

## L. Phonquey

My full name, given to me by my mistress, who is writing this at my dictation, is 'Prince Yan Phonquey'.

The many visitors who come to our home are intrigued with this, and through ~~repeated~~ constant repetition of these derivations of these names, I am now able to give the explanation.

At the end of my dark tail I have a little kink, and - so my mistress says - a small 'kink-k' is called a prince. Hence my first name. A yarn, I understand, is a good tale - such as mine! - though as mine is not quite perfect, the 'r' is left out, leaving 'Yan'. Phonquey is a corruption of the French seal 'Phoque', & my mistress often makes this 'seal point'.

By now, those who know my mistress well will have realized that through close contact, I have already 'sealed' her type of humour!

Of my early months I have only vague memories. My mother, a beautiful seal pointed ~~Seal~~ <sup>P. Queen</sup>, used to boast ~~to~~ to a blue-pointed lady, who lived in



the same house, that my father ~~to~~ was a champion, and my grandfather before him. She felt sure that some of her children would follow in these paw-steps. However, I've really no interest in cat-shows as I'm a home-loving cat. Some of my sisters left home early but my only brother & I were not very much concerned as we were left alone. As we grew up we had grand games with the too big dogs and the other cats where we lived. It was interesting to explore when we were allowed outside and we tried to avoid the watchful eyes of my mother & her mistress. The weather became colder and we were no longer allowed out at all. One day, <sup>when I was nearly six months old</sup> my brother & I were made ready and put into a large basket. The basket was moved and we were joggled around and began to feel rather frightened. When the lid was opened we were in a very small room with sofas on both sides and windows at both ends, and the whole room was moving along. It was a most extraordinary sensation and as we looked from the window we



could see that all the fields and houses, which we had never seen before, were moving too, but they were going the way we had come. After we became used to this my brother & I had some games of hide-s-seek & then lunched off sardines. We were both annoyed to be pushed back in the basket, although by this time we were quite ready for a sleep. The next thing I knew was that the basket was once more opened and we were lifted out. This time we were in a room as big as a field and everywhere we looked there were cages in which were many relations of ours. Apparently, this was a show. I was not much interested as in the men who were judging as it was great fun trying to catch my brother's tail now that he couldn't get away from me. I believe my brother won something - so perhaps he will be a champion, too, - which I'm sure would please my mother. The judge looked at me but discovered the kink in my tail and said I must be a 'throw back', - nevertheless he put me down very gently.



4.  
He slept most of the way back in the morning room, but oh, it was good to be home again.

It was but a few days later that my brother & I were disturbed from our after dinner nap by the kitchen stove & taken into the sitting room to meet a visitor. The dogs and the blue lady cat were already in the room and the visitor made quite a fuss of us all. I liked her and I think my brother did too, but I did not like it a few minutes later, when I was wrapped in a piece of old blanket & carried right out of the house. I was terrified when I was carried by this visitor out into the road ~~and~~ where I saw a great animal on wheels rushing at me. However, the visitor held me so tightly that I could not escape. At last we came to a ~~great~~ little grey & black animal, standing quietly on its four wheels beside the road. Inside this was a box into which I was put. I fancy there must have been someone else inside this animal, which I now know is called 'car', as my mistress - the, then



visitor, talked quite a bit, and she doesn't often talk to herself.

I was much too terrified to move or speak, so I lay quite still in the comforting darkness & had an uneasy dozen dozes. Sometime later, the box was opened & I was lifted out gently by my new mistress. We were in a cosy room with two other people and a beautiful black & white cat. The latter looked lazily at me and then closed his round eyes & went off to sleep again. Just as I was

~~hoping~~ beginning to get interested I was put back into the box again and carried away.

How well I recall my introduction to this, my present home. The box was opened once more and my new mistress took me in her lap.

Gradually, as I became more used to these new surroundings, I climbed down & explored for short periods at a time.

After a time I became brave and began asking questions - I wanted to know where my brother was, and how long it would be before I went home again. I was not keen to eat my supper, or, for that matter,



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to do anything in particular. Soon it was  
bedtime and a warm box was prepared  
for me & placed beside my mistress's bed.  
The light was put out and there seemed  
nothing for it but to go to bed & to sleep.

