

Taco Cat

It was the most surreal and bizarre thing that Rein had ever experienced. Setting aside her surroundings and the talking cat, Rein witnessed a door materializing into existence with some sort of radiance beaming from any crevices in the doorway. As expected, when the handle of the door pressed down by itself and swung open, this brilliant light blinded Rein for a moment.

As soon as she dared to take her forearm away from shielding her eyes, she could see past the light and through the door.

Beyond the frame of the open door stood a completely new landscape. This one was of a forested valley with a narrow river flowing lazily through it. The crisp blue water was bouncing speckles of reflected sunlight along the way.

The cat approached the threshold of the door and turned to face Rein. It had a very pleased look on its face, Rein could see its longer teeth through the smile it wore.

"Where are we going?" Rein asked, sitting up from her chair.

"Home." The cat replied cheerfully.

Rein folded her arms and furrowed her brow.

"That is not my home. Can you take me back to my apartment?"

"Oh, we have to make a few stops on the way. There are some things I would like to see on the way." The cat replied, its eyes seemed to widen, and even sparkle slightly as the cat spoke.

"Will this take long? I really just want to get out of here." Rein's folded arms shifted to a stance where she was now hugging herself.

The cat shook its head.

"It will only take a long time if you choose to stand here for half the day!"

Rein sighed and cautiously approached the door.

"Oop! I just remembered, I never introduced myself. You may call me... Taco Cat." The cat said with a playful purr.

"Taco... Cat?" Rein repeated, raising an eyebrow. "Ugh! Is that a palindrome?"

"Hehehe, yep!" Taco Cat giggled.

"You're just messing with me now, right? Don't you have a normal name?"

Taco Cat, the rainbow cat with sparkling eyes that could talk, looked down at itself and then back up at Rein.

"I don't know who you think I am, but do I look all that normal to you?" Taco Cat replied with a very sarcastic tone.

“...Fair point. But for the sake of my sanity, let’s just shorten the names ‘kay? I’ll be Rein and you’ll be Taco.”

Taco shrugged. “Suit yourself. Can we go now, please?”

Where were they going? Rein hadn’t the faintest idea. All she knew was she was in some weird, perhaps even magical, place with no memory of how she got there. Her only hope of finding her way back to normality was by following a strange talking cat named Taco through a door that clearly lead to another space entirely. None of this made sense.

Well, at least things can’t get any weirder. Rein thought to herself as she and Taco stepped through the door.

She was wrong about that.

Very wrong.