
RUBY ELLIOT

Silly Me

the
pound
project.



the pound project.

small change, one story at a time.

The Pound Project is an independent publisher based in the UK. Established in Birmingham by writer JP Watson, the company campaigns to put the value of writing first. This is the 12th title in the movement. More information about the company's ethos, products and services can be found at www.poundproject.co.uk.

Ruby Elliot is an illustrator, cartoonist and author. For the last seven years she has been drawing cartoons, often about her mental health and burping them out on the internet and in print under the name Rubyetc. Her first book *It's All Absolutely Fine* was published in 2016. She likes dogs, jam and having a sit down.



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Acknowledgements



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Silly Me is the company's first book written and drawn entirely by an illustrator. Making that leap with Ruby has been a joy, not least for her reminder to keep going head first into the Big Silly. Thanks to SJT, HVW, and the team at Tuckey for helping us to do what we do.

Ruby would like to give a very shouty thanks to JPW for facilitating all the fun. Nicola and Russ, dream team. The good people of the internet at large and especially those who have supported her on Patreon. Sadie and Hamish, her finest muses. Sarah, Dave, Nina, Harry and all those who have raised her to be silly.

For Vic, every day



FOREWORD

A sketchbook is a precious space, but not one you should feel precious about using. This is why mine are full of four pages of very horrid cats, followed by six pages of scribble, a note that says “APPOINTMENT ON THE 24TH/CHEESE/CONFIDENCE?” and then maybe one good idea.

When you draw every day you learn to care less about what anything looks like. You can use the page as an external hard drive for feelings and ideas rather than a perpetual exhibition to some omniscient Art God™.

I love looking at other people's sketchbooks. It is the same sort of intimacy as being invited into a stranger's bedroom for the first time, or, better still, opening their kitchen cupboard and seeing what spices they use, how they organise their spaghetti and whether they too have half a jar of mouldy jam lurking at the back.

Finding parts of yourself or your life in other people is one of the greatest comforts, whether that is through the words you read, music you listen to, late night conversations you have, pictures you look at, or just some poorly configured pasta raining out of a cupboard; these are small, silly treasures to be held on to when the world feels too much. This is why I wanted to make this book; because despite often feeling reluctant and scared about moving through the world, it seems to keep happening. So I will keep dragging a wiggly line along behind me as I go.

These drawings are to be held and read, slapped down on a coffee table, frisbeed across the room, wedged on a shelf or dropped into a bag never to be seen again. I hope they make you laugh. And I hope even more that if any of this makes you want to pick up a pen and draw that you go and do it and do it quickly before you can tell yourself it might look shit. I promise you it doesn't matter. The page is, as ever, all yours.

Ruby Elliot

June, 2021

SILLY ME

WEEK ONE



Monday



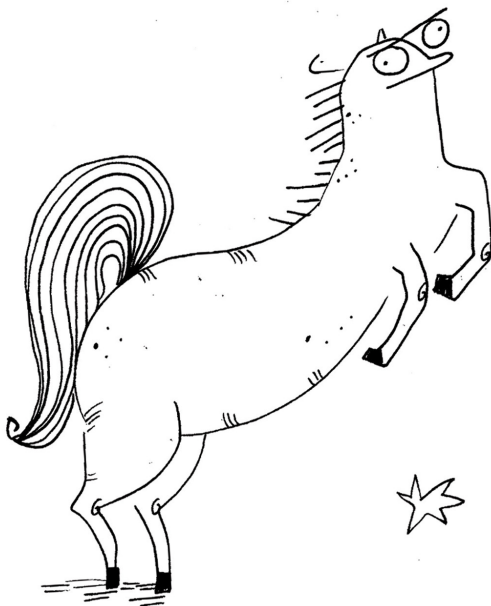
HERE IT COMES



Tuesday

MY CONFIDENCE
KNOWS SOME BOUNDS

Yee-Haw ?



Wednesday

WOW I REALLY HATE WHAT I'VE
DONE WITH THE PLACE



Thursday

THERE ARE MANY THINGS I'D
LIKE TO KNOW



BUT RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT
AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF
"HOW DO I WASH THE FUCKING
CHEESE GRATER ??"

