

Books

Cowboy & Wills

by *Monica Holloway* | ★★★☆

MEMOIR

Dogs are often projections of the selves we want to be—which is why the quiet among us own terriers, the timorous lean toward Rottweilers. So it was rather a stroke of genius when Holloway (*Driving with Dead People*) got her autistic, anxious and isolated son Wills a golden retriever. Is there

any breed sweeter, goofier—and more connected to people? “Sometimes,” Holloway writes, “I’d hear [Wills] in his room... telling Cowboy all of his troubles.” For many autistic chil-



dren, talking with other humans is fraught. A dog is different: “She didn’t offer solutions. She just listened.” Readers would do well to listen to this sweet and heartbreakingly tale of boy-dog love. There are so many of us, with or without autism, who have our animals to thank for helping us connect.—J.N.

