

“The Traveling Adventures of Señor Fluffy”

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Intro

Once upon a time, there was a Persian Cat named Señor Fluffy. Every night he sat down around the fireplace and would retell his traveling adventures to his grandchildren. The grandchildren looked forward to their grandpa's stories. Señor Fluffy had lived a life full of adventure going from country to country learning about other cultures. He was always willing to help others in need or rescue a damsel in distress, whatever the case may be.

Chapter 1

The Puerto Rican Rainforest, El Yunque

Children, listen very carefully, for this adventure is like no other, Señor Fluffy said to his grandchildren. (*He says that every single time*). This is the story of how I acquired my traveling companion, my special backpack of wonders, I lovingly called her, Star. The one thing I cannot forget in an adventure because it contains everything I could possibly need in the case of an emergency.

When I was very young, I decided to explore El Yunque, the rainforest in Puerto Rico. I did not know the native language, Spanish. However, if I say so myself, I am very smart, I knew the good words for the ladies and the bad words on the streets. I was a very cool cat. When I arrived at the information center, I got myself a guide that spoke 7 languages, ok, kids, she is smarter than me, and prettier too. Her name was Esperanza and she was a beautiful Golden Himalayan.

El Yunque has 240 different species of plants. My goal was to climb the tallest mountain, El Toro, about 3,494 feet above sea level and identify as many plants as I could. Esperanza warned me that this would be a very dangerous expedition to do it alone and she gave me a present. It was a backpack full of supplies for our special climb. Of course, I complained. It was very heavy, I did not want to carry it. I played it off as if we would not need all those supplies. Little did I know that eventually, we would use every single item there. Good thing the ever-impressing Esperanza convinced me of taking the backpack through El Yunque.

Esperanza and I hiked up a rocky trail for about two hours without stopping. The trail was very slippery and did not have anything to hold on to. We passed very many edges on the mountain that seemed like we would fall onto the abyss. There were very exotic plants and there were some cave-ins. She did not sweat, while I was ready to drop, but I did not show any signs of weakness. She asked me, “Fluffy are you okay?” I answered, “of course I am, I do this all the time”. Kids, I was not okay, I thought I would faint. Esperanza reminded me that my backpack, Star, contained everything I needed. I looked and of course I had water, I felt ecstatic. I drank the water bottle like there was no more water left in the entire world and that was the very last one. I thought I had fooled her, but she knew the signs of exhaustion and dehydration quite well. Esperanza suggested we take a small break for the path

ahead would be strenuous. I was falling in love with her. Children, I felt in love in every country, but that ended when I met your gorgeous grandmother.

As we continued after a very long break, I heard a peculiar sound, nothing I had ever heard before. I asked Esperanza what the beautiful melody was and she explained that it was the call of the Coqui, a beautiful little frog that inhabited the entire island. I got a crazy idea, I would catch a little Coqui, just so that I could see it up close, of course I would be careful, I was just so curious. I had to see what made the beautiful sound. I was in love. Yes, children, it happened quite often. I loved nature, I love people, I love animals.

It took a while to convince Esperanza that trying to catch a Coqui would be fun. I promised not to harm the little beauties. So, we started jumping and hopping and leaping trying to catch a coqui. We were having so much fun, until the most unfortunate thing happened. I stumbled on a slippery rock and fell into Esperanza. Esperanza screamed. I can still to this day hear her desperate and horrified scream as she fell thru the edge onto the jungle below. At this point we were really high up on the mountain, we had made it to the top, from my calculations she had to had fallen onto the next natural platform about 300 feet down. I screamed and I screamed for Esperanza. Until finally she screamed, softly and in pain, but she was alive.

My mission was to rescue the beautiful Esperanza. She was too young, too smart and too beautiful to perish this way. It was the right thing to do, the gentleman

thing to do and what my parents would expect me to do. How in the world would I rescue her, I had nothing, I had no supplies! Until I calmed down and realized I had everything I needed in Star. Esperanza had done us both a huge favor by gifting me with a backpack full of supplies. My backpack, my Star, I was so happy, rescuing Esperanza was after all possible. As the say, “where there is a will, there is a way.”

I looked into Star, there was rope, there were first aid supplies and there was a radio to call back the tourist information center. With luck, I could call and a rescue team would be sent in case Esperanza was badly injured and could not be moved. I quickly pulled out the rope. I scouted until I found the nearest tree. It was a huge tree, it was beautiful, and it would be our salvation.

I tied the rope around it and slowly lowered myself down to Esperanza. I had a small problem, the rope was not long enough to reach her. But hey, I’m lucky, I am a very athletic cat. I could jump higher than anyone I knew, so I leaped with such strength and agility that I landed on my feet right by my beautiful golden Esperanza. Finally, I had reached her. She was barely conscious. I quickly called for help with the radio I had found in Star. I gave Esperanza water and we ate an energy bar and an apple. Esperanza was amazing. She had prepared us for the worse. The one problem we had now is that she could not move, her ankle was twisted at a funny angle and her body was all bruised and sore. I wrapped up her ankle with the med kit supply and put two sticks I found around her ankle to keep it in place. An hour

later however, a search and rescue team was there. We were both very relieved to not have to spend the night in the rainforest as the temperatures dropped and the insects and other critters came out.

Esperanza was airlifted to the nearest hospital where we spent the next 2 days. Luckily, she recuperated rather fast. I tried to give her money but she would not accept it. She said that the only way I could repay her was by taking Star with me everywhere I went and to pack it up carefully, for if I ever needed anything in an emergency. I had to part from the beautiful Esperanza, my next adventure awaiting me and I needed to stop at home in North Carolina. But first there was something I had to do.

I found a jewelry store in San Juan, it was the best in town. I asked for two necklaces with a pendant of a Coqui. I had the most beautiful token of beauty and grace. A small gold frog in a simple and classy necklace. I bought Esperanza an orchid and gave her the necklace. She promised never to forget me and to always wear my necklace. We would become pen pals and write to each other every time we had a new adventure. I told her that one day, I would tell this story to my grandchildren.

So, children, how did you like this story? After many questions and a lot of excitement, I had to tell the children, they had to go to bed. There is no telling how

much trouble I would get in if their mother would find me keeping them up this late. Until tomorrow my dear grandchildren. Grandpa Fluffy loves you to the moon and back. Tomorrow I will tell you all about my Galapagos Island adventure.

¡Dulce Sueños Niños!

Sweet Dreams Children!

Coming soon...

Chapter 2

The Galapagos Islands

Chapter 3

The Vast Australian Outback Wilderness

Chapter 4

Trouble in England

Chapter 5

The Key West Underwater Lab

Chapter 6

The Masai at the Gorongoro Crater in Tanzania

Chapter 7

Tango in Argentina

Chapter 8

Cape of Good Hope in South Africa

Chapter 9

The Andes in Chile

Chapter 10

The Great Wall of China

Chapter 11

The Swiss Alps

Chapter 12

The Taj Mahal (Also where I met my beautiful Spring)