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Opening extract from

Supercat vs the Party Pooper

Written by

Jeanne Willis

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For Michael Wilcock, Superhero
J.W. xx

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Chapter One

TROUBLE AT THE PALACE

"Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you,
Happy birthday,
dear James,
Happy Birthday
to you!!!"



James Jones woke up to find his pet cat singing to him and waving a large gift under his nose.

This wasn't any old cat. This was Supercat.

"I wrapped your present with my own fair paws," he said proudly.

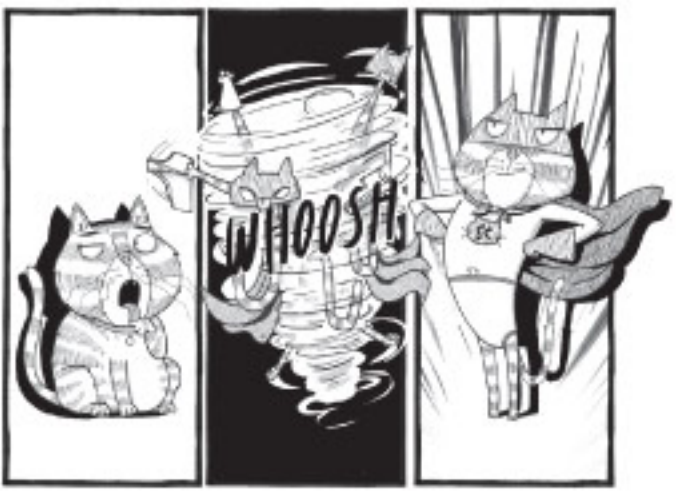
James sat up in bed and felt the package excitedly. It was soft and squashy. What on earth could it be?

Supercat had never given him a present when he was just an ordinary tabby called Tiger, but since the day he had eaten some strange fungus



growing on one of James's filthy socks, everything had changed. Now he had superpowers.





Not only could he sing, speak several languages and fight villains, he could also handle Sellotape. James tore off the wrapping.

"I designed it myself," said Supercat. "I hope it fits."

It was a superhero costume made from an old pair of trunks, which James immediately recognised as his dad's, and a sparkly vest that belonged to his little sister, Mimi.

"I based it on an outfit in your favourite *Tigerman* comic," said Supercat. "Try it on!"

James got out of bed, pulled on the costume over his pyjamas and looked in the mirror. The vest was so tiny it looked like a bra, and the trunks were so large that even with the drawstring pulled tight they bulged like a jester's pantaloons. He tried his best to sound delighted.



"Thank you, Supercat!" he said, struggling to find the right words. "It's... oh, it's..."

"Just what you always wanted!" beamed Supercat. "*C'est magnifique!* Now we've got matching superhero outfits. After all, we are a team."

