



The Dog Who Healed a Family: And Other True Animal Stories That Warm the Heart & Touch the Soul

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In this charming collection of nineteen stories, you can't help but fall in love with the unlucky fawn who is saved by a nursing home, the troublesome rabbit who warms her way into a new family and the good (German) shepherd who comforts the sick. These are stories of hope, humor, triumph, loyalty, compassion, life and even death—but most of all, these are stories of love and the extraordinary animals who make our lives the richer for it.

The Dog Who Healed a Family: And Other True Animal Stories That Warm the Heart & Touch the Soul Details

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From Reader Review The Dog Who Healed a Family: And Other True Animal Stories That Warm the Heart & Touch the Soul for online ebook

Helena says

Suloisia ja tunteisiin vetoavia eläintarinoita, samantapaisia kertomuksia olen lukenut aiemmin joistain muista kirjoista. Nämä toimivat muistutuksena eläinten viisaudesta - ja eläinten ja ihmisten välisestä ystävyydestä parhaimmillaan.

Lenore Webb says

I've always had pets in my house, from the time I was four years old and decided I wanted a kitten. When I asked my dad for one, his response was something along the lines of "you can have a cat or me." I replied, without missing a beat: "when are you moving out?" The next day, mom and I went and got Snowball, the demon kitten from hell. After learning that Siamese cats are occasionally insane due to inbreeding, we got an older, spayed, de-clawed cat named Annie. That started a wonderful group of various pets, everything from dogs and cats to finches and ferrets. Suffice to say, I love animals.

With my great love for animals, I asked to review Jo Coudert's book for my mom's blog. The Dog who Healed a Family and other True Animal Stories that warm the heart & touch the soul is a book that delivers exactly what it promises. There were stories in this book that drove me to happy tears and others that had me wishing I could live the events that were described. Everything is written simply and to the point, the collected stories told without too much excess. Animal stars range from dogs to birds to deer to raccoons all of whom work miracles on the hearts of their owners. These stories reminded me of things central to my life: animals are people too and miracles can happen in everyday life. As I read, I remembered my own pets, those I still own and those who have lived their lives as my spoiled babies, who have left their own special tracks on my heart.

Lacey says

I don't normally write reviews, but wanted to warn people about this one, in case the cutesy cover and title led you to believe it would be a good book for your children.

I got this book for my mom for Mother's Day, thinking it would be sugary, fluffy light bedtime reading about cute animals, a book she could pass along to my grandma. She read it, said some of the stories were "disturbing" and this was definitely not a book for my grandmother. Disbelieving, I gave it a read myself... Wow. Thrown in with the cutesy heartwarming fluff are stories of a deer being shot to death in front of a dinner party, a javelina forcibly taken from a family and left to die in the woods, a precious kitten whose skeleton disintegrates from a bizarre disease... WTF? Unfortunately, it's the messed up stories that will get etched into your brain. 48 hours later, I'm already forgetting the cutesy ones.

Sharon says

Jo Coudert has gathered a collection of 19 stories that illustrate the human/animal bond. Dogs, cats, pigs, ducks, geese, pigs and even deer and raccoons "people" the pages of this short book.

Coudert has chosen stories that will make her readers laugh, cry and experience the full range of motions in between. The common theme is that people and animals teach each other about love and compassion, as has been borne out by numerous studies and significant research.

Science and empirical data is one thing, but the anecdotal evidence provided in this book seals the deal. Animal lovers are sure to be touched by stories about a fawn who makes friends with nursing home residents, a pig who helps heal his mistress' agoraphobia and more.

Highly recommended.

(Review based on uncorrected advance proof.)

Kirsti says

I've had this on my to-read list for a while now, and finally decided to take the plunge. I do love a book filled with short stories about animals, although I must read too many of them because two of the stories in this book have definitely been in Chicken Soup books. That aside, the other stories were lovely to read, fresh and new to me. I adore exploring that relationship between a human and their beloved animal, whatever it may be. I often say that you get a real animal soul mate sometimes, and mine is my Ivan. Even now he sleeping against my knee, and glacks softly if I touch him. God I love this cat!

A beautiful book filled with short stories and animals, and definitely made my Sunday afternoon a little teary. Four stars!

Mary (BookHounds) says

I don't know if it is a good sign or not to be in happy tears by the end of the first story in this collection of essays about animals, but for me, any book that provokes emotion is usually a good one. The story about Snoopy, the dachshund/beagle mix, just hit the spot about the kindness of strangers coming together to get this 16 pup home via a "puppy express" to the family that couldn't afford to get him back after a job loss and travel across country. I was also truly touched by the story of two ducks that adopted a lady and even though she didn't want the ducks around, they quacked their way into her heart.

There are several more dog stories and quite a few about deer and bunnies as well. This would make the perfect gift for any animal lover. The stories are quite heart warming and uplifting. I could also imagine that these would make excellent tales to read out loud to a younger child.

Julia says

I remember getting this book and reading it while I enjoyed the book. And I just re-read the book while I wasn't as much happy with the book the second time around. In a sense this is one of several books that are written about animals while exploring how we interact with those other species that live around us, seeking for a clue of why we do what we do with the animals (love) and exploring some heartwarming stories.

