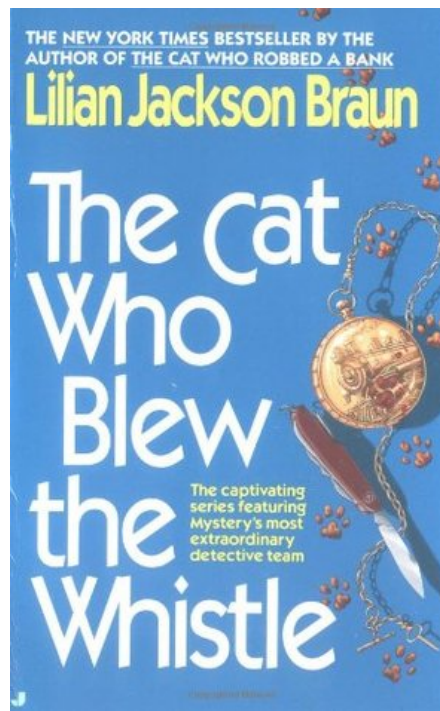




The Cat Who Blew the Whistle

Lilian Jackson Braun

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Jim Qwilleran and his Siamese sleuths, Koko and Yum Yum, investigate the disappearance of a wealthy railroad buff--and alleged multimillion-dollar embezzler--a case that becomes complicated by red herrings, a tragic train wreck, and murder at a railroad tavern.

The Cat Who Blew the Whistle Details

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Author : Lilian Jackson Braun

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From Reader Review The Cat Who Blew the Whistle for online ebook

Monica says

The plot of this 17th Braun book centers around a historic steam locomotive, and although I really have no interest in anything railroad related, at this point in this series it's not always the plot that is the catch. It's the characters...Qwill, Koko and Yum Yum...and all the rest of the characters who continue to revolve in and out of Braun's books. I love this cozy mystery series, always a great escape.

Pattyrlg says

We read some of The Cat Who... books for our book group. Each member chose a different book and then gave a quick synopsis without giving away the mysterious killer. Here is my synopsis in poem form. I know I'm not a poet, but thought I'd do something different.

Jim Qwilleran and two Siamese cats live in an octagonal barn
Koko the cat is smarter than anything you or I could learn

Floyd Trevelyan owns a credit union but launches his party train instead
Then disappears and could he be dead

A cheapskate and tyrant Trevelyan has been
To his wife and children, other family and friends

Auditors come to his credit union and accuse Trevelyan of theft
And all the depositors are bereft

Who alerted the auditors of Floyds's possible trespasses?
Certainly, no one comes forward and confesses

Floyd's beautiful assistant, Nella, in Texas is found
And has no idea where Floyd may be bound

Polly is having a house built by, Eddie, Floyd Trevelyan's son
His old friend and coworker, Benno, is stabbed in the dark, not shot with a gun

One night Eddie is grading Polly's lot
And an owl attacks him on the spot

Qwill's friend Celia comes from Florida and helps with the case
But he doesn't tell Polly in case she goes into a jealous rage

The Pickaxe Players put on A Midsummer's Night Dream
But instead of sprites and fairies they have men of green

About what has gone awry, Koko gives Qwill clues
But Qwill doesn't understand and has the blues

Koko steals Qwill's pens and does his dance of death,
Sets a vigil at the foyer window and sits amongst the decoys of ducks

For some reason on the concrete pad for Polly's new garage, Koko likes to roll
And when he hears the name Hermia sets up a howl

Finally Qwill figures out Koko's clues
Thus, on the culprit, Koko the cat the whistle he blew

Victoria says

I have always loved these books, but most people threw shade at them as I was growing up, because they're a cosy mystery series. People don't see the appeal, but I love a mystery with solid characters.

Holly Parrott says

Delightful book great characters wonderful cats.

Kirsti says

Koko's on the case again, obsessed with Pens and Lions. He yows when he hears the name 'Hermia', but for what reason? It's up to Qwill to put together the clues and find out what causes Koko to stare out the window at Polly's developing house, and why he doesn't like her new builder. Bring it all together with talk of trains and times long gone, and you've got yourself a mystery!

This is another of my favorites, because of Celia Robinson. She is one of my favorite characters, if only for her laughter and constant mentions of her grandson. She's back helping Qwill investigate, and this time she's come to Pickaxe to stay. Polly is driving herself mad with the building of her house, and everyone else too.

Another lighthearted mystery, and another enjoyable read. I read this one in one sitting, moving only to go inside as a thunderstorm is brewing. These books really are that engaging!

Jeanmarie Jones says

Sometimes in your life, as much as you want to read, you just can't. Such was my case the last few months, dealing with a crisis and chaos. My mind longed for a book, but couldn't handle it. As the skies are finally calming and clearing, I needed something easy and comforting to read, a story to bring me happiness. So I reached for an old friend in the cat who series, which I was rereading for the third go round. Qwill and the cats made me smile, made me think, made me laugh and I was drawn back into the pickax community of friends and neighbors. If you like trains, railroads and an easy mystery, this story is for you.

