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Sifting Through the Pieces

Mon, 2010-12-13 14:32 — Robin Olson

I'm trying not to think about Bob...24 hours a day. I'm trying to remember to not lose my footing, to stay calm, to try to breathe. I don't want to make a rash decision, but I also don't feel like I have a lot of time to think. With the Holiday crush upon me and with Polly and her family and MacGruber about to arrive, I need to get things ready, but all I want to do is lie down next to Bob and just be with him.

I know I can't take enough photos of him. I can't pet him enough times. I can't listen to his crazy purr long enough. I got up at 5am, went downstairs and just sat with him and petted him. I can't take one second for granted. I can't assume he will be here tomorrow. Sure, that's true for all of us, but when you **KNOW** the sand in the hour glass is running low, is there any way to prepare?

I've made a few more decisions. I took Bob to get a blood test to check to see if his blood will coagulate properly. If it does, then he is a better candidate for surgery. If it does not, then we'll stop here and just let Bob live out whatever days he has left. If he's OK to go ahead, then I'll meet with the surgeon. She is **VERY** well respected-certainly one of the best. I'll only have a consult with her, that's it. If she says we can go ahead, then I have to make a very difficult decision. Dr. Larry told me that if we did open Bob up and they find that he has cancer, to wake him up out of sedation is unkind. It would be asking so much of Bob-to have him wake up, then face painful recovery, only to die a few weeks or months later in even more pain from the cancer spreading.

“You have to prepare yourself now for being able to make that choice for Bob, if it comes to that.”

There goes my heart, breaking into little pieces. I can't put Bob through Hell, but **there IS a chance it is benign, operable, can be removed and he can live for a few more YEARS.** How can I not take that chance? My head feels like it's going to explode.

I ordered a new cat tree a few weeks ago-before all this mess with Bob. I bought it on a lark, thinking it would give another one of my cats a place to go if she got stressed out. The box just arrived a few days ago when I was hormonal (*why do cat trees show up when I have PMS? If you want a laugh, read [THIS](#) [1] and [THIS](#) [2]*). Sam and I weren't on great terms (*still*). Somehow we still managed to put the thing together without killing each other.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. *Blitzen, the parts inspector arrives.*

In a way, it was nice to do something that got my mind off things. The simplicity of tightening down a bolt helped me stop obsessing. Seeing the parts scattered across the floor, while my cats excitedly inspected every piece made me break with tradition, as of late, and actually smile.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Bob helps with the inspection, but as usual, Nicky fails by smelling Bob's tail, instead of the parts of the cat tree.

Blitzen was fascinated. He sniffed and climbed on everything. Bob and Nicky joined in, but were soon bored and went back to taking a nap. Blitzen, began to scratch on the sisal posts just seconds after they were in place. Lock down a sleeping platform and he was on it having a field day.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Bob!

Blitz was certainly test-driving the cat tree and it was a good thing he did-he's about the **ONLY** cat that will actually **FIT** onto or into most of the damn thing!



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Bratty boy "helps." (we're still building the cat tree at this point)

It's small. This is not a cat tree for full grown cats, save for the main platform that's big enough for any cat to lie on, but the rest of it is tiny. One piece was so small we didn't even bother to attach it. Honestly, this will be **GREAT** for my foster kittens, but my guys will not be able to enjoy this very much.



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Of course, tell that to Blitzzen. He loved it. There was only one problem.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. *Blitzen gives this cat tree a 1-Belly Up!*

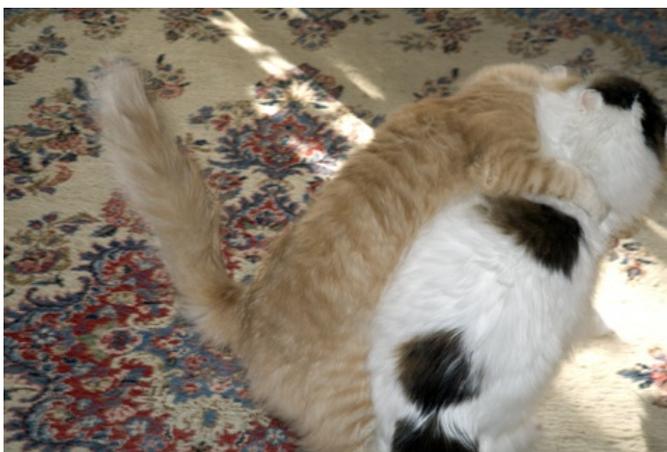


©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. *Bucket o' Blitz.*

"Someone" is not big on sharing.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Spencer was investigating the top of the cat tree when Blitz reminding him whose cat tree it was.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Not sure which end of Spencer you're seeing in this photo.

I admit that Blitz is good for cheering me up when I'm feeling down, but it makes me feel guilty, too. Blitz is, in some ways, much like Bob. Blitz has a crazy purr and it's obvious he shares a resemblance with Bob, though Blitz is very light in coloring. Blitz is all things joyous and fun-full of promise and magic. He has decades ahead of him, most likely. His story is just beginning.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. King of the Cat Tree (for now)

Bob was like Blitzen once-a long time ago. I never knew Bob in his youth, only as an adult. I bet he was a handful when he was a baby. I find myself wishing that I **COULD** have been his “mama,” from day one. I could have prevented him from getting FIV+, he'd still have all his teeth and most likely, he never would have gotten a mass on his liver in the first place...but I can't get a “do over” to put Bob back together again. I don't have the right tools and I'm pretty sure the instructions are written in Chinese.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Bob, enjoying his heated cat bed.

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Mon, 2010-12-13 15:15 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

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Ah, Robin these are great shots! Blitzen not sharing is a hoot. All the best to you and your precious Bob.

Mon, 2010-12-13 21:22 — [Shelli](#) ^[18]

[Just listen to Bob, he'll](#) ^[19]

Just listen to Bob, he'll tell you what to do. Cougie-bear and June-bug told me...

So much love to you, sweetie.

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