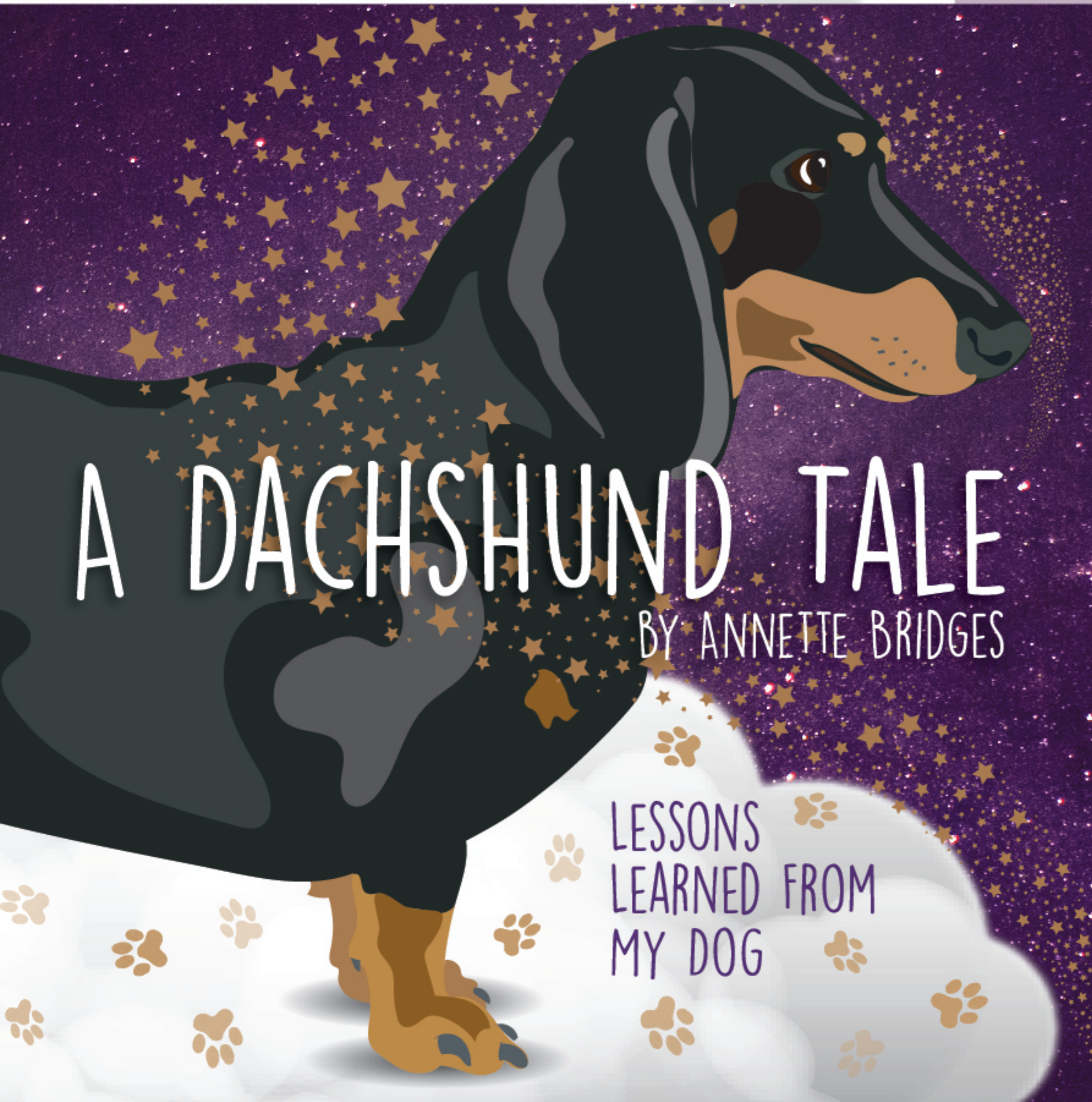


BOOK EXCERPTS:

