An illustration of an okapi standing in tall green grass. The okapi has a reddish-brown body and legs with black and white horizontal stripes. Its head is white with a brown patch around the eye and a long, thin snout. The background is a plain, light green color.

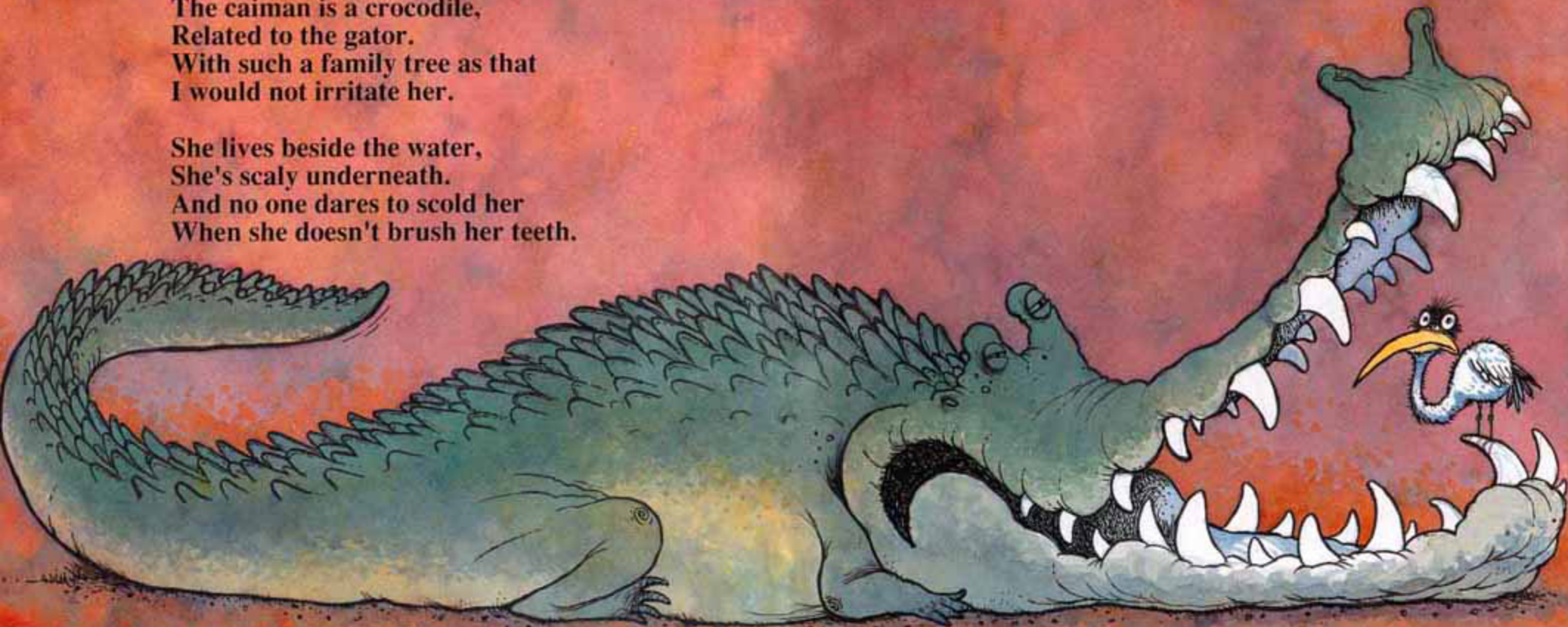
## The Okapi

The okapi seems self-conscious  
Here in his jungle patch;  
His legs look like a zebra's  
But his body doesn't match.

## The Caiman

The caiman is a crocodile,  
Related to the gator.  
With such a family tree as that  
I would not irritate her.

She lives beside the water,  
She's scaly underneath.  
And no one dares to scold her  
When she doesn't brush her teeth.



## The Numbat

A numbat is an animal with  
An interesting feature;  
It has more teeth than any  
Other zoologic creature.

And yet despite so many teeth,  
Its dining style is crude,  
For when the numbat sits to eat,  
It never chews its food.





