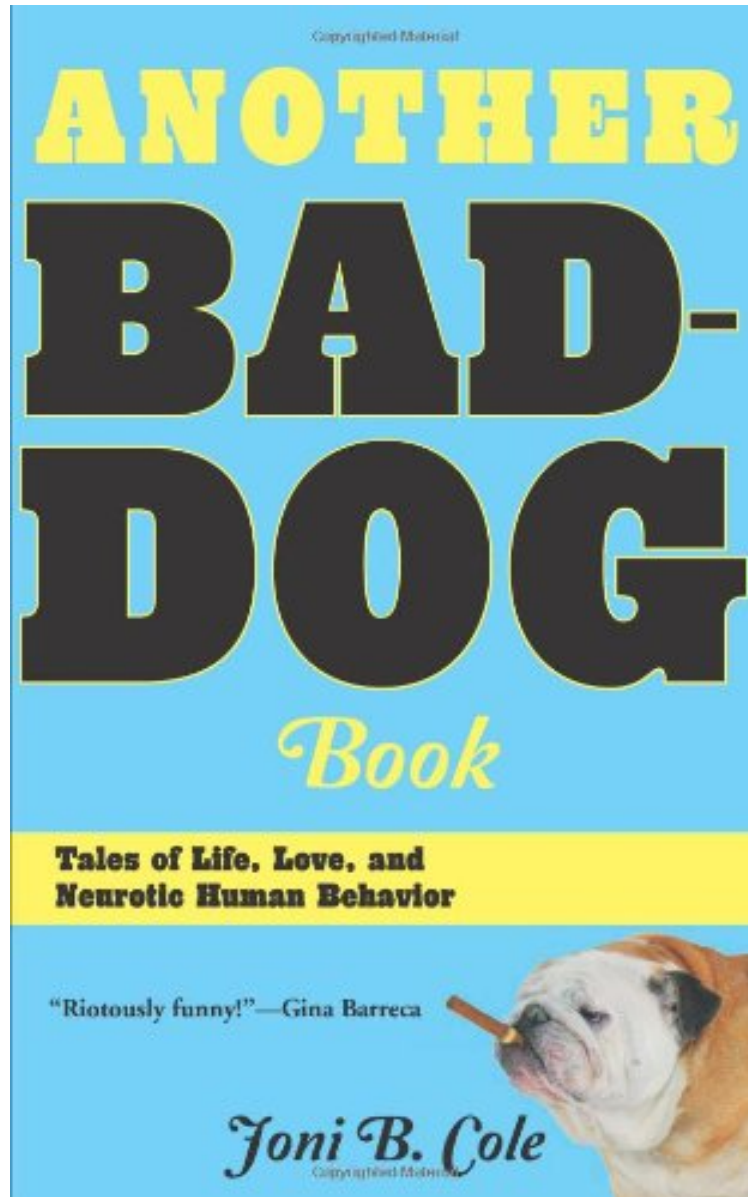


Another Bad-Dog Book: Tales of Life, Love, and Neurotic Human Behavior

Joni B. Cole

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Joni B. Cole : Another Bad-Dog Book: Tales of Life, Love, and Neurotic Human Behavior before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Another Bad-Dog Book: Tales of Life, Love, and Neurotic Human Behavior:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. LOLBy Elizabeth KelseyIt's taken me a while to come to terms with the expression, "LOL," but I can't think of a better way to describe my reaction to Joni B. Cole's collection of personal essays, *Another Bad-dog Book: Tales of Life, Love, and Neurotic Human Behavior*. Cole had me laughing out loud. *Another Bad Dog* is a great choice for anyone who appreciates intelligent humor. Instead of yet another mushy woman's-best-friend book, Cole riffs on the genre by describing her frustration with it: "The very bad beagle's mischievous eyes looked up at me from dozens of display copies, all hogging the most precious of real estate in the bookstore -- the new release table at the entrance. Just seeing those floppy ears, on a hard cover no less, aroused all of my considerable professional jealousy and frustration. My new release should have been the one on that front table, that is if I had bothered to write a new release. Unfortunately, my career as an author had not been going so well, at least not since I had discovered the Watch Instantly option on Netflix." But lucky for us, Cole does manage to write her own new release, one in which a bad dog story is merely an introduction to the more human mayhem to follow. Cole describes her inevitable disappointment of Friending a long-ago crush on Facebook, her cultural isolation as a Vermonter unexcited by knitting and backyard chickens, her career-suicide as a copywriter with too much time on her hands, and much more. She does a masterful job of finding universal meaning in small, everyday experiences and of writing honestly, hilariously, yet respectfully of the family, friends, and the hapless passers-by who pepper her stories. You'll find yourself identifying with Cole's sentiments whether you're middle-aged or tween, male or female (my husband cracked up when I read him the essay, "The Secret"), human or...I'd even say, canine. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Essays to Keep You LaughingBy F. Herbert Prem, Jr.I love Joni Cole's writing: clear, concise, wry, funny, with a good sense of place and in that self-deprecating and outrageous voice of hers. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It's a Great Read!By desI am not sure that the title of Joni's newest book does the book justice. As is obvious once you begin reading, the book isn't about bad dogs, other than the sweet dog story of one chapter. The book is really very funny and insightful. Joni puts into words what many of us are thinking but hesitate to say out loud. She combines a sometimes sharp tongue with sage advice; words of wisdom garnered from life's lessons.

