Never Let a Dog Do the Housework

A Reading Guide for Book Clubs

Aurel vs World, Book 1 · 102 pages · more than forty full-page pictures · published 1 October 2026

> **About the book.** One dog. One note with thirty things on it. And thirty appliances that did not survive it.
> Aurel is a West Highland White Terrier. He is fifteen in February and has had a pacemaker since 2024. In this book he works his way through a household list no dog was ever meant to see — and every single item gets done. The list gets shorter. The kitchen does not get better.

This is a picture book for adults. The pictures carry half the story, so this guide follows the pictures as much as the words. It divides the book into four parts — one per meeting, or all in one evening.

Part One — The List (pages 7–32)

Aurel finds the note. He does not question it. He begins.

1. The book never explains why Aurel takes the list seriously. What did you assume? Did that change by the end?
2. Which item did you think he would fail at — and were you right?
3. The humour comes from competence, not clumsiness. Aurel is *good* at this. Why is that funnier than a dog making a mess?
4. Most of us have a list like this. What has been on yours longest, and why is it still there?

Part Two — The Kitchen (pages 33–58)

Appliances meet a dog who has no concept of what they are for.

1. The appliances suffer; Aurel never does. Did you notice that while reading, or only afterwards?
2. Pick one picture and describe it to someone who has not seen it. What gets lost in the telling?
3. There is a difference between a dog who destroys and one who *reorganises*. Which is Aurel?
4. Housework is invisible labour — noticed only when undone. Does this book say anything about that, or is it simply funny? Can it be both?

Part Three — Away From Home (pages 59–84)

The list travels. So does Aurel.

1. The settings change but the behaviour does not. What does that tell you about him?
2. Which location worked best, and which felt like a stretch?
3. The pictures are made with AI. Did knowing that change how you looked at them? Should it?
4. A real dog, fifteen, with a pacemaker, is behind these images. Does that sit comfortably next to the comedy?

Part Four — The End of the List (pages 85–102)

The list runs out. The day does not.

1. How did you expect the book to end? How does it actually end?
2. Is there a moment of tenderness in this book, and if so, where is it hiding?
3. The title is an instruction. By the last page, is it a warning or a recommendation?
4. If there is a second book, what do you want in it — and what should not be repeated?

Five questions for the whole book

1. Who is this book for? Dog people, or everyone who has ever had a list?
2. The author is a self-publisher from a small Swiss town with an audience of about fifty thousand built on short videos. Does a book that comes out of an internet audience read differently from one out of a publishing house?
3. Comedy about animals usually works by making the animal ridiculous. This book does not. What does it do instead?
4. If you had to keep one picture and lose the rest, which one?
5. Did you laugh out loud? Where — and were you alone at the time?

For the host

Timing. One session on the whole book runs about sixty minutes. Four sessions, one per part, about thirty each.

A good opening. Ask everyone to name the one appliance in their home they would not trust a dog with.

A good closing. Ask who they would give this book to. That answer tends to become the sentence people later write in a review.

The author is available. Yvonne Heinzelmann joins book club sessions by video and answers questions directly, in German and English.

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