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



## Synopsis

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 invented 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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—their 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?

This is a delightful and charming book. I gave it to my son and his husband for their anniversary, as they are both cat men. If you have ever admired a cat, you cannot help but be enchanted by the short, entertaining bios of famous men who have loved their felines. Some bios are really surprising! The artwork is whimsical but accurate and complements the text. A wonderful book. More than just a “coffee table” item.

Truly enjoyed. Wonderful writing and interesting stories. Excellent art. The book is a tremendous piece beyond the art— the weight of the pages, the cover and binding are all top notch. This is really nice. I read it. The kids did too. A book for a personal library or an academic setting.

Fantastic art, great history. A perfect gift for the cat dude in your life.

This is a smart, quirky, feminist and fun collection of brief biographies of famous men who’ve bucked gender constraints and loved them some cats. First, the writing is great, the biographies are smart and just telling enough to sate the uncurious and whet the appetites of more interested folks. But most importantly, the illustrations here are gorgeous—distinctly styled but not gimmicky, clever but not ONLY clever. As a cat-lover (who is, however, not a “crazy cat lady”... this is my ONLY book about cats) and a lover of redemptive history, this is one of my new favorite books. I show it to

everyone. One sometimes gets in trouble on this site for using the "q" word that rhymes with "cheer," so I'll simply say it's fulfilling to those of us who care about gender nonconformity and unearthing the ways in which our Official History has bulldozed over actual human stories that don't quite fit. Even Hemingway's.

We've all heard of the "crazy cat lady" but what about the crazy cat men? There must be some out there. Author Sam Kalda takes a look at some famous men throughout history who loved their feline friends in *Of Cats and Men*. Starting in the 10th century with Welsh King Hywel the Good (who recognized the value of cats as cheap vermin controllers and therefore protected them through law) on down the centuries to the present day, many influential men have been inspired, amused and comforted by cats. This colorful book takes a page to describe the man in question, his history, and his connection to cats. Each page also includes a drawing of the man and his inspirational cat. There are many cat-admiring quotes sprinkled throughout the book as well. Anyone who loves cats will be entertained by the many achievements of cats -- while their owners may take credit, it's really the cats who were responsible for inventing the cat flap (Sir Isaac Newton), alternating current (Nicola Tesla) Companion cats have also inspired poetry, musicals, art and even dance performances. It was also somewhat surprising for me to learn that somewhat stereotypically "gruff" men, including Ernest Hemingway, Mark Twain and Winston Churchill are among the famous cat lovers. You can even follow some of the more outgoing modern cats on social media. This book is a charming look at how cats have been loving, loyal and amusing companions to some of history's greatest leaders, artists and scientists. Those ancient Egyptians, who revered cats as gods, were certainly on to something! Disclaimer: I received a copy of *Of Cats and Men* from Blogging for Books in exchange for this review

If you love witty and charming books with absolutely adorable illustrations, about some of the most notable men in history, who were also very fond of cats, then this book is for you! The covers are beautiful on this book and the pages throughout the entire book are equally beautiful. There are 30 "Cat Men" included inside along with many quotes about the much celebrated cat on the pages by many recognizable names. (Mark Twain, Ray Bradbury, Ernest Hemingway, Karl Lagerfeld to name a few!) If the informative mini history lessons don't draw you in, then the drawings will. I was engaged the entire time reading. The illustrations are really well done. Great concept, well delivered. I look forward to more work from Sam Kalda. I rate this book a 5/5. This book would make a fantastic Father's Day gift for the cat loving man in your life! or a fantastic addition to your coffee table! \*FTC

DISCLAIMER: This book was sent to me complimentary of Blogging For Books in exchange for my honest review!\*

This book was my early Father's Day present to my husband. A self-labeled curmudgeon, he has long forbidden any pets in our house, but last Christmas my kids and I persuaded him that cats are the ideal pet for a grumpy man in an ivory tower. He claims not to like our two cats, but I catch him conversing with them when he thinks no one's looking. This book was the perfect thing for him, as it covers lots of fun biographies and quotes about famous "artists, writers, thinkers, and statesmen" who were also cat lovers. I have enjoyed reading this book too, and the art is simply gorgeous. I highly recommend this book as a gift for the cat-loving man in your life. Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the publisher for review purposes. I was not required to write a positive review, and all opinions are my own.

I don't know what I was expecting from this book, but I was pleasantly surprised. I love random facts, and throw in animals, and you've got me hooked. The book is a quick read. The chapters are short, yet informative. The images that run throughout the book are clever and wonderful. I really loved the style the illustrator went with. Overall, this was a great book. I'm definitely going to have my hubby read it when he's on one of his "why do we have cats" rants.

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