## The Frilled Lizard of Australia

The frilled lizard walks about  
In the outback, puffing out.  
When attacked, he fills with air  
And warns intruders to beware.

Ballooning red and blue and yellow,  
He's a frightful looking fellow.  
With mouth agape, he puffs up quick  
And hisses, but it's just a trick.

He's really harmless, not so tough;  
His act is nothing but a bluff.  
Attackers back off in dismay,  
Then he turns and runs away.



## The Dik-Dik and the DoDo

The dik-dik and the dodo  
Went to their favorite spot.  
The dik-dik came back afterwards;  
The dodo still has not.



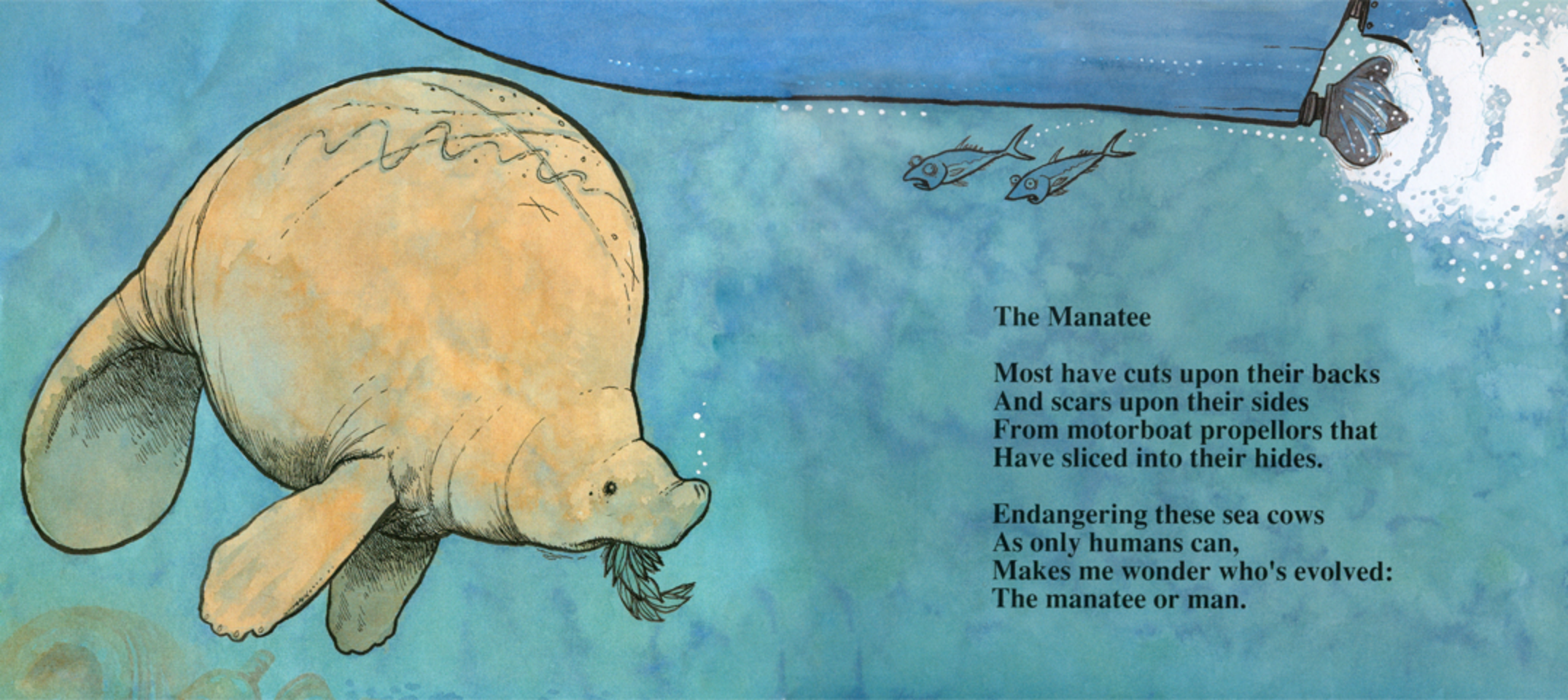
### The Goosefish

The goosefish swims beneath the sea;  
I hope it won't swim under me.

