

Crystal of Everneth by Ava C.

Hi. I'm Erik. Erik Sanderson. A thief known to all because I stole the Crystal of Everneth, the largest diamond in the world. It's encrusted in smaller diamonds, stuck to the diamond with 24-karat gold. But I didn't steal it. It was the elusive Kara Katz. She stole the diamond and blamed ME, the person shipping it to Azkatvan, the Shimmering Kingdom of Crystals. The name suits it perfectly, as everyone there either mines crystals, makes jewelry, or makes really shiny food. Seriously, how do you make it shiny? I was a messenger. Note the word WAS. I'm dead. No, not dead inside, actually dead. And this is my spirit, still here because of one task I still had - to prove to the world I'm just a regular person, and Kara Katz is the true villain.

Erik glided into his old house. People had stopped checking it for the crystal and a small family moved in. But how would I get them to know the truth, along with everyone else? Erik pondered, then had an idea. A marvellous idea. He could persuade the Spirit Guides to let him be mortal again. It would help him figure out more about this family, and interact with them. Yes, that's what he would do. He tried with all his might to transform, and finally became a species of cat called a Katoper. "Woah! I didn't know cats saw like this! It's so... weird. They can't see close? How would they know if there was a mouse nearby?" Erik mewed in his new cat form. He didn't realise he was still inside the house until a shriek filled the air. "

MAMALOOKISSAKITTYMAMACOMEHEREISSAKITTYCAT!!!!!" a baby shrieked, his mom running to the young child. "James, come here!" a familiar voice shouted desperately. "There's a cat in the house- and it looks like it's sick!" the woman yelled frantically. "Coming honey! Should we call the pet hospital? It looks really bad.." the man muttered quietly as he picked up Erik. " We'll call him Rusty, because his fur is the colour of rust." the man exclaimed to the children who just entered the room. "Okay! He looks cute too! Unlike Butter." a young girl nodded, who Rusty guessed was around 5 or 7. She had curly, blonde hair and wasn't that tall. She seemed sassy, as she compared Rusty to another cat. But there was something bothering Erik- who was that unknown lady? Then it hit him. She was one of the people who worked with the Azkatvan Police Department of Theft! Erik gave her a death-stare. She was one of the people who truly

believed it was him who stole the diamond! It was Allie Alison, the person who arrested him in the first place. "Actually, he looks fine. We can keep him at home," one of the older children said. She looked about 15 or 16, and also seemed to volunteer at a vet's office or a shelter. "Okay Janet. We'll keep this cat here. Is it safe for Wilson to play with? He's only 8.."

"He'll be fine, he's pretty old at 8. Just keep Rusty away from Butter." Janet muttered as she walked away, holding a pale yellow cat who gave Rusty (or is it Erik?) the death-stare. "Hi Rusty!" a young boy who Rusty (let's call him rusty now) guessed was Wilson. "I heard some famous thief died a week ago," Wilson noted as he stroked Rusty. "Are you one of those cats that talk? Oh nevermind, they don't exist." he added. "Yeah, I talk. And I'm that dead thief. Don't be scared.." Rusty mewed. Wilson had a very surprised look on his face, but it was excitement and not fear. "You mean you're Erik Sanderson, just a talking cat?!!" Wilson exclaimed, picking Rusty up. "You wouldn't have come back if you were evil.." Wilson muttered to Rusty. "I actually didn't steal that crystal. It was Kara Katz, the world famous owner of Katz Jewelz. I was just a messenger who had to deliver the crystal to her, or else I would be fired. Being a messenger was my life. You should consider it." Rusty meowed, and Wilson's eyes lit up. "If nobody else believes you, I will." Wilson exclaimed, hugging Rusty. "You will be a good person to me, and if you have finished the last thing you need to do to go to the Afterlife, can you come visit me sometimes? Mom would be mad if I lost you, but it's best for you." Wilson continued, holding on to Rusty tightly. "You know what? I'll stay." Rusty meowed and hugged Wilson back. So Erik had found his happy ending after all.