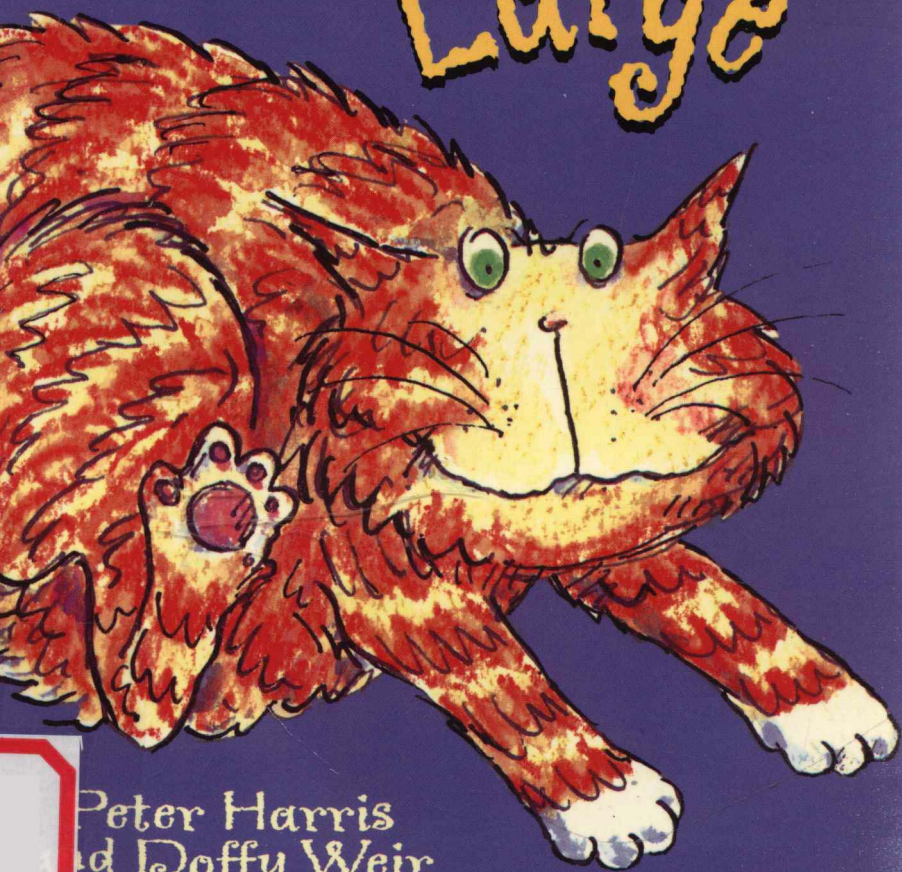


FOX TALES

Bottomley
at
Large



Peter Harris
and Doffy Weir

Bottomley
at
Large

江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章

For Chris - P.H.

A Red Fox Book

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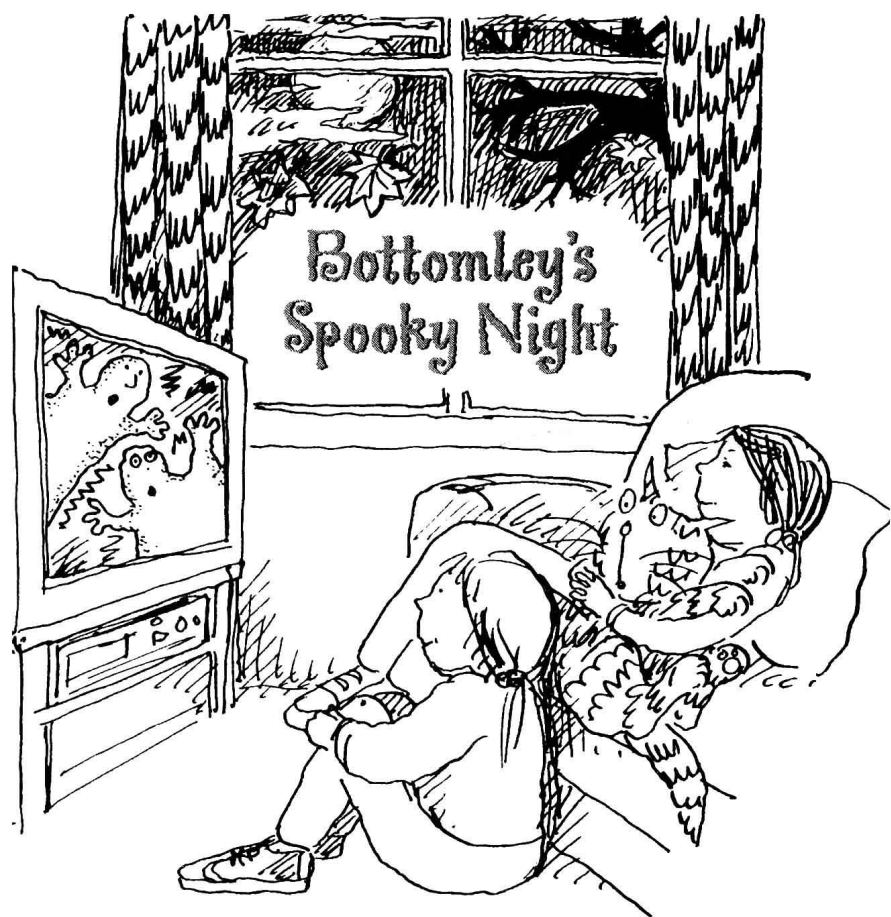
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Bottomley at Large



