

The Return of Fiona The Calico Cat

A Cat Story that will melt your heart!



BRIAN W. KELLY

A heart wrenching and heartwarming apologue that is filled with a spirit of exhilaration and good humor. You'll fall in love with Fiona the Calico Cat and all the wonderful neighbors in this true story.

**The Return of Fiona the Calico Cat:
A Cat Story that Will Melt Your Heart**

By Arian Easterday

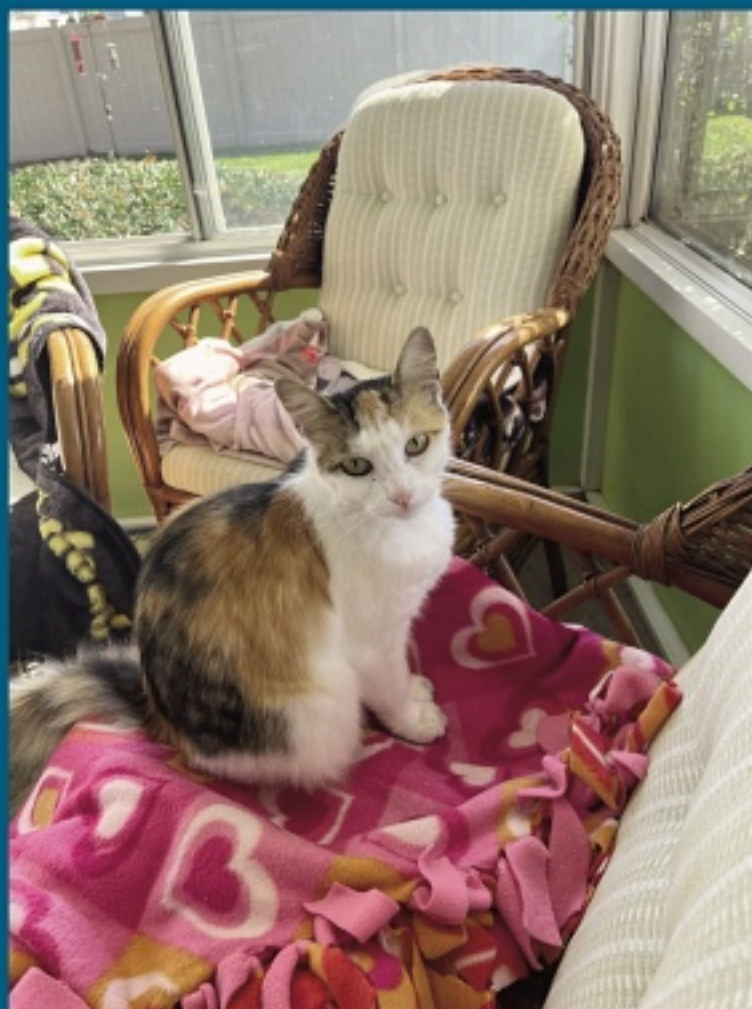
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BRIAN W. KELLY

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This story proves that good people and good cats are everywhere

Author:

Brian W. Kelly

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Preface

Wilkes-Barre, PA may not be Bedford Falls but it is a great place to lead a wonderful life. It may not be Mayberry, but it is my hometown and it is the hometown of Fiona the Calico Cat and her new parents, Jeanne and Joseph Linsky. It is also the home of John and Carol Stett, who claim best friendship with the Linsky's and who also take credit for being the only next-door neighbors to the Linsky's

Wilkes-Barre is the setting for this light-hearted and warm-hearted story of a wonderful couple and their life with their children and their many adopted dogs over the years, followed by their recent love for a cat named Fiona and her five kittens. You're going to love the adventures in this book.

This is an original work by author Brian W. Kelly. It is his 314th published book

A Wonderful Wilkes-Barre Story

The Return of Fiona the Calico Cat is a perfect title as it is exactly what this book is about. To boot, it is a heart wrenching and heartwarming apologue that is filled with a spirit of exhilaration and good humor. I would expect that you will feel good after reading it.

First adopted by a Dog Family could be another perfect subtitle as absolutely no preparations were ever made for even one cat, let alone a family of cats living in the home of a dog family.

Whoda thunk?

