

Why hippos have no hair

Pourquoi les hippopotames  
n'ont pas de poils

 Basilio Gimo, David Ker

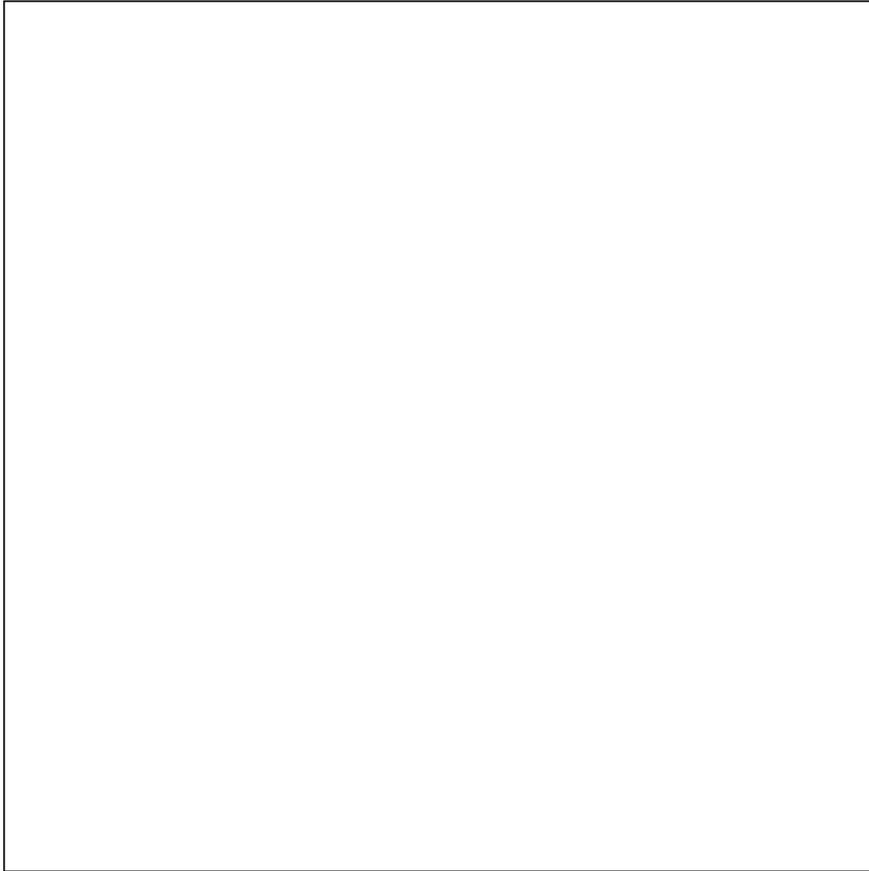
 Carol Liddiment

 English / French

 Level 2

(imageless edition)

