

ALAN,
KING of the
UNIVERSE



TOM McLAUGHLIN

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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'To table 33 and all that sat at her x'

- Tom McLaughlin

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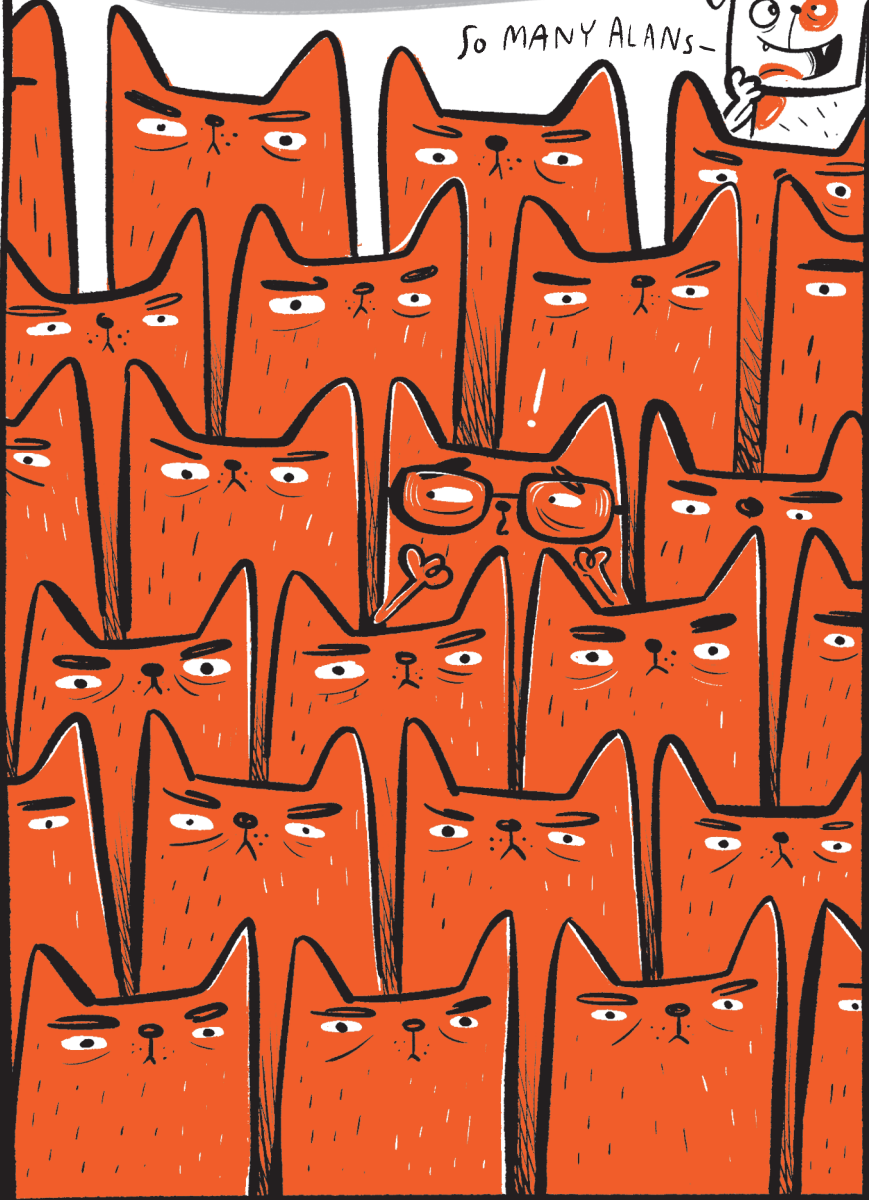
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CLONE ALONE

SO MANY ALANS-



The trouble with taking over the universe is it's awfully big.

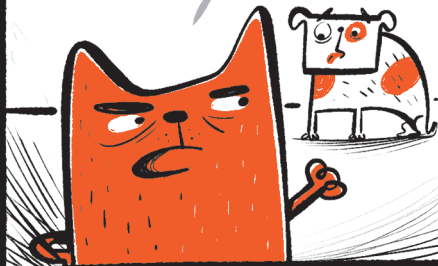


And there's only one me.



And one of me, Al!

Yes, but you're just a sidekick...



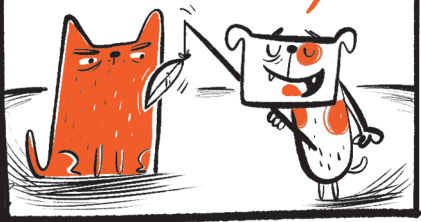
And not a very good one. If anything, you reduce my Alan-ness...



So actually, in scientific terms, I'm less Alan with you than I would be without you!



Do you want to play with your feather on a fishing rod? That always cheers you up.



If only there was more of me to go round...

Well, why don't you clone yourself like they did to this sheep?



Quiet, Fido! I've just had a great idea: I could clone myself!

Hold on, what are YOU doing with a copy of 'Science Today'? This is a magazine for clever, good-looking people like me.



Er, nothing. I just found it.

You were reading about dogs' bottoms again, weren't you?



