

Chapter 1

Kitty bounded into her mum and dad's bedroom as gracefully as a cat. She was wearing her stripy pyjamas and her dark hair bobbed around her face as she ran. Flipping head over heels, she landed neatly on the bed.

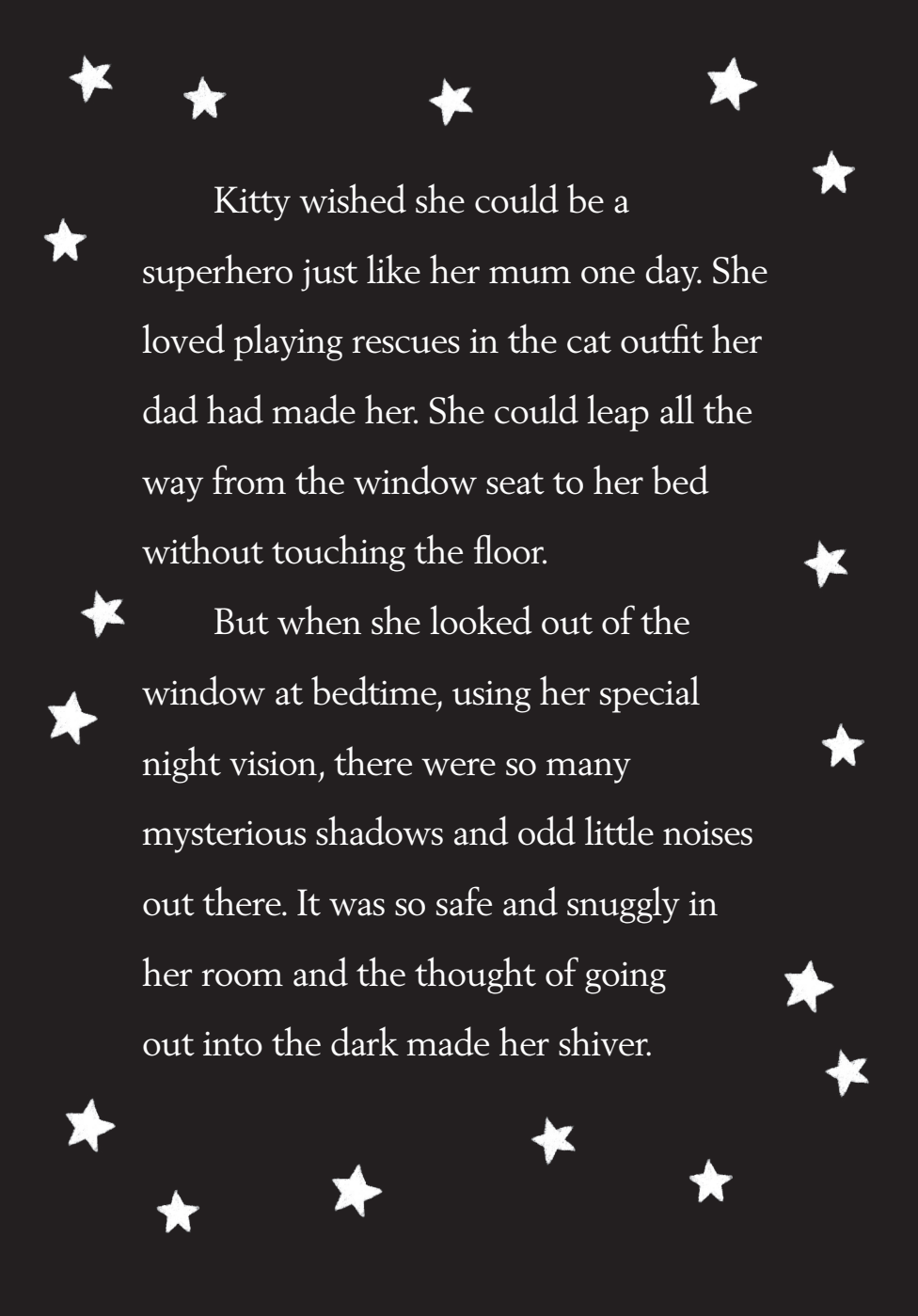
Her mum smiled. 'Slow down,
Kitty! It's nearly bedtime. Aren't you
sleepy yet?'



