

*One Good Dog*  
By Susan Wilson

I was drawn to reading *One Good Dog* by a blurb I read in one of the many e-mails booksellers receive daily. Being an avid dog-lover and lover of books about dogs – remember *Marley and Me* and *The Art of Racing in the Rain* - I decided I had to read this book. *One Good Dog* tells the story of an unlikely partnership of Adam, a disgraced and former top executive of a large corporation, and a mixed-breed pit bull, a former fighting dog.

Adam's day didn't start off well: they were out of his expensive imported granola and he didn't have time for his daily run. When he gets to the office, his secretary Sophie, who seems more interested in her email than in working, left him a message that said "your sister called." The message takes Adam back to when he was five and his sister left home, leaving him alone with their father. He never saw her again but here was a message from her. When Sophie doesn't respond to his calls, Adam gets to his feet and does the unthinkable and slaps her. Adam is, of course, fired and Sophie files charges which results in Adam being sentenced to community service at a homeless shelter.

Much like *The Art of Racing in the Rain* we hear the story from the dog's perspective as well. As a fighting dog he is caged in a basement along with several other dogs including his mother and father. We learn much about how fighting dogs are bred and trained and kept in terrible conditions. But the dog, who is later named Chance, is somewhat proud of his status as a fighter and a winner and walks proudly when they take him out of the cage for a work-out. He does, however, take the opportunity to escape when he can and becomes a street dog. But the danger for all street dogs is the threat from the dog catchers and Chance winds up at the dog pound.

This is where Adam and Chance's lives intersect. Adam has never had a dog and in his current situation he can't imagine having one now, but after a set of unfortunate circumstances Adam is forced to take Chance home with him. This is where Adam and Chance both learn about second chances.

Although the plot is a made-for-tv movie in the making, I thoroughly enjoyed *One Good Dog*, thanks mostly to the narrative of the spunky dog, Chance, and his views on the way humans behave.

*One Good Dog* is published by St. Martin's Press and retails for \$22.99.