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The Dogs Of Winter



Synopsis

A small boy, a cruel city, and the incredible dogs who save him. Based on a true story! When Ivan's mother disappears, he's abandoned on the streets of Moscow, with little chance to make it through the harsh winter. But help comes in an unexpected form: Ivan is adopted by a pack of dogs, and the dogs quickly become more than just his street companions: They become his family. Soon Ivan, who used to love reading fairytales, is practically living in one, as he and his pack roam the city and countryside, using their wits to find food and shelter, dodging danger, begging for coins. But Ivan can't stay hidden from the world of people forever. When help is finally offered to him, will he be able to accept it? Will he even want to? A heart-pounding tale of survival and a moving look at what makes us human.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

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Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 5.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,209,157 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #264 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #721 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #4264 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

Based on a true story, *Dogs of Winter* by Bobbie Pyron tells of five-year-old Ivan, a street kid in Russia who formed a close relationship with a pack of feral dogs. While this young adult novel is well-written and full of enough adventure to appeal to even the most reluctant reader, at about the halfway point, the heart-breaking events portrayed also became too much for me to bear. *Dogs of Winter* is a book I both love and hate. The symbiotic relationship between Ivan and the dogs is touching and beautiful. One cold day a large brown and black dog presses next to Ivan as he

huddles next to a steam gate in the sidewalk. Ivan holds his breath, wondering if the dog will eat him. Instead the dog simply curls up at Ivan's feet with a sigh and closes his eyes. As the two lay there, the people hurrying past them begin to leave coins. Soon, there is enough money for Ivan to buy two hot potatoes. As Ivan eagerly eats his purchases, the dog begins to lead Ivan away from the busy streets. He leads him to a hole in the wall, where there is a starving mother and her puppies. Pryon proved herself a master of dog stories with *A Dog's Way Home* and shows herself adept once again here. Ivan and the dogs give each other warmth and food, protect one another from danger, and become a family. In this regard, *Dogs of Winter* is an absolute must-read story for dog lovers. Except | *Dogs of Winter* will also make you weep. In her historically-based book, Pryon brings to the forefront the horrible plight of homeless children, of which there are over 100 million worldwide, and that of homeless animals. When Ivan's mother loses her job, the man she lives with hits her. And then one day she is gone. The man tries to bring Ivan to an orphanage, but instead Ivan runs away. He is rescued by a group of street kids.

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