

For Review Only

JESSIE WEE
KWAN SHAN MEI

THE ADVENTURES OF MOOTY

Marshall Cavendish
Children
mc

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

THE ADVENTURES OF MOOTY



STORY BY
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR
JESSIE WEE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
AWARD-WINNING ILLUSTRATOR
KWAN SHAN MEI

The Adventures of Mooty was first published in 1980 as a collection of 10 stories. The series depicts the adventures of a loveable little mouse who endears himself to a community of animals, birds and insects, and becomes their hero.

Four decades on, Mooty continues to charm the young and young-at-heart alike with his extraordinary magic, and the stories, presented in an all-new comic book format, will appeal to a whole new generation of readers.

In this edition, Jessie shares her thoughts and inspirations behind each endearing story – some revealed for the very first time – giving readers greater insight into her writing, and making Mooty ever more real.

About the Author

Jessie Wee is one of the most prominent writers for children in Singapore. She was a teacher for 12 years before a chance encounter with a little button-eyed mouse in her kitchen started her writing stories out of a conviction that “children in Singapore need stories they can identify with, stories they can call their own”. In the course of her writing career, Jessie has written more than 30 books for children, three of which have won awards from the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS). In 2013, Jessie was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Children’s Literature by the NBDCS, recognising her outstanding and significant contribution as a writer. Jessie is planning to release another three titles in the near future.



CHILDREN

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PREFACE

It has been almost 40 years since **The Adventures of Mooty** was first published and I am awed at how readers, from children, to their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and even teachers, have found such joy in reading about Mooty's adventures, such that Mooty continues to be loved even today.

In 2013, I was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Children's Literature by the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) for my contribution as a writer of children's literature.

To think that it all started with my encounter early one morning with that little mouse in my kitchen. I couldn't stop thinking about him and wondering what tales he must have been telling his mother about the hysterical lady he met in the kitchen. My two young sons also wanted to hear more about the little mouse, and their curiosity and unending questions set my imagination on fire.

My inspiration also came from various people in my life — my Indian friend who used to tell me about her grandmother, who wore only white saris after she became a widow, my sister, who had a cat, the satay-man who used to frequent my housing estate, as well as the twin girls who used to live next door.

I was also very blessed to have had the opportunity to work with award-winning illustrator, Kwan Shan Mei (1922–2012). Although I could not speak Mandarin or Cantonese and Kwan Shan Mei could not speak English, her artistic strokes brought Mooty to life for all of us.

I hope that by introducing Mooty in this new comic book format, those who have grown up loving Mooty will be able to reconnect with him and share him with their loved ones; and those new to Mooty will also get to experience the magic of this little mouse who has brought joy to so many generations of readers over the past four decades.

Much love,

Jessie Wee

THE ADVENTURES OF MOOTY
MOOTY AND GRANDMA



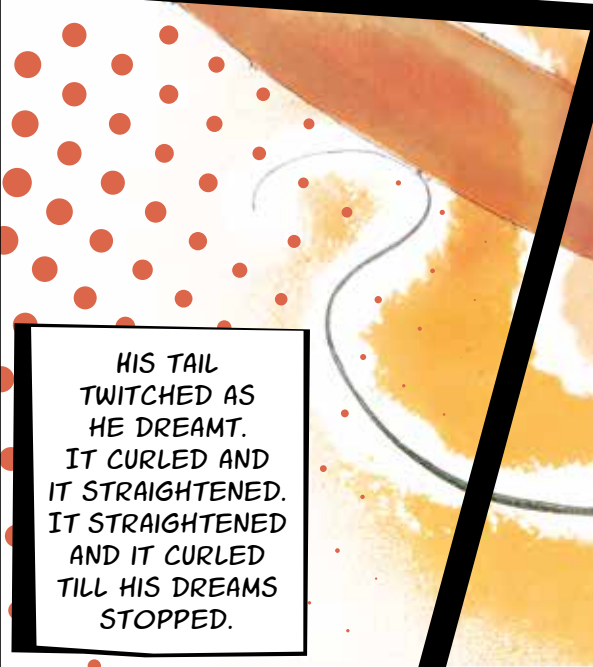


MOOTY WAS A LOVELY, LITTLE MOUSE. HE HAD TWINKLING EYES AND A LONG, CURLY TAIL.

