

The background is a vibrant, painterly illustration of a fantasy landscape. On the left, a stone castle with multiple towers and a red flag on a pole sits atop a green hill. A winding dirt path leads from the castle down towards a blue stream in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue, yellow, and pink, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the upper right, a large green tree is partially visible. In the lower right foreground, a black silhouette of a cat is perched on a dark rock, looking towards the castle.

# The Cat That Made Nothing Something Again

James D. Maxon



# Press Release

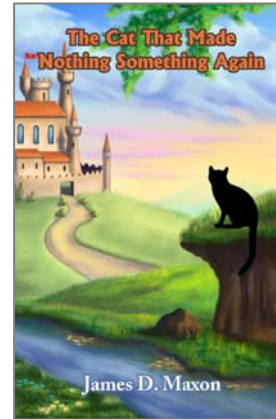
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *The Cat that Made Nothing Something Again*

“Be one who serves rather than one who is being served, and continue to do kind things. If you live by this you will have a fulfilling life, and will no longer be bored,” the voice said.



(Minneapolis, Minn.) - At a time when many families are struggling just to get by, parents are likely finding it hard to focus on the important lessons their kids need to learn at an early age: if you know something is wrong, you must do what you can to make it right; don't worry about that which you cannot change; and faith is an important tool for getting through difficult times.

Those are lessons James D. Maxon, 31, of Maple Grove, Minn., had to learn the hard way. “My parents divorced when I was very young, and there was constant turmoil in my life as I was growing up,” he said. “I never really felt like I had a role model to look up to when I was young, but found several in the church in my late teens.”

Now through his published work of fiction, the soon-to-be father is passing the values he worked so hard to obtain on to the next generation. *The Cat that Made Nothing Something Again* is a whimsical tale about a nameless cat that is bored in a land of dry everything – people, trees and land. He remembers a time when the landscape was green, flowers bloomed and people cared about him and each other. He wants to experience the joy he remembers so well again, so he sets out on a journey to figure out who sucked the moisture from his world and get it back.

Along the way, he meets some colorful characters, including a wise old turtle, a seemingly sinister troll, a smart little bird, an overwhelmed mayor and a simple seed who remind him how important it is for people to do what's right and take care of each other. “Of course good wins out over evil in the end, and the moisture returns, but in a most unusual way. Anyone who has ever owned a house cat will appreciate the irony in the villains' demise,” laughs Maxon.

(more)

*The Cat that Made Nothing Something Again* was published in Dec. 2008, and is available for purchase on Amazon.com for \$6.99 with the option to obtain it in Kindle format for \$2.39.

**About the Author**

James D. Maxon works as the Senior Designer at an advertising company in Hopkins, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis. He and his wife live in Maple Grove, Minn.

Title: **THE CAT THAT MADE NOTHING SOMETHING AGAIN**

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For more information or to purchase copies, visit [www.jamesmaxon.com](http://www.jamesmaxon.com)

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# Praise for the Book

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## Praise for: *The Cat that Made Nothing Something Again*

"I loved this story! It's always great to find a children's story that also resonates for adults and 'The Cat...' does just that. Kids will enjoy following the nameless cat's adventures and adults will appreciate the subtle insights into human nature that the cat's experiences reveal. This would be a great book to read and discuss with young readers. Highly recommended!"

- E. Pimplaskar, Charlotte, N.C.

"I like children's books that teach kids consideration for other people and respect for life in general. This book is a fun journey that does bring home some good lessons about life."

- A. Ramsey, Maple Grove, Minnesota

"James Maxon creates a story that has the feel of a classic fairy-tale, but is wonderfully fresh. He does a fantastic job with his personification of the main character, a house cat. Cat lovers will easily recognize the personality quirks of an independent, self-motivated cat who looks out for its own interests first, but still manages to be an affectionate loving member of the family. My kids were delighted with the daring adventures of the cat, and the action of the plot, but also understood the moral of the story."

