

Best Friends

The two houses number 10 and number 11 stood side by side.

Chanda, a cat, lived in number 10. Raj, a dog, in number 11.

Chanda liked to sit on the wall between their houses.

Raj could not jump so high. It made him angry. He barked at Chanda.

Whenever his owner took him for a walk, Raj looked through number 10's gate.

If Chanda was there Raj barked at her.

There was no peace with those two around.

Then, something special happened. Chanda had kittens.

Three tiny balls of white and black fur.

Kittens are born with their eyes closed. A week later their eyes open. Even later they begin walking, slowly and clumsily.

The smallest kitten with one black ear and one white was called Tara.

One day Tara walked out through the gate to the pond in the park.

She watched as a bird flew down and took some water in its beak.

She watched a bee buzzing over the water.

She saw a frog jump out of the water.

Tara went closer and closer to the water. Suddenly the mud at the edge of the pond gave way and Tara fell in.

Splash!

Most cats do not like water and Tara was just a little kitten. She splashed and thrashed trying to swim.

Suddenly Raj appeared at the water's edge. Dogs like water and they can swim. And neither animals nor humans like little babies to be hurt.

Raj saw Tara. He dived into the water and gripped the little kitten gently by the fur around her neck. He brought Tara out the water..

The kitten lay shivering on the ground. Raj licked it and pushed at it with his nose.

Soon the kitten stood up again.

Chanda came running of the house looking for her kitten. She saw Raj sitting near the pond with Tara between his legs. He was licking the kitten and Tara was playing with his ear.

That was the end of the war between Chanda and Raj, although they still did not play together.

As for Tara and Raj, they became best friends and played together whenever they met.

By Rabia Ahmed