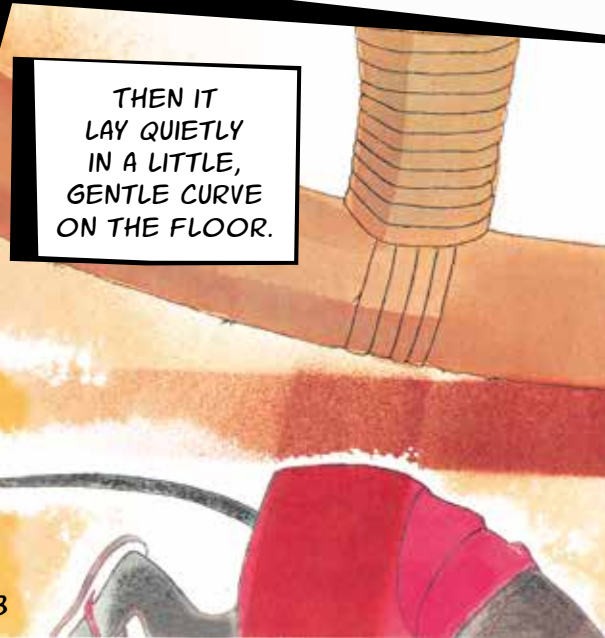
ONE DAY, MOOTY FELL ASLEEP UNDER GRANDMA'S FAVOURITE CHAIR. HIS LONG, CURLY TAIL LAY IN A COIL ON THE FLOOR.



HE DREAMT OF CHEESE AND BREAD CRUMBS. HE DREAMT OF SWEETS AND JUICY PLUMS.



HIS TAIL TWITCHED AS HE DREAMT. IT CURLED AND IT STRAIGHTENED. IT STRAIGHTENED AND IT CURLED TILL HIS DREAMS STOPPED.



THEN IT LAY QUIETLY IN A LITTLE, GENTLE CURVE ON THE FLOOR.



GRANDMA CAME INTO THE ROOM. "OH, HOW CARELESS I AM," SHE THOUGHT. "I'VE DROPPED MY SEWING THREAD AGAIN." SHE BENT TO PICK THE LONG STRAND OF THREAD FROM THE FLOOR.

