

cat flap



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"When she awoke as a cat, Dolores Tremayne saw no immediate advantage in having four paws instead of two arms and two legs..." A brilliant, funny novel of love, marriage and modern life.

When the cat's away, the mice will play – but who will oversee the cat?

When Dolores Tremayne, a successful business executive, travels overseas, part of her remains mysteriously behind in X, the family's indoor cat. Through feline eyes, Dolores witnesses the shocking behavior of her errant husband, the stalled novelist Gerald Tremayne. Far away in Germany, the human Dolores is conducting high-powered negotiations with a prestigious auto-maker, but back at home, her husband's liaisons force him into ever more drastic exploits. Meanwhile, Dolores begins to wonder about the strange words and images that have begun to pop into her head, as if from nowhere.

Funny and memorable, *Cat Flap* will appeal to all fans of clever satire.

Cat Flap Details

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Author : Alan S. Cowell

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From Reader Review Cat Flap for online ebook

Greer says

Dolores wakes up one day to find she is sharing the family cat's body "X" but still on the way to a conference in another city. I really enjoyed the author's detail of being a cat, the feels and smells and wonders but it got a bit old after 60 pages of cat information. I was hoping for more of a funny book where human and cat consciousness have an equal share of use over the cat's actions. It seemed that the cat was being used more as a spy camera on the family instead of the wife being able to take the actions of the cat and interact with her family.

Susan Johnston says

Princess Fuzzypants here: Be prepared for a Kafka-esque romp when Dolores, the high flying executive realizes she is joined to the indoor family cat, X. While it is never explained how this happens and for much of the book, the reader is uncertain if there is still a two legged Dolores going about her business life elsewhere, X provides Dolores with a clear view of her life, her family and her marriage. It is not a pretty picture.

She discovers the double life her husband has been hiding from her at her peril as from the moment of discovery, both Gerald and his mistress try to harm, even kill, X. There's enough of Dolores still in X that she is able to understand what she is seeing and attempt to impact it. It is both enlightening and frustrating and at times acidly funny. To be able to witness what is hidden from humans seems to be both gift and curse at various times. Despite her frenzied attempts to control X, it is the cat herself, a Maine Coon/Ragdoll cross, who turns out to be the true heroine of the piece.

When she sniffs up the remnants of Gerald's illicit drugs and escapes through the cat flap, she leads Dolores and many others on a wild trip, in more ways than one, through North London where she saves one of her younger humans from a horrible fate. At the same time, she reveals Gerald for the cad that he is and reunites Dolores with her body and her children.

Imaginative and quirky, Cat Flap addresses a number of human challenges: racial and class identity and acceptance, marriage and fidelity, gender roles and ego are all addressed. It is through X's eyes Dolores is able to come to terms with this and much more.

This is, to say the least, a unique and slightly oddball story but I liked it. I give it five purrs and two paws up.

Jenn Meadows says

I read a review of this book that encouraged cat lovers to pick this book up, including those that have always wondered what it was like to be a cat. Immediately I was intrigued. "Cat Flap" ended up not being what I expected, but I enjoyed the ride.

Dolores Tremayne is a successful business executive currently traveling the world on a business trip. One day she wakes up and realizes that her consciousness is in the family cat, X. Through X's eyes, she witnesses what her husband and daughters are up to while she is away. What she thought was a perfect family is far from the truth.

While I found "Cat Flap" to be a quick, easy read, the references to other books, movies, and TV shows

became cumbersome. I understand that Delores is incredibly educated and that should be celebrated, however, the constant references really slowed down the narrative. I do believe this book could have been trimmed down without her inner dialogue trying to remember an author's name or the plot of a movie. Besides some areas that keep dragging on, I found X endearing and was rooting for her and Delores. While the book might be a slow start in the beginning, stick with it until the end! It's so over-the-top and hysterical that you'll find yourself cheering for X out loud!

Carol Kean says

This sounded hilarious, in the synopsis, and "Brit" next to author gives me even more confidence that a book will be amusing, witty, and pithy. It is all that, but the pace is glacial. The narrative is weighed down with references to other books and movies. And TV shows. And introspection. Most of the insights are deep and relevant. It's just, there are so many of them, and the slow the action.

The story opens with a woman awakening to find herself transformed into a cat, or, she is somehow trapped inside the body of the family cat, a rag-muffin/Maine Coon mix named X. She is reminded of that guy who awoke as a cockroach. Eventually, the name comes to her. Samsa. Gregor Samsa. Then, Kafkha, and so on. Maybe it serves as a pop quiz for readers: can you name that author, that title, that TV show she's thinking of? Or maybe it's intended to show how her thoughts are helter-skelter, trapped as they are in the little smooth-brain of the cat.

