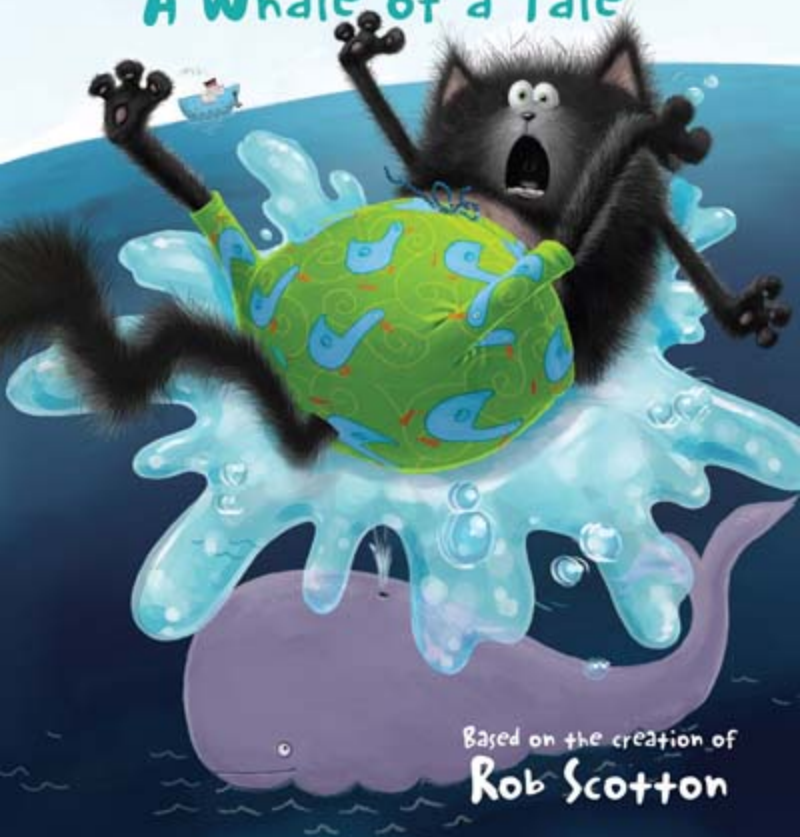


I Can Read!

BEGINNING
1
READING

Splat the Cat

A Whale of a Tale



Based on the creation of
Rob Scotton

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Splat^{the} Cat

A Whale of a Tale



Based on the bestselling books
by Rob Scotton

Cover art by Rick Farley

Text by Amy Hsu Lin

Interior illustrations by Robert Eberz

HARPER

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Splat the Cat buckled his seat belt.

“Let’s go!” he yelled.

“It’s vacation time!”

Everyone else piled in.

“Bring me back a shell so I can hear the sea, too!” said Grandpa.

“When I come back,

I’ll have a shell to show

and a story to tell,” Splat said.

Grandpa waved farewell.



“Hello, beach!” said Splat.

Splat’s toes wiggled
in the soft sand.

Now he could look for a shell.



Dad said, “Splat, will you please
help me with the umbrella?”

“Okay,” Splat said.

“Then I’m going to find a shell.”

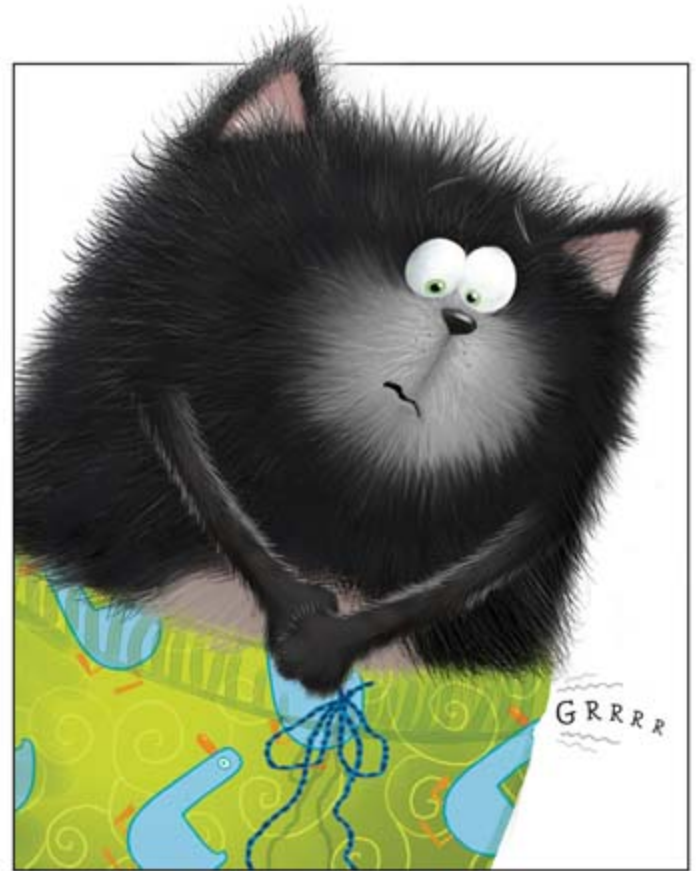
“Splat, first help me spell!”

begged Little Sis.

