



Lessons from Tara: Life Advice from the World's Most Brilliant Dog

David Rosenfelt

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David Rosenfelt's loyal readers of the Andy Carpenter series are familiar with Tara, the golden retriever sidekick. Many also got to know Tara from *Dogtripping*, David's nonfiction book about becoming a slightly nutty dog rescuer and the dog that started it all. Here, finally, is a book all about the inspirational canine who taught David everything he knows. Well, he did know how to tie his shoes before he met and came to love Tara, but that's about it.

Through Tara, David learned about dating, about being able to share his emotions, and also about everyday stuff like who gets to use the pillow if several dogs are sleeping in your bed (clue: It's not the human) and why random barking will never be something that can be eliminated. *Lessons From Tara* is infused with David's trademark wry and self-deprecating sense of humor, and will move readers to tears and laughter.

Lessons from Tara: Life Advice from the World's Most Brilliant Dog Details

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Sdesser says

You know me and my dog stories, This is about what the author learned from the dogs he and his wife foster. I enjoyed his writing and will look for his other books he writes. He mentions his novels in the book The Andy Carpenter Mysteries

Kathy Govreau says

I will never get enough of his books. I especially enjoyed his non-fiction books because they tell of his love of dogs, especially goldens, and the rescue work he & his wife have done for many years. I absolutely love the Andy Carpenter series but I hope he plans on writing more non-fiction about their rescues.

Judy says

If you are a dog lover, you will love this book. I so admire this family that rescues dogs and take them, even at the end of their live. Love Daviid Rosenfelt books and recommend his books to all I know!

Sue Williams says

I absolutely love this book. It is partly because I love animals and partly because David Rosenfeld has such a wonderful dry sense of humor. Tara belonged to Debbie, his wife to be, and it was love at first glance; toward Debbie and Tara. Tara only lived for a few years after David and Debbie were married but after a year or so they both felt it as time to get another dog, which they did. The Tara Foundation was started not long after partly because they had promised Tara that they would always help a Golden Retriever in need. Goldens were their favorite but that isn't to say that they only rescued Goldens. They loved big dogs and with only a couple of exceptions, they preferentially rescued big less likely to be adopted dogs, especially old dogs. Dogs that could be easily adopted were boarded at the vets. The others went home with the Rosenfelts. So what, you say. At times they had as many as forty big dogs in their home at a time. They have a house on 3 acres of fairly remote land in Maine. As far from neighbors as possible. It seems that some people get annoyed at the sound of forty dogs barking. The book tells about their life with the dogs and the lessons they learned from the dogs. Some of the things were so familiar to me because I am an animal nut also. Things like figuring out how to get into bed when your wife and multiple big dogs beat you to it. Not easy because you don't want to disrupt any of them. Or having to find a special place for one dog to eat because it won't eat anywhere else. Or going very carefully around the one dog that hates you and will bite you if you get too close for comfort. This is a book all real dog lovers need to read. I laughed at times and at time there were tears in my eyes, but there is no doubt in my mind that I will read it again.

This book was given to me free of charge from Goodreads First Reads.

Bark says

This review and the rest of the crap I write can be seen @ my blog Bark's Book Nonsense . Stop by and say hey.

This was the perfect palate cleanser after the last horror show of an audio I finished.

I was a little worried when I began and feared it would be super sad. It says it is about the life lessons learned from the world's greatest golden retriever, their Tara, who died too young of cancer, and inspired the couple to start rescuing old and unloved dogs. And there are life lessons here but much to my delight, this book tells more about the couple's current menagerie and is just as humorous and self-deprecating as Dogtripping. Now they have 20, 30, 40? (I just couldn't keep track) because one is never enough!

This book felt like reading a sequel to Dogtripping and that made me unbelievably happy. When I finished Dogtripping I was sad only because it was over. Finding this book was like a wish come true. Some of the stories were a little familiar but ask me if I care? I do not and I will not say anything negative about this book. We learn more about some of the dogs that were mentioned in Dogtripping as well as a bit more about their beloved Tara. It takes place after they've moved their California dogs to Maine. And surprisingly the dogs, all of the dogs, very unlike me or my dogs, love the cold weather.

I love reading about people who go to great lengths to save unwanted, unadoptable, sick and miserable dogs and make their final years happy and comfy. If you're a dog lover you'll love this book but personally I need to stop reading these before my husband and I become these people.

Jeff Benham says

If you have read or plan to read this book, you more than likely have a dog, or two or three. No matter how many you have, you undoubtedly care for them a lot. You will find, in this book, chapters that relate directly to you and your dogs. This is a book that tugs at your heart. We have 3 dogs and two of the are American Eskies, which were rescued by Heart Bandits American Eskie Rescue. People that are led to become involved with a rescue group, are amazing people! One word of advice. Do not read this book in public, even if your name is Chuck or Arnold.

Linda Quinn says

Thoughtful, funny, at times poignant. I can't decide if this man and his wife are saints or insane.

Lesley says

I enjoyed this book just as much as dogtripping! this author writes with humor about his life with dogs. and his life with dogs all started with the first one, Tara! a few laugh out loud moments that I would read out loud to my husband, such as describing the nap teams! enjoyed this a lot!

