



## My Cat Spit McGee

*Willie Morris*

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With endearing humor and unabashed compassion, Willie Morris--a self-declared dog man and author of the classic paean to canine kind, **My Dog Skip**--reveals the irresistible story of his unlikely friendship with a cat. Forced to confront a lifetime of kitty-phobia when he marries a cat woman, Willie discovers that Spit McGee, a feisty kitten with one blue and one gold eye, is nothing like the foul felines that lurk in his nightmares.

For when Spit is just three weeks old he nearly dies, but is saved by Willie with a little help from Clinic Cat, which provides a blood transfusion. Spit is tied to Willie thereafter, and Willie grows devoted to a companion who won't fetch a stick, but whose wily charm and occasional crankiness conceal a fount of affection, loyalty, and a "rare and incredible intelligence." **My Cat Spit McGee** is one of the finest books ever written about a cat, and a moving and entertaining tribute to an enduring friendship.

## My Cat Spit McGee Details

Date : Published November 14th 2000 by Vintage

ISBN : 9780375706936

Author : Willie Morris

Format : Paperback 141 pages

Genre : Animals, Nonfiction, Cats, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography

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## From Reader Review My Cat Spit McGee for online ebook

### Jacqui Allen says

I always find it bittersweet to read tales of animals. Whilst I want to read about their lives (and the humans they affect) I find they are often written as obituaries/tributes to lost loved ones and as someone who is still grieving the loss of my cat, Billy, I find them difficult to read.

So, before reading this book I scanned the ending to find that Spit was very much still alive. Unfortunately, just after I started reading however, I did some research (on Google) and discovered that this book was published 3 months after Willie Morris (author) died suddenly from a heart attack. I also discovered that Spit McGee himself also passed away a few years later in 2004 from a dog attack. So, it was with a heavy heart that I continued reading the book.

Despite my heavy heart, I enjoyed this book a lot.

It is a very sweet tale of a reformed dog lover who over time becomes a aurilophile and begins to understand and appreciate the exceptional wonder that is a cat. At it's heart it is a love story as Morris falls in love with JoAnne Prichard and after marrying her meets and falls in love with Spit McGee. It was interesting to read this story from a man's perspective who previously vehemently detested cats. But, after living a lonely life for some time both JoAnne and Spit brought lots of love into Morris' life and effectively lightened his heart.

RIP to both Willie Morris and Spit McGee - I know you are both up there together enjoying each other's company - along with Skip and Pete.

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### Ellen says

The author of "My Dog Skip", a confirmed cat hater for most of his life, fell in love with a woman he hoped to marry until he learned she was a confirmed cat lover. Choosing love over his dislike and, admitted, fear of cats, Willie and JoAnne married and Willie was introduced to the feline world. Their first cat was a beautiful white cat they named Rivers Applewhite who would grow up to give birth to Spit McGee. Willie was determined to become comfortable with the cats so he researched cat behavior at the local library and asked for advice from his cat owner friends. In time, Willie and Spit became inseparable companions and soon the Morris house belonged to several more feline additions. Reading of Willie's gradual acceptance of Spit's love and affection is a charming tale.

This was a sweet story about the love between a man and his pet. Unfortunately, for me at least, the author loves words and his sentences are full of ones I have never seen before. I don't consider myself an illiterate woman, but geesh! I wish I had read this one on my Kindle so that a dictionary would have been at my fingertips. I have read other reviews that bashed the book and the author for being an irresponsible pet owner. There are times that it does appear that way but this all takes place in rural Mississippi several decades ago when most people allowed their cats the freedom to roam outdoors and might not have seen the wisdom of spaying and neutering. Spit, however, did get the old 'snip snip'.

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### **Sharon Huether says**

My Cat Spit McGee..By Willie Morris... Reading this book brought good memories of my cat Smokey. The author really was a "Dog man" until he met the "Cat Woman", who became his wife. He told the history of cats and about his favorite cat Spit McGee. The cats in his home at one time there were seven. But later they had just four, some of the others found permanent homes. Cats bring comfort and love to family members. They bring us laughter just watching them play. They each have their own personalities. It was a very well written book.

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### **Reese says**

I used to think that a book about a relationship between a cat and a person couldn't get fewer than three stars from me. With three stars meaning "I liked it," how could I -- a long, longtime cat lover -- consider a cat book cat litter? But of course, it's possible. While I simply could not make myself finish DEWEY: THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO... crap, crap, crap, I did finish MY CAT SPIT MCGEE. If it had been a long work or if I hadn't seen that Willie Morris CAN write, MY CAT SPIT MCGEE would have a spot next to DEWEY on the never-made-it-to-the-last-page shelf.

