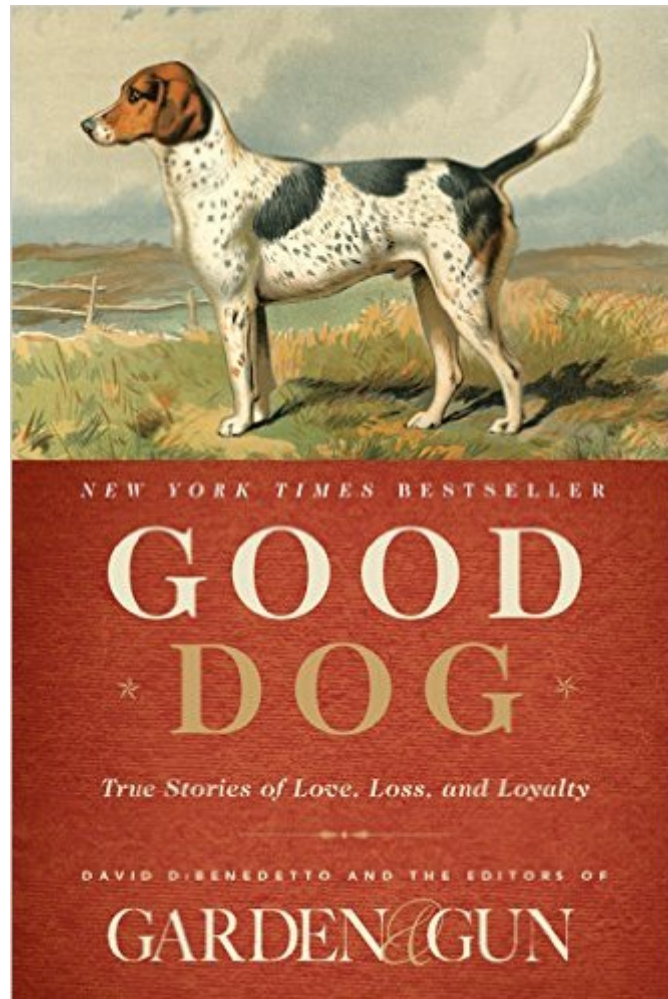


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# Good Dog: True Stories Of Love, Loss, And Loyalty



## Synopsis

Inspired by Garden & Gun magazine's popular "Good Dog" column, a rich collection of true stories celebrating the unique relationship between humans and their canine companions, penned by some of today's top writers, including Jon Meacham, Roy Blount, Jr, Dominique Browning, and P.J. O'Rourke. When Garden & Gun magazine debuted a column aptly named "Good Dog," it quickly became one of the publication's most popular features in print. Now, Editor-in-Chief David DiBenedetto (proud owner of a Boykin spaniel) and the editors of G&G have gathered the most memorable stories, as well as original pieces, in this collection of essays written by some of most notable dog owners in literature and journalism. Good Dog offers memorable, beautifully written stories of dog ownership, companionship, friendship, and kinship. From the troublemakers who can't be fenced in to the lifelong companions who won't leave our sides, this poignant anthology showcases man's best friend through all of his most endearing and sometimes maddening attributes. By turns inspirational and humorous (just like the dogs we love), Good Dog is a must-have collection for dog lovers everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a delightful compendium of stories of dog companionship and friendship, spanning the range of dedication, loyalty, and occasional madness that comes along with man's best friend. This book is indeed a great collection for dog lovers everywhere.

I love dogs. I love stories about dogs. I love people who tell stories about their dogs. And sometimes

I buy books simply because there is a good-looking dog on the cover. That was what happened with this book. Mistake. These stories lack two things: passion (it might be love or disgust, but some strong feeling about the subject of their tales) and development. Even a kitchen-table story teller has to keep his listener with him, has to make her wonder about the outcome, has to pull her and her heart into his story. He has to create some domestic suspense and then present an ending consistent with his theme. That just doesn't happen in these stories. This book is for people who want to read about writers' commonplace lives and who also like dogs. But don't look for the story that surprises you, makes you weep or exult, that reminds you of a poignant event in your own life with dogs. In nearly every story, the writer stands at an odd emotional distance from his pup. Writers in general are a self-absorbed lot, and a lot of southern writers who make their living on being from the South and giving workshops and talking about writing in front of college students or little old ladies often forget the only thing that matters is whether they tell a really absorbing, good story that makes the reader. This book doesn't contain stories like that. It's the only dog book I've ever truly, deeply regretted buying.

I really thought I was going to like this book. How can any dog lover dislike a book about dogs? Because the authors of the stories are writers first--and dog lovers second or third. The stories are written by by friends of the author who also happen to have dogs. Just because you have a dog doesn't mean you really really love dogs or have good stories about them. It seems like this guy asked 20 friends to write something about their dog and put them in the book without editing any of them--without saying "hmmm, thanks but that story isn't very good I'm going to leave it out. A few examples: A story from a guy who had dogs has a kid but now he travels too much to have one. The End. Trust me, this isn't a story about a guy longing for a dog and bemoans all the travel because he really wants a dog. Nope. This guy likes to travel so no dog. The end. Another about a couple who want a puppy at 6 weeks but find out the puppy due to eye problems won't be available until 8 weeks. So.....they don't get the puppy. The end. Again, the couple doesn't really care. The story ends with them wanting a puppy from the next litter and will take the other one then if it's still there. Another with a story about their dog chewing things up. Wow. Never heard of that before. A chapter on why Pit Bulls are nice dogs that doesn't open up anything you haven't heard before. The stories aren't funny, won't make you cry, won't make you look at your dog differently. Just people that have dogs that also happen to be writers and knew the guy who put the book together. Very disappointing. Get one of the Chicken Soup for the Pet Lovers Soul instead.

I subscribe to Garden and Gun and Good Dog is the first article I read every month, so I was excited to see and order the book. In the magazine there is always a GREAT cartoon illustration to accompany every article. Unfortunately, they did not make it to the book. That is the only reason I did not give it 5 stars

Pictures of mostly sporting dogs on the book jacket would lead one to believe this is a book about hunting dogs, great adventures, and entertaining hunting stories. There are a few such stories but the majority of the stories are about ill behaved mutts, rescue dogs, and assorted others who destroy their owner's possessions and often run away. I find little entertaining about a poorly trained dog who roams the neighborhood causing problems or who runs away causing anxiety for his owner. This book should have been titled Dog Trouble.

I'm a dog guy. I have a German Shepherd, English Shepherd, and Ridgeback something or other all sleeping with a few feet of me as I write this. A good woman, a good dog, and a good truck make for a good life. Some of these writers understand that, some don't. There is one great joke in this book, some great stories. Worth reading. And no, you will not learn anything new about dogs in this book, just maybe understand your place in dog world a little better.

As a writer of stories I am always on the look out for good stories. I found it with this book. The stories range from simple to no so simple in the wonderful world of dogs. The stories touch all the emotions as a good story will do. With the world a train wreck during these hard times, the dog always seems to continue to offer a safe and wonderful place to hide from this world we live in. It seems to me that you could easily find some more of these great stories to make a Good Dog part 2. Thanks to the author for bringing these stories together in this book!!!!

As a dog-lover, I had to enjoy this book. A large number of short memories about favorite dogs and how they brought meaning to lives: can't miss. Some of the stories are excellent, some less so, but overall a book that "dog people" must read.

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