

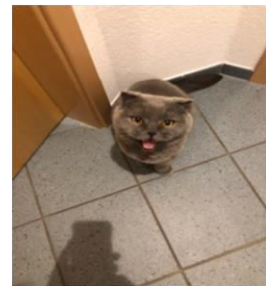
The dead toy mouse



Another quarantine day. Barnaby loved these quiet days. His people, a teacher and her husband, were rather okay, they gave him his favourite food regularly and now, as they were at home all the time, he got even more pets than ever.

After a good breakfast and then an even better second breakfast Barnaby thought about playing a bit with Mr Squeek, his beloved toy mouse. But he couldn't find him anywhere. So he phoned Detective Sergeant Helga.

"Detective, Mr Squeek is gone! A new case! You must come here at once!" "But Sir, you know it's quarantine, I mustn't come. This time, I'm afraid, you must solve the case alone.



But if I may say this, Sir, it sounds very much like Baxter."

Baxter! This little four-legged trickster who also lived in the house. Inspector Barnaby had never understood why his people had taken him in as well. But how could he do it without Helga's help? Anyway, he had to. "Damn quarantine!" he said to himself and started to search the house for Mr Squeek. But wherever he looked, there was not a trace of his little



friend.

Like in the good old days when he started his career, Barnaby looked under the sofa, behind the cupboards, in the bookshelves, even in his people's beds, but no Mr Squeek!

He was about to give up when he heard a telltale sound. "That's him, that's Mr Squeek", he shouted and rushed downstairs. And there he saw it. Baxter, caught red-handed, leaning over poor Mr Squeek. When Baxter realized that he had been uncovered, he turned around, rushed downstairs and hid somewhere in the cellar.



“You’ll pay for that”, Barnaby shouted. He looked at poor Mr Squeek, heartbroken. What had Baxter done to him? He was all in pieces, Barnaby had come too late. Then he phoned Helga again and told her everything. “You had the right instinct, as usual. It was Baxter, this little meany!” Helga said, “I wish I could do something for you, Sir. Next time we’ll get him!”

Barnaby sighed. What a day! Then his people recognized that he was so sad and depressed and comforted him with lots of treats and pets.