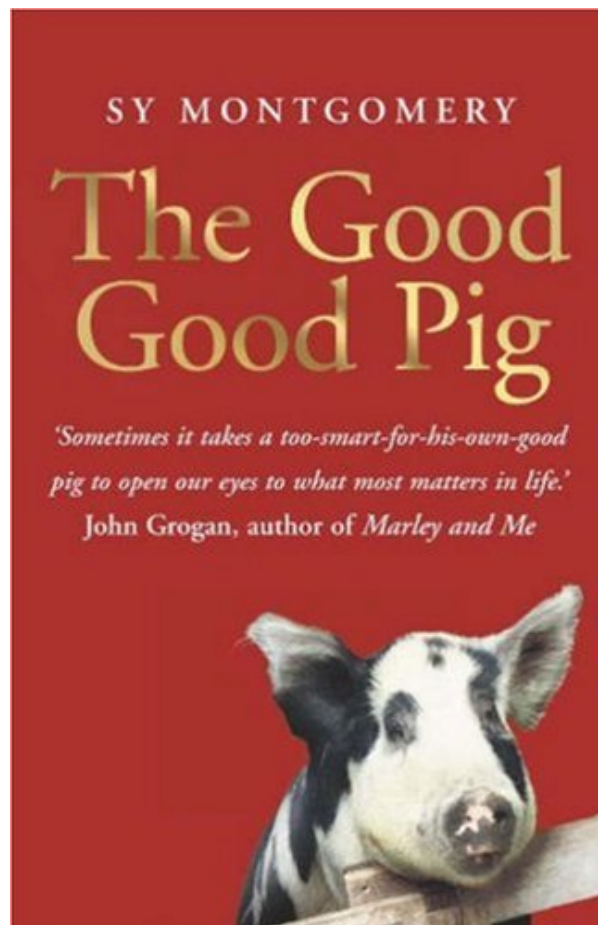


**THE GOOD GOOD PIG - THE
EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER
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The Good Good Pig

*'Sometimes it takes a too-smart-for-his-own-good
pig to open our eyes to what most matters in life.'*

John Grogan, author of *Marley and Me*



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The Good Good Pig: The Extraordinary Life of Christopher Hogwood[THE GOOD GOOD PIG: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER HOGWOOD] By Montgomery, Sy (Author)Apr-17-2007
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Most helpful customer reviews

51 of 52 people found the following review helpful.

The Einstein of Pigdom

By Carol Mello

First, let's clear up some of the comments made in other reviews:

1. If you get a misprint book, that does not mean the book should be rated poorly. It means you should return it wherever you purchased it and ask for a non-misprint copy (too bad books are not like stamps, where misprints are worth more the good prints). Mistakes happen at the printer and that is no reflection on what the author has written.
2. One reviewer complained that this book was not like the author's other wildlife books which are in exotic locations around the world. Duh! This is a book about the author's pet pig. The other reviewer's remark is like complaining that the orange in your lunch bag is not a grand marnier souffle.
3. Much as I like E.B.White's "Charlotte's Web" (I like everything E.B.White ever wrote), to compare Christopher to Wilbur is not fair to either Wilbur or Christopher. The really brilliant character in E.B.White's novel was not Wilbur the pig, but Charlotte the spider.

I liked this book. I liked it a lot. I have known several people who have owned pigs. They have remarked on how intelligent their pigs were (as smart or smarter than dogs) and told me some stories. None of those other intelligent pigs measure up to Christopher Hogwood. This is the Einstein of pigdom, truly worthy of the author's book length eulogy to him.

I bought this book in a book store, an impulse buy, because I liked the cover. I have a fondness for animals with black patches about their eyes (I own 2 calicos with black eye patches).

That is one cute piglet on the cover. He looks a little mischievous, doesn't he? That's because he is!

Christopher was a sickly runt. At the farm where he was born, he was so small and so weak he had trouble pushing through the crowd of other piglets to get something to eat. The author and her husband, while visiting the farm, see Christopher and know he is doomed to an early death if he stays at the farm. So they take him home. They improvise a pen for him in their barn. He may be a weak runt but not a dumb one. He escapes. The author and her husband make repeated enhancements to the security of Christopher's pen and he manages to overcome them all using his ingenuity. Eventually, the author's father-in-law, an engineer, builds an escape proof pig palace for Christopher.

