

<<心灵鸡汤>>

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内容概要

米兰·昆德拉曾说过：狗是我们与天堂的联结。

它们不懂何为邪恶、嫉妒、不满。

在美丽的黄昏，和狗儿并肩坐在河边，有如重回伊甸园。

即使什么事也不做也不觉得无聊——只有幸福平和。

单纯、信任、爱与关怀，狗狗带给我们的就是这种最深切的感动。

这是一本充满温情、爱心的原版英文书。

在忙碌的生活中。

偶尔看一看这类清泉式的图书，感觉相当不错!还有，小狗们真的很可爱!我尤其喜欢看小动物憨憨的可爱样子。

书中的故事是温暖无敌的。

让人心情愉快。

不追求掠夺所有人的眼泪，但会不经意但又精确地击中人心目中最脆弱的地方——生活，总会给人造成一些脆弱点的。

书中少了一些刻意造作的煽情。

有的是真挚、朴素的感动，不需用千言万语去制造煽情的情节，简单的一个故事，已经能令人感动不已。

平凡的感动，不仅是人生的真相，也许，还正是人生的真意。

<<心灵鸡汤>>

书籍目录

Acknowledgments Introduction 1. ON LOVE Patience Rewarded The Duck and the Doberman Now and Always Lucky in Love Jethro's World The Great Dog Walk Velcro Beau A Christmas for Toby Blu Parts the Veil of Sadness The Haunted Bowl You Have No Messages Bubba's Last Stand 2. CELEBRATING THE BOND Some Snowballs Don't Meit Greta and Pearl : Two Seniors Bullet's Dog Daisy Love Devotion Dixie's Kitten Bashur, the Iraqi Dog My Furry Muse After Dooley When Harry Met Kaatje Gremlin, Dog First Class Mv Blue-Eyed Boy The Subway Dog " Dog " and Mr. Evans 3. ON COURAGE Calvin : A Dog with a Big Heart Fate, Courage and a Dog Named Tess In Her Golden Eyes Ballerina Dog The Dog Who Loved to Fly Locked In The Telltale Woof 4 . ONE OF THE FAMILY Moving Day Refrigerator Commando The Offer Sammy's Big Smile Phoebe's Family A Canine Nanny Two Old Girls A Dog's Love Lady Abigail 5. A FURRY RX Willow and Rosie : The Ordinary Miracle of Pets At Face Value Abacus Dog Days of School Raising a Star Star Power Max A Lesson from Luke Honey's Greatest Gift Puppy Magic An Angel in the Form of a Service Dog 6. DOGS AS TEACHERS Good Instincts A New Home Judgment Day Mound of Dirt The Last Puppy 7. FAREWELL MY LOVE Dad's Right Knee Just Like Always A Smile from Phoebe Legacy of Love Tears for Sheila Harry and George Gentle Giant A Familiar Road Saying Good-Bye to Dingo 8 . RESCUE ME! Just an Old Golden Retriever Nothing That Can't Be Fixed Ana : From Rescued to Rescuer Scouting Out a Hone Brooks and the Roadside Dog Can't Help Falling in Love The Miracle of Love The Dumpster Dog Finds a Home The Parking-Lot Dog Two Good Deeds The Promise 9. DOGGONE WONDERFUL! Canine Compassion Busted! Pudgy Felix, the Firehouse Dog Beau and the Twelve-Headed Monster Sled Dogs without Snow 10. AMAZONG CANONES! Lucky Wows the Sheriff A Dog's Day in Court The Bravest Dog A Pockefful of Love Pedro the Fisherman Angel's Angel Take Me Home!

章节摘录

A Lesson from Luke One bright, sunny afternoon in September our golden retriever, Luke, rose from a nap to go for our usual walk to the park. I should say he attempted to rise, because as he stood, he wobbled, tried to get his balance, then collapsed. My heart did somersaults as my husband and I carried him to the car and sped to the vet's office. After hours of blood tests, exams and an ultrasound, we learned the grim news: Luke had hemangiosarcoma, an inoperable cancer of the blood vessels. "How long does he have?" I asked through my tears, my arms wrapped around Luke, hugging him to my heart. "I can't say for sure," the vet told us. "Weeks. Maybe only days." I barely made it to the car before I broke down in un-controllable sobs. My husband didn't handle the news any better. We held on to each other and bawled. How could Luke have gotten so sick without our realizing it?

