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The Boy and his cat

Dr. Tooraj Hashemi

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Preface

The resilience, grace and beauty of the cat are unparalleled among all the creatures on earth. The simple gait of this animal cannot be compared with the best dance and gymnastics of human beings. It is noticed that cats walk on high walls with great composure and grace, not even looking down at their feet. Their eyes shine like mirrors at night, and their ears are sharper than any creature. Humans have a maximum hearing range of 20,000 to 30,000 hertz, and in a few cases, the upper limit of this range is close to 100,000. A simple experiment on the hearing of terrestrial animals in which a pulse generator was used, none of the animals were able to hear frequencies higher than 50 to 60 kilohertz. Only cats heard and reacted up to the highest limit of the generator, which was 200,000 hertz.

The average feline vision processes information at roughly 100 frames per second (fps), which is a significantly higher rate than the human perception of approximately 20-30 fps. This higher "cat's-eye" fps means cats perceive fast-moving images on screens as continuous motion, but they can also detect the flicker and choppiness of standard televisions and videos more easily than humans do. For dogs, it is around 70 fps.

Cats, with their higher than 100 fps (frames per second) perception, things that are very fast for humans, would appear to move at a slower, more normal pace for cats. Just as humans need about 20-24 FPS for smooth motion, a cat's brain processes visual information much faster, roughly at 100 FPS, which allows them to see more detail per second and perceive fast events, like a flying bird, as moving in slow motion.

The average cat's reaction time is approximately 20-70 milliseconds, which is faster than the average snake's reaction time, 44-70 milliseconds. Cats process visual information faster than humans, perceiving around 100 frames per second (fps) compared to human's 15-24 fps. Their quicker reaction times and muscle responses are also faster than ours, and the snake, truly does perceive us moving in slow motion. Cats have one of the fastest reflex systems in the animal kingdom, clocking in at an impressive 20 millisecond reaction speed. This is as fast as a housefly (which is why a cat can catch a fly with its paws, but humans can't). In comparison, dogs have a reaction time of 80 milliseconds at best.

Cats do love their owners, forming strong bonds similar to a child's attachment to a parent. While they may express affection in subtler ways than dogs, cats show their love through various behaviours, including secure attachment, trust, and seeking closeness. They often use their owners as a source of security and comfort. Cats have saved their owners from fires, medical emergencies, and other dangerous situations by acting as an alert system, using actions like miaowing, scratching, or physically intervening to get attention. For example, some cats have alerted owners to fires, while others have woken up their owners or their owners' family members when they were suffering from a medical emergency like a heart attack or dangerously low blood sugar. They can detect changes in their owner's physiology, such as during a heart attack, and act by miaowing, pawing, or jumping on them to wake them up. Cats also intervene in other dangerous situations, like by alerting their owners to smoke or by intervening in an attack.

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Chapters list

Page	Title	Chapters
4	Cat and Boy	Chapter One
9	The Empty Room	Chapter two
13	Life with Tara	Chapter three
17	The next day	Chapter four
20	Problem with other occupants	Chapter five
24	Exploring	Chapter six
27	Return of the occupants	Chapter seven
31	Interaction with criminals	Chapter eight
37	Decisions for Leo and Tara	Chapter nine
40	The reason for Leo to be imprisoned	Chapter ten
43	The plot getting thicker	Chapter eleven
46	Tara's Masterpiece	Chapter twelve
51	Facing the enemies	Chapter thirteen
56	The paintings	Chapter fourteen
62	Safety first	Chapter fifteen
65	Tara Gallery	Chapter sixteen
69	Big celebration	Chapter seventeen
72	Medal of honour	Chapter eighteen
75	Tara's offspring	Chapter nineteen

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Chapter one: Cat and Boy



In a relatively warm and calm day in late summer, Leo’s father, George, woke his eight-year-old son early in the morning and asked him to get ready to go out of town. Leo’s mother had been in the hospital for surgery a day or two ago. Leo had expected to go to the hospital to see his mother, but the visiting hours were between two and four in the afternoon. His father told him that they would return home after lunch and then go to the hospital.

Leo quickly finished his simple breakfast and got ready to go. His father had already taken his car out of the garage and was cleaning it. At that moment, the next-door, who had heard that Leo’s mother had gone to the hospital, came out of her house and started talking to Leo’s father, George. She said that if they wanted to go to the hospital, she would also like to go with them.

George replied that they would do it in the afternoon, and for now he and his son Leo were thinking of going out of town and enjoying the fresh air. The lady, who seemed to have no particular business at home, immediately expressed her interest in accompanying them on this task. Leo's father readily agreed.

When Leo went out of the house and caught sight of the who was supposed to accompany them, he was completely dissatisfied and decided to return home. At that moment, his beautiful and loyal cat, who had noticed that Leo was going, quickly reached the car and got in before anyone else and sat in the back seat.

Leo, who could not convince himself to do anything against his beautiful cat Tara's wishes, got in the car and sat next to Tara. The beautiful cat, as usual, threw herself on Leo's lap and relaxed.

Her father opened the front door of the car and the woman sat in the front seat. Then George got behind the wheel and the car started moving. Tara, although she had been in the car many times before, had half-raised her head and assumed an alarmed posture at the start.

Cat was not happy that she was not in charge of choosing the direction of the movement.

Cats have the greatest talent among terrestrial creatures and do not want to hand over their authority to another person in any way. Every cat is the best gymnast among terrestrial creatures, and the leopard is the fastest among all animals. That is why they prefer to do it

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themselves to get to any destination and not leave their fate in the hands of man-made machines.

Anyway, Tara was resting in Leo's arms and staring around. The 's lady did not give George, who was driving, a moment to relax and tried hard to talk to him. She insisted that, in Leo's mother's absence, George and her son spend most of their time at their house.

The car passed through several streets and Leo did not have the opportunity to ask his father where they were going. They had been out of town for some time and were driving on a deserted road. Finally, they stopped near the gate of what looked like a forest park.

They all got out of the car and Leo tried to hug Tara, the beautiful cat. But the cat escaped from his hands and started walking with them a short distance. Leo looked around carefully and noticed that this area was empty of residential houses and he, who was used to living in a big city, was surprised and a little scared by the lack of people and the deep silence. The lady continued her conversation with George and did not leave him alone for a moment while walking. Tara also kept her distance from them and followed them.

It did not take long for Tara, who had been absorbed in watching the trees and the birds sitting on the branches, to run towards one of these trees and try to pull herself up the trunk. Leo, who was watching her, got worried and ran towards the tree to prevent her from climbing it. But before he could do anything, Tara had reached the first large branch and perched on it.

Leo looked towards his father and the neighbour woman, but the woman was still talking and Leo did not want to disturb them. He returned to the branch where Tara was sitting and gently asked Tara to come down from the tree. Tara, ignoring him, continued to stare at the birds sitting on the higher branches and prepared herself to climb up the tree.

Poor Leo was worried about his cat on one hand and, on the other hand, his father and the neighbour woman were moving forward regardless of the problem that had arisen. Leo begged Tara again to come down from the tree, but Tara, who was absorbed in watching the birds, did not respond to his request.

When this delay became too long, Leo became very worried because he could no longer even see his father and the woman. He had no choice but to get to his father by any means necessary. He asked Tara to come down for the last time, and seeing no reaction from her, he left her alone on the tree and tried to follow his father down the road even though he was unable to see him.

He continued on the road as far as he could see his father, but there was no sign of his father or the neighbour. Leo stopped for a moment, but then he decided to find his father before it was too late.

The road he was walking on split into two or even three branches at several points, and poor Leo did not know which way to go. He could not even return to where they had parked their car. What was worse was that he had lost his beautiful and faithful cat. In the meantime, he continued on the path he had chosen, hoping to find his father as soon as possible.

No one was to be seen on the road he was walking on, and Leo was most afraid of being alone. Gradually, the number of trees along the road decreased, and at the end of the road, a

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high hill came into view. Leo decided to continue on his way and climb the hill. He told himself that from the top of the hill he could look around, and maybe he could find his father.

Leo, who had not rested for a while, struggled up the hill and it took him a while to reach the top of the hill. There, he looked around from the top of the hill, and the only thing that caught his eye was the ruins of abandoned buildings that could be seen in a village. There was no living creature in this village.

He sat on the top of the hill for a while and began to rest. He was now completely worried and did not know what to do. Several hours had passed since breakfast and Leo, in addition to being tired, felt hungry and thirsty. There was no sign of Tara, his beloved cat.



Finally, after much thought, he decided to go down the hill and reach the village. Perhaps he would find his father and the woman there. In any case, there was a possibility that there were people in this place who had a home and a life, and he could ask them for help to return to his home.

Leo looked around a little, hoping that he might find Tara. But the cat was not nearby, and Leo got up and began to walk down the hill towards the village. He immediately realised that going down the hill was as difficult and tiring as going up it. He had to carefully mark his steps, otherwise he might slip and fall.

He made it to the bottom of the hill with all his might and started walking along a slushy path towards the village. Nothing of interest was to be seen around the forge, and if anything was seen, it was only the rubbish that had been left there years ago.

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As he got closer to the village buildings, poor Leo's panic grew, for there was hardly a single habitable building in the whole village. He looked around very carefully and made no progress. Many of the houses had their roofs blown off and their walls destroyed.

Leo thought that perhaps he should shout for his father, but he did not like the idea, for there could be wild animals in such a place, and Leo did not want to attract their attention. He passed through several ruined buildings and suddenly found himself in front of a large building that looked like a large warehouse.



Because of its age and lack of maintenance, the building was not in a good condition, but it was not like many of the buildings in the village that were completely destroyed, and its roof and walls were still in place. What caught Leo’s attention were the windows of this large three-story building, which were well repaired, the glass was all intact, and the windows were protected by steel bars that had been painted black.

The front door of this building was also made of steel and heavily rusted. Leo went forward and grabbed the handle of this door and tried to open it. Despite its age and rust, the door was quite strong, and Leo realised that it was locked from behind. He decided to go around the building and find a way to enter it. It had started to rain, and Leo was not wearing rainproof clothing.

He started from the right side of the building, carefully observing and trying the windows of the building. He did not have any success until he reached the left side of the building. But in the middle of the left side of the building on the ground floor, he saw a window that didn't

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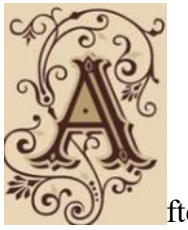
seem to be completely closed. After testing, he realised that he wasn't wrong and after some effort, he managed to open the window and enter the building. He was so excited that he forgot to close the window behind him like before.

At least now he had the chance to avoid the rain. He decided to rest in the room for a while without fear of getting wet, and when the rain stopped, he would go back into the park the way he had come, perhaps to the place where his father had parked his car.



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Chapter two: The Empty Room

fter a few minutes of rest, he realised that if he continued in this state, it would not be long before he fell asleep, and this could be dangerous in an unknown place. Therefore, he decided to quietly leave this room and explore the other rooms of this large building.

He opened the door of the room and entered a long and dark corridor. On both sides of this corridor, there were many doors that opened into empty, dark and dusty rooms. It was clear that these rooms had not been used for many years.

At one point, the corridor divided into several branches and Leo intelligently remembered the path he had chosen because he knew that to leave the building he would have to return to the first room. At the end of the new corridor, there was a large door that Leo was able to open carefully. A large area appeared before his eyes with a very high ceiling. This area must have been the main warehouse of this building. All kinds of equipment were arranged in this warehouse, and it was obvious from their appearance that they had been used.

Leo looked at the door through which he had entered this warehouse once again and remembered its location. If he had not been able to find this door after exploring the warehouse, he would have been completely lost in this large and dark building.

Leo started moving without wasting time and in every corner, he saw things that caught his attention. In one corner of the large warehouse, equipment was arranged that reminded Leo of factories producing various materials. In this area, near a large desk with several chairs around it, against the wall, there was a large refrigerator with a full-fledged bathroom next to it. Out of curiosity, Leo turned on the faucet of this bathroom and clean water flowed from the pipe above the sink.

Before doing anything else, Leo also opened the refrigerator door. For the first time, the small light in the refrigerator turned on, and Leo realised that there was electricity in this building. There were all kinds of food, raw or cooked, in the refrigerator. Leo, who was very hungry,

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involuntarily took a few biscuits from the refrigerator and put them in his mouth. These biscuits were fresh and clean and tasted good.

He closed the refrigerator door carefully and continued his investigation. He went to the large desk and slowly opened the drawers of the desk and looked inside them. A pile of all kinds of papers was collected inside the drawers, which were more like receipts for buying and selling things that Leo did not understand.

In one of the drawers, there were a lot of plastic bags, in which a certain amount of a white substance was placed. Despite his young age, Leo had good intelligence and precaution. Upon seeing these small plastic bags, without touching them, he immediately closed the drawer and walked away.

On all four sides of the vast warehouse were several rooms, some of which had no locks, but most of them had been closed and locked before leaving. The warehouse, like the rest of the building, was dark, and during the day, some little beams of light entered in from the ceiling and the corners, allowing Leo to find his way.

