



Arthur: The dog who crossed the jungle to find a home

Mikael Lindnord

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THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

When you are racing 435 miles through the jungles and mountains of South America, the last thing you need is a stray dog tagging along. But that's exactly what happened to Mikael Lindnord, captain of a Swedish adventure racing team, when he threw a scruffy but dignified mongrel a meatball one afternoon.

When they left the next day, the dog followed. Try as they might, they couldn't lose him - and soon Mikael realised that he didn't want to. Crossing rivers, battling illness and injury, and struggling through some of the toughest terrain on the planet, the team and the dog walked together towards the finish line, where Mikael decided he would save Arthur and bring him back to his family in Sweden, whatever it took.

Reactions to Arthur's story:

'an incredible journey' *Daily Telegraph*

'Arthur latched onto an extreme sports team during the Amazon race - and what happened next will melt the hardest heart' - *Daily Mail*

Arthur: The dog who crossed the jungle to find a home Details

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From Reader Review Arthur: The dog who crossed the jungle to find a home for online ebook

Narilka says

Arthur is a heart warming memoir of a dog rescue. Mikael Lindnord is an adventure racer. He and his team are on a grueling, 400+ mile race through the jungles of Ecuador when they encounter a stray dog at one of the race's rest stops. In a small act of kindness Mikael shares his food with the dog and the rest, as they say, is history. The dog follows the team along for the rest of the race. What starts as a cute quirk quickly changes as a deep bond forms between Mikael and the dog. They struggle through some tough terrain together, battling injury and illness and cross the finish line. It is then that Mikael decides he will save Arthur and bring him home to Sweden, whatever it takes.

I've never heard of adventure racing before. Those people are nuts! What was amazing is that Arthur was able to keep up with them throughout the second half of the race. He had some pretty severe back wounds when he meets up with Mikael's team. The paperwork and red tape involved to bring an animal from one country to another was intimidating. Photos of Arthur are placed throughout with some pages in color. The story also highlights how animal rights are non-existent in some parts of the world. Mikael has started a foundation to try and change the laws in these countries to give animals more protection. It's going to be a long, slow process but I think his team is up for the challenge.

Katherine Younkin says

This book is a pleasant true story about a not-so-pleasant extreme race that brought a stray Ecuadorian dog into the life of Mikael Lindnord, a Swedish adventure racer. The story describes an arduous trip with three other team members that tests the stamina of these elite rough terrain racers. The first part of the book told by Lindnord in a friendly casual style and elaborates on his sports background and introduction to adventure racing with plenty of technical details. The reader learns about the intense training, planning, and packing that must occur before the race begins and the incredible amount of trust that must exist among team members.

Well into this particular race and well into the book, a stray dog appears and bonds with Lindnord. The dog named Arthur by Lindnord attaches himself to him and won't leave no matter how hard the going gets and that's where the story takes off. This isn't the book for those looking for a great literary read. The story starts off slowly and some of the details are repetitive, of interest only to others in extreme sports. Animal lovers, however, especially dog lovers, will be drawn to Arthur's story.

Jenny (knasentjej) says

Det var en intressant historia att läsa om. Det är inte svårt att se kärleken mellan Arthur och Mikael.

Det vart kul att läsa om deras resa för att mötas och sedan före att förbli i varandras liv.

Ann-marie says

I followed Arthur's story at the time, loved reading all the details about his new family's background. The determination of Arthur during the race, and Mikael's fight to bring him home was heart warming. If you own a dog, especially a rescue give them a huge hug.

Nat K says

3.5★s for me. A lovely, heart warming shaggy dog story.

Of course I could not resist this book with the face of “Arthur” on the cover. As the saying goes, a picture paints a thousand words, and Arthur’s face does that, plus some.

I’m a sucker for books about animals, and this one didn’t fail to delight.

Mikael Lindnord is an elite athlete who takes part in an endurance sport called “Adventure Racing”. Athletes from around the world compete against each other in teams of four. The terrain is tough – mountains, jungles, rapids. Temperatures range from freezing cold to a humid 40 degrees Celsius throughout the course of a race, which typically lasts for a week.

Competitors run, hike, cycle & kayak across this challenging vista. Time is of a premium, and sleep kept to a minimum. Meals are often eaten on the run. The race is both physically & psychologically brutal. Injuries abound, from frostbitten toes, altitude sickness, broken limbs to hallucinations from the gruelling regime.

It is in this environment that Mikael meets Arthur.

Name: Arthur Sex: Male Age: 8

The setting is Quito, Ecuador. Mikael and his team mates Staffan, Simon & Karen begin the race which they’ve been training months for.

At a rest stop (where equipment is repaired, short naps are taken and meals eaten) Mikael warms up a packet of meatballs (Swedish, what else!). While waiting for the meal to heat up, he senses a presence waiting and watching him from the edge of the jungle.

“It was a muddy battered looking dog. He was standing perfectly still by a red bike box. He seemed to be waiting for something...I had never seen a dog with such presence, such stillness.”

”He was big, and underneath the mud and dirt I thought he was probably a golden colour. Even a distance, I could see that some of the mud was blood: he had bad wounds as well as dirt on him.

But he was so stoical, so dignified, he caught my eye by his very appearance of calm. As I watched, he turned in my direction and padded forwards a few paces. I could see now, that he was looking at me.”

Mikael could see that Arthur was more in need of the meal than he was, so gives it to him. Over meatballs in the Ecuadorian jungle, a friendship is forged. It's synchronicity, as if man and dog knew each other, and were meant to cross paths.

Though obviously starving, Mikael was taken aback at the grace with which Arthur ate the meal. There was no gulping down of food, or growling. Just a calm knowingness and acceptance of what was offered.

