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Opening extract from  
**One Cool Cat**

Written by  
**Susannah Corbett**

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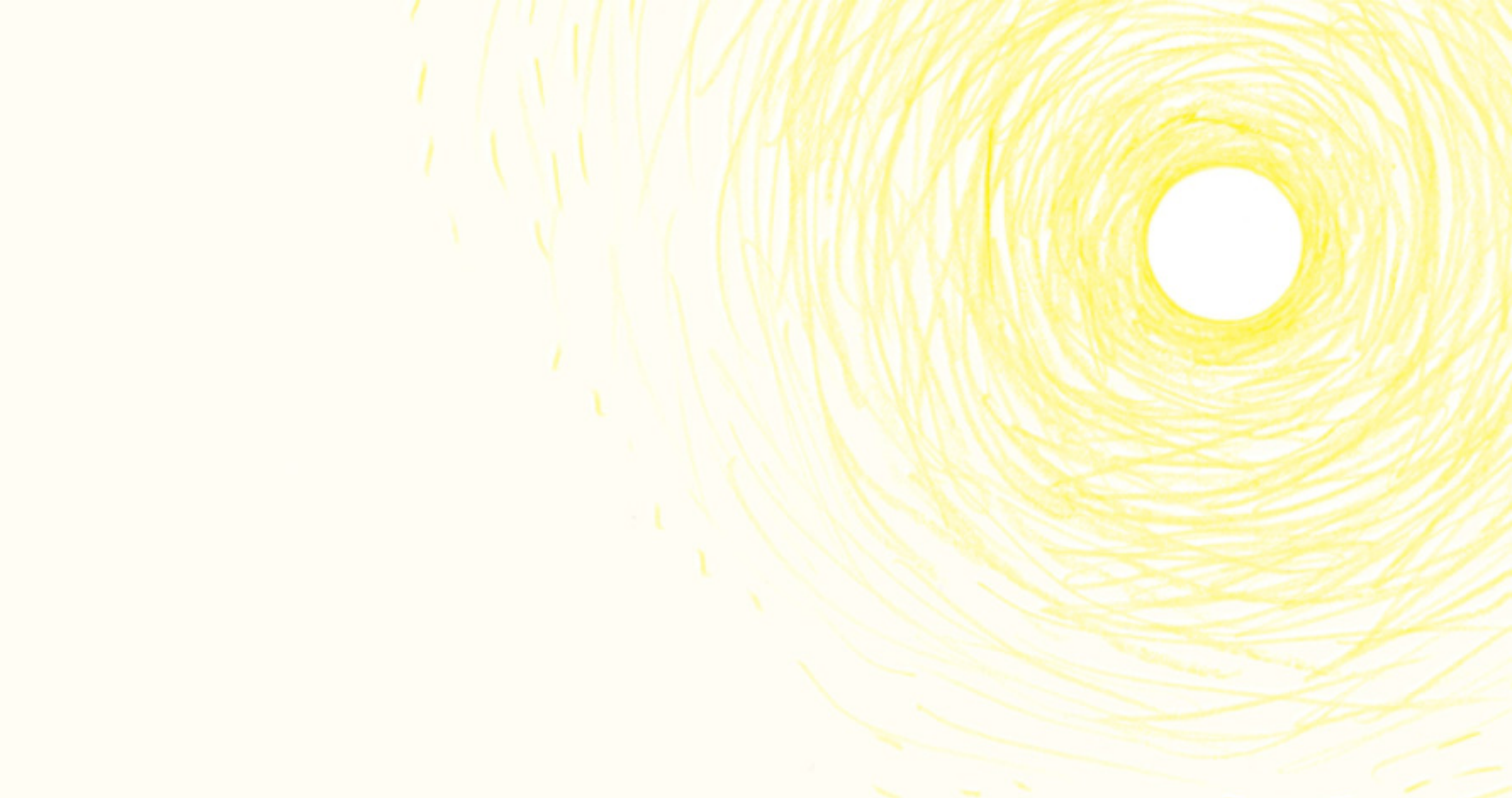
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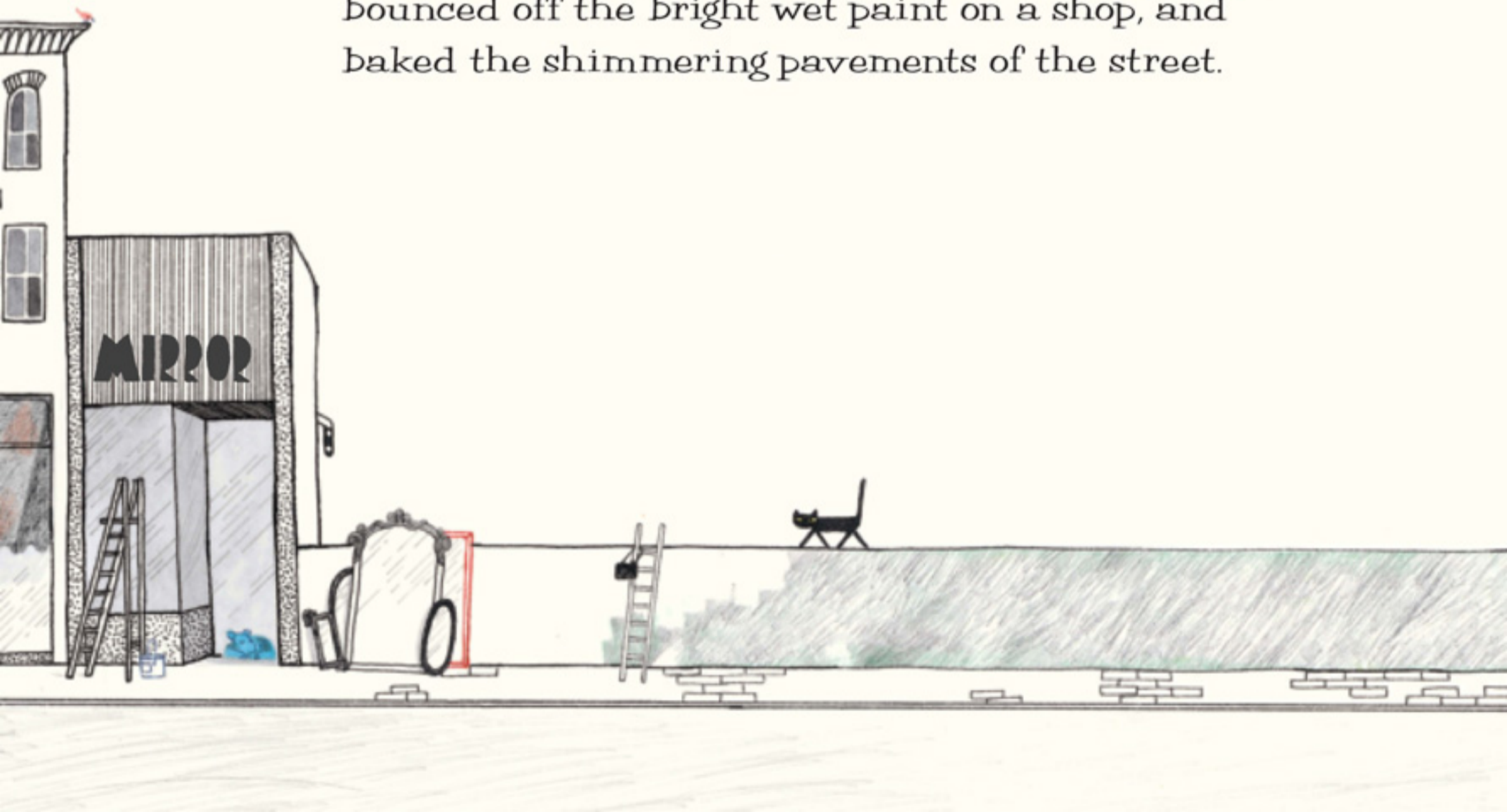


*For Dan, Lily and Elena SC*

*To Mr and Mrs Roberts-Maloney DR*



On a long, hot, lazy afternoon, the sun  
bounced off the bright wet paint on a shop, and  
baked the shimmering pavements of the street.





The dog  
got up,

sniffed at the  
cracked mirror,

and pricked  
his nose.


The black cat padded  
along the wall.

The white cat went to  
play with some leaves  
skitting in a breeze  
at the foot of the ladder.

They watched  
each other  
for a while,

as only cats can.



A whimsical illustration featuring a black cat hanging from a string at the top left, looking down at a white cat on a ladder. The white cat is standing on the ladder, holding a red leaf. A black bucket hangs from the ladder, with a blue bird perched on it. Other birds, including a green one and a pink one, are also on the ladder. The scene is set against a grey background with falling orange and red leaves. The white cat is looking up at the black cat with a smug expression.

*"Don't go under it,"*

said the black cat.

*"Terrible  
bad luck*

if you go under  
a ladder,  
something could  
fall on you."

*"Oh pur-tees,"*

smirked the white cat,  
as he rubbed his cheeks  
on the ladder's  
smooth wood.

*"Use your brain.  
I'm nowhere near it.*

Look pal,  
when you're this smart,  
you don't need luck!"