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books

# THE GRUMPUS

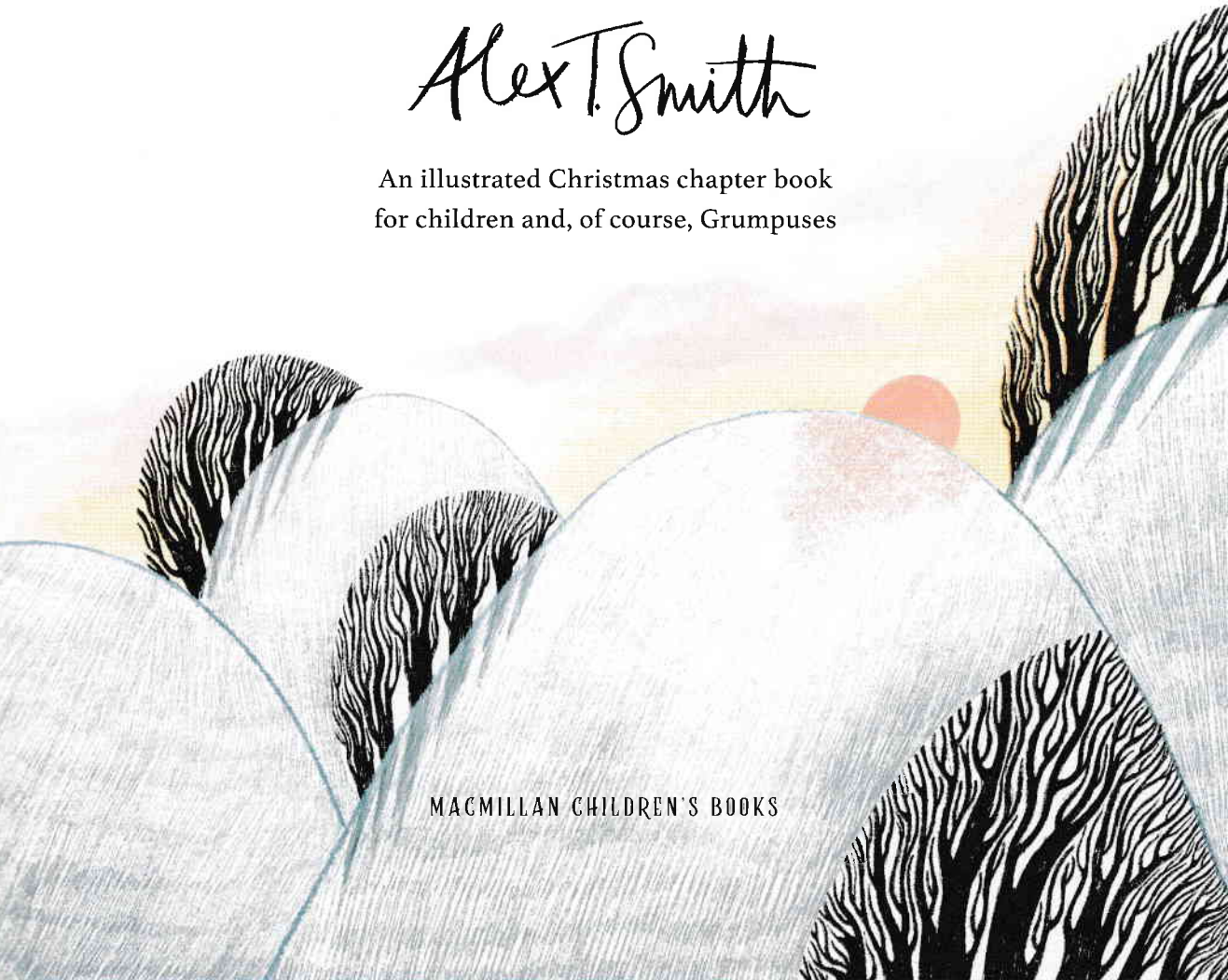
## AND HIS DASTARDLY, DREADFUL CHRISTMAS PLAN

*Translated from the original North Polish by*

*Alex T. Smith*

An illustrated Christmas chapter book  
for children and, of course, Grumpuses

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS



**D**o you know about *The Grumpus?*  
And his *Dastardly, Dreadful Christmas Plan?*

*And about the Awful Thing that happened on Christmas Eve?*

*Perhaps I should tell you about it . . .*

*Of course, it really starts with a creak and a crack and a splintering, and a great wibble and a wobble . . .*

