

Tamarra Washington

LEARNING A LESSON

When Tamarra Washington woke up one morning from a night filled with strange dreams, she looked down at herself lying in bed and saw that she was changed into a fur ball of a cat. "Oh no!" she thought to herself, "This can't be happening! I'm an ugly filthy cat!" Of course this was not true. Tamarra was a beautiful gold cat with beautiful eyes, her tail moved in the air with such elegance, but she took no notice of those features, she was a cat! That was all that mattered. Her eyes watered, and Tamarra could feel that as well, but it wasn't because of the fear and melancholy she was in. Oh no! She had gotten a sudden allergy to her surroundings and found it unbearable, so she left her room.

Tamarra still denied the fact that she was a cat until reality knocked her in the back of the head, or was that a broom? "Get out now," came a yell, known to Tamarra too well. It was her mother. "Now you hear me!" she screamed some more. Tamarra's mother was full Italian and her eyes glistened with pride for her nation and hate for this cat. She just cleaned, and now this cat was scrimmaging in her room, and worst of all her son was allergic to cats because of his asthma! Oh no! Tamarra's mom knew what to do, this cat could not stay. Her mom stood tall, ready to attack, her short black hair out of the way and sweat from the heat falling from her tanned face made her look more vicious than Tamarra knew her kind mother was. Suddenly her long strong stand weakened as a thought came into her head. *How did this cat get inside her home?* She could not understand until a light bulb flashed in her mind and her hate for this cat turned into hate for her daughter. "Tamarra, how dare you bring a cat into this home? How dare you? Come out now!" she screeched. Tamarra's mother had no patience to wait; she pushed the door open so hard it hit the wall with a BAM! Where was she? Her daughter was gone! "She's going to be in so much trouble when I find her!" Remembering about the cat, she picked it up and took it outside, looking around one last time for her daughter, but she was nowhere in sight.

"What am I going to do?" thought Tamarra. "Where am I going to sleep?" she worried as she walked towards the gate. Wait! A memory had been forming in her head and she couldn't remember it at all until now, and as she walked away she remembered the unclear details of the day before. While she thought it over, the situation now made sense. She may not be a cat forever, she thought, as long as she could find Ms. Alvankavich.

As she ran the busy streets of Elmwood & Broad the events slowly had come back to her. That day she was having fun playing with her friends. The game was truth or dare, all her friends chose dare as they shook their booties in the street or flirted with random guys walking by. When it came to Tamarra's turn she had no choice, she would either pick dare or be thought of as a coward, so of course, she picked dare. Everyone giggled; Tamarra looked around asking what was so funny? Coincidentally, a stray cat had been passing by; they all looked at the cat and then her, and almost simultaneously had said, "Teach that cat a lesson!" Tamarra was more than willing to do it, she hated cats. They would be the end of her

brother, and she had an accident with a cat once when a kitten had scratched her up, which frankly she could not forgive. She slowly crept forward towards the cat, picked up some rocks, and started throwing them at it. The cat stopped to tremble and take a breath, "Stupid cat!" she laughed. As she turned around to leave she noticed that someone had been watching her, "Who are you?" she demanded. The woman came closer, the woman looked old but her eyes seemed gentle enough to melt your heart. She started to speak. "Ms. Alvankavich is my name. Child, you will be punished for the act you have committed. You will live as he did and until you truly feel guilty and ashamed of your actions you will not become human again. Goodbye child, hello household pet!" and she disappeared. Tamarra had shrugged it off and thought that her mind was playing mind tricks, but now, could this nightmare have been real? She ran and ran from the life promised to her by what Tamarra thought to be a witch, and to find this woman who also sealed her fate.

Suddenly, she clumsily collapsed at a street corner. What was that? Was that a rock? When she looked up, she saw her friends walking towards her collecting rocks. "They're not going to throw those at me, are they?" she thought to herself. Unfortunately, those rocks were for her because another rock hit her and then another and another, until she could run away no longer. "Stupid cat!" they yelled and laughed as they ran off. Tamarra whimpered slowly, "what pain I have brought to others and myself, my cruelties have been my own downfall." Tamarra fell unconscious.

When she woke up that morning from a night filled with strange dreams, she looked down at herself lying in bed and saw that she was changed into a normal human! She was no longer a cat. She had finally understood the pain she was dishing out, only because she felt it herself.....some time after.....

No one had remembered the events that occurred the day before. (How good because Tamarra would have been in trouble for sure.) Even though her friends didn't remember attacking her, she still did, and knew they would do it again if they had the chance, so she decided to get new friends. Sadly, something still haunts her dreams as she sleeps at night. Sometimes she could hear the voice of the old lady saying, "You learned your lesson and I have forgiven you, for now, but next time I will not let you off so easy, like others have learned before." That's all Tamarra really needed. That's all Tamarra really needed.