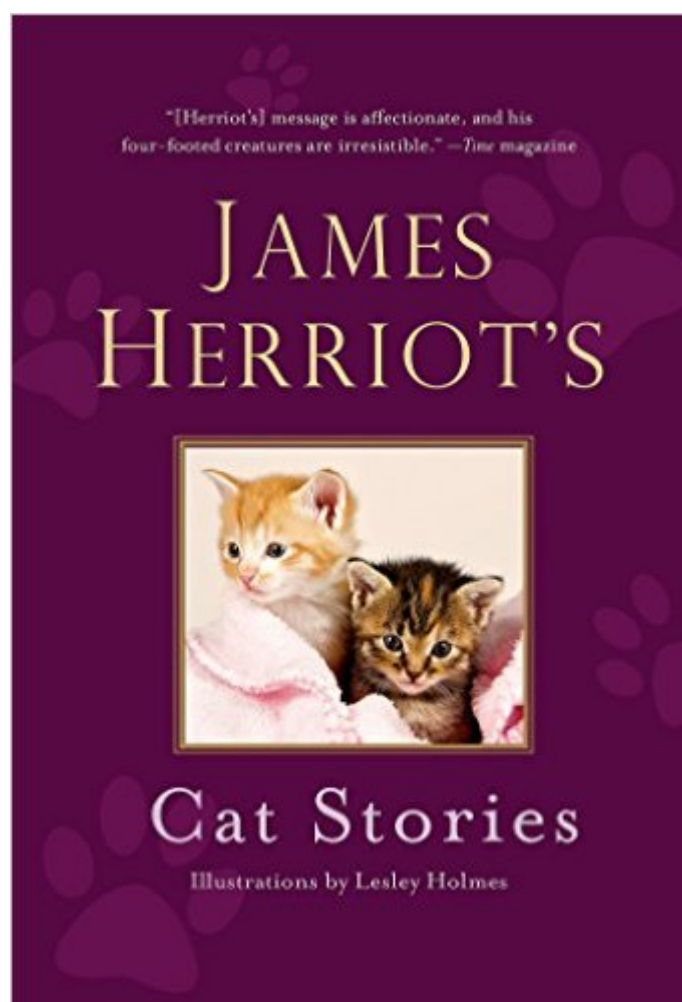


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James Herriot's Cat Stories



Synopsis

Between these covers, teller and tales finally meet in a warm and joyful new collection that will bring delight to the hearts of readers the world over: James Herriot's Cat Stories. Here are Buster, the kitten who arrived on Christmas; Alfred, the cat at the sweet shop; little Emily, who lived with the gentleman tramp; and Olly and Ginny, the kittens who charmed readers when they first appeared at the Herriots' house in the worldwide bestseller Every Living Thing. And along with these come others, each story as memorable and heartwarming as the last, each told with that magical blend of gentle wit and human compassion that marks every word from James Herriot's pen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yorkshire veterinarian James Alfred Wight, better known to his readers as James Herriot, long delighted animal lovers of all ages with his heartwarming stories of his most interesting, inspiring, and sometimes simply mysterious cases. I grew up reading about and falling in love with the dogs, cats, horses, and numerous other animals he treated and immortalized in writing. He had a knack for storytelling that makes his tales lively, engaging, and easy to follow. Many mourned his passing in 1995, at the age of 78. This short collection of stories concerns Herriot's favorite animal, the cat. In his introduction, he reminisces on his choice to become a vet, inspired by his love for cats, and how he soon found that, at the time, there were very few veterinary texts on the species and few veterinarians that practiced on them. Cats were only beginning to be treated as pets and companions rather than simply a replaceable implement to catch barn mice. This, of course, changed over the course of Herriot's career, and though he primarily treated livestock animals he

