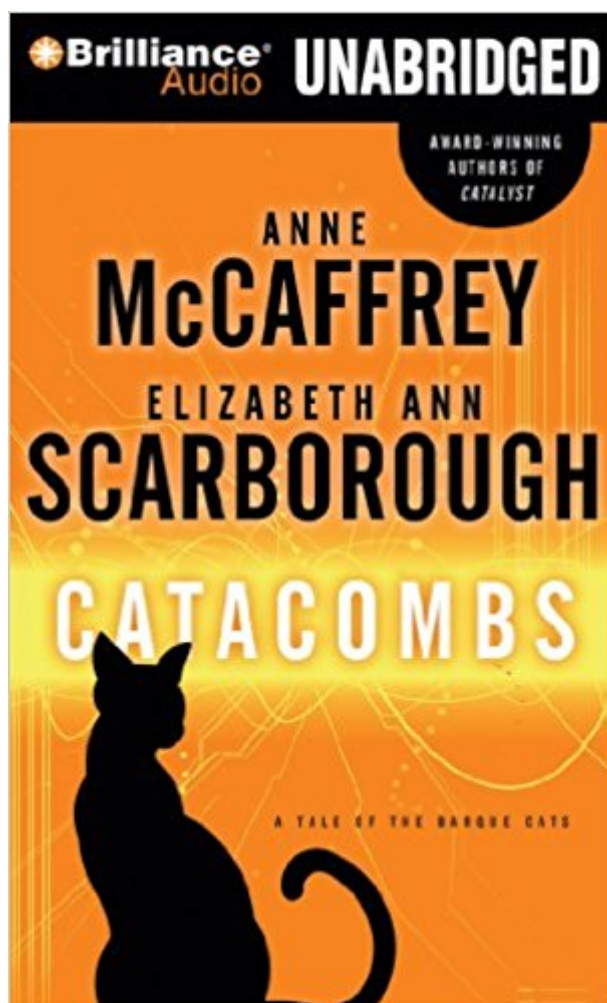


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# Catacombs: A Tale Of The Barque Cats (Barque Cats Series)



## Synopsis

In *Catalyst*, award-winning authors Anne McCaffrey and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough introduced listeners to the beguiling Barque Cats: spacefaring felines who serve aboard starships as full-fledged members of the crew. Highly evolved, the cats share an almost telepathic bond with their minders, or Cat Persons. Until, suddenly, there is no "almost" about it, and a particular Barque Cat, Chester, learns to exchange thoughts with his human friend, Jubal. Other cats soon gain the same ability. Behind the seeming miracle is a mysterious cat named Pshaw-Ra, who possesses knowledge and technology far beyond anything the Barque Cats or their humans have ever seen. When fear of a virulent plague leads the government first to quarantine and then to kill all animals suspected of infection, Pshaw-Ra with the help of Chester, Jubal, and the crew of the starship *Ranzo* activates a "mousehole" in space that carries the refugees to a place of safety: Pshaw-Ra's home planet of Mau, where godlike cats are worshiped by human slaves. But Pshaw-Ra's actions are less noble than they appear. The scheming cat plans to mate the Barque Cats with his own feline stock, creating a hybrid race of superior cats—a race destined to conquer the universe. Yet right from the start, his plans go awry. For one thing, there's a new queen on Mau: Pshaw-Ra's daughter Nefure, a spoiled brat—er, cat—with a temper as short as her attention span. Pshaw-Ra's other daughter, the rightful queen Renpet, is exiled, running for her life in the only direction available to her—down into the vast catacombs beneath the Mauan desert. Far from receiving the hero's welcome he expected, Pshaw-Ra must use every bit of his considerable cleverness just to survive. Meanwhile, as usual, Chester and Jubal stumble right into the middle of things, in the process uncovering the lost secrets of the Mauan civilization. But that's not all they uncover. In the forgotten catacombs deep below the Mauan capital, something has awakened. Something as old as the universe. Something that hungers to devour all light and life—and that bears an undying hatred for cats.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

