

Of Cats and Men: Profiles of History's Great Cat-Loving Artists, Writers, Thinkers, and Statesmen

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A stylish, illustrated gift book profiling notable cat-loving men throughout history.

Some of history's greatest men have been cat lovers, and their cats have contributed to their genius and legacy: the static charge from a cat's fur sparked young Nikola Tesla's interest in electricity; Sir Isaac Newton is said to have invited the first cat flap; visitors to Ernest Hemingway and Winston Churchill's homes still encounter the descendants of their beloved cats; William S. Burroughs and Andy Warhol both wrote books inspired by their feline friends.

Stylishly illustrated and full of charming, witty profiles and quotes from history's most notable "cat men," *Of Cats and Men* pays tribute to thirty luminaries and visionaries who have one thing in common: a pure and enduring love of cats.

SAM KALDA is an illustrator who received a BFA in painting at SUNY Purchase, an MFA at The Fashion Institute of Technology, and who studied at the Yale Norfolk School of Art. He has been recognized by The Society of Illustrators, American Illustration, Society of Illustrators Los Angeles, 3X3 Magazine, and CMYK Magazine's "Top 100 New Creatives."
WHAT IS A CAT MAN?

Men are often portrayed in the company of dogs. They hunt together, run happily side by side, and ride shoulder to shoulder in mud-splattered pickups—the perfect image of masculine bliss. The dog is, after all, man's best friend. Some men, that is.

For centuries, legions of forward-thinking men—artists, writers, scientists, and philosophers—have shared their libraries and studios with a purring feline or two. In recent years, a new population of proud, cat-loving men has come out of the proverbial "cat closet," embracing the purr, mew, and squint of feline companionship.

Women have, for centuries, been chided and maligned for having a cat, let alone several. This "crazy cat lady" stereotype is deeply unfair. Like Prometheus to fire, generations of enlightened fellows have gravitated to the feline species. We stand with our cat-loving sisters as crazy cat men, proudly wearing our scarlet letters in solidarity.

Since man first discovered a fallen whisker in the forests of Eden, he has had a twilight bond with cats. We need only imagine the temples of ancient Egypt, where the priests prayed to statues of Bastet, cat goddess of the Egyptian people and protectress against disease and evil spirits. When a cat died, the Egyptians would shave their eyebrows in mourning—theirs was a truly cat-crazy culture. In fact, when a temple of Bastet was excavated in the late nineteenth century, archaeologists uncovered more than three hundred thousand cat mummies. Who knew that a catnap could last over two millennia?

Other Books

The Cat who Sang for the Birds, Newspaperman Jim Qwilleran and his two cats, Koko and Yum Yum, investigate a suspicious fire which killed a woman in her nineties. The 20th volume in the series, the novel introduces a new character, a swearing parrot.

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