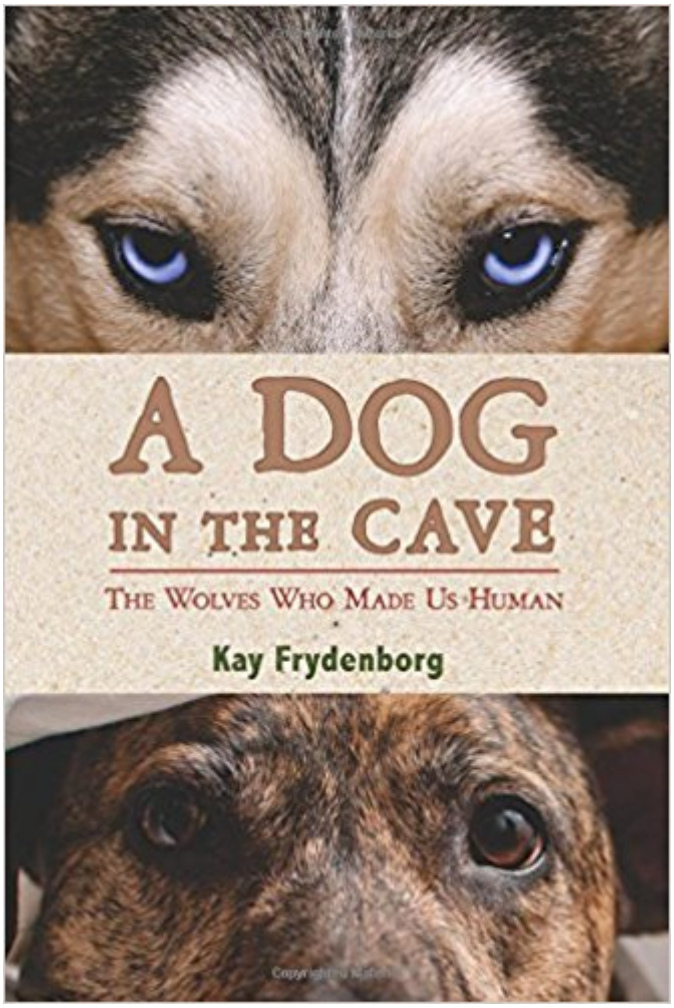
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A Dog In The Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human



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Synopsis

We know dogs are our best animal friends, but have you ever thought about what that might mean?Ã Â Fossils show weÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve shared our work and homes with dogs for tens of thousands of years. Now thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s growing evidence that we influenced dogsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ evolutionÃ¢â ¬â •and they, in turn, changed ours. Even more than our closest relatives, the apes, dogs are the species with whom we communicate best.Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Combining history, paleontology, biology, and cutting-edge medical science, Kay Frydenborg paints a picture of how two different species became deeply entwinedÃ¢â ¬â •and how we coevolved into the species we are today.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1400 (What's this?)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Ã¢Ëœâ | "This narrative blend of history and science belongs on all shelves." Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist, starred review Ã¢Ëœâ | "This lively blend of science and history is an outstanding example of narrative nonfiction." Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus, starred review Ã¢Ëœâ | "This is narrative nonfiction at its bestÃ¢â ¬â •high interest and engaging, with meaty interdisciplinary science exploration. A top choice for tweens and teens." Ã¢â ¬â œSLJ, starred review "Sidebars and color photographs supplement and expand on the central narrative, which is all but certain to leave readers thinking

about their dogs, and themselves, in entirely new ways." Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly "Evident throughout [A Dog in the Cave] are the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s passion and curiosity." Ã¢â ¬â •Horn Book

Kay Frydenborg lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and two dogs.Ã Â She's the author of numerous books for young readers including Chocolate,Ã Â Wild Horse Scientists, They Dreamed of Horses, and Animal Therapist. You can learn more about her at www.kayfrydenborg.com.

