



## Breed to Come

*Andre Norton*

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When desperate measures failed to control what men had begun and could not stop, they fled their polluted planet, leaving behind an epidemic virus born of experimentation. Yet unlike men, whom the disease could destroy, the animals of the planet thrived. Each generation was more forceful and intelligent than the last.

In the ruins of what was once a university complex, a vast band of The People, more highly evolved than those on the outside, sought to master the works of men. And they learned that the demons (as men were called) were not legendary but real. Then one day a spaceship landed...

## Breed to Come Details

Date : Published 1973 by Ace Books (first published June 6th 1972)

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Author : Andre Norton

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## From Reader Review Breed to Come for online ebook

### Penny Olson says

I read this book when I was a kid and loved it. It got me into sci-fi.

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### Mary says

I read this book as a 10 or 11 year old and loved it. I would still recommend it for young sci fi lovers. When I reread it years later for nostalgia's sake, it wasn't quite the masterpiece I remembered. But even as an adult, if you can suspend your disbelief and avoid wincing over some corny naming, there's some enjoyment here.

2.5 stars

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### Ash says

My favorite book. I read it for the first time when I was in 5th grade (I think, I know it was before 6th). After switching to a new school building I couldn't find it anymore, though only remembering the front cover image, and the basic storyline, along with the quote at the beginning of the book didn't help. After about 9 years (with details fading and reemerging during this time) of idle searching for the book using various keywords in Google, I finally found it again. I instantly purchased it on Amazon, one of surprisingly few copies available from what I saw.

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### Doris says

This book was the first Sci-Fi book I ever read, and it hooked me on the genre.

This book starts with a being searching for game, and finding evidence of an invader. He makes his way back to the caves of his clan, where he reports on the trouble.

Unfortunately, this also happens to be the time of the mating ritual - the Choosing - where the females choose mates from the visitors from other clans. Our intrepid hero, a cat who walks like the Demons (humans) who long ago fled Earth for the stars, chased by viral diseases they created, is cast out when he loses a fight for the mate of his choice.

He goes to Gammage, an elder, who also happens to be his several-generations-past grandsire, and asks to join what amounts to a group of archaeologists. While there, he gets involved with a group of Demons who return to try to reclaim the Earth.

This book is a strong cautionary tale of things that could come to pass, both to humans and to their animal companions. It reminds us that just because something looks different, it isn't necessarily bad, and someone who sweet talks you isn't necessarily the good guy.

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### **Shazza Maddog says**

Oh, I loved this book. It's a story about The People, who are genetically engineered cats, though they don't really remember this. The People are fighters, survivors, but their lives, and the lives of all the others on their world might be threatened by the return of the demons (human beings, who engineered the animals, then left the planet).

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I cannot say how many times I re-read this book when I was in middle and high school. I'd recommend it to any cat lover, or fan of YA science fiction. I'd like to find it and re-read it, and see if Ms. Norton's writing stands up to my memories.

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### **Wildan says**

I was ready to give this five stars when I realized that there are plotholes. Not major ones, granted, but enough to make me drop a star. Aside from that, excellent story-telling, excellent characters, excellent conclusion. A very solid work.

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### **John says**

A nostalgic read, since I first picked this up in elementary school. The writing style relies heavily on The Syntax Pretentious, and the story ends fairly abruptly -- basically, a bunch of stuff gets set up, and then a character introduced midway into the story spends the last few pages explaining that everything got resolved off-screen.

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I read an OCRed eBook, which consistently converted several Science Fictiony terms to words it found in the dictionary -- "rumbler" to "nimbler," "Ratton" (the evolved rat antagonists) into "Ration," and most amusingly, "com" to "corn," leading to "corn belt," "corns bean," and "corns officer."

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### **Emily says**

Norton's futuristic tale centers on a group of felines who have evolved into one of the planet's dominant species in the absence of humans. Where the humans went and how this evolution began is one of the book's central questions. Dogs, pigs and rats have become more advanced as well and there is conflict between each of these groups. One far-thinking leader attempts to unite the groups called Barkers, Tuskers and People in the event the "Demons" (humans) return. It is expected the Rattons will side with the Demons.

Norton's world-building is excellent, as is his characterization of each species. This complicated thought experiment also includes dramatic, suspenseful passages which elevate the story and keep the reader enthralled. Although the ending seems rushed and a little anti-climactic, it is an enjoyable read and well worth your time.

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### **Joe Santoro says**

So what happens when humans wipe themselves out? The cats take over, of course! I think I've decided I just don't like Andre Norton that much. There's nothing particularly bad about the book.. it's a pretty basic post-apocalypse story, where Cats (The People), Dogs (Barkers), Pigs (Tusked Ones) and Rats (Rattons) mutate enough to have intelligence, and trying to figure out why the Demons (Us) left, and protect themselves in case they come back.

Meanwhile, the remnants of man found a place in space, but they messed that up, too, so they had to try to recover their secret records of Earth and go back to see what went wrong.

