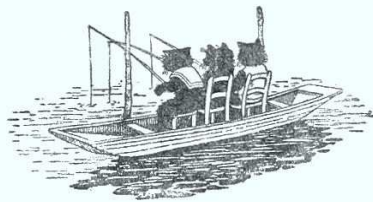




# THREE KITTENS IN A BOAT

By  
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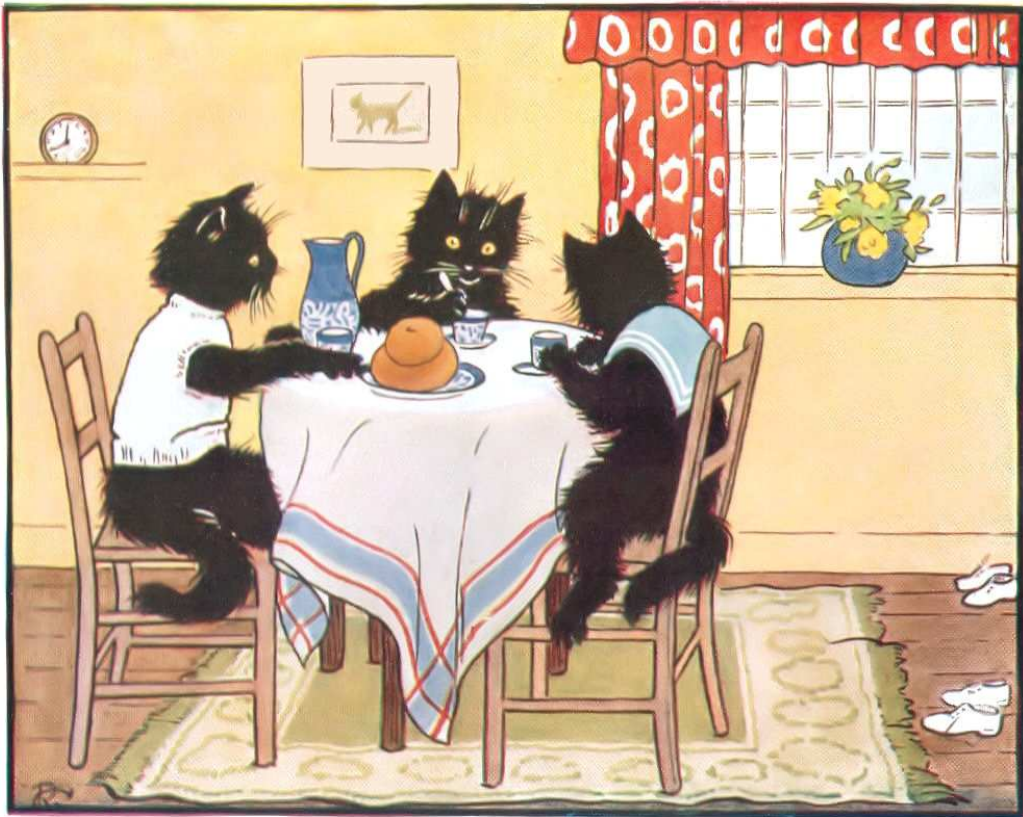
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Micky, Kitty and Jack were three dear little black kittens who lived in a nice little house all by themselves. They had been very busy making a lovely new tent.

One day at breakfast Micky said, "Let's go on an adventure; we can hire a boat and go up the river, catch fish and swim all day, and sleep in our tent at night."

