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Opening extract from
Jim's Lion

Written by
Russell Hoban

Illustrated by
Alexis Deacon

Published by
Walker Books Ltd

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Jim's
LION
RUSSELL HOBAN
illustrated by
Alexis Deacon

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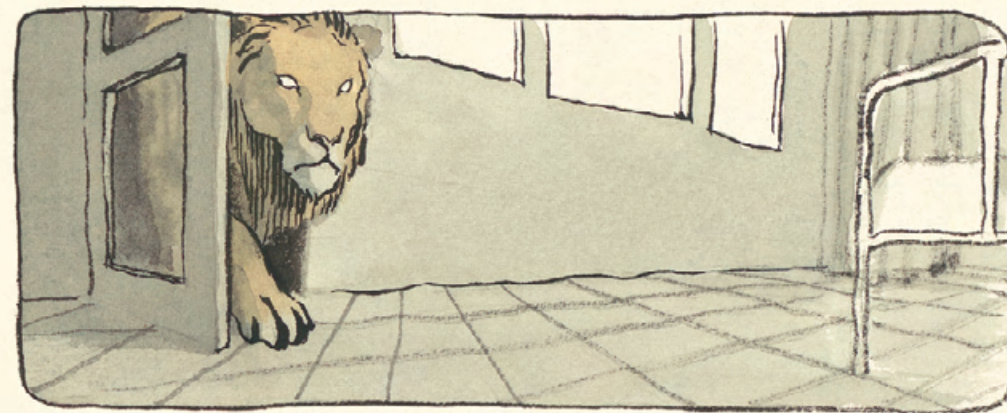
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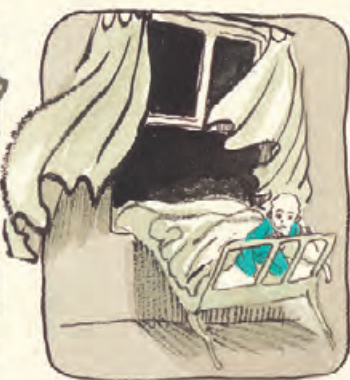
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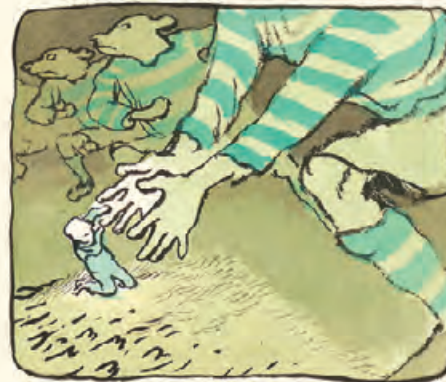
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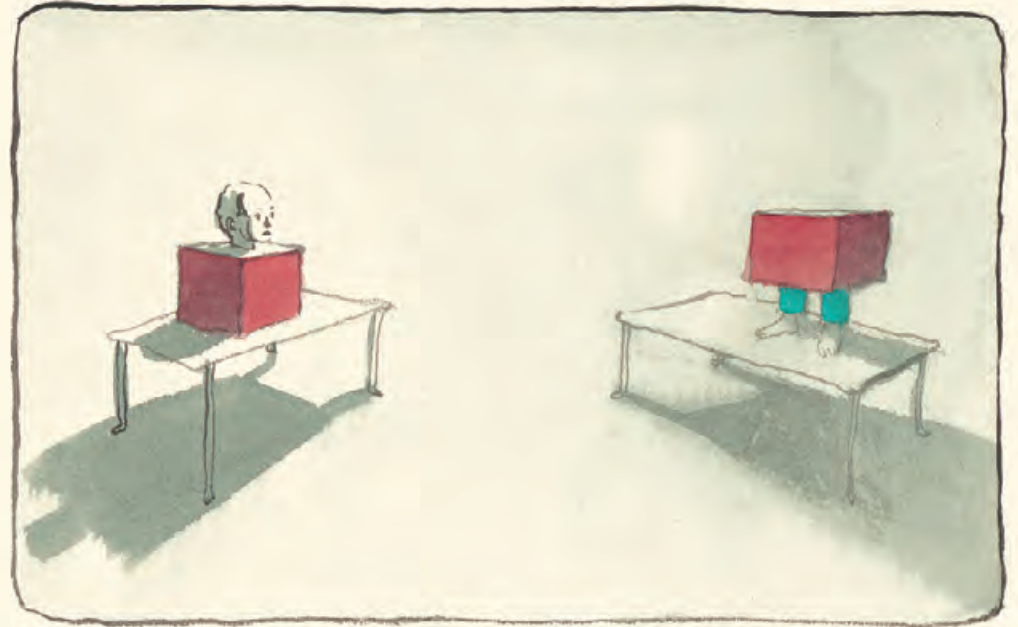
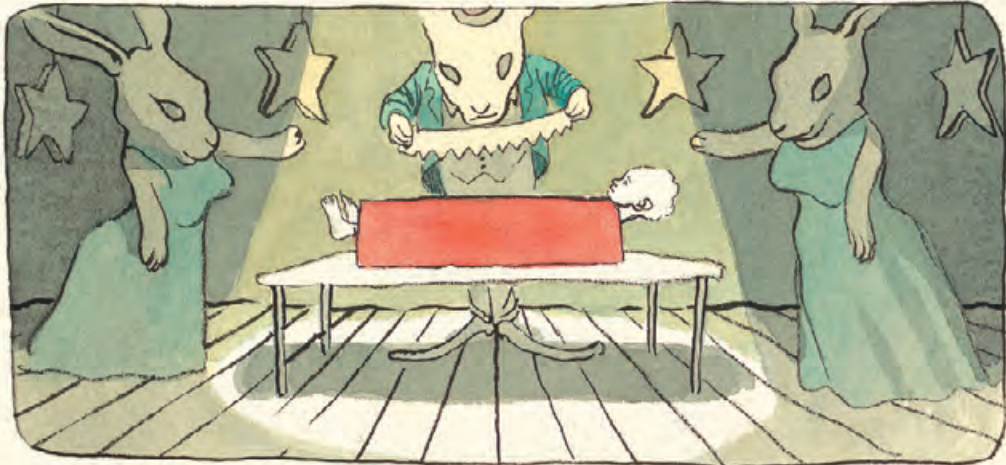
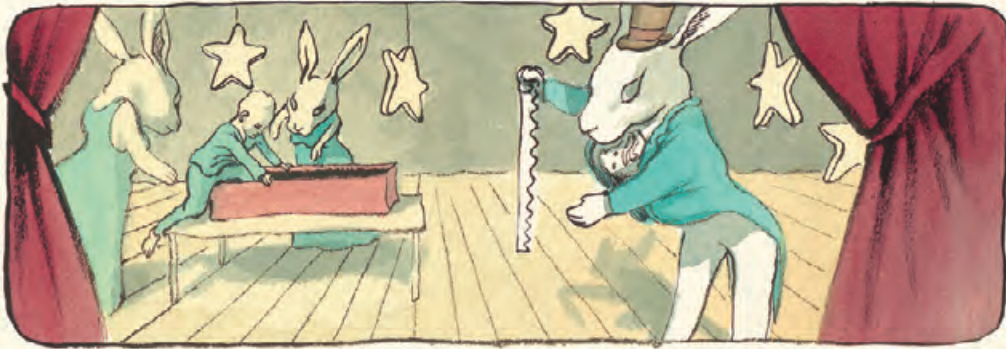


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From his hospital bed

Jim was watching the snow whirling out of the grey sky. He was looking sad. Nurse Bami brought him hot chocolate. She was from Africa; she had tribal scars on her cheeks. She had seen lions, elephants, crocodiles.

“What’s the matter?” said Bami.

“You know,” said Jim.

“Tell me,” said Bami. “Say it out.”

“People who have what I have, mostly they die, don’t they?” said Jim.

“Maybe the doctors can fix you up,” said Bami.

“I’ve seen what they do on TV,” said Jim.

“They put you on a table and they put you to sleep and then they do the rest of it.”

“Does that scare you?” said Bami.

“Yes,” said Jim. “When I’m asleep I go to different places in my dreams but I always

find my way back. I’m afraid that if the doctors put me to sleep they might send me somewhere that I can’t get back from.”

“Well, of course someone has to come looking for you,” said Bami.

“Who can do that?” said Jim.

“Drink your hot chocolate,” said Bami, “and I’ll tell you.”

“When you think of something, you see it in your head, don’t you?” said Bami.

“Sure I do,” said Jim.

“Listen carefully now,” said Bami. “This is not kid stuff.”