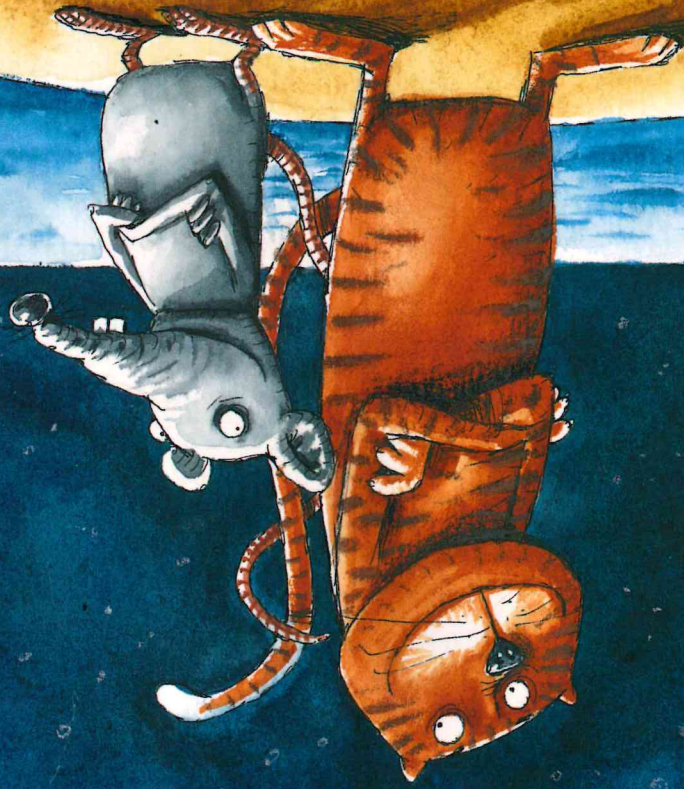


Geraldine McCaughrean  
Klaas Verplancke



# Cat and Rat Fall Out



*for Maggie Smiler*

**Series Adviser: Shirley Bickler**



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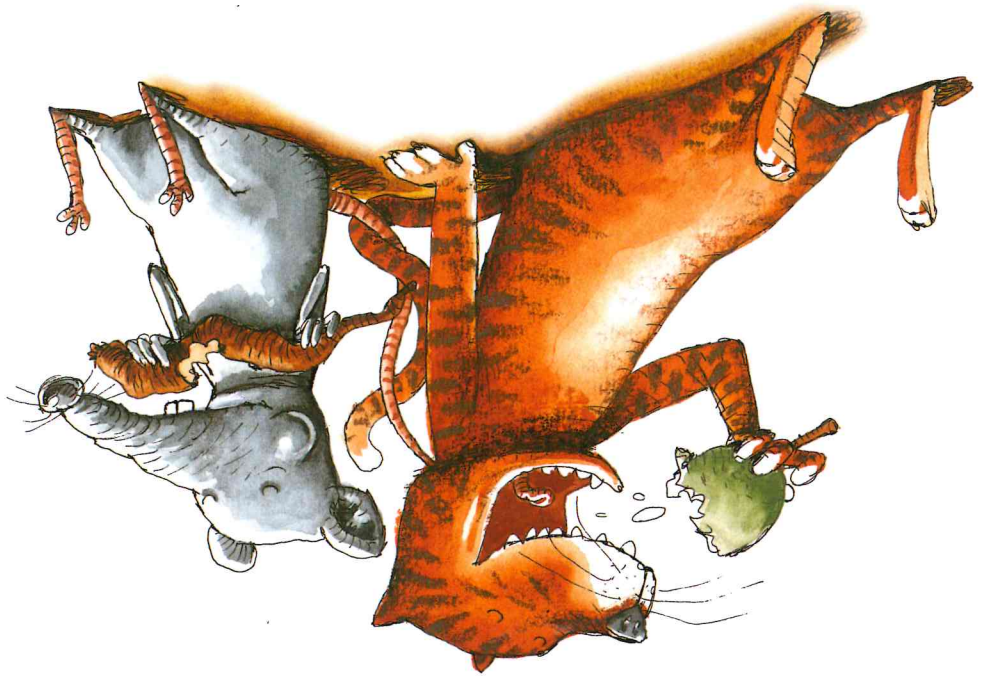
