

Cats and Dogs  
By Lydia

Cat owners and dog owners are two different types. Dog owners demand hugs and obedience. Owner and pet statuses are well defined. The owner demands the pet to be well appreciative of the human's desires, and to be totally obedient. Cat owners value liberalism and demand mutual respect, with their respective own privacy, just admiring each other from a distance will do.

My Cookie is famous as an arrogant feline. It is master of the house, and I am its handmaid. Mr Rupert Chan's Chocolate is a lovely puppy. Chocolate also brings inspiration for creative writing. Rupert Chan won a prize with Chocolate's autobiography. This book has already been published. Chocolate and his owner appear on the cover in high spirits too.

Mr Rupert Chan has a profound grounding in literature. He is a maestro in Hong Kong's drama circle, and a modest scholar. He is re-opening his drama review column in *Hong Kong Economic Journal*.

The book is an interesting one for light reading. It is full of wit and humour and must not be missed. His grounding in literature makes his writing style intriguing and elegant, which leads to easy reading and touching effect.

Fat Cookie is all of a sudden eight years old. Not as active as before, it spends more time in catnaps. This winter it takes the initiative to jump onto the sofa for warmth. I was at first surprised by its sudden change in character. Is it becoming an 'old granny' and hence softening and hoping to be more intimate with me? I wonder whether it is changing because of ageing, or finally coming round to adapt to and blend into this household? Every time I watch it, it is sleeping soundly. When I call it, it looks at me with sleepy eyes half open, gives a soft meow, and goes back to sleep. I only hope that Fat Cookie would enter middle age with no trouble, no emotional discomfort, no sudden fits of temper, but rebuild relations with me, enjoy company, and heed me a little once in a while, that will be enough. Am I hoping for too much? Should Fat Cookie turn into a dog, I fear nobody would like it.

Translated from the Chinese column "Mrs Mak's Homework Exercise Book" in the *Hong Kong Economic Journal*, 28 March, 2011

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