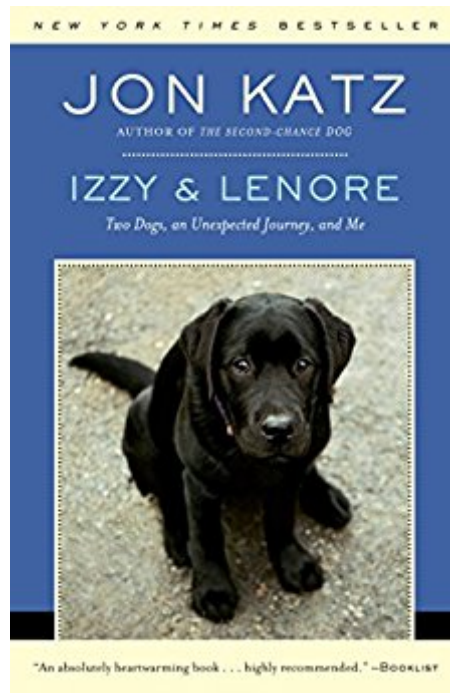




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# Izzy & Lenore: Two Dogs, An Unexpected Journey, And Me



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMESÃ A BESTSELLERBONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Jon Katz'sÃ A Going Home. In his previous books, New York Times bestselling author Jon Katz introduced us to the delightful menagerie at Bedlam Farm, including Izzy, the unforgettable border collie rescue. Now, in *Izzy & Lenore*, Katz delves deeper into his connection with the beautiful, once-abandoned dog, learning yet again about the unexpected places animals can take us. Affectionate and intuitive, Izzy is unlike any dog Katz has encountered, and the two undertake a journey Katz could not have imagined without the arrival of a new companion: a spirited, bright-eyed black Labrador puppy named Lenore. As trained hospice volunteers visiting homes and nursing facilities in upstate New York, Katz and Izzy bring comfort and canine companionship to people who most need it. An eighty-year-old Alzheimer's patient smiles for the first time in months when she feels Izzy's soft fur. A retired logger joyfully remembers his own beloved dog when he sees Izzy. As Izzy bonds with patients and Katz focuses on their families, the author begins to come to terms with his own life, discovering dark realities he has never confronted. Meanwhile, Lenore's quickly dubbed the Hound of Love arrives at Bedlam. Her genial personality and boundless capacity for affection steer Katz out of the shadows, rekindle his love of working with dogs, and restore his connection to the farm and the animals and people around him. Humorous and deeply moving, *Izzy & Lenore* is a story of a man confronting his past, embracing the blessings of his current life, and rediscovering the meaning of friendship, family, and faith. Katz shares an uplifting tale of love, compassion, and the rich and complex relationships between dogs and their humans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've read all Jon's books and loved them all. But, this one is my all time favorite. It touched my heart so deeply. Jon portrayed beautifully the connection between dogs and humans. His honesty about not always finding the right words to describe this connection was refreshing. Sometimes things just don't have an explanation. They can only be felt with the heart. Jon does this so eloquently in Izzy and Lenore. My own dog, who is in a wheelchair, does therapy work with hospital patients and assisted senior facilities. What transpires when she interacts with them is absolute love on a level most times I cannot find words for. All I know is that I witness something bigger than myself. Bravo, Jon for sharing Izzy and Lenore with hospice and nursing home residents and now sharing those beautiful stories with the world... what a gift for everyone.~Barbara Techel, Author of Frankie, the Walk 'N Roll Dog

OK, I'm a sucker for dog books, especially those written by Jon Katz. He makes his books, and the animal characters in them, come alive. This one in particular was excellent in that it showed the extent of a dog's empathy and relationship with those around him, both the man he lives with and those who are soon going to leave this earth. It's sad and poignant at times, but always leaves you feeling that Jon and his companion made a true difference to both those about to depart and their loved ones who are left behind to cope. If you're an animal lover, Izzy and Lenore is a book you don't want to miss!

Boring story, considering I'm a dog lover and 8 year hospice volunteer. Dear author, it's not about you, it's about the dying and their loved ones. Get over yourself,

This appeared to be the middle of a series of stories about a life. I haven't read his other books and perhaps if you have you would enjoy the continuing saga, but I felt rather like I should feel more empathy about Jon and I didn't. If this story had been totally about Izzy and their experiences with

hospice I would give this 5 stars. That part of the novel was amazing. But Jon's depression was tossed in. Then the adoption of the another dog, Lenore, who might or might not be able to be a hospice or assistant dog. He has this huge farm where he passes out treats to the animal residents, but doesn't seem to need to muck out pens; repair fences; treat hooves or teeth; or even gather eggs. Nor does he do much laundry or cleaning or repairs around his own abode. Instead he wonders off into the wilderness with his puppy to cure his depression. I'm sure most of us would like that luxury!

Izzy and Lenore: Two Dogs, an Unexpected Journey and Me by Jon Katz, Villard Books, 2008, 195 pages.[http://www..com/Izzy-Lenore-Dogs-Unexpected-Journey/dp/0812977742/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1388000852&sr=1-1&keywords=izzy+and+lenore+by+jon+katz](http://www..com/Izzy-Lenore-Dogs-Unexpected-Journey/dp/0812977742/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1388000852&sr=1-1&keywords=izzy+and+lenore+by+jon+katz)This was a gift from Frank, Mary, Dylan and Jason. It is one of the best and most rewarding books I have ever read. But I love animals and love dogs the most. The book is built around Bedlam Farms-the author's refuge from the world and home to his much loved animals. It is also the story of two hospice dogs and how they changed the lives of the author and the hospice patients. It rings true. Some reviews are in the link below.[http://www..com/Izzy-Lenore-Dogs-Unexpected-Journey/product-reviews/0812977742/ref=dp\\_top\\_cm\\_cr\\_acr\\_txt?showViewpoints=1](http://www..com/Izzy-Lenore-Dogs-Unexpected-Journey/product-reviews/0812977742/ref=dp_top_cm_cr_acr_txt?showViewpoints=1)

A very interesting and well written memoir about a year in the life of Jon Katz. It was a year of incredible changes for him, beginning with his adoption of an abandoned border collie, which he names Izzy. Izzy is damaged by her years of abuse, but quickly rebounds and become a very valuable asset to Jon's life because she joins him in visiting Hospice patients. The book also follows Jon's adoption and training of the puppy Lenore, Jon's battle with severe depression, and his reconnection with his sister, Jane. The stories of how Izzy worked as a Hospice volunteer, adapting to each new situation, was the most interesting part of the book for me. I also loved Jon's photographs and would have liked to see more of those he took that year A very affecting memoir.

I did not read this book, I experienced it. I love stories about animals and jumped right in. Big surprise! The intermingling of animals, lives, emotions, happiness and sadness engulfs you clear till the end. It gave me new insights in many areas and let me realize how important it is to love and live each day. What a blessing we can be to many animals and they to us.

I'm always a sucker for animal stories, and this did not disappoint. I had never heard of Jon Katz before, but I will definitely look into reading others of his many animal books. I wish I could meet Izzy and Lenore someday, as they sound like wonderful dogs! The story was very inspiring and made me want to consider doing some dog therapy work someday, when I retire, if I get another dog. Or even just do volunteer work (without a dog)! Jon paints such vivid stories about his dogs, that I could actually imagine myself right there with them. I recommend this book. By the way, I listened to it on Audible and it was a fast listen.

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