

TLC Showcase

LYNNE HUDSON

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Introduction to Sniff

The idea for *Sniff* was born whilst visiting a local bookshop looking for a birthday present. On the shelves there were books about colour, shapes and sounds but nothing about smell, apart from the odd scratch and sniff book.

"Aha!" I thought. "I shall write a book about smell."

And then I realised why this certain topic hadn't been tackled before – it proved to be very very difficult. I read endless amounts of online research, everything from synaesthesia to molecular science. It was getting complicated. Far too complicated for a picture book for the under-fives. So, back to the drawing board.

I was initially going to write the book with a child as its central character but subsequently decided to write the story about a dog. Dogs see the world as a series of smells (and I did have a really nice canine character ready for the off).

I thought about the dog and what smells we associate with it- that damp doggy smell we are always trying to get rid of. But perhaps the dog likes that smell, the smell that lingers on his blanket, the comfort he finds in the familiar. And that's where the story began. The dog has lost his blanket and follows his nose, encountering different smells along the way, in his quest to find it again.

I constructed a dummy picture book and sent it off to TLC for assessment.

I knew something about the story wasn't quite right but I couldn't put my finger on it. The assessment I received from TLC pointed out flaws in my writing. Sometimes the recommendations they made were hard to accept; such as removing a third of the narrative (how on earth am I going to do that? There's only five hundred words in the entire manuscript!) But then, having mulled over their suggestions for a few weeks I went ahead and made the changes and, blow me down, what a difference, now I had a story good enough to present to a publisher.

I sent a revised dummy book off to Hogsback publishing who contacted me the day after receiving the manuscript offering to publish *Sniff*.

I now use TLC to review all my writing. Their expert advice and endless encouragement spurs me on and I hope that my writing will go from strength to strength with every piece of work and every appraisal.

I would like to say a personal thank you to Heather Dyer for her continued support and inspiration.

