



The Cat Who Came to Breakfast

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Qwilleran and the cats are visiting an island known by many names. Qwill has always called it Breakfast Island, but to the taciturn natives, it's Providence Island. To the rich summer residents it's Grand Island--and to the developers and tourists who are turning this once-peaceful place upside down, it's Pear Island. But when some odd "accidents" occur, including a fatal boat explosion, Qwill suspects sabotage and sets out to investigate--because murder by any other name is just as deadly...

The Cat Who Came to Breakfast Details

Date : Published (first published February 9th 1994)

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Author : Lilian Jackson Braun

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James says

Book Review

3+ out of 5 stars for The Cat Who Came to Breakfast, the 16th cozy mystery book in the "Cat Who" series, written in 1994 by Lilian Jackson Braun. Qwill and the cats head off the Breakfast Island for a little relaxation jaunt; however, the island is known by so many different names, everyone keeps steering him to different parts. Last count, it had 4 names and Qwill couldn't figure out what was going on... that is, until a boat blew up and created a little mischief. Qwill's mustache tingles, and the cats are behaving weirdly, so something is amiss. While this was a good book in the series, there wasn't anything overly memorable about it. It also took him away from Pickax and the townspeople we know and love, so it's a little different style. I appreciate when the author moves to a different locale in a series every now and again, to give the reader something different. But with this series, perhaps because it has 30 books, I feel like we jump around too often. All in all, the mystery is good, but leaves you feeling like it was a one-off story disconnected from the norm. It was around now when I thought to myself... "good series, but 15 should be the max!"

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.

Courtney says

Not thrilled about this one. It seemed like they put the majority of the mystery solving in the last two chapters of the book and the rest of the chapters galavanting around breakfast island. However, the book did have potential, and since it was my first cat who book I'd be willing to give the series another shot before I doom them to the will not read shelf

Sue says

A big resort has been built on Pear Island, aka Breakfast Island, aka Grand Island and Qwill for one is not happy about the changes. Qwill's friends Nick and Lori Bamba are now on the island running a B&B. Nick contacts Qwill because he's concerned about a series of recent accidents and wonders if Qwill would be willing to come over and snoop around. He goes - under the guise of reporting about the island and the resort for the Newspaper - and, of course, life is not dull during his 2 week "vacation".

While I enjoy the lightness of this series, this one seemed lighter and looser to me than some others. Without giving anything away, I feel as if several parts were a real stretch and a manufactured conclusion. There is enough going on with the recurring characters, however, to leave plenty open for the other books of the series.

Simon says

If you, like me, haunt used bookstores and library sales, it is a guarantee that you will find the works of Patricia Cornwell, Rita Mae Brown and Lilian Jackson Braun. It is a testimony to the incredible popularity of these writers. I have worked my way through all of the Cornwells, but had avoided the other two. I picked this one up at a library sale.

I did know that the word "cozy" was frequently applied to the *Cat* series. If this one is indicative of the rest, may I suggest two others? *Demented* and *dull*. This is the shaggy dog of cat mystery stories. There is no discernible plot, but Braun just keeps telling it. The hero (Qwill) and his two "animal companions" --- the Siamese implied by the title --- head to an island resort to unspool who is trying to ruin its development. There are a series of random incidents, including a few murders. Qwill solves the "mystery" by consulting the domino tiles his cat knocks over. At this point I thought Braun had to be joking. Alas, she was not. The mystical cat solves the "mystery."

Qwill is a fairly bland character to carry the narrative. Victims are bumped off when offstage or without any proper introduction, so it is difficult to care much about what is going on. There is no wit in the writing at all. There is a moment when Qwill (a writer) maps out a potential skit he supposedly writes that satirizes tourists. Yeah. It not only didn't sound witty, it didn't even sound remotely humorous. And if you are looking for charming interaction with Siamese cats combined with decent plots, Richard and Frances Lockridge's *Mr. and Mrs. North* mysteries will do a much better job than Qwill and his animal companions.

Did anyone else ever figure out why the cats wouldn't eat the damn meatloaf? And what on earth does the title have to do with anything? We get detailed descriptions of Qwill's breakfasts, but the cats? Not so much.

Mrs.Y. Yeingst says

I love these books--the main character is funny and really understands how cats think. I also enjoy these stories because they are mysteries, my favorite genre.

Danny says

Ok, so I picked this up partly because I'm in charge of the Mystery/Adventure/Suspense area of my library and it behooves me to know more about the books in that section.

But also because there's this parody book called "The Cat Who Killed Lillian Jackson Braun," which I wanted to read. And I felt like I should read one of the books being parodied before I read the funny book.

I wasn't thrilled with this little mystery, though I guess I could see what people who DO like these books see in them. Older protagonist who is cantankerous and judgmental, talks to his psychic cat, and is wealthy. I like books with smart detectives because it makes me feel smart to be on their side. People like books with this detective because they like to look down on everyone else and bitch and moan about life.

And while psychic cats don't do it for me in the cozy mystery genre, I could get behind a psychic cat in a fantasy book maybe.

Anyway, not my cup of tea. But it is about the length of an Agatha Christie mystery and those ARE my cup of tea. They just happen to be a little less cutesy and a little more dramatic. All the drama here takes place off the page and is recounted later. Even when people are dying it's all very "Oh dear, well I guess we'll have to do something else today since our boat has exploded killing the driver."

