



The Summer of Riley

By Eve Bunting

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"Maybe that's one of the reasons people get dogs, to kind of close up the empty places inside them."

Eleven-year-old William never needed a friend more than now. After his parents' separation, his father's new engagement, and his grandfather's dying without any warning -- adopting big, beautiful Riley is the first thing in a long time that has made him feel better. That is, until Riley innocently chases a horse.

Local law states that any animal that chases livestock must be put to sleep. Suddenly William stands to lose another thing close to him. Together with his "totally unsurpassed" friend Grace, William begins a campaign to reverse the county commissioners' decision. But with a community divided on the issue, and the bully Ellis Porter trying to stop them at every turn, will they be able to save Riley's life?

Celebrated author Eve Bunting shows William's determined struggle to fight for what he believes in. *The Summer of Riley* is an inspiring novel about learning to accept life's changes, the healing power of friendship, and the unending desire to protect those we love.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"Bunting's straightforward story about an Oregon boy who learns to accept the loss of loved ones, including a dog, is heartwarming despite some heavy touches," said PW. Ages 8-12. (Apr.)

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From School Library Journal

Gr 4-6-With the recent death of his grandfather and his parents' decision to separate, 11-year-old William struggles with his grief and anger until an abandoned Lab comes into his life. Boy and dog bond immediately, but then William takes him to visit a neighbor. Without warning, Riley breaks away and begins to chase Peachie's old racehorse, causing injury to him. When the dog runs over to her farm again, she calls the animal-control officers and they take Riley away. Determined to save his pet from a possible death sentence, William begins a publicity campaign to vie for the townspeople's sympathies. Riley is saved when a man offers to take him and train him to keep an airport runway clear of birds. Although William loses the dog he loves, he realizes that he has done his best and begins to accept the changes that are taking place in his life. The interactions among various characters are well developed. This is a thought-provoking story but the resolution, though believable, is not totally satisfying since it gets everyone off the hook without any real change taking place concerning the law or people's attitudes. It is disturbing how quickly everyone except William gives up on Riley. Everything is great when he appears to be "the perfect dog," but one flaw and immediately he becomes a "throwaway" once again. Bunting has really captured the dilemma of our contemporary society, which wants simple solutions to complex situations, often demands perfection, and rejects anything less.

Carol Schene, Taunton Public Schools, MA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-6. William is still adjusting to his parents' separation and his father's engagement when his beloved grandfather dies. He knows his mother is letting him adopt a dog so he'll start feeling better, and Riley appears to be a perfect pet--smart, friendly, well-mannered, and a great listener. But when Riley violates a state law by chasing a neighbor's horse, William has to convince the county commissioners not to destroy his friend. As William works with his parents, his friend Grace, and the vet at the animal shelter to save Riley, he learns that although the law seems unjust to him, there are valid arguments to support it. In the process, he also comes to terms with the changes in his life and finds a new home and career for his canine pal. Bunting's story will have strong appeal for middle-graders who will relish the bittersweet but satisfying resolution and the picture of a boy standing up to uncaring adults, bullies, and the system. *Chris Sherman*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jean Parks:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people love it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a e-book you will get new information since book is one of various ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you more imaginative. When you reading a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to some others. When you read this The Summer of Riley, it is possible to tells your family, friends along with soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a e-book.

Lena Drew:

The particular book The Summer of Riley has a lot details on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Sandra Vincent:

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

Sandra Easley:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside having friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like The Summer of Riley which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

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