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**Free  
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# **FAUX PAW**

## **Goes to the Games**

*Balancing Real Life with Screen Time*

Written by Sally Shill Linford  
Illustrations by Circles & Squares Animation  
Faux Paw series created by Jacalyn S. Leavitt



**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE**





**Written by Sally Shill Linford**

**Illustrations by Circles & Squares Animation**

***Faux Paw Series created by Jacalyn S. Leavitt***



# For our children and grandchildren and every child

Book design by Adrian Ropp. This book was printed on acid-free paper.

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The character Faux Paw; the names "Faux Paw," "Faux Paw the Techno Cat," "the Techno Cat," "iKeepSafe," "3KEEPS," and "Internet Keep Safe Coalition"; the stylized six-toed paw print; and the slogan, "Keep Safe • Keep Away • Keep Telling" are legally protected service marks and trademarks of the internet Keep Safe Coalition.

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Meet **Faux Paw the Techno Cat**: the remarkable polydactyl (six-toed), web-surfing cat who has already thwarted the Internet villain Kittyface in two earlier Internet adventures:



*Faux Paw's Internet Adventures:  
Keeping Children Safe Online*



*Faux Paw Meets the First Lady:  
How to Handle Cyber-bullying*





Hello, friends, I'm Faux Paw the Techno Cat. I love computers, but I can do other things too. . .



... like gymnastics ...



... and running the hurdles.

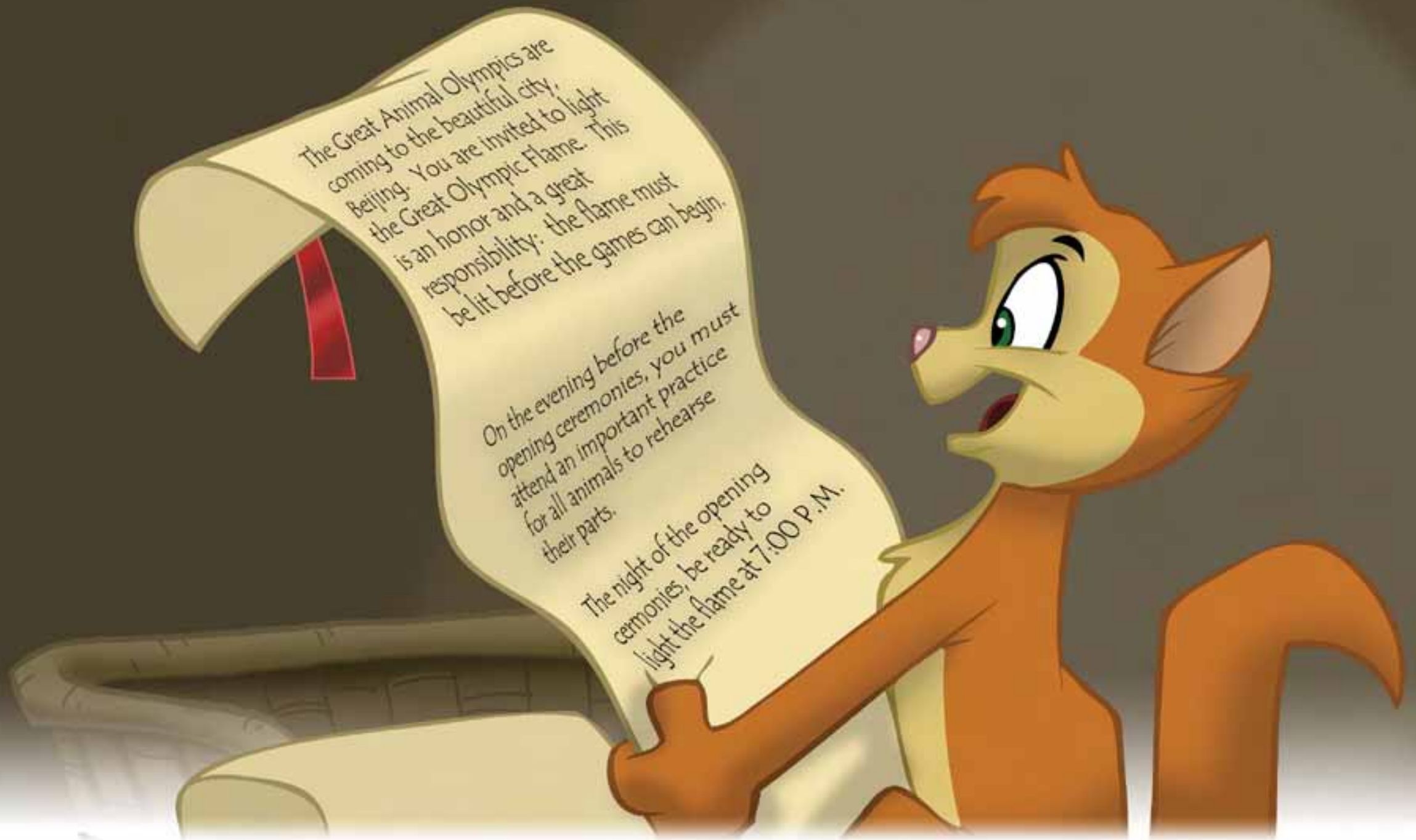
My friend, Tai Shan, is teaching me ping pong.







