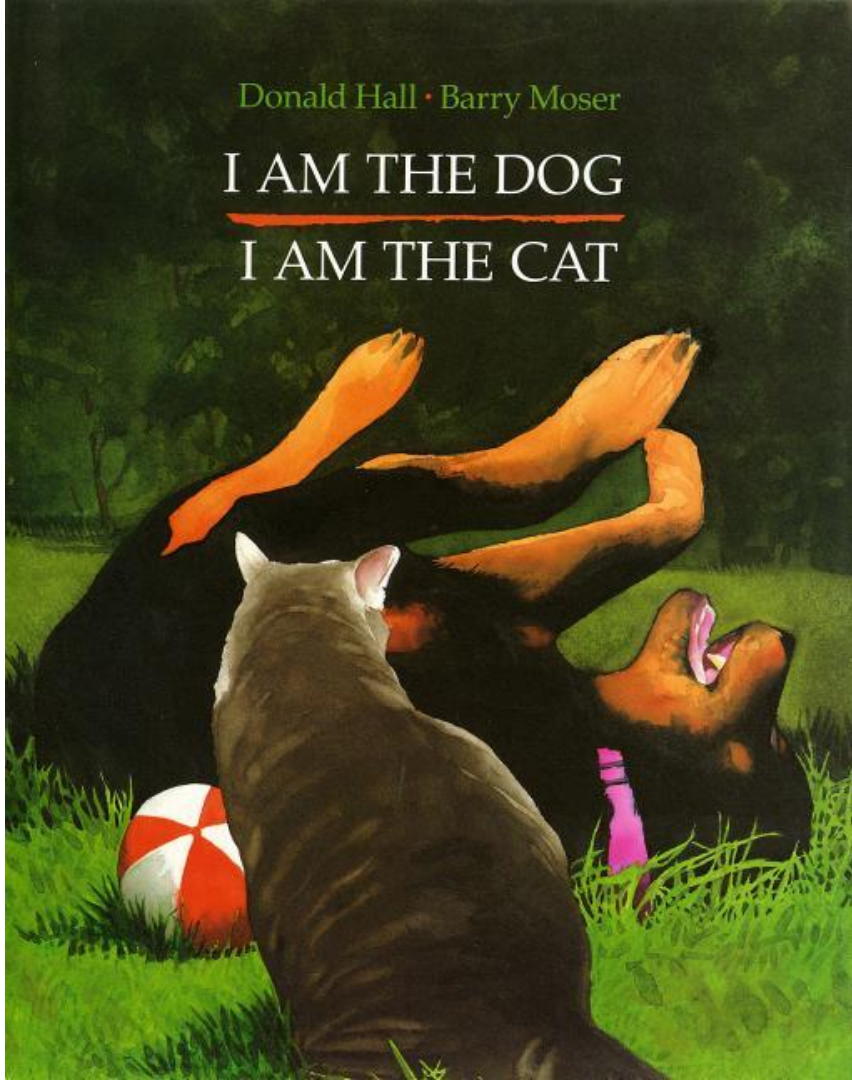


Donald Hall · Barry Moser

I AM THE DOG  

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I AM THE CAT



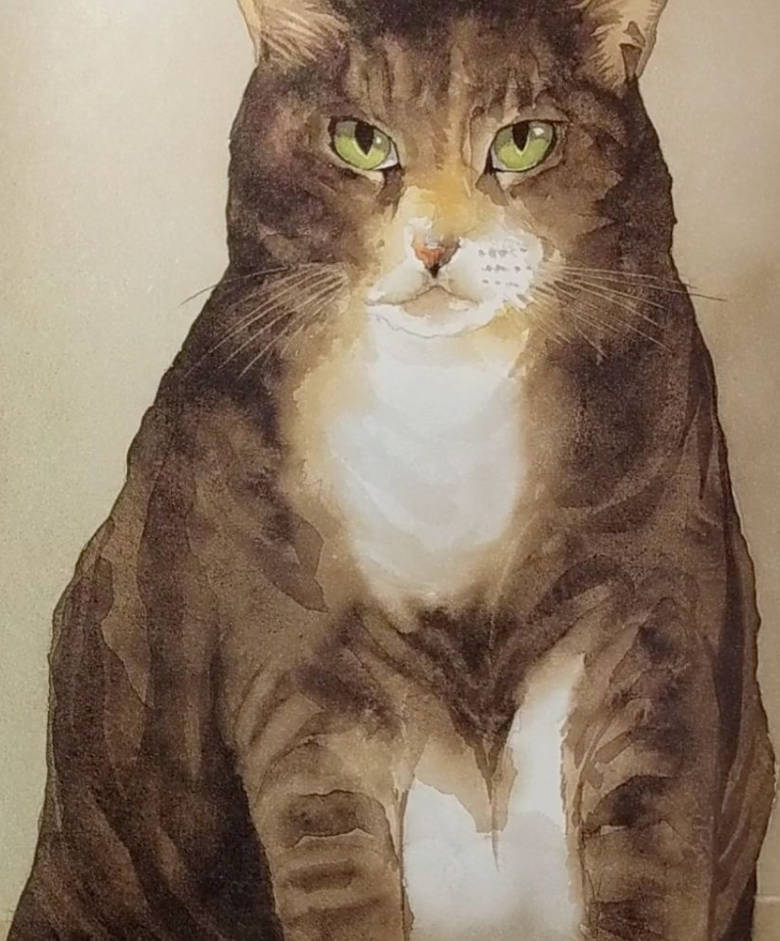
Doc: I am the dog.  
I like bones.  
I like to *bury* bones.  
As for eating, I can take it or leave it—  
but I like it when *they* feed me.



