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Socks

Beverly Cleary

Is Socks ready for a baby to join the family?
Socks

by Beverly Cleary

Adapted from the original text, Socks, by Beverly Cleary and Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers
The little girl sat in front of the market with a box of kittens for sale.

One of the kittens had white paws.

He kept trying to climb out of the box. The little girl had named him Socks.
A mom with 3 children came by and the boy wanted the kitten with the white paws. The mom said yes and the other boy grabbed him and then shoved him into a nearby mailbox then they left.

Socks was frightened in the mailbox.
box, but the mailman came by and got him out.

A couple named the Brickers came by and the woman, whose name was Marilyn, asked her husband, Bill, if they could have Socks. Bill said he had always wanted a kitten but his
mom didn't like cats. They took Socks home.
The Brickers spoiled Socks. They made him a bed in the laundry but let him sleep on the couch. They fed him dry and wet food and pieces of meat. They let Socks play with ping pong balls. Socks purred.
because he was happy. Socks also liked to sleep on Marilyn's lap. One day Socks noticed that Marilyn's lap was getting too small for him. Bill offered his lap to Socks, but Socks was not happy with his owners. If they really loved him they would get
him a snack from the refrigerator. But

Marilyn told Bill it was time to go.

Socks was made that no one was paying attention to him so he started to claw at the chair. Bill picked him up and tossed Socks into the dark laundry room. Socks yowled and
yowled but they had left.

Over the next few days, Bill would come and throw food in his dish but left him alone to look out the window. Socks was scared. The ringing phone and the doorbell all scared him and he hid under the

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bed. He didn't want to play with his ping pong ball and didn't want to eat.

Finally Marilyn was home and that made Socks happy until he saw there was something in her arms. Socks was upset because he thought they brought home a new pet.

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Socks ignored them until he saw Marilyn sitting on the couch with the new pet. He tried to share her lap, but he was lifted onto the floor instead. The new pet cried and was fed on her lap. Socks was jealous. The new pet's name was
Charles Williams and he fell asleep on her lap.

After they put Charles Williams in his crib, Bill got a bowl and gave Socks the rest of his bottle but Socks was still sad the Brickers had a new pet.
Chapter 3  Socks and the Formula

With a baby in the house, Socks' meals were never on time.

The washing machine and dryer ran all the time. Everyone that came to visit wanted to see the baby and not Socks. At least Socks got the leftover
milk. Socks was lazy and sad with no one to play ping pong ball with.

One day Uncle, Mike, and Aunt came by to visit. Uncle took off his hat the threw it over Socks. The baby cried when he saw Uncle. They brought the baby a stuffed bear for a
gift. Mike sat in the corner making scary cat and dog noises at Socks.

Uncle noticed that Socks was getting fat when he picked him up. Socks ran away and hid. Bill didn't give Socks his milk that night because he was now fat. Socks was hungry and

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kept bothering the Brickers for food

and he stole their dinner off the counter and ran and hid under the bed to eat it, but Socks was still sad.
The evening the babysitter came

Socks woke up hungry now that he didn't get any milk. He would sit in front of the refrigerator all day and get no scraps, plus Bill kept trying to make him exercise. Socks was so hungry that he started...
stalking slippers and Charles Williams stuffed bear. "Bad Socks, leave that bear alone" said Marilyn. Socks went outside to visit Tiffy who lived next door. Tiffy said "Hi Socks, are you hungry?" Tiffy got a snack for Socks but he didn't like and
went home, climbing in the window.

He saw Marilyn and Bill all dressed up. Socks wondered if they were going to feed him? Bill got Socks 4 pieces of meat. The doorbell rang & and Mrs. Risley the sitter came in.

Socks went over to sniff her bag.
Mrs. Risley called Socks Skeezix, and also told him what a handsome cat he was. The Brickers went out.

Mrs. Risley kept baby busy and started brushing Socks. "Poor Skeezix, a new baby means no time for you".

Mrs. Risley went to cook her dinner.
and gave Socks a bite. She put the baby to bed and took out her knitting.

Socks jumped up into her lap while she patted his fur. Socks fell asleep happy that someone was paying attention to him.
One day Marilyn started cleaning and cooking. Socks didn't like the way the kitchen floor smelled or the stuff on his paws from walking on it. He was afraid of the vacuum.

