

Rescue Cat - Written By Will Snow

Chapter Sixteen

He was utterly alone. Stranded on a desolate island of jagged rock amid a hurricane. The wind shrieked, lashing his pale white body with ice-cold brine. The sea heaved all around him, and the stormy sky boiled with anger. He was temporarily blinded by a flash of lightning, and he felt the clap of thunder that followed through to his frozen marrow. Miserable and terrified, he tried to find some corner or shelf of rock that could protect him from the storm. His bare feet and hands were quickly bloodied by his futile efforts, and he sank to his knees, powerless against the determined fury of nature that sought to erase him from existence.

How long had he been here? A moment? An eternity? Time had no relevance in this place. He had always been here, would always be here, enduring an eternity of punishment. Bill lifted his head in exhaustion, stared into the face of that unforgiving tempest, and pleaded for mercy or release, but he had no voice or power in this place.

Beaten, broken, and reviled by the universe, he laid his head on the hard ground and waited for his end as a massive black funnel cloud appeared above his head. He felt himself being roughly plucked from the island as if his body was being

torn apart by the wind. He knew that this was his end. It would only be a matter of moments...

An instant later, the raging winds ceased, and Bill was laid gently on a sand berm that was softer than any feather bed he had ever slept on. The sky was breathtakingly blue and clear, and a warm and fragrant breeze stirred his senses. As he sat up and opened his eyes, he saw a radiant, blindingly white vision slowly approaching him across the beach from the now tranquil turquoise sea. He had to shield his eyes from the dazzling being before him, but its brilliance faded to a warm golden glow, and he slowly opened his eyes.

She was tall and lean with a long mane of auburn curls that fell around her shoulders. She had the same gentle cinnamon-colored eyes and warm smile that captured his heart so many years ago. She wore a diaphanous silver gown and a small jewel around her neck that burned with pure white fire. As she approached, Bill saw she was carrying a soft, fluffy, bicolored ragdoll cat with familiar blue eyes, stroking him gently.

The sight of Cosmo safe in her arms released a torrent of emotion. He wanted to tell them everything, apologize for failing them, and tell them how much he missed and loved them. But he had no voice in that place. All he could do was gaze in wide wonder at her and Cosmo and weep tears of rejoicing.

Cosmo jumped lightly from the woman's arms, sauntered over to Bill, and rubbed his soft, warm face onto Bill's. "You have been marked by Bastet's beloved and blessed for eternity." Bill startled at Cosmo's low and clear, purring voice. The graceful feline laughed and looked long into Bill's eyes and back to the woman. "We are here now. Safe, happy, and loved. You don't have to worry about us anymore. You don't need to be sad anymore. Go back to the world and love again. We know that you want more than life itself to join us. However, this way is closed to you now. This is not your time, but we await your return after your incredible adventure is through." Cosmo gave Bill one final nuzzle, walked back to the smiling woman, and leaped back into her arms.

As the two returned to the sea, their radiance brightened again to a blinding white, and a rainbow bridge appeared in the mist. The two luminous beings crossed the bridge to a golden shore with tall spires beyond and vanished into the mist.