

Sample of WereKitty
by Dan McLaughlin
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Leona and her sister Karen and Leona's daughter Kitty arrive at the home of Rex, Leona's boyfriend from summer camp.

Chapter 21
Leona

"Mommy, are we there yet," Kitty.

"Children can be such a delight," Karen.

"Hush, Karen. As a matter of fact, Kitty, yes, we are there right now. Here we are," Leona.

"Really?" Kitty.

"Yes Kitty, really," Leona.

"The house with WereBoys? Dogs?" Kitty.

"Yes, don't worry Kitty you'll be fine," Leona.

"Of course I will be fine, Mother, they are just WereDogs, I just hope they manage to behave themselves," Kitty.

IF they manage to behave. They ARE WereDogs. Is she nervous?

"Well, if you are feeling uncomfortable, just let me know,"
Leona.

"And remember a swat with your nails across their noses will make them much more uncomfortabler than you," Karen.

Thank you very much Karen for your mothering input.

“You will do no such thing. Either you Karen, or you Kitty. We are WereLions, and we are the Pantera Girls, and they will treat us with the respect we deserve. We will not brawl, is that clear?”
Leona.

“Yes, Mother,” Kitty.

“Yes, Leona,” Karen.

However,

“But if we do have to brawl we rip their noses to shreds and send them scurrying away with their tails wedged firmly between their legs,” Leona.

“Yes, Mother,” Kitty.

“Yes, Leona,” Karen.

Right then. Onwards.

“Mom, look at this. It’s is such a messy yard. How can anyone live like this? It is so, so chaotic looking,” Kitty.

What?

“Chaotic, dear?” Leona.

“It means random or without pattern,” Kitty.

“Oh I know what it means, I just didn’t realize you knew it, that’s all,” Leona.

“Oh really Mother, please give me some credit. I am not a child anymore,” Kitty.

True enough. Chaotic. Pigsty. WereDogs

(Sound of a knock on door. A pause then a avalanche of sounds and voices.)

“3 P’s,” All ladies.

“Door! Someone’s at the door.” “There’s someone at the door!”
“Hey there is someone in the yard!” “The door!” “The yard!”
“The door!” “The yard!” “Someone’s there!” “The door!” I’ll get it!”
“The door!” “The yard!” “I’ll get it first” “Door, Door!” “No, I’ll get it!”
“The door, the door!” All boys.

“All right the lot of you be quiet, I’ll get it. Now go back upstairs,” Rex.

(The sounds of many footsteps running upstairs.)

“Oh! Oh!” “Dad’s going to get it!” “Dad is!” “Going to get it!”
“Yeah!” “Yeah!” “Dad!” “Dad!” “Dad’s going to get it!” “Get!”
“Get!” “Get!” “Dad!” “Dad!” “Dad!” All boys.

(Sound of a door opening.)

“Hi, may I help... Oh, hello,” Rex.

Damn, he looks good.

“Hello, Rex,” Leona.

“Hello Leona,” Rex.

Crows feet look sexy on him, damn it.

“You remember my sister, Karen,” Leona.

“Hey, Rex,” Karen.

“I remember. Hello Karen,” Rex.

Maybe a bit of makeup wouldn't have been such a bad idea.

“And this is my daughter, Kitty,” Leona.

“Hello,” Kitty.

“Pleased to meet you, Kitty. Uh, won't you like to come in?”
Rex.

Just here for the Dufftotem, and we're on our way.

“We'd be delighted to, thank you,” Leona.

(Sound of door closing.)

“Rex, who is it?” Pinto.

(Sound coming from another room in the house.)

Oh yeah, this is going to be, awkward.

“Pinto, honey it's Leona. You know, from Camp Were,” Rex.

“I remember her. Why hello, Leona,” Pinto.

(Sound coming from same room in the house.)

Just get the Dufftotem and leave.

“Hello Pinto. I know this is rather sudden, Rex, and uh Pinto, and I am sorry to intrude out of the blue like this...” Leona.

“Yes, why are you here Leona?” Pinto.

“I can assure you Pinto that I really don't want to be here, but its only, well this is a bit embarrassing, but your boys have something of mine that I need back,” Leona.

Oh crap. That didn't come out well.

“Leona. My boys are good boys and I am sure that they have never stepped one step even close to you and your precious whatever. So before you go and start accusing my boys...” Pinto.

