Unique special-ops trained cat-creature on a mission.

JAKE the Beer-Belly Kitty or SUPERCAT: Our Fears Have Become Reality

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NOTE: THE CHAPTER CALLED *PRISONER!* THAT WAS PREVIEWED AT THE END OF BOOK ONE AS BEING CHAPTER TEN HAS BEEN MOVED TO CHAPTER THIRTEEN IN ITS ENTIRETY.



JAKE the 'SPECIAL OPS' KITTY

## CHAPTER ONE: NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The first thing that I need to do is give an update of events surrounding Jake and what has transpired since our last adventure. I hope that some day we may all be able to get together and reminisce - and maybe even laugh about all of this. My dream is of the day that this nightmare is over.

The new *recruits* are getting older, more mature, which tends to make me realize that the cartoon-series is successful. It has been difficult keeping this on a fantasy level when, in fact, it is all so frightfully true.

With my newfound wealth, I have moved into a comfortable home that is not far from the restaurant. Miss Everley, bless her heart, has been the perfect choice for the SUPERCAT RESTAURANT. She has done a magnificent job with the presentation of food and games, together, in a wholesome environment. I don't see where she gets the energy to keep up momentum; her love and commitment certainly are apparent. I need to add that she is second to none, other than maybe Gino, in her sense of faithfulness and trustworthiness. I know that I can rely on her for almost anything.

Speaking of wealth, yes, the cartoon-series of *SUPERCAT* has been a huge success! We not only have the means to get our message to the world, we also have the much needed fan club recruits. It is hoped that, in time, they will be our future Clan of Warriors to fight this unavoidable upcoming war.

I just don't know how to break this news to Jake. He is happy here with his *wife and kids!* Yes, Jody had the litter of kittens, with a couple that is a spitting image of dad. They are adorable, if I do say so myself, and have Jake's great personality - thankfully! Fontain understood the necessity and

importance of letting them reside in the *safe haven* under the city. It is perfect for them and I am not far away, through the tunnels, to visit often. He finally has his heart's desire - a family ...a real family!

Speaking of family, yes, Tina and I hit it off and she is now my wife! I never imagined in my wildest dreams that I would be so fortunate to find the true love of my life. I was so happy to get her out of 'the club' and into a more respectable profession of wife and, perhaps, mother ...someday.

This brings me back to my problem. It has been discovered that since the unfortunate demise of Reggie's involvement in the organization (or at least until he's able to buy his way out of the 'big house'), Johnny and his sidekick, Walter, are setting-up housekeeping in Seattle to proceed with their mobrelated plans of world dominance. It is my understanding that these operations are getting underway somewhere in, or around, the city. And, since I don't really have any sources that I can rely on, it is common sense that has deduced this information. What I do know is their involvement with the scientists that have stolen the concocted-formula from the government's facility (Jake's formula) and their desire to dominate the entire world ...if they have their way! So, what can I do about this situation? I must get into the middle of it! This means, I have to go to Seattle to check things out and, most importantly, to *RETRIEVE THE VIALS!* 

Now, I suppose you are asking yourself as to why I haven't done this sooner? The answer is pure, unadulterated selfishness! I have gotten so caught-up in *my* wants and desires that I've forgotten about anything else. The truth is there will be no future for *any* of us if they aren't stopped. I am, actually, ashamed to admit that I have put myself first over this *quest for the future of humanity!* 

Okay, now that I've *psyched myself up* by putting my thoughts on paper, I need to figure out *how* I go about breaking this to Tina? *I know ...I will call it a VACATION!* ...

"Honey ... I've been thinking... 'uh' I need your opinion about something. We haven't been on a vacation for a while so why don't we plan for one now?"

"Can we afford it right now?"

"Oh-oh, is there something that I should know about?"

"I thought you would be happy to hear that you're going to be a father!"

"YES honey, of course I'm excited! This is something that we have both been wanting. ...Are you absolutely *sure* about this, I mean, have you seen Dr. Bradley?"

"I saw him yesterday and it was confirmed that we have six months to prepare the nursery!"

"That should give us some time to decide on a name... 'uh' boy or girl?"

"Yes, dear, it's going to be a boy or a girl."

"It's time for me to come-clean. The vacation idea was only *one* reason that I wanted to take a trip ...to Seattle! My ulterior motive is to retrieve the concoction that was stolen six months ago."

"I've been waiting for you to finally get around to this subject. If what you told me about it is true, I agree, it is *imperative* that it be destroyed! Johnny is an evil man, and I am still in fear of him because of knowing what he is capable of. Sam, you go do what *HAS* to be done and I will stay here in San Francisco ...safe at home."