Leo had discovered that this old building was equipped with electricity, but there was not a single electric light in any of the rooms, corridors, or warehouse. The room he had chosen by chance to rest in had some light from the outside due to a broken window, but Leo thought to himself that when night came, the entire interior of the building would be completely dark, making it impossible to move around.

For this reason, he decided that it would be better to leave the building before it got dark, or at least get to the first room, from which he could always escape through the broken window, if necessary.

He carefully left the same door he had entered the warehouse and entered the corridor. He walked along the corridor until he reached a place where the corridor divided into several branches. He remembered well which path he should take and was glad that he did so in the little light that came into the building from outside. In the darkness of the night, there was no way he could find his way.

Leo walked along the corridor until he found himself in front of the door of the room he was looking for. He opened the door slowly, went towards the window, and sat down on the floor with his back to the window. His search inside the building did not last long, but the poor boy felt very tired. As he entered the room, he glanced out the corner of the half-broken window and realised that it was still raining.

As he sat on the floor with his back to the window, he put his head in his hands, and then rubbed his eyes with his hands. When he took his hands from his eyes and opened them, in front of the black wall in front of him, he saw something that made his whole being trembling. Tara, his beautiful and loyal cat, was sitting silently by the opposite wall, looking at him.

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Leo knew her cat very well and from the way the little animal was looking at him, he could tell that his beautiful cat was not very happy with him. The darkness was not a big deal to Tara, as cats are nocturnal and rest during the day. Tara was looking at her human carefully and somewhat unhappily, not moving. Leo could tell that Tara was not sure if separating from her and entering the ruined village was a pre-planned move, and that Leo had deliberately left her alone on a tree branch and quietly entered a building. Tara was staring at Leo with wide eyes, and anyone who knows anything about cat behaviour knows that this way of looking of a cat is a sign of dissatisfaction and even concern.

Like humans, cats experience a wide range of emotions, from love and happiness to sadness and anger. Feline love is a beautiful and powerful thing. Cats are capable of forming deep and lasting bonds with their caregivers and feline companions. They express their love in subtle ways, such as purring while being petted, rubbing against their caretaker's legs, or simply sharing the same space. These gestures of affection are an expression of the deep emotional bond that cats develop with those who care for them. A cat's happiness can be seen in their carefree and relaxed behaviour.

When they feel safe and comfortable in their environment, cats can be seen playfully frolicking, rolling over belly up, and even purring contentedly. These moments of happiness are precious to cat lovers, as they reveal the joyful and laid-back side of the feline personality. If your cat is calm, they are happy.

However, cats can also experience darker emotions, such as sadness and depression. Changes in their environment, such as the loss of a feline or human companion, a change of residence

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or prolonged absence from their caregivers, can trigger feelings of sadness and melancholy in cats. They may become withdrawn, lose interest in play, and become less affectionate.

It is important to be attentive to these signs, and offer emotional support to your cat during these difficult times. Like humans, cats can also feel anger and frustration in certain situations. This can be triggered by changes in their routine, negative interactions with other animals or humans, or even simply not getting what they want.

The way Tara looked directly into Leo's eyes left no doubt in the young man's mind that his cat was very unhappy with him and expected an apology. Leo got up and knelt down next to the offended cat, and as gently as possible, he stroked the cat's head and ears, and, in the manner of cats, slowly closed his eyes.

Leo's apology immediately worked, and Tara lay down on the floor, purring involuntarily, folding her arms and closing her eyes. These three signs were signs of Leo's complete forgiveness, because in addition to purring, which means the cat's satisfaction, closing her eyes shows the other person that the cat has complete trust in that person and does not consider it necessary to control his movements with open eyes.

By lying on his back, the cat puts his chest and stomach in a very dangerous position, and in fact this little animal is entrusting the rest of his life to the person in front of her. Crossing his arms and legs would let the person know that the cat was not going to attack or bite.

Leo also imitated her and crossed his arms over his chest. Even before this, the loyal cat had forgiven him and was licking his hand gently.

Now Leo had a chance to think about it a little. Before leaving the park, he looked back several times and could not find any trace of his beloved cat. He reached the top of the hill and looked around several times. When he came down the hill and entered the deserted village, he repeated the same thing, but there was no sign of the cat. He had entered the building quietly through the half-open window and was sure that no one had seen him enter the dark building. So how was it possible that Tara had carefully found his room and had been waiting for him there?

Leo was trying in vain to solve this great mystery. Even the greatest scientists are unable to solve this mystery. Migratory birds fly with complete confidence from one side of the globe to the other, crossing mountains, plains, seas and oceans on their way, and arriving exactly where they want to go. What means do they use to find their way? This is a complicated task even for experienced pilots who are equipped with all kinds of tracking devices. In recent years, some scientists have discovered a phenomenon called quantum entanglement using quantum physics. They believe that such birds use this phenomenon to find their way. Who knows, maybe cats have also entered the world of quantum physics



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Chapter three: Leo with Tara

By finding Tara, Leo had found a new state of mind and had gained hope for life. Now, with Tara's outstanding qualities, he could help Leo save himself from that problem and return to his home and life. He knew very well that this selfless creature was completely willing to risk his life to save him.

He remembered that when he was in the large warehouse, he had taken some biscuits from the refrigerator, some of which he had eaten on the spot due to extreme hunger, and the rest he had put in his pocket. He thought that poor Tara had not eaten since they had driven past the house in the car and must be very hungry. That was when he reached into his pocket, took out a biscuit and placed it in front of Tara.

Tara, seeing a new object, became curious and began to smell it. But after a few moments, she moved away from the biscuit and stared at its owner. She was now asking Leo what he meant by offering her this biscuit. Leo understood and tried to make the cat understand that it was a food and that she could relieve her hunger with it.

Leo broke the biscuit in half, first held it in front of the cat and then put it in his own mouth. He wanted to make the cat understand that this was an edible object and that she could use it to satisfy her hunger. Tara looked at her owner in surprise for a while, then got up from the floor, went to the corner of the room and picked up something that Leo had not paid attention to, put it on the floor in front of Leo and went back.

In the semi-dark room, Leo did not understand what it was at first, but when he looked at it carefully, he realised that the beautiful cat had brought him a gift. The cat wanted him to accept this gift, which was nothing more than the body of a small bird, and eat it.

It was clear that Tara was not hungry at all, and that her first hunt had certainly been for herself, and that she had hunted the second for her master. In order not to break her beloved cat's heart, Leo pretended to be very happy to receive this gift and instead petted and stroked the beautiful cat. He now saw with his own eyes that the cat was an independent creature that, under unfavourable circumstances, would take the initiative to prepare its own food.

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Cats bringing gifts to their loved ones is not a new discovery, and anyone who has had the privilege of having a cat in their home is familiar with this cat behaviour. One of the agreements signed thousands of years ago between cats and humans, and followed by all cats on earth, is to hunt and keep mice away from homes and human lives. Even in the 21st century, mice, if they do not deal with their old enemy, deprive humans of a comfortable life.

In civilised cities, there is an organisation called the Pest Control Agency. The main task of this agency is to keep mice away from the human environment. Despite using all kinds of poisons, the efforts of the agency's agents in this case have been unsuccessful and they are no match for these small and annoying creatures. The only sure way to keep mice away is to bring a cat into the house. The cat, in order to fulfil the contract it has with humans, immediately sets to work, and the mice also understand that a cat has entered the house, and they avoid it with all their might.

Very rarely, a mouse, unaware of the cat's presence, enters the cat's territory, and the cat, with its superior hearing, senses the mouse's presence. From that moment on, the cat uses all its strength throughout the day and night and finally hunts down the insidious mouse. Cats do not throw away the mouse's body, but present it as a gift to their owner.

Many humans are upset when they see a dead mouse and wonder why the cat brought it into the house. They are unaware of the contract signed between cats and humans thousands of years ago. The poor cat thinks that he has brought a desired gift for the inhabitants of his territory.

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This gift-giving is not only about mice, but also includes birds, fish and other small animals. Reports indicate that in some cases, cats have brought poisonous snakes as gifts to their owners.

After hunting one bird and filling her stomach, Tara also took up another hunt and brought a bird as a gift for Leo.

Anyway, Leo and Tara sat down on the floor together and began to rest. Tara tried to keep her body in contact with Leo as much as possible. After a while, a thought occurred to Leo, and he wanted to go to the large barn before it got completely dark. He thought that after the rain, the weather would get cold, and they would be exposed to the cold in a room with a half-broken window. This thought made him get up slowly so as not to disturb Tara's rest.

But as soon as he stood up, Tara also got up and followed his every move, staring at him. Leo slowly opened the door of the room and entered the dark corridor. The cat, as was his nature, followed Leo in complete silence and did so in such silence that Leo did not know that the cat was following him. He had memorised his route well and was moving confidently. A few moments later, he arrived in front of the large barn door and opened it very slowly.

There was no sound coming from the warehouse and no one was in it. Leo was looking for something that he could put on himself and his cat during the night while sleeping so that they wouldn't feel the cold. Unfortunately, the warehouse was so dark that Leo couldn't see anything. He cautiously approached the refrigerator and opened the door. The small light inside the refrigerator was on and Leo held it open by placing one of the objects in the refrigerator in front of the door. This small light had slightly illuminated this large warehouse.

Leo started searching, but this search was useless because the light inside the refrigerator was not enough for Leo to find something suitable for his purpose in such a large space full of various devices. At that moment, he suddenly heard a sound. He stared in that direction and vaguely thought that Tara had made this sound. He didn't even know that Tara had followed him all the way there.

He cautiously walked towards Tara and the clever cat continued to work and make noise. When Leo got very close, he saw Tara lying on a blanket piled against the wall, clawing at the surface with her nails to alert Leo. After making sure that her master had seen her, she climbed down from the blanket and approached him.

Leo bent down and touched the blanket. It was an old, worn blanket, but it was perfect for his purpose. Without Tara's help, he would have been unable to find it. He sat down on the floor, hugged Tara, and kissed her. Tara gently freed herself from her grip, indicating to him to hurry up and get back to his room.

Leo stood up, grabbed the edge of the blanket, and pulled it after him. There was a sound of something metal hitting the floor, but before the object could make the slightest movement, Tara's hand was on it. Leo dropped the blanket and ran toward Tara. The cat cleverly removed its hand from the object, and in the brief light that was in the cellar, Leo picked up a bunch of keys from the floor, consisting of two keys and an object that he could not at the time make out what it was.

Then he carried the blanket to the door of the cellar and left it there temporarily. Then he went to the refrigerator, took out some food and put it in his pocket. He carefully closed the

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refrigerator door, then drank some water from the nearby tap. Then he returned to the storage room door, where Tara was waiting for him by the blanket. They walked carefully along the corridor until they reached their room.

After closing the door to the room, he put the blanket in a corner and then took out the key ring that he had put in his pocket, went to the window and carefully examined the key ring in the small light that shone through the window. The keys were large and strong and it was clear that they belonged to large locks, probably door locks. Another object that had been placed in the key ring was a firearm bullet, which Leo, despite his youth and lack of experience, realised that the owner of this key ring must have had something to do with shooting.



Leo carefully put the key ring, which Tara had actually found, in his pocket, thinking that he might need it in the future. Then he took the blanket and went to the corner of the room far from the window and sat down on the floor. He very quietly asked Tara to come closer to him. Tara, who had been watching Leo's every move the whole time, came forward. Leo took her in his arms and lay down on the floor. Then he pulled the blanket over himself and Tara. It didn't take long for him to fall into a deep sleep.





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Chapter four: The next day

During the night, Leo, who was very tired, did not wake up, but Tara, who had that extraordinary sense of hearing, woke up several times and finally decided to see what was going on in that building. She pulled herself out of Leo's arms so slowly that the young boy did not notice and continued to sleep.

Tara tried several times to open the door of the room and go out, but it was impossible to do so without making a noise. She slowly walked to the window and went out. It was dark, but for a cat, who is a nocturnal animal, darkness is not a big deal. She began to move around the large building, listening carefully to the surrounding. In one of the four corners of the building, something resembling a tower had been built, which Tara had previously studied (page 7). At the bottom of this tower was an opening that Tara could easily use to enter the building. This hole was inaccessible to large animals and humans.

Tara entered the building without making the slightest sound and began to walk around the building in complete silence. As she approached the large warehouse area, she heard the sound of several people talking in the warehouse. They were busy with something, and the cat, whose curiosity was aroused, could hardly control herself. She entered the warehouse through the corner of the door that was left half open and saw three people with a dim light on and busy with something that Tara could not make out what they were doing.

Tara stared at them for a while but could not figure out what they were doing. She silently left the door and continued walking around the same area. Within the next two or three hours, Tara visited the warehouse several more times and the three people were still busy with their work. On the last visit, the clever cat noticed that the three people had brought several large packages to the warehouse door and understood that since the day was approaching, they were planning to leave.

A few minutes later, they each took several packages and walked towards the main door of the building. The noise they made wasn’t enough to wake Leo, but it was clear to Tara that they were removing something from the building. Less than a minute later, Tara was lurking in a corner outside the building, looking at the front door.

