

Pumpkin's story is published in the new “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Best Cat Ever” book!



An unexpected feline visitor finds her way into my heart — and onto the pages of a new book.

What began as an unwelcome intrusion into my life has turned into a story worth sharing with readers across the country.

I'm delighted to announce that my personal essay about Pumpkin, a curious, mischievous little cat who arrived uninvited and eventually claimed my home as her own, has been published in the newest Chicken Soup for the Soul collection, “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Best Cat Ever.”

You'll find Pumpkin's story on **page 170!**

Anyone who has shared a home with a cat knows that felines have minds of their own. They can be affectionate one moment, aloof the next, and remarkably skilled at getting exactly what they want. Pumpkin is no exception. What she lacks in size, she more than makes up for in personality, persistence and an uncanny ability to make herself comfortable wherever she pleases.

But beneath her mischievous antics is a story about an unexpected relationship and the surprising ways an animal can change our lives.

My essay is one of 101 true stories selected from thousands of submissions for this latest Chicken Soup for the Soul collection. The book celebrates the many ways cats enrich our lives, from their amusing escapades and peculiar habits to their remarkable resilience, companionship and capacity to provide comfort when we need it most.

Some stories introduce heroic cats, while others feature natural comedians, devoted companions and independent spirits who decide for themselves where — and with whom — they belong. The collection also shines a light on rescue cats, including black cats and senior felines who are too often overlooked at animal shelters.

For me, having Pumpkin's story included in this collection is especially meaningful. After decades of writing professionally, I've had the pleasure of seeing my work published in magazines, newspapers and books. But sharing a personal story about a little creature who unexpectedly found her way into my life — and my heart — brings a different kind of satisfaction.

And as for Pumpkin? She remains blissfully unaware of her newfound literary fame. She's far more interested in her next meal, hanging out with my nextdoor neighbor in his work shed, finding a comfortable place to nap and supervising whatever happens to be going on around the house.

“Chicken Soup for the Soul: Best Cat Ever” will be available Oct. 27, 2026, at bookstores and online retailers.

The 368-page paperback retails for \$16.99.

[Learn more about the book or order your copy from Chicken Soup for the Soul. :](https://www.chickensoup.com/book/best-cat-ever)
<https://www.chickensoup.com/book/best-cat-ever>

And if you pick up a copy, I hope you'll turn to page 170 and meet the little cat who turned an unexpected visit into a permanent place in my life.