



Dog Crazy

Meg Donohue

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The USA Today bestselling author of *How to Eat a Cupcake* and *All the Summer Girls* returns with an unforgettably poignant and funny tale of love and loss, confronting our fears, and moving on . . . with the help of a poodle, a mutt, and a Basset retriever named Seymour

As a pet bereavement counselor, Maggie Brennan uses a combination of empathy, insight, and humor to help patients cope with the anguish of losing their beloved four-legged friends. Though she has a gift for guiding others through difficult situations, Maggie has major troubles of her own that threaten the success of her counseling practice and her volunteer work with a dog rescue organization.

Everything changes when a distraught woman shows up at Maggie's office and claims that her dog has been stolen. Searching the streets of San Francisco for the missing pooch, Maggie finds herself entangled in a mystery that forces her to finally face her biggest fear—and to open her heart to new love.

Packed with deep emotion and charming surprises, *Dog Crazy* is a bighearted and entertaining story that skillfully captures the bonds of love, the pain of separation, and the power of our dogs to heal us.

Dog Crazy Details

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From Reader Review Dog Crazy for online ebook

Cindy Brown says

This book is exactly what I needed. My copy was gifted to me by a friend who knew I was struggling with the loss of my Pitt Bull. Donohue's story hits everything that I felt. How to overcome such a loss when your pet is more than just an animal but a family member.

Il Cibo della Mente - Pamela says

Ho adorato questo romanzo. Sapevo che mi sarebbe piaciuto, dato l'argomento trattato, ma pensavo di imbattermi in qualcosa di più simile a "Cleo" o a "Io & Marley". Invece Dog Crazy mi ha piacevolmente stupito, con una storia davvero unica ed originale, a tratti commovente, e molto profonda. Inizialmente lo temevo, perché purtroppo so per esperienza che leggendo questi romanzi qualche lacrimuccia è inevitabile... e infatti le lacrime ci sono state e purtroppo un po' di magone mi ha accompagnato per alcune pagine.

Ma poi è stato sostituito dall'amore, dalla speranza e dalla voglia di ricominciare. Perché è senz'altro vero che i nostri amici pelosi lasciano un enorme vuoto dentro di noi, quando se ne vanno; ma d'altra parte questo fa parte della vita, e dobbiamo ringraziare per i momenti che ci vengono concessi in loro compagnia. Dobbiamo farne tesoro e portarli per sempre con noi, nonostante sia molto difficile, perché i nostri compagni di viaggio ci mancheranno tanto. Li riterremo insostituibili, aprire il nostro cuore ad altri ci sembrerà un torto nei loro confronti, ci sentiremo soli, vuoti, tristi. Sarà difficile andare avanti ed affrontare la vita di tutti i giorni senza di loro. A volte addirittura ci sembrerà impossibile.

Dog Crazy è una sorta di presa di coscienza per tutti noi, un viaggio che ci fa riflettere sulle nostre esperienze personali, che ci fa rivivere alcuni momenti dolorosi e ci conferma che per le persone come noi è IMPOSSIBILE vivere senza qualcosa a quattro zampe che ci gironzola intorno. Anche se sappiamo benissimo che, prima o poi, soffriremo esattamente come tutte le altre volte.

Ma nonostante questo, noi quei pelosetti li cerchiamo. Li vogliamo. Vogliamo il loro amore, siamo disposti a pagarne il prezzo. **Il desiderio dell'amore è molto più forte della paura della sofferenza.** Così è, così è sempre stato e così sempre sarà per gli amanti degli animali.

Il legame che si instaura tra noi e i nostri animali è qualcosa di totalmente inspiegabile. Ad alcuni sembra un legame folle. Per me non lo è. E per voi? Io penso sia amore, vero amore. L'amore sincero, autentico, perché ad un cane (o a un gatto) non devi dare spiegazioni. Lui ti accetta come sei, conosce ogni tuo difetto e non ti critica, non ti giudica, non ti chiede di essere diversa. Ti ama, così come sei. E farebbe qualsiasi cosa per te.

