



How (Not) to Kiss Your Dog

Susan Lash

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How (NOT) to Kiss Your Dog is told from the point of view of twelve year old Jenny. After her brother Jack adopts Albert, a Jack Russell terrier, Jenny's calm life becomes terrier-ized. The story details the friendship that eventually develops between Jenny and Albert as he widens her world to include a variety of new people and experiences.

How (NOT) to Kiss Your Dog contains humor, youthful romance and dog spit. Combine those elements with an eccentric grandmother, the second witch from Macbeth and a wild tongued terrier. Shake well. The result is an award winning science fair experiment that finally answers the age old dog vs. human oral hygiene question: "Are dogs' mouths really cleaner than humans'?"

How (Not) to Kiss Your Dog Details

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From Reader Review How (Not) to Kiss Your Dog for online ebook

Mike says

I thought it was vary funny. People who like dogs should definitely read this book. I liked this book because the dog wagged his butt instead of his tail because had no tail, just a stub. There are two main Homo sapiens Jenny and Jack and one main Canis lupus familiaris Albert. I thought they were likeable.

Shana Stumph says

A feel good book

Although this book is intended for young adults, it is a worthwhile read for anyone who loves a dog. The antics of the Jack Russell in this book reminded me so much of my own Jack Russell Terrier that I couldn't help laughing!

C A Mace says

For the Love of Albert

Being a dog lover I read any furry book I can. This is a quick read, with real dog and family issues. Totally enjoyable. I recommend this to all ages. Good to read to younger children. Five stars

Michelle Hall Johnson says

Cute and easy read

Refreshingly simple and funny. Albert is entertaining! Lighthearted and reminiscent of 50's/60's family sitcoms. Great encouragement for adoption and pet rescue!

Rishika S. says

I liked How (Not) to kiss your dog, and am sure that most other dog lovers will. There's something extremely enjoyable in reading about the antics of a hyperactive, loves-to-lick-everyone-including-burglars kind of dog. The story moves along as it relates tale after tale of Albert and Jenny, each one depicting a little more of the growing bond between the two.

But to be fair, the book wasn't as good as expected. On reading the blurb, I had expected a book that showed a significant difference between Jenny from before-Albert to Jenny after/with-Albert. But there was no real change as such. In fact, Jenny is fond of cute little Albert right from the beginning and the changes are only minor and often not really credible to the ball of energy on four legs. The book also seems a bit jumpy, like random sections put together without making as smooth a flow as desired. And in the end, I was left feeling 'what the heck just happened?'. It was a little too abrupt at the end and a lot of things were left unfinished,

like Eric and the cause for his situation/nature.

But, dog lovers could definitely associate with the story, characters and the dog. The characters are likable, although maybe not explored as much as was possible. Sure, some sections and instances seem random, but overall, the story is a feel good one and will leave you loving little Albert.

Andrea says

A short but cute little read. Glad this one was a free download as it was very short. But a charming story about a young woman and her brother's new dog, the irrepressible Albert. This felt like a good start to a longer work.

Kristen says

Very cute, light book. Not a whole lot happens, and I was hoping for a little bit more depth from the side characters, but overall it was a fun read.

Adite says

This is one of the cutest books I have ever read. There are some really funny moments and Albert, the Jack Russell terrier, the fastest 'tongue' alive, is a hoot. It also asks a very prominent question: is a dog's mouth cleaner than a human's? You gotta read the book to find out the answer! :)

Dianne says

Jenny, twelve relates the adventures of her brother's new dog, Albert as only a twelve year old sister can do! Albert is a hyper Jack Russell terrier who is faster than a speeding bullet, able to leap tall dressers, loves a good roll in decomposing animal carcasses and can sneak attack your tonsils with his tongue! (Gross)

I laughed, reminisced, shook my head, almost gagged and thought, yep, this is good! For all that Albert put his new family through, he was a treat! He opened doors for Jenny that she never would have tried on her own. In his way, Albert taught Jenny about caring for others, looking beyond the surface and grabbing life for the joy of it!

Cute read! My only negative thought....in the beginning there was a dog at the shelter named Sophie, I wanted her to find a home...

