

Kitty and Axel  
Story One

It is early morning in Fairfax. Kitty and Axel sit behind the long gate waiting. The morning breeze carries the scent of the garden. Axel raises her nose to sniff. Stella barks good morning from across the street, and Kitty responds with a furious yapping, irritating to the neighbors who are still sleeping, or were.

Before long Hercules, the white Chihuahua, comes along with her friend who's wearing pink flannel pajamas. Kitty and Axel wag their tails furiously, giving little yelps of pleasure. Hercules's friend brings them treats, which, as we all know, is the only way to dogs' hearts.

None too soon Carl takes Kitty and Axel to the park. They are very relieved to run around and poop. They also chase and retrieve tennis balls and sniff the garbage cans, which every morning are overflowing with beer bottles and other signs of nights enjoyed by the teenagers.

The bandstand is deserted now, but last year there was a marvelous play there. Kitty and Axel attended one evening and enjoyed it very much. They found delicious popcorn and other things to eat beneath the seats. Much to their dismay, they were removed too quickly. They hope there's another play this summer.

Before they're ready, Carl takes them home and once again the gate is closed. On Mondays Axel has her hormone pill. After breakfast of kibble and scrambled eggs, the dogs take their places behind the fence. They are vigilant about who walks on their sidewalk. Right or wrong, it's their belief that they own it, at least the small piece in front of the gate, and that it's their job to keep watch.

Soon something will happen.

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