

# **LOOKING FOR ALPHA, THE LOST CAT**

**THE RICH FAMILY'S CAT SAGA LOST IN THE  
STREETS OF THE GREAT CITY**

João José da Costa

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Children's story that integrates with the natural fantasy and creativity of children and young people, entertaining, educating and adding to the development of character, moral values, citizenship, ecological awareness, family values, culture, knowledge, spirituality, respect for educators, encouragement to study, order and discipline. Book for children and young people who enjoy intelligent, sensitive, cultural, educational readings and themes of social reality. Book with largest literary content, a better reading exercise.

*Synopsis:*

*The book tells the story of Alpha, an American Curl cat who gets lost from the mansion where she lived, curious to discover the world outside the gate. Faced with various dangers and hardships on the streets where she is wandering, she was protected by Fiote, a boy who was picking up aluminum and cardboard cans and who lived in the slum. There, Alpha experienced several new sensations, such as chasing chickens and ducks. But Alpha was eventually taken by other people and fled to the big city. She became a stray cat. There, in an abandoned building, she met the friendship of other cats. One day the cats were surprised by signs placed on the posts and walls. The warnings were about the disappearance of Alpha, an American Curl cat. The cats immediately recognized that it was Alpha. The cats mobilized to warn the owner of Alpha. The story unfolds with an Alpha's love for Mustache and this one for her. It's a heartwarming, multi-valued story, full of life, joy and frustration, moments of relaxation with the adventures of Alpha-friendly cats and the contrasts of life.*

## Dedication

I dedicate this work to all those who reserve part of their lives to educate children in some way, as a mission and a belief that in them is the hope of a better world.

In special to parents, teachers and grandparents, the basic triangle of early childhood education.

I thank God for the child that He still allows to exist in me.

João José da Costa

The day dawned beautiful. The sun painted the sky yellow, drying the last drops of dew from the leaves of the plants that had formed the night before. It was spring, and the trees and flowers gave their best show of the year, which was animated by the choir singing of various birds. The forest looked enchanted.

It was spring, the season of flowers and love. There were voices, sounds, shouts and noises from every corner. In the small mining town, a young prospector searched the river to find some gold grains and even dreamed of getting a gold nugget of great value.

The prospector was Marcelo...

Marcelo was a dreamer and a lover. He worked in the gold panning incessantly from the first rays of the sun in search of the long-awaited gold nuggets. And that had a reason - Carolina!

He wanted to marry Carolina and take her out of her life in coffee grains harvesting. But for that, it needed resources. And he always dreamed:

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“One day I'll be rich, marry Carolina, and give her a beautiful castle to live in!”.

The other prospectors, who arrived after Marcelo, laughed at his dream:

“There goes Marcelo! Poor Marcelo! He spends all day, often eating nothing, looking for his golden nuggets!”. “

“It is almost impossible to find gold in this region. Everything has been explored since the time of the colonization of the country!”.

And so, it was Marcelo's daily routine, months in a row. When meeting Carolina, he used to say:

“One day we'll get married and I'll give you a beautiful castle to live in!”.

And Carolina, very shy, answered:

“Marcelo, I will be happy living by your side even in a humble shack!”.

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And it happened in a certain afternoon, just as he was finishing his day's panning, that Marcelo saw something in his sieve:

"An emerald sliver! My God! Here I can find emeralds!".

The stream where Marcelo panned came from the mountain and it was in this direction that he headed to change his goal:

"I'll forget about gold nugget panning! I'm going to pan emeralds!".

And this work was much harder than sifting through the river. It required a lot of physical effort, hours and hours digging the ground.

The mountains of the small mining town became the new target of Marcelo's attention. There he had new hope in the discovery of emeralds ...

And that's how it all happened. It has been several years of hard and hard work, sleeping in makeshift dwellings and often starving. But one rainy morning, Marcelo spotted a breach in a rocky mountain formation that caught his eye.

And he set his mining camp there and began to dig, digging a tunnel into the mountain.

After many days of work and almost on the verge of discouragement and about to give up everything, Marcelo finally found some emeralds, then others, then bigger ones ... It was an emerald mine!

A simply fantastic mine with large emerald stones.

Laughing and crying at the same time, Marcelo shouted:

“I'm rich! I'm rich! My God, thanks! Now my dreams will come true! I can marry Carolina and give her a beautiful castle!”.

The exploitation of emeralds gave Marcelo a lot of money. And the mine had a good reserve of these stones and the emeralds were of excellent quality.

And so, it was done!

Marcelo and Carolina got married in a beautiful ceremony with a party of many guests, among them Marcelo's prospector friends and Carolina's coffee grains-pickers friends.

Marcelo did not buy a castle, but a beautiful mansion! The mansion, which resembled a castle by far, had many bedrooms and living rooms and a large garden.

Marcelo and Carolina were very happy with their new life. But not infrequently they remembered their lives at the gold panning and coffee farm.

"Interesting, isn't it Marcelo? I often miss my work on the coffee farm. Although very tiring, this activity gave me a sense of life, a sense of usefulness!". Carolina let off steam.

"It's true, honey. I feel the same way about gold mining too. The daily search for a gold nugget filled me with hope and that hope was renewed every day. It was a very good time in our lives. But now everything has changed...".

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“Do you know what, Marcelo? I think we need to fill this house with a baby! And this should happen later this year!”. Carolina said.

“What do you mean, Carolina?”. Marcelo asked.

“I'm pregnant, Marcelo! We are going to have a child!”. Carolina answered.

Marcelo with tears in his eyes hugged Carolina, took her by the waist and whirled with her around the great room.

“I'm going to be a father! I'm going to be a father! I will have an heir!”.

Marcelo laughed a lot and opened a bottle of fine wine to celebrate, calling all the mansion employees to partake of the toast...

From this news, the couple Carolina and Marcelo began to live due to the expectation of the birth of their first child. Marcelo divides himself between his gemstone export company and his mansion, accompanying Carolina at every stage of her pregnancy.

After 4 months, the ultrasound examination revealed that it was a boy! And this boy would be named Luca, chosen by Carolina.

*(Ultrasound is an exam that uses sound waves to create an image of the baby, placenta, uterus and other organs and medical exams. In Luca's case, the ultrasound took his baby picture on Mom's belly before he was even born!).*

Time has passed ... How fast time goes by, isn't it?