“Okay,” Splat said.

“After that,

I have to look for a shell.”



Just then Splat's tummy
made a rumble.

“Time for ice cream and fish,”

Splat said.

“Then shell hunting!”



Splat began his search.
He wanted to bring home
the sound of the sea for Grandpa.



First Splat found
a dull snail shell.

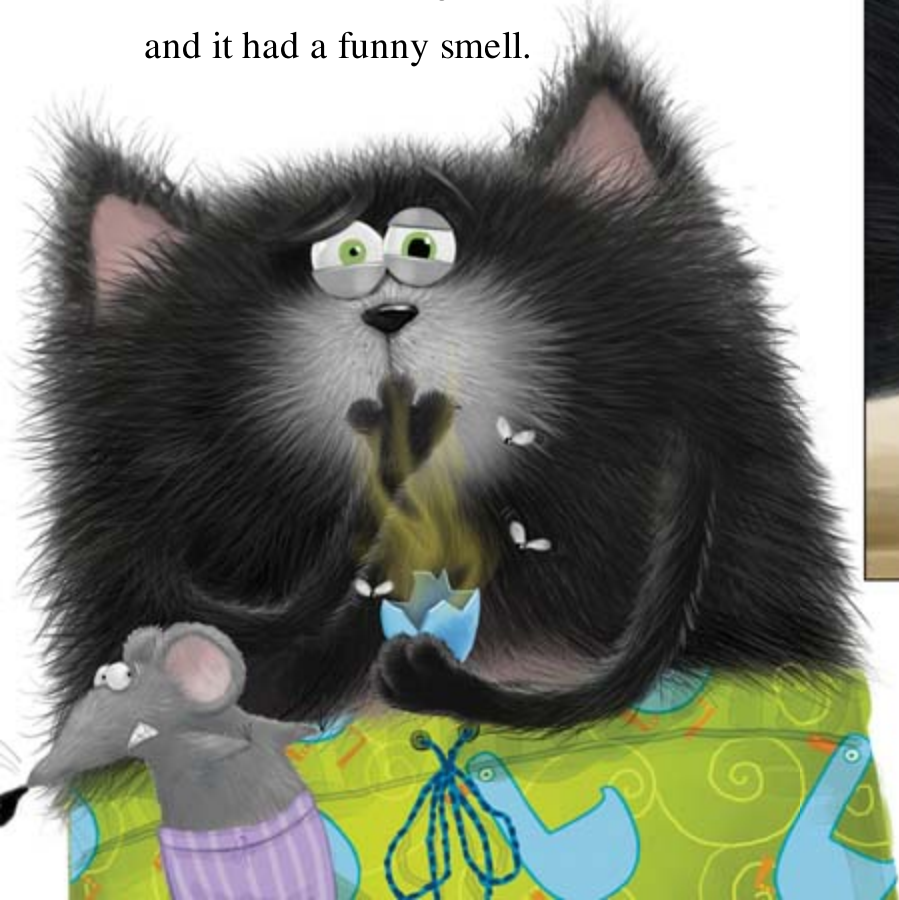


It was way too small.



Then Splat found
a frail eggshell.

That was the wrong kind of shell,
and it had a funny smell.



Splat thought he saw a pale shell
buried in the sand.

Jingle, jingle.

It turned out to be a bell.



Almost all the other shells
that Splat saw were broken.

“How odd,” said Splat.

“What can I do?

I have no shell for show-and-tell.

I have no shell for Grandpa.”

Splat took his pail
and walked along the water.
He followed the trail
of broken shells.



Then Splat heard a *crack!*
A shell fell.
The shell broke.
Splat looked up.



Splat ran after the gull.
He tried to catch the shells
before they fell.



A gull was dropping shells
all over the shore.



Splat ran back and forth and then . . .

splat!

He fell into a swell!



