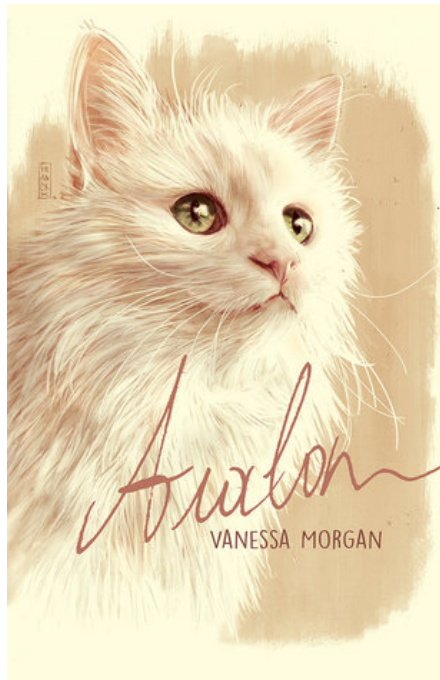




Avalon: a Heartwarming True Cat Story

Vanessa Morgan

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Some cats need nine lives to make a difference. Avalon only needed one.

From Amazon bestselling author Vanessa Morgan, Avalon is the heartwarming and once-in-a-lifetime love story of a girl and her neurotic Turkish Van cat.

With humor, the author details how Avalon made other creatures cringe in distress whenever he was around, how he threw her dates out by means of special techniques, and how he rendered it almost impossible for her to leave the house. Avalon was so incorrigible that even her landlord ordered her to get rid of him. But beneath Avalon's demonic boisterousness, Vanessa recognized her own flaws and insecurities, and she understood that abandoning Avalon would be the worst she could do to him. Thanks to her unswerving loyalty, Avalon transformed into a tender feline, and even landed a major role in a horror movie. In turn, Avalon made it his mission to be there for his human companion.

Avalon is a memoir for anyone who has ever been obsessively in love with a pet.

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From Reader Review Avalon: a Heartwarming True Cat Story for online ebook

Cayt Landis says

Avalon: A Heartwarming True Cat Story by Vanessa Morgan is the tale of one woman and her cat. They have a relationship that goes beyond the typical human-pet relationship and they teach each other what love truly is. This memoir covers the life and death of Avalon, an entirely unique cat who stands out in the world of cats.

Avalon is a Turkish Van cat who is found on the street, presumable abandoned or lost. The author takes Avalon in when she realizes that she and the cat have a connection right off the bat. Though they try to find her owner, nothing comes of it and Avalon becomes a member of the family. Unfortunately, Avalon has some serious issues. He is a beautiful cat but he does not take well to the other animals in his life. He loves his owner, but to the point of obsession. He is a terror around the house and he demands attention at all times. Some owners might give up on Avalon, but not Vanessa Morgan. She knows that this cat is meant for her and that they share a bond beyond that of any other pair of beings. Vanessa makes it her life's goal to make sure that Avalon has a beautiful life and, in the process, finds herself.

I adored this memoir. I love animals, first and foremost, so I immediately wanted to read this. I have read a few different memoirs about people and their pets and this particular one was one of the best. Avalon is the type of cat you would see on My Cat From Hell on Animal Planet. He is absolutely terrible around the house, leaving chaos wherever he goes. But he is loving and deserves to be loved entirely by his person.

I loved that the owner and the cat find a real life with each other. They bond in a way that you wouldn't expect and they each make the other a more happy and healthy being. Vanessa helps Avalon to feel loved and needed, assuring him that she will not disappear and leave him when he least expects it. At the same time, Avalon teaches Vanessa that she deserves love and that she needs to live her life for herself and her interests, not get stuck in a career path and relationship that is stagnating.

This story is the tale of a cat learning to love and be comfortable in his own home. But is more than that. Is the tale of a person learning to love herself and to love another being unconditionally. I love this story and I think anyone who has animals of their own would adore it as well. It is touching, inspiring and left me in tears. I highly recommend it to any animal lover.

Check out this excerpt!

Around three o'clock that night, Avalon was fed up with the strange man in his bed. He plonked his rear down on Gilles' pillow, complaining fretfully in his ear while tapping him on the face.

