



## Country Wives

*Rebecca Shaw*

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Welcome back to Barleybridge, the picture-postcard English village where everybody knows their neighbors . . .

Kate Howard is still working as the receptionist at the Barleybridge Veterinary Hospital, but now she is determined to attend veterinary college. Things are running smoothly, both at work and in Kate's life, especially now that Scott Spencer, the handsome Australian vet who stole Kate's heart, has left town. But Scott's replacement, Daniel Brown, is quickly making enemies of the staff and clients alike with his abrupt style and unreasonable demands. When Dan causes the loss of an important client, the wives connected to the practice determine that something must be done to stop him.

For her part, Kate secretly appreciates Dan's no-nonsense approach, despite everyone else's ongoing annoyance. When Kate is faced with a devastating tragedy, Dan reveals a sad secret of his own and helps her through her crisis. But what will the rest of the town think of their newfound friendship?

Delightfully warm, engaging, and filled with the simple joys of small-town English life, "Country Wives" will inspire readers to return to Barleybridge again and again."

## Country Wives Details

Date : Published October 24th 2006 by Three Rivers Press (CA) (first published January 1st 2001)

ISBN : 9781400098217

Author : Rebecca Shaw

Format : Paperback 279 pages

Genre : Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review Country Wives for online ebook

### **Karen says**

As a child, I spent five years in James Harriot country. I recognized the speech and the scenery in both the books and the movies. I didn't get this book at all.

Everything about this book felt so forced and contrived. I wasn't expecting another Harriot series, but I was expecting quite a bit more than this book delivered.

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### **Jan says**

What a truly delightful book, it was a gift from a friend who grew up on a farm. The story is about a local Veterinarian Clinic in a farming community and how the employees click or don't click. One gets to grow to like or dislike the employees. Feeling for the animals, and cheering at the love stories.

I really enjoyed this book, and passed it on to another friend who has animals and a farm, knowing she would enjoy it also.

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### **Krisz says**

Rebecca Shaw writes interesting books about interesting, yet nothing special characters. It makes a peaceful, light reading and I will search out her other novels too.

This is the second of her writings I have read, the first being Talk of the Village, and that genuinely surprised me with its clear and enjoyable voice. Country wives was the same. I wish it was longer though, and I didn't feel the title had anything to do with the contents.

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### **Kim says**

2.5 stars

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### **Bee says**

This was very just so-so for me. Sure, it's a cute series but everything felt very wooden and predictable and I kind of had to force myself to finish it. I really *wanted* to enjoy this book because it's a premise I like, but it fell flat. It's one of my 'lunch hour' books, which are usually quick reads that will keep my attention in lots of little spurts. I may or may not read the third in the series -- not because I'm invested in the storylines, but because I always have this weird compulsion to finish series that I start. I need to learn to let them go!

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### **Bonnie McHenry says**

Really good 2nd installement of the Barleybridge series. So far, each of the novels has had some secret that has been revealed. It keeps you reading and guessing just what is going to happen next. I love how the author has incorporated the lives of the farmers with the veterinarians. You get to know the farmers and the veterinarians on a personal basis and come to feel for what they endeavor. Can't wait to read the 3rd in the series.

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### **Sanne says**

Country Wives was an interesting read; something a little different in flavour from the novels I usually read. Kate Howard wants to become a Veterinarian but for now is still a veterinary nurse. When the Australian vet Scott, leaves to return to Australia, her heart is broken and she is wary of becoming involved or allowing her emotions to become part of another's life for now so doesn't open up to anyone, except Mungo's wife.

In bowls the larger-than-life new replacement vet Dan Brown, whose abrupt and direct manner has already wrangled the nerves of some of the wives of the veterinary clinic. Most do not like that he is a newby with a few ideas of his own in how the clinic can make a little better cash flow. The head vet Mungo's wife, and Kate are the only two to see the potential of Dan Brown and they upset the other wives, because they like the man.

However, Dan upsets the wives even more when he loses the contract of the local Lord and while the wives give him the cold shoulder for it, gossiping behind his back and causing more friction within the clinic, the local farmers love him and he becomes the hardest working of all the vets in the practice.

When tragedy strikes Kate, Dan is there for her offering a sympathetic shoulder, and when he becomes sad about his well hidden past, he opens up to Kate, and their friendship bonds.

