



The Wonder of Lost Causes

Written by Nick Trout

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The Wonder of Lost Causes

By Nick Trout

The Wonder Of You

In this unforgettable novel, perfect for fans of *An Unexpected Grace* and *A Dog's Way Home*, a single mom and her chronically ill child receive a valuable lesson from an unlikely source—a very special dog who unexpectedly enters their lives and shows them that one person's lost cause can be another's greatest gift . . .

The Wonder Of You Lyrics

Dr. Kate Blunt will do anything for her son, Jasper. Well, almost anything. Since Jasper has the incurable lung disease cystic fibrosis, Kate's always told him he couldn't get a dog. It's a tough call, but she's a single mom taking care of a kid who fights for every breath he takes. The daily medical routine that keeps Jasper alive is complicated enough. Worse still, Kate's personal resolve runs contrary to her work as the veterinarian in charge of a Cape Cod animal shelter, where she is on a mission to find forever homes for dogs in desperate need.

The Wonder Of You By Elvis Presley

The scarred, mistreated wreck of a dog that turns up doesn't stand a chance. Named Whistler, he's too old, too ugly. But the dog forms an instantaneous bond with Jasper. Whistler never makes a sound, yet he speaks to Jasper in a myriad of mysterious ways. The clock's ticking, the dog's future hangs in the balance, and Jasper would do anything to find him a home; but Whistler has chosen them for a reason.

* Review is of an advanced reader copy

I like animals but, for some reason, I'm not generally crazy about books with animals as the central theme. However, I am very interested in books about cystic fibrosis. Nick Trout's *The Wonder of Lost Causes* includes both topics.

Make no mistake. This is, first and foremost, a dog book. Anyone who has ever loved a dog will likely lap this right up. The novel is told from alternating points of view; that of eleven-year-old Jasper, a child suffering from cysti

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Make no mistake. This is, first and foremost, a dog book. Anyone who has ever loved a dog will likely lap this right up. The novel is told from alternating points of view; that of eleven-year-old Jasper, a child suffering from cystic fibrosis and, his mother, Kate, a veterinarian at a struggling animal shelter. Into their lives comes an extraordinary dog, Whisper, who forms an immediate bond with young Jasper. Convinced he is able to read Whisper's thoughts, Jasper begins to campaign in earnest for Whisper's adoption. What follows is a journey full of twists and turns, mishaps and almosts, demonstrating the power of canine connection.

Despite my curmudgeon status, I did enjoy the novel. Although I personally would have preferred more about Jasper's medical condition, I recognize the message regarding the unique perspective dogs offer on life provided a powerful message. Therefore, I do think author Nick Trout chose wisely by allowing Whisper to play the dominant character throughout the story.

...more

The Wonder Of Science

This heartwarming story is perfect for people who love small boys and dogs. Actually it's a fantastic book for anyone. I usually avoid books with dogs on the cover but I won this book and wanted to give it a try. Wow -- I couldn't put it down once I started.

Jasper is an 11 year old boy with cystic fibrosis. He doesn't get to do all of the things other boys his age can do and has few friends. He is aware that he is getting sicker and really wants a dog for a companion. His mother, Kate, is a veterinarian who runs an animal shelter. She is totally overwhelmed in taking care of Jasper and feels that having a dog at home would be. Then a scarred, mistreated wreck of a dog shows up at the shelter and Kate knows that he doesn't have a chance of being adopted by a family. Named Whistler, he's too old, too ugly. But the dog forms an instantaneous bond with Jasper. Whistler never makes a sound, yet he speaks to Jasper in a myriad of mysterious ways and Jasper falls in love with Whistler and Whistler picks Jasper to be his owner. But how is he going to convince his mom that he communicates with Whistler and that he needs him for his own?

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'Dogs choose us, not the other way around. '

This is a beautiful uplifting story about love and family and learning to live with disabilities. It's also a testament to how our lives can change if we have the unconditional love of an animal on a daily basis.

Thanks to librarything for a copy of this book to read and review. All opinions are my own. ...more

I was super excited to get the notification that I had won this in a Goodreads giveaway. I knew it would most likely make me cry, and I was right. There were tears of joy, sadness, and frustration. It's more than just a book about a boy and a dog, but about strength and love. This reminded me so much of why I love animals, and why I always gravitated to a career in which I see animals on a daily basis. The part about service dogs had me reliving my Service Dog training classes in college.

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If you're a dog lover, or love a good tear jerker that has nothing to do with romance and/or death, then definitely pick this book up! ...more

The Wonder Of Cichlids

Amazing, uplifting novel. Feel you know all the characters so well by the end. A pleasure to read

Nick Trout's "The Wonder of Lost Causes" was an absolutely heartwarming tale of a mother's devotion to her son, and her son's devotion to the very special dog that changes their lives.