Morris thought he knew why he wrote the book, and he tells the reader why. But I'm not sure that he knew -- or that he actually had a compelling reason for writing this book -- or that he had the book he wanted to write in him.

Near the end of the work, Morris admits, "I suppose this has really been a little tale about time in its passing, as all stories must be -- of life moving on" (137). Okay, I can see that. Two pages later, we find "the main character in this book, as I intended all along, of course, is Spit McGee" (139). I think not. Granted, the cat is not ignored, but Willie Morris is the "main character" in this book.

The work is filled with details that made me empathize with men who don't care to hear about what happened unless women can give them an in-a-nutshell version of the events. As I read the book, I kept thinking, "Cut to the chase." Unfortunately, there was no "chase" to "cut to." More importantly, Morris fails to capture the specialness of Spit McGee or to convey the specialness of the author's relationship with him. Fellow pet lovers, THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN -- it's not; HOMER'S ODYSSEY -- it's not. Somewhat interesting --it's not. Think DEWEY.

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### **Laurel Benson says**

I'm not a cat lover (don't hate them, just don't want one in my house) so wasn't sure I'd like this book. It was really interesting. I plan to read My Dog Skip now since it was the first book in the "series."

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### **Lori Reed says**

Willie Morris, author of the popular book and movie My Dog Skip, admits that he hated cats - until Spit McGee came along. Spit McGee is a white cat with one gold eye and one blue eye named after a character

from one of Morris's children's books. In this delightful book Morris tells the story about how he made the transition from cat-hater to cat-lover after saving the life of Spit McGee. Morris recounts his memories with remarkable insight and meticulous observation skills. *My Cat Spit McGee* is a light-hearted memoir of a man and his beloved pet. This book is a must for all cat lovers.

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### **Lori says**

I enjoy reading books about animals. Willie Morris wrote a book years ago called "My Dog Skip" an enjoyable book and a pretty good movie. For year Willie Morris was a devout dog lover. he adored his childhood dog Skip and enjoyed several other dogs in his life. He never thought he would be a cat person. he even thought he disliked cats. when he started dating his soon to be second wife and devoted cat lover. he came in contact with a stray kitten almost starved to death his girlfriend found. she was a female cat he reluctantly took in to please his soon to be wife he nicknamed "cat woman"the kitten was very soon pregnant and gave birth to four kittens three died one lived. the cat would be named "Spit McGee" a white cat with one brown eye and one blue one. he was quite a unique cat that Willie soon learned to love. along with his mother they named "rivers" in a few years they had few cats that his wife "cat woman" rescued. mr. devout dog lover learned to love cats as well thanks to one "spit McGee" this book was published after Willie Morris died. a nice read. if you love cats you may like this devoted book to cats. an easy read that children can read.

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### **Nancy Groves says**

I'm a lifelong cat lover, so of course I'd gravitate to a book about felines. The author was a confirmed cat hater until middle age, when he married "The Cat Woman" and, to his surprise, came to appreciate and then love the cats that entered his life along with her. I enjoyed his tale of conversion, savoring how he discovered the many cat traits I know so well, and also his years of watching them taught him that (like people) cats aren't all alike, that they have their quirks and individual charms. My own husband was not a cat lover (but certainly not a cat hater like Morris) when we met 30 years ago, and I wouldn't say he is now, but like the author, he has come a long ways in his attitude toward felines. Seeing some small echoes of his "transformation" in the author's story was another rewarding aspect of the book.

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### **James says**

I did not enjoy this book very much. The reader is lead to believe that we're going to learn about how a avowed "dog man" learns to love a cat over time, but there's no transition whatsoever. He just goes from disliking cats because they aren't dogs, to loving cats. Although I will admit that the circumstance of his first experience with the title character is quite touching. But then, he goes quite rapidly to the other extreme, to having multiple cats, 9 altogether, as a result of never getting any of them spayed or neutered.

The book is just not very well-written. He tries to write in a very matter-of-fact way, but his choices of words and references are quite pretentious, choosing little-used, archaic adjectives and nouns, when plain and simple ones would have worked much better. He also vacillates in references to his wife, usually calling her "The Cat Woman" and only rarely by her name Joanne or by "my wife." What's more his obsession with naming all of his cats for deceased relatives, complete with first and last names, which he almost always uses

to reference them, is a bit much.

