

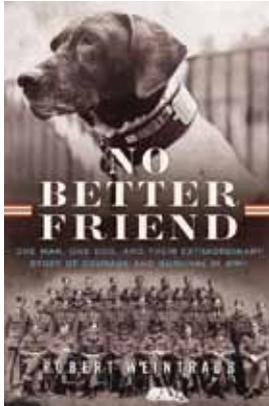
There's no denying it: war is hell. In *No Better Friend* by Robert Weintraub, we once again are confronted by the god-awful truth behind that expression. But we also learn about the true nature of grit, resiliency, courage and, in this case, the strength of the bond between man and dog.

This inspirational story revolves around an English Pointer born in 1936 in Shanghai, who became a mascot on one of the many English gunboats that patrolled the Yangtze River. At first called *Shudi*, Chinese for *peaceful*, she became Judy, and was adopted by the crew of the Royal Navy's HMS *Gnat*.

Although the crew hoped that Judy would be a good hunting companion, it quickly became clear that her talents didn't lie in that direction. But she was able to put her alertness, intelligence and intense drive to use by barking alarms at sewer ships ("cess boats") and river pirates—even defending against onboard invaders. After 1937 and the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War, she ratcheted up her early-warning system, signaling when fighter planes were approaching.

How she became the war's only official canine POW is a long story, and one best left for readers to discover for themselves. Suffice it to say that Judy, who was, as Weintraub describes, "a fiercely loyal dog, with a keen sense for who was friend and who was foe," performed many memorable feats (see excerpt).

After Singapore fell to the Japanese, she dug up a life-saving fresh water source for those who were marooned on a barren atoll, and led soldiers (including Frank Williams, who became her chief caregiver and companion) on a



No Better Friend: One Man, One Dog, and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in WWII
By Robert Weintraub
(Hachette)

dangerous march across Sumatra. Once she and the soldiers had been captured and interned in a Japanese POW camp, she found rodents, snakes and other creatures to help feed herself and her fellow captives. For four horrible years, she and the other prisoners were kept under barbaric conditions. Judy had numerous near-misses with guards who wanted to kill (and eat) her; it's amazing that anyone, much less a dog, survived such treatment.

Williams and hundreds of other prisoners (all of whom were slowly starving to death) were forced to build a railroad by hand. As Weintraub noted, "Judy's mere presence on the railway rallied men who had been pushed beyond the brink." One prisoner penned a quatrain to memorialize the men's feelings for this heroine dog, and his words summed up their sentiment perfectly: "They would stagger to their workplace/Though they really ought to die/And would mutter in their beards/If that bitch can, so can I."

Weintraub's compelling, well-researched book does justice to the remarkable Judy and the men whose stories he tells so effectively and poignantly. There is truly one of the great sagas of WWII and I highly recommend it to everyone. (A younger readers' version is due out soon—keep an eye out for it.)

—Claudia Kawczynska



[Excerpt: After a POW ship was torpedoed.]

IN REALITY, Judy had proved to be unsinkable.

The last time Frank had seen her was when he shoved the pointer out of the porthole. According to various witnesses, Judy fell into the sea and popped up, stunned but alive. After that she began to swim strongly, head well above the water, perhaps thankful that the Malacca Strait was far more comfortable for a dip than the Yangtze River had been. Searle caught sight of her straightway, seeing a man with his arm wrapped around Judy's shoulder, struggling to keep his head above the waves. "Why don't you shake him off, you crazy bitch?" he yelled out, as much to himself as to Judy, for she was too far away to hear him over the cacophony of the sinking. Surely she would be drowned by the weight of the man.

But she wasn't. She guided the man to a large piece of floating debris, where he managed to haul himself up, exhausted by alive. Judy then stayed in the water, looking for others to help. And help she did. No fewer than four men were seen and said later to have been rescued by Judy, and there may have been more beyond that. In each case, the method of operation was the same. The men reported thrashing about, either not able to swim or too beaten down by imprisonment and the shock of the sinking to muster the

Splish, splash!

