### Clara Vulliamy

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## Dotty Detective



HarperCollins Children's Books

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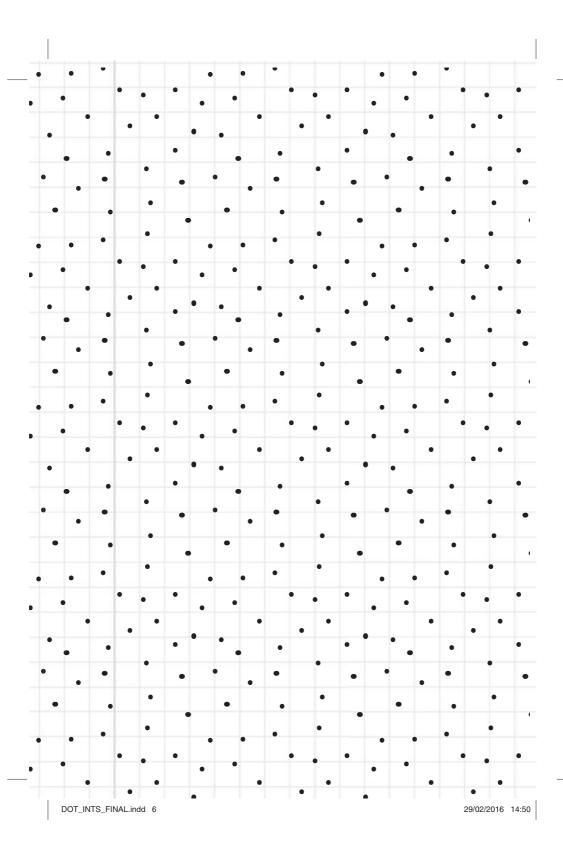
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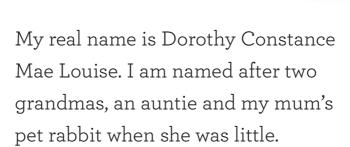


#### SUNDAY



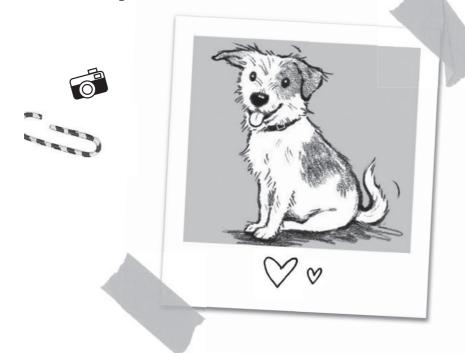


This is me!



But everybody calls me Dot.

This is McClusky. I am his very best pal.



We moved into our new flat today – me, the twins, McClusky and Mum.



#### Right now I am in my new bedroom!

My stuff is mostly still in boxes, but I manage to find my best pyjamas with flamingos on, AND my extra-tricky puzzle book for bedtime.

McClusky is running round and round smelling every single new thing and barking. You're a CRAZY GUY, McClusky!

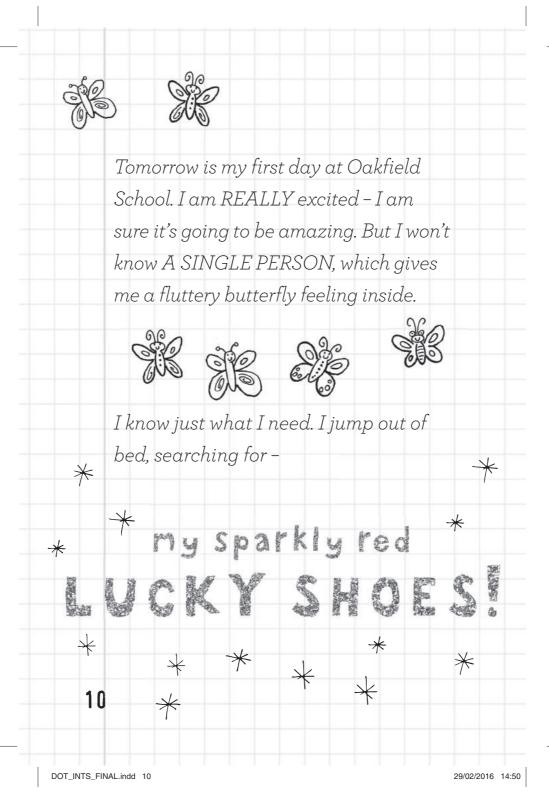


I'm snuggled down in bed now, wide awake. I can't close the curtains because there aren't any yet.