But I especially love to watch the Great Animal Olympics, where we set aside our animal differences and play games in peace.



So, when I was invited to light the Great Flame at the opening ceremonies . . .



. . . I ordered my plane ticket and started practicing right away.



Tai Shan came along to help me. “Hi, Faux Paw! While we’re in Beijing, let’s see the Forbidden City and, of course, the Great Wall!”



We set off for the Forbidden City. On the way, I saw a sign: “Check your email. Play a game.”

“Look at that, Tai Shan! You go on ahead. I’ll just be a few minutes.”



“Look at all these games! I’ll just take a quick peek at Worlds of CatWar.”



“Ooo-la-la. This is incredible!” I said.

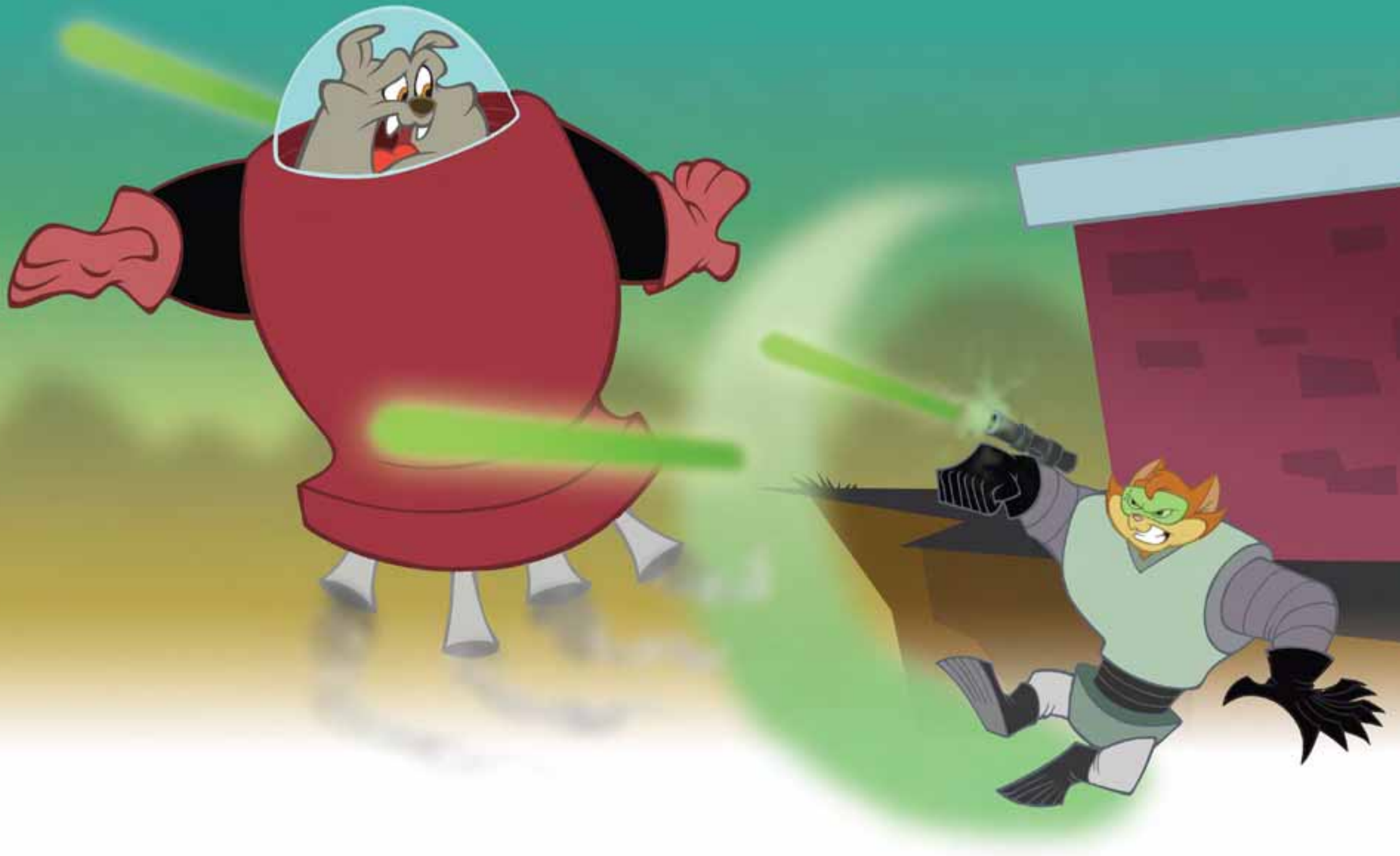
Then I heard a familiar voice. “Hello, Faux Paw,” he said. “I’d recognize your voice anywhere,” he said. It was Happy Fluffy Kittyface—he’s no happy, fluffy kitty, that’s for sure! “How about a game of CatWars?” he tempted.



“No thanks, Kittyface. I know better than to talk to Internet strangers.”

“But I’m not a stranger,” he replied. “You know exactly who I am. I’m not asking you to meet me in person. I just want to play a game.”





“Well, . . . maybe just one little game.”

As soon as I logged in, I knew I was a natural. Kittyface came after me, and I zapped him with my laser. This was much better than meeting in person!



In the game, I quickly earned superpowers. I could leap over big trucks and small buildings. My paws had nine claws each! I was strong. I was amazing. I was powerful.