No...

Fido!

OK, fine.
Maybe.

Gross, Fido! Why do dogs love other dogs' bottoms so much, anyway?

I mean, I hate to point this out, but it's a **BOTTOM**.

Oh, Alan. You just don't understand.

Everything you need to know about a dog you can learn with one sniff of their bottom.

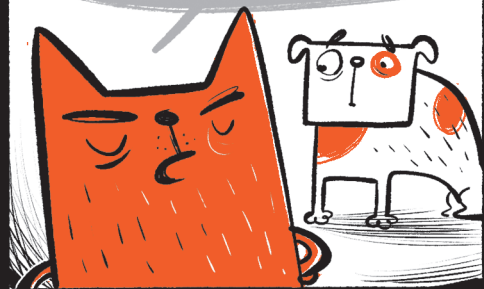
Who they are, where they've been, even what they like! It's wonderful!

SCIENCE TODAY

SCIENCE TODAY

Dogs are just
sooooo weird.

What do YOU do
when you see
another cat?



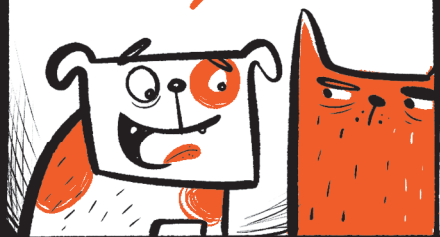
We give each other a
respectful nod, knowing
we are the greatest
creatures to walk the
planet.

A cat's bottom is no
one's business but
their own.



And you call dogs
weird. Anyway, back to
cloning bottoms...

We're not cloning
BOTTOMS, you fool!
Give me that magazine!



There's a lab that clones animals. Imagine an entire room full of Alans...



... all working for ME! I could finally fire you!



Yeah! Wait, what?

It's a good thing! Just imagine all the time you'll have to focus on your favourite hobby... **BOTTOMS.**



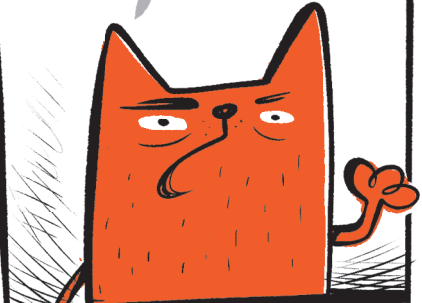
HURRAY!




Quick, let's go so I can be fired already!



WAIT!







We can't just turn up
at a prestigious lab.
We need a plan!



We'll need disguises
and a backstory...



We can't leave
ANYTHING to chance.



BLIMEY HE DOESN'T
HALF GO ON.

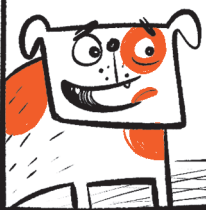
To Do
LIST:
TAKE OVER
THE UNIV
HAVE A
SIT DOWN



THE ART
OF BEING
EVIL

Don't forget, our best friend will be back at 5pm.

You mean our human servant? Good point.



In that case, let's just put on a pair of glasses and tell them we're from the Cloning Machine Inspection Agency and we're there to check their machine.



SOMETIME LATER

Say that again.



I SAID, we're from the Cloning Machine Inspection Agency and we're here to make sure everything works.



I didn't know there was such a thing.



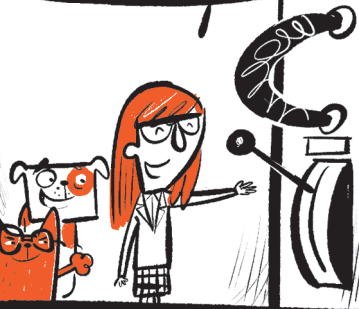
Well, there is. We're qualified scientist people. I mean, look at us, we're wearing glasses!



That's true!
You'd better come in.



Here is the cloning machine.



Wonderful! Now, run along, fellow scientist, and leave us to our work.



Right, Fido. Let's be quick!



But won't they notice if we take their special machine?

Another good point. You're making it really hard to fire you, Fido. You should really stop being so selfish.



What if we clone the machine so they don't realise it's gone?

I know! We will CLONE the cloning machine!



