



Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation, and GPS Technology

Caroline Paul , Wendy MacNaughton (Illustrations)

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A Finalist for the 26th Lambda Literary Award

Caroline Paul was recovering from a bad accident and thought things couldn't get worse. But then her beloved cat Tibia disappeared. She and her partner, illustrator Wendy MacNaughton, mourned his loss. Yet weeks later, Tibia waltzed back into their lives. His owners were overjoyed. But they were also...jealous? Betrayed? Where had their sweet anxious cat disappeared to? Had he become a swashbuckling cat adventurer? Did he love someone else more? His owners were determined to find out.

Using GPS technology, cat cameras, psychics, the web, and animal communicators, the authors of *Lost Cat* embarked on a quest to discover what their cat did when they weren't around. Told through writer Caroline Paul's rich and warmly poignant narrative and illustrator Wendy MacNaughton's stunning and hilarious 4-color illustrations, *Lost Cat* is a book for animal lovers, pet owners, and anyone who has ever done anything desperate for love.

Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation, and GPS Technology Details

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From Reader Review Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation, and GPS Technology for online ebook

Bill Kerwin says

I love cats, but don't like cat books: the funny parts aren't that funny, the sentimental parts are way too sentimental, and the illustrations are often too cutesy for even the worst kind of children's book. I made an exception in the case of "Lost Cat," however, because: 1) it was recommended by a good friend not not given to sentimental excess, and 2) although I'm an "inside cat" man myself, I've always wanted to know where those outside kitties go in the course of their wanderings. (Boy, I wish I could put GPS devices on "Jack" and "Nameless," our wayfaring neighborhood friends!)

I am glad I made an exception. Caroline Paul has a tart, laconic style and a gift for irony. She never overdoes it, and, consequently, "Lost Cat" is funny and genuinely moving without ever being sappy. In addition, the illustrations are inventive and whimsical without being cutesy in a Disney-gooney way.

Besides, you get to find out where the cat goes. Isn't that the important thing?

Maxine says

Lost Cat is a funny and heartwarming tale of the extent to which people will go where their pets are concerned. After author Caroline Paul is injured in a plane crash, she is depressed and on pain killers. She feels that things couldn't get worse until her shy and easily frightened cat, Tibby, goes missing. She is devastated but five weeks later, he saunters home none the worse for wear - if anything, he seems healthier than when he left. At first, Caroline is thrilled to have him back but then some other emotion sets in - jealousy maybe, a touch of bitterness. After all, she has loved and taken care of Tibby since he was a kitten - how could he abandon her like that? Worse, he now won't eat at home and heads off daily for parts unknown without so much as a wink or a wag of a tail to her. She conjures up all kinds of explanations for this new cavalier attitude he has developed - he went walkabout, he went on an important and secret expedition to Antarctica, he's a pirate.

With the help of her partner, Wendy McNaughton who also illustrated the book, Paul tries to discover where Tibby goes when he leaves each day. They attach GPS and a cat cam to his collar; they contact a pet psychic and a pet detective (yes, they do exist outside of Jim Carrey movies); and they tack leaflets to every tree and post. Nothing works until McNaughton convinces Paul that perhaps actually getting out and talking to their neighbours might be the best solution. At first Paul resists, after all, who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of the people living in this quiet upscale neighbourhood in San Francisco. Finally, though, in desperation she agrees and soon she learns, like Tibby did before her, that there's a great big wonderful world to discover if she is willing to take that first cautious step outside her door.

Thanks to Paul's great self-deprecating sense of humour and McNaughton's wonderfully tongue-in-cheek illustrations, Lost Cat makes for a fun and funny read. Pet lovers everywhere will recognize themselves in some of the insanity and cat-haters will enjoy seeing their own 'crazy kitty lady' aunt so well and lovingly depicted in Paul.

Carolyn says

This little book is the cat's meow!

