

After Cleo:
CAME JONAH

How a crazy litter and a rebellious daughter
turned out to be blessings in disguise



FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF ICEBO

HELEN BROWN

After Cleo

Helen Brown

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After Cleo Helen Brown

Many strong minded women have headstrong daughters. But this isn't supposed to extend to their cats...

After Cleo Details

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From Reader Review After Cleo for online ebook

Lauren says

Reading a book by Helen Brown is like having coffee with a good friend - a warm, funny, witty, smart friend who is willing to share openly & honestly (no small thing). It feels like a two way conversation though I don't get a word in, Brown is so easy to relate to. I don't want to finish this book and have our coffee be over.

But alas, I have!

I loved 'Cleo', and now 'After Cleo'. Helen Brown's books rate right up there with my very favourites.

McGuffy Morris says

This book follows Helen brown's memoir, Cleo, the wonderful memoir of the cat who healed her family during a time of many changes. Cleo was a very "persnickety" cat, and just what they needed.

Now Cleo is gone. Many believe that once a pet crosses the Rainbow Bridge, it will send you a pet that you need. Here comes Jonah! She wonders if high-energy Jonah is the answer, as he is very different than Cleo had been!

Helen's son is getting married and starting his own life and family. Her daughter is beginning a questionable quest of her own (a Buddhist nun), much to Helen's concern. Helen, herself, has serious health issues, facing breast cancer. Life is chaotic and filled with a whole new set of very real challenges.

This new memoir is another wonderful book by Helen Brown. It is genuine and honest. Cat fanciers will especially enjoy Jonah and his own way of healing, just as Helen did.

Karen says

A perfect continuation of the memoir CLEO! This true story follows the author through another serious time in her life, as well as through some life changes in her children's lives. I love Helen Brown's candid and humorous take on life! I couldn't help but fall in love with Jonah-- and (unfortunately!) I could relate to his "little problem as I have a cat with the same one-- and we always make excuses for him since he is part of our family. :)

I would recommend this memoir to any mother-- even if you don't like cats.

Cindy says

Reading a book written by Helen Brown is like having a long comfy chat with a friend who you haven't seen in a while. Written with warmth, humour and a brave intimacy, Helen Brown's words bring absolute solace

to the soul and laughter to the heart.

As in her previous book Cleo, we are given a clear view that reality can throw a curve ball more than once in a lifetime, and again, it's a cat that seems to saunter in, twining itself in the midst of everything to deflect the pitch of the accursed orb; except, Helen swore she would NEVER get another cat! Listen to your mother Helen, it doesn't pay to swear.

In Cats and Daughters, we sit quietly along with Helen as she is writing Cleo; we hold her hand with friends as she is faced with one of the biggest decisions of her life, and somehow, we manage to smuggle ourselves in her suitcase on a trip to Sri Lanka to visit her eldest daughter Lydia who wants to become a Buddhist nun. Easily more than what the title suggests, Cats and Daughters is another Helen Brown masterpiece, full of emotion, strength and the sharing of everyday life.

Cats and Daughters may not always come when called, but when you really need them most, they both come with a guarantee of dependability which is uniquely their own.

Villivonkansbooks says

Jonah, den lilla katten med den stora personligheten, dyker upp i Helen Browns liv kort efter att hon har blivit diagnosticerad med bröstcancer. Hon håller samtidigt på att avsluta sina första bok om Katten Cleo och planera sin sons bröllop. Mitt i allt detta reser dottern till ett krigshärjat Sri Lanka för att genomföra en andlig resa.

Det är en bok man blir rörd av. Katten Jonah är en mycket speciell och egen individ som hittar på massa hyss för att få uppmärksamhet. Författaren delar öppet med sig av sitt liv som prövas hårt av sjukdom. Jonah blir ett stort stöd för henne och hela familjen. När man har katt själv, känner man igen det där egna sättet som katter har, det går inte att styra dem. Det är en charmig, bitvis ganska rolig historia som Helen berättar. Den är skriven på ett lättsamt språk och går väldigt fort att läsa. Gillar man djur som är lite egna, kommer man älska den här boken.

Michael says

The story of how a cat called Cleo healed a family in mourning was one of my favorite novels of last year. I was quite excited when I discovered author Helen Brown was bringing out a new book featuring another feline Jonah and I can now say the excitement was justified as After Cleo is another great read. Set many years after the death of Cleo Helen's family has since grown with daughter Katherine joining Lydia and Rob. With the girls living at home it makes for a busy household. Helen has no intention of getting another cat but after being diagnosed with breast cancer that changed. Around about that time Lydia would shock her mum by announcing her intentions to drop university and become a Buddhist nun in Sri Lanka.

But even more shocks would come with the cat they called Jonah. To call him overactive was an understatement. He would run non stop, rip up anything he got his claws on, forever wanting to go outside in what was an indoor cat neighbourhood. When he did go out he would end up getting beaten up by the Mafia cats or end up stuck up a tree and need to be rescued. Husband Philip even wanted him out when he started spraying everywhere in the house. Helen and the girls would not have that and would eventually find a solution. Along the way Helen will go through the drama of treatment for her cancer, Rob will get married and Lydia will go to Sri Lanka where she will make her decision on her future.

All of this made for what was a delightful and at times hilarious read. The main theme for me was the mother-

daughter relationship with the fears of a potentially life threatening illness and ofcourse the oh so crazy but loveable cat Jonah interwoven perfectly. I must admit Jonah did remind me so much of my old cat Turbo. His antics just like jonah's decribed in the book just hilarious and frustrating at the same time. Not just for animal lovers but anyone who likes to read about an everyday family encountering life hurdles and the relationships we have.

