

### ***The Ghost Cat* by Alex Howard**

There are several words I can use to describe *The Ghost Cat*: charming, thought-provoking, historical, full of wonder, and others. The one thing that is certain that after I read this short volume, I will never look at cats the same way again.

Grimalkin, the main cat/character, is fully taking advantage of his fabled nine lives. An English proverb shared at the beginning of the book states that “A cat has nine lives. For three he plays, for three he strays and for the last three he stays.” Beginning in 1902, the reader follows Grimalkin’s journey following the places and people who impact his life through 2022. What a life! Or *lives*, I should say.

It's almost like viewing the world through an alien’s eyes as he might see our spaces as new experiences with each transition. The sound and actions of the vacuum cleaner is like torture, “Mercy, mercy! Hellish instrument of death, reveal thy purpose or begone!”

Grimalkin worried about a young teen leaving the house in the 1990’s without a tie, sure that the young man will be ostracized. We see history and culture changing as we follow the nine lives of this very astute feline. Anyone who has cat experiences, or is “owned by a cat” will enjoy this peek through his eyes.