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Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, And An Extraordinary Friendship



Synopsis

After a close friend died of cancer, middle-aged, overweight, acrophobic newspaperman Tom Ryan decided to pay tribute to her in a most unorthodox manner. Ryan and his friend, miniature schnauzer Atticus M. Finch, would attempt to climb all forty-eight of New Hampshire's four-thousand-foot peaks twice in one winter while raising money for charity. It was an adventure of a lifetime, leading them across hundreds of miles and deep into an enchanting but dangerous winter wonderland. At the heart of the amazing journey was the extraordinary relationship they shared, one that blurred the line between man and dog. Following Atticus is an unforgettable true saga of adventure, friendship, and the unlikeliest of family, as one remarkable animal opens the eyes and heart of a tough-as-nails newspaperman to the world's beauty and its possibilities.

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Customer Reviews

I purchased Following Atticus for my Kindle and I loved reading it. My daughter purchased it for her Kindle and we read along together exchanging notes. We laughed, we cried and we laughed some more. I purchased other books and had fun reading them but Atticus kept coming back to mind and

when I was diagnosed with cancer in August I decided to read Atticus again. My loving caring sister doesn't have a Kindle so I purchased a paper back version of Atticus for her and we are reading the book together. I am getting so much more out of it this time than the first time because now I can relate to the cancer part. I am being treated by the Dana Farber Cancer Ins. in Lebanon and the Norris Cotton Cancer center in Keene. While reading the book again I feel like Atticus. I told my sister we can conquer the cancer just like Atticus--taking the journey of the highs and lows . What an inspiration that little dog has given me. His courage and his determination is unbelievable. I Love Him. Tom you are a wise man and you have renewed my faith. Thank you Tom for all of your charity work and for your beautiful and touching description of how you raised such an amazing dog. Atticus was so very lucky to have you or should I say Fate brought you two together and you have made a better world for all of us that have read your story.

I just finished reading Following Atticus and can honestly say I have not read a book in quite some time if ever that has left such an incredible impression on me. I must confess that I am an animal lover and yes have had the pleasure of owning several terrific dogs including a mini schnauzer who recently passed away. This book is about the life of an ordinary man with an extraordinary soul. His thorn filled upbringing presents the naked truths about families, tragedy and relationships. I applaud Tom for his candor and transparent accountings over and over in the book. Tom's tenacious, nurturing, intuitive and organic approach to allowing his treasured companions to discover and become their best self is humbling and inspiring. This book is a refreshing must read.

What a story! What a dog! What a friendship! I am a person who has always found healing in nature. I now have a dog who loves to be outdoors. This wondrous real-life story inspires me. Thank you, Tom Ryan, for sharing your gifts--all of them--with me and the rest of the world. Thank you. Thank you. THANK YOU!

Great book. Being a dog lover and having a father who had his own challenges when I was growing up this book hit home. It also rekindled my desire to hike, which I used to do back in my 30's. But life can pull you away from some of the things we like to do, but I am back! Looking forward to Tom's next book.

Not particularly skilled at writing reviews I do feel I want to recommend this book to anyone enamored of dogs, familiar with the issue of feeling lost in daily routine and seeking an intensely

personal experience. Before finishing this I recommended it to several people, each for a different reason. Atticus is an unusually sensitive dog, the people who love him best are people in search of personal meaning and growth and the many attracted to this story are appropriately mesmerized by their independent exploration and shared challenges. This is a book that does not leave you easily, begs you to learn and explore more of what attachments mean to you. And if you have ever known the wonder of being the guardian of a very special dog many memories will come back.

Simply put, I loved this book!! I expected to enjoy this book but got so much more than I expected. It's written in an easy, conversational style so I felt as though I was chatting with a friend and he was telling me stories, really great stories. Full of love, laughter, tears, trails, seeking and answers, it's an excellent read from beginning to end. I highly recommend this book, it will stay with you long after you've read the last page.

A bruised and broken human being overcomes almost unimaginable challenges and is transformed by them through the love and courage of an amazing little dog. I expected a cute story. What I encountered was an epic tale that touched my heart and inspired me to seek the same kind of personal transformation---one that would help me to forgive, gain courage, risk loving unconditionally and outrageously. In the same way that *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* inspires one to pursue truth (quality), this little book leads one to want to risk everything in the pursuit of love. I am overwhelmed.

This is a story about an emotionally scarred man coming to terms with his mother's death when he was very young, and a difficult relationship with his father, an emotionally distant man. I will give Tom credit for persisting in trying to keep some sort of connection going with his father, who at times didn't seem to want any caring or compassion from his son. I don't know if I could have or would have done it, given the constant rebuffs Tom received. Atticus was the one who helped Tom learn about relationships, the give and take, the necessity of both having love and giving love through their life together, and the hikes together. Tom starts the hikes as a tribute to his father; the only place he saw his father at peace was in the mountains of New Hampshire. He continued for his own sake and for Atticus, who loved to be in the mountains, and would stare out over the view "like a little Buddha."

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