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illustrated with cartoons

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## NORMA HUXTABLE'S EXMOOR EXPOSED

## Norma Huxtable

For ten years, Norma Huxtable – farmer, landlady, writer, wit and all-round exposer of the social scene that makes Exmoor such a unique place to live – has delighted readers of Exmoor – The Country Magazine with her regular 'Last Word' column. Now, by popular demand, the pieces are collected together in book form. Rejoice again at the antics of Farmer Fred, the genteel aspirations of Missus (whose Christmas present last year was the gloves that came free with a bag of rat poison), the incredulity of the 'newcomers' and the generally superior attitude of the assorted livestock. Discover anew the centrality of Exmoor to world affairs – or, as one worthy succinctly phrased it, 'If it ain't happening up Hawkridge then I ain't concerned'. Above all, learn once more how to speak, act and dress Exmoor, a place where a fashion statement is the colour of the baler twine you use to hitch up your trousers. 'But', as Norma says, 'what the heck – this is Exmoor, not Vogue magazine.'

**Norma Huxtable** is a farmer's wife who established a successful second successful business as a summer landlady, and thereafter has delighted thousands through her witty talks, radio appearances, two books of her hilarious experiences, and her regular column in *Exmoor – The Country Magazine*.

Halsgrove House, Ryelands Industrial Est.ate, Bagley Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796 one Nisember and half the population austide any piven vilage half will be expoled by borflore voices drifting finough the evening mist with such offerings as "Manna's little baby loves shortening bread" followed by "Home Cooking". Inside, the scene is as the Wildow Teachery's kitchen where the other half of the population is rehearing for the annual Christmas partorismer. This involves conting, actumes and Murmines who inside "Let's involve lots and lots of beery children" but qual on Inding they're expected to design and see for twenty teeries dressed os chickers.

The biggest loughs, according to the cost, come at relevancist, and such is the enthusians that some of the performers practise at home. One busom lodg, bitmining with enthusiasm, persuaded the wice to relevance what had been a particularly stifled love scene in her home. 'Lock at me,' she instructed. 'Lock at me like I was a trifle.' The vicar squared his aboutiers and orderaced bowered his lab possible his port on a chair leg and clutched or his portion to save himself, finishing up with both hands folded across her emple bosom. As though an acce, the door opened and an engliphous, known locally as "News of the World", wolked in. All three remained transfered — end of scene, but with no merciful curtain to ring down.

Casting can often be open to criticism and whilst Prince Charming is usually a hard-riding, tough gal with hidy-sized thighs that crack thunderously when thwacked, the Princeis has deceptively

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An example of a double page spread





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