Cleo: The Cat Who Mended a Family
by Helen Brown

Not Just One For Cat Lovers

My Personal Review:
This is not the type of book I ordinarily read, but I have to confess, I was
drawn to it because I myself have a black cat named Cleo whom I got as a
kitten, so seeing the cover was startling and I knew I had to read the book.

I have to admit that despite my trying to resist, the story of this little black
cat and the family who adopted her sucked me right in. Unlike many
stories of this kind, Brown writes in a no-nonsense voice, pleasantly devoid
of excessive sentimentality, and the story never turns maudlin, even when
sad events happen. I'll admit to being a little teary-eyed at the end,
surprised at how moved I was.

I'm a cat person - I've lived with cats all my life - and I have to say, Ms.
Brown perhaps anthropomorphizes Cleo just a bit too much - but no matter.
I still couldn't put the book down and finished it in a day and a half over the
weekend.

One thing that did NOT please me, though, is how the publisher chose to
Americanize the spelling and usage for the American edition, as though
American readers would not recognize harbour, centre, degrees of
temperature in Celsius - or, for that matter, recognise (check the first few
pages of the book on Amazon's U.K. site if you want to verify this).
Translate from another language, certainly, but we DONT need a
translation from New Zealand English!

Nonetheless, a charming, heartwarming story, if nothing groundbreaking,
with particular appeal to animal lovers. Grab a box of tissues and enjoy.

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