

Pets Rule!

New Cat in Town

Holly I. Melton

High Noon Books

Novato, CA

Series Editor: Elly Rabben
Designer: Deborah Anker
Cover and Interior Illustrations: Andy Elkerton
Cover Design: Lauren Woodrow

Copyright ©2017, by High Noon Books, 20 Leveroni Court, Novato, CA 94949-5746. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.



International Standard Book Number: 978-1-63402-188-3

26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17
10 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01

www.HighNoonBooks.com

Set order number: 2187-6

Contents

1	A Secret Meeting	1
2	New Cat in Town	7
3	Pippa Meets Rosa	12
4	A New Member?	18
5	A New Day	24
6	A Dinner Party	30
7	Fixing the Mess	36

Meet the Third Street Pets



Harry, Tiger, Pippa, Oscar, and Baz live on Third Street. They live with their people in different homes.

The Third Street Pets have secret meetings when their people aren't around.

They Rule the Neighborhood!



HARRY is a smart cat with no hair.

TIGER is a kitten, but don't call her a baby!

BAZ is a parrot who likes to copy others.

OSCAR is a small dog who doesn't see well.

PIPPA is a big dog who's always hungry.

Chapter 1

A Secret Meeting

Once a week the Third Street Pets had a secret meeting. This time it was at Tiger's house. Since it was at her house, Tiger was in charge.

"Let's start the meeting," said Tiger.

"LET'S START THE MEETING!" screamed Baz.

"Stop copying me," said Tiger.

"STOP COPYING ME!" screamed Baz.

Harry said, "That's enough, Baz. Let Tiger start the meeting."

"Tiger isn't old enough to start the

meeting," Baz said. "She's just a baby. A little, baby cat. I could eat her in one bite."

"Don't call me a baby!" Tiger said. She jumped at Baz. Her claws were out.

Baz flew up in the air. He flew above Tiger. "HA, HA, HA, you can't catch me!" he screamed.



“Be nice, Baz,” Pippa said.

“OK, OK,” Baz said. “What’s the meeting about?”

“The meeting is about bad things,” Tiger said. “*Really* bad things! The bad things are in my house and they’re in your house, too!”

“Take it easy, Tiger,” Harry said. He licked his hairless paw. “We’re listening.”

“We have to *fight* the bad things!” said Tiger. She held up some papers. “I drew pictures of them.”

Oscar pushed his glasses up his nose. “Show us the pictures,” he said.

Tiger held up the first picture. “This bad thing lives in my house. It’s really loud

and it always chases me!”



Baz screamed. “That thing is BAD!” he said. “But I can fly away from it.”

Pippa looked at the picture and growled. “Don’t fight that thing,” she said.

Oscar agreed. “Pippa’s right, don’t fight it. That thing will win every time.”

Harry said, “That thing can hurt you. You need to hide when it comes, Tiger.”

“Maybe you’re right,” said Tiger. “The next bad thing is only in the house when

people have birthdays.”

“Is it a birthday cake?” asked Pippa. “I ate a whole birthday cake once. My people got really mad, and I got really sick.”

“No,” said Tiger. She held up a picture of the thing. “This bad thing looks like a ball. But when you try to play with it, *BOOM!* It blows up in your face!”

“HA, HA, HA!” screamed Baz. “It’s a balloon. Balloons pop!”

“Oh, now I get it,” said Tiger.

“Is that all the bad things?” asked Harry.

“No,” said Tiger. “There’s one more bad thing. It’s in this room!”

Tiger jumped onto a chair. She looked at

something on the wall. She was angry. "See?" she said. "It looks like me, but it won't talk to me. It won't come out of that place where it's hiding."



"Smile at it," said Harry.

Tiger smiled at it, and it smiled back at Tiger. "Oh! Maybe it wants to be my friend now!" said Tiger. "Like my other new friend!"

"What other new friend?" asked Pippa.

"My new friend, Rosa," said Tiger.

Chapter 2

New Cat in Town

Harry said, “Tiger, I didn’t know you had a new friend. We want to hear about Rosa. But can we have a snack first?”

“SNACK FIRST!” screamed Baz.

“Who wants fish?” asked Tiger.

Oscar said, “You didn’t get the fish out of a fish bowl, did you?”



“No,” Tiger said. “I wouldn’t eat a pet!”

My people made fish sticks from a box. I found them.”