No explanation is offered as to how a woman on a business trip continues to conduct her business in other countries, eve as some part of her sentient awareness is viewing what goes in her beloved house and home during her absence. The woman trapped in the cat has no access to the mind of the rest of herself in her usual body. The woman on the business trip is not aware of what this other part of herself is seeing through the cat's vantage point.

The wife, her nefarious husband, the sexual predator stalking on of their two daughters, the cat, the neighbor lady, the main mistress, the African father of the black businesswoman, and other characters all come together in a finale that is comical and over-the-top and not at all in need of being credible.

There is a point to all the madness, and some of the characters are transformed by this incredible journey. The cat, I'm happy to say (this is not a spoiler!) will survive various assassination attempts.

Still. This could have been trimmed and tightened, a lot. Maybe I've been reading too many short stories lately. I've even take to reading poetry. I find myself reading short stories and thinking they'd have worked better in the shorter form of poems.

In all, this is fresh and entertaining read, unlike anything else I've read.

Lynda says

While the premise was funny and some interesting characters I found the story a little slow and couldn't really get into the cat's narrative...

I received this a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Janet says

I received a DIGITAL Advance Reader Copy of this book from #NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. From the publisher ---

"When she awoke as a cat, Dolores Tremayne saw no immediate advantage in having four paws instead of two arms and two legs..." A brilliant, funny novel of love, marriage and modern life.

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Okay, I am guessing that I am not at all clever as I just did not get or enjoy this book ... sorry, being HONEST. Did not finish.

Ann says

I wanted to love this book. The premise was enticing. Wake up as a cat and observe the life of your family from another perspective. But I couldn't get past that Dolores was in two places at once. One at home as a cat and one as her regular human self as a business executive. I realize this is a satire but it just didn't catch my attention. I received a copy of this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Jennifer says

The first and last chapters tell the whole story, the rest of the book is mainly random thoughts and musings of the main characters: Gerald Tremayne, the cheating husband living off of his wife's earnings as he supposedly writes a second novel; Dolores Tremayne, the hardworking, unsuspecting wife whose consciousness (at least part of it) unexplainably transfers into the family cat while Dolores is away on a business trip; and X, the family cat.

This book has an interesting premise, and the last chapter is entertaining; however, that is not enough to carry the whole book.

Gianna says

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Dolores Tremayne is a successful businesswoman that frequently travels around the world, while her husband, a writer, stays home and looks after their daughters. Dolores believes everything is absolutely fine with her family's life - that is, until one morning she wakes up to find part of her consciousness connected to X, the family cat.

While part of her consciousness is with her, away on a business trip, she also finds herself in the mind of her cat. And that is when she starts realizing that her family life is very far from perfect.

Cat Flap has a very interesting concept. It is certainly not the first book about a human being waking up to find their conscience in an animal's body, but it is clever and there is room for some interesting plot. However, the beginning was painfully slow, and the heroine was rambling to herself quite a lot, thus making it hard for me to find it entertaining. There were, of course, humorous parts and a quite satisfying ending, but overall, the book had too many unnecessary internal thoughts and monologues that the plot could benefit from omitting.

Bonnye Reed says

GNab Alan S. Cowell brings us a fast paced novel set in England with interesting characters, and told often from the viewpoint of the wife/mother through the eyes of the family cat. I know, but it's not as confusing as it sounds. It is a twenty-first century tale complete with many electronic accessories, expensive cars and very in-the-know children, and I think you will love it. I did, very much.

I received a free electronic copy of this modern novel from Netgalley, Alan S. Cowell and St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me.

pub date July 31, 2018

St. Martin's Press

Change to Kindle edition when available

WTF Are You Reading? says

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars

There are so many aspects of Cat Flap to love, ponder, and just simply amuse oneself with. That this reviewer is simply at a loss for a place to start.

So please indulge me for just a moment and allow me to begin with the following.

If you are a cat owner/slave, are fond of felines, or have ever wanted to be a cat for any reason. This book is for you.

With that being said.

let the reviewing commence.

Delores Tremayne is a high-powered "head hunter" working courting a German automaker.

Well, at least most of her is.

I say most of her, because it appears that she left a portion of her consciousness in the safe keeping of her cat X. Back home in "jolly old England".

A home that Delores, with the assistance of X, will discover is not the haven of domestic bliss that she has hithertofore believed.

Because at least in the case of her husband. One Gerald Tremayne, suburban house-husband and not so popular novelist.

While the cat watches, Mr Mouse and her rather tech-savvy micelings will engage in all manner of "play".

Each more dangerous and in some cases shocking than the last.

Not knowing that inside said cat, an increasingly alarmed wife and mother is bearing witness to it all.