Friday

TAKE ME TO
BIG SAINSBURY'S



I WISH TO BROWSE A WIDE
SELECTION OF JARRED SAUCES
AND BASK IN THE GLOW OF
AISLE 12'S STRIP LIGHTS



WEEKENDS ARE FOR:

1. HAVING FUN
2. WORRYING ABOUT THE NATURE OF SAID FUN
3. READING 986214 MESSAGES IN THE GROUP CHAT ABOUT THE LOGISTICS OF THE FUN
4. PREPARING TO HAVE THE FUN
5. SECOND-GUESSING THE FUN AS IT UNFOLDS
6. FEELING GUILTY ABOUT LACK OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUN
7. WONDERING HOW LONG THE FUN MUST BE SUSTAINED
8. SLEEP





WEEK TWO



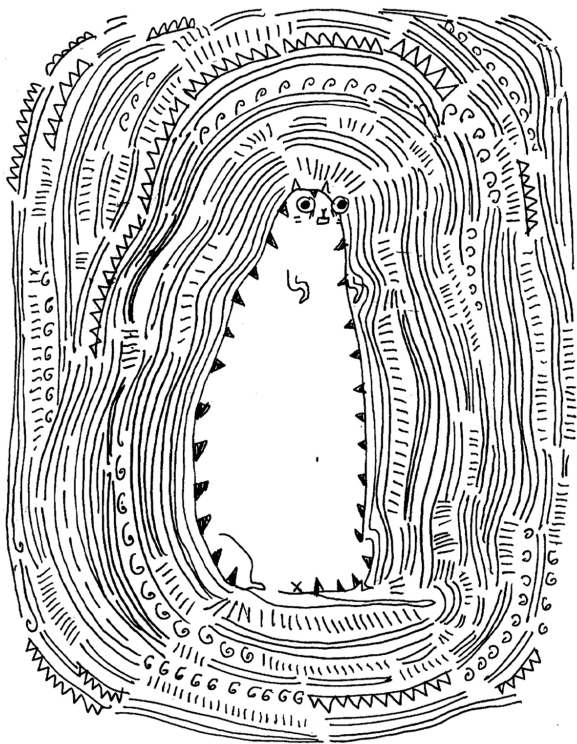
Monday

I IMAGINE THREE SCENARIOS IN
WHICH THINGS COULD GO
HORRIBLY WRONG (AN IMPROVEMENT
ON YESTERDAY'S SIX THINGS THAT
COULD GO HORRIBLY WRONG)

THEN I DRINK A HUGE GLASS OF
WATER BECAUSE HYDRATION IS A
COMPETITION.

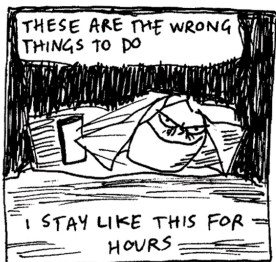
IT FEELS LIKE I'M NOT IN CHARGE
OF THE AIR INSIDE MY THROAT





BIG GASPS, BIG TIMES

FUCK





...



MMM



...



FFFR



... NNNG..



COME ON



COME ON



YES..



YES!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S
ONLY WEDNESDAY?



LEAF-SHAPED SIGH

Thursday

SO, WHAT DID YOU CRY
ABOUT THIS WEEK?

HMM, LET ME CONSULT
THE CHART



BEHOLD!



