



Heart of a Hero

Billi Tiner

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Lady, an Irish Setter puppy, is leading a simple life on a farm in Ohio during the 1940's. Lady's biggest desire is to become an expert hunting dog like her mother. She has no idea that her life is going to take her down a path where she will find herself in the middle of incredibly dangerous situations, including a world war. On several occasions, Lady will have to find the courage to risk her life in order to save someone she loves. The loyalty and bravery that Lady shows throughout her lifetime illustrate what it truly means to have the heart of a hero.

Heart of a Hero Details

Date : Published February 28th 2012 by createspace (first published February 19th 2012)

ISBN : 9781470110147

Author : Billi Tiner

Format : Paperback 182 pages

Genre : Childrens, Animals, Adventure, Fiction

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From Reader Review Heart of a Hero for online ebook

Lisa Tortorello says

What a nice story. Heart of a Hero by Billi Tiner was a heart-warming story that gives an insight into WWII and the pain and difficulties some of the soldiers had to endure, while sharing the story of Lady, the Irish Setter. There was enough information given to help children understand about the war without getting so detailed that it would be difficult for them.

I don't know why, but I didn't expect the story to be told from the dog's perspective, but I was quite impressed. I also liked that the character of Lady was based on a real dog that served as a messenger dog in WWII. I think people who love animals, have an interest in history, or those who just enjoy a good story will certainly enjoy this one!

Jeannine Dufresne says

Great book!

Would recommend this book to dog lover's of all ages. I was unaware that there were dogs used during world war II. It was a very nice well written story and even more interesting is that it was based on a true story.

Barbara Ann says

This book is a portrait of a loyal and brave Irish Setter, inspired by the author's childhood family dog. As a pup, Lady wanted nothing more than to emulate her mother, who was a prize hunting dog. Carl, a teenage farmhand, develops an affinity for her, and Lady is elated when her owner Mr. Thompson sends her to live with Carl. At first life is wonderful, then World War II breaks out; and Carl leaves for battle. Carl never returns. A friend suggests to Carl's dad that the Marines are looking for war dogs, and Lady is offered up as a candidate. After rigorous training and many adventures with new dog friends Scout and Fancy, Lady is sent to the Pacific with her human handlers, Tim and Steve. Lady succeeds in becoming a war messenger dog. She will prove herself a worthy hero.

After the war things return to normal for a while, but Lady has battle scars and her new owner will make a decision that does not include her. More uncertainty for Lady and a dramatic change in life circumstances again. Will Lady find peace, dignity and happiness in her final years?

This book makes a great read for middle grade students. It deals with complex issues in a plot that is simply laid out and easy to follow. Loyalty, bravery, courage, coming of age, bullying, and family relationships are explored. The characters are well developed; the reader can identify with Lady as she narrates the story from her point of view. I do think the plot moves a bit slowly in sections, but that may be due to the fact that the reader is eager to see what happens next. Recommended for dog lovers, history lovers and anyone who enjoys a good family read. Available in kindle and paperback editions.

Jennifer Morefield says

My granddaughter recommended that my husband and I read this book because it was the best book she ever read. It is perfect for a young child. My granddaughter just turned 11. It was a bit juvenile for my husband and me, but we enjoyed it.

Jared Crawford says

I've paired Heart of a Hero with Max: Best Friend. Hero. Marine. by Jennifer Li Shotz. Both are books about heroic dogs who are put in dangerous situations and would do anything for their friends. Heart of a Hero is a fiction book geared towards upper elementary and up while Max: Best Friend. Hero. Marine. is a nonfiction book intended for an audience of any age.

Meryem Sevda Tok says

Best book

It really was a great. It was the coolest book I have ever read. The author has the greatest ideas

Mary Mullane says

Although a work of fiction, this sweet book is based on a real war dog named Lady who became the author's mother's pet, just like the book's Lady became Beth's devoted pet. The dogs of war continue to help our soldiers on the battlefield. And therapy and service dogs help heal our soldiers when they come home.

Bookish Indulgences with b00k r3vi3ws says

Heart of a Hero is the story of Lady, who has always wanted to be a hunting dog like her mother. In the story we follow Lady's life right from a farm life to a messenger dog to a hunting dog to girls pet. It's a story of love, loss and hurt as Lady loses her owners to war and to death. She feels connected to Carl and Steve yet, she has to adjust over and over again in her life as she is handed over from owner to another.