‘No, I’m not tired at all!’ Kitty watched her mum take a sleek black superhero outfit out of her wardrobe and put it on.

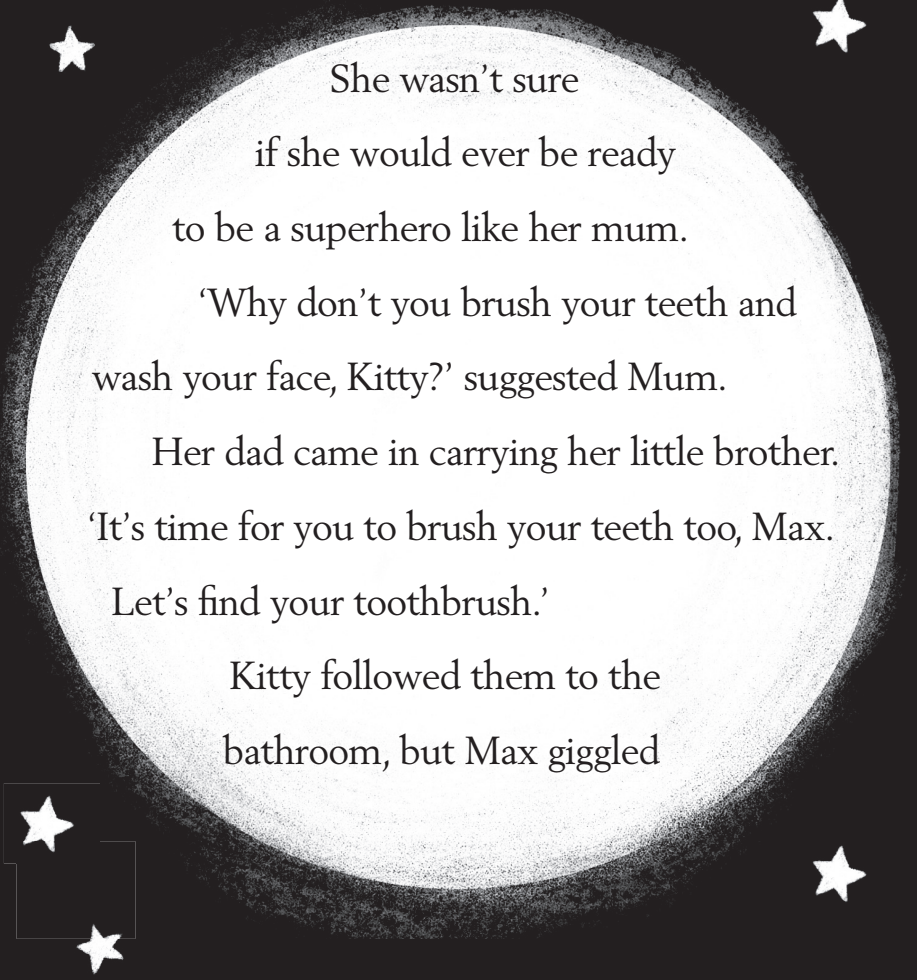
Kitty’s family had a special secret. Her mum had cat-like superpowers and she went out on adventures helping people every night. She could see in the dark, climb walls, and balance perfectly on rooftops. Her superpowered senses meant she could always tell when trouble was near. Best of all, she could talk to cats and share their secrets!





Kitty wished she could be a superhero just like her mum one day. She loved playing rescues in the cat outfit her dad had made her. She could leap all the way from the window seat to her bed without touching the floor.