*But I'll tell you more about that later.*

*Instead, let's begin our story miles away from THAT disaster, in a tiny hodge-podge of a town where everyone has woken up fizzing with excitement.*

*Well, almost everyone has . . .*

*I'll give you one guess who HASN'T . . .*



## CHAPTER 1



# IN WHICH THERE ARE SOME GLUM THOUGHTS THOUGHT ABOUT WHILST SCRATCHING

**O**nce upon a winter's morning, The Grumpus stood in the door of his house, scratching his armpit with a –  
HANG ON.

Do you know who The Grumpus is?

No, I don't suppose you do – there is only one of them after all, and not enough people know about him. And they should because of what he did – well, we'll get to that bit later on . . .

I think I should maybe tell you all about him first before we start our story properly. OK?

OK.

Right, well, pretend you haven't read any of this and now turn the page and we'll start again.

CHAPTER 1  
(AGAIN)IN WHICH WE START AGAIN AND  
YOU ARE PROPERLY INTRODUCED  
TO A VERY UNUSUAL CREATURE

**H**ave you heard of The Grumpus?  
No, I don't suppose you have, until now,  
because there is only one Grumpus in the whole  
world. His name is actually Theodore Grumpus.  
The Grumpus for short. Capital T for The and capital G  
for Grumpus.

The Grumpus is a large, hairy creature with long arms, short legs, sticky-out ears, pointy horns and big feet that he often trips over, much to his annoyance.

He lives in a small, wonky town, in a small, wonky house surrounded by high hedges and a heavy gate. There is a sign on the gate that says KEEP OUT! with no 'please' after it. The Grumpus lives there all by himself, which is just the way he likes it, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

You see, The Grampus is actually a big, grumbly, huffy-puffy, pinch-the-bridge-of-your-nose-and-sigh-loudly-like-a-sat-upon-whoopee-cushion, grumpy grump of a creature who doesn't like anybody. AT ALL.

In fact, The Grampus doesn't like (hardly) ANYTHING. And if you don't believe me, just turn the page.



## CHAPTER 2



## IN WHICH SEVERAL OF THE THINGS THE GRUMPUS DOES NOT LIKE AT ALL ARE LISTED

- Being hot
- Being cold
- Being tired
- Being hungry
- Mornings
- Afternoons
- Evenings
- Bedtime
- Scrambled eggs
- Socks with holes  
in them
- Socks without holes  
in them
- Actually just socks  
in general

- Food that wiggles  
when you try to eat it, i.e.  
spaghetti/noodles/worms.

**HE DOESN'T LIKE BATHS:**

- Or showers
- Or rain
- Or water
- Or swimming.

**HE DISLIKES:**

- The sea (even though  
he's never seen it)
- Loud noises
- Bright lights

- The dark
- Strange sounds
- Anything that crunches
- Gloves
- Mittens
- Kittens
- Chips
- Chocolate
- Chocolate chips
- Hats
- Cats
- Bats
- Dogs
- Frogs
- Mooses
- Gooses
- Mousses (especially strawberry flavour)
- Meeeces (which is what he calls lots of mices. I mean *mice*.)
- Games
- Fun of any kind.

**HE ISN'T KEEN ON:**

- Singing
- Laughing
- Dancing
- Any form of bottom shaking
- Cake (ESPECIALLY birthday cake)
- Flowers
- Puddles
- Cuddles (well, no one has actually ever cuddled him)
- Anything that sparkles
- Dens
- The colour red.

**HE IS ALSO CERTAINLY NOT RAVING ABOUT:**

- Warm blankets
- Hot chocolate
- Having a nice sit-down
- Smiling.

And if there was one thing The Grumpus doesn't like more than anything else in the whole world it is this: