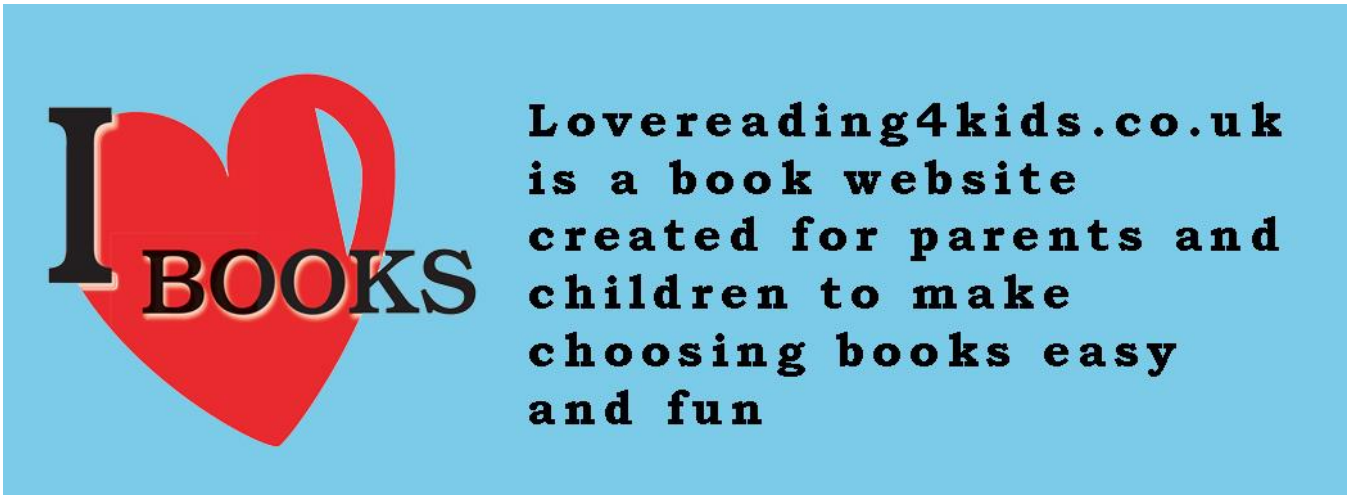


Opening extract from

The Scruffs

Written & Illustrated by

Hannah Shaw

Published by

Scholastic Press an imprint of Scholastic

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.



Scholastic Children's Books
An imprint of Scholastic Ltd
Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1DB, UK
Registered office: Westfield Road, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 0RA
SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or
registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

First published in the UK by Scholastic Ltd, 2017

Text copyright © Hannah Shaw, 2017
Cover copyright © Hannah Shaw, 2017
Inside illustration copyright © Hannah Shaw, 2017

The right of Hannah Shaw to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them.

ISBN 978 1407 16134 1

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

All rights reserved.
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, hired out or otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without prior written permission of Scholastic Limited.

Printed by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

Papers used by Scholastic Children's Books are made from wood grown in sustainable forests.

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, incidents and dialogues are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual people, living or dead, events or locales is entirely coincidental.

www.scholastic.co.uk

Chapter One

THE (not so) PERFECT PET

You know the kind of shop you walk past a thousand times and never really notice? The kind of shop that must have been there since your granny was in nappies?

Well, "The Perfect Pet" is that shop. The paint is peeling from the doorframe, the sign is wonky and the posters in the window are faded. If you step a little closer to the entrance, the whiff of musty gerbil poop and damp shavings will tickle your nostrils.

Shall we step inside? *Ting-a-ling!*


PERFECT PET
PAY HERE
CANINES & FELINES
MEATY BREATH
MEATY
CORN
BEST BISCUITS

What a mess...!



Did you spot?

- Fleas (watch your ankles! There's an infestation in the carpet!)
- Rodent bedding
- Dogs' beds
- Birdseed
- Dog biscuits and chews
- Cat scratching posts
- Budgie mirrors
- Grooming brushes
- Collars

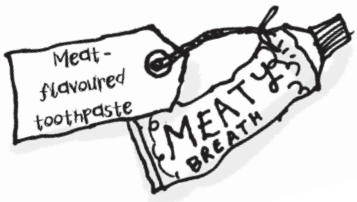






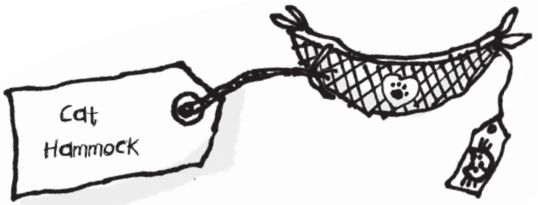
Look even harder and you may find the more unusual items such as:

- Meat-flavoured toothpaste (Mmm! Delicious!)





- Cat hammocks – for the cat that likes to chill.



- Dog seatbelts – Buckle up, pooches!



- A miniature shipwreck – an essential for a nautical-themed fishtank.



Somewhere asleep at the back of the pet shop is the owner, Mr Straw. He loves all animals (great and small) and would help anything from a grizzly bear to a woodlouse if it was in need.

He spends most of his days dozing, waking only briefly to serve



customers (fortunately for him there aren't very many of those). His jumpers are usually inside out and because he is always losing his glasses, he can't see very much. But this is probably for the best, because if he knew what his beloved pets were up to, he'd be worried...

Pets? I hear you say. *There are pets in here?! Where?*

You can't see them just at the moment because they are playing a game of hide-and-seek.

Shall we go and find them?

Look, over there in the bin of dried peas and sunflower seeds – some ears are poking out. It's **Gerb!** He's a gerbil ... with HUGE ears.



His giant lugholes are very useful and he can hear someone coming from a mile away. He wants to be the first flying gerbil, but he hasn't quite figured that one out yet.

Is that a feather duster? No, it's **Lost** – the budgie. Lost is even more shortsighted than Mr Straw. She only found out her name when she saw herself on a LOST BUDGIE poster. One day she tumbled into the yard of the Perfect Pet shop and she hasn't found her way home since. Lost is now happily "on holiday", as she likes to think of it (secretly, she can't remember where she used to live anyway).



Give a huge round of applause for **Elvis** – the chameleon. Uh-huh! Elvis is an ancient

exotic desert chameleon with an exciting musical past (he once belonged to a man who made a living impersonating this really old singer your gran used to like). He has the funky ability to change into loads of colours, unfortunately, he usually ends up picking the wrong one and can't merge into the background. "But having a long, sticky tongue is very handy, thankyouverymuch!"



Grr! Woof! Here comes **Itch!** This lovable flea-ridden mutt has been living in the pet shop the longest and is leader of the pack. He is by far the scruffiest, but he's super-streetwise from years of being a wanderer. He has lost an eye, but he totally rocks the pirate dog look, and his sense of

smell is terrific.

And that's all of the pets that live in the shop... Oops, I almost forgot Slug.



"What do you mean? You forgot about the BEST pet here! I'm a medium-sized garden slug of immaculate pedigree. Humph! And I'm the only slug in the world who can read and write."

Slug learned to read after eating his way through the piles of Mr Straw's newspapers. (And he's not REALLY a pet ... but don't tell him that!)



Together they are the **Scruffs** – the scruffiest, smelliest pets in town!

And no, although this is meant to be a pet *shop*, Mr Straw has no intention of selling *any* of them. This is their home and they love it here.

