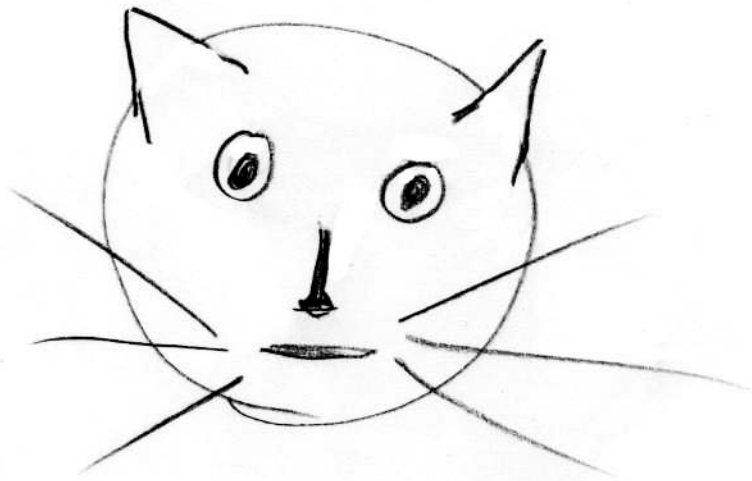


WHERE IS



SWEET ALEX?

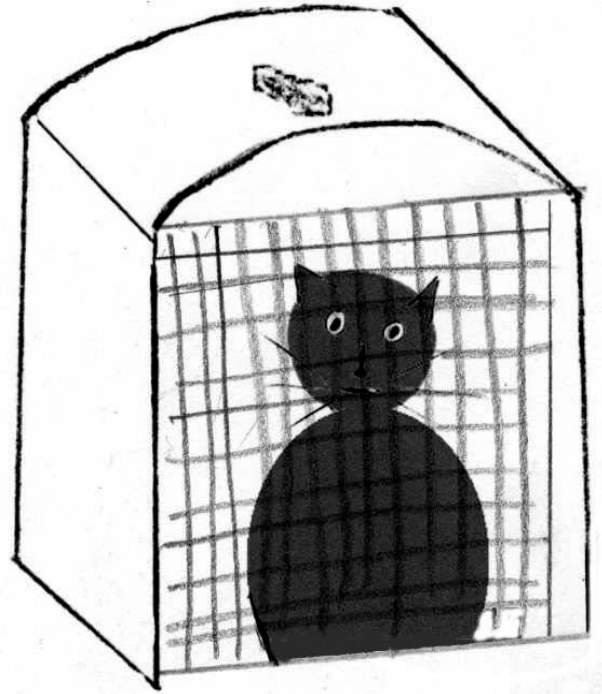
ANNA ROSE AND MOTHER AND DADDY HAD JUST MOVED. THE NEW HOUSE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND THERE WAS A BIG YARD TO PLAY IN.

BUT ANNA ROSE MISSED HER FRIENDS AND WAS SO LONELY.



MOTHER SAID "I HAVE AN IDEA. "WE CAN HAVE A CAT AT THIS NEW PLACE. HE CAN HELP TO KEEP YOU COMPANY WHILE YOU MAKE NEW FRIENDS."

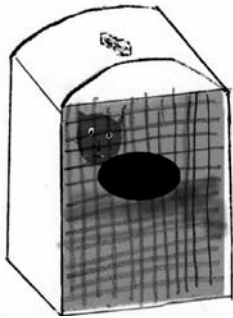
DADDY SET THE CAT CARRIER ON THE FLOOR. "HE SURE IS A HEAVY ONE" HE SAID.



ANNA ROSE WAS EXCITED. "OH HE IS SO PRETTY! CAN I HOLD HIM?"