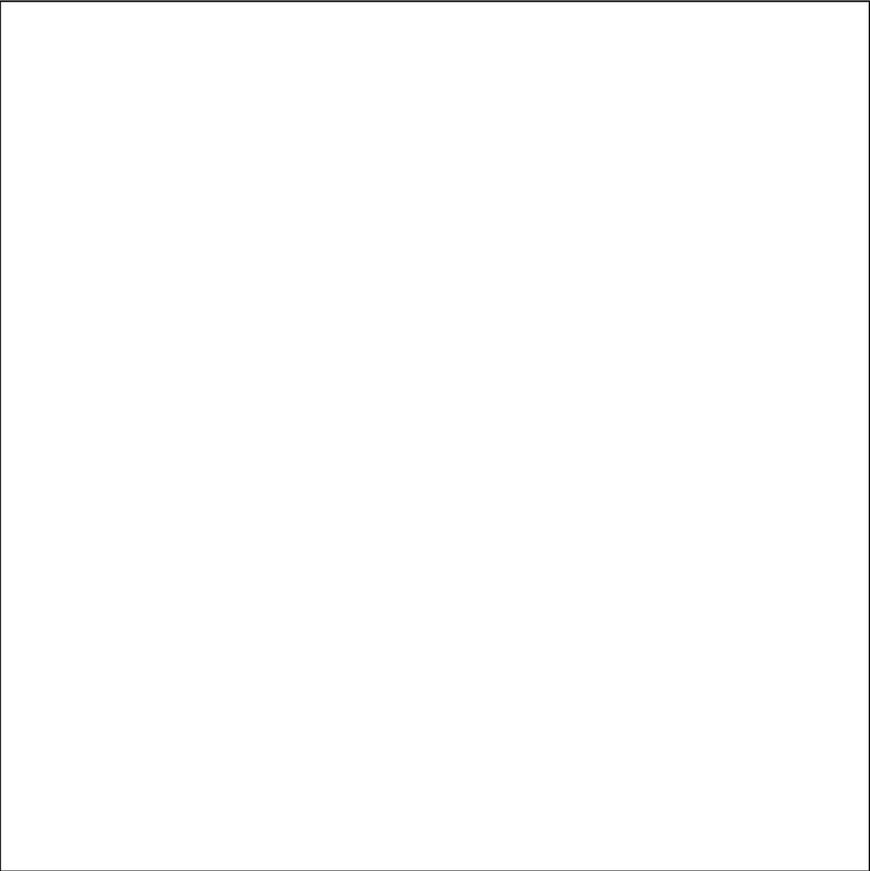




One day, Rabbit was walking by the riverside.

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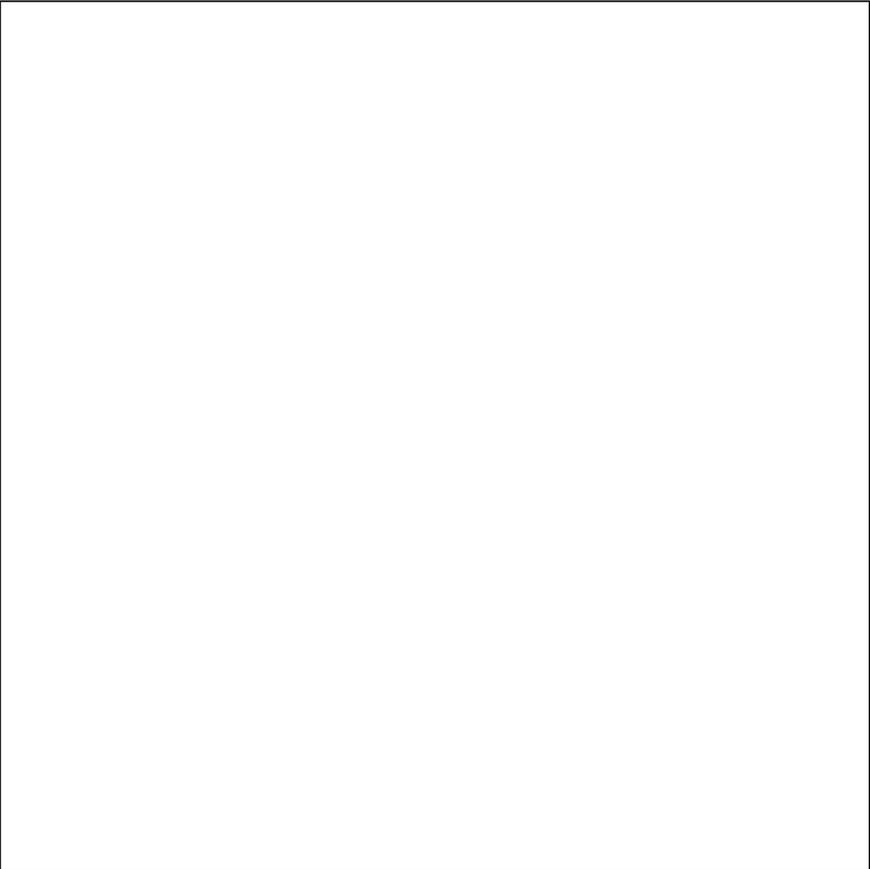
Un jour, Lapin marchait le long de la rivière.