Una Tiers says

This is one of my favorites. Qwilleran leaves Moose County (400 miles north of everywhere) but a case of regulars are also temporarily relocated. Another vacation for Polly seems to make room for another adventure.

Becky says

People who flock to Mackinac Island and enjoy mysteries will enjoy this tome. Though named differently, the mysteries take place on Breakfast (or Pear, or Grand, or Pirate, or) Island. The name changes depending on the type of resident. There are a lot of similarities between this fictitious island and Mackinac Island.

Fellow "The Cat Who..." fans already know the main characters and what they are usually up to. If you've been paying attention, Qwill and the siamese reside in a different place in each book.

I'm leaving out my synopsis, because that has always been the same. However, these stories are NEVER boring. I'm having a fun time with Qwill, Koko and Yum Yum!

Once again, if you love Mackinac Island, Michigan, and mystery, you'll love this!

Ange H says

The 16th ...Cat Who... book was my least favorite of the series so far. It had many of the same themes as #13 ...Moved a Mountain, but it is not nearly as well done and Qwill is in full cranky jerkoff mode again.

Old friends Nick and Lori Bamba have opened a Bed and Breakfast on Pear Island. They invite Qwill and the cats to visit and see if they can figure out who is trying to sabotage the island's development as a tourist destination. The mystery was flat and the humor that makes this series so enjoyable was largely absent.

Originally published: 1994

Body Count: one. (view spoiler)

Preceded by: The Cat Who Went into the Closet

Lea Anne says

I really enjoy this series...this is the third or fourth time I'm reading through the series but I have such a hard time with this book. I don't know why...the story line is familiar. But this book is very slow and boring.

Rage says

I've been binging on this series, and you'd think at some point I'd get tired of Qwill and his cats and their antics, but I just don't!! I love them! this entry in the series takes place on a version of - I have to assume - Mackinac Island (because of the fudge). there's a lot of tension and strife between the new tourists, the "native" families, and the wealthy people who spend their summers in mansions on the island. the big new hotel is dogged by all kinds of unpleasant incidents, including a drowning, an explosion, and more. I love reading about Koko and Yum Yum being annoying (and I was delighted that Yum Yum's name was originally Freya, because I have a cat now who happens to be named Freya) and Qwilleran getting annoyed by hotel decorations, the abundance of pears, and a young woman who attaches herself to him. meanwhile, what's Polly up to in Oregon?

I did feel like this was a bit short - maybe some room to develop some of the characters more, or explore the island's history, or look into the mystery of the lighthouse keepers. still, a fun and satisfying read.

Michelle says

Qwill and the kitties take yet another vacation and bad things happen. This time they spend time on Breakfast Island (or Pear Island, Grand Island, or Providence Island, depending on who you ask). Anyway, a vacation is a vacation and Qwill is a huge skinflint, so he goes, natch. Breakfast Island is being overdeveloped for tourists, and this causes unrest, as you might imagine. There is lots of talk of fudge, which made me laugh. Go to any tourist trap place and you'll find fudge. How this started, I have no idea, but it is true. Or at least it used to be.

There's a murder, and his good friends Lori and Nick Bamba have opened an inn and invite him to stay. I'm surprised there is room in the cabin for Qwill, his mustache, the kitties, and his huge ego. Although he's a little off balance because the lovely Polly is off to Oregon and he's scared she will leave him forever. Qwill, you are an ass. He gets involved with one of the rich, original families on the island, ferrets out the mysterious ongoings, and saves the day with the help of Koko, as usual.

The end is silly, the mystery is weak, and you know damn well I will read book 17. Stop judging me. I love these books. 3 stars.

Shannon says

Yawnyawnyawnyawnyawn. Not the worst of these books I've read, but still patronizingly obnoxious and I found the mystery less than inspired - it could have been good & complex, but it failed to take advantage of the possibilities offered - which is why it's getting only 2 stars. It's almost worse when you can see that this could have been an intriguing book.

Not really surprised at this point. Listening for the sake of having something to listen to at this point!

Carol says

First read: 10/97 I enjoy these books for some down time in reading. They are clean and hold my interest. I enjoy Qwill's comfortable relationship with Polly I keep waiting for something to happen or something better to come along, but this relationship is very convenient. The cat's are in full form in this book. Really enjoyed it.

The books in this series are always such a delight to read...relaxing, a way to escape into the world of Qwill and his cats, Koko and Yum Yum.

Second Read 03/13/18: This time Qwill and the cats are off to Breakfast Island...aka Pear Island...where the locals are none too happy about the development that has taken place, turning the island into a "resort". Accidents happen, deaths occur. Is it all coincidence or a plot to return the island to its former state of tranquility for the locals.

I did not see it coming, the ending of this book. A nice surprise, everything all nicely wrapped up with of course room left for continuing books in the series...

RECOMMEND

Each read is better than the last. I caught on to some things this time that I missed last time. I really like Jackson Braun. She has a gift that I enjoy in my reading. It's not that its too hard, but it is a read that is good for a wide range of readers. She is a clean writer which I really like in my reading as well. I like it for that reason too.

Amy "the book-bat" says

I would give this one a 3.5

Once again, Qwill and the cats are away from Pickax, so there were a lot of new-ish characters. Some we have met before, but they had larger roles this time around. A lot of seemingly unrelated "accidents" catch Qwill's attention and he investigates (of course).
