



## All Creatures Great and Small & All Things Bright and Beautiful

*James Herriot*

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Twenty-five years ago, a volume of memoirs by an unknown Scottish veterinarian was first published--*All Creatures Great and Small*. Within a year, the book had become recognized as a masterpiece. It went on to sell millions of copies and began the marvelous series of books, beloved of readers all over the world, which have so far sold over 20 million copies in English alone. Here, for the first time, the first two books in this series are being published together.

These pages, now as then, are full of humor, warmth, pathos, drama, and James Herriot's unique and richly justified love of life. His journeys across the Yorkshire dales, his encounters with humans and dogs, cows and kittens, are illuminating by his infinite fascination and affection, and rendered with all the infectious joy of a born storyteller.

Whether struggling mightily to position a calf for birthing, or comforting a lonely old man whose beloved dog and only companion has died, Herriot's heartwarming and often hilarious stories perfectly depict the wonderful relationship between man and animal. His wonderful stories make us laugh and cry, as we marvel at the everyday miracles he creates.

## All Creatures Great and Small & All Things Bright and Beautiful Details

Date : Published November 1st 1999 by Mjf Books (first published 1972)

ISBN : 9781567313451

Author : James Herriot

Format : Hardcover 820 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Classics, Animals, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir



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## **From Reader Review All Creatures Great and Small & All Things Bright and Beautiful for online ebook**

### **Grete Kalda says**

An amazing book, brought a smile to my face every time I picked it up. A heartwarming book!

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### **Mmoore says**

I loved this series of books. When I first read them in high school I wanted to move to Scotland and become a country veterinarian. I reread them again summer, and fell in love with them all over again. When James Herriot talks about how much he loves his job, driving around the country lanes with the windows down on a beautiful day, or taking his lunch breaks lying on his back in the grass staring up at the clouds in the sky, you wonder how you can stand another day of working in an office building.

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### **Janet says**

I love all of James Herriot's books. They are some of my all-time favorites that I read again and again. Herriot is one of the few authors that makes me laugh out loud. I can pick up one of his books and open it to any page and just start reading for the sheer enjoyment of his writing style. Highly recommended for anyone and everyone, especially anglophiles, animal lovers, and people who value rural pastoral settings and the simple life.

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### **Tamela Rich says**

I read the series as a teen, watched the PBS series whenever it ran and mourned when Herriot died. I even named one of my sons Tristan in part because I loved that character so much.

Herriot's an insightful observer of human nature and the perfect foil for the eccentrics in his rural community. His career coincided with all manner of scientific advances that competed with folk remedies and superstition in the minds of the people.

I've spent a small fortune on my dogs and cats so it's interesting to learn from Herriot that at the time he went to vet school pets were not covered in the curriculum -- only livestock.

I may take this book to the beach with me this year -- it's time to re-read it.

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### **D. says**

Every few years I read these stories again and I always enjoy them as much as I did the first time. James

Herriot(Alf White [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_He...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_He...) such an interesting window into a unique time and place. I have always wondered if he was a naturally gifted writer or if he had a really good editor. Either way, these stories are so well-written that I enjoyed them although I would not say I am an animal-lover. I am an animal respecter, and I certainly believe we have responsibilities to be conscientious toward all creatures and these stories show all aspects of human emotions in relation to each other and animals.

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### **Larissa says**

James Herriot is incredible. Poignant and touching, kind and compassionate, his stories offer insight into a bygone era and the beautiful lives (human and animal) that called it home.

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### **Patience says**

I am not an animal person. Our family has a cat because my kids paid me \$100. Actually, I am a little surprised with myself that I actually read a book about a vet in the 1930s in England. After reading Mr. Herriot's "All Creatures Great and Small", I still don't like animals. But, I do like Mr. Herriot. I like his "patient" relationship with his employer. I like his appreciation of the beauty around him. I like his candor and frankness in his writing. I like that he has weaknesses and strengths that I could relate with. I like that I could recommend his book to other not-animal people and I think that they would like Mr. Herriot too.

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### **Kelsey Hoppman says**

I really enjoyed the clever, very well written stories in these two volumes. Had me laughing out-loud at parts. Unfortunately, there is quite a bit of language speckled throughout the stories, so readers beware. Overall though, a very engaging read.

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### **Fran says**

I LOVE HERRIOT'S STORIES! I read all 4 of these books (including Wise and Wonderful and The Lord God Made Them All). Herriot's accounts of being a country vet in the 1940s are earthy and fascinating - I remember a scene where a sheep is trying to give birth to twins and Herriot has his sleeve rolled up and his arm inside the sheep trying to separate the tangled legs and bodies to bring the lambs into the world, alive ... powerful stuff. Many of the cat and dog stories are hysterically funny and the vet assistant, Tristan, remains one of my most-loved comic foils ever.

