



# Slinky Malinki Catflaps

*Lynley Dodd*

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*Slinky Malinki Catflaps* is a hilarious rhyming story by Lynley Dodd.

Slinky Malinki wakes from a cosy sleep, stretches and slips out through the catflap and into the night. He's soon joined by his friends Greywacke Jones, Butterball Brown, the Poppadum kittens and the rest of the gang. Hobnobbing happily on the wall, ten in a row, the cats are disturbed by the crotchety Scarface Claw. The cats hiss and yowl until all the neighbours complain. Scarface slopes off and Slinky Malinki invites his friends home to sit in front of the fire, hobnobbing happily, ten in a row.

Lynley Dodd is an award-winning author/illustrator who lives in New Zealand. She is enormously popular for her rhyming stories of the unforgettable HAIRY MACLARY and his friends. She worked as a teacher before beginning to write her own books in 1974.

Read all the Hairy Maclary and Friends books by Lynley Dodd!

*Hairy Maclary's Bone; Hairy Maclary Scattercat; Hairy Maclary's Caterwaul Caper; Hairy Maclary's Rumpus at the Vet; Slinky Malinki; Hairy Maclary's Showbusiness; Slinky Malinki, Open the Door; Sniff-Snuff-Snap!; Schnitzel Von Krumm Forget-Me-Not; Slinky Malinki Catflaps; Slinky Malinki's Christmas Crackers; Hairy Maclary's Hat Tricks; Scarface Claw; Schnitzel Von Krumm, Dog's Never Climb Tress; Hairy Maclary, Sit; Hairy Maclary and Zachary Quack; Magnet Fun with Hairy Maclary; Hairy Maclary, Shoo; Hairy Maclary and Friends Little Library; Slinky Malinki, Open the Door; Slinky Malinki Early Bird; Where is Hairy Maclary?; Sticker Fun with Hairy Maclary; My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes*

## Slinky Malinki Catflaps Details

Date : Published 2000 by Puffin Books (first published 1999)

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## **From Reader Review Slinky Malinki Catflaps for online ebook**

### **Amanda says**

Catflaps feels like the cat equivalent of Hairy Maclarey, and is a wonderful introduction to all the cats in the Lynley Dodd universe.

A great book, and definitely a hit at story time.

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### **Audra says**

A cute little children's story - somewhat T.S. Eliot-esque, but pared down for very young readers. The rhythm is not as straightforward as I would have liked... my luck with rhyming books lately illustrates why the industry advice on rhyming books is not to write them, if you can at all help it. But this rhyming book is better than most, and the sweet little cat story redeems it. Lovely book.

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### **Emkoshka says**

My favourite of the *Slinky Malinki* books, for its depiction of cat nightlife, which I've heard but still always wondered about. Lovely illustrations of Slinky and his elegant cat posse make this the perfect book for cat lovers. :) And yes, my family's own cats have invited their own friends in through a window just like Slinky does with his friends through the cat flap. Free food! Free cuddles!

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### **Jack Kirby and the X-man says**

Lynley Dodd certainly loves her dogs. The Hairy Maclary series shows such affection to dogs - and highlights the infinite variations in the different breeds of dog - from Hercules Morse through to Schnitzel von Krumm. She doesn't seem to have the same affection for cats - recall the antagonist from the original book was a cat - Scarface Claw.

This book continues this relationship. I haven't read the original Slinky Malinki - so I may be missing something - but it appears Slinky Malinki has 10 cat friends who don't have individual personalities. Even Slinky Malinki isn't a truly lovable character - more a mischievous rogue.

The fantastic poetry that Lynley does so well is there - but the characterisation and amusing anecdotes aren't.

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### **Sophie Freeman says**

So much fun, lovely to read purely for pleasure.

The rhyming pattern also offers support for the development of children's reading aloud.

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### **Anthony says**

Slinky Malinki and nine of his pals meet to do some hobnobbing under the moonlight. Everything is going well until cranky and crotchety Scarface Claw shows up, and ruins the fun, and it's back through the catflaps to sit by the fireplace.

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### **Lara Thompson says**

Cute with good rhyming and a very underwhelming crisis.

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### **Carol says**

Dodd's illustrations in the book are wonderful, especially her cover illustration. I would love to have that one hanging in my grand daughter's room. She loves this book perhaps even a bit more than Harry Maclary.

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### **Jenn "JR" says**

This book is awesome - Slinky Malinki basically lives with 5 families and has the run of all their homes through little cat doors and windows. He's a much loved community member - good art and fun prose to read.

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### **Allyson Foster says**

I think we have all the Hairy Mclary and friends books some stand out more than others. This one is beautiful, the rhyming is great and the nighttime illustrations are beautiful. My favorite page is the last one, who is that peeking in the shadows? What is going to happen next???

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### **Nicola says**

Miss 2 loves it. She talks to me about which cats are cuddling each other in the pictures. She adores making the Fsss-pit-a-pit sounds. We talk each time about the ending and she tells me if Scarface is coming in to make friends or fight.

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## Becky B says

Slinky Malinki is joined outside by eight other cats in the middle of the night. They are having a nice time, until up comes a tenth cat, the nasty Scarface Claw, who sets them to yowling so all the humans get upset.

So that's why those cats were howling the other night...ok, so maybe it wasn't Slinky Malinki in the flesh, but this could be a good story for kids who are upset by cat fight sounds in the night. (No scratches or injuries are incurred in the story, just lots of yowling.) Also a good pick for those kitty lovers who are determined to exhaust the library's supply of cat stories.

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## Allison says

I'd only read one Slinky Malinki book, the original, before I discovered my library system had others. My mom had brought the original home from England for my children when they were little. Since then, I've been surprised that the series has never really caught on in America. There are plenty of us cat lovers here after all.

Regardless, if you're looking for children's books with cats as the main characters, Slinky Malinki is a fun series to explore. The illustrations are fun and colorful and the story is told in a poetic meter that isn't "dumbed down" for young readers. It has plenty of descriptive language they may not have heard before and that can hopefully help expand and develop their vocabulary.

BUT

out of the hedge  
by the rickety seat,  
disturbing the birds  
in their feathery sleep,  
something was sneaking  
on pussyfoot paw--  
the cranky  
and crotchety

SCARFACE CLAW. (*Slinky Malinki, Cat Flaps*, p.19)

Seeing that page's text alone, I realize it sounds like a scary story, but the entire story isn't that intense. While the story itself necessarily realistic in its portrayal of cat relations, it is true to what children may imagine their indoor-outdoor cats are up to at night. And, it ends in a typically Slinky Malinki fashion with the neighborhood cats following Slinky Malinki home, through his cat flap, to curl up on the rug in his living room in front of the fireplace.

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## Julie says

I enjoyed the rhyming language, chuckled as each cat was named, and adored the illustrations!

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## **Katherine says**

Another instalment of Slinky Malinki, beloved house cat by day, mischief-maker-in-chief at night. This time Slinky meets up with the other cats in the neighbourhood and the beautiful illustrations of cats lined up in the moonlight provide an excellent opportunity to practice counting skills. But Slinky isn't the biggest villain in the village, enter Scarface Claw. Delightful and amusing with beautifully observed pictures.

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