



Follow the Dog Home: How a Simple Walk Unleashed an Incredible Family Journey

Kevin Walsh, Bob Walsh, Samantha Walsh

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17 Dogs, 3 Generations, 70 Years
There's one constant
... the family dog.

As our world changes and our lives get more complicated, the one thing every family can count on is a friendly welcome home and a warm snuggle with furry friends.

Follow the Walsh family as they lead you through the incredible and inspirational tales of their favorite family relatives. Curl up with these engaging stories of miracles, joy, and life's struggles, as Bob, Samantha, and Kevin Walsh share their truly amazing journey.

Whether it's the Walshes or your own family, you know the family dog is part of your life, a constant and true friend who stays with you—no matter how many years and miles you have traveled.

Follow the Dog Home: How a Simple Walk Unleashed an Incredible Family Journey Details

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From Reader Review Follow the Dog Home: How a Simple Walk Unleashed an Incredible Family Journey for online ebook

Barb says

July Doggie Book Group read on Goodreads.

Billie says

Enjoyed this book immensely. I have owned Boston Terriers for over 50 years & currently have 3. My house would not be a home without them.

Mary says

Wonderful read

Susan says

This was a fun, family book about their family relations, which included the dogs that were part of their families. A nice, easy read. Maybe a lot of fluff, but if you're a dog lover, it's enjoyable.

Mary says

Lovely tribute to our canine friends. As a dog lover myself, I related to this memoir and was reminded of the dogs who have graced my life, starting with Pudz (short for Puddles), the white german shepard who was the first dog I can remember. Ther have been few times in my life that I have been dogless. I currently live with 2 sassy pomeranians Jo Jo and Sam who keep me busy and get me up way too early every morning!

Alison says

If you are a dog lover (like me) this is a book you will enjoy reading! So many of the stories & family experiences that are written about in this book were things that mirrored my own life & that with the few dogs I've been blessed enough to have share my experiences. I laughed & cried at the tales & truly found myself drawn into the adventures & mishaps throughout.

Of course with that being said this is also a book that will help people who aren't dog lovers better understand those of us who are...not an easy thing to do by any means. It allows you a glimpse into the passion, love, & heartache that a dog brings into your life. The emotions & stories are well told.

Being a 4th grade teacher, I loved the fact that Samantha Walsh (Kevin's 10 year old daughter) was involved

in bringing this book to life. She has such a great storytelling voice. I plan to read a few pieces to my class to show them that writing (& reading for that matter) are real & important things to them.
Well done Walsh family!!!

Kirsti says

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for the chance to read this book!

When I first saw this on Netgalley, I wondered because I thought it had been out for a while? I imagine this is the updated version. Basically this is the story of one family over three generations and the dogs that influenced their lives in the different times. Some dogs are the typical 'good' dogs, but others have behaviour issues or never really warm up to the family fully, and yet they would never have NOT had them. We all know that even a 'bad' dog is a good dog after all.

I liked the changing perspectives as time passed, and the general attitude the family had to dogs as pets and companions. Fair warning, almost all dogs are either petshop or breeder bought, and I know that can be upsetting.

Of course being written over a number of years, some of the dogs pass on too, and I know there are also animal lovers that can't/won't read for this reason. So yeah, just another warning there.

I really enjoyed this one, it was quick and highly readable. Five stars.

Lynda Kelly says

I was ticking along nicely with this and enjoying it till we read about Dannie and when they sadly had to put her to sleep and they didn't stay with her !! They let her watch them leave the vet's practice and I thought my heart would break. She'd been with the family longer than any of their previous dogs and I couldn't believe ANY dog lover would do that so I packed it in there at 37%. It upset me so much.....who does that ? It hurts but you stay till the bitter end with them as they would you.

My favourite up till then had been Claudia. She sounded a lovely dog. Of course, we knew that in 70 years of dog ownership that there were going to be losses and I was ready for those, knowing I'd be saddened by them but I couldn't read more after Dannie died.....

There were some formatting mistakes. For some reason the font keeps changing from one style to another quite randomly. I spotted a couple of other mistakes but nothing too frightful or appalling.

