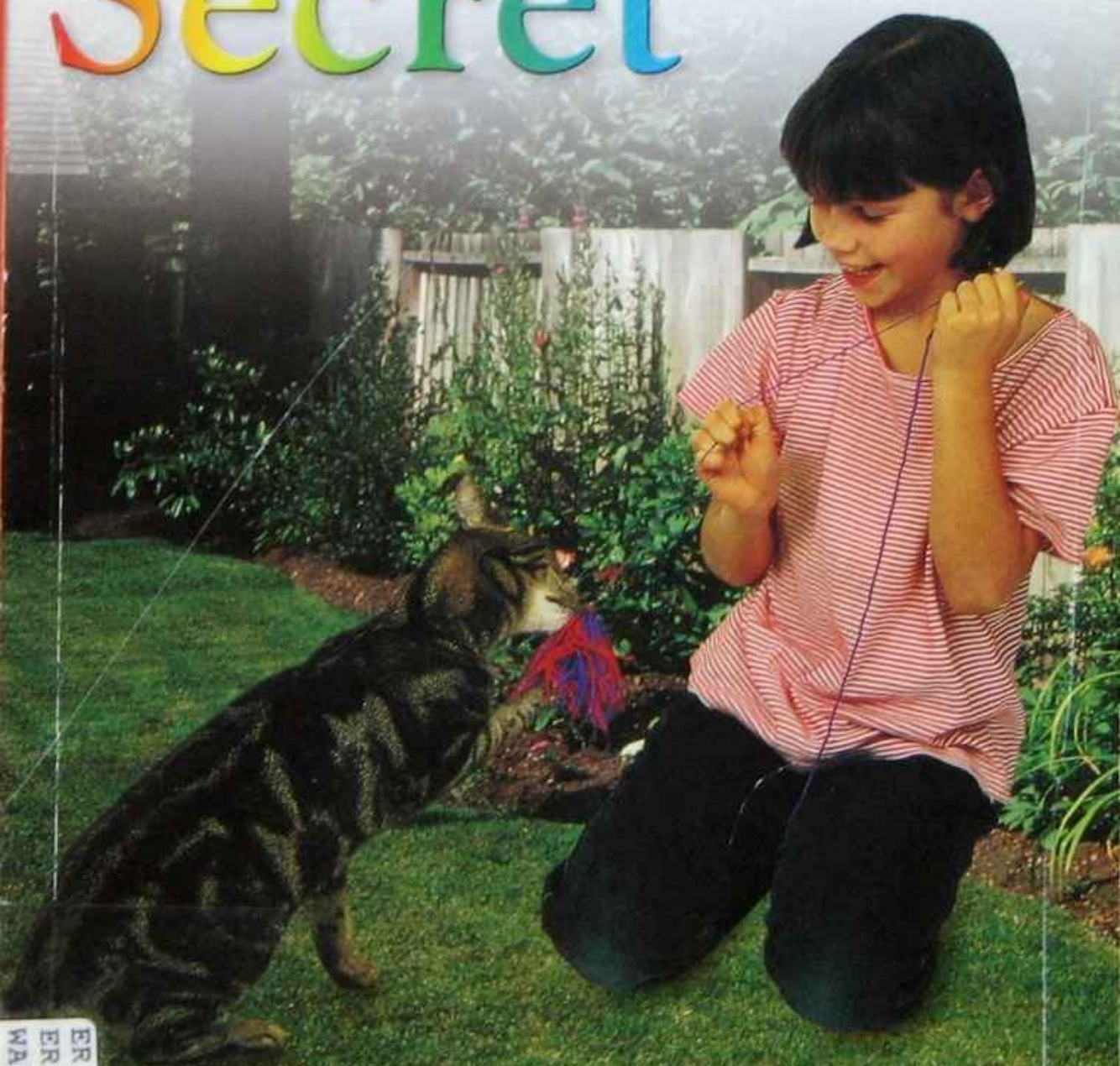




DORLING KINDERSLEY READERS

BEGINNING  
1  
TO READ

# My Cat's Secret



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EN WALLACE

Sarah was a girl  
who loved cats.



She loved long-haired  
fluffy cats . . .



and short-haired  
silky cats.



She loved black cats  
with yellow eyes . . .

She loved big cats . . .



and little cats.



and gray cats  
with blue eyes.

But Sarah did not have a cat.  
Pets were not allowed  
where she lived.

