

Mike, The Cat

by Kevin D. Hendricks

Introduction

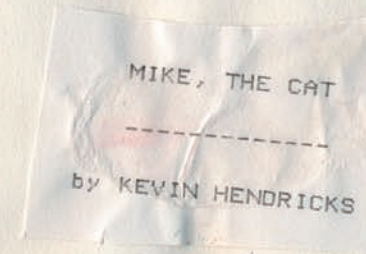
Sometime in the spring of 1986 during first grade I wrote and illustrated the book *Mike, The Cat*. It tells the story of the heroic cat, Mike, who wakes everyone up when their alarm clocks don't go off. The book went on to win the illustrious Scotchcott Award.

The truth is these blank picture books were purchased and my entire class (and probably much of the school, I don't remember) wrote and illustrated our own books. We paired up with a third grader to write the actual story, typed out the copy on a computer and printed it ALL CAPS style on a dot matrix printer, and then illustrated it. It was quite the project. And I loved it.

Mike was fashioned after my own cat, Skeeter, though she was much too lazy to bother waking anyone else up. Nor did she ever go for walks. The illustrations were modeled after my house and my family (though it appears I wrote my brother out of the story—sorry Rick).

I wanted to be a writer as far back as I can remember, so it seems appropriate to share my very first story. In all its terrible glory. Enjoy.

thanks,
Kevin D. Hendricks
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Originally published in 1986.

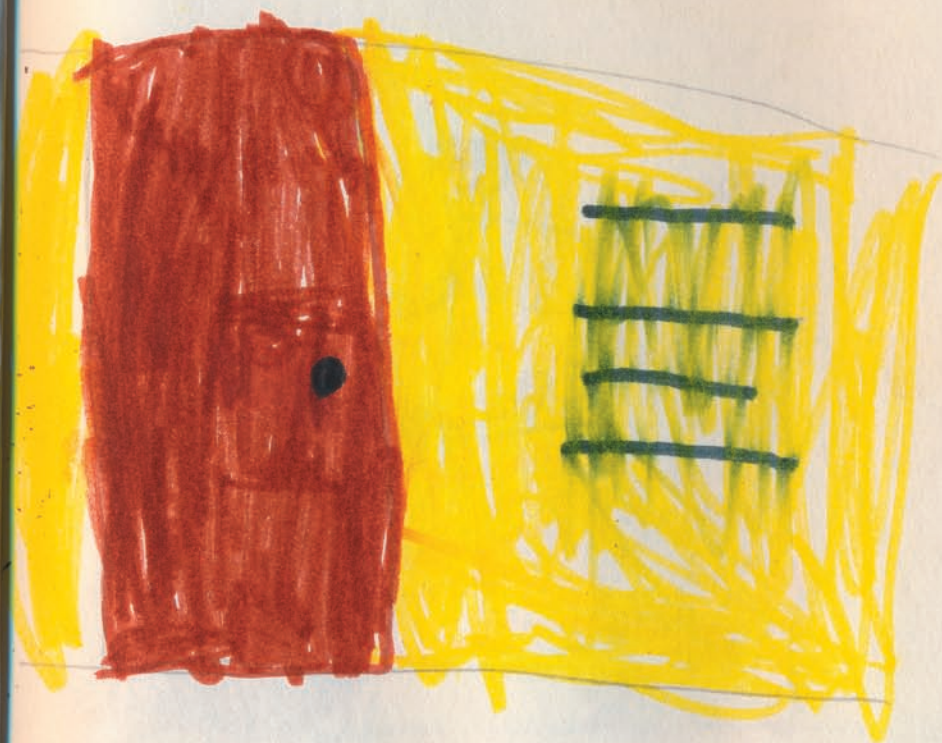
Republished in 2008 in honor of 10 years of blogging at
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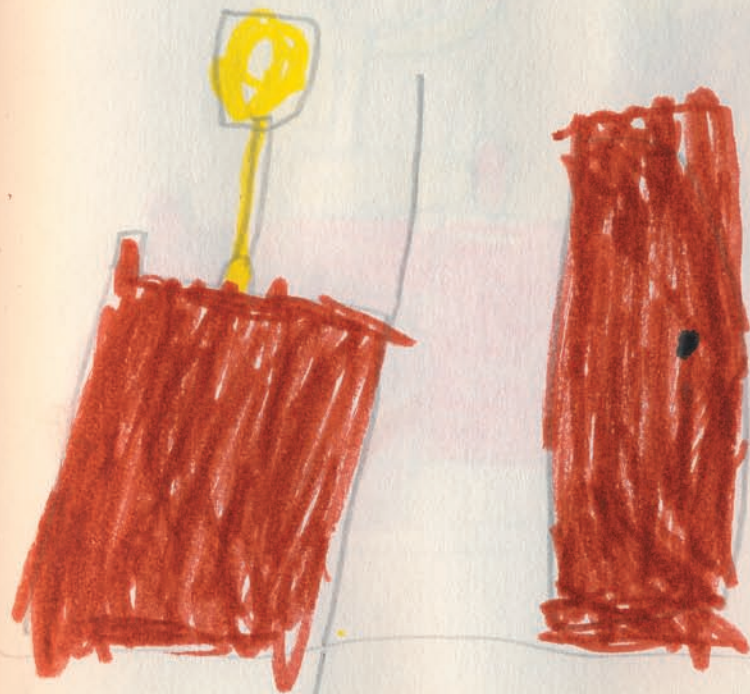
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE
WAS A CAT NAMED MIKE. HE
WANTED TO BE ALONE ALL
THE TIME.