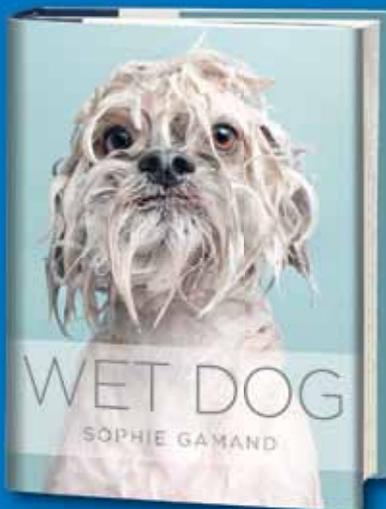


The wriggles...
The poignant looks...
The wet shakes...



“Adorable photos of wet dogs will make you ponder the meaning of bath time.”

—Huffington Post



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energy to save themselves. Out of the blue appeared Judy, acting like the aquatic version of a Saint Bernard. All that was missing was a life preserver around her neck.

The men would hang on to the swimming pointer, who would pull them either to flotsam or to the rescue ships that had begun to appear. Each time she approached one of the vessels, hands reached out to pull her from the water. Each time she pulled away from them to stay in the ocean and continue her rescue efforts.

When at last there were no more men alive in her vicinity, she allowed herself to be pulled into a boat. “She was more dead than alive,” recalled one of the men who witnessed her coming on board. “She had totally given herself to the drowning men.”

Behavior Adjustment Training 2.0

By Grisha Stewart (Dogwise)

Behavior Adjustment Training 2.0, a new book for reactivity and socialization, may change the way you work with every dog. Trainer and international lecturer Grisha Stewart has created a resource full of practical information to help make life better for dogs and their people. The lessons are relevant to families and professional trainers and include the science that drives behavior, how to arrange your own BAT training sessions, how to socialize to prevent reactivity and handy tips to facilitate your dog’s calm behavior.

Using only positive and stress-free protocols, *BAT 2.0* will help you empower your dog to make better choices instead of barking, lunging, growling or panicking. Stewart’s book is easy to read, with a down-to-earth style, clear illustrations and thought-provoking tips throughout. This go-to book will be required reading for all my clients whose dogs have reactivity issues.

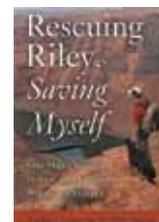
—Nancy Freedman-Smith, CBATI

How Dogs Heal Us

Most of us reach adulthood with at least a few emotional wounds. Sadly, sometimes those wounds can be very deep, as is the case with the subjects of these



three inspiring memoirs. In *Rescuing Riley, Saving Myself* (Skyhorse), former U.S. Marine sergeant Zachary Anderegg recalls the emotional abuse and bullying he experienced as a child, and how it affected his adult life. Shannon Kopp, author of *Pound for Pound* (William Morrow), describes her struggle with bulimia and her journey back from self-destruction. Julie Barton’s *Dog Medicine* (Think Piece) is an account of a crippling depression that engulfed and derailed her young adult life.



On a solitary climbing trip in northern Arizona’s unforgiving slot canyons, Anderegg saw an emaciated puppy at the bottom of a 350-foot-deep pothole; after a hair-raising rescue, he adopted the traumatized pup and was then moved to rescue himself from the tyranny of his past. Kopp found that when she was with shelter dogs, she didn’t think about all the ways she had failed herself and others; in caring for these homeless animals, she was able to forgive herself and to stay on the path to recovery. For Barton, it was a Golden Retriever who brought her back into her life — who gave her a reason and a way to move forward rather than fall back, and to take a chance on a fulfilling adult relationship.

None of these books is an easy read, but all three are worth the effort. These are stories of resilience and of physical and emotional healing. They are, at their heart, love stories.

—Susan Tasaki