“Honey, relax, I’m sure there is a reasonable explanation,” Rex.

Yeah, right. But thank you, Rex.

“Sorry well, I’m not sure about reasonable, but well, it seems that when you and your boys all were visiting Uncle Dead Fred, he gave you something that he shouldn’t have,” Leona.

“Well, what was it, Leona?” Pinto.

“My, uh. My uh. My um. *Dufftotem*,” Leona.

“Your *Dufftotem*? What the? How did they? They are always up to something. Sorry. BOYS GET DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW,” Rex.

(Sounds of boys running downstairs.)

“Here, Father!” “Father, here I am!” “Hiya, Dad!” “I am here, Dad!” “Hey dad. Hey dad. Dad. Dad. Dad.” “What’s up, Dad?” “Nice to see you, Dad!” “Dad! Dad! Dad!” “Wanna play catch with the ball, Dad?” “Ball, Dad, Ball!” “Ball! Ball!” “Wanna go out running, Dad?” “Catch some squirrels?” Squirrels, yes!” “Run and catch squirrels!” “Dad, is it time for dinner?” “Dinner! Food” “Food, food, food!” “I could really use a quick bite to eat, Dad.” “Dad! Dad. Dad! Is it time to eat dad?” All boys.

“Boys, boys. Boys! Sit. Good boys. Leona, these are my boys Buster, Ralph, Sherman, Archie and Newman. Boys, this is Leona, her sister Karen, and her daughter Kitty,” Rex.

“Hello, boys. It’s very to meet you,” Leona.

“Boys, Leona says you have something of hers,” Rex.

“I don’t think so.” “Nice lady.” “Pretty lady.” “Smells like a cat!” “Big cat!” “Big big cat!” “Big big big cat!” “With sharp claws!” “Very sharp claws!” “Ouch ouch ouch.”
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHHHHH (all.) “Nose is very tender.” “But we have never seen her before.” “No, never seen her before.” “No, never seen her before.” “Never never never never no no no no no!” All boys.

“But she does smell a little familiar,” Newman.

“What do you mean, Newman?” Rex.

(Sounds of sniffing.)

If he takes just one step towards me...

“She smells kinda like the stick,” Newman.

Oh yeah, I guess I would.

“Oh yeah, the stick” “Yeah the stick!” “Yeah the stick!” “Yeah, the stick!” “The stick!” “The stick!” “Stick!” “Stick!” “Stick!”
All boys.

“What stick, boys?” Rex.

“The stick that stinky Fred gave us!” “Fetch boys fetch, he said!”
“Go get it boys, fetch!” “He told us we could play with his stick that smells sorta like this lady!” “The stick that smelled sweet!”
“Too sweet!” “Yeah, too sweet!” “Not a good smell!” “Too sweet!” “Stinky Fred gave us the stick!” “Yes, yes stinky Fred!”
“Give give!” “Gave it to us” “Gave it to us!” “Stick!” All boys.

Yeah, well yeah that sounds like it.

“OK, then. OK, well, if I could just have it back and I will be on my way, thank you very much,” Leona.

“You sure you guys don’t want to stay for dinner or something?”
Rex.

That would be such a BAD idea.

“Rex, I’m sure that Leona has someplace else she has to be, or needs her smelly stick for,” Pinto.

We’re on the same page there, but it’s a...

“Dufftotem,” Leona.

“Yeah, whatever,” Pinto.

Bitch. Understandable, but still.

“No, that’s nice of you to offer Rex, but Pinto is right. We are in some kind of hurry, so it we could just get the *dufftotem*, we’ll be on our way,” Leona.

“Newman, go and fetch the scent totem,” Rex.

“Oh goodie, I get to go and fetch. Be right back, Father. Fetch, Newman, Fetch! Fetch, good boy!” Newman.

“He’s a good boy,” Rex.

“So say, Leona, I thought those totems were supposed to be extra special super secret treasured things. How did Dead Fred get yours?” Pinto.

*Glad to see that time hasn’t dulled your memory any, Pinto.
Unlike your hair.*

“Pinto, I’m sure that’s none of our business. We’re just glad that we’re able to help get it back, aren’t we honey?” Rex.

“Oh sure we are, you bet,” Pinto.

Not that I blame her, I guess.

