



The Eye of the Leopard

By: Amzie Yurko

Dolor Set Amet

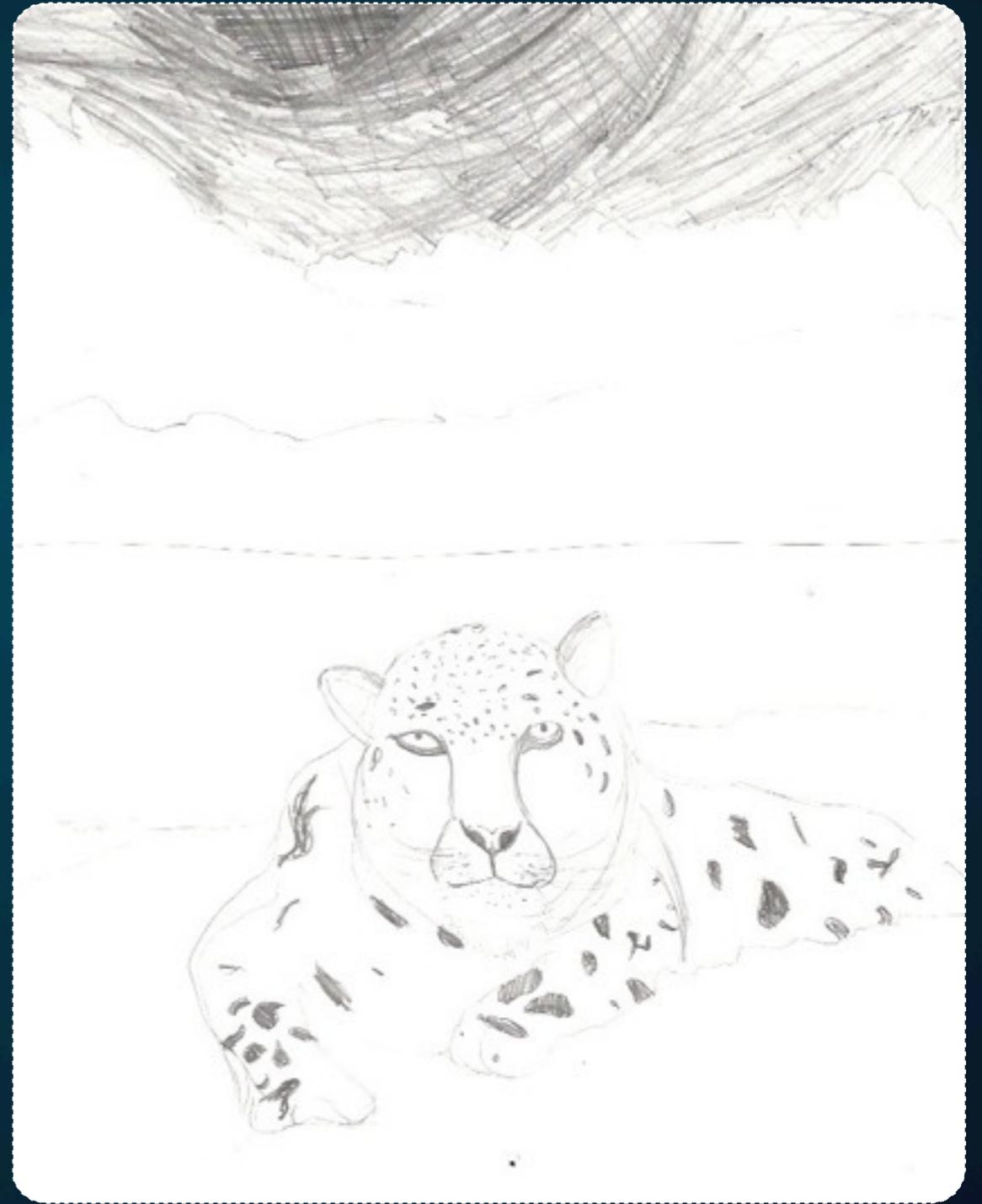
To Mom-
For always being there to save the day

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Uncalled For

A young woman named Katy hiking through the mountains wouldn't realize that this day would change her life forever until years later. Hiking up a steep slope, she felt exhausted. "I've been hiking for hours!" she exclaimed, "I need to take a break." she laid down and was starting to drift asleep..... "What was that?" A rustling sound was coming from



the bush of to her left.