One morning, right after drinking coffee, Carolina felt the pains of childbirth. Now was the time to go to the maternity ward and receive her long-awaited Luca.

The private chauffeur Chaves was already at the door of the mansion to take the couple Carolina and Marcelo to the maternity... Soon, he arrived at the maternity where Carolina would have his baby.

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And that's how Luca came into the lives of Carolina and Marcelo, drastically changing the routine of the couple.

“How can such a small being occupy such a large space in our routines, isn't it Marcelo?”

“Yes, honey, but how nice to have this little being by our side to make our lives complete!”.

Luca became the great love of Carolina and Marcelo. When he traveled and spent a few days outside his home, Marcelo missed Luca a lot. And on his return, he hugged him affectionately, showing all his longing...

And so, the days, the months passed...

Luca, as soon as he began to crawl, showed great attention to kittens. He watched the television and, when he saw a kitten in the cartoons, pointed the fingers and made sounds of enthusiasm: “Gu... gu... gu...”.

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When Luca went out with her mother and saw a kitten in the street, he stood in the car window and showed how much he liked kittens...

His first birthday came... And what to give him?

"Marcelo, what do you think about giving Luca a kitten as a birthday gift? He seems to like cats so much!".

"Carol, it is awesome! I had the same idea! Yes, let's buy him a cat... Or rather, a kitten!".

In the pet shop there were several cat breeds. But there was one that caught Luca's eye.

After all, his parents let him point to the kitten he wanted. And Luca pointed to a kitten that was watching him closely and was with her brothers.

Because she showed very strong leadership among her sisters, they named her Alpha.

She was a kitten of a special breed and of high value. But price was no problem for Marcelo.

He wanted his son Luca to be very pleased with the gift.

“What race is this?”. Marcelo asked the Pet-Shop attendant.

“This kitten is from the American Curl breed! It is one of the most mysterious cats. It is a cat of very different appearance, is a very beautiful breed, and very different”. “The American Curl is a cat originally from the United States, its history dates back to 1981 in Lakewood, California. The American Curl is a rare cat, mostly outside the United States. As an adult it will have a medium to large size between 3.5 and 5 kg in the female. Her ears are usually large, broad and still at the base and curved back with well-rounded ends and have a few wisps of hair on it. His hair is considered semi long and soft. The American Curl has a very balanced, constant, malicious, playful and easy to live with. Practically no meow. It is a sociable, affectionate and sensitive feline, very attached to its owner. Accepts all their counterparts and dogs and likes children. It is somewhat active, and needs exercise, although

living in a fenced garden is ideal. At 4 years old will be an adult cat!”.

Marcelo and Carolina liked what they just heard:

“Very well! Let's take this brown-haired kitten!”. Marcelo confirmed. Luca was very pleased and already opened his arms to take Alpha on his lap, taking her with him all the way back to his house. On his birthday Luca received many other gifts, such as various toys, stuffed animals... But nothing compared to his enthusiasm with Alpha, his dear kitten.

They were getting along very well. Alpha licked his hair affectionately, played with the balls that Luca threw, slept on his lap, Luca took the food and gave it to Alpha in her mouth and laughed to see her spread the food on the floor with her paws before eating ...

When Luca was watching cartoons on television, Alpha stood by him attentively, twisting her head left and right, trying to understand how those animals got into the television...

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They became really friends! Carolina and Marcelo laughed a lot to see Luca's games with Alpha and were happy with the friendship between the two and always under the watchful eyes of Nanny Sandra. And so, one, two, three years and four years passed...

While Luca was still a child, Alpha was already an adult. But this did not hinder their friendship at all. Only, Alpha was more interested in strolling through the gardens, seeing the world outside the mansion, curious to see the birds land on the ground to eat, and then fly.

One day, a mouse appeared in the garden near the fountain of the mansion and Alpha just watched the little mouse walking around, as if thinking: "There are other animals that are not like me!".

And Luca, on the other hand, turned to his forgotten toys when Alpha moved away from him to stroll in the garden.

But one day, Alpha saw the first cat in her life. It was Mustache, a black cat with white spots that

lived on the street. Mustache passed the sidewalk of the mansion and rummaged through the garbage, looking for something to eat.

When Alpha saw him, she approached the gate. The two looked at each other. Mustache was impressed by Alpha's beauty. He had never seen a cat so beautiful. And Alpha was curious and happy to know that there were other animals that looked like her.

And she was enchanted by Mustache's beautiful green eyes... After this brief encounter, Alpha never saw Mustache and neither Mustache appeared again at the mansion's gate.

After all, Mustache was a stray cat and his life was to roam the streets of the neighborhood at random looking for food and sleep in different places every night. Sometimes Alpha went to the mansion's gate and stay there for a few minutes. Was she looking forward to seeing Mustache again? Only cats would know how to answer...

Carolina, Marcelo and Luca himself, despite being a child, began to notice a change in Alpha's



behavior. She was more isolated, not interested in games as before, although she enjoyed being with Luca and lying on his lap. But Alpha began to visit the mansion's entrance gate a lot. She was watching life outside the mansion and was very curious.

And this curiosity led Alpha to a mistake that would cost her much suffering and afflictions...

One late afternoon, when Sandra went to dispose of garbage outside the mansion, Alpha went out into the street... And Sandra didn't notice, entering back into the mansion and her household chores!

And Alpha started walking, then running, delighted with everything she saw - different houses, other people riding bikes, men exercising running, cars passing on the streets, squares with beautiful gardens, different sounds and voices, saw for the first time a dog being taken stuck in a leash by its owner...

"Wow, this animal is nothing like cats!" Alpha thought.

Alpha's absence was soon noticed by Luca:

"Mom, where's Alpha? She didn't come to play with me this afternoon!"

"Oh, my son, she must be in the house or in the gardens. Let's go look for her". Carolina replied, asking driver Chaves and Nanny Sandra to help with the search.

But, no way to find Alpha and Carolina started to get worried, calling Marcelo:

"Marcelo, Alpha disappeared! We've been looking all over the house and the gardens and no sign of her! What do we do? Luca is crying!"

Marcelo interrupted his work and returned to the house immediately.

And Alpha walked so far and aimlessly that she no longer found her way back to her home.

She was lost! And there began the greatest drama of her life.

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And this drama became more serious and dangerous as night fell...

Terrified, Alpha hurried on her adventurous ride. As she crossed the street, she was startled by the cars coming towards her with the headlights on and honking. A bus almost ran over her, even hitting the wheel with her tail. Alpha ran, managed to escape. Very scared, she jumped up and stood on the wall of a house.

