

Rescue Cat - Written By Will Snow

Chapter Thirteen

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Groggy and bleary-eyed, Bill and Cosmo lifted their heads from the pillow and tried to remember who, when, and where they were. The pounding became more insistent. THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

The pounding was replaced by the even more annoying sound of his front bell ringing. Ding-dong. DING-DONG! DIIING-DOOONG!

Gods! What time was it? THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! DIIING-DOOONG! DIIING-DOOONG!

"We're coming", Bill croaked weakly. "*We're coming, annoying human!*", mewed Cosmo

"BILL! Cosmo! Are you there?" Jodi shouted. THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

"WE'RE COMING!" he shouted as he staggered downstairs carrying Cosmo in his arms. Unlocking the deadbolt and front latch, Bill yanked open the door. Jodi breezed in, perfectly put together and perfumed. Her bright white smile disintegrated into a sour look as she looked around the room. The table and floor around the couch were a complete disaster, with the hardened and odiferous remains of the charcuterie board strewn about, a spilled bottle of wine, and a scattered dish of catnip on the carpet.

"Looks like things haven't improved around here very much," Jodi said softly, "You have really outdone yourself this time, Bill."

"You just came at a bad time. Cosmo and I had a little going away party, and there were some candles and..."

Jodi saw Cosmo's singed fur and sadly shook her head, "What did you do to him? I trusted you."

"Jodi, it was just an accident. You don't understand. Please let me explain..."

"I get it. I'm sorry I asked you. You're obviously still not ready to do anything for anybody else."

"Jodi, if you just listen, things have actually been great. Cosmo is amazing, and I think he really likes me. We're really good for each other."

Jodi shook her head in disbelief, broadly gesturing around the room. "Clearly. It's obvious. How could I have possibly thought otherwise?"

Bill nodded. "I know this seems kind of bad right now, and this is probably not the best time, but I think I should keep him. We're really great pals. I mean, things were kind of tough at first, dealing with the stinky cat poop and waking up at 4 AM, but we're in a good place now, and I think he's happy. He doesn't run away and hide anymore, and we both like the same

anime shows." Bill held Cosmo close to his chest and they both smiled and looked imploringly at her.

Her mouth agape, Jodi cautiously reached up and took Cosmo from Bill's arms. "Cosmo already has a home," she said as if speaking to a preschooler. "I think it is wonderful that you made a new friend, and I will see if I can arrange a play date for you in the future. But for now, I am going to take his things, and we will go bye-bye. OK?"

With that, Jodi shoved Cosmo in the car carrier, grabbed a few things, and walked briskly out the front door to her car. Bill followed her out of the house, begging her to reconsider, and then angrily shouted at her car as she pulled away, "You left his litter box! I'm not cleaning that up again, goddammit!" He then looked next door, where his neighbors were peeking out of their window at him and derisively shaking their heads. "Epic!" he screamed into the air and stormed back into the house, slamming the door behind him.