“Hello?” she whispered. Katy had always been afraid of the dark, and even after months of therapy, this wasn’t helping. She picked up her bag and walking stick. Just as soon as she took a step, something big, white and furry lunged at her. It knocked the wind out of her, but to make things worse, a sharp pain exploded from her neck. ‘It’s gonna kill me’, she thought. ‘This really stinks.’ But then it left. Just like that, it left. Gone. Disappeared.

Katy stood up, despite the fact her body ached like crazy. “Ow”, she groaned. “What was that?” She pulled a guide book out of her pack. Flipping through the pages, something caught her eye. ‘A snow leopard?’ She thought. Katy started reading, finding nothing to help her understand why it would attack her. They only attacked if threatened. ‘And they would feel threatened if someone or something invaded their territory’. “Duh!” She yelled. “why didn’t I think of that! I should’ve been more careful.”

Katy was tired, so she built camp but was prepared to leave in the morning. She dreamed nothing would happen to her but had nightmares of what could. Before the first glimpse of sunshine, she was up. Packing her things, Katy headed back to the public camp. She caught the cab home just in time.

She decided not to talk about it since her roommate, Tammy, would be worried. The moment she got back to her apartment that she shared, Tammy, pulling some orange juice out of the fridge, was drowning her with questions. “So, Katy,

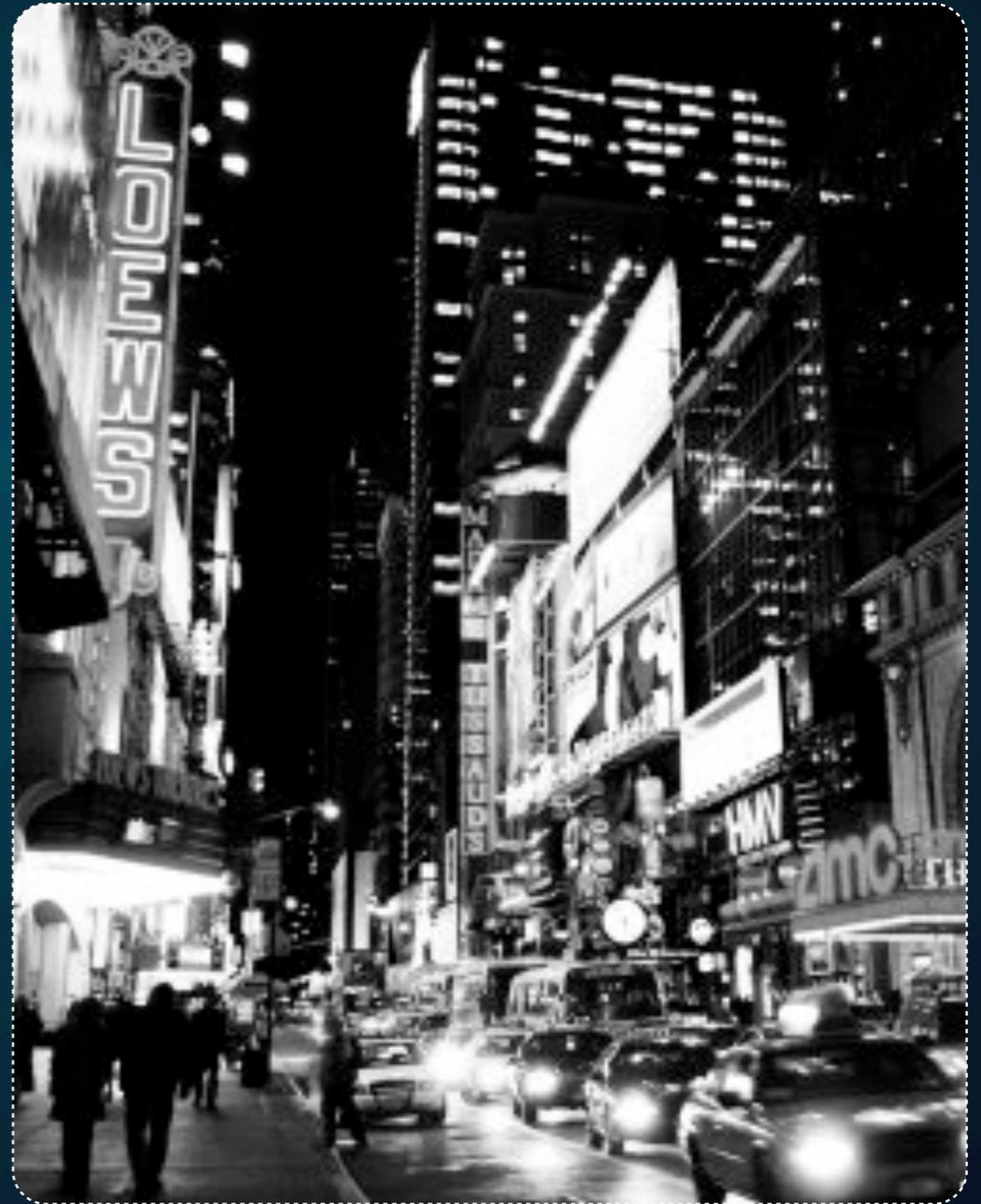
how was the trip?” she asked in her unique (read: slightly annoying) voice. “Did you make friends? Can I see your photos? How many animals did you see and *what* is that monstrous thing on your neck?!”

