



# A Dog Called Kitty

*Bill Wallace*

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The puppy was small and fuzzy, with a friendly, wagging tail -- and Ricky was afraid of him!

No wonder, since he was attacked by a dog when he was just a baby. So when a stray puppy comes sniffing around the farm, Ricky tells it to get lost.

But the puppy keeps trying to play with Ricky. And every time Ricky's Mom feeds the cats, the little dog comes running. The cats aren't sharing their food, however, and the poor pup is slowly starving.

If Ricky doesn't overcome his fear, the little puppy may die -- but if he lets himself get close enough to feed it, he may find the best friend he's ever had!

Winner of the Texas Bluebonnet, the Oklahoma Sequoyah and the Nebraska Golden Sower Awards.

## A Dog Called Kitty Details

Date : Published April 1st 1992 by Aladdin (first published September 1980)

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### **Doreen says**

Ricky had been attacked by a dog when he was younger making him scared of dogs. Because Ricky would get so worked up over his fear of dogs his father told him needed to get over his fear because it was controlling him. A stray, starving puppy ended up on their property and Ricky started taking care of it, promising that he was going to get rid of it when it was better. Ricky grew to love his dog, Kitty. While out on their farm looking for a lost cow, five stray dogs came and started after the calf and Ricky. Kitty and Ricky fought off the dogs together. Later on, Kitty died in an accident. Ricky said he did not want another dog. Another stray, starving puppy showed up on their property and Ricky said the same thing he did to Kitty, that he would only feed it until it got better and then he would be on his own.

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### **Cole says**

I remember this book!

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### **Sarah Maddaford says**

This book would have been a lot better if it had been one of the few where the dog doesn't die. There are several really great scenes where Kitty helps Rick overcome his fear of dogs including really big, mean dogs. The story even circles back to the second encounter Rick has with a dog to prove that he isn't too scared to stand up for someone anymore. It's a good lesson, but it could have ended without Kitty dying in my opinion.

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### **Andre D. says**

This was a good book. I could not get my eyes out of this book, because it was too good. It reminded me of Bill's other books, because it was about a dog. However, certain parts of it did not make sense (spoiler alert). The fact that the puppy lived that long with very little food did not make sense, nor how he climbed the fence like a cat, or how he lived through the dog attack (I guess the last one makes a little more sense). This is a story of love, death, and fear. Overall it was a good book, but at times it did not make much sense.

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### **Lanee says**

My daughter got this book from the library and I had to reread it. It was my favorite book when I was her age and it still made me laugh and cry like it did back then. Such a great book!

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## **Taylor says**

A dog called kitty is a great book! The main character Rickey has hated dogs ever since he got attacked when he was just little. But he cant resist a stray dog skinny dirty those doggy brown eyes. Ricky DOES NOT want this dog just hanging around the farm though! The cats wont share the food with this poor dog so he is going to have to starve to death until Ricky actually thinks to feed him! So Ricky thought of a plan he will feed the dog get it back to normal then run it off! Can Rickey overcome his fears will this dog so called Kitty? I loved this book because it is about a dog and there one of my favorite animal, i love how the author named the dog kitty!

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## **Taylor says**

I really liked this book because I'm a dog lover and i think Bill Wallace is a great author. This book is of a boy who hates dogs ever since he was attacked by one. Even though the puppy is tiny and skinny, with sad brown eyes and a friendly, wagging tail, Rick(the boy) doesn't want it hanging around the farm. The barn cats hate to share food with the puppy and it looks as if the puppy will starve to death unless someone comes to rescue. Ricky may be afraid of dog, but he doesn't want to see one starve. He will feed the puppy and then run away when the puppy gets his strength back But this puppy has other ideas. Can Ricky overcome his fears and find himself the best friend he's ever had? Only Ricky can save the life of a puppy he doesn't even want!

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## **Nicole says**

Several things bothered me in this story...

1st - the dad: the first scene sets him up as extremely cruel (moving away and taking the kids, leaving mom behind) but the rest of the time he only seemed to laugh. The kid was scared of him, but except for one mention of not wanting him to remove his belt, there is no development of the potential abuse. But it must be there because...

