

Hound Dog True

By Linda Urban

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A story about small acts of courage from the author of *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*.

Do not let a mop sit overnight in water. Fix things before they get too big for fixing. Custodial wisdom: Mattie Breen writes it all down. She has just one week to convince Uncle Potluck to take her on as his custodial apprentice at Mitchell P. Anderson Elementary School. One week until school starts and she has to be the new girl again. But if she can be Uncle Potluck's apprentice, she'll have important work to do during lunch and recess. Work that will keep her safely away from the other fifth graders. But when her custodial wisdom goes all wrong, Mattie's plan comes crashing down. And only then does she begin to see how one small, brave act can lead to a friend who is hound dog true.

This ebook includes a sample chapter of THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A Note from the Author

Dear Reader,

In *Hound Dog True*, Mattie Breen keeps a notebook of "Custodial Wisdom." In it, she writes her observations about the work her Uncle Potluck does—and a few of her own stories sneak onto the pages as well.

For the past few years, I have been keeping a notebook. Or rather, notebooks.

When I was a young writer, I liked the idea of keeping a notebook or diary, but I always felt that what I wrote in it needed to be Important, Well Written, and Spelled Perfectly (note the capitals!). I started a dozen different diaries, but always quit after a few pages. My life seemed dull...my writing lifeless. And my spelling? Well, I never was a very good speller.

Even as a grownup, I would buy beautiful blank books and never write a word in them, afraid that my words would not prove worth the paper I scratched them on.



I'm not sure what made me treat this particular notebook differently, but in 2008 I bought a notebook and promptly messed it up. On the very first page, I wrote: *x-mas: papajohn's Hoppinjohn's grits.* Already I had made a mistake. No way would this notebook be filled with perfection.

What a terrific thing that turned out to be—suddenly I was free of all those worries about perfection and pretty pages.

The next page of that notebook is filled with notes about the early work I was doing on *Hound Dog True*. There are misspellings and lots of questions—and some really good ideas that never would have come out if I had been trying for perfection!

Now my notebooks are filled with all the bits of my life: hangman games and grocery lists, research for my novels and reminders about books I want to check out at the library. I make notes about my works-in-progress and jot down snatches of dialogue I overhear in line at the farmers' market. My notebooks are workbooks, scrapbooks, doodle pads, and datebooks. I have started some of my best stories by scribbling on pages wedged between meeting notes and travel itineraries. I feel lost when I don't have a notebook around

to scratch in.

Do you keep a notebook?

Do you fret about perfect spelling? About whether the stories you start in it will be worth writing? About what would happen if somebody accidentally got ahold of it and read what was inside?

Try this:

Get a notebook. NOT a fancy one. A simple one.

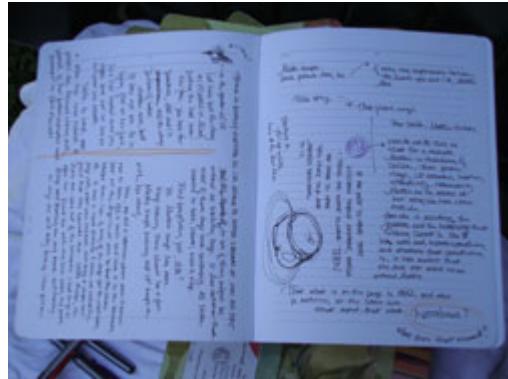
Write something simple inside. Describe the chair in which you are sitting. Make a list of all the birthday cakes you can remember eating (and when and where and what they tasted like). Tape in a photo of a place you've been or a place you'd like to go. Just put something on the page. Misspell something. Cross something out. Let the notebook become your notebook. Let it be as wild and messy and imperfectly perfect as you are.

--Linda Urban

Bonus Content: Photos from Linda Urban, author of *Hound Dog True*
(Click on Images to Enlarge)



Just a few of my notebooks.



Some notes for "Hound Dog True"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Blair Kennedy:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As we know that book is very important usually. The book Hound Dog True was making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The e-book Hound Dog True is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book Hound Dog True. You never feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Mary Rohan:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Hound Dog True as your daily resource information.

John Bledsoe:

The book untitled Hound Dog True is the publication that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, hence the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Hound Dog True from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Kay Davidson:

Hound Dog True can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Hound Dog True although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

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