“Oh, nothing,” Katy lied. “ I slipped and my neck landed on a pine cone.”

Luckily, Tammy did believe her. No one ever asked what that soon-to-be scar was from. And she knew if anyone ever did, she would say it was a pine cone’s fault.

Ten Years Later...

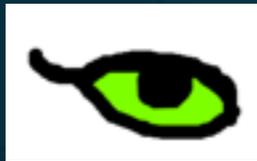
Walking down Wall St., Kathy was *really* stressed. She was going to be late for work, and with a final warning. “Oh, man,” she whispered under her breath as she looked at her watch. It was too late for a cab, so as fast as you could in heels, she ran. So absorbed in her own problems, she didn’t see where she was going. “oof.” She knocked into a girl that looked



about 18. “Oh, I’m so sorry sweetheart, are you OK?”

The girl scoffed, “Yeah, just bug off, ‘k?” She kept walking and Katy felt hurt. ‘How come no one likes me? I need friends and a social life.’ Her last boyfriend was from high school and he dumped her before prom, just for some girl that everyone liked (Note: not everyone. She had always been Katy’s archenemy). Katy knew she should’ve stayed with Tammy. Why hadn’t she? Oh, Tammy...

She snapped back to reality and flew down the street, slipping into her building, just to run (literally) into her boss. “That’s three times, Duncan”, Melissa said. “Yes, Ma’am.” “ Don’t dillydally! Get to work! You’d better make up for the lost time.”



Katy sulked on the subway all the way home. She felt completely unloved. She had no friends (mostly because of her freak-show of a neck), no boyfriend and most of her family had passed away or she was a disgrace to them. The only reason anyone liked her was because she had saved New York plenty of times, but no one knew it was her doing the work.

