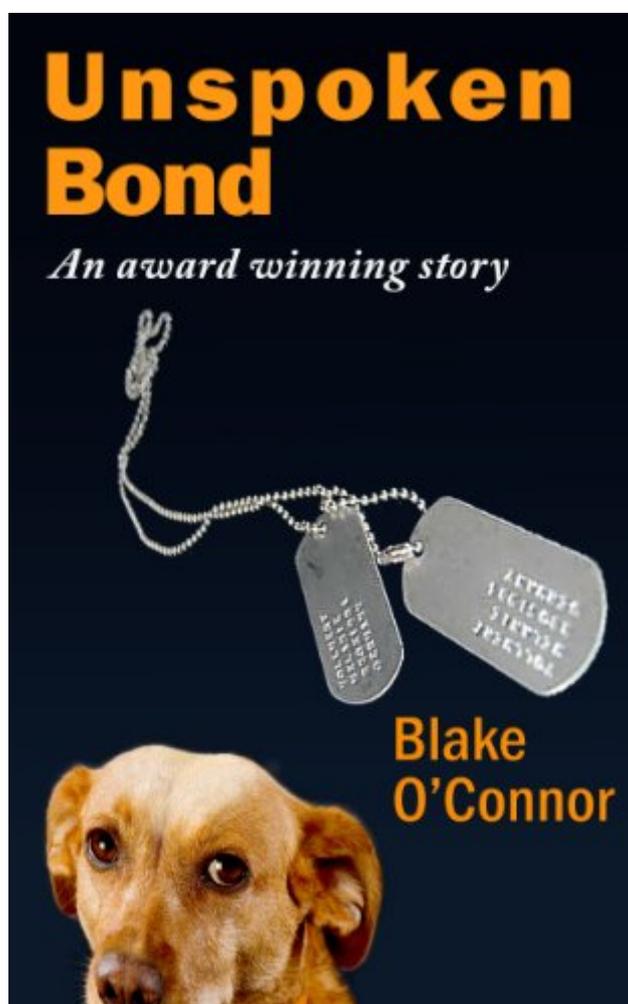


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# Unspoken Bond



## Synopsis

An reviewer says: "I truly enjoyed this beautifully told and emotional story. Blake stole my heart with her story from the opening paragraph right through to the close." A judge of a major metropolitan writing contest says: "Smooth, fluid prose, with a strong emotional hook." • Based on a true event, *Unspoken Bond* is an award-winning, heart-warming story about how one unselfish act can have far reaching and lifelong consequences. It's a celebration of the unspoken bond between a man and his dog, and the timeless bond between two people, held together by a whisper of a touch. University senior David Hess doesn't know what's wrong with him. He's been skipping school, getting into fights, his grades slip to barely passing, and he has broken up with his fiancée. After he rescues an abandoned dog on a lonely stretch of country back road, things start to look up—that is, until he is blindsided by a crippling tragedy. Along his journey to recovery, a girl he met by chance keeps haunting his dreams and his thoughts. But there's a problem—he doesn't even know her name. Emma Taylor is lamenting her turn in life: almost divorced, lousy job, no family, and no one to share her life with. She sits alone in her apartment thinking about her upcoming deployment, and about a boy she met. Who is he? Where is he? Why can't she stop thinking about him? And so begins a story about the love of two people transcending time and tragedy, and about the love of a dog that will never be forgotten. |CONFIDENTIAL to Blake's readers: Her newest novel, 'Trust Me' has just been released!! Keeping to the genre Blake's readers love, 'Trust Me' is a heart-wrenching story of two people's journeys to love and healing, and the dog that helped them both. Be sure to check it out!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just finished "Suspect" by Robert Crais and happened upon Unspoken Bond. I sometimes like dog stories and was intrigued by the cover, so thought I'd read the sample. I'm glad that I did. I liked the detailed, "down home" writing style so much that I got the book and read it with enthusiasm. In Unspoken Bond, the reader is quickly drawn in by a gripping scene where a puppy gets abandoned by the side of a road. Then, the book introduces the main character, David Hess, who is having a hard time during his final year in university. A really hard time: he's seriously disturbed by the breakup of his engagement and his increasing disillusion with his likely future. One night, while drinking with his room mate at a club, a tall brunette makes eye contact with David, acting like she knows him. She walks over to David, leans into him, but before she can ask him a question, her new husband, Colby Taylor, puts a stop to it. A fight ensues, which is one of many action scenes in the book. David, Emma, and Colby are the three main characters and author O'Connor takes time to develop them carefully and, I think, lovingly. The dog, Joe, is an important character, but not the main one. He's more the catalyst for making things happen and there is plenty of action: fights, war, firearms, explosions, trampling bulls, snipers. The list goes on to make for a page-turning book, although a sensitive and thoughtful one. This is definitely not your boy-rescues-girl kind of thing, an action thriller, a war novel or "just a dog story" - it's more a story about life itself. Women should like this story about a strong woman, but here is plenty of stuff for men to like too. Unspoken Bond is well worth the time to read and I kept thinking about it when I wasn't reading it. It wasn't until I read the "About the Author" section at the end, did I realize that this book was based on a real event.