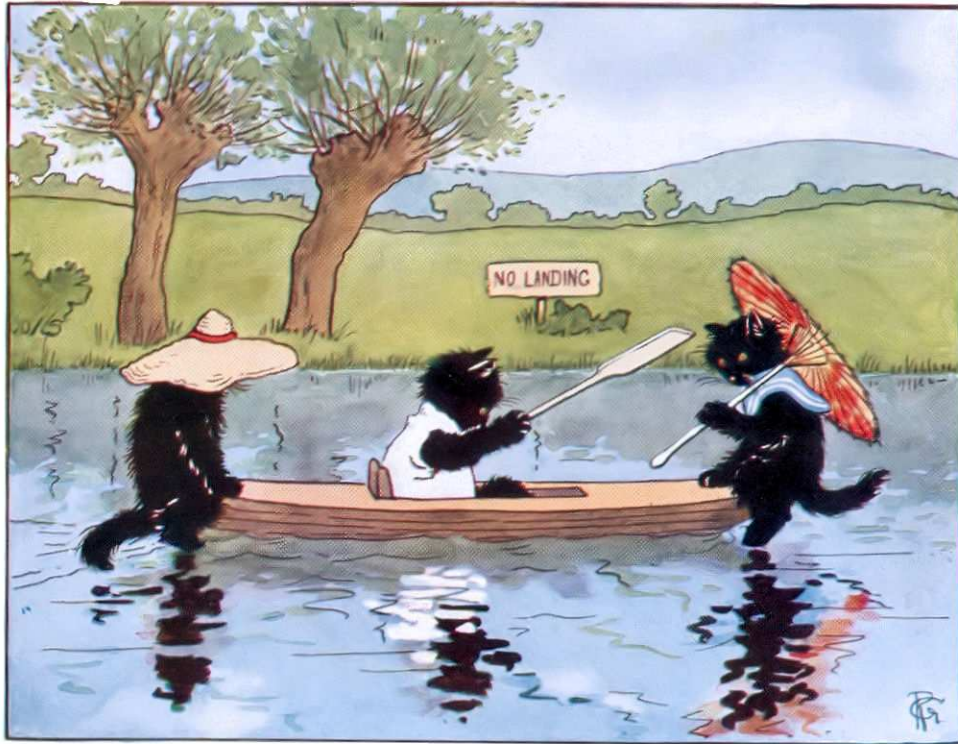
"What fun!" cried Kitty and Jack, so as soon as they'd finished their breakfast, they set to work to pack everything they would need.



They decided to take their lovely new tent, some nice soft cushions and two big baskets to hold their food and some plates and cups.

When all was ready, Kitty and Jack put on their nice clean white summer shoes. Kitty also put on her new summer hat and they started off down the road to the river.

Kitty carried the baskets, Micky the tent and Jack carried the cushions and a kettle.



They soon found a boat. It was quite small for it only had one seat. But luckily the kittens were quite small too!

Kitty and Micky felt very happy sitting one at each end of the little boat while Jack was rowing. It was so nice and cool dipping their paws into the water as they went along.



When the kittens had gone quite a long way, Jack said that he was tired and needed a rest, so they landed on the bank to have tea.

They were all very hungry so they ate fish sandwiches, tuna biscuits and each had a large glass of milk. As a special treat Kitty had brought a pot of strawberry jam so they could have jam on their bread and butter.



But it wasn't long before Kitty was sorry that she'd brought the strawberry jam. Micky and Jack were sorry too, because the wasps came round and wanted to eat the jam!

There was nothing they could do to make the wasps go away so, as it was getting late, they decided to pack the picnic things away and find somewhere nice to put their tent up for the night.



The kittens looked carefully around and soon selected a nice level patch of grass on which to pitch their lovely new tent. They were very proud of it as it had blue and red stripes. Nobody else had such a beautiful tent!

They dug holes for the poles, and by working hard they had the tent up and ready just before it got dark.

After working so hard they felt hungry again and decided it was time for supper!



They soon had a fire blazing and Kitty cooked a fish which they were lucky in catching from the river. She toasted it over the fire until it was nice and brown.

Everybody had enough to eat and felt that they had never had such a delicious meal. There was plenty to go round and they all had nice full tummies.

After they'd finished supper, they sat around the fire and told stories and sung songs until it was time to go to bed.



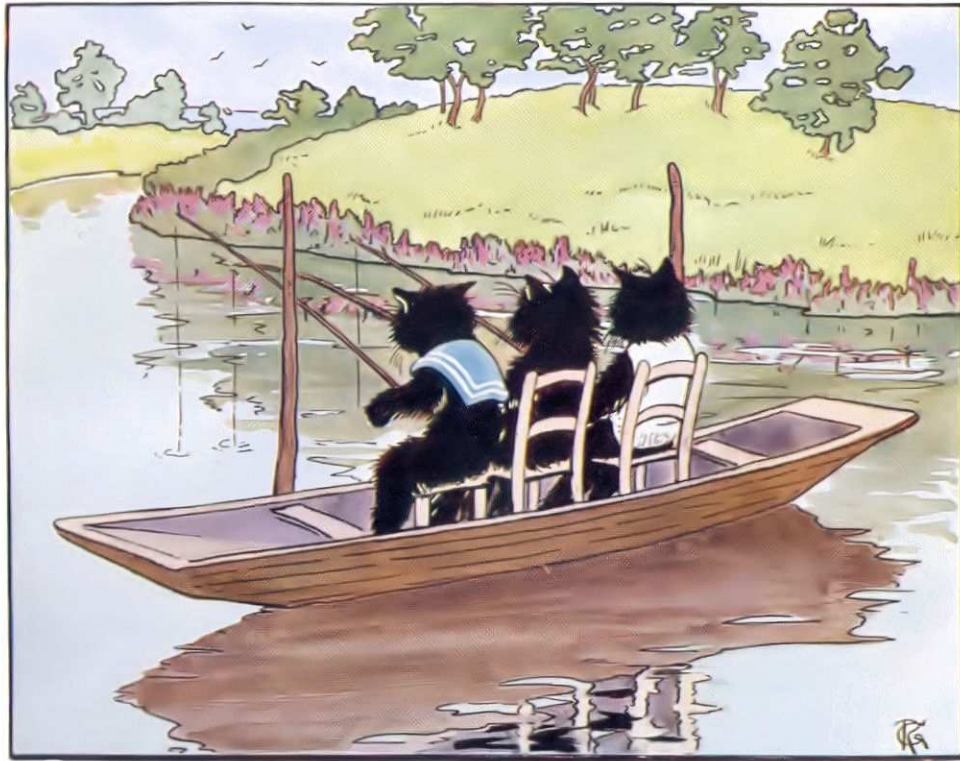
When the kittens were tired they went to bed in their lovely tent. They tucked themselves up all nice and comfy in their soft blankets and snuggled into the lovely pillows that Jack had brought.

