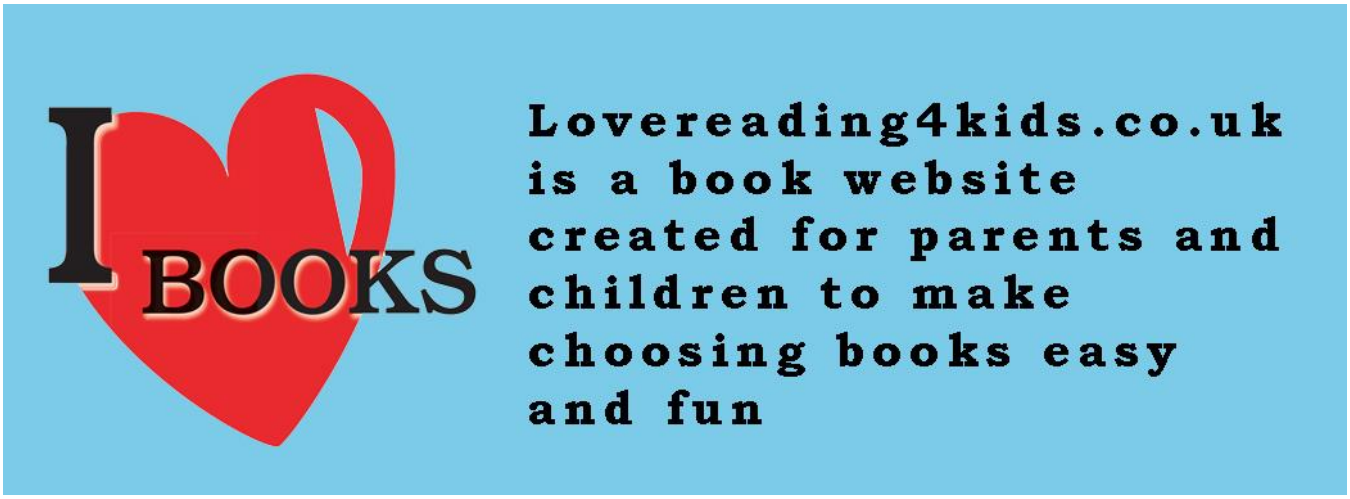


Opening extract from

Squishy McFluff: The Big Country Fair

Written by

Pip Jones

Illustrated by

Ella Okstad

Published by

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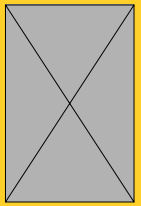
For Ava and Ruby.
Also for my sensational sisters,
Tash, Katie and Claire. xxx

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Squishy McFluff
The Invisible Cat

Big Country Fair

by Pip Jones

Illustrated by Ella Okstad

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FABER & FABER



Can you see him? My kitten?

He's a sight to behold!

He's stunningly fluffy.

(And also quite bold!)

Imagine him, quick!

Have you imagined enough?

Oh good! You can see him!

It's Squishy McFluff!




1

It was a Sunday in autumn

and young Ava's room

Was filled with the scents

of her mummy's perfume.

The floor was all covered

with ribbons and bows

And there on the bed,

next to Ava's best clothes,

Squishy McFluff

was invisibly curled.



Ava squealed: ‘You’re the

cutest cat in the world!

‘But we still need to blow dry

your fur, and my hair!

‘’Cos it’s only two hours

’til the Big Country Fair!’

The hairdryer BLASTED

and over the hum,



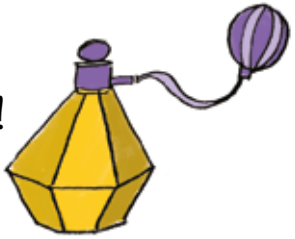
Ava just about heard

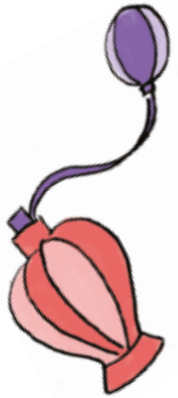
a loud shout from her mum:

‘Er, AVA? Do you REALLY
need my entire
‘Manicure set? And can I
have my hairdryer?
‘I need to get ready.
My hair is still wet!’



But Ava said: ‘Sorry, Mum!
Not finished yet!





‘Squishy can’t go to the fair
looking scruffy,
‘He has to be handsome
and perfectly fluffy.



‘I’m using your nail files
to shape all his claws.
‘He needs scent on his whiskers,
and scent on his paws.





‘Today is the day

we’ll achieve our ambition

‘To come FIRST in the

Prettiest Pet Competition!’

Mum sighed, grabbed a towel,

and rubbed her damp head.



‘I’m not sure you should enter him,

Ava . . .’ Mum said.

‘While I do understand

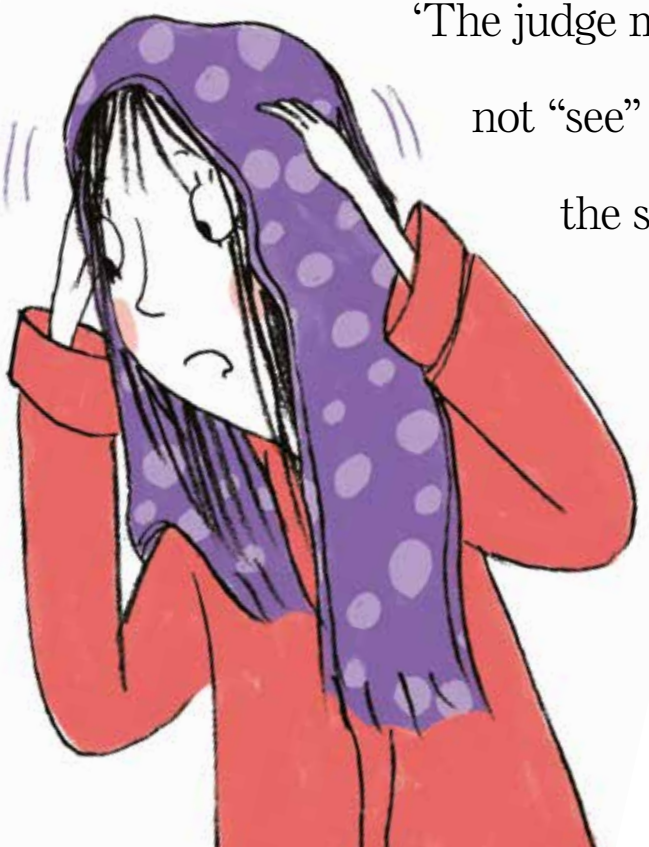
Squishy’s special to YOU,

‘The judge might

not “see” Squish

the same way

you do.’



Well, Ava was just far

too busy to listen.

She buffed Squishy's claws

'til they started to glisten.



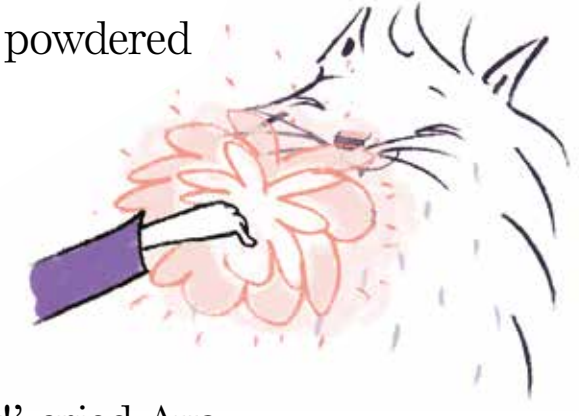


She fluffed up

his tail

and she powdered

his nose.



'You're ready!' cried Ava.

'Now, practise your pose!'