

The Bond Between Writer and Dog

An unexpected friendship changes the life of writer Dean Koontz.

Posted: September 21, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

Koontz with Trixie © Jerry Bauer Best-selling author Dean Koontz never had a dog. He did, however, have a prolific writing career and a loving wife. And though plenty of dogs had graced the pages of his books over the years, there was never a furry main character in his life – until Trixie.

In the new book, “A Big Little Life: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog,” Koontz recounts the uncommon canine friendship he encountered in middle age. Having finally made the decision to get a dog after years of contemplation, Koontz and his wife opted to take a retired service dog from Canine Companions for Independence. Little did they know they were welcoming much more than a dog into their home.

Golden Retriever Trixie is a charismatic comedian, crime partner and consort who teaches Koontz a few tricks of her own. The book chronicles the evolution of their relationship, introducing readers to Trixie’s sweet personality, and reflecting on the ways she enhanced Koontz’s life.

From seemingly innocent indoor fetch to daily walks, training class antics to the difficulty of her last days, Koontz pays tribute to the glorious Golden that taught him more than he ever expected.

“A Big Little Life: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog” by Dean Koontz is on sale now.