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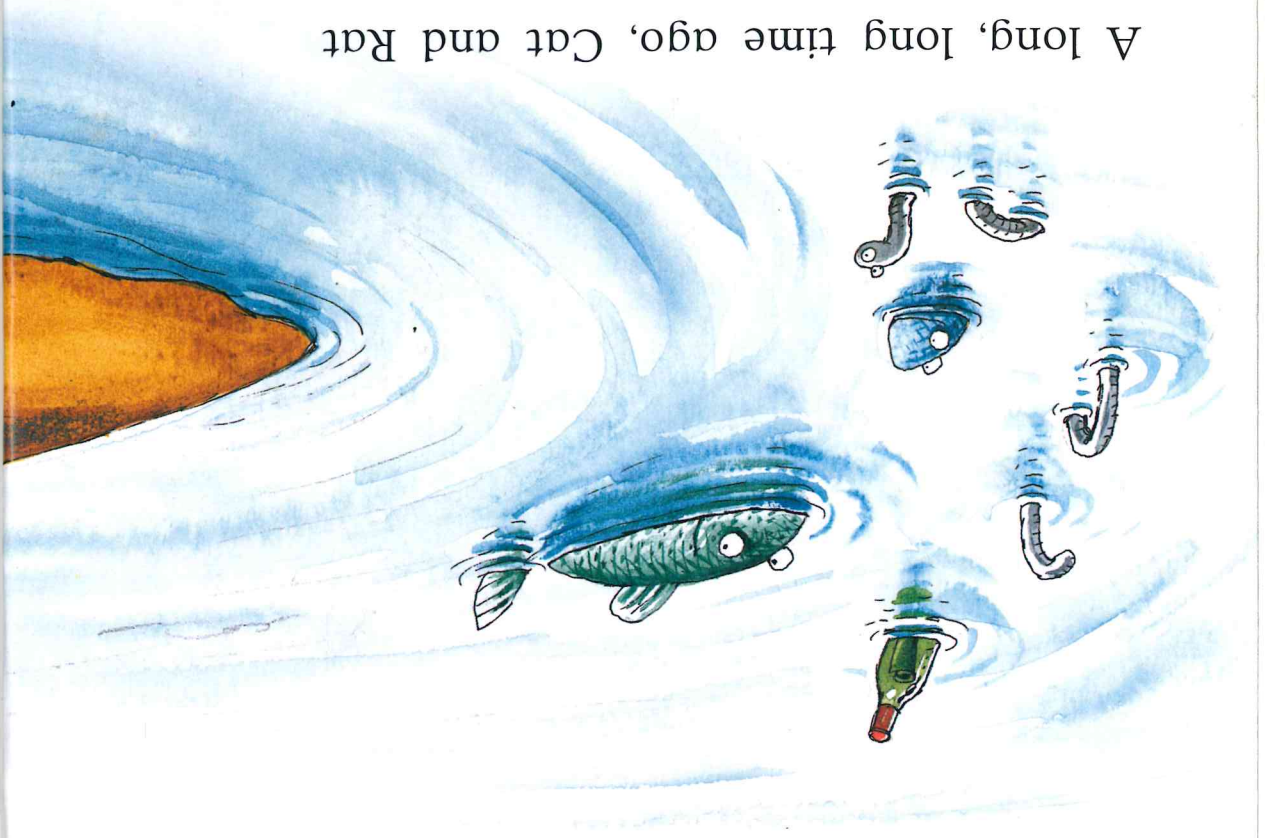
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Written by Geraldine McCaughrean  
Illustrated by Klaas Verplancke

