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Vet On The Loose

VET ON THE LOOSE



Gillian Hick



Synopsis

The Hair-Raising Adventures of an Irish Vet. Whether castrating horses in Dublin's inner city or dehorning cattle in the wilds of Wicklow, rescuing mangled cats from mongrels or tending to stoned guard dogs, vet Gillian Hick's sense of humour never deserts her in this engaging account of the challenging situations she encounters in the course of her work as a newly qualified veterinary surgeon. Not only does she have to deal with the animals and their ailments, but she also has to contend with the perils of matchmaking mothers and macho farmers -- not to mention the guys who want to know 'where is the real vet?'

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Customer Reviews

This book is set in Ireland so a few things are different but the animals are the same. The author is a lady veterinarian and we start with her as she is learning what it takes to get that title. I liked her as a person, she never brags, never puts down other people. She is compassionate for the animals and always does her best by the least of them. Many are alive and loved thanks to her. She

becomes an excellent doctor and describes her work with a great sense of humor. She is almost always the butt of her own humor. A couple most deserving "clients" do finally get a taste of their own obnoxious behavior. The descriptions of problems and treatments were most interesting. One cow, full term with a calf had a twisted uterus stopping the birthing. The cow was laid down, the lady vet had an arm up the cow's vagina while a couple husky young men turned the cow over. Success, the vagina untwisted and a nice live calf could be delivered. Read more.

I wish I could give this book TEN stars!!! If you loved James Herriot, you will LOVE Gillian Hick! Her stories about life in rural England and her encounters with the many characters, both human and animal, will captivate you and keep you eagerly turning page after page! Ms Hick writes of her adventures as a newly qualified veterinarian and gives great insight into the life of tending to "all creatures great and small!" I have to admit I took this book out to my horse barn one evening and sat on a hay bale, intending to "start" it.....I finally got a chair and sat outside my horses' stalls and FINISHED it that same night! I couldn't put it down. I can't WAIT to read her other book!!!

I would recommend Vet On The Loose to any James Herriot fans and to animal lovers of all kinds. This is a modern tale of the adventures of a novice lady Irish vet, struggling to develop her veterinary skills and at the same time learning to handle the ups and downs of relationships with the human owners of her animal patients. As Gillian Hick noted, she had to develop a thick skin to cope with the anti-female vet prejudices of some of her clients. Gillian also had to deal with her own insecurities as a newbie vet, until time and experience helped her build the confidence she needed. Along the way, she relates many amusing, touching, and heart warming tales about her animal practice. I was sorry when her book came to an end. I truly enjoyed the read.

Fast paced and fun. Anyone who likes Vet books will enjoy this. I thought the last chapter was an abrupt and strange way to end it. But, I'm happy that the author got some help. I read this on my Kindle where the copyright page is shown after the last chapter. Reading that the (paraphrasing) "places and happenings had been changed and that resemblance to a real person is accidental" threw me for a loop. I guess that means the book is actually fiction--based on fact. Very disappointing although I didn't downgrade my rating for that reason. When it comes to Vet books there aren't any that I have read that can compare with the James Herriott books.

This story is about a young woman who decides to go to veterinary school when women were not

yet a part of that world. She was determined to break the gender barrier. And break it she did! No farmer or male vet could deter her. She crawled around in the mud with the best of them. She improvised, prayed, swore and cried, but she got the job done to the betterment of the animals. This story showed that being a veterinarian is as much dealing with people as animals. It was an educational, funny, sad and encouraging of pursuing one's own dreams.

I laughed, I cried, I marveled at the absolute fearlessness of a large-animal veterinarian, and I hate to say it, of a woman vet. What more can you ask of a book than to touch all your emotions? I might say "not for the squeamish." but I think anyone who has read books like these knows there's going to be a little blood and guts spilled along the way.

Having enjoyed James Herriot's books, I am always on the lookout for a well-told story of veterinary medicine in practice. This one adds the perspective of a female in not only a male dominated profession but up against predominantly male clients. Dr. Hick's well-written anecdotes and much needed sense of humor make this a recommended read.

A good, solid humorous book devoted to daily struggles of a young female vet. I liked every page of it. Somehow, veterinary practices set in Yorkshire Dales and Dublin suburbs yield better stories than anywhere else I have read - I wonder why is that. Or perhaps my reading list of vet memoirs is too short...

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