"Who are you?" he cried.
"And what do you want?"
"I am Bumburumbum,
and I am going
to eat you!"

One-day, mum sends her children to fetch the smoked meat from the attic for her cooking, but they don't return, and it is only when dad returns to a silent house that the Bumburumbum finally meets its match.

This story has been prepared by a group of talented young Roma as a way of sharing their rich culture. Read it with your parents, your children and your friends. Then find out how they made it at http://bumbarumbum.blogspot.com/

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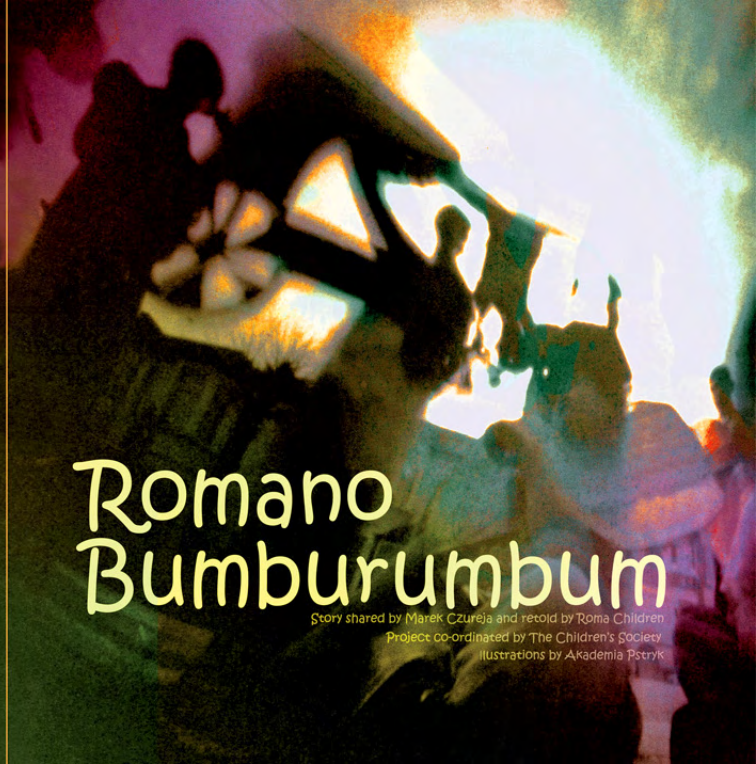
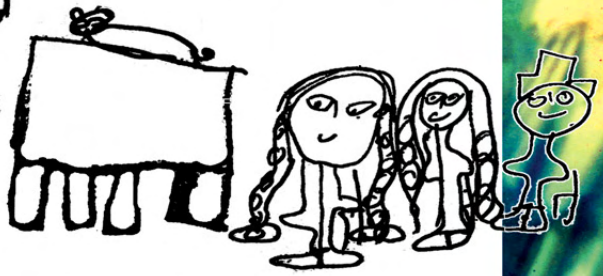
Romano Bumburumbum



Romano Bumburumbum

Story shared by Marek Czureja and retold by Roma Children
Project co-ordinated by The Children's Society
Illustrations by Akademia Pstryk

Chirwa, chirwa
oweske, there was a
happy family.
They all lived
together in a house:
the mum - Marishka;
the dad - Ricardo;
the son - Valentino, and
the daughter - Poshomka.



Chirwa, chirwa oweske -
a long, long time ago

One day
mum said,
"I'll make
a zoupa
for dinner."

Mum
chopped,
stirred
and tasted.
"This needs a little
caubasa," she said.

zoupa - soup
caubasa - smoked meat

"Valentino," asked mum, "go to the attic and fetch me some smoked caubasa."

"Why me?" moaned Valentino.
"Because your sister can't reach," mum replied.

"Ok, I'll go,"
said Valentino,
and he climbed up
the stairs.

