



Bruce

Albert Payson Terhune

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This is one of Albert Payson Terhune's best stories about his famous dogs. Bruce was a collie, a superb specimen of his wonderful race.

How he got to "The Place," and how he developed from an "ugly duckling" into the joy and pride of his master and mistress, and how he went overseas and did his noble best in saving life and honor for his friends—all this you will read in this book.

And as you read you will realize the wonder and beauty of a dog's devotion, and also, perhaps, something of what it means to be a dog-lover.

Bruce Details

Date :

ISBN : 9781406953114

Author : Albert Payson Terhune

Format : 90 pages

Genre : Fiction, Classics, Animals, Childrens, Dogs

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From Reader Review Bruce for online ebook

Chris says

Another one of Terhune's collie stories. This novel tells the story of Bruce from Ugly Duckling to heroic war dog. It is rather amazing reading older books to see what cultural thoughts make their way into the novel. If you are a German, you might want to skip this one, for Terhune was writing either during WW I or just after and there are some anti-German passages.

This book is more in the tradition of Wolf, though the ending is far different. It is an exciting and quick read.

Theresa says

I've wanted to read Bruce for a very long time. As long as I can remember I've loved collies. I don't remember where that came from, but I do. Thank God for online reading sites.

I cried three times.

Bruce the puppy that no one believed in becomes a full fledged hero.

I still have goosebumps. love!

Dwain says

Ruth keeps telling me how much she loved the Terhune dog stories when she was a kid. I finally decided I had better read one. Bruce popped up first. The writing is a bit stilted for today's taste but the story is good. Reminds me a bit of "War Horse". I would recommend it to anyone who would like a nice story about a collie that is easy to read. Might also remind you of "Lassie".

Maximus.M says

This book is a really interesting book it really widens my vocabulary but at times the author put so much description into the book that there were parts that didn't make any sense. If you are searching for a good book with a lot of vocabulary than this is the book!

Lynda says

Good book it describes the war dogs and what they did for our country,.

Ed says

Heroic dog stories from the 1920's. Famous collies before Lassie. Seem to be written for earnest boy scouts from the 20's. Bruce is patriotic, loyal, energetic and smart. (He's a bit of a Mary Sue, actually.) He fights vivisectionists over here, he aids the Allies over there, always sure, he always comes out on top. And everybody loves him. (The casual racism and sexism were jarring!)

I decided that this would be my first read on my e-reader because the author is (supposedly, most likely) an ancestor of mine (I collect his books) and I thought it would be a nice way to bridge the old and the new. Even though it's a bit much nowadays.

Cathy says

This is a truly heartwarming story about a collie named Bruce. Awkward as a puppy, he grows into a beautiful and intelligent dog. He is dearly loved by his Master and Mistress. His Master is in his 40s, with various health problems, and cannot serve in WWI. So they make the sacrifice and send Bruce to be trained as a courier dog.

I spent many of the last half of the book in tears reading about this great dog. It does have a happy ending, though.

Hákon Gunnarsson says

Before reading Bruce by Albert Payson Terhune I didn't know much about the author other than that he had been well known for his dog stories. I like dogs so when I came across this book I gave it a try.

It was published in 1920, and to be quite honest, it shows its age. The frantic flag waving can be excused by how short it was since the end of World War I, but it doesn't make the read very interesting. Another thing that drags the pleasure of reading this down is the sexism. Essentially I felt the character were too simply drawn, either good, or bad.

Still it is not a total loss. There is some humor, and there are parts where the narrative reaches some heights. Sometimes it gets quite colorful even, and emotional.

I can't say I liked this book very much, but I know this isn't the best know work of this author, so I think I will look up the better known Lad: A Dog to see if that is better. I hope it is better, because I can't really recommend Bruce.

Jan C says

I remember reallyying Terhune's books when I was young. The one that sticks out is Lad: A Dog. I didn't recall whether I had read this one or not. I hadn't.

