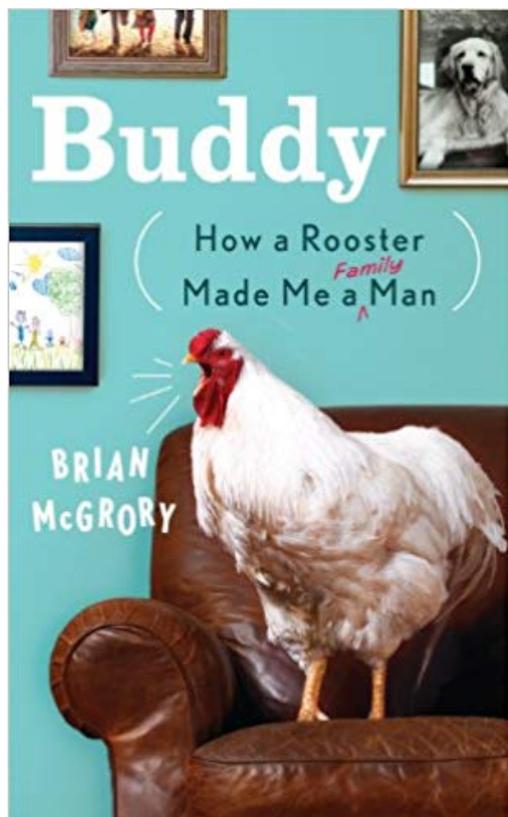


## Buddy: How a Rooster Made Me a Family Man (Thorndike Press Large Print Nonfiction) by Brian McGrory



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Recounts how the author fell in love with a veterinarian and pursued a family life replete with several pets, including a portly rooster who initially treated him as a male rival and eventually prompted inspirational realizations about love, acceptance, and change.



## Reviews of the Buddy: How a Rooster Made Me a Family Man (Thorndike Press Large Print Nonfiction) by Brian McGrory

Opilar

I am sure Brian McGrory is a terrific writer for the Boston Globe. He should stick to that and not attempt to write a book about a pet rooster.

First of all Buddy the rooster is a small part of this book. Almost an after thought.

I happen to love a good book about a pet. Marley and Me. Wesley the Owl. I have many more I

thoroughly enjoyed. This book was so boring I read it in one sitting. The parts where it shines are about the authors dog Harry. The love pours out and I embraced the love those two shared. Harry who passed away from cancer is mentioned throughout the book. Honestly Mr. McGrory should have penned a book about Harry. I think it would have been cathartic and a lot more interesting than this book. From the little bits I read about the rooster I realized with a different writer- Buddy's personality and eccentricities could of shined like a beacon but poor Buddy was basically maligned as a biting nuisance until the end of the story. This was supposed to be the story of a pet rooster. Instead it was a biography of the authors life and it paid homage to Harry, his late beloved dog. It was also tiresome to hear him harp and complain about suburbia non stop. the trials and tribulations of a new wife and step daughters seemed to overwhelm him every day. You get the feeling he would be happier back in Boston in a condo with his dog. As a writer I tend to be picky when I read a book but I will tout a book that has merit. This book was supposed to make the reader laugh out loud. Chuckle. Guffaw. It did none of those things. I can't recommend it to readers who appreciate a good book about animals. It was a major disappointment.

Mori

Brian McGrory had it made, working his dream job as a columnist for the Boston Globe, walking the streets of Boston, and sharing life with his beloved retriever, Harry. But then his marriage fell apart and his dog grew old and died, Major changes took place, not always graciously accepted. Brian found new love with his dog's charming veterinarian, Pam. But that meant uprooting himself to the suburbs, trying to fit in to a new family, and most of all, learning to get along with his nemesis, a fluffy white rooster named Buddy.

Author Brian McGrory has written a charming, if slightly fluffy, memoir about this period of his life, and how he transitioned from a self-absorbed, Seinfeldian thirty-something, to a real family man, thanks in large part to the relentless badgering of the rooster. It's well written, but a little overdone. If there's any flaw to this story, I would say the author dragged it out too long. Too much introspection, too much self-absorbed whining. Still, it's enjoyable. If you're looking for a light-hearted but touching memoir packed with animals, feelings, and personal growth, you will probably love this one, and I recommend it. Reviewed by Louis N. Gruber.

nailer

Everyone should read this book -- well, anyone who has been in love, had a dog, dealt with kids or a commute from the suburbs. And certainly anyone who has lived with a rooster. (Does that leave anyone out?)

Mcgrory is a talented writer. If you've liked his Globe articles or listened to his radio appearances, you will hear his voice in the writing. He offers a dry sense of humor and a vivid, honest assessment of his own life at various stages and, if you're lucky, you'll see shadows of your own life in his. There are moments of sadness, sure, but there are many more places in the book where I was laughing, helplessly, out loud. I refuse to ruin any of his punchlines, although I am sorely tempted.

Read it. Really. I bought it for my kindle and have bought several copies for Christmas gifts. I am hoping that McGrory will allow us another peek into his hysterical and poignant existence again, at some point, in the future.

playboy

I read this after reading "The Round House" by Erdrich, when I was overwhelmed with her amazing writing and thought I never wanted to read another book again. But, I had ordered "Buddy...", so I started it the following night in bed, finishing it the next night. It was "laugh aloud" funny; laughing is not a nice thing to do in bed when your husband has a bad cold and is trying to sleep...but, he was encouraged by my laughter, and enjoyed it too.

Qudanilyr

I rarely laugh out loud while reading a book, but this book is hilarious! Even more than that,

however, it gives tremendous insight on what it is like to be a step-parent--to be a man in a woman's world--to try to be a hero, a protector to his brood. How hard men try in their own way to be invaluable. There is a vulnerability in McGory's honesty that is very sweet and there is a humor in the very male sacrifices that he makes. I loved, loved, loved this book and Brian McGory in all his humanness.

Sharpmane

Oh boy is this ever an obvious ploy at cashing in on the chicken frenzy gripping the western hemisphere. And I bit. I love my birds and will read just about anything that purports to be about chickens. This book, however, is really more of a "dog book." I guess the author missed that wave.

Worlda

If you love animals, you will be very touched by this beautifully-written book. You don't have to like roosters to love this book. About half of it is devoted to stories about the author's dog. I have had hens and roosters and I was surprised and thrilled to find that the author sure knows his stuff. I could actually visualize the encounters between the author and Buddy, the rooster. The roosters I have had (Studley McLeffingwell, Monkee, and Chick) were among the best pets I've ever had. Don't let my kitty read this.

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