

# Literary Speaking

**One Good Dog**  
By Susan Wilson

I just love our library here in Yankton. I'm usually there every other week grabbing my four or five books to read and always find a terrific selection to choose from. I enjoy reading a wide variety of books so I usually just walk through and pick a few.

"One Good Dog", a novel by Susan Wilson, is one I read recently and thoroughly enjoyed. So I decided to share a bit about it with you, our loyal Her Voice readers.

This is a very interesting and heartwarming book about loss, rediscovery and a lesson on what's really important in our lives.

Adam March is a hard-nosed businessman who places more value on his three homes, his cars, his daughter's riding lessons and his wife's many extravagances than he does on people. I found this surprising as I got further into the book and discovered that at an early age his teenage sister left him and his single father. Shortly thereafter his father put him into the foster care system. He moved from home to home until he reached eighteen years old.

One particularly stressful morning in his self-indulgent life his assistant leaves a note on his desk. It said, "Your sister called". He thinks back to the sister he has had no contact with for over forty years and it brings back a host of memories. His assistant then ignores his request to come to his office and he snaps, a momentary loss of self-control. There goes his career, his family and the life he has so carefully created.

The judge orders him to do community service and he is assigned to work in a food kitchen that serves the homeless.

At this spot in the book we are also introduced to Chance,

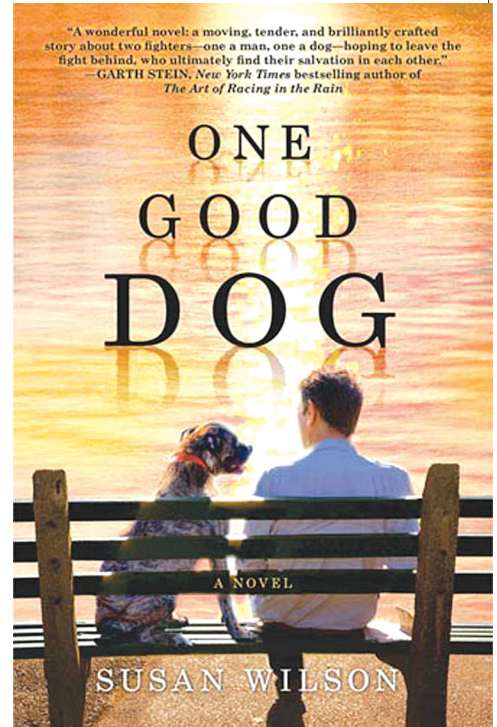
a pit bull mix that was born in an inner-city cellar to be used as a fighting dog. Chance escapes this cellar and the only life he has known and begins his life on the streets.

Totally out of character

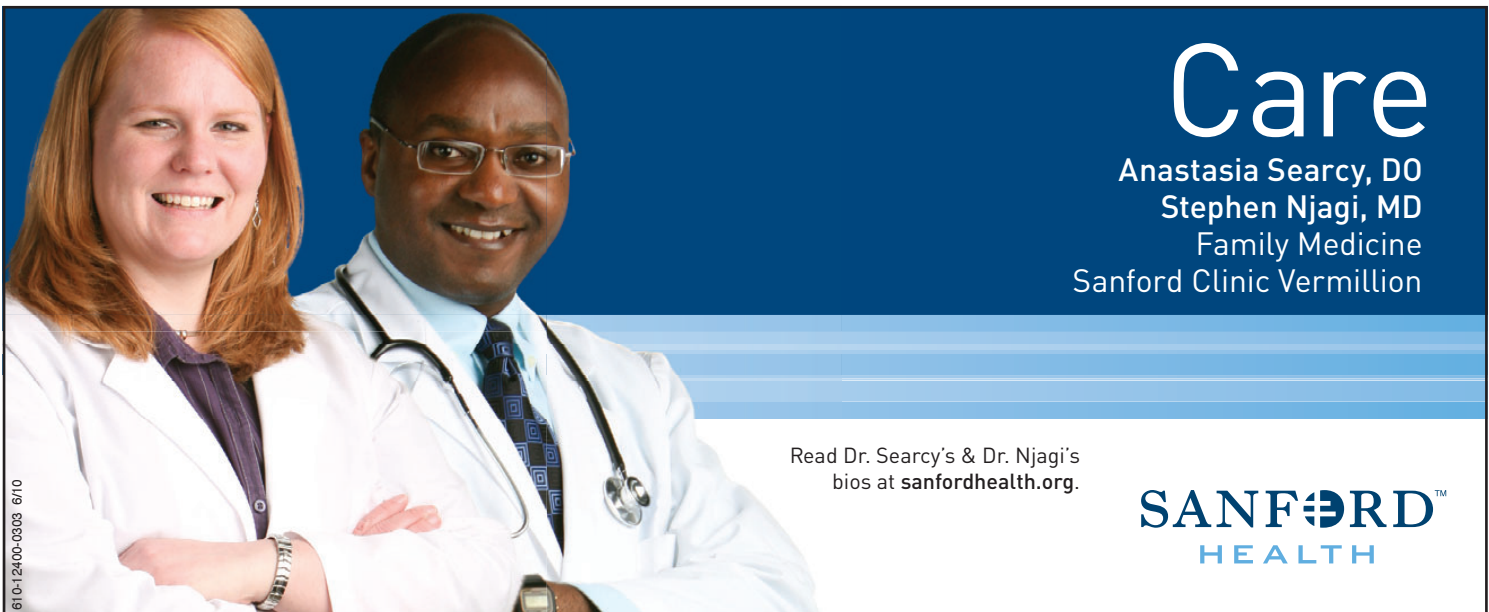
for Adam, he does a favor for one of the homeless men from the shelter and goes to the animal shelter to find this man's dog. It is there that he meets Chance. The homeless man's dog has already been euthanized but Adam takes a look alike, Chance, in the hopes that the homeless man will be okay with this "replacement". That little hoax did not work and Adam ends up with Chance.

There are many life-changing events that happen to Adam and Chance throughout this book. As it states in the books' description: Two lives. Two second chances. A twist of fate that brings two lost souls together. That's One Good Dog.

I highly recommend this book as one of the best I've read this year and I also highly recommend our local Yankton library. Check them both out!



■ by Micki Schivelbein



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