But when she looked out of the window at bedtime, using her special night vision, there were so many mysterious shadows and odd little noises out there. It was so safe and snugly in her room and the thought of going out into the dark made her shiver.



She wasn't sure
if she would ever be ready
to be a superhero like her mum.

'Why don't you brush your teeth and
wash your face, Kitty?' suggested Mum.

Her dad came in carrying her little brother.
'It's time for you to brush your teeth too, Max.
Let's find your toothbrush.'

Kitty followed them to the
bathroom, but Max giggled

and scampered away at lightning speed.

Mum caught him and brought him back to the sink. 'Be a good boy and do what your dad says, Max.' She looked in the mirror and straightened her superhero mask. 'It's getting late! I really must go.'

'Can't you read me a bedtime story first?' asked Kitty.

'I'm sorry, honey.' Mum kissed Kitty on the forehead. 'Maybe tomorrow night.'

'I'll read you a story, Kitty,' said Dad. Kitty's shoulders slumped. She knew

being a superhero was important but she wished Mum didn't always rush off at bedtime. 'But I want Mum to tuck me in. I like our bedtime talks.'




‘Why don’t we have a little talk now?’ Mum took Kitty to her bedroom and they sat on the window seat together.

It was growing dark outside and a bright full moon was rising over the rooftops. An owl hooted in the distance.

‘Having superpowers is a very special gift,’ said Mum, stroking Kitty’s hair. ‘On a night like this, when the moon comes out, you can feel magic in the air. Then you know it’s the perfect time for an adventure.’

