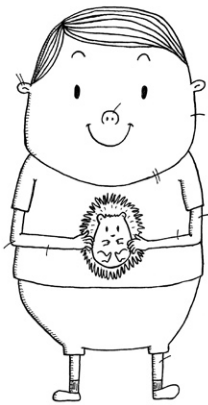
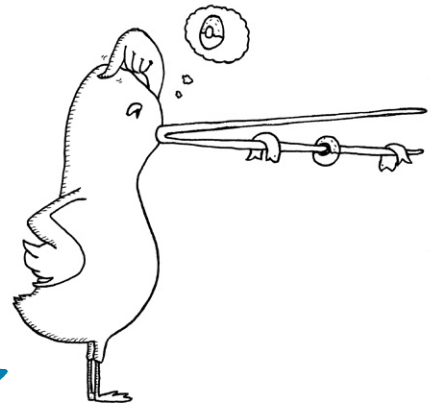


oooh

odd



zoo

25 UNUSUAL ANIMALS AND 1 ORDINARY LARVA

BY JEFF WILLIAMS | ILLUSTRATED BY SONNY HAN

JEFF WILLIAMS

ooh odd zoo

SONNY HAN

320 SYCAMORE STUDIOS, SEATTLE WASHINGTON

To my two favorite letters of the alphabet: M and C. –JW
To my family and the passenger pigeon. –SH

A

Axolotl (AK-suh-lot-l)

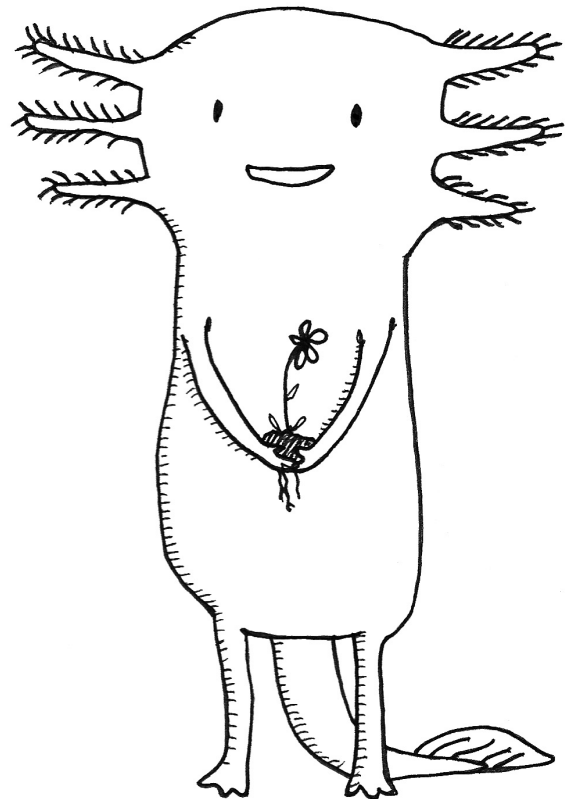
She's kinda finny, like a fish,
but also salamanderish.

She's also *also* like an eel
(that is, if eels could walk or kneel).

The axolotl's only wish
is to be loved for who she ish.

While nature doesn't mind surprise,
humans like to categorize.

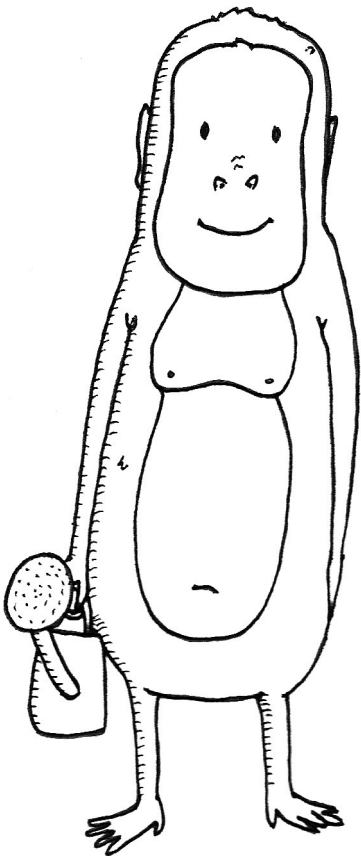
But seek her, friends, and you shall find
a beauty in the undefined.



B

Bonobo (boh-NOH-boh)

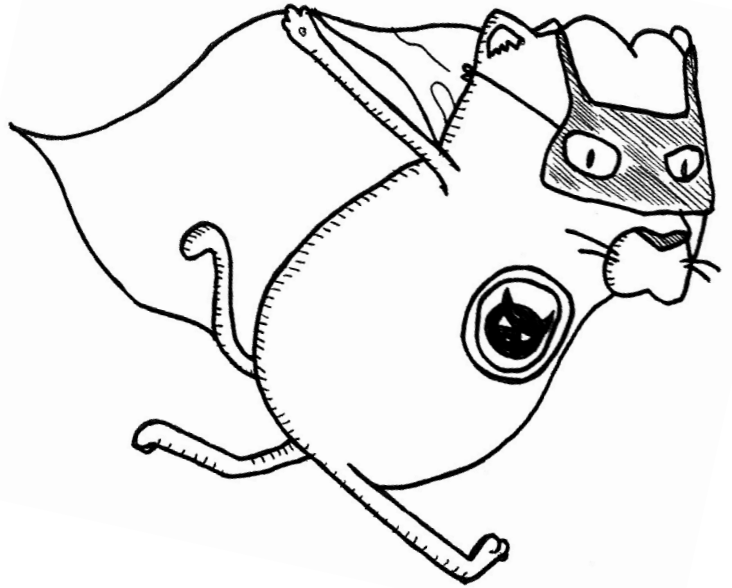
He's quick to say please and quicker to thank you.
He won't ever tease, won't ever spank you.
He's human-er than some women and men,
except for the fact of his hairier skin.



C

Catamount (KAT-uh-mount)

A catamount's a mountain cat
who lives in lofty habitat
impossible to get to.
She's stoic, wise, and beautiful,
heroic, strong, and dutiful.
In fact, she's what you'd like to be
but which you learn, eventually,
that just a cat amounts to.

