

Goals, Dreams and Planning for Success

Magic Mouse

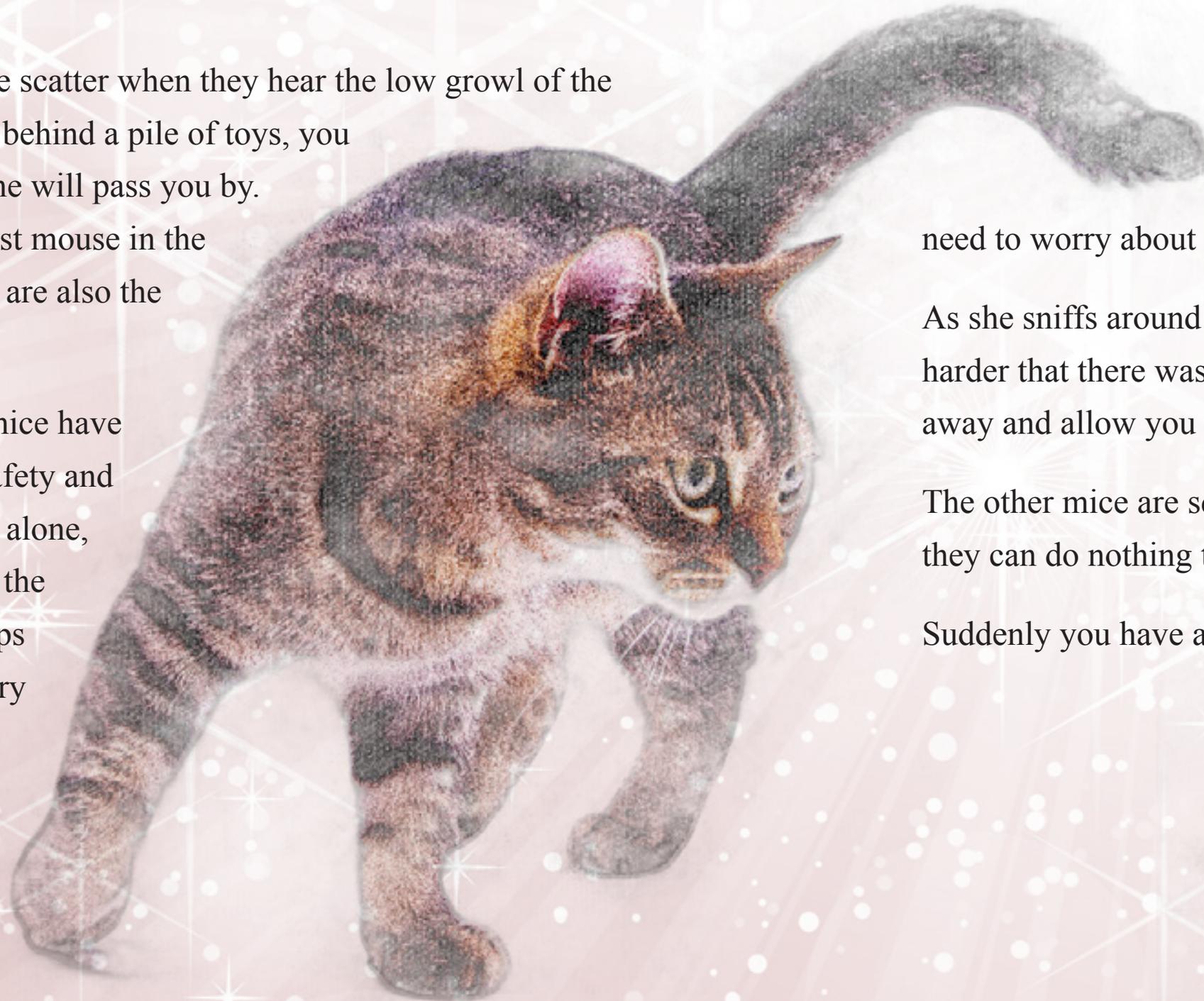
David Machin



All the mice scatter when they hear the low growl of the cat. Hiding behind a pile of toys, you hope that she will pass you by.