# Cat and Rat Fall Out



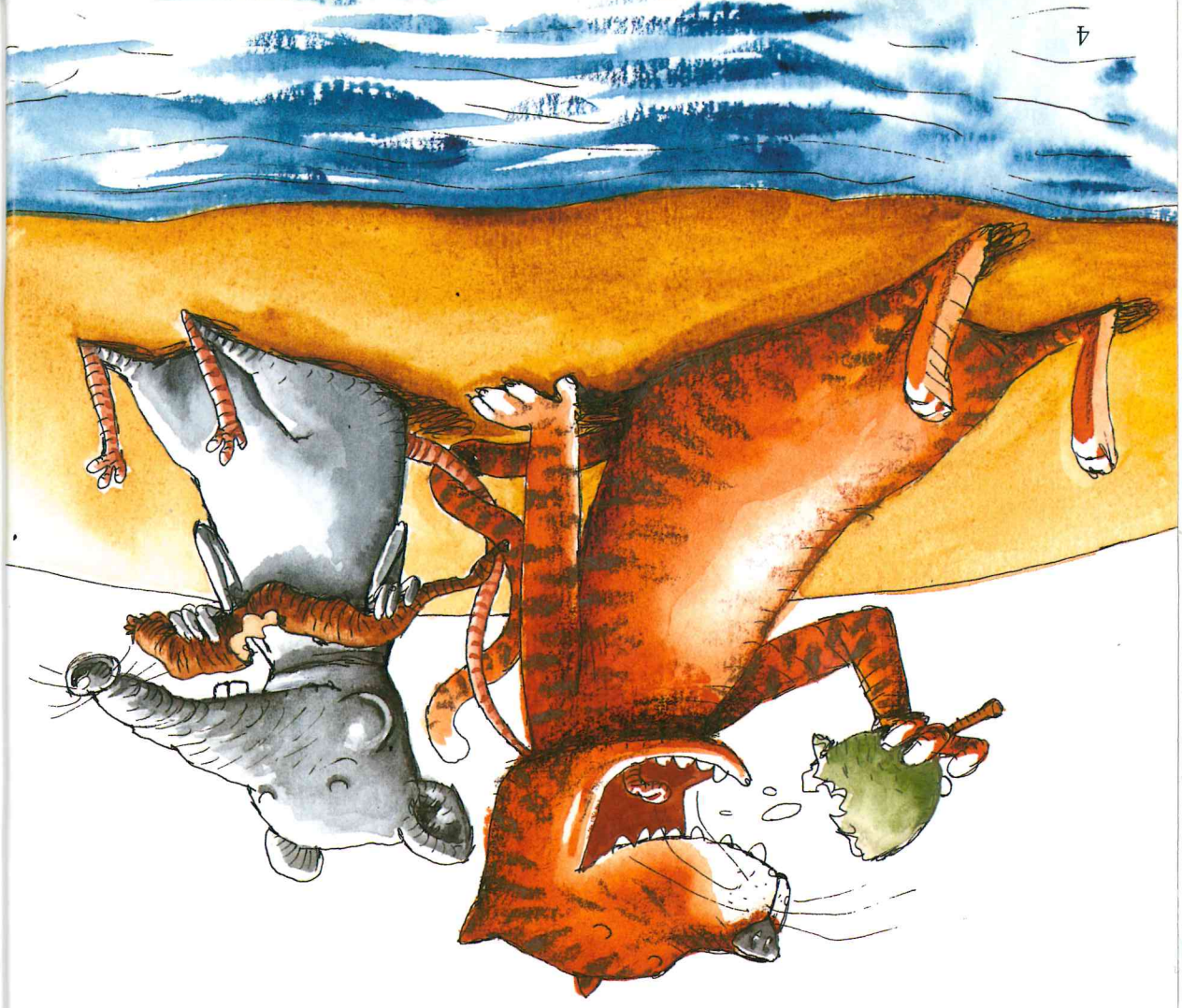
A long, long time ago, Cat and Rat were great friends. They had to be friends, because they lived all alone on a little island. They stayed on the island because the sea lay all around, and Cat and Rat did not like to get wet.



This is a story from Africa. It tells us why cats and rats are not the best of friends...