Peter Harris
illustrated by Doffy Weir

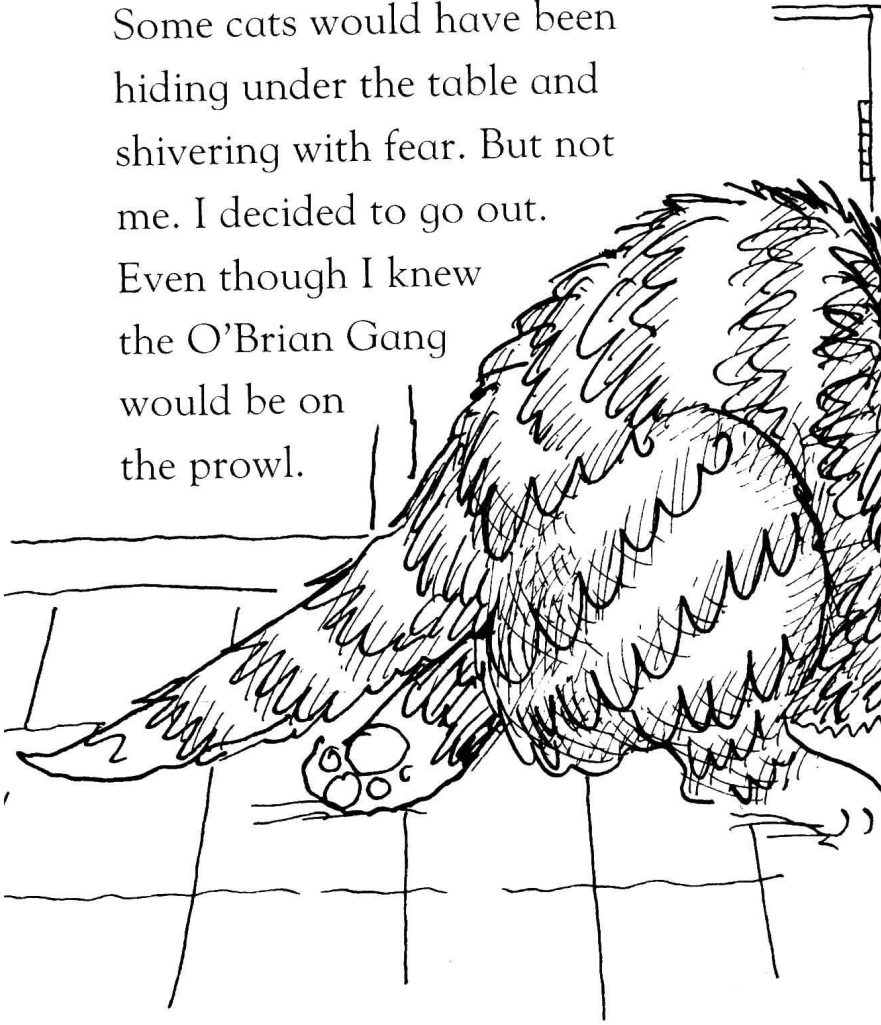
RED FOX

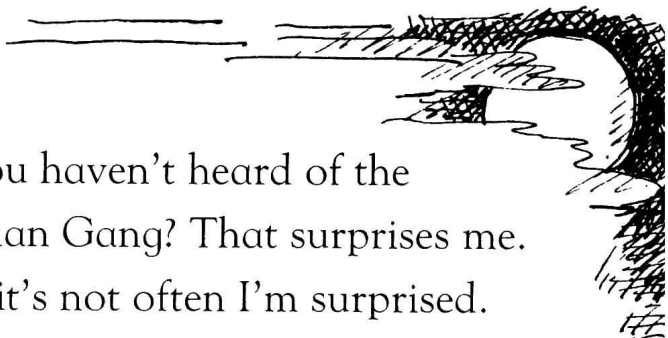


The wind was howling. A twig was tapping against the window. And, to cap it all, there was a film on the telly about ghosts. But was I frightened? You bet I wasn't! Because as anyone will tell you, Bottomley doesn't scare easily.



I went into the kitchen. It looked spooky in the moonlight. Then an owl started hooting from