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[Home](#) > The Rock Star's Fifth Daughter. The Perplexing Case of Holly Kellogg. Part 8

The Rock Star's Fifth Daughter. The Perplexing Case of Holly Kellogg. Part 8

Fri, 2017-06-09 16:38 — Robin Olson

(continued from [Part 1](#) ^[1], [2](#), ^[2] [3](#), ^[3] [4](#), ^[4] [5](#) ^[5], [6](#) ^[6] and [7](#), ^[7])

I've been writing in my Stephen Kellogg embossed journal every day since Holly arrived five weeks ago. Today I made the final entry.



©2017 Robin AF Olson. My cat Mabel with my journal. Keeping a diary **REALLY** helped a lot. I was able to track how many times Holly peed, but more importantly what I was doing to change her behavior. I tried feeding her on the spot where she'd peed before. It worked for a few days, but then she still peed on the bed. That was a good data point to help me decide what to do next.

DAYS ON PROZAC 19

GOOD DAYS 14

It was time for Holly to be reunited with her family. There weren't any more tests I could put her through. The next one would be to see how she does once she's home with her family and without the companionship of other cats. I warned the Kellogg's that Holly might need more time before she completely stopped peeing. We couldn't know how much stress she'd experience making such a big change. I felt she should not start off in a small space, but just come home with access to her usual places so things didn't seem different to her (*all of which had been steam cleaned while she was gone*). They'd have to monitor her carefully and remember that it takes at **LEAST 4 weeks for the Prozac to take full effect-more like 6 weeks.**



©2017 Robin AF Olson. Stephen did come to visit Holly after he returned from his Tour and she was very happy to see him again.

I wrote the Kellogg's a letter from Holly and sealed it into an envelope, along with a personal note that I'd leave with them to read after I'd left. Here's Holly's letter:

"To My Dear Family,

My name is Holly Ivy. I may look familiar to you on the outside, but inside I'm a different kitty. While I've been away, I've been on an adventure. I met some terrible beasts, but they became my friends because of my inherent good looks and charm.

I also met some people, who, at first I wasn't so sure about, but guess what? They became my friends, too. One of them, I call her Aunt Robin, was super nice to me and because she is so squooshy, she made a nice bed for me to sleep on.

Another new friend is Dr. Larry. He has a pretty loud voice and where is his fur? It certainly is not on his head. That is weird. Anyway, Aunt Robin and Dr. Larry said that I was a wonderful kitty, but to unlock my magical powers I needed a little bit of help so I could become the best kitty ever, a Kellogg-kitty.

I told them that sounded good to me, but how would these powers be unleashed? Honestly, I still don't know, but whatever they did must be working because I don't get scolded any more and no one is tense around me any more. In fact, everyone can finally see me for who I really am...the super-prettiest, the pom-pom-fetcher, the smile-maker, the love-bug, and fifth Kellogg daughter.

I missed you all so very much and I am so glad to be home. I hope I never have to leave you again, because even though everyone was really nice to me, there's no place better than with my family. I hope we can forget the past and move forward with joy because that's what life is all about.

Love,

Your Holly-girl!"

I wanted the Kelloggs to have a clean slate and start fresh with Holly. I knew it was a lot to ask, but I'd also shown them that Holly could go a few weeks without resorting to her old habits. I'd come to understand that cats can learn to outgrow their inappropriate behaviors while on Prozac. It could take six months to a year. She might always need to be medicated, but at least we have something that worked for two weeks. **Now comes the true test.**

Stephen met me at the door in his loungewear (PJs?). I guess he felt comfortable enough around me to be himself. I wasn't trying to be cool any more, no longer worried about what I was wearing, either. We were at ease as he bent down and nonchalantly opened Holly's cat carrier. **She walked into the kitchen, tail up, excited. Within seconds we could tell she knew she was home.** She gently rubbed her cheeks against a toy filled basket on the floor and again on the corner of the kitchen island. She was a busy bee, refreshing her scent around the main rooms of the first floor.

