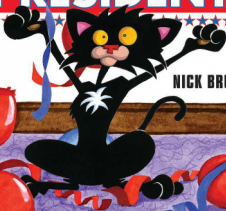


The purrrfect
candidate...

BAD KITTY FOR

PRESIDENT

NICK BRUEL



BAD KITTY FOR



PRESIDENT



NICK BRUEL



A NEAL PORTER BOOK
ROARING BROOK PRESS
NEW YORK

To Rosa
and her family

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A Neal Porter Book

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• CONTENTS •

INTRODUCTION
OLD KITTY

CHAPTER ONE
THE PRIMARIES

CHAPTER TWO
THE ENDORSEMENT

CHAPTER THREE
ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

CHAPTER FOUR
MEDIA AND MONEY

CHAPTER FIVE
THE DEBATE

CHAPTER SIX
ELECTION DAY!

CHAPTER SEVEN
THE RESULTS

APPENDIX ONE

APPENDIX TWO

As you read this book, you'll notice that there is a ★ following some of the words.

These words are defined in the Glossary at the back of this book.

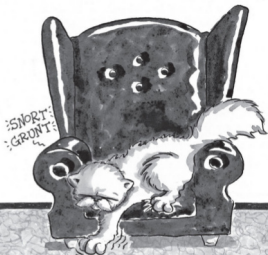
• INTRODUCTION •
OLD KITTY

This is Old Kitty.

Old Kitty can't hear very well anymore. Old Kitty's eyes don't work so well anymore. Old Kitty's claws aren't as sharp as they used to be, and his bones sometimes creak when he walks.



Old Kitty happens to be the president★ of the Neighborhood Cat Club. But not for long.



Next week, Old Kitty will leave office ★ and give up his role as the president of the Neighborhood Cat Club. Why? It's not just because he's old and tired. It's also because he will have served two full terms in office, which is the longest any kitty is allowed to be president of the Neighborhood Cat Club.



But Old Kitty won't mind leaving office. At four years
a term . . .



that's eight whole years Old Kitty has been
president . . .



and eight years is about half of a cat's natural
lifetime.



But Old Kitty will leave office knowing that he did the best job he could. Being president is a very, very hard job. Being president means often working late into the night and living with the constant stress of having so much responsibility. In many ways, being president is the most difficult job there is, and Old Kitty has been pretty worn out by it.



8 YEARS AGO



6 YEARS AGO



But don't feel too bad about Old Kitty. He still has many good years ahead of him. After all . . .



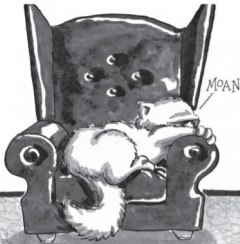
4 YEARS AGO



2 YEARS AGO



Old Kitty is only nine years old.



•CHAPTER ONE•
THE PRIMARIES★



Good morning, Kitty!

Kitty? Kitty?

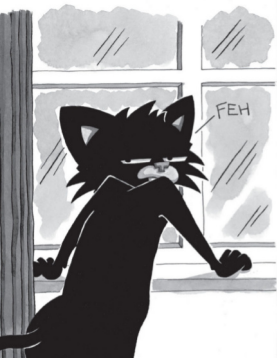
Wow. Something outside really has your attention today.
birds? Are there squirrels? Did Brian the mailman drop his l



Oh, I see. You're looking at some of those stray cats that come wandering in from the neighborhood next to ours every now and then.



What's the big deal, Kitty? They're not hurting anyone, are they? They're just cats like you.



Well, Kitty, if they're bothering you so much, why don't you do something about it?



I know that look, Kitty. You're thinking about throwing them all into an active volcano, aren't you? *Sigh* That's not what I was talking about.

What I mean is . . . why don't you run for president of the Neighborhood Cat Club? Old Kitty is about to leave office, which means that a new president has to be elected. It might as well be you.



Oh, sure . . . I know that being president is a great responsibility and a lot of hard work. And I know that it requires a lot of personal sacrifice. But maybe you'd do a great job.



And besides, it's the best way I can think of to deal with the stray cat issue in the way that you want most.



That's right, Kitty. As president, you would get to suggest the laws that all of the other kitties would have to follow, including any law you think would be best for dealing with the stray cats . . . with the possible exception of throwing them all into an active volcano.



You see, Kitty, as president you would . . . uh . . .

Where'd she go?



Sorry, Kitty. It's just not that simple. You have to go through a whole lot of very complicated steps before you can become president.



That's just how it is, Kitty. Elections ★ might seem complicated, but that's what keeps them fair.

Why, even BEFORE you get elected to be president, you have to win ANOTHER election just so you can have the honor of running for president in the first place.



This first election is called a primary, and wouldn't you know it—today happens to be primary day! That's why all of the other kitties from the neighborhood are here. Hello, kitties!

Now, all we need to do is figure out how to hold a primary election. And who better to ask than good ol' **UNCLE MURRAY**.



*Hi! Sorry we're late, but we thought you said "library" instead of "primary" and we got caught up reading Harry Potter. Ha-ha! Get it?