After nearly an hour of incessant wailing and poking, more drastic measures were required. The new solution: pushing Gilles out of bed. Avalon succeeded.

Climbing back under the covers wasn't an option. Unable to sleep, Gilles got up. "I guess I didn't pass the test."

"Give Avalon some time. Maybe he was just irked because you took his side of the bed." But Gilles had already understood that this wasn't going to be a onetime event.

For several minutes, Gilles and Avalon sized each other up. Then Gilles said, "I'd better leave the two of you alone now. It's clearly what the little guy wants."

I swear I could see Avalon smirking when Gilles put on his jacket and left.

Instantly, Avalon leapt onto me, and compensated for the evening before. He entered a kiss-induced trance. This cat was all about exclusivity, and when granted that exclusivity, his love was immense.

"Are you really that happy that Gilles is gone?"

In reply, Avalon looked at me with swoony eyes and purred loudly, then swatted out his paw to urge me to continue to pet him, which I did.

A phone call interrupted our tender moment. It was Gilles.

"There won't be any train to Brussels for hours," he said. "Is it okay if I come back to your place for a while?"

"Of course." His return would offend Avalon, but I couldn't possibly leave Gilles outside in the rain for several hours.

As soon as Gilles appeared at the front door, Avalon's pupils widened to a pitch black.

Let's see who's the boss here, he seemed to be thinking.

Being a cat of action, Avalon went through his usual attentionseeking routine: making a selection of irritating noises, scratching the wallpaper, and pushing objects to the ground.

When that didn't work, Avalon opened Gilles' overnight bag and threw out a piece of clothing. His eyes so dark and evil they could be gateways to hell, Avalon stared at his adversary and waited for a reaction. He then pulled out a box of gel wax. Again, he looked up at Gilles to make sure he understood that all this bungling was meant to get a message across. A third object followed, then a fourth, a fifth, a sixth, until there was nothing.

Hellbent on winning the game, Avalon took Gilles' coat in his mouth and towed it toward the front door. There, he used his right paw to tap the keys hanging from the wooden doorframe.

Avalon's message couldn't be any clearer: there was room for only one man in my life. A feline one.

About the Author

Vanessa Morgan is an author, screenwriter, and blogger. Two of her works, *The Strangers Outside* and *A*

Good Man, have been turned into films. Her short film script Next to Her is currently in preproduction. When she's not working on her latest book, you can find her reading, watching horror movies, digging through flea markets, or photographing felines for her blog Traveling Cats. Avalon has appeared in several of her books and films. Visit Vicarious Caytastrophe for this review and many more!

Kirsti says

Thank you to Netgalley and the Publisher for the chance to read this book. Also, thank you to Vanessa Morgan for sharing a glimpse into the relationship she had with her cat, Avalon.

It's pretty obvious to those who know me that I adore cats, and probably even to those who don't know me at all. I'm always covered in cat hair, my idea of good decorating is cat pictures and statues, and of course, I have my very own Avalon; a cat I refer to as my soulmate and one true love, much to the ire of my boyfriend. On that note, when I reached the point in this book where Vanessa says she spent her last night with Avalon, I started crying. Immediately, I heard a thump in the next room, and Ivan came running in to offer head bumps and soft glacky noises as comfort. Yes, I understood this author well.

Vanessa tells a story of a cat that perhaps not all would love, a cat that is clingy, destructive and drives away other people and animals from her life. But in the end both Vanessa and Avalon are perfectly content, and Vanessa has achieved things she always wanted in her professional life. She has Avalon, and that is more than enough.

I mentioned at the start of the review that yes, this book will tell you of a beloved pet's passing. I know some people can't read about that, but in the end we all must pass and Vanessa has to deal with the grief, so perhaps writing of it helped.

This is a beautiful story, and I'm so glad I read it. Five stars!

Amy Palmer says

Avalon by Vanessa Morgan is one of the most moving books I have read. It centers on the author and her cat and the immeasurable bond they shared. Ms. Morgan found the stray Turkish Van cat and the love was instant.

Avalon was the kind of cat who needed an exclusive relationship with his human and repaid that respect with unending love. Ms. Morgan gave Avalon everything he required, even when it may have seemed unusual. He was the center of her world, and she, his. With her, Avalon was affectionate and loyal while other people only saw his insecurities expressed as destructive behavior.

