

The Problem in



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One morning in the far away kingdom of Meowica, something dreadful was going on! The big rodents were taking over Meowica! The big rodents were bigger than dogs! All the cats had to make cheese for the rest of their nine lives!

“Ahh!” said the rodent king. “Cheese for the rest of our lives.”

“But sir,” said the rodent king’s assistant. “Won’t you get tired of cheese?”

“Silence!” yelled the rodent king. “Bring in the cats!”

“Okay, sir.”

All but one of the cats came into the main hall. The smartest cat,

Jewels, was gone! Jewels was actually going to find help. But first, she had to go through a portal in the castle wall. So when she got through the portal she found out she was in Iola, Kansas.



“I wonder if anyone here can help?” thought Jewels. Jewels looked all over the city but couldn’t find anyone!

Suddenly a little girl saw Jewels. “Hello little kitty. What’s your name?”

“My name is Jewels.” The girl was amazed. She never knew cats could talk!

“My...my name is Maggie,” she said. “How can you talk?”

“Well, let’s just say I’m no ordinary cat.”

“So where do you live?”

“I, Jewels, live in Meowica.”

“What?”

“Meowica,” said Jewels. “Would you like to visit it?”

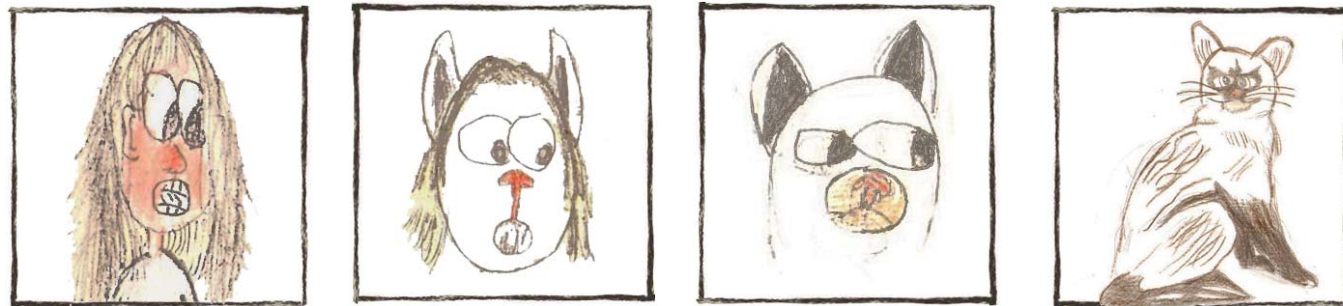
“Why sure, but first I’ll have to ask my parents.”

“No,” said Jewels. “Don’t tell anyone about Meowica!”

“Why?” asked Maggie.

“We have no time to explain that! Now follow me!”

Once they got through the portal, Maggie was a cat! “Oh my!” said Maggie. “I’m a cat!”



“And a fine looking cat at that,” said Jewels.

“Oh, why did you bring me here? Oh why?”

