



Cat Pay the Devil

Shirley Rousseau Murphy

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Award-winning author Shirley Rousseau Murphy once again gives eager readers memorable and charming characters, both feline and human, in a skillful and sophisticated story that magically transcends the mystery genre. Tomcat Joe Grey, his feline companion, Dulcie, and their timid but tough-as-nails tattercoat friend Kit will "leave fans purring with pleasure," wrote Publishers Weekly. In this twelfth intricate and enchanting novel, the crafty feline trio faces perhaps their most feared enemy: two of their closest human friends are kidnapped and may not live to see freedom.

Molena Point, California, nestled quietly on the Pacific coast miles below San Francisco, is not a place where most escaped federal prisoners would hole up. But Cage Jones has a reason. Facing another prison term, he escapes from jail hot for revenge against the Molena Point resident who turned state's witness against him and who, he's certain, has stolen his hidden cache - a fortune for which he has not served time, and does not intend to. When local headlines tell Dulcie that Cage has escaped, the tabby is cold with fear for her housemate, Wilma. Joe Grey, puzzling over two brutal local murders, doesn't pay attention until Wilma's house is vandalized and Dulcie finds Cage Jones on the premises, but not Wilma. While cops swarm on to the scene, Joe and his human housemate take off on a wild search for Wilma - and Dulcie and Kit foolishly go into Jones's hideout.

When the three indomitable felines, paw-in-hand with the unsuspecting cops - and with special powers known by only a few select humans - help untangle Jones's agenda and the brutal murders, the devil-tinged scenario leaves a lasting fear among the cats. In one of Shirley Rousseau Murphy's most suspenseful and unforgettable books to date - a whimsical and imaginative trip into the hidden lives of felines - the cats, and a band of feral friends, help bring peace to the small seaside village.

Cat Pay the Devil Details

Date : Published December 26th 2007 by Avon (first published February 20th 2007)

ISBN : 9780060578138

Author : Shirley Rousseau Murphy

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : Mystery, Animals, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Cat Pay the Devil for online ebook

Fred Nachbrunn says

More good everything

Best so far. Introduced new characters. More action and suspense.
Opened so much for future plots.
Many questions to be answered in future books.

Pam says

bizarre - least favorite so far

Maggie says

Cat Pay the Devil is a charming, yet dark, mystery—darker than the usual cutesy cat “tale.” ;-)

Ms. Murphy has assembled a great cast of characters, both feline and human. Being a cat lover, I got a kick out of the “law enforcement” cats who hang around police stations and crime scenes, eavesdropping and “sniffing around.” Ms. Murphy weaves a theme of domestic violence into the story.

The main mystery was solved in a satisfactory manner, but the subplots didn’t quite pull together at the end. Frankly, I’m still trying to figure out how one of the victims was killed.

All in all, Cat Pay the Devil is an enjoyable story. I discovered it in the ship’s library during my recent Alaskan cruise. I got half way through but had to return it when I disembarked. As soon as I got home, I ordered a copy from my library.

Rebecca says

Gulped this one down. Can't wait for Cat Deck the Halls!

Phair says

Much as I like revisiting my Molena Point "family" there was almost too much emphasis on the relationships & personal issues at the expense of mystery in this one. Left lots of loose ends to be picked up in future books. Not my favorite of the series.

KC says

I couldn't stick with this audio book. I've listened to other books narrated by William Dufries and I really admired his work, but this time I didn't think he and the story fit well. Also, I thought the storyline was kind of tired -- aside from the talking cats that is Much prefer Rita Mae Brown's books.

Tamara says

Wilma has some...weird views about battered women. Also, I feel like the break in murders plotline never really got resolved.

Abbey says

2007, #12 Joe Grey/Dulcie, Molena Point, CA; fantastical PI. Dulcie's beloved human Wilma is missing, and a nasty con she helped put behind bars is too, raising hackles on both humans and felines. And the cruel and evil Utley has returned from South America seeking something valuable he and his accomplice left behind in Molena Point years ago. Somehow Wilma is at the center of it all, but she's nowhere to be found.

Another superb visit to that most beautiful and enjoyable of small towns, with some of my favorite characters ever, marred slightly by occasionally awkward pacing and the feeling Ms. Murphy has begun to recycle some plot threads. Still a magnificent "journey" with those wonderful cats ad their humans, though.