I awoke early but lay still for sometime.  
By the noises coming from the bed I concluded  
that my mistress was awake so I jumped up  
& said Good morning to her. She seemed  
pleased & made room for me beside her.  
I spent that day trying to get used to my  
new surroundings and in the evening we  
once more got into the car & went for  
a long ride & when we returned we had  
supper and then it was bedtime.  
I was cold in my box bed and so, when  
my mistress was asleep I crept into  
bed with her. She did not seem to  
notice until nearly morning.

Next day mistress left me alone nearly  
all day. I was very lonely & miserable &  
I was dreadfully frightened by noises in the  
lane & then mistress came home & ran  
upstairs calling to me. I jumped from  
the box which she had left for me & ran  
under the bed until mistress reassured me.  
I was glad when she came home again  
just before it got dark, this time not to go



out any more. Next day was just as bad, as the next one or two. All this time I dared not leave the sitting room except to go into the kitchen with mistress to eat my meals. It was horrible having to eat these all by myself but sometimes mistress helped me and stayed while I finished.

One evening when I was a little more used to things someone else arrived. This was very frightening as I had begun to think that mistress & I were to live alone all the time. Also, this person, whom mistress now calls my "Nanny" had a very loud voice & laugh which terrified me & many times that evening I had to take refuge under the bed. However, no harm came to me & mistress even suggested that I sit on Nanny's lap.

Next day, yet more awful things happened, two children came to the house and the one in trousers helped mistress to do something to a box - she called it an orange box, but since I have learnt something of colours, I'm inclined to think she's wrong! The child wearing a skirt looked at pictures & tried to play with me. On the day following mistress put me into the big box and I felt her pick it up. I didn't know where I was



8,  
until I heard the car talking again. I could not understand what he was saying but sometimes he sounded rather cross, but mistress reassured me by talking. I was much too frightened to answer her, but after some time she stopped, let me out & gave me a saucer of liver. Now, I really do like liver and wish I could have it more often. Then, back in that box, I got in by myself - and off we went again. When the lid was opened again I was in a strange room & there was an old man with a white tail on his chin and an old lady with lots and lots of white fur on her head. These two were quite kind but I did not like them very much & would have run away if mistress had not been there. She said that this was Christmas time, whatever that may be, & that I should have some chicken. The lady with the white fur gave me a bone & I took it upstairs to eat under a bed. Mistress did not seem to approve of this, I can't think why though. After two or three days in this big house, where we lived downstairs as well as upstairs, mistress put me into



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the big box again and once more we went in the car. Soon, though, we stopped & mistress talked to someone who later got into the car. They both talked a lot but mistress didn't forget me. At lunch time she let me out and we all had something to eat. I was not very frightened of the other person whom, mistress says, is my "Auntie Angela", so I was quite pleased when mistress told me that she was coming to live with us for a bit. It was nice to be back home again but ~~not nice~~ I did not enjoy it when mistress & Auntie Angela tried to make me go downstairs. When they finally got me there it wasn't half as bad as I had thought, so when they were out next time I went down & explored by myself.

One day I was taken in the car again & mistress left me. I was terrified when I realized this, but a kind man soon came & took me out of the box. Then, oh horrors! he made me sniff something with a horrible smell which made me feel dreadfully queer & I did so wish that mistress was there. This man seemed rather worried, as far as I can remember, & soon put me



back in my bag, where I think I must have gone to sleep. The next thing I knew was that mistress was there & I crawled into her lap very pleased to see her again as I had been dreaming that she had deserted me. After she had spoken to me & stroked me for a minute or two I felt so sleepy again that I got into my bag & mistress closed the lid. I hoped I should wake again to find myself at home, but no, I was put into a pen, not the sort which you use for writing, and I was so miserable and cold and I cried for mistress for a long time. In the morning the man came again & this time struck a big needle into me. Somehow, he didn't let me be very frightened. The next thing I remember was hearing mistress's voice in the room where I was. I called to her & soon she had me in her arms. I told her all the nasty things which had been happening to me & begged her to take me home with her. I don't know whether she understood but anyway we went home together with Anvity Angela. It was not very quiet that afternoon, however, as four



children came to tea and afterwards every one played noisy games. At long last it was all over and mistress & I went to bed. I may say that I now slept with her every night - it was much too cold anywhere else even when she filled a bottle specially for me.