McCaffrey and Scarborough follow January 2010's *Catalyst* with another light space adventure featuring super-smart cats. The barque cats, mistaken for a public health hazard, flee Earth for the feline-dominated planet, Mau, with the help of Pshaw-Ra, a mysterious cat with his own spaceship. Oddly, no one--including the humans--is bothered that he plans to take over the universe on behalf of felinekind. Chester and his 10-year-old human friend Jubal are likable young heroes who make a good foil to the charismatic, shadowy Pshaw-Ra. Readers of all ages will be entertained as the barque cats explore strange new worlds and save the day. (Jan.) (c) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cats in space! In their sixteenth collaborative novel, the authors return to the universe of *Catalyst*. Saved by the arrogant space cat Pshaw-Ra from mistaken euthanasia at the end of the last book, the dashing tom Chester, his telekinetic boy partner Jubal, and a shipload of other cats and their people land on their mysterious savior's desert planet. Promises of fishy treats, naps, and other luxuries soon give way to the cruel rule of a petty cat queen and the lurking pursuit of the unkillable snake Apep. Given the meandering plot and fluffy style, the only purrs this book will elicit will come from young readers, feline fanatics, Egyptian-mythology buffs, and those who enjoy light space opera combined with extreme cuteness. Even those readers may find that the huge cast of characters and confusing descriptions of events go down like a hairball. Long, honorable careers have garnered McCaffrey and Scarborough a legion of fans, so expect demand; but readers might do better with rereading one of their classics. High-Demand Backstory: Fifteen previous collaborations between these two popular authors have shown that together their books are as popular as their individual ones have proven to be, and their latest partnership will follow suit. --Neil

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YA and fans only. This story continues from the last book, where cats want to be our rulers. This is a nice YA story but not much meat or suspense.

A Great read. For many years I have read McCartney books. As always I am engrossed I the story. Love from a fan.

I must agree with some of the other reviewers that this book did not seem to be as captivating as the first one. I didn't really have all that much trouble finishing it as I really did get a kick out the writer's insights into cats. These were brought in by casual touches that would be familiar to cat lovers everywhere. One that immediately comes to mind is where the Grand Vizier, Pshaw-Ra is teaching the kittens to control gravity so as to make themselves heavier or lighter. This shows great insight and experience with the joys of living with one or more cats. I'm sure we can all recall instances when cats could move as light as a feather and others when they could seem as heavy as lead. The latter being the case when one may be lying down and your beloved cat decides to walk across you and each step weighs down upon your body as if the cat weighed 80 pounds. This is definitely one of those books you'll have problems with if you can't accept the premises established by the authors. If you're willing to cut them some slack and just go with the flow I believe cat lovers will find enough reminders of their experiences with well loved cats to make the book worthwhile reading.

The alternating narratives were a little off-putting at first, but once you got into the cadence of the story, it went right along swimmingly. It was nice that Chester saw through Pshaw-Ra so quickly. Even without the filter of his link with his boy, it was just plain fun to see how things could only be salvaged by cats.

Great story from Elizabeth Ann Scarborough and the Late Ann McCaffrey. I you love cats and you love science fiction, you'll love this. One of those you find is hard to put down all the way to the end. Especially wonderful is the self absorbed, snooty, pyramid flying, star cat. Reminds me of one of my cats, minus the pyramid flying, but she would if she could. A purrrfect read.

This is a fast paced, action packed, cat filled story every cat lover will enjoy. If you own a cat, curl up

with your kitty for a good read. Don't forget to read the first book in the set though....it will put everything in purrspective

It was a very cute story from the cats view. At first I thought it was hokey, but as I kept reading it turned out to be a great story with twists and turns in the fine mcaffrey/scarborough style. If you love cats, especially the barque cats of the novels, and want something light and fun, get this.

Love it!

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