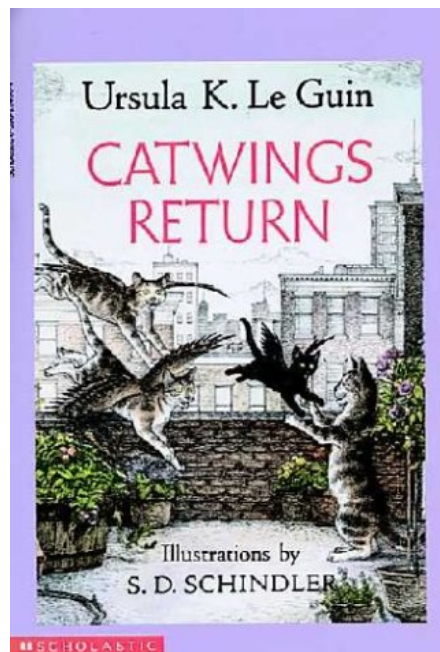




Catwings Return

Ursula K. Le Guin , S.D. Schindler (Illustrator)

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Identical in format and length to its predecessor, Catwings , this new book picks up where that one left off. The four winged cats Thelma, Roger, Harriet and James are content in the country barn where they live, secretly cared for by humans Hank and Susan. But they would like to see their mother, and the dumpster where they were born. Only James and Harriet make the trip, and learn that the slums are being destroyed by demolition crews!

Catwings Return Details

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Author : Ursula K. Le Guin , S.D. Schindler (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Catwings Return for online ebook

Timothy Phin says

After Le Guin's death, I decided to share some of her work with my lads. Earthsea is still a year or so beyond them, but we had these Catwings stories. I'd not bothered to pick them up before, so it was a new piece of Le Guin for me, too. They are tiny treasures. The skillful prose of her larger works are here on sweet, small pages, perfect for my boys.

Julia says

I like when Harriet and James flew away from the barn to the city to meet their mother for a visit. And I like when they had a little nap and then a very loud noise woke them and it was a crane and a metal ball bashing down buildings. And I like when everything was quiet and no noise at all came. And I like when there was a tiny quiet sound, "Me." I like when it bashed a metal ball in there and James saw the little kitten and then it bashed a hole in the building. And the kitten had wings and the other ones had wings -- that's why it's called "catwings." And then Harriet closed her jaws right on the tip of the little kitten's neck and carried her off. First the kitten was very gentle but then the kitten started twisting. I like when the kitten twisted right off under a street filled with whizzing cars. And I like when the kitten spread out its wings and soared out into the sky. And I like when they flew and then the kitten got a little bit tired. And then James flew under the kitten and let it land on his wings. I like when they got home in a garden filled with flowers and the mother cat was waiting. And I like when the mother curled up next to its kitten. And I like when she told a story about when her kitten had started jumping off things, trying to fly down. And I like when they flew at night but that was the hardest because then they all got tired and they had to rest lots of times - even more than day because nighttime is so when you sleep. And I like when they got to the barn again and I like when the little kitten fell on its side and wriggled. And I like when two nice human children got some milk for the kitten and I like when one little sister said, "What do you think that kitten's name is?" "Me?" that's what the kitten said. "Mimi," is what one human said. But the other human said, "I don't think Mimi; I think Jane." And I like when it splattered milk all over its little black face and then it had a bath.

Ruthie Jones says

The little cats with wings are thriving in their new home in the country with their human children to love and care for them. Homesickness for their mother sets in, and two of the siblings fly off to visit her. What they find instead is their old neighborhood under attack by a wrecking ball and no mother in sight. What they do find is a scared tiny kitten with wings.

These short, sweet books are perfect for a quick read, a lovely message, and cats with wings. All good things. The lessons I take away from book 2 are follow your instincts, let go because it's the right thing to do, and love and kindness are sometimes all you need.

Love these catwings!

" ' Did you ever see a bird that had whiskers? And front feet?'

'Nope,' said the other man. 'Can't say I ever did. Want a dill pickle?' "

Jenny says

So adorable. I firmly believe that Ursula K. Le Guin could do anything she set her mind to. The more I see of her work the more I miss her very much.

Sarah Sammis says

After I posted my review of Minifred Goes to School by Mordicai Gerstein, Little Willow recommended that I read the Catwings series by Ursula K. Le Guin. At the library I only found the second book in the series, Catwings Return. So in keeping with my record of reading the second book first, I checked it out.

Catwings Return begins on a farm where young children have a special looking pigeon coupe. Except it doesn't house pigeons; it houses cats with wings. The kittens decide they need to go back to the city to visit their non winged mother.

While looking for their mother in a neighborhood about to be demolished they find a winged kitten. She must be a sibling. The little kitten is too scared to listen to reason. The catwings have to find a way to save their sister and find their mother.

The book is short, only five chapters. I fell in love with it on the first couple of pages. First of all it has the delightful illustrations by S. D. Schindler, who also illustrated Le Guin's Cat Dreams. Next, one of the kittens is named Harriet. My Harriet adores cats and she's now old enough to sit through short chapter books if I read them to her.

Since reading Catwings Returns I've found Catwings at a different branch. I plan to read it to her before I read Catwings Returns. I'm looking forward to starting the series with my daughter.

Holly Letson says

This is the story of how the Catwings found their sister, Jane, and reunited with their mother before returning home. They take Jane with them, and she is well-accepted and well-treated at the barn, but she cannot say anything except "Me" and "HATE!".

Rick says

What do you do when you're sick with the flu (or something very much like the flu perhaps)? Well, I decided to read the second *Catwings* adventure. Another delightfully charming children's adventure story. This time the *catwings*, or at least a couple of them, return home to see their mother and a surprise. Le Guin certainly has a knack for making this type of fable engaging and entertaining. I'm looking forward to the 3rd installment of the series.

