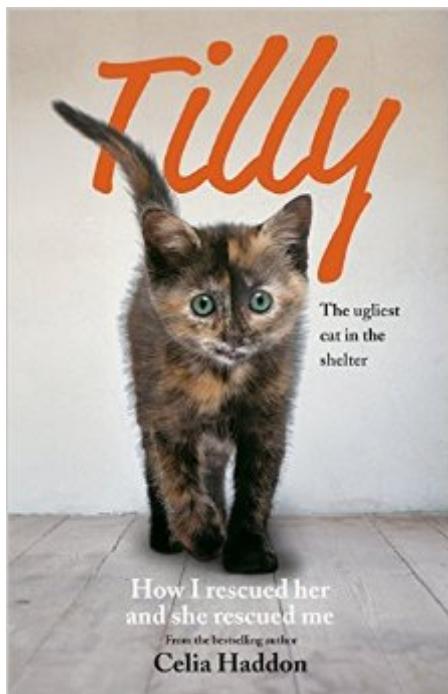


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Tilly: The Ugliest Cat: How I Rescued Her And She Rescued Me



Synopsis

Tilly has spent most of her adult life in an Oxfordshire shelter, unchosen, unwanted and practically feral. Seeking a distraction from her own troubles, the author and renowned pet columnist, Celia Haddon begins a project to transform Tilly into a household pet. Through Tilly's journey from unwanted and unadoptable cat to adored pet, Celia begins to explore her own inward journey and the way that cats had helped her through the difficulties of childhood and middle age, through to self knowledge. By loving Tilly she found she could love her inner self.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book for cat lovers. If you do not fall into that category you are probably not going to enjoy this very much as this is not just the story of Tilly, the rescued cat, but all about cat behaviour and the various other cats which have crossed the author's path. As others have said, Tilly was hardly the ugliest cat in the shelter, but I imagine that in terms of titling the book 'the ugliest' had a certain ring to it. I thought from the title that Tilly might be a battle hardened stray, veteran of many street fights with a mangled ear and other trophies who had eventually landed up in the shelter. Actually she is a very sweet little tortie with rather large eyes - I think what is so endearing about torties is that they are each uniquely marked and you never get two alike. Certainly Tilly was a very scared little cat to begin with, but I would question whether she was really feral as her owner suggests.

Rather more likely she was a domesticated cat which had lacked human contact before she arrived in the shelter. During the eighteen months she spent in the shelter, I am sure the humans she met were well intentioned, but had little time to spend with her. Only when she arrived at Celia Haddon's house did she have the attention she deserved and eventually she responded to it. Although it took

months, I doubt a feral cat could have been handled in the way Tilly allowed herself to be. If possible at all it would have taken years. As the owner of two Birmans there is one inaccuracy I would mention. The author suggests that Tilly has a Birman type coat and may be half Birman. She says that this is why the coat knotted up and needed constant grooming. In fact Birmans are semi long hairs and do not have an undercoat. Hence, unlike Persians, they do not knot up and do not require daily grooming, which, together with the fact that they are such intelligent cats is the reason they have become so popular. Our two have never been groomed and have never had even a single knot in their coats. Provided you are a cat person, as I unashamedly am, you are probably going to enjoy this book. I did not find the writing style particularly compelling, but the content is sufficiently interesting to keep one reading. There is some good advice at the end should you be contemplating taking a cat from an animal shelter and in particular about the Cats Protection League, which is a very worthy organisation and well worth supporting.

No cat is ugly! The kitty's photograph that they used on the front cover is adorable. The only problem I had with the people in the book were that they let their cats go outside.....even when they know there are dangers in the fields around their house. My cats are all indoor kitties....and seem to have no problems whatsoever with being kept inside. All in all.....it was a sweet book of winning over a cat's affections. You have to work on it....it can be done.

Bought this for my mom, who is a connoisseur of fine animal stories, and usually she is a stern critic. She hasn't stopped talking about this book, quoting snippets here and there, and recounting stories ever since. She now is hounding me to read it, too! She says it is a remarkable book, written by someone who is a true animal lover. I'm now going to have to read it!

As a fellow cat-fanatic and animal behaviour scientist, I was delighted with this book. Celia's conversational style makes this an easy read. Taking us through a difficult time in her life, Celia illustrates the great comfort we can gain from our pets. Tilly was a troubled cat when she was rescued by the author, but through modern behavioural modification that is described so simply that we can all learn something from this book, she learns to trust a human. Here comes the cliche.....you'll laugh, you'll cry, but you'll also learn. 5 stars!

FIRSTLY, I LOVE TORTOISESHELL CATS IN ALL COLORS, SHAPES, SIZES AND AGES. This book was wonderful! I could not put it down. Great writing and story. I will be looking for more books

by Celia Haddon. Highly recommend this book to all cat lovers! You won't be disappointed! Buy it soon!

Thank you, Celia, for making such a difference in the life of this cat and so many more animals in the world! This is not just a story about a cat, though it is that, it's a story about Celia's life, the people and events that made her into the person who became Tilly's adoptive mother. I highly recommend it! (FYI, almost no book ever gets a 5-star rating. Even books I love! Of which this is one!)

I enjoyed reading this story. What a lucky cat Tilly is to have someone with patience bring her home! This story will leave you feeling good, especially if you love cats.

I tell you one thing. This book is not just about how someone once adopted a cat. Its about being knocked down in and by life and finding strength and love to carrying on. Be it feline or human, everyone needs someone to be kind to then sometimes and, maybe, that little piece of kindness will save a life.

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