Hippo was there too, going for a stroll and eating some nice green grass.

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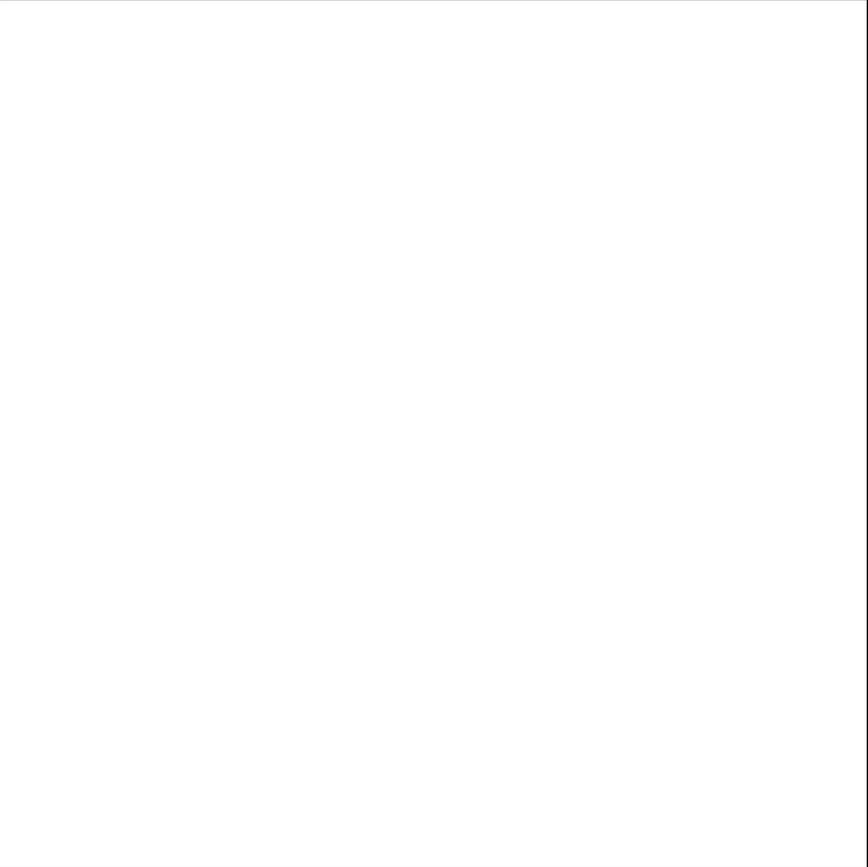
Hippo était là aussi pour se promener et manger de la bonne herbe verte.



Hippo didn't see that Rabbit was there and she accidentally stepped on Rabbit's foot. Rabbit started screaming at Hippo, "You Hippo! Can't you see that you're stepping on my foot?"

