

The Antics of
Carrot, the Ferret



Written & Illustrated by June Van Klaveren

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to
Paul Van Klaveren and Ken Harris who own
five ferrets and who are
always intrigued by their antics.

A Surprise for you!

Hidden within the pages of this book is a picture of a little carrot (the vegetable) for you to find.

When you find it, send an email to me telling me what page you found it on and

I'll return a SURPRISE by email. Here's my email address:

junevk@gmail.com

--June Van Klaveren, Author

Dan's Wish List

~~Dog~~
~~Fish~~
Ferret



My name is Dan and I got my wish,
not for a dog or even a fish.

A cute little ferret
was on my list.

This is his story,
not to be missed.

Tom?

Johnny?

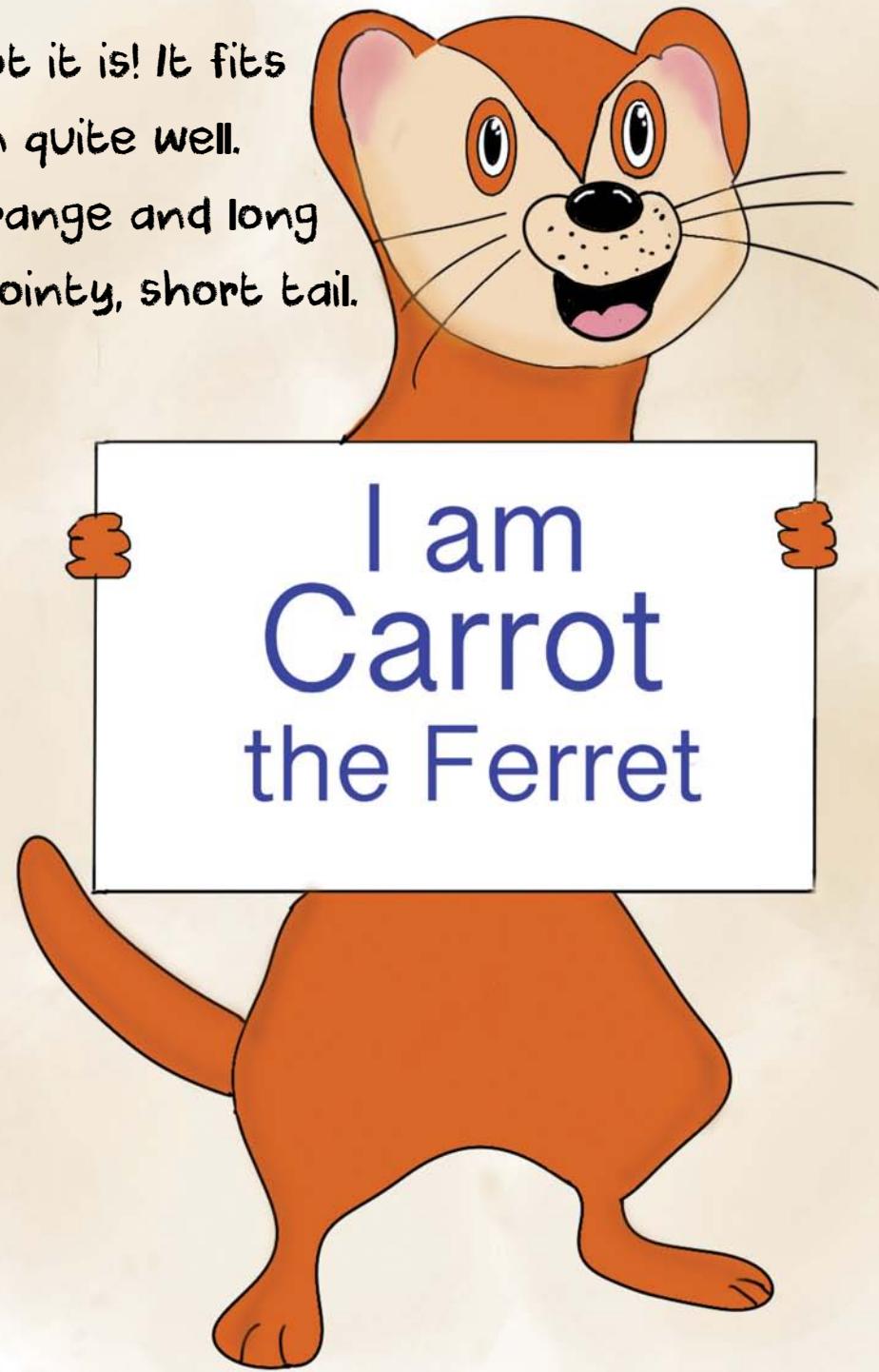


Harry?

