

Pocket Cats: Shadow Magic

Kitty Wells

Random House Children's Publishers UK

Contents

Cover

About the Book

Title Page

Dedication

Chapter One

Chapter Two

Chapter Three

Chapter Four

Chapter Five

Chapter Six

Chapter Seven

Chapter Eight

Chapter Nine

About the Author

Also by Kitty Wells

Copyright

About the Book

Maddy has always believed in magic, and she has 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't wait to get to know Nibs, but her cousin is having trouble settling into her new school. She's so miserable that she's decided to run away. Can Maddy and Nibs use their Shadow Magic to stop her?



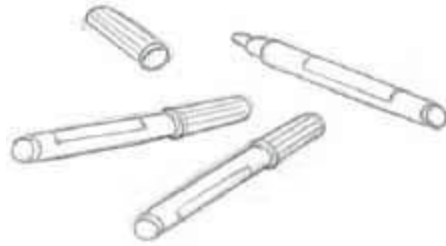
Shadow Magic

Kitty Wells

illustrated by Joanna Harrison

RHCP DIGITAL

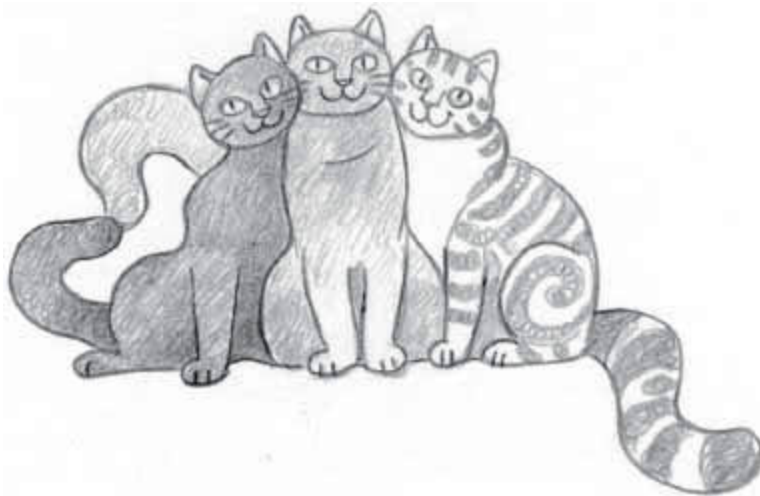
The *Pocket Cats* series is dedicated to all cat
lovers, everywhere . . . including you!



Chapter One

MADDY LLOYD PUT down her marker and gazed at the brightly-coloured sign she'd just made. WELCOME CHLOE!!! it read, with flowers and rainbows dancing around the letters. *Perfect!* she decided. Standing on her bed, she stuck the sign to her bedroom wall with Blu-Tack.

"What do you think?" she asked the ceramic cats that sat on her desk. There were three of them: a grey one, a black and a tabby, all sitting together with their tails and paws entwined.



Maddy waited hopefully for a moment, but the tiny figures just gazed silently back at her, their painted eyes

unblinking. With a sigh of disappointment, she hopped down off the bed.

Not long ago, Maddy wouldn't have expected a response from the ceramic figurines . . . but something amazing had happened recently. The grey cat, who was called Greykin, had actually *come to life* – and had explained that one of the three cats would always do so whenever there was a problem that needed their attention.

A wonderfully magical time had followed as Maddy and Greykin solved the problem that had faced them. Next it would be the turn of one of the other cats. But when? Maddy wistfully touched their smooth heads, longing to feel the small, furry warmth as one of them came to life again.

Never mind, she told herself. It'll happen sometime – Greykin promised. And meanwhile, Chloe's coming!

Excited butterflies fluttered through Maddy's stomach. She didn't see her cousin very often, because the Taylors moved around so much. But now Chloe, Aunt Lily and Uncle Greg were actually moving to Maddy's town. Even better, they were all going to stay with the Lloyd family for a few weeks until they could move into their new house.



Maddy looked around happily. She could hardly wait for Chloe to see her room! A few months ago Maddy's father

had painted it in her favourite colours, pink and yellow, and she was sure Chloe would love it as much as she did.

Suddenly a thought came to Maddy, and she frowned. Chloe would be sharing her room, and her cousin could be a bit careless at times. What if she accidentally knocked over the cats?

Maddy shivered, imagining it. Rummaging through her chest of drawers, she pulled out a red silk handkerchief that her grandmother had given her. Gently wrapping the cats in it, she put them in her desk drawer.



"There," she said aloud as she closed it. "Just to be on the safe side."

Glancing in the mirror, Maddy quickly pulled her long brown hair into a ponytail. It was still very strange to think that she was just ordinary Maddy Lloyd – smaller than most of the girls in her class, with an annoying sprinkling of freckles across her nose and a pair of very commonplace blue eyes – and yet she somehow had the most wonderful secret in the entire world!

Suddenly Maddy gasped as she heard a car pull into their drive. They were here!

She dashed out onto the landing, almost colliding with her little brother, Jack. The two of them thundered down the stairs just as their mother opened the front door.

“Lily!” Mum cried, embracing her younger sister. All at once it was chaos, with what seemed like dozens of bags everywhere, and everyone crowding into the front hallway at the same time.



Dad shook Uncle Greg's hand. "Good to see you! Here, let me help you with that . . ." He took a suitcase from him.

Jack was hanging onto Uncle Greg's other arm. "Did you bring me any new Monster cards? Did you?"

"Maybe." Uncle Greg laughed and handed him a plastic-wrapped pack. With a whoop of excitement, Jack raced off into the lounge.

"And Maddy! How's my girl?" said Aunt Lily, scooping her into a hug.

"Hi, Aunt Lily." Returning the hug, Maddy craned round to see through the front door. Chloe was just coming up the path with a large purple and silver handbag slung over one shoulder. She was wearing a set of earphones, and she looked bored.



Maddy blinked, taken aback. Wasn't she happy to be here?

As Chloe reached the front door, she pulled out one of her earplugs. "Hi, Aunt Jenny. Hi, Uncle Ted."

Feeling oddly shy, Maddy hung back as her parents gave Chloe a hug. Her cousin had grown several inches since she'd last seen her, and looked very grown up.

Then Maddy told herself she was being silly. This was *Chloe* - the same cousin she used to have sleepovers with, sitting up half the night giggling together over daft jokes!

"Hi, cuz," she said eagerly.

Chloe smiled, but didn't really look at her. She was too busy twirling the dial on her iPod. "Hi," she said.

Maddy hesitated. Chloe's wavy blonde hair had been cut into a stylish bob, she noticed. All at once her long ponytail seemed very babyish.

But maybe it was just because they were with the rest of the family that things felt so awkward. Once they were on their own together, her cousin would surely be her old self again.

“Chloe, come and see my room!” urged Maddy. “It looks really different now.” But her cousin had taken out a mobile phone, and was busy typing a text with her thumb. Had she even heard?



“Yes, let’s go up and get everyone settled,” said Mum. “Then we can have a cup of tea. Lily, you and Greg must be gasping for one!”

As they all headed up the stairs, Maddy felt deflated. Chloe was trailing along behind them, still tapping out a text like she didn’t even care. But she was sure to love the pink and yellow room – not to mention the welcome sign Maddy had made!

Mum smiled at her as they reached the landing. “Show everyone your room, sweetie.”

“Yes, have a look at my handiwork!” said Dad to Aunt Lily and Uncle Greg. “I’ll put these away for you.” Taking their luggage, he staggered off towards the spare room.