



For those who love dogs there are already countless dog stories – and then there's Boston Teran's incomparable novel, "Giv." From the time you read the first page, prepare to have your heartstrings touched then strummed with a melody of beauty and sadness. The truth of the eternal human-canine innate love story is the thread that holds the fabric of this sometimes tragic tale together. Teran crafts a heart-wrenching novel with genuine characters, the likes of which most of us will never meet in our lifetime, but they are as much a part of our country's history as the upbringing that is remembered by most of America. Readers will be rooting for Giv from cover to cover, and I can picture them cheering for the dog to be victorious over all the trials that are thrust upon him by fate and inhumane caretakers. If this were a movie, I would stand up and applaud the indelible Giv, like I did when I was a child and the cinematic hero was coming to save the day. Look for this book to be in everyone's hands in the near future.

- Holly Fox Vellekoop, Author, "STONE HAVEN: Murder Along the River"

Giv rips. It's not just some dog book. This book is about AMERICA! It's about the human condition. It pays homage to American art and art forms. It reflects on our history. Giv is a book for these times. There are a couple of parts that are monumental -- Katrina...and a forest fire. They'll knock your socks off.

- Daryl Crandall

Giv is pro-small town America and pro-spirituality. It believes in the power of faith and sacrifice to overcome tragedy. It sees the potential for greatness in people and our country. And this book is not afraid to express love. It is everything that critics and reviewers dislike and look down on in books and movies....but that people who read books and go to movies love because, like myself they don't think it beneath them to be touched deeply. And this book will touch you deeply...

- Steve Chaney

It was the cover of GIV that hooked me. The images reflected in the dog bowl -- the soldier in Iraq, Katrina, the Kennedys right before the assassination, the old motel sign. I thought what can this mean? How are all these connected? I read GIV and the cover has it dead on. Giv connects all of it...connects America, connects to my soul, healed all the love and conflicts I feel about my country. Giv is poetry, it made me cry, made me proud to be an American.

- Joy Eibling

Giv touched my heart in a way I forgot a book could touch the heart. It is the story of a dog - yes. But it is also about first love, youthful hopes, the confronting of tragedy, the effects of war, the resurrection of dreams, and most of all --community. An American community...a human community...a spiritual community. This book, in all its beauty, is timeless.

- Gene Williams

I am not into dog books. Not at all. My dad had a copy of a galley for GIV and told me I should check it out. That it made him cry. A dog book? I don't read dog books. But I read it and loved it...better than any of my required reading this year as a freshman in college. Giv and the Sergeant are two veterans of the world, and wars. They are survivors, struggling, looking for a place, a home. Their journey together is the journey of healing one's life.

- Nick Williams

I love dog books....Old Yeller is still my favorite movie from when I was a kid (just 10 years ago) I just read Marley and Me, but my dad gave me and my brother Nick the galley of Giv to read and now it's my favorite. I did cry, but it was still the best dog book ever. It also made me ask a lot of questions about the Kennedy assassination. I get that whole time better now.

- Jessie Williams

This is not just another dog story. It is the heart wrenching saga of two war weary souls. An abused dog with the heart of a lion and an emotionally scarred young marine just home from Iraq. Put them together as they travel across America and you have a journey to remember.

- Marijane Zimmerman

I'm not into dog books at all, but Giv is a book that tries to answer the very questions that are facing us as a people and a nation. It tackles the issue of community head on. This book is art. And what it has in spades is pure emotion. I love this book.

- Judy Thomas

I got a galley of this and I really couldn't put it down. Giv is a mural of America -- the America of 9/11 and Katrina, and of Iraq, the America of music and movies, crime and beauty, love and pathos, God and goodness. It is a great book about redemption and healing.

- Jennifer Argenti

A most unique, beautifully written and enriching book, it is to literature what the great murals are to painting and art. For that is what Giv is - an American mural. Murals have sweep and theme. They are a vision of life. A testament to ideas. This is Giv.

- Charlene Crandall

Well, I read the book. It was a quick read, mostly because I never put it down. And the cover had it dead on. Those pictures were the perfect metaphor for the whole book. I still have the images of the forest fire in my mind. I love Giv for what it made me think about...about love, America, the war in Iraq, 9/11...all of it.

- Janet Dover

Giv - the story of a dog and America is a must-read. I'm actually reading Giv for a second time in a month. The first read put me in the action - the war in Iraq, the chaos of Katrina, the violence, the fire. The journey of Giv and the marine doesn't read like fiction but real life. The second read has been as great a journey, but I am savoring Teran's poetic language, appreciating how he tells the tale with metaphor and grace filled language. Giv somehow embodies my own struggles in life. His healing is mine, the soldier's and America's.

- Kristi Hart