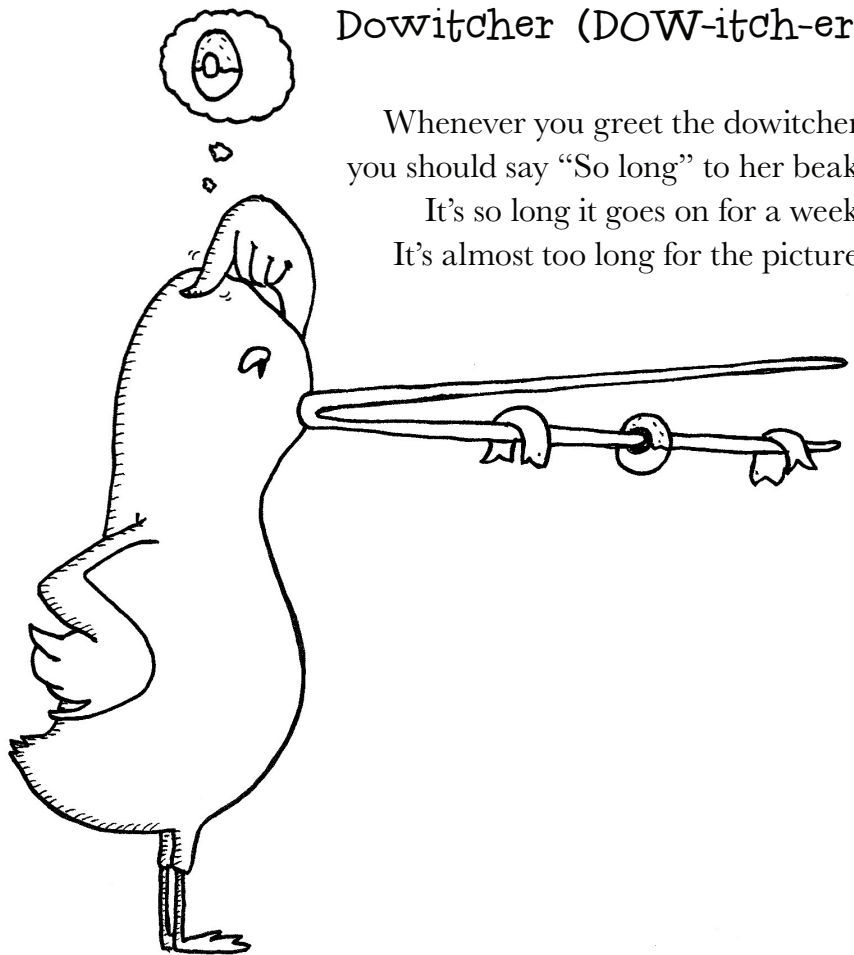


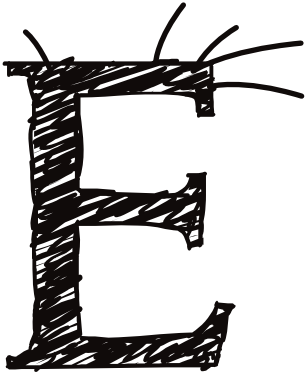
D

Dowitcher (DOW-it-ch-er)

Whenever you greet the dowitcher,
you should say “So long” to her beak.

It’s so long it goes on for a week.
It’s almost too long for the picture.





Echidna (i-KID-nuh)

Echidnas are mammals but they lay eggs.
They bumble around on short stubby legs.

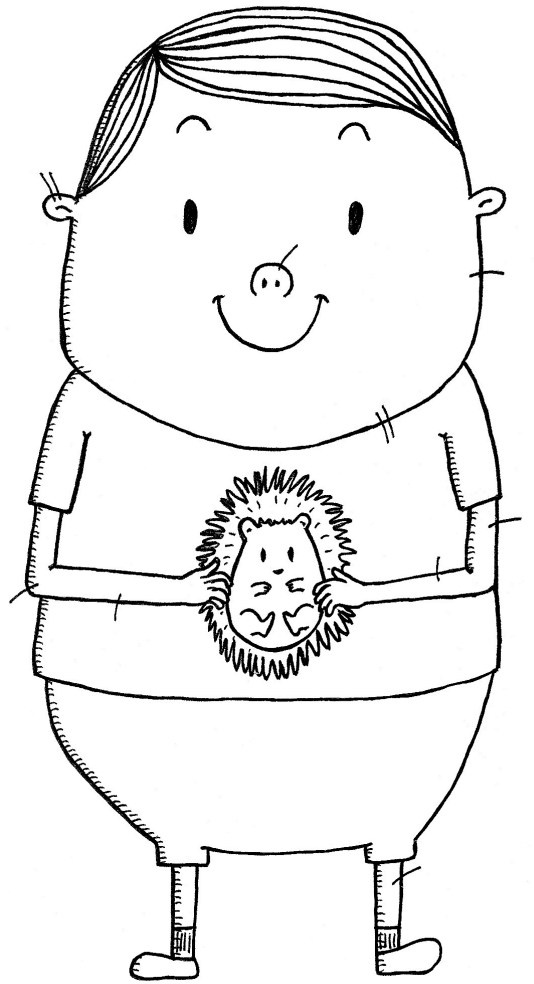
Their jackets are covered in javelins
which keep them warm in their nipple-less skins.

They live Down Under and by some mistake
got named for a beast half-woman, half-snake.

There's electrical power in their snout,
but just one hole where pee and pooh come out.

I know this all sounds crazy — but it's true!
When talking echidnas, would I ekid you?





— —

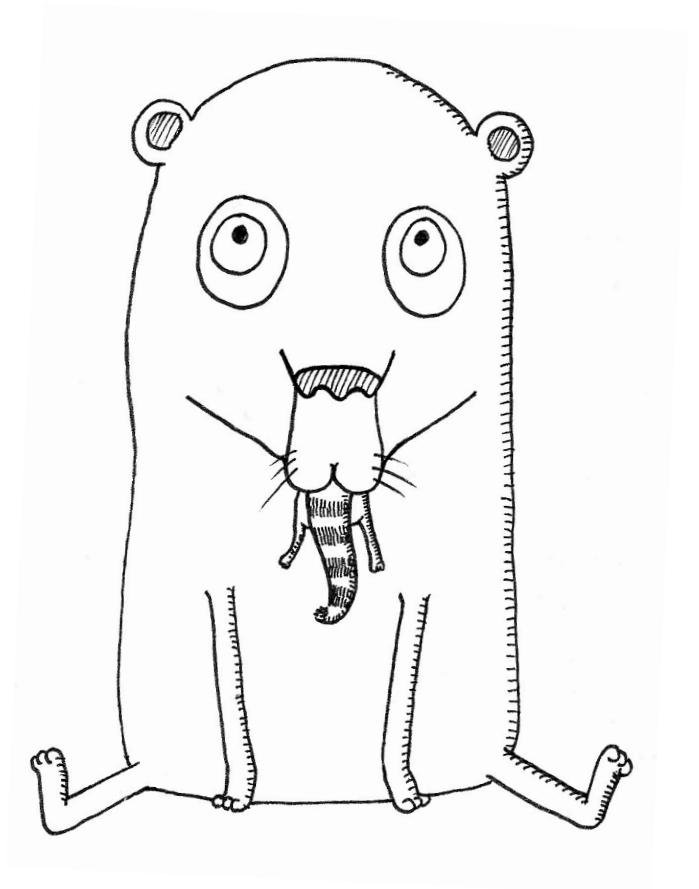
—

F

Fossa (FOS-uh)

The fossa roams 'round Madagascar
eating lemurs which are really cute.
Don't believe me? You can ask her.
She'll say they taste like monkey fruit.

