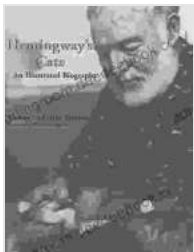


Hemingway Cats: An Illustrated Biography of the Feline Companions of a Literary Legend

Ernest Hemingway, the celebrated American author, was not only renowned for his literary prowess but also for his profound love and affinity for cats. Throughout his life, Hemingway shared his home and heart with numerous cats, each possessing a distinct personality and a cherished place in his affections.



Hemingway's Cats: An Illustrated Biography

by Sarah Ashford

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 10419 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 219 pages



This illustrated biography delves into the captivating lives of the Hemingway cats, offering readers an intimate glimpse into their relationship with the iconic writer. From the legendary polydactyl Snowball to the rambunctious Sun Valley, these feline companions played a significant role in Hemingway's personal and creative life.

Snowball: The Polydactyl with 22 Toes

Snowball, the most famous of Hemingway's cats, was a white polydactyl feline with an extraordinary 22 toes. Legend has it that Snowball was a gift from a ship's captain, and her unusual appearance quickly endeared her to Hemingway.

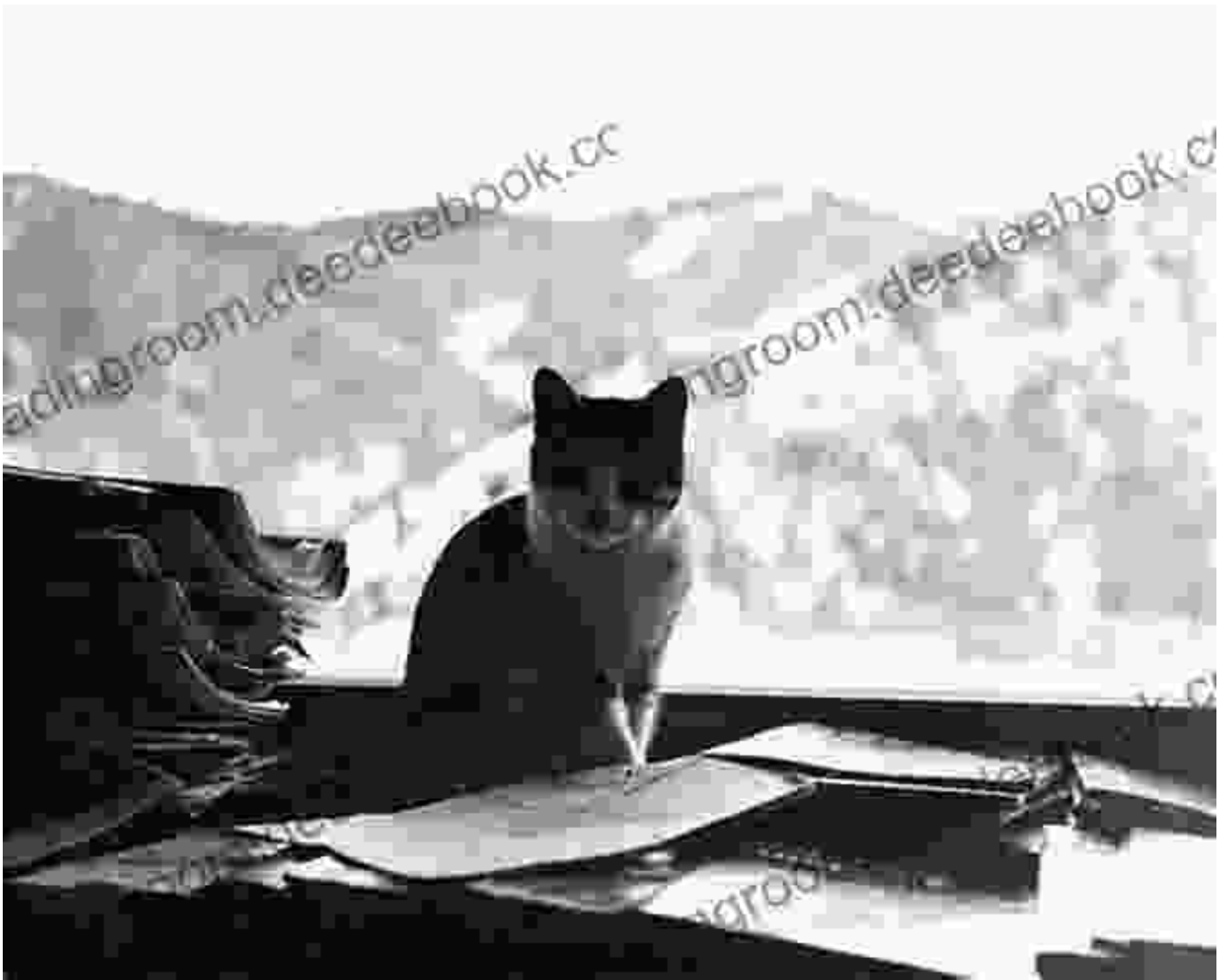


Snowball became a beloved fixture at Hemingway's Key West home, where she was known for her playful and affectionate nature. She

frequently inspired Hemingway's writing, appearing in several of his short stories, including "The Cat in the Rain" and "Fathers and Sons."

Sun Valley: The Boxing Enthusiast

Sun Valley, another notable Hemingway cat, was a large, rambunctious feline with a penchant for boxing. Hemingway named him after the Idaho ski resort where he was born. Despite his formidable size and reputation as a brawler, Sun Valley was known for his gentle and loyal nature.



While Hemingway admired Sun Valley's boxing prowess, he also recognized his cat's sensitive side. In his memoir "A Moveable Feast,"

Hemingway described Sun Valley as "a great lover, always slept on the foot of the bed and purred all night."

Whitey: The Hemingway Cat with a Broken Back

Whitey, a large, white cat with a broken back, came into Hemingway's life in the early 1940s. Despite his physical challenges, Whitey possessed a remarkable spirit and a deep bond with the writer.



