

# Pets' Mews



*The NewsPaper for Instagramming Plushies, Pets, and their People*

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**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO @LUNABOTT**

**BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS!**

**STRANGE NEW PLANET!**

**NATURE QUIZ**



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# Strange New Planet: The Quest for Cookies

by [@fluffys\\_fun\\_adventures](#) and [@cookiemreport](#)

For this issue of Strange New Planet, we're going to a place very dear to my stomach: The Netherlands! My mate Cookie invited me to Utrecht for a tasting of the best cookies in town!

**Fluffy:** "Hey Cookie, that's so sweet how you covered the whole county in orange just for me! Everybody must be so happy to see me again!"

**Cookie:** "Me sorry, but that's not because you... Everything turns orange for national football events and other big national sports events. The cakes, the M&Ms, streets, everything hihi."

**Fluffy:** "But... but! I'm better than football! I'm the king!"

**Cookie:** "Uhm, we already have a King and Queen, Fluffy, but me thinks you and Papaya are the King and Queen of us Plushies."

**Fluffy:** "Pfff! What do your king and queen do? I bet I can do it better!"

**Cookie:** "The King is an engineer and works hard to control water and such. He is in lots of committees. Our Queen does a lot for kids. Both run a foundation where they help people. Often also by baking pancakes for the elderly."

**Fluffy:** "Ugh, they have to do some actual king work in the Netherlands? I think I'll let them keep their jobs then!"

**Cookie:** "Me know, right?"

**Fluffy:** "So where are you bringing me?"

**Cookie:** "We can go and see the Dom tower in the city of Utrecht. It is quite a landmark and has been renovated recently, but still is boxed in for the construction. The tower is very unique."



**Fluffy:** "Boxed in? Are you sure it's not a present for me, their king?"

**Cookie:** "Maybe. Me not sure. Did you know it used to be attached to the Dom church but the midship was wiped away by a storm ages ago! The people no wanted to rebuild it, so that is why the church tower stands separate from the church."

**Fluffy:** "I'm already bored, can we go drinking?"

**Cookie:** "Fun fact about the Dom: in the Middle Ages there was a secret bar in it. You must climb a ladder to get in! You can visit the tower but it a brisk walk up a lot of stairs. The view, however, is amazing."

**Fluffy:** "A secret bar! Why didn't you say so earlier? That sounds awesome! Let's go!"

**Cookie:** "Me think it is not there anymore since there are lots of bars surrounding it now. Also, if you were tooo drunk you would fall off the ladder so me thinks it got a bit too dangerous."

**Fluffy:** "Can't be more dangerous than drunk dinosaur riding! But since Papaya forbade me to get into trouble again... let's go get some cookies instead! You're the expert, where can I find the best cookies in town?"

**Cookie:** "Ooooo every town has their specialty cookie. Like Utrecht has the real Sprits, and Weesp has Weesper moppen, and then in Deventer you can eat the Deventer koek! Me looooooves stroopwafels when you can buy them at the marketstand. They are baked right in front of you. Also, da best cookies in Utrecht can be bought at the Koekjesfabriek (Cookie Factory). Very sweet and colourful people work there and that makes the cookies extra nommy. Me go there not too often cuz it all so goooooood."

**Fluffy:** "Why would you avoid doing something that is so goooooood? Let's go! I'm bringing a sleeping bag! Since it's a huge factory, we will need days and nights to eat everything!"

**Cookie:** "Well, it a little bakery and shop... but you can taste ALL KINDS of cookies. Like speculaas (that very Dutch) and almond cookies. O and chocolate cookies. Oooo and cookies with little pieces of fruit. Or checkerboard cooookies and with jam.... Ooooo me mouth watering!!!"

**Fluffy:** "Oh my! I can already smell them! Freshly baked!"



**Cookie:** "Look at this sign over here, it also typical Dutch: Koekje derbij?"

**Fluffy:** "What's a cookie derby? A cookie eating competition? 🤪"

**Cookie:** "Hihi that would be awesome right. It a typical Dutch saying, if you get a cup of coffee or tea, you will be asked Cookie with that?"

