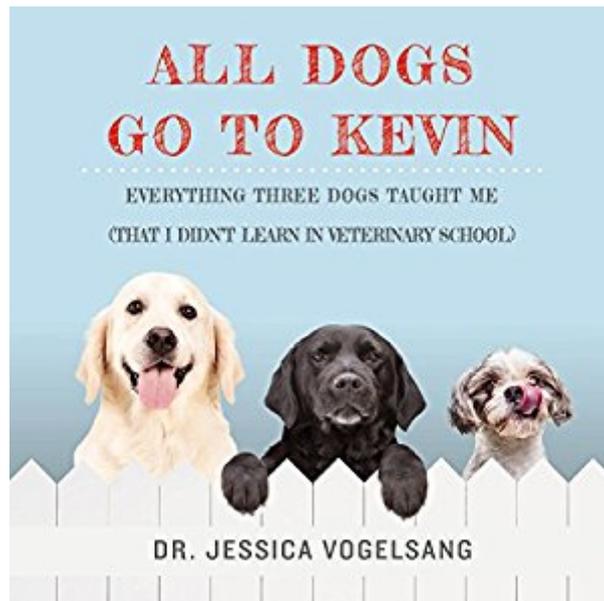


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All Dogs Go To Kevin: Everything Three Dogs Taught Me (That I Didn't Learn In Veterinary School)



Synopsis

All Dogs Go to Kevin is a humorous and touching portrait of a veterinarian, her beloved dogs, and the lessons they impart to her along the way. You can't always count on people, but you can always count on your dog. No one knows that better than veterinarian Jessica Vogelsang, who, with the help of three dogs, is buoyed through adolescence, veterinary school, and the early years of motherhood. Taffy, the fearsome Lhasa; Emmett, an amiable golden; and Kekoa, the neurotic senior Labrador are always by her side, offering lessons in empathy and understanding for all the oddballs and misfits who come through the vet clinic doors. Also beside her is Kevin, a human friend who lives with the joie de vivre most people only dream of having. But when tragedy strikes, Jessica is reminded that the animals we love give more than they take.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jessica Vogelsang, a San Diego veterinarian, has written a delightful book fashioned around several themes running through her life: her love of dogs, her faltering first steps in her adult life and in her chosen profession, and the life of her husband's closest friend, Kevin. The themes all come together when she gently informs her 2-year-old son that the family's beloved dog has gone to heaven. "Kevin?" her son asks in confusion. Yes, if you've read James Herriot's books -- and I've read all of them, watched the entire series multiple times, and visited his surgery in Thirsk! -- you will love this book. The author has a keen eye for the absurd, for the telling anecdote and for the touching moments of life. Woven throughout her memoir are the three dogs that have played a

central role in her life: Taffy the Lhasa apso, Emmett the golden retriever, and Kekoa the black lab. And, as you might imagine, they're not poster pups for any Dog of the Year awards. If you thought every good veterinary story has already been told because of the venerable Mr. Herriot, you'd be wrong. A vet's stories as told by a woman add a welcome dimension to the tales of people and their beloved animals. One of the most affecting chapters is the one in which Dr. Vogelsang reveals her struggle with post partum depression after the birth of her first child, and the role her dog played in seeing that she got help. "You can fool yourself, you can fool your friends and family, but you can't fool a dog who knows only what he sees," she writes. Alas, as a cat lover, I found few stories of feline clients in the book. I hope Dr.

I LOVED this book! Dr. Vogelsang has such an honest way of expressing herself that I think it would be rare to find a person who couldn't identify with the experiences she shares here. I love to read but am very picky about what I read, and I seldom accept books offered on Vine. However, when I saw that this was compared to one of my all time favorites, James Herriot, I took the bait and ordered it. I could hardly put it down! This is a stream of consciousness. There isn't much of a plot as much as the story of her life told in a rambling, but very engaging way. The structure is loosely held together by dividing up the years into the three dogs who presided over the important eras of Dr. V's life. First there was Taffy, who saw her through her childhood to young adulthood. Then, there was Emmett, the Golden who witnessed and supported her through her early marriage, the beginning of her veterinary practice and the birth of her children. Last there was Kekoa, the Lab who needed someone to love her and loved back unconditionally. We also get to know Brian - Dr. V's long-suffering husband who probably would never have been an "animal lover" if he had not married a veterinarian, but ends up loving them anyway. And there is Kevin. While reading this book, I ran the gamut of love, laughter, joy, frustration, anger, indignation and grief. I felt it all, right along with her because those of us who love animals "get" how they define the important events of our lives; how challenging it is for both animal and human to make the transition to live together and make it work; and how rewarding it is when it really does work! It made me think of all the dogs I have loved - Casper the dachshund, who was my pal during childhood.

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