The three men, carrying the packages they had, stepped out through the door and carefully closed the rusty metal door behind them.

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Leo reached the top of the hill and stopped there to catch his breath. Tara, who was excited to go out of the building, did not stop and kept looking around. Leo was not at all worried about getting lost because cats' senses such as sight and hearing are so strong that they know where their owner is at any moment.

Leo did not discover anything new around the hill and after a while of rest, he continued his movement towards the forest. He walked forward with confidence because he knew that Tara was the best guide for him. Tara, despite her innate curiosity, controlled herself and did not leave her owner alone for long.

Gradually, Tara took over the role of guide and walked in front of Leo inside the forest where there was a possibility of getting lost. They walked for a relatively long time without hurrying inside the forest, until the number of trees and plants gradually became fewer and fewer and it did not take long for Leo to find himself near the entrance to the park. A little further away, there was a narrow road where his father had parked his car. Without Tara's guidance, it was impossible for him to find this place.

Leo could not bear it anymore and ran towards the narrow road. There was no sign of any cars or people. He walked on this deserted road for a while, but finally decided that it was just a waste of time. They had quite a long way to go back.

Halfway back, Leo, who was very tired, sat down under a tree to rest for a while. Tara took advantage of this opportunity and climbed a tree.



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Tara was looking around carefully and for a moment something caught her attention. She came down from the tree and disappeared. When Leo had rested enough, she set off, knowing that the clever cat would follow him, even though he could not see any sign of her.

He reached the top of the hill and rested again for a minute or two. There was still no sign of Tara, but Leo was not worried about this and knew that the clever cat could not get lost. She had reached the bottom of the hill when she saw Tara running down the hill in a hurry. It did not take long for the faithful cat to bring her owner's attention to her and Leo noticed that Tara had something in her mouth. She had once again brought her owner a gift. Tara happily and proudly presented her gift, a beautiful, lifeless bird, to her beloved master.





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Chapter five: problem with other occupants

They had successfully entered the old building, which had not changed at all. It was clear that none of the original residents had entered. Leo wanted to continue his inspection of the building at any time. Therefore, after a short rest, he got up, and Tara happily jumped up and went to the door of the room.

Leo walked along the corridor, trying every door he came to. Along the entire length of the ground floor corridors, except for their own room, all the doors were closed and locked. The young boy was very eager to open the doors of these rooms in order to see what they had put in them.

At the end of one of the corridors, which connected to another corridor at a 90-degree angle, there was a double door that was larger than the other doors. Leo pushed down the handle and the double door opened. Behind the door was a large landing with a wide staircase at the end of it. Tara climbed the stairs without delay and reached the upper floor. Leo also climbed the stairs carefully behind her and reached the next floor. The stairs went up this landing and the young boy could see that there were at least three floors in this building. They entered the second floor and began their search.

Similar to the lower floor, there were rooms on both sides of the corridors, the doors of which were all closed and locked. Leo was really eager to see the inside of these rooms to understand the reason for this strict work in closing and locking these rooms.

The old building had many rooms. Tara, with the intense curiosity of cats, stopped in front of each door for a while, sniffing around the door frames. All the doors were old and some of them were rotten due to the passage of time. Tara stopped in front of one of these rotten doors, and tried to open the door by pushing and scratching.

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He looked directly into the eyes of her master, who knew very well what it means. Leo was ready with his help and both of them fell with all their might against the rotten door. The door resisted them for a while and after about an hour of trying, it gave in. As always, the curious cat threw itself into the room without hesitation, but Leo entered very cautiously.

There were many objects stored along the walls of the room, most of which were of no use to a young boy like Leo. But what had caught Leo's attention was that these items, which had been collected in the room, were of no use to their owners. All kinds of household items, works of art such as paintings and handmade sculptures, were visible among them. The only thing that caught Leo's attention among all these objects was a large pillow, which he set aside to take with him.

Meanwhile, Tara did not sit idle and looked everywhere and everything. At that moment, she had found a handbag similar to a woman's handbag and was trying to open it. The contents of this handbag were nothing interesting, and there was even some change of money that did not look like English money. Leo's eyes fell on a small black bag, which, despite its small size, was quite heavy. He put the handbag aside and carefully opened the little black bag. The bag was full of various keys. Tara, who was carefully watching her master's work, noticed his excitement and joy.

Leo picked up the bag of the keys, left the room, and stopped behind the door of the first room. He patiently began to try the keys on the lock of this door. There were many keys and each one had to be tried carefully. Leo had prepared himself for a long time to find the key, but despite this, the time to find the right key for that door was so long that he thought of

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postponing this long and tiring task until tomorrow. Tara, who was watching her master and noticing that he was very tired, tried to keep him awake by rubbing her body against his legs.

During this time, the clever Leo, by looking at the key, could guess that it did not fit the lock and did this faster. Finally, he got a key that he had already guessed that should be the right key for the lock. He was not mistaken; the key easily entered the lock and a moment later the door of the room suddenly opened. Tara jumped into the middle of the room without hesitation, and Leo followed her carefully and slowly to the middle of the room. He looked around carefully and was completely surprised by the objects in the room.

In this room, all kinds of decorative objects, art, antiques and rare items were stored along the walls, and the young boy had seen such objects in one or two museums where his father had taken him in the past. These objects, while beautiful and probably expensive, were of no use in everyday life. He did not know the reason for these items being collected in such a building. And now this was only one of the many rooms in this building, and there were dozens of others.

Leo was so disappointed that after all this trouble, not a single one of these items was of any use to him. In fact, he had simply wasted his time. Tara's caresses did not cure his pain. Before leaving the room, he looked at the items for a while and noticed that the writings on many of them were not in English and that he could not read them.

He made sure that he did not leave Tara in the room and then closed the door and locked it with the same key. Then he went to the first room with the rotten door and tried to clean the traces of Tara and his efforts to open it as much as possible. He did not want the owners of the building to notice his and Tara's presence there. He took the large pillow that he had found in this room out, and closed the door of the room again. He was satisfied with his work because in the semi-dark area inside the building no one could guess that this door had been forced open.

He picked up the woman's handbag with one hand, which contained a bag full of keys, and carried the large pillow with the other. It took him a while to reach the back of his room door with this heavy load. There he paused for a moment to catch his breath, then opened the door and, as usual, Tara jumped into the room.

Now he had a piece of old carpet to put on the floor, a nice big pillow and a nice blanket in case the weather gets cold.

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After few nights sleeping on the floor with nothing else, now he had a comfortable night. Tara was not very relaxed though; she listened to every sound which could not be heard by humans.



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Chapter six: exploring

n important issue for Leo was to leave the building at least once a day and go up the hill and into the woods. Maybe he could find his father. He was sure that his father was looking for him with all his might and that there was always a chance that he would see him nearby. Of course, there was also the possibility that he would see someone else on that path and ask for help.

Therefore, the next morning, after a light breakfast of a few biscuits, he decided to go out the window. The weather was cloudy but not raining. Before he reached the window, Tara ran ahead excitedly and climbed out the window with ease. Leo managed to get out of the window with some difficulty and started towards the hill.

Along the way, he carefully looked around and behind him to see if he could see anyone. There was no one around. He climbed the hill at a slow pace, while Tara ran around without stopping. Seeing this, Leo said to himself that it was not without reason that cats looked down on other living creatures, including humans, because in terms of physical development, no creature on earth could match cats.

Leo chose his previous path and entered the grove of trees. Inside the grove, there were several paths, so he decided to take a new path. Tara, ignoring him, continued her usual work, climbing trees and looking for prey.

No sounds were heard from around, and Leo, walking slowly, moved forward with ease. He reached a flat area; beautiful meadows could be seen on both sides of the road and many trees appeared in the distance. The road under Leo's feet was now completely clean and tidy, and he had forgotten Tara for a moment. At one point, he heard a sound and when he looked around carefully, he saw a large black dog standing by the road and watching him carefully. The strong dog growled at the same time and this was the same sound that Leo had heard. The poor boy saw himself caught by this predatory dog and because the area was flat, and the trees were far away, he would not find any way to escape. If he started running, in a moment, the black dog would have caught up with him and nothing could save his life.

He stood there for a while and then very slowly pulled himself towards the meadow. The sound of the black dog's growl got louder. Leo was so scared that he ran towards the grass

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without any particular plan. The grass was much softer than he had imagined, and that caused him to fall to the ground after a few steps. Now there was nothing to stop him from losing his life. At any moment, Leo expected the dog's teeth to tear him to pieces.

But this wait had become too long, and Leo, who thought his death was certain, slowly raised his head to see what was going on. The black dog was still standing in its place, and the beautiful cat had stood up in front of him with all her courage and had pinned the big black dog in place with that terrifying look.



Two animals, large and small, stood facing each other, staring at each other without moving. Tara's gaze at the large dog was so threatening that it left no room for the slightest hint that if he decided to continue his attack on the young boy, he would have a bloody fight ahead. The dog understood that even if he won this fight, this victory would be accompanied by many painful injuries.

When the black dog decided to attack Leo, he did not notice the brave support of a cat. He did not start this attack to gain anything, but simply intended to attack Leo for fun and entertainment. But now that he found an old and strong enemy in front of him, who was ready to sacrifice his life to save the little boy, he began to doubt whether this attack could be the right thing to do.

The two bloodthirsty enemies stood facing each other for a while, and during this time Leo considered it impossible for him to continue living. He assessed the size and ferocity of the black dog well and thought that it was impossible for a strong dog to give up his prey for a

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smaller animal. He felt as if he were standing on the edge of a deep and terrible abyss, and at any moment he might be thrown into the depths of the valley. He had never experienced such a terrifying feeling before.

The big dog finally made up his mind, lowered his eyes in surrender, and took a few steps back. The animals had learnt a lot from each other's body language, and Tara had also come out of her alert state and regained her composure. The black dog, relieved of the cat's attack, turned and walked in the opposite direction into the meadow and left.

The faithful cat did not leave his master's side for a moment until they had left the forest. After this incident, they climbed the hill on their way back. In the meantime, Leo, who had a chance to think about the incident for a while, sat down on the ground, hugged his faithful cat, and began to kiss and caress her. Tara, not understanding the reason for this sudden outburst of emotion, was initially a little worried and tried to save herself from her owner. She could not imagine that she had done something important, since sacrificing her life to protect her owner was a self-evident duty and did not need thanks or encouragement.



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Chapter seven: return of the Occupants

few days passed in this way, and Leo, who was completely terrified of facing the big dog, did not want to go out as much as before, and, of course, half of this caution was due to Tara, who, without the slightest consideration, rushed to his aid in times of danger. In the face of the dog, it was very easy for Tara to escape from the dog's clutches because Tara could easily get herself to a safe place where the big dog could not reach her. Climbing a tree could be one of these escape methods because dogs are unable to climb trees.

During this time, Leo opened several doors in the rooms using the bag in which the keys were placed, and together with Tara, they inspected the furniture and furnishings inside the room. Seeing the things that had been collected inside the rooms, the young boy had no doubt that these strange and various items were stolen property that these people had stolen from inside and outside the country and transported to this large building. Most likely, they sold them after the robbery, using local agents, and made a good income from this.

The young boy felt that it was a mistake to stay in that building and that sooner or later the original residents of the building would find out about him and his cat, and then his life would be over. He knew that he had to leave as soon as possible, but he could not do so because his next destination did not make sense to him. If he left this building, he would most likely die of hunger and exhaustion in a corner, if something bad had not happened to him. He was lucky so far that the residents of this building were busy with their illegal activities, and had not visited there even once in the past four days.

At the end of the fourth day, when Leo and Tara went to their room and had a quick dinner, they prepared their sleeping arrangements and went to bed, which was now quite comfortable. Leo fell asleep almost immediately, but the cat was alert to sounds from outside the building, which kept him from getting a good night's sleep.

Tara got out of bed early in the morning, careful not to wake Leo. Then she went out the window and listened to the sounds outside the building for a while. Among the creatures on earth, cats have one of the most sensitive ears. While the human ear can hear frequencies between twenty and twenty thousand per second, the dog's ear is able to distinguish fifty to two hundred thousand hertz.

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With such hearing power, Tara moved towards the source of the sound. This path was exactly the opposite of the one she and her owner took every day. This path passed through the deserted village. The cat intelligently moved in this direction for a long time and hid from sight.

When she returned to her room in the old building through the window, Leo was still in bed but not asleep. Tara hurriedly reached out to him and began to grab the blanket. Leo realised that Tara was trying to tell him something. He asked if Tara wanted her to leave the room. Tara was so excited that a sound escaped her throat involuntarily. Something that happens very rarely.

Leo realised that something important must have happened and did not hesitate any longer. He got up, immediately put on his clothes and joined Tara, who had already gone out the window. Tara set off towards the village without delay and Leo, although he had never set foot on the path, followed her without a word.

The path Tara had chosen was full of many hills and valleys, and it was also a very long one. They had been walking for nearly two hours at a fast pace and Leo thought to himself that the poor cat had walked the same path alone a few moments before.