This is a true story other than the names of the people and streets and some of the dogs and the cats (to protect the innocent). And, of course there is some harmless filler used to tell the story even better. Moreover, it really did happen and it happened in my hometown, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Additionally, I can attest that Wilkes-Barre is the real name for a real city, It is 16 miles south of Scranton, PA which many know is the hometown of *The Office*.

Not all stories—even some Christmas stories that I have read or written end well. This incredible, true story will not disappoint any reader once you move in with the Linsky family and witness first-hand the adventures of their wily calico cat, Fiona. Will this story end well? After this buildup, it better. I am just a neighbor who witnessed the story. I wrote this book because it got to me. Thank you for reading it... It could only happen in a great town such as Wilkes-Barre, PA...and it did!

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Chapter 1: Thank God for Cats?

Cat lovers of all ages, all over the world, would agree that there is nothing better than a beautiful cat to grace any landscape, any living room, or any breakfast nook or any other place in any home, anywhere. Cats are simply beautiful and the good news is that there is no shortage of them,

First of all, across the world, there are a ton of cats. In the United States alone, estimates have the cat population at roughly 86 million. No wonder there are so many veterinarians who specialize in cats.

Hi, I'm Buddy Kelso. I'm a Cat who once lived across the street. I'm taking an outdoor break.



Cats come with certain needs. The first need that becomes obvious to the once uninformed is the litter box. Every cat needs a litter box as a tidy place to do its business, shall we say. Both numbers 1 and 2. Cats also have a need for veterinary services and there are plenty of those for the pet population in America and across the world as well as a number of vets who work specifically

for the benefit of felines. If you are new to cat life folks, feline is a term used to describe the scientific family of cats.

A *veterinarian* is a doctor for animals who specializes in diagnosing and treating animals' diseases, disorders, and injuries.

The total number of veterinarians in the U.S. at last lookup is 127,131. Any veterinarian, for the most part, is qualified to take care of cats. Of the total, however, there are several thousand vets who have cat-only practices. I could not find the exact number.

Moreover, a good portion of the thousands of cat-only vets belong to **The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)**. This is an organization dedicated to the special needs of cats.

Members of the AAFP definitely have a special interest in cats and feline medicine. When you are seeking a veterinarian for your cat, you might consider one who takes a particular interest in cats. In this case, AAFP membership is something to look for.

Though the number of vets in the U.S. may seem high, if all of the 86 million cats in America needed medical services all the time, there might not be enough. But so far, this has not been a problem. But it may soon be.

The soon-to-be lack of veterinarians and veterinary professionals can be attributed to the high cost of entry,

long hours, and the stress of dealing with animal owners in life and death situations. The moral of the story is to be nice to your vet.

By the way, of the 86 million cats, although it is more difficult to measure, estimates have the population of what are called feral or community cats at roughly 32 million.

It goes without saying that these are outdoor cats. They somehow survive simply by looking pretty and that gives them an edge in being able to attract cat lovers, who exist everywhere. Cat lovers love putting out meals for cats.

Feral cats can be divided into two categories. There are those who have owners and those who are feral “community cats.” The community cats are often taken care of at least to some extent by local humans residing in the community.

Feral cats are always a concern for health officials for a number of reasons in what some simply call a much harder to control category.

There are groups who take nothing for granted with the way pets are treated overall. One such group, called *Charity Navigator* gives the national ASPCA three out of four stars overall. This is a "good" rating, meaning that the charity meets or exceeds industry standards and performs as well or better than most charities in that cause.

The ASPCA advocates for something labeled TRNM, which is trap, neuter, return, and monitor . Sometimes vaccination is also included in the acronym. Another concern for community (feral) cats is the ecological impact that they have as a prey species. For official America, it is still unclear how to address this problem.

Jerry Lee Lewis, an old time Rock & Roll star had a hit song “Whole Lot of Shakin’ Going On” in the sixties. Outdoor “community cats” remind me of that song. Cats without a designated home are known to produce 80% of the kittens born in the US every year.

Domestic cats also hunt and kill 1.3 to 4 billion birds in the US annually. Community cats are the main perpetrators, killing 69% of those birds.

Outdoor cats learn for survival to be hunters. It isn’t a pleasant thought but they spend one-third of their time killing small animals, including mammals, reptiles, and birds.