While reading Avalon's story, the emotion between them was palpable. Maybe it was because I was reading it on the anniversary of losing my heart cat, but I connected with Ms. Morgan and her love for Avalon instantly. It made me feel like the relationship I had with Sebastian wasn't so different. Someone else had that with their cat as well.

I shed some tears as I read Avalon, but they were so worth it to get a glimpse of this special cat and his immense ability to love his human. It is well written and I would happily read Ms. Morgan's other books. I would highly recommend this book to all cat lovers. In fact, I'm going to suggest it as a book for my Twitter

book club, ReadPawty.

Emma Jaye says

This is an exercise in anthropomorphism, Vanessa truly loved her Avalon, and I was intrigued by the way she saw her own problems, her own anxieties mirrored in those of Avalon. I have a confession, I've known a many Turkish van in my time, and they are, universally, possessive and they often are aggressive to other cats as they seek to possess their chosen slave.

The saying, 'dogs have owners, cats have staff' is never truer than for the Van, but Vanessa seems to have been a more than willing and devoted slave. The thought of the author that Avalon behaved as he did because he had a hard early life, is highly unlikely, Turks are not inexpensive, and breeders and new owners care for them greatly. I don't breed turks, but I do breed another semi-longhair breed.

I felt very sorry for the two rescue cats that were attacked and terrorized by Avalon in his quest to rid himself of competition, I also felt a pang of sympathy for the person who lost him, it was a very brave thing for the author to admit that she did not return someone else's property. The delay between the cat being lost and the wanted posters going up may have been due to the cat travelling in a car or van, unknown to the driver, rather than the cat being uncared for. When you pay that much for a pet, they are seldom uncared for in my experience.

The cat issue aside, this book give a real insight into the owner's mind, how she gives up many things in her life because of her own feelings of inadequacy and her need to provide the love she feels he has always lacked. Her love for him becomes as important, or in some cases more so, than her human relationships.

Avalon was a typical Turkish Van cat, his owner's thoughts about him, were rather more out of the ordinary. Thank you for the peek into your world, from one mad cat lady author to another.

Lee says

Yes I will admit it from the beginning, I am definitely a cat lady, although I only have one. This story was wonderful, so heart warming and I felt so connected by the relationship of Avalon and his owner. I honestly thought that there were no other mad cat people like me out there but the description of the relationship between the two in this story is exactly how I feel about my cat. Great book and a nice change from all the crime and thrillers.

Karen says

This book is the engrossing memoir of a pretty intense human-feline bond. The story has a pleasant flow, it is an interesting and touching read.

With Avalon, Vanessa Morgan has created a remarkable memoir of her life with a unique feline character. She openly describes this special bond with all its ups and downs, demonstrating that the therapeutic effect can well be mutual. All of us considering our animals part of the family – i.e. not classifying them as 'only an animal' can certainly relate. I was hooked reading Avalon; I was observed showing wondrous joy, incredulously shaking my head, shedding tears of emotion. It is a read you do not easily forget – it offers food for thought. This is a book for you if you like memoirs, like and respect animals, are interested in psychology or just appreciate an exceptional story.

A touching memoir to read again.

Laura Thomas says

The day Avalon crossed paths with Vanessa, her life as she new it ended. Was it fate?

I think it was. Avalon was a handsome cat, a Turkish Van, the breed Vanessa had been looking for. She new they were a possessive breed, but nothing prepared her for this cat.

He tortured the other cats in her household, threw up on her guinea pig, and flew into tantrums, tearing her house apart if she looked at another creature, especially another cat.

But there was another side to Avalon. Adoration. He adored Vanessa. He was hers. And as Vanessa's life changed, she was his.

This story is about Vanessa as much as it's about Avalon. She tells much about herself, her past, her thoughts, as the years pass.

Sharing her vulnerabilities, sacrificing opportunities, through good times and bad, Vanessa gave her all to Avalon.

Most pet owners soon learn they aren't owners. Their pet is not a pet, it's a member of the family. And sometimes they rule the roost.

The extremes Avalon went to astounded me. Puking on the guinea pig, terrorizing the other cats, letting his displeasure be known with escalating howls, even kicking her boyfriend out, he was to be commended for his unswerving spirit.