Bill came home with Nana.
Nana only wanted to see the baby, and was not happy to see a cat. Nana was Bill's mother and didn't like cats. Nana tried to tell Bill that Charles Williams might be allergic or the cat could scratch him. But Bill said no, Socks is part of the family.
Nana sat down to do some knitting. Socks tried to jump up next to her to get a better look but Nana pushed him down.

At night, Nana slept on the couch and Socks was locked in the laundry room. Socks was unhappy and
yowled all night, threw his food and kitty litter around, but no one cared.

One night, Socks realized the door was not shut tight and snuck out. He saw Nana on the couch sleeping and her suitcase open, but he also saw something up on the desk. When
Socks got closer, he realized it was Nana's hair!! He patted at it, then wrestled with it. He tossed it in the air and rolled around with it until he got bored and fell asleep. Nana woke up and was not happy with Socks. Nana tried to fix her
wig. Bill and Marilyn were making breakfast and noticed Nana's hair was messy. Nana blamed Socks. Socks was waiting for his breakfast. Socks grew impatient and bit at Marilyn's feet so they would feed him. Marilyn got really angry at Socks and Bill.
threw him outside. Socks looked in the window and was sad.
Tiffy asked Bill if he still liked Socks because he was outside all the time now. Bill said we can't have a cat that bites with a baby so now he sleeps in the garage. Tiffy asked Socks if he wanted to come and live.
with her. Socks was sad. The birds took his food, he was afraid of the milkman and mean old Taylor.

One rainy morning Socks saw old Taylor eating his food. Socks went over to get his food and old Taylor starting fighting with Socks. He bit
Socks and they wrestled in the mud. Socks was bleeding and he ran away into the garage and started crying.

Marilyn opened the back door and saw him hurt and bleeding. Bill picked him out and they tried to dry him off. "Poor Socks" said Marilyn "it's
all our fault for making you live outside." Charles Williams started crying, but Marilyn and Bill said "Socks needs us right now". They decided that Socks could stay in the house. The baby started saying "TickyTicky". Socks understood that the baby was
trying to say kitty. The Brickers also noticed and this was baby's first word. Socks sat on the dryer cleaning himself off and licking his wounds. Even when woman offered him some meat, Socks was not interested. He laid down and went to sleep.

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7 &

7 Socks and Charles William

Socks was now back in the house.

The baby was crawling around now and trying to stand up and walk.

Charles William would cry and shake his playpen to get out and this scared Socks. Socks would run to
Marilyn told her to stop the baby from crying.

The baby was into everything. He would throw Socks' food all over the floor and chew on things. Charles William also liked crawling after Socks saying "Ticky".

Socks would run and hide sometimes.
and Marilyn would tell Charles William that Socks was tired.

One afternoon, Marilyn had put Charles William into his crib for his nap. Marilyn laid down on the couch to also take a nap. Charles William threw the bottle out of

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the crib and the top came off and spilled milk all over the floor.

Socks walked by and saw this and decided to clean up the milk.

Charles William got up on his knees and started rocking in the crib. The crib started to move so
Charles William rocked more to make it move. Soon the crib was across the room and Charles William pushed shut the door. Charles William rocked more and the crib blocked the door.

Charles William started pulling his blanket apart and throwing the stuffing

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onto the floor for the cat to play with.

Socks thought this was great fun.

Charles William laughed at Socks as he pounced and chased the fluff.

Marilyn woke up at the noise and tried to open the door but it was
blocked by the crib. Socks was laying down so Charles William threw his bear to him to play with.

Charles William then figured out how to turn his light on and off and on and off. Marilyn still couldn't open the door and was getting scared.

Adapted from the original text, *Socks*, by Beverly Cleary and Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers
Charles William started tearing off pieces of his wallpaper. Charles William kept laughing and laughing until he just got too tired and laid down and went to sleep. Socks decided to hop up into the crib and go to sleep too. Marilyn was climbing a ladder outside.

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to get in through the window and saw Socks in the crib with Charles William. Marilyn was happy that Charles William had made friends with Socks and let him stay there. Socks was finally happy.