And she saw a dog, thinking:

"Maybe this dog can help me!".

But as soon as she got down in the garden of that house, the dog, which was of the German shepherd breed, ran towards her snarling and showing his teeth. He almost took her. She managed to climb one of the trees in the garden and stayed there for a while until the dog disappeared.

It was already late at night when Alpha came down from the tree and, still on the wall, meowed loudly and without stopping, calling for Luca. But

the neighbors, uncomfortable with their meowing, threw shoes and stones in their direction. Once again, Alpha had to flee. She was already tired, thirsty and hungry, missing her spot in Luca's house, her pot of fresh water and her food.

Marcelo traveled the streets of the neighborhood with his car looking for Alpha until dawn. But he came back sad and very worried:

"Carolina how is Luca? I didn't find Alpha. Tomorrow we are going to the city hall cattery to see if anyone found her and sent her there!".

"Ah, Marcelo, Luca cried all the time calling for Alpha and went to sleep very sad. We need to find Alpha as soon as possible!".

That sad night, Alpha went to sleep thirsty and hungry. She took shelter in a bridge span and slept on top of some sheets of newspaper.

Thirsty, he drank some water that ran through the gutter.

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The biggest problem was finding something to eat. And a smell from a dumpster indicated to Alpha that there she could find something to quench her hunger a little...

Then, Alpha continued her journey trying to find the house where she lived and was so loved...

She missed Luca, her parents Carolina and Marcelo, the nanny Sandra who was always with her and the comfort and security she found in her home. Alpha was already very dirty, with greasy and dusty hair.

Marcelo, every day and every night, looked for Alpha, asking from door to door of the houses if anyone had seen his missing cat.

In the city cat shelter, Marcelo also did not find Alpha...

He returned sad and his concern increased:

“How are we going to explain this to Luca?”.  
Marcelo thought.

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Marcelo placed advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on radios. He hoped someone could give some information about Alpha's whereabouts.

Luca, with each passing day, increased his longing for Alpha. He played little and was not interested in almost anything. He kept looking at the mansion's entrance gate in the hope of seeing Alpha arrive. In these moments, Carolina could not hide the tear that ran down her face when looking at the sadness of her son Luca and Marcelo's suffering for the anguish from Luca...

Several days, weeks and months passed and no news from Alpha. Marcelo and Carolina already feared for the worst - Alpha could be dead somewhere in the city... But they continued their search endlessly and never gave up hope.

Luca gradually got used to Alpha's absence, but he never forgot her. In fact, Luca changed his behavior a lot after Alpha's disappearance. He was more isolated with his toys, played little and was almost always sad...

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Sometimes Luca was caught crying in a corner of the garden or an object that resembled Alpha.

Meanwhile, in a corner of the city...

Men and women were preparing at home for another day of work and children for another day of school.

In the abandoned building of a house, the stray cats were still huddled together for warmth and woke up lazy.

In the center of the heap of cats, something that looked like a small woolen pillow was also moving!

But, what would it be?

Life outside continued its course with cars, buses and many people walking fast.

And the cats and the little wool cushion that walked, stretched. They also had to go in search of food.

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Looking closer, you could see that the little woolen cushion that walked was nothing but a very hairy but very dirty cat.

No one could see what its true colors were, or its race. Perhaps it was a breed or a simple street cat. But her long, dirty hair with colors ranging from earth brown to black hid her identity.

But, what would an unknown cat be doing with the stray cats?

And there they all went to the streets, looking for the garbage cans before the garbage man passed and took them all to the landfill.

In the trash cans, the group of cats, including the new stray cat, found everything they needed for their breakfast - pieces of chicken, meat, fish scraps and even cat and dog food scraps.

The cats named the new member of the group Lady after her fine and delicate manners.

"Lady, come! Let's have our breakfast!". Her cat friend Creepy said.



Creepy had this nickname because he shivered when chased by a dog.

This way, he managed to look like he was bigger and often scared the dog.

But this trick did not always work, and he had to run in order not to get a bite.

But there was still a question: "Where did this street cat come from who had never been seen around? And why was she always very sad and silent?".

And part of the mystery was solved when the group's leading cat one day came to meet his friends in the abandoned building.

And her green eyes were immediately recognized by Lady!

"Mustache is that you?".

The leading cat looked at that cat, which continued to look more like a small woolen cushion, and replied:

“But, where do you know me from? I'm not remembering you!”.

“I am that cat that you once met at the gate of that big house rummaging through the garbage. Do not you remember?”. Alpha said.

“Ah! I live the streets at random. I don't remember the places and houses I pass. My concern is to find good food in the garbage cans!”. Mustache replied.

Alpha was sad again, but, in a way, she was more comforted by the presence of Mustache. However, she continued to omit her real name, adopting the name Lady.

Sometimes dogs would chase cats in the abandoned building. But the group of friendly cats came together to defend themselves.

It was a fight like that with nails, meows and barks. And Mustache was the great hero and fighter! He proved why he was recognized as a leader.

However, it always happened that the dogs withdrew. When cats get angry, they are very scary and dangerous for dogs.

One thing caught the attention of cats. Lady was a cat with fine, noble gestures, she always spoke softly, and she always had good advice to give, showing that she was a trained and educated cat, despite her terribly dirty appearance.

But, how did she end up on the street? Where did it come from? One day, Creepy wanted to know the Lady's story better.

That night, the group retired to the abandoned building earlier. It was raining a lot. And Creepy asked:

“Lady, who are you? How did you become a street cat?”.

It was such a sad story that Lady preferred not to tell it. She simply said that she was found by a boy named Fiote, who collected aluminum and cardboard cans on the street and lived in the slum.

She said she lived in the slum for a long time. She really enjoyed living in the slum. There she saw animals she didn't know, like the chicken, the duck and the pigs. She had fun running after the hens and ducks, which fled in terror. She had never experienced these sensations before. Fiote was a very good boy and he treated her very well.

At night, she slept with him in his bed and liked the mattress made with corn husks. Before going to sleep, she and Fiote could see the moon and stars through the holes in the zinc tiles that covered the shack.

But when it rained, the straw mattress was wet and the two had to look for a dry corner of the mattress to sleep. The next day, the sun dried the mattress again.

Fiote and Lady liked the wet soil that got stuck between their toes and their paws.