## The Proboscis Monkey

The proboscis monkey has a nose  
That's certainly endowed  
Proportionately larger than  
A nose should be allowed.



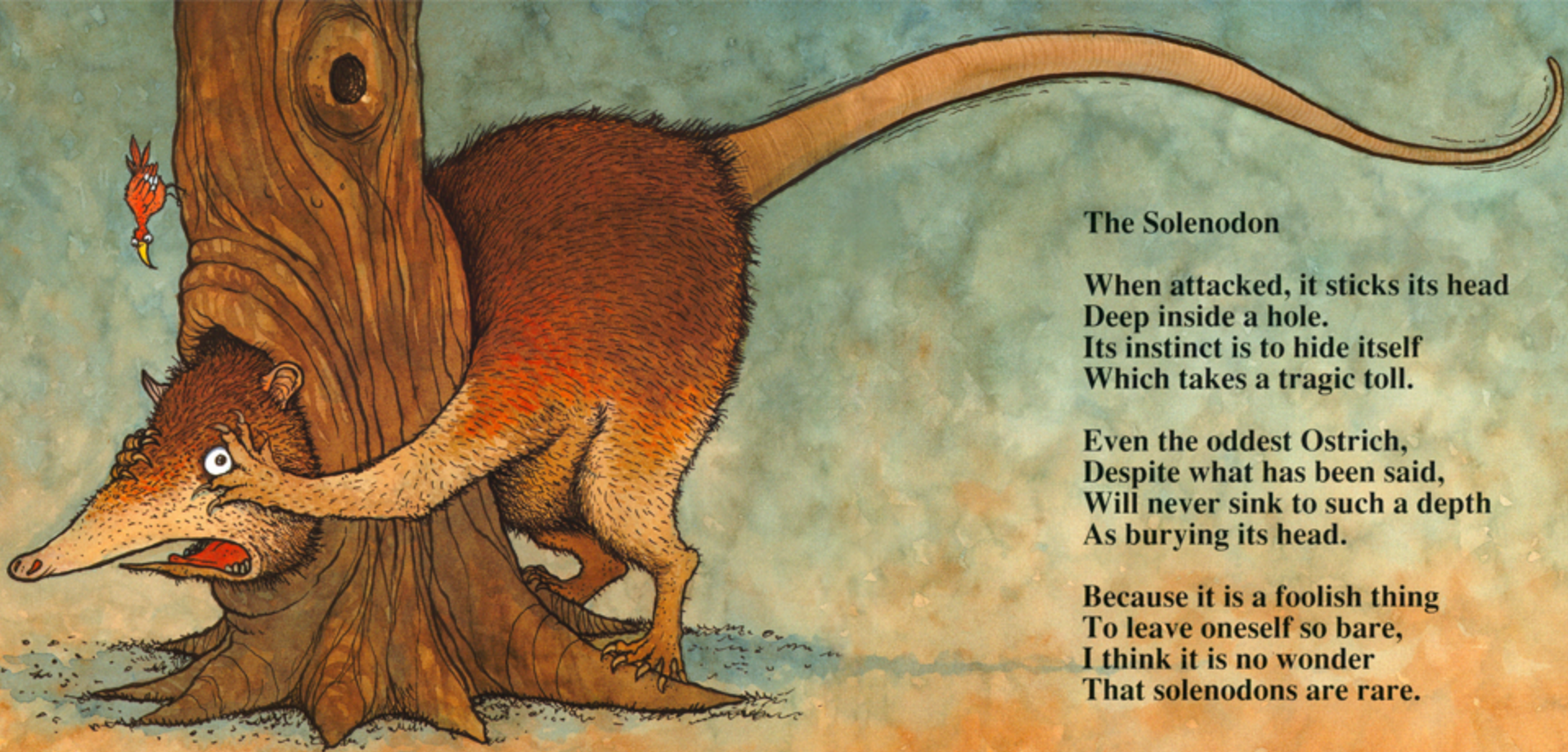


### The Manatee

Most have cuts upon their backs  
And scars upon their sides  
From motorboat propellers that  
Have sliced into their hides.