At 65, there has never been a time in my life that I didn't have a dog or two, a couple cats and sometimes other pets. I once had a horse that I could swear put a spell on me to do what she wanted instead of what I had intended. But my heart has always belonged to my faithful canines. They really do know your soul. That's why when I first turned on my Kindle, your book immediately caught my eyes. And the first book I downloaded. And a wonderful afternoon skipping my chores and enjoying your book. Thank you for a lovely afternoon.

I have not not read such a good book like this in years. At first I was not sure I would like it but I'm

glad I took the chance on this book because it blew me away. Beautifully written and you fall in love with the characters. When a book has me in tears at the end I know it touched my heart. Great read! Will recommend this.

I live in Austin and graduated from UT a few years ago. My dad suggested I read this book, and at first I was reluctant, but found that I got sucked into the story really quickly. My family has always had a dog, so when I read the part about the dog getting dumped on the highway, I found myself turning the pages as fast as I could. The characters are believable too, because Austin has just about every type of person there is. The scenes in Austin were spot on and the scene in the football stadium brought back a lot of memories. I can tell you that Sixth Street is the place to party, and I have seen guys like David and Colby duke it out over a girl. The writing was fluid, and you'll root for David and Emma to get together. It takes a while, so be patient when reading the book. Close to the middle of the book it got kinda slow, but a lot of books have slow parts, so it wasn't much of an issue. The pace kicks up immediately in Part II with lots of action and interaction between all three characters. Of course, Joe is right there too among everything that goes on. O'Connor ties in the beginning and ending of the book quite nicely, so without giving it away, I think readers will like the way she wove all the characters together. It's hard to categorize this book, but there's something for everyone - dog owners, guys, gals, recent grads, ex-military, and anyone looking for a good story. Overall, well done!

I was drawn into this story from the very beginning by the vivid descriptions. The author did a good job of pulling my strings and making me care about the characters as they go through their own personal stories of triumph and tragedy. The individual stories were woven together; paths alternately intersecting and diverging and you find yourself pulling for David and Emma to make the connection. O'Connor kept me turning pages until the end. This is a book well worth reading.

Although I don't have a Kindle, the author provided a PDF version of the book for me to read. This book really cries out to be on the screen - something like "Bridges of Madison County" - you know that feeling of nostalgia. Descriptions are wonderful, so atmospheric - makes me want to grab my car keys, take a drive in the country with my dog sitting beside me, windows rolled down and the fresh air rushing in.

I loved every word of this book. Laughed, wept. All emotions and was sad when the end came.

Being a native Texan I knew about old roads, farms, the people...no where but Texas could this been written. Blake, the author, is to be commended for such a heartwarming story. Being raised in North Texas, residing in Corpus Christi several years, Graham, Dallas, Arlington, and now in Cypress, Tx (Houston area), this touched my heart. A must read for all dog lovers.

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