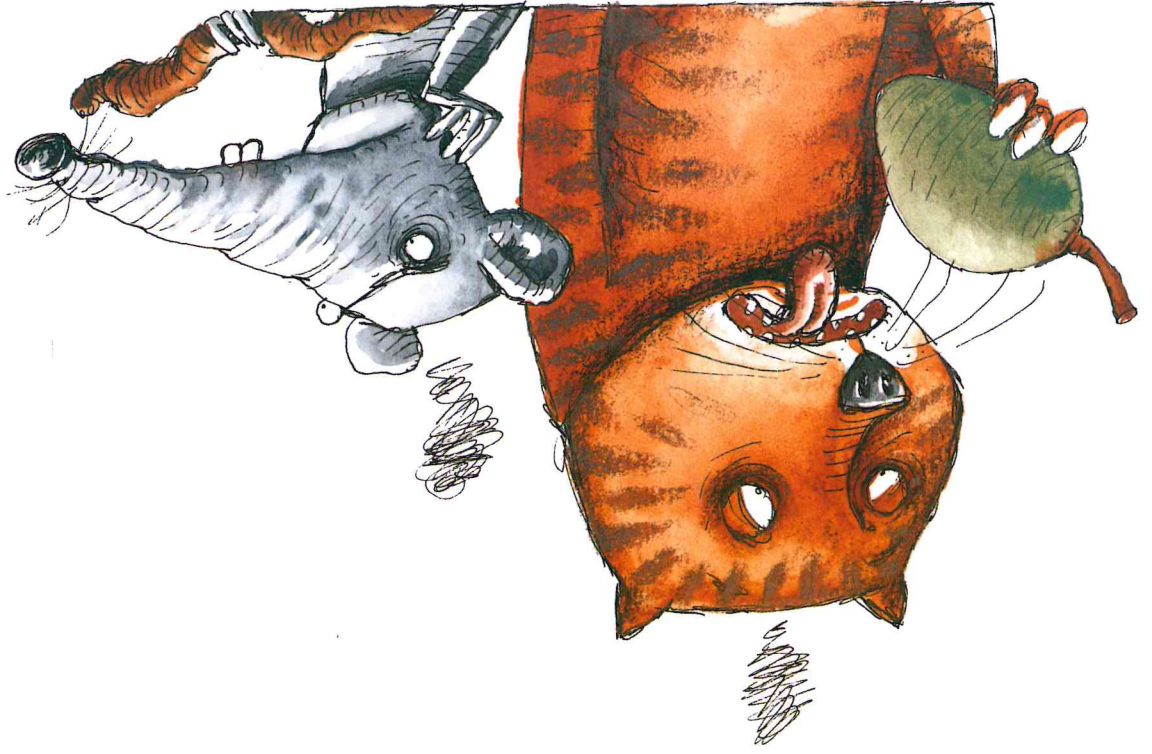
In the middle of the island  
stood a big tree. Each day, Cat climbed up  
and ate the fruit on the tree. Each day, Rat  
dug down and gnawed the root of the tree.