Sniff

by
Lynne Hudson

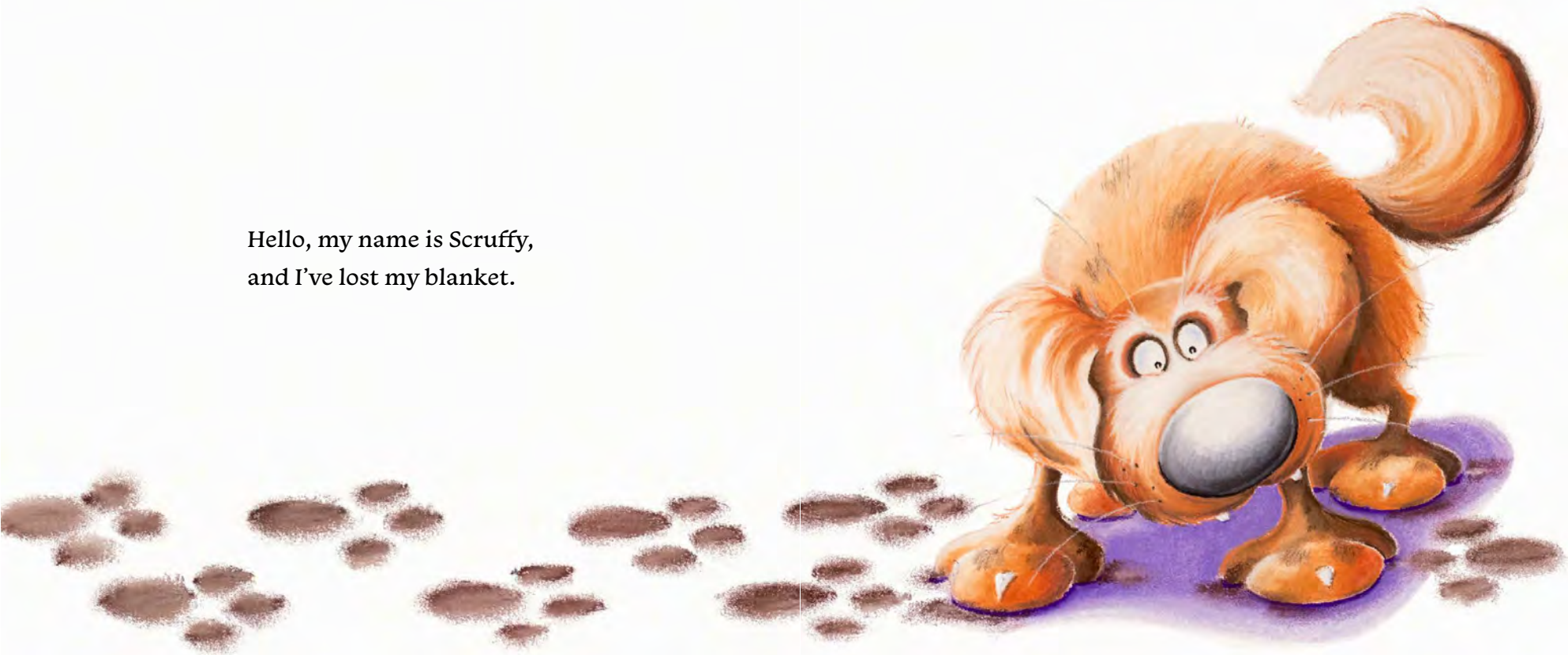


Sniff

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Hello, my name is Scruffy,
and I've lost my blanket.



