



# Julia's Cats: Julia Child's Life in the Company of Cats

*Patricia Barey , Therese Burson*

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The world knows Julia Child as the charismatic woman who brought French cuisine to America and became a TV sensation, but there's one aspect of her life that's not so familiar. Soon after the Childs arrived in Paris in 1948, a French cat appeared on their doorstep, and Julia recalled, "Our domestic circle was completed."

Minette captured Julia's heart, igniting a lifelong passion for cats equaled only by her love of food and her husband, Paul. All the cherished feline companions who shared Julia's life—in Paris, Provence, and finally California—reminded her of that magical time in Paris when her life changed forever.

From Julia's and Paul's letters and original interviews with those who knew her best, Patricia Barey and Therese Burson have gathered fresh stories and images that offer a delightfully intimate view of a beloved icon.

Praise for *Julia's Cats*:

"A cat-centric biography of Julia Child? Why not? The back book jacket quotes Child herself as saying, 'Really, the more I cook, the more I like to cook. To think that it has taken me 40 yrs. to find my true creative hobby and passion (cat and husb. excepted).' This book ably braids these three strands of Child's life. The many feline fanciers out there will surely enjoy the photographs of the cats, many taken by her husband, Paul Child." —*Chicago Tribune*

"It's clear that all the cats that passed through her life gave her joy and comfort, probably in ways that food and even Paul could not. Having that perspective of this grande dame makes her seem all the more human and wonderfully admirable to me." —*Epicurious*

"This compact, entertaining read is filled with personal photos and letters that document the role cats played in Julia's life as she moved from Paris to Provence, Cambridge to California." —*Shelf Awareness*

## Julia's Cats: Julia Child's Life in the Company of Cats Details

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# From Reader Review Julia's Cats: Julia Child's Life in the Company of Cats for online ebook

## Robin says

What a delightful little *amuse bouche*-sized biography of Julia Child, focused specifically on her joyful relationships with a series of special, much-pampered and richly fed cats. If you know Julia Child mostly through her television program or her cookbooks, this book sheds light on how that same bubbly charisma translated into her personal life with Paul and their many *poussiquettes*.

Because Julia and Paul were both prolific letter-writers to their family and friends, the authors had a treasure trove of Julia-isms and cat anecdotes to choose from as they compiled this little narrative. One of my favorites involves Julia's first cat, Minette, who had quite the varied diet as Julia was teaching herself the basics of French cuisine in her Parisian kitchen. Julia was learning to make *tartelettes* and had put the baked mini pie crusts into the dumbwaiter to cool while she made the chicken in cream sauce filling. When Paul returned home for his lunch break to sample the results, they discovered that Minette had been napping in the dumbwaiter when the crusts were placed there, so had "thoroughly tasted" them all. "Paul got quite an earful of Julia's growing vocabulary of colorful French expletives" but the filling turned out to be quite tasty by itself and Julia ruefully agreed to always carefully check the contents of the dumbwaiter before putting tasty morsels in to cool or set, since Minette was always hungry and alert for opportunities. Julia was never truly upset by any of her cats' antics around food, as they always demonstrated a deep appreciation for her cooking skills -- a sure way into the heart of any dedicated cook.

The book is sprinkled with photos of Julia's daily life, always accompanied by a cat, either posing with her or sitting somewhere in the frame. Due to her many relocations, she was often leaving a cat behind with friends and writing for updates. ("How is our Minimouche? Is she getting very big? I hope so, as I adore great big *poussiquettes*.") Sometimes, when having a cat at some temporary home was impractical, she made up for it with helping strays and going to cat shows, always looking forward to a time when she could return to her more permanent home bases and cuddle and spoil her own cats again. The authors claim one of her mantras was "*Une maison sans chat, c'est la vie sans soleil*" (a house without a cat is like a life without sunshine). If that rings true to you, you might just find this book as delightful as I did.

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## Andrew says

A slight little book that probably should have been edited down to an article for a glossy ladies magazine. Since Julia Child spent her life shuttling between France and the US, she really only owned one cat, back when she first moved to Paris with her husband. So, the premise gets worn thin. But, any cat-lover will relate to her delight in *poussiquettes* and understand her sadness when she had to leave them to return to her television work.

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## Emily Genest says

So my boss purchased this book because she loves all things animals- especially cats (but not in the crazy cat-lady way. She's way too rich for that). Since she was going to be on the road for a week she left it for me

to read.

