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## Gotham Kitty Character Interview

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One morning, Chief Naruma of the Chagga awakes abruptly from a rather disturbing dream. Sitting upright, he takes a moment to try and recall what happened...

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*The first thing he remembers seeing is the Chagga Paramount Chief performing a ritual of animal sacrifice in the foothills of Mount Meru. Without warning, the ground shakes briefly like a small earthquake. The drums stop beating and the women stop swaying and singing. The large gathering of men and women anxiously stare at the Chief.*

*The minutes pass and nothing happens. Not taking it seriously, the Chief, a tyrant in his own right, insists the ritual continue. For a while, everything seems*

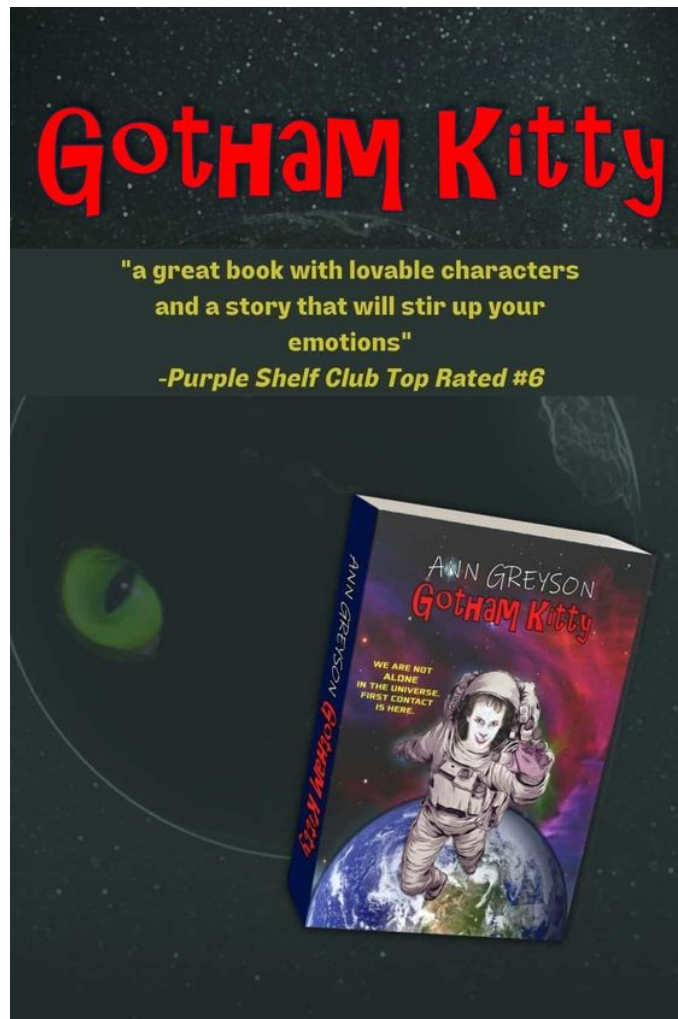
*perfectly normal; the women keep chanting and singing, the Chief prays to Ruwa and then slaughters a spotless male goat.*

*Then, the most horrible thing happens.*

*The plates shift beneath Mount Meru, magma pushes upward, pressure builds, and a minor eruption occurs. Small boulders scatter, and a series of rapidly moving lava flows make contact with the Chagga huts directly in its path. The bee-hive huts with banana-leaf roofs and woody vines that intertwine between the walls of flexible branches from trees and shrubs stand no chance against the lava stream. All panic breaks loose as men, women and children try to escape the area full of rolling smoke and poisonous gases.*

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What you just read is an excerpt from *Gotham Kitty*, a sci-fi book by Ann Greyson.