When he had lunch and dinner, Fiote always left leftovers on the plate, with a little rice and pieces of meat and gave it to Lady.

She felt important to eat on Fiote's own plate. But Lady had to flee the slum because of the dogs that lived there. They were very rude and aggressive!

So, she came to the big city and befriended the cats of the abandoned building.

“And how did this friendship start?”. Mustache wanted to know.

He was called like that because of the huge Mustaches he had, much bigger than the other cats.

And Lady explained:

“When I ran away from the slum, I was very lost in the big city. I did not know what to do. At first, I tried to stay with the other stray cats. But I didn't get along. They fight for any reason. One day, they were chasing an old cat named Tabby. I defended Tabby and did not let the cats mistreat him. Tabby was my friend; we started looking for food together. And that's how, through Tabby, I met you! Do you remember?”.

“Of course, we remember! You gave us the biggest scare when you came to the building in the company of old Tabby”. Creepy said.

“Ah old Tabby! He was very wise, and he was our great leader. Until one day, he was found dead on the avenue. He could no longer run from the cars and was run over”. Mustache remembered.

However, Minnie, the oldest cat in the pack, said:

“Lady, we like you very much and we are your friends”.

And everyone laughed and hugged each other.

And Minnie asked another question:

"Lady, haven't you been interested in, say, another stray cat yet? There are so many! One of them, for sure, will one day be your type! And you are very beautiful, although you are a little sloppily”.

Lady looked ashamed and didn't respond.

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And Minnie had an idea:

“Friends, why don't we try to give Lady a bath?”.

“A shower? It's been so long since I took a nice shower!”. Lady replied.

“Bathing with water? No way. Cats hate water, did you forget this?”. Creepy replied.

“I agree! I'm out of this!”. Mustache said.

Minnie had a plan:

“I have an idea! Nearby there is a Pet Shop. I think we can try to get Lady into the bathroom without being seen!”.

And Lady immediately replied:

“No way, I don't want to take any chances like that”.

Minnie insisted:

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“Lady pay attention! One more or less cat will not cause any damage to the Pet Shop!”.

“But, how am I going to get there? Lady asked.

“Leave it to me! Creepy and Mustache, I will need you and only you two on this day”.

And so, on a beautiful day, Minnie, Creepy, Mustache and Lady, very scared and insecure, went to the Pet Shop.

And Minnie coordinated the plan:

“Mustache and Creepy, you enter, go to the bathroom and try to distract the dogs in the waiting room”.

“Ah, this will be very easy for us!”. Creepy said.

Mustache rather wanted to go away. But now there was no backtrack.

While Lady waited at the Pet Shop door, behind a plant in the garden, Mustache and Creepy ran to waiting room with high meows.



There were several dogs waiting to be shorn and to bathe or, simply, to bathe.

And it was a 'God help us!'. The dogs chased Creepy and Mustache, who fled to the street.

The operator of Shearing and Bath shouted in terror, calling the dogs back:

"Get everyone back here! Who let the dogs out? Madams are going to kill me! Someone help me!". He shouted, terrified.

And Minnie shouted to Lady:

"Run, Lady! Go to the waiting room and stay calm! You show yourself safe and that everything is fine with you! Don't be nervous for the boy not to notice that you skipped the line!".

After a few minutes, the groomer managed to get all the dogs back to the waiting room. He was still scared, but relieved.

By this time, Mustache and Creepy were gone!

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Minnie waited and watched from the roof of the Pet Shop.

The Shearing and Bath operator, after washing the first in line, looked at the Lady. She was second in line.

“I don't remember seeing this cat here! Wow! How dirty she is! You need a good shower and a little shear! How can a madam have a cat like that! Poor cat!”.

And it was Lady's turn. She was totally at ease in the bathroom and didn't bother with the grooming. She seemed to be very used to this treatment.

It was clear that this was not the first time that Lady took a shower in a Pet Shop.

Lady looks beautiful! And it was confirmed that she was a breed cat. The Shearing and Bath operator put a red bow around his neck that gave him great charm.

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“American Curl is ready!”. The operator of Shearing and Bath shouted at the cat care and transport staff.

And that's when Minnie got off the roof of the Pet Shop and shouted at Lady:

“Run, Lady! Now it's your turn to escape from there!”.

And when Lady was about to run, Mustache entered the waiting room. The two collided and Lady dropped Mustache on the floor.

When they got up, the two looked at each other lovingly and at length.

“Alpha, is it you? Were you the Lady?”. Mustache asked.

“Yes, but this is a long story”. Alpha answered.

Alpha felt something different in her heart. She decided to leave without stopping. It was love confirmed at the first crash!

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When she was getting ready to run again, she simply heard from him:

“Wait! Do not go!”.

Alpha just looked back, stopping for a few moments, looked sadly at Mustache, but fondly, and tried to flee the place, accompanied by Minnie, who was shouting:

“Wait for me! Wait for me!”.

Alpha arrived breathless at his shelter. She ran straight to the can of water to quench her thirst. She just stopped drinking when she heard Creepy cry.

“Ah, I'll never go back to that Pet Shop!”. Creepy was crying.

Creepy regretted the bite that one of the dogs had taken on its tail. He was injured and swollen.

Alpha thanked them:

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“My dear friends, I am very grateful to all of you for the strength you have given me. Without you I wouldn't have been able to take a shower and get rid of those dirty hairs! Now, you can call me Alpha. This is my real name”.

Alpha's friendly cats thought she looked very beautiful and charming. It didn't even look like a small woolen cushion anymore.

But despite this, Creepy and Mustache repeated:

“Really, you look very beautiful! But there is no next time! We are out of this scheme in the Pet Shop. We almost died!”. Her friends said a little more calmly.

But Alpha was at the same time sad. She took a deep breath, lay down, and didn't want to eat.

“Let's go Alpha after our dinner. Soon the night comes!”. Minnie and her cat friends said.

“No, I'm not going this time. I'm not hungry. You go!”. Alpha said, taking a deep breath again and with an empty look.

“But, what do you feel? Weren't you happy to shower and be shorn? Ah, these cats are really weird!”. Creepy said.

Minnie looking at Alpha fondly, said:

“Boys, I know what she has. You go. I will stay here with her”.

When the cats went looking for food in the trash cans, Minnie talked to Alpha:

“Friend why are you like this?”.