Finally, they reached a place where Leo felt that they were approaching a large water source. It didn't take long for a large lake to appear in front of them. Leo didn't expect to see such a large lake and wondered what the intelligent cat had seen in this large lake that had dragged him there with such insistence.

Tara suddenly started running towards the seashore and reached a small wooden pier, sat on it and stared at her master. Leo, who was completely exhausted after all this walking, slowly reached the pier and the first thing that caught his eye was a boat that was stopped a little away from the shore and the pier in the middle of the water and several people were doing something inside the boat.

Leo was careful that the people inside the boat didn't notice his presence and this was the first time he had seen people since he had been lost.

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He did two things there before returning to his room. He stared intently at the boatmen, trying to remember them. He figured that if he was going to meet these people at home in the next two or three days, he'd better make sure he remembered them.



The second thing was that if they had brought things with them and were planning to move them to the old building, the chances of them taking such things and walking for two hours were very slim, and they would have to have some means of transportation.

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He looked carefully to his left and right, and vaguely felt that something was off to his left, in the distance. He signalled Tara to go, and they walked cautiously along the beach, and it wasn't long before they saw a white van parked by the dock behind a small green hill.

They had a long way to go back and Leo was very hungry. So, Leo signalled her beautiful and intelligent cat to start walking. They reached the old building without any hurry and entered the room through the window. Leo gave Tara some of the food he had taken from the refrigerator, which Tara started eating reluctantly.

While eating, Leo also thought about Tara. Without her, it was impossible for him to continue living. He pulled Tara forward, kissed her and caressed her. Tara looked at him in surprise and could not understand why she was kissed and cuddled while eating.



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Chapter eight: Interaction with Criminals

hroughout the night, the traffic in and out of the old building continued, and although Leo had fallen into a deep sleep from exhaustion, Tara could not rest well because she could hear many sounds coming from inside and outside the building. She entered and exited the building several times along different routes, and she saw a group of three people carrying items that were not clear what were inside the building.

Finally, near morning, this activity ended, and Tara, who did not mind the darkness of the night, found their white pickup truck, which had previously been parked by the sea, outside the village, parked in a narrow alley behind a ruin. When she returned to the old building for the last time, there was no more noise from before, and Tara carefully walked through the corridors until she managed to find the room where the three people were resting. Now Tara had discovered an important place because finding the room had identified the resting place of Leo's and her own potential enemies.

Tara returned to their room and sat down on the floor opposite Leo. On the one hand, she wanted to inform Leo of her discovery as soon as possible, but at the same time, she did not want to disturb her master's sleep and rest. But with the first movement that Leo made in his dream world, Tara could not stand it any more and gave Leo a pleasant headbutt blow. Cat headbutting, or bunting, is a behaviour primarily showing affection, trust, and contentment. It is how a cat marks you with their scent glands, creating a "colony scent" that signifies you are part of their social group.

Leo opened his eyes and, seeing Tara at such a close distance, realised that Tara was about to show him something. He pushed aside his blanket and sat up. Tara stared at him for a moment and then ran to the window.

Leo received her message, put on his shoes and went out the window. Tara took him directly to the other side of the village and showed him their white pickup truck.

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Leo had no doubt that this was the same white van they had seen by the lake yesterday. They tried to get to the room before sunrise, lest they encounter these criminal men. Leo's only hope was that perhaps the men would leave the building as before, even if only for a short while. They crept into the room through the window and waited quietly to see what fate had in store for them.

There was no sign of the new arrivals until around noon, although the sound of them coming and going could be heard from the corridors of the building. At that moment, the door to the room suddenly flew open and one of the men Leo had seen and remembered on the boat entered the room with a wooden baton in his hand. Tara had been lurking in a corner even before he entered.

The man, who had a large build, walked towards Leo with a threatening expression, and Leo, screaming, rushed to the wall and put his hands in front of his head and face.

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The man entered the room barefoot, wearing the same short-sleeved blue shirt he had worn the day before. He was also wearing a white hat. The poor boy could do nothing but scream with all his might.

At that moment, the loyal cat came to the aid of his beloved owner and attacked the man with a terrifying roar that Leo had never heard from her. Before the attacker could turn towards him, Tara managed to plunge her claws into the attacker's body with a heroic leap. The man, who had not expected such an attack, jumped back with a loud cry as the brave cat continued its attack.

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Before anything else could happen, another man, who seemed to be elderly, rushed into the room and shouted something to the first man in a language that Leo did not understand. The first thing the man did was to move away from Tara because Tara's claws had caused him so much pain. He left the room and stood in the hallway in front of the open door. The second man, who seemed to be in charge of the first man, stood quietly for a while, very careful of Tara, lest he decide to attack him.

Tara, who did not feel any danger from this man, retreated to the corner of the room and tried to calm her master, who was shaking violently. The new man, in a calm voice and with a strong French accent, began to speak to Leo, asking him what he was doing in this building.

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It took Leo a while to answer, and then the old man signalled to his companion that he did not need to stop there and that he would better get back to his work.

Leo somehow controlled himself and said:

"Sir... I'm lost with my cat. We were passing by here a few days ago in my father's car, when my father decided to take a walk. Unfortunately, we lost each other. I searched for him but couldn't find him. Since it had started to rain, I had to make my way to this building and enter this room. I've tried my best to find my father or at least let him know where I am. But I haven't been successful so far. If you help me contact my father, I promise you that my father will be happy to make up for it."

Hearing this, the old man hesitated a bit and thought. Then he went to the corridor and said something to his colleague in French. Then he returned to the room and upon seeing him, Tara became defensive. It didn't take long for the other man to return to the room with a chair, put the chair in the middle of the room and left the room himself.

The old man sat down on the chair, turned to Leo and said:

"Let me explain this to you a little. But first, tell me your name."

Leo replied:

"My name is Leo and my cat's name is Tara. I am ten years old and I go to school."

"What does your father do? Is he a doctor?"

"No sir... My father is the head of the sales department of a large international company. He often travels to other countries for his job. My mother is the principal of an elementary school and the day I went missing, she was having major surgery in the hospital."

The old man thought for a moment and then said:

"I need to make one thing very clear to you, young man, and that is that you have entered a building without permission and this is an illegal act and carries a heavy penalty. In the distant past, the penalty for such an act was hanging from a noose. Even today, in some countries, including the United States, the law allows a homeowner to punish a person who enters his house without permission with the most severe punishment. The punishment is death. "

Leo, who was terrified, said hurriedly:

"Sir... I didn't enter this building to steal. I didn't think that in a deserted village with ruined buildings, this old building was used and that someone or people lived in it. If you don't help me, I'll take my cat and get out of here right now."

"There's no rush to do anything now. You'll stay here, and we'll take care of you and your cat. Our condition is that you stay in your room all the time and keep the cat with you. We'll have another meeting and talk about future plans. I've ordered that the window in this room that you broke be repaired immediately."

"Sir... I didn't break the window in your building, and it has nothing to do with me breaking it. I just used the route that was created to escape the rain and entered. You're actually telling me that I am your prisoner from now on. "

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"Young man... you can interpret what I said for yourself however you want. You entered this building on your own two feet and have been doing this illegal thing for several days. I will decide in the next few days what punishment to take against you. "

"Sir... will you contact my father?"

"In this case, I must say that it is very likely that we will contact your father. Don't worry. I have to go back to my work now, one of my employees will bring you food. If you have anything else to do, call me."



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Chapter nine: decisions for Leo and Tara

In fact, Leo was very worried about meeting the owners of the old building, thinking that they would most likely attack him and Tara. But the Frenchman had largely allayed his fears because his treatment of Leo was not at all insulting or violent, and at the same time he had promised to call his father. Most importantly, he had not thrown Leo and Tara out of the house and had even provided them with food. Of course, he had ordered his men to repair the broken window, and they had set to work without delay. What relieved Leo was that Tara had found the key to the metal door of the building for him, and if the situation required it, they could always leave the old building through this metallic door at a quiet time.

But the decision to leave the building now was not the right one, because Leo, who had gone out of the building many times in the past few days, knew that after leaving the building, nothing but loneliness, hunger, and other dangers would await him. That was why he decided to be polite to the Frenchman for now and not do anything that would make them think of punishing him.

He was in these thoughts when, suddenly, the door to the room opened and one of the men put two full bowls of food on the floor and then stepped back and closed the door behind him without a word. Leo, who was starving, jumped up and grabbed the bowls of food, placed Tara's food in front of him. Then he returned to his place in the corner of the room and began to eat eagerly.

Leo had not eaten cooked food for several days, and this food tasted heavenly to him. He remembered that the French were famous for their delicious food, and that there were few nations that could compete with the French in this respect. He remembered that when they ate a good meal, his mother would praise the food and say that it came from France.

In the meantime, he caught sight of Tara, who was sitting where she was, not moving from her seat or even touching her food. She looked very unhappy.

Leo got up, went to the beautiful cat and petted her. Then he pulled out her food bowl and asked Tara to eat her delicious food. But none of these measures worked, and Tara did not touch her food.

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After some effort, Leo sat back and thought to himself, who knows, maybe these French men had put poison in Tara's food to get rid of her. With that reasoning, Leo returned to his place to finish the rest of his meal.

While eating, he thought about Tara's behaviour and came to the conclusion that Tara would not die of hunger. There were several easy ways for her to go out, and she could easily hunt birds or fish outside.

After lunch, he offered her Tara's food again, but Tara still did not show the slightest reaction. Leo poured the food into a napkin, picked up the dishes for two meals, and left the room. He did not know which way to go, but he did not hesitate much and headed towards the large warehouse. Near the warehouse, he encountered one of the boss's men.

The Frenchman looked carefully at him and the plates in his hand and said something in French. Leo did not understand a word he said, and while pointing, he asked him to take him to the boss. After some thought, the Frenchman motioned for him to follow him. They entered the warehouse and the man knocked on one of the doors of the rooms inside the warehouse. A voice came from inside the room and the man opened the door and entered. Leo entered the room behind him. The man told his boss his story in a few words, and the boss stared at Leo for a moment and then motioned for the man to go about his business. He then stood up, approached Leo and said:

"I told you not to leave your room. Now what do you want from me?"

"Sir... I came out of the room to see you, and thank you for the excellent food you gave us. In the meantime, if you allow me, I will wash and dry the dishes and deliver them. I do not wish to be a nuisance to you and your workers because of anything. I will do anything else I can for you. I can work in the kitchen as an assistant."

The boss, who did not expect such a response, remained silent for a while and then said:

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"You are clearly a well-mannered boy. I will show you the way to the kitchen, and you will be allowed to go to the kitchen during the hours after meals and, if you wish, you can wash and dry all the dishes."

Leo was happy to do something for these men in exchange for the food he received. Then he followed the boss out of the room and the storeroom, and the Frenchman took him with him to the kitchen. This was one of the places that Leo had never seen before and was unaware of its existence.

A large and well-equipped kitchen appeared before Leo's eyes, and two people sitting at the table eating there, stood up when they saw them. The boss showed him the sink, and Leo immediately began washing the dishes. The boss sat down with his men at the table, and while they continued to eat, he explained to them in their own language.



Leo later learnt that the boss had told his subordinates that he had brought a full-time footman to use to clean and wash the kitchen utensils. Thus, Leo was given an almost full-time job.

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Chapter ten: The reason for keeping Leo imprisoned

eo continued his work carefully and seriously and spent almost all his time in the kitchen during the day. Tara, observing that her master seemed content and happy, left him alone to do his work and spent most of her time outside the building.

Two or three days passed in this way until one day the boss brought a new man with him to his room, and they spoke English together. The boss ordered that food be prepared for the English man that day, and when Leo took their food to the boss's room, the English man started talking to him and asked his name. He asked a few more questions, which Leo answered politely. The English man left the building in the afternoon.

As usual, a few days ago, after lunch, when everyone was resting, Leo would start cleaning. He would start in the kitchen and then go to the boss's room and clean and tidy everything in his presence. One of the things lying on the floor behind the desk was a folded piece of paper, which Leo had inadvertently thrown into the dustbin he brought with him, and had forgotten about it a moment later.

After completing his duties, he returned to his room and was feeling tired from all the cleaning he had done. He put the dustbin aside, lay down on the floor, and soon fell asleep.

He hadn't been asleep for long when Tara entered the room and, as cats usually do, brought a bird she had caught outside to her master. Tara had eaten her prey outside the building and brought this poor bird inside for Leo.

Leo had first placed the poor bird's body in a corner, hoping to throw it away later, out of Tara's sight. Tara was unhappy that her master had refused to eat the gift she had brought him, and she stared at him with a questioning look. The beautiful cat could not understand why his master was so eager to eat the food that the French workers had given him, but he was putting the fresh and useful food that she had brought him with great effort as a gift, in the corner of the wall. However, after a while, she got up and left the room.

A few minutes later, Leo got up to go about his business. He went to the lifeless bird and picked it up from the floor to throw it in the dustbin. At that moment, his eyes fell on the paper that he had found in the boss's room and thrown in the dustbin. Before throwing the

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bloody bird on the paper, he took the paper from the trash can and then threw the bird into the dustbin.

