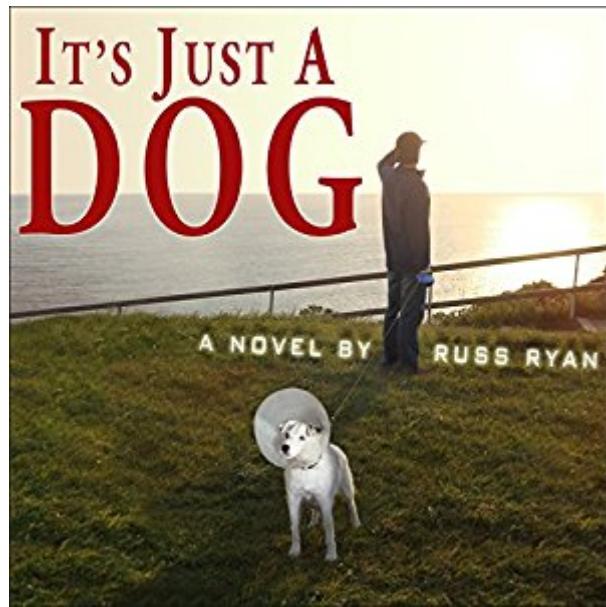


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It's Just A Dog



Synopsis

What if your dog died and then came back as a ghost... that could talk? Would you welcome him back with open arms, or run away scared to death? Charlie Keefe is not just your typical dog lover - he's a world famous dog painter, a.k.a. "The Picasso of Pooch Portraits". Unfortunately, Charlie's beloved muse Pete, his lovable Jack Russell terrier, has just died. So, after months of suffering over his dearly departed soulmate and wondering if he ever made it to The Rainbow Bridge, Charlie reluctantly agrees to foster a new puppy - a cute Cavalier King Charles named Brownie from the local animal shelter. Soon after, Charlie is surprised to find himself falling head over heels with this new puppy girl, his "Rebound Dog", as he calls her-as well as being romantically attracted to Janelle Jordan, the head hound at the dog rescue. But then complications arise when the ghost of his old dog Pete mysteriously reappears one night and comes back to haunt him and the new puppy - setting off a bizarre chain of events that throw Charlie's life, career, and entire belief system into chaos!

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hoursÂ andÂ 46 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 17, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00UM7HU22

Best Sellers Rank: #84 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Animal Care & Pets #335 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Cats, Dogs & Animals #394 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor

Customer Reviews

Russ Ryan doesn't come to this novel without background or credentials: he has written screenplays with the Hollywood producers of AMERICAN PIE, FINAL DESTINATION, and FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN and his own REPLI-KATE and he has probably absorbed more Hollywood history then most through his sidebar hobby blog meansheets.com that focuses on the art of movie posters going far back in time. From all of this exposure to dealing with dialogue,

hearing movie ideas played out in the resource room, and staring at ideas that pop out from the great art of movie posters, he has come up with a very original and very wonderful first novel that should boost his career in the business (someone will doubtless option this book for a movie!) and provide hours of entertainment - and solace - to dog lovers, especially those who have gone through the loss of their 'man's best friend. Ryan is a dog widower times two, sadly. In a very casual conversational manner we meet a young artist who has a history as a child of losing a pet dog Starsky who was euthanized without much explanation. Jump to present time in Malibu, California and after our down and out artist (who goes by the name of Charlie Keefe) is dumped by his live-in girlfriend, he decides to go to the animal shelter and get a dog. And there is Pete - a mutt, but a Jack Russell Terrier who in a very brief time works his way into Charlie's heart and life. Charlie begins to paint dogs (sort of a 'Thomas Kinkade knock-off imagery' of his main model Pete) and with Charlie's artist rep Donny's help the business becomes lucrative - The Picasso of Pooch Portraits - and Charlie and Pete become famous globetrotters. But of course Pete ages and while Charlie is on an exhibition trip to Paris, Pete dies and Donny cremates him.

If you're a dog lover, you need to take a deep breath. Relax. You read that book title and began to clench your teeth, right? Well, this book isn't at all what you're thinking. When my beloved Lucy passed away last year, I felt as though my heart had been ripped out. I was sure that my life would never be the same. After all, not only was Lucy my heart dog and constant companion, she inspired my business, For Love of a Dog. Lucy is the dog in my business logs and without her I may never have created my business. When Lucy died, a bit of the fire that fanned my muses died as well. Life really was not the same in any way. Some people just didn't get it. "It's just a dog," they said (or thought to themselves.) Russ Ryan gets it. Oh, dog! He really gets it. It's Just A Dog is dedicated to Petey Ryan and Charlie Dickens. You guessed it: dogs. Petey, a Jack Russell terrier, was over 14 years old when he died in 2010. Charlie, a Terrier / Retriever mix and rebound dog, died suddenly right before publication of this book. Ryan notes: "Being a dog widower has taught me that it doesn't matter if you have a dog ten years or ten months - the pain and hurt is still the same. Fortunately, the good part is that the love never dies!" Your teeth just unclenched, didn't they? And now you're reaching for a tissue or two, right? Now you're ready to read a great new dog lover book. It's Just a Dog is a hilarious tale with lots of heart and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It's Just A Dog is a story about loss, love and new beginnings, told in a humorous, informal style. I immediately felt as though I was reading about a friend. I'm very cautious about dog books. I'm always afraid something terrible will happen to the dog.

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