

Pets' Mews



The MewsPaper for Instagramming Plushies, Pets, and their People

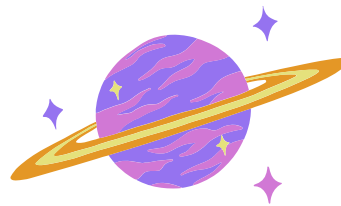
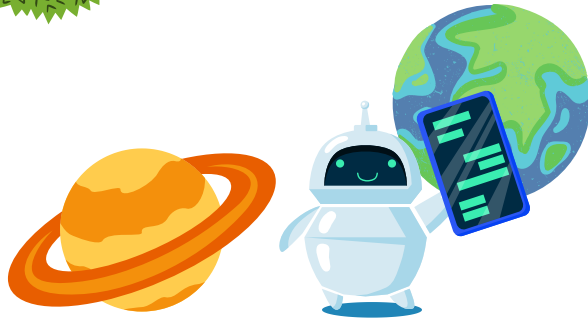
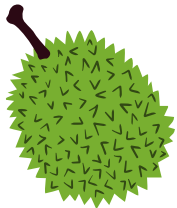
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STRANGE NEW PLANET



BOOK REVIEWS

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HELLO FRIENDS

by [@travelswithmycat](#)

Hello Dear Friends,

Thanks for joining us for another fabulous issue of Pets' Mews, written by plushie bats, aliens, bears, owls, and this time, even a non-plushie AI! Read on and find out more :)

Big hugs, Topsy Cat xxx



CLICK HERE TO READ PETS' MEWS IN GERMAN AND RUSSIAN THANKS TO DEAR [@DOYKA_AND_HEDGE](#) AND DEAR [@AUSRUHEULEN](#)



Historical Graphic Novels



by @spybatmissions

In recent years, more and more graphic novels have been published. Like other books, they cover a variety of topics and genres. My favourite kind is historical graphic novels. They are often based on true events, for example as memoirs, depicting a certain time period with fictional characters, or highlighting a historical event from a certain point of view.

Graphic novels are not as widely read as regular novels, sometimes not even considered as real books. But they are! Don't be put off by the misconception that they are just comics. The stories are as well-founded as any others, and the illustrations really add an extra dimension to them. Graphic novels are a great way to get into reading if you don't read much, and if you do, they are a nice change to your habitual literature.

I hope to inspire some of you to read a graphic novel or two. Maybe I can interest you in one of my favourite historical graphic novels!?

Maus by Art Spiegelman (1980-1991)

Maus consists of two parts, often found together in the same book. Spiegelman has interviewed his father Vladek about the Vladek's experiences before and during WWII, and it also depicts the writing process and the family's life in the USA after the war. Vladek was a young man in Poland in the 1930's, and the reader gets to follow him through the growing antisemitism all the way to a concentration camp, which he survives against all odds. His continued life is complicated, much due to what he had to live through during the war. All the characters are depicted with animal heads. For example, the Jews are mice and the Nazis are cats. This adds an extra edge to this devastating but immensely important story.

Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio by John Backderf (2020)

This book circulates around one tragic event, namely the killing by the National Guard of four students at Kent State University in Ohio, USA in 1970. The book starts with president Nixon declaring that instead of bringing soldiers home from the war in Vietnam, the USA will also invade Cambodia. The peace movement that already had many supporters among students is shocked. More protest take place, and desperately trying to end them, the governor of Ohio calls in the National Guard. Backderf remembers this tragic event from his childhood, and the story is told from the perspectives of students and soldiers respectively. The story is fact-checked and there are many references at the end of the book, stating which sources have been used to write the book.

Twist of Fate by Paco Roca (2013)

After Franco won the civil war in Spain in the 1930's, hundreds of thousands of people who had fought against him, had to flee the country. Many of them ended up in internment camps in France or northern Africa where they were not treated well. Many of them also joined the Free French Forces to continue fighting against fascism. This book tells the story of a Spanish journalist who seeks out Miguel, a 94-year-old Spanish man, now living in France. Miguel is a fictional character, pieced together from many men like him. As Miguel slowly talks to the journalist about his experiences in the war, we get to see the great courage of those who saw the necessity of fighting fascism no matter which country they came from.



