



The Cat Who Went to Paris

Peter Gethers

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"Norton is clearly a charmer, and Gethers tells his story with contagious affection....Will warm the heart of any confirmed cat-lover."

THE WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD

Before Peter Gethers met Norton, the publisher, screenwriter, and author was a confirmed cat-hater. Then everything changed. Peter opened his heart to the Scottish Fold kitten and their adventures to Paris, Fire Island, and in the subways of Manhattan took on the color of legend and mutual love. THE CAT WHO WENT TO PARIS proves that sometimes all it takes is paws and personality to change a life.

The Cat Who Went to Paris Details

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Author : Peter Gethers

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From Reader Review The Cat Who Went to Paris for online ebook

Sharon Huether says

Norton is a special little cat with ears that fold forward. He is a Scottish Fold, with large green eyes and a firm short body.

The author received Norton as a gift from a girlfriend.

An unusual cat walking behind his owner, staying close and never running away.

He went everywhere his owner went, travel by air across the US and the best trip was to Paris in First Class.

The Parisians loved him. In a resteruant they even brought him a chair so he could dine at the table.

A wonderful companion, sensing the needs of his owner and was very comforting to the owners father during his illness.

I'm glad the author took the time to write about his special friend.

I wish other authors did the same.

Michelle says

This book is about the Scottish fold Norton and his owner Peter. At first Peter hated cats, but after getting Norton as a present, he can't help but turning his hate for cats into love. Norton and Peter travel from place to place together and Peter describes this in his book. So it is not all about what Norton does, but more about Peter and Norton's life together. The book full of heartwarming, funny and endearing moments that will certainly keep the reader riveted from page one to the very last page.

Even though you cannot classify this as "high-brow literature", I really enjoyed it and this is not just because of the fact that it is about a cat. Gethers put a lot of humour in his book and I often laughed out loud due to his witty remarks. He has a lovely writing style that keeps the tone of the novel light, which makes it very suitable for light, in-between (and happy) reading.

Lilo says

“The Cat Who Went to Paris” is the 1st book of a trilogy. I have read all 3 books, recently finishing the last one.

What can I say? I loved all 3 books, each in its own way. This trilogy is not only a story about a remarkable cat. It is more than that. It is a humorous memoir, which will make you laugh (and sometimes cry). It is also a very entertaining travelogue, telling about interesting places with great food and wine, places the average person rarely gets to visit and usually just dreams about. First and foremost, however, this trilogy is a love story, no not between a man and a woman, but between a man and his cat. It is a love story so big that Shakespeare's “Romeo and Juliet” has trouble to compete with it.

“The Cat Who Went to Paris” tells about how the author, a young bachelor, who shied away from any commitment, for whom the word “love” was, more or less, equivalent with the word “sex”, and who clearly disliked cats, came to be the dedicated and loving owner of a cat, or rather the dedicated and loving human, owned by a cat. The tiny handful of a kitten his, then, girlfriend presented him with was a love at first sight and raised all fatherly instincts that had been sleeping in the depth of the author’s soul.

As much as I loved this book, it, at times, made my hair stand up straight. Only a man (or should I say a bachelor without female supervision :-)) could get the idea to leave his cat by a hotel swimming pool while teaching a workshop, or let his cat out of a hotel room window to venture over the roofs of Paris. And only a man would feed his cat (not solely, yet on a regular basis), whatever he himself is eating, be it gourmet food including such things as champagne sauce, be it ordinary pizza, or be it chocolate ice cream. Men!

I had only intended to read one light read (in between historical non-fiction, which I mainly read), yet after finishing “The Cat Who Went to Paris”, I just had to read book 2, even though I was afraid that the sequel might be disappointing, as sequels quite often are. Surprisingly, I found book 2, “A Cat Abroad”, even more enticing than book 1, a bit less cat and more travelogue through the south of France, northern Italy, Sicily, and some of Spain. Anyone interested in historic places and different cultures (including their food and wine) will enjoy this book, no matter whether or not he or she is a particular cat lover. (However, I’ll bet that most readers will, by this time, have fallen in love with Norton, the very special cat.) And during book 2, my hair stood up straight only every once in a while, as I had, meanwhile, come to trust Norton not to get lost where just about every other cat would have. I did, however, continue to worry about Norton’s diet.