Stephen was busy filling up the litter pans and sweeping up some loose grains from the floor. I kept an eye on Holly, tossing her a pom pom, which she ran after, or following her into the room where she'd often peed on the sofa. This time she was exploring and though her pupils were rather large, she still had a confident, happy air to her.



©2017 Robin AF Olson. Holly-girl with her daddy.

Kirsten returned home from dropping the children off at school. She was clearly happy to see Holly again. I'd suggested they didn't tell their daughters that Holly was going to come home today so they kept it a secret. Their second oldest daughter, Adeline, had asked before leaving for school if they could visit Holly this week, anxious to see her again. I was grateful there was still a connection even after all this time and wished I could see her face once she realized Holly was home.

I was grateful, too, that although Stephen has been clear he does not have the bandwidth to go a crazy distance with Holly (*again*), he **is** willing to give it another try. I'm guessing because of how hard I worked to solve this problem he's willing to continue...and I think, too, because he trusts me (*and that is a great gift*).



©2017 Robin AF Olson. Two normal and cool people with Holly and...yikes.

I showed Kirsten and Stephen how to hide Holly's *magic* pill into her food. It's a bit of a fussy thing to have to do, but it's only once a day. We gave Holly a snack and she ate it right up. It was a good sign that she was adjusting to being home after only a few minutes. It gave me hope.

Holly returned to her favorite spot next to the vent under the refrigerator. The warm air was soothing and the Kellogg's often found her there. We gathered around her in a semi-circle, all sitting on the floor. Stephen took a selfie of all of us together, but I didn't realize I should sit up so I looked like an idiot laying on the floor while they sat up, smiling for the camera (*so I sort of fixed it in photoshop!*). I really wanted this last image of us together to be the one that would bring this story to a close, perfectly, but as so many things go, events unfolded in ways I never expected.



©2017 Robin AF Olson. Ha ha ha...photoshop!

Three months ago, a guy sent me an email asking for help with his cat, Holly and I never could have imagined where our paths would take us. Today my heart is full. I'm fighting back tears, but it's a losing battle. I worked so hard to save Holly from having a terrible future. I gave up a lot of my time and resources. I asked so many of my peers for help. I pushed and begged and cajoled, and in the end, at least, so far, knock wood, it was completely worth it.

A few hours after I got home, Stephen texted me a photo of Adeline. Although I can't share it (*because I respect her privacy*). I can tell you what it looked like. He took it the moment she realized Holly was home. **She's crying. Her expression is a mixture of pure heartbreak and joy. Kirsten is holding her tight, comforting her, but you sense that in another moment Adeline will be reaching towards Holly so she can hold her again and tell her the words she never thought she'd be able to say: "Welcome home my Holly-girl, welcome home."**

...12 hours later...

Holly peed on the eldest daughter's bed.

[yep, one more part to go then...we'll see.]



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[Announcements](#) ^[8]

[Annoying](#) ^[9]

[Behavior Problems](#) ^[10]

[Cat Behaviorist](#) ^[11]

[Celebrity](#) ^[12]

[Covered in Cat Hair](#) ^[13]

[Cute Photo](#) ^[14]

[Heartbreak](#) ^[15]

[Kitten](#) ^[16]

[Kitten Associates](#) ^[17]

[One I Hold in High Regard](#) ^[18]

[Pee](#) ^[19]

[Tortie](#) ^[20]

[Urine Marking](#) ^[21]

[WTF?!](#) ^[22]

Comments

Sat, 2017-06-10 14:24 — jmuhj (not verified)

RE: HOLLY ^[23]

Awww. Now how could anyone not forgive ANYthing of someone that cute?!!

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page=2

Links

[1] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-1>

[2] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-2>

[3] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-3>

[4] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-4>

[5] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-5>

[6] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-6>

[7] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/rock-stars-fifth-daughter-perplexing-case-holly-kellogg-part-7>

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[10] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/36>

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[16] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/63>

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[18] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/102>

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[22] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/89>

[23] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/9920#comment-9920>