

# Book review

Title: Marley – A Dog Like No Other  
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## INTRODUCTION

Every pet owner knows that a little chaos can bring a lot of joy. In *Marley: A Dog Like No Other*, John Grogan shares a heartfelt and humorous look at life with a dog who turns a family's world upside down. The book paints a picture of love, loyalty, and the everyday challenges that come with caring for a pet. In this review, I'll explore how the story blends laughter with poignant moments, and I'll share my thoughts on what makes this book a memorable read.

## **Why did I choose this book?**

I chose this book because I really love animals and have a pet at home. The title caught my eye and made me curious about the unique story behind a dog that's so special. I thought the book would be fun and full of funny moments with dogs, but I was also interested in seeing the deeper, emotional side of having a pet. Overall, it seemed like a story I could relate to and enjoy.

# What were your initial expectations?

I expected this book to be full of funny stories about a dog being naughty. I thought it would be light and happy, with a lot of silly moments. But the book also had touching and sad parts, which made it even more meaningful. It was not just about a dog—it was about family, love, and life

# SUMMARY

*This book is about a dog named Marley and how he becomes a part of the Grogan family. John Grogan and his wife, Jenny, adopt Marley when he is just a small puppy. At first, he looks cute and innocent, but soon they realize he's very naughty and full of energy. Marley grows into a big dog who creates a lot of chaos—he breaks things, doesn't listen, and even gets kicked out of obedience school.*

*Even though Marley causes a lot of trouble, the family loves him deeply. He stays with them through many stages of their life—moving houses, having children, and even going through some hard times. Marley becomes more than just a pet; he becomes part of their family.*

*The book shows the ups and downs of living with a pet and how love and patience matter a lot. It's not just a story about a dog, but about how he changes the people around him in a good way.*

# main characters and central themes

## Main Characters:

- **Marley** – A big, energetic Labrador retriever. He is wild, naughty, but full of love and loyalty.
- **John Grogan** – The author and Marley's owner. He tells the story of his life with Marley.
- **Jenny Grogan** – John's wife. She also learns to deal with Marley and becomes an important part of the journey.
- **The Grogan Children** – As the family grows, their kids also become close to Marley and share many moments with him.

## Central Themes:

- **Love and Loyalty** – Marley is not a perfect dog, but he loves his family unconditionally, and they love him back.
- **Family and Togetherness** – The story shows how Marley becomes a part of the family and is there through all their ups and downs.
- **Patience and Acceptance** – Even though Marley causes trouble, the family learns to accept and care for him.
- **Life and Loss** – The book gently shows how pets are part of our lives, and how we deal with growing, changing, and saying goodbye.

# Analysis & Opinion

- I really enjoyed this book because it felt honest and real. The writer did not try to make everything perfect he showed the problems too, which made it easy to believe and understand. Marley was not a “good dog” in the usual way, but he was still full of love and loyalty
- The character I liked the most was, of course, Marley. He was always doing something crazy, but he was also very sweet. I could imagine the scenes clearly—him running around, chewing furniture, or getting scared during thunderstorms. Jenny, John’s wife, was also interesting. She had a lot of patience and stayed strong even when things were difficult.
- One part I really liked was when John said, “He’s not a bad dog. He’s just Marley.” That one line showed how much they accepted him the way he was. In another moment, Jenny said that Marley helped keep their family together even during stressful times.
- This book made me think that love is not always about being perfect. It’s about sticking with someone even when things are messy. Marley didn’t change much, but the family learned to handle things better. That’s a nice message.
- I think the only small problem was that some parts of the story were a bit slow, especially when the author talked too much about daily life. But overall, it was emotional, funny, and worth reading.

# What worked well in the book? What didn't?

## What worked well in the book

One thing that worked really well in the book was how real and honest the connection felt.

The author didn't try to make Marley look perfect. Instead, he showed both the good and bad sides of having a dog like Marley. And he is not biased

This made the story more natural and easy to connect with. Also, the mix of funny and emotional parts was really nice. Some parts made me laugh, like when Marley chewed everything or ran wild, and some parts made me feel really emotional.

The characters also felt real, especially John and Jenny. Their reactions to Marley were very relatable, just like how real pet owners would behave.

## What didn't work

so well was that sometimes the book had a few slow parts. Some chapters felt like they were repeating similar things—Marley being naughty again and again. But still, it didn't make the book boring, just a little stretched in places.

Overall, the writing was simple, warm, and full of heart. That's what made the book special.



## Did any character stand out? Why?

**Yes, Marley definitely stood out the most.** Even though he was just a dog, he felt like the main hero of the story. And like a human He was not like a calm or well-behaved pet. He was wild , full of energy, and always causing some kind of trouble . But at the same time, he was full of love and loyalty.

What made Marley special was that he never gave up on his family, and they never gave up on him also. Even when he broke things, made a mess, or acted crazy, he still showed how much he loved his people. He made everyone laugh, taught them patience, and stayed with them through good and bad times.

Marley's personality was so big that it was hard not to love him. That's why he stood out and stayed in my mind even after finishing the book.

# What is the important message or lesson in the book?

The book gives a very sweet and strong message:

**you don’t need to be perfect to be loved.**

Marley was a very naughty dog. He broke things, made a mess, and didn’t listen much. But still, his family never gave up on him. They loved him just the way he was. This teaches us that love means accepting someone even with their mistakes.

Another lesson is about

**spending time with your loved ones.**

Marley was part of the family, and he was with them in all happy and sad times. So, we should enjoy every moment with our family and pets, because time goes fast.

One line I liked was when the author said to Marley:

**“You’re a great dog, Marley. A great dog.”**

(This is direct speech.)

Also, John said that  
**seen any dog love like Marley did**  
.

(This is indirect speech.)

This book reminds us to be kind, patient, and to love to the fullest .

# Personal Connection

This book really made me feel something deep. I could relate a lot because I also have a pet dog at home. Just like Marley, my dog is sometimes hard to handle—he barks a lot and breaks things. But after reading this book, I started to look at him differently. I realized that dogs just want love, care, and time. They may not be perfect, but they are loyal and full of love.

Now, I try to **hold on to** the good moments with my dog and not get upset when he makes mistakes. This book was a real **wake-up call** for me. It showed me how fast time can pass and how important it is to enjoy every day with our pets.

Before reading, I would sometimes **give up** trying to control my dog when he got too wild. But now, I try to stay calm and patient. Like the saying goes, "**Every dog has its day.**" I know he'll grow better with time. This book really changed my view about pets and made me love my dog even more



# Conclusion

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who has a pet or loves animals. It's not just a story about a dog —it's about love, family, and memories. The book made me laugh and cry, and it reminded me how special pets are. I think students, pet owners, and even people who've never had a dog would enjoy it.

