

# Pets' Mews

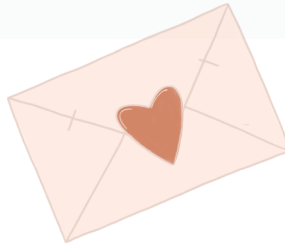


The MewsPaper for Instagramming Plushies, Pets, and their People

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by [@travelswithmycat](#)

Hello Dear Friends,

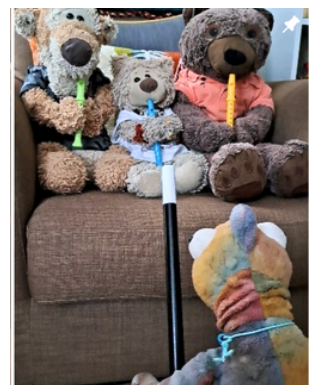
Thank you for joining us again. We hope you are well.

This edition is in special tribute to [@adventuresofabear](#). Bear lost his mummy pet so suddenly and tragically and they were such a wonderful part of our plushie community. Their kindness and mischief really brought joy and shows that no matter how much rubbish is going on in our world, #plushiesbuildbridges. We send our love and prayers to their loved ones and hope they know what a treasured part of our community they are.

Now, you may be wondering what is happening with our German and Russian translators. The lovely Doyka and Miu are both on a break at the moment, but \*drumroll please\* we are pleased to announce are very latest team member. It's Keith [@ourfluffygang](#) who will be joining us and translating PM into Italian. A bit thank you to his mummy pet and a big welcome!

We hope you enjoy the issue! Love, Topsy and Pets xxx

*in loving memory*



[TO READ PM IN ITALIAN, PLEASE CLICK HERE.](#)



# Hello Nature!



by\_gasbricki

*Hello Nature,*

Today we just want to write a letter to you.

It's still winter, you didn't bring us any snow, that's a wee bit sad. We would have liked to build a snowman, but also sledding would have been a lot of fun.

Well, now we sit , wrapped up, in our blankets on the sofa and we are happy about every ray of sunshine that hits the earth. You send us the first signs of Spring , we have already discovered a bright yellow witch hazel. And the magnolias show first buds.

Not long and the Spring Snowflake, Crocuses, Hyacinths and many more will make the world look colourful again. We are looking forward to it, and every year we are amazed how you make all this possible.

You send the migratory birds back to us. Small, hard-working helpers ensure that the flowers are pollinated and that we can harvest the first fruits from the trees and shrubs in Summer. The little red strawberries, which you make so sweet and we can conjure up delicious cakes. Fruits that turn into syrup. Refreshing lemonades, fruits and vegetables waiting in our storerooms for us to enjoy them in Autumn.

Then, when after a hot summer, the leaves on the trees begin to change its colour.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to walk through the leaves in the Autumn sun, collecting chestnuts and acorns, decorate our homes with it and prepare us to look forward to the grey days of the year.

Dear Nature, thank you for surprising and enchanting us every new day with your little wonders.

XXX



# Books with or about Letters

by [@spybatmissions](#) and [@travelswithmycat](#)



## **Address Unknown by Kathrine Kressmann Taylor (1938)**

Martin and Max, good friends and immigrants from Germany, run a successful art gallery in the USA in the 1930s. Martin decides to bring his family back home, but as a Jew, Max feels it's safer to stay in the USA and keep running the business. The friends stay in touch by writing letters, and gradually, Max is more and more horrified about the political opinions that Martin starts to express. Martin is completely absorbed by the Nazi rhetoric. Things culminate when Martin refuses to help Max's sister, and from then on, the letters become something more than just correspondence.

This book, entirely made up of letters, was published in 1938, as one of the first books that showed the true face of the Nazis, foreboding the atrocities to come during the war. With very few words, Kressmann Taylor conveys a sad and horrifying story. Much is left unsaid, but if the reader feels confused, the afterword found in later editions, written by the author's son, will explain the true meaning of the letters.

