



The Dog Who Spoke with Gods

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When Elizabeth, a young pre-med. student happens upon Damien, a dog being used in laboratory research on her campus, she has no way of knowing how drastically her life- and her beliefs- will be changed. Without meaning to, she slowly becomes drawn into the dog's fate and is soon torn between the love and respect she has come to feel for Damien and the sense of loyalty and obligation she feels for the medical profession as well as her father and grandfather, both cardiac surgeons.

With an uncanny ability to write convincingly about life from the point of view of a canine, Diane Jessup tells an extraordinary story of friendship and loyalty. Few writers have ever shown the world of man's closest friend as clearly and movingly. For anyone who has ever loved a dog this is a must read.

The Dog Who Spoke with Gods Details

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Author : Diane Jessup

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Paula says

I had a love/hate relationship with this book. I loved it because it was about the best souls in the world...dogs. I hated it because it tore me up with what they did to him. And yet, I loved it because it brought out those really raw emotions. It was extremely heartwrenching and I just couldn't put it down.

Jessup has been working with Pit Bulls for over 25 years and has also written a non-fiction book about the breed. This book fantasizes on the side of these dogs we DON'T hear about in the news and you'll fall in love with this wonderful animal...and perhaps gain a little insight and compassion for the breed.

I really love it when books make me research other things. This book sent me on a journey to learn more about research animals. While sad, it's good to be informed.

Charlene Russell says

I had a really really hard time with this book. it was extremely stressful to me, reading about what that dog went through...and (spoiler!!!!!!) "lux, stay" ripped my heart to shreds. I bawled at the end. one of the best, hands down. I'm getting a pit bull.

Maggie says

Wonderful and touching story! Love for your pets are limitless and I honestly would do anything for them. They're our companions, our family. This book made me smile, cry (many times) and enraged me. I am glad I read this book but I would not read it again, it broke my heart.

Marla says

This book sat on my bookshelf for at least five years before I finally decided to read it. It came highly recommended, so my hesitancy to read it was purely driven by the knowledge that I knew that since one of the main characters was a dog, it was bound to have a sad ending that would make me cry like a big fat baby.

This book was a slow read at first, I didn't really get into it until Damien was "rescued" and taken to the college and he and Elizabeth first crossed paths. I was touched by the devotion that Elizabeth had to this dog. Not only because she was raised to believe that dogs were unworthy of such devotion, but because the object of her devotion was a PIT BULL. Pit Bulls are surely THE most misunderstood breed of canines.

It is a rare thing in our society for people to be as devoted to a friend as Elizabeth was to Damien. Regardless of whether that friend is a human or an animal, it's still rare. Elizabeth could have walked away from Damien at any time and most people would have understood and would have held her blameless because Damien wasn't "her" problem. But she didn't care about that. She put her future and her relationship with her family

on the line for the sake of her friendship with a dog that many people considered to be "worthless". In doing so she proved not only was Damien NOT worthless, he was extremely valuable.

I don't want to go too much in depth regarding the story line. As the author, that's really Diane Jessup's job and I don't want to take away from her wonderful story. However, I would like to say that the ending was rather brilliant. I was expecting a different outcome and was surprised with the route that Jessup took. It was no less sad than what I expected, but was surprising nonetheless. Not all stories can have good endings, and sometimes bad endings teach you more about the quality of the characters than you already thought you knew.

Andy Plonka says

I agree totally with the author that Pit Bulls have been given a bad name because people fail to realize the inherent characteristics of the breed and do not learn how to live with or train the dog. However her total condemnation of the use of Electronic collars is way off the mark. If a dog has been properly trained and the person utilizing said collar understands how to use it, it can save an animal's life. The point of the novel was valid but there were some faults in its execution and it would have benefited from some judicious editing.

Laura says

I absolutely loved this book. As the proud owner of a rescue pit bill I can say that the characterization was spot on (except for the talking part). If you are a dog lover you will probably be in tears a number of times throughout the story.

I hope this book will cause people to reconsider the way we are told by the news to view the pit bull. It also caused me to look more closely at animal testing. After reading the book I was moved to adopt another shelter dog and to join a pit bull rescue.

I don't think anyone can read this book without being moved.

Georgi Norris says

I read this book several years ago, but it will always stay in my mind. I would challenge anyone who reads this book to finish it without having changed perceptions about the bond between animals and humans. The story of Damien, a pit bull used as a lab animal, had a profound effect on me although it did make my heartache with the descriptions of what these lab animals had to endure. You will fall in love with Damien, and by the end of the book, you will have no doubt that dog is man's best friend. Elizabeth, the heroine of the story, learns much about love and loyalty as the action packed plot progresses.

