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opening extract from

Stan and Mabel

written by

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published by

Templar Publishing

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As Stan hurriedly packed his bowl and brush into a case,
he heard a tap at the window.
It was Mabel on the other side… ten floors up.

"Mabel! That's dangerous," said Stan, opening the window.
Unfortunately, Stan had forgotten that his window opened
outwards, and he knocked Mabel off the window ledge…

but he managed to grab her tail just in time.

Hanging upside down, Mabel looked straight into the music lady's flat
and had what artists call 'a flash of inspiration'.

"Bingo!" said Mabel, reading a poster stuck up on the wall.
"Pull me up, Stanley."
"Are you alright, Mabel?" asked Stan sheepishly.
"Never better, Stanley. I've got an idea. Quick, let's go.
And bring that banjo of yours – the one you play when
your owner goes out."

As they passed a farm, they met a herd of cows.

"Hello, cows," said Houston. "We're going to Italy to audition in a competition to find the Greatest Orchestra in the World, but we are a few members short. I don't suppose you know anyone who might care to join us, do you?"

"My dear! It's your lucky day," said Margaret the cow.
"We all play instruments. We'll just have to pop to the music shop to pick them up. They're being cleaned and restrung, you see – you have no idea how dirty they get when you play them in a field."