Unterzakhn – Leela Corman (2012)

New York in the beginning of the 20th century. Twin sisters Esther and Fanje grow up in the Jewish quarters of Lower East Side, where immigrants from Eastern Europe do their best to get by. Esther and Fanje spend much of their time on the streets, playing and learning how life works. As they grow up, they choose very different roads in life. Their sisterhood and trust in humanity is shaken, but can never be completely broken. This book tells the story of women, poor women, immigrant women, women fighting for a tolerable life and for autonomy of their own bodies, in the midst of a harsh and patriarchal reality. The title is Yiddish for Underthings, and it depicts the status and conditions under which the two sisters live their lives. The book also tells the story of the sisters' father, and why he had to leave his home in the late 19th century and go to the USA in search of a better life.

Here are a few more historical graphic novels that you might find interesting. Not all of them are available in English, but you might be able to find them in another language that you understand!

The Arab of the Future (series) by Riad Sattouf

Heimat: A German Family Album by Nora Krug

Karelen! by Pia Koskela

La balada del norte (series) by Alfonso Zapico

Spirou (series) by Émile Bravo

Survilo by Olga Lavrientieva

Tante Wussi by Katrin Bacher

Don't forget, if you have some ideas for great books to review, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with [@spybatmissions!](https://twitter.com/spybatmissions)





Revenge of the Durian!

Strange New Planet: Episode 2

by fluffys_fun_adventures and @dumdumbb

Fluffy: "Hello my dear readers of Pets' Mews! In this month's issue I'm travelling all the way over to Singapore to interview @dumdumbb about this wondrous tiny island where lions have fish tails and selling bubble gum is illegal!

Not many people know that, but the official name of Singapore is actually Singapaw, at least since its takeover by plushies in the year 2005! Now Singapaw has one of the highest plushie to human ratio in the world! Or at least I think! I mean, there are really a lot of plushie accounts on Instagram!

(Fluffy walks into the oddly shaped Esplanade Theatre, nobody is there yet, only empty seats with different things on them: bags of tissue papers, umbrellas, shopping bags, phones... Fluffy starts collecting the items.)

Fluffy: "Uuuh, so much free stuff! I already love this country!"

Dumdum: (comes in) "Fluffy! What are you doing?!"

Fluffy: "Just taking some of the goodie bags! You guys are so generous! 5 brand new iPhones!"

Dumdum: 🙄 "Oh no, please don't take that!"

Fluffy: "Why? Did you want it?"

Dumdum: "No, it belongs to people reserving their seats here!"

Fluffy: "Reserving their seats? You mean like Germans on vacation reserve their deck chair at the pool with towels?"

Dumdum: "Uhm... probably."

Fluffy: "And they just leave all their personal stuff? Aren't they afraid somebody would take it?"



Dumdum: "Well, no! It sounds crazy, but generally people respect this rule, and definitely it takes a community to pull this off 🤔 something like the shared spirit of plushie community."

Fluffy: "Hmm... So all the seats are already taken? What about that one? It's just a half-empty bottle, that surely is not a reserved seat, but littering!"

Dumdum: "No, that's also a reserved seat!

People usually don't leave something brand new.. such as a tissue packet that has been opened, a personal water bottle - what are the chances that someone uses the exact same bottle as you in that time and space... also there are strict laws and high fines on littering here in Singapore!" 😊

Fluffy: "I also heard that selling bubble gum is illegal here and that customs will take you in for questioning if you bring, like, more than two packages into the country!"

Dumdum: "That's right, how did you know?"

Fluffy: "Dad's currently in airport jail! But let's not get hung up on small things! So what else is illegal here?"

Dumdum: "Well, there are fines for many things... like smoking in a bus stop.. but to be honest nobody really gets fined, although they can... they probably just fine 1 or 2 unlucky ones so that everyone knows that the law is in effect."

