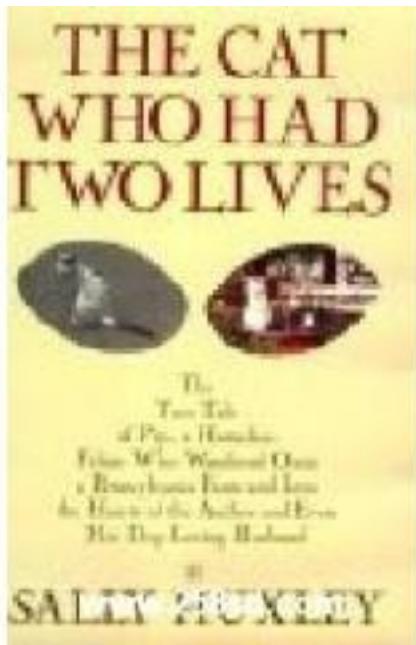


The Cat Who Had Two Lives



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From Publishers Weekly What journalist Huxley means by two lives is the cat Pip's experiences before and after his adoption by her and her husband Bob, part-time New Yorkers who bought a house in rural Pennsylvania. Granted, the two lives are markedly different; the scrawny stray was quickly feted and petted with spoonfuls of cream-laden scrambled eggs, a home in the Huxley's barn (complete with bed and kerosene heater for the cold months) and eventually the run and dominance of the house. But the more important dichotomy is between Pip's indoor and outdoor lives. Though he enjoyed playing the satrap around the house, outdoors Pip became a scrappy stalker of mice, rabbits, bats and the like. The Huxleys let Pip move freely everywhere: "As contented and affectionate as he was to be ours, he needed to go outside." Although undoubtedly heartfelt, this sentiment comes across as an

apologia for Pip's demise under the wheels of a car. Much of the book reads like a memorial; shards of recollections aimed more at exorcising the Huxleys' pain than at entertaining or informing the reader. Photos. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Freelance journalist Huxley chronicles her life in a country house in New Hope, Pennsylvania, where she finds a ragged, half-starved cat at her doorstep. After being fed, "Pip" takes up residence with Sally and her husband and quickly charms his way into their lives and his second life. Pip is a typical cat--he hunts mice and birds, begs for table scraps, and generally succeeds in becoming the center of attention in his owners' lives. Huxley engagingly describes how cats always can sense when their owners are leaving on a trip, how their taste always changes after their owners stocks up on a particular brand of cat food, and how, in general, they manage to wrap their owners around their little paws. This is a sweet story of a noncelebrity cat (unlike Norton, the well-traveled feline of Peter Gethers's *A Cat Abroad*, LJ 10/1/93) with delightful photographs that cat lovers will enjoy.- Eva Lautemann, DeKalb Coll. Lib., Clarkston, Ga. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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