

A book's purpose

W. Bruce Cameron shares how to have the best doggone book club meeting

by JUDY GELMAN

Costco's suggested Book Club read provides insight into a selected novel, as well as an appropriate recipe to accompany your own book club's discussion.

The novel *A Dog's Promise* continues the story of Bailey, the dog whose journey started in the novel and film versions of *A Dog's Purpose* and continued in *A Dog's Journey*. Reincarnated as multiple canines over the course of several lives, Bailey continues to bring joy and comfort as he helps a family rebuild itself after a traumatic event.

When writing from a dog's point of view, says author W. Bruce Cameron, it's essential to capture "the absolute optimism, joy and love that our canine friends bring to every occasion. Though Bailey is on a particularly important, dramatic and even grim mission, his attitude is always positive and upbeat."

Cameron believes positivity would be the perfect ingredient for a book club discussion. "Nothing could be more fun, and safer, than an outdoor book club meeting with dogs—a fun way to celebrate summer and *A Dog's Promise*," he says.

While members have a book in one hand and a snack in the other, "the dogs will all sit loyally, paying full attention, their ears flicking every time the word 'dog' is mentioned," he adds, tongue in cheek. "Bailey has been obsessed with treats in each of his lives. He's particularly alert when people gather around with a



W. Bruce Cameron and Tucker.

plate of meat and cheese in front of them, because what could possibly be the purpose of all that deliciousness if not to give them to a dog?"

An outdoor gathering cries out for outside food, and Cameron recommends serving several treats loved by humans and canines, such as his favorite, "Give Me Bacon!" Hot Dogs: grilled hot dogs wrapped in bacon, the food Bailey is most obsessed with. "Fans of the books and movies know that the soul of Bailey, Bailey, Bailey—as his best bud Ethan calls him—has loved both bacon and hot dogs through many lifetimes connected to Ethan and his extended family."

Cameron is a big fan of desserts and thinks no book club meeting is complete without one. He offers a guilt-free dessert that can be shared with canine friends. "What says outdoor picnic more than a pupsicle?" he asks. His preferred pup pop combines yogurt and blueberries frozen in ice cube trays on ice pop sticks.

Cameron caps off the menu with a "dessert-in-a glass" beverage for humans only, featuring Bailey's Irish Cream (see recipe, right). "[What] is more refreshing on a hot summer's day than a blended cocktail?" he muses. "How could we resist celebrating the further adventures of the further adventures of Bailey's soul with a drink made with Bailey's Irish Cream?" ■

Judy Gelman is the author of *The Book Club Cookbook* and creator of the website BookClubCookbook.com.

Bailey, Bailey, Bailey Milkshake

2 oz Bailey's Irish Cream
(or 1 oz Bailey's Irish Cream and 1 oz vanilla vodka)
1 cup ice cubes
1 cup chocolate ice cream
(coffee or vanilla ice cream are also delicious)
¼ cup milk
Whipped cream, for topping
Chocolate sauce, for drizzling
1 maraschino cherry
1 KitKat bar stick, or a wafer cookie

Place the Bailey's Irish Cream, ice, ice cream and milk in a blender and whirl on high for 30 seconds. Pour into a tall glass and garnish with whipped cream, a drizzle of chocolate sauce and a cherry. Stick the KitKat stick or wafer cookie into the drink at a jaunty angle. Makes 1 serving.

Photo and recipe courtesy of Judy Gelman.



COSTCO CONNECTION

A Dog's Promise (Item #1131276) is available now in most Costco warehouses.