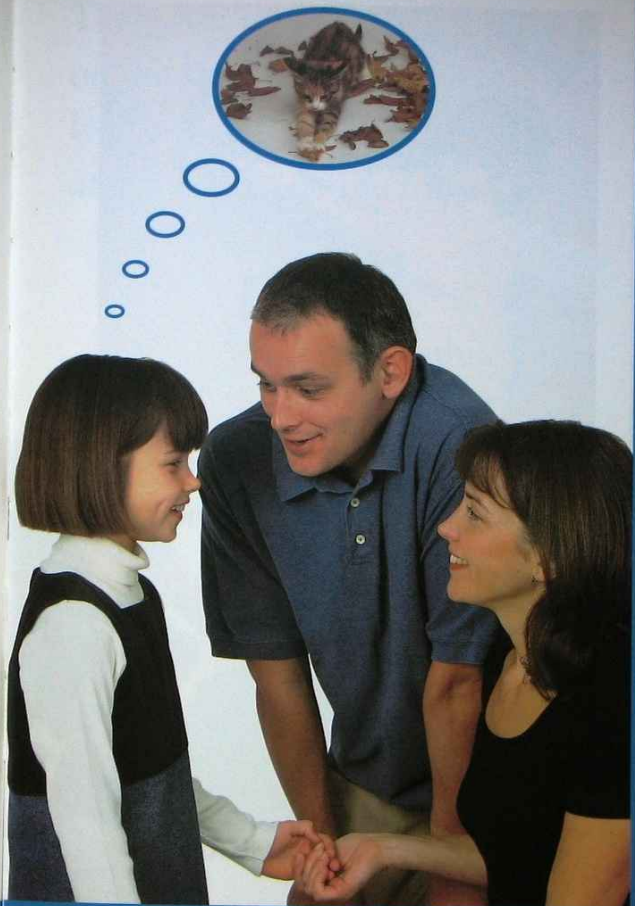
Then one day  
Sarah's Mom and Dad  
had exciting news.

"We're moving," Mom said.  
"You will have your own room  
and a yard to play in."

"Can I have a cat?" asked Sarah.

Dad smiled.

"Wait and see," he said.





Two weeks later, Sarah moved into her new house.

While Mom and Dad unpacked the boxes, Sarah sorted out her bedroom. Then she went downstairs.

There was a box on the kitchen floor. It had holes in one end and a handle on the top.

“Open it!”  
said Dad with a smile.



Sarah bent down  
and opened the box.

cat box



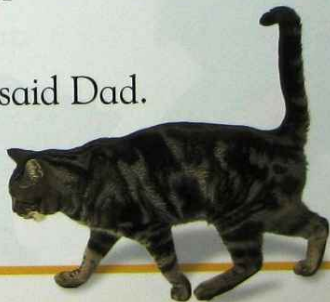
Inside was a  
lovely little cat.  
Her fur was stripy  
and soft.



“Her name is Tabby,” said Dad.  
“She belonged to the people  
who lived here before us.”

“Can we keep her?” asked Sarah.

“Of course,” said Dad.



Tabby had two bowls.  
One was for her food.  
The other was for her water.

“She needs to eat once a day,”  
said Mom.

“She also needs fresh water  
in her bowl.”



cat flap



Mom put  
a new cat flap  
in the back door.  
Now Tabby could go outside  
whenever she wanted.

The next day, Mom and Sarah took Tabby to the vet.

The vet looked in Tabby's ears.  
Then she felt the cat's tummy.

"Is something wrong with Tabby?"  
Sarah asked.

The vet shook her head.

"Don't worry," she said.

"Your cat is very healthy."

"All cats should have a check-up  
from time to time," said Mom.

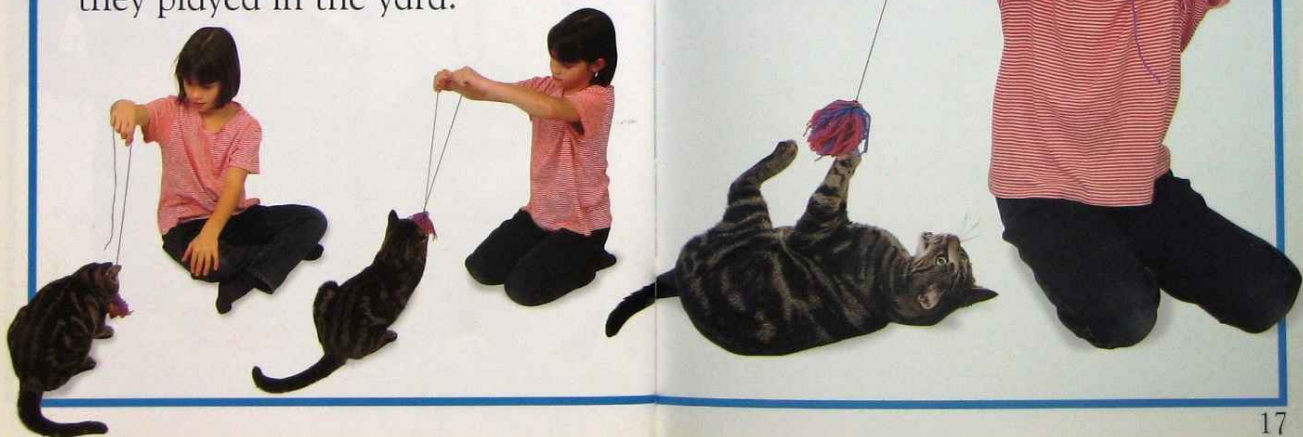




All summer long  
Sarah and Tabby played together.  
On sunny days,  
they played in the yard.

On rainy days,  
Sarah made balls out of yarn  
and Tabby chased after them.

ball







But Sarah and Tabby were not always together. Sometimes, Sarah liked to play with her friends.

Tabby liked to go out and play with her friends, too.



