



Always By My Side: Life Lessons from Millie and All the Dogs I've Loved

Edward Grinnan, Debbie Macomber (Foreword)

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The editor-in-chief of *Guideposts* magazine shares the “heartfelt, honest, lovely” (*New York Times* bestselling author Dean Koontz) story of Millie, his beloved golden retriever, and how she taught him to be a more compassionate person, deepened his faith, and inspired him on his long-term path of recovery from addiction—with a foreword by Debbie Macomber.

From the moment his new golden retriever puppy jumped into his arms, Edward Grinnan and his wife, Julee, were in love with her. Edward didn’t know it yet, but Millie would change his life.

In this moving memoir, Edward Grinnan writes about his life with Millie—from their first joyous meeting, through her struggle with cancer, and eventual heartbreak death. Edward shares how her sensitivity, unconditional love, and innate goodness helped him discover those qualities in himself and put his complicated past in perspective.

Edward also shares the lessons he has learned from other dogs he’s loved—like Pete, a poodle his father bought him in the wake of his brother’s death; Rudy, who introduced him to his wife; Sally Browne, a mischievous cocker spaniel who befriended the homeless in his neighborhood; and Marty, a hundred-pound Labrador whose behavioral issues challenged his and Julee’s marriage—as well as lessons he’s learned from the celebrated dog stories in *Guideposts* magazine.

Poignant and insightful, *Always By My Side* is an inspiring book that explores the unbreakable bond between man and dog, revealing how faith shapes our love for our dogs, and how our dogs shape our faith.

Always By My Side: Life Lessons from Millie and All the Dogs I've Loved Details

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From Reader Review Always By My Side: Life Lessons from Millie and All the Dogs I've Loved for online ebook

Linda says

Thank you Net Galley for the opportunity to read this advance copy of this book. I enjoyed this book so much. We also have a golden retriever named Rusty who was a therapy dog but he is aging and is retired now. The book is a reminder to us of what will come soon.

Edward Grinnan has put together a memoir that was very tough to put down. Every page was filled with love, understanding and acceptance. He has looked below the surface of his animals and likes what he sees there. Edward and his wife Julee adore their dogs and have made their lives around them and their needs. Edward shares very openly of his struggle with alcohol and addiction and he shares his faith with us so generously.

The story is about Millie, a golden retriever that came into their lives as a puppy when their beloved dog Mattie died. And this leads us into the stories of each of their dogs.

Excellent read.

Denise Smith says

I'm not really sure how I found out about this author/book. He must have been a guest on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah.

I am not a dog or pet person. I don't have anything against them. But...the author does a good job of describing how important his dogs have been in his life. I was able to view dogs in a different light. Even briefly considered what type of dog would best fit my personality and lifestyle. I like the author's storytelling style. Maybe that's what kept me listening while I was questioning why I'd been interested in this topic in the first place.

Valerie says

I enjoyed this book. Animal books are always something that get to me and I appreciated the opportunity to reflect on how they have made a difference in other people's lives (as well as my own). This book was full of animal stories. Thank you for the opportunity to review this book!

Dick Harding says

I thought the book was very very moving. It paralleled the course of the various dogs' lives along with the author's. It is so wonderful to read a book so full of love and compassion. It also shows that of course not everything has a happy ending but living with love along the way can weave a beautiful life.

Sue J says

An excellent look at the lives of dogs and their humans. Heartwarming and sad. Being a cat person I can say that cats and their humans have the same relationship. Great read!

lisa bell says

This was such a touching book. Each dog is a special gift from God. Sending just what we need when we need it. To all our long gone special creatures God gave us for a short period of time but forever in our hearts. I cried in know how it hurts to love these furry friends and send them back to God. He in return sends us another one to love and nurture.

Had me at first bark. God is so good to us. Picking each dog out in advance for us to cherish, guide and most of all love.

Mary says

As I always do with dog books I inhaled this lovely book about the dogs who have kept company with Edward Grinnan. As the editor of Guidepost magazine, Grinnan has read many a wonderful story about special canines. He intersperses his own story with selections from the Guidepost stacks.

Susan Hall says

Heart warming

A great read showing how different dogs in our lives help us in different ways. I read it in one sitting couldn't put it down.

Mary Ellington says

I picked up this book as research for my blog crazymaizey.blogspot.com. It turned out to be the story of a man and his dogs. In other words a compilation of love stories. It was an easy read, even the sad parts. The author wrote beautifully about his life's ups and downs, told funny as well as emotionally moving stories about beloved canines, and left me believing that dogs are brought into our lives for and with Divine purpose.

Peggie says

I picked up this book on the recommendation of a friend, who loved it. I have owned and loved four different golden retrievers, and lost them all to cancer, so I wasn't sure if I wanted to revisit that raw place in my mind by reading this book. I found that the stories Mr. Grinnan told were very typical of my life in dogs, so they didn't grip me as they might someone who is new to the golden world. In the end, although it was a sweet book, I, as a slow reader, just didn't feel that it was something I wanted to spend any more time on. And there was still the avoidance of reliving the pain of losing them, which never really goes away.

Jane says

I will read any book about a dog. This is one of the best I've ever read.

Emily says

Overall good story and lessons learned from dogs. But... I learned I'm definitely a cat person! I also felt this book was arranged weird. He'd start telling a story about one dog and then jump to the past or the future and tell a different story for several pages or chapters about a different dog before finally returning to the story he was writing about before. As a reader it just felt disjointed to me. I realize that in fiction writing this is a very common (and most often very well done and suspenseful) was of telling a story, but I don't think it worked out so well for this author and his overall purpose. At times it felt like he was euthanizing a dog in every chapter.

Nancy says

A fun book for dog lovers. I know they will be touched by these tales and will remember similar times with dogs of their own. I had hoped that this would be a great gift for my Mama who loves Edward Grinnan, but she is not a dog lover so I'm not sure this is for her. I was touched by the wonderful canine relationships that Grinnan describes. He is a wonderful storyteller. Thank you to Simon and Schuster for giving me an advance copy in exchange for my honest review.

Pam K says

Awesome. A must read. If your a dog person this story will pull at your heartstrings. I give this book a 10 out of 10.

Awesome. A must read. If your a dog person this story will pull at your heartstrings. I give this book a 10 out of 10.

Mary says

Tears Down My Cheeks and Landing by My Side

This is a very emotion-spawning book. One thing I hate about dog books is that they usually end with the dog dying. Well, this book has about 8 different dogs in it, so prepare to cry. The author skips forward and backward in time; I understand he was connecting stories, but it was slightly annoying. It was a good book to read as long as you were prepared for the alternating emotions.
