

MOLLY WAS BORED

A Tale of Two Cities

Old York & New York

By

CHRIS VILLARS



ILLUSTRATED BY

FOUR NEWYORK CITY STUFFED CATS

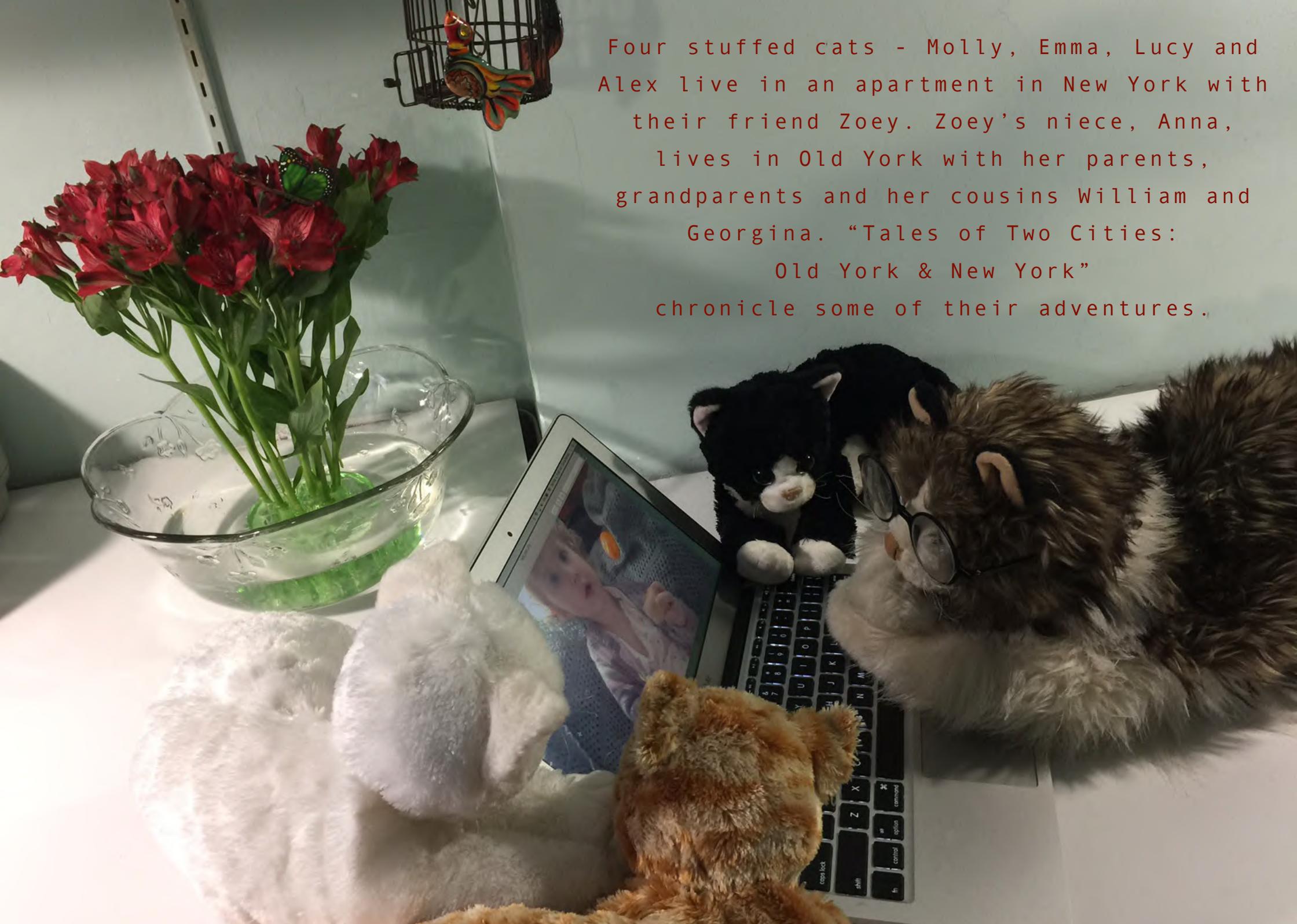
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM