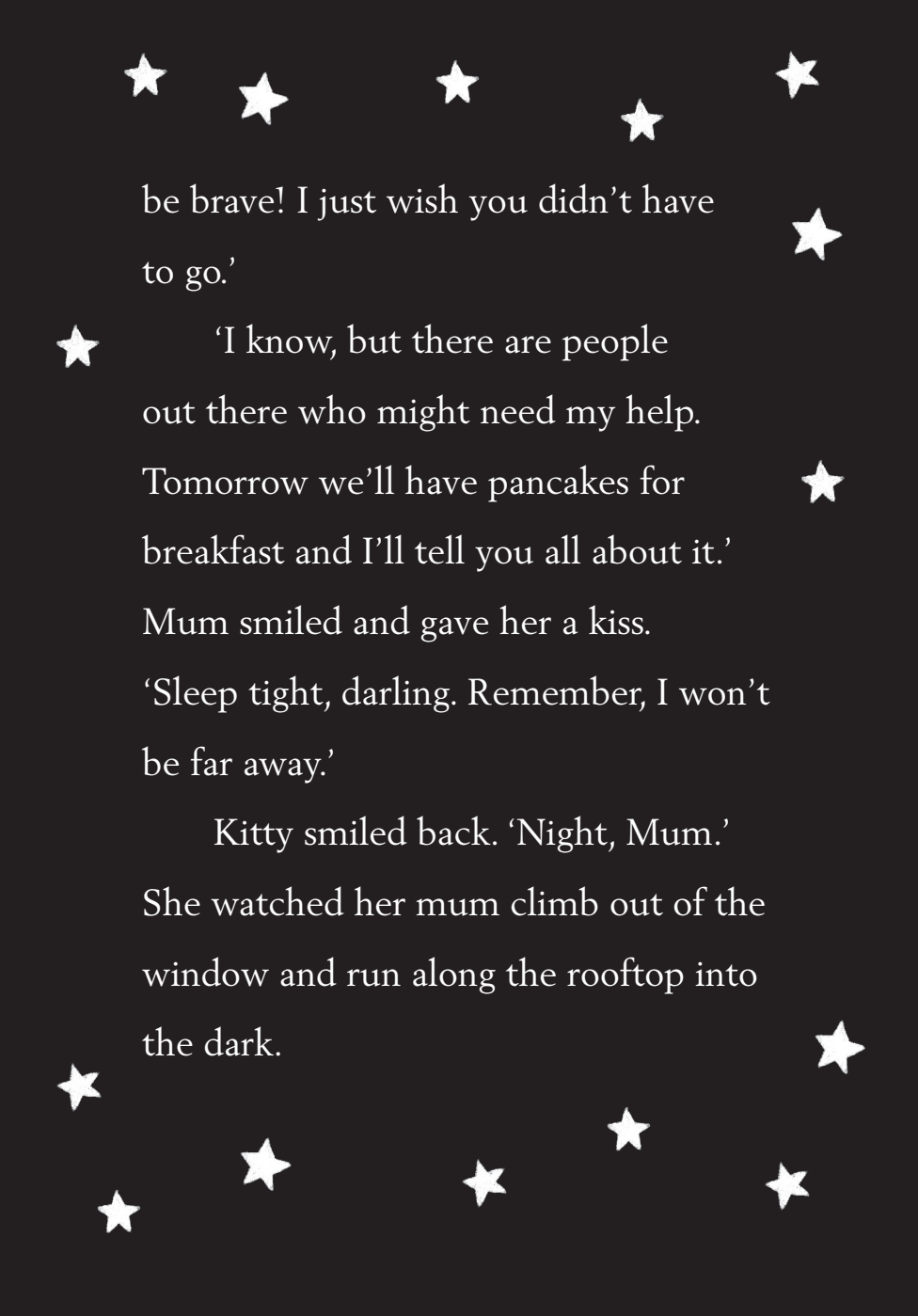




Kitty stared at the darkening sky and gave a shiver. The orange streetlamps were blinking on one by one but strange shadows lingered at each corner. 'But it looks creepy out there. I don't think I could ever be a superhero and go out into the darkness like you.'

Mum hugged her tight. 'You can choose whatever you want to be. But don't let fear hold you back. You're braver than you think!'