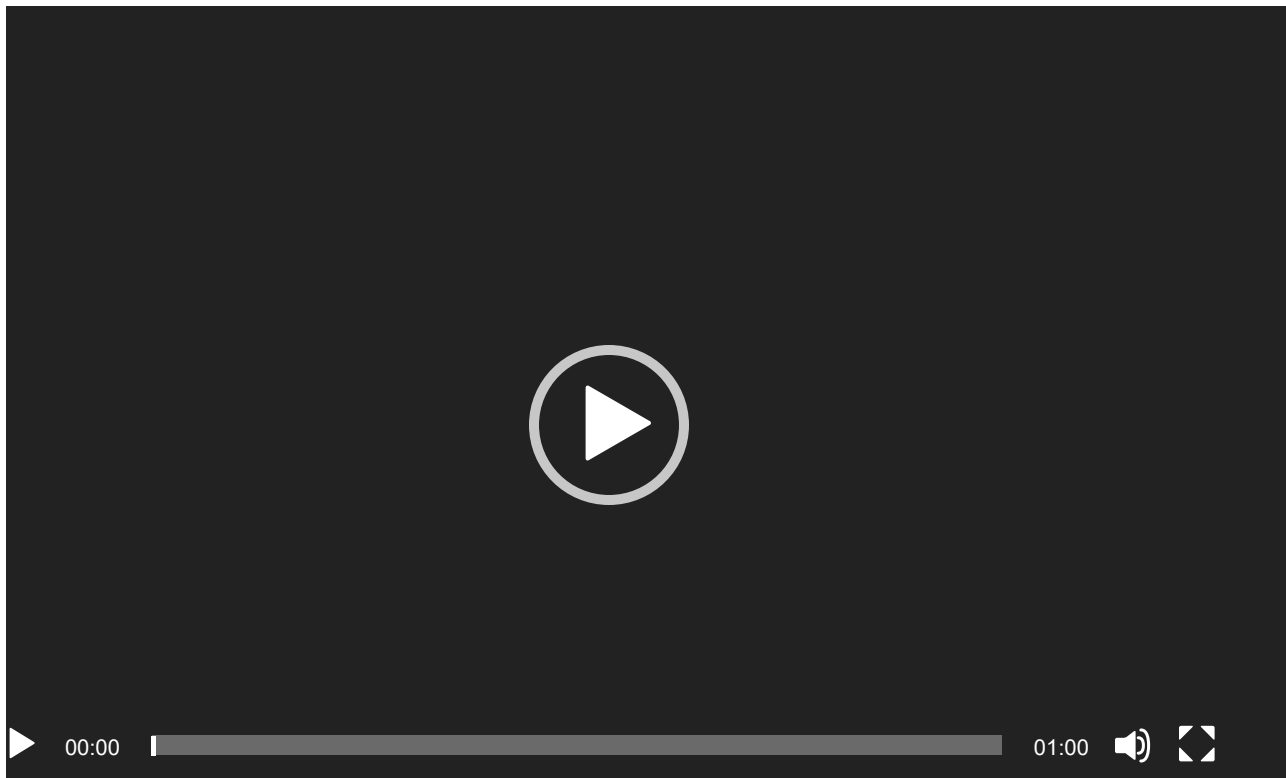




This heartwarming imaginative story is about a half-feline half-human extraterrestrial, Catusapien, from another galaxy, who escapes her cell aboard a Brozian insectoid cargo vessel and flees in an escape pod after the ship slips into a wormhole and spits out into the Milky Way Galaxy. The spaceship explodes in mid-air and crash lands in the forest of Arusha National Park in Tanzania right before Allison Banes' very eyes, who is in East Africa working on a Doctor of Philosophy degree in zoology from Cornell University.

She discovers the Catusapien sleeping next to the escape pod, takes the alien to her house for observation and names her Kitty. What Allison doesn't know is that according to Chagga prophecy, the alien is necessary to partake in a ritual that will end the nearly two hundred-year-old supernatural curse of the Evil Shadowy Figure, a havoc wreaking spirit, on the Bantu tribe.

Desperate to stop the ritual from happening, the Evil Shadowy Figure, wants to eliminate the alien and anyone who gets in its way including Allison Banes. While members of the Chagga try to find the alien, Cassidy Mkama, an 11-year-old African girl, stumbles upon her in the forest surrounding Lake Duluti. They soon form a lifelong bond and Cassidy names her Gotham Kitty.



*The Evil Shadowy Figure is front and center with the origins of his existence in this cinematic book trailer: **Curse of the Evil Shadowy Figure**. The story flashes forward to around two hundred years later, present day Tanzania, and you see Allison Banes studying monkeys in the Mount Meru Forest Reserve until interrupted by the arrival of a spaceship, where the Catusapien had been held captive.*

## ***A Conversation with the Evil Shadowy Figure from Gotham Kitty***

The story of "*Gotham Kitty*" is only as strong as its characters. Merlee a.k.a. Gotham Kitty, a Catusapien from Vanitis, a city in the northern continent of the planet Corsettia, is a very likable character. But what about the villain in the story? The Evil Shadowy Figure, whose exits are as powerful as his entrances, is more than just a thorn in the side of the Chagga, a Bantu-speaking indigenous ethnic group in the East African country of Tanzania. This havoc-wreaking spirit simply wants to exist for the sake of mere existence. In this candid interview, the Evil Shadowy Figure opens up about his side of things.