UNCLE MURRAY'S FUN FACTS

WHAT ARE PRIMARIES?



Okey-dokey! Questions about politics!
Now **THIS** is something I know about.
Let me just put on my special election
day hat!



**So, what is a primary,
Uncle Murray?**

Well, in a primary you vote for a
candidate to become a nominee. ★
Huh?



It's easy. See, most elections have at
least two political groups that want
to be in charge, and these groups
are called parties. ★ But before you
have an election, each group has to
nominate someone they want to rep-
resent them, so they hold a primary.



How do you pick the right
nominee? You hold a primary.

**Great. So how do we hold a
primary?**

Well, first you gotta pick your
delegates. ★



The what?



Delegates. Delegates are the people who represent your party's nominee. So, first you pick your delegates, and then you vote for your nominee, and then the person who gets the most votes gets the most delegates who will then represent him or her at the convention.*

Convention?

Oh, yeah! Those are fun. That's where all the delegates get together and choose their nominee for the election.



So, in other words, a nominee is chosen at a convention by a bunch of delegates who go there to represent the candidate chosen at a primary . . .

Or caucus! ★

Caucus?!!

Caucuses are awesome! Instead of primaries, some states have caucuses, which are like big meetings in which a bunch of people try to convince each other of who would be the best nominee by standing on tables and waving flags and shouting a lot.



AAAAARGH!

Yeah, like that.

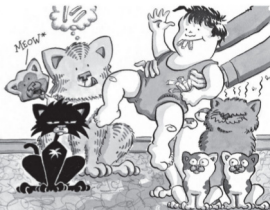
That was just way, way, WAY too confusing.

Since you all look about as bewildered as I do, kitties, let's try something else.

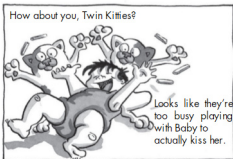
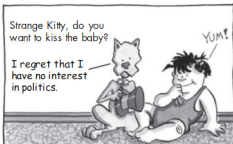


No one knows why, but for some reason, anyone who campaigns for any political office has to be good at kissing babies. So let's have a contest—let's pick our nominees by seeing which kitties are best at kissing Baby!

I know you're enjoying your french fries, Baby, but we need you!



The kitties are split into two parties—the kitties who live on the LEFT side of the street and the kitties who live on the RIGHT side of the street. First, it's the Left Side Party's turn to kiss the baby.



Chatty Kitty, do you want to kiss the baby?



* If we didn't have lips, then we'd have to kiss with our noses, and if we didn't have noses, then we'd have to kiss with our ears, which would be funny because then we wouldn't see who we were kissing, but we could hear each other's thoughts.

And now it's time for the kitties from the Right Side of the Street to kiss Baby. You're first, Pretty Kitty, and Stinky Kitty is next.





Well, Kitty, now's your big chance. If you manage to kiss Baby you will win the Right Side of the Street primary and be their nominee for the election. All you have to do is . . .

**KISS BABY.
KISS BABY.**

KISS BABY.

KISS BABY.

ISS BAB





YOU DID IT, KITTY! That means you won the primary and that you and Big Kitty are the two nominees who will run against each other to become president!

Thank you, Baby.



•CHAPTER TWO•
THE ENDORSEMENT★



Well, Kitty . . . Now's the hard part. Now you have to find ways to convince enough kitties that you would be the best candidate to vote for on election day. This long, hard process of convincing voters that you deserve their vote is known as a campaign. ★

We don't have much money to spend, Kitty, so one thing we can do is conduct a grassroots campaign. ★ Do you know what that is, Kitty? That's when we dig hard to find the roots of what voters care about and then try to leave something of ourselves behind for them to ponder.





JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT! NO, KITTY, NO!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!





STOP RIGHT THERE!

**STOP READING
IMMEDIATELY!**

I'm Edna Prunelove, and as the chairperson for Folks Against Revolting Themes, I am sparing you this horrible and inappropriate portion of this tasteless little book you're reading!

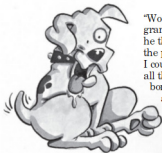
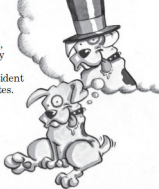
Impressionable, little minds such as yours must not be exposed to such filth and depravity!

Until all of this nastiness is cleaned up, I will bring to you the heart-warming and educational tale of . . .

*The Happy,
Little Puppy Who
Wanted To Be
PRESIDENT*

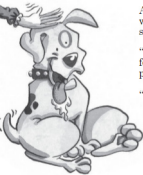
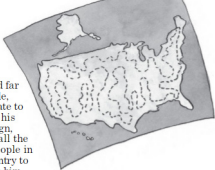


Once upon a time,
there was a happy
little puppy who
wanted to be president
of the United States.



"Wouldn't it be
grand,"
he thought, "to be
the president? Then
I could make sure
all the children had
bones to chew on,
and squeaky rub-
bery toys to play
with, and
tasty pigs'
ears to eat."

So,
the
happy
little
puppy
traveled far
and wide,
from state to
state in his
campaign,
asking all the
good people in
the country to
vote for him.



All of the people he met
were so pleased to meet
such a happy little puppy.

