



Come Back, Como

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Steven Winn and his wife, Sally, held out for as long as they could. When the San Francisco couple finally gave in to their only child Phoebe's pleas for a dog, they adopted a scraggly terrier mutt from a local animal shelter. The new family pet, Como, turned out to hate men--especially the author--and proved to be a cunning escape artist. Traumatized, single-minded, and exceptionally clever, Como was bent on breaking Winn's sanity and self-respect, his bank account and his heart.

"Come Back, Como" is the story of one man's hilarious and poignant quest to win the trust of a dog who wanted nothing to do with him. With humor and pathos, Winn describes the maddening but ultimately rewarding effects Como had on his family, the misadventures and ordeals and terrifying events he and his dog endured together, and the greatest lesson Como taught him: that loving a dog can make us more human.

Come Back, Como Details

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From Reader Review Come Back, Como for online ebook

Sarah Ewald says

Pooh, Pooh, to those reviewers who didn't like this, or thought it was too much fluff.

I enjoyed this immensely. I was drawn to the dog on the cover. I volunteer in a shelter, and know all too well that these histories of the animals are a mystery, and it takes lots of patience and time for them to trust again. Mr. Winn writes with such humor about his dog relationship, that I found myself laughing. And I loved that this didn't have the typical ending... you know, one that requires much kleenix. Great read.

C Bradley says

There were a lot of things I really liked about this book, especially the progression of the husband and wife in acceptance of Como. I was very frustrated with the author in many places, because he was so negative about Como and his experiences with him. All that negativity and bad energy may well have contributed to the time it took Como to feel loved and accepted and safe. If you have dogs, watch how they react when you are angry or scared.

Later, when he revealed his past, which maybe even points to some dog fear, I was a bit more sympathetic. The biggest issue I had was what I see as dog-bias. His early remark about "snarling pit-bulls" and another negative pit bull remark reveal what could either be a true ignorance or just relying to a stereotype, either one which could be devastating to bully-breed dogs and lowers my estimation of the quality of an author. We already have this huge problem with getting dogs that are bully breed adopted, and this extends to dogs that even look like a bully breed dog.

Most bully breed dogs love humans. Most love other animals. Yes, some truly are bad dogs. But should the great ones out there pay for that with their own lives? Should dogs linger in shelter for months and years because of this? Breed bans have been used for many breeds of dogs, the latest being dogs with large, square heads, labeled as killers ready to attack any moment. And let's be real here - this is "feel good" legislation that does little to nothing to solve the issues - predominantly violent, cruel owners, horrific back yard breeders, and a few outliers. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/t...>

Maybe Mr. Winn would have found a great family dog from the outset had he not had this prejudice. And perhaps Como would have been more quickly become a happy, well-adjusted dog had the author instead resolved his own fears before taking on a dog. Rescue dogs come with baggage sometimes. But they are also ready and willing to find the great homes they always deserved. And I am grateful this dog had a happy ending.

ReadaBook says

enjoyed this story of a difficult but altogether good dog. Took a star off due to his appalling comments about pit bulls -- the first on page 8 -- "...the sea of snarling pit bulls...". I guess Mr. Winn tried to step back from his negative first description of pits a bit further along in the book (page 52), when he, his wife, and daughter visited an SPCA site when they were looking to adopt a dog. But it remained negative. No other breed does he describe this way in his book. Given that he worked for a newspaper and I would expect subscribes to

journalistic ethics, I would expect Mr. Winn to not jump to such a conclusion without a bit more research. Regardless, he's dead wrong about pits; unfortunately his experience didn't prompt him to learn more about this type of dog.

Setting aside his ignorance, the story about Como was enjoyable. And, I loved the end. Made me want to hug that dog - but not Mr. Winn.

Kathy says

Como resembles my own little Duffy, which is why my friend got this book for me for Christmas. The book had its origins in a series of columns written for the San Francisco Chronicle, and it's another "chronicle" of a clueless human who has to learn the hard way how to connect with a dog; kind of like me with a couple of my dogs. The author finally does begin to understand that Como is coming from some bad experiences that color his perceptions of people, other dogs, and the world he lives in now. A rare dog book: it doesn't end with the dog's death.

Stephanie A. says

I really wanted to like it because the cover is adorable, but the fact of the matter is that no one in this book is very likeable, including the dog, and nothing profound or interesting happens.