somewhere out in the garden. Some cats would have been hiding under the table and shivering with fear. But not me. I decided to go out. Even though I knew the O'Brian Gang would be on the prowl.





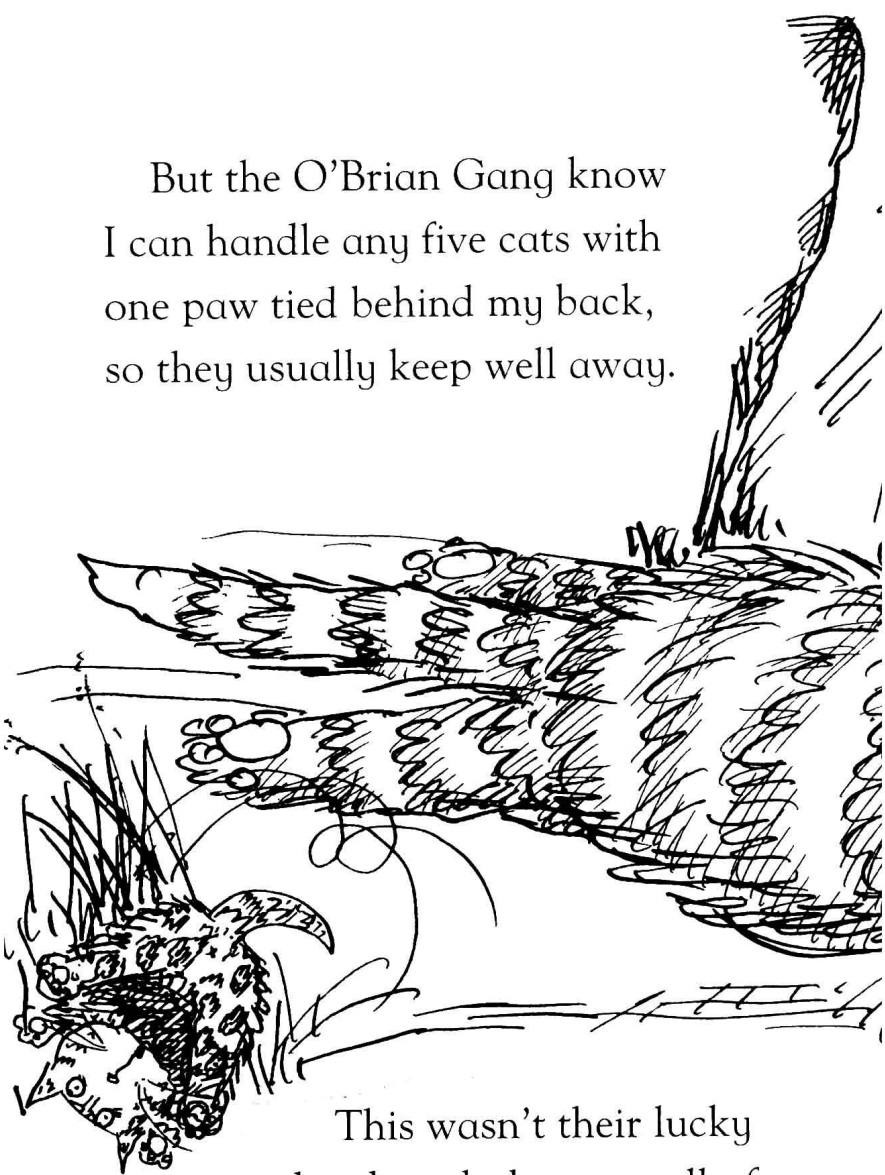
You haven't heard of the
O'Brian Gang? That surprises me.
And it's not often I'm surprised.
Well, there are five in the gang and
each one is bigger than me! My
friend Chico was right, when he
called them 'real bad hombres'!



