



The Dog Stars (Vintage Contemporaries)

By Peter Heller

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Hig somehow survived the flu pandemic that killed everyone he knows. Now his wife is gone, his friends are dead, and he lives in the hangar of a small abandoned airport with his dog, Jasper, and a mercurial, gun-toting misanthrope named Bangley.

But when a random transmission beams through the radio of his 1956 Cessna, the voice ignites a hope deep inside him that a better life exists outside their tightly controlled perimeter. Risking everything, he flies past his point of no return and follows its static-broken trail, only to find something that is both better and worse than anything he could ever hope for.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2012: Adventure writer Peter Heller's *The Dog Stars* is a first novel set in Colorado after a superflu has culled most of humanity. A man named Hig lives in a former airport community—McMansions built along the edge of a runway—which he shares with his 1956 Cessna, his dog, and a slightly untrustworthy survivalist. He spends his days flying the perimeter, looking out for intruders and thinking about the things he's lost—his deceased wife, the nearly extinct trout he loved to fish. When a distant beacon sparks in him the realization that something better might be out there, it's only a matter of time before he goes searching. Poetic, thoughtful, transformative, this novel is a rare combination of the literary and highly readable. --*Chris Schlupe*

Amazon Exclusive: Author Peter Heller on the Star of *The Dog Stars*



The inspiration for Jasper, a Blue Heeler mix, who is an integral part of this novel.

Our Hero, Hig, lives at a little country airstrip which he shares with his beloved blue heeler Jasper, and a mean gun nut named Bangley. It's nine years after a super-flu has killed 99.7% of the people on the planet. Hig sleeps out under the open sky at night with Jasper. He does it because he loves to see the stars, and because it's safer: if marauders come he won't be trapped in one of the nearby houses.

He used to have a book of the stars, but now he doesn't, so when he's lying out at night he makes up constellations. Mostly they are animals, and he makes one for his best friend Jasper. *The Dog Stars*. It's Hig's way of reinventing the lost world, and keeping in touch with the things he loves.

Jasper, to me, is the star of the book. He is fiercely loyal, and he gives Hig something to live for when there is not much else to hold on to.

Review

A *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Atlantic Monthly* Best Book of the Year

“Extraordinary. . . . One of those books that makes you happy for literature.” —Junot Díaz, *The Wall Street Journal*

“This end-of-the-world novel [is] more like a rapturous beginning. . . . Remarkable.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“For all those who thought Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* the last word on the post-apocalyptic world—think again. . . . Make time and space for this savage, tender, brilliant book.” —Glen Duncan, author of *The Last Werewolf*

“Heart-wrenching and richly written. . . . *The Dog Stars* is a love story, but not just in the typical sense. It’s an ode to friendship between two men, a story of the strong bond between a human and a dog, and a reminder of what is worth living for.” —*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

“A dreamy, postapocalyptic love letter to things of beauty, big and small.” —Gillian Flynn, author of *Gone Girl*

“Heartbreaking” —*The Seattle Times*

“A brilliant success.” —*The New Yorker*

“Beautifully written and morally challenging” —*The Atlantic Monthly*

“A book that rests easily on shelves with Dean Koontz, Jack London or Hemingway.” —*The Missourian*

“Dark, poetic, and funny.” —Jennifer Reese, NPR

“Terrific. . . . Recalling the bleakness of Cormac McCarthy and the trout-praising beauty of David James Duncan, *The Dog Stars* makes a compelling case that the wild world will survive the apocalypse just fine; it’s the humans who will have the heavy lifting.” —*Outside*

“A post-apocalyptic adventure novel with the soul of haiku.” —*The Columbus Dispatch*

“An elegy for a lost world turns suddenly into a paean to new possibilities. In *The Dog Stars*, Peter Heller serves up an insightful account of physical, mental, and spiritual survival unfolded in dramatic and often lyrical prose.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Take the sensibility of Hemingway. Or James Dickey. Place it in a world where a flu mutation has wiped out ninety-nine percent of the population. Add in a heartbroken man with a fishing rod, some guns, a small plane. Don’t forget the dog. Now imagine this man retains more hope than might be wise in such a battered and brutal time. More trust. More hunger for love—more capacity for it, too. That’s what Peter Heller has given us in his beautifully written first novel.” —Scott Smith, author of *A Simple Plan* and *The Ruins*

