

THE CAT WHO FOUND HIS SMILE

by Richard Hayward

SYNOPSIS

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The Cat Who Found His Smile tells the story of Lucy, aged nine and a quarter, who lives with her Mum and their old cat Spike. Her world is rocked when Spike dies suddenly and she feels lost and alone without her best friend. A few weeks later, Mum takes her to 'The Ruspucas' (RSPCA), where they meet an old ginger cat, who comes to live with them and is named Rusty. While Spike was a happy smiley cat, Rusty is the opposite as he was treated cruelly, so finds it difficult to trust human beings. Will Lucy ever gain Rusty's trust and turn him into a happy, smiley cat, as Spike was?

The story – told from the viewpoints of both Lucy and Rusty – takes the reader through Lucy's reaction to Spike's death and grief for her lost pet; meeting Rusty at the RSPCA, persuading Mum to adopt him, the adoption process, Rusty moving in, his reaction to his new home and kinder new owners, Mum wanting to send him back after being badly bitten and scratched, Lucy seeking advice from Mr Moggy, the eccentric cat man, in his weird cat-filled house, without telling Mum where she was going, before helping Rusty to settle in, trying to calm him down and gain his trust over time and letting him know that he is loved and wanted. It ends with Lucy and Mum seeing Rusty 'smile' for the first time.

The subjects it will cover include:

- Dealing with grief, bereavement and anger
- Confidence issues. Being different, nerdy, not fitting in and being bullied because of it
- The work of the RSPCA and their adoption procedure for rescue pets
- Persuading others to do what you want and see your point of view
- Cruelty and kindness to animals
- Talking to strangers and going into their houses, without the permission of parents

Age group: 6-8

Word length: currently 32,853 words.

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Hayward is a writing name of Richard Evans CDG, a casting director and former actor, who has written for over 30 years. He has written two editions of *Auditions: The Complete Guide* published by Routledge, two editions of *Self Taping: The Actor's Guide* published by The eBook Partnership and is currently under commission to write a new title for Nick Hern Books, which will (Covid permitting) be published in 2021. He also has extensive experience of speaking to large audiences and devising and leading workshops for both young people and adults. He is an ardent cat lover and for the last nine years has shared his life, London home and food with Freddie, a mischievous moggy, who was abandoned as a tiny kitten and rescued by the RSPCA. *The Cat Who Found His Smile* is Richard's first fictional work. He is a member of The Society of Authors.



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