## **Dear Agnes by Håkan Nesser (2002)**

Agnes has just lost her husband. At his funeral, her best childhood friend Henny shows up. They haven't been in touch for almost 20 years, but soon Agnes receives a letter from Henny and they start picking up their friendship again. After a while, Henny asks Agnes for a favour. It's a very special, almost strange thing, to ask of a friend, but Agnes agrees, and the two women start to plan something that slowly but surely seems to spin out of control.

Between the letters, Agnes tells the story of her childhood and friendship with Henny. As the book goes on, details from Agnes's past, many of which can be found between the lines, explain her current behaviour. At the end, not one but two plot twists send the book in new directions and the psychology of the characters fall into place.

## **Dear Mrs. Bird by AJ Pearce (2018)**

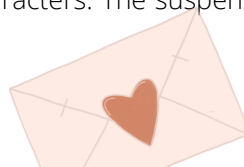
Emmeline is a young woman in London during World War II. Her biggest dream is to be a war correspondent, but that's not an easy job to get. However, she does manage to get a job at a magazine. It's far from writing exciting war news though; she is to fill in for a columnist who answers letters from women, helping them with small everyday problems. There are strict rules about what kinds of letters she is to answer, mainly household issues, and how the answers can be written. But Emmeline can't stop herself from privately writing back, when women write heartbreaking letters and really really need help.

Parallel to the letters and work at the magazine, the book follows Emmeline's life in London during the Blitz. This is a heartwarming story, showing people can do what is best, not just for oneself but also for others, in a time of distress and danger.

## **Love Virtually by Daniel Glattauer (2006)**

When Emmi sends an email to cancel a subscription of a magazine, her message ends up in Leo's inbox, due to a typo in the address. Eventually, he writes back, and so, quite by accident, Emmi and Leo start writing to each other. They lead completely different lives, but somehow both find comfort and enjoyment in these emails. The obvious question is if they should meet, and if they do, what will happen to this relationship, that means so much to both of them, if they see each other in real life and not just through words written on a screen?

This is a beautifully written story about an unexpected relationship, where feelings and thoughts are allowed to take up space in an otherwise busy world. The reader really gets close to the characters. The suspense about what will happen to them if they decide to meet makes it hard to put the book down.



**Miss Austen by Gill Hornby (2020)**

In the 1840s, many years after the death of her sister Jane, Cassandra Austen travels to Kintbury to visit the Fowle Family, longtime family friends of the Austens. The last Fowles are moving out of the home they have lived in for generations, and Cassandra has a very special reason for going there. Jane wrote many letters to Eliza Fowle, letters containing family secrets. Cassandra needs to find these letters, to protect her sister's reputation as a well renowned author. But maybe she also wants to protect herself from painful memories from her youth...

This is fiction, written in the spirit of Jane Austen's novels, but it is based on the real lives of the Austen family members. Going back and forth in time, between the 1840s and the time when the letters were written, the book tells the story of strong sisterhood and friendships, of lost love and dreams, and the lives of women in this time.

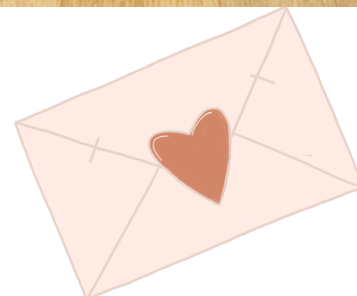


**La Siréne et le Scaphandrier (The Mermaid and the Diver) by Samuelle Barbier (2020)**

My Pet studied French 150 years ago or something and she likes to keep up with it (and show off a little) by reading books in French. This is one she randomly picked up in the library and loved it so much, we got Big Pet to read it with the help of Google Translate lens (because it's not in translation!) and she loved it too!

Zach, a tough New York prisoner joins a penpal scheme in jail because there's not much to do there otherwise. Hanna lives in London. She has agoraphobia and can't leave her flat lives, but her psychiatrist encourages her to join the scheme as well. The two unlikely pen pals soon start exchanging letters which getting longer and more heartfelt. Both trapped in their own ways, they share their dreams and start wanting to help each other with Zach encouraging Hannah to take tiny steps and start living her life again, by firstly getting a dog!

