For Tiddles, who was and always will be my floofliest of floofs. In my heart forever xxx – L.E.A.

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LAURA ELLEN ANDERSON

Starkitties

DETECTIVE KITTY IS ON THE CASE!





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Whiskery Salon
Pawprint Bakery
Marvellous Meowsies
POST OFFICE
THE WINDOW LEDGES
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHISKERY PAW

Which Star Kitties will Tabitha meet today?



Tabitha Flair



Reading Kitty

Felicity Page



Inventor Kitty

Professor Dib-Dab



Cupcake Kitty

Mimi Crumbles



Post Kitty

Henrietta Stamps

A very mysterious Kitty . . .



Who could this be?



Artist Kitty

Von Splatt



Forest Kitty

Flora Wilde



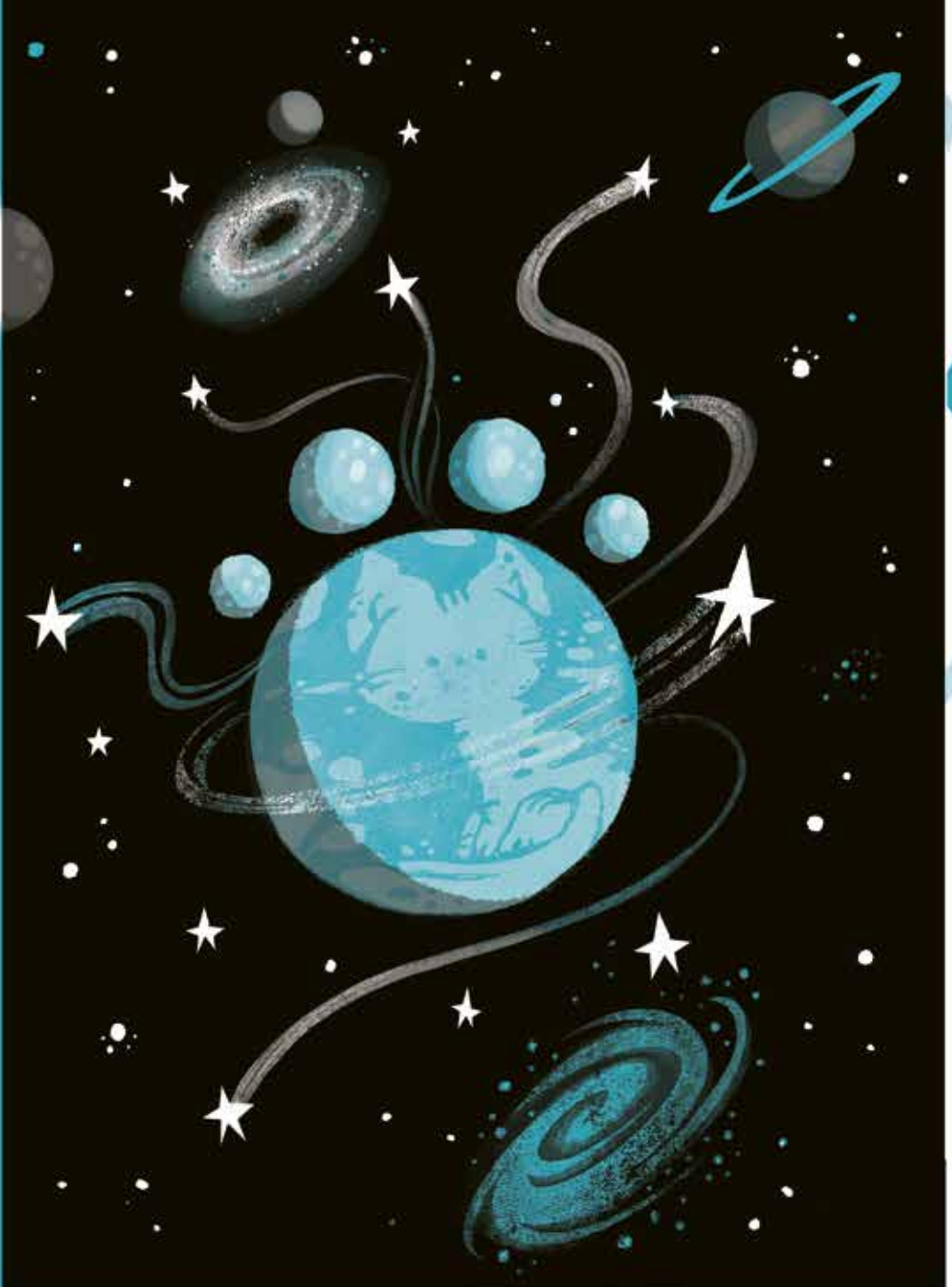
Royal Kitty

Queen Moggaline



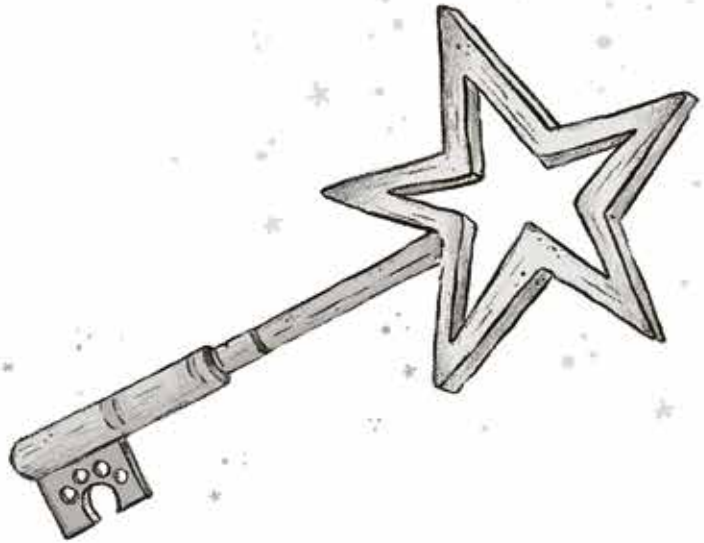
Fashion Kitty

Claudelius La Frock



PURROLOGUE

Way up high ~ times three, times four ~
You might spot the planet of Whiskery Paw,
There's ONE way to get there,
of that I am sure,
With a magical key through a secret door!



Number twenty-five Whiskery Way stood right at the end of the street: a tiny house covered with bright flowers and climbing plants.

It was so hidden away that most people didn't even realise it was there.

But sometimes the smallest places hold the biggest secrets . . .