"Of course we'll vote
for such a happy little
puppy!" they all said.

"Woof!" said the puppy
happily. And all of the
people laughed.

But then on election day, just as all of the good people were about to vote, they suddenly realized . . .

“Wait a minute! He’s not a native-born citizen!★ He’s not over thirty-five years old! He hasn’t lived in the United States for at least fourteen years!

“He’s just a stupid dog! What the heck are we doing here?!”

So, the happy little puppy wasn’t elected president of the United States, after all.



The End

There, now. Wasn’t that just lovely? Such warmth! Such humor! And I think we all learned something. I can’t wait for the movie!

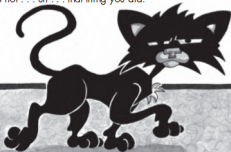




Wow, Kitty! Those people sure were upset about their lawn. NEVER do that again!

Kitty, a grassroots campaign is the kind of campaign in which you try to communicate directly with your voters by going door-to-door, working locally, and trying to make personal contact with voters any way you can.

It's not . . . uh . . . that thing you did.



A grassroots campaign is the kind of campaign you can conduct when you just don't have a lot of money like us. So, one of the things we can do without any money is get Old Kitty's endorsement. If Old Kitty is willing to publicly recommend you for the office of president, then all of those kitties who once voted for him might vote for YOU this time.



And it looks like Big Kitty had the same ideal

I guess this means that Old Kitty is just going to have to make a choice . . .



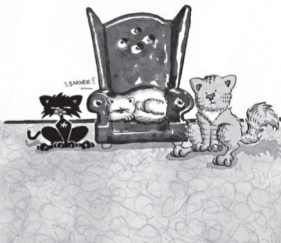
as soon as he wakes up.

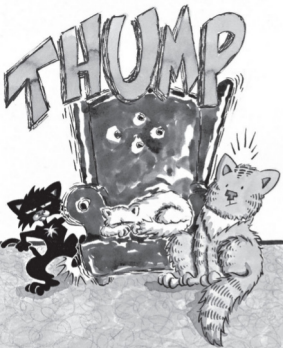
Which might take . . .

a . . .

little . . .

while.







Oh, well. I don't think either of you will be getting an endorsement today.

Maybe it's time to look at other options, Kitty.



• CHAPTER THREE •

ON THE
CAMPAIGN
TRAIL



Okay, Kitty . . . let's try something else. Another common part of conducting a grassroots campaign is simply going door-to-door to meet as many voters as you can. This way, you get to know which issues your voters care most about. And they get to hear how you plan to address their issues.

Doesn't that sound like fun?

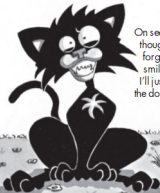


Let's try this house, Kitty.

You need to make a good first impression, Kitty. Try to greet the voters with a nice smile.

Can you smile, Kitty?

On second thought, forget the smile, Kitty. I'll just ring the doorbell.



Look, Kitty! It's your good friend Chatty Kitty! I'm sure she has lots of important things to say. Let's find out what

...



* Hi, Running for president? Great! Did you know that Abraham Lincoln was the first president of the United States to own a cat in the White House? His name was Tabby. But more importantly, the nineteenth president, Rutherford Hayes, owned the very first Siamese cat, named Siam, ever to live in the United States. It's possible that I'm related to her, even though I've never been to the White House. I once saw a house that was white, but I don't think it was the same place.



And Theodore Roosevelt owned two cats named Slippers and Tom Quartz. And Calvin Coolidge owned four cats named Smokey, Blackie, Timmy, and Tiger, which might sound like a lot of cats, but he also kept twelve dogs, two raccoons, and a pygmy hippo, so go figure.

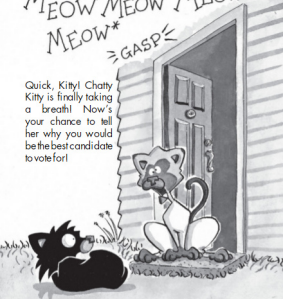


Woodrow Wilson had a cat named Puffin. John F. Kennedy owned a cat named Tom Kitten. Gerald Ford owned a cat named Shari. And Jimmy Carter's daughter, Amy, owned a cat (another Siamese!) named Misty Malarky Ying Yang, which is very hard to say ten times fast, but I can try . . . Misty Malarky Ying Yang, Misty Malarky Ying Yang, Misty . . .

MEOW MEOW MEOW
MEOW MEOW MEOW
MEOW MEOW MEOW
MEOW*
=GASP=

43 MINUTES LATER . . .

Quick, Kitty! Chatty
Kitty is finally taking
a breath! Now's
your chance to tell
her why you would
be the best candidate
to vote for!



Ronald Reagan had two cats named Cleo and Sara. Bill Clinton had a cat named Socks. And George W. Bush had a cat named India.

NEAL, HERE IS
ANOTHER DRAMATIC
MOMENT. I THINK
SOMETHING BY BACH,
OR BEETHOVEN OR
THE MONKEES WOULD
SOUND GREAT—
NICK

Nick,
I have a
headache and am going
on vacation to remote
Siberia. Figure this
out for yourself.
Your Editor—Neal



NEAL,
HAVE A
GREAT
TIME!
NICK



A FISH?!