Catherine says

I love all the Cat Who books, however this one took a little longer to grab my interest.

Rage says

I do so love these books. they're not very mysterious, but I really enjoy returning to the familiar characters. the ending on this one was QUITE a twist! and, as I've been noticing in this series, underneath the cozy elements (diners, cats, a drama club, a kilt tailor-made for Q, pyramid power), the story is very sad and dark.

Jack says

¡Ay, qué pesado! Great characters, plot, story line, writing, ... potentially a very interesting book, but the cats? I LOVE cats, but they are a distraction throughout this potentially great read. Then again, this whole series of books has the cats as the central theme, so I clearly am unclear on the concept. Someone please explain this to me - thanks!

Raymond says

I have had siamese cats and can relate to their characteristics detailed in this book, but I did not really enjoy the story (did not find that the cause of the power outage was ever explained, etc.)! Seems that there were many dangling story threads that were not unraveled! This series is something my wife seems to enjoy?

James says

Book Review

3+ out of 5 stars to The Cat Who Blew the Whistle, the 17th book in the "Cat Who" cozy mystery series, written in 1994 by Lilian Jackson Braun. I'm closing in on the final reviews for all these crazy cat books... I read them all in order... all 30+ of them from about 1998 until 2010. Now I'm writing the reviews... out of order... by order in which I remember them. And this one, tho I do recall some key parts revolving around a crazy train accident... it fell in the middle ground of likability in terms of the entire series. It had a decent plot... and good questions... like... does a train just have an accident on its own, or is it part of an elaborate scheme to bring someone down. And what if someone else associated with the train is murdered. Don't worry, KoKo is on the case -- he blew the whistle on the creep(s). Love the play on words. OK, enough filler... I unfortunately do not remember a ton about this particular book. What I do recall is that it follows the usual formula, has a couple of good new characters, the murderer is different than you'd expect in this type of a novel... and well... I need to hurry up and finish these Cat books. Right?

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.

Sue says

Qwill and the cats are back in their apple barn house in Pickax. Qwill and Polly attend a fundraising event which is a ride on a renovated train with a steam locomotive. It is a wonderful event. The day after the event, the man behind the event, Floyd Trevelyan, has disappeared with thousands of dollars from investors; his secretary is also missing. The investigation points its fingers at Floyd. Ko-ko, on the other hand, tries to make Qwill realize that their focus should be elsewhere.

Didn't enjoy this one as much as others in the series. Granted, all of them are light reading, but this one seemed to be contrived fluff. The suspense for me was what was happening in the relationship between Qwill and Polly and wondering if Polly was going to be worked out of the series with Celia's introduction.

Jay says

I picked up "The Cat Who Blew the Whistle" on tape to listen to on a long drive. What a mistake! Without exaggeration, this was one of the worst things I've ever read (or listened to). It made an already long car trip interminable. I wish I could give this book zero-stars because a one-star "did not like it" rating just doesn't do this book justice.

So why was it so bad?

First off, it was unbelievably boring. The first two or three chapters are basically pointless. Characters were introduced, the theme of trains was established, and a bit more took place. But that could have been a single chapter, not three. Then there is all the pages dedicated to "A Midsummer's Night Dream" play the town was putting on. The entire time I thought there was going to be a huge payoff with the play. Was there? Absolutely not! The only relevance is that a character's name in the play (Hermia) makes the cat go wild because it sounds like hermaphrodite and one of the villains is a hermaphrodite. That's it! They spent probably three chapters on this play and at the end there is a single paragraph about its relevance. So in a book with 16 or 17 chapters, 6 chapters were absolute filler. This book could have been AT LEAST 100 pages shorter without losing anything.

And about the villain. Throughout the book, the secretary is described as a stunningly beautiful woman. Not beautiful for a small town. But movie-star/model beautiful. At the end, Jim says the police should stop looking for beautiful woman and start looking for a man name Lionel who probably has a beard because he/she is a hermaphrodite. The readers is supposed to believe that a hermaphrodite capable of growing a beard and looking like a man is also a remarkably beautiful woman? Ridiculous.

And what happens to him/her? The cat blows the case wide open. We know where the body is hidden. We know who did it. Did they catch him/her? I don't know because the book just ends. Lilian Jackson Braun spends a third of the book on mindless dribble but can't even dedicate a page to the outcome of the case? The back of the book also promised us that the case would involve an "international investigation." Besides two people going to Switzerland (unrelated to the case really) and the main villain going to Texas, everything takes place in Moose County. There is nothing international about the investigation at all.

