



# Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat

*By Gwen Cooper*

## **Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat** By Gwen Cooper

ONCE IN NINE LIVES, SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENS.

The last thing Gwen Cooper wanted was another cat. She already had two, not to mention a phenomenally underpaying job and a recently broken heart. Then Gwen's veterinarian called with a story about a three-week-old eyeless kitten who'd been abandoned. It was love at first sight.

Everyone warned that Homer would always be an "underachiever." But the kitten nobody believed in quickly grew into a three-pound dynamo with a giant heart who eagerly made friends with every human who crossed his path. Homer scaled seven-foot bookcases with ease, survived being trapped alone for days after 9/11 in an apartment near the World Trade Center, and even saved Gwen's life when he chased off an intruder who broke into their home in the middle of the night. But it was Homer's unswerving loyalty, his infinite capacity for love, and his joy in the face of all obstacles that transformed Gwen's life. And by the time she met the man she would marry, she realized that Homer had taught her the most valuable lesson of all: Love isn't something you see with your eyes.

## **Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat** By Gwen Cooper Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

#### Book Description

Once in nine lives, something extraordinary happens...

The last thing Gwen Cooper wanted was another cat. She already had two, not to mention a phenomenally underpaying job and a recently broken heart. Then Gwen's veterinarian called with a story about a three-week-old eyeless kitten who'd been abandoned. It was love at first sight.

Everyone warned that Homer would always be an "underachiever," never as playful or independent as other cats. But the kitten nobody believed in quickly grew into a three-pound dynamo, a tiny daredevil with a giant heart who eagerly made friends with every human who crossed his path. Homer scaled seven-foot bookcases with ease and leapt five feet into the air to catch flies in mid-buzz. He survived being trapped alone for days after 9/11 in an apartment near the World Trade Center, and even saved Gwen's life when he chased off an intruder who broke into their home in the middle of the night.

But it was Homer's unswerving loyalty, his infinite capacity for love, and his joy in the face of all obstacles that inspired Gwen daily and transformed her life. And by the time she met the man she would marry, she realized Homer had taught her the most important lesson of all: Love isn't something you see with your eyes.

*Homer's Odyssey* is the once-in-a-lifetime story of an extraordinary cat and his human companion. It celebrates the refusal to accept limits—on love, ability, or hope against overwhelming odds. By turns jubilant and moving, it's a memoir for anybody who's ever fallen completely and helplessly in love with a pet.

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### Amazon Exclusive: Gwen Cooper on *Homer's Odyssey*

I never wanted to be a writer of non-fiction. While I can honestly say that I dreamt of being a writer from my earliest discovery of books, memoirs held no interest for me. The stories I loved—and devoured with a single-minded intensity that charmed my English teachers while causing my math teachers to gnash their teeth in frustration—were stories that were larger than life, that played out on a grand scale. I read fairy tales, mythology (Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Norse, Native American, you name it), epic poems, novels about soldiers, pirates, adventurers, explorers, heroes, magicians, revolutionaries, beautiful damsels, dashing cads, romances, tragedies, comedies—everything, in short, that struck me as just a touch more interesting than real life ever seemed to be.



It amazes me now that, for years, I never thought about Homer as being the hero of his own story. I knew that he was extraordinary, I knew that everybody who ever met him was full of questions—wanting to know why and how. But he was also just my cat, the goofy little guy who jumped around in circles when I came home at night, who loved to chase around stuffed toys, insisted on getting his fair share of tuna if I was making a tuna sandwich, and curled up in a tight ball on my left knee whenever I sat at the computer to email

friends or finish up work projects.

The idea of writing about Homer didn't occur to me until Laurence, my husband—who was then my boyfriend—met him for the first time and wanted to know (as most people do) how it was that Homer ended up blind. When I told him how Homer had been abandoned shortly after birth, how he'd been near death until he was brought in to my veterinarian, how the price of saving his life had been the loss of his vision, and how he'd still nearly met an inglorious end in an animal shelter because nobody wanted to adopt him until finally my vet called me—when he heard all that, Laurence's response was, "He's like Daredevil, like a comic book superhero. He has an origin story and everything."

Laurence was quite pleased with this analogy, and loved to expound upon it. When he observed that Homer was braver, faster, and more agile than my two sighted cats, or when he saw Homer leap five feet straight into the air to catch a buzzing fly in mid-flight, he would talk about Homer's "superpowers." When I told him how Homer had once single-handedly chased off a burglar who broke into my apartment in the middle of the night, Laurence said, "You're a storyteller—why don't you tell some of these stories?"

It's impossible to quantify or define the ways in which Homer has moved me, inspired me, and flat-out entertained me over the years. But perhaps the greatest gift he's given me is the ability to find the heroism and grandeur of my favorite stories smack-dab in the middle of my everyday life. Don't get me wrong—there's plenty of action and larger-than-life adventure tales to be found in these pages. But Homer is extraordinary even when he's at his most ordinary. No aspiring writer in love with adventure stories could have asked for better material.