**Fluffy:** "YES!!!!"



**Cookie:** "LOOK AT ALL THOSE NOMMY SAMPLE COOKIES WE JUST NEED TO EAT!"

**(both start eating)**

**Cookie:** "We would totally win a cookie eating competition by the way. We should team up!"

**Fluffy:** "Definitely! Let's practise in this shop!"

**Cookie:** "O yes! But do you think we need to pay everything we eat?"

**Fluffy:** "Noooo I'm the king, everything is free!"

**Cookie:** "Me no think so, but everything is too good to stop!"

**Fluffy:** "I want more! Shop keeper, bring me everything you got!"

**(Shop keeper):** 🙄 "Are you going to pay by card or cash?"

**Fluffy:** "Just put it on my tab!"

**(Shop keeper):** 🙄 "Where would that be?"

**Fluffy:** "The royal palace?" 😂 **(to Cookie:)** "Run my friend, run!"



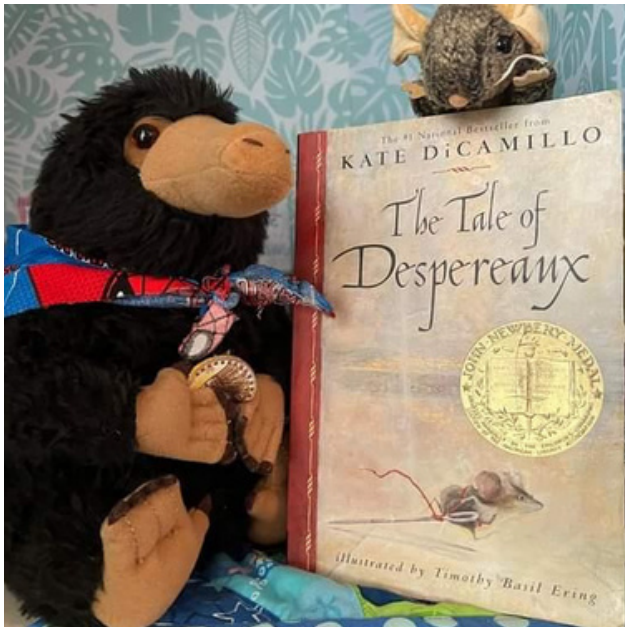
**Editorial note:** The interview ended unexpectedly in an abrupt fashion, but there are now two very full and happy plushies hiding in a trash can... and there they even made a new friend!

Do you want to be interviewed in the next issue? Just text  
[@fluffys\\_fun\\_adventures](https://www.instagram.com/fluffys_fun_adventures) on Instagram!

# Books About Books



by [@spybatmissions](#), [@bandit.the.niffler](#),  
[@doyka\\_and\\_hedge](#), [@travelswithmycat](#)



By [@bandit.the.niffler](#)

## The Tale of Despereaux - Kate DiCamillo

The Tale of Despereaux by children's chapter book author Kate DiCamillo is the charming tale of a mouse, a princess, a rat, a prisoner, a scullery maid, and the power of stories, dreams, love, and honour. The titular character, a mouse who differs sharply in appearance and personality from his fellow mice, falls in love with reading...and a human princess, two things which the rest of the mice condemn. DiCamillo weaves several perspectives into one touching tale of perseverance in the face of adversity, leaving the reader with a sense of hope that someday their own dreams may come true. Being a book for kids, the novel reads fast and the fairytale-like quality of the writing and plot make it worth a read if you have never read it. *The Tale of Despereaux* was adapted into a 2008 film with mixed reviews, but the 2003 novel has been included in several lists of the Top 100 Children's Books of All Time.

Trigger Warning: One POV involves some (non-sexual) child abuse.



By [@doyka\\_and\\_hedge](#)

## Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

This is a story about books, fire, impacting people, and the power to go against a world that went wrong. Humans have a tremendous amount of energy, the energy that can move mountains, fill the world with meaning, and be a guide in this life... But instead, they use it to destroy, disrupt, and burn. The protagonist of Fahrenheit 451 is a fireman whose job is not to put out fires but to start them, burning what's meant to be treasure, the cradle of human wisdom and life – books. He goes against orders and instead goes with his true nature. He is the symbol of uprising that turns around the rooted life values of the society that produced him. He's not a Superman, he's just an average man who faced the defects of society and tries to resist them. Does he succeed or not? Grab the book and find out.



## I Capture a Castle - Dodie Smith

The first line and the last of a book often stay with you, and this one starts with "I write this sitting in the kitchen sink" and ends with "Only the margin left to write in now..." (and then a bit more, but we won't give that bit away). We loved every bit of this book, from start to finish. It's about a teenager called Cassandra, her crazy family, the castle they live in, and a couple of American heirs. Cassandra writes her diary and we watch her grow and live her life in a beautiful English landscape. Her narrative is captivating, and the characters, so wonderfully eccentric. It's a book J.K. Rowling loves, and so do we. Oh, and guess who it's written by? The lady who wrote 101 Dalmations!

