



Claws

Ricky Sides

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I'd like to give special thanks to Jason Merrick for the great cover.

Alcorn Pet Food Corporation is working with an experimental cat food laced with hormones and appetite enhancers. The special food causes cats to add muscle, gain weight, and exhibit extremely aggressive behavior. When an employee threatens to expose the pet food as a threat to public safety, she finds herself out of work, her home ransacked, and all her carefully gathered proof missing. Meanwhile, animal rights activists release the cats involved in the testing because they are scheduled to be euthanized. These bigger, stronger, and more aggressive animals begin to prey on small game in the area. Then the ravenous cats turn their attention to people.

Lovers, runners, hunters, dogs, deer, rabbits, normal cats, and even motorists begin to fall victim to the predations of these enhanced felines. An unemployed scientist, a small special ops team, a grieving father, a chief of security, and a homeless veteran join forces to try to prevent a catastrophe.

When a murderer steals the secret formula that created the menace and sells it to eight foreign enemies of the United States, the stakes suddenly get a lot higher, because the most deadly biological weapon ever created has just been released. The genie is out of the bottle and the world will never be the same.

To make matters worse, the scientist discovers that the first generation offspring will be even bigger and more aggressive, and then they learn that the food also affects dogs and rats.

Claws Details

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Author : Ricky Sides

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From Reader Review Claws for online ebook

Sheila Myers says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I suggest you ignore any of the negative reviews you might have read. Ricky Sides did a remarkable job of putting a new twist on an old story. I've read quite a few books about government projects aimed at developing new weapons for combat, but Mr. Sides thought of an idea that is so unique I can't find an adequate word for a description. Throughout the story, he keeps the reader in suspense by developing plots in which you aren't sure who are the good guys and who are the bad guys. While reading, I attempted to think ahead as I would while reading a crime novel and figure out how the story would end. I was wrong with every idea I had and the ending caught me by surprise. This is an excellent novel.

Mike says

Here Kitty, Kitty

When we think of Monsters, what springs to mind is the Eight Legged Furry Demon that lives under your bed (which reminds me, I must buy a Futon)

The Monster is evil and therefore must be destroyed before it get us, but imagine if Tiddles your precious little ball a lovely purriness that sometimes used to stretch your sideboards and cough up fur balls, now Imagine it's tearing at your throat and coughing up part of your face, well, that is what happens in this novel, it's fiendishly good, and a purrfect read while keepin an eye on the ball of fur purring away on your lap..... =^.^=

Jean Booth says

I liked the disclaimer the author wrote. That more than anything else, set the scene for me for how this book was going to go. The premise of Claws was fantastic! Food that makes cats grow and turn into viscous man-eating beasts- awesome!

I have 8 cats myself and had to hug each and every one of them when I finished reading this book. I can definitely envision Ida Malone as me in the future! lol!

I loved the scene with the two advocates after they "rescued" all the cats- so disgustingly perfect!

Personally, I could've done without the lovey dovey crap, but I did like that they were together. I just felt it was a tad quick to be saying the L word. Probably just me. It didn't affect the way the story went for me, so I could ignore that particular scene.

All in all I absolutely loved this book. It was fast paced, a great premise, and highly entertaining!

I'd definitely recommend this book to my friends!

John says

[I don't demand that stories all have a

Badseedgirl says

[zombie (hide spoiler)]

T.L. Bodine says

I picked up "Claws" as a free Kindle download the first day I got my new Kindle. I was drawn to it by the cover art, and the description made me giggle so I figured I'd give it a go. The story was everything I was expecting: The book equivalent of a Sy-Fy Original feature.

The basic premise of the story is that a pet food company, Alcorn, has an experimental feed laced with some sort of growth hormone that causes insatiable hunger, rapid growth, and violent aggression. The test subjects, a group of 48 cats, are released into the wild by a misguided Animal Liberation member, and begin wreaking havoc. As the story unfolds, you realize that the problem is much bigger than just these 48 cats.

The Good:

Ricky Sides manages to offer plenty of creative violence. It's obvious from his descriptions that he's familiar with combat, and all the fight scenes are lovingly crafted. The premise, too, is kind of cute: agricultural/biological warfare. His descriptions of how the giant, vicious cats could bring about the extinction of humanity was almost plausible. The whole book has the sort of campy made-for-tv-horror feel that makes you grin while you're reading it, although I'm not sure that was the author's intention here.

The Bad:

There's a number of technical problems with the book. The POV jumps constantly, more characters are introduced than you can possibly keep track of, and the ending is completely from left field. The main character is also largely void of personality and serves as a vessel for expository dialogue more than anything else.

