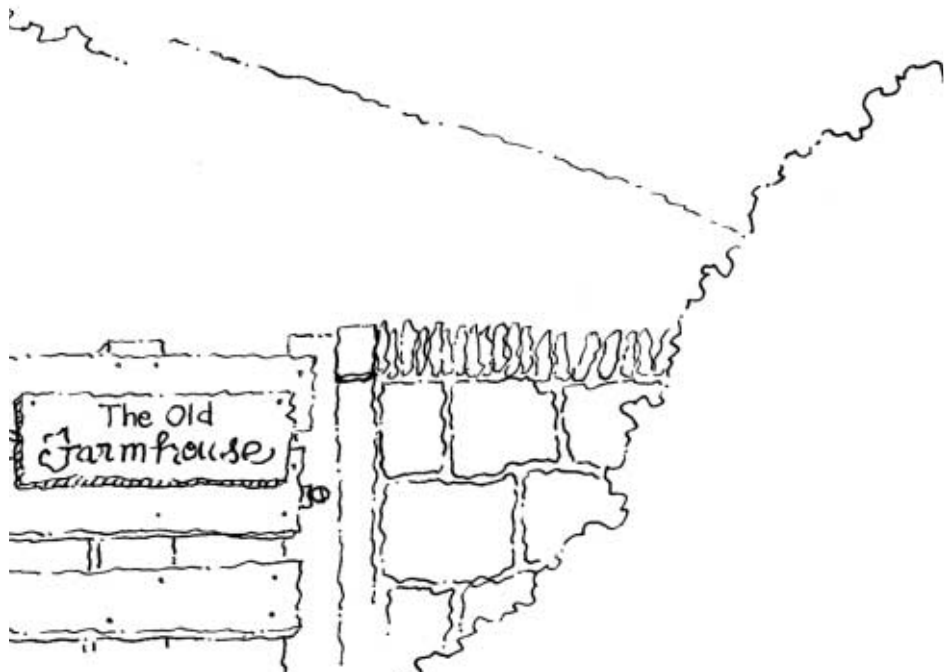


CHAPTER 1

The Old Farm House

In the middle of winter
the Watkins family moved into
the The Old Farm House high on
the moors.

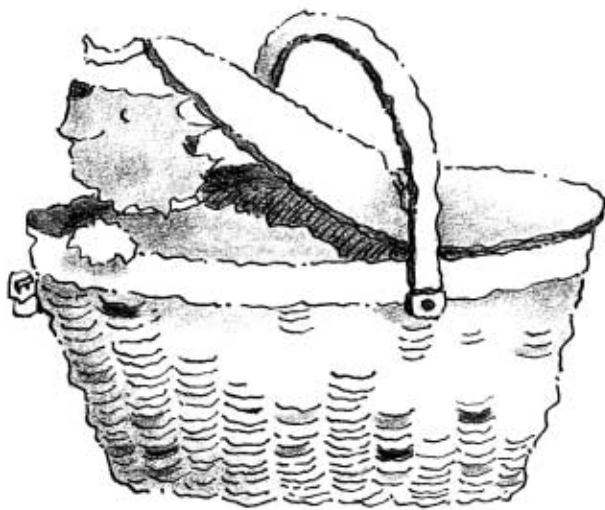


Dad carried in Blue, the family cat.
He put the cat basket down on the
flagstone floor of the kitchen.

‘Brrr! It’s so cold in here,’ said
Mum. She gave a **shiver**. ‘The first
thing we have to do is to light the
boiler and get some heat into the
house.’



Dad opened the cat basket.
Blue **sniffed** for a moment and
then jumped out.



‘This is your new home,’ said
Jo, stroking Blue’s silky coat.

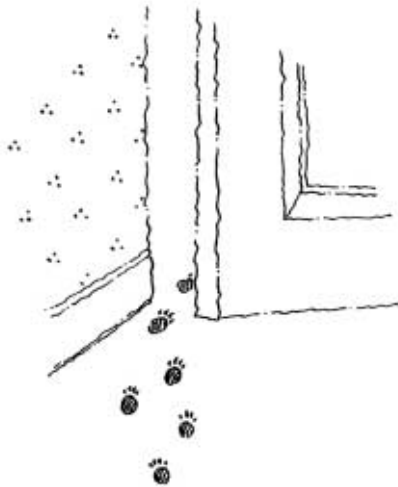
Blue was a grey-blue colour. Her paws were white and so was the tip of her tail. She had long whiskers.



Jo and her young brother, Josh, watched as Blue sniffed her way around the kitchen.

