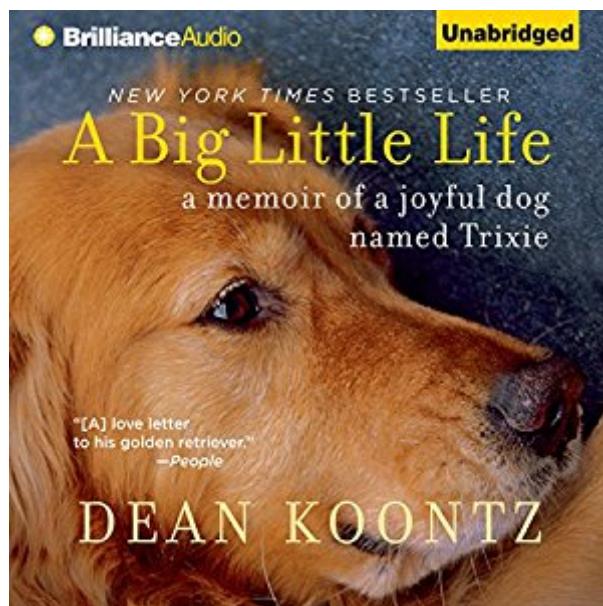


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# A Big Little Life: A Memoir Of A Joyful Dog Named Trixie



## **Synopsis**

In a profound, funny, and beautifully rendered portrait of a beloved companion, best-selling novelist Dean Koontz remembers the golden retriever who changed his life. A retired service dog, Trixie was three when Dean and his wife, Gerda, welcomed her into their home. She was superbly trained, but her greatest gifts couldn't be taught: her keen intelligence, her innate joy, and an uncanny knack for living in the moment. Whether chasing a tennis ball or protecting those she loved, Trixie gave all she had to everything she did, inspiring Dean and Gerda to trust their instincts and recapture a sense of wonder that will remain with them always. Trixie lived fewer than 12 years; in this wide world, she was a little thing. But in every way that mattered, she lived a big life.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Dean Koontz's *A BIG LITTLE LIFE*, is a beautiful and inspiring tribute to his golden retriever, Trixie. Those of us who have read Koontz's novels know that dogs - and especially goldens - have always appeared prominently in his works; and Trixie's picture has graced many a book jacket, sitting happily with her human owner. So it was no surprise how much this dog meant to both Koontz and his wife, Gerda. Trixie was a dog who not only changed their lives, but showed them a glimpse of the truly spiritual. As Koontz so beautifully writes, "She lived to love and to receive love, which is the condition of angels." *A BIG LITTLE LIFE* is a very spiritual memoir, and Koontz is clear that he saw Trixie as an angel (in the overarching, grandly sacred sense). One of Koontz's acquaintances referred to Trixie as a "holy soul," and that is just the way Koontz portrays her. In the memoir he

describes incident after incident that reveals Trixie as an amazingly special being, with the ability to connect with the humans in her world, to differentiate between good and evil, and to see beyond the mundane. Whether or not you believe the stories Koontz tells, it's impossible to read this book and not feel the impact of this dog on the lives of her human owners. I've read most of Koontz's novels - I have always found them to be both frightening and uplifting in their affirmation of the human spirit. Even his most disturbing novels (like INTENSITY) contain within them an element of hope that leaves the reader profoundly touched. My favorite Koontz novel has always been WATCHERS, in which a wonderful golden retriever named Einstein leads her human companions out of the darkness. That this novel was written over ten years before Koontz acquired his own wonderful golden is amazing! Read A BIG LITTLE LIFE - it will move you in unexpected ways. Even if you're not a dog lover, you can't help but be inspired by this animal's impact on the humans in her life. Koontz writes, "We are a community of potential saints with a shared destiny, and each of us is a thread in a tapestry of meaning." Trixie is the one who helped Koontz see this and live this - and in that alone she was an angel. This is a lovely tribute to a very special dog.

This is the first Dean Koontz book I've ever read, and now I'm a fan. Just started his book, "The Darkest Night". We've now been owned by 4 Golden Retrievers, and this book put our love for them into words we couldn't express ourselves but definitely felt. Thank you! Candy Greff

I avoid real life books about dogs, because, well - you know - it's got to be sad at some point. This is true of this book, but ... it's SO MUCH MORE. Laughing out loud, pondering the imponderables, and - yes - sobbing while sharing grief; this book takes you down all of these roads. The outcome is one of yet another shimmering prism of the wonder of life and God's creation - what a fabulous glimpse into the heart of and the message given by a dog. From the mundane, to the hilarious, and the frightening, and finally the sad - Mr. Koontz gives us fodder for our mental and spiritual gristmills, while letting our hearts swell and soar with joy. Read this book. You will be grateful.

This was a love letter to a beautiful dog who possessed great character, intelligence and love. The dog instinctively knew when someone or some other dog was not to be trusted. She grew to be the love of both Dean and his wife's life. Koontz wrote the book lovingly and honored Trixi's spirit with every word. Although I usually dread the end of a book about a dog because it inevitably ends when the dog's life ends, 99 percent of the book was about the dog's life and Koontz did not drag out the death of this beautiful creature. He talked about it and about their grief afterwards, but he ended the

book on a positive note. I fell in love with Trixie, although I never met her, except through Koontz' references to the most significant aspects of their life together. I enthusiastically suggest this book to any reader and, most especially, to those who read and understand the language of DOG.

Sometimes it seems like there's little regard for the sanctity of life in contemporary society. With this memoir--the only one I know of that Mr. Koontz has written, he honors the life of his dog, Trixie. Also, with the title, Dean Koontz directs us to the truth that every life is sacred and precious, and each has a gift which we can find if we're looking for it. Dean Koontz writes about his wonderful dog, and how she saved his life emotionally and spiritually. Her healing influence is reflected in his (comparatively) recent writings, especially the Odd Thomas novels (but I haven't read Innocence yet, we just got it for Christmas!). I read the book last year, and actually I am a recovering alcoholic and the book helped me stay sober for a night during the Christmas holidays, which are a shaky time for some of us. So I bought it this year for my daughter. I would recommend it for anybody who wants to read a true story--a microcosm about good and evil, and how goodness is stronger so that even if life isn't perfect there's no reason to give up in despair.

A wonderful, sad sad book. I read it when I needed a good cry because I knew I would have one when I read it. Trixie was a wonderful companion & became almost a child to them. That is ok. I never had children & I have loved some pets very much. I had a cat for 24.5 years & she was amazing to me. Her picture has eyes that follow every move I make & that is good because I still imagine I see her at the edge of my vision, although less than when she first died. I know it isn't her - it is my memories. I can relate to the Koontz family in their feelings for their lovely Trixie.

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