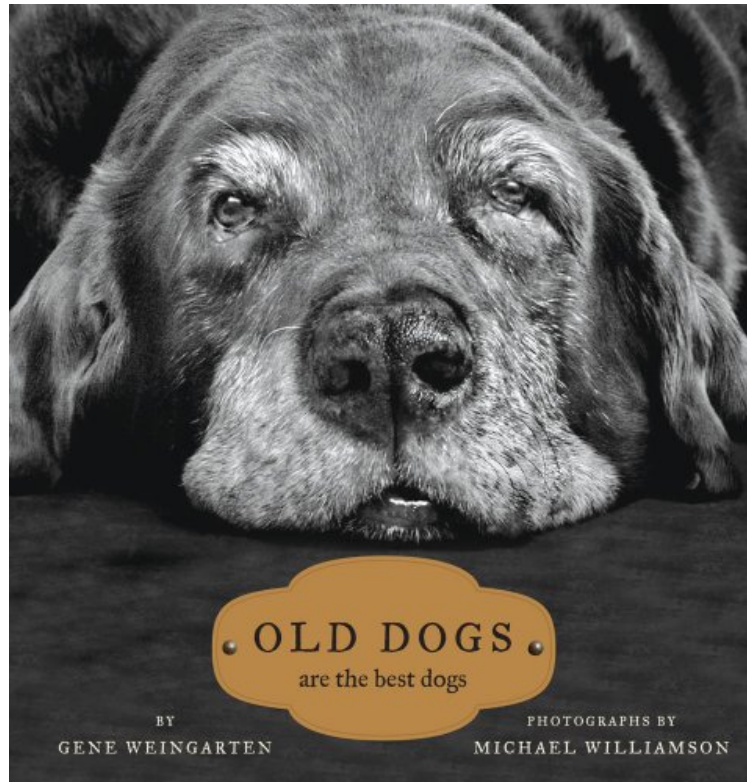


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Old Dogs: Are the Best Dogs

Gene Weingarten

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Gene Weingarten : Old Dogs: Are the Best Dogs before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Old Dogs: Are the Best Dogs:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. In response to the criticism of being "dangerous" because "crushingly sad" By A fellow with a keyboard The introduction to this book is the best thing that has been written about dogs, I'm convinced of it. I don't believe a word of it could be changed that would make it any better. It is perfection. The only qualifier is that it isn't really "about" dogs, old or otherwise. Weingarten says in the introduction to The Fiddler in the Subway that a story "will never be better than pedestrian unless it can use the subject at hand to address a more universal truth." Those universal truths always come around to a favorite maxim of Weingarten's, one that he cribbed from Kafka: "The meaning of life is that it ends." --- One reviewer said the book can be dangerous if you have an old dog because "it can be crushingly sad," and suggests that you should only get this book after you lost your dog so that you can reminisce and mourn. I agree with the crushingly sad part, but I profoundly disagree that you should wait until your dog is gone. Why wait until after he/she is gone to appreciate your major and minor moments together? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you've ever had a dog... By John Daugherty I'm a veterinarian, and I've seen thousands of old dogs over the span of my career. This book does a great job in illustrating the incredible bond that people feel for their dogs. Anyone who has ever watched a beloved pet grow old owes it to themselves to get this book. I bought copies for family and friends, and one for the waiting room in my animal hospital. I love this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Old Dogs: Are the Best Dogs by Gene Weingarten (Author) and Michael S. Williamson (Photographer) By Marie This is absolutely wonderful light reading

for the dog lover or rescuer since it shows pieces of each of the dogs' photographed within it with such beautiful photography. It's wonderful when a photographer and author such as these can get together and actually pull off something truly enjoyable when working together. Of course, this is often because the publisher refuses to use the photographer/illustrator of the writer's choice but in this book the two are obviously made to work together!

Featuring sixty black-and-white photographs of old dogs shot by Pulitzer Prizewinning photographer Michael S. Williamson and narrated by Washington Post staffer and columnist Gene Weingarten, this is a perfect collection for dog lovers that celebrates "man's best friend";

About the Author Gene Weingarten, pictured here with Murphy, his Plott Hound, is a nationally syndicated humor columnist and a Pulitzer Prize-winning staff writer for The Washington Post. He has written two books: *The Hypochondriac's Guide to Life. And Death.* and *I'm with Stupid* (with Gina Barreca). Weingarten lives in Washington, D.C. He has instructed his family that he wishes to be buried in Washington's Congressional Cemetery, because it allows dogs to run free. He wants his tombstone to include only his birth and death dates, and this: "A funny man who loved dogs." The stone will be carved in the shape of a fire hydrant. Washington Post photographer Michael S. Williamson was born and raised in Washington, D.C. A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Williamson has covered a variety of global events over the last thirty years, including the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the Philippine revolution, strife in the Middle East, the Gulf War, and conflicts in Africa and the Balkans. At the Post, Williamson works as both a photographer and a photo editor. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his daughters, Sophia and Valerie. Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Honey, 10 Shanna solemnly passed the butcher knife to Lance, her 16-year-old son. Shanna was a recent widow, Lance, the new man of the house. It was Lance who had brought home the stray. Shanna had heard about this breed, particularly ones hardened by the streets, trained to do God Knows What. She knew of a test to find out if a dog is too vicious to keep. The test is not without risk. "I'm going to give her some food," Shanna said, "and then I'm going to suddenly take it away. If she attacks me, you have to kill her." Shanna put down the bowl. Lance gripped the knife, white-knuckled, wary... They laugh about it now, nine years later. Honey the pit bull, as sweet as her name. Copyright copy; 2008 by Gene Weingarten and Michael S. Williamson