In this collection of twenty-eight "riotously funny and outrageously honest" true-life tales, author Joni B. Cole manage to mingle low moments with high comedy; and social awkwardness with social observation. The title essay was inspired when the author went to the bookstore and noticed all the bestsellers about adorably naughty dogs. At first resentful of these other writers' successes ("Unfortunately, my own career as an author had not been going so well these past couple years, not since I'd discovered the 'Watch Instantly' option on Netflix"), Cole eventually realized she had her own bad-dog story to exploit--hers in the form of her adorable "Chihuahua Bat," who won't be contained by invisible fencing and won't let anyone pet the family cat in peace. Yet from this huffish beginning evolved a tale as heartwarming as it is hilarious. Self-aware, edgy, and masterfully crafted, this charismatic collection (including some heartbreakers) is for anyone who has ever felt over-attached to a pet, stalked her high school crush, said long goodbyes to loved ones, or tried to talk (and talk and talk) her way through the ups and downs of life. A wonderful new addition to a genre best described as humor that matters.

From Publishers Weekly "Despite its title, this collection of personal essays from Cole (*Toxic Feedback*) is not a dog book, and only the title essay concerns the author's Chihuahua mix. Instead, this is a person book, and its scope is personal, for better or worse. Cole shares her most private thoughts: her worries that her husband is not her "best friend"; her obsession with her previous book's .com rankings; her shock, after friend-ing her high school crush on Facebook, only to discover that he is an aggressive poster of right-wing rants... Nevertheless, by the end of this friendly, honest book, the reader will feel much affection for Cole, her little brood, and her bad dog," - Publisher's Weekly "ANOTHER BAD DOG BOOK takes Joni into the humor memoir writing arena of authors like Jen Lancaster and Laurie Notaro, also affectionately known as the 'laugh until you pee your pants' or 'laugh until whatever you're drinking shoots out of your nose' writers." -- Cindy Roesel, Chick Lit Central: The Blog "Funny, smart, original, and--just to keep us on our toes--occasionally heartbreaking, Joni B Cole's essays are terrific. Every page of *Another Bad-Dog Book* offers riotously funny and outrageously honest observations without sacrificing either Cole's fiercely intelligent insights or the lyrical brilliance of her beautiful writing." --Gina Barreca, author and columnist, Washington Post and Hartford Courant "This is a remarkable book, filled with stories that will touch the hearts and minds of any reader who has ever been over-attached to a pet, fought with her hair, stalked her high school crush, said long goodbyes to loved ones, or tried to talk (and talk and talk) her way through a mid-life crisis. Honest, hilarious, even passionate, Joni B. Cole makes you want to phone (not email) this new best girlfriend. Get it, read it, share it." -- Barbara Hannah Grufferman, author and columnist, Huffington Post "What a humorous and heartwarming collection of essays! Joni B. Cole not only knows our four-legged friends well, she also knows the idiosyncrasies of humans, and she brings her delightful observations to us with honesty, insight and spirit. Don't miss this fabulous book." --Marilyn Brant, author, *According to Jane* "...A top-notch collection! If you're looking for a smart, funny, real-life read from someone you wish was your best friend or older sister, *Another Bad-Dog Book* is it." -- The Joy of Booking "LOVED

IT... Overall this is a book to hide in your bathroom, so you can pick it up if you ever need an escape. If you enjoy Celia Rivenbark, Dave Barry and Jen Lancaster, you will adore this one as well!" — Bookhounds "When I first read about this book on another blogger's site I expected something along the lines of lighter Erma Bombeck with a canine in the lead... I got something different -- an incredibly sincere and intimate collection of essays about a life that is often unglamorous and riddled with insecurities but is held together by love, family and friends." -- Bibliophile's Corner "Joni Cole's voice may be brutal, but readers, drawn to turn to the next page, will be rewarded: She is funny and so is her gutsy book." -- New York Journal of Books "Starting with the title essay about her rescue dog, Eli, Ms. Cole writes with humor and heart, sharing her most personal and honest observations about life's ups and downs, while holding back nothing from her readers... A hard book to put down." — Bookpleasures.com "Another Bad Dog book is one of the funniest books I have read." Cheryl's Book Nook About the Author Joni B. Cole is the recipient of a 2011 Pushcart Prize nomination for material in her collection of personal essays, *Another Bad-Dog Book: Tales of Life, Love, and Neurotic Human Behavior*. She is also the author of *Toxic Feedback: Helping Writers Survive and Thrive* ("I can't imagine a better guide to [writing's] rewards and perils than this fine book," *American Book*). Cole is the creator of the three-volume *This Day* series, including *Water Cooler Diaries: Women across America Share Their Day at Work* ("both fascinating and eye-opening," *Publisher's Weekly*). Co-founder of the *Writer's Center of White River Junction, Vermont*, she is a frequent presenter at writing conferences around the country, and is a contributor to *The Writer* magazine, *ThirdAge.com*, and other publications.