"I don't want you staying here alone at a time like this!"

"Sam, I am NOT alone! I have the bake committee at the church and my sister is just a few miles away. ...I'll be fine, REALLY!"

"Okay, if you're sure about this. You know that I wouldn't go unless I felt it was important. If you have even the slightest concern, I want you to call Dr. Bradley... promise?"

"I promise."

"There are a few things that I have to take care of to prepare for my trip. I'll be home in a few hours. Do you need me to bring you anything from the store?"

"I can't think of a thing."

"I'll have my cell just in case you do. I love you Tina."

"I love you too Sam."...

My next step is to contact Jake and see if he wants to come with me. In time, I hope to tell Tina everything. I'm not sure if she can handle this "Jake thing". ...Although, I'm probably not giving her the credit she deserves. ...

I will park at the restaurant and take the tunnel entrance through the cellar to the safe haven. Secrecy is compulsory to the success of this mission. It was a good plan to carry my high-intensity maglight twenty-four seven. Now, where is that bar? 'Ah' there it is, conveniently stashed along this rock wall. Now, to insert it into the hole in this rock...One of the advantages of traversing these steep, granite steps is that it's getting me into shape, although, installing an elevator is still awfully tempting! ...

"JAKE! ...Hey, buddy, are you nearby?"

"HI SAM! I'm over here relaxing under this tree by the lake."

"You've got it rough! How are the wife and kids these days?"

"They couldn't be better, my friend."

"I'm glad to hear it and now that all of the formalities are out of the way... we need to talk."

"Oh-oh, I've been expecting this conversation, and you're right we've been *chilling* way too long. Even though, I do love it here in this utopia that was created by *The Founders*, but I know that you didn't come all the way down here to reminisce old times. So tell me, Sam, what is on your mind ...and when do we leave?"

"'Heh-heh' that's my little buddy ...my partner! But, Jake, are you serious about this? I mean you've got everything you've always wanted right here in the safe haven."

"No Sam, not everything. The *mission* isn't completed and I won't be able to rest until I know that this insanity is truly over. They still have the capabilities of conquering the world with their armies of *wild genetically altered felines!*"

"Get your things together for the trip. You know, you must travel incognito. We have a much nicer *ride*, but Jake, it still has windows! You have a nice weekend with your family and I will meet you at the first exit-ladder closest to the restaurant about six a.m. Monday morning."...

I only have one more stop to make and that would be down at *The Saturn* to see the boss. He has agreed to allow me to work at home on this *SUPERCAT* series, so I don't foresee any problems as to why he would object as to *where* I would do my work from. I can't, of course, let him know the *real* reason for this Seattle trip. ...I'll just have to say *personal* issues.

Since making him a wealthy man on this venture of mine, he has been very easy to talk to, but you still must go through the formalities. ...

"I just wanted you to know the status of my situation."

"As long as you keep up the good work, I'll be happy. Have your checks been arriving to your account satisfactorily?"

"Just like clockwork ...and thanks for the raise. It couldn't have come at a better time! Tina is preparing a nursery ...if you know what I mean?"

"That's great, Sam, and congratulations! Just let me know if you need anything at all."

"I will be fine as long as you keep those checks coming in! I'll keep in contact with you and try to give some time-line as to when I will be returning."

"Just don't forget who pays your bills!"

# CHAPTER TWO: UNKNOWN DESTINATION

MONDAY MORNING, SIX A.M.

"Are you ready to *motor*, little buddy?"

"I just hope that we're not too late to stop this thing."

"We will have to deal with whatever we find. To save time, I stopped at the store and put together enough meals to get us there. I hope that you won't get tired of tuna fish and luncheon meat sandwiches. I'm not too creative when it comes to that kind of thing.

"Sam, I sure do appreciate the ability to *shop* in the cellar at the restaurant. ...I've been meaning to thank you for that."

"Jake, you are still my best friend, not counting Tina of course. *And*, it was part of the contract with Miss Everley that I keep enough in the account for her to purchase certain supplies with no questions asked.

The first thing that we are going to do on arrival to our destination is to get a room in an *out of the way* location, so that we can come and go with ease."

"Where exactly is our destination, Sam?"

"I thought we would find a spot around Seattle, near the harbor, in hopes of locating the yacht. Why don't you grab the map that's on the backseat? It would be too time consuming to check-out every *nook and cranny* along the coast that a large

yacht can hide. Maybe we should head straight to the Seattle inlet first and canvas that area, *then* move up and down the coast from there. We don't know just *where* they decided to drop anchor."