La Donohue ha la capacità di farci capire tutto questo, con uno stile piacevole e molto scorrevole. Meg ci racconta una storia di amore, di amicizia e di rinascita in cui i cani svolgono un ruolo assolutamente fondamentale. **Il cane come terapia, il cane come confidente, il cane come compagno di vita.**

Un romanzo consigliato a chi, come me, ama i suoi animali come se fossero esseri umani e che, nel corso della sua vita, ne ha purtroppo persi alcuni. 300 pagine di puro amore a quattro zampe che vi resteranno nel cuore ♥

Kerry says

I preface this by saying I own a rescue dog, I will always have a dog and love all dogs.

Anya walks into Maggie office, a pet bereavement counselor, after her brother pushed her when her dog was lost/stolen. Maggie has her own struggles but decides to help Anya search for her dog. She uses the help of her best friends dog, as her own personal therapy dog. Anya is stubborn and convinced her dog was stolen even though her family doesn't believe her. So many emotions in this story, so many great characters, and through it all you see the power of the love of a dog. The hope that all dogs brings, the joy they can cause and how they can bring people together.

Lynn says

This proved to be a much more interesting read than I was expecting! I really like Donohue's writing! Will definitely be reading more of her books!!

Carol Brill says

"Dog Crazy" is an enjoyable easy read about love, loss, hope, a touch of suspense and romance, and of course, dogs.

There's a cast of vulnerable and likeable characters. Don't be put off that some of those characters are dogs. You do not have to be a dog person to enjoy this book.

Maggie Brennan who is a dog bereavement counselor and recently moved to San Francisco to live in her best friend, Lourdes's refurnished duplex. Shortly have getting there her beloved dog, Toby dies> Maggie suffers from agoraphobia and won't leave the house after Toby dies. Eventually, she meets a new patient, a young woman who is sure her "lost" dog isn't dead but stolen. With the help of Lourdes's dog, Maggie finds the courage to venture out and help look for the lost dog.

A sweet, easy read about love and loyalty. My one quibble, the resolution of the lost dog felt like a stretch.

TL says

There is a theory among books that I think applies to other things too, this was brought to my attention regarding the former by a good friend of mine and I think it fits so I will paraphrase: Certain things (people, dogs, books, music) come to you at the time when you need and for a reason.

This book snagged me almost right away... Maggie's profession is pet bereavement therapist and she's a dog lover to boot. Those two things endeared me to her quick.

The things she said about grieving and relationships with our furry family struck home for me and occasionally brought tears to my eyes.

Maggie's relationship with Toby, reminded me of the special bond I had with my soul-mutt Tasha, she was my babygirl, mom's dog Gynger, and also of my first dog Pincky (I was 5 and my brother Michael was three).

That special bond of Love, the companionship... there's nothing else quite like it really. It enriches your life in so many wonderful ways... they become a part of you and take a part of you with them when they leave that another furry baby can't quite heal. Whether you need time to heal or adopt a dog right away as your method of healing, it'll never be the same but you'll still love with the same ferocity. (My personal theory is our dear departed puppies guide us toward the right dog when it is time)

Tasha, Pincky, Lilly.... my baby-girl and furry sisters. I do like cats but at my heart I am dog person and a PetMom. I count myself lucky to have had the time I had with them and the memories will always be there :).

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This story was what I needed right at the moment... a poignant and at times light read with people that grow on you and that you are rooting for to be alright in the end. I could see how it would end in some respects but that didn't bother me, I still enjoyed the journey and getting to know them all better.

Maggie and Anya's friendship was wonderful to watch, they helped each other more than they realized at first. Neither (view spoiler) was being a guardian angel.

Seeing Maggie being brave and making progress bit by bit had me smiling and wanting to give her a big hug. Lourdes (sp?) was such a great and supportive friend through it all, not everyone would be.

One part I didn't expect and wanted to shake a certain someone while also simultaneously feeling sorry for them.

