

Myron, Vicki. *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*. New York, NY: Grand Central Publishing, 2008. 288 p. \$19.99 (ISBN: 978-0446407410)

Move over Marley.....Dewey is in town! On the coldest night of the year, a tiny orange kitten only a few weeks old, was put into the book drop at the Spencer Public Library in Iowa. Librarian Vicki Myron found him the next morning barely clinging to life but still willing to rub his head against each hand and purr. Thus begins the engaging tale of Dewey the library cat, whose name later became Dewey Readmore Books. Dewey's exploits range from humorous stories about his fascination with rubber bands to truly touching stories of his affections for a handicapped child named Crystal. Included in the book are even lists "written" by Dewey such as one entitled, "Basic rules for cats who have a library to run." Dewey was embraced by the townspeople of Spencer for 19 years and eventually became known the world over.

And while this is of course a book about Dewey, it is equally the story of Vicki Myron's personal tragedies and triumphs as well as a history primer on the town of Spencer. I was not really prepared for the personal revelations that are sprinkled throughout the book. They are often difficult to read but set the stage for why Dewey was so important to Myron when her life was falling apart. The small town of Spencer is almost a character of its own and sets the nostalgic tone for the book. Sometimes, the three inter-related parts of this story seem a bit confusing but like puzzle pieces finally fit together. It becomes clear that Myron has had several great loves in her time; Dewey, Spencer and the library.

This book is a must read for all librarians and cat lovers, but will also appeal to a wide range of readers. Dewey is ultimately the poignant story of the triumph of the human spirit and the celebration of the deep connection, understanding and love that exists between humans and animals.

Oh and did I mention you might want to have a box of Kleenex handy for the last few chapters?

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