



While You're Here, Doc: Farmyard Adventures of a Maine Veterinarian

Bradford B. Brown

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Whether he was trying to geld a spooked stallion in a blizzard or found himself in the middle of an all-out fracas involving a monkey's abscessed tooth and a shotgun, he took it in stride, with great affection for both his four-legged patients and his two-legged clients.

While You're Here, Doc: Farmyard Adventures of a Maine Veterinarian Details

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From Reader Review While You're Here, Doc: Farmyard Adventures of a Maine Veterinarian for online ebook

Lea Murack says

It's a fun read.

Gene Cummins says

A terrific collection of stories!

Margaret says

The author was a large animal vet in rural Maine. From his stories, it's amazing that he's still alive! He had so many near misses and injuries caused by cows, pigs or horses. I'm not at all surprised that he had to retire early due to health problems.

Blueberry says

I loved this book ---- anyone who enjoys the Maine persona (and animals) will appreciate the stories in this book and how they are told. It reminded me of my childhood and growing up on a horse farm in Maine.

Leeann Gudzinowicz says

Just super fun and humorous. The stories are short, and at times unbelievable. This guy has more patience than I could ever dream of having!

Jill says

It is much better to be reading along than riding along as Maine's Doc Brown races to get to sick animals. There seems to be some impulsive uncontrollable need by customers to fit as much as possible into a house call. Some comments and interactions between vet and client are not considered politically correct today but accurately reflected veterinary practices in the 1960s and 1970s. Readers will chuckle at some stories and wonder what they were thinking in others.

Stephanie A. says

Great writing style - I even laughed out loud from time to time. My new favorite vet!

McArthur Library Staff Picks says

Really fun, funny, and sometimes gross tales of a vet practice up Maine, where the vets travel by chopper when need be! Doc Brown's narrative is so "Maine" you can almost picture him as your uncle or next door neighbor. A good one!

Patricia Hyatt says

Animal lover

This is a really great book about the life of, mainly, a farm vet. The incredible weather and working conditions of this humble, intelligent man who goes about his job with few complaints, should be an inspiration for any modern vet student.

Madeline says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book- a really easy read for the animal obsessed. I thought it would be humorous to read before I started college as a pre-veterinary major, and I was right! One of my personal favorites.

Carrie says

Fun and factual.

Gail says

Wow, being a farm animal vet is very physical. Dr Brown is frequently knee deep in mud, excrement or snow (he practiced in Maine) and is also frequently injured by his uncooperative patients. He seems to never say no when he is needed and doesn't let much slow him down. This book was a totally enjoyable read.

Jamie Collins says

A nice collection of animal stories. Brown was a veterinarian in rural Maine in the 1950's-70's, and these are stories of him trekking through a snowstorm in the middle of the night to treat a colicky horse, or putting a

prolapsed uterus back into a cow, or castrating a feisty bull - all procedures familiar to readers of James Herriot.

The book lacks the magic of Herriot, but it's an interesting read. The first couple of stories are awkward, but I gradually warmed up to the author. He has little to say about his personal life except for a rather gloomy introduction about how the job took its toll.

The title comes from the propensity of farmers to come up with extra unscheduled jobs when he visits: "While you're here, doc, can you take a look at my goat?"

Katie Currier says

I recently read the book, "While You're Here, Doc: Farmyard Adventures of a Maine Veterinarian" by Bradford B. Brown DVM. The book is a collection of short stories surrounding the many different farm calls that Dr. Brown had to attend to. From castrating a horse inside a shop in town to delivering lamb triplets, Dr. Brown got it done. He never gave up on a challenge and always did everything in his power to save the animal. If Dr. Brown got injured on the job, he would always put the animal first and fix him before he tends to himself. For example, on one of his jobs, he started to get dragged across a field by a cow and ended up getting bruised all over. When he finally got the bull to stop, "relief flooded in, and so did the pain" (92). When Dr. Brown was finally able to stand, he walked over to the cow and was able to finish the job. He finished the job before taking care of himself.

I truly enjoyed this book. I think that it was very good and the stories that the book was comprised of were fantastic. They weren't your average stories about farm calls. There were some extraordinary stories about a horse ending up in a store in the town, getting dragged through a field by a bull, and trying to extract a tooth from a very unhappy monkey. I also liked how the title, "while you're here, Doc" (89) was repeated many times throughout the book. It is a very true statement as a lot of the time when a vet comes to the barn, you always have him look at more animals. This way, the vet won't have to get called out again and you only have to pay one barn call, rather than multiple barn calls. Overall, the stories were very interesting and the book was definitely a good read.

This is a book that I would definitely recommend to other people. I would recommend it specifically to people who love animals, or people that are dreaming of being a vet themselves (especially a large-animal vet). Considering this book is about a veterinarian who makes farm calls, these kinds of people are who the book is best suited for and who would enjoy it the most. The book covers all sorts of livestock veterinary emergencies. It also has some small-animal stories. People who are interested in becoming veterinarians and people who have a strong love for animals are the ones who would really enjoy this book and whom I would recommend it to.