Right in the middle of my game—ding!—I got a text message from Tai Shan. “Faux Paw, you missed the Forbidden city. Meet me at the practice,” he wrote.



“But I just won nine lives, and Kittyface is on my tail! Go on without me! I’ll just be a little late!”

Back in the game, I captured whole cities. Other kitties online asked to join my army. I trained new recruits. We were invincible.





Ding! Not another message from Tai Shan!  
“Faux Paw, the animals are practicing. It looks tricky. They’re balancing on top of each other.”

“Fill in for me, okay, pal? I’ve got an emergency here.”



Back in the game, Kittyface had me surrounded, but we broke through to level three.



It was getting late, and I yawned.  
“Tired, Faux Paw?” said Kittyface. “You’re just a little kitty. Maybe you should rest.”  
“In your dreams,” I said. And I thought to myself, *I’ll just finish level three, then quit when I get to level four.*



# LEVEL FOUR

CATNIP  
CASTLE

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But, I didn't know how amazing level four would be...



At level five, I could barely keep my eyes open. “I think I need a cat nap,” I said to my troops. But, my team really needed me.

“You can’t leave now,” they said, “We’ll be slaughtered!”

Kittyface laughed. "I can play all night, Faux Paw. Hee, hee."



"We'll see who's still standing in the morning!" I said.



I don't know when morning came. I didn't notice.

I don't know when Tai Shan went to the Great Wall. . .



. . . I ignored his text message.