“No, that’s OK Rex, Pinto’s right. The *dufftotem* is usually a sacred treasured thing, but since I married Fred...” Leona.

We light it up pretty good, back in the day.

“You married a zombie?” Pinto.

“No honey, not Dead Fred, Living Fred. You know, the Same,” Rex.

“Oh yeah, always moving on to the next conquest, weren’t you Leona?” Pinto.

Who knew dogs could be so catty?

“So you married living Fred and...” Pinto.

Only way this works if she knows the truth. Take your medicine, Leona.

“Well Fred, Living Fred that is, was OK in making the *dufftotem*, but didn’t really want to keep it in the house afterwards, sort of that whole ‘break completely from the outmoded conventions of the past as we create our new tomorrows’ kind of thing. So I gave it to Karen here for safekeeping. Who for various reasons involving her libido, primarily, gave it to Uncle Dead Fred who for various reasons also seeming to do with his libido, gave it away as well,” Leona.

“Dead Fred has a libido. I don’t want to even think about that,” Pinto.

(Sound of shared laughter among the adults.)

She looks better when she laughs. They laugh good together.

“So Uncle Dead Fred seems in turn to have given it to you guys. So here we are,” Leona.

“So why do you need it back all of a sudden?” Pinto.

“Well Fred, Living Fred, My Fred, has disappeared and I am having trouble tracking him down. Our connection is broken and I need the *dufftotem* to reestablish it. So that is the reason I am darkening your door tonight. I really am sorry, but I really didn’t have any choice,” Leona.

“Well it’s no bother at all. We’re glad to help. NEWMAN WHAT’S TAKING SO LONG? FETCH THE SICK BOY. THAT’S A GOOD BOY. BRING ME THE STICK,” Rex.

(Sounds of Newman running back, panting.)

“Sorry Dad, I can’t find it,” Newman.

Uh-oh.

“Oh oh oh oh oh Archie knows. Archie knows. Archie knows,” Archie.

Oh good.

“Slow down son, use more of your words, what does Archie, I mean what do you know, Archie?” Rex.

“I know were the sweet tick is, yes yes yes yes yes,” Archie.

Oh God, the only WereDog with a speech impediment. Calm down, Leona. Let Rex handle it.

“OK Archie, sit. Good boy. Now speak. Tell me where the tick, stick is,” Rex.

“I gave it to the men who smells worse than dead Fred. Archie gave it to Fusty Fred. Fusty Fred has it. Yes yes yes yes yes. Can I have a treat now?” Archie.

Remember to breath.

“Yes. Good boy. Here you go,” Rex.

Calm down girl.

“Fusty Fred. Is Fusty Fred who I think Fusty Fred is?” Leona.

Take a DEEP breath.

“Er, probably,” Rex.

One. Two. Fuck it.

“Rex, why did your son give my *dufftotem* to a mummy?”
Leona.

“Archie, why did you give the sweet stick to Fusty Fred?” Rex.

“He said he needed it to scratch his back. He said he was itchy and it was so smelly that even he could smell it and he could use it and it wouldn’t get lost in Fusty Fred’s crypt. He gave me a treat. I like treats,” Archie.

I am so incredibly not pleased.

“I am not pleased, Rex,” Leona.

“OK Leona, calm down, there is no need to pace back and forth like that,” Karen.

“Don’t you tell me how to react. I want that *dufftotem* and I want Fred. Not Dead Fred, not Fusty Fred. But my Fred, Fred. Fred Taylor, damn it,” Leona.

I am so so incredibly not pleased right now.

“OK honey that’s right we will get your *dufftotem*, it is just over at Fusty Fred’s house,” Karen.

“Crypt. They prefer that you call them crypts,” Pinto.

Thank you Ms. C- in English.

“Thank you Pinto. See honey, all we have to do is go over to his place get the stick,” Karen.

DUFFTOTEM!

“*Dufftotem*,” Leona.

Damn it. And I want it. Now.

“Yeah right, *dufftotem* and Fred Fred is as good as got, just calm down honey. We don’t want to be a rampaging lioness in a WereDog house,” Karen.

Damn. Karen, the voice of fucking reason. Damn it girl, get a grip.

“No you’re right. I’m sorry. That was rude of me. I apologize,” Leona.

3P’s.

“Uh sure, no problem, maybe? Boys, you can come back in the room here now,” Rex.

(Sounds of boys reentering the room.)

