

October's Story

Hi, my name's October! I'm a black cat with two colored eyes: Green and Orange! I live with my 2 owners, who I love very much! Here's the story about how my life changed. It was a normal day. I was watching the birds outside on my tower. Then my owners said "October! We're going to the store! Be back in a bit!" Then they walked into my room holding my favorite toy mouse, Sir Jack O' Lantern. "Go get him!" they yelled, throwing him behind the couch. I ran to get him, then a few seconds later came back with him in my mouth. "Good Kitty!" they said, patting my head. They grabbed the remote and put on a video of birds. I watched very closely and didn't even realize they left. I knew it was a lie they'd be back in a bit. One, the grocery store is far away, and two, they LOVE the store. They always come back with 5 bags of stuff (which is not always cat food). I watched the birds for a few more minutes until they stopped. The screen went black. I was confused. Suddenly a loud static and a robotic woman's voice and sirens came on. It scared me. "This is not a drill. The Purge has started. Everything is legal for 24 hours. The Purge will end at midnight." I was hiding upstairs because of how loud the TV and sirens were but I could hear her voice faintly. Then it stopped. I went downstairs, and then the door opened! I was excited that my owners were home. But they weren't my owners. They grabbed me before I could even see them. It was all a blur after that.

I woke up, cold, in an empty room. I knew my owners didn't like it when I bothered them while they were sleeping, so I stayed put. I didn't even know if my owners were there. Suddenly someone walked in. He picked me up, took me outside, and put me in the car. He drove for a while until we got to a big building. He took me out

and carried me into the building. There were loud sounds everywhere, of meowing and barking. There were too many overwhelming scents. He took me to a lady behind a ticket booth and she said "Hi! Are you entering or watching?" "Entering," the person holding me said. "Okay! Your number is 332! Good luck!" she exclaimed. We walked away and went behind a red curtain. I was so confused at what I was looking at. I watched a golden retriever jump like, 6 feet in the air! "327" a microphone shouted. "Okay now we are entering the cat section!" the microphone shouted again. Suddenly, a brown and white cat rolled out on a scooter. It did a few spins, then the microphone said "Next is 328!" A tortoiseshell walked out with a teenage girl. The girl set down a hurdle and the cat jumped through it. "329 is next!" the announcer with the microphone said. Then a Siamese walked out and suddenly a red dot was on the wall. I watched the Siamese jump up and hit the dot with her hand. "Now we have 330!" Out walked a Maine coon. There were three buttons on the stage. Someone threw a red frisbee onto the stage. The Maine coon hit one of the buttons and it said "Red." Then someone threw a blue ball on the stage. The Maine coon pressed another button and it said "Blue." People clapped, and then the microphone said "331!" An orange tabby walked out with a guy. They stood there for a second, then it jumped onto his shoulder! "332 is now up!" The person holding me dropped me and said "Go out cat." I walked onto the stage. People were all looking at me. I ran backstage. I was too nervous. The person snatched me up when I went backstage. "And in first place, we have...327!" Everyone clapped when they put a gold medal on the brown and white cat that had the number 1 on it. "In second place, we have...328!" Everyone clapped as they put a silver medal on the tortoiseshell that had the number 2 on it. "And in 3rd place, we have...330!" People

clapped and they gave the Maine coon a bronze medal with the number 3 on it. Then the guy holding me took me out to the car and I heard him mumble under his breath “Stupid cat.”

He drove me home and put me in the empty room again. I fell asleep there and woke up the next morning. The door to the room I was sleeping in was cracked open a little so I went out. When I went out of that room, the house was beautiful! There was a fireplace and a TV! The floors were carpeted and there was a marble countertop. I saw there were a bunch of bushes and trees outside, so I went out. I climbed a tree and then snuck back into that same room. Luckily, I didn't get caught. The guy walked into the room and I acted like I was sleeping. He picked me up and took me outside and there was a stuffed animal there. He set me down right before it and I walked on it. He pulled my tail and said, “No, jump over it!” I ran away, but as fast as I ran away, I came back because I didn't want him to pull my tail again. So, I just ran fast and...jumped over it! He picked me up, took me inside, and gave me a little bit of cat food. Works for me! Then he said “Jump up on this chair” Now, I was lucky. Because to my surprise, I jumped on it on the first try. Then, he put me in the car again and drove to what seemed to be a football field. He took me to a ticket booth, just like yesterday. “Entering or watching?” a young teenager said. “Entering,” The guy said. “Okay. Your number is 119” The guy took me backstage. “116,” The announcer said. I watched a pretty Persian cat walk onto the stage. She sat down for a few seconds then stood up and walked off-stage. “117!” the announcer said. Then I watched a Birman cat with deep blue eyes walk onto the stage. The cat did a few spins and then went off-stage. “118,” The announcer said. I watched a Norweigan forest cat with a big bushy coat walk on. It

looked left, then right, then walked off. "119 is now up!" I walked on and just sat there. Then I walked off. The guy picked me up, sat in the audience, and we waited. "In first place, we have...119!" People clapped and then the guy brought me up to the stage, patted me on the head, and whispered "Good cat." They put a gold first-place medal on me. I felt proud. And relieved. I didn't want him to hurt me or tell me I was stupid again. He picked me up and took me to the car. I don't think he cared about any other animals winning but me. But I cared. I think all animals are pretty. Long-haired, short-haired, or bald. 3 or 4 legged. All the same colored eyes, 2 different colors eyes, or blind. Exotic coat or normal coat. Likes or hates water. Scars or no scars. Same sex owners or different sex owners. Shy or outgoing. Lactose intolerant or gluten-free. All animals are beautiful in their own way.

We drove back to the guy's house and went inside. There sitting on the couch, was a chocolate lab. I went up to it and sniffed it. The dog touched my ear with its paw. "Come on stupid cat. Interact with Hershey." The guy slapped me on the back of the head lightly. I touched the dog's nose with my paw, and it tilted its head. Then it started running and I chased after it. I think the guy was pleased. The next morning it was foggy. I went outside and climbed my favorite tree. Then a little yellow speck was flying towards me. I tried to say hi to it, but it just flew below me. Suddenly, I felt this sharp stinging pain in my bottom left paw. Then I realized that the little flying speck was a wasp. The pain hurt a lot, so I jumped down from the tree and hobbled back inside with only 3 legs to walk on. I hobbled back into that room and laid down. I wondered if I would ever see my owners again as I fell asleep. I woke up in the middle of the day when the guy came into my room and woke me up. He plopped a book right in front of

me and said "Turn the page." I tried my hardest to, but my paw just kept slipping off the page. Finally, on my 7th try, I flipped to the next page. "Good job," he said, but that sounded fake. He left to go do something, so I went outside again. I was exploring and climbing the trees I liked. I was outside for so long that it turned to nighttime. While I was finishing up exploring, I heard a rustling noise. I thought it might be Hershey, but when I looked closer, I saw a red fox. I was too late.

I am just putting the last of my Halloween costume on. I hear my friends calling me, "Come on hurry up! We're all waiting!" I look in the mirror one more time before going out trick or treating with my friends. I smile. I think my green and orange eyes really pull my black cat costume together.

Abby Parker