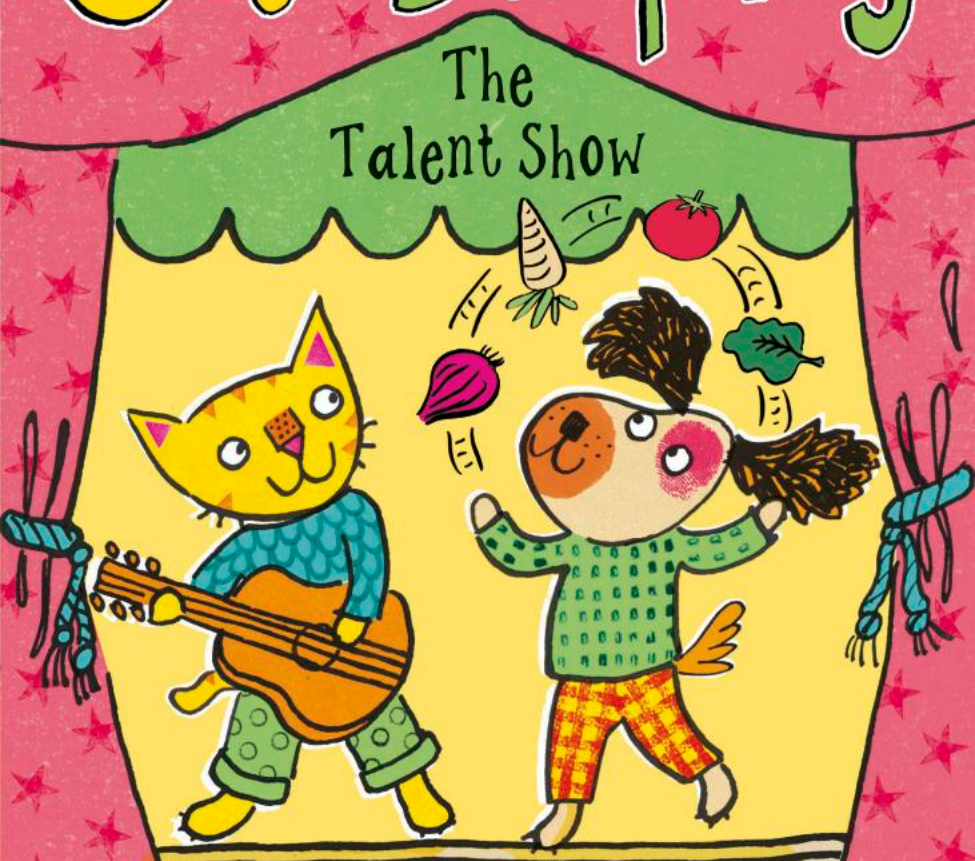
Cat and Dumpling

The Talent Show



An unlikely furry friendship!

Nicola Kent


This book belongs to

To my mum, my first and best flatmate

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

Copyright © Nicola Kent 2025

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published in 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, used for text and data mining, or used for training artificial intelligence, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, by licence or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-278847-4

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

Printed in China

The manufacturer's authorised representative in the EU for product safety is Oxford University Press España S.A. of el Parque Empresarial San Fernando de Henares, Avenida de Castilla, 2 – 228830 Madrid (www.oup.es/en).

Cat and Dumpling

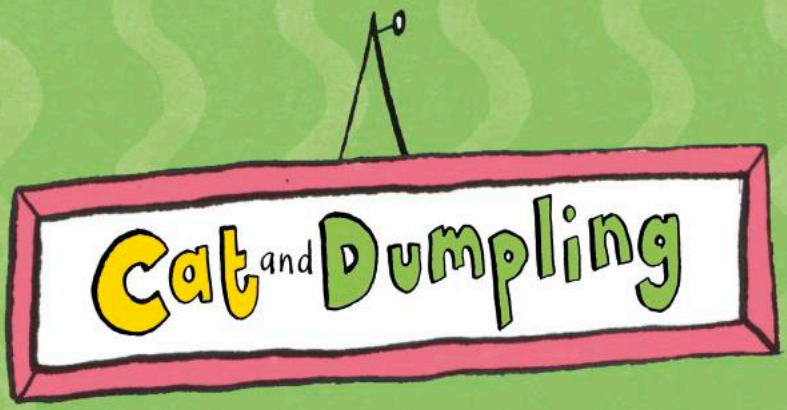
The Talent Show





Nicola Kent

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Meet Cat and Dumpling. Cat is a cat. Dumpling is a dog. Cat likes knitting; Dumpling likes gardening. Cat likes cunning plans; Dumpling likes a quiet life. They are very different, like radishes and raincoats.