ZAHRA PARTOVI

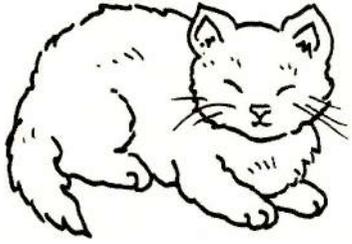


Old York, United Kingdom 2017

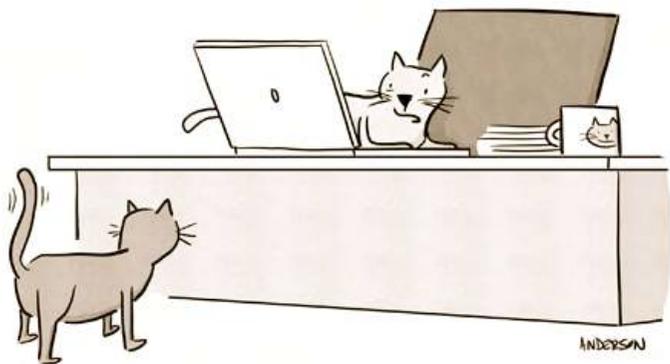
Four stuffed cats - Molly, Emma, Lucy and Alex live in an apartment in New York with their friend Zoey. Zoey's niece, Anna, lives in Old York with her parents, grandparents and her cousins William and Georgina. "Tales of Two Cities: Old York & New York" chronicle some of their adventures.



Molly Was Bored!



Molly was bored. She had teased all the tiny stuffed birds that dangled from the miniature pine tree. She had chased Emma, Lucy and Alex around and around the kitchen table until one by one they had given up and gone to ground under the bed. There the three of them lay now, peeping out at Molly and wondering what she would do next.



But Molly wasn't interested in them anymore. A tiny green light shining in the dark space of Zoey's workspace had caught her eye. She bounded over, and in one leap skidded onto the desk. Zoey had left her laptop on!

Gingerly, Molly put a paw on the keyboard. Up popped a picture of Anna, Zoey's niece who lived in Old York, England. "Alex, Alex!" Molly called out, "It's Anna! Look!" So Alex came out from under the bed and jumped up beside her. And of course Emma and Lucy came too! This was getting interesting!



So there the four of them were, all huddled together on Zoey's desk staring at the beautiful little girl with curly golden hair, deep blue eyes and a lovely, cheeky smile! "She's so beautiful", said Emma. "Yes", said Lucy, "no wonder she's Zoey's favourite niece!"



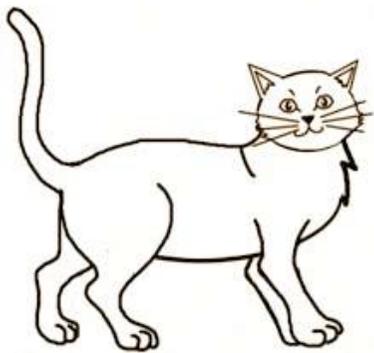
"What do we do now?" Molly asked Alex. He was the eldest of the four siblings, and Zoey had already taught him how to do lots of things on the Internet. "Well," he said, "what do you want to do?" "Let's send her an email!" Molly replied.

Alex carefully put on his spectacles and, moving his paws deftly across the keyboard, began to type. Things the others didn't even have time to see, let alone understand, flashed across the screen until they finally stopped at a blank white sheet with a cursor flashing in the corner.



“What do you want to say”, Alex asked. So Molly dictated her first email to Anna:

Dear Anna,
Molly here!
Molly.



“Is that all?” asked Alex. “You have to introduce yourself first,” Molly replied. So Alex sent Molly's first - very short! - email to Anna, and the screen went blank.

There then began a long period of itching, licking,

fidgeting and jostling amongst the four of them as they waited eagerly, but without wanting to show they were eager, for whatever was going to happen next. And despite waiting expectantly they all jumped violently when a loud “ping!” announced the arrival of Anna’s reply:

Dear Molly,
Anna here!
Anna

“You see!” said Molly, “It’s the right way to introduce yourself!”
Then she dictated her reply:

Dear Anna,
What’s the weather like in Old York today?
Molly.



