

Viola Vincent Reporting - Underdog by Anna Kenna

5 stars

An easy read but with a strong message

This is the second Caitlin Nove book, and this time she becomes involved in investigating the horrific crime of puppy farming.

Caitlin is a 13-year-old normal teenager except with very strong morals in causes that inspire her. But, unlike many other people, Caitlin gets personally involved in bringing situations to everyone's attention and gets things changed.

She does this through her alter ego, Viola Vincent, an anagram of her real name and with the help of her journalist friend Megan, who allows Viola to use her newspaper to publicise her causes.

Caitlin discovers the horrendous puppy farming industry quite by chance when she is at the vets with her cat and notices a scruffy man with a dog in a terrible condition in the surgery. When the vet starts to explain what is needed for the dog to recover, the man leaves saying he will sort out the dog. Caitlin has managed to get a picture of this man and also has seen the dog in the cage and realises that she has recently given birth. She cannot get this poor dog out of her mind and, with the help of various sympathetic people, realises that puppy farms not only exist locally but that the laws are so relaxed that animals can lawfully be kept in terrible conditions and there is very little that can be done.

However, Caitlin is not the type of girl to give up and, as her alter ego Viola, investigates in her own inimitable way to bring the perpetrators of such cruelty to justice.

This book was a very easy read but really shows how a determined person, no matter how young, can change bad things. I enjoyed reading this book and as an owner of a dog myself was horrified by the whole idea of puppy farms. I would recommend this book also to young people, it is a subject that needs to be dealt with and I am sure that puppy farms exist everywhere and if enough people care something can be done about them. We need people like Caitlin and I hope more people will be encouraged to try and fight just causes like these by reading this book.

Dexter

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