

Pets **RULE!**



The Rise of the Goldfish



Written by
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Illustrated by
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**BRANCHES™**
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To Kiku and her humans—the best of friends! – ST

To Angie and Bbin who love supporting animal rescues! – WTSW

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CHAPTER 1

Fear the Fish!

I was standing in Mr. Chin's office with Neo the canary and Smelly Steve the hamster. Our mouths hung open in horror.

Before us was a creature of pure evil.

Or in this case, a goldfish of evil. And she was my NEMESIS.

“Soon the world will be mine,” Bubbles cackled from her tank. “Bwahahaha!”

“We’ll stop you!” I shouted.

You see, my name is Ember the Mighty. Someday, I will rule the world. I couldn’t let Bubbles take it over. I knew that with my friends, the other pets, at my side, we could handle anything Bubbles threw at us.

But I’ve always wanted a worthy *nemesis*. A nemesis is someone you have to defeat. Once you do, no one can stop you.

Just then Lucy, my human, popped her head into the room.

“Come on, Ember! It’s time for your walk,” she said. “Then dinner!”

I had to go. Who can say no to dinner?

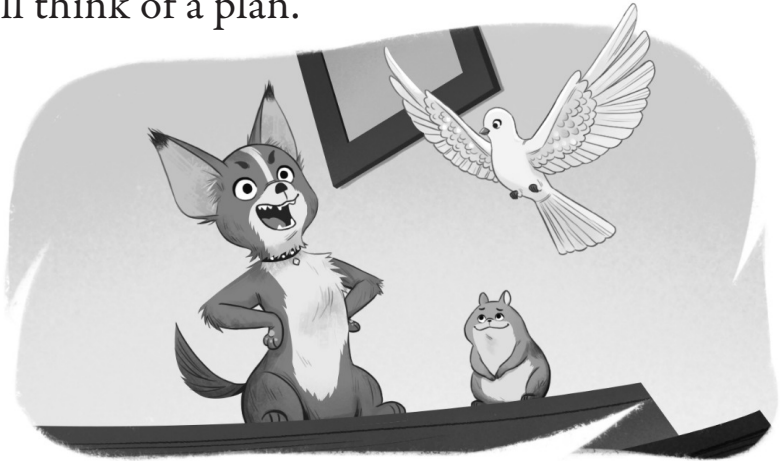


I looked at Bubbles. In my loudest, most impressive voice, I said, “We’ll be back. This world will *never* belong to you.”

Then I followed Lucy.

Neo and Steve came with me. We stopped at the top of the stairs.

“Don’t worry,” I said. “We’ll stop Bubbles. I’ll think of a plan.”



“Of course you will,” Steve said with a grin. “You’re our fearless leader.”

My chest puffed out.

“Thank you, Smelly Steve,” I said. “I will make you proud.”

“Ember, come on!” Lucy called from downstairs. I trotted down, and we went outside.

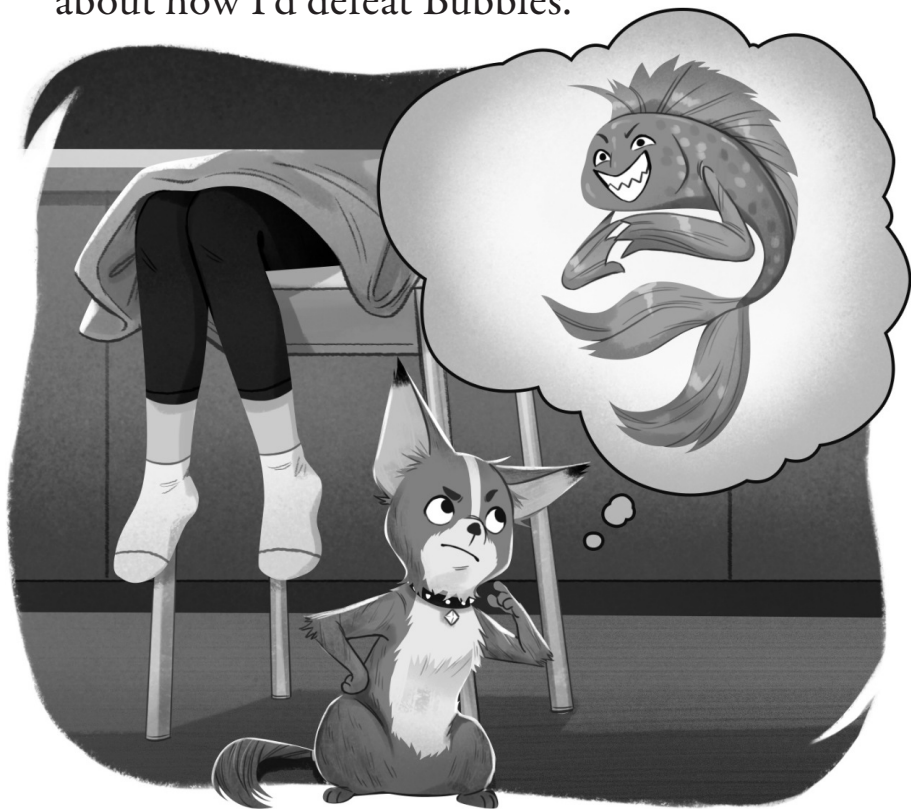


Steve had called me a “fearless leader.” I liked the sound of that. My tail wagged happily the whole walk.

I could lead fearlessly. I was sure of it!

Lucy brought me back inside. I ate my kibble, and then the humans sat down for dinner.

As the humans began to talk, I thought about how I'd defeat Bubbles.



Then suddenly, without warning, dinner became TERRIFYING.