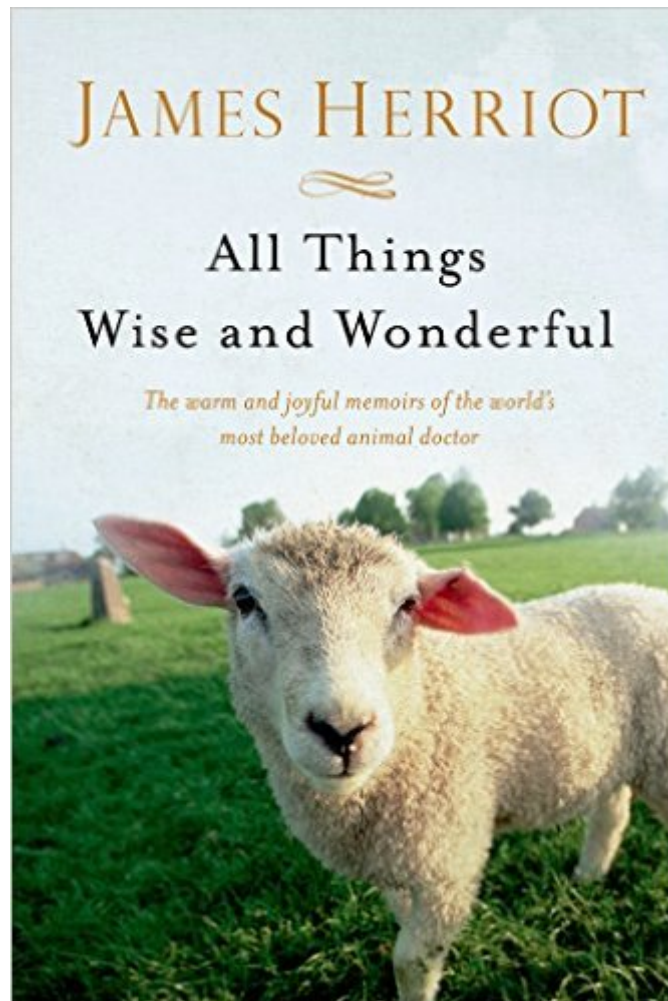


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# All Things Wise And Wonderful (All Creatures Great And Small)



## Synopsis

Readers adored James Herriot's tales of his life as a Yorkshire animal doctor in *All Creatures Great and Small* and *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. Now here's a third delightful volume of memoirs rich with Herriot's own brand of humor, insight, and wisdom. In the midst of World War II, James is training for the Royal Air Force, while going home to Yorkshire whenever possible to see his very pregnant wife, Helen. Musing on past adventures through the dales, visiting with old friends, and introducing scores of new and amusing characters—animal and human alike—Herriot enthralls with his uncanny ability to spin a most engaging and heartfelt yarn. Millions of readers have delighted in the wonderful storytelling and everyday miracles of James Herriot in the over thirty years since his delightful animal stories were first introduced to the world.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #34,183 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Essays](#) #150 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna](#) #163 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals](#)

## Customer Reviews

My first experience with the late James Herriot's inspirational books took place in a bookstore in Singapore, in the 80's. I was barely 14 & had not heard of this writer/vet. But as soon as I started reading *All Things Wise and Wonderful* - my very first JH book, I knew I had to get the rest of the series. Through his poignant, funny, sensitive and Yorkshire-accented writing, I relived his world as a practising vet. His was a world where decent, civic minded people lived with much love & respect for their pets and farm animals. A world where I wanted/want to be in. It is true how one book reviewer put it: every chapter will have you either laughing out loud or shedding a quiet tear. To this day, I still remember some of his stories that touched my heart. The courtship years when a young JH was

trying to impress Helen (who eventually became his very supportive wife); the timid little black stray cat, who with her last breath, would place her one surviving kitten into the hands of a caring family; the endearing 'beggar' dog; the bored, pampered & misunderstood pet dog of a wealthy spinster...I could almost touch and see JH's characters through his vivid writing. I even felt his pride when his daughter also became a vet, & his son a doctor. I am sorry that there were not more of his wonderful tales.

If you want a book that will take you back to the country life and its people with all their foibles and admirable qualities and love animals then his books will be pure enjoyment! I love the way he tells his stories. In his stories, he doesn't ever claim to be the best veterinarian around (I think he underrated himself), but you know he is a wonderful, kind, animal and people loving person. The way he speaks about the people and animals he comes in contact with, come to life and you feel you are right there with him. You will laugh, maybe cry, and cheer him on as you read. If you have animals, or raise them, you will love his books, although you don't have to own any to appreciate them.

I have read each of James Herriot's books many times (including this one) and still enjoy them every time I read them! This book is one of my favorite books of the series, and is highly recommended by me. If you have read the other books you will love this one just as much if not more! If you have not read any of the other books, this book would also be a good one to start off with. After reading it I can assure you that you will want to read all the others. NOTE: I also have all five of these books on audio tape (by Christopher Timothy) and would recommend these as well! It is great to listen to them while you do hobbies since you can actually do two things at the same time, and Christopher Timothy (who played James Herriot in the BBC series) really brings the characters to life, using different voices and accents.

The only difference between this book and Herriot's others is that he has to cover more ground. He's flitting back and forth between his World War II experiences in the RAF and more of his experiences in the Yorkshire countryside with his beloved farm animals and some domestic animals. This made for a very complete autobiography. I found the story of his first solo flight to be very interesting. I think that there seem to be more people stories in this one than in the others, and some of them are sad, poignant stories. I think I have become addicted to Herriot's style of writing in his other books where he will provide us with stories of his day-to-day experiences with the animals

and their owners. The effect is more immediate--he tells how the phone awakens him in the night and every detail of what happens when he reaches the side of the animal who is in labor or in pain or distress of some sort. Never what you would call a true animal lover, I have found that these stories put me in another place--they make me feel compassion for the animals (and their owners). Whereas, in this book he will tell rather typical military stories and then write that he is reminded of the time when he had to go out to a farm and nurse a certain animal back to health. We still get many of the stories which we have learned to crave from our warm and compassionate veterinarian, but the effect isn't as focused. It's still a very good book, but I will say that there were times when his people stories, whether military or civilian, dragged a little for me. I'd find myself eager to return to his animal world. This is where he shines--when describing both the farm animals and the domestic animals whom he treated and, in many cases, learned to love. I'm very glad that I read this book. I learned more about his multi-faceted life (it was good to get to know his wife better too). I highly recommend the book. Who knew that I, a 66-year-old lady who has kept her distance from animals her whole life, would become so addicted to Herriot's charming animal stories. In a way they read like a series of short mystery stories. The reader, instead of trying to figure out the perpetrator of a crime, is trying to figure out with Herriot, the cause of an animal's health problem. His books make for fascinating reading, and I'm proof that one doesn't have to be a lifelong animal lover to love these books.

James Herriot has that amazing ability to transport you into his world, take you into his confidence, and offer you his friendship.....all through a series of heartwarming stories taken from his life as a Yorkshire vet. It's so refreshing to read books that are not strewn with violence and sex...yet which captivate your attention. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants some good wholesome entertainment and an occasional chuckle.

We purchased this as a gift for a family member who loves James Herriot books and she was very happy with it. I can remember being read these stories when I was young and reading them over and over again. He was an amazing author and vet. He really brought his stories to life from his home in England all those years ago.

Many years ago I was addicted to Herriot, and read a number of his books. Now, decades later, I downloaded this volume and found, to my delight, that his warmth and wisdom are even better than I remembered. I give Herriot's works my highest recommendation.

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