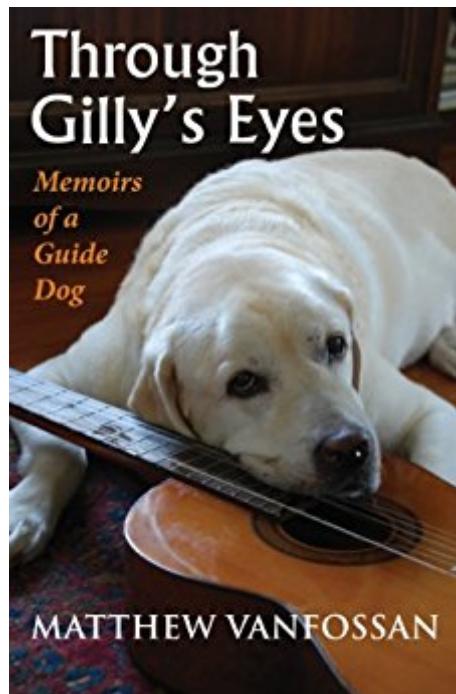


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Through Gilly's Eyes: Memoirs Of A Guide Dog



Synopsis

Through Gilly's Eyes is a moving coming-of-age story about a young man and the guide dog who loved him. What would you do if you were sitting in school one morning and suddenly found you couldn't see? When it happens to Matt VanFossan during his third year of college, it's the start of a life he hasn't planned on and definitely doesn't want. When he's paired with a new guide dog a few months later, he's still in a state of denial. But Matt's new companion, named Gilly, isn't one for self-pity - or modesty, as he describes himself as "one of the handsomest dogs at guide dog school." A keen observer of the human condition, especially his human's condition, Gilly provides a running commentary on Matt's progress. And as Gilly and Matt learn to work together, the two gradually forge a relationship that transcends the ordinary bonds between dog and man. From dog training school then back to college, from home and on to Brazil, Gilly relates their story with humor and insight. Through Matt's challenging adventures, new friendships, and ultimately, lasting love, Gilly provides him with guidance and companionship for six years - a lifetime that will last forever. Not a dog lover? You will be once you've finished this tale and looked at the world through Gilly's eyes. **FROM THE BOOK:** Matt and I made our first solo foray onto campus. I had no idea where we were going, and Matt, it turned out, had only a vague one. The two of us made an extremely awkward team. As we started off down the block, he began counting his steps in a low voice. Smart boy, I thought. I wouldn't be able to find our house on the very first return trip. He'd be able to cue me on the way back. Unfortunately, walking and counting at the same time didn't seem to be one of his strengths. I distinctly heard him say the number 'sixty' twice. Then, I heard him curse. Finally, we reached the intersection. "Two hundred and fourteen," he announced. Give or take a few dozen, I thought. Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â

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Customer Reviews

For me, this book was a powerful example of our fundamental interconnectedness, and how it can manifest itself in many different ways. In this memoir, the relationship between a young man and his guide dog grows and deepens as they face numerous challenges together, and it seems that the foundation of their unique relationship opens us a space for broader connections amongst friends, family and community. I was reminded of the importance of both asking for help and offering help to others. Although American culture often promotes an ideal of individualism and total self-sufficiency, in actuality everyone needs help sometimes, and by reaching out to each other we strengthen our connections.

I just finished reading "Through Gilly's Eyes" by Mathew VanFossan. This is an extraordinary story of a young blind man's rocky journey in a sighted world. Who could not fall in love with Gilly as he narrates this beautiful memoir? You don't have to be a dog lover to appreciate Matt's and Gilly's amazing relationship-and to cheer for both of them on every page of this book. Be prepared to laugh and cry and to be thankful that you can read each word with two good eyes.

"Through Gilly's Eyes" is an exceptionally honest portrayal of one young man's journey to being independent after the loss of his sight. Originality is shown with this tale (pun intended) being told from Gilly's, the guide dog, point of view. Comically he relates how handsome he is, how much he loves belly rubs, and lest I not forget his love for kibble. While this narrative could be wrought with angst, it is refreshingly not. It is a well written, truthful and straightforward story that moves at a fast pace with gobs of charm coming out of its proverbial ears. Any one who has a pet will want to embrace them once completing this touching and inspirational story. And if you want more then

check out pictures of Gilly at Matt's website: [...]

This was one of my favorite dog stories I have read for years. I liked the writers style of seeing through "Gilly's eyes". I enjoyed the interaction and adventures of Matt and Gilly and honestly didn't want the book to end however on the other hand I had trouble putting it down. The challenges of learning to depend on a seeing eye dog was so interesting bringing into play things I had never realized. It isn't just taking the harness and start out walking with your companion, It requires so much trust on both sides. I'm sure at some point I will return to this book and read it once more. I thoroughly connected with Matt and the love for his dog.

This is one of the best books I have read over the past few months. I got it for free, but would have been happy to pay for it. It is written from a dog's perspective, and you will find yourself laughing out loud, chastising the owner, and smiling throughout the entire book. There is, of course, a very touching, and sad part at the end, but you will be so glad that you read the book, you won't mind. I would read this book again.

Taking a dog's-eye view of the his world, Gilly gives us his take on navigating life with/for his blind partner. His voice is true and steady. He does his best at all times, and works with what he is given: a somewhat stubborn person who is learning to live with his blindness and isn't sure about trusting this new companion. There are lessons for all of us, and Gilly is very patient in passing them along.

I found its approach very different!! Reading the thoughts of the guide dog Gilly made the book different. We had a big Lab like her and they are really sweet. I believe dogs can scent different smells with our mood changes. This was well written from a dogs perspective Matt needed to learn to adjust to being blind and asking for help ...interesting reading!

This is a wonderful book! I enjoyed the story and how it was told through Gilly's eyes. It was very sweet way to tell the story of a young man who lost his sight and yet found his way in life through the love of his guide dog and several amazing people he met along the way as he grew and became comfortable with his disability. Their journey was fraught with bumps along the way, as are the journeys of most but their resilience and the way life turned out for both Gilly and Matt was very satisfying.

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