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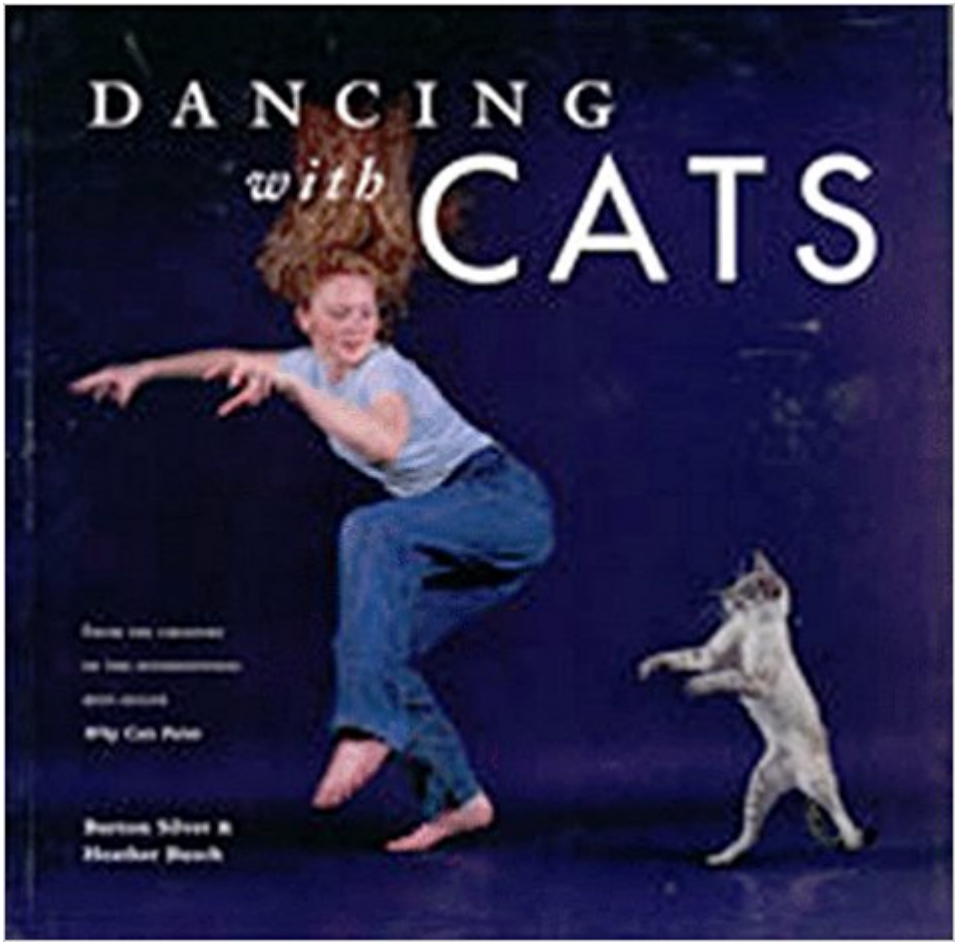
Dancing With Cats



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Synopsis

Nine lives, four paws, and all the right moves. These photographs celebrate feline grace and have people and cats everywhere jumping for joy. --This text refers to the Calendar edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With a hey diddle diddle, the creators of Why Cats Paint return with another version of feline (and human) reality. And suffice it to say that in Burton Silver and Heather Busch’s hands, Kipling’s cat that walked by himself has turned into a deeply codependent dervish. Their first book was a brilliant parody of artspeak--Busch’s photos of creative felines matched by Silver’s text. Their second, Dancing with Cats--an epic three years in the making!--juxtaposes psychological and spiritual mumbo-jumbo with the language of dance criticism. As Silver explores everything from visualization to mirroring to empathy, Busch is busy with her human-feline pairs. In one sequence, Fred, clad in tabby tights, kitty-cat body paint, and a tanga with a long black tail, leaps about the place with a slightly puzzled pussy: "I share its grace, power, and oneness with the universe. I relate to Fluff and the whole spectrum of feline physicality on a profound level--I even regard birds differently." On the very next page, chubby Helen, sporting a tie-dyed purple gown and a deeply sworn belief in feng shui, identifies perhaps a bit too deeply with chunky, amber-eyed Boots (who looks suspiciously like "Trans-Expressionist" Bootsie from Why Cats Paint). And then there’s Sue and Zoot. In one photo, the recumbent gray and peach cat raises his left paw to the sky as his ecstatic human does the same. Then Sue dons a feathery jerkin "in order to dance out some of her past traumas." It’s difficult to say which is funnier, the photos or the text, as Silver catches pseudo-therapy’s mixture of self-affirmation and non sequitur: "Dancing with Zoot helps Sue reenact and come to terms with the joy and sorrow of a brief but painful relationship: when she fell in love with her daughter’s father

