



## A Dog's Purpose

*W. Bruce Cameron*

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The beloved fifty-two week New York Times bestseller by W. Bruce Cameron, *A Dog's Purpose* is now a major motion picture from Amblin Entertainment in association with Walden Media and distributed by Universal Pictures! This remarkable story of one endearing dog's search for his purpose is directed by Academy Award-nominated director Lasse Hallström and stars Dennis Quaid, Britt Robertson, Josh Gad, K.J. Apa, Juliet Rylance, John Ortiz, Luke Kirby, and Peggy Lipton.

Heartwarming, insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny, *A Dog's Purpose* is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. This moving and beautifully crafted story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.

Bailey's story continues in *A Dog's Journey*, the charming *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling direct sequel to *A Dog's Purpose*.

## A Dog's Purpose Details

Date : Published December 6th 2016 by Forge (first published July 1st 2010)

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Author : W. Bruce Cameron

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# From Reader Review A Dog's Purpose for online ebook

## Chrissie says

It made me look at my own dog differently, wondering how it feels, how much it loves me, and what it thinks about his own life. I hope that all animals souls are like the ones in this book and I found myself laughing as much as I was crying while reading this book

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## Beth Allen says

I knew better than to believe the gushing reviews that said this was the best book ever written in the history of books, and that the author "accurately" captured what goes on in a (reincarnated) dog's mind. Really?

While cute and mildly entertaining, this novel is, at best, an easy-to-read, mediocre tale about this dog's lives, and his favorite owner. I just don't get the hype over it. Editorial reviews call this a tear-jerker. It tried, but failed to really pull at my heartstrings, and I am a \*big\* crier when it comes to touching animal stories. I would recommend "The Art of Racing in the Rain" instead.

Appropriate for children. I'll pass this one on to my 12 year old.

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## Elyse says

Update: For those who have been considering reading this book....  
It's on sale today for \$1.99 as a Kindle deal

I saw the movie ..Anyone else? Thoughts?  
I thought it was well done....but it 'was'  
sad and scary in a couple of scenes.  
I'm aware of protestors...  
And ... I'm still glad I saw it.

"I loved my world, the Yard. I loved running through the mud by the water trough, my paws making a dirty splatter that flecked my fur".

I've seen the movie trailer.....had picked up a new copy hardcover for a dollar years back.....but it was that darn golly-adorable trailer that inspired me to read it now.

The story takes us on a journey through a dog's perspective- and through a range of emotions.

Warmth, humor, and an interesting look at a dog's "purpose".....or any pet's purpose for that matter. Me.... I thought of our little black baby face Chihuahua, Lunchbox, and our parakeets, Phil, Lil, and Jil. It's a human

thing to do while reading this story...reflect on the love for our pets.

Love, loyalty.....and FUR and FEATHERS forever!!!!

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### **Heidi Brydon says**

UPDATE TO MY UPDATE!

This book was one of the top five "Best Fiction" in the 2010 Goodreads Awards! It came in at number 4, beating out Jonathon Franzen's Freedom, which got a lot of hype. I'm so psyched that so many people agreed with me that this book was the best novel of 2010!

UPDATE TO MY REVIEW BELOW! I JUST FOUND OUT ON FACEBOOK THAT THIS BOOK IS NOMINATED FOR THE GOODREADS CHOICE AWARD OF 2010!!!! I hope all the people here who have loved it as much as I did will vote and it wins!

I got an early reader's copy because my friend works at a bookstore. She gave it to me because I recently had to put down my 14 year old pug and was a total wreck. Seriously, this was the greatest dog book I've ever read, and I've read a lot of them. This was so much better than "The Art of Racing in the Rain" which I had liked, but the dog in this book is like, a real dog. He doesn't understand words except for things like "car ride" or "biscuit" but he totally understands everything that's going on with his people.

I cried, but it was like, happy tears, because it truly made me realize that though my dog is gone, I get to keep how much we loved each other, always. It's corny to say it, but this book actually changed my life. In the book, the dog keeps coming back, as a dog, and that means, he can come back to his humans. I don't want to spoil any of what happens, but I honestly believe that what this author says in this fictional world might really be true. It would explain a lot about how dogs connect with us, and how they understand us, and how much they take care of us. We think we rescue them, but I think they rescue us.

Seriously, if you ever loved a dog, run, don't walk to get your hands on this. I'm so grateful it was given to me, it's about the only thing that has made me feel better about losing my best friend.

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### **Susanna says**

If you have or have ever had a dog in your life, PLEASE pick up this book. I tore through this in 48 hours with very little sleep and experienced the entire roller coaster of emotions.