CAT: I am the cat.

I don't *care* whether they feed me or not  
as long as I get fed.

Sometimes I tease them to feed me,  
then turn up my nose at what I get.





DOG: Making the acquaintance of babies,  
I allow them to pull my hair.  
I do not like it,  
but I allow it, for  
I am the dog.

CAT: When babies come into the house,  
I try to *vanish*.  
Babies are crazy!  
Babies *sit* on you!



DOG: I am brave as I bark  
to frighten the burglar  
disguised as a UPS man,  
or the kidnapper who pretends to be a  
bicyclist  
wanting a drink of water.

CAT: Strangers are just fine.  
If I feel like a lap, I feel like a lap.  
Why should I care what *they* feel like?

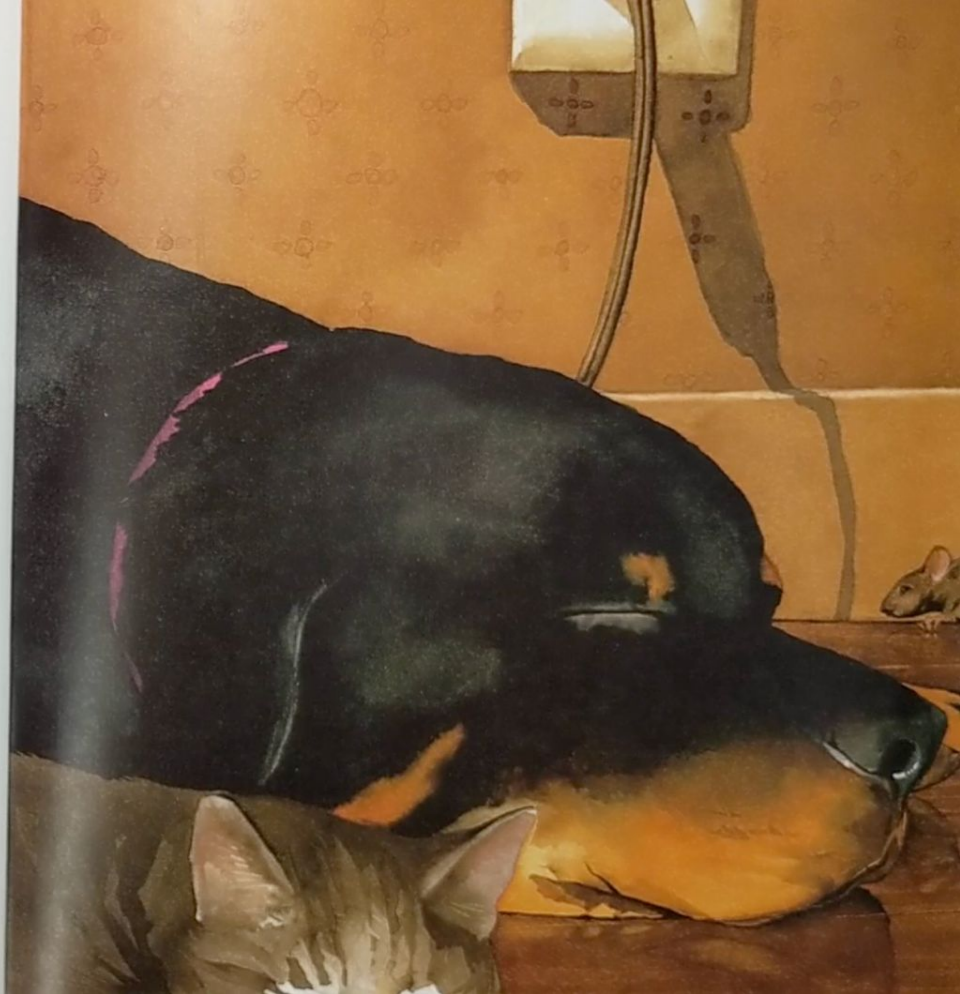


DOG: I sleep all day in order to stay rested,  
in order to be alert  
when it is my duty to bark.

CAT: I sleep all day  
in order to stay awake all night  
on mouse patrol.

DOG: After I sleep all day,  
I sleep all night, for  
I am the dog.

CAT: Cats work hard.  
When people and dogs are asleep,  
I never stop hunting mice.  
In the absence of mice,  
I hunt pieces of paper, paper clips, or  
rubber bands.





DOG: When I walk in the country, I chase rabbits,  
*them,*  
butterflies,  
trucks,  
and sticks, for  
I am the dog.

CAT: When I want to go through a door,  
I paw at it and meow.  
When they finally open the door,  
I don't want to go through it anymore.

