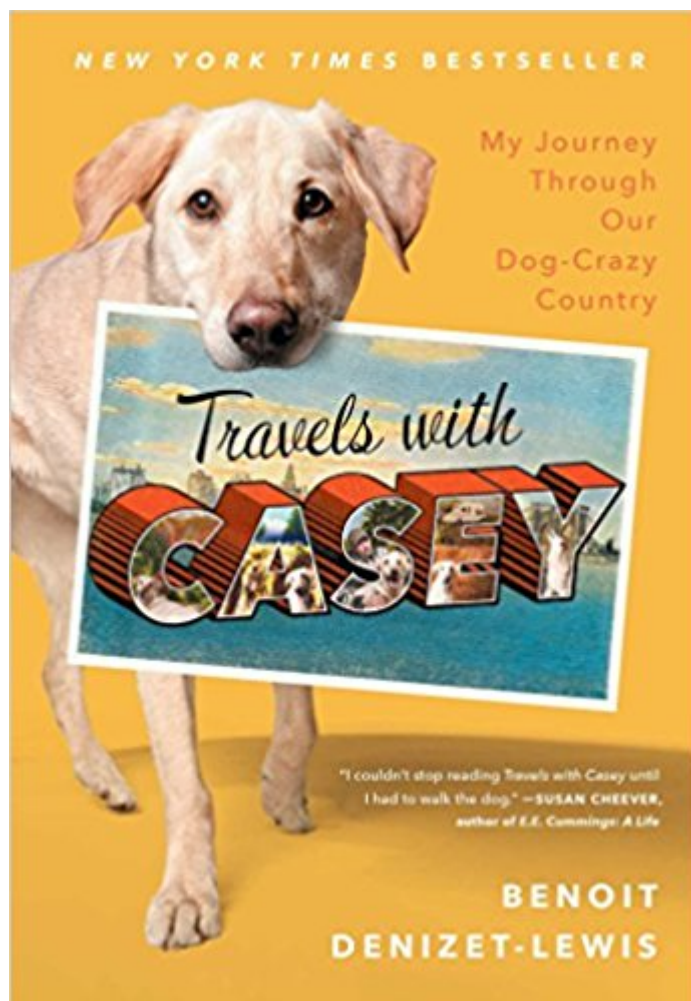




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# Travels With Casey



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller and People *“Book of the Week”*: This hilarious, charming road trip through canine-loving America is *“essential reading for dog lovers and armchair travelers”* (Library Journal, starred review). *“I don’t think my dog likes me very much,”* New York Times Magazine writer Benoit Denizet-Lewis confesses at the beginning of his cross-country journey with his nine-year-old Labrador-mix, Casey. Over the next four months, thirty-two states, and 13,000 miles in a rented motor home, Denizet-Lewis and his lovable, moody canine companion try *“with humorous and touching results”* to pay tribute to the most powerful interspecies bond there is, in the country with the highest rate of dog ownership in the world. On the way, Denizet-Lewis *“a master at effortlessly weaving bits of research into his narrative”* (Los Angeles Times) *“meets an irresistible cast of dogs and their dog-obsessed humans. Denizet-Lewis and Casey hang out with wolf-dogs in Appalachia, enter a dock-jumping competition in Florida, meet homeless teens and their dogs in Washington, sleep in a Beagle-shaped bed and breakfast in Idaho, and visit “Dog Whisperer” Cesar Millan in California. And then there are the really out there characters: pet psychics, dog-wielding hitchhikers, and two women who took their neighbor to court for allegedly failing to pick up her dog’s poop. Denizet-Lewis’s memoir “is a lot like Casey—fun, sweet, and a little neurotic”* (Chicago Tribune) *“a delightfully idiosyncratic blend of memoir and travelogue coupled with a sociological exploration of a dog-obsessed America. Travels With Casey is “a thoroughly engaging and often hilarious investigation of the therapeutic nature of our relationships with dogs”* (Booklist).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“As an entertaining, somewhat whimsical glimpse into life with dogs in the 21st century, [Travels with Casey] covers a tremendous amount of ground, literally and figuratively. . . . Denizet-Lewis is warm, often hilarious company.” (Bronwen Dickey *The New York Times Book Review*) “Travels with Casey is a charming, touching, human and humane book. The author’s self-deprecating humor, his keen eye for the truth of the people he encounters, his respect for those who live in what too many others might call ‘fly-over country,’ and his affection for dogs make this a unique book.” (Dean Koontz, author of *The City: A Novel* and *A Big Little Life: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog*) “Book of the Week: The abundance of fun facts makes [Denizet-Lewis’s] journey well worth sharing.” (People) “Book pick of ‘The Culture.’” (Time) “Denizet-Lewis is a master at effortlessly weaving bits of research into his narrative. . . . An intentionally intellectual, geographically expansive analysis of dog culture.” (Ken Foster *The Los Angeles Times*) “I couldn’t stop reading *Travels with Casey* until I had to walk the dog. It’s an adventure story, a love story, and a brilliant commentary on dog literature from J.R. Ackerley to Cesar Millan. Everyone who has a dog will love this book.” (Susan Cheever, author of *E.E. Cummings: A Life*) “Dog people will fall in love with *Travels with Casey*. . . . Even if you are indifferent to dogs, you will be charmed by this book.” (Amanda St. Amand *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*) “Benoit Denizet-Lewis has written about some pretty strange and fascinating people in his career, but no group is more entertaining than Dog People. Benoit captures this group with warmth and wit in *Travels With Casey*. Sit! Read! Enjoy!” (A.J. Jacobs, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Year of Living Biblically*) “Dog lovers will be entranced by Benoit Denizet-Lewis’s *Travels with Casey*, but so will everyone, because it’s a book about all of us and a book about America. His observations are funny and poignant and the writing is exquisite.” (David Sheff, author of *Beautiful Boy* and *Clean*) “Casey takes his place alongside Charley and Tulip and Skip as Denizet-Lewis takes his alongside John Steinbeck and J.R. Ackerley and Willie Morris. *Travels with Casey* is a book for dog lovers that reaffirms why we love them so. And it is a book for misanthropes that will restore their faith in humanity.” (Kevin Sessums, author of *Mississippi Sissy*)