Endangering these sea cows  
As only humans can,  
Makes me wonder who's evolved:  
The manatee or man.





## The Solenodon

When attacked, it sticks its head  
Deep inside a hole.  
Its instinct is to hide itself  
Which takes a tragic toll.

Even the oddest Ostrich,  
Despite what has been said,  
Will never sink to such a depth  
As burying its head.

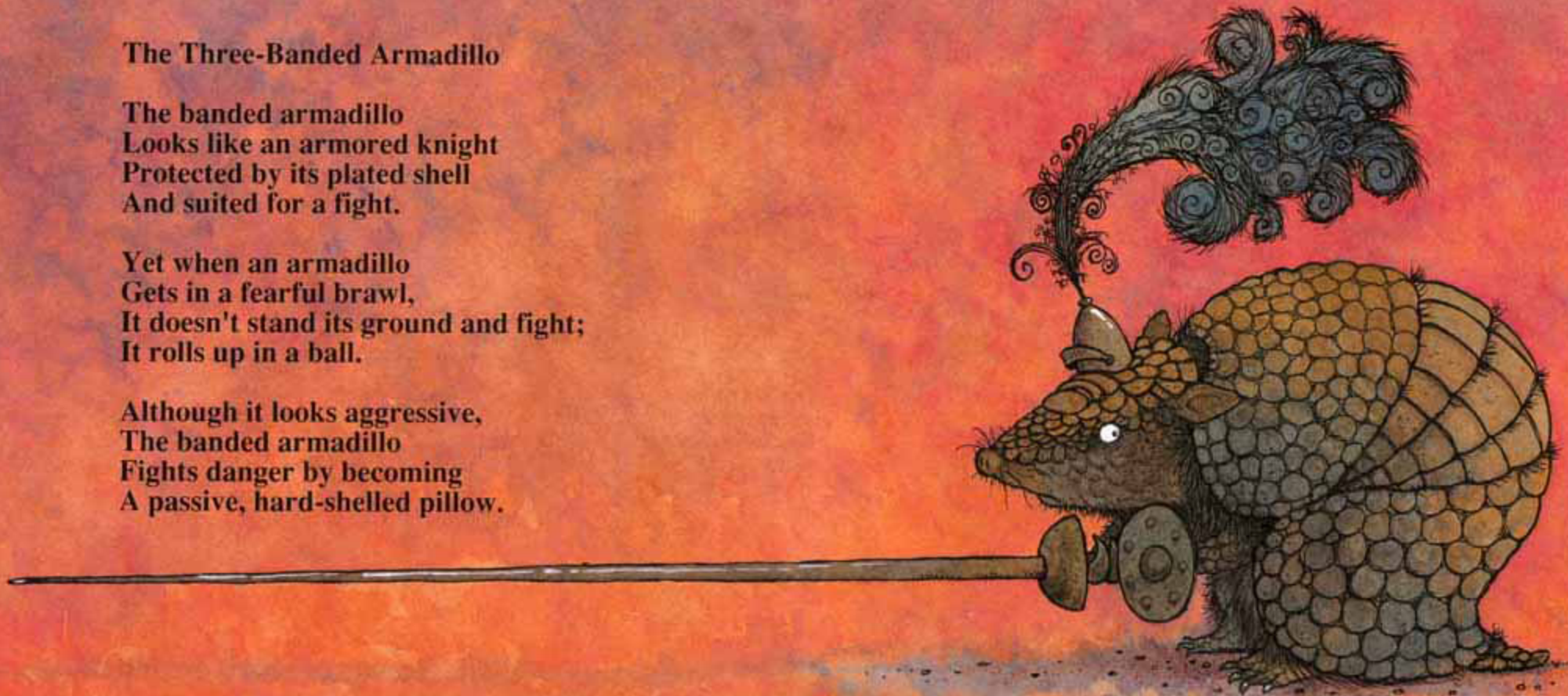
Because it is a foolish thing  
To leave oneself so bare,  
I think it is no wonder  
That solenodons are rare.