Carrot?

What shall we name this cute, little ferret?
Maybe Tom or Harry or Johnny or Carrot?

Carrot it is! It fits
him quite well.
He's orange and long
with a pointy, short tail.



When he's around a child or adult,
laughter and smiles always result.



We thought he'd sit like our nice, quiet cat who cuddles and sleeps in our warm, soft laps.



But, boy, were we wrong! He isn't like that! He's ornery and funny and makes us all laugh.



He jumps and runs and looks up at us
as if to say, "What's all the fuss?"

Hiding things is his favorite game.
We call him Thief, his first nickname.

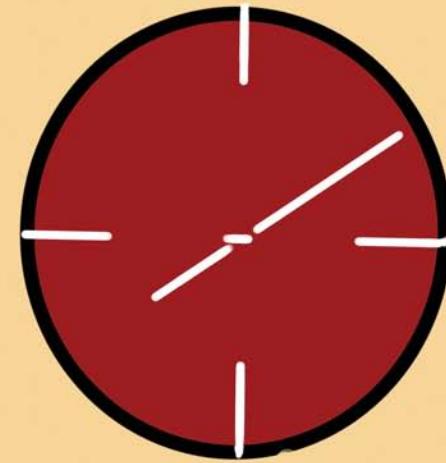


Dad's watch, my socks, the TV remote,
toy cars, blocks and my red toy boat.

He thought he had hidden them
where no one would look.

But Mom's vacuum revealed
all the things that he took.





One day when my Gramps
came to my house,
Carrot ran up his leg
like a goofy mouse.



AAAGGHH!



"Oh my!" Gramps yelled with a fearful shout.
"Carrot!" he cried, "You need to get OUT!"

Carrot is charmed by my dog's food bowl.
He scratches in it as if digging a hole.



UMPH!

The food flies out.
The dog is mad.
And Carrot just loves
all the fun that he's had.





One of Carrot's favorite tricks
is hiding behind the patio bricks.

He jumps out at Mom when she comes outdoors.
She screams in surprise, "DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE!"

He sniffs and he smells
for anything stinky.
Then he digs through the
trash with his short
little pinky.



Sniff!
Sniff!

