

CAT PERSON

by

Abel Orfao

abelorfao@hotmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE - DAY

A pickup truck rests in the driveway of the modest suburban home. HANNAH (7) and JILLIAN (5), two cheerful brunettes, play on the front lawn.

The children watch as a sedan parks nearby. ALAN (30), tall and slender with his black hair combed back, exits the vehicle with a toolbox in hand.

JILLIAN
Uncle Alan!

HANNAH
Daddy! Uncle Alan's here!

Alan approaches and gives the pair a hug.

ALAN
Hey, Hannah. Hey, Jillian.

HANNAH
Dusty had her kittens!

ALAN
She did?

JILLIAN
Yeah, she has four babies now!

NEIL (32), a burly man with short black hair and a goatee, appears on the front porch.

NEIL
Hey, Alan. Got my stuff?

Alan holds up the toolbox.

ALAN
Right here, Neil.

Neil approaches and takes the toolbox.

NEIL
You need to get your own tools.

ALAN
Why, when I can use yours?

JILLIAN
Daddy, can we see the babies?

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

LYNN (32), a comely and slender blonde, stands by the stove and tastes her stew. Hannah and Jillian rush into the room.

HANNAH

Mommy, Uncle Alan's here!

JILLIAN

We're gonna show him Dusty's babies!

Lynn glances up as Alan and Neil appear.

LYNN

Hey, Alan.

ALAN

Hey, Lynn. When did she have them?

LYNN

Last night. Woke up this morning, went to make coffee, and found Dusty and four little kitties on the floor.

Lynn nods toward her children.

LYNN

At least she didn't scream as loud as I did when I had these two.

Neil pats Alan on the back and leads him through the room.

NEIL

C'mon, they're in the spare bedroom.

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Neil opens the door and leads Alan, Hannah, and Jillian inside. DUSTY, a gray cat, lies on the bed with one white, one orange, and two gray KITTENS next to her.

NEIL

There they are.

The group gathers around the bed. Dusty raises her head and mews. Hannah points out the orange kitten.

HANNAH

This one is called an orange tabby.

JILLIAN

Can we keep the orange one, Daddy?

NEIL
We'll see, we'll see.

Hannah and Jillian sit on the bed and watch the kittens.

ALAN
Weren't you going to get Dusty fixed?

NEIL
Oh, you know how it is. I kept
putting it off and putting it off --

ALAN
And now you're a grandfather.
Congratulations.

Alan and Neil share a chuckle.

NEIL
So, which one you taking home?

ALAN
Hmm?

NEIL
Two of Lynn's friends said they'll
each take one. I need to get rid of
at least one more.

Alan shakes his head.

ALAN
No, I'm ... I'm not a cat person.

NEIL
You're not an anything person. You
don't have a wife, a girlfriend, a
pet ... C'mon, you need someone to
hang out with.

ALAN
I can't. It's ... It's too much
responsibility.

Neil gestures to his children.

NEIL
Hey, if I can take care of these two,
you can take care of a kitten.

Alan folds his arms.

ALAN
I'll ... I'll think about it.

Neil arches an eyebrow.

NEIL

That means no, doesn't it?

Lynn enters the room and taps Alan on the shoulder.

LYNN

So, you taking one home?

NEIL

He'll think about it.

LYNN

Hey, did Neil show you what your grandmother sent him?

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A framed photo of two LITTLE BOYS hangs on the wall. The boys stand by a small creek with cowboy hats on their heads.

Lynn hands the photo to Alan and Neil. Hannah and Jillian sit nearby and draw in their coloring books.

LYNN

Your grandmother was cleaning out her attic when she found this old photo.

NEIL

Yeah, Grandpa Joe used to take us to the creek all the time. Remember?

Alan taps the image of the older boy.

ALAN

I remember you were flying low.

Neil and Lynn find the older boy's zipper is undone. Neil shakes his head while Lynn tries to suppress a giggle.

NEIL

Oh, man. Thanks, Grandma.

Neil takes notice as a forlorn look washes over Alan's face.

NEIL

You don't remember him much, do you?