There is some light romance in here but it doesn't overshadow the main story. At first I thought the story could have done without it but it became very sweet by the end.

Would recommend, an earnest read with its own charms :)

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### **Bark says**

This book features a heroine who is a grief counselor for pet owners but who also suffers from debilitating panic attacks. Don't ask me why I decided to read this next when all I wanted was a happy book. I am easily seduced by cute puppies and didn't bother to read the synopsis. Cute puppies? How could it possibly be sad? So it's my own damn fault, as usual, and I only have myself to blame. If you've ever loved and lost a dog this one has the ability to bleed you out by a million small cuts. Heed my warning and go in prepared. Also, those adorable lab puppies on the cover? Well, they aren't in the book.

Yeah. I was taken in by trickery. Don't be like me.

Despite all of that, I could not stop listening for the life of me.

In the end, it wasn't as sad as I first anticipated. It lightens up and turns into one of those decent reads that aren't too meaty nor too fluffy and, though hard to put down, may not be remembered come tomorrow (if you're anything like me, anyway).

It's mostly about a lost pup and two lost souls, recovery and building relationships. There's lots of doggie goodness and there is a smidge of romance tossed in but it never takes over the story. This author really knows her dogs and grief and anxiety disorders and I truly enjoyed reading it even if it did ruin my mascara a time or two.

The narrator though? Nope, she wasn't my favorite. At times, far too many times actually, her narration came across as someone being overly cautious to enunciate each word correctly. It felt unnatural and instead of falling into the story, I was more focused on her diction. Once she gets into a rhythm she does a fine job with the characters but time and again the stilted reading came back to haunt me. I hate when that happens.

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### **Ian says**

When Maggie moves across the country it's for a fresh start and to open her own practice as a grief counselor specialising in the grief of losing a beloved pet. Then her dog suddenly dies and her fresh start comes to a shuddering halt and she is crushed with anxiety. Agoraphobia, mysophobia, fear of heights and social anxiety have all worked together to make her a prisoner within her home.

Then Anya, a surly young woman meets her at the insistence of her older brother. Anya insists that her dog didn't run away but was stolen and she is searching the streets of San Francisco for him. Maggie knows she can help Anya and that Anya desperately needs her help, but she won't accept it unless Maggie helps her look for her dog.

Together they search, Maggie battling her anxiety every step and Anya finding the friendship she needs.

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I have so much love for this book. And it's not just that I love dogs and anyone who knows and loves dogs will see their dog in this book. It really is a book with a big heart. It's simple. Cute. Quirky. And had me from the very beginning.

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### **Bella's Books says**

The bad man took the dog from her hooman, the Anya.  
The Maggie is helping the Anya find the dog.

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## **Pupottina says**

### **Dog Crazy**

L'amore di un cucciolo è incondizionato, è puro, è gratificante, emozionante, avvolgente e può aiutare a far pace con se stesse o essere il tramite per un nuovo amore. Chi ama gli animali, ed in particolare i cani, non può non ritrovarsi tra le pagine del romanzo di Meg Donohue, dove di cuccioli e di coccole ce ne sono tantissime.

Come si reagisce al dolore per la perdita di un cane? Esattamente come accade con le persone. Si va letteralmente in crisi e si cerca di affrontare quel che resta della vita un passo alla volta.

La protagonista di **DOG CRAZY** è Maggie Brennan, una terapista specializzata nell'assistenza a chi deve affrontare la perdita di un amico a quattro zampe. La sua terapia è una miscela di empatia, intuizione e humour, ma funziona nell'affrontare l'angoscia della perdita.

Quello che nessuno sa di Maggie è che lei stessa è in crisi per la perdita di Toby. È lei la prima da dover aiutare, ma nonostante tutto non può fare a meno di aiutare gli altri. È così che la sua vita trova la direzione giusta verso la guarigione, la felicità, l'amicizia e un nuovo amore.

