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Giv: The Story of a Dog and America

Boston Teran

High Top Publications LLC

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Fiction, Animal

Reviewed by Connie Harris

Dogs touch us in ways we cannot explain. The invisible beyond the visible within each of us. Through Giv's journey through life we experience goodness and evil, sorrow and tragedy, even triumph. The will to survive and the determination to overcome all that life throws our way to hold us back.

Giv's journey through life is an unusual and difficult journey. Giv is our window to the soul of this nation as we follow him from state to state and person to person. We are introduced to the people that Giv's life has touched. There is something special about Giv that brings up deep reservoirs of loss that passages of time can not resolve.

Giv is found on a back road in Kentucky by Dean Hickok, sergeant, late of the U.S. Marines - war tested and wary, the victim of hardened years at the tender young age of three. Dean determines to reunite Giv with his owner in New Orleans post Katrina. Thus begins the journey into Giv's life...

Giv: The Story of a Dog and America is a well-written, moving and touching story. Giv will live on in your heart long after you've turned the last page.

Amazon.com

5.0 out of 5 stars Excellent Dog Book, July 17, 2009

By Jemima Adams "Adeline79" (Nashua, NH)

The protagonist Giv is a dog who has amazing adventures and endures all kinds of abuse and deprivation. Offspring of a dog with a mysterious past, Giv knows security and love in his first home but gets stolen and subsequently ends up with various owners - some who love him and some who do not. Giv's will to survive, his capacity for faithful love and his selfless courage enable some of the broken-spirited human characters in the novel to experience redemption from their pasts. These people have been devastated by loss from 9/11, war, murder, Katrina and other life-altering events.

Boston Teran has threaded the tale of Giv's travels with many insightful reflections about American people in various difficult circumstances. He not only portrays the low points in the lives of his characters, but also some emotional highs. Characters fall in love, find creative inspiration, and connect with their future purpose. The amazing qualities found within Giv and other characters reflect the spirit of contemporary America. The story contains mystery, introspective reflection, and plenty of drama. It touches upon the most tragic national events faced by Americans of this generation. Boston Teran's novel evidences great sympathy toward those who have experienced these losses first hand and it also expresses hope and faith in America's ability to endure.

I really enjoyed this book. I fell in love with its lyrical writing style from the first page. The writing is smooth, poetic and rhythmic. The story develops systematically and the ending is very climactic and satisfying. The characters seem very realistic and the setting encompasses many different parts of America to create an interesting mosaic of images.