



Cat Under Fire

Shirley Rousseau Murphy

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A big, powerful, gray feline, Joe Grey is perfectly content with his remarkable ability to understand and communicate with humans -- especially now that he has company. A mysterious accident similar to the one that enabled him to speak and read has transformed his friend Dulcie as well. The trouble is, the cute tabby female not only hears human words, she believes them.

Now she's convinced the man who was jailed for murdering a famous local artist and burning down her studio is innocent -- simply because he says so -- and she's willing to do whatever it takes to dig up the evidence that will exonerate the accused. Joe would much prefer just lazing around the house doing kitty things, but the lady cat is determined. And Joe must admit that he is curious ... though everyone knows what that can lead to!

Cat Under Fire Details

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From Reader Review Cat Under Fire for online ebook

Jennifer says

Another great Joe Grey mystery! I was guessing on whodunit until the very end. I actually liked this book better than the first one. While you can read this book alone, it does make a bit more sense if you read the first book already.

Betty says

In this delightful story by Shirley Rousseau Murphy, Dulcie is watching the trial of Rob Lake for the murder of artist Janet Jeannots. She feel he is innocent and she talks Joe into helping her investigate the crime. In order to locate new evidence Dulcie stays for a few day with a neighbour of Janet's. Both Joe and Dulcie are chased by an ornery dog. Dulcie gets Joe to join her searching the art gallery for Janet's paintings. Joe manages to trips the alarm and the cops find them. This the the second book in the series.

Nancy Ellis says

Another light and entertaining talking cat adventure. In this one, Joe Grey's cat-love Dulcie plays the major role in solving the murder of a local artist. Dulcie would love to be more human, but Joe is quite happy with the way things are. I don't really think you'd enjoy these books if you're not a cat lover, but if you're curious, give them a try.

Jen says

No. The entire thing was a prime example of telling instead of showing. Add in absolutely zero likeable characters and the entire thing was a slog.

?Susan? says

I love this series about two clever cats and their owners. It's fun to see them solve mysteries. The catty cats are not over the top paranormal weird, just one regular Tom cat and one female smarty pants with an adventurous spirit.

When a fire takes the life of a friend of the kitty duo they are on the case. After things don't quite sniff out they start sleuthing around and their investigation eventually pans out. Now they must figure out how to get the message to the authorities without revealing themselves.

These are wonderfully light mysteries with excellent narratives. Great for anyone looking for a Nancy Drew type adventure.

Tracy Smyth says

Light easy to read. Cats are so clever

Ronna says

I'm not usually good with fantasy and suspension of belief, but this book drew me in right away with it's talking cats that can open refrigerator doors to get their food, can make telephone calls, and can think and investigate with the best of the local police force. Joe and Dulcie are special cats but also have all the endearing and naughty traits of normal cats.

In this second book, one of their human friends, a well resound artist, has been murdered. The police have a suspect in jail, but he's been talking to the lovely cat who visits the jail. He doesn't realize that Dulcie can understand everything he's saying as he bemoans his innocence. Dulcie believes him and sets out to find the real culprit. Joe's not as enthusiastic, but he's dragged into the search by Dulcie.

This is a really cute mystery. The cats are so catlike within their human abilities. The search for the murderer is very well done and is solved very logically, though the cops are sometimes bamboozled by how some of the evidence and clues are found. No one knows that the cats can talk and understand everything said around them but their two owners. I listened to this on Audible and found myself laughing at the antics so well told by the narrator. Looking forward to reading many more of these tales!!

April says

Cat Under Fire
Shirley Rousseau Murphy
Avon Books
1996

Book 2 in the Joe Grey Mystery series.

Another of my Christmas gifts, this was a reread. In this book, a new character is introduced, Wilma's niece Charlie. Joe and Dulcie, the talking cats, will need to stay on their toes to not arouse Charlie's curiosity or to be found out as they investigate a local murder.

What I love about this series is how well the author depicts the cats to the reader. I read the thoughts of the cats that she wrote and I think, "Yes! That is what cats think." This series is a must for cat lovers who appreciate humor and sleuthing.

4 stars.

Sally says

This was the second book in a series where cats are the main characters. The cats provide most of the action and do all the mystery solving. The first book set up the premise that a couple of cats suddenly were able to speak human English speech and read. They were able to discover clues and mentally figure out what humans did and why, much like a human detective might, and could even manage to do some things that would be physically challenging for a cat (using a telephone, making photocopies on a machine. distinguishing the artistic style of a painter). It was stretching belief, but I thought there was enough possibility that with improved writing and a little more actual human involvement the series might become captivating. I could see where people who are cat lovers might fall in love with these books, but after reading this second one, I find the "cat" aspect is not enough to make me really like them.

I have to say that the mystery, the who-done-it, is a workable plot, both in the first book and this second one. The writing, however, is far from prosaic. I found myself getting distracted by the overuse of certain words to describe the cats' actions, such things as "dashing across the road," leaping off the porch," "perching on the window sill". A lot more creativity in descriptive writing would have improved the literary value a great deal. If I had already acquired more books in this series, I would probably read them, but I don't expect to actively seek them out as something to read.

Eleni Konstantine says

3.75 stars

Mimi says

This story was less wonky, but the writing was absolutely horrible.
Enjoyed the tale (hahahahahah - I crack myself up) though and will read more

Rebecca says

Oh, I am going to love these! The continuing adventures of Joe Grey will be part of my reading hours for a while.

Gen Lucien says

Joe and Dulcie are my two favorite cats characters. I always had a feeling that cats can speak. They just don't do it in front of their humans. How do you explain them getting into everything? Especially if it has nothing to do with them. How do you explain them laying on your keyboard or notepads when you're trying to do some work. They are like a new relationship which demands attention until you give in to please them. Cannot wait to read their next adventure.

Marguerite Vlielanders says

The Joe Grey's mysteries.

From a friend I got my first 'Joe Grey Mystery'. I will be thankful to her forever. The lovely books from Shirley Rousseau Murphy became my most favorite Cat Detectives. I adore them. They are so wonderful!

Joe Grey is a beautiful and very intelligent tomcat, but he can be very stubborn when he sets his mind to it. There is trouble in the little village Molena Point where Joe, his mate Dulcie, Kit and their people live. The humans, who should be on the case don't seem to have a clue. But Joe Grey has already solved more murders than most average human detectives. And that without letting them know it was him and his friends who sent the secret messages and some evidence to their office. The thing is.. Joe, Dulcie and Kit not only understand what people say but they also can talk with them. Only that must stay a secret of all secrets...

Oh, they are thrilling, the Joe Grey Mysteries! I adore them and I fell totally for Joe and Dulcie and Kit. They are so like my cats. ?

Jen says

Light-weight page turner for cat and mystery lovers. Second in a series about two cats who've acquired the ability to speak and engage themselves in following a murder in their town. I would always look at my little kitties and wonder what was going on in their little brains. Here, Joe Grey and Dulcie put those wonderings to work and act out just as I would suspect curious kitties would behave. Great fun.