*"Just before he vanishes in a puff of smoke, he lets out a long glass-shattering wail."*

*- Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** When and where were you born?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** My birth was a supernatural experience for me that fostered more spiritual than anything else. Because I was born out of the ashes of those who died, due to hot surges of poisonous gases and lava fires spewed out by Mount Meru in 1809. At the time, the Paramount Chief provoked the great god, Ruwa, to unleash me on the Chagga. Despite the great drought, Ruwa had warned the Paramount Chief not to hold ritual gatherings at Mount Meru due to a possible earthquake and volcano eruption. Now, a little over two hundred years later, I am very proud to be a legend in African folklore.

*"Born from the burning ashes of those dead in the fires"*

*– Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** Where do you live?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** Most of the time I dwell in a dark place where spirits roam. This netherworld is a complex domain, a world between life and death. Yet, I am not confined there and can be present among the living. Such as, I often spend time in the flames of the campfires of the Chagga, watching and listening.

*"Be careful not to go too close to the fire. That's where the Evil Shadowy Figure dwells"*

*– Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** What is your most treasured possession?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** I hold the souls of those that perished in the volcanic eruption at Mount Meru in 1809, and other souls that I have managed to collect over the years. They give me a feeling of power like nothing else. *(He gave off a witch's cackle after he said that last sentence)*

*"controlling the souls of the victims of the long-ago fires"*

*– Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** What's your spirit animal?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** Like the country of Kenya, my emblem is the lion. My appearance radiates power with a head in the shape of a lion's mane. Much like the African Masai warrior who wears a lion's mane head-dress and hunts a lion to proclaim his manhood in the tribe, I too have bravery. Just look into my wild, fiery black eyes that are filled with no fear of anyone or anything. I embody all of the untamable characteristics of a fierce lion.

*"He has the shape of a broad man, looking like an Egyptian god in what looks like a dark gray toga with many slits that stops above his knees."*

*– Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** What is your biggest pet peeve?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** Do the Chagga see my existence so dreadful that I am considered a curse? Rightfully so, one can say Ruwa unleashed a curse on the Chagga. But I don't feel like a curse, but rather a watcher who oversees the Chagga, making **sure they don't step** out of

line. The point being is that the Chagga are passing through a spiritual reckoning. I exist because Ruwa permits it and wills it so to be.

*"How can anything occur that Ruwa does not want to occur?"*

*– Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** What makes you angry?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** Absurd as it is, I feel the presence of the extraterrestrial in Tanzania. The prophecy has forewarned of my final days. That an alien from another world would arrive and participate in a ritual that would banish me from the Chagga and the living, physical world. This I cannot allow. I've gotten comfortable being the Chagga campfire story passed on through the generations. I have no intention of being forgotten.

*"There will come a day when the one who can end the curse will come from the sky. A being from another world will help bring peace to the Chagga."*

*– Gotham Kitty*

**Ann:** The burning question I really have... are you responsible for the many suspicious deaths surrounding the Chagga over these past 200 years?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** This is just a misconception on the Chagga's part. I shall clarify what death means on its own terms. A physical death is the beginning of a different phase of existence, a spiritual existence without physical form. As for those beings in the living, physical world, who have stood in my way over the years, I'm happy to report their souls are

with me. Thus, I'm not responsible for any suspicious deaths, on a spiritual level. Perhaps, this question confuses me.

*"Evil Shadowy Figure going to get you, going to get you"*

– Gotham Kitty

**Ann:** Tell us something that readers might not guess?

**The Evil Shadowy Figure:** If the ritual in concert with the alien being takes place, I will vanquish into nothingness, so believes the Chagga. My banishment will be from the living, physical world, never to be seen or heard again. But I say, never say never! As long as I exist in the darkest, depths of the unseen realm, between life and death, I will wait for however long it takes. What is time in the face of eternity? You have yet to hear the last from me!

*"If you are bad, the Evil Shadowy Figure emerges from a dark portal in the flames, pulls you into the fire and takes your soul."*

– Gotham Kitty

**Guest Post by Ann Greyson**





Ann Greyson is the author of the novels "*Birdwatcher*," "*Gotham Kitty*," "*The Lonely Vampire*," and "*Never-DEAD*." Other writing credits include an occasional book reviews for the Amazon and Goodreads websites.

She acts in many book trailers, and on television in the following programs: "*i Citizen*," "*SpaceWoman Light-years Apart*," "*Birdwatcher*," "*The Lonely Vampire*," "*The Out World*," and "*puRR*." She has also performed as a dancer onstage, and these are some of the music videos in which she sings and acts: "*Shine*," "*O Christmas Tree*," "*House of the Rising Sun*," "*Motherless Child*," and "*Buffalo Gals*." She has an Associate of Arts degree in English from Howard Community College. Member of Actors' Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA, and the Alpha Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

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