

# The Pigeons are Coming

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As soon as it arrived, we knew: this was no ordinary pizza. Or at least I knew. From the window of my house, I saw the car where the suspicious food was being delivered. The vehicle was what looked like a black car from the 1970s. The car parked and a man in an odd black suit got out. The mysterious man was dressed in all black from head to toe. Even his sunglasses, which seemed out of place to be worn at night, were black. On his way to our front door, the strange man seemed to not creep in the shadows but appeared to be a part of the shadows. No one else in my family seemed to notice though.

"Pizza night!" my mom announced happily as she swung the door open to receive the pizza. The pizza man nearly threw the box into her hands. Setting the pizza box down to the side she walked over to the kitchen table and grabbed her wallet. Looking through it, my mom looked worried and asked the mysterious man, "How much do I owe you?"

Without waiting for an answer she turned away from the delivery man and called my dad who was sitting on our tattered and worn-out couch.

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"Donald, do you have any spare cash?"

"Sure honey. I left my wallet in our room. Let me go get it," my dad answered disappearing down the hallway.

"It will be just a minute," my mom said to the man wearing black, as she settled on the couch near the front door. I vaulted onto the couch next to her and then curled up in her lap. I pawed at Mom's legs and I meowed trying to get her attention. I positioned myself towards the door and hissed.

I thought that Mom would sense that something was wrong and that I was warning her not to eat the odd food, but I forgot that my human friends have much smaller, peanut-sized brains that did not pick up a strong sense of danger. Mom tucked her golden blonde hair behind her ear and smiled a forced smile, and because I have lived in this house for so long I knew this was a clear sign of her wanting me to stop.

"Jeffery, come contain your cat. Please get him to stop hissing at the pizza man," my mom said.

"Sure Mom, I'll be just a second," Jeffrey called from his room.

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Mom paused, "Oh, and speaking of the pizza man, I'd better tell Donald to hurry up and find his wallet," she said to herself walking over to the door to check on the pizza man.

My mom looked from side to side in disbelief at the vacant doorway. She opened and closed her eyes to make sure this was not a daydream. The pizza man and the odd car had vanished entirely. I meowed a kind of *I told you so*.

"Hey Donald... you can come back now," Mom said half yelling, half talking to Dad.

"Okay honey, are you sure you don't need the cash?" Dad said walking back out of his room and into the living room.

Mom mumbled, "The pizza man vanished. He was just there a minute ago and now he is gone". She took a breath and sat down on the couch harder than usual. My mom's eyes were as big as tennis balls.

"Should... should we still eat it?" she said gesturing towards the vacant pizza that was still sitting on the small entry table near the doorway. Suddenly, Jeffery came skipping down the hall. Jeffrey had my mom's brilliant blue eyes and my dad's humor. His brown and curly hair bounced as he glanced through the air.

"Hey Mom, is the pizza here yet? I am starving."

"Sure honey, the pizza is on the kitchen counter. Help yourself," she replied flatly, unaware at the time she would soon regret this decision. Jeffrey opened

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the pizza box and took in a long sniff. He went to the cupboard and grabbed a paper plate. The young boy walked back over to the pizza box and grabbed himself a slice. He slid it onto his plate and walked over to the table. He sat down, held the pizza up, and took a huge bite.

"Mmmmm, so good!" Jeffrey exclaimed with a mouthful of pizza. I watched in disgust as he looked over at me with pizza grease dripping down his chin. I thought of how much courage Jeffrey would have to summon to eat that horrid, disgusting, and greasy food that must taste terrible in his mouth. After he had finished eating his slice of pizza, he walked back to his room to prepare for bed.

"What is it with humans and their night lights? Why can't they just close their eyes and be fine? Plus, when humans close their eyes their eyelids block out all the light in the room. It's completely pointless" I thought to myself as I was lying on the foot of Jeffrey's bed in the middle of the night staring at his green brontosaurus night light. I stretched out and pawed at Jeffrey's leg. I crawled up to where his head lay in the bed, stretched out my paw, and scratched at the Jeffrey-shaped lump in the blankets. As normal, guilt was trying to overtake me.

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Usually, Jeffrey would wake up and tell me to stop but for some odd reason, he was not being himself right now. I pawed back Jeffrey's covers and stared at the place where the lump lay.

"What?" I thought to myself looking at the pillow where Jeffrey's head was supposed to be. "He must be hiding somewhere," I decided to myself, jumping off Jeffrey's bed and walking out of his room.

My first decision was to check under the bed in the guest's bedroom. "Nope, no, Jeffrey". Next, I checked behind the couch.

