



Cat-a-Lyst

Alan Dean Foster

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A game of cat...and cat?

Movie star Jason Carter is on vacation in Peru. All he wants is a break, but what he finds is a lost civilization of extradimensional Incas bent on conquest of the entire world!

Nor is Carter alone. His allies include a bloodthirsty Amazon, an archaeologist, a bank robber, three alien vegetables, a scoop-crazed gossip reporter - and not one of them knows what to do next.

Only Carter's cat seems unruffled by the growing danger. In true feline fashion, she acts like she's in charge of the planet.

Maybe she is.

Cat-a-Lyst Details

Date : Published July 1st 1991 by Ace (first published 1991)

ISBN : 9780441646616

Author : Alan Dean Foster

Format : Paperback 325 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review Cat-a-Lyst for online ebook

NotEnoughNewts says

This book is very atypical, and the author enjoys defying the reader's expectations. If you enjoy stories with some playful meta-narrative and an increasingly silly plot, you'll probably enjoy this book.

The story starts out pretty normally and gradually becomes more ridiculous, but the narration plays it completely seriously, so it can be difficult to get a handle on whether it's intended to be funny or not, at least until you notice that the author is doing it on purpose. I also got some narrative whiplash a few times because the author is very good at leading you in one direction and then yanking you the opposite way, though none of the plot twists came out of nowhere. The author is just really good at exploiting your expectations of how these stories are supposed to go, and I was 100% on board once I realized what he was doing.

Richard Bush says

Revisiting a classic

First read this book many years ago and loved the humour and high adventure of it. From Atlanta, Georgia to Peru to Scotland a heady mix of Alice in Wonderland, Lost Civilizations and an attempt to invade earth. Oh and cats, especially cats.

Jeff Ritterpusch says

I expected it to be silly, light and entertaining. It was. It was also more imaginative than I expected. Fun read

Alex Gesing says

Not a bad book, but not great either. I like the idea of a super-advanced alien race that's not terribly bright, and is constantly leaving behind advanced machinery on worlds that it has forgotten.

Yvonne says

Cat-a-lyst has a very comedic plot that made me laugh a few times, but more often than not kept me wondering why neither the characters in the book or author treated it like comedy.

The book's unconventional cast of characters, although interesting in theory, are all very one dimensional and show very little development throughout the story. A third of the way through the book Foster begins to stop using breaks in the script to indicate scene changes. This makes a book that is already a little bumpy flow less smoothly, making it more difficult to read and follow.

Despite its flaws I did somewhat enjoy this quirky science fiction paperback and would recommend it if you're looking for something a little different and off the wall.

I read this book for the cats and found myself pleasantly surprised to learn how my cat can seem to walk

through walls.

Dave says

A very entertaining, silly book. The evolution of Earth's cats is being watched over by a highly-intelligent alien race of super-cats who take pity on humans and try to help them out too. But there's much more!

Dustin says

As per my personal rule if the book doesn't hook me in the first hundred pages I move on to something else. This was just supremely uninteresting, from the generic protagonist, to the cardboard supporting characters, to the wooden dialogue, almost everything about this was lifeless. The most interesting part, the alien cats, is the briefest part of the first 40% of the book, just a single chapter and a few paragraphs while Bland MacProtag wanders through the jungle. Skip this one.

Rouge says

An amusing tale where the situation is much more comedic than the dialogue. I laughed aloud at some of the scenes, particularly later in the book, but mostly was mildly amused. I prefer books with more character development and because of how the story developed, there wasn't much of that. In fact, even the main character barely had anything more than a sketch of a personality. Still, the idea was cute, and I certainly would read it again.

Jmr says

Taking the time to go back and re-read some of my older collection allowed me that chance to again enjoy Foster's fine Sci-Fi. Highly recommend folks to try some of his works.

Doom70 says

A fun adventure, quite enjoyable.

Kammera says

The characters weren't as well developed as some of his other books. I found I didn't like the characters any better at the end of the book than i did at the beginning . Boring characters that didn't really make you care about them. Definitely not his best.

