



Ahlberg & Ross

# Miss Dirt the Dustman's Daughter



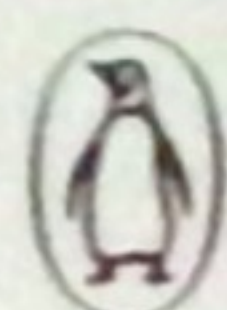
A favourite **HAPPY FAMILIES** story

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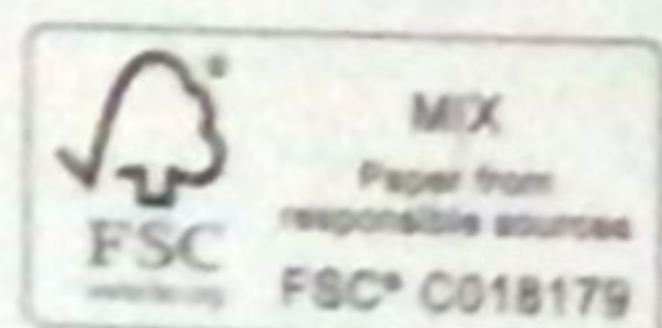
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Daisy Dirt was an unusual girl.  
She was the poorest  
*and* the richest girl  
in the whole town.



Daisy had lots to wear  
and nothing to wear;  
a huge room of her own  
and a tiny room of her own.

She had a little dog



, and a big dog,

a little hamster  
and a big h . . . .



horse.



A big dinner . . .  
and a *very* big dinner!



You see, Daisy lived  
half the time with her dad  
and half the time with her mum.



Daisy's dad was a dustman.  
He was a divorced dustman on the dole.  
"What's 'on the dole' mean, Dad?"  
said Daisy.  
"'On the dole' means: out of work –  
no money – skint!" her dad said.




Daisy's mum was a duchess.  
She had got married again – to a duke.  
He was a dozy duke in a Daimler.  
"What's a 'Daimler', Mum?" said Daisy.

“This is!” said her mum.



Daisy's life was a whirl.  
Here is her diary to prove it.

Monday:

  
breakfast with Dad  
School  
tea at Betty Biff's  
house  
home to Mum



Tuesday:

breakfast with Mum  
School  
tea at Maisie Maney's  
house  
home to Dad



And so on.  
And so on.  
And so on.



Yes, Daisy's life was a whirl.  
She went back and forth  
between her mum and dad  
like a parcel –  
like a pendulum –  
like a ping-pong ball.



"I never know if I'm coming  
or going," she said.



Then one day Daisy went  
to her mum's and found . . .



nothing to wear,  
nothing to eat –  
and no horse!

There was a crowd in the street;  
a car-boot sale on the lawn;  
FOR SALE signs everywhere.





You see, the duke  
had had some bad luck.  
He was stony broke.



“What’s ‘stony broke’ mean, Mum?”  
said Daisy.

“‘Stony broke’ means: no money – skint!”