NO, KITTY! You can't give Chatty Kitty a fish to convince her to "vote" and it's illegal!



*Did you know that there's a species of mullet known as the "President's Fish"? It's also known as the "Ludong" or the "Banah," and it's close to extinction because of overfishing in the Philippines.

Get rid of the fish, and let's go to the next house. You should know better than that, Kitty.

I'll ring the doorbell here.



Look, Kitty! Your opponent Big Kitty lives herel Isn't that a coincidencel Hi, Big Kitty!



Now, Kitty. That is no way to behave even toward your opponent. Besides, what would happen if someone had a . . .





... camera.

Uhoh.



• CHAPTER FOUR •

MEDIA AND MONEY

Good morning, Kitty. Are you ready for another day of pounding the pavement and knocking on doors for your campaign?



Oh! What's this, Kitty? Today's newspaper?



DAILY NOOZ

HISSY-FIT



CAT CANDIDATE FREAKS OUT

Neighbors up and down the block
awoke yesterday to a truly horrible,
frightening, shattering noise. That
noise, as it turns out, was Kitty, the
nominee for the Block nominee for
the Neighborhood Cat

"I didn't know what
noise was," said I.
"I thought that was
a steamroller he
over a dolphin.
maybe someone
a rake across
board the side
Chrysler Bu

Police were
the scene
cont

Well, I wouldn't worry too much about this, Kitty. People will forget all about this soon enough. And once we begin discussing the issues they care most about, I think we can rely on the voters to make an educated decision.

It's just a good thing there wasn't a video camera there to record . . .



MEOW

FFT
FFT

Hiss

REOW

VueTube

Search

Cat Candidate Goes Nuts

By Amy



10:10:10

10:10:10

Viewed: 10,007,073

Comments



Dawg

This is precisely the sort of behavior that reflects badly on all

Suggestions



Way to Having A Good Day

1,000,000 Views



Operation Bull Foundation

1,000 Views



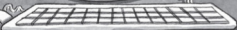
The Day After Tomorrow

1,000 Views



How to Watch Movies

1,000 Views



Hmmm . . . Well, I guess that Big Kitty is a pretty shrewd campaigner after all.

But never mind all that, Kitty. Let's go out and pound the pavement! Let's go knock on some . . .

No? Why aren't you coming with me, Kitty?

Kitty? What are you trying to tell me?



Are . . . are . . . are you FIRING me, Kitty?

Are you serious?

Wow. I really didn't see that coming.



But how will you run your campaign without me? You need me, don't you?

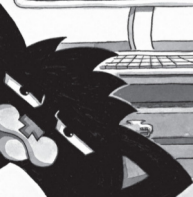
Don't you?



WWW.BADKITTYFORPRESIDENT.COM

**IF YOU LOVE FREEDOM,
GIVE ME MONEY.**

**DONATE
NOW**



You have your own campaign Web site? But how? You couldn't have done this yourself. And who would be goofy enough to make a campaign Web site for a CAT? Who would be so irresponsible as to make a campaign Web site for YOU? Who could you have possibly tricked into...

Oh.



UNCLE MURRAY'S FUN FACTS

WHY DID YOU DO IT?!



Hey, don't yell at me! The cat offered me a pretty good-looking fish, and I was hungry. Besides, a political campaign can cost a lot of money.

How much money?

Well, in the United States, some presidential campaigns can cost more than a billion dollars!

A BILLION DOLLARS! HOLY %#@\$.

I know. Candidates have been known to spend more than a hundred million dollars just to run for mayor!

So, where do they get all that money?

Well, some of these guys are pretty rich to begin with, so they use some of their own money. But most of them get donations from people or groups that really want to see them get elected.



What kinds of people?

All kinds of people. You don't have to be rich to donate. People can donate just a couple of bucks. But you can't donate more than \$2,500 to a candidate. That's supposed to keep really rich people from controlling an election.



Okay, then what kinds of groups?

Well, some are called PACs or Political Action Committees.* Those are organizations that have a specific agenda and want to get candidates elected to help them. They can donate as much as \$5,000, but no more.



What do candidates do with all that money?

Well, they need it for traveling and buying ads and commercials for TV. Although not all of those ads come from the candidates.

Who else is there?

There are these so-called 527Groups* that can collect and spend as much money as they want. They buy ads and commercials and can say anything they want—so long as they don't work with or for a candidate.

Smells kind of fishy to me.

Ooh! Sorry, my fish must be done. Want some?



First of all, Kitty, I can't believe there are people out there who are goofy enough to send you money. But I suppose if Uncle Murray was goofy enough to make you a Web site so you can find people goofy enough to send you money, then I suppose anything is possible.

So, what do you plan to do with your money anyway?



Why are you picking up that remote, Kitty? Is it time for Paw and Order or All My Kittens or . . .

No. You didn't. Please tell me you didn't.

You did.



THIS IS KITTY.

**WHAT A GOOD KITTY.
SUCH A VERY
GOOD KITTY.**



ISN'T SHE A GOOD KITTY?

