

Cat People Story – Outline

The story knows itself better than you do.

Part I. (Freda teaches Oboy how to hunt; who he is)

Comment [A1]: FALL

Cause & effect

Hot Pursuit

1 Outside pet shop, Oboy watches Freda outrun cop

Comment [A2]: Freda represents an intensity, a pathology, a tragic or pathetic grandeur

Oboy rescues stranded cockatoo – Freda watches

Would the story be the same if an action hadn't happened?
Does the action change the story's outcome?

Oboy nurses sick pup; Freda cases pet shop

Kidnapped

Make It Matter

Freda breaks into shop, steals birds

10 She leads Oboy to Dollhouse, in la Favelle

What initially attracted me to the material?
The challenge of overcoming limitations of language in order to tell a story
What keeps me working at it? The strange violent beauty of this world

Oboy panics, but does not know how to escape

Comment [A3]: Freda has to gain Oboy's trust, form a bond or identity – she reads to him, gives him 'toys' (ketchup packet)

A Doll's House

Freda reads Raggedy Ann to Oboy

Know thy purpose

What's at Stake?

21 She expounds on gentrification, Hausmann

1 Freda tells of Swan finding her Dollhouse

Comment [A4]: Freda builds Swan up as a savior type—Oboy sees him murder a street kid first thing

Freda goes out to hunt

Comment [KA5]: Oboy burns fingers on candle flame—he's never seen a candle before

Freda reads Raggedy Ann to Oboy

Get your hero in trouble and keep him/her there.

3rd person limited – the central intelligence narrative; lends itself to irony and ambiguity

Security system goes off

Freda kicks out trespassing Aurolac kids

2 Freda invokes Swan's name

Straight chronological structure-ease of reader apprehension mitigates peculiar delivery

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Cat People

Freda shows off her 'library'

Plot vs. presentation

25 Freda tells Oboy they are genetic hybrids

Comment [A6]: "But don't take my word for it."

Shopping Spree

37 Day 24: Freda gives Oboy his tools

Act I:
The introductory gesture, presenting significant characters & their world as well as the revelation of a problem/ predicament that interrupts the flow of everyday life.

Freda uses bubbles to lure Oboy to market

She speaks of her past, the collectors

She details the possibilities of their purpose

Freda introduces Oboy to shoplifting

She leaves him w/ bubbles while she goes to work

Oboy trips out on the crowds of Shoes

Verisimilitude: to have the appearance of

Freda flees with stolen food, Oboy following

She tells Oboy she must help him fit in

Freda talks to Oboy of loneliness & loveliness

Comment [A7]: "The Favelle is next to fall."

Bon Appetit

Later, Freda shows Oboy how to dumpster dive

45 **3** Freda tells how Swan gathered her & others

Oboy won't dumpster 'dine'

Freda takes him to restaurant, begs for scraps

*Fiction is a defense against chaos.
Fiction assumes we can understand life.
- Christopher Leland*

The Pet Thief

Freda trains Oboy to steal pets

Act III:
Complications lead to a moment where the order that characterized the world at the story's outset is altered – followed by the denouement, the falling action, in which change is dealt with by imposition of a new order, or *not* dealt with, leaving character, life & world out of control.

She takes him on her 'route,' springing cat traps

Comment [A8]: 1 trap has cat?

Find one cat has gotten itself trapped again

They break into flat & steal cat

1st requirement to increasing intensity: create a connection between the reader and the protagonist. ▼

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Later, Freda reads aloud article about theft

4 Freda talks of Swan as king of the cats

Up on the Housetop

Freda & Oboy survey city from rooftops

King of the Cats

5 Oboy sees Swan & Pirates in rooftop chase

82

Swan has alleged traitor killed with bat

Swan grooms victim, watches head bashed in

Part II. (Freda teaches Oboy how to appear human)

Render Unto Caesar

Swan returns to dollhouse w/Freda, Oboy

6 Swan, charm and menace

Freda puts Oboy in hall

Swan and Freda make love

Miss Manners

Freda wants Oboy to behave like 'neurotypicals'

94

She sneaks the two of them into the movies

CACI comes, Freda & Oboy run

Oboy & Freda escape on bus, talk to prostitute

They arrive at library to hide, ~~wreak~~ *'mayhem'*

Freda talks Fox in Sox, gets Raggedy Ann books

Reads newspaper classifieds, takes paper

110

Rips missing poster off bulletin board

Who? Peoples story
What? Events occur
When?
Where? } story takes place
How?
Why? Events came about

