

On Cats

doris lessing
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By Doris Lessing

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On Cats By Doris Lessing

Doris Lessing's love affair with cats began at a young age, when she became intrigued with the semiferal creatures on the African farm where she grew up. Her fascination with the handsome, domesticated creatures that have shared her flats and her life in London remained undiminished, and grew into real love with the awkwardly lovable El Magnifico, the last cat to share her home.

On Cats is a celebrated classic, a memoir in which we meet the cats that have slunk and bullied and charmed their way into Doris Lessing's life. She tells their stories—their exploits, rivalries, terrors, affections, ancient gestures, and learned behaviors—with vivid simplicity. And she tells the story of herself in relation to cats: the way animals affect her and she them, and the communication that grows possible between them—a language of gesture and mood and desire as eloquent as the spoken word. No other writer conveys so truthfully the real interdependence of humans and cats or convinces us with such stunning recognition of the reasons why cats *really* matter.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Ms. Lessing applies her formidable powers of observation to the beasts she calls ‘exotic visitors, household friends.’” (Wall Street Journal)

“Endearing and wise.” (San Francisco Chronicle)

“[Lessing] captures the passionate gregariousness of her cats...What she does best is describe their relations with one another...Doris Lessing...opens our eyes to the world of cats.” (New York Times)

“Lessing’s prose catches at the heart, close-ups of cats in unforgettable word paintings.” (Pittsburg Tribune Review)

About the Author

Winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Literature, Doris Lessing was one of the most celebrated and distinguished writers of our time, the recipient of a host of international awards. She wrote more than thirty books—among them the novels *Martha Quest*, *The Golden Notebook*, and *The Fifth Child*. She died in 2013.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Dixon:

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