Other than the frequent reiterations of a few basic points, you can't really tell it's for younger readers -- after the book progresses beyond fairly simple, straightforward intoductary chapters outlining the issues and areas of research, it becomes increasingly complex and sophisticated enough to hold an intelligent adult's interest. It seems up to date, well-researched and documented, and if you love dogs, you'll be fascinated by how they have potentially shaped our species over time, and a bit more respectful!

A really fun book to read, especially, if you're like Will Rogers, who said "If dogs don't go to heaven when they die, then when I die, I want to go where they go." It explains a lot about why we have dogs, and how both species have benefited from the relationship. (But I still think we got the best end of the deal!) If you love dogs, or have ever been owned by a dog, you'll enjoy this book.

After reading this book I have found that the majority of my instincts abt my furry friends are well founded. This book is well researched and extremely informative. Well worth reading. Dogs + Humans=great. Cats + Humans =?????

Very interesting book. I had heard some of the research, but not all and am so glad human egos aren't so fragile that they are beginning to accept other creatures think, feel and reason in their own way also.

Nice read. A bit too much speculation about doggie things for my taste, but interesting nonetheless.

A must read for dog lovers. Learn how we domesticated dogs and they domesticated us.

A young boy and his dog wandering through a caveÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦twenty-six thousand years ago. Thus opens A Dog in the Cave. Does it surprise you that I was entranced immediately? Author Kay

Frydenborg combines an enthusiasm for history, paleontology, biology, and medical science with her obvious love for her furry subjects to tell the story of how dogs evolved into ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s best friendÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and how they may have influenced our own evolution in the process. The results are fascinating, as are the descriptions of how the scientists tackle their inquiries.This book may be for a young audience, but it is not dumbed-down. The concepts are quite sophisticated; they are just expressed more clearly than is common in books targeted for adults. Many adult-oriented authors might improve their writing immensely if they would take lessons from the writing in A Dog in the Cave.Perhaps the most prominent feature of the book that might give a clue that it is intended for a younger audience is the many photos of dogs, their relatives, and the humans who love them. One of my favorites shows a detection dog-in-training putting his nose into ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“portsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• to see if he can tell where drugs are hidden. Not only are they our best friends, we even put them to work for us! The photos may be for a young audience, but they still make me smile!This is definitely a book I want to recommend to friends. So far, the youngest on my list is a precocious ten-year-old; the oldest is in her seventies. If you like animals and have a curiosity bump, youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll enjoy this book, no matter what your age.

I found the first chapter of this book a little muddled and repetitive, but after that the book became a fascinating treasure trove of evolution theories, paleontological findings, innovative research, and scientific breakthroughs. The book discusses how recent fossil discoveries have pushed back, by thousands of years, the estimates on when the first humans and wolves began to interact. The book also gives theories on why the two species were initially drawn together, and even puts forward ideas that the Homo sapiens flourished and the Neanderthal died off because of the unique wolf-dog/Homo sapiens relationship. The relationship between wolf-dog and humans gave them a distinct hunting advantage over the non-dog loving (possibly cat-loving*) Neanderthal.The book also talks extensively about the co-evolution of the human and the dog. How the humanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s sense of smell diminished over time because they had the superior canine sense of smell to rely on. To quote from the book, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“In a very real and measurable way, dogs and humans evolved complementary abilities, joined forces, and together became more successful in the world than either had been alone.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Very interesting.But my favorite part was when the author explained why my dog will stare unblinkingly into my eyes for minutes on end. Researchers have found that when dogs and their owners gaze into one anotherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s eyes, the feel-good hormone oxytocin is released into the blood

stream of both. Oxytocin is a powerful hormone that promotes attachment in mammals. The hormone acts to bind parents and children. Thanks to this book I now know why I have this overpowering urge to kiss my puppy when she stares unblinkingly into my eyes.So if you love dogs (and science), this is a great book to read.* PS: The fake-theory of cat-loving Neanderthals is my own and not the authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s :-)

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