

opening extract from **Rita in the Deep Blue Sea**

writtenby Hilda Offen

published by

Happy Cat Books

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For Sean and Niamh

Published by Happy Cat Books An imprint of Catnip Publishing Ltd Islington Business Centre 3-5 Islington High Street London N1 9LQ

> First published 2005 1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 1 905117 07 8

Printed in China by Midas Printing International Ltd



"It's nice to be somewhere hot for a change," said Mrs Potter. "Where's Grandad? And Eddie and Julie and Jim?" asked Rita. "Oh - they've gone for a boat ride," said Mrs Potter. "I wanted to go!" cried Rita. "You're too young," said Mrs Potter. "You stay here and do some paddling."



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Rita watched the boat disappear over the horizon. Suddenly all the children in the sea started to cry. A big octopus had sneaked up and stolen their ice-creams.

"It's a good job I brought my Rescuer outfit," thought Rita. She grabbed her beach-bag and ran behind the wind-break. In the blink of an eye she'd turned into Rita the Rescuer. "Here I come!" she called and she dived into the water.

