

My Cousin Vinnie Vicuna



by Christine Taylor

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Vinnie Vicuna loves to have fun, but he's from the wild side of the animal kingdom. While visiting his sweet cousin Lucy he is thrilled to discover new and wonderful things like cookies, skateboards, toys and her clothes.

Unfortunately, Vinnie leaves a trail of destruction in every room and Lucy has had enough. Faced with the mess he created; Vinnie offers a solution.

With rhymes and fun illustrations, this tale is an inspiration for every child who is learning that social graces aren't always graceful.

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Mom went into town to go buy a new hat,
I was reading my book and heard...

rat-a-tat-tat.



There stood Cousin Vinnie so dapper and sly,
with red pants, a vest, a cool cap and a tie.



Then Vinnie announced, "I can stay until three.
I'm hungry, let's eat, what a day this will be."

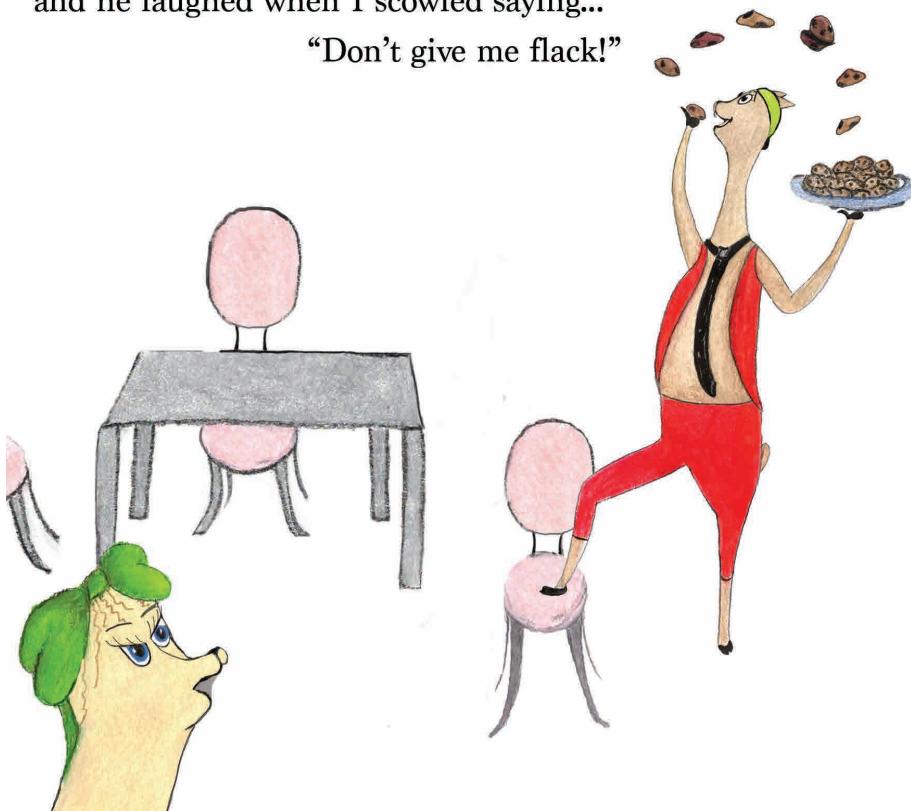


First stop was the kitchen
and speed was his trick,
he drank all the milk,
tossed the trash with a flick.