They'd beat you up as
soon as look at you.



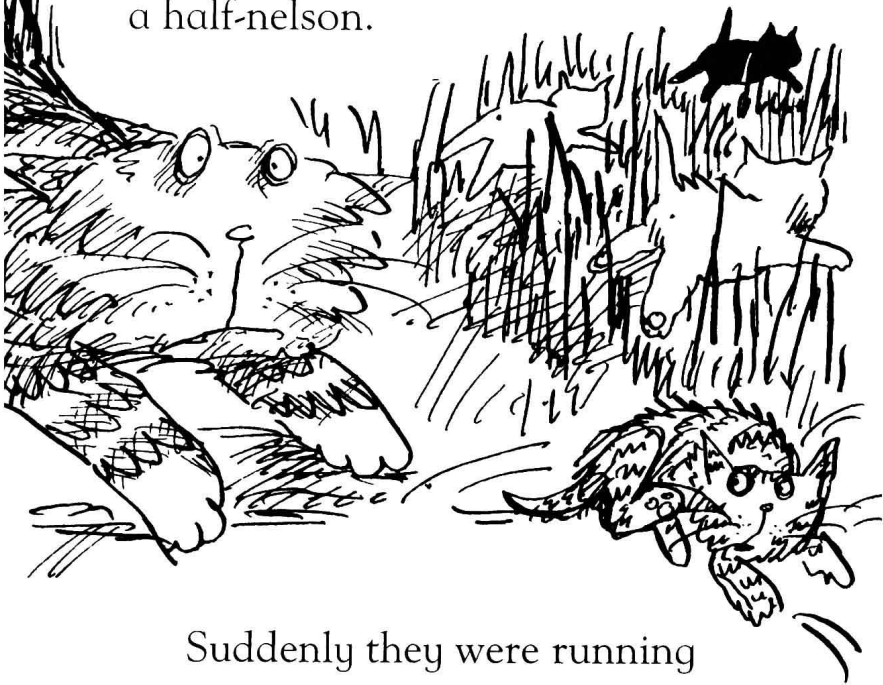
But the O'Brian Gang know I can handle any five cats with one paw tied behind my back, so they usually keep well away.



This wasn't their lucky night, though, because all of a sudden I spotted them.