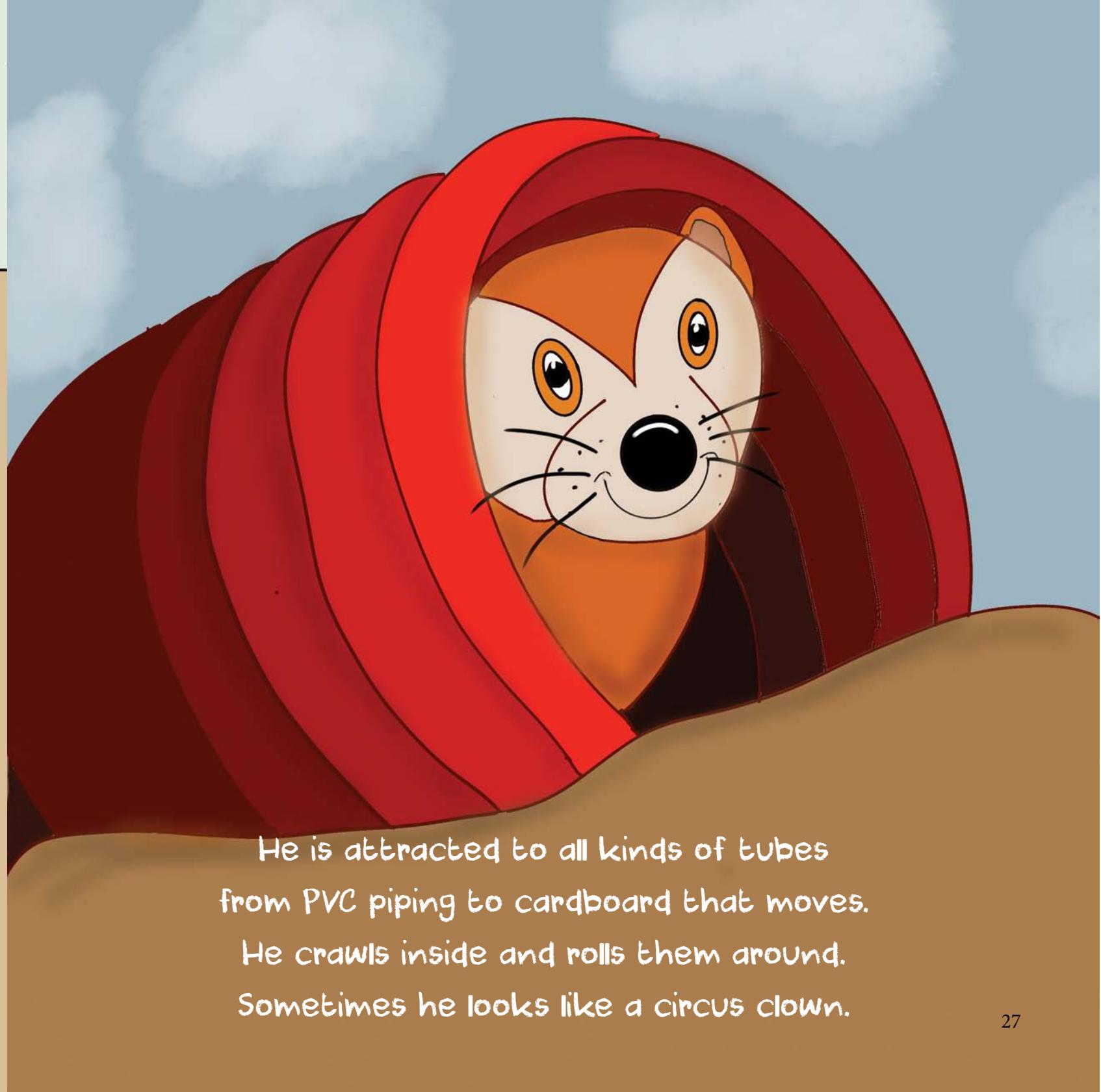
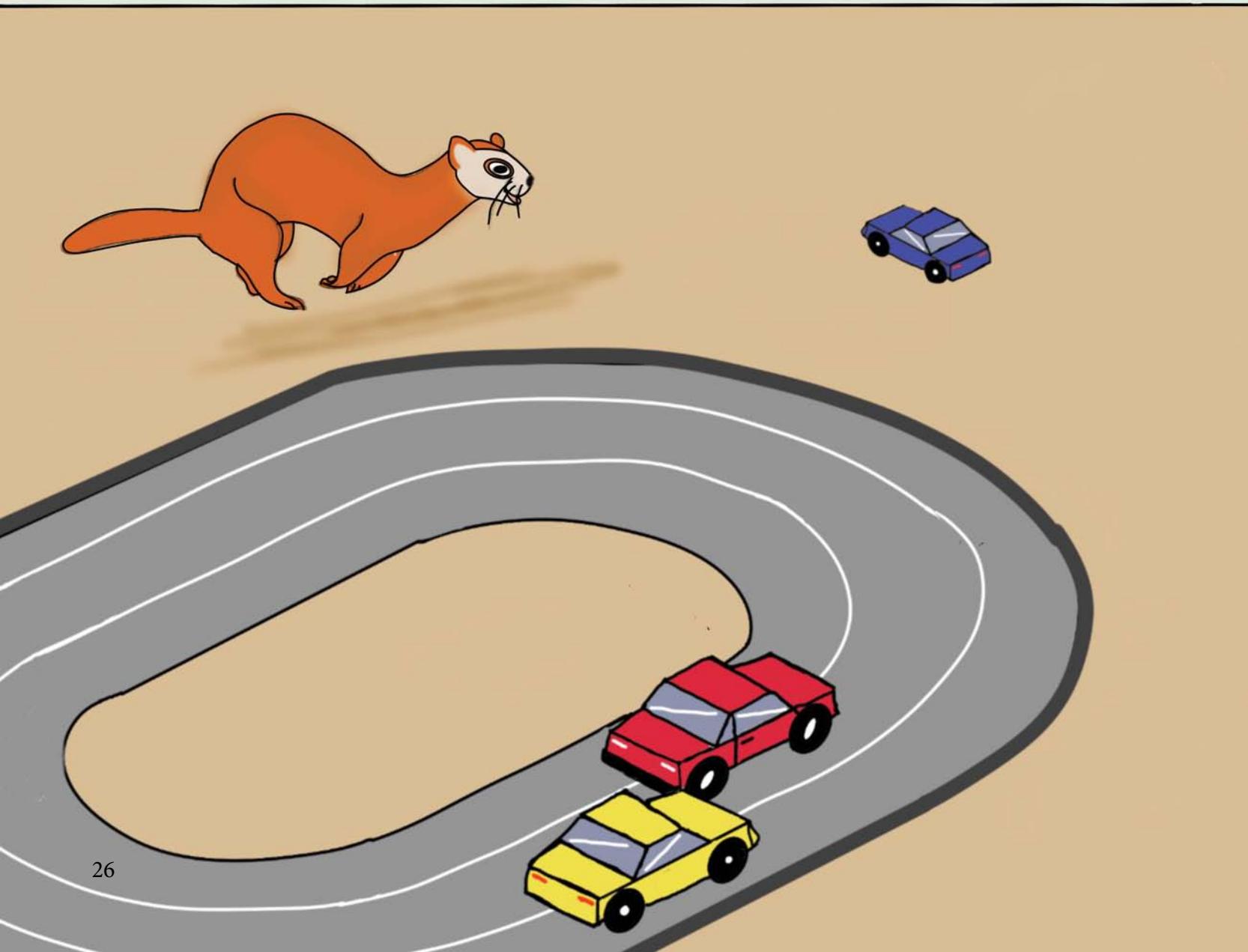
He finds boxes & bottles,
potatos and cones.
But the best find of all
is an old chicken bone!