One night,  
Sarah had a bad dream.

“I dreamed that Tabby  
got stuck in a hole,” said Sarah.

“Cats are very careful,”  
Mom said gently.  
“If their whiskers  
touch the sides of a space,  
they won’t crawl in.”

whiskers





One day Sarah noticed that Tabby was getting fatter. She was always lying down, too.



Sarah tickled Tabby's ears. The cat purred and blinked her eyes. It was as if she had a secret she was keeping to herself.



On Sarah's birthday,  
Mom made her  
a special birthday cake  
in the shape of a cat.

Dad gave Sarah a necklace  
with a cat on it.  
"Oh thank you," Sarah cried.  
"I must show Tabby."



cat  
basket



Mom and Sarah  
looked and looked for Tabby.  
They looked in her favorite chair  
and in her cat basket.



Then they looked in the yard.

They could not find her anywhere.  
“I have a cat necklace  
and a cat cake,” Sarah cried.  
“But no cat! Tabby has gone!”



At that moment,  
Dad rushed into  
the kitchen.



“Follow me!” he cried.  
“I have a surprise for you.”

“Have you found Tabby?”  
asked Sarah.

“You’ll see!” cried Dad.  
“Look in your bedroom!”

Sarah ran up the stairs  
and raced into  
her bedroom.



The bottom drawer  
was open.



Tabby was inside.  
Two tiny kittens  
were curled up  
beside her.

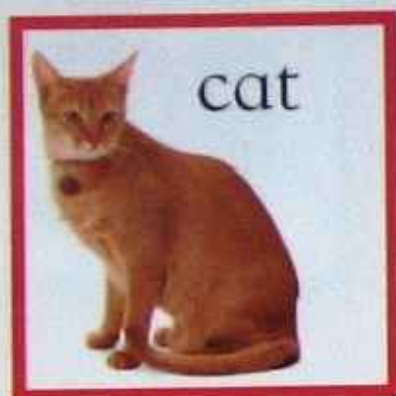
Tabby looked up  
and blinked.  
“Happy birthday,”  
she seemed to say.

Sarah looked down at the kittens.  
They were the most  
purr-r-fect presents, ever!

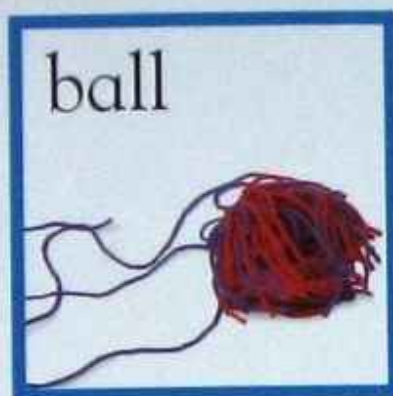
kittens



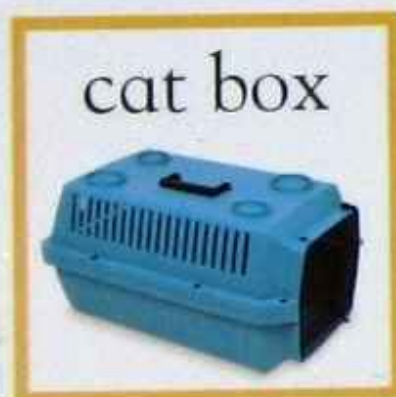
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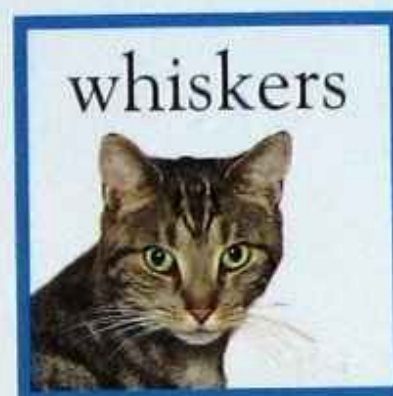
page 4



page 17



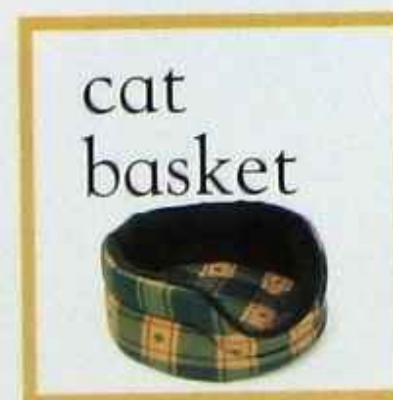
page 10



page 21



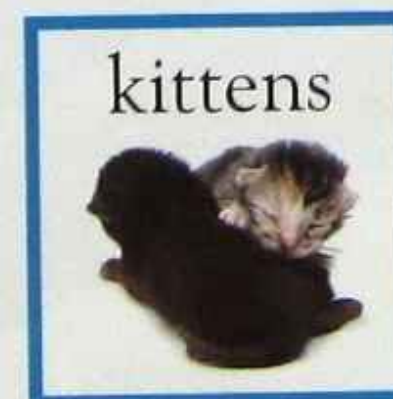
page 13



page 26



page 15



page 31