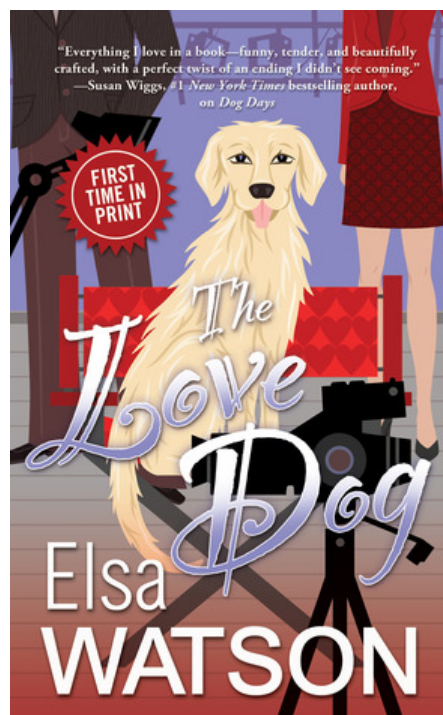




The Love Dog

Elsa Watson

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The Love Dog Elsa Watson

Fired from her job as a paralegal, Samantha Novak is in trouble. When *Telltale*, a Hollywood tabloid, asks her to write an expose on the reality television dating show, *The Love Dog*, Samantha is thrilled. She's always dreamed of being a writer, and the fat paycheck won't hurt. After being recently left at the altar, she's not too keen on love either.

Hired as the canine star's handler, Samantha finds that digging up dirt on set is harder than she thought.

Apollo, the show's star, is a sweet golden retriever who takes his job as the "love dog" very seriously. He only wants to help couples fall in love and make everyone on set happy. Mason Hall, the show's producer and leading man, is down to earth, charming, and... very attractive.

If Samantha doesn't reveal to the world that the reality show isn't exactly "real," her new career will be over before it starts. But when she falls in love with Apollo and Mason, will she still have the heart to expose *The Love Dog's* dirty secrets?

Elsa Watson returns with another charming "tail"!

The Love Dog Details

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Author : Elsa Watson

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From Reader Review The Love Dog for online ebook

Sarah says

As soon as I saw this book in the library I went, "ah! A dog! I hav to read this book!" Little did I know how lucky I was to hav picked up that book! The hidden gem within this story is the amazing POV of the dog! The amazing dog was the best character in the story!! I adored reading about Apollo's point of view, and loved watching the main character change Apollo's life for the better. If you are looking for a lovely book that will put you in a good mood, then this is the book for you!!!

Cheryl says

I didn't think this would be much of a book to read. But, I was pleasantly surprised. It is a good light read. Even though this is fiction and we can only assume what our animals are thinking, it made me want to be even more conscience of how I treat my furry friends.

Massanutten Regional Library says

Holly, Village patron, June 2015, 5 stars:

This book was excellent! I love how the book featured viewpoints from both Samantha (the main character) and Apollo (the Love Dog). Not only was the dog's thoughts super cute and positive, but the book was realistic and I couldn't put it down. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone or any dog lover!

A quick background of the book: Samantha becomes an investigative journalist after losing her job as a paralegal. She gets a job exposing the secrets of television dating show, the Love Dog. The Love Dog's show is focused around Apollo, a dog who tries to bring people together and fix their relationship problems. As a firm believer that love and the show is bogus, she thinks that this will be a fairly easy thing to write about. However, after spending time as Apollo's handler, the book takes an interesting turn.

Star says

Samantha Novak is a paralegal and an "anti-love" blogger who dreams of being a published fiction author. When she's fired from her paralegal job because she stood up for her firm's client, she doesn't know what she's going to do for work. She gets a call from a tabloid editor who has read her blog and wants her to dig up dirt on a reality TV show called The Love Dog. She finds an "in" as a dog handler for the star of the show, Apollo, and is well on her way to exposing the ugly truth behind 'reality TV'. Samantha had been hurt by love before, jilted at the altar, so she's very cynical now and when the opportunity to dig up the truth on a "dating reality show" appears, she's all for it...in the beginning. Yet what will happen to Samantha's career if she's not willing to give the tabloid the dirt? What happens when she finds herself drawn to the show's host, Mason Hall, and its star dog?

