



How Not To Run A B&B

Bobby Hutchinson

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HOW HARD CAN IT BE?? A HUMEROUS MEMOIR *Bobby Hutchinson, a best selling Harlequin romance writer, decides to open a B&B in Vancouver, B.C.*

Despite never having stayed in a B&B and knowing absolutely nothing about running one, she jumps right in. Strange people from nearby and halfway around the world arrive at her home with their stories and struggles, not to mention their baggage, psychological and otherwise.

In explaining why she opened a B&B, she says, "I was far too old for prostitution, the only other job I could think of which might net enough to pay the mortgage."

??? HUMOR, A LITTLE TRAGEDY AND MANY LIFE LESSONS. (But mostly humor.)

What does a hostess do when a dog rips the bathroom apart? Or gerbils reproduce in the attic?

Make wonderful breakfasts and keep on keeping on.

??? SURE FIRE BREAKFAST RECIPES

Lots of other recipes as well, guaranteed to turn out. And some advice that may or may not work, but what can you lose by trying?

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How Not To Run A B&B Details

Date : Published March 14th 2012 by Sunflower Publishing (first published 2009)

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Author : Bobby Hutchinson

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From Reader Review How Not To Run A B&B for online ebook

Amy says

I picked up this book as research... I'm writing about a B&B and wanted some good stories to spin off of. What I found here was actually something beyond that. Hutchinson describes her forays into the B&B business while also describing her community, her friends, her family, and herself. Sometimes the stories seemed a bit gratuitous, but I found myself wanting to meet Eric with his bike helmet and Louis & Sammy (I hope that cat is still out there yowling somewhere!). This was a pleasant surprise of a book!

Paul says

This is just a hilarious book, written as a memoir about a Canadian woman who decides to open up a bed and breakfast. The stories about some of her guests are almost fictional in their comicalness, if that's a word. Toward the end, the last 30 pages, it gets dull as she narrates exactly what one should do if one wants to open a B&B, which I don't imagine most readers do. But the neighbors are characters out of Dickens, the guests are out of Dostoyevsky, and the improbabilities are so outré that it's hard to keep from laughing out loud.

I'm a serious reader of comic essays, and this is one of the best. On the negative side, she's just an above-average writer, and there are factual errors and word approximations throughout the book.

But it's a scream.

Janice E. Ryberg says

Terrific book about running a B&B!

Actually this book is so much more than about running a B&B. Wonderful recipes are included, so you know Bobby is the real deal and not a pick-it-up-at-the-store already made. She also has a wonderful heart overflowing with love for humankind. Enjoying life to the fullest is her greatest trait and I wish I could learn it just by reading her book. You will enjoy this book and wish Bobby lived next door (I do)!

Carol Keenan says

Enjoyable!

This author writes very well. She'll have you chuckling most of the way through the book. The title is deceiving, as it sounds like she is been quite successful at running a small bed-and-breakfast.

Heather says

A slim volume that makes up for what it lacks in pages by the largeness of its characters. You will never be

able to forget Bobby and her quirky cast of oddball friends and visitors. This is true sitcom material that further proves the saying "Real life is stranger than fiction!" I was grinning from beginning to end. READ IT!

Jay says

For those interested in the financial aspects of how to run a B&B, this is not the book you are looking for. There is little here on finances, beyond noticing how expensive things are. There's actually more financial info here on income of romance authors. And this doesn't contain how-to's on running a B&B. It's not that kind of book. Oddly, it is more like "A Year in Provence", albeit on a different scale and a tight budget. Instead of swimming pools and vineyards, this is more about electric toilets, stained sheets, and vermin infestations. The author describes many of her guests and renters, as well as the local folks that help her maintain her home and that provide the flavor of a neighborhood. She comes at innkeeping without having actually stayed at a B&B, and without apparently having lived in a large older house that required plentiful maintenance. She shares many mistakes and learnings, as many make for good anecdotes. I found this a quite interesting slice-of-life story, and I'm not surprised at where the story, and the author, goes in the end. The author includes some of her recipes, including some "tricks" she's learned along the way. Most surprising to me were the number of foreign guests she attracts, many who stay for extended periods. If you have thought about opening a B&B, this will give you enough stories to either give pause or light your fuse. Entertaining.

Meg says

Funny, honest, and really engaging. Full of anecdotes and recipes. A lovely read.

Crewmom325 says

What a woman!

The only disappointment I have is that I'll never be able to stay with Bobby at the Blue Collar. This joyful memoir left me wanting more but grateful that I stumbled on such an entertaining read!

Stella says

Really enjoyed this. It read like a novel. This woman can write, that's for sure. I felt like i knew them all.

Interesting stories written from a fairly single minded perspective of a woman who doesn't like to travel. It shows, but not in a bad way. This is how i imagine most of those nice people are to foreigners. They try so hard not to show their prejudices. Anyway, i really enjoyed this so much, may check a romance by the same author.

Hope she will write a 'sequel'.

