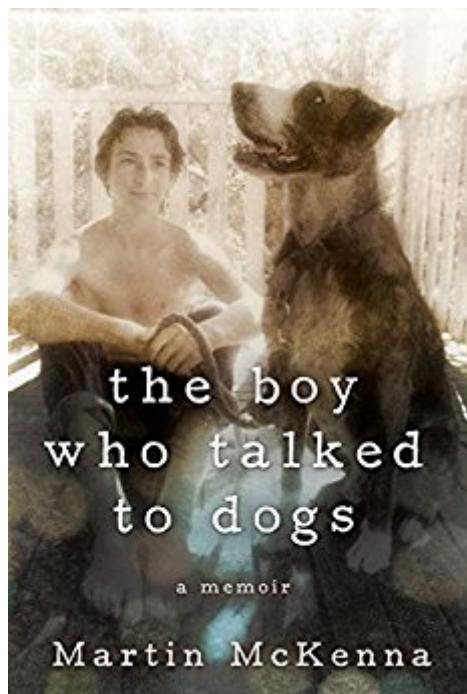


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The Boy Who Talked To Dogs: A Memoir



Synopsis

A moving memoir by the “Dog Man” of Australia that offers “rare insight into the workings of the canine mind” (Malachy McCourt). When Martin McKenna was growing up in Garryowen, Ireland, in the 1970s, he was bullied, shamed, and badly misunderstood by his family and teachers. He finally escaped by running away from home at thirteen, and eventually adopted—or was adopted by—an unconditionally supportive pack of six street dogs. Camping out in barns, escaping from farmers, and learning to fend for himself by caring for his new friends, Martin discovered a different kind of language, strict laws of behavior, and strange customs that defined the world of dogs. More importantly, his canine companions helped him understand the vital importance of family, courage, and self-respect. The Boy Who Talked to Dogs is more than an inspirational, unique, and fascinating look into canine behavior. It shows how modern life has conditioned dogs to act around humans, in some ways helpful, but in other ways unnatural to their true instincts, and how everyone can benefit from learning to “talk dog.” Known as the “Dog Man” in Australia, where he now lives, McKenna dispenses his hard-earned and priceless wisdom to dog owners and dog lovers who are sometimes baffled by what their four-legged friends are trying to tell them. The Boy Who Talked to Dogs is an astonishing, well-told story filled with humor and pathos. I will not look down on a dog ever again after reading this book. • Malachy McCourt, author of *A Monk Swimming*

Book Information

File Size: 1391 KB

Print Length: 240 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing (October 14, 2014)

Publication Date: October 14, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00MSYV186

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #64,390 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16

inÃ  Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Australian #17 inÃ  Books >

Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Irish #20 inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

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Customer Reviews

This was a very emotional book for me because for almost sixty years we have had a dog in the house. I now have a greater understanding about how to interact with them.

This book far surpassed what I expected. Martin shows anybody fortunate enough to read this book that honor, courage and compassion exists in all living beings, we simply have yet to figure out how to communicate these traits with one another, human, dog, and as I am beginning to understand, all species. I read this book expecting to be entertained, and entertained I was! Having never traveled far I was thrilled to live in Martin and his pack of dog's world, even if only for the time I enjoyed his words. The Ireland he describes so vividly made me realize that his home, and mine are not all that different. People will bully, and the bullied will survive, grow, learn, love and become whole. This book will stay with me for a long, long time. Thank you, Martin Mckenna for writing it, and living rough, and by doing so learning how to talk to dogs, and ultimately how to reach another human being with your story.

Here's a hypothetical question to start with: If you had to choose between your human friends and your animal/pet friends, who would you choose? If you didn't have to think very hard before choosing the pets, I definitely recommend this book. Martin McKenna's story about three years of his life is fascinating because after running away from home, he was basically embedded with a pack of feral dogs. He observed how the dogs interact with each other and how they communicate. Soon the dogs made more sense to him than humans and he didn't suffer the anxiety that he felt around his family or at school. While the story is mainly about his relationship with the dogs, his history is interesting in many ways. He grew up with ADHD at a time when people believed the way to deal with an unruly child was through humiliation and "discipline" (in quotes b/c what was once called discipline is now considered abuse). I would have liked to read more about this because this was a quick read and he mentions he couldn't read or write and was bullied at school, but there's no real explanation for his arrested development other than his ADHD. Nor was there much

explanation of his perseverance to literacy and ultimately becoming an author. He shares many devastating details of his life before he ran away, and while he lived on his own. I found myself invested enough to want to know more about his life after he joined the human world again. Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for providing me with a copy for review. I enjoyed it and recommend to animal lovers, and especially anyone who has bonded with animals after having felt misunderstood by the world around them.

Purchased as a gift for our son in law who was most pleased to receive it.

I liked it very much. Would recommend

great book

GOOD

It was NOT what I expected!!!

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