I really liked 'The Love Dog', especially the parts from Apollo's viewpoint. He's a very caring and beautifully sensitive dog, who only wants the best for the people around him. He can tell who is right for

each other and he tries his best to send his love to them so they are open to the opportunities around them. Ms. Watson brings Apollo, Samantha, and Mason to life beautifully and has written a sweet romance. I found myself tearing up at the ending, which will touch the heart of even the most cynical.

Kate says

When Samantha is fired from her paralegal job, she's terrified. How is she going to make ends meet? She's knee-deep in debt as it is, and she doesn't have a backup plan. But one comes to her in the form of a job as an undercover tabloid reporter on the hit TV show *The Love Dog*. Expose the secrets of the show, the tabloid editor says, and her money woes will be history. She secures a job as a dog trainer for Apollo, the love dog himself, and learns some of the dirty secrets of the show's nuts and bolts. But how far will Samantha be willing to go for this tabloid once she falls for the show's host Mason?

I really enjoyed this goofy little book. It's definitely more chick lit than romance, since a lot of the focus is on Apollo. The story is told from his perspective and from Samantha's, and Apollo was pretty well characterized, to the point where the idea of a dog who could make people fall in love actually didn't seem that ridiculous. The whole idea seemed to come from the way that dogs just seem to want us to be happy and to love on them - so it doesn't seem like too much of a stretch to extend that to "dogs want us to love on each other too." Fun, predictable beach read that I breezed through in a few hours.

Waverly Curtis says

I thought this was a perfect book. As an author, I had to admire the way Elsa Watson created such tension from the very start. Her human protagonist gets her dream job (writing an expose about a reality TV show she believes is staged--and it is!) but she gradually falls in love with her co-workers, especially the dog, Apollo, and her handsome boss. Her point of view alternates with that of the Love Dog, Apollo, who truly is a love dog (he does a loving-kindness meditation every night before going to sleep) but who is being treated like a mere dog and not allowed to work his magic: match-making. Watson manages to wrap up these two plot lines (and the subplot about the antagonist) with a heart-warming resolution. I'm a sucker for dog books (I've written several with my friend Curt Colbert, under the name of Waverly Curtis) and I cried at the end of this one. In a good way.

Jackie Bouchard says

I'm not much for romance (I hate Valentine's Day, dating shows, corny pop songs, etc.), but I do like a good romantic comedy. Throw in a dog and I'm sold.

This story switches back and forth between the dog (Apollo) and the heroine's point of view. Sure, you can see where the story is going, headed for that Happy Ever After ending, but the parts with Apollo pushed this firmly into 5 stars land for me. I was amazed how quickly I fell in love with Apollo. Watson manages to get you on his side, routing for him after only about one and a half pages of his narration. I loved how Watson works so many scents into his narration (Apollo often judges people's mood by their smells) and he is just so full of love, well, you just can't help but love him back.

The HEA ending is sweet, but the last few lines, by Apollo, are truly adorable. If you like rom-coms and love

dogs, I think you'll love this book!

Jessie says

I absolutely adored her novel, Dog Days, which had a "Freaky Friday" theme as the dog and owner switch bodies. So I had high hopes for this novel but it fell sort of my expectations. The hero and heroine don't meet each other until page 83 and their romance isn't developed much on the pages. Readers get inside the head of the dog, which is the highlight of the story but the dog doesn't switch bodies with anyone so his role is disconnected from what is happening to everyone around him. Elsa's writing is strong and I will certainly check out her next doggie story.

Melanie says

This book was really weird for me. It made me think of that Cards Against Humanity card, "what does Grandma find disturbing yet oddly charming" (this is misquoted I'm sure) - the book was annoying and I didn't very much like it, yet I kept picking it up and I felt oddly compelled to keep reading. And while half the time I was reading saying "this is drivel, why are you reading this?" the other half of the time I was like "this feels so oddly comforting and familiar and sweet". It was a really strange reading experience. I find now I'm equally torn on rating the book so I might have to mull over it for a few days to decide where to go.

Melissa says

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from this book, but I do like a contemporary romance, it's HEA. I especially enjoy books with animals in them. So, I was looking forward to reading this. What I did not expect was Apollo's POV. Yep, you get a POV of the dog! Let me tell you, I was thinking it would be corny... and it was a bit... but in the best way. Those sections often put a smile on my face.