At the end of the garden, a tiny shed hid among the climbing catnip and sprays of silvery scurfpea. Tabitha Flair and her mum had tried to open the door from time to time, but it had always remained stubbornly closed.

One sunny afternoon, Tabitha spotted something shining in a patch of flowers. It was a key in the shape of a star, engraved with tiny words:

In the darkest of night at the end of the day,
the stars will always light your way . . .

Tabitha felt a flurry of butterflies in her tummy. She looked towards the shed.

And there – hidden beneath the plants – she saw a little star carved into the wood. She'd never spotted it before!

With her hands shaking just a little, Tabitha put the star key into the shape on the door.

And the door opened!

Tabitha stepped into the shed . . . and out into a whole new world.






A wonderful world of
Starkitties!



CHAPTER 1: BIG NEWS!

Tabitha Flair was feeling rather wibbly and a bit wobbly from excitement. Not only was today a Friday . . . but it was also her birthday! Her mum was taking her to the cinema that evening with her best friend Theo. But first, Tabitha was longing to take a trip to her favourite magical place . . . Whiskery Paw!

There was NEVER a dull moment on Whiskery Paw. Around every corner was the friendly face, twirling tail and welcoming whiskers of a Star Kitty.

The Star Kitties weren't like next door's cat Chunkathon, who never stopped eating.



The Star Kitties weren't like Aunt Sherrie's cat Flompus the Third, who was the laziest cat in the world.



