

# HEROES OF THE CITY

## 城市小英雄

*An evil rat has come to town! How will little puppy Lucky and the cats catch him and become Heroes of the City? The latest masterpiece by Peter Pan Prize-winning picture book author and illustrator Chen Chih-Yuan is a detective story with details and clues hidden in the pictures – children will have fun reading the story and solving the mystery!*

At the dog-breeders' there is a puppy with a pig-like snout and a funny-looking coat. The other puppies make fun of him. On the way to the pet shop, he falls out of the van, wanders the streets and meets a pack of vicious dogs! A group of cats rescues him, and takes him to Cat School, where they have lessons in a yoga, tightrope walking, and special techniques for catching mice. When a giant rat suddenly appears in the city, scaring everyone with his horrible antics, Lucky and the cats decide to help the police and become Heroes of the City.

This new masterpiece by international award-winning children's picture book illustrator Chen Chih-Yuan is a detective story in a colourful cartoon style. Children will have fun solving the mystery as they read the story and look for clues among the details in the pictures. Combining three favourite themes – an exciting adventure, a story of friendship, and personal courage – the story shows children that if they can play to their strengths and work well together, everyone can become a hero!

### Chen Chih-Yuan 陳致元

Chen Chih-Yuan is a talented author and illustrator. His picture book *Guji Guji*, described by *The Washington Post* as "a treasure of a picture book", received international acclaim and has been translated into almost 20 languages. He has won awards and commendations at home and abroad, including the Peter Pan Award (Sweden), National Teachers Association (USA) book of the year, *Publishers Weekly* (USA) book of the year, and a BolognaRagazzi Award (Italy). His



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other works include *On My Way to Buy Eggs*, *The Featherless Chicken*, and *Artie and Julie*.

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Translated by Helen Wang

p.2-3

This is a puppy farm where dogs are kept in cramped, smelly cages. One little puppy with a big nose likes to explore different kinds of smells.

p.4-5

The puppies are fed twice a day. But the big-nosed puppy often misses out on dog biscuits. The other puppies didn't like his big piggy snout. They didn't want to share the dog biscuits with him. They were horrible to him.

As soon as the puppies were old enough, they would be sold to the pet shop. But, the big-nosed puppy had strange markings. Who would want to take home a dog that looked like it was wearing underpants...

p.6-7

Brrr! Brrr! A truck full of puppies was on its way to the pet shop. The big-nosed puppy accidentally fell out ...

p.8-9

The little puppy wandered down all the alleys, but couldn't find anything to eat. A pack of stray dogs didn't want to share their food with him, and were horrible to him.

The little puppy was so scared! He wished someone would come and save him...

p.10-11

Me....ow! Suddenly a huge net came down from the sky.

p.12-13

A group of cats had seen the puppy being bullied, and decided to help him.

p.14-15

After running for ages, their tummies were rumbling, so they stopped at a restaurant.

Using his big snout, the puppy sniffed his way to the kitchen door...

It was amazing! The puppy had found lots of food for everyone.

And the kind cook gave them fresh milk and roast chicken.

p.16-17

They feasted and sang in the moonlight, and the eight cats introduced themselves. But the puppy didn't have a name. Everyone thought for a while. They were all full and happy, thanks to the puppy, so they decided to call him Lucky.

Lucky was tired. He curled up with the cats in their secret den, and fell happily asleep!

The next day, Lucky went with his new friends to Cat School.

It was the first day of school, and the pupils had to sit and learn!

The first lesson was yoga. The teacher taught them to say mantras and do poses.

p.18-19

In the second lesson a cool ninja cat teacher taught them ninja leaps.

If only Lucky could learn how to do it, he'd be able to leap all over the city.

In the third lesson, the juggling teacher taught them tightrope walking.

If only Lucky could learn how to do it, he'd be able to walk along ropes.

p.20-21

In the last lesson the hunting teacher taught them to catch mice.

Lucky and the cats finished the four lessons of intensive training, and graduated from Cat School.

p.22-23

They had just left the school, when they heard someone shout "Stop! Thief!"

p.24-25

Lucky and the cats ran to another street, and watched the news in a shop window. A giant rat was on the rampage. The police were chasing it, but everyone was worried and scared.

p.26-27

Lucky and the cats wanted to help the police catch the giant rat. Lucky sniffed about, and when they went into an alley, he picked up a strange smell, a very, very bad smell. They used their new cat skills and followed the smell.

p.28-29

They followed the giant rat into an unused warehouse. They used their new cat skills to hide on the stairs, and heard three voices planning to blow up the city's only bridge and tallest building.

p.30-31

Lucky and the cats rushed to find a policeman to tell him about the terrible plot, but his mind was on his sandwich, and he didn't want to be bothered by this strange-looking dog and some cats.

p.32-33

But Lucky couldn't wait. He leaped up, snatched the policeman's sandwich in his mouth and ran towards the giant rat's hideaway...

p.34-35

The policeman chased after him, shouting angrily: "Give me back my sandwich, you smelly dog, you bad dog."

While he was chasing Lucky, the policeman accidentally switched on his radio. The other policemen thought it was an emergency, and ran to help him!

But the cats were so good at leaping that the policemen couldn't catch them.

p.36-37

Lucky led them into the giant rat's hideaway, just as the three bad'uns were coming out with a bomb. Startled, they tried to get out of the giant rat and run!

p.38-39

The brave cats charged at the giant rat and grabbed hold of its coat to pin the three bad'uns to the floor.

Lucky pushed over a crate and a barrel.

Then they stood on the crate and the barrel, and held down the three bad'uns.

p.40-41

The police arrested the bad'uns who'd faked the giant rat. And Lucky and the cats were in the news for helping the police find a bomb and the missing jewels. They were heroes of the city!

p.42-43

The city calmed down. Lucky and the cats had a new home and a new job, helping the police to find prohibited items at the airport.