



The Dogs of Winter

By Bobbie Pyron

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Now in paperback, the critically acclaimed story of 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.

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The Dogs of Winter By Bobbie Pyron Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6-10-A relentless darkness underlies this riveting story of courage and determination. Told as a recollection of a five-year-old boy in Russia, the story follows Mishka Ivan Andreovich from his relatively comfortable and loving home with his mother and grandmother to the lonely and frightening life on the streets of Moscow in post-Soviet Russia. The early chapters offer a dramatic counterpoint to the tragedy following his grandmother's death and the destruction of his mother's spirits and will to go on. When she disappears, Ivan is left with her abusive lover, who mistreats him and eventually takes him to an orphanage. Ivan escapes, and the rest of the book focuses on his brutal, frightening, unpredictable life on the streets. His astonishing resilience grows from his determination to find his mother and stay out of an orphanage. He finds refuge of a sort with a small but wise group of children living in sewers and underground stations and then breaks away to survive with a band of wandering dogs. It becomes his family, and he and the dogs protect one another. His gentle, timid nature erodes as he develops street smarts, cunning, and unwavering bravery. This is a captivating, important story based on the life of Ivan Mishukov, a Russian boy who lived a similar adventure. The author's note and extensive bibliography offer further insight into the underlying problems faced by Ivan and other children in Russia and around the world. Eva Hornung's *Dog Boy* (Viking, 2010) was also inspired by Mishukov's early life.-Renee Steinberg, formerly at Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJ(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Set in Russia during the 1990s and loosely based on a true story, this absorbing novel tells of a vulnerable and suddenly homeless five-year-old boy. Ivan is taken in by a gang of children who beg and steal to survive, but soon he joins a pack of street dogs that become his surrogate family for the next two years. Foraging for food and protecting each other, they navigate the dangers of the city in winter and the forest in warmer weather. The opening pages of the first-person narrative, in which Ivan recalls the warmth of his early childhood with his mother and grandmother, provide insight into the emotional base that anchors him in the troubling, sometimes violent times to come. In the final chapters, the boy's experiences when authorities separate him from the dogs and attempt to integrate him into human society seem even more painful than his previous adaptation to loss, privation, and fear. The many vivid details of street life and the convincing portrayals of even minor characters help bring the story to life. A source bibliography is appended. Written with compassion as well as a grim, sometimes brutal realism, this novel offers a riveting story as well as material for reflection and discussion. Grades 5-9. --Carolyn Phelan

Review

Praise for THE DOGS OF WINTER

A KIRKUS REVIEWS Best Children's Book of 2012

"Compelling and highly original fiction... An absorbing account." -- BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS, starred review

"Terrifying, life-affirming and memorable." -- KIRKUS REVIEWS, starred review

"Absorbing... The many vivid details of street life and the convincing portrayals of even minor characters

help bring the story to life. A source bibliography is appended. Written with compassion as well as grim, sometimes brutal realism, this novel offers a riveting story as well as material for reflection and discussion." -- BOOKLIST, starred review

"Well-crafted sentences, lively dialogue, and a remarkable story line combine for an absorbing adventure tale that young readers will find irresistible." -- HORN BOOK

"Pyron delivers a reflective, hard-hitting story about the bond between child and dog.... The book's emotional impact is immense." -- PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christina Moss:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get wide range of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is The Dogs of Winter.

Nicholas Sheen:

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