

**TOM AND JERRY KNOCKOFF**

by

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FADE IN:

**INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

A MOUSE scampers across the floor, followed closely by a CAT.

The mouse barely makes it into the safety of a mouse hole as the cat, unable to stop in time, flattens itself against the wall above the hole.

The circular shape of the cat clings to the wall for a moment, then slowly peels off and falls to the floor like a furry pancake.

CAT  
(through gritted teeth)  
Ouch.

MOUSE (O.S.)  
(triumphant)  
Ha! Serves you right!

The furry pancake grunts as it strains and bulges, until a tail pops out...

Followed by a rear end and legs, then...

Finally the fully-formed cat pops into being, lands on its butt and shakes it's head dumbly at the audience.

The dumbfounded look turns to determined anger as the cat leers toward the mouse hole.

**INT. HOUSE - CLOSET - DAY**

Cat sits at a drawing table with a piece of blank paper in the dark with only a single bulb lighting a tight circle.

He's chewing a pencil and thinking deeply.

Aha! A moment of inspiration overcomes him and he scribbles feverishly on the paper at an angle we can't see.

When he's done, he smugly puts the pencil behind his ear, holds up the paper to view his masterpiece we still can't see, and declares...

CAT  
Yes!

**INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

A huge block of granite is suspended from a thin wire several feet above a small piece of cheese on a plate outside the mouse hole.

We follow the wire to the ceiling where it passes through an eye bolt, then...

Across the ceiling through another eye bolt, where it turns on a 90 degree angle until it reaches...

Another eye bolt, then turns 90 degrees downward and around the corner of a open doorway to...

**THE DINING ROOM**

Into the paws of the cat, who snickers evilly as he peeks around the door at the cheese in front of the mouse hole.

He settles down on his behind, prepared to wait as long as it takes to crush his quarry until..

**FROM BEHIND THE CAT**

The mouse creeps up and taps him on the back.

Startled, the cat turns around, sees the mouse, who smiles and waves at him.

MOUSE

Hello.

CAT

What the...

MOUSE

Goodbye...

The mouse races past the cat at a rocket-like speed and through the door.

The startled cat lets go of the string and rockets in the direction of the mouse into the...

**LIVING ROOM**

The mouse is fast, but the cat is hot on his heels as the mouse disappears into the mouse hole and the cat disappears under the plummeting block of granite with a loud CRASH.

CAT (O.S.)  
(through gritted teeth)  
Ouch.

A furry circle slowly slides out from under the block of granite.

One at a time, four legs and paws pop out of the circle, which lift it off the carpet.

The four legs carry the circle unsteadily out of the shot.

The sound of giggling emanates faintly from the mouse hole.

**INT. HOUSE - CLOSET - DAY**

Cat, with a heavily bandaged head, stares at the childlike drawing we couldn't see before of the granite block trap with a terrified mouse below the block.

He crumples it up, throws it away, and pulls out another sheet of paper.

He stares at it...

FADE TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK: 3 HOURS LATER

**INT. HOUSE - CLOSET - DAY**

Cat sits among a pile of crumpled pieces of paper, holding up a new sheet of paper we can't see.

An evil, Grinch-like grin spreads across his face.

**INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Cat surveys his handiwork. A line of four small pieces of cheese on springs stuck in squares of wood, each spaced about 6 inches apart in a straight line outside the mouse hole.

From under the cheeses are wires leading to large mouse traps, to which are tied straw brooms. Every other 'swatter' is to the left then right, so they will hit between each other.

At the end of this gauntlet is an anvil suspended from the ceiling above yet another piece of cheese on a spring.

The line holding the anvil goes through eye bolts across the ceiling, down the wall and across the floor to the spring.

Cat's left nothing to chance, and sniggers under his breath as he goes around the corner into the...

#### DINING ROOM

Fighting down his overflowing glee, cat leans around the corner and cups his mouth...

CAT  
(projecting)  
Mmm, mmm! Smell that delicious,  
free cheese!

It takes both paws to smother cat's giggles.

He calms himself enough to watch the...

#### MOUSE HOLE

After a few seconds, mouse's whiskered nose pokes out.

It sniffs to the left, then sniffs to the right.

Pauses again, sniffs dead ahead, and freezes.

Trance like, mouse glides into the...

#### LIVING ROOM

And his eyes laser focus on those luscious pieces of cheese.

He licks his tiny lips, wiggles his butt, and hops...

Five times...

Plucking each piece of cheese from the top of its wire, then races like a blur back into his mouse hole without incident.

All the traps are still in place. Unsprung.

Cat's eyes bulge like softballs as he moves, zombie-like into the...

#### LIVING ROOM

He stares at the unsprung traps and his jaw literally 'hits the ground'.

Slowly his eyes reduce to normal size. He reaches down with both paws and physically pulls his jaw back into place.

His jaw sets like granite, His bewildered eyes turn to fiery anger.

Slowly he walks toward his creation, looking closely at the anvil, following the line with his eyes up, across the ceiling, down the wall, and to the spring.

His nose curls in distaste and he snorts...

CAT

Hmmph!

Cat then flicks the anvil with his claw and nothing happens.

Again he snorts...

CAT

Hmmph!!

With an utter look of disdain, cat circles around the trap, tapping each broom until he stops right in front of the...

MOUSE HOLE

Cat turns his back on the mouse hole to look out at his wasted endeavor.

After a few seconds, mouse's whiskered nose pokes out.

It sniffs to the left, then sniffs to the right.

Pauses again, sniffs dead ahead, and freezes.

Then yells...

MOUSE

Boo!

Cat shrieks and leaps into the air, landing right on the first spring...

WHAM!

The triggered broom nails cat right in the head. He's staggered, and totters right into the second spring...

WHAM!

The second broom nails him in the head. He spins around several times and falls over backward on top of the third spring...

WHAM!

The third broom comes down on his face, flipping him over like a tiddlywink, onto the fourth spring...

WHAM!

The fourth broom stands him back up, rotating in a wobble like a ten pin refusing to go down...until he does...on his back, right on top of the fifth spring, looking straight up, at the...

ANVIL

The anvil sways back and forth, creaking on the line, until it drops.

Cat's dazed eyes realize what is happening, and they bug out.

Like a flash, he spins over in a wild attempt to escape yet another pancaking...

...and he almost makes it.

The anvil hits with tremendous force, pinning his tail to the ground.

Cat wails in agony as his momentum carries him away from the dead weight, until his tail reaches its stretching limit...

...and he snaps back painfully against the side of the anvil, turning him, once again, into a furry round pancake, on a lollipop-like stick of a tail.

All he can do is...

CAT

\*sigh\*

**INT. HOUSE - CLOSET - DAY**

Cat sits, heavily bandaged head now accompanied by a heavily bandaged tail in a splint, staring at the crude drawing of the cheese-mousetraps-broom-anvil setup.

His breathing becomes quicker and more intense until he...

Rips it to shreds, scattering the pieces to the four corners of the small cubicle.

He then takes his pencil and snaps it into many small pieces.

All his energy spent, cat puts his head down on the table and sobs.

**INT. HOUSE - MOUSE HOLE - DAY**

Mouse sits, feet on his drawing table (which has four pieces of cheese stacked next to it), ankles crossed, eating the fifth piece of cheese and staring at a piece of paper pinned to the wall.

On the paper is a crude sequential drawing, showing cat being systemically battered with brooms, ending in cat screaming in cartoon agony in the air with his tail pinned under an anvil.

Mouse can only...

MOUSE

\*chuckle\*

FADE OUT

THE END