The first story once more made me cry for the lengths that so many gentle-hearted people would take to bring an old dog home but the other stories were bland in a sense or not much to put your hopes up on. And there is one story "Experiment In Love" that I wish they hadn't included since I think it was cruel for someone to actually go the lengths to experiment on a bunch of kittens what would happen if favoritism was brought in to a bunch of vulnerable babies that couldn't argue or fight the unfairness of it all.

Although some of the stories were heart-warming and thought-provoking while there were several that didn't need to be included in this collection. All in all it will give you a chance to learn about some of the animals around us but there are definitely much better animal collection stories that are easier to read and not-so-bland as this book.

Shannon Rochester says

Honestly, I loved the book but there were a couple of short stories in there that I didn't really feel belonged...they did NOT leave my heart feeling good like the rest of them did. But, all in all, this was a great read.

Sue says

This book is filled with really sweet stories. The writing style is a bit contrived, but the stories are very heart-warming. This is a great feel-good book.

Lois says

This collection of true short stories will make you laugh and cry. Both heartwarming and poignant in turn, veteran animal writer Jo Coudert has gathered together, in *The Dog Who Healed a Family: And Other True Animal Stories That Warm the Heart & Touch the Soul*, eighteen of her endearing, amusing and inspiring stories of special animal and human relationships that have pushed the boundaries of care and nurturing, and led to extraordinary bonds of love. Of the stories, seven were originally published in *The Reader's Digest*, seven originally appeared in *Woman's Day*, one first appeared in *McCall's*, and one was originally published in *Family Circle*.

Each story is written as a simple narrative account of the development of a relationship between one or more

domesticated or wild animals and one or more humans. The settings are diverse, ranging from a hermitage for contemplative nuns set on a hillside in Sebastopol, California to the home of a couple in Johnstown, New York. The animals range across the animal kingdoms from the slightly exotic species, such as snakes (there's one that's catchily named Windshield Viper) and birds (in one instance, a cygnet called Porcelain, whose name quickly gets shortened to Porcey), to the more conventional pets, such as dogs, which are pictured in a variety of locations, including one which is relocated cross country, gathering toys and gifts on the way, by means of a "puppy express" constituted of volunteers from local animal shelters all across America.

Each story is as endearing as the next, with all revealing Jo Coudert's compassion and empathy for both human and animal kind. As she writes in her afterword to this compact and insightful book, "[i]t doesn't feel the least bit threatening to be boundlessly loved by a dog or cat, and the dog or cat is more than content to be boundlessly loved in return... a human has carte blanche to love a pet at the top of his bent, just as fully, generously, wholeheartedly as he is capable of, and that is a superbly satisfying thing—to live out one's feelings without reserve."

The stories are written in a lively, accessible style, and few deal with death in any form. And, even when they do, it is done in such a discrete manner that even the most sensitive reader will not be unduly upset. Underlying each story there is a lesson to be learnt, but, once again, Jo Coudert's writing shows her mastery of this medium in that she gently intimates to what conclusion each story might lead, rather than hammering it home.

Demanding little of the reader apart from a loving heart, these stories are ideal gems with which to snuggle up on a cold winter's night, and so light as to be the perfect companion for those who are not in the best of health. In short, if you love animals, you will love this book, and even if you don't, you might find that *The Dog Who Healed a Family: And Other True Animal Stories That Warm the Heart & Touch the Soul* will make you repent your miscreant ways :).

Melody Michelle says

Okay, this is a SPOIL ALERT: not all of the animals survive. I know, I know, shocking. Somehow, I hoped (in vain) that all of the stories would magically end in the manner I wanted. But alas, they are true stories and that means a mixture of good and not-so-good emotions. I still enjoyed reading this book. I have three dogs, so I know how easy it is to be emotionally invested in pets. These are some good tales (or tails) that seem to unite the spirit of pet appreciators!

Joanne says

Short stories from the likes of Family Circle and Reader's Digest - lots of maudlin fluff.....:(

Rebecca says

I really liked all of the stories. My favorites were "The Puppy Express", "Sweet Elizabeth", "Frankie Buck", "I Love You, Pat Myers", "A Swan Called Porcelain", "Goose Steps", "The Dog Who Healed a Family", "A

Deer Asks for Help", "Where's Bubba?", "How Do You Spank a Duck?", "Connie and the Dog", "The Good Shepherd", "Saving Trouper", "The Pig Who Loved People" and "Afterword: The Year of Pure Love". So basically I think the whole book is excellent!!

Lauren says

Great book is definitely heart touching and u must read it I loved this book and I highly recommend it. Five stars from me.

Kirsty Hopgood says

I loved this book - anyone who loves animals will enjoy it, I did get a bit teary with some stories. Looking back on the titles, it is hard to choose a favourite - when I started the book and saw there were some stories on a duck, deer, raccoon and pig as well as dogs - I certainly didn't expect those stories to be as touching as well.

The writer concludes the book comparing the unconditional love an animal has for a human with the love humans share which was interesting.