I always wanted to be a writer, but I never wanted to be a writer of non-fiction. Sometimes, things work out differently than you think they will. Sometimes life picks you up and drops you in the middle of a story that's better than any you could ever have imagined. Sometimes you don't know what's missing until you find it. Homer is the living proof.—*Gwen Cooper*

From Publishers Weekly

Cooper had every intention of saying no to the veterinarian who asked her if she was interested in adopting a four-week-old stray kitten with a particular handicap. She was fresh off a bad breakup, working a low-paying job and living rent-free in a friend's bedroom—plus she was worried about the social implications of adding one cat to the two she had already adopted: The neighborhood kids will... say things like 'That's where Old Widow Cooper, the cat lady, lives.' But as soon as she picked up the tiny kitten and he started to purr, she caved. She settled on a name and brought Homer home. His intrepid explorations of his new environs quickly challenged Cooper's expectations of a blind cat. And through 12 years, six moves, several boyfriends and a showdown with a burglar, this tender and affecting book reveals Homer's lessons about love and acceptance—and how he transformed Cooper into the woman she had always wanted to be. Photos. (Aug. 25)

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Review

"A wonderful book for animal lovers."—Temple Grandin, author of *Animals in Translation*

"Entertaining, heart-warming, and sometimes heart-wrenching....Throughout, Homer entertains with his insatiable curiosity and joie de vivre...I couldn't put the book down and I read half the passages aloud to my husband. I guarantee you'll find the book as engaging as I did."—Catster

"Moving and inspiring . . . a three-hankie tale of life and the love that can exist between owner and

pet.”—*Florida Times-Union*

“This memoir about adopting a special-needs kitten teaches that sometimes in life, you have to take a blind leap.”—*People*

“Cooper is a genial writer with both a sense of humor and a gift for conveying the inner essence of an animal. . . . The indefatigable feline should be an inspiration to us all.”—*The Christian Science Monitor*

“A must-read for anyone who has ever loved an animal.”—*Free Lance-Star* (VA)

“A marvelous book! Moving, insightful and often hilarious, *Homer’s Odyssey* is about a blind cat with a spirit of epic proportions. Read and rejoice!”—Sy Montgomery, author of *The Good Good Pig*

“Delightful...this lovely human-feline memoir, following in the footsteps of Vicki Myron's best-selling *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, is sure to warm the hearts of all pet lovers.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)

“Heartwarming and entertaining.”—PEOPLE Pets

“A wonderful story celebrating the profound bond that can form between feline and human, *Homer’s Odyssey* is an inspiring read, and a perfect holiday gift for any cat lovers on your list.”—*Feline Wellness*

“It took only a glance at the foreword, and before I knew it I was devouring the whole thing like a warm brownie sundae...It was Homer who most often proved to be the hero, once even saving Cooper’s life when an intruder broke into her apartment. (This story alone is worth the price of the book.)”—*Christian Science Monitor*

“A guaranteed hit with any cat lover...but the account of Cooper’s struggles with her career and love life will also appeal to readers of similar memoirs about twentysomething women (*Julie and Julia*, for example), as well as to the growing audience for stories of challenging pets of all kinds (*Marley and Me*).”—*Booklist*

“Tender and affecting.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Touching . . . one not to miss.”—*USA Today*

“*Homer’s Odyssey* will make you jump for joy!”—Rita Mae Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cat of the Century*

“I am certain it would be impossible to meet Homer without falling in love with him and it is just as difficult to read this loving account without coming away with a renewed faith in the unique bond that can sometimes arise between two alien species. Gwen Cooper writes with humor, with wit, with candor and most of all with irresistible warmth for this astonishing little feline who will steal your heart.”—Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats* and *When Elephants Weep*

“An inspiring story of two souls, one human and one feline, who face significant obstacles on their quest for love. A charming and sometimes humorous tale of what everyday courage and perseverance can look like. And to anyone who knows cats, it comes as no surprise that it is often the feline who leads the way.”—Susan Richards, author of *Chosen By a Horse* and *Chosen Forever*

"*Homer's Odyssey* will capture your heart and enrich your soul. Homer's courageous spirit and triumphant optimism are an inspiration to all who share his story."—Dr. Louise Murray, Director of Medicine, ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital, and author of *Vet Confidential*

"*Homer's Odyssey* eloquently demonstrates that the bond between felines and their humans is requisite for our enlightenment."—Jim Edgar, author of *My Cat Hates You* and *Bad Cat*

"A heart-warming and charming memoir of how adopting a sightless kitten brought joy and love (and new direction) into a woman's life."—Shelf Awareness

"Irresistible."—*The Toronto Sun*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Carolina Jones:**

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive today, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this kind of *Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat* book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

#### **Daniel Pitts:**

Now a day people that living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty information particularly this *Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat* book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

#### **Carolyn Ziolkowski:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray a person, why because this *Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat* e-book written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still uncertainty *Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat* as good book not just by the cover but also by content. This is one publication that can break

don't ascertain book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this!?! Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

**Anthony Wilson:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got scholars? We believe that that query was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And you know that little person such as reading or as looking at become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update with regards to something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat.

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