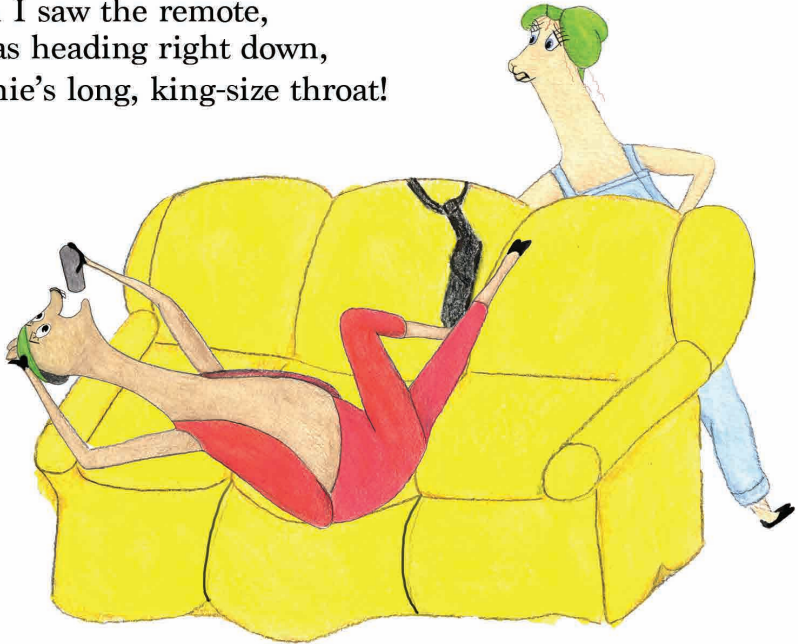


He ate twenty cookies like it was a snack,
and he laughed when I scowled saying...

“Don’t give me flack!”



He plopped on the couch,
then I saw the remote,
it was heading right down,
Vinnie's long, king-size throat!



I was ready to flip and I wanted to snap,
when I heard the next thing pop right out of his yap.

“Come on, follow me, let’s go play in your room.”

I shook when I heard, a loud

CRASH,

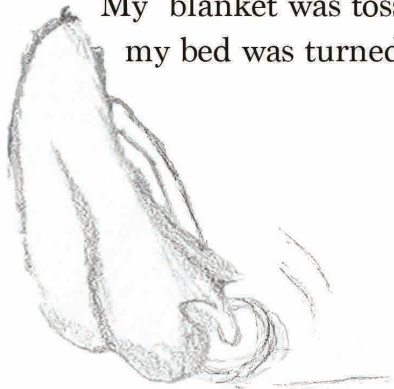
BANG,

and

BOOM!



My blanket was tossed landing on my new lamp,
my bed was turned into a skateboarding ramp.



