“Paws and Prejudice” by Aramaea Sewell
3rd Place, Short Story 13-15
Paws and Prejudice

I am Sashi, a gray cat with blue eyes and this is my life. My life, which has been spoiled by a creature of unspeakable horror. A creature that takes all that is good and silent and throws it into a pit of despair and lonely desuetude.

"Hi Sashi! Who is a cat! Cat, cat, cat. Hey can I have your food! Oh, no wait I already ate it."
The "dog". My soul despair as the creature's torture never end-

"Hey Sashi." said the "dog". The dog was a golden retriever with blue eyes and a slavering maw that never, ever, stops talking.

"You wanna play Sashi? I turned my back on the dog and licked my paw. I was atop my castle. What my pet humans call the refrigerator, and the dog was jumping up to look at me.

"What do you want to play Sashi?" This dog, can not take a hint.

"Toby!" called one of my pet humans, and the dog Toby, (or as I like to call him, "toady") came loping idiotically to my pet human.

To put it simply, Toby has ruined my life. Life was perfect at my house. I would play "hide the car keys" with my owner. Refuse their paltry food offerings and banish them to the floor. I would randomly knock things off of platforms. Best of all, I would hide in boxes, and peacefully nap while my pets destroyed the entire house looking for me. That was the life. But a week ago, the monster came. The drooling sycophant of destruction, and never silence! He needed to go. He was ruining our lives. I mean surely my pets were forced to bring him? I mean, they have me, why would they want some "dog" too? Yes, they must have been forced. I will dispose of the intruder. Toady came back with a bone in his mouth.

"Look wa tha ga me!" Said the dog muffled through his bone and with no regard for manners. I looked past him, toward the door. The open door. The open door that lead outside. I think I have a
plan.....

"Hey, Toby." I said silkily "Wanna play a game?" Toby nodded eagerly

"Oh, yes! I really, really wanna play a game!"

"Well, this game is called find the bone, but in the wild world." Toady gaped, looking petrified.

"T-the w-wild world?"

"You heard me." The wild world was a place with no humans to serve you, filled with animals that are fierce and vicious. They have a savage existence of living in the muggy out doors, with no air conditioning. The wild world not far behind my house is densely filled with trees, it's extremely large and easy to get lost in. The perfect way to get rid of Toady!

"I thought that place wasn't safe?"

"Are you a scared-y puppy?"


"Deep in the forest, under one of the trees, there is a big bone. Go and find it, and you win! Don't come back until you do! You don't win if you don't bring it back with you." Toady ran off. I chuckled to myself. There goes my Toady problem.

I had decided to talk to my friend Tiberius and his brother Tibbles. They were the cats next door, and even thou Tibbles was a little too sweet for my taste, they did get the news. Their pets were often out of the house and so Tibbles and Tiberius got the scoop on everything that happened in my town. I had walked up to their fence and and saw Tibbles walking along the top.

"Hi Sashi!" Said Tibbles happily walking over to me. "Are you here to ask about the woods monster?" I stopped walking.

"The woods monster?" No, no, no. No way. Toady is fine.

"Yeah," Said Tibbles. He looked concerned as he saw my face. "They say it is a rabid
Paws and Prejudice

wolf.” Oh catnip no. I just sent Toady in to the woods!

“The wolf is really dangerous, I heard my humans talking about it. They say they need to catch
the wolf before any one gets hurt. You really should be inside Sashi. It's not safe out
here.” I nodded and ran back inside. Toby was fine, totally fine. He will just find another home.

Of course I did not actually believe that; I ran towards the woods, towards Toby... and towards the
rabid wolf.

It did not take long to find Toby. He was cowering in front of a gigantic wolf. I knew what to do

“Toby! Run!” I will take care of this.” Toby ran as I yelled at the wolf.

“Try and catch me dog!”

The wolf howled.

“Cheeky Feline.” He raced toward me. My plan was to run up a tree. I now realized, this is a
foolish plan. I don't have enough time to climb a tree with that wolf on my tail. I looked behind me as
the world sped by. He was snapping at my heels! I was mouse-trapped. Then out of nowhere Toby
leaped on the wolf’s back and fought ferociously. The wolf howled in pain and ran off. I could not
believe it. Toby had just saved my life. Toby panted as he walked up to me, but he was not hurt.

“Thank you Sashi! You saved me! Of course I was not gonna leave you behind. I was just
waiting to sneak attack the wolf when he was not looking.” said Toby happily. Perhaps Toby
is not the brainless fur ball I thought he was. I feel ...horrible. Toby came back to save me. He could
have had my pets and home, but he did not even hesitate.

“No, Toby. Thank you. This is all my fault. I wanted everything back to how perfect things
were before you came. I tricked you into the woods, and nearly got you
hurt. I am sorry Toby.” Toby looked at the ground sadly.
Paws and Prejudice

"Oh. I knew you did not like me Sashi. I kept trying to be friends and play with you, but I get it." Toby hung his head. Oh, poor Toby. Toby was trying to be my friend and I never even gave him a chance.

"I was wrong Toby. I judged you unkindly and never even tried to be your friend. Maybe we can try now?" Toby smiled and said

"I would like that."

So as it turns out Toby is an alright sort of fellow. He has even convinced me to "play" with him once or twice. It wasn't totally horrible, and he now respects that every now and again I need some quiet. Everything is even better than before, now that I have a new companion to spend time with. I have to say, I do feel a bit sad that I have missed out all this time because I never gave Toby a chance. I had thought that because my pets got a dog that they thought I was not enough for them, and that Toby would steal all their love from me. But now I realize love is not like that, and now I love Toby too. So I suppose there is even more love to go around. Not to mention, "hide the car keys" is an even more fun game now that Toby can bury them for me.