Dan decides that the clinic needs an injection of funds so comes up with an idea, which gets Mungo's backing, to put a small display cabinet in the front of the clinic to sell animal toys, pet foods and the like, but the wives are totally against it, simply because the idea came from Dan. However, it goes ahead and proves the wives wrong.

Then another rather serious event occurs whereby the local Lord requires help and asks for Dan personally, despite he not even liking the vet.

Many other events occur during this read and then just before it all winds up, a few surprise events happen....but I'm not going to spoil it for you; you'll have to read it and find out.

I really enjoyed this book and being from a 'small town area' in the country, I could relate to all those characters in an easy way, because that is exactly what small town people are like. Rebecca Shaw has done another fine job.

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### **Barbra says**

This is the 2nd in the Barleybridge series and I liked it just as much as the first. Different to the Turnham Malpas series (of course).

#### Back Cover Blurb:

There's trouble afoot in Barleybridge. The vet's practice, which normally runs so smoothly, is disrupted by the new locum, Dan, who seems to be annoying just about everyone with his abrupt manner and unreasonable demands. And when he succeeds in losing an important client through his arrogant attitude, the wives connected to the practice are determined that something has to be done. But Kate, who works at the practice, finds she rather likes Dan's no-nonsense approach, despite what everyone thinks of him. Kate is determined to go to veterinary college and has already made some difficult decisions to fulfil her dream. Then, when she is suddenly confronted by a devastating tragedy at home, it is Dan, with a sad secret of his own, who helps her come to terms with her new situation.....

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### **Linore says**

Lovely book, great, deep characters, fun British speak (for this American) and truly heart-touching situations. Echoes of James Herriot with its veterinary office setting, too. Unfortunately, the ending was a huge disappointment for me. Can't say more or it would be a spoiler. (The author gets five stars for writing so well, despite my disappointment with the ending.) And by the close of the book, you'll be very fond of the cast and of Barleybridge, feeling like you want to return for another visit. Time to look up the next in the series!

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### **Julie says**

I enjoy reading a series as you get to know the characters. This series doesn't disappoint and is a typical day in the life which I enjoy so much. a veterinary practice in Yorkshire - what could be better!

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### **Deb says**

This is the second book in the gentle Barleybridge series. Kate Howard is still working as a receptionist at the Barleybridge veterinary clinic while hoping to get into vet school. She's still recovering from her disappointment at a former vet's return to Australia. The new interim vet, Dan Brown, is causing a series of upsets, from losing a valuable client, to making enemies of a partner and another partner's wife. Kate's life also takes a huge hit with two traumatic events, but with the support of Mia and friends in the practice, she manages to find an even keel. I enjoyed this installment, and will be looking for the next book in the series.

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## **Sue says**

This book is second in the Barleybridge series, but was fine as a stand-alone read, although probably some things would have been clearer had I read the first book beforehand. There seemed to be rather a large cast - several vets, nurses and receptionists - although there was a helpful list at the front.

I found the plot and many subplots interesting, but rather too fast for my liking: in only a little over 250 pages there was a vast amount of action which could easily have filled a novel twice as long.

But as well as feeling that a lot was missing, I found the writing style a bit irritating at times. There was a lot of informal English, and some rather careless editing. I realise this does happen in a lot of modern books, but it's usually the 'chick-lit' variety, and this story had the potential to be something more. James Herriot it's not - by a long chalk - but it could still have been a well-characterised, well-written insight into life in a large country vet practice. Unfortunately, it wasn't.

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## **Jenny L says**

Unlike the first in the series, this book is more about the vets, than Kate. Rebecca Shaw delves deeper into the lives of the Barleybridge residents and you become more involved and invested as a result. I now await the arrival of book 3 - which is only available in the UK, so it will take a while to reach me here in the US !

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## **Catherine Christie says**

I liked the book. It read easily and quick. I didn't like the ending though.

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## **Sue says**

I read this without having read the first book in the series. I'll go back and read the first and probably finish the series. It's a nice easy read. Reminds me of the Mitford and Lumby books. Though it could be considered "G Rated" the characters and story line are interesting. It's nice to read something that isn't dark and doesn't include a lot of unnecessary details about sexual encounters.

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