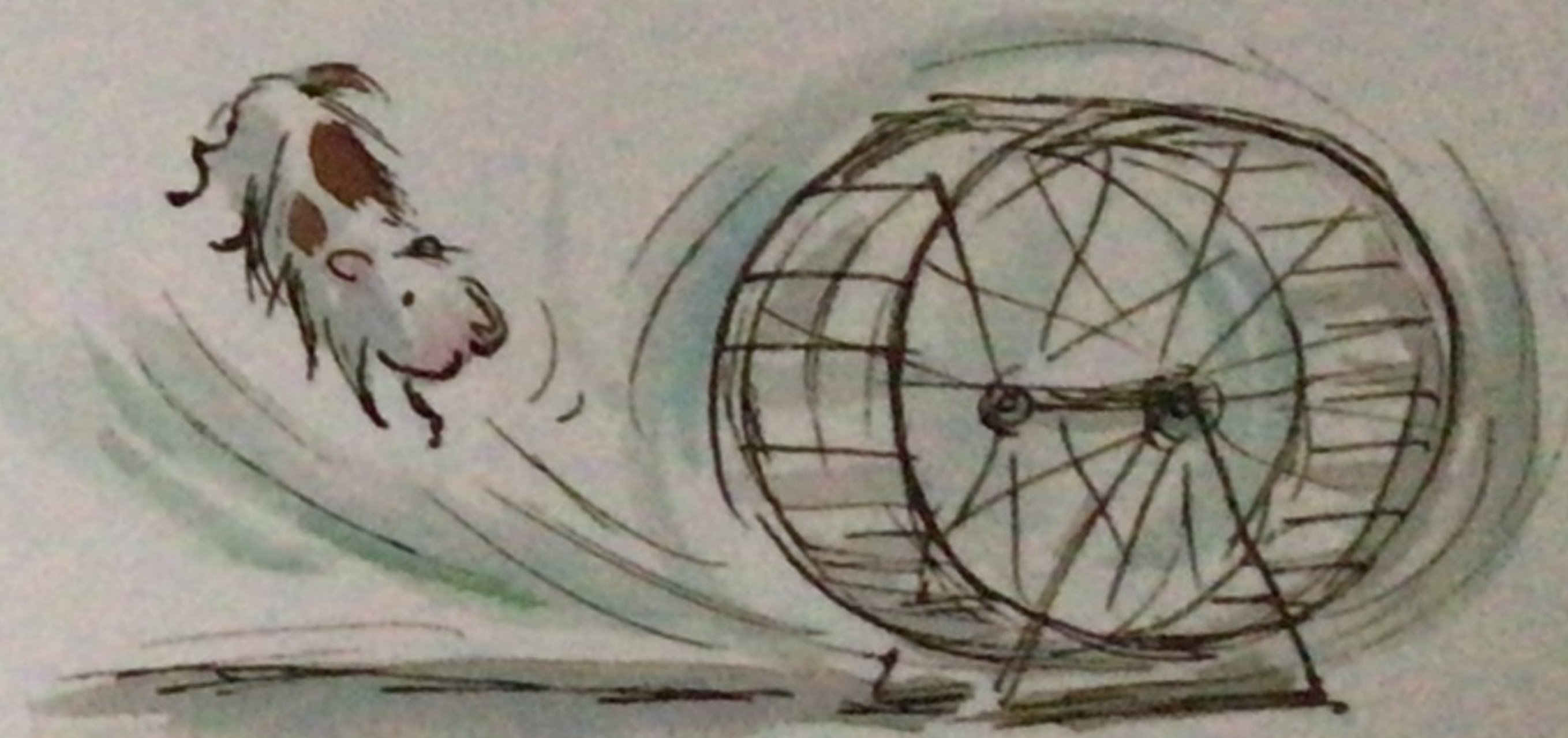
“Oh dear!” said Daisy.

“Yes,” said her mum.

“I’m a down-and-out duchess.”



But still Daisy’s life was a whirl.  
Still she went back and forth  
between her mum and dad  
like a homing pigeon  
(with *two* homes) –



like a hamster in a wheel.

Here is her diary again to prove it.

*Saturday:*

breakfast with Mum  
jumble sale with Mum  
bike ride with Mum  
home to Dad



*Sunday:*

breakfast with Dad  
washing up with Dad  
football match with Dad  
home to Mum, ⚽



And so on.  
And so on.  
And so on.

Then one day Daisy went  
to her dad's and found . . .



a crowd in the street;  
a TV reporter at the door;  
photographers everywhere.

You see, Daisy's dad  
had had some *good* luck.  
He had won the Lottery.



Then out they went for a drive . . .

... in a Daimler.



Daisy Dirt was an unusual girl.  
She was the richest  
*and* the poorest girl  
in the whole town.





And she still is.

The End

Daisy is unusual. Her dad is poor,  
but her mum has remarried a rich duke.



Poor Daisy Dirt doesn't know whether  
she's coming or going, whether she's  
rich or poor – until everything changes . . .

A hilarious **HAPPY FAMILIES** picture book  
from Allan Ahlberg and Tony Ross



*"Marvellous"* – CHILD EDUCATION

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