The thing about books is that each reader has the option to receive it the way they want to. In this case, I choose to take away a valuable lesson that both these novels portray - that dogs are more humane than humans at times and their loyalty can never be questioned. Also, in times of war and violence, there's still some hope for humanity.

Jennifer Reihl says

This book hooked our boys! It's a tear jerker.

A wonderful adventure! This story covers several life lessons that young kids need to learn how to respond to in appropriate ways. Great conversation starter for some topics. One story to save to revisit at least yearly.

Heathy says

[I've got so many mixed emotions with this book. It's a book for children/pre-teens, but it has so much violence & hardship. The dog has 4 different owners in its lifetime (one of them was killed). The dog gets shot while serving in a M

Hope says

Love dogs? this is 4 u.

dia betim says

For the immature reader

Author probably not experienced. Should have at least RESEARCHED enough to know about dogs and to know you don't take dogs bird hunting with a rifle. You use a shotgun. Pretty basic stuff. Do your research.

Critique de Book says

Title: Heart of a Hero

Author: Billi Tiner

Genre: YA/Animal

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (February 28, 2012)

Available: \$2.99 at Amazon

Rating: 5 stars

Rater: Lauri

From the author:

Lady, an Irish Setter puppy, is leading a simple life on a farm in Ohio during the 1940's. Lady's biggest desire is to become an expert hunting dog like her mother. She has no idea that her life is going to take her down a path where she will find herself in the middle of incredibly dangerous situations, including a world war. On several occasions, Lady will have to find the courage to risk her life in order to save someone she loves. The loyalty and bravery that Lady shows throughout her lifetime illustrate what it truly means to have

the heart of a hero.

What I liked: Ms. Tiner's second adventure story is just too cute. And the story really moves. This dog truly is the hero – she goes from situation to situation, and sometimes things are very sad. She carries on, keeps loving, and does her very best. It's a story about some of the most important things that help makes us – dogs and people – good.

What I didn't like: Neither my son nor I liked the dog's name. It's just too trite. Maybe Jenny, or Oya?

In sum: One for all animal-loving kids, and grown-ups who like this genre.

Stacie says

Heart of a Hero by Billi Tiner is a heartwarming story about a very special dog named Lady. As the story begins Lady is just a puppy living with her mother and brother on Mr. Thompson's farm. A young man named

Carl begins doing work around the farm for Mr. Thompson and Lady is drawn to him. Lady's heart leaps when Mr. Thompson gives her to Carl as additional payment for the work he has done.

Carl spends all the time he can with Lady and trains her to be a fine hunting dog like her mother. World War II is well underway and Carl decides to join the Marines to help America fight. Lady's is devastated when Carl leaves, but faithfully waits for his return. Carl's father receives word that Carl has been killed and Lady is heartbroken.

Still in mourning over the losing Carl, Lady is sent to participate in a military program that uses dogs as scouts and messengers. When Lady arrives at doggy boot camp she meets Steve, her handler. Lady immediately feels a connection with Steve and although she misses Carl she is once again happy. After undergoing basic training Lady and Steve are sent off to war. Lady becomes a hero. Her bravery as a messenger dog saves the lives of many soldiers, but her and Steve are wounded and relieved of their military duties.

Lady once again settles into her life with, but everything abruptly changes when Steve joins the military and is sent off to fight in the Korean war. Steve gives Lady to a man who intends to use her as a hunting dog, but is shocked to see that the war has left her gun shy. Disgusted, he gives Lady to his daughter. Will Lady find happiness again? It is well worth reading to find out!

Heart of a Hero exposes the reader to the kind of love, devotion and friendship that can only be found in relationships between an owner and their dog.

Although, fictional Heart of a Hero is based on real events that were retold to author Billi Tiner by her grandmother.

Stacey says

Great story about the courage and loyalty of man's best friend. "Lady" is a remarkably intelligent Irish Setter who finds her life changed by three people. At each turn in her life it seems a special owner arrives to give Lady renew purpose; to love and care for people. Lady also serves in the war as a messenger dog and truly shines as a hero. This is a great book for elementary, early middle school age children. **SPOILER: I would like to note the story has a bittersweet ending with Lady dying after many wonderful years. Though bittersweet, it is a natural part of life for animals and this story approaches the topic with gentleness and respect.