That, and I was immediately turned off at the beginning by the author refusing his daughter's first choice in dogs because it's predicted to grow to the ungodly and unmanageable size of..."30 to 40 pounds." That makes so little sense to me I can't even come up with a way to respond to it, and when you immediately distrust the author of a memoir, it colors your perception in a way that's hard to overcome.

Brenda says

"Anybody could love an easily lovable dog. It was the hard ones, the thorny, bruised and highly amped dogs who put you to the test of how far you are willing to go, how much of yourself you were able to give up, how much it meant to connect to another flawed being". (pg 148)

I love dogs in the same determined way the author's daughter loves dogs. She campaigned for years until her parents reluctantly adopted a shelter dog (from a no-kill shelter) who seemed to be damaged beyond saving. But with love and patience and acceptance and a terrible accident over the next 18 months, the dog became a most beloved, integral part of the family, And the guy who had to work the hardest to find connection with the dog ended up loving him the most.

Great story and wonderful testimony to adopting shelter dogs.

JoAnne Proescholdt says

Good- not great!

I think it took a long time to get my interest. I usually enjoy stories about animals- especially dogs and cats. This story was not about Como the dog ! It was about the man in the story. When I realized that the story became more interesting. I feel that is has a good ending.

Tracy says

When John Grogan dies and is at the pearly gates, he is going to have to answer for his crime of making "bad dog" books such a phenomenon. (Also for the movie version of his book, but I digress). Some of those books are reasonably good, like his. This one is not.

This is a book about your average neurotic dog that gets hit by a car. The author tries to find a lot of deep meaning in the experience of getting and owning this dog, but there really isn't anything much there.

Linda says

This is an easy to read book, but it seems this author knew nothing about dogs and did a lot of overthinking when he got one. The picture on the cover is really cute though!

Peggy Ford says

Como Is a Handful!

Como is a small, fluffy white dog of unknown lineage. He bonds easily with both the mother and daughter of the family that adopts him but is afraid of men, frustrating and intriguing the author. Como is able to get himself out of anything he is put in, including wire kennels and the house, leading to difficulties for the family. Almost anyone who enjoys dogs as family pets would most likely enjoy Come Back, Como.

Jennifer says

I'm a sucker for animal books, but this one just didn't have much to offer. Cute little dog has behavioral problems, and... Snore. Nothing particularly interesting/funny/enlightening happens. The author got on my nerves and was a completely ignorant dog owner. (No wonder Como hated him!)

One thing this book DOES have going for it over *Marley & Me*, *Dewey the Library Cat*, *Wesley the Owl* et al is that at the time of publication, Como was still alive and kicking, which means I didn't have to read about the dog getting old and sick and dying. If you're particularly sensitive to those "death chapters" that usually end these animal books, this a safe one to pick up!

Ann says

I picked this up because the cover photo reminded me of my dearly departed Archie and because I'm a sucker for dog stories. This would have made a terrific short story, but there wasn't enough there to justify 270 pages. Based on the subtitle, I know that the author and the dog eventually find some sort of peace. But when I reached page 165 and was still in the "Oh, woe is me! I have such a bad dog and he doesn't even like me!" phase I lost patience.

Kirsti says

I have been reading animal books for years, and this is definitely one of my favorite of the genre. Instantly, you feel connected to this poor author, who, after having bad experiences with dogs, is reluctant to get one for his insistent daughter. I know exactly what it's like to get your long awaited furry bundle of joy home, and have him instantly attack the furniture (or in my case, the yard; see giant pot holes)

Como himself is no exemplary dog; this is a story of an average dog, with no special talent other than that of all pets; to fill our lives with a little more joy, a little more mess, and a little more happiness we never knew we were missing. If you're not drawn in by his gently perked up ears, doggy nose and hopeful expression, hopefully this review leads you to reading this wonderful example of experiences with a reluctant dog.

Nancy says

Inside this full-length memoir was a long article struggling to get out.

Pat Bower says

I am a lover of all animal books. We owned many different breeds over the past 50 years, each had their own special memories for us. Our last was a Carrin terrier who owned us with all his heart. This book brought back so many memories of

Maui. Our last great companion. Enjoy this book and the memories it will stir up. Be sure to keep a Kleenex handy.