I kind went hot and cold with this one or maybe it should be cold and hot. There were parts I just wasn't that

thrilled with. But at some point Bruce came alive.

Maybe when he attacked the vivisectionist who was hurting the Mistress.

Maybe when they sent him off to be a courier dog in WWI.

Typical dog story - he does get hurt a couple of times in the war. Kind of a tearjerker that way.

But it was okay.

SheriC (PM) says

Primarily the story of a great Gary Stu of a dog who is sent overseas to serve as a courier dog for the US forces during WWI. Bruce's family had no sons to contribute to the war effort, so they sent their smart, loyal, brave, etc. pet collie to serve instead. His exploits in France seem to be a fictionalization of the famous real-life war dogs of WWI, Rags and Sergeant Stubby. It's a heartwarming adventure story.

Bruce's story reminded me of an episode from *This American Life* discussing the use of dogs during WWII, where the government actually called on civilians to enlist their family pets in the military. These pets were evaluated and, if they showed promise, trained for military service. Some dogs had Bruce-like tours of duty and either died in combat or returned home after the war. Many more died of disease or illness. What broke my heart a little was the revelation that many of these family pets were simply equipped with explosives on timers and sent running into enemy camps as living bombs.

The first part of this book is not actually Bruce's story, but that of his mother, a "second" born of an illustrious bloodline in a professional kennel focused on showing and breeding collies. Scorned and unwanted, she eventually finds a loving home through a series of misadventures.

Terhune successfully walks a fine line between dramatizing these adventures from the animal's point of view and anthropomorphizing them into furry little people with fully human emotions. I felt their love and bewilderment and deep sadness, but they retained their essential natures as dogs. However, Terhune was also very much a man of his time, and his story displays some appallingly racist, classist, and sexist attitudes. I was a little amazed at how he sneered at a general prejudice against the female of the canine species, followed by earnest depictions of dog-hating "Mohammedans", German vivisectionists, nagging housewives, superstitious peasants, creeping murdering "red Indians", and cruel German soldiers who can be identified by the smell of their sauerkraut diets.

Four stars for the doggie adventure story, minus a star for gratuitous bigotry and some rather boring descriptions of war maneuvers. Originally published in 1920. Read in ebook format using the Free Books app.

Cyanemi says

Another reread. It was okay. The language is so different than what is used today. There were a couple of great sentences. Other than that it was a little dull. I have a Collie and probably got one due to reading these

books at a very young age

Jean says

I read this long ago when my mother gave me her Terhune books. As a child I focused on the story of Bruce: how the dog grew up and then became a war dog. Written between World War I and World War II, there was only one war, The Great War.

As an adult, I got the added level of the story about the war, with trench warfare and poison gas a reality. Written so soon after the end of the war, the reader gets a good view of how many Americans viewed the war and the animosity toward the "evil Huns." (All Quiet on the Western Front provides a good look at the other side of the story.) For that reason, I would be more cautious about simply handing the book over to a young person. History was a casual part of my family's dinner conversation, so I instinctively knew that the feelings shouldn't be transferred to present day.

Still, I found myself liking the book and rooting for Bruce to make it, against all odds. If you like dogs and understand the historical setting, you might like it as well.

Vicki says

Another of my dad's books that he gave to me when I was around 8. This one was harder to read for me at that age because of the descriptions of war zones in World War I. Pretty remote for a very-sheltered child of the 1970's to understand.

Janelle V. Dvorak says

The stories that Terhune tells about his wonderful collies transcend the tedious moralizing and class snobbery (characteristic of the times in which they were written) that creep into the books on occasion. This is one in a series of books that belonged to my father when he was a child, and I fell totally in love with each and every one of the dogs and cried my heart out when bad things happened to them.

Jeri says

The vocabulary in Terhune's books is challenging compared to today's 5th grade reading level. A sweet collection of stories about Bruce, a giant of a collie who overcomes an unattractive puppyhood to be a heroic courier dog in WWI.