To Alex's pained expression, she replied, "You always ask about the weather first in England!"

The next few messages between Anna and Molly went as follows:



Dear Molly,

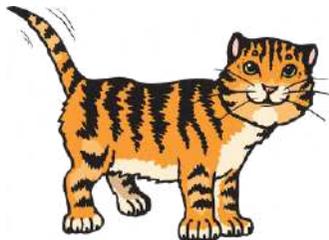
It's raining again, so I can't go to the swings today. To tell you the truth, I'm a little bored! How are you?

Anna.

Dear Anna,

We're bored too! Zoey has gone out shopping for her dinner party tonight and we've done all the things we could think of! Can you think of anything exciting for us to do?

Molly.



Dear Molly,
Why not surprise her when she comes back by preparing the fruit and vegetables for her party! You would only have to wash them and cut them up, but it would save her a lot of time and she's sure to give you a special reward for doing it!

Anna.



“A special reward!” Lucy exclaimed, “What would that be, Molly?” Molly thought for a while and then said, “I think it would be an extra long cuddle!” “Oh, let’s do it then!” cried Emma, and they all agreed they would!

“Fruit and vegetables,” said
all looked at her. Alex was
slowly took off his
his ear. “We haven’t got any!” he announced. A chorus of “Oh dear”s
went up from Emma and Lucy, but Molly knew what to do!



Molly mysteriously. The others
the first to understand. He
spectacles and scratched behind
his ear. “We haven’t got any!” he announced. A chorus of “Oh dear”s
went up from Emma and Lucy, but Molly knew what to do!



Dear Anna,
No fruit or vegetables here.
Molly.

Dear Molly,
I'll send you some! We have lots of fruit and vegetables.

I'll make a selection and send some to you!
Anna.

“Oh jolly good!” cried Emma and Lucy, “Good old Anna! She'll send us some! We'll get that extra long cuddle after all!!” But Molly wasn't so sure. It was her turn to scratch behind her ear! After a long pause, she asked in a worried tone, “How's she going to send them to us?!”



Alex shook himself importantly, put his spectacles back on, and said, “Oh Molly, it's time you asked Zoey to

show you how to do things on the Internet! Anna will send them in an email Attachment!” “An Attachment!” echoed Molly, “What’s that?” So Alex, feeling very, very important now, puffed himself up, and explained:



“You see that little hook there on the side of the laptop screen? That’s the Attachment Hook. That’s where you put the string.” “The string?” echoed Molly again. “The string that joins the Attachment to the email,” Alex went on. “You put what you want to send in the Attachment Bag, tie it up with string, and hang it on the Attachment Hook. Then when you send the email the Attachment goes too! It’s simple!”

There was a long silence. Molly, Emma, and Lucy looked at one another, scratched behind their ears, and looked at Alex. He usually knew what he was talking about! “But we haven’t got an Attachment Bag!” Molly finally came out with, and another chorus of “Oh dear”s went up from Emma and Lucy! “We don’t need one,” said Alex, “Anna will have one!”



So it was that half-an-hour later, Molly, Alex, Emma and Lucy, were all sitting waiting anxiously for Anna's Attachment to arrive. They were all staring at the Hook. Had she sent it yet? Why was it taking so long? Then suddenly they had their answer!

Before their eyes, a big red bag with blue spots, bulging with fruit and vegetables, appeared out of nowhere hanging by a piece of string from the Attachment Hook.

"It's all wet!" cried Molly, as a few drips fell onto the desk. "It was raining in Old York when it left, and raining here in New York when it arrived," said Alex, "so no matter how fast it went, it was bound to get a little wet."



Molly put her paws on top of the laptop screen and carefully hooked the Attachment string around her teeth. Then, raising it up carefully, she took it off the Hook and in one brave leap carried it across

onto the kitchen table. Unfortunately the table top was a bit more slippery than she had expected and she slid right across and fell with a scream and much clatter onto the floor! Everything had fallen out of the bag! “It’s OK!” she announced to the others, “We were going to wash it all anyway!”