Diane Jessup's depictions of Damien's behavior and motivations were portrayed in such a manner were extremely accurate and provides a touching insight into canines. The story was very thought provoking, and also offered a look at the pros and cons of animal experimentation and research. The issues of scientific experimentation and animal activism are handled honestly throughout this book, but one would have to be emotionless to not be horrified by what "humanity" is capable of in regards to animals. This story will also change your perception of the pit bull breed. I will warn that this is not an easy book to read due to the

subject matter, but is an emotional, and sometimes magical, story that will have you questioning whether it truly is fictional or based on true events. This book had me in tears several times, but is definitely an excellent read. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has ever had the privilege of loving and being loved by a dog.

Karen says

To say I enjoyed this book would not be altogether true. I had to keep laying it aside because I couldn't read for crying! It's about how a pre-med student gains new insight to the abuse and exploitation of animals in research labs through an unexpected friendship with a pit bull. The pit bull is an abandoned feral dog who through unusual circumstances winds up in a lab. Although pit bulls are not generally used in research the author creates a believable and exciting plot. She decrys the horrors of animal research but does not resort to propaganda. The characters in the story are complex individuals who though not evil, must confront their own indifference to and participation in the suffering of animals. They have dilemmas about loyalty to humankind versus compassion for animals. If you have never thought much on this topic be prepared for a jolt when you read this book!

Deborah Mattes says

This book was not only very hard to read because of the abuse and tragedy, but it's not at all what I thought it was going to be about. The two main characters, Elizabeth and Damien, were very likable, which is what kept me reading. But the premise of a talking dog is far-fetched. As a major dog lover, it did, however, open my eyes to the cruelty of animal research, particularly using dogs, who truly are man's best friend and rely on us so steadfastly that their use in labs is beyond disturbing.

Victoria says

I think I cried through this entire book! I really liked it - anyone who has owned a pit bull, or similar breed of dog will certainly recognize the terrific personality qualities so many dogs of that breed share... And while this book was more than a little preachy... and not really that good of a novel, in terms of the plot's plausibility and characters, I enjoyed it nonetheless. The ending seemed a little unnecessary, but I did like the book, overall. There was even an Australian Cattle Dog briefly mentioned! I think that is book is really just for dog people. The preaching held a purpose, I suppose, but it was a heavy-handed in parts, especially since the audience for this book would not be just any sort of reader, but one that loves dogs. Still, it was an emotionally gripping novel, and a dog-enthusiast will most likely not be overly troubled by the message and themes presented here. But the soapbox preaching would be unlikely to convince any non-dog lovers, unfortunately.

Erica says

I love pit bulls/bully breeds and was hoping that this book would be something I'd love just as much.

Unfortunately I couldn't get into it. The author is an incredible wealth of knowledge about the breed but the tone of the book was overwhelmingly sad. I couldn't finish it. I kept finding myself look for that redeeming quality but was let down again and again. Not something I'd recommend for the soft of heart.

Steve Ward says

My new interest in viewpoints led me to this book. It is very hard to read, not because it's not a good book, but because the subject matter is so distressing. Testing (torturing) of animals is something that does occur, and something a civilized society should abhor, but I think the author might have created more interest in her cause with a little less graphic story. It was gut wrenching. It's a great book, but a lot of people won't be able to read it.

Jayn says

It's a DOG book so it automatically gets 4 stars. One of the things I like about this book was that the author has a clear view of pit bulls and how dangerous they can be. She doesn't hesitate to talk about the fact that they were bred to be vicious and that fighting nature is still inside of them, and can come out when they feel it necessary. I learned to respect pit bulls and appreciate their loyalty. The seemingly pointless animal testing was disappointing to read about. People can be so cruel.

Lisa says

WARNING: if you are an animal lover, especially someone who has recued animals, this book is heartwrenching. I read this with tears in my eyes while petting my rescued dog.

Elisa says

Worst book I have ever read about dogs. Not only does the main dog get abused. A ton. The plights of the other dogs that are abused are ignored. Only Damien is viewed as special because apparently he can speak. English. Because a 19-going-on-5-year-old wuvs him enough to stare longingly into his eyes and give him huggsies. But does not wuv him enough to set him fwee cause she might get into twouble by her daddy and gampy. I am only finishing because I have a goal and not enough time to start over on a quality book. I am also slightly curious if Dr. Joseph "Cruella De" Seville will get his.

DOGS CAN'T MAKE an "S" SOUND!!! AAAAARRRRRRRRRRGHHHHHHHH!! There is no way a pit bull says "SGO" as Let's Go.
