

Cat and Dumpling

Meet Cat and Dumpling. Cat is a cat. Dumpling is a dog. Cat likes knitting; Dumpling likes gardening. Cat likes cunning plans; Dumpling likes a quiet life. They are very different, like chalk and cheese!

And this is the story of how they first met . . .

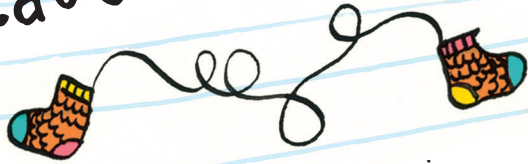




Chapter One Meet Cat

Cat was brilliant at making things, especially with wool. She could knit just about anything and always gave knitted presents to her friends. In fact, she liked knitting so much, she found it hard to stop.

Cat's Latest knits:



Socks connected by string
(so they'll never be odd).



Woolly pirate costume.



Knitted tennis equipment
(for smash-proof indoor matches).



The trouble was, Cat lived in a teeny-weeny flat, and a teeny-weeny flat was not a good place to keep lots and lots of knitting.



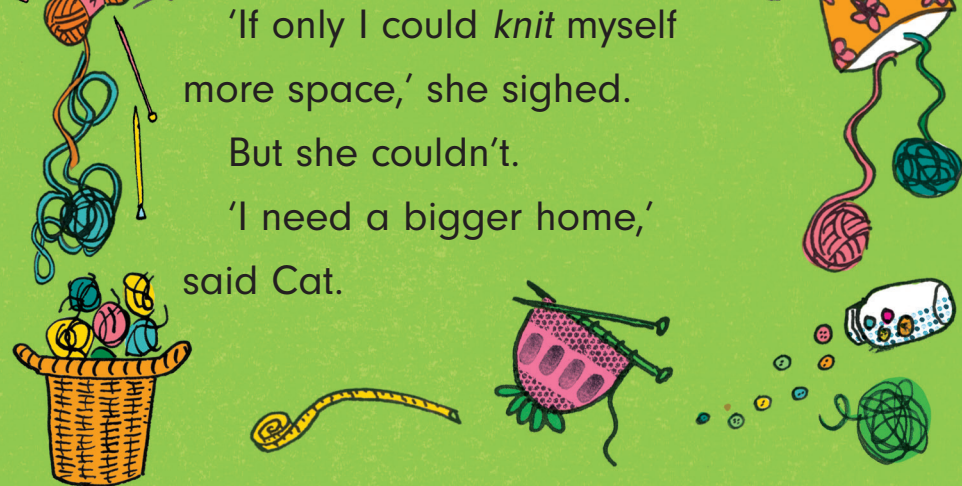
There was hardly room for anything else, let alone space for Cat to dance around playing her guitar.



'If only I could *knit* myself more space,' she sighed.

But she couldn't.

'I need a bigger home,' said Cat.





Dumpling was an amazing gardener. He loved to plant seeds and watch them grow. He looked after flowers, fruit, and trees. And he grew all kinds of vegetables, which he cooked into delicious feasts.

Dumpling's Latest Plants:



Extra crunchy lettuce
(for deliciously
crunchy sandwiches).

A baby beanstalk
(with no giants at the top).



Daisies for record-
breaking daisy chains.



The trouble was, Dumpling only had a titchy-tiny flat. Much too titchy and tiny for all his plants.

There was hardly room for anything else, let alone space for Dumpling to snuggle up in his comfy armchair and read a book.



'If only I could grow myself more space,' he sighed.

But he couldn't.

'I need a place with a garden,' said Dumpling.



