

literature

***Izzy & Lenore: Two Dogs, an Unexpected Journey, and Me* by Jon Katz**

By Ingrid King



In his previous books, bestselling author Jon Katz first introduces the reader to the dogs of Bedlam Farms. You do not have to have read these books, though, to become engrossed in this moving story about the depth of the connection between humans and animals. In the author's own words, "this book is about small things, like getting a new dog that changes your outlook. And about big things, like having a dog lead you places you never imagined going."

The story begins with Katz rescuing Izzy, an abandoned Border Collie who had been turned down by others because he was too dirty, too hyper, and had never lived with people. Katz saw something special in this dog. Little did he know that taking Izzy home was going to be the beginning of an amazing journey, which was later complemented by the arrival of a bright-eyed black Labrador Retriever puppy named Lenore, also dubbed "The Hound of Love".

Izzy and Jon train to be hospice volunteers. Izzy's intuitive and affectionate nature makes him a natural at bringing comfort and canine companionship to dying patients in private homes and nursing facilities in upstate New York. What transpires between Izzy and these patients is pure love that defies explanation. An Alzheimer's patient smiles for the first time in months when she is able to feel

Izzy's soft head under her hands. A terminal cancer patient joyfully remembers his own beloved dog from long ago each time Izzy comes to visit. As Izzy ministers to the patients and Katz gets to know their families, the author also starts to confront his own past and descent into depression.

Enter Lenore, she of the exuberant personality and endless capacity for affection. Not only does her loving presence help move Katz out of the valley of the shadows and reignite his passion for working with the dogs, it also restores his connection with the farm and the people and animals around him.

The book is a beautifully written celebration of the connection between dogs and humans, and the ability of a special dog (or two) to transform lives. And if you didn't get enough of Izzy and Lenore after reading this wonderful book, you can follow their lives on Jon Katz' Bedlam Farm Journal blog where he shares his thoughts along with moving photographs.

Ingrid King is a Reiki Master Practitioner and owner of Healing Hands. Healing Hands provides Reiki for pets and people. Healing Hands also publishes free periodic newsletters on alternative health topics for pets and people. For more information, and to subscribe to the Healing Hands newsletter, please visit www.pethealing.net.



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art



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Sandi's custom charms are hand stamped using individual letter stamping tools, therefore no two are exactly alike. Lettering may not be perfectly straight and spacing may vary, which adds to the appeal of a custom piece. Prices start at 12.00 and are shipped from Brentwood, CA.