War Dogs: Tales Of Canine Heroism, History, And Love
Synopsis

In War Dogs, Rebecca Frankel offers a riveting mix of on-the-ground reporting, her own hands-on experiences in the military working dog world, and a look at the science of dogs’ special abilities - from their amazing noses and powerful jaws to their enormous sensitivity to the emotions of their human companions. The history of dogs in the U.S. military is long and rich, from the spirit-lifting mascots of the Civil War to the dogs who lead patrols hunting for IEDs today. Frankel interviewed not only handlers who deployed with dogs in wars from Vietnam to Iraq but also top military commanders, K-9 program managers, combat-trained therapists who brought dogs into war zones as part of a preemptive measure to stave off PTSD, and veterinary technicians stationed in Bagram. She makes a passionate case for maintaining a robust war-dog force. In a post-9/11 world rife with terrorist threats, nothing is more effective than a bomb-sniffing dog and his handler. With a compelling cast of humans and animals, this moving audiobook is a must-listen for all dog lovers - military and otherwise.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book that examines the almost symbiotic relationship between dogs and humans by applying to it a filter of the use of dogs in combat. It further focuses in by relating stories and anecdotes from the U.S. perspective over the past decade in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you are a dog lover, or have had dogs as part of your household and as pets, then the stories that the author tells will have you shaking your head in agreement as you recognize the same traits that
your dog had with the ones that she tells stories about. There are ten chapters in this book and each covers a slightly different aspect of the overall theme that the author is exploring. Each chapter roves around and between stories of dogs and handlers in current wars, historical anecdotes of dogs of the wars past and how they fared, and scientific facts sprinkled in and around to illustrate the points even better. For instance, did you know that the average dog’s nose has over 150 million scent receptors while human noses have many millions less? No surprise there to anyone who interacted with dogs, right? But how about a factoid thrown in to a different chapter that the Bloodhounds have over 300 million? These factoids are sprinkled here, there, and everywhere throughout the book and help illustrate the points that the author is making. In the center of the book is a section of about eight pages showing black and white photos of the dogs and people whose stories are in the book. This helps us visualize the people and dogs that are featured, but it did lead me to want more: more photos of the people and dogs; and more photos sprinkled through the text where those people and dogs are mentioned.

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