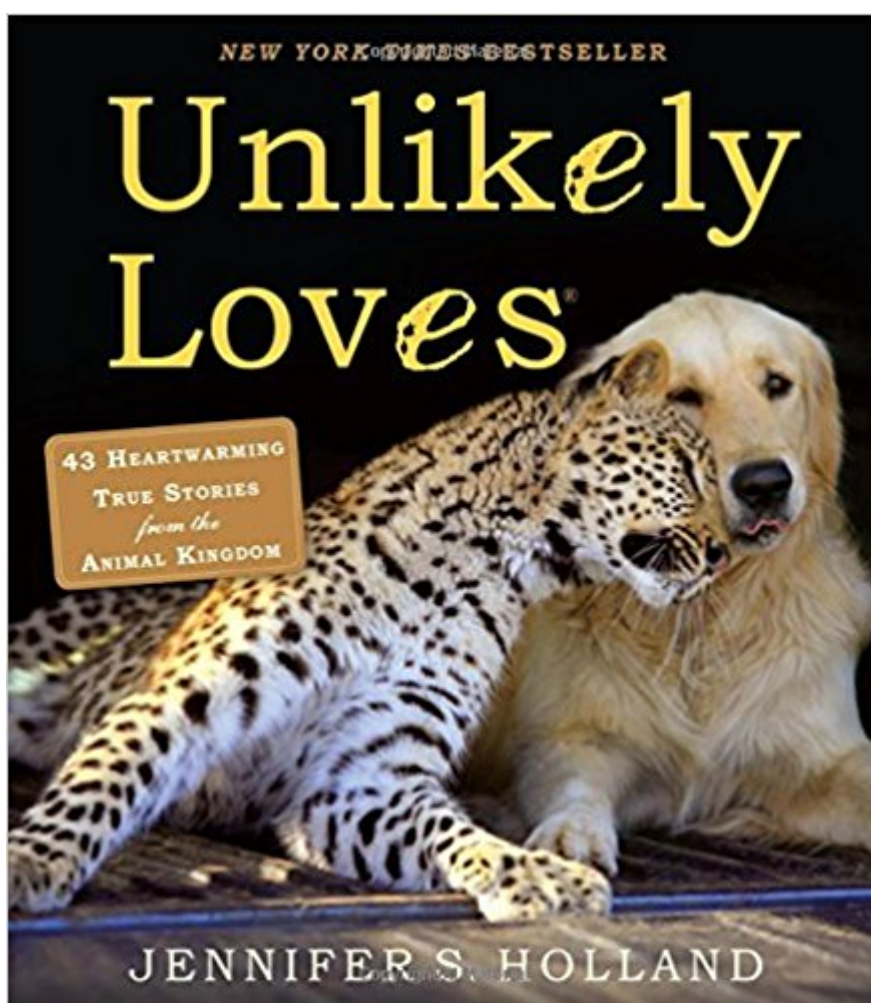


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# Unlikely Loves: 43 Heartwarming True Stories From The Animal Kingdom (Unlikely Friendships)



## Synopsis

In her inspiring New York Times bestseller *Unlikely Friendships*, Jennifer Holland introduced us to the heartwarming relationships that exist between animals of different species. Her stories struck a chord with thousands of readers, including Temple Grandin, who described the book as "amazing." Now Holland explores animal attachments that, in human terms, can only be called love. Packed with beautiful, breathtaking full-color photographs, *Unlikely Loves* is a celebration of love between species. Here are stories of parental love, like the Dalmatian who mothers a newborn lamb—a lamb that just happens to be white with black spots! Stories of playful love, including the fox and the hound who become inseparable. And stories of orphaned animals who have found family-like ties in unexpected combinations, like the elephant who's bonded with sea lions, goats, and other animals in her walks around the Oregon Zoo. Ms. Holland has interviewed scientists, zoologists, and animal caretakers from around the world, tracking down firsthand sources and eyewitnesses. The stories are written with journalistic integrity and detail—and always filled with the author's deep affection for her subjects.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jennifer S. Holland is a contributing writer for National Geographic. She has also written for, among others, The Discovery Channel, NPR, and The New York Times, specializing in science and natural history. [View all reviews](#)

