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The Baroness von FiFi

Thu, 2012-11-29 08:10 — Robin Olson

Today is the day I think of you with tears in my eyes. I mark the calendar. I count it out on my fingers. I wonder how nine years have slipped by without you in my life. I think about the last day. I don't want to, but I cannot forget it. I think about all the other last days I've had to witness since you've been gone, *my Mother, cats: Stanley, Taz, Sasha, little kittens too young to have names, Bob Dole, Bobette, so many others.*

I worry about the ones to come.



©2001 Robin A.F. Olson. *My lovely, Squeegee.*

You were my “before-cat”—before I knew about raw feeding and that the grain in your dry food was the culprit, causing your diabetes. It left you overweight and demanded I learn about giving you shots of insulin every day to keep you alive. If I had known I could have saved you simply by changing your food, even to just grain free canned food, you might still be with me today. **You might never have gotten cancer, which when it entered your lungs, I knew the time we shared together was coming to an end.**



©2001 Robin A.F. Olson. *Squeegee finds her place in the sun.*

You were *before* I had the courage to foster more than a single cat, when I worked long hours away from home, hiring a pet sitter to stay with you each day so you wouldn't be lonely. **Back then it was just you, me and Stanley, my sweet tuxedo cat who died a few months after you did.**

It was back when I had a life. I could leave the house for more than a day and not worry. *My hair wasn't falling out in clumps. The quilted lines under my gray eyes hadn't even begun to form.*



©2003 Judith K Feminella. *I asked my Mother to take some photos of Squeegee once I found out she only had a few months left to live. I'm so glad I have these keepsakes of us together.*

Part of my sadness is linked to missing the simplicity of my old life and you represented that life. **You were also the last connection I had to my marriage**, what there was of one. He didn't even know you were sick, nor cared that you were slipping away. **Now he's on that list of last days, too, with cancer of the salivary glands** and no health insurance to save his life.



©2003 Robin A.F. Olson. *A few hours before I had to put Squeegee down, she climbed onto the bed for the first time in months. The lung cancer was so bad she could hardly move, let alone jump on the bed. I took it as her way of saying goodbye,*

a gift I will always cherish.

I care that he's sick and I ache because he suffers. **I ask myself how anyone can grow old and not have so much pain in their heart from witnessing one loss after another** that they have any happiness left? I honestly don't know the answer to that any more.

You were the cat I didn't want who ended up being my best friend and deeply treasured companion . You had a silly meow, which earned you your name; Squeegee, but you deserved more, so after some time I added: **"The Baroness von FiFi."** You should have a regal, elegant name even if you weren't a purebred cat.



©1990 Robin A.F. Olson. *Squeegee and I take a nap without a worry in our hearts, a very long time ago.*

You should have lived longer than 13 years, but that was *before*. I know better now and because of you, hundreds, if not thousands of cats will never have to suffer the way you did. They'll have healthier lives, longer lives, better lives.

I mourn the fact that I couldn't give you the gift of a healthier life, but I honor your memory today by sharing your story with others.



©2003 Robin A.F. Olson. *Farewell, my sweet.*

Squeegee, the Baroness von FiFi, thank you for inspiring me to be a better pet parent and for being my inspiration and the reason why I'll never stop writing about the importance of feeding a species appropriate diet to cats.

I miss you so very much, Fifi. Until we meet again...

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Comments

Thu, 2012-11-29 14:19 — [midbabtaz](#) ^[7]

i know how much it hurts ^[8]

i had to send my penelope over the rainbow bridge yesterday and i cant stop crying i never knew it would hurt this bad she was my break up kitty when my husband left i went and got her and she was all mine i do have 4 other cats but she was the alpha kitty she was my baby i miss her so much i even woke up in the middle of the night last night and called for her i'm so sad

(so sorry that i dont punctuate)

Thu, 2012-11-29 17:11 — jmuuj (not verified)

RE: The Baroness ^[9]

"I care that he's sick and I ache because he suffers. **I ask myself how anyone can grow old and not have so much pain in their heart from witnessing one loss after another** that they have any happiness left? I honestly don't know the answer to that any more."

How well I know those feelings, and that unknowingness. My prayers get longer, it seems, every time I turn around. That's the side that's so hard to endure.

The other, more positive side, of course, is that when you love many, you do have many losses; but you LOVE MANY.

I don't know about you, but I never want to stop doing that.

Thu, 2012-11-29 19:07 — rumorasit (not verified)

midbabtaz ^[10]

I was holding it together til I got to your comment. I'm crying with you now. <3 I've lost many kitties through the years. It never gets easier.

Thu, 2012-11-29 19:08 — rumorasit (not verified)

midbabtaz ^[11]

I was holding it together til I got to your comment. I'm crying with you now. <3 I've lost many kitties through the years. It never gets easier.

Thu, 2012-11-29 19:08 — rumorasit (not verified)

I was holding it together til ^[12]

I was holding it together til I got to your comment. I'm crying with you now. <3 I've lost many kitties through the years. It never gets easier.

Fri, 2012-11-30 18:07 — [Ingrid King \(not verified\)](#) ^[13]

How did I miss this post ^[14]

How did I miss this post yesterday! What a beautifully written post. My heart goes out to you as you remember Squeegie. What a legacy she's left behind! Thanks to her, you've saved so many lives since. I think she's quite pleased with the path she's set you on. Hugs to you as you remember her.

Thu, 2012-12-06 02:47 — [Alley Cats and ... \(not verified\)](#) ^[15]

I'm so sorry ^[16]

My heart goes out to you. I lost one of my girls on Sunday and I know it hurts. They are more than cats, they are our very furry children with four legs.

I hope time will heal the hole in your heart and ease the pain. Bless you. And I love the addition of Baroness Von FiFi to her name.

Sat, 2013-11-30 12:37 — Doreen D (not verified)

Squeegee ^[17]

Robin, thank you for sharing the link to this bitter-sweet post about Squeegee, the Baroness von FiFi. Proper nutrition is so important for cats and us humans to be healthy. Probiotics and psyllium are helpful especially for the older ones. Remembering my kitties from days gone by..xo..Doreen D.

Sat, 2014-11-29 19:49 — Catnynouse (not verified)

So sorry to hear of her ^[18]

So sorry to hear of her passing. This was a wonderful tribute to her. You can see in her eyes she was so happy and loved. Please try not to feel guilty that you didn't do more, you did the best you could with the knowledge you had at the time. Guilt is a horrible feeling. She had a home and was loved. I think her name is very cute. Without her there may never have been Kitten Associates. I wish the best and thank you for caring for all those kitties. I've never found time to ease the pain once they've passed on. The thoughts around it change but it never gets easier. But they do live on in your heart.

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