2nd - the kid beats up a bully? And basically blacks out doing it? ("I don't remember what happened") and

3rd - he's actually very cruel to the puppy

4th - horrid descriptions of a dog fight

5th - when you expect the happy ending because they survived the fight, a load of pipes falls on the pup and kills him. REALLY?!?!?

It just seemed overly sensationalistic and tried to pull on every emotion to get the reader to cry.

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## **Trisha says**

This one was a tear jerker (I didn't know going into it) but a good, enjoyable read.

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## **Leah Andrade says**

A Dog Called Kitty is the first "novel" I ever read. I was in the second grade and I remember balling my head off over Kitty's death while sitting in the bathtub. It was definitely an eye-opening experience. To be completely honest, it's been far too long for me to give this book an accurate rating, but after 20+ years the fact that I still remember reading this book as well as several specific scenes is enough for me to give it 5 stars. This book helped to create in me a love for reading.

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### **\$hanel says**

A Dog Called Kitty (a strange name for a dog but oh well) is about a 10 year old boy named Ricky who is absolutely terrified of BIG scary dogs (its OK Ricky I am too!) and has been ever since he had a extra scary dog attack he had when he was little. Ricky moves to a farm and gets settled in until he meets a innocent looking brown scruffy dog that nobody could resist! Ricky is still scared of the small puppy and the dog causes no harm especially cause he is homeless. Small scruffy brown dog begins to follow Ricky around at his farm and before Ricky knows it he is in love with the small scruffy pup and becomes his new BFF. There are many cats at Ricky`s farm that share water with the brown puppy and the sad thing is that the puppy doesnt get as much love and attention as the cats (but like I said they become BFFs!) and Ricky couldnt bare to see this little puppy starve. A very sad and touching book for all ages!

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### **Natalia Leigh says**

I was extremely disappointed by this book. I'm an English tutor and my student chose this book for us to read together, but had I known what was in store I would have selected something else. To begin with, the grammar is terrible. Fragmented sentences completely threw off the flow of our reading, which my student already struggles with. In addition to its poor structure, I found the story extremely violent and was concerned by what these "children's books" are teaching the youth. For example, the main character, Ricky, almost lets the dog, Kitty, starve to death in the beginning. Rather than feed the starving pup, he thinks it would be best to let the dog die. Throughout the book Ricky continually insults and threatens his dog, calling him a "coward" and saying he'll "smash his head with a rock". The main character is extremely violent and shows very little regard for the dog as a creature that is to be loved and respected.

On the topic of dogs, I was also disturbed by the fact that this book fed into the mania and panic surrounding certain dog breeds, specifically German Shepherds and Dobermans. They were characterized as vicious, bloodthirsty monsters and painted as the villains. I have worked with dogs professionally for years and have come across aggressive dogs of all breeds, as well as dogs characterized as "dangerous" that posed no such threat.

Is this what we want to teach our children - to be aggressive to other living creatures and to find humor and entertainment in violence? I will never pick up a Bill Wallace again, nor will I read them with any of my students.

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### **Gina says**

[I can't stand 'kill the dog just to give the kid a replacement w

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### **Jenni Lea says**

Oh wow, this was my most favorite book when I was a kid! I must have read this book literally HUNDREDS of times growing up. I remember I had an autographed copy of the hardcover edition. I obtained it when I met Mr. Wallace when he came to my school when I was in third or fourth grade. I think it had just been published. This book was the beginning of my love affair with reading. Thinking about it, I am now sad that I don't know what happened to my autographed copy.

I very highly recommend this book to anyone. Parents, this is a safe book for your kids to read but I will warn you, it deals with some very tough and emotional issues (fear, loss etc.). I remember crying near the end of it every single time I read it. But, I wouldn't trade the experience of reading this for the world.

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### **Marlee says**

I read this book to my 9 and 6 year olds. My 6 year old wanted to read it because of the title. She didn't end up liking it at all and stopped listening before we finished. I didn't like it either. Though I realize it is told by a child, the grammar is so awful that if I didn't edit it as I read, neither of my children could understand what Rickey was saying. Also, most of the relationships in the story are somewhat dysfunctional and almost frightening. Things that were meant to be completely normal were quite appalling to me. My older child did like this book. He found some of it funny in the middle, and he liked the very end.

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