

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
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BD I've the two dogs, em, and my cat. She died in just the first week of the Easter holidays there. She was 23.

KPC What happened to her? Oh, she just aged, then?

BD Very old. Em, we, we were going to Westport [*coughs*], to Louisburgh for the week, em, to take my dad away. And mummy and daddy left in the car and me and my sister were going to take her car and go.

KPC Mm.

BD And my sister was late, and the cat hadn't been too well and I'd taken her to the vet and he'd given her a drip, but she was still acting really funny. And I'm standing in the kitchen waiting for my sister, and the next thing the blood was like, it was like a horror movie.

KPC Oh, no.

BD The blood coming out of her. And I just started sc... because I knew the minute I saw the blood it was the end of her.

KPC Mm.

BD Just knew it. Screaming, absolutely screaming. Started phoning my sister, she was going to have to take us to the vet. And it was a Sunday...

KPC Of course.

BD ... so we had to get to the emergency vets, which is way up East Belf... I'm North Belfast, and it's way up East Belfast.

KPC Mm.

BD And I knew no taxi was going to take us with a cat vomiting blood. So I'm phoning, she's not answering, because she knows, 'She thinks I'm late, and she's phoning to go where am I?' So I'm on the phone, on the phone, the phone, phoning her husband, you know, he finally answers and I'm screaming. He's going, 'Oh, my God. What's wrong? What's wrong?' I was going, 'John, just

tell her not to start back and just get into the car and get down...’ screaming, absolutely screaming. Got to the vets, and the vet was like, ‘I don’t know what your own vet has been telling you, but this animal’s very ill.’ And I was going, ‘He was saying she was looking good for her age.’ And he was like, ‘She’s so thin.’

KPC

Mm.

BD

And I was going, ‘Well, she never was a big fat cat’, because she only had three legs, so she losed a... used a lot of energy up.

KPC

Mm.

BD

She was only born with three. Em, and, eh, she was the runt of the litter. Nobody wanted her...

KPC

Ah.

BD

... and I went, ‘Well, I’ll have her.’

KPC

Yeah.

BD

And 23 years later...

KPC

You still had her.

BD

And it’s actually my mum’s best friend, whose daughter wants to get married in Italy, they... it was one of their kittens.

KPC

Oh, right.

BD

Em, so, eh, he had said, you know, ‘We’re going to have to put her down’.

KPC

Ah.

BD

And I was like, ‘I know’. And I was going... because I would never have an animal in pain, because I’d had to put down a dog before...

KPC

Mm.

BD

... and it was horrendous, but I wasn’t going to have one of my beloved animals in any kind of pain.

KPC

Mm.

BD

And I wasn’t also prepared to go to Westport and leave her...

KPC

No.

BD

... if she wasn’t put down.

KPC Not at all.

BD Because I'd loved her for 23 years, and what? Just abandoned her in her death to go to Westport?

KPC Mm.

BD Em, so I phoned my mum and dad and they were like, 'Do you want us to come back? We're only at Enniskillen.' And I says, 'No, yous go on.'

KPC Mm.

BD Em, 'We'll come down the next day'. Because I had said that I want another day with her.

KPC Mm-mm. Ah.

BD So I brought her home and we had a cuddle and, em, I think she kind of was like, you know, 'Just let me go. I've had enough', you know.

KPC Mm.

BD 'I'm sore and I'm tired eh want no more'. [*coughs*]. So we had her put down and my mum's friend came with me. And I was in a terrible state, screaming...

KPC I'm sure you were.

BD ... and crying like a banshee. And it was like the whole vets were so upset afterwards. And May had gone on the way up to the house and gone up to the Abbey Centre and got a really nice stiff cardboard box...

KPC Right, so you could put her into.

BD ... with cats on it.

KPC Ah.

BD So we put her in the blanket, eh, or in the towel, and put her in, and she's buried in the back garden beside her beloved Jango, the dog that we had...

KPC The dog that you had.

BD ... when, em, she was only a tiny wee kitten. So the two of them are underneath the rose bush...

KPC Mm.

BD ... and it was like, it had to be done that way.

KPC Yeah.

BD So we went to Westport then a couple of days later. But it was kind of like I didn't have a chance to mourn, because I didn't want my dad to see that I was upset about being away, and the cat...

KPC Exactly, yes.

BD ... so it wasn't until we got home, and then I was home a day and then I was away off on a field trip...

KPC For your degree?

BD ... to Portaferry, for, it was for the Marine Ecology one.

KPC Mm.

BD So then was away off for another week, didn't have time to think about it then. It wasn't until I got home and I was like, 'She's not lying on my bed'.

KPC I know.

BD You know, because I would come in...

KPC Missed her.

BD ... and she'd come running and she'd be like, 'Agggh', because she used to talk to you all the time.

KPC *[laughs]*.

BD She used to be like, '*[noises]*....' and you'd go, 'Is that right? Is that right?'

KPC Thinking she was making sense.

BD Uh-huh. And she'd like talk to you, and I was convinced she could say, 'Brigid'. I was convin... I would be like, 'That's her saying 'Brigid''. Em, but it wasn't until then...

KPC Mm.

BD ... it was kind of... and the dogs. My mum and dad had taken one of them, and we were taking the other one. So one dog completely missed out, whereas I'd always been told, if an animal dies, let its other animals in the house see it dead.

KPC Mm.

BD Because if you don't, it'll go looking for it. And it'd be like, 'Where, where's the cat?'

KPC Where is it?

BD ‘Where’s the cat? Where’s the cat?’ So Bonney, who’s a Springer, and has the brain a size of a peanut...

KPC *[laughs]*.

BD Thick as treacle that dog. But she got really upset.

KPC Ah.

BD And, eh, you know, I would go now to her, ‘Where’s the pussy cat?’ You know, and she’ll just look at me and look out to the garden. Because she lay on her grave for a week, you know, and the other one was like, ‘What’s going on?’ Because he never really bothered with the cat, anyway...

KPC Mm.

BD ... so he was very... So I was like, you know... and that’s kind of behaviour. And I’m interested...