Besides, encouraging breeding, he lets them roam free outside, in spite of the fact that sometimes they disappear for days on end, and Spit is even injured at one point. What's more, he seems to have not a clue with how the other cats will take to newcomers. As a result, some of the his cats just disappear because they are not getting the love they once got, since there's so less of it go around with 9 cats in the household. He claims to love these cats, but has little regard for what his actions do to these animals emotionally. Even in his reminiscences about his childhood dog, Skip, he relates that Skip also was allowed to roam about outside unleashed and he also disappeared for days on end. Has this man learned nothing about responsible pet-ownership? He also mentions that he wishes Spit could have been a father. As far as I know, male cats have nothing to do with their offspring after they've mated, except maybe to harm or kill them in some cases. And how does he know Spit didn't impregnate a female cat somewhere out there? It's not like Spit would have shown any evidence of it. Morris is forever giving human emotions and attributes to his cat, but any experienced cat lover knows that in spite of all the pleasure they provide us, cats are not really thinking much about what's on your mind. Chapter 10, the second to last chapter in which he dragged this poor cat on a leash all over the state of Mississippi to share his old haunts with the animal, is just so self-indulgent, maudlin and seemed endless, although it was only 26 pages. It was a chore to finish this book and had it not been such a short one of 141 pages, I probably wouldn't have bothered.

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### **Jo Anne says**

This is a lovely, feel good book about a dog loving cat hater who is reformed when he is introduced to an all white kitten one Christmas he spends with his fiancé.

Willie Morris is the author of My Dog Skip, so if this is the only book you've ever read by him, or saw the movie, you know he is a wonderfully talented writer.

I liked the book. I love cats, having lived with them since I was a baby in my crib. Dogs are ok, and I don't hate them but I'm of the opinion that why have a dog when you can have two cats.

I couldn't entirely drink Mr. Morris's Kool Aid though, about the perfection of his cats. He left out the reality of having a cat (notice I didn't say "owning" since we cat people know you don't own a cat, you work for one.)

Morris wrote or was working on this book in the 90s. It bothered me that he didn't bother to have his cats spayed or neutered, and felt Spit should have at least one chance to be a father before getting snipped. After almost losing Spit to bigger, tougher cats looking to mate, he got Spit fixed. This backward thinking irritated me.

Also, having cats, we all know they puke, scratch the furniture, spray, piss and break stuff. Apparently Morris's cats were too perfect for any of this. I'm not being mean but I just wish he had presented having cats in a more honest, realistic light.

DO read the book, but if this is the only book you read before you go out and get a cat, be prepared for some unwanted surprises.

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### **Peter G says**

This the one of the best cat book ever written. Read a three times and never want it to end. inspiring, funny, a bit sad, but always absorbing

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### **Rae-Nani says**

I was invited to attend book club with a friend. I couldn't believe it when I was told this was the book selected. I'm not really a cat lover. To be quite honest, I'm not really an animal person and I usually try to avoid all books and movies about animals. I was pleasantly surprised when I ended up actually enjoying this book. It was amusing, well written and quite touching. While reading it I found myself actually considering getting a cat someday. I would never have chosen to read this book, but I'm glad that I did. I have a new perspective on cats and realize now that maybe part of the reason I've never liked them was because I didn't understand their feline ways. If you're not an animal person, I'd say give it a try. You might like it.

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### **H. Anne Stoj says**

I guess I thought that the book was going to be more about the cat rather than Morris getting over the age old dogs vs. cats as to which are better and whatnot. When he did write about Spit it was enjoyable, but there was a lot about the past and his previous dogs. (Really, I would've read *My Dog Skip* if I'd wanted to know everything about Skip, particularly how that book ends, so thank you for putting that in this book--who's wonky idea was that, I wonder?) Parts were redundant, but I honestly think it had to do with language. There's a place for being verbose and this didn't seem like one of them. I'm not recalling if James Harriott was particularly lush in his language but from what I'm sketchily remembering, it's a no. (But then maybe it's the American vs. English, vet vs. writer, I have no idea.) And so much name dropping. Really, I would've rather followed Morris along in watching Spit and the other cats and just been stuck in their house than knowing that he spoke with this or that well known figure.

He does, though, touch very nicely on the amazing bond that people share with their pets, whether it's a cat or a dog. It's just a shame he didn't spend as much time on that.

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### **Angela Jr. says**

3.5 stars.

*My Cat Spit McGee*. Willie Morris is also the author of *My Dog Skip*. I believe I saw the movie for that once, but I really have no memory what happens in it.

The first quarter of the book is about Skip, his other dog Pete and just generally about how much he used to hate cats. I don't really have much to say about it - I picked it up because I needed a short, easy read for a boring day at work and it served its purpose. Kind of enjoyable, but nothing extraordinary and probably not something I'm going to reread again.

I'm a sucker for everything that has to do with pets. I don't even know how many times I cried while reading this book. Not a good idea when you're at work, but thank god it was a very slow day ;)

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**Alaine says**

I love books, and I love cats. But this was so dry and boring that I couldn't get through it. If you can make me not give a crap about what happens to your stupid cat, that's bad. Really bad.

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