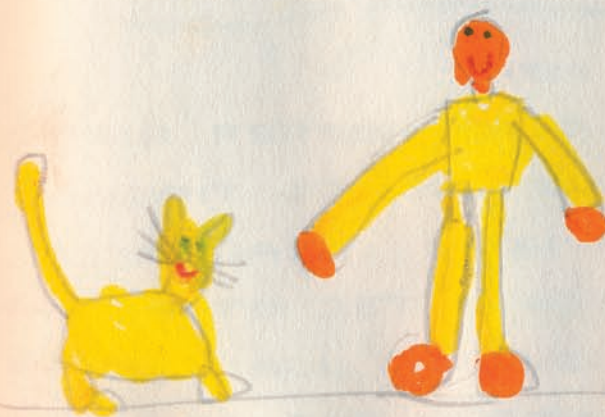
ONE MORNING
MIKE WAS GETTING HUNGRY,
SO HE MADE HIS OWN
BREAKFAST. AFTER MIKE
WAS DONE WITH HIS
BREAKFAST HE LOOKED AT
THE CLOCK, IT WAS 9:00 IN
THE MORNING.



MIKE WENT
BACK UPSTAIRS. EVERYONE
WAS STILL SLEEPING. NO
ONE WAS WORKING SO MIKE
TRIED TO GET EVERYONE UP,
BUT THEY WOULDN'T.



MIKE
STARTED TO CRY. MIKE
JUMPED ON THE BED AND
STARTED TO WALK.



THEY SAID, "IT IS NOT A
WORKDAY!" MIKE SAID, "IT
IS MONDAY!"



THEN THE
OTHER PERSON SAID, "OH, I
THOUGHT IT WAS SATURDAY."

MIKE SAID, "HOW ARE YOU
GOING TO GET EVERYONE
UP?" "ALL I HAVE TO DO
IS MAKE THE ALARM GO
OFF", HE ANSWERED. THEN
EVERYONE GOT UP AND SAID
THANK YOU FOR WAKING US
UP.



MIKE SAID, "IT WAS
NOTHING!" THEY SAID
"WHY DON'T WE GET
DRESSED."



AFTER THEY GOT
DRESSES THEY WENT
DOWNSTAIRS TO EAT
BREAKFAST.



WHEN THEY
WERE DONE THEY TOOK MIKE
FOR A WALK.



AFTER THEY
TOOK MIKE FOR A WALK THEY
WENT TO WORK.



**Monkey
Outta Nowhere.com**
Trained to write, edit & roller-skate.