I absolutely loved that Kate, the mother in this story, is a vet who has no hope of adopting the animals she is charged with caring for. Jasper, her son, has a chronic lung disease that makes pets a huge no no in their household. That doesn't stop son Jasper from hoping and wishing dearly for one. On the day curious Nick Trout's "The Wonder of Lost Causes" was an absolutely heartwarming tale of a mother's devotion to her son, and her son's devotion to the very special dog that changes their lives.

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Trout's character development of Kate and Jasper were touching and so honest. Kate's unending concern for her son was written accurately and appropriately. Jasper's character was spot on, not too young nor too mature.

"The Wonder of Lost Causes" was a really good book which left me in happy tears. Great read! ...more

The Wonder Of It All

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

The Wonder of Lost Causes was an amazing read! I now want to read more of Nick Trout's novels, BUT I really can't imagine how he could top this one. Here are some of the reasons why I found this book so enjoyable.

(p. 3) "This time is nowhere near that bad, but something is definitely wrong. My heart has shifted to a place between my ears, there's a boa constrictor where my stomach used to be, and the double hit on my puffer did absolutely nothing."

(p. 12) "Seconds crawl by and nobody moves. I'm The Wonder of Lost Causes was an amazing read! I now want to read more of Nick Trout's novels, BUT I really can't imagine how he could top this one. Here are some of the reasons why I found this book so enjoyable.

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(p. 12) "Seconds crawl by and nobody moves. I'm holding my breath. Immediately, it's clear that this is more than just a boy and a dog sizing each other up, more than simple curiosity or mutual appraisal. The two appear equally star struck. An odd connectivity burns in their eyes-they're not just looking at each other, they're looking inside each other."

(pages 102-108) This describes Whistler and Jasper's event at the pond.

(p. 104) "Unlike a ditzy golden happy to go home with any stranger."

(p. 109) "That this four-legged soccer savant can play makes no sense. His scars suggest a history of trauma, if not abuse. Where did he learn the ball control of a Brazilian soccer star?"

(p. 117) "Dogs don't gossip. Dogs don't backstab. Dogs don't do mean."

(p. 121) "I look over at Whistler. Whistler looks up at me and it's obvious he's smiling, his droopy eye like a slow wink, like he wants me to know, 'I've got your back.'"

(p. 124) "Whistler flies, flips, and pirouettes, determined to keep and parry and stop Jasper from scoring a goal. Forget an untrained eye, anyone can see this dog is on fire. Yet, for all the drool, a ravenous grim is permanently plastered to his lips. Even his wonky, weeping right eye laser locks onto every pass and flight of the black-and-white sphere"

(p. 136) "Alone, I find myself focusing on the dog with the scars, the chewed ear and the droopy eye. Whistler hasn't moved. He sits quietly behind the net, content. This canine nomad had his chance to run away. But he didn't. He chose to stay. He chose to stay with my son."

(p. 137) "My skin is kind of pale, okay, mashed potato white, but there are these great big black and blues on my back and shoulders and hips, like ink, like tats, like war wounds. To me they are the price of victory, even if the game ended in a draw."

(p. 157) "Real dog owners never say 'it'"

(pages 164-165) Mr. Crabtree, the neighbor/landlord, explains that his last dog was three years back.

"Don't you like dogs anymore?"

"Like? I love them too much."

(pages 216-217) Dogs don't get angry. "Dogs growl and show their teeth, and of course they bite, but it's

a reaction. It's instinct. Fight or flight. Being angry is different. You have to think about bad stuff to get angry."

(p. 242) As humans, we are not meant to outlive our children. It goes against the natural order of things. Yet my days are full of people who love pets no less than if they shared their DNA. Our dangerous liaisons with animals almost always guarantee that we will lose this 'child' in our lifetime, destined to face a future that feels vast and dark and unimaginably lonely."

(p. 437) I disliked only one incident in the book. I didn't just dislike the characters but felt that this interaction between the child psychiatrist and parents went against the grain of the entire novel. After it was recommended that the parents get another dog, the father responded, "'No, no way, says Mark, straightening up, 'we're not dog people. Never were. Okay, Toasty makes sense, but one's enough. Another dog is the last thing we need.'"

Ouch! Ouch! Ouch! This comment by these parents doesn't belong in this wonderful novel. ...more

The Wonder of Lost Causes is a heart warming story about Dr Kate Blunt, a vet who works in dog shelter, and her son. Jasper is 11 years old and has cystic fibrosis. His condition means a lot of experiences are off limits to Jasper, and Kate will do everything in her power to keep himself.