Mary says

fun read

Heather says

How (Not) to Kiss Your Dog was one of those books that is just meh. It wasn't bad, but it wasn't particularly good either. There were quite a few spelling and grammar errors. One scene, that was really not necessary for the rest of the book, was rather inappropriate for a middle grades book (at school in homeroom a word commonly used as a swear word was used by the "bad" kid in a way he could get away with, but was still intended to get a rise out of everyone). I can't say I recommend reading this book, but I don't totally not either. There are a lot of better books out there though, so I'd probably skip it.

Barbara says

Charming story that includes a Jack Russell Terrier, January 18, 2015

The parents bribed Jack with the promise of a dog if his midterm grades averaged a C. Jennifer, his sister was not very happy because she routinely made As. Terriers were bred to catch rats, moles, and other vermin. They are also hyper. They are the only breed allowed to bark and get hyper around other dogs during the AKC dog championships. Now Albert is only a puppy 11 months old. Add that to the typical family with 2 children and Albert's long and fast tongue and you get a very funny story.

Crystal says

This was a good, quick read. I liked the story of the dog, Albert, and all his antics. There were parts that felt rushed and not completely fleshed out. Like the protagonist's "enemy". We never quite know why he's mean to her and where that all came from. It was just strange and felt like a last minute addition. But I loved the grandmother's character. She was fun. :)

Danielle Vorac says

Funny

It was so funny and cute. I really liked this book. Alberta's tongue sounds grossly long. Jen's grandma sounds funny.

Ian Wood says

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmetic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's reviews on the blog typically feature two or three images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a book is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate it three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

I rated this book WARTY!

It's hard to tell at what age range this novel is aimed. We're given the narrator, Jennifer Huckabee's age, which is actually twelve, but the writing is a bit lower on the scale than that. The novel is about your standard American family: Mom, Dad, one older boy, one younger girl, and the addition of one Jack Russell terrier which causes entirely predictable problems, most of which are the result not of the dog's antics but of the other characters' complete inability to show any evidence of smarts.

Despite that, it does have funny bits and will probably appeal to readers who are somewhere below the age range of the main character - and preferably male based on the humor. There's an amusing story when grandma comes to visit. She drives a British car which has the steering wheel on the right, so when she takes the kids for a drive, she sits the dog on a booster seat up front so it looks like he's driving the car. That was it for the humor.

There's very little descriptive prose - only enough to indicate getting from A to B, or to briefly describe a situation caused by the dog. The rest of it was all conversation, so it felt like a really odd kind of a read to me - like the author had made a list of funny things she could write about and then simply connected them as quickly as she could, filled in some conversation, and left it at that. It didn't feel crafted at all.

In the end, I read that the author evidently based this on real events, so my early surmise was pretty much right on the money! The text felt really sparse, and not in a good way. There was very little to the characters, none of whom had a life outside of their relationship to the dog's antics. This didn't even get close to entertaining me, and I doubt either of my kids would be interested in it.

I have to say that there were some illogicalities here, too. Not that novels can't have them by any means, but I don't know this writer and I found myself wondering sometimes about her choices, which detracted from the story. I can understand that a son having a dog and his sister being expected to baby-sit it and clean up after it would be a useful cause of friction, but this isn't how it's written. Once in a while that happens and we're shown how unjust it is, but sometimes the other side of the coin turns up, and there's no balancing observation.

For example, when Jenny's friend stops by and proceeds to stuff the dog with carrots, and it throws up on the kitchen floor, Jack is expected to clean up. It's really Jenny's friend's fault, but this fact isn't raised at all, so we're given no sense of the injustice done to Jack here. At least a mention would have been nice. That was a big problem in this novel: there was no moral compass! There were no lessons imparted with regard to pet care or to getting-along with your peers. There was nothing delivered about the consequences of irresponsible behavior. Reading this felt like watching a bad Disney live-action movie from the fifties.

It would have been a better story had there been a little more going on in the main character's life, but there wasn't. Not ever! Her entire life consisted of homework and watching TV - and then her entire life started revolving around the dog. That was all she had. It's hardly surprising that she had chronically low self-esteem, but rather than show us how she overcame this, this author took the lazy way out and brought a guy into her life to validate her, thereby betraying all independent and strong girls everywhere.

Then there was the startlingly abrupt ending - like someone got bored with it and just turned it off like a TV - which actually was fine with me. I cannot in good conscience recommend this novel.