Kitty hugged her back. 'I will try to

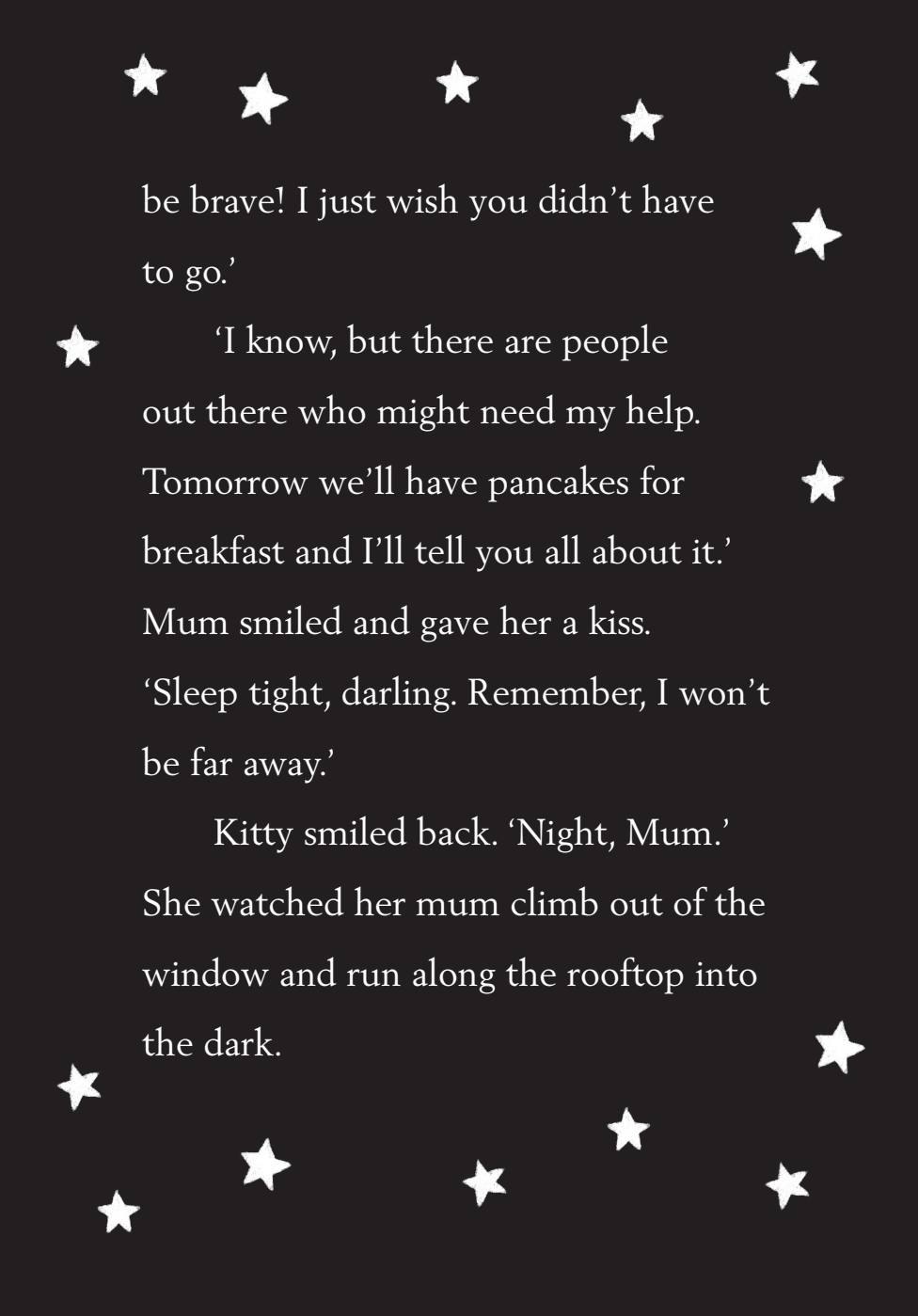


be brave! I just wish you didn't have
to go.'

★ 'I know, but there are people
out there who might need my help.
Tomorrow we'll have pancakes for
breakfast and I'll tell you all about it.'

Mum smiled and gave her a kiss.
'Sleep tight, darling. Remember, I won't
be far away.'

Kitty smiled back. 'Night, Mum.'
She watched her mum climb out of the
window and run along the rooftop into
the dark.





Dad read Kitty a bedtime story. Then she snuggled down in bed and pulled the blanket up to her chin. Her bed was warm and comfortable, but she didn't feel ready to go to sleep yet. She wriggled on to her side and stared out of the window.

The moon had risen high in the black sky and shadows flickered on the rooftops. The wind whispered outside the window and Kitty's heart beat



faster. She turned on her bedside lamp
and peeped over the top of her blanket.

There's nothing to be scared of, she told
herself.





Her mum's words spun around
inside her head: *Don't let fear hold you
back. You're braver than you think!*

Maybe she should put on her cat outfit
and see if it made her feel any braver?



Jumping out of bed, she pulled her
superhero outfit over her head. Then
she swung the black silky cape over her
shoulders and tied the ribbon carefully.



Last of all, she put on her cat tail and
velvety cat ears before turning to look
in the mirror. She did a perfect spin and
the cape flew out behind her. She loved





the way the cat costume looked and she
did feel a tiny bit braver.