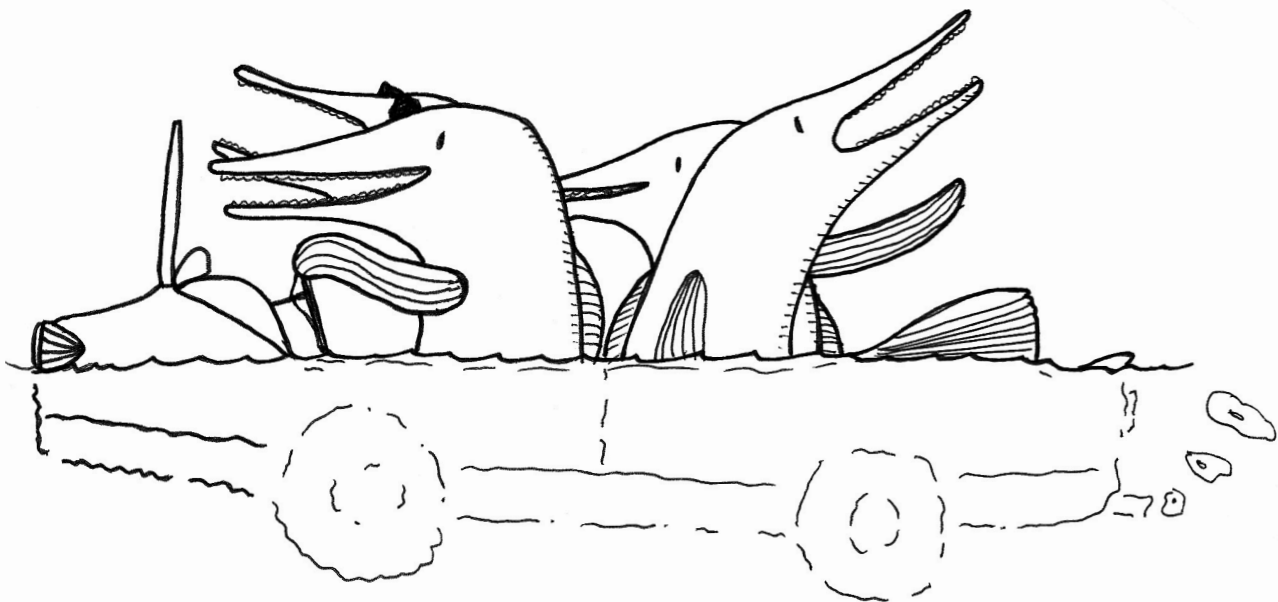
Partly cougar, partly mongoose,
the fossa's glossy, tawny, awesome.
She's more than mongar. More than cougoose.
She's fanged. She's fierce. She's fossome.



G

Gar (GAR)

Meet the fish known as gars,
they're the stars of their schools.
They're so cool they drive cars —
they just drive in car pools.



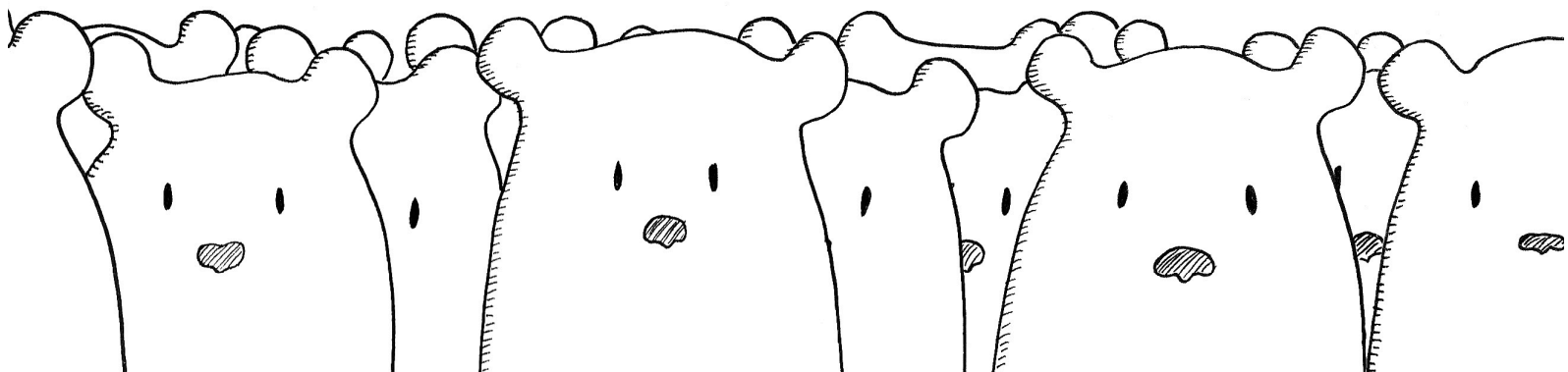
H

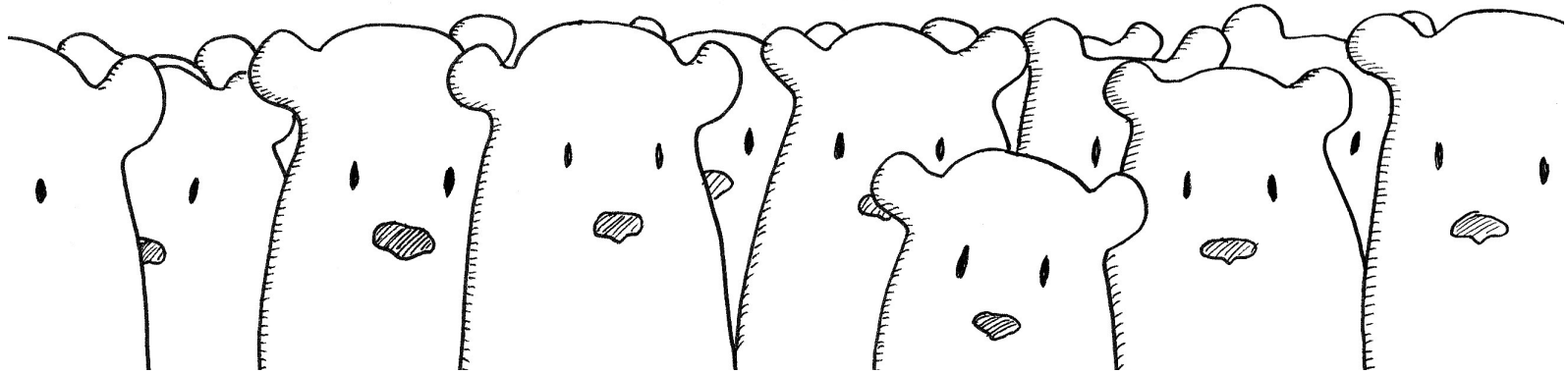
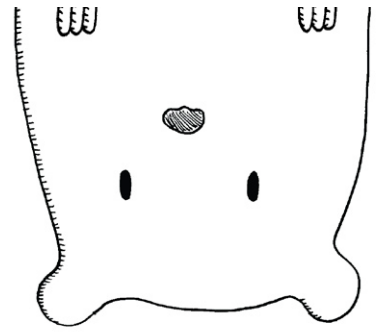
Hyrax (HI-rax)

Hyrax
are snax
for leopards and snakes,
so it's hard for them to relax.