Tired out by their adventures, they were soon so fast asleep that they never saw the little brown rabbit who peeped into their tent wanting to see who was inside.



In the morning Jack was the first kitten to wake up. He rubbed his eyes with his paws and then called the others. After that he fetched some milk in a large jug from a nearby farm and left it in the tent while they all went for a lovely swim in the river before breakfast.

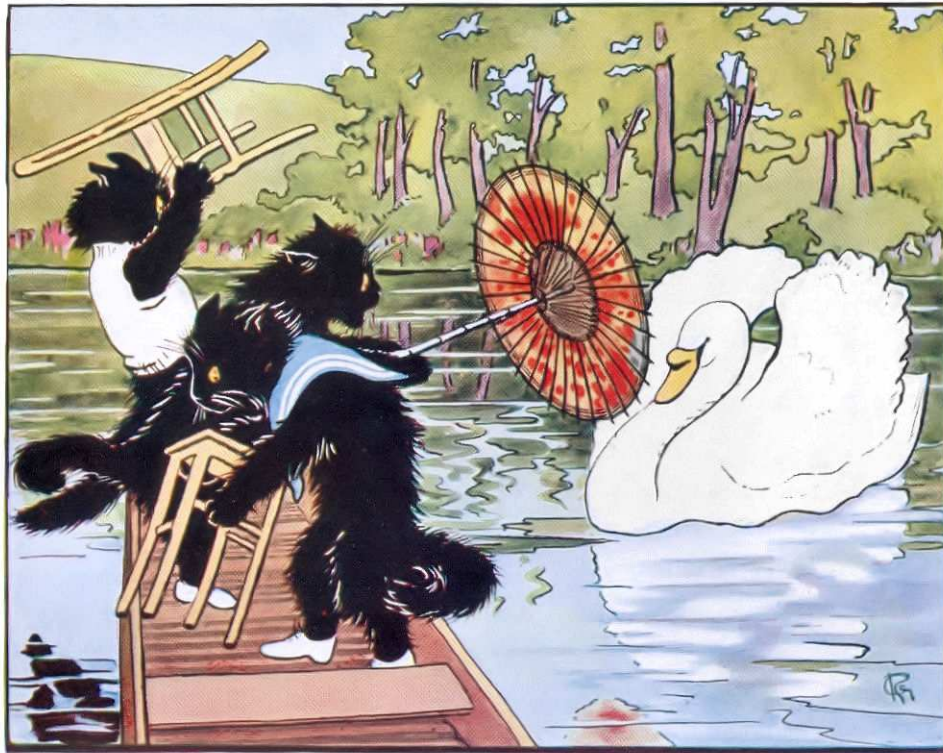
Suddenly they saw a strange cat drinking their milk. "Thief! Thief!" they called, but when the three little kittens reached the bank, the strange cat had run away, leaving not a single drop of milk in their jug.



After that, they simply lazed around all morning, snoozing gently in the sunshine.

