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Opening extract from  
**The Hippopandamouse**

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**Jools Bentley**

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*For Mum and Dad,  
with eternal love and gratitude*  
JB



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Princess Flo was excited! She was off to spend  
her pocket money at Fluffley's Fine Toys,  
her favourite toy shop in town.





At Fluffley's Fine Toys everyone was busy preparing for the royal visit.

But not everything was going according to plan!  
"That owl has a scowl," cried Miss Fluffley, the owner.  
"Remove it at once!"





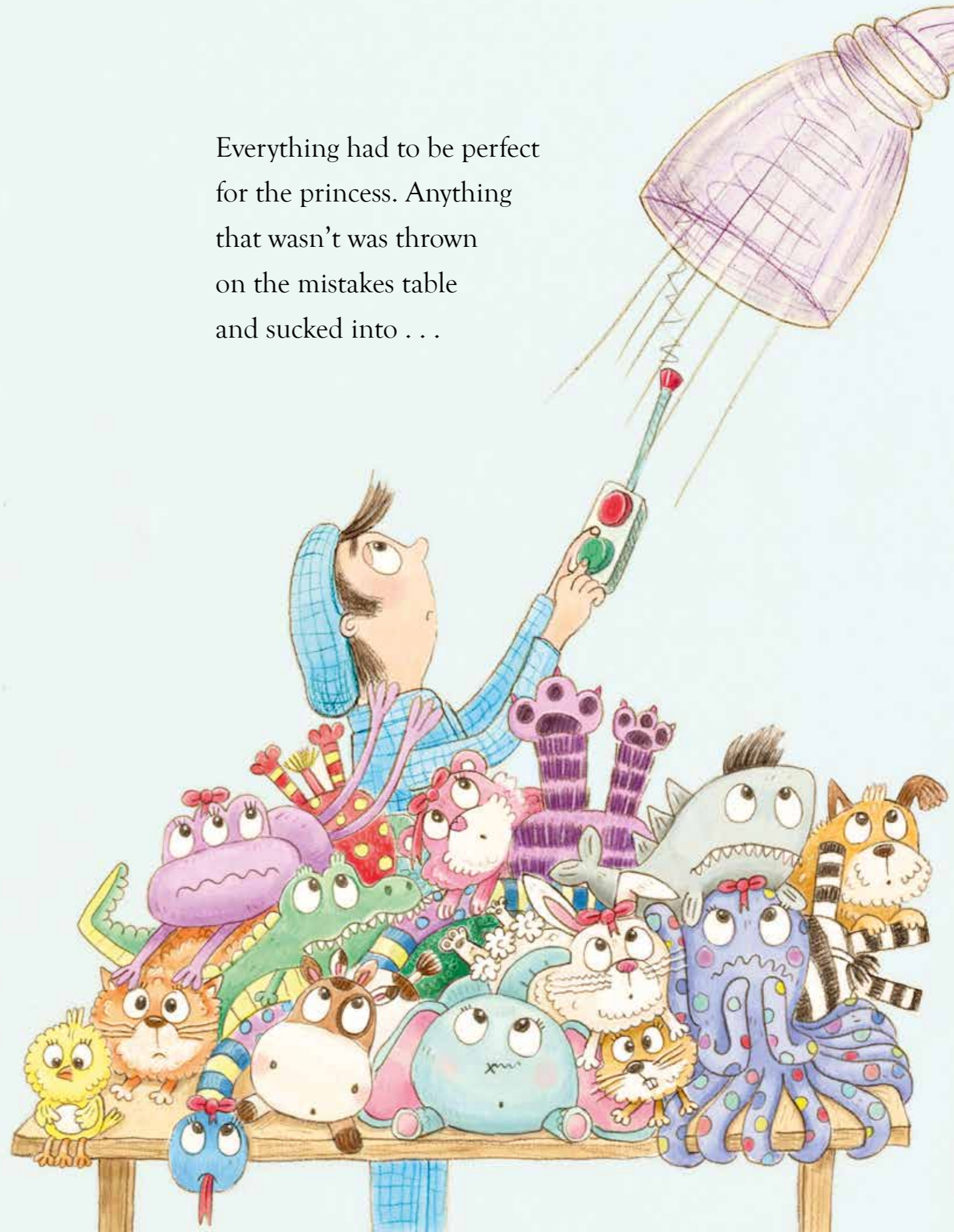
Upstairs in the workshop things were even worse.

“This donkey is wonky,” cried Miss Fluffley.

“Fix it at once!”



Everything had to be perfect for the princess. Anything that wasn't was thrown on the mistakes table and sucked into . . .





... the UNSTITCHER!

