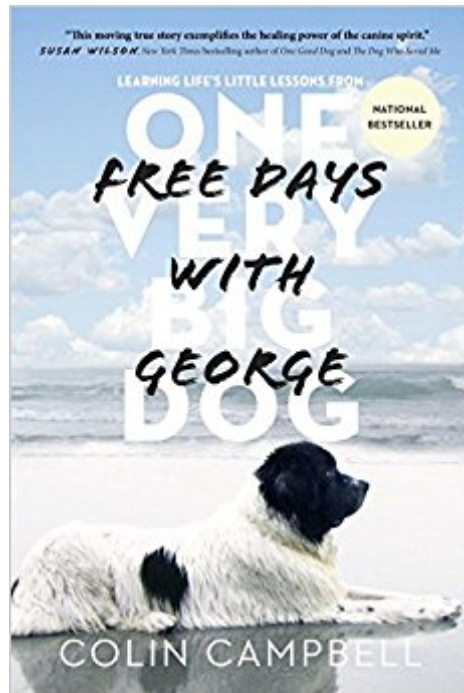


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Free Days With George: Learning Life's Little Lessons From One Very Big Dog



Synopsis

A heartwarming, true story about George, a rescue dog who helps his owner rediscover love and happiness. Marley & Me meets Tuesdays with Morrie and The Art of Racing in the Rain--get your tissues ready, animal lovers! After Colin Campbell went on a short business trip abroad, he returned home to discover his wife of many years had moved out. No explanations. No second chances. She was gone and wasnâ™t coming back. Shocked and heartbroken, Colin fell into a spiral of depression and loneliness. Soon after, a friend told Colin about a dog in need of rescueâ”a neglected 140-pound Newfoundland Landseer, a breed renowned for its friendly nature and remarkable swimming abilities. Colin adopted the traumatized dog, brought him home and named him George. Both man and dog were heartbroken and lacking trust, but together, they learned how to share a space, how to socialize, and most of all, how to overcome their bad experiences. At the same time, Colin relived childhood memories of his beloved grandfather, a decorated war hero and a man who gave him hope when he needed it most. Then everything changed. Colin was offered a great new job in Los Angeles, California. He took George with him and the pair began a new life together on the sunny beaches around L.A. George became a fixture in his Hermosa Beach neighborhood, attracting attention and giving affection to everyone he met, warming hearts both young and old. Meanwhile, Colin headed to the beach to rekindle his love for surfing, but when George encountered the ocean and a surfboard for the first time, he did a surprising thingâ”he jumped right on the board. Through surfing, George and Colin began a life-altering adventure and a deep healing process that brought them back to life. As their story took them to exciting new heights, Colin learned how to follow Georgeâ™s lead, discovering that he may have rescued George but that in the end, it was George who rescued him. Free Days with George is an uplifting, inspirational story about the healing power of animals, and about leaving the past behind to embrace love, hope and happiness. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Looking for a "feel good" book? This is an uplifting novel about finding the joy in life. It is about the bond between dog and man, about the true nature of dogs, about discovering what is truly important in life and cherishing it. Colin Campbell also introduces us to "Free Days". Free Days are a concept taught to him by his grandfather, a WWII hero. I won't give away the full details about this delightful idea, but after reading just the prologue, and certainly after reading the book, you will find yourself actively seeking out and cherishing your own "Free Days". The bond between an animal and its owner can be powerfully strong. There are times when it can truly be lifesaving. Some think dogs will love anyone who feeds and shelters them. It's not always that simple. For proof, meet George. George is a rescue dog. A massive, 6 foot long, 140 pound, afraid of men, probably abused, Newfoundland rescue dog. Life has not been kind to George in his short time on Earth. Colin is a successful marketing exec. living in Toronto. Recently life has not been too kind to Colin. Colin finds George and decides to take him home. Their journey begins. What happens next is a rocky endeavor, as these two have to learn to trust - one another and others, to work (and play) together and apart, and most importantly, to find joy in the everyday once again. The voyage is what makes this book shine - the path to the rediscovery of joy for both Colin and George. George is a remarkable dog - proud, friendly, gentle, protective and intuitive. He attracts friends and admirers wherever he goes, most notably when he hits the beach. That's because when Colin is transferred to California, George, being a dog bred for ocean rescues, learns to surf! It is in the ocean, on a board that George and Colin find it all - the trust, the bond and most of all the purest joy. They also win a few trophies... This is not a long book but it packs a big punch. Fair warning - this book will make you want to run out and adopt a dog. It will make you want to adopt a BIG dog! You will never forget George - and you will never forget the concept of Free Days. These are two gifts that Colin Campbell gives the reader - free with purchase!! N.B. There are some great pix in the book but for even better and more recent shots the author has an Instagram called colintown which features George in his everyday life, including George with various feline and canine friends. There is also a Facebook page : freedayswithgeorge. Thanks to Colin Campbell and Doubleday Canada for an advanced readers copy!

