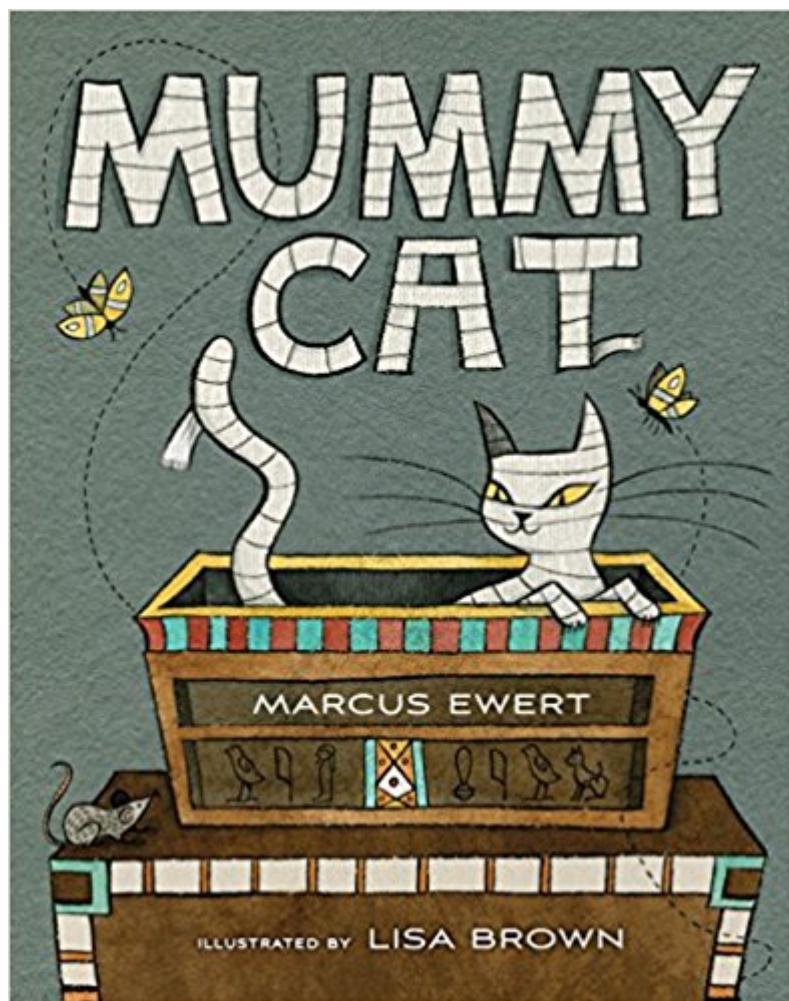


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## Mummy Cat



## Synopsis

Deep within this maze of stone, a creature wakes up, all alone . . . Mummy Cat prowls his pyramid home, longing for his beloved owner. As he roams the tomb, lavish murals above his head display scenes of the cat with his young Egyptian queen, creating a story-within-a-story about the events of centuries past. Hidden hieroglyphs deepen the tale and are explained in an informative author's note. Marcus Ewert and Lisa Brown's smart, beautiful book is a marvel of sophisticated simplicity, infinitely engaging to examine in detail, and complete with a sweetly surprising plot twist sure to delight young cat-lovers and budding Egyptologists alike.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books (July 21, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544340825

ISBN-13: 978-0544340824

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #408,690 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #144 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #189 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #826 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3 •Ewert's rhyming picture book is an unexpected love story that anyone with a pet can appreciate. It's set in Egypt inside a pyramid decorated with hieroglyphics and treasures. "A mummy cat, who's passed through death" reminisces about his owner, the girl-queen Hatshepsut, as he searches the rooms looking for her. "He checks to see if she's come back, his loving friend" so that this lonely time can end." Although it's obvious that the memories weigh him down at times, he perks up when he sees pictures of the two of them in painted scenes along the

walls. The cat was a loyal companion and a hero to the girl, right to the end of both of their lives. Back matter includes in-depth information about mummies and the ancient queen. The hieroglyphs are defined here as well, and they can be used as an I Spy game, as they appear throughout the book. Brown's ink, gouache, watercolor, and digital collage illustrations are rich with beautiful ancient artifacts and a grouping of curious mice and moths that follow the mummy cat to the tomb of the girl he can never forget. VERDICT Kids will enjoy this memorable and touching introduction to mummies. •Tanya Boudreau, Cold Lake Public Library, AB, Canada

