

Ανοιχτό Εικονογραφημένο Βιβλίο
από τη Ζάννα Μελά-Φλώρου



Open Illustrated Book
by Zanna Mela-Florou



The Pussycat and the Genie

by Zanna
Mela-Florou



Series:
Flying Pages
© No 11



Mela
FLOROU
ΖΑΝΝΑ

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Prologue

The author tells us that a super-genie is hiding here in the fairytale Castle. He swells up and grows tall as a giant and sends everyone to sleep with his magic spells. When the pussycat returns from his stroll ashore, will he succeed in tricking and trapping this spirit who has escaped?



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Zanna Mela-Florou
presents her tale

The Pussycat and the Genie

in her series of books
"Flying Pages"

The Pussycat and the Genie

by Zanna Mela-Florou



Hello! I'm a little pussycat. I was born in the Fairytale Castle which stands inside an enormous ship that's like a travelling island.

Everyone gives us a warm smile when they see me snuggled up with my mummy beneath the portrait of my ancestor, the famous Puss in Boots.





But we have a problem: it's the castle's **wicked spirit** and he finds all of us annoying. We wake him up and he does insane, mad, senseless things. He stops the clocks and sends everyone to sleep. It's only I, the little cat striped like a tiger, who's not affected by his spells. That means that since we're in a harbour at the moment I can go ashore and stroll around for hours. But now I'm returning to where our huge floating island ship is anchored.

I leap for one of the thick ropes that moor the ship to the quay and scramble up it using my sharp claws.

I sense at once what's happened here at home. A deathly silence reigns and all are motionless, as if they have been turned to marble as they sleep.

And there he is, the **Genie**, the infuriating conjuror, the wizard of all wizards who escaped from an oriental lamp he was sealed up in and is now upsetting the whole ship.

The **ghostly escapee** is

stretching now to get his circulation back. He's swelling and becoming huge! I look at him and he looks back at me. I stagger and tumble headlong at his feet, horribly ill.

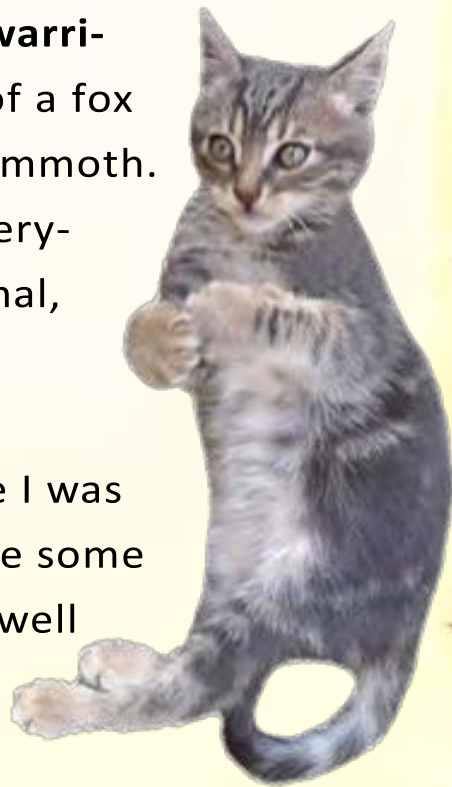




The floor beneath me trembles with his thunderous voice:

Genie: I am the king of the wizards. I achieve all that is unachievable, for I have a power that cannot be explained -the power that gives me wings to fly. I have a lion's heart that gives me the dauntless valour of **Leonidas's three hundred Spartan warriors**. I have the cunning of a fox and the strength of a mammoth. And so I am ready for everything. But you, little animal, why are you moaning?

Pussycat: Genie, while I was taking a stroll ashore I ate some poisoned food. I bid farewell to you and the land of the living! {*groaning melodramatically*}



Genie: You mean you're dying, eh? Well, that's one alleycat the fewer! What business here did a contemptible little thing like you have anyway? Where is the majesty of Puss in Boots, your ancestor, the great liar who managed to learn human speech? They hated him, and even now they call him unworthy and immoral and cannot understand the enviable -and undeserved!



place he has in fairytales. But as for you, why even if you wore a scarlet cape and magic boots, even if you held a sword and feathered hat, you'd still be a cat of no consequence, the obscure descendant of a famous ancestor. NO comparison!





I'm not wasting any tears
on you, you
SCRUFFY
creature!

Pussycat:

I'm dying, o
king of the wizards -and
what a tragedy that is, for
now I shall never get to
know your majesty! Aaagh!
Aaagh! Oooh!