Soon, my Aunt went away again & mistress went out twice every day. Sometimes now she let me have a look outside the front door & for some days everything was white & very cold.

Mistress always gave me a bottle when she was out, or left open a door to a cupboard where a big hot thing lives.

I must tell you what happened one day when I was sitting on this hot thing. I heard mistress coming in, so I jumped down to greet her & got tangled up in something which must have been drying on the shelf above. Mistress laughed & laughed when she saw me and said I was wearing her best. \*TURN TO PAGE 24

From this time on everything seems rather muddled as I was not so frightened now & rather began to enjoy life, so I will just relate incidents as I think of them.



12.

Since I have lived here lots & lots of different people have been here & some have stayed for one or two nights or sometimes longer. The person I know best is my Aunty Angela so I will talk about her. The next time she came she had a black Kitten with her. At first I was very annoyed & I swore at him but then I got used to him & we had some wonderful games together. We played Come & find me, Pounce on tail, Are you asleep? and lots more. Sometimes we were rather rough & the Kitten, who was called Cokky had very sharp claws. Mother had taught me & my brothers & sister's not to use our claws or teeth sharply when playing with humans or ~~cats~~ cats, but Cokky had evidently not been taught this "clause". It was nice to have Cokky's company when Mistress & Aunty Angela went out & we often slept in a chair together. This didn't last long though as Cokky was, one day, put into Aunty Angela's car & they went off together.

Next time I saw Cokky it was a great surprise. Mistress & I had



been for a long ride in our car & when we stopped there was Cockey with Auntie Angela. We all four stayed together in a cow shed. This was great fun as Cockey & I could climb up wooden pillars & walk around high up on more pieces of wood. This we did in the dark & poor mistress got very cross & said we had woken her up - she caught me & held me down under the bedclothes for a very long time - which made me rather cross with her.

The next & last time that Cockey & I saw each other happened like this. I had several times asked mistress if he could come to stay with us again, & one day after we had been staying with the old man with the white tail on his chin & the old lady with all the white fur on her head, we stopped the car for our picnic lunch & who should share it with us but Cockey, Auntie Angela & her 2 little sisters. Cockey said that he was on his way down to stay with me & sure enough when we got home there he was. This time he stayed for nearly 3 weeks & when he went I cried & cried & so did mistress. It was not long after this that mistress told me that poor little Cockey had died & I suppose that is why I haven't seen him since & Auntie



Angela always comes alone. Twice we have been to stay with her. She has a big room at the top of a house where cars & things go past. She also has a kitchen with some interesting cupboards.

My Auntie Croie is the one I know next best. She loves me & makes me toys. Once she tied some paper to a long piece of black cotton & pulled it along for me - now mistress does this for me sometimes. She says she wants to live with us & I wouldn't mind if she did.

I have an Auntie Spike, 2 Auntie ~~Angela~~ Helens, another Auntie Angela - whom I have not seen - or an Auntie Barbara. I must say a few words about the last mentioned. When she <sup>comes</sup> ~~is~~ alone she ~~no~~ seems to quite like me, but when anyone else is here she pretends that she doesn't like pussies at all. I have to call her ~~several~~ several times in the mornings as she doesn't like getting up.

I think I have some more Aunties whom I have not seen.

I have almost forgotten my Nanny. She used to come ~~down~~ to tea quite



often & once she stayed for the weekend & mistress didn't come home for the night. That was a long time ago & I hope it won't happen again because I shouldn't be happy with out my mistress at night now.

\* Next chapter at back of book.

Our New Home

I had visited the house two or three times with mistress & I knew that there was a dog who lived there, all the same I was surprised when we went to live there as I was so used to our last place. Mistress would not let me outside alone & I still went to school every day in the car. Then one day after we had been shopping I suddenly felt very sleepy. I slept all the afternoon & evening & couldn't touch my supper. Every time mistress touched me it made me groan, & next day was just the same. I didn't care very much what happened but that afternoon mistress took me, in my basket to see a man. He stuck a long needle into me & then we came home again. I did not want any food but mistress <sup>helped</sup> made me <sup>to</sup> swallow an orange pill. This made feel quite human as I had seen my mistress taking pills. Next day at school I had some chicken jelly out of a jar & then



I spent all the rest of the time sleeping. Soon, however, I felt very much better and didn't like going to see the man again or the needle which he stuck into me.

