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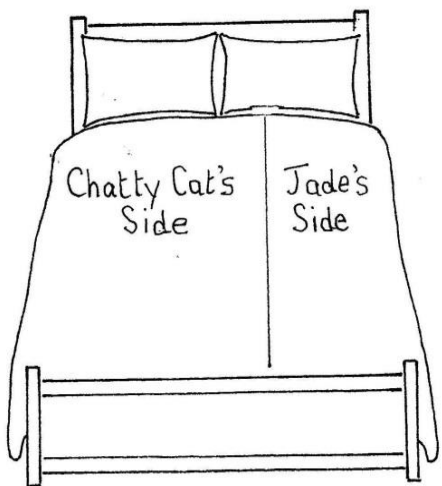
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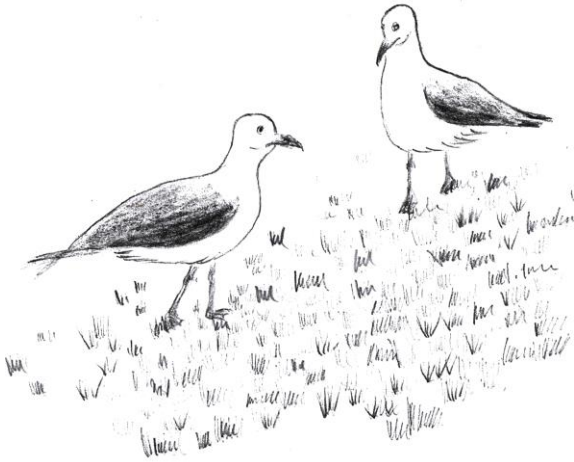
Paws for Thought

It's Summer

I am sitting on the bedroom windowsill and the sun switch is on. The sun is shining in on me and I am lovely and warm. I am waiting for Jade to wake up. She's been in MY bed for ages. Yes it is MY bed but I let Jade sleep in it too.



I look out of the window and see two big white seagulls on the grass. They are huge! Well not huge huge but a lot bigger than me.



I meow to them, ‘Make some of your loud noises and wake Jade up purrlease*’ But they cannot hear me, the window is too thick. I turn my head and look over at Jade sleeping, willing her to wake up, but she doesn’t. I jump from the windowsill onto the bed. Thud!

I look her way and see that she is awake but she is not talking. I know that when she talks it means she’s getting up and I’ll get some food.

*Purrlease is a Chatty Cat word for please.
You pronounce it Purr-lease!

I'm not hungry but if she is going to give me some food I'm not going to say no.

Jade stretches in the bed. 'Hello Chatty Cat,' she says. I meow 'Hello,' and walk up the bed to her so she can stroke me twice on the head, and when she's done that I turn a little so she can stroke my back twice then I stroll to the edge of the bed and jump down onto the floor.

She gets out of bed and walks into the bathroom and closes the door before I can get in there. I meow, 'Jade, you've closed the door and I can't get in,' she doesn't answer and I look up at the door handle waiting for it to move. When the handle does move the door opens and I quickly run in and see what she has been hiding from me. I walk around the floor of the bathroom and cannot see anything different.

So why, why, why did she close the door? Silly shehooman* Jade.

She runs down the stairs and I run down too, faster than her because I need to get to the kitchen first, to sit by my food dishes and meow, 'Can I have my food purrlease?' She puts my food down and makes her own breakfast. I know this without watching what she's doing because she does it every morning, and I mean *every* morning. She's just switched the kettle on and now she is walking through the house and will open the back door. Then she will come back and finish making her breakfast. Anyway, enough of her, I've just finished eating my food and I can smell my food over by Jade... oh, hang on a minute, what is she doing? I jump up onto the stool and watch her. She's putting MY meat and MY biscuits on a plate. But it's not MY plate.