Hyrax
form pax
on their coffee breaks
for safety in case of attax.

Hyrax:
Face fax.
Life gives and it takes,
and everything has its drawbax.



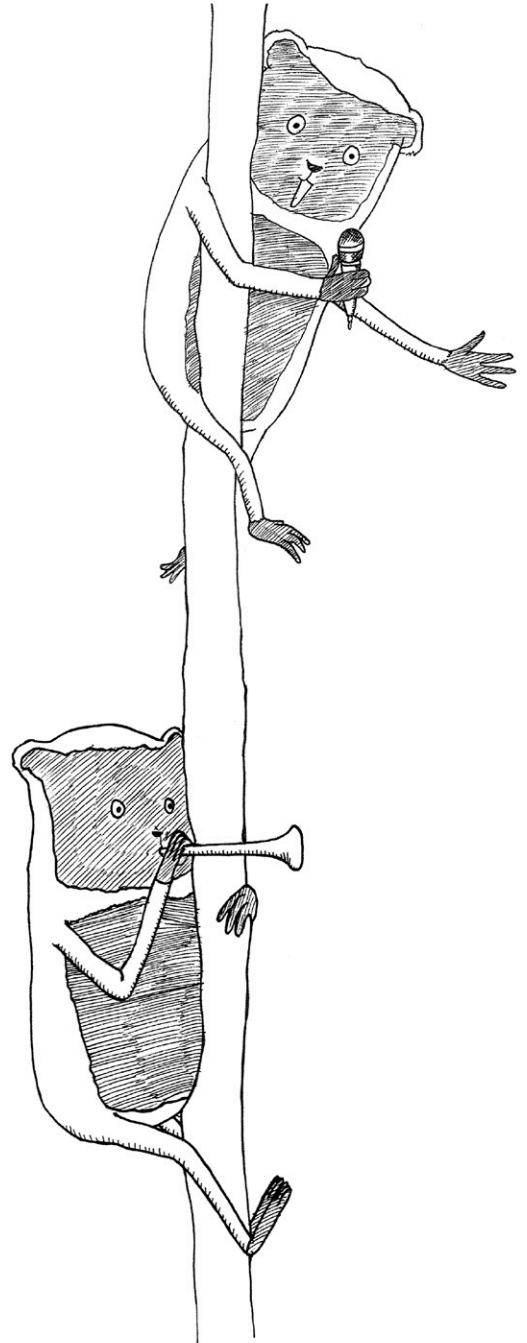




Indri (IN-dree)

Most misty jungle mornings there's a breeze
that stretches, shakes, and slips among the trees.
Soon, fuzzy heads fill up with reveries.
Reveries in turn turn in to melodies.

From treetop houses where these lemurs cling,
they clear their throats and they begin to sing.
Each song's a hymn to what the day may bring.
Oh, to be an indri, to praise everything.



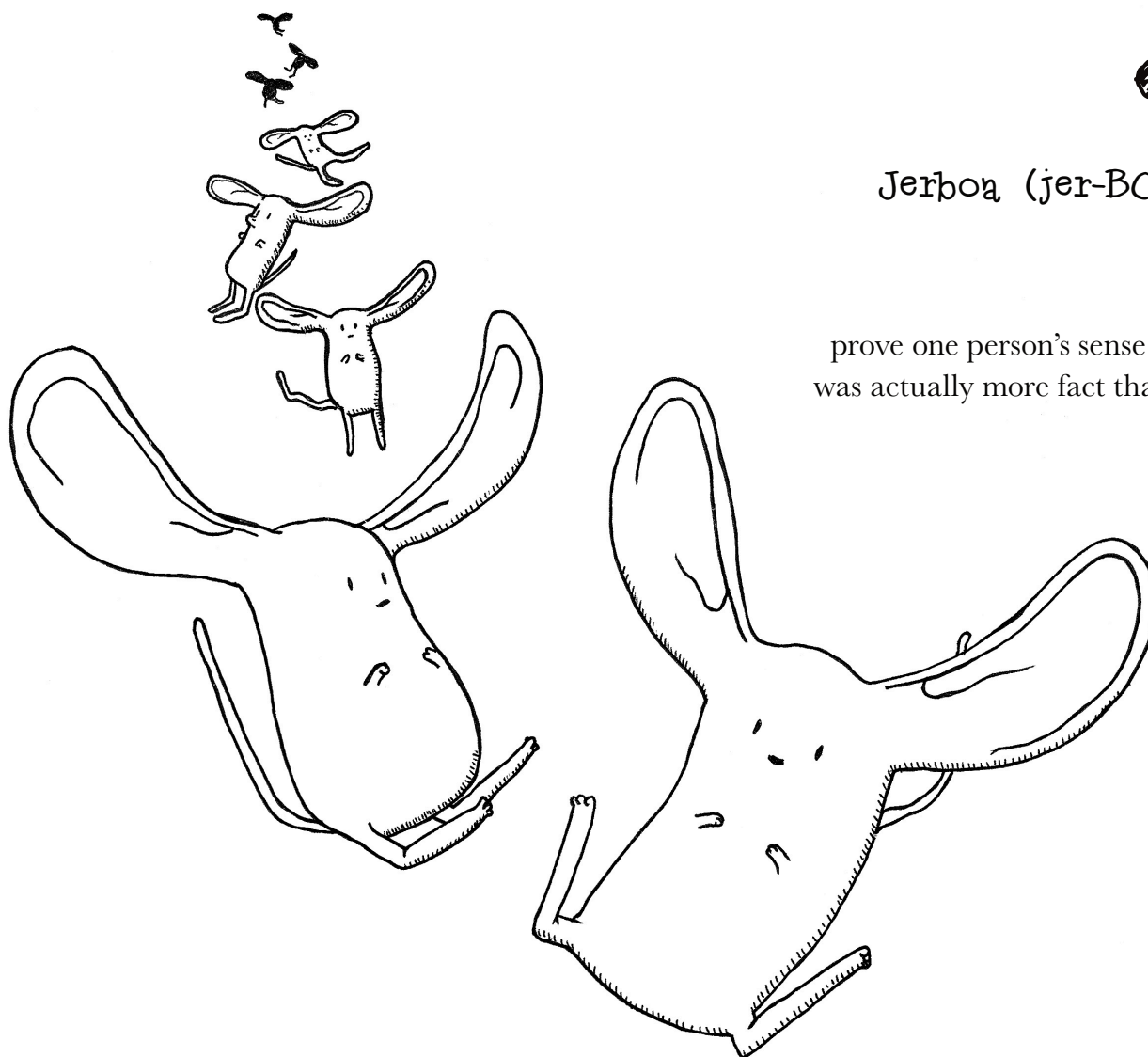
J

Jerboa (jer-BOH-uh)

Jerboas...

prove one person's sense of humor
was actually more fact than rumor:

Noah's.

