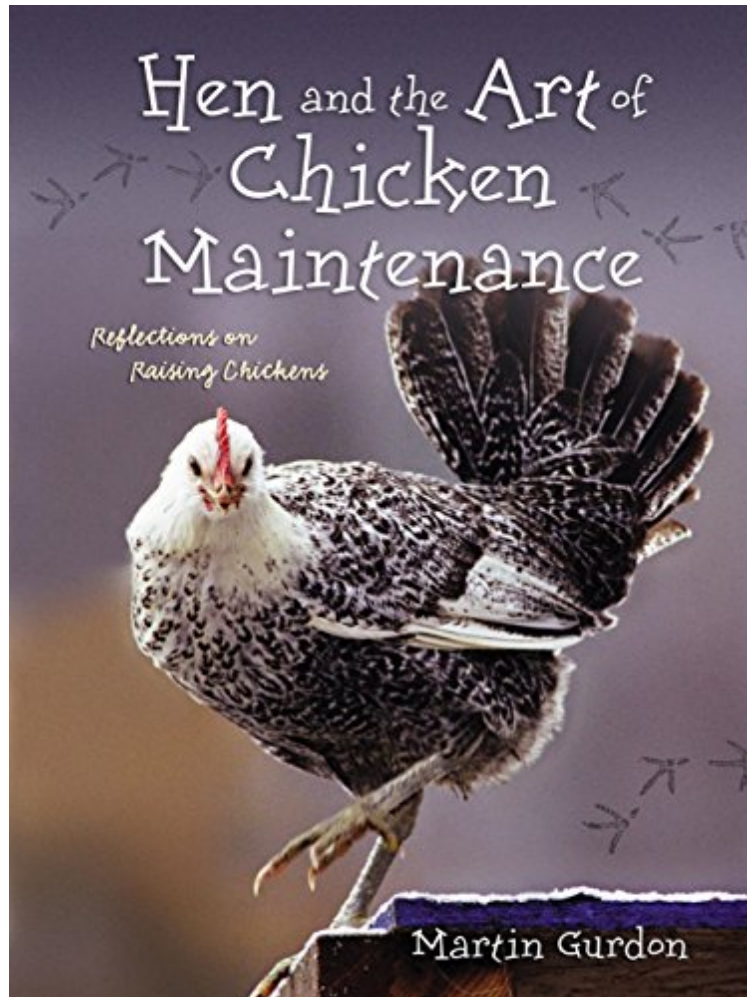


Hen and the Art of Chicken Maintenance: Reflections on Raising Chickens

Martin Gurdon

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Martin Gurdon : Hen and the Art of Chicken Maintenance: Reflections on Raising Chickens before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hen and the Art of Chicken Maintenance: Reflections on Raising Chickens:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amusing anecdotes and stories from a sporadic lifetime raising chickens...By Jackie-the-Greyhound Plenty of fun stories, a few poignant moments and basically an appreciation for some backyard chicken raising. Not a 'how-to' guide, rather just some so-called slices of life type stories. A nice little diversionary read that I enjoyed. Recommended for someone who likes to read about chickens.'s ranking definitions: 1 star: I hated it 2 star: I don't like it 3 star: It's OK 4 star: I liked it

Owning chickens is fast becoming the latest in metropolitan chic. If you can't own them, you'll still want to read about them-witness the recent success of books such as *Extraordinary Chickens* and *Living With Chickens*. Another book is soon to hit the poultry bestseller list: This hilarious account of a rookie poultry-owner's experience raising birds in his backyard. Move over Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt (both rumored to raise chickens), Martin Gurdon has written the first "chicken memoir" of its kind. Bound to be a classic, *Hen and the Art of Chicken Maintenance* follows the Gurdon family through the ups and downs of this wonderful hobby. In addition to providing eggs, the hens offer distractions from everyday life-BB has terrific telephone etiquette, the spirited but weak Yvette requires Gurdon to act as a personal trainer, and Wimpy is soon renamed Psycho when she's allowed to brood three of her eggs. The book chronicles the daily life of a chicken, including dust baths, brutal pecking-order rituals, gender-bending encounters, and, for its owner, the possibility of huge vet bills. The relationship between bird and human is by turns heartwarming and bewildering, but always entertaining. In fact, readers might even learn a thing or two about raising chickens in this lively book.

From Booklist
In this warmly funny paean to pet chickens, Gurdon chronicles life with a garden flock of hens. As a boy he had kept pet chickens, but they had mostly been worn-out hens culled from the local factory farm. When he and his wife decided to start their suburban flock, a visit to a local breeder resulted in a potpourri of hens in various sizes, colors, and personalities. The author was immediately inducted into the more brutal side of hen keeping when his new girls began to peck and terrorize each other as they sorted out their hierarchy--the classic "pecking order" of psychology. What follows is a wryly amusing memoir of the hens as the author tries to prevent escapes, rescues other lost chickens, teaches his hens to sit on his lap (food is a powerful inducer), and discovers how to do physiotherapy on a lame hen. Illustrated with line drawings, Gurdon's tales of hens will be popular among readers who love true animal stories in the James Herriot vein. Nancy Bent
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "A lovingly told romp through the adventures of an amateur chicken keeper and his flock." -*The Guardian* "A real hoot . . . a book on keeping chickens in the town and the country, but also a humorous look at the bird and its idiosyncrasies." -*The Bookseller*