2nd requirement:
central problem must be significant – failure to solve it must promise disaster

3rd requirement:
a progression through time which reduces the protagonist's choices to 2, 1, or none, tightening the situation (plot as inverted cone)
▽

The Poetics, by Aristotle
6 elements of Drama:
1. Spectacle – costumes, scenery, stage effects, facial expressions
2. Lyrical poetry – (music) sound makes sense
3. Diction "expression through choice of words"
two and three may be combined into 'Language'
4. Thought – theme; overall msg of work; mentality of characters, intellectual motivations, rhetoric
5. Character – set of inherent qualities in imitation of a human being
6. Plot – structure or framework; underlying pattern; problem w/ an uncertain outcome

Comment [A9]: Freda drawn to Swan due to attraction to violence
Comment [A10]: Dainty, simmering, roughs up Oboy? Freda coaches him how to avoid being hit?

What is humanity

Swan: wants that one big score
Swan: "Never keep secrets from me."

Comment [A11]: to appease Swan/

Language: phrases & sentences create the smaller units (character, setting, personality, etc.), or *microbook* of the novel

Comment [A12]: Freda washes up? How does library factor in later? Do they hang out to get warm, dry off? Freda looks at books on pet birds?

Long sentences create sense of time overlapping time, past as part of present

Short sentences convey tight sense of immediacy

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Shell Game

Freda assists Dainty with the shell game

They con an unsuspecting mark

Front Page News

Spectacle may equate w/ sensationalism – sex scenes are spectacle

Comment [A13]: WINTER

Freda reads newspaper exploits to Oboy

Comment [A14]: Swan reads the papers, too -- takes Freda's birds to sell - foreshadows taking Bunny

Cat Scratch Fever

Plot :
chronological structure underlying the story

If we don't care about the main characters, we won't care about their problems.

Aristotle:
characters should be lifelike – unique, yet recognizable as people
Consistent – behavior must be stable, identifiable
Appropriate – must 'fit' circumstances
Good – so reader may sympathize or

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Freda shares their mythology

castoffs of science, bureaucracy & big business

Freda's goal is to free all pets from their owners (Except dogs & fish)

Freda shows Oboy the scar on her lower back

She shows Oboy his scar

Hausmann Cometh

The novel must be interesting.

Comment [A15]: collapse of the city: objective correlative to Freda's collapse?

Freda attempts to seduce Oboy, but...

Construction crews level bldgs near Dollhouse

Freda monologizes about gentrification [see pt1]

Character: inner qualities & how they determine choices made in given situation – cannot know character w/o character undergoing test (the plot). w/o struggle of test, potential remains unrealized & character is a cipher.

Comment [A16]: PIII: sneak into movies? Dumpster dive? Beg for scraps?

7 *She talks of moving to Florida w/ Swan*

Bird Watching

She & Oboy troll the marche aux oiseaux

Comment [A17]: steal clothes from rooftop clotheslines; steal candles from funeral procession; Freda takes Oboy on street market shoplift

They tail a couple that purchases a rare parrot

Thought: argument or process of thought in characters' dialog

Comment [A18]: Book she stole from Library

Freda reads stolen bird guide, talks of escape

Comment [A19]: freda & oboy attempt to get free pet; get turned away; break in later?

Freda steals pastries from sidewalk café patron

We access characters' minds when they speak to others. We don't know anything about characters until they say or do something.

We know characters from what they do.

Comment [KA20]: Freda 'tests' Oboy on his understanding/knowledge of architectural terms as they relate to climbing

She steals sweater hanging from clothesline

The two note the couple's flat—for later

Freda tells Oboy he will hunt on his own now

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Swan's Way

Comment [A21]: Swan almost discovers Bunny; does Dainty see Oboy & Freda w/ Bunny?

Oboy surveys city solo, is surprised by gargails

Oboy 'talks' to the gargails

Gargails warn Oboy of Swan's approach

Readers must identify or sympathize with the

176

SSwan and company pursue Oboy over rooftops

Comment [A22]: Swan figures out Freda & Oboy had sex -jealous, controlling

Swan brushes Oboy's hair; Oboy faints

Awakens in courtyard; Swan pontificates

Oboy finds kitten, offers to Freda: 'Baby'

Comment [A23]: Kitten caught in trap?

