

THE RAT KING (CONT'D)
I could have you executed for all the damage and turmoil you have caused, but Leo plead your case well. Therefore, until you can replace the food you've lost, you are hereby exiled from Sewer City!

RANDALL
What about all the things Leo said about me being an asset? You can't just banish me!

EXT. THE SURFACE - THE ENTRANCE OF SEWER CITY - LATER

Randall is flung outside into pouring rain with a small box of his possessions. The entrance shuts.

He slowly picks up his belongings off the ground and sees a old, yellow newspaper.

ANGLE ON: The King Endorses Leo the Pack Rat as Randall's Successor

Randall tears the newspaper apart and stomps the shreds into the asphalt.

RANDALL
That good-for-nothing, repulsive pack rat! I swear if I ever get my hands on him...

A nearby bush rustles. Out pops Leo.

LEO
Hi Rand-

Randall jumps at Leo and pins him to the ground. Thunder booms in the distance.

RANDALL
Give me one reason I shouldn't tear you to shreds right now.

LEO
Ok, I'm sensing you may be a bit... miffed with me-

Randall squeezes his arm.

LEO (CONT'D)
Ow! But I'm here to help you, honest!

RANDALL

Oh really? Just how do you plan on doing that, huh?

LEO

I want to show you how I bring back so much food to Sewer City!

Randall's grip loosens.

RANDALL

(skeptical)

Why?

LEO

I feel bad, okay? Earlier, you were right. It was my fault the pigeon came and it's my fault you're kicked out now. The least I could do is try and help you repay your food debt.

Randall lets Leo go. Leo holds his arm and winces.

RANDALL

I don't want or need your help repaying my debt. I'll figure things out just fine. Always have, always will.

LEO

Please, let me do this one thing for you. We can tell the King it was all your idea, I swear!

Randall looks Leo up and down. Water splashes around them from cars zipping by, but Randall's gaze does not falter.

RANDALL

Fine. Try not to give me a reason to change my mind.

Leo smiles and leads the way. Randall does not reciprocate, but follows. The two run along the side of the road.

EXT. THE PLACE WHERE THE CAT RESIDES - MIDNIGHT

Leo and Randall scale up the side of a building. They cross a plethora pipes and balconies, all the way up to the window of a small studio apartment.

Leo continues forward to a small hole in between the window frame and brick wall of the building.

Randall follows close behind but notices a long strand of black fur on the outside of the window frame.

INT. THE PLACE WHERE THE CAT RESIDES - CONTINUOUS

Leo lands from the hole in the wall with a light patter. Randall thuds on the hardwood floor. He recovers and looks up to find a pair of yellow, glowing eyes looking at him from down the hallway. He blinks and the eyes disappear.

Leo climbs up to the rafters. Randall follows behind. Once in the rafters, Leo sits down. Randall sits across from him.

RANDALL

(whispering)

Ok, I've followed you here. What's this hidden secret of yours?

LEO

You're sitting in it. This apartment is my revolutionary tactic for where I get all my food. Now, you can use it too! Plus, you could maybe stay here since y'know you're exiled and all.

Randall doesn't respond. He squints at Leo and turns away. Leo shrugs and gets comfy. The two fall asleep.

INT. THE PLACE WHERE THE CAT RESIDES - MORNING

Leo shakes Randall awake. Randall almost yells at him but Leo covers his mouth and points down.

A HUMAN (20s, dressed in business attire) walks out of the bedroom to the front door. The creak of the door echoes throughout the apartment followed by a slam.

LEO

I hope you're ready because I'm gonna teach you how to steal from a human's stash.

Randall rolls his eyes.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

-- Leo leads Randall into the kitchen and hops down to the cabinets. They're full of snacks, treats and cat food, but are protected with mouse traps.

-- Leo teaches how to avoid getting snagged by mouse traps.

-- Leo and Randall stuff their arms with food. Randall attempts to take some of the cat food, but Leo slaps his hand.

-- The two leave and bring the food through an air vent on the floor and leave all of it in a pile.

-- Leo uses a piece of gum to mark their goal of how much food to steal. Randall looks worried but Leo pats his back.

-- The two continue to steal food and their pile gets bigger and bigger.

-- Their food pile is one score away from reaching the wad of gum.

-- In order to reach it, Randall sneaks a handful of cat food and puts it in the pile.

END MONTAGE

INT. THE PLACE WHERE THE CAT RESIDES - NIGHT

The two climb up from the air vent and screw it shut. They head back to the rafters.

LEO
You are really getting good at
this, Randall.

RANDALL
I have always been a fast learner.

LEO
I can see that!

Their liveliness dies down as they get ready to sleep. Randall fiddles with his paw.

RANDALL
Hey, Leo, I have a question. Why
did you feel the need to help me in
the first place?

LEO
Hmm... that's a good question. Can
you keep a secret?

RANDALL
Literally who would I tell?

LEO
 Ha, fair point! I guess it started
 when I was a kid.

INT. PACK OF PACK RATS - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

A YOUNG LEO walks around. Shoved to the ground by LARGER PACK RATS. Each one holds some shiny object.

LEO (V.O.)
 In my old colony, our worth was
 entirely based on who had the
 shiniest object, so we'd fight and
 sabotage each other all the time to
 stay on top. It was vicious.

Young Leo watches in horror as OTHER PACK RATS tear each other apart over petty riches.

LEO (V.O.)
 Too vicious, so I left. I didn't
 have anywhere to go and I somehow
 stumbled across Sewer City.

EXT. SEWER CITY - EVENING

Young Leo walks up to the entrance of Sewer City.

INT. SEWER CITY - CONTINUOUS

Young Leo is awestruck by the environment. He walks slowly to take it all in and talks to many of the LOCALS.

LEO (V.O.)
 Everyone there was so kind and
 cooperative. A complete culture
 shock, but I liked it. Liked it so
 much that I adopted the philosophy.

INT. THE PLACE WHERE THE CAT RESIDES - NIGHT - (BACK TO PRESENT)

Randall leans back on a support beam as Leo continues.

LEO
 The philosophy that us, rats, have
 to stick together! So here I am,
 paying it forward. Anyway, all that
 reflecting has me tired. Night,
 I'll see you in the morning!

Randall doesn't respond. He stares at Leo as he sleeps. Randall is backlit by the moonlight as he heads down to the air vent. As he unscrews the vent, he's met with the pair of glowing eyes, except this time, Randall can see the whole figure.

MIDNIGHT, a black cat with yellow eyes and black pupils, places its paw down on Randall. Randall squirms under the pressure.

MIDNIGHT

Tsk, tsk. Y'know I don't mind when the human's food is stolen. They hardly ever notice. If it were up to them, the same would go for my food too, but unfortunately for you, I notice when things go missing.

Midnight presses harder onto Randall's body.

MIDNIGHT (CONT'D)

At least now, you get to pay what you owe.

RANDALL

(weakly)

Wait... what if... I told you... I could give you... another rat?

MIDNIGHT

I'd be intrigued but wonder what's the difference between that one and the one I'm about to eat right now.

RANDALL

The rat... it's much sweeter... more tender than I am... You'd feel more full...

Midnight salivates and releases her pressure off of Randall.

MIDNIGHT

When could I receive such a delicacy?

RANDALL

Tomorrow morning.

MIDNIGHT

You have piqued my interest. However, I do warn you. Do not skimp out on me or else I'll have two rats for dinner.