One of my all-time favorite series, and highly recommended to those who enjoy strong, darkly twisted plotting, and cats, but not her best. The pacing is "off", reaching a peak at around the 75% point, and fading off for the last quarter. And several themes are recycled from previous books, an annoying thing. Too much "friends in peril"... too much "idyllic Charlie and Max"... too much sweet Lucinda and Padric and coy Kit... But I love these people, that place, those cats, and hate it that I'm caught up with the series now. Write faster, Ms. Murphy, please!!!

Kirsti says

Why oh why does my library only have three out of this whole series? These books are great, but I'm reading them all out of order and I'd love to start at the beginning! The plot is fast paced and fresh, although I'm a little confused by the characters names (Charlie and Ryan are female lol, I was a little confused) But the cats are the real drawcards. The burly, break the rules tomcat Joe, sweet, worrier Dulcie, inquisitive and slightly mistrustful Kit. They are what I read for, the reason I've returned to this series. They are the reason I'm begging my inlaws in the next town over to get a library card so I can hire this series from their library for free (It's a five dollar fee to get a book from their library to mine, or a 45 minute drive. Guess which method I'll be choosing!)

That being said, you have to get used to the cats talking. The idea that they are talking cats takes some getting used to, and not just talking cats, but feeling, smart and almost human cats.

I'll be returning to this series whenever I can, once the library arrangements are secured. Until then, I bid this series farewell, and grumble about my annoying library for not owning more of them!

Judy says

One of Murphy's better books, both for suspense and character development. Wilma, a retired officer who helped put Cage Jones in prison, is kidnapped, possibly for revenge, although that doesn't make sense to Police Chief Max Harper. Then Max's wife, Ryan, is missing, presumably as part of the larger plot involving Wilma. Murphy does a nice job of depicting Wilma's fear during her captivity and her frustration with Violet, the wife of Jones's partner in crime Eddie Sears. Violet could have helped Wilma escape, could have escaped from Jones and Sears herself, but she was a typical abuse victim, afraid to stand up for herself and unwilling to try. Also well portrayed are the emotions of those close to the two kidnapped women--fear, dread, panic, and feelings of helplessness and rage. She closes this book in the series with Ryan's anguish at having caused a man's death, despite the fact that her actions saved the lives of everyone else.

Betty says

Dulcie is worried that Wilma is not back from her visit to San Francisco and shopping. Joe is more concerned about the murders of local women. On one trip while checking out her home Dulcie finds two men rummaging throughout it and appeared to be looking for something. She calls for help and Max and Garza arrive and start a to chase for the men who manage to escape. Clyde and Joe take off for Gilroy to see if Wilma ever arrive there. The feral cats are living in the ruins and see when Wilma is brought into an old building tied up. After watching for the scene Cotton leaves saying he is going hunting. Willow and Coyote wonder how to help Wilma. Who kidnapped Wilma and what to they wanted.

Nd says

When talking about mystery books involving cats & their various merits, or lack thereof, a friend asked whether I'd read the ones about the cats that talk. My reaction wasn't positive, thinking it'd just be too hokey to enjoy. However, after picking this one up at our library book sale & getting started, I had to take it with me to finish when I left on vacation. The communicating cats are few; they know to keep it on the downlow; and they're imbued with some logic & intelligence. This was a thoroughly enjoyable mystery solved by Dulcie, Joe Grey, and their shy, reticent friends.

Mary Ann says

It was a slow start and the middle was good, but I felt it went too long, as the "investigation" continued.

Victoria says

If you can accept talking cats, this is another good read in the Joe Grey series. Joe and his cat friends Dulcie and Kit are hoping to solve a series of murders of battered wives. Meanwhile, an escaped convict is in town and he kidnaps two local women while an old accomplice is quietly following him and annoying his sister. Recommended. You can read this alone but the characters' subtleties are easier to understand if you read the previous books.

Melissa says

I was unable to get past the premise of the series, that three cats have learned the human language and can actually speak it. So they and a few select individuals literally talk to each other and of course, solve crimes. However, beyond that, I was not enjoying the story as it was set up or the way the cats talked to each other. I tried skipping ahead to see if it got better, but finally gave up and returned it to the library. Maybe if I start with the first book in the series, I'd be able to get into it. Until then, I'll stick to Lillian Jackson Braun's Cat Who series (a pair of mysterious siamese who might or might not be helping the main character solve mysteries...he's never quite sure) and Rita Mae Brown's Mrs. Murphy series (a cat and a corgi can communicate with each other, though humans only hear traditional animal noises, and they help the main character solve mysteries.)
