



A Tribute to Zack

The Most Undistinguishable Cat — Who Changed My Life

THERE is a place beyond this world where our companions go to wait for us.
They are whole complete ... perfect in every way.
The sunlight warms them, the water they drink is sweet,
and the adventures are most worthy of their exquisite souls.

This I know.

I also know that life without you would have been less.
With a thousand insignificant acts of love, and loyalty, and life between us,
you made the journey we shared important.
For this gift, and so much more, I celebrate you.

For our 20-year sojourn, the price was separation; now willingly paid.

But, my heart is heavy.

Why do I see you as I turn the corner ...

catching only a fleeting glimpse of your soft black fur?

And why have your favorite haunts now become my most compelling places to look?

... I see him whenever I look at his favorite place.

... I watch him as he strolls through the garden on the deck, and surveys his kingdom beyond.

... I see him sitting in the early sunlight on the couch,
and curled beneath the window's light on the guest room bed.

Tell me my black furry friend, how do you keep a room filled with your presence ...
when I feel so much emptier?

Once, with you by my side, courage came easier.
Two souls depending on each other,
while weaving the fabric of our days, our nights, our seasons.
Bonding as we ride the roller coaster together.

You gave life all you had — until you had no more.
My heart's shredding as I help you pass over.
My last selfless act.

You left this plane and I am less complete.

But if I am very, *very* still — I hear you.
Yes, there you are — just on the other side of a veil ...
one much thinner than the wind.

You're watching me you say?
So it *is* you that I am seeing ever so briefly??

There is no separation.

Now I know.

Surely this is the *Animal Heaven* my Daddy told me of long ago.

His oft-repeated words now zoar in my heart:

“While they are cradled in the arms of an infinite power, they are content, happy
— and ever on the alert for our return.

They are with us now ... and we will be with them again.”

Thank you Zack.

Poem: 406