### The Three-Banded Armadillo

The banded armadillo  
Looks like an armored knight  
Protected by its plated shell  
And suited for a fight.

Yet when an armadillo  
Gets in a fearful brawl,  
It doesn't stand its ground and fight;  
It rolls up in a ball.

Although it looks aggressive,  
The banded armadillo  
Fights danger by becoming  
A passive, hard-shelled pillow.

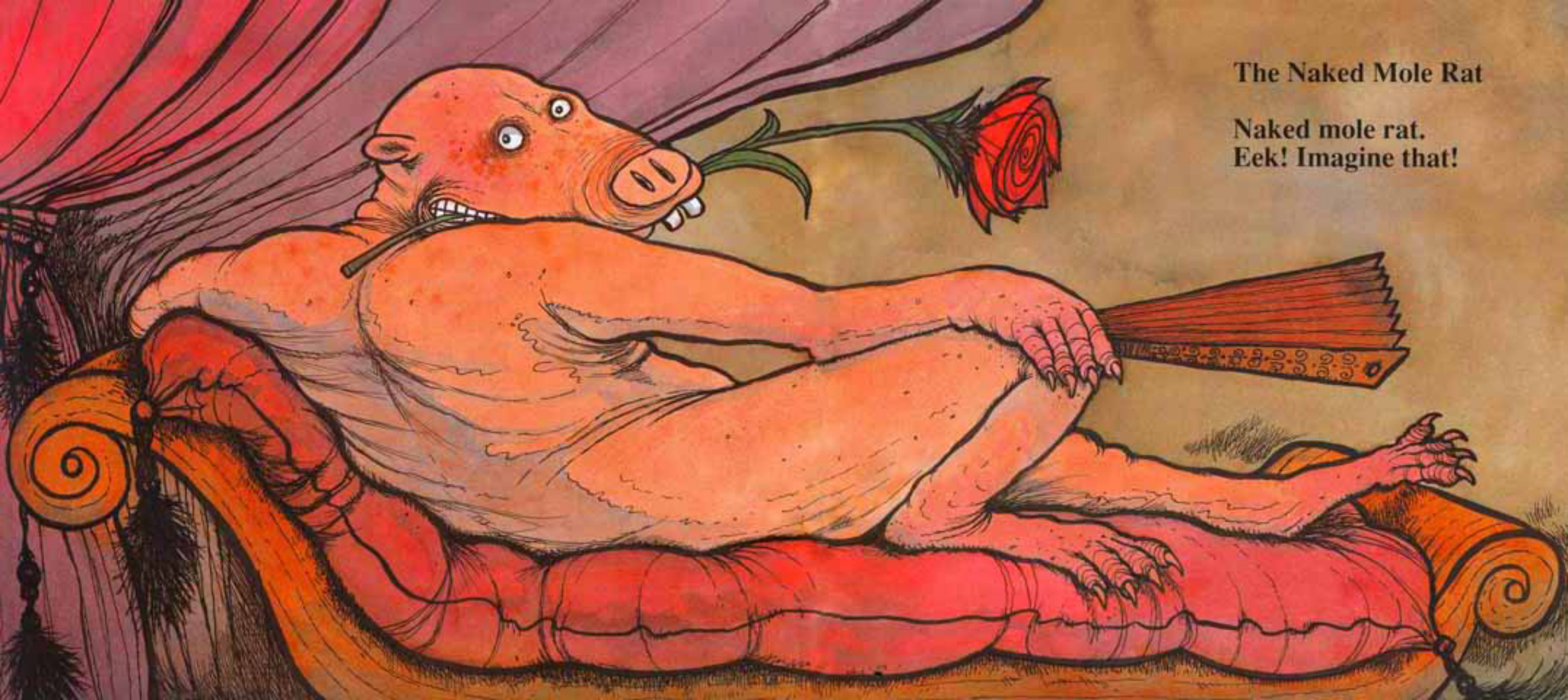


### The Warthog

Warthogs are not graceful,  
I state with much regret.  
They do not make good dancers.  
They cannot pirouette.