Curious, he opened the folded paper and the first thing he saw was his own name and address. To his surprise, he realised that the Englishman had written down the answers to the questions that he was asking. But in addition to answering questions, he also recognized other things in English person writings.



After reading a few lines of this writing, Leo was deeply moved and had to sit down on the floor. He stared at the writing very carefully and his hands began to tremble. He had to spread the paper on the floor, then bend down and carefully follow the writing.

According to this writing, the French men were to take care of Leo as a good and easy source of income and, under no circumstances, allowed him to leave the building. In this case, they were to call Leo's father and demand five hundred thousand pounds from him without giving their own address. After receiving this amount, which would be paid into a bank account abroad, they would take Leo blindfolded to the nearest city and leave him there. In this way, Leo would not be able to reveal the whereabouts of the French.

In their conversation with Leo's father, they would warn him that if they reported a word of this to the police, Leo would lose his life.

It was possible that Leo's father would ask for more time to get the money. A day or two should be agreed to, but he should be told that after this period, Leo would lose his life.

The paper contained other things like that and Leo, who was trembling violently, was unable to read or understand. The truth is that Leo was not so much worried about himself, but rather about the fact that it was almost impossible for his father to raise such money for ransom, and even if he managed to raise such money, their family would be forever miserable and helpless.

Tears welled up in Leo's eyes, and he didn't know how to continue his life in captivity knowing this fact. It took Leo a while to reason with himself that he was lucky and fortunate to have learnt about this plan. Instead of crying and whining, he should find a way to call his father and inform him of this plan of the French men.

Anyway, now it was time to continue his cleaning work and pretend that he didn't know anything. He grabbed the dustbin, put the paper in his pocket and went to the boss's office. The boss was sitting in one of the easy chairs in his room, dozing. Leo entered after getting permission and the boss motioned for him to continue his work.

Leo quietly cleaned the room and when it was his turn to the boss's desk, Leo's gaze fell on the boss's face, who had closed his eyes and fallen asleep. It was clear that he had been working the whole night. When Leo had finished cleaning the table, he quietly took the folded paper out of his pocket and placed it under the ashtray on the table. He then finished his work and left the room, closing the door quietly behind him.

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From there he went to the kitchen and cleaned it thoroughly. In all, this work took him more than two hours, and Leo returned to his room tired and worried. There he went to the window of the room and, as he had expected, the French men had repaired it in such a way that it would deprive him of the possibility of leaving the building. He sat down in a corner and thought. He reasoned with himself that if he could even leave the building, leaving it would be the same as dying of hunger and thirst.

Tara, who had noticed her owner's discomfort and concern, came close to him, clung to him and licked his hands. Leo involuntarily hugged the beautiful cat, kissed her, and whispered in her ear that as long as he had her by his side, he was not afraid of anything.



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Chapter eleven: The plot getting thicker



he next day, after completing his daily duties, Leo entered his room. Because he was very tired, he opened his bed and got into it. Now this bed has become a well-equipped resting place with the addition of a few more pieces. It had not been a few minutes since Leo had rested when Tara entered the room and directly got into Leo's bed. She knew very well that under any circumstances, her master would honour her first and would be extremely satisfied to be with her.

A little more than an hour passed in this way until Tara woke Leo up with a shake of her head and as soon as Leo opened his eyes, he saw the boss standing above him. He wanted to get up immediately and pay his respects, but the boss put his hand on his head and prevented him from getting up. In this way, Leo was forced to sit on his bed.

The boss took out his cell phone from his pocket and said to Leo:

"Boy... don't move because I need to have a picture of you on my phone."

Leo felt threatened because he didn't know what the boss wanted his picture on his phone for. But the boss ignored his wishes and turned on his phone's camera. At the moment he was about to take a picture, Leo involuntarily tried to put one hand in front of his own face and the other in front of Tara's face.

The camera started working and Leo didn't know how well he had managed to hide his face. The boss looked at the picture he had taken and after a close look, he was satisfied and left the room without another word.

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Leo reasoned to himself that how his picture was needed by the boss and why should he bother to come to his room to take a picture of him?

At this moment, he suddenly remembered the paper that the Englishman had written to the chief and that he had placed under the ashtray on his desk. He vaguely remembered that one of his orders was to have a photograph of the prisoners taken. However, this was something that had happened and there was nothing he could do about it.

Tara was no less dissatisfied and worried than her owner, and Leo could easily see the annoyance and anger on her face. In fact, Tara had prepared herself to defend her master with all her might if the Frenchman attacked him.

Leo very gently began to pet her beautiful and loyal cat, and the cat in turn tried to calm him down by kissing and licking Leo's hand. After some thought, Leo concluded that today was the day of the operation that the Englishman had explained to the boss. They would most likely contact her father. Perhaps he had contacted him a few days earlier and his father needed time to raise money.

If only he could somehow contact his father and explain the plan of the French bandits to him, a great disaster could be prevented. He blamed himself for this disaster because if he had not separated from his father and the lady and followed them, these problems would never have arisen.

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Now his own fate was not at all certain, because even if his father managed to get the money he asked for and deliver it to them, these criminal men would not be satisfied with his release and would demand more money.

He was immersed in these thoughts that he could not bear it any longer and began to cry. Tara had rarely seen her master cry and was very worried about this and tried to calm him down. She licked Leo's face and thus wiped away his tears.

But all the efforts of the beautiful cat were in vain, and he continued to cry. The clever cat saw all these problems and discomforts through the eyes of the Frenchman and if the boss was still around, Tara would definitely attack him.

It didn't take long for dinner to be ready and, as usual, one of the French men opened the door to the room, placed the plate of food on the floor, and left. Meanwhile, Tara also took advantage of the opportunity and disappeared.

Leo's mood did not allow him to eat, but he did not throw the food away and carefully poured it into another container to use at a better time. After half an hour, Leo got up, picked up the empty plate from the floor, and went to the kitchen. There, he was busy washing and cleaning the kitchen, and then went to the boss's office.

He first knocked on the door of the room softly, and when there was no response, he entered the room, and as usual, after dinner, the boss had gone to his bedroom, which Leo did not know where or on which floor it was. He carefully cleaned the room, left the room, and closed the door behind him.



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Chapter twelve: Tara’s masterpiece

After cleaning up, Leo headed for his room, thinking to himself that this might be the last day of his life. He had done everything he could to continue living, but now he had reached a dead end. He only wished he had a way to tell his father not to worry about finding money because he had given up hope of living.

Otherwise, even after paying the money and killing him, the criminals would hide this fact from his father and demand more money after a few days.

Leo's real concern was not about his own fate, and he thought that after him, the French men would not let Tara continue living and would also kill the beautiful cat. With such a thought, tears gathered in his eyes again and he reached his room.

When Leo entered the semi-dark room with tears in his eyes, he didn't notice anything special at first, but a moment later, he saw Tara sitting on the floor with her back to the bed and as if she was holding something.

He quickly wiped his eyes and stared at Tara. He wasn't wrong. Tara was holding a cell phone and staring at it.

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Leo was so excited that she almost fainted and fell to the ground. In his wildest dreams, he could not have imagined that he would be able to get hold of a mobile phone. He had to sit down on the floor next to Tara, trying hard to gather his wits and senses. One thought occupied her whole being. Did this mobile phone work, and could it call the landline?

Tara, noticing Leo's confusion, stood up and presented her with the mobile phone she had brought. With great difficulty, Leo controlled himself, reached out and took the phone from Tara. He was shaking so much that he had to calm himself down before doing anything. Tara also helped her master with her own method of headbutting and licking.

With the first attempt, the mobile phone turned on and, unlike most such phones, was ready for use directly without the need to enter a password. Leo did not hesitate a moment longer and entered her father's phone number. The moment it took for the phone to connect to the number it had dialled seemed like a century to Leo.

The phone started ringing and soon his father's voice came from the other end. Leo began to speak into the phone's microphone with a voice that trembled greatly and said:

"Dad... Dear dad... It's me... Leo..."

A thumping sound came from the phone, as if the poor father had dropped his phone in his excitement. He finally managed to hold his phone in his hand and said with difficulty:

"Ah.... Ah... My son... My dear son... Where are you?... Are you okay? We've been waiting for your call all this time."

Leo said very quietly while shedding tears:

"Dear father... I'm okay, but first I wanted to let you know that there is no need to pay these people any money."

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His father said in surprise:

"So, you know about this yourself?... But they say that if this money is not transferred to their account by tomorrow, they will not let you live. Now, first of all, tell me where you found this phone."

"Father... Tara found this phone for me."

"Ah... Is Tara with you?... Now I feel a little relieved. Tara will take care of you. Now while the mobile phone works, tell me where you are and how I can reach you."

Leo, who had largely managed to control his excitement, slowly and carefully gave him all the information his father wanted. In addition, he emphasised that the main criminals were three people who had come there from France on a small ship. He said that it seemed that these Frenchmen were involved in stealing various things, including art objects such as paintings. Hearing the word paintings, his father hurriedly interrupted Leo and asked:

“Leo... are you sure that the paintings were stolen property?”

“I saw with my own eyes that they took several paintings off their small ship, which I assume was returning from France, and brought them to the old building in a white van,” Leo replied.

His father said that this was very important news and that he would explain it to him in detail when he saw him.

He then asked about the old building and how he could enter the building. Leo replied that there was only one way to enter the building, and that was through the main door at the front of the building. It was a large, rusty metal door that was always carefully locked.

His father said,

"If this metal door is always locked, how can we enter the building?"

"Tara happened to find the key to this door, and it's in my pocket now. Of course, I can't give you the key myself, but Tara will bring it to you."

"Okay... so we'll have to look for Tara first."

"You don't need to look for her; she'll find you as soon as you enter this area."

Then Leo carefully explained to his father the characteristics of the large building, which was located in a part of a ruined and uninhabited village.

His father said that he remembered a deserted and ruined village, which was most likely where Leo had lived. He then said that it would be better to end the conversation so that it would not attract anyone's attention.

He asked Leo if it would not be better to return the mobile phone to the boss's room, if possible, so that he would not notice that it was missing. He finally asked Leo that if they managed to get into the building, Leo would join them as soon as possible so that there was no danger to him from the French criminals. He said that he would most likely be there early the next morning.

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Leo, who did not want the conversation with his father to end so quickly, realised that it was better to return the boss's mobile phone to his room as soon as possible. With that, he said good night to his father and turned off the phone.

He then waited a while to catch his breath, then put the mobile phone in his pocket and started towards the boss's office. On the way, the thought crossed his mind that if by chance the boss saw him in his office, he would tell him that he had forgotten to clean the entire room and had returned there to complete his cleaning work.

Fortunately, no one noticed his presence in the boss's office, and he carefully took the mobile phone out of his pocket and placed it on the corner of the table. It was only when he left the room and closed the door very slowly that he saw Tara waiting for him in the hallway. The loyal cat did not take her eyes off her master for a moment in this dangerous situation.

They returned to their room and Leo had a chance to think about what was about to happen. The first important thing he did was find a small bag, put the key to the building's door in it and carefully hung the bag on Tara's lapel.

He did this because he really did not know what time his father would arrive, and he did not want to try to do this after his father arrived.

Then he thought to himself that when his father entered the building, the French men would wake up anyway and the first thing they would do would be to kill him. For this reason, he decided to leave his room without making any noise, open the door of one of the rooms and hide himself and Tara there. He took the woman's bag with a lot of keys in it, locked the door of his room and, along with Tara, started trying the keys on the many doors of the building.

He did not rush this task because he knew that it was impossible for him to sleep and rest on such a night. For three hours he had tried many doors and rooms without success. Tara, who was very intelligent, realised the seriousness of the situation and followed him from one floor to another without making the slightest sound. It was past midnight when, finally, on the third floor, one of the keys unlocked the door of a room. Tara first entered the room and searched every corner of the room. There was nobody in this room.

Leo carefully closed and locked the door of the room, then sat on the floor in a corner. It took a while for him to concentrate. He got up and started searching around the room. Tara had discovered everything before and was now sitting on the edge of the room's window.

This window, like the rest of the windows in the house, was secured with steel bars and there was no way out. At the same time, Leo knew that even if there were no steel bars on the window, leaving the window of the room that was on the third floor was considered an instant death.

As Leo looked around the room, he noticed that there were a number of paintings placed in the corners of this room. He remembered that his father had told him that the presence of paintings in that building was very important news.

That is why he decided to have a look at these paintings. The room was in complete darkness, but Leo had put a small box of matches in his pocket from the kitchen a few days ago.

He brought out the box of matches and lit one of them. The light of the match lit up the whole place in an instant and Tara became excited. Leo stared at the paintings and thought to himself

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that they were beautiful paintings, but they shouldn't be worth much. He couldn't understand why his father had been so excited when he heard the word painting. Of all the paintings in the room, he liked these two the most.