“With its evocative descriptions of hunting, fishing, and flying, [*The Dog Stars*], perhaps the world’s most poetic survival guide, reads as if Billy Collins had novelized one of George Romero’s zombie flicks.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred)

“*The Dog Stars* can feel less like a 21st-century apocalypse and more like a 19th-century frontier narrative (albeit one in which many, many species have become extinct). There are echoes of Grizzly Adams or Jeremiah Johnson in scenes where Heller lingers on the details of how the water in a flowing stream changes

color as the sun moves across the sky.” —*The Dallas Morning News*

“Full of action and hope.... One you’ll not soon forget.” — *The Oklahoman*

“A heavenly book, a stellar achievement by a debut novelist that manages to combine sparkling prose with truly memorable, shining, characters.” —*The New York Journal of Books*

“Gruff, tormented and inspirational, Heller has the astonishing ability to make you laugh, cringe and feel ridiculously vulnerable throughout the novel that will have you rereading certain passages with a hard lump in the pit of your stomach. One of the most powerful reads in years.” —*Playboy*

“*The Dog Stars* is a wholly compelling and deeply engaging debut.” —Pam Houston, author of *Contents May Have Shifted*

“Beautiful, haunting and hopeful. . . . Makes your breath catch and your heart ache.” —*Aspen Daily News*

“At times funny, at times thrilling, at times simply heartbreaking and always rich with a love of nature, *The Dog Stars* finds a peculiar poetry in deciding that there’s really no such thing as the end of the world—just a series of decisions about how we live in whatever world we’ve got.” —*Salt Lake City Weekly*

“What separates Heller’s book from other End of Days stories is that it doesn’t rely on the thematic fail-safes to tell the story—*The Dog Stars* is quite simply the story of what it’s like to be alonet.” —*The Stranger*

“Proves a truth we know from our everyday nonfictional lives: Even when it seems like all the humans in the world are only out for themselves, there are always those few who prove you absolutely wrong—in the most surprising of ways.” —Oprah.com

“Heller has created a heartbreakingly moving love story. . . . It’s an ode to what we’ve lost so far, and how we risk losing everything.” —*Cincinnati City Beat*

“A stunning, hope-riddled end-of-the-world story. . . . Bound to become a classic.” —*Flavorwire*

“Heller’s writing gives you a heartbreaking jolt, like a sudden waking from a dream.” —*The Seattle Times*

“Heller is a masterful storyteller and *The Dog Stars* is a beautiful tribute to the resilience of nature and the relentless human drive to find meaning and deep connections with life and the living.” —Julianna Baggott, author of *Pure*

“Terrific . . . With echoes of Moby Dick, *The Dog Stars* . . . brings Melville’s broad, contemplative exploration of good and evil to his story.” —*Shelf Awareness*

“Heller’s surprising and irresistible blend of suspense, romance, social insight, and humor creates a cunning form of cognitive dissonance neatly pegged by Hig as an ‘apocalyptic parody of Norman Rockwell’—a novel, that is, of spiky pleasure and signal resonance.” —*Booklist* (starred)

About the Author

PETER HELLER is the best-selling author of three novels, including *The Painter* and *Celine*. He holds an

MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in both fiction and poetry. An award-winning adventure writer and a longtime contributor to NPR, Heller is a contributing editor at *Outside* magazine, *Men's Journal*, and *National Geographic Adventure*, and a regular contributor to *Bloomberg Businessweek*. He is also the author of several nonfiction books, including *Kook*, *The Whale Warriors*, and *Hell or High Water: Surviving Tibet's Tsangpo River*. He lives in Denver, Colorado.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Settles:

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Debbie Jackson:

The publication untitled *The Dog Stars* (Vintage Contemporaries) is the e-book that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you actually. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of research when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of *The Dog Stars* (Vintage Contemporaries) from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

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Roderick Grubb:

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