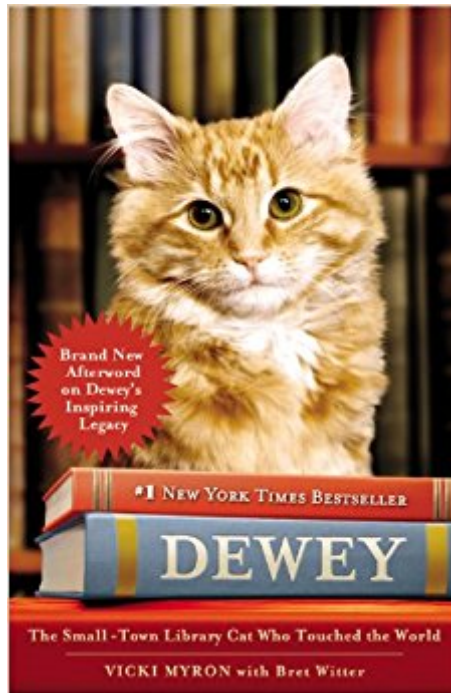




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Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched The World



Synopsis

How much of an impact can an animal have? How many lives can one cat touch? How is it possible for an abandoned kitten to transform a small library, save a classic American town, and eventually become famous around the world? You can't even begin to answer those questions until you hear the charming story of Dewey Readmore Books, the beloved library cat of Spencer, Iowa. Dewey's story starts in the worst possible way. Only a few weeks old, on the coldest night of the year, he was stuffed into the returned book slot at the Spencer Public Library. He was found the next morning by library director Vicki Myron, a single mother who had survived the loss of her family farm, a breast cancer scare, and an alcoholic husband. Dewey won her heart, and the hearts of the staff, by pulling himself up and hobbling on frostbitten feet to nudge each of them in a gesture of thanks and love. For the next nineteen years, he never stopped charming the people of Spencer with his enthusiasm, warmth, humility (for a cat), and, above all, his sixth sense about who needed him most. As his fame grew from town to town, then state to state, and finally, amazingly, worldwide, Dewey became more than just a friend; he became a source of pride for an extraordinary Heartland farming town pulling its way slowly back from the greatest crisis in its long history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a world where a bad dog topped bestseller lists for years, it's inevitable that a library cat would soon make a bid to win the hearts of a nation. According to Mayron, this has already happened. Dewey is not bad, just occasionally mischievous enough to provide opportunities for the narrator to

coo. Suzanne Toren wholeheartedly devotes herself to the first-person account of the author's travels with Dewey and only occasionally meanders into the sugar bowl. Dewey's story is a testament to how something small with a big heart can have an incalculable effect on a community. Anyone with at least one cat is guaranteed to get a lump in his or her throat as the orange fluff-ball connects with a severely disabled girl in one particularly affecting scene, memorably brought to life by Toren in her librarian persona. A Grand Central hardcover (Reviews, July 28). (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Grade 4 • Myron's best seller about the resident cat at the Spencer Public Library in Iowa has been adapted for middle grade readers. The references to most of the author's personal problems, which peppered her adult book, have been removed, and Dewey's story stands on its own. The anecdotes remain the same, with some concessions made to the experiences of younger readers: explaining, for instance, who Alf and Spuds McKenzie were, or pointing out that "back in the day" TV cartoons were only seen on Saturday mornings. Dewey's special brand of "pay-it-forward" love has immense appeal, and fans of animal stories will immediately gravitate toward the book, with its handsome reproduction of the feline's now-famous portrait on the cover. As Myron's anecdotes show, the joy and comfort that Dewey provided to countless patrons over 18 years was not something that could be cataloged, or indexed, or highlighted in a trustee's report. But it was real and evident to the staff and library regulars. Dewey will no doubt have young readers pining for their own library cats, but astute readers will also pick up on the message that a town's heart beats strongest in its library. • Kara Schaff Dean, Walpole Public Library, MA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

I wasn't careful when I was ordering this book and thought I was getting the adult version of this book. I was surprised when I opened up my package and it was the children's version. I checked my order and sure enough it was me that made the mistake! Regardless, I gave the book a try, since I am a cat lover and didn't mind having a quick and easy read. This was a really sweet story. I loved reading about how Dewey made his life at the library. In addition to being a cat lover, I also work in a library. It made me wish for a library cat of my own! I enjoyed all the little anecdotes and loved the photos. I admit I teared up in a few spots. I certainly enjoyed the book, and will probably pass it on to my nieces. Just make sure

you're ordering the right version!

