



## The Good Dog

By Avi

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### The Good Dog By Avi

#### When the Wild Calls

McKinley, a malamute, is a good dog -- he's reliable and trustworthy. Whether it's watching over the other dogs of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, or taking care of his human pup, Jack, McKinley never even thinks of letting anyone down -- until he meets Lupin. Lupin is a she-wolf and she's urging the dogs of Steamboat Springs to leave their domesticated lives and join her wild pack. And though she scares McKinley, he also finds himself drawn to her and the life of freedom that she offers.

For the first time, McKinley's loyalties are torn. Should he stay with his humans and continue to lead the dogs of Steamboat Springs? Or should he join the wolf and live freely, like his ancestors did? When the wild calls, what will McKinley's answer be?

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## The Good Dog By Avi Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Themes reminiscent of Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* ring throughout this vividly imagined animal story. From a canine perspective, Avi (Poppy) relates how a malamute named McKinley's life changes after he encounters a wolf. Head dog in Steamboat Springs, McKinley leads a busy life, protecting his family (including his "human pup," Jack) and keeping order among his canine compatriots in the mountain town. While trying to aid a runaway the forlorn greyhound, Duchess, whose owner offers a reward for her return McKinley encounters Lupin, a wolf who hopes to recruit dogs for her dwindling pack. Lupin's indictment of dogs ("tongue-lapping, tail-wagging slaves who take their food from bowls!") both stirs and shames McKinley; he soon finds his loyalties torn as he simultaneously tries to foil Jack's misguided plan to join the wolves, keep a wounded Lupin safe from those hunting her and fend off Redburn, a conniving Irish setter bent on usurping the hero's place as head dog. The action moves along at a crackling pace, reaching a crescendo in a dramatic moonlight confrontation. The dog's-eye point of view allows for some creative touches, including insights into animal behavior and the vocabulary McKinley uses for various human objects ("eating sticks" for utensils; "a block of staring papers" for book; "glow box" for television), but most compelling of all is the transformation of McKinley's happy-go-lucky character into a truly majestic leader. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 3-6-A story with a decidedly canine point of view that will delight dog lovers. Jack's malamute, McKinley, is the top dog in Steamboat Springs, CO. His enemy is not a cat but a sad excuse for an Irish setter, Redburn. Sedate small-town life is interrupted by the appearance of Lupin, a she-wolf that urges dogs to free themselves from the tyranny of domesticated life. The noble McKinley tries to help her, and save a mistreated greyhound, but is misunderstood and relegated to the "dog house" by rather dim-witted humans. Communication between dogs and humans is awkward at best. There is a lot of dialogue among the dogs, among the humans, and between humans and dogs. The people come off as pretty stupid and McKinley is rather tolerant of the limitations of his "human pup" owner. It is confusing that sometimes McKinley seems to understand exactly what humans think and say and at other times professes ignorance. Still, fans of the film version of *The Incredible Journey* and *Beethoven* will lap this up as it has a very cinematic feel. Many scenes seem almost written directly for film. Readers will have no problem following the rapid, almost relentless action. John Erickson's "Hank the Cowdog" series (Viking) and James Howe's "Bunnicula" series (Atheneum) are similar in tone.

*Marilyn Payne Phillips, University City Public Library, MO*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3-6. Life is good for malamute McKinley. As head dog of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, he enjoys both his leadership role and the responsibility of looking after Jack, the boy he regards as his "human pup." But when Lupin, a wolf with a mission, shows up, McKinley's comfortable world is turned upside down. Hoping to recruit dogs to replenish her dwindling pack, Lupin promises freedom from what she calls enslavement by humans. Before long McKinley's leadership is challenged and his loyalty to Jack is tested as he finds himself

wondering why it is that humans think they own their dogs. It's a valid question and Avi presents it, from McKinley's point of view, in an interesting mix of adventure and animal rights advocacy. A welcome element of humor in the otherwise serious story derives from Avi's creation of dog names for human objects: TV, for example, is a "glow box"; a book is "a block of staring papers." Avi's many fans will, doubtless, be glad to stare at the always-inventive author's latest block of papers. *Michael Cart*  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Joseph Jenkins:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a e-book your ability to survive increase then having chance to stay than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this The Good Dog book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

#### **Edith Macklin:**

The e-book with title The Good Dog includes a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This kind of book exist new understanding the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

#### **Katherine Contreras:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not just a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is The Good Dog.

#### **Gail Blakely:**

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