"By looking at the map makes it clear that there are a lot of places to hide a boat. Are we even sure that this is the way that they went?"

"Nope, but we've got to start somewhere."

"Sam, don't you have any informants ...like maybe, spies or undercover agents that can help?"

"'Heh-heh' I only wish, my friend. I don't want to ask too many questions for fear that the wrong ears may be listening and put our lives in danger. It would be enough for them to go underground, or rather, move-on to the next harbor and we would chance losing them for good."

"I wonder where they put all of the machinery that was in the warehouse. Do you think that they've set up another factory?"

"Well, Jake, since having weapons for their army is an integral part for their operation to be a success, I would say that they are already in *full swing*."

"That's scary, Sam!"

"The way that I look at it is that the weapons are useless without the *army* to wield them. So, if we can prevent them from setting up a lab for creating more *super cats*, we'll be

successful. The problem, of course, is that there are only two of us and I'm sure that they have a whole horde to carry out their evil plans!"

"They've had six months, Sam. How do we know that we aren't already too late?"

"We don't... all we can do is hope. Grab me a tuna sandwich and pop out of the ice chest. How are you doing?"

"I'm worried ...and really mad at myself for not keepingup with this thing."

"Don't beat yourself up, Jake, we both needed a break and it may not have made any difference, anyway. We are both rested and, therefore, sharper-witted to handle whatever may be waiting for us."

"I did really need that time with my family. I'm really going to miss the *young-uns*'. Jody has been the best thing that has happened to me since...well, since..."

"I know, little buddy, and I needed the time off, too... 'Uh' by the way, I'm going to be a father."

"That's great, Sam! What took you so long to tell me?"

"I'm just a little nervous about having to leave her at a time like this."

"These women are tougher than they let on, Sam. ...Trust me in this."

"I'm sure that is true, Jake, but I still feel a little guilty, anyway. ...I need to stop at the next exit for fuel. Can I get you anything?"

"Beef jerky sounds good."

"That sounds good to me, too. You scoot under your blanket now; I'm taking this exit at Eureka. I see a Shell station just off the freeway ramp." ...

"You can come out now, here's your jerky."

"Thanks... I've been thinking about my kids. What kind of world is going to be waiting for them when they grow up? I suppose that they will have to live out their days in the safe haven and not ever get the chance to explore this world outside of its confines."

"Yes, Jake, that is quite sobering, to think about it in those terms. Although, as you have relayed to me about Jody, she had been raised in the zoo all of her life and so she never had the outside world to miss. I suppose it will be the same thing with your kids. I wouldn't be concerned, my friend, they seem quite content right where they are."

"I hope you are right about that, Sam. All I could think about was being part of a family. I didn't think about how it might affect their lives. That was really quite selfish of me..."

"We really don't know what the future will bring, but I can tell you that I know that they love you. I watch them watching you and then trying to mimic your movements. It is so cute

and if we aren't careful they will be the best *special ops karate kids* this world has ever known!"

"Thanks, Sam, for pulling me out of that slump."

"As I have said before, that's what partners are for. Now, let's try to enjoy some of this beautiful scenery, here in the Pacific Northwest. With all of the rain that they get up in these parts, the hillsides stay so green and plush."

"It sure is pretty up here and the air smells fresh and wild."

"Wild?"

"I'm an animal, which means that I can smell when there are mammals in the vicinity."

"Just what kind of mammals are we talking about?"

"I'm detecting deer."

"How do you know what they smell like?"

"I've spent time at the zoo, remember? Not to mention that I was subjected to snowy conditions in my special operations training which took me to the mountainous areas around San Francisco."

"I learn more about you all the time."

"Oh, there are a lot of things that I can tell you that, I'm *sure*, you don't know about me."

"Well, now is the time; you have my undivided attention!"

"I just don't want to give you more than your mind can assimilate at one time."

"Ha-ha, that is very funny, Jake."

## CHAPTER THREE: THE LIGHTHOUSE

...How do you feel about staying in a motel tonight? We will be in Coos Bay soon and I want to get a restful night's sleep."

"OH BOY!"...

"You go ahead and jump in the back seat, I'm going to pull in here and see if they have a room on the ground floor in the back-wing of the motel. ...Okay Jake, the coast is clear; you can come out now. I'll grab the ice chest."

"Hey, this is nice. Look at the size of these beds ...and springy, too!"