CAUTION: If you are not a kitty person, this book may turn you into one! Catnip for humans! Even without the cat, I'm a sucker for tiny, quirky books and adorable pen and watercolor drawings. Around 175 pages, the book is a quick read yet just right. The reader is totally drawn into the story of Tibby, a 13-year old cat, who mysteriously disappears and then reappears five weeks later, waltzing into the bedroom late one night, fatter with "a silky coat...and a youthful spring in his step." But when the joy of relief that Tibby is back begins to fade, the author is left with her darker emotions: jealousy, betrayal, rejection. Depressed and couch bound with a broken leg and nothing much to do, she becomes obsessed with finding out the answer to the question, "Where did Tibby go?" Thus begins "Operation Chasing Tibby" (Hitchcock's "Rear Window" meets "Inspector Gadget.") I'll say no more. This is a true love story, filled with laughter and some sadness--a story about all relationships. You will purr with contentment at the emotionally satisfying ending.

Melissapalmer404 says

Book #22 Read in 2013

Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation and GPS Technology by Caroline Paul

Caroline is a cat person. She has two sibling cats--Tibula and Fibula or Tibby and Fibby for sure. Caroline injures her leg which causes her to be couch bound and this lack of moving ability spirals her into a depression. That depression really begins to rage when Tibby, an indoor/outdoor cat, takes off to parts unknown. Caroline launches a search for him, consults pet psychics, pet detectives and put flyers all over the neighborhood. Mysteriously, five weeks later Tibby shows back up, none the worse for wear. Caroline then becomes obsessed with finding out where Tibby went and used technology such as GPS and a pet camera to try to figure it out.

This was a cute, quick read. Cat people will get the obsessive nature of Caroline's search. Tibby and Fibby were distinct feline personalities and that was shown well through the writing.

I received a copy of this book from the Amazon Vine program in exchange for a review.

<http://melissasbookpicks.blogspot.com>

Bookaholic says

Miau, eu sunt Xenu. Nu chiar Xenu, extraterestrul nebun, st?pânul Universului din scientologie (a? vrea eu ni?te adept?i cu bani ?i cu priviri mieroase de Tom Cruise), dar de acolo mi se trage numele. Cic? a? avea fa?? de extraterestru ?i n-a? fi chiar cu toate must??ile pe cap. E doar o p?rere. Oamenii gre?esc mereu. M-

a?i v?zut pe pagina de Facebook a bookaholicilor sau pe pagina personal? de star, împreun? cu prietenul meu mai frumos, dar mai prostu? încet, Farsi. Am fost rugat cu o conserv? de ton s? zgârii ceva despre cartea Pisica Pierdut?. De ce eu? Pentru c?, hmmm, m? identific prea bine cu subiectul. ?i eu, ca Tibby, motanul din carte, am fugit de-acas? ?i cei doi sclavi care m? mângâie pe burt? ?i-mi schimb? litiera au recurs la gesturi necugetate ?i au luat-o razna complet. E normal, cum s? nu m? adore? ?i pentru c? sclava care a ilustrat cartea, doamna Wendy MacNaughton, vine la conferin?a aia fain?, The Power of Storytelling. Sper c? va vorbi despre pisici, cel mai inspira?ional ?i superb subiect din lume ?i de pe Internet.

Tibby a fugit de-acas? dup? ce sclava lui a f?cut un accident aviatic. Eu am fugit de-acas? cu câteva zile ca sclavii mei s? dezerteze în vacan?? în Cuba. Spre deosebire de Tibby, care s-a întors fericit dup? cinci s?pt?mâni, eu m-am întors dup? trei zile. La fel de fericit, mâncat, relaxat, cu o privire pierdut? în zare ?i cu un dor de duc? trezit la via??.

