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***Squeakopotamus* by Dawn McMillan illustrated by Ross Kinnaird**

Publisher: Oratia Books

RRP \$19.99

Dawn McMillan recognises most children's delight in the absurd and what tickles their imaginations. In her latest picture book she creates an unusual animal who takes up residence in a normal household.

Who's this in our house,
munching toast and cheese?
Squeakopotamus!

Who's this at our table,
eating potatoes and peas?
Squeakopotamus!

Squeakopotamus is an amiable character, a monster mouse with a voracious appetite. This causes problems for the brother and sister whom he lives with when food supplies run out.

Illustrator Ross Kinnaird has risen to the challenge of giving the strange creature a shape and personality. In contrast, the boy and girl are slender children with bemused expressions. Bright colours, varied fonts and text sizes all add to the action and hold interest for young readers.

A fun book to read aloud.

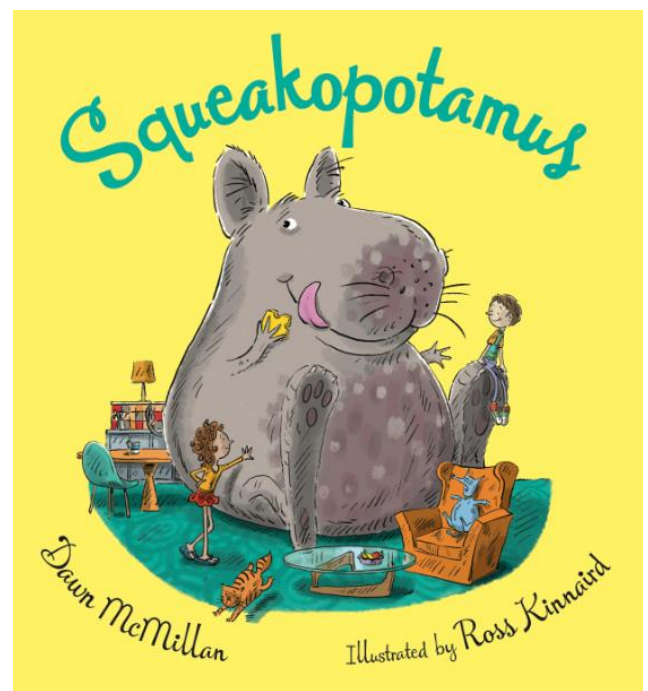
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**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**



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