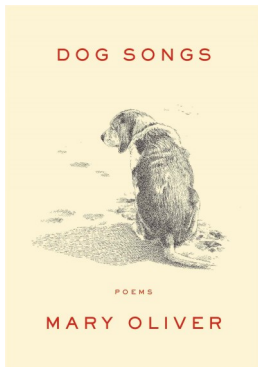


Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay

Dog Songs



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Who can resist a good dog book? OK so there are a few cat people out there (right here beside me in fact), and bird people, snake people, even for Heaven's sake, skunk lovers and gerbil-groomers. But what makes this book special is that it's a book of poems that gives tribute to the special dogs in renowned nature poet Mary Oliver's life.

There's Luke, the junkyard dog, Benjamin, the canine that is always dragging a chewed-through rope, Bear the small curly-haired who hates to stay overnight at boarding, Bazougey that dark little dog/ who used to come down the road barking and shining, Ricky, the talker, and Percy named after the famous poet Shelley. Oliver penned a tribute to this hound mischievously patterned after Christopher Smart's "For I will Consider My Cat Geoffrey."

Luke was "born in a junkyard, / not even on a bundle of rags/ or the seat of an old wrecked car/ but the dust below." This beautiful German Shepherd loved flowers: "her dark head// and her wet nose/ touching/ the face/ of everyone." In the poem's closing Oliver expresses one thing dogs show us about the world: "we long to be--/ that happy/ in the heaven of earth--/ that wild, that loving." **[Read more »](#)**

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Posted by Dory L. on Dec 16, 2013 [Dory L.'s blog](#)