Ce-au f?cut sclavii în cele trei zile ?i jum?tate? Au umplut cartierul de afi?e, au escaladat poduri, balcoane, acoperi?uri, au b?tut str?zile cu prietenii lor mai nebuni ca ei strigând Xeeenuuu, Xenuuu (îi auzeam, fire?te. M? durea sub coad?), au intrat la oameni în case, au dat telefoane peste telefoane, sclava s-a reapucat de fumat compulsiv, sclavul era s?-?i rup? un picior s?rind un gard, au plâns când un vecin le-a spus c? a v?zut o pisic? cu semnalmentele mele probabil omorât? de un câine (era doar s? nu-i mai aud? strigând Xeeenuuu, Xeeenuuu sub geam). Au dat-o ?i pe tehnologie, defect profesional: Google Ads targetate pe str?zile din jur pe to?i termenii posibili cu pisic?, pierdut, motan, mâncare, mi-au f?cut pagin? de Facebook, au scris la ONG-urile cu animale. Delir. Dup? ce m-am întors, au vrut s?-mi pun? GPS, poate mai plec. ?i-i tot auzeam smiorc?indu-se: dar de ce a plecat, dar unde a fost, dar unde am gre?it, dar unde a stat el, dar ce-a mâncat de nu-i e foame?

(continuarea cronicii: <http://www.bookaholic.ro/pisica-pierd...>)

Chaitra says

Being a cat owner (or slave - same difference) from the past year, and having anxiety issues every time I leave my cat to go somewhere, I thought I would enjoy this book. I did, but not as much as I had hoped.

My cat, Loki, is an indoor-only cat. He came to us (my husband and me) when he was very young, and to an extent we've managed to teach him to be scared of outdoors. We don't have a yard, and it isn't feasible for us to install a cat flap in our rental apartment. But, it doesn't stop me from worrying that he'll run out one day (he has tried), and I'm always ready to catch a flying projectile when I open the door. So, I understand the author's desperation and sense of betrayal when her cat Tibby wandered off for five weeks, and then coolly walked right back into her life. Not only is he not scratched, mauled or harmed in any other way, he's actually fatter than he used to be. Shock! Betrayal! Worse, he doesn't eat at home anymore, because he must have a food supply somewhere else! I'd be doing the exact same thing. Well - maybe not the psychic cat finder or the talk to your pets thing. But, I get her sense of purpose, her determination to get to the bottom of this thing.

The writing is hysterical, the illustrations wonderful and the subject is obviously something I care a lot about. I loved Paul's descriptions of her methods to find Tibby's lair. I also liked that Tibby is the reason she starts to connect to her neighbors. I can attest to that fact - kids and pets are great conversation openers - I find that

people are more likely to talk to me if I'm walking around with a cat carrier with the cat in it. My quibble is the way the other cat, Fibby, was handled. (view spoiler)

In summary, not as great as I'd hoped it would be, but still a fun and good book for cat owners to read and identify with.

P.S.: I like cat better than kitty. Although, I call my adult cat "little cat", "baby cat", etc, so I'm not one to complain.

P.P.S.: Tibby has lovely whiskers.

I received a copy of this via NetGalley for reviewing.

Juushika says

While recovering from a serious accident, the author is revitalized by the search for her beloved missing cat. *Lost Cat* is frequently humorous and occasionally poignant, and unremittingly cute--too cute, a little frivolous, light rather than robust; it's not a novel but an illustrated story, and takes about an hour to read. That hour passes quickly: the voice is unpracticed and its humor repetitive, but it has its moments and the pacing never drags; it's predictably resonant at all the right places, even if it seems saccharine in retrospect. The illustrations are often indispensable; their character is more distinctive and effective than the text itself. Ultimately, it's a simplistic story with a romanticized view of cats--and of course fundamentally flawed: just keep them inside, please--and I don't recommend it but it's harmless, although it's certainly not worth the original \$20 list price.

Sarah says

When my cat was a teenager, two other young cats used to sit on the front lawn and wait for him to come out, then they'd all run off together. Up until he reached middle age, I'd see him from time to time around the neighborhood hanging out with other cats. Later in life he kept the perimeter of the yard, sometimes entertaining visitors and sometimes fighting. Now in his venerable age (18), he sits on the deck and ignores everyone. Sometimes he meows to be let out the back, and then he walks around to the front and meows to be let back in.

