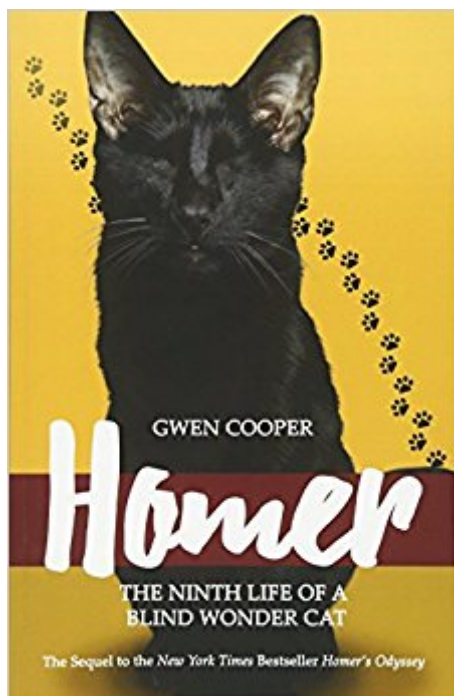


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Homer: The Ninth Life Of A Blind Wonder Cat



Synopsis

The odds had always been stacked against Homer, the little blind kitten nobody wanted. But destiny took a hand the day he met Gwen Cooper, and with the publication twelve years later of the international best seller "Homer's Odyssey," Homer went from beloved housecat to world-wide star. He became the scourge and darling of the reporters, photographers, videographers, bloggers, and radio hosts who clamored to meet him—dragging his hapless human behind him as he greeted fame with his usual joie de vivre and occasional "catitude." He became a spokes-cat for the cause of special-needs animals everywhere, and eventually the wise older mentor to the new special-needs kitten who would enter his and Gwen's lives. Most importantly, Homer taught those who loved him best how to live and die with strength, dignity, and joy—and left behind a rescue community of "Homer's Heroes" that continues to save countless lives in his name. By turns humorous and tender, this beautifully written, 115-page sequel concludes the adventures of Homer the Blind Wonder Cat—the fearless feline who proved that love isn't something you see with your eyes, that even the smallest of creatures can make a big difference, and that true love lives forever.

Book Information

Paperback: 116 pages

Publisher: GwenCooper (December 5, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0692594183

ISBN-13: 978-0692594186

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 246 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,234 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Cats

Customer Reviews

Gwen Cooper is the New York Times bestselling author of the memoir "Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned About Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat"; the novels "Love Saves the Day" and "Diary of a South Beach Party Girl"

There is something so moving about the author's story and both books are written so beautifully. I love Homer as if I had actually known him. This book continues Homer's story and I read it in a couple hours. I only put it down to dry my tears and blow my nose. Homer was so special and has touched so many lives, two legged, three legged, and four legged...

There has never been a cat like Homer. Thank God he was saved by a writer like Gwen. Between the two of them, he now belongs to everyone, and anyone can fall in love with him, learn courage and love and optimism and happiness and fierce loyalty and bravery and committed passion without ever feeling "talked at" or lectured or even taught. Was it initially welcomed by prospective publishers? Nope. Any aspiring writer will delight in the reasons given for rejecting a book that went out into the world to transform and save the lives of animals and people, translated into languages around the globe. Her first book was "Homer the Blind Wonder Cat." It told his living story. But... this incredible woman had the courage to tell the story of his leaving and the worldwide impact it made. It's amazing - the gifts Homer gave (through Gwen) by living and then by leaving. You'll be changed, not just for the better but for the best. You'll open - to the good that can come when you're willing to love and then you're willing to let go. Is it sometimes sad? It will empty your heart of tears you didn't know you needed to cry. It is inspiring? You'll never look at loving and living and leaving in the same way, ever again. Read the rest of the story that changed the world. Told by a writer who loved and loves a cat who was and is more than a cat. He's everything every human should be and can be.

I enjoyed this tremendously. It also helped me. I lost a beloved cat recently to a sudden illness. Since then I have been second guessing myself about whether or not I should have gone all in and had every possible procedure done. Over the course of this book, Cooper lost her three original cats. Each situation was different. One cat could tolerate any medical procedure. Another would have found that a misery. And Homer fought until he couldn't anymore. Jackson Galaxy gave Cooper very good advice which I also found reassuring. (You will have to read the book to see what he said.) I knew I would enjoy this book and I did. I did not expect it to actually help me, but after reading it I felt better that I made the best decision for my cat at the time.

