



# **The Cat Who'll Live Forever: The Final Adventures of Norton, the Perfect Cat, and His Imperfect Human**

*Peter Gethers*

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**The Cat Who'll Live Forever: The Final Adventures of Norton, the Perfect Cat, and His Imperfect Human** Peter Gethers

**The final, poignant chapter in a trilogy of bestselling true stories about a floppy-eared Scottish Fold named Norton**

Peter Gethers was a confirmed cat hater until the day he received a six-week-old kitten as a gift. Walking the streets of New York with Norton tucked into his pocket, Gethers began forming an intense attachment to his new pet. Before long Norton was flying with his owner on the Concorde to Europe, sipping milk in Parisian cafés, and eating custom-made pounce pizzas at Spago. Soon Gethers began to detail Norton's adventures in print, and with *The Cat Who Went to Paris* and *A Cat Abroad* the duo made history as well as many, many friends around the world.

*The Cat Who'll Live Forever* chronicles the latest in Norton's astonishing adventures, celebrity encounters, and worldwide excursions, culminating in his heartwarming—and heartbreakin—final cross-country trip. The first half of this book will have you smiling and laughing as Norton changes the lives of the Italian owners of a thirteenth-century abbey in Sicily, attends movie premiers with Sir Anthony Hopkins in the chic Hamptons, and relaxes at the dog run in Greenwich Village's Washington Square Park. But as Norton gets older his schedule slows down and he struggles with the aches and pains and physical inconveniences that go along with age, teaching his human the essentials of loving and caring and coping with illness. Ultimately Norton passes along to his owner the most valuable lessons of all—how to deal with death and grief, how to live life on your own terms, and how to appreciate and savor the joyful times that come along while we're here on earth.

*The Cat Who'll Live Forever* is, on one level, a touching meditation on love and relationships and dealing with the pain of inevitable loss. Above all, it is a deeply moving and life-affirming tribute to a humble little animal who never let stardom go to his head and always understood the meaning of true friendship.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **The Cat Who'll Live Forever: The Final Adventures of Norton, the Perfect Cat, and His Imperfect Human Details**

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Author : Peter Gethers

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## **From Reader Review The Cat Who'll Live Forever: The Final Adventures of Norton, the Perfect Cat, and His Imperfect Human for online ebook**

### **Jonathan says**

Norton is a cat who always traveling with his owner who is the author Peter Gethers. Which Peter is a great writer that tells what the cat and himself go and explore the world. Norton also have a problem that he can't be without his own. Norton have cancer somewhere in his liver. Peter tries his best to help Norton with his condition by the vest he could.

Norton is a famous cat around the world that people can relate to. This story the relationship between Norton and his owner and their adventures that they both have fun together. And their thoughts and feelings towards to each other.

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### **Cindee says**

I looked at the title and balked. "The cat dies. I don't want to read this." I am glad I didn't listen to my inner dialogue. Yes, the cat dies... but he'll also live forever. Gethers is such a personable writer and his wit is rapier sharp. I read this at work- people thought I was nuts. They heard me alternate between laughter and sniffly tears. They all moved away from me. Who cares? I loved this book. I may even re-read it at work just to keep them a little off balance.

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### **Sarah says**

Going into reading this book is a bit like watching the movie *Titanic*; you know the ending. Having enjoyed the earlier chronicles of Norton's globe-trotting ways the this third and final installment in Gethers' Scottish Fold trilogy was a pretty safe bet. Most of the time sequels fail to live up to their original counterparts. That is not the case here. (Granted, it has been over twenty years since I read the two previous books so I have not done a back-to-back-to-back comparison, but I think it is pretty safe to say this one is my favorite.) It is touching and heartfelt without succumbing to a Hallmark greeting card saccharine quality. I thought often of my own beloved Mackenzie, a magnificent Maine Coon who brightened my life for seventeen years. Clearly this is the author's intent. Even those without their own critters will likely reflect on the importance of relationships and living a quality life.

The caveat here is Gethers frequent expressed disdain for religion. His snide comments and the almost mocking manner in which he describes letters he has received from disgruntled readers rubbed me the wrong way. I certainly wouldn't personally send him a letter expressing concern his soul burn in a fiery hell but I also take umbrage at his closed-minded view. Additionally, I have tired of authors' political views clouding otherwise delightful memoirs. I would much rather read about Norton's proclivity to car seat warmers than hear Gethers' grievances with the Republican party.