Anyway, I find my cat so delightful that I'm just going to keep talking about him, so I definitely understand the impulse behind obsessing over your cat, spycamming him and then writing a book about it. To be honest though, I was totally disappointed in how pedestrian Paul's findings were - I guess cats have pretty limited interests, and they tend to keep to a fairly small territory. In retrospect, I don't know what kind of excitement I fancied my cat ever getting into (though it likely involved his two favorite activities - sitting around and killing things).

What I couldn't relate to at all was Paul's hurt reaction to discovering that her cat just needed some time away from home after a particularly crowded, noisy spell. I guess my own cat has trained me well. I remember one time we had a bunch of little kids over and I spotted the cat being chased by a very robust four-year-old brandishing an adult-sized guitar. I guess he escaped because I didn't see him until noon the next day. If I

could have gone with him, I would have.

Overall, sweet book by cat ladies in Potrero Hill, which is where I live (currently sans cat, who is living out his golden years with my parents in a warmer climate).

Diane says

Calling all cat lovers -- Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation and GPS Technology is at times a quirky book, but one that I think will appeal to feline fanciers everywhere. Are you one of those people who couldn't imagine your life without a cat or two or more? Do you proudly display cat fur on your dark colored clothes? Have you ever searched for a beloved cat? If you've answered yes, to even one of these questions, then I am pretty sure you'll enjoy this short book (fewer than 175 pages).

The author of this book has (2) cats very different cats from the same litter, Tibula (Tibby) and Fibula (Fibby). She's also in a new relationship with Wendy, the illustrator of this memoir. While Caroline is recovering at home from some severe injuries to her legs resulting from a plane crash Tibby, an indoor/outdoor cat, goes missing. Caroline becomes obsessed with finding her cat. Just when she thinks that her cat is gone for good, it returns home as if nothing had been amiss some 5 weeks later. It's obvious he didn't go hungry, but just where was he for all that time?

Caroline is determined to find out where her cat went for all that time and what exactly does the cat do when he leaves the house. With Wendy's help, they acquire a tiny GPS device to attach to Tibby's collar, hoping to monitor his activity --surprises result.

This tiny book has such fun illustrations and the story had me laughing out loud as I read. There are also a few touching moments that might bring a brief moment of sadness or reflection to readers who have experienced the joy of loving a cat. Enjoyable. 4/5 stars

Shannon says

This took about an hour to read and as a potential crazy cat lady myself, I'll admit, I laughed, I cried and nodded along emphatically to pretty much everything Caroline said. The story was a bit of fun, the drawings were cute and the actual photos of GPS map tracks and kittycam footage were pretty delightful - I'm not going to lie. Overall I'm glad I won the following conversation and bought it.

Upon seeing new cat bio in store...

ME: Oooooo, I need it.

FRIEND: You don't need it.

ME: Yes, but I do. It'll go with my cat bio collection.

FRIEND: You don- wait, you have a collection of cat bios?

ME: Yeah! *proceeds to list the numerous cats I've read about and cried over*

FRIEND: How did I not know this about you? *Tries hard not to look at me like I'm a crazy person*

All in the name of kitties.

Kayla Eklund says

I love books about cats. Whether they are fiction or non-fiction, it doesn't matter. When I saw a book about a woman whose cat has gone missing, I knew I had to read it. I love my cat and I would be heartbroken if anything were to ever happen to him. I could definitely identify with most of the things the author was saying. Attaching a camera to her cat may have been a little over the top, but I can understand why she did it. I also liked that the book had lesbian characters in it. I know that wasn't the point of the book and it didn't impact the story in any way. I just like seeing LGBT characters in books. The book made me chuckle at things that only a "crazy cat lady" would understand. I also felt heartbroken when something tragic happened to one of her cats. Just feeling the authors pain and knowing what she was going through made me cry. I loved this book. I hope to find more like it. I recommend *Lost Cat* for cat lovers everywhere.

