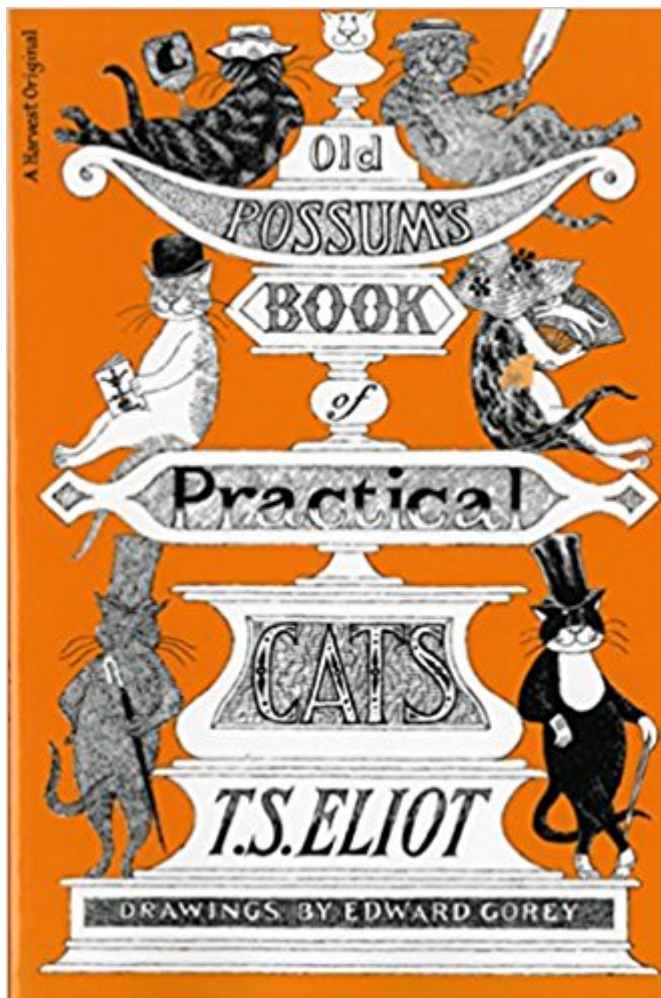


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Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats



Synopsis

Eliot's famous collection of nonsense verse about cats-the inspiration for the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Cats. This edition features pen-and-ink drolleries by Edward Gorey throughout.

Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

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Customer Reviews

This is an absolutely marvelous rendition of Eliot's poetic classic, written for his godchildren and friends in the 1930s, which inspired the Broadway musical Cats. The tales of Mr. Mistoffelees the trickmaster, old Deuteronomy, a laid-back cat, Rum Tum Tugger, a contrary cat, and Macavity, the famous master criminal, are dramatized by Richard Briers, Alan Cumming, Nigel Davenport, Andrew Sachs, and Juliet Stevenson. Unfortunately, some material is repeated on the cassette's second side. Moreover, it comes with another tape that consists of excerpts of forthcoming Penguin audiobooks. This edition seems targeted more toward consumers than libraries. James Dudley, Copiague, N.Y. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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The literature is great, but the size of the print and the vividness of the print are disappointing. The font size is about a 7 or an 8, and the print is so light that it is difficult to read without readers. When I sit down to read a book for relaxation, I don't want to have to squint and struggle to read the print. There is plenty of blank space in the book to have increased the font size and making the font bold would have increased the enjoyment of the read tremendously.

Found the Cats musical great. My great kids watched the movie version so much I realized there were multiple story lines going on, so I bought the book the musical is based on. Very interesting for a thinking person. Also helps explain part of the story lines (movie and stage). The kids and I have seen the stage play twice in person. The story has so much depth it is not just for the kids. Probably for high school and older. I never liked Eliot in high school or college but Cats the musical brought a new perspective - a least for this story.

Before seeing Andrew Lloyd Weber's musical, CATS!, I researched how he was inspired to write and stage this unusual production. When I discovered the inspiration came from the very British, T.S.Eliot, I had to read his book of verse before seeing the play. How did I ever miss this delightful look at the behavior of cats? As a cat lover and an Anglophile, I loved meeting village cats while traveling in England. On a visit to the home of the Bronte's in Haworth, West Yorkshire, I met Thomas, a tuxedo cat, who lived in the village. He was owned by no one. He spent his mornings in a bed at the travel agency, where he had his breakfast, and then he moseyed over to the Bronte Historical Society Museum for his dinner and some human attention. If T.S. Eliot had met Thomas, there would have been a very British verse about him included in this wonderful volume. Buy this book for your children or grandchildren. When read by you, it will make them let go of the video game or smart phone for awhile!!!

A fun book of prose! Although I am not a cat lover, I enjoy all of these imaginative verses. My kids love cats and I purchased this book for one child who needs some work on pronunciation and elocution, and this child has enjoyed reading these verses aloud while working on those skills. Given the imaginative names and verse throughout this book, this has provided some good practical exercises.

It's a book. With poems. About cats. What else do you want to know?

Unless they have a new shipment of this edition DO NOT BUY!!! Pages were poorly cut and the print runs high. Great book but quality of the production would keep me away from this as a repurchase for friends.

I had read this book before and loved it, but when I met Boris, a real, live version of Rum Tum Tugger, I had to buy a copy to show his owner. It is amazing how little had to be done to turn these poems into a great musical comedy. I am, of course, talking about Cats. Most of the poems went directly into the show without any change whatever in their wording, and only three songs were added. Let's give full credit to Mr. Webber, It took a musical genius to do that, and one of the added songs, Memories, could stand alone as a masterpiece in any company, but most of the delight of the show comes from the wonderful feline characters created in this book. Jennyanydots, Old Deuteronomy, Gus the theatre cat, Spindleshanks, Bustopher Brown, McCavity, Mr. Mistofflees, Mungo Jerry, and Rumpleteaser all moved effortlessly from page to stage with no changes. That has to be some sort of record. If you loved Cats (the show) you need to read this book. If you love cats (the critters) you'll want to read this book. If you like poetry, you should read this book. If you like dogs, read the battle of the Pekes and the Pollicles. (You can skip over the part about the intervention of the great rumpus cat.) It was written for his godchildren, but it's a great read for everyone. It's not expensive, so get it to read to your children, but read it for yourself first.

In our household when we were growing up we read 'Winnie the Poo' books and 'Old possums book of practical cats' among others. To this day we can recite them off, each taking a character--it's our party piece. We were encouraged to read and talk about what we were reading. TS Elliot was a particular favourite, and this book under review got more than dogeared so I HAD to replace it. Elliot's use of our language and the meaning he put into each piece is outstanding and makes one want to read it again. I have found that the poems are better read out aloud and in company. What have possums to do with cats? Why nothing at all! And that's the point of this anthology.

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