This guy flipped my dollhouse, my room was a mess,

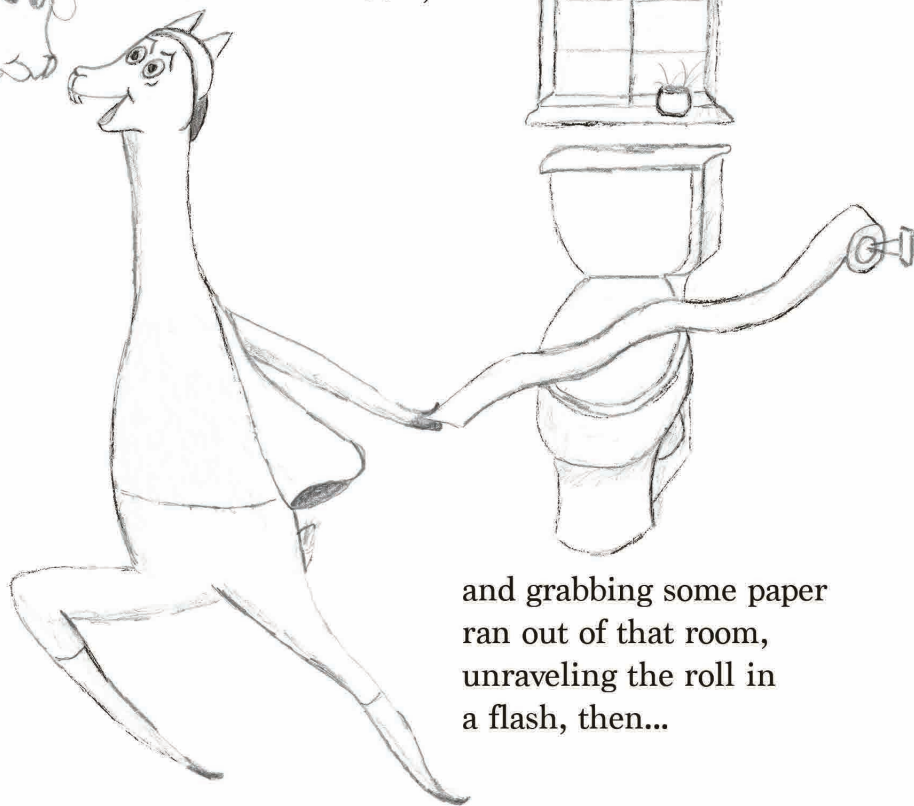


he put on my shoes, and he danced in my dress.





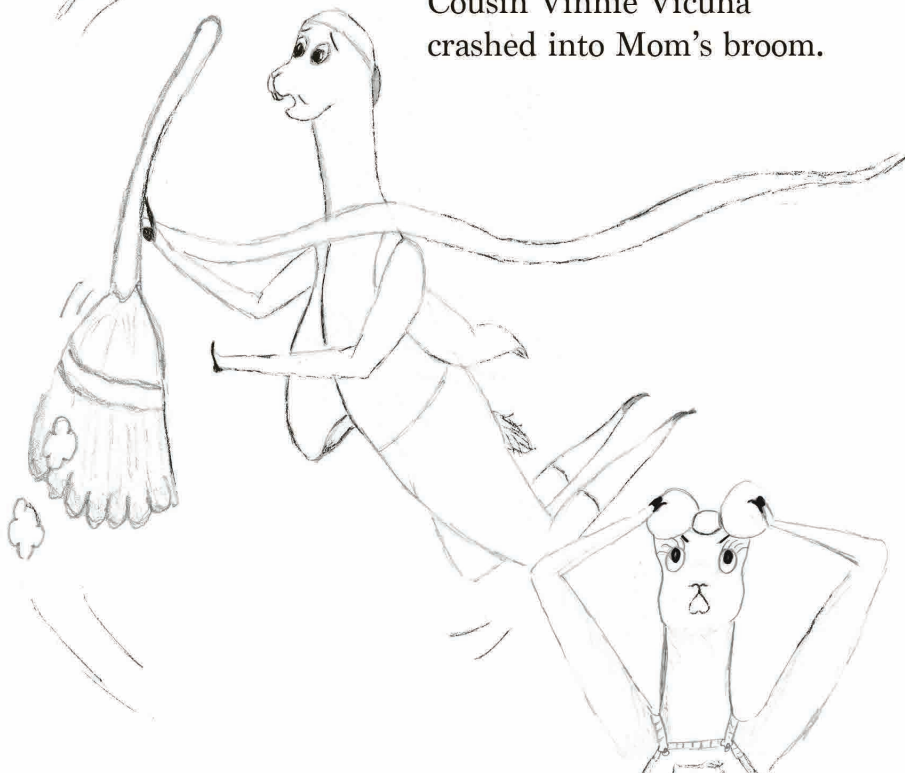
He ran to the potty,
I knew this was doom,



and grabbing some paper
ran out of that room,
unraveling the roll in
a flash, then...

KABOOM!

Cousin Vinnie Vicuna
crashed into Mom's broom.



KERPLUNK!

out the door
Vinnie bounced up and down,
I thought he would roll
all the way into town.