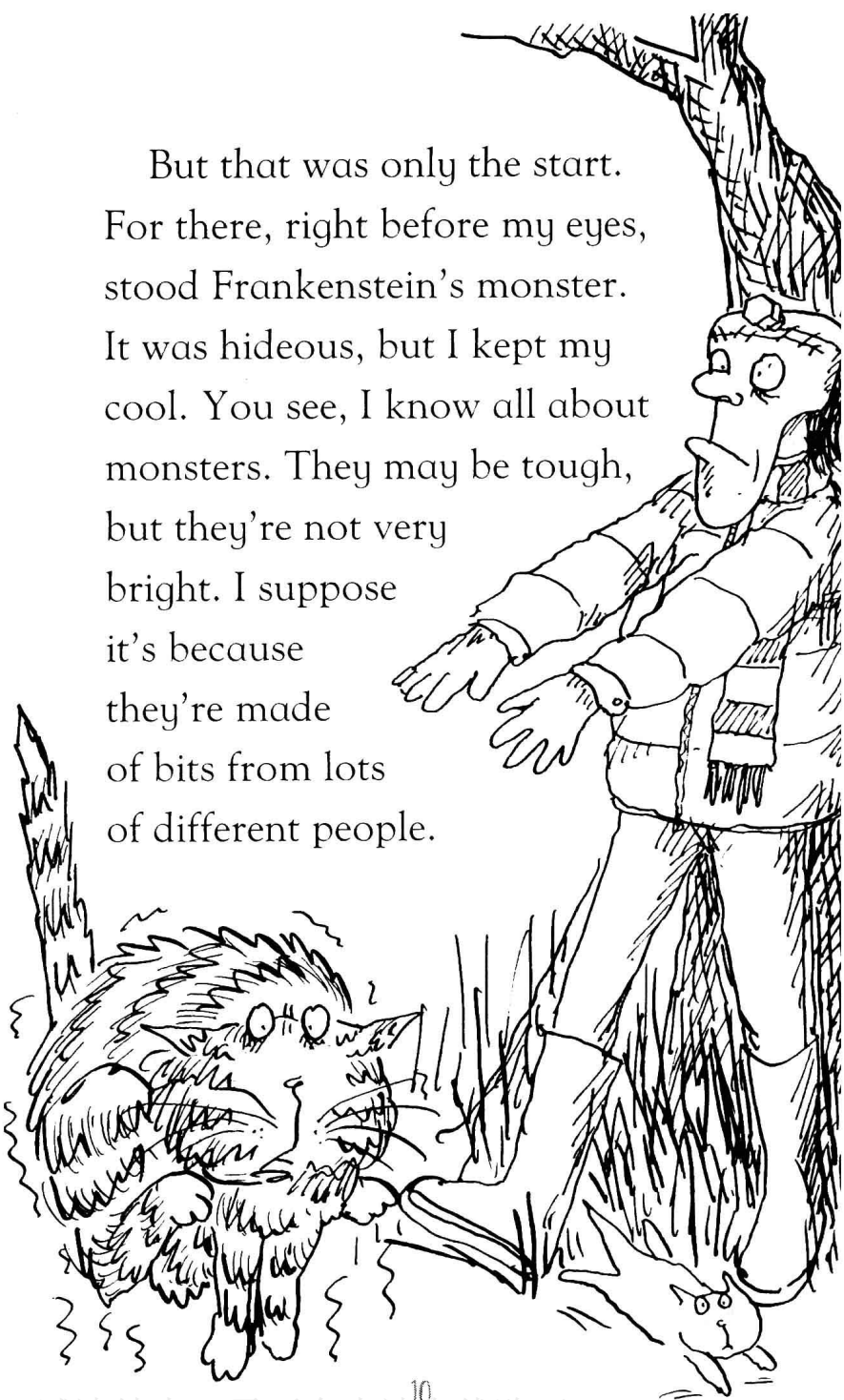
'Right,' I thought. 'Now you're for it!' I was on them like a panther.

Crack! A karate chop to the neck felled one. *Crunch!* I drop-kicked another. *Ooof! Ooof!* I jabbed two in the stomach. *Aaargh!* And the last one was soon crying for mercy as I got him in a half-nelson.



Suddenly they were running for their lives. They just couldn't take any more punishment. Well, who could?

But that was only the start. For there, right before my eyes, stood Frankenstein's monster. It was hideous, but I kept my cool. You see, I know all about monsters. They may be tough, but they're not very bright. I suppose it's because they're made of bits from lots of different people.



