

Pocket Cats: Dancing Dreams

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About the Book

Maddy has always believed in magic, and she's always wanted a cat. So when her tiny ceramic cats come to life, she thinks she's the luckiest girl in the world!

Maddy can hardly wait to start classes at Summer Ballet School, and when Ollie comes to life again, everything is perfect. But as usual, there is a problem to solve!



Dancing Dreams

Kitty Wells

RHCP DIGITAL

The *Pocket Cats* series is dedicated to all cat
lovers,
everywhere . . . including you!



Chapter One

MADDY LLOYD TRAILED after her mother into the English Ballet Academy, carrying a suitcase and staring around her in wonder. "I can't believe we're really here!" she murmured to her best friend Rachel, who was carrying a suitcase too. Rachel nodded, too awe-struck to answer.

"You girls wait here for a minute," said Maddy's mum. "I'll just find out where we should go."



As her mother went over to a desk in the corner, Maddy took everything in with shining eyes. Though the lobby they were standing in was very ordinary-looking, somehow it seemed to shimmer with magic. The English Ballet Academy! *Real* ballerinas lived in this building during the school year, training and working hard.

But now it was time for the yearly ballet summer school at the Academy: two whole weeks where children between the ages of nine and thirteen would follow an intensive dance programme. Maddy and Rachel had auditioned for

the summer school a few months ago, and to their amazement, they'd both been accepted!

I'm glad Rachel's here too, thought Maddy. She loved ballet and was thrilled to be here, but being at the school on her own would have been a bit scary.

"Hello, girls – welcome!" called a friendly voice.

Turning, Maddy saw her mother coming back. There was a tall woman with spiky blonde hair with her, carrying a clipboard. "I'm Mrs Kinney; I'll be teaching you ballet and looking after you," she said with a smile. "And I bet you're Maddy Lloyd and Rachel West . . . right?" The two girls nodded shyly.

"Mrs Kinney's going to show you both to your rooms, and help you get settled in," explained Maddy's mum.

Maddy blinked. *Rooms?* But . . . surely she and Rachel would be sharing?

Before she could ask, her mother had scooped her into a tight hug. "Have a wonderful time, sweetie!" she said. "I'll call you tonight on your mobile, and see how you're getting on. And you have fun too, Rachel!" She hugged Rachel as well. "Your mum said to send her a text once you're settled in."

"I will," said Rachel, clutching her suitcase. She was starting to look a bit nervous.

Maddy didn't blame her. She swallowed as she watched her mother leave, suddenly feeling forlorn. She'd never been away from home on her own for longer than a night before. She hoped that she wouldn't get homesick.

"Right, let's get you girls sorted," said Mrs Kinney cheerfully. "Rachel, you're in room sixteen, and Maddy, you're in twenty-seven. They're just upstairs – I can show you there now."

Oh, no! Maddy and Rachel exchanged a horrified glance. "You mean we're not together?" burst out Maddy. The information the school had sent out had said the girls

would be assigned two to a room. If Maddy and Rachel weren't together, then who were they sharing with?



"No, we always assign rooms alphabetically," said Mrs Kinney. She saw the girls' stricken expressions and smiled. "Come on, it won't be that bad. You're both sharing with really nice girls, I promise!"

Maddy followed Mrs Kinney up the stairwell in a daze. In all her imaginings about the Academy, she'd always assumed that she'd be sharing a room with Rachel. That was half of what she'd been looking forward to!

Rachel seemed just as worried. "Maybe it won't be *too* awful," she whispered to Maddy as they got to the first floor and started down a long corridor. "I mean, how bad can our roommates be?"

"Room sixteen, here we are," said Mrs Kinney, stopping in front of a door. "I think your roommate is already here, Rachel." She knocked.

A moment later the door opened. A girl about their own age with shoulder-length dark hair and brown eyes stood there. "Hello, Jo," said Mrs Kinney. "This is Rachel; she's going to be sharing with you." She steered Rachel forward.

"Hi," said Rachel shyly.

Jo grinned at her. "Hi, Rachel. Is this your first time here? I was here last summer, and it's awesome - you're really going to love it!"

"I hope so," said Rachel. Maddy could sense her friend relaxing, and felt relieved for her - Jo seemed really nice. Peeking into the room, Maddy saw two beds with yellow duvet covers and two chests of drawers.

"I'll let you get settled, Rachel," said Mrs Kinney. "Come on, Maddy - your room's further along."

"Bye," Rachel mouthed, giving Maddy a small wave. Maddy tried to smile, but she felt very alone as she followed Mrs Kinney, hurrying to keep up. The teacher's long legs moved with a dancer's graceful strides.

"Here we are," said Mrs Kinney, stopping in front of the last door in the corridor. "And I think your roommate's arrived as well, Maddy." Just as she had before, she knocked on the door.

Maddy held her breath. What would her roommate be like? *Please, please let her be nice*, she thought fervently.

The door swung open, and a girl a bit shorter than Maddy stood in front of them. She had long, light blonde hair and pale blue eyes.

"Hello, Harriet," said Mrs Kinney cheerfully. "This is Maddy - she's going to be your roommate. And Maddy, this is Harriet. It's her first time here, too."