Looking fondly at Minnie, sighing again and with a sad look, Alpha replied:

“Minnie, I think it was a bit of everything. I took my bath that I missed. I tossed my hair that hid my race and gave me a lot of heat. I met many friends. I met Mustache that charmed me. But, it's time to try to get back to my house. There I have my best friend, Luca, who must be really missing me!

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When night fell, the cats returned to the shelter. They brought some pieces of meat and chicken. Minnie ate some pieces, but Alpha was still not hungry and went to sleep, followed by Minnie. The next day, the scene was repeated.

A beautiful sun and an orange sky welcomed a new day. The birds sang with greater enthusiasm and their songs were longer. Spring had come. And this was a way that they had to attract some female and be able to form couples. Spring is the season of love among animals. At the mansion, Carolina and Marcelo asked Luca if he wanted a new cat, the same color, the same breed. And Luca replied:

“No, I don't want to. I will wait for Alpha. I've been asking Heavenly Father for Alpha to be found...”

A few days later, the cats were on the sidewalk near the shelter of the abandoned building, when they saw a man posting notices on poles and walls. As they approached, they were in for a big surprise. The notice said:

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Looking for Alpha, the lost cat, by João José da Costa

**AMERICAN CAT CURL DISAPPEARED**

**HELP US FIND ALPHA**

**SICK CHILD AT HOME**

**SHE MISTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED**

**FREE WITH US\$ 10,000.00**

**PHONE: 35678-27895**

**FLOWERS TREES STRETT, 12345 – GARDEN  
SQUARE**

Next to the sign was a photo of the missing cat.

“Look! It's Alpha's photo! It's Alpha!”. Minnie Screamed.

“Really! It can only be her!”. Creepy confirmed.

“I'm sure it's her! She is exactly as she is in the photo, when she was shorn and showered!”. Mustache said.



At the shelter, the cats thought of a way to communicate with the owner of Alpha.

And they spoke of the mystery that involved Alpha's life.

"How did she disappear from the garden of your house?"

"Where did the boy Fiote find her?"

"Who was the child who was sick because of his disappearance?"

"Who was her owner and where does he live?"

But the biggest concern of Alpha's friendly cats was to warn their owner in some way.

And so, Minnie took over the coordination of saving Alpha.

"Friends, we will not stand here! We need to do something to return Alpha to that child. Creepy, Mustache, I'm going to need your help!"

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“I need your help to call the owner of Alpha. We will try! There is a pay phone over there”. Minnie went on.

Minnie, Creepy and Mustache went to the nearby pay phone. Mustache jumped on the phone, taking the phone off the hook. Creepy positioned herself to dial. Minnie would make the call.

“Creepy, dial the numbers: 3... 5... 6... 7... 8... 2 ... 7... 8... 9... 5”.

“Attention! They're answering!”. Minnie said.

Someone on the other side of the phone answered and Minnie said:

“Hello! I'm a friend of Alpha. I know where Alpha is!”.

Carolina answered the phone and hung up discouraged, saying:

“It is another prank! We are here waiting for a call that can help us find Alpha and these kids make a joke call!”.

“What happened?”. Marcelo asked.

“Ah, they didn't say anything. There was just someone meowing like a cat. He meowed so much and looked desperate”.

“What do you mean, Carolina?”.

“Ah, something like that: Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow!”. Carolina replied.

And although they were very sad, they both found it funny.

Minnie didn't know. But humans don't understand the language of cats!

Minnie asked Mustache to hang up the receiver and the three jumped to the floor.

And that's when Mustache decided:

“Friends, I will forward Alpha to the notice address. I'm sure I can find her home! The Garden Square - I know this square very well!”.

It was a small square, usually frequented by cats.

The dogs did not walk around because it was very small and full of plants. Mustache's problem would be finding Flowers Street, 12345. But, as cats have a sixth sense, this task will not be too difficult.

And when Mustache looked for Alpha to talk about his plan and take her back to his home, Alpha was gone! Alpha had decided to look for the way back to her house on her own, knowing that this could cost her more sacrifices and suffering...

And that's what happened... The City's Animal Capture Sector took Alpha and took it to the cattery, the city's cat shelter. There, cats are available to owners or other people interested in adopting them. Minnie, Mustache and Creepy saw this scene and were terrified.

“If nobody looks to get Alpha, her destiny will be to turn soap!”. Creepy said.

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And that same night, Carolina and Marcelo surprised Luca by praying kneeling next to his bed:

"Heavenly Father... Mom and Dad say that you are very merciful and kind... and very powerful... you created heaven and earth and all living beings... I ask you to help me find my dear cat, Alpha, and bring her home... Amen!"

Marcelo hugged Carolina lovingly, while Carolina hid her crying behind the hands that covered her face...

And Alpha's friendly cats started the plan to locate Alpha's home. Minnie, Creepy and Mustache walked home by home, until they found a smell, some clue that would take them to Alpha's house.

And, on a corner, they smelled Alpha. It was a huge mansion, with huge gardens; the house was right at the bottom of the lot and even had a street inside for cars to reach the door.

In the gardens, a boy was playing. He looked very sad.

As there were no dogs in the gardens, the three cats entered, and Mustache had the warning of Alpha's disappearance in his mouth.

Upon seeing the cats, the boy Luca immediately went to meet him, shouting to his mother:

“Mother look, there are three cats in the garden. And one of them has something in his mouth!”.

Carolina went to see what it was about. And she was surprised by the presence of cats. When she approached, she saw that one of them had warnings about Alpha's disappearance in her mouth.

And Minnie started to meow softly to Carolina, circling around, grabbing her skirt and pulling toward the gate. Creepy and Mustache did the same thing to the boy Luca.

At first, Carolina was scared, but soon realized that the cats wanted to take her somewhere.

“Marcelo, come here soon! It looks like these cats want us to follow them!”.

“Honey, you're right. It looks like they want to show us something. We will follow them”.

Luca remained in the mansion very anxious, assisted by his nanny Sandra.

When Carolina and Marcelo started walking towards the gate, Minnie, Creepy and Mustache started to march, one after the other, as saying:

“Come on! Follow us!”.

The cattery was a little far from Alpha's house. Carolina and Marcelo had to walk, following the cats, for many blocks. Inside the cattery, Alpha was lying all the time, very sad.

And she remembered the good times when she lived in a mansion. There, she had comfort, good food, and the affection of a boy who liked her very much.