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Chapter thirteen: Facing the enemies



he night passed slowly and morning was approaching. A morning that could lead to his release from the clutches of the French criminals and his return to his home and life. Of course, this was if everything went well and happily. But at the same time, there was also the possibility that he would be killed by the French robbers before he was released. But at least his father would no longer have to come up with a large sum of money to free him from the clutches of the criminals. This was a great achievement, as far as he was concerned, and Tara's intelligence and flexibility had made it possible.

Leo had noticed that the window of the room they had chosen by chance belonged to one of the three rooms above the entrance door, and for this reason he would get up every few minutes during the night and stare carefully outside. It was dark everywhere; nothing could be seen. But every time he got up, Tara would also jump up to be at his service if her master had anything to do with her.

Leo's father had not rested a moment all night, he had called the police headquarters and the local municipality and had also informed the French embassy. Late in the evening, numerous people, including police officials, the mayor himself, and the French ambassador himself, had gathered in a hall in the city municipality. For these gentlemen, who were not used to such events, the police officers had chosen experienced officers to teach them, as in a classroom, what method to use under these dangerous conditions. The French robbers were most likely armed with firearms, and the gentlemen should be careful not to put themselves in danger.

Another problem was the presence of Leo and his cat in the building, which made the police job much more difficult. They were sure that the child's life would be in great danger during the attack on the building. Another important problem was their entry into the building, which they wanted to do without making a sound.

Leo's father told them that Leo's cat was going to bring them the key to the building. The police officers did not accept this hypothesis because they could not accept that they would entrust their fate and the trapped child to a cat. They were preparing the tools they needed to break down the door of the building. Of course, if breaking down the door was necessary, there was no way they could do it silently and the thieves would notice their entry.

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The last time Leo looked out the window near dawn, it was still dark, but he vaguely could see that a number of people had gathered outside the building. He did not hesitate any longer and signalled to Tara that she should go outside the building. Then, very slowly and silently, he unlocked the door and signalled to Tara that she should go outside the building.

Tara, who had been waiting for this moment for several hours, jumped up and left the room. Cats are silent creatures and if they want to, they move in a way that the strongest ears will not hear. They can get quite close to their target without attracting anyone's attention. Tara took a route she knew, out of the building without anyone noticing her presence. She cautiously walked to the front of the building and saw a large group of people she didn't know. They didn't even whisper to each other for fear of being overheard by the robbers.



They had parked their vehicles in front of the building and were waiting for the police chief to order them to break down the door.

The gentlemen had gathered in another corner and, as the police had advised, they were not talking to each other. Without attracting anyone's attention, Tara approached Leo’s father, George, and gently rubbed his feet. George jumped up and hugged Tara. Then he approached the police chief in the same manner and showed him Tara.

They immediately noticed the small black bag tied around Tara's neck and took it from her neck. The keys to the building's door were in a small bag. The police chief took the keys and, after giving his deputy an order, set off for the building.

There was a commotion among the police officers, and George, Leo’s father put down the clever cat. The cat quickly but silently made it to the front door of the building before the police chief could give the order. The commander, choosing the right key, opened the door

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without the slightest difficulty. He signalled to his deputy, who ordered the officers who were busy preparing the means to break the door to stop. In the meantime, Tara entered the building silently.

The commander stood in the middle of the open door until the rest of the police officers joined him. Then there he gave orders to his subordinates and then, without rushing, one by one, in complete silence, they entered the building. The gentlemen who were standing further away decided to approach the old building.

On the ground floor, the police officers positioned themselves in different places, weapons in hand, ready for the commander's order. A number of officers also surrounded the building outside, all of them in contact with each other through sophisticated electronic devices.

When George arrived at the front door of the old building, as he had arranged with the police chief, he stood in front of the door and waited for a while. But since his son's life and death were at stake, he could not bear it any longer and entered the building. The other gentlemen followed him and entered.

The police chief, who now saw the size of the old building with his own eyes, was so confused as to where to start. He tried to guess in the semi-darkness of the building which room Leo was in. George suddenly caught sight of Tara, who was sitting in the middle of the stairs, waiting to guide the police chief to Leo's room. George hurried to the police chief and showed him Tara. The police chief noticed, and signalled one of his men to follow Tara.

The police officer approached Tara cautiously and then Tara started to climb the stairs, Tara in front and the officer in the back. Tara wondered why the police officer was in no hurry to climb the stairs, for the agile cat, the most gymnastic of all creatures on earth, thought of all creatures as her own. Everyone was now gathered on the ground floor, watching the cat and the police officer climb the stairs.

They had not yet reached the top of the stairs when, suddenly, there was a knock on the door from above, and Leo opened his door and came near the banisters. No one could understand what had happened. But at that moment, a Frenchman appeared from behind the door, attacked Leo, and punched him in the face. The Frenchman, not quite sure what had happened, grabbed Leo by the hair and pulled him to the edge of the stairs. Then he shouted something in loud French that meant that if everyone did not leave immediately, he would throw the young man down.

The police chief, sensing the danger, ordered his men to remain where they were and himself stepped forward to negotiate with the Frenchman. The French robber took this as an attack and lifted poor Leo up to throw him over the railing. The police chief opened his mouth to say something when, at that moment, Tara attacked the robber with a terrible roar.

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Since both of the robber’s hands were busy carrying Leo, he was immediately unable to defend himself. Tara’s terrible claws tore apart the robber’s head and face in the blink of an eye, and the robber, having no choice, left Leo at the top of the stairs, and in his turn attacked Tara. Leo fell down a few steps, but it was no big deal. A policewoman quickly climbed the stairs and brought him down.

Now everyone was watching Tara’s struggle with the Frenchman. The man tried to throw Tara down from the top floor, but Tara continued to injure the Frenchman's head and face. The man, holding the railing with one hand, kept his balance and bent down. With the other hand, he tried to separate Tara from him and throw her down.

Tara suddenly took her hand from his face and attacked the man's neck with all her strength. The man, who was not expecting such an attack, tried to defend himself with both hands. This caused him to lose his balance and fall down from the top railing with Tara. Halfway through, Tara made a complete turn and when she reached the ground, she curled up on all fours like a spring and then released. She immediately got up without fear or excitement and went to the policewoman who was taking care of Leo. The policewoman hugged her and kissed her. Leo was also fine and was only a little scared. leo showed the policewoman the boss's bedroom, and within a minute or two, the police officers had him down in handcuffs.

The man who had fallen from the top floor was unmoving, and when the first aid officer arrived to help him, he announced that he had been killed by a hard blow to the head from a height. There was no sign of the third man, and Leo wondered where he had hidden himself.

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Suddenly, there was a noise from outside the building, and it wasn't long before the police officers on duty outside the building arrested the man who had somehow managed to escape and brought him inside.

The police remained on alert, as their commander was still not sure that there were no other criminals left in the building. After a while, with the help of the French ambassador, he obtained information from the chief of the robbers, to make sure that everything had gone according to plan. He finally asked the chief of the robbers where they could get some drinks for the men. The chief caught sight of Leo, showed him to the police chief, and told him in good English that Leo and his cat knew everything. The police chief, who had not yet realised that the Frenchman was fluent in English, was somewhat embarrassed and apologised for using the French ambassador as an interpreter.

The ambassador motioned for George and Leo to come forward, and then, together with the police chief, began to get information from Leo. In response to the many questions that immediately arose, Leo replied that they would first allow him to provide everyone with some drinks and a light breakfast, and then he would give them all his information in detail. The police chief asked the policewomen to help Leo with this task.

Leo stepped forward, and the policewomen followed him upstairs to the kitchen. In the meantime, the police chief reported the full details of the operation to his superiors by phone and promised to prepare a written report after a thorough search of the building. His superiors thanked him and his men for the fact that no policemen were injured in the entire operation, and that the boy who had been taken hostage had been safely released from the hands of the robbers.

The police chief could not bear it any longer and told his superiors that there was one other person who deserved more praise than anyone else. The superiors, who were all listening to this conversation, were all eagerly waiting for the chief to reveal the identity of that person.

After a short pause, the chief told his superiors that a cat named Tara had been the real hero of these events. He then explained a little about this. The chiefs conferred with each other for a while and then asked the commander to prepare a separate written report on that matter.

At this point, the policewomen, assisted by several other police officers, appeared with trays of tea and coffee, and behind them were a large number of simple dishes such as boiled eggs and toasts for the people. This activity continued until everyone, including the prisoners, were served, and then Leo appeared at the top of the stairs and Tara was behind him. Suddenly, everyone gathered below began to clap for him, and actually for Tara. Leo, who was embarrassed, bowed, but Tara did not like this gesture of the humans and became a little confused.



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Chapter fourteen: The paintings



he remarkable success of the police in this operation made the commanders of this organisation proud and happy, especially since there was no loss of life to the police officers. However, there was one person whose joy knew no bounds and who could not wait to question Leo. This person was none other than the French Ambassador, who was the most respected person in that group. Everyone presents respected him.

Finally, he could not bear it any longer and asked the police commander to arrange a meeting with Leo, because he had a lot of work to do at the embassy and had to return there as soon as possible. The police commander, with the utmost respect, immediately pulled Leo aside and asked him which room he preferred to talk to the French Ambassador in.

Leo replied that the choice of room was not an important issue and that he would do it right away. He only requested that his father be present during the interview. With everyone's agreement, Leo and Tara, who would not leave her master alone for a moment, set off, followed by the ambassador, the police chief, and his father.

Leo ascended the stairs and led his group to the chief thief's study. In there, everyone sat down on a chair, and the ambassador, without hesitation, asked Leo to tell them everything he knew about the paintings.

"One day, Tara and I were walking around the village when we noticed a small ship anchored in a secluded spot, and three people were unloading the ship's cargo," Leo replied. "What surprised me was that the ship, which seemed to have come from a long way off, did not have the usual cargo of a merchant ship. They had taken great pains to carefully transport a number of paintings to the shore and put them in their white van parked in the corner. Just yesterday, when I realised that they were going to kill me, I left my usual room and, with great difficulty, managed to open the door of one of the rooms upstairs and take refuge there with Tara. It was there that, in the light of a match, I saw a number of paintings, two of which I liked best. When I left the room this morning, I did not have time to lock the door behind me, but I do not think anyone had the opportunity." The ambassador, who seemed a little worried, hurriedly asked if it was possible for them to go there before anything else.

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The police chief intervened at this moment and asked the French ambassador what was the significance of these signs that made him so worried.

The ambassador said:

"For some time now, a group of experienced thieves in Paris and other cities have been robbing museums and art galleries and stealing these expensive objects. Up until now, this has not been a disaster because they have not been able to sell such stolen goods within France and sooner or later, they would have been discovered. But about ten days ago, this group entered the Louvre Museum in Paris and, in an astonishing operation, stole a number of the most expensive paintings, the likes of which exist nowhere else in the world, and disappeared. The efforts of the police officers have gone nowhere, and the country's police chiefs have concluded that the thieves have taken them out of France. I want to make sure that these paintings that Leo and Tara have discovered are the same extremely expensive paintings from the Louvre Museum. In that case, we must ensure their security in the best possible way."

With that, he stood up, and the others followed him. Leo picked up his cat from the ground and hugged it. He then headed for the room where he had spent the night. The others followed him and Tara without a word.

Leo stopped in front of a door, set Tara down, and opened the door. As he had said, the door was unlocked. The Grand Ambassador held his breath in fear and entered the room in panic. Leo looked around the room and shouted:

"Your Excellency... everything is in its place and no one has entered this room in our absence."

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He then walked towards a painting that had caught his eye, picked it up, and showed it to the Ambassador. The Ambassador, seeing the painting, screamed and told Leo to be very careful not to let the painting fall from his hands.



Then he stepped forward, took the painting from him with the utmost care, and placed it against the wall. Then he said:

"This is the famous painting in the Louvre, which is the most expensive in the world. I ask all gentlemen not to approach this painting or the others. I also would like to ask Leo to do the favour and hug Tara so that the cat does not approach the painting."

Then the ambassador, together with Leo's father George, examined the other paintings in the room and concluded that all these expensive items had been stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The ambassador's next question was what was stored in the numerous other rooms of this large three-story building. Everyone looked at Leo, and he, who was a little embarrassed, said with some difficulty:

"Except for the few rooms that I was allowed to enter and the two or three rooms that I managed to unlock myself, despite my best efforts, I was unable to open the door to any other room. But with Tara's help, I found a large women's bag full of keys, which I believe are the keys to all the interior doors of this building. But finding the key to each door among all these keys is not an easy task and requires a lot of time."

The police chief said:

"Where is this bag? We have many people who can do this job."

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Leo replied hurriedly:

"Sir... this bag is in a corner of the room I was in. I will go there right now and bring it with me."

He stood up and walked towards the door. Tara and her father jumped up and followed him. They were worried that one of the thieves might be hiding in a corner and attack Leo. But the young boy went to his room without any problem, took the bag full of keys and brought it to the ambassador and the police chief.

The police chief took the bag and studied its contents, which had many keys. He then said:

"This bag contains all the interior keys of this building, and when the workers who installed the interior doors finished their work, they left only one key on the door and put the rest of the keys in this bag. Each door lock usually has two or three keys, and you can imagine how long it would take to find each key for a door when they were all gathered in one place. I will now order several officers to do this together."