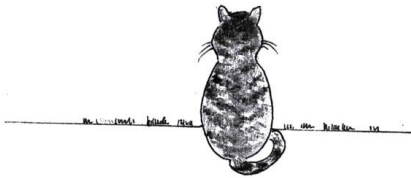
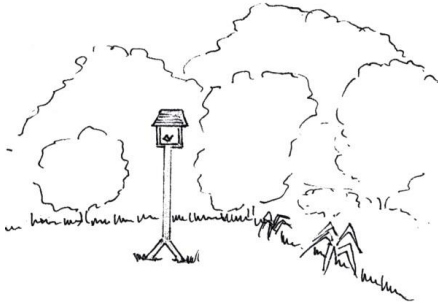
* Shehooman is a Chatty Cat word for a lady.

You pronounce it she-hooman!

I watch her walk out of the kitchen and close the door. Not again!

Twice now she has left me behind a door. How can I see what's going on if she keeps doing this? I hear her footsteps coming close to the door and I look up at the door handle. I see it turning and when the door opens I run to the back of the house to the back door. I stop abruptly, not only can I smell cat, but I can see a black and white one, well really it's a white cat with black patches. In MY garden-room! What the heck?! I run into the garden-room to shoo it away and it runs under the gate and out of MY garden-room. Phew! I'm out of breath, I'm sure it's due to the hot sun. I walk slowly up the path, panting all the way. I walk into the house and go in each room to see where Jade is. I can't see her downstairs and I haven't got enough energy to run upstairs to see if she's up there so I go and sit on the carpet by the back door and look out into MY garden-room. It's

nice and tidy. The grass was cut yesterday.



I have a little rest. It's really hot now. I want to ask Jade to turn the sun switch off, it's too hot now. Ah here she is coming through the front door with Jim.

'I thought you were upstairs. Where have you been?' I ask.

'Outside,' says Jade.

'In the front garden-room? Can you turn the sun switch off Jade?'

'No, I can't, Chatty Cat.'

'Purrlease.'

‘No.’

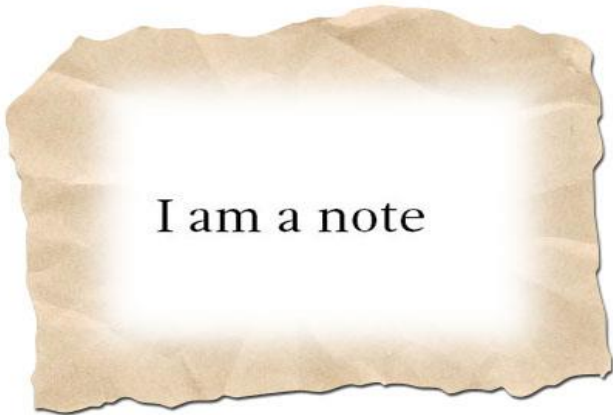
‘I said “Purrlease”.’

‘I know you did but I don’t know how to switch it off.’

‘Quick, follow me.’

‘Where are we going?’

‘Just follow me.’ I run and jump up onto the table in my garden-room.



‘Look, here is a note...’

‘Yes but it’s only a piece of paper.’

‘Yes but hoomans* know everything so go and find the switch and turn it off. Purrlease. I am so hot.’

*Hoomans is a Chatty Cat word for humans.

You pronounce it hoo-man!

Jade puts a damp towel on the floor and I look at her. 'It's to cool you down.' She says.

I lie on it and I can feel it cooling me down.



Later I walk down the path to the tree and I can smell cat again. I look to my left and I can see white cat paws underneath the gate.



Who's that in MY Garden-room?

It was really hot last night and I slept on the wooden flooring. I've just had breakfast and have left some biscuits for later.

I walk through to the back door which Jade has already opened and look out into my garden-room. 'Whoa! What are you doing here? I shooed you away yesterday.' As it walks up the path I stare at it and stand up. It's coming closer and I raise my tail to show I am upset.

It stops a few feet away from me.