"'Heh-heh' I take it, you've never jumped on a bed before! It's still too early to turn in and you have been awfully cooped up in the car. Why don't we find a secluded spot so that you can get some exercise?"

"That sounds great, Sam!"

"And I just so happen to know of the perfect place to have all of the privacy we could want. Get in the car."

"Oh boy!"

"A few years ago when I was up this way I stayed at a motel and overheard the proprietor relaying a story to some guests. It made me chuckle, but I think that you might enjoy hearing about it."

"Tell me about it!"

"In due time my little friend."...

Sam eyes the silhouette of a lighthouse on the distant cliffs against the evening sky.

"Do you see that lighthouse on the ridge overlooking the ocean?"

"Is that where we are going?"

"Yes, my little impatient friend."

"OH BOY!" ...

"As the story goes, there were reports of strange occurrences that frightened prospective lighthouse keepers and kept them from accepting the job. In time, they were forced to abandon it. Then with the new technology of automatic beacons, it eventually became obsolete and forgotten."

Sam proceeds toward the lighthouse and parks near a cluster of rock formations as he notices the terrain of this peninsula is void of any vegetation.

"You wait here in the car while I make sure that we are alone."

Sam cautiously exits the vehicle and, after clearing the massive rock formation, he is shocked when he observes that from this angle he witnesses the beacon's flicker across the open sea. As he approaches, he spots a steep wooden staircase leading from the cliff's edge to the water below. He attentively watches as a fishing trawler, anchored at the mouth of the bay, departs. After the certainty of being alone, he returns to retrieve the car. Sam drives up the entrance road and parks at the base of this formidable towering creation.

"Okay, partner, the coast is clear. Let's get some exercise!"

"This is so much fun!"

They both gingerly enter the lighthouse and, with Sam's flashlight directing their assent, proceed in climbing the seemingly never ending circular staircase. As they clamber up into the darkness, Sam continues his eerie tale.

"In many years since past, this lighthouse had prevented an untold number of ships from smashing onto the rocks jutting out from within the waves below. Then, as the story goes, a wicked storm welled up out of nowhere and extinguished the flame illuminating the light in the tower as the keeper slept. As the storm raged on, an unsuspecting merchant ship, unaware of the land mass projecting out into the sea, struck the rocks and slipped beneath the ocean's depths. *The entire ship's crew was lost*. When the lighthouse keeper heard of what had transpired, he was so distraught with guilt that he leapt from the tower to his death.

A few brave men had, in spite of the whispers of being haunted, tried to carry on with the job of keeper of the lighthouse. Time and again, when they would attempt to light the wicks for the reflection off of the great *Fresnel* lens' prisms, it would mysteriously extinguish itself. Being unable

to keep it operational made this lighthouse useless, so it was eventually abandoned and since forgotten."

Upon reaching the top of the tower, it becomes apparently clear that the massive light structure has, once again, silenced its' illumination. As Sam shines his light around the circular room, Jake spots something.

"Hey, Sam, what is that lying on the floor?"

"'Gasp' the cover being gray has made it virtually invisible blending in with the color of the floor; it appears to be a notebook or a ledger!"

"What does it say, Sam?"

"Hold the flashlight for me and I will attempt to read it. ... OH NO! This tower directs alliances to their cause. The flickering light of the beacon is a calling card to inform certain allies to pick up readied supplies for distribution. As far as I can tell, they have made seven trips circulating their contraband... whatever it is. Let's get out of here before they return!"

"What does this mean, Sam?"

"We can discuss the fine points once we get to the car and a safe distance from this place." ...

"Slow down or we might get stopped!"

"You're right, buddy, sometimes fear has a strange effect on a human. I now realize that the fishing trawler that was

anchored beneath the stairs was, actually, not a boat for fishing at all. It was the vessel that was called here by the beacon of the lighthouse for acquiring the contraband for distribution! Apparently, whoever drops the stuff off sets a timer for the light to start flickering after they are a safe distance from the peninsula. Therefore, they are kept anonymous in case the pick up crew gets nabbed."

"What stuff?"

"I don't know, Jake, I just know that this is not the proper way of doing business, so it has to be something illegal and that means that these guys are dangerous! ...Get some shuteye we've got a long day ahead of us tomorrow.

"Good-night, Sam, and thanks for this road trip. I am having a great time!"

"Well, 'kiddo', enjoy it while you can."

"And, Sam... I really do know a lot more stuff."

"'Heh-heh' I'm sure you do!"...

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