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Opening extract from **The Cat and the King**

Written & Illustrated by **Nick Sharratt**

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For Alison





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The portrait of the cat and the king on page 104 was drawn by Ava Elise Morrice from Kingswells Primary School. Reproduced by permission.

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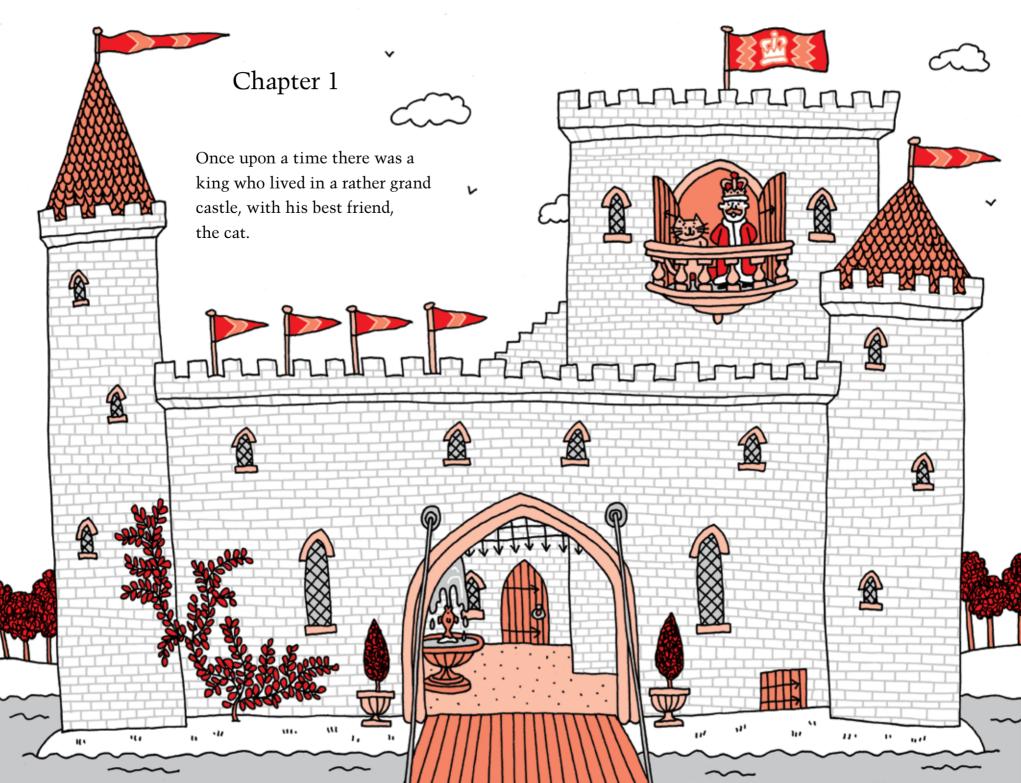
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The CAT and the KING



Nick Sharratt



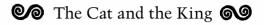


The king was very good at doing all the things that kings do, like walking on red carpets, making speeches, cutting ribbons, and balancing a heavy crown on his head.



He had a dozen servants to do everything else.





He didn't say much, because cats don't actually talk, but he had nice, neat handwriting and a big supply of sticky notes on which he could write instructions.

The cat was very good at making sure everything ran smoothly in the castle.

Everything ticked along nicely in the castle until an Unfortunate Incident that the cat could not prevent.

Dear Maid. Please politation the silver.

Dear Gardener,

Please cut the

Dear Cook,

Please make

am tarts for

Let's just say it involved a fire-breathing dragon.

Dear Faran

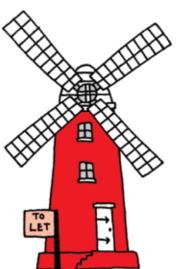


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Fortunately no one was hurt, but the king and the cat had to move out of the castle and find somewhere else to live.

They looked at lots of places . . .





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