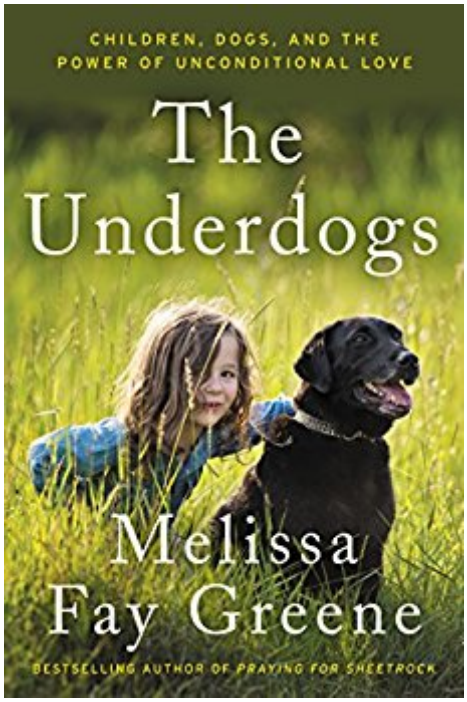
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Underdogs: Children, Dogs, And The Power Of Unconditional Love



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

From two-time National Book Award nominee Melissa Fay Greene comes a profound and surprising account of dogs on the front lines of rescuing both children and adults from the trenches of grief, emotional, physical, and cognitive disability, and post-traumatic stress disorder.The Underdogs tells the story of Karen Shirk, felled at age twenty-four by a neuromuscular disease and facing life as a ventilator-dependent, immobile patient, who was turned down by every service dog agency in the country because she was Ã¢â ¬Å“too disabled.Ã¢â ¬Â• Her nurse encouraged her to tone down the suicidal thoughts, find a puppy, and raise her own service dog. Karen did this, and Ben, a German shepherd, dragged her back into life. Ã¢â ¬Å“How many people are stranded like I was,Ã¢â ¬Â• she wondered, Ã¢â ¬Å“who would lead productive lives if only they had a dog?Ã¢â ¬Â•A thousand state-of-the-art dogs later, Karen ShirkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s service dog academy, 4 Paws for Ability, is restoring broken children and their families to life. Long shunned by scientists as a manmade, synthetic species, and oft- referred to as Ã¢â ¬Å“ManÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Best FriendÃ¢â ¬Â• almost patronizingly, dogs are finally paid respectful attention by a new generation of neuroscientists and animal behaviorists. Melissa Fay Greene weaves the latest scientific discoveries about our co-evolution with dogs with KarenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story and a few exquisitely rendered stories of suffering children and their heartbroken families.Written with characteristic insight, humanity, humor, and irrepressible joy, what could have been merely touching is a penetrating, compassionate exploration of larger questions: about our attachment to dogs, what constitutes a productive life, and what can be accomplished with unconditional love.

Book Information

File Size: 12799 KB

Print Length: 357 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0062218514

Publisher: Ecco; Reprint edition (May 17, 2016)

Publication Date: May 17, 2016

Sold by:Ã Â HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B014DSF0H2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #113,854 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #40 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Social Services & Welfare #92 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Parenting & Relationships > Special Needs #115 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Whispersync for Voice > Crafts, Hobbies & Home

Customer Reviews

HereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the thing: while Melissa Faye GreeneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s newest book, "The Underdogs," is filled with anecdotes about wonderful dogs, their trainers and owners, and the children they save, it is so much more than that. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s an amazing crossover book with somethingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •quite literallyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •for everyone. There are, of course, the dogs; thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the fascinating story of their subtle intelligence and their new role as guardians of children with autism and other striking debilities; and then thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Ms. GreeneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s own role as a most compassionate observer. SheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a remarkable guide, taking us through a universe in which we are beginning to see ourselves less as masters and more as fellow-creatures. ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a wealth of arresting detail that she synthesizes with humor and skill, and, finally, we find that we have joined the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s families. Like them, we are left movedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •even changedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •by what this book and its writer have revealed to us.

I swear Melissa Greene could write about sawdust and make it thrilling, but in Underdogs she has a sublime subject to match her captivating writing. I am an avid reader, and It is not often that a substantive non-fiction book is so entertaining, so moving, and so beautifully written. I laughed out loud numerous times, and fell in love with the dogs, the children and the families she profiles. In fact, her writing is so fresh and lively, there is not a boring moment in this book. But the biggest gift of the book is that it is truly inspiring without being in the least sentimental or simplistic. It became for me a potent antidote to the world news and the stresses of my day. It worked so well to lift my spirits that I didn’t want it to end. It is one of those books, I would read again when I need a convincing reminder of the power of love.

I am not a nonfiction reader. As a lifetime lover of fantasy and science fiction, I really ordered this book mostly to support 4 Paws for Ability. This book may have converted me. I was immediately sucked in. Greene weaves the history of dogs, modern scientific studies, and stories from 4 Paws together seamlessly. As a parent waiting for our daughter's service dog (class of August 2017!), the stories of children that could not be reached by anyone until they met their furry best friend. I cried more than I would like to admit. Sometimes with joy, sometimes with sorrow, sometimes simply because Greene describes the isolation of a special needs parent so well that its like she is talking about me. If you know anyone who has a child with special needs, I urge you to buy them this book. Hope is hard to find sometimes, but it is so important. Thank you, Melissa Fay Greene, for writing this book. Thank you, 4 Paws for Ability, for doing what you do.

