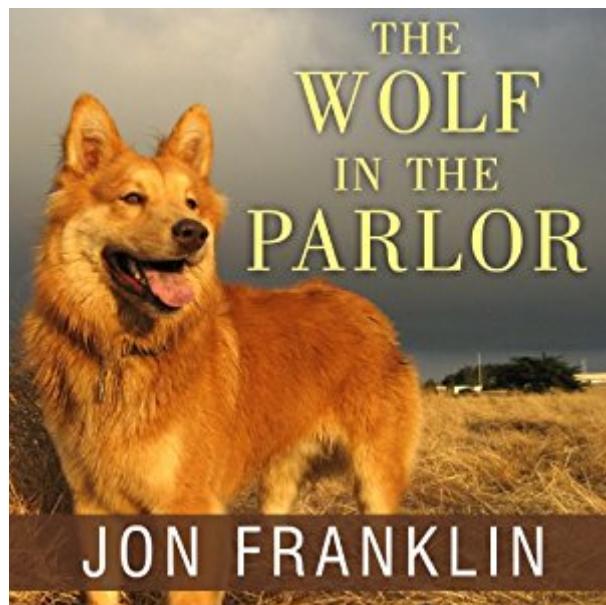


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The Wolf In The Parlor: The Eternal Connection Between Humans And Dogs



Synopsis

A man and a puppy exhumed from a 12,000-year-old grave send a two-time Pulitzer Prize–winning science writer on a journey to the dogs. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It became our morning ritual during the 11 months I was unemployed. First I felt a cold nose on my leg as I sat at the breakfast table. Next, I heard a faint whimper. Then ...WHAM! ... a dog's head crashed through my newspaper and came to rest on my lap. The message was clear. "It's time to go for our walk." Until I read the new book by Jon Franklin, *The Wolf in the Parlor* (Henry Holt and Company), I thought our walks were all to please Tyrone. Now, I realize that maybe he understood that I needed them as much as he did. If so, he was right. It was difficult to adjust after going into the office almost every day for 39 years. The walks focused my thoughts and reduced my anxieties. And I've lost 20 pounds. But Franklin's outstanding book goes even further outlining the significance of this relationship between man and his best friend. The two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author and University of Maryland professor spent more than two decades researching what he calls "the eternal connection between humans and dogs." His conclusion: Dogs, or their ancestors, helped us become better people. Just as Tyrone helps me. I'm working again now. In fact, I now have two jobs. So I'm worried that Tyrone will be upset if that cuts into our walking time. Then, again, he may be having the same concerns about me. "Just remember," Franklin said, "there's an animal on both ends of the leash."

This book grabbed my by the heart and mind; I could not let go. Finally I understand why my dogs are my partners in life. Just recently lost a best four-legged friend and now I know why I am so devastated - friends console me by saying "it was just a dog." Not just. (I still don't miss the fish I gave away.) Am am going to read it again, which I rarely do with any book, never mind this was not even science fiction (my fave). And I am going to recommend to a friend who holds training classes for dogs. As a certified brainiac, he may even have already read it, but if he hasn't he needs to. Thank you for giving me clear understanding of this relationship that I value more than friendship with humans. And now I can do my part better with the next dog who will come into my life.

Pulitzer Prize winning Science Journalist Jon Franklin has written the ultimate dog / science book. On his marriage to wife Lynn, he accepted her qualified yes, "Love me, love my dog". New to the dog world, Franklin is introduced to the dog subculture, and the various fiefdoms thereof. There are the Off Leash People, the Dog Training People, the Sunday Walk People, and myriad other variations on the theme. As he learns how to relate to Charlie the Dog, we are treated to charming anecdotes of the Marley variety, as well as an introspective rumination on the science of it is that he is experiencing. He sees himself forming a bond with Charlie that he had not anticipated, and begins to apply his science lens to this strange bond between dog and human. As he explores the history of man and dog, he begins to piece together his own hypothesis of the evolution and meaning of this bond. In the end, he proposes a stunning idea that both science buffs and dog lovers will celebrate. Of particular interest are the chapters focused on the evolution of the human and canine brains. Comparing and contrasting the human sense of sight with the canine olfactory sense opens a wonderful chapter on the way in which the world is perceived by both creatures. This is a wonderful piece of science writing, and a personal essay about his journey of understanding that will satisfy fans of the essay, science, and of course Fido. Chapters can be read out of sequence, and each stands on its own as as an essay of science and self discovery. I will read this again and again for the understanding that it has brought to me...a newly minted dog lover, and "owner" of a Siberian Husky.

Just as John Grogan, a longtime newspaper reporter, captured and memorialized his family's experiences with their yellow Lab, Marley, in the book "Marley and Me," so also does Jon Franklin, a reporter and originally not a dog lover, chronicle his deepening relation with Charley, a black poodle. But Franklin is a two time Pulitzer Prize winning science writer, knowledgeable about

evolution, archaeology, brain functioning, mental disorders, anthropology, historic patterns of climate change, etc. So as his emotional relationship with Charley deepens and he seeks to understand it, he turns to his knowledge of the various sciences to make sense of it. The result is a mixture of narrative in the vein of "Marley & Me" describing events with Charley interwoven with Franklin's musing about the relevance of various scientific findings. This book may be a disappointment to several sorts of readers: to those who want a Lassie or Marley-type story told without detours through side-streets of possibly related scientific findings, or to those whose religious faiths are opposed to various scientific findings keyed to evolution -- OR even to those who want a straight scientific exposition clearly stating the question, the evidence, the conclusion. BUT, for many not in those groups, especially those who are both dog lovers and appreciators of evolutionary science, this book will be a delight. Its thesis is extremely interesting and provocative: Early man became "civilized" (pastoral, agricultural, forming cities) in the same era that the dog became distinct from its wolf heritage. Franklin posits that this was no coincidence, that the dog-human interaction was extremely important in the evolution of mankind just as humans have been in the evolution of the dog, and that a symbiotic relationship between the two species has co-evolved such that each species has given up 10% of its brain volume (and functions) to the other. Fascinating, interesting book to those (like me) who are not offended by its stances. I found almost ALL of the customer reviews on (to this date) to be relevant, even those more critical.

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