

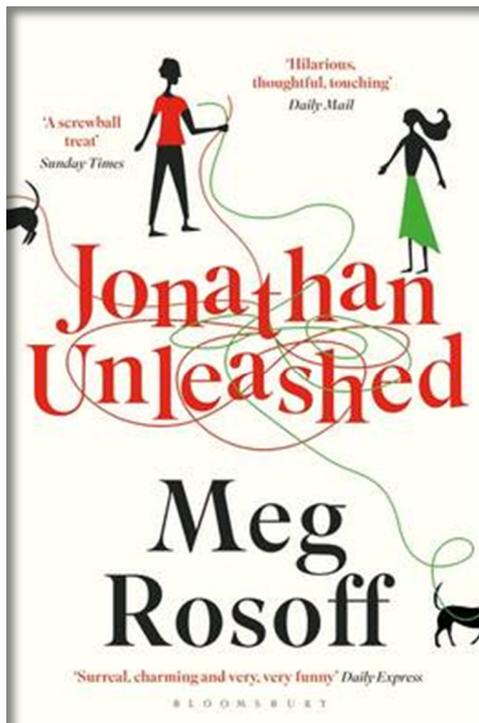


Helping you choose  
your next book

B L O O M S B U R Y

## LoveReading Reader reviews of **Jonathan Unleashed** By Meg Rosoff

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



**Emily Wright**

*Jonathan Unleashed is a delightfully quirky read, by turns poignant, comic and insightful. Just like Dante and Sissy, our canine protagonists, there is much more to this book than first meets the eye.*

*Jonathan has all the trappings of adulthood: a job which saps all his creative energy, a recently promoted fiancée, a flat (potentially rented from a criminal, but at a very reasonable rate for New York) and a best friend he's known since childhood. Why then, does Jonathan feel he needs a guiding hand in this thing called life? The guidance Jonathan so desperately craves arrives in unexpected canine form when Jonathan*

*becomes guardian to Dante, a cunning Border collie, and Sissy, a soft hearted cocker spaniel. Between them the two dogs lend a helping hand (or should that be paw?) to Jonathan's destiny. It turns out that Dante and Sissy are just who Jonathan needs to shepherd him on the path to being a proper grown-up.*

*For me, Dante and Sissy are the undoubted stars of Jonathan Unleashed. Anyone who has loved a dog will recognise traits of their canine companion in this pair, along with that sneaking suspicion that your dog probably knows more about your life than you do. A gentle humour permeates Meg Rosoff's writing. Her intuitive writing style offers a wry look at society's expectations, along with our personal expectations. Jonathan Unleashed is filled with charm; a light hearted novel that celebrates the joys of a life lived with dogs.*

## **Angela Rhodes**

*Poor Jonathan, his girlfriend is a little manic, everything and everyone she knows has a file, even Jonathon. Much to his horror, his boss is slightly unhinged, his friends (him included) have a child like sense of humour even in the workplace.*

*His two flatmates, Dante and Sissy are the only ones who really get him, and they are dogs!*

*How much more complicated can life get, for Jonathon? Living in NYC, was meant to be fun, not confusing, and fun it is about to get when Greeley enters the office and his life, but is Greeley male or female? Jonathon doesn't know, he just feels a sense of calm, and a crush is the last thing on his mind, but life is funny like that.*

***A tender, wonderful book, and one that will have you smiling and telling your friends to read.***

## **Phyllippa Smithson**

***I giggled my way through this most engaging story of a man struggling to believe he is a grown up and yearning for the simplicity of his childhood.***

*The man, Jonathan, is in his twenties and stepping out into the world of his first job (advertising), moving out from his provincial family home to set up in New York City and having to make decisions that in his childhood everyone but him had made.*

*Despite falling on his feet with both a job (thanks to his lifelong friend Mat whose brother runs the ad agency) and an apartment just minutes from Central Park, he is troubled and feels he has not found the 'it' of what life is about.*

*When his brother moves to Dubai on a contract, Jonathan agrees to look after his two spaniels. And through them his yearning for more becomes every stronger.*

*At times farcical e.g. he agrees to marry his girl-friend, Julie, of four years purely because the wedding agency she works for offered to fund the entire event which would be streamed live on the net. Neither had ever discussed marriage and whilst he agrees to Julie's proposal, his use of 'funeral' rather than 'wedding' when he is discussing the impending ceremony, gives a sense of what he feels psychologically.*

*I flew through this story and then Meg Rosoff who once again brings to the bookshelves something down right good.*

### **Sandra Rabiasz**

*Jonathan has just got his first job and his first apartment and his long term girlfriend wants to marry him. What more can a man want! He's also looking after his brother's dogs, Sissie and Dante - but who is really doing the looking after? As each decision Jonathan makes creates increasing complications in his life the dogs are by his side nudging him in the right direction, or not?*

*Jonathan is such a frustrating but loveable character, the dogs are inscrutable scene stealers and the story just completely draws you in. **This is a perfect gem of a book, so engaging and thoroughly enjoyable.***

### **Val Rowe**

***I laughed. I cried.***

*Jonathan Trefoil's life is a challenge! He is bored with his job in advertising, he fears that he may be living illegally in his rental apartment and his girlfriend wants to marry him at a lavish publicity ceremony organised by her company. His only salvation seems to lie in Sissy and Dante, two dogs whom he has agreed to temporarily look after for his brother, James. Can they help him in his pursuit of a different way of life?*

