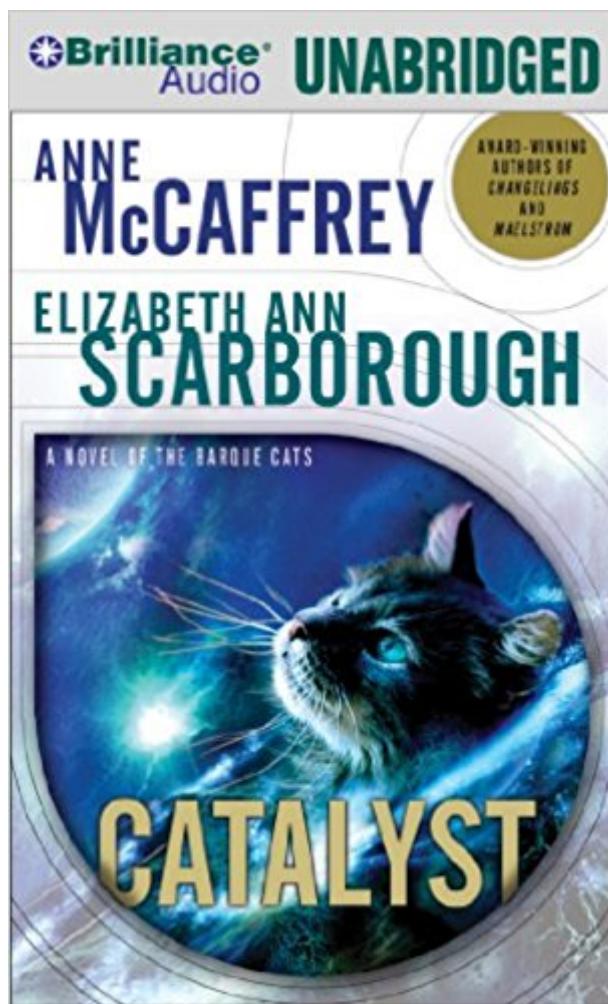


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# Catalyst: A Tale Of The Barque Cats (Barque Cats Series)



## Synopsis

Since the early days of interstellar travel, Barque Cats have been highly prized crew members, responsible for keeping spacecraft free of vermin, for alerting human crews to potential environmental hazards, and for acting as morale officers. Even among Barque Cats, Chessie is something special. Her pedigree, skills, and intelligence, as well as the close rapport she has with her human, Janina, make her the most valuable crew member aboard the Molly Daise. And the litter of kittens in her belly only adds to her value. Then Chessie is kidnapped—er, catnapped—from Dr. Jared Vlast's vet clinic at Hood Station. And Chessie's newborn kittens turn out to be even more extraordinary than their mother. For while Chessie's connection to Janina is close and intuitive, the bond that the kitten Chester forms with the kidnapper's son, Jubal, is downright telepathic. And when Chester is sent into space to learn his trade, neither he nor Jubal will rest until they're reunited. But the announcement of a widespread epidemic affecting livestock on numerous planets throws the future into doubt. Suddenly the galactic government announces a plan to impound and possibly destroy all exposed animals. Not even the Barque Cats will be spared. With the clock racing against them, Janina, Jubal, Dr. Vlast, and a handful of very special kittens will join to save the Barque Cats, other animals, and quite possibly the universe as they know it from total destruction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the first of two books representing something of a departure from their previous collaborations, McCaffrey and Scarborough posit a future in which, Earth having lost the atmosphere required to sustain life, governments develop colonies on other worlds, Earth's megacompanies profit by supplying transport and other necessities, and the Galactic Government controls all planets, moons, and space stations in the galaxy. Crucial to spacefarers are the telepathic Barque Cats, trained to patrol their spaceships, looking for leaks, varmints, and other problems. When corrupt government officials declare a plague and plan to destroy animals across the galaxy, including the Barque Cats, two young people (a veterinarian and a cat person), a clever Barque kitten and the boy who is its special person, an ancient Egyptian cat with mysterious powers and a hidden agenda, and a con man join forces to try to prevent the tragedy. The story's universe is painted in broad strokes, giving a rough sense of planets, ships, and space. The human-feline interactions work well, and the intriguing plot is sure to entertain genre readers. --Sally Estes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“This is magic . . . science fiction at its most primal and its best.” •January Magazine McCaffrey and Scarborough switch perspective to how the cats see things and their viewpoint is delightful. . . . This series is off to a good start. •SF Crowsnest.com -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

