

THE ADVENTURES OF DHARMA THE KITTEN

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Book Two: **"Dharma Gets Lost"**
with 2 illustrations by Ted Blackall



*Gentle bedtime stories
to warm the heart, and
prompt pleasant dreams*

For ages 4-8

[\(audio recording available\)](#)

BOOK TWO: "DHARMA GETS LOST"



Dharma The Kitten is taking a nap on his favorite soft red cushion. But suddenly he wakes up with a start, when the very kooky bird, Kooky Kookaburra, lands in nearby tree, and makes his laughing Kookaburra call: "HooHoo, HoHo, HaHa. . . HooHooHoo, HoHoHo, HaHaHa!"

Dharma sighs, "I have no idea what your gag might be – I just hope the joke's not on me!"

This time Kooky Kookaburra laughs louder and longer than ever: "HooHooHoo, HoHoHo, HaHaHa, HeeHeeHee!"

"Well," says Dharma, "you're full of sass! That's why they call you the Laughing Jackass!"

Dharma gets off his plush red cushion and goes over to the window. There he sees children playing outside, and hears lots of birds singing.

"Wow," Dharma says, "it's a bright sunny day! Perfect time for a Cat to play!" Then he thinks, "I wonder what Emily is doing today?"

Emily is the young girl who feeds Dharma, and she loves her little kitten very much.

Dharma goes to Emily's room, and he sees her cleaning her roller skates. So Dharma sits down beside her and starts cleaning himself.

Emily rubs and rubs her metal skates until they are nice and shiny. Dharma licks and licks his soft fur coat until it's as shiny as Emily's skates. Then Dharma is satisfied that he's done a good job.

He sees the big sofa, and says, "Boy, do I need to stretch my claws, before they go dull and fall off my paws!"

So he goes over to the armchair, digs his claws in and starts to have a good stretch. But Emily gently scolds him, "Dharma, stop it! You know you mustn't do that on the furniture! Go outside and scratch on a nice tree!"

So Dharma goes over to the doorway and gives Emily a wide-eyed silent meow. She understands, and lets him out. "Good boy," she says. "I won't tell on you for scratching the chair."

Dharma wanders across the yard to a big tree, and digs his claws into the bark. He arches his back, pulls hard and has a good, long stretch. He thinks, "That's the way it should always be – a good long stretch on a good strong tree!"

Then Dharma goes back to the front door and meows loudly.

Emily opens the door, but she is impatient. "Oh, Dharma, make up your mind! Which is it, in or out?"

Dharma is disappointed to be greeted this way: "Gee, Emily, you're no fun! When your mom scolds you, you come undone!"

"I'm just trying to teach you to be a good kitten," Emily explains.

But Dharma is unimpressed. "Well," he announces, "I need a good long break! There's only so much one kitten can take!"

So instead of going back inside the house, Dharma prances across the yard, with his nose in the air and his tail held high.

"Be careful, Dharma!" Emily shouts after him, because she loves him very much. "Don't get lost!"

Dharma crosses the street, and sees an unfamiliar car parked there. He gives it a good sniff all over, paying special attention to the tires. He thinks, "No local animal smells like this. It's the kind of smell that makes me hiss!"

So Dharma lets out a great big hiss. But suddenly a cold wind blows over him, and makes his hiss turn into a shiver.

Then a loud crash of thunder scares him, and his big green eyes go wide with fright.

Then three big, wobbly drops of rain fall from the sky, and land right on Dharma's head.

"Yuk!" shouts Dharma. He jumps through the car's open window, just as the downpour starts.

"Aaah," he says, landing on the comfortable car seat, "Out of the rain, and feeling no pain!"

Then he sees a thick woolen sweater on the back seat. "Wow," says Dharma, jumping onto the sweater, "Soft landings and open doors! So good is my luck, when it rains it pours!"

Dharma licks a little spot of mud off his paw, and then he curls up snugly on the sweater. He purrs contentedly, feeling nice and

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