"Dewey" is a memoir of a cat who inhabited the Spencer, Iowa public library for 19 years.

Intertwined with Dewey's story is the story of Dewey's human, Vicki Myron, and the ups and downs of her life and the life of Spencer as a community. This is not merely a collection of cute cat stories (although there are plenty of those as well), but is more the biography of a cat, and his relationship with the many people in his life. Parts of this story are quite sad, and Myron doesn't flinch from the sorrow, rather she discusses how Dewey helped her cope with issues in her life, and how he did the same for others. Obviously Myron and Dewey had a very special bond, one that even exists even after Dewey passed away. I am a believer in the power of the human-animal connection.

Sometimes animals are a greater comfort than other people can be, and they have more noble causes. While Myron doesn't shy away from telling the bad with the good, there are numerous passages explaining Dewey's playful side and the uplifting effect he had on his human companions. I found the last portion of the book difficult but rewarding to read. As Dewey reached old age, he became more enfeebled as is normal, but never lost his spirit. This is hard for people who love animals, as most pet owners have to live with the realization that they will outlive their pets; I've been there, and the book brought all the emotions associated with that back to me. This isn't to say that you should avoid the book, in fact, quite the contrary. Dewey and Vicki Myron had a wonderful 19 year relationship, and Myron and Dewey emotionally depended on each other. While parting is difficult, it is still overcome by the wonders of the relationship itself. (As an aside, I actually felt more sorrow for Myron's parent's cat, Max, who was killed due to neglect at the veterinarian's office in the prime of his life.) This book is wonderful, although sometimes emotionally challenging. Many things went wrong in Myron's life, and she shares them unflinchingly; no matter how bad things got though, her best friend was always there for her. Thank you Vicki for the book and for taking care of a wonderful feline friend, and thank you Dewey for being an emissary for the human-animal bond and reminding ourselves of the value of love and friendship.

The namesake of the story, Dewey, will win your heart just as he did for people in the town of Spencer, Iowa and across the world. I very much enjoyed the stories of how he won over the hearts of many who were hardened to life and affection. The author goes into great detail to describe Dewey's hometown and its history, which is valuable at times because it shows the effect this little cat had in helping to preserve it. The only complaint I have is with the awkward transitions between Dewey's story and the author's life. There are several chapters that have nothing to do with Dewey's

story and are completely about the author's past; and there is no smooth transitioning between the two. It's almost like, "Enough about the cat, let's talk about me now." Not to say that it wasn't an interesting read, it was just...awkward. I understand tying two separate timeframes together to weave one story together, but this book did not succeed in that. She could have correlated a struggle of Dewey's to a struggle of hers, but there was none of that. The story of Dewey would rock along happily, only to be interrupted by two chapters of what its like to be a single mom. It's kind of like this review; everything's adorable, now let me rant about molding two stories into one. Now, in earnest, I got what I expected from the story, which was a touching tale about an adorable cat. I was excited to see how the little guy became famous and how his story culminated in this book. If you are a cat lover, Dewey is worth the read.

If you've ever owned a cat, you will just eat up every word, every adventure, every cuddle in this book. If you "dont know cats" this will take you into their world; it will show you the depth of their intelligence and capacity to love and care. The tale of the small almost-frozen cat being rescued by the library staff and becoming a fixture in the museum is well told. You can just see the cat chasing things, or being chased, and how it interacts with people -- particularly with grumps and physically disabled. The few sections about the health of the author (librarian) did not interest me, and I could have done without. I could re-read this book every few years and still giggle, swoon, or cry. It must be one of the top "gift books" published, as you will want to share it, and bring joy to others' lives.

Because I enjoyed the first book about Dewey, I wanted to see how much of the story would be included in the children's book. As it turned out, it was just right. This is one of the cutest cats I have ever seen and the illustrations are wonderful. I have six cats that I adore and I would gladly add a cat like Dewey any day. He is truly a cat who made a difference and touched the lives of many - both young and old. He could also be named Dewey - a Cat of Peace. I am taking this book as a gift to our local library where I volunteer and I cannot wait to see the children's faces when they check in the book. I highly recommend this book and thank you, , for letting me know that it was coming on the market.

Dewey is a delightful story for cat lovers. It is a story about the power a pet can have in our life. In this case, Dewey actually effected his town and beyond.

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