The Star Kitties could TALK. Each one had a bright glowing star on their tummies. And each kitty had an important job to do!

Just as she did every Friday after school, Tabitha ate her dinner and rushed straight out to the tiny shed at the end of the garden.

'Don't play in the garden for too long,' called her mum. 'We need to leave for the cinema in ten minutes!'

'I'll be back before you know it!' Tabitha answered with a grin.

She was right. One of the many magical things about Whiskery Paw was that Tabitha could stay there for as long as she liked. No time passed back home.

Tabitha retrieved the star key that she had stashed under a flower pot by the shed and put it in the lock. Then she turned the

key carefully, walked through the shed door and with a . . .

SWOOSH

and a . . .

SWISH

and a . . .

GLITTERY SPARKLE!

Tabitha Flair appeared on the planet of Whiskery Paw, with a great big . . .

SPLOSH!

Tabitha was standing in the Tabby Town water fountain.

(This was another magical – and slightly inconvenient – thing about Whiskery Paw. Tabitha never knew exactly WHERE she would arrive.)

'Well, this is a rather soggy start,' said Tabitha. She tucked the star key safely in her dripping pocket and pushed back her wet hair.



Last Friday, she'd arrived inside Bushy Tales Library on one of the highest bookshelves. Luckily, Felicity Page the Reading Kitty had been there to help Tabitha climb down.



The Friday before that, Tabitha had ended up in Professor Dib-Dab's lab in the middle of one of his experiments, swept up in a whirlwind of soggy socks.







On one of her luckier arrivals, Tabitha had emerged in the Pawprint Bakery just in time for a freshly baked batch of starberry cupcakes – her FAVOURITE snack on Whiskery Paw!

Now, as Tabitha clambered out of the fountain, Henrietta Stamps the Post Kitty was cycling past, the star on her tummy glowing brightly.







Everything about the Post Kitty was very round and very squidgy. Henrietta cycled around Whiskery Paw delivering letters and parcels of all types, never without a friendly greeting!

'Hi, Henrietta!' Tabitha called out with a wave.

Henrietta cycled straight into a lamppost.

All the undelivered letters and parcels went tumbling to the ground.

Luckily, Henrietta bounced right back up on to her paws.

'Wobbling whiskers!' cried Tabitha, running over to help the Post Kitty. 'Are you okay?!'

'Oh, I'm dandy, thank you, Tabitha,' said Henrietta, dusting herself down. 'I bump into a lamppost at least twice a day . . .' She shook her head. 'But that's not important. Have you heard the BIG news?!'

Tabitha puffed up her chest in fully fledged, birthday-girl fashion. How did they know it was her birthday?! The Star Kitties were so clever!

‘I can’t WAIT to celebrate with you all!’ Tabitha said with a big grin.

The Star Kitties always loved to celebrate a special occasion. When Tabitha started a brand-new school, Mimi Crumbles the Cupcake Kitty made Tabitha a special cake that changed colour and flavour as you ate it. When Tabitha learned to swim without arm bands, the Star Kitties organised a huge pool party in the Whiskery Whirlpool. (Earth cats might not like water, but the Star Kitties LOVE getting wet!) And just a few Fridays ago, when Tabitha had learned to ride a bike without stabilisers, Swifty McGee the Sporty Kitty had organised a magical ride across the moggy moons on bikes that FLEW!

‘Well, I’m not sure it’s something to celebrate,’ Henrietta said with a frown.

Tabitha’s smile drooped. The Star Kitties didn’t want to celebrate her birthday?

‘Oh, but—’ she started.

Tabitha didn’t have a chance to finish her sentence. Because there was an almighty ‘MEEEEEEEEOOOOOOOOOW!’ – and a moment later, a whole CLOWDER of Star Kitties came bounding into Tabby Town, their tummy stars flashing.

‘Pottering pawprints!’ said Tabitha, almost falling into the fountain again. ‘What on Whiskery Paw is going on?!’