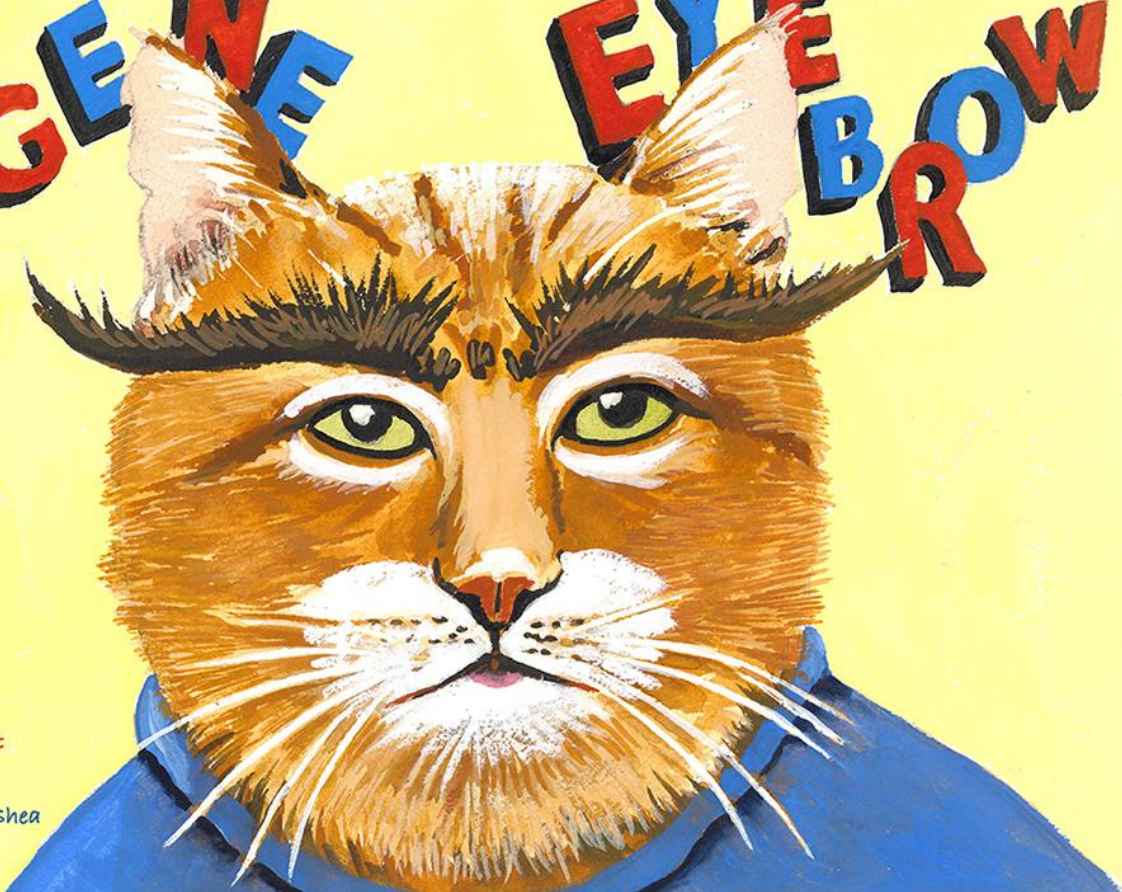


# EUGENE EYEBROW



By Brigid Hassett  
Illustrated by  
Mary Tierney O'Shea





In a small house, in the middle of the woods, unusual sounds could be heard every Friday afternoon.

"Ouch! Ouch!", screamed Rosie Cat, as Barbara Cat, from Barbara's Beauty Salon, plucked her eyebrows.

Rosie didn't want any eyebrows, as cats don't usually have any such things.



Eugene Cat had thick pointy eyebrows going in opposite directions.

His sisters, Brigette Cat and Eliza Cat, had beautiful moon-shaped green eyes and his dad had sparkly eyes, but none had eyebrows.

His mum, Rosie, had her eyebrows plucked so no one ever knew she was different.



His aunt, Gertrude Cat, explained to Eugene that he had his mum's eyebrows. Eugene Cat wished he didn't. He hated being different.

At school, Eugene Cat was bullied because of his unusual eyebrows and was nicknamed Eugene Eyebrow!



His teacher, Mrs Betty Tabby Cat, understood how Eugene felt, as she had no tail. She knew what it was like to be different.

She tried to help Eugene.



In the school yard, there was a big bully called Trevor Cat.

“Be careful your eyebrows don’t knit together Eugene,” he would say.

Trevor Cat was the leader of a gang of bold cats called The Meows.

The Meows made rude noises and pulled their paws over their eyes when Eugene passed by.



One day Eugene Cat was so afraid he hid in the rubbish bin and didn't even go to school.



His friend, PJ Cat, finally found him as he saw a large eyebrow sticking out from the top of the bin, under the lid.





Life was hard for poor Eugene Cat, except at weekends, when he played his guitar with his friend PJ Cat.