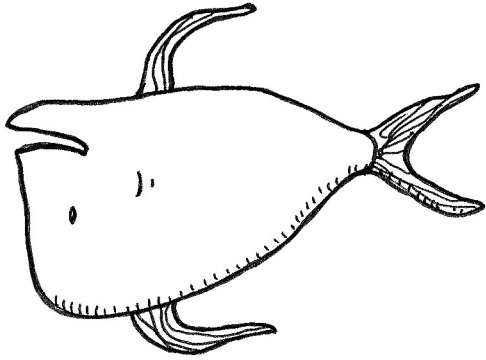


K

Kudu (KOO-doo)

Who knew
that kudu
do voodoo?
Kudu knew.
Now you
do, too.





L

Lookdown (LOOK-down)

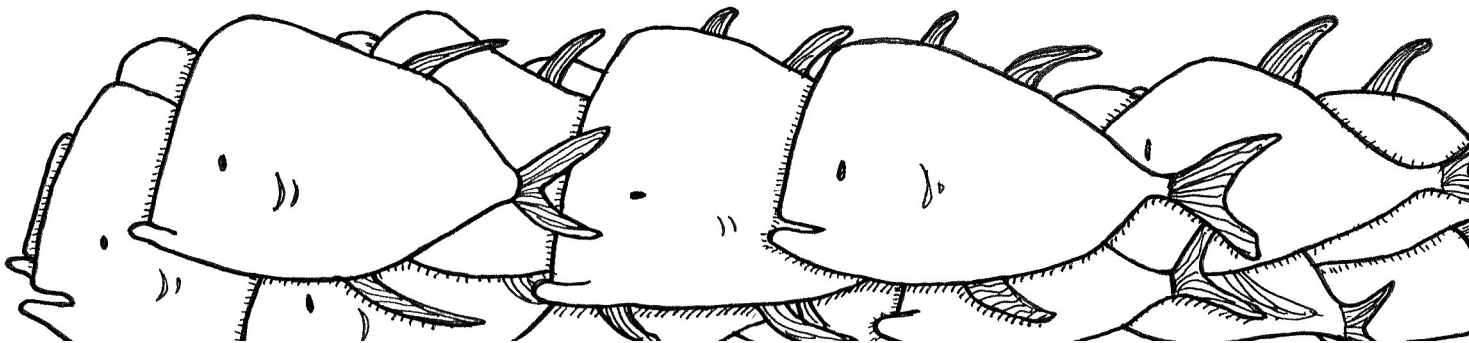
The silver lookdown just looks down
Ask him "What's up?" and he'll just frown.

To see what's looming over him
he has to upside-downward swim.

That leaves him open to attacks,
from underneathers seeking snacks

And so the lookdown lives accursed.
On constant lookout for the worst.

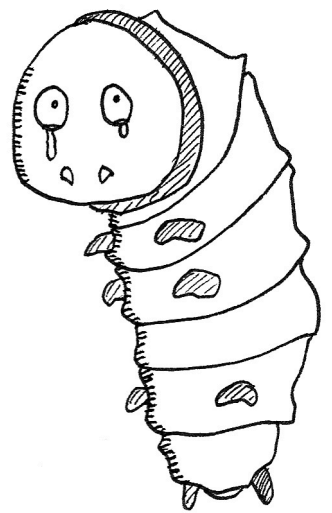
So it goes that every upside
has its lookdown upside-downside.



M

Maǵgot (MAG-uhŧ)

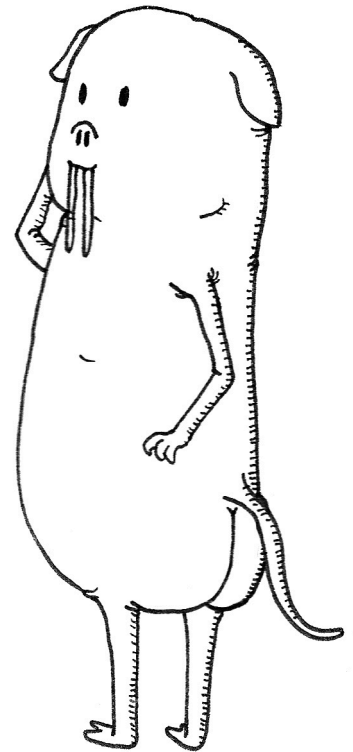
Squirmy, squishy, wormy wet.
No one wants you as a pet.
When you grow up you'll be a fly.
You'll play in poop and then you'll die.

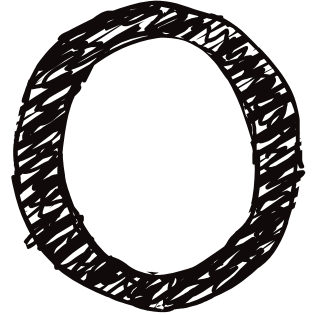


N

Naked Mole Rat (NAY-kid MOHL RAT)

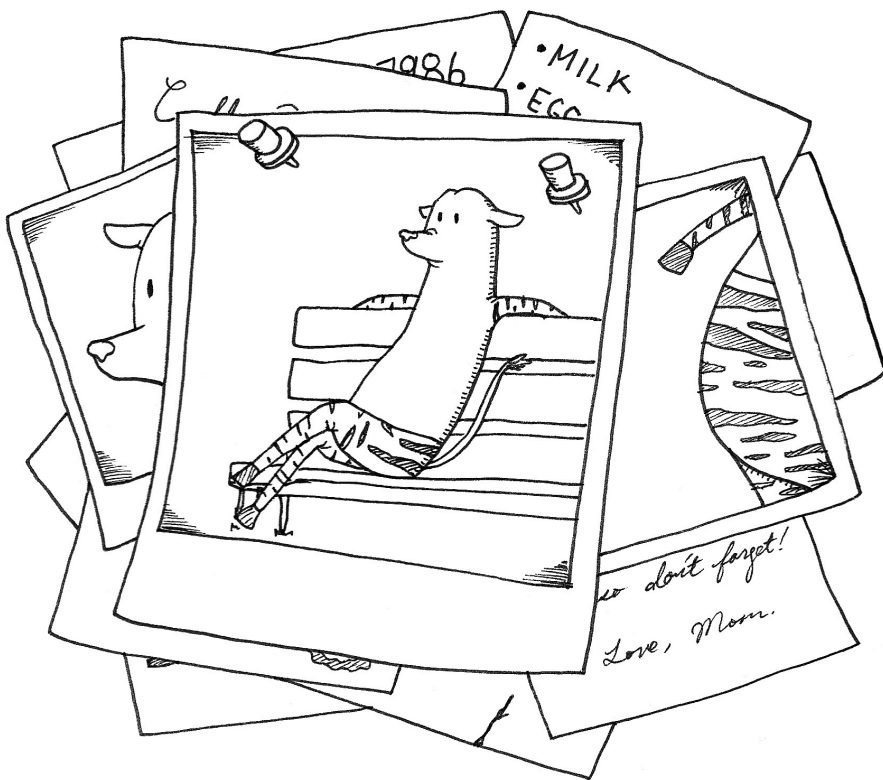
We all live our lives the best that we can.
We get up, fall down, and get up again.
We laugh and we love. Sometimes we get stressed.
But unlike our friend, we're usually dressed.