The Ugly:

Speaking of dialogue, it feels like about 2/3rds of the book is dialogue and most of it is pretty terrible. Characters explain the plot in stilted conversations, and the narration follows up to continue explaining what was just discussed -- just in case the reader didn't understand it the first time.

The book also suffers from several typographical errors. Missing words, homonyms, and erratic dialogue tags run rampant in the book (at least the Kindle version). If nothing else, it really could have benefited from a good once-over from a copy-editor before it went live.

Overall:

The book was fun, don't get me wrong. I gleefully sat down and read it cover-to-cover (er...metaphorically), and I spent most of that time grinning in fondness. I've got a soft spot for B-rated horror, and this definitely fills that need. It reminded me a bit of the film Black Sheep, but without the humor.

I don't exactly regret the hours I spent reading it, but I wouldn't necessarily recommend anyone pick it up.

Linda says

Warning! Chemically Altered Pet Food Produces Franken-Kitties!

Suppose you could turn domestic pets into biological weapons just by adding a few chemicals to generic pet food. The food is intended to make the animals bigger, more savage, and perpetually hungry. Suppose you have developed an experimental formula to do just that, using a few dozen cats to test the efficacy of the formula. Now suppose some well-meaning but misguided animal-rights activists have set the test subjects free in your own home town ...

(Think *Jurassic Park* mixed with *When Animals Attack*.)

Whether you are an ailurophile or ailurophobe, chances are, after reading *Claws*, you will never regard Fluffy, Snookums, or Kitty-Pretty in *quite* the same way ever again.

chucklethescot says

Patricia is fired when she refuses to falsify paperwork for her boss to cover up that cat food ingredients are making the cats hungry and dangerous. As the company starts a campaign against her, unsuspecting animal rights activists release the test subjects into the community. And then the killing begins...

I picked this book up free on a website because I liked the idea of killer cats and the cover looked cool. I admit that I didn't rush to read it, thinking it wouldn't be that good. In fact this turned out to be an unexpected little gem of a book! I don't like cats for a variety of reasons including the fact that the buggers keep crapping in my flowerbeds and trying to eat the birds that we feed! So a novel where they are running wild and need to be taken down really appealed to me in a twisted way!

Firstly, the characters in the book are really well written and continue to develop through the story. Patricia's boss really is Mr Evil and the way she was treated makes you like her instantly. She has morals, is honest and refuses to bend to pressure to keep her job and will not be silenced no matter what the company tries to do to her. A lot of the characters like Jerry, Robert and Charlie are also well written and you actually give a damn about what happens to them. That makes a difference in a horror/thriller as they go into danger and you hope that they are going to survive.

This book resists the temptation of the horror novel to go all out for gore and guts to catch your attention. The author has a simple and gripping way of telling the story that had me hooked from the very start. Night scenes are used to great effect as you know what is lurking out there and you are right with Patricia, peering out into the dark night. It builds up tension in every scene where you know the cats are hiding and stalking some poor human or animal. The army are hunting the cats down in armed squads while a few humans out for revenge over dead relatives are also looking to destroy the predators. Domestic pets are gradually getting angry as the pet food reaches and infects them, taking their owners by surprise and adding new dangers for the good guys. Patricia is trying to account for each lab cat as the bodies of felines and victims start stacking up. And Mr Evil has a plan so much worse than anyone has realised.

I actually cut two paragraphs from the book blurb that appears on Goodreads as I feel that it gives too much of the plot away and I hate that. That's also why I don't want to go into detail about the tension filled scenes in the book. I don't want to spoil the book for anyone.

The good news is that you can get this book FREE on Amazon so why not download it and give yourself a scary treat!

Tasha says

Well this book was...interesting, weird and at times completely horrifying. I thought it was going to be a spoof when I read the blurb, but no, it really is a horror novel about killer cats.

The author clearly loves cats, and has done some serious research and observations on their psychology, the description of their behaviours, as a past cat owner, was amazingly realistic, which was possibly one of the most terrifying parts of the book.

The only reason it got 3 stars was that at times the story got a bit complicated and confusing, and some characters popped up with at least a 100 page gap between mentions, so it took a while trying to remember who was who.

Jeff Jellels says

The Pet Food Your Cat Will Kill For!

Claws starts off with a great premise. Pet food manufacturer Alcorn has developed a feline 'super-food' ... with just one, teensy little problem. The cats that eat the food become larger, more aggressive, and insatiably hungry ... turning cute little kitties into ravenous mini-tigers. As author Ricky Sides admits in the Preface, it's an angle just too good to resist, and *Claws* could be a really fun, B-movie-style, romp.

But the execution of this good idea falls a bit short, and this is one book I liked, but didn't love.

