

The Point Of The Door

Day 1

I live by a huge creek now. I went down for a drink of water and to sniff around. Which I do a lot, but today down by the creek, I saw my brother! My real brother, Tigey, who I hadn't seen in forever! He was walking along the other side. I yelled to him to come over, but maybe he didn't hear me. Its a big creek and the water looks deep. I stared at him for a while, but maybe he didn't see me.

Tomorrow I'll come back, and maybe he'll come over to my side. I've got to get back to my house and tend to all my stuff. Like my bed, and my food bowl. And I've got some napping to do. Going down to the creek is easy, but coming back uphill is tiring. I already feel tired. Maybe I should lay down.

Day 2

I went back to the creek again today. I noticed I dropped my collar there yesterday. I can't believe I didn't even notice it was off. I hate that collar, and I was glad to see it in the dirt. I should bury it some. Heh.

I looked for my brother again, and I saw him in the same place! More easily than before. Maybe he came closer than yesterday, because this time he saw me for sure. He looked right at me. I wanted to run over there to him, but I'm not getting my paws wet. Or worse, my head. Creeks are tricky like that.

I'd like to know what the heck he's been doing over there. And how come I haven't seen him in so long. He doesn't even know how many other brothers I have now. Three! And our sister Nonie is still over here. He should just cross that stupid big fat creek.

Day 3

Today I went to the creek early so I could wait for my brother to show up. I sat on some rocks, and looked in some chip-monk holes. I climbed half way up a tree, and jumped down. My paws made these huge paw prints! Bigger than usual. That was great. And then I started thinking about all the stuff I've EVER done Outside. It made me feel all crazy in my head. I remembered everything about every time I ever came out here. I even remembered the first time my people-father, Guy pushed my head out the door. And then pushed me again and again until I learned how to push it myself. But ever since then I've been good with doors. Although sometimes I'd forget, but then I'd look through the door and see

the Outside and I'd get all this extra energy to push harder until the door opened and I'd be let out.

Well my brother didn't show up today, but I'll come back tomorrow anyway. I like the creek, and I know how to get here. Its right near the house, down a hill.

Day 4

It took me a while to get to the creek today. There's so much to see and sniff at on my way down there. I like to walk in the shade too, and sometimes walking in the shade isn't the fastest way to get places. But it was worth it because today I DID see my brother Tigey again. He was across the creek, and I could hear him this time. He yelled "Indy!" , and I yelled "Yeah!". And we talked like that. He told me everything I wanted to ask him about, especially where he'd been and what he'd been doing.

He said he forgot how to use our door one day. His head just totally couldn't remember how to make the door flap open to go inside. He said he didn't care though because after a whole bunch of trying to push it open, another cat came along and told him to stop trying. This other cat told Tigey the craziest thing, he said "You can live outside now, and all this outside is your new house". So Tigey told me from then on, he slept under trees and ate whatever he wanted. Even though he still stayed close to our house he didn't feel like trying to get inside anymore. He just wanted to watch me do stuff inside the house. But then after a while, he started exploring more and more of his Outside house. Places we'd never been before because they were too far. And then he said, one day the creek water got to be so low that he could walk over without getting his paws too wet. So he did. And thats why he lives on that side now.

It was good seeing my brother again. I'm coming back here everyday to see him again.

Day 5

Last night, I told my sister Nonie all about Tigey and the creek. About him being trapped over there, and why he'd left us, forgetfulness and exploring too far, being the big reasons. She wasn't listening, but she never listens to me. I always told Tigey, once you go out that door you might not ever come back. There's predators, and all sorts of ways to get lost. You have to keep reminding yourself where you are and how to get home. Some cats even forget when to come home. Like for dinners. Or why they should come home at all. Like for family, and sleep, and getting pet. I fell asleep last night thinking about all those things.

When I woke up this morning, I ran outside. Down the long hill, and sure enough my brother was there again. But this time I saw him closer than before. Like, the creek wanted us to get nearer. I could talk to him now without yelling back and

forth. I asked him if he remembered why he should try to come home, like if he remembered all of us back at the house. He said his memories of us sometimes hide from him. It was only when he saw me by the creek a few days ago, that he could remember a bunch of stuff. Thats crazy, I thought. But he explained that living all-the-time Outside, you forget about your inside life because you have so much other stuff to think about and do. "Like predators?" I said. But he said he didn't have to worry about predators on his side of the creek. Phew, I thought.

On my way back home, I realized I forgot to tell Tigey that maybe he should worry about predators more. Down by the creek, there ARE some and if he's not careful, he'll get bitten really bad.

Day 6

Today before I went to the creek, I put my youngest fake brother Gaius in charge while I was away. I told him I'd be gone all day and maybe one night, and he could run things around the house until I came back. He's like me. Grey. But unlike me, he doesn't say much. I don't think he likes talking, which is fine, since he's a kitten he doesn't make a lot of sense anyway.

