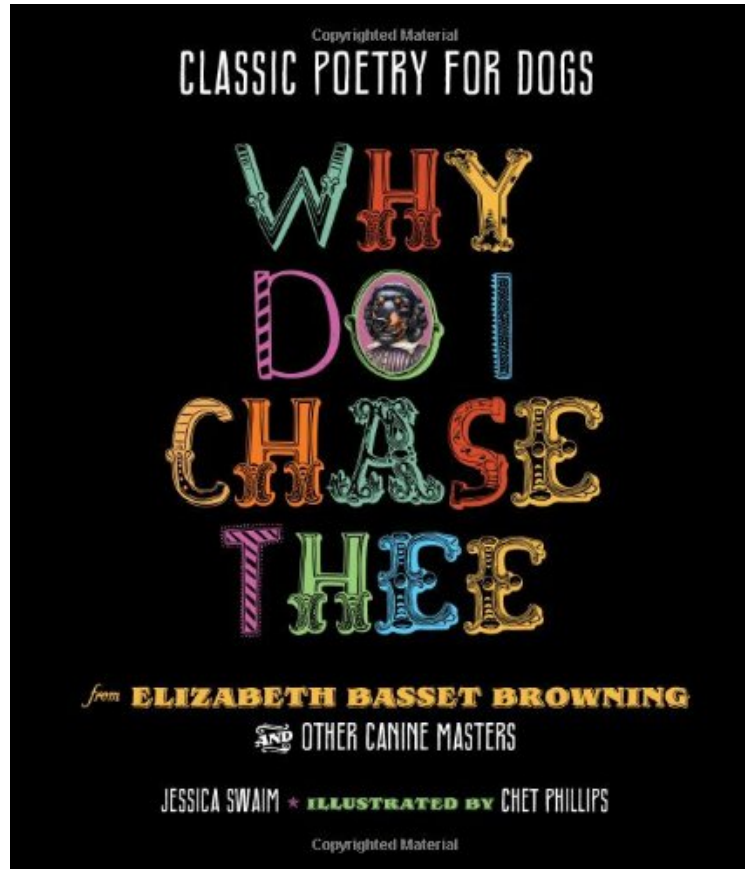


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## Classic Poetry for Dogs: Why Do I Chase Thee

Jessica Swaim

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#1630157 in Books Swaim Jessica 2014-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.20 x .60 x 6.10l, .70 #File Name: 142363554X88 pages Why Do I Chase Thee Classic Poetry for Dogs | File size: 22.Mb

**Jessica Swaim : Classic Poetry for Dogs: Why Do I Chase Thee** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Classic Poetry for Dogs: Why Do I Chase Thee:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By AZDesertDrazilFun easy read. Some are very good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rated Five Barks! By B.J. Lee In this brilliant collection, Jessica Swaim, uses her keen wit to write parodies of famous poems by infamous dog poets, William Shakespaw, Walt Whippet and Dogden Dash and many others to hilarious effect. A great read and a wonderful gift for the poetry and/or dog enthusiast! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. GET READY TO GIGGLE AND GASP By Caroline Stutson If you are searching for a fun gift for a dog lover and/or a lover of classic poetry, take a look at WHY DO I CHASE THEE by Jessica Swaim. When I'm feeling down, I reread my copy. Try it! Caroline Stutson

If Sharpeis wrote sonnets and Labradors wrote limericks, of what would they muse? Jessica Swaim re-envision classic literature through a roundup of cultured hounds including Rover Frost, Emily Doginson, and Edgar Allan Pug. Poems range from the savory "Shall I Compare Thee to a Steak Fillet," to the reflective "Sizing Up Shoes on a Soulful Evening" and the mysterious "The Maven," each with a cunning twist that will leave you grinning. The poets are also

brought to life with distinguished portraits by Chet Phillips and insightful biographies. Jessica Swaim's favorite activities include long walks on a loose leash, napping in front of a fire, and rolling belly-up in the grass. She loves to jump the fence in search of adventure, but the best part is always coming back home, to her wee ranchette in Colorado. Chet Phillips is a freelance illustrator. He has created work for advertising agencies, design firms, books, newspapers, and magazines since the early '80s. He lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Julie, and two tabby cats.