"No, he was not there either", I told myself, wedging my body out of a crack in the couch. Running out of ideas of where to look, I decided that my last hope before giving up was to check under the dining room table. "Nope, no, Jeffrey. Where could he be?" I asked myself.

As I was walking by the kitchen counter, A horrid and stinky smell attacked my senses... pizza. For some reason, the odd food smelled different from earlier and captured my attention. I jumped up on the counter and tried to ignore the aroma. I looked over at the pizza and then something struck me. Only one piece of pizza had been eaten.

"Jeffrey must have been affected by the pizza," I thought to myself.

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Suddenly I knew what I had to do. I ran into Jeffrey's room and bit the old, blue and orange backpack that he never, ever uses. The backpack contained my day-to-day cat essentials so I vaguely appreciated the old bag. The backpack had a pad of paper, four dull pencils, a can of my food (my favorite item), and a very large rubber band. When I had finished looking through its contents I dragged the backpack into the kitchen, I slid the arm strap tightly around my neck. I jumped up on the counter and advanced towards the pizza. I took a deep breath and then took a bite.

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My skin was throbbing. I felt like my heart was beating and accelerating in my chest. I looked around. All I could see was black. "Where is the kitchen?", I wondered to myself. All of a sudden breathing was no longer an option. I gasped for breath, but it did not come. I struggled to hear my thoughts as I felt I was spinning round and round.

Suddenly it was still. Everything was absolutely still. I took a deep breath in and looked up. Where the roof of my welcoming kitchen should have been was a vast blue sky. Beside me lay green rolling hills that stretched as far as the eye could see. Trees were growing everywhere. I tightened the backpack strap around my neck and stared up. The sight in front of me was so magical that I stood there for a long time gazing at this magnificent scene. Huge birds flew across the sky flapping their wings in unison.

Then, a piercing scream erupted through the air. I was scared for an instant, but what calmed me was the fact that the scream seemed oddly familiar. And then it struck me. That was Jeffrey's scream. I darted toward the location of the scream.

A vast, green creature about 30 feet tall and 50 feet wide stood towering in front of Jeffrey. The creature's legs were oddly bulky compared to its arms. Its arms were mighty small and looked out of proportion for his body.

I stared at the menacing creature for a minute and then realized something. One time when Jeffrey had held me in his lap to read, I had seen a terrifying creature like this. I think the caption for the picture had been labeled T-rex or something like that. What happened next deeply disturbed me. Oh, and yes, cats can read.

The large T-rex walked up to Jeffrey and sniffed him.

"Stop!" I cried. I slid the backpack off my neck and over to Johnny so he could try to use it to defend himself. In all this confusion and movement I was

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surprised. "Wait, I can talk?". I have watched Johnny speak for years so, of course, I know how, but whenever I try to say it, all my words come out in a big sound.

"Yes, you can speak," the large reptile replied with a smug smile.

"Quick question," Johnny asked as the creature nodded in approval.

"Where are we, and how did we get here?" Johnny asked. All of a sudden the smug smile that T-rex had been wearing disappeared to be replaced with a very weary and sad look.

"Um...I need your help. " the animal said in a shaky voice fidgeting with her tail. "I put an ancient spell on the pizza that has been passed down for years to bring you here because I am worried about my nest. Other creatures are constantly stealing my eggs because I am out doing other things." The creature finished with a painted smile. "And also little boy, that was two questions" The confidence returned to the smug little large animal.

Jeffrey nodded and pulled a pad of paper out of the backpack. Next, he dug out one of the dull pencils and got off to work. The large animal walked over to a big rock and coiled up around it.

"Hold up," I said looking at Jeffrey, "What do I do?"

"Just sit tight, or go scratch a rock or something," the T-rex said flipping her snout in the air. For some reason, This deeply upset me to be not needed or wanted. My choice was to either stay here and do nothing or go find a different place to stay.



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Reluctantly picking the second option I bonded off deep into the jungle, not daring to look back. The path before me was crowded with large leaves sprouting up in every direction from the warm wet soil. Each leaf seemed to be unique or had an equally beautiful pattern.

Finally, I came to a tiny break in all the sparkling vegetation. In the middle of the break lay a wide stone that had watery leaves on either side of it. A small glimmering river ran through the area that held small fish of many sorts jumping out of it. Butterflies flew up by the trees and the birds seemed to be singing the most beautiful song in all of the universe. Sprinkled on top of the break was a light layer of mist that was reflecting rainbows.

"I will call this place my cottage," I thought to myself. I walked towards the large, cold rock in the middle of the break and lay down. I gazed up at the beautiful scenery and sighed. Over the next few days, I developed a rhythm.