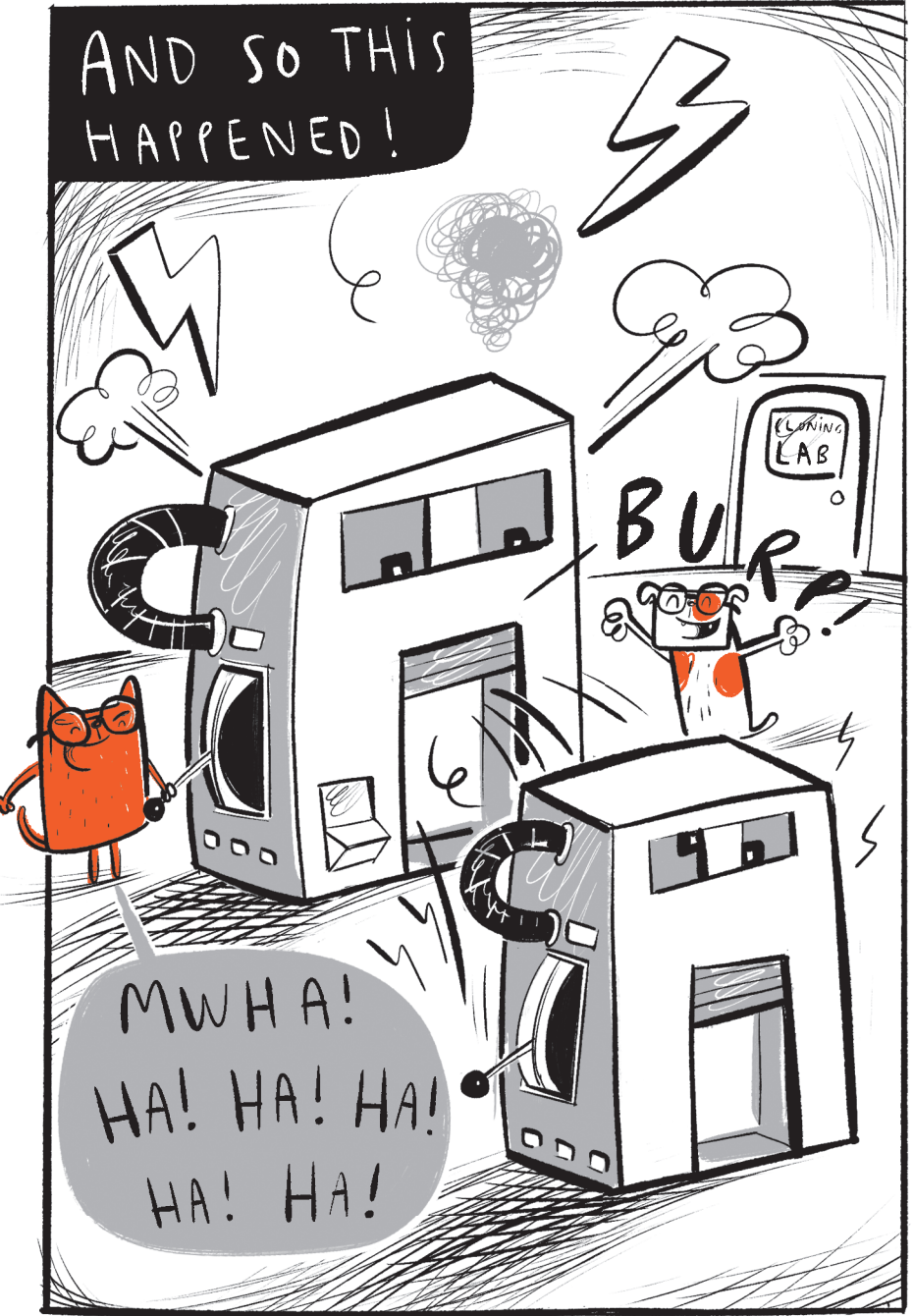
Wow! You're such a genius, Alan!



I suppose I am!



AND SO THIS
HAPPENED!



PING!

Ta-dah!

But how do we get it out without these scientists seeing?

Everyone, I heard they're giving away free calculators down the road!

Whoop, whoop!
I LOVE calculators!

That should keep them busy.

ARE WE THERE YET,
ARE WE THERE YET?

PUSH

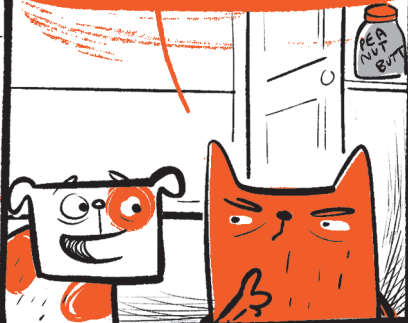
HEAVE

Finally!
Now, let's test it!

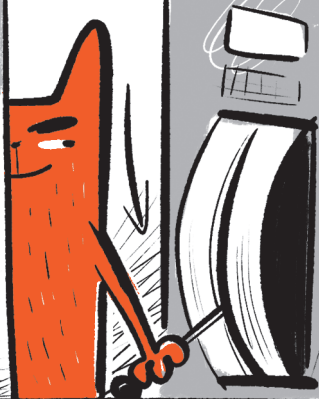


With what?

How about lunch?



Perfect! Let's do it!



ZAP! BANG!

It worked!



How does it taste?

Like the real thing!



AGAIN?



AGAIN!



AGAIN!

AGAIN!



AGAIN!
AGAIN!
AGAIN!
AGAIN!

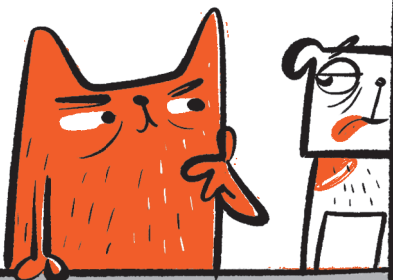
ZAP!
PING!



3 HOURS AND 538 SANDWICHES LATER



Wait!



