

The Tygrine Cat

Inbali Iserles

Reviewed by: Ryan Lee

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Mati is a cat with an agouti coat and strange, amber eyes. Forced by his mother to flee the land in which he has grown up via ship, he steps off the plank on a new shore and, almost immediately gets into trouble. He meets three cats, members of the powerful feral clan who owns the territory, the Cressida Cat clan. Two of them are suspicious of him and want nothing more than for him to leave, but one of them, a black-and-white-striped cat named Domino, offers to help him get introduced to the community. He takes Mati to the home of the old, wise cat named Sparrow, who agrees to introduce him to the community. At the clan's regular moonlit meeting, Sparrow introduces the young agouti-coated cat to the clan's leader, Pangur. Reluctantly, they agree to let him stay in their territory, where he eventually begins to acclimate to his new surroundings, and meets an intriguingly-strange stray cat known as Jess. Not quite part of the clan, yet accepted in the territory despite that, she is nothing like he has ever known.

Unfortunately, Mati is not what he seems to be. He carries secrets and revelations unknown even to himself, but not to those who would wish him harm. The dangerous assassin cat Mithos is on his trail, determined to end his life in accordance with the wishes of his master, the Suzerain, who wishes to unite all cats under his rule and create a new empire. In order to defeat Mithos and retain his new way of life, Mati will have to discover those secrets before his enemies - both within the clan and without - catch him.

This book is somewhat reminiscent of the *Warriors* series, by Erin Hunter. At the very least, Iserles evokes a very well-thought-out image of a feral cat society, mistrustful and highly insular, looking only to themselves to solve their issues. The disdain they have for humans, or 'hinds' is also characteristic of their society, and is well-written. However, I did not enjoy the book, and found it to be full of cliches and somewhat spotty events that seemed ill-planned. The mysterious power that Mati possesses seems to be somewhat of a Deus ex Machina, and warps his personality in the space of a few pages so at the end of the book he is nothing like what he was at the beginning. Overall, the pace seemed too rushed and a few events required Suspension of Disbelief.

Recommended Titles

Into the Wild, by Erin Hunter

Fire and Ice, by Erin Hunter

Forest of Secrets, by Erin Hunter

The Quest Begins, by Erin Hunter

Great Bear Lake, by Erin Hunter