Genie: You may have nine lives, pussycat, but death is what fate holds in store for you no-hoppers. You'll go back where they found you, ha!, ha! -back to the rubbish dump with its flock of hungry seagulls you were rescued from.



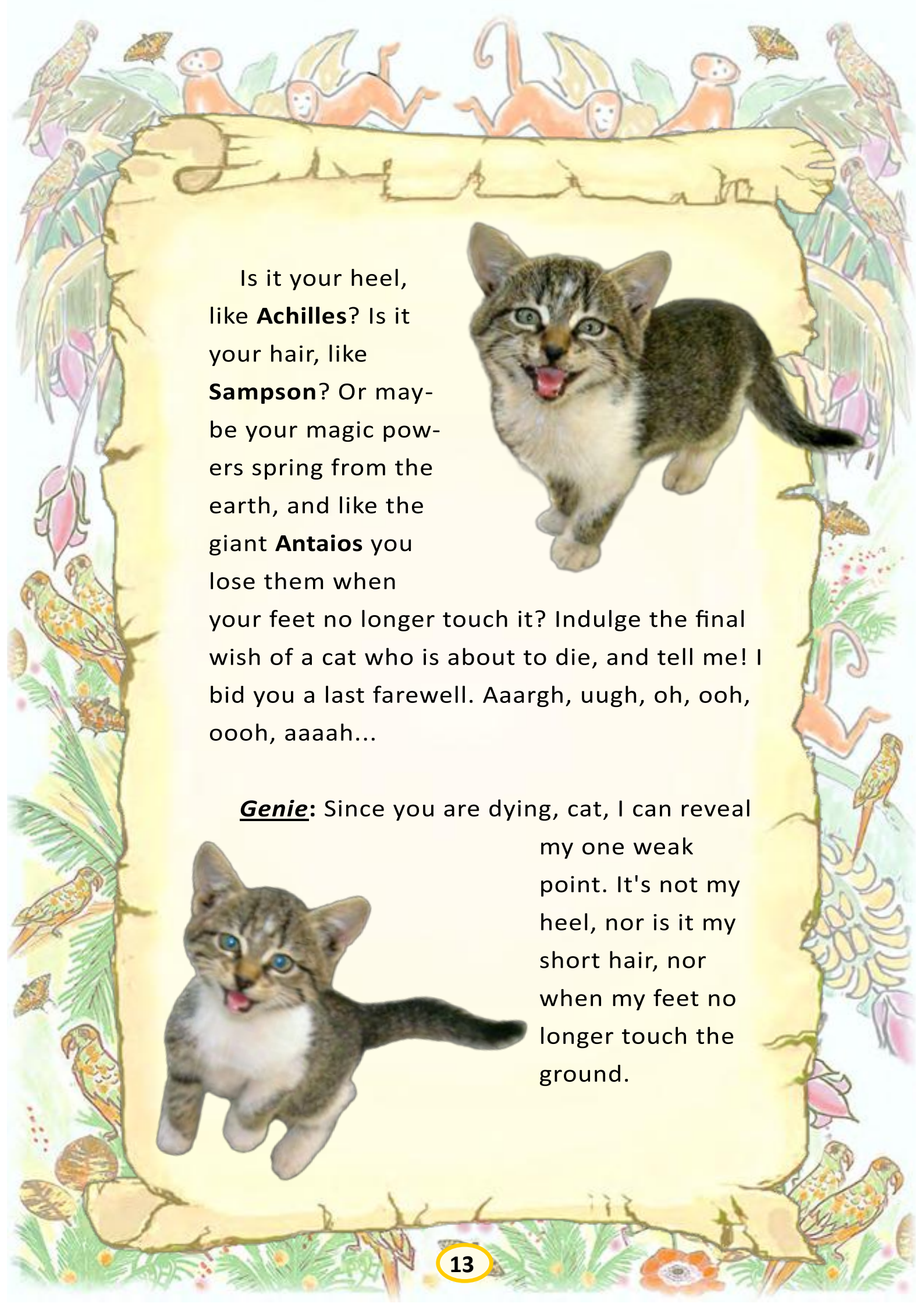
And oh, what a shock that team “WITH FEW” will get when they come hunting for the scrap they sell to earn their daily bread!

Today they'll find a dead

cat instead! **And die you will, puss, so whisper your last wish, before the last of your nine lives deserts you!**



Pussycat: Dear Genie, one thing I long to know before I die: is there any weak point in your supernatural powers?



