



Catfantastic: Nine Lives and Fifteen Tales

Andre Norton (Editor / Contributor) , Donna Farley (Contributor) , Clare Bell (Contributor) , Elizabeth Boyer (Contributor) , Blake Cahoon (Contributor) , Jayge Carr (Contributor) , Mary Lois Dunn (Contributor) , C.S. Friedman (Contributor) , more... P.M. Griffin (Contributor) , Mercedes Lackey (Contributor) , Patricia Shaw Mathews (Contributor) , Ardath Mayhar (Contributor) , Elizabeth Ann Scarborough (Contributor) , Martin H. Greenberg (Editor) , Wilanne Schneider Belden (Contributor) ...less

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Two of the biggest names in the fantasy field have put together a unique collection of fantastical cat tales for friends of furry felines. Cats work a special magic in these stories from the future, from the past, and from dimensions people never dream of.

Catfantastic: Nine Lives and Fifteen Tales Details

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Author : Andre Norton (Editor / Contributor) , Donna Farley (Contributor) , Clare Bell (Contributor) , Elizabeth Boyer (Contributor) , Blake Cahoon (Contributor) , Jayge Carr (Contributor) , Mary Lois Dunn (Contributor) , C.S. Friedman (Contributor) , more... P.M. Griffin (Contributor) , Mercedes Lackey (Contributor) , Patricia Shaw Mathews (Contributor) , Ardath Mayhar (Contributor) , Elizabeth Ann Scarborough (Contributor) , Martin H. Greenberg (Editor) , Wilanne Schneider Belden (Contributor) ...less

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From Reader Review Catfantastic: Nine Lives and Fifteen Tales for online ebook

Jessica says

I loved this series of books when I was younger, probably middle school-ish I think. Very many of the books I read as a child involved animals - from James Herriot to these to Redwall and Watership Down to collections of "Heroic Animals Save Lives!" This fit in well. But I don't remember any of them aside from the one where a woman's cat (I think it was named Turtle) turns out to be Bastet, the Egyptian diety. I hope I one day know a child who is equally obsessed so I can share all these books.

Kelly says

Not gonna lie, I picked this up at the used book store because fantasy book about cats. How could I say no to that, especially when it was like \$2 of trade credit.

PickyReader says

Stories I actually liked:

*Borrowing Trouble, by Elizabeth Boyer. 5 stars

*Day of Discovery, by Blake Cahoon. 3 stars

*Yellow Eyes, by Marylois Dunn. 4 stars

*It Must Be Some Place, by Donna Farley. 5 stars

*Trouble, by P.M. Griffin. 4 stars

*From the Diary of Hermione, by Ardath Mayhar. 3 stars (I didn't like the writing style. It mirrored Jonathan Swift's style, in that every other word was capitalized for no apparent reason. I find that distracting).

All the others were either just ok, or not even worth investing the time to finish reading them.

penny shima glanz says

Short stories + an editor/writer I adore + a subject I'm partial to (cats) + scifi/fantasy? Yes! It took severe discipline and a good amount of bribery to let this one last more than one sitting. I'm now on the hunt for the other four...

Genny says

I am a little embarassed to rate this book, but I did because I think it's funny to see it on my "shelf" here. I read it years and years and years ago, when I was but a young tween who loved cats. Some of the stories in this one weren't bad.

Michelle says

Amazing short stories about cats set in a sci-fi fantasy genre. Read all 5 in about a week!

Jewell Moreno says

I loved this. If you are a cat lover, like me, and love fantasy and science fiction, like me, this is the book for you. What fun, anthology of many stories by several different authors. My favorite was "It Must Be Someplace" by Donna Farley. This was such fun. I have the entire series, so I'll have to keep reading. Every story in this anthology was worth the read.

Linn Browning says

I love this book. I've read it dozens of time and I have to admit, the main reason is "It Must Be Someplace". From a dimension of lost socks to the concept that lost time must go somewhere and collects tangibly, this short story is a gem.