Kathy says

This book is a dog lover's dream. In the book, Rosenfelt recounts stories about his dog rescues and about what it is like to live with up to 40 dogs at the same time. The author rescues dogs through his foundation as well as hard to place senior dogs. Mr. Rosenfelt and his wife owe all their wonderful work with dog rescue to their own dog, Tara, who, according to the author, brought Rosenfelt and his wife together, taught him to be a better person, became his best friend and broke his heart in the end, after a short, courageous fight with cancer. This is a book anyone with a kind, gentle heart will find interesting and love dearly, probably reading it again and again. The stories about the dogs they rescue are truly fantastic and heartwarming. Sometimes, placing the dogs is difficult for them, so they end up living with many dogs—and working that out smoothly and nicely. Each dog is unique and provides a little bit more of life and learning to the author and his wife as it will to the reader. This is a definite must-read for any dog lover or anyone who is thinking about or wondering if they should adopt a dog of their own—or for anyone who just enjoys a feel-good story. I have rated it five stars because of all the enjoyment it brought to me. I loved the book and I am sure you will. Even if you are not a dog owner or lover, I highly recommend you read it, for I am pretty sure it will warm your heart as no other has or will. You will long remember this story about a wonderful man who cares so much about dogs. I have not read any of the earlier books about his escapades with Tara, but he has piqued my interest to look for them. I received this from NetGalley to read and review.

Patricia Marvin Hilfiker says

I received this book from goodreads. I signed up for the giveaway because I was attracted to the picture on the front cover. I am so glad I read the book, it is a funny yet serious account of rescue dogs. Being a dog lover and owner of several dogs, I could relate to the triumphs as well as the tribulations. Anyone that has dogs or just loves dogs will enjoy this book. Thanks for this great book.

Sharyn says

Saw Rosenfelt for the second time last week in AZ. He speaks just as he writes! Loved this book. Hope to convince my husband to go rescue a dog soon. If you love dogs you must read this book!! It is funny, poignant, unbelievable (he and his wife have lived with upwards of 42 rescued dogs!) I don't know how they get any sleep. If you have read hie Andy Carpenter mystery series (which you should) you will realize that he is basically Andy Carpenter! I rarely give 5 stars, but this book deserves it!

Christine says

* I received this ebook at no charge from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review *

I was first introduced to Tara as Andy Carpenter's faithful Golden Retriever in Mr. Rosenfelt's "Andy Carpenter" series. Although she does nothing even remotely un-dog-like in those books she is Andy's sidekick, matchmaker, confidant and friend. She has Andy well trained, can bend Andy to her will with just a canine look and, will never eat a dog biscuit in his presence. Little did I know when I started reading that series (the first one of his books I picked up had a Golden on the cover – naturally) that Tara was based on a real-life Golden also named Tara and also in possession of all the traits I loved in the books – and more.

Mr. Rosenfelt credits Tara for bringing him together with his wife, for teaching him to be a better person, for being his companion and for breaking his heart. You know – all those things dogs do when we love them. When Tara died, after a short but valiant fight with cancer, the Rosenfelt's made a couple of posthumous promises to their beloved dog ... one, they would never eat hotdogs (her favorite) again and, after they established The Tara Foundation that two, they would never turn away a Golden in need.

The promise about the hotdogs was the more difficult of the two to keep.

David Rosenfelt and his wife, Debbie, have devoted the past few decades to rescuing shelter dogs that might otherwise be impossible to place; mostly elderly dogs and dogs with severe health issues. Since even the Rosenfelts cannot always work magic in placing dogs and because they remember their promise to their beloved Tara often those dogs find their forever home with the Rosenfelts. The actual count of dogs living in their home at any given time can range from 20 to 40 ... so, after shoveling the poop out of the backyard with a snow shovel, schlepping in 250-pound bags of kibble and cleaning the dog hair out of the printer Mr. Rosenfelt found time to sit down and write about what he learned from all the dogs that lived and were loved in their home.

Having enjoyed the tale of their cross-country journey, from California to Maine, with 25 dogs, 3 RV's and a group of volunteers in "Dogtripping" I was looking forward to reading this book. It was a quick read (two evenings and a few cups of coffee) because the book is written in a very casual style ... simply reminiscences of all the dogs he's loved before and what each of them (including Tara) taught him. This book made me laugh, made me cry, sometimes made me angry and, often, made me shake my head in wonder. Mr. Rosenfelt writes this book with the wit and humor I have come to expect, his (usually self deprecating) sarcasm, with honesty and with lots and lots of love.

This is a definite must read for dog lovers as well as for Mr. Rosenfelt's fans, but maybe more importantly it should be read by anyone looking to adopt a dog – it may make you think twice about wanting a puppy instead of adopting an adult dog.

Without any further explanation or apologies I am giving this book 5 stars because it made me feel good and I loved it! And, because I think Mr. Rosenfelt deserves it for uncomplainingly (mostly) putting up with all that dog hair.

Me says

David Rosenfelt summarizes the "lessons" learned from his first golden retriever Tara. David and his wife run the Tara Rescue Foundation and typically share their home with 25-40 dogs at any given time. Besides the heartwarming chapters on the various dogs, there's quite a bit of comedy too. For example, when David first moved to Maine, he was virtually completely ignorant of deer. At first, he was the laughingstock of the

small rural community because he didn't know that it's easy to distinguish a male from a female deer due to the former having antlers. He then asked his wife: "How does a female manage to give birth to a male with antlers? I guess I envision deer doctors yelling Push! Push! To the mother in labor, and that mother screaming, "I can't! The (\$^% antlers hurt too much!"

Theresa says

Almost everything that David has learned that has made him such an exception human being (my assessment, not his), he learned from the dogs he and Debbie, his wife, have rescued. These stories are warm, funny and, in some cases, remarkable. I love his writing and I love his view of dogs. I have done many of the same kinds of rescues with cats, so I know what he feels and how much work he is willing to put in.

Lauren Siegert says

This is the perfect book. If I could only read one book for the rest of my life, it would be this, no hesitation. If you claim to love dogs but don't love this book, you don't actually love dogs.
