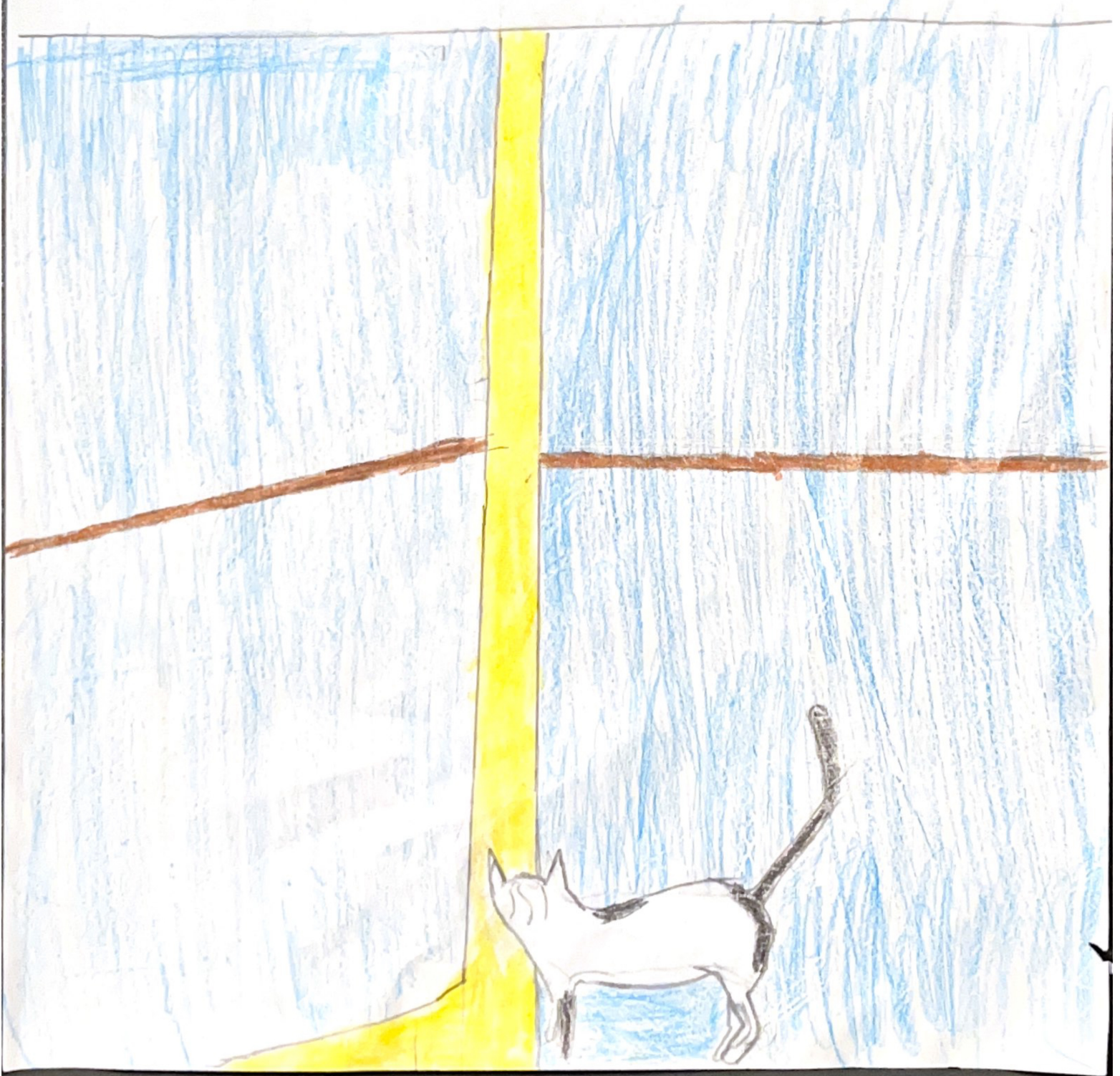


The unknown Outdoors

by Lydia W





When I look out the window, I see a small mouse scurrying under the flowers. My tail flicks across the window, ears up. That mouse could be mine. Just this morning, I caught my cat-toy that looked just like him!



Wait a moment, I can't believe it, my
girl left the window open! I know
I'm not supposed to go outside, but
if I do, I can catch the mouse!
I slip out the window.



I crouch to pounce, but I'm seen!
"A chase?" I think. In and out, round about,
I chase the mouse. "Oh, I almost had
him." Out of the yard the mouse leads
me. Wait, where did he go? He was here just
a minute ago.



As I ponder this, a shadow falls over me. Great big talons loom overhead, an enormous hawk is gliding toward me. I run this way and that, trying to dodge the treacherous talons.



I dart into a hollowed-out log.
I can still hear the terrifying squawking
of the enormous bird, Thump. Thump. Thump.
My heart beats so loudly, I feel
all the forest can hear it and send
predators to eat me.



Why did I ever disobey my girl? We always talked about how the out-dopre was no place for a little white kitten like me. Why did I ever want to be here? Trembling, I know I am completely lost. This is the end of me. I would get eaten and no one would even know. This was all my fault; all of it, I wanted to be here in the first place!



And that's when I heard it, "Sinus?
Come back Sinus!" My ears shoot straight
up! My girl, with tears streaming down her
face is coming to rescue me! I meow
with all my might!



My girl runs toward me, picks me up, and hugs me tight. I purr as loud as I can so she knows just how excited I am that she came. I lick my girl's face. Then, at that moment, I know that I will never ever leave my girl again.