

# Kaitlyn's Cosmopolitan





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## Dear Readers Letter

Dear Readers,

I think we can all agree that everyone's favorite thing to do is talk about themselves, so that made writing this magazine pretty easy. Although, it did take a long time to think of what exactly to write about, since there is simply so much going on in my life.

This magazine includes 5 articles about me. It includes everything about my life and the things that are most important to me. This magazine contains an article about my passion, which is cooking. There is also an article about a moment in my life that changed the way I learned, and of course some extras. One of the extras is about my wonderful cats, Bozo and Everett, and one is my mac and cheese recipe that is a comfort food to me. Lastly, there's a piece that is just all about me. Literally. That's the name of the article.

Thank you so much for deciding to read my magazine. I hope you all enjoy reading about my life, and I hope you learned something about me.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Jay



## Cooking: My Favorite Thing to Do

Something that I love doing is cooking. Most people cook food because they have to feed their families, while some people consider cooking a hobby. For me, cooking isn't just a hobby, it's a passion and something that makes me happy. I enjoy creating things from scratch using a recipe or sometimes just my imagination. Cooking is a great way to save money and to spend quality time with my family enjoying a hot meal. I make a variety of food including food from different cultures and recipes from my family.

My grandfather was the one who got me into cooking. I'm very close to my Grandpa, and we both share a love for cooking. He started cooking more when he was 20 years old, raising my father. He had to find the cheapest way to feed his son, so he always found good deals and used his creativity to make delicious meals. He passed down that quality to me, because now that's one of my favorite things to do.

I used to be really bad at cooking, and I didn't know anything about it. All I knew was that I had fun doing it, so I decided to keep practicing. My Grandpa always helped me along the way by teaching me new recipes and helping with my technique. He showed me everything from the proper way to hold a knife and how to clean a cast iron pan. Whenever my Grandpa comes by, we always cook together. That's one of the reasons I'm so passionate about cooking, because it allows me to spend quality time with my Grandpa doing what we both love.

Cooking is also a way for me to relax. After a long day, I enjoy chopping vegetables and simmering sauces. The smells are always relaxing to me, and the thought of a delicious meal comforts me. Once I start cooking, all I can look forward to is eating the food I'm making. It's therapeutic for me to stand in the kitchen and listen to the sizzling sound of my food cooking and the aromas. My favorite things to simmer are just plain garlic and onion, because they make my house smell amazing.

Cooking is also a way for me to get off my phone and other devices. When I cook, I'm away from all technology. This really helps with my mental health because it allows me to reflect on my day and just think. When I'm sitting in school hungry and bored, I look forward to chopping vegetables in the kitchen while listening to music. Additionally, I find that cooking makes me feel more motivated to do things. After I eat the food that I cooked, I usually feel more up to doing my homework or cleaning my room.

On days when I don't feel like cooking, I usually hibernate in my room or go out with my friends. While spending time with my friends is fun, sometimes I forget to spend time with the people that really matter, my family. Cooking allows me to hang out with my family. This is because when I'm downstairs in the kitchen, my family comes downstairs to talk to me about my day. I get to spend quality time with them while also doing what I love. Once I finish cooking the meal, we all enjoy eating together.

Cooking has overall made my life more lively and I'm grateful that my Grandpa got me started. I hope other people have the chance to enjoy cooking just as much as I do, and I hope that it can become someone else's passion too.



## My Gondola

When I was in third grade, we had a project for Italian class. We were told to build a gondola, the boats that are used in the canals of Venice. I instantly had a few ideas, so my mom took me to the arts and crafts store and we bought some supplies. Once I got home, I began my project. Right off the bat I knew that it was going to be more difficult than I thought it would be. I quickly realized that I needed some assistance from my mom, but she was too busy to help me. I wanted to ask my dad, but he was at work.

Weeks went by, and I eventually finished the project with no help from anyone. I wasn't very happy with the finished product. It looked like a blob of brown clay with little black pieces inside, which were supposed to be tiny people. When I walked into school, I saw that everyone's project looked amazing. I knew that their parents must have either helped them or done the project entirely by themselves, which was very upsetting since no one would help me. I sat down in my seat next to my best friend, Emma.

"Look at my project! Doesn't it look so good?" she asked.

"Yeah, it looks great, Emma." I said as I rolled my eyes.

"Thanks, my mom did it all," she giggled.

Then it was time for Emma to present her project. Once she was done, everyone clapped for her because her project was just that good. I wondered what they would all think of my project.

"Kaitlyn," the teacher yelled, "You're up next!"

I stood up to present my gondola and told them how I made it and what materials I used. I could see on everyone's face that they all thought mine was the ugliest thing they've ever seen. That thought made me want to throw my gondola in the trash and go home. After I finished presenting my gondola, my teacher asked to step outside with me and looked angry.

"What is this? Did you even try?" she asked.

