

Excerpt from The Haunting of Mom and Dad

by Georgie Van Gunten

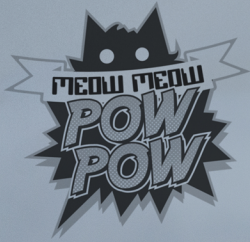
My father had a story about a woman

**; she had fought with her husband, had left her home,
had walked miles barefoot in the freezing cold. She knocked
early one evening on his front door in the middle of a
snowstorm. My father looked down at her toes, each one
of them blue and brittle and dead**

**; and he took her to the hospital and they said,
*We're going to take your pain away, that's right,
close your eyes.***

**And then he had waking dreams where he would see her
walking carrying a baby, or maybe it was an empty blanket,
her toes
pushing deep into the soft ground with every single**

step.



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