“Mrs. Taylor lady got real angry.” “Yeah, she would have swatted us across our noses.” “With her claws.” “Ow o ow ow,” “Nose scratches hurt.” “No no no no, don’t like nose scratches from claws.” “No no no no no no,” All boys.

I scared them. That's not right. This is their home, and I am their guest.

"Boys, I'm sorry I was rude like that. That was not poised of me. I'm very sorry. So where is Fusty Fred's house. Crypt," Leona.

"Boys? Where does Fusty Fred sleep?" Rex.

"We don't know." "Fusty Fred comes here." "Fusty Fred has bad house." "Crypt." "House." "Oh yeah, crypt." "Crypt." "Crypt." "Crypt." "Crypt." "Crypt." "We don't know." "We don't know." "But it must be at Fusty Fred's." "Yeah yeah yeah yeah," "Fusty Fred has it," All boys.

This can't be happening.

"Boys, SIT. Stay. Be still," Rex.

"Can we have a treat now? Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah treat treat treat treat treat treat," All boys.

This can't be happening.

"Boys, be still," Rex.

(Sounds of silence.)

"Say listen Leona, I'm sorry about this whole mess. I know that the *dufftotem* is a big deal, and all, and uh, honey could I speak to you in the kitchen for a moment? You boys be good in here while your Mother and I talk," Rex.

(Rex and Pinto exit leaving the WereLions and the boys.)

"Hello, Newman," Kitty.

"Oh hi uh um umm," Newman.

"Kitty. We're in the same social studies class. Ms. Drenkovitch, third period," Kitty.

“Oh yeah shure. You’re the one who knows all the answers,” Newman.

“Uh yeah. Some of the times. Sometimes I’m really just guessing,” Kitty.

“No, you are one of the smart ones. You know all the answers,” Newman.

“Uh, thanks. So this is your house,” Kitty.

“Yes, nice house,” Newman.

“Your Mom seems nice,” Kitty.

“Yes, nice Mom,” Newman.

“You, uh, seem to have a nice yard,” Kitty.

“Yes, nice yard,” Newman. “Uh, nice jacket.”

“Really? I mean, thank you. Do you have any video games?” Kitty.

“Yes, nice video games. Uh, you want to go and play some video games?” Newman.

“Yes yes yes yes games fun fun fun lets go play some games,” All other boys.

“MOM, CAN KITTY PLAY SOME OF OUR VIDEO GAMES UPSTAIRS?” Newman. (Shouting across the house.)

“OH OK, DON’T START ANY LONG ONE, BOYS. I DON’T KNOW HOW LONG THEY WILL BE STAYING,” Pinto.

“Mom says it’s OK. The games are upstairs,” Newman.

“Oh Mom, pleasssssse. Can I? It’s OK, please? Just for a second, I know,” Kitty.

“Oh OK. But don’t get too settled in, because we still have to go and find your Father,” Leona.

“OK Mom, thanks. Love you,” Kitty.

(Sounds of Kitty and the boys going upstairs. Sisters laughing.)

“Well, that was interesting,” Karen.

(Sounds of laughter.)

Sure was.

“Sure was,” Leona.

“So Kitty knows Newman. He’s a cute boy,” Karen.

(Sounds of laughter.)

“Oh hush, Karen,” Leona.

When did Kitty grow up? In the last 10 minutes? Damn, the girl’s got some game.

“Did you see how big her eyes got?” Karen.

Why yes, I did. Thank you very much.

(Sounds of sister laughter.)

“And how tongue tied he got. Just like his father,” Leona.

“And how she took control. Just like her mother,” Karen.

Of course, I really don’t need THIS right now, but still...

(Sounds of sister laughter. Enter Rex and Pinto. She has her arms folded in front of her and has a rather grim expression on her face.)

“Oh hey guys, the kids are off playing video games, I hope that’s OK,” Leona.

“Sure, no problem. Say listen, Leona, I feel real bad about the stick,” Rex.

“*Dufftotem*,” Leona.

Sigh.

“Yeah, *dufftotem* thing. So, uh Pinto and I talked it over, and WE thought if you needed some help to like track it down, well like, we Holdens are pretty good trackers when we put our noses to it and,” Rex.

What the heck is he trying to say?

“What are you saying, Rex?” Leona.