# A DACHSHUND TALE

LESSONS LEARNED  
FROM MY DOG

BY ANNETTE BRIDGES



# A DACHSHUND TALE

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LESSONS  
LEARNED FROM  
MY DOG

COVER  
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INTRO  
PAGE 1



  
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## INTRODUCTION

The loss of our furry loved ones may be the hardest of all, especially when we're faced with the decision to help them cross their rainbow bridge. I've been having trouble catching my breath ever since my last moments with my precious little Lady. What I have found helpful is pondering all the ways my life has been graced by her presence. The creation of this little book is the outcome.

I was blessed with seventeen years of being loved by her. Lady's was a lifetime of a spirit often stronger than her body and due to this, she gifted me with many life lessons for which I will be eternally grateful.

Perhaps among the greatest lessons was how she dealt with her struggles. She had her first seizure when only one year old. I will forever be in awe of how she could have a horrific episode and an hour later act like nothing had happened. She had the ability to totally move on with the business of living and playing and enjoying herself in spite of her challenges and limitations. I so want to be like her!



INTRO  
PAGE 2

  
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INTRO  
PAGE 3

She had a disc rupture in her back when she was ten years old that left her backside totally paralyzed. Surgery and months of therapy resulted in her walking again. I can't help but smile when I think of the many weeks we had to raise her backside and legs up with a towel while she walked with her front legs. She often paused and looked back at me as if to say, "Ummm Mom, can you please walk a little faster and keep up?" She was like a miniature canine Marine who learned to improvise, adapt and overcome whatever confronted her.

We often referred to her as a little trooper. She was that and so much more! Nothing daunted her. Nothing stopped her. Over time, she may have moved a little slower and a bit less gracefully, but she kept going, doing the best she could. The main point is, she kept going.

She loved to eat what she liked. She loved to play when she was in the mood. She took long naps and enjoyed a good stretch and wiggle when she woke up. She was fiercely independent but always enjoyed snuggles with her mommy and daddy. She made me feel totally and unconditionally loved and I adored her with my whole heart.



  
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This book is dedicated to my sweet Lady. I wanted to pay tribute to the blessings she gave to me and share them with others in the hopes you will be inspired by her, too. Mostly, I wanted to invite others who may be grieving the loss of their furry beloved to spend some time pondering the ways your life has been touched by your sweet one. I've found it to be a way to turn sadness into celebration. I hope you find it helpful as well.



A friend recently spoke of her furry baby who had passed as her heart's companion. I love that term of endearment. It's so fitting, so true. It's never easy to say goodbye to our heart's companion. How could it be? If we have loved well, then undoubtedly we will need to grieve well. But I do think a powerful tool to do just that is to consider every way we are grateful for the furry friends in our lives.

How comforted we can be by valuing and treasuring what their life meant to ours and how we were changed and inspired by their presence. I believe this keeps our furry loved ones unforgettable in our hearts as the jewels they will forever be.

INTRO  
PAGE 4



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LESSON  
PAGE 1



Meet Little Lady Bridges. Little Lady was never in a hurry when she went outside to go potty. She didn't let anyone or anything rush her while she searched for the perfect spot.



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DON'T BE IN TOO BIG A HURRY.  
TAKE TIME TO SMELL  
EVERY BLADE OF GRASS.



LESSON  
PAGE 2



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## MY FOREVER PUPPY

is the special term of endearment I said to my precious miniature dachshund every morning of her long life. This book was conceived during those first sorrowful days following her passing, spurred by my deep desire to forever engrave upon my heart what her life meant to me.

I invite any others who are grieving the loss of a beloved fur baby to share the journey with me and consider the meaning and impact of your precious one on your life. While I can't promise this process will completely ease your hurting, it can help you begin to turn your sadness into a forever celebration of your sweet little angel. And eventually, it may turn your tears of mourning into smiles of remembrance.



BACK  
COVER



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