



## The Other Dog

*Madeleine L'Engle , Christine Davenier (Illustrations)*

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**The Other Dog** Madeleine L'Engle , Christine Davenier (Illustrations)

Touche L'Engle-Franklin is confused: Her mistress goes away for several days and then returns with another dog. But this dog doesn't have a tail. She doesn't have much hair. And she never has to go outside when it's raining. What on earth could the family want with that inferior breed known as Baby? Based on the true tale of her own poodle's experience coping with a new baby in the house, Newbery-winning author Madeleine L'Engle gives this familiar domestic drama an utterly charming new twist. Tongue-in-cheek wit, endearing illustrations, and a revealing author's note make this a publishing event to celebrate.

## The Other Dog Details

Date : Published February 1st 2001 by Chronicle Books

ISBN : 9781587170409

Author : Madeleine L'Engle , Christine Davenier (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Fiction, Humor, Dogs, Family

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## From Reader Review The Other Dog for online ebook

### Vickie says

Touché L'Engle-Franklin, a poodle, is the main character, as well as narrator of this children's book. He constantly compares his superior attributes to "the other dog", non-stop. He doesn't understand why his owners brought home the other dog and "without warning". Why wasn't he enough? Clearly there is some mistake. Eventually, though, he must come to terms with and resolve his relationship with "the other dog", also known as "baby".

The author adds four pages of notes following the story. The poodle is based on her own dog, who actually performed on stages in New York and that was the dog's name in real life, so it made the story that much more enchanting. I could imagine that her actual dog may perhaps have had traits such as mentioned in the book. The dog is also mentioned in her biography, *Becoming Madeleine*.

It is a very humorous story. The illustrations are similar to those in decades past, but it doesn't detract from the story at all, but only adds to the sweetness of it. I don't think I was able to convey these ideas very well, but I do feel that many people, regardless of age, could appreciate and love reading it. I do love it.

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### Michelle (FabBookReviews) says

The Other Dog written by *A Wrinkle in Time* Newbery Medal winner Madeleine L'Engle and illustrated by prolific artist Christine Davenier (illustrator of *Miss Lina's Ballerinas*, *The Very Fairy Princess* series), is a story narrated by L'Engle's poodle Touché. When readers meet the great, refined, proud poodle, Touché L'Engle-Franklin lets us know she, in fact, wrote this story with the help of an "inferior canine" named Jo. As we delve into the story, we find out that Touché's mistress disappeared for several days and dared to come back home with another dog named Jo (readers see L'Engle cuddling a little baby!). For Touché, this rates as rather silly: dogs are expensive and surely "one dog is enough for any family"! Touché is talented, has acted on stage, is beautiful, loves sitting on laps, has a tail "like a little chrysanthemum", and knows to never go to the bathroom inside the house, so "why another dog?". However, when Jo-dog (as Touché refers to her) starts to grow and explore her world bit by bit, Touché finds that, actually, not *all* is lost. Yes, Jo-dog requires a lot of looking after, and will never grow a chrysanthemum tail, but Touché enjoys that Jo-dog is a great listener and seems to appreciate her company, so much so that Touché has to admit: "in spite of everything...I am getting very fond of our other dog". In all, dog lovers of any and all ages might just fall in love with Touché's terrific story. Touché's narrative is observant, dry and witty all at once, while Davenier's signature loose yet refined pencil and watercolour style so wonderfully captures Touché's learned manner, the story's overall elegance, and the gently sentimental feel of the story. Be sure to read the lovely forward included in this edition of *The Other Dog*, written by Charlotte Jones Voiklis, L'Engle's granddaughter and daughter of Jo (Josephine) of the story. It was very surprising to learn that this children's title was not accepted for publication until fifty years after L'Engle first wrote it! There is also a fantastically detailed *Author's Note* (including sketches!) from Madeleine L'Engle detailing how Touché came into her life, Touché's life with their family, and how much L'Engle and family clearly loved and cared for their furry friends.

*I received a copy of this title courtesy of Raincoast Books in exchange for an honest review. All opinions and*

*comments are my own.*

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### **Eric says**

Franklin, this book is for you!

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### **Hannah Parks says**

"The Other Dog," is told from the perspective of a very frou-frou poodle, who is dismayed when his owners bring home a baby, which he refers to as the other dog. The other dog is very strange- he has no fur, he eats different food, and he takes up the owners time and attention, which was previously devoted to the poodle. Despite this, he comes to love the other dog and all the life he has brought into their home.

This book is wonderful. The illustrations are expressionistic, colorful, and full of movement and life. The text uses figurative language and description to give it life, and it is also told from the interesting perspective of a dog. My one complaint about this book is that sometimes the language can be quite advanced for the demographic it is advertised towards.

In the classroom, this book could be used in a lesson on point of view. How would the story differ if it were told by the baby or the parents? Students could also learn about hygiene from the poodle in this story, who loves to be clean and groomed. Personification could also be taught using this book along with others.

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### **Dolly says**

This is a fascinating story, told from the perspective of a grey poodle, of a new "dog" who joins her family. This new dog gets a lot of attention, wears white cloths called 'diapers' and doesn't have to go outside when it's cold and wet. Of course, the new addition to the family is a baby, named Jo, and eventually the poodle learns to accept her. Demonstrates the frustration, jealousy and surprise when a family grows and the other 'siblings' have to share the affection of the parents.