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### **Vicki Jaeger says**

It was great to settle in with an old friend. I read this series over & over in my childhood years, up through high school. James Herriot is why I wanted to be a vet--until I came up against chemistry, that is! I LOVELOVELOVE this entire series. His warmth, intuitive descriptions of his animal patients and their

humans, and genuine delight of life are a wonderful gift to the world. I'm reviewing all the books in this series the same way, so you only have to read this review once! ; )

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### **Sharon Barrow Wilfong says**

This is a beautiful edition of two books. I recently bought it because my original books have fallen to pieces from multiple readings over the years. I am cutting and pasting my original review.

This is an old favorite that I've read countless times. What do I like about it? Let me count the ways.

First of all, I like the way Herriot (or Alf Wight, if you like) turns a phrase. His use of absurd imagery to create a comical effect is superb. I found myself re-reading certain paragraphs just because I enjoyed how he expressed certain concepts.

Secondly, I like being taken to another time and place. Reading books is the closest thing we have to time travel. Reading about Yorkshire farmers surviving through the depression with the old dialect that the author uses to good effect provides me with a vicarious experience of life on the Dales and with a group of people I will never meet in real life.

Thirdly, I enjoy the way he intertwines his personal life, the two vets he lives with and their personalities and interactions and also meeting his wife with his veterinary practice. Each chapter involving treating an animal is like a little mystery as he has us follow his exertions to try to uncover what is wrong with an animal and how to treat it. He plainly reveals life before the age of penicillin and antibiotics and how vets struggled with what little resources they had. He also shows with compassion and admiration the grim poverty and grimmer determination of the farmers to make their farms thrive.

Finally, his writing is something I aspire to. I have no hope of ever writing like George Orwell or Evelyn Waugh, but if someone said my writing reminded them of James Herriot's I would feel as if I had arrived.

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### **Genevieve's Human says**

This is one of those books that feels happy to read. I wouldn't say that the plot or the protagonist (the reminiscences or the author, depending on how fictionalized you view the stories) are unmitigatedly happy, but every time I picked it up, it made me feel better about the world. Such books are few and far between, and I treasure them.

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### **Julie says**

I recently paid a nostalgic return journey to fictional Darrowby in Yorkshire, England, to read the warm, affectionate, earthy, hilarious memoirs of Dr. James Herriot, veterinary surgeon (circa mid 1930s -- 1970s). I couldn't put them down, nor could I read anything else until I'd consumed the entire series. Love his courtship with Helen, his partnership with Sigfried and Tristan, his convivial embrace of his warped fellowman, and his service to hairy critters everywhere. (Must add I'm also fond of his relish for full-figured ladies.) I realize memoirs of this type run the risk of being sentimentalized and idealized, but so what? His

style is convincingly modest, whether he's celebrating his bovine cures or confessing his inept catastrophes. I would say of others who might be secretly evil that perhaps at home they kick the cat, but I can't say that here. Dr. James Herriot (nee Dr. Alf Wight) is someone I would have liked to know, and thanks to his copious output, I feel that I do. Strongly recommended.

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### **Zach says**

The first scene caught my attention right off. He's saying, they never tell you about this in school, then he describes the scene he's in: its a dark, winter night, he's got his arm inside of a cow up to the elbow trying to maneuver the calf inside her. He's stripped to the waist, lying on the ground as the cow is and the only light is the lamp that the farmer is holding. That got my attention. This entire book is of one who lucks out and lands a great job and then discovers that he loves his job and the environment he has landed in. The overarching lesson is that you're lucky when you find happiness, because most people don't. Its full of little anecdotes about his adventures in the field of veterinary medicine and his interactions with the farmers and townsfolk of a fictional town called Darrowby. This is definitely a leisurely read. I enjoyed it immensely.

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### **Helen says**

I really enjoyed the author's lyrical style. His stories are charming, strung together like pearls on a string- very sweet

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### **Dianne Happel DiFrisco says**

James Herriot (Dr. White) is on my top ten list of authors. I had no interest in cow farming or in Yorkshire England, but he took me there as an arm chair traveler. Then I actually traveled there, saw the surgery, Skeldale house, funky blue car, fields, cows and sheep (their descents). What a thrill!

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### **T. Giachetti says**

Best read when you need a break from the horrors of life in the city. Follow along with country vet and experience humor, empathy , compassion, and mostly thankfulness .and

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### **Kaethe says**

I usually eschew anything which might be considered heart-warming. It's an allergy, I think. Anyway, I love these books. Mostly because Herriot includes just enough of the stupid and gross to keep the reader from drowning in a bucket of twee. Rural vet is not for the squeamish.

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### **Emily Becker says**

I often tell myself not to give a book 5 stars because, well, I know I can be a little too exuberant at times. Not this time. Mr Herriot's writing skills are only matched by his skills as a vet, which is blatantly obvious in this delightful collection of tales. This book is tear-jerking from laughter and sentiment, and an impeccable balance of all the features found in the very best of memoirs. They are set in a time and place I have never experienced and yet I can practically smell the rolling hills and paddocks of the Yorkshire countryside, with its bizarre, quirky, infuriating and endearing characters (often all at once). I feel like the author has preserved a way of life that is rapidly vanishing if not already gone, made the duty of remembering a sheer delight, and made me long to be a part of. Mr Herriot, I salute you sir.

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### **Dana says**

My ABSOLUTE fave!!

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