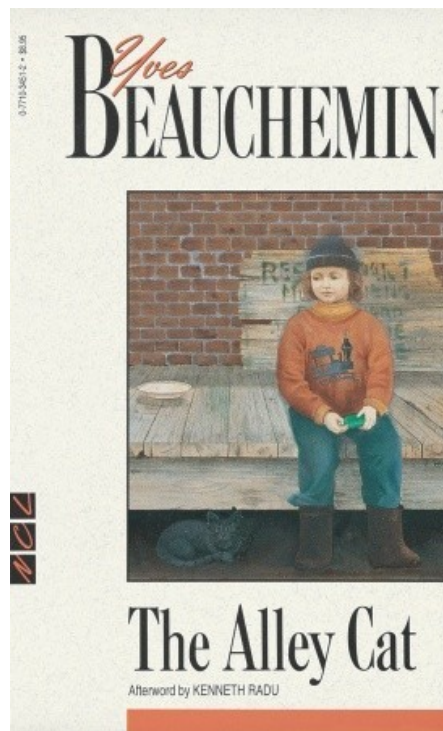




The Alley Cat

Yves Beauchemin , Sheila Fischman (Translator) , Kenneth Radu (Afterword)

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First published in Quebec in 1981, Beauchemin's highly acclaimed comic masterpiece of storytelling follows in the tradition of the great novels of the 19th century.

When Florent Boissonneault comes to the aid of an accident victim, his life changes forever. One onlooker, the powerful and sinister Egon Ratablavasky, comes to haunt his ambitions and dreams, lurking behind his every opportunity, success, and failure. Finally, obsessed by a need to free himself, Florent discovers how to fight back.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

The Alley Cat Details

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Author : Yves Beauchemin , Sheila Fischman (Translator) , Kenneth Radu (Afterword)

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From Reader Review The Alley Cat for online ebook

Catherine says

My French teacher thought it wasn't necessary to read the entire book. She just had us read the beginning and the end.

Emilie says

J'ai adoré! Presque un conte fabuleux, un roman tout à fait hilarant et des personnages très attachants. Malheureusement (pour les autres!) je ne crois pas que l'effet est le même si le lecteur n'est pas québécois. Le roman est toujours très bien, mais il y a des choses qui se perdent et ne se comprennent pas. Vraiment très bon. Wow.

Alonso says

C'est un livre très amusant à lire. On apprend beaucoup d'expressions québécoises. Il est très bien écrit. J'ai adoré.

jess says

i received this book from one of my best friends, lucy, and in turn passed it on to someone special... it's like a fairy-tale for adults...i can't think of any other way of describing it, except for the fact that it's excellent and amazing and all excellent and amazing people should read it.

?Emily says

Actually 2.5 stars. It took a long time to finish this book because it was WAY TOO WORDY. It was written in a soap-opera style with one improbable happening after another. The action went on way too long and then ended without a satisfactory conclusion. In fact, I might actually change the star rating to 2 in a few days. I need to think about it some more.

Vanie says

L'histoire me laisse perplexe... Je suis plutôt déçue de la fin qui n'offre pas tellement d'explication sur les motivations étranges d'un des personnages.

Ibis3 says

NCL.2006-10-01

Yavor Petkov says

Le roman raconte les aventures du jeune couple d'époux Florent et Elise Boissonneault. C'est un roman d'aventures épique, retraçant les péripéties traversées par les héros dans leur quête de prospérité économique, de calme et d'épanouissement familial. Ces aspirations sont systématiquement entravées pas le sinistre vieillard Egon Ratablavasky. En effet, il me semble que l'intrigue centrale du roman tourne autour dudit vieillard. La nature de ce personnage et surtout les motifs qui le poussent à affliger le jeune couple de ses coups de Jarnac restent opaques mais comme sur le point d'être révélées au lecteur, ce qui agace ultimement la curiosité de celui-ci. On veut enfin apprendre s'il s'agit d'un être surnaturel. Serait-ce le malin lui-même qui aurait trouvé une incarnation dans le corps de la vieille fripouille?

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Esteryn says

Though I did not like the book, I can't deny it is well written with a great deal of mystery and suspense, and a lot of cynical humor, in all fairness and objectivity, so I can understand why some people like it. But not everyone will, I guess it depends on your sensitivity.

Subjectively, I found it very offensive socially and I could not get to like any of the characters. They all seem caricaturally misandrist and sometimes racist visions of men : unfaithful, machist, egocentric, abusive towards women, even the "good" guys, violent, money & ambition driven, alcoholic etc. And the female characters are very shallow (girlfriends or the girls of one night basically who have absolutely no power nor mind except one excentric old lady towards the end).

But I read 'til the very end, all 600 pages, just to understand and was therefore very disappointed, as many other readers pointed out, there is NO explanation in the end. It makes no sense at all... but I guess if you don't mind despicable characters, if you are a bit cynical, it may be quite a funny book and an enjoyable read.