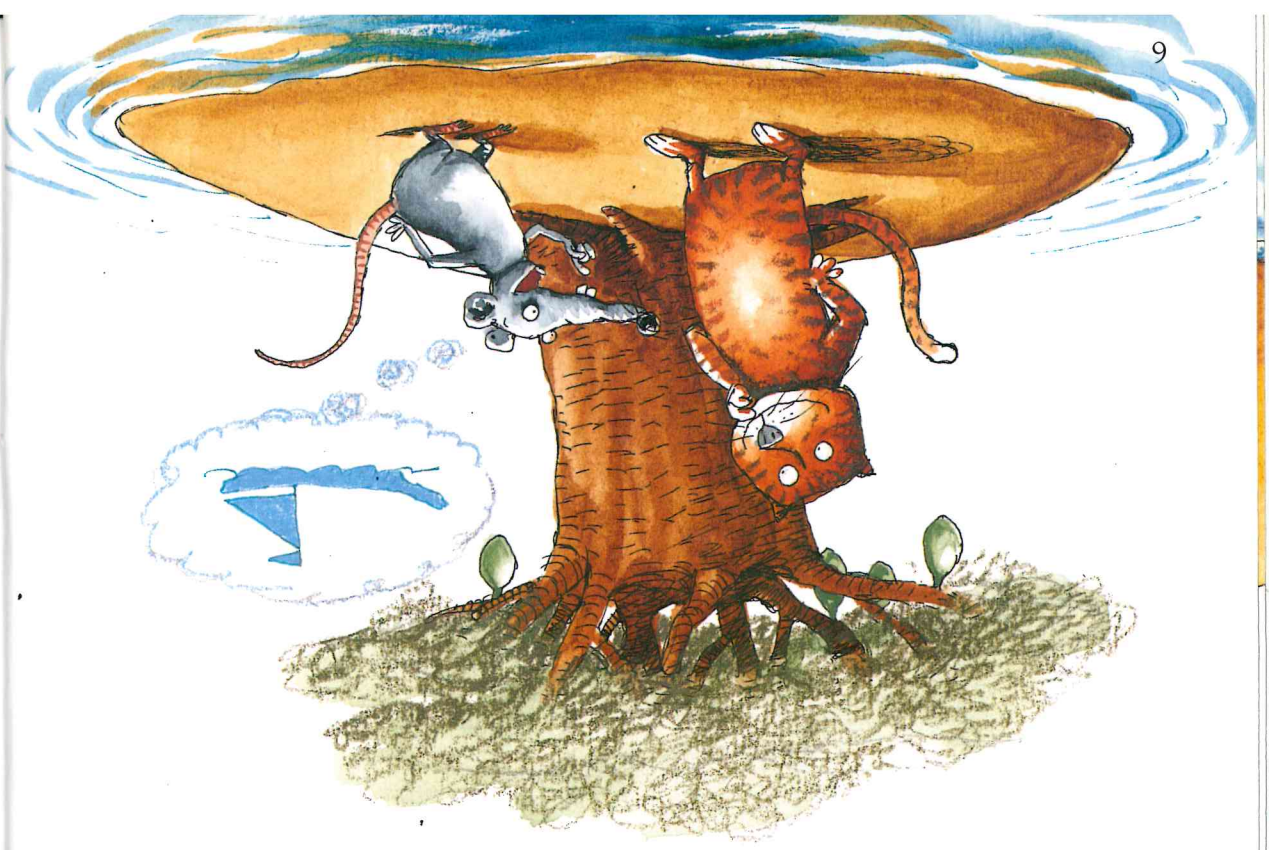




All day, every day, Rat gnawed root  
 and Cat ate fruit.  
 "Cats like fruit," said Cat.  
 "Rats like root," said Rat.

Years went by, and every day  
 Cat ate fruit and Rat gnawed root.  
 One day Cat said, "I'm bored."  
 "I'm bored, too," said Rat.  
 "Fruit is boring," said Cat.  
 "You think fruit is boring?" said Rat.  
 "Root is boring, BORING! Gnawing is boring."  
 "Climbing is boring, too," agreed Cat.  
 "This island is boring."





Then Rat had an idea.  
“Let’s leave this island and travel the world.  
The world may be full of better things to eat.”  
“How can we go?” asked Cat. “We both  
hate water.”  
“We will make a boat,” said Rat.  
“How clever you are,” said Cat.  
“I am glad I have you for a friend.”



wore it on her tail.

So Cat made a sail and

“Make a sail, Cat,” said clever Rat.

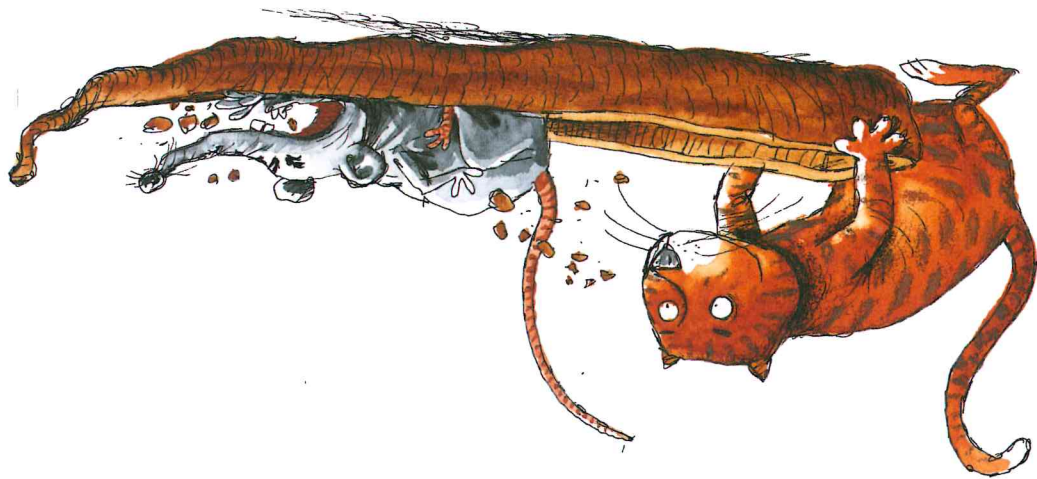
at the root until it was hollow.

in it,” said clever Cat. So Rat gnawed away

“Make it hollow, Rat, so that we can sit

They made it out of a big tree root.

So Cat and Rat made a boat.



“We forgot to bring any food.”

“Maybe we are not so clever,” said Rat.

After a while Cat said, “I’m hungry.”

Soon their little island lay far, far away.

Then they jumped in and sailed away.