Moggy K says

Couldn't finish it. I am easily annoyed by little things. When the author claimed to be a "vegan vegetarian" and said that was why she did not have bacon in her house, then proceeded to fix her guest eggs I just shook my head. Vegans do not eat eggs. Then when she insisted on referring to her neighbors as "Oriental" I really started to dislike the book. Things are Oriental, not people. And in fact from what I understand it is considered a derogatory term to call a person of Asian decent in Canada (as it also is here in the U.S.). I finally gave up at about 35% ~ I may at some time in the future revisit it and try to finish reading it, but that is doubtful. It just wasn't a good enough story to put up with the ignorance.

Suzanne says

I like Bobby Hutchinson 's writing so this review is bias. I really needed something to take my mind of my own issues and Bobby does it again. This book is so much more than a book about a B&B. The book is about people and learning to get along with yourself and others. The book is non fiction and her recipes are probably one of the real treasures. Just reading one of her books draws me in and makes me want to explore my feelings. She never claims to have the right answers but shared with you what she has learned. With her personal testimony I often realize things about myself that I identify with. Readers looking for ideas about running a B&B are not going to find real real better business approved answers here. But getting along in a changing world of different people and cultures and still functioning as a business owner who is paying the mortgage is more the theme. I enjoyed the book and hated to see it end. It filled those hours in my life when I needed someone to draw my focus and not take myself so seriously.

Askaline says

How not to run a B&B is a fun and relaxing read – and much more than I expected. The same situations written differently could have made for a bland read but the author's style gave the situations a turn that was often funny . The occasional esotéric bits she drops here and there are sometimes bewildering but interesting enough to research some of them (even without agreeing). She also manages to creates a link of empathy between the reader and the characters that makes for a very satisfying read.

When I turned the last page, I felt like I had spent a fantastic afternoon drinking tea and eating cranberry muffins (recipe in the book) with a good friend. And boy did it feel good!

carolyn jacobs says

Good book

The title says it all. A spunky women decides to run her home into a bed and breakfast. We do this with a little help from her friend. E learn her personal and business philosophy and in the process get to know her. It is warm in quirky way. I enjoy and recommend it

Bark says

Well, this book may have just steered me away from my lofty dreams of winning the lottery, buying an old haunted Victorian, converting it to a B&B and becoming the new Norma Bates.

I always thought people checked in, did their own thing, ate breakfast with their companions and then went on their merry way. That's what I always did when visiting a B&B but I guess I was doing it very wrong. Perhaps I am terribly anti-social because just thinking about having to entertain strangers and chit chatting them up the way this lady did makes me want to crawl into a ball and hide forever. I also know I could not clean up a stranger's body fluid with an old toothbrush. If ever I found myself googling "how to remove a semen stain" I'd consider myself stuck in one of the circles of hell and would throw in the towel (and probably throw away the sheets). She jumps in full steam and keeps going.

I give this lady a lot of credit for attempting something new and frightening (well, to me at least) when her romance novel sales started to decline and she needed help with the mortgage payments. She had never even stayed at a B&B before but figured it'd be some easy money. She can cook, she loves people and she knows how to clean sheets with the help of Google. What could go wrong?!

This wasn't exactly the book I thought it was going to be strictly going from the title but it was close enough and it kept me entertained. It's really not about the first time mistakes made by a new B&B owner with zero experience. Those are sprinkled in along with all of the vignettes about her dating/social life, her woo-woo views on spirituality (we are living in some sort of dream world?) and her guests and neighbors who are, uh, colorful.

She is, in my opinion, a little too truthful in her telling. Maybe I'm too secretive but were it me, I would've definitely left some things out. That last awful interlude with her elderly neighbor. Ouch. That one hurt my heart. And then there's the fact that she is 61, twice divorced, has three grown sons and should really know much better than to sleep with one of her guests after only knowing him a day or so. What the hell, you only live once, right? She goes for it because she doesn't know when or if she'll be propositioned again. I found that a little worrisome. He could've been any number of horrible things; riddled with disease, a serial killer, a nose picker or even a cat kicker. How would she know after only a conversation or two?! She then goes on to detail what a terrible experience it was for her because it was over in 16 seconds and he wasn't up for another round. Ha, she soon realized why his ex-wife didn't want to have sex with him. I don't think I needed to know any of that even if it did amuse me. It was all a little TMI for my delicate constitution and then she had to be nice to him?!

There are several recipes included that I am entirely too lazy to make but if you're into that you'll enjoy them. None of them are vegan because even though she states that she's a vegan/vegetarian (uh, pick one!) at the beginning of the book, and that she doesn't want bacon tainting her house, soon after she whips up some eggs. Methinks she is a little bit confused about the vegan word but my kid was vegan for years so I know it doesn't mean cooking with eggs. Or cow's milk. Or butter.

Other than that it was a nice enough way to spend my ride for a few days. Narrator Randye Kaye does a professional job and has a musical delivery to her voice and also the ability to deepen her voice for the men.

I received a copy of this book from Tantor Media. Thanks, Tantor!

Deb says

Audiobook - a cute, short story about a twice divorced woman in her 60's who writes romance novels and opens a Bed and Breakfast in Vancouver Canada. It goes through her trials and tribulations, guests and renters, friendships and lessons learned. Along the way she gives a few recipes, words of wisdom and advice, spiritual guidance and karma.