Cats are known as *obligate carnivores*, meaning that they need to eat meat. They do eat birds, but it is unclear if they eat all of the birds (and other animals) that they kill. Outdoor cats with owners may also be eating cat food, contributing to a global industry of an estimated \$33.42 billion. Survival of the fittest is the rule of the wild and though we don’t think of our pretty calico and other cats in this way, it is a fact of life.

Since we introduced the ASPCA as an official Pet advocate, let's see if we can find the answer to the question, "Is indoor-only good for cats?" The ASPCA recommends certain things for enrichment purposes for the indoor cat to help stimulate them. Most cat adopters naturally provide these items such as toys, access to a window (to stare out of), cat trees, or puzzle feeders. They do make cats happier.

If your home has a patio or a balcony, a screened outdoor cat enclosure can permit your cat to enjoy the fresh air without being able to come into direct contact with birds or other prey.

More and more cat lovers are finding that another solution is to train their cats to walk on a leash (and harness). Just like dogs on walks are prevented from attacking squirrels, birds and other small animals, these animals are protected by you leashing your cats.

If you'd prefer your cat to roam freely, but not kill so much, there are small neoprene bibs (called CatBibs) that interfere with pounce timing, preventing successful hunting. However, CatBibs do not protect your cat from larger animals who are predators. Check your neighborhood so that such animals as coyotes, wolves, and bobcats are not frequent visitors.

Indoor cats most often live longer than their outdoor cousins. So the benefits extend beyond saving birds. The cats themselves benefit too. Outdoor cats have a life expectancy of just 2-5 years, compared to 12-15

years for indoor cats. This is due to getting hit by cars, poisoning, and predators

The facts show that 5.4 million cats are hit by cars every year in the US, and 97% of those cats die from their injuries. Additionally, for Californians, a study found that 52% of cougars surveyed had recently eaten a domestic animal (including dogs and cats). Yes, that is disgusting but then again it is a manifestation of survival of the fittest.

If you ever decide that you would like your cat to be mostly indoor or indoor-only, here are some pointers from the Indoor Pet initiative at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

<https://indoorpet.osu.edu/cats>

1. Have plenty of toys (keep your cat from getting bored)
2. Put a scratching post or cat tree near the door to outside (allows your cat to stretch, exercise claws, and climb something for a higher vantage point). Placing it near the door your cat used to exit through allows reinforcement when you're being begged to let them out.
3. Get cat-friendly potted plants (like catnip or cat grass). Your cat is used to interacting with plants outside. Check the rest of your houseplants to make sure they are safe for cats – many household plants are toxic to cats.

4. Make sure you've spayed or neutered your cat – just in case they do get out, they won't be able to contribute to the feral cat population.

I hope this little survey in this chapter has helped your understanding of cat issues. Cats are great companionship and can be a lot of fun. But, then again, after a while, we all learn that life is not just a bowl of cherries. But cats make it a lot better!

Now let's get some more background information for our Fiona story.

Chapter 2: A People Home—But Lots of Dogs Once Lived There

If you have been reading from the first page, then you already know that this book is about the Linsky's precious little lady, Fiona the Calico Cat. And of course, it is about a few other cats and dogs—and even some people. Other than the dogs and cats, the names have been changed to perhaps protect the innocent. Most of the action in this story occurs in a home owned by Joseph and Jeanne Linsky of Slinkymatinky Avenue.

When my wife, Pat, and I, Brian “Kelso,” moved into the neighborhood on the opposite side of Slinkymatinky Avenue from the Linskys and the Stett homes, we liked it almost immediately “if not sooner.” The Stetts and the Linskys were there at the time to greet us and they welcomed us to the neighborhood. Life was good from day one.

If not day one, it was not long after that we were invited to their neighborhood gatherings such as for Christmas and New Year's. The Linskys and the Stetts knew how to manage nice festivities.

We first went to a Christmas social at the Linskys. Even the two dogs, Winston and Becket were friendly. Because they were “sniffers,” the Linskys gave us a little warning but there was no perceivable issue. And the dogs were gentlemen. So, from that day forward, we knew the Linskys were dog lovers for sure.

Hi, I am Winston Linsky of 6 Slinkymatinky Ave.



We lived so long on the same street that those wonderful dogs sadly eventually passed on and a new dog showed up on the scene. His name was Chance(y) because as they said, they were not sure of his breed so they took a chance. Winston & Becket were both English Springer Spaniels.