Valerie says

Norton was co-editor, but only the preface and one of the stories is by her. This book contains some stories I knew I'd read, but didn't know where I'd encountered them. To alleviate that problem for others, here's a table of contents:

- (1) Introduction (by Andre Norton)
- (2) The Gate of Kittens (by Wilanne Schneider Belden) (sort of a Witch World meets a librarian through the agency of a cat story)
- (3) The Damcat (by Clare Bell) (this is the one in which a bobcat threads wires through a pipe you'd think would be too small)
- (4) Borrowing Trouble (by Elizabeth H Boyer) (An Apprentice Wizard acquires a familiar cat aptly named Trouble)
- (5) Day of Discovery (by Blake Calhoon) (technological experiments with worldgates collide with more magical versions)
- (6) Wart (by Jayge Carr) (Translation problems apparently prevent peace talks with inexplicably hostile aliens)
- (7) Yellow Eyes (by Mayrlois Dunn) (An East Indian wizard (accompanied by an elephant) seeks the return of a sacred jewel, and negotiates with a cat and dog to achieve his end)
- (8) It Must Be Some Place (by Donna Farley) (Another journey to the land of Lost Things)
- (9) The Dreaming Kind (by CS Friedman) (Another argument against creating new life by artificial means. I don't see the logic, but it's a fair bet that the guy who started the the project wouldn't continue it anyway, since it's established early on that he has no follow-through, once he's mastered the tools and techniques to do something)

- (10) Trouble (by P M Griffin) (Not to be confused with the earlier 'Borrowing Trouble', this deals with a society for the suppression of magic, and the trouble it causes real magicians)
- (11) SKitty (by Mercedes Lackey) (a spacebound resetting of the tale of Dick Whittington)
- (12) The Game of Cat And Rabbit (by Patricia Shaw Matthews) ('Invisible' rabbits? Anyway, why would rabbits chew wiring?)
- (13) From The Diary of Hermione (by Ardath Mayhar) (a sort of cat version of an Elizabethan(ish) journal)
- (14) It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's...Supercat (by Anne Miller and Karen Elizabeth Murray) (Ok, it's silly. Helping an alien zookeeper recover a missing specimen. It's fun, so who cares?)
- (15) Noble Warrior (by Andre Norton) (based loosely on the works of Frances Hodgson Burnett, I'd say. Sort of a Little Princess story, with a siamese cat and a hobgoblin)
- (16) Bastet's Blessing (by Elizabeth Anne Scarborough) An Egyptologist cat invokes the title blessing, by doing a favor for the cat goddess.)

By and large, these stories are considerably less violent than Norton's usual fare. Personally, I'm a lot more offended by violence than by 'cuteness', so I appreciate the relief.

C.E. says

love cats and fantasy, so no brainer here!

Linda says

Pretty much exactly what you would expect from a collection of stories about cats and fantasy and science fiction. Most of the stories are cute, often cloyingly so. No new ground is covered, but cat lovers will leave feeling that their love has been properly represented. The two best stories - Andre Norton's "Noble Warrior" and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough's "Bastet's Blessing" - are appropriately saved for last.

Camille Stanford says

A collection of short stories about cats, I found most of them pretty interesting. There were a few I found boring, and there were a few that I loved. I would recommend this book to most anyone who likes cats and/or fantasy.

Nenangs says

dulu pinjem dari siapa ya???

Freya says

This book contains 15 short cat stories. I enjoyed reading this as it was nice to take a break from long books

and non-fiction and read something short a bit at a time without losing the plot.

I particularly liked cats aboard spaceships :) . These stories are written from both the perspectives of humans and cats, and I think I'll keep an eye out for the other ones in the series.

Sallie says

One of the books I picked up in Portland at Miss Sparrow's Party. I love cats, and although this book is more a collection of science fiction, I put it in fantasy since the cats were fantastical ;-} I enjoyed all the stories, but especially, "Borrowing Trouble" by Elizabeth H Boyer; "It Must Be Some Place" by Donna Farley; "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's.... SuperCat!" by Ann Miller and Karen Elizabeth Rigley; and "Noble Warrior" by Andre Norton.

Ju Transcendancing says

Find my review on my blog as part of my 'Retro Fiction Review Series' - [http://transcendancing.posterous.com/...](http://transcendancing.posterous.com/)

This anthology is beautifully put together as a hardcover with thick paper and it's one of those books you enjoy the physical feeling of reading. The book boasts 15 stories with an interesting table of contents. The anthology features predominantly female author names, with three or four gender ambiguous names as well. There are a variety of protagonists, some human, some cat, some male, some female - a nice balance that reads well.