Wasn't there another reason we got this machine?



I think I'm in a peanut butter sandwich fog. It's making my brain crunchy...



I think we were going to clone you!



Oh yes...

I'll get in and you hit the button. Just one copy of me, Fido!

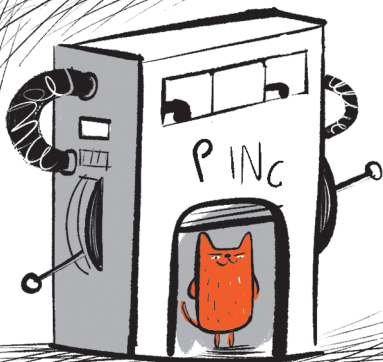
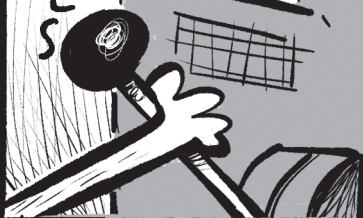


Yes, boss.



Hmm... how do you spell ONE?
One... Zero... Zero...
That should do it.

PULL
PULL
PULL



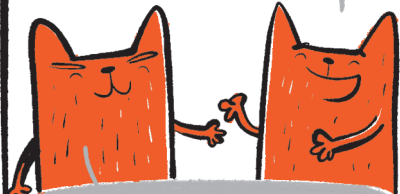
Morning! Today looks like a great day to...



TAKE OVER THE
UNIVERSE!

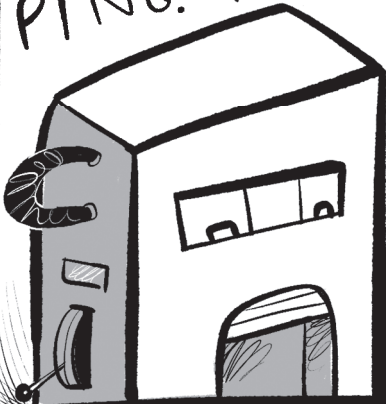


Hello! I'm Alan.

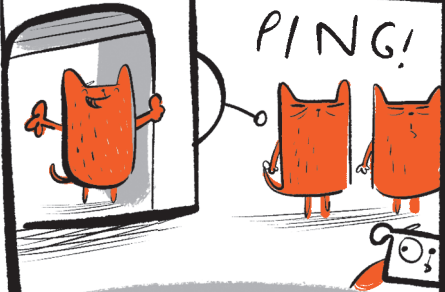


Hello, Alan! I'm Alan too.

PING!



PING!



Morning! Looks like
a great day to —

Fido, why is there a
third Alan?



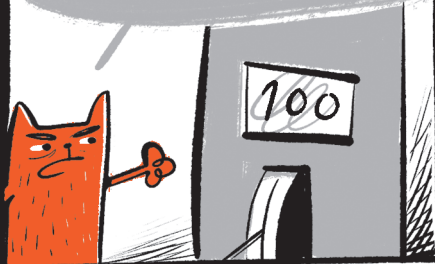
Err...

I was just going to
ask that!



Errr...

The cloning machine
says 100 copies!
I said one, Fido!



I added some zeros
to make sure the one
really stood out!



FIDO, YOU
NINCOMPOOP!



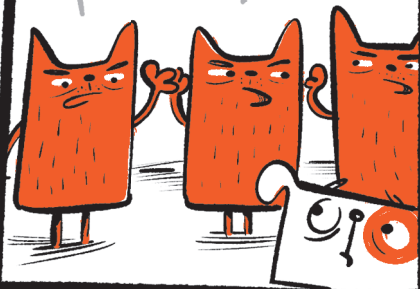
Ahhh!



Which Alan is the
real one?

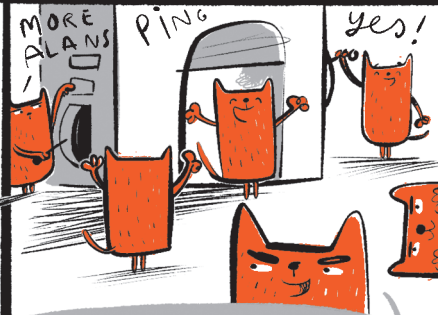


I am!