"Ewert's rhyming picture book is an unexpected love story that anyone with a pet can appreciate. Kids will enjoy this memorable and touching introduction to mummies." •School Library Journal "Terrifically original." •Publishers Weekly "This stands out among the more straightforward nonfiction picture books about ancient Egypt, and primary-grade children will find much to ponder, explore, and discuss." •Horn Book Magazine \* "Elegantly designed for young fans of Ancient Egypt, this sweet ghost story of a pet's love for its owner transcends time." •Kirkus, starred review

A mummy cat wakes up every 100 years looking for its owner - they died together tragically. A melancholy and poetic story, with illustrations that tell the secondary story of the two's tragic fate. The book also includes hieroglyph "clues" which you and your child can refer to the glossary at the back to "translate", adding an extra layer of fun to this tale with a touching ending. My wife borrowed this from the library and my little 5-year-old fell in love with the cat and the book. She understands the concept, and we both agree its actually a very sad story, despite the "happy" ending. Really touching and another example of some of the incredibly human and fine writing that is found in children's literature.

This is a beautifully rendered work that tells a multi-layered story. I loved the bits of Egyptology in the graphics, but especially the depiction of the ba carrying away a piece of the queen's soul when she died. The words tell you about the love between the queen and her cat, the pictures and hieroglyphs tell you about the evil of the queen's sister. This book will stand out because of the imagery in the words and the drawings. The touching, gentle, phrases belie the horror in the graphics. I was shocked at one point because I thought the evil princess had killed her pet baboon, imagining some kind of sacrifice to further her nefarious plans, but a closer look revealed that the critter in his natural pose, hanging from the tree by gripping the branch above, not swinging from a

rope. And I was surprised that the story of the unhappy sister and her baboon dominated my thoughts after I finished reading. The baboon does not receive affection and attention from his mistress like the cat does from the queen. But in the end, when her plan appears to be backfiring, the baboon is distressed and tries to make a warning. Oh for the love of animals! By the end I was weeping for the cats, dogs, horses and people I will never greet again. I don't have children, so I don't know if it is a good kids book, but I do believe that it would make a good present for adults who love cats, who are interested in cats or Egyptology, or who is grieving for the loss of a loved one of the two- or four-legged variety.

Short Heartfelt story poem and splendid artwork! Real Egyptian queen! Can't wait to read to my grand kids. (When I get some) I showed my son and his girlfriend and they seemed interested in it :) No one has kids yet, so I have to cherish the book by myself.

Cute story/poem! It's not graphic at all but (spoiler alert) it does talk about the princess and the cat dying. My niece is really into mummies at 4 years old, so it was great for her! Use discretion, though, because more sensitive kids might not like that part much. Love how the art uses actual hieroglyphics, and the murals expand on the story!

I can't really explain it, but this book makes me cry every single time I read it. Like, copiously. It's so sad and sweet and lonely, it just makes your heart ache with its poignancy. My daughter brought it home from the school library one day and asked me to read it to her, and to my surprise, tears were running down my face by the end. The poetry is so simple, spare, effective, evocative. And the art is energetic and gorgeous, and the hieroglyph puzzle is great fun. Buy this for your children! Buy this for yourself!

I am a cat rescue and foster volunteer for several local cat shelters. I read this book to my own cat last evening; she and I BOTH loved it (I think, as she didn't jump off my lap as I read it out loud!) The writing is as clever as can be, and the colorful illustrations are a perfect match with the story. I take kittens to pre-K and Kindergarten classes to introduce them to cats. I will take this little easily-read book, too, from now on.

Sweet, unusual, rhyming story. It raised several questions from my 5 year old granddaughter - like what's a mummy? But she understood well about a loyal kitty who missed his mistress. There's a bit

of a game suggested in the back, so we took the bait and looked for the hieroglyphic messages. I think for that to work, the child needs to be able to read a bit, so she can understand that hieroglyphics are like letters and/or words. We found that we saw new things in many of the illustrations each time we looked.

This book is fantastic for kids interested in ancient Egyptians. It's a very interesting read and includes some historical facts at the end of the book. There are also hieroglyphs hidden throughout the book and translations at the end. My 4 and 8 year old kids really enjoyed this and I did, too!

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