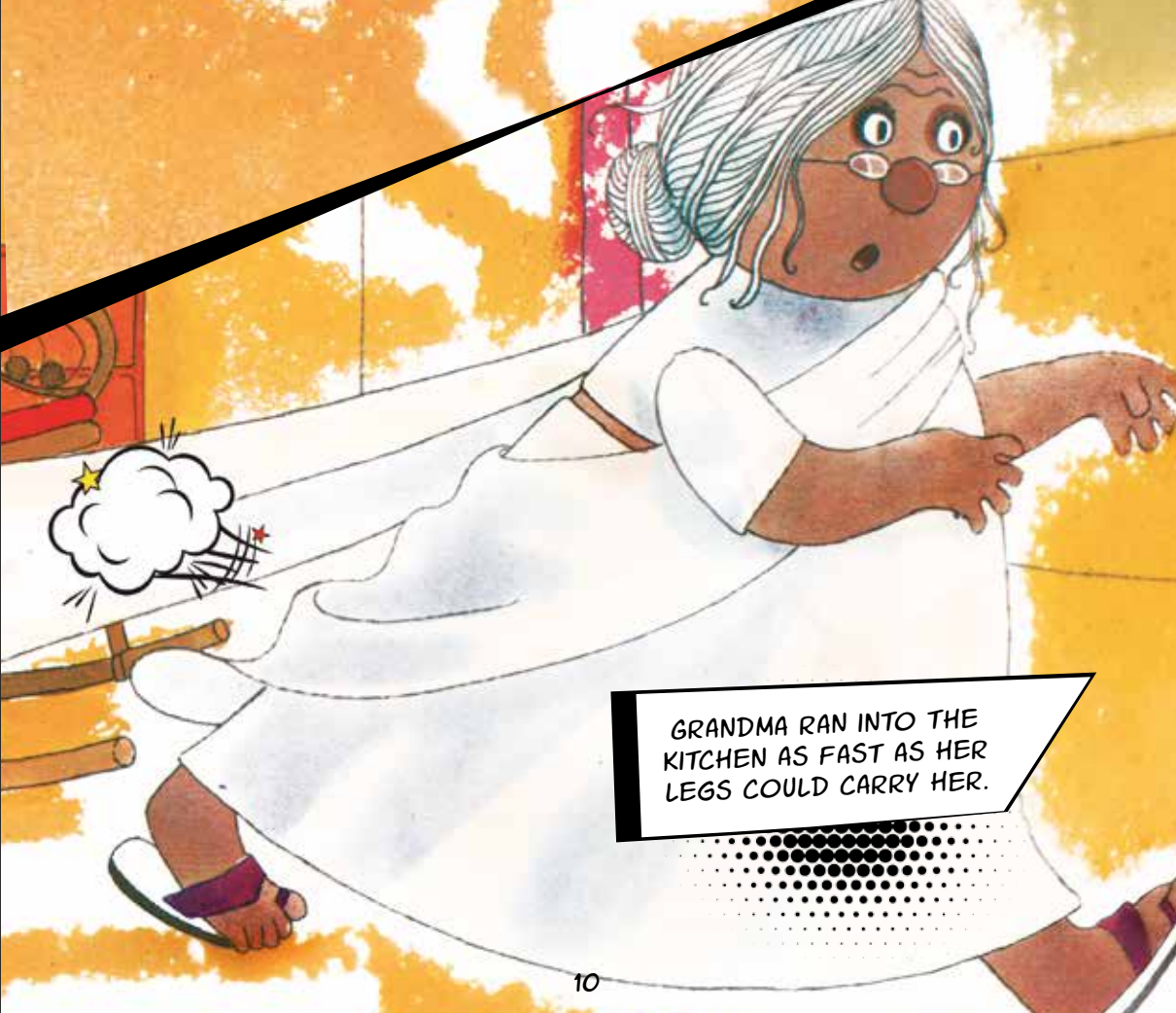
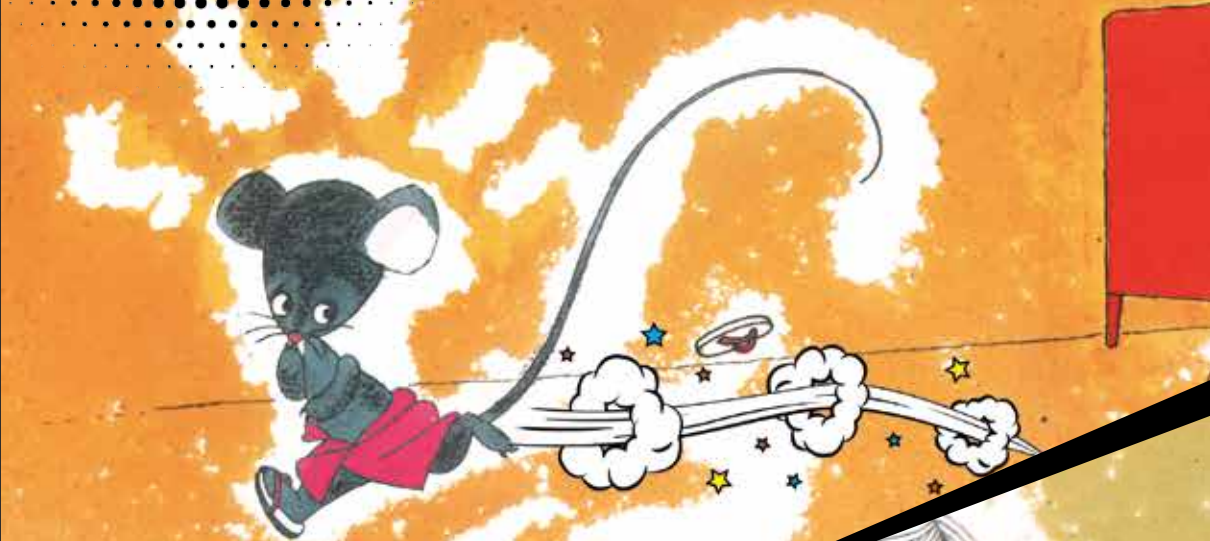
POOR MOOTY !!!