Back at the stadium, the Games were starting. The crowd had gathered, and the penguins were worried. “Where is Faux Paw?” they said.

“She’s too far away,” said Tai Shan. “She’ll never make it.”



The cheetahs—who had heard enough of this nonsense—offered to help. “Beijing is very big, but we are very fast. Will you take us to her?” And, off we raced.



Back in the game . . . at the end of level nine . . . I did it! I captured Kittyface. I put him in our highest prison tower and surrounded him in seven rings of fire.

“Mission accomplished!” I roared.





For just a moment, I thought I had done something very important.



Then behind me, I heard Tai Shan. “Faux Paw, your real friends need you, and your real life can’t wait for the game to end. Take your paws off the keyboard, and look away from the screen!”



Turning away from the computer, I saw the clock on the wall. "Oh, no! We'll never make it. My friends! The flame! I've let everyone down! The world is watching, and I'm going to disgrace us all!"



And there he was—Kittyface towering over me. “Hello, Faux Paw, how delightful! Hee, hee, hee.”



I tried to run, but my legs wouldn't work. "Help! Tai Shan!"  
"Follow me!" he said, "the cheetahs are waiting."



We bolted like lightening towards the stadium with Kittyface at our heels. He was so close, I could see his giant, white teeth.



So close, I could hear the buzz of his scooter.



So close, I could feel his doggy breath on the back of my neck. Passing the kite seller, Tai Shan hatched a plan.