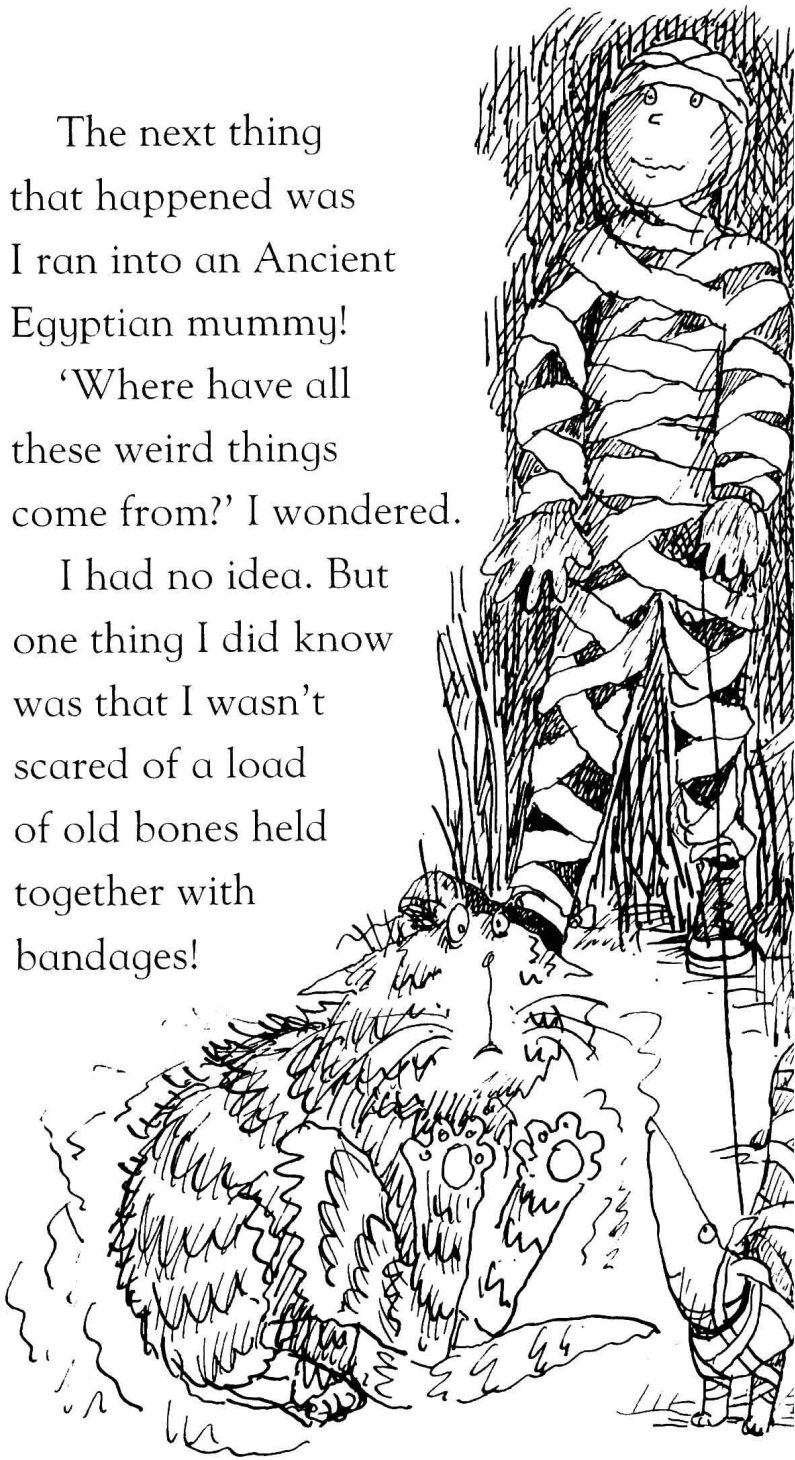
Then I showed him that trained fighting cats aren't afraid of monsters. I dazzled him with my speed and agility. I fainted with my left paw, then, while he was still looking that way, I hit him with my right. And down he went!



The next thing that happened was I ran into an Ancient Egyptian mummy!

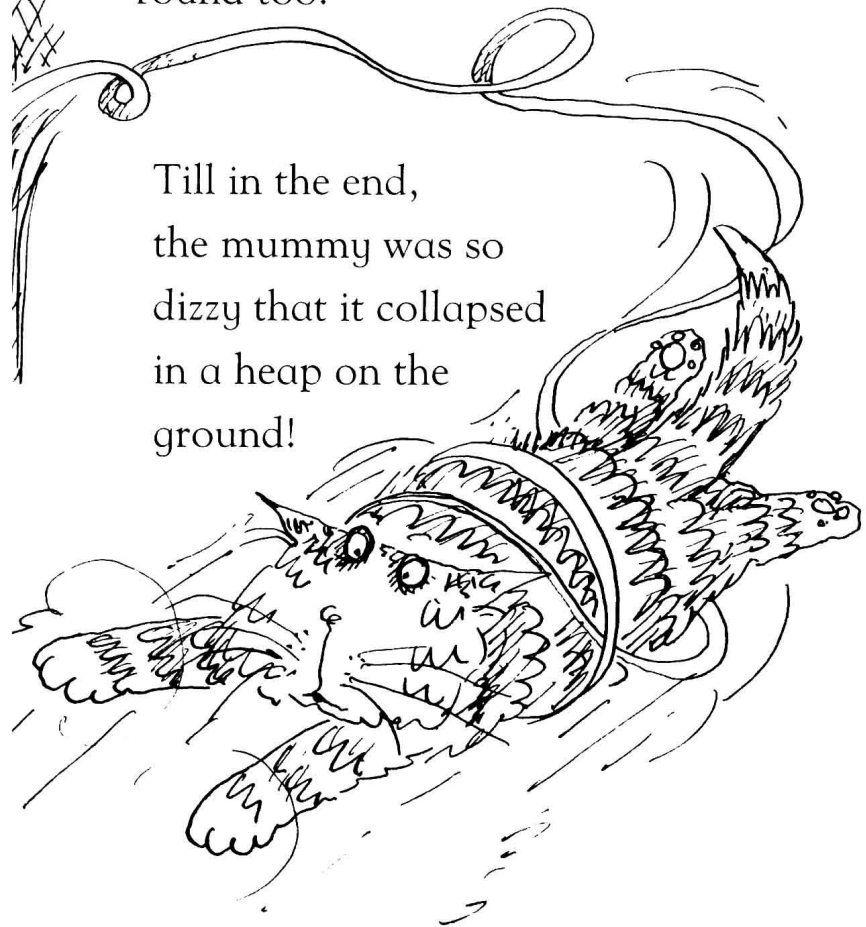
‘Where have all these weird things come from?’ I wondered.