YUM! YUM!

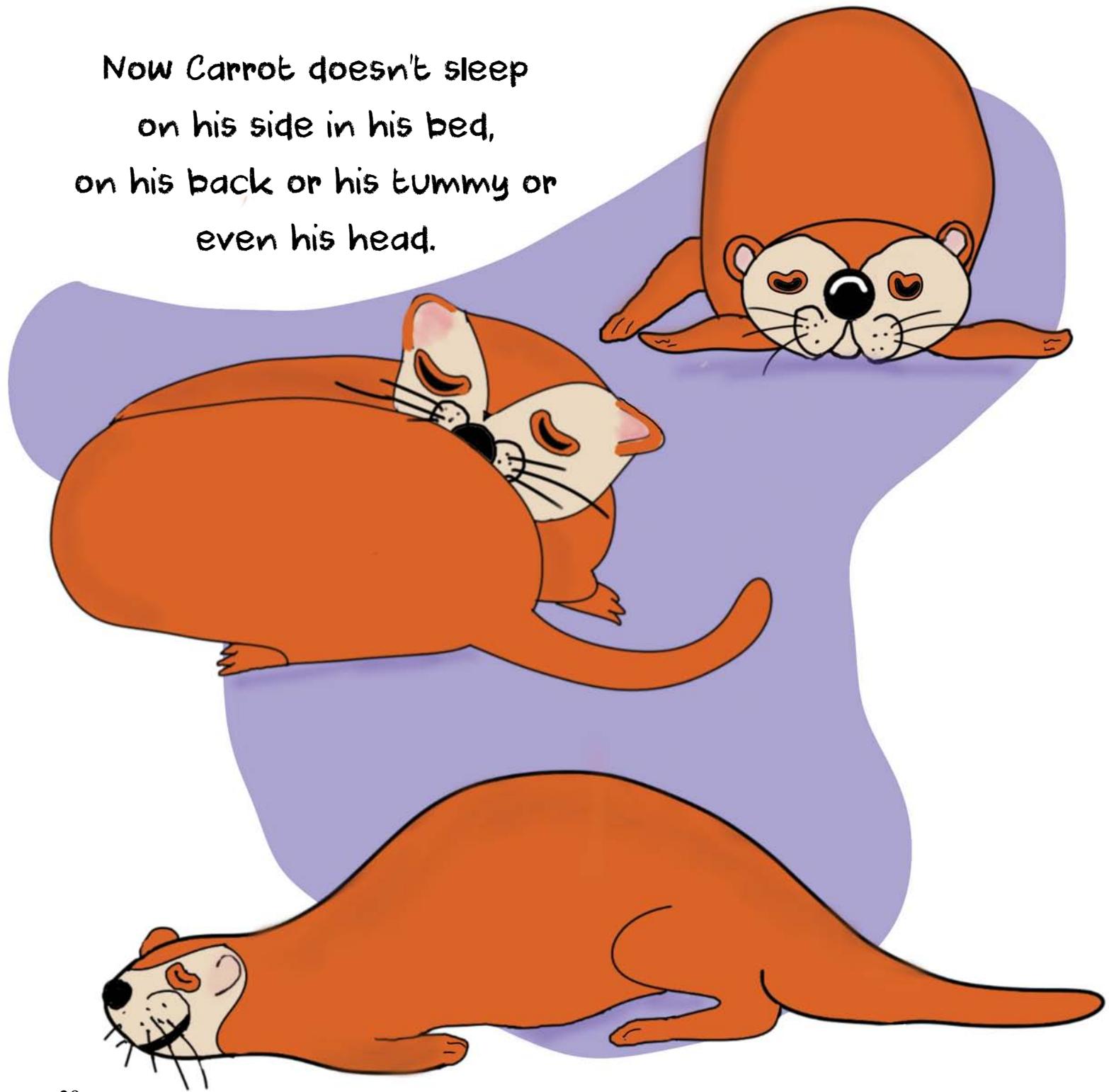


Toy cars and track are quite funny to him.
He chases the cars as they race round the rim.
When a car goes off track and starts rolling away,
Carrot chases it down like he's saving the day!