I am a 17-year indie bookseller. I read constantly & critically: for myself, customers & the reading public. "Free Days with George" is in hardcover currently & without pause, I highly-recommend this memoir to anyone! (I am so passionate about this book that I am posting on the rival site ;)) Colin Campbell's writing is crisp, unsentimental & yet brimming with the joy & pain that is human existence- now & in our past generations. Indeed, "Free Days with George" proves that it is not the destination but the journey which truly matters in a life. We must strive towards happiness and, as Campbell's war veteran grandfather taught him (& now, the reader) cherish joyful, content "free days." Campbell reveals the alchemy of joining his battered post-divorce life and, that of an abandoned Newfoundland dog. George. A broken spirit, be it a product of neglect, divorce, abandonment, or war, can be recreated and healed with joy & care. Campbell's rescue of/by George is funny, vivacious love story that is certain to impact hearts & minds. George is a star of unique capabilities; the surfing, goofy, devoted, hilarious life he leads with his 'dad' will be entrenched in your memory. Colin Campbell's "Free Days with George" is set in Toronto and, the beaches of Nova Scotia & California. Written with wisdom, humour, sorrow, and love, Colin & George eloquently remind readers to savour 'our own moments' & "free days." A gift.

Best book for anyone who loves life and our furry friends. Touches on the love of a grandparent, life lessons, mental health, love and love lost and of course our beautiful four legged friend George. I was lucky enough meet Colin and George and my what a treat that was for our 5 bookclubs from Barrie ON. This will definitely be chalked up as one of our favorites. Thx for sharing George with us all:)

I read this book in four days, and couldn't put it down! It is a truly heart-warming story, and an easy read. I loved the pictures included in the book, and I felt as if I really got to know the characters. As a fellow large breed dog-lover, I could really relate to the human-canine connection. My only regret is that it's over, I didn't want it to end! You have to read this book!!!

In what has become a common thread in most man-meets-dog memoirs, Campbell's wife walked out on him and George the dog saves his life. What distinguishes this dogoir from the others is well "the dog. When the two first met George was a clumsy, fearful, year-old Landseer Newfoundland who had been mistreated and had never known a real home. Luckily Campbell had done his homework about these exceptional black & white beauties and never doubted that

underneath George's 140-lb protective shell lay true canine greatness. But it was up to him to free George from the demons in his past. In doing so Campbell worked through his own demons. But the real story here is George's magical transformation from panicky pup to star of the dog surfing contest. Through Campbell's vivid and heartfelt descriptions of life with this gentle giant, readers witness the emergence of George's incredible intelligence, sense of humor, and heart of gold. One of the more significant life lessons to be learned here is the amazing, untapped potential that lies within the heart of any shelter dog. Wherever George makes an appearance, people and dogs find him irresistible. Likewise, *Free Days with George* is an irresistible story about an extraordinary dog.

I would recommend this book to all dog lovers as well as skeptics. It shows the needs and compassion dogs can offer us humans if given the chance. What a wonderful book. I enjoyed every minute reading it!

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