And this is the story of how they ended up having a very Unquiet Day . . .



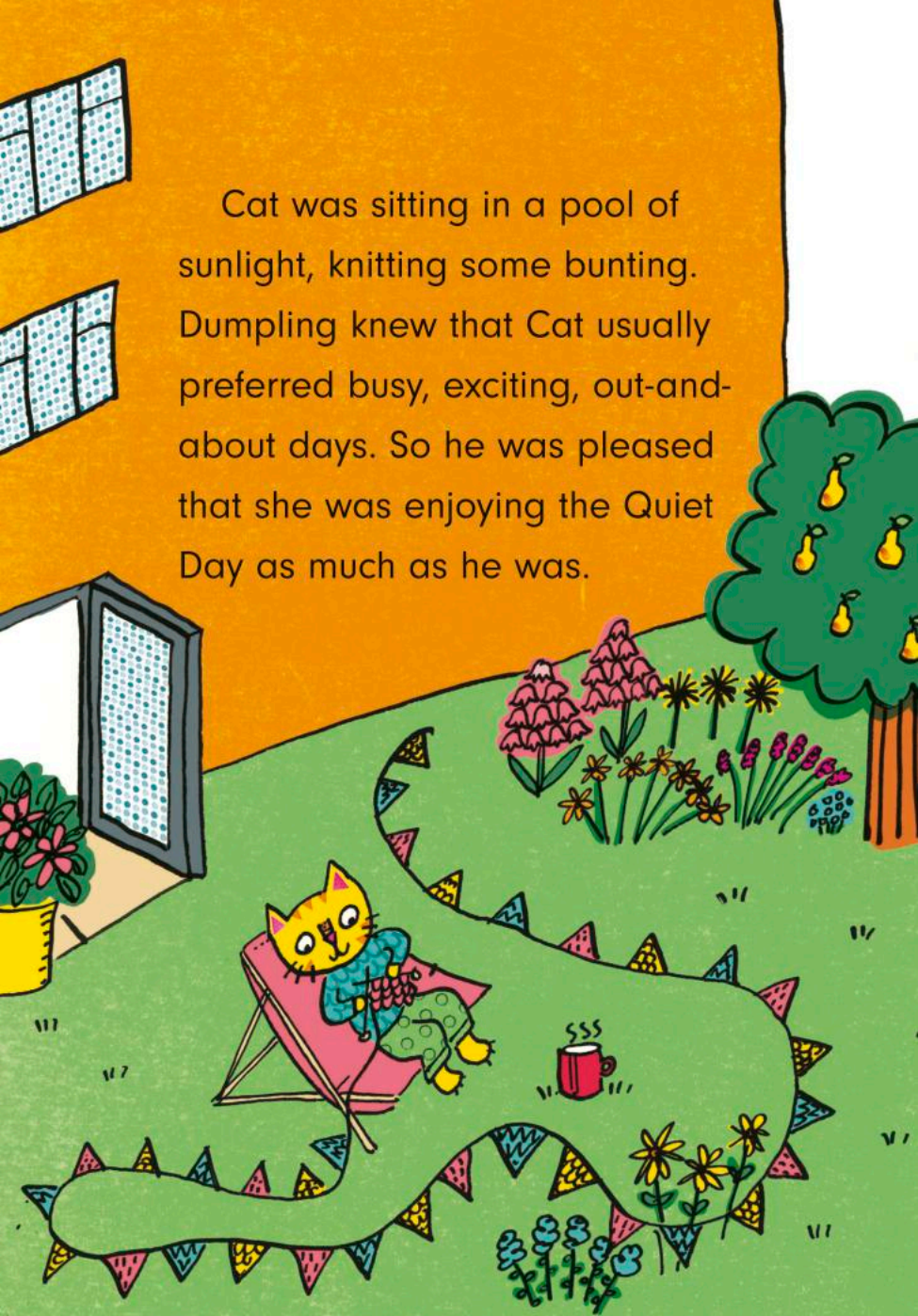




Chapter One
A Quiet Day

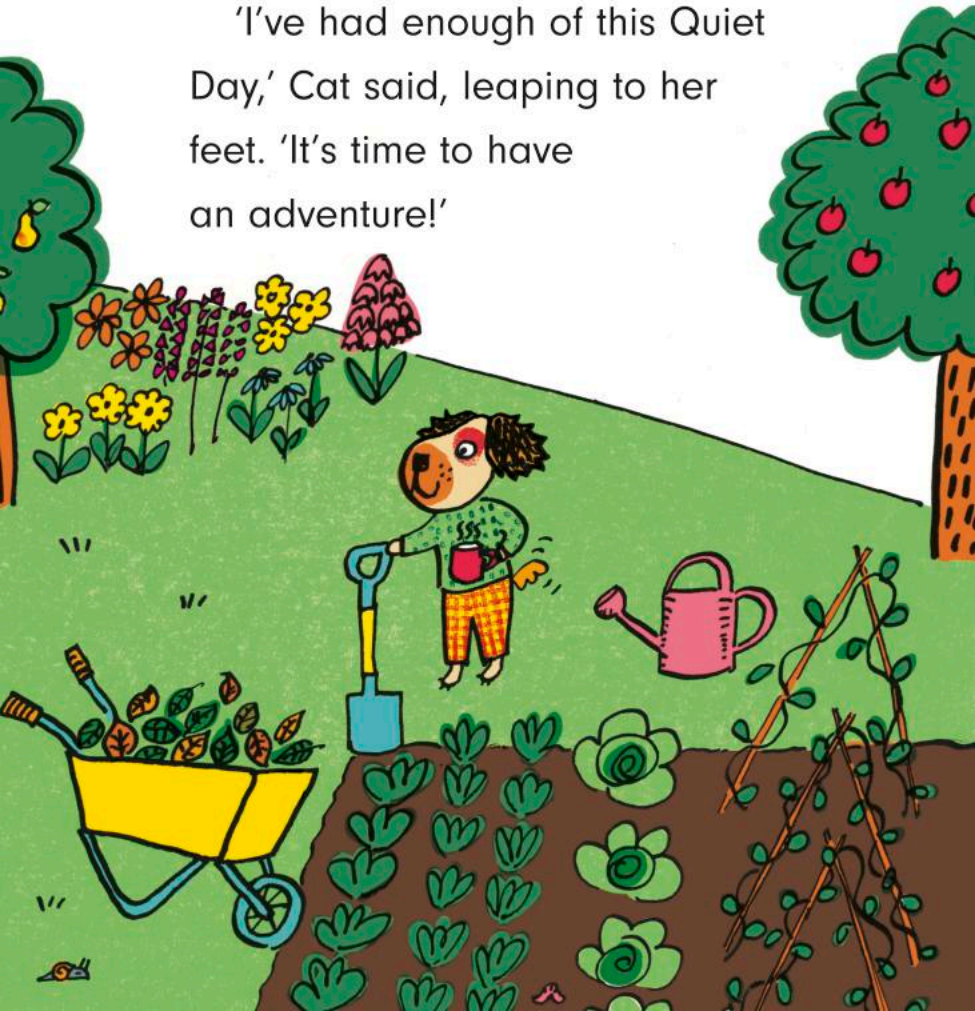
Cat and Dumpling were having a Quiet Day in the garden. The sun was bright and warm, and Dumpling was busy with some of his favourite gardening jobs. For Dumpling, Quiet Days were perfect days.

Cat was sitting in a pool of sunlight, knitting some bunting. Dumpling knew that Cat usually preferred busy, exciting, out-and-about days. So he was pleased that she was enjoying the Quiet Day as much as he was.



But Dumpling should have known that Cat being quiet couldn't last for long . . .

'I've had enough of this Quiet Day,' Cat said, leaping to her feet. 'It's time to have an adventure!'



Dumpling's heart sank. He hadn't even counted the ladybirds yet! He had an emergency quick think. Maybe if Cat joined in with his gardening, she would enjoy the Quiet Day for longer.

'Would you like to dig up a parsnip?' he said.

'That sounds fun,' said Cat.

Dumpling smiled as he passed Cat his spade. But as Cat pushed it deep into the ground, it hit a rock.










The handle broke clean off. Dumpling sighed. So much for the Quiet Day!