



The Heart of a Dog

Albert Payson Terhune

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Here in one volume are Terhune's best known and best loved dog stories, with several new ones especially written for this book.

Here are Lad and Buff and Treve and Lochinvar Bobby ready and eager to make friends, not only through the medium of the printed page but in the illustrations of Marguerite Kirmse, who draws dogs with the same love and understanding with which Terhune wrote about them.

No one can read these stories without thrilling to the adventures, the personalities, the love, loyalty, and courage of these puppies who have earned their position as "Man's best friend."

Stories:

Fox!

The Coming of Lad

The Meanest Man

The Tracker

"Youth Will Be Served!"

Lochinvar Bobby

"One Minute Longer"

The Heart of a Dog Details

Date : Published January 28th 1992 by Buccaneer Books (first published 1924)

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Author : Albert Payson Terhune

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From Reader Review The Heart of a Dog for online ebook

Lizzie says

I came across this book while going through a neighbor's books that they were giving away. I gave it a go and it was okay. It's all about different collies, most of which live on "The Place". I enjoyed it--in parts it was similar to The Call of the Wild by Jack London. If you really like dogs/dog shows and specifically collies then you'll probably like it. The human characters are pretty black-and-white, 2-d though.

Beverly says

Collie's devotion to its owner through courage and devotion.

Laura Lynn Cobb says

This book contains several short stories by Albert Payson Terhune. The canine characters in these stories are brave, loving, courageous, intelligent, and faithful dogs, both feral and domestic. These tales will thrill any dog lover and convert the indifferent with the endearing and adventurous dog stories. I couldn't put it down and binge read one story after the other. Before I read this collection, our family had only outdoor dogs. Now we have a sweet girl, Ginger Pye, who is queen of the house and is even allowed on the couch or up on the bed when invited. She guards our home and watches over us as we sleep, protecting us from intruders and even the shadows cast on the wall and ceiling by the late night reader with a book light! So readers beware...

Ellie Tautges says

I had a hard time reading the book in some parts of the story because of the way the author had wrote it but it's probably just me!

Partridge Public says

Terhune, Albert Payson

Silod says

I shall begin this review by stating that this collection is not what I would consider a book for children. These and others of Terhune's collie stories include descriptions of dogs suffering abuse or severe discipline, being killed, fighting to the death, slaughtering other animals, and struggling to survive in the wilderness.

To an adult reading these tales today, Terhune must sound like a man obsessed - a fanatical dog-worshiper. What you must realize is that Terhune was the real deal. The collie was a hobby and an income source and a way of life for him. He bred and showed champions and the stories he wrote were all based in truth. Terhune, himself, was "the master".

"The Place" was his New Jersey estate, Sunnybank.

The collies featured in the various stories were his actual dogs and their bloodlines continue to this day. You can run a quick Google search and visit the official site to see photographs of the estate and Terhune with Lad, Bruce, Wolf, and other collies familiar to readers.

Say what you will about Terhune's writing, though I think it is pretty solid stuff, ignoring an abusive repetition of certain phrases, such as "look of eagles".

Say what you like about the treatment of and general attitude toward animals in his stories - this was the 1890's to the 1930's, give or take.

However, if you really want to give Terhune a fair shot, if you would like to see what these stories are really about and get a feel for who Terhune really was and what his dogs meant to him, then I recommend you read the final chapter of this collection, the afterword, which consists of Terhune recollecting a particular dog named Treve.

Begin there, with the ending, and then you may fairly decide on the rest of his dog stories.

Rachel Harper says

Anything by Albert Payson Terhune is a clear winner in my book. Lovely stories about dogs and the people who loved them.

Emily says

The first thing to remember when reading this is that these short stories were not necessarily written anywhere near the same time as each other, not originally being published in book form. So while some of the terms are reused perhaps more often than they ought to be, many of them are used only once or twice per story. Certainly by today's standards, many of these stories are quite dark and violent, but less so than, say White Fang or Call of the Wild, which were published around the same time, and which are still thrust upon -often unwilling- children and teens today.

Somewhere between Fox! and Lochinvar Bobby lies another, much better story (It is worth mentioning that the Bobby of Lochinvar Bobby seems to have no relation whatsoever to Terhune's collie of the same name). The similarities between the two cannot be overlooked, and I'm not sure why you'd put them both in the same book. I doubt they were written one right after the other. However, they both at least fit the theme of the book.

The same cannot really be said of The Meanest Man and Youth Will Be Served, which -rather than being about the heart of a dog- seem to be about the cleverness of his master and the heart of a show judge respectively. I will say I enjoyed seeing another adventure of Link's after the final events of His Dog, and Link is one of the slightly more developed of Terhune's human characters, but it seems an odd choice for this collection.

Both *Youth Will Be Served* and *Lochinvar Bobby* are somewhat focused upon the showing of dogs, which has far more to do with a man's ego than with the canine heart, particularly in the case of the former story. We truly see only a glimmer of the dog, and far more of the man. In the latter, I felt keenly the similarity to *Fox!* but was not as compelled by it, as if it were a slap-dashed attempt to give different ending to that (presumably) earlier story.

I was somewhat disappointed to find that two stories I had already read, *The Coming of Lad* and *Tracker*, were in this book, as I already have a copy of *The Further Adventures of Lad*. Nor are these two -in my opinion- the best examples of *Lad* stories. But perhaps *The Heart of a Dog* was published first. Certainly the edition of it which I have is far older than the edition of *Further Adventures of Lad* that I have (the edition of *Heart* that I have being somewhat near a hundred years old).

One Minute Longer is alright, and I was pleased by another adventure of Wolf's, but it's somewhat forgettable somehow, never quite getting itself off the ground.

So why the high rating, you ask? Firstly because of a love of Terhune's writings. This book may not contain my choice stories, but it is Terhune and I am very fond of his writings. I do sometimes wish that some of his more fanciful tales had not been told, because of the utmost seriousness and respect with which he describes the dogs, that being an all-too-rare way of seeing and depicting them. But the less believable tales sort of make the dogs feel less real than they otherwise would. This is especially true since, in today's world, you wouldn't give these books to young children, and most older folks can't quite suspend their disbelief high enough for the more imaginative stories.

But the second reasoning is Chapter 8, Afterword. In this, he for a moment lays aside the fictional aspects of his stories, and speaks fondly of a profoundly unusual dog named Treve. He also, in brief, describes the final heroic act of the real Wolf, and does so better here than in the book about that dog, for the fictional account borders on the goofy, where the true story has the mark of nobility.

And, as one who has loved dogs, and known them well, the final words of that final chapter struck a chord in me that I was simply unable to ignore. For that chapter alone, this book is worth reading. Not only is it great by itself, it lends much insight into the author, and adds a new dimension to all of the other stories.

Ruth says

This is the rating I would have given it as a kid. I have a feeling that today I'd find it saccharine, and unrealistic.