As the tiniest mouse in the family, you are also the slowest.

The other mice have all run to safety and you are left alone, listening to the soft footsteps of the hungry cat getting closer and closer...



You close your eyes and wish that you were a magician. A magician could just disappear, and never need to worry about being eaten by a hungry cat!

As she sniffs around the pile of toys you wish harder and harder that there was a magic trick that could scare the cat away and allow you to escape.

The other mice are squeaking, “Run away, run away!” But they can do nothing to help.

Suddenly you have an idea!



You may be a mouse, but the cat does not know that. A toy dog lies nearby, you wait until the cat's nose is just inches away and fling the toy towards her with all your might.

She jumps backwards through the air, smashing into a pile of building blocks with a clatter and a screech. She hisses and scratches at the toy dog.

You just disappear.

Well, actually you run like crazy in the other direction while the cat is not looking, but the cat thinks you disappeared.





Your family are very happy to see you. “We were so scared,” Mother Mouse says as she nuzzles you.

“I was too,” you reply with a shiver. “But I know what I would like to be now.” You announce your plan to the family.

“What do you mean?” Father Mouse asks. “You are a mouse, that is what you will always be.”

You shake your head and wiggle your whiskers. “No father, I will be a magician!”

The whole family laughs. It is a little sad that they don’t believe you can be a magician.

“I can be a magician.” You say stubbornly. “Just wait and see, one day I will be the greatest mouse magician ever!”

Sister Mouse giggles. “You mean the *only* mouse magician ever.”

You imagine all tricks that you could do, and practise every day.

At first all of the other mice can easily figure out the tricks. “It’s under your foot!” One of the mice yell when you make a pebble disappear.

“It’s a different cup!” Another mouse hollers. “It was cheese the whole time!” A mouse in the audience insists.

But the more you practice the better you get.



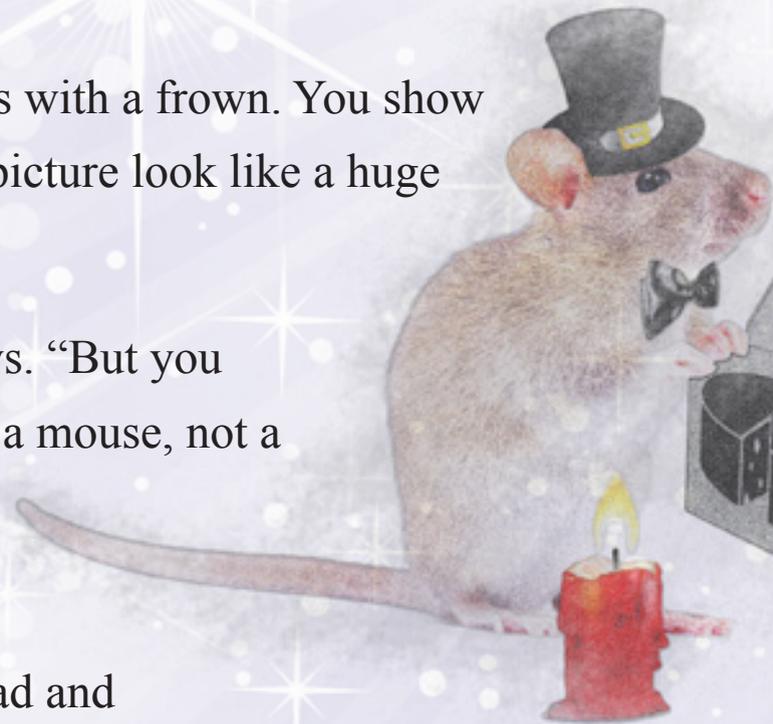
Soon, none of the other mice can figure out your tricks. You even make yourself disappear, leaving all of the mice searching everywhere. "Here I am!" You shout, popping out from behind them and making everyone jump.

One night you are showing your latest trick, when Father Mouse walks in.

