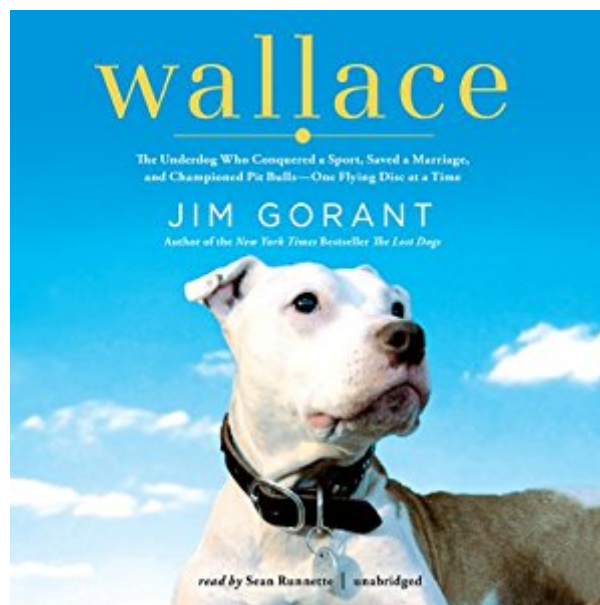




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Wallace: The Underdog Who Conquered A Sport, Saved A Marriage, And Championed Pit Bulls - One Flying Disc At A Time



Synopsis

Today, Wallace is a champion; but in the summer of 2005, he was living in a shelter, a refugee from a suspicious pit bull-breeding operation. Then Andrew "Roo" Yori entered the picture. A scientist and shelter volunteer, Roo could immediately see that Wallace was something special. While on his honeymoon, Roo learned that Wallace was about to be put down. Roo and his wife frantically fought to keep Wallace alive until they could return home to adopt him - even though they already had two dogs. Once Wallace made it home, Roo knew the dog needed a mission, and serendipity led them to the world of competitive dog Frisbee. It seemed like a terrible idea; large and heavy with thick muscles that can make them look less than graceful, pit bulls are everything that most Frisbee dogs aren't. But that was fine with Roo - because part of his mission was to change people's minds about pit bulls. Overcoming everything from injuries to prejudice against the breed, the unlikely pair persevered to become world champions. Movingly told by best-selling author Jim Gorant, Wallace will capture the hearts of animal lovers everywhere - and help rescue this popular breed's unfairly tarnished reputation. About the author: Jim Gorant has worked as a magazine editor and writer for 20 years and is currently a senior editor at Sports Illustrated. His work has appeared in such magazines as Men's Health, GQ, and Outside. He is also the author of The New York Times best seller The Lost Dogs. He lives in New Jersey.

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Customer Reviews

Never underestimate a shelter dog. This is an incredible story of a dog who was dumped at a shelter and labelled "un-adoptable" because he went crazy in the pen. He barked; he tried to climb

the walls; he threw himself against the front of the pen as people passed by. He just wanted to get out and play! A pair of great volunteers saw this and worked with him. He played, and played, and played until he became a champion disc dog! This is a great read for all dog lovers. (Or a great gift for people who don't know yet that they are dog lovers!)

I enjoyed the book, particularly the strength and commitment of Wallace's human companions. I actually ordered it thinking it was about Ultimate Frisbee, the game. I was more than happy to find out it was about Wallace the ultimate frisbee dog. My goof resulted in a good read. The connections to the book for me were pretty amazing as I had a wonderful dog adopted through the same organization and know firsthand the impacts of celiac and thyroid related illness. I appreciated the honest commentary throughout the book. I think it would have been easy to write in hindsight about the positive aspects of saving Wallace but I feel the book is much stronger with what seems like an objective reflection on a great dog and equally wonderful people.

I do Pit Bull Rescue so Wallace is a household name here. I could not wait to read the book about his life. This is a wonderful book, beautifully written and so inspiring. Once I started reading it I couldn't put it down!! I've always said "We love Wallace" even though I've never met Wallace or his family. After reading this book I now understand why I have such a strong connection to a dog I've never met. With the love and guidance of Roo and Clara, Wallace became not only a Superstar in the disc world but a Hero to all of us who work so hard to save these amazing dogs. This is a story about never giving up on someone. Of seeing the greatness that lies within and coaxing it out. I will never be able to thank Roo, Clara and Wallace enough for what they have done to show the true nature of such a misunderstood and maligned breed of dog. What I can do is continue leading by example. In Roo's own words "Don't talk, do." and 'Let the dogs actions speak." Wallace's actions have spoken volumes!! A huge thank you to Jim Gorant. You pull us into the story, into the lives of these incredible people and dogs. I felt like I was standing on the sidelines, watching Wallace play and rooting along with the crowd. This book is not just for Pit Bull lovers or dog lovers, this is book about never giving up on those you love. Wallace, We Love You!! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

How can you NOT love this book? Wallace the "underdog" was dangerously close to being a euthanasia statistic. But thanks to a loving, dedicated family, he became a disc dog legend! And it's a true story to boot! If you love dogs and are partial to pit bulls, you will love this book.

This story attracted me because I am a pitbull owner and lover, and Wallace will steal your heart. It was fun to read about how he was rehabilitated through competitive Frisbee; my only complaint was that I didn't need a play-by-play of every single throw at every single event he competed in. The book could have been 1/2 as long and still made its point.

The beginning was a bit confusing, but in the end this is a wonderful book. In fact it is the second best true story dog book that I have read, and I have read a lot of them. The story is simple enough. The twice abandoned pit bull is rescued from probable death by a couple who see something more in him. The road is not easy, but with love and persistence they find things the dog loves that lets him focus his intense energy and drive. They compete for the sheer love of the sport and of each other. The time and effort it takes to reach world class in any sport is just immense. I can't personally imagine putting in that work while holding down two jobs, a marriage and a houseful of rescued dogs. Roo and Wallace are true champions in the finest sense of the word. The best advice for others? "Go out and have fun with your dog!" I am convinced dogs love performing for others. I have a handicapped lab mix. He has maybe 20% use of his back legs. Even at 12, he loves to run but clearly prefers having an audience. So I am sure Wallace and the other dogs get the same thrill performing in front of others. One of the best things about this book is that you can go on Youtube and see Wallace and Roo in action. The bond between the two is truly amazing and heartwarming. Gives me hope for the human race.

It took me a few minutes to figure out what to call this review--it still doesn't seem to do the book justice--but WOW! When Wallace was placed on this Earth it seemed as if he had zero chance at anything simply because of his breed--he was stereotyped as bad but one couple sensed he was different and took a chance on him. In sensing that spark in Wallace's eyes Roo and Clara took a leap of faith and enjoyed a hard earned trip to the top of the world. Wallace and Roo were able to show the country that taking chances on a "worthless cause" changed not only their lives for the better, but also that of pit bulls around the world. Now that I am done with this review I want to read the book all over again!!!

This book gives some well deserved praise for pit bulls. I have never owned this breed of dog but became acquainted with one through my son-in-law. I gave Tanith, his pit bull, a treat the first time

we met and she was my friend for life. Firecrackers scared her and one 4th of July she jumped onto my lap, placed her big head on my chest, and gave me a loving, trusting look that said she trusted me to protect her. I used to say "I know a pit bull who loves me!" While I respect the power of muscle and jaw of the pit bull, I no longer fear them. My hope is that one day all dog fighting will be abolished and this magnificent breed will be kept as loving pets. This book was inspiring and educational. Hooray for Jim Gorant for writing such a beautiful story about Wallace.

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