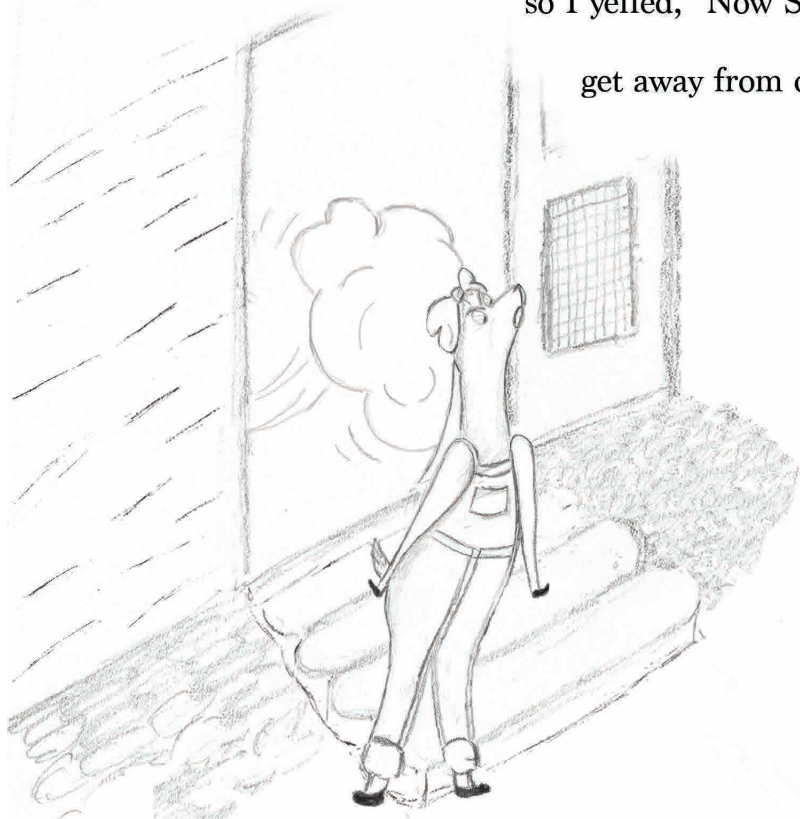
He was wrapped in that paper just like a cocoon,
it was maddening to watch, and Mom would be home soon.



My mom would be mad and I had quite enough,

so I yelled, “Now STOP,

get away from our stuff!”



In that tumble he flipped to the left and the right,
then he crawled up the path,
what a terrible sight.



He looked pretty bad,
as he hummed a strange song,



and with that he swayed-
I knew something was wrong.



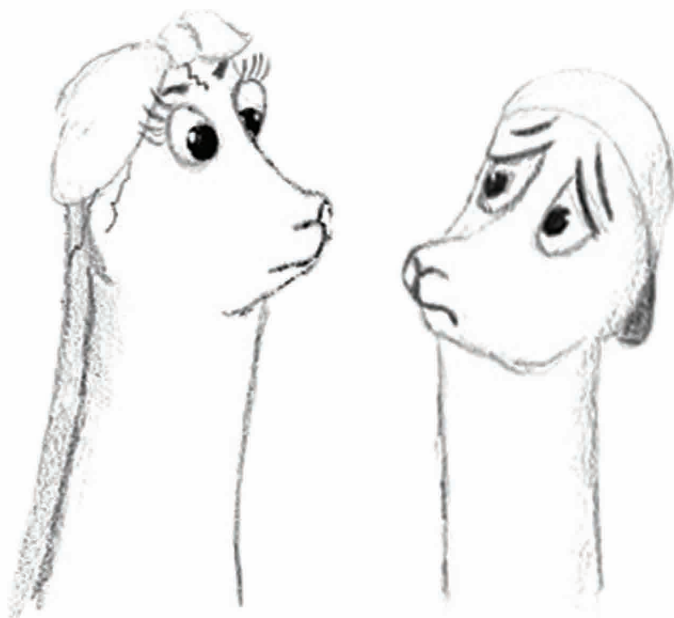
Then out of his mouth from deep down in his throat,
came cookies, some milk, and guess what?

A REMOTE.

