



The Feline Mystique: On the Mysterious Connection Between Women and Cats

Clea Simon

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What is it with women and cats? *The Feline Mystique* is the first serious examination of the intense relationship between woman and their cats and of the repercussions that bond can have on others. Richly researched and searchingly personal, *The Feline Mystique* uses history, science, art, and literature as touchpoints to explain and explore contemporary women's lives with their cats.

From a glamorous tiger trainer to a feral-cat rescuer, from a show breeder to Simon and her own relationship with the gray longhair Cyrus, this book will introduce you to women both ferocious and nurturing and animals both whimsical and noble. It's a fresh, fascinating exploration of the timeless bond between women and cats, and will deepen your understanding of your relationship with your own feline-be he or she tiger or tabby.

A cat person's answer to *Pack of Two* and *The Secret Life of Dogs*, *The Feline Mystique* is an eye-opening and soul-soothing book for all cat lovers.

The Feline Mystique: On the Mysterious Connection Between Women and Cats Details

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Suzie says

Okay. Author is a little strange.

Connie says

An interesting and unique book exploring the human-feline relationship, specifically focusing on the unique bonds that tend to form between cats and women. The book was well researched, exploring how human views of cats and the female have changed and have been entwined through history. Interviews with dozens of modern women and stories of the author's relationship with her own cat keep the book fresh, interesting, and emotionally centered. While some of the pop culture references feel a little stale (does anyone care about Catwoman anymore?) and some of the author's claims are a bit far-fetched (the popular story of the crazy old cat lady has arisen out of fear because people who don't like cats are threatened by those who form bonds with them? Right...), the book is the most thorough and engaging look at this topic that I have yet to run into.

Mica says

It seemed like a slow book in the beginning for me, but following the life of the author with her cat Cyrus was so heartwarming. I definitely loved reading about how cats and women have this deep, complex relationship. Such a good book to indulge myself with for a fun read.

Meg says

I was speaking to a friend about this the other day and we agreed that any book with the subtitle "On the Mysterious Connection Between Women and Cats" is bound to end up being about the author and her cat. That's okay, because this book is lovely (and the author does cover many topics beyond her relationship with her cat). If you have a cat or have had one, this book will make you cry. I read a little bit each evening, with my two cats curled up on me, and I cried my way through the last few chapters when the author and the women she interviewed discuss what the end is like. I haven't gotten there with mine yet - I've only had cats as an adult, and they're still with me. This book is a nice reminder of what soulful little creatures they are (also they're really bad) - as if they'd let you forget.

Kristal Cooper says

Read a few chapters but had to put it down. It's a too business-like approach to a subject that could be light and fun. I guess there's a place for this book in the market though. Someday I might finish it, but I'm just not in the mood right now.

Linda Richards says

Still a favorite. Well-loved and oft referred to. No one writes about cats like Clea Simon.

Helena says

I'm a "cat woman" and the theme of the book is interesting, of course, but I felt a bit disappointed, however. The book was unstructured - containing some history, myths, statistics and stories about cat owners and their cats, Simon's own cat Cyrus as the main theme - and it was hard to follow the plot. I loved to read about Cyrus most and had tears in my eyes reading about the end of it's life.

Mary MacKintosh says

This was a gift to me because of my cat fondness, and I enjoyed it.

Brandy says

If you've ever been referred to as a "cat lady", well, this book is for you! Take pride in being called a "cat lady"! It's a beautiful thing!

Carolyn says

Loving a cat can make a great book - see Peter Gethers, The Cat Who Went to Paris, etc. But it's not enough. This is a non-book with a bit of mythology, a few statistics, several anecdotes, and a bunch of pop psychology. It would have made a decent magazine article. Maybe.

Shonna Froebel says

Wandered a bit
