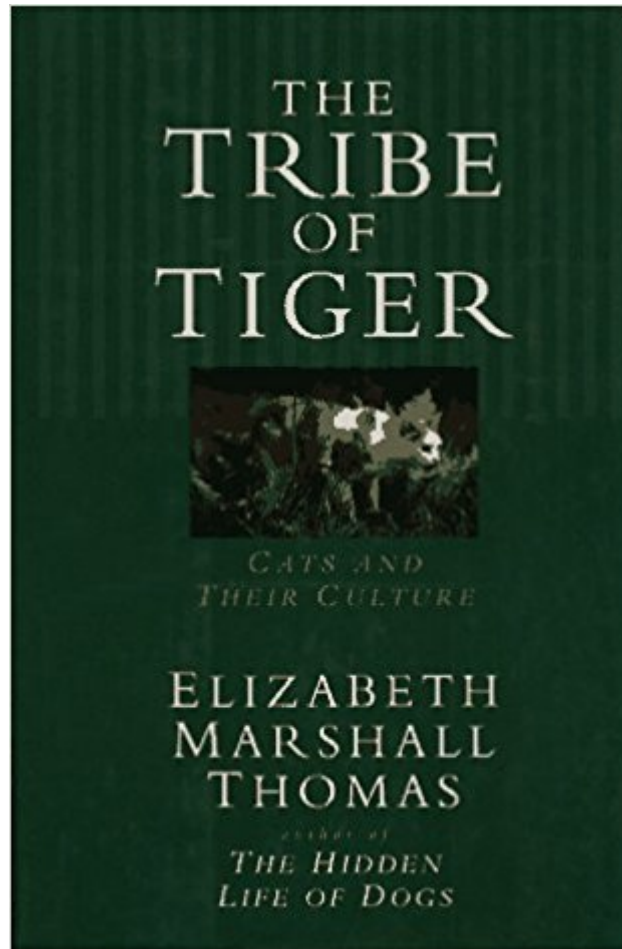




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The Tribe Of Tiger: Cats And Their Culture



Synopsis

The author of *The Hidden Life of Dogs* investigates the mysteries of the cat world and the history of cat culture, examining what cats are--and who they think they are--in relation to humans. 150,000 first printing. Tour.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 56 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

This latest animal book from the author of *The Hidden Life of Dogs* will have ailurophiles purring. If she were a captive tiger, Thomas tells us that she'd prefer to be in a circus rather than a zoo--the big top is more stimulating. She compares the quality of life for captive animals in zoos and circuses, introduces circus tigers and their trainers and visits a tiger training school in northern Illinois. Thomas begins by defining cats as meat-eaters, all, then examines cat culture as it evolved to the present time. We meet Ruby, a domesticated puma, and several generations of barn and house cats. Thomas relates an astonishing tale about Bushmen and a pride of lions in the Kalahari Desert. But the most enthralling of her subjects in this thoroughly captivating book proves to be the tiger. Illustrations. 225,000 first printing; first serial to *Atlantic Monthly*; author tour. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Intrigued by the hunting behavior of her pet cats and those in the neighborhood, particularly since they did not need to hunt in order to survive, Thomas has penned a study of the cat family that could well become a best seller like her *Hidden Life of Dogs* (LJ 4/15/93). Thomas was criticized for the

dog-care practices and conclusions of that book, but her new work does not suffer from her unapologetically anthropomorphic view of the animal kingdom. In Part 1, Thomas engages in an entertaining and enlightening discussion of the history of carnivores, specifically cats. Part 2 focuses on the "culture" of cats, defined as a "web of socially transmitted behaviors." Part 3 explores the future of cats and addresses the issue of their captivity, particularly in zoos and circuses. One may not always agree with Thomas's conclusions or methodology, but her artistry is always engrossing and provocative. A delightful book for those who don't mind Thomas's sometimes wild observations.--Edell Marie Schaefer, Brookfield P.L., Wis.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The reviewer who says that the book leaps around like her cats is exactly correct. There's interesting stuff in the book about the behavior of big and little cats, however it's buried in a lot of rambling. There's also a LOT on how her family spent time in Africa studying the societies and issues about the Bushmen and issues affecting the African animal population. It's kind of interesting, but not what I wanted to read about. It also has a vague air of "see how educated and open I am". Also, the book does not appear to have been updated since its mid-90s publication, and I think some of the stuff she writes about (particularly the tigers in the circus) is no longer accurate. I was certainly surprised to read it. There's also just some moments where I had to shake my head - like not realizing that the reason one of their cats was getting picked on was that it was going blind. I think I'd have taken my cat to the vet once I started noticing some of the behaviors she describes. And there's some depressing wildlife-type moments. I got this for a daily Kindle deal, so not totally disappointed, but nowhere as near as good as I had hoped for.

So much information about all cats and how they communicate that it leaves you stunned with what humans do not know. The sections about the most ancient Bushmen and how they interact with lions left me amazed and sorrowful about what Europeans have done to Africa.

That's an amazing book. The accomplishments of the author in her lifelong studies of the animals behaviors are astounding. I really think that the every cat owner have to read this book. It will not only will make him or her to understand better the characters of their pets it will immensely broaden their horizons...

Purchased the book as a cat lover. Through its pages I learned more about felines than I expected.

It did help my understanding of the two cats who share our home.

Deeply knowledgeable, wise and empathetic, and beautifully written, this book should be read by anyone interested in animals and their relationships with humans.

A great read to give you an insight into the daily life of your cats. The parallels to the various wildcat species just add to the great information provided.

This book is one of my favorite of all times. I am a cat lover and my husband and I have heard this on audio (cassette) a long time ago. I bought the book to keep so I can share with my other friends who know and love cats. This is more than domestic cats, it's a moving revelation about ALL cats great and small and I love it!

Best book on cat behavior. I learned a lot and I have used all of my new communication skills. And it's easy to read - not boring - engaging and educational.

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