Above all, it is obvious norton was an extraordinary feline and I believe even the most die-hard cat haters would be inclined to agree.

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## **Sarai says**

This is the third and final in a series of three about Norton, a Scottish fold cat owned by author Peter Gethers.

Spoiler alert! Spoiler alert! Spoiler alert! If you don't want to know the spoiler, skip this commentary! Norton dies in this book. For some silly reason when I first picked up this book to read several years ago, even though the title says The Final Adventures, I did not realize the cat was going to die. I read this book and laughed out loud and chuckled and giggled and just had a very nice time until it dawned on me that Norton was not going to make it, but by then I was too invested to stop reading.

I am so glad I continued. Gethers describes Norton's passing with gentleness, and joy in the living and shared experiences they had together. I bawled my eyes out. I sobbed. Then I laughed some more, and when I finally finished the book I went and hugged my animals and immediately ordered a copy of the book for a few of my friends because I thought it was important enough to share in all its beauty.

I would recommend this book to just about anyone from age young adult on up. The only people I might not recommend this to are people who will be offended that Gethers is essentially agnostic/atheist and states so in the book as he is telling a story about Norton. If you're going to get hung up on it, then you should pass. But for anyone else, especially animal-lovers, this is a must-read. It's got everything a book should have - laughter, love, kinship, good food, exotic locales, tears, truths, wit, and heart. Definitely a keeper.

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## **Jess says**

That's right world! I'm a Norton fan. I finished reading this last night, and balled my eyes out...Norton was more than a cat, and I wish I had had the chance to meet him.

After all, Norton is cool enough for Sir Anthony Hopkins...

But really, losing a pet in someways is harder than losing a person. The pet is a source of unrequited love. They never judge and are always there for you. I cried for Norton, and I cried for the pets I've lost in the past. Then I snuggled up with Gabs and reminded her how much I love her.

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## **Lilo says**

“The Cat Who’ll Live Forever” is the 3rd book of a trilogy. I have read all 3 books, recently finishing the last one.

“The Cat Who’ll Live Forever” should not be read alone. I strongly recommend reading book 1, “The Cat Who Went to Paris”, and book 2, “A Cat Abroad”, before. At least, book 2, “A Cat Abroad”, should be read before. I have reviewed all 3 books of the trilogy and would ask the reader who has not yet read books 1 and 2 to read my reviews of these books.

I must admit that I did not like the beginning of “The Cat Who’ll Live Forever” too much. Here the author sidetracks and is ranting about this and that. Therefore, only 4 stars. Once I got past the beginning (first 30 pages or so), I loved the book. By now, the author is more mature, and the cat’s health is declining. First it is kidney failure Norton is battling with, then it is cancer. There is nothing, really nothing the author would not

do to prolong his beloved cat's life, provided this life would still be worth living. The author consults quite a number of veterinarians, some great, some not-so-great, and two despicable. Not only do we learn interesting medical facts, we also learn highly interesting details about holistic treatment of kidney failure and cancer. (These details alone are worth to buy and read the book.) And throughout the book, the author reflects on life and death in a philosophical manner, which also makes this book a worthwhile read.

In case you may shy away from reading the book because it is so sad that this wonderful creature, Norton, ends up dying (as, unfortunately, all animals and humans eventually do), let me put you at ease and tell you that his death is a gentle death, the kind of death any animal and human can only wish for.

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### **Lisa says**

This was by far my favorite of the whole trilogy, and so very different from the first one. Mr. Gethers provides a soulful examination of what life, surrounded by the context of death, means, especially life shared with another species. There are, of course, the usual stories of Norton's travels, but there's a mellowness here that's not present in the previous books - a gentle savoring of his time spent with Norton, knowing that it would all eventually end. And with the spector of death comes a new found maturity in his writing and prose that is a joy to read. But it's not all serious and sad. There's a fabulous recounting of the author's first attempt to administer sub-q fluids to Norton that had me laughing so hard I ended up crying - my first experience with that famous phrase. If you've ever had to tend to an elderly pet, you'll be able to relate. I highly recommend this book.

