

Spooky Cat

Animated Short Film Based on the book by C.H. Lyn

Genre: Coming-of-Age / Fantasy / Comedy

Tone: Sailor Moon meets Sabrina the Teenage Witch with the warmth of Kiki's Delivery Service and the supernatural edge of Buffy.

Logline

When Demi forgets to say "bless you," their cat is possessed by a sneeze demon. Now the mismatched duo must team up for an exorcism and honestly, the demon hates it even more than they do.

Story Overview

Spooky Cat is a coming-of-age fantasy/comedy set in a world where a little magic hides in every laneway. It introduces Demi, a non-binary young adult who has made peace with living inside their cozy apartment bubble, where the only company they need is their beloved cat, Missy. But this carefully crafted life is turned upside down when a mundane sneeze opens a door to another dimension. A sneeze demon named Skia is unexpectedly transported from hell and takes over Missy's body. What begins as a witty confrontation quickly unravels into a desperate quest, as Demi is forced to leave their bubble and face a chaotic world to get their cat back.

The unlikely pair's journey begins as they set out to find the tools needed for an exorcism, with the cat-demon acting as their unwilling guide. Skia's contempt for their feline form clashes with Demi's calm, pragmatic demeanor, creating a series of hilarious and chaotic encounters. As they navigate the city together, the duo's early bickering gives way to a genuine, if begrudging, bond. It becomes clear that what started as a practical mission is turning into a profound exploration of fighting inner battles for the people and creatures they love. Along the way, they meet Ags, the local apothecary, who sees Demi for exactly who they are, a connection that both comforts and terrifies Demi.

The stakes are raised dramatically when a gang of bullies harass and misgender Demi. In a surprising act of loyalty, Skia reveals their demonic power, protecting Demi and cementing their unlikely friendship. Their moment of relief is short-lived, however, as their supernatural actions have alerted Nexus, a terrifying and powerful gatekeeper from hell who has been hunting Skia for escaping his domain. The film's tone shifts as the witty hijinks give way to a frantic race against time. Demi and Skia realize their simple exorcism

has spiraled into a life-or-death confrontation, and they must get back to the apartment before Nexus catches them.

The climax of the story is an explosive showdown in the confines of Demi's apartment. As Nexus breaks down the door, Demi races to complete the ritual. Instead of sending Skia back to hell, Demi uses the magic to protect them. In a selfless act, Missy now free from possession leaps to cover Skia's true shadow form, creating a paradox of selfless love. This act is the ultimate rebellion against the demonic rules, causing Nexus to scream in fury as he is pulled back into the hell-gate, unable to harm a demon protected by a mortal and a cat.

The apartment is a mess, the front door is broken, and a new, unspoken arrangement is made. The final images show Demi, Missy, and Skia living together as an unconventional family, a testament to the idea that courage isn't about being fearless, but about finding the people who will show up for you. Spooky Cat is a celebration of awkwardness, finding your people and proving that sometimes the bravest thing you can do is simply let someone else into your cozy, messy bubble.

Themes: Identity, Found Family and Acceptance

Spooky Cat is about being comfortable in your own skin (or fur). It's a story about the profound love between a person and their pet, and the strange, messy, hilarious ways we fight our inner battles for the people and creatures we love. It's a cozy, spooky coming-of-age story with claws.

Underneath the demons and magic, Spooky Cat is a powerful narrative about identity and acceptance. Demi, a non-binary character, is harassed for simply existing in a world that should know better. Skia, on the other hand, is trapped being something they don't want to be. Both of them have to learn that who they are is enough, regardless of what form they take or how the world perceives them. The story argues that sometimes the bravest thing you can do is simply let someone else see the real you, and that showing up for yourself is the first step toward finding your people.

The World

The film opens with Demi's cozy apartment, which acts as both a shield and a cage. It is a place of comfort and safety, filled with gentle pastels and a reassuring sense of order. However, it is also a place that keeps Demi locked away from the outside world. The arrival of Skia shatters this glass menagerie,

transforming the apartment into a dynamic battleground, complete with pockets of darkness for a new friend.