Dana Burda says

Romanul scriitorului canadian de limbă franceză Yves Beauchemin " Le Matou" a apărut în limba română cu titlul " Motanul" la editura Univers în anul 1994. Traducerea cărții a fost sprijinită financiar de către Conseil des arts du Canada iar traducerea a fost făcută de către Sanda Anghelescu. Romanul în versiunea în limba română se bucură de o postfață foarte interesantă care prezintă o imagine a literaturii din Quebec la momentul apariției acestei cărți, postfață scrisă de către Fritz Peter Kirsch.

Am citit acest roman pentru prima dată în 1995, fiind la acea dată o plăcută descoperire a literaturii canadiene pe care din păcate nu o cunoșteam prea bine. Îmi cred că ar merita să avem mai multe traduceri ale scriitorilor din această parte a lumii. Romanul " Motanul" spune povestea complexă, uneori stranie, sigur

stufoas? a unui cuplu de tineri simpatici ?i inimo?i, Florent ?i Elise Boissoneault care nu-?i doresc altceva decât s? ajung? s? aib? o via?? plin? de bun?stare. S? ias? din mediocritatea în care li se p?rea c? tr?iesc în acel moment. Florent lucra la o firm? nu foarte profitabil? care vindea discuri muzicale , " Musipop". locuia cu chirie într-un apartament modest împreun? cu tân?ra ?i frumoasa lui so?ie Elise. Amândoi visau s? aib? mai ales un copil. Aveau prieteni, p?rin?ii lui Florent f?ceau ?i ei parte din via?a lor, ?i totul p?rea oarecum definitiv pân? într-o zi oarecare când Florent asist? la un accident. O bucat? din firma grea a unui hotel cade ?i love?te un trec?tor. Florent sare imediat în ajutorul celui r?nit cu mult? siguran?? ?i pricepere spre admira?ia unui b?trân destul de ciudat din publicul care asista la scen?. în zilele urm?toare Florent prime?te invita?ia de a vizita un necunoscut la hotelul Nelson ?i în cele din urm? se duce s? vad? despre ce este vorba. A?a ajunge s? fac? cuno?tin?? cu extrem de b?trânul domn Egon Ratablavatsky care îi propune o ?ans? de a se îmbog??i prin achizi?ionarea restaurantului " La Binerie". Pentru Florent era împlinirea unui vis pe care îl avea de mult ?i în plus era ?i ?ansa de a deveni un om bogat. accept? în cele din urm? propunerea straniului Ratablavatsky mai ales c? acesta îi aranjeaz? ?i un împrumut la banc?. ?i astfel începe pentru Florent, Elise ?i prietenii lor marea aventur?. Florent va trece rând pe rând prin tot felul de experien?e aajungând proprietar de restaurant, bolnav psihic, om f?r? cas?, antreprenor de construc?ii în Florida, negustor de antichit??i, din nou prprietar de restaurant ?i creator de cosmetice bio. În tot acest timp devine din ce în ce mai convins de puterile magice ale lui Egon Ratablavatsky care din binef?c?tor ajunge cel mai mare du?man al s?u. Romanul este cuceritor, scris cu verv? ?i cu un talent deosebit. Toate personajele, chiar ?i cele secundare care apar episodic în povestire sunt excep?ional de bine construite. Personal am apreciat foarte mult ?ansa de a m? întoarce în anii 70 când se petrece ac?iunea romanului. A fost ca ?i cum m-a? fi întors în anii plini de farmec ai tinere?ii.

Autorul postfe?ei ne propune un mod interesant de a privi acest roman extrem de atractiv: " În fond Motanul poate fi citit ca un roman de ucenicie care poveste?te istoria unui cet??ean de rând din Quebec".p573

Doris says

Strange - I seem to be the only person who does not like this book... The story is burlesque and absurd, the depiction of a society searching for food and sex, no values whatsoever except money. The englishspeaking people are stupid or aggressive, Europeans even worse, an old stinking freak pops up every now and then and scares everybody to death for no comprehensible reason so ever... All this with a sense of humor which is totally childish and scatological. If you feel like laughing about caracters farting, eating, yelling and gulping for more than 600 pages, this will be the perfect book for you!

Stela says

C'est le troisième roman de Beauchemin que je lis et c'est sûr que ce sera le dernier! Très puéril et maladroitement rocambolesque, avec des tentatives humoristiques assez pénibles et une construction sans adresse, Le matou, considéré la meilleure oeuvre de Yves Beauchemin m'a semblé la plus faible. La seule excuse que je me trouve pour l'avoir fini est qu'il fait partie de la littérature québécoise avec laquelle je voulais me familiariser.

Diana says

I don't know if it's because it opens with someone getting brained by a big letter off a building or what but I really enjoyed this book (translated from the original French). I read it back in the day when I was in 2nd year Canadian Lit at university (back in 1992) and it was one of the few novels I loved.

Stephanie Veilleux says

Je n'ai pas aimé la fin par contre....

the gift says

thought this was on here! i read this when i went to live in Montreal in 1988, but my life there was nothing like this... i was a young anglophone, to start...