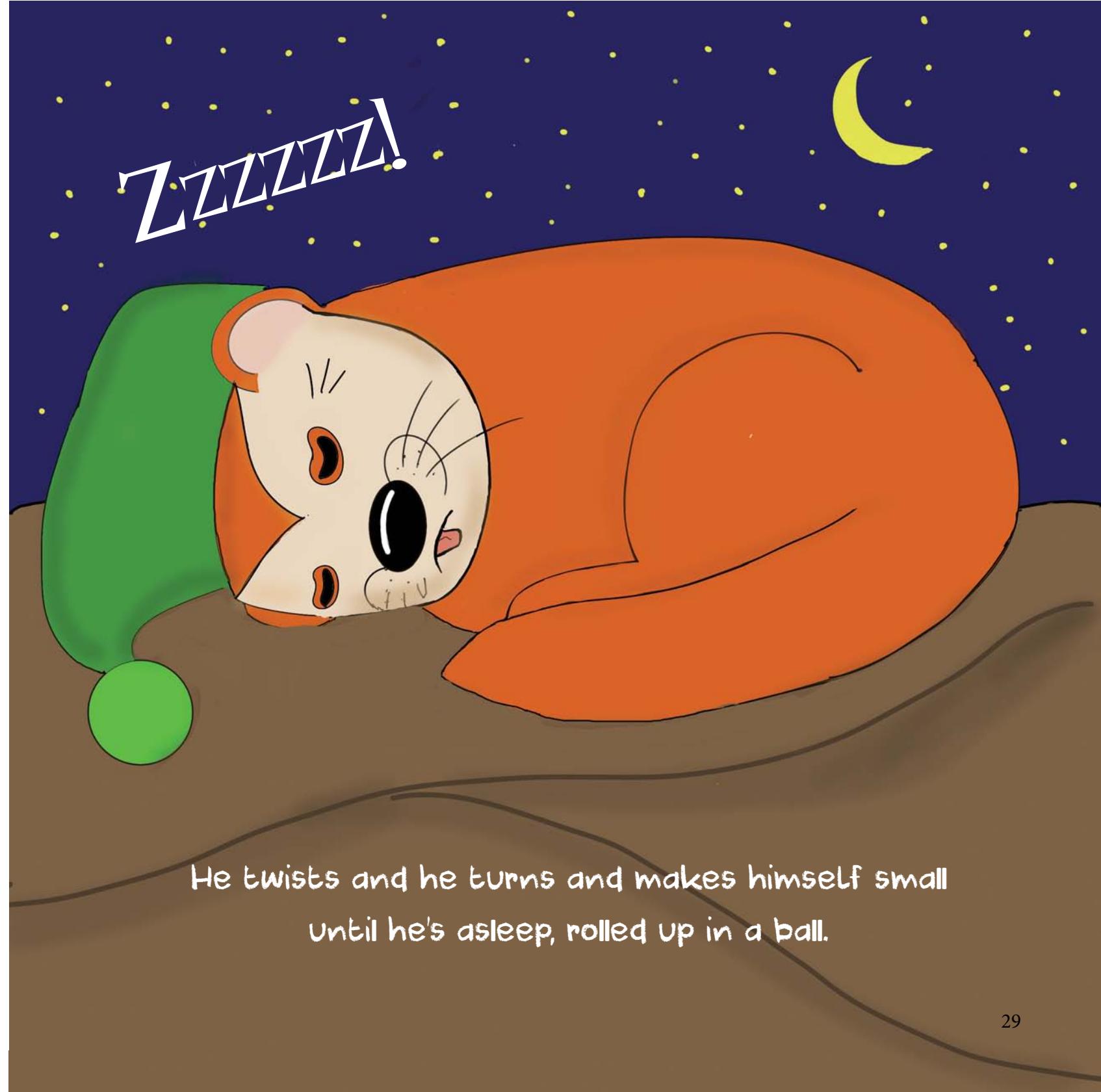


He is attracted to all kinds of tubes
from PVC piping to cardboard that moves.
He crawls inside and rolls them around.
Sometimes he looks like a circus clown.

Now Carrot doesn't sleep
on his side in his bed,
on his back or his tummy or
even his head.



ZZZZZZ!

