

Spider Cat to the Rescue (by Mrs Sproulle and Mr Sproulle)

The three cats were prowling in the alley, looking for food. Nothing but empty bins, the rubbish had already been collected. How were they going to eat?

Suddenly Spider Cat swooshed down from the sky and landed beside them. "Hungry?" he asked.

"Of course we are," said Kelly Cat, the black and white one. "You know we are. Our owners kicked us out. Didn't like us bringing mice into the house."

"Yes," said cream-coloured Squiggles. "Now they've got new cats, better trained than we are, supposedly. Don't like mice, only cat food."

Spider Cat nodded. "So, your former owners are still putting out cat food for their replacement cats. Well, let me help."

"How can you help?" asked the brown cat named Cuddles.

"By getting you back into your houses so you can eat the food that's been put out."

"That's crazy," said Kelly angrily. "You're just kidding around, getting our hopes up."

"We'll never be able to get in," said Cuddles. She looked ready to cry.

"Have you forgotten these," said Spider Cat. He held up his paws from which silky threads were dangling. "I can climb up the wall, spin my web, and you can climb up after me. We'll get in through the bedroom window, nobody ever locks their bedroom windows."

"Well," said Kelly, "it's worth a try. Better than hunting through rubbish bins."

The three cats followed Spider Cat to the first house. His paws were sticky and, like suction pads, they attached to the wall making it easy for him to climb up. Once on the window sill, he spun his silky threads and lowered the web ladder down to Kelly. She grabbed on and started to climb.

When she reached the bedroom, they both nipped in and raced down the stairs to the kitchen. Luckily no one was at home, Spider Cat had made sure of that. But there in the corner was a large dish of yummy cat food.

“Slurp, slurp, slurp,” was the noise the cats made as they enjoyed their meal. Then, just as quickly, they raced back up the stairs and down the web on the outside wall.

Squiggles and Cuddles had watched in amazement. “Did you get any food?” they asked.

“Of course,” said Spider Cat. “What did you expect?”

“I noticed you were wolfing down quite a lot,” said Kelly. She didn’t feel she had gotten her fair share.

“Well, I needed something for my troubles,” said Spider Cat. “Now, who’s next?”

Squiggles wanted to go next and they soon had him into his former house, eating a tasty meal. Of course, Spider Cat made sure he got his share, too.

Cuddles was last but her house was trickier to get into. Her former owner had obviously gone out and locked all the windows, including the bedroom.

“Hmmm,” said Spider Cat, thoughtfully. “We’re just going to have to wait until your owner comes back and then”

“Then what?” cried Cuddles. “I’m hungry now!”

But they had no choice. Cuddles and Spider Cat prowled around the property trying to find a way in. Kelly and Squiggles stayed to keep them company.

Eventually Mrs Merryweather came back, accompanied by her new cat. They entered the house and Mrs Merryweather went upstairs to open all the windows.

“Perfect,” said Spider Cat. “Now, follow me.” He climbed the wall, lowered the web ladder and Cuddles followed him.

Slowly they crept down the stairs to the kitchen, expecting a large bowl of yummy cat food. Instead, they found a very nasty cat determined to defend his meal. Screeching and scratching, the big tomcat chased a surprised and frightened Spider Cat and Cuddles out the open back door.

“Okay,” said Kelly, who’d been waiting with Squiggles. “What do we do now?”

“Quiet. I’m thinking.” Spider Cat was not going to be defeated. His super spidery paws hadn’t let him down before and he wasn’t about to give up just because some angry cat didn’t want them in the house.

“Hey,” he said, “I’ve got a brilliant idea. We need to lure him out of the house and then ...”

“And then what?” said Kelly. “We tie him up?”

“Exactly!”

“With what?”

“My spider’s web.”

Well, they decided it was worth a shot if Cuddles was going to eat. The three meowed as loudly as they could while Spider Cat hid behind the flower pot by the back door. Sure enough, the tomcat soon appeared.

He hissed when he saw them and came closer, crouching low. All of a sudden out leapt Spider Cat, spinning web after web of silken threads, tying up the snarling cat.

“Quick,” he called to Cuddles, “run in and eat! But save me some!”

Cuddles ate as much as he could but left a little for his friend. Spider Cat nipped in to get his share but was met by Mrs Merryweather and her broom.

“You’re not my cat!” she screamed. “Where’s my cat? Get out, you nasty thing!” With that she chased Spider Cat with her broom. He jumped up the wall, ran across the ceiling and flew out the door.

Unfortunately, he landed on the tomcat who was trying to free himself from his spidery prison.

“Ouch!” said Spider Cat. “Stop struggling! You’re getting us both tangled up!”

The three cats watched in horror as Spider Cat and Mrs Merryweather’s tomcat were getting ever more snarled up in a spider-like web. Soon they

were scratching at each other and at the silken threads, desperate to free themselves.

The other cats tried to help but they, too, got stuck and were turning into a big ball of thread and fur and scratching claws.

Mrs Merryweather came out to see what all the hissing was about. She was shocked to see five cats locked into a big spherical object which started to roll down the drive and out into the road.

“Stop!” she shouted as a speeding car raced towards the struggling cats.

Whoosh! The slipstream from the racing car swept over the cat ball and broke the threads apart. Soon there were cats flying in all directions!

Spider Cat was the first to land. Then came Kelly, Squiggles and Cuddles in quick succession. Last of all was the tomcat who shook himself and raced back to Mrs Merryweather.

“Right,” said Spider Cat. “We need a plan. There’s bound to be other houses with cats who’ve left cat food in the kitchen and their bedroom windows open. I’ll climb up the wall and you can climb up my web ladder.”

“Forget it,” said Kelly. “We’ve had enough of your tangled webs. We’re going back to rubbish bins.”