HUH?

YES, SHE IS.





**GOSH,
SHE'S SUCH
A GOOD
KITTY.**

**SUCH A
VERY, VERY,
GOOD,
GOOD,
GOOD,
KITTY.**

**DON'T BE A JERK.
VOTE FOR KITTY.**

**THIS IS KITTY,
AND SHE
APPROVED THIS
MESSAGE.**



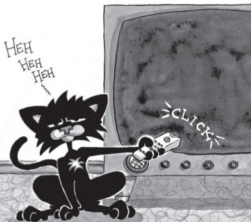
Well, Kitty . . . That commercial may be the most revolting thing I've ever seen on television.

Kitty, you can't just make yourself out to be what you think people want to see. If you want to be president, then you HAVE to be honest about who you are.



Plus, voters care about issues. You have to tell voters where you stand on the things they care about most. Have you forgotten all about the stray cat issue? That's why you were running for president in the first place.

Now, please tell me that you have something more to show that will address the important issues of the day.



**What do we really
know about Big
Kitty?**

**Oh, sure. He's big.
But lots of things
are big.**

**Elephants are
big.**

Cars are big.



And dogs are big.

That's right.

DOGS.

**Big, stupid, sloppy
dogs that stink
and drool and
poop wherever
the heck they
want.**



**Big Kitty is as big
as a dog.**

**It makes you
wonder . . .**



**Could Big Kitty
really **BE** a
DOG?**

***Paid for by the Coalition
to Make Sure That Dogs
Are Not Secretly Elected
to Be President of the
Neighborhood Cat
Club***



"The Coalition to Make Sure That Dogs Are Not Secretly Elected to be President of the Neighborhood Cat Club"?! What the %#@ \$ is that?

Oh, Kitty, you went and found some 527 Group that would go out there and smear poor Big Kitty just to further your campaign, didn't you? You know that Big Kitty isn't really a dog, don't you?



Don't give me that big, innocent look, Kitty! I don't care that you're not the one who actually made the ad, and I don't care that you're not even mentioned in the ad.

You claim to know nothing about the organization that made this ad, but I don't believe it for a second.



Hello? Yes?

I see.

Okay. I'll tell her. Thank you.

Goodbye.



Well, Kitty . . . Now you'll have to put your money where your mouth is. You've been invited to have a public debate * with Big Kitty on the day before the election.



That's right. Now you'll have to stand before all the voters and explain to them just why you should be their best choice to represent them as their president.

Kitty?

Kitty?

Uh-oh.



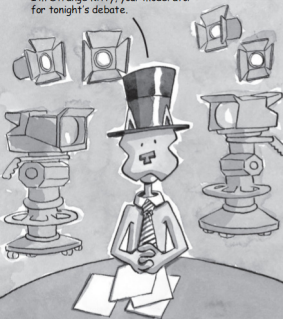
• CHAPTER FIVE •
THE DEBATE

How do I
look? Is
my hat
straight?



Good evening, and welcome to the one and only debate between the two nominees hoping to earn your vote in tomorrow's election for president of the Neighborhood Cat Club.

I'm Strange Kitty, your moderator* for tonight's debate.



I will ask each candidate a question about an issue that is important to the voters from both sides of the street. Each candidate will have one minute to respond after which both candidates will each have thirty seconds to give a rebuttal,* or an opposing viewpoint.

We'll begin with a coin toss to see who goes first.





Hang on! I'll try to find something else!

Live
television
folks.



I found something!

Cool!
What
is it?



It's my Power Panther
Fan Club Medallion!

Awesome!
Where did
you get it?



They were giving them
out at last week's San
Francisco Power Panther
Science Fiction and
Comic Book
Convention.



Wait . . . You went
to SanFranPowPan
Sci-FiComicCon . . .

Ummm . . .
Yeah.



Without ME!

Yeah,
but . . .

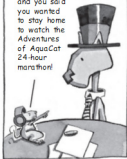


How could you! You
wouldn't even be
reading Power
Panther if
not for me!

Now,
hang on!



I called you,
and you said
you wanted
to stay home
to watch the
Adventures
of AquaCat
24-hour
marathon!



Oh . . . right.



What was I thinking?
I have them all
recorded
anyway.

You do?



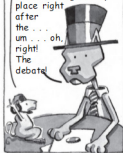
I've never seen the
one where AquaCat is
hypnotized by Pirate
Puma and eats
melon!

That's a
good one.
Wanna
come
over to
watch
it?



You bet!

Great! Let's go to my
place right
after
the . . .
um . . . oh,
right!
The
debate!





stand on
stray cats

Let's just start
with you,
Big Kitty ...

Where do you

the issue of

who wander

neighborhood

our street? Do

them and let

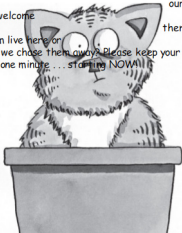
in from other

to live on

we welcome

them live here or

do we chase them away? Please keep your response
to one minute ... starting NOW!







You "like french fries."

Is that really all you have to say?





