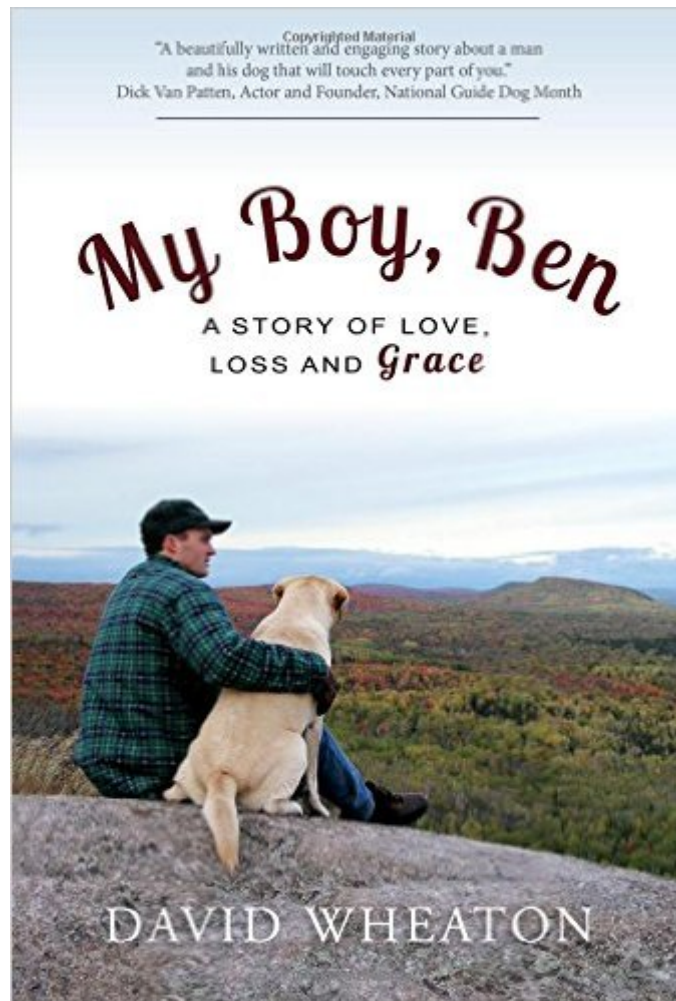


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# My Boy, Ben: A Story Of Love, Loss And Grace



## Synopsis

My Boy, Ben is the true story of a young man's journey with a yellow Lab named Ben. That young man was international tennis star David Wheaton. A touching portrait emerges of an inseparable bond between a man and his dog. Their story, marked by devotion, humor, and unexpected turns, shares an uplifting message that the God of all grace offers strength and hope in our most trying times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I laughed and I cried, and I found this book difficult to put down. "My Boy Ben" is a compelling story of a man who loved and then lost his beloved dog. While the subject of the author's grief was Ben, his yellow Lab, the message of grace and hope is no less pertinent for those dealing with another type of loss, such as a broken relationship, losing a home to a disaster, or the death of a family member or friend. I had a similar experience with grief with the loss of my mother some 20 years ago. Reading the dust cover, David Wheaton makes no secret or excuses for his Christian faith and that faith is an integral part of "My Boy Ben." David shows how his faith allowed him to go through difficult times and made him stronger for it. Even those who are not Christian will enjoy this story, and discover the grace available when they lose someone or something they love.

I didn't expect to love a "dog story". I am not a dog fanatic like many, so I wasn't sure if it would interest me that much. However, David's writing style like his radio personality sucks you in and keeps your attention. Even though I knew the basic

storyline, I never expected to get emotional as he shared his darkest moments. It was interesting that he bared his deepest emotions or maybe he didn't, but it seemed like it. It was interesting how he shared that even though he was a committed Christian, he admitted that he could see how God was growing and maturing his faith through this trial. I also appreciate that he was willing to share his story of salvation in Jesus Christ. This was a great change of pace for the books I typically read. Thanks for the great experience.