One day a dog arrives at the shelter. On paper, he's unadoptable. He's of no discernible breed, shows signs of abuse and is scared of the shorter staff. Until he meets Jasper, suddenly the two are inseparable, b The Wonder of Lost Causes is a heart warming story about Dr Kate Blunt, a vet who works in dog shelter, and her son. Jasper is 11 years old and has cystic fibrosis. His condition means a lot of experiences are off limits to Jasper, and Kate will do everything in her power to keep himself.

One day a dog arrives at the shelter. On paper, he's unadoptable. He's of no discernible breed, shows signs of abuse and is scared of the shorter staff. Until he meets Jasper, suddenly the two are inseparable, but the life Kate has built for herself and Jasper has no room in it for a dog.

What this gives us is a beautiful story about the bond between a boy and his dog, and the difference that the right pet can bring to someone's life. Whistler doesn't just change Jasper's life, he opens Kate's eyes to things she had previously refused to see. It's an educational experience for those of us reading the book too, as to whether we can embrace a dogs' philosophy on life to just be in the moment, rather than constantly thinking ahead or behind.

Each chapter alternates between Kate and Jasper's perspective, and whilst I usually hate this narrative technique on this occasion it was spot on. Kate and Jasper had very unique voices, and I loved the innocence and naivety of being in Jasper's head, in particular his Tupac-a-day habit, and his interpretation of a DUI. It was beautiful, because to a large extent it did feel like being in an 11 year olds head, rather than that of an adult.

I'm not ashamed to admit this book had me in tears at multiple times. It's just an all round beautiful, heart warming book about a boy and his dog. About not being afraid to live life. Of about looking beyond appearances and seeing the heart underneath. It's an absolute must read.

****I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review**** ...more

The Wonder Of Boys

The Wonder of Lost Causes by Nick Trout, had the best of both worlds, children and dogs! But Whistler is a special dog and Jasper, the boy who connects with Whistler has cystic fibrosis. Odd couple? Out of the ordinary? You bet, but the story line works and the characters for the most part blend well.

Your heart goes out to the children who have CF and the parents who take care of their CF children. Kate, the mother of Jasper, worries that her son cannot have a "normal" life like other kids since The Wonder of Lost Causes by Nick Trout, had the best of both worlds, children and dogs! But Whistler is a special dog and Jasper, the boy who connects with Whistler has cystic fibrosis. Odd couple? Out of the ordinary? You bet, but the story line works and the characters for the most part blend well.

Your heart goes out to the children who have CF and the parents who take care of their CF children. Kate, the mother of Jasper, worries that her son cannot have a "normal" life like other kids since he has CF. But most of all, what if he does not grow up as CF does not have a cure at this time? To add to mom's stress, in comes a battle scared dog named Whistler who finds a safe haven with Jasper. Jasper and Whistler have a "communication connection" that other people do not understand, Kate included! But a pet for a child with CF? Unheard of!

This book gives you insight into the lives of Kate, Jasper and Whistler who learn the power of love, forgiveness and understanding as well as letting go of the people you love the most.

Thank you Goodreads for the opportunity to read and review this book.

...more

I automatically felt like this would be a very interesting story, with the love of Jasper, the cystic fibrosis boy, and Whistler, the abused dog who was looking for his forever home. I was in dread the first 3/4 of the book. It seemed like with all the bad news and turns of events, that there was no way anything good or happy could come out of it. Dr. Kate Blunt, Jasper's mom, was experiencing all kinds of stress from being a single working mom trying to help a struggling veterinary business and I automatically felt like this would be a very interesting story, with the love of Jasper, the cystic fibrosis boy, and Whistler, the abused dog who was looking for his forever home. I was in dread the first 3/4 of the book. It seemed like with all the bad news and turns of events, that there was no way anything good or happy could come out of it. Dr. Kate Blunt, Jasper's mom, was experiencing all kinds of stress from being a single working mom trying to help a struggling veterinary business and raising a cystic fibrosis son who needed all kinds of medical attention and care. Without giving away any major spoilers, the turn of events that happened toward the end of the book that brought positivity and joy to all of them was so heart-warming. The ONLY complaint I had was that the name Jasper reminds me of the name of a dog, and not a boy, and I had to remind myself that I was reading about the boy's thoughts and not the dog's thoughts. Middle school students would love this book. Themes of pet ownership, companionship, seeing beyond the pain in others, etc... makes this a great literary work to discuss and debate. ...more

The Wonder Of It All Lyrics

GBC Review #2

Written in two narratives, a mother and her son, *The Wonder of Lost Causes* tells a story of how one dog can change a life forever.

Dr. Kate Blunt, a veterinarian, is a single mother with a responsibility, one she takes very seriously, taking care of her son who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. His medical care is extensive and it is all she can do to protect him. But there is one thing her son wants most in life that she will not let him have, a dog.