From an unlikely friendship, and unlikely romance develops, but, will they ever be able to meet, and can their friendship survive when Hannah finds out what caused Zach to be jailed?



**Do you love READING ?**

Would you like to write a review so that you can share your book finds with other plushies? If so, please get in touch with [@spybatmissions](https://www.instagram.com/spybatmissions) and you can feature in our next issue of Pets' Mews!





# Strange New Planet: Hilariously Haunting Helsinki

by fluffys fun adventures and @alma.o.o

Fluffy: "I'm here with @alma.o.o in Helsinki, Finland. Tell me something about yourself, how is life as a ghost?"

Alma: "I am a bed linen ghost, not a dead person. There are various different types of ghosts that people don't even know about. My surname Örngott means pillowcase in Swedish. In fact, one of my grandparents was a pillowcase."

Fluffy: "And what does a bed linen ghost do?"

Alma: "I work as a mental support ghost. My previous physical body was more pocket sized but as I've grown I nowadays travel usually in a bag. I can also leave my physical body behind and accompany my human in spirit form if we're going somewhere where my body might get dirty or be in the way."

Fluffy: "Are bed linen ghosts not the scary type of ghost who wake you up at night and say boo?"

Alma: "Oh yes, we do that too. In my free time I like to do more classic ghost duties like wander in halls and howl, or drag and rattle chains and cause disturbances in electric lighting. And if you remember your maths teacher telling you that you need to learn your multiplication tables so well that if someone wakes you up at night and asks, we're the ones who are going to do that. My favourite is the multiplication by three."

Fluffy: 🤩 "I'm scared! Maths is scary! Let's go out and do something fun instead! What's something typically Finnish we can do?"

Alma: "Well, in Finland we like to go berry or mushroom picking in the forest. We have a thing called something like Everyone's Right which allows you to peacefully roam public or privately owned land for recreation."

Fluffy: "That's awesome! So I can just go anywhere and pick anything I like?"

Alma: "No. You can pick berries, mushrooms and wild flowers as long as you don't go too near private homes, make a lot of noise or damage the environment."

Fluffy: "So no picking beer from somebody's fridge?"

Alma: "No." 🙄

Fluffy: "Then that sounds boring. I want to do something else!"



Alma: "There's a metal music festival this weekend. It's called *Tuska*. This is actually Finland's biggest metal festival. Finns are very fond of metal music. Do you want to join my human and me?"

Fluffy: "I don't know... What can I expect there?"

Alma: "There are bands that play music on several stages. Usually the biggest and most famous and popular bands play last, and the first ones starting the show in the afternoon are smaller newcomers. There might be different stages for different subgenres of rock and metal. You could also see different kinds of sideshows going around among the crowd, like performance artists, acrobats and dancers that reflect the festival theme. There might also be tattoo and piercing artists working there so you can get new adornment on your body. Food and drinks too, but I won't go deeper into that with you as I know it gets you distracted." 😊

Fluffy: "You had me at food and drinks! Lets go!"

(At the festival)

Fluffy: "What are those strange people doing over there with the pots?"

Alma: "Those ladies are performance artists dressed up in over a hundred year old style costumes and depicting household work through interpretative dance."

Fluffy: "So they are not really cooking?"

Alma: "No, they're not really preparing food or clothes, they just act like as if they were. The actual food trucks are more modern and they serve food faster."

Fluffy: "OK, I'll just get a quick beer or two and meet you here right after." (walks off)

(15 hours later, Alma finds Fluffy sleeping in a puddle of beer)

Alma: "Are you okay?"

(Fluffy keeps snoring)

Alma: "BOOOOO!"

Fluffy: "Aaaaah!"

Alma: "You're okay? What's that on your back?"

Fluffy: "Uhm... oh that. I decided to get a tattoo to show Papaya how much I love her."

Alma: "It says 'mom'."

Fluffy: "Oh." 😊