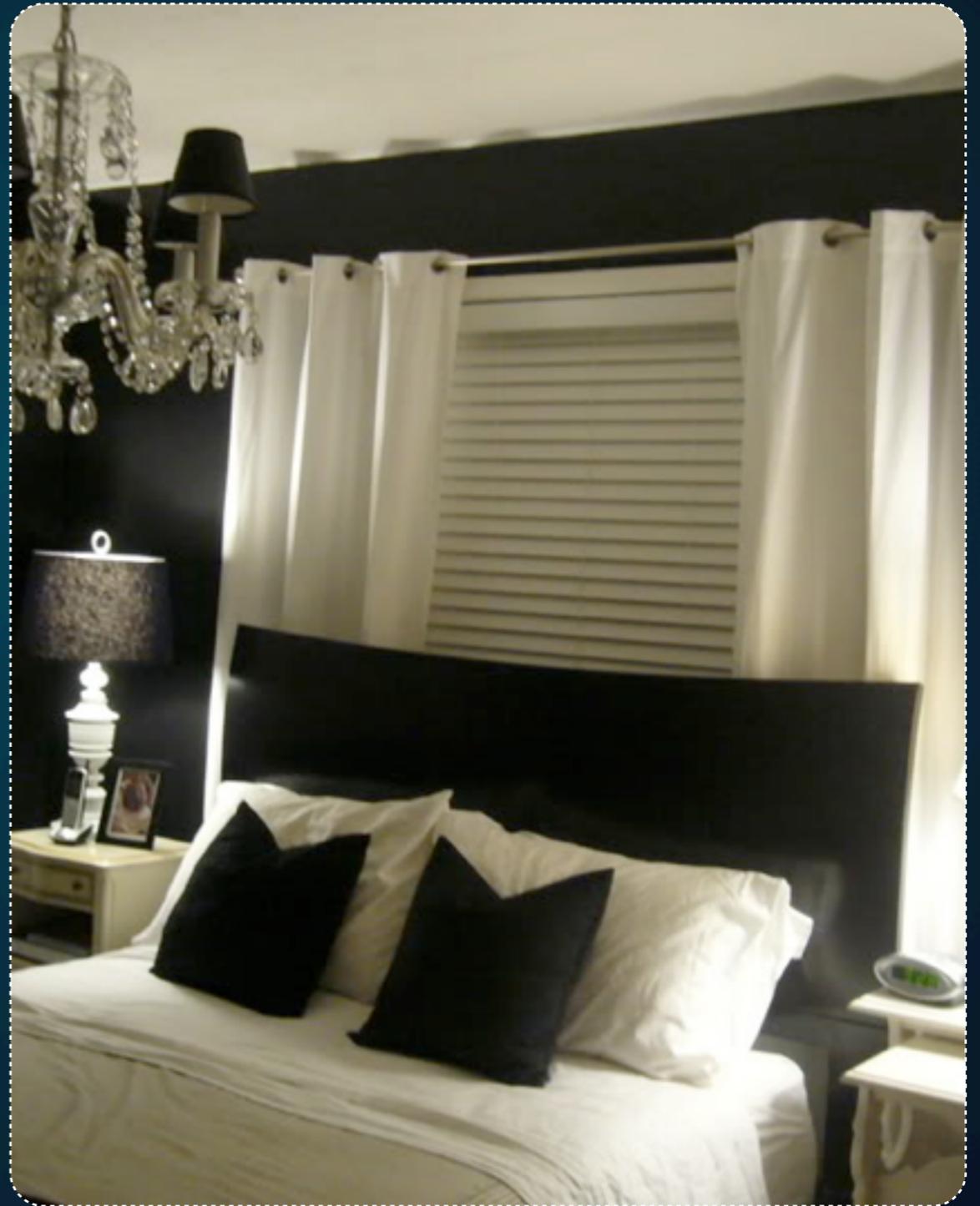
Katy jumped up at her stop (half-heartedly) and walked home. She decided to give online dating another shot. Why not? She had nothing to lose anyway. It was around 10pm when she got a notification that someone wrote back.

Katy jumped out of bed and saw, “Message from David Yelinski”. She looked up his profile and he lived in her apartment complex! Katy was kinda freaked out that she hadn’t met him, but he had written, “Seen you around and you seem cool. Why don’t we hang out sometime?” Wow! Someone wanted to hang out with her! Maybe life wasn’t so bad for her after all!

She wrote back immediately and said, “Sure! How does tomorrow sound?” Around 10:30, he wrote, “Sounds like a plan! Meet me at my place around 5. I live in 103B. See you then!!” Katy felt like she could just burst with happiness. She fell asleep quickly, desperate to see what tomorrow might bring.

The Scream of a Lifetime

The next day, after work, Katy skipped happily to David's place. She knocked on the door and he opened up. "Hi!" Katy squealed. "What's up?" She came in and gasped. For him living in a small apartment, he made it feel like a large house. Carpets and blankets all over the place and colorful decorations. He lead her over to a small table and



gestured for her to sit down.

