



Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review

Title: Gata Unbound: A Series for Ailurophiles of All Ages, Books 3 & 4
Subtitle: Gata's Date with Destiny, Santo & Rini Vow to Save 'em All
Author: Noland & Russell
Genre: Children - Action
Review: Reviewed by Lois Henderson for Readers' Favorite



From the very start of this colorful and well-illustrated book containing two stories about cats and their closely intertwined relationships with humans, you are inundated in a transatlantic world of conversation between mother (in Greece) and daughter (in America) that is permeated with a deep appreciation for those of a feline nature. The relationship between the two is lovingly drawn, with their mutual understanding (and sometimes frustrations) revolving largely around their penchant for food (particularly baklava). However, with the series by Lucy Noland and S.J. Russell being titled *Gata Unbound*, and the two stories, forming Books 3 and 4, being titled *Gata's Date with Destiny* and *Santo & Rini Vow to Save 'em All*, it is clear that the cats take center stage throughout. The sympathetic portrayal of the masculine characters of Señor Diaz and Arie, the owner of Hestia's Own Bakery, in Book 4 creates a balanced approach in terms of gender.

The lively presentation of Lucy Noland's and S.J. Russell's *Gata's Date with Destiny* and *Santo & Rini Vow to Save 'em All* makes the stories reverberate with a joyful innocence, and any cat lover (or ailurophile) will be inclined to dote on every page, while the humorous illustrations by Katly Lacy add to the whimsicality of the text. Part of the quaintness of the tales (tails?) comes from a joyous blend of Old World culture and setting and New World familiarity with IT (including the cats having their own mobile devices) and reflective practices. As the vocabulary of the *Gata Unbound* series is fairly advanced, children will need adult guidance when reading this book. However, the work is so delightful that it most definitely will appeal to all ages.