Alan shakes his head.

NEIL

Lung cancer. Gone way too soon.

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE - DAY

Alan exits the home and heads for his sedan while Neil and Lynn look on from the porch.

LYNN

You sure you won't take one home?

ALAN

I'll think about it.

NEIL

Yeah, sure you will.

Alan opens the door to his sedan and waves goodbye.

ALAN

Take care, you two.

NEIL

See you later.

Neil and Lynn head inside while Alan drives off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

MONTAGE

A) Sunlight illuminates the tree-lined peaks.

B) Rain drizzles down from the overcast sky.

C) The summer sun shines on the mountains.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on a couch in the modest room and reads a novel. He sets the book aside as a doorbell cuts through the air.

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Alan opens the door and finds Neil on his front step.

NEIL

Congratulations! It's a girl!

Neil places SNOWY, the two-month-old white kitten, on Alan's shirt. Alan looks down in shock as Snowy meows at him.

ALAN

What ... What is this?!

NEIL

It's your new cat. C'mon.

Neil carries two large bags into the home. Alan looks at Snowy with dismay and heads inside.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Neil places the bags on a kitchen table as Alan approaches with panic on his face.

ALAN

Neil, I said I'm not a cat person.

NEIL

What are you talking about? See, she loves you already.

Alan looks at Snowy as she mews at him.

ALAN

Look, I can't ... I mean, I don't even know where to begin.

NEIL

Relax, I've got everything you need.

Neil retrieves a cat box, a bag of kitty litter, a food bowl, cans of cat food, and a carton of milk from the bags.

ALAN

Look, can't you ask someone else --

NEIL

I already gave the gray ones away, and we're keeping the orange tabby. If I can take care of two kids and two cats, you can take care of one.

ALAN

I ... I don't even know how to get her to use the box --

NEIL

Just put her inside every hour or when you think she needs to go. Cats are smart. She'll figure it out.

Alan looks over the supplies.

ALAN

I ... I don't know about this.

NEIL

Look on the bright side, you've found
a girl who won't bother you.

Alan looks at Snowy as she loudly mews back.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alan places Snowy in a cardboard box lined with a blanket.

ALAN

Here you go, Snowy.

Snowy looks up and mews softly. Alan climbs into bed, looks
at his pet, and rubs his forehead.

ALAN

What am I going to do with you?

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on his couch and leafs through a magazine. He
looks up as scratching sounds cut through the air.

Alan turns toward the end of the couch. Snowy stares back
at him as she claws the upholstery.

ALAN

Snowy! No!

He jumps to his feet and shoos her away with the magazine.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Alan sits at a desk and browses the Internet on a computer.
He stops when a message says his connection has been lost.

ALAN

What? I just bought a new cable ...

Alan peers around the corner of the desk and finds Snowy as
she chews on an Ethernet cable.

ALAN

Snowy! Don't!

Snowy bolts for the door when Alan leaps to his feet. Alan
grabs the chewed-through cable and rubs his temple.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on his couch and reads his magazine. Snowy appears atop the sofa and peers over his shoulder. Alan lowers the periodical and turns to Snowy.

ALAN

What do you want now?

She purrs and kneads her paws against his shoulder.

ALAN

Ow. Ow! What are you doing?!

Alan picks up Snowy and sets her down on the couch.

ALAN

No, Snowy! Stop it!

The nearby telephone rings and Alan answers the call.

ALAN

Yes?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Neil sits in the empty room as he talks over the phone.

NEIL

Hey, Alan. How's your girlfriend?

Alan narrows his eyes.

ALAN

You gave me a defective cat, Neil.

NEIL

Huh?

ALAN

She's scratched up the couch, ate through my Internet cable, and now she's trying to attack me.

Neil leans forward in his seat.

NEIL

What?

ALAN

She just climbed on the couch behind me and dug her front claws into my shoulder one after the other.

Neil shakes his head.

NEIL

She was kneading, you idiot.

ALAN

Kneading?

NEIL

That means she's happy. You know nothing about cats, do you?

Alan rubs his temple.