All Jasper wants in life is a [GBC Review #2](#)

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Dr. Kate Blunt, a veterinarian, is a single mother with a responsibility, one she takes very seriously, taking care of her son who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. His medical care is extensive and it is all she can do to protect him. But there is one thing her son wants most in life that she will not let him have, a dog.

All Jasper wants in life is a dog. He has asked his mom multiple times to no avail. And then one day a dog named Whistler enters their lives. With an instant connection to this particular dog, Jasper has to convince his mom to change her mind.

Though this story revolves around a dog, you also get a very clear picture of what a family with a disorder like cystic fibrosis goes through. The struggle from the constant worry from Dr. Blunt to a child who has the pure desire to lead a normal life. You can only imagine how difficult Dr. Blunt's decision of getting a dog can be when she has to consider her child's medical safety versus her child's wish to have a dog.

The journey this book takes you on and the many unknowns that keep you guessing will make it hard to put this book down. By the end, we are left with one clear message, you don't choose the dog, the dog chooses you. ...more

I loved, loved, loved this book! What is not to love when a book is about a kid and a dog? I have to say that I learned what a mother with a child who has CF goes through on a daily basis, definitely not an easy life for either one. As for the dog, who wouldn't want to have one like Whistler? I believe that a special dog only comes into a person's life once in a lifetime, and that is why Jasper and Whistler form such a strong bond.

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If you are a dog lover, or even if you're not, you will enjoy this book. Thank you Nick Trout for writing such a wonderful book, and thank you to Goodreads for having the giveaway for it. Go and buy this book if you get the chance, you will not regret it !!

PS. Remember, a dog's "beauty" is in the heart of the person who loves it. ...more

The Wonder Of You Chords

A wonderful book full of heart and insight to the connection between people and dogs. It felt like a life journey to me as the whole community tended to be involved as the story unfolded. I loved the connection between Jasper and Whistler as the handsome, critically ill and smart kid tries to help an equally smart and ill dog. I enjoyed the peripheral characters who were the good, the bad and ugly as they helped me to understand the struggle of Jasper's mom in dealing with a chronically ill son. A wonderful book full of heart and insight to the connection between people and dogs. It felt like a life journey to me as the whole community tended to be involved as the story unfolded. I loved the connection between Jasper and Whistler as the handsome, critically ill and smart kid tries to help an equally smart and ill dog. I enjoyed the peripheral characters who were the good, the bad and ugly as they helped me to understand the struggle of Jasper's mom in dealing with a chronically ill son and how special Whistler truly was. Overall I found the book to be full of spirit and uplifting as well as a good lesson on the perfectness of imperfection. This book definitely goes on my to share shelf. A good read. ...more

If you've ever loved a dog or, more importantly, been loved by a dog, please read this novel about Jasper, an eleven year old boy with Cystic Fibrosis, his mom, Kate, and a battle-scarred dog named Whistler. The bond between Jasper and Whistler is awe-inspiring, and the descriptions of how Kate and Jasper cope with his chronic, incurable disease make those experiences REAL. Their story uplifted me, made me laugh, made me cry, made me anxious, and made me remember all the dogs who blessed me by I If you've ever loved a dog or, more importantly, been loved by a dog, please read this novel about Jasper, an eleven year old boy with Cystic Fibrosis, his mom, Kate, and a battle-scarred dog named Whistler. The bond between Jasper and Whistler is awe-inspiring, and the descriptions of how Kate and Jasper cope with his chronic, incurable disease make those experiences REAL. Their story uplifted me, made me laugh, made me cry, made me anxious, and made me remember all the dogs who blessed me by loving me and sharing their lives with me.

My thanks to the author, HarperCollins, Molly Waxman, and Kelly Rudolph for the ARC. The book will be available on April 30, 2019. ...more

The Wonder Of Us

This book is awesome!!!!

Woman vet, raising a ill child, has this dog come into their lives. The dog, has been through hell, he is bruised, scarred, and some jerk taped his muzzle shut, leaving scars.

The boy & the dog connect. They tend to talk to one another. Wonder, the dog, is a special dog. He is trained to detect when a person is going to have a seizure.

The Mom, finds out that the company that trained Wonder, wants him back. So, the Mom, son and dog, take a road trip to return him to t This book is awesome!!!!

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The company wants to give him to a little girl, but Wonder, as always, chooses who he wishes to live with.

...more

Like most dog books, I picked this one and immediately knew it was not a matter of if it would make me cry, but when it would make me cry. I was not wrong.

This is a story about a boy and the bond he has with his dog. The old dog has a rough past, the little boy has cystic fibrosis, and his mother is a veterinarian at an animal shelter. And I loved it.

I received a copy of this book as a Goodreads Giveaway.