The things Vanessa gives up for Avalon may seem like a bit much, but haven't we all done things for our furry friends that may seem ridiculous to others? I know I have.

Vanessa feels like their paths crossed for a reason. Her and Avalon were meant to be together. And I believe her. Never have I heard of such a bond as they shared.

This story made me cry. But I smiled through the tears and when I finished it, I hugged my dog and my cat, gave them some special treats, and when we snuggled together at bedtime, I felt whole.

I received this book for my honest review.

Adria Cimino says

A touching story that brought tears to my eyes at times... but also filled me with joy to see the special relationship shared by the author and her cat. This book is a must for cat lovers, but it also is a great read for those who are interested in better understanding how animals can enrich our lives.

Medeia Sharif says

This memoir about a woman and her relationship with her cat is unlike any book I've ever read before. Morgan encounters a homeless Turkish Van cat on the street and this kitty clings to her. Adoption is a must. Named Avalon, the cat forcefully demands attention and sees other animals and people as rivals for Morgan's affection. Avalon has such a strong personality that he's even offered parts in movies, performing perfectly in numerous scenes. This is a great read for animal lovers who'll understand the special bond the author and Avalon shared.

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here: Momma will never accuse me of being a needy cat again, not after she read Avalon's story. It is a love story but like so many love stories, it was an addictive love that neither party wanted to change. Avalon adopted his human in a time tested manner. He met her in the street, decided she was the one, and then followed her home.

There was no way to know exactly what his earlier story might have been but he was one kitty with issues and the only human, the only thing, that could bring out the best in him was his human, Vanessa. He demanded that she was his exclusively and through a series of events, he got his wish. She was his devoted slave (as humans should be) but she took it to extremes that even I would not expect from my humans. Avalon determined her work and personal life, dictating the who and the how as clearly as if he had spoken the words. He was a vocal guy and like me, he mastered a few human words much to the shock of everyone. *Rolls eyes* They do underestimate us.

As odd and obsessive as this might seem, for them it worked. He filled the gaping hole she had carried around all her life as she did for him. But, as many pet parents know, our life spans and yours are not always kind. Avalon, despite all the love and the care left Vanessa one day. I can tell you my fur was getting damp as Momma and I read that part of the story. Our loss is always filled with grief. Avalon's was grief on steroids.

But his human did an amazing thing to heal. She told his story and in sharing it, she ensured his immortality. That is a nice eulogy.

Any human who has ever loved and lost a pet will understand. I give this five purrs and two paws up.

Jeff Dawson says

The lovable Terror of Belgium?

This is a most unusual read. The author does a brilliant job of blending and melding her life with her cat. Over the years, I've read a smattering of books written by cat lovers, but this one takes the cake, pudding and other dessert within easy reach.

Being a dog lover I seldom venture into this realm, I'm glad I did.

Avalon is one nasty Turkish Van cat, and I mean nasty. For the life of me I wouldn't have tolerated this animal for more than a week, This cat is the most possessive animal I have ever heard or read about. He was Satan incarnate; at least to everyone but our author.

If a cat attempted to intrude in his territory, it was Katy-Bar-the-Door as he would throw a temper tantrum by flinging himself against the glass windows, bouncing off the walls and basically destroying everything in its

path to run off the offender. And don't think humans fared much better, oh no. If Vanessa brought over a male, he was not a welcome guest. I'm thinking of the chapter where Avalon trashed every item the man brought with him and conveniently placed them at the front door. Think it was a hint?

Halfway through, I couldn't for the life of me understand why she kept the "Terror of Belgium." I had to find out why, thus I continued forward hoping she would dump him in an alley somewhere. This is where the story takes on the surreal. Despite his repugnant attitude to all who vied for Vanessa's attention, he became the relationship she knew she was missing.

It cost her a boyfriend and friends through the years, but he was always there for her no matter what turn her life took. He shared in her triumphs and failures. He became a movie star with an arrogance and acting ability many of the Hollywood crowd would be envious of. He loved Vanessa unconditionally and that is what the real story is here.

These two shared a love many humans strive for but fall short. Why? We expect our partners to possess certain characteristics and traits we can relate to and build a foundation on. These two had none of these preconceptions. They accepted each other with no expectations and shared a remarkable love.