Valentino opened the attic door and saw an ugly, green face with **huge teeth.**

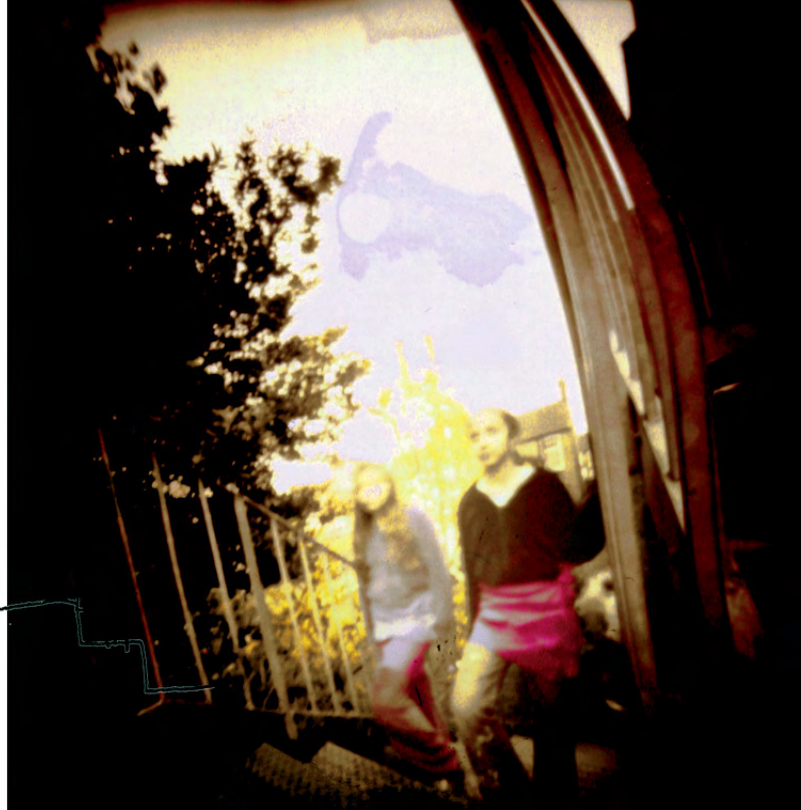
"Who are you?" he cried. "And what do you want?"

"I am Bumburumbum, and I am going to eat you!"

Valentino tried to run away, but Bumburumbum was too fast and swallowed him all up.

"Where is your brother, Poshomka?" asked mum.

"I'll find him," said Poshomka.



Poshomka opened the attic door and saw beady eyes and a **bulging belly.**

"Who are you?" she cried.

"And what do you want?"

"I am Bumburumbum, and I am going to eat you!"

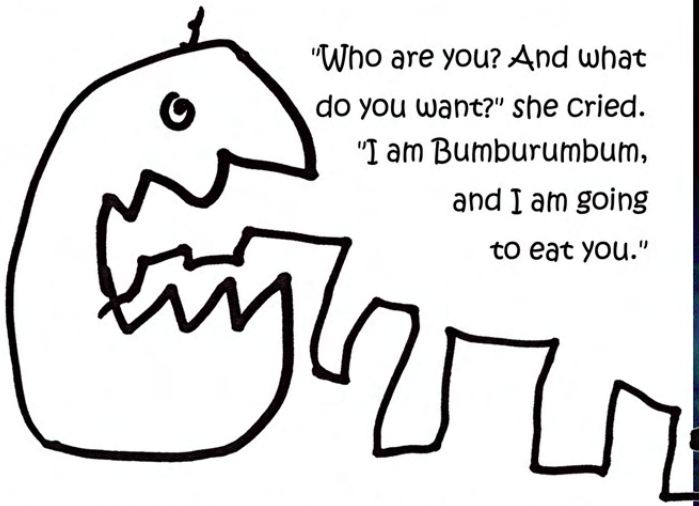
Poshomka tried to run away but Bumburumbum was too fast and swallowed her all up.

When Valentine
and Poshomka
didn't come back,
mum started to worry.

"Where are my children?"
she said, "And where is that meat?"

Mum rushed
up the stairs
to look for
them.

Mum heard a growl and saw terrible claws.



"Who are you? And what do you want?" she cried. "I am Bumburumbum, and I am going to eat you."

Mum tried to run away, but Bumburumbum was too fast and swallowed her all up.

Dad came home to an empty house.
"Wacho jives!" he called.
But there
was no reply.

"Something
is wrong,"
said dad.

He looked
in the kitchen,
a zoupa was cooking
- but there was no Marishka.
He looked in the bedrooms
- but there was no Valentino or Poshomka.

Then dad heard a rumble from the attic,
the rumble of a giant belly.