My wonderful two dogs gave me this book for my birthday, and each night before bed, my husband and I read a couple chapters to give us something special to put in our minds before we fell asleep. We were disappointed when the book was over! I cannot praise this book enough! The stories are sweet without being sappy, fun without being contrived. But what really makes this book special are the amazing photographs of the animal friends together. They are sharp, beautiful, and so appealing that I can stare at them for a very long time. I also appreciate that the stories are generally about animals who became friends by their own choice rather than being made to become friends by humans who forced them to mix. Even when introduced by humans, usually because they were rescued as babies and needed another young friend to learn to socialize, they continued to choose to remain friends when offered the chance to move on in life. All the stories are amazing, so it's hard to select ones to highlight here, but I'll describe four of my favorites. I love the story of the African tortoise who decided that the perfect place for himself was at the bottom of the pile of ten great Dane puppies and who even ran with them (amazingly even outpacing some!), played with them, and ate the puppy mush with them! There are also two particularly wonderful stories of animals who saved the life of others of another breed. A litter of kittens were at risk of dying because they wouldn't take a bottle after being bereft of their mother. So the female dog of the house noticed them and picked them up one by one by the nape of the neck in the same way she had done with her own puppies a year and a half earlier, carrying them to her own dog bed. And even though she hadn't had puppies in so long, her maternal instincts and the kittens' need inspired her to lactate, producing milk to feed the babies! How special! The other story that I found so inspiring was the love between a donkey and a sheep. After they had been close for a while, a pit bull attacked the sheep, whom the owner saw dragging the dog as it hung onto the sheep's neck. She tried with no success to beat the dog with a pipe when she heard a scream of rage, and the donkey ran into the fray with no hesitation about its own safety and attacked the pit bull. The three animals struggled for quite some time, but the donkey ultimately saved the life of its sheep friend and remained by the side of the sheep as it spent a year recuperating, the most loyal of friends. This story was so special that it brought tears to my eyes! And to conclude with a whole lot of fun, if for nothing else, you ought to read this book just to learn about the swan who fell deeply in love with a plastic swan boat! They even put the two together in the zoo to weather the winter together, but when they tried to introduce the swan (with its boat of course!) to other swans, yet another swan was smitten by the boat! This book was so great that I have now ordered the author's first book, and I also bought a copy of this book to send to my favorite animal-loving family for them to enjoy together, which I understand they

are doing. My dogs showed very good taste in selecting an appropriate birthday present for me! Thank you, Liberty and Teddy Bear, for many evenings of joy with this book!

I enjoyed this book and read it quickly. I do recommend it for people who love animals. It proves that people can learn a lot from animals if we don't think of them as a lesser creation. The only really bad thing was that there were 2 or 3 chapters in which several paragraphs of each chapter were repeated word-for-word within the chapter. It was annoying. Only one chapter had a repeat set of paragraphs near the end, the chapter ended, and it seemed like it was incomplete.

This is a touching book. It gives you a perspective on life and love. If only humans could interact with such blindness to shape, color and size and live a life of such compassion. Great book

I enjoyed the book. I enjoy watching animals of different species interacting peacefully. I think that it is perfectly possible that the animals pictured do love each other. Certainly they enjoy spending time together. But I do not think that the fact that the animals enjoy spending time together is PROOF that they love each other. I have seen kids play video games at any opportunity and be very delighted while doing so, and they might even say that they love playing video games but they are not in love with a video game, they are just having fun. I tried writing a review earlier about this book that was rejected by for some reason. So I am trying to rewrite this in a way that still communicates what I am trying to say without getting this review bounced. The book has a lot of cute pictures of animals of different species that stayed together for long periods of time. The pictures are accompanied by short stories about animals that describe the situations as if the animals have the same emotions that humans would have in those pictured situations. I think maybe the animals in question do have similar feelings to the human equivalent, but the pictures do not PROVE that this is the case. One possible explanation of the pictures is that the animals do love each other, but that is not the only possible explanation. I hope the animals do love each other, and I guess that these animals do love each other, but the author is reaching conclusions that are only one of several possible conclusions.

Loved all of this except snake and dog picture. Don't know why dog would allow such a thing and does anyone think this is going to end well. All other pictures and articles illustrate why people shouldn't say in a derogatory manner that some people act like animals. If we acted more like most animals world would probably be a nicer place!

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