

# THE STORY OF GINK



BY JAMES ZIMMER



HOT STUFF

GINK

# THE STORY OF GINK



BY JAMES ZIMMER

I dedicate this story to anyone  
who likes cats.

## Introduction

This story is not true. In fact it is quite impossible. Any resemblance of the characters with anyone living or dead is purely coincidental.

# The Story of Gink

## Chapter I The Beginning

It began when, on a cold and frosty morning, Gink was born. At first he was just a little wolly-polly ball of fur, hardly recognizable as a kitten.

His mother, Amanda, was quite an old cat and hadn't had kittens for several years, so she was overwhelmed with her baby kitten.

Amanda and Gink's owner was a kindly old lady. Miss Matilda Abrams loved her cats very much.

## Chapter II

### Things Begin To Happen

Gink grew to be a fine young cat - until he was about 1 year old. Then things began to happen.

Gink's mother had died two months after his birth.

One afternoon in the winter Miss Matilda was reading a book about a cat that ran away to join the Catnip Navy.

She slowly dozed off to sleep and Gink climbed up into her lap. He saw the book and decided to look it over. Just as he was coming to the part where the cat went home, Matilda woke up. So Gink hopped off her lap.

The next day, when Gink went out to play, he met Hot Stuff the Alley Cat. He told Hot Stuff about the story he had read the day before. They talked it over.

"Wouldn't it be swell if we could run away.

and join the Catnip Navy?" remarked Hot Stuff.

"Well—" began Gink.

"Say," said Hot Stuff excitedly, "do you want to try to join?"

"W- Well I kinda hate to leave Miss Matilda," said Gink.

"Aw, heck, Gink, after all, you've got to grow up and seek a fortune sometime, you know," pleaded Hot Stuff.

"Yes, I guess your right," admitted Gink.

"Gee, Gink, I'm gonna join!" stated Hot Stuff excitedly. "You can leave a note to Miss Matilda and we can slip out during the night with a few things we will need."

"I don't like to run away, but I guess I'll sign on a ship for a voyage and see how I like it."

"Sure, we can join as Apprentice Seacats and say, speaking of seacats, I heard that the good ship Hepcat is at ancor down at the docks. We could see if we could enlist in the crew right now!" whispered

Hot stuff joyfully.

"O.K., come on!" said Gink and the cats ran as fast as they could to the docks.

3

### Chapter III

#### Sink and Hot Stuff Enlist

"Sir, could you tell me where we could find the Hepcat?" Hot Stuff asked of an elderly cat mending a net.

"Third pier to the left, son," replied the old cat.

In no time the cats were standing beside the good ship Hepcat, addressing a fat middle-aged cat with a lot of gold braid on his uniform. "Sir, could you tell me where the captain is?" questioned Hot Stuff.

"You're addressing him now, son, Captain Pussin Boots in person, the captain of the Catnip Navy's good ship Hepcat. Now then, what did you want?" replied Captain Pussin Boots.

"Well," said Hot Stuff, hesitating, "we wanted to know to know if we could join your crew as Apprentice Secats."

"Speak o' the devil," answered the captain, "I

was just thinkin' that I needed two more deck  
hands to fill out the crew, when you fellers came  
along. We sail tonight at 8:00 so you cats had  
better get yer stuff ready. Oh, wait, I'll have to take  
your names and sign you on the crew."

The usual red tape of taking names, ages,  
occupations, etc. followed, after which the cats  
went home excitedly. Before they parted they  
agreed that "mum" was the word.

## IV The Cats Run Away

Gink could hardly contain himself that afternoon. He chose a few treasured belongings such as a jackknife, looking glass, whistle, small rubber ball and a rabbit's foot for good luck, to take with him.

After dinner he went up to his room and started to write a note to Miss Matilda. Then he felt a lump in his throat. It was growing bigger and bigger. Gink put his head in his paws and cried softly to himself, as he thought of the nice comfortable home he was leaving behind, and of Miss Matilda. Then he bit his tongue and said to himself, "If I'm g-gonna be a s-sailor I can't c-ry like this." Five minutes later he had finished his note which read-

Dear Miss Matilda:

I will be miles away when you read this note. Hot stuff and I have decided that we must go out into the world to seek our fortunes, and this is <sup>sometime</sup>

the time. We signed up on the Hepcat. Please  
don't worry about us. I will be a good cat and come  
home to see you as soon as our first voyage is over.

Your faithful cat,

Gink.

It was then about 7:30. Miss Matilda had gone  
to bed at seven and was now asleep. Gink tiptoed into  
her room and laid the note beside her bed. Then he  
went to his room, got his bridle and tiptoed stealthily  
out of the house.

Just as he was running along the pier he met  
Hot Stuff.

"Hi," he said, "did you write your note?"

"Sure," replied Gink. "Well, here we come,  
Catnip Navy, you've got two recruits."