Suddenly, there was a scratching
noise right outside her window. Kitty
turned round, her eyes wide. The

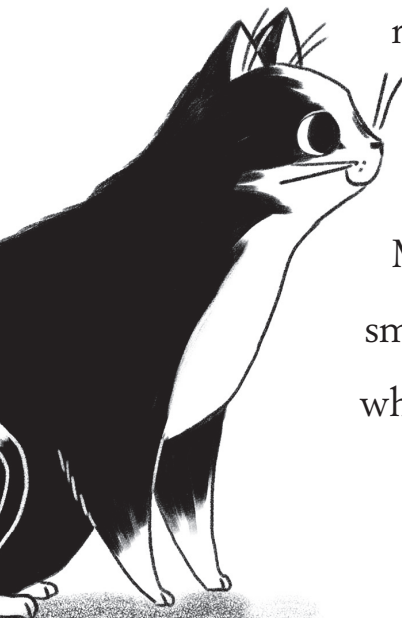
scratching grew louder and then a shrill meow made her jump. She rushed to the window and peered into the dark.

A sleek black cat with a white face and white paws was waiting on the window ledge. Kitty opened the window and the cat sprang into the

room with a flick of his tail.




‘Good evening!

My name is Figaro.’ He smoothed his jet-black whiskers. ‘I must speak to






your mother at once.'







Kitty gazed at the cat and her heart skipped. Had she really just understood what the cat said? 'Hello, I'm Kitty,' she managed.



'Lovely to meet you!' Figaro gave a theatrical bow. 'Please take me to your mother, Kitty. There's an emergency and I must get her help!'

Kitty's stomach did a somersault. She really had understood him. 'I'm sorry—my mum's already gone out. She left a little while ago.'

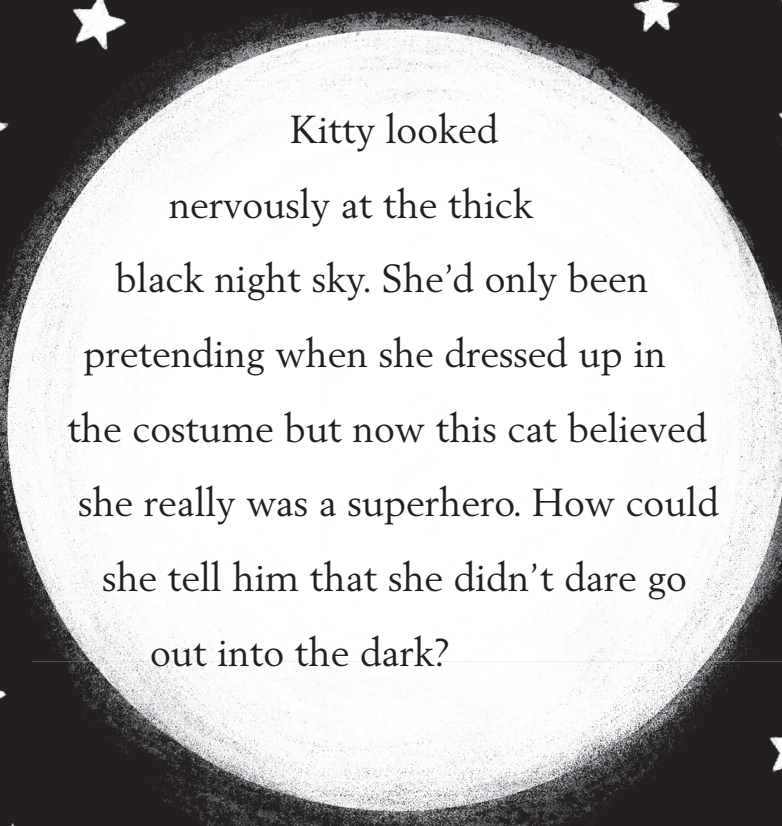


Figaro clutched his cheek with one paw. 'This is dreadful . . . but wait!' He stared at Kitty's cat costume. 'You're a superhero too so you can save us from this terrible disaster!'

'Oh, I can't really,' said Kitty. 'I wouldn't know what to do!'

'You are a superhero though,' insisted Figaro. 'Who will help us if you don't?'





Kitty looked
nervously at the thick
black night sky. She'd only been
pretending when she dressed up in
the costume but now this cat believed
she really was a superhero. How could
she tell him that she didn't dare go
out into the dark?