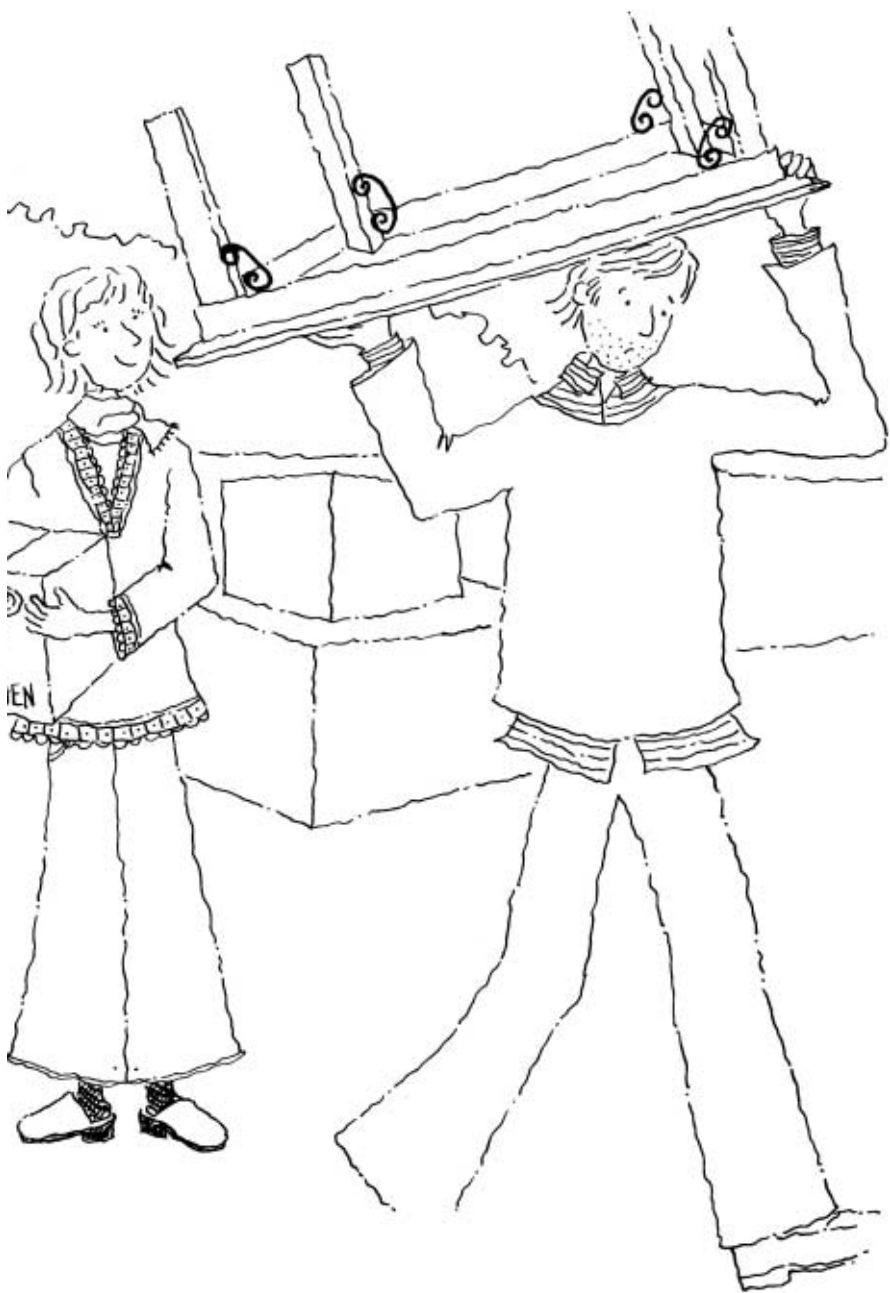
‘She knows it’s not home,’ Josh said.

Blue padded slowly and softly from room to room.



She **explored** The Old Farm House while Jo, Josh, Mum and Dad carried in toys, tables, TVs and towels from the van.





Later that afternoon, as light was fading, the family sat down to their meal in the kitchen of The Old Farm House.



‘Blue!’ called Jo. ‘It’s dinner time!’

But Blue
didn't appear.

'Blue,'
shouted Josh.
'Blue, where
are you?'



No Blue.

'She'll be exploring,' said
Mum. 'Don't worry, she'll turn up
in her own good time. She'll come
for her dinner. Cats **always** do.'

But Blue didn't turn up. Her dinner lay **untouched** in her special bowl on the kitchen's flagstone floor.

