



Cats at Sea

Lisa Martin , Valerie Martin , Kelly Murphy (Illustrator)

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Black and white line drawings illustrate each chapter.

For ages 8-12, grades 3-7.

A swashbuckling story of two very different cat brothers and their adventures at sea.

Cat brothers Cecil and Anton are as different as port and starboard. Cecil, stocky and black with white patches, thirsts for seafaring adventure as he roams the docks of his harborside home, taking day trips on fishing boats when the chance comes along. Slim, gray Anton prefers listening to the sailors' shanties at the town saloon, venturing to port only for the day's catch. But one day when Anton goes in search of fresh mackerel, he's stolen off the dock, and the next thing he knows, he's at sea.

Knowing little of the wide open ocean that lies beyond the harbor, Cecil boards another ship in hopes of finding Anton. But what begins as a rescue mission turns into a pair of high seas adventures, with thrills and danger bubbling under every wave.

Anton takes on a fierce rat, outwits hungry birds, and forges a forbidden friendship, while Cecil encounters dolphins and whales and finds himself in the middle of a pirate raid. On an ocean as vast as the one Anton and Cecil have discovered, will they see home—or each other—ever again?

Orange Prize-winning author Valerie Martin's and Lisa Martin's colorful cast of characters, rich historical detail, and lyrical storytelling will delight fans of such classic animal adventures as *The Wind in the Willows*, *Stuart Little*, and *Poppy*.

Cats at Sea Details

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Author : Lisa Martin , Valerie Martin , Kelly Murphy (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Cats at Sea for online ebook

Sylviane Stoltzman says

This is a cute tale of two cats on an adventure!

Laura Phelps says

A sweet story about the bonds of family. Anton and Cecil are brother cats who live on a wharf; they are total opposites in that Cecil longs for adventure and travel, while Anton is happy snoozing and playing it safe. Shockingly, though, one day Anton is scooped up and put on board a ship to be a rodent catcher. Cecil catches the first ship he can in pursuit. The two brothers have different, but equally amazing, adventures as they work to find their way back to each other. Nicely illustrated, great characters, strong but not overpowering themes of family and friendship - a good fit for middle grade readers!

Kelly says

Anton and Cecil are adorable characters. At time I found the plot slow, but the diverse cast of animal/human characters made up for it.

Ms.Gaye says

I love Algonquin books and they have a new imprint coming this fall - Algonquin Young Readers! I rec'd a galley of this debut title and am looking forward to seeing the final product since it will have full artwork (and a map! - I'm always more interested in a title when it includes a map)

Anton and Cecil are two brother cats with very different outlooks on life. Cecil is outgoing and jumps aboard sailing ships once in a while to satisfy his curiosity, while Anton is more cautious. Oh, Anton doesn't hesitate to sneak into a saloon to hear the sailors singing, but he has no interest in going out to sea - in fact, it frightens him. When Anton is grabbed and taken aboard a sailing ship, Cecil is very concerned with the welfare of his brother and sets out to find him.

Each brother has amazing and strange adventures at sea, including a weird fingerling mist covering the ship Cecil is on, and the unbelievable rescue by whale experienced by Anton.

Children interested in stories about adventures at sea or stories with cat characters or even stories with mystical folktale elements will want to try this book. Believable dialogue, adventurous situations and a bit of mystery make this an enjoyable tale. It's a challenge for younger readers, offering opportunities for expansion of their vocabulary. It's also an excellent choice as a read-aloud, with many discussion points.

Jenny says

When I started it, I didn't know how I would ultimately feel about this book, but I discovered it to be a really sweet story. I am very glad I read it.

Polly says

Absolutely charming! I cannot recommend it highly enough. It would be a wonderful family read aloud for a family with kids in the 6-11 age range.

Kathy says

I enjoyed it. Cecil and Anton had distinct personalities, and their adventures were convincing. The illustrations were cool, too.

Andy says

I love reading stories about cats and I really liked the story about Anton and Cecil who were separated and their adventures as they try to find each other again while dealing with pirates, being marooned, encountering mermaids, and meeting other animals. And the eye in the sky who watches over all cats at sea added a nice mysterious quality to the story. I especially enjoyed the ending when Cecil finds his brother and then meets the cook who takes them all back home. All in all a wonderful adventure story. I think this book would especially be enjoyed by a young audience.
I received my copy from Goodreads First Reads.