Sarah says

This book isn't what I thought it would be (based on the reviews I've read, and some preconceived notion I made up in my head, I guess). First, it has a lot more words than I expected -- having come to it via my semi-obsession with Wendy MacNaughton, I was imagining it as a picture book, more or less. Also, I thought it would be sillier. But, it's actually serious, and sweet, and sad, and heartfelt, and inspiring. Even the goofy parts also have deeper implications.

The illustrations are stunningly perfect, insightful, funny, and beautiful. But the story is also wonderful. Not just from a cat-ownership perspective, but also in terms of being part of an urban community, and thinking about life's fragility.

In fact, in thinking about it again, I've just upgraded this from 4 stars to 5 stars.

Marty Selnick says

If you love a cat, might love a cat someday, or just plain like cats you will enjoy this quick easy read. Whimsical illustrations are a bonus. There are laughs, there are tears. It's very entertaining.

Davenport Public Library says

At turns hilarious and poignant, *Lost Cat* by Caroline Paul is a treasure – a simple story that reveals multiple truths and makes you laugh out loud.

Caroline Paul was home recovering from a serious accident when her beloved cat Tibby disappeared. Already weepy and depressed from the prolonged recovery, she was devastated. She and her partner Wendy (who provides charming and very funny illustrations) canvassed the neighborhood, posted flyers and finally mourned him as lost when, five weeks later, in strolls Tibby, fat and happy. Caroline was overjoyed – and

suspicious. Where had he been all this time? How had her shy, timid cat survived the wilds of the outdoors? Why wasn't he eating his food, yet remaining fit and healthy? Most of all, did he love someone else more?

Fueled by painkillers and jealousy, Caroline set out to find where Tibby went on his wanderings, seeking answers through GPS, cat cams, animal communication, pet psychics and pet detectives. With self-deprecating humor – and surprisingly moving insights – Caroline tells the story of their quest and what they found along the way – that technology is great but people are better, that bonkers is in the eye of the beholder. That you can never know your cat (or anyone for that matter), but that's ok, love is better.

Highly recommended to anyone who has loved a cat, or a pet or anyone.

Audrey says

I'm a cat lover. I'm currently wearing a necklace of a cat. I have owned dozens of cats in my life, and I'm only 30. It's painful for me to think of the thousands of dollars I spent in the last couple of years on my now deceased geriatric feline. This book was an absolute perfect fit for me (I bet you thought I was going to say purrrfect, right!?).

While not a long book, there was a whole lot of emotion and love packed into every page of *Lost Cat*, making this a very satisfying read. The author, Caroline Paul, was in an accident and severely injured, causing her to stay at home and on some serious medications. At least she had her two cats, though. That is, until her skiddish boy cat, Tibia, disappeared for weeks. Fortunately, he returned to her, but Caroline couldn't get the idea out of her head of finding out where he had been. It became an obsession, complete with a cat-cam and a collar GPS unit.

What kinds of lives do our pets live without us? It struck home for me, because my own cat, Willow, wound up being adopted by a family down the street. They probably thought she was homeless. Eventually, they moved away and took her with them. It still hurts. It's a bit ridiculous how much we love our pets, but they're family. This book captured all of those feelings completely. Caroline also writes about the trauma of having to put a pet to sleep, and always questioning if there was something more you could have done, and whether it was the right decision. You know in your heart that it was, but it's still so painful.

Not only is the writing heartfelt and truthful, but the illustrations by Wendy MacNaughton, Caroline's partner, are hilarious. My favorite was one of Tibia dressed as an Amish cat on Rumspringa. The illustrations play nicely with the story, creating something that isn't a graphic novel, but is certainly a novel with a strong graphic element.

I think this is a must-read for cat lovers. It's pretty lightweight, so you won't be making a huge commitment to the book, but you'll find yourself smiling and nodding along, agreeing with everything being said and shown. Where do our cats go at night? Find out here.