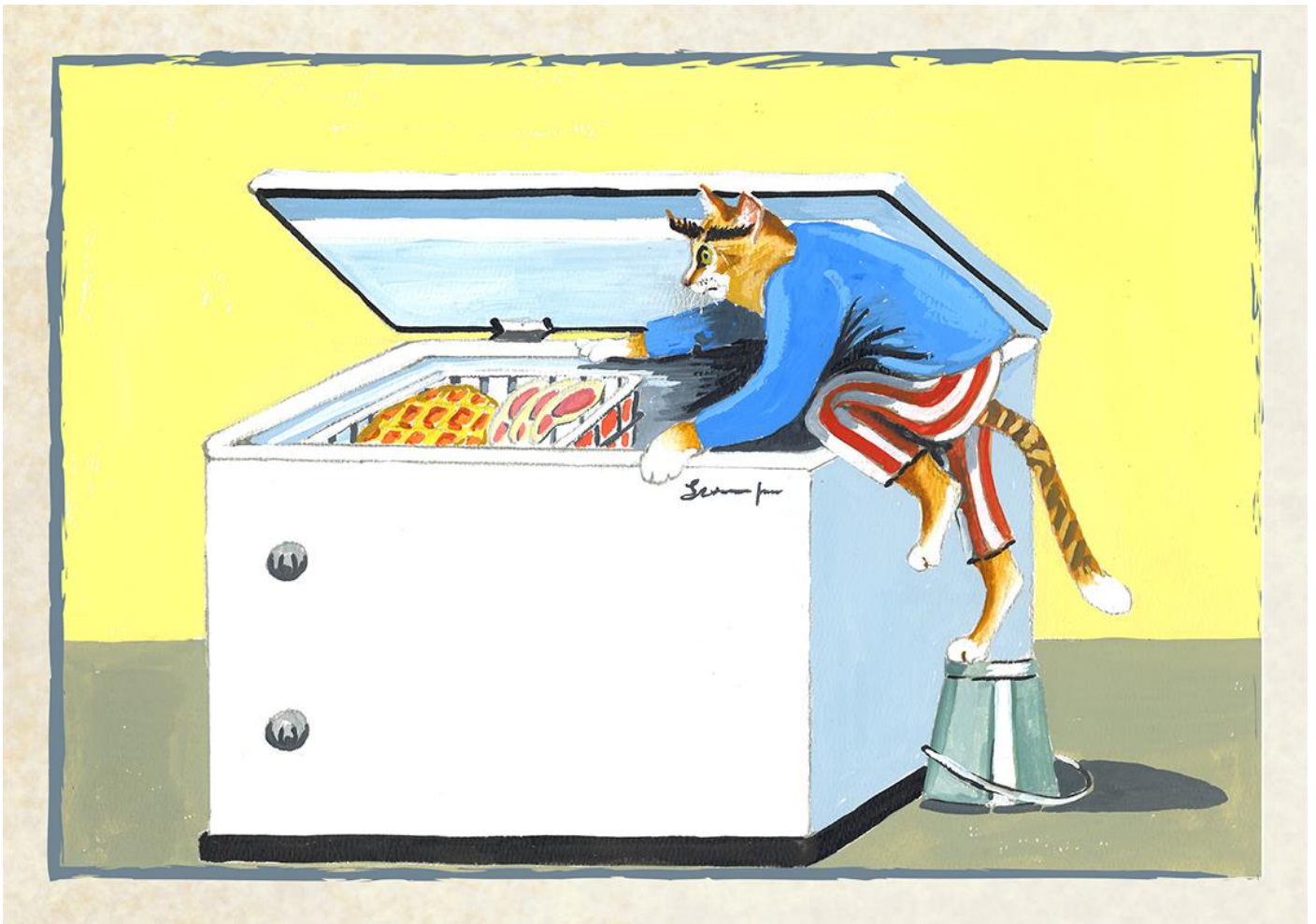
PJ Cat played the saxophone.

When Eugene Cat played music, he forgot all about his unusual eyebrows.



Then, one day, Barbara Cat from Barbara's Beauty Salon arrived at Eugene's house to pluck his mum's eyebrows. His mum was sick and could not go to the salon.

With her was the most beautiful cat Eugene had ever seen. Her name was Veronica, and she was Barbara's niece. She worked as a hairdresser.



Eugene Cat was so embarrassed that she would see his eyebrows he hid in the only place he could - the freezer!

When Rosie finally offered Veronica Cat and Barbara Cat some lemonade and ice cream she found a frozen Eugene Cat in the freezer.



"Who is this in the freezer?" said Veronica. "How have you the most amazing eyebrows I have ever seen?"

"I was born with them" said Eugene Cat, shyly.

"He gets them from my side of the family and looks so handsome" said Rosie Cat proudly.



"I can make them look even better if you let me style them and maybe add some colour?" said Veronica Cat.

"Good idea! Maybe then he will realise how handsome he is" said Rosie Cat.

So Veronica Cat styled Eugene's eyebrows and added some yellow tips. Eugene Cat became the coolest cat in his class. From then on, he was known as Eugene The Cool Cat.

The End



Life is hard for a young cat with pointy eyebrows, as Eugene Eyebrow discovers. Bully cats Trevor and his gang The Meows mock Eugene's unusual look. When Eugene learns to love his own eyebrows, he becomes the coolest cat in school!



**About the author:**

Brigid Hassett is a Senior Executive Librarian for Cork City Libraries. A firm believer in Oscar Wilde's quote "*Be yourself; everyone else is already taken*", her aim is to promote individuality and self-confidence in this unique story.



**About the illustrator:**

Mary Tierney O'Shea, a Galway native, now lives in Cork City. A graduate from the Crawford College of Art Cork, A.T.C., her most recent exhibition, entitled "Comic Cats" was held in Bishopstown Library.



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Watch a sign language video of Eugene Eyebrow on YouTube, or listen to the audiobook on Soundcloud.