"HELP!" SCREAMED MOOTY AS HE TRIED TO WRIGGLE FREE.

POOR GRANDMA !!!

"HELP!" SCREAMED GRANDMA AS SHE DROPPED HIM ON THE FLOOR.

MOOTY RAN INTO HIS HOLE AS FAST AS HIS LEGS COULD CARRY HIM.

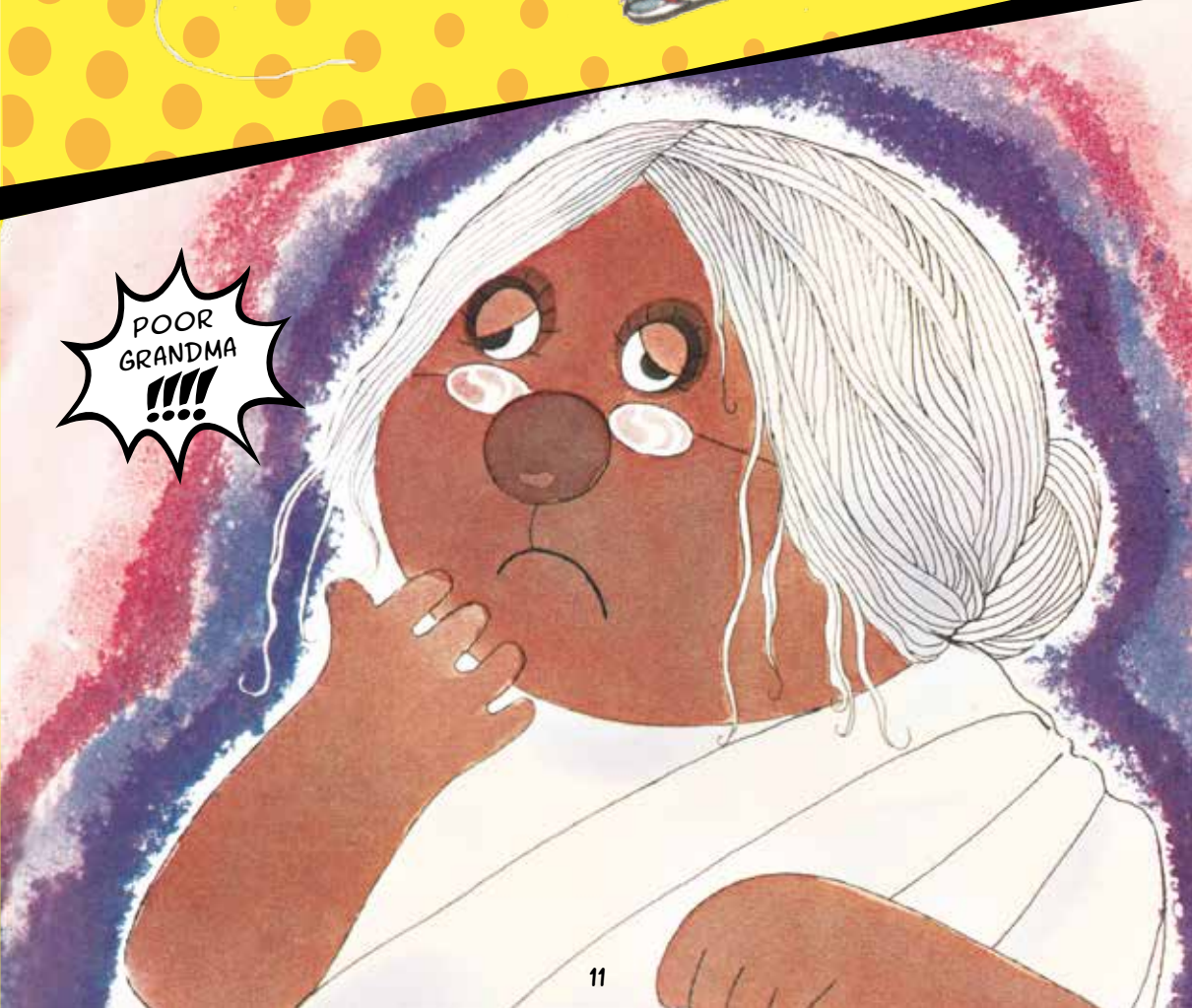


GRANDMA RAN INTO THE KITCHEN AS FAST AS HER LEGS COULD CARRY HER.

THEY BOTH QUIVERED AND SHOOK.



POOR MOOTY !!!



POOR GRANDMA !!!

FOR MANY DAYS AFTER THAT, MOOTY KEPT OUT OF GRANDMA'S WAY. AND THEN, ONE NIGHT, HE CAME OUT OF HIS HOLE.

HE CAME OUT OF HIS HOLE TO LOOK FOR FOOD. HE WAS HUNGRY!



MOOTY CREPT INTO GRANDMA'S KITCHEN. THERE WAS NO BREAD ON THE TABLE. THERE WAS NO CHEESE IN THE CUPBOARD.

THERE WERE NO SWEETS IN THE BOTTLE. THERE WERE NO JUICY PLUMS ON THE TRAY... BUT



THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE BOX.

MOOTY PEEPED IN. HIS NOSE TWITCHED, HIS TAIL CURLED. "FOOD," HE SQUEAKED AS HE PUT HIS HEAD INTO THE BOX. HE SNIFFED AND HE SNIFFED, AND HE SNIFFED SO HARD THAT HE LOST HIS BALANCE AND FELL IN NOSE FIRST INTO THE FLOUR.