You "REALLY like french fries." I understand. But the stray cat question is a pretty big issue, isn't it? I mean, we sometimes get these stray cats wandering into our neighborhood who want to live here. We live in

nice, warm houses with toys and litter boxes and cool stuff like Power Panther medallions. Should we be expected to share our stuff with these cats who have nothing—nothing at all? Or should we take steps to keep these cats out because we don't know who they are?

MEOW?





No, I don't have any french fries.

sigh

The same question goes to you, Kitty.
Where do you stand on the stray cats
issue? Do we . . .







Hmmm ... I tried to write this all
down as you were saying it. Let's
see if I got this right ...

Something about how "Big

Kitty

is really a dog, and dogs smell

like

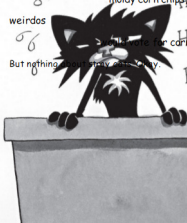
weirdos

But nothing about stray cats. Kitty.

moldy corn chips and only

would vote for corn chips."

PUFF
HUFF
PUFF
HUFF
PUFF



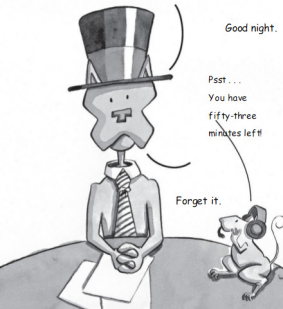
And so concludes tonight's debate. Thank
you so much for watching. Please don't
forget to vote tomorrow.

Good night.

Psst . . .

You have
fifty-three
minutes left!

Forget it.



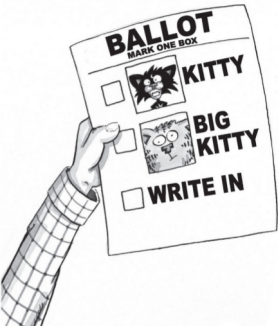
•CHAPTER SIX•

ELECTION DAY!

Well, Kitty . . . The big day is finally here. The only thing you
this polling station.*



Let's take a look at what the ballot * looks like.



Oh, sure. There's always a "WRITE-IN" * option. This gives them a chance to vote for who they want if the official candidates aren't deemed worthy. So, yes, it's always good to have more options . . . right?

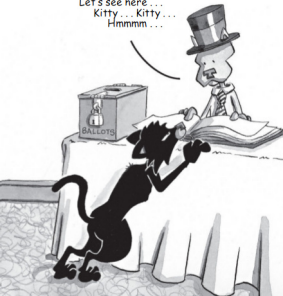
Anyway, it's your turn to vote, Kitty.



Hello, Strange Kitty. Nice job last night.

Kitty is here to cast her ballot.

Let's see here ...
Kitty ... Kitty ...
Hmmm ...



Sorry, but I don't see your
name here. Did you register*
to vote?



Kitty! Are you telling me that you never registered to
Registering is one of the most important responsibilities



UNCLE MURRAY'S FUN FACTS

WHAT IS VOTER REGISTRATION?

Ya gotta
register!
That's
important



Voter registration is a process of collecting all of the names and addresses of everyone who can vote.

But why do you need to register?

Well, the main reason is to prevent voter fraud. The law is that you can only vote once, and you can only vote in the area where you live.



Registering to vote creates a database that ensures that you only vote one time in the place where you live, and it makes sure you're even allowed to vote.

Really? Are some people not allowed to vote?

Oh, sure! For one thing, you have to be over eighteen years old. Sorry, kids. Also, in the United States you have to be a citizen of the country. Plus, depending on the state, if you commit a felony, a bad crime, you may not be allowed to vote at all, even after you get out of prison.





Okay, so how do you register?

It couldn't be easier. All you gotta do is fill out a voter registration form. They're super easy to find. You can download them from the Internet. You can go to your local board of elections.

Usually, you can just go to your local library or post office and see if they have any hanging around.



When do you register?

In most states, you have to register to vote as much as a month before an election. There are a few states like Maine and Wisconsin that let you register on the same day you vote, but it's best to play it safe and register WAY ahead of time . . . unless you live in North Dakota where you don't have to register at all. I'm not sure why—that's just how they do things in the Peace Garden State.



If kids can't vote, is there anything we can do for an election?

Absolutely! What you do is go home, find a grown-up, and say, "Hey, you! Did you register?" And if they say,

"Not yet," then you have them read what your ol' Uncle Murray has to say about it. Then on election day you go, "Hey, you! Did you vote?" And if they say, "Not yet," then you keep asking over and over again until they do it. It's that important!

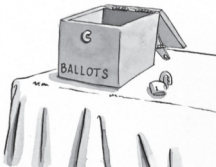
KITTY! This means that you can't votel You can't even vote fo

Lef's just hope that enough of the other kitties vote for you.



•CHAPTER SEVEN•

THE RESULTS



Well, I guess I should have seen this . . .

One vote for Big Kitty . . .

One vote for Pretty Kitty . . .

One vote for Stinky Kitty . . .



* Misty Malarky Ying Yang, Misty Malarky Ying Yang, Misty Malarky . . .

Being cats, and being just a little self-centered, all of the
for the Twin Kitties who voted for each other.

You

too?

Yup.