I had no idea. But one thing I did know was that I wasn’t scared of a load of old bones held together with bandages!

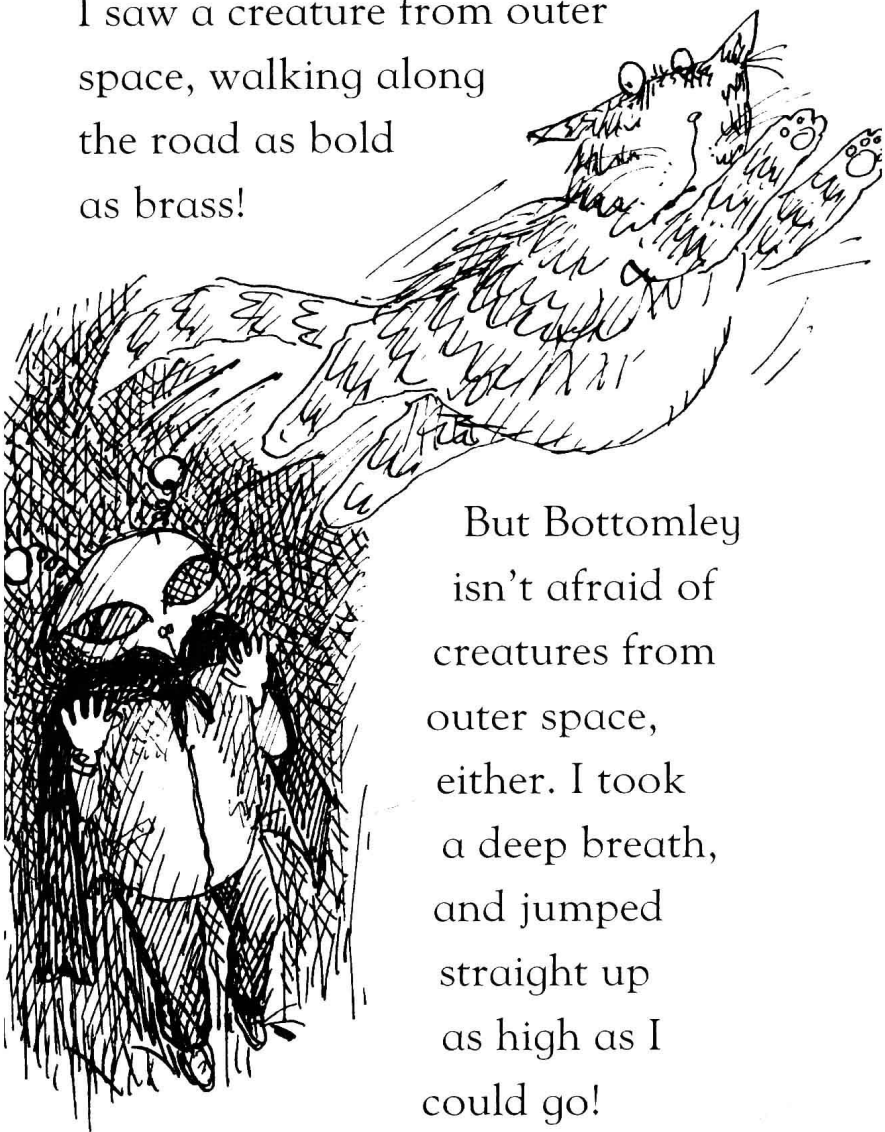


Fearlessly, I grabbed one end of the mummy's bandages and pulled. The effect was amazing. The bandages started to unwind! And, as the bandages unwound, the mummy went round and round too!