While perusing my local library system's site of ebooks and audios I saw the second book in this series by one of my favorite authors, Anne McCaffrey. Well, I hate starting in the middle of a series so I bought the first one and the Audible version to go with it. If you love cats and space travel adventures, this is the book for you. I thought it was going to be too much fluff, a childish book, a book about kitty cats. I was wrong. This gave a new perspective about cats and space travel. I just happen to have a polydactyl black cat and I have wondered if, with the right training, all those toes could be used like our hands. Could she be a Barque cat? Could she fly a space ship? My husband and I spend our retired days trying to read our cats' and new dog's minds. Sometimes we think we know them pretty well. We provide the words to the bubbles over their heads. Just imagine if instead of watching the mice for entertainment if they could kill the space alien? Anyway, this was fun and I didn't stop between the two books and got right into book two. I have to admit to wishing there was more! R.I.P. Anne McCaffrey. I miss you!

I'm only about 2/3 of the way through this book but I'm loving it. Yes, the characters are simply

drawn (one is even a little comical) and the language is less than complex (and like some of Ms McCaffrey's other books the tech is more like old Buck Rogers than modern sci-fi) but this story is about animals and their relationships with human beings. So far (like I said I'm only 2/3 of the way through) the story is disturbing and compelling enough to intrude into my dreams, and not in a happy way. But it makes me wish that "fairy dust" were real if it could make me smart enough to know what my cats were really thinking. I hope the ending will be a happy one, and I look forward to the next book already.

I discovered Anne McCaffrey's 'Dragonriders' books decades ago and loved them until they became collaborative efforts with her son, after which (sorry to say) IMHO the overall quality of the series went down steadily. I never did get into her other series with Ms Scarborough but as a cat lover I could not resist checking these books out. I borrowed Catalyst from my library but after only reading the first 5 pages knew that this was a book I wanted to own, and ordered this plus Catacombs from . They are now among my favorites and I anxiously await future editions! :-)

Ann McCaffrey was an awesome writer and miss her new novels. This is not one of her best but was a good read for sure.

Barque Cats have been bred to save ships. They capture critters, find leaks, find bad wires and most of all love the ship crews that spoil them. But something awful has happened to them. They are being captured and impounded and tortured in the name of science and stopping a perceived plague. The plague is the doing of a greedy man and his way of besting his neighbors but it comes back to bite him as some of the cat owners fight back. It involves ship captains ship crew vets and animal lovers and the farmers and breeders of the best animals gather around to help stop this craziness. Meanwhile the cat-tain of the strange ship built like a pyramid dashes in and saves and steals all the cats. Now we have no cats or at least very few.

I love Anne McCaffrey - have read her books for years- and anything to do with cats and horses and agriculture. From the very first word the reader is pulled into the action of the story that never lets up. The cats having a close mental connection to their people, the people fighting to save their animals and of course the way it is all woven to reveal the mysteries interwoven into the plot and of course the cliff hanger leading to the next story-Catacomb. Now as to why it hits too close to home----- (warning-plot spoiler---The story impacted me emotionally due to the plot line of killing

healthy animals over a "suspected" pathogen to "protect" the public. It is something I have been fighting IN REAL LIFE to keep from happening as the USDA/big ag has the very same plan in line to register all the animals, microchip and track movements and should pathogens be suspected, many innocent animals could become victims. Only animals owned by big ag will be exempted from this plan, which in the story, political reasons with someone benefitting are the evil plan behind the plot....It happened in England when millions of farm animals were killed, careers and farms ruined, people committing suicide all because of a treatable curable disease (hoof and mouth) that only a small percentage of the cattle were proven to have. see no nais dot org for more info)

Purchased as a present for my mother. She loves it.

I tried this because I love other Anne McCaffrey books. The plot was good, but the twist was weird and didn't make a lot of sense. I will try others written by this duet but not the next in this series.

Sorry I spent the money

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