The ambassador thanked him and the police chief took the bag and left the room. He soon returned to the room and announced that a team led by his deputy was busy opening the doors.

He then said:

"Another thing I need to do is to order food from a local restaurant for all my gentlemen and men before noon."

Leo thought for a moment and then said:

"Sir... no one lives in this area and there is no restaurant here. But because of that, there is a lot of good food stored here that can keep everyone full for a few days. If you assign a few people to help me, we can start our work in the kitchen."

The police chief and the ambassador, who had not expected such an offer, were very happy and asked Leo to show them this food supply. The ambassador asked if Tara would also use the same food.

Leo replied:

"Your Excellency... Tara doesn't like our food and it's easy for her to find her daily food outside this building. There are many birds and fish in this area. Cats are not like dogs that need humans for everything."

"After completing this mission, when I have a chance. I will study more about cats. It is said in the history of France that the Cardinal Duke de Richelieu, the famous Prime Minister of France, consulted his cat when making decisions on domestic and foreign affairs. I always thought that this was a joke and was invented to belittle the Prime Minister. But after seeing Tara and hearing her work, I don't think anything is out of the question for intelligent cats."

The police chief left the room with permission from the ambassador while his men were busy searching for the keys to the interior doors. He went downstairs and returned to the room with six police officers, most of whom were women. He gave the necessary instructions to the officers along the way and when he entered the room, he asked Leo to go with them to the

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kitchen. Leo respectfully told the ambassador that if he wanted, he could show him the food storage.

Everyone stood up and Leo led all the gentlemen and officers to the food storage. When they entered, they could not believe how much good food had been stored in the storage with the help of refrigerators and freezers. In addition, a huge number of cans containing all kinds of food had been collected there.

The ambassador said to his companions with a smile:

"Gentlemen... now you can see with your own eyes that even the greatest French thieves, the most important thing on their minds is good food."

Everyone smiled and agreed, and at that moment, one of the police officers entered and informed his commander and His Excellency the Ambassador that his colleagues had managed to open the door of one of the rooms and that he would like to invite the gentlemen to have a look at the objects inside. The Ambassador and the other gentlemen almost ran to another room on the same floor and entered.

They could not believe what they were seeing. This room was filled with all kinds of valuable objects stolen from museums, and several other paintings were also there. With a little attention, the Ambassador realised that not all of these items had been stolen from France, and some of them belonged to the Netherlands, Belgium, and even Greece.



After some thought, the ambassador said to those around him: "This is not the work of two or three people. This group must have had assistants in various European countries, all of whom

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have stored their stolen goods in this place. We are dealing with an international robbery organization. We all owe this global success to Leo and Tara."



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Chapter fifteen: Safety first



One of the important issues that the police chief faced after discovering a treasure trove of the most expensive art and antiques in a remote and deserted village was the security measures necessary to prevent new thefts. Now all the items that were previously scattered throughout European countries and housed in museums and art galleries are gathered in one place with the cooperation of international thieves. In the past, no one except the three people knew the true location of the art treasure, but now the news of this discovery had reached many people and even the national press was curious.

Keeping numerous of police officers in such a remote place was not an easy task and brought with it many problems. If they ordered their officers to live permanently in that deserted village, it meant that establishments such as a supermarket, primary and secondary schools, a hospital and recreational facilities would have to be established in the village, which would take a very long time.

The police chief was in contact with his superiors by phone and asked them for their guidance on this matter. The French ambassador did the same thing, informing them that the stolen items had been recovered from the Louvre and asking for their help in preserving these valuable items. He also informed them that many items from other European countries had also been collected there.

Meanwhile, Leo's father, who had now found his son and his cat, was in a hurry to take them home with him as soon as possible, because his wife, who had been discharged from the hospital, was left alone at home.

The first and only person to make his proposal with a calculated plan was the French ambassador. He said that his superiors had contacted the officials of various countries, and they had agreed to the French plan that all the stolen items would be left where they were and that each country would send its own officers to England to protect these items. In this way, the British police would not be alone in securing the old building and the valuable items it contained. They have contacted the Prime Minister's Office in London and obtained their approval. All items stolen from each country belong to that country, but for the time being, the best and safest way to prevent further theft is to leave them in the same place. All security costs will be shared between the interested cultures.

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The thieves who survived and were taken to prison will be sent to France, as they are likely to have a base in France itself. The President and Prime Minister of France congratulated their ambassador on this success.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs of Police informed the police commander that the French government's plan had been approved by England and that he and his officers had been encouraged by the Prime Minister for their brilliant success in this operation. The Prime Minister announced that he had a plan to encourage Leo and Tara, which he would announce in the next few days.

The news of the discovery of the Louvre paintings reached the world's news media, and they were eager to publish the news in their newspapers. Several reporters arrived at the abandoned village later that afternoon, but the police prevented them from entering the village.

The police chief confirmed the news to the reporters, explaining that for safety reasons, no one was allowed to approach the place where the stolen property was kept. But the reporters would soon receive fresh news on this matter.

Leo's father, George, worried about his wife, asked the police chief to allow him to leave the village and return home with Leo and Tara. The police chief replied that this was a bit reckless and that it would be better to wait until the next day to return home. He informed George that the police had contacted the city hospital where Leo's mother was being treated and that a nurse had been assigned to visit their home and stay with Leo's mother until George and his companions returned the next day.

Leo, realising that all the police would remain there all night, asked his father for permission to go to the kitchen and make the necessary arrangements for everyone's dinner. The French ambassador, seeing that everyone was going to stay there for the night, also announced that he would not return to his embassy in London and would stay there with the rest of the people. This was a great honour for everyone, and George, Leo's father, asked his son to give his room downstairs to His Excellency the ambassador so that he could rest there for the night.

Leo opposed this plan and said that the best place for His Excellency the Ambassador to rest was the bedroom of the chief of thieves, which he and his assistants would go to before anything else and prepare for His Excellency the Ambassador and the police chief in the best possible way.

No one expected such a proposal and they didn’t even know that the chief of thieves had his own separate bedroom. Several people came to congratulate Leo. Seeing this collective movement, Tara quickly placed herself in front of Leo and roared. She was fully prepared to defend her master in any case.

The chief of police, who had a smile on his face, gestured for the people to move away from Leo. Leo took this opportunity to say to the police chief:

"Mr. Commander... don't worry about guarding the building at night because Tara will do it on her own. If anyone approaches this building at night, Tara will immediately inform us. Tara will be awake all night and will be on guard inside and outside the building."

The commander stared at Tara with admiration and then said:

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"Son... we use dogs a lot in our administrative system. But no one has ever thought about how useful nocturnal cats can be for guarding at night. I will personally submit this suggestion to the police chief."

All this time, Tara stood in front of Leo and protected him. Leo bent down, took her in his arms, and set off to arrange the bedroom for the ambassador and the commander. The young boy, together with his assistants, arranged the bedroom of the chief of robbers as well as possible and prepared two comfortable beds for the two of them.

After finishing this work, he went to the kitchen to prepare dinner for the large number of people who were supposed to stay there. The police officers looked at Leo with surprise at his activities, as the young man worked with all his strength without feeling tired. At an opportune moment, they informed the police chief of this fact.



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Chapter sixteen: Tara Gallery

o incident occurred during the night, and Tara, who had been guarding the building and its surroundings all night, entered her and Leo's room when morning came and prepared to rest. Leo, who had done a lot of work the night before, had fallen into a deep sleep and did not wake up when Tara entered the room. Leo's father was also sleeping on the floor in the same room, resting his head on the corner of Leo's large pillow.

Leo was the first to wake up after the sun came up and immediately prepared himself to go to the kitchen to prepare breakfast. His assistant policewomen were already working in the kitchen, and Leo said good morning to them after entering. They immediately put Leo to work and asked him to bring them some eggs, toast, and other things suitable for breakfast from the food pantry.

Leo went to do this, but halfway there he saw Tara running towards him worriedly. After reaching him, Tara changed her direction and quickly headed for the front door of the building. Leo realized that Tara had noticed something outside the building and wanted to show it to him. Knowing that he did not have the key to the main door of the building, he quickly reached the top floor and entered one of the rooms above the front door.

He cautiously looked down from the window and saw three people trying to open the door of the building without making a sound. Before reaching the stairs, he encountered the police commander who had just woken up. He immediately shared the matter with the commander and told him that Tara had brought the news to him.

Without wasting time, the commander woke up several of his men and ordered them to take their weapons and follow him. The police officers, who had encountered this situation many times in the past, immediately showed up and gathered around the door of the building. The commander stepped forward, took the key out of his pocket, and very slowly unlocked the door. He suddenly opened the door, and the three men, who found themselves confronted by a number of armed police, did not even have time to flee.

The three policemen arrested the young men and handcuffed them. A physical search of the three showed that they were not armed. During their interrogation, it was revealed that they were French nationals who could barely speak English. The commander sent one of his men

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to the room where the French ambassador was staying. A few moments later, the ambassador ran down the stairs and appeared in front of the door. The commander pulled him aside and explained the matter to him. The ambassador returned to the young Frenchmen and engaged in a conversation with them that lasted several minutes.

He then approached the commander, who had kept a respectful distance from them. The story went like this: the three journalists, who were working as journalists in Paris, had been in England for a few days on holiday and were due to return to France in a day or two. But last night, when their colleagues in France had heard of the discovery of the stolen goods, they had called them and asked them to go to the scene in person and get the latest information and give it to them. With such information, they could be the first newspaper in all of Europe to publish the first-hand news of the discovery of the stolen goods.

Mr. Ambassador said that he had read their ID cards and documents and that they were simply investigative journalists and had no evil intentions. He then added that he had reprimanded them and told them that by this foolish act they could have put their lives in danger.

Finally, he said that he had apologised on their behalf for the trouble they had caused the police and that they were ready to accept any punishment. He then added that the young people noticed that a ginger cat had been following them for a while and when they were trying to open the door, the cat had run off at high speed to the other side of the building.

Mr. Ambassador was talking when the three young people suddenly jumped up and showed them Tara standing at the top of the stairs. They told the Ambassador in their own language that this was the cat.

They were excited and asked the police commander to order them to untie their hands. The commander motioned to his men, and they untied the French youth's handcuffs. They then asked their country's ambassador to ask the police commander for permission to take pictures of Tara. Permission was granted and the three young men took many pictures of Tara from


Le Monde

Tara, la chatte héroïne, a découvert des tableaux volés.

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different angles. The next day, Tara's picture was on the front page of most European newspapers.

At breakfast, the French ambassador told his companions that a few moments earlier the British Prime Minister had telephoned him and, while congratulating him on the discovery of the stolen items, had discussed with him the future of the items. He had told the Prime Minister that he had been in touch with the highest authorities in his country and that they were of the opinion that these valuable items, while preserving their ownership, should remain where they were found. The Prime Minister agreed with this opinion and asked him to study the situation carefully now that he was on the spot and to communicate his opinion to him.

The French ambassador then said that I would ask the gentlemen to consider my proposal and to communicate to me if they had any. I promised the Prime Minister that I would submit my proposal to him before noon. We must examine this proposal I have from all sides and be sure that it is the best solution.

The police chief said:

"Your Excellency... is it possible for you to make a proposal to us?"

"Of course... my proposal is very simple. I say that all the stolen goods should remain here and that we should keep this old building as much as possible, but that we should create all the safety equipment and the means of storing this unique item here. I say that we should turn this building into an art gallery, as was done many years ago in London with the Chelsea Power Station, where an industrial power station that supplied electricity to part of the City of London was turned into an art gallery. This industrial building still has its tall chimneys, but under the name of the Tate Modern Gallery, it has been transformed into one of the best and most beautiful galleries in the world. I have two pictures of this building before and after the transformation, which I will show you.



(before)



(after)

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He then showed everyone the pictures he had saved on his mobile phone. Then he said:

"As you can see, the Modern Art Gallery building is basically an industrial building that has been transformed into a modern gallery inside. After entering this old building, I realized that with a large area that we call a warehouse, and a large number of rooms on three floors, we can create one of the best galleries in the world here. The greatest advantage of this gallery is that from the very first day, it has housed the best and most valuable art items in the world. The history of this building and the incident that happened fascinates everyone. No gallery in the world has such a history. I propose right here that we name this art gallery after the name of Tara Gallery, the Hero Cat."

All those present involuntarily clapped their hands for the French ambassador, thereby expressing their satisfaction and support for this plan.

The French ambassador, who thought he had done the necessary work to establish an art gallery, said goodbye to everyone because he had to return to London as soon as possible. He told George that he would call him on the phone when he arrived in London. His departure coincided with the arrival of a number of security experts who had been commissioned by the police to equip the old building with the best and most modern security equipment.

At this point, George also got up, picked up Leo, and Leo hugged his cat and said goodbye to everyone. All the people who remained in the building were sorry to see Leo and Tara go, and one or two of the policewomen had tears in their eyes. But George had no choice but to return home immediately because his wife needed him very much and was left alone in the house. They got into George's car and, as usual, Tara was not happy to give her choice of directions to a car.

