



## Neil Turner Books Reader's Club



Happy December!

Whatever holiday you choose to celebrate this month, or if you don't celebrate anything in particular, I hope you have a great month! It's been an excellent few weeks for Tony and friends as I've ramped up marketing and promotion efforts. *A House on Liberty Street* has been charting very well on all book retailers, even spending several days ranked Number 1 in the Mystery/Thriller category at the Kobo store. Thank you to everyone who has bought one of my novels! The newest release, *A Time for Reckoning*, has been well received and was selected as a "Top Indie" title on Barnes & Noble this month. I'm thrilled to see that it's also selling well.

This month's Reader's Club Update is a little out of the ordinary in that most of our regular features are on hiatus. Why? Deano is here with seasonal messages for humans and canines. In fact, he has so much to say that he's crowded out all other Reader's Club Update features! Apparently, *D* doesn't only stand for December this month. Read on!

**Awoooooooooooo!**

### **Don't. Do. This.**

For dog's sake, why on earth do people do this to us? Yeah, yeah, I know we look adorable wearing festive holiday paraphernalia, but is this really necessary? We look cute *all the time*! Now, let's get down to what the



season is really all about. December is the month of the Christmas feast! Enjoy, and don't forget that humankind's best friends look forward to this blessed hour for 365 days every year (366 during leap years). If you absolutely *must* dress us up, the dinner table is an excellent place to start making amends!



## Woof!

### Gift Ideas for Your Dog!

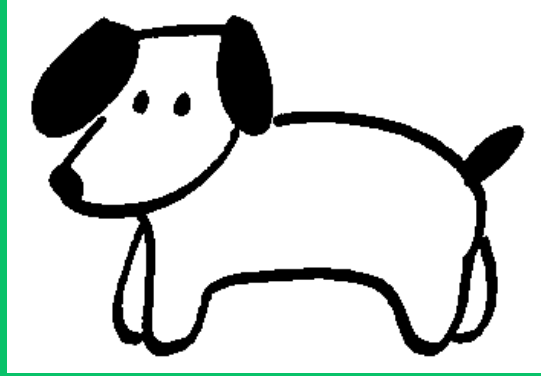
Speaking of Christmas, I have a gift idea or two. Because this communication is loosely connected to books and reading and stuff like that, this seems like a good place to mention a few of

*my* favorite books. You may wish to share one or more of these with your four-legged friends this holiday season. In no particular order, consider these entertaining canine tails ... no, that is *not* a typo—it is a very clever pun or play on words. Or some sort of literary trick or whatever. At any rate, here are some stories your dogs will appreciate: *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. This is a particular favorite of my human creator. *A Dog's Purpose* is a little on the sappy side, but my understanding is that some humans like that sort of thing. For those so inclined, see also *Marley and Me* and *The Incredible Journey*. Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* is an extraordinary novel, as is his follow-on book, *White Fang* (now *there's* a truly heroic action figure. Rambo? Puh-lease). Don't forget John Steinbeck's classic road story, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. Some of Steinbeck's other stuff, such as *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*, and so on was interesting enough, I suppose, but merely a prelude to *Travels with Charley*—the crowning achievement of an illustrious literary career. Don't forget the classics such as *Lassie Come Home* (as always, the book is better than the movies and TV shows), and *Old Yeller*. We dogs are so incredibly heroic and brave! You may also wish to flip the script a bit, as it were, with *Rin Tin Tin*, *The Life and the Legend*, which tells the tale (tail?) of the real dog behind the movies and television adventures. There are, of course, many others. A final note. We tend to favor audiobooks, but not the type that come in electronic contraptions. What we truly love is curling up by the fire with our favorite human while he or she *reads* us a story.

## Canine Etiquette

### A Holiday Tip

And now, a timely bit of advice for my canine friends to bear in mind around the festive dinner table. This month's topic is the expulsion of bodily gasses. Our humans tend to make a big deal out of this natural process. Some abhor it. Others (adolescent males in particular) find it



hilarious. Really, it's no big deal. Don't be embarrassed when it happens. There is *no* need to leave the room—especially when foodstuffs are still on the table! That said, own your gas emissions. You fool no one when you fart and then look at your rear end in mock surprise as if to say, "Was that me?"

That's all for this edition, folks. I'll be sending a free gift to Reader's Club members in about ten days.

Take care, be well, and happy holidays!

Neil



**Neil Turner Books**

<https://www.neilturnerbooks.co...>

332 - 900 Greenbank Road, Ottawa

Ontario K2J 4P6 Canada

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