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Cat Daddy: What The World's Most Incurable Cat Taught Me About Life, Love, And Coming Clean



Synopsis

Cat behaviorist and star of Animal Planet's hit television show *My Cat from Hell*, Jackson Galaxy, a.k.a. "Cat Daddy," isn't what you might expect for a cat expert (as the *New York Times* noted, with his goatee and tattoos he "looks like a Hell's Angel"). Yet Galaxy's ability to connect with even the most troubled felines-not to mention the stressed-out humans living in their wake-is awe-inspiring. In this book, Galaxy tells the poignant story of his 13-year relationship with a petite gray-and-white short-haired cat named Benny, and gives singular advice for living with, caring for, and loving the feline in your home. When Benny arrived in his life, Galaxy was a down-and-out rock musician with not too much more going on than a part-time job at an animal shelter and a drug problem. Benny's previous owner brought the cat to the shelter in a cardboard box to give him up. Benny had seen better days-his pelvis had just been shattered by the wheels of a car-and his owner insisted he'd been "unbondable" from day one. Nothing could have been further from the truth. An inspiring account of two broken beings who fixed each other, *Cat Daddy* is laced throughout with Galaxy's amazing "Cat Whisperer" advice for understanding what cats need most from us in order to live happier, healthier lives.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 24 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 10, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0081X5RLU

Best Sellers Rank: #31 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Animal Care & Pets #86 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature #178 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Cats

Customer Reviews

This book is no ordinary cat memoir, nor is it an ordinary cat advice book. It is an inspirational tour de force that offers an intimate glimpse at Jackson, the man, and Jackson, the Cat Daddy. This is one of the most unconventional memoirs I've ever read, but then, I didn't expect anything less from

Jackson Galaxy. Jackson Galaxy defies convention. Bald, bearded and tattooed, he's anything but what you would imagine a cat behaviorist to look like, let alone one who has an almost uncanny ability to connect with cats in ways that few others can. Rock musician? Maybe. Biker dude? Possibly. But cat guy? No way. Cat Daddy chronicles Jackson's journey from down-and-out drug-addicted musician to cat behaviorist of last resort to countless cats, from his early work with cats at an animal shelter in Boulder to his partnership with Jean Hofve, DVM and their joint ventures, Little Big Cat and Spirit Essences, which Jackson eventually bought from Hofve, to his own successful behavior consulting practice. But the real star of this book is Benny, a small grey and white cat who was brought to the shelter where Jackson had begun to build a reputation as a "cat whisperer." Benny had been hit by a car and had a broken pelvis, his owner couldn't afford the vet bills, and she also "just didn't like him." Benny was only supposed to be a foster cat, but as Jackson watched Benny's remarkable recovery from his physical injuries, something shifted for Jackson. He began to feel a kinship with this broken cat, and realized that "Benny wasn't my foster cat anymore. He was my family." That moment may have saved not only Benny's life, but Jackson's as well. And this was only the first of many lessons Benny would teach Jackson about not being in control of the universe.

Not everybody is fortunate enough to experience the extraordinary, life-changing bond that can develop between two different species, but those of us who know what a miraculous thing it is. To see it in our own lives is a gift. To become intimately acquainted with somebody else's experience, however, is a rare privilege indeed. This is one of many things that make reading "Cat Daddy" such a joy. By the time you finish this remarkable book, you'll have lived somebody else's love of a cat in ways that make you love and appreciate your own just a bit more. And, because this is Jackson Galaxy, you'll understand the felines in your life a bit more, too. Watching Galaxy on his show "My Cat From Hell" can feel a bit like watching a magician--how does he do it? How does he consistently reach even the most troubled feline souls with so much compassion and to such amazing effect? Galaxy, among other things in this book, takes us inside that process in a way that on the one hand makes it seem completely common-sense, yet on the other hand makes you realize what a unique gift he has. But this book is so much more than that. I hesitate to call it an amazing "animal story" because it's just an amazing story, period. It must have been painful at times for Galaxy to reveal so much of what was "broken" in his own life when he and Benny first began to form the bond that would redeem them. He does what the best writers do: He bleeds on these pages, but this is blood straight from his heart. In the end, this is one of the most uplifting tales I've

ever encountered, and the "Cat Mojo" tips sprinkled throughout--which are admittedly what I expected to enjoy the most--become the cherry on the sundae rather than the sundae itself. If you love cats, you will love this book.

If fans of Jackson Galaxy, the punk-abilly "Cat Daddy," who stars in Animal Planet's "My Cat From Hell," weren't already swooning over his "catuitive" techniques; Galaxy's first book, *Cat Daddy: What the World's Most Incurable Cat Taught Me About Life, Love, and Coming Clean* would push them into catastatic bliss. His story, which runs a breezy-to-read 300 or so pages, is not your typical tale of how a cat changed a human's life. It's a tag team relationship that spans thirteen years--many of which, for Jackson, are overshadowed by his intake of a dizzying array and quantity of illegal drugs, alcohol and prescription medications which, at times, instead of numbing his pain, take him to the brink of overdosing. The cure for what ails Galaxy walks on four, albeit one gimpy, legs. An owner-surrendered white and gray shorthaired cat named Benny who is physically and emotionally broken. Benny gets under Jackson's skin and metaphorically (and literally) rips him to shreds until he learns how to feel again. Galaxy finds in Benny the key to unlocking both their inner demons though the transformation doesn't happen overnight. His endless dedication to solving the mystery that is Benny, supercedes any need for a drink, a smoke, a snort. Through Galaxy's brilliant observations, now all cats have a chance at being understood, for maybe the first time in their lives. This is a story I wanted to read, then read again. Galaxy's words are unvarnished, sharp-witted and equally sharp-tongued-- especially when he talks about being chided for euthanizing animals.

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