Sophie Takes to the Sky

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Barrington Stoke

First published in 2019 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

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

ISBN: 978-1-78112-871-8

Printed in China by Leo

This book is in a super-readable format for young readers beginning their independent reading journey.



Chapter 1

Scaredy-Cat Sophie

A long time ago, in a small French village by the sea, there lived a little girl called Sophie.

Sophie lived with her mama and her older sister Flora in a white house with green shutters, not far from the village square.

In the village, everyone knew everything about everybody else. And the most important thing that they all knew about Sophie was that she was scared of *everything*.

Sophie was scared of mice and spiders. She was scared of thunderstorms and shadows.

She was scared of the big black cat that belonged to Annette next door and the big brown dog that barked outside Pierre's farm.

She was scared of the ghost that might live in the cupboard in her bedroom and the monster that might hide under her bed.



Sophie shivered when she went down to the cellar in the dark. She shook when she rode in a carriage. She screamed when she heard a loud noise.

"Oh, Sophie!" said Mama. "What are we going to do with you?"

When Sophie was scared, Mama was kind and comforting. But Flora was not kind at all. Flora was brave and bold, and she thought Sophie's fears were stupid.

She had a name she called Sophie in secret, when Mama could not hear her: *Scaredy-Cat Sophie.*

Sophie hated the nickname. She wished she wasn't always frightened, but she just couldn't help it.

It was no good. She was going to be *Scaredy-Cat Sophie* for ever.