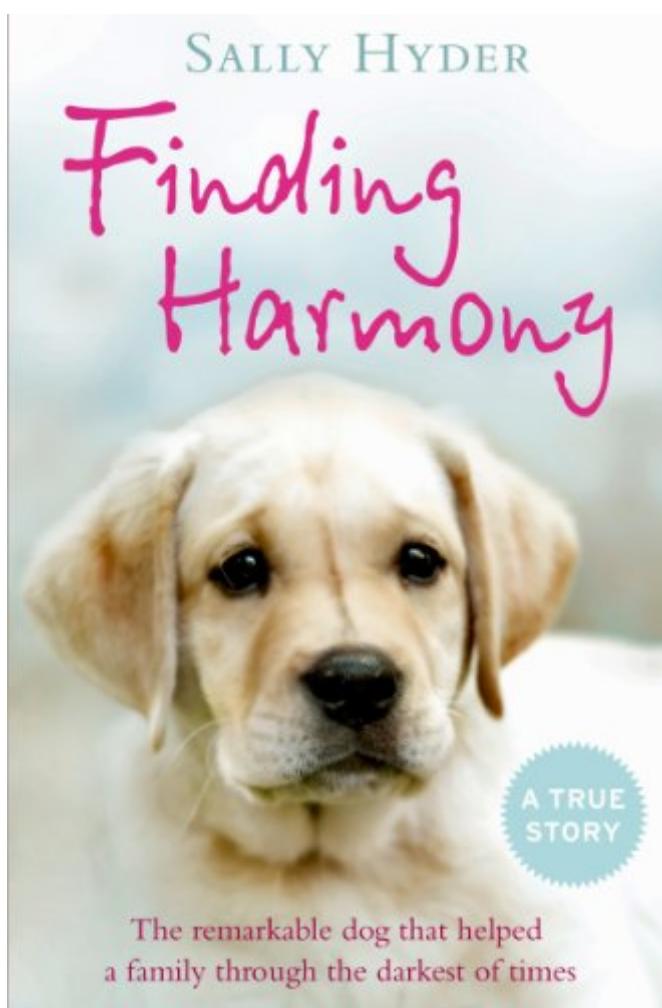


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Finding Harmony: The Remarkable Dog That Helped A Family Through The Darkest Of Times



Synopsis

Heartwarming, inspirational and genuinely touching, *Finding Harmony* is the remarkable true story of an extraordinary dog that rescued a woman from the depths of depression and transformed a family for ever. A keen mountaineer, Sally Hyder was in her prime and loving life. She shared her passion for climbing with her partner Andrew and it was a dream come true when Andrew proposed at Everest Base Camp. For them, climbing mountains made anything seem possible and represented their attitude to life. But a year after Sally and Andrew were married Sally was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She was only 28 and was training to be a Macmillan nurse — she wanted to care for the terminally ill. But Sally was determined the disease wouldn't slow her down: she went back to work looking after others and, despite warnings that her condition could deteriorate in pregnancy, went on to have three beautiful children. But it was when her youngest child Melissa was diagnosed with severe autism that Sally began to spiral into depression. Sally felt guilty about the pressures faced by her elder daughter Clara in her role as carer. Sally worried that she was missing out on the freedom of childhood. She needed help. Unsure who to turn to, she happened upon Canine Partners and an extraordinary dog called Harmony. They formed an instant bond; Harmony can perform over 100 chores — from putting groceries into the trolley to handing over Sally's purse at the till. Harmony is an unending source of comfort: she intuitively knows when Sally is in pain and calms Melissa when she suffers panic attacks. Harmony has given Sally the ability to start living once more, and become a mother again in her own way. She has shown Sally that the sky's the limit and, with a taste for independence that she hadn't felt since her mountaineering days, Sally set her sights on the peaks of Ben Nevis once more. In August 2010 Sally planned to climb the hardest of the Munro Mountains. Sadly her first attempt was thwarted after her motorised wheelchair short-circuited. But Sally is a fighter and reached the summit in June 2011 with her husband by her side. And Harmony too, of course.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The story was so filled with information about the use of dog companion. I hope the story gives other readers the information about dogs that help. All the disabled need to have a right to have the right to care if they meet the qualification

And you've done an awesome job of it! I loved everything about it. You missed your calling, and hope you do a sequel. Our lives have many parallels--kids with disabilities, my own disability with neck pain after a huge spinal fusion resulting from scoliosis, love of travel, love of dogs-- especially the joy that is inherent in golden retrievers, especially a well-trained one who lives to please and bring fun and love to our lives. I love your spirit and your writing was exceedingly well done. Only someone who lives with chronic pain could possibly understand what an effort this story took to be written at all, but to have managed to accomplish so many successes in your life is awesome. A wonderful story! Tell us more!

I just loved this book. Thanks for sharing your story with us. Thank God for animal therapy. What a powerful loving family you have. May anyone who reads this find the humor and love that I did throughout your writing about the real stuff. You are amazing. I hope you are writing a part two so we can keep up with your journey.

Your story was interesting and I fell in love with Harmony but you took almost half the book before you started talking about Harmony. The story would have been much more interesting if you had focused more on your relationship with Harmony than on your own adventure. I was disappointed

but at the same time I was so happy for you. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR AMAZING FAMILY!

Actually, it was a very compelling book. The reason for only 3 stars is because she spent the first 2/3's of the book talking about herself, and then we finally got to the part about Harmony. I would have preferred 1/3 about her, and 2/3's about Harmony.

Loved this book. Sheer will and never ending support wins every time. There is so much encouragement and love in these pages. It makes one feel good just being a follower in the path of hard work and the desire to succeed.

Storyline was more about the author's travels and dealing with her MS diagnosis. She was a tough, spirited woman who refused to be stopped by MS. Harmony, the dog doesn't come into the story until long into the book. But it was interesting to read about the canine (and human) training program.

I enjoyed all the info about training and living with an assistance dog. That's really why I read it. I marveled at the courage of the author to take on new challenges. At first I wanted to skip some of the personal history and "get to the dog" but I came to appreciate the wonderful family surrounding this unique woman.

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