



The Worm Whisperer

By Betty Hicks

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The Worm Whisperer By Betty Hicks

You've heard of Horse Whisperers and Dog Whisperers, but Ellis thinks he might be a Worm Whisperer!

Ellis Coffey loves animals. He spends so much time outdoors that sometimes he thinks he can talk with them. When he discovers a caterpillar that seems to follow his directions, he knows he has a chance to win the annual Woolly Worm race. The prize money is \$1,000--exactly the amount of the deductible for his dad's back surgery. If Ellis is right and he can train his woolly worm to be the fastest in the county, he's sure can solve all his family's problems. But when you're trying to talk to insects, nothing is as simple as it seems.

From Betty Hicks, author of the Gym Shorts series for new readers, comes a story of friendship, family, and hidden talents that might be more useful than they first seemed.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Ellis Coffey's life has its difficulties: Dad is injured and unemployed, but he can't get back surgery until he finds \$1,000 for the deductible; Mom works three jobs to make ends meet; and Ellis' social life suffers because he spends after-school hours doing chores. Still, his love of animals convinces him he might be a worm whisperer, and he sets out to prove it by training a caterpillar for the annual Woolly Worm Race, where first prize is—you guessed it—\$1,000. Naturally things don't work out as expected, but Ellis learns that there is more than one way to reach a goal. Set in Banner Elk, North Carolina (where a Woolly Worm Festival occurs each fall), Hicks' story provides plenty of local color as well as humor (Ellis can burp the national anthem). Side plots concerning a crush, a bully, and a teacher obsessed with vocabulary building enhance this story, and memorable scenes (Ellis and his caterpillar's adventures in church, for example) make this a great read-aloud. Hatke's genial spot illustrations are standard but welcome. Grades 3-5. --Kay Weisman

Review

"A satisfying ending neatly wraps up this warm story, and Hatke's occasional line drawings will add appeal for middle-grade readers." *?Kirkus Reviews*

"[an]empathic story." *?Publishers Weekly*

"Within this light novel Hicks unobtrusively includes classroom-friendly features, such as a weekly vocabulary lesson and information about metamorphosis, but these elements don't interfere with the trajectory of the story line." *?The Horn Book*

"Hicks writes with a gentle, sure hand, bringing to life the rural North Carolina setting. Hatke's expressive illustrations perfectly capture the book's emotional warmth." *?School Library Journal*

About the Author

Betty Hicks is the author of the Gym Shorts series as well as novels *Get Real*, *Out of Order*, *Busted!* and *I Smell Like Ham*. She lives in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Ben Hatke is the author/illustrator behind *Zita, the Spacegirl*. He lives in the Shenandoah Valley with his wife and a boisterous pack of daughters.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Lheureux:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they are still students or this for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that query above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and important the book *The Worm Whisperer*. All type of book are you

able to see on many methods. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

Mary Bolinger:

Do you have something that suits you such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to decide on book like comic, quick story and the biggest you are novel. Now, why not striving The Worm Whisperer that give your satisfaction preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world far better then how they react towards the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for all you who want to start studying as your good habit, you are able to pick The Worm Whisperer become your own personal starter.

John Minnis:

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Mary Kidd:

Many people spending their time by playing outside using friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book really can hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like The Worm Whisperer which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's find.

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