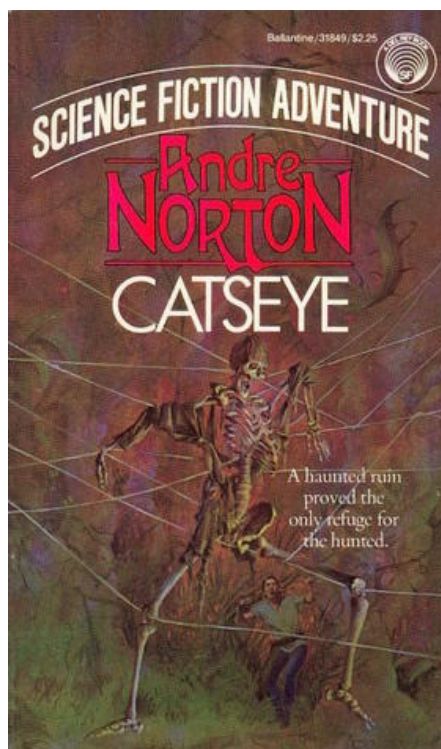




Catseye

Andre Norton

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Catseye Andre Norton

The big cat cried "danger!" Troy Horan heard it with his mind just as he had heard the fox's warning and the kinkajou's. He didn't understand how he could communicate with the animals or why they were contacting him. But from the moment he began work at Kyger's pet emporium on Korwar he was enmeshed in a perilous intrigue... an intrigue that would leave more than one man dead, an entire government in jeopardy, and Horan himself both master and captive of the most extraordinary band of warriors his world had ever known.

Catseye Details

Date : Published August 12th 1984 by Del Rey (first published 1961)

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Author : Andre Norton

Format : Mass Market Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review Catseye for online ebook

Montzalee Wittmann says

Catseye by Andre Norton is an older story but just as good the second time around! I loved it as a young girl and love it now. It brings out the need to fight for the underdog, or cat, and whoever else is downcast in this society despite species, skin, fur, or colors and to make things right for them. An orphan is with many animal species, esp. cat-like creatures, and traders with no good intentions. An exciting story with an excellent plot, great dialogue, and well developed, unique characters. A thriller, adventure, and yet fun novel of befriending animals while trying not to get caught. Loved it. I received this book for a honest review and it in no way effected my review or rating.

Kilian Metcalf says

I have a tendency to confuse this book with Beast Master. Both have similar themes of men separated from their homelands, using their ability to communicate telepathically with animals to help them survive. In this book, the hero is unaware of his ability at first. In Beast Master, the ability is perfectly honed, and the man/animal team functions smoothly. Both are good stories. I love Andre Norton and consider her one of the best SF/Fantasy writers ever.

J.C. Steel says

This has been one of my favourites for years. This copy's nearly falling apart, it's been read so often.

Caryn Block says

This was my first favorite book. I loved the idea of a man working together with animals and having a psychic connection. I still keep a copy in my library after reading it in high school.

Kat Hooper says

Will review soon at www.fantasyliterature.com.

Raj says

Troy Horan is a Dippleman, a refugee living in a restricted area on a planet after his own world was "appropriated" as a military base during an interstellar war. He gets a short contract working with a luxury pet shop and finds himself slowly dragged into a murky web of plots and subterfuge in which imported Terran animals seem to play a central role.

I felt that this was quite sophisticated for a children's book. The world building was quite good, with a lot of depth and the characters were all quite interesting. A large portion of the pleasure planet that the book happens on is a preserved wilderness, and the protagonist is from a similar area and the impression is that these are things that the author cares about and recur in Norton's work a lot.

Mary Catelli says

Troy Horan lives in the Dipple, where the refugees of the war were dumped -- and left when the peace treaty signed away their worlds. His father had enlisted in the war, and his mother died when the Big Cough struck. Troy is still trying to eke out a living as casual labor, rather than sign a contract that lets him be shipped off in cold sleep, or join the Thieves' Guild.

Luck strikes. His rural background lets him get a job at Kyger's an animal store catering, like so many businesses on this world, to the wealthy and powerful of many worlds. Even if his first task on the job has him spotting a man he knows joined the Thieves' Guild, and their vehicle being attacked as they returned to the job with their exotic pets -- Terran cats. And there had been something odd about those cats during the attack.

He needs the job. He keeps his head down, doing, for instance, nothing more than notice that not all the spacers who came to see Kyger had brought an exotic animal to sell. But he learns more, and more, about what happens here.

The rest of the tale involves foxes as well as cats, a location where an alien civilization had lived, a three-way quarrel where Troy asks which rule will be applied to him, the immense importance of promises and the little consideration owing to an oath-breaker, a large offer to Troy, a man who was poisoned and his pet, and falconry. Among other things.

Joseph Pucci says

A good adventure story that includes a young man's coming of age tribulations and his discovery of a power he didn't know he had.

This is a story for all age groups, for anyone who remembers the trials and tribulations of becoming an adult, anyone undergoing this trials and tribulations, anyone seeking a few moments in adventure, for anyone who has ever wished they could communicate far more effectively with their furred companions.

Ann Brookens says

I love this book!

I first read Catseye when I was a 14 year-old junior high student. It spoke to the uncertainty of where I belonged in the world, of the need to be honorable in my dealings with others, of the possibility of finding true companionship in beings who don't look like I do. Nearly 50 years later, I also see that it speaks to the need to husband our natural resources and of the arbitrary politics of wars where the needs of the few apparently outweigh the needs of the many. Andre Norton masterfully combines all these elements into an

outstanding adventure of unforgettable characters in a well-crafted alien world. I feel a pressing need to reread more of her books. I believe they will all hold up to my memories as well as this one has.