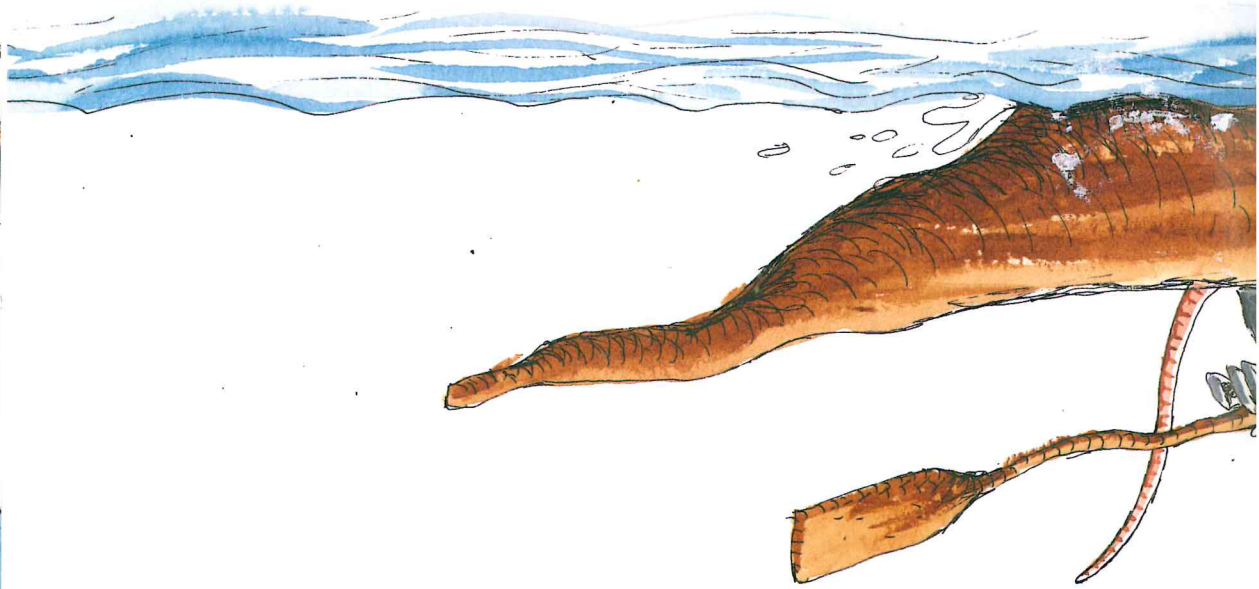


Now Cat was hungry and she longed  
for some fruit. Now Rat was hungry  
and he longed for some root.  
“Go to sleep,” said Rat. “Nobody is hungry  
when they are asleep.”

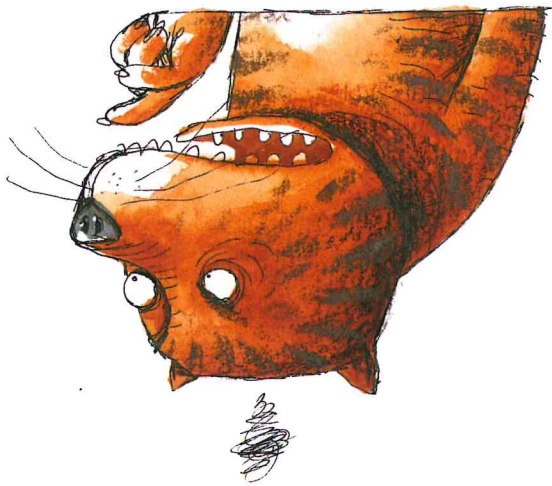
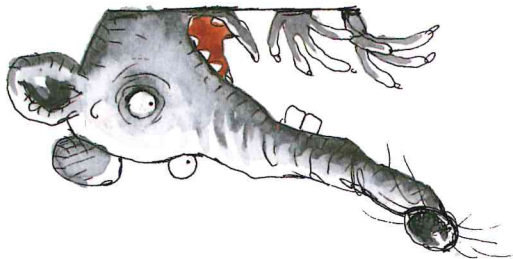