Freda rewards Oboy w/ collar & tag

Complication stirs desire or regret: Freda was an abused child; does she break chain of abuse? Or perpetuate it?

Love is a Stranger

Freda has sex with Oboy – smokes H?

Comment [A24]: Should sex scene/bird eating occur later?

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Freda teaches Oboy vowels using semaphores

Mythos - plot

Freda confesses to eating a bird

Plot movement: Predicament : Struggle : Outcome

Flashback: scenes from the past that interrupt the chronological flow of the story.

Plan B

Oboy fails to steal rare fig parrot

He surprises the parrot's owners having sex

They scare him off; parrot escapes

Complication: illuminates, thwarts or alters what the character wants – puts emotional pressure on character, prompting character to act with purpose, not simply react: reactions don't tell us anything different about character.

Freda's revenge story changes

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Oboy steals a baby he mistakes for a rabbit

Freda is enraged & horrified—**S**"Swan will shit"

←The Pivot – a climax that occurs near the midpoint of the story.

Freda assaults Bunny, tries to suffocate her

Oboy, scared, nurses Bunny

Choice: get rid of or keep Bunny?

Comment [k25]: Conflict in Freda becomes family building vs self-destruction (taking Bunny & Oboy with her)

Comment [A26]: Not what Freda wanted

Basic preps?

Jamais Dire Jamais

Freda, anxious, reads article on kidnapping

Point of departure: motivation for the character to act differently than someone else in the same circumstances. Shows us what makes character tick.

Just don't bore the reader.

She struggles with what to do

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Freda uses newspaper to make diaper for Bunny

“Diaper” falls off

Freda decides to keep Bunny

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10 “We can’t tell Swan.”

Savonnerie

Freda wants a baby to right the wrongs inflicted upon her—why she fabricates cat people story & steals pets
Freda will fail as mother because Bunny is not her baby; moral dilemma asserts itself despite Freda’s lack of morality.
Freda is physically emotionally &

Comment [A27]: Freda comments on how good Oboy is w/ the weak & vulnerable--wishes she were that way

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While hunting, Freda has Oboy steal a rug

Freda wants to make Dollhouse a home

Supplemental Nursing System

Freda nurses Bunny using SNS she stole

She lactates, to her joyous surprise

For Freda: keeping Bunny means keeping a secret which means betraying Swan

Comment [A29]: Bunny as Helen of Troy, taken as baby, not bride; Oboy as Paris?

220

Freda confesses her desire to be a mother

Lone Rearranger

The beginning of the story can be different than the beginning of the plot.
Plot: acorn to oak; Story: oak to acorn

Comment [A30]: Bunny, you’re not really a normie, either—brilliant!

Freda, Oboy, Bunny go to library

Freda talks of robbing Mister

Oboy watches Rozlyn tend to wig

Every 1st person story is really about the effect of the story on the narrator.

Comment [KA31]: Sex: Oboy replaces Swan in Freda’s affections?

233

Freda talks of going to FL **11**w/Bunny not Swan

Selling stolen pets, stealing pets again

Freda exits; Oboy waits w/ Bunny

Rozlyn comes, foretells doom—“The Cozzers!”

Security comes, pursues Freda for rearranging

Freda flees, leaving Oboy, Bunny behind

Leitmotif
Leading or dominant theme. Seems familiar, perhaps subconsciously, and helps provide a feeling of unity.

Tagline:
A line that ends a speech or a scene in mid-dialogue; a cue to further action in the plot; raises curiosity.

The Moral of the Story

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The gargoyles tell Oboy kidnapping Bunny is wrong

Oboy takes Bunny on rooftops, chases pigeons

Beauty, according to Aristotle, is a combination of the object’s order and magnitude.

Comment [A32]: Freda tells Oboy to take Bunny and go, because Swan is coming over

Comment [A33]: Other gargoyles try to warn Oboy?

Comment [434]: Oboy give Bunny bubblegum; tears off wrappers in delight?

Story should be logical & inevitable but not predictable.

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On way back to Dollhouse, they find a stray puppy

Oboy brings puppy back to Dollhouse

Enraged, Freda throws puppy out window

Bunny stands, crying; Freda astounded

Paper Chase

Bunny has an ear infection

Freda & Oboy take Bunny to clinic

The clinic will not perform service w/o pay

Nurse suspects somethings out of place

Freda, loses her cool, turns violent

Hustlin'

Freda has Oboy play Daintys shell game

Oboy picks out the pea each time

Dainty tries to cheat, but Oboy is not fooled

The enraged mob pursues an incredulous Dainty

Flush with money, Freda & Oboy return to clinic

Mid
Preps?

