

INTRODUCTION

by Andre Norton

One need only mention a possible volume to record the fabulous exploits of our feline codwellers on this planet and immediately interest soars. So we have another assortment of tails (pardon, one of our heroes is a Manx) which will bring back old friends and introduce new ones. SKitty once more makes her appearance; Hermione allows one another glimpse into her illustrious past.

Then there comes for the first time a computer expert (can any of us now be sure our Internet has NOT been invaded by busy paws and agile brains? Cats have always dealt with mice effectively). Also, we are introduced to a PI of the Sam Spade school—as well as the unfortunate who should be a familiar in good standing but is allergic to magic.

However, a number of the tales in this volume deal with close companionship between human and cat: cats who sharpen claws for revenge; cats who understand loneliness; cats who search for a human friend and, finding one, proceed to make a common life—or death—with the person of their choice.

Anyway, here are cats of the past, cats of the star-wide future, cats who live lives of their own among human kind, cats who can take matters into their own paws and may have a great deal more power than we understand, cats who can face down Death itself for a purpose, and cats we wish we could actually invite within our doors for a visit and a long talkfest.

We hereby present fantastic cats in all sizes and moods and trust they will be welcomed.