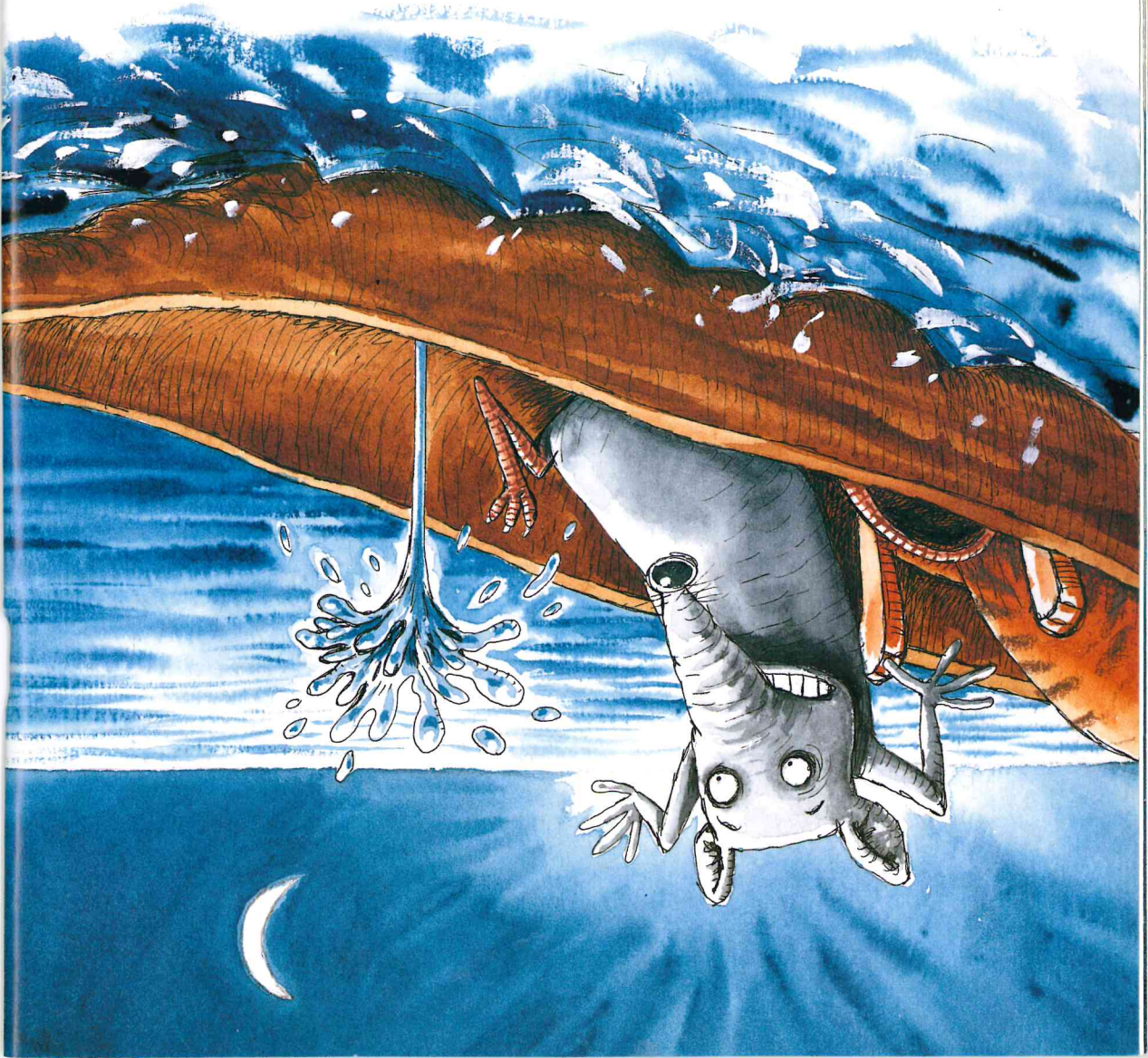
So Cat went to sleep. Rat did not. Well,  
 the boat was made of root, wasn't it?  
 Rat gnawed the oar. Rat bit into the boat.  
 Rat nibbled.