I'll just put them here...



...ready for the morning.

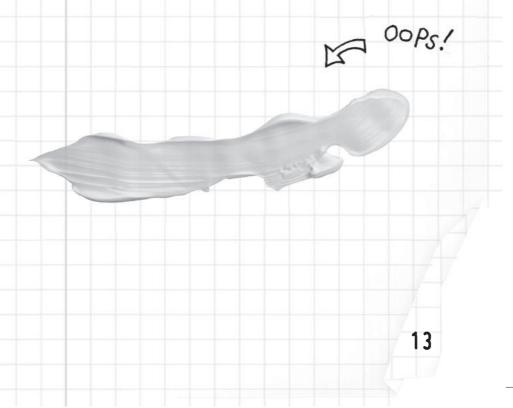


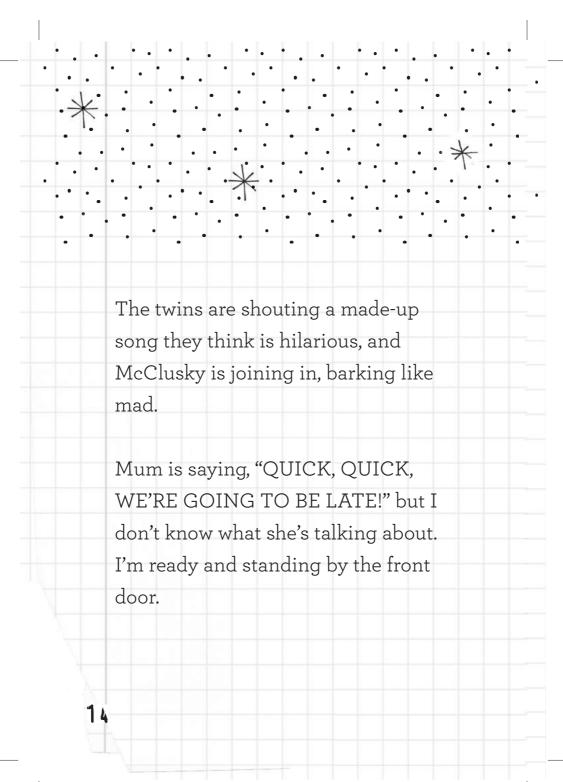


Today's the day!

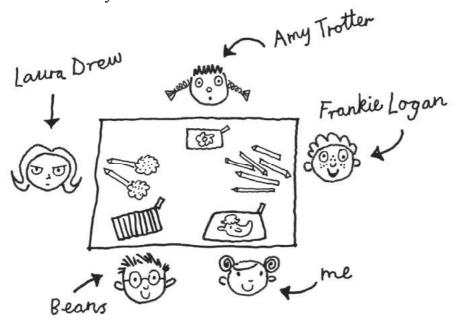


Total chaos in the kitchen. Everybody rushing. I grab some toast. Mum says, "Pick up your lunchbox and good luck and be friendly and wipe that toothpaste off your jumper!"





Hurrying to school. We have to walk very fast. I am a TOTAL BLUR. But I feel GOOD in my red lucky shoes! McClusky whines and whimpers at the school gate. He is going to miss me a LOT. 15 In my new classroom!



My teacher is Mr Dickens. His eyes are a bit googly and he is very smiley. If he had a tail, he'd be wagging it.

Mr Dickens says, "YAY! This is Dot. She's the new kid in town – everybody say HI!"

He talks in a way I was not expecting AT ALL.

On my table there is Frankie Logan, who wriggles all the time and tips his chair. "You've got ants in your pants, Frankie Logan!" says Mr D.

There is Amy Trotter, who is quiet and has very neat plaits.

And there is Laura Drew. She has glittery pens with fluffy pompoms on top. Her friends have them too, exactly the same.

I sit next to a boy who is called BEANS even though his real name is Ben.

I ask him why everybody calls him that. He says it's because he likes beans! Oh, OK!

My pencil case has ducks wearing shower caps on it. Mum says it's really a sponge bag, but they are the







same thing and no one will notice.

"That's a sponge bag," says Laura Drew.

