

# BONDS



CAPTURING THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT DOGS SHARE WITH THEIR PEOPLE

INDRE CUKURAITĒ • HELEN PAIS



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For dogs and people ... and dogs with people

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to everyone who has been involved in this project.

Special thanks go to Alfonso – for letting the light in, every day. And Robert – the sugar cubes were and still are a life-saver.

Last, but by no means least, our dogs, Morrissey and Orlando: what would we do without you?



## FOREWORD

If you have picked up this book, chances are that you are a dog-lover. And, like most of us who have this immeasurable bond with our furbabies, you've probably had a few – and possibly many – conversations with them.

When giving cues and requests, we can find ourselves rationalising and negotiating these, as our dogs gaze at us with perplexed looks, twitching eyebrows and tilted head, their innocent cuteness throwing us off, mid-sentence. At times we speak to our beloved companions at length, sharing what's on our mind when we need a listening ear – especially one that is non-judgemental.

Of course, we do not expect a vocal response, though still keenly observe their expressions, looking for indications that they understand what we are saying perfectly well. And sometimes we even answer on their behalf, using a different voice from ours, in a make-believe dialogue. What must they think of us?

Over centuries, humans and dogs have co-existed. But, in the last decade, there has been a significant increase in research into our canine companions – mainly cognitive studies – into understanding our canines, and the results have confirmed what we have instinctively known all along: our dogs possess a high level of understanding, emotion, and intelligence.

How often have we wished that they could speak, especially when they are unwell or unhappy. There is so much we would like to know about them – what they think and how they feel. Do they think that we, their besotted carers, are completely mad? And, of course, the question we really want to know the answer to: "Do you love me?"

In this fascinating collection of very personal and individual portraits taken from a unique perspective, the photographer, Indre Cukuraite, has used her camera lens as the interviewer, to let the dogs share their thoughts.

The result is *Bonds: capturing the special relationship that dogs share with their people*, an elegant, dignified and respectful photographic chronicle of the incomparable relationship that exists between us and



"Yes, she is single. No, she is not available" – George and Darcy



"Relationships are kinda strange. There's a person, and you're, like, 'oooh, yes!' Then you just do stuff together"  
- Monty

The unique and elegant photographic story of the incomparable bond that exists between dogs and their people: very special relationships, observed and presented from a dog's point of view.



"He is so cool, ice cubes are jealous" – Thelma

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ISBN 978-1-345849-85-6

