



Loose Dogs

Kirsten Mortensen

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Animal Control Officer Paige Newbury doesn't know what's worse. Her man problems. Or her dog problems. She opens a package and finds The Ring—which means the guy she can't get over is about to walk back into her life. Then she stumbles on evidence of a criminal dog fighting ring—which means a gorgeous pit bull she tried to save is doomed to suffer . . . or maybe even die. She's sure she can seal the deal with her boyfriend with a little help from sexy lawyer Larry Crawford. But she'll soon need another scheme—this time, to save her life. Loose Dogs. Unconventional romance. Thrilling twist.

Loose Dogs Details

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From Reader Review Loose Dogs for online ebook

Mary Maddox says

Kirsten Mortensen's *Loose Dogs* is a wonderful novel, full of comedy without overlooking life's sadness and cruelty. The characters are deftly drawn. The author gives them individuality even when they're recognizable types. The story unfolds at a satisfying pace.

Paige Newbury, the narrator and protagonist, works as an animal control officer in Rochester, New York. She seems content with her life, but then she receives a ring in the mail – not a diamond engagement ring, just gaudy costume jewelry that her erstwhile boyfriend, Gil Rudman, picked up at a flea market. Paige takes the ring as a sign that Gil, who left a while ago to pursue his career as an artist, is coming back to her.

She doesn't want Gil to think she's been waiting around for his return, even though she has, so she enlists the help of an acquaintance to pose as her boyfriend. Larry Crawford is a slick attorney and an accomplished player. He's attracted to Paige and only too happy to help out with her scheme.

At this point I almost lost respect for Paige. The fake-boyfriend routine is such a stupid move, bound to end badly. And she obviously lacks the panache to bring it off. But Paige is a kind person. She sacrifices a meal at an expensive restaurant (courtesy of Larry) to catch a loose pit bull whose wounds suggest he's been used for dogfighting. She worries about what will become of the pit. When a callous owner abandons her pregnant dog, Paige takes Lady in and sets about finding homes for the puppies. How could you not like and respect someone like that?

Many of Paige's observations about the world and herself are laugh-out-loud funny. She thinks of romance as "the Prozac nature has slipped in our drink" to make life bearable." She has intelligent and wit. Even though she's not glamorous, it's altogether believable that Gil would come back to her and Larry would chase after her.

The plot of *Loose Dogs* turns on the romantic triangle, but I enjoyed the subplots just as much, especially Paige's efforts to find and stop a dogfighting operation. Animal welfare is clearly an issue that matters to Mortensen. She donates some of the profits from the book to pit bull rescue.

Unlike many of the stories I enjoy, *Loose Dogs* has no foul language and no graphic sex or violence. But like its protagonist, it has humor, intelligence, and a good heart.

E says

I received this book as a goodreads contest giveaway. This was a quick read. I would have liked more romance to it, and at two points in the book I was unsure whether it was present time or looking back to a past event. I will say I wouldn't mind seeing these hunky guys the author describes. Was over all a decent read.

Tracy says

I found the characters to be annoying and immature. It just wasn't for me. I appreciate her message about pit bulls at the end. The book ended very abruptly.

Melissa ownsbey says

i was disapointed with the cover i wished to see the guy and girls face but the dog was cute
thee book was good i liked the story
the charcters were all good i like them all
i like the romance part of it and it had a lttle twist to it which was good so is u like romance ananimals and twist
pplease give this book a read it is a good boook youll like it if u reqad it

Sheila says

Chick-Lit is not one of my favorite genres, and this book falls under the chick-lit category. I was interested in reading it though because the lead female character in the story is a twenty-something dogcatcher, and I too was a dogcatcher at that age. Yes, I was the dreaded dog catcher, the Animal Control Officer. Yes, women, even twenty-something women, can be dogcatchers. It is actually a great job if you love dogs.

So I had to check out this book due to the lead character of Paige. I wanted to see if the author would do the female dogcatcher persona justice. And I am happy to report that she succeeded brilliantly in this area. The character of Paige loves dogs, and became a dogcatcher because she loves dogs. She works to save dogs, to rescue dogs, to make life better for dogs. She even uses my often employed trick of catching dogs by tossing them dog treats to get them to come in to you. I caught many a stray, lost, scared dog by sitting on the ground talking to them, tossing them bits of jerky treats until they felt safe enough to come in to me. So much nicer to catch them with kindness.

The relationship parts of this story were a little silly to me, but then again, as I said earlier, I am not a usual fan of chick-lit, or chick-lit relationships. Paige has a much better understanding of dogs that she seems to have of men!

There was also a side story in the book about pit-bull dog fighting, and Paige went a little overboard and "Nancy Drew" in her detective work. But in the end, I must say I really enjoyed this book. Three cheers for the female, dog loving, Animal Control Officers of the world.

Jennifer says

I really enjoyed this book. At first it was a bit slow going but it was a very realistic type of story so that makes sense. I originally got the book more for the animal part of it. I am usually an erotic romance reader so I really didn't expect to enjoy the romance part of this story, and at first I didn't. But by the second half of the book I really did enjoy seeing how Paige - ever so slowly - realized that she wasn't in love with Gill anymore

and her good friend Larry was the one for her. I personally thought he was the better choice anyway.

As for the Animal Control story. It was dead on. I've been the Dog Control for my area for 3 and a half years now and I could completely relate to everything she dealt with. I really loved how the story tried to instill in people that Pit bulls are not the dangerous animals people think they are. They really get the raw end of the deal all too often. I have dealt with many people who have a blind hatred for this breed, and any breed that looks similar enough to them. And yet in my time on the job I have dealt with many Pits and none were dangerous (yet). But there were other breeds I've picked up that were dangerous to deal with. Go figure!

And thank God we have animal rescues for these dogs. This was absolutely worth the purchase. And a big thank you to the author, who donates part of her proceeds to Pit bull rescues. They need every bit of it.

Monica says

I won this book through a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

Without summarizing the plot or handing out spoilers, I found this book touching and heartwarming. The main character, a dog catcher named Paige, displayed a commitment and love for her clients that is sure to touch a chord with anyone who has shared their life with a furry companion. There was romance and some suspense but most of the book dealt with the evolution of Paige and her relationships with friends, both male and female.

I really enjoyed it and finished it in one sitting.

Thanks to Kirsten and Goodreads for the opportunity to win this book.
