

1871

THE OWL AND THE PUSSY-CAT

Edward Lear

Lear, Edward (1812-1888) - English landscape painter and writer of humorous verse and limericks. Lear wrote a number of illustrated travel books and once gave drawing lessons to Queen Victoria. He remains best known for his classic books of whimsical and absurd nonsense. The Owl and the Pussy-Cat (1871) Lear's best-known poem. Opening lines: The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea / In a beautiful pea-green boat: ...

OWL AND PUSSY CAT

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
 In a beautiful pea-green boat:
 They took some honey, and plenty of money
 Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
 The Owl looked up to the stars above,
 And sang to a small guitar,
 "Oh, lovely Pussy, oh, Pussy, my love,
 What a beautiful Pussy you are,
 You are,
 You are!
 What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl,
 How charmingly sweet you sing!
 Oh, let us be married; too long we have tarried:
 But what shall we do for a ring?"
 They sailed away for a year and a day,
 To the land where the bong-tree grows;
 And there in the wood a Piggy-wig stood,
 With a ring at the end of his nose,
 His nose,
 His nose,
 With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
 Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."
 So they took it away and were married next day
 By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
 They dined on mince and slices of quince,
 Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
 And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
 They danced by the light of the moon,
 The moon,
 The moon,
 They danced by the light of the moon.

THE END