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[Home](#) > It Had to Be You

It Had to Be You

Mon, 2012-05-21 11:48 — Robin Olson

"Some others I've seen might never be mean

Might never be cross or try to be boss

But they wouldn't do

For nobody else gave me the thrill

With all your faults I love you still

It had to be you"*

What transpired over the past few days has left me a bit tongue tied. Perhaps it's a bit too soon to try to make sense of it all, but the news I have to share is so surprising, I couldn't wait to begin writing.

Barely four days ago, I said to my friend, JaneA Kelley, who's the well known "*Mama, Webmaster & Chief Cat Slave*" of the blog [Paws and Effect: A blog by cats for cats and their people](#) ^[1], that she should come to Connecticut to visit my foster kittens. JaneA immediately agreed and suggested she was available that weekend and did I want to get together then? **The kittens are old enough to be adopted and since one of them is named after one of JaneA's cats, I thought the timing could work out (if I did a massive "hide the piles of paper" cleaning ASAP)**. The kitten I really wanted her to meet is named Dahlia. You can read about the cat she's named in honor of by clicking the following link, "[Farewell, Sweet Dahlia](#)" ^[2].



Although I did have some plans "penciled in" for the weekend it was something JaneA said to me that made me clear the decks so we could get together. She said she'd love to meet the kittens, but she really wanted to meet Bobette!

You could have knocked me over with a feather.

Bobette? **You mean the cat who's been here in foster care for six months and three months before that in Georgia in foster care? The one who I've never gotten even ONE application to adopt?** Bobette who was named after my dearly departed cat, [Bob Dole](#) ^[3]? The same Bobette who has struggled to get along with my eight cats, who suffered through losing three of her six kittens and who had to [recover](#) ^[4] from a very [difficult and painful surgery](#) ^[5] to correct her [Patellar Lunation](#) ^[6]?

Yes—**"THAT"** Bobette!



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I didn't want to press the subject of WHY she wanted to meet Bobette. I knew the reason, but couldn't imagine saying the word, ADOPT. Bobette is an amazing cat. She has a great personality, is smart, silly and sweet, but she's had difficulty adjusting to living with my cats and has charged and hissed at them on a daily basis. I know that it's partly due to my own inability to properly introduce Bobette to the crew and, over the past few weeks, Bobette, on her own, has been slowly carving a place for herself and the attacks have reduced in number and intensity. **I was resigned to having a very difficult to place adult cat on my hands-one that should probably be an only cat, but...I HATE thinking that ANY cat has to be an only cat.** Again, I look to the Cat Guardian for why multiple cat households have failures. **It's not black and white, but there are MANY cats out there who get labeled as having to be "only cats," but who would probably be just fine with one or two other cats IF they had the time to adjust and be introduced.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. JaneA is making some sort of secret code gesture or Vulcan Salute (?) FAIL. Meanwhile I'm trying to look awesome-FAIL.

I warned JaneA that she'd have to sleep in the foster room with the kittens and she was almost giddy about the idea. I forget I'm around kittens all the time, but for many other people it's a special event. We sorted out the details and JaneA arrived Saturday afternoon with her bags and two bottles of wine. Clearly she was prepared to have some fun!



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Bobette tries to use the power of her mind to melt the window pane.

I ushered JaneA into my home, introducing her to my cats. I'd left Bobette sitting in the kitchen. **She was mesmerized by a weird looking squirrel who was missing half his tail. He was focused on eating bird seed on the deck railing**

while she sat frozen, her butt wiggling every so often in anticipation. I could tell Bobette was saying a kitty prayer that the glass in the window frame would melt so she could bust through it and bite the rest of the squirrel's tail off.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. JaneA and Bobette get to know each other.

I asked JaneA if she wanted to meet Bobette and she perked up and looked around. I brought her over to Bobette. She called to her and Bobette stood up and ran over to her side! **In that moment, I witnessed love at first sight; as if two halves, separated for years, had finally come back together.**

I didn't say a word. This was the look I hope to see in all my adopters, but it didn't add up. JaneA could provide a home for any cat. **She didn't have to drive for five hours just to meet this one, but what I didn't know was that JaneA had been following Bobette's story from the first days we rescued her out of the Henry County kill shelter. From afar, JaneA had a gut feeling that this was her cat, but at the time she couldn't add to her kitty family ^[8] and then after the tragic loss of Dahlia the timing just wasn't right.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Me with a squirmy Bobette.

JaneA, Sam and I caught up on recent events. **JaneA's blog just got nominated for a BlogPaws Nose-to-Nose Award for Best Meow Blog!** ^[9] Of course I'd be glad if she won, but only if I don't win, first! **Although we're both nominated for the same category, the pressure is off since it's a Juried award and we don't have to beg for votes. This time it feels like we're already both winners since we're Finalists.** The rest is gravy...or 5,000 meals of cat food from FreeKibble.com ^[10], which is part of the award to the Winner.

