



## Something Worth Saving

*Sandi Ward*

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**Something Worth Saving** Sandi Ward

*Sandi Ward's shrewdly observed, funny, and wonderfully touching novel tells of a fractured family, a teenage boy, and a remarkable cat whose loyalty knows no bounds . . .*

A boy and his cat. It's an unconventional friendship, perhaps, but for Charlie and Lily, it works beautifully. It was Charlie who chose Lily from among all the cats in the shelter. He didn't frown, the way other humans did, when he saw her injured back leg, the legacy of a cruel previous owner. Instead, Charlie insisted on rescuing her. Now Lily wants to do the same for Charlie.

She's the only one who's seen the bruises on Charlie's body. If she knew who was hurting him, she'd scratch their eyes out. But she can't fix this by herself. Lily needs to get the rest of the family to focus on Charlie--not easy when they're wrapped up in their own problems. Charlie's mother kicked his father out weeks ago and has a new boyfriend who seems charming, but is still a stranger. Oldest son Kevin misses his father desperately. Victoria, Charlie's sister, also has someone new in her life, and Lily is decidedly suspicious. Even Charlie's father, who Lily loves dearly, is behaving strangely.

Lily knows what it's like to feel helpless. But she also knows that you don't always have to be the biggest or the strongest to fight fiercely for the ones you love . . .

**Praise for Sandi Ward's *The Astonishing Thing***

**"A beautiful and touching look into the intricacies of marriage and family life, all seen through the loving and unique perspective of the family pet."**

**--Modern Cat**

**"*The Astonishing Thing* feels like a bit of a miracle and we all could use a miracle."**

**--Holly Chamberlin, author of *The Summer Nanny***

## Something Worth Saving Details

Date : Published December 18th 2018 by Kensington Publishing Corporation

ISBN : 9781496711137

Author : Sandi Ward

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Genre : Animals, Fiction, Contemporary, Cats, Adult

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## **From Reader Review Something Worth Saving for online ebook**

### **Kathleen Gray says**

Ward has once again written a sweet and thoughtful novel narrated by a cat. Yes a cat. Lily the cat is the observer in a family of wounded people. This is so topical in its themes and so sensitive in how it handles addiction and abuse and the impact of those on a family. Charlie is Lily's person- he's the one who adopted her- but he's also fond of the others, all of whom are struggling. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC. This is a touching heartwarming read.

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### **Laurie says**

I think this is a story that all parents should read!  
It is told by Lily, the family cat who knows secrets within her pack that nobody else is aware of.  
It is a book about love, loss, abuse, dependency and the impacts on an entire family.  
If only Lily could tell all! If only she could make all of it go away!  
Her mission is to get help for each person that she loves! She will find a way to get her message to her people and the help needed to prevent further hurt in her family.  
It's definitely a wonderful book and well worth the time to read Lily's story.

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### **Karen Sargent says**

I have to be honest. When I saw Sandi Ward's first book, The Astonishing Thing, the English teacher in me was skeptical that a cat could narrate a story that would be engaging and worth the precious minutes I squeak out of the day to read for enjoyment. Another confession...I'm not really a cat lover. I just love my cat, not all cats. But the cover of The Astonishing Thing was so sweet, and the cat's name was Boo. (How can an English teacher resist "Boo," which makes me think of a character in my favorite book ever, To Kill a Mockingbird?) But as soon as I started reading The Astonishing Thing, I knew it would be a rewarding read. So I was excited to receive an ARC of Sandi Ward's second book, Something Worth Saving, and maybe...maybe I enjoyed this one even more than the first. In the first book, Boo captured my heart. In this book, I adore Lily the cat, but the depth of the story Lily narrates drew me deeper to the family. Or, I could have felt the connection because I teach high school students, and the siblings are all teenagers trying to navigate their own crisis. Either way, I am amazed at the creativity and insight it takes to write a meaningful story through the quirky perspective of a cat. Because Lily can only understand so much of what happens around her, I constantly try to fill in the missing information, which compels me to read on to see if I've figured it out or not. When I do fill the holes in Lily's story, it feels like an accomplishment rather than predictable, but many times I am surprised when the missing pieces are filled in. This is a touching family drama with an uplifting message...a family doesn't give up on one another. I highly recommend both of Sandi's books. Both of her books have a permanent home on my "keeper shelf." (This review is my honest opinion and is not influenced or required by the author or publisher in exchange for the ARC.)