Benoit Denizet-Lewis is a writer with *The New York Times Magazine* and an assistant professor of

writing and publishing at Emerson College. He is the author of >, America Anonymous: Eight Addicts in Search of a Life, and has contributed to Sports Illustrated, The New Republic, Details, Slate, Salon, Out, and many others. Denizet-Lewis lives in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Follow him @BenoitDLewis.

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to pack up and drive an RV across the U.S.A. with your dog, you can do it. Just read Benoit Denizet-Lewis' novel "Travels with Casey." Casey is Benoit's yellow Labrador Retriever. Benoit is a writer for the New York Times Magazine and a professor of Writing, Literature and Publishing at Emerson College. He rented an RV and spent 4 months driving from Provincetown, Massachusetts to Florida to Texas, California, the Pacific Northwest and back toward the east through Montana, the Dakotas, Chicago, the Ohio Valley and back to New England. He created a Facebook page for the trip and met a lot of fascinating people along the way. Throughout the book he shared stories and experiences of his own and of others he met. He introduces the reader to some really fascinating people, from dog rescuers to dog communicators and trainers. He also explores some of the hardest places for dogs from Native American reservations to kill shelters in Texas and feral dog problems in St. Louis. It really gives you a good look at dogs around the U.S. This is a fun book, and all dog parents should read it. You'll learn a lot and feel like you're driving with Benoit and Casey.

I love books about dogs and this one was interesting. Benoit came to realize how much he and Casey belong together even before they made a new friend. It was interesting to see how people in different areas of the country view their dogs. The author takes you on a wonderful look at our country through dogs. Worth the read!

First, let it be said that I am not a "dog person"-- in fact, I'm allergic to dogs, although I think they are cute, and I certainly don't want to see them, or any animal for that matter, treated badly. So why did I buy "Travels With Casey"? Because so many of my friends have pets (a few have cats, but most have dogs), and I am eager to try to understand their passion, or obsession. "Travels With Casey" definitely gave me some insights I didn't have before, although the insights were often about the owner, Benoit Denizet-Lewis, rather than about Casey, or Rezzy (the other dog he later adopted). Denizet-Lewis has written a book in which he (along with his dog) goes out on the road and meets a wide variety of dog owners: some seem to regard their pets as if they were human children, some believe their pets have amazing abilities, some are just happy to have the

companionship a pet can offer. During his travels, the author meets famous dog psychology experts like Cesar Millan, as well as owners of pet shops and kennels, people who socialize at their local dog park, people who rescue strays and try to help them find homes, a homeless couple who love dogs, etc. The vignettes are well-written and fascinating to read. At times, however, Denizet-Lewis uses the book as therapy, perhaps excessively so. His insecurities are as much a part of the book as his interest in dogs and dog owners: he often wonders whether he is the right kind of owner, and worries about whether his dog really likes him. He has concerns about whether his friends, and especially the men he wants to date, will like his dog. He meets a pet photographer and hopes he doesn't seem like someone who can't get his dog to behave. He is at his strongest when just telling the stories of what dogs mean to the various people he encounters; Denizet-Lewis is an excellent story-teller, and even a non-dog owner like me easily got caught up in the devoted guy who rescues strays, or the tragic plight of "reservation dogs" who have been abandoned. But on the other hand, I am not a fan of pop psychology nor pseudo-science (the author talks, at one point, to a "pet psychic"), so those vignettes were not as meaningful to me. That said, if you love pets, or if you are (like me) fascinated by the people who own them, this book is a good read, and well worth your time.

It took me a little over two days to read this book...I loved it! For dog lovers everywhere *Travels with Casey* is a fun light antidote to those everyday problems we face as pet parents. Traveling with a dog is hard enough but picking up a stray along the way becomes an adventure that you can only dream of. Parks that don't allow you to bring your furry friend to city parks especially designed for our fur babies make an enjoyable read. Can't wait for sequel to find out how Casey and Rezzy are doing!

This is a good, enjoyable read NOT particularly about a man and his relationship with his dog. It lightly touches on many different places they travel and different dog crazy things we do...I enjoyed it (because I am dog crazy), but I found myself wishing that the book delved a little deeper into things. I didn't really ever feel that he truly experienced things, just observed them from a narrator standpoint. But, the book flows well and does touch on a lot of different dog adventures.

I had high hopes for this book but it didn't deliver. I thought it was just ok. There were some great moments like when he was saving dogs in East St. Louis, and when he was actually talking about dogs. The parts of the book that I couldn't stand was he was talking about his love life and hookups.

That had NOTHING to do with dogs!! I would give the book 4 stars if he left his personal life out of it.

Most absolutely wonderful! I am only a third of the way through this delightful book, and find it almost impossible to put down. I scowl at anyone who even speaks to me, but since I want this most enjoyable journey to last awhile for myself, I have forced myself to set the book down - for how long I will manage that, I can't say. Benoit has a wonderful way with words, has done such fabulous research, has put everything together in an entertaining and thought provoking manner, and, is clearly excellent at English grammar and punctuation. Wholeheartedly recommended.

This book was ok. The book was about dogs but it seemed the theme ran more about the author and his issues than the dog or dogs. I thought it was too expensive for what I got out of the book.

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