I, too, have read all of Melissa Fay Greene's books and know that while she writes of real happenings, she is a master storyteller. Her writing evokes laugh-out-loud laughter and tears as you become entwined with her characters and their back stories. If you have ever lived with dogs, you know that they DO have feelings and emotions - they can and do feel and understand "their people." My first Dalmatian nursed me through an early tragedy and my third stayed by my side when I had a gravely ill child. It was never a question about their understanding and empathy. Such a beautiful read!

I love all this author's books and her newest "The Underdogs" exceeded even my greatest expectations. I have learned much from her other books and love how she "teaches" in such a fascinating and entertaining way. I knew I'd like this book about dogs, kids, and special needs. I'm a total crazy dog lady and also mom of many special needs children. I feel much more educated now about these topics dear to my heart. This is a book I know I will read again. Some books too good for one just one read.

Nor does the title convey the important work and contributions of this organization which trains dogs as service animals for severely handicapped children. Children greatly loved despite their challenges. Children who exhaust me just reading about their needs and behaviors. Parents who amaze me with how far they go to give their children --and themselves -- some semblance of a normal existence. And the amazing dogs who bring that indefinable and desperately needed something that brings relief, whether it is love, acceptance, even a good night's sleep. This book is educational and heart-warming and emotionally challenging, and evokes wide-ranging emotions as

one is forced to examine what he or she might done under similar circumstances. From Karen's determined caregiver who forced Karen back into the world from which she had withdrawn after contracting a debilitating disease, to the marvelous German Shepherd Ben, whom she trained when no agency would match her with a service dog, and from that inauspicious beginning, to grow a business that would touch so many lives (dogs and humans), I remained riveted and awed and humbled throughout the entire book.

This is the true story of how an organization called 4 Paws for Ability came into being. Karen Shirk was diagnosed with a disease that left ventilator-dependent. She tried to get a therapy dog but was turned down by all of them because of the ventilator. So, she found Ben a German Shepherd and through trial and error trained him to help her navigate life. She began to get inquiries from people with children with special needs that were also turned down by the current agencies. So, she developed 4 Paws for Ability and has placed over 1,000 dogs at the time of this book. Stories about selected families and also dog behavior make this book very educational and enjoyable.

I've read all of Melissa Fay Greene's books and the common denominator is stories that come from the heart. I couldn't put it down and found myself sharing snippets of great, laugh out loud writing with my daughter.We have always had rescue dogs, some from serious abuse, so my heart cracked open again at the hopeful, loving stories of the dogs, the trainers who saved them, and the families who gave their lives deep meaning.

Download to continue reading...

The Underdogs: Children, Dogs, and the Power of Unconditional Love Twin Flames and Soulmates Exposed: The Journey to Unconditional Love, Fulfilling Your SoulÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Purpose, and Reuniting with Your Spiritual Partner Unconditional Parenting: Moving from Rewards and Punishments to Love and Reason Solar Power: The Ultimate Guide to Solar Power Energy and Lower Bills: (Off Grid Solar Power Systems, Home Solar Power System) (Living Off Grid, Wind And Solar Power Systems) Power Training: For Combat, MMA, Boxing, Wrestling, Martial Arts, and Self-Defense: How to Develop Knockout Punching Power, Kicking Power, Grappling Power, and Ground Fighting Power Miss America by Day: Lessons Learned from Ultimate Betrayals and Unconditional Love The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance Lost Daughter: A Daughter's Suffering, a Mother's Unconditional Love, an Extraordinary Story of Hope and Survival. The Shift Journey: Spirituality, Virtues, and Unconditional Love Everything You've Ever Done: A Memoir of Unconditional Love and Spiritual Discovery Power Pivot and Power BI: The

Excel User’s Guide to DAX, Power Query, Power BI & Power Pivot in Excel 2010-2016 The Wrong Dog: An Unlikely Tale of Unconditional Love Twin Flame Code Breaker: 11:11 KEY CODES The Secret to Unlocking Unconditional Love & Finding Your Way Home Unconditional Love - An Unlimited Way of Being Essential Oils For Dogs: A Practical Guide to Healing Your Dog Faster, Cheaper and Safer with the Power of Essential Oils (Essential Oils For Dogs in Black&White) Essential Oils For Dogs: A Practical Guide to Healing Your Dog Faster, Cheaper and Safer with the Power of Essential Oils (Essential Oils For Dogs) The Dogs of War: The Courage, Love, and Loyalty of Military Working Dogs Dogs Never Lie About Love: Reflections on the Emotional World of Dogs David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants This Is Your Brain on Sports: The Science of Underdogs, the Value of Rivalry, and What We Can Learn from the T-Shirt Cannon

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help