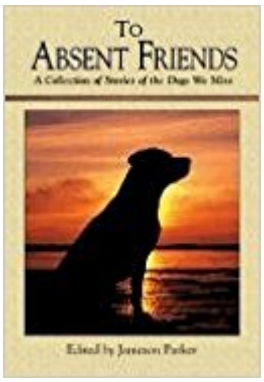
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To Absent Friends



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Synopsis

Of all the animals in the world, only the dog has chosen to share his life with man, and while the dog may have benefited from the arrangement, man has gotten the much better end of the deal. With one notable exception: the dog mercifully has no foreknowledge of his own mortality. Even more mercifully he has no knowledge that he and the person he loves won't be together forever. Man, for all the gifts he has been given, for all his cleverness and adaptability, his ingenuity and imagination, has been cursed with the knowledge of his own mortality and, perhaps even more painful, the knowledge that his best friend will leave him behind. To Absent Friends is a collection of stories of dogs told by those they left behind. Most of the dogs in these stories were good dogs; some were what we may politely describe as eccentric, some were mischievous, some were just plain bad, but all were loved, and all are missed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jameson Parker is a contributor for Willow Creek Press titles including To Absent Friends.

If you're a dog lover get this book. Not going to lie...it was sad. But in that sadness you find a new found appreciation for your dog that's still with you. And it also brings back fond memories of the dog's you've lost. I enjoyed the book so much I bought another copy for my mom.

This is a wonderful collection. I like to keep a couple of copies on hand for friends who have lost a

"best friend."

This book had some seriously sad stories in it. Some were pretty horrible. My wife wanted to read it, but I told her not to or she would have cried for days. Some were heart warming, but a lot were about dogs dying and some in some pretty horrible ways. I don’t think I let my dog out of my sight for 3 days after reading this. The authors other book was much, much better.

Selected stories by Jameson Parker. Had hoped that he had a few more of his own stories, but the ones he had selected are well worth the read.

As good a collection of dog stories as is out there. Mr. Parker’s couple of personal additions were interesting enough that I would like to read a SEQUEL someday, of more of HIS OWN dogs and perspectives!

Yes, it’s THAT Jameson Parker, the blond brother from TV’s "Simon and Simon" PI show. He left show biz to become a writer, and is apparently doing a darn good job.This is a collection of stories, essays, and poems about dealing with the grief of losing a beloved dog. Included are familiar names - like James Herriott, John Updike, and James Thurber - from familiar books, and unfamiliar pieces, originally published in newspapers and foreign books. Parker himself even has a short piece, a very touching one on the pet-owner’s most difficult decision: euthanasia.Let me warn you, you probably won’t be able to read more than one or two of these pieces at a time. I found myself in tears, time after time. But the writing is good, and not all of the stories are complete tearjerkers.

I have always thought there was a good reason that "dog" is "God" spelled backward.This book, and I have read many on the subject of companion loss, truly capturessthe absolute unconditional love that dogs so willingly bestow on us mere humans. Itis a tragedy in the worst sense that some of us don’t deserve such devotion -as in the story of the "Dark-Brown Dog." I would caution readers that this particularchapter is exceedingly difficult to to absorb. Most of the stories however are aheartfelt tribute to dogs whose love and complete dedication colored the authors landscapesin the most meaningful of ways. It is, as is said in the book, a travesty of justicethat they can’t accompany us longer in our journey through life.

Those of us who have ever loved a dog will be deeply moved by this collection of stories. The

authors range from dog trainers to owners of a beloved household pet, but each writer captured something of the gift dogs give their human companions. My only complaint with the book was with the occasional typographical errors that the publisher should have caught. The book was most impressive in every other respect. It tugged at my heart strings, and I am sure that other readers will share my feelings.

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