

Central High Chronicles

Arnold Mugabe



Sheenah adopts a kitten

BY ARNOLD MUGABE

Sheenah welcomed first term holidays promising herself to sleep the whole holiday and rest.

She would take two quiet weeks off.

Three days in, however, she found herself lonely whenever her mum left home and went to work. In those moments, she wished she had a pet to keep her company.

"You can get a fish maybe". Her best friend, Sisi, recommended when she confined in her.

"No! I need a pet that can talk or make sounds, so that the house is not very quiet. And I don't want to switch on the TV," Sheenah said.

Hours later, after talking to Sisi, as if by a miracle, Sheenah found a lonely kitten sitting by the roadside as she went to the shop. It was a tiny kitten that looked like it hadn't eaten in days. It had white paws and bright frightened eyes. It meowed once and rubbed itself against her ankle when she stood next to it.

That was all it took. She concluded that her prayers must have been answered.

She carried the cute frightened kitten in the fold of her sweater and headed back home with it.

She bathed it and named it Penelope because it was adorable. Penelope drank milk greedily. After feeding her, she took 100 pictures immediately and posted them on TikTok.

For the first three hours, everyone said it was cute.

At night she put it in a basket beside her bed. Then the cat began snoring.

It was not the soft-cute-kitten-breathing. It was actual snoring. Like and old-man snoring. Snrk. Snrk. Snrrrrrrrrrrrk.

She sat up in bed and stared at the basket.

"Impossible," she whispered.

In the morning, Penelope wiped her face with her paws, and Sheenah captured the cuteness for TikTok updates. Once again people were jealous. They wanted to 'steal' Penelope.

Soon however, Penelope went outside to poop. When she came back, Sheenah was moping the house, and the floor was still wet.

Penelope left her muddy paw-prints all over the wet floor.

Sheenah couldn't believe her eyes. She called Sisi.

"Sisi, I don't think that I will manage Penelope. Can you believe I am moping the second time?" Sheenah told Sisi about the muddy-paw-prints.

Sheenah, cats are smart, they poop outside the house, but they have to use their paws to dig a hole in which to hide their poop. That's why her paws were muddy," Sisi explained.

"Wait what? Our compound is covered with pavers, so where did she dig to hide her poop?" Sheenah wondered running outside.

That is when she discovered that Penelope dug into her flower vases and pooped in them!

"Eew gross!" Sheenah cried.

She run back into the house to have a word with Penelope on to find the tiny-cute creature curled on her pillow.

She had stepped with her muddy paws and put mud prints across her bedsheet and her clean shirt she wanted to wear.

Then came the fur.

At first it was invisible. Then suddenly it was everywhere, on the sofa, on her black leggings, floating in her tea.

By the second day, the cat raced from the sitting room to the corridor and back again without a care in the world.

It also loved clean laundry. She folded clothes, turned away, and came back to find it sleeping right in the middle, decorating everything with fur.

By the fourth day, Sheenah understood something people never post on their status and reels.

Nobody posts fur in tea or muddy foot-prints, flower-pot poop, scratched curtains, or stolen fish!

They only post the cute faces.

That evening, as she sat outside with the cat asleep in her lap, snoring, she realized that raising a cat was a full time job.

But despite all the annoying cat manners, she loved the cuteness and how it adored her. They were best friends now. Involved. Sheenah decided she would keep Penelope!