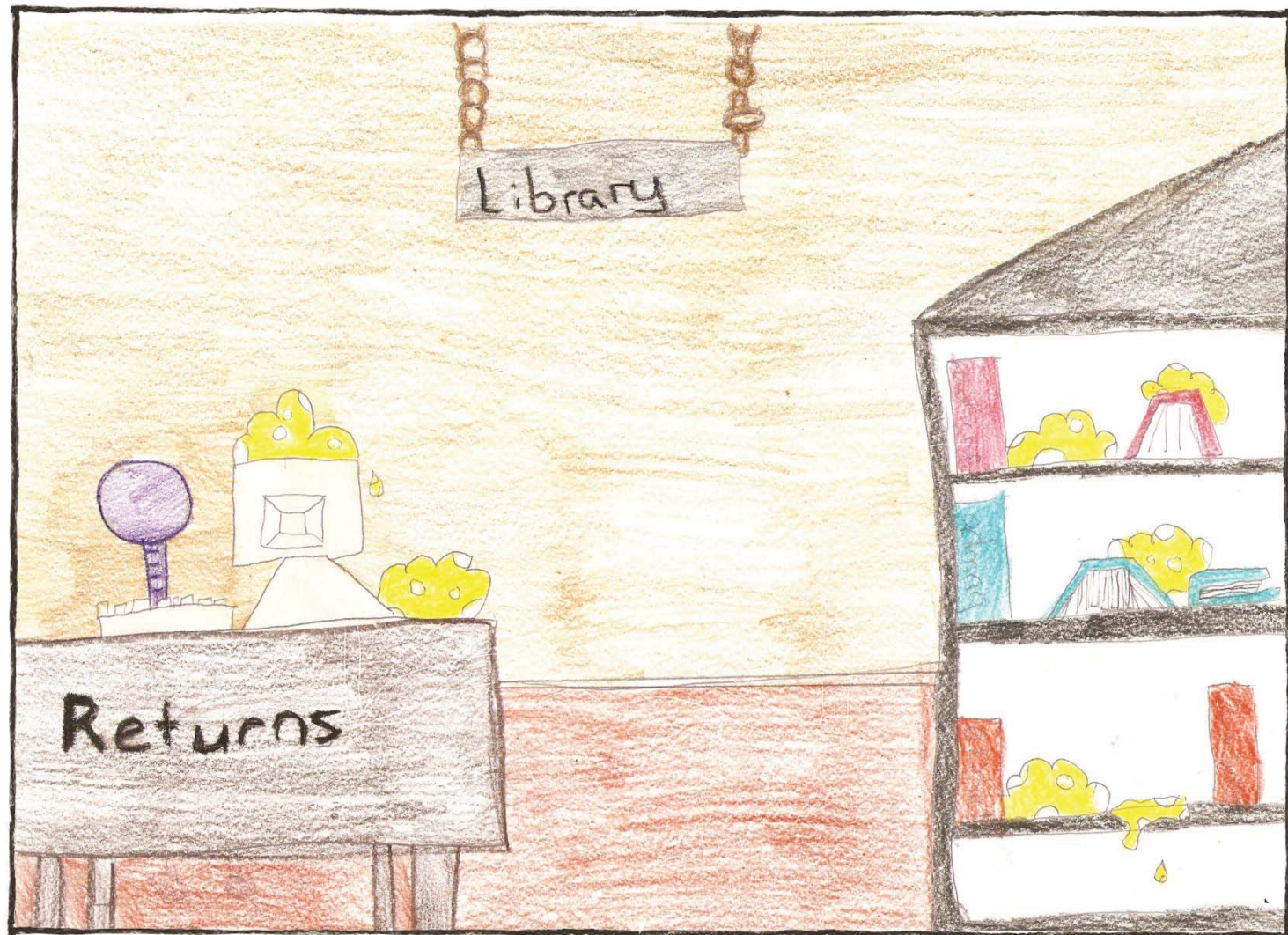
“I brought you here to help save Meowica from the Big Rodents.”

“What?”

“Okay, the Big Rodents are taking over Meowica and I need your help to save us.”

“Sure.” Then Maggie was speechless. The biggest rodent she had ever seen was right in front of her. “I’m guessing this is what you’re talking about?”





“Maggie, follow me to the library!”

Back at the main hall things were going as planned. “Mmmm,” said the rodent king. “This cheese tastes wonderful.”

“Sir, may I have a piece of cheese?” asked the assistant.

“Ha! You think I would let you have my cheese? To the dungeon with you! Oh, wait! You won’t fit, so stay here!” said the rodent king.

“But sir,” said the rodent, “I heard that two cats are on the loose!”

“What!” said the rodent king. “I thought we had all the cats in Meowica.”

Jewels and Maggie were catching their breath when Jewels said, “Here we are in the library.” The library had cheese globs everywhere!

“Wow!” said Maggie. “These rodents sure are messy eaters!”

“You’re telling me!” said Jewels. “There’s Swiss cheese all over the windows!”

“Well, we better leave,” said Maggie.

“But we better leave carefully,” whispered Jewels. Maggie didn’t hear Jewels and ran! She slipped and broke a vase.



“What was that?” asked the rodent king. “Was that an elephant? Oh, please, please hide me! Will I live? Oh please, oh please, help me!” cried the rodent king, because he was afraid of elephants.

“Sir, be calm. I’ll go see what’s wrong,” said one of the rodents.

“Be still!” said Jewels. The rodent walked by and Maggie threw a book at him. The rodent picked Jewels and Maggie up by their tails and took them to the dungeon. The dungeon was smelly and had fish scales on the floor.

Then the rodent said in a deep voice, “I hope you like it in here! Ha, ha, ha!”

“That was rude,” said Jewels.

“Hey Jewels, do you think I could reach the keys with my tail?” asked Maggie.

“I don’t know for sure. You could try it.”

So Maggie tried and tried. Finally, she reached



them! She slowly unlocked the door. They tiptoed up the stairs so it wouldn’t make a sound. Then they went to the cheese-making room.

All the cats were happy to see Jewels. Maggie used the keys to free all the cats. All the cats tiptoed through the portal in the wall leaving the rodents behind. Maggie was turned back into a human and her parents let her keep the cats as pets. Maggie and Jewels were best friends forever.

