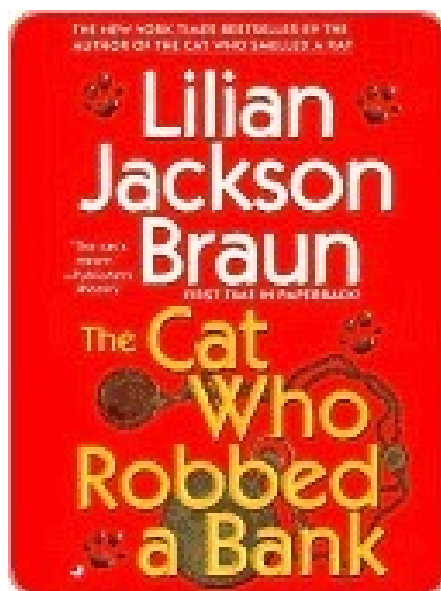




The Cat Who Robbed a Bank

Lilian Jackson Braun

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In this new installment in the bestselling *Cat Who...* mystery series Qwilleran and his brilliant Siamese put their whisker-twitching crime solving talents to task to find a killer.

The residents of Pickax are delighted that the old bombed-out Pickax Hotel is reopening with a whole new look. With new furnishings, a new chef, and even a new name, what could be more thrilling? Everyone is thrown into a topspin when one of the hotel's first guests, a jeweler who has come to town to buy heirloom jewelry from some of Pickax's oldest families, winds up the victim of murder. Who could have committed such a horrible crime? Could it be the hotel clerk, a recent winner of a gold medal for the caber toss at Highland Games?

Qwilleran and his snooping Siamese are willing to go to any length to find the killer and set the town at ease. But first they'll have to contend with a highjacked bookmobile, an attempted bank robbery... and a few of the cat's preoccupations. Koko has a newfound fondness for pennies and Koko and Yum Yum both are obsessed with chewing on gum wrappers - but for entirely different reasons, of course.

Sit back, relax and unwind with another fabulous feline mystery by Lilian Jackson Braun!

The Cat Who Robbed a Bank Details

Date : Published January 1st 2001 by Berkley (first published December 1st 1999)

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Author : Lilian Jackson Braun

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From Reader Review The Cat Who Robbed a Bank for online ebook

Lynne Tull says

Sometimes I forget these books are cataloged "Mystery". I get caught up in the story of Qwill's life as a big fish in a little pond. His two Siamese cats help with this "feel good" story. This is like a TV series that has been renewed for many seasons. The characters become friends and you wish you were really part of their story. Of course, since this series is a Mystery series, there is always a murder and a killer. More often than not the killers in Ms. Braun's books are sympathetic characters that are from the Pickax area and have been duped into killing the victim. This duper is usually from down below and is captured by the end of the book. Of course, Koko has been feeding Qwill clues since the beginning of the book. No matter that Qwill is an intelligent journalist, he never seems to plug into these clues except in an abstract manner. Only five more books to go.

Libbeth says

This is the first one in the series I have read and I gather it is very late in the series. I am sure I must have just picked a poor one to start with. There are dozens in the series so they must be very popular and surely must normally have a little more substance to them. I would imagine that if you read them in order you have the chance to warm to the characters and enjoy revisiting.

My goodness, how it droned on about what people were eating and wearing and what the rooms looked like.

SPOILERISH FROM HERE, but not much**

I gather that the setting is miles from anywhere but it seems to be the cultural and social centre of the middle of nowhere. Busy, busy, busy.

I didn't see the point of the cats showing us clues as Qwilleran seemed to be only half heartedly "sleuthing" and some of the clues even the reader couldn't really pick up on until the final "reveal" and you think "oh yeah, that was the point of the endless banging on about...whatever". There wasn't really a mystery anyway, you know who did it but expect a twist that never comes, just holes to pick in the plot.

On the up side, if you approach the book NOT as a mystery but as a day to day description of life and socialising in the area, with references to mystic cats, with not much point to it all, then it is a nice light read.

Sylvia says

This is the second book I've read in the Cat Who... series, because I love my cats and was hoping for another good read. Qwill has a very strong attachment to Koko and Yum-Yum. The Cat Who Robbed a Bank was not a bad book and the overall story was somewhat entertaining, but it just wasn't a great book.

A few parts were confusing, like I could not understand how Qwill could burn the letters from his dead mother without finishing reading them. After all, it was still an ok read for a lazy afternoon.

Susan Chow-Dukhan says

Cozy mysteries are usually a quick easy read. The Cat Who Robbed a Bank satisfies the reader if that's all they're looking for.