In addition to being clever at escaping, Christopher is a gourmand. He savors the tidbits in his meals. But he is not above the common man or pig: he loves beer. So the author's husband has a standing order at the local grocery store for cases of beer for Chris (they change him to Schlitz because he drinks so much).

Christopher endears himself not only to the author and her husband, but to their friends, their neighbors, the local police force, and the whole town. I wish my cats were even half as clever as Christopher. I had a wonderful time reading about the antics of this good good real-life pig.

69 of 73 people found the following review helpful.

A good good story

By Eileen

When author Sy Montgomery brought home the sickliest runt of the pig litter as a pet, she never imagined how much he would grow and enrich the lives of all those who came in contact with him. This amazing pig not only thrived, but he reached 750 pounds of exuberance and free spirit. Christopher Hogwood was not just sociable and amusing, but he was also a catalyst for humans around him to help and support each other. In fact, the book is as much about the people who came in contact with Christopher as it is about the pig himself.

Montgomery, who has written many publications on animal life around the world, brings her deep love and respect for all animals to this book. She includes descriptions of some of the places she has been and the amazing creatures she has studied. She treats Christopher with the same sense of wonder as she had for the legendary pink dolphins of Brazil and the man-killing tigers of India. She makes Christopher's gluttony a delight to imagine. She makes the reader chuckle at his opinionated personality and his enjoyment of being pampered at "pig spa."

This memoir is funny, enlightening, and touching. If you loved the classic children's story "Charlotte's Web," you'll adore "The Good Good Pig." As Charlotte would have said, Christopher is some pig!

Eileen Rieback

38 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

A fun, heart-warming book

By Bookreporter

One person in Christopher Hogwood's community was able to get a check cashed on the strength of being a friend of the well-known pig. Christopher was a write-in candidate for local elective office, and his death was mourned not only by his slop-bearers but by friends around the world.

Sy Montgomery, a writer usually more concerned with insects and apes and occasional children (JOURNEY OF THE PINK DOLPHINS), has gifted those of us who did not know Christopher with the amusing, remarkable, poignant and revelatory biography of a pig who started life small and influenced the world

around him in a big way.

We know long before Montgomery tells us that Christopher is her sort of therapy-pig, a portal of entry into the world of magic and faith that children inhabit. Christopher was an orphan, and she and her husband Howard, also a writer, took time out of their busy, introverted lives in a cherished farmhouse in New Hampshire to spoil the "good good pig." Even a simple thing like watching him eat became a special pastime for Sy and her neighbors: "Pigs are quite literally made for eating --- they were bred to eat and get fat fast...grunting, slurping and snorting with delight, Christopher ate with the enthusiasm of a gourmand and the grace of an athlete." Even the gourmet bistro sent him leftovers.

When two young girls, Kate and Jane, moved in near the pig parlor, they fell in love with their porcine neighbor and started bringing him food. One of them took to communing with the pig when she felt blue. Together with Sy, they initiated "Pig Spa" in place of just plain old tummy-rubbing. They untangled his tail, bathed him and polished his hooves with cocoa butter. "But the truth is, while the brushing, bathing, tail-braiding and nipple stroking delighted Christopher Hogwood, even more it restored the humans who touched him."

Christopher grew large --- topping 700 pounds from having been a runt with a tenuous hold on early life --- and smart, able to unlock complicated hasps and having a mind to roam. The local policeman took to carrying apples in his car to lure the mammoth pet back home, and the locals got used to occasional random visits from Sy's favorite foster child. Christopher inspired trust and was beloved by children, some of whom proclaimed him better than a horse. He was often filmed and became a Christmas card for Sy and Howard, his raffish photos a reward to his many sloppers, combers and therapy clients.

There is nothing about this book to slow down the enthusiastic reader or bore the knowledgeable one --- both will race through to its natural conclusion with a tear here, a giggle there, a sigh of species empathy along the way. Though I would not be able to consider having a hog instead of a dog in my house, I admire Sy for taking Christopher in, and him for being such a gracious recipient of her fond affections. It was an adoption made in hog heaven.

--- Reviewed by Barbara Bamberger Scott

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