



RUTH DOYLE

YESSICA BAETEN

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.

THE ZOO INSIDE ME

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



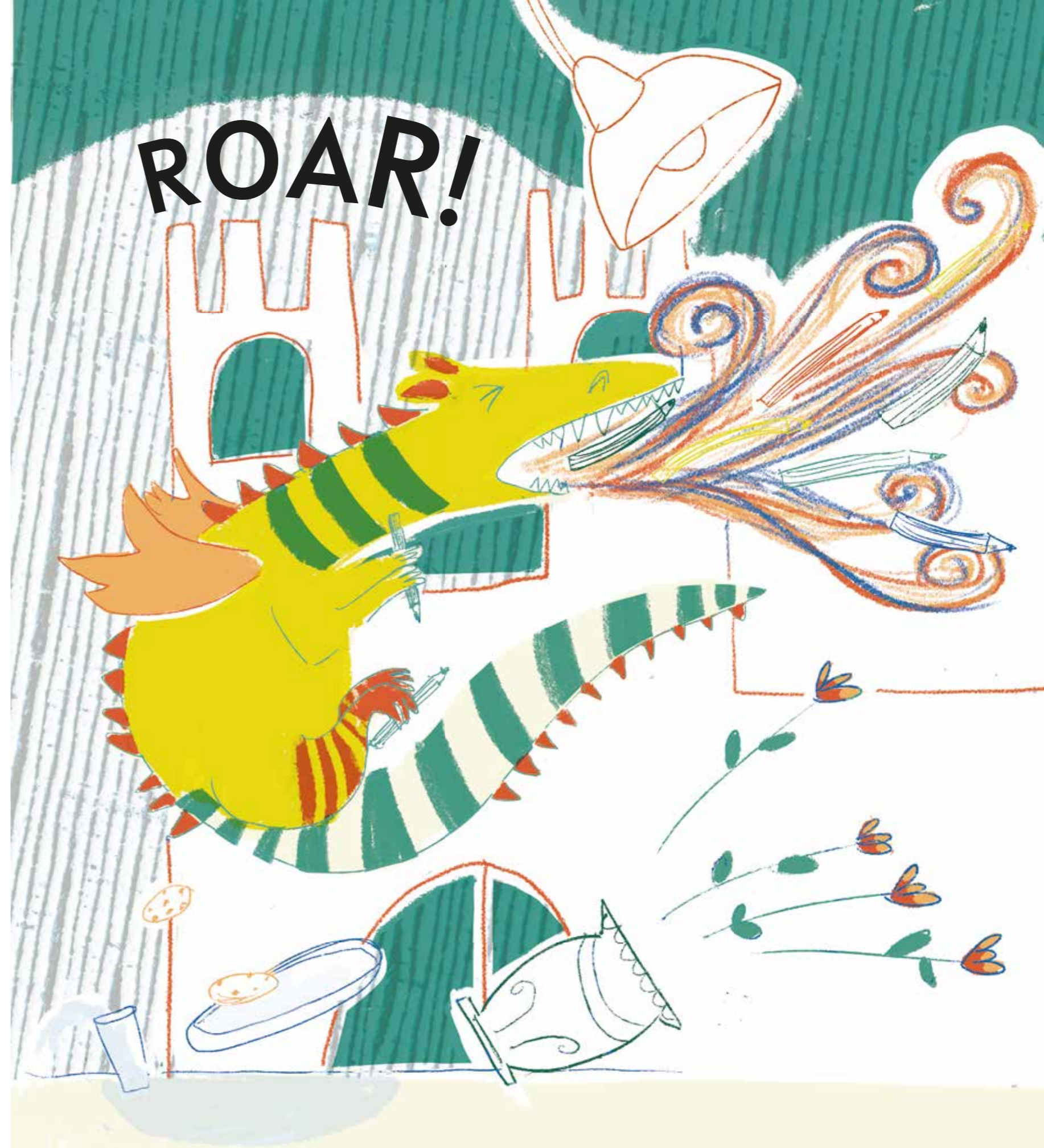
From deep down inside, my creatures break free...
And I am...