If you are a cat lover and haven't read this book, you must put it on your list. Not the stack of TBR's that you'll never get to, the one which contains must read books. You will not be disappointed!

Four stars.

Lisa says

Avalon by Vanessa Morgan is a beautiful story that pulled at my heart strings.

If you are a cat lover like me well you are going to love this book i felt a connection being an owner of 3 cats i know where Vanessa was coming from her undying love for Avalon came first & foremost not even Vanessa having a boyfriend could get in their way the bond was too strong.

I found myself in tears at the end & loved Avalon's adventures his possessiveness & as all cats get his own way the love between one human towards her feline companion would never die.

Recommended for cat lovers

Elena Yurievna says

<http://mycosyreads.blogspot.com/2015/...>

"Avalon: a Heartwarming True Cat Story" is a story of a woman and her soul cat. This memoir reflects all the ups and downs of a journey to become the better version of herself. So prepare a nice cup of tea, tissues and be ready to let this story get right into your heart.

The story begins with an episode of acquaintance. The moment when Avalon came across Vanessa looks a lot like destiny itself. When we meet this little guy for the first time we know that he is no ordinary cat. Throughout the book we follow him and Vanessa in their adventures and struggles, sometimes even the most

difficult situations and they always have each other's back. Such deep understanding is a rare thing even among people. There's no surprise that the bond they shared inspired Vanessa to write her cat into her scripts, books, stories and even to create a story all about Avalon.

I wish that anyone could say that they have a soulmate in this life. Because life becomes so much more bearable when you have someone to lean on. But if anyone had it wouldn't be such a unique treasure. This is a beautiful real life story about friendship and journey. I would recommend it to all cat lovers, people who struggle to find their place in life or to those, who want to spend some time with warm and pleasant book.

Connie Fischer says

The author has written a true story of her cat, Avalon. She found him outside one day and brought him home. His antics at claiming himself "King" with the other pets in the house is hysterical. The poor guinea pig will leave readers in stitches.

Then, she leaves her boyfriend and his pets taking Avalon with her. His antics become more loving and possessive with just Vanessa. We follow her career as a writer of paranormal stories used for screen plays. At times, Avalon is filmed as well.

As the years pass, Vanessa and Avalon build an inseparable relationship based on an incredibly close love. As always, our animals age and there comes the time when we must face losing them. And that's when I lost it. OK. You got me. I cried.

I have three precious cats of my own and they own my heart. My day is centered around my cats and the love we share. A real Crazy Cat Mom like myself will truly love this story.

Copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Joan says

For Vanessa Morgan it was love at first sight when she saw a lost Turkish Van cat in the street as she and her boyfriend were passing by in their car. They took him to the Vet and unsuccessfully tried to trace his owners, eventually deciding to adopt him. They named him Avalon and this adoption was a crucial turning point in the lives of both Vanessa and Avalon. They were obsessed with each other and wanted to spend as much time together as possible. Avalon could not tolerate any one else receiving Vanessa's attention in their home and made his preferences clear. He would not share her and did his best to drive the perceived intruder away. He became hyperactive, aggressive and whirled through their home screeching, leaping and screaming, scattering anything in his way. He slept with Vanessa in her bed and did not take kindly to anyone else sharing his rightful night time haven. Vanessa also thrived within this relationship and hated being separated from Avalon. It upset him and made him anxious, but oh, those reunions were so blissful!

This incredible, poignant and beautifully written true story tells of an unbreakable and enduring bond between Avalon and Vanessa. They were inseparable and relationships like these happen once in a lifetime, just like true love between humans. They were a pair, twin souls that needed and thrived on their exclusivity. Avalon was there to see Vanessa through tough times and together they lived happily and peacefully. They recognised and supported each other's insecurities like all twin souls would. Their story is told with tenderness, honesty and humour, because when they were together the terrible, bullying, neurotic demon of a cat became a loving, expressive partner who was both appreciated, pampered and made to feel secure in

Vanessa's loving care. He behaved in fact like the gentlest and most expressively loving 'pussycat' ever. This memoir will appeal to all cat lovers. Thank you for my copy, received through my membership of NetGalley and from publisher CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, all in return for an honest unbiased review. It's a 3.5* review from me.