When they reached the cattery, Mustache tossed the warning on the floor near the entrance gate.

Carolina shivered, almost like Creepy.

“My God, it's not possible. It seems that the cats know that Alpha is in this cattery and wanted to show us. Is this possible?”.

Carolina with tears in her eyes could not control herself:

“So, come on honey! Let's go!”.

While Carolina ran towards the cattery, eager to find Alpha, Marcelo went to the Cattery Reception, looking for directions.

Marcelo told the Administrator that he had lost an American Curl cat and that she could be there.

The Cattery Administrator accompanied Marcelo who, along with Carolina, traveled cattery by cattery, where dozens of cats were held.

The three cats took refuge at the top of the sidewalk tree.

“This is not. This is not. Not this one either. This is not. This cat is very big. This is also not”.

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Carolina did not find Alpha. At one point, she saw something sitting on the lap of a statue of Jesus on the ground of one of the catteries. It looked like a small woolen pillow. But as Carolina approached, she saw that it was another cat. And she said:

“This is also not! It doesn't look like a cat”.

The cattery administrator said that this cat was lying in Jesus' lap most of the time. Alpha, who was lying and sad, got up when she felt the presence of Carolina and Marcelo and began to meow desperately. And Carolina said:

“Marcelo, she liked us. But this is not Alpha. Unfortunately, she is not here. Let's go!”.

Alpha was dirty and with long hair. Before leaving, Carolina even gave a cookie to the unknown cat. Alpha took the cookie, played with it first as she used to, and then ate it. She continued to meow a lot, jumping off Jesus 'lap, trying to get the attention of Carolina and Marcelo, as if to say: “It's me, Alpha. It's me! Are you not recognizing me?”.

But, sad and disconsolate, Carolina and Marcelo walked towards the exit of the cattery.

Alpha despaired and started to meow, meowing like she was singing.

“Carolina, this meow is from Alpha. She always did that when I played the piano. Do you remember it? It's her. Now I know it's her!”. Marcelo said.

Carolina returned, lowered herself to the door of the cattery and called the moving wool cushion:

“Alpha, Alpha, dear, is that you?”.

Alpha licked Carolina's hand with great joy, continuing to meow.

Carolina and Marcelo had no more doubts - they had found their little and dear Alpha. In tears, Carolina left with Alpha on her lap. From the top of the sidewalk tree, Minnie and her friends accompanied Carolina in her crying. And they followed Alpha and his owners to the mansion.

As cats did not know what to do with human money, Carolina gave the reward of US\$ 10,000,00 to the cattery. With this money, they could make improvement reforms and buy good feed for all cats waiting for adoption.

“Before they become soap!”. Creepy thought!

Finally, Alpha, Carolina, Marcelo, Minnie, Creepy and Mustache arrived at the mansion.

She was very happy. She ran everywhere, smelled every corner of the garden, and went to see her house and her good food. And, of course, she went looking for Luca... who didn't recognize her at the time...

On the same day, Alpha was taken to the Pet Shop for a good shower and a good grooming. She was in great need. Alpha left the Pet Shop as usual, smelling and with a red bow around his neck. Her days of agony on the street are over. Before leaving, his cat friends had the opportunity to clear up the mystery of Alpha's disappearance:

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“Alpha, how did you disappear from the garden of your house?”. Minnie asked.

“Well, I was curious to know what was after the gate of my house. After wandering through various dangers, two men called me. I thought it was to receive some food. They picked me up and took me. I ended up in a place far from home, where there were many wooden houses. One day, I managed to escape and wandered the streets. Until I met a very nice boy, Fiote. He was picking up aluminum cans and cardboard from the garbage in the houses when he saw me. He put me in the wheelbarrow and took me to his home in the slum. The rest you already know...”.

The three friends were saying goodbye to Alpha when Luca asked his mother:

“Mom, are we going to keep these cats? They are so cute and helped us find Alpha!”.

Carolina was so happy for Luca and Alpha that she immediately agreed.

However, after a few days living in the house, eating the best cat food and having each bed to sleep, Creepy said to Mustache:

“You know Mustache. I'm fine here. As well, I am treated well, I have a warm bed to sleep on. But I feel that this life does not belong to me. I miss the streets, the fights with the dogs, the daily struggle for life, the surprises when opening trash cans looking for food, our little corner in the abandoned building...”.

And Mustache was silent, looked at Creepy and said:

“Friend, can I confess something? The same is happening to me!”.

“So why don't we go?”. Creepy said

And Minnie, likewise, said the same thing. And the three cat friends decided to go back to their old life. Quickly saying goodbye to Alpha, the three of them ran out of the car, jumping happily towards the streets of the big city and did not even hear Alpha shout:

“Friends, thank you very much! Come and visit me whenever you want!”.

Upon leaving the house for the garden, where Alpha was, Luca was surprised by the lack of his cats:

“Where are the other three cats?”.

He searched all over the garden and the house. He never heard that the three friends chose to go back to living life in the environment they were used to. As strange as it might seem to human eyes! The routine at the mansion was back to normal. Alpha was very happy. Luca even more. When his mother Carolina told Luca where she first saw Alpha, lying on Jesus' lap, Luca exclaimed:

“I knew that Heavenly Father was going to help me find Alpha!”.

Carolina agreed with Luca:

“Certainly, my son. Heavenly Father heard your prayers and mine too!”.

From time to time, Alpha remembered Mustache and was sad. But the sadness passed in the following days.

And, from time to time, Mustache also remembered Alpha. But he moved on with his life. He imagined one day meeting her again.

And so, life returned to normal in the mansion of Carolina, Marcelo, Luca and Alpha.

Many months have passed.

One day, Carolina knew that there would be a tournament in the city to choose and reward the cats that best represented its breed. And several breeds of cats would compete in the tournament.

“What do you think, Luca? Are we going to enroll Alpha in the most beautiful American Curl cat category?”.

“But she is very beautiful for us, mother! Why do we need to compete in this tournament? Would she win anything?”. Luca asked.

“Well, if she is chosen by the judges, she will win a beautiful trophy that you can keep in your room! And she would have fun meeting other cats of her breed!”. Carolina replied.

Marcelo also encouraged Luca to take Alpha to participate in the tournament. She was a cat who could represent her race very well.

And so, preparations began...

At the Pet Shop, the grooming and bathing operator prepared Alpha with great care. She was a fine example of her race and was able to win the tournament in her category. Alpha looked beautiful, shorn and combed, smelling a soft perfume.

