Bella Paterson
From
Kate Ritchie
THE NINE LIVES OF A CAT

A TALE OF WONDER

CHARLES BENNETT
AUTHOR OF "SHADOWS"

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London, 1859.
O W many Lives has the Cat got?

N I N E!

But when she was young,
Poor Kitty was hung;
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
ES, Kitty was hung
When she was so young;
But, as you would hope,
She pulled a knife out of her side-
pocket, and before you could
count One, Two, Three,
cut right through the rope.
Ow many Lives has the Cat got?

EIGHT!

But, when she was rounder,
A boy tried to drown her;
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
E S, a boy tried to drown her
When fatter and rounder,
   But, as you would wish,
She slipped the stone off her neck,
   and before you could count,
One, Two, Three, swam
like a fish.
OW many Lives has the Cat got?

SEVEN!

But, as I have learnt,

Poor Pussy was burnt.

So how many Lives has the Cat got?
E S, Pussy was burnt,
As I too have learnt;
But, as you will read,
She jumped into the water-butt before
you could count, One, Two,
Three; she did, indeed!
O W many Lives has the Cat got?
SIX!
But she fell off the house,
Running after a mouse;
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
E S, she fell off the house
Running after a mouse;
But, as life is sweet,
Before you could count One, Two,
Three, she came on her feet.
OW many Lives has the Cat got?

FIVE!

But I hear she has not;
For they say she was shot.
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
E S, with a gun she was shot,
And a trigger it had got,
    I saw the man pull it;
But Pussy held up her paws like the
Wizard of the North, and
before you could count, One,
Two, Three, caught the Bullet.
O W many Lives has the Cat got?

F O U R!

But people all say
She was poison'd one day;
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
E S, it's true, people say
She was poison'd one day,
    And very much it shock'd her;
But the moment she felt ill, and before you
could count One, Two, Three,
she was off to the Doctor.
O W  many Lives has the Cat got?

T H R E E !

But then the old wall
Crush'd her in its fall.

So how many Lives has the Cat got?
ES, I know the old wall
Flatten'd Puss in its fall,
And a dozen of her fellows;
But Pussy walked sideways into the kitchen,
and before you could count One, Two,
Three, blew herself out with the bellows.
O W many Lives has the Cat got?
    TWO!
But, bit by a dog,
She is dead as a log.
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
E S, bit by a dog,
But not dead as a log,
As you 'll gladly find;
For she climbed up the apple-tree before
you could count One, Two, Three,
and left the dog behind.
O W  many Lives has the Cat got?
       O N E !
But then she 's grown old,
And has caught a bad cold;
So how many Lives has the Cat got?
ES, she has grown old,
And has caught a bad cold,
Only bread and milk she touches,
Except a little gruel, but she burns a great deal of fuel, and you may count,
One, Two, Three, a great many times, while she hobbles across the room on her crutches.
OW many Lives has the Cat got?

NONE!

Is it true then, as they said,
That poor old Puss is dead,
So many lives as she 'd got?
E S, the song has all been said,
And poor old Puss is dead,
    Let it never be forgot;
Although not One, Two, Three, but
Nine Lives she had got.
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