But it was a good thing, they set off for home and arrived there very soon. Tara was now really happy and as soon as the car door opened, she jumped out, climbed over the wall and entered the house. When Leo and her father entered the house and then the bedroom, Tara was already lying on the lady of the house’s bed.

Leo’s mother burst into tears of joy and kissed and caressed him. She really didn’t expect to see her son alive and well again.



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Chapter seventeen: Big celebration

eo's mother, Margaret, could not wait a moment and wanted to know everything at once. Leo pulled a chair out and sat down on it. Then he began to tell his story. From time to time his mother would interrupt him and ask a question. From the nature of these questions, Leo could understand how meticulous and precise her mother was and how she wanted to know every detail. Leo answered her mother's questions as accurately as he could.

This conversation went on until Leo's father, George, entered the room and asked his wife what she wanted for lunch, since he had decided to buy a ready-made meal from outside. Margaret replied that she had no appetite for food and that whatever her husband bought would be enough for her, a few bites of it.

Leo got up to go with his father, but his mother's reaction was so strong and pitiful that he immediately changed his mind and stayed at home with his mother. Before George could leave the room, his cell phone rang, and he had to stop. From what was being said, Leo realised that the person ringing his father was none other than the French ambassador.

They talked for a while, and Leo and his mother could see that George was very happy with the conversation. When they finished, George pulled out a chair and sat down next to his wife's bed. He said that he had given up going out and wanted to tell his family the latest news. Leo listened intently. His father said:

"It seems that very pleasant proposals have been made, which the Grand Ambassador himself is willing to inform us of in full detail. Many of these proposals concern Leo's future. He asked me to give a grand party in a hall in the city where we live, and he and a number of the great men of both countries would attend the party. They will pay all the expenses of the party. He also said that Tara is invited to the party and must definitely attend it."

Margaret thought for a moment in silence, then said:

"I am very pleased to give a grand party, but I am not very happy about us leaving the house with Tara and going there. You know very well that Tara is not one for such things and does not want us to assign her any duties. My own proposal is that we will give the party at home

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and in our neighbourhood. We will invite all our neighbours' and close friends to attend the party. In this way, Tara will also be able to attend without being forced to go somewhere else."

The proposal was so sensible and logical that no objections were raised and George decided to inform the French Ambassador about it right away by telephone. He had the Ambassador's personal telephone number in his hand and immediately dialled the number and started talking to the Ambassador himself. Their conversation did not last long and the Ambassador gladly accepted the proposal and was very happy that Tara would definitely attend the party. They fixed a date for the following week and agreed to invite all the guests as soon as possible to attend the party. His Excellency the Ambassador mentioned at the end of the conversation that a number of journalists from both countries would be present at the party.

The weather forecast for the coming week indicated good weather for the whole week, which would make it much easier to entertain guests. The neighbours, who had heard of Leo and Tara's success story, had gathered several times and, with the permission of the city council, had taken the necessary measures to organise a large street party. The mayor himself had visited George and his family several times and was very happy that their city had received international attention.

From the old building, which is now called the Tara Gallery, news was heard every day of the rapid progress of the workers in creating a beautiful gallery. It was said that this large building, with at least a hundred rooms and a very large hall with a very high ceiling, was strangely suited to a modern gallery, and the like of which is rarely found in the whole world. From the very beginning, negotiations were held between several countries, during which the ownership of this building and the surrounding houses were to be divided equally. It was planned that a number of competent people from each country would be assigned to set up and continue the work of this unique international gallery and would live in houses that would be built around the building in the deserted village. Now the village, which had not even a single person living in it, had become an area where residents of European countries would travel with pleasure to visit the Tara Gallery.

One of the best and most beautiful points of the complex was being built around the lake, and it was decided to keep the French pirate boat where it was anchored. For this reason, the exterior of the gallery building was also kept as much as possible in its original form. The room that Leo and Tara had been using was preserved with the same few furnishings, and Leo and Tara themselves would forever be full-time guests of the gallery. The house closest to this building was being renovated, ready for the reception that the gallery guests were preparing.

Margaret and George also received news that, in addition to the Prime Minister of England and a number of other heads of state, distinguished guests from several European countries would attend the celebration. Now the celebration had changed from an ordinary celebration to a large security measure.

The only one who did not understand these arrangements and was dissatisfied with the situation that had arisen was Tara, who could not understand why people valued and respected her so much for doing her duty. She considered protecting her master her obvious duty and did not expect encouragement.

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One of the things that Leo vaguely noticed in this busy and confusing situation was that Tara now appeared less often at home and sometimes brought a friend with her to the yard. One day, Leo surprised Tara and her friend in the backyard, hugging and caressing each other.





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Chapter eighteen: The medal of honour



he promised day finally arrived. Margaret and George's house was prepared from top to bottom for the reception of their distinguished guests, and many tables and chairs were placed in the courtyard. With permission from the municipality, all the alleys and streets around the house were cleared of cars, and the equipment for a large street party was placed in them.

The main guests were supposed to arrive at 2 pm, but a relatively large number of people with different specialities had arrived since before noon. A six-piece orchestra had also arrived from France, and they had reserved a corner of the courtyard for themselves and were preparing their instruments. Inside the house, there was a lot of activity preparing food, cakes, pastries, and drinks. On the street, each house had prepared its own food, which was carried to the tables that had passed along the street in due time.

A few minutes before 2 pm, the main guests from several countries had appeared one after the other and gathered together. The French and English prime ministers arrived at exactly 2 pm, and the band began playing in their honour. At this time, everyone gathered outside the house in the courtyard, and the first speaker was the British prime minister, who greeted his counterparts and thanked them for taking the trouble of travelling and coming this far. He gave a brief report on the progress of the Tara Gallery to his colleagues. He concluded by saying that he hoped that all the guests would attend the Tara Gallery opening ceremony as soon as possible.

All those present applauded him.

The next speaker was the French Ambassador, who, in a short speech, thanked his British colleagues for their hospitality and then said that the success in recovering the stolen items, which included several paintings from the Louvre, was due to the courage and resourcefulness of this ten-year-old George’s son Leo and his cat Tara. His Excellency the French Prime Minister has news for Leo and Tara in this regard, which he will announce immediately.

The French Prime Minister came to the microphone and welcomed the guests in English, then asked Leo to come to him. Leo, who had lowered his head in embarrassment, approached

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him. The Prime Minister shook his hand and then continued his speech by stating that the famous and prestigious Sorbonne University in Paris had offered Leo a scholarship so that he could enter the university after completing his secondary education and that all his expenses in Paris would be covered by the French government.

Everyone applauded loudly and Leo's mother burst into tears of joy. Poor Leo, who had never faced such a ceremony before, did not know what to do.

The Prime Minister then asked everyone to be silent and then said:

"Ladies and gentlemen... I ask you to observe complete silence because the ceremony that you are about to witness has never before taken place outside the borders of France and may never again. This is a great honour for the French people and government. The person at the centre of this special ceremony is not a member of the human community and, for the first time in history, this ceremony is being held outside France for a foreigner. I ask everyone to remain silent. This is the highest honour of the French state, ‘the Legion de Honour ‘. Never before has this medal been awarded to a non-French citizen."

He then leaned over and whispered something in Leo's ear.

Leo looked up and saw several cats sitting on the walls of the house, watching the ceremony. He called out loudly two or three times for Tara. Tara reluctantly got up, then, with some hesitation, jumped down from the wall and approached her master. She was worried that something might be wrong with her master.

Leo bent down and placed the hero cat on the table in front of the French Prime Minister. The Prime Minister turned to the band and pointed at them. The band began to play the French national anthem, the Marseillaise. Several people sitting on the chairs stood up at the sound of the national anthem, and one of the Prime Minister's bodyguards placed a beautifully decorated box in front of him.

The Prime Minister slowly opened the box and took out an item that looked like a medal. He then approached the slightly frightened cat. But Tara was too smart to do anything foolish in such a situation, when all the humans, including her master, stood silently and watched with the utmost respect.

The Prime Minister lifted the medal and showed it to everyone, then threw it around Tara's neck, took a step back and bowed to her. Tara looked at him for a moment, then at her master, and when she saw that they had no more business with her, she jumped down from the table, climbed the wall, and sat on the wall among the other cats.

Reporters eagerly photographed Tara and, using modern technology, immediately sent these photos to their country's newspapers. The next day, Tara's photo with the French Medal of Honour, along with pictures of paintings stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris and discovered by Tara, was printed on the front page of many European newspapers. Tara was now one of the most famous celebrities in Europe.

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Tara now found more than a hundred suitors who were ready to keep Tara in the most luxurious palaces in Europe. These matters did not matter in the slightest to Tara, and her master's small house was like heaven to her. Cats are not like humans, and the glory and splendour of the place where they live is not important to them. For them, life only acquires real meaning when they live near their humans, whom they have chosen for themselves. And when the need arises in practice, they are not afraid to sacrifice their lives for their humans. We humans should consider ourselves very fortunate to live in a place where such devoted friends are around us.



DIE ZEIT

Englische Heldenkatze erhält Frankreichs höchste Ehrenmedaille für die Entdeckung gestohlener Gemälde.

Tara, die Heroinkatze, mit zwei Gemälden, die aus dem Louvre gestohlen wurden



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Chapter nineteen: Tara’s offspring



ara's relationship with her black and white tabby friend continued after all this, and although the male cat was invited inside the house many times, he only spent time with Tara on the wall or in the yard. He did not even eat the food that Leo offered him and avoided getting close to Tara's owners.

The cold and winter season arrived and Tara continued to spend time outside with her good friend, regardless of the bitter cold of winter.

One day, Leo noticed that Tara did not have the energy and agility she used to have and spent most of her time resting and sleeping. He immediately shared this with his parents, and the next day, after her father left for work, Leo and her mother persuaded Tara, with difficulties to enter a cat carrier with a front-opening door and take her to the vet. Leo explained Tara's new problem to the vet. The vet's ears perked up when he heard Tara's name and asked if she was the famous champion, Tara. The answer to his question was affirmative and Margaret confirmed it. The vet ran out of the room and soon all the staff and even the owners of the sick animals rushed into the room to see her.

With Margaret's permission, they started taking pictures and each tried to take a picture with Tara alone. The president and owner of the veterinary institution also entered and after introducing himself, asked everyone to leave the room. Only Margaret, Leo, Tara, the vet and the president of the institution remained in the room.

The vet started by saying that Tara had no physical problems and that the reason she was not as active as before was because she was pregnant. He said that Tara would most likely give birth to her babies in the next month or two. During this time, they would keep an eye on her progress.

Margaret said:

"We have never dealt with a pregnant cat before. Will this be expensive?"

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The director of the institution said:

"Madam... you don't have to worry about financial issues. The fact that you have given us the honour of treating the most famous cat in the world is quite enough for us. We only have one request of you. Will you allow us to name this veterinary institution after Tara and put her pictures on the walls and doors? Also, if it is difficult for you to bring Tara here, we will visit her regularly at your home until she gives birth. All this will be free for you, and we will use Tara's popularity to raise the profile of this clinic even more."

Relieved, Margaret and Leo took Tara back home and began to take particular care of her.

As the vets had promised, they sent someone to their house every ten days to check on Tara, and Tara was doing well. During one of these visits, the vet brought Margaret a pamphlet containing facts and instructions for dealing with the expectant mother. The pamphlet stated that a cat that becomes a mother is completely different from the cat that was the day before, and that humans should understand that now, by nature, the mother cat is given a responsibility that occupies her full time, twenty-four hours a day. The mother's life is no longer her own, and until the kittens are grown up and go off on their own, the mother of the kittens will be at the full disposal of her children.

This does not only apply to humans, but even the fathers of kittens are not allowed to approach the kittens from the day after they are born. One thing that humans should carefully observe is to avoid the kittens as much as possible and not touch them under any circumstances. If the cat owner even touches the newborn kittens or tries to feed them, they will transmit their scent to the kittens, and the mother cat will most likely take her kittens out of the house.

For the Liu family, who had never encountered such a situation before, these production instructions worried them, and they discussed the matter with the veterinarian who came to their house at a certain time to ensure Tara's health. He replied that after the kittens are born, they should stay away from that place for a few months and not have anything to do with the kittens.

When she sees fit, the mother cat will gradually introduce her kittens to the family members. The mother cat is fully responsible for educating the kittens, and for this reason, kittens that have lost their mothers in infancy for some reason do not behave like real cats at all and are, as the saying goes, half-cats.

However, one morning, Leo heard a noise coming from the basement, and when he went there, he saw Tara with five children, all blindfolded. The children had taken half to Tara and half to their father, a tabby cat. As Leo had been instructed, he despite his great curiosity, did not approach them and left the basement. From then on, Leo would leave Tara's food on the stairs and immediately leave the basement.

A month or two passed in this way until one day, when Leo entered the living room, he saw Tara lying on the floor with two kittens, one his own colour and the other his father's colour, playing next to her.

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This was the beginning of the interaction of the Tara's family with humans.

