



# A Dog's Purpose (2010)

By W. Bruce Cameron



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## Discussion Questions taken from *LitLovers*

1. Talk about how Bruce Cameron uses point of view to find both humor and pathos in his novel.
2. Follow-up to Question 1: How well does the author do in his ability (or not) to mimic what a dog might (might!) be thinking? Is there a certain credibility, or not, to the novel's premise—a thinking dog?
3. Talk about Bailey's feelings toward the cat Smokey. Agree...disagree? In other words are you a cat or a dog person. Or maybe you're both.
4. What is the problem with Todd, and why does his sister save Bailey? Why did Todd take Bailey in Chapter 9?
5. What gives humans purpose in life...and what ultimately does Bailey come to see as his purpose? Is it any different than what our purpose in life might be?
6. Are you a proponent of reincarnation? For humans...or pets?
7. Talk about sociopaths and their treatment of animals. Do some research and talk about the disorder and its diagnoses. Is Todd a sociopath?
8. Do dogs dream?
9. At one point, Bailey is reborn as a working dog. How do they, perhaps, differ from a normal pet, especially in terms of temperament and intelligence?



### Author Bio:

- Birth—1960
- Where—Petosky, Michigan, USA

Continued on the reverse of this page

- Education—West Minster College
- Awards—(for journalism: see below)
- Currently—lives in California

William Bruce Cameron is an American author, columnist, and humorist. He is most famous for his novel *A Dog's Purpose* (2010) which spent 52 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and is the first book in a two book series that concludes with *A Dog's Journey*.

*A Dog's Purpose*, both hard- and soft-cover, spent a year on the New York Times Bestseller list. It became the basis for the 2017 film with Dennis Quaid, Britt Robertson, Peggy Lipton, K.J. Apa, Juliet Rylance, Luke Kirby, John Ortiz and Pooch Hall.

Cameron is also the author of the best-selling self-improvement book, *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter* (2011) which was later adapted into the ABC sitcom of the same name that aired between 2002 and 2005. His book, *8 Simple Rules for Marrying My Daughter*, released in 2008, already had a Hollywood movie deal before its publication, with 89 Films and Wendy Finerman, producer of *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Cameron is the author of *How to Remodel a Man* (2004), which was excerpted (before publication) in the August 2005 issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*, and was the subject of the November 1, 2005 Oprah Show.

He is also a columnist for Hawaii's *MidWeek Newspaper*, with his "8 Simple Rules" column named after his bestselling, a humorous cautionary tales and memories of his life.

#### Read-Alikes:

*Fifteen dogs* by Andre Alexis

*The art of racing in the rain* by Garth Stein

*The plague dogs* by Richard Adams



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