The Ring of Joy

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The walk will take you from our start on Camlet Street, over Arnold Circus and onto Rich Mix for the end. Just follow your trail map! In total the walk will take around 30 minutes, including listening and walking, but take as long as you like to enjoy the walk and taking part at each stop on the trail.

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Stop reading, or press pause on the audio and take off your headphones when you're walking so you don't bump into anything! When you're at the next location, find your spot in the story or press play again.

We're going to start underneath the big tree in the garden at Camlet Street.

Our story has got dogs and cats in it- so keep an eye out for any cats or dogs as you walk along. If you see a cat which looks like the cat in the story, you could even take a photo of it! The story also has a wizard in it so keep an eye out for any wizards as you go by.

This tale comes from ancient China and it's all about a magic ring. Are you ready to listen to part one?

Once there was a golden ring. It was magic. There are all kinds of things that magic rings can do but this one was really special.

It wasn't a ring which would make you fly.

It wasn't a ring which would make you invisible.

It wasn't a ring which would make you all-powerful.

It was better than any of those. it was a ring which- if you had it in your house- it would make your home happy. A happy home. Your home would always be warm in winter and cool in summer. No one would ever argue. No one would cry. No one would shout or tease. A happy home. There would always be yummy food. Your garden would always be full of beautiful flowers, fruit and butterflies.

It was given to a little girl called Tiān by her grandmother. Her grandmother always told her "Keep this ring in your house. Keep it safe! and never ever tell anyone about the ring."

So Tiān kept it safe in a little wooden box under her bed.

Can you imagine that bed with a secret box under it?

She got married – her husband didn't have a job but it didn't matter because they always had food.

She had a dog and a cat and she loved them very much, especially the cat which she used to have on her lap. She'd sit, look out of the window and talk to the cat. She EVEN told Cat about ring but that didn't matter, 'cause cats can't talk human language.

One day Tiān went to market and left her husband at their happy home. Her husband was bored, so he decided to have a bit of a sort-out. He sorted out all the junk and had a yard sale. All the old stuff was labelled 'for sale' in the garden. INCLUDING THE BOX with the ring! Oh no!

Then a wizard walked by.

Have a look around, can you spot any wizards? Sometimes it's hard to know who a wizard might be... but anyway, one came by Tiān's house and straight away the wizard smelled the ring-

The cat was looking out of the window and saw the wizard. She ran into the garden and said to Tian's husband "don't sell that box! it's got a magic ring in it which keeps the whole house happy! Whatever you do, don't sell the box!"

But of course, all Tiān's husband heard was "meow meow meow!" and he said "Naughty cat, upstairs with you!" and locked him in the upstairs room. Cat watched helplessly as the wizard TOOK the box with the magic ring and went far away to his house on top of a hill.

As soon as ring left the garden all the trees and flowers wilted, the fruit dried up... Tiān's husband felt cold and hungry and went inside to find all the cupboards empty and the house cold. He was so sad.

Tiān came home. She found the ring gone and had her first ever argument with her husband. She sat by a window crying until the moon came up.

Then Dog and Cat started to talk to each other.

Dog said "Aw, beloved master and mistress are so sad and crying! I *wish* I could make them happy!"

Cat said "Fool, it's because that wizard today took the box with the magic ring in it. If we could find the wizard and get the ring they would be happy again and there would be lots of fish and milk for us."

Dog said "Oooo! I know where the wizard lives. It's on top of the hill through the forest. We should go to his house now and get the ring back... oh no but how will we get through his door...? Can you bite through wood?"

"No" said Cat. "...oh but MOUSE can!" So she went to the mouse hole and squeaked Mouse out— and said "if you don't nibble through this door for us, I'll eat you up. Do you think you can nibble though the door?"

Mouse said "erm, ok".

So Cat got Mouse riding on her back... "Let's go!" said Cat and jumped out of the window.

Dog only had short legs and couldn't jump that far. He made himself as brave as he could to do a really big jump... "For master and mistress!!" he said and SPLAT he landed on the dried-up garden, ouch, but Dog was brave and they continued, Dog leading the way.

We are at the end of part one now, so let's imagine we are in the forest at night. There are quite a lot of trees aren't there? And imagine the road around the edge of Arnold Circus is a fast flowing river, maybe there's a bridge for you to get over or maybe you will swim! And imagine the wizard's house is the green shelter right on the top of the little hill.

In a moment when you hear the music, I'd like you to press pause, take off your headphones and make your way through the pretend forest, over the pretend river (which is a little road), through the arch and up those stairs to our next stop, at the top of the hill.

Make sure to keep an eye out for scooters and bikes!

Okay, press pause now and I'll see you at the top of the stairs.