POOR MOOTY !!!

HE TURNED WHITE. HIS FACE WAS WHITE. HIS BODY WAS WHITE. HIS TAIL WAS WHITE. HIS PAWS WERE WHITE. HIS EARS WERE WHITE. EVEN HIS LITTLE NOSE TURNED WHITE.

MOOTY DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO. HE COULD NOT CLIMB OUT OF THE BOX. THEN, HE HAD AN IDEA. HE STOOD ON HIS NOSE AND SWUNG HIS LONG, CURLY TAIL OVER THE EDGE OF THE BOX. HE WALKED BACKWARDS, PULLING HIMSELF UP AND UP TILL HE REACHED THE TOP.

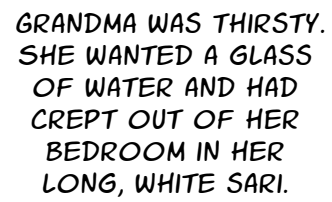




HE FELL ONTO THE
TABLE TOP JUST
AS GRANDMA CAME
INTO THE KITCHEN.



GRANDMA
AND MOOTY
LOOKED AT EACH
OTHER ACROSS
THE KITCHEN TABLE.



GRANDMA WAS THIRSTY.
SHE WANTED A GLASS
OF WATER AND HAD
CREPT OUT OF HER
BEDROOM IN HER
LONG, WHITE SARI.



"EEEEKS!"
SCREAMED
MOOTY AS
HE RAN BACK
TO BED.



"EEEEKS!"
SCREAMED
GRANDMA AS
SHE RAN BACK
TO BED.