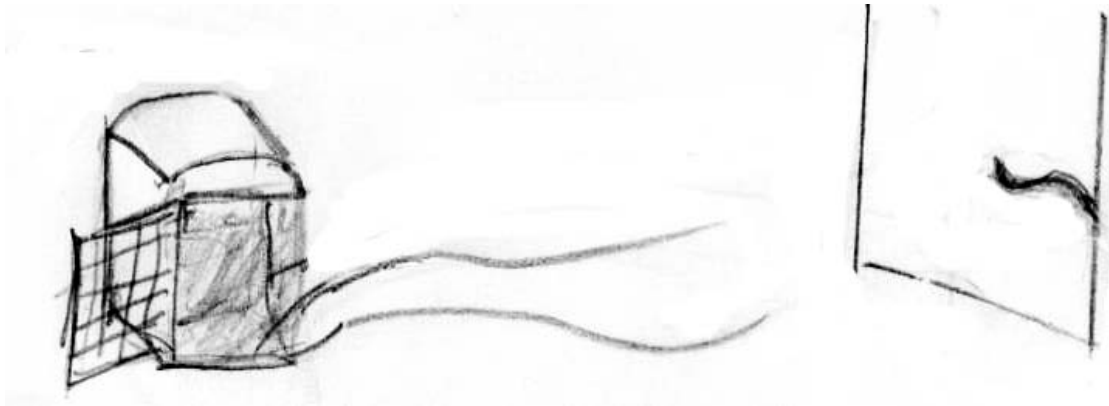
"BETTER WAIT UNTIL HE GETS USED TO US" SAID MOTHER. "HE MIGHT BE AFRAID."

"LET'S TAKE HIM INTO THE KITCHEN AND PUT OUT SOME FOOD AND WATER. WE CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO HIS BOX AND LET HIM MAKE UP HIS MIND WHEN TO COME OUT."



SWEET ALEX SCRUNCHED TO THE BACK, THINKING:
"I HATE NEW THINGS!"

THEN, WONDER OF WONDERS, THE DOOR OPENED WIDE,
SWEET ALEX SPIED A WAY PAST ALL THESE STRANGE
HUMANS. LIKE A FLASH HE WAS OUT!



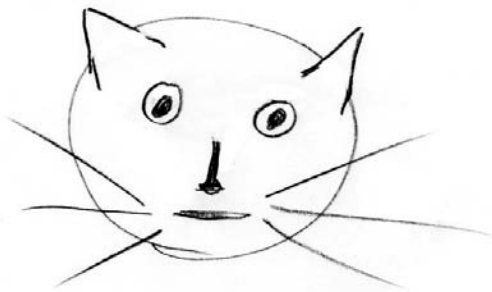
WHOOSH!

AND GONE!

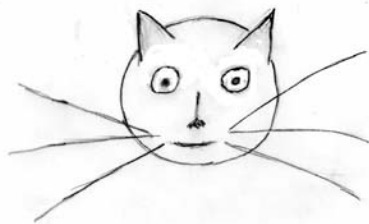
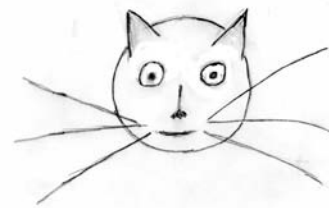
WHERE IS SWEET ALEX?

NOT A SOUND, NOT A TRACE.

"KITTY KITTY" ANNA ROSE AND MOTHER AND DADDY CALLED.



THEY LOOKED EVERYWHERE; BEHIND THE SOFA, UNDER THE BEDS, IN THE PANTRY ... EVERYWHERE!



WHERE IS SWEET ALEX?

DADDY SAID "I GUESS WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND

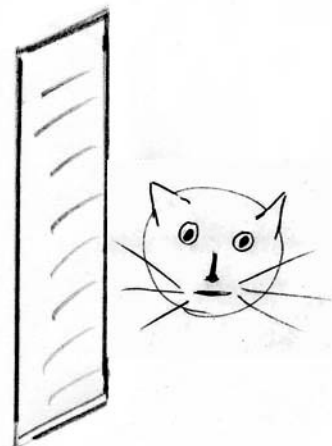
SEE. HE IS BOUND TO GET HUNGRY SOONER OR LATER."
WE WILL LEAVE HIS FOOD AND WATER HERE."