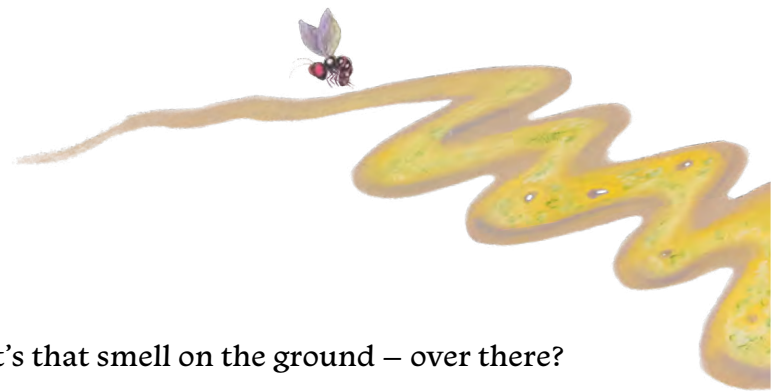


Where can it be?
It's snuggly and warm
and smells just like me.

I know, I'll sniff it out!

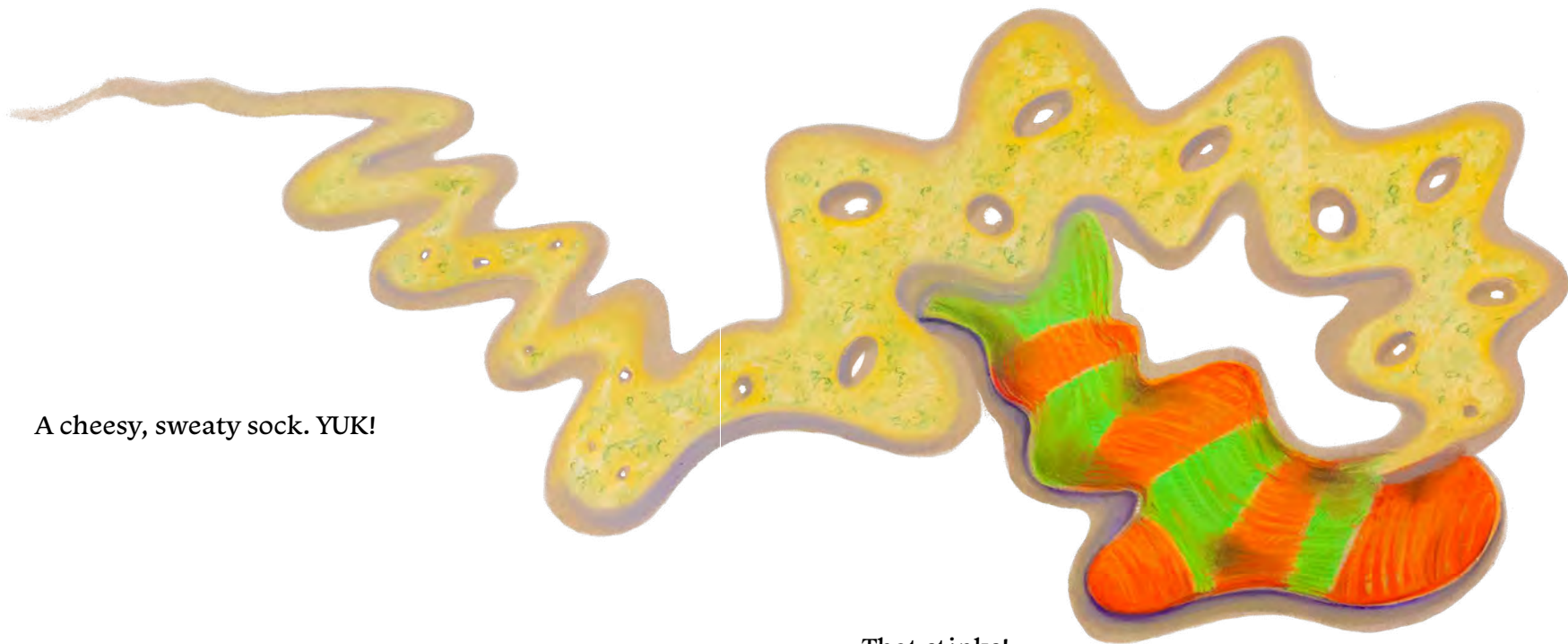
So I lift up my nose to sniff in the air.

