

# Gus and Luna

## by Chitra Soundar



Gus lived inside. He had never been out of the house. He wasn't a prowler or a howler. He was an inside-cat.

One day when Gus was reading by the window, THUD! Another cat bumped against the glass, chasing a kite.

"Hello!" said Gus. "Are you ok?"

"Hello!" said Luna. "I'm alright, thanks!"

The wind picked up again and the kite lifted into the sky. Luna let the kite go and turned back to the window. "Come out and play," she said. "I'll show you the stream, the tallest tree and the hole in the fence."

"No thanks," said Gus. "Why don't you come in? I'll show you the book shelf, a lake of flushing water and soft cushions."

"It's bright and colourful out there," said Luna. "And full of sounds, all the time."

"It's warm and cosy in here," said Gus. "And very quiet most of the time."

That night Gus huddled in his basket after dinner. He listened to the clock tick and tock. He checked the books on the table, to see what was outdoors like. Would it be too dangerous? Too scary?

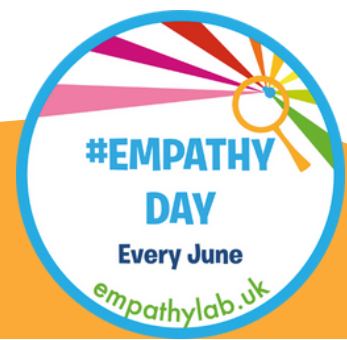
Luna found a crevice under fallen trees to sleep. The cold wind made the trees restless. She wondered what indoors was like. Would it be too quiet? Too boring?

Next day Gus and Luna met at the window again.

"I was thinking," said Luna.

"Me too," said Gus.

# #ReadForEmpathy



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Gus came out of the house for the first time and scrambled up the garden path.

He climbed up a tree and opened his book to read. Screech!

Startled, Gus dropped the book.

Gus pulled out his ball of yarn. Whoosh! The thread rolled and rolled and rolled away.

Gus wasn't sure it was safe on the tree. He found a tree hollow to hide in until the next day.

Luna scurried in through the cat flap and sniffed for familiar smells.

MMMM. Something hummed. Scared, Luna watched from behind the door. DRRRRR! Something rumbled as it spun round and round.

Luna dashed across the floor and climbed over a shelf. CRASH!

Shelves weren't as sturdy as trees. She hid behind a sofa and waited for the next day.

Next day, they met at the window again. Gus complained about the things he didn't like. Luna complained too.

"You weren't doing it right," said Gus.

"Neither were you," said Luna.

So, Luna decided to show Gus how to play inside. He showed her places to huddle and hide. He showed her how to grip and glide.

"My turn," said Luna. She showed Gus how to jump over logs and catch hopping frogs. She showed him how to fly a kite and chase rainbow light.

By sunset, they both were exhausted.

"We had fun," said Gus.

"Together," said Luna.

Next day, they did some inside things and some outside things. Together. Then they did some inside things outside and some outside things inside. Together.

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