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Lynne Hugo

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Lynne Hugo : Where the Trail Grows Faint: A Year in the Life of a Therapy Dog Team (River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Prize) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where the Trail Grows Faint: A Year in the Life of a Therapy Dog Team (River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Prize):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended!By SuzA touching, humorous and thoughtful exploration of the passing of seasons and lives, decisions about end of life care with all its challenges and difficulties, and how dog therapy can ease some of the burdens. A must read for dog lovers and those with elderly parents.5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good reading, but not what I expectedBy CdbI absolutely loved the first chapter. After reading it, I come to the conclusion it wasn't what I expected, though. Oh yes, it is definitely good reading.. but the reviews mislead me to think it was more about the dog than it was. If I had to sum it up, it was more about the woman and her feelings toward her own aging parents and many times comparing the experiences in a nursing home to how she feels about taking care of her own parents. Some of the things mentioned about the dog scared me... I can't count how many times she said that the dog forgot all its obedience training in the home. It would more often be off-leash, run up to residents... even pushing a person in a wheelchair backwards with its jump to the lap. She mentioned tossing balls and having the residents toss balls for the dog. Oftentimes the dog decided when it wanted to jump up on a bed with a resident. Everyone was giving the dog treats (which I think I read recently that one of the Therapy Orgs says no to treats *on the job*) I am sure there were a lot of good behavior that she just left out of the book... but if my own dog did these things, I would be re-thinking letting her work in a nursing home environment.I did enjoy reading the book (it was colorful and eloquent), but was disappointed it wasn't what I thought it was. The one review said, "she includes all the extra techniques she figured out in the field to make them a better, more effective team." No, it did not. The only thing I came away with was that she needed to refine what she carries in her sack each time she comes to the home... a fuzzy ball, a container for the dog to drink out of, etc.I do recommend reading the book, to get an insight on how one person *got involved* with the residents, but don't get it if you think it will alert you to some techniques to be a better team.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EnlightenedBy Gene SpearHannah is a delight .what is wonderful is the way you put into words our relationships with the elderly . And shearing the way they feel. all different ,but feelings just the same. They should be acknowledged and remembered. We are living longer and longer. I hope that will be a good thing for myself and others.

"This is Hannah," Lynne Hugo introduces her chocolate Labrador retriever to an aged woman in a wheelchair at the Golden View Nursing Home. "Would you like to pat her?"

From School Library JournalAdult/High SchoolOstensibly a book about therapy dogs, this thoughtful work also looks at the shortcomings of nursing-home life. Dog lovers will enjoy the antics of Hugo's chocolate Lab, who is a great icebreaker at a home, and will learn that dogs needn't be perfectly behaved to be good in their role (far from it, in this case). Readers also learn that residents too often can be neglected by family, even those who live nearby, and that the effects of this neglect are huge in already severely circumscribed lives. Teens volunteering, or contemplating it, at nursing homes and hospitals, as well as social-studies students, will get a great deal out of this sympathetic volume and will be much more understanding and able to help residents/patients in practical but small ways. A fine and sensitive book.Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince William County, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Beautiful in its use of language and unsettling in its observations, this story was the worthy recipient of the River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Book Prize. Recommended not only for dog lovers interested in learning more about the training and accomplishments of a therapy dog but also for nurses, social workers, gerontologists, and anyone facing the prospect of long-term care for aging parents."Library Journal