In this story we mostly follow Samantha, our human guide throughout this story. She is heartbroken and quite cynical in the whole love "thing". She writes a scathing blog about love and the cautionary tales to not fall victim. We do find out why she is so hardened and it makes sense. As things move along she finds herself in a position for a lucrative job and it is to expose the new "reality" show, The Love Dog. Sounds like a perfect job for Sam.

Apollo is the perfect dog for the job. He loves what he does although none of it makes sense to him. How is he supposed to spread love if they keep him scripted? Lucas, the one he wants to most please is sent the most love. Lucas is the owner/handler and trust me... when you read those parts you will want to growl at that man. Nothing physically abusive, but you will find yourself hard pressed to like him.

I give this book 4 stars. In the end there were some twists and turns that kept me interested. The way things worked out made sense and didn't seem forced. I really enjoyed the way the HEA worked out. I also loved that Apollo was given the last word. You'll love to hear what his next love project would be. That made me smile and it was a perfect ending.

CA Portnellus says

A cute tale and dialogue between Apollo, the Love Dog and his handlers, Samantha & Lucas. Funny insights into reality shows and how they are made, including the quirky people who work them. From the beginning we see the attraction between Sam & Mason. Yet at every turn Sam pushes and Mason pulls her along, as does sweet Apollo who can smell that desire and interest. A story of bitterness and disappointment turning to friendship and love. Being a traitor to the show, by spilling the secrets of the show and its primary stars, or lose all and confess, Sam must make a life changing decision.

Jill says

A woman falls in love with a show she is trying to discredit.

The edition I had needs some minor editorial work, but otherwise the story is smoothly written. The plot was engaging enough to have me thinking about it when I wasn't reading and the characters are developed through events (showing) rather than narrative (telling). The plot sticks to relevant points; side stories do not intrude. While some events are inevitable, given the plot, the details are unique to this particular story.

This book contains alcohol use, references to smoking, and swearing.

Freda Mans-Labianca says

I liked this book better than the first only because the story had more of the dogs' viewpoint than the previous book. That is what I loved most, Appollos' viewpoint. Appollo is the beautiful Golden Retriever on the cover, and he is the sweetest dog ever. Well, after my Bella and Ewok, of course.

I really liked the other two viewpoints, Sam, the female love interest and Mason, the male love interest. They were both interesting characters for their own reasons, and I liked the sweet romance that blossomed between them.

The other parts of the story were fun to read and I appreciate that I didn't feel like I had read anything like it before. With the amount of books I read, that is saying something...

So for all you romance fans out there who have a soft spot for the canine companion, give this book a try. It's going to warm your cockles.

Penny Watson says

The premise for this novel is really cute. A tabloid reporter goes undercover on a reality TV show that features a "love dog" who brings together fractured couples. The suspense portion of this story was high...the entire time you're worried that Samantha's cover will be blown. Watson did a good job wrapping up this difficult conflict at the end.

I'm not gonna lie. My favorite character, by far, was the dog Apollo. He was super sweet, loving, and adorable, and I was stressed out thinking he would not get his HEA. (I was more worried about Apollo and his HEA than the human characters in the story). Well, the ending was PERFECTION! True love and happiness for all, human and canine alike. I do think the H/h of this book took a back seat to the dog and his

quest to make people happy. But the magic of this story was the dog, and getting his charming POV added the pop into this book.

Grade: B+

Joy says

Samantha hates love, the deadly illusion. Apollo the golden retriever breathes love, trying to bring it to everyone around him. Samantha enters her new job as Apollo's caretaker so that she can spy around and debunk Apollo's TV show "The Love Dog" for a scandal sheet. "The Love Dog" is a fake like most reality shows, but only because Apollo isn't allowed to step outside his script. Then Samantha falls in love with Apollo and the show's host, Mason Hall. While the show blossoms, Samantha is trapped so completely that whatever she chooses to do must lead to disaster. Apollo wants desperately for his two favorite people to love each other.

What gives THE LOVE DOG its charm is Apollo's voice: lonely, loving, and dedicated to making other people happy. THE LOVE DOG is a keeper, a delight.
