

Competing to the End

By Natalie Lawson

After traveling to visit my son and daughter-in-law in Texas I entered the house and was shown to my room. It had been newly painted with a complete new bed and coverings. The closet had all new plastic hangers which I needed – all of them. I went for only two weeks but it's surprising how many cloths I needed. Hahaha.

In the living room I was greeted by Puff the dog and Nina the cat. Puff is part brown and white Gorgy and terrier. He has the prettiest face. I can imagine him smiling. It had been two years since I had seen him. After petting him, Nina wanted some of that too. They're both so quiet they're a pleasure to be around. Nina is a beautiful long-haired gold and white cat with a little black mask over one eye. As the days pass I found out Puff and Nina are both 16 years old and they're both sick and living their final days. My son bathes Puff everyday so he doesn't smell. After his bath you wouldn't know anything was wrong because he prances on the grass almost like a puppy. It makes me laugh. Nina is losing a lot of hair so Lisa encourages Sam to shave her. One day with no warning she walked into the room and she looked like a totally different cat. She was white with the black mask and a back furry ball at the end of her tail. She still looked very pretty. They also had an outdoor younger cat named Kelly that's a deeper gold long-haired cat. She comes in and walks around and quickly goes outdoors. She sleeps in the garage.

The back yard is always filled with birds. My favorite is the pair of cardinals. One day I was sitting on the chair in the patio and before I knew it the male cardinal perched itself on the back of the other chair. All I could say is "Did you come to visit me?" He didn't answer me of course but bopped his red head up and down looking all over then flew back to the fence where Sam put their food just for them. They know they don't have to go to the feeder with the other birds at the birdhouse. The female cardinal was fluttering in front of the mirror Sam nailed on the fence for them. This has been their home for a few years. There is another little bird that propped itself into the bowl they hung from the beam on the patio they call him Little Henry. There is one problem with some black birds. When they fly into the water fountain all the little birds fly away. Sam goes out to clap his hands to chase them away. It works!

There is a lot of competition in that beautiful back yard. Some of the wild flowers were already in bloom. On one end of the patio this little tree with a cluster of yellow flowers that look like daffodils is one of my favorite.

I'll always remember Puff and Nina playing among the flowers and the birds. Oh, and I gained two pounds need I say more!