

# Thomas' 100 Cat Tales

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## The Cat Who Came in from the Cold

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### Tale 1 - My New Home

My name is Thomas, and I rule over this kingdom. After all, this is a king's purpose. As I cleaned my white furry boots, I thought back about how I arrived at this location. I lived off the street and back alleyways for all my life. Food from trash cans, fast food begging, and other cat's bowls provided my basic needs, and I figured it was time to change this lifestyle. After many days of exploring a good neighborhood, I found a house where two humans lived. I hid in the bushes and watched them. They seemed to come and go every day. My hopes were high I could move in and have them provide me with food and water. Conditions seemed right to take a chance with them. After careful consideration, I decided this is where I would put down my paws.

Once I made my decision, I parked myself on the front porch, waiting for the female human to come home. Based on my observations, there were two humans living here and I felt the female would be an easy target. While waiting, I groomed myself while catching the last rays of the sun for the day.

The female human arrived, and I figured this would be an easy entry. When she opened the door, I strolled in like I owned the place. She seemed to put up a small fuss at first, but when I rubbed my smooth black body against her legs, she picked me up and said, “You must be lost.” I think I might have even turned on the purr motor for her. I’m sure the sweet music convinced her to let me stay.

It took time to train these humans. They tried to feed me some dry food. While I was hungry, I had to ignore dinner a few times before they brought something fit for a king. I sat next to my bowl and stared away from it. I showed them the offering was unsatisfactory. The cardboard tasting kibble was as bad as scrounging for food on my own. It took three days before they opened a can with a tantalizing aroma. After eating this, I rewarded these humans by letting them pet me. The training paid off, and they have brought me this fancy food every day since then.

During the daylight hours, such as today, I sit on one of the window sills enjoying the sun and catching up on my rest. I have two favorite windows, one in front for the morning sun and the other in a back room to catch the afternoon warmth. When the humans arrive, I allow them to pet me, and I turn the purr motor on. They seem to enjoy the sound. At night, I wander around my kingdom making sure there aren’t any strangers present. In the mornings, I run and jump on top of the bed and wake the humans up. The routine is part of the training to remind my humans it was time to feed me.

One night, while patrolling the house, I detected an unhealthy smell. I traced this down by using my sniffer. The smell came from the kitchen. I found a burning odor, I think the humans call it smoke. There wasn’t a lot, but it burned my eyes. To save my house, I had to wake the humans.

I ran into the bedroom and jumped on the bed. At first, this didn’t work, but I tried jumping and walking back and forth on top of the covers. I even turned on my siren, a big meow. This is used rarely but worked in waking up the humans. I jumped off the bed, thinking they would follow me. Unfortunately, they ignored me. I started up my siren again, and this time, my male human got out of bed. Once he was up, he must have smelled the smoke. He yelled something to the female human, and they both followed me into the kitchen. One of their electrical devices was doing a slow

burn. Whatever it was, they removed it from the countertop and set it outside on the back steps. This stopped it from stinking up my house any further.

The humans held me and stroked my sleek black body. They even talked and thanked me. My female human said, "What a brave kitty." At first, I wanted to get down and wander around, but this petting felt wonderful, so I turned on my purr motor and put it into high gear.

Then my female human said, "We need to give you a name."

My male human said, "Let's call him Thomas. He's been a tomcat for too long to change now."

And that is how I adopted my humans and new surroundings.