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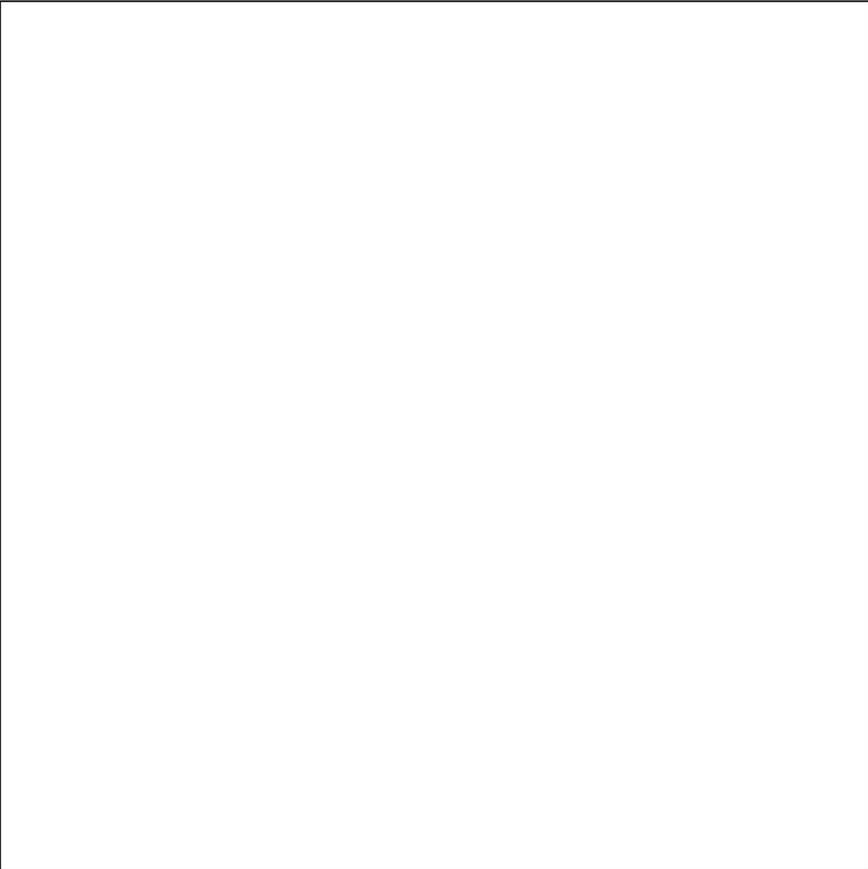
Hippo ne voyait pas que Lapin se trouvait là et elle piétina le pied de Lapin. Lapin cria et hurla « Hippo ! Tu vois que tu me piétines le pied ? »



Hippo apologised to Rabbit, “I’m so sorry. I didn’t see you. Please forgive me!” But Rabbit wouldn’t listen and he shouted at Hippo, “You did that on purpose! Someday, you’ll see! You’re going to pay!”

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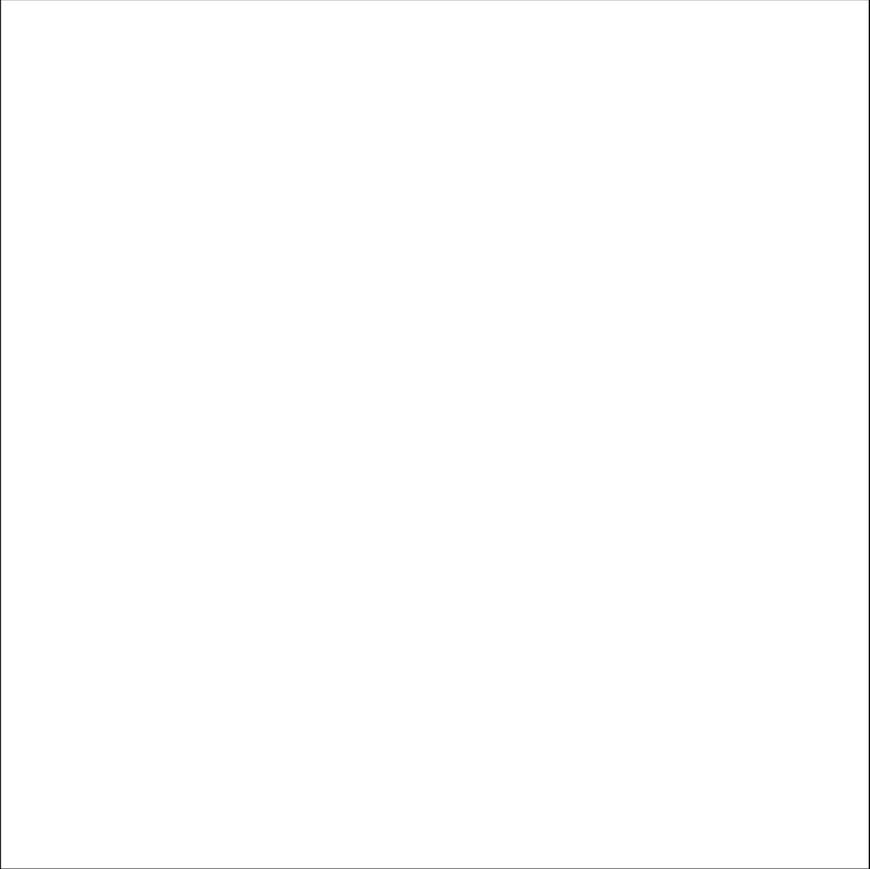
Hippo s’excusa à Lapin : « Je suis si désolé, mon ami. Je ne te voyais pas. Pardonne-moi, s’il-te-plaît ! » Mais Lapin n’écoutait pas et cria à Hippo : « Tu l’as fait exprès ! Un jour, tu verras ! Tu paieras pour ça ! »