Do you

blame

me?

KITTY - 0
BIG KITTY - 1
PRETTY KITTY - 1
STINKY KITTY - 1
TWIN KITTY #1 - 1
TWIN KITTY #2 - 1
CHATTY KITTY - 1
STRANGE KITTY - 1



Well, Kitty . . . You may have lost the election, but now
They're all tied at ONE VOTE each!

This is pretty serious, Kitty. Without a clear winner, you



This means that unless something very dramatic happens, the election. You might still have a chance after all, Kitty.



Now, this is interesting. It's a letter from Old Kitty.

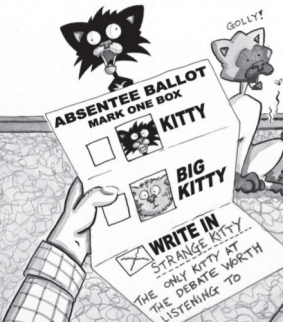
And not just any letter! It's an absentee ballot!



Kitty, absentee ballots are for voters who can't make it to the polling place on election day for whatever reason. Sometimes it's because the voter knows he'll be out of town or because he's physically unable to go. Let's open the envelope and find out how Old Kitty to the polls — like Old Kitty. voted! This is a pretty dramatic moment, isn't it, Kitty? I wish we had some music.



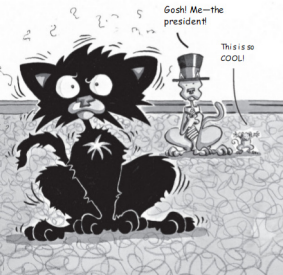
It's one more vote for Strange Kitty!



This means that Strange Kitty won the election and is the next president of the Neighborhood Cat Club!



Well, Kitty . . . That settles it. S.K. won the election and
sorry you didn't win, Kitty. I'm sorry you didn't even get
no one else voted for you.



I know you tried hard to win the election, Kitty. But I hope you learned an important lesson today about how to run a clean campaign and . . .

Kitty?

Kitty?

Uh-oh.

But, why me?



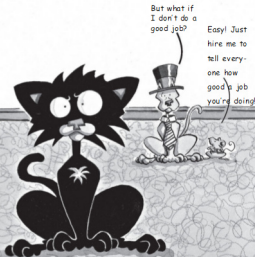
NO!

You're
smart.
You're
reliable.
You're
kind. And
you already
have a nifty
presidential
hat!



NO, KITTY! NOT THIS TIME!

You don't get to throw one of your screaming, spitting, angry, crazy hissy fits this time! You don't get to be a BAD KITTY this time!



I don't care if you're upset, Kitty! I don't even care that you
who runs for office. Elections are about more than who wins
more than campaigns and TV commercials and money.

Oh, I can't do that! The
kitties need to decide
how good a job I'm doing
for themselves!



Elections are all about **DEMOCRACY!**

We saw democracy in action today, Kitty, when we watched Strange Kitty win the election fair and square. Because that's what democracy does. Democracy makes sure that EVERYONE has a chance to participate, that EVERYONE has a chance to win, and that EVERYONE has the chance to someday become the leader of his or her community.

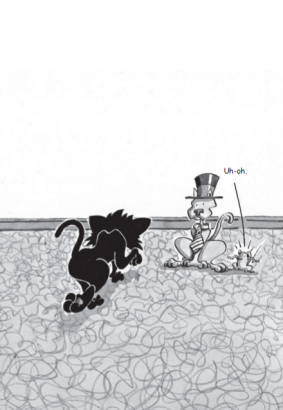
See?
That's how
I know
you'll be
a great
president.



You may not like how the election ended, Kitty. But you have no choice but to live with the results if you want to live in a democracy.

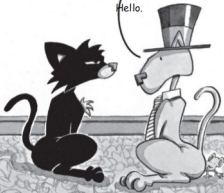
GOSHI

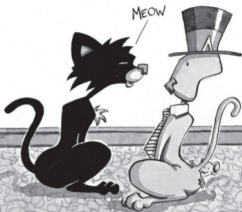




Uh ...

Hello.







She said she's
going to beat you
like a cheap rug
in four years,
didn't she?

Yup. Her
campaign
begins
tomorrow.



EDNA'S LOVELY LITTLE GLOSSARY OF ELECTION TERMS

Hello, Children! Edna Prunelove here. And now that you've suffered all the confusion that comes with that little cat and her food, I thought I would give you with something educational. I thought it would be grand to review all of those confusing words you saw about the election. Won't this be a thing to be remembered in the order in which they appear.

PRESIDENT • Well, this is as good a place to start as any. What is a "president"? Essentially, a president is the man or woman who has been selected by a group of people to be in

charge of that group of people. It doesn't matter how big that group is. Not just countries have presidents. Some companies have presidents. Even some classrooms have presidents. Perhaps this will inspire you to run for president in your classroom. What fun!

OFFICE • In terms of a presidency, "office" is used the same way as "power." A president who is "in office" is "in power," which means that he or she's in charge. Likewise, if the president is "out of office" or not president anymore, then he's "out of power." Bye-bye!