ALAN

I told you I'm not a cat person. Is it too late to buy a scratching post?

NEIL

No, just sprinkle a little catnip on it. She'll love it.

ALAN

What about my computer?

NEIL

Just get some cat repellent and spray it around the --

KEVIN (4), an unruly blonde, rushes into the room. Neil winces as the child shrieks and blasts a bicycle horn.

NEIL

Tilly! A little help, please?!

TILLY (30), a harried blonde, scurries into the room and confiscates the horn.

TILLY

Kevin! Not in the house!

Tilly scoops Kevin up and leaves the room.

ALAN

What's going on over there?

NEIL

Tilly's here with Kevin. The little
brat's already given me a migraine
and sent Hannah and Jillian running
off in terror. Smart kids.

Alan leans back in his seat.

ALAN

I'm thinking of running off in
terror, too.

NEIL

Why do you hate Snowy?

ALAN

I don't. It's just ... I'm a writer.
We're solitary by nature.

Neil smirks to himself.

NEIL

You're a technical writer. You're
the reason Mom can't program the
microwave. Look, you could always
let Snowy be an outside cat.

ALAN

Oh, no. I don't want ticks and fleas
in my house or dead mice and birds on
my doorstep.

NEIL

Okay, but don't complain if she
scratches up the furniture again.

ALAN

If she claws my couch once more --

A series of scratching noises emanate from nearby. Alan
turns toward the end of the couch. Snowy freezes in place
with her claws dug into the upholstery.

ALAN

Snowy!

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alan enters from outside and places an Ethernet cable, cat
repellent, and a boxed cat play center on the kitchen table.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Alan replaces his Ethernet cable and mists the area around the desk with cat repellent.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sets Snowy down in front of the assembled play center.

ALAN

Look at this, Snowy! There's a scratching post, a little jungle gym, and a bunch of balls to chase.

Snowy eyes the play center and rubs against the post.

ALAN

There you go. Now can you stop scratching my furniture, please?

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alan lies asleep in his bed when Snowy steps into view, sits on his chest, and stares at his face.

Alan opens his eyes, yelps with fright, and jerks upright. Snowy leaps from her perch and rushes out the door.

ALAN

What is wrong with you?!

Alan moans and puts his head in his hands.

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BACK - DAY

Alan sits on a covered deck as a porch swing sways in the breeze. He rummages through a wooden box filled with tools while a manual lawnmower rests nearby.

ALAN

Where's that screwdriver? I don't want to have to call Neil again.

He removes a bundle of twine from the box when a muffled mew cuts through the air. He looks toward the back door as another mew echoes from inside.

He holds the twine in one hand and grabs a screwdriver with the other. A third mew emanates from the house. He sets the screwdriver aside and rises to his feet.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan enters from outside and finds Snowy by the door. He kneels down while she looks up and mews.

ALAN

Snowy, you're an inside cat.

She tries to slip past when he blocks her path.

ALAN

No, Snowy. Inside.

She mews and again tries to escape. He picks her up and sets her back down on the floor.

ALAN

You want to go outside? Why, so you can get yourself in trouble?

She looks away in response. He points the bundle of twine at her as he speaks.

ALAN

Snowy, if I let you outside, how am I supposed to stop you from ...

Alan stops and looks at the twine in his hand.

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BACK - DAY

Snowy lies sprawled out on the deck while the bundle of twine leashes her collar to a support column.

Alan pushes the lawnmower past the deck, eyes the kitten, and shakes his head with a grin.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Alan sits at his computer when a nearby telephone rings. He glances at the call display and answers with a smile.

ALAN

What's wrong? You wouldn't call this late unless ... Didn't they already have a European manual?

He rises to his feet and paces about.

ALAN

Well, I suppose I could give it a go. When do they need it?

His eyes grow as wide as saucers.

ALAN

Five days?! Are they crazy?! That's at least a three-week project!

He rubs his forehead and heads for the door.

ALAN

I know it's important but that's just not enough time.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan trudges into the room with the phone in hand.

ALAN

Okay, just send me the changes they need and I'll start tomorrow. Bye.