Sure, he was ten years old, but you'd never know it. He ate every meal with the gusto of a starving piglet, and just that morning he'd chased his tennis ball as if it were filled with his favorite doggy biscuits. He couldn't have cancer, not our Luker Boy, not our baby. For the next several days we hovered over him, studying him diligently. We took slow walks around the neighborhood, and instead of throwing the ball, we tossed it right to his mouth and let him catch it. One day while dusting the furniture, I picked up his blue pet-therapist vest—Luke had been a volunteer with the Helen Woodward Animal Center pet therapy department, and had visited centers for abused and neglected children. I held the vest to my cheek and started to cry. Why Luke?

He was such a sweet dog; he deserved to live. As I started to put the vest away in a drawer, Luke trotted over, wagging his tail. He looked at me expectantly, his ears perked up and his tongue hanging out. "You want to put on your vest and go to work, don't you?"

I knelt and scratched behind his ears. I could swear he grinned at me. Although there could be no running or jumping, the following day Luke joined the other pet-therapy dogs on a visit to the children's center. I'm often envious of Luke's ability to light up kids' faces just by being himself. They giggle and clap their hands when he gives them a high ten or catches a cookie off his nose. But the best reaction by far comes when the children ask him, "Do you love me?"

and he answers with an emphatic, "Woof." The kids whoop and holler, continuing to shout, "Do you love me?"

He always answers them. On this particular day I wanted to make sure that Luke enjoyed himself, so I wasn't paying as much attention to the children as I usually did. A girl about nine or ten years old inched over to us. Her narrow shoulders slumped and her head hung down; she reminded me of a drooping sunflower. Luke wagged his tail as she neared us and licked her cheek when she bent to pet him. She sat next to us on the lawn and smiled at Luke, but her large brown eyes still looked sad. "I wish people would die at ten years old the way dogs' do," she said. Stunned, I could only stare at her. None of the kids knew that Luke had cancer. Luke rolled over on his back and the girl rubbed his belly. Finally, I asked her, "Why do you say that?"

"Because I'm ten, and I wish I would die." Her sorrow curled around my heart and squeezed it so tightly, my breath caught. "Are things so bad?"

"The worst. I hate it here." What could I say to her?

I couldn't tell her that she shouldn't feel that way, or that she had a wonderful life ahead of her. What good would that do?

It wasn't what she needed to hear. I put my hand gently on her back and asked her name. "Carly."

"Carly, you want to know something?"

Luke here has cancer. He's dying. And he wishes more than anything that he could go on living. You're perfectly healthy, yet you want to die. It just isn't fair, is it?

Carly snapped her head up and looked at me. "Luke's dying?"

I nodded, swallowing back tears. "He doesn't have much time—a week, maybe two...or just a few days...we don't know for sure." "Shouldn't he be at home or in the hospital?"

<<心灵鸡汤>>

" she asked. " He wanted to visit with you kids , to bring you some happiness. Just like you , things aren't good for him either. He probably hurts a lot inside. " I paused , wondering if she was old enough to understand. But by coming here , it's as if he's trying to make every minute of his life count for something. "

Carly sat silently , looking at Luke while she softly rubbed his belly. " Poor Luke , " she said , almost in a whisper. When she raised her head and met my gaze , her eyes looked wary , almost accusing. " You think I should be glad I'm alive and not wanting to die , don't you ?

Even if I'm stuck here. I took a few seconds to try to gather my thoughts. " Maybe you could make it sort of like a game. Every day try to think of at least one good thing about being alive. " The counselors began calling the children back to their classrooms. I looked straight into Carly's eyes , trying to reach her. " If nothing else , there's always hope things will get better. " " Come on , Cary , " a counselor called out. Carly stood. " Will you come back and see me ?

" " Yes , I will. I promise. And you'll tell me lots of reasons to live , right ?

" " Right. " She gave me a big nod , and then ran off to join her classmates. The next week , though Luke's walk was slower and more labored , we visited the children's center again. Carly didn't show up. Alarmed , I asked one of the counselors where she was. They told me that she'd gone to live with a foster family. My heart settled back into place. Good for You , Carly. Twelve days later , Luke lost his battle with cancer. When I think of him now , I try to focus on what I told Carly : that Luke made every minute of his life count for something. Perhaps he inspired Carly to do that , too. I hope that she , and all the other children we visited , benefited from being with Luke. I know I did. Christine Watkins

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