

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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★ Dog Days of Planet Earth.

By Theresa Shea

Sept. 2026. 336p. ECW, paper, \$19.95 (9781770418622); e-book (9781778526145)

In Shea's (*The Shade Tree*, 2021) latest, Trevor Westmore has just been freed from prison after 25 years. To his surprise, a guard gives him a dog named Liberty. Trevor, though reluctant to take on a dog with no plans and no prospects, finds that she is someone to live for. With Libby in tow, he heads to California and opens up a dog kennel, quickly finding his place in a new town, and soon after, meeting a woman named Laura who fascinates him. However, Laura has a past and is reluctant to share it with him. Trevor decides, almost against his better judgment, to continue the relationship and soon finds out that Laura is involved in what society defines as criminal activity and what she terms "rescuing." Along the way, he confronts his own past and forces himself to answer the questions of what truly matters in a society that deems both people and animals expendable and refuses to confront the complexity of those who it claims to protect. *Dog Days of Planet Earth* is, at times, a difficult read, but Shea's page-turning prose and loveable, curious, and kind protagonist keep the heart at the center of this tragically gorgeous novel.

— Lily Hunter