After this mistress seemed to think it was her turn to be ill, & her head was so bad that she couldn't play with me at all & didn't like me talking to her. It was during this time that we didn't go to school but instead Aunty Angela came to stay. This was very nice because she plays some awfully good games with me. When she went away again, Aunty Croie was here - oh, I think I forgot to say that she lives with us all the week but doesn't come home on Fridays. Aunty Croie plays some nice games too, but sometimes she frightens me. After a bit we started going to school again & I had to stay in the car all the morning but went into school in the afternoon - you may notice from my story that I learnt quite a lot!

The dog who lives in the house is called Micky & he says he likes playing with 'cabs' & why won't I play. I tell him that mistress & I are both very nervous - of different things, of course - but I will play when I'm more used to him. I don't like it when



he comes into our rooms & walks about looking at things, so I follow him round.

One day a very funny thing happened. When mistress & I came back from school there was a tiny little thing covered with fur playing with Micky. Mistress said it was a kitten. I was awfully frightened of it especially when it ran after me. My mistress seemed to like it - & she likes Micky too - so the time I like best is the evening when I can have her all to myself.

Since this kitten appeared I haven't been to school. I've stayed here with the window open & we both go in & out. Sometimes, we go into the part of the house where the kitten lives, but I don't tell mistress much about this as she may not like it. However, I had to one day because I was inside the back door & she was looking for me so I had to call to her to let me out.

Besides Micky & the kitten there are other things in this new home. There are two geese which make very funny noises when I try to get near them. They are about the same colour as I am. Then there are lots of brown hens, but they stay behind some wire with holes in it



so I can't chase them.

For the last few weeks that I was at school there was a "Mr Man" who used to give me a little bit of his dinner nearly every day. Usually, I don't like men, but it's rather different when they give me food.

Lots of the children from school write letters to me & some of them can't even spell my name. Every evening I have to write back to them so I pretend I'm a teacher too & ask them questions or give them sums to do.

Then life ~~is different~~ <sup>changed</sup> now. One awful day Auntie Crocie went for a walk and the kitten followed her. When she came back she was carrying the kitten which had just been killed by three chows up the lane. The lady who owned Micky & the kitten said she couldn't bury the kitten so mistress & Auntie Crocie did. So for some time everything was rather quite then an Auntie Anne came to stay with her cat who was very much like me to look at & was called Seti (pronounced "Say-tie") This was great fun & I showed him round & played games with him. In one of the sheds near the chickens house I knew



These were some rats. Now mice I could kill by myself but these rats were bigger & I couldn't ever catch them but with Seti's help I caught several. They were not nice to eat so we just put them on mistress's doorstep.

Then mistress had a letter to say that the man with the white tail on his chin was ill so she had to go to see him. He went away & so did the old lady with the white fur on his head so Annty Anne, Seti, & I spent a lot of time helping mistress to clear everything out of their house.

The lady who owned the house had a daughter who came to stay with her sometimes. One day she brought ~~two~~ a little kitten with her for the lady. Next day the lady told mistress that she had lost the kitten because she took it into the garden to play & forgot it when she came in. So Mistress & I went to look for her because she might be very frightened of the geese or Micky. Suddenly I heard a little cry & there she was stuck in some netting over the strawberries. Mistress got her out & took her to the lady. Next time the lady's daughter came she had



another kitten with her. It was a funny little thing without a tail. Both kittens were shut out that night & we were wakened by an awful noise. Mistress jumped out of bed, went outside & discovered a big tom cat attacking the kittens, so we had them in our flat for the rest of the night.

The kitten who lived in the house was often shut out at night after this & when he came to stay, so was the one without a tail, and nearly every time they landed up with us because the big tom cat was so nasty to them.

