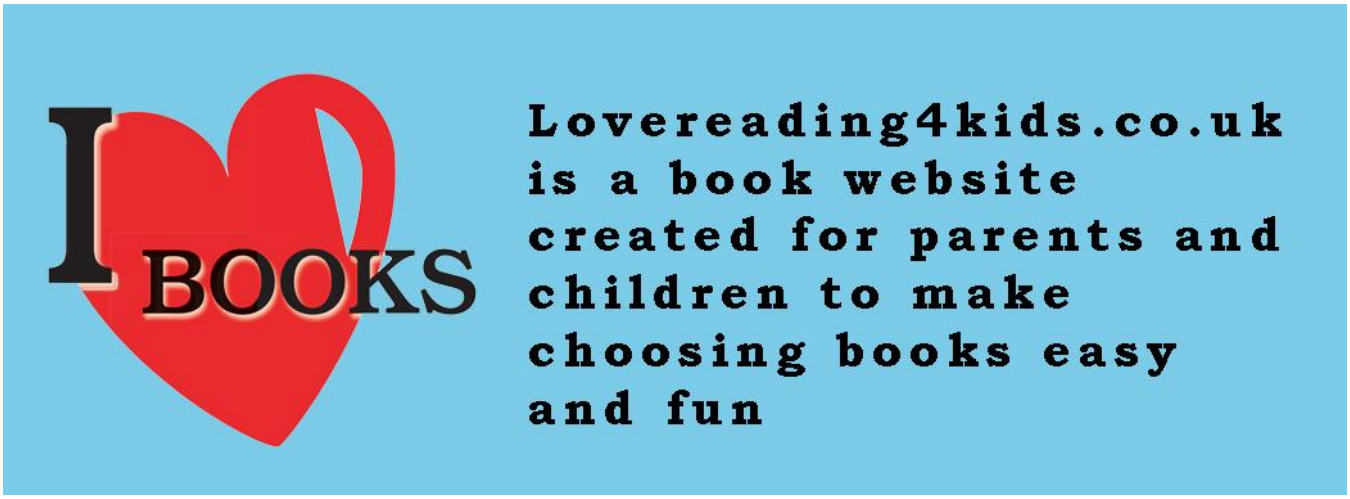


Opening extract from

Philomena
The Cat Who Thinks She's a Dog

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To Roberta - C. B.

To Ian, Jenny, Harry & Kate - E. S.

With special thanks to Cherith Baldry

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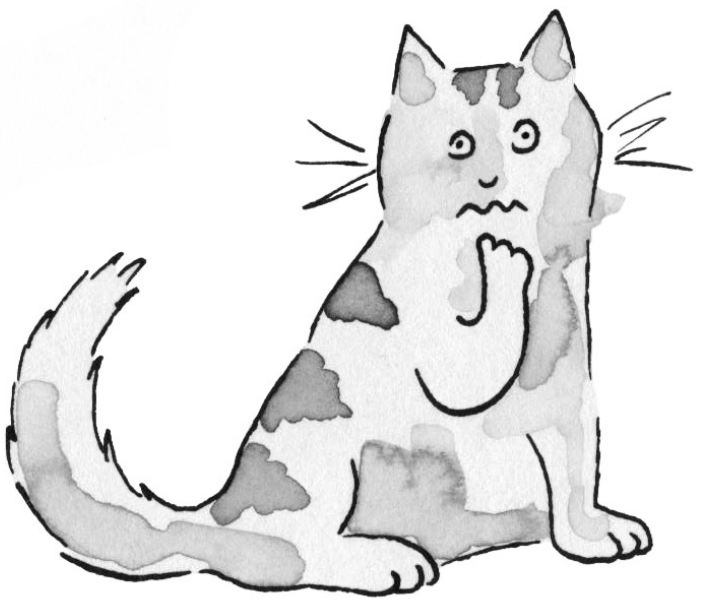
1

Philomena Finds a New Home



Philomena's whiskers twitched. Her stomach felt as if it was full of mice, chasing each other's tails.

I'm going to a new home today, she thought.



She felt a bit sad to be leaving her mother Moby, her sisters and her brother Geronimo, but mostly she was excited.

I hope my new family are nice, she thought.

When Philomena heard the doorbell ring, she thought of going to hide under the kitchen cupboard. But instead she sat up straight. She was glad that Moby had given her a specially thorough lick to make sure she looked extra smart.



Mrs Plunkett and Dylan came into the kitchen with three other people following them.

"Philomena, this is Mr and Mrs Simpkins and their daughter Sophie," said Mrs

Plunkett. "You're going to go and live with them."

Dylan scooped up Philomena and gave her a goodbye stroke.

"Take care," he said. "Mind you behave yourself."



"I'm sure she will," said Mrs Simpkins. "Do you like her, Sophie? She's such a cute little cat."

Philomena pricked up her ears. A cute little **WHAT**?

Sophie took Philomena from Dylan and cuddled her close.



"I love her already," she said. "She's the best little cat in the world."



Yes, I did hear it right, thought Philomena as she rode with Sophie to the Simpkins' car.

All the Plunkett family, Moby and the other kittens and Geronimo came to the door to see her off. Geronimo waved his tail like a big, hairy rope.

"Wave goodbye, little cat," said Sophie.

These people seem nice enough, thought Philomena, *but they must be a bit stupid. Geronimo's my brother, and he's a dog, so why can't they get it that I'm no cat? I'm a* ***DOG****!*



2

Philomena Goes Shopping

