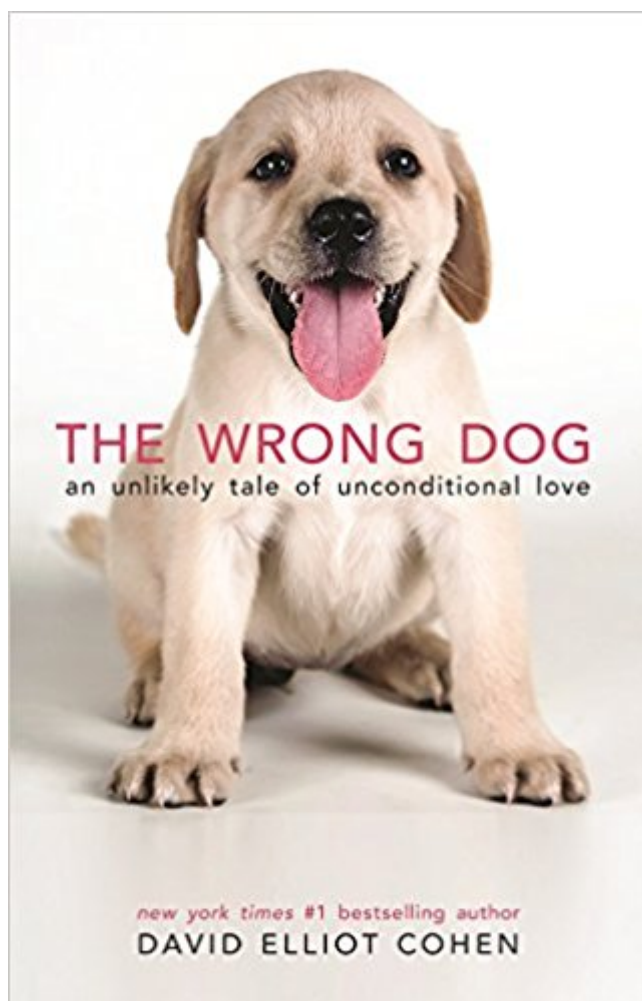


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The Wrong Dog: An Unlikely Tale Of Unconditional Love



Synopsis

From David Elliot Cohen, the multi-New York Times bestselling author of *One Year Off*, *The Wrong Dog* is the heartwarming, often hilarious, story of Simba II, a mischievous white Labrador puppy brought home by accident. As he grows into an enormous ninety-pound dog with a huge personality, Simba cements the bond between two families and enriches their lives in countless ways. When the family moves from San Francisco to New York, the author is charged with bringing Simba to the family's new home, so he and his best friend, Erick, load the old hound into the back of a station wagon and set out on a 3,300-mile once-in-a-lifetime road trip across America. With stops at Buck Owens's Crystal Palace; the Las Vegas Strip; Meteor Crater; the Painted Desert; Cadillac Ranch; Winslow, Arizona; Gallup, New Mexico; Graceland, and other all-American landmarks, this engaging and poignant volume chronicles an epic journey, the unconditional love between one dog and his family, and the vast and benevolent role dogs play in American family life. But most of all, *The Wrong Dog* shows us how the end of life can sometimes be the richest part of all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This endearing memoir meets winning road trip adventure story combines wit and self-deprecation for a wonderful read any dog lover will relate to. With its cross-country romance and blended family whose bond is only strengthened by an out of control Labrador Retriever, this relatable, thoroughly modern story will win your heart. Highly recommended! — Connie Wilson, *Modern Dog Magazine* Cohen kept me engaged to the very end of his book — I thoroughly enjoyed it

cover to cover and believe you will as well. [Diane Rich, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Blog](#) "Time, travel, location and stunning imagery are common, unifying themes in the Cohen canon... The story of an urgent, 3,300-mile cross-country trip that two baby boomer guys take with an adorable 'wrong dog with a secondhand name,' was a tale he had to tell." -- Lou Fancher, [San Jose Mercury-News](#)

