I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas

(As recorded by Gayla Peevey, 1953)

(Instrumental intro)

\[\text{G} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{G}\]
I want a hippopotamus for Christmas.  
\[\text{G} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{D}\]
Only a hippopotamus will do.  
\[\text{D}\]
Don’t want a doll... no rinky-dinky toy...  
\[\text{A} \quad \text{D}\]
I want a hippopotamus I can play with and enjoy.

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas.  
I don’t think Santa Claus will mind; do you?  
He wouldn’t have to use... a dirty chimney flue.  
Just bring him through the front door; that’s the easy thing to do.

(Bridge:)

\[\text{F} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{G} \quad \text{C}\]
I can see me now, on Christmas morning, creeping down the stairs.  
\[\text{D} \quad \text{D7}\]
Oh, what joy, and what surprise!  
\[\text{G} \quad \text{A7} \quad \text{D7}\]
When I open up my eyes to see a hippo hero, standing there!  
\[\text{G} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{G} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{D}\]
I want a hippopotamus for Christmas... Only a hippopotamus will do.  
\[\text{D7}\]
No crocodiles! No rhinoceroses!  
\[\text{A7} \quad \text{D7} \quad \text{A7} \quad \text{D7} \quad \text{G}\]
I only like... hippopotamuses... and hippopotamuses like me, too.

(Instrumental of 2 lines of verse)

Mama says the hippo... would eat me up, but then  
Teacher says the hippo is a vegetarian!

(Instrumental of 2 lines of verse)

There’s lots of room for him... in our two-car garage.  
I’ll feed him there, and wash him there, and give him his massage.  

I can see me now, on Christmas morning, creeping down the stairs.  
Oh, what joy, and what surprise!  
When I open up my eyes  
To see a hippo hero, standing there!  

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas.  
Only a hippopotamus will do.  
No crocodiles! No rhinoceroses!  
I only like... hippopotamuses...  
And hippopotamuses like me, too.