*I read the first chapter of this novel, sighed and shut the book. I feared that it would not be something I would enjoy at all and that it would be quirky and without substance. However, a day later I returned to it, determined to persevere, and by chapter 5 I was well and truly hooked in. In fact I was so absorbed that I read until the early hours of the morning and completed the entire book in two sittings.*

*I have never read anything quite like this novel, and it would be difficult for me to categorise it, but I found Rosoff's writing hugely entertaining. Her characters are a delight and the plot moves forward in satisfying chunks.*

***An unexpected treasure of a book!***

### **Sarah Harper**

*Jonathan's agreement to take temporary custody of his brother's two dogs*

*impacts his New York lifestyle far more than he had expected. The presence of doe-eyed spaniel Sissy and loyal collie Dante affects his relationship, work and home life, sometimes in the most unexpected way. We are led through these changes from Jonathan's point of view and, with his slightly crazy and occasionally somewhat deranged thought processes, this is an intriguing journey. Neurotic on behalf of the dogs he wonders if a canine version of Munchausen's by proxy even exists and whether he could be suffering from Florence Nightingale syndrome with the beautiful Dr Vet. He has three imaginary, bilingual children with Parisian Clemence, despite the existence of Julie, his unsuitable fiancé. However it is their imminent, magazine wedding which pushes Jonathan to the brink and at that point everything really starts to unravel.*

*There's a bit of a male sex and the city quality to this because of the New York setting but Jonathan's life seems much more charming and humorous than Carrie Bradshaw's. I did nearly give up on it in the early stages, thinking that it wasn't really for me but I'm so glad that I stuck with it as 'Jonathan Unleashed' turned out to be a very enjoyable read indeed. **This lovely, gently meandering book will leave you quietly smiling to yourself, not to mention desperately wanting a companion like Sissy or Dante if you don't already have the equivalent by your side.** A must read for dog owners and dog lovers alike.*

### **Kathryn Whitfield**

***Hilarious romantic comedy you will love and won't be able to put down.***

*I loved this book it was such an entertaining happy read. Brilliantly written, it was my quickest read yet, I couldn't put it down.*

*We follow the main character Jonathan as he finds his way in love and life after college. He rents a flat and starts a job he hates and then takes on two dogs his brother as asked him to look after while he is away. The dogs for me were the main stars of this book, they were funny and got Jonathan in some hilarious situations. I would recommend this book to all dog lovers, it was fantastic.*

Follow Katherine on Twitter: @kathreenieA

### **Vicky-Leigh Sayer**

*Jonathan Trefoil is a floundering individual. He is stuck in a life that he seems to*

*have little or no control over. One minute he's at college, casually dating. The next he's living in New York City working at a marketing company, in charge of his brother's dogs whilst he is working in Dubai.*

*Oh, and his girlfriend is seemingly now his fiancée.*

*Jonathan has issues with working at Comrade, it is mind-numbingly boring and he would much prefer to be exploring his creative side and writing/drawing graphic novels. Whilst Julie is living away from New York, Jonathan's life is mundane, but stress free. He goes to work, walks the dogs, designs his novels, and repeat...*

*When Julie arrives in town with a new job, it quickly becomes clear that Jonathan's life is a lot more hectic with her in it. And now she's saying that she wants to get married. He doesn't need to worry about a thing through because the magazine she's working on will pay for it...*

*But Jonathan although he loves Julie, really isn't sure about marriage.*

*How can he tell her without breaking her heart?*

***Jonathan unleashed is a novel full of some wonderful quirky characters, and is a great quick read. Perfect for this chilly winter nights where you need a little warmth...***

<http://thewelshlibrarian.blogspot.co.uk>

## **Nicola Kingswell**

*If only your dog could run your life for you.*

*Jonathan is a generation Y-er, a wannabe hipster living the life of an advertising junior in New York City. His brother has gone to work in Dubai, leaving Jonathan in charge of his dogs; Dante the wise Border Collie and Sissy the lovable Spaniel. When Jonathan's long term girlfriend gets a job with a bridal magazine and moves in with him, Jonathan starts to question his life choices. His boss is a moron, his only advertising account soul destroying and his girlfriend over-bearing and pushy. Luckily for Jonathan, Dante and Sissy soon take matters into their own paws. Throw in a free wedding, a spectacular melt down and a foxy British vet and this is a funny, feel good tale that will warm your heart.*

*I wasn't sure what to expect when I received this novel to review but it is a great read. **Laugh out loud in places. Meg Rosoff's prose is a delight to read, and I have to admit to wanting a Dante and Sissy in my life,***

***just to sort things out!***

### **Edel Waugh**

*This is a story about a man called Jonathan, he is a very likeable man who is taking care of his brother's two dogs for six months. It becomes clear early on that there is more going on with him than first meets the eye. Jonathan is deeply troubled and it seems like he may not even realise the full extent, but it makes fascinating reading seeing him figure things out. These dogs came into his life at the right time, they provide comfort, and in a way introduce him to other people. Jonathan is a very caring person who wants what's best for these animals, at one point I wanted to wrap him in cotton wool, he was putting these dogs' needs above his own, when he should have been taking equally as much care of himself. **It's a very touching book, I had a lump in my throat reading parts of this**, and it's the type of book that if you read in public you may have to wipe away the odd tear and other times there may be the odd outburst of laughter. **This book had it all, relationships, love, and finding your way in life.** I recommend this to anyone struggling with any of these issues.*

### **Humaira**

***Meg Rosoff never seems to fail a good book. I love her writing and her style- I love everything about her writing.** Once she is in a characters head, there is no escaping its sublime voice and personality. I would definitely recommend this book along with any other book that Meg Rosoff has written!*