"Part Marley and Me, part Bucket List, part travel memoir, Cohen's book tells the story of Simba, a larger-than-life Labrador retriever whose physical size is matched only by his love of people. In *The Wrong Dog*, writer David Elliot Cohen shows that sometimes a situation that seems so wrong actually turns out all right in the end." [Sara Hodon, Compulsive Reader](#)

Despite the adorable puppy portrait on the cover, the book is more than the story of Simba and the cross-country road trip. It's a beautifully written memoir. At times it reads like an offbeat sightseeing guide; at other times it is funny, sweet and sad. [Linda Wilson Fuoco, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

"Funny at times and touching too, it's a heartwarming memoir." [Kristine Sorensen, KDKA-TV, Pittsburgh](#)

"Exceptionally well written, consistently engaging, highly entertaining, *The Wrong Dog* is especially recommended for those with their own canine companion. Certain to be an enduringly popular addition to community library Pets/Wildlife collections." [Midwest Book Review](#)

For three decades, best-selling author and editor David Elliot Cohen has created books that have sold six million copies worldwide. Most were in the immensely popular *Day in the Life* and *America 24/7* photography book series. He has four New York Times bestsellers and two international bestsellers to his credit. Cohen is a graduate of Yale University. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Laureen Seeger, and the youngest of their five children.

I enjoyed it very much. Good read for everyone especially dog lovers.

The engaging pup on the cover caught my eye, but then when I read a few pages, I discovered it's really a meditation about life, love, home and the passage of time. Imagine Bill Bryson writing about a road trip across America with two old friends—one a fellow biped, the other an ailing Labrador during his last week of life. Their journey takes them to some of the quirkiest places in the country, (while they muse about their lives as only old friends can), but the detour to the author's home town is the part that has stayed with me. This is not another schmaltzy dog story—in this book dogs do what old dogs do. I read it in just a few days, and turned to the last page with regret.

David Elliot Cohen's "The Wrong Dog" is a very personal memoir of love, loss, friendship and a quest that drives the narrative to a very satisfying conclusion. While "personal" should be an assumed requisite of any memoir, many are just not that intimate or revealing of the contradicting impulses, less flattering behavior, confusion and vulnerability at the core of being alive and human. That to me is what makes any good memoir useful and helps us to consider our own life choices. Cohen pulls the reader in quickly with his unsparing, frank storytelling and thus risks his dignity and pride, revealing his own flaws. At the same time, we see a generous heart beneath his practiced tough guy exterior. Thus we care about him and his moving story about a fraught cross-country mission he takes with a close friend to get his family's dying dog from California to New York. They hope to arrive in time to reunite their beloved Simba one last time with David's wife and children. Their journey is part classic road trip where we get Cohen's insightful and humorous meditations on American culture as they visit roadside attractions, but their trip turns painful when they reach his parents home. His mother is dying a horrible death and his father is struggling with his own illness. No, you can't compare the death of a family pet with the death of your mother, but in sharing this uncomfortable juxtaposition Cohen really makes us think about what defines a life well lived. Before the Battle of Big Horn, Crazy Horse is believed to have said "It's a good day to die." That graceful acceptance of the inevitable comes to mind after finishing "The Wrong Dog." It's not giving away too much to say that the ending, although not quite as dramatic as Custer's Last Stand, brings a poetic and fitting death. And it makes you think. How you die is not something you typically control, nor can you control the world. But you can control how you react to the world - living well might just afford you a good death, and that seems to me now a very good thing indeed.

Definitely one of those books where you reach the last page far too quickly. A sweeping read that takes you not just on a road trip (a race against time to reunite an old dog with his family) but also on an exploration of life, death, time and companionship. I definitely recommend this charming book. It's thought-provoking without being overly self-important. Not an easy feat!

Excellent story of a family dog and the love he brings to the entire family. A lesson in unconditional love and dignity in dying.

I laughed, I cried, and laughed again...One of the most moving, funny, heartfelt, and beautifully written stories I have read in a long time!

If you want a read that feels like you are more connected to yourself and to others - get this book -

An excellent book that is a must read for pet owners.

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