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## **Christine Lowe says**

Sandi Ward chose an unusual way to tell the story of Something Worth Saving. Lily was a young kitten when the youngest Anderson child Charlie chose her to be part of their family. She wasn't perfect. Her former owner kicked her and broke her rear leg. It healed but left her with a limp. Lily was a very observant cat and did her best to help her new family.

This is a cleverly told family drama. Jeremy was hurt at work and was given pain killers after the surgery. He became dependent on the pills and then substituted alcohol for the pills when his wife poured them down the drain. When Kate told Jeremy to choose his family or the pills and booze, Jeremy moved out. The reader sees how each of the three children and the parents are effected by this decision.

This cautionary tale was enhanced by the cat's point of view. There was enough drama to keep the story moving. The sprinkling of humor kept the story from being too heavy. The characters are well layered and have depth and believability

Thank you Kensington Books and NetGalley for supplying the Advanced Reader's Copy for the purpose of review. All opinions expressed are completely my own. Look for this book on its publishing date 12/18/18. #SomethingWorthSaving #NetGalley

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## **Cozy Cat Reviews says**

Sandi Ward's "SOMETHING WORTH SAVING" is a beautifully written compellingly story about an abused boy and his dysfunctional family told from the point of view of Lily his beloved rescued cat. This is a novel that will break your heart and at the same time give you hope through their mutual story of survival . I guarantee this book will make you cry. Get the tissues out cat lovers !

**ATTENTION ABUSE SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS:** This has scenes of physical abuse of a child and the cat as well as severe traumatic verbal abuse. This can be disturbing to victims.

Abused teenager Charlie has chosen Lily at the animal shelter in spite of her injured leg, She was terribly abused by her prior owner. Charlie loves her right away and she him. He is so damaged that he only connects with Lily. She is determined to save him when she realizes that he is a broken soul by abuse and is living in a dangerous home where he lives constantly in fear from his Dad and now his Mother's new boyfriend and the abusive boyfriend of his sister. He also has to hide Lily and learn how to protect her against further abuse. Together he and Lily form a bond of love and of understanding of how to protect each other. Lily provides comfort to him when he is beaten and he to her. She tells the story of abuse from her perspective. This was heartbreakingly sad at times and sometimes I had to set this book down to return later. I admit it's hard to read in parts as it's very well told . It is infinitely sad but it's also a story of hope and survival in the worse of circumstances. I hated the Mother who is weak, superficial and ignored what is going on with Charlie in her own home until the abuse had escalated and still she ignored it until finally kicking out the husband. Yet she lets a man into her life right away and into their home that affects her children in the worse way. I was disgusted by her that she allowed such a person in her home and to affect her son and his beloved pet. This was not a good Mother and she ignored her son and what was going on around her.

This is a book that stays with you. It is food for thought about children in an abusive home and animals who

survived abuse and the toll it takes on both souls. I thought about this book for days after I finished it. I consider it one of the most well written books I have read this year and one that is endearing to me on a emotional level i did not expect . I highly recommend this book . For all who love cats, for all who have endured abuse and for all who love stories about survival in the worse of circumstances. You will love this book as did I.

Thank you for the ARC to Net Galley and the Publisher. My opinion is my own. i do recommend you read this book with tissues. Very well written albeit a very sad book to read so be prepared.

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### **Lisa Duffy says**

A huge fan of Sandi Ward's debut novel, *The Astonishing Thing*, I was anxious to get my hands on an early copy of her next book. *Something Worth Saving*, Ward's sophomore novel, was worth the wait. Powerful and smartly written, Ward explores the intricate workings of family life with a compassionate touch and unflinching honesty. You'll root for the characters in this memorable novel long after you've turned the last page.

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### **Jenni Walsh says**

This book was so intriguing to me. As in Sandi Ward's debut novel, this sophomore novel is told through the perspective of the family cat. I enjoy this perspective, where Lily J. Potter (best cat name ever) covertly, cleverly, simplistically (but not in an unsophisticated manner), and earnestly tells the story of a family unit facing drama on all fronts. The ending was sweet and satisfying, just what I was hoping for.