Okapi (oh-KAH-pee)

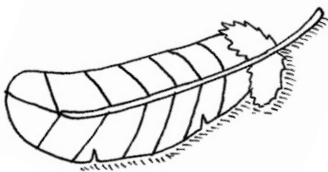
I took a picture of my okapi,
who left because I got too sloppy.
Now there's only this okapi copy.

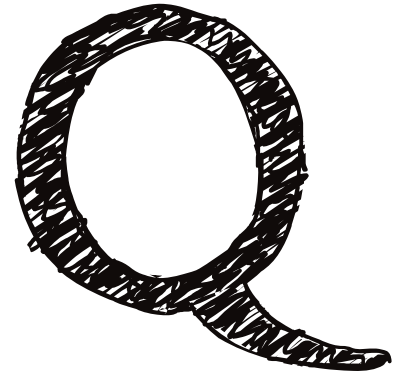


P

Passenger Pigeon (PASS-uhn-ger-PIJ-uhn)

They used to exist.
Now they're just missed.



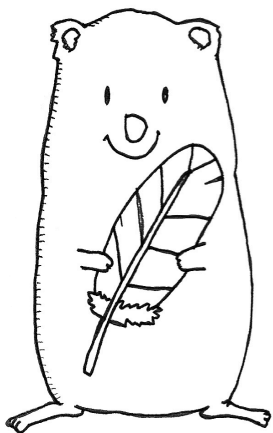
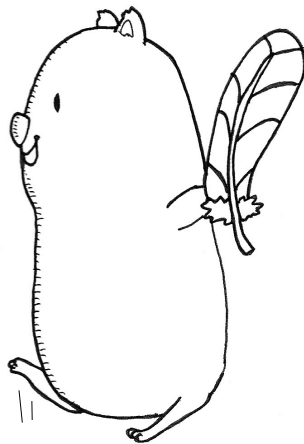


Quokka (KWOK-uh)

If there was an institute for animals considered cute the quokka, a marsupial, would be its foremost pupial.

Quokkas live in West Australia and are the cheerfulest mammalia. They think of predators as friends, which often leads them to bad ends.

Still, nothing's better than a quokka, except perhaps a flocka quokka.

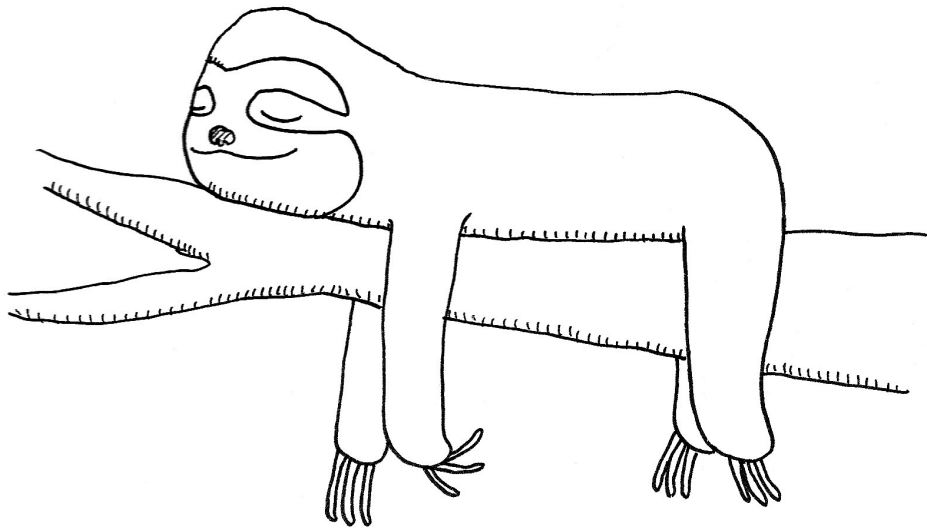


R

Reindeer (REYN-deer)

While I love the gifts and holiday cheer,
your Christmas presence is the dearest, deer.
Still, there's a question I have to get clear.
What are you doing the rest of the year?





S

Sloth (shhhhh!)

Sloths sleep with ease.

Sloths live in trees.

Sloths move if asked.

Sloths don't go fast.

Sloths think great thoughts.

Sloths grin, grin lots.

Sloths eat and then

sloths sleep a —

z

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z

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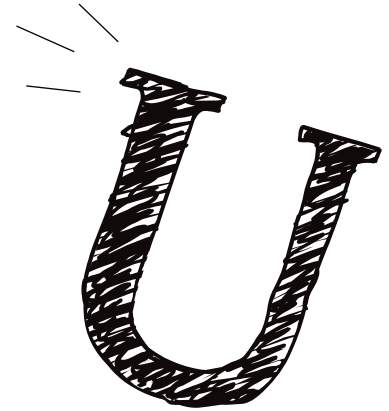
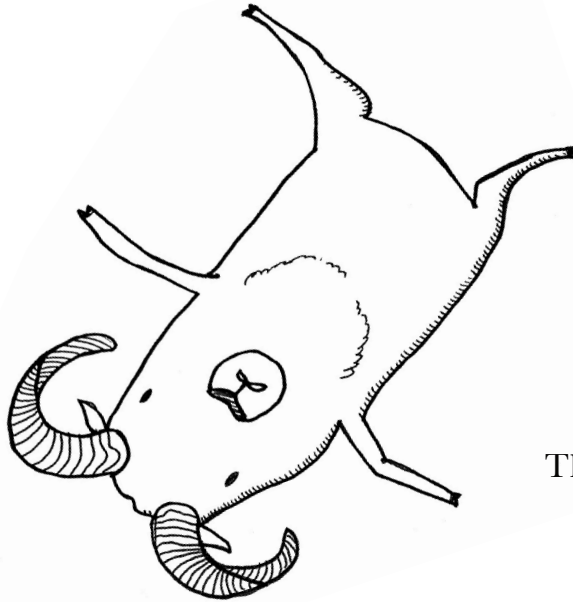
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T

Tenrec (TEN-rek)

Did you know that tenrecs,
which look like they're made of special effects,
are so quick to startle
that when something perturbs them they fartle?





Urial (OOR-ee-L)

These big-horned Asian quadrupeds
solve arguments by butting heads.

Each thinks a bit of violence
will help the other see some sense.

But while the fights cause small earthquakes,
they only lead to big headaches,

a cloud of dust, a lack of trust,
and dizzy urials, concussed.

I must conclude it's kinda nuts,
this problem-solving with headbutts.

