

The New Environment

the story of a terrified little kitty



Karolin the kitten loved her home...

...until her reality turned upside down...

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The New Environment

short story.

Karolin the kitten enjoyed her life. She had lots of fun cuddling on the couch with her owner, Jody.

One afternoon, Jody greeted a strange woman named Mrs. Thompson at the door. Jody kissed Karolin goodbye as she handed her to Mrs. Thompson.

As Karolin endured the car ride, she cried out to Mrs. Thompson, *"What did I do to deserve this?"*

Mrs. Thompson looked at Karolin with noble eyes and responded, *"Honey, I'm here to take you to a better home."*

Karolin knew her life was going to change, but she refused to accept reality.

The car stopped and Mrs. Thompson carried Karolin into an unfamiliar living room. Mr. Thompson and her 3-year old daughter, Nina, greeted her. The family battled for her attention and enjoyed snuggling with Karolin on the couch. However, each time someone would pick her up, Karolin hissed and jumped behind the couch.

Once everyone went to bed, Karolin

remained behind the couch. *"Why did Jody send me here?"* she said to herself while weeping.

Karolin spent two sleepless nights behind the couch. The family would try to coax her out to eat and play, but Karolin refused to interact with anyone. She wanted Jody.

The third morning, Karolin felt dizzy and realized that she needed to eat. She quietly crept into the kitchen and found a bowl full of food waiting for her to dig in.

After Karolin feasted, Nina handed Karolin a treat and Karolin decided to give her a chance. Nina fed her countless treats and she and Karolin played for hours!

Karolin enjoyed the attention and continued to spend time with the family until bedtime.

As Karolin jumped into her bed, she felt loved! She quietly said, *"Thanks for sending me here, Jody"* and fell into a blissful sleep.



MORAL: Be open to a new environment. You know not the joys to come.

The New Environment

personal reflection.

We deal with new environments constantly. Moving to a new neighborhood, starting a new job, or even going to a party are a few unfamiliar environments that come to mind.

Sometimes, we fix our minds on the small things. But ***focusing on situations that you cannot control robs you of your joy.*** It only causes you to feel powerless and more apprehensive about entering the new environment.

It's common to revert to a shy demeanor when faced with a new environment. However, this can cause you to hurt the feelings of others. You also risk making a bad first impression and unnecessarily feeling like an outsider.

Your shyness may actually stem from social anxiety, a fear of not being liked, or other insecurities. This is perfectly normal. But, ***allowing your insecurities to dictate your actions will inhibit you from experiencing potentially enriching situations.*** You must search deeply within yourself to find the root of your

concern.

When thrown into a new environment, take the initiative to be mindful of the rules already in place. Do your best to complement the environment, instead of trying to fit it to what you're used to.

If the dress code in your new office is black attire, showing up in a white suit might be a bad idea. If you're moving into a condo association that only allows brown storm doors, stay away from deliberately installing a white one.

Remember where you came from and hold that memory dearly, then ***accept your new environment for what it is and adapt to your surroundings.*** Work with what you have. Make new friends. Be yourself and enjoy the new experience.

This is what life is all about! Embrace new experiences, accept them for what they are, and learn as much as you possibly can.

Self-Reflection Questions:

- Are you uncomfortable with stepping into new environments?
- Will performing research on your new environment make you feel more secure?
- Can you bring mementos to make you feel more at home in your new environment?

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