- Z. Walden, Maple Grove, Minnesota

"Imagine living in a world without emotion or ambition - a world where you exist in an almost robotic state. This allegory symbolizes the essence of selfishness and its profound effect on life. Written in the simplicity of a children's story, "The Cat that made Nothing Something Again" is thought provoking for all ages. It encourages action, bravery and self-assessment and improvement. This is a must read for parents and teachers seeking to instill positive behavior in their charges."

- K. Steinhaus, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

"This book is a wonderful addition to your child's bookshelf, a book that they will enjoy reading either alone or with someone else."

- H. Howard, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

"There are some very good messages in here that all of us need to know about and take it to heart. Children are going to love this book how can they not fall in love with the nameless Cat. I hope the author writes another book someday. He has so much promise it's a wonderful gift and priceless treasure to be able to weave a story like this and cause a person to suspend their disbelief so easily. So to finish up I love this book and I highly recommend it to anyone that comes here looking for a good read."

- T. Murphy, Spokane, Washington



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# About the Author

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## About James D. Maxon

As a teenager, James D. Maxon struggled to find his identity. His parents had divorced when he was just three-years-old and he was raised in a strictly female household: his mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. As he was growing up, he never had a male role model he could count on.

“The men my mother dated all had issues. One of the longer—off and on—relationships was with an alcoholic who spent a fair amount of time in jail,” he said. “As a result, my understanding of the male identity has been a struggle.”



As if that weren't challenging enough, he also lived with family members diagnosed with medical conditions such as mental illness and depression. Some of them even went so far as to make attempts on their life. He, himself, struggled in school due to a learning disability.

Despite it all, or perhaps because of his struggles, James has made it his mission to understand the truths in life and help those struggling with similar questions. “From the time I was very young, writing has been a way for me to express what's going on inside me,” he said. “I have written many poems, songs, and one-paragraph thoughts, as well as a few short stories and longer ones.”

*The Cat That Made Nothing Something Again* is a story he started writing in 1999, shortly after moving away from home, and only recently finished. “I started writing this again because my mother kept asking about the story, and so I wanted to finish it,” he said. “A lot of the messages in it were meant to be an encouragement for her.”

Among the messages delivered in the book: if you know something is wrong, you must do what you can to make it right; don't worry about that which you cannot change; and faith is an important tool for getting through difficult times. Maxon hopes his book will help deliver these encouraging lessons to his young readers.

According to William Rush, Ph.D., L.P., “A child is like a blank computer hard drive. Life teaches him or her an operating system. The rules for how the world works. What are men like? What are women like? And most importantly, who am I and how do I fit into this world? Am I adequate? Am I loved? Am I good enough?”

“I think it's important for kids to learn what it means to be someone of worth,” Maxon said. “And it is my desire to reach kids who are struggling like I did by providing them with messages of faith, hope and insight *before* the negative ones get engraved into their hearts and minds.”

*The Cat That Made Nothing Something Again* was published in Dec. 2008, and is available for purchase on Amazon.com with the option to obtain it in Kindle format. Maxon's current work in progress is *A Wizard's Tale*, a story about a 15-year-old boy who is involuntarily forced to walk in his father's footsteps, after his death, and finds himself fighting against a powerful opposing force. He hopes to have the story ready for publication by the end of 2010.

To schedule an interview with James Maxon, contact Rachel M. Anderson at 952-240-2513 or via e-mail: [randerson72@earthlink.net](mailto:randerson72@earthlink.net)

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# Suggested Questions

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## Ask James D. Maxon

Author, *The Cat that Made Nothing Something Again*

1. Do you recall how your interest in writing originated?
2. Who is your target audience with this book?
3. Describe the characters in your book and what each one represents.
4. What are the messages in your book you want readers to grasp?
5. What was the hardest part of writing your book?
6. Now that this book is finished, are you working on another one?