



Dillie the Deer: A True Story of Love, Healing, and Family

Melanie Butera , Diane Reverand (With)

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A heartwarming and irresistible story of the profound bond between a deer named Dillie and the veterinarian who saved her life.

In the summer of 2004, veterinarian Melanie Butera received an unexpected patient: a three-day-old, blind, dying fawn she called Dillie. Melanie doubted the deer would survive, but with the help of her husband Steve she miraculously nursed Dillie back to health. The tenacious deer quickly became a member of the family running around the house with the dog, the cat, and the people; and enjoying all of the perks including her own bedroom, plates of her favorite linguini, and swims in the family's pool. Mischievous and funny, Dillie opens cabinets, learns to climb stairs, turns the lights on and off, steals food, and showers her family with affection. Melanie and Steve gave Dillie a chance at life, and in return she has enriched theirs beyond measure. And when Melanie is diagnosed with cancer, the veterinarian who saved the life of a fawn is herself saved by the unconditional love of Dillie the deer.

This heartwarming book is filled with insights about the animal world and the powerful bond between humans and the non-human creatures who love them.

Dillie the Deer: A True Story of Love, Healing, and Family Details

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From Reader Review Dillie the Deer: A True Story of Love, Healing, and Family for online ebook

Deb Stransky says

Fast read. Very good book for animal lovers. A veterinarian saves the life of a dying fawn and raises her as a family member with a dog, 2 cats, an owl and 2 horses. It also includes her battle with cancer and the support of her husband and the "furry" family.

Pamela says

Read this while visiting an aunt and uncle. It was their book. We connected more over this and finding a Facebook page with videos of Dillie.

Deanna Church says

I received this book from goodreads.

Delightful Dillie - My first thought: James Herriot meets Doctor Doolittle. Healing hands and a magic touch. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I came very close to staying awake much too late to finish it in one night because I just didn't want to put it down. Partly because I related to so much of it. However the author has managed to bring her story and that of her (human and animal) family to life in a way that allows us to see trials and triumphs, pain and joy. Dillie and the rest of the family become real in the telling of their story. I delighted in the picture of the whole family sharing a bed at night and the green-eyed monster rearing its head when you came to close to 'your' mate. I hope for you a long happy life with your family.

Several years ago my family took in an orphaned day old fawn. We bottle-fed him and raised him with other animals on our farm. Bambi (I know, not very creative) grew into a beautiful buck and then gradually made his way from the cleared areas around our houses to the attached 45 wooded acres we owned. He still returned to visit frequently for a few years. This was a once in a lifetime experience for me and my grandchildren. As a youngster Bambi followed our dogs around, chased our male goat, ate sweet feed from our calves bucket with my donkey and generally made himself at home. Until he grew too big he used the doggie door at my house, just followed all of the dogs in hoping for a treat or some attention. After he could no longer get more than his head through he started coming to the sliding glass doors and peering in until I came to open it and let him in. Your book brought all of those memories back to me again and made me want to dig out all of the pictures I have of him growing up. Thank you for that.

Carolyn says

This was a truly inspirational story of how welcoming animals into our lives and helping them as we'd help

our own can bring people together in unique ways, spreading love and happiness. Felt a strong connection with the author just from reading, and her writing style makes you feel like part of this affectionate family. What's really amazing is that she's gone beyond the last page, using social media and a live stream to keep Dillie in all of our lives. Mel Butera is an amazing, strong woman who is a role model for anybody wanting to live a positive life and spread joy, not just animal people.

Deb Nowack says

As much about the people as it is about the animals. A life affirming story about courage in action.

Shadowdenizen says

True Confessions time: I'm generally not a fan of "heart-Warming" literature. (I'm that guy who always identified more with the Grinch.) That said, I do occasionally like to reach out of my comfort zone, and delve into the warmer side of the human experience. So, when I saw this, I said "Let me give it a try", and my instincts were spot-on target in this case.

Driven by the straightforward, no-nonsense prose of the author, this book is both heart-warming and bittersweet in turn, as it grabs you from the first page and pulls you through the story non-stop, through both the good and bad side of human nature.

While titled "Dillie the Deer", I found this book to actually be much more of an "ensemble" story, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Over the course of the story, we meet Mel & her husband Steve, who are the human-side of this extended family, and we learn of their trials and tribulations, and successes and failures in navigating through the human experience, raising a home full of animals while still trying to maintain jobs and a loving marriage.

Where this book truly excels, however is making the non-human characters just as understandable and relatable as our human characters. Through the vivid descriptions and factual depictions, we can understand and empathize with how the animals feel as new members of the family are admitted.

And (though I'll probably deny it later), I did get a bit misty-eyed at times (particularly when they referenced the "Rainbow Bridge" tale, about how all animals who have passed away are waiting for their masters on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge...)

A very solid 3.5 stars, rounded down (after some waffling) to 3 stars.

Many thanks to NetGalley for offering me this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Teena in Toronto says

Melanie Butera is a vet in Ohio. In 2004, a three-day-old dying farm deer was brought to her. The fawn was one of triplets but her mother had rejected her because she was blind. The farmer couldn't afford to pay for treatment but offered her to Melanie, who along with her husband, Steve, nursed her to health. That fawn became Dillie.

Steve made some space for her in their barn but she was afraid of the horses they were keeping there so they temporarily moved her into the house ... and she never left. She's now 11, has her own bedroom (though she used to sleep with Melanie, Steve, their dog and their cat ... how crowded would that bed be?!) and is housetrained. Her fav things are fruit, ice and pasta. She loves her fur siblings ... Willie, a dog, and Spazz, a cat.

This book is about how life with Dillie began and the joy that she has brought to Melanie and Steve (and others). She also talks about the animals she encountered in her vet clinic.

Melanie started writing the book after she found out she had cancer and she wanted everyone to know she was there ... this was her legacy.

I hadn't heard of Dillie before I read this book but now I'm a fan! It caught my eye because it was the true story about an animal. I liked the writing style ... I found it conversational. It is written in first person perspective from Melanie's point of view. Obviously Melanie and Steve have big hearts!

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to all animal lovers!

Blog review post: <http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2015/10...>

Rhonda Lomazow says

When Dr Melanie Butera a veterinarian saves Dilies life a very sick deer little does she know the impact it will have on her&her husbands lives.A warm real look at the bond between humans & the animal word a real portrait of Melanie's life.

Jess Van Dyne-Evans says

A lovely, simple book with flashes of heart and courage.

Kira says

First of all I want to say I won this in a raffle here. Secondly, I just started reading this, but I'm enjoying it immensely.

Evelyn says

This is a sweet story about a veterinarian who saved the life of a baby fawn that was brought to her by the farmer who had a herd of deer after its mother abandoned the baby because it was the runt of the litter. The little fawn grew up and became a member of her family, and has become an inspiration and a symbol of hope to many people including her owner who is being treated for cancer.