Alan ends the call and sits on the floor beside the cat play center. He takes hold of a nearby plastic ball, flings it across the room, and places his head in his hands.

Snowy darts out from behind the couch and pounces on the plastic ball. She grabs the ball in her mouth and trots toward the play center.

Alan looks up as Snowy drops the ball next to him. He skips the ball across the floor while she chases it down. She swats the ball back toward him and waits nearby.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alan opens a drawer and retrieves a ball of yarn.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on the floor, unravels a length of yarn, and creates a ball with a long tail. Snowy bursts into action when he tosses the ball across the room.

Snowy chases the yarn ball about as Alan tugs on the tail. He pulls the ball back toward him. She bounds across the room and lands on his lap.

ALAN

Whoa! Easy there!

Alan chuckles while Snowy kneads her paws on his thighs. She purrs as he scratches her neck with a smile.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alan places Snowy in her box and hops into bed.

ALAN

Good night, Snowy.

Alan shuts off the light and lies down to sleep. Snowy hops on the bed and creeps toward the headboard.

He rolls over while she paws at the blankets, pulls the sheets back, and disappears under the covers.

ALAN

What are you doing?

A small lump moves toward the middle of the bed. Alan reaches for it when Snowy mews from under the covers.

ALAN

You are one strange cat.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Alan types away at his computer. His eyes droop and his fingers slow to a crawl. He leans back in his chair.

ALAN

Enough.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alan places a sandwich on a plate and pours himself a glass of milk. He puts the milk carton away and reaches for his glass only to knock it over.

ALAN

Damn it!

Alan retrieves the milk carton and refills his glass. He puts the carton away, mops up the spilt milk with a tea towel, and hurls the wet rag into the sink.

Alan places the glass and plate on a tea tray which rests on the kitchen table. The bundle of twine sits inside a large bowl in the middle of the table.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on the couch, places the tea tray on the coffee table, and glances at his watch.

ALAN

Nine hours? I've barely started.

Alan leans back and rubs his forehead. Snowy peers around the end of the couch and heads for the kitchen.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Snowy bounds into the room, hops on the kitchen table, and paws at the bundle of twine inside the bowl.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan looks up as Snowy appears with the bundle of twine in her mouth. She hops on the couch and drops the bundle in his lap. Alan grabs the twine and stares at her.

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BACK - DAY

Alan and Snowy sit on the porch swing with the tea tray between them. He finishes his sandwich and pours some milk on the empty plate for her.

ALAN

There you go.

He pats her back while she laps up the milk.

ALAN

Thanks, Snowy. I needed this.

Snowy crawls onto his lap and kneads her paws on his thighs. Alan strokes her fur and glances toward the sun.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

MONTAGE

- A) The summer sun shines on the tree-lined mountains.
- B) The leaves on the trees change to their fall colors.
- C) Snow falls from above and drifts across the peaks.
- D) Rain drizzles down from the sky onto the mountains.
- E) The warm sun returns for another summer season.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on the couch and reads a novel with the full-grown Snowy in his lap. He sets the book aside when the nearby telephone rings and answers the call.

ALAN

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Neil stands by a kitchen table covered with shopping bags. Lynn, Hannah, and Jillian pass back and forth.

NEIL

Guess who's back?

ALAN

Neil! How was the vacation?

NEIL

We had a great time, all ten of us.

Alan arches an eyebrow.

ALAN

Ten?

NEIL

Yeah, Dusty had her kittens two days after we left.

ALAN

She was pregnant again?

NEIL

Didn't I tell you?

Alan shakes his head.

ALAN

You told me you were going to get her fixed months ago.

NEIL

I'll do it soon, I swear. You want to come over and see the kitties?

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Neil leads Alan into the room. Dusty lies on the bed with one seal point, one black, and two gray KITTENS beside her.

BOOMER, the adult orange tabby, lies half-asleep on a nearby pillow. Alan scratches Boomer behind the ears.

ALAN

Hey, Boomer. What did this one do?

NEIL

Wandered over, gave them a sniff, and wandered off. He's so laidback, I should've named him Garfield.