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### **Sarah says**

I had to grab my poor unsuspecting cat and give her a big hug after reading this book... Anyway, I do feel pretty ashamed that I had never heard of Norton prior to reading this. I mean, this cat has traveled the world. Been to movie premieres. Met Sir Anthony Hopkins. What have I done that can compare? ;)

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### **This is Me Equivocally says**

Being a cat person, I was instantly drawn to this book when I randomly stumbled upon it at the library. During the first half of the story, I was wondering why I had bothered to start reading it. By the second half, I knew why. It is a very touching story about the life and loss of a best friend, who just happens to be a cat. I don't think I have cried more while reading a book.

The first half seemed more like a travel memoir. The author went into more detail about the places he went and the food he ate than about his relationship with Norton, his furry friend. I also disliked how Gethers would constantly drop names of the famous people he met or worked with. Maybe this made the story more interesting to some people, but I found it distracting and superfluous.

Some aspects of the relationship between Norton and Gethers were so similar to the bond between my first cat and myself, that it was difficult to see the pages through tears at some points in the story. This book made

me remember things about my cat that had become clouded in my memory over the years.

Any cat lover should read this and the rest of the Norton trilogy.

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### **Amy says**

Gethers' third book, *The Cat Who'll Live Forever*, starts out a bit rough, I thought, but becomes very engaging, especially as Gethers begins to adjust his life in order to care for an aging (and still delightful) Norton. I expected to cry all the way through this book, but happily it was more heart-warming than heart-wrenching. So often, in human relationships, we give grudgingly and somewhat resentfully, so it was touching to read of the sacrifices that Gethers made willingly and wholeheartedly, in order to make life easier for Norton. Once again, Norton teaches Gethers the joy that can be found in sacrificial love, as together they share the final chapter of their incredible relationship.

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### **Sharon says**

I kind of dreaded reading this last Norton book, despite knowing that the kitty had passed on some time previously. Having lost two beloved cats of my own in the past year gave me some trepidation.

While yes, reading about Norton's last years was hard, the main thing I took away from the book is that Norton taught author Peter Gethers, and so many other people, how to live with joy and leave with dignity.

We see Gethers learning first that Norton has kidney disease (which affects many cats) and how to live and travel while dealing with that ... and subsequently that Norton has cancer. We see how he manages Norton's treatments and starts quietly sharing the information that Norton is going to leave with his circle of friends.

And then we see the huge outpouring of love ... from Gethers, friends, family members, and those who got to know Norton through his world travels.

I absolutely shed many tears, because I thought about my Seamus and my Teddy ... and I gained some understanding about my own grief process in the process of reading this beautiful love letter to a special cat.

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### **Laura says**

I have not yet been able to make myself read this. Not long after I read *A Cat Abroad*, my grandma sent me a magazine article about Norton's death, a beautiful and devastating eulogy written by Gethers, and I blubbed like a baby. It's one thing to be surprised by a sad bit in a book, but quite another to go into it knowing perfectly well that you're going to bawl. I'm saving this one for a day when I'm sad already, or when I just need a good cry.

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### **Cheryl says**

I did drag out the reading of this book more than I thought, because I instantly fell in love with Norton (although he is not as fabulous as a certain black and grey tabby named Minerva, as I can tell you without any hint of bias). I marvelled at his equanimity in traveling and his apparent lack of bad kitty habits such as scratching the furniture. I do have to question his taste in humans a bit, since he was apparently good friends with Roman Polanski, but then that individual's crime was committed long before Norton's time. I cried, as I knew I would, over Norton's health problems (it probably doesn't help that my own precious Minerva has FIV and will likely not live a full 16 years with me) and his passing. While a part of me understands that this little cat got much better and more expensive health care treatment than a great many people in this country, I could not fault his human for that.

All in all, I was very glad to have met Norton and am pleased to be able to share his story with someone else soon.

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### **Karin says**

For me there aren't many books that make me cry. This one just did. The books of Peter Gether describe such joy in life thanks to Norton that it will infect you. I cried several times near the end of this book, not only in sadness. I think that this book is a must-read because it's about the experiences in life that change people. Norton was one hell of an experience.

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### **Diana Petty-stone says**

The final chapter in the Life of Norton, the Scottish Fold who traveled, dined and make friends with people all over the world. Well done.

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