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Author(s): [Purcell Nielsen, Therese](#)

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Reviews

Booklist Reviews 2017 August #1

Starred Review For more than 16 years, Myles was companioned by a pit bull named Rosie until Rosie did what dogs do and left the author to navigate a post-Rosie world, solo. In the after of Rosie, poet Myles, the author of more than 20 books, including the novels *Chelsea Girls* (1994) and *Cool for You* (2000), writes this unconventional, uncontainable, phantasmagoric memoir of dog and owner. To let Rosie herself tell it, "Afterglow is totally a book with legs (four if I can be dumb) so it will go a lot further than your earlier Eileen-based fictions." Here are small moments and large ones, like actual transcriptions of memories; here's Rosie as author, Rosie interviewed on a puppet talk show, Rosie as god, Rosie as Myles' father. Myles catalogs Rosie-related objects and chronicles the seeking of an ancestral home in Ireland and reading science fiction in San Diego during Rosie's last summer. Poetic, heartrending, soothing, and funny, this is a mind-expanding contemplation of creation, the act and the noun, and the creatures whose deaths we presume will precede ours but whose lives make our own better beyond reason. To this, readers should bring tissues, pencil and paper, even their dogs. Copyright 2017 Booklist Reviews.

LJ Reviews 2017 June #1

A "kick-ass counter-cultural icon" (*The New Yorker*) with 20 books and a stack of awards to her name, Myles goes heartfelt with an account of a pit bull named Rosie she kept by her side for 16 years. Mourning Rosie's death, Myles recounts how Rosie has shaped her life and work—more than just saving her, as the tagline usually goes, but making her who she is.

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LJ Reviews 2017 June #2

Myles—poet, novelist, feminist presidential candidate, professor, librettist, nonfiction writer, inspiration for the lesbian poet character Leslie Mackinaw on the show *Transparent*, and Guggenheim fellow—has written a love letter to her beloved pit bull Rosie. Myles's phantasmagoric account of her 16 years with Rosie—and many years without her—includes not only a sorrowful retelling of decline and illness but also a recital of the facts of Rosie's first mating, in the nerve-wracking chapter "The Rape of Rosie," as well as various imaginings of Rosie's thoughts (not to mention her remarks as a talk show guest). Myles wanders through complicated family relationships, a history of alcoholism, and her credo of writing on her way to delivering a singular portrait of Rosie. Readers in search of an anodyne for their grief will find it buried deep in the midst of her swirling prose. VERDICT Myles succeeds here in producing a rare new breed of dog memoir: think Patti Smith's *Just Kids*, not John Grogan's *Marley and Me*, and absinthe not saccharine. [See Prepub Alert, 5/3/17.]—Therese Purcell Nielsen, Huntington P.L., NY

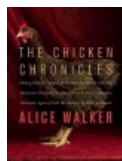
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PW Reviews 2017 June #3

Poet and novelist Myles (*Inferno*) reflects on 16 years with their pit bull Rosie. Inspired by Rosie's death, Myles uses a pastiche approach to explore the bodily, cerebral, and esoteric/religious aspects of the grieving process, all of which is portrayed with meditative poignancy. The feeling of watching a beloved pet's decline is rendered bittersweet: "Our present had a pastness to it every day." There is humor, as the author recalls a fruitless attempt to breed Rosie ("I wondered if I was doing something illegal. Letting dogs have sex in my building"). There's a chapter written as the transcript of a surrealist puppet show, wherein Rosie informs the audience that she has been writing Myles's material since 1990. Myles also brings Hitler's art, 14th-century tapestries, and Abu Ghraib into the narrative, and writes in the voice of Bo Jean Harmonica, an alter ego of sorts whose gender is categorized pithily: "I'm a man but there's a woman in it." Though there are occasional meandering thematic digressions, these seem a part of the journey. Myles depicts the raw pathos of loss with keen insight. (Sept.)

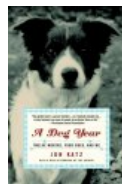
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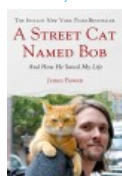
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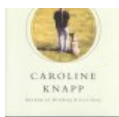
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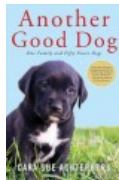
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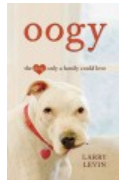
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