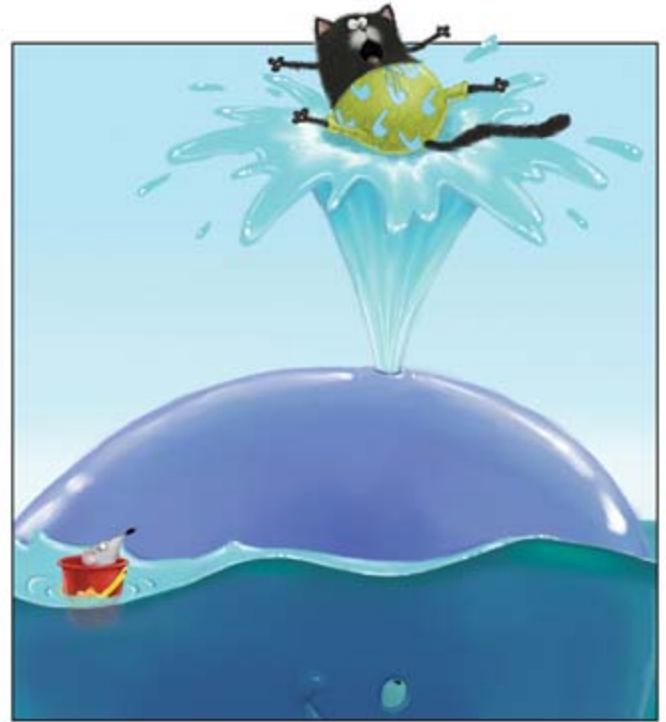
Splat flailed about.

Then . . . *thump*.

He landed on something.

Something BIG!

It was a whale!
“Can you help me
catch a shell?”
Splat asked.



The whale spouted.

Splloosh!

Water went up.



Splat went up, too.

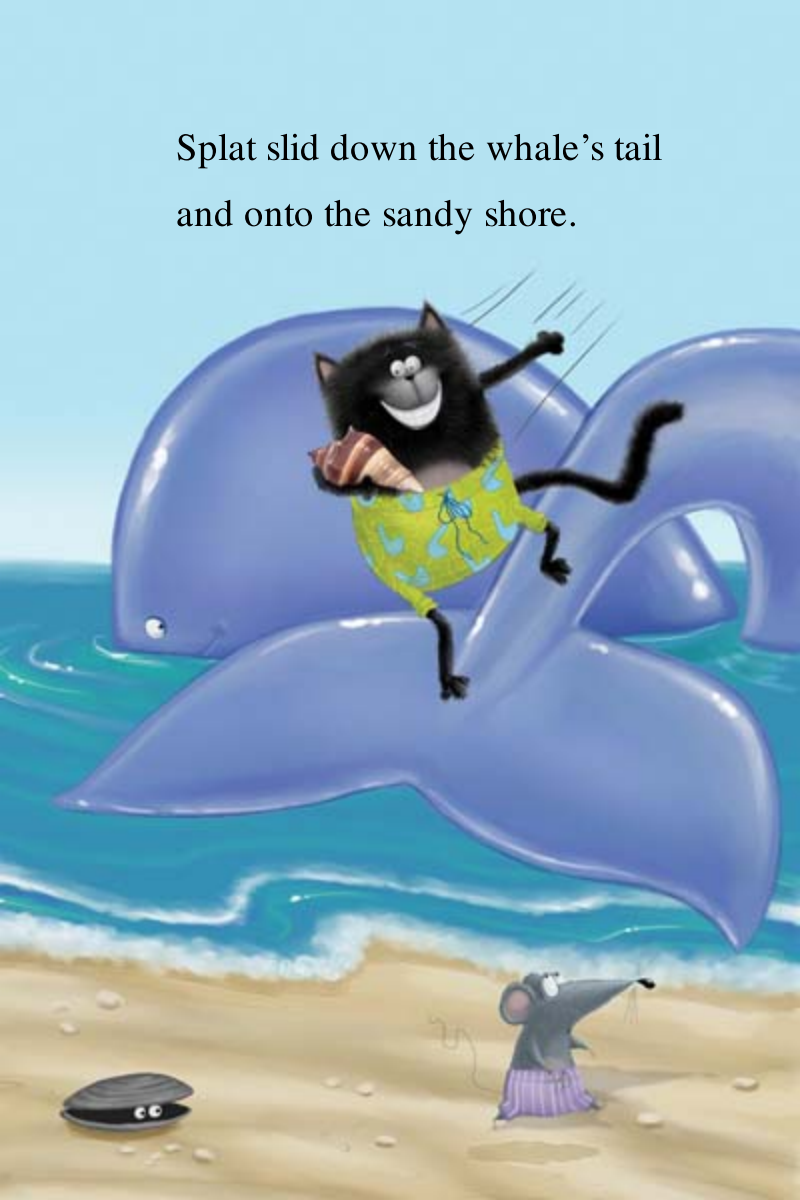
The gull dropped another shell,
and Splat caught it.



Whoosh!

The whale stopped spouting.

Splat slid down the whale's tail
and onto the sandy shore.



Splat shook the water out of his ears
and held up the shell.
He heard the roaring swell!
All's well that ends well,
Splat thought happily.

On the way home,
Splat thought about
the whale of a tale
he would tell to Grandpa.
Then he fell asleep
listening to the sound of the sea.

*For Grace.
And the tales you're going to tell.
—R.S.*



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