

THE WINNING ENTRY!

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The End.

Now, I know that's not how most stories start, but this one is different. This one has no beginning, no middle and no end because time is endless.

4,500 years ago, the Ancient Egyptians worshipped cats, dogs, bulls and falcons along with the Scarab beetle. Meet Cat, Dog, Bull and Falcon as we take a dive into Ancient Egypt...

Cat was happy. Everybody worshipped her so much. Dog, Bull and Falcon, however, were not. Nobody paid attention to them any more, not since Cat had won the three trials 6 centuries earlier. Now the humans saw the cat as the most sacred creature of all. There were paintings of Cat on every wall and statues of Cat upon every tomb!

However, nobody knew the real reason that Cat was worshipped and I'm here to tell you the truth. Welcome to the year where Dog, Bull and Falcon would overthrow Cat from the throne.

The following morning, Dog, the smartest yet the scruffiest, came up with a plan.

"Why don't we challenge Cat to the three deadly trials again? But we can't lose this time!"

"That's a brilliant idea!" replied Bull.

"Yeah! She's a scaredy Cat if she doesn't accept!" agreed Falcon.

So they got into a huddle and discussed when to host it.

"3 o'clock tomorrow, yeah?"

And it was decided.

That night, Dog couldn't sleep. There was a thunderstorm outside his owner's house, yet, that wasn't keeping him awake. His thoughts were buzzing and he couldn't help feeling that he'd placed his friends in danger. Last time they'd challenged Cat they nearly got themselves killed! What had made him think that this time would be different?

It was the morning before the trial and Falcon had the task to tell Cat about the trial. Now this was very crucial to their plan to ensure she accepted their challenge. "I'm going now," she called to the others as they slowly walked

out of their houses. "Wish me luck, and hope I survive her rage at being called a scaredy Cat!"

As soon as she (Falcon, do keep up!) got to Cat's house, she noticed something was off about the house. Perhaps it was the lights, all turned off.

"Yeah that's probably it," Falcon said to herself.

"I was expecting you!" a voice came out of the darkness, scaring Falcon.

"Who's there? Show yourself!" Falcon replied, not expecting an answer.

A voice rang out. "It is I, the one and only, Cat."

5 minutes later,(of Cat bragging and self-worshipping her ego, which I will not bore you with) Falcon had almost lost the will to live!

"So, you were spying on us?" Falcon asked, obviously bored.

"Correct."

"And you overheard us discussing how to overthrow you?"

"Correct again," Cat smirked.

"Wow, you are daring!" exclaimed Falcon sarcastically.

"I know. And you're a pathetic weakling! Ha Ha!" teased Cat.

"So, are you coming or not? You're a scaredy Cat if you decline!"

Falcon dodged out of the way as Cat lunged at her.

"Of course I'll come and thrash you." Cat snarled and hissed as she made yet another swipe at Falcon .

Falcon shrieked as Cat brought her crashing to the ground, shaking the ground. Suddenly, Cat's owner entered the room.

"What are you doing, Cat?" her owner shouted across the room. "You let go of that beautiful bird this instant!"

As soon as she was free from Cat's grasp, Falcon flew out, into the sky.

The others weren't in the least astonished to hear of Cat's sly piece of trickery.

"She's evil!" roared Bull. "She should mind her own business, not ours!"

"I know!" replied Dog at the same level of noise as Bull.

"Well, never mind Cat, what about the three deadly trials?" questioned Falcon. "Have you come up with that yet, Dog?"

"Actually, yes, I have." Dog answered back.

"Tell us then." the other two said, simultaneously.

"Of course, but let us go inside or someplace where Cat can't."

Sometime later, (don't ask me when, I don't know) Bull and Dog were standing in the middle of the river Nile with Falcon hovering above.

"Will you start speaking now?" called Falcon from above. "I'm getting impatient."

"We know what each of the trials will be, don't we?" Dog said.

"Yes." the others chorused.

"So, I don't mind which of us wins as long as it isn't Cat because she's evil. Everyone okay with that? Cat cheated during the three trials by trapping us in a pit, so that's why I don't want her to win."

