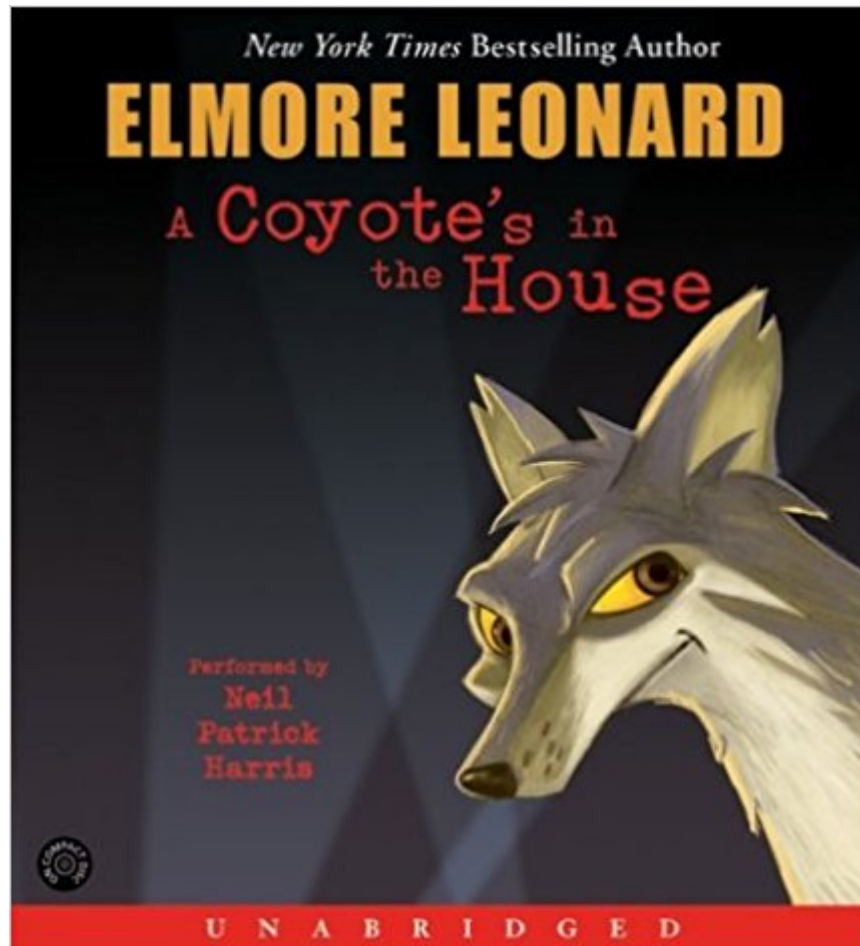




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A Coyote's In The House



Synopsis

Buddy's an aging movie star. Antwan's a rough-and-tumble loner. And Miss Betty, the show girl, is a princess. Different in nearly every way, they share one thing: they're all dogs ... at heart. Antwan's too curious a coyote to turn down Buddy's invitation to see how the other half lives. Convincing his new human family he's a mysterious pooch named Timmy, Antwan quickly becomes part of the brood. But as Antwan's star rises, Buddy's spirits fall. To cheer up their pal, Antwan and Miss Betty concoct a daring plan, setting off a chain of uproarious adventures that will teach them all a few new tricks about friendship, family, and life. A Coyote's in the House reveals the inner life of canines -- wild and domesticated -- in a fresh, funny tale for the young and the young at heart. Performed by Neil Patrick Harris

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HarperAudio; Unabridged edition (May 2004)

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 5.2 x 0.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,838,799 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \(L \) > Leonard, Elmore](#) #537 in [Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction >](#)

[Fantasy](#) #2866 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8 — Leonard's knack for creating intriguing, strong characters is evident in his first children's book. While chasing down his latest meal, Antwan, a hip-talking coyote, makes his way into a Hollywood home, where he meets two dogs — Buddy, an aging film star, and Miss Betty, a champion poodle. In a reversal of roles, Buddy decides that living in the Hollywood Hills as a wild dog with Antwan's homeboys would suit him just fine and he talks the coyote into taking his place as a pampered pet. He comes up with a plan to convince his owners that Antwan is actually a stray dog, and the coyote is soon adopted. After many misadventures and subplots, including Miss