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### **Hristina says**

I'm not exactly sure what my impression of this book is, it's a difficult one to dissect.

I think the storyline was pretty decent, and Mrs. Ward's writing style is well-developed. But the narrator of the book is the cat which was something that I found a bit odd, and as result, I had a hard time getting into this book as much as I wanted.

I don't think it's for everyone, but one should definitely give it a chance.

\*Copy received through NetGalley

\*Actual rating: 3.5/5 stars

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### **Janine says**

This is an enjoyable tale told from a cat's point of view.

Lily was an abused kitten who was turned over to a shelter with her siblings. She was the last kitten adopted because she was flawed. She had a broken leg that didn't heal properly and she was left with a limp. So, she knows what it's like not to be perfect. She adopted by a family that she has come to love and will do

anything to protect. She especially wants to help Charlie, the youngest son, after she discovers bruises on him. Lily does her best to find out who is hurting her favorite boy. She also shows great concern for the rest of the family. I can't go too much further with the details because it would give away too much of the story. But, it is a well told tale of a broken family and a cat that is willing to do anything she can to bring them happiness again.

Even though this story is told from a cat's perspective, I do not feel it is appropriate for younger readers because of certain subject matters. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves cats, women's fiction or is looking for a good heartfelt story.

Thank you to Kensington Books and NetGalley for allowing me to read this book early in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Janet says**

I received a DIGITAL Advance Reader Copy of this book from #NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

From the publisher, as I do not regurgitate the contents or story of books in reviews, I let them do it!

Sandi Ward's shrewdly observed, funny, and wonderfully touching novel tells of a fractured family, a teenage boy, and a remarkable cat whose loyalty knows no bounds . . .

A boy and his cat. It's an unconventional friendship, perhaps, but for Charlie and Lily, it works beautifully. It was Charlie who chose Lily from among all the cats in the shelter. He didn't frown, the way other humans did, when he saw her injured back leg, the legacy of a cruel previous owner. Instead, Charlie insisted on rescuing her. Now Lily wants to do the same for Charlie.

She's the only one who's seen the bruises on Charlie's body. If she knew who was hurting him, she'd scratch their eyes out. But she can't fix this by herself. Lily needs to get the rest of the family to focus on Charlie—not easy when they're wrapped up in their own problems. Charlie's mother kicked his father out weeks ago and has a new boyfriend who seems charming, but is still a stranger. Oldest son Kevin misses his father desperately. Victoria, Charlie's sister, also has someone new in her life, and Lily is decidedly suspicious. Even Charlie's father, who Lily loves dearly, is behaving strangely.

Lily knows what it's like to feel helpless. But she also knows that you don't always have to be the biggest or the strongest to fight fiercely for the ones you love.

This book just melted my heart: I truly believe that cats can heal a lot of injuries, both physical and mental: my cats heal me every day. (oh, gosh I sound pathetic.) Any animal lover (even dog people) will believe that this novel could be a true story and I am amazed that it isn't a true tale. Tail? ?

The book is well written and enjoyable from page one to last: I simply adored it!!!

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### **Anne says**

I really love this author, and this new title did not disappoint! As an avid cat lover for many years, I really enjoyed watching and listening to the story unfold from the cat's point of view. The way the plot evolved kept me turning the pages faster and faster because I really cared about the main characters. The whole story has made me look at my own cats and it totally different way! Highly recommend!

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### **Kathleen Flynn says**

Happy families are all alike, every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way -- but only some have a wry cat narrating the tale. This deceptively simple novel defies categorization, being at once funny and bittersweet; piercingly sad but never sentimental.

Lily the cat is loving yet self-interested; her perspective is at once intimate (she can eavesdrop like a champ) and limited. Anything that doesn't happen in the house or nearby must be intuited, and though she understands her humans well, there are still things that puzzle her. This unusual perspective lends an air of mystery, and a refreshing lack of judgment, to the domestic drama. Who is hurting the younger son, and why won't he tell, even when his sister sees the bruises and demands to know what happened? Why has the dad moved out despite clearly loving his family? What's up with the sister's mean-spirited boyfriend? Why is the carpenter hired to install a bookcase spending all his time talking with the mom instead?