M	DUNNO			
T	SOLD TOO HOT			
W	WENT ON TWITTER			
T	SAWNICE DOG			
F	JUST FELT LIKE IT			
S	THOUGHT ABOUT THE BAD THING			
S	IT WAS SUNDAY			

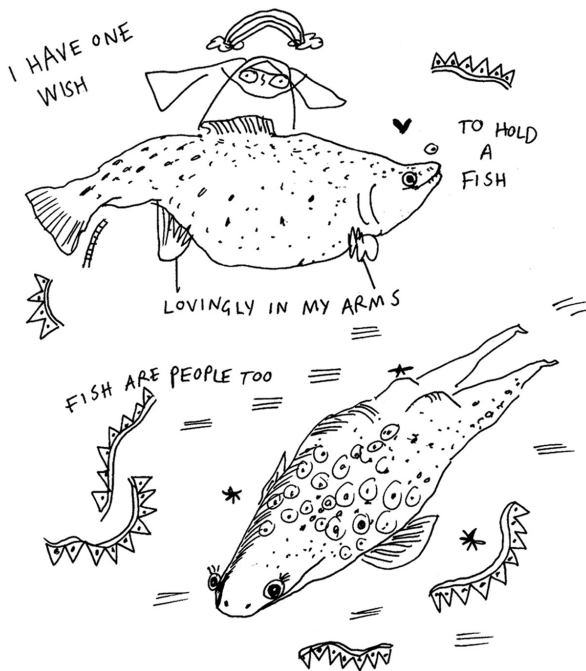
FNEP

Friday

AH, DUE TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE
ERROR I WILL NOW BE
BLEEDING DIRECTLY INTO
MY TROUSERS



Saturday



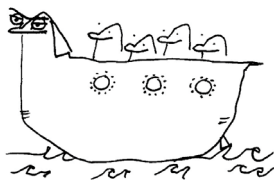


STARS ARE LIKE CROUTONS IN THE SOUP
THAT IS THE SKY
CAN I EAT THEM?



NO, YOU MUST NOT EAT THEM

WEEK THREE





DO YOU WANT ME TO LET YOU SLEEP
OR SHALL I BULLY YOU INTO GETTING
UP AND STARTING THE DAY?



EITHER WAY
I WON'T BE DOING
IT NICELY



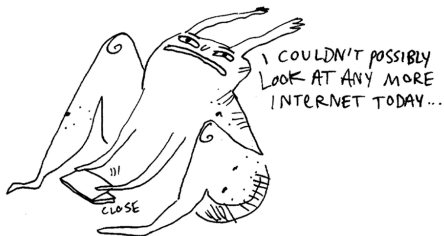
Tuesday

I AM GOOD AND SMART AND
VERY HOT AND I DON'T
NEED OTHER PEOPLE TO
VALIDATE THAT





Thursday



Friday

COME ON, THERE MUST
BE SOMETHING LEFT IN YA

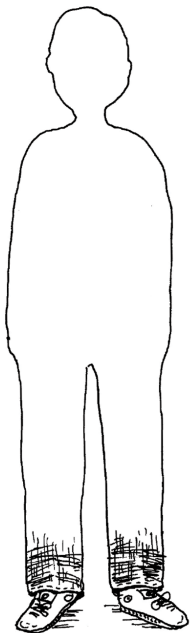


THE LAST DROPS OF FRIDAY.
3-5pm IS NINE DAYS LONG

TODAY MY HEALTH ANXIETY
IS MY MOST ENCOURAGING FRIEND



THIS IS MY NEIGHBOUR'S DOG,
ALBA. SHE IS FIVE YEARS AND
TWO MONTHS OLD. SHE IS A
SPANIEL CROSS SOMETHING AND
HER EARS COULD WIN CONTESTS.
HER EYES ARE LIKE SUNSHINE
AND HER FUR IS SOFT AND
GLOSSY. I LOVE HER AND WOULD
PROBABLY DIE FOR ALBA.



THIS IS MY NEIGHBOUR WHO OWNS ALBA.
THEY HAVE SHOES AND POSSIBLY HAIR?
THEIR NAME BEGINS WITH R, OR MAYBE L...