"I'm fine. What about you, Bull?" replied Falcon.

"Yeah, I'm fine with that as well." Bull answered.

"Great." Dog said as the others stretched their legs.

It was time for the trials. Dog, Bull and Falcon looked at the vast crowd nervously. The opening of the tomb loomed over them. Now, you didn't hear Dog, Bull and Falcon talking about what you had to do in this challenge, did you? Well you had to get through the maze inside the tomb as quickly as you could. The first one out wins. This really tests your agility, only the quick and nimble would succeed.

Cat, however, just sneered at the others. "You're the only scaredy cats around here. Why don't you just go back and cry to mama?"

"No, why don't you?" Dog retorted.

"Oh, I don't know. Maybe because I'm about to win and forever be worshipped by humans!"

"We'll see about that. Look, the race is starting!"

"On your marks, get set, GO!" shouted the referee.

Dog immediately sprinted off, kicking up dust straight into Cat's face.

"Meowwwwww" she screeched. Bull saw the opportunity and jumped straight over her arching body. Falcon was already soaring high above them, gliding past the skeleton of another falcon, who had met her peril with the claws of the deadly Lammergeier (you may not have heard of this creature, but I'll tell you. It's the second most dangerous flesh eating bird in the world, technically a vulture).

Dog was grinning as he whizzed round the corners and over the vast pits and even as he hit the massive spike! Dog fell down, stunned. Meanwhile, Cat was having difficulties of her own.

Cat swerved around numerous spikes but then, she fell into a massive pit-trap!

Cat shrieked. "Help me, there's water in here! Help!"

But nobody could hear her, let alone save her! At the same time as *that*, Bull was locked in a battle with a snake and not just any snake, it was the Boa Constrictor!

Bull swerved to the left but the snake stopped him. He tried a different approach; attacking the snake but the snake merely dodged it. It was now the snake's turn to strike. The snake elevated its body to twice the height of Bull and started to coil around him. At first, Bull didn't feel anything, but then the snake tightened and tightened its grip and Bull went limp. Suddenly, there was

The most almighty yowl as Cat jumped out of the pit, with her claws widely spread, diving straight into the snake. Bull felt a release of pressure and Cat was horrified at the thought of saving her enemy. He was about to say thank you but Cat hissed, and so he ran off, smashing all the spikes in his way.

Falcon heard the harrowing noises but didn't let this distract her speedy flight. In fact, she doubled her wingspan and sped on, faster than she was last time. She turned to face a junction, left or right.... With no thought she turned to the left and CRASH, BANG, WALLOP! She crashed straight into a hidden tomb door! How had she not seen that? And with that, she fell, unconscious.

Cat realised that she would not win. But this did not worry her. She knew a secret path out and was certain she could reach the end before the others.

Just after Falcon had fallen, Dog (who had turned right) leaped over the finish line! Dog had won! Who had expected that? As Dog trotted out of the maze, Cat (who had found that sneaky, secret exit) snarled and hissed at Dog.

"I should've won, so listen here, you are nothing but a piece of dung!"

Dog, offended, just growled at Cat in reply and walked away. Cat pleaded with her owner, the referee, to announce that she had won, but her owner told the truth.

"The winner is..." she said, pausing for effect. "Dooooogggg!"

The crowd cheered and cheered.

"Dog! Dog! Dog! DOG!!!" they chanted as a ripple of applause circled the arena.

"All you fans out there," shouted the commentators. "I hope you're excited because it's time for the second challenge!"

The crowd waited, expectantly for the second challenge to start. In this challenge, you had to lift your brick to the top of your pyramid as quickly as you could, again. It won't be easy because the bricks are massive! Each brick weighs about 10,000 kg! Cat stared at the pyramid in front of her. She hadn't done this before, but the others had. Could it be that the others had the upper hand? Meanwhile, the others themselves were nervous. They *had* practised it, but had Cat? They didn't know.

"Guys, the race is starting!" Falcon pointed out.

