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# Beloved Dog



## Synopsis

Maira Kalman, with wit and great sensitivity, reveals why dogs bring out the best in us. Maira Kalman + Dogs = Bliss. Dogs have lessons for us all. In *Beloved Dog*, renowned artist and author Maira Kalman illuminates our cherished companions as only she can. From the dogs lovingly illustrated in her acclaimed children's books to the real-life pets who inspire her still, Kalman's *Beloved Dog* is joyful, beautifully illustrated, and, as always, deeply philosophical. Here is Max Stravinsky, the dog poet of Oh-La-La (Max in Love)-fame, and her own Irish Wheaten Pete (almost named Einstein, until he revealed himself to be a clearly no Einstein), who also made an appearance in the delightful *What Pete Ate: From A to Z*. And of course, there is Boganch, Kalman's in-law's big black slobbering Hungarian Beast. And that's just the beginning. With humor and intelligence, Kalman gives voice to the dogs she adores, noting that they are constant reminders that life reveals the best of itself when we live fully in the moment and extend unconditional love. "And it is very true," she writes, "that the most tender, complicated, most generous part of our being blossoms without any effort, when it comes to the love of a dog."

## Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Penguin Press; 1st Edition edition (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594205949

ISBN-13: 978-1594205941

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.6 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars. See all reviews (58 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Dogs have always been very integral to my existence. From being scared of them to loving them unconditionally, life has come a long way. They are there, always, playing a role in some way or the other, dispensing wisdom in their own way and ensuring that they never let you know. Kalman picks

on these qualities of dogs and talks about them through illustrations, her life, the dogs she has encountered and how they have featured in almost every book of hers. "Beloved Dog" is a dedication to our canine friends all over the world. The book is of course as usual beautiful illustrated and that is what makes it so special are her personal thoughts on dogs and how she got about getting one even though she had grown up getting scared of them. It all started when her husband passed away and a dog came into their lives (her children and hers) and changed everything for them. The book is a mirror of who we really are and who we become when we love our dogs unconditionally. There are so many lessons in here for all of us. The book is essentially New York and how we think and feel with them even more than people. If you have ever had a pet or have one, then you know this book, you know it inside out. There are poignant layers of philosophy in the book that are almost cautiously hidden by the beautiful illustrations. "Beloved Dog" is all about the love you have for your pet, and when the pet becomes a lot more than just a four-legged creature. Dogs do not go anywhere, even after they have gone in the physical sense, they linger, forever reminding you that it is so important to have them in your life.

New York Society Library This is a quintessential New York City book by a writer "besotted" by dogs: "When I go out for a walk, there is so much that makes me happy to be alive. Breathing. Not thinking. Observing. I am grateful beyond measure to be part of it all. There are people, of course, heroic and heartbreaking, going about their business in splendid fashion." There are the discarded items "chairs, sofas, tables, umbrellas, shoes" also heroic for having lived life in happy (or unhappy) homes. "There are trees. Glorious and consoling. Changing with the seasons. Reminders that all things change. And change again. There are flowers, birds, babies, buildings." I love all of these. But above all, I am besotted by dogs. "Kalman has created marvelous images for children's books and illustrated memoirs, New Yorker covers, portraits of dog-loving writers and much more -- and this book contains some marvelous images of dogs. It touches on something essential in the relationship between these two species that have influenced each other for many generations. If you love dogs or fine art or just the celebration of the human and canine spirit, this is essential reading. Robert C. Ross December 2015

For the Maira Kalman fan...a must read! For the dog fan...a must read! For all.. a must read! Ms. Kalman at her best and most beloved! My beloved dog Fritz loves it!

A quirky, strangely familiar and fresh take on our deep and essential connection to dogs. Utterly

charming and inviting, the best book I have lived this year.

As lifelong dog lovers, I read it along side my 90 year old mom and we both had a wonderful Christmas day together as we recalled all of our own dogs past. Something in every one of our many dogs was captured within its pages and illustrations. (The artwork is terrific.) The first half is pure relationship while the second half is a slightly "shaggy" tale. But, for a dog with artistic aspirations, it makes sense that one would wish to travel to Paris - ours travelled from Belgium to take part in our New World. Purchase this for one you love.

Maira Kalman is one of my favorite authors, and I always devour her new books. This one, however, is not her best work -- and I say that because about 80% of it is a rehashing of previous projects. The previous projects are all wonderful -- mostly things with dogs in them: books like "Ooh-la-la, Max in Love" -- but I tend to think that collections of previous work aren't as valuable as new work. So what is new in this book? The beginning section, which runs for several pages and is all about how Kalman went from fearing to loving dogs. It's a touching tale with notes that resonate with her previous autobiographical works: the immigrant parents, the new land of the U.S., Kalman's loss of her husband, and an early fear of dogs. She talks about getting her first dog, and the whole doggy world (that we see in many of her books) opening up to her. If you know her work, you know that dogs are always there, even when they're not the main characters in a story. So the first section of the book is a wonderful explanation of Kalman's love of dogs. The rest of the book is a reproduction of some previous pages and themes that I find a bit disconnected and flat. In their original context, what Kalman re-presents here was wonderful. In this new book, the pages are a bit hard to fully understand. Kalman has done so much in her artistic/writing career, that it's nice to learn where her love of dogs came from. I only wish this were a more singularly original new work.

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