Stephanie Ricker says

A friend gave me Cat-a-lyst by Alan Dean Foster, author of more scifi than you can shake a stick at, including the original novel of Star Wars (mistakenly credited solely to Lucas), the story for Star Trek: The Motion Picture, novelizations for the two most recent Star Trek movies, and a host of his own scifi and fantasy works. I've been meaning to read his stuff for ages...but, sadly, I found Cat-a-lyst disappointing. The ideas were extremely imaginative, but the execution was dull, and the characters were flat and incomprehensible in terms of motivation. As a writer, I recognized all the signs of lazy, sloppy writing that annoy me in myself; I suspect Foster just didn't put his usual effort into this one. I'd like to read some of his other works to compare, because no one gets to his level of acclaim without having done something right.

Anna says

Well. For a book I picked up on super clearance at a used book store, I certainly got what I paid for. My fiance and I took turns reading chapters aloud to each other because we thought it would be fun.

But it wasn't fun/bad, it was just bad/bad. Live and learn!

Peter Tillman says

A silly and entertaining light novel. Time for a reread?

OK, Dave nailed it (below):

"The evolution of Earth's cats is being watched over by a highly-intelligent alien race of super-cats who take pity on humans and try to help them out too. " But wait, there's more!

If you like cats in SF, you'll like this! 3.5 stars.

Michelle says

Cat-A-Lyst
Alan Dean Foster
Science Fiction
325 pages
copyright: 1991
isbn: 0-441-64661-1

I am not a big fan of Science Fiction, but this was very interesting, and kept pulling me in. I could not seem to put this book down at all.

Dana Cameron says

Okay, but exactly the quality I expected. If anything, wish it had been more farcical.

Dark-Draco says

I'm still not sure what to make of this book. I liked it - the story, the characters, the great references to Lewis Carroll and one of my favourite poems - but something about the tone of the whole thing got me pondering! Was it supposed to be a comedy...or serious...or a strange mixture of both?

I also loved the idea that wherever sentient beings evolve, cats will be found - and I always thought our cats used to disappear for too long to still be on this earth!!

Julie says

I've had this book for probably something like 15 years and I finally got around to reading it. I didn't remember the plot or characters AT ALL, but it's very possible I read this in high school because I totally remember the cover of the paperback and that they had it in our high school library.

The premise of the story is pretty cool, and despite some skimming I stuck with it through the end. There are some mildly entertaining ties to Lewis Carroll. That said, some of the characters used terms like "colored" and "orientals" and that kind of rubbed me the wrong way. It wasn't the *author* using them to describe people, but people in the story using them to describe others and I'm sure it was meant to peg what sort of people the term-users were.

Anyway.... it's now getting donated.

Don LaFontaine says

This was a okay book, easy to read and was able to be finished quickly.

Basically, an actor and a wardrobe woman that worked on his last movie decide to go searching for treasure based on information that was copied from a lost computer disc. They go to South America where they meet a guide, Igor, and begin there search. Along the way, they are kidnapped by the person who initially lost the disc, and then kidnapped again buy another set of thieves. While looking for and finding treasure, they are transported to another world where an Inca civilization is set on coming back to Earth, getting revenge on the Spanish, and then conquering the world. Aliens that resemble vegetation and felines from other worlds help round out the story.

The story felt rather drawn out to me, and seemed like it could have been completed in fewer pages. There were so many different things happening to the characters that it took away from the plot. For myself, it is not a book that I plan on rereading.

Susan says

This is a re-read - actually I've read it several times since I've had it since 1991. Just decided to read it again and get it on here. Apparently it has no ISBN - the copyright page says "This book is an Ace original edition, and has never been previously published." This is a fun book. A B-movie actor and the wardrobe lady on his most recent movie use info from a DVD he finds to go look for treasure in Peru. While there, a cat finds him, they hire a guide, and he has a run-in with an Amazon who is also interested in treasure. When they find it, they also find a matter transmitter which sends them off to another planet (?) where the Incas still live according to their ancient traditions. These Incas capture the whole party and declare that they are going to take over Europe in revenge for their treatment 100s of years ago by the Spaniards. The transmitters don't always work, and then the Boojums show up.... I really enjoyed rereading this.
