

Eleonore Schmid

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# CATS' TALES

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FELINE FAIRY TALES

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FROM

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AROUND THE WORLD

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North-South Books

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Eleonore Schmid

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English text by Anthea Bell



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North-South Books  
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## CATS WILL BE CATS

Once upon a time there was a man who had a cat. As it was a very clever cat indeed, and nobody else had one like it, he gave it the name of Sky. One day a friend came to visit him. His friend was surprised by the cat's strange name, and asked, "What made you call your cat Sky?" – "Why," said the man, "my cat is so unique and precious that the mere word 'cat' is not right for it. Only the name of Sky suits it, for there is nothing more unique and precious than the sky." – "But cannot the clouds cover the sky?" asked his friend. "Well, yes,"

said the man, "so in that case I'll call it Cloud." – "But," said his friend, "the wind can drive the clouds away!" – "Very well, then I'll call it Wind!" – "Yet the city wall stands up to the wind." – "Then I'll call it City Wall." – "However, mice can dig their way through the city wall." – "Then I will call it Mouse." – "But the cat can catch mice." The man thought about that, and said, "Then I must call it Cat again." His friend clapped his hands and laughed, saying, "Don't you know the proverb that says cats will be cats?"






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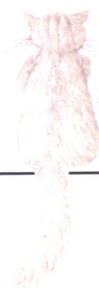
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