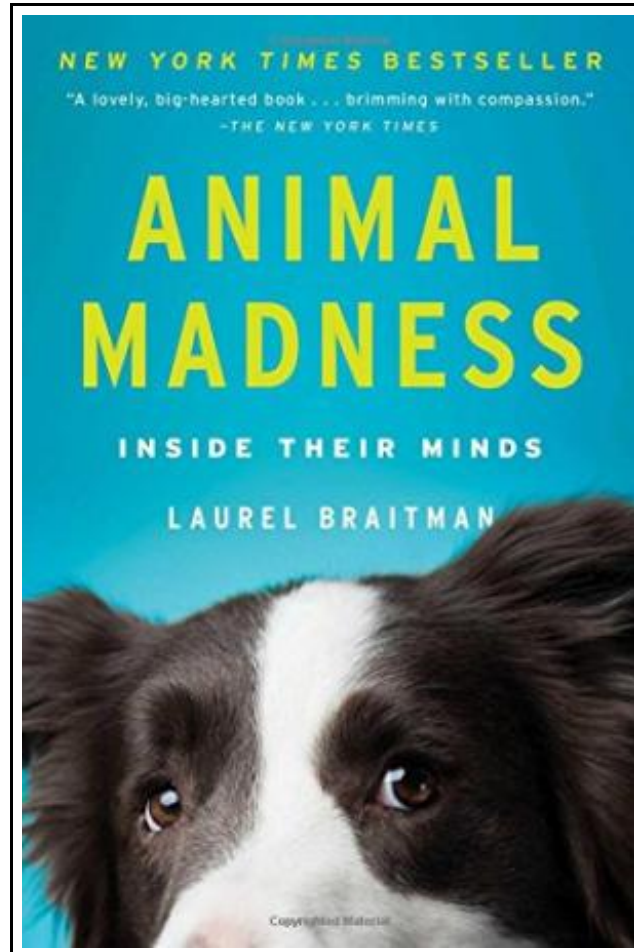


Animal Madness: Inside Their Minds



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Reviews

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(Letha Okuneva)

ANIMAL MADNESS: INSIDE THEIR MINDS



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Simon & Schuster. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. (A 2014 Summer Reading Pick for Public Radio International's Science Friday and one of Discover Magazine's Top 5 Summer Reads) Have you ever wondered if your dog might be a bit depressed? How about heartbroken, neurotic, or homesick? Laurel Braitman takes these questions seriously. A science historian, Braitman here explores the dynamics of mental health and recovery in animals, illuminated by a series of anecdotes and case studies of individual animals all over the world, beginning with her own dog, a 120-pound Bernese mountain dog whose separation anxiety was so extreme that he once jumped from a fourth-floor window (and miraculously survived). "This is a marvelous, smart, eloquent book as much about human emotion as it is about animals and their inner lives. Braitman's research is fascinating, and she writes with the ease and engagement of a natural storyteller." Susan Orlean "[A] lovely, big-hearted book. Dr. Braitman makes a compelling case that nonhuman creatures can also be afflicted with mental illness and that their suffering is not so different from our own. Animal Madness is also brimming with compassion and the tales of the many, many humans who devote their days to making animals well." NYTimes "Charming as the sketches of individual animals can be, the book is at its best in plumbing the history of how we humans have understood the emotional and mental lives of other animals. From Darwin, who wrote eloquently about his dog's facial expressions, to mid-20th-century behaviorists who disdained anthropomorphism, scholars have argued about the capacities of animal minds, a process Braitman compares to 'holding up a mirror to the history of human mental illness.' It's clear that what soothes troubled animals—patience, sympathy, consistency—helps humans, too." Boston Globe 379.



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