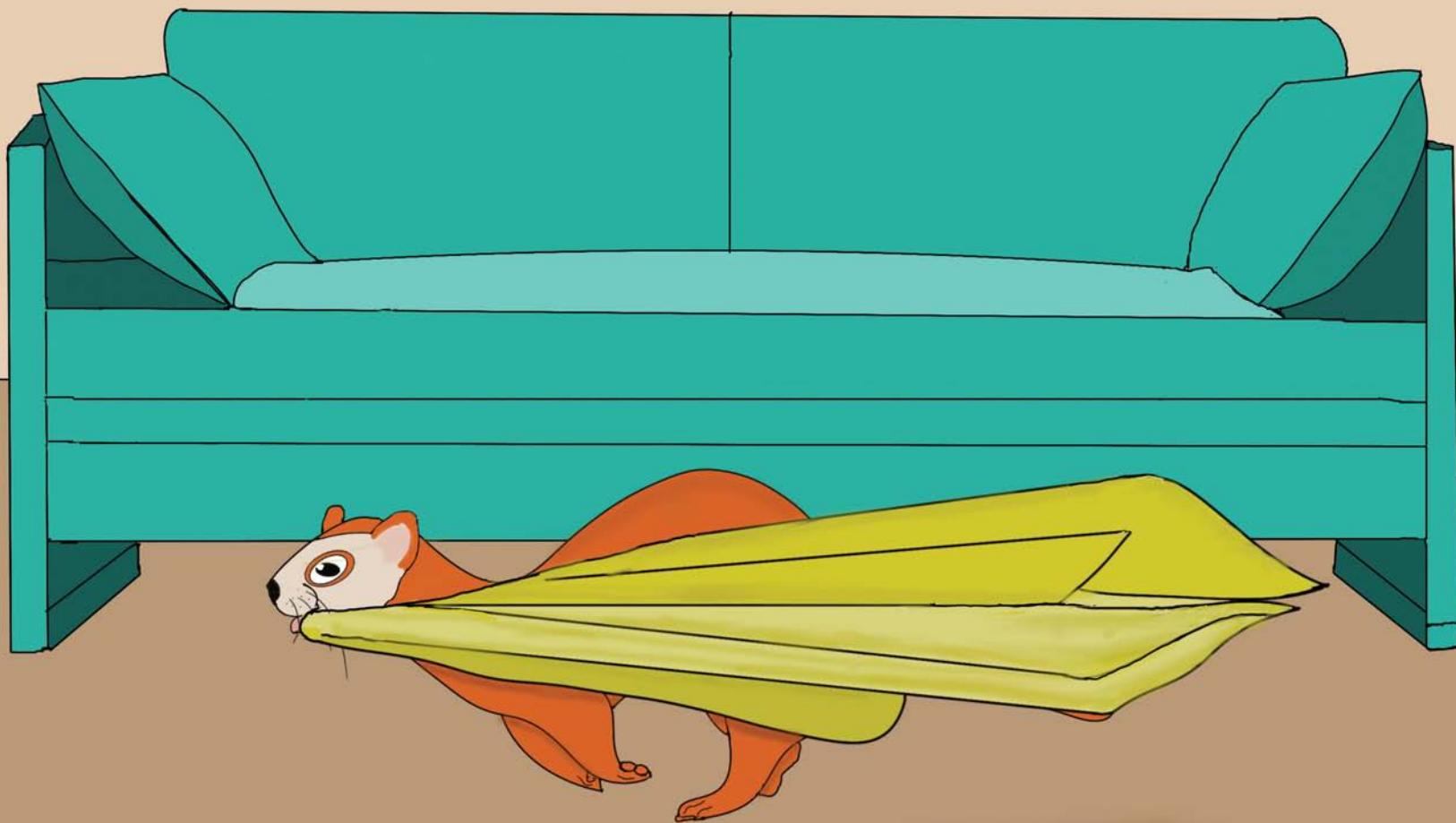


He twists and he turns and makes himself small