Wacho jives - hello

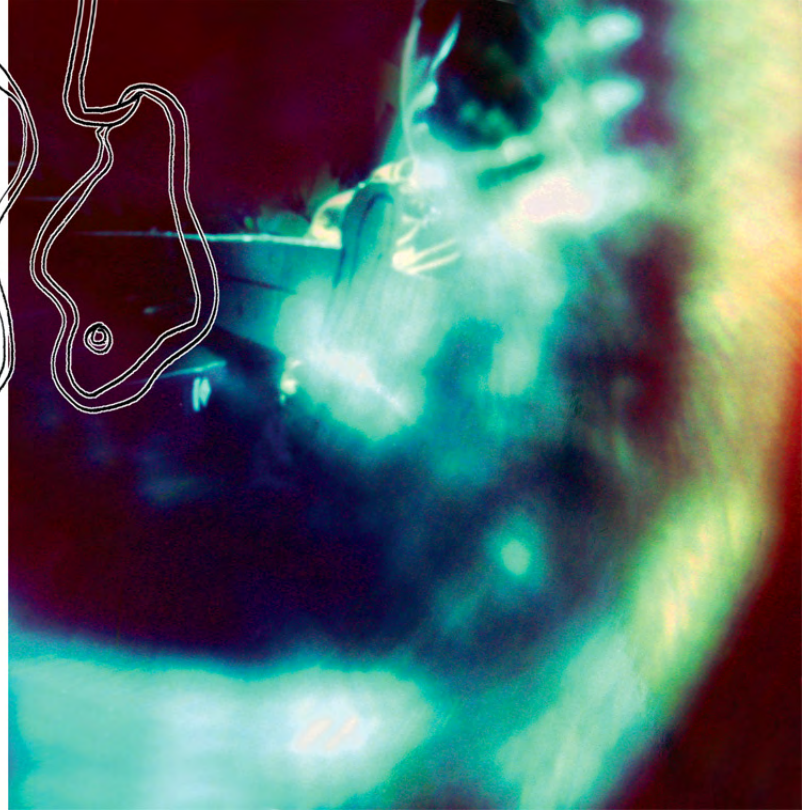
Dad ran to the attic and found a hairy, green monster.

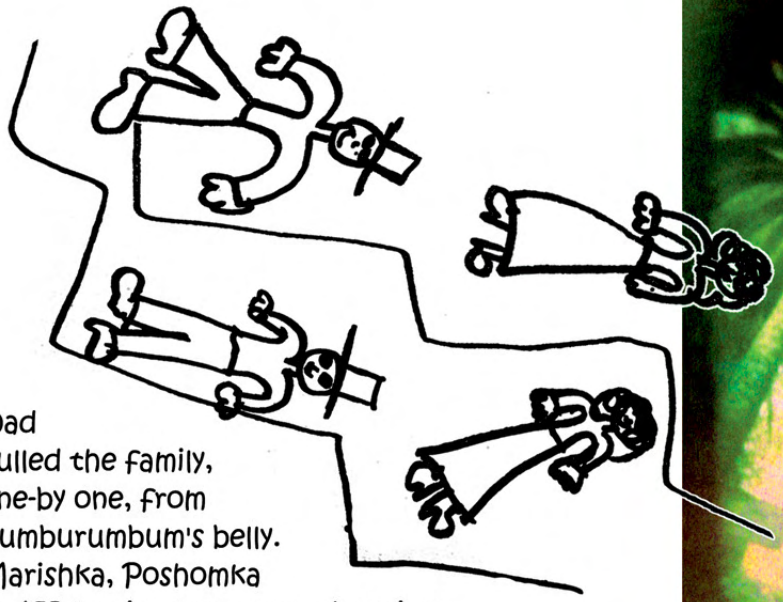
"Who are you?" shouted dad. "And what do you want?"

"I am Bumburumbum, and I am going to eat you!"

"But the caubasa is tastier than me," said dad.

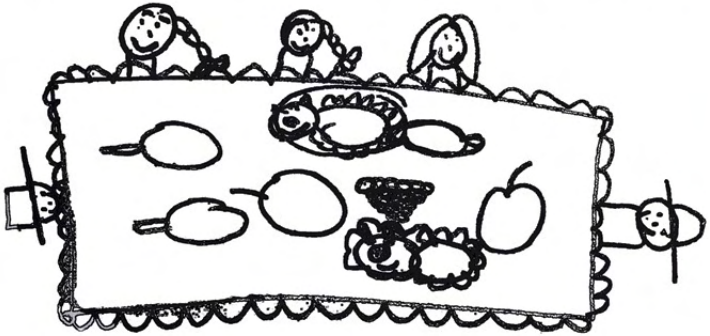
Bumburumbum stopped, sniffed, and quick as a flash, dad cut the monster open!





Dad
pulled the family,
one-by one, from
Bumburumbum's belly.
Marishka, Poshomka
and Valentino leapt out, shouting,
"Hooray! We're free!
Dad, you saved us!"

