The Ampoo is intensely neat,
Its head is small, likewise its feet.
The Boggerslosh conceals itself
In back of bottles on a shelf.
The Kwongdzu has enormous claws;  
Its character is full of flaws.
The Yawfle stares, and stares, and stares,
And stares, and stares, and stares, and stares.
The Wambulus has floppy ears
With which to wipe away its tears.
The Xyke stands up at close of day,
And then it slowly walks away.
The Utter Zoo
An Alphabet by Edward Gorey

Twenty-six curious creatures—from the fastidious Ampoo to the world’s one and only Zote—fill the pages of The Utter Zoo, an alphabet from the untamed imagination of Edward Gorey. The Boggerslosh, Crunk, and Dawbis; the Ippagogy, Jelbislup, and Kwongdzu; the Scrug, Twibbit, and Ulp—each strange and wonderful zoomate displays its own primary characteristic, described in Gorey’s inimitable, droll rhyming couplets.

A writer and artist with a unique and instantly recognizable style, Gorey (1925–2000) created over one hundred works and was also a playwright, an award-winning set and costume designer, and the creator of the animated introduction to the PBS series Mystery! First published in 1967, The Utter Zoo is a favorite of Gorey fans, young and old alike—no matter how well they know their ABCs.