Betty's scheme to kidnap a cat for Buddy to rescue in order to help the German shepherd overcome his feelings of being a has-been, the animals land back in their original location, feeling content with the way things have ended. Leonard's enlightening descriptions of the movie business may please adults more than youngsters, but all readers will delight in the growing friendship among the characters. Humorous black-and-white drawings with red accents—Buddy's film trademark is a red bandanna—add further interest.—Ellen Fader, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Starred Review Gr. 5-8. Anthropomorphism in fiction and film is often derided as a cheap trick, and rightfully so. But not when Elmore Leonard is writing the dialogue. Leonard's first children's book begins with a beguiling premise: hip coyote Antwan, leader of his pack in the Hollywood Hills, is foraging for garbage when he makes the acquaintance of German shepherd Buddy, a retired film star. Buddy is bored and has decided he'd like the freedom of the coyote's life in the wild, while Antwan, who quickly develops a taste for peanut-butter cookies, is interested in getting to know Miss Betty, a prizewinning poodle who lives with Buddy's family. Antwan successfully passes as a dog, but Buddy resents being displaced as the canine star of the family, prompting Antwan and Miss Betty to hatch a plan in which the German shepherd will be returned to the limelight. The story is good fun, but the real pleasure here, as in Leonard's adult novels, lies in listening to the characters banter with one another. Kids won't get all the Hollywood jokes or pick up the references to Leonard's *Get Shorty*, but they will respond instantly to the way Antwan and his pals work the humans to their advantage. A poignant ending gives the tale just the right edge, showing that Leonard can mix comedy and reality as nimbly for a younger audience as he does for adults. Bill OttCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This is a great book for children of all ages (9 and up) and great fun to read. I have never read anything similar and I could not put it down. There are concerns as mentioned by other reviewers, but over all five stars. I especially liked the very funny satirical portrayal of Hollywood, movie making and of the people who own and market their movie star pets. I hope that there will be a second coyote book: the further exploits of Coyote!

This is what happens when America's best mystery writer has grandchildren. Leonard has created a cast of characters who, like all his characters, are a little offbeat and outrageous, but are true to

themselves. And like any good story, everyone changes a little - but not too much. We will miss him.

If you love Elmore Leonard and will absolutely love his book for children.

Love Elmore Leonard, and the coyote point of view.

Great childrens book. This will keep the boys in my family reading and enjoying it ..

Funny! Liked it!

Excellent.

Elmore Leonard is, of course, renowned for his realistic adult crime books, in which his amazing dialogue conveys the seamy side of the criminal caper genre. When I saw he had written a book for kids, I knew it would be perfect for my 12-year old son, who craves the dark humor and lack of saccharine that typify Leonard. We listened to this book together on tape. It is not a crime caper at all, but we were not disappointed. The book is considerably less dark than his work for adults (a change I frankly enjoyed), but the lean Leonard writing, the skill at avoiding undue sentiment and the dark humor all carried over. We couldn't put it down, so to speak. A clear winner. There was one matter, though, that disconcerted me. The book is concerned with two worlds: the domestic, behave-yourself world of Dogs, and the dangerous, do-what-you-want world of Coyotes. For some reason, Leonard injected race into this characterization--the Coyotes seem African-American. They have black names (Antwan, Cletus) and use black vernacular -- words like "homes" and "crew" for friend and gang, sister for female Coyote and so on. This Coyotes-as-African-Americans is reenforced in the book-on-tape version by the vocalization of Neil Patrick Harris. The Coyotes are not portrayed negatively in the book---ultimately their freedom and independence is given the highest value, and the Coyote hero is consistently cool and able. But there is a stereotyped aspect to the cultural characterization, and I found it unsettling---not quite sure what to make of it or why Leonard put it in there. There's some subtle racial image being portrayed here that parents may at least want to be aware of.

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