PAUSE

STOP 2 – Boundary Gardens (up the stairs at Arnold Circus)

Hello!

Did you go through the arch? Did you go up the stairs? Are you at the top of the hill now? Great!

Look around, and let's pretend its night and there's no one here except Cat, Dog and Mouse. We're under the moon... can you see all these trees everywhere?

Imagine we're in a forest, imagine the river at the bottom of the hill... I'm sure you crossed the river safely! But, when Cat, Dog and Mouse came to the river, of course they had to stop. The river down there was wide, ice cold and full of rubbish that people had thrown in. There was a bridge... but it was closed at night. "Oh no," said Dog, "the bridge is closed. How will we get over?" Cat said "...I thought dogs could swim?"

Dog didn't want to, the water was so cold and dirty but he loved Tiān and her husband so much, he held his breath and jumped in, SPLASH!

Urgh! Brrr! It was cold, dirty and horrible. "For master and mistress!" he said. Cat jumped safely on Dog's back, with Mouse clinging to Cat's back. "Be careful not to splash me," she said.

They finally got across the river, urgh, and went to find the magician's house at the top of the hill. It was locked but Mouse can nibble into the door, nibble into the box and get the ring. You can follow Mouse into the house if you like – go under the shelter, and find a pretend ring. When Mouse bought the ring out, Cat smiled, showing all her teeth. Mouse got scared and ran away!

So they had the magic ring. If you want, you can press pause for a moment and see if there's something to make a ring with. Maybe some grass or a leaf which you can twist around your finger? Maybe there's a flower which can be a jewel in the ring? If you can't find anything safe, don't worry, your imagination will create a wonderful ring!

When you have your pretend ring, you're ready to continue. If you're listening to the story, press play again.

Well...Dog tried to pick up the ring with his teeth but his nose was in the way. "I cant pick it up!"

"You fool," said Cat and scooped up the ring with her tail. Then they both ran down the hill to the river again and she hopped on Dog's back. "Quickly, over the river and home" she said "and DON'T splash me this time – you almost got my paws wet."

Dog splashed over the river, brrr, ugh, and Cat rode on his back with the precious ring on her tail.

When they got on the other side of the river, dog gave himself a big shake to shake off the water. Cat ran up a tree to get out of the way and when she was up there she looked around across the countryside. "Oh I can see a much better way to get home" she said, and ran home across the tree tops, leaving dog to walk alone.

We're going to climb over some pretend treetops now, round to the back door of Tiān's house. Don't forget your pretend ring! When you are ready, press pause and take off your headphones.

We're going down the stairs, along Club Row... and we're going to cross Bethnal Green Road very carefully at the traffic lights. Follow the map to the front of Rich Mix.

When you're opposite Rich Mix, press play.

PAUSE

STOP 3 – Bethnal Green Road, opposite the Rich Mix Flower Mural

Hello again! Hopefully you're with me on the other side of the road from Rich Mix? Time for the end of the story.

Cat got home to the back of the house and jumped over the fence still with the ring on her tail ...and as soon as she got the ring into the garden, the garden burst into wonderful flowers, and even though it was still the night, beautiful butterflies started to skim around. If you look at the front of Rich Mix building, you can see them all, drawn on the front of the building. Can you see them? Don't they look amazing?

Tiān was sitting at the open window crying. Cat jumped in.

"Oh Cat," she said, "you're wet. Where have you been? Oh CAT!" she said "you bought the ring! Good cat, clever cat!! Would you like some cream? Would you like a cushion?" and Cat sat on the cushion and drank the cream and did her biggest smile... maybe you can do a really really big smile too? If you want, you can even pause and take a photo of yourself doing a really really big smile like Cat. The house was full of flowers and warm and cosy and happy again.

Anyway, remember poor Dog? He was running home the long way, as fast as he could, getting lost because it was so dark and he was so tired. Finally, he got to the fence by the garden. "ooh look at all those flowers!" He couldn't jump over it so he started barking and woke up Tiān. "Woof woof woof!"

"Dog..." she said "Waking me up...why are you being so noisy?" she went to let him in. "...Ugh Dog you're soaking wet and muddy. No, NOT in the house. In the garden. Naughty Dog."

And just as the door slammed in his face, he saw Cat, sitting on the velvet cushion with her cream grinning a big smile. Cat waved her tail at him.

"Bye..." SLAM. Dog thought, "I'm going to GET you."

Well, Dog decided never to work with Cat again, and decided next time he saw Cat he'd chase her up a tree but the magic of the ring was soon working on him too and by the time the morning came, Dog was smiling and happy. Tiān came and let him in and gave him some yummy food. "Are you ready for a walk, Dog?" and Dog said "Yay!!" Because, you know, dogs love walking.

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