

DEAR DEAR MARY

Letters home from Amber

Adoption after infancy is never easy and for a cat who is blissfully happy in a caring home it comes as a cruel shock to be transported to new surroundings. When Amber's elderly owner can no longer look after her, this gentle little cat is given a loving new home by the Melmoth family. But for Amber, her *real* home is still with her dear Dear Mary and so it takes her a very long time to settle in. Her trials and tribulations along the way, her adventures, and her interaction with the rest of the household are recorded in these delightful letters, written by Amber to her beloved Mary, with a little help along the way from Jenny Melmoth.

Because the book is based on Amber's original letters, inevitably they can only reflect events from a cat's perspective. To help clarify the wider picture some linking passages have been added and these additions by Jenny also include news of her other surviving cats, immortalised in her previous book, *A Cat in My Lap*. Sadly, the prima donna Daisy May died before Amber's arrival but Silvester and Bernard are still very much part of the Melmoth household and their responses to Amber (and her own reaction to them) make amusing reading.

An unusual empathy with her feline friends means that Jenny is able to see the world through the eyes of a cat, making her the perfect literary interpreter for Amber and her Dear Mary. Readers of *A Cat in My Lap* will be pleased to know that *Dear Dear Mary* features a further selection of Jo Berriman's charming illustrations which bring the cats and their individual personalities very much to life.

Dear Dear Mary makes a wonderful companion volume to the very popular *A Cat in My Lap* and is the perfect gift for the many people who feel a house is just not a home without at least one cat by the fireside.