Alan and Neil sit on the bed. Neil smiles as the black kitten wanders over to Alan's side.

NEIL

That one's the boy. He likes you.

Alan shakes his head.

ALAN

Oh, no. I'm not taking another one. Besides, aren't cats territorial? If I brought another one home --

NEIL

That's why you get two of different sexes, like Dusty and Boomer.

ALAN

I'm not taking another kitten --

NEIL

Don't worry, it was enough of a pain just to get you to take Snowy. I won't force you to take another.

CHASEY, the seal point kitten, scurries over to Neil's side.

NEIL

Hello, Chasey.

ALAN

Chasey?

NEIL

Yeah, 'cause she'll chase you all over the place. While you're here, mind helping me sort out the garage?

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hannah and Jillian sit on the couch and draw in their coloring books as Neil leads Alan through the room.

NEIL

There's not much to do. I just need a hand moving the --

ALAN

Ow! What the ...

Alan finds Chasey firmly attached to his ankle just as Lynn appears from the kitchen.

LYNN
Chasey got out of the room again?

NEIL
She's too clever by half.

LYNN
I'll put her back. Come on, Chasey.

Lynn scoops Chasey up in her hands.

HANNAH
Can I see the kittens, Mommy?

LYNN
Okay, Hannah.

JILLIAN
I want to see them, too!

LYNN
Okay, Jillian. Okay.

Lynn leads the children away. Neil turns to Alan and grins.

NEIL
See? Didn't I tell you?

Neil laughs and escorts Alan out of the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Snowy sits in the sink as Alan showers her with water.

ALAN
You're the only cat I know who likes
taking a bath, Snowy.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Snowy rests on Alan's lap as he runs a hair dryer over her.

ALAN
This is why, isn't it?

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alan enters the room and rummages through a drawer. He notices the water has not drained from the sink.

ALAN

Oh, no.

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Neil stirs a pot with a wooden spoon. A child's screams echo through the air. A nearby telephone rings out.

NEIL

Great, now what?

He slams the wooden spoon down and curtly answers the call.

NEIL

Yeah, what do you want?

INERCUT WITH:

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alan sits on the couch with Snowy in his lap.

ALAN

Hey, Neil, it's Alan. My kitchen sink's clogged and I was wondering --

NEIL

Here's an idea. Fix it yourself!

ALAN

What's your problem? I just wanted to borrow your --

Neil rubs his forehead.

NEIL

Sorry, you've caught me on a bad day and I'm really stressed out --

Neil winces when Kevin bursts into the room, bangs away at a pot, and screams at the top of his lungs.

NEIL

Tilly! Would you get your kid under control, please?!

Tilly sprints into the room and seizes the pot.

TILLY

Kevin! Haven't you caused enough trouble already?!

Tilly takes Kevin by the hand and leads him away.

ALAN
What was that?

NEIL
Tilly's here with her brat.

ALAN
Kevin's been that bad?

NEIL
Are you joking? He's been here for a couple of hours and already broke a vase, knocked over the plants, and killed one of the kitties.

Alan glowers with disdain.

ALAN
That's not funny.

NEIL
I'm not joking.

Alan sits up in shock.

ALAN
You're ... You're serious?

NEIL
Yeah.

ALAN
Which one?

NEIL
Chasey.

Alan briefly struggles for words.

ALAN
What ... What happened?

NEIL
Picked her up by the neck and shook her like a rag doll.

ALAN
Did ... Did you call the vet? Maybe they could've --

NEIL
It's Sunday. Vet's closed. Besides, she was dead by the time I found her.

Neil leans against the counter with a resigned look.

NEIL

Oh, well, nothing I can do about it now. On the bright side, I've got one less kitty to give away.

Alan frowns and shakes his head.

ALAN

What are you going to do with her?

NEIL

Well I've put her in a plastic bag for now. Tuesday's garbage day. Maybe I can wait 'til then to --

ALAN

We have to bury her.

NEIL

What? Why?

ALAN

Because ... Because we have to.

Neil shakes his head.

