

*Gary Gautier  
4314 Toulouse St  
New Orleans LA 70119  
[drggautier@gmail.com](mailto:drggautier@gmail.com)  
504-613-7733*

## **The Cat Who Wore a Cactus for a Hat**

There once was a cat who wore a cactus for a hat.

This cat's name was Jack.

When Jack marched down the alley, rats, lizards, birds, and bats would clear out of his path.

This made Jack feel important.

It also made Jack sad because no other animals would come near him.

"Stay back," they would say when they saw Jack.

One day Jack was marching past the bakery.

The baker was loading loaves of bread on a rack.

Jack reached in between two shelves, pulled out a loaf, and ran.

But what is missing?

Jack's cactus hat got stuck in a rack.

The baker scratched his head when he saw a cactus stuck to his bread.

Jack sat down to eat on the steps of his favorite shack.

He ate without his hat. Poor Jack.

He was shocked to see a rat on his lap.

The rat looked at the bread and looked at Jack.

Jack shared some bread with the little rat.

Then came a possum, a pigeon, and a turtle with a teapot.

All the friends had bread and tea.

Jack thought it was nicer to have friends over for bread than to have a cactus stuck on your head.

So he left his hat on the baker's rack.

I hope no one ate it for a snack.