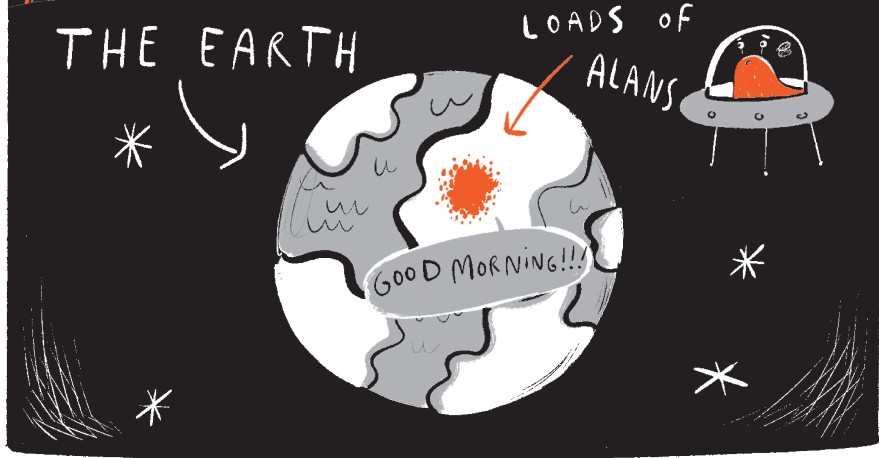
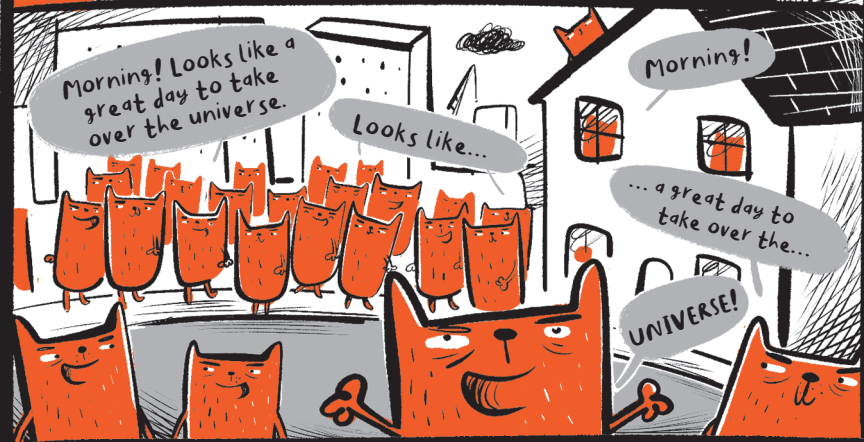


This is too much!
Alan?



I know!
We need more Alans!







Morning.

Morning.

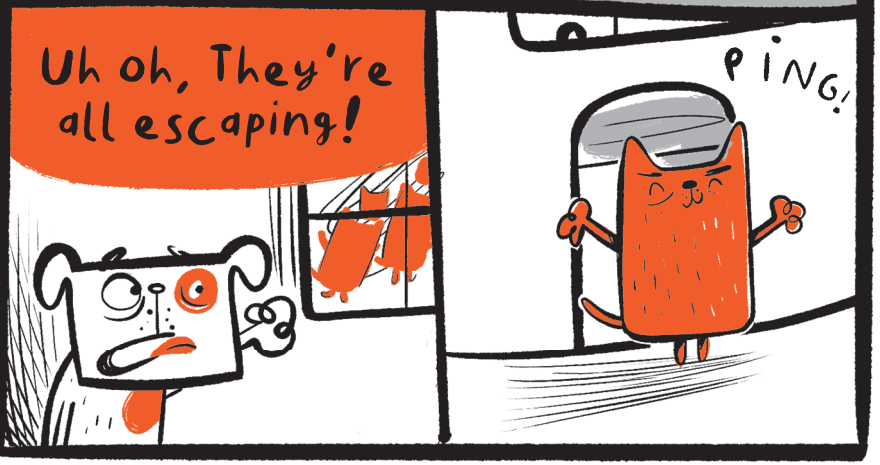
Fido, it's me!



How do I know you're the REAL Alan?

Look! I still have the glasses.

The other Alans are a bit annoying. I'm obviously the best at being me.



Uh oh, They're all escaping!

PING!

I can't take the purring anymore!

Purr Purrr Purrr

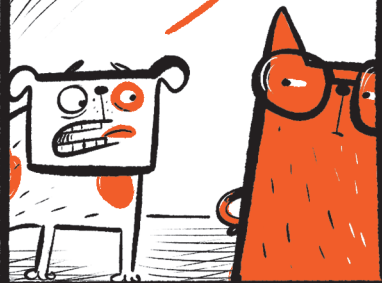
I wish my ears would fall off so I don't have to listen to it!

Wool Shop

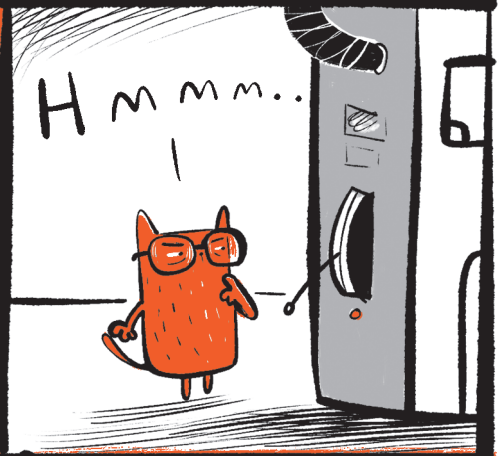
What a great day to take over the universe with my hamster sidekick!

Eeek! It's a bad day, a very BAD day!

What are we going to do, Alan?



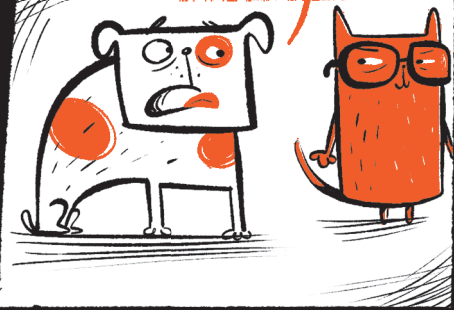
H m m m...



