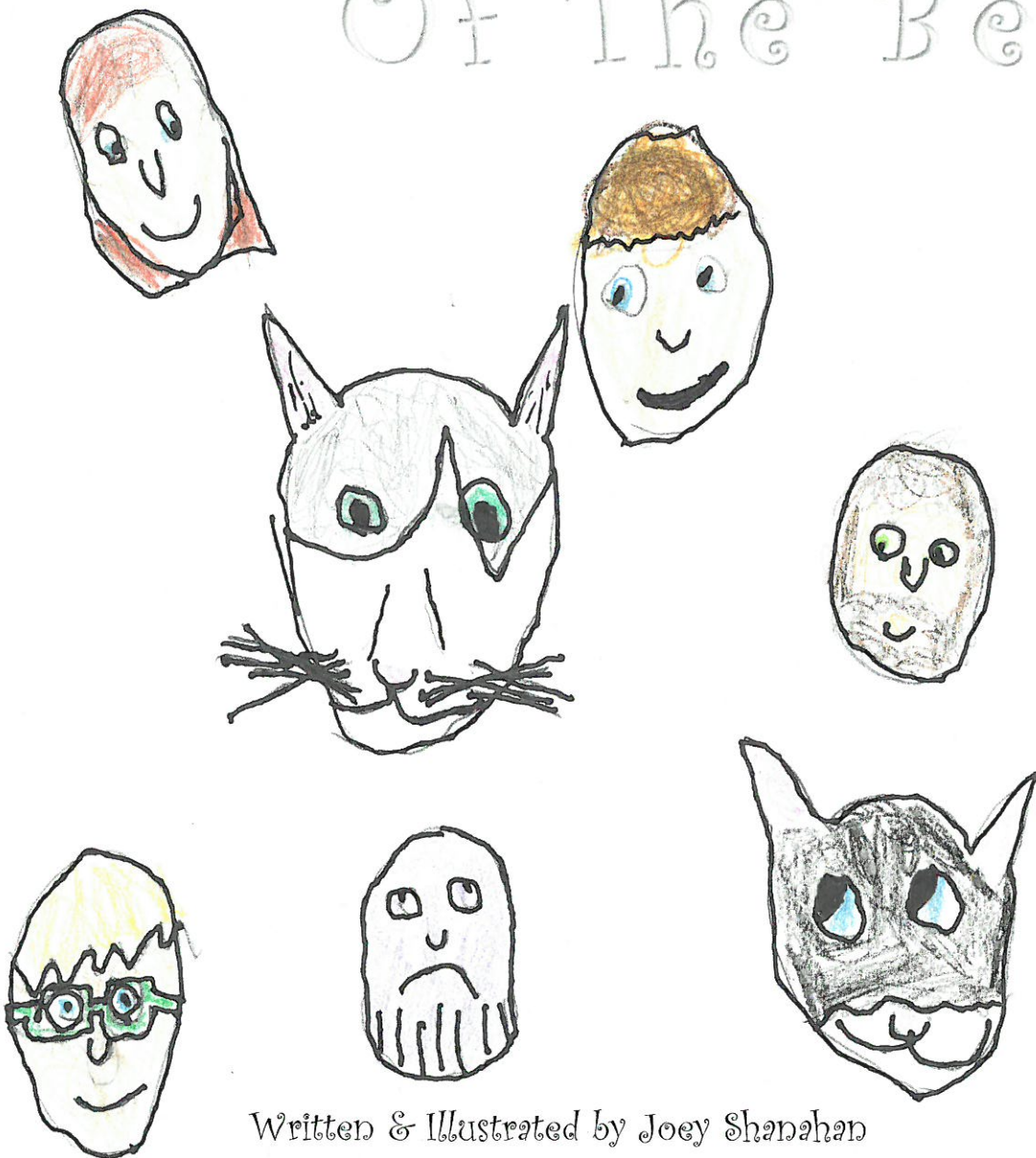


# The When Of The Ben



Written & Illustrated by Joey Shanahan

## The When of the Ben

Benny stood in the cat carrier, wondering why he was moving away from home. The cat carrier was clutched in Michelle's mighty palm, beside her strode her son, Joey. Benny was shivering with watered eyes from pressure and worry, mostly because he knew nothing about where the humans were planning to take him. He could be going to that place that made him sleepy, he could go to some crazy cat lady's house. All he knew was that he was in a car, going to a place unknown.

The whole ride turned out to be pretty mellow for Joey and Michelle, though Benny felt very depressed and was ready to call his mom. "Meow!" Benny cried. Michelle's heart remained in one piece, yet Joey's small amount of spirit was shattered by the cat's meow. "I want to take Benny back!" Joey whined, "He wants his mommy!" "No," Michelle stated "we've got him, and we're taking him home". Soon, they arrived. Benny was confused why they all were at a new house and not his home.

By the smell of things, there was a very unfamiliar cat and another human in this new house. Benny wandered everywhere, up high, down low, near your toes, just everywhere in the living room. Soon he decided to venture upstairs, up there Benny met the elderly Nivea. Nivea's first reaction was to discourage Benny using a hiss and a growl. Benny felt unsafe and sprinted downstairs into a gap in between two dressers that fit Benny perfectly and conveniently, Nivea didn't fit.

Here Benny was, without a chance to go back in the car, meow for his mom, and be back at home. He was at his new home, probably unsafe with Nivea around. He needed to know more about this new destination. What Benny didn't know was that Nivea would pass away, he would climb a Christmas tree, he would grow to love his owners and have a happy life. And most of all, he would be a good cat, no matter how annoying he was.

By Joey Shanahan