"What are you doing?" He asks with a frown. You show him how you can make a tiny picture look like a huge shadow on the wall.

"Nice trick." Father Mouse says. "But you need to remember that you are a mouse, not a magician."

You feel very disappointed as Father Mouse shakes his head and walks away.



This is your dream and you have worked very hard planning out tricks and practicing them every day. If only Father Mouse and the rest of the family would understand how important it is to you to be a magician.



“One day.” You say to Sister Mouse. “I will be the best mouse magician ever.”

She giggles and pokes you lightly in the arm.

“You will be the *only* mouse magician.”

A close-up illustration of a cat's face, showing its yellow eye and grey fur. The background is light yellow with white starburst patterns.

Every day you continue to practice your tricks. If you have trouble with one, you stop and think about it, figure it out, and practice until it is perfect. Soon you are putting on amazing shows for everyone. Everyone *except* Father Mouse.

Late one night you are performing to a full audience. The audience is cheering and clapping so loud that no one notices the cat creeping into the room. The hungry cat sees the large crowd of mice and is eager to dine!

With a loud squeak you try to warn your audience as the cat creeps closer. Everyone thinks that it is part of the show, and they continue to laugh and cheer. “Run!” You shout as you point to the cat. “There is a real cat!” You cry. But the other mice only clap louder and wait eagerly for the trick.



At that moment the cat leaps right into the middle of their group!

With a loud meow the cat snaps at the mice who squeak and run in all directions. You have to do something to save your friends!

To buy them some time to get to safety, you take one of your pictures and make it cast a huge shadow in the shape of a dog on the wall.

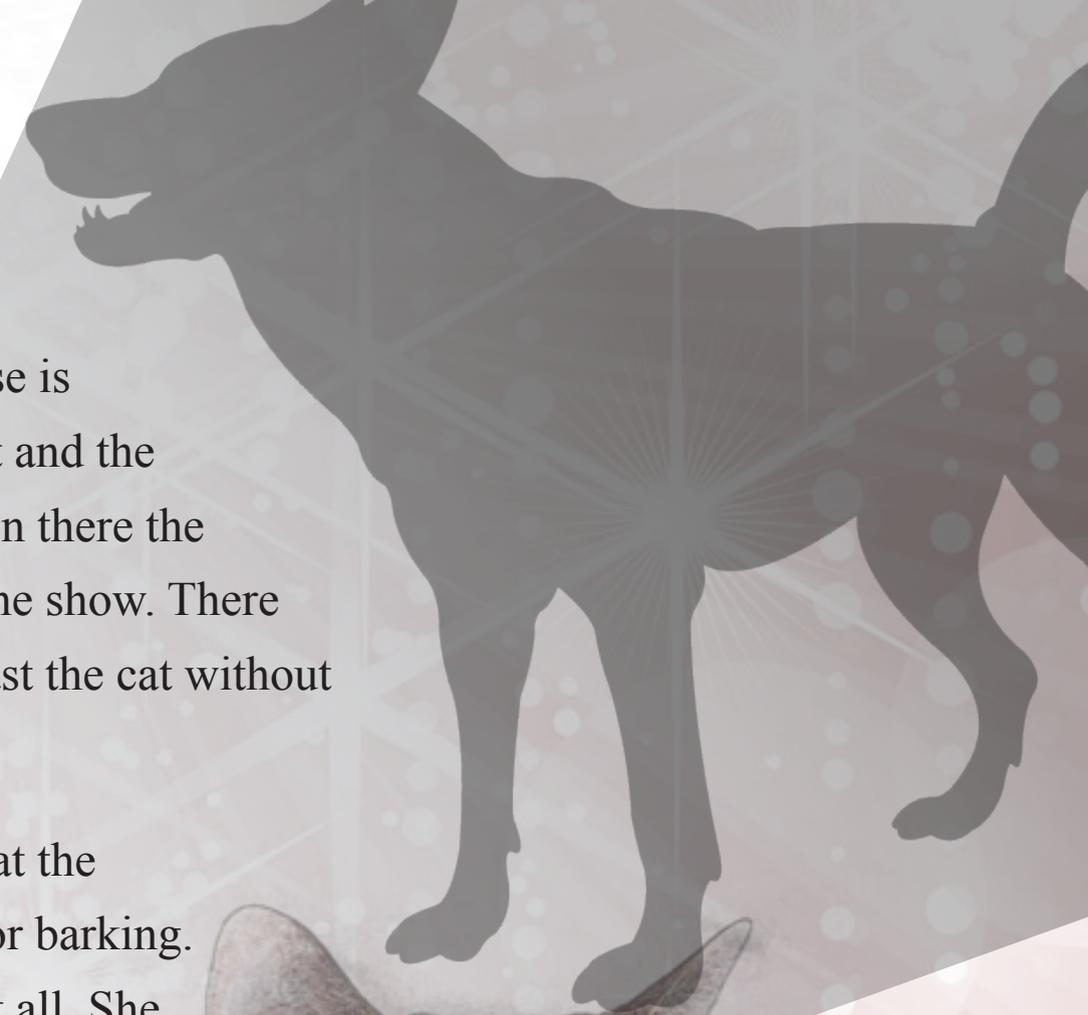
The cat sees the shadow and all of the fur on her back stands on end. She growls and runs back

