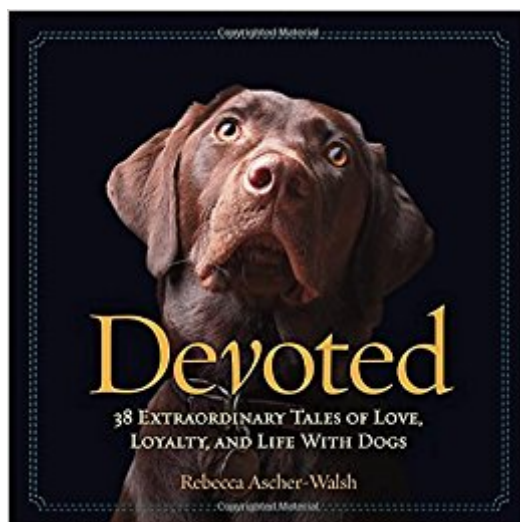


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# Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales Of Love, Loyalty, And Life With Dogs



## Synopsis

Unlikely Friendships *Meets* Marley and Me. In this heartwarming gift book, author Rebecca Ascher-Walsh presents a collection of inspiring dog stories and touching photos--dogs who comfort veterans, dogs who learn to surf, dogs who detect cancer, and dogs who save the day: Each one is devoted. These 38 uplifting dog stories showcase the most amazing dog rescues, accomplishments, and abilities that fascinate us and touch our hearts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A heartwarming and inspiring mosaic of stories to dramatically illustrate the many ways a dog can positively impact our lives." --Publishers Weekly, starred review  
"Each one of these dogs is special in their own way and each story is heartwarming. If you're a dog lover, this is one book you should definitely look into. You won't be disappointed!" --Night Owl Reviews  
"This book is a quick, enjoyable, read and I recommend that you hold the book in one hand and pet your dog with the other." --Seattle Post-Intelligencer

REBECCA ASCHER-WALSH is a writer who specializes in celebrity and lifestyle coverage, but who also loves dogs and telling stories about amazing animals. She is the author of *Devoted* and *Loyal*, two heartwarming and inspiring collections of stories of the bravery and heroism of dogs. She also contributes to many newspapers and national magazines including *Entertainment Weekly*, *Adweek*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. She is a

volunteer at a high-kill shelter in Manhattan and a founding director of the Deja Foundation, devoted to funding the medical care and training costs of dogs rescued from high-kill shelters.

Anyone who loves dogs will love and appreciate this book. "Devoted" tells the brief stories of 38 dogs and their human companions, and each one celebrates the bond that we humans have with our dogs. I enjoyed all the stories, but I was especially touched by the story of Schoep (which I think is pronounced "Shep") and his owner, John Unger. Schoep was adopted by Unger from a shelter in Wisconsin, and he was probably the dog most in need and least likely to be adopted. Nonetheless, Unger wanted to adopt a dog that had been abused and help him realize his full potential. Unger worked tirelessly with Schoep and eventually transformed the dog into a wonderful pet. The best part of the story, though, is that, just as Unger had saved Schoep, Schoep eventually returned the favor, as only the thought of leaving Schoep alone saved Unger from killing himself at an incredibly low period in his life. Readers will love the photograph of Unger floating in the water with Schoep lying on his chest, asleep and perfectly content. This is only one of the many stories of the fantastic intelligence, loyalty, inventiveness, and amusement that dogs offer in return for our custody of them. I was impressed by the variety of dog breeds that were represented in these stories, especially by the number of "pit bulls" that appeared. This breed has an unjustified reputation for vicious behavior, and this little book will do much to help readers overcome any prejudices they have. There were a few greyhounds as well, and as I have a cousin who works with greyhound rescue, I know firsthand how wonderful this breed is as a pet. The book is replete with beautiful photographs as well: the reader sees each dog profiled and usually his or her owner as well. Each story is short enough to be read in only a few minutes, and each dog has something to offer that will just make you smile. I can see this little book as the perfect holiday gift for a "dog person." It is hard to imagine that anyone would not enjoy this book. I highly recommend it.

I purchased this book for a dog-groomer friend. I didn't have to wonder whether she would appreciate and enjoy it. How could she not? This is a dog lover's book. Published by National Geographic, this volume is a celebration of the bond between dog and caretaker/companion. These stories are heart-warming, deeply felt and richly photographed, often picturing both the dog and the companion. The quality over all is excellent. In a format with just 160 pages, these stories need to be well-told and engaging while they encourage the reader to linger. It's a kind of mindfulness of the presence of animals in our lives. Get this book for yourself and share with friends or send it as a special

gift. Michael Helquist, Marie Equi: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions

First of all, I'm biased. My daughter is the owner/trainer of DeeDee featured on page 19. Though I'm not a pet-inclined person myself (I can't explain it), I do recognize that many people are - and that nearly all of them are better people for it. It's amazing how the bond between animals and people can be so strong, complex, fulfilling and symbiotic for both. Rebecca Ascher-Walsh (the author) and the editors at National Geographic are to be commended for the quality of work here. It's a privilege to read this labour of love. Next time you consider getting a pet, allow the animal to choose its owner/companion wisely. They know better than you anyway.

This is a wonderful book for any dog lover, or anyone who likes true life "feel good" stories. I believe too many people think of dogs as being an inferior species, which shouldn't be held in as high regard as a human being. It is my humble opinion, however, that dogs are intuitive, high intelligence creatures, who are as emotionally aware and capable of love as any human being is, and in fact are much more so than many people out there. This book demonstrates this belief in the form of one true story after another, in which a dog made all the difference for the person they loved, a difference which was the difference between life and death, to some. Buy this book. Enjoy this book. Marvel in the beauty of what true unconditional love, really means! Or buy this book for someone who, in your own humble opinion, truly needs to learn that lesson too. For that reason, I purchased two copies of this book, and I am very happy that I did!

Meh....just not feelin' it, and I'm a dog worshiper and a sucker for dog stories of any kind. One-dimensional too-short, undeveloped stories, no depth, basically dry news articles. Author has only basic writing skills. Expected so much more.

Devoted will tug at your heart strings ... and your tear ducts, too. Devoted flows from the author's deep love, knowledge and appreciation for man's/woman's best friend. As I read, chapters brought to mind each of the beloved, devoted dogs who have enlivened and "enloved" our family for decades. After reading Devoted, I thought we should go and rescue another one of these precious four-legged creatures! patti normile

This book has so many great stories that show the vast range of services and jobs that dogs occupy. I am looking forward to reading the next creation of stories that shows more unique dogs

and their qualities. I chose this book because I love dogs. I will re-read this book because I love each of these dogs.

This was a gift for my mother in law who loves dogs. She said it was a very nice book and would recommend it.

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