Rabbit went to find Fire and said,  
“Go, burn Hippo when she comes  
out of the water to eat grass. She  
stepped on me!” Fire answered,  
“No problem, Rabbit, my friend. I’ll  
do just what you ask.”

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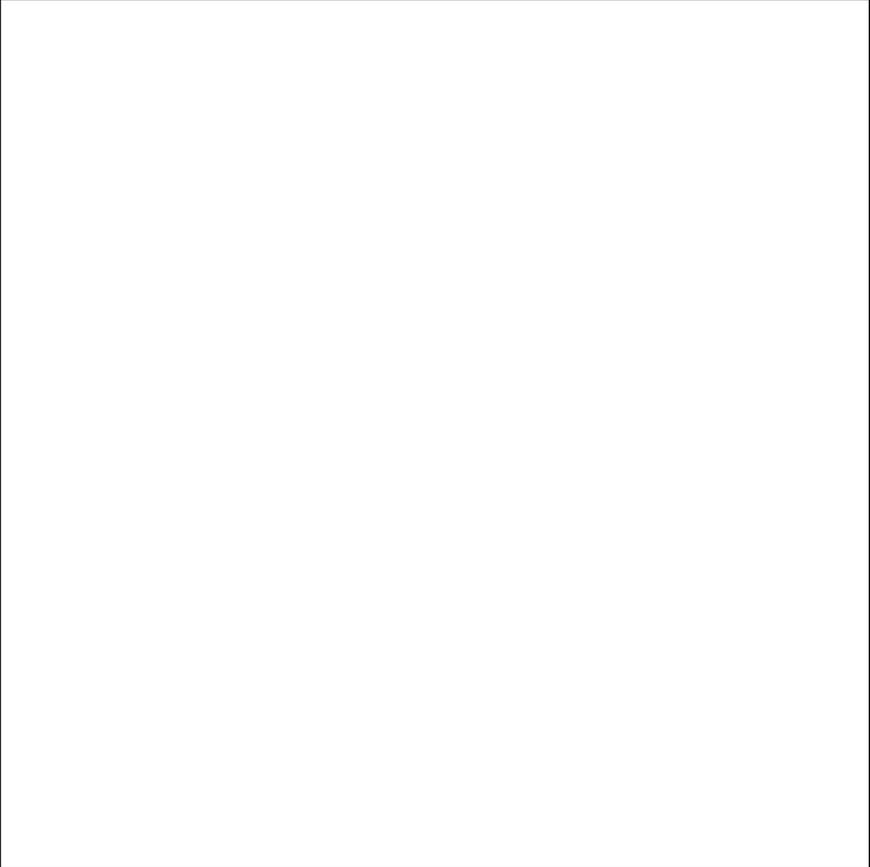
Puis Lapin partit chercher Feu et lui  
dit : « Va brûler Hippo quand elle  
sort de l’eau pour manger l’herbe.  
Elle m’a piétiné le pied ! » Feu  
répondit : « Pas de souci, Lapin,  
mon ami. Je ferai ce que tu as  
demandé. »



Later, Hippo was eating grass far from the river when, “Whoosh!” Fire burst into flame. The flames began to burn Hippo’s hair.

