



# I Wish I'd Written? Love That Dog

Article Author:

[Jeremy Strong](#) [1]

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I Wish I'd Written

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**Jeremy Strong** chooses Sharon Creech's **Love That Dog**.

Jeremy Strong on a book whose beguiling simplicity masks big emotions?<!--break-->

The book I have chosen is peculiarly appropriate. Sharon Creech's **Love That Dog** is connected to my book, **The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog**, in a special way. My character Streaker was based on two real dogs, both owned by a friend, Jane. I took them for a walk and they promptly vanished at high speed. Unfortunately they didn't know their names, nor what 'stop!' or 'come back!' mean. The idea for Streaker was born.

A few years later, Jane sent me a book ' **Love That Dog**. I read it. I gave it to my wife to read. We gave it to our children to read. We bought multiple copies and posted them to friends. 'You *have* to read this,' we told them. 'Now.' It's that kind of book.

I so wish I had written it myself! I love its beguiling simplicity; a simplicity that masks a story full of big emotions so true to the spirit of Jack and boys like him. The way in which it is written ' half poem, half novel ' is absolutely right for the story. It's a beautiful story, beautifully told ' a perfect, small jewel. I'm not ashamed to admit that it made a few tears well up.

**Love That Dog** by Sharon Creech is published by Bloomsbury (0 7475 5616 4, £9.99 hbk, 0 7475 5749 7, £4.99 pbk, 0 7475 6403 5, £8.99 book and tape). Jeremy Strong's latest book is **Return of the Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog**, published by Puffin (0 14 131843 0, £3.99 pbk).

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