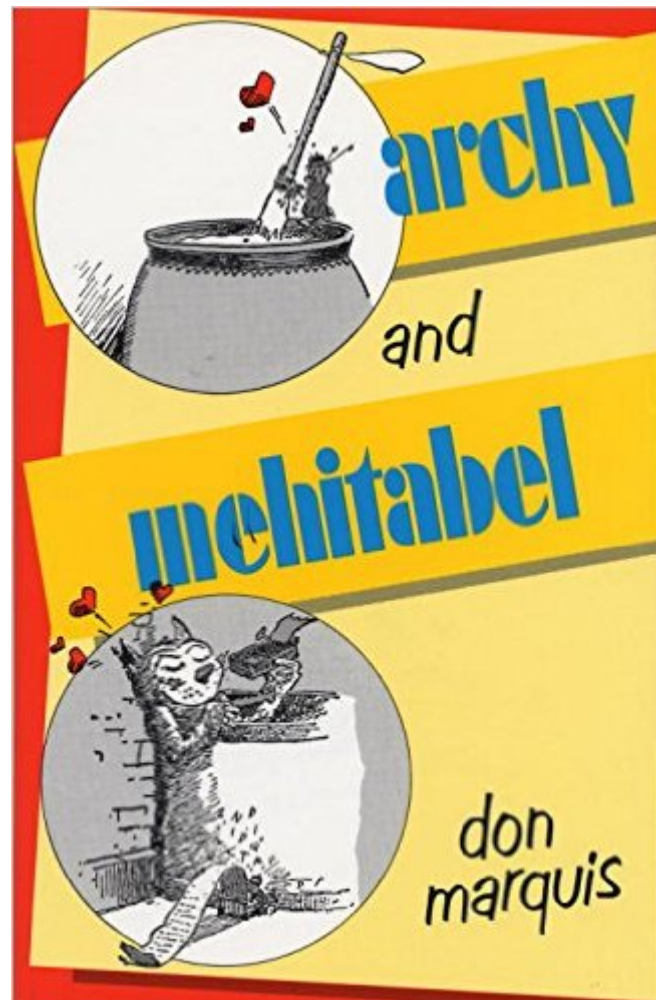


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# Archy And Mehitabel



## Synopsis

The now classic tale of Archy the cockroach and Mehitabel the cat in her ninth life. First published in 1927, this free verse poem has become an essential part of American literature.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Anchor (April 17, 1970)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (97 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #79,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Limericks & Humorous Verse](#) #804 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Archy and Mehitabel" is a strange, funny little book. Drawing from the conversational poetry found in books like Edgar Lee Masters "Spoon River Anthology," Marquis uses a colloquial style which not only suits his characters, but works in a poem. Lots of laughs, some decent writing, and a tasty way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Talking animals are easy to find in literature. Good ones, like a cat and a cockroach of this caliber, are not. Marquis brings humanity by allowing his animals to stay animals. Spiders still are poisonous, rats are still threatening, and cockroaches have never been able to type the capital letters on a typewriter. Marquis pushes reality, keeping his characters grounded in truth (OK, he fudges with truth a lot, but don't let that stop you). While filled with humorous tales, moments are sad, like in the ninth poem, "freddy the rat perishes." Dear Freddy has a run in with a spider who is up to no good. In a valiant struggle, a tough South American spider ("raised on red pepper and blood" and "nursed on tabasco sauce") Freddy is killed while saving his friends. Freddy ate some poisoned cheese the night before and let the spider bite him, knowing he had nothing to lose. After it was over, Archy and Mehitabel dropped Freddy "off the fire escape into the alley with/military honors". Despite the whole premise being ridiculous, a tear might well up. Children will love being read the stories, and younger teens may find poetry readable (before you send them on to Keats and Byron!). Great, funny pictures, completely in the context of each

poem-tale. I fully recommend this book. Anthony Trendle, HungarianBookstore.com

metthinksthe vers libre of archy literate cockroach and mehitabel krazy kat s kouzinare amazing and amuzing good thing .com has most of the cocroaches volume via marquisherriman s drawings captures marquises tone and surreality and hyperreality perfectly like a cross between a glorious post apocalypse a goofy sat morning cartoon and an unkept roadside chuck wagon i believe we all should keep cockroach farms just incase just incase ygs

Archy and Mehitabel came into my college mailbox over and over again back in the early 40s. I was being courted by a fellow journalism classmate, who began typing sections from Marquis' book and sending them to me anonymously through the college post office. Occasionally, he alternated Archy with red roses. We worked together on the college publication, twice a week, for three years. And eventually married. Just last night our son, now 51, and I were recalling the book, which I had not seen (or even thought about for many years). The copy of the hardback which he gave me has long since vanished from my shelves, much to my dismay. That seems to happen to all my most favorite books! My son opened his laptop and found this familiar old "odd couple" at .com, alive and doing well after all these years. I'm ordering a new copy tonight! Thanx .com!

archy (or is it don marquis) is a greater poet than the critics admit think of e.e. cummings did he suffer so by diving headfirst on to the typewriter keys but he probably knew archy from some greenwich village coffeehouse amazing to think these poems were newspaper columns when a column meant a column straight down the inky newsprint archy's words staining fingers the newspaper column had a golden age alas it is gone poor archy and now i too have a headache

now granted worlds bestloved cockroach is nota competitive title boss but you have to agree mehitabel the cat says that i should just forget it and return to my dusty corner but mehitabel is a lady cat who just between us boss is not what we might call a lady except by default of her increasing battered state boss ive been meaning to ask if you would leave some cracker crumbs by the typewriter tonight and maybe a fish or two the ones in your bed will do i mean for crumbs but the fish youll have to find somewhere else mehitabel the cat is hungry and you know i hate to see her eat alone i hope you are finding some readers for my vers libre after all these years i know that children love to read it because they see that i understand how silly punctuation really is i have seen copies of my work handed to big english department gurus who felt uncomfortable with it because

they hadnt seen it reviewed in new york or anywhere else so i hope this will help them because they need it boss i mentioned the possibility of royalties to mehitabel and she said that she had all the royalty she needed because she said she was once cleopatra and knew only the creme de la creme but sometimes i think she was never really cleopatra but is afraid i will feel sorry for her i do please find something for her to eat soon as she has that look in her eye again and its the dusty corner for me right now

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