Mikael gives little more thought to the dog he's given his meal to. His focus is now entirely on completing the next leg of the race. To his, and his team-mates' surprise, Arthur (yet to be named) tags along and follows the team on their race, refusing to be left behind. Long after they assume he'll tire of them and return to his home, he continues to doggedly follow them (I had to put that in).

"He seemed to be waiting patiently for something, anything or nothing."

Realising that the stray has now become the unofficial 5th member of their team, Mikael decides to name him. The name needs to be special, to mean something, and to reflect his true character. He names him...Arthur.

"...I thought of the way he carried himself...his stillness and elegance. He was, he is, like a king. A golden king. Like the film. Like King Arthur. This dog was no ordinary dog. He was regal. He was Arthur."

The race continues, with Arthur alongside. Due to various errors of judgement and injury, Mikael and his team cross the finish line without getting a place. Though they didn't win the race, Mikael has instead found a lifelong friend. He realises that he simply cannot say goodbye and leave Arthur behind in Ecuador, returning home to Sweden without him is unthinkable. And so begins the story of the arduous task of bringing Arthur home to become part of his family.

This is such a lovely story of compassion, courage and determination, of both the human and canine spirit. It shows that winning isn't everything, but trying your best is. And that listening to your heart is the most important thing of all.

As this year is drawing to a close, to me this story is about how important it is to show kindness to another living being. That a stray dog has a lot of love to give, and could easily become a loving part of your family, if you just let go and take a chance. Something good can happen from unusual situations, and you too, could end up with an Arthur in your life. And it would be all the more special for it.

"I never had the remotest idea or intention of having a dog. I now have a friend whose loyalty and devotion I know I can count on to our dying day. Just as I'm sure Arthur knows he can count on mine."

"There will never be enough time to dwell on how lucky I am, but I know I will never forget to be thankful that our adventure has had the happiest of endings."

Woof, to that! ?

Hayley says

Such a wonderful story

Sean Peters says

A new heartwarming story I do love.

I know how much I loved the fabulous story of Gobi....

Although this book is not quite up to the standards of Gobi.. It still is a great book, a heartwarming, touching story that really does touch the heart strings.

This book is not only about Arthur but about a man and his team, their battles through through some tough jungle races.

Arthur is just an incredible dog, his determination, courage and pure will to follow Mikael's team whatever the conditions is just unbelievable.

But the then hardship of bringing a dog back from Equador to Amsterdam and then Sweden. You would not believe how difficult it is.

Crazy for a country that has thousands of dogs on the street, make it so difficult to help a dog and improve it's quality of life.

There in this book some just some touching moments that really hit home, little sentences that Mikael says that bring tears to your eyes.

Again this book show there are some great people doing great work to support and help our animals of all kinds, and we must thank them for all their work.

Very touching and entertaining.

Aritalectora empedernida says

Una historia preciosa

Vavita says

I really enjoyed this book. I think it is a great book for animal lovers.

At the beginning I was not so interested in Mikael's background and his story about he got into adventure racing but, I realized I needed to understand who he is in order to appreciate the love he felt for this dog.

It was really sad to read about Arthur's suffering and sadder to know that the people who made him suffer are living in my country. I feel embarrassed that there are no laws defending animals in Ecuador. Hopefully this will change.

Glenda York says

I read just about every dog book I come across, because I love canines, and I love reading--so it's a perfect pairing. Arthur is a dog who latched onto an extreme sports team during a race in South America. Extreme sports teams engage in very grueling races, this one was 435 miles through the jungles and mountains. The last thing you would think about is coming across a stray dog, much less the thought of being responsible for him after he starts to tag along. Mikael Lindnord, the captain of this Swedish adventure team, felt an immediate connection with the mongrel and this is the story of what he went through when he decided to save the dog and bring him home to his family in Sweden. As I find with all dog books, this one captures the amazing bond between people and dogs.

Julia Navrén says

I was actually not very interested in this book to begin with, the media coverage on this story was huge here in Sweden, what could I possibly not already know. turns out I really enjoyed getting the full picture, told by Mikael. One of the most fascinating parts of this story to me is that he had never owned a pet before, and yet he felt responsible for this stray dog. I also like the language, and the descriptions of how multi-sporting works is necessary to set the scene for the meeting between him and Arthur.

Nora says

Much of the book is devoted to adventure racing. If you read it know that the dog appears about half way into the book. It is a likable book but not a lovable one for me.

Kirsti says

Another excellent animal story, made especially good after the circumstances in which Arthur was found. He has found a true home with Mikael and his family, and hopefully set off a chain of awareness about the plight of homeless dogs everywhere. I've always believed in that old saying about adopting a dog won't help them all, but it will change the life of that one. Arthur certainly has hit the jackpot!

It does take around 80 pages or so to get to Arthur's story, beware. I learned more about Mikael and his family first, as well as this adventure racing stuff. That honestly wasn't what I wanted to know about, but when we get to Arthur the focus changed, thank god. I felt like at times the writing was a little weak, but it had bright sparks as well. As a biography this might have fallen a little flat for me, but well, DOGS.

Another of my books that have sat on my to-read pile for far too long. Four stars. :)

Anniz says

Seg till en början men det kan mest bero på att det mer handlade om sporten men fastnade helt sedan kapitlet Arthur kom in! Fantastiskt att Arthur valde rätt person att "haka sig fast i"!

Elizabeth George says

I loved this book. But then, I'm an animal lover and I'm especially a dog lover. It's more than a "heart warming" story. It's really about the nature of commitment, not only to a grueling sport but, more important, to an animal in need. Lindnord's depiction of Arthur is one of the finest illustration of an animal's spirit and nobility of character that I've ever read. In these depressing times we live in, this book is a tonic. Arthur will win you over as he won over the author, his teammates, Sweden, Ecuador, and ultimately the world.
