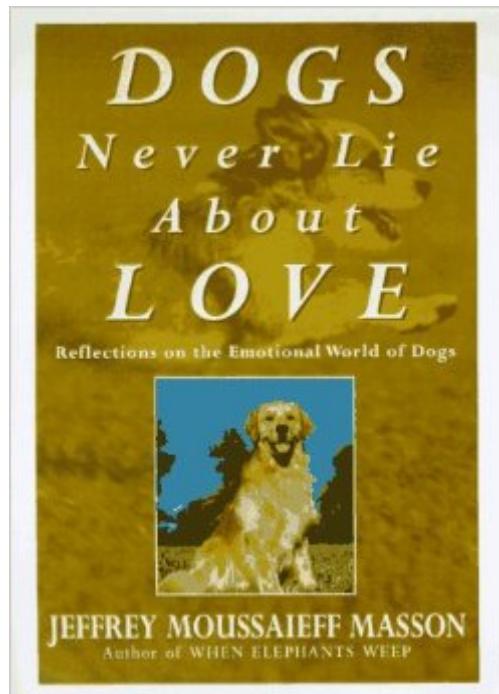


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Dogs Never Lie About Love: Reflections On The Emotional World Of Dogs



Synopsis

Americans have an intense love for their dogs: thirty-five percent of American households owned a dog in 1994, representing a dog population of more than 52 million. "It hardly seems worth asking the question of why we love them," writes noted psychoanalyst Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson. "We love dogs because they love us, unconditionally." No matter how we treat them, what we do to them, how little attention we pay to them, they are eager to please us, eager to be with us. In Dogs Never Lie About Love, the New York Times best-selling author of When Elephants Weep shifts his attention from the jungle to the living room to explore the exotic and unchartered territory of dog emotion. Why do dogs bark? Why don't cats and dogs "fight like cats and dogs"? Do some dogs commit suicide from despair? Drawing from scientific studies, legends and literature, and from the stories of dog trainers and lovers around the world, Dogs Never Lie About Love raises our level of consciousness to the rich and fascinating world of canine emotion. The book demonstrates how our affection for dogs is similar to our love of children - how both live and feel in the present, and how children and (especially) dogs are eager to offer us unconditional love. Most poignantly, however, Dogs Never Lie About Love, reveals that although dogs exhibit a wide range of observable emotions, love is their master emotion and is what guides and defines their existence. In this provocative work, Masson sweeps aside old prejudices on animal behavior and challenges scientists to resist dismissing the claim of canine emotion as anthropomorphism (assigning human characteristics to nonhumans) unless they are able to prove that dogs are emotionless animals. Heartwarming, inspiring, and always entertaining, Dogs Never Lie About Love is a compelling journey into the lives of dogs, told eloquently through the observations and experiences of Masson's own three dogs Sasha, Sima, and Rani whose delightful and sometimes odd behavior provides the means to exploring a wide range of subjects: from emotions like gratitude, compassion, loneliness, and disappointment to speculating about what dogs dream, how they perceive humans and other species, and how their powerful sense of smell greatly influences their memory and experience of reality (humans have about 5 million olfactory cells, whereas dogs have up to 220 million.) Dogs Never Lie About Love discusses why dogs are not finicky at the dinner bowl, why no breed is aggressive by nature, and the emotional significance of tail wagging. Dogs Never Lie About Love will captivate readers with its inquisitive, playful, and serious sides, giving readers a new understanding of the hidden world of dog emotion. With compelling dog stories from around the world, Dogs Never Lie About Love offers long-overdue pause for thought about humanity's best and most loyal friend.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After reading the wonderful book, "The Other End of the Leash" by Patricia McConnell, "Dogs Never Lie About Love" has been a disappointment of monumental proportion. It was written by a professional educator (a Sanskrit professor of all things) - not a biologist, animal behavioralist, or trainer. In fact, the author didn't even own a dog at the time he conceived of writing the book (something that should be a glaring indicator of a lack of passion about the subject matter to any dog lover). His academic profession is painfully obvious throughout the reading experience, with the text feeling more like a mediocre book report written by a student about a collection of Sanskrit Epics than expert insight into a complex and emotionally charged subject. The writing style is choppy and insincere, and the descriptions repetitive and uninspiring. I am nothing if not persistent, but after reading through a third of this book I had to put it down. While reading, you can't help but feel like you (and the author) are merely observing (superficially) the reaction of his dogs to different stimuli, which is preemptively, albeit loosely, supported by some quote from a truly great thinker (among which the author is not). In fact, the reason I gave this book two stars is because I think the quote collection is quite nice. Unfortunately, while making the argument that dogs experience deep emotions, he ironically portrays them as shallow simpletons, showing nothing but pure love for everyone and everything that they meet like a junkie loves smack, without regard for their own canine life experiences.

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