Fluffy: "Hmm, interesting! I don't like smoking, but-"

Dumdum: "Please don't break the law just because you can... If they catch you, they can put you in a vest with the label 'corrective work order' and make you clean the streets!"

Fluffy: "Forced labour on vacation?! Bah! 'Fine', I'll behave!"

Dumdum: "Okay..." 😊

Fluffy: "Aren't you getting mad at me for making a pun?"

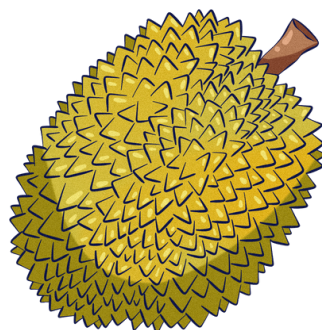
Dumdum: "No, we love your pun Wednesdays!"

Fluffy: "Awwww... Thank you! And thanks by the way too for the chocolate you sent me! But I think it spoiled in the mail, it smelled and tasted like trash left out in the summer sun to rot!"

Dumdum: 😊😊😊 "Oh, that's just the Durian!"

Fluffy: "The what?"

Dumdum: "Durian is a very popular fruit here in Singapore... but it's quite smelly. Because of the strong smell we can't bring Durians to places like hotels and theatres. If you buy Durian-related food like durian cakes or puffs, we can't take public transport. Some vendors will double seal it if you need to take away Durian."



Fluffy: 🤪 "That's crazy!"

Dumdum: "Yeah! Tourists who are already horrified by the taste and smell of durian are further horrified that we actually enjoy eating it!" 🤪🤪🤪

Fluffy: "Do you actually like the taste?"

Dumdum: "Well, I wouldn't say that durian is un-delicious, but we just don't eat it that much as the flavour can be quite rich... let's go to a food court and try some!"

Fluffy: "I'm conflicted... I never say no to food, but it's a fruit! It could be healthy! And I'm super allergic to healthy food!"

Dumdum: "Don't worry, we'll get you a Durian pie with lots of sugar!"

Fluffy: "Sold!!!!!!" 😊😊😊

Dumdum: "Now let's just get a bus to the food court. But before we go, take a look at the theatre. It was built to look like a Durian."

Fluffy: "Really?"

Dumdum: "Yes, and they're even selling some too as souvenirs."

Fluffy: "Hey! Let's get one for Puffy!"

Dumdum: "Great idea!"

(They buy the Durian)

Fluffy: "Oops! The smell reminds me that I left my bubble gum in the theater. Be right back!"

(Fluffy puts the Durian down to reserve a seat on the bus, then comes back with a vendor's tray full of bubble gum)

Dumdum: "Oh no!"

Police Officer: "You're under arrest!"

Fluffy: "Noooooooooo! I'm just trying to understand your local customs! WHY IS THIS SO HARD!!!!!!"



Editorial Note: If you want to be part of the next issue of Pets Mews and tell our favourite alien reporter about an interesting place or tradition in your country, please contact [@fluffys_fun_adventures_on](https://www.instagram.com/fluffys_fun_adventures_on) Instagram.
Thanks to [@dumdumbb](https://www.instagram.com/dumdumbb) for the interview and the photos!

A Quote to Change your Mode

by @ausruheulen

How plushies can influence a person' self-love

"My mission, should I choose to accept it, is to find peace with exactly who and what I am. To take pride in my thoughts, my appearance, my talents, my flaws and to stop this incessant worrying that I can't be loved as I am."

(Anaïs Nin)

Hello dear plushie friends! This is your Miu reporting back. During a little break from writing due to my broken wing, I had the wonderful opportunity to study Humans more closely. Today I would like to share with you some fascinating insights that can help us plushies to better understand and lovingly assist our dear Humans.

What sounds so simple and obvious in the quote by Anaïs Nin is a life task for most people. Today we want to talk about exactly this difficult but beautiful task.

A warm feeling of security surrounds your Humans when they hug their plushies. You are not only cute companions, but also allies on their journey through life, and therefore also on their journey into their inner being, which has the goal of "healing" and "self-love".