È una storia dolce, piena d'amore, empatica, coinvolgente, che tocca il cuore, poiché non è sempre facile affrontare un perdita. Anche un cane è una figura importante nella vita di chi lo ama. Meg Donohue analizza profondamente le dinamiche psichiche del personaggio e il percorso verso la guarigione sua e di chi la circonda. Non mancano i momenti struggenti ed anche le sorprese finali.

Se non si ha un cane, alla fine del libro, si ha voglia di procurarsene uno e riempirlo d'amore e farsi coccolare o semplicemente accompagnare in ogni momento della propria giornata. La compagnia di un cane la si comprende solo quando lo si perde. Anche i cani hanno un'anima e donano tutto di loro a chi li sa amare.

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## **Andrea Guy says**

I don't know what I was expecting when it came to Dog Crazy, but it sure wasn't what I got. Before you get scared and step away, what I got was a wonderful read that really made me laugh and cry and generally feel wonderful while turning the pages.

This is definitely a novel for dog lovers or animal lovers. Anyone that doesn't know the love a dog/cat etc definitely would not "get" this book.

Maggie is a pet bereavement counselor who could stand some counseling. Anya lost her dog, Billy who either ran away or was stolen. The cast of characters in this novel can best be described as quirky.

I loved Maggie's bff, Lourdes and her unique way of dealing with her friend's neurosis. I loved her play on Les Miz's "Master Of The House." I nearly fell out of my chair laughing when I read that.

But there are more than people that are characters here and they are just as important as the humans. I loved Gissele and Seymour. Oh how I loved Seymour. I would have adopted that neurotic doggie in a heartbeat if I had the chance.

This book played on your emotions, but in a good way. It tugged at the heartstrings but it made you feel good at the same time.

Its a novel about pet ownership, but it also about friendship and fears. Some may say the ending tied everything up too neatly, but I was happy for a HEA for everyone involved.

If you love animals, this is a must read. And when you finish reading, go hug a puppy!

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### **Lynnie says**

"Sometimes grief cuts us off from the people and activities we love for the simple reason that we don't want to feel happy, which feels too much like moving on" (Donahue 101).

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### **Valery Tikappa says**

3.5 stelline.

Ho avuto questo libro in libreria per un paio di mesi, prima di leggerlo. Peccato non averlo fatto prima. Sono un'amante dei cani, credo che il loro amore non sia paragonabile a nulla.

Questo romanzo me l'ha confermato.

Il modo di narrare dell'autrice è fresco, schietto, comprensibile. Meggie ha dei seri problemi ad uscire di casa e ciò che la aiuta giorno dopo giorno a superare quel terrore sono Anya, una ragazza che è convinta le abbiano rapito il cane, e Giselle, il cane della sua migliore amica.

Da qui, la Donohue ordisce un racconto d'amore, di perdita, di accettazione. Un racconto che parla di cani, del modo di rapportarsi a loro, del saper vivere, del saper stare al mondo.

Mi è piaciuto molto, nonostante sul finale la risoluzione del mistero sul cane scomparso mi abbia fatta un po' innervosire. Ma d'altronde, alcune decisioni umane fanno innervosire all'inverosimile e di gente come quella che la Donohue ha rappresentato se ne trova davvero tanta.

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### **Jenn O'Brien says**

I love dogs. I love books about dogs and the people who love them. With that said, I had a hard time getting through this one. The writing itself is good. I loved the setting. The characters were interesting. And the story itself was decent, but just not for me. It is more of a story of the main character getting over her own issues with the help of dogs (of course.)

I've said this more than once and I'll continue to say it again, drives. me. bonkers. when book covers feature images of dogs that have NOTHING to do with the story. Nowhere in this book do chocolate labs come into play. There is maybe a small paragraph mention of seeing a black lab puppy, but it has nothing to do with the tale (tail?) I realize that publishers need to sell books and you do that by putting adorable faces on the cover. But why not make that adorable face somewhat match what you find inside?

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**Dorothy says**

I found this a disappointing read and in fact I did not finish it.

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