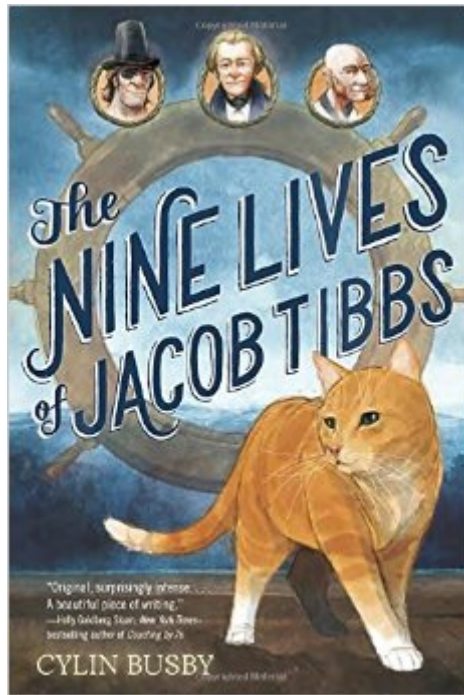


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# The Nine Lives Of Jacob Tibbs



## Synopsis

For fans of Katherine Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan* comes the swashbuckling story of a little cat's adventures on the high seas. Captain Natick does not want to take a kitten on board his ship when it sets sail in 1837, but his daughter convinces him that the scrawny yellow cat will bring good luck. Onto the ship the kitten goes, and so begins the adventurous, cliff-hanging, lucky life of Jacob Tibbs. At first, Jacob's entire world is the ship's hold, where the sailors heave their heavy loads and long-tailed rats scurry in the darkness. But before long, Jacob's voyage takes him above deck and onward to adventure. Along the way, Jacob will encounter loss and despair, brave thunderous storms at sea, face down a mutiny, survive on a desert island, and above all, navigate the tricky waters of shipboard life and loyalties. Praise for *The Nine Lives of Jacob Tibbs*: "Original, surprisingly intense. . . . A beautiful piece of writing." --Holly Goldberg Sloan, New York Times bestselling author of *Counting by 7s* "Rarely does a book come along that I finish and think, 'This is going to be a classic.' This is that book." --Jo Knowles, author of *See You at Harry's* "Emotional resonance and chockablock seafaring adventures combined with coming-of-age themes takes this over the top. . . . An outstanding choice for fans of middle grade nautical adventure and animal narrator novels." --School Library Journal, starred review "With engrossing action and great character description and development, Busby has created a story that will enthrall fans of animal fantasy. Kelley's full-page drawings add to this well-crafted tale, which many readers may come to treasure." --Booklist, starred review "In addition to giving Jacob an engaging narrative voice, Busby fills the novel with nautical lore and lingo, making Jacob's journey one to savor." --Publishers Weekly "An absorbing historical coming-of-age adventure supported by deeper themes of grief, despair, and determination." --Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (February 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553511238

ISBN-13: 978-0553511239

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #322,102 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #153 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships #965 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats #2423 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Join seafaring cat, Jacob Tibbs as he sails the seas and encounters strange creatures and exciting adventures. The runt of a litter of seven kittens born to Mrs. Tibbs, a "lucky" ship's cat residing on the "Melissa Rae", a packet ship of the mid-nineteenth century, Jacob Tibbs is the only kitten not purchased by other seafarers. Through his voice, Jacob shares the triumphs and tragedies of his life growing up on Captain Natick's ship. Cylin Busby's novel holds appeal both as a bedtime read-aloud and as a book for every age reader who loves animal stories. Orphaned during a severe storm, Jacob survives because of the kindness of the ship's cook. Mr. Archer, son of Archer Shipping's owner, is a self-centered, entitled individual whom the sailors aboard the "Melissa Rae" do not respect. His actions following Captain Natick's injury and subsequent developments create conflict and influence Jacob's life. Cylin Busby incorporates various aspects of sailors' lives and superstitions and of ship life during the mid-nineteenth century throughout "The Nine Lives of Jacob Tibbs". For example, Jacob's four white paws "making him easy for rats to spot - mark him as an "unlucky" cat. Characters, both human and animal, in "The Nine Lives of Jacob Tibbs", are interesting and portray a variety of personality traits. Some are appealing, while others are less so. Language throughout the novel is appropriate for all ages " there are no "salty" profanities or comments. Although the book is targeted at the 8 " 12 year old segment of readers, any individual who loves a good story featuring an animal protagonist will find the book appealing. The narrative tone and rhythm in "The Nine Lives of Jacob Tibbs" may remind you of Anna Sewell's "Black Beauty".

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