Our hero's journey outside their apartment is set in an urban city that could be Brooklyn, Berlin, or Newtown. A bustling place that hides a little magic in its laneways and a lot of life on its streets. This external world is a vibrant, loud juxtaposition to Demi's quiet life, forcing them to confront a reality that is far messier than the one they have built for themselves.

Tone and Visuals

Visual Style

The animation will draw inspiration from the expressive, whimsical, and character-driven styles of *Sailor Moon* and *Kiki's Delivery Service*. The design will be grounded in a heightened reality, where a cluttered apartment and a bustling city can be rendered with soft, inviting details, but also hide darker, more fantastic elements. Character expressions will be a key focus, with fluid and dynamic movements that emphasize the emotional highs and lows of the story. The world itself is a living character, with magic subtly woven into its laneways and corners. The visual language should feel both nostalgic and fresh, like a beloved story being reinvented for a new generation.

Palette

Demi's world is painted in soft pastels muted blues, gentle pinks, and warm cream reflecting their desire for comfort and safety. This palette makes their apartment feel like a sanctuary. When Skia is present, they bring bursts of chaotic magic with vibrant, otherworldly colors, like sharp magentas and electric purples that clash with Demi's serene world. Ags, the apothecary, is introduced with an autumnal, golden light that emanates from her shop, symbolizing the genuine, comforting connection she offers. The contrast between these palettes will visually underscore the shifts in the story's tone, from quiet and introspective to magically chaotic.

Tone

The tone is a vibrant blend of genres, making *Spooky Cat* a fantastical experience. It is the lovechild of *Sailor Moon* and *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, raised on *Kiki's Delivery Service* and babysat by *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. The mood is playful, sharp, and a little cheeky, characterized by witty, rapid-fire

dialogue and comedic situations. This is balanced by heartfelt moments that sneak up on you when you least expect it. The story handles serious themes like identity and acceptance with a light touch, ensuring that these moments feel earned and genuine. The magical hijinks and talking cat with "too much attitude" exist to deliver a poignant coming-of-age story.

Story Breakdown

Act I

Demi, a non-binary young adult living a quiet life in a cluttered city apartment, dotes on their beloved cat, Missy. On an ordinary afternoon, Missy sneezes and a demon named Skia is accidentally transported from hell and trapped inside the cat's body. Skia is furious and confused, but Demi's calm, witty curiosity disarms the demon. As Skia explains their origins as a "Sneeze Demon," Demi offers to help free them, shrugging that they "don't have a lot going on today."

Act II

To reverse the possession, Demi takes Skia to a local apothecary stuffing the demon-powered cat into their bike basket while Skia complains the entire way. At the apothecary, Demi's friend Ags helps gather the ritual supplies, and their easy chemistry hints at a connection Demi has been avoiding. On the ride home, Demi and Skia's antagonistic banter softens into an unexpected, burgeoning trust.

Act III

Their trip home turns dangerous when a group of men harass and misgender Demi. When the harassment escalates to violence, Skia unleashes a terrifying burst of demonic power to protect them, momentarily twisting Missy's body into something sharp and monstrous. The men flee. Before Demi can recover, a much greater threat emerges: Nexus, a powerful hell gatekeeper hunting Skia for escaping their dominion. The ground sinks, molten rock erupts, and Nexus mocks Skia as a "small thing. Worthless." Demi and Skia narrowly escape thanks to sheer luck and a handful of e-bike riders.

Act IV

Back at the apartment, with Nexus closing in, Demi and Skia prepare for the ritual. Skia confesses they "snuck out of hell," and their luck is running out. As they begin the spell, the apartment fills with unholy tearing, ripping, and howling. The first half of the ritual successfully frees Missy's soul, leaving

Skia's small shadow-form behind. But as Nexus pounds at the door, Demi makes a choice: instead of banishing Skia back to hell, they alter the spell to protect them.

Act V

Nexus bursts into the apartment, reaching for Skia. Missy leaps into the ritual circle, shielding the demon who once possessed her. Combined with Demi's final incantation, the act creates a paradox that collapses the hell-gate beneath Nexus and drags him back down. In the stunned quiet that follows, Skia asks, "What... what did you do?" Demi looks at the devastation and the two beings who now rely on them and offers Skia a home not as a host, but as a friend.

