

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas

1. I want a hippopotamus for Christmas (G)
A hippopotamus is all I want (G, D7)
Don't want a doll, no dinky Tinker Toy (D7)
I want a hippopotamus to play with and enjoy (A7, D7)

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

I can see me now on Christmas morning, (Dm, C)
creeping down the stairs (Dm, C)
Oh what joy and what surprise (D)
when I open up my eyes (G)
to see a hippo hero standing there (A7, D7)

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas (G)
Only a hippopotamus will do (G, D7)
No crocodiles, no rhinoceroses (D7)
I only like hippopotamuses (A7, D7)
And hippopotamuses like me too (A7, D7, G)

2. I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
A hippopotamus is all I want
Mom says the hippo would eat me up, but then
Teacher says a hippo is a vegetarian

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
The kind I saw last summer in the zoo
There's lots of room for him in our 2-car garage
I'd 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 kangaroos or duck-billed platypuses
I only like hippopotamuses
And hippopotamuses like me too!

"I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" was written in 1953 for a child singer, Gayla Peevey. It became a hit, and young Miss Peevey was presented with a baby hippo, which she donated to the zoo.