It was cute. It added nice tidbits that might have been left out of *My Life in France* and other Julia Child biographies. It also wasn't sad, which is nice because I hate books that are full of cute stories about animals and then bam! dead animal-character that you've come to love.

It short and a quick read. If you know someone who loves cats (your mom, grandma, great aunt Sue) it's a good little gift.

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### **Diane says**

This was a lovely read. I never knew that Julia Child and I both shared a love of "poussiequettes"! The book illustrates Julia's delightful charm and personality as it follows her life with Foreign Service husband Paul Child back and forth between the American embassy in Paris and the here at home. Once in Paris, a kitchen mouse problem was easily solved with a local "minou". Julia was thrilled with the little mouser and was never again "sans chat". The book has a number of interesting photos over the years, capturing the many cats who spent time with the couple. They had a very happy marriage and good lives, filled with travel and Julia's love of teaching the art of French cooking. I enjoyed the book very much.

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### **Jessica says**

Awww, I loved reading and learning about Julia Child's fascinating and enriched life. She really lived the dream: a spouse who adored her, a warm heart, the ability to nurture her passion, and the means to travel the world.

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### **Joanna Taylor Stone says**

This seemed pretty forced, but I mean it's cats and Julia Child, so I will take it.

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### **Glitterbomb says**

This is a delightful and charming little book. A must read if your a fan of cooking, cats and good company.

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### **Sharon Richards says**

I received this for my birthday and read it in one sitting. It's a charming account of Julia Child's love for kitties, beginning when she and Paul Child were newly married and living in Paris. A housekeeper brought her a cat to rid the kitchen of mice. The cat was named "Minou", French for pussy. It was soon determined that Minou was a girl, so Julia changed the kitty's name to Minette. The book weaves a lot of delightful biographical details about Julia and her adoring husband, Paul Child and the many cats they shared and loved

over a span of 40 years. As soon as I finished this book I gave it to my goddaughter who also loves Paris and cats.

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### **Fiona says**

This is a delightful read for anyone who loves cats and cooking. It's gentle and descriptive. The authors have researched widely. Having read the Julie/Julia book and seen the movie several time, this was just another insight into the life of Julia Childs.

A wonderful Christmas gift.

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### **Snap says**

Charming little book about Julia Child and the cats in her life. Nice stories from Paris and to her final days in California. The theme of this small book can be summed up in this quote from JULIA'S CATS: " For Julia the recipe for a perfect dinner party had just been greatly enhanced: food, plentiful wine, sparkling conversation, and a cat who came to dinner." I think it was also her idea of a perfect life.

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### **Rebecca says**

If you love Paris and all things French, cooking a la francaise, and les poussiequettes, you will fall in love with this book.

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### **Rebecca Huston says**

A fun little jewel of a book, chronicling the life of Julia Child and her cats. The authors use photographs, letters and stories to create a humourous read that is perfect for cheering you up on a rainy day, preferably with a cat or two in your lap. Great fun to read, my only regret is that it is much too short. And there is a great little surprise at the end as well. Four stars overall, recommended.

For the longer review, please go here:

<http://www.epinions.com/review/Patric...>

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### **Emily says**

It is insane to me that enough information about Julia Childs and her love of cats exists so that a whole book could be written about it. I'm thankful that info does exist because those was a delightfully happy little book.

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## **Joyce says**

What is not to like? Stories of Paul and Julia and their many cats. The first pages with the story of Julia's last meal (her recipe for French onion soup) and that her dear cat was there in the end was so touching.

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## **Xyra says**

I LOVE Julia Child! The Food Network and people like Paula Dean and Rachel Ray wouldn't be where they are without her.

Growing up, Saturday afternoons were usually PBS shows and I have fond memories of my mom and I watching The French Chef. She was a joy to watch.

Reading through this book I could hear her voice in the quotes, could picture her walking down the aisles of the open markets and in the kitchen.

This slim, biographic, volume produces a glimpse at Julia's life with a focus on her love of cats and the part they played in her many years. It does not delve deep into all that Julia and Paul went through, but hovers above focusing on the love Julia generously bestowed on those around her.

As I type my review one of my own poussiquettes, Cheri (short for Cherche la Chat), is on my lap purring away. I know Julia would approve.

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