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### **Lauren- The Smile Lines says**

Thanks to the @kidlitexchange for sharing a free copy of this book. All opinions are my own.

The Other Dog by @madeleineelengle is perfect for anyone who has a dog and is having a baby! It would be the perfect gift! ? Touchè, the dog, is shocked when another dog is brought into the family! He is confused and tries to prove why it is not necessary in the family! Little does he know this 'dog' is actually a baby! The illustrations by are so adorable!! Be sure to read the Author's Note to learn more about the real story behind this book!

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### **Caitlin says**

Being a Madeleine L'Engle fan, I guess I just expected too much from this book. The story fell flat, and I can't decide who the intended audience is supposed to be, because its vocabulary is too difficult for an early reader, but the story is too lengthy and dull for a read-aloud.

I'd recommend this to dog-loving parents, I guess.

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### **Bonnie Grover says**

Thank you to @Kidlitexchange for giving me the opportunity to read this book. All opinions are my own. Chronicle Books is reissuing a popular picture book by Newberry author Madeline L' Engle. This is a sweet book that deals with the family's poodle adjusting to a new baby. I loved the idea and the artwork.

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### **Olivia Hoist says**

The Other Dog by Madeleine L'Engle

11/19/18

5/5

Contemporary Realistic Fiction, Grades 1-3

I had to do an author presentation on Madeleine L'Engle, so I was introduced to a lot of her books. She is an amazing author who uses her dogs in some of her books. I like how this book was told from the dog's perspective, but pertained to lifelike situations. When a baby is born, it takes away from the dog's attention. The jealousy it causes the dog to have is humorous, and I think this book is a great children's read!

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### **Sandy Brehl says**

The prologue of this charmer is written by the (very famous) author's adult granddaughter, indicating it was originally written generations ago, and was not accepted for publication at the time, despite the author's extraordinary success with novels for youth. At this time it reads with timeless humor and appeal, along with delightful VOICE, POINT OF VIEW, and a CHARACTER arc that provide valuable mentor text for writers at any age.

The afterward describes the original little poodle that inspired the story.

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### **Wendy says**

This is one of those books that would probably be beloved as a family story/heirloom sort of thing but which doesn't work much beyond that.

Told from the point of view of a dog having to come to terms with a new baby in the family. It's rather wordy for a children's book and kids might not get what is going on at first. Maybe families with furbabies before human babies will relate better to this one than we did.

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### **Alex (not a dude) Baugh says**

Narrated by a poodle named Touché L'Engle-Franklin, this is the story of how a dog regards the arrival of what she believes is another dog into her domain. Of course, the reader knows it's just a new baby named Jo, but Touché is not happy, believing one dog is enough for any family, and that she personally is everything her humans could want. As Touché becomes resigned to her new rival, she does notice that there are differences between the two of them. For instance, the new Jo-dog doesn't go out for walks when she does, she gets fed more frequently, and she has no tail and not much hair. But as the Jo-dog grows bigger, and becomes more interested in Touché, things begin to change and eventually she decides that maybe two dogs in a family might be a good idea after all.

This very tongue-in-cheek story will make anyone who has ever introduced a baby to a previously dog-only home laugh in recognition of dog jealousy. Originally published in 2001, the book has a definite old fashioned feeling. Touché belonged to Madeleine L'Engle's grandmother Madeleine L'Engle (that's right, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*), who acquired her in 1944, and the watercolor illustrations really capture the nuances of 1940s and 1950s picture books. This is a refreshing look at that old age-old competition associated with sibling rivalry.

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### **Pamela Powell says**

While the picture book is adorable, I enjoyed the author's note at the end even more. This is based on the author's own pet poodle and it's reaction to a new baby. Very very cute!

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### **hrh says**

A delightfully unexpected turn from the prolific and wide-ranging pen of Madeleine L'Engle, who's best known for her "A Wrinkle in Time" series. Eclectic illustrations by Christine Davenier. Includes an Author's Note and author's delicate illustrations of the real stage poodle whose tale is recounted in these pages.

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### **Barbara says**

Lovers of dogs will enjoy this story, told from the point of view of a pampered pooch, a French poodle named Touche L'Engle-Franklin. The dog is the companion of the famous writer, Madeleine L'Engle, and she relates how hard it was for her to accept the arrival of a new dog, Jo, that her mistress brings into the house. Touche's voice is distinct here, and it is clear that she is a bit confused about there would be any need for anyone or anything else because of how wonderful she herself is. The scenes in which she must go out into the rain while the baby remains indoors and her pride in having bested the baby since she sleeps at the foot of the bed as her parents slumber is palpable, and there are several amusing anecdotes and observations

shared here. In the end, though, Touche decides that she doesn't mind sharing her space with someone else whom she has come to love a great deal. The illustrations capture this dog's personality quite well, and readers will feel as though they know her quite well after finishing the book. The end papers even feature various sketches that show Touche in adorable positions, and an Author's Note provides additional background that explains just how important this dog was to the author. There is even a foreword from the author's granddaughter in which she tells about how it came to be written and how fond L'Engle was of cats and dogs. While it might not appeal to everyone or even fans expecting something like *A Wrinkle in Time*, it is nice to have this slice of life from such a groundbreaking author.

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