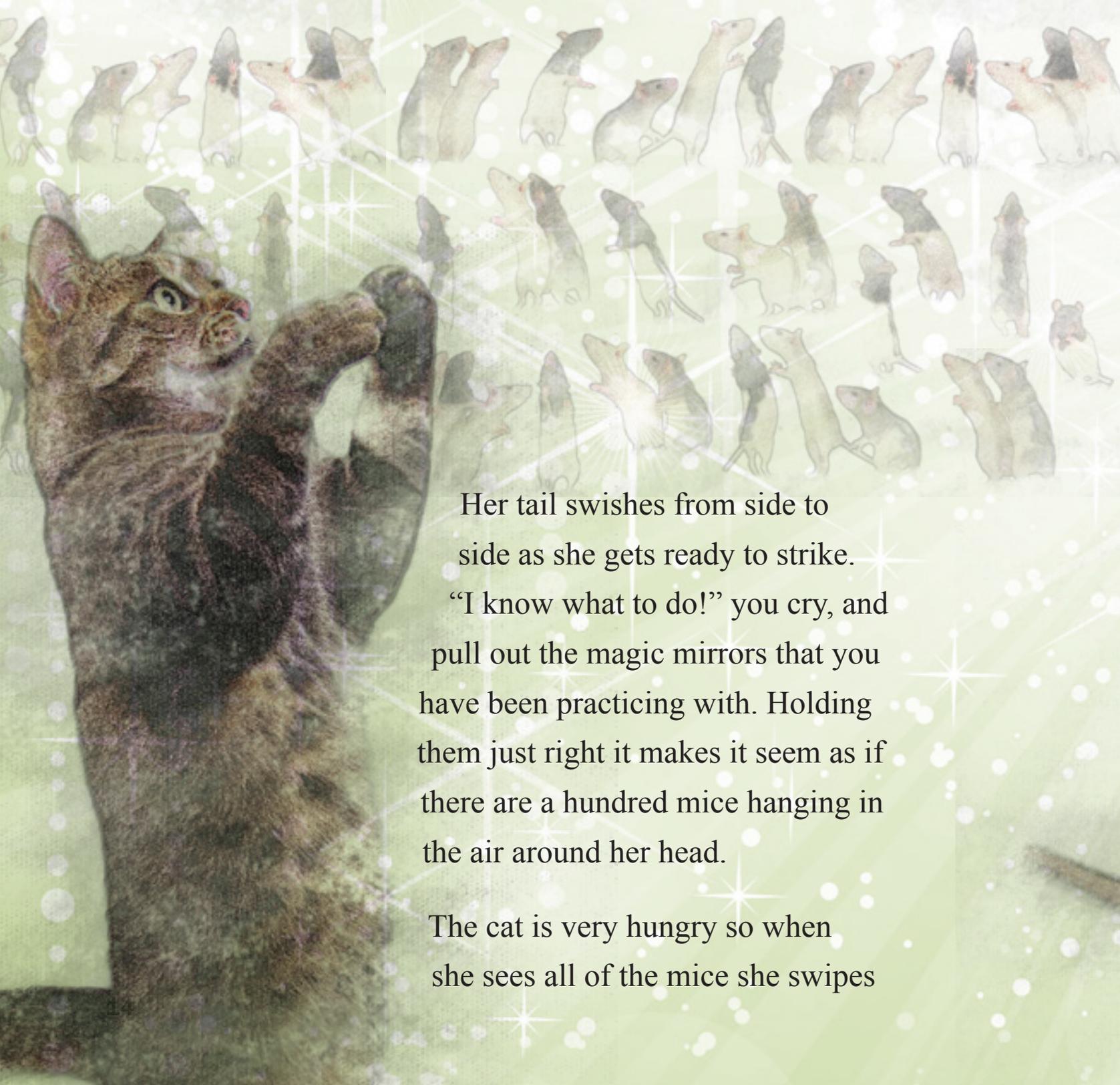
behind a chair. The other mice make it to safety, much to your relief.