“Wow! This place is amazing!” Katy breathed.

“Yeah. It took a little while, but it was worth it.” David said.

“So...” Katy and David talking for a while and they both knew there was something special about each other. Eventually, they sat down on the couch to watch TV. The news popped up and showed aerial views of Manhattan. It showed smoke and a tiger-like lady terrorizing the area. “Oh, no.” Katy whispered. “What?” David asked. “I can change the channel if you like.” “I’m sorry, David, I really like you but I’ve got to go.” “But...” Katy was already gone.

Katy ran outside and towards the column of smoke. She went into a building near by and slipped into the women’s room. She ran out but it wasn’t Katy Duncan that everyone saw, but the White Leopard herself. “The White Leopard!” a man screamed. “GET PICTURES!!!!” yelled Katy’s boss.

The White Leopard ran into the chaos to hear a scream to high and loud, she thought she would just die there on the spot. She ran to see a woman running with her baby out of the smoke. The Leopard kept going until she saw the menace. And stopped dead. And stared. She had *definitely* seen her before and this wasn’t going to be pretty.

You've got to be kidding me

It was the girl Katy had bumped into yesterday. “You’ve got to be kidding me!” the Leopard yelled at the sky. The girl picked up a car, threw it at the sidewalk and started walking towards the White Leopard. “What do you want?” she sneered. “Your name.” Katy replied calmly. “You could call me the Terrible Tigris, but I prefer ‘The Girl That’s About to



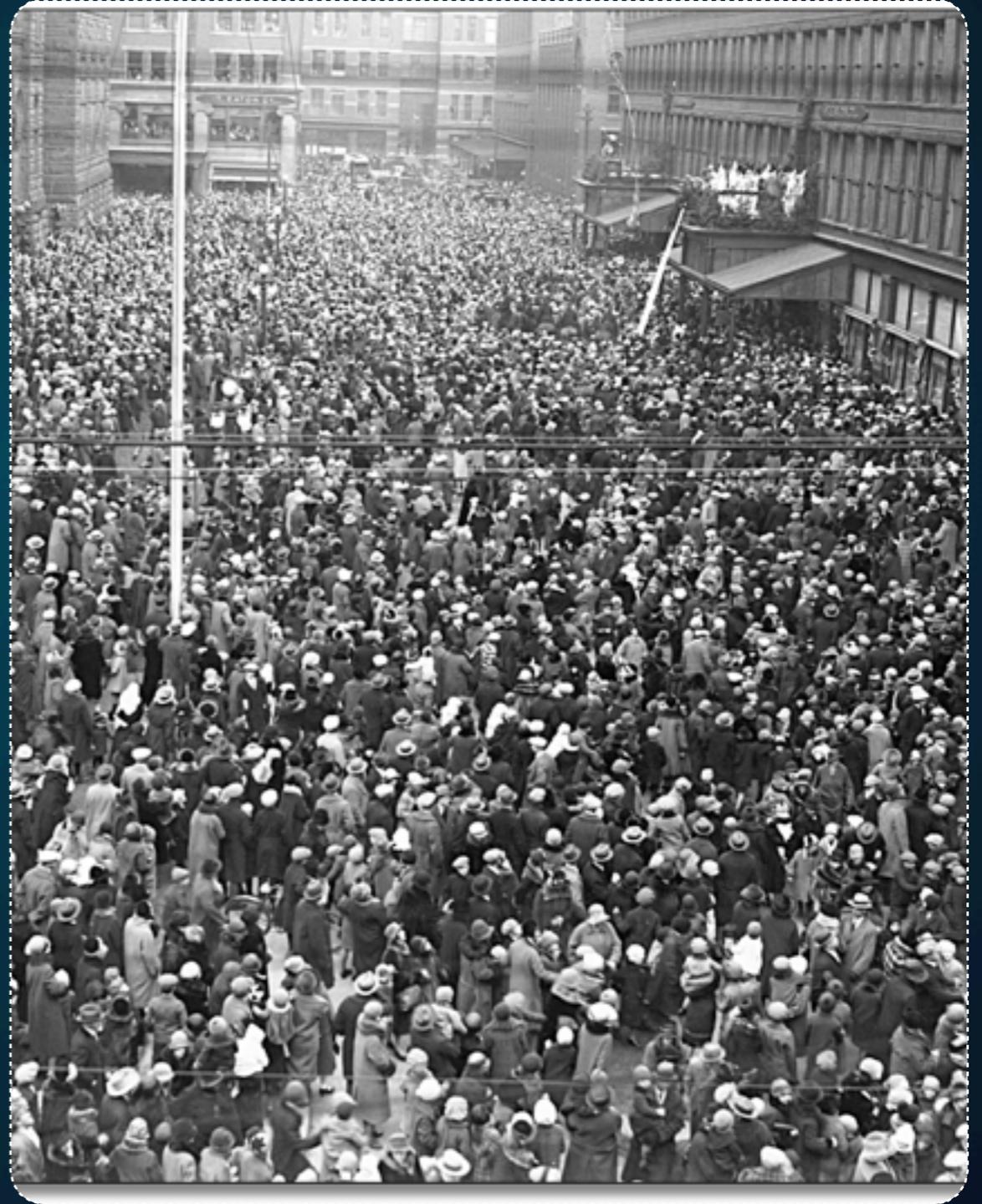
Kick Your Butt.” “We’ll see about that.” said the White Leopard. The Terrible Tigris narrowed her eyes, “Bring it.”