DOG: When I smell something wonderful,  
I roll in it.

CAT: Every now and then  
I decide to act frightened.  
From a deep sleep I leap  
suddenly into the air,  
then run off and hide somewhere.



Dog: I am nervous  
when I hear thunder,  
firecrackers, or guns,  
and nothing *they* say  
will comfort me.

Cat: Nothing frightens me.  
It's not that I'm brave.  
It's just that nothing  
frightens me.

Dog: When I walk in town, I sniff at fireplugs,  
telephone poles,  
fences,  
hedges,  
and other dogs, for  
I am the nose.





CAT: All day long, when I'm awake,  
I watch birds from the top of the  
bread box  
in the pantry window.  
If I listed all the birds I've ever seen,  
the list would go on for a thousand pages.

DOG: I scratch fleas  
suddenly and ferociously.

CAT: Don't touch me! for  
I am the cat.



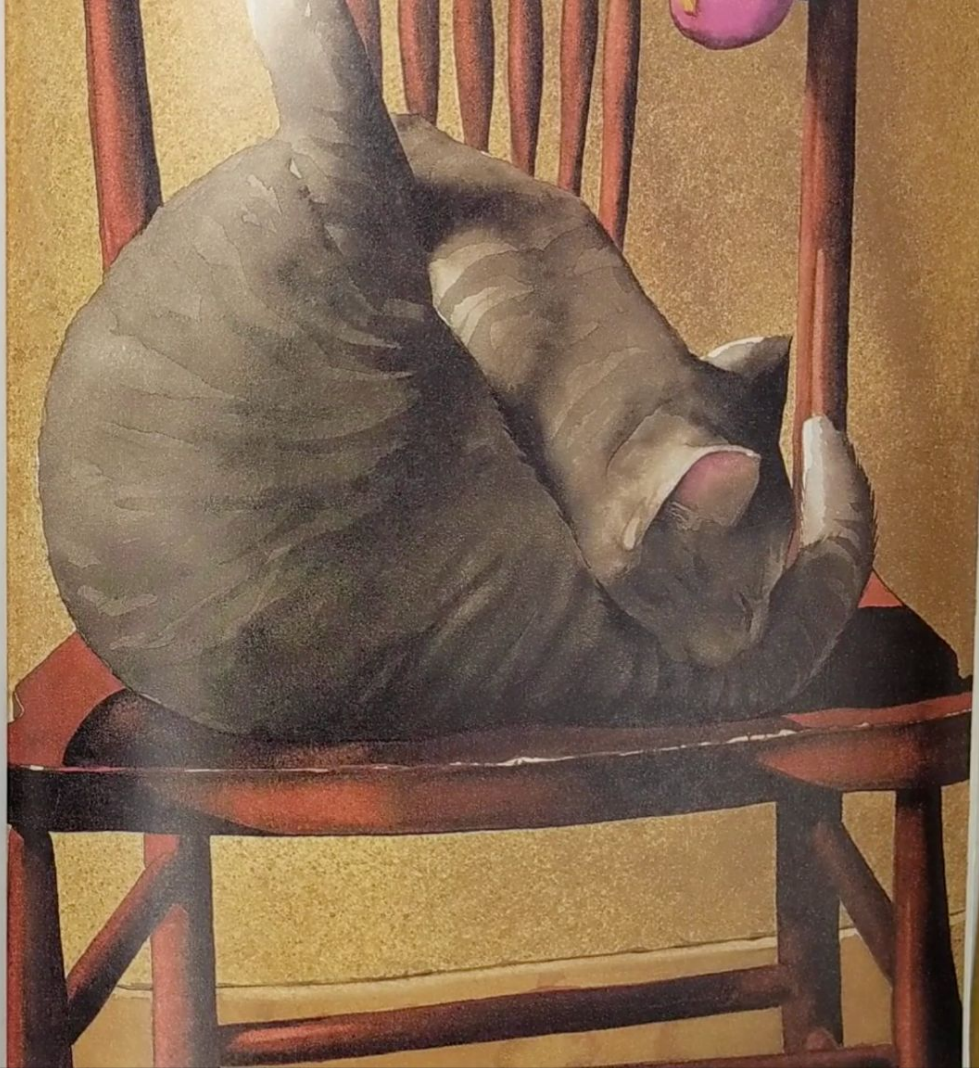
DOG: When I swim in the pond,  
I bark at minnows.  
Then I shake water on you, for  
I am the dog.

CAT: I keep myself clean.  
What if the president dropped by?





CAT: Dogs are nervous and well-meaning.  
It is well-known that cats  
are at the same time  
independent,  
selfish,  
fearless,  
beautiful,  
cuddly,  
scratchy,  
and intelligent.





Dog: Cats just don't *care*.  
Only a dog  
is at the same time  
dignified,  
guilty,  
sprightly,  
obedient,  
friendly,  
vigilant,  
and soulful.



CAT: I leap for his throat!  
I hurl myself at his muzzle,  
which is the same size as I am.  
After a while he bows.

DOG: Cats are weird.

CAT: I walk away  
with my tail in the air, for  
I am the cat.

