

THINGS NO ONE CAN SEE

My children don't live in Victoria. They live in the Kootenays. When I go and have a visit with my children, I fly on a plane, because it would take so long to drive there. Besides, we only have one car, and if I go by myself Selma needs the car in Victoria.

Selma misses me when I'm away. But Simone misses me too, I think. At least, Simone noticed when I was away, and came to see me just as soon as I was home, and in the back yard where Simone could talk to me. This is a conversation we had one time when I'd been away, and then come back home. It got kind of interesting, because we ended up talking about things no one can see. No one. Not humans, and not cats either.

The words that I said **look like this**.

The words that Simone said **look like this**.

If you're reading this out loud, maybe you can make different sounding voices for Simone and for me. If you're reading it to yourself, you can hear the voices in your head.

I was taking out the compost, to put in the bin at the back of the yard. Simone started talking to me, even before I saw that Simone was there.

Where have you been? I kept looking for you, but you weren't here.

I've been away, visiting my children.

Where did you go? Downtown? I can see the buildings downtown, but I've never been there.

No, Simone. I was farther away than that.

Show me where. I have a favourite tree I can climb up quite high on, and I can see a very long way from there. Show me what direction you went, and tell me what it looks like, and I'll climb my tree so I can see where it is.

Oh, it's too far away for you to see from a tree, Simone.

That can't be true, because sometimes I can see that big, white mountain at the edge of the world, so it can't be farther than that.

Simone, I have a surprise for you. There's more world way beyond that mountain.

You're kidding.

No, it's true. When I went away, I went on an airplane, and on the way I saw a city way bigger than Victoria, and I saw lots and lots of big mountains, and some big lakes, and where I stopped there was a big valley and a river going through it and houses and streets all over. It was a whole town, called Castlegar.

I don't know if I should believe you. I think you're just making up a story, and teasing me. I've never seen all that. So it can't be there.

Simone, there are lots of things that are there, even though you can't see them.

I don't think so. We cats have very good eyes, so if something is there, I can see it.

Simone, there are things here right now that you can't see.

Like what? Give me an example.

Like the air.

Oh, I can see the air. When it moves the branches, I see it.

No you don't. You see the branches, but you don't see the air. Like the air you're breathing right now, can you see it?

Hmm. No, I guess not.

I could see that Simone was thinking hard, so I just waited.

I've got one you can't see. Ideas. You can think them but you can't see them.

Good example, Simone. Now I've got one. Love, like whether it's human love or cat love, you can't see the actual love, but it's really there.

I've got another example, a very serious one. When I'm out at night, and the moon is bright, I sometimes get that special feeling about, you know..

God?

Yes, God. Even I can't see God, but I just sort of know that God is there.

Very good example, Simone. You're one smart cat.

Yes, and you can't see my smartness either.

You know, I don't mind that I can't see .. God .. because I know what God likes.

What do you think God likes?

I think God likes love, and peace, and kindness, and brave-ness. You can't see those things either.

Then Simone started walking away, thinking hard, probably thinking about other things no one can see, but they're really there. Can you think up some things like that?

Anyway, here's a prayer about the most wonderful thing you can't see which Simone and I talked about. It's a very short prayer, so maybe you'd like to add to it to make it longer.

Thank you, God,
that even though we can't see you
you're there.

Amen.

*Want to hear more **Simone** stories? come to Esquimalt United Church for our Sunday Service starting at 10:45 a.m.
500 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC*

P.S. It is not every Sunday that Ted Bristow has the children time, so if you are in luck you might hear a Simone story the Sunday you come. Otherwise you have to come back the following Sunday and see if Ted is there.

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