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Opening extract from

The Kitten with No Name (Early Reader)

Written by

Vivian French

Published by

Orion Children's Books

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The Kitten with no Name

Vivian French

Illustrated by
Selina Young



Orion
Children's Books

Chapter One

Once there was a kitten without
a name. He was born under
a hedge, so he had no home either.



"MeeOW," said his mother.
"When you are big enough I'll take you
somewhere very special where we
can live happily ever after."
"Why is it special?" asked the kitten.



"Well," said his mother, "because
it'll be our very own home."
"Our own home!" the kitten said.

"That sounds good. But how will we
know when we've found the right place?"
His mother began to purr.
"We'll know," she said. "We'll feel
warm and cosy and
someone will love us."
The kitten snuggled down
against his mother's soft fur.
"That's the best bit," said the kitten
and he began to purr.

"Purr … purr … purr."



Every day the kitten with no name scrambled out from under the hedge to play with the waving buttercups and catch the dancing daisies and chase the butterflies that went flying past.

"Don't go too far," said his mother.
"I won't," said the kitten.

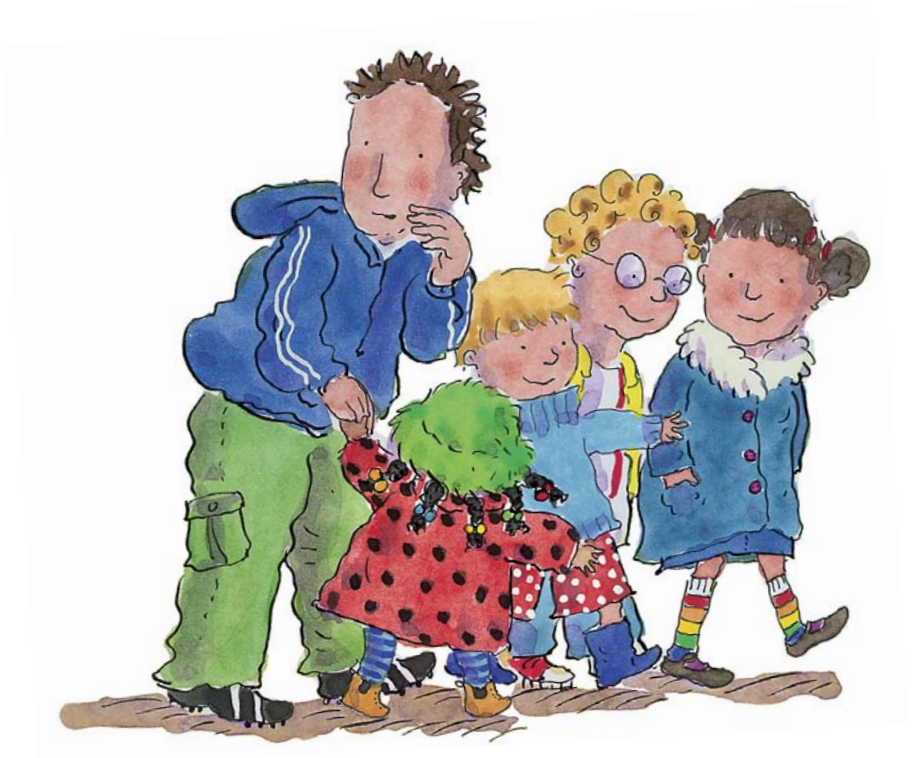






One day the kitten found an old conker. He patted it and it bounced across the ground.

The kitten ran after it – straight
into a group of children.
"Oh!" said a tall boy. "Look!
What a pretty kitten!" He picked
the kitten up and hugged him.



"H'm," thought the kitten.
"Being hugged is good. I've never
been hugged before."

"Purr … purr … purr."



"Want to see the kitty,"
said a very little girl."Pretty kitty.,
Take him home?"

"No, Daisy B," said the tall boy. "We've already got Fat Freda and Big Tom and Kitty Purr too – there's no room for another cat. Come on, let's go to the park. I'll push you on the swings."



"Yes!" shouted the very little girl. "Bye bye, pretty kitty. See you soon."



The kitten ran back to his mother under the hedge.

"Mother," he said. "I was hugged!"
"Hugging is good if it isn't too tight,"
said his mother.

"It wasn't too tight," the kitten said.
"It was nice. And a little girl wanted
to take me home!"



His mother jumped to her feet
"You must never let anyone take
you home," she said. "We're going
to go to our own home!"



The kitten looked hopeful.
"Will we be hugged?"
"Of course," said his mother.
"Now wash your paws and whiskers
and I'll tuck you up."