

The Cat Who Had No Fur

In a quiet village at the edge of the moors lived a most unusual cat. His name was Percival, though most people simply called him Percy. Unlike other cats, Percy had no fur at all. His skin was smooth and pinkish, and in the winter he had to wear a knitted jumper to keep warm.

Some villagers whispered that Percy looked peculiar, even a little **grotesque**, while others admired him for his uniqueness. Percy didn't mind much what people thought. He had sharp eyes, nimble paws, and the heart of an explorer. He could climb walls, dart through alleyways, and balance on rooftops just as well as any other cat—perhaps even better.

But Percy carried a secret sorrow. Without fur, he often felt vulnerable. When the other cats groomed themselves, he pretended not to care. When kittens giggled at his appearance, he walked away with as much **dignity** as he could muster, though inside he felt a sting.

One blustery evening, Percy ventured into the forest that bordered the village. The trees creaked in the wind, and an **ominous** silence hung in the air. Suddenly, Percy heard a faint cry. Following the sound, he discovered a small hedgehog trapped in a bramble bush. Its spines were caught fast, and it trembled in fear.

Percy didn't hesitate. Though the thorns scratched his bare skin, he used his claws to pull the branches apart. Bit by bit, he freed the hedgehog, who scurried into the undergrowth with a grateful squeak. Percy's skin smarted with scratches, but his heart swelled with pride.

The next morning, news of Percy's bravery spread through the village. People began to see him differently. The baker offered him scraps of fish, the children stroked his head gently, and the other cats eyed him with new **reverence**.

That night, Percy sat on the cottage roof, gazing at the stars. He realised something important: fur or no fur, his worth wasn't measured by how he looked, but by what he did.

From then on, Percy wore his smooth skin like armour. He became a legend in the village—*the cat who had no fur, but plenty of courage*.

Glossary

1. **Grotesque** – very strange or ugly in a way that can be disturbing.
2. **Dignity** – calm, proud behaviour that shows self-respect.
3. **Ominous** – giving the impression that something bad might happen.
4. **Nimble** – quick and light in movement.
5. **Blustery** – with strong, noisy wind.
6. **Vulnerable** – easily hurt or unprotected.
7. **Muster** – to gather or bring together (especially strength or courage).
8. **Smarted** – stung or caused a sharp pain.
9. **Reverence** – deep respect for someone or something.
10. **Legend** – a story about a person who is admired for great achievements.