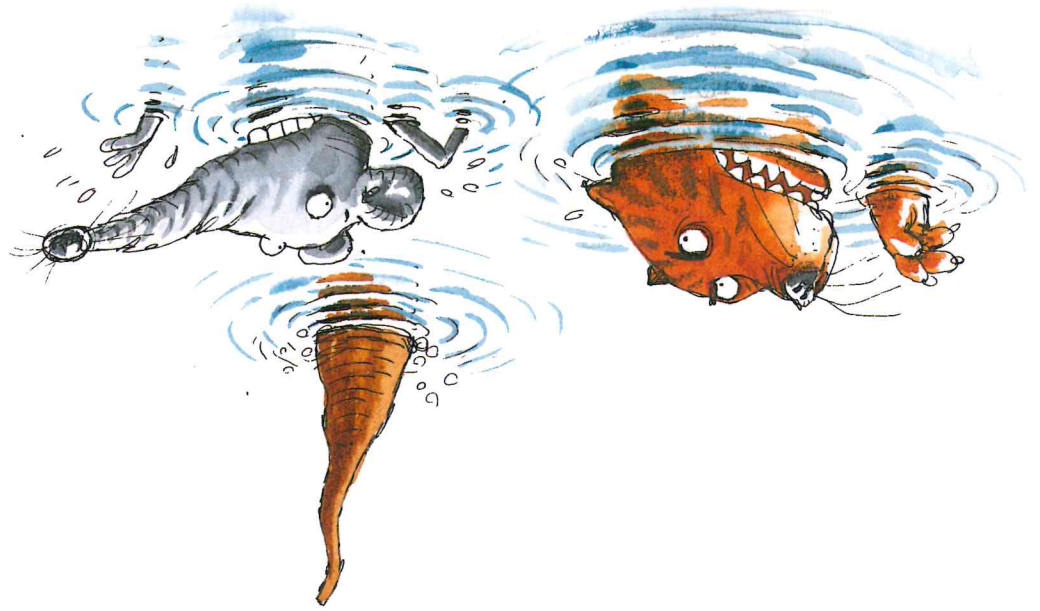


Cat woke up. "Don't eat the boat,  
 you silly Rat! We will sink!"  
 "Sorry," said Rat. "Go back to sleep.  
 I won't gnaw any more."

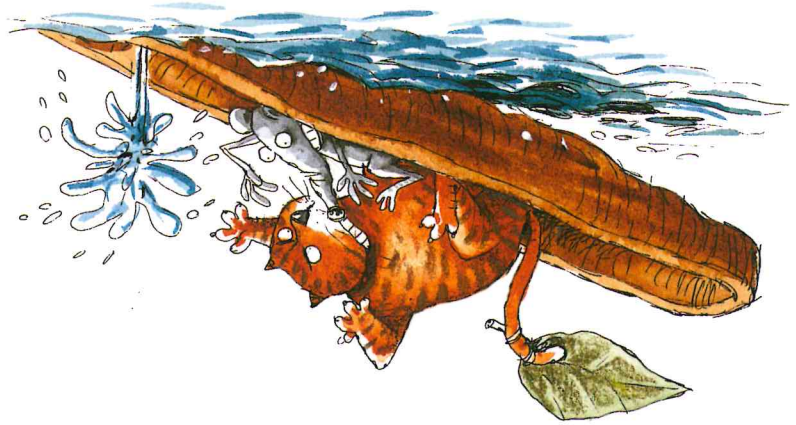


So Cat went back to sleep.  
Rat did not.  
Rat gnawed some more of the oar.  
He bit deeper into the boat.  
Rat made a hole – *whoops!*





Sea water came in through the hole.  
 Cat woke up wet. Then Cat got angry and  
 scratched Rat. Rat bit Cat.  
 Cat batted Rat until he was almost flat.  
 The boat just bubbled. Then it sank.  
 Cat swam and Rat swam.



“Wait till I get dry,” hissed Cat.

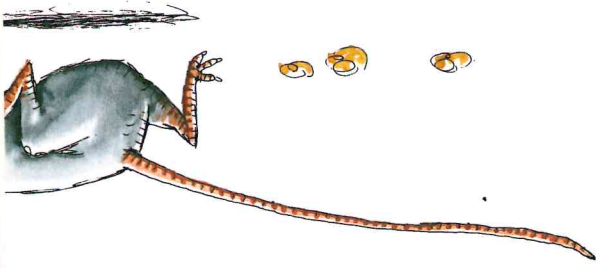
side by side.

There they lay, on the sand, in the sun,

Luckily, they both got to land alive.



Rat did not wait.  
He had seen Cat's claws  
and Cat's sharp teeth.  
Rat ran.



Rat is still running, even today.  
And Cat is never far behind.



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**High frequency words:** back, because, by, did, had, her, little, made, make, more, not, so, some, then, too, tree, water, will

**Fiction:** Traditional story from Africa

Cat and Rat were best friends,  
until they left their island home.  
Then the trouble started!

# Cat and Rat Fall Out



Turquoise

LIGHTHOUSE