I always tell people I'm an avid reader, because picking out what book to read next is exhilarating for me. When my mom told me in 2009 to read a book called Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned About Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat, I instantly said that I had already read parts of it for school and didn't like it. I thought she was talking about The Odyssey by

Homer and she was not. Well, it turned out she was talking about a book about a black cat owned by a lady named Gwen Cooper. Of course a book about a black cat meant I was instantly interested. My mom had spent a large portion of one day, lying on the couch and reading Homer's Odyssey. We often shared books, but not super frequently because I did not find myself as interested in memoirs as I do now. I started Homer's Odyssey and could not put it down. It was not your typical cat story whatsoever, and Gwen had clearly incorporated a story about disabled cats into her book. She might not have known it at the time, but Homer was about to garner a lot of popularity and quite the following. And here we are in 2015, with Gwen's latest release just hitting the book world - Homer: The Ninth Life of a Blind Wondercat. I was so eager to read the sequel to Homer's Odyssey, and I can tell you that Gwen did not disappoint. Not one drop! Gwen's writing was so much the same in Homer as it was in Homer's Odyssey that I felt like it was just the perfect continuation. Homer is short but sweet, coming in at 115 pages. Gwen went the self-publishing route, because an industry length book would've required 20,000 more words. And Gwen got the point of her story across in her 115 pages. Homer's Odyssey covered the first 12 years of Homer's life. Homer covers the last four years. Gwen covers her trials of sending her first Homer's Odyssey manuscript to publishers and celebrating when she finally was published in 2009. Gwen discusses her path to publication and her subsequent book tours. It was completely evident from Gwen, that she never expected Homer's story to impact so many people. Homer was Gwen's cat, but when she wrote about him for the world to read, he became the world's cat. Everyone who read Homer's Odyssey felt like he was their cat, curled up in their lap as they read his story. Gwen would get letters and emails of people writing to tell her that Homer inspired them to adopt a blind or disabled cats. She received hundreds of these emails and they were her favorite to get. People from all over the world would share their rescue cats' stories on Homer's Facebook page. Homer's Facebook page even helped raise money for disaster relief affecting animals! Homer covers Homer and Gwen's rise to fame. Readers will enjoy Gwen's tales of Homer's photoshoots and filming scenarios, that sent Gwen's husband Laurence out to buy turkey to bring on the set! Homer also allowed Gwen to write about the passing of her cats (and Homer's siblings) Vashti and Scarlett. It was clear to me that the therapeutic writing process of loss was completely there in Gwen's writing. I could feel her pain, because if you've lost a cat or someone dear, you know what that loss is like. Readers were also introduced to Gwen's new kittens, Fanny and Clayton. Gwen told the story of how they came into their family and the adoration Clayton had for Homer. Clayton had a bad leg infection when Gwen and Laurence adopted him, and ultimately ended up having his leg amputated. But Clayton the tripod was able to run around and play with his sister Fanny, and Homer, all the same. Since Homer had passed in

August 2013, I knew that a portion of Homer would recount his loss. Homer lived to be sixteen, remarkable for any cat, particularly for such an extraordinary one. Homer beat the odds of a rough start to life, and was so lucky to find a home in Gwen & co. I thoroughly enjoyed Homer, just as I anticipated. Whenever I recommended (and trust me I still do) Homer's Odyssey, I always told the person that Homer had a great life with Gwen and (at the time) was still alive. I always find it difficult to read pet stories where you know in the end that the cat or dog dies. But Homer's Odyssey was not a typical pet story and never will be. Despite that Homer has since passed, his legacy lives on, particularly on his Facebook page and Gwen's website. Gwen is a phenomenal, New York Times Best Selling Author, philanthropist, animal activist and above all, a wonderful friend. I'm so glad that she got to finish Homer's story in Homer and I cannot wait to see what comes next. Read my review here: <http://www.sandpiper.cat.com/2015/12/review-homer-ninth-life-of-blind.html>

Okay, confession first: I'm biased, because I'm owned by two cats, so stories about life with cats are always of interest to me. Gwen has a gift, though, of conveying exactly what it is like to live with a multiple fur babies; their different personalities and the near frantic angst we cat lovers experience when one of them is sick, because they can't tell us what's wrong, after all. I grew to love Homer in the first book that Gwen penned about him: Homer's Odyssey. Adopted as a blind kitten, he more than compensated for his disability, and had more personality than 10 cats, it would seem. In The Ninth Life ... Gwen explores the time period after the book was published up until Homer's death (as well as the deaths of Vashti and Scarlett, Homer's housemates whom we also got to know in Homer's Odyssey). I literally cried when Gwen relayed the story of Homer's last visit to the animal hospital, when she was told that his liver numbers were "incompatible with life" and that the vet did not expect him to last more than two more weeks. Still, Homer surprised everybody by living for almost another full year. The will to live is a very strong force. I highly recommend this, and all of Gwen's books, including her first book, a novel about a young woman living in South Beach during the 90's. She truly has a gift.

Homer lives on and is very much alive in my heart. As I read, I feel as if Homer is with me. I love all of Gwen's books... most of all, I love Homer.

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