They lunged at each other. Leopard ripped out her dagger and pierced it into the Tigris’s heart. She screamed as she fell to the ground and Katy landed on her feet. She smiled but was instantly filled with regret. She wailed, “Oh my God! I killed her! Oh my... oh my... oh...” She ran to see a limp body and knelt down. “oh, no, oh, no, no, no, NO!!!!” She picked the cat’s body and wept. She felt something change and heard, “What are *you* crying about?”

Katy gasped. “You’re alive!” “Yeah, stupid! I’m right here!” Katy tried to hug her but the kid shoved off. “Just for the record, you may have saved me, but it doesn’t mean I like you.” she said as she stood up and started to walk off. Leopard sighed, “Kids these days. They never learn.” Then she said louder, “Hey! Wait! What’s your name?” The kid turned around and said, “Why would I tell you? You’ll just turn me in to the police. But, you can call The Terrible Tigris.” Katy could feel her smirk all the way from where she was. The Tigris disappeared into the smoke and the White Leopard could start to hear sirens. She walked out of the mess, not eager to see what damages would cost + the city wanting to pay her money for saving them once again.

In the end

The White Leopard walked out of the smoke to a cheering crowd. When the first person saw her, it was flashes of bright light, snaps and microphones everywhere. “What was the menace’s name?” “What happened?” “Where are they now?” “Was is hard?” “How is your life?” “Is there a special man out there?” She was just straight up *tired* of it!



“LISTEN!” Everyone was silent. She took a deep breath. “Listen. I’m sorry. I understand you guys are curious, but how would you feel if your normal self was barely loved and then after you are tired from fighting people, big or small, people drowned you with questions? I just want to go home.”

She slowly walked home, and in her apartment, changed back to Katy Duncan. She knocked on David’s door. “I thought you were tired of me.” He smiled. “What was that all about?” She laughed. “You’ll find out someday.” He joined her. “I sure hope so.” Katy smiled. Maybe life wasn’t so bad after all. She had finally found her happy place with someone she really cared about.

THE END!!!

About the Author: Amzie Yurko



Hi! My name is Amzie and I live in Durham, North Carolina. I am the author of "The Eye of the Leopard" and I had a lot of fun doing it and I think everyone should write a book sometime in their life, it's really fun. I'm 11 years old and in 6th grade. I go to Rogers-Herr Middle School, it's a really cool school, I like it. Durham is a really great place and I'm at Discovery Tech right now, this is the camp that I'm in, really, really fun. I like being here. It was really fun to make the book. Bye!!!