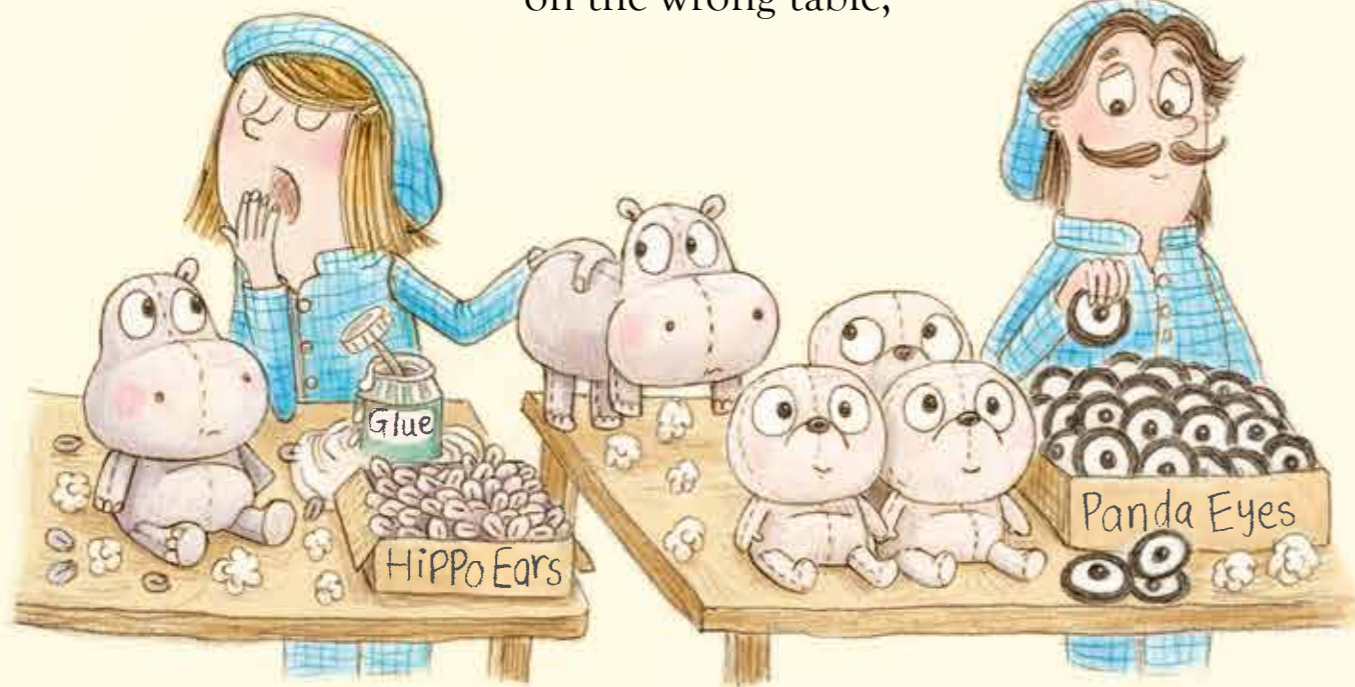
But the day had started early and everyone was tired.  
They hadn't even had a tea break!



And that was when another mistake happened . . .



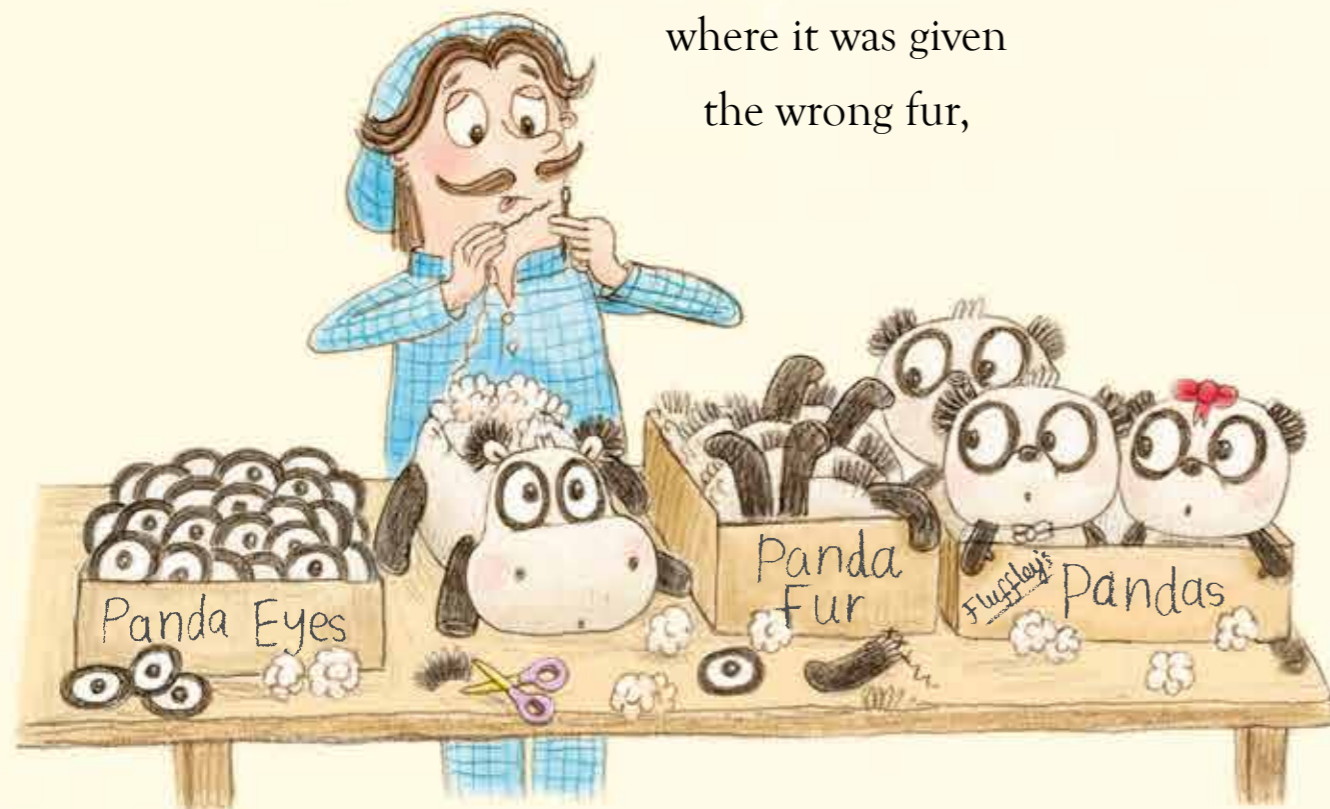
Someone put a hippopotamus  
on the wrong table,



and thrown into  
the wrong box!



where it was given  
the wrong fur,



He didn't look quite right.