Eat, sleep. Eat, sleep. Eat, sleep, and so on. After many days of this same repeat, I began to grow bored. What was there to live for? My next meal? No that didn't seem right. My next nap? No that didn't seem right either.

Finally, I decided to leave this place and return to Jeffrey for he was my only true friend. All the pigeons that lived in the trees wanted to talk about was

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who to poop on next and, occasionally the conversation would shift to world domination.

I missed my old home with my mom, dad, and Jeffrey. While I was grieving a scream pierced the air.

I ran towards the location of the scream half hoping it was not Jeffrey. "Nope, no luck".

Jeffrey was in a metal cage with bars spanning across the length of the cage. The T-rex was in a separate cage that was even larger than Jeffrey's. Garding both the cages was another dinosaur, but this time it looked more ferocious than the T-rex.

This dinosaur had a sleek body that looked lightweight and built for speed. The dinosaur had a sleek snout that was long and thin, and he had a huge head that looked like his brain would be equal in size.

Johnny looked, around and once he spotted me he yelled. "Sparky get out of here! Before the Velociraptor gets you!" Jeffrey then motioned toward the dinosaur. All of a sudden the Velociraptor let out a weird series of noises, and then out of nowhere a large pack of similar creatures emerged from the vegetation.

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The beasts grabbed Jeffrey's cage and the T-rex's cages and dragged them into the forest. Fear held me in a trance after what I had just seen so I was not fully able to process these events. I sat staring up at the huge blue sky for about an hour and then realized what had happened. I was in a hurry to catch up so I followed the drag marks to a large stone building.

I pressed up against the cold, heavy granite wall and looked around. Finally, I saw an opening on the other side of the building. I raced toward it and saw that there was a dinosaur guarding it. My curiosity got the best of me so I walked up to him.

"Excuse me, where am I?" I asked excitedly.

"You are at Queen Vilosos royal arena. She is the queen of all Velosoraptors in Pangea. In an hour a T-rex is battling a human! They both are supposed to be super smart. Op... I mean they are supposed to be super dumb. This will be so exciting!" the dinosaur finished looking super excited.

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"No, this is bad, really bad," I thought to myself as I ran back to my cottage.

Once I arrived at the cottage the only thing that had changed, was there was a pigeon that had flown on the large rock. She was light blue and the tips of her wings were black and white. I started at him, and then an idea struck me.

I approached the pigeon and asked, "Excuse me may I say a word?". The pigeon nodded her head in agreement. "You know how you want world domination?" I asked. The bird nodded again. "I have an Idea". This time the pigeon nodded more vigorously urging me to continue. She ruffled her feathers in excitement. "Would taking over the Velosoraptor kingdom suit your policy?" I finished.

I told the pigeon the rest of the plan. The pigeon seemed so happy to receive the news that it let out a loud birdcall and its approval.

Moments later thousands of Beauty-eyed and feathery pigeons followed me to the queen's arena. I climbed up the wall with the support of the pigeon's wings.

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I jumped up into the stands, and the pigeons landed around the edges of the arena waiting for my command.

Feelings of fear rushed through my veins and I knew I had to hurry. The arena reminded me of a baseball stadium with a large sand area at the bottom. On the opposite side of the arena, was a large flat with a grand-looking chair in the middle. It was lined with beautiful jewels and gems that sparkled in the sunlight.

The stadium was full of creatures so I had to run to the front to get a better view of the sand area. There were two cages in the front. One had Johnny and the other had the T-rex.

Johnny had his backpack on and he was looking terrified.

The two cages were facing each other. Everybody was screaming and yelling with anticipation so I had to hurry. I jumped into the sand area and ran toward the middle of the arena.

I waved my paws around trying to catch everyone's attention. I whistled, and on command, the thousands of pigeons came flying down.

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"Ahh, pigeons are coming! Save yourselves!" multiple dinosaurs yelled as the birds swarmed down overhead. Four or five pigeons would grab a dinosaur and take them away. Screams and shouts echoed through the large granite walls.

Moments later the stadium was empty except for a single pigeon. He flew over to Jeffrey and the T-rex's cage and picked the lock with his talon. He gave me a look and then flew away. Johnny ran from the cage and scooped me up.

"Sparky, I never should have left you," He said smiling at me.

"And I never should have left you," I said cuddling in his arms.

"By the way, I found a way to protect the nest" he cried happily putting me down and handing the sketch to the t-rex. The t-rex smiled and thanked us. It reached up in the air and summoned a spirit. The spirit opened a portal and took us home.

Later we were back home safe and healthy. The one thing I learned was from the phrase "The Pigeons are coming!".