The day of the tournament has arrived. Everyone was nervous and anxious - Marcelo, Carolina and Luca. Alpha was curious to meet new cats.

Carolina explained to Luca what a tournament is:

“Luca, the competing cats will be examined by people specialized in the various breeds, called



judges, who will analyze all the characteristics of the competing cat and its breed. Then they choose the winner. Cats will have to parade, and some will even participate in competitions. Did you understand?”.

“More or less, mother”. Luca replied, still embarrassed by this whole story.

And the tournament started. The most expensive cats in the world were present and each cat would parade according to its breed. Luca and Alpha were just watching all this movement of dozens of cats and their owners...

And the following breeds of cats were presented: British Shorthair, Persian; Maine Coon; American Shorthair; Scottish Fold, Sphynx; Abyssinian; Devon Rex; Ragdoll; Exotic Shorthair and, obviously, American Curl.

And finally, it was announced by the organizers:

“Let the American Curl cats get ready now!”.

And Marcelo encouraged Alpha:

“Come on, Alpha! Now it's up to you! Show everything you know and how beautiful you are!”.

Alpha prepared to parade and began her presentation to the judges, accompanied by Carolina.

But, in the middle of the parade, Alpha saw from a distance... Who? Mustache that rummaged through a garbage can in search of food!

Alpha did not hesitate. She left the parade and ran towards her friend Mustache. Carolina and Luca shouted at her:

“Alpha, come back here! You will be disqualified!”.

And that's what happened... Alpha was disqualified from the tournament and was enjoying the meeting with his best friend Mustache. Then Carolina, Marcelo and Luca ended up laughing at the situation.

“Alpha is not really a celebrity!”. Marcelo vented, laughing a lot.

The two cats rubbed each other, as cats usually do to greet each other and stayed together for a long time. Mustache even offered a piece of meat that he found in the trash, but Alpha, delicately, refused...

So, everyone went back to the mansion. On the way, they commented on the tournament and the funny end of the tournament for Alpha. Upon their arrival, Alpha ran inside, seeking shelter in her little house. And she stayed there quiet and sad. She was still thinking about meeting Mustache...

Alpha was in love... And Mustache, too. But Alpha knew that Marcelo and Carolina would not let her marry Mustache because he is a purebred cat and he is a stray cat. Isn't it? Luca certainly wouldn't mind...

Even among humans, there are countries and civilizations where parents choose who a woman should marry!

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“If this is already absurd for a cat, it is even more absurd for humans, isn't it?”. Alpha thought, disgusted.

However, cats don't have the instinct to be sad and depressed for long. It is for this reason that, even when people mistreat them, they seek their protection and friendship right afterwards.

So, a few days later, Alpha was back to her routine at the mansion. Early in the morning, she played with Luca, one chasing the other. Then she ate her food, chosen among the best by Carolina.

Sometimes Alpha even missed the pieces of bone, beef, chicken and even fish he found in the trash! But this was a thing of the past.

In the morning, Carolina used to take her for a walk in the square. On one of these walks in the square, Alpha took advantage of the fact that she was free and decided to take a run to the shelter, the same shelter where she had lived for a long time with her cat friends.

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Upon arriving there, Alpha was in for a surprise. The shelter was no more. The abandoned construction was resumed, and a beautiful house was built on the site.

Alpha wondered:

“But where are my cat friends? Where do they live now?”.

Then Alpha took another run, returning to the square. In the square, Alpha drew much attention from all cats for their beauty and youthfulness. Mainly, males of the same race...

And it was on one of these tours that Alpha met Comet, a beautiful specimen of the same breed. The two sniffed each other, hopped around trying to play, rubbed a little as a sign of friendship. Comet's owner at one point said to Carolina:

“Look how they make a beautiful couple. Wouldn't you like to let the two mate and have puppies? Here is my phone number! If you agree, call me! I have a cattery for breeding American Curl puppies”.

Carolina asked Alpha:

“Did you hear that, Alpha? Wouldn't you like to have beautiful puppies with Comet?”.

Alpha pretended she didn't even hear this conversation. But she did not stop being enthusiastic with the idea of seeing what her puppies would be like... But, not with Comet!

A few days later, guess who appeared at the mansion's gate and entered the garden where Alpha was? You got it! Mustache! He came looking for his friend and, perhaps, more than a friend, the future mother of his puppies. And without anyone in the mansion seeing, Alpha mated with Mustache.

Over the weeks, Marcelo and Carolina found it strange that Alpha got fatter every day... But they didn't know why. Until...

One afternoon, 65 days after mating, eight beautiful puppies were born. They looked like little Alpha miniatures. But they were surprised that three of them had black and white fur...

And everyone in the house was delighted and happy. The puppies grew up quickly and were increasingly beautiful and strong. Alpha was all proud of her eight puppies. Mustache continued to prowl the mansion and, from time to time, dared to enter the gardens...

One day, when Alpha was alone, he met his puppies and he was all proud. Some looked like him and others looked like her Alpha mom. From this moment on, Mustache no longer abandoned the mansion's gate. He spent hours outside, watching and waiting for an opportunity to enter when there was no one in the gardens. He just went out to try to find something to eat.

Alpha, in turn, also spent a long time inside the gate, rubbing his head on the head of Mustache, a typical gesture of greeting among cats.

Luca, who spent a long time in the gardens, always observed this scene and, one day, asked his mother:

“Mother! Why is Alpha always at the gate with that black and white cat?”.

Carolina, who had not paid attention to this scene, was surprised and immediately took a question to Marcelo:

“Marcelo, isn't that cat the same cat in the parade that Alpha abandoned to go after him? And I have another concern: Isn't this cat the father of Alpha's puppies?”.

Marcelo listened and was thoughtful for a few moments. Then he vented:

“Do you know, Carolina? I always dreamed of having legitimate Alpha Curl puppies of the American Curl breed. I was already researching this, looking for someone who had a male of this breed. However, I can see that something really happened between that cat and our dear Alpha. This would explain the three puppies in white and black”.

“Well dear. This may happen for the next time... Now, we are facing this reality”.

And the time passed...



Mustache maintained his routine of standing in front of the mansion's gate, sometimes without eating or drinking water. Luca started to play near the gate to be close to Alpha and, in time, became friends with Mustache too.

And he even took things from his mother's kitchen for him to eat. And Luca was very happy to see the eight kittens. They were the delight of his life.