I'll bet you didn't know that dogs love poetry, both listening to it and writing it. It's true! In fact, my predecessor, Hudson, wrote a DogBlog post about it many moons ago: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/lifestyle/family/hudson-s-dogblog-doggerel> So you know I was delighted to get my paws on a copy of *Classic Poetry for Dogs: Why Do I Chase Thee* by Jessica Swaim. Who, um, just happens to be my friend. Yes, I am friends with a famous and brilliant author. \*grin\* She is fiercely funny, mistress of groan-worthy puns and endings with a sneaky twist. The works are by such famous canine authors as William Shakespaw (who also wrote plays, including "As You Lick It," "Comedy of Terriers," "The Merry Wolves of Windsor," "Taming of the Schnoodle," "Julius Schnauzer," "Romeo and Julie's Vet," "Bite Us, Andronicus," and my favorite, "Love's Labradors Lost"), Elizabeth Basset Browning, Snarl Sandberg, Dorothy Barker, Rudyard Kibble (see attached portrait), and many others. Jessica includes snort-out-loud funny biographies of each author. For instance, "A Yorkshire terrier, Dorothy Barker was born in a dilapidated tractor shed in Pugkeepsie, New York, the runt of the litter. Notoriously quick of tongue, Ms. Barker had multiple bones to pick about domesticated life, including pet shop politics, the overpopulation of the urban squirrel, and the lack of sophisticated clothes for the toy breeds. Today the pint-size poet is best remembered for her biting wit." Choosing a favorite is difficult. Edgar Allen Pug's *The Maven* is in my top ten. It begins *Once upon a table shiny, while I trembled, meek and whiny, Over many a fume of chloroform too pungent to ignore, While I slobbered, half-sedated, certain something grim awaited. Sure enough the vet I hated sauntered in and closed the door. "Booster shot," I ruminated. "That is what this visit's for, Just a shot and nothing more." You'll have to buy the book to read the rest of the poem! And then there's Dogden Dash's "Cock-A-Doodle-Don't" When the foxes stole the rooster, There was silence on the farm "Til the happy hens replaced him With a digital alarm. Well, there's just too many to mention. Of course I had to ask Jessica, who I actually know as my Auntie Jeb, to answer a few questions for me.* JEB: First of all, I see we have the same name - what's up with that?? It's not the name on your book cover. JS: Jeb or Jebby is my childhood nickname. My father wanted to name me Jessica after his mother. But, because my mother didn't care for Jess or Jessie as nicknames, when I was learning to talk and pronounced my name as Jebby, she eagerly adopted it. By the way, you are the only other Jeb I have ever met, not counting a few tough characters in old cowboy movies. JEB: Tell my readers a bit about your new book. JS: *Classic Poetry for Dogs: Why Do I Chase Thee* is a spoof on well-known poems from the point of view of canine masters like Elizabeth Basset Browning, William Shakespaw, Rover Frost, and others. Some poems are a wee bit naughty because, as you know, even sophisticated dogs enjoy down-to-earth humor. JEB: (snicker) Oh, indeed we do. Who is it for? Who is your audience? JS: The book is aimed at the discriminating dog, the well-read dog owner, and anybody with twelve bucks to spare. JEB: Did you have a hard time digging up the canine masters? JS: You're doggone right I did! I had to fly all the way to Japan to unearth the work of haiku master Issa Shih Tzu. The reclusive Emily Doginson refused to come out of her doggy door, and Dorothy Barker kept attacking me with her biting wit. JEB: What did you enjoy most about writing this book? JS: It provided me with the perfect excuse to read many anthologies of the world's greatest poetry, including a collection of almost 500 poems by Ogden Nash, who had a much broader range than I'd supposed, not limited to limericks. And I got to write haiku, a villanelle, a couple of sonnets, and other poetic forms that stretched me like a wiener dog in a tug o' war contest. JEB: Do you have a favorite poet/poem? JS: No. I loved writing them all. And it was equally fun to come up with a bio for each of the poets. JEB: I love Chet Phillips' illustrations! Did you ask him to illustrate the book? JS: An earlier version of the poem "The Maven" by Edgar Allan Pug was published in *The Bark* magazine in 2011, and the editors found Chet to supply the illustration. As it turns out, Chet had already done a number of portraits of both literary dogs and literary cats. So, when I sold the book to Gibbs Smith, I suggested Chet and, luckily, he signed on to the project. JEB: Do you have a favorite illustration? I especially like Snarl Sandberg because he's a yellow Lab. JS: It's impossible for me to pick a favorite portrait, but two that make me laugh out loud every time I look at them are Elizabeth Basset Browning and Droolin' Thomas. JEB: What else should my readers know about you and/or your book? JS: What I'd like you and your readers to know, Jeb, is what your PR Marianne is too modest to tell you. She played a key role in helping me develop the idea for this book. It grew from her spouting a series of dog poet names that cracked me up and made me itch to start writing. That's why her name is listed first on the dedication page. Marianne is an excellent friend and, as you know, a dedicated PR, all about offering love and support to the lucky ones in her life. Now, don't you think you should go give her a big, wet kiss? JEB: Gee, I had no idea; I really should give her a big ol' kiss. I'll make sure to get her glasses too - she loves that. Heh. Readers - fetch your very own copy of *Classic Poetry for Dogs: Why Do I Chase Thee* and prepare to be amused, amazed and charmed. Chow for now! JEB (Marianne McKieran [thedenverchannel.com/lifestyle/pets/jebbs-dogblog](http://www.thedenverchannel.com/lifestyle/pets/jebbs-dogblog) 2014-03-07) About the Author If Jessica Swaim were a dog, she'd be a Jack Russell terrier: feisty, short-haired, and tenacious. Her favorite activities include long

walks on a loose leash, napping in front of a fire, and rolling belly-up in the grass. She loves to jump the fence in search of adventure, but the best part is always coming back home, to her wee ranchette in Colorado. Chet Phillips began his career as a freelance illustrator in the early '80s. He has created work for advertising agencies, design firms, book, newspaper and magazine publishers and corporations. Trained in traditional media with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing, Chet made the transition to digital media in 1992. His "Digital Scratch Board" is created with the natural media software Painter. He lives in Austin, Texas with his wife Julie and two tabby cats Brodie and Lily.