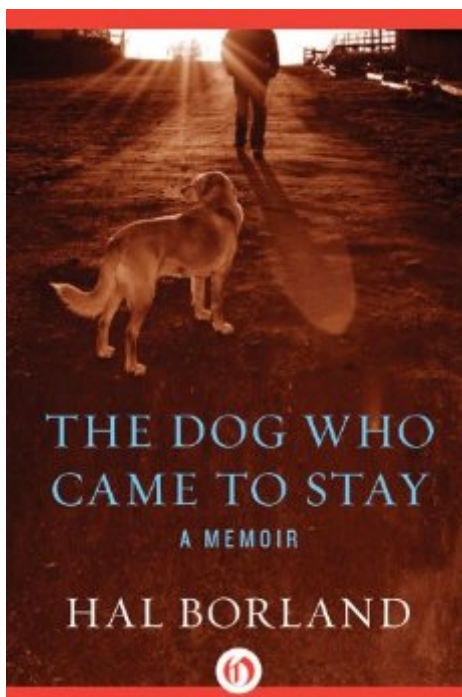


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The Dog Who Came To Stay: A Memoir



Synopsis

The memoir of a transformational friendship between a New England outdoorsman and the scrawny foxhound who came to his door one snowy winter day. In the midst of a blizzard, late one Christmas night in the 1950s, author Hal Borland heard a howl at the back door of his home on a hundred-acre farm in the Housatonic Valley of northwest Connecticut. Resistant at first, he called around trying to find an owner whose dog had gone missing with no luck. Finally, with the encouragement of his wife and haunted by memories of his childhood collie, Borland brought some scraps of leftover steak outside. This was his introduction to Pat, a miserable, half-starved, but deeply trusting black-and-white foxhound mutt. Pat would soon become a member of the family, accompanying Borland on hunts and terrorizing the local woodchuck population and teaching him that sometimes our most immediate connection to the natural world is through the animals we live with. A longtime journalist and a winner of the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing, Borland tells the tale of the time he shared with Pat in this touching true story that will appeal to many sportsmen and to all people who have ever been closely attached to a dog. (The New York Times Book Review).

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Customer Reviews

I didn't know what to expect when I ordered this book, but it had a title similar to another book I just read, so I was curious. When I read the introduction, I realized that this was a book written almost half a century ago and reissued recently. I learned that Hal Borland had died in the 1970s, but had been a prolific writer about many things and especially outdoor life. His story about the dog who chose to stay with him and his wife began on Christmas night and continues over the ensuing years. His descriptions of the dog, Pat, his rural life as a writer, sportsman, and gardener are completely absorbing. They draw you into the world of the upper Connecticut valley by the Housatonic River. I soon began to wonder about his wife, Barbara, and found that her obituary had just been published in the NY Times on the day I looked for reference to her in Google. I felt a real sense of loss at that. This is how Hal Borland's wonderful descriptive writing lead me to feel as though I was back in time and there with them over 50 years ago. Most of all, Pat, his dog, comes alive as a unique yet thoroughly doglike personality who charms and delights the reader. Pat is just one more example of why humans love dogs so much.

i could not get into this book. i own seven wooded acres and i have two dogs,i would never let them terrorize rabbits over and over again just for the fun of it. then,because you didn't want to fix the garden fence you shoot a woodchuck and while it's scrambling to get out you watch your dog finish it off.thats not what i call moving up to the country to enjoy nature.i went 30%in and could not finish it. i guess things were different back then but if you want a man and his bestfriend kind of book i can't recomend it. because i woud not lock up my best friend in a wood bin every night.i did not like this cold,dull unfeeling man.i live in the country to enjoy all it's creatures large and small. this book left me cold,sorry i bought it. jeanie

I have a bit of a sentimental attachment to this book as it was one of my first "adult" books, given to me by my grandmother when I was 9. I have read this memoir of a man and his 'found' dog at least a dozen times through and have, actually, visited the house and grounds. Hal Borland, little known now, was a much read naturalist and writer for the New York Times. I don't like his novels so well, except for "When the Legends Die" one of his later books, but his non-fiction is excellent -- factual, loving, but not much anthropomorphism. The dog has his own dignity and the author does his best to convey this. If you are looking for a truthful and loving recounting of the relationship between an older man and a dog, as opposed to the usual sentimental 'boy and his dog' bit, this is a book worth finding.

It was interesting to read a book about a pet from the male perspective--very enlightening, educational, and interesting. I liked this book in general but loved the escapades that Pat had, how they ended up, and their effect on everyone. I enjoyed learning about the other animals and their habits. I loved that Hal knew exactly what his dog wanted, his routines and likes and dislikes. I love how he realized his moods, thoughts, reasons why he did what he did and his total understanding of this dog. Having a dog, I totally understand how they "talk" to us! I could envision the fields, ponds, countryside and area that they wandered and spent their time--it was quite relaxing to read. I expected the ending to be very sad and was quite pleased that it was not.

Heartwarming story of an independent dog who chose wisely the couple with whom he would spend the rest of his life.

A book that all dog lovers should read. I found this by accident along with another book of the almost same title. If you love dogs then this is tale to be savored. Amazing sometimes how people can just pour out their hearts to an animal and love them like family. And a dog will always reward you back with that "unconditional love" and even spread it around to others. I do not think that it is an accident that Dog is God spelled backwards!

Out of date and dull. Additionally, beating dogs is an ignorant way of training, as is not taking a dog to a vet when it has a broken leg or needs euthanized. A waste of money.

Still reading this story and truly love it. Look forward to reaching for it each night (and day when I can). If you are an animal lover and have had any pets before you should be moved by this story as it gives you a view from all sides, both human and animal. Still love reading it and will be dissapointed when I reach the end.

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