

FINDING MESSI

The
Miracle Cat

From Kyiv



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Based on a True Story

AUTHORS' NOTE

This book is based on a true story.

Between February and March of 2022, more than half of the children of Ukraine left their homes to escape violence following the Russian invasion. Millions of people crossed the border from Ukraine to Poland, almost all of whom were women and children.

Iryna Chernyak and her mother Alexandra are two of those people.

To the children
of Ukraine



Have you ever
met a cat
that plays soccer?



Introducing—Messi, the dribbling,
passing, goal-scoring cat!

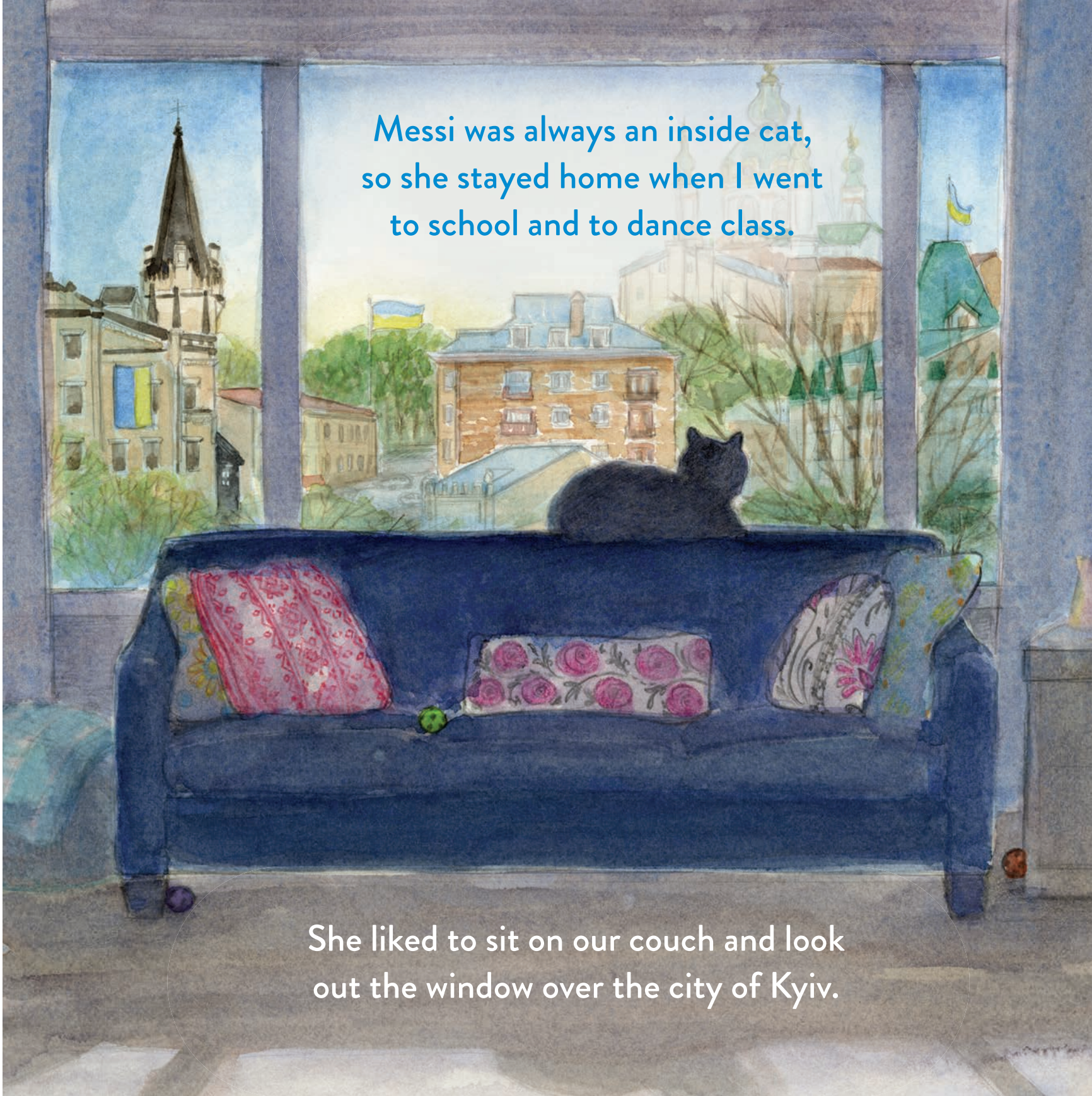


My family adopted Messi when
I was eight years old.

I named her after my
favorite soccer player, Lionel Messi.

He just won the World Cup!





Messi was always an inside cat,
so she stayed home when I went
to school and to dance class.

She liked to sit on our couch and look
out the window over the city of Kyiv.



When my mom got home from work
and I got home from school,
Messi would jump off the couch.

Time for
soccer practice!



As Messi got bigger, she got better at chasing little soccer balls all over our apartment.