Fashion Victim

Freda, Oboy & Bunny escape to Dollhouse

We learn the trio are almost caught at clinic

Paranoid, Freda talks of military & psychotronics

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She makes foil hats to conceal them

“Maybe they put them in normies, too”

“If someone tells you to stop, you run”

Comment [KA35]: Puppy pees on savonnerie; Freda flips out You've ruined everything!

The pressure cooker that is the plot is the only way to change a character in any significant way.

Comment [436]: AMOXICILLIN

Pointless flashbacks only confirm what the reader already knows. The direction of the story doesn't change.

Find the beginning . Start after that.

Core
is a frame story.

Comment [A37]: What does Freda do with the money? She buys SNS and tries to buy antibiotics.

Morality (good vs evil) is an important aspect of

Comment [A38]: Freda installs babygate Dollhouse? Tip off to Swan?

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Close Call

The best stories have nothing irrelevant in

Comment [A39]: Freda teaches Oboy how to evade blows, knows he's going to get 'taxed' – "Don't let me hit you!"

12 Swan makes unannounced visit to Dollhouse

Oboy and Bunny hide in cabinet

Swan allows incensed Dainty to take savonnerie

Swan pulls Freda's hair, menacing her

Swan suspicious, marks Freda, exits

The best flashbacks should comment on what is happening in the story's present, not simply add more information.

Climax: near story's end, 'the catastrophe' to the Greeks; the 'overturn' or 'downturn.'

Comment [KA40]: "I like what you've done with the place – you expectin'?" "What's with the rug?" baby toys? Oh, those are Oboy's. "He have a ball of yarn, too?"

Comment [g41]: what else does Freda do to nest? Paint? Steals batteries, lanterns, respectable, fuck candles

Time Running Out

Construction hole across street gets deeper

Freda says they must step up their work

Catman's best friend

Comment [A42]: SPRING

Oboy discovers Doberman pup in burgled flat

Comment [A43]: breaks from Freda -- thinks for himself?

He Ain't Heavy

Create an unbreakable causal chain.

Comment [A44]: Replace w/ Freda & Oboy taking Bunny to clinic for ear infection? Run when nurse calls police?

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Oboy encounters a mentally disabled boy

Oboy, spotting a 'brother,' tries to 'rescue' him

Coincidence makes for inconsistency.

Comment [A45]: Oboy has to hunt solo while Freda stays home w/ Bunny?

Uses bell ringing to lure boy back to Dollhouse

Comment [446]: Also uses bubblegum?

Oboy, spotted as missing person, is almost caught

Coincidence as resolution, like the *deus ex machina*, is cheap; however, coincidence can work at the beginning of a novel.

One way of looking at character is to see that the plot presents a series of choices to the characters. Each choice further refines readers' sense of who the character is. Each choice also increases the danger

Parkour Pro

Gendarmes pursue Oboy, who drops m.d. boy

Oboy dazzles in his escape

I

Oboy discovers dead birds in garbage can

Comment [A47]: Birds begin ripping out their own feathers, fighting among one another prior to this point

Freda rants at Oboy for his gaffe, beats him

Comment [A48]: Possessives? Articles? No

Freda takes Oboy's collar away

Comment [A49]: What of cats and other pets?

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She then tells him she loves him

Comment [KA50]: You idiot, why do you keep bringing home the wrong things?

Oboy discovers Freda has stolen Pretty Boy

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An Old Friend

Oboy sees Mister in Pretty Boyd’s mind

Pretty Boyd says they must escape

Freda tells Oboy to lie w/ her & Bunny

Oboy rebels, departs Dollhouse

Part III. (Freda learns about sacrifice)

Green-eyed Monster

13 Swan & Vivians lie in wait, capture Oboy

Dainty tries and fails to beat & stab Oboy

Swan, disdainful, issues Dainty the top hat

Oboy faints, Bunny cries, Freda comes

To the Rescue

Oboy revives, alone

Sees Aurolac kids robbing Daintys corpse

Inside the Dollhouse, he sees birds are gone

Pretty Boyd comes out of hiding

PB: Swan took Freda, Bunny, & all birds

Oboy and Pretty Boyd find the Gargoils

The gargoils show where to find Freda, Bunny

Oboy takes off, Pretty Boyd in pursuit

Kill the Rabbit

14 Oboy and PB scale Swan’s hideout

Swan exposes Freda’s Grand Illusion

They are not genetic hybrids; Freda’s crazy

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Flashbacks and flashforwards establish the importance of the present moment, and can add a sense of irony or tragic inevitability (for example, a happy moment leading to disaster).