Johan Haneveld says

A bit more than 3,5 stars. But what else can I award a book in which an aquarist with a house full of fish tanks plays an important part? Though I was a bit put off by the revulsion some characters felt for perfectly natural ocean creatures (they have more legs and eyes than we do, but that makes them more interesting, not less, in my view), there aren't many SF-novels with a connection to the aquariumhobby so I'll take what I can get. Strangely enough I had forgotten this part of the book since reading it for the first time in high school. The part in an underground ruin (that remains strangely unresolved in this book) had stayed in my memory. An element from that sequence even found its way into my own book 'De Krakenvorst, boek 1: Keruga'. But this story is so much more and while some books lose their luster when reading them later on, I appreciated this book more. It is a bit old fashioned in its relatively small scope (a settled planet, a group on the run), but it was very well constructed, with a fascinating is he a good or a bad guy-character in hunter Remé, and every element from the start fits in at the end. Some good action scenes, creepy underground travels, and in my memory the animals were alien, but that was not the case: this is a story about cats! And foxes and a monkey, but mainly: cats! But also about a desire for freedom and being in nature. I was surprised by how good I thought this book still was. Sadly I read this in Dutch and I had the impression the translation was not very good - some sentences were badly constructed. I think in the original English this will probably be even better. For people wanting feel good sci fi-adventure with some elements to think about, this remains a good choice.

Morris Nelms says

Old school Sci Fi, originally published in 1961. Andre Norton writes with the lightest touch, and that is evident here. Unpretentious, fun, unique, and charming are the first adjectives that come to mind. The ending was a bit pat, but the section from pages 120-200 was excellent. The story centers on human/animal communication, which of course also shows up in *The Beast Master*, a 1959 novel by Norton. I should also add that anyone who loves animals will probably enjoy this. If we could talk to our pets, would we have pets? We might have animal friends, but pets? I doubt it.

Valerie says

Most people remember their 1st Norton Book--this was mine. My mother gave me a different edition, saying I might like it.

As a teenager, I didn't question the police state nature of the luxury planet of Korwar--now I'm more sensitized to how little freedom ANY of the people have. The escape to the Wilds by Troy Horan et cie is arguably the only chance any of them have to achieve freedom--and that's iffy, at best.

I should note something general about Norton--aside from Earth and the Witch World, she seemed to have difficulty apprehending the largeness and variety of planets. Korwar is better realized than most...but I think most people would be puzzled how to create a map of the planet.

Keith says

I read this engaging novel when I was a teenager in the 60's. It is an interesting story about a poor young man who gets a 'good' temporary job in a pet shop. During the stories development he discovers some of the animals are not just "pets". He is able to contact the minds of the animals. Deep trouble comes his way as a result.

Shirley says

This is my first Andre Norton book and I gobbled it up in a few days. A young man desperate for work gets a one day chance to work on the pleasure planet, Korwar and is directed to a rare species pet store for his assignment. What's not to love - an elusive mind touch from what? - one of the animals? Black and Blue cats, a clinging frightened Kinkajoo, foxes, oh my.

Ron says

“Knowledge could be both a weapon and a defense.”

Slow start, but Norton delivers. Her character and world building are leisurely, but do the job. Satisfying end to this story with hooks into the next. A skill rare among today's writers.

“Look, listen and keep your thoughts to yourself—the law of survival”

One can't help but think Norton was writing about more than man's relationship with animals formerly kept as pets when this was written. (I've tried to say more three times, but quit because anything more would be spoilers. Just read it and enjoy.)

“Belt knives shift from one wearer to another without losing their edge.”

No female humans appear in this story written by a woman. I find that odd.

“Few men are going to accept readily a co-partnership with creatures they had always considered property.”

Awarded an extra star because, though first published in 1961, this story weathers the last half century of technological innovation very well. Many stories written only twenty years ago sound dated. Perhaps it's because the people, creatures and relationships are so real.

“One does not throw away a new thing merely because it is strange.”

Andrea says

Norton's classic outsider story. Norton's early books are almost completely romance-free and sex-free - the main characters never show any sign of interest, and there's only the slightest hints that anyone ever does (usually the vaguest allusions to pleasure girls). This one, however, is also known as "the one with the gay subtext". There's no definite romance, but you can certainly see Troy/Rerne following many of the standard romance beats - the meet cute, the getting to know, the estrangement, the reconciliation.

It's also a great example of constantly changing the situation up so that the reader's interest never flags.

Ann says

Can see why this is a beloved classic. Don't give five stars to many and it doesn't quite achieve that level but I bought a copy when I returned this to the library. Know I'll want to read it again.

Nell says

One of my favourite Andre Norton books. It's more what it doesn't tell you than what it does so the story lodges in your subconscious.

Jay Van emmenis says

Andre Norton never disappoints, loved the connection between animals and human, have you noticed how there nearly always a cat type animal in her stories? As I am also a cat lover myself I love that they're included in her stories. My first Andre Norton was Year of the Unicorn I was hooked from then on, I will always read and re read Norton books, they're so interesting and they never date, Andre Norton was a Visionary

Caitlyn says

This book, as with some of Andre Norton's other books, seems like it springs right from my childhood fantasies. In the same vein as *Julie of the Wolves* and *The Golden Compass*, who doesn't wish they had a special bond with animals??

This novel is a tense mystery/thriller with a fabulous plot of psychic Terran animals becoming a team with the only human who can understand them on the planet, a misfit transplant from a world destroyed by (and I think this is genius), not war, but the corruption and land-grabbing of those who got rich through war. This book is crazy well-done, and I highly recommend it.