Myra Blake says

I did not care for this book as much as the first book in this series. While still a cute and sweet story it just didn't have the same appeal for me.

Yumi Learner says

I finished reading "Catwings collection" yesterday. They are my second to fifth books to read in English in this year. The books have four volumes. Each title is " Catwings", " Catwings Return", " Wonderful Alexander And The Catwings" and " Jane On Her Own". I figured out " Catwings" first at a book store. I turned some pages, and I loved the illustration at first sight. Those were awesome! I bought first book and read it. Since the book was written for kids, it was easy to understand. In addition to that, the illustrations helped me to imagine the strange world where cats have wings.
In my case I was attracted by the illustrations to buy them.

However, while I was continuing to read, I realized that catwings are kind of metaphor of people who are different from others. That means the people who are great deal of their personalities. It is occasionally hard for them to be accepted toward normal people.

That's because people don't like admiring their strong personalities. In the story catwings traveled around to find their own place and discovered their place to live peacefully.

The place was the houses where kids live or old woman lives.

Both kids and old woman didn't care the difference of the cats. They were rather willing to admire their difference easily. They were written as symbols of unselfish or affectionate objects.

After I read the books, I thought catwings might be kind of phantoms which only people who have pure harts can look at. Anyway, the story is very simple, but you can enjoy both wonderful illustrations and beautiful stories. I especially recommend the books to the people who are cats lover.

Aundrea says

I cried.

Lisa Paul says

This was the first Catwings book I read. I found it so poignant that I had to stop for 6 months before I could read the other I had, "Jane on her Own".

Loses one star for a lazy sort of a Midcentury America "whitebread" vibe to the human bits. LeGuin should know better.

Diane says

This was even better than the first one. It's even exciting.

Calista says

A cute little book for young readers starting on a chapter book. Good for ages 6-8. It's a book about cats who can fly. It is good writing and young readers will enjoy it.

Maggie Gordon says

Catwings continue to be adorable little picture books. In this one, two of the cats decide to visit their old home to find it in the middle of being destroyed! They can't leave, however, until they save a poor little black kitten with wings who is hiding terrified in an attic. They coax her out, find their mother, and discover that the tiny little Jane is actually their sister! As usual, the art is adorable, and the cats' travel to the city is exciting for the age group these books are geared at. Plus now we get to see Jane who looks just like my kitty :D

Alana says

After recently reading what I at first considered to be my first Ursula K. Le Guin work, I was reminded of the fact that I was quite wrong... and that as a child, I had actually loved two Le Guin books, though that may have been because they included the young-Alana prerequisite for any good book: cats.

Catwings focuses on the Tabby family, or rather, the four children of Mrs. Jane Tabby. Without a father and with their home in a neighborhood that was growing worse, Mrs. Jane Tabby has her paws full and so there was no real time to worry much about the fact that her children had wings. There comes a point when Mrs. Tabby believes that her children need to leave and find a better life for themselves, and so she insists that they use their wings to fly away and do just that. She is left behind, newly engaged to a good tomcat, and while her words are a bit brusque, no one doubts that all Mrs. Tabby wants is the best life possible for her children. So Thelma, Roger, James, and Harriet fly into the country, where they make a life for themselves, but learn that life can be just as dangerous there as it was in the city. Ultimately, they befriend two human children who understand that they can never tell anyone about the flying cats or everyone would try to trap them. Instead, they give the cats a home in the top of their family's barn and the story ends happily with the semi-domestication of the flying cats.

Catwings Returns focuses primarily on James and Harriet, who decide that they wish to visit their mother in the old neighborhood, and so they leave their siblings in the country for what is supposed to be a simple visit. (Roger and Thelma believe the children they have befriended would be far too worried if everyone left, so they stay behind.) Of course, when James and Harrier arrive, they find that construction crews are demolishing the neighborhood, their mother is nowhere to be found, and their attention is caught by a mewing sound -- which turns out to be a black winged kitten in a condemned building. With patience, they befriend the kitten (who clearly must be their mother's kitten, they believe, given the wings) and manage to save him in the nick of time from the encroaching bulldozers. They find Mrs. Jane Tabby in a rooftop

garden, their mother having recently been taken in by an old woman after the first bulldozers drove her from the neighborhood. Her husband was away on business (and she seems little concerned with his loss) and she cannot get down from the rooftop garden, but now that she knows her kitten is safe, Mrs. Jane Tabby is perfectly content to stay right where she is -- provided James and Harriet take her kitten with them to the country. They do so and the kitten is named Jane, happy in her new country surroundings with her older siblings.

There were two other books in the Catwings Collection -- named *Marvelous Alexander and the Catwings* and *Jane on her Own* -- but they never really captured me the way the first two did. At the time, I was charmed by the drawings and, let's face it, any story that featured kitties. Now that I'm older and know a bit more about Le Guin's work, I find them to be embedded with deeper concepts about parenthood, survival, independence, and trust. With Le Guin's interest in gender roles, it's unsurprising that we have a strong single mother and a similarly strong female leader in Thelma. The dangers of the world are quite present, both in the city and the country, and Le Guin is not afraid to make those manifest in attacks on the individuals and long-term repercussions.

I hadn't been that keen on picking up another Le Guin book after reading a series of her stories for adults, but this re-read of *Catwings* may have actually won her another chance. It's all a bit deeper than the simple story of flying cats and touches upon ideas of growing up and finding one's own way in the world (though there's still a healthy reliance on family). *Catwings*: not just for kitty-obsessed kids anymore. Though if you have one of those, then you should definitely introduce them to Mrs. Tabby and her children.
