

cat poem take 2

sorry the cat poem failed
it started good enough, i woke up at
6:30 and started writing the cat poem
into my phone note app
it started:

“my memory always starts with dad leaving,
his head in his hands in the kitchen”
which doesn’t have a cat in it, i know
it was just a line that was in my head
when I woke up
it went on:

“fast forward, a new man
in the big bed,
with a weird haircut
and kind of scary”
it goes on talking about
video games, moving to a new house
things that have nothing to do with cats
then:

“the cat is named mimmi, grey-haired,
or mimi, one m or two”
mimmi makes more sense in swedish
using two m’s to make that sound
“i don’t remember the particulars
of her body and face, fur, eyes, whiskers”
it’s true, i can’t picture her at all
except for the grey-hair, or was it silver?
what was she even like? what did
she like to do?

the poem skips ahead:

“she has two kittens, we name them
after jungle book characters,
one each for me and my sister”
girl cats with boy names? i think my kitten
was a girl and my sister’s kitten a boy
“like a fairy tale,
we weren’t allowed
to keep them.”

then this line, that i kind of hate:
“i was older, clever, and gave mine
to our grandparents”
just, no

the point being that then at least I could still see her
whenever i visited
even if it meant giving her up sooner
“while my sister held on, postponed
and cried hard
when she realized her mistake”
she didn’t really make a mistake tho
what is this poem voice even going for?
she was a child, she just wanted to keep her cat
the cat poem culminates and deteriorates
in this trauma, the end of this
cat story, the cat poem fails, falls apart
my sister’s cat is
given away to someone
she can’t just visit
and that’s fucked up
i remember her crying in the car
taking the cat away to this other place
but maybe that is some other scene
of her crying in a car about something else

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