George Herbert, the 17th Century English poet, inspired his readers to catch a glimpse of "heaven in ordinary." For Herbert, this meant that the ordinary things in life were meant to "serve as lights even of Heavenly Truths." While it is unclear whether author, David Wheaton, had Herbert in mind when he wrote *My Boy, Ben*, what is clear is that the endearing story Wheaton retells of his beloved Labrador Retriever changed my perspective upon the human-dog relationship forcing me to consider the deeper realities which "ordinary" pet ownership might point to. David Wheaton, former tennis pro and author of *University of Destruction*, shares the "highs" and "lows" of how he moved from a lukewarm feeling of dog ownership to the heartfelt bond he experienced with his cherished lab, Ben. The story begins with Wheaton as a young tennis star facing some obstacles in acquiring a dog. While those challenges would soon disappear, as Wheaton lovingly recounts tales of life with his four-legged friend, other more grave difficulties would arise - allowing Wheaton to learn life lessons on personal suffering and loss. While I am not a pet owner, after some reflection, I came to appreciate what Wheaton has set out to accomplish. Wheaton writes *My Boy, Ben* in order to reassure and encourage those who know the joys (as well as sorrows) which can be experienced in a human-dog relationship and challenge all of us - animal lover or not - to see beyond the contours, of what is often an overlooked and under-appreciated caretaking gift, pet ownership, to deeper realities of suffering, grace, and hope. The book will certainly be of interest to any pet owner. Its life lessons are heartfelt with relevant application for readers - young (and old), who may own or have a desire to own a pet. But I believe the reach of this book goes further. Wheaton certainly writes from a Christian perspective. At first, I was skeptical, since Christian readers might agree with C.S. Lewis in *The Problem of Pain* that "everything we say about them [animals] is speculative." However, in a unique angle, albeit not altogether different from how Lewis often expressed the beauty of creation acting as a signpost pointing to the beauty of the Creator (by the way, Lewis went by the name "Jack" after the death of his dog "Jacksie" at age four), Wheaton has tackled a "slippery slope" issue. But I must say that rather than go into fanciful speculation about pets in heaven, Wheaton does a good job keeping "the train on the tracks" by not going further than Scripture, but simply

affirming that in the new heavens and new earth "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb." With that said, this book has something to offer everyone. It challenged me to see, what I understood as "ordinary" pet ownership in a whole new light. Reflecting on a story of love, loss, and grace, I came to see in an "ordinary" reflection an extraordinary reality - the richness and beauty of God's grace in Christ.

I absolutely LOVED this book. It grabbed me from the beginning and I couldn't put it down! It is truly a heartfelt story for everyone - not only dog lovers. The story is that was easy to relate to, because everyone has experienced loss of some sort in their lives. The ultimate message of the book is uplifting and will leave the reader with much to ponder. I appreciate that the author's faith was such an important aspect of the story. I would highly recommend this book!!

I could really relate to David's story of the highs and lows of having a "best friend" like Ben. I've had dogs most of my 62 years of life and can't live without the love they give! David has a wonderful way with words and brought me right into his world. Keep up the great work and keep writing not only about dogs but your faith. Donald Hart, author, *If Jesus Had a Dog*

This story is about Ben(dog) and David(man) and their RELATIONSHIP. David for all accounts had made it, he was a highly ranked world renowned professional tennis player -- but still was longing for something deeper. That something was understanding the power of a true RELATIONSHIP and he would come to find out how suffering the loss of Ben his dog would impact him forever. How could a dog have such an impact on a man??? We are all yearning for true purpose in life; and RELATIONSHIPS on this earth are used and designed to point to a greater RELATIONSHIP and that greater RELATIONSHIP is where "ETERNAL HOPE" is found! Great Book!

David Wheaton shares deeply in this beautiful memoir of what God taught him about life and himself through his relationship with a wonderful dog named Ben. Of course, as David says, "losing a dog always follows loving one," and it is in that loss that many of the most meaningful lessons are learned. David is a wonderful storyteller who writes with humor and great feeling as he describes his transition from Utilitarian dog owner to Egalitarian. I'm what David calls a DUD (Doesn't Understand Dogs), but I enjoyed every moment. As he deals with grief over the loss of his dog, readers facing any kind of grief will be pointed along with him back to the foundation of our hope in God. Like most dog lovers, David wrestles with the question of whether or not his beloved pet is in heaven. I found his answer both satisfying and biblical.

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