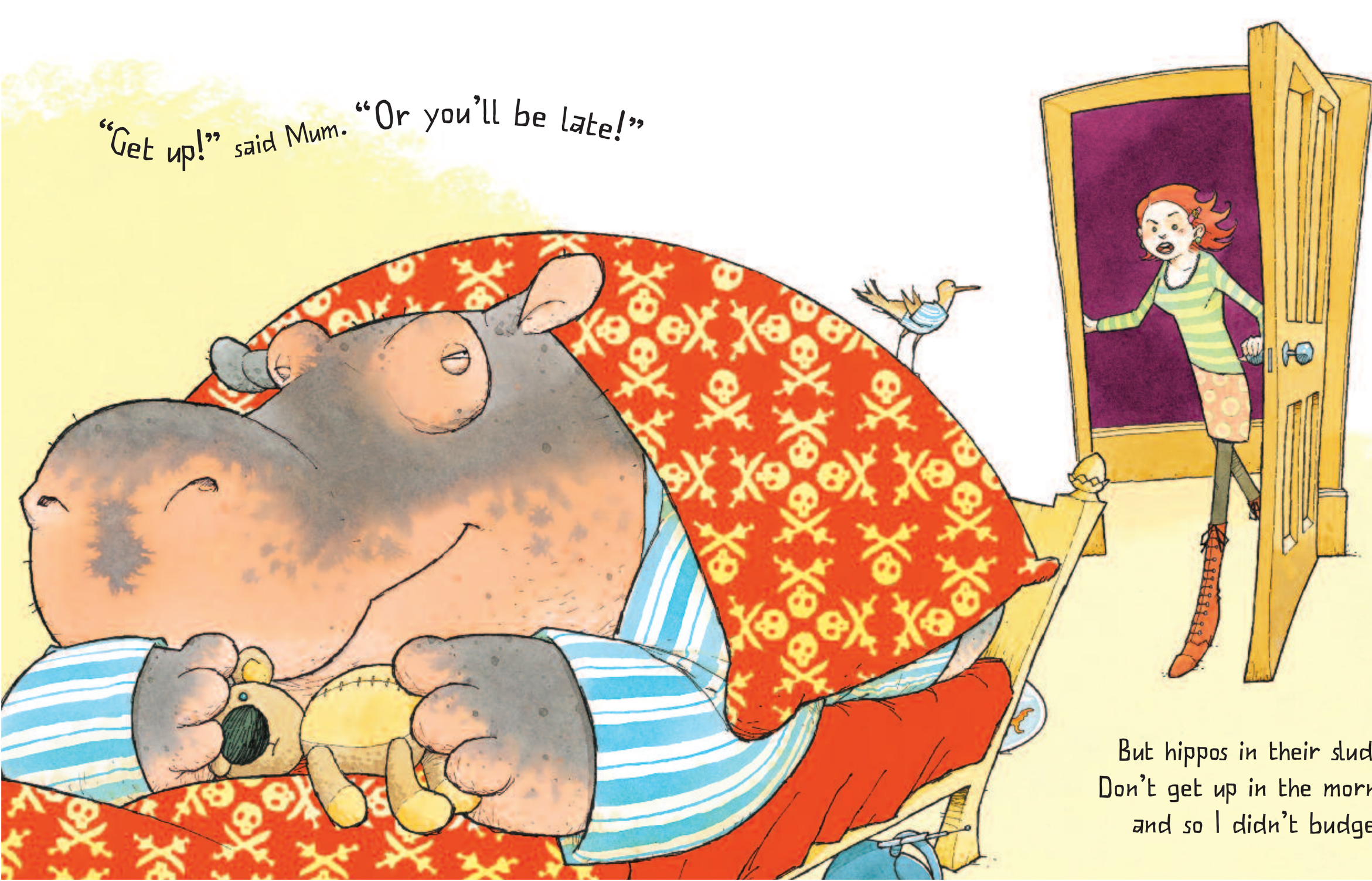
When I woke up I was a

hippopotamus

Yawning in the morning, I raised up my sleepy head,
Then took one look out of the window
and got straight back into bed.



"Get up!" said Mum. "Or you'll be late!"



But hippos in their sludge
Don't get up in the morning,
and so I didn't budge.

At breakfast
I was a . . .
ROBOT

My tummy wasn't hungry. I wasn't programmed how to eat.
My mouth was made of metal, like my nose and knees and feet.
"Quick, quick!" said Dad. "Come on! Eat up!
We've really got to scoot!"

But robots can't eat cornflakes. Dad's words did not compute.