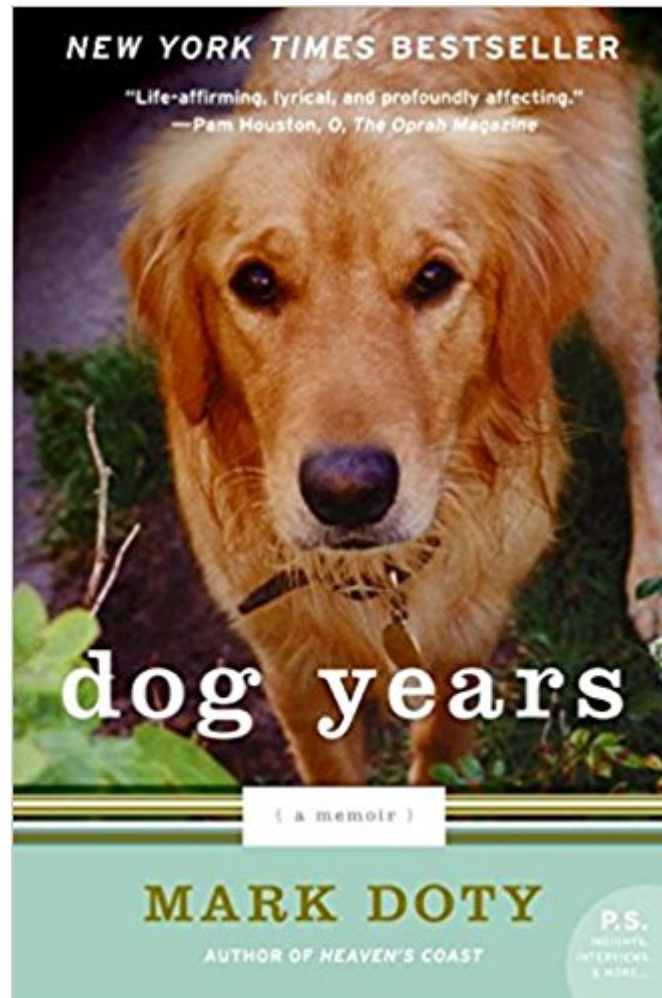




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Dog Years: A Memoir (P.S.)



Synopsis

When Mark Doty decides to adopt a dog as a companion for his dying partner, he brings home Beau, a large, malnourished golden retriever in need of loving care. Joining Arden, the black retriever, to complete their family, Beau bounds back into life. Before long, the two dogs become Doty's intimate companions, and eventually the very life force that keeps him from abandoning all hope during the darkest days. *Dog Years* is a poignant, intimate memoir interwoven with profound reflections on our feelings for animals and the lessons they teach us about living, love, and loss.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Award-winning memoirist (Firebird) and poet (School of the Arts) Doty explores, with compassion and intelligence, the complicated, loving territory inhabited by devoted dogs and their loyal humans. In 1994, when the author's longtime lover was dying of AIDS, beloved pet Arden kept the surviving partner afloat. A new adoptee, the rambunctious Beau, in his "sloppy dog way," becomes a part of the tribe and carries some of the burden of grief. Doty says Beau "carried something else for me too, which was my will to live." In a time of devastating pain, as well as in happier times, Doty's two dogs are the "secret heroes of my own vitality." The dog characters in the book are irresistible, and the arcs of their lives are delineated with the tenderness and passion of the truly smitten. Arden's quiet nobility and slow decline breaks the heart, while Beau's goofy enthusiasm peaks with youth and mellows in illness. With a marvelous ability to present the pain of mourning with a poet's delicate hand, and an irrepressible instinct for joy, Doty delivers a soulful

love story which illuminates no less than the big human mysteries: attachment, death, grief, loyalty, happiness. The book nimbly sidesteps sentimentality and lands squarely on a philosophical, inquisitive tone as intellectually evocative as it is emotionally resonant. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

To be loved by Doty, as a human or a canine, is to be elevated into a realm of utter glory, where one is cherished and cradled, sheltered and supported, and, most of all, where one's very essence is acknowledged and appreciated in a manner both simple and sublime. In his latest elegant and elegiac memoir, poet Doty recounts how the love of two dogs, Arden and Beau, sustained him during times of his most grievous losses, and how he, in turn, came to nurse them through their inevitable years of failing health. On the brink of a life-threatening depression, Doty recognized the necessity of caring for his beloved dogs, which then metamorphosed into a life-affirming realization that he was, in fact, the one being attended. Sprinkled among poignant and merry anecdotes about typical and peculiar doggie behavior are Doty's tender yet cogent reflections on the underlying truths such conduct reveals about the canine species, observations that transcendently celebrate the essential connection between man and pet. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Be sure to have a box of tissues or a large handkerchief when you delve into this book. Dog lovers will identify with soooooo many of the interactions the author has with his furry buddies. It is so very beautifully written by a man who is a true searcher for the meaning of life, suffering, grief and the will to "keep on keeping on". While I didn't agree with some of his observations, for the most part it touched me deeply. How can you be crying one page.....and laughing out loud on the next at the shennigans of these dogs??????

I read a lot of books about dogs, both fiction and nonfiction, but this was disappointing. The first chapter spent way too long trying to justify why he would care and write about dogs when there is so much human suffering. Well, I wonder who he imagined as his audience. I got the point after a few sentences, I'm already on his side of this topic, so all the lengthy justifications was totally unnecessary for me and I would guess unnecessary for most of the folks who would pick up a book like this. For readers who do not agree, they probably never will be convinced. Altho there were a few good insights, the writing felt wishy-washy and vague, meandering from a description of his last

days with his dog to constantly being sidetracked by musings and poetic forays. It got so boring and frustrating for me that I finally stopped at 50 percent.

Written by a very deep, deep thinking poet about his two dogs lives, the love and bond and the pain of such short canine lives. The author does go off on tangents, but they are interesting as well. Very visually written.

I'm a dog lover to begin with, and also a reader of memoirs. This book is so well written, and will both make you laugh and cry. A great great story of part of a life that includes dogs.

I've learned that love always leads to loss. No matter who or what we love, we will lose it, in life or in death. This book is a testament to two beloved dogs, and their space in the author's life. And of course there's an ending, and of course you will shed a few tears, for their loss, and your own.

A good, sad, too true story about good puppies growing old. Two lover's and how they travel the distance that will make you happy... make you cry... and go threw a box of tissues. A lovely read.

Loved the parts describing relationships the author had with his K-9 family but was not so interested any the numerous pages of other life stories and experiences included in the book.

I liked this book but would have wanted more about the dogs. Yes I have two dogs and feel that they are my best friend. I just loose it when they look at me with those big brown eyes. This book made me cry and laugh. Thank you Mark Doty.

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