## Chapter II The Voyage

"Gee, I bettcha we become Admirals before long, Sink," Hot Stuff spoke the thought that had been uppermost in his mind for almost all of that day.

"I wouldn't be a bit surprised," said a voice from behind them. The cats turned in surprise to see Captain Pussy Boots standing behind them.

"Oh, hellos, sir," they said in unison. Whereupon they both saluted smartly.

"Well, hop aboard, fellers," said the captain in reply. He returned their salute.

As soon as they were on board the captain said, "Come into the cabin and I'll give you your uniforms and tell you your duties."

The cats were given thier uniforms and assigned duties and sleeping quarters. "I guess you fellows can turn in now, as I have enough men to cast away the boat," finished the captain.

"Thank you, sir, but we'd like to see the boat shove off, if you don't mind," replied Gink.

"A.K., I'll see you in the morning," said the captain. "Good night."

"Good night, sir," returned the cats.

Gink and Hot Stuff watched the boat shove off, silently. They were thinking about home.

They didn't sleep very well that night for very natural reasons.

The next morning they arose bright and early. They met the captain at mess. He introduced them to an old sailor who was to instruct them in the art of sailing. His name was Gussy.

The first day on the boat seemed very pleasant. The young sailor's duties as deck hands were surprisingly easy. They learned from the captain, that they were bound for southern Argentina at which the cats were delighted.

The voyage to Argentina took about 2 weeks. By the end of the first week the cats had become

amazingly skillful in their jobs as sailors. The captain commented on their good work. "You are due for a promotion soon, boys," he said.

• • • • •

The afternoon they sighted their destination in Argentina, the captain called his crew together. He gave the men permission to go ashore for four hours. The crew was divided into groups of eight men. Each group went ashore at a different time. Link and Hot Stuff's time was from 7 to 11 o'clock that night.



## Chapter VI

### Shore Leave

Gink and Hot Stuff hurried through their dinner with the expectation of going ashore.

Finally 7:00 came.

Gink, Hot Stuff and a few other sailors went to a night club. They drank coconut milk and watched some very pretty South American cats dance. One asked Gink to dance the Rumba, which he did as he had not danced for a long time.

Gink and Hot Stuff left the night club about 10 o'clock. They walked along a pier. As they walked they noticed a flickering candle in an apparently deserted shack. They crept along and peeped into a window. Gathered around an old table were five very tuff looking cats. Gink and Hot Stuff heard what they were saying.

"Say, Spike," said one, "I heard da fish market just got a new shipment a' fish."

"How 'bout liftin' em' tonight, fellas,"  
suggested another.

"O.K." replied the rest.

"We'll rob it at 10:45," ordered their leader.

That was all Gink and Hot Stuff needed to know. They ran as fast as they could to the police station.

## Chapter VII

### A Staring Capture

When they reached the police station they couldn't see anyone around, except an old man. They asked him where the police were. He said something in Spanish.

"I know a little Spanish," said Hot Stuff, "I'll ask him."

After many motions and words in Spanish and English, the old man told them that it had been a holiday and the police were away.

"Well pull my tail and call me Uncle Zeke," Hot Stuff said with much disgust, "a fine police force!"

"I'll say," replied Link. "I guess we'll have to capture the robbers ourselfs. Well, come on, we haven't any time to lose. It's twenty of eleven now."

"But how can we capture them. We haven't any guns or—" began Hot Stuff.

"Wait, I have a plan," interrupted Link excitedly. He quickly told his plan to Hot Stuff.

Three minutes later the cats were hidden behind some bushes beside the fish market

At exactly 10:45, five forms crept quietly up to the door of the fish market. Just as they were about to pick the lock on the door, a voice shouted from behind them, "Stick 'em up!"

Five pairs of paws shot up.

"I don't shoot," said one of the very much frightened robbers, "we give up."

The two young sailors stepped from behind the bushes. Bulges showed in their pockets. Quite obviously guns.

In less time than it takes to tell about it, the robbers were being hustled up the gang-plank of the Hepcat.

Ten minutes later the captain was addressing Gink and Hot Buff in his cabin. "Boys," he said, "how did you ever do it?"

"Well, sir," answer Gink, "we found sticks and put them in our pockets to look like guns and - well, I guess

you know the rest."

"Boys, I am happy to present you both with the rank of Chief Petty-Cat for your good conduct on board and your brave and intelligent capture of the thieves!"

"Gee, we don't know what to say," returned the young cats, blushing, as they heard applause from behind them and turned to see the crew standing there.

## Chapter VIII Home Again

Word was sent ahead of the boat to Chief Petty-Cat Gink and Hot Stuff's home town.

There was a band and all the people of the town were on the dock to meet them. There was a grand party that night at which the mayor presented the young sailors with gold medals.

There is no need for relating the joy in which Miss Matilda received Chief Petty-Cat Gink.

That night Gink and Hot Stuff went to bed, the happiest cats in the world.

