



The Cat Who Could Read Backwards

By Lilian Jackson Braun

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The world of modern art is a mystery to many. But for Jim Qwilleran, it turns into a mystery of another sort when his assignment to the art beat for The Daily Fluxion leads down the path to murder. A stabbing in an art gallery, vandalized paintings, a fatal fall from a scaffolding--this is not at all what Qwilleran expects when he turns his reportorial talents to art. But Qwilleran and his newly found partner, Koko the brilliant Siamese, are back in their element--sniffing out clues and confounding criminals intent on mayhem and murder.

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The Cat Who Could Read Backwards By Lilian Jackson Braun Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The first book in Braun's beloved "Cat Who" series is being reissued in hardcover after a wait of over 30 years.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A new hardcover edition (after Dutton's in 1966) of the first in a series that now totals 19 (*The Cat Who Tailed a Thief*, 1997, etc.). Here, Braun introduces Jim Qwilleran, a prizewinning reporter who's been on the skids but is now coming back with a job as feature writer (mostly on the art scene) for the *Daily Fluxion*. George Bonifield Mountclemens, the paper's credentialed art critic, writes almost invariably scathing, hurtful reviews of local shows; delivers his pieces by messenger; lives with his all-knowing cat Koko in a lushly furnished house in a moldering neighborhood, and has a raft of enemies all over town. He offers the newcomer a tiny apartment in his building at a nominal rent, and Qwilleran grabs it, surmising the deal will involve lots of cat-sitting. Meanwhile, a gallery whose artists get happier treatment from Mountclemens is owned by Earl Lambreth. The acerbic critic has praised paintings there by a reclusive Italian named Scrano; the junk assemblages of Nino, who calls himself a "Thingist," as well as works by Lambreth's attractive wife Zoe. It's Zoe who, one night past closing, finds her husband stabbed to death in the vandalized gallery. Days later, Qwilleran, guided by an insistent Koko, finds Mountclemens's knifed corpse on the patio behind his house. It takes a while to put the meandering pieces together and to uncover an overriding motive behind the mayhem, but the best things here are Qwilleran's low-keyed charisma and the author's well-aimed, often funny barbs at the pretensions of the contemporary art world--as on-target today as they were some 30 years ago. -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

Praise for the Cat Who... series: 'The fastidious plotting is designed to appeal to more than just the cat-lover' *The Times*; 'This droll and engaging mystery...firmly grips the reader...a lively witty tale bolstered by sharply etched characters' *Publishers Weekly*; 'An engaging tongue-in-cheek yarn with a sting in the tail that won't just appeal to the cat-lover' *Belfast Telegraph*; 'It's a Wonderful Life meets *The Aristocats* in this daft but endearing whodunnit' *Liverpool Daily Post*; 'Mrs Braun has a breezy style; the cats are really smart' *New York Times Book Review*; 'Great fun!' Lawrence Block 'Entertaining and absorbing mysteries which, in the tradition of all good whodunnits, keep you guessing right to the end' *Dumfries and Galloway Standard* 'Lilian Jackson Braun purveys delight from beginning to end' *Los Angeles Times* 'Like news from Lake Woebagon, Braun's Cat Who... series...has charmed readers' *Publishers Weekly* 'Light-hearted originals... The mix of crime and cats [is] catnip to readers who like both' *Chicago Sun-Times* 'An offbeat series with a good deal of charm' *The Baltimore Sun* 'Braun writes with charm and sureness' *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marjorie Batchelder:

Throughout other case, little people like to read book *The Cat Who Could Read Backwards*. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important any book *The Cat Who Could Read Backwards*. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by just a

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Gussie Steller:

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Hubert Wooten:

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Sharon Brogdon:

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