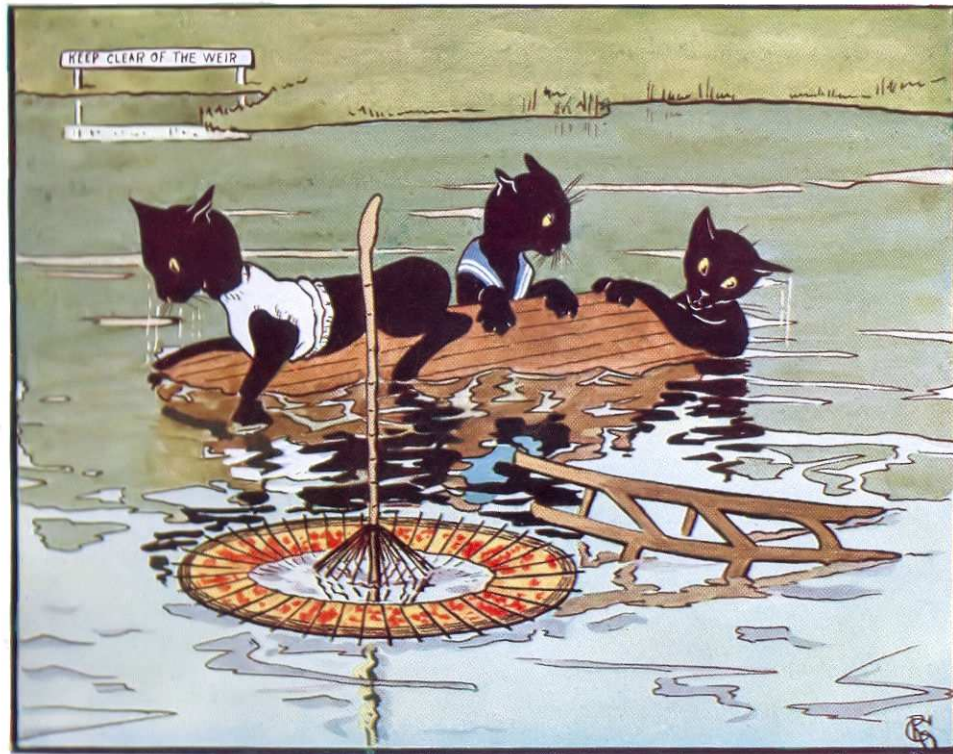
After a picnic lunch, they thought it would be fun to go fishing. So they took a punt - a boat with a flat bottom - into the middle of the stream. They sat very still on three chairs for a long, long time, but there were no fish to be seen, or caught, at all!

But there was something else .....



All at once they heard a loud hiss behind them and a huge white swan came gliding up. It was very angry with them because they had sailed too close to its nest. It flapped its wings to chase them away.

Quickly the kittens dropped their fishing rods. Kitty seized her parasol and Micky and Jack waved their chairs to frighten it away, and there was a great fight.



The fight ended with the punt being overturned and all three kittens fell - splash! - into the water.

The swan went away, but the poor little kittens were very frightened at being in the deep part of the river. They climbed onto the bottom of the punt and held on firmly.

"Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear!" they said, "What shall we do?"



But it was all a fuss about nothing, because those three little kittens were very good swimmers. They reached land quite safely in the end, and were soon dry again and ready for the next bit of fun.

Then Jack spotted a lovely pile of sand next to the bank. "What great fun we could have sliding down there!" he called out.

They all climbed to the top. One, two, three! They were off! It was such fun sliding down that hill - how fast they went - Kitty first, Jack next and Micky last.



They were nearly at the bottom when disaster struck! The sand up above them gave way and down it came with such a rush that the kittens were soon buried underneath it.

There was just a little part of Kitty left out, and luckily she was able to shake herself free and go to help out Micky and Jack.

They were all a little hurt. Kitty had sand in her eyes, Micky's poor arm had to be put in a sling, Jack's head was cut and he had hurt his foot.





The only thing to do was to go home so, with difficulty, they packed up their things, went to the railway station and bought their tickets. Then a nice kind station official in a blue coat helped them into the train.

When they got home they sent for the doctor and went to bed.

But they were not too badly hurt and it wasn't many days before they were all quite well again and ready for their next adventure!

THE END



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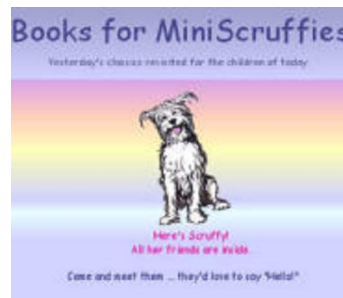
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### *About Us*

*Scruffy's Bookshop is based in deepest rural Devon, England where Ellie Dixon lives with her dogs, Scruffy and Polly. Ellie has brought up her own daughter, and now spends her time restoring and editing vintage children's literature to appeal to today's kids. When not busy with her business, she can usually be found on the beach or getting involved with local community activities.*



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