"BUT I WANT TO PET HIM NOW!" SAID ANNA ROSE.
SWEET ALEX FELT A LITTLE GUILTY WHEN HE HEARD THAT.



BUT IT WAS SO SAFE, WAY BACK IN THE CLOSET, ON THE FOLDED UP QUILT, ON TOP OF A STACK OF BOXES.



HE THOUGHT. "THIS ISN'T SO BAD. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I CAN ROAM AT NIGHT LIKE I DID BEFORE."

"I WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PLEASING ANYBODY."

PLEASING PEOPLE WAS REALLY HARD FOR HIM. HE WAS NEVER SURE HOW THEY WANTED HIM TO BE.

THE FACT IS, SWEET ALEX WAS SHY.

BUT NOW HE WAS REALLY VERY PLEASED WITH HIMSELF. DURING THE DAY HE COULD HEAR ANNA ROSE AND MOTHER AND DADDY AS THEY TALKED AND LAUGHED.

AT NIGHT HE WOULD LISTEN TO MOTHER AND DADDY TALK ABOUT ANNA AND WHAT SHE WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS AND OTHER THINGS.

LATER WHILE EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP SWEET ALEX WOULD ROAM ABOUT THE HOUSE OPENING AND CHECKING CABINETS AND CUPBOARDS SNACKING AND VISITING THE BATHROOM. THERE WAS ALWAYS FRESH FOOD AND WATER THAT ANNA FIXED EVERYDAY AFTER SCHOOL.

THE DAYS WENT BY. THE FOOD WOULD DISAPPEAR AND



EVERYDAY ANNA WOULD SAY:

"WHERE IS SWEET ALEX?"

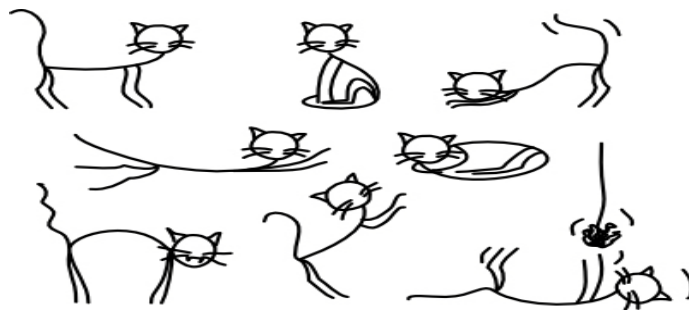
PEOPLE WOULD COME TO VISIT AND ASK.



"WHERE IS SWEET ALEX?"
EVERYONE WONDERED.

WHERE IS SWEET ALEX?

SOMETIMES ANNA WOULD HAVE SCHOOL MATES COME IN
AND THEY WOULD PLAY TAG OR HIDE AND SEEK.
SWEET ALEX LOVED TO PLAY TAG AND HIDE AND SEEK.
HE REMEMBERED THE GIRL KITTENS HE HAD PLAYED WITH
BEFORE COMING TO LIVE IN THIS NEW PLACE.



SUDDENLY SWEET ALEX WAS LONELY!
JUST THEN ANNA ROSE CAME IN.

RUMBLE!

RUMBLE!

THUNK!

RANG!



THERE HE WAS! SWEET ALEX HAD COME OUT!

CASUAL AS ANYTHING, HE STROLLED UP TO ANNA ROSE, RUBBED UP AGAINST HER LEG AND SAID "MEOW?"

BECAUSE ANNA ROSE WAS A CHILD SHE UNDERSTOOD CAT TALK. SHE KNEW HE WAS READY FOR LOVING AND

BEGAN TO STROKE HIS FUR AND SCRATCH BEHIND HIS EARS.



WITH GREAT LOUD "PURRRRS" SWEET ALEX BUTTED HIS HEAD UNDER ANNA ROSE'S CHIN.

ANNA ROSE WAS NO LONGER LONELY

AND SWEET ALEX HAD FORGOTTEN HE WAS SHY.