I know how we can reverse the whole thing!



Really? How?



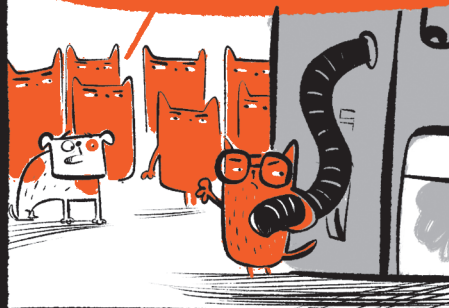
This button...



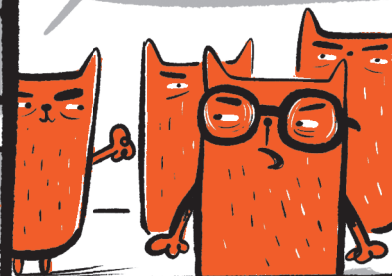
It'll vacuum them all up!



But the nozzle to suck them all back into the machine is too short!



Obviously you need to get all the Alans back in one place.



Good thinking, Alan.

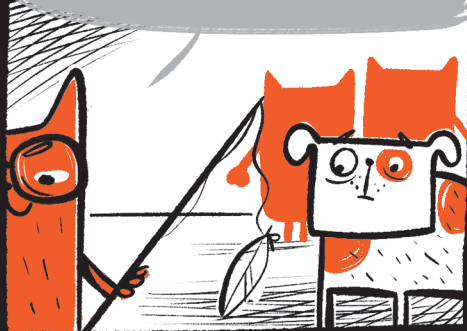


But what will attract these cats?

We need a feather on a fishing rod!!!



It's tiny, no one will see it!



Hm, we need to scale it up.



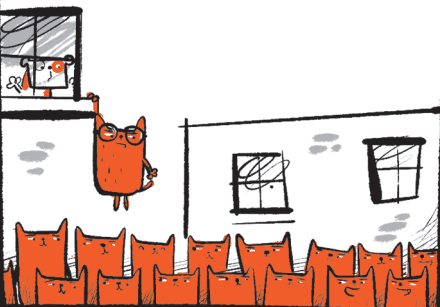
Like a big stick!

The BIGGEST stick.

Follow me,
Fido!



PING!



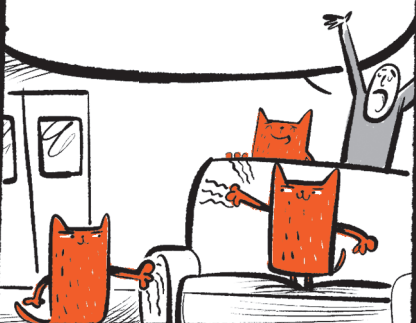
Meanwhile...

SCRITCH SCRATCH

Sofa
Shop



No! Stop scratching
my beautiful sofas!



30 SECONDS LATER

Peanut Butter
Emporium

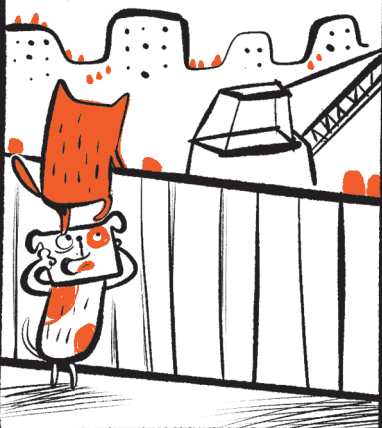
Peanut Butter
Emporium

MWHAHA!

MWHAHA!



There it is, fido!

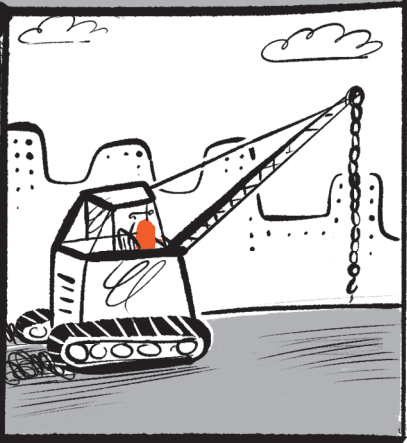
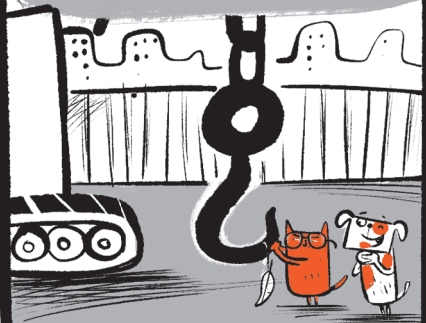


Let's go!



First, the feather.

NOW we're ready!