I was looking for a little bit more, having read earlier books in this series. The roles of Jim Qwilleran and his cats, Koko and Yum Yum have been reduced to bystanders to the mysteries. In the books that I've read, the cats' behaviour and Jim's tingling mustache advanced the plot, as they helped Jim discover clues or make inquiries that led to the final confrontation. The way Lilian Jackson Braun was able to have Jim interpret what may have been normal cat behaviour as clues made the books interesting.

In this novel, Koko's behaviour is more of an afterthought to assure the reader that he knows what's happening (or what will happen), it does not lead the reader further into the plot. Perhaps the problem is Jim, as he is no longer able to act on Koko's clues.

He also appears to be out of character when reacting to the letters sent to Aunt Fanny. If the letters were meant to be a lead-in to future books in the series, it wasn't necessary for the reader to know the contents of the letter. The final treatment of the letters would have been more characteristic if performed by a young child, not a man who had fought in a war, was a crime reporter and had put his life back together, prior to coming to Moose County. Unless this was meant to show Jim's emotional instability, the entire sections regarding reading the letters could have been omitted from this book.

Piepie says

This was a fun book to read! I love how you can jump in anywhere in this series and I love the author's way with words!

Lisa Kucharski says

(Warning of mild spoiler) Not a whole lot of mystery here, which gives the books more drama, this one was more like a soap opera of sorts, just visiting friends and finding out about the characters. This is the downside of this series, the mysteries become a bit weaker as the series gets toward the end. However, at this point I can read them just to visit with the character I like and at times, skim past parts that repeat past info.

(Spoiler) In this one Qwill receives a bundle of letters that his mother wrote her friend, and he ends up burning them... what is wrong with this man. He knows what happened but he should have kept the letters as a way to at least have a memento that he claims to want earlier. Very frustrating to read this.

Garrison Kelly says

Jim "Q" Qwilleran and his Siamese kitties Koko and Yum Yum are thrust into another mystery when a jewelry dealer winds up dead in a hotel room and the salesman's assistant as well as a local Highland Games athlete go missing shortly after. Koko, being the psychic kitty he is, drops little hints in front of Q that could be mistaken for hyperactive playing. The closer Q gets to solving this case, the more he realizes that Koko really is a genius and that even the strangest clues can pan out from time to time.

I've been a reader of Lilian Jackson Braun's "Cat Who" books since the early 2010's. Every time I read one of these novels, the tropes she relies on become more and more apparent. The small town atmosphere, local gossiping, and constant lunch and dinner dates are just small examples. Others include the G-rated way in

which the dead meet their fates, the townsfolk's love of ancient literature, the typical elderly hobbies such as silhouette cutting and wood turning, and the relaxed sense of urgency when these mysteries move along. I believe it's safe to say that if you've read one Cat Who book, you've read them all.

And yet I keep going back to them because of their relaxing nature and light reading material. This is especially comforting whenever it's raining or otherwise cold outside. Just snuggle up with your favorite kitty and wrap yourself in a blanket for a nice afternoon or evening of easy reading. Notice how I'm using themes of comfort and relaxation with these books rather than boredom. You can be chilled out and still have lots of fun reading whatever it is you're reading. Think of it as being like getting a chair massage with new age music playing in the background. After you've had your low-key fun for the day, snuggle in bed and take a nice long nap with the rain tapping on your window.

If you want to read something nice and pleasant with a double dose of feline sweetness, look no further than "The Cat Who Robbed a Bank", or any other Cat Who book for that matter. Ms. Braun has left behind a legacy of lovability with this series alone. Yes, she had a nagging tendency to tell instead of show, but if you're patient, it won't matter after you've delved far enough into the easy-paced mystery. Easy on the eyes, easy on the soul, easy on your warm toasty kitty-loving heart. A passing grade not only for this particular book, but for the series as a whole.

Kirsti says

The mysterious Delacamp is making an appearance in Moose County, ready to charm the ladies into buying or selling their family heirlooms, and Qwill suspects no one can be as cheesy and get away with it. He arrives with his 'niece', and when he is killed in his sleep, the police and Qwill begin the hunt for the killer(s). It's up to Koko, with his usual clues, to give his understanding of the situation and help bring the perpetrators to justice. This one also sees the restoration of the Hotel, bombed in a previous novel. It is dedicated to Qwill's mother, and we learn a little bit more about his past and especially about his father.