In her introduction, Andre Norton discusses the "weighty subject of cats" (vii) and what she suggests is an affinity between them and writers. She points out that it is because the cat is known to be mysterious, at times imperious and well known to live by their own (non-human) standards that makes cats such a fascinating subject for story telling. Certainly if this anthology is anything to go by, I find myself agreeing with Ms. Norton. She summaries the book as "fifteen histories [that] deal not only with spells but also with diplomatic relations on other planets, with forbidden research, engineering on a grand scale and with guardians who know their duty and expertly do it" (viii).

I'm not usually one for short story anthologies, although every so often I come across an anthology sufficiently seductive enough that I cannot resist.

Misha says

Overall, I liked *Catfantastic* and the authors' insights into feline minds. Some of the stories I liked better than others, but that's to be expected.

Andre Norton sums up the sci-fi/fantasy anthology purrfectly in the introduction:

"Herein are neither Heathcliff nor Garfield but some others who have as definite personalities

to make forceful impressions within their territories... Cats are presented in all shapes, colors, sizes, alike in self-confidence and general ingenuity. There seems never to have been a cat who was not entirely equal to the situation which confronts him or her. In other words, there are no extraordinary cats, merely ones to whom unusual opportunities present themselves."

I picked up the collection because it has short stories by Mercedes Lackey and Andre Norton. It was also published in 1989 by DAW, which has printed countless books and authors I've raved about through the years. One doesn't need to know about or like all of the above to enjoy this collection of short stories.

M— says

Set of mostly fair stories with a few very enjoyable ones.

Summaries; occasional reactions:

Introduction: Speaking of Cats - A Very Weighty Subject · Andre Norton | Intro. Skip.

The Gate of the Kittens · Wilanne Schneider Belden | Mobile librarian finds entry to other world; takes cat and favorite books. My one favorite of the bunch.

The Damcat · Clare Bell | Cat prevents faulty dam from breaking; saves city.

Borrowing Trouble · Elizabeth H. Boyer | Magic. Cats. Demon-summoning. Blah.

Day of Discovery · Blake Cahoon | Shapeshifting cats encourage Prof's theories on dimensional realities.

Wart · Jayge Carr | Cat saves space ship for silly humans again.

Yellow Eyes · Marylois Dunn | Cat and dog return magic jewel to man with elephant.

It Must Be Some Place · Donna Farley | Tortoise-shell toms are magical; dimension of missing socks.

The Dreaming Kind · C. S. Friedman | Genetically engineered cats trounce monsters.

Trouble · P. M. Griffin | Cat promotes himself protector of young mage.

SKitty · Mercedes R. Lackey | Cats in space; again genetically altered but telepathic this time.

The Game of Cat and Rabbit · Patricia Shaw Mathews | Cat. Space.

From the Diary of Hermione · Ardath Mayhar | From the pen of the familiar herself; Victorian feel; quite fun.

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's...SUPERCAT! · Ann Miller & Karen Elizabeth Rigley | Cat opts not to leave with visiting alien. When part of the title needs written in all caps, it is not a good sign.

Noble Warrior · Andre Norton | Siamese does various brave things; blah.

Bastet's Blessing · Elizabeth Ann Scarborough | Cat convinces awakened Egyptian mummy not to eat his

human.

Bob Rust says

Introduction: Speaking of Cats - A Very Weighty Subject • essay by Andre Norton
The Gate of the Kittens • novelette by Wilanne Schneider Belden
The Damcat • novelette by Clare Bell
Borrowing Trouble • novelette by Elizabeth H. Boyer
Day of Discovery • shortstory by Blake Cahoon
Wart • shortstory by Jayge Carr
Yellow Eyes • novelette by Marylois Dunn
It Must Be Some Place • novelette by Donna Farley
The Dreaming Kind • novelette by C. S. Friedman
Trouble • novelette by P. M. Griffin
SKitty • [SKitty] • shortstory by Mercedes Lackey
The Game of Cat and Rabbit • shortstory by Patricia Shaw Mathews
From the Diary of Hermione • [Hermione (Ardath Mayhar)] • shortstory by Ardath Mayhar
It's a Bird, It's a Plane, Its...Supercat! • shortstory by Ann Miller and Karen Elizabeth Rigley
Noble Warrior • novelette by Andre Norton
Bastet's Blessing • shortstory by Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

Kelly says

Definitely for cat lovers. The C.S. Freidman story was my favourite, followed closely by the Mercedes Lackey.