The humans are endearingly flawed; the cat (with some help from the dog) must rescue the people from disaster more than once. The end is happy and sad both, and surprisingly emotional.

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### **Meghan Masterson says**

Sandi Ward's second novel is an immensely enjoyable read! Lily, the family cat, has a special bond with Charlie, the teenage boy who rescued her from the shelter. Lily is an endearing, observant narrator, and her affectionate interactions with the family, including the dog, Gretel, skillfully highlight the familial relationships and tensions. Lily's dry narration is often amusing – as you might expect, a cat is an excellent eavesdropper – but her perspective also cuts to the core, showing the truth through small details, which are often fresh and textural. I felt like Lily helped me see everyday things in a new way. I loved the unconventional, complex narration in this sensitive and nuanced tale of a fractured family.

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### **Claire Marti says**

What an intriguing, interesting, emotional read. Author Sandi Ward's new novel again utilizes a cat narrator. Lily's point of view is articulate, keen, and often hilarious. She loves her family and will stop at nothing to protect Charlie, the youngest boy, from harm. A sensitive exploration of family dynamics and pertinent social issues. I don't want to give too much away because Ward does an excellent job of keeping you guessing.

I highly recommend this book. I finished it in two sittings because I had to know the answers!

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## Literary Soirée says

Sandi Ward's **SOMETHING WORTH SAVING** is an absolute gem of a book, written in poetic prose and so compellingly about an abused boy and his dysfunctional family — all from the point of view of Lily, the family cat.

In Sandi's heart-wrenching novel, teenager Charlie has chosen Lily from all the kitties in the animal shelter, seeing her true beauty despite her injured leg, the result of a cruel previous owner. As he has saved her, she wants to save him.

This novel will break your heart and remake it in miraculously healing ways, as only the greatest of fictional stories can do. I dare you to read Sandi's book without crying, or shaking your head afterward musing how something so wondrous could come from such pain. A story that stays with you long after you tuck the book away on your shelf in the place reserved for those novels you know you will reread ... and more than once.

Now I'll let Sandi tell you more, while I award **SOMETHING WORTH SAVING** the highest 5/5!

“Lily and Charlie are best friends: a boy and his cat. So when Lily sees Charlie’s bruises and realizes someone is hurting him, she is determined to get to the bottom of things. Who would do something so terrible? But Lily is up against many challenges in trying to get her family to focus on Charlie.

“Lily thinks Mom’s new best friend is charming, but he’s also a stranger. Kevin, the oldest boy, is falling apart because he misses his dad, who was kicked out months earlier. Victoria, the middle child, has a boyfriend who Lily despises and suspects may be Charlie’s bully.

“Most strangely, why is Dad carrying his gun, even when he’s off-duty?

Lily knows what it’s like to feel helpless. But she also knows you don’t always have to be the biggest or the strongest to fight fiercely for your family...”

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Thank you, Sandi, for the review copy in exchange for my honest opinion. It was a privilege to do review your beautiful book!

**SOMETHING WORTH SAVING** will be available for purchase on Amazon.

Pub date: December 18, 2018

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sandi Ward writes books about love, family, forgiveness...oh—and cats!

Sandi grew up in Manchester-By-The-Sea, Massachusetts. She attended Tufts University, and received her MA in Creative Writing at New York University, where she studied with E.L. Doctorow. She now lives on the Jersey Shore with her husband, teenagers, dog and a big black cat named Winnie.

Sandi is a medical writer at an ad agency in New Jersey, specializing in psychiatry and pain management. Her first novel for Kensington Books is titled **THE ASTONISHING THING**. A third novel, **WHAT HOLDS US TOGETHER**, will follow in 2019/2020. Visit Sandi at [www.sandiwardbooks.com](http://www.sandiwardbooks.com), follow her on Twitter at @sandiwardbooks, or find her Facebook author page at [www.facebook.com/sandiwardbooks/](http://www.facebook.com/sandiwardbooks/).

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