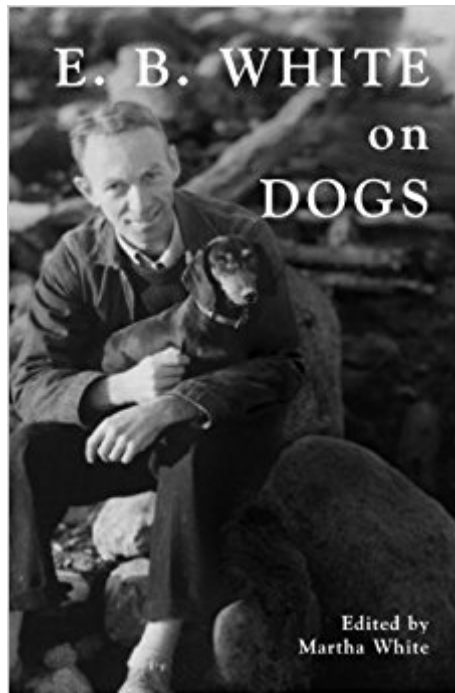




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E.B. White On Dogs



Synopsis

E. B. White (1899 1985) is best known for his children's books, *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*, and *The Trumpet of the Swan*. Columnist for *The New Yorker* for over half a century and co-author of *Strunk and White's The Elements of Style*, White hit his stride as an American literary icon when he began publishing his 'One Man's Meat' columns from his saltwater farm on the coast of Maine. In *E. B. White on Dogs*, his granddaughter and manager of his literary estate, Martha White, has compiled the best and funniest of his essays, poems, letters, and sketches depicting over a dozen of White's various canine companions. Featured here are favorite essays such as 'Two Letters, Both Open,' where White takes on the Internal Revenue Service, and also 'Bedfellows,' with its 'fraudulent reports'; from White's ignoble old dachshund, Fred. ('I just saw an eagle go by. It was carrying a baby.') From *The New Yorker's* 'The Talk of the Town' are some little-known Notes and Comment pieces covering dog shows, sled dog races, and the trials and tribulations of city canines, chief among them a Scotty called Daisy who was kicked out of Schrafft's, arrested, and later run down by a Yellow Cab, prompting *The New Yorker* to run her 'Obituary.' Some previously unpublished photographs from the E. B. White Estate show the family dogs, from the first collie, to various labs, Scotties, dachshunds, half-breeds, and mutts, all well-loved. This is a book for readers and writers who recognize a good sentence and a masterful turn of a phrase; for E. B. White fans looking for more from their favorite author; and for dog lovers who may not have discovered the wit, style, and compassion of this most distinguished of American essayists. B&W Photographs

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Customer Reviews

In addition to tongue in cheek assessment of dog attitude, in letters and essays the author takes the reader back to a time when humorists shared opinions in a diary of everyday self observations. As one of the book jacket reviews states, this is pre-blog blog. Although I once enjoyed the New Yorker cartoons, I felt the magazine articles were beyond me - they were inside jokes for Manhattan-ites. The selections in this collection are easy to relate to because sophisticated White is every person, living the farm life and experiencing hands-on animal care as well as animal foibles. The difference of course is that he describes his predicaments in a style all his own.

White is a great writer but the title of the book is misleading. The dogs are not very important. The pieces are about all sorts of things, sometimes with only a passing reference to a dog. The book is enjoyable but if you are looking for essays about dogs, this book fails.

I've earmarked nearly every page in this book so I can go back and reread favorite parts. Apparently they're all my favorite. E.B. White's writing is beautiful, funny, timeless and full of grace. I've read everything he's written and love having pieces on dogs all in one collection. It's not necessary to love dogs to love this book; an appreciation for excellent writing is the only requirement.

Wonderful collection. Couldn't put it down. Highly recommended and also makes a great gift. Some particularly funny parts still cycle back through my mind when I am not thinking of anything in particular and make me laugh all over again.

One doesn't have to love dogs to love White's spot on observations of and devotion to them. They accompany him throughout his life, and he portrays them - along with his friends and neighbors - in every possible light and situation. His writing is not matched anywhere.

At his request, I bought this for my husband as he was recovering from a serious dog attack (he's a mailman.) He has enjoyed it immensely. Though I haven't read it yet, he's thanked me more than once for finding it on and getting it for him. That's high praise!

Anything that E.B. White wrote -- even a grocery list -- is graceful and touched with charm. But the title of this book is somewhat misleading. Its editor -- his granddaughter -- has apparently included everything in which the word "dog" appears, even in passing. As a dog lover and an admirer of White, I thought this would be a pleasure -- but although a number of items deal quite charmingly

with White's own favorite dogs, particularly a dachshund named Fred, others really have nothing to do with canines and some have almost no interest of any kind whatsoever except perhaps to a biographer. And even Fred loses interest for one who never knew him. Many entries are rather boring. I'm sorry I didn't just get this from the library instead of purchasing it; it doesn't really justify adding it to my permanent collection. If I had gone to my neighborhood bookstore, I could have looked it over and seen that it was not a book I wanted to own -- but regrettably, it's not so easy to check before buying on . One can't browse a bit.

E.B. White is an interesting person. I enjoyed "getting inside his head". One reviewer, disappointedly, mentioned that the book is just a bunch of letters and articles. That is true, and at first I was a bit frustrated by this as well. However, by reading on I felt as if I was able to see a truer image of who E.B. White was. I admire his intellect and down to earth spirit. Of course, he loved dogs, as I do. It was fun to share that love with him, through his humorous and well-written pages.

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