By the time I had read book 2, I definitely wanted to learn how the author and his cat would cope back home in the U.S., after having lived for a year in a remote village of southern France from where the author and his “family” (= his significant other and his even more significant cat) ventured out to Italy and Spain. And of course, by this time, I also wanted to accompany Norton, the cat, during his last years. Thus, I wanted to read book 3 of the trilogy, “The Cat Who’ll Live Forever”. And so will, most likely, want any other reader of books 1 and 2 because by this time, there will hardly be anyone left who has not yet fallen in love with Norton, the wonderful cat who seemed to combine all good characteristics of cats with good characteristics of dogs.

If you have never shared your life with a cat, don’t expect all cats to be as intelligent as Norton. Of all the 50+ cats I have adopted over the years, almost all were enjoyable, many were special, and two were as outstanding and intelligent as Norton, but in a different way.

Btw, this trilogy would make a wonderful gift for any cat lover (or cat lover to be).

Sara says

It's not great literature - but it is a great story. I've always loved this book - this is probably the third time I've read it. It's just so sweet! Grouchy man who hates cats proceeds to fall in love with a tiny little Scottish Fold, and travel everywhere he goes with him. (true story.) My favorite bit in the book is when this dynamic duo is flying to Paris and I quote "We were flying first class...and we were both treated in a first-class manner all the way down the line. When I got served champagne and caviar, Norton got a little dish of smoked salmon with a cup of milk."

The thought of this going on in an airplane makes me smile from ear to ear every single time I think of it.

Darling book - worth the read if you're a cat fan.

Bunny says

My cat is very happy I read this book. Not because I read it aloud to her (she wouldn't sit still long enough for that), but because it made me pause and just grab and snuggle her. A lot.

Mind you, my cat is nowhere NEAR as cool as Norton, so mostly I just seethed with jealousy while reading.

What a wonderful book. Such a great book for any and all cat lovers, and maybe those who don't know that they love them yet.

I see that there's another Norton book, and from what I can tell, it's the story of his life and death. I will not be reading that. I can't handle the idea of Norton not being around. As far as I know, he's going to be the only cat to live to be 100.

Cheryl says

Cute, but I didn't feel it. My family had cats growing up, but it turns out that I didn't have hay fever year round but was mildly allergic, so I can only wish I had a cat now. Anyway, point is, I never knew a cat anything like Norton and can't imagine what he's really like... Gethers didn't really make him come alive for us, imo. Pictures would have helped. But I think I need to go to youtube soon and get my Maru fix.

Dolly says

This is such a sweet, funny and heartwarming story. It is a wonderful tribute to a truly fascinating cat and it made me want to adopt a Scottish Fold. The story is a bit dated as it was published twenty years ago, but it brought back fond memories of my past. It made me a bit sad to think that this terrific feline must have passed on by now, but I'm very glad that I was able to learn a little of his story.

I found this book at the USO at Dulles and thought it was an appropriate book to read as I love cats and I was headed to Paris. It was a quick read and I found myself laughing and crying throughout the tale.

interesting quotes:

(from a list of irrevocably true items): "...4. *Life is basically a sad thing, with an even sadder ending, so anything that brightens up a moment along the way is okay. Especially if it's funny...*
6. *Friendship must be earned. It is too important to fritter away on someone who doesn't want it, won't reciprocate it, or isn't worthy of it. As near as I can tell, people don't have all that much inherent value, but friends sure do.*" (p. 5)

"...the most important thing any of us can do is to live in a world where love is a greater priority than pain." (p. 184)

Beth says

What a cute book, I loved it!

I needed something light and quick to read this weekend, and this was just the ticket. I loved reading about how unique and lovable Norton is, and how he truly changed the author's life. I found myself smiling and giggling many times throughout the story, and I laughed especially hard when I read this passage about the Pounce treats:

"In between his morning and late-night snacks, Norton seems to spend an awful lot of time attempting to tunnel his way through my kitchen cabinet, trying to get to the Pounce on his own. Judging by the scratch marks on the pine, he's just about ready to give the Count of Monte Cristo a run for his money. I expect a major breakthrough in another few months, when he should either reach the cans of Pounce or the apartment on the other side of the hall."

hehehe :)

Norton is such a sweetie. Although I know what a Scottish Fold looks like, I've never seen one in real life -- I may have to seek one out now :)

Mina says

I read this out loud to Ms. Kitty Fantastico throughout her first night and early morning of motherhood. She cried if my voice stopped. Her dependence on me is not just food, but an emotional attachment. I am glad that goes both ways.