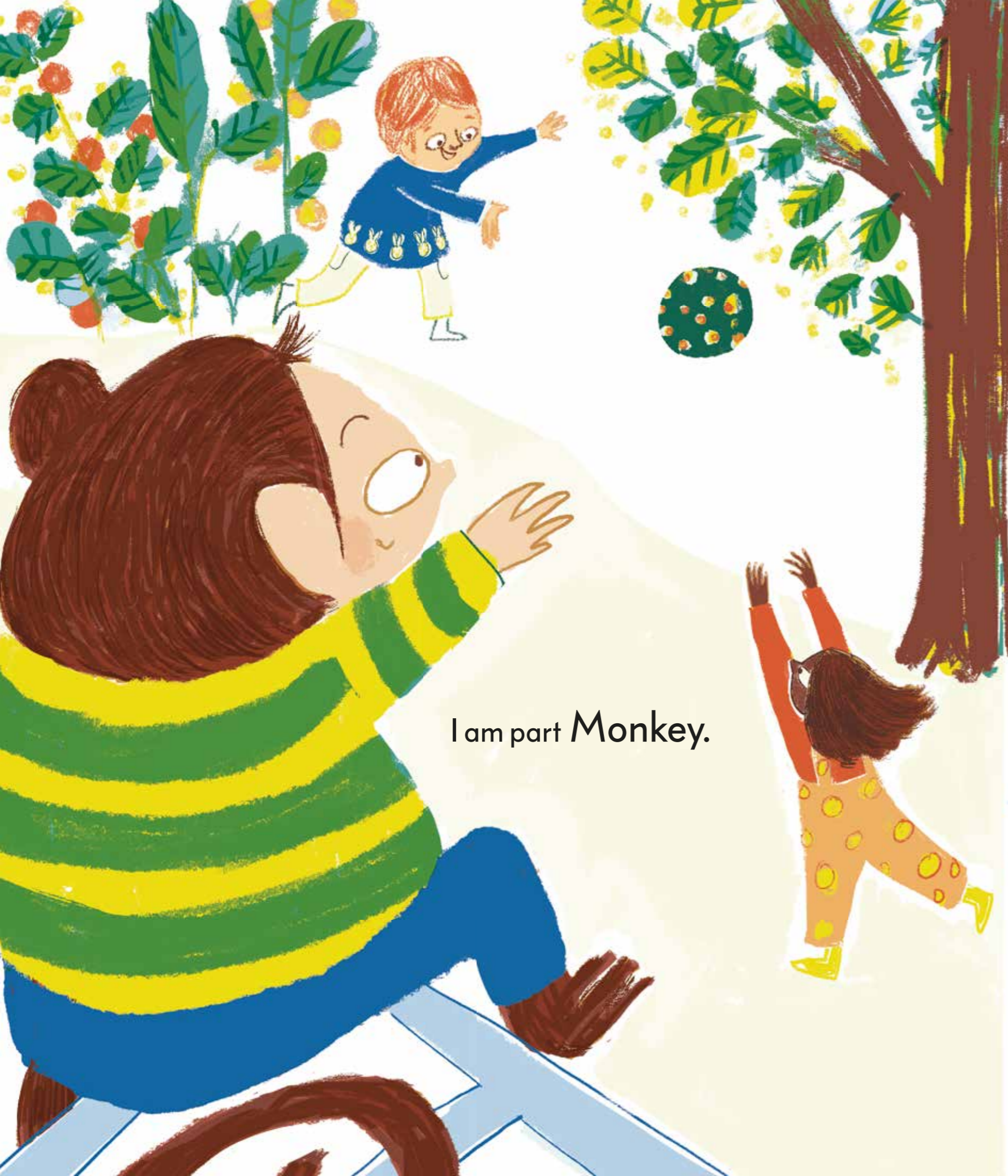


... part Dragon.
Fizz-full of fireworks,



sparkling and popping and making me...





I am part *Monkey*.