And one afternoon, sitting on the mansion's balcony, Marcelo and Carolina talked:

"Honey, I have observed the affection that Alpha has for that stray cat that often comes to the gate of the house. And it's the same cat that made Alpha leave the tournament. Do you know what I'm thinking?"

"I imagine it's the same as what I'm thinking. But you speak first!". Carolina replied.

"I think the father of the Alpha pups is this stray cat!". Marcelo said

“Marcelo, I have this certainty since the puppies were born!”. Carolina confirmed.

“Well, Carolina. As I said, my wish was for Alpha to have puppies from another American Curl cat. But, if this was how Destiny wanted it, we can only accept it! Isn't it?”. Marcelo said.

“Marcelo, see Luca's happiness and joy! I've never seen him so happy!”. Carolina replied.

“So, let's call Luca and ask him a question!”. Marcelo replied.

When Luca returned from the gate to resume his games, Carolina called him:

“Luca come here! Daddy wants to talk to you!”.

“What did I do this time?”. Luca thought.

As Luca approached his parents on the balcony, Marcelo said:

“Luca, my son, mom and I think that the daddy of the kittens from Alpha is that cat that lives on the

street and always comes to the gate of our house. What do you think about letting him in and living here with Alpha?”.

“Dad! Is he the daddy of the kittens? You mean Alpha married him?”. Luca asked.

“That's more or less like this, my son!”. Carolina replied.

“Wow! I would love to have Alpha and the puppies’ daddy all together here!”. Luca confirmed.

“And how are we going to call him, Daddy?”. Luca asked.

“Ah! This is up to you, my son! You choose his name”. Marcelo replied.

“So, Dad, let's open the gate for him to enter. And I will think of the name I will give him!”. Luca replied.

When Marcelo and Luca headed for the gate, Mustache walked away scared.

Afterwards, Marcelo showed affection for him, opened the gate and called him:

“Come, cat... Come! You may come in!”.

And it was only after Luca offered a piece of meat that Mustache felt confident to enter. In the garden, Alpha watched everything with great interest, still not understanding what was happening.

After Mustache entered, Marcelo, Carolina and Luca went inside the house, leaving the new guest alone with Alpha and his puppies. And they looked out of the living room window.

Mustache was cautious, but he always brushed Alpha's face and went to the basket where the puppies were and licked them affectionately. Mustache began to feel confident. Hungry, he saw beside Alpha's shelter a plate of various pieces of meat and he ate like he had never eaten in his life.

After a few hours, Mustache was letting Luca come over and run his hand over him.

Also, by Marcelo and Carolina. Mustache was very happy.

“Dad! I already know the name I will give to the stray cat! Let's call him Happy! He seems to be very happy here at home next to Alpha and his puppies!”. Luca said.

“Nice name, Luca! Congratulations! So, let's call him Happy!”.

So, Mustache had to accept this name change. Although for his street friends he will always be the Mustache cat.

The first days of Mustache, or rather, Happy, at the mansion were not easy. He missed his friends cats on the street, he missed his free and challenging life. But, little by little, he discovered the security and comfort that the mansion life offered him. He had enough food, he got his own little house, he had the company of Alpha, he could play with the six eight puppies, stroll through the immense gardens, receive Luca's affection, anyway. He was, as his name said, happy!

Time passed... several months passed... and the kittens, at six months, were already in adult size

And this situation deserved attention from Marcelo and Carolina:

“Carolina, we can't have so many cats here at home! We have to prepare Luca to understand that it is time for the puppies of Alpha and Happy to be donated to other people!”.

And Luca's reaction was not what Marcelo and Carolina expected:

“But, father, mother! Why can't we keep the eight kittens at home? There is a lot of space in the gardens, they live playing all the time, I like being with them! I don't want to give my kittens!”.

Marcelo and Carolina decided to take a break and get back to the subject a few days later. And that's what happened:

“Luca, you are happy with your kittens. But, think that other children would also like to have a kitten and also be happy and cheerful like you. Don't

you think so? How many little friends would you like to have a kitten at home? Why don't we give them this opportunity? So, we wouldn't be being selfish and wanting the kittens just for us!".

Luca was thoughtful at his father's words and asked?

"But, Dad. Will I never see the kittens again? How would this donation be to my little friends?".

And Carolina replied:

"Luca, we can do this – we'll have a party to all your little friends who would like to get a kitten. And each one chooses the cat they want. Thus, we learn which kitten went to which friend of yours. And, every year, we can have another birthday party for the kittens, inviting your little friends who got the eight kittens. What do you think of this?".

"Well, mom, I think it's okay! I'm going to talk to my school friends and see which one would like to get a kitten!". Luca replied.

Ignoring that she would lose her puppies in a few weeks, Alpha strolled through the gardens all proud and careful with her puppies.

Luca easily managed to gather eight friends who wanted kittens and whose parents, equally, wanted to have a kitten in their homes.

And so, the first party happened. Carolina prepared cake, sweets, juices, ornaments and everything else to welcome Luca's eight friends to her home.

After the party, the friends, one by one, have chosen the kittens they liked and took them away to their home.

Alpha and Happy were kept in another corner of the house. This would avoid any negative reaction or sadness from them at the moment. But Carolina and Marcelo knew that they would be looking for the puppies for several days in the mansion's gardens until they got used to their absences. It was a sad moment in the life of Alpha and Happy, but necessary...



A year later, as promised to Luca, Carolina and Marcelo organized the kittens' birthday party at their mansion. And the eight little friends attend with their cats and their parents. And the party was very lively. Alpha and Happy were able to review their puppies and confirm that they were all well and happy with their new owners.

And there were cakes and sweets for the children but also cakes and snacks suitable for cats. Everyone loved the party. The kittens were almost all the time brushing against Alpha and Mustache, as if they missed their parents and the place where they lived for a few months.

Life has surprises for humans, as well as our friends, cats!

Alpha and Mustache were never forgotten among their homeless cat friends.

Away from the abandoned building where the street cats lived, Minnie, Creepy and other stray cats found a new shelter under one of the bridges in the big city.

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It was a place that only cats could stay. There, in addition to the food in the garbage in the houses, they could find all the mice they wanted to feed. And when they retired at night, they used to remember Lady and Mustache with longing.

They remembered the good times when they could sleep warmed by a small woolen cushion that moved and helped them to be protected from attacks by dogs...

The End