Laura says

The book before this one is CLEO which I'd quite enjoyed and again when I spied this book at Big W I bought it without hesitation. I dusted off the cover on Sunday and launched myself into the book and I found that I couldn't put it down!! It's been quite a long time since a book has captured me in such a way..I loved reading about Jonah and how wild of a kitty he was...He actually reminds me of my own little boy (but very different in looks n breed).

I also found this book flowed a lot easier than the first and I kept finding myself saying 'Just until the end of the chapter' and before I knew I'd read about 3 more. Really, I couldn't put the book down :)

Laura says

This was not the book I was expecting. I was given the book by someone who knows I love a good cat story, especially if the cat is still alive at the end (and I was assured Jonah would be!), and hadn't read Helen Brown's first book, 'Cleo'. Perhaps if I had read that, I wouldn't have been surprised and slightly disappointed that Jonah didn't appear until I'd already read 100+ pages.

Although this reads more like a memoir and personal account of the author's struggle with breast cancer and watching her teenage and twenty-something children grow up, which is not the sort of book I would normally read, I carried on through the first section, hoping that once Jonah put in an appearance there would be plenty of cat antics to make up for the lack of this in the first part. I was slightly disappointed when this didn't prove to be the case. There was enough about Jonah to make me smile and sometimes laugh, but I do feel the book, named for the cat (and his predecessor) could have been about him a little more. As it went on, I felt he was sidelined and returned at the end, almost as a way of wrapping things up.

In all, the book is well written and engaging. It's just not really about the cat.

Donna Mcnamara says

This book about this Australian author's relationship with her cat and her daughter was a fine and insightful read about the human condition. Little did I know when I chose the book that part of the storyline was the author's diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer. I am currently recovering from breast cancer surgery, so this theme touched my heart.

I learned that the author had written a previous book, about a previous cat who helped her family deal with the tragic loss of a young child. I am eager to read that as well.

P.S. She HATES misplaced apostrophes in plurals, as do I!!!

Ferne says

First, let me say that I was not aware of the author's first book, "Cleo" until I began reading this book. I don't remember how I discovered the availability of this title but it captured my attention and it was added to my 'wish to read' list. This is a beautiful memoir by Helen Brown to delight every aspect of a reader's senses from the beauty of the cover design by Colleen Andrews to the collage of color family photographs on the first page to the author's remembrances throughout the pages. The descriptions of experiences, thoughts and emotions are shared with honesty and without hesitation.

As I am a daughter that wandered away from my home town on two occasions to follow my heart - once for professional exploration and once simply to follow my heart - I can truly understand some of the perplexing conversations through the years between mother and daughter. As dearest cat Jolie continued to live with Mother throughout the years of these same wanderings I have a deep appreciation for Jonah's nurturing of Helen Brown's family as well as his soulful reactions.

This is a very special glimpse of the bonds shared by mothers and daughters, the friendship circle of women when courage, strength and hope are needed for sharing in higher volumes but softly without fanfare and the unconditional love between cats and their forever families.

Cynthia Sillitoe says

Great read!

Lisa B. says

My Thoughts

What a lovely surprise!

I will admit that as a cat owner, I am drawn to books that have "cats" in the title. I was also attracted to the book cover. For whatever reason, I thought this would be mostly about funny cat stories. Oh - it was so much more than that!

The author really does have a delightful writing style. During the period in her life she is writing about, she has several different personal challenges going on at the same time. She presents her story with eloquence and charm - and yes - a few funny cat stories mixed in.

My thanks to Kensington Publishing and Netgalley for allwoing me to read this in exchange for an unbiased review.

Amanda says

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley.

This was an okay book for me. It wasn't bad but I think I would have been more interested and invested if I had read the first book first but I did not realize that this was a follow-up when I picked it up. When I read the first one I will come back and try this one again.

Ellen Pilch says

This book angered me in two places which is why I only gave it 2 stars. In one place, the family is leaving for a wedding so their cat will be fed by a cat sitter, but the son brings his cat over to be watched too. They just leave them together with no introductions and hope for the best. Any cat owner knows this is so wrong and could have caused injury or possibly death to a cat.

The other part that upset me was when the author visits her daughter at a monastery in Thailand. She writes of the monks' cat, the daughter says she is a vegetarian and has lost several litters of kittens. How do these people not know that a cat can't be a vegetarian, they are obligate carnivores. Also, a cat should be altered. I thought Buddhists were not supposed to cause harm to others and this poor cat sure sounds like she was suffering. I was so mad that the author didn't try to rescue the cat or at least point out these errors.

Other than that, the book is well written and kept me interested in reading despite these flaws. The author did grown personally and found a way to connect with her daughter, but I can't stop thinking of the cat at the monastery and how cats are treated in other countries.

Ashley says

Another wonderful book by Helen Brown. I read Cleo some years ago and really enjoyed it. It was also one of the first books I have been able to convince my mother, who is not a reader, to read. She fell in love, not only because the story revolved around a cat, but because she was able to relate with the authors pain from her son's death. While perusing a book store a couple months ago, my mother found this book, and I happily bought it for her, excited she wanted to read more, and also because it was written by Helen Brown.

To actually talk about this book, the writing style is what we have come to enjoy from this author. It is ultimately a story of the struggles in her life, held together by the joys and idiosyncrasies of a special cat who happens to be along for the ride. To say this is just a cat book would be overlooking what the book is really about. It's about growing older and facing fears. it's about learning that there are some things you can't fight, and simply have to go with the flow and learn from it. It's about trusting those you care about to make the best decisions for themselves. And sure, it's also a little about a funny little cat, who I'm sure all cat owners can relate to on some level.