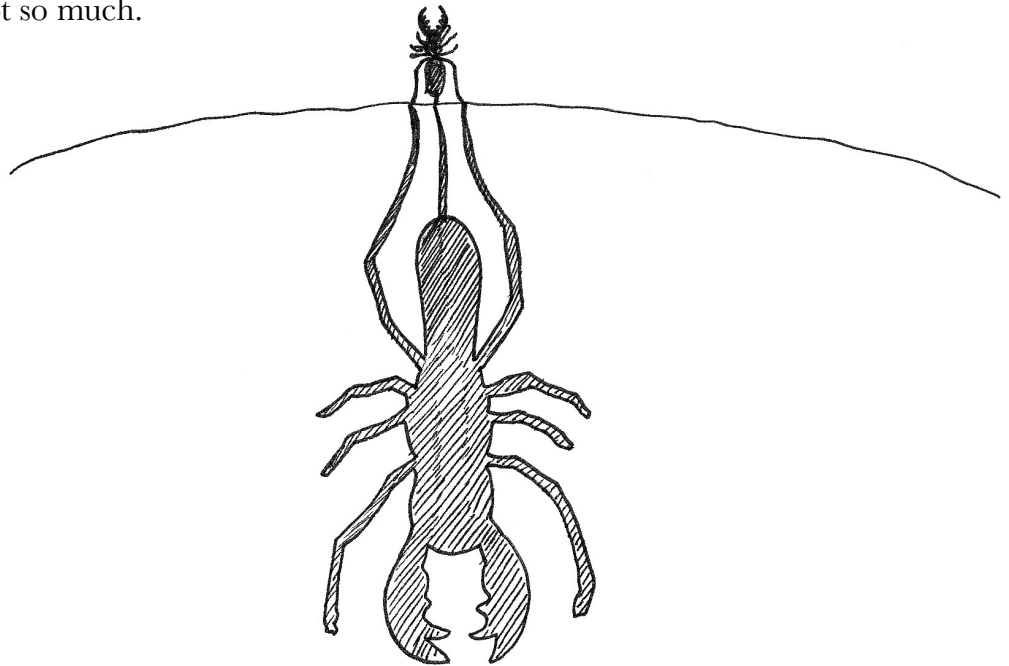
I hope this habit never spreads.
It's only fitting for buttheads.



V

Vinegarroon (vin-i-guh-ROON)

Some creatures like to cuddle and such.
Some animals are gentle to touch.
Some of them kiss you.
Some of them miss you.
But the vinegarroon? Not so much.



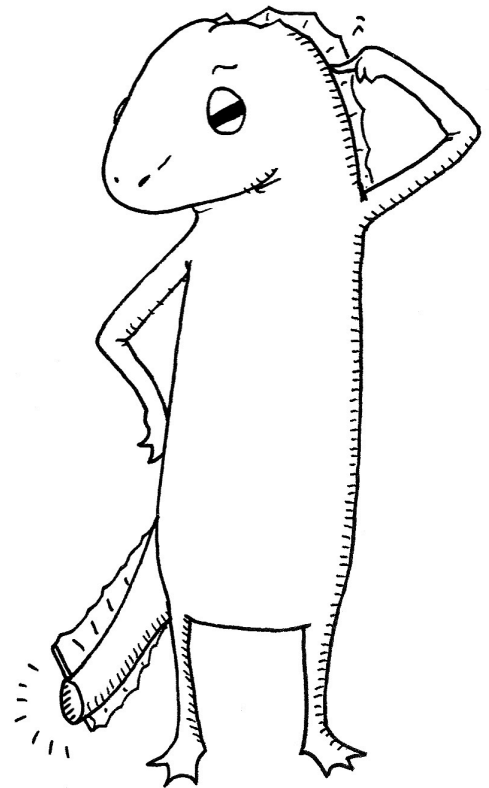
What a hoot I think it would be
to be a newt. Specifically
a warty one — they are so cute.
They also have this attribute
that when a body part gets lost,
bit off, misplaced, or maybe tossed
if they are scared or being chased —
that body part can be replaced!

Lose a tail? They grow a new one.
If legs come off they still can run
on three till they grow number four.
They try-try-tripod out the door.
If backbone-less, newts get re-spined.
They regrow eyes when they go blind.
They sprout new warts and call it good.
(I can't imagine why they would.)
And you might think that this sounds nuts,
but they can even grow new guts.

I wish sometimes I was a newt
on days my soul feels destitute.
And if I had to pick one part,
I would, like newts, regrow my heart.

W

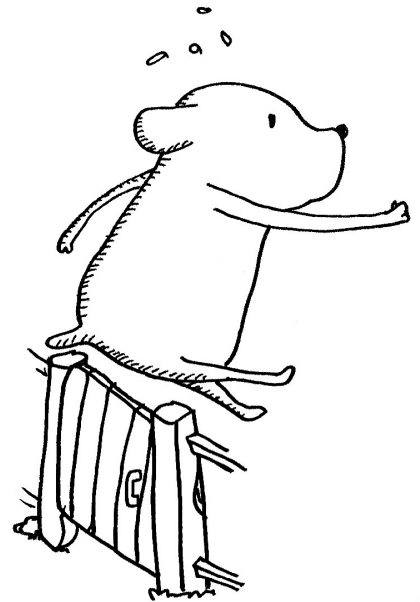
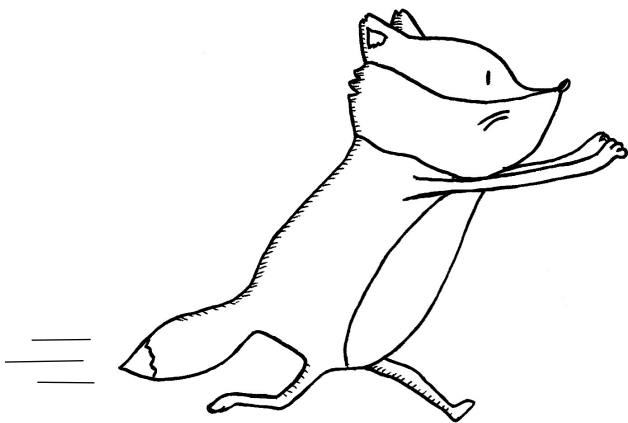
Warty Newt (WAHR-tee NOOT)

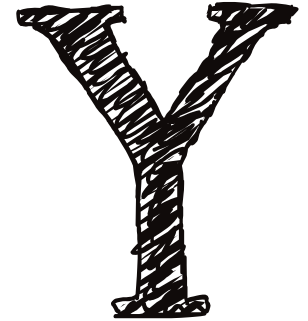
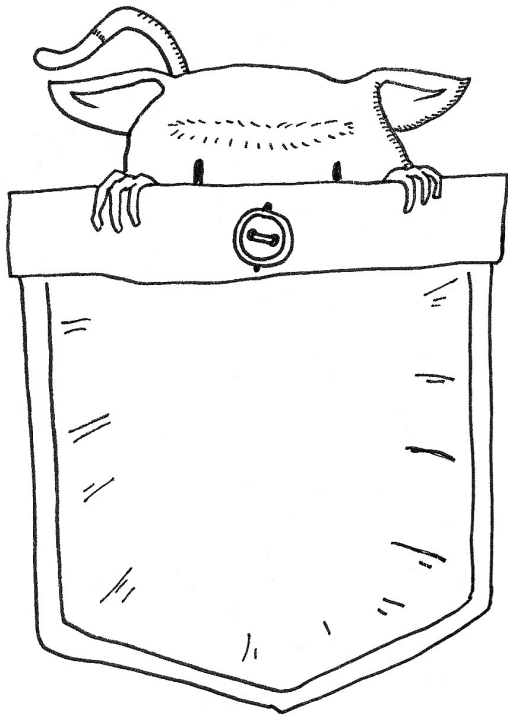