And so it was.

"Get ready, get set, LIFT!" the referee shouted.

Dog excitedly attempted to push the brick, even a little bit. But alas, he couldn't. Bull, however, was doing this challenge with ease. Over at his pyramid, the brick was getting flicked up and down, up and down. The only difficulty that he was having was controlling where he wanted the brick to go. He tried to make it go left; it went right, he attempted to make it go right, it went left. Falcon was also doing it with ease but with more than Bull.

Falcon had immediately snatched up the brick and started flapping her beautiful, black wings. At first, the brick weighed her down, stopping Falcon from going higher and higher with it but now, she was gliding higher than ever before. All of a sudden, the brick had slipped from her grasp and she had to dive down to get it but she managed to clasp the brick. Over at Cat's pyramid, she (Cat) was struggling.

Cat was having the same problem as Dog. She couldn't move the brick, however hard she tried. She shoved from the left, she shoved from the right. It didn't matter, she still couldn't move it. Her brick was now being furiously scratched from head to toe. At first, the brick was red. Now it was a rough beige white. Suddenly, she found that she had moved it a little bit!

"Wow!" she gasped as the realisation hit her. "I'm lifting it!"

Cat pushed with all her might, moving the brick up the pyramid inch by inch. Eventually the pyramid became much too steep for her and the brick tumbled down (now that's gravity for you, but Isaac Newton hadn't been born, let alone discovered gravity).

"Meowwwwww!" she screeched, and the brick fell on top of her.

The screech was so loud that people clutched at their ears and glass shattered before their eyes. Cat was shocked at what she next heard... a laugh! The laugh echoed around for a bit, and then, more and more people laughed at her. Cat began to arch her back. Her hairs stood on end, muscles (though very weak ones) began to ripple below her coat of fur. Cat's eyes narrowed to slits as she pounced upon the crowd. She landed right on a bald man's head!

The man exclaimed. "I have hair now!"

"The gods are in your favour!" exclaimed everyone who was near the man.

"Oh great and mighty Ra. Please grant my wish. I hope that the falcon will win in resemblance to you." the man prayed.

Suddenly, the god Ra appeared! The crowd went wild at the falcon-headed god.

"Is it actually him?" The crowd roared with excitement.

“So be it,” Ra spoke. “Your wish has been granted.”

At that moment, there was a massive outburst of applause. Falcon had won.

While everyone was looking at Ra, Falcon had flown ever so high and placed the brick on top of the pyramid that was what had caused the outburst of applause. At the time, Bull had practically completed the challenge. His brick was three quarters up the pyramid and Bull was still going. Dog, well, he hadn't moved. The brick was still where it had started and so was Dog. And Cat was still attacking the bald man.

“The winner is Falcon!” announced the commentators as the crowd roared. “But now, prepare yourselves,” the crowd settled down to hear more “in this challenge, the contestants will be racing from the East to the West of the Valley of the Kings! It won't be easy! In the West side, there are terrible storms, day and night. And on the East side, the terrain is nearly impossible to climb.”

The crowd went absolutely ballistic at hearing this. Popcorn exploded everywhere, the beer flowed down the stairs like a river and foie gras rained down on Cat (you are probably wondering what foie gras is. Well, foie gras is a delicacy invented by the ancient Egyptians).

“Bleech! Is this really the stuff that humans eat? It's disgusting!” Cat howled.

“Well what did you expect? They are humans after all.” laughed Dog as he trotted past Cat.

Cat lost her temper. She pounced, missing Dog by hairs but striking Bull in the butt! Bull was outraged! He charged and sent Cat flying. She landed on the commentators laps and hissed at them. They jumped back and CRASH! The commentators landed in a pile of donkey poop.

The valley looked inviting at first sight of it, but Dog, Cat, Bull and Falcon knew the danger that awaited them. As soon as they set off, they all (except Falcon, who, of course was flying high above their heads) felt the sand get softer beneath their feet whilst the valley sloped downwards. Soon, Dog, Cat and Bull were forced to slow down due to the vivid inclination in the ground.