Along with X, of course.

Hmmmmmm...

A big part of what makes this book such a pleasure to read?

The the parts of it that are told from the viewpoint of X.

The simple and direct cause and effect relationship that X has with not only the people of the house, but the goings on as well. Provides quite the refreshing change from the scheming and subterfuge of those supposed "higher thinking" beings.

The juxtaposition of X's viewpoint, Delores' realizations, a pervasive humor, and break-neck pace makes this journey into magical realism one that a reader will surely want to repeat.

This is a book that will make one rethink all of the things about family, love, trust, and most importantly, our cats.

Marsha says

The premise of this novel seemed so unlikely that I was immediately attracted to it. A British man writing from the perspective of a black woman who wakes up one day and realizes that her consciousness is somehow inside of her own pet cat. Cultural appropriation all over the place but so well done! This book is a massively enjoyable romp! I've been telling everyone about it.

Thank you, Netgalley, for the e-review edition.

Basma says

I'm sad that I didn't enjoy this book like I thought I would.

This story is about Dolores, a successful business woman who wakes up one day to find part of herself in a cat. It's not that she transformed into a cat fully, because her human self is actually on a business trip, but she finds herself able to see through the cat's eyes. She's bewildered that's she's in this predicament, she's fascinated by her ability to still maintain her mind yet she's unable to control the cat's movements, she's angry she can't tell her human self to come back nor is her human self aware of what's going on and of course most importantly she gets to witness what happens in her home while she's away. She sees things she's not supposed to see.

All of that sounds like it would make a great story to tell and to some extent the start of this book was great. But then it kind of dwindled down for me. The text felt like it could have been trimmed a bit and sometimes it felt like the Dolores inside the cat when into unnecessary tangents. Somewhere in the middle of the book I started to feel bored and wasn't intrigued to know how the entire story will come together or what would

happen in the end and I just put it aside. There's also this thing wherein the stories I read that involved cats in some way are usually from a perspective of an author who is Asian, so the way it's written, how their culture is incorporated and how cats are talked about is so widely different that in addition to loving that way so much I got used to it and any other book doing the same felt odd to me. I have read one of those books in January and the story is so fresh in my mind that I kept comparing those books together even though they're nothing alike. So I guess a part of my dis-enjoyment of this book is my preconceived judgement that I couldn't shake off.

(I received a free e-book copy of this title from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.)

Kaffrun says

This book took a little while for me to get into. I thought the premise clever and indeed it was a satisfying read. Having the protagonist mysteriously inhabiting her cat while she is away on a business trip is the conceit by which the reader learns about the family and marriage. Delores is the successful child of a South African diplomat father and English philanthropist mother. She makes good on the father's expectations and is an executive for a software company that does business with international corporations.

Delores husband Gerald, former handyman cum low level drug dealer made good as novelist, stays at home and cares for their two teen daughters. Through the eyes of the cat, X, Delores discovers that Gerald has not been diligently working on the sequel to his first novel, but having it off with the neighbor among many other less than exemplary activities. The story is told from the viewpoint of a variety of characters to an expected but very entertaining, ridiculous end. Recommend for fans of cat themed fiction.

Lisa Kidder says

Imagine taking off on an international trip, only to wake up and discover that some aspect of your consciousness has been left behind at home, seen through the eyes of the family pet. What shenanigans might you witness, when your husband and kids have no idea you're still quietly observing everything that happens at your house?

The irreverently unlikely premise of *Cat Flap* by Alan S. Cowell caught my attention straight away. I was curious enough to open the book and begin reading, and I found it difficult to put down once I started. I found myself intermittently hopeful yet cringing at some of the characters' misadventures. The main character, Dolores Tremayne, found herself transported from a place of peaceful naiveté to horrified helplessness when she learned some of what her husband and kids were really up to while she was away. Being trapped in a cat's body with no way to communicate with her family or primary self had her feeling doubly trapped. Despite the distasteful nature of some of the characters' activities, Cowell managed to maintain a playful mood as events unfolded.

Overall, *Cat Flap* made for a light and entertaining book selection to kick off my summer. Yes, it's ridiculously far-fetched, but its absurdity is what makes it fun. The fast-paced style of how the shocking events unfold made it a quick read. Cowell wrote with plenty of humor and a simple, flowing style of storytelling that has the reader pouncing along, chasing the thread of this utterly original adventure.

"Someone picked her up, tumbled her onto her back, rubbed her cozy, furry abdomen. She heard the sound of purring and realized that she was making it."

I received an Advanced Review Copy of *Cat Flap* by Alan S. Cowell, compliments of St. Martin's Press via NetGalley. This review was first published on my Damian Daily blog.
