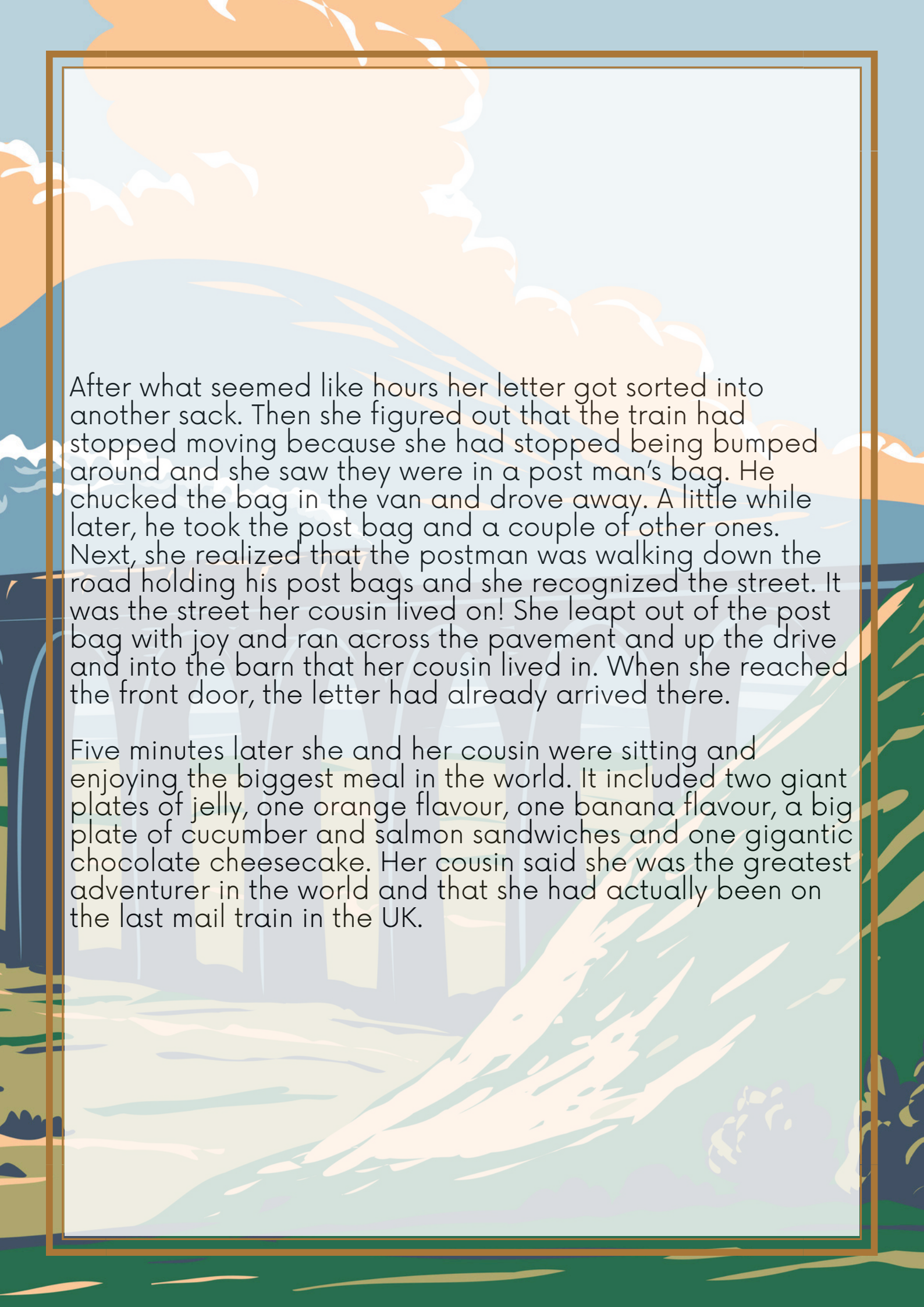


# Molly the Mail Train Mouse

## by Elsa Dimambro

The plump little white body with an extraordinarily long bright pink tail zipped through the tumbledown barn and out across the courtyard. The owner of the body was called Molly, and she had the greatest adventure ever to have happened in the mouse world, so this is how it happened. First, she was going to the post box at the end of the road to send a letter to her cousin to say that she was going to visit in a couple of days' time. After ten minutes of scurrying across the path she reached the post box. She climbed up to the letter slit, stood on top of the ledge and bent over upside down and threw the letter in, but her tail, which she was holding onto the ledge with, accidentally let go and she went tumbling down the hole. Bump! Bump! Bump! Suddenly the world went black.

When she finally opened her eyes, she was being thrown around in a sack. Molly felt dizzy and confused. By the time she had stood up the letters were all tipped out of the sack onto a table. Molly was terrified and speechless. She hid behind an extra-large pile of letters. A couple of seconds later she was being bumped and tossed around. She peeped out and she saw a little window and outside the little window, all the trees, bushes and hedges were rushing past like they were all late for the train, which was when she realized that she was on a mail train! Suddenly she saw her small letter with a bright blue stamp on going into a different sack. She jumped into the sack with it. She peeped out of the top of the sack and saw the mail officers rushing up and down the carriages whilst the train chugged quickly along the old, rusty tracks. She knew they were old and rusty because the train was making a squeaking noise like a rat being captured by an eagle. Outside the little window the scene had changed to countryside and there were massive silky, brown cows dotted about on the sloping fields.



After what seemed like hours her letter got sorted into another sack. Then she figured out that the train had stopped moving because she had stopped being bumped around and she saw they were in a post man's bag. He chucked the bag in the van and drove away. A little while later, he took the post bag and a couple of other ones. Next, she realized that the postman was walking down the road holding his post bags and she recognized the street. It was the street her cousin lived on! She leapt out of the post bag with joy and ran across the pavement and up the drive and into the barn that her cousin lived in. When she reached the front door, the letter had already arrived there.

Five minutes later she and her cousin were sitting and enjoying the biggest meal in the world. It included two giant plates of jelly, one orange flavour, one banana flavour, a big plate of cucumber and salmon sandwiches and one gigantic chocolate cheesecake. Her cousin said she was the greatest adventurer in the world and that she had actually been on the last mail train in the UK.