until he's asleep, rolled up in a ball.

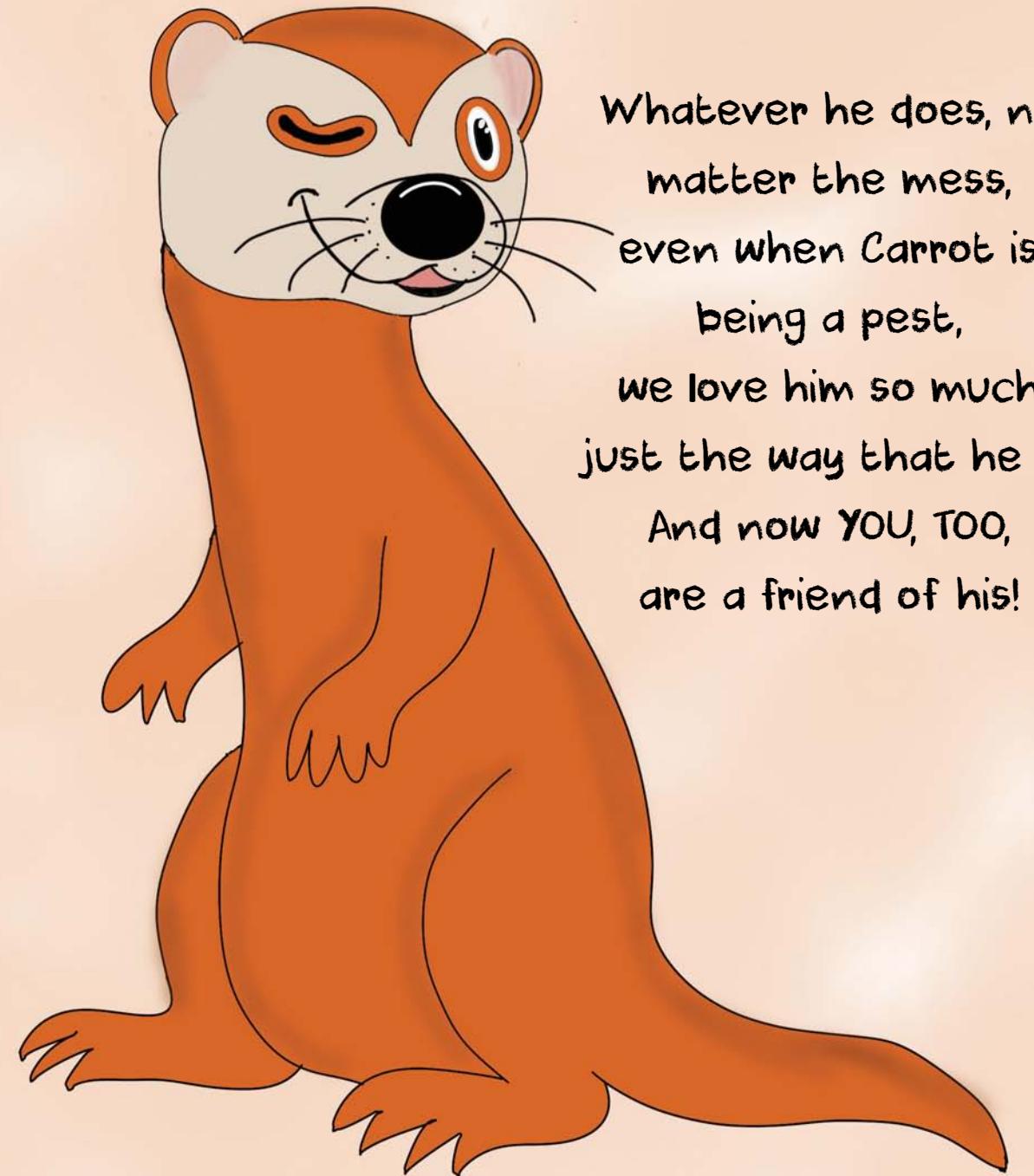
POOF!