After several weeks I heard the lady talking to Mistress & saying that she was going ~~to~~ away to live in London & taking Micky with her. Mistress said, "What will you do with the kitten?" She said, "Oh, I don't know." So Mistress said, "Please may I have her?" And she said, "Oh, I wish you would." So Tabifa got a new home & a name that evening and we were all delighted. We called her Tabifa because she had tabby fur. She ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> a sweet little thing and ~~was~~ always very polite to me - getting off mistress's lap when she knows I want to sit there & things like that. It is great fun now because wherever Mistress



& I go Tabifa goes too. Sometimes we call her Biffy for short.

Another Move

Mistress said she was going to have a nephew or a niece. I don't know how she knew but she did. So we went to stay with Auntie Shirley & Uncle Paul. They had a dog & a cat but we all got on well together. Soon Frances<sup>ces</sup> was born & she was so small I just could not believe it - a human being smaller than I was.

We stayed here for about a few months & then went to stay for a bit with Auntie Angela. She had moved & now lived, up lots & lots of stairs, in two rooms. She was a teacher too, & so went out every day, leaving the three of us in her flat. Mistress would take us in the park for a walk - we ~~had~~ each had a harness & were tied ~~into~~ one on each end of a rope while Mistress held the middle.

Yet Another Home

One day we started very early and drove through a lot of fog to a very big house. The whole house belonged to Mistress she told us but at first



Biffy & I were shut in a small room with our basket, our water bowl & our toilet tray, so that we should not be frightened by furniture & things being moved. It was very exciting to think that this large house was all ours, because, of course, if it was mistress's it must be ours too. Next day, I found a door open so I explored the garden & my goodness what a big garden it is. When I came in again mistress was very relieved to see me because she thought I might get lost. Of course, I didn't.

It wasn't long before mistress bought a puppy. She was a golden coloured puppy & was called Mistic or Misty for short. Then a black kitten came to live here. He was called Mistletoe or more often Tosey because Mistress said she felt silly going out in the garden all the year round, shouting "Mistletoe" when he hadn't come in.

Mistress doesn't go out to a school to teach any more but she has children to come here to live or to stay. This is very good because we don't have to stay at home alone for long & most of the children are quite nice.







One day I brought in a thing which I had caught in the garden. It looked like a big worm & I had trouble getting it through the window & up the stairs. I played with it for a bit & then went to sleep. I woke up when Mistress came home & gasped. She thought it was something a cow had done & couldn't think how a cow had got under a table after coming upstairs & getting in through a tiny window. And where was the cow now she thought. Then she saw what it was & said, "Oh, Phouquey you mustn't play with snakes. They might hurt you". She got a little shovel & picked it up to take it downstairs. As she got to the doorway it went "woosh" & made itself all long & fell off the shovel. She jumped over it & it tried to catch her as she jumped. She fetched a stick and pushed it under the snake. Then she opened the window & threw it out. She called me to see it where it had got stuck up in a tree but it soon fell down & went away.

Another day I was walking in the garden next door when I heard a dog coming so I ran up a tree & when the



dog had gone I found I couldn't get down. So I had to wait for hours till Mistress found me. She tried all sorts of ways to get me down. She got a long pole with a piece of wood on the end then she put some meat on this & held it up to me but everytime I tried to step on it it moved. When it was getting dark she went away & fetched a man with a ladder. He climbed up & carried me down. I was glad to be safe in Mistress's arms again.

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## We Move House

Mistress changed her job so we had to go to live somewhere else. We had a temporary home in the house of a little old lady who had a cat of her own. She was rather frightened of me because she had never seen a Siamese before & thought I might eat her cat so I had to stay in Mistress's bedroom when we were ~~not~~ ~~out in the cat~~ indoors. Every day Mistress took me with her in the car when she went to school. She stuck brown paper on the windows so that the children would not frighten me because she had to park in the playground. I didn't like all this very much but one day mistress said she had been told to take me into her classroom as long as I behaved myself. This was great fun and I enjoyed walking all round the room and getting to know the children. One boy had to move his desk up against the door so that no one could come in and let me out without Mistress knowing. When I was tired of wandering round I curled up in a big box in the corner of the room or climbed up onto a high



cupboard. When I was up there I could just see everyone over the top of the blackboard. At lunch times mistress took me out to a field on a long rope & in the evenings ~~she~~ we went for a walk like this too & whenever we met a dog mistress would pick me up.

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