Sniff! Sniff! Sniff!



What's that smell on the ground – over there?

A cheesy, sweaty sock. YUK!

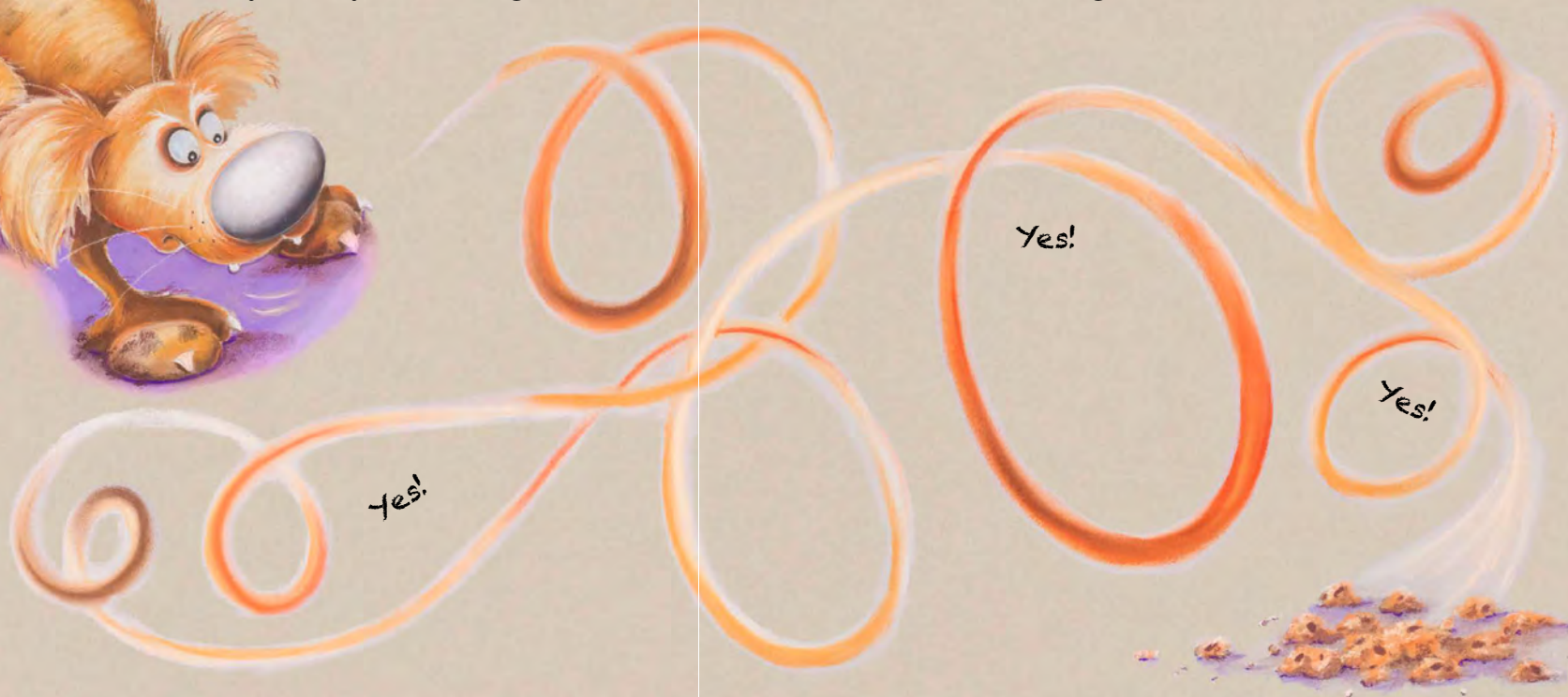


That stinks!
But it's better ahead;
I think I'll follow this nice smell instead.

The smell is so tempting
rich, buttery and sweet.
My tummy is rumbling ...



sniff! sniff! sniff!
... is it something to eat?



Biscuits!

They tasted good, but I still haven't found my blanket.

Sniff! Sniff! Sniff!



I'll search in the park.



I find more smells as I follow my nose –
the damp, mossy ground,
a bluebell and rose,
the smell of a rabbit
and a prickly hedgehog ...



... but they're not my blanket,
and they don't smell of dog.

So I sniff and I snuffle
as I scurry around
'til I find a new smell –
look what I've found!



There on a line
flapping high, all alone,
is a big chequered blanket,
which reminds me of home.



It's clean and it's fresh
and it's bubbly and bright.
It looks like my blanket,
but ...





sniff! sniff! sniff!

... it doesn't smell right.
So I'll grab it and pull it
and tug 'til it's free.





Then I'll rub and I'll roll ...

... 'til it smells just like me!



For Elloura and Lorelai

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Sometimes the things you own become
a part of you and that's how Scruffy
feels about his blanket. So when it goes
missing, he sets out on a very smelly
journey to sniff it out!

Hogs Back Books
- a nose for a good book ...

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About the Writer

Lynne Hudson graduated from Bath Academy of Art with a BA HONs in Ceramics and has never made a pot since.

Lynne always preferred designing to making. Her pots were simple forms decorated with cartoon characters and eventually developing these characters became her passion. She completed a postal course held by The College of Cartoon Art and was mentored by the late Dave Fellows, who suggested that illustrating children's books would be the best way forward.



She doodled away, hiding from the world, hunched over a drawing board in the spare bedroom, hoping that one day someone would knock at the door and offer her a picture book to illustrate. Never once did she believe that she herself could write that book. Not until, whilst composing a cover letter for a part time job, did she realise that she *could* write and, after many hours composing the greatest cover letter that any charity shop has ever received, she realised that she actually *enjoyed* writing.

A valuable lesson Lynne learnt early on in her writing career is to always thoroughly research the book market when having that first spark of inspiration, just to make sure the concept is truly original. Twice she has spent months writing and drawing, ploughing ahead with what she thought was a fantastic idea, only to find something identical already on the bookshelves.

Sniff is Lynne's first self-penned children's picture book. She has also illustrated a second book *Big Dog and Squiz*, both published by Hogsback.

Sniff is currently being used on a Korean English language education platform.

Lynne is in the process of writing two more books. *Don't pick your nose Rose* is a rhyming story aimed at the young reader and *Nobody* is a story inspired by a homeless man Lynne cared for at the hospital where she works part time.

Her mantra continues to be... "You never know what you can do until you try!"

Sniff is available to purchase now: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sniff-Lynne-Hudson/dp/1907432248>