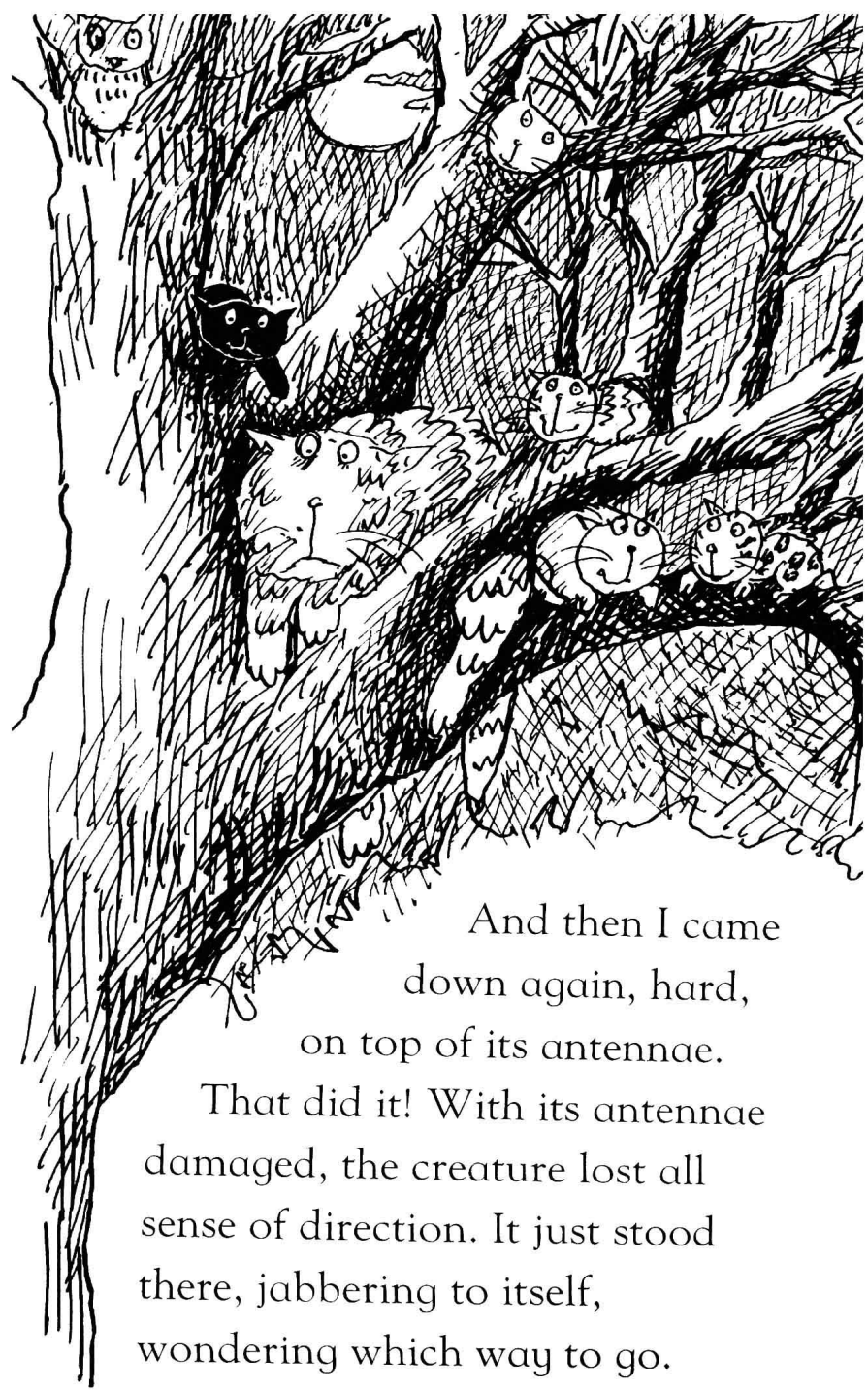
Till in the end,
the mummy was so
dizzy that it collapsed
in a heap on the
ground!



But I didn't have time to congratulate myself. Because then I saw a creature from outer space, walking along the road as bold as brass!



But Bottomley isn't afraid of creatures from outer space, either. I took a deep breath, and jumped straight up as high as I could go!



And then I came
down again, hard,
on top of its antennae.

That did it! With its antennae
damaged, the creature lost all
sense of direction. It just stood
there, jabbering to itself,
wondering which way to go.

So that took care of him.
But then I spotted a wolfman.
A wolfman who, at that very
moment, was stealing
an éclair from a
poor old lady!