The Linskys took care of their dogs and fed them quite well. I recently lost about 150 pounds and thankfully I am no longer feeling bad and my health is back. But back then, I was carrying the extra 150.

Chancey looked like he had been dining at the same spots that I had been as he began to sport the same type of paunch that I carried for many years. During this time, he got a nickname “Kegger.” It was because on a dog his size, his belly took on the look of a keg of beer. Yes, for years our major neighborhood gatherings included a keg so we knew well what a keg looked like and some would

say that “I resembled that remark.” Kegger and I of course were good buddies.

After Chance, the Linskys as I recall had a number of dogs such as Wheezy, spending some limited adoption time and sometimes just weekends with them Their children had dogs and the Linskys were also good dog sitters and they always enjoyed having a nice dog or several adorn the house.

Hi, I am Wheezy Linsky. I stole that last name because I like the family.



Next to their three kids who loved living at home before they got married, all dogs were always welcome along with the resident dogs, Becket, Winston, and of course Chance and others. They always enjoyed their pampered life living at the coolest spot on Slinkymatinky Avenue. Cats were not even an after-thought. Jeanne &

Joe simply had never conceived of life without a few dogs to keep them company. Cats? Nah! Until now!

Hi, you know me already from before. I am Winston Linsky. I'm big-boned & I like Big Bones.



But all that eventually Changed.

The setting for *The Return of Fiona the Calico Cat*, is my hometown, Wilkes-Barre, PA. As I noted several times already, my hometown may not be Bedford Falls but it is a great place to lead my wonderful life. It may not be Mayberry, but it is my hometown, which gave me all I needed as I grew up. It still does.

And, folks, Wilkes-Barre for those who have lived here at one time or another, is pronounced as Wilkes-Berry and that means that it rhymes with Mayberry. And that means we can sing their theme song without melody changes. Just plug in Wilkes-Berry where the song suggests Mayberry and that's all you need.

Just a little more about the “two-name” names in *Wilkes-Barre*. Wilkes-Barre was named in honor of John Wilkes and Isaac Barre. Historians have written that these two prominent members of the British Parliament were “zealous advocates of the American cause.” There is a much longer story, which I will save for another day. Now, what was that you said about a cat?

Chapter 3: The Linsky Home Was Built for Dogs Until...

In the next picture below, you can see that I am Mia with my brother Peanut at the Linsky residence 6 Slinkymatinky Ave. Yes, we're Fiona's "kids."



Fiona the Calico Cat began to show up on the Linsky's front porch all the time from someplace in the Slinkymatinky Avenue neighborhood or so it seemed. After a while the Linsky's got accustomed to seeing this very pretty calico momma cat on their front porch almost every day one particular fall.

Then, as it got a little colder and as it got closer to winter, Mrs. Linsky (Jeanne) started something that she began to enjoy. She started to put out little dishes of food for Fiona and when she came to get the dishes later, she smiled that they were licked clean. She then knew that the chow was fully enjoyed.

By the time the winter came, Jeanne had already made neighborhood news. She had placed a heater on her front porch and plugged it in and turned it on for the

cat to be warm. She had gotten fond of the cat and the next major event in the saga occurred when she decided that the cat was not going away anytime soon, especially with the onset of winter.

And so she gave the calico cat a name. Surely the name *Tabby* came to mind as a great cat name but the calico cat did not look like a “Tabby” and besides that, like I told you in the introduction, the fat neighbor across the street (Brian Kelso) had already named his cat Pouter Poutmann when he was in fifth grade 67 years ago. So, that name was out also. After a few days of name thinking Jeanne made her decision. After a few moments of being FiFi, this cat would forever be called Fiona and that is that.

As you can see in the next picture, its us again— the Feline Twins—Peanut and Mia, Fiona’s Fav “kids.”



There was just one more step to make a home for Fiona.

Now that this pretty calico cat had a name, all the adventures could begin. Since the weather was changing for the worse, surely Fiona needed to keep warm. It was getting much colder. Moreover, the porch electric heater was costing more and more to operate. It made sense that Fiona come inside. So Jeanne decided to see if Fiona would take her first steps inside if she invited her.

On the first snowy day of late Fall 2021, Fiona got her invite and it did not take long for her paw prints to melt the snow on a bee-line to get through the door before it might be closed.