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### **Philip says**

2ish stars.

As a dog owner (I have a 10-month-old Goldendoodle named Fritz, short for Fritzgerald, yes the extra 'r' is intentional) and lover, I enjoyed this book and found it somewhat heartwarming. As a book lover I recognize this book as cute but insubstantial and ultimately more cloying than inspirational. It's easy-to-read fluff that

fulfilled its purpose as something to listen to on a road trip to Southern Utah and appease my wife.

Thoughts I had while listening: Dogs can be really annoying; most dog owners are awful people; I really want to train Fritz to be a search and rescue dog; I want to teach Fritz how to open a door with his mouth; I don't know if I have the patience to train a puppy again; I want to adopt a senior dog.

Yes, I cried. But not really because of an emotional response. I cried fully conscious that I was being emotionally manipulated. I cried and rolled my eyes simultaneously.

Now just to brag, these are the tricks (spells) that Fritz knows: Avada Kedavra (play dead), Expelliarmus (drop it), Wingardium Leviosa (up on two legs), Confundo (spin in a circle), Accio (fetch).

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## Cheri says

I bought this book sometime in the past month or so based on several recommendations, it sat on the coffee table as a reminder, yet in all the time I never once read any reviews or previews of the story.

This afternoon I picked it up to read around noon and finished it just before 6pm tonight.

I loved the voice of "the dog," through every incarnation, from the very first lines "One day it occurred to me that the warm, squeaky, smelly things squirming around next to me were my brothers and sister. I was very disappointed."

W. Bruce Cameron pulls back from being overly sentimental with every passing followed by a rebirth that pulls you immediately into the new life and the new situation. Emotional. Hilarious. Thought provoking. "A Dog's Purpose" is about the undying love and bond between man and his best friend, more than that it explores the concept of our individual purposes in life and why we are here with humor, although you'll undoubtedly shed a few tears.

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## Miranda Reads says

### Prepare your heartstrings...

*I had never bothered to consider that there might be such a thing as a boy, but now that I had found one, I thought it was just about the most wonderful concept in the world.*

**Ahhh, there goes one heartstring** right away. The more I read this book, the fewer heartstrings I had.

*Cleaning the dishes was where the boy would put a plate of food down and I would lick it. It was one of my jobs, but only when Mom wasn't watching.*

If you haven't guessed already, our narrator is a dog but he isn't a typical dog - he keeps **getting reincarnated**. Whether it be as **Toby, Bailey, Ellie or Buddy**, he always finds a way back.

He's lived as a stray, as a treasured pet, as a service animal and so much more but what he hasn't found was **why** he has so many lives. **Why does he keep coming back?** Sweet and heartbreaking in his innocence - Bailey just wants to find his purpose.

I was really impressed with the way the **dog's consciousness** was handled. In the perspective-from-a-dog books I've read, there's always been plot holes where the dog would understand a difficult or abstract concept but not be able to communicate back to the humans (because of...reasons).

Within this novel, there was a marked difference between what was **told to the audience and what Bailey understood**. For example:

*“Bailey’s a hero, now. Todd’s leg took eight stitches.” At the mention of my name, both Duchess and I froze. Dog biscuits, maybe? The sock went slack between us.*

The only thing that kept this from being a 5-star book was the ending. **It wasn't a terrible ending** (in fact, it ended better than I thought it would) but it just missed its mark for me. So much build only for things to quit like that.

*The job of a good dog was ultimately to be with them, remaining by their sides no matter what course their lives might take. All I could do now was offer him comfort, the assurance that as he left this life he was not alone but rather was tended by the dog who loved him more than anything in the whole world.*

**SNAP!** there goes my last heartstring.

*The Finer Books Club - 2018 Reading Challenge: A book from an unusual perspective*

*Blog / Instagram*

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## **Leila says**

Wow! This book took me entirely by surprise. It is one of the best books I have read in quite awhile. I loved it! It touched my heart and made me think a lot. I shed many tears or at least felt a lump in my throat often but it made me laugh a lot too. This incredible story is told by Bailey who for a certain reason is 'different' and is therefore a truly unique dog.

Baily shares with us all the thoughts and emotions he encounters on life in general. The central question he meets and considers... is what the purpose of life is overall. It is a question that most of us will surely ask ourselves at one time or other.

The love and loyalty of a dog for his owner is also a theme that is so evident throughout. Baily goes through heartache time and time again as he adapts to loss in his life. Anyone who has lost someone they love deeply will identify with this theme. I was caught up in his bewilderment and the gamut of feelings he experiences and tries hard to work out.

