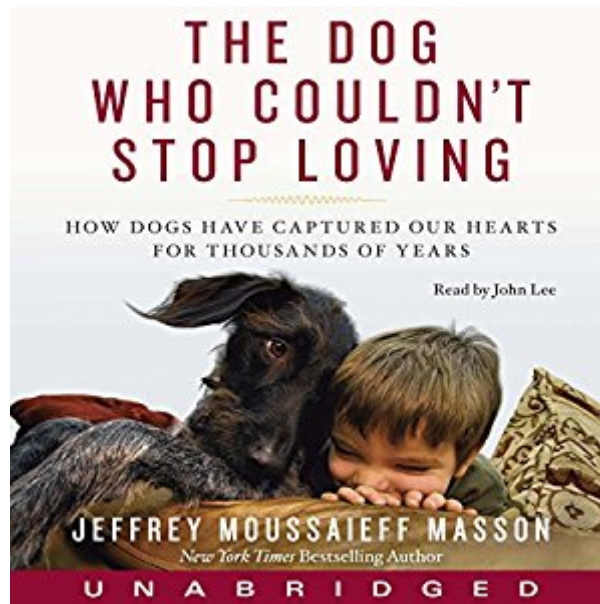


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Dog Who Couldn't Stop Loving: How Dogs Have Captured Our Hearts For Thousands Of Years



Synopsis

A groundbreaking and inspiring exploration of the unique relationship between dogs and humans, from the best-selling author of *Dogs Never Lie About Love*. Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson has long been interested in the relationships between humans and animals, and he's always been aware that there was something very special in our bond with dogs. No other animals love us in quite the same way as dogs love us. And it is mutual. Is it possible that we developed our capacity for love, sympathy, empathy, and compassion because of our long association with dogs? In *The Dog Who Couldn't Stop Loving*, Masson considers the far-reaching consequences of the coevolution of dogs and humans, drawing upon recent scientific research. Over the past forty thousand years a collective domestication has occurred that brings us to where we are today - humans have formed intense bonds with dogs, and the adoration is almost always reciprocal. Masson himself has experienced a profound bond with his new dog, Benjy, a failed guide dog for the blind, who possesses an abundance of uninhibited love. Masson knows that the love he feels for Benjy - the same feeling Benjy has for all the people and animals around him - is not unique, but exemplifies a love affair unmatched in the animal world. With wisdom, insight, and a brilliant analysis of recent scientific findings, bestselling author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson delivers a provocative and compelling book that will change the way we think about love and our canine companions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I approached this book as light reading from one dog lover to another. Unfortunately I could not stomach it and had to put it down (no pun intended) after just a few chapters. My issues with the

book were as follows:- The author spends too much time repeating himself. For instance, you will read "dogs and humans have a unique bond" in some form at least 10 times before you've gone 30 pages and it begins to dawn on you that the author is simply asserting this and will not shortly spend time elaborating in a satisfying manner.- The author's expertise in dog/human relationships comes by virtue of owning a dog and being a writer of his observations; he is not a researcher except as it relates to being an author, and so his knowledge of current research appears limited to what he may have read in the newspaper. For instance, he argues that domestication of the wolf must have taken "many thousands of years" when a persuasive scientific view is that it may have only taken a few years each time it happened (see the Wikipedia entry on the "domesticated silver fox"--what is especially odd is a few pages later he actually references this experiment, perhaps showing he is not integrating his knowledge). This is a problem because his various observations/assertions are unqualified (that is, not clarified to be opinions); thus when he (to use the same example) describes the likely evolution of wolf into dog over many years, the less-informed reader may be inclined to accept this as uncontested fact, and the more-informed reader will be distracted and will discount the author's authority. And to top it all off, I see no mention of the best thing about dogs in my mind: Each is unique, each has his/her own personality, quirks, foibles, and endearing qualities.

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