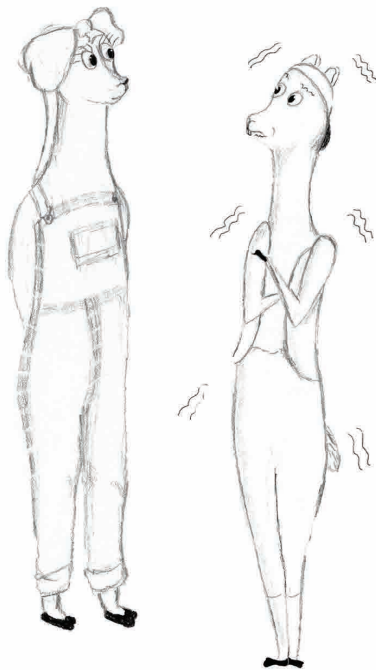


He mumbled, “Alpacas are calm, sweet and mild.

Vicunas,” he said, “are born to be wild.”



I looked at my cousin, he started to shake.

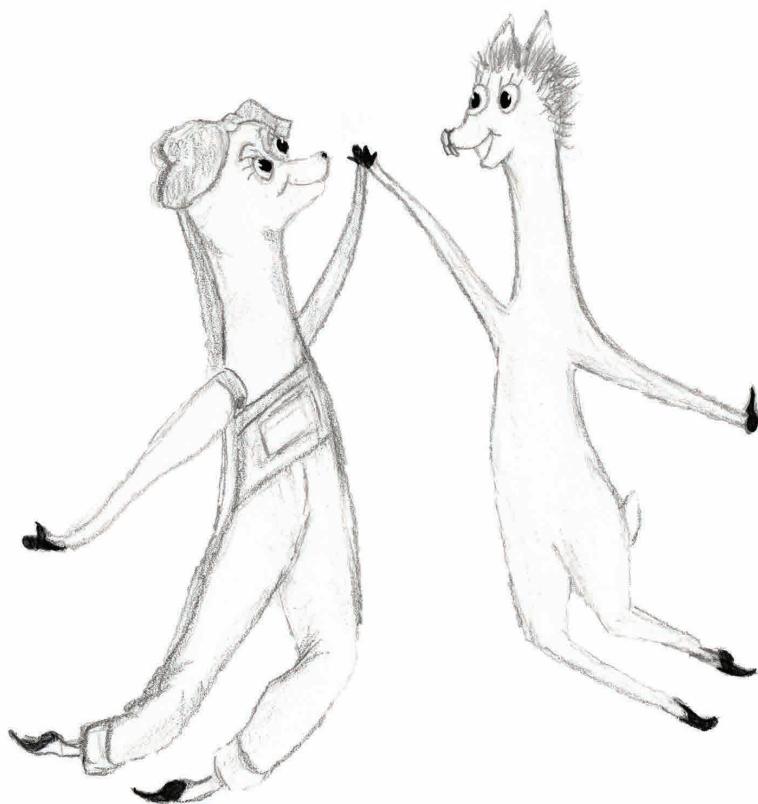


“I’m sorry,” he said. “This was such a mistake.”

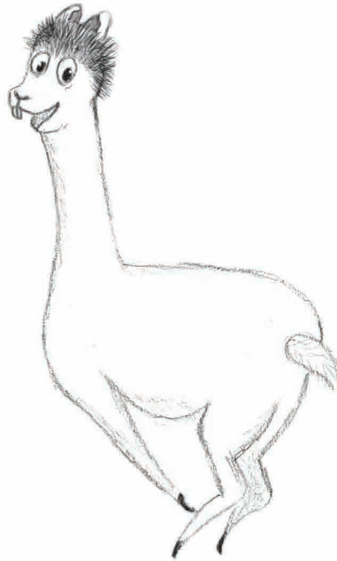
Then Vinnie's eyes twinkled,
"I know what to do!
I can clean this mess up
for both me and for you.
I'll do it so fast snip, snap, then I'll go home,
to my hay and my grass,
where my wild friends roam."



“That’s a super idea, how fun this will be,
we can pick it all up as a team, YOU and ME.”



Together they worked putting all things away,



and that's the last time Vinnie stopped by to play...

Inside.