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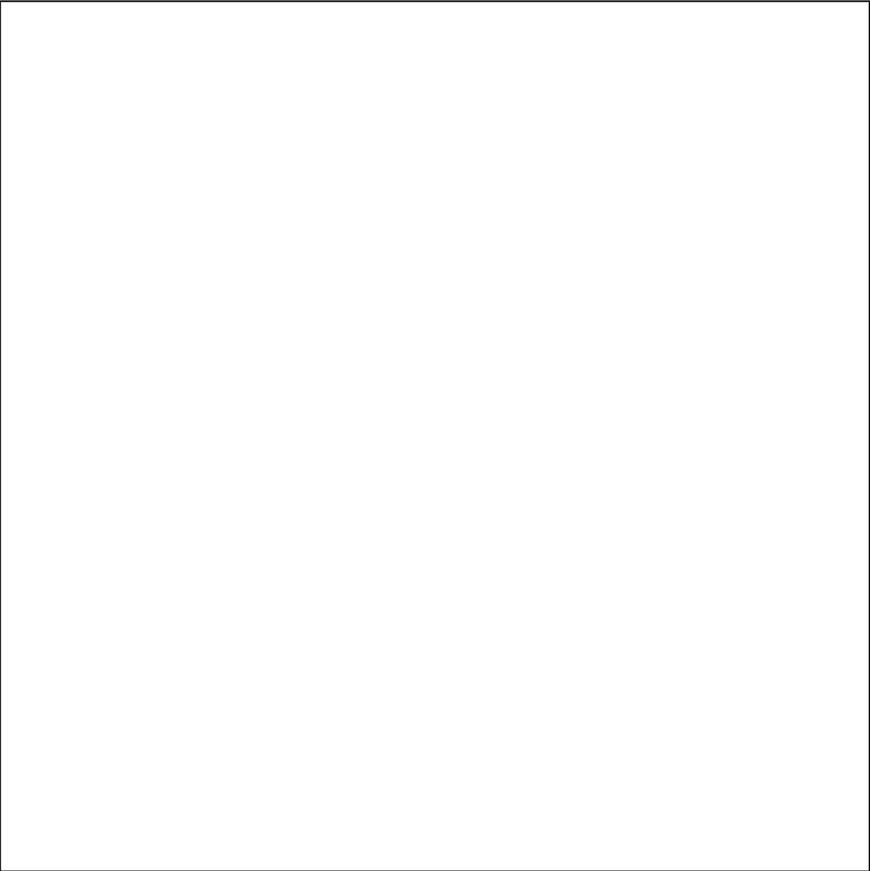
Plus tard, Hippo mangeait l’herbe loin de la rivière lorsque soudain « ZOUM ! » Feu s’enflamma. Les flammes commencèrent à brûler les poils de Hippo.



Hippo started to cry and ran for the water. All her hair was burned off by the fire. Hippo kept crying, "My hair has burned in the fire! My hair is all gone! My beautiful hair!"

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Hippo se mit à pleurer et se réfugia à l'eau. Le feu avait brûlé tous ses cheveux. Hippo continua à pleurer : « Mes poils ont brûlé. Tu as brûlé tous mes poils ! Mes poils ont disparu ! Mes si beaux poils ! »



Rabbit was happy that Hippo's hair was burned. And to this day, for fear of fire, the hippo never goes far from the water.

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Lapin était content que les cheveux de Hippo étaient brûlés. Et à ce jour, de crainte du feu, les hippopotames ne s'éloignent jamais de l'eau.



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This story originates from the African Storybook ([africanstorybook.org](http://africanstorybook.org)) and is brought to you by [Storybooks Canada](http://Storybooks Canada) in an effort to provide children's stories in Canada's many languages.



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