

An Excerpt of **Diary of an Indoor Cat**



Date: January 25th

Well, I did it. I protest pooped next to the sandbox. I mean - what was I supposed to do? Were my humans seriously expecting me to step into that filthy thing? No way, nah ah!

I waited as long as I could. I'm not proud of it. Looking back at it. It wasn't nice.

But! It did send the message, because just a few minutes later, the tall human sprang into action and cleaned up my mess. Then the safe human got involved and they both started yelling at each other and pointing at the sandbox, me and then Ozzy. He's totally innocent in the whole thing, by the way. I know he's judging me - he's been quietly glaring at me from the play room, like, "dude, WTF!" Anyhoo, they grumbled a few more things and gave me the pointy finger wiggle. Ha! Cute. Oh look, a brand new, shiny and clean new sand box! Perfect timing too, cause now I gotta pee.

By Pia Thrasher

Date: February 1st

I don't know what's going on. I haven't seen my safe human for, like, ever! I'm used to her going in and out, and sometimes leaving for hours or half a day, but this is different. She didn't come home in the evening or late at night. Even Momo, the Traveler, went outside and came back. He said he hadn't seen her out there either. I haven't heard the sound of her huge rolling machine and it's not been sitting down below the sleeping room for at least two days. I've been sitting by the window, waiting and watching - but nothing.

Only the tall human is here. Hmm. At least he can still serve us food and water. I don't like this. It's making me sad and afraid. I don't even feel like playing with Ozzy. I think he misses her too. He's bumming around and trying to get into trouble all the time.

I think I'm gonna go back to my bedding. There's a piece of clothing that smells like her. I'll snuggle up to that. Maybe it'll cheer me up. I hope she comes back tonight.

Date: February 2nd

Still nothing. Nada. My mood changes from sad to scared to angry and grumpy back to bummed out. Actually, I'm freaking out a little. The tall human doesn't seem to be worried, but he's using the speaking gadget a lot. Ozzy swears he thought he heard the safe human's voice coming through it. I don't know what it means, but it gives me hope. I just wanted to update here real quick. Going back to napping.

Date: February 3rd

Still no sight or sound of my safe human. I think I may just have to make peace with the thought that she won't return. Ozzy and Momo, the Traveler, have been quietly accepting this unthinkable fact. It's either that; or they are in total denial. None of us are in playing or exploring mood. Lots of sleeping. No interest in much of anything, at all.

I've been asking myself why my safe human wouldn't come back. Was it me? Did I do something to drive her away? Or was it one of the others in this dwelling? If so, what could it have been?

By Pia Thrasher

Maybe I should have let her pick me up more often. Or maybe she got tired of me, now that I'm not a cute and dumb kitten anymore.

Nah, I'm still fabulous.

Hmm...what if she fell victim to a predator? Oh no! What if she got lost and can't find her way back? I must stay vigilant and watch for her in the window!

I wish the tall human would let me outside, because I will do everything in my power to find her and bring her back!

The tall human tries to get us to play with him and I guess we could indulge him, but not for long. Our hearts just aren't in it. He's actually calling my name right now. I think he has some consolation morsels for each of us. They taste alright, but I'm not in snack mode either.

But, why not. I could use a little love and attention. Sigh.

Date: February 7th

She's still gone. Missing. I'm too depressed to write much. I need a distraction.

Ozzy is not taking this too well either. I thought he didn't care about our safe human, until he fessed up and told me about his abandonment issues. Apparently, when he was very little, he was somehow separated from his siblings and his mom. He used to be outside, like me, until he was found. He couldn't keep up with his family when they were on the move and lost his way. He was, what they call, the runt of the litter. He said his family abandoned him and it makes me hurt for him. Now he feels that the safe human did the same. I told him to hang in there and not give up...even though I don't have much hope anymore myself. But I gotta be strong for him. I told him we'll be alright.

At least we still have the tall human. But I so miss her. We've resorted to taking turns crying out for her, especially at night. Maybe she can hear us somehow. The tall human seems annoyed by it, but we don't care. Momo has just been really quiet. I don't know what that even means.

I'm gonna go now and hug my little brother from another mother. I need it as much as he does.

Date: February 13th

I don't even know how many days I've been mostly sleeping. I've completely lost track of time. I'd get up for a quick meal, do my business in the sand box and then go back to sleep. I was in my deepest slumber in the sleeping room when I slowly woke up to a familiar sound. It was faint at first and I dismissed it as part of a weirdly calm dream. Increasingly aware, I recognized that familiar noise I was so hoping for the last few days: the sound of the safe human's big rolling machine! I woke up for real and shot up out of my bedding and hopped up to the window.

THERE SHE WAS! OMG, OMG! I couldn't believe my eyes!

I ran out to the play room and Ozzy must have heard her coming up the stairs outside and we both hurried to the door, waiting. Oh, I so hoped I wasn't dreaming this time!

And there she was! Thank the Sublime Cattess of the Realm! I had to compose myself a little to not look like a slobbering fool, like the dogs I've seen from my window perch. Of course Ozzy and I sniffed her up and down to make sure it was really her. She was so excited to see us and squealed with delight! Before I knew it, she swooped me up and kissed me all over. I couldn't help it...I purred uncontrollably. I'm almost a bit embarrassed now, but I was so caught up in the moment!

I quickly went back to business checking out all the bags she brought in and all the strange scents that came with them. I thought I smelled another cat, maybe even dogs! Where in the world has she been?

Oh, what an exciting day!

Momo is still wandering outside and doesn't even know the good news yet! Ozzy is so happy and relieved, too! He and I swore to each other to be on our best behavior and extra schmoozy to make sure she won't leave again. We've been following her every move all day. It looks like she's settled in.

For once, I was excited to write again and mark this great day in my journal.

Ok, back to keeping an eye on her!

...to be continued!