“Well like I said Pinto and I talked it over and we figured it was only fair that since like our boys were the last ones to sort of play with it, it would be only fair if we helped you find it. So, we, Pinto and me,” Rex.

Yeah, “we,” right.

“We thought, if it was OK with you, we could help you find Fusty Fred,” Rex.

What?

“You know he really does have a distinctive odor, and that well since it’s time that at least some of my boys get some quality tracking time with their Dad. I well. I mean, now you know, only

if it is OK with you, I would like to bring along one of my boys to help me. Newman. He's the one I'd like to take," Rex.

And Pinto is not trying to rip my throat out now because why?

"He's the only one with brains enough to at least keep an eye on you and remind you that you have a family back here," Pinto.

Ahhhhhhh, OK.

"Yeah, um yeah. So if you don't want our help, that is totally OK fine, and I would totally respect that, but we'd be honored to help if we can," Rex.

Aw hell, there are only about 6 billion ways this could go wrong.

"Well Rex, that is very nice of you. I really didn't mean to intrude like this. And disrupt everything," Leona.

"I know that," Rex.

But I like have no other idea how to find this Fusty Fred, and I do need my dufftotem quick.

"Listen Leona, take him up on the offer. If he doesn't get to go he will walk all over this place with that hangdog expression for months. And I don't need that. So just go, and bring him back, you hear?" Pinto.

Well she knows him better than I do at this point, so if she's OK with it...

"Well thanks, Pinto. OK, Rex, welcome to the Great *Dufftotem* Recovery Expedition" Leona.

"Gee that's swell. And honey, maybe once Fred Fred is back maybe we all can get together sometime and," Rex.

Oh no. That is at least 10,000 ways to being a very bad idea.

“Honey, no. One thing at a time. Now go. Get the boys on down here,” Pinto.

She sure put a quick kibosh to that idea. She did it well though. She does seem to handle him well. Course he is basically a good ...guy.

“BOYS! COME! COME HERE, BOYS! GOOD BOYS!” Rex.

“Hey Dad!” “What is it, Dad?” “Dad Dad, we were having fun, Dad!” “Playing video games with the girl, Dad. Fun fun fun!” “She is good, Dad!” “Dad, she was beating Newman, Dad!” “She was good at killing bad guys!” “She was real sneaky!” “She’s smart!” “She sneaked up real good and then the bad guy would be dead!” “She’s smart!” “Dad, she was tricky, Dad!” “Dad, Dad, she climbs the tree and then pounces.” “Jump jump jump. fun fun fun,” all. “Dad, can we play some more?” “Dad fun fun fun treat treat treat treat can we have a treat please?” All boys.

“BOYS. SIT. Here’s a treat, good boys. Boys, Daddy has to go out for a bit to find Fusty Fred, and I am taking Newman with me,” Rex.

“Dad, I want to go too!” “Me too!” “Me too!” “Me too, Dad.” “I want to go too too too too too!” “I want to go tooooooo.” All boys, minus Newman.

“BOYS. QUIET. BOYS TREAT. BOYS TREAT,” Rex.

“Oh goodie goodie treat treat treat treat treat treat. Goodie goodie goodie treat treat treat. Yummy tummy yummy yummy. Treat treat treat,” All boys.

“Mommy, boys seem to really like treats,” Kitty. (Softly.)

“Yes they do, Kitty. That’s an important lesson,” Leona.

We’re all learning important lessons tonight, kiddo.

“Here you go boys. Now I can only take one of you because the rest of you have to stay here and help your mom, and there is not much room in Leona’s, I mean Mrs. Taylor’s car,” Rex. “So Leona, is it OK if Newman comes along?”

“Yeah, it’s fine,” Leona.

Assist, Mom. Thank you very much.

(Sounds of Kitty’s eyes blinking.)

“Say Kitty, want me to hold your jacket for you?” Karen.

Assist, Aunt Karen,

“Oh no that’s OK, Aunt Karen. I’m good, thank you,” Kitty.

Did she just flip her hair? Laughter. Not bad.

(Sounds of laughter.)

“Just checking, pumpkin,” Karen.

“So we’re off to find Fusty Fred’s Crypt,” Leona.

“Mommy, Newman is cute,” Kitty. (Softly.)

Just like his Dad.

“I know, honey,” Leona.

Just like his Dad.

To find out that happens next, and happened before, [purchase the book on amazon](#) for less than \$10.