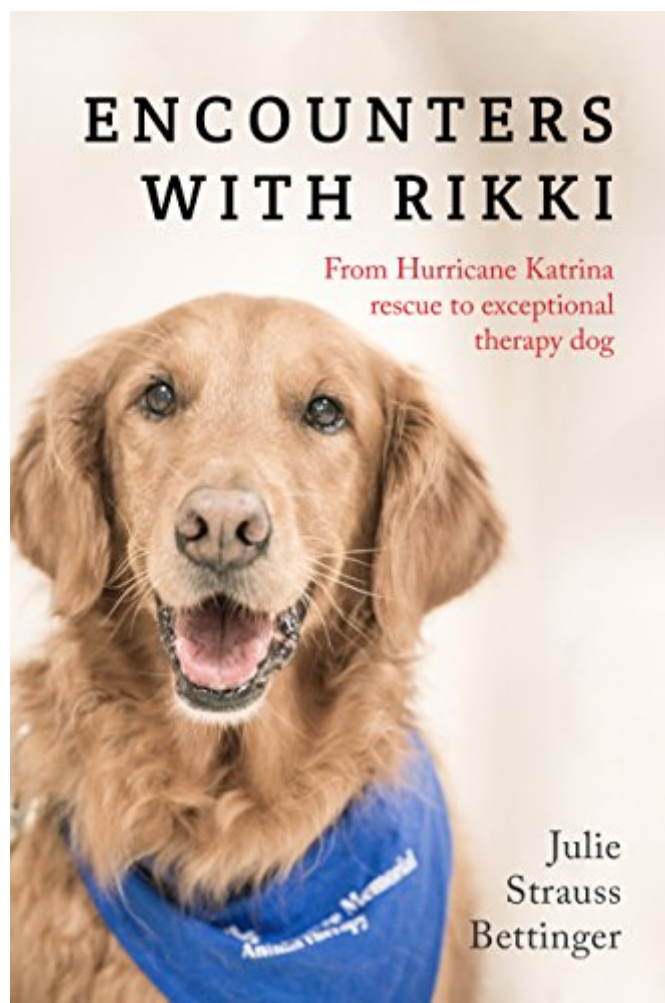




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Encounters With Rikki: From Hurricane Katrina Rescue To Exceptional Therapy Dog



Synopsis

Encounters with Rikki tells the true story of the incredible partnership between Chuck and Rikki, a very special rescue dog. Rikki first found her home with Chuck and Patty Mitchell in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Even though the golden retriever was a shy, shell-shocked puppy still adapting to the stress of displacement, Chuck recognized her innate abilities as a therapy dog. Together they bring healing and hope to recovering patients, accident victims, and the mentally ill. Soon Rikki's quiet confidence attracts the attention of advocates of child victims. Called upon to testify in court, child witnesses must recall horrific memories in the presence of their abusers; the tireless work of Chuck and Rikki allows these children to do so with a therapy dog by their side. Inspiring and heartfelt, Rikki's story illustrates the far-reaching effects of the human-animal bond.

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Customer Reviews

Without any doubt, this is one book that is difficult to "put down." We've all heard that phrase before, but it is absolutely true for this true story of "Rikki," and all those who have been helped by this

remarkable therapy dog and the animal-assisted therapy team who works with her. This account is far more than a story of an animal, for we learn how victims of crime are helped along the path to healing by a loving touch of a paw or nose. Having been a member of an active book club for many years, I will recommend "Encounters with Rikki" as our next selection.

Firstly, I must say that I am related to Patty and Chuck Mitchell, Rikki's human Mom and Dad. We live on opposite coasts of the country and have not met Rikki and only have heard of her abilities. I approached reading this book as if I knew nothing about the work of Chuck, Patty and Rikki. Surprisingly, I learned so much about the exceptional volunteer work, but also a great deal about the Mitchell's themselves that even as a relative I didn't know. As a book it is well written, and the stories of the children told with compassion. While parts can be difficult to read because of the subject matter, the book is uplifting and filled with hope.

Being an animal lover, I feel the connection that can take place between humans and animals...but knowing the exact moment when those connections are being made and being able to describe that for others is so unique. Julie, Chuck, Patty and of course Rikki have given us those moments of connection in pristine detail. Along with the individuals whose lives have been positively altered by their presence, they have shown us a new gift when looking into the eyes of an animal. We may all watch the animals a little differently now -- and look for new ways of assisting each other.

What a good read! Received this book and casually started reading it...read the book from start to finish in one sitting! Ordered the book because a close friend was featured in Chapter 11. Rikki, a golden retriever and therapy dog, made a significant contribution in helping my friend Betsy to "come back" after a coma and confusion incurred in a severe car accident. Rikki demonstrated special skills in recognizing those in need of a friend, and knew just how to provide comfort and reassurance with a gentle nuzzle. She, and her trainer, are to be greatly commended for getting the State of Florida to change state laws to allow a therapy dog to accompany abused children into the courtroom when they must testify regarding traumatic details of their abuse. Highly recommend this book! Will be ordering more for friends.

Having done animal assisted therapy for over 25 years I was blown away by this story. Rikki's owner had great business sense that allowed him to get courts to make important changes that allowed a therapy dog in a courtroom. I wish I could find another great therapy dog. They are one in

a million. I thoroughly enjoyed this well written book. Thank you for writing your story and thank you to your publisher too.

Rikki proved again that dogs are one of God's greatest creations. No matter what people put them through, given love and training they rise to levels of caring even dog people sometimes are surprised by. They can understand on an intuitive level far above their instincts.

This was a great read. I would recommend it to all my friends. I believe they will love this book as much as I did.

Encounters with Rikki is a MUST read. Every chapter touches the soul. You will not be able to put this one down. Recommending to all my friends and family. The power of the human-animal bond is truly amazing!

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