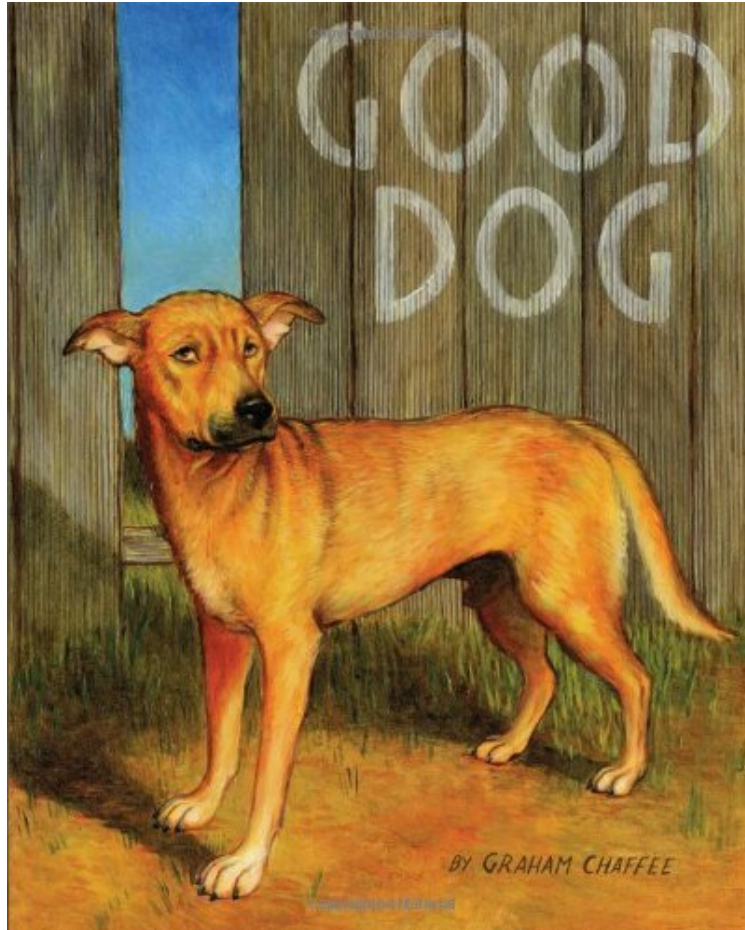


Good Dog

Graham Chaffee

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Graham Chaffee : Good Dog before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Good Dog:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book for dog lovers and art lovers! By Nelson Aspen
Graham Chaffee was my tattoo artist for many years in Los Angeles and I admire his work so much that I have it permanently etched on my body: various designs, genres, all expertly executed. I wasn't surprised that he would create a beautiful book...but I was delighted by the unexpected emotional impact of his storytelling with words as well as art. It's a great story, exquisitely illustrated and the only thing that dumbfounds me is that (according to the author's notes) he doesn't own a dog!
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Story for Dog Lovers By Kevin S. Kirby
I read this book over dinner last night, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Ivan is a good dog - in fact, a great dog - who just wants to find his place, and no longer be a wandering stray. His encounters with other dogs, people, and even chickens are bittersweet; some laugh-out-loud funny, some utterly heartbreaking. The stories of the other dogs in the pack in which he finds himself are equally touching. The art in the book is simple and beautiful, all pen-and-ink, but

with some focused detail. And Chaffee draws some great dogs. They are expressive without being anthropomorphized; he obviously knows dogs well. I love the thought bubbles above the dogs, showing what they are thinking about: a sandwich with an exclamation point, a chicken, a bone, a fence that must be scaled. There is a bit of adult language in the book, mostly from one mean mutt in the pack. But, it's nothing a typical 12-year-old hasn't heard. Don't let that dissuade you from buying this book. It is well worth your money, especially if you love dogs.^{3 of 3} people found the following review helpful. Good, light-hearted story
By Floppies
I'm a big dog lover so when I saw this book solicited I immediately pre-ordered it. It was a good read, a bit more light-hearted than I expected (I just recently read Laika for the first time), but personally I needed something not so emotionally heavy. I'm not sure that I would recommend this to the casual comic fan but definitely to any animal lovers or indie comic fans.

Graham Chaffee returns to comics and uses a simple, charming story about a stray dog to examine larger issues. *Good Dog* marks the welcome return of alternative cartoonist Graham Chaffee, who, after his successful 2003 collection of short stories, *The Most Important Thing and other Stories*, took a detour to devote himself to the art of tattooing, before charging back with his new, beautifully conceived graphic novel. Ivan, who is plagued by terrible nightmares about chickens and rabbits, is a good dog if only someone would notice. Readers accompany the stray as he navigates dog society, weathers pack politics, and surveys canine-human interactions. *Good Dogs* story and pen-and-ink art are deceptively simple, but Chaffee uses the approachability of the subject matter as a device to explore topics such as independence, security, assimilation, loyalty, and violence. Preen-and-up dog fanciers, especially, will warm to the well-meaning Ivan and his exploits with a motley assortment of Scotties, Bulldogs, and mutts. Chaffee combines illustrative gravitas with cartooning verve and creates a richly textured, dogs-eye view of the world. The story is a rousing Jack Londonesque adventure as well as a moral parable. Black white illustrations throughout

From Booklist
The good dog of the title is Ivan, a nondescript yellow pooch who lives an existence much like that of countless other strays. He chases cats, scrounges for food, urinates on trash cans, and has vivid dreams about herding sheep. Ivan's solitary life comes to an end when he joins with a pack of other strays led by Sasha, a warrior dog descended from arctic wolves. But the much-welcome companionship isn't without its difficulties. Ivan's delicate social maneuverings as he struggles for acceptance by the pack are much like the tactics that characterize human relationships. Ivan thinks he might like to have an owner, but although life on the streets is harsh, he's ambivalent about giving up his freedom. Chaffee's artwork is bold and straightforward, and he imbues each dog with its own personality while avoiding excessive anthropomorphizing. The natural audience for this work is, of course, dog lovers, but you don't have to be a caninophile to appreciate Chaffee's remarkable ability to get inside the mind of man's best friend. --Gordon Flagg
Artist/writer Graham Chaffee wrote a solid book about a stray dog who only wants what every dog wants -- a good family. He hooks up with some bad pups along the way and has some adventures, but ultimately has to choose how he wants to spend the rest of his life. The ending is at once sad but filled with hope. - Michael Sangiacomo, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*
About the Author
Graham Chaffee is a professional tattoo artist and cartoonist living in Los Angeles, CA.