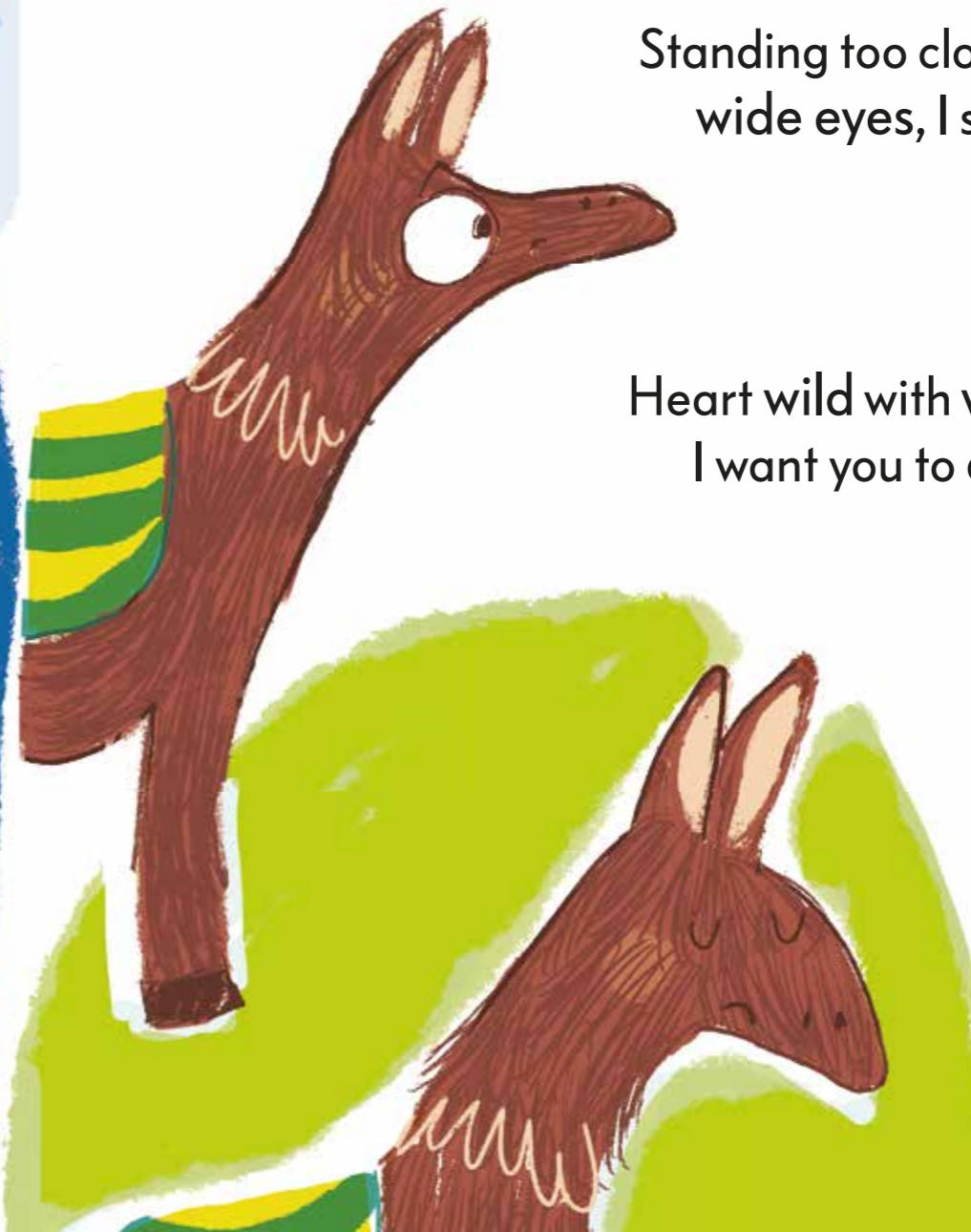
Foraging for fun, paws itchy with mischief.
I'm screeching, but reaching for friends is my mission.



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.