The book is suitable for readers of all ages and Baily gradually grows in wisdom as his life continues. There is a huge twist in the story too which I am reluctant to reveal because of spoilers. I prefer to tempt potential readers to discover for themselves what is so different about this beautiful book.

No explanation is given as to how and why this difference has come about but readers have suggested a plausible theme to explain it. Everything Baily learns about life is stored into his heart and mind. This enables him to become a happier and wiser dog. I also bought the movie which brought about more tears and

laughter. I highly recommend both.

This book will stay on my bookshelves forever.

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### **F says**

5 stars not so much for storyline but for completely understanding dogs!

So emotional so many times. Dogs are the best.

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### **W. Cameron says**

This book confirms what you know in your heart to be true, that love never dies, and that our animal friends are always with us.

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### **Carolyn says**

A lovely book about a dog looking for his purpose in life. He goes through four births/rebirths as the same soul in a different dog, adding his experiences and knowledge through the ups and downs of life as a dog. He wants to serve his human owners to the best of his ability even if they are cruel and thoughtless. His joy in being a dog shines through with his delight in running and exploring, his disdain of cats (who have no purpose that he can see) and his love for the special boy in his life. A charming book, especially for dog lovers.

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### **Charlie says**

I absolutely loved this book! After I finished reading it I couldn't decide whether to loan it to somebody else so they could experience it or read it again. I decided to buy two more copies so I could read it again while I loaned it to my boss and my roommate. The author has a website [www.adogspurpose.com](http://www.adogspurpose.com) where my rottweiler Maverick was almost voted dog of the week (we lost to a puppy, such is life). I found out that the book is going to be a Dreamworks movie (anyone know a release date?) and the author of the book has agreed to write the screenplay!

Incredible book! It grips you from page one and despite being very touching (I teared up) it is surprisingly funny.

I would recommend this book to anybody, dog lover or not. I can't wait for the movie!

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### **Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

It's time once a year for my library's Winter Reading Challenge and my chance to score a **FREEEEEEEEEE**

coffee mug. (Yes, I am the cheapest date you could ever imagine.) This year's theme????

Basically any book that became a movie or television program. It turns out this is apparently **the list** of recommended reads I grab onto each year because I had read a bigly portion of the suggested titles (and had less than zero interest in some of the others). I had put *A Dog's Purpose* on the wait list after seeing the preview when I took my kids to see *Sing* - a movie everyone else apparently loved but I thought was super . . .

My eternal hold finally ended and it was my turn at the perfect time so I read this book on Day 1 of the challenge. And pretty much looked like . . . .

The entire flippin' time I was reading.

The story is about a dog who . . .

*"Was seized with an inexplicable question, a question of purpose. This didn't seem like the sort of thing a dog should think about, but I found myself returning to the issue often. Why? Why did I have a nagging feeling that as a dog there was something I was supposed to do?"*

Which leads to discovering that . . . .

*"Of all the things I'd ever done, making \_\_\_\_\_ laugh seemed the most important. It was, I reflected, the only thing that gave my life any purpose."*

And then . . . .

Followed by the dog being reincarnated only to discover . . . .

*"This was, I decided, my purpose as a dog, to comfort the boy whenever he needed me."*

And . . . . .

But not only did the dog provide comfort . . . .

*"My purpose, my whole life, had been to love him and be with him, to make him happy."*

And oh my god . . . . .



Then the dog came back AGAIN and began to question . . . .

*“Could a dog have more than one purpose?”*

Leading to . . . .

*“I was a good dog. I had fulfilled my purpose.”*

By this point I looked like I had been punched in the face and my family was like . . . .

But the story wasn't over yet and I bet Kleenex stock prices went through the ROOF this morning. I don't often have emotion (other than happiness and anger), but when I do everyone should watch the eff out.

Please note I realize this is not necessarily a “good” book – it's written from a dog's point of view so it's pretty simple and it definitely is designed to make you feel all of the things, but I give zero shits. I love dogs and I hate almost all people so it worked great for me.

#honeybadgerdontcare #evenrobotscry #trollmeandillcutyou

*Book 1 of 5 in my annual quest for a new mug . . . .*

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## **Florence (Lefty) MacIntosh says**

This story is bitter-sweet, sentimental to the extreme and stylistically almost childlike in its simplicity, exactly what I expected from a book titled ‘A Dog's Purpose’. It didn't disappoint. 4 stars for delivering such a charming piece of escapism, couldn't put it down, polished it off in a day and a half.

And I just want to say to Toby, Bailey, Ellie & Buddy – Good Dog!

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