was often called upon to tend to the village's feline population as well. The stories here are some of the cream of the crop of Herriot's writing. First we meet Alfred, the large tom who was a daily fixture in the Yorkshire village's most successful confectionery, and then Oscar, the remarkable cat that attended all manner of meetings and social gatherings in town. Next we are introduced to Boris, an ornery and strong-willed individual who isn't afraid to give Mr. Herriot a piece of his mind. The fourth story brings us to Olly and Ginny, two stray siblings that adopt Herriot and his wife, and actually appear in three of the book's stories. Spaced throughout the book, they actually take on a status as a sort of centerpiece. Undeniably feral, the two are strictly outdoor cats, and it's all Herriot can do to trick them into allowing his occasional veterinary ministrations. And they, Olly in particular, clearly express their displeasure. They won't let the well-meaning vet anywhere near them if they can help it. Herriot makes it his mission to win them over, and takes over the job of feeding them every morning in hopes of gaining their trust and respect. He finally manages to befriend Olly, briefly, before tragedy strikes. Happily though, a sad loss leads the vet to share an even closer bond with Olly's sister, Ginny. The other stories concern Emily, the beloved companion of a kindly, solitary man; Moses, a tiny black kitten found among the rushes one icy winter day, and who is ultimately adopted by the strangest of surrogate mothers, a laid-back and accepting sow; Frisk, the cat who has mysterious, recurring, rapidly-developing episodes of coma that vanish almost as quickly as they happen; and finally Buster, the Christmas Day gift from a dying mother who delights his new owner amazing dog-like antics. With ten heatwarming feline tales (or tails, if you prefer), this book is a sure winner for any cat lover. If you're already familiar with Herriot's work, you won't be disappointed (you may even have come across a couple of these stories before), and if he is a new author to you, you may very well go on to seek out his other books. My one teensy-tiny criticism is the the editing could have been just a little bit better. It wouldn't even really be a problem except for the fact that, in one story, a cat is once inexplicably referred to with the wrong name. Other than this the book is perfect. The illustrations are beautiful and the stories delightful. A perfect read for a cozy evening by the fireside. And if you like this, I recommend his other short-story anthologies: "All Things Bright and Beautiful," "All Creatures Great and Small," "All Things Wise and Wonderful," "The Lord God Made Them All," and "Every Living Thing" (these titles are based on a poem with the same title as the last book), as well as "James Herriot's Dog Stories." He also wrote a variety of very nice short children's books.

I have read his All Creatures Great and Small series and his Dog Stories collection and enjoyed all of them thoroughly. Cat Stories doesn't disappoint. Besides his delightful writing style, the book is

illustrated with lovely water colors that bring the stories to life. The stories of Ginny and Olly remind me of feral kittens who grew up in my backyard. They just adopted us. We eventually befriended all but one and found homes for them. Then there's the story of Oscar. We had another cat adopt us whom we called Brick because of his brickish colored fur and that he was as strong as a brick. He was a cat about town but always seemed to come home to us after his walk about the neighborhood.

As with all of Mr. Herriot's books this surpassed any expectation I could have. His breezy writing style and the fine watercolors made the stories into a moving slide show. Ten Cat tales that most animal lovers will devour. How many of us can relate to Ginny and Olly? The two feisty ferals who refused to accept an indoor life. Haven't we all at some point in our cat loving lives known an Emily? The story of Buster hit home for me the most. My Calico Noel arrived on my doorstep on Christmas day, like Buster. For ten years she was the love of my life. These stories will make the reader sigh, for those we have lost, and smile for the feline loved ones we still have.

I loved this book. I actually cried while reading some of the stories. It reminded me of cats I have known over the years. I read the book in one day at one sitting, because I just couldn't stop reading it

This little book by the late Yorkshire veterinarian and author who wrote under the pseudonym James Herriot was published nearly twenty years ago and, while I've bought, read and relished most of his books over the years, I've only just now discovered this one, thanks to an recommendation. And what a delight it is! Its 161 pages are home to 10 beautifully written and gorgeously illustrated cat stories, each of them a joy to read. Here we'll meet Alfred, the sweet shop cat...Oscar, the socialite cat...Moses, who was found among the rushes...Frisk, a cat with many lives...Buster, the feline retriever...Boris, one of the dozens of denizens of Mrs. Bond's Cat Establishment... Emily, who shared an old man's igloo...and Olly and Ginny, the beloved cats of the wild who lived in the log shed behind the Herriots' house, came to dinner on the outdoor retaining wall every day for years, and could never ever be enticed to venture indoors. As members of the Herriot family, Olly and Ginny get to star in three stories here. Addenda December 2013: Just bought the 3-CD version, with narration by Christopher Timothy, who played the James Herriot role on the BBC television series. Delightful car trip companion and mood lifter for laid-back listening.

James Herriot writes of his veterinary experiences as no one else could. Full of humor, sometimes sadness but always spellbinding and interesting. I could not put this book down.

I ordered the Children's Animal Stories by James Herriot on CD and my kids loved it so much I went in search of another one for them to listen to. The Cat Stories have many great stories as well. There are a few stories that include a few more details about giving birth, etc, than I would maybe normally go into with my 4 & 6 yr olds, but they are usually asleep by the time it gets to that story. These are great CDs for kids to listen to at night because the voice is very mellow and soothing and there aren't any additional sound effects.

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