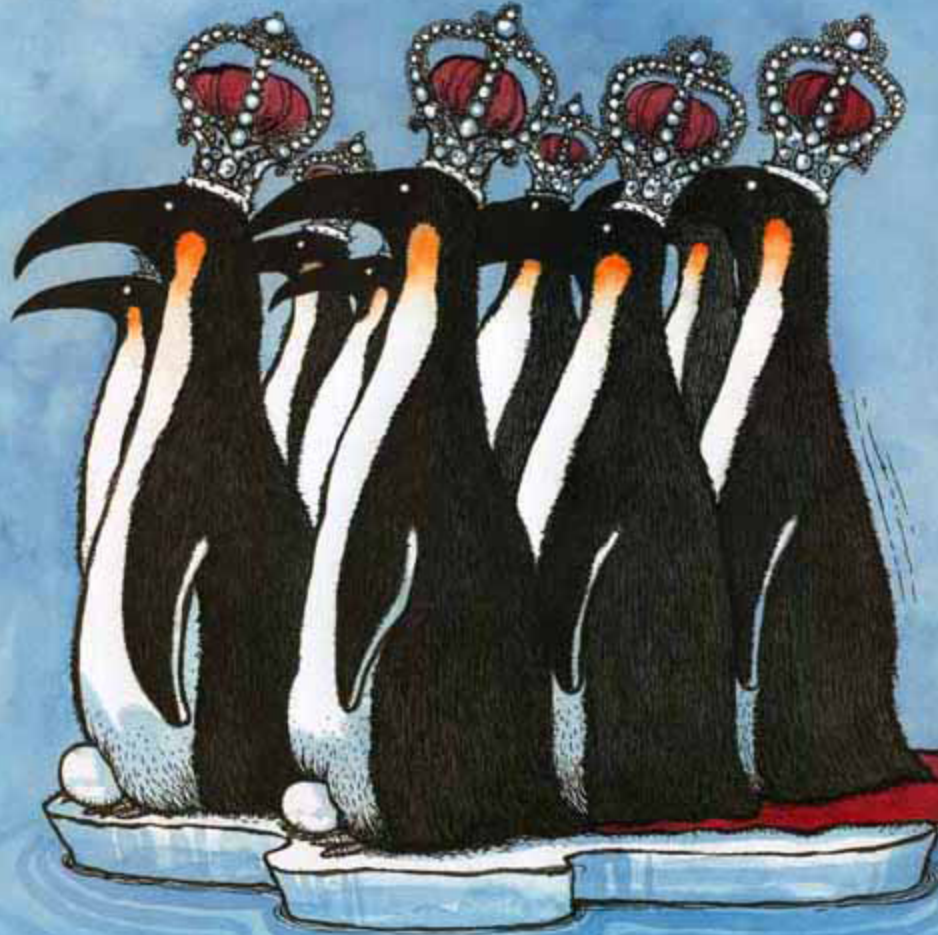
You'll never see one take a bow  
At some recital hall,  
And yet the other warthogs  
Still love them, warts and all.





The Naked Mole Rat

Naked mole rat.  
Eek! Imagine that!



## Emperor Penguins

Huddled close together  
Against the snow and sleet,  
Penguins at the Pole  
Pool their body heat.

They gather in a circle,  
Steadfast, disciplined,  
Turning toward the center,  
Fighting off the wind,

Sharing warmth and comfort  
On cold and icy floes,  
Balancing their future  
Gently, on their toes.

## The Yakow

A yakow is a creature  
That's half yak and half cow.  
I don't know which half is which  
Or if they'll moo or plow.

Does the yakow have a hump?  
Or just a bump upon its back?  
How can a cow be so endowed?  
Which part's cow? Which part's yak?





## The Zebu

Read a book on animals  
And surely you will find  
A picture of the zebra  
With stripes on its behind.

I wonder if the zebu,  
Who often is excluded,  
Ever feels depressed or sad  
When he is not included.