Breaktime. Eating my pineapple slices and exploring in the playground. I can't see anyone from my class because it's so crowded.

In Maths, which I'm good at, Mr D looks at my worksheet and says, "FAB!"

Lunchtime. Most of my class are sitting in groups already. I find an empty









seat. Having my lunch and doing a wordsearch in my puzzle book.

After lunch, Mr D tells us about the school CLUBS. There is:







For tea we have curry straight out of the foil dishes because we can't find any plates with all the unopened boxes.



Later, I squeeze through my bedroom door, which can only open a little bit because of all the boxes still piled up. I unpack more of my stuff.

Hello, stuff!
I've got the BEST collection
of stickers and spotty
notebooks and special

# pens and different kinds of string, and paperclips in every size and colour. Mum says I have a stationery obsession

bordering on SEVERE.



While I'm arranging my collection and sorting out my desk, I think about my first day at Oakfield School. I guess it's like when we first got McClusky and he needed time to get to know his new home. (Not that I'm like McClusky was then - he went berserk when he first heard the vacuum cleaner and hid under the sofa for three days!)

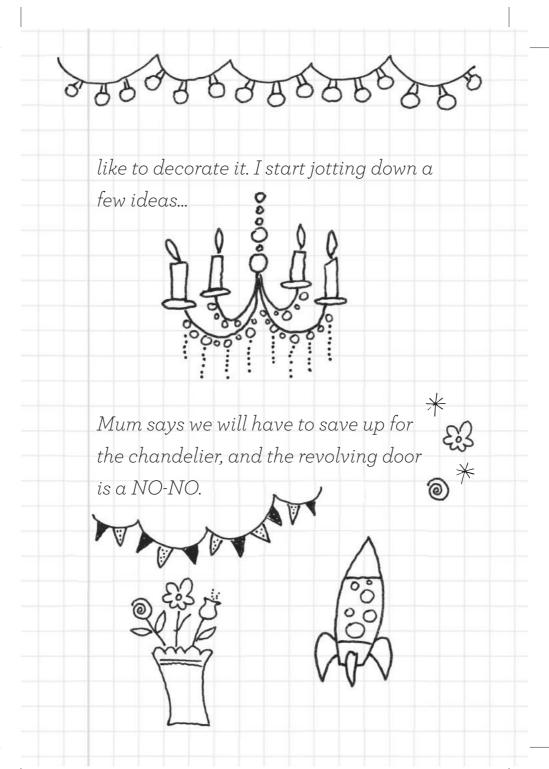
I KNOW I'm going to really love it.

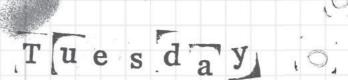
I just need time to settle in.

And to settle into my new room too.

It's very plain so I think about how I'd







The twins (Alf and Maisy) have cereal boxes on their heads and are pretending to be robots.

They are so noisy it's hard to believe there are only two of them – I can't help laughing.

Mum says, "HURRY UP WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN!" but now she can't find her keys.

I'm brilliant at finding things. Here they are, under McClusky's dribbledon squeaker.





But anyway, that's a LUCKY SIGN. It's going to be a good day.

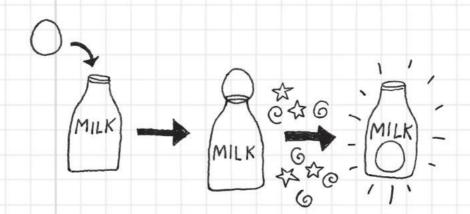
Lining up to go into our classroom...

Laura says she is starting a club but it is INVITATION ONLY. She has a glittery pink notebook for the club rules.

Amy is looking like she doesn't mind whether or not she's invited (she isn't), but I think maybe she does.

In Science, we are doing weather.

Mr D tells us about air pressure and does a BRILLIANT experiment with a milk bottle and a boiled egg.



Lunchtime. Having my lunch and doing a tricky maze in my puzzle book.

In ICT Frankie Logan sticks a rubber



spider's leg up his nose and now he has a nosebleed. "CALAMITY CUSTARD!" says Mr D.



Back home and getting my homework done super-speedily (Mum says it looks like McClusky did it).

Now I can watch my favourite
TV programme EVER, which is

#### FRED FANTASTIC - ACE DETECTIVE.

There are lots of dastardly villains on the mean streets of the big city, getting up to mischief. It's up to Fred