I love this book. It is very Ms. Kitty: past, present, and future. She will come to Paris.

Also, I appreciate that Norton did not die at the end. He may not be with us by now, but as far as the book goes, Norton will live forever.

I want to send this to Thom for Lucius. Every cat-lover who believes their cat is especially special should read this and relate.

Five stars, a recommendation to anyone who has ever loved a pet.

~~copied from my Book Lust Journal, written March '07~~

Laura says

I borrowed this book from my grandma so often when I was young that she eventually told me to just keep it. Looking back, it's funny that I connected so strongly with *The Cat Who Went to Paris*, considering I have nothing in common with the author, no experiences like he describes, and couldn't understand a good 85% of the pop culture references Gethers is extremely fond of making (because I wasn't even born for some of them). Yet I loved this book all the same, because of Norton. This cat who has the ability to soften the hearts of even the crankiest cat-hater -- like the author himself, at the beginning of the book -- could win me over even while I was wondering what the hell Gethers was talking about.

This book is funny. Gethers self-deprecatingly describes his reluctance to own a cat and his mistakes (and eventual joys) in cat-ownership. My impression has always been that Gethers would not have been quite so bowled over if Norton had not been quite such a remarkable cat. Intelligent and extremely self-possessed, Norton flies across the country and around the world with ease (the scene in which Gethers first takes Norton on a plane, inciting the wrath of a certain flight attendant, is *hilarious*); goes on off-leash walks with his owner; eats in restaurants (mostly in France, where they appreciate the human-animal bond more than they worry about health codes, apparently); and basically accompanies Gethers anywhere he needs to go, carried in a shoulder bag like today's trendiest Chihuahuas. It's a great read, full of humor and heart, and I enjoy it just as much today as when I was a kid, scouring Grandma's bookshelves for something new.

Astrid Natasstra says

First of all, you don't have to be a cat lover to enjoy this book. In fact, it's more like a traveller's journey. I enjoy the author's journey to France, because he seems to live the kind of life that I would like to have.. take a hiatus from your hometown for months or even a year and live in foreign country.. of course you'll still be working.. because as a writer, you can practically live anywhere in the world, right? Also, he tells a lot about culinary (my #2 biggest passion in the world).. so reading this book gives me similar feeling as reading Frances Mayers, it feels like going on a journey with them =).

Diane says

I adored this book about Norton, the little Scottish Fold. So well written and charming.

Bee says

I love all the Norton books but especially this first one. I was lucky enough to "meet" Norton at a local bookstore during one of the author's early tours. Norton was exceptionally calm and cute. Truly a cool cat. It's been twenty years since I read this book. I don't know how dated it is now, but my husband and I can still

raise a smile just by saying, "lousy hunting today" or "I thought the predators got you". In the course of the story Gethers mentions a study of the feline mind that theorizes our cats think we are out hunting for their food when we leave home each day. True enough in a way. When we return empty-handed we are lousy hunters. If we are late returning the cats begin to worry that predators got us and we won't be coming back. Makes perfect sense from the feline perspective!

Savitri says

LOVE this book. I LOOOOOOOOOVED Norton... still do ;)

Made me want a cat but I know that not all cats are like Norton and so I abandoned that idea and stuck with dogs.

You don't have to love cats to enjoy this book. Peter Gethers has a great writing style that will keep you engaged. There are plenty of giggles and laughs in this book too and the travel stories are fun. I won't put this in the humor section at Borders but to me the book was quit entertaining.

Vicki says

This was a wonderfully fun book about a man who takes his cat with him everywhere, including Paris. The stories are cute, funny and amazing. I wonder how much of the stories are creative license. Can a cat really be that well-behaved? Never-the-less, I found the stories very enjoyable and would recommend the book to any cat lover.
