



Field Notes: A City Girl's Search for Heart and Home in Rural Nova Scotia

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"When my husband told me he didn't want to be married any longer, I didn't call a lawyer, talk to my minister, or even tell my best friend. My first thought—and only plan—was *go to Pugwash*."

So begins Sara Jewell's tender and heartfelt collection of essays. After a childhood of idyllic summers on Canada's east coast, Sara knew the only place she could begin to rebuild her life—to find her heart and home—was amid the salty air and red dirt roads of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.

Part humorous observation and part honest self-reflection, Sara deftly explores the people, creatures, landscapes, and experiences that make her life in rural Nova Scotia so different from the big-city one she'd grown accustomed to.

They say you can never go back. But they are wrong.

Advance praise for *Field Notes*:

"Within the pages of *Field Notes* I found a soul sister. Sara Jewell digs, with tenderness and wisdom, into the rich loam of life that nourishes rural Atlantic Canada. Delivered with gentle humour and prose as clear and lilting as the song of the hermit thrush at dusk, her thoughtful reflections and observations remind us of the harvest of healing we reap when people, landscapes, and creatures find harmony." - Deborah Carr

"Charming, brave, and spiritually refreshing, *Field Notes* is a love song to the country and all the humans and creatures who make their lives there. City-raised Sara Jewell's essays present a resonant array of subjects and themes, all compulsively readable and deftly explored. A funny and touching tribute to small rural communities, and the vibrant realities therein." - Marjorie Simmins

"Sara Jewell's heart is firmly rooted in rural Nova Scotia: its landscape and its people. In *Field Notes*, a lively cast of characters helps Jewell learn about life, love, and belonging. Through them and their stories, she learns what it means to be—finally—at home." - Pam Chamberlain

Field Notes: A City Girl's Search for Heart and Home in Rural Nova Scotia Details

Date : Published October 3rd 2016 by Nimbus Publishing (CN)

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Author : Sara Jewell

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Colleen says

What a delightful and honest book. I am a suburban chick who's been living in the country for seven years and found myself nodding a lot while reading. Sars has a beautiful way of describing the everyday. Highly recommended.

Rogan says

I am completely and utterly touched by what Sara has achieved with this novel. She has taken her years as an implant from the city in rural Nova Scotia (coincidentally where I am from) and woven it into a heartwarming, poignant tale full of wonder and awe, loss and grief, with a constant and genuine vulnerability that makes it a truly memorable collection of stories.

I am thankful to have purchased this book when I did. A must read for every maritimer, come from away or not.

Amy says

Absolutely loved this collection of short essays on rural living in Nova Scotia. Sara's stories filled me up and made me further appreciate how lucky I am to live in a rural community in this beautiful province. While I don't own farm land, chickens, or dogs, I lived vicariously through Sara and while reading I got to experience a cozy farm life. I will reread a handful of her essays again as their messages were enjoyable and heart warming.

Shannon says

Absolutely loved it! It wasn't really what I had expected (I think I expected a lot more chicken talk), but I absolutely loved it! Not being from NS originally myself, many bits in this book made me crack up and say "its so true!" before reading the passage to my husband.

Theres a whole chapter about Nova Scotians and waving and it had me chuckling the whole time. As much as I loved the whole book, this chapter really hits the nail on the head and was probably my favourite.

Ian yarington says

I love the heart felt looks at things in life and it makes it even better that it's someone's journey into something new. I also like the fact that it's broken down into little essays and easily digestible. I may feel this way because I'm a city kid that hasn't ever lived the farm life or ventured out of the city much.

Courtney says

As someone from Nova Scotia, I found this book to be an interesting look at my province from an outsider's point of view. Her stories about her friends and husband were relate-able and humorous. Overall I did enjoy this book.

Calee Spinney says

Not quite what I expected

I think I misread the description when I bought this; I thought it would be about the author's acclimation to Nova Scotia rather than vignettes looking back after living there for years — kind of like a Canadian version of Under the Tuscan Sun. It was enjoyable but lacked the depth I was looking for. Being a native Nova Scotian who has been away for 30 years, I was looking for a window into what it might be like to go back... and unfortunately, this didn't really deliver.

Trina says

I loved this book! The essays are so well written, I feel like I'm there with her. I didn't grow up on a farm, but I had a grandfather that did his own gardening, and while he may have had a grade 4 education, he knew a lot about the earth, harvesting, planting and raising pigs. I miss him and his knowledge, which is forever gone. I feel books like this bring me closer to my Grampy, and to my Nova Scotia, even being at the other end of it, far from Pugwash. A lovely read, great for country and city folk, alike.

Debbie says

4.5 stars

Would love to meet the author

Leasue says

I received a copy of the book through Goodreads Giveaways. I enjoyed the book greatly and have recommended it to others. I enjoyed the articles, and as a bit of spoiler-the funeral for the mouse was the best story, made me laugh out loud and scare the cat.

Joy Treacy says

This was a wonderful, insightful, and interesting book. I love the author's poignant descriptions of Nova Scotia; so delightful it made me want to go there one day! As put forth in a series of essays, the depiction of events and journeys throughout her life, tugged at my heart; it was as if I felt both her sorrows and joys. This is the author's first book, and the manner in which it's written displays wit, charm, and bravery. Highly recommend reading it, you won't be disappointed!

Kimberley says

Five stars aren't enough! Only two books have made me cry before. This one had me crying more than once. And laughing out loud. I wish Sara and I were friends. She writes like I think.
