

CAT TALES: Fantastic Feline Fiction

Edited by George H. Scithers

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WILDSIDE PRESS

CAT TALES: FANTASTIC FELINE FICTION

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Introduction © 2008 by George H. Scithers

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INTRODUCTION

by George H. Scithers

Here are thirteen stories, three haiku, and a conventional poem, all involving cats. A few, like “The Cats of Ulthar” and “Kreativity for Kats,” are well-known classics; others, like “Creepier Shadows,” are freshly written and came sneowing to us in search of a home at *Cat Tales*, 9710 Traville Gateway Dr, #234, Rockville MD 20850 or by e-mail to g-scithers@sff.net. (Do be sure that e-mailed stories include *both* your snail-mail *and* your e-mail addresses.)


Cat Tales: Fantastic Feline Fiction offers a home for many sorts of stories involving cats: fantasy stories, mystery stories, and science-fiction stories — and every so often a story that doesn't quite fit into any of these genres, just to present our readers with the unexpected. We also seek poetry involving cats.

Cat Tales is intended to be a continuing series, rather like a magazine in paperback-book format. Our first volume is devoted mostly to fantasy stories — a deal with the Devil, a re-incarnation, and a long tale of Medieval magic, even a dragon — along with a couple of murders and a science-fiction story. For our next volume, well, let's see who we find purring inside our mailbag.

It's hardly surprising, considering all our fiction involves cats and the people who are owned by them,

that so many of our contributors are from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

While we welcome reprints as well as new stories, we prefer ones that have not been published recently in North America. Do beware of stories whose “cats” are better described as elves, gnomes, or little men who are dressed up in furry costumes and are just pretending to be cats. We and our readers strongly prefer believable cats behaving in believable, cat-like ways, coping with whatever strange things — fantastic, mysterious, or science-fictional — that befall them and their human companions.

Our upper limit is supposed to be around 15,000 words, but can be flexible about that. We want to avoid talking cats (yes, yes, we know: one of the cats in this issue does say six words, but that’s a special case — you’ll see what we mean) and avoid cats coming to a bad end on stage. Think of *Cat Tales* as a place for stories told (or read) by the fireplace with a contented cat purring in your lap. 

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