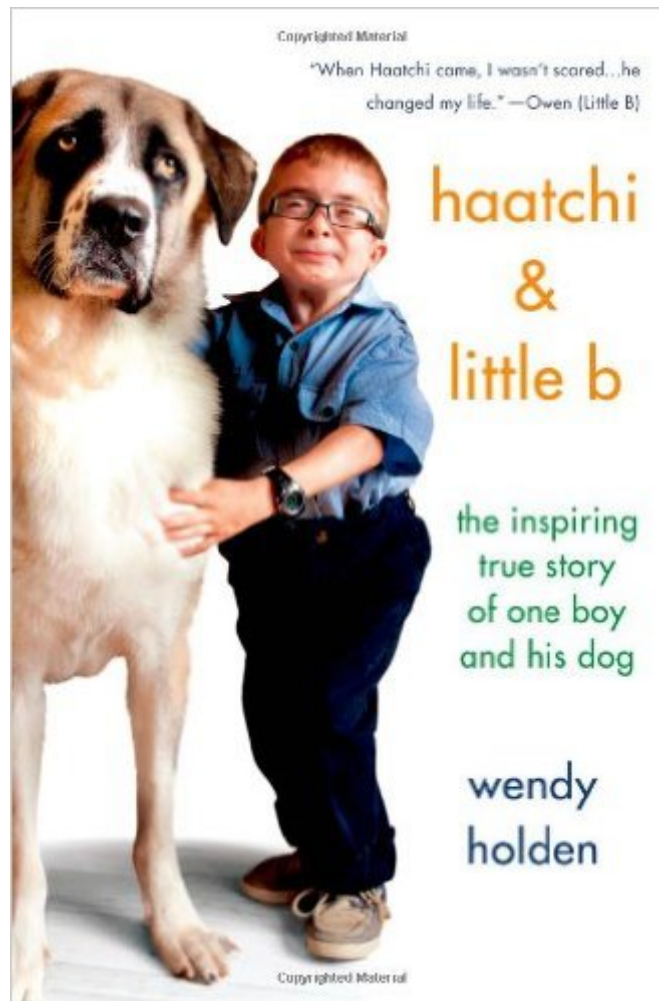


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# Haatchi & Little B: The Inspiring True Story Of One Boy And His Dog



## Synopsis

**#1 International Bestseller** When Owen met Haatchi, the lives of one adorable little boy and one great, big dog were destined to change forever. Owen—known to his family as "little buddy" or "Little B"—has a rare genetic disorder that leaves him largely confined to a wheelchair. Before being united with Haatchi, Little B was anxious and found it difficult to make friends. Haatchi—an adorable Anatolian Shepherd puppy—was abused and left for dead on railroad tracks. He was struck by an oncoming train, and although his life was saved, his leg and tail were partially severed. Haatchi was left massively disabled and totally dispirited. But kind-hearted Will and Colleen Howkins, Little B's father and step-mother, decided to introduce the big dog and the little boy to each other, and an unbelievable bond was formed that transformed both boy and dog in miraculous ways. Wendy Holden's *Haatchi & Little B* is the true story of an astonishing little boy, a very special dog, and the inspiring, inseparable pair that they make together.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Our story begins on the cold night of January 9, 2012, when a train engineer calls his yard to say he has just hit a dog and to come remove it from the tracks, as he feels it must be dead. Of course that can't be, or we wouldn't have this wonderful story. The dog is about 5 months old at the time and is an Anatolian Shepherd, similar to a German Shepherd in traits, but somewhat larger, with primarily a cream-colored coat and black muzzle. Please check the internet for more pictures of the breed. Several people rush to save the dog who is only referred to as E-10 by the RSPCA. They can

tell he was severely beaten in the head and most likely tied to the tracks by the cruel person who left him there to be killed. He is later named Haatchi by his forever family, in recognition of the Japanese Akita named HACHI, who patiently waited 10 years for his master's return to the Tokyo train station in 1925, not knowing that his master had suffered a massive heart attack and died. That is also a wonderful story and was made into a 2008 movie starring Richard Gere with some scene changes Hachi: A Dog's Tale, also another great dog and human story worth reading and viewing. The other main character in our story is Owen Howkins, born on 8/25/2005 with a severe and extremely rare genetic abnormality called Schwartz-Jampel Syndrome; there are only about 30 such cases in the world and Owen was the first documented one in the UK. He was born in Dundee to ordinary working class folk, Kim and Will Howkins, who were both in the RAF when they met.

While not specifically designated as YA, Haatchi and Little B (based on a true story) could definitely fit into that category as many teenagers would love this story of a boy and his dog. For adult readers, the book speaks to new relationships and acceptance, of being a parent, and of being courageous. It takes a lot for a book to be accessible to such a wide range of readers, but that is where this book finds its success. Haatchi is an Anatolian Shepherd who was hit over the head and left for dead on the railroad tracks in London, England. After being hit by a train, Haatchi partially loses a leg and most of his tail. He is rescued and undergoes surgery where he must learn to walk with three legs and communicate without his tail. After trying to stay in one home and causing too much trouble (as many dogs will), Haatchi is sent back to the vet. Eventually, the big, lovable dog makes his way into the home of Owen (or Little B as called by his stepmother Colleen) where he forever changes Owen's life. Owen is a young boy who suffers from a rare genetic disorder where his muscles constantly remain tensed. At five (at the beginning of the book) and largely confined to his wheelchair, Owen becomes more reclusive and anti-social as he realizes that he is not like other kids. He can't run or play, and kids say that he's different. Owen is happiest at home, away from the general public. His mother Kim and his father Will are both in the armed forces and each take turns on tours for months at a time. After seeing the strain put onto their relationship from being apart, Kim and Will decide to separate. Kim, admitting that Will is the better parent, sacrifices her role as mother and leaves Owen to be raised by Will.

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