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Opening extract from

I want a Pet

Written by

Lauren Child

Published by

Frances Linclon

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For my mother and father who gave me my first pet Michael (a goldfish) and ended up with 16 guinea pigs, 2 hamsters and a tortoise

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I want a Pet

Lauren Child



I *really* want a pet.

"Please Mom, can I have a pet?"

Mom says, "Well – perhaps something with not too much fur."

Dad says, "Maybe something that lives outside."

Grandma says, "Nothing with a buzz." It interferes with her hearing aid.

Grandad says, "Stuffed pets are very reliable."





The pet shop lady says, "Goldfish can be fun."







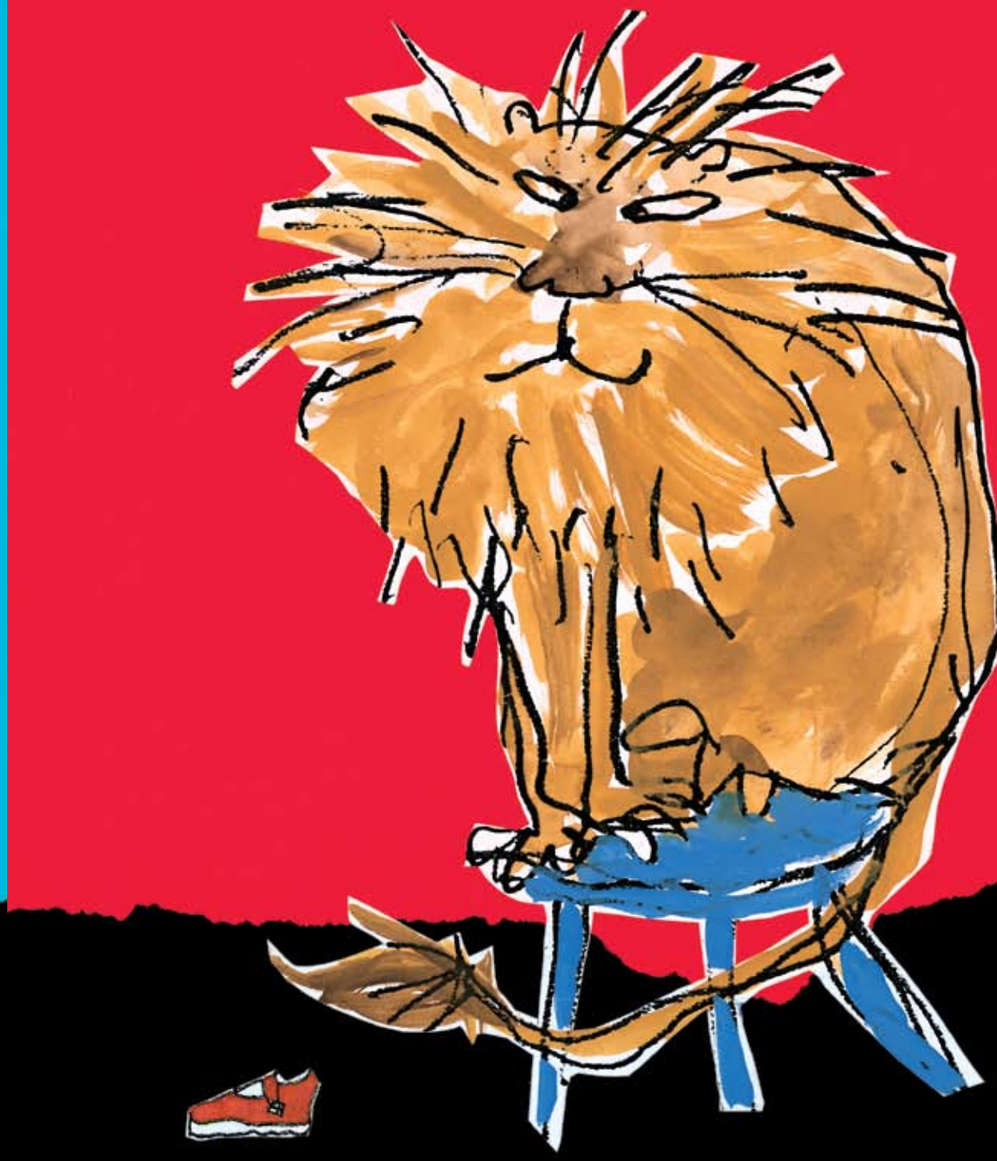
I say, "How?"

Mom asks, "What sort of pet would you like?"

I say, "How about an African lion? I'd train him and we could do a show. We'd be a roaring success."



Grandma says, "Lions have a habit of snacking between meals."



I think, uh-oh. . .

"A sheep would be nice, and they're vegetarian. We could knit sweaters together."



Grandad says, "Sheep are forever following you around. They haven't got minds of their own."



I hate copy-cats.