

Most mornings I get up first. I let Abby out of her crate and I put the kettle on. I make myself some breakfast and sit down at the table. And Abby lies on the couch or her cushion or goes outside or plays with her toys ... for exactly as long as I am actually eating.

As soon as I've moved on to just drinking my tea and reading my book she sits down behind me and whimpers. And whimpers and whimpers and whimpers until I get up and move to a couch. In the winter she settles herself on my lap but in hot weather she stays on the floor where she can see me. Generally with today's toy of choice under her chin.

Sometimes I'm strong and ignore the pathetic sounds that come over my shoulder as I sit at the table but most of the time I'm a pushover. It's much more comfortable to read and drink my tea on a couch anyway.