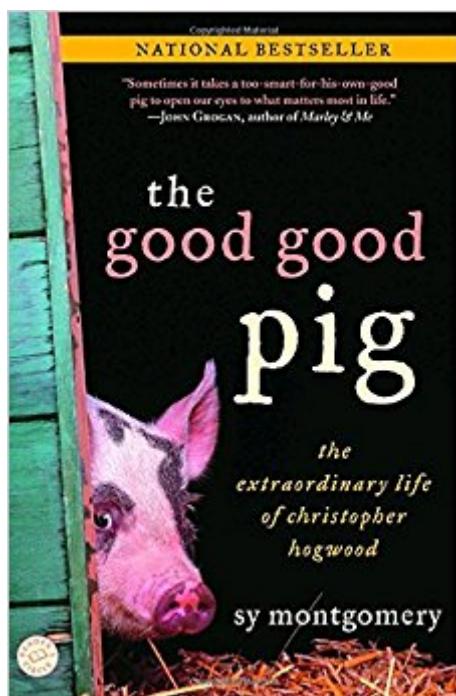


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The Good Good Pig: The Extraordinary Life Of Christopher Hogwood



Synopsis

Christopher Hogwood came home on my lap in a shoebox. He was a creature who would prove in many ways to be more human than I am. A naturalist who spent months at a time living on her own among wild creatures in remote jungles, Sy Montgomery had always felt more comfortable with animals than with people. So she gladly opened her heart to a sick piglet who had been crowded away from nourishing meals by his stronger siblings. Yet Sy had no inkling that this piglet, later named Christopher Hogwood, would not only survive but flourish and she soon found herself engaged with her small-town community in ways she had never dreamed possible. Unexpectedly, Christopher provided this peripatetic traveler with something she had sought all her life: an anchor (eventually weighing 750 pounds) to family and home. The Good Good Pig celebrates Christopher Hogwood in all his glory, from his inauspicious infancy to hog heaven in rural New Hampshire, where his boundless zest for life and his large, loving heart made him absolute monarch over a (mostly) peaceable kingdom. At first, his domain included only Sy's cosseted hens and her beautiful border collie, Tess. Then the neighbors began fetching Christopher home from his unauthorized jaunts, the little girls next door started giving him warm, soapy baths, and the villagers brought him delicious leftovers. His intelligence and fame increased along with his girth. He was featured in USA Today and on several National Public Radio environmental programs. On election day, some voters even wrote in Christopher's name on their ballots. But as this enchanting book describes, Christopher Hogwood's influence extended far beyond celebrity; for he was, as a friend said, a great big Buddha master. Sy reveals what she and others learned from this generous soul who just so happened to be a pig—lessons about self-acceptance, the meaning of family, the value of community, and the pleasures of the sweet green Earth. The Good Good Pig provides proof that with love, almost anything is possible. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Montgomery's books on exotic wildlife (Journey of the Pink Dolphins, etc.) take her to the far corners of the world, but the story of her closest relationships with the animal kingdom plays out in her own New England backyard. When she adopts a sickly runt from a litter of pigs, naming him Christopher Hogwood after the symphony conductor, raising him for slaughter isn't an option: Montgomery's a vegetarian and her husband is Jewish. Refitting their barn to accommodate a (mostly) secure sty, they keep Christopher as a pet. As he swells to 750 pounds, he becomes a local celebrity, getting loose frequently enough that the local police officer knows to carry spare apples to lure him back home. The pig also bonds with Montgomery's neighbors, especially two children who come over to help feed him and rub his tummy. Montgomery's love for Christopher (and later for Tess, an adopted border collie) dominates the memoir's emotional space, but she's also demonstrably grateful for the friendships the pig sparks within her community. The humor with which she recounts Christopher's meticulous eating habits and love of digging up turf is sure to charm readers. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Adult/High School
For writer and world traveler Montgomery, the grounding force of her New Hampshire home was a 750-pound pig. This book is not merely a chronicle of her love for and life with Christopher Hogwood, but also a testament to the lessons learned through her 14-year relationship with him. Usually preferring the company of animals to most people, Montgomery developed an extensive network of friends who were willing to cache and freeze their food scraps for the always grateful, bottomless pig. In turn, these friends witnessed an enjoyment of life's bounty as only a pig can experience—with utter abandon. Montgomery's delightful anecdotes about Christopher's personality, neighborhood wanderings, and haute skin care à la Pig Spa are entwined with biographical details about her family life and fascinating animal-research projects. Christopher was undoubtedly Montgomery's muse for this introspective account of personal growth and her underlying mantra of caring for all the Earth's creatures. He also helped her weather the pain of intractable parents who would not accept their Jewish son-in-law. Like Montgomery's earlier