The Falcon supporters were extremely satisfied with the distance between Falcon and Bull, (who was in second place) which was about 600 metres. However, Falcon was getting tired (I mean wouldn't you after running, flying if you're a bird, 3 miles as fast as you can?) and Bull was catching up. The distance was now closing between them:

500 metres

400 metres

300 metres

200 metres

100 metres

until Bull was directly below Falcon, charging over every single slope in sight.

Dog was only just in front of Cat, one or two metres ahead, and was kicking up sand in Cat's face, slowing her down.

“Meeeoowww!” yowled Cat every time she got sand in her face.

This caused a surge of laughter from the crowd, even from the Cat supporters.

"Ha ha, you're a scaredy Cat!" mocked Dog. " And a slow one at that!"

Cat did not like this and seethed at Dog for insulting her. Blinded by her anger, she didn't notice the wild storm that had been cooked up. The tornado bent down and lifted her up, swinging her around by the tail. Faster and faster she spun, with her face turning green with the dizziness. Suddenly, the tornado let go, throwing her back out and she fell to the sand, she resembled an unripe green tomato.

A few miles ahead, Falcon was already caught up in the storm. The storm was a badly behaved child, tossing her like a rag doll, nearly ripping her into two. Falcon couldn't glide because her wings were drenched so badly. The ebony black of Falcon was now a murky brown, stained with mud, sand and rain water. She, too, was getting thrown around but forward, not backward. The tornado howled as it finally let go of her, casting her into the wet sand of the desert. SLAM! Her body crashed into the ground.

While this was happening, Bull was still charging along, despite the storm. He ploughed through the desert, comparable to simply no one else. The rain and wind did not slow him down, nor did the pebbles and sand that flew into his face. As he tore across the finish line, there was an overjoyed cheer of excitement.

"The winner is Bull!" announced the commentators.

Eventually, Cat (in last place) and the others crossed the finish line. Falcon's wings were badly bruised and Dog was unrecognisable, covered from snout to tail in sand and mud. " I can't believe that you won and I, the great Cat, lost." hissed Cat as she crossed the finish line. "I will never admit defeat and will always reign"

"We will see about that," barked Dog.

"Yes, maybe," said Cat with a cunning grin. "I look forward to the award ceremony tomorrow at sunset."

" Yes, now that I come to think of it, where is it?" questioned Dog.

"Over at the Great pyramid of Giza," replied Cat, squinting her eyes to glare straight back at Dog.

"Okay, then," answered Dog. " We'll meet you there."

That evening, Cat was extremely content with herself.

"Those fools don't know anything! The-" she said out loud.

She was interrupted by her owner. "Cat! Dinner!"

And Cat went to her owner for dinner.

At sunset the next day...

Dog, Bull and Falcon stood at the Great pyramid of Giza. But... where was everybody else?

"They said they'd be here around now," said a befuddled Falcon.

"Does anyone else hear the sound of people cheering?" questioned Bull.

"Yes." replied the others.

"Well, it's coming from the Egyptian museum of Hashestaput and isn't it closed today?" asked Bull.

"That beastly Cat!" roared Dog. "She's tricked us yet again!"

Dog, Bull and Falcon rushed over to the museum as quickly as they could, but when they got there, they were devastated. Cat's name was scratched into the trophy and the crowd were chanting.

"Cat, Cat, CAT!" they roared. "We will build the first great sphinx in your honour."

Dog marched up to the podium and tried to explain that Cat had *lost*, not won, but the crowd's roars drowned out his voice. Falcon and Bull tried to silence the crowd but alas they could not.

"Cat!" growled Dog. "What have you done?"

"Well, you didn't turn up, and my name was already on the trophy, so I therefore earned first place yet again." answered Cat, smirking. "Look, they're announcing the winner (A.K.A me)."

"The overall winner is... CAT!" the commentators announced.

"This is only the beginning," said Dog.

"Correction," smirked Cat. "There is no beginning, no middle and no end, there is only the forever. And I am the forever."

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