I think the thing is there's just nothing particularly unique or interesting about the story... it's pretty standard 'tribal society tries to adjust to new tech' stuff.. the gimmick they are cat people just doesn't really do much to add flavor. I suppose if one really, really likes cats it might, but otherwise, it's a pretty bland story.... kinda reminded me of the 'Warriors' YA books a little bit.

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### **Wilson E. Stevens Sr. says**

Nice book, good plot and development. Man pollutes and creates a illness that forces him off earth, and after hundreds of years returns because they have again damaged their home world. However their return to earth finds that now it is inhabited by intelligent alien beings they had left behind, like the cats, dogs, rats and yes the wart hogs. The resulting struggles, discoveries, and decisions will impact all involved.

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### **S.A. Gibson says**

I enjoyed this story immensely this week. Although Andre Norton is one of the authors that got me into science fiction, I don't remember this one from my childhood. This story is one that puts her in the top level of the great writers of the genre.

Breed to Come does what science fiction rightly is known for. The what if of the story combines with human interest to lead you to suspend disbelief and go with the wild ideas until you get to the end.

I was riveted by the story of Furtig and the people he finds in the lairs. I admire his spirit. He is not a great fighter and suffers a defeat near the beginning of the book. His defeat is accepted as a step on his journey to uncover the secrets of his world and grow as an individual.

Breed to Come is superior to many science fiction books written in the same years. There are several strong characters who carry out important tasks separately from Furtig. We care about those other characters and look forward to finding out the results of their endeavors when Furtig meets up with them.

This book is written in 3rd person, mostly from Furtig's POV. The story is told in past tense. It took me 3 days of several hours each day to finish. I recommend to all ages. I think kids as young as 8 years old would

probably be OK with it. No sex and moderate violence. The ideal audience will be made up of cat lovers. I would classify this story as a futuristic post-apocalyptic adventure. Thanks, Andre Norton.

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### **Leland says**

Humans have deserted Earth in the wake of something that went terribly wrong. Now, 500 years later races of cats, dogs and rats have evolved into the dominant earth species. Cats, who think of themselves as 'The People' live in caves with exceptional social development. Their enemies include the Barkers and the evil, vile future rats called Rattons.

This story is told from the perspective of Furtig, a future cat, who after failing to win a mate in 'the Trials' leaves his home and seeks the 'knowledge of the lairs'. In the lairs (we're told on the back of the book that these are the ruins of a university complex) Furtig finds his ancestor Gammage and another band of cats who are 'In-Born' in the lairs. Here they all seek the knowledge and technology of the humans - now called Demons. They must do it soon, because they must defend against the Rattons while preparing for battle should the Demons (humans) return to enslave them again.

I read this book, some 20 years ago and again just moments ago. I remember it as being a much more enjoyable book than it is today. Perhaps it was better suited to my 12 - 14 year old self than to me now. For one thing, I was finding it hard to believe that Cats could evolve as much as they did within 500 years. Reasonably evolution would have taken millions of years so these developments must have been the result of experimentation. Furthermore, the human evacuation of Earth took place at a future time from our own and the technologies described by the cats were completely unrecognizable. I think it would have made a more interesting story if we the reader could guess at what technology the cats were learning by their descriptions. I simply found it difficult to suspend my disbelief for the sake of the story.

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### **Eric N. says**

Enjoyable sci fi adventure concerning Post apocalyptic Earth and animal people

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### **Rie says**

I read this book as a kid, perusing the sci fi stacks at the library. I don't remember the cover being so cheesy, but I liked the story, though there was probably a lot I couldn't grasp as a kid. The main character was a cat named Furtig, and I remember naming my pound kitty after him. I'm a terrible book reviewer. hehe.

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### **Valerie says**

The 'Demons' who come again are perfectly normal humans, with a serious problem that's never resolved (they came back to Earth after generations on their refuge planet because the refuge planet was also

(inexplicably) becoming uninhabitable. If they leave, where can they go?) There's some hint toward the end that there might be a solution from the archives--but it's far from a certainty.

Earth is presented as a planet that has become untenable for humans. If it doesn't kill them, it will poison their minds, and then (probably) kill them anyway. How? Why can't the humans and other peoples (Feline People, Canine Barkers, Porcine Tuskers, and Ratlike Rattons) live in peace? Why are the Rattons represented as inevitably cruel and hostile? The other peoples are personated (they have individual and quite variable natures). Why would the Rattons be impersonal and uniformly cruel and hostile? What's not true about rats wouldn't be true about their humanized descendants, surely? My personal feeling is that Norton was just phobic about rodents, and so prepared to believe any slander alleged against them. But I, having worked with rodents quite often, and lived peacefully in their territories, have to question such reflexive slanders.

The blurbs say that the 'lairs' are a university complex. I doubt this. Not only is it way too big, but any university I'VE ever been associated with is embedded in parklike vegetation--the 'lairs' are represented as being almost completely unvegetated.

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