- Comment [A51]:** Another 'test' over which Oboy defeats Dainty?
- Comment [A52]:** Swan or gang member sees 'Missing' poster for Oboy?
- Comment [KA53]:** How the boidies dyin? Swan says. You petulant killin them?
- Comment [454]:** Dainty?
- Comment [k55]:** Segue?

Freda now can't give Bunny up, certainly not to a sociopath—again, not what Freda wants—but she also doesn't want to cross Swan. The only way to save Bunny is to return her to her rightful home.

Comment [A56]: How does Swan find out about Bunny? Dainty? Concubines? Sees baby toys, Freda says they are Oboy's? Holds up clipping: 'You're not the only one who uses the library.'

15 Swan wants to sell Bunny, else...

A scuffle ensues—Bunny falls, slides down roof

Comment [A57]: How does Swan's threat jibe w/ desire for big payday? *Loses buyer due to aggressive behavior by Freda, or Freda threatens to call cozzers*

Chase Is On

Oboy escapes w/ Bunny, Pretty Boyd, birds

345

16 Swan & Vivians pursue Oboy, Bunny, P B

Comment [A58]: Oboy runs along plank; when he reaches end, PB hollers at him to kick end off parapet, sending VG to her doom; PB has the dirty fighter mentality Oboy lacks; helps him triumph

Oboy is repeatedly attacked by Vivian Girls

Oboy miraculously defeats each one

Oboy, descending bldg, discovers Rollo

17 Swan catches Oboy, beats him with a cane

Swan breaks window

Rollo lunges, attacks Swan—they fall

Swan dies impaled, incredulous, on his hairbrush

Comment [459]: Hoisted on my own pi pi pi cough cough

Rollo dies

Comment [460]: final nursery rhyme?

Homecoming

Pretty Boyd leads Oboy back to Mister

Comment [A61]: Mister doesn't recognize Oboy in his outfit

Oboy relates his story to a stunned Mister

Oboy faints from traumatic stress

He dreams Raggedy Ann and Andy

Rude Awakening

Oboy awakens to find Mister has called police

Oboy flees pet shop

The serious plot moves character from predicament to development. It is the progress toward the resolution of a predicament that transforms character. What is Freda's predicament (character flaw)? *Abusive, unloved and unloving*
What is Freda's development? *Becomes a*

Comment [A62]: Time problem?

The Sky Is Falling

Oboy returns to find Dollhouse demolished

He retreats to Gargoils

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End of Freda

Comment [A63]: Oboy doesn't understand--can't leave--is finally chased away

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Gargoils spy Freda on rooftop

Oboy chases her over rooftops, catches

Comment [A64]: Hair flashes Stay away Get away from me you idiot running No no no dum ditty dum ditty catman comes

Freda, bitter, despondent, beats Oboy

Protagonist * desire * antagonist

Freda talks about identity & 18Swan selling out

She has article on discovery of her menagerie

She, ~~high on heroin~~, jumps from rooftop

Comment [A65]: W/o her story, either cat or motherhood, Freda has no identity – she is nothing

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Oboy comforts dying Freda, tells Raggedy Ann

The story is the sequence of events that leads to the protagonist's overcoming or succumbing to that which prevents the realization of his/her desire.

Who's story is this? Freda's. Who's the POV character? Oboy. Freda changes, Oboy doesn't.

Throughline: an abusive loner learns to love

Detailed: Science, Govt & Business have created genetic hybrids of cats & humans, ultimately a failed experiment, the damaged products of which inhabit the city

Freda teaches him who he is; teaches him how to behave; teaches him how to hunt; they become a family with Bunny; life or The Street

PI: We learn who Freda & Oboy are (make-believe) PII: We learn who they are becoming (parents/grown ups) PIII: We see them fail at both identities (Oboy teaches Freda how to be human, to nurture, to love selflessly) (Oboy learns about loss)

introduce articles, prepositions, possession, the 'whole' rather than parts, faces, the lie of Freda's story

Comment [A66]: This part has Freda trying to build a home w/ Oboys help, but she fails, due to her own weakness/predicament (abusive), Swans' complication

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