Jeanne and Joe still aren't sure if this de facto adoption of Fiona was legal but nonetheless, those paw prints were real and her living with them is real so it is fait accompli. When they decided to claim Fiona for real, she became the first cat in the Linsky family.

It's me again, in the next picture below. I am the star of this book. Hi again, I am the Adventurous Fiona the Calico Cat. Yes, I Started It All!



Fiona was involved in many adventures as the newest bonafide member of the Linsky family. We don't have enough paper to print all of her adventures. However, I think the ones we picked for this book will bring you tears of joy. Coming soon!

This incredible story will not disappoint any reader once you see Fiona in her new home on Slinkymatinky Avenue surrounded by her brood of the most beautiful kittens God ever provided. You know where kittens come from don't you? It is a big reward from God for the friskiness of Fiona the Calico Cat and some local visitor.

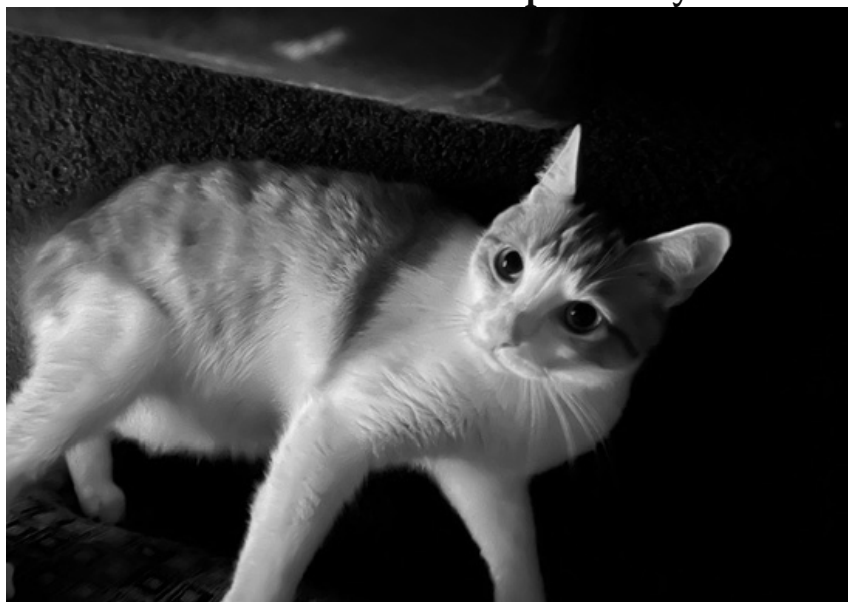
The ending of this story is coming a lot of chapters from now. I think you will find it to be outstanding. If it were not true, it would still make a great Hallmark story.

Since it is true, it makes it even more special, especially for Jeanne and Joseph Linsky and Carol and John Stett. These people, besides the cats, are the living beings in this story. Thank you for reading it... As I like to say, it could only happen in a great town such as Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Chapter 9: Fiona's Great Escape

When the report came in to the neighborhood about Fiona, it was disheartening. As happy and in fact, as thrilled as everybody was about the Calico Cat's adoption, this news gave us all just the opposite sensations. It actually created a feeling of a pit in our stomachs that would not be undone. Here is what we learned.

Hi, I am Peanut. I am almost identical to Fiona the adventurous Calico Cat. Mom Jeanne told me It'd be OK to be adventurous. But Papa Joe says "No."



One day, about two weeks ago, the day when it all happened, Fiona left the Linsky's house at the usual time for her morning romp. As always, the three Linsky baby kittens stayed at home. By noon, Fiona would normally

be hungry and she would be back with bells on. But, not this time, Fiona had not come back. Nobody could explain why. Though Joe and Jeanne were quite concerned, they did not send out any alarms just yet.

Jeanne did talk to Carol Stetts, who had a lot of experience letting her baby cats and older cats out into our neighborhood on Slinkymatinky Avenue. Carol advised Jeanne not to panic just yet. Though very concerned, both Joe and Jeanne listened to the neighborhood cat sage and calmed down somewhat but their minds began to wander.

What if she doesn't come back? What then? They began to hope that a nice person started feeding her and that she would be back eventually. Jeanne had watched Fiona a number of times heading up Bowser Street towards the entrance of the Development on Round Street.