I looked down at my feet and said "I did, it's just that-"

She shook her head and then threw out my gondola. The gondola that I worked so hard on. The one that just didn't look as good as the others. At that moment, all the frustration washed over me and I burst into tears. I felt like I couldn't explain myself, and she wouldn't have listened to me either way. I wanted to tell her how hard I tried and how nobody would help me. The other kids didn't do it by themselves, so why should I have had to? Instead, I just kept crying and never explained myself to her. The look on her face said enough. It was like she didn't even care to listen to what I had to say either way.

I went back to my seat and realized that there are going to be some people that have advantages in life. While that is always going to be the case, I can't sit and cry about it. I made a promise to myself that I would always try my hardest on whatever school work, project, or test that would come my way. This affected me as a learner because I realized that if I could work hard enough, then I can do just as well as everyone else and no more gondolas would be thrown out.



## Bozo and Everett

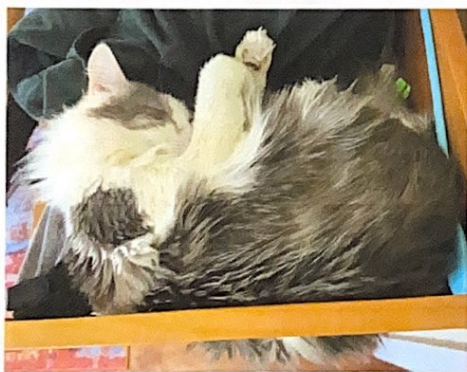
In 2016, my Grandma went to Scotland, and she needed someone to watch her cat, Bowie. We watched Bowie for about a month and quickly fell in love with him. Once he was gone, we decided that we needed a cat. So my mom went onto the Paws website, and we found two brothers named Bozo and Everett.

The website said that they named Bozo because his soft, long fur on his body and tail made him look crazy. They told us that Bozo was a very social cat. Meanwhile, Everett was very shy and timid, but he was a sweetheart. To be honest, I was only interested in Bozo because I thought he was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, but I knew we couldn't separate the brothers. I thought Everett was very cute too, but I wasn't used to shy cats.

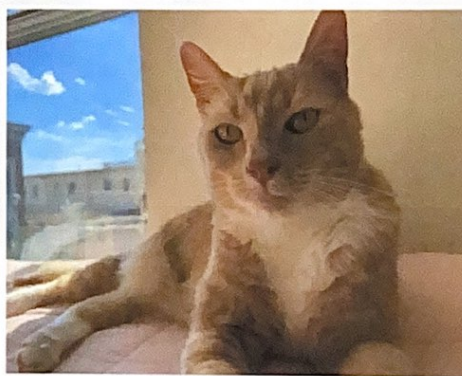
We decided that we should see whether or not we wanted to adopt them, so we went to Paws to meet them. The first thing I thought was that they were so tiny and cute. Bozo walked right up to us, while Everett stayed in the corner. When I pet Bozo, I remember thinking that he was the softest thing I had ever touched and that he was so beautiful. I tried to approach Everett, but he was scared. It took a little while, but eventually he came up to us. He was such a sweetheart once he warmed up to us.

My family and I realized that we needed these cats in our lives, so my mom called Paws and told them we were ready to adopt them. A few days later, we drove to Paws again and came back to the house with two kittens. The worker had told us that it was a good thing we called when we did, because there were some other people interested in adopting them.

That was in June of 2016, and I'm so glad that we adopted them. They're my babies and they always make me feel better when I'm sad. A few years ago Everett had a problem peeing, so we took him to the hospital. He had to have surgery, but he's okay now. Everett ended up being just as social as Bozo. They are very happy cats and love to play with each other. They're the best cats I could ever ask for.



Bozo  
←



Everett →





# About Me

My favorite book is Circe by Madeline Miller.

My favorite movie is Goodfellas.

My favorite food is mac and cheese.

My favorite dessert is rice pudding.

My favorite song is everything i wanted by Billie Eilish.

My favorite color is green.

My favorite place is Palumbo park.

I played soccer for 5 years.

My favorite season is fall.

My birthday is February 22nd.



# My Mac and Cheese Recipe

Here's my favorite way to make Mac and Cheese, the way my Grandpa taught me. I usually eyeball the ingredients, but here's what I normally use to make a few portions.

## Ingredients:

- A few cloves of garlic
- Less than half of an onion
- A few tablespoons of butter
- A spoonful of flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup heavy cream or half and half
- Spices, such as salt, pepper, paprika, crushed red pepper flakes, etc.
- 2 cups shredded cheese, whichever type you like
- Whichever pasta you would like

## Directions:

1. Cook your pasta, and save a little pasta water.
2. Mince your garlic and chop your onion.
3. Saute your garlic and onion
4. Add your flour, making a roux.
5. Wait until roux is slightly brown, and then add milk and half and half or cream.
6. Add spices.
7. Bring it to a boil, then turn the heat down low and simmer until thickened.
8. Once thickened, then add your cheese.
9. Add pasta water.
10. Combine pasta and cheese sauce, and then you're done!

Enjoy :)





I hope you enjoyed :)

Thanks  
for  
Reading  
!!

It means a lot to me :)