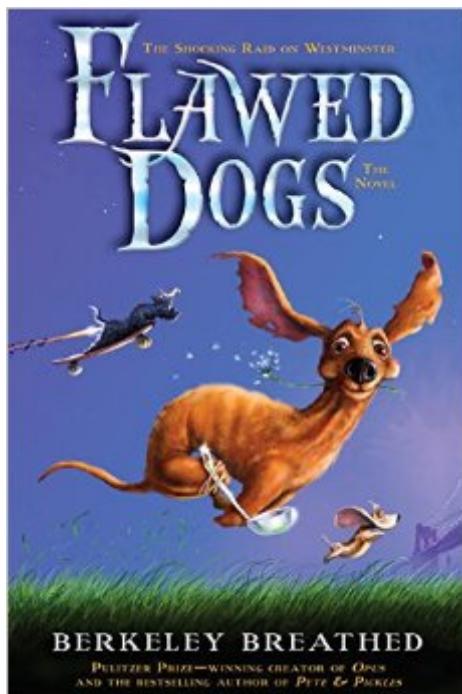


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# Flawed Dogs: The Novel: The Shocking Raid On Westminster



## Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize-winning Berkeley Breathed's first illustrated novel! Sam the Lion is actually a priceless dachshund, bred to be a show dog. More important, he is Heidy's best friendâ "and she needs one like never before. Living with her reclusive uncle is hard, but Sam has a way of making her feel soft and whole. Until the day Sam is framed by the jealous poodle Cassius, and is cast out by Heidy's uncle, alone on the wild streets, where he is roughed up by a world he was not bred for. Sporting a soup ladle for a leg, Sam befriends other abandoned dogs and journeys all the way to the Westminster Dog Show, where his plan for revenge on Cassius takes an unexpected turn when he and Heidy spot each other after years of being apart. Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author Berkeley Breathed's first illustrated novel is a heartwarming and humorous ode to the unconditional and lasting love we and our pets share.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; 1st Printing edition (September 17, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399252185

ISBN-13: 978-0399252181

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (90 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #26,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #218 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs #1494 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

When I heard that Berkeley Breathed was making the jump to novels, I was tickled. I have been a huge fan of Breathed's work for years, back when he was doing the newspaper strip Bloom County. I have followed his characters over the years, from Bloom County to Outland and finally on to Opus. I have picked up his childrens books and am now anxiously awaiting the release of the first volume in a collected edition of his Bloom County newspaper strips. When I heard about Flawed Dogs, the Novel, I assumed that it was simply an extension of his children's book Flawed Dogs: The Year End

Leftovers at the Piddleton "Last Chance" Dog Pound, maybe telling the story of the riot at Westminster that was mentioned in the book. While this is partly true, basically Flawed Dogs, the Novel takes a mirror image of the original story, using characters from the original (mostly the dogs), and slightly altering others (Heidy StrÃ delberg, former Westminster judge becomes Heidy McCloud, young niece to Hamish McCloud, owner of McCloud Heavenly Acres, and a famous dog shower in his own time), to make an entirely new and refreshing story of the love between a dog and their human. I firmly believe in the idea that there are "dog people" and "not dog people" out there; dog people have a dog and will understand what this story is all about. Not dog people simply won't get beyond that it's a fun little story. The story revolves around Heidy McCloud and her dachshund, Sam the Lion. Sam is going to be a show dog, living only to make his owner happy. Heidy McCloud is an orphan who has been sent to live with her reclusive uncle Hamish McCloud.

Everybody loves an underdog, especially one that triumphs in the end. And Sam, the big-hearted dachshund and star of Pulitzer Prize-winning comic strip creator Berkeley Breathed's debut novel, FLAWED DOGS, is no exception. He's loveable (try scratching him behind the ears), impeccably good-looking (check out his glistening coat) and charming almost to a fault. But if you cross him, look out! You'll never meet a dog with a more entrenched (and unwavering) taste for revenge. In the beginning, Sam was a dog to be envied: his owner, Heidy, adored him; he had the run of the house and sprawling countryside; and he was on the fast track to win top marks in the country's most prestigious dog shows. But when Cassius, a jealous poodle jockeying for Heidy's affection and the "Best in Show" title, frames Sam for a crime he didn't commit, the once-cushy, now-scorned pooch is forced to go on the run or suffer the deadly consequences. Over a series of tension-mounting chapters, Sam finds himself in a variety of disastrous situations (hint: evil animal-testing medical research lab, gruesome dog fighting ring, and depressing homeless animal shelter), where he is called upon to win back his freedom. With cunning and grit that only a true underdog can muster, Sam proves his prowess all the way to the Westminster Dog Show where he stages a hilarious coup in a rematch with Cassius, the likes of which canine-lovers have never seen. Breathed's vibrant, larger-than-life illustrations are an added bonus throughout the book, and his storytelling is infused with adrenaline. And although the writing is fast and upbeat, there are still moments that will stop to touch your heart, especially if you're a dog owner.

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