while he was photographing bridges in the neighborhood." Though the two-legged models must have been prepared for this inspired silliness, one does wonder what on earth the cats made of their eurythmic adventures. Alas, until interspecies communication reaches a greater height, we can only dance amid our uncertainty! --Kerry Fried --This text refers to the Calendar edition.

Reviews from: ELLE LIFE CATS MAGAZINE PEOPLE This lean and lithe danseur noble is only one of the balletically inclined felines that Burton Silver and Heather Busch—authors of the newly published Dancing With Cats—have turned up in their ongoing investigation of the aesthetic propensities of cats (see their 1994 monograph Why Cats Paint). If the American Ballet Theater has not yet picked up on these piroutteing pussies, it’s only a matter of time. While researching their last tongue-in-cheek tome, Why Cats Paint, Burton Silver and Heather Busch came across pet owners with a curious predilection: two-stepping with their tabbies. The pair shed light on this phenom in a collection of pet pas de deux. Raves one dance partner: "The feline vibration surges through me with such power. Afterward I feel incredibly alert and peaceful." The authors of Why Cats Paint, bring you Dancing with Cats published by Chronicle Books. It is lovingly illustrated with photos of graceful felines and their colorful owners, caught mid-flight. Burton Silver and Heather Busch have rediscovered and brought to light the ancient art of cat dancing. They say cat dancing lets the owner and the cat channel together and tap into the natural feline energy vibration...or something like that. We just love the pictures. Look for it in your local bookstore. by Michael Neill People who hate cats—ailurophobes is the ten-dollar word—dismiss our purring friends as cold-blooded, self-centered manipulators with no redeeming social value beyond their all-too-occasional oppression of small rodents. Hah! What fools! As Silver and Busch know—and cleverly showed in Why Cats Paint, their previous book—kitties are actually multitalented Renaissance critters capable of, heck, just about anything. And it seems they also cut a mean rug—not just shred it to bits. Dancing with Cats cleverly mixes mock-pretentious writing—"Before dancing, Helen and Boots do a series of mirroring exercises to specially developed feline soundscapes"—with whimsical entertaining photographs of cat-human paws de deux. --This text refers to the Calendar edition.

My cat was never a dancer. An artist? Yes. A rapper? Of course! But a dancer, she would have none of that. I read this book to my cat every night for one year. She cried through most of it. She still won’t dance with me.

While this book may have been written for serious cat lovers, we used it for a gag gift and it was a hit! The pictures throughout the book are entertaining and hard to match. We would buy this book again

This book surely must be unique in the annals of publishing. The initial concept is truly inspired and the photography is dazzling. It is said to have required three years to complete. Unfortunately, I have never learned anything about dancing and my cat is too hefty to take phenomenal leaps. Nevertheless I hope we can test out our mutual energy charges someday.

5 starts simply because it is ridiculously absurd.

Thank you for making me laugh hysterically. This is my white elephant gift for this year and good on those who really do want to dance with their cats. To me, it’s just a hilarious joke and I love it.

Had this book some time ago. Nice to get it back ... funny.

GREAT coffee table book. You will laugh your head off. Obviously some play with negatives and throwing of cats.

This was recommended by because I bought Why Cats Paint. And they hit the target dead center.Well written. Great illustrations. A very satisfying read.Highly recommended to art and/or cat lovers.

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