

THE
MARIA
SERIES

MARIA'S *Many* KITTENS

• BRECKYN WOOD •



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Chapter Two

Outside, Maria picked flowers of all different colors. She looked at them closely and tried to see something new, but they were the same flowers that grew near her house every year.

She watched a line of ants marching into their little hill.



She tried to sit back and watch the clouds, but there weren't any—the big blue sky was empty, just like her notebook.

Maria sighed. What did Mrs. Powell want her to learn?

“Maria?” called Carlos.

Maria sat up. “Over here!” she said.

Carlos walked over and sat down next to her. “Any plans for the project yet?” he asked.

“No!” Maria exclaimed. “I don’t know why I feel so stuck.”

“That’s too bad,” said Carlos kindly. “I found this neat plant in the alley behind

the boot shop. It's poking up between two bricks. I don't know how it can grow without any dirt, but I'm going to watch it and see what happens."



“That’s a great plan for you, Carlos,” said Maria.

The friends sat next to each other in silence, taking in the sounds of the farm. A fly buzzed nearby, the chickens clucked softly, and the goats bleated to each other. After



a while, Maria heard a new sound.

“Do you hear that?” she asked Carlos, turning her ear toward the goat shed.

“Hear what?”

“Shhh, be quiet.”

Over the buzzing of the fly, there came a small but clear sound, like a little cry.

“That,” said Maria.

Carlos scrunched his eyes closed, trying to hear. The cry came again, louder this time. “I heard that!” he said.

Maria hopped up. “It sounds like it’s coming from the goat shed. Come look with me.”

The two friends opened the shed door slowly. Maria peeked in and gasped.



“What?” asked Carlos.

“What is it?”

He poked his head in and gasped too. “Wow!” he said.

There, in the corner on a pile of hay, lay a big orange cat and . . .



“Kittens!” Maria and Carlos whispered at the same time.

Not wanting to scare the mother cat, Maria and Carlos crept quietly into the shed.

“They’re so tiny!” Maria squealed softly. “I wonder how long they’ve been in here.”

“Their eyes aren’t even open yet,” said Carlos. “So likely not long.”

Maria looked closely at the little balls of fur. “You’re right. I didn’t know kittens

were born with their eyes closed.”

“You could write that down for your project,” he offered.

Maria’s jaw dropped.

“Carlos, you’re right!” She quickly flipped open her notebook. “I’ll have so much to write about now! I can’t wait to tell Mrs. Powell.”

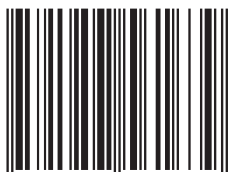
MARIA'S *many* KITTENS

Fire! Fire! When a lantern falls and breaks, an unexpected disaster strikes. Join Maria, her inspiring school teacher, and a pile of kittens as Maria learns new lessons and gets a few surprises along the way.



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