



Sept. 1, 2018

Dear Oona,

I love to watch TV. Well maybe not when Dad turns the western on. They are all reruns and I have seen them all. YAWN. When he falls asleep, Mom clicks over to the Nature channel. Tonight I was entranced by the African Rift and the cheetah. I turned around to see if Fergus

and Dugan saw the cheetah run, (I know I could run faster), and they were SLEEPING. I was shocked. Am I the only dog who likes Nature shows ? Enquiring minds want to know.

Finn

Dear Finn,

I, too, share your enthusiasm for watching cats run. Just this morning I goosed our cat while she was sleeping and chased her over the countertop until Dad threw his book down and put her outside. Watching cats run is a satisfying pastime. Watching TV? Not so much.

Most dogs start with a certain enthusiasm when they first see a TV and realize there are little people, animals and buildings inside that flat little box. I mean, it's pretty freaky, right? But after you rub your nose all over the glass and lick it several times, you realize it's all trapped in there and you can't smell it and you can't taste it.

Worse, you see a cat running in there, you know it's not running from *you*. We can see them but they can't see us. They don't even know we're here. We can't go sniff them. We can bark but they act like they don't hear a thing. They don't do the courteous thing and come sniff *us*. It's a little disturbing, actually, like watching somebody else's dream.

When Sully dreams, I go to another room. He's our special beagle mix and he's about a million years old now. He lays there slobbering and quivering and his little legs jerk and churn and he makes those WOOF WOOF sounds and I know that in his dream, Sully's chasing rabbits. Then he wakes up blinking and looking confused, like, "Where'd that rabbit *go?!?*" Next thing, he's going to start walking around the room pestering the rest of us, asking, "Hey, did you see a rabbit about this big? Floppy ears?"

And we have to explain that if any of us *did* see a rabbit, we wouldn't be lying around here. We'd be harrowing it all through the house. We have the cat for that. "Sully, you were *dreaming* again. It was all in your *head*."

He blinks, lumbers off to a corner and falls back to sleep, hoping to get back on the trail of that rabbit again.

TV is like watching Sully dream about rabbits. It has nothing to do with the rest of us. If he catches it in there, he'll never share. So, you know, it means nothing to us.

Life with humans or Sully is strange that way, Finn. A lot of weird stuff happens but unless it affects you, you blink and go back to sleep.

I do admire your imagination, though! If it makes you happy keep it up! Well, except for those Western reruns. Lots of gunfire and the sound of horses I can't chase. Nope, its just not for me.

Love,

Oona

Got a question? Send it to bob@thewildstare.com and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.