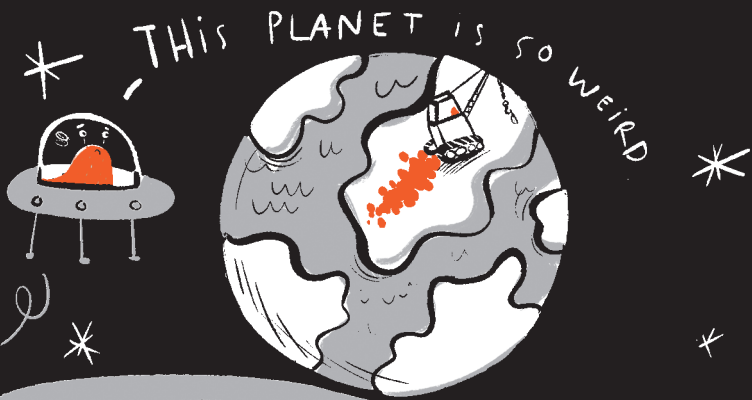
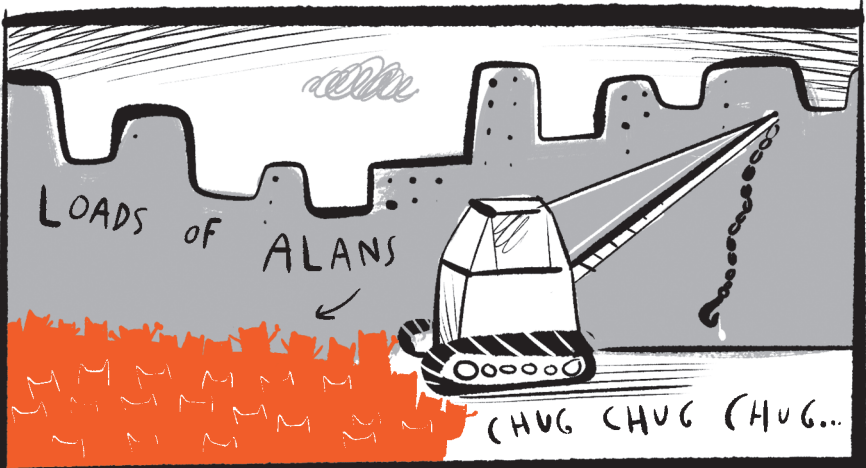
It's working!
I guess cats love
feathers on fishing rods
as much as dogs love
bottoms!





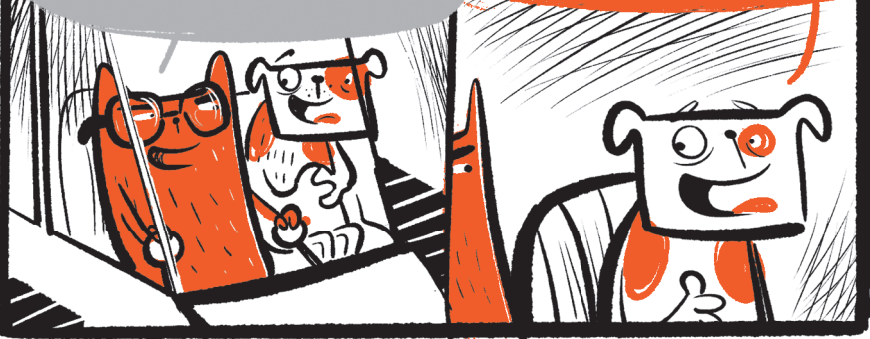
Look!
A feather!

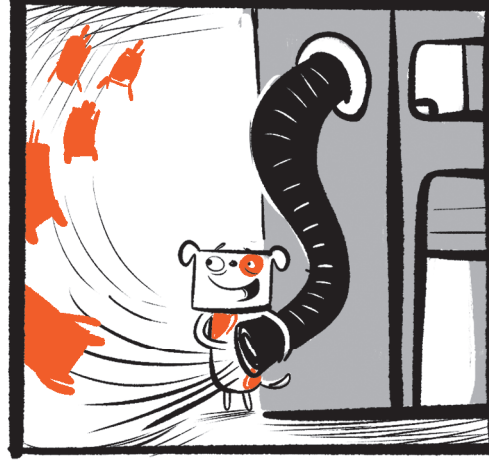
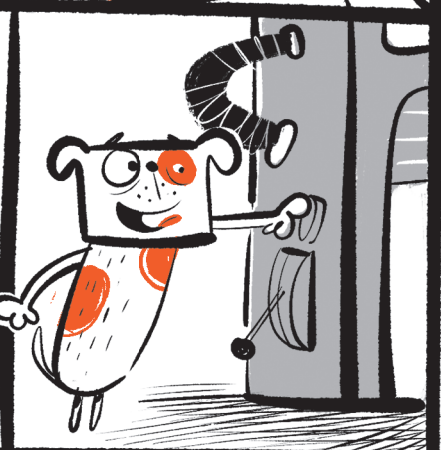
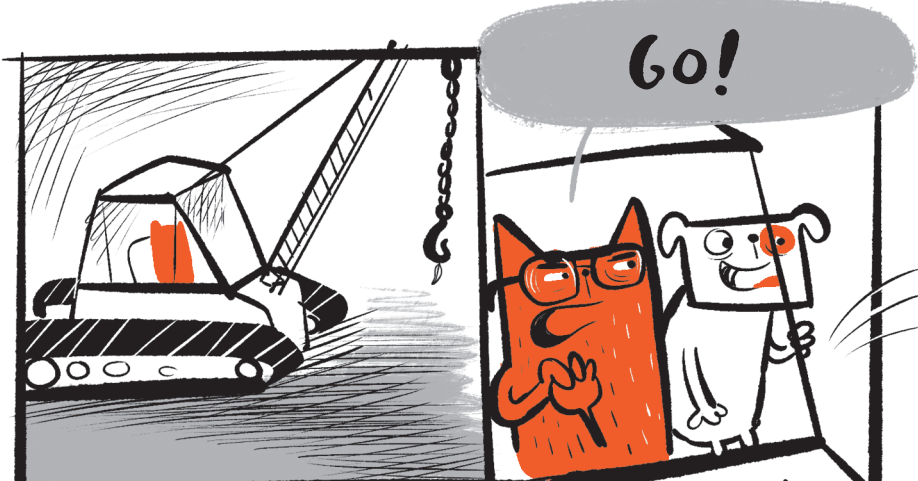
LET'S CHASE
IT!