'This is MY garden-room. What are you doing here? Who are you?' I ask.

'My name is Stray Cat,' the cat meows.

'You look familiar. Ah, I know you. You used to sleep on the roof of MY shed. Well, I think it's MY shed.'

'Yes I did. And it's everyone's shed.'

‘Everyone’s?’

‘Everyone’s, but no hoomans, only cats.’

‘What do you want?’

‘Have you got any food?’

‘Only MY food. Why do you ask?’

‘I’m hungry. I’ve been out all night.’

‘Why were you out all night?’

‘I always go out at night but I haven’t gone home for breakfast. I decided to come here instead.’

I stare at the cat.

‘So, have you got any food?’ Stray Cat asks again.

‘I’ve got some biscuits but I was saving them for later.’

‘Oh, go on, let me have some. Just a few, then I will go and leave you in peace.’

‘Why don’t you go home and have your breakfast?’

‘I can’t be bothered. It’s too far. Go on, let me have some.’

‘I will go and see my shehooman Jade, she might give you some.’

I run into the kitchen. ‘Jade, Jade, come and see, Stray Cat wants some food.’

‘Stray Cat?’ Jade asks.

‘Yes, Stray Cat. The cat that used to sleep on top of my shed roof. He’s back. Quick, come and follow me and have a look.’

Jade follows me. We walk into the garden-room, and she sees Stray Cat.

‘Hello, you beauty,’ Jade says to Stray Cat. ‘You were here yesterday.’

Stray Cat walks up to Jade and stands still while Jade bends down and strokes him. Stray Cat is more patient than me. He stays there quite a while and lets Jade stroke him. Much longer than I do.

‘He wants some food,’ I meow. Jade doesn’t answer. ‘He wants some food,’ I meow again.

‘Would you like some food Stray Cat?’ Jade asks.

‘I just said that he did.’

Stray Cat meows, ‘Yes purrlease.’

Jade goes into the house and into the kitchen. I walk quickly behind her, hoping that I'll get some food too.

Jade opens the door of the big white fridge and gets something out of it and closes the door again. I sniff. Mmmnnn... I can smell chicken. She walks over to the drawer and gets out something to scoop the meat onto a plate for Stray Cat. I sit by my dish and meow, 'Can I have some too please?'

She puts some meat on a plate and then comes over to me and puts some food onto my plate. I look at my plate and then at Stray Cat's plate.

'Stray Cat has more food than me,' I meow.

'He is more active than you and needs more food. Besides, you've already had your breakfast.'

'Are you saying that I am phat*?' I meow.

*Phat is a Chatty Cat word for fat!

You pronounce it fat!

‘No I am not. I’m just saying...’ Jade says as she walks out of the kitchen with the plate of food and closes the door behind her.

Again I am left behind a door!

I meow, ‘Jade, you’ve left me behind the door again.’ She doesn’t answer. I raise my right paw and tap on the door hoping it will open but it doesn’t. I try and put my paw into the bottom corner of the door to open it but my paw won’t fit. I am not happy and I sit by the door and sulk.

I hear Jade walking to the door and I move back a little, just enough room for her to open the door and for me to run out as quickly as I can.

Running through the house I slide on the shiny wooden floor. Wheeeeeee! I get to the back door and I see Stray Cat is warming up his body on the patio.



I tiptoe past him as quietly as I can and go and sit on the bin.



I can see him from up here. I will ignore him and pretend he is not here. I wonder how he keeps the white bits of his fur so clean.

After a while Stray Cat gets up and stretches, then walks along my path and under the gate, and then he's gone.

I jump down and stroll into the house to see where Jade is and to eat the rest of my biscuits. I'll be having more soon and I must eat these up now so Jade sees my empty plate.

After I eat them I stroll into the lounge and gently tap my light blue ball with my left paw so it goes under the

settee. I don't want anyone taking it and
it will be safe there.