[@travelswithmycat](#)



## The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joy Fowler (2004)

In California, five women and one man form a book club to read Jane Austen's books. Only her books, no other. It's Jocelyn who starts the club. She is around 50, and the first one she invites is her oldest best friend, Sylvia. Sylvia has just gone through a divorce and needs a distraction. Bernadette is the oldest member, and the school teacher, Prudie the youngest. Sylvia's daughter Allegra is also invited, and then, out of the blue, Joceyn invites Gregg, the only man. He is in between the women's ages and no one really knows why he was invited. The group reads one book by Jane Austen for each meeting. They always intend to discuss the books, but somehow, they end up talking about their lives instead. Maybe that's just how Jane Austen's books affect people – they bring the reader's life into another light.

This is a book about a love for literature, about friendships, love, and how to navigate through all the ups and downs of life. It's a bit of a feel-good story with a literary twist.

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## Book Lovers by Emily Henry (2022)

Nora works as a literary agent in New York and she is very successful. The only thing she loves more than her job is her younger sister, Libby. When Libby is about to have her third baby, she needs a break from her husband and children, and convinces Nora to go on a sisters' get-away to Sunshine Falls in North Carolina. This small town was the setting for one of the most popular feel-good novels published recently, and Libby loved that book. Nora agrees, and together the sisters spend a month in Sunshine Falls. A month that goes no way near how the sisters planned it. Nora keeps bumping into Charlie Lastra, a publisher in New York that she is already acquainted with, but doesn't like at all. And Libby seems to have secret plans, or why else would she sneak away without telling Nora where she is going?

*Book Lovers* is also a feel-good story, but is more of a regular feel-good with just a hint of books. It builds upon classic elements but also plays with the idea of a feel-good book by comparing what happens to the sisters with events that might occur in a story. This adds an extra layer to this light-hearted and romantic read.

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### The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (2006)

During World War II, a German girl Liesel is sent to a foster family since her father is a political prisoner and her mother no longer can take care of her. Liesel's younger brother just died. Liesel is placed in the home of Hans and Rosa in a town Liesel has never visited before. Hans and Rosa are very poor, but they take care of Liesel as well as they can. She gets to go to school and makes friends among the neighbouring children. One day, Liesel discovers a stranger in the basement. He is Jewish and hiding from the Nazis. Liesel is very interested in words and books. Books are frequently burned by the Nazis, and Liesel starts stealing books whenever she can. The man in the basement helps her with her reading.

The one telling this story is Death. Death gives an overview of the atrocities of the war, all over the world, at the same time as the reader gets to follow everyday life in the shadow of the war through Liesel and her experiences. Despite the heavy topic, it is still a light read, but it will not leave you without a great impression.

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### The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes (2019)

It's 1937, and Alice has recently arrived from England to Kentucky, where she is settling in with her new husband and father-in-law. She wanted to escape her mundane life at home, and had hoped that Kentucky would bring her more joy and freedom. But Alice's husband shows her no interest, and the very religious father-in-law believes that a woman's place is in the home. When Eleanor Roosevelt's investment in education for the people reaches Alice's new hometown, a library is set up. Since so many people live remotely in the countryside or up in the mountains, the town hires librarians to ride to the library patrons on horseback. Alice applies for the job and soon finds herself part of a group of women that defy all kinds of perils in order to deliver books to the people of rural Kentucky.

This book is based on true events in Kentucky in the 1930s. It's a story of friendship, love, and passion, for both books and humanity. If you like libraries and understand the joy that can be found in a really good book, you will get into this story immediately and keep your fingers crossed for the horse-riding librarians throughout the whole book.

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Do you love **READING** ?