Emma turned on the tap to fill the sink. Then she joined the others to pick up all the fruit and vegetables that had fallen on the floor. There were carrots, courgettes, red and green peppers, apples, pears, bananas and oranges! Anna had done well! There was everything they needed! Soon all the fruit and vegetables were floating in the sink, red, yellow, green and orange! Emma thought they looked very pretty!

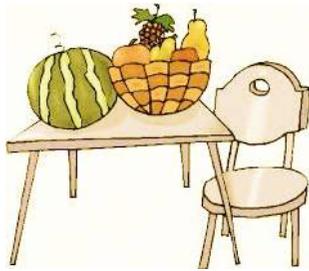


“Emma!” cried Molly, “The tap!” Lucy jumped up to help Emma turn it off, but some water had overflowed onto the floor while Emma was admiring the pretty colours! “It’s only water!” said Molly, “We’ll mop it up later!”

Sitting around the sink, the four cats carefully washed each piece of fruit and vegetable with their wet paws, and carried each piece onto the kitchen table, which was now getting rather wet too! Then the cutting could begin!

Anna had sent four little wooden knives in the Attachment Bag! Molly, Alex, Emma and Lucy took one each, chose an item from the pile on the table, and started to cut! But something rather funny happened which made them all laugh! Each time they tried to cut, the object slid out from under the knife, shot across the table and plopped onto the floor! It was very funny!

Soon pieces of fruit and vegetable were shooting about everywhere, sometimes even colliding with each other before shooting off onto the floor! Alex said in a loud voice, "It's because they are round, and



the knives are square!” But Molly disagreed! She said, “It’s because the knives are not sharp enough!” Well, whatever the reason, all the fruit and vegetables were soon on the floor again, and the four cats were sitting laughing on the table.

It was at this exact moment that Zoey arrived home! The key rattled in the lock! Where there had together on the table, there knives and some puddles of hurried off to their special



been four cats laughing was just four abandoned water! They had each hiding place!

Zoey came into the kitchen and let out a shriek of dismay! “Oh you naughty cats! What have you done!” All the fruit and vegetables were scattered on the floor, some of them floating in a big puddle of water by the sink! “All the fruit and vegetables I was saving for my party! How did you get into my cupboard!”



Not a word came in reply! Each cat was in



its special hiding place! But Zoey knew them all, and could see a little piece of each cat accidentally showing in each place: Molly's tail hanging down from the bookshelf, Alex's nose poking out from behind the side-table, Emma's ear just visible above the laptop screen, and Lucy's left paw sticking out from under the coffee table!



“Come here!” Zoey shouted, and four terrified cats crept out and lined up before her. “You’ve ruined my party! I’ll have to cancel it! All my fruit and vegetables are spoilt on the floor!” And she stooped down and picked up a few pieces of the wet and ruined fruits!

Not a cat’s whisker twitched! Lucy could see there would be no extra long cuddles today!

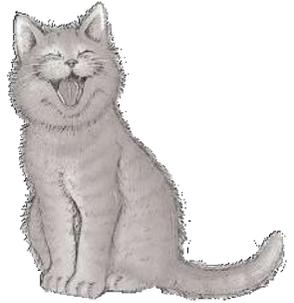
But suddenly Zoey started laughing! She laughed and laughed! She picked up more items and laughed more and more! Lucy was the first to join in. She started to laugh too! She didn’t know why, but it was better than





being terrified!

Soon they were all laughing! “These are made of plastic!” Zoey said, “It’s toy food! Did you get it from Anna? I sent her a box of it for her birthday!” And Zoey saw at once what had happened! “We were only trying to help,” said Molly. “Of course you were,” said Zoey, “you lovely darling cats! And you can help again now by tidying up!”



And Lucy was wrong. She got her extra long cuddle. They all did. When everything was tidied up, Zoey and Molly and Alex and Emma and Lucy all sat down together on the sofa and laughed again until tears rolled down their



cheeks.

And Zoey gathered them all together in her arms for the longest cuddle ever!



Cast of Characters

Molly

Emma

Lucy

Alex

Anna

Zoey