You start to run to safety too, but you notice that Father Mouse is trapped between the cat and the wall! He must have been there the whole time, watching the show. There is no way he can run past the cat without being caught.

The cat soon notices that the shadow is not moving or barking. In fact, it is not a dog at all. She is quite upset about losing an easy meal to a simple trick. She turns her hungry eyes towards you both and crouches down, ready to pounce.





Her tail swishes from side to side as she gets ready to strike.

“I know what to do!” you cry, and pull out the magic mirrors that you have been practicing with. Holding them just right it makes it seem as if there are a hundred mice hanging in the air around her head.

The cat is very hungry so when she sees all of the mice she swipes

at them. She does not want to miss her chance again and spins around in all directions. She gets dizzier and dizzier until she just can't see straight at all.

Father Mouse grabs you by the hand and you run to safety.

“I understand now why you wanted to be a magician.”

Father Mouse says as he hugs you. “You were right to stick to your dream, a mouse *can* be a magician.”

Sister mouse giggles and shakes her head.

“No Father Mouse, not just a magician, *the best* mouse magician ever!”

THE END



Magic Mouse

The goal of this story is to introduce young children to some of the principles which contribute to a successful and fulfilling life. These principles are tried and tested and taught to adults by life skills Guru's around the world.

At HumanBean we feel that if young children can start to understand these principles and behaviors at an early age, then they are more likely to adopt them as they grow up. With strong foundations, they will be better able to succeed in an increasingly challenging world.

Key Principle: Goals, Dreams and Planning for Success:

In 'Magic Mouse' we refer to Goals as Dreams. We develop the idea that you can have a dream and make it happen even if those around you don't believe you can or should do it.

You realise that you'll need to plan and practise your skills in order to succeed, but if you stick at it you can achieve anything.

Setting and achieving goals is one of the most important behaviors for success and can make a huge difference to your child's confidence and self-belief.

If you like this story, you'll love **The Star Dragon**. A fully illustrated book which includes all the key behaviors for success in life.

This book, like all the HumanBean stories, has been written with a specific purpose in mind - to introduce your child to the attitudes and behaviours which bring success in life. These 'success principles' have been available to adults in their work and business lives for many years. They are proven techniques for improving your life. But, until now, children have been more or less excluded from this valuable learning.

This story has been written to bring these attitudes and behaviours to children, aged 5-10, through an exciting and entertaining stories, where the reader is the hero.

Your child will learn about teamwork, goal setting, prioritisation and other important skills while enjoying these entertaining stories.

Storytelling is a great way to directly influence young readers and we hope your child enjoys 'Magic Mouse'.

Thank you, David Machin



HumanBean
Preparing Children for Success



This book has been produced as a learning aid for children.
More tools and resources at: www.humanbean.com