On my way out the door, I decided I'd better have a big meal if I wanted to stay by the creek overnight. I turned to go back in, but Gaius must have been sitting in front of the door or something, because it wouldn't flap back open. I looked inside and all I could see was grey. I probably shouldn't have put Gaius in charge if he's dumb enough to block the door and lean all over it. But thats okay, my belly was full enough, and I didn't want to wait any longer before going to the creek.

On my way down, I passed Guy, my people-father. Nonie was following him, because thats what she does whenever he goes walking. He was trying to get my attention, calling for me and making a ruckus. But I stayed in the shade, and kept on going. I think Nonie saw me, but fortunately she didn't tip off Guy.

When I finally made it down to the creek, there was almost no creek at all. Just a lot of mud, and a little bit of water. Like a tiny stream, you could hop right over. But my brother was nowhere to be seen. Maybe he hadn't woken up yet. I waited for a while, and paced around on my side of the creek. I got worried though because there was tracks in the mud. Big pawprints, like the ones I made jumping out of trees, but even bigger. I thought to myself, a predator must have come by! And then I remembered I forgot to warn Tigey about the predator I had seen down here a few days before. But then I remembered even more. I hadn't just seen a predator, I'd fought with one! He had big teeth and we'd wrestled and thats how my collar popped off.

I wasn't going to let that predator find my little brother. He said his side of the creek didn't have any predators and I decided it was going to stay that way. I hopped over the little bit of creek water, and waited on the other side to defend it. I'd wrestle a frillion predators if I had to. But I noticed Tigey's side of the creek

didn't have any big predator pawprints. Only small ones, Tigey-sized pawprints that led away from the creek and into the woods. I smelled Outside smells I'd never sniffed before coming from those woods. And I heard things, I'd never heard before, scratching noises and things scurrying around. I wanted to go in those woods, but I wondered if I'd get lost or distracted and forget about finding my way back home. I thought about just hopping back over to my side of the creek, and running back inside, but what if that predator came back and started chasing me, and that stupid kitten was still blocking the door in.

I decided to stay the night where I was. I slept under a tree and ate some pretty good tasting grass. And the creek water on Tigey's side tasted much better.

Day 7

Last night I slept outside, and it was the best sleep I'd ever had. I dreamt of ALL my family. My cat-mother, my people-mother, my people-father, my real sister and brother, and even my fake brothers were all in my dreams. Even families I don't really remember having. And when I woke up today, I got the feeling I was sleeping near families I hadn't even met yet.

The creek water was still low. I could hop back over if I wanted, but I was still waiting for my brother Tigey to show back up. I started thinking I should follow his tracks and find him in the woods. I went up the creek banks and stood where a bunch of trees and vines had seemed to make a little door. The woods were dark past that spot, but they didn't seem scary. And even if I had to stay another night away from home, the house was easy to find anyway.

Before going into that woodsy little door, I turned to look back, just to check where I was one more time. You can never be too aware of where you are. I saw the path back up to my house, I saw where I crossed over the creek, and I saw where I slept the night before. But instead of an empty, curled up spot of leaves and dirt, I saw a grey cat there! A grey cat that looked just like me had stolen MY spot. How typical. And then I noticed what a great place for sleeping that spot was. Mostly hidden, and shaded. A good place if you didn't want to be disturbed. A good place for nursing wounds, or having kittens, or just deep sleeping. The kind of sleeping where you start off twitching, and wake up un-alert and wanting more sleeping. Maybe my people-father will find that grey cat, and wake him up... But then again, people aren't so good at finding cats that want to sleep in places where no one will ever find them. Hiding is great.

So I turned back around and pushed my way through the entrance of vines, into the woods. And like my house-door to the Outside, the vines flapped closed behind me. I saw my brother's tracks again right away. They led to a clearing with lots of tall grass. Beneath me, I could feel the ground had tons of tunnels, and I could hear the scurrying of little chip-monks. And I saw the clearing had lots of sun. Sun is good for laying around in, and getting your belly warm. But the clearing also had lots of spots in the shade, which are good for curling up and

sleeping in. I always told my brother, once you go out that door you might not ever come back. But now I see why, some places you don't want to come back from.

I started remembering my other brothers, and my real sister, and my people-parents, and I wondered if they would come here one day. How could they not? I'm not that far away from them... and from home. Or was I?... Thinking of home made me feel forgetful. But why, I thought... Maybe I followed my brother's tracks for so long, I had forgotten my way home. But was it possible to walk so far that you can forget everything about being home?.... Well if I walked THAT far, he must be close!

And right then, I saw him. My favorite brother, my only real brother, Tigey was running toward me. He was running fast, but I could see his stripes, and I could look right into his eyes. And then he was right in front of me. Face to face again, after so long. Nothing separated us anymore, no stupid creeks, no doors that won't open, nothing!... And I decided this would be my new home. Outside with him, forever.

-Indy