Johanna Fürstauer

HOW DID THE CAT GET ON THE SOFA?

A cultural history

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From goddess to mouse hunter, from witches' pet to queen of our home: a feline trip through the centuries.

Adored as a god in ancient Egypt, cats traveled the spheres of the known world on ship and on their four paws. They were at home in the libraries and kitchens of monasteries, roamed through backyards and allies, slept in royal beds, were useful against mice and served as muses. Humans have felt love, suspicion and hate towards cats. Their mysterious nature has raised superstitions, but has also been a source of inspiration. It was always artists, most of all writers who were on the cat's side. Thus the history of the cat is also one of the arts, a cultural history, the history of humankind. Cats have come a long way and this book traces the steps: from early times all the way to the snuggly sofa of today.

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born in 1931, died in 2018, studied German and English language and literature as well as performance of old music. She is a writer, editor and translator of numerous cultural-historic texts and books on classical music.

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