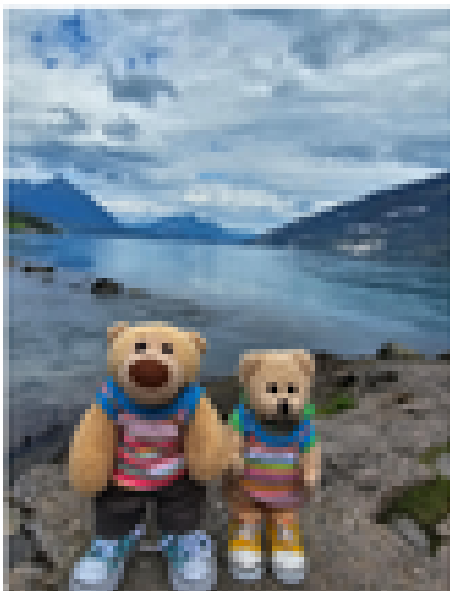
Would you like to write a review so that you can share your book finds with other plushies? If so, please get in touch with [@spybatmissions](#) and you can feature in our next issue of Pets' Mews!

# Useless\* knowledge- or, did you know these facts?

by\_gasbricki



- Bamboo plants can grow up to 90 centimetres in a day, whereas an apple tree grows less than two millimetres a day.
- Some butterfly species have more than 10,000 eyes, but still see worse than birds.
- Elephants only need two hours of sleep per night and can even live without sleep for several days.
- The largest single organism known to date is an armillaria honey fungus, which covers 809 hectares and is probably thousands of years old.
- The blood of mammals is red, that of insects is usually yellow, and lobsters or horseshoe crabs can even have blue blood.
- Up to half a million tons of plastic waste end up in the Mediterranean every year.
- Every year we lose at least 14 million hectares of forest - worldwide, especially in the tropics. This corresponds to an area larger than Austria and Switzerland combined



We think this  
knowledge is  
quite useful and  
interesting,  
actually!





# A Special Tribute to Olivera @lunabott

by @travelswithmycat

It's always hard to know what to say or write when we lose someone. A hug or simple squeeze of the paw can help, but that's hard when you are an internet community and live on the other side of the world! However, the outpourings of sadness from all across the globe for the loss of Olivera, @lunabott's mummy, and the joy at reminiscing at all the lovely ways they were such a part of the Plushie Community stands testimony to how well loved they were, and hopefully, their family can take some comfort from that. From the #PlushieLovestoEat hashbrown that they set up (which we were lucky enough to win once!) to Pose Magazine that Luna set up with @monsieurritchie, to all the wonderful outfits that Luna wore, to the articles Luna wrote for us here at Pets' Mews (PM) and all the creative ways they celebrated plushie friendship, they were a shining star for us and will continue to be so.

Thank you Ritchie for announcing the sad news which must have been so difficult to do and for organising messages to be sent to Luna's family. We send you extra special hugs from the PM team.

To Dear Luna and her Family. We send you our love and prayers, and are so happy and grateful that Olivera and Luna were and always will be part of our lives and that of the Plushie Community. #PlushiesBuildBridges and Olivera and Luna were wonderful at doing just that.

We send our love to all those we have lost in our community, and we remember them especially at this time. We are happy that we can all be there for each other through sad times and happy ones.

We wanted to end with just a small example of the tributes that have come in. xxx

The collage features several tributes to Olivera and Luna. On the left, a memorial is set up with lit candles, teddy bears, and a portrait of a woman. In the center, a screenshot of a social media post shows a user's message and numerous replies from the community, such as:
 

- ...salaon\_ I am so sorry for your loss @lunabott family... I know your sorrow is yet still raw. I also know that there is power in prayer. I will be praying for you each and every day... and today we also remember our friends Pieter @fermate\_and\_pieter and @desiree\_elselina\_cpk Wishing you all the peace and comfort possible... #restinpeacealunasmum
- zarina\_azib Also not forgetting my dear sweet friend, Elizabeth @elizabeth\_the\_puppet who also loss her mummy and is now staying with her Aunt Marie @marie\_laChance
- only\_three\_penguins @zarina\_azib And Natalie, the human of our beloved friend @ior\_polarbear . We miss him.
- aventuras\_de\_pollo @zarina\_azib unfortunately our community have more angels... They will always in our heart
- squeeshy.patague I am so so sorry for your loss! You are in my heart and prayers
- leo\_cunningbear\_and\_friends So very sad. Our deepest condolences to you and your family
- misterfish511 We are really saddened to hear the news... Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family at this sad time
- kat.a.tak Lots of love. I do not want what to say. I wish I could make it all better. Big hugs.
- pigglypuffandfriends I am so sorry for your loss... I am sending you so many soft and gentle hugs

 On the right, a photo shows a plush rabbit wearing a denim jacket and a pink headband, sitting on a dark, textured surface.