Returning to Moose County is always fun, and this book is no exception. Love the Cat who books! :)

Lorraine says

I began reading this Lillian Jackson Braun cozy mystery series shortly after it began. It is one of my favorite cozy mystery series containing all the elements that make one top notch: 1) It takes place in the small, quaint town of Pickax (somewhere in a wooded area) of the US. 2) The mystery solver is an unusual person with a great deal of perception. Jim Qwilleran is a writer fascinated with books and has two Siamese cats who tend to do things that give clues that help his detective instincts along. He is also good friends and well liked by all of Pickax citizenry. 3) The small town is filled with an unusual cast of characters that reappear in each book and soon become your best friends and a favorite book "family." 4) There is a smidgen of romance. In this case, it is between middle-aged Jim Qwilleran and Polly Duncan the head librarian of the Pickax library.

This book is filled with the usual "catescapades" of Koko and Yum-Yum. It also has a delightful touch of humor that adds to the cozy mystery. If you are a cozy mystery fan and have missed this series, I definitely recommend it. If you get hooked, there are 29 books in the series with the last written shortly before Braun's death at almost 98.

Gloria says

The town of Pickax is aflutter with the news that Mr. Delacamp is coming back. He buys and sells antiques and has a females-only tea party. Qwilleran plays security guard, with the help of some friends.

The hotel is renovated and everyone is in awe of the new look, new eateries, and the newly named "Mark Twain" suite, which Mr. Delacamp was in. Mr. Delacamp had an assistant, a very demure young woman to some, a flirt to others. She disappeared when he was murdered, taking a lot of valuable things and leaving her own.

Qwilleran attended the Scottish games, where a gold medal was won by John "Boze" Campbell, who told Lenny a secret.

Lenny asked Qwill what to do, and Qwill brought in legal help. Qwill bought a mechanical coin bank which is in the shape of a Scottish man in a kilt, and Koko opened it, taking the money.

When an old lawyer in town dies, Qwill receives old letters telling about his mother's love and marriage before his birth. He finds that the ideal of romance does not line up with the situation given in the letters and burns them.

Who done it? (view spoiler)

Rage says

I'm not sure if I've read this one before! I love this series. The characters are like old friends. Their lives change slightly with every book. Additionally, the setting reminds me of home (Michigan), and I think it's fascinating how things change over time - from a small town with nothing going on to this bustling place with a community college, a newly renovated inn, all kinds of restaurants... most of which is thanks to Qwill's fortune. I love how LJB develops her world. In this story, Qwill has a chance to learn more about his mother, a particularly sad subplot. These books are like comfort food for me.

James says

Book Review

3 out of 5 stars to The Cat Who Robbed a Bank, the 22nd book in the "Cat Who" cozy mystery series, written in 1999 by Lilian Jackson Braun. In this catscapade (I think I am coining a new word here... probably not), a smooth ladies man or sorts descends on Pickax, taking ladies to tea. It's not as fun as it sounds... he's murdered. And his assistant looks guilty. But was it really her? Qwill gets to wear a disguise. The Scottish roots and heritage are in full play, which I love. And the characters all come out for this one. Overall, it wasn't a favorite in the series. It had a few open plot points and too many disconnects, but it was also strong with the humor, characters and connection. So it evened out. The series was just about starting to wind down around here. I envisioned a true bank robbery, but as always, there is a play on words!

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at

<https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.

Una Tiers says

This is one of the earlier books in the series, with a nice plot and fun character antics.

Susan Webb says

I felt this one was a little rushed in trying to show guilt on someone, how they did it, why they did it, all that got lost somewhere. Not as good a story and the other ones I have read.

Carol says

Second Read: As usual, I enjoyed getting back with the old gang of quirky characters in the Cat Who series. But that's about it. I certainly don't read these fluffy short novels for the mystery elements as this one once again proves. The crime is straight forward and the perp is identified pretty early on. I kept half expecting that to be a red herring but it was not to be. The rest of the novel is packed full of daily small town life in the northern US and includes numerous vignettes of the townsfolk telling humorous stories from their past. We do get to learn some of our protagonist's (Jim Qwilleran's) past via some old letters handed to him authored by his mother during her early life but otherwise, there is not much new here.

The author, I've learned, passed away earlier this year at the age of 97 so there will be no more Cat Who books, unless another author picks it up. There have been rumors, due to the author's age, that some of these later books were, in fact, penned by somebody else, but I don't think so. They are just too consistent for that to be the case. I think I liked my second read of this book much more than the first read. I seemed to get a lot more out of the story with this read.

First Read: Read this one about 5-6 months ago, and it is an ok read. I've read a pile of these, and this one has not been my favorite. It is ok in some aspects, and weak in others. The character development is a bit different in this one. The solving of the mystery is ok but not great.