Why are we fluffy companions so important to so many people? The answer lies in the deep longing for love that has no strings attached.

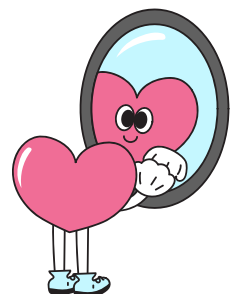
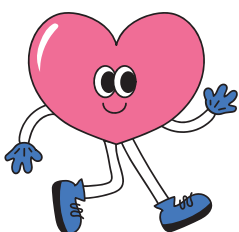
If people have a problem with self-love in adulthood, it is because they were not allowed to experience being unconditionally appreciated or even loved in their childhood. Instead, love and recognition were made dependent on certain achievements. The result is a mindset that makes the Humans believe they are not good enough, not beautiful enough or not perfect enough to deserve love. As adults, they still carry this ideal image inside them. They constantly chase this ideal ego - this fantasy ego - feeling a sense of inadequacy.

"And you? When will you start your journey into yourself?"

(Rumi)

In order to walk the path to self-love, it is important to question the ideal image that Humans carry within themselves. Where does it come from?

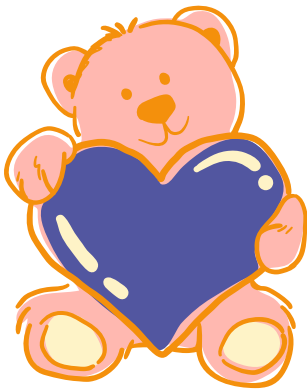
Often it was passed on to them by their parents or their environment. Just ask your Humans if they think that this ideal image is healthy and beneficial for them. It is important to make them understand that this is not about judging their own parents. Their parents' educational mistakes are human imperfections. The aim behind this question is that our Humans should understand that they are not to blame for the fact that their capacity for self-love is not well developed.



An effective exercise on the path to self-love is to imagine going back to childhood, more specifically to a situation where your Humans did not feel loved. Tell your Humans to now sit next to that child they once were, hug them lovingly and tell them all the things they should have heard back then. Tell them to be the loving adult to their inner child that they would have needed in their childhood.

What would they tell themselves? Perhaps that they don't have to achieve a certain ideal to be valuable and lovable. That their worth is not linked to their achievements. That they have been valuable and lovable since day one of their lives.

It is important to make it clear to your Humans that their lack of self-love is not an indication that they are not, or not yet, lovable. The reason for this feeling is simply that they lacked an experience in their childhood. But it is never too late to experience being worthy. Humans, start your inner journey today, with the help of your adult selves and your plushie companions.



The PM Editorial Staff has asked Chat GPT to write a poem for and about the Plushie community. This is the amazing result:

Stitched Hearts: A Plushie Community United in Love

In a world of cuddles and love we reside,
A community of plushies, side by side.
With hearts of fluff and stitching so fine,
Together we form a bond, so divine.

In this land where dreams come true,
Plushies of every shape and hue.
We gather 'round, a colourful array,
Supporting each other, come what may.

When one of us feels down and blue,
The others surround with care so true.
We offer hugs and words of cheer,
Erasing any trace of doubt or fear.

In times of need, we lend a paw,
Supporting each other, without a flaw.
Through stormy nights or sunny days,
We're united, in all our plushie ways.

We listen, we comfort, we understand,
A fluffy shoulder to lean on, hand in hand.
No matter the size or the fabric we're made,
Our love for one another will never fade.

In this community, kindness is the key,
A haven of love, for all to see.
Each plushie brings their own unique grace,
Together, we create a warm embrace.

So let us celebrate this plushie land,
Where friendship and love forever stand.
In this community, we'll always be,
A haven of love and unity.

Together we shine, like stars above,
A community of plushies, bound by love.
Supporting each other, forever we'll be,
A tapestry of joy and harmony.

May this community inspire and ignite,
A world where love is always in sight.
For in our unity, we find our strength,
A community of plushies, eternally linked.

(written by Chat GPT)