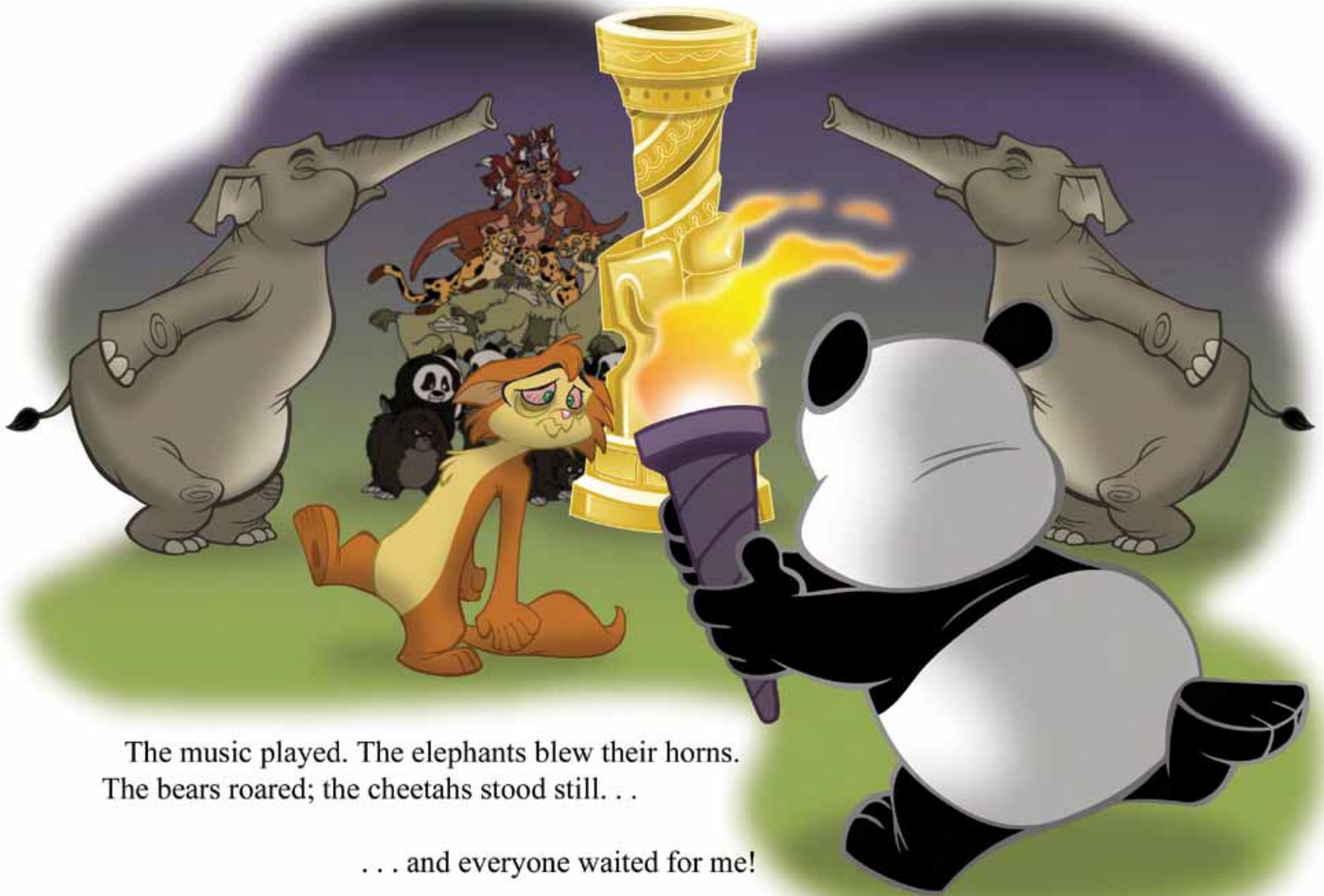




He took quick action just as his kites caught a favorable wind and threw Kittyface into the air.

When we arrived at the stadium,  
everyone was in place.





The music played. The elephants blew their horns.  
The bears roared; the cheetahs stood still. . .

. . . and everyone waited for me!



Tai Shan wiped his brow, “Hurry, Faux Paw, you still have time! Go light the flame.”  
“You were at the practice; you should do it.” I said.  
“We’ll light it together,” he said.



The crowd roared as the announcer called out, "Let the games begin!"



And that's the last thing I remember.



“Thanks, Tai Shan, I owe you . . . and the Cheetahs. I got my *real* life mixed up with my *online* life, and I almost missed the Olympics.

“It’s okay to play games once in a while. Just don’t let gaming get in the way of your real life goals, like being a good student . . .”

“... or a great athlete,” I said. “Now let’s get to work on my ping-pong. It’s really nice to have a real world friend.”

“... Hey, whatever happened to Kittyface?”



