

From the back jacket

Meet Smiley, Alien Feline Second Lieutenant and Earth's Self proclaimed ruler. Leader of Qwuedeviv Crew 52, Smiley has been sent to infiltrate Earth. There's just one little problem; due to some poor planning and a possible lack of breakfast prior to launch, Smiley crash lands its drop pod and finds itself separated from its crew. With no way to contact Headquarters and a minor (very, very minor of course) fear of being caught, Smiley sets out to conquer the planet on its own. But with Ice Shooting Land Serpents protecting every yard and Earthian Media taunting a soldier's very best resolve, how is one fuzzy invader supposed to complete it's mission? Follow Smiley in one of its many crazy adventures of world conquest filled with laughs and the very best of kitty logic.

My Thoughts so far – From the back jacket I assumed this was going to be a fun book to read. The playful illustration on the front instantly speaks to anyone that has ever owned a cat, furry or otherwise, and it looks like a book I would give my mother to read with no reservations, even though she's a dog person. With an eye catching cover, a playful title, and a fun indication of a story to come, this is a book you will want to read more than once!

Overall:

I liked this book. A lot. A universal thumbs up is not easy to get from me, and this book gets it. It spoke to my sense of humor, which is somewhat quirky, and being both a cat myself (among other things) and having owned one for several years, this is the book you read when you don't know what to read. It's funny, it's whimsical, and it absolutely keeps you flipping pages, if only because you can't stop wondering what goes through an alien cat's mind when he's being attacked by the deadly cactus. Add in the illustrations that add the right amount of flavor to the book, and I'd be furious if there wasn't a sequel in the works. Well done.

Characters:

Second Lieutenant Smiley is the commander of the Quedeviv invasion force. The only member of the crew apparently intact at the beginning of his adventure, he sets out to find a base from which to continue his mission, and in theory, find his crew. He does this with only the finest in kitty logic. He often acts without thinking, is somewhat forgetful, and though he'd never admit it, he's grateful he found a safe place to stay. Until he figures out how to take over, that is.

Cedric is the hapless owner of the house that Smiley finds himself in when he attempts to sneak under his front fence. After being convinced of his relative harmlessness, he invites the Qwuedeviv inside. He buys him a collar and all the usual kitty items, but he finds himself perplexed at the odd behaviors of this alien cat.

Spork is a Qweudeviv of few words. He only finds Smiley at the end of the story. Having infiltrated Earth far better than his Lieutenant, he appears with the intention of getting the mission back on track. Uncompromising and rather forceful, what will he do in the next installment?

Analysis:

If you like cats, you'll like this book. Instantly drawn in by the adorable cover and playful writing style of the author, you can tell they've owned cats themselves. With a relatively short page count it's worth reading if only for the giggles you'll get wondering how cats could ever invade anything.

The dialogue is as witty as the narrative musings of Smiley himself, and you'll find it hard to put this book aside. As only my fifth review, I hope to run across more books like this one.

Story Structure:

The story does not follow in traditional three act structure so to speak, but in its short and interesting chapters each follows the next in a logical (for kitties) sequence of events in Smiley's adventure. Though the plot is fairly simple in structure, one is delighted to follow Smiley from one chapter to the next as he tries to reason his way out of things as only a kitty can. The book does not really end in a conclusion, more of a light cliffhanger, but this does not leave the reader disappointed. Rather, it excites the reader for the next installment.

Dialogue:

Told in first person, the reader is mainly introduced to two characters, Smiley and Cedric, and towards the end a third. The main narrative carries Smiley's signature style, a somewhat playful tone like a child explaining his adventures on the south seas to a disbelieving mother. Cedric is just a normal guy, his dialogue being that of any single guy that's ever owned a cat thinking he'd be a mellow pet. Spork is like Wolverine, if he were a cat, I'd imagine. Smiley tends to ramble, while Spork is succinct. Cedric is somewhere in the middle, just trying to figure out his brand new alien cat.

Introduction

The story opens with a brief but entertaining introduction by the main character who briefly sums up how his mission to Earth is going. Not well. His spaceship has crashed, and now he's stuck.

Plot

Chapter One opens up with a failed invasion attempt by a nonplussed military kitty who has no idea exactly where he is. In his attempt to secure a base from which to operate, he

is trapped by a barrier with enough space for him to squeeze under but all that does is put him in range of an ice water spitting metal serpent. Discovered by a native Earthian, he declares “We come with peas.”

The second chapter features the kitty attempting to convince the native Earthian to take him into his home. After some convincing, the cute kitty protocol wins the native to his cause. His first job is done, his base is secure.

With a base secure, the third chapter features Smiley being left alone for the first time as the human goes to work. Exploring the house, he finds food in the bowl of noodle O’s in the fridge, which is promptly spilled on the couch.

After a ‘short nap’ he is awoken by the home’s owner. He has found the orange stain on the couch cushions that Smiley left behind. Irritated, our hero is tossed into the garage as punishment and left there for some time. He uses this opportunity to explore the unusual cell he has been placed in, reminiscing about his fellow crewmember Spork.

The fifth chapter features Smiley being released from the basement, and finally being accepted as his pet by Cedric. He learns his official Earth name and the name of his species, the Qwuedeviv’s. It can only get more insane from here.