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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 as 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.](#)

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.

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.

This book is full of interesting events with animals and people. I enjoyed the small glimpse I had into this vet's life. It is well worth keeping in case a person might have a child or grandchild that might want to become a vet.

She's doing Herriot, 50 years later, in Dublin, and she's doing it well. For me, this modern, often urban, take on veterinary practice is completely new, and Hick is a pleasure to read. It's pretty much the familiar territory covered by Herriot and others, but it's still a pleasure to read. If this is your genre, I can recommend it without hesitation.

See above. Trying to type on my phone and can't get it to cut and paste. But I certainly do recommend this book.

Starts slowly, with her vet training & love of animals. Goes on to the stories of the animals & owners. Some occasional swear words by owners. It covers a period roughly 1997-2006, including her 1st year as a vet, when old farming methods (& farmers) were giving way to new. The sympathy she shows for the small hill farms & farmer's tough lives will remind you of James Herriot's books. Book is well-edited. My only complaint is that it's too short!

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