NEIL

Alan ... I know it's sad, especially for Hannah and Jillian, but it's just a kitty. There no point in --

Alan growls through clenched teeth.

ALAN

I'm not letting you throw her out with the trash!

NEIL

Okay, fine. Where do we put her? I just resodded the back yard and I'm not digging up the park --

ALAN

I know a place. I'll be over in fifteen minutes. Oh, Neil?

NEIL

Yeah?

ALAN

Get a shoebox. I'm not burying her in a shopping bag.

Alan sets the phone down, looks at Snowy, and pets her with sadness in his eyes.

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE - DAY

Alan's sedan parks next to the driveway. Lynn, Hannah, and Jillian appear on the front porch. Alan exits his vehicle and approaches the children.

ALAN

Hey, you two.

JILLIAN

Uncle Alan, Kevin killed Chasey.

ALAN

I know.

HANNAH

Are you going to bury her?

ALAN

That's right.

HANNAH

Where are you going to put her?

ALAN

I know a nice place, don't worry.

Tilly appears in the doorway with Kevin in her arms.

TILLY

I'm so sorry, Lynn. I took my eyes off Kevin for just a second --

LYNN

It's not your fault, Tilly. These things happen.

Neil exits the garage with a shovel and a shoebox in hand.

NEIL

Good enough?

ALAN

Yeah.

Alan and Neil place the items in the back of the sedan.

NEIL

So, where are we going?

ALAN

You'll see.

Alan and Neil enter the vehicle and drive off while Lynn, Hannah, and Jillian wave goodbye.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CREEK - EVENING

The sedan arrives at the small creek featured in the photo. Alan and Neil exit the vehicle and survey the scene.

NEIL

This place hasn't changed one bit.

ALAN

I know. Amazing.

NEIL

I haven't been here since ...

The pair stays silent for a moment. Alan directs Neil toward a large tree next to the water.

ALAN

Under that tree?

Neil approaches the tree with the shovel and the shoebox in hand. He sets the shoebox down and digs a hole.

Alan spots a round white stone. He uproots the stone, searches his pockets, and retrieves a permanent marker.

Neil shovels away as Alan appears with the stone in hand. Neil looks on as Alan writes on the stone.

NEIL

You're not serious, are you?

Alan glares at his brother. Neil shakes his head and digs.

NEIL

There, that should be deep enough.

Neil buries the shoebox inside the hole. Alan places the stone atop the grave which reads: Chasey -- August 2010.

Alan steps back and eyes the grave. Neil stands by his brother, leans against his shovel, and shakes his head.

ALAN

What?

NEIL

Never had to bury anything before.
Never had to bury anyone before.

Alan and Neil stand before the tree with forlorn looks.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The sedan stops in front of the house. Alan and Neil exit the vehicle and remove the shovel from the back. The pickup truck is no longer in the driveway.

NEIL

Looks like Lynn gave Tilly a lift
back home. You ... You want to come
inside for a bit?

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dusty is curled up on the bed with her three kittens. Boomer lies half-asleep on a pillow. The orange tabby bolts awake as the door opens.

NEIL

It's okay, Boomer. It's just us.

Alan and Neil enter and sit down on the bed. Alan strokes Boomer while Neil pats Dusty's head.

NEIL

How you holding up, Dusty?

Dusty looks up and mews plaintively.

NEIL

You miss Chasey, don't you? Yeah, I
miss her too.

The black kitten wanders over to Alan's side.

NEIL

He really does like you.

Alan picks up the black kitten and strokes him.

ALAN

Yeah, he does.

INT. ALAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Snowy lies asleep on the couch. She awakens at the sound of an opened door. Alan enters with a blanket in his arms.

Snowy looks on as Alan takes a seat on the couch, unfolds the blanket, and reveals the black kitten inside.

ALAN

This is your half-brother, Snowy.
He's going to be staying with us from
now on. Is that all right?

Snowy gives the black kitten a sniff and curls up next to him. Alan looks at the cats nestled on his lap and smiles.

ALAN

Maybe I am a cat person.

FADE OUT.

THE END