The short film closes on the trio settling into an unconventional but genuine chosen family.

Characters

Demi

Demi is a non-binary young adult who has made peace with staying inside their isolated apartment bubble. The world outside is full of judgment and anxiety, and now, apparently, demons. Deeply connected to their cat, Missy, Demi's desire for solitude is a shield against a world that doesn't always see them for who they are. When a sneeze demon takes over their beloved pet, Demi is forced out of their bubble and straight into an adventure they didn't sign up for. This journey challenges them to confront not only external dangers but also their own insecurities. Stepping out, with a cat-demon at their side, cracks open the possibility of friendship, belonging, and becoming someone braver than they thought.

Skia

A sneeze demon who thinks being trapped in a cat is the absolute worst. Overcompensating, sarcastic, and allergic to vulnerability, Skia is a dramatic and chaotic force who believes demons are meant to destroy, not connect. Their initial contempt for their feline form is a defense mechanism, hiding a deeper sense of loneliness and a desperation for purpose. As they claw through city life with Demi, they are both confused and begrudgingly impressed by their "human" composure and kindness. The journey forces Skia to discover that maybe, just maybe, having a partner isn't so bad. Their transformation is at the core of the story, as they learn to value connection over destruction.

Ags

The local apothecary and Demi's "almost" friend. Ags is the kind of warm, genuine person Demi has been hiding from, and their connection represents the kind of life Demi has been too afraid to live. Completely unbothered by other people's oddities, Ags sees Demi for exactly who they are, which is both comforting and terrifying. Her caring nature and easy-going demeanor serve as a counterpoint to the chaotic supernatural events, grounding the story in a sense of found family and belonging. She is the kind of friend who genuinely worries about Demi and their well-being, proving to be the spark of something more in their life.

Audience & Market Potential

Spooky Cat is not just a quirky idea about a demon-possessed pet; it already has a dedicated, hungry fanbase. First as a book series and on Amazon's episodic platform, and now through special editions and in person events, the story has found readers who keep coming back for more.

Spooky Cat began as a one-off, but so many readers messaged asking for more that author C.H. Lyn had no choice but to expand the series. The property has proven its market viability and has a pre-existing audience ready for an animated adaptation. This has all been organic growth, with more than 4,000 confirmed copies consumed across various platforms. The readership is built on a direct, personal connection with the author and the story, which is a powerful foundation for a new visual medium.

The target audience aligns with the established fanbase, attracting readers who love witty, character-driven narratives with a mix of humor, fantasy, and heart. This demographic, often a part of the online book community, is eager for new content that reflects their values of found family, adventure, and kindness in the face of adversity. They are the same audience that flock to shows like *Nimona* and *Buffy* stories that blend humor, powerful emotional arcs, and magical elements. This audience is active, vocal, and ready to champion the next great queer-friendly fantasy.

Creator's Statement

Why Now? Because it's cosy. Because it's queer. Because audiences are craving the next *Buffy*, the next *Sailor Moon*, the next *Sabrina*; not recycled but reinvented for the next generation. *Spooky Cat* is a story about identity, love, and showing up for yourself and your people. It's spooky, it's silly, it's heartfelt and it's exactly what we need.

About the Author

C.H. Lyn debuted in April 2023 and has since published 11 books, selling over 4,200 copies with 35,000 Amazon page reads and almost 40,000 episodic reads on Kindle Vella. Spooky Cat is her breakout hit, accounting for nearly half her total sales. She is also the co-founder of Springs Book Bash, a Colorado-based festival now in its third year, which has quickly become a cornerstone of the local book community with an eye on diversity and inclusion. Her growing social reach includes 6,500 Instagram followers, nearly 4,000 on TikTok, and 2,100 on Facebook. She has appeared at multiple signings across the United States, building a readership that values stories of found family, adventure, and kindness in the face of adversity. The flood of reader messages asking for more Spooky Cat turned it from a stand-alone into a series, and it remains her most beloved work and the property with the strongest potential for adaptation.

