I Am the Cat, Dont Forget That: Feline Expressions by Roy Blount Jr.

When I Purr...........

What would cats say if they were of a mind to talk? Valerie Shaff and Roy Blount Jr. have a good idea ... On the heels of their hugely successful I Am Puppy, Hear Me Yap and If Only You Knew How Much I Smell You, Shaff and Blount have paired again, this time for a witty and insightful look at Americas other favorite pet -- the cat. Shaff captures the essence of the ever-elusive cat in her gorgeous photographs, and Roy Blount Jr., who the New York Times says is in serious contention for the title of Americas Most Cherished Humorist, provides accompanying verse that seems to speak a cats thoughts. The combined result is a touching and often hilarious take on the minds and hearts of felines. When I purr Dont infer Its because you pat. No, you pat Because I purr. I am the cat, Dont forget that.

My Personal Review:
Whether a cat lover or one puzzled by the history of cats in stories or one who feels intimidated by their presence, this is a book to cherish and to entertain and to remind us that felines have their own distinctive personalities that can vary from utter devotion and comfort to conscience-prying demigods!

Photographer Valerie Shaff and writer Roy Blount, Jr. have collaborated in presenting this visually stunning, beautifully designed and charmingly written commentary on the cat. The photographs somehow manage to capture those looks that cats can capture that seem somehow to put us in our place, or at least give us a strong dose of reality testing. Far from presenting the cat as the household ogre, Shaff and Blount combine their talents to unravel the meanings of gestures, of body language, and of responses between cats and people that is as astute as any other book out there.

Blount is a fine writer and commentator (reference his NPR work), but here he is content to offer simple haiku-like mini-thoughts that reflect the transient moods of the subjects. This book is a must for cat lovers and an introduction to the humor and mystery of cats to those considering adding a cat owner to their household! Grady Harp, July 06