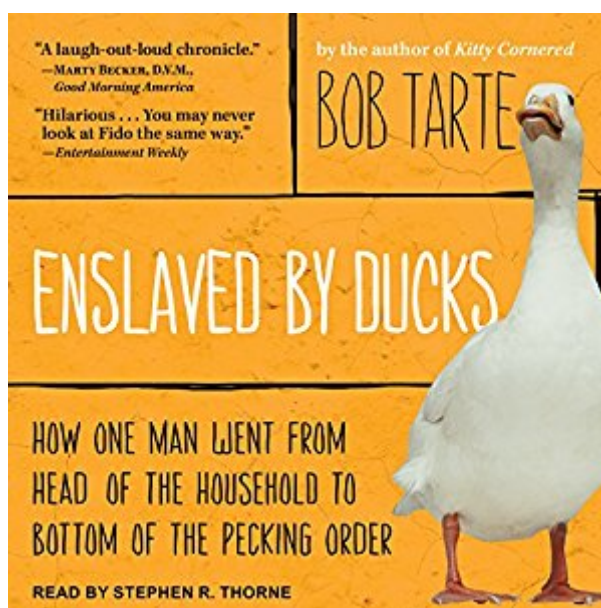


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Enslaved By Ducks: How One Man Went From Head Of The Household To Bottom Of The Pecking Order



Synopsis

When Bob Tarte bought a house in rural Michigan, he was counting on a tranquil haven. Then Bob married Linda. She wanted a rabbit, which seemed innocuous enough until the bunny chewed through their electrical wiring. And that was just the beginning. Before long, Bob found himself constructing cages, buying feed, clearing duck waste, and spoon-feeding a menagerie of furry and feathery residents. His life of quiet serenity vanished, and he unwittingly became a servant to a relentlessly demanding family. "They dumbfounded him, controlled and teased him, took their share of his flesh, stole his heart" (Kirkus Reviews). Whether commiserating with Bob over the fate of those who are slaves to their animals or regarding his story as a cautionary tale about the rigors of animal ownership, listeners on both sides of the fence have found Tarte's story of his chaotic squawking household irresistible - and irresistibly funny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I LOVE this book!! It is very funny, and sweet, and extremely well-written. I've given it as a gift to several bird lovers that I know (I'm not specifically a bird lover, but I *am* an animal lover). This book makes a great gift for anybody who loves birds (pet birds, barnyard fowl, or wild birds), and while you're at it, get a copy for yourself - you'll be glad you did.

I didn't buy this book from . I got it 2nd hand at a book fair years ago and LOVED it from the first page. It is one of the most delightful, truly funny books I've ever read and I recommend it to

everybody, even people who are not animal lovers. I didn't realize until just now that Tarte has written other books, so I am now going to devour them.

Bravo to Bob and Linda. This is a beautiful book about rescue animals and not so easy-care pets. The compassion of this pair of humans is clear. I also appreciate the honesty and sorrow on the death of beloved pets included in this book. I am confined to a tiny studio apartment and can only accommodate one pet at a time. Bob and Linda helped me feel the wonder of space and the joy/difficulties of caring for multiple animals. BRAVO This is a great read.

There are so many reviews of this book that it will be hard to add much to the discussion other than to chime in and say I really, really, really enjoyed this book. For pet lovers/owners everywhere, I think we will all see a bit of ourselves in Bob and Linda. We bought one cat and then he seemed lonely so we got the second cat. The cats were wonderful but my daughter really wanted a dog and so the next thing we knew, we went from zero pets to three! The writing is very good and the author's sense of humor reminds me quite a bit of Bill Bryson's and I adore him. Sometimes things are slipped in so subtly that you have to re-read a sentence or two to make sure you read what you thought you read. The author and his wife do largely create their own messes but their hearts are in the right place and the chaos that ensues is largely humorous. There are moments of great sadness (which always is true when speaking of pets) but overall, this was an uplifting, enjoyable read. I will definitely be reading his book on cats since those are the critters that own my heart.

If you like animals, or have friends who do, this is the book for you. It's the very funny story of a man whose wife talks him into getting a pet rabbit, then two parrots, then a dove, then ducks, etc. Before long their entire lives revolve around taking care of this menagerie. Highly recommended.

I read ENSLAVED BY DUCKS last week and thoroughly enjoyed it. It's a charming tale of life with pets. I sympathized with Bob after owning a sweet yakking cockatiel for a few years. I would recommend this read to anyone who loves animals. Especially parrots, other birds, ducks, cats, turkeys . . . Well you get the idea. Go visit Bob's world!

Enslaved By Ducks is one of the most charming books I've read in the past decade. Author Bob Tarte could have been married to any one of a dozen best friends of mine in the avian community; he tells the story of a husband who unknowingly follows the wife he loves into

bird ownership one bird at a time. He turns out to be a softie, of course, but I don't think he actually states that anywhere in the text. The reader gleans it from the account of Binky the first bunny's elaborate funeral plot and Tarte's matter-of-fact admission of how he spoke to Howard, the ringneck dove, when discovered at the bottom of an African grey parrot's cage. "Oh, baby, baby, what happened to you?" I moaned, certain he was dead or on the verge of death. While those two examples smack of sadness, there are plenty of hilarious stories throughout the book to make the reader look insane while trying and failing to stifle outbursts of laughter in airport terminals. For example, dry wit that set me to giggling and fellow passengers to gently moving away is on page 173 of my copy. Tarte shares one of the exchanges with his psychiatrist during which he has an epiphany: "His words hit me with a powerful insight about pet ownership. Rather than blaming our animals for adding complexity to my life, perhaps I should thank them for simplifying it. After all, they helped reduce the potentially unlimited possibilities of existence to a series of tedious and predictable daily routines.... Instead of laying ambitious plans for the future or even building up a healthy clientele for my freelance writing business, I could pack each day to the brim directing ducks in and out of their pens, separating fighting rabbits, and keeping parrot-seed dishes filled. The notion that something other than folly might lie behind my acquisition of nearly countless pets brought me a tingle of joy. I overflowed with gratitude toward Dr. Glaser. And then there's blatant humor with a tinge of cuteness: "Getting the food into the birds presented little problem, since few easier and willing targets exist in nature than the open mouths of hungry starlings. For a truly entertaining read, every bird owner will enjoy Tarte's *Enslaved By Ducks*. And if you have a spouse who questions your sanity in raising parrots or ducks or doves, give them a copy of this book to read and I bet he or she will understand you and his or her need to surrender now better.

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