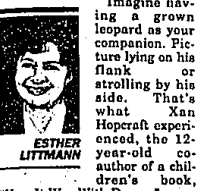


True story really wild

How It Was With Dooms
By Xan Hopcraft and Carol
Cawthra Hopcraft
(Margaret K. McElderry Books,
1997, \$19.95)
BY ESTHER LITTMANN
SPECIAL WRITER



Imagine having a grown leopard as your companion. Picture lying on his flank, or strolling by his side. That's what Xan Hopcraft experienced, the 12-year-old co-author of a children's book, "How It Was With Dooms."

Just before Xan was born in Kenya, Africa, his parents adopted a tiny leopard cub, no bigger than a kitten. They fed it cow's milk laced with vitamins and raw eggs and protected the cub from disease by keeping it at home.

After 3 months, Dooms (a nickname for small boy cheetah) lived outdoors and slowly learned to hunt for his own food.



CAROL CAWTHRA HOPCRAFT

But he never strayed far from the Hopcraft farm, providing the family with entertainment, companionship, beauty, and insight into the mysterious world of the animal kingdom.

When Dooms died at the age of 7, the Hopcrafts' loss was so great that Xan and his mother, Carol Cawthra Hopcraft, decided to collaborate on a book that memorialized their pet's special attributes and adventures. The outcome is "How It Was With Dooms," written from a young person's perspective and illustrated with Xan's drawings and Carol Hopcraft's colorful wildlife photographs.

Cuddly companion:
Xan Hopcraft remembers his friend Dooms, a leopard, in "How It Was With Dooms."

This true story of a wild animal and his intimate, loving relationship with a human family, will be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Meet Xan and Carol Hopcraft at Barnes and Noble on Telegraph Rd. in Birmingham 11 a.m. Saturday, July 19, during Children's Story Hour (810) 540-4209.

Esther Littmann is a resident of Bloomfield Township. She is a private tutor with Una Dworkin and Associates. You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox number 1695.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various happenings at suburban bookstores. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

BORDERS (BIRMINGHAM)
Cylinder seals, learn how to make the ancient Egyptian proof of ownership seals, 3 p.m. Sunday, July 13; Ruthe Daniels leads a discussion of the movie "Face Off," 7:30 p.m. July 14; Robert del Valle hosts a discussion of the "X-Files," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15; Ellyce Field will discuss and sign her "Field's Kids Catalog of Michigan Adventures," 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15; Dr. Judy Spitzer McKee will present a program on separation and divorce 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16; Thomas Grace will sign his book "Spyder Web," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17 at the store, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSELLERS (WEST BLOOMFIELD)
Paul Lindsay discusses and signs his new Mike Devlin thriller "Freedom to Kill," 7 p.m. Monday, July 14; Lyle Crocodile

appears for storytime, 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15; at the store, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (810) 626-6804.

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS)
Judy Piazza performs folk music on flute, guitar and percussion 2 p.m. Sunday, July 13; Ruthe Daniels leads a discussion of the movie "Face Off," 7:30 p.m. July 14; Robert del Valle hosts a discussion of the "X-Files," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15; Ellyce Field will discuss and sign her "Field's Kids Catalog of Michigan Adventures," 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15; Dr. Judy Spitzer McKee will present a program on separation and divorce 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16; Thomas Grace will sign his book "Spyder Web," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17 at the store, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

CRANBROOK
Authors Joseph Caldwell, Lucy Rosenthal and Joshua Henkin, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16; poet Susan Mitchell, memoir writer Richard McCann and children's book author Elaine Greenstein, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17 at Cranbrook Schools Kingwood Campus Common Room, 1221 N. Woodward Ave. Call 248-645-3564.

STONE GALLERY
Carol Cawthra Hopcraft and Xan Hopcraft will read from and sign their book "How It Was With Dooms: A True Story from Africa," a story about a boy and his cheetah told in the boy's words and his mother's wild life photography, 2 p.m. Friday, July 18, at the Elizabeth Stone Gallery, 536 North Woodward Ave., Birmingham, 248-647-7040.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

LIVE! ON STAGE!

Color the above picture and you could win four pavilion tickets to Sleeping Beauty at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (____) _____

©1995 American Family Theater, Inc.

Tuesday, July 29 • 12 noon

Pavilion Seats just \$10/Lawn Seats just \$5

Family Entertainment Theatre
For ticket info call: (248) 377-0100

Send your completed picture to: Sleeping Beauty Coloring Contest, Palace Sports & Entertainment, 2 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

All entries must be submitted by Thursday, July 24. One winner will be randomly selected and notified on Friday, July 25 and will receive four pavilion tickets to Sleeping Beauty at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Tuesday, July 29 at 12 p.m. Employees of Palace Sports & Entertainment, the Observer and Eccentric, Koolha, Sunshine, WNIC and St. Joseph Hospital are not eligible.

UNIC
SUNSHINE
WNIC

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas

Bargain Matinees Daily just \$3.25 (Twilight show daily)

Carlson's
Ford Rd., 144 West of I-75
(813) 981-1900
Advanced same-day tickets available
*Denotes VIP residences

"WILD AMERICA" (PG)
12:00, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
"OUT TO SEA" (PG-13)
12:00, 2:25, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:00

"FACE OFF" (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
"MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING" (PG-13)
12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50

"HERCULES" (G)
12:10, 12:40, 2:30, 4:20, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50, 11:40, 1:10, 3:00, 4:50, 6:40, 8:30, 10:20, 12:10

"ENGLISH PATIENT" (R)
8:00 PM ONLY

West Town Center 8
Hwy 10, South of I-56
(813) 444-0777
Advance same-day tickets available

CONTACT (PG)
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

"MEN IN BLACK" (PG-13)
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

BATMAN & ROBIN (PG-13)
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CON AIR (PG)
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"SHRIMP WISH" (PG)
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"HERCULES" (G)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, 12:45

WILD AMERICA (PG)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

Reggie Yates Cinema
Orchard Lake Rd.
at Cass Lake Rd.
862-1900
Sat. & Sun. only at 8:30
11:30 before 6 p.m., 12:30 after

AUTISM POWERS (PG-13)
Sun. 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
MON-THURS: 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

SUN 7:00
MON-THURS: 7:00, 9:00
TUE, WED: 7:00, 9:00
THURS: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showtimes
Auburn Hills 11-14
2150 N. Opoka Rd.
Between University & Walton
810-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 p.m.
Continuous Show Daily
Late Show Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

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