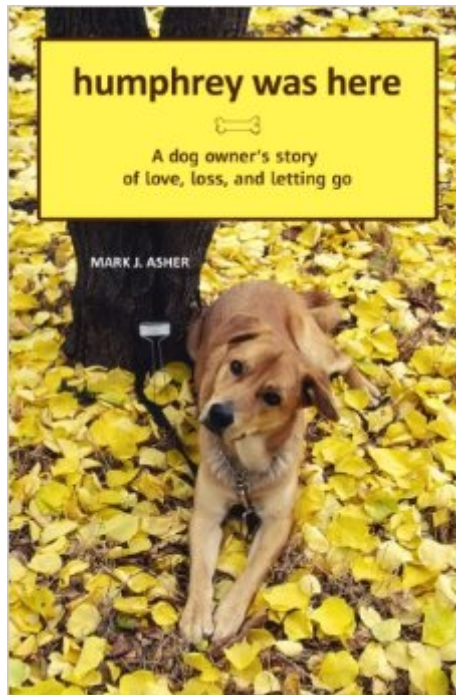


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# Humphrey Was Here: A Dog Owner's Story Of Love, Loss, And Letting Go



## Synopsis

The loss of a beloved pet breaks your heart in a way that animal lovers know all too well. Author, Mark Asher experienced losing his German Shepherd/Chow mix in the worst of ways: while the dog was out of his care at a boarding facility. At the time Mark had just finished work on his first book, *Old Friends*, a loving tribute to senior dogs, and his dog, Humphrey, had been the inspiration. The sudden and devastating loss sent Mark into a debilitating state of anger, grief, and guilt, wondering what he could have done to prevent the incident. Lost and empty without his four-legged companion, who had seen him through a divorce, the relocation to a new city, and a new job, Mark decided to go to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah to volunteer and find his way through the pain. *Humphrey Was Here* is about how one carries on after the death of a pet that meant the world to them. It's an emotional and cathartic story of grieving and recovery that will deeply touch any dog lover. "The honesty and wisdom that grace this book will serve as a balm for others coping with their own pain." — Best Friends Magazine

## Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (November 10, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1449580408

ISBN-13: 978-1449580407

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (190 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,750,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #251 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Pet Loss #5533 in Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief #8295 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Dogs

## Customer Reviews

I also own Mark Asher's Book "Old Friends" (wonderful) and was excited to read his memoir about the love and loss of his beloved dog Humphrey. Mark's story resonated with me in particular after the loss of my own dog, and I feel that dog owners everywhere can relate to the highs and lows Mark experienced as he progressed through the grief process. Honest and unsentimental, Mark deftly weaves the unfolding events of his own life with Humphrey's, demonstrating how intertwined our lives become with those of our canine friends. Mark evolved his grief into an opportunity to serve

at Best Friends animal sanctuary and other shelters, a decision both inspiring and poignant. I appreciate how Mark doesn't "tell" readers how to feel about his experiences: rather he shares his story simply and honestly, allowing readers to complete the picture themselves. Thanks, Mark, for another wonderful contribution!

The author, Mark Asher takes you to a place where he shares through his own personal experience the loss of his beloved companion, Humphrey. His poignant story of his emotional roller coaster of overcoming guilt, grief, acceptance and learning to let go and love again is moving. For me the book brought back memories when confronted with having to let a family pet go and the emotions one goes through. Mark Asher does a wonderful job of telling his story and how he dealt with his grief by learning to give of himself to homeless animals and thereby overcoming his sadness. I highly recommend this book. The book would be an excellent gift to anyone who has recently lost a family pet.

The sound of Mark Asher's voice through his words is irresistible. Though I am writing a review of *Humphrey Was Here*, I have to say that I fell in love with Mark's words in his first book, *Old Friends* - which celebrates the spirit and wisdom of the older dog, and captures so exquisitely, in words and photographs, what is good and delicious about a long-term companion. It is a reminder to all of the importance of recognizing and celebrating what our old friends become -- in their own right and for us. And so it is, that with my appreciation of Mark's ways, that I eagerly got my hands on his latest book about his beloved Humphrey. Ironically it comes out just as I am mourning the loss of my own sweet father, which broke my heart into a million pieces. Loss is loss. As usual, Mark is charming and through his pain he delivers perspective and hope that goes directly to the soul. You don't have to be sad or even a dog owner (I am not) to resonate with Mark's view of the world and the place that animals hold in it. He presents a world of people and animals sharing the planet that is compelling. It's personal. It has depth and meaning. These books have a kind of magic. They get a hold of your heart and don't let go. Don't miss the opportunity to meet Mark through his canine friends or to invite yourself into his private world of joy and pain in his life with Humphrey. He makes you want to love those who are with you - more and better. But watch out- you might want to get a dog!

I am a devoted dog lover, and this book is clearly written by someone who loved their dog. The story didn't seem to be gathering any kind of momentum, was rather a long apology that became painful

to read. So I put it down about half way through. I hope this book helped the author find closure.

Generally, I steer clear of stories, especially dog stories, that have the potential to be sad or "too traumatic" for me to handle. Even the "Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover" stories can upset me for months to come. Currently, I am dealing with the imminent death of my 18-year-old Plott hound, so I definitely had a degree of trepidation when I ordered "Humphrey Was Here." Humphrey's story was deeply profound and, as hopefully you will soon read, he was taken from this world way ahead of his time. While this could have been a story with a whole lot of blame to go around, Mr Asher spent little time on that (other than blaming himself, which was undeserved, though certainly understandable). Rather, he took his experience and put it to positive use. The relationship that he shared with Humphrey glowed throughout every word. The healing that took place after Humphrey died was a long, arduous process, but the end result was truly remarkable. As a result of having read this book, I feel like I am in a better place to handle Hazel's death. Unlike Mr Asher, I have been granted the "luxury" of knowing that her "time" is going to be here soon. For anyone who has struggled with, or may potentially struggle with, the death of their beloved pet, I heartily recommend this book. Even if you don't have a pet, reading "Humphrey Was Here" will explain what you are missing by not having a pet and may even expand your horizons to consider getting one.

Back in November of 2011, I lost my very best friend of 11 years. I miss him everyday with all of my heart. Little has brought comfort, this book has. To read about how important Humphrey was to his owner who loved him, the grief experienced, the journey that led to healing has helped in my own journey. This book is a MUST for anyone who has ever loved and lost.

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