**UFO SPOTTED NEAR  
MOUNT EVEREST!!!**



**Locals Baffled**

**THE MORNING NEWS  
TIRED CAT LIGHTS  
FLAME... BARELY**



**Local Officials Discuss Internet Addiction**



# THE END

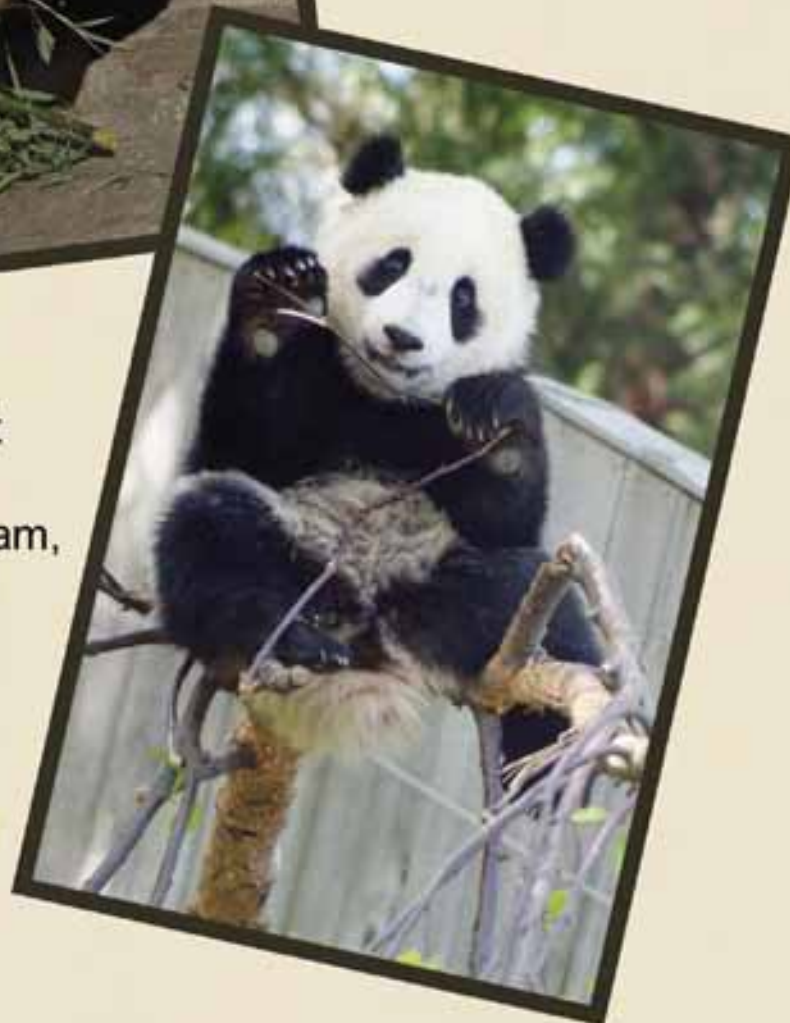


# MEET THE REAL TAI SHAN



To learn more about giant pandas, watch Tai Shan and his parents via webcam, and find out how you can help save giant pandas, visit the National Zoo's website at:

**[nationalzoo.si.edu](http://nationalzoo.si.edu)**



The real Tai Shan is a male giant panda born at the Smithsonian's National Zoo on July 9, 2005. The Zoo lent his name to Faux Paw's friend in China because giant pandas are native to that Asian country. Tai Shan means "peaceful mountain" in Chinese.

Just as Tai Shan helps save Faux Paw from the dangers of the Internet, scientists at the National Zoo are helping to save giant pandas from extinction. Giant pandas are endangered in China, where only about 1,600 individuals survive in the wild. About 220 live in zoos worldwide, including at the National Zoo. Scientists at the Zoo are leaders in studying and conserving giant pandas in zoos and in the wild.

Tai Shan and every zoo-born giant panda represent a significant step toward saving this beloved species. Tai Shan is also a conservation ambassador, helping to inspire people to care about the future of giant pandas and all endangered species and habitats.

Tai Shan's parents, father Tian Tian and mother Mei Xiang, came to the National Zoo from the Wolong Nature Reserve in China's Sichuan Province. China loaned these pandas so Zoo scientists could learn more about them, especially about their reproduction. What they learned led to the birth of Tai Shan following artificial insemination. Their scientific advances have also helped boost the number of giant pandas born at Wolong and other Chinese breeding centers.

It's important to breed pandas in zoos just in case their wild relatives should disappear. But Zoo scientists are working to prevent that. They are studying the giant panda's bamboo habitat in the mountains of central China and training Chinese conservationists to study and protect the black-and-white bears and their habitat.

# FAUX PAW

## Goes to the Games

Did you ever get your real life mixed up with your online life? I did, and wow, did it cause a problem!

Meet Faux Paw, the web-surfing Techno Cat who gets invited to light the flame at the Great Animal Olympics—"where we set aside our animal differences and play games in peace." When she gets distracted playing WcW online—Worlds of CatWars—will she make it to the opening ceremonies in time to light the Olympic Cauldron? Find out what it means to balance real life with screen time and what can happen when our online activities take over.

**Shelving Category: JUVENILE FICTION**

**Price: ???**

**ISBN: ?????**



**INSIDE:**

Meet the real Tai Shan, Faux Paw's new panda friend from the Smithsonian National Zoo who comes to the rescue when Faux Paw's online friends threaten to ruin her big moment.



The Internet Keep Safe Coalition is a broad partnership of governors, first spouses, attorneys general, law enforcement, education, medical, and health organizations dedicated to keeping children safe online and providing resources to parents and educators that will ensure the safe and healthy use of technology and the internet.

Find video tutorials and educator resources at

[www.iKeepSafe.org](http://www.iKeepSafe.org)