I wouldn't exactly call Carrot aloof,
but when he's frightened, his body goes, "POOF!"
His head perks up, his tail explodes
and the hair on his back just seems to grow!



He loves to sleep through long, long nights
and snoozes way past morning light.
But when he awakes, it's "Look out world"
as he races around with his blanket unfurled.



Whatever he does, no
matter the mess,
even when Carrot is
being a pest,
we love him so much
just the way that he is.
And now YOU, TOO,
are a friend of his!



That's about all the antics there are from Carrot, the Ferret, this book's big star. We hope you learned a few fun facts about how Ferrets like Carrot can act!

10 Fascinating Ferret Facts

1. Historically, ferrets were used to hunt rabbits and rodents. Their lean bodies and curious nature make ferrets natural at getting down holes to chase rodents and rabbits out of burrows.
2. The name "ferret" is derived from the Latin word *furittus*, meaning "little thief."
3. A ferret's normal heart rate is 200 to 250 beats per minute.
4. The average lifespan of a domestic ferret is eight years.
5. Ferrets are most active at dawn and dusk.
6. A group of ferrets is a business. Baby ferrets are called kits.
7. All kits are born with white fur and are blind and deaf at birth.
8. Newborn ferrets can fit inside a teaspoon.
9. If a ferret's head can fit through an opening, so can their whole body!
10. While not as common as with dogs, ferrets will wag their tail when happy.

They will also make a chortling or clucking sound known as "dooking."

If you are thinking about getting a ferret as a pet, be sure to talk with an expert who can give you tips on how to care for your ferret.

The Author



June Van Klaveren has had a love of children's stories since her children were young so writing children's books has been a life-long goal. *The Antics of Carrot, the Ferret* is a humorous look at a funny little creature who enhances the fun of a family with his crazy antics. Ferrets are mischievous characters who will keep you laughing. My son had a ferret when he was small and now has five of them!

"With immense charm, clever rhymes and lively illustrations, The Antics of Carrot the Ferret delivers an engaging tale of a beloved but mischievous family pet. As an unexpected bonus, Van Klaveren includes fascinating scientific facts about ferrets and challenges young readers to find a hidden carrot. The book is sure to become a child's favorite and spur further exploration into ferrets."

-- Nancy Ahillen, Historical Fiction Author

"I love it!! Especially the vocabulary. And the rhyme. I taught preschool, elementary, and am a reading specialist, raised four kids, am helping raise 9 grandchildren and literacy has always been a way of life with us. When I used a book like this one, I would also pause and have them predict the rhyming word. This book is excellent for background knowledge, building vocabulary, and poetry forms."

--Jan Wallerich, Retired Reading Specialist

"Anyone with a pet ferret will enjoy this delightful book – and if you don't have a ferret, you may want one after reading it!"

--Lori Borger, Retired Teacher

"A wonderful book for young children! The colorful illustrations and easy rhyming make this book a delight to read. The facts at the end are an added bonus."

--Pam Slaten, Packaging Consultant