JaneA met the kittens and the big moment of her meeting her cat's namesake, was a huge letdown. The kittens were a bit nervous having both myself and JaneA in the room. When I picked up Hello Dahlia to bring her to JaneA, the kitten freaked out and ran off. **The heartwarming moment, the tears never came to pass. It was fine by JaneA. She knew that the kittens would have a far easier time being adopted. It appeared that JaneA was thinking about something else—a little spitfire named Bobette.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Bobette has such a sweet face and her eyes are really that bright shade of green.

We went out for some nice FRIED FOOD for dinner, followed by a sickly huge waffle cone full of ice cream. It was fun to have another cat lady to hang out with and the time flew by. Soon it was time to get JaneA settled into the foster room. We made up the bed while the kittens ran around. JaneA laid on the bed, hanging off it so she could get closer to April without scaring her. **I wished JaneA good luck trying to sleep in a room full of kittens. I closed the door and said a little prayer hoping it would go all right.** The few times I've napped with the kittens I was terrified I'd roll onto one and kill it. I guess I'd have to hope for the best.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Beautiful brat.

The next morning, I asked JaneA how she slept as we prepared to make a pot of coffee. **"I slept like a baby!"** was her surprising reply. Apparently the kittens settled down and went to sleep as she did the same. Being around kittens was truly good for her soul...but...what about Bobette?

I didn't want to push JaneA into doing anything she wasn't ready to do, but as the time drew near for JaneA to return to Maine, I coyly asked her how she felt about Bobette. She said she loved her already. We discussed how it might work and our concerns that Bobette might not be a great fit in her home. **I knew that of anyone who could possibly adopt Bobette, this was one person who understood the importance of a proper introduction, knew how to do it and was willing to take the time to do it right.** I told JaneA that we could do the adoption on a trial basis and that I would ALWAYS take her back if it didn't work out.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. A few last pets for my foster sweetheart.

JaneA sat on the floor and called to Bobette. She asked Bobette if she wanted to go home with her. **Bobette responded by rubbing against JaneA's knees, her arms and pressed her face against her hand, clearly saying, "yes."** I had to fight back the tears it was such a beautiful sight.

I never could have guessed that Bobette's forever home would be with a fellow cat-lady-blogger and that the next time I saw her she would be featured as part of the family on Paws and Effect.com. Bobette's five month journey with me comes to an end, but her story with JaneA is just beginning.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. JaneA with her cat, Bobette.

We signed the contract and I pulled together some of Bobette's favorite toys and some cans of food. I didn't have time to take "farewell photos" or even say more than goodbye and kiss her quickly on the head as JaneA placed her into the cat carrier. **It all happened in a heartbeat. As we waved goodbye to JaneA and her newest family member, I turned away, hot tears trailing down my cheeks.**

I was so very happy, yet so sad to see little Bobette go.

My phone rang. It was Katherine from Animals in Distress. Did I have space to take in another cat? I laughed at the irony of the timing, then asked her what she needed help with. Her words cut into my heart...

"Jackson Galaxy ^[11] just got returned to the Shelter. His adoption fell through."

**"It Had to Be You" ^[12] is a popular song written by Isham Jones, with lyrics by Gus Kahn, and was first published in 1924.*

CICH Content Categories:

Adopted ^[13]

[Adoption](#) ^[14]
[Announcements](#) ^[15]
[Behavior Problems](#) ^[16]
[Bob Dole](#) ^[17]
[Cute Photo](#) ^[18]
[Foster Cat Journal](#) ^[19]
[Funny](#) ^[20]
[Cat Rescue](#) ^[21]
[One I Hold in High Regard](#) ^[22]
[Who Knew?](#) ^[23]
[Georgia Rescue](#) ^[24]
[You've Got to be Kidding!](#) ^[25]
[Celebrity](#) ^[26]
[Kitten Associates](#) ^[27]
[Foster Mom](#) ^[28]
[Jackson Galaxy](#) ^[29]
[Animals in Distress](#) ^[30]
[Katherine](#) ^[31]

Comments

Mon, 2012-05-21 12:16 — Tina (not verified)

Ohhh! ^[32]

You write very well. I got teary eyed and then, when reading the part about Jackson Galaxy's adoption falling through, I got goose bumps!

Mon, 2012-05-21 12:24 — [LizzieMade \(not verified\)](#) ^[33]

Yay for Bobette! ^[34]

I'm so pleased for Bobette - and JaneA too. It's such good news that she may finally have a "forever home". I'm sure someone who knows so much about cats will be able to give her a good introduction to the other cats and I hope Bobette is able to settle in okay.