X

Xof (ZOF)

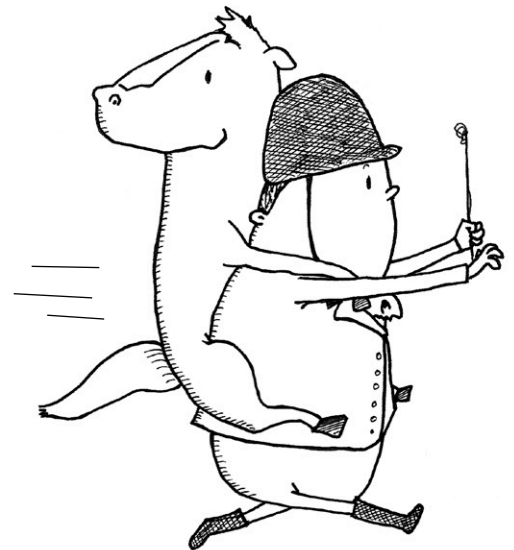
You should have seen it! You just missed the xof!
He sprang from his den and then sprinted off
to chase a terrified pack of hounds
yelling “foow,” “fra,” “krab,” and similar sounds.
The hounds chasing horses mounted on men.
The men shouting “!pleH” again and again.





Yapok (yuh-POK)

Rocks go in rockets.
Locks go in lockets.
Docks go in docketts.
Socks go in socketts.
And baby yapoks
go in yapocketts.



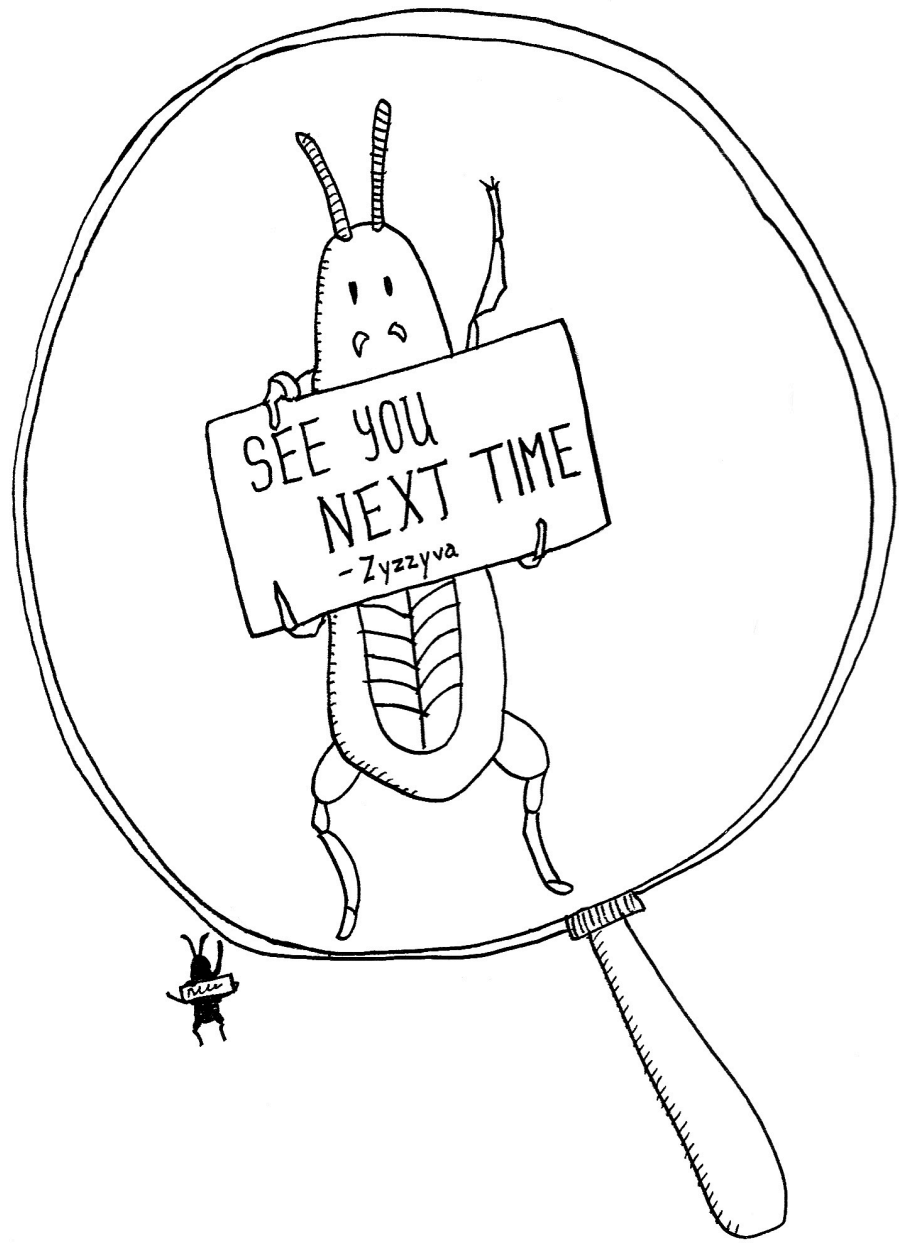


Zyzzzyva (ziz-a-WHA? ziz-a-HUH? Ohhhh, ZIZ-uh-vuh)

The zyzzzyva's a kind of beetle

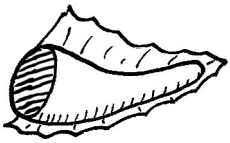
With TERRIBLE HORNS!
a FRIGHTENING SHELL!
TIGHTENING PINNACLES!
a HORRIBLE YELL!

He'd scare me if he weren't so leetle.

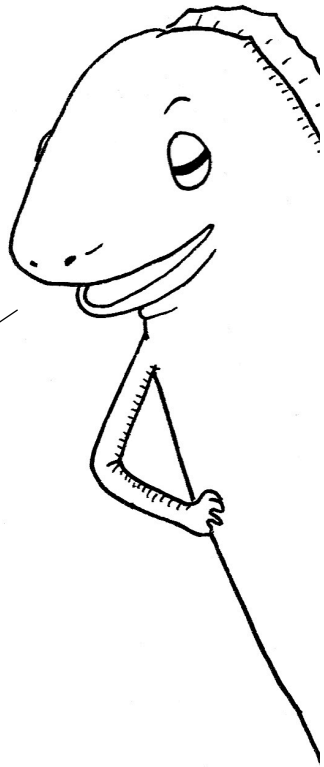


SEE YOU
NEXT TIME
- Zyzzyva





AH-HA!



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