books, this title blends facts about animal behavior, natural history, geography, and culture with myths, legends, and a large helping of adventure. The color photographs of Christopher from runt to virtual behemoth are an added attraction. More importantly, the author's engaging writing style will captivate even the most uninspired teen readers. —Claudia C. Holland, Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Pigs are marvelous creatures; smart, loyal, mischievous and charming and I've loved pigs from my youth. Growing up on farms and ranches, pigs were almost family members - especially the Yorkshire we called "Arnold". He was as much a part of our big family as was our Border Collie Nomad. In my 40's, I even owned a miniature Pot-Bellied pig for a short time - until my spouse objected to it sleeping at the foot of our waterbed. My affection for swine prompted me to buy and read this book and I was not disappointed. Mrs. Montgomery has written a book every bit as charming as Christopher himself and did so without anthropomorphizing him - something I would never be able to avoid had I written the book. Of course, having had pigs and knowing what delightful critters they can be only made me appreciate Mrs. Montgomery's narrative all the more. It really is, without being mawkish, a brilliant work with all the cheesey accolades - heartwarming, endearing, delightful - to describe it. It was, in short, a fun and...well, 'heartwarming' biography of a remarkable porcine pal. If you love animals I definitely recommend this book to you. You won't be disappointed.

The Good Good Pig is everything you want in a book - an interesting, well-told (true) story with heartfelt dialog and laugh-out-loud humor. Especially laugh-out-loud humor. It is rare for me to find a book I enjoy enough to give as a gift, but this is one of them. Sy Montgomery I'm thrilled you wrote this book. You should be very proud of your accomplishment.

This was a gift to a young man who loves farm animals. I own and have read it several times and I have bought as a gift at least three times. When I finished this book, I stopped eating pork or pork products. Every time I looked at a pork chop, all I could think of was eating "Christopher Hogworth." Sy Montgomery is a naturalist who travels all over the world and writes books about wild animals geared to adults and to children. She is a brilliant writer and scientist. All of her books are outstanding. I believe this is the only book she's written about a domestic animal and it is a joy to read. Christopher was a dearly loved, sweet pig. He had many wonderful years with Ms.

Montgomery, her family and friends. You can't go wrong with any of her books and I think this is the best one.

In reading this book, I fell in love with Christopher Hogwood and pigs in general. The author is able to paint a brilliant picture using words leaving me thoroughly entertained. I gleaned information about pigs that I would never have imagined! Pigs are beautiful, intelligent, complex and loving creatures, who knew? I'm a school teacher with a goal to teach my students to love our planet and its creatures. Books, such as this one, helps achieve that goal. I loved this book and look forward to reading other titles by this author.

I enjoyed reading this book so much. Very sweet and a good teaching tool for all of us humans. If you are an animal lover (as I am) I think you would really like it. Christopher was an legitimate ambassador, that's for sure. It was kind of funny, the pig ate a lot of junk food. Perhaps he might have lived longer had he not. But what a way to go! LOL Be prepared for puns!!!

The joy of reading an authors experiences that bond her to non humans makes me know I'm not crazy. Although my heart was thrown into the usual abyss of sadness when CH passed, the sweetness that he was like ved so genuinely, and was in his safe loving home, makes me happy. I feel non human love, not so much the human kind. Or maybe it's just deeper. Thank you SM, YOU VALIDATE EVERYTHING ABOUT MY LIFE.

The Good Good Pig was an enlightening read, bring more than a few "ah ha" moments that will make you smile as you acknowledge them. The book engages the heart and reminds us all once again that there are moments we can learn about life when we least expect it. The lessons, in this case, come from a most portly porcine pet named Christopher Hogwood. The author states outright she is more in tune with animals than humans, and there is evidence of this throughout her descriptions which relate to animals. This book speaks to our lives and the empty spaces we have yet may not know they exist - and the remedy is this story. Enjoy a great read, enjoyable, funny at times - all the while revealing truths of this life.

What an extraordinary story! I love Sy Montgomery's writing, and will buy everything she publishes. Her previous work I read - The Soul of an Octopus - was also extraordinary! I first read her work when someone on a plane turned to me and said, "You should read this book!" So I did.

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