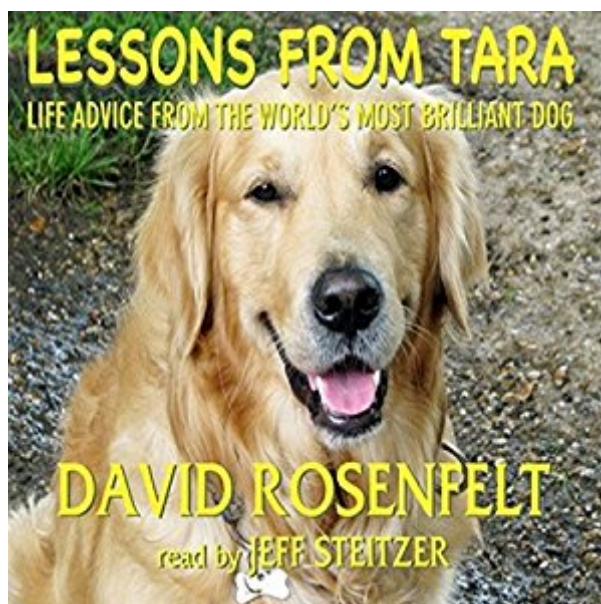


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Lessons From Tara: Life Advice From The World's Most Brilliant Dog



Synopsis

David Rosenfelt's loyal followers of the Andy Carpenter series are familiar with Tara, the Golden Retriever sidekick. Many also got to know Tara from Dogtripping, David's tales about becoming a slightly nutty dog rescuer and the dog that started it all. Here, finally, is a book all about the inspirational canine who taught David everything he knows. Well, he did know how to tie his shoes before he met and came to love Tara, but that's about it. Through Tara, David learned about dating, about being able to share his emotions, and also about everyday stuff like who gets to use the pillow if several dogs are sleeping in your bed (clue: It's not the human) and why random barking will never be something that can be eliminated. Lessons from Tara is infused with David's trademark wry and self-deprecating sense of humor, and will move listeners to tears and laughter.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Listen & Live Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: August 6, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B013NDF8MK

Best Sellers Rank: #17 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Animal Care & Pets #67 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Essays #280 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Dogs

Customer Reviews

In the early nineties, David Rosenfelt met Debbie Myers, and her golden retriever, Tara. He didn't know it, but the course of his life was set. Marriage. Dogs. Dog rescue. Eventually, a series of mystery novels in which the protagonist is also a dog rescuer. This book is a collection of essays about the things he learned, from Tara, that first dog, and from all the others after, living with anywhere from twenty to forty dogs once they were fully involved in rescue. They didn't plunge into rescue immediately. At first they lived happily with their one, beloved dog. Then Tara, like too many Goldens, developed cancer. After months of treatment, they had to admit defeat and have her euthanized. For months they were dogless, not ready for another dog. Then, wanting dogs in their lives, but not ready to adopt, they started volunteering at a local shelter--and they discovered how

desperate the need for rescue is. It took a while, but the Tara Foundation was born. Each essay is themed around a particular life lesson--dignity, overcoming fears, empathy--or some particular challenge of pet rescue. But what they're all really about is Rosenfelt's relationship with all the dogs that have come into his life, whether to stay, or just passing through on their way to forever homes. He does briefly cover their move, with more than twenty dogs, from California to Maine, but that experience is discussed more fully in *Dogtripping*. The primary focus here is their life in Maine, with some sections also discussing their life in California, and the emotional rewards and practical challenges of living with many, mostly senior, mostly very large, dogs. There are successful adoptions, and dogs rescued from terrible shelter conditions too late to save. There are dogs who seem unsavable, who thrive in the right conditions. This isn't a book to read if you can't stand books where the dog dies, because many of these dogs are old when they come into the Rosenfelts' lives. There are triumphant stories, too, though, and no graphic descriptions of cruelty. All in all, I found it an enjoyable, satisfying book, that expresses very well what brings people into pet rescue, and what keeps us involved. Recommended.

When I started reading this at the drs, I was loudly laughing out loud. All the nurses hurried in to find out what was wrong. And thus 4 more copies of *Lessons From Tara* were sold. I only have 5 dogs but I see so much of my life in these pages. And there is nothing better than the unconditional love of a dog or two or three. Especially if they are rescues.

Since we all know what our dogs are telling us, so I will let my dog review this one. Her response is: Wag, wag, wag. Pant, pant, wag. Woof, wag, wag. For those of you who don't know what your dog is telling you, the translation is that this book is a winner. I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet Mr. Rosenfelt at a local book signing and meet-and-greet as a benefit for our local humane society and dog rescue. He signed this book for me, and it will forever be on the top shelf of my library. The book is a keeper, and he is as wonderful in person as he is in his books.

Mr. Rosenfelt puts to words the feelings we all have as dog lovers - especially lovers of rescue dogs. I highly recommend this book for the humor and the heart warming stories. Like *Dog Tripping*, *Lessons from Tara* is an honest account of what it must be like to be a "dog lunatic." A total joy to read, even the parts that made me cry.

I can relate to a lot of the lessons David Rosenfelt includes in this very special book, although I have

only had 3 dogs at a time and not 37. I laughed and cried all the way through it. If you are a dog lover, give it a try -- you will not be disappointed.

I've read all David's books and having just finished this one, I'm ready to enjoy "Who Let The Dogs Out". Lessons From Tara was a pleasure to read. David and Debbie are wonderful human beings who do so much for so many dogs in terrible situations. As always this book also had many laugh out loud moments. Another well done book. Also love that you're from NJ like me.

I love this author's books. All of them. I think his mystery books (Andy Carpenter and Tara) and the other stand alone books are great reads. Own them all / have read them all. But when this author writes about dogs--his own dogs and his rescue dogs -- he is golden.(Pun intended). Starting with Dogtripping which made me laugh out all through the book and showed me that people (certain ones who can accept us as we are even if that means we come with 20 or more dogs of various sizes, usually large) are generous and open with their love. Urges me to stop FOREVER worrying about what people think. David and his wife have so much love to give these unloved, mistreated dogs. It makes me teary. Then comes Lessons from Tara. I loved the book so much I didn't want it to end. The instant love that happens between them and each new helpless dog that they find is amazing. They take dogs from horrible situations and either help the dog fit in with their own huge pack or the dog stays at the Tara Foundation until adopted by their forever family. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND both Dogtripping and Lessons from Tara. All his books are simply book candy. Or...mind candy?

Dog lover, animal lover, compassionate person? This is the kind of book that will take you through all the emotions, happy, sad, joyful, touched, outraged, I felt them all. I have always been a fan of David Rosenfelt's legal/suspense books, but this one now holds a special spot on my shelves. It's beautifully written, and guaranteed to be a wonderful gift selection.* I was lucky enough to request and receive my copy through NetGalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

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