Is it your heel, like **Achilles**? Is it your hair, like **Sampson**? Or maybe your magic powers spring from the earth, and like the giant **Antaios** you lose them when your feet no longer touch it? Indulge the final wish of a cat who is about to die, and tell me! I bid you a last farewell. Aaargh, uugh, oh, ooh, ooh, aaaah...

Genie: Since you are dying, cat, I can reveal my one weak point. It's not my heel, nor is it my short hair, nor when my feet no longer touch the ground.



No, it's only when I shrink that I lose all my magic skills and become weak and vulnerable – just a poor miserable creature like yourself!

But that's a closely-guarded secret, ha! ha! And once you're gone, who will be left to hear it, eh? Ha! Ha!

Pussycat:

Aaaah, aaaah,
aa.....

Genie: He's not moving.
Hm.. Looks as if our Mr Alleycat has kicked the bucket.



And I couldn't even make sense of his last words, they were so jumbled up and low.



He's no longer breathing. Yes, he's gone. The last of his nine souls has taken wing, and so he's lost the chance to see my glorious powers at close hand, missed seeing the super-important genie that I am! There! I'm shrinking just for you, dead alleycat! I'm tiny now, and very weak. Who? Yes, me! The super genie!

Pussycat:

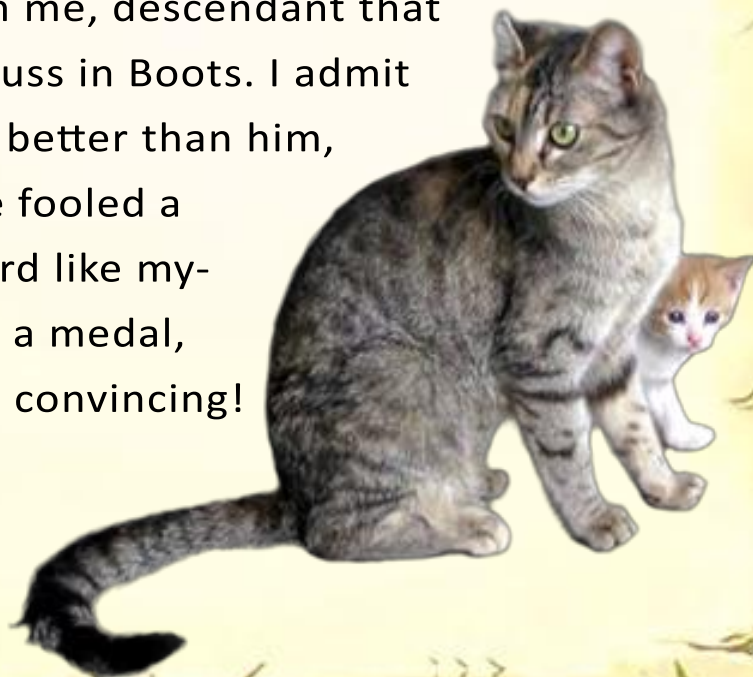
{suddenly coming to life again} Got you, Genie! Gulp! One mouthful and it's check-mate!





I am your master now,
and you can stay imprisoned in my belly as
powerless as if you were shut back in your
lamp! Ha, ha, ha!

Genie: Cat, my master, tell me a wish
and I'll make it come true this very instant!
Have pity on me, descendant that
you are of Puss in Boots. I admit
you're even better than him,
since you've fooled a
mighty wizard like my-
self. You get a medal,
you were so convincing!





You deserve the winner's cup. Well done! I proclaim you Lord!

Pussycat: Wishes? I want you to bring cats on flying pages to the fairytale castle!

And now I am Lord you will make my mother a baroness and my dear younger brother a duke! Don't ask why, Genie. We deserve these noble titles. We are the true descendants of that unmatched teller of tall tales, the famous Puss in Boots!

Genie: Don't worry, master, your wishes will be carried out the moment you release me from your belly,





where I can hardly breathe, it hurts so much! Oooh! Aaagh! Aaagh! *(in a muffled, self-pitying voice)* Oh dear! Oh! Oh! Oh, poor me!



Pussycat: *{in a mean voice, enjoying every word}*
Aaah, Genie! How sleepy Lord Alleycat, your master, feels! His eyelids are growing



heavy with s-w-e-e-t drowsiness. I'll leave it for tomorrow before I think about releasing you. Don't blubber now -pull yourself together! Zzzzz, zzzzz, zzz, zz...