Hemingway cared for Whitey with great tenderness, providing him with special accommodations and ensuring his comfort. Whitey's presence in the house had a calming effect on the often-turbulent writer, and he became a cherished member of the Hemingway household.

Other Notable Hemingway Cats

In addition to Snowball, Sun Valley, and Whitey, Hemingway shared his life with numerous other cats, each with their own unique traits and personalities.

- **Missy:** A petite, gray tabby with a sweet and gentle demeanor.
- **Uncle Willie:** A large, black-and-white tomcat known for his playful and mischievous nature.
- **Polly:** A white Persian cat with long, flowing fur and a regal presence.

Hemingway's Love for Cats

Hemingway's deep affection for cats was evident throughout his life. He believed that cats possessed a wisdom and understanding that humans often lacked. In his essay "On Cats," he wrote:



“ "Cats know how to live" ”

Hemingway found solace and inspiration in the company of his feline companions. They provided him with unconditional love, companionship, and a sense of stability amidst the often-chaotic nature of his life.

Legacy of the Hemingway Cats

Today, the Hemingway cats continue to be celebrated and admired around the world. The Hemingway Home and Museum in Key West, Florida, is home to a colony of over 50 cats, many of which are descendants of Hemingway's original feline companions.

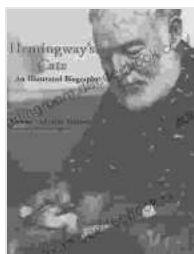


The Hemingway cats have become a symbol of the writer's love for animals and his enduring legacy. They serve as a reminder of the special bond between humans and cats, and the joy and companionship that these feline creatures can bring to our lives.

The Hemingway cats were an integral part of Ernest Hemingway's life and work. From Snowball the polydactyl to Sun Valley the boxing enthusiast, these feline companions provided him with love, inspiration, and a sense of peace. Through this illustrated biography, we have explored their unique

personalities, their relationship with the legendary writer, and their enduring legacy.

The Hemingway cats remind us of the importance of compassion and kindness toward all creatures, and they continue to inspire cat lovers and literary enthusiasts alike.

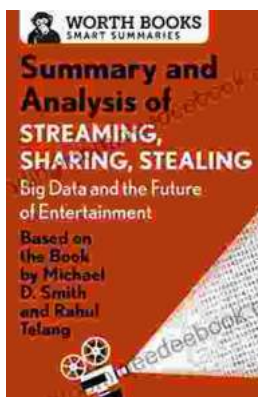


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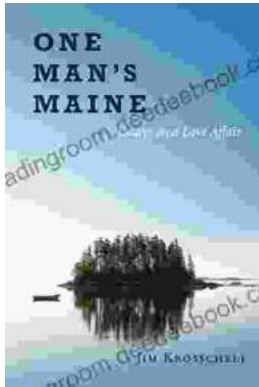
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