Sad about Jackson Galaxy Cat though..., whatever went wrong for him?

Well done Robin - another success story for you. And I'm sure you will do your best, as ever, for JacksonGCat!

BTW, the photos in this post are great. I do love to see pictures of you as well as your cats - you have such a great smile!

Mon, 2012-05-21 13:09 — [Ana Grupke \(not verified\)](#) ^[35]

purrfect universe ^[36]

Sometimes the universe makes things workout in such delicious ways! It looks like a win win win situation. Beautiful story!
happy sigh

Mon, 2012-05-21 14:11 — [Marilia \(not verified\)](#) ^[37]

OMG!!!! So sweetie! ^[38]

OMG!!!! So sweetie!

Mon, 2012-05-21 15:27 — [Glogirly and Katie \(not verified\)](#) ^[39]

Warms our hearts! ^[40]

YAY for forever homes!!!

:: tears of joy ::

Thank you for sharing such a sweet story...we'll look forward to getting to know the newest member of the Paws & Effect gang!

xo

Katie & Glogirly

Mon, 2012-05-21 16:44 — [JaneA \(not verified\)](#) ^[41]

I'm delighted, too! ^[42]

She was such a good kitty on the long ride home and she was more confident this morning than she was last night. I think it'll turn out well -- and I'm so grateful to you and your Georgia cat rescuers for pulling Bobette and her brood and giving them a chance to have a future. <3

Mon, 2012-05-21 17:24 — Barbara UK (not verified)

Bobette's new Mommy ^[43]

Oh boy did I cry when I read that Bobette suddenly has a home with such a great Mommy. I love Bobette ... her story has tugged at my heart and I'm always hoping to read news of her. I love her courage and her pretty pointed face. I hope she will settle well and blossom in her new home. Now I have to read TWO cat blogs every day!

Good Luck Bobette

Mon, 2012-05-21 18:13 — Janiss (not verified) ^[44]

Robin, this has to be one of ^[45]

Robin, this has to be one of your awesomest adoption stories ever, not in small part because I know all the parties involved (Bobette excepted).

P.S. If I had to sleep away from home, I can't think of anything better than doing it in a roomful of kittens!

Wed, 2012-05-23 06:13 — Angie Bailey, C... (not verified) ^[46]

Wow ^[47]

I read JaneA's post and am just getting around to reading yours. The tears!! This is such a fantastic story with the best possible ending. I am so happy Bobette and JaneA were connected...sounds like it was totally meant to be. I'll bet you wish every single adoption could go like this. YAY!!

Thu, 2012-05-24 20:53 — i have cat (not verified) ^[48]

LOVE LOVE LOVE!!! ^[49]

what a wonderful post and 2 wonderful ladies (okay, 3 if you include Bobette!)

poor jackson!

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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Links

- [1] <http://www.paws-and-effect.com/>
- [2] <http://www.paws-and-effect.com/2012/04/13/farewell-sweet-dahlia/>
- [3] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/harvest-time-bobs-pumkin-patch>
- [4] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/bites-bandages-boo-boos>
- [5] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/bobettes-surgery-post-op-life-part-3-3>
- [6] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/bobettes-secret-pain>
- [7] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulcan_salute
- [8] <http://www.paws-and-effect.com/about/>
- [9] <http://awards.blogpaws.com/>
- [10] <http://www.freekibblekat.com/>
- [11] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/jackson-galaxy-my-arms-last>
- [12] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Had_to_Be_You_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Had_to_Be_You_(song))
- [13] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/30>
- [14] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/31>
- [15] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>
- [16] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/36>
- [17] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/38>
- [18] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/48>
- [19] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/57>
- [20] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/58>
- [21] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/100>
- [22] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/102>
- [23] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/110>
- [24] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/georgia-rescue>
- [25] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/youve-got-be-kidding>
- [26] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/celebrity>
- [27] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/kitten-associates>
- [28] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/foster-mom>
- [29] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/jackson-galaxy>
- [30] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/animals-distress>
- [31] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/katherine>
- [32] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4826#comment-4826>

- [33] <http://www.lizziemade.blogspot.com>
- [34] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4827#comment-4827>
- [35] <http://www.meow.com>
- [36] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4828#comment-4828>
- [37] <http://repositoriodamarilia.blogspot.com>
- [38] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4829#comment-4829>
- [39] <http://glogirly.com>
- [40] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4830#comment-4830>
- [41] <http://www.paws-and-effect.com>
- [42] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4831#comment-4831>
- [43] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4832#comment-4832>
- [44] <http://www.sparklecat.com>
- [45] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4833#comment-4833>
- [46] <http://www.catladyland.net>
- [47] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4836#comment-4836>
- [48] <http://www.ihavecat.com>
- [49] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4849#comment-4849>