The first problem is Alcorn. It's a bit hard to swallow a pet food manufacturer with its own secret police force and cyber forensics team -- and while some of this gets explained away through the ever ubiquitous connection to secret government military experimentation -- the characters are remarkably blithe about corporate heavy-handedness. I mean, I've been fired from a job or two, but a strip-search by the boss's secretary on the way out the door seems a bit beyond the pale. It's certainly acceptable to imbue a corporate giant with unseemly powers, but the characters ought to at least take notice of the imbalance and perhaps wonder why a fictional Purina-maker has so many people with guns.

The second problem is a bit more general and has to do with pacing and the story's overall construction. There's a lot of unnecessary information in this one -- such the energy-conscious rationale behind elderly Ida Malone's installation of her cat door -- which slows the pace of the book. There's also not much of a climax in the battle with cats, and things go all *deus ex machina* toward the very end -- with the worst offender being the near last chapter introduction of an out-of-left-field spy/assassin, regrettably called 'Black Widow.' It reminded me of where I ended up with John Everson's *The Covenant* ... where the last chapters just feel like empty set-up for an inevitable sequel ... instead providing a satisfying, 'make-me-want-to-read-more'

moment on all that's just happened.

I always want to like a book that I'm reading, and I really did buy-in to the premise. It is so hard to come up with an original angle for something scary, and Sides certainly gave *Claws* an innovative slant. Unfortunately, this one could have used a bit more time to germinate.

Lori-Lorilee Mitchaner Roe says

I LOVED this book....It moved very quickly for me. It was quit wordy with the main character Jerry being very "by the book" with ALL of his dialogue, being all professional and military and such. BUT IF you can overlook that and move on it was good!!! Just a matter of hours for me.....BUT I will have to admit when I woke up on a morning after a long night of reading and MY feline was next to me on a pillow within inches from my face, I got a little startled. LOL!!!!

Laura Thomas says

When will they learn? Someone always thinks they can tamper with Mother Nature and it inevitably ends up with bloodshed and death.

The pet food company knows something's wrong with their product, but the side affects to the cats opens another door. A door with big dollars, when several other countries want the formula for their own.

When the animal rights activists free the cats, they have no idea of the repercussions. These aren't your ordinary house cats anymore. They are much larger, packed with muscle, longer teeth, and larger claws and they are hungry, always hungry. You don't dare get between them and their food.

There's a slow building romance between Patricia, the former head of research at the pet food company, and Jerry, an undercover special ops soldier. What's a good horror story without some romance and characters to care about.

Throw in some scumbags and mysterious characters with hidden agendas and you have a great tale of suspense, mayhem, and murder.

You might think cats aren't a big deal, but these cats aren't ordinary. They're hormonally enhanced, much more lethal than your normal house cat. They're also very vicious. Let's put it this way, they're spitting mad.

You could probably handle a few when they attack, but when they ambush you in large numbers, you're kibble.

Imagine what happens when dogs become involved.

After reading *Claws*, I'll never look at my pets the same way again. Who knows what's in that new brand of pet food you just bought?

I liked everything about this book. The author moves you through the scenes smoothly, building the suspense, putting the horror right in your face, and sprinkling many colorful, intriguing characters throughout the story to make this a very exciting read.

The author gives you a killer ending, but leaves an exciting opening for more of this story, which continues in Claws 2. It's like the last scene in a not so happily ever after movie.

On to read Book Two!

Olethros says

-El encanto de la serie B.-

Género. Ciencia-Ficción.

Lo que nos cuenta. Una empresa de alimentación para animales de compañía está diseñando un nuevo producto. Patricia Reese está al frente de la División de Investigación de la compañía y ni la presión del propio presidente de la corporación hará que Patricia otorgue su visto bueno a una fórmula experimental que durante las pruebas ha demostrado aumentar el tamaño, fuerza muscular y agresividad de los gatos que lo han consumido, por lo que la empresa decide despedir a Patricia. Primer libro de la serie Claws.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Sue Williams says

I like anything having to do with cats so I decided to give this a try. It started a little bit slow but then I couldn't put it down.

It is classified as a horror story I think but it is more than that. It is a mystery too and if they do a 'part two' it could be an apocalypse story. As it is, it is a Don't mess with mother nature no matter how much money you can make story. The thought that this could possibly be done in the future is a bit scary.

DoodlePanda says

In short this story is about genetically changing cats through the cat food to make them stronger, bigger and more aggressive. This goes wrong of course, as some animal activists frees the cats from the testing facility and they start attacking humans.

I found this book a good read. It won't be on my top 10 books of all times, but definitely worth reading. It definitely had some suspense and gets you thinking about the cleverness of messing too much with mother nature as it might come back to haunt you...

