

A KITTEN AND NEWSPAPER AS CATALYSTS FOR ROMANCE

Rosette Cahn, a native Californian, was part of a multilingual teachers group engaged to go to Switzerland to instruct the children of a diplomatic corps in a common language. The project was concluded and the entire group returned to their homes. Rosette was delegated to summarize the accomplishments of the group. She decided to spend an additional week or two exploring the area. Her time for departure arrived and she telephoned her mother the time of arrival in California and the flight number. The return trip was very pleasant. The pilot announced that the plane was nearing its destination, and all the pleasantries usually broadcast at return time. The airport seemed unfamiliar. On inquiry, Rosette was informed that she was in New York instead of California. For the first few minutes she panicked, and then the spirit of adventure took over. The Travelers Aid Society arranged for hotel accommodations and also telephoned Rosette's mother and informed her of the change of plans.

Rosette spent the next few days exploring her new surroundings. The room next to hers was occupied by a very attractive young man who frequently was accompanied by a calico cat. One morning a newspaper was being pushed under Rosette's door. She took it in, and was intrigued to find that certain words were encircled in pencil. It was very difficult for her to make sense of it, but the effort was very challenging. On the next day a newspaper was again pushed under her door, but this time there was a very strong odor which emanated from it. On opening the door to bring the paper in, the cat was licking the substance on it and entered the room with the paper. The young man followed closely behind. Rosette asked him what the substance was, and he replied it was catnip. He said he used this device to try to further their relationship.

Rosette invited her guest to make himself comfortable, and then proceeded to reward the cat with a generous bowl of milk for his successful contribution. Rosette introduced herself, and then gave a short summary of her employment as a multilingual teacher in the diplomatic corps of the United Nations, and the incidents which terminated in her presence at this hotel. Her guest listened in stark bewilderment, their backgrounds were so similar. He informed her that his name was John Roberts, and that he was on the staff of the French Mission to the United Nations, and that the reason for his residency in the hotel was to interview applicants for the position of Personal Secretary to the Undersecretary of the Mission. He then recovered the newspaper on which the catnip was spread, and showed Rosette the ad. She stood up, saluted Mr. Roberts, and announced, "I would like to be an applicant for the job." Events were progressing much too quickly for either of them to fully comprehend the full import of what was happening. They remained silent for an indefinite period of time. John reviewed all that had occurred, requesting some sort of assurance that he was not hallucinating. Rosette confirmed the picture as far as it related to her, and repeated her willingness to be considered for the job. John felt it was not proper for him to interview her for the position since he was already biased in her favor. He suggested that she apply in writing as the ad stipulated, and pretend this was her only introduction to the vacancy. A few days later Rosette received a request from the Deputy Director of the mission to present herself for an interview. Her prospective employer was greatly impressed, and awarded the position to her. He then

telephoned Mr. Roberts to inform him of his good fortune in acquiring a very competent assistant. When he revealed her name, John went into detail concerning what had transpired between them.

Rosette called her parents in California to inform them of the new developments. They decided to visit their daughter in New York to meet Mr. Roberts. There was great joy in rooms 408 and 410 for the week they spent in New York. Rosette and John had a delightful courtship, and now one year later Rosette is a full-blown New Yorker, with the marital ceremony scheduled to take place in one hour.

To backtrack a little, I think this is probably the first time a car, a newspaper and some catnip provided the catalyst responsible for achieving this wonderful romantic conclusion. Very best wishes to all.