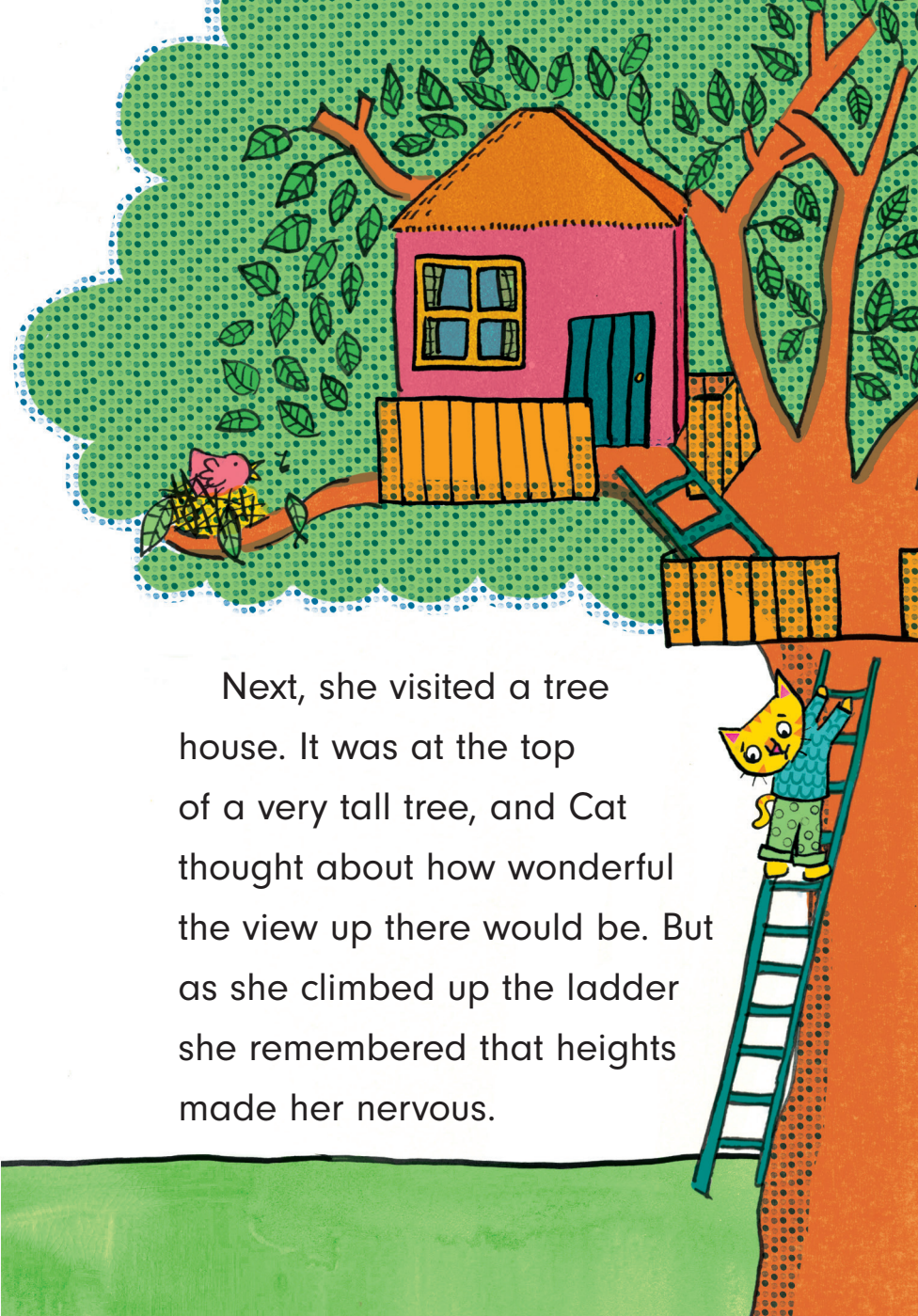
Chapter Three Cat Goes House-Hunting

Cat set off to visit some homes.

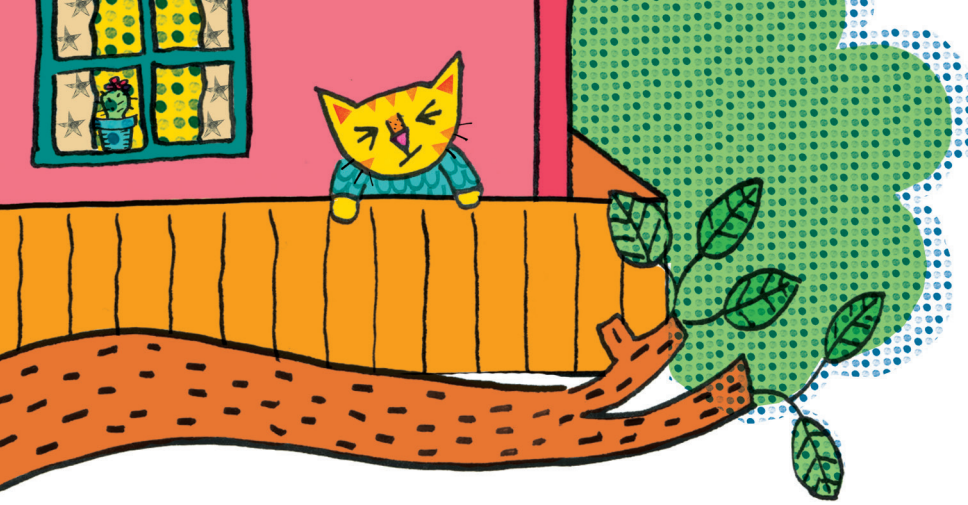
First, she went to see a windmill. Its windsails waved at her in welcome, and Cat thought about how special she would feel to live somewhere so unusual. But, as she stepped

towards the front door, her wool got caught in a sail and was quickly whipped into the biggest, messiest tangle in the world.

Cat crossed the windmill off her list.



Next, she visited a tree house. It was at the top of a very tall tree, and Cat thought about how wonderful the view up there would be. But as she climbed up the ladder she remembered that heights made her nervous.



By the time she got to the tree house, Cat felt so scared that she couldn't enjoy the wonderful view.

Cat crossed the tree house off her list.



Finally, Cat went to see a houseboat. Excitement bristled from her whiskers to her tail. If she lived on a boat, she could travel anywhere! But as soon as she hopped on to the swaying deck, Cat felt horribly seasick. When she grabbed a rail to steady herself, she lost hold of her knitting. It fell in the canal!

Cat stretched over the rail to try and grab it, but the knitting bobbed just out of reach. Cat swayed, she wobbled, and then she went . . .



SPLASH!

Luckily, Cat was an excellent swimmer. She grabbed the knitting and was quickly out of the canal and back on dry land. Freezing water dripped from her nose to her toes. Cat sighed. The houseboat was *not* going to be her new home.





Chapter Four
**Dumpling Goes
House-Hunting**

Dumpling also went to see some homes.

First, he visited a cave.
Dumpling thought it would be great to live in a space carved out of rock. But inside it was dark and gloomy and damp and cold.