



WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

I Will Love You Until the Cows Come Home

There is nothing better than being remembered by a cow.

You have no doubt heard the expression “an elephant never forgets.” I can confirm the same is true about a cow, especially one you have raised from birth.

Various health problems kept me away from helping my husband feed and move our herd to new pastures for a couple of months. I was so very happy to get back in the groove of our old beloved routine.

My husband drives the tractor carrying round bales, and I drive our ranger with buckets of cubes.

Our girls know well what the sound of the ranger and tractor means, so they mosey their way to the next pasture gate.

While my husband was getting the round bales in place, I walked over to the fence where the herd had congregated in the hopes I would be remembered. Much to my utter delight it was clear that I was.

I searched for my sweet Butterfly who has always loved to eat cubes out of my hand. Finally, I saw her standing and staring at me from the back of the pack. I called out to her.

As soon as she heard my voice, she excitedly pushed her way to the fence where I was standing.

She was certain her mamma had treats for her, and she was right.

It bears repeating. There is nothing better than being remembered by a cow.

Indeed, it is pretty darn magical to feel loved by a cow. She totally



Butterfly is eager to eat cubes from Bridges' hand, showcasing the incredible connection that ranchers have with their cattle. (Photo courtesy of Annette Bridges)

accepts you for who you are without judgment, and she makes you feel like the most important thing in the world to her.

It is a wonderful privilege to experience connection with another creature that requires no words. Although, I do believe our girls like to hear me love-talking with them.

There is a profound bond between cattle ranchers and their cows. These gentle giants have a unique ability to touch our hearts in ways that can be difficult to

describe.

Caring for our beautiful bovines has taught me the true meaning of unconditional love and acceptance.

I have learned much about patience, forgiveness and simply living in the present moment.

Cows have a way of connecting us to our innate sense of compassion and our interconnectedness with all living beings. This reminds us of the beauty and sacredness of life itself.

I am much more aware of the

length of our days now that I have entered the fall season of my life.

I think it makes me even more conscious of the brief length of a cow's time on earth.

This makes me want to be sure the quality of days for our herd means they are well-nourished, loved and cared for as long as they live on our ranch.

All of these feelings and beliefs will keep me hand-feeding cubes to my sweet Butterfly and any other beautiful bovine who wants to eat out of my hand. 🐮