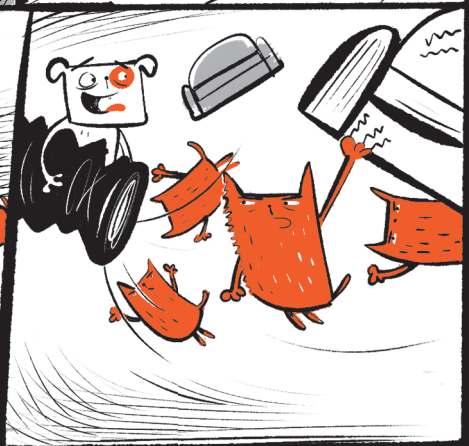
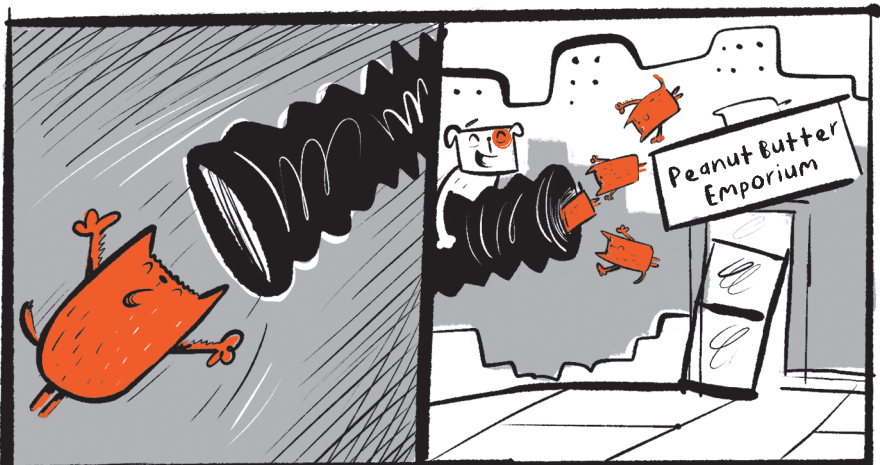


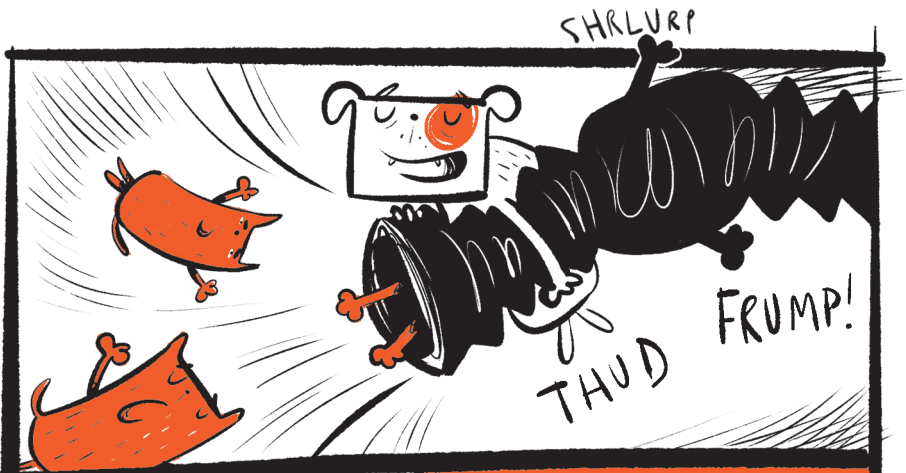
When I say 'go!', you press the button on the machine.

Yes, boss!









Well, that was intense.



No offence, but one of you is more than enough.

Yes, no firing you, Fido. You're the best sidekick ever.



One in a million!

One million Fidos, imagine...



Coming right up, boss!

PING -

NOOOOO!

