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Opening extract from
Squishy McFluff:
The Big Country Fair

Written by
Pip Jones

Illustrated by
Ella Okstad

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Faber & Faber

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Please print off and read at your leisure.

For Ava and Ruby.
Also for my sensational sisters,
Tash, Katie and Claire. xxx

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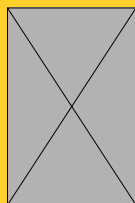
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Squishy McFluff

The Invisible Cat

Big Country Fair

by *Pip Jones*

Illustrated by *Ella Okstad*

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FABER & FABER



Can you see him? My kitten?

He's a sight to behold!

He's stunningly fluffy.

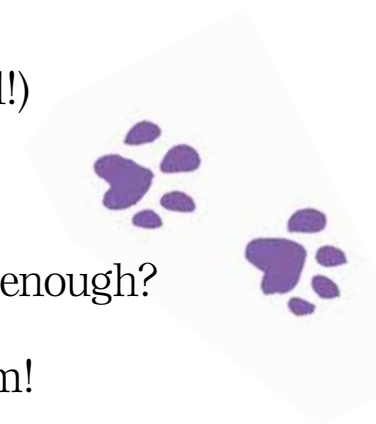
(And also quite bold!)

Imagine him, quick!

Have you imagined enough?

Oh good! You can see him!

It's Squishy McFluff!





It was a Sunday in autumn
and young Ava's room
Was filled with the scents
of her mummy's perfume.
The floor was all covered
with ribbons and bows
And there on the bed,
next to Ava's best clothes,
Squishy McFluff
was invisibly curled.



Ava squealed: 'You're the
cutest cat in the world!
'But we still need to blow dry
your fur, and my hair!
'Cos it's only two hours
'til the Big Country Fair!'

The hairdryer **BLASTED**
and over the hum,

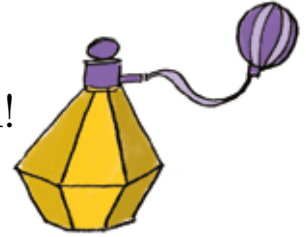


Ava just about heard
a loud shout from her mum:

'Er, AVA? Do you REALLY
need my entire
'Manicure set? And can I
have my hairdryer?
'I need to get ready.
My hair is still wet!'

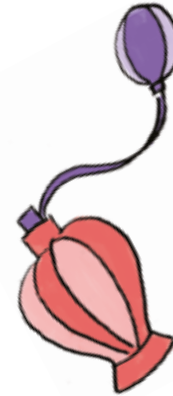


But Ava said: 'Sorry, Mum!



Not finished yet!

'Squishy can't go to the fair
looking scruffy,

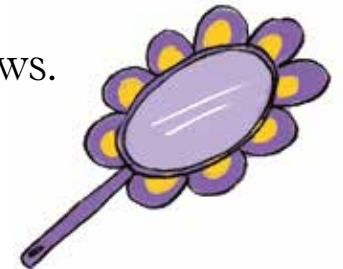


'He has to be handsome
and **perfectly** fluffy.

'I'm using your nail files
to shape all his claws.



'He needs scent on his whiskers,
and scent on his paws.



'Today is the day

we'll achieve our ambition

'To come FIRST in the

Prettiest Pet Competition!'

Mum sighed, grabbed a towel,

and rubbed her damp head.



'I'm not sure you should enter him,

Ava . . .' Mum said.

'While I do understand

Squishy's special to YOU,

'The judge might

not "see" Squish

the same way

you do.'



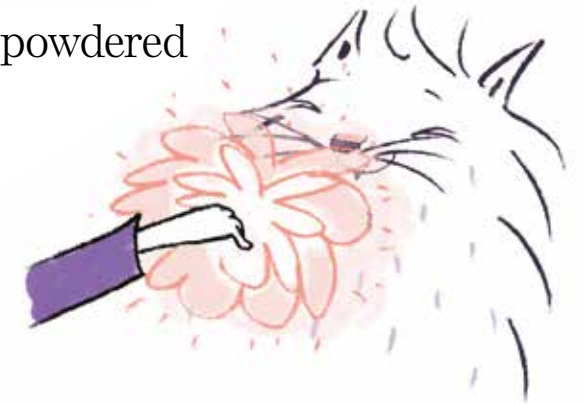
Well, Ava was just far
too busy to listen.

She buffed Squishy's claws
'til they started to glisten.



She fluffed up
his tail

and she powdered
his nose.



'You're ready!' cried Ava.

'Now, practise your pose!'