Lastly, this book fails to grab the reader's interest because the man who disappears isn't likeable. We barely meet him. Just a short interview by Jim where his answers are short yes or no replies. Why should I care that he is gone? I don't care if he stole money or was killed because he is a boring character whom I barely know. Main character Jim isn't exactly likeable either while Chilia is extremely boring. I was really hoping they would all die in a train wreck rather than solve the case.

To be fair, this is the 17th book in the series. Maybe if I had read the earlier ones first, I would have liked it more. But there is no chance of that happening. This book was just too bad. There is no way I am going to waste my time on earlier books that are likely only marginally better. I would not recommend this book to anyone other than as punishment.

Ange H says

In #17 ...Blew the Whistle, Qwill and the cats are fresh from their adventure on Breakfast Island and living in their actual home for a change. I noted in my review of #16 that Qwill was a real jerk, and it seems that even the author realized she took it too far because as this one opens, Qwill's character is given glowing reviews by various citizens of Moose County.

For a change of pace, Braun decides to make Polly the annoying one. We learn that she was named after Hippolyta from "A Midsummer's Night Dream," the latest production being put on by the Pickax drama club. (We also learn that Qwill's real first name is Merlin, so he goes by his middle name James, as any sensible person would.) Polly is having a house built on Qwill's property, near his converted apple barn. She proceeds to get all obsessed and crazy about it, which is totally understandable but not much fun to read about.

The builder of Polly's house is a young man whose family, the Trevelyans, once owned the property. His father is a wealthy man who owns a credit union and appears to have recently absconded with the money, leaving depositors high and dry.

Celia Robinson, who helped Qwill solve the mystery in ...Went into the Closet, moves to Pickax and becomes his secret assistant on this case. She befriends the widow and daughter of the missing man and reports back to Qwill on the tidbits of information she gathers, helping him to solve the mystery. Unfortunately, the ending of this one is really ridiculous. I was disappointed, as the big silly dramatic ending seemed out of character with the low key earlier novels. (view spoiler)

Body Count: 5 (view spoiler)

Published: 1995

Preceded by: The Cat Who Came to Breakfast

Next up: The Cat Who Said Cheese

it'chy says

koko and qwill make the local police look inept

Christine Norman says

I wanted to read a tame but engaging mystery and this proved to fit that mold. However, I had trouble keeping the details straight. Maybe I needed to read the previous books in her series of "cat" mysteries to keep up. Not sure. Anyway, it's a good read if you don't like lurid descriptions of violence and murder, but still enjoy a mystery.

Carol says

Second Read: It's been another age since I read them (collectively) again. I just love them and I had a huge reality check this week when I realized that I'm older than Qwill. That was a kick in the pants. Here he is the richest guy in his segment of the United States. I am a cat person and have an 18 year old cat named Frisco. So when he talks about Yum-Yum and Ko-Ko and their antics, I get quite a giggle about them. They have such talents in many ways. This one is about a train that they are regenerating so they can do on-board elegant dinners to passengers, they take a ride and return. I'd love to do something like that. There is a murder in this, and Polly has some health issues, but the story continues with the general cast of characters. Anyway it's a fun read. Recommend.

First Read: Been ages since I've read a Lilian Jackson Braun. My Mom and I just loved these, and I thought since she passed I'd read the rest. Guess not. Found this in the library, and it's like visiting old friend's and was tickled to be there. This isn't her best, but it still was fun to hear old Qwill, and especially his two Cats Koko and Yum Yum, two Siamese cats. We didn't have our cat when I was reading these quite often, so it brought quite a tickle. Recommend.

Donald Butchko says

It's hardly worth commenting on individual titles in this series--if you are a fan you will find each book to have the same comforting qualities, familiar characters, and decent mystery plotting. The contributions of reporter James Qwillerin's feline friends were somewhat less integral than they are in other books, with the bulk of the assistance coming from a new human accomplice. The narrative found a way to include most of my favorite denizen's of Pickax as well as the drama club. I'm surprised this series has not been adapted into a TV series, though perhaps its homey, quaint, Murder-she-wrote-esque charms would be out of place today

Peggie Ross says

This one I must have missed as none of it was familiar but clearly I have read several other books in the series which are later (based on who is in them and where people live). I always enjoy this series and though KoKo is the chief detective, it is YumYum who is my favorite cat; she reminds me of several we have owned over the years. Qwill is an interesting hero and I love his eccentricities. I'm always looking for more of these books to read and enjoy them even out of sequence.

Knit Spirit says

Dans cet épisode, Qwill cherche à percer le mystère qui entoure la disparition d'un banquier fana de trains, il aurait détourné des fonds mais rien n'est clair et lorsqu'il se rend compte que Polly a embauché le fils de ce fameux banquier pour construire sa future maison, le journaliste à la retraite tend l'oreille et surveille. Encore un bon tome. Je ne me suis pas ennuyée une seconde, c'était un plaisir de retrouver l'un des personnages d'un tome précédent qui avait aidé Jim Qwilleran à résoudre une enquête jouer à nouveau les espions.