Io says

A charming story, with an absorbing plot. It is really beautifully written. Definitely a cut above the typical offerings for this age group, particularly with regard to its use of language. Overall, a lovely read.

Malia says

Real cute childrens book.

Allison Campbell says

I read this book to my six-year-old daughter over the course of three days, and we were both riveted. Anton

and Cecil are cats, brothers who live in the lighthouse with their mother, Sonya. All the cats near the docks know to be cautious lest they be pressed into service aboard a ship, but young Gretchen is taken, throwing the cats into shock and horror. Cecil is an adventurous cat who loves to join the fisherman on short jaunts, but Anton prefers to stay near home. When Anton is pressed into service aboard the Mary Ann, his brother tries to follow, only to fall into the ocean. Desperate to find his brother, Cecil stows aboard the next big ship to come along, not realizing how very large the ocean is. Each brother has his own adventure, ranging from pirates and monster island birds to close encounters with a whale and friendship with a lizard. All along, a cat-like eye in the sky seems to draw them to each other, with the old cat saying, "Where the eye meets the eye, the lost shall be found," echoing throughout the book. Forces beyond the cats' control seem to be bringing them back together, but will Anton and Cecil find each other on the wide sea?

The determination of the brothers to find each other despite the odds is, of course, a lovely illustration of loyalty and familial bonds. Anton, though the meeker of the two cats, rises to the occasion and proves himself brave and resourceful. Both brothers make unlikely friendships and find help in unexpected places. The adventures they have are staggering; pirates, a ghost ship, mermaids, dolphins, an island market, a strange island with bizarre animal inhabitants, and the brothers shine through it all, exemplifying loyalty and courage through the most dire circumstances.

The paranormal has a role here, too, with the strange moon appearing as a cat's eye, seeming to bring the brothers nearer each other. What, after all, are the odds that two cats would be brought together over the vastness of the ocean without some outside force helping them along? Anton and Cecil are intrigued by the idea of a great cat in the sky helping them along, but they do their best to make a reunion possible using all available earthly means as well.

This is a delightful read-aloud to a younger child, although it's billed as a book for the 8-12 set. I'm sure the adventures and sympathetic characters are more than enough to hold interest in that age group. Nautical terms are explained or their meaning clear in context. Harrowing situations add excitement, but are resolved in a reassuring manner. We read this 256-page book over three days, with my daughter eagerly asking when we could read more ANTON AND CECIL.

ANTON AND CECIL: CATS AT SEA is a rollicking adventure and tender family story with the feel of a classic. Publicity draws comparisons to THE WIND AND THE WILLOWS, and I don't think that is an exaggeration. Memorable animal characters, positive messages, and riveting adventures make this a good bet for Christmas gifts for 2013. Available October 8, 2013.

Source disclosure: I received an e-galley of this title from the publisher.

Nosara says

I kind of liked this book a lot considering it is geared for younger kids. I read it for MCBA and sort of liked it. I would recommend it to ages 6-9

Ceci J says

The book Cats at Sea (Anton and Cecil #1) by Lisa Martin is a great book because the writing was

descriptive, and the characters emotions were clear. Though this book may have been slightly under my reading level, I wanted to give it a try, and I'm glad I did. This book is about how Anton, a small cat, gets trapped on a boat, and how his brother, Cecil, travels around the ocean to find him. Cecil is interested about sailing, unlike his brother. The brothers though complete opposites, love each other to death, and desperately try to find each other. The book certainly filled some boring minutes in my day!

Heather McCarron says

This book was BORING to us. My 10-year-old and I pushed through this one over several weeks and kept hoping it might pick up; several times we almost called it quits but kept going because she needed to read it for a reading challenge at school. If not for that, we would have returned this one to the library after the second chapter. It was one boring, too-long chapter after another. And the whole thing with the whale and the weird legend that was never fully explained was just odd. Maybe books with talking animals just aren't our cup of tea.

Half Pint McGuire says

This book was wonderful! My 9 yr old daughter who loves cats thoroughly enjoyed exploring Anton & Cecil's world and joining them on their adventures. I listened to it w/her and found it really well written & enjoyed it too! We're excited this is a series are looking forward to the next one!