There was a trestle on Round Street where this huge ConRail Train came by every day. Jeanne quietly hoped that Fiona did not head up the earthen part of the trestle to the train tracks.

Did Fiona possibly get hit by a car or worse yet, get hit by a train. They hoped that if any of these things happened and that she had gotten hurt, that they would find her and a vet could hopefully bring her back to health quickly.

All they cared about at this time was that Fiona be safe again and secondly that they get her back home.

Perhaps a car came by and noticed the pretty Calico Cat and decided to take Fiona with them to their home. Understandably, Jeanne and Joe were becoming worried sick about their precious cat.

Carol Stett came over our house late that afternoon and gave us the lay of the land as to what had happened to Fiona. Like everybody else in the Slinkymatinky neighborhood, we got sick to our stomachs at the bad possibilities. But maybe she would be back soon?

Before it got dark, Jeanne and Joe decided to take Bowser Street and head to Round Street. In fact, on the way, they scouted the whole neighborhood with a watchful eye. There were always a number of stray cats buzzing around and crossing the streets and they were never harmed or so it seems. Jeanne wanted to drive and check things out. She later told us all that she did not think that she went over ten miles per hour during her drive searching for Fiona.

It was only about three or four blocks to Round Street and the trestle. On the way, a few times they saw a cat but by the time they got closer, they realized it was not Fiona. When they got there the first day, they scoured the trestle looking for signs. Both Jeanne and Joe realized they could not climb the steep trestle so they just slowed down even further and kept a lookout for their wonderful little cat.

Their search did not produce any real results. But they knew they would be back that way the next day as

they used the same route to leave the development to go mostly anywhere. That route got them to the supermarket; to downtown; and also to get to most of the different neighborhoods in Wilkes-Barre.

In fact, Carol and John Stett and my wife Pat and I often use the same route as this for the same purposes. So we all knew we would have plenty of opportunities to spot Fiona over time if she did not get home by the end of this, the first day of her being missing.

Other books by Brian Kelly:

I have published several hundred books in my career as an author. Some of the titles are listed below.

The Bill of Rights By Founder James Madison Refresh your knowledge of the specific rights granted to all

Great Players in Army Football Great Army Football played by great players..

Great Coaches in Army Football Army's coaches are all great.

Great Moments in Army Football Army Football at its best.

Great Moments in Clemson Football CU Football at its best. This is the book.

Great Moments in Florida Gators Football Gators Football. From the beginning.

The Constitution Companion. A Guide to Reading and Comprehending the Constitution

The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, & Madison – Big type and in English

PATERNO: The Dark Days After Win # 409. Sky began to fall within days of win # 409.

JoePa 409 Victories: Say No More! Winningest Division I-A football coach ever

American College Football: The Beginning From before day one football was played.

Great Coaches in Alabama Football Challenging the coaches of every other program!

Great Coaches in Penn State Football the Best Coaches in PSU's football program

Great Players in Penn State Football The best players in PSU's football program

Great Players in Notre Dame Football The best players in ND's football program

Great Coaches in Notre Dame Football The best coaches in any football program

Great Players in Alabama Football from Quarterbacks to offensive Linemen Greats!

Great Moments in Alabama Football AU Football from the start. This is the book.

Great Moments in Penn State Football PSU Football, start--games, coaches, players,

Great Moments in Notre Dame Football ND Football, start, games, coaches, players

Cross Country With the Parents A great trip from East Coast to West with the kids

Seniors, Social Security & the Minimum Wage. Things seniors need to know.

How to Write Your First Book and Publish It with CreateSpace

The US Immigration Fix--It's all in here. Finally, an answer.

I had a Dream IBM Could be #1 Again _The title is self-explanatory

WineDiets.Com Presents The Wine Diet Learn how to lose weight while having fun.

Wilkes-Barre, PA; Return to Glory Wilkes-Barre City's return to glory

Geoffrey Parsons' Epoch... The Land of Fair Play Better than the original.

The Bill of Rights 4 Dummies! This is the best book to learn about your rights.

Sol Bloom's Epoch ...Story of the Constitution The best book to learn the Constitution

America 4 Dummies! All Americans should read to learn about this great country.

The Electoral College 4 Dummies! How does it really work?

The All-Everything Machine Story about IBM's finest computer server.

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