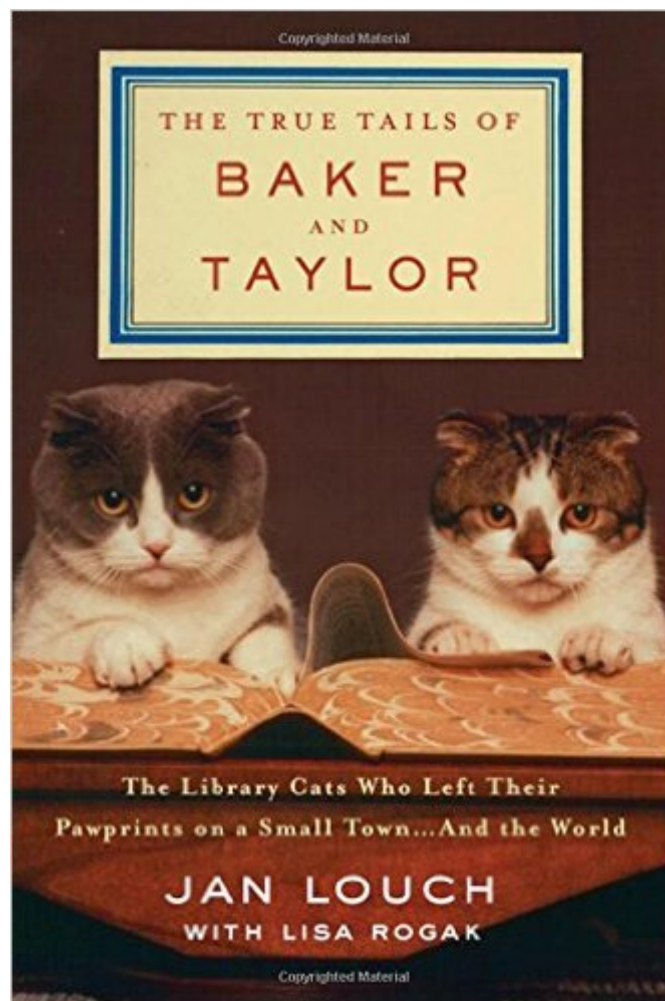


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The True Tails Of Baker And Taylor: The Library Cats Who Left Their Pawprints On A Small Town . . . And The World



Synopsis

"Not since George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* has someone so lifted the spirits of an entire community. That the 'someone' in this case is, in fact, two library cats makes this true tale of the love of literature combined with a fondness for nose licking all the more magical. This book, like a purring kitten who may also be a genie, should be welcomed into any home." — Francesco Marciuliano, New York Times bestselling author of *I Could Pee on This: And Other Poems by Cats*

It all started with mice in the library. Assistant librarian Jan Louch and a coworker decided that what the library needed was a cat. Or, even better, two cats. Soon, they found a pair of Scottish Folds who were perfect for the job. Jan named them Baker and Taylor, and they took up residence in the library. But these cats were much more than mousers. Visitors to the library fell in love with Baker and Taylor and their antics just as Jan had. And then, after Jan let the cats be photographed for a poster, they became feline celebrities. Children from across the country wrote them letters, fans traveled from far and wide to meet them, and they became the most famous library cats in the world. In *The True Tails of Baker and Taylor*, Jan Louch looks back and tells the remarkable story of these two marvelous cats and the people — readers, librarians, and cat lovers of all ages — who came together around them.

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Customer Reviews

Libraries and librarians are an endangered species and this honest, thoughtful memoir carries a nostalgic whiff of lost pleasures for bookworms like me ('patrons' as Jan terms us). Dewey

classification card indexes, complaints about noise (in this case the librarians giggling), and the weird things readers use as bookmarks, all brought back memories of times when I escaped to a stack of books, in many different local libraries. I was never lucky enough to find a library with cats or *Jan* like Jan, the narrator - I might have never left the place. Although Jan is self-effacing, her dedication to both her work and her cats shines through, and the consideration she gives her patrons, however odd their behaviour, goes way beyond recommending books or solving a research question. We see the stars of the book, two Scottish fold cats named Baker and Taylor, through Jan's loving eyes and any animal-lover will enjoy the anecdotes that imbue shoelaces and melons with special significance. As a photographer, I particularly enjoyed the ill-fated professional shoots trying to nail the images for the Baker and Taylor firm's incredibly successful campaign featuring their library cats. Interspersed throughout the story are interviews with other library cats and the underlying message of the book is that cats can bring libraries (and other institutions) to life; and what this involves in practical terms. I was fascinated by the ways Jan had to protect the cats from their own fame and how she became their agent, writing on their behalf to the fans, especially one teacher's second-grade pupils, who learned literacy skills via mail to and from the cats. The term "animal therapy" was not common in the 1980s but that is exactly what came across to me "many of us humans need pets to do what Baker and Taylor did for Jan" to make us smile again. That's what this book did for me "it made me smile and be glad that once upon a time, there were two cats who lived in a library"

I love this book! I have seen the Baker and Taylor shopping bags and assumed they just used random cats for their ads. I was wrong, it is the same 2 cats on all their items and they have been using them since the early 1980's. Baker and Taylor were 2 cats that lived in a small town library in the 1980's and 90's. The librarians purchased the first Scottish Fold to be a mouser, I don't think he ever caught one, but he did much more than that. The Baker and Taylor company ended up purchasing a second cat and paying the expenses for both in exchange for using them in photo shoots. They became very famous and even had a fan club. I can only imagine how much more famous they would have been if the internet and all social media were around then. This book is part memoir, but mainly about the cats. It also includes interviews with other library cats. I wish every library had a cat. I highly recommend this book for cat lovers of all ages.

Honestly I have not read the book yet but I lived in Minden NV from 1990-1996 and had the

pleasure of seeing these cats and the author Many times I loved that library and it was such a treat to see Baker and Taylor roaming around I can't wait to read the book

I am so glad I got to read Baker and Taylor's story. I remember seeing one of their famous posters years ago up on a library wall and it's nice to get to know them and what their personalities were like and the antics they got into. I enjoyed this book very much and loved all the color photographs of them that are included in the book. I also enjoyed Jan's story and hearing what the inter-workings of a library are like. It was fun to go back in time to the 1980's and early 90's, she mentioned things that I had completely forgotten about. Baker and Taylor were really sweet fun cats, this was a lovely story of them.

This is a sweet little book. I work in library acquisitions so I'm very familiar with Baker & Taylor the company, and I was excited to hear the story of their adorable kitty mascots (especially since my co-worker has one of their famous posters on her desk, so I see their sweet faces every day). I'm also a cat lover so I enjoyed this book a lot. It tells the story of the two scottish fold cats, as well as the story of their library and hometown. As a cat lover myself I could relate to how the cats touched the lives of so many people. The book really tells the story of how Baker and Taylor changed the public view of the library for the better - it makes me want a library cat of my own! I sometimes wished for some more detail - I feel like the story was told in a very matter of fact manner, but I think that makes the book accessible to readers of many ages. While maybe not for young children, I do think younger readers would enjoy this book. As a library worker I could relate to a lot of the talk about how the library grows and changes, but my favorite parts of the book were when it described the cats just being cats, and all the antics they got up to. I also really enjoyed reading the profiles of other library cats placed throughout the book. The book ended as most animal stories do, and while it was sad, I do think it ended in a sensitive way and it didn't leave me bawling as many animal stories do. Overall I really liked the book, and it was a nice, light, enjoyable read for me. Disclosure: I received this product at a discounted rate in exchange for my honest opinion.

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