Tiger passed around the fish sticks. She said, “Anyway, my new friend Rosa is a cat.”

Pippa ate three fish sticks in one big bite. “Did you meet Rosa on Third Street?” she asked.

“Yes,” said Tiger.

“What house does Rosa live in?” asked Harry.

“She doesn’t live in a house,” said Tiger.

“She’s a STRAY cat!” Baz screamed.

“She’ll fight all the other cats on the street!”

“She will NOT!” said Tiger. “She doesn’t want to be a stray. She’s looking for a house.”

“This could be trouble,” said Pippa.

“Someone besides Tiger should meet Rosa,” said Oscar.

“Fine!” Tiger said. She was angry. “You can meet Rosa—right now! This meeting is over. Let’s go, Oscar!”

Pippa said, “Take off your glasses, Oscar. Don’t let people see you wearing them.”

Oscar took off his glasses. Then he and Tiger went out the door flap.



Oscar and Tiger walked down Third

Street. "What does Rosa look like?" Oscar asked.

"She's black and white," said Tiger.

"Where is she now?" asked Oscar.

"I don't know," Tiger said.

"So how will we find her?" asked Oscar.

"We'll just look for her," said Tiger.

"OK," Oscar said. "But I can't see well without glasses."

They kept walking. "I see Rosa!" said Tiger.

"Where?" asked Oscar.

"There!" Tiger said. "Under that fence. You can only see her tail."

Oscar went to the fence. He saw a ball

of fur. "Hi, Rosa!" he said.

Rosa didn't answer.

"She must be sleeping," said Tiger. "Let's not wake her up."



"I'll meet Rosa another time," said Oscar. As he walked away he thought, *That cat smells kind of funny.*

Chapter 3

Pippa Meets Rosa

It was later that day. It was starting to get dark.

Pippa decided to take a walk. She jumped over the fence of her house. *I won't be gone long, she thought. My people won't miss me.*

Pippa was big, and she was always hungry. As she walked down Third Street, she sniffed the bushes. She looked for food on the sidewalk.

Pippa walked by Oscar's house. Oscar was inside. He was looking out the window.

Pippa walked by Tiger's house. She saw

Tiger on the sidewalk. Tiger was playing with an animal.

“Hi, Pippa!” Tiger said. “This is my new friend, Rosa!”

Pippa didn’t move. She said softly, “Rosa is not a cat, Tiger.”



Tiger said, “What are you talking about?”

“Rosa is a wild animal,” Pippa said. “She sprays. She smells bad.”

“Don’t be mean to my friend!” said Tiger.

“Your friend is a skunk,” said Pippa.

“What’s a skunk?” asked Tiger.

“You don’t know what a skunk is?” Pippa asked. She added, “You really *are* a baby.”

Rosa looked up at Pippa. She said, “You’re very big. Are you going to hurt me?”

“What? No!” said Pippa. “But you should not be here.”

“Why not?” asked Rosa. She stomped her feet. “Don’t you like me?”

Pippa said, “It’s not that! It’s just—”

Rosa stomped her feet again. She shook

her tail. Her fur got fluffy.



“Rosa is my friend, Pippa,” Tiger said.
“Be nice to her!”

Pippa still didn’t move. “I am being nice,” she said. “But a skunk is not a good friend for a cat.”

“Why not?” Rosa asked. “I’m a lot like a cat. I sleep most of the day, and I play all night.”

“You also spray,” said Pippa.

“Only when I’m scared,” said Rosa.

Pippa said, “There are lots of scary things on Third Street. There are cars. Cars are loud and they go fast. They can hit you. There are people. People don’t like skunks. And—”

Just then, something flew above Pippa’s head. It screamed loudly. “SKUNK! SKUNK!”

Pippa, Tiger, and Rosa looked up.

“Baz!” said Pippa. “It’s OK. This is Rosa. She’s not going to—”

“STINKY, STINKY SKUNK!” screamed Baz. He flew close to Rosa.

Rosa was scared. She lifted her tail and sprayed at Baz.

Baz flew up in the air. The spray hit Pippa in the chest. There was a lot of spray.

It got all over Pippa's fur.

Now Pippa smelled very, very bad. She was scared and upset. She ran away fast.



Rosa ran away, too. Baz flew away, still screaming. "STINKY, STINKY SKUNK!"

The air smelled very bad. Tiger gave a little *meow*. She ran to the door flap and went inside her house.