



Same Dog Twice

Marty Meyer

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The loss of a beloved companion leaves an aching hole we never can fill. Our hearts long to have them back. This truth remains the same whether that friend walked on two legs or four. In *Same Dog Twice* author Marty Meyer tells how her dog, Jessy, came into her life, how she came to discover a unique connection with animals, and how Jessy returned to her life after the dog's death.

Meyer's book offers an intriguing glimpse into the human connection with animals. Meyer befriended a semi-wild dog during a field assignment as a biologist. Sometime later, after meeting an animal communicator, Meyer began studying communication with animals. She developed a special connection with her own dog, then began working with other people's animals. When Jessy died, Meyer believed that the dog's spirit would return to her in the form of another dog. Eventually, she became convinced this had happened.

While the book deals with reincarnation, it does not focus on it. Stories center more on the joy of loving a pet. And although Meyer shares her experiences communicating with animals, this communication does not occur as a conversation. Instead, Meyer reports she sees pictures, sometimes like flashbacks of memory, or simply gets a strong sense of emotion. Although the communication mimics what pet owners experience when they feel they know what their animal is thinking, Meyer describes what she senses as being much stronger and clearer. She believes she uniquely connects with animals' spirits, a belief which helped convince her that she had found Jessy again after the dog's death.

Meyer holds a Bachelors degree in Marine Science and Biology and served as chief biologist for an environmental company. Although she now works as an animal communication specialist, her research background and her field work led her to the interesting settings that grace the book. Her scientific training also adds an interesting counterpoint to her spiritual perspective. But she proves an able storyteller, having honed her skills writing for *Bark*, *Country*, and *Species Link*.

While her spiritual beliefs play a significant role—which may turn off some readers—she never becomes preachy. She focuses mainly on her adventures with and love for her dog. And while some readers may not agree with her conclusions, Meyer tells a captivating tale with a warm heart. Her love for animals truly shines. And that's something anyone who has cared for a four-legged friend can appreciate.

DIANE GARDNER (August 26, 2010)

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