WEEK FOUR



Monday



GRATITUDES
OF
BIRD

→ I AM GRATEFUL FOR CRUMBS



→ I AM GRATEFUL FOR TWIG



→ I AM GRATEFUL FOR SHARP
AND HANDSOME BEAK



→ I AM GRATEFUL FOR CONFIDENCE
TO SHIT ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE,
SO MUCH, ALL THE TIME





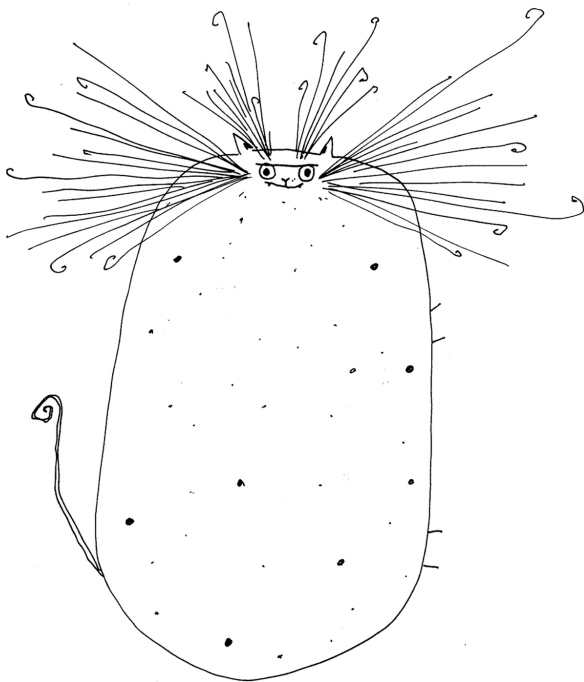
I WANT TO KNOW HOW DOGS
BECAME AND CONTINUED TO
BE SO BRILLIANT.
IS IT THE EARS? THE NOSE?
THE LACK OF WORLDLY RESPONSIBILITIES?





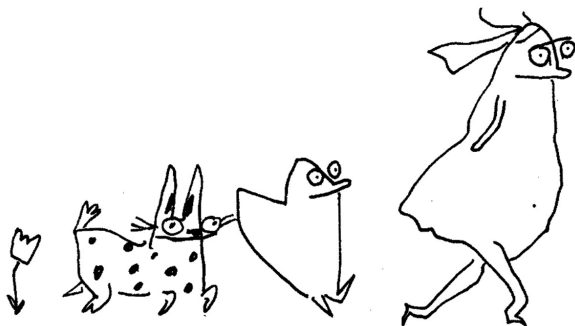
WORKING FROM BED CAN BE SEEN
AS A BIT LAZY OR INCREDIBLY
DECADENT; IT REALLY DEPENDS
ON HOW HEAVILY YOU ARE SWEATING

Friday



A CAT IS A POTATO WITH
TEN THOUSAND WHISKERS

I'M GOING! I'M GOING



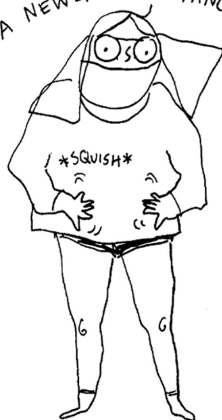
NOT SURE WHERE

BUT

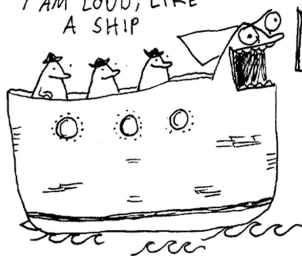
FOR NOW, I AM.

Sunday

I AM SOFT, LIKE
A NEWLY FLIPPED PANCAKE



I AM LOUD, LIKE
A SHIP

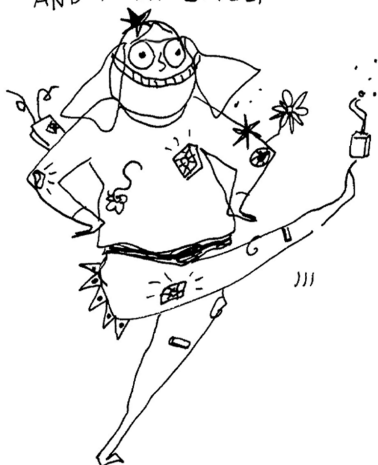


BAAAAH

I AM GATHERING ALL
THE BITS I DROPPED



I AM WEARING THEM
AND I AM LOVELY



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