PRIMARY • Now it starts to get complicated. Before you can have a president, you have to figure out WHO is going to



run for president. One way is to hold a primary, which is a lot like an

ELECTION • . . . but not quite. An election is a process in which a primary is like an election BEFORE the election in which you Confused yet? You're not alone. There are people who dedicate their work.

NOMINEE • Everyone who runs in a primary is a "candidate." Whoever who can now run in the election. The nominee was chosen by the people in

PARTY • OH, JOY! IT'S A PARTY! Where are the balloons? The music? fun with you. It's not that kind of party. In this case, we're talking about people who all have the same philosophy and goal of getting their nomi

DELEGATES • Because a person running for office can't be everywhere at the same time, that person has to have delegates who go around representing her. If you think of nominees as being like rock-and-roll stars, their delegates are like those silly little fans who run around trying to convince everyone to their nominee as much as they do. (We all know people like that.) To make it even more complicated, often delegates are themselves ELECTION

CONVENTION • OH, JOY! IT'S A PARTY! I mean it this time! This time there really are balloons and music and cake and



very colorful (which is a nice way of saying "ugly") shirts and yelling and so on. When the political party has finally gotten together at a convention and chosen a

CAUCUS • Instead of having all the zany fun of a primary, some states choose less like an election and more like a big meeting of people in the party who get to offer having people come in one at a time to vote everybody shows up all at once and

ENDORSEMENT • Maybe it's because politicians are just naturally into endorsements. An endorsement is when someone gives a nominee a public statement can be very useful to a nominee.

CAMPAIGN • When you conduct a bunch of activities, all of them coordinated to get a nominee

elected, that's called a campaign. In the United States, campaigns can cost a LOT of money.

GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN • The roots of a grassroots campaign are below the surface of the ground. So the idea of a grassroots campaign is to try and find out what affects the people who will vote for you. The best way to do this, of course, is to go out and talk to as many people as you can. And that's what a lot of nominees do.

NATIVE-BORN CITIZEN • There are only a few requirements necessary



to being the president of the United States. You have to be over thirty-five years old, you have to have been born in the United States for at least fourteen years, and you have to have been born somewhere if both of your parents are U.S. citizens, then you can be born anywhere in the world. It would be exciting.

PAC • No, I'm not talking about that imitating little video game with that fat guy. Political Action Committees, or PACs, are organizations that collect and spend money in order to support candidates, but they can only donate \$5,000 at most. And they can spend as much money as they want.

527 GROUP • These are special kinds of organizations that are much like PACs, but they are supposed to support a specific candidate or work with that candidate's campaign. Because they are supposed to operate outside of the election process, they are not subject to any election laws. Not a one!

DEBATE • When two or more people get together to publicly argue over one or many topics, this is called a debate.

MODERATOR • This is the person who runs the debate. He or she asks the questions, controls the amount of time each person has to speak, and in general tries to keep the event as fair as possible. Think of a moderator as being like the referee in a boxing match, but with fewer punches being thrown.



POLLING STATION • Quite simply, this is the place where you go to vote.

BALLOT • This is a device, and it can simply be a piece of paper, that records your vote. It's called a ballot because a long time ago, people often voted by putting little balls into a box. A white ball meant "yes" and a black ball meant "no." Isn't that interesting? Yes, I think so, too.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE • If a nominee's name does not appear on the ballot, you still have the option to write the nominee's name down as your vote. Why, the nominee doesn't even have to be running for the office. This might sound silly, but many nominees have won office this way. Isn't that nice?

REGISTER • But before you vote, you have to register. I think that funny little man Uncle Murray explained it quite nicely. You can go back to page 112 if you need to be reminded.



ABSENTEE BALLOT • These are special ballots for people who are simply unable to make their way to the polling place on election day. In most states you do not have to give an excuse as to why you have to use an absentee ballot. But you should be careful. Send it at least a week in advance of election day, because most absentee ballots are mailed in. Apparently, the postal system is quite efficient in that rude little cat's neighborhood.

DEMOCRACY • Ah, democracy. One of my favorite words in the world. I like it even more than "gladiola" and "lagoon." A wise man named Abraham Lincoln once essentially described democracy as government of

the people, by the people, and for the people. The key word here, of course, is "people." A democracy is not a government run by a king who never gives up his throne. A democracy is not a government run by a dictator who never gives up his office. A democracy is a government run by people and where elections decide everything. Elections certainly are complicated, but I hope you understand now just how "sniff" important they are.

"sniff" Forgive me if I get a little teary-eyed. I am rather prone to emotional outbursts of patriotism sometimes. I'm sure you're the same way.

"sniff, sniff" Oh, dear! It appears my sensibilities really have gotten the better of me. I must go compose myself. I do hope you all learned something today. Ta-Tal



• APPENDIX TWO •

During any dramatic moments in this book, please play the following music on your tuba, zither, or harpsichord.

Thank you.





A CAT YOU CAN BELIEVE IN!

It's time to elect a new president of the Neighborhood Cat Club. Once Bad Kitty and Big Kitty figure out what the heck an election is, one kitty will win by a whisker! When the votes are in, the results might surprise you.



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ROARING BROOK PRESS
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