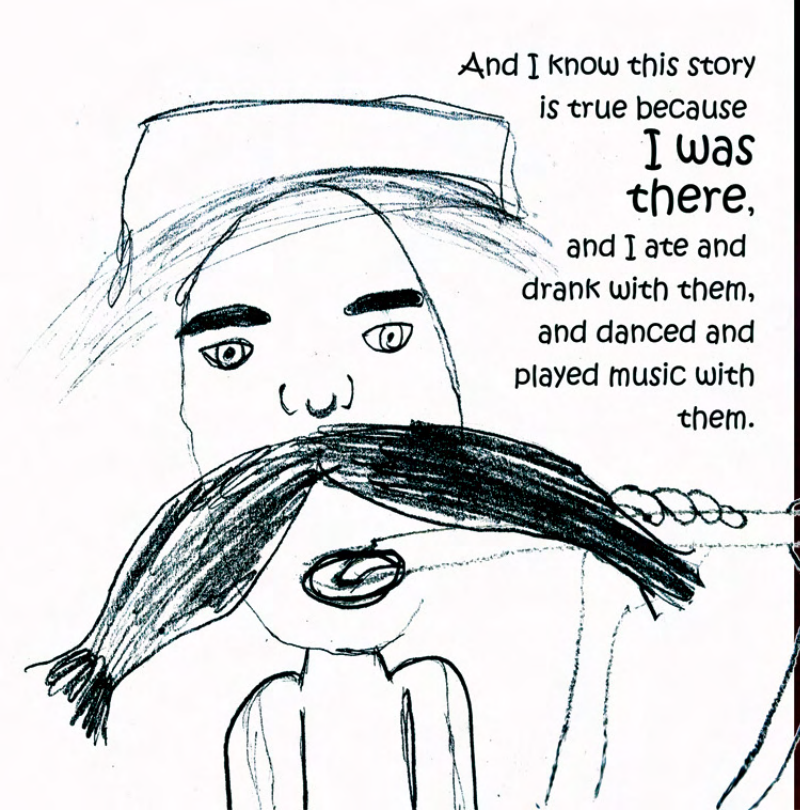
The family tumbled down the stairs. They landed at the table, and the zoupa was ready.



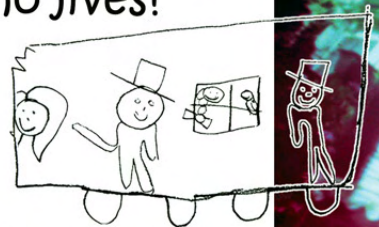
So they had a **romany pachiv** to celebrate. Bumburumbum was dead, and would never, ever eat anyone again!

romany pachiv - party

And I know this story is true because **I was there,** and I ate and drank with them, and danced and played music with them.



Roma culture is rich with stories that for centuries have been told only to a chosen few, but now everybody has the chance to enjoy them. We also hope you've learned a little Romani, so that next time you meet someone Roma you can say "wacho jives!"



The following young people aged seven to fourteen made this book: Miriam Czureja, Cindi Czureja, Paulina Kwiatkowska, Sara Kwiatkowska, David Pohlodko, Patrik Pohlodko, Roland Pohlodko, Dzonathan Wesolov, Santina Wesolowska, Erik Kloc, Jeri Kloc, Karolina Klocova, Monika Klocova, Klaudia Neuman, Paulina Neuman and Rene Horvat. They worked hard supported by The Children's Society and Akademia Pstryk to make their own cameras, make props and costumes, take pictures, make illustrations, write the text and design the layout.

Akademia Pstryk is an art group using pinhole photography as a means of social change through empowering communities. We run workshops where participants prepare photographic cameras from everyday objects and are encouraged to follow their independent creativity. For more info: www.ClickAcademy.co.uk

The Children's Society is a leading national charity committed to making childhood better for all children. For 13 years we have been working in partnership with young Roma in East London on issues such as education, health and cultural awareness raising. For more info: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/roma-awareness-raising

The support and hard work of the following people was also essential to the success of this project: Marek Czureja, Malgosia Czureja, Ben Czureja, Jacob Garber, Marta Kotlarska, Klaudia Zelazna, Malgosia Mirga - Tas, Sally Pomme Clayton, Artur Wanatko, The Children's Society staff and all the parents and volunteers who helped us.

(Please note that spellings of Romani words have been changed to make them easier to read for English speakers.)