I did like the photos of the family and the four-legged members of the family peppered throughout. A nice addition.

Lisa Pelto says

The importance of having a dog in your life came through with flying colors. This family did not let any moss grow under their feet when it came to making a dog part of their lives at every moment possible. I cried, I laughed, and I thought. Very good book for dog families.

Kathy says

This book was not exactly what I had thought the book would be. It is the story of one family over many years, with several dogs as part of it. What amazed me was the fact that throughout the years and with many dogs involved, the family only went to a shelter for a dog once. Instead, there was lamenting because they could not afford the price of a non-shelter, though, for me, shelter dogs are far better dogs and "family" members. Personally, I would have enjoyed it more, and I think the book would have been a much better read if the family had gotten dogs from the local shelter rather than go to a pet store or breeder. Most people who truly feel for dogs do. The story covered more than the family dogs across many years and several dogs: how the family and dog interacted, how the dog changed the family was changed. This it really is not just a book about dogs, as I originally thought it was. There is much more in the book. Perhaps focusing more on the dogs and less on the inner working and actions of the family might have made a more interesting story. I do not know. The book did drag at times, and I found myself wondering whether to skip pages or paragraphs or not to get past whatever it was that I was reading. This a good book for a reader who wants to see how dogs interact with families or for anyone who wants to read through a somewhat interesting family memoir, with dogs included a lot. I received this from NetGalley to read and review.

Mary says

I recently lost a beloved cat. Were it not for the love of my dog, Millie, I would be in far worse shape. This book is very realistic about each stage of a dog's life. Reading it, you realize just why we need our dogs.

Kim says

Excellent memoir of four generations of the Walsh families' pet dogs.

Honest, straightforward writing - like the author(s) were sitting across the table in conversation. Relating the stories of the dogs was actually a very unique and interesting way to relate the family's history. Sometimes history, even family history, can be dry. Not so here. There was not one boring moment in the book! Telling the histories of the dogs included stories of all family members and all of the most important points in history. Moving, the addition and loss of family members, college years, new jobs, getting older, memories of friends and neighbors, etc.

The stories were all endearing - good or bad. It was mentioned in the book at one point that the authors were in disagreement about whether to tell only the good stories. One author wanted to leave out the dogs' deaths and anything relating to gross stories of icky dog waste. I am very happy that the authors chose to include it all! I mean, it's impossible to tell an accurate and heartfelt history without the bad stuff too!

The death of the dogs were huge moments in the lives of the family. I appreciated the detail given. Even the way the dogs were found and how they looked when they found them, how they dealt with the disposal...I could imagine the whole thing like I was there. Terrific storytelling! Not the best memories, but certainly very important ones. How could you ever erase the picture in your mind's eye of how the dog looked on its deathbed or the last moments you share together before the inevitable & how you came to decide it was

necessary? Nobody forgets that stuff and thank you for sharing the painful parts too!

Other interesting points to mention...the photos. It was great to see pictures of all involved, pets and the owners. The photos helped the reader get to know the family and made it easier to remember in 4 generations - who was who. I also liked the conversation that occurred at the end (or beginning...can't recall) of each chapter. This brought everything back into perspective once again and in an interesting way. Granddaughter asking questions of Grandfather with Dad chiming in...really cute!

Loved this book! I have never enjoyed a memoir as much as this one - and I have never enjoyed a book about dogs as much! I'm not even a huge dog lover! A lot of time and thought and collaboration b/w family members went into this book - making it well worth a perfect five stars!

Lisa says

Great stories -- It made me miss my dog Miss Kitty -- yeah, that's right. I laughed, cried, got chills and got sad sometimes -- this book runs the gamut...and I can't have a dog now because my girls and I are too allergic (especially to those hypo-allergenic species). Boo!

Sharon says

Stories about pets he and his family has had. His repeated selection of purebred dogs, even when he could not afford them and their health issues which were possibly related to improper breeding, made me wonder if a mixed breed might have been a better choice. I will admit that I am biased, as I have gotten several of my dogs from rescue facilities and had many wonderful mixed breeds from them.
