

THE SHAGGY SHEPHERD

SPACEFACE2: *Gotham Kitty* by ANN GREYSON



Gotham Kitty

by Ann Greyson

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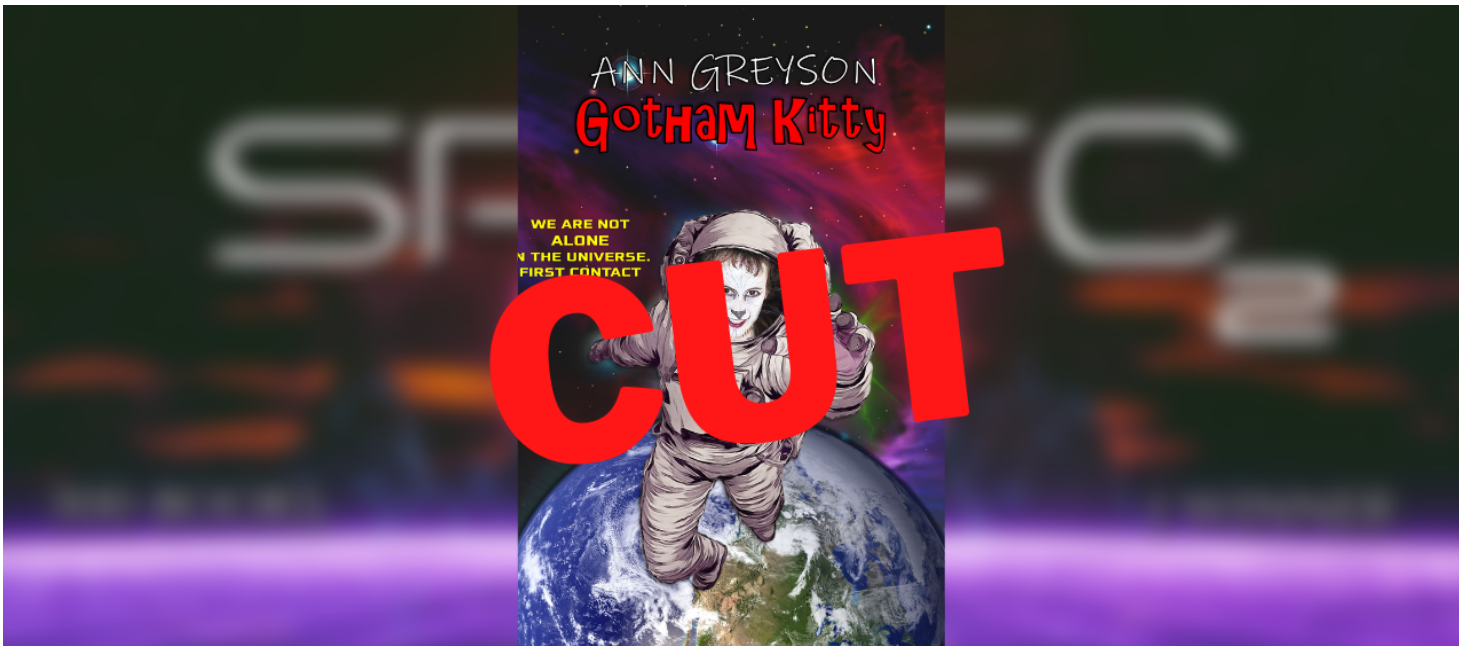
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This heartwarming imaginative story is about a half-feline half-human extraterrestrial, Catusapien, from another galaxy, who escapes her cell aboard a Brozian insectoid cargo vessel and flees in an escape pod after the ship slips into a wormhole and 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*.

ANN GREYSON Gotham Kitty

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ALONE
IN THE UNIVERSE.
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IS HERE.**





Gotham Kitty by Ann Greyson was sampled by two of our team members. For those new to our system, at least two members of the Wayward Stars read each book for about 20-25% before deciding whether we recommend it as a quarter-finalist to the group. Here is what we thought about this inventive story.

Gotham Kitty is an interesting book that sadly didn't quite work for us. I liked that it had multiple POVs and that you could see some of the connections early on. When an author waits almost an entire book before character arcs interact in any sort of way, it can be difficult to see why you're following along with all of them. Here, you could easily tell how they would relate later on. I did think that the alien POV felt pretty flat and could've benefitted from more dimension but since we didn't get to see that a whole lot in that first quarter, there is a possibility that could be different in the rest of the story. Also, while I do like small details to help me visualize the world in a new book, I felt that this one focused on the wrong kinds of details. Rather than helping me imagine what a room felt like or the complex feelings someone had about something, it was more of a list of every little thing a character did, which often felt unnecessary. This made the writing feel a bit awkward and clunky.

So while this book does have some components we liked, overall it just didn't quite work for us, which means it is a **Cut** from the Wayward Stars.

We're nearly ready to announce our quarter-finalists so you can expect more decisions soon to allow the team members enough time to read all of them before the end of January. We are excited to be a part of this competition despite the difficult decisions we have to make and are enjoying the discussions all of these books have sparked. We appreciate all the hard work that goes into publishing these books and want to say thank you to everyone that is following along on this journey!

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