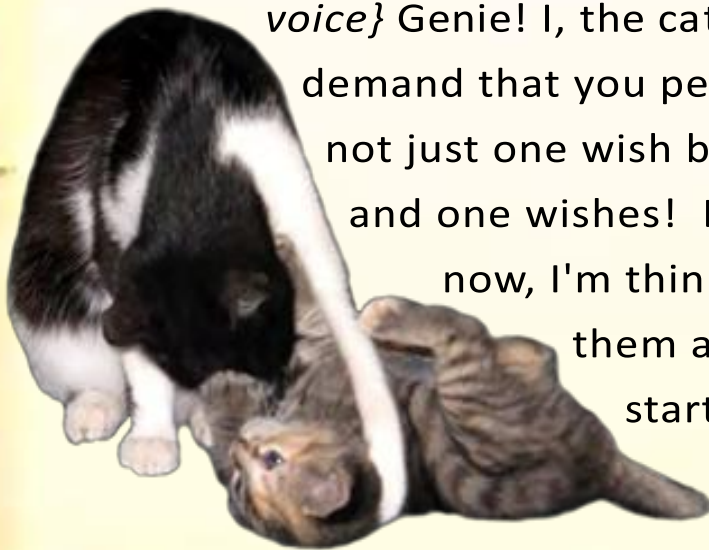
Genie: {in a muffled, whining voice} You've been asleep for long enough! Long life to you, Lord Cat, but being imprisoned in your belly's very pain-

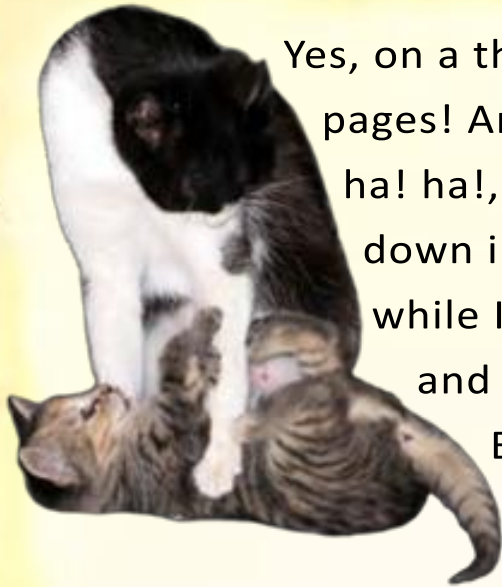
ful, master! Set me free and I shall have a very special wish prepared for you: everything you could possibly desire. I am at your command!



Pussycat: {in a teasing

voice} Genie! I, the cat, the victor, demand that you perform for me not just one wish but a thousand and one wishes! Let me see, now, I'm thinking of writing them all down to start with on... where now?





Yes, on a thousand and one flying pages! And in the meantime, ha! ha! ha!, make yourself at home down in my belly, ha!, ha!, while I write. While I write - and then rub out, Genie.

By tomorrow, perhaps, or maybe the day after

tomorrow, or perhaps the following day I shall have finished thinking..... possibly!

Ha, ha, ha! He, he, he! I can't de-

scribe what fun your lord and master's hav-

ing! Till then, do some thinking yourself, Genie. Think of the

best wishes that you can please me with, so that

maybe, just maybe, I'll

finish faster. I'm listening!



Genie: I am at your command, dear master. I'll say YES to everything, Lord Alleycat! Whatever you say I must obey. Boo, hoo! Boo, hoo! (*he cries*).

Pussycat: Patience, Genie, patience! Bye-bye! Bye-bye!







Series: © *Flying Pages*
No 11



Zanna Mela-Florou
author of

**The Pussycat
and the Genie**

in her series of books
"Flying Pages"

is delighted to welcome you



Zanna Mela-Florou
welcomes you...



Hello there! And welcome to my home. They call me Zanna, though my real name is Ioanna. I was born in Athens and grew up in a house that had a big back yard with a lovely mandarin tree.

We had cats and dogs, too. Those were happy years.



There was another cat in the neighbourhood that nobody approached. It was small and clever. We fed it, but it would only come to the food

once we had gone away, and then it would disappear. It always kept its distance.



Then once, when we got back from our house in the country, I



remember, the little cat came up for the first time and rubbed itself against my legs. It made a great impression on me, for it had never before allowed me to stroke it, hold it and speak to it.



Then I realized: it was welcoming me back and this was its way of showing me its love.

Yet the next day, everything was just as it had been before. Only from a distance! No way you could get near that wary cat! And that's why I remember that special day when the little pussy welcomed me back home.

I can see it all now: the narrow tiled passageway in the back yard, the flowering jasmine bush that overhung a well and the small grey cat coming up and twining itself around my legs. It wouldn't let me walk on any further! I'd never had such a welcome from a little animal.



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