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Date: December 14th, 2006

Time: 4:24 PM

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: Well, Sydney, we have about a minute until our session is done. I'll see you next in January, have a wonderful holiday!

Sydney nodded and started putting on her coat. Yolay started talking about her holiday plans, and where her and her wife were going for new years.

Yolay: Also, I have a small coloring book! Could you give it to Li'l Sydney for me?

She got a coloring book out of her bag and set it on the table. Sydney smiled and took the book in her paws.

Sydney: Thank you, I'll be sure to give it to her when I get home

Sydney shook Yolay's hand and got up from her seat. She walked out the door and made sure to leave it cracked open, just like Yolay would ask her to.

A few months ago, Sydney had decided to call the number Sarah had given her back in May. It turned out to be a really good decision- Yolay was an incredibly nice and understanding therapist, and just a great person overall.

Sydney walked down the short hallway and out the front door. Her boots **clacked** against the hard, snowy ground as she strolled down the sidewalk.

Snow was blowing down from the sky. Sydney's winter fur-coat had already grown in, though, so she was warm enough in her jacket and black boots.

Her house was not that far from the building, so she got back home quickly. She rubbed her shoes on the mat and closed the door, calling out to Li'l Sydney and Auto-ism.

The two were in the living room. Sydney took her jacket off and hung it up on the nearby coat hanger. She walked to the kitchen and looked outside the window to see the snow falling down.

There was a small vase of flowers on the windowsill. The petals were yellow and green with some flecks of red.

Sydney carefully picked the vase up from the windowsill. She walked over to the living room and poked her head through the doorway.

Sydney: I'm going to run a few more errands, then I'll be back home for good. Li'l Sydney, there's a coloring book on the table, Yolay wanted me to give it to you

Li'l Sydney: Okay!

Before Sydney got to the front door, a voice shouted to her from behind. She turned to see Li'l Sydney walking up to her.

Li'l Sydney: Also, Mama, I've been wanting to ask you this, but is it okay for in the future if I go by the name Sid? I guess it's just more, um.. *“formal”* instead of just your name.

Sydney: Oh, yeah, sure. You can change your name to whatever you want, kid

Li'l Sydney grinned and scurried back to the living room. Sydney opened the door while smiling, and locked it behind her.

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Sydney parked her car in a nearby parking lot and took out the keys. It was an old, green station wagon. She got it for cheap since it was pretty beat-up, but now it was one of the best cars out there. Her knowledge on mechanics *really* came in handy.

She got out and closed the car door. With the vase of flowers in one of her paws, Sydney walked up a small, wide hill. At the top of it was a tree, its leaves gone due to the violently cold season.

Sydney bent down and sat on her knees. In front of her was a small, gray stone. She brushed the snow off it with her paws to reveal a large crack in the headstone and a name.



Image drawn by [Cloudy Inkhart](#).

Petey Duckhat-Lawson

May 15th, 1989 - May 15th, 1996

She had tried so hard to rip that middle name from him in his last days of life. No matter how hard she or anyone else tried, her son would always be a Duckhat. She would mourn that name for years, but now, it didn't seem to sting her. It was who her son was, and she loved every part of him.

She hoped they were doing okay; The Duckhat's, Peter's parents. Sydney hadn't seen them in years. They did so much for her, she needed to pay back their kindness someday.

Sydney placed the small blue flower vase right below his grave. She needs to tell Li'l Sydney about Petey. She knows the kitten won't see her badly if she knew, but Sydney was still unfortunately scared to bring it up. She'll find the courage soon, though. She was sure of it.

The calico looked down at the grave. The vivid memory from when she had died over half a year ago still rang in her mind, like the static on a TV. Sydney knew it had been a dream, but the event still bugged her. She cursed her mind for creating things to hurt her.

Sydney: *[whispering]* I'll always love you, from the brightest star and back

When she stood up, there was no breeze. It seemed like time was frozen and the wind all came to a halt. The branches on the trees were stiff and immobile, and the sounds of the world had silenced.

After a moment the air hurried on again and the clouds rode across the sky. The white snow continued to fall onto Sydney's fur. The chilly frost stuck to her fur and whiskers, making her ear twitch the snow off onto the ground.

Sydney turned back around and walked across the snow, following her previous footsteps. She'll be better. She's learned that things won't always be like this, it'll be better